



Dear Governor Hochul,

On behalf of the 138 undersigned organizations and our members and supporters, we urge you to prevent Holtec International, the firm responsible for decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant, from discharging approximately one million gallons of radioactive wastewater into the Hudson River.

While Holtec has shifted their timeline back and forth on discharging this wastewater, the company currently intends to discharge in the summer months during the heart of the recreation season when thousands of New Yorkers are swimming, fishing, paddling and boating in the Hudson. Furthermore, we are deeply concerned about the impacts on the health and safety of local residents, the River's ecosystem, and local economies. The Hudson Valley region is densely populated and also serves as a recreational area for millions from New York

City and across the state. We call on you to use your authority as governor to ensure the necessary state and federal agencies take action to halt the dumping of toxic waste into our waterways including the Hudson River.

The Indian Point nuclear power plant was rightfully shuttered in 2021, yet the spent fuel pool wastewater remaining on the site contains radioactive contaminants, including tritium. Exposure to tritium is linked to cancer, miscarriages, genetic defects and other adverse health effects. There is no safe dose of radiation and its harmful impacts are cumulative. Women, children and expectant mothers are at far greater risk from these exposures. Federal standards on radioactive releases to the environment are based on a healthy adult male and have not been updated to protect the most vulnerable. Simply put, with all that we know now, it would be reckless and irresponsible to continue to dump toxic and radioactive substances into

the Hudson River.

The Hudson River is among New York's most important economic and recreational resources and is an ecosystem for a wide array of fish and marine life. Noxious industries have threatened the River before. We commend your action to oppose and ultimately halt the Danskammer fracked gas plant from being expanded on the banks of the Hudson River. Please continue your legacy of protecting the Hudson River from polluters by calling on Holtec to store its toxic radioactive waste on site and work with regulatory agencies and environmental organizations on a better, safer, permanent disposal method that protects New Yorkers and our water sources.

A growing number of municipalities, including Westchester, Rockland, Dutchess and Ulster counties, have adopted resolutions or written letters opposing Holtec's

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Time To Vote Again!

On June 22nd 2023, we're invited to vote again. This time for City Council Members, Civil Court Judges, and District Attorneys.

See page 8

KHAAAAN!-gestion Pricing



Example E-ZPass truss set, with license plate readers (and strobes?), approximately 30-ft wide. Every eastbound street off of West Street will need similar. Photo credit Sid. E. Walker

By "Sid E. Walker" P.E.

(This is the second in an occasional series on Congestion Pricing by "Sid E. Walker". The first article, "The MTA Steps on the Congestion Fundraising Accelerator", appeared in last October's issue, and highlighted the degree to which NYCDOT actually creates the congestion off of which the MTA hopes to fundraise.)

To Boldly Go Where No Plan Has Gone Before

As any Trekkie can regale, "Khan" is a recurring antagonist in the original Star Trek TV series as well as in two Star Trek movies, originally played and then reprised by Ricardo Montalban, and more recently by Benedict Cumberbatch in "Star Trek Into Darkness" (2013).

The relevance here to looming and seemingly inevitable congestion pricing is

that Khan is bio-engineered to be super-strong and super-smart, but he ultimately does NOT reflect the values he nominally espouses, and inevitably is defeated at the hands of Captain James T. Kirk and the starship Enterprise.

In each version, Kirk at some point screams "KHAAN!" out of exasperation as he redoubles his efforts to stand up to Khan's megalomaniacal strength and intelligence with his trademark courage, resolve, and as always... teamwork.

And here WE Villagers are: the sacrificial "red shirt" extras who never make it out of the episode in one piece.

To stretch the analogy even further, Starfleet seems either helpless, hapless, or downright co-opted. As does our own Community Board 2. More on that later. But first, the state of the Vehicle-y Way

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WestView

Published by **WestView, Inc.** by and for the residents of the West Village.

Publisher / Executive Editor George Capsis

Photographers Joel Gordon
Sabrina Giral aka A Dope Artist

Associate Editors Justin Matthews, Anne Olshansky

Comptroller Jolanta Meckauskaite

Fashion Director Karilyn Prisco

Culture Editor Hannah Reimann

Science and LGBTQ Editor
Kambiz Shekdar, PhD

Calendar Editor Helene Silver

General Contributors
Kelly Gallagher, Robert Shapiro

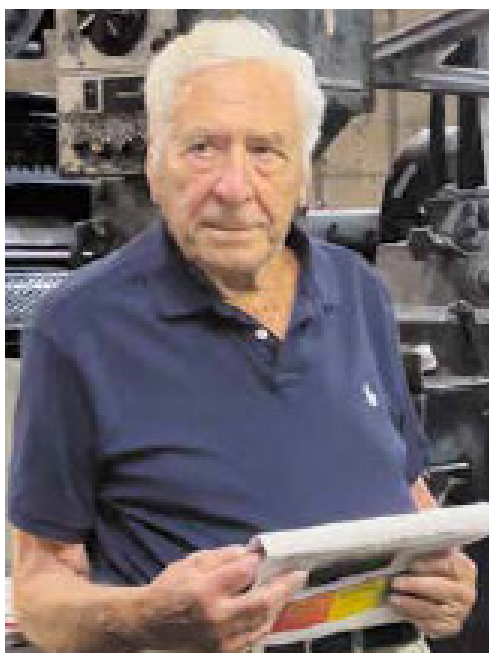
Regular Contributors

J. Taylor Basker, Barry Benepe, Caroline Benveniste, Dana Costantino, Mark. M. Green, Robert Heide, Anastasia Kaliabakos, Bob Kro-ll, Thomas Lamia, Keith Michael, Michael D. Minichiello, Brian J. Pape, Bruce Poli, Alec Pruchnicki, Roberta Russell, Hannah Reimann, Catherine Revland, Ede Rothaus, Donna Schaper, Alden Roosevelt, Sofia Astor, Mike Perisco, Danielle Sevier, Luke McGuire, Dawn Lesley Stewart, Yogendra Ram

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westviewnews.org

contact us
(212) 924-5718
gcapsis@gmail.com



WestViews

Correspondence, Commentary, Corrections

Self-Professed "Commie Arthur"

To the Editor,

Here is a telling postscript making sense of the actions of Take-over-Con-Artist Attorney Arthur Z. Schwartz, of whom we are learning about so deplorably of late.

In his formative political phase of Left-Radicalism, Mr. Schwartz was a zealous acolyte of the R.C.P., the formal name of this "ideological tendency," which carries on still, is The Revolutionary Communist Party.

That fighting faction of 1960-70's extremism was / is an avowed Maoist – Leninist formation skilled in (as such groups are) following the Leninist playbook of take-overs of pre-existing, viable entities and organizations and publications.

So, it was not unexpected that, with his R.C.P. background Mr. Schwartz found it irresistible to galvanize and carry out such a familiar Leninist type of seizure, vis-a-vis WestView News, (albeit confusingly renamed). The belief in Leninism may have passed, yet this Leninism lives on in some.

Now, as we are witnessing, the neighborhood outcry against Schwartz's blatantly Leninist maneuver, has complicated his consummation of this, his most dirty deed levied upon our community and it's appreciation of the authentic WestView News, which draws from diversified news sources of import to the moment, and of meaning to the commonwealth.

The house-organs of Leninist papers fill pages spotlighting their Leader, fostering a "cult of personality" ad nauseam.

So too, in Mr. Schwartz new house organ: page after page featuring prolix pronouncements bearing the Schwartz by-line; Schwartz Thought; Schwartz Endorsements; Schwartz glorifications galore, of a type typically bestowed on a Leninist Dear Leader du jour. Hero Worship is the playbook of megalomania of this sort.

Indeed, Schwartz's "Hero Worship" extended to paid advertisements in the past, during his failed electoral campaign: "Arthur Schwartz is my Hero" read the embarrassing copy provided to his minions to parrot without self-awareness of just how appalling all of this was to read in print.

B. Head

Dear Editor,

As I read your article on the background of Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s run for President, I felt it was important that I thank you for sharing his story.

You all did a great job of providing us with a historical perspective on how Mr. Kennedy has contributed to helping our waterways and tributaries remain clean. I look forward to reading more from your newspaper about him. Hopefully you will share articles on how you believe he can contribute to unifying our country ... establishing hope and bringing us all closer together as Americans.

Sincerely,
Melissa Zollo

Hello Melissa,

Thank you very much for your letter to the editor.

Several weeks ago we received the transcript of the campaign speech he gave when announced his bid for President. What was remarkable about it was that it traced his Career as a young environmental lawyer trying to clean up the pollution in the Hudson River until the present time.

I was struck by his legal efforts to hold corporate polluters ac-

countable and his efforts to create 350 River Keeper organizations so other cities and countries could emulate his success. The forcefulness and clarity of his speech was so powerful and well spoken I suggested that we should print the entire speech so our readers could hear what he had to say in full.

Robert Kennedy Jr. has been criticized for his vigorous examination of the chemicals in the children's vaccine schedule and more recently of his concerns surrounding the CoVid vaccinations. Many people find his straightforwardness and clinical precision refreshing.

Thanks again for your comments.

George

John from Throggs Neck talks about transgender cyclist who won women's race:

Where is the public debate between and/or among professionals specializing in this specific medical field?

Call me Pollyanna-- I prefer Pollyammo--ic but PBS for example, could be doing pro bono serial-type TV and radio programs on this subject stretched out over time so that most people can view the programs and decide, e.g., whether they would allow vulnerable people including underage people to have the surgery and take the meds involved? Not going to happen right? Big Money to be made is just one reason, right?

Yours,

John (Pollyammo) Early
Throggs Neck, former Charles Street resident

Dear Mr. Capsis,

I apologize for the delay in this communication. On Friday May 5 my family and I were strolling the streets of New York.

As we unknowingly were approaching your residence (and I was eyeing the newsletter in front), you were arriving and your associate engaged me in chat honouring you as editor and pioneer of this local communique.

You were most gracious in entertaining the questions and I happily took your paper back to the Beekman.

My husband and I, along with our 3 adult sons, had a wonderful weekend in your beautiful city taking in the MOMA, a Mets game (which they won), the Brooklyn Bridge, Ground Zero and so much more in Manhattan.

The people of New York City could not have been more welcoming.

We are from Toronto Canada and put great value on hospitality and respect.

When I read your newspaper back at the hotel I was dismayed re your legal battles as no side really 'wins all' with such animosity.

We wish you continued success in celebrating and publishing your local 'neighbourhood' in this world.

Most sincerely,
Brenda
(McDowell,
MD, CCFP, FCFP)

Dear Governor Hochul,

Continued from page 1

plan to dump radioactive waste into the Hudson River. Senator Peter Harkham and Assembly Member Dana Levenberg have also introduced legislation that would prohibit discharges of radioactive contaminants into New York waterways, and we believe that Holtec's desire to accelerate its discharge schedule to May may have been an attempt to get around the new restrictions that could be imposed. We urge your office to support this legislation so that Holtec's reckless proposal does not proceed.

New York's magnificent Hudson River must not serve as a dumping ground for nuclear industry polluters while we work to continue the restoration of this significant tidal estuary. The economic and environmental damage of dumping radioactive waste into our precious water sources would be profound and unnecessary, only serving the interests of Holtec and its shareholders. We urge you to put the health and safety of New Yorkers first by stopping Holtec's dangerous plan and ensuring a precedent is set here in New York that polluters cannot

dump radioactive substances into our state's waterways.

Sincerely,

Food & Water Watch, Wenonah Hauter, Executive Director

Grassroots Environmental Education, Ellen Weininger, Educational Outreach Director Hudson Riverkeeper, Tracy Brown, President and Hudson Riverkeeper

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc., Manna Jo Greene, Environmental Action Director Indian Point Safe Energy Coali-

tion (IPSEC), Marilyn Elie

Promoting Health and Sustainable Energy (PHASE), Michel Lee

Stop the Algonquin Pipeline Expansion (SAPE), Suzannah Glidden

United For Clean Energy, Tina Volz-Bongar

Westchester for Change, Susan Van Dolan

For a full list of signatories see the online issue of West View News.

Always Follow Your Heart

By Robert Shapiro

"In the modern world, the ignorant are cocksure, while the intelligent live in doubt"—paraphrased from a Bertrand Russell quote

If you are tired of hearing educated, thoughtful people being labeled as radical liberal woke extremists, I'd like you to consider the following list. Every one of these items, which have greatly improved civilization were initially passionately opposed, even though they have saved countless lives and needless misery.

Environmental Protection, Health Insurance, Universal Health Care, Abolishing Slavery, Consumer Protection, Animal Cruelty Justice, Seatbelts, Voting Rights for Women, Worker Protection, Voting Right for Minorities, Gender Rights, Marriage Equality, Gun Control (then complain that

the Democrats can't control gun violence), Trophy Hunting Bans, AIDS Research, Emissions Control, Anti-Racism Laws, Child Labor Laws, Freedom of Religion, Teaching Evolution and Factual Science, Women's Right to Choose, National Parks Preservation, Endangered Species Act, Peace, Disarmament, Social Security, Mental Health Care, Free Speech.

It is astounding that all of the above were first considered outrageous and radical. Much of it still is. I can understand why certain folks feel that their lifestyles and values are threatened by progress, but it baffles my mind that tens of millions who claim to love their families have no qualms about raping the planet for the sake of short-term profits, even if it means that their children and grandchildren will suffer. It is they who are radical! They conserve nothing but the past. Progressives have a more accurate label

because they support progress. They have always been misbranded by those who like to call themselves patriots—but which side promotes peace, human rights for all and a clean environment? I'd call them the most patriotic people in America.

Without hyperbole, I am sure that many today would consider Jesus Christ a woke hippie radical. Oh, the ironic hypocrisy that such a progressive liberal is considered their Savior. In 1663, Galileo announced his scientific discovery that the earth is not at the center of the universe and lost his freedom for it. The Church apologized to him in 1992. Thurgood Marshall, the first African American to become a Supreme Court Justice, had a college wing devoted to him years after that very same university would not allow him to attend classes there. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spearheaded the Civil Right movement despite

rabid opposition. These four people never gave up championing the truth and nobody else should during these trying times.

My point is this, and I hope the incredible list above makes it crystal clear. Is all of the opposition to progress going to go away today? No, but I assure you that all of it will eventually be defeated—as long as the minority of properly educated, emotionally mature citizens don't give up. When states ban books, ban teaching science, ban abortion, ban African Studies, take solace that this is only temporary—I guarantee it. The record speaks for itself. Time after time, it never takes the majority to advance the world. Starting is Victory. When women wanted to be able to vote, the guys in charge said NO, but a century later, women run for president, but if we don't defend what we know in our heart is right, ignorance will prevail.



KHAAAAN!-gestion Pricing

Continued from page 1

Galaxy:

The Congestion Pricing Galaxy

Generally speaking, Congestion Pricing (CP) would charge vehicles to enter Manhattan below 60th Street, subject to some striking exceptions. The exact amounts and how they vary with to-be-defined peak and off-peak periods are still to be determined. Ballpark \$5 to \$23.

Think of it as a “driveway tax” — as nobody is talking about any sort of exemption for RESIDENTS of The Zone to return home from an out-of-zone outing, at least no one earning over \$60k. And it gets worse. Details below.

Dear reader, do any of you know anyone who lives below 60th Street, makes less than \$60K, AND owns a car? Anybody? (Don’t all raise your hands at once.)

Forecasts suggest that CP will raise \$1B/yr, to be used by the MTA to close a giant pending fiscal gap, improve public transit operations, and fuel capital projects, mostly for the subways.

(Side note: New Yorkers already pay a larger share of NYC subway operating costs than riders of any other system in the nation. The MTA is already raising fares as much as the public can withstand.)

On the other hand, forecasts also suggest that the actual volume of vehicles will only decline marginally. A few percent. Single digits. Maaaaybe 10-15%.

Paradoxically, the MTA must surely be praying that congestion pricing isn’t toooo effective at actually REDUCING congestion, because they are banking on the revenue. They need to milk the Golden Calf — not strangle it.

As per this author’s prior article, the congestion created by NYC DOT would be better addressed by rolling back some of their extremist Transportation Alternatives-driven street mis-engineering.

Simply put, no modest percentage reduction in the number of vehicles (5%? 10%? 15%) can possibly counterweigh the bottlenecks and choked arterials that NYC DOT has willfully caused via bike lanes, bus lanes, elimination of turn pockets, creation of buffer lanes, widened sidewalks, botched signal timing, banning vehicles from extensive stretches of Broadway and all through-traffic on 14th Street (because *cough* L-train repairs, right? Wrong.) Etc., etc., etc.

The Legal Basis, and Process

Briefly, the authorizing legislation for congestion pricing is a NYS law passed in 2019. More recently, on May 5, 2023, the FHWA conditionally approved the MTA’s Environmental Assessment, and associated analyses by the MTA, NYS DOT, and NYC DOT, which would lead to a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). FHWA provided for a 30-day public comment period on the document, which closed on June 12.

CB2 and its Traffic & Transportation Committee

On June 1, the Community Board 2 Traffic & Transportation Committee, chaired by decade-long-serving Shirley Secunda, held a public meeting / Zoom presentation, with guest presenter Charles Komanoff, and Meera Sheer and Tevin Williams, two staffers from Congressman Dan Goldman’s office, who provided the “federal” perspective. (This author attended, as always, using his real name: Michael Markowitz, P.E.)

Worth note is that Komanoff, who described himself as a “mathematician” and “analyst” took pains to distance himself from the increasingly polarizing Transportation Alternatives, despite that his own website says:

“He ‘re-founded’ NYC’s bike-advocacy group Transportation Alternatives in the 1980’s, co-founded the pedestrian-rights group Right of Way in the 1990’s, and wrote or edited the landmark reports Subsidies for Traffic, The Bicycle Blueprint, and Killed By Automobile.”

Former recent CB2 Chair Jeannine Kiely — as a community board member — was one of the few people allowed to speak; she very gently challenged Komanoff on his ultra-detailed spreadsheet “model” which purported to show how beneficial congestion pricing would be. Also in attendance: current CB2 Chair Susan Kent, and prior former CB2 Chair David Gruber.

When challenged further by other CB2 members, especially re impact on CB2 residents, Komanoff bristled, warning that any such talk could “...jeopardize the delicate politics on which adoption and implementation of CP depends.” (Note to self: push harder.)

Both Sheer and Williams had to leave before the latter part of the meeting when a small number of questions submitted via chat by the public were finally read aloud by Deputy Committee Chair, Daniel Miller. Miller himself tried numerous times to be allowed to air more questions, but Secunda insisted there wasn’t time, and moved on to the “working business session” during which the public would not be allowed to speak — as if the public had any such opportunity in the first place — and during which time the various CB2 committees discuss and often vote on resolutions to present to the full Board for formal adoption.

Virtually none of this author’s questions were asked, including ones asking a) if anyone had analyzed the impact of congestion pricing on property values, or b) how to reconcile the small projected traffic reduction with the supposed windfalls in abstract lost time savings. Moreover, and quite possibly with this author’s frequent chat commentary in mind, Secunda repeatedly admonished the public that “comments and statements would not be read aloud — only questions.” Well!

It seems that news of the ratification of

the First Amendment hasn’t yet reached Manhattan’s second community board. Good thing the chat function was not disabled, and to Komanoff’s credit, he interacted extensively with the public in the Zoom chat.

A number of other members of the public approached me later to express their frustration and exasperation, one even noting how “one-sided” the meeting was.

The Full CB2 meeting is (was?) on Thursday June 22. Too late for the official “public” comment window, which closed June 12, but not too late for CB2 to reflect the public feedback at the T&T meeting, or flag the issues raised here.

“The time is always right to do what is right.”

— MLK Jr.

Contact your CB2 members. Here’s hoping the next “reso” is not another unqualified fawning valentine that looks like it was written by MTA finance managers.

Not One, But TWO Bombshells

Oh. My. Gawd. It’s enough to make a Vulcan’s brain explode and pointy ears wilt.

1) “Route 9A” and the FDR are somehow exempt from CP.

To be clear, “9A” means the Henry Hudson Parkway... AND WEST STREET.

It’s as if Lower Manhattan has a suburban superhighway “beltway”. Traffic between New Jersey and Long Island that doesn’t traverse 42nd, 34th, (or formerly 14th, LOL), Houston, or Canal shouldn’t have to pay.

However... what that MEANS, as Komanoff allowed under pressure to provide detail, is that “every eastbound street off of West Street” will need to be metered. Reread. Thrice. Take all the time you need.

Simply put: The FDR is a limited access elevated highway, with a frontage road in most stretches. West Street is not; it is an integrated part of the local street grid. Different.

Example: If you live between Hudson, the Street and the River, and drive around the block to avoid a street sweeper, and one leg is West Street, cough up \$5 to \$23! You didn’t “enter” the Zone — YOU LIVE IN IT. And you don’t get a resident discount!

Get this: Londoners who are residents of their Zone, get 90% off. So tell me again how well London’s plan works! Lower Manhattan’s zone is much bigger, and has over half a million residents. Half a million plus. Driveway Tax,

It also means that CP metering of the various TUNNELS is a complexity that is yet unclear. Just ask anyone from New Jersey. Komanoff was asked about the blocks between the Lincoln Tunnel and West Street, and was uncharacteristically... evasive.

What will that look like? How will that be accomplished?

See accompanying photo for a sample 30-

ft wide E-ZPass gantry with license plate-reading cameras — and strobe lights.

In the middle of each eastbound block between West and Washington Streets. Yeah baby. And you thought the 5G cell tower beer cans were eyesores? Buckle up.

Historic Village Streets are about to look like metered freeway ramps. Truly historic cobblestoned Charles Lane is eastbound. Just sayin...

On every eastbound street off of West Street, from W60th to the Battery Park underpass!

If you live ON Washington Street.... brace for more southbound traffic to the Holland Tunnel. Lots more.

It is unconscionable that these two flaws have been buried. They need to be remedied.

A “zone” with more holes than the IRS code for Cayman Island “residents” than for Lower Manhattan residents is a non-starter for Villagers.

In Conclusion

In the original Star Trek series and at least one of the movies, Kirk outwits an intentionally un-winnable Starfleet Academy training exercise — the Kobayashi Maru scenario, designed to test cadets’ mettle. How? By surreptitiously reprogramming the computer to change the ground rules, regardless that Starfleet and Mr. Spock think such is cheating.

Similarly, it may be time for all Villagers to ally with our neighbors to the immediate north and south — from Chelsea, Midtown, and Kips Bay to NOHO, SOHO, and FiDi — to do the same.

“Khaaaan!-gestion Pricing” is a losing scenario for us locals. For any of us who own cars, obviously. But also, for any of us who use car services or take cabs, and for ALL of us who will be paying inevitably higher prices for goods and services — and food — delivered by truck, non-bike, or non-pedestrian.

The rules are rigged. The program is fatally flawed. It must be changed. At the federal level if necessary. The FHWA’s pending FONSI is... Fonz-worthy. Oop. Wrong show.

And if Kirk can make treaties with Klingons, maybe Downtowners can seek alliances with (gasp) New Jerseyans.

In Star Trek, the “prime directive” prohibits Starfleet from interfering with less advanced alien civilizations. It’s a moral imperative. But Khan knows better.

We — the over half a million residents of The Zone — will not be KHAAAAN!-ed.

Sid E. Walker is the pen name (no, really?) of a long-time local Village resident, parent, and professional civil engineer who has been active in local community issues for the past 15 years, he helped unsnarl the LGA roadway system, and who would like to see a better-informed discussion of local traffic and transportation issues. His family have been Villagers for three generations

Charles Street Spring Planting

To all Charles Street residents,
Thank you to all who showed up to help with the planting and those who donated. It was a spectacular day and a very successful planting. Considering how last minute it was it all came together and people had a great time. Now the important thing is for people to water their tree beds. If not the plants will die and it will have been a waste of time and money. If you can't do it yourself see if you can get someone else to help, a neighbor, a Super. Plants need to be watered daily in this heat. In the end it will be rewarding.



NYC PARKS ANNOUNCES HIGHEST TREE PLANTING TOTAL IN 6 YEARS

As of June 3, more than 13,150 street and park trees have been planted across the city already – a total of 14,900 trees are expected to be planted by end of fiscal year on June 30

Increase in tree planting tied to Parks' expanded work to bring on additional M/WBE contractors for tree plantings

Focused plantings in heat vulnerable neighborhoods continues, with more than 5,700 planted in FY23

Today, NYC Parks announced that it has surpassed tree planting totals from the prior fiscal year, solidifying this administration's ongoing commitment to protect and expand the city's urban forest. As of June 3, Parks has planted 13,154 trees across the city, and expects to plant a total of 14,900 by June 30. This is the highest tree planting total in the past six fiscal years and marks two consecutive fiscal years of tree planting growth across the five boroughs. In addition, Parks has expanded its commitment to M/WBE contractors for tree planting, and continues to focus its plantings in vulnerable areas, as guided by the Heat Vulnerability Index (HVI).

"Our trees are the lungs of our city, helping to clean our air, beautify our streets and parks, provide shade, and absorb storm water, and I'm so proud of NYC Parks' work to expand these vital resources with another milestone year," said New York City Mayor

Eric Adams. "Our trees remain some of the best natural infrastructure we have, and our administration will continue to be champions for the ongoing expansion and protection of our city's urban forest."

"Since day one of my tenure as Parks Commissioner, I have made it our mission to continue our work of protecting and expanding the city's urban forest, and today we are celebrating yet another milestone in our tree planting efforts," said NYC Parks Commissioner Sue Donoghue. "Thanks to the ongoing support from the Adams Administration, our tree planting program, which strategically targets heat vulnerable neighborhoods, is the most robust it has been in six years, and we will continue to focus our efforts on greening the city and planting trees where they're needed most."

"This is a great step forward for expanding the urban tree canopy and advancing climate justice in communities with high heat vulnerability," said Victoria Cerullo, Acting Executive Director, Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice. "These trees will improve air quality, improve our city's parks and open spaces, and cool neighborhoods vulnerable to the impacts of extreme heat."

13,100+ Trees Planted Across the City in FY23

Coming off a milestone tree planting year in FY22, Parks has surpassed this milestone in FY23 with 13,154 trees planted as of early June, marking the second consecutive year of tree planting growth. With an ex-

pected total of 14,900 trees planted by June 30, representing plantings both on streets and in parks, this effort underscores Parks' ongoing commitment to expanding the City's urban forest.

M/WBE Contracts

The agency's efforts to recruit and onboard new contractors, especially minority and women-owned business enterprises (M/WBEs), is paying off. Since 2021, Parks has brought on seven new M/WBE contractors who have helped increase the pool of bidders for tree planting contracts to plant more trees across the city. Nearly 4,400 trees were planted on M/WBE Small Purchase Contracts over the past two fiscal years, doubling down on Parks' commitment to equity, not just in neighborhood greenspaces, but in the allocation of contracts and resources.

Plantings in Heat Vulnerable Areas Neighborhoods

In an effort to curb heat impacts due to climate change, Parks has prioritized planting trees in neighborhoods most at risk. Among the 13,150 new trees planted in FY23, more than 5,700 of the new plantings are in heat vulnerable neighborhoods, guided by the NYC Heat Vulnerability Index (HVI neighborhoods), a tool grounded in climate and racial justice that identifies communities carrying the greatest burden of heat-related health impacts (HVI 1-5 with 5=highest risk)

Some of these HVI neighborhoods include:

Bronx: Williamsbridge, Woodlawn, East-

chester, Edenwald, Soundview, Morris Park, Norwood

Brooklyn: East Flatbush, Bushwick, Crown Heights, Flatlands, Sunset Park, Canarsie, Cypress Hills, Fort Greene, Stuyvesant Heights

Manhattan: Central Harlem, East Harlem, Lower East Side, Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville

Queens: Hunters Point, Sunnyside, Long Island City, Elmhurst, Laurelton, South Ozone Park, St. Albans, Flushing, Woodside

Since 2017, 15,677 street and park trees were planted in HVI-5 neighborhoods, with an estimated 9,700 more to be planted through Spring 2024. Thanks to an additional \$136 million allocated by the Adams administration for the program, Parks expects to plant trees in every viable place in HVI-4 and HVI-5 neighborhoods by 2026.

NYC Parks actively cares for more than 800,000 mapped trees—650,000 street trees and more than 150,000 trees in parks—across the city. In December 2022, Parks debuted the NYC Tree Map—a first-of-its-kind living tree map showcasing nearly one million individually managed City trees. The NYC Tree Map includes newly mapped park trees that have unique IDs, species information, and maintenance status, allowing New Yorkers to digitally interact with all 800,000+ landscaped park and street trees in real time.



2023 City Council District 2 Candidates

East Village, Lower East Side, NoHo, Greenwich Village, Union Square, Kips Bay, and Gramercy Park



Allie Ryan

DISTRICT 2, DEM

Top 3 Issues:

1. *Save Small Businesses and Jobs*
2. *Listen and Serve the Community*
3. *Preserve Affordable Housing/NYCHA*

"I am running for city council to represent East Village, Lower East Side, NoHo, Greenwich Village, Union Square, Kips Bay, and Gramercy because I am one of the many people who have been adversely affected by policies approved by our current council members, such as the devastation and deforestation caused by the East Side Coastal Resiliency Project and the loss of many small businesses."



Carlina Rivera

DISTRICT 2, DEM

Top 3 Issues:

1. *Expand Affordability for Basic Needs*
2. *Invest in Inclusive Economic Growth*
3. *A Cleaner and Greener City*

"As a lifelong New Yorker raised in Section 8 housing, I know my neighbor's struggles. From affordable housing to reproductive rights to the climate crises, I have a record of results. I'm running for re-election to continue addressing healthcare, public safety, and equitable economic growth. I'll continue to expand the services you expect from the city, such as safe, clean streets, accessible parks, and dignified housing."

2023 City Council District 1 Candidates

Financial District, Chinatown, Tribeca, SoHo, Battery Park City, Civic Center, Little Italy, NoHo, and part of the Lower East Side



Christopher Marte

DISTRICT 1, DEM

Top 3 Issues:

1. *Stop the displacement crises*
2. *End sweatshop conditions in NYC*
3. *Enforce responsible environmental resiliency plans*

"It's an honor representing the communities that raised me at City Hall. In one year, we've secured over \$15M for public housing improvements, expanded street cleaning, new parks, and public-school repairs. Instead of meeting with lobbyists, we've written legislation to end 24-hour workdays for home attendants, faced down billionaire developers from the Seaport to Two Bridges, and are serving thousands of people at our storefront office on East Broadway. We have hit the ground running, but we are only just getting started."



Ursila Jung

DISTRICT 1, DEM

Top 3 Issues:

1. *Public Safety and government accountability.*
2. *Parents deserve high-quality schools.*
3. *Neighborhood stores make NYC great.*

"I am running to represent District 1 because I believe we can do better! As a parent, a New Yorker, and a community member, I believe we need strong leadership to have a safe, clean city where we are not afraid for our kids. We deserve affordable housing, better schools, and vibrant neighborhoods. The time for extreme politics is over. Despite the extreme polarization we see in the media, like most of this country, I am a centrist and I believe we need to work together towards bringing NYC back."



Pooi Stewart

DISTRICT 1, DEM

Top 3 Issues:

1. *Improve Public Safety*
2. *Create Better Schools*
3. *Bring Jobs Back to NYC*

"Pooi Stewart is a first-generation immigrant and came to the United States as a Dreamer. Pooi's top priority is to fight for public safety and clean up the subway system. She is married to a train operator and knows what it's like to struggle. A mother of three children, Pooi teaches in the New York City public school system and has a degree in special education. She sees how our school system is failing our children and will work hard to create better schools. Pooi will fight for our small businesses, and work to ensure their safety. Pooi sees many people struggling to make ends meet and will fight to bring jobs back to our city and Lower Manhattan."



Susan Lee

DISTRICT 1, DEM

Top 3 Issues:

1. *Protect communities from rising crime*
2. *Improve the quality of public schools*
3. *Endure economic opportunities for all*

"I am a community advocate, a non-profit leader, and a moderate democrat that has never shied away from standing up for those in need."

"As a lifelong New Yorker, I have seen the best of times and the worst of times. And I also know our city will recover but it will take hard work and dedication. In a time of unprecedented challenges, strong, effective leadership is more critical than ever. I will never stop working to make the district a better place for all, I hope to earn your vote this election."

What Do Elected Officials Do?

Our elected officials make decisions every day that impact jobs, housing, education, healthcare, and more. Learn more about the offices on your ballot.

To see the most up-to-date list of candidates for your party in your district, visit nycvotes.org/candidates.

City Offices

City Council

The City Council is the legislative, or law-making, branch of New York City's government. There are 51 members. Council members typically serve for 4 years (up to 2 consecutive terms).

Following the 2020 census, City Council districts were redrawn to adjust for changes in population. Due to this process, Council members elected this year will serve 2-year terms in newly drawn districts. In 2025, 4-year terms will resume.

Introduce and vote on bills.

Negotiate and approve the city's budget.

Monitor city agencies.

Make decisions about the growth and development of our city.

Provide support for their constituents.

Find your City Council district at findmypollsite.vote.nyc

Country Offices

District Attorney

The District Attorney is the top prosecutor for their country. They serve for 4 years. There are no term limits.

Decide which cases to prosecute (and which not to).

Oversee all criminal prosecutions.

Investigate and prosecute criminal conduct.

Judges

Civil Court-County & District

Civil Court Judges can represent counties or districts, so you may see more than one Civil Court judge on your ballot. Judges are elected to 10-year terms and hear cases including:

Civil matters up to \$50,000.

Landlord-tenant matters and cases involving maintenance of housing standards.

Criminal prosecution of misdemeanors.

Party Positions

These are not governmental positions, but leadership roles in local political parties. Please note that the specific duties of each office below can vary based on your political party and where you live. Depending on your party, there may be multiple party positions on your ballot, divided by gender, to help promote gender equality.

Delegates to the Judicial Convention

Delegates to the Judicial Convention choose their party's nominees for State Supreme Court. The number of delegates you can vote for is determined by your Assembly District. Your ballot will tell you how many Delegates you can select.

Attend their party's Judicial Convention

Choose their party's nominees for State Supreme Court in the general

election.

Alternate Delegates are selected in case Delegates are unable to serve (just like alternates on a jury).

State Committee Member

State Committee Members represent their Assembly District within state political parties. Committee members serve two-year terms.

Attend their state party's convention and annual meetings.

Serve as a liaison between their community, local elected officials, city government, and political candidates.

County Committee Member

County Committee Members select county leaders for their political party and their party's candidates for state special elections.

Select party candidates for state special elections.

Vote on county leaders for their political party.

Approve the county party's budget and other internal policies.

District Leader

District Leaders help run political parties in each county. District Leaders serve two-year terms.

Work with the city Board of Elections to nominate poll workers.

Nominate candidates for judgeships in the Civil and Supreme Court.

Vote for their party's leadership and rules.



羅倫 L. 艾斯波西托

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FOR
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Early Voting June 17th to 25th

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City Council Member
Carlina Rivera

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ALLIE RYAN

Democrat for
CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2



Allie is a leader who will fight with actions and not just words against the career politicians, the developers, and their cronies who are crushing our most vulnerable neighbors.

New
District
Lines

District 2
needs someone
to fight for US!



PRIMARY
JUNE 27

early voting
JUNE 17-25

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If Carlina Rivera Won't Defend Our Green Space, I Will.



Photo Credit: Kim Sillen



By Allie Ryan

I know what I will remember most vividly about the destruction of East River Park, it is being led away in handcuffs, under arrest! I'll remember coming home to crying children who didn't understand how long mommy might be in jail. And I'll be reminded every day that my girls will never again know the shade of 80 year old trees in the Lower East Side forest where they learned to ride bikes, their beloved East River Park.

The recent smoke-filled winds of the Canadian forest fires quickly took my thoughts back to the simple importance of those trees in our public parks that I continue to defend. Councilmember Carlina Rivera, who is a career "machine" politician, authorized the Lower East Side's best defense from this poor air quality, 1000 trees, to be chopped down, and East River Park to be demolished in the name of climate resiliency.

During Super Storm Sandy when the East Village and Lower East Side were flooded, the popular park acted as a natural barrier and sponge soaking up the brunt of the storm so that the waters withdrew back into the East River in a few short hours. The initial coastal resiliency plan devised over a four-year period by the community, local electees, and environmental experts would depend on nature and a berm to absorb flood waters from the river.

However, as the prime negotiator/councilmember CM Rivera influenced others to approve a \$1.45 million plan commonly called the ESCR (East Side Coastal Resiliency Project), (the price tag of which has increased) to completely level the park and raising the park as high as 8ft at its apex. 60% of this new park would be synthetic turf. The process would be repeated in 2050, preventing any trees or reforestation from ever taking effect for several generations.

My opponent refused to meet with

residents against the plan, claiming that NYCHA members supported it, which proved to be ultimately untrue. <https://indypendent.org/2022/08/carlina-rivera-and-the-untold-history-of-how-east-river-park-was-destroyed/> Her supporters tried to portray me as a candidate who doesn't hold the interest of the community at heartWW. Rivera and her husband moved from a flood evacuation zone to a high-rise where the consequences of her political policy decision would not affect her family. The residential building in which my family resides received water up the doorknobs, and all ground floor apartments experienced complete devastation. Yet my neighbors and I are the ones accused of not having an interest in preventing flooding? But the misinformation and misdirection we would have to endure while trying to prevent Rivera's destructive path did not dissuade us.

Recently an ESCR representative admitted at a public meeting that the project leaders don't know when the infill will settle and that the work is both behind schedule and missing promised benchmarks. Transparency has been completely lacking around the project, forcing the community to rely on the Freedom of Information requests and lawsuits to gain knowledge.

Concessions Councilwoman Rivera claimed to have negotiated have been ignored by the City without objections from her. My opponent's latest claim is that the City lied to her about the study and also claims that she demanded and obtained concessions from the City for her support of ESCR. This is not leadership. Whether due to dishonesty or incompetency - Councilmember Rivera's days of service must end in favor of a representative like myself who will put our community's ecological health first.

Today I ask my fellow residents in City Council District 2 to vote for me on Primary Day, June 27th 2023. And if you can't wait that long, vote for me NEXT WEEK during Early Voting (June 17-25th) - whatever you do, PLEASE VOTE.

My Last Two Years Will be My Best

Local elections are some of the most important, and on June 27th I hope to have your vote to continue my last term as your effective and progressive City Council Member. I am Carlina Rivera, a lifelong New Yorker, a daughter of our district – I went to school on Washington Place, would shoot hoops at the Cage, and grew up in the playgrounds of the East and West Village. I met my husband while serving on my community board, and he and I recently welcomed our baby boy as one of the district’s newest residents.

Serving constituents for the past five years in the Council has allowed me to take my passion and pragmatism to be one of our city’s most productive representatives in office – including wins around housing rights, small business support, education equity, public safety improvement, and sanitation services increases. Through my tenure, my team and I have worked tirelessly to resolve thousands of constituent cases involving landlord-tenant issues and making our streets safer and cleaner. And I hope to bring the skills, ideas and partnerships I have cultivated to serve every household of the new District 2 at a time when it is so important to have experienced and effective representation.

It’s been an honor to represent Lower Manhattan and I want to continue the fight for better quality of life for everyone. In my time in the Council, I have secured funding for our libraries, our schools and our Mitchell-Lama residents and NYCHA families, as well as to make our parks more resilient and safer, to plant thousands of street trees and to protect our arts and culture institutions. My work to ensure access to reproductive freedom was lauded by the White House,

and I know our most urgent work is needed here at home in our communities. In my tenure, I’ve worked to bring more outreach to people experiencing homelessness and mental health crises. I’ve advocated and won fights for more healthcare transparency, expanded the number of supermarkets and greenmarkets in my district, supported our tireless retirees in their fight to retain their benefits, implemented an improvement program to clean up Tompkins Square Park, and have written and co-sponsored legislation to address noise and sirens, scaffolding standards, and criminal legal reform.

I govern in collaboration, and I am grateful to the coalition of support that has rallied behind my campaign. My supporters include Congressman Jerry Nadler, Congressman Dan Goldman, Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Assemblymember Harvey Epstein, Council Member Erik Bottcher and labor unions representing nurses, teachers, carpenters, engineers, as well as advocacy groups organizing for animal rights, environmental justice and disability equity.

My entire career has been dedicated to uplifting our neighbors and ensuring every voice is heard. I hope to continue being that strong and compassionate voice for you in City Hall.

Carlina Rivera is a Democrat running for City Council District 2, which includes Greenwich Village, NoHo, Union Square, Flatiron, East Village, Lower East Side, Gramercy, Rose Hill and Kips Bay. Primary June 27, Early Voting June 17 – 24

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Carlina
2023

VOTE BY JUNE 27TH

Re-elect our champion

Council Member
Carlina Rivera

Carlina is strongly endorsed by

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ENDORSED CANDIDATE
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JIM OWLES
LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC CLUB

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The Trials of Becoming a New York Judge

By Edward Yutkowitz

It's a wet and gloomy morning in Abingdon Square. The stalls of the greenmarket are quieter than usual. There's a notable absence of tourists.

But bad weather doesn't deter the intrepid volunteers of the Village Independent Democrats (VID). Its members are out among their fellow Villagers promoting the judicial candidacy of Lauren Esposito, the club's choice for New York State Civil Court in the June 27th Democratic primary.

Since January, Lauren has been campaigning non-stop in Lower Manhattan's 1st Municipal Judicial District, which extends from the southern tip of Manhattan to 14th Street, from the far West Side to the East Village (excluding SoHo and the Lower East Side). "I like campaigning," she says. "I love talking to people, meeting neighbors, and learning about the concerns in our community."

A long-time resident of the West Village, Lauren has been a committed member of Village Independent Democrats, one of New York City's oldest and most revered reform political clubs. The club's support has been crucial to many successful political campaigns, both locally and regionally. Its members are activists who regularly volunteer for political causes and campaigns.

Being a judge is a prestigious position, but there's little glamor on the campaign trail. You're on your feet for hours, stopping strangers on the street and hoping a 10-second pitch will entice someone to take your literature and ultimately vote for you. It's grueling work. The public has little idea of what it takes for someone to get elected as a judge, or for that matter what it is that judges do.

Lauren's formal campaign started in earnest earlier this year, when she, like other potential candidates, began preparing for the independent screening panels organized by the Manhattan Democratic Party. These panels, which comprise some of New York's most prestigious attorneys from bar associations and representatives of local community organizations, put candidates through a rigorous application process, intense reviews of their backgrounds, history, and qualifications, and tough interviews. Only the best candidates get a "most highly qualified" rating. Lauren was one of those. It's no surprise: she brings stellar credentials to her candidacy. For more than ten years she dealt with myriad issues to ensure that rights of tenants in public housing were respected. "I take great pride in having helped the underprivileged," she says. "There's nothing more important than protecting the rights of the poor to quality housing."

For the past year and a half, she has brought that passion to her role as an attorney in the busiest Appellate Court in New York State, reviewing criminal, family, and Supreme



Lauren Esposito and Assemblymember Deborah Glick at Abingdon Square.

Photo credit: Edward Yutkowitz

Court decisions—virtually the gamut of issues facing judges in New York. "It's incredibly rewarding to be part of the process to help right a wrong and correct an injustice, especially in criminal matters, where people's liberties are at stake," she says.

Lauren has an eclectic education background, majoring in art and biology as an undergraduate at Emory University, and earning an MBA. It was during further studies at New York Law School that she found her passion for public service. "Over time I developed enormous respect for the law and how it could transform people's lives for better and worse. It made me focus on what I could do to make the lives of New Yorkers better. It's why I want to pursue public service as a judge."

Lauren had to petition for signatures from people in her judicial district to ensure that she'd qualify for the ballot. The signatures don't constitute endorsements, but the ability to collect them is an indication of the

seriousness of a candidate's efforts. Lauren's campaign had to obtain 1500 signatures. Lauren and her team was out petitioning virtually every weekend in March, rain or shine.

Of course, she didn't do it alone. It takes a village to run a successful campaign and Lauren had the help of her friends and volunteers from VID. Clipboards in hands, approaching strangers on the street for hours on end, they succeeded in realizing a hefty margin of 6,000 signatures, more than enough to meet Board of Elections requirements. In addition to VID, Lauren's petitioning effort was aided by volunteers from Downtown Independent Democrats and UDO (United Democratic Organization). She's grateful. "I couldn't have done it without them," she says.

Another little-known hurdle candidates have to face is the expense of running a campaign. Lauren has raised funds for her efforts. It's a tricky pursuit, by law and eth-

ics; she is not allowed to know who has contributed to her campaign—the public doesn't always understand this.

Unless they're attorneys, have court business, or are called for jury duty, most people have little understanding of the court system and what it means to them. In a nutshell:

** The Civil Court of the City of New York decides lawsuits involving claims for damages up to \$50,000. The court deals with commercial, landlord and tenant, consumer debt, name changes, and contractual issues.*

** The Criminal Court of the City of New York handles misdemeanors: generally, crimes punishable by fine or imprisonment of up to one year, and lesser offenses. It also conducts arraignments of all those accused of crimes, including felonies.*

** The Supreme Court of the State of New York, the highest trial court in the state, has two divisions that hear felony and major civil*

Continued from page 11

Lower Manhattan City Council Primaries: One Inspiring, One Not

By Frank Quinn

With relatively light media coverage, you'll need to pay close attention to understand the 2023 New York City elections. This "off-year" cycle begins with a primary on June 27th, which is usually the de facto election in lower Manhattan because typically there are not any viable Republican or independent candidates. This year there are contested Democratic primaries in Districts 1 and 2, with high quality candidates but uneven contests.

Who's sticking their neck out?

In District 2, incumbent Carlina Rivera is being challenged by Allie Ryan. Ms. Rivera has a well-documented history of supporting very progressive causes, while Ms. Ryan represents herself as pro-choice, pro-education, fighting for small businesses and eschewing donations from developers or special interests. It's an opportunity for voters to hear a contest of ideas and choose between two talented individuals.

Further south in District 1, incumbent Christopher Marte is being challenged by three fellow Democrats in the primary. In November, Republican Helen Qiu will run against whichever Democrat prevails in the primary. While both Districts offer exciting prospects, there are stark differences in tone and substance.

Who's doing what?

The District 1 race is a dynamic contest, with all 5 candidates recently appearing together in a joint candidate forum. Further debates are planned, and the competition seems genuine. While Mr. Marte is likely the favorite, he does not take his competitors for granted and prides himself on being accessible to his constituents.

Not so in District 2, where one candidate

appears to have it in the bag. Ms. Rivera boasts endorsements from six prominent local politicians including two US congressmen, and multiple union and democratic club endorsements. In a low turnout primary, support like this from the political establishment is virtually undefeatable. Only the most politically active citizens in the district will actually vote, with a highly anticipated predisposition for endorsed candidates.

Ms. Ryan ran for this same office in 2021 but Ms. Rivera refused to debate her, and there are no planned debates ahead of this year's District 2 primary. When candidates won't defend their positions in front of their constituents, the constituents are poorly served.

Why is this happening?

New York voters are hostages of political entrenchment – not just because we're dominated by a single political party, but because we're also dominated by elite forces within that party. Committed politicians choose how to play, and success often requires that they genuflect to the establishment. It's risky to demonstrate an independently focused campaign, and only the most well-financed competitors have a chance.

The resulting entrenchment rewards conformity, and District 2 exemplifies the pattern. Ms. Rivera's endorsements include high profile professional politicians with their own track records of avoiding debates. State Senator Brad Hoylman, one of Ms. Rivera's endorsers, backed out of a planned debate during last year's election. So did 30-year incumbent Congressman Jerry Nadler, who refused to participate in a well-attended multi-candidate forum hosted by the Asian Wave Alliance, giving his reason that the event included Republican candidates.

Will this ever change?

In 2019, New York City enacted rank



Lower Manhattan City Council Districts. Photo credit: New York City Council

choice voting as a way to address entrenchment politics. Unfortunately, it's been generally ineffective as a standalone reform in the face of overpowering dominance by the political elite in a one-party system.

One non-partisan advocacy group is working on a petition ballot for the 2024 election that will reform New York City elections with a party neutral system. Final Five Voting NYC envisions a single primary open to

all candidates regardless of party affiliation. Rank choice voting will determine the top five winners of the primary, and those five candidates will run against each other in the November general election, where rank choice voting will determine the ultimate winner.

Frank Quinn is a media executive, parent and musician. www.linkedin.com/in/frankjquinn

The Trials of Becoming a New York Judge

Continued from page 10

cases.

**After cases are heard in the Supreme Court, they may be appealed to the Appellate Division, or possibly to the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals.*

Civil Court candidates generally run for office in a particular geographic area, but once elected they can theoretically be assigned to other courts anywhere in the city if the need arises. In Manhattan, rookie Civil Court judges are often seasoned with a year or two in Criminal or Family Court.

While the election process is inherently political, candidates realize that the integrity of the judicial system demands that judges be scrupulously apolitical. After all the time spent attending political events and establishing relationships with political leaders, they must sever their political ties after they are elected. After six months, they can no longer attend political events or participate in any activities that might be perceived as partisan.

Now that she's on the ballot, and Lauren and her team have been out campaigning in parks, at public events, anywhere there are

large groups of local residents who might, or should, have an interest in our judicial system, the most recurring of the endless questions Lauren has been asked regards why she wants to be a judge. "It's the natural culmination of my life's work. I've dedicated my entire legal career to serving the public," she says. "I love the law. And I love working on behalf of the people of New York."

In recognition of her professional experience, character, and commitment to democracy, Lauren has been endorsed by Representative Jerrold Nadler, Assemblymember Deborah Glick, Manhattan Borough Pres-

ident Mark Levine, city council members Erik Bottcher and Carlina Rivera, several retired justices, district leaders, community leaders, and all the major downtown political clubs.

Lauren will be campaigning until June 27th, Primary Day. "It feels great to be meeting and greeting people. It's really special to be out campaigning with members of VID and my other friends. I'm overwhelmed by all the support I've had, both politically and from people I've met on the street. If people see me campaigning, I hope they'll come by and say hi."

Coming Together To Reverse Climate Change

By Roberta Russell

Global warming makes more news with each passing day. The destruction is occurring faster than previously anticipated; nevertheless, most people are still immobilized. They ponder, "Will sorting out plastic waste and using biodegradable bags really make a noticeable difference?"

Imagine that you lived in Jakarta, the capitol city of Indonesia, along with 30 million others. Forty percent of Jakarta is now below sea level. The capital is being renamed Nusantara and relocated to higher ground on Borneo, the world's third largest island. This is not an isolated consequence of global warming. The whole planet is and will be affected by climate change, each city and town in its own time. On May 19th a persistent Alexa-generated voice reminded me that Greenwich Village had a flood watch. Although the cellar of my West 9th Street house remained dry, this message was still disconcerting.

World-wide, rising sea levels and extreme weather events such as hurricanes, droughts, floods, and heat waves are causing loss of lives and disruptions in essential services. Heat-induced transmission of dengue fever and malaria is increasing. Food insecurity is rampant because of climate-created crop failure and increased food prices. Climate change also poses economic risks such as increased health care costs, damage to infrastructure, and disruptions to global supply chains. When we print money to pay for these emergency disasters we devalue our currency, though there does not seem to be another viable choice.

One of the most stirring reminders of the damage we are doing to animals, resulting in wiping out most of the other species that live on the earth, was depicted in a movie, *The Planet of the Humans* by Michael Moore. You can see it free on youtube.com.

What can we do?

Remember when woman could not vote and when most people smoked? Human



Picture Credit of orangutan dying: Image from the video linked here, Michael Moore's *Planet of the Humans*.

Text by Roberta Russell.

beings adjust their attitudes to adapt to change. With the specter of deadening climate change looming, adjustment needs to be faster and with more conscious determination than ever before. This could be achieved by participating in consciousness-raising groups. Consciousness is an emergent property of self-organizing. We are permeable membranes of awareness. Change is affected through influence. There are now some laws that prohibit the wiping out of jungles and the animals that inhabit them. Watching Moore's movie has made me want more legislation.

Neil Theise, MD, is a pioneer in stem cell research and a long-time student of Zen Buddhism and consciousness studies. He has an interdisciplinary approach to the intricacies of change. In *Notes on Complexity: A Scientific Theory of Connection, Consciousness, and Being* (2023) he states, "A distinguishing feature of life's complexity is that in every single instance, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts... Occasionally, if we are fortunate, we find ourselves in a situation with other people in which we achieve that feeling of complete unity, of something bigger than ourselves."

You can feel the presence of bold liter-

ary tradition and cutting-edge art in the West Village. The whole area is inspired by plaques commemorating the thinkers and artists who blazed the way. Mark Twain once lived around the corner from my West 9th Street house and garden. There is a sign commemorating him at 14 West 10th Street. I discovered his little-known once-banned book, *What is Man?* as a child when my long-deceased parents had proudly displayed a complete set of Twain's work that they had collected in installments at a supermarket promotion. That controversial hardcover, now available free on Google, eventually formalized my thinking about what makes people act as they do. Twain presented the concept that man was a machine and initiated what I later learned was called the determinism/free will debate.

For inspiration and continuity, I recently transplanted my treasured Mark Twain collection to a shelf in the Greenwich Village garden apartment my late husband Harold Krieger bought in the 1960s.

Set and setting can arouse change, and I'd like to put the garden apartment to good use. It would be an ideal place to meet with people who could come together to discuss what we might do to turn the tide of climate

destruction. If you have time to learn about what is happening to our planet and our future and would like to share your ideas, this may be the perfect time to see what we can do individually and collectively to address our global warming disaster. Even though Noam Chomsky (in a youtube.com interview) recently referred to Biden's latest Alaskan oil rights allotment to industry as, "the end," he still advises that we get together and talk to our neighbors about solutions.

There is power in unity and consciousness. Let's see what we can accomplish at a Greenwich Village garden party.

Send a message to Roberta Russell at 917-693-6224 or email russellk100@gmail.com if you are interested.

Roberta Russell is the founder of the World-Wide Calorie & Exercise Logging Group (www.permanentweightloss.org). She is the author of Report on Permanent Weight Loss, RD Laing & Me: Lessons in Love, and Report on Effective Psychotherapy: Legislative Testimony.

www.robertarussell.com;
russellk100@gmail.com.

THE POLITICS OF POLITICS

Who is going to lead America out of the mess it's in and restore the peace, love and apple pie to our once great nation in 2024?

By Kelly Gallagher

You can't make this chaos up. The current news reads like a bad movie script. Our Presidential Campaigns here in the US have turned into vicious 12 D chess games with numerous devious players making simultaneous moves. So many questions face the future of America.

Trump has been arraigned.

Robert F Kennedy Jr., a Kennedy legacy and environmental hero, has been ignored by the mainstream media despite his entering the Presidential race. Is he being punished and dismissed by the mainstream media for revealing the dark secrets of the pharmaceutical industry? Is it a coincidence the biggest sponsor of television programming and news is big pharma? America is one of only two developed nations that allow pharmaceutical companies to advertise. New Zealand and the United States are the only countries in the world that allow pharmaceutical companies to do direct to consumer advertising on TV. According to Robert F. Kennedy Jr., "it's been a calamity in our country for public health because it has allowed them (the pharmaceutical industry) to control the narrative".

QUESTIONS THAT MUST BE ASKED:

Can RFK Jr. survive his truth telling and the deep state and save America before we become the next Banana Republic?

What about Marianne Williamson? She's trailing in the polls despite the fact we could all use a Course in Miracles to get out of the dismal decline the United States of America is in.

And why won't the Democratic National Party allow Biden to have a debate with Robert F. Kennedy Jr.? A voter poll showed disapproval of this move by the DNC. Voters stating these sentiments, "If you can't debate you can't be the leader of the free world."

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH OUR FUTURE PRESIDENTIAL LEADERS?

Donald Trump, former President of the US and leader of the race for the 2024 Republican nomination was indicted and arraigned in Federal Court by the D.O.J on June 13th in Miami on 37 counts.

Read arraignment here.

The Former President pleaded not guilty in this unprecedented indictment of a former president. Trump faces 37 federal

charges, including unlawfully retaining government secrets and conspiring to obstruct justice. The indictment alleges that Trump was personally involved in packing the documents as he left the White House in 2021.

His aide Walt Nauta has also been indicted but did not enter a plea Tuesday.

Trump says he is innocent and that he's being unfairly targeted by prosecutors because he's running for president again. "There's going to be motions to dismiss it on the basis of selective prosecution," he told NPR on Saturday. "You prosecuted me, but you didn't prosecute Hillary Clinton or President Joe Biden for possessing classified documents, as well." Trump visited Versailles Restaurant in Little Havana to meet with supporters after the Miami court appearance on Tuesday. He blasted the case as well as the special counsel, Jack Smith, while maintaining his innocence. He then went on to deliver a speech at his golf club in Bedminster, N.J.

Meanwhile, Joe Biden, Current US President and incumbent candidate for the Democratic Party nomination also apparently withheld classified documents from his Vice Presidency dating back to 2015. No indictment at this time. In other controversies, according to an FBI document Joe Biden was allegedly paid 5 million dollars by an executive from the Ukrainian natural gas firm, Burisma Holdings. This information was given to the FBI in June of 2020. The uninvestigated report claims to uncover a criminal bribery scheme between then VP Joe Biden and a foreign national that involved influence over US policy decisions. Sources say the money was paid to the Biden's through so many different bank accounts that it would take years to uncover despite the fact we have IRS agents who can find needles in hay stacks... In 2019 Trump pressed President Zelensky to look into it. President Biden dismisses the entire event as, "a bunch of malarkey".

And when it comes to President Biden's son, Hunter, apparently the rules are different. If any US citizen had on their laptop what Hunter Biden had on his laptop, and the local police found it, you'd already be in jail.

Meanwhile, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was arrested with Jane Fonda for leading a protest over climate change. He chained himself to the White House fence over fracking in 2013 and yes, he was arrested on possession of drugs in the 80's. It was the 80's.

Being arrested seems to be a qualification for a Presidential candidate these days.

According to the most recent poll from the

Economist and YouGov, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. who is running for the Democratic nomination, was viewed favorably by 49% of respondents, giving him the highest net favorability rating of 19 points. This poll was taken from 1500 U.S. adults between June 10-13th. He had a higher rating than many of the other 2024 presidential candidates including Trump, Biden and Marianne Williamson, striking a chord with Americans tired of the way things are and the way things are headed. But polls are polls and currently you can find any poll to tell you anything depending on the results you want.

Many upcoming voters we spoke to, think mainstream media has either ignored RFK Jr. or likes to paint him, as a rabid anti-vaxxer while overlooking deviant or dangerous behavior by other members of the Democratic and Republican parties. Kennedy is a Democrat. Why doesn't the media want to acknowledge him? Because in case you haven't noticed pharmaceutical advertisements schedule multiple million-dollar media buys which pay for TV programming including local and national news. The Pharmaceutical industry controls the narrative around health directives and mandates. It used to be "soap" operas. Now they are "drug" operas.

Many think RFK Jr. is what the media says he is. For those who grew up in the JFK and RFK Kennedy era, remember when a Kennedy was a symbol of hope, civil rights, peace, and family. For those people Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is a legacy of an America worth fighting for. Those in support of the environment and climate initiatives can appreciate being in the know, not only on climate issues but on how to navigate a toxic planet. They appreciate the work of people who fight for the people and the planet vs. the corporate goliaths. Kennedy says he is always on the side of the people who often don't even know they are in danger, or that their children, neighborhood, or environment are at risk of being poisoned by corporate polluters. Kennedy's record with Waterkeepers and Riverkeepers reflect his lifelong commitment to the planet.

But even now, after Waterkeepers and Riverkeepers worked so hard to clean up the Hudson, the India Point power plant is getting ready to dump their radioactive waste back into and poison the newly cleaned up river which is lined with estuaries, wetlands and a new beach on the Hudson in New York City built for people to celebrate and enjoy the Hudson.

Please see the article on page 5.

The media has either tried to ignore the fact that Kennedy announced he was

running for President or figured out a negative angle to report. They reported that none of his family were at his Presidential announcement in Boston when clearly there was a posse of Kennedy's in tow. Censorship is alive and well in America. When this lifelong public interest lawyer who champions environmental causes from coal fired plants to clean water, stepped over the environmental line into the health arena, he was reprimanded in the media and ostracized by the political players. Why? Well, follow the money as usual. Who spends the most money on lobbyists in Washington DC? Big pharma. Who called Kennedy a conspiracy theorist for daring to be concerned about the amount of thimerosal, a preservative containing mercury used in vaccines, was having on the ever-increasing mandatory vaccine schedule for children?

For those of you who think no big deal, because you remember having 5 vaccines... times have changed. There are 72 vaccine doses between 0 and 18. Maybe more now that COVID has lobbed a few more on the stack. So, the trace amounts of mercury and aluminum, known neurotoxins in a vaccine, do matter. If you do your research it doesn't seem like a conspiracy "theory" it seems like a conspiracy on the part of the pharmaceutical companies and government agencies whose "leaders" maneuver back and forth from private sector, to conveniently heading up the government agency and back they go to run the Pharmaceutical company. It's a revolving door between government and private sector. It doesn't matter which industry. Anyone that can be corrupted. Insert agriculture or any industry one can dominate in.

Once RFK Jr. was hovering over the toxic target and the truth about a lot of things, the spin doctors went to work to defame him and rip his family apart in the process.

Despite the attacks and character assassination RFK Jr. continues to speak nuggets of truth and teach history to a nation starved for the America we once knew and believed in.

No matter who you want to blame for how we got here: Trump, Biden, Obama, Bush, the deep state, the corrupted government agencies, the CDC whatever.... we are now here.

We are on the brink of bankruptcy, stock market crashes, interest rates, inflation, homelessness, food shortages, energy crisis, weather extremes, climate issues, job layoffs, AI takeover and the world of social credit.

Do we really want more of what we had?

The Shell Game to Perpetuate Smart Meters

By Les Jamieson

Since 2011 there have been at least 10 different attempts to pass a law that would regulate digital utility meters, which have been misnamed as “smart” meters. Calling technologies aimed at the consumer market “smart” should evoke well-placed suspicion in all of us. They all emit pulsed-microwave radiation (EMR), are virtually unregulated and insufficiently tested. Agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Center For Disease Control have yet to provide safety regulations that match up with the high, pervasive levels of EMR we’re exposed to from WiFi networks, wireless antennas, cell phones, and smart meters all around us. Says Norm Alster of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University, “Echoing industry, the FCC has ignored the growing evidence that wireless technologies pose serious health risks.”

With the intent to get effective smart meter regulations, civic action has been attempted for several years by organizations and individuals across New York State who have studied the issue, proposed ideas for legislation, and have lobbied their state senators and assembly members. Many meetings were arranged to educate legislators by providing them with scientific documentation and testimonials by people who have been sickened from exposure to smart meters. Symptoms include headaches, nausea, dizziness, neurological disorders, sleep disorders, and cardiovascular problems. This amounts to a condition termed “electro-sensitivity”, which has been recognized in the American with Disabilities Act (ADA).

It’s perplexing to think that securing the right for the public to have a safe, trustworthy, time-tested analog meter has been such an uphill battle. After all, analog meters have worked reliably and accurately for a hundred years. But the right to make what should be a no-brainer of a choice has been kept out of reach for New Yorkers since smart meters were imposed upon us in 2009.

Several other states have passed smart meter regulations that allow residents to refuse installation of these digital devices by “opting out” without having any fees imposed. New Yorker City residents who are aware and choose to opt out must accept a fee of \$9.50 per month. For whatever reason, if you own a small business or multiple dwelling, you cannot opt out of what the utilities designate as a commercial account. Imagine that. All the small businesses in your neighborhood aren’t allowed to protect themselves or employees from what often is close proximity to smart meters, which is in violation of one of the few FCC regulations. Also, if you live in a larger housing complex and want to opt out but others do not, you still stand the risk of exposure to EMR emissions from smart meters as well as dirty electricity from wiring throughout the building.



For a bill to become law, the same version must be introduced in the senate and assembly, where it is reviewed and assigned a bill number by each chamber. Then it gets voted on in a committee. Once it passes the committee in each house, it gets reviewed by the Rules Committee. If it passes muster, the majority speaker puts the bill on the agenda to go before the entire legislature for a vote. If it passes, it goes to the governor’s desk to be signed into law, or possibly be vetoed.

The legislative session each year begins in the first week of January, and ends around June 8th. Last year, during the 2021-2022 legislative session, Sen. Pete Harkham submitted S.8765, the most effective smart meter bill to date. This bill contained language that would allow us to keep our analog meter without fees imposed, and if we had a smart meter installed, we could instruct the utilities to remove it and replace it with an analog meter. This is known as “analog choice”. An Assembly version, which is necessary if this was to become law, was introduced by Assemblyman Tom Abinante. We were very excited. It appeared that we would finally get the relief that was so necessary for every resident of New York. Well, not so fast. His bill had to go through the office that assigns a number to the bill. Many calls were made from mid-April into June to Abinante’s office to find out what number was assigned to his bill. We needed that number so we could inform the public. After all, when you’re up against the interests of powerful corporate interests, the public has a major role to play. Although it should have taken a few days to get a number assigned, for some odd reason this did not happen until July 6, 2022. The Abinante bill was designated as bill number A.10555 - a month after the legislative session had ended. It’s not a stretch to say that some entity with the power and knowledge of how to control the process effectively blocked analog choice last year.

For the current year, advocates for smart meter legislation figured we had better begin organizing prior to January to get a jump start. We learned that Sen. Harckham resubmitted last year’s proposed bill, along with some improvements. In addition to

meters that measure electrical usage, it also applies to meters for gas and water usage. On March 9th it was assigned as S.5632. That was early enough to do an informational campaign, get a “same as” version in the Assembly, and have everything fall into place to get it to the governor’s desk well before the end of the legislative session on June 8th, or so we thought. We generated many calls to Sen. Harckham’s office to thank him for his efforts to enable New Yorkers to have analog choice. We also inquired on how we could help ensure that an Assembly version was submitted. This is where we received conflicting and confusing information. I was told that first S.5632 would have to be submitted to the Consumer Protection Committee for a vote. Only at that point would it be presented to the Assembly for a member to draft a “same as” version. Oddly, this never happened. We continued to call every member of the Consumer Protection Committee to advocate for S.5632. Then another discrepancy arose showing a disconnect within the legislature, or possibly an attempt to divert it away from analog choice. Two other much weaker bills, S.404 and S.2587, were submitted. These bills mainly attempt to get utilities to comply with FCC rules and set up a research commission. Neither are effective or go far enough. Unlike the Harckham bill, these weaker bills did get an Assembly version which bring them closer to getting a floor vote and becoming law. Isn’t that curious?

Then we learned yet another bill had been submitted. Sen. Leroy Comrie of the 4th Senate District in Queens submitted S.5586 on March 8th to the Energy and Telecommunications Committee. Although this bill fails to articulate anything that allows for analog choice, this is the first bill that includes a provision that should be of interest to millions of New Yorkers. It stipulates that if more than one third of people in a multiple dwelling decline smart meters to preserve usage of their analog meter, then the entire building must remain on analog meters.

Through April and May we continued pushing for S.5632 to advance. After delays due to the legislature getting bogged down in budget negotiations, we learned that the

Consumer Protection Committee was to meet on May 24th. Then we learned that S.5632 was not even on their agenda! This means they were not even presenting it to be voted through the Committee. Then I was told, contradictory to previous information I’d been given on the law-making process, that there first had to be an Assembly version for the Committee to feel confident the bill could move forward. So why this foot-dragging? There were a few different Assembly members who received plenty of calls to submit a “same as” version of S.5632. One of them was Deborah Glick, who represents District 66, the West Village and Tribeca, and is chair of the Environmental Conservation Committee. Another was Sarahana Shrestha who represents District 103, the Woodstock, NY area. We’re still hoping to learn what happened. With the legislative session over on June 8th, we now have to wait until January 2024 before any efforts to pass smart meter legislation in the public interest can take place.

What must we do now? We have to use the next six months to become further informed, and build a statewide coalition to build on what has been accomplished to this point. For further research, readers can do a search on “smart meter concerns” and “smart meter health risks”. Be sure to watch the award-winning documentary at <https://www.takebackyourpower.net/>. We also have to inform all legislators that claims of compliance with FCC safety regulations is an oxymoron. In August 13, 2021, the Environmental Health Trust and Children’s Health Defense won an appeal in which the FCC was chastised for its failure to review independent studies on biological damage caused by EMR, and for its failure to update its 1996 guidelines. The FCC was remanded to return to the court to explain fully its rationale for denial of review.

Get active with fellow New Yorkers by sending an email to newyorkers4wired-tech@hushmail.com. Although we’re up against an entrenched corporate machine, we can coordinate our efforts to put a halt to this unnecessary technology.

See http://ethics.harvard.edu/files/center-for-ethics/files/capturedagency_alster.pdf and <https://ehtrust.org/the-fcc-is-a-captured-agency-commissioners-are-for-mer-wireless-industry-insiders/>

See <https://beatemf.com/smart-meter-radiation-symptoms/>

See <https://ehtrust.org/resources-on-electromagnetic-sensitivity-and-accommodations/>

See <https://beatemf.com/where-are-smart-meters-banned/>

See <https://ehtrust.org/dirty-power-from-new-electricity-meters-key-to-a-health-problem/>

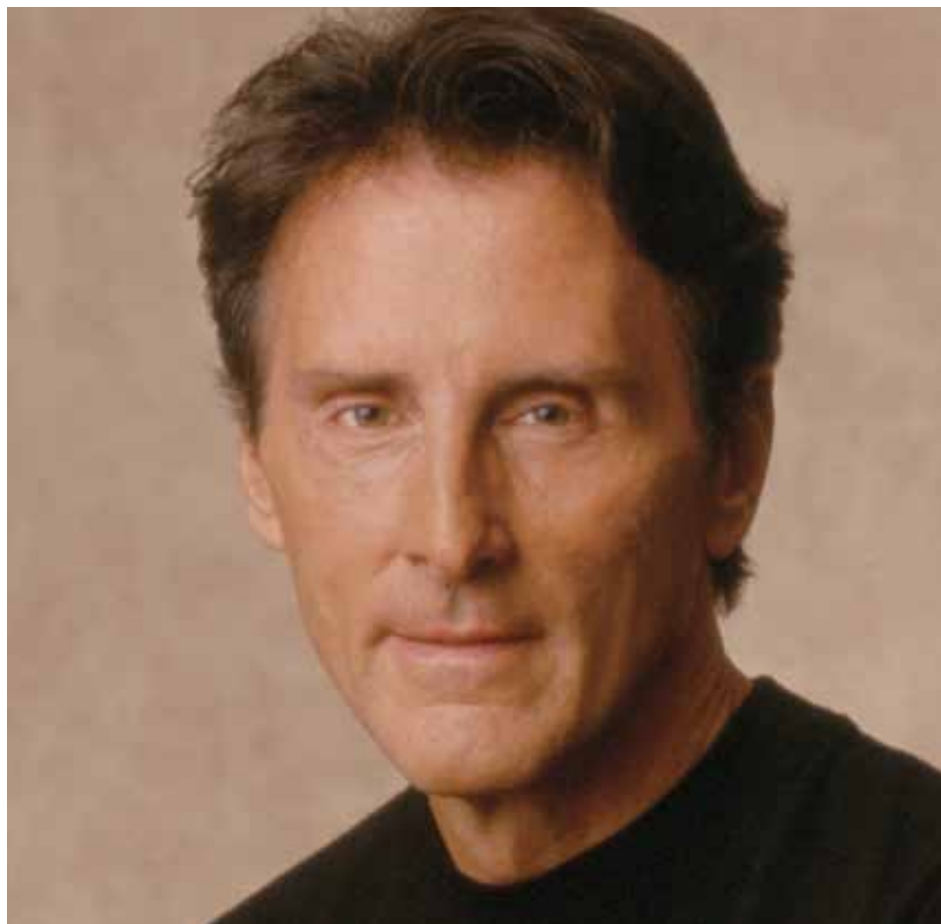
See <https://ehtrust.org/in-historic-decision-federal-court-finds-fcc-failed-to-explain-why-it-ignored-scientific-evidence-showing-harm-from-wireless-radiation/>

Gary Null Progressive Action List

By Gary Null, Updated May 11, 2023

Over the years, Gary has compiled a list of prominent issues and challenges that require urgent attention at the federal levels. He updates, tweaks, edits, adds and subtracts to the list periodically. In the past, these have been his progressive issues that he has relied upon during interviews with presidential candidates on his program.

- Create legislation to curtail the vulnerability of people's savings accounts due to the repeal of the Glass-Steagall Act.
- Create a Marshall Plan to rebuild our forests to reduce the acceleration of climate change
- Reverse Trump's opening of public lands to private interests and implement a moratorium on private exploitation of national parks (eg, fossil fuels, mining, lumber)
- Create a national food program to ensure that the 16 million hungry children in the US are fed.
- Increase regulations on trading in those commodities that are essential to life such as food, crops, water privatization.
- Moratorium on the Federal Reserve from giving no-interest loans to banks and corporations.
- Declare a national moratorium on home foreclosures now that the US and Europe are on the verge of a new recession
- Forgive student loan late fees and cap all interest on student loans at 1-2%.
- Eliminate pay day loans and credit card interest rates, late or not, at 18% or more. Set maximum interest at approximately 10%
- Support senior citizens with free community hospital service and food coops.
- Eliminate all federal subsidies to fossil fuel industries of any kind.
- Halt private corporate funding of elections to remove money out of politics.
- Launch a federal review and audit of partisan astroturf groups (eg, ALEC, Americans for Prosperity, Center for American Progress, American Council on Science and Health, Moveon.org) and support stronger laws to limit their influence



on federal and state legislators

- A congressional investigation into USAID and the National Endowment for Democracy and clean it of intelligence interference that undermines their and to serve as a vehicle of foreign regime change
- Pardon all whistleblowers. Strengthen whistleblower protection laws and criminalize efforts to silence and threaten whistleblowers.
- Campaign finance reform and return to manual balloting; cessation of gerrymandering -- voting districts to be determined by independent, nonpartisan review based upon the specific needs of populations in the regions.
- Normalize foreign relations with China and Russia and pivot from the unipolar agenda of the World Economic Forum and move closer towards a national recognition

of the rapidly multipolar world that is dethroning the dollar's hegemony.

- Start demilitarization of our defense forces around the world and close military bases.
- Reduction of Pentagon defense budget
- Restore healthy relations with international institutions, especially the United Nations
- Abandon the US-defined "rules based international order" ideology which the majority of the international community rejects outright
- Begin an overall of the USDA and its ties to the agro-chemical and big food industries to strengthen scientific oversight on dangerous agricultural toxins damaging the environment and unhealthy food additives that impair health.
- National mandate for the labeling of

foods containing GMO ingredients

- Audit the Federal Reserve, the Department of Defense, Homeland Security, and the CIA, reducing their budgets to what is actually necessary for the nation's security and defense.
- Allow corporations that cannot be maintained to go through structured bankruptcy instead of a bailout.
- Reject the ratification of the World Health Organization's Pandemic Treaty
- Universal healthcare under Medicare that includes some alternative medical therapies as in some other European nations
- Create a national preventative health program.
- Undertake an independent scientific review of the causes for our autism epidemic and support a concerted review of the role of the CDC's vaccine schedule in the rise in childhood physical and mental illnesses.
- Make efforts to revoke or substantially amend corporate privileges in Citizens United
- Accelerate efforts to amend Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act and expand the legal oversight to include large nonprofit internet organizations such as Wikipedia.
- Regulation of the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence in areas where it may infringe on fundamental human rights
- Initiate a proper, independent review and analysis of the short- and long-term implications of central bank digital currency replacing a cash society, social credit scores attached to block chain technologies, and vaccine passports.
- Eliminate and/or set more strict rules on privatized prison systems; stop the growing practices of debtor's prisons and bail for non-violent crimes.
- Promote stronger prosecution of corporate and banking executives convicted of serious financial fraud and crimes
- National program to have potential law enforcement officers undergo a psychological screening -- many are former vets who have serious PTSD and other mental health issues

What YOU Can Do To Refuse Installation of a Smart Meter

By Les Jameson

You can contact Con Edison to opt out and refuse the installation of a smart meters. Call 800-576-2005. You'll hear a menu with options trying to convince you that you need smart meters. Be aware that the industry is doing all it can to create a widespread digital grid which would be much better served through non-digital, fiber optic connectivity. Also, digital meters lack surge protection, are no more accurate than analog meters, and are programmed to measure peak usage in

15-minute increments, even if that peak lasts one second! So, choose option 6, then press 3. You will be connected to a Con Edison representative.

Be aware that these representatives are trained to dispel any suspicions about smart meters, despite the volumes or science revealing the dangers of exposure to RF radiation, despite that they consume extra energy which adds to the already excessive levels of carbon in our atmosphere, and despite the adverse health impacts many New Yorkers have already experienced.

Be aware that Con Edison charges \$9.50 per month to opt out. Residents need to

organize to oppose this. Currently there is a bill in the NY State Senate, S. 5632 that would accomplish this and more. It's in the process of advancing to a vote in the Consumer Protection Committee. Please contact your state senator today to request their support. In the meantime, you can pay your regular bill, then separately pay the \$9.50 by check and write "PAID UNDER DURESS" on the check. Do not delay because after receiving a notice, it could be less than 60 days before you begin getting notices of \$100 monthly fines until you provide access for installation.

Also, you must request that Con Edison

leave your existing analog meter intact. If they say they will need to replace it, demand that any replacement be analog. Otherwise, they may install meters which still transmit data digitally.

If you already have had a smart meter installed, you can request to have it removed. If you received a notice but failed to opt out, it's likely you'll have to pay a fee of roughly \$105. However, your health is worth far more!

If you are having problems opting out, please notify Westview News.

Body & Soul

Take Pride In Your Skin

By Jen Mark

Men at our clinic are spending as much or more on treatments than the women, according to Dr Noah Sanni. Men are seeking facial enhancements, laser procedures, Hair restoration and injectables.

Men going to Aesthetic & Anti-aging clinics are going to increase drastically in the next decade due to male millennials," says Dr. Sanni. "This would never happen in the boomer or x'er generations. Millennials between the ages of eighteen and thirty-four are more aware and involved in medical spa treatments."

Botox, fillers, laser hair removal, PRP hair rejuvenations & Neografting Permanent hair transplant, which is very popular among men, are just some of the treatments available for men at the 277 west 4th street clinic. At 277 we are treating many male patients and this safe space is staffed with

nurses and Aestheticians with the outmost respect and discretion.

Male-oriented slang terms like "brotox" have become more popular in the medical spa industry and some facilities have gone as far as to create male-oriented areas in hopes of making men feel more comfortable at their clinics. "There is far less stigma attached to male aesthetic treatments than even five years ago," says Dr Sanni, Doctor and owner of 277 West Village. "The main goal of these procedures is typically not to drastically change the face, but rather correct and/or enhance what already exists. We recommend early deep fillers for anyone losing facial structure. Then we are adding IPL treatments for dark spots and sun damage, hormone replacement and IV drip therapy."

"Our clinic welcomes and is inclusive of everyone, regardless of their gender or sexuality. This is a space for YOU!"

There is also a 20% discount for new patients during June Pride Month



Teen View : To Shave, or Not to Shave?

By 13-Year-Old Reporter Alden Roosevelt

Recently, I've been thinking about hair. When will I grow facial hair? When I do, will I shave it off or grow a beard? How about a handlebar mustache? A fluffy pair of lamb chops?

I decided I would walk around the Village and find people to interview and ask them these questions about their facial hair. I hope you enjoy it.

Interview with Willie at Commerce Inn.

Q. "So when did you start growing facial hair?"

A. "I feel like it took a while for me to feel like I needed to start shaving, but if I had to guess I would say maybe about eighteen, but it wasn't really anything substantial, I was just like, 'I need to shave this off and get it out of the way.'"

Q. "What made you feel like you wanted to grow a mustache?"

A. "During Covid I got really lazy and really tired of shaving, I was like, 'I don't need to go into work. I don't really need to look nice.' But then one day I decided to shave off my beard, but I kept a mustache as kind of a joke. But then my partner was like, 'Wow that looks really good.' So I kept it."

Q. "Did you have any people in your life who inspired you to grow a mustache?"

A. "Not really but as a kid, I remember



seeing pictures of my dad and he had a big bushy mustache as well as a beard. So maybe that."

Alden. "OK, thank you for the interview." Willie. "You're welcome!"

Interview with my grandfather John on Commerce Street

Q. "Have you always shaved?"

A. "No, when I was a little baby, they would not trust me with a razor."

Q. "Did you think you would have a beard

when you were small?"

A. "I didn't think a lot when I was small."

Q. "Did you ever grow a beard?"

A. "I did try growing a beard once when I went skiing in Snowmass with my wife and didn't shave for a couple of days. When we got off the ski lift, and I skied up to her, that cute one over there, and I said, 'Hey, how about a kiss?' and she said, 'Not until you shave.' So guess what I did that day? I shaved!"

Q. "How about lamb chops?"

A. "Only on the grill. However when I was in The Marine Corps I was already shaving because I was twenty then. However there were a lot younger people there too. You shaved with a safety razor and shaving cream and you would not believe how many people had raw, red faces there because they did not know how to shave."

Q. "How do you feel about people who have beards?"

A. "Some of them look really good. A lot of them look really scruffy. A scruffy look is what is what people want these days so women will look at them."

Q. "Has anyone in your family had facial hair?"

A. "All my sons, and my brother. Oh, yes and Lois. Lois was a woman. And she had a very long hair here (indicates chin). And somebody tried to help her and thought it was just a loose hair and yanked on it. And then all of a sudden found out it was not a loose hair!"

Alden. "Well, thank you for the interview." John. "You're welcome."

Thank you for reading this ongoing series about facial hair. If you have any feedback or want to be interviewed about your relationship with facial hair please email me at: altruistworksprogress@gmail.com.

Have a great week!

Defying The Biology Of Aging: Inflammation; the Good, the Bad and the Ugly

THE LINK TO VITALITY

By Dr. Nabil El-hag, Ph.D; M.Ph.

Pain is something most of us try to avoid. Instead, we should pay close attention. Physical discomfort is the first signal that something is out of balance. Your body is trying to communicate with you so that you can bring it into equilibrium.

Is your skin red and painful after a day in the sun? Do you have a headache after a night on the town with friends? Are your muscles sore after a particularly tough workout at the gym?

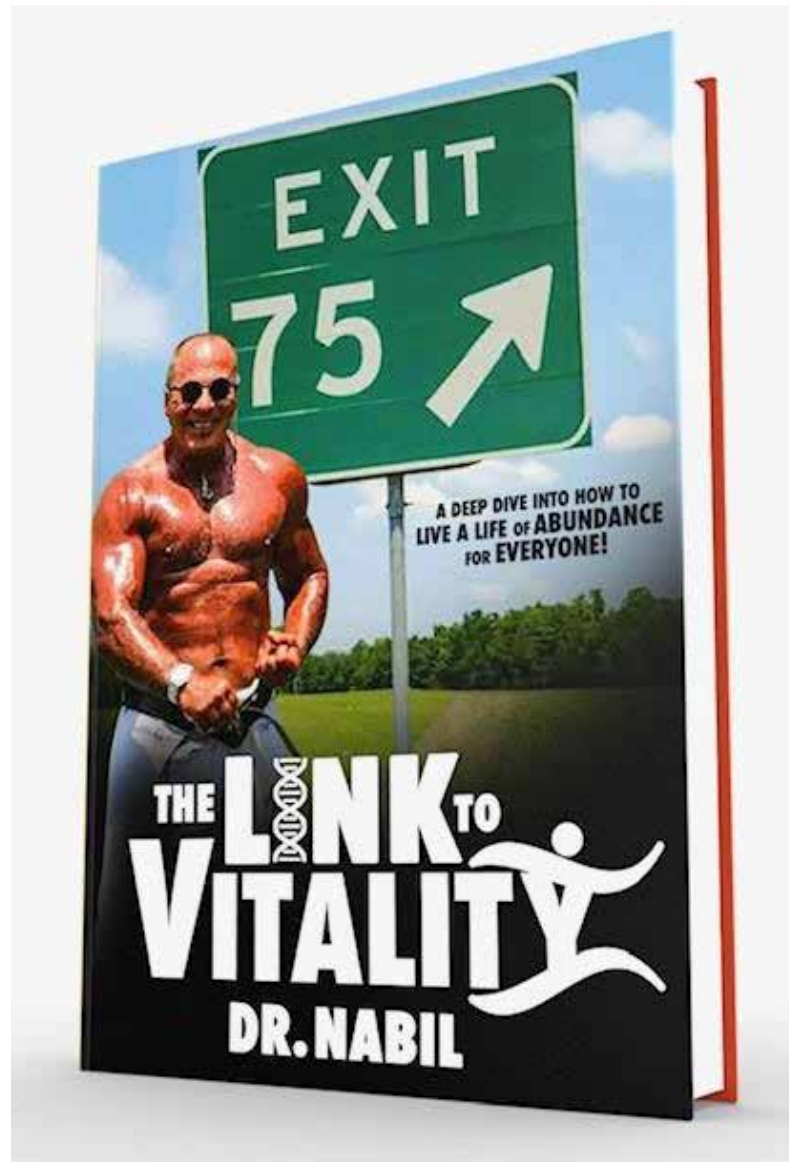
These are all signs of inflammation, which we experience as pain. These examples of acute inflammation can be easily addressed; more water to counter dehydration, a salve for sunburned skin, a massage to release toxins. It's nice to have remedies available, but even without our help, an acute injury will heal, thanks to our immune system.

The evolution of a competent healing system to deal with injury, infection and man's folly has ensured the survival of our species. "Good" inflammation tackles the body's immediate priorities and heals, repairs and returns the body to 100 % functionality within a reasonable time frame.

There are five phases in the acute inflammatory healing process:

- A Trigger Event. (Bacterial invasion, a cut or other injury, poison, etc.)
- Activation. Chemical messengers called cytokines are activated and flood the bloodstream.
- Mobilization. The cytokines communicate with the injured cells/body to set in motion a battle plan, directing white blood cells to the injury site.
- Eradication. The white blood cells arrive at the site and start engulfing germs and cleaning damaged tissues through a process called phagocytosis.
- Repair. Growth chemicals from fibroblast cells are released to repair damaged cells.

This miraculous system works best when we are young. The body's healing abilities are at their peak. But as we get older, the immune system begins to falter. Healing agents are in short supply. Cell signaling weakens. Mistakes are made. As a result, we develop chronic inflammation, now recognized as the underlying cause of diseases like diabetes and arthritis. Obviously, this is bad. What's worse is unresolved, chronic inflammation. It's ugly and it's the mother of all human suffering.



Why are problems with inflammation associated with aging? As we age, cellular function breaks down. Cellular metabolism is adversely affected by bad lifestyle choices, emotional and psychological stress, over-use, poor sleep habits, and environmental toxins. With age, the effects of these stressors multiply and accumulate, wearing down cell health.

Cell stress triggers inflammation, sensed as pain and stiffness. This slows us down, and often leads us to make even healthier choices, trapping us in a cycle of pain, medications and lack of mobility. Healthy aging therefore, requires that we put out the fire of inflammation quickly!

My simplest advice is to keep moving, and eat a healthy well-balanced diet, rich in greens, healthy fats and lean proteins, the building blocks of cells. Supplement with nutrients that boost your auto-immune system, like Vitamins E and C, Selenium, Zinc, Beta Carotene, Co-Q10, B Vitamins and Chromium Picolinate. Breathe deeply and breathe clean air. Exhale fully. Sleep deeply and regularly. Avoid alcohol and drugs. Don't smoke. Find purpose and balance in your life. Live each day in the healthy zone, and you help keep inflammation at bay. You can also pay attention to your gut and all the invisible

microbes that live there!

The importance of gut health in controlling inflammation has been a game-changing discovery. Other than the skin, the gut has the greatest exposure to the external environment. Everything we ingest, including synthetic chemicals never intended for human consumption, are processed in our gut.

Naturally occurring friendly microorganisms live in our gut. A delicate balance of chemical signaling between these good microbes and the cells of our gut lining ensures healthy digestion. They determine what will pass through the gut into the bloodstream and what will not. They also fight off invading germs. If you've ever had food poisoning, you know how gut wrenching that fight can be!

If your gut microbiome is not optimum, it will cause you to metabolize your foods inefficiently and prompt a haphazard inflammatory response.

Our ancestors were the beneficiaries of soil-borne microbes carried by their foods. When ingested, these living organisms helped replenish the microbiome. Unfortunately, the introduction of pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals has depleted soil-based bacteria and disrupted the natural balance of our immune systems Today, 99% of the

foods we buy at the grocery store simply do not contain these critically friendly soil-based organisms. Therefore, most health professionals recommend a probiotic.

During my bout with Lyme's disease forty years ago, I was on a boatload of antibiotics. They wiped out the Lyme culprit, along with all the good bacteria living in my gut. Ever since that health crisis, I've been using a clinically substantiated soil-based probiotic, shown to provide most of the naturally occurring bacteria needed for optimal gut health. When looking for your own probiotic, I'd suggest using similar criteria to be sure the product you choose delivers on its promise.

My second discovery happened 40 years ago, when I traveled to Japan to work with one of the leading amino acid manufacturers. While visiting a colleague who had emergency surgery, I learned that all surgical patients in Japan were put on a regimen of glutamine supplementation to facilitate healing. This fueled my interest in the therapeutic role of amino acids.

I learned that glutamine is the main compound that the body uses to repair muscle. Whether you are a competitive athlete, an active participant in life or just healing from an injury, over time, the body's demand for glutamine is higher than your diet can provide. This deficit increases with age. It is one reason people over fifty find it nearly impossible to build or maintain muscle mass. In addition to its role in building skeletal muscle, glutamine also protects our gut lining. It enables healthy nutrient absorption, protects against leaky gut and is important in the treatment of Crohn's disease, celiac disease, and gut inflammation.

I take 20-30 grams of unflavored, micronized,

glutamine powder dissolved in 1000 ml of purified water daily. I drink this during my workout. I've been doing that for 40+ years. It is not the only reason my muscularity has increased with age, but I believe it has been an important component of my regimen.

Over the years, I have seldom been derailed by illness or inflammation. My digestive and immune systems are both well-oiled with plenty of good nutrients, a thriving microbiome and ample glutamine!

Unfortunately, a healthy metabolism is not enough to keep us vital and young. Other forces are at play. Free-radicals are a natural by-product of metabolism. These unstable atoms bombard our cells, potentially causing cancer and other diseases. They also contribute to accelerated aging. Free-radicals cannot be avoided, but they can be tamed.

Anti-oxidants are the tools needed to help our bodies neutralize these unstable molecules. We'll learn more about these mighty metabolic defenders in my next article. Till then, be well and stay healthy!

Review Of “The Real Anthony Fauci: Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and The Global War on Democracy and Public Health” by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

By Thoma Connally

“The Real Anthony Fauci: Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and the Global War on Democracy and Public Health” by Robert F. Kennedy Jr., is an astonishing and meticulously researched exposé that documents the long history and complex web of influence between government, the military, Big Pharma, Big Tech, academia, and legacy media, that led to the historically unprecedented loss of life, livelihood, and basic human rights for billions of people around the world during the COVID pandemic. Kennedy casts a critical eye on the controversial actions and questionable practices of Dr. Anthony Fauci, Bill Gates, and numerous others, both during the pandemic, and in the decades leading up to it.

The book begins by examining how Fauci’s pandemic measures like masking, quarantines, lockdowns, and social distancing—supported by little or no peer-reviewed science—caused tremendous damage to the lives and businesses of billions of people globally. Citing the Associated Press, Kennedy states that 10,000 children died each month due to lockdown-related hunger, and that “millions of hospital and nursing home patients died alone without comfort or a final goodbye from their families.” Kennedy further notes that “Both common sense and the weight of scientific evidence suggest that all these strategies...caused far more injuries and deaths than they averted.”

At the same time, the forced closures of small businesses championed by Fauci precipitated the largest upward transfer of wealth in human history. Kennedy notes that “In 2020, workers lost \$3.7 trillion while billionaires gained \$3.9 trillion”. While there were nearly 500 new billionaires, “8 million Americans dropped below the poverty line”. Kennedy observes that “The biggest winners were the robber barons—the very companies that were cheerleading Dr. Fauci’s lockdown and censoring his critics: Big Technology, Big Data, Big Telecom, Big Finance, Big Media behemoths (Michael Bloomberg, Rupert Murdoch, Viacom, and Disney), and Silicon Valley Internet titans like Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, Eric Schmidt, Sergey Brin, Larry Page, Larry Ellison, and Jack Dorsey.”

The book masterfully chronicles the major conflicts of interest between government agencies like the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), university science departments, pharmaceutical companies, and legacy media outlets financed through pharma advertising. Kennedy supplies ample evidence showing that safe and effective remedies for COVID, and many other diseases like AIDS, were intentionally suppressed in favor of new, patent-

able, ineffective, and extremely dangerous drugs and vaccines that promised increased profits for Fauci, Gates, and their associates in academia and pharma that comprise the self-described “public-private partnership” with NIAID and other institutions.

Kennedy looks first at hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin—safe medicines long proven to be effective against viruses like COVID—that were intentionally sabotaged in favor of Fauci’s preferred, highly profitable, and extremely hazardous treatment Remdesivir—nicknamed “run death is near” by nurses who administered it. Kennedy quotes leading doctors and scientists who estimate Remdesivir unnecessarily killed up to 500,000 Americans. He also points out that the COVID vaccines caused 17,000 deaths in the US in just the first ten months after their rollout—dwarfing the miniscule number of adverse reactions caused by hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin over the decades they’ve been used widely to treat a variety of parasitic and viral infections.

Another example of Fauci’s decades-long history of suppressing cheap effective drugs in favor of profitable and dangerous ones was during the AIDS crisis, with his promotion of the manifestly lethal azidothymidine, commonly known as AZT. Kennedy states that AZT was shepherded through the approval process by Fauci and loyal “principal investigators” at various academic institutions beholden to Fauci for their funding, using deeply flawed studies that were deliberately falsified. Kennedy extensively documents how Fauci’s highly questionable efforts to win FDA approval for AZT provided the strategic template for his promotion of the expensive, dangerous drugs and vaccines NIAID pushed as the only possible solutions in many future pandemics—both real and concocted—up to and including COVID-19.

A key element of that strategic template is the ruthless suppression of dissenting scientific voices that pose a threat to the patentable and profitable drugs favored by Fauci, Gates, and their Big Pharma associates. Throughout the nearly 40-year history of the AIDS pandemic, many critics, including Nobel Prize winning scientists, have offered alternatives to the official orthodoxy that HIV alone causes AIDS. But Kennedy notes that “During the thirty-six years since Dr. Fauci and his colleague, Dr. Robert Gallo, first claimed that HIV is the sole cause of AIDS, no one has been able to point to a study that demonstrates their hypothesis using accepted scientific proofs. The fact that Dr. Fauci has obstinately refused to describe a convincing scientific basis for his proposition, or to debate the topic with any qualified critics, including the many Nobel laureates who have expressed skepticism, makes it even more important to give air and daylight to dissenting voices.”

Leading scientists who have questioned Fauci’s dictates on AIDS, like Berkeley’s Dr. Peter Duesberg, have been denied funding and publication opportunities as reprisal for their “heresy”.

The book also sheds light on the relationship between Gates’ self-described “philanthro-capitalist” vaccine efforts and the unwaveringly favorable media coverage they receive, raising questions about the impartiality and objectivity of “mainstream” news reporting on global health issues. Kennedy reveals the funding and payoffs from The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to legacy media outlets like PBS, BBC, The Atlantic, The New York Times, NPR, the Guardian, and the Gates-funded “fact-checking” organization Politifact—and their subsequent favorable coverage of his initiatives. Kennedy contends that this financial support, and the billions of dollars in pharmaceutical industry advertising that funds most television and cable news, virtually ensures flattering coverage for Gates’ vaccine projects, despite the millions of injuries and deaths they’ve caused.

Additional chapters focus on Gates’ and Fauci’s long track-record of inhumane medical experiments on American Blacks and Hispanics, vulnerable populations like orphans and prisoners, and their testing of deadly AIDS drugs in Africa. Kennedy writes, “Dr. Fauci’s malefactions...include his crimes against the hundreds of Black and Hispanic orphan and foster children whom he subjected to cruel and deadly medical experiments and his role, with Bill Gates, in transforming hundreds of thousands of Africans into lab rats for low-cost clinical trials of dangerous experimental drugs that, once approved, remain financially out of reach for most Africans.” He further accuses Gates and Fauci of turning “...the African continent into a dumping ground for expired, dangerous, and ineffective drugs, many of them discontinued for safety reasons in the US and Europe.” Kennedy raises important questions about the deep-rooted inequalities in global healthcare research, and the ethical considerations that were overlooked—particularly the lack of informed consent among the “volunteers” for these often-lethal experiments. One particularly gruesome experiment Fauci funded involved cutting the scalps off human fetuses and sewing them on to live rats to “provide a platform for studying skin infections” with “full thickness fetal skin”.

One of the book’s most compelling features is its examination of the nexus between pandemic preparedness and military intelligence. Kennedy documents the series of eerily prescient “pandemic/biowarfare preparation exercises”, simulations, and rehearsals in the decade prior to COVID, that foretold in astonishing detail the exact events of the COVID-19 pandemic as they

actually played out.

Among the first of these was a 2010 document written by the military intelligence-tied “futurist” Peter Schwartz for The Rockefeller Foundation, titled “Scenarios for the Future of Technology and International Development”. A section entitled “Lockstep” reads like a remarkably uncanny foretelling of events during the COVID pandemic that would occur 10 years later:

“...normally bustling shops and office buildings sat empty for months, devoid of both employees and

customers. During the pandemic, national leaders around the world flexed their authority and imposed airtight rules and restrictions, from the mandatory wearing of face masks to body-temperature checks at the entries to communal spaces like train stations and supermarkets. Even after the pandemic faded, this more authoritarian control and oversight of citizens and their activities stuck and even intensified. In order to protect themselves from the spread of increasingly global problems—from pandemics and transnational terrorism to environmental crises and rising poverty—leaders around the world took a firmer grip on power.”

This wasn’t Schwartz’ first feat of incredible prognostication just prior to a crisis used to justify draconian government overreach: As part of a 2000 study for a Senate commission, one year before 9/11, Schwartz predicted “the horrifying possibility of terrorists flying planes into the World Trade Center.”

From 2010 to 2020—the 10 years that Gates and Fauci designated as “The Decade of the Vaccine”—numerous additional simulations and rehearsals, all amazingly accurate in predicting details of COVID, were conducted by people, like Schwartz, with close ties to military intelligence, focused almost exclusively on increased tyrannical government control, surveillance, and mandatory vaccination. These included the MARS 2017 exercise, in which “...a novel respiratory virus known as MARS... spreads from busy markets in...an unnamed but China-like country—to nations around the globe. Only draconian clampdowns by neighboring governments and heroic WHO technocrats orchestrating a tightly choreographed centralized global response save humanity from a chaotic dystopian apocalypse.”

The rehearsals continued with Crimson Contagion 2019, a simulation scenario that envisioned a “novel influenza” pandemic originating in China. The exercise included high-level political, military, press, intelligence, and regulatory commissioners—all the key players who would manage the actual COVID pandemic just a few months

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Review Of “The Real Anthony Fauci: Bill Gates, Big Pharma, and The Global War on Democracy and Public Health” by Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

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later. Unlike earlier exercises, the 2019 Crimson Contagion simulation “...functioned as a nationwide crusade to evangelize state-level health bureaucracies, municipal officials, hospital and law enforcement agencies across America with the messages developed in the preceding simulations... Crimson Contagion’s planners precisely predicted every element of the COVID-19 pandemic—from the shortage of masks to specific death numbers—months before COVID-19 was ever identified as a threat.” Like all the previous exercises, “...their overarching countermeasure was the pre-planned demolition of the American Con-

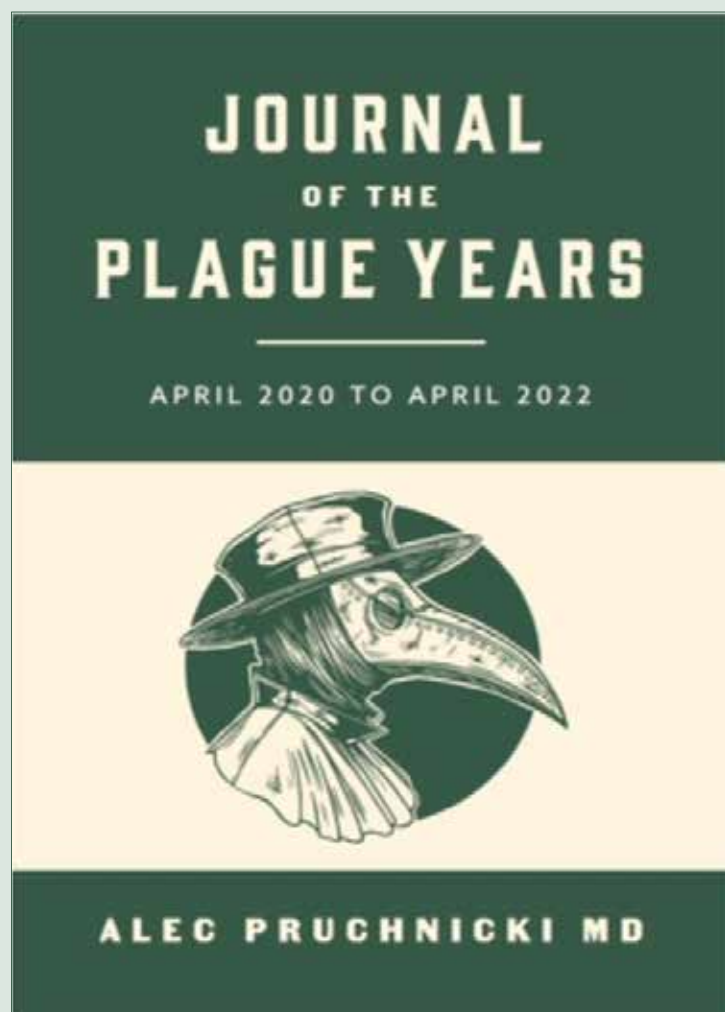
stitution by a scrupulously choreographed palace coup.”

Shortly after Crimson Contagion Gates personally organized yet another pandemic simulation called Event 201, which Kennedy describes as “...four ‘tabletop’ simulations of a worldwide coronavirus pandemic”, whose participants included high-ranking officials from “...the World Bank, the World Economic Forum, Bloomberg/Johns Hopkins University Populations Center, the CDC, various media powerhouses, the Chinese government, a former CIA/NSA director, vaccine maker Johnson & Johnson,...finance and biosecurity industry chieftains, and the president of Edelman, the world’s leading corporate PR firm.” Kennedy de-

scribes how they “...drilled a retinue of psychological warfare techniques for controlling official narratives, silencing dissent, forcibly masking large populations, and leveraging the pandemic to promote mandatory mass vaccinations”. All of this occurred prior to the COVID pandemic, and all the Event 201 participants moved into key positions to run the actual pandemic response a few months later.

It’s not surprising that “The Real Anthony Fauci” has sold millions of copies, and topped the bestseller charts, despite a near complete blackout in the legacy media. The book casts a wide net, and adroitly unravels the labyrinthine connections between science, power, and public health deci-

sion-making that led to some of the most pervasive and oppressive violations of fundamental human rights in world history. Kennedy’s writing is persuasive, and supported by extensive footnotes and a wealth of evidence. The book is an essential read for those seeking a deeper understanding of the underlying motivations behind the public health policies that led to catastrophic outcomes for billions of people—including millions of deaths—worldwide. Kennedy’s work serves as a catalyst for open dialogue and critical thinking, challenging readers to become informed and engaged participants in shaping the future of public health.



These personal ground level observations and posts about life in New York City during the Covid pandemic are unlike anything commonly reported in the national mass media. This looks at the people in the streets, subways, bars, restaurants, stores and museums. It is an attempt to see and remember the fine details that previous accounts missed. Ranging from April 2020 to April 2022 it is not just about the horrors of the plague itself, but also of the resistance, resilience and the start of recovery. It is as much about hope for the future as despair about the past.

Available from Amazon and other internet sites. The paperback version is sometimes out of stock or on back order so if you are ordering that please be patient.

The e-books are available faster.

For more information go to plagueyears.com

Northwell Offers Most Advanced Treatments For Heart Attacks



Northwell Health and Concorde Medical Group held a ribbon cutting ceremony unveiling Concorde Cardiology at Park Avenue South, a state-of-the-art practice designed to provide superior cardiac care to the community through groundbreaking technology and industry experts. It is the first and only outpatient facility in New York City to add cardiac computed tomography (CT) as a service offering and the first in the city to acquire GE HealthCare's CardioGraphe machine. The newly built cardiology office features 15 exam rooms, seven consult rooms and four rooms for echocardiograph and exercise stress testing. The expansive space is a 10,400 square foot office that spans two floors. Concorde Cardiology staffs five board certified cardiologists with expertise in prevention, diagnosis, and treat-

ment of cardiac diseases.

"While this expansive facility may be beautiful and feature state-of-the-art technology, what sets it apart are the clinicians and the outstanding service they provide to patients," said Michael Dowling, the president and CEO of Northwell Health. "Our partnership with Concorde and the opening of this first-of-its-kind facility is part of a large, concerted effort to bring quality care to Manhattan."

The investment in outpatient cardiac CT scanning reflects Northwell's dedication to expanding comprehensive, coordinated cardiac care in the communities they serve. This technology is used to diagnose diseases that cause chest pain, shortness of breath, heart palpitations and other conditions. A cardiac CT scan sheds light on the heart's health, providing a clear picture

of the coronary arteries, heart muscle, pericardium, pulmonary veins, and thoracic and abdominal aorta. This information is essential in helping medical providers make a thorough diagnosis and create personalized treatment plans.

To offer cutting-edge diagnostic and therapeutic care, the new facility will feature GE HealthCare's CardioGraphe, a first-of-its-kind CT scanner that is optimized for 3D imaging of the heart and the entire cardiovascular system. Compared to traditional whole-body scanners, this technology allows physicians to use low-dose radiation at a high speed to capture a single heartbeat in one .24-second rotation. This allows medical providers to see a clear, accurate visual of the heart's functionality, as well as diagnose and treat patients faster.

"One of our oaths we take as doctors is to

'do no harm' and by employing diagnostic imaging tools that deliver low-dose radiation, we are able to more reliably achieve this goal," said Varinder Singh, MD, the chair of cardiology at Lenox Hill Hospital. "This technology shows Northwell's commitment to staying ahead of technological advances to provide the most up-to-date care to our patients."

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. In 2020, approximately 697,000 Americans died from heart disease, which accounted for one in every five deaths, according to the CDC. A yearly average of 805,000 Americans suffer from heart attacks. Lifestyle choices like poor diet, lack of exercise, excessive alcohol use and smoking raise the risk of high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and heart disease.

Jim Hodges Sculpture - Craig's Closet



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Craig's closet is a newly created artwork by Jim Hodges. On view beginning June 9 2023, the sculpture was imagined explicitly for the New York City AIDS Memorial Park, which lies in the shadow of the former St. Vincent's hospital and in proximity to many sites central to the HIV/AIDS epidemic. This replica of a domestic bedroom closet, in granite and painted bronze, invites viewers to forge personal connections between complex histories and individual and collective memories.

The Story of Michael Konnon

How the son of Greek Immigrants founded one of the world's first HIV/AIDS specialty pharmacies

By Anastasia Kaliabakos

The 1980s marked the beginning of the AIDS epidemic in New York City. Acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, commonly referred to as AIDS, is a chronic condition caused by the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV. It is a sexually transmitted infection that interferes with the body's ability to fight diseases, leaving patients susceptible to severe bouts of numerous illnesses and an ultimate fight with AIDS, which often leads to death. At the beginning of the epidemic, HIV/AIDS became known as "gay cancer," as it was thought to be spread only between gay men (this is false, as anyone can become HIV-positive, not only by sexual transmission, but also contact with blood through transfusions, IV drug use, other means). The stigma associated with homosexuality slowed the fight against HIV and AIDS at the start—in fact, many clinics and pharmacies did not want to help because of that. However, this was not the case for Michael Konnon, the founder of Village Apothecary, a pharmacy in the West Village that has been a part of the fight against AIDS since it first became known about.

Michael Konnon, described as a generous and humanitarian man by those who knew him, grew up in Washington Heights in the 1950s and '60s. As the son of Greek immigrants, Konnon learned what it meant to work hard to have an impact on his community. His father was a waiter who had to change his long Greek last name (Kazantzakis—a name shared by a famous Greek author who Konnon often said was a distant relative) in order to assimilate and avoid discrimination. Konnon went on to attend Fordham University College of Pharmacy, where his dream of opening a pharmacy of his own was first sparked.

After graduating, Konnon moved to the West Village in Manhattan. The neighborhood had become a significant part of the city during this time period, as the Stonewall Riots of 1969, the launchpad of the LGBTQ civil rights movement, had occurred there. As a young gay man, Konnon began to invest in the Village bars, forged relationships with activists, and got to know the members of the 6th Precinct. Willson Henderson, the director of the Stonewall Rebellion Veteran's Association, recalls that Konnon was an important figure during the critical days of the riots and in the weeks and years to follow: "Mike was one of the first businessmen to support the Stonewall Veterans and many other groups like us."

In 1981, it was reported that a group of men in New York City were found to have



Illustration: Courtesy of Village Apothecary.

Kaposi's sarcoma, a rare form of particularly aggressive cancer, which would soon be linked to HIV/AIDS infection. By the end of the year, over 100 gay men across the country had died from immune deficiency, but there was a focus on New York City as one of the epicenters of the outbreak. People began calling the virus GRID, or gay-related immune deficiency; however, the problem became so widespread that the CDC stepped in to give the official name of AIDS. In 1982 the Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), the first community-based AIDS service provider in the United States, was founded in New York City. Although volunteers with this organization were trying to help, the number of cases was still on the rise; by the end of the year, 600 people, mostly gay men, had succumbed to AIDS.

Konnon's desire to help his community led to the establishment of Village Apothecary at 346 Bleecker Street in Greenwich Village. In addition to trying to provide care for HIV/AIDS patients in general (although there was no approved treatment for the illness at that time), Konnon served as an advocate for gay men's medical rights in not only New York City, but in the United States on a larger scale. Bill Bahlman, co-founder of ACTUP and a fellow activist, recalls traveling to Washington D.C. early in the morning on many occasions to meet with various officials—from congressmen to Dr. Anthony Fauci—to shape policies regarding the epidemic, and then taking the late-night train back to NYC. He would often meet Konnon for drinks at the famous Clyde's Bar to discuss business in Washing-

ton, along with local issues in the city. Konnon's main concern was how they could help local neighbors and friends suffering from the virus. "People knew they could always come to Mike for help," said Bahlman of his friend.

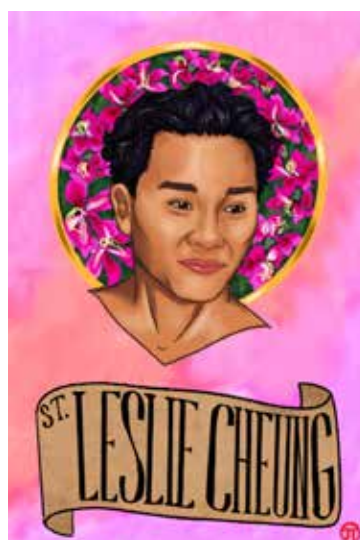
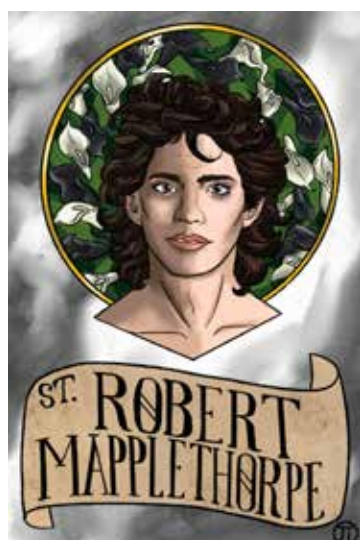
In 1987, the FDA approved zidovudine (AZT). This was the first anti-HIV/AIDS drug the FDA approved, and it was very expensive. At \$10,000 for a one-year supply, many pharmacies refused to stock the medication (the most expensive drug in history at that time). However, Konnon was undaunted by the price and had AZT available for purchase at Village Apothecary. Dr. Joseph Sonnabend, one of the most renowned physicians and HIV/AIDS researchers and co-founder of the AIDS Medical Foundation (AMFAR), was very close to Konnon and the staff at Village Apothecary. He was in the pharmacy often to order medications for his patients, sometimes paying out of his own pocket. Konnon also tried to make all medications, including AZT, as accessible and affordable as possible. Richard Berkowitz, a gay rights activist and associate of Dr. Sonnabend, said, "The community knew Mike and Village Apothecary were there to help and support us during this crisis. They played an important role in the treatment of thousands of patients."

In addition to being an advocate for members of the gay community, Konnon was an exceptional businessman. Pharmacist Norman Saban was brought on board at Village Apothecary in 1985 and is currently the supervising pharmacist. He said, "Mike was

the greatest boss I ever worked for. He was generous to his staff and his clients. Early on, many pharmacies didn't want to stock HIV drugs because of the cost and the stigma. His policy was to always have all HIV medications in stock and available. He allowed patients who couldn't pay to open accounts and pay when they could. When the New York State ADAP (AIDS Drug Assistance Program) was being put together, we were on the phone with Albany every day consulting with them and then helping our patients enroll in the program. Also, many of the staff he hired were gay men from the neighborhood, so patients felt safe coming to us. They knew they would not be judged, since we were familiar faces from the community."

As of today, there are many treatments for HIV, but researchers are still striving to find a cure. Four decades after its founding, Village Apothecary remains a pharmacy where those suffering from HIV and its comorbidities can come to seek not just medical guidance and treatment, but genuine care and support. With all that New York City—and the West Village in particular—has to offer, Village Apothecary stands out as a place that has impacted countless lives. So, the next time you find yourself strolling through the West Village along Bleecker Street, be sure to not only admire the various landmarks, parks, and storefronts that meet your eye, but to remember the rich and complex history of the neighborhood, including Village Apothecary and its larger-than-life founder Michael Konnon.

QUEER SAINTS



By Jason Tseng

This Pride Month, LGBTQIA+ Americans once again find themselves the targets of a coordinated culture war instigated by Far-Right extremists. In light of the national campaign of anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation across the nation, the Queer Saints Project shines as a beacon of celebration and affirmation for the LGBTQIA+ community by countering the weaponization of faith through venerating queer ancestors. Originating from a collaboration between artist Jason Tseng and Judson Memorial Church, this innovative project aimed to honor the divinity within LGBTQIA+ ancestors and reclaim them as queer saints. What started as an art commission in 2018 has since blossomed into a vibrant movement, with the project's iconic images inspiring solidarity and liberation.

Judson Memorial Church, a historic institution nestled in the heart of New York City's West Village, provided the initial platform for the Queer Saints Project. Fueled by a desire to commemorate the contributions of LGBTQIA+ individuals throughout history, the church sought Tseng's artistic talent to create icons that would amplify their stories and significance. Together, they envisioned a powerful way to pay tribute to these unsung heroes,

while also raising awareness and funds for the LGBTQIA+ community.

The first batch of queer saints were created to adorn protest signs carried by Judson's contingent in the Queer Liberation March in New York City. Tseng employed digital collage and photo manipulation techniques, blending elements of nature, Christian sacred iconography, and historical photography. In subsequent years, Tseng began rendering full digital illustrations of the queer saints, adorning each icon with symbols and imagery inspired by research on each saint's biography. The Project is careful not to make any claims on the lived experiences or beliefs of the individuals being venerated in the project. "We believe that no matter what your belief system, these heroes in our collective queer history serve as a reminder that we have always been here. We have always been leaders, teachers, rebels, healers, and a million other things." These amalgamations gave birth to a collection of transcendent images that merged spirituality and queerness, emphasizing the inherent divinity within LGBTQIA+ identities.

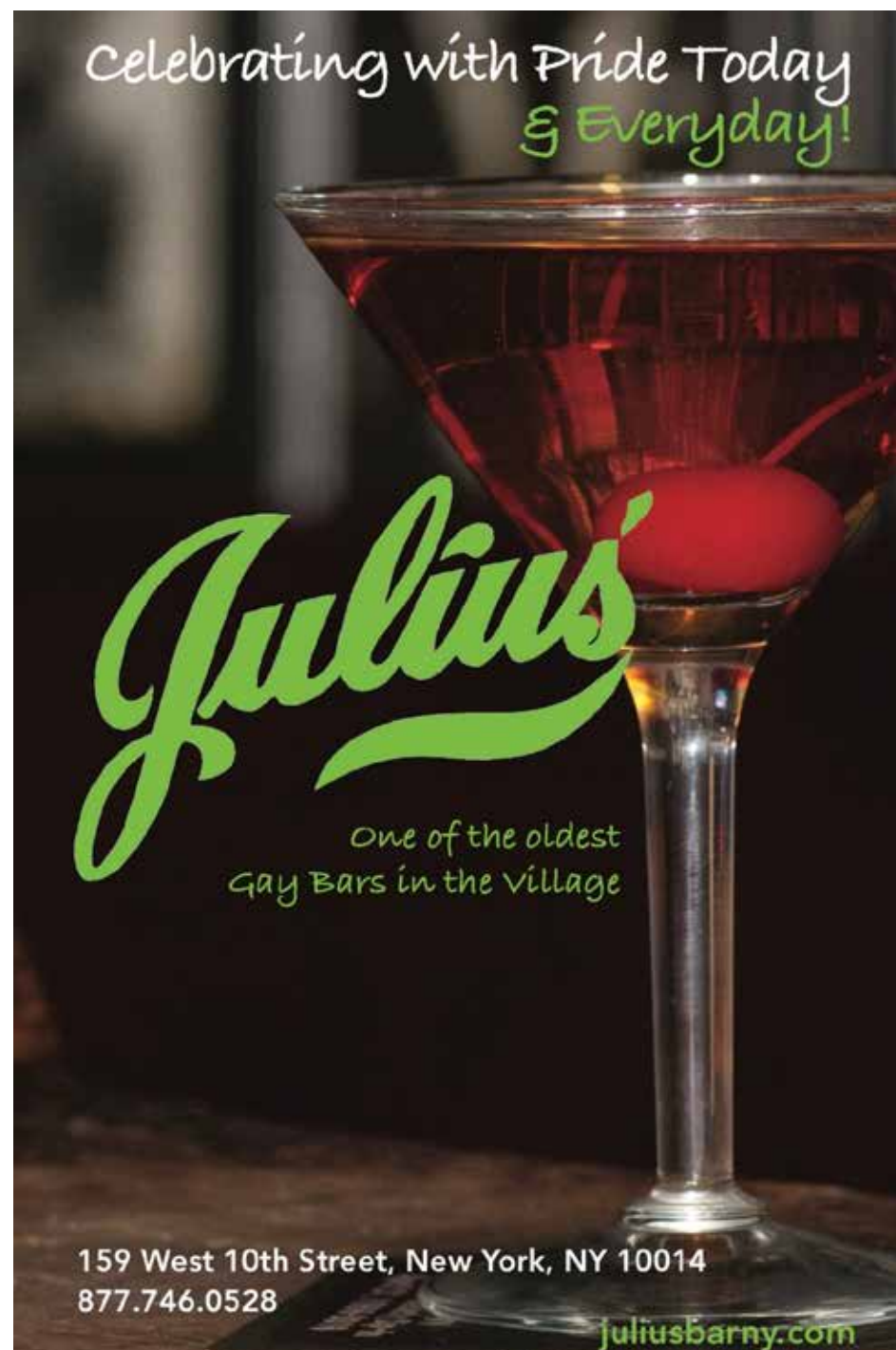
Beyond the realm of art, the Queer Saints Project has become a rallying point for the LGBTQIA+ community. These icons are not confined to gallery walls; they actively participate in protests, memorials, and community celebrations. Year after year, more queer saints emerge, joining the ranks of those who march proudly for queer liberation. Their images evoke a sense of

shared history, reminding us of the struggles and triumphs that have shaped the community's journey.

As the Queer Saints Project continues to flourish, its impact on the LGBTQIA+ community resonates far beyond its artistic origins. With each queer saint canonized, a new chapter in the struggle for

liberation is written. These icons stand as testament to the profound beauty and strength that emerges from embracing one's authentic self. The Queer Saints Project has given voice to the silent heroes of the LGBTQIA+ community, reminding us that their stories are not only worth telling but also worth celebrating.

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Gay! Is There Any Other Way?

By Robert Heide

In my play *West of the Moon*, a down and out aging hustler named Luck meets a young man in a doorway during a rainstorm. Luck begins to talk about his wild adventures working as a masseur/prostitute for a male escort service. But now he is dealing drugs on the street, and when he spots the young man he proceeds without a second thought to seduce and corrupt. This play did not fare well with the critics. One suggested that I break my typewriter over my hands and another predicted that I would never again publish another play. I hadn't realized then that the word "gay" was verboten and never mentioned in the press until well after the 1969 Stonewall Riots; it was actually 1987 before the New York Times changed that policy.

One night, sitting at the San Remo Bar and wondering what the hell I would do next, the actor Warren Finnerty, then playing a junkie in the Living Theater's *The Connection*, handed me an apricot brandy spiked with mescaline. On my way home I was going in and out of light bulbs and neon signs and looking up at a black sky filled with stars; I said to myself: "Hey! There is no time—I'm just in this eternity."

It was then that I decided I would write the play that Joe Cino had asked me to write for his tiny coffeehouse/theater, the Caffè Cino on Cornelia Street. "Make it for two blond men," he had suggested cheerfully, "Just like *West of the Moon*." This time around, I thought I would develop a situation taken out of my own experience, wherein two men trapped in an existential time warp cannot get out of bed. I used "Bed" in the play title, and drugs and disillusion as the focal point of despair, and decided to experiment with time in the philosophical sense of Jean Paul Sartre's *Being and Nothingness* in which he details concepts such as "the being of non-being" and "the non-being of being." The play was cast with Jim Jennings and Larry Burns playing two handsome young men fueled by liquor and drugs and caught in a time-warp—not in the shadows, but on a brightly lit gleaming white slab of a bed. The direction included a precise sense of prolonged time co-mingled with non-time, and the actors had a field day, twice just staring at the audience during the full volume playing of a three-minute recording of *Any Way You Want It* by the Dave Clark Five. Colin Wilson, author of *The Outsider*, showed up several times to see it and we became fast friends, getting together to discuss existentialism, Sartre, Heidegger, Nietzsche, and Kierkegaard. He compared my play to Sartre's *No Exit*. The FBI showed up but left in frustration after realizing there was no actual subversion or sexual hanky-panky going on. And this time, surprise



John Gilman in white as Christophe and Robert Frink in Moon at the Caffè Cino in 1967. Photo James D. Gossage.

(!), the New York Times gave it a rave review, saying, "What we are witnessing here is the anguish of existence." Andy Warhol also came to see the play on a number of occasions, proclaiming it to be a work of genius and ultimately deciding he wanted to film it, which he did, with his assistant/lover Danny Williams shooting close-up footage resulting in a one-hour-long split-screen film that premiered at Film-Makers Cinematheque.

For me, the most remarkable story in the annals of *The Bed* (directed by Tim Cusack) was seeing the (actual) bed on wheels pulled by ropes up Seventh Avenue with the two men (this time with a Black man playing one of the characters) acting "in motion" in a site-specific 2006 Obie-winning production of several plays—including *West of the Moon* (which I was amazed and delighted to see had somehow come of age)—presented in the streets of Greenwich Village by Peculiar Works Project under the auspices of the producers Barry Rowell, Catherine Porter, and Ralph Lewis. In 2015, on the 50th anniversary of *The Bed*, The Great Beast Theater

in New Orleans, directed by "Agnes Knows" aka Edmond Garron, produced a really way-out version with mattresses strapped to the naked backs of the two actors.

With my play *Moon* set to open at the Caffè Cino in mid-February of 1967, I was thinking of the time I spent at the PDU (Playwrights/Directors Unit) at the Actors Studio, conducted by Harold Clurman. Harold would say to the assembled group, "Just do it," and with that in mind I decided it was a good idea to just jump in and direct the play myself. I was good friends with Victor Lipari and Jacque Lynn Colton, who were members of Tom O'Horgan's La Mama Troupe. They wanted to join me in this endeavor along with Jim Jennings, who had been one of the actors in *The Bed*, and John Gilman who, newly arrived in town from San Francisco, had been introduced to me by Joe Cino at Mother Hubbard's on Sheridan Square (now Two Boots Pizza).

Joe, sometimes wrapped in an American flag, would introduce the show to the audience by playing one of his favorite Kate Smith recordings, *When the Moon Comes*

Over the Mountain, which contains the lyric, "Each day is dark and dreary, but the night is bright and cheery." Recorded music was also used for the play itself; choices included the Rolling Stones' *1000 Light Years From Home*, the Dave Clark Five's *Do You Love Me, Darlin' Be Home Soon* by the Lovin' Spoonful, and the Stones' *19th Nervous Breakdown*. At certain points in the play I slowed movement down to create intensity in a super-realistic way and to add tension. One scene with rock music playing loudly had the character Sam dancing alone to a disco beat, Ingrid isolated on the sofa popping pills, and Sally and Harold staring blankly outward. What helped to make it all happen for this production was the extraordinary and artful lighting by Johnny Dodd. For the scene late in the play of the Christ-like visitation of Christopher, the upstairs neighbor (played by Gilman) with his freshly-baked bread offering and dressed all in white (in contrast to the beatnik black costumes of the others), Dodd's lighting scheme reflected Christopher's line, "I paint mostly circles, in blinding colors



In Washington Square, the Village tourist describes being stabbed to George Washington and Maxwell Bodenheim. Left to right: Robert Frink, Baruk Levi, Lawrence Sellers. Photo credit: from American Hamburger at TNC, 1976.

that hurt your eyes if you look at them too long,” with intense, multi-colored circles of light projected on the stage and back wall. The Christopher character, called by one critic “the Parsifal figure,” eventually came to be viewed as: gay! Ross Wetzsteon came to review *Moon* for the Village Voice. He wrote, “I found *Moon* hilarious—in fact, one of the most delightfully funny plays of the season. Linda Eskenas is brilliant and delicious as a pale, tense, post-teeny bopper, and the other cast members are excellent. I recommend it highly.” In those years, and especially after the play was published, there were productions across the country at many colleges and at regional theaters like Eric Krebs’ George Street Theater in New Brunswick, New Jersey: in that production the actor Frederick Forrest—portraying the ex-Marine Harold—went on afterwards to Hollywood stardom. *Moon* was performed at the National Cathedral in Washington D.C., in Hollywood at the Actors Studio West, and at the Cherry Lane Theater in the West Village where it was paired with my play *At War with the Mongols*. It also had a run, with Jayne Haynes and Paul Lieber, as part of the Theater Strategy Festival of plays at the Manhattan Theater Club.

In 1976, to celebrate the Bicentennial, Theater for the New City, then at the Jane West Hotel, produced a festival of new plays related to Greenwich Village. Harvey Fierstein’s play *International Stud*, set in the back room of a gay bar on the Hudson River waterfront, was enacted almost totally in pitch

darkness. The play later became part of *Torch Song Trilogy*. My contribution was *American Hamburger*. It featured three ghosts, George Washington, the writer Maxwell Bodenheim, and a New Jersey tourist, who meet in Washington Square Park; the tourist, a conservative history teacher by day, would at night head down to “the trucks” dressed in black leather, jeans, and boots to act out his fantasies. In the play he leaves the notorious Keller Bar and heads across the street to the trucks and onto a pier where, following a sexual encounter, he is stabbed and thrown into the river.

After Stonewall, during the decade of the 1970s, there was another kind of American revolution going on in New York and other cities; this “sexual revolution” was being practiced in bars with dark backrooms and cellars where groups of gay men congregated to play indiscriminately at sex, sex, and more sex. Along the waterfront in Greenwich Village were the parked trailer trucks and abandoned dilapidated piers (former passenger ship terminals) where it all took place. Danger was also the name of the game, and many wound up in the river following anonymous sex.

Heterosexual couples also engaged in back-room antics in places like The Hellfire Club and Studio 54. For just men, on the wild west waterfront it was The Anvil, The Mine Shaft, Dirty Dicks, The Eagle, Jack Rabbit’s, or The Toilet.

After 1980, with the arrival of AIDS, it was time to straighten up and fly right.



Jim Jennings (left) and Larry Burns in *The Bed* at Caffè Cino. Photo credit: Nat Finkelstein



The Bed on the streets of the Village, 2006. Photo credit: Peculiar Works

Death was knocking at the door. The good-time party was over; and the cruising on Christopher Street, the bathhouses, the discos with backrooms, the after-hours all night revelries at the river dives, and furtive sex gradually became no more than a memory to be reckoned with as time moved on.

Often cohorts talked about all this as being part of “the avant-garde;” but I was never sure about that. I think the meaning was “of our time,” but could have also been “ahead of our time.” As history evolves a day at a time, I go back to one of my own first plays, *West of the Moon*, which opened in 1961 at Lee Paton Nagrin’s New Playwrights Theater on 3rd Street. It was savaged by the critics. Was it too gay? Who can say? When I was taking posters of my play *Suburban Tremens* around the Village I went into the Oscar Wilde Bookstore, then on Christopher Street, a longtime emporium for gay-related books, literature, magazines, and newspapers. I asked the tough butch

lesbian who sat at the desk if I could put one up on the bulletin board. Gazing at me she asked pointedly, “Is it a gay play?” With some hesitation I responded, “Yes.” She followed with, “How gay?” Though the short curtain-raiser entitled *Increased Occupancy* had in it two artistic men who had the same last name (Wilcox), I felt uncertain as to whether the play was gay enough. I realize now that my having two men living together with the same last name might have anticipated same-sex marriage. At the time, I was amused but still could not fully justify how gay the play was. Today I still ponder and wonder if a play should be tagged gay or not, or be thought of as just another “It’s Only a Play.”

All of Robert Heide’s plays from the 1960s through the 1980s are gathered in the collection Robert Heide 25 Plays published by Fast Books Press (fastbookspress.com), and are available from the publisher and online wherever books are sold.

Don't Touch That Dial!

By Joe Albanese

Miss Caswell: "Tell me this, do they have auditions for television?"

Addison DeWitt: "That, uh, is all television is, my dear, nothing but auditions." (All About Eve)

Like the rest of the world, the Lower East Side once got its news from newspapers—remember them? The ink might still have been wet, and they usually ended up piled up somewhere. But that is how you knew the details of what was on sale, who was in town, and what was playing at the Roxy. Oh—and what else was happening in the world.

The newspapers were sold at wooden newsstands along with glossy magazines and comic books. I recall The Daily News, The Mirror, The Journal American, The Herald Tribune. (Who had money, so why would we buy The Wall Street Journal? That was for the Rockefellers.)

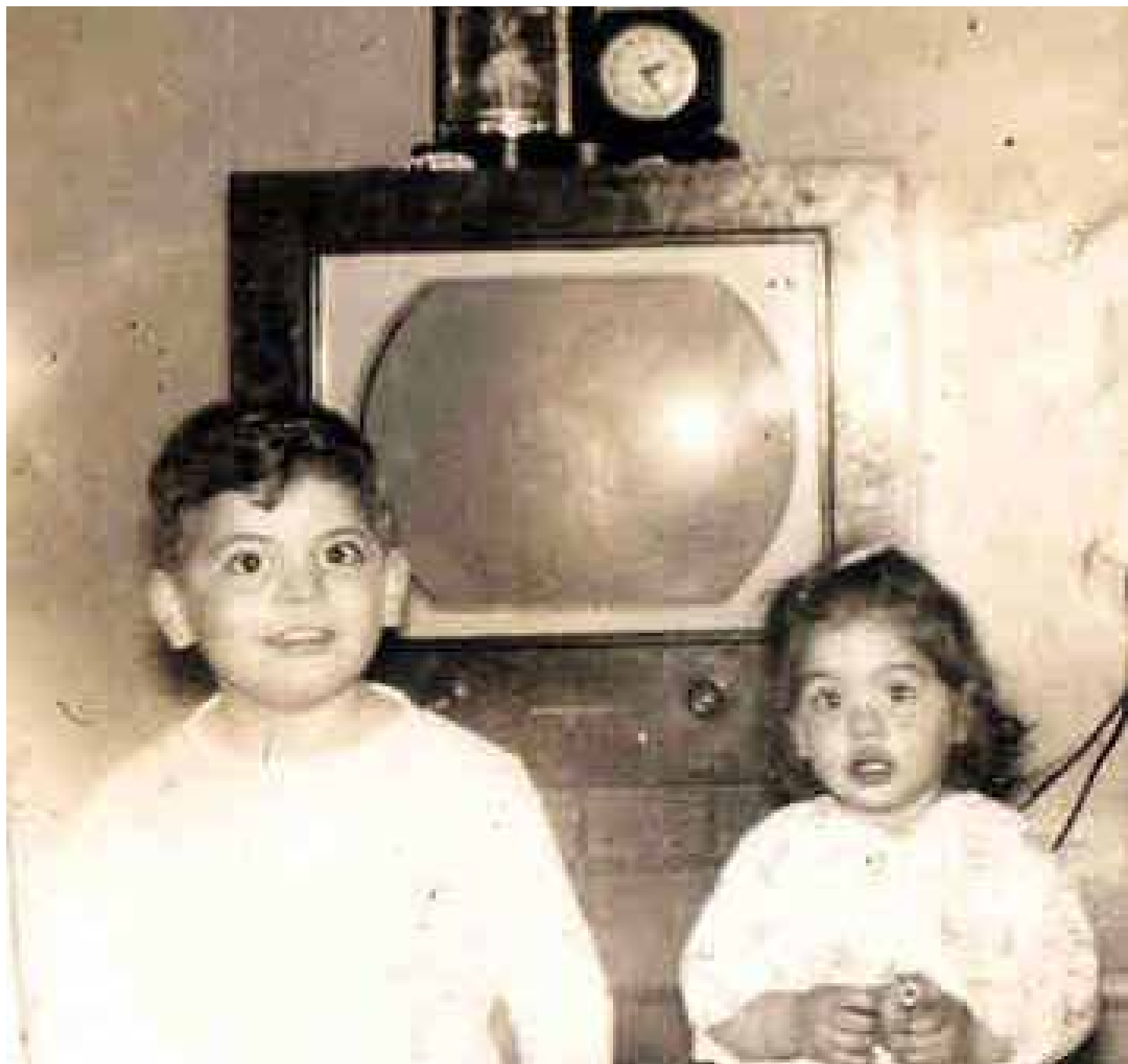
For entertainment, when you didn't want to dress up or didn't have the money for a movie at Radio City Music Hall, you would rely on radio. Fibber McGee and Molly, Fanny Brice (before she morphed into Barbra Streisand). I even heard rumors that before they were on television, radio hosted Burns and Allen as well as Jack Benny who shall forever remain 39.

And then there was television. Starting in the very late 1940s and growing stronger in the early '50s, no rooftop was safe from an antenna. For those with no roof access, it was considered amongst the locals on Prince, Mott, and Elizabeth Streets, and even rumored of far-away Kenmare Street, that indoor rabbit ear aerials (generally a Rembrandt if one had the money) were considered a decorative touch found in the finer living rooms. Today, the only "Ariel" the kids know is a mermaid in Disney movies.

Parents and the "new" generation sat transfixed, watching screens that might be snowy or blinking; but when they worked—WOW! It was a whole new world, and one that didn't require spending 15 cents per person to ride the BMT from Prince Street and Broadway all the way to Times Square to see a movie.

Sets were quite large (screens were not) and took up a big piece of space (as well as a lot of money). They could come equipped with a switch in the back so that you could watch television or opt to use the portable 45 rpm record player (sold separately at stores way downtown on Warren Street).

And what television we had. I Love Lucy was a Monday night special that became so popular that water levels reached dangerous lows during the show's commercial break. No one wanted to miss a moment of the program so they used the bathroom (some in the hallway, and most with a pull chain) at



My sister (on the right) and I, circa 1955. You can see the wires behind my sister leading to the antenna on the roof. And that was our beloved 16 inch state of the art RCA television set...Modell Davega's best!

Photo credit: Property of the author's private collection.

halftime. Of course, poor Lucy had to put up with a controversy when, during the second season, she and her husband found out that they were to become parents. The thought of showing a woman in that condition caused a mild uproar. Even though Lucy wore a smock top (buttoned up to her neck and with a big bow) around "the blessed event," and long pants, some still found it unseemly. My mother was "expecting" (you did not use the word "pregnant" then) and found her fingers swelling so that she had to remove her wedding rings. Not daring to cause a scandal and go out into the world showing what today we call a baby bump (and I was a big baby, so I would probably have been classified as a baby mountain range) and no wedding ring, she skillfully solved the problem by wearing a brass washer on her fourth finger, left hand, so no one would think she was the 1952 version of Hester Prynne.

Television was all-powerful and few people realized it at the time. Lucy had to face the critics in her "delicate" condition, which caused a fuss way back then. When I think of how today we not only see a woman's pregnant stomach but, at least thanks to HBO, how she got that way, it must have been an innocent time. (Lucy was a red-head. As the show was filmed in black and white, there had to be some trick, because everybody knew she was a red-head. OK. A red-head thanks to a henna rinse, but still...)

When I was a child, television was our source of entertainment and news (without having to pay five cents for a paper), and a babysitter. We were allowed to watch television as long as we didn't sit too close, as that would cause us to lose our eyesight. Or, worse still, the television screen's radiation would damage us in ways that were unspeakable.

But, not fearing the gamma rays doing damage to body parts I would need later in life, I watched Shari Lewis and Lamb Chop, Jerry Mahoney and Knucklehead Smith, and every cartoon show available from Winky Dink to Tom Terrific. We woke to Captain Kangaroo, had lunch watching The Merry Mailman, and after dinner there was a potpourri of shows—from Gale Storm in My Little Margie (and, later, Oh! Susannah!) to Lassie, who was duty-bound to make sure little Timmy didn't fall into a well.

My parents laughed at Amos and Andy (now considered too controversial to broadcast) and we held our breaths while watching the heroic antics of Joe Friday on Dragnet. But it was Ed Sullivan on Sunday evenings who almost put an end to television-watching in our home.

First, a bit of background: Growing up in Little Italy meant you grew up in the

Church Parochial School (St. Patrick's on Mott Street) where you learned your religious lessons via a teacher (a few lay ones, but mostly Sisters of Charity who held a yardstick, which they called "the board of education," that they were not afraid to use if you were naughty or not learning your lessons;). Also, we learned the Baltimore Catechism by the book.

My kindergarten teacher was a woman who was my father's boyhood friend. Everyone knew everyone in the neighborhood (d/b/a "the hood"), so the teacher, Miss Spera (we hadn't progressed to "Ms." back then), probably knew the parents of every one of her students. She taught us the basic words (cat/dog) and prayers. We knew who God was, as well as Jesus Christ and his mother. Heck—she taught us about his whole family!

One Sunday evening, I was laying in front of the television playing with my Lincoln Logs (the predecessor to Legos) while my mom and dad were watching Ed Sullivan. A woman came on and began spouting a comedic monologue. I didn't understand half of it (having been weaned on the wisecracks of Charly Horse and Howdy Doody, I couldn't figure out just what the comedian (Sophie Tucker) was saying. But I did hear my mother gasp at one line and my father say something under his breath (in Italian—so the children wouldn't understand him). Then they both gave a strange laugh, and my dad told my mom that it was a "live" program so there was no

way the show could cut away from Tucker. And life would have gone on swimmingly, except that line, strange as it was, remained in my head.

In class a few days later, Miss Spera tried to teach her pupils about the Ten Commandments and how we must honor them. She artfully skipped over us coveting our neighbor's wife, but, I would swear, when it came to, "Thou shalt not kill" she looked at a few of us and shook her head.

When she came to the commandment about honoring our mother and father she tried to make us understand by asking, "What do your parents say to you when you are good?" The answers were a bit too perfunctory as my classmates raised their hands and, when chosen, said: "I love you," or "What a good child you are." Then, just to shake things up a bit, Miss Spera asked, "And what do they say when you are bad?" Remembering Sophie, I shot my hand up and blurted, "When I am bad my mother says, 'Go. Leave this house and don't come back until you've become a virgin again.'"

I think it was smelling salts that Miss Spera used, and after a few whiffs asked me why I would say that. I told her about Sophie and, after all, I heard it on television so it had to be true. Wasn't lying a sin? And Ed Sullivan certainly would not have liars on his program.

That afternoon, at three o'clock, Miss Spera stood guard in the schoolyard. Before she would release me back to her friend, my dad, she yanked him down to her level

(she was a good half-foot shorter than he was) and read him the riot act. "How could you allow your child to watch that woman? What's wrong with you?"

When my father got me home (and cooled down quite a bit) he asked me about the line, as Miss Spera was "too much a lady" to repeat it. I patiently explained to him that a woman on television said it and, unlike Miss Spera, I had no problem repeating it. "Do you know what she meant?" my mother asked. "Not really. But she was probably talking to her daughter, Virgin." "What?" "Virgin," I explained, wishing I could go into the living room and watch Merrie Melody cartoons or Sandy Becker. "It's a woman's name. Jesus' mother's middle name was Virgin. Isn't that what we call her? Blessed Virgin Mary?" It wasn't for some time that I learned the true meaning of the word, or was allowed to watch Ed Sullivan again.

But those were innocent days (for those who didn't remember every line Sophie Tucker said). Sitting in Little Italy, with cement streets and fire hydrants (our version of pools in the summer), we saw Leave It to Beaver and Donna Reed, living in homes with front lawns that looked like they were trimmed with an emery board. "Yes," my mother would say when we asked her why didn't live in such luxurious trappings where finding dust on furniture was akin to high treason. "They live in the country. But our homes are just as clean as their homes and, remember, we don't have Beulah!"

I lived through wearing a cocoon-skin hat while blaring out something about Davy Crockett, two Darrens on Bewitched, and

shouting, "Sock it to me." And I actually guessed who shot JR on Dallas.

But rabbit ears gave way to cable and standing on a line at a movie theater converted into Showtime. I still recall the first night I watched cable television. It was Manhattan Cable then and it had a box with buttons and switches so you could still watch the staples—CBS (the Tiffany Network), NBC, or ABC—but around the number 30 came the magic of Home Box Office. Movies uncut and uncensored.

It wasn't until a quiet night in 1985 that I settled down with a glass of Chablis (having progressed from Chianti now that there was almost a quarter of a mile between Little Italy and me) and found myself watching Police Academy and National Lampoon movies where the dialogue frequently dipped into areas that would make even Sophie Tucker blush!

Yes, I had progressed to a color RCA set. But remote control was still a luxury a bit out of my price range; so every time a four-letter obscenity was uttered, I gasped (much like my parents did that fateful night of The Ed Sullivan Show), and prayed Miss Spera wasn't walking past my front door.

Now we stream—and I still forget that if the phone rings I can pause the program—and have the luxury of watching shows from around the world. But this kid from Prince Street still remembers eating lunch to Ray Heatherton, spending Sundays with Chuck McCann, and watching—and smiling—at the good, clean, fun.

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Five Questions: with West Village Resident and Star of Stage and Screen Maryann Plunkett

By Robert Galinsky

Maryann Plunkett has been living in the West Village for over 30 years. She is a wife, mom, and Tony Award winner, and has won multiple Drama Desk Awards and starred in scores of films and television shows. I had a few moments to catch up with her to ask five questions about life in the West Village and life as an in-demand actor.

1. You have lived in the West Village for many years. What is it about this neighborhood that you love and that keeps you here?

Living in the West Village has provided for me for three-plus decades, a haven, a neighborhood of stores and places where I know the people and they know me, and a home I love being in. Though many things have changed, some not for the good, the West Village still holds its past in the streets, hearts, beliefs, and talents of the most long-lived of the residents. It is still a destination for hard-working dreamers.

2. Share your favorite highlights of the West Village.

St. Luke's Garden on Hudson Street remains, even with the rise of the tall luxury apartment building next to it, a refuge of nature and peace. Bus Stop Cafe is a great diner with great food and people, as is Tavern on Jane. The access to the river and the sunsets over the river are incredible. The library next to the park on St. Luke's Place is a place I have spent many many hours, all the way back to when my 29-year-old son was a baby. The key guy on Seventh Avenue!

3. You're a busy actor, constantly working on projects for stage and screen. Which art form, film/tv/streaming/stage do you like the most and why?

Immediate answer: theater. Doing a play is about becoming part of a community—working together to discover, create, and shape a world to be shared with the people who make up the audience. I am so fortunate that I have been able to live that life.

4. You've been selective about the roles you take on and the characters you play. What do you look for and value in the projects that you work on?

Sometimes the choice is made for you. The rent needs to be paid and food needs to be bought, and when an opportunity comes for work it is taken. That being said, I have been immensely fortunate in the roles I have been



Maryann Plunkett. Photo credit: Tom Bloom.

offered and the people I have worked and “played” with—especially, my husband, Jay Sanders, who worked with me in Richard Nelson's 12-play Rhinebeck Panorama for over 11 years in NYC and around the world.

5. What inspired you to get into acting and who/what are your influences?

Perhaps, surprisingly, shyness led me toward theater. I was awkwardly and painfully shy when I was young. My mother took me to a production of The Red Shoes at a college near our home and I was

hypnotized and utterly taken. Theater is a beautiful tool for a shy person to become more social. There is a process, and everyone has to go through it at the same time. The script can be a protection until one gets comfortable. There is always something to look at and talk/think about.

More about West Village resident and neighbor Maryann Plunkett: Maryann has worked with Richard Nelson for over 11 years on the Rhinebeck Panorama (the Apple Family plays, the Gabriels trilogy, The Michaels, the Apple Zoom trilogy, and

What Happened? The Michaels Abroad). She was Juno Boyle and Bessie Burgess in Sean O'Casey's Dublin Trilogy at Irish Rep. On Broadway she appeared in Agnes of God, Sunday in the Park with George, Me and My Girl, The Crucible, and Saint Joan. On Off-Broadway and in regional theater she has appeared in Rodney's Wife, and Shakespeare, Chekhov, Shaw, and Theater of War productions. She was also in the films Showing Up, Family Fang, MAD, Little Women, and A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood, and on TV in Om City, Bull, Law & Order, Dr. Death, and Manifest.

Gilbert T. Small

Interview by: Produced by:
Danielle Sevier Mike Persico

SEVIER
STORIES

"Gibney Company, led by Artistic Director Gina Gibney and Director Gilbert T Small II, showcases captivating dance works by renowned and emerging international choreographers. They explore the fusion of contemporary dance's physicality with humanistic storytelling, emphasizing artistic excellence and social integrity."

DS: Hi, I'm here with Gilbert T. Small II, the Gibney company director. Hi, Gilbert.
GTSII: Hi there.
DS: Thank you for being here with us today.
GTSII: Of course, my pleasure.
DS: So, I was hoping you could tell us a little bit about Gibney, how you got involved and what you do here.

GTSII: Oh, thank you. I'm Gibney company's director, and I originally became involved with Gibney in the education department, and I was a curatorial director of training, which means I revamped the open studio classes. And I did that remotely from Seattle. And then in 2021, I moved to New York to take over as rehearsal director and curatorial director of training. I did that until January of 2022 when I became Gibney

company director.
DS: Nice. Congratulations!
GTSII: Thank you.
DS: And what is Gibney for those of us who do not know.
GTSII: Gibney is a mega house, I call it. It has a community action department, an education department, and a company inside of its one umbrella. All of the departments are working towards their own goals, but with including the mission of the entire organization, which is social justice, responding to



inequities in the community. And the dance company has fellowship programs that are kind of pulled from the community action

work. And also, the education department does workshops, which also pulls from that.
DS: So, I understand Gibney's mission is to bring together communities and promote social justice as well as preventing and moving beyond violence.
GTSII: Yes.
DS: Can you tell us more about that and how they go about doing that?
GTSII: Yes. Well, one of our programs is "Moved to Move Beyond", and it is an evidence-based program that uses move-

ment workshops to help survivors of gender-based violence in their families. And so, they go into community centers, and they

guide folks through movement practices that are centered towards healing. And another program that we have is "Hands Are For Holding" which is a youth centered program, which is when our community actionists go into schools and they use choreography to help teach young adults, young children about healthy relationships. And all of that work is also filtered into the way that we work within the studio and the company as well. So healthy relationships, asking for permission before touching someone, being clear about boundary setting and respecting boundaries. So, it's something that's really in the ethos of Gibney and is used beyond just outside of the walls inside of those workshops, but in the way that we are with each other, even in the office. It's a practice of our every day.
DS: I love that. That's amazing. And thank you for working here and supporting that. And anyone who would like to donate to such a noble cause, they can do so by viewing the site below. Thank you. I appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with me.
GTSII: Thank you, Danielle!
DS: You're welcome.

Donate & Gibney by visiting their website at gibneydance.org.



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Q&A

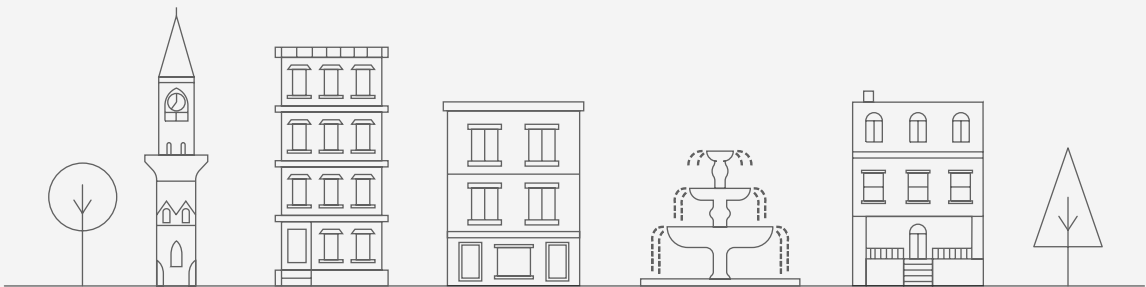
Q: I am thinking of getting a place in the Hudson Valley. What towns do you think are best and do you suggest renting or buying?

A: The desirability of the Hudson Valley has grown since the pandemic and with that so have the prices. There are many desirable towns such as Woodstock, Saugerties, Rhinebeck, Stone Ridge and many more. It would probably make sense to do weekly rentals in a few different towns to see which area you are most comfortable in before committing to a purchase. Also keep in mind home ownership requires a lot of constant maintenance so be sure to do your research and inspections before making the leap. Please contact me for additional information on purchasing in Manhattan or Upstate.



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The New New

By Penny Arcade

Lately I am surrounded by a feeling of irrevocable change.

On a day-to-day basis I notice changes that stand out as lines of demarcation in the street culture of NY. Lately they have been adding up. For one - people cueing up: long lines of people waiting to be let into one unmarked emporium or another. It seems that some people have never seen a line they can't wait to join. Then there is the shrieking. The high-pitched voices that fill our streets as groups of people publicly socialize on our sidewalks - their voices piercingly ricocheting, ringing off the old tenement blocks. This is mostly when they are standing still, at one sidewalk bar or another because when they are moving, also in groups of five to eight people, they are mowing down everyone in their path or else they are standing stock still blocking the sidewalk, unaware of the presence of other pedestrians, expecting you to walk around them. In another column I mentioned the bicycles - the latest acceptable bike lanes seem to be located on our sidewalks - any attempt to admonish the rider that the sidewalk is for pedestrians is met with indignant disbelief and verbal abuse.

People have always had personal reasons for wanting to come to New York City but the sight of groups of people on street cor-

ners, careening their necks to look at the facades of buildings where they believe TV shows like Seinfeld or Friends were shot or posing for photos on the West Village staircase where Carrie of Sex In The City lived is a far cry from the desire to wander the streets where Bob Dylan, Allen Ginsburg or Jack Kerouac walked or to sit in the cafés and bars where Edward Albee, Anais Nin or O. Henry sat and talked. The history of our streets is just an anonymous backdrop for establishing shots for shows filmed in L.A. No one seems to blink a date night eye at the bacchanal excesses that are now an accepted aspect of carousing on a weekend - public puking. Even when the old Bowery was packed with winos stumbling blind drunk or passed out in doorways you rarely saw what the common occurrence of people is now: vomiting in the streets. Then there is what goes on inside and in front of our buildings - the huge piles of Amazon, FedEx and UPS boxes that almost no one flattens to discard and at least in my building, the garbage bags filled with pizza boxes and take out containers left on each landing - a sight which used to symbolize the slums of NY but now is practiced by people with six-figure incomes.

My perceptions could be the result of age - as one gets to their 8th decade, the future arrives and the past recedes into the distance even though 1990 still seems recent to me.

But mostly it just feels like the new New.



Gala Concert, Live Auction & Japanese Tea

Music for solo piano by J.S. Bach, W.A. Mozart, F. Schubert and György Ligeti, performed by Walter Aparicio, Rosemary Caviglia, Nathaniel LaNasa and Deirdre O'Donohue. The live auction offers creative experiences and a silent auction features a collection of luxury decorative objects. Enjoy a variety of food and beverages inspired by Japanese Tea.

PIANO WORKS IN PROGRESS is an organization dedicated to providing immersive programs for the adult pianist. Directed by West Village resident Rosemary Caviglia, Piano Works in Progress is built on the belief that everyone has the potential to make music. We recognize that adult piano students learn differently from children. Some of us took lessons as children, returning to the piano after a long absence; others are taking our first lessons as adult learners. Our time commitments now are different from when we were young, but we are often pleasantly surprised at how quickly we feel a sense of accomplishment. We find piano study to be both meditative and stimulating!

In addition to piano lessons, we offer Sunday repertoire classes, both in-person at Rosemary's West Village studio and on Zoom. These classes give pianists opportunities to play their pieces for other pianists, with each participant gaining some new understanding and validation for the work they have done. The atmosphere is never judgmental, always supportive and encouraging.

The third highlight of Piano Works in Progress is our Vermont residency. Each summer we take up residence at the Adamant Music School in Adamant, Vermont, a few miles from Montpelier. At Adamant we host two programs, one for professional pianists and one for amateurs. Adamant truly is a haven for pianists, a place of beauty and serenity that inspires and enlivens us. More than a dozen practice studios nestled in the woods feature two grand pianos each, giving each participant ample time to sample Steinways, Baldwins, and Mason Hamblins. Good, wholesome food served at shared meals is an essential feature of our Vermont programs.

Piano Works In Progress is a non-profit



501(c)(3). The Gala Concert, Auction and Tea is our major fundraiser, and proceeds ensure that we can offer programs and experiences for adult pianists. To learn more or to purchase tickets, please visit pianoworksinprogress.org.

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Alison Clancy concert at St. Johns in the Village



June 29, 7pm

Amidst the chaos of 2020, Alison Clancy, a prolific musician, choreographer and dancer with The Metropolitan Opera, found refuge as an Artist in Residence at St. John's in the Village. Inspired by the shimmering acoustics, she spent hours deep into the nights composing and recording original music with electric guitar, vocals and a myriad of looping and effect pedals. In conversation with journalist Camilla Aisa, Alison reflected "A church is a place where people bring the most tender parts of themselves. They come with worries, hopes, grief, or celebration. I felt the energy of so many different people's intentions invested in this space, and I tried to be open to it, and let it pass it through me in the hours I spent here in the middle of the night". The result is an expansive, brooding collection of drone-psyche Americana songs, which in 2022 were released as Alison's debut EP with Independent Project Records titled *Mutant Gifts*. On June 29th Alison returns to St. John's to share a special performance of this music. All are welcome. Entry by donation.

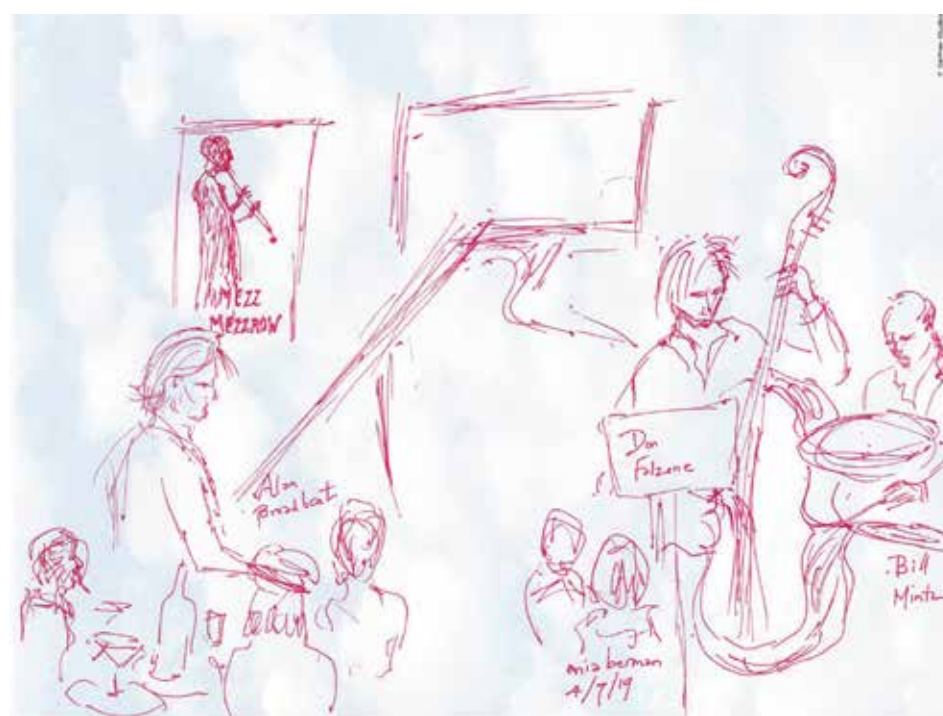


Alison Clancy. All photos credit: Esteban Haga

Mia, Jazz Sketch Artist



Birdland. Cyrille Aimee, singer. By Mia Berman



Mezzrow. Alan Broadbent, pianist. By Mia Berman

By Mia Berman

I was hooked on art and music as a child, watching my father do charcoal drawings, learning from his harmony and composition lessons, taking recorder and piano lessons, listening to my mother on mandolin and my Dad on jazz piano, mesmerized by his fingers dancing over the black and white keys. I'd hear Mom strumming Come Back to Sorrento in the afternoon and Dad improvising Moonlight in Vermont at night. He taught me how to sketch and watercolor, once spending an entire afternoon showing me how to mix assorted shades of green.

At the age of five, I began sketching with pencil. My sister and I experimented with pen and India ink drawings on flat stones, selling them on the streets of Provincetown, Cape Cod, along with modernistic beach glass art. Now I take my sketch pad and trek around NYC, from the Hudson River piers to the jazz clubs in Greenwich Village.

As a teenager, I often jammed with my Dad, playing recorder and piano duets, improvising on jazz standards and bossa nova beats. I grew up listening to 60's LP albums - solo pianists Art Tatum, Oscar Peterson, Erroll Garner and George Shearing; Blues and Brazilian jazz singers, from Billie (Holiday) and Ella (Fitzgerald) to Sara (Vaughan) and Astrud (Gilberto).

Growing up in Queens, I treasured our family field trips to Manhattan, including a priceless winter birthday concert at Carnegie

Hall with impresario pianist/comedian Victor Borge. And then came the annual Washington Square Art show. I was totally intrigued by the portrait artists and the pace at which they captured faces and gestures. The challenge of sketching jazz musicians live? Finishing before they change positions or rotate players! My favorite spot to sketch is sitting at the bar at Birdland, Dizzy's, Kitano or Mezzrow, capturing the nuance of their expressions.

My exhibit "Mia's Jazz Sketches" is at Tavern on Jane - a landmark restaurant owned by Michael Stewart that's survived

25 years in the West Village. Stewart - a man devoted to his community and employees, who never shut down for one day during the pandemic - is struggling to remain afloat. He did not receive a dollar of the \$28 billion given by the RRF (Restaurant Revitalization Fund) to restaurants nationwide.

The show is a tribute to my Dad and to jazz musicians, performers, and jazz clubs throughout NYC. Some of the sketches were done in landmark jazz clubs that, alas, have closed their doors in New York City: Zinno's, 55 Bar, the 75 Club, and Hermana.

Drawn to the tranquility of nature, the

ocean, and the dunes, I'm also captivated by the calm of a jazz performance. Sketching makes me feel both centered and freeing. My style - a blend of whimsical and intense - strives to reflect the rhythm of the musicians. The goal is to capture the dynamics of the moment in a still sketch. This "sketching live" creative process is a spiritual experience that's difficult to describe.

I've always dreamed of exhibiting my NYC sketches set in jazz clubs scattered around Manhattan - small spaces like Mezzrow and large clubs like Dizzy's Coca Cola. Heartfelt thanks to Michael Stewart, a huge supporter of artists, waiters and workers everywhere.

The exhibit "Mia's Sketches" is in memory of my father, who taught me to draw, and my mother, who always encouraged my sketching and painting. Some of her last piercing words were, "Keep doing your art. I'll be watching."

Mia Berman is a graduate of Cornell and Columbia University. She studied harmony and theory with Harold Berman and Joel Mandelbaum; painting and sculpture with Robert Mangold and Friedel Dzubas at Cornell Summer Institute. She's taken jazz and baroque music workshops at Aston Magna in Great Barrington, Mass. and the Alfred Deller Academy in France! Recently she studied with artist Tony Couch on-site workshop in Turners Falls, Massachusetts. Currently she hosts MIA'S WORLD podcast on Skye's Crescent Radio. Recent guests include jazz artists Cyrille Aimee, Mafalda Minnozzi, Sandy Stewart, Maucha Adnet, Dick Hyman, Fred Hersch, Alan Broadbent, Pete Malinverni, Gene Bertoncini and Arturo O'Farrill.



Dizzy's. Dick Hyman, pianist. By Mia Berman

FireFLAG/EMS PRIDE Celebration

For those who are not familiar with the traditions of the New York City Fire Department, it is built on a long history of brotherhood, service, and self-sacrifice. It is an incredible network of men and women who support each other in ways few people will ever fully appreciate or understand. It was in accordance with those same traditions that FireFLAG/EMS was created. At a time when coming out as LGBTQ+ in the firehouse or EMS

station was unheard of, it offered a way for its members to meet outside of those environments to learn from and support each other without fear of judgment, ridicule, and even outright rejection.

For over 30 years, FireFLAG/EMS has been first and foremost an organization dedicated to supporting the LGBTQ+ brothers and sisters of this department. Our membership includes incredible individuals with years of experience in firefighting, Emergency Medical Service, and leadership. We are also a volunteer and social organization with various events throughout the year designed to help our members build long-lasting friendships while helping to support local LGBTQ+ communities. We also host monthly membership meetings where we update our members on upcoming events, as well as ask our members to give us feedback and tell us how they would like to shape the future of this organization.

Last year, we hosted our inaugural 30th Anniversary and Pride

Celebration at St. John's in the Village. The event brought our members, friends, and the whole community closer together. It was a huge success

and as a result, we decided to make this an annual event so that every year, we can get together to remember the individuals who paved the way for LGBTQ+ members of this department to serve openly and proudly. We

also want to honor those individuals and organizations who continue to serve our community to help foster and maintain the freedoms we have all fought so hard to enjoy. We hope our guests will leave this evening filled with the overwhelming sense of pride, strength, and unity that we as Firefighters, EMT's and Paramedics feel every day.

On Wednesday, June 21st, 2023, our 2nd Annual Pride Celebration will commemorate Pride Month with a night full of great food, great friends, an open bar, raffle prizes, and incredible music. Everyone had an amazing time at our inaugural event last year and this year is sure to be even bigger and better. Make sure to invite all your friends for an evening that is sure to be a memorable one. Your ticket purchase will

include catered food and an open bar for the whole evening. Check out our flyer below for details. Scan the QR code to purchase your tickets today. We look forward to seeing you there.

HAPPY PRIDE!!



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The 2nd Annual FireFLAG/EMS PRIDE Celebration

FOOD FRIENDS OPEN BAR RAFFLE PRIZES MUSIC

wednesday, june 21st

7pm – 10pm

Honoring: Krishna Stone (GMHC) Gay Officer's Action League of NY

ST. BENEDICT'S COURTYARD at St. John's

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\$60 Tickets

Scan Me

Sing Me to Heaven: Singing the Queer Soul

By Felix Graham

What is queer spirituality? That's a complex question with complicated answers, which vary from individual to individual. Traditional religious traditions have historically been unpredictable in their support of the LGBTQ+ community, varying less by confession or denomination than by locale and the personal tolerance of the spiritual leader of each church in question.

Musically, the sounds of spirituality have historically been a source of queer friction, as well. Liturgical composers as far back as Handel have hidden their homosexuality in exchange for mainstream success, leaving only traces of their true identity hidden in their works for us to find and wonder, *did*

they believe? We ponder, even today, how gay composers like Tchaikovsky balanced their internal selves with the demands of the liturgical circles in which they composed.

As a trans, queer choral director and composer, my own history with spirituality is no less fraught: I was raised in an evangelical, fundamentalist minister's family, where my mother was the church pianist, and we were recruited into the music making "for Jesus" before we even reached the age of our spiritual majority. I was very conscious, even early in life, that my identity was *not* okay, and that I had to hide it at all costs. At the same time, though, the liturgical music of the church was what sustained me and kept me moving forward, even when I felt utterly rejected by the community.

Now, as an adult, I still struggle with my relationship to music and spirituality, and

I'm not alone in this: I've had many conversations with other queer musicians and artists about the inherent complexity of spirituality in heteronormative spaces. Is the music of religious traditions appropriate material if those traditions have historically excluded us? Do we create new traditions? Are those musical traditions agnostic by default, or are we allowed to claim these sacred traditions for ourselves?

We're trying to answer some of those questions for ourselves in TRANScend's upcoming choral concert for Pride, *Sing Me to Heaven*. The musical program examines the moments of emotionality that inform queer spiritual experiences, and yes, it includes some faith-inspired pieces. It also includes meditations on what it means to be a queer person searching for meaning, spiritual security and comfort.

Most notable of these is the premiere of American-Vietnamese composer, Dylan Tran, *i am mine*, the text of which begins: *i want to start believing that i am mine. i want to own every part of myself, all of the parts i deemed ugly, ungraceful, only meant to please others...* It's a paean to claiming your own soul and remaking your own spirit. It's complex, and not always peaceful and smooth – a perfect gem of queer spirituality in musical form.

Performance Details:

Sing Me to Heaven: A Pride Concert will take place on June 18th, 3 pm. Online and in-person at St. John's in the Village, 218 W 11th St, New York, New York

Tickets on sale now at <https://www.musae.me/transcend/experiences/1430/sing-me>

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Lovers And Friends Festival

By Alexander Allen

May 6, 2023 - Las Vegas, Nevada, the second annual Lovers & Friends Festival. I'm not a big festival attendee, but this is one festival that I make sure to attend. The inaugural festival caught my attention as it had every major artist on the bill from the 90s and 00s. Ms. Lauryn Hill, TLC, Usher, Ludacris, Trey Songz, The-Dream, Ciara, Ginuwine, Tweet, Cassie, etc.. A first. I had a blast at the festival last year.

For this year's festival, some of the same acts from last year were present, in addition to, some heavy hitters who don't typically perform at festivals. Christina Aguilera, Missy Elliott, and Mariah Carey made this year's Lovers & Friends Festival a momentous one.

I don't recall ever seeing Christina Aguilera perform a set, apart from an award show performance. Christina's set was short, sweet, and powerful. She opened with a fan favorite, "Dirrty," featuring Redman. Also, included in her set, "Lady Marmalade," with a surprise reunion with rapper Lil' Kim, and the gorgeous ballad, "Beautiful." Unequivocally, Christina still has the pipes. An amazing set filled with guest appearances, strong vocals, pyros, and an appreciative crowd.

As a longtime Mariah Carey fan, I've seen her perform live countless times, but never in a festival setting. I was very much looking forward to her set and Mariah didn't disappoint. Mariah opened with a condensed version of her debut single, "Vision of Love," that morphed into the remix of "Fantasy," featuring O.D.B. MC's set was



choreographed by her good friend, the legendary Debbie Allen. Mariah, who looked svelte in a custom black Schiaparelli mini dress with gold trimming, included songs that we've haven't heard her perform, in years. E.g. "One Sweet Day," with surprise guests, Boys II Men, and "Beautiful, with her second surprise guest, Miguel. To further keep us on our toes, Mariah's set included a couple of her dance remixes from her extensive catalogue with cool matching choreo, courtesy of Ms. Debbie Allen. Most importantly, Mariah was in good voice with crisp vocals and those iconic whistle notes.

The headliner of the festival was Missy Elliott. Initially, I was surprised that she received top billing. Especially, over Mariah Carey and Christina Aguilera. I hadn't realized that apart from award show performances, I've never seen Missy perform live. At the beginning of her show, a futuristic Missy appeared on the video screen and warned us that we would dance non-stop and "Lose Control" during her set. She was absolutely right. Back-to-back uptempo hits from the 90s to present day. Missy's catalogue is impressively extensive. Her own and the countless hits that she has written and/produced for others, in addition to, her guest features. Missy opened up with her 2019 hit, "Throw It Back," clad in a red rhinestone flightsuit. Missy has been looking slim and trim recently and that was further showcased in her exclusive white Marc Jacobs x Fendi sweatsuit with a baguette pocket book, center front of her sweatshirt and FF hardware on her cargo pants pockets. Super cool costumes and set. I'm anxiously awaiting next year's festival to see who will be on the bill.

Feng Shui for Offices

By Marilyn Martin

Exteriors and Entrances
The area between the street or elevators and the front door is called the approach space. The front door demarcates what is the body of the space.
The body is everything from that point forward. If there are projections from the main body back towards the street or elevators, it is in the approach space. This happens when you enter the front door, make a U turn, going back towards the street or elevators.
Since these sections are not part of the

main body, they do not function the same. It's like Charlie's 20-foot train. He was unaware that his grandson was making faces. We really do wear our environment like our clothes, a turtle's shell. Redesign an office and everyone gets new clothes.
Likewise in a residence, if there is a projection from the main house, front door, to the street it is a very good place to have a home office or business. You want to be business-oriented towards the outside world.
Guidelines for Working at Home
Zoom calls. We all have a mini T.V. studio when we work from home. Wearing proper business attire from head to foot makes a

big difference. When we have a suit on top, in camera view and our jammies and slippers out of sight, we do not comport ourselves with as much strength or authority. Try it both ways. You can feel the difference. Please pay attention to the wall behind you.
It's hard to take someone seriously when there is a bed in the background. A plain wall or curtains is a better backdrop. Sometimes turning the desk at an angle accomplishes this.
Attend to Lighting
Lighting. Play with it. Take the shade off the lamp, put it on the floor, put it behind you.

Movie stars know about lighting. You want to be seen in your best light.
The camera should be at the correct height for your face. Usually at eye level, like you're speaking to someone. If you're traveling, a tripod, stack of books, even a suitcase, will work.
FengShuiSystems@proton.me



Style on The Street: Love Out loud

By Karilyn Prisco



Dawlcakes are for Everyone

By Karilyn Prisco

Photographer Gus Philippas
Wardrobe & Prop Stylist Karilyn Prisco
Makeup Artist & Hair Stylist Veridiana Montas

As a gay mom and flamboyant home baker, Joanne Spataro is proud to live in the West Village, where Pride began. She and her wife Lara love living in this inclusive historic neighborhood with their growing toddler. Living and working here has allowed Joanne to fully be herself and tap into her creative outlets. Enter her love for baking doll cakes to commemorate special and everyday occasions. Originally a way to entertain her child, Joanne created a colorful, delicious line of bespoke mini doll cakes called Dawlcakes. They're "daws" because that's how Joanne and her daughter both say doll.

For the month of June Joanne is rolling out a line of Pride Dawlcakes, which can be custom-ordered to represent many of the LGBTQIA+ flag colors, as well as a diversity of dolls. She's given the dolls campy names and elaborate backstories: Red Velvet Rodney, Cannoli Connie, Rainbow Princess Pride, Marzipan Mary, The Pinky, and Patricia "Don't Call Me Patti" Pride. The Dawlcakes will also be featured in Cowgirl NYC's Pride window display on Hudson and West 10th Streets.

A lifelong baker, Joanne rediscovered her love for all things sugar and frosting late last year. Her daughter's 3-K class was celebrating 50's Day for the 50th day of school and asking parents to bring snacks for the celebration. She decided to make a Baked Alaska, but not just any Baked Alaska: A Doll Baked Alaska. Joanne froze three layers of ice cream, baked a vanilla cake, and covered it in homemade Italian meringue. That morning before school, her manny (male nanny) Colin set it ablaze with his blowtorch. Don't worry, no dolls were harmed in the making of this cake.



Joanne Spataro Baking in kitchen.

"I never knew why Colin had a blowtorch hanging around his house, but I was grateful for it," Joanne said with a laugh. "When we walked into my daughter's classroom, the kids gravitated to the doll cake. It was like a celebrity entered the room. That's where the spark for Dawlcakes started."

Joanne wanted to make a smaller doll cake, but didn't know how to do that when she only had regular-sized dolls. One night while she was scrolling on her phone, Joanne found small pans and little dolls to match. She ordered the vintage set immediately. "It was the best 44 bucks I ever spent," she said. "I was tracking the package every day."

Since that time, Joanne has been featured at bake sale pop-ups around the neighborhood. She has delighted customers at Kismet and Eva Joan, and will do so

again on June 24th, from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., at the children's clothing boutique Pink Chicken. What makes Joanne's day at one of her bake sale pop-ups? Hearing a story about your own doll cake growing up. "Hearing people's stories about doll cakes makes me so happy," she says. "I love seeing that a cake can live on in people's memories, as if they're a relative or dear family friend."

Dawlcakes, Joanne likes to say, are for everyone. At her local made-in-the-West Village business, she's created different flavors, looks, and designs out of marzipan and buttercream. Her taste-testers are often her friends at the local coffee shop, other parents at the playground, and, of course, her daughter and wife. Family, whether chosen or related, is what drives her to stay creative.

Joanne is also planning a "cake"-starter for Dawlcakes—an online crowdfunding campaign so she can create her own line of dolls for cakes that represent a rainbow of diversity and inclusion. "My goal is to delight people with the cake itself, and have them see the dolls and say, 'This looks like me,'" she says. "A little boy can have a Dawlcake for his birthday. A little girl can enjoy a Dawlcake at hers. A child or grown-up can have a Dawlcake, or two or three, for any occasion. No matter what, you can celebrate with your very own customized Dawlcake."

Join Joanne Spataro for Dawlcake Decorating at Pink Chicken on Saturday, June 24th from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST. Register here. Visit www.dawlcakes.com or email lookitsjoanne@gmail.com for more information.



Patricia.



Rainbow Princess Bride.



Rodney.



Joanne Spataro at Gay Street.

Jennifer Elster's Multi Medium Exhibition *Take Heed* At The Development Gallery in Tribeca



By Taylor Dwyer

Powerful, eerie, beautiful, with a sly sense of humor.

Upon peering through the towering windows at The Development Gallery, one might think it is a construction site. Once you enter through the tall burgundy curtains you are in a different zone. No bells and whistles. Just the opposite. A ceiling that is falling down while majestic sixteen-foot Corinthian columns run down the center of this 4000 plus square foot space with construction lights threaded throughout to highlight the artwork which is meticulously laid out and makes you feel as if you are supposed to start somewhere. I look down and there are footprints on the floor with a trail.

Walking through, you begin a strange journey amidst text art, sculptural assemblages on pedestals, self-portraits and paintings, all intermingled in an unfamiliar way and as if without regard, but executed with utmost precision. Juxtapositions are a theme in the artist's life.

Have you always practiced multiple disciplines?

JE: "As a child I created nonstop. It was how I got through. Directing my friends in plays, creating sculptural people out of clothes, collecting garbage and making things out of it, dressing up, singing, dancing, but I was untrained in all fields. I never took lessons. I did it because it was how I had fun and it helped me to get through and process my surroundings which were very challenging. Writing was always my favorite and is also an integral part of my art."

What inspires you?

JE: "I grew up in NYC. I was always a deep thinker, analytical, with an obsession with writing and a fascination with human nature. I was very poor as a teenager, lived in one of, if not the, most dangerous building,



Hurricane Head, 2021_Jennifer Elster_Take Heed 2022

and went to what was the most dangerous school in Manhattan. My life experiences, my thoughts and feelings inspire me. I was also obsessed with music (and I make music too). I grew up with folk and rock music as a kid and then disco, rap and house. I could dance. I had style. And I was a club kid in the art scene so what people refer back to as old New York streets or the real art scene, I was a part of. It had life. It was dangerous. Strange. Beautiful. Fun. Wild. Back when Public Enemy and Run DMC hit the scene and would pop up at The Funhouse, Vin Diesel was the bouncer at the Tunnel, and Keith Haring would watch me dance freestyle at MK. My grandfather was the lead harpist at The Met so I was exposed to the opera too. One of my first art jobs where I got paid was styling David Bowie into different characters for his album 1. Outside. My first art exhibition was in the West Village at The Shooting Gallery in 2000 and I had done two solo exhibitions since. In Take Heed I exhibit new art, along with works from my previous exhibitions, each in their own corner, as well as a tribute to my work with Bowie with an installation and some of



Jennifer Elster_War Head, 2022_Take Heed

the artifacts from the shoot on display for the first time."

The sculptural assemblages beckon the viewer to hear her direct statements written in her distinct and hauntingly beautiful handwriting style. A mask reads "Watch Out". A paper towel reads "Historical Phrases: What's Your Plan". One gets the idea Elster is constantly creating and will use anything for means of expression. "If We Cower From the Demented We Become A Prisoner in a Fear Cell" reads the paper in a plastic enclosed box.

Was it a cathartic experience making and exhibiting these works, and if so, how was it cathartic?

JE: "Exhibiting the works has helped me to overcome a great amount of anxiety I have been feeling over the state of the world. I'm obviously a very worried person. I have seen and been through a lot in my life and I understand the degree as to how things can go down. I think most people can't fathom awful things happening because it's out of their wheelhouse, or it's too scary. But I'm a survi-

Take Heed_Jennifer Elster_The Development Gallery

vor of many things so I feel comfort in awareness. Who wants to think about our harsh realities? Not me. But I do. And I also very much love to have fun. As concerned and serious as I am is as much as I joke around too. I love hearing people laugh out loud when they are taking in some of the different artworks. The exhibition is a weird experience. In its own bizarre way, it makes it fun to think about serious things, I think, and sharing this exhibition was a great purge of concerns and I feel happier since."

Do you feel fear in looking at our "harsh realities"?

JE: "I believe we must face things, use our foresight, and care enough about the wellbeing of the future, for all of us. We need to take care now to avoid people suffering, or ourselves suffering, in the future."

I am not afraid to see even if I don't like what I see. I rather deal with it, then do what I find so many doing which is not looking at reality, frankly, due to fears, but then end up living in those fears because they don't want to look at it. And I get it. We're living in weird times and it's overwhelming, but it doesn't go away and I personally don't like living in accumulated denial of climate change or anything else. New York did just break all records for its poor air quality and turned orange from smoke from the Canadian Wildfires. We're in it. It's sad, but there's no time to wallow.

We need to go deep into the psychology of our existence, but if people don't want to see what chance do we have to break these cycles?"

Tell me about "In The World" (The Extremism is Wearing Me Down)?

JE: "The extremism of anything is just too much. I've been in a great relationship my entire adult life so I understand compromise. As Americans we are sharing America. So, we all need to compromise a little to move forward. Many are so hard edged with their own theories and/or beliefs. We need to be more agile with the times. I think we can bring people together even more than we do through art, music, and humor. New York City is a culture hub and should be leading."

“In Here”, where written in cursive on a notecard on display is, “The World is So Creepy Should we even interact with it?”

JE: “While I personally enjoy bringing people together, I am a loner. I am not a part of any group or organization. The show does not support a political party or have an agenda nor does it have any tolerance to entertain any conspiracy theories. The text art pieces are bold statements with hard facts while the self-portraits are role playing in a sense and the paintings abstract.”

A series of self-portraits entitled *Warfare* are of Elster dressed up in a gas mask and suit in a fetal position or gasping for help and lead into self-portraits of being driven mad entitled *Everything's Great*. Frightening and darkly humorous, these works dated 2016 resonate even more today. It takes a moment to realize the exhibition is mapped out with dates that are telling.

Paintings seem to be triggered by world events.

Hurricane Head was painted after a hurricane destroyed her house. *War Head* was painted after Russia entered Ukraine. The paintings are abstract and yet each represents a deeply emotional state of mind using harsh brush strokes and a style all her own.

What would you make art about (or would you) if the world were not in the state it's in?

*JE: Right now is the 20th year anniversary of the premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival of the feature film that I wrote, produced, directed, and co-starred in with Gale Harold, *Particles of Truth*. I'm a hermit. Since, I directed a film series called *In the Woods (and Elsewhere)* — which got me out of the house and into many existential adventures. I would love to return to finish that filmmaking and return to my writing about the complexities of existence. And I am beginning to.*

You can feel Elster's roots are deep seated. The gallery is a hard contrast to the pristine white box spaces Manhattan has grown accustomed to. It's as if it's an exhibit that would have taken place back in the day, in a loft ground space or that one would find underground — yet the gallery is on Leonard Street in Tribeca just down the block from the Anish Kapoor Bean, and deals with modern themes.

Check our online edition for a performance video.

The Development Gallery is open from Tuesday - Saturday from 12-7

75 Leonard Street, between Church and Broadway

ChannelELSTER.com for further information. The gallery is also lauded for its edgy and dynamic performance artwork, talented musicianship, and special guests. Follow @JenniferElster on Instagram for details on the upcoming Night of Film which will include some of Elster's directorial film work.

And don't miss the gift shop that includes art pins, text art t-shirts, and an accessory collection created from upcycled scraps of leather JElster.nyc



Even the Fighters Won't Want to Fight_2016_Triptych_Jennifer Elster



Jennifer Elster_In the World, 2018_Take Heed 2022

Celebrate Pride at the Whitney Museum

By Angela Montefinise

The Whitney Museum of American Art is celebrating Pride throughout June with events for all ages. Activities include neighborhood tours, coloring projects, film screenings, dance classes, and more! This month-long celebration is part of the Museum's ongoing commitment to supporting LGBTQ+ artists and communities and offering an inclusive space for all to gather and explore American art.

All Pride Month activities can be found at [Whitney.org/pride-2023](https://whitney.org/pride-2023); registration is strongly encouraged.

The Whitney is offering free walking tours of the Museum's neighborhood that highlight select historical sites that once provided safe spaces to find and create queer communities in the Meatpacking District. From the sites of the Hudson River piers to legendary clubs, participants are invited to consider their connection to the changing landscape of the neighborhood, as well as the city's history.

The tours will meet outside the Whitney and will take place on Friday, June, at 6 PM; Saturday, June 10, at 1, 3, and 5 PM; Sunday, June 11, at 2 PM; Sunday, June 18, at 3 PM; and Friday, June 23, at 6 PM. Registration is required. Select walks will be offered in Spanish and ASL.

For those who would prefer to explore the sites on their own, the Whitney also offers a mobile guide that can be found at [Whitney.org/pride-2023](https://whitney.org/pride-2023).

In addition to the walking tours, highlights of the Whitney's Pride Month events include:

Queer Teen Night, June 9, 4-7 PM: The Whitney will host a dedicated evening for LGBTQ+ youth and allies. Join the Museum's Youth Insights Leaders, in collaboration with community partners like The Door, The Center, and Haus of Us, for an evening of artmaking, performances, dancing, giveaways, and a tour of exhibitions *Jaune Quick-to-See Smith: Memory Map* and *Josh Kline: Project for a New American Century*.

Whitney Pride Month Celebration, June 10, 11 AM-6 PM: Join a full day of Pride activities for visitors of all ages outside the Museum on Gansevoort Street. Enjoy hands-on artmaking, collaborative coloring projects inspired by artist **Chitra Ganesh**, Queer History Walking Tours of the Meatpacking District, giveaways, and a special dance performance and workshop by the L.A.-based collective **Bob's Dance Shop**. Visitors are invited to contribute to 12 large-scale coloring pages from the *Queer Power Coloring Book* by artist Chitra Ganesh and participate in an all-ages dance class/



Pride Teens. Photo credi: Filip Wolak

dance party with the Bob's Dance Shop Experience troupe.

The Piers Project, Saturday, June 17, 1 PM and 4 PM: Inspired by the history and documentation of Manhattan's west side piers in the 1970s and 1980s, The Piers Project, presented by The Matthew Westerby Company and Hudson Guild Theatre Company, explores the moments and movements that occurred there. This area of New York, not far from the Whitney, became a space of sexual freedom and expression in the post-Stonewall era. Visitors are invited to engage with writings and photographs from that time, imagining the world that existed around the piers to create a dance work that evokes the freedom, exuberance, anonymity, and dangers of the scene.

The Radical Joy Ball, June 22, 5-6 PM: The Whitney is teaming up with partner ADAPT Community Network for an evening celebrating inclusivity, access, and the pride of self-expression in the Museum's theater. This event creates a space to celebrate the vibrancy of LGBTQ+ and disability pride through music, dance, and runway performances. This event is for adults 21 years of age and over.

Member Night, June 28, 7:30-10 PM: The Museum will be open late and offer evening performances, artmaking, tours, and more for Whitney Members (Did you know! If you visit the Museum more than twice a year, a Membership pays for itself).



Queer Teen Night. Photo credit: Summer Surgent-Gough

The evening—free to Members—will celebrate the work and lives of LGBTQ+ artists. For information on becoming a Member and attending this event, visit whitney.org/membership.

In addition to Pride-specific events, the Whitney Museum's galleries will offer incredible exhibitions throughout June, including *Inheritance*, a show that opens on June 28 and explores how artists navigate issues of legacy and the passing of ideas across familial, historical, and creative lines. The stories are told through artworks—paintings, sculpture, video, photography, and installation—created over the last six decades and primarily new to the Whitney's permanent collections. Most of the works

included in this exhibition are either new, never-before-seen at the Museum, or works that have not been on view for years. Artists featured include Faith Ringgold, Sophie Rivera, Kara Walker, Bruce and Norman Yonemoto, and Chitra Ganesh, among many others. The exhibition is organized by Ru-jeko Hockley, Arnhold Associate Curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

As always, visitors can see works by Edward Hopper, Georgia O'Keeffe, Jacob Lawrence, and others on view as part of the permanent collection display.

The Whitney hopes to see its neighbors visit soon!

John as Sybil Bruncheon on Gay Pride Day



By Alan Perna

I took this photo during Gay Pride of John Burke as his character Sybil Bruncheon.
John had a Cable TV show which he hosted as Sybil.
The photo was published in the November/December 1992 issue of American Photo The Contest Issue under People and Portraiture.

Photo credit: Alan Perna



Village Views By Suze

Photography on display at Bonsignor Cafe
Jane Street and Eighth Avenue

Suzanne McAndrews
646.689.3475
StarshowerNYC@yahoo.com

Julius Bar Interview with Helen Buford

By Jacqueline Kirk

JK: To start, can you tell me how and when you came to own the bar?

HB: My husband and I decided to buy the bar in 1999. It was a business venture, we had other bars and heard about Julius' and decided to go ahead and purchase it.

JK: How has your experience owning it changed?

HB: I've certainly seen a change in clientele. It used to be mainly older gentlemen coming in, but now it's a more inclusive bar, with women coming in, transgender people, everybody comes in, and everyone hangs out and creates new friendships, and there is certainly a younger generation than previously.

JK: Is that because of the national historic registry designation and it becoming more well-known? Or do you think it's a natural change?

HB: I think it's a natural change. I think all of those designations of course help because now we're on a national level. The bar is also becoming a landmark and the news media carrying the story of course brings it to the attention of a lot of people. And I think another reason is the Mattachine party that John Cameron Mitchell started 16 years ago, which was for the purpose of rejuvenating the bar and bringing in new, young clientele, and that was a great success. It's a party that we still have today, it's actually coming up on the 15th of June. It just brings a very eclectic mix of people and everyone has a great time.

JK: The party is inspired by the movement, right? Can you walk us through the history of the bar?

HB: Yes absolutely. 57 years ago, which is not that far back really, 57 years ago, gay people were not able to go out and freely have a drink and be openly gay. Even though the bar and bar owners knew that the bar had gay clientele, you couldn't be open about it, because the bar would be shut down and the people could be arrested. If you think about it, it's just coming in to have a drink and have a conversation. To me, it boggles my mind that that's something gay people just couldn't do.

The Mattachine society at that time, which was led in the New York chapter by Dick Leitsch, wanted to stage a 'Sip-In'. They went to three different places, and they told them they were gay and wanted to be served. They weren't getting any opposition. One place they were planning to go to got a hint they were coming and didn't open. So, they decided to go downtown and go to Julius'. They walked in, at the time in suits and ties, they were well dressed, certainly not how we go out now very casually, and they walked in and went to the counter and said we're gay, we're orderly and we would like to be served. The bartender began to make a drink, and then iconically put his hand over the glass and said we can't serve you. Fred Mcdarrah, who was the photographer of the Village Voice at the time, took that picture of the hand over the glass, and it became the



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iconic picture of the Mattachine society and the 'Sip-In'. The 'Sip-In' was a turning point in making it legal for gay persons to go out and have a drink. After that, there was a new human rights commission established which also helped the women's rights movement, so it kinda helped both the women's rights and gay rights movement. That was the turning point, and by the time you get to Stonewall three years later, there was still harassment. It all ties in together, but you have to start with little movements and that leads to bigger movements for change. It became legal to serve persons who were gay. It still amazes me when you think about it.

JK: It's so cool that you know the story so well. It's so important.

HB: Right. There was an interview that I heard of Dick Leitsch. And I don't remember what the question was but I remember him saying, "We're gay people, we don't have children, so we have to pass on the history ourselves." Now of course things have changed and gay couples have children and are wonderful parents, but in his generation, it wasn't there yet. So yea, storytelling for the younger generation and saying what happened was so important, and yea I think it makes a lot of sense.

JK: That makes so much sense. So, obviously, Julius' Bar has been a large part of the gay rights movement, and you've had many notable NYC figures walk through these doors, including Tennessee Williams and Truman Capote. In the spirit of recognition, are there any regulars or people you've met through owning the bar that you want to shine a light on?

HB: So, we bought the bar 23 years ago, and 15 years ago my husband passed away.

Prior to that, he was taking care of the bar. I came to the city maybe three times a year. And then once he passed away, I decided to continue to hold onto the bar. I honestly did not know the history of the bar, until, there was a customer who still comes in, his name is Tom Berardin. He was an official tour guide for the Statue of Liberty history of New York and so forth and he's been coming in for a long time. One time he came in and I was in the back doing paperwork, and I laugh when I say this, but I remember he said, "Come here little girl can I talk to you for a minute?" And I said sure. And he goes, "You're not gonna change this into a coffee shop, are you?" I said "No why would I do that? The only thing I know about coffee is that I love it and need it every day." So we sat down and there started a great friendship and history with him, and he told me the whole history and why it was important to the gay community that this bar remain. And throughout the years we've become very very good friends, and now lovingly he's Mr. Smartass. So ya, he told me about it and I said to him listen I never knew the story and I'm so happy you told me, and that I got to learn more about this beautiful bar, and as long as I am here it will always be Julius's and it will always be a gay bar.

So that was my promise and here we are 15 years later, and it's going strong and it's getting better, and you're seeing all these wonderful people coming through, famous people, people from all over the world.

During the pandemic, which was horrible for so many businesses, one thing that was wonderful and shows that things have changed is that straight people and allies

are supporting the bar and saying they want Julius' to continue, because people now knew the history. That's the proof that things are changing. The more unity we have amongst the LGBTQ community and allies, the stronger we are.

JK: Do you guys have plans for Pride weekend and being part of the parade?

HB: We've never been a part of the parade but we'll certainly be open and just enjoying the day and the people who walk through.

JK: My last question, is I notice you guys serve food and drinks at an affordable price, especially for the village, and I'm wondering if that's an important part of your business?

HB: Yes, ya know, this bar is like the old English pubs that you don't find here in the United States. The purveyor of the meats is the same as the one with the previous owner and the one before. It's delivered fresh every day, and the French fries are cut fresh every day. Once people have tasted our burgers, they love them so much that they are amazed. And I don't want to make it so unaffordable that only a few people can come in and eat. Intergenerational people come to the bar and a lot of them are on fixed incomes. And to be able to come and have a drink with a friend and have a yummy affordable meal, I think that's important. As long as it doesn't bring me into the red. It doesn't have to be so expensive that it's untouchable to the regular people who are gonna come in. It adds to it. People will have more drinks, they'll stay longer, they'll have better conversations, in my opinion, it adds to it.

JK: Well that's all my questions! Thank you so much for your time!

HB: Of course!

JUNE EVENTS

In And Around The Village

CITYWIDE SPECIAL EVENTS

LINCOLN CENTER'S SUMMER FOR THE CITY, June 1-Aug 12

Hundreds of free events and performances with thousands of artists from all cultures coming together to celebrate the city with their music, dance, comedy, theatre, film, poetry, workshops and talks. For all ages. Calendar at www.lincolncnter.org

BRYANT PARK PICNIC PERFORMANCES, June 1-Sept. 14

Free outdoor festival kicks off June 1 with City Opera's La Boheme. Live music, theatre, and dance all listed at bryantpark.org OUTDOOR MOVIES ON THE LAWN, Start June 12, 8pm

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS, June 1-Sept. 14

Musicians from around the world perform rock, folk, jazz, hip-hop, classical and world music in parks across the city. See locations and schedule at nycgovparks.org

SUMMERSTAGE FESTIVAL, June 3-Sept. 30

Free performances and benefit concerts ranging from American Blues to NY Sings Yiddish to the Met Opera Summer recital. Schedule at centralpark.org

NATIONAL PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE, June 11

Starting at 11am, the parade marches from 44th to 79th St. along Fifth Ave.

MUSEUM MILE FESTIVAL, June 13, 6-9pm

Free admission to all nine museums from 82-105th Sts. including the Met, the Gugg, MCNY, and the Cooper Hewitt.

CONEY ISLAND MERMAID PARADE, June 17, 1-4:30pm

Starts Surf Ave & West 21st St. One of the all-time great summer events. www.coneyisland.com

SCHOMBURG CENTER LITERARY FESTIVAL, June 17, 10:30am-6pm

Author readings, panel discussions, and workshops celebrating black history and culture. ages. 515 Malcolm X Blvd. nypl.org

LOCAL SPECIAL EVENTS

HUDSON YARDS BACKYARD

Dart Collective brings DJ sets, June 1-Sept. 2, Thursdays 5:30-7:30pm; Outdoor concerts programmed by The Bowery Presents, Start June 21; 30-foot outdoor screen presents The French Open and US Open Golf; Free Fitness Classes, Tuesdays & Thursdays, 8:30-9:30am

A TRIBUTE TO HARRY BELAFONTE: TURN THE WORLD AROUND, June 2, 7:30-8:30pm

Walter Mosley and Wesley Morris celebrate the life and impact of the legendary Belafonte. The Great Hall at Cooper Union, 7 E 7th St., Reservations eventbrite.com

WESTBETH SPRING ARTS & CRAFTS MARKET, June 3, 11-6pm

Affordable one-of-a-kind finds. Westbeth Courtyard & Community Room, 155 Bank St., westbeth.org

TRIBECA FILM FESTIVAL, June 7-8

The best in features and short films, tv, talks, audio storytelling and more with in person appearances from Lin-Manuel Miranda, Letterman, and Jane Fonda at a number of venues including Village Eats, AMC 19, the Angelika, and SVA. Festival passes available.

RIVER TO RIVER FESTIVAL, June 9-18

Downtown New York's Free Summer Arts Festival

marks the 50th anniversary of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. Featuring 12 presentations of live art, dance, and performance. For schedule see lmcc.net

VILLAGE PRESERVATION

33rd Annual Village Awards & 43rd Annual Members Meeting 2023, June 13, 6pm The Great Hall at Cooper Union, Registration required villagepreservation.org

NYC PRIDE MARCH, June 25, 12pm

"Strength in Solidarity" is this year's theme with Billy Porter as one of the Grand Marshalls and headliner Christina Aguilera. The March starts at 25th St. & 5th Ave. with PRIDEFEST street fair starting at 11am around Hudson & 12th. nycpride.org

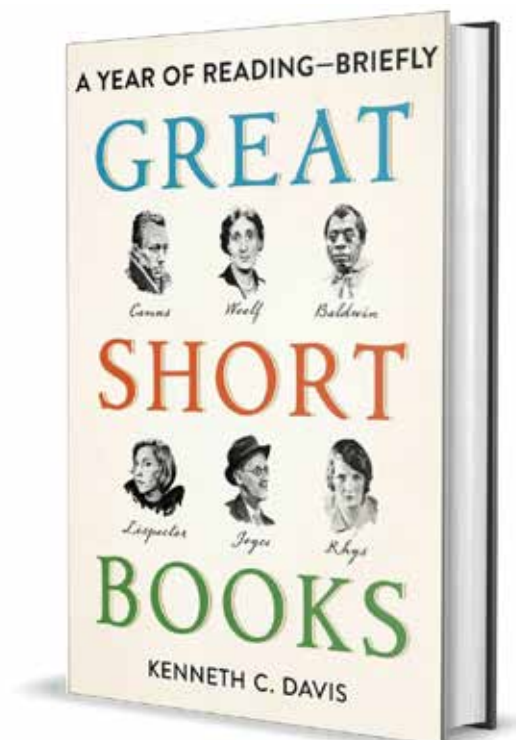
WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK

WASHINGTON SQUARE OUTDOOR ART EXHIBIT, June 3-4

HUDSON PARK LIBRARY

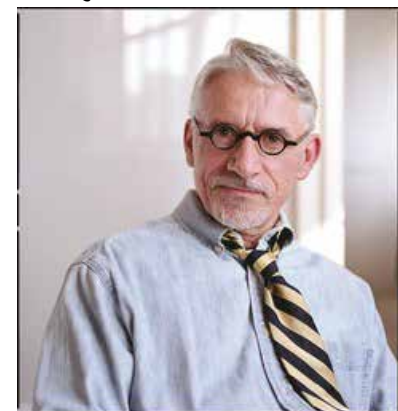
66 LEROY STR, NEW YORK, NY 10014 | 212-243-6876 | MONDAY-FRIDAY 10-6; SATURDAY 10-5; SUNDAY CLOSED

SO MANY BOOKS. SO LITTLE TIME A CONVERSATION ABOUT GREAT SHORT NOVELS



Join bestselling author and West Village neighbor Kenneth C. Davis as he discusses his acclaimed new book Great Short Books: A Year of Reading—Briefly with a special focus on some of the books written by a few downtown Manhattan authors, including James Baldwin and E. B. White.

Q&A session to follow.



THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023, AT 6:30 PM

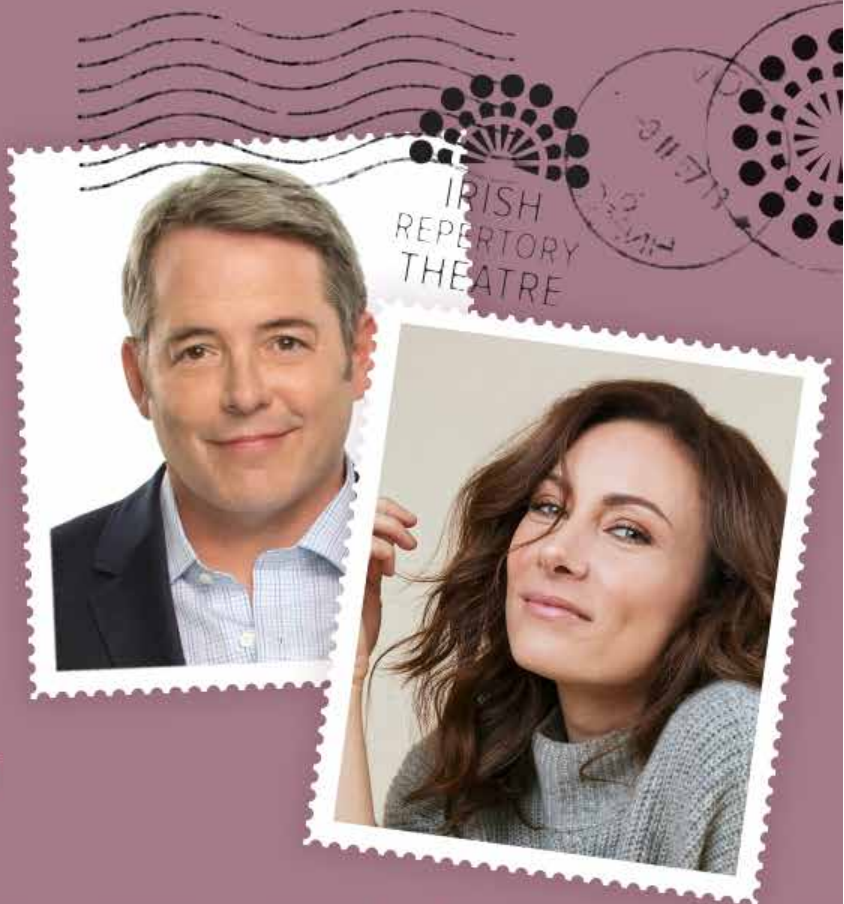
Go to tinyurl.com/25ykctcv5 or scan the QR code to register

LOVE LETTERS

BY A.R. GURNEY
DIRECTED BY CIARÁN O'REILLY

STARRING
MATTHEW BRODERICK & LAURA BENANTI

MAY 30 – JUNE 3, 2023



Browse hundreds of artist and artisans works from the sidewalks of the Village.
See map for locations: wsoae.org
FILMS ON THE GREEN: THE TANGO LESSON, June 9, 8:30-10:30pm
nycgovparks.org
SUMMER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION, Concert, June 16, 6-7:30
ART: TREE WONDER, Sundays, 11am -12pm
Meet in the NW corner of the park to draw the English Elm.
ADULT & SENIOR MOVEMENT, Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30am Garibaldi Plaza
WASHINGTON SQUARE MUSIC FESTIVAL, Tuesdays, 8pm
Concerts by acclaimed instrumentalists and singers at the Main Stage at Garibaldi Plaza,
Schedule, ws-mf.org

HUDSON RIVER PARK hudsonriverpark.org

HUDSON RIVER DANCE FESTIVAL, June 8-9, 7pm
Free
Pier 63 at 23rd St joyce.org
The Joyce Theatre presents world class artists performing street dances, tap, ballet and modern. Line-up includes Ayodele Casel, Complexions and Paul Taylor Dance Co.
HEALTHY ON THE HUDSON, HIIT June 1, 6:30-7:30pm
Thursdays: free fitness classes led by lululemon ambassadors.
Registration required. Pier 46 at Charles St.
Tuesdays: 6:30-7:30, Pier 25
HEALTHY ON THE HUDSON, YOGA
Wednesdays: led by lululemon staff at Pier 54 at W. 24th St.
Fridays: Pier 26 at N Moore St., 6:30-7:30pm, SUNSET ON THE HUDSON, Live music, 7pm
Resistance Revival Chorus June 2, 7pm; **VIVA**, June 9;
Tin Pan Alley Presents a Night on the Pier, June 16;
Red Baraat, June 23
Pier 45 at Charles Street

WETLAB LOOK-INS RIVER PROJECT,
JUNE 4 & 11; 11am-5pm;
June 6,13, 14, 21, 27, 7 28 4-7pm,
HRPL's research aquarium is free, open to the public, and provides guided tours to learn more about local wildlife.
Pier 40 at Houston
VILLAGE COMMUNITY ROWING AT PIER 40 BOATHOUSE Free
Sundays at noon; Wednesdays at 5pm
While open to all, "some physical agility is required as the focus is teamwork."
villagecommunityboathouse.org
ASK A SCIENTIST, June 8
HRPK'S RIVER PROJECT teams up with Nerd Nite & Secret Science Club to offer a series of informative and entertaining events.
Pier 40, Wetlab

THE HIGH LINE thehighline.org

Performances:
AZIKIWE MOHAMMED
First excursions Flrst Horizons, June 5, 6, 7, & 8, 7pm
As DJ Black Helmet, Mohammed's performance features three musicians playing records made by the artist. Various locations, see web site.
Conversations: NATIVE PLANTS, June 14, 10:30-noon
Led by director of Horticulture, a behind the scenes look at the wild-inspired gardens.
22nd St.
Tours: RUINART X HIGH LINE 'KEEP IT WILD!' TOUR
From the Vineyards of Champagne to the High Line: A
Joint Initiative to Celebrate Native Plants & Biodiversity
Thursdays, 6-7pm, 30th St.; Fridays, 10-11am, Gansevoort St.
PRIDE AT THE HIGH LINE: TRANSFORMATION STORIES, June 29, 5-7pm
Intergenerational storytelling featuring LGBTQ+ people of all ages and backgrounds, 17th St.
Wellness: SENIOR STRETCH, June 30, 12:30-2pm,

Little W. 12th St.
LITTLE ISLAND, littleisland.org, Pier 55 at 13th St., June 2-Sept 3
CREATIVE BREAK:
DIY, Visual Arts, Music & Dance, Music & Storytelling, Wed-Sat, Starts June 7,
Free activities for visitors of all ages.
EVENING PERFORMANCES in June include Tony award nominees Tonya Perkins, Daniel J. Watts, with music from Mykal Kilgore, Amber Imai and more. For schedule, see calendar.
CHELSEA MARKET chelseamarket.com
YOGA CLASS, Thursdays, 7-8am
An all-level 60 minute Vinyasa Flow. Bring yoga mat & towel.
Maker's Studio, 450 W. 16th St. RSVP Required.
DRAW WITH STREET LAB, Fridays, 12-3pm
Outdoor art studio with access to art materials and self-guided activities, 85 10th Ave.
LEA BALLERINA SPRING DANCES PERFORMANCE, June 3 & 9, 1-4pm
LIVE MUSIC with Cellist Sean Grissom, Wednesdays, 12-3pm
CHELSEA SYMPHONY PERFORMANCE, June 7, 4:30-6pm
CLIMATE FRESK & DINNER AT EAT OFFBEAT, June 8, 5:30-9pm

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

ARTECHOUSE
BEYOND THE LIGHT, Opens June 2
Developed in collaboration with NASA scientists, a story of how human innovation reaches into the cosmos. Artechouse is a digital arts space and a unique art location.
438 W. 15th St., Tickets, artechouse.com

AVEDON 100 AT GAGOSIAN, Thru June 24
150 luminaries contribute their favorite work to celebrate the centenary of Avedon’s birth. Gagosian 522 West 21st St.gagosian.com

BRANDT FOUNDATION
ANDY WARHOL: THIRTY ARE BETTER THAN ONE, To JULY 30
Curated by Peter M. Brandt, a patron, collaborator, and close friend of the artist.
421 East 6th St., brandtfoundation.org

LA MaMa GALLERIA
ITZIAR BARRIO, to June 9
A solo exhibition including ‘and Dan and (when some small metal is spun),’ a video based project using GPT-2.
47 Gt. Jones St., lamama.org

WHITNEY MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART
JAUNE QUICK-TO-SEE SMITH:MEMORY MAP Through Aug 13
Five decades of groundbreaking drawings, prints, paintings and sculptures by a citizen of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Nation.

JOSH KLINE: PROJECT FOR A NEW CENTURY Through Aug 13
A leading artist of his generation best known for installations using video, sculpture, photography, and design.
ANDY WARHOL AT THE BRANDT TOUR, June 6, 5-6 pm

QUEER HISTORY WALKS, June 9-11, 18, 23

PRIDE CELEBRATION, June 10, 11-6
Friday Night 7-10pm: Pay-What-You-Wish; 99 Gansevoort St. whitney.org

DAVID ZWIRNER through July 21
YAYOI KUSAMA: I SPEND EACH DAY EMBRACING FLOWERS
New paintings and sculptures by one of the most influential artists of the day.
519, 525, 533 W. 19th St. davidzwnirner.cin

THEATRE

ATLANTIC THEATRE COMPANY
DAYS OF WINE & ROSES, Thru July 9
New musical with Kelli O’Hara & Brian D’Arcy
Linda Gross Theatre, 336 West 20th St.
A SIMULACRUM, Thru July 2
Starring Steve Cuff, sleight of hand artist & illusion designer.
Atlantic State 2, 330 West 16th St. atlantictheater.org

AXIS THEATRE
WAKE UP, June 14-24
Spencer Aste’s solo show is one of self-discovery.
1 Sheridan Square, axis company.org

DARYL ROTH THEATRE
TITANIQUE, Thru Sept. 10
Titanic, the film meets the music of Celine Dion.
101 East 15th St., titaniquemusical.com.

THE GYM AT HUDSON
ASI WIND’S INNER CIRCLE, Thru June 30
“One of the finest practitioners of close-up magic,”
NYT

243 Thompson St., thegymatjudson.com

IRISH REPERTORY THEATRE
LOVE LETTERS, Thru June 9
Matthew Broderick & Laura Benanti in a A.R. Gurney classic.
132 W. 22 St. irishreporg.

LAMAMA’s ELLEN STEWART THEATRE
SHOCKWAVE DELAY June 1-11
Yoshiko Chuna and the School of Hard Knocks
Featuring a stellar case of musicians, dancers, actors and designers
THE DARK STAR FROM HARLEM June 15-July 2
The Spectacular Rise of Josephine Baker
66 E. 4th St., lamam.org

MINETTA LANE THEATRE
SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS, Thru June 8
Michael Cruz Kayne’s profound comedy about grief.
18 Minetta Lane, minettalanenyc.com

NEW OHIO THEATRE
THE SHYLOCK AND THE SHAKESPEARE, June 1-17
A darkly humorous retelling of The Merchant of Venice.
154 Christopher, newohiotheatre.org

PLAYERS THEATRE
SHORT PLAY FESTIVAL NYC, June 8-25
12th Annual NYC Short Play Festival
115 MacDougal, shortplaynyc.com

THE PUBLIC
THE COMEDY OF ERRORS, May 25-June 11
A musical adaptation of Shakespeare with songs in English and Spanish.
415 Lafayette, publictheatre.org

RATTLESTICK THEATRE
GLOBAL FORMS THEATRE FESTIVAL June 1-11 Free
Showcases the work of internatl. and immigrant theatre artists living in the US
via stage, panel, and video presentations.
224 Waverly Place, rattlestick.org

SOHO PLAYHOUSE
See schedule for six new plays premiering in June.
15 Vandam St, sohoplayhouse.com

SOHO REP
THE WHITNEY ALBUM - Thru July 2
Honoring Whitney Houston and other beloved and creative Black women.
99 cent performances on June 11, 18, & 25
46 Walker St., sohorep.org

THEATRE FOR THE NEW CITY
I JUST WANT TO TELL SOMEBODY! June 1-18
A return engagement of the critically acclaimed show with Smokey Stevens.
FREEDOM SUMMER June 8-25
College students campaigning in June 1064 to register Afrn-Amn. voters in Miss.
A STITCH IN TIME June 22-July 9
A musical comedy inspired by The Emperor’s New Clothes.
155 First Ave., 212-254-1109
theatreforthenewcity.net

VINEYARD THEATRE
THIS LAND WAS MADE, Thru June 25
Oakland 1967 directed by Obie winner Taylor Reynolds
108 E. 15 St., vineyardtheatre.org, 212-353-0303

MUSIC, DANCE & COMEDY

BLUE NOTE JAZZ FESTIVAL, May 31-July 2
Held in a variety of venues throughout the city and now in its 12th historic year, iconic performers include Grace Jones, Robert Glasper, Buddy Guy, NxWorries and more.bluenotejazz.com

CITY WINERY
25 11th Ave at 15th St., citywinery.com
Among an impressive list of stand out musicians and comics is Roy Wood Jr., June 17.

HUDSON RIVER DANCE FESTIVAL, June 8-9
The Joyce Theatre presents a program of world class artists. See Hudson Park or joyce.org Pier 63 at 23rd St

LPR
158 Bleecker, lpr.com
Stellar acts including Seth Myers on June 21, an evening billed as Boom Chicago.

RISE: CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF DR. MAYA ANGELOU June 17-Jun 19
National Dance Institute’s 2023 Event of the Year with 100 talented children from NYC’s public school dancing to live music.
NYU Skirball, tickets.nyu.edu, 566 LaGuardia Pl.

THE JOYCE IN CHELSEA
Gallim, May 31-June 4; Ballet Tech Kids Dance June 8-11; Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana June 13-18; Swing Out, June 20-July 2
175 Eighth Ave., joyce.org

SING ME TO HEAVEN: A PRIDE CONCERT, JUNE 18, 3-4pm,
Transend Slings performs at St. John’s in the Village
218 West 11th St. transcendings.org

FILMS: SPECIAL SCREENINGS

NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE SCREENINGS
Best of Enemies, June 12, 7pm
Feuding political revivals in this multiple award-winning drama.
Good, June 27, 7pm
David Tennant in a reimagining of one of Britain’s most powerful political plays.
NYU Skirball, 566 LaGuardia, nyuskirball.org

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH FILM FESTIVAL AT IFC, June 5-8
We are Guardians, Talk follows with Amazon Watch, June 5, 6:30-8:30pm
Razing Liberty Square, Talk with filmmaker & Community Voices Heard, June 6, 6:30-8:35
When Spring Came to Bucha, Talk with filmmaker & HRW June 7, 6:30-8pm
Seven Winters in Tehran, June 7, 8:45-10:30pm
Pay or Die, Talk follows with filmmakers, & HRW, June 8, 7-9:15
323 6th Ave., ifccenter.com

FILM FORUM
THE CITY: REAL & IMAGINED - Thru June 8
Classic New York films followed by related talks presented in assoc. with MCNY exhibit.
Desperate Souls, Dark City and The Legend of Midnight Cowboy

The New York Public Library Presents

POETRY

NIGHT

JUNE 22ND AT 6PM

SIGN-UPS FOR THE OPEN MIC START AT 5:45

at the Library!

FEATURING:

Anthony

Gabrielle Bates

Thomas Lombardi

Daniella

Toosie Watson



Hudson Park Library

66 Leroy St

New York, NY 10014

Entrance requires use of stairs

Q&A follows with filmmaker, screenwriter, actress, authors and critics. June 23-June 25
209 W. Houston, filmforum.org

MET OPERA LIVE IN HD
Die Zauberflöte Live June 3, 12:55; Encore June 7, 1 & 6pm
Battery Park, 102 N. End Ave & Union Square Broadway & 13th St.

THE QUAD
Daliland, June 9, 7:15pm
Q&A with director Mary Garron, Actor Barbara Sukowa and screenwriter John Walsh.
June 10, 7:15 Q&A with Mary Harron
Loren & Rose, June 23, 4:30, 7:00; June 24 1:45 & 7:00p,
Q&A follows with Jacqueline Bissett and director Russell Brown
The Sleepy Time Gal, June 24, 4:15
Q&A follows with Jacqueline Bissett
34 West 13th St.quadcinema.com

VILLAGE EAST
PRIDE SERIES, June 20-22

Paris is Burning, June 20; The Birdcage, June 20; Pink Flamingos, June 20;
The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, June 21, Hedwig and the Angry Itch, June 21; Polyester, June 22; But I'm a Cheerleader, June 22
189 2nd Ave., angelikafilmcenter.com

LOCAL LIBRARIES: NOT JUST BOOKS

HUDSON PARK BRANCH
66 Leroy St., hudsonpark@nypl.org
212-243-6876

JIGSAW PUZZLE CLUB, June 3, 17, 11am
LUSTER OF LIGHT, Art exhibition, June 3-30
Opening Reception, June 3, 2-4 pm
Featuring the work of Sato Yamamoto, Kirsten Flaherty, Bruno Nadalin, and Anita Rundles.
HOLLYWOOD UNER THE BLACK LIST FILM SERIES: Tuesdays, 2pm
Guilty by Suspicion (1991)

June 6; The Front (1976) with Woody Allen & Zero Mostel, June 13;
Good Night and Good Luck (2005), George Clooney, June 20
POETRY WRITING WORKSHOP, June 6, 20, 4pm
Online registration required.
CRAFT CIRCLE: KNITTING & CROCHETING, Wednesdays, 11am
BOOK CLUB: Whereabouts by Jhumpa Lahiri, June 7, 1pm
MOVIES AT HUDSON PARK, Thursdays, 2pm
Bros (2022), June 8; The Rainmaker (1956) with Burt Lancaster and Katherine Hepburn. June 15, Missing (2012), June 22; Devotion (2022), June 29
AUTHOR TALKS: So Many Books, So Little Time, June 8, 6:30pm
A conversation about Great Short Novels with author Kenneth D. Davis
In person and online.
MYSTERY BOOK CLUB: The Big Sleep by Raymond Chandler, June 13, 2pm
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: Young Mungo by Douglas Stuart. June 15, 2pm, Online
MAKE MUSIC NY: LIVE PERFORMANCE, June 21,

4:30
Featuring Bartho Staalman and his band Bar Tol-mai;
part of the Summer Solstice, music festival.
POETRY NIGHT AT THE LIBRARY: READING AND OPEN MIC, June 22, 6-7:15
Contemporary work by groundbreaking poets and a 3 minute window for open mic participants.

JEFFERSON MARKET
425 Sixth Ave at 10th St., jeffersonmarket@nypl.org
212-243- 4334

BOOK LAUNCH FOR FIVE POETS, June 4, 3pm
With Martine Bellen, Ruth Danon, Jordan Davis, Caroline Hagood and Jerome Sala.
HOW TO USE TAROT TO ENCHANT YOUR INNING WRITING WITCH AND ADD SORCERY TO YOUR FICTION & POETRY & PROSE With Sasha Graham
June 5, 23, 26, 6-7:30
COMMUNITY CRAFT CIRCLE, June 11, 3-4:30pm
Joining will be Rhiannon Platt from Brooklyn Brainery and 92 Y.
POETRY DISCUSSION: "O" by Zeina Hashem Beck, June 14, 4:30-5:30
BOOK DISCUSSION, June 29, 4:30
If on a Winter's Night a Traveler by Italo Calvino

KIDS & THEIR FAMILIES

BOOKS OF WONDER
A one-of-a-kind monthly event calendar for the picture book to YA audience.
Highlights include Leonard Marcus in conversation with five creators on June 1st at 6pm.
42 West 17th St., booksofwonder.com

FILM FORUM JR: Classics for Kids and Their Families
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, June 4; The King and the Mockingbird, June 11;
Ozu's I was Born, But, June 18; and It's a Mad. Mad. Mad. Mad World, June 25
209 W. Houston St., filmforum.org

POSTER HOUSE
Poster Kids: You Animal, You. Jun 11, 10:30-12
119 West 23rd St., posterhouse.org

RUBIN MUSEUM ART-MAKING WORKSHOPS . Sundays 1-3
For families with kids 3 and older
150 West 17th St., rubinmuseum.org

WHITNEY MUSEUM OPEN STUDIO Sats, 11-3
For kids of all ages, art making projects inspired by works on view

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SENIORS

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In person and virtual: A wealth of free programs covering social, education, cultural and wellness activities at five downtown locations with lunch at four of them. See calendar at www.greenwichhouse.org/network-of-older-adult-centers or contact kbeckett@greenwichhouse.org for more info.

LIFELONG SKILLS & OPPORTUNITY CENTER

Free programs for adults 60+ including tech support, skill-building workshops, one-on-one job search coaching, benefits counseling, financial education, and more.

27 Barrow St., Mon-Fri 9-5 ,www.greenwichhouse.org/lifelong

GREENWICH HOUSE THEATER

OPEN MIC NIGHT, June 2, 5pm

TENANTS IN CRISIS, A Cabaret, June 3, 5pm

Presented by Theater for Change

THAT’S MY BUZZER: A COMEDY GAMESHOW, JUNE 4, 5-6pm

Comedy for 18+ by Comics who are 60+ Greenwich House Theatre, 27 Barrow St.

THE HIGH LINE

SEATED CONVERSATIONS, Second Wed of the month 10:30am

Native Plants: June 14; Followed by optional 15-minute park walk

Advance registration requested.

SENIOR STRETCH WITH TERESA CUEVAS, June 30, 12:30-2pm

Check for location, thehighline.org

Pride Month 2023
History & Background



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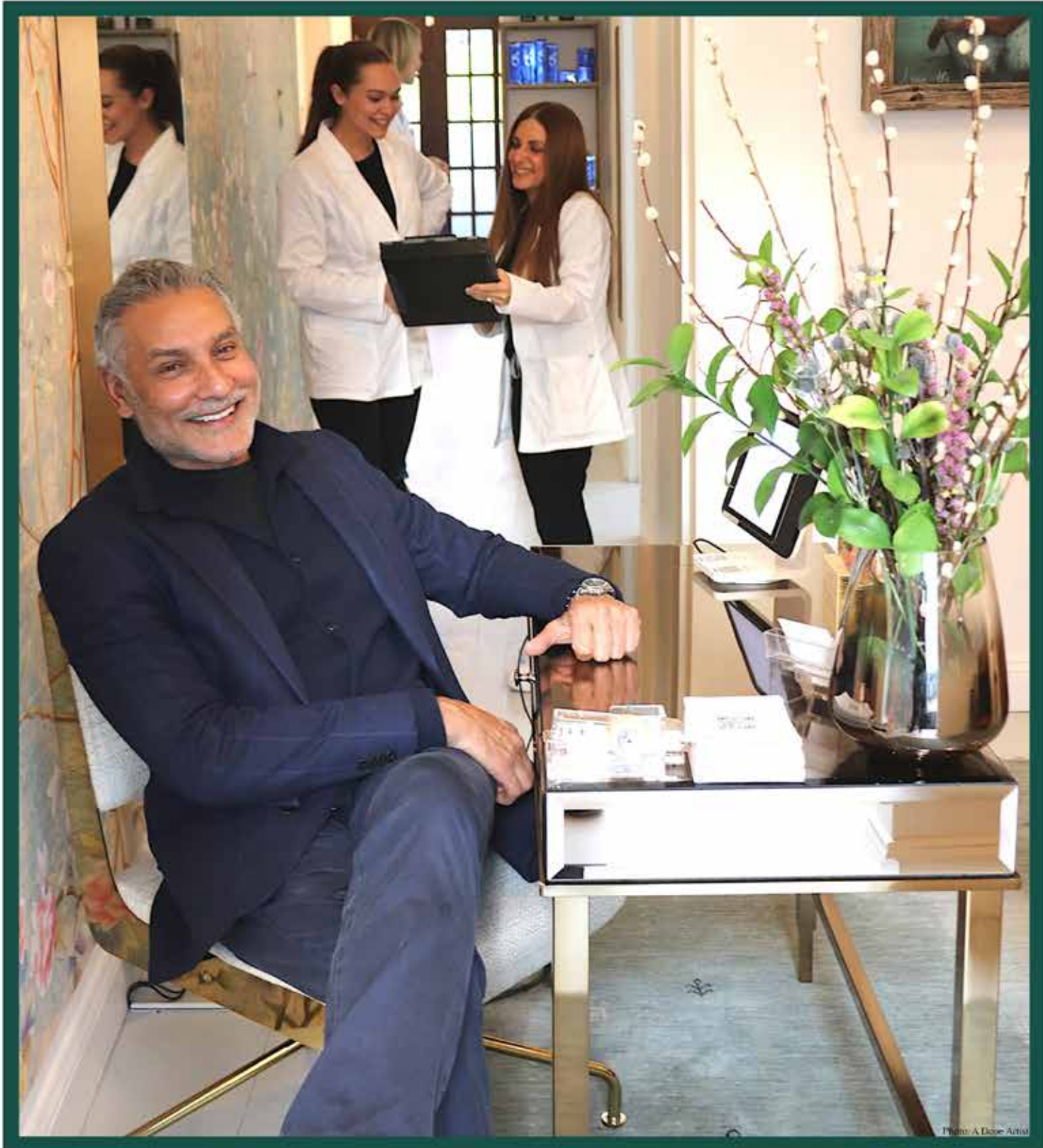
By Joel Gordon

Pride Month 2023 – LGBT Pride Month is a month, typically June, dedicated to celebration and commemoration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) pride.



277 West Village

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