



It's Time to Take A Stand

By Kelly Gallagher

Grassroot activists get ready to roll down the highway for RFK Jr's

I STAND WITH BOBBY KENNEDY Kickoff Campaign

And I'm one of them. Why you ask?

Some movers, shakers and global thought leaders in the West Village are getting ready to mobilize for what they call the I STAND WITH BOBBY a grass roots campaign to educate people on the Presidential Campaign Platform of RFK Jr. The mainstream news isn't acknowledging Kennedy's play for the White House nor is the mainstream media covering the Kennedy campaign while spin doctors continually attempt to reduce the vaccinated Kennedy to an anti-vaxxer for daring to question the childhood vaccine schedule and the dangerously toxic contents of the vaccines that include adjuvants like mercury and aluminum. The science is actually never settled despite what the big pharmaceutical giants would like you to believe.

One of the co-organizers of the campaign, and part of the magic behind *Westview News*, Dusty Berke, stated, "People we encounter want their democracy back. They don't recognize their America." Berke says she wants choice and dialogue. "We want a debate amongst potential candidates and we are being told there will not be one." Some of us believe Biden is incapable. Well, if he is incapable of a debate should he really be running the country? "We don't know what happened to our Democratic Party but it is not feeling like the Democratic party that I have been a part of for years. I am feeling like we are losing our freedoms and our democracy is at risk."

95-year-old George Capsis, Publisher and Editor of *Westview News* agrees and he lives by his community values starting this community paper 25 years ago at the age of 71. Those values right now are closest aligned with the values of Robert F Kennedy Jr. George printed Kennedy's



Ready To Roll !

Grassroot activists get ready to roll down the highway for RFK Jr's I STAND WITH BOBBY KENNEDY Kickoff Campaign

entire Presidential Announcement speech so that people could see for themselves what Kennedy spoke of for two hours without notes, a teleprompter, or editing. We felt it our duty to share what Kennedy said because no news networks other than CSPAN were representing what we knew happened there.

George admires Kennedy. He thinks Kennedy represents true old school American values.

"Bobby Kennedy with the Riverkeepers and Waterkeepers cleaned up the Hudson River for Pete's sake! He's a hero. 'The Hero of the Hudson', as we called him in my paper. Where are all the climate and green environmentalists now? Why am I getting so much grief from Democrats? You can't dismiss Kennedy's record as an environmental lawyer dedicated to protecting the environment and enforcing corporate responsibility

We like what RFK Jr. or "Bobby" as we like to call him, has to say. We have a bus that we just got fixed up. It's a library bus.

If we can gather support, we will take the show on the road."

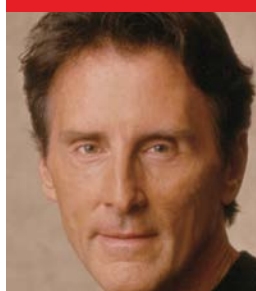
Meanwhile, Capsis continues, "Bobby Kennedy is shining a light on personal responsibility and a life in perfect healthy harmony with the environment." Their millennial assistant jumps in with, "And in harmony with himself. I mean we all saw Bobby do push-ups... He's in shape. He takes care of himself. He's a great leader and representation of the America I want to live in. He gives us hope again."

"Yes," George goes on, "We've all been through a lot these past few years. We've never been so divided. Kennedy says he's the President for Peace. We certainly haven't seen that and that's what we need. I want the people in my community to take a closer look at Kennedy than what they are experiencing on mainstream news. That is why I am covering his campaign. I have lived almost 96 years on this planet and I had no idea censorship was this real up until now."

Kennedy has had a unique perspective

growing up in one of the most powerful royal families of American politics while also enduring two of the most tragic deaths in American politics. He lost his Uncle, President John F Kennedy in 1963 and was witness to his father Robert F. Kennedy's death in 1968. His father, the former US Attorney General was shot while campaigning for President. Now the Biden Administration doesn't think this American Legacy deserves to have Secret Service protection nor does he want to debate him. The DNC is busy rearranging voting rules instead of giving the American people the transparency they deserve.

When I asked George Capsis why he is personally backing Kennedy he said, "The mainstream media keep ignoring him which only further exposes the censorship that is currently running rampant in the land of the free and the home of the brave. That's not Democratic. There comes a point in life where you have to take a stand. For me, that time is now. "It's time to take a stand. I stand with Bobby Kennedy.



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WestView

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

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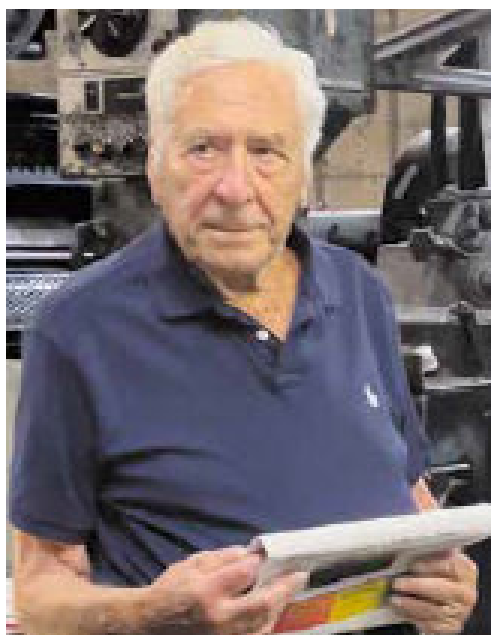
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George Capsis Publisher

WestViews

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As the lead line of the article pointed out, RFK was central to cleaning up our back yard, the Hudson river, a once almost dead body of water now thriving with life!

Not enough to earn him a front page article in *Westview*? He wasn't just posing for photo-ops, he was knee deep fighting corporations, getting them to take responsibility for the mess they make; something he continues to do, much to the distress of their slaves in the government and the press. Had you taken the time to read his words, you might be surprised to see what a thoughtful, learned and fair-minded man he is. I have never heard him speak without his citing his statements with facts and studies. Many of which, I might add, you will not read in the "news" and all of which are available to those who take the time to read the actual science, rather than consuming the crumbs of curated half-truths we are subjected to.

After the fact, his statements are spliced and diced and served back to the same complacent consumers who still can't be bothered to go to the source. This is the ONLY reason why the Dems don't want a debate: once you hear him speak unfiltered, it hits you like a truth bomb "OH MY GOD!! HE'S THE REAL DEAL!!!" Unlike so many of his fellow politicians and the press, he won't resort to labels or name calling. He believes that debate, disagreement and the airing of opposing views STRENGTHEN democracy, that people and political parties can disagree without despising and disrespecting each other, and like his father and uncle, he vehemently opposes censorship and war. All of these outlandish values were once main stream, democratic ideals, which he seeks to re-establish if given the chance.

-Valerie Hawk

Thank you for your thorough article by Gary Null concerning the dubious & systemic suppression of Ivermectin as a viable treatment of symptoms for Covid-19, and as an effective prophylactic against its never-ending string of variants.

The FDA acknowledged in court on appeal on August 8th that it has no authority to interfere in the doctor-patient relationship, nor make any claims about the efficacy of off-label use, such as against novel gain-of-function engineered corona-viruses.

For reference, see *Apter et al. v. Dep't of Health & Human Services et al. No. 22-40802*, processed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit, in which

three doctors who were fired from their jobs for prescribing the tried and true, highly affordable drug sued the FDA for exceeding its legal authority by dictating against its use, thus resulting directly in the doctors' termination.

The D.O.J's lawyer in defense of the FDA said, "FDA explicitly recognizes that doctors do have the authority to prescribe Ivermectin to treat COVID."

Astoundingly, the government's lawyers are set so far back on their heels that they invoked "sovereign immunity," to protect the (plainly captured) regulatory agency leadership from legal repercussions for the devastating effect of their manipulative advice. If claiming the power of the king to be above the law is not enough to set off alarm bells...

With new Covid variants already on the rise this season, it is a relief to know that *actually safe and effective* treatments are being affirmed to be legally viable, and employers cannot legitimately terminate practitioner employees who prescribe it.

Consult your doctors for appropriate use protocols and dosage.

- Concerned Citizen DeVille

The paper just gets better and better!

- Suzanne McA

As one who read most of the articles of Ms. Kaliabakos in *WestView News* (my local newspaper up until this past February, when I moved to the Bronx), I enjoyed reading this one about her trip to Ireland. Justly proud of her Greek heritage, now she is expanding her horizons to learn why so many, myself included, are so proud of our Irish heritage. "May the Road Rise to Meet you", etc. And keep traveling, Anastasia.

-John Early



Thanks for keeping Charles Street so clean Arlene! Photo: Dusty Berke

Briefly Noted

Thanks Council Member Bottcher

By Marylee Burns

There are over 250,000 NYC employee retirees. I'm one of them. Despite inadequate pay and difficult conditions, some passed up more lucrative opportunities to remain with the City. I was drawn to the Health and Hospitals Corporation's core mission and the opportunity it gave me to help my fellow New Yorkers, particularly with mental health and substance abuse problems. Many of us were dedicated to the City, and, in turn, the City promised to provide us with comprehensive medical benefits upon retirement. So when Mayor Adams tried to force us out of traditional Medicare benefits along with the City's Medigap Plan and into the inferior Aetna Medicare Advantage plan, we chose to fight back. Marianne Pizzitola, a former FDNY EMT, formed the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees to do so. She is a brave and tireless leader who has garnered the support of thousands and found talented attorneys to wage our battle against the City, the City

we love.

The retiree organization has asked the City Council to pass Intro 1099 to ensure retirees keep their current benefits. Council member Charles Barron of Queens was the only council member willing to introduce the bill, and only 16 members have stepped up to co-sponsor it. Thankfully, our Council member of District 3, Erik Bottcher, is one of those.

We in District 3 should all be proud to have Erik Bottcher as our representative and grateful for his courage to go against the Mayor, the Unions, and Aetna in favor of his constituents.

Also of note, on July 30th, Medicare celebrated its 58th birthday. In what is truly a David and Goliath story, we must continue our fight until we prevail and our cherished Medicare is not privatized here in NYC or elsewhere in the county.

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Survival in the New Woke Order

By Richard Gale and Gary Null Ph.D.

"We have this ability in Lake Wobegon to look reality right in the eye and deny it."

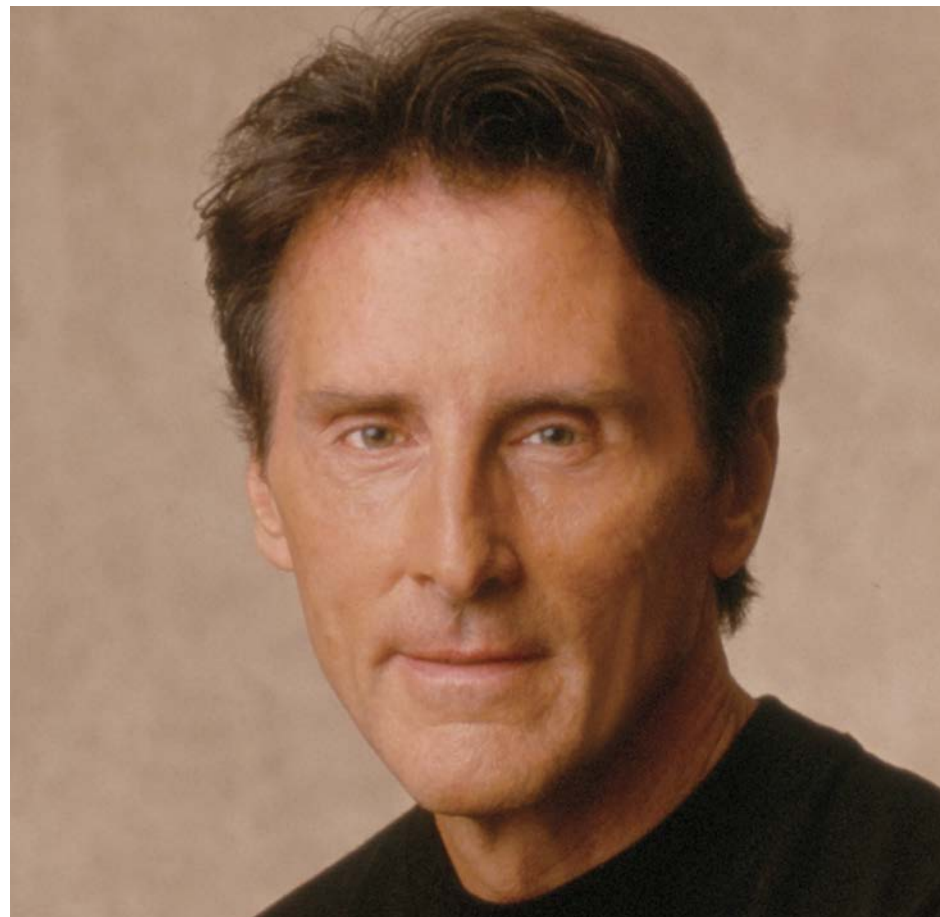
Garrison Keillor

Keen observers of history realize that the US and the West have entered a new Dark Age. The light of reason and the capacities for critical thought are rapidly being snuffed out by widespread emotional immaturity. The erosion of American culture has largely been the result of a decades' long merger of adolescent attitudes and the corporate commodification of human life and values. Mass culture, Hannah Arendt observed, was not culture but personal entertainment, or better stated self-aggrandizement. Our civilizational collapse into intellectual darkness and the catastrophic failure in democracy were presciently predicted by many of our wisest cultural critics such as Lewis Lapham, Morris Berman, and Robert Kaplan two decades ago. Likewise, earlier works of science fiction such as *Fahrenheit 451*, *The Perfect Day* and *The Canticle for Leibowitz* describe not only the dystopian triumph of a puerile citizenry blindly subservient to the tricks and treats disbursed by an elite corporate and political class, but also the consequences of the intentional disorientation of a distracted human mind. Aldous Huxley perfectly predicted our times in *Brave New World*. Hungarian-born journalist and author Arthur Koestler (d. 1983) envisioned a future America being populated with human automatons in a replay of the fall of the Roman Empire; at such time the US will have turned into a "soulless, politically corrupt, everybody-for-himself civilization." Although these modern critics and fiction authors may not have foreseen the exact structures and popular social values society has now transitioned into, such as the worst expressions of critical race theory's inverted racism, institutionalized woke culture, endemic mental disorders, and growing gender dysphoria, they nevertheless accurately observed the trends that have led America to this impasse of moral anarchy.

Critical race theory and the woke movement will never democratize society; rather it will further erode universal ethical norms to a cacophony of subjective emotions and aberrant personal beliefs felt at any given moment. These mythologies about race and gender, which are mistaken for hard truths, now permeate our elementary schools and universities, which are being fashioned into what Morris Berman calls "a gigantic dolt-manufacturing machine." And the global elite, political legislators and pseudo-intellectuals dominating our educational institutions, willingly or not, declare this feat of social deterioration as a political victory.

At the core of our society's collective daze in the marketplace of frivolous pursuits resides a deep existential emptiness. In

particular this vacuity of a life enriched by meaning and purpose is being acted out by the younger generations. In 2022, the national suicide rate again rose to 14.3 suicides per 100,000; two years earlier 5.2 million either planned or attempted to take their lives. The prevalence of gender dysphoria continues to rise significantly and starts at younger ages. Although the percentage of people either professionally or self-diagnosed, with gender dysphoria remains very small, it has nevertheless been



Gary Null

raised to a level of national priority at the expense of other mentally and physically handicapped persons that make up 27 percent of the population.

This brief reference above noting the consequences of the dark abyss at the center of American culture only highlights a small sliver of the consequences of the intellectual ignorance underlying critical race theory and woke culture. During the past five years, there has been an aggressive encroachment of woke and postmodern race ideologies into every aspect of society: local school boards, college campuses, corporations' human resources, and the halls of federal and state legislative bodies. The leaders of this trend are by no means our culture's best and brightest; rather those are the first to find themselves canceled or handed their termination papers. Rather it is the activists who shout the loudest who manage to be heard. Those of us who critically recognize social dynamics observe this hysterical phenomenon with credulous amusement. When Tucker Carlson reports about a woman who wouldn't change a baby's diaper unless she received the infant's permission, the sane among us step back and wonder

what the hell is going on. Self-righteous university students demand professors abide by their demands and teach only what they want. Those teachers who stand up for educational integrity and the teaching profession's tradition, are ostracized. Students petition college administrators to have dissenting un-woke professors fired.

What is especially notable is how rapidly this raging woke and inverse racist movement has become incorporated into our public and private institutions. This

own time, the level of American illiteracy is astounding. The average American likewise lives in a garbage heap of superstitious hopes for a utopian carnival where a superficial free thought reigns; however, at the same time a future utopia requires a new vocabulary and the banning of words the new woke order finds personally offensive.

Following the warnings of social psychologist Leon Festinger in the 1950s, the American populace is being "deindividuated." Deindividuation is a state whereby individuals lose their sense of self-awareness and their realistic and healthy personal identity in order to become part of a crowd that opposes other crowds. Normal moral restraints are cast aside and replaced by impulsive and deviant behavior.

The entire woke narrative now giving way to antisocial behavior is a notable consequence of the deindividuation being approved by government and private industry. Deindividuation reinforces illiteracy and blatant stupidity. For example, when Democrats brought Aimee Arrambide, an executive for an abortion rights organization, before the House Judiciary Committee to give testimony, she claimed men could get pregnant and have abortions. Again, we are reminded of Jefferson's words "Illiteracy is the enemy of progress and the ally of tyranny."

Dr. Henry Nasrallah, editor in chief of the journal *Current Psychiatry*, remarks that we are in a historical moment when "the passage of time ruthlessly increases the entropy of everything in life." We not only witness entropy in civilizations and societies, but also in our possessions, dwellings, businesses, and our physical body and mental faculties. Therefore, new energy must be invested in order to slow or reverse entropic processes. Yet without the restraints of a new constructive and restorative vision, entropy runs amok. During the dramatic public shock triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, lockdowns, social distancing, business and school closures, and financial loss, there was a parade of incessant media porn reminded us repeatedly that death could knock on our door at any moment. The federal governments and medical establishment's gross negligence on multiple fronts during the pandemic gave rise to a rapid degeneration of America's social order. Distress from the loss of normalcy accelerated the nation's collective psychological entropy; this in turn contributed to resurrected racial tensions, hateful biases, toxic relationships, drug addiction and suicide, permissible crime, homelessness, rampant disinformation across mainstream media, the implosion of social norms, a psychological disoriented citizenry and a ruthless cancel culture that is utterly intolerant of others' beliefs.

Remarkably, the mobs in the street are little more than bland reflections, a Jungian shadow, of the instability and disorder

Continued on page 19

NYCHA Tenants Battle Eviction

By Paul DeRienzo

West Side Congressman Jerry Nadler faced boos and catcalls February 6th at the Fulton Senior Center in Chelsea. Dozens of tenants of the Elliott-Chelsea and Fulton Houses jammed the meeting chanting “My house is not for sale,” and “no demolition.”

Residents of the two housing projects located between Ninth and Tenth Avenues are enraged by Nadler’s support of a plan to demolish and rebuild the half dozen buildings and replacing the public housing with a luxury 3500-unit development.

Three-quarters of the new units would rent at New York City’s astronomical market rate. One quarter would be reserved for low- and middle-income tenants. The current rent at the projects is less than \$700 a month. Market rates in fast gentrifying Chelsea are well over \$3000 a month.

The separate but adjacent NYCHA projects include Elliott-Chelsea Houses, two 21-story towers sitting in a grassy park setting, the first of their kind when built in 1947. They’re named after John Lovejoy Elliot who founded the Hudson Guild, an early advocacy group for poor New Yorkers.

Nearby are four 1960s era 12 story buildings named after Robert Fulton, inventor of the steam boat. Both projects are administered as one unit and are home to about 2500 low income and elderly tenants living in 1000 units.

Among the famous residents born there are Whoopie Goldberg, and the multi-talented Wayans family.

Nadler Heckled

On Wednesday a steady stream of tenants seized the open microphone part of the Community Board 4 monthly meeting expressing their opposition until Nadler arrived to speak about another subject. He seemed shocked by the angry response.

The veteran congressman could be barely heard over the heckling while a nervous bodyguard hovered nearby as Nadler was met by chants of “traitor, traitor.” Leaving the meeting Nadler ran a gauntlet of enraged residents.

West View News caught up with Nadler on the sidewalk, asked why the tenants were upset he replied, “because they don’t understand. The buildings they’re living in now are in terrible condition, the plan is to build new buildings in the empty space and then move them into the new buildings.”

Nadler was the only elected official at the meeting. Community activist and former candidate for city council on the west



Jerry Nadler being heckled at Fulton Senior Center in Chelsea NYCHA meeting
Photo credit: Marni Halasa

side Marni Halasa says that’s not unusual, because politicians “don’t want to be held accountable” for the privatization push.

Former Lower East Side council member and community activist Margarita Lopez was also at the CB4 meeting for another issue, opposing the city’s plan to move retirees to a private managed care health plan. Lopez was involved in building five low income projects on the Lower East Side, she says the key ingredient is communication, “If that communication is not there,” Lopez added, “I don’t see how they can get to a place where they feel they’ll get back,” into their homes.

Pact-Rad’s Sad Survey Slammed

The drama began when The Related Companies, Inc. a multi-national real estate developer with offices as far flung as Shanghai, London and Abu Dhabi and its partner Essence Development came up with a proposal to demolish the projects

They would then rebuild and replace low income, city owned structures with a brand new 3500-unit complex, where 2,625 units, 75% of the total, would be market-rate rentals.

Related rationale is that the buildings are in poor condition and renovations would cost \$1 billion.

The development is part of a shift in how the city wants to finance its public housing. The largest public housing authority in North America, NYCHA began on the Lower East Side in 1934 when Fiorello LaGuardia was mayor and the depression saw mass evictions of destitute renters. The Authority has grown to house 360,000 New Yorkers in 335 public housing developments. NYCHA also administers the Section 8 program, subsidizing rent for another 235,000 New Yorkers.

The federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD came up with an initiative to turn over much of the city’s public housing stock to private developers

who would receive vouchers for poor tenants.

The HUD initiative is called “Pact-Rad,” neatly packaging the tongue-twister full name of the initiative, the Permanent Affordability Commitment Together-Rental Assistance Demonstration.

More than 36,000 NYCHA apartments have either been converted or are on their way to being converted to Pact-Rad. Billions of dollars have been raised to repair city housing under the scheme according to officials.

Opposition to the conversion among tenants was sparked when NYCHA announced a “residents survey” last spring. Prepared with input from a not-for-profit headed by Howard Slatkin, a former executive at the Department of City Planning.

Claiming an “unprecedented outreach effort,” NYCHA says more than half of tenants who took the survey approved their plan. But there have been doubts of the fairness of the survey from the start. The Legal Aid Society and Community Service Society denounced the vote, saying it was “in violation of principles,” and “misleading.”

Low Income Tenants Say They Belong in Chelsea

The coterie of tenants from the two projects rallying outside the CB4 meeting say they are being left out of decision making and that their needs, including preserving their community, are being bum-rushed in the haste to demolish their homes.

21 years ago, tenant Jacquelyn Lara says she was living in a homeless shelter, “when we moved in it looked like condos.” Another resident held an electric pink sign, “These buildings are not deteriorating, take a look yourselves,” it read. Several had t-shirts emblazoned No Demolitions, as a slogan. Lara says she can’t trust the city, “we were the last to know,” that there was a demolition plan.” Asked about the promise to rebuild, Lara scoffed, “that’s the promise, I don’t believe it.”

Lara admits the Chelsea neighborhood where the projects are located is “rich.” The federal government in the 1940s was already criticizing the Chelsea site as too expensive. But Lara fondly remembers the annual Pride Parade that passes by her home, and the feeling of belonging that brings. She adds, “I belong here too, even though I’m low income, I belong here.”

Whether NYCHA agrees is yet to be seen.

Robert F Kennedy, Jr.'s Open Letter To The DNC:

Dear Chairman Harrison and Members of the DNC,

I know some of you well. A few of you are among my oldest friends. Others of you I have never met. But all of you are my family, as public servants and fellow Americans.

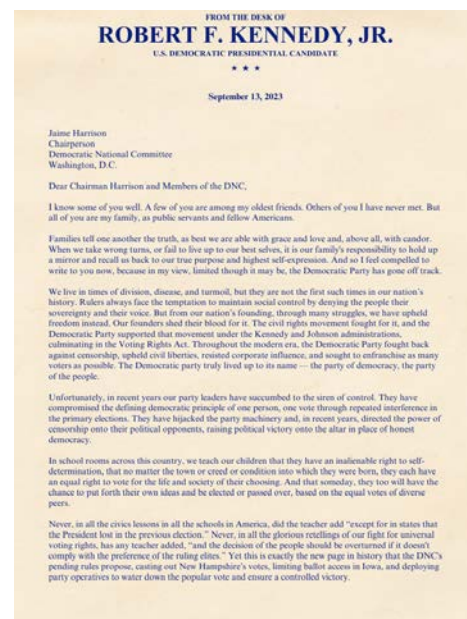
Families tell one another the truth, as best we are able with grace and love and, above all, with candor. When we take wrong turns, or fail to live up to our best selves, it is our family's responsibility to hold up a mirror and recall us back to our true purpose and highest self-expression. And so I feel compelled to write to you now, because in my view, limited though it may be, the Democratic Party has gone off track.

We live in times of division, disease, and turmoil, but they are not the first such times in our nation's history. Rulers always face the temptation to maintain social control by denying the people their sovereignty and their voice. But from our nation's founding, through many struggles, we have upheld freedom instead. Our founders shed their blood for it. The civil rights movement fought for it, and the Democratic Party supported that movement under the Kennedy and Johnson administrations, culminating in the Voting Rights Act. Throughout the modern era, the Democratic Party fought back against censorship, upheld civil liberties, resisted corporate influence, and sought to enfranchise as many voters as possible. The Democratic party truly lived up to its name — the party of democracy, the party of the people.

Unfortunately, in recent years our party leaders have succumbed to the siren of control. They have compromised the defining democratic principle of one person, one vote through repeated interference in the primary elections. They have hijacked the party machinery and, in recent years, directed the power of censorship onto their political opponents, raising political victory onto the altar in place of honest democracy.

In school rooms across this country,

we teach our children that they have an inalienable right to self-determination, that no matter the town or creed or condition into which they were born, they each have an equal right to vote for the life and society of their choosing. And that someday, they too will have the chance to put forth their own ideas and be elected or passed over, based on the equal votes of diverse peers.

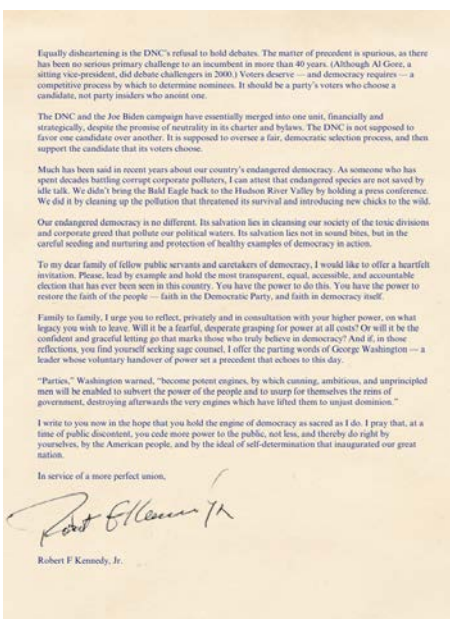


Never, in all the civics lessons in all the schools in America, did the teacher add “except for in states that the President lost in the previous election.” Never, in all the glorious re-tellings of our fight for universal voting rights, has any teacher added, “and the decision of the people should be overturned if it doesn’t comply with the preference of the ruling elites.” Yet this is exactly the new page in history that the DNC’s pending rules propose, casting out New Hampshire’s votes, limiting ballot access in Iowa, and deploying party operatives to water down the popular vote and ensure a controlled victory.

Equally disheartening is the DNC’s refusal to hold debates. The matter of precedent is spurious, as there has been no serious primary challenge to an incumbent

in more than 40 years. (Although Al Gore, a sitting vice-president, did debate challengers in 2000.) Voters deserve — and democracy requires — a competitive process by which to determine nominees. It should be a party’s voters who choose a candidate, not party insiders who anoint one.

The DNC and the Joe Biden campaign have essentially merged into one unit,



financially and strategically, despite the promise of neutrality in its charter and bylaws. The DNC is not supposed to favor one candidate over another. It is supposed to oversee a fair, democratic selection process, and then support the candidate that its voters choose.

Much has been said in recent years about our country’s endangered democracy. As someone who has spent decades battling corrupt corporate polluters, I can attest that endangered species are not saved by idle talk. We didn’t bring the Bald Eagle back to the Hudson River Valley by holding a press conference. We did it by cleaning up the pollution that threatened its survival and introducing new chicks to the wild.

Our endangered democracy is no different. Its salvation lies in cleansing our society of

the toxic divisions and corporate greed that pollute our political waters. Its salvation lies not in sound bites, but in the careful seeding and nurturing and protection of healthy examples of democracy in action.

To my dear family of fellow public servants and caretakers of democracy, I would like to offer a heartfelt invitation. Please, lead by example and hold the most transparent, equal, accessible, and accountable election that has ever been seen in this country. You have the power to do this. You have the power to restore the faith of the people — faith in the Democratic Party, and faith in democracy itself.

Family to family, I urge you to reflect, privately and in consultation with your higher power, on what legacy you wish to leave. Will it be a fearful, desperate grasping for power at all costs? Or will it be the confident and graceful letting go that marks those who truly believe in democracy? And if, in those reflections, you find yourself seeking sage counsel, I offer the parting words of George Washington — a leader whose voluntary handover of power set a precedent that echoes to this day.

“Parties,” Washington warned, “become potent engines, by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.”

I write to you now in the hope that you hold the engine of democracy as sacred as I do. I pray that, at a time of public discontent, you cede more power to the public, not less, and thereby do right by yourselves, by the American people, and by the ideal of self-determination that inaugurated our great nation.

In service of a more perfect union,

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

ENDANGERED DEMOCRACY - WHO CHANGED THE RULES? WHAT IS THE LAW? ...

By Kelly Gallagher

Marketing, Advertising, Promotion and PR is all just a way to say persuasive writing or more succinctly...propaganda. Depending on whether you live in a “free” country or a communist country the information or the veil might be slightly different.

I was a Promo writer/producer for Network Television. I know this.

Americans need to open their eyes and realize winning is not more important than our freedom and democracy. Our Democratic politics have turned into winning at all costs. Lying, cheating and more lying and cheating have become the

norm. Democrats hate Trump so much that they don’t care how they get rid of him. That mindset could backfire down the road when or if the tables turn and you have

might get in trouble if I talk.” Really? Who is the President of the United States taking orders from? That is what we should all be worried about. Who is controlling Biden?

“We didn’t bring the Bald Eagle back to the Hudson River Valley by holding a press conference. We did it by cleaning up the pollution that threatened its survival and introducing new chicks to the wild.”
RFK Jr.

set cheating as the standard. We all know President Biden isn’t running the country. He tells us that every time he gets up at the podium and says, “I’m just taking orders or I

We know Biden isn’t running himself. We also know the DNC want to hold onto power so desperately that they will forgo a fair and free election.

I have been a Democrat for most of my life. I can’t sit still knowing that the DNC won’t even acknowledge the fact that Robert F. Kennedy Jr., longtime political royalty is running for President. They have spent their time figuring out ways to keep candidates off the ballot, off the TV set and now they are spending their time re-writing the history of elections.

Does anyone besides me smell Communism headed our way?

When did observation, scientific studies, research, dissenting views, debating topics, and free speech become anti-American?

New York State Board Of Elections

“DO YOUR JOB, PLEASE!”

By Marilyn Hornik

New York Citizens Audit today publicly called on the New York Board of Elections Commissioners to “Do Your Job, Please!” in response to what is termed NYSBOE’s inattentiveness, lethargy and abandonment of their sworn duty to uphold the law and maintain voter rolls that are lawfully accurate beyond question. NY Citizens Audit has identified issues in the voter rolls affecting 5,142,950 possible registration violations, and 745,294 possible voting violations that need to be reconciled.

NY Citizens Audit Executive Director Marly Hornik stated that “This is a very serious but totally non-partisan effort. Either you believe in the law or you do not. If the voter rolls are not maintained beyond questionable integrity as required by the law, we really do not have a democratic society, and America certainly cannot hold itself out to be a beacon of liberty in the world. Before New York voters go to vote again, these issues must be resolved. The rolls must be rock solid. Otherwise, the voters are wasting their time in going through an exercise that is mocking democracy. It is mocking each voter. That’s not the America we deserve and it is squarely in the hands of the NYSBOE Commissioners to investigate.”

NY Citizens Audit provided NYSBOE with substantial documented evidence of massive anomalies in the voter registration rolls in May of 2022 and filed a formal complaint with the Division of Election Law Enforcement in August 2023. Since then, NYSBOE has done nothing to investigate the issues, has misrepresented that it



Image via Pixabay.

never received any documented information about the issues, and went so far as to discuss having NY Citizens Audit personnel arrested in reaction to public calls seeking clarification of serious problems in the voter rolls which NYSBOE is charged to manage under New York and Federal law.

This summer NYSBOE disclosed that, rather than investigating issues in the voter rolls brought to its attention, it filed complaints with the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and local law

enforcement in addition to issuing a media alert designed to intimidate the public against cooperating with voter registration inquiries. NY Citizens Audit has called for public disclosure of these complaints, public accounting for the alleged investigations of the complaints and continuously has called out the apparent issues with the voter rolls, seeking investigation of specific issues it has brought to NYSBOE’s attention. Hornik described the situation as, “It is simply amazing that NYSBOE has disclosed nothing as to what it is doing to reconcile

and explain to the public what are apparent serious anomalies in the voter rolls, yet it can shake off its lethargy ‘in a New York minute’ to engage an all-out effort to intimidate the public so these issues can hide in the shadows. There is something very wrong here.”

“There is nothing more fundamental to America than a fair, legal system of elections. To ignore obvious issues in the voter rolls and refuse to investigate is a complete derogation of the duty and a disregard of the Commissioners’ sworn duty and legal requirement in the oath required by Article XIII, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution. That oath is not a joke, nor should it be viewed as such.”

NYSBOE is statutorily charged with maintaining the voter rolls. NY Citizens Audit Legislative Director Steve Gillan believes voter registration is, “Essential to maintaining the integrity of New York’s voting system and America’s democratic political system. That is why under New York law, citizens have a statutory right to inspect the voter rolls. That right is worthless if the NYSBOE ignores the anomalies evident to anyone who examines the rolls.”

Gillan is shocked but not surprised at what he describes as “NYSBOE’s standing in front of a dumpster fire and ignoring a call to the fire department.” Hornik added: “Anyone’s first priority would be to show some concern about the integrity of the voter rolls, and the public is paying these Commissioners while they are doing the exact opposite. I think they have forgotten they work for the public. Hunkering down and attacking the messenger is not the right attitude.”

NY Citizens Audit Responds to Statements by Suffolk Officials

By Marilyn Hornik

NY Citizens Audit joins in the recent calls from the Chairmen of the two major political parties in Suffolk County to address the recent news stories regarding impersonation of County Board of Elections officials. NY Citizens Audit shares their concerns about voter suppression and like these two Chairmen, finds that any acts of voter suppression are intolerable.

NY Citizens Audit Executive Director Marly Hornik commented, “I will take the Chairmen at their word that they are concerned with voter suppression. But their announcement makes no sense. They seem so hysterical about anonymous accusations that, without any information or proof, they are terming people ‘criminals’ and inciting the public. This makes no sense when 5 million egregious documented anomalies already exist in the voter rolls and no one really cares. I have not heard these Chairmen

urge Suffolk BOE to investigate this situation. I have not heard these Chairmen urge NYSBOE to investigation this situation. That avoidance could be viewed as irresponsible and seems to contradict their professed concern with voter suppression.”

Without lawfully compliant voter rolls, a legal certification of an election is highly questionable and may even be illegal. “Apparently these Chairmen have overlooked the importance of verifiable voter rolls and their importance to elections certification and voter suppression, although I do not see how they could avoid the elephant in the room.” Hornik commented.

For over a year NY Citizens Audit has attempted to get the Suffolk BOE and NYSBOE to investigate the over 5 million voter anomalies in voter registration rolls. In May of 2022 it provided documentation of its concerns to Suffolk BOE and NYSBOE. There has been no response and even false

statements that NY Citizens Audit has provided no documentation.

NY Citizens Audit’s position is that these anomalies are serious threats to the integrity of voting in New York and must be investigated. NY Citizens Audit further agrees with the two Chairmen in their view that “voting is the most important right we have to select our government representatives and insure our freedoms and liberties.” However, NY Citizens Audit Legislative Director Steve Gillan commented, “NY Citizens Audit is bewildered why these two Chairmen are focusing on undocumented accusations, and irresponsibly terming the accusations as ‘criminal behavior,’ when they have not shown they know anything about what happened. Suffolk BOE and NYSBOE have refused to release any information other than intimidating characterizations of anonymous alleged behavior in statewide

press releases. That is just irresponsible, if not their announcements are intentional diversions from what seems to be the intolerable state of the voter rolls. What we do know, however, is that Suffolk BOE and NYSBOE have been sitting on documented anomalies in the voter rolls for over a year and have done nothing with it. If there is a case of potential egregious voter suppression, this is it.”

NY Citizens Audit has called for the Chairmen to join in their concern for clean voter rolls, and are anxious for an expression of concern for what may seem to be a major problem. NY Citizens Audit Director Kim Hermance further commented: “Unless the voter rolls are certifiably sound, election procedures in New York are making a mockery of citizens’ efforts to exercise their basic right to vote. Where is the concern for this? We hope that responsible officials will wake up and do their jobs.”

Is the Bubble about to Burst? Where do bubbles come from anyway?

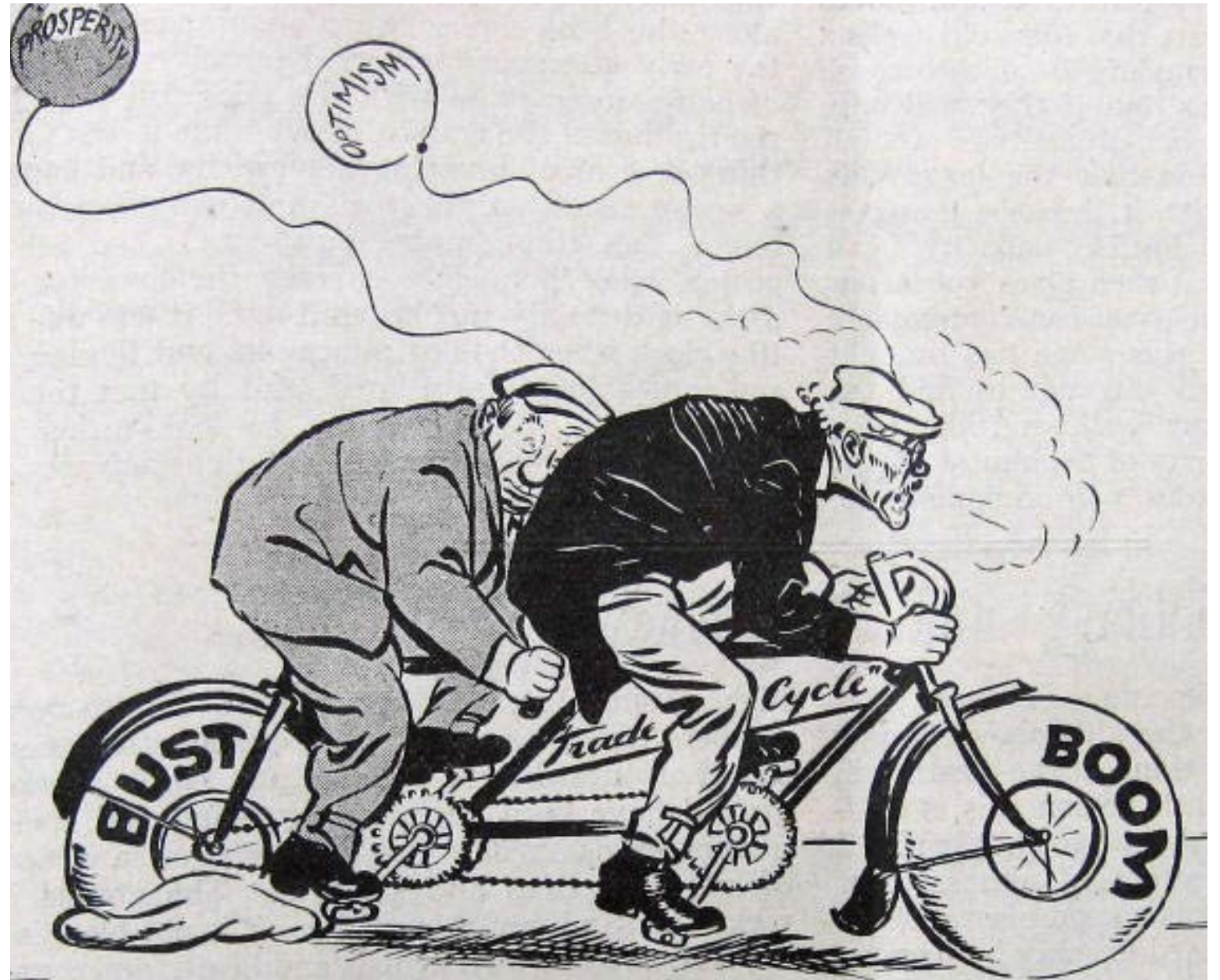
By James Henry

With storms clouds looming over the economy, evidence of over-heated, over inflated markets are forming. Many analysts believe we are on the edge of a bubble that's about to deflate. Having lived through these booms and busts before should make us step back and ask... where do these bubbles come from? Clearly not all entrepreneurs are successful all the time but why is it that periodically, all of a sudden, they all go bankrupt? Who or what is behind this economic mystery variously labeled the economic cycle, the business cycle, the trade cycle, booms and busts, bonanzas followed by bankruptcies?

The answer to this question lies at the heart of how our banking and monetary system works. In the past people used all variety of things as money, but typically settled on gold and silver, as they had the most money-ish qualities. These qualities being acceptability, portability, divisibility, fungibility and store of value. Over time people started storing their money with goldsmiths for safe keeping who gave them paper receipts in return, IOU's to pick up their money at a later time (bailment contract). Overtime, the goldsmiths became bankers and began issuing more IOU's than actual money deposited. This practice, legalized by the monarchs of Europe (in return for lots of loans of course) can be termed the fractional reserve banking system. It's called this because when you deposit money in a bank, they only keep a fraction on hand and loan the rest out and the interest on that loan is their profit. Over time, banks became the masters of the economy and society, replacing the church, monarchies and aristocracy.

That's wonderful and all but what about the bubbles you may ask?!?!

The answer is as follows. When banks loan out someone's checking account deposit



to others to buy houses, car etc. both of these people think they have use of that same money. As more money is dished out into the economy as a result of bank credit expansion, where ever that new money is spent, prices rise, materials prices rise and we have a boom on our hands. Prices begin to rise and entrepreneurs calculate they can make some serious money in these booming

industries. But at some point prices outstrip what the market can bear and eventually we have a bust on our hands. The house of cards falls and depression sets in. Governments, egged on by banks, rush to plug the holes with more, you guessed it, borrowed money, for guess who, the banks, and nothing improves.

The business cycle plays havoc on the price

system, makes it hard for entrepreneurs to forecast their probability of success and inhibits regular people's ability to save for the future. To truly put an end to this cycle of crisis, distorted prices (which only rise of course) and economic chaos, we must fundamentally reform the banking system. Money must return to a means of exchange, not a parasitic means to an end.

How Much is WestView Worth?

Our loyal readers have been very generous in the past few years when we have solicited help to keep WestView alive. The one-time contributions have helped enormously! However, we've discovered a new platform that will enable you to create a consistent monthly donation, establishing contributors as true patrons, sponsoring the ongoing support of WestView's efforts.

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Where Did Our Private Money System Come From?



By Sue Peters

She Peters has been a long-time resident of Manhattan. She worked for 37 years in computer technology, designing data systems. Her longest job was as an associate VP for a Wall St. bank, where she learned about the monetary system by designing accounting systems.

*Sue is a member of the American Monetary Institute (AMI). In 2002, the founder of AMI, Stephen Zarlenga, published an influential book, *The Lost Science of Money*, detailing the history of money in our world. In 2011, Representative Dennis Kucinich, working with the AMI, introduced a monetary reform act into congressional committee, the NEED ACT, HR 2990.*

Our entire economy is dependent on private commercial banks to create our money. Repeat slowly: whenever a commercial bank signs a loan contract with a borrower, the private bank has a legal right to CREATE the loan principal as a

deposit in the borrower's account, charge interest on it, and take the loan collateral if the borrower defaults!

This private money creation causes:

(1) depression: When a borrower pays off his loan principal, the bank erases ("extinguishes") the principal amount from its bookkeeping. This means it no longer exists. The money supply of the country is less. During the Great Depression of the 1930's, so many banks failed (which meant their money was "extinguished") that there was hardly any money circulating. Hunger, starvation, poverty, unemployment was everywhere.

(2) inflation: When the banks create too many loans, there is too much money circulating, compared to the available goods and services. Prices rise.

(3) concentration of wealth: Since the banks decide who will get loans, they decide the people and corporations that will be empowered. Look around and see who the private bankers support: weapons manufacturers, multinational corporations, speculators in the stock, bond, and other financial markets.

Where did this corrupting system come from? The following history comes from the book, *The Lost Science of Money: The Mythology of Money – the Story of Power*, by Stephen Zarlenga. The author researched the history of money for 11 years, going to source materials in many libraries. Since the history of money has always been a struggle between public versus private control of a society, private forces have always hidden behind a wall of secrecy, false narrative, and manipulation of written history. Here are

some researched facts from the book:

- For most of Western history, the power of money creation was found in government authority, whether the Roman Republic, the Byzantine Emperor in Constantinople, or Europe's Kings. The money was created as an asset to the society.
- Author Zarlenga goes back to Aristotle for the legal definition of money: "Money exists not by nature but by law." (Ethics, 1133) To Aristotle, money isn't a commodity that comes out of a mine or a farm. It comes from the law. Zarlenga's historical research showed that when a society used government fiat money, the distribution of wealth to all members of the society tended to be more just. In other words, the problem is not fiat money, but privately issued fiat money.
- Since English money was kept scarce in our American colonies, the colonial legislatures began to issue fiat paper currency as a means of exchange. Through experience, the legislatures learned what amount of public money would bring price stability. The paper currency circulated and was accepted back for taxes. To protect their public money system, the colonists would not allow any private banks in the colonies.
- This principle of government-issued money is firmly anchored in our U.S. Constitution. The U.S. Constitution, Article I, Section 8, Clause 5: "The

Congress shall have Power . . . To coin Money, regulate the Value thereof, and of foreign Coin. . ." When the Constitution was written, lowercase 'coin' meant to create both coin and paper currency.

- The control of a nation's money supply was first accomplished in 1694 when financiers created the private Bank of England. (The name hid the private ownership.) By bribing Parliament with a loan of gold to wage war (the beginning of the national debt), the Bank of England got a charter with the power to create private money and loan it out at interest. The government accepted it for taxes and paid expenses with it! Over time, the private banks became the sole issuer of the nation's money supply.
- So begins the ugly secret of private bank money funding wars and growing national debt. This is also the ugly history of the U.S. Federal Reserve monetary system, which began operating in November 1914, just in time for World War I. The bank money funded the war and the U.S. national debt increased from \$1 billion in November 1916 to \$27 billion at the end of the war.

SOURCE: *Peters, Susan. "DEBT DRIVES WAR AND WAR DRIVES DEBT: The Powers of Bank Credit Creation during World War I." Valatie, New York: American Monetary Institute, 2019.*

Let's Learn What CBDC Is

By Sue Peters

You probably have read or heard about CBDC – Central Bank Digital Currency. But what is it and is it good for our nation? To understand CBDC, we need to examine our U.S. central bank – the Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve is composed of 12 regional Federal Reserve Banks [Fed Banks]. Here in New York City, we have the NY Fed Bank, the most powerful.

You may be incredulous when I say: each Fed Bank is a private corporation. They are not owned by our national government. So who owns the shares in these corporations? Answer: all the shares of a Fed Bank are owned by the private commercial banks that are members of that Fed Bank. For example, in 2006, the NY Fed's shares were 50% owned by JP Morgan Chase bank, and 23% by Citibank. Those figures are from a 2006 report from the NY Fed itself. We citizens are not allowed to own any shares.

But, you say, our money is created by our government in Washington! That is not true, except for the coins which our U.S. Treasury still mints and spends into circulation.

So who creates our money today? Buckle

up. In our money system, there are two types of money (and this is important to understand since it is fundamental to making a judgment about CBDCs).

According to the 1913 Federal Reserve Law, the 12 private Fed Banks have the power to create "reserve money". I want some, you say! No, you cannot own reserve money. It can only be owned by member commercial banks, who use it to settle nightly accounts with each other.

So, today, where does citizens' money – checking account money – come from? Answer: the money in your bank account was created by a commercial bank. "Hogwash! Crazy!" you exclaim. Sad but true. We Americans have been deceived about money.

The first commercial banks were chartered by state legislatures, starting in the first decade of our new country. The charter gave the new corporation the right to create a deposit in its customer's account, when the customer signed a loan agreement with the bank. The deposit equaled the loan amount, i.e. 'loan principal'. Of course, the borrower must pay off not only the loan amount, but the interest charged by the bank. And, if the borrower failed to pay off the loan, the loan

collateral was taken over by the bank!

When I think about this legal delegation of power to private corporations, I call it immoral. Especially since our U.S. Constitution gives the power to create U.S. money to Congress ONLY. See Article I, Section 8, Clause 5: "The Congress shall have power...To coin Money" Back when the Constitution was written, a lower-case verb 'to coin' meant to create all money, whether paper currency or coin, spending it into the economy for the general welfare.).

All the private commercial banks, from the inception of our country to the present, have been given these incredible powers. This is true of your commercial bank too. Can you now understand why our country is in trouble? This rotten system causes the following. Think about this:

- Why does Congress allow the banks to create our money for profit?
- Why is our national government borrowing money (currently U.S. national debt is \$32 trillion!) instead of constitutionally creating it as an asset to our nation, not debt?
- Why the extreme inequality of both income and wealth distribution among our citizens?

- Why are 50 million Americans living in poverty?

CONCLUSION: Knowing now the nature of this corrupt private system, intentionally hidden away from public understanding, please question all the hype surrounding the introduction of a CBDC. Some citizens have warned: (1) physical cash will be removed and therefore our right to transaction privacy. (2) The Fed will know all your digital transactions and may restrict what you spend your money on.

But, you say, it is the government that will be wielding this authority, not the Fed. Understand that government has been controlled by the bankers for a long time. The bankers are the largest lobby in Congress. The bankers determine if our economy has enough money, too much money (inflation), or too little money (deflation). In 2020, Fed governor Ben Bernanke apologized to the American people for the Federal Reserve System causing the 1930's Great Depression! He said: "We did it. We are very sorry."

Source 1:
<https://monetary.org/articles/97-is-the-federal-reserve-system-a-governmental-or-a-privately-controlled-organization/>

Remembrance of Involuntary Servitudes Past,



Robert Reiss and his grandmother visiting him in prison 1973. Photo by unknown prisoner.

Prisoner Number 78612

By Robert Reiss

Below, WestView News publishes a noteworthy contribution to the literature of writings by the incarcerated. Written by Robert Reiss, the then 22yr old in 1973. This snippet of his prison experience of a half century ago, commenced right here in our West Village at the former West Street Prison, a few steps away from Westbeth Artist Houses. Reading this we encounter revelation into the experience of "Serving Time" with a perhaps unexpected arcadian cadence and perspective, for sure.

Editor

It was 50 years ago this summer that I was a federal prisoner, sentenced to 6 months for publicly refusing to register for the Vietnam era military-draft. "Conduct your unjust war with one less soldier" I'd told the government. (When I became a prisoner I was 21 years old and my 22nd birthday was celebrated in Jail.)

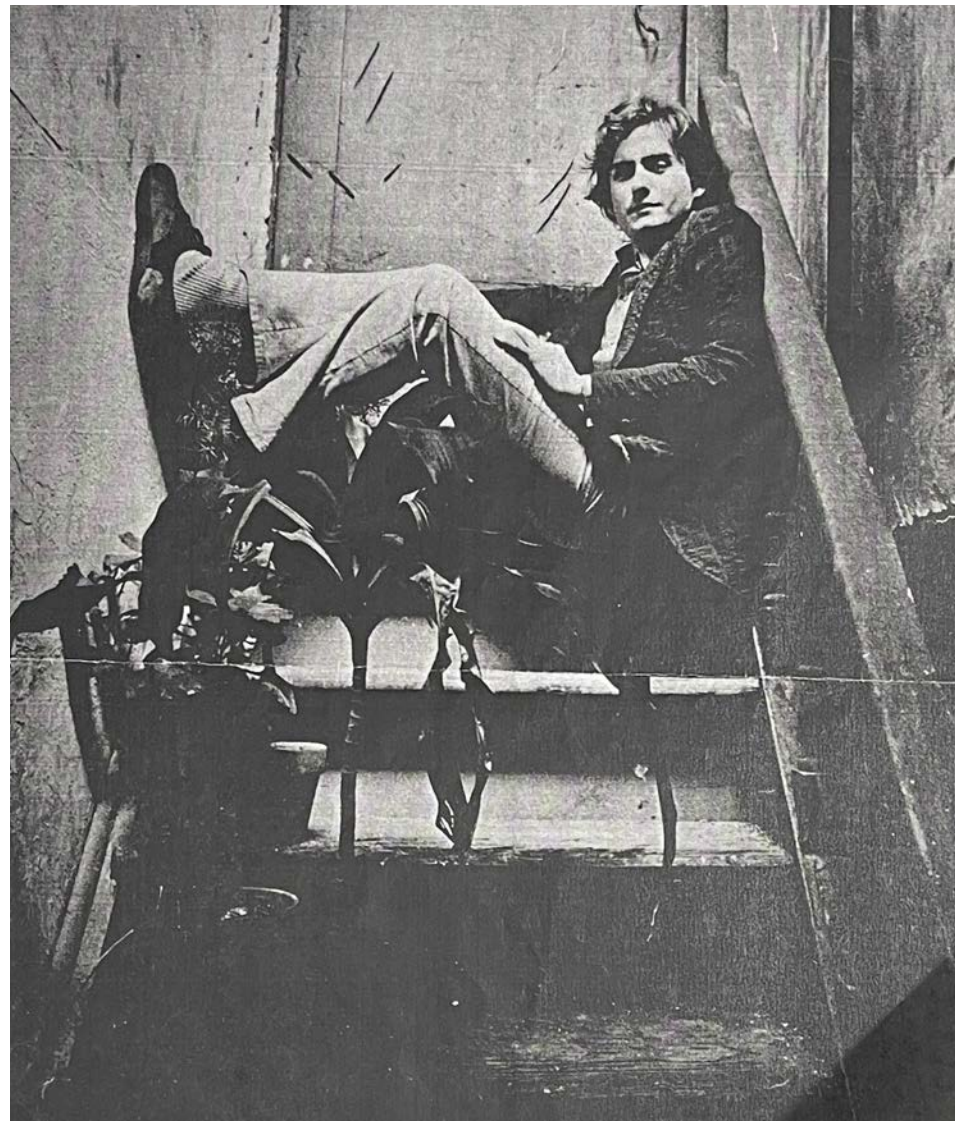
My time in prison began right here in the Village, to be exact the West Village: at the now long gone federal detention facility on West 11th St - the building later converted to a prime real estate luxury residential building -on the roof of which guards once manned machine guns, while convicts exercised under the sun.

From there I was, after about 2 weeks, transported to the Pennsylvania, Allenwood Federal Prison for "minimum security" prisoners nestled in an outdoors landscape, a vast valley in central PA.

Some years later President Carter on his first day in office issued his historic first executive act: the controversial pardoning of draft resisters like myself who'd served time in prison. The federal prosecutor of record, West Village resident US Attorney Whitney North Seymour Jr. later told me directly "You were right and we were wrong!" I accepted his straightforwardly proffered apology to me when we met decades later in the Jefferson Market Library at one of his talks on the poet he loved so much, Villager Edna St.Vincent Millay (whom my grandmother herself had known in the village).

Mr. Seymour also said to me that he thought I was probably the very last young man to have been sent to prison for openly declining to participate in the Vietnam war conviction.

I'd been visited, separated by a glass barrier, by my grandmother the artist Sarah McPherson, who having resided at 269 W 4th st, and Perry, for 50 years, a villager who arrived during the bohemian heyday of Greenwich Village's storied history. Even at her advanced age she found it possible to see me inside the nearby federal



Robert Reiss interior Washington Square Methodist Church, Greenwich Village Peace Center "The Walls are Closing In". Photo credit: Steve Myers

detention center, before my relocation to Pennsylvania, where she also visited me during my sentence.

As you read, take note of the fact that the picture I portray of prison life is rendered arcadian, and pastoral effects abound; for the sake of my grandmother, I avoided putting in a letter that in prison-be it at maximum, medium, or in minimum-there is always the ever present, menacing undercurrent projected by both the convicts and the prison officers alike.

Incidentally, the reference below to "French lessons" is in regards to informal tutorials, offered by imprisoned "French Connection" characters, some of whom I encountered serving their American sentences along side me "inside," they who would then go in to France to serve their French prison sentences for heroin smuggling and distribution.

So, here is the carceral scene from one young persons' experience of that 1973 Summer and Fall, of an exact half century ago:

Dearest Grandmother,

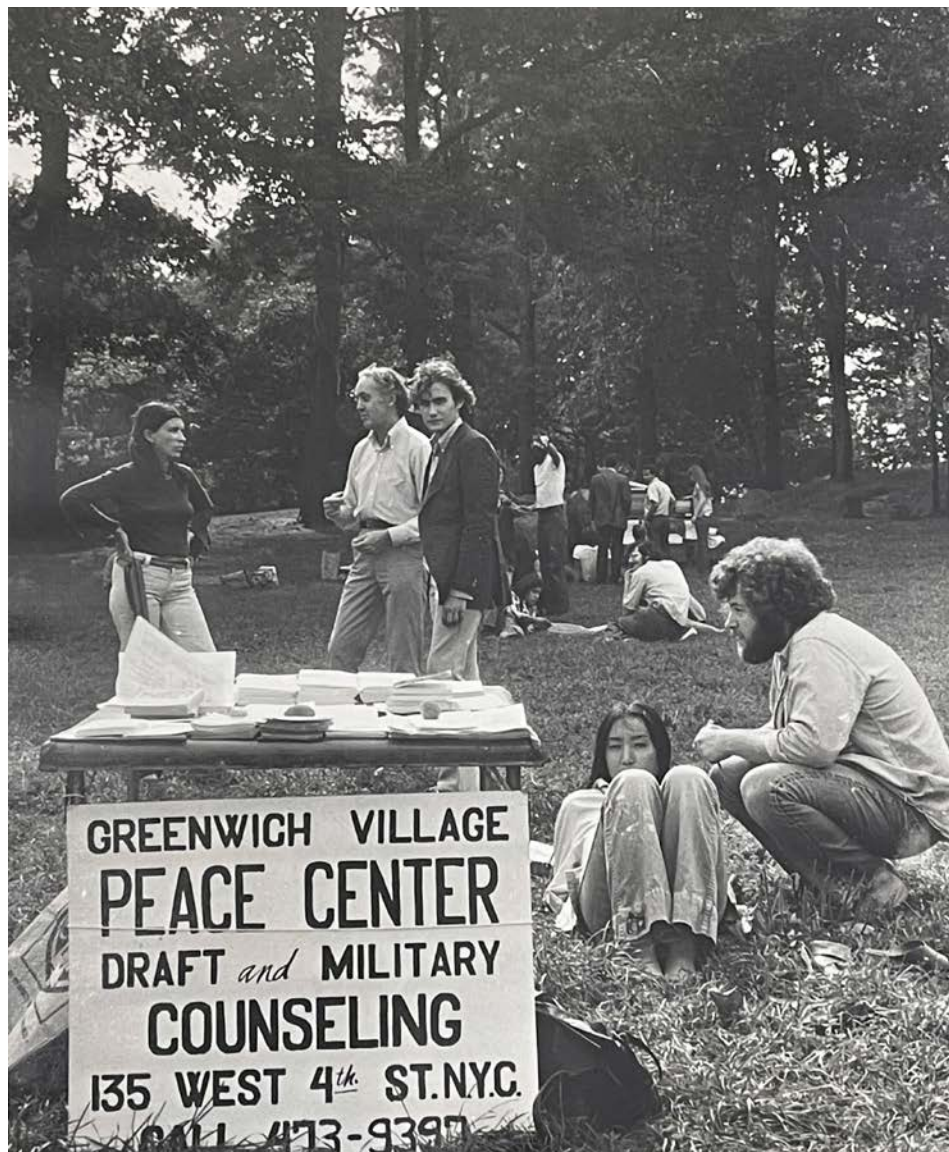
You can't possibly imagine how fully different a place this prison is from the Manhattan Federal detention center. My "dormitory" is the oldest of 3 inmate dwellings, a green and white painted slab

- sided building of possibly ranch house aspect where live about 100 people-we're "numbers" as the penal hierarchy thinks of us: I am 78612-REISS. Well, I can't as of yet attest to my soul exalting in prison confinement, my ears do delight in the ever congressing accents and idiolect's, for every part of our great land is met here. I have encountered a Canadian, and a Frenchman who is giving French tutorials to those who would think of Allenwood as a university of sorts.

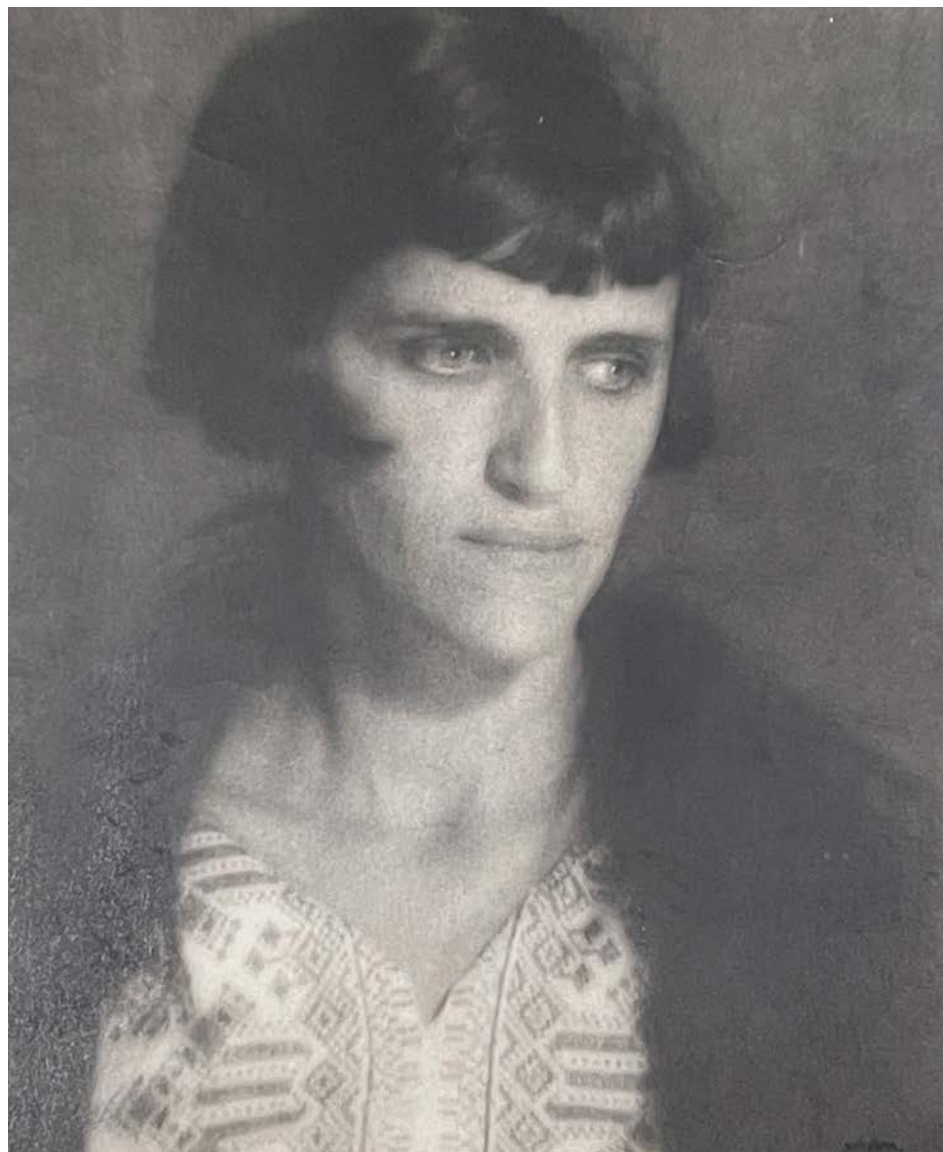
I remember the dissident priest Fr. Daniel Berrigan telling me that while Danbury Connecticut prison had a better "math department," Allenwood, as a University of sorts in his mind, excelled in it's "English department." Here the class song I am told, and as it was sung for me is: Allenwood, oh Allenwood, I'll forever be true to thee / oh I'll do mine and you'll do yours, and some day we may all be free.

All about the valley surge a surrounding fringe of mountains, it's vital peaks are like the tips of hands praying for an end to war and an end to prison. The woolley green front slopes of these mountains are stained prettily with the shadows of the beautiful formations of clouds and seem fixed onto the opulent expanse of the valley. This is by mid day and during the main of each summer afternoon. Earlier, around 5:30 in

By An American Veteran - of -Conscience



Robert Reiss and Greenwich Village Peace activists 1972. Photo credit: Karl Bissinger



Portrait of the artist Sarah McPherson by Man Ray, Paris 1924

the AM when I awake for work an exquisite mist is seemingly exhaled all about the edge of our valley as if it were some vaporous divinity keeping the length of mountains veiled from human view - a view which the sunshine will later restore to the sublime.

We return to our dwelling 3 times throughout the day to be counted by the forbidding prison guards. Those who "count the cattle" attain our silence for this practice by booming abruptly into our midst with the almost operatically delivered: "count time!" These dour officials do secure in us an anxiety of quiet and suspension of movement very like a parent calling into a playground of hyper - active kids "cookie time!" The guards counting us so often get mathematically confounded that we are frequently recounted. I have heard that at one of the federal rehabilitation centers for youthful offenders there is a particular guard who has such trouble counting he has a load of pebbles in his trousers pockets and pebble by pebble he shifts each one from one pocket into another as he walks by each prisoner during his count. I am reminded by this of one of the serio-comic interludes in one of the plays written by Samuel Beckett.

In place of the green uniforms you saw being worn in the Manhattan detention center, here, most wear grey sets of pants and shirts, basically army garb ironically for

me, who did so much to have nothing to do with the army. My job of cleaning after the days 3 meals has me clad in "Kitchen Whites," a no less monotonous outfit though for me truly less dispiriting. I just got this work detail: before I was a part of this, the dining room crew, I was for 3 weeks on the light construction detail and for 3 sorrowful weeks, I cut weeds, filled in holes in the paths, with rocks, and did other needless chores invented solely to keep us with repentant work to do. We uprooted all flowers...for a prison must have no overt loveliness. Or rather, what loveliness it can suppress it will suppress.

While on the construction detail, we drove about the land during which adventures we could glimpse herds of deer and the prisons' dozens of cows being driven by prisoner's riding on horseback and we saw lots of baby rabbits, a large pond of bathing ducks and Canadian geese flying overhead, and old capacious tumble - down barns.

In one of the newer dormitories there is an open center of grass with holly trees. The men in this space sunbathe in the summertime; some have painted easel paintings; the sides of this charmed enclave have propped against them these paintings of inmates. It's almost an open air art exhibition and it is here where some of the

Inmates have left carrots and lettuce for a baby rabbit who lives in a crack under the concrete wall.

Each day I would approach the rabbit where it laid in the sun and each day I could venture closer to the little tweed hued beauty, but it would always twist in alarm and fling it's legs into the prison air and scud as fast as the twinkling of the eye back into it's own solitary confinement, or , in prison parlance "the hole."

I also discovered in this patch of paradise for animals, a large turtle, two speckled toads, and I hear there was a domesticated ground squirrel here at one time.

Have I called it paradise?

The prisoners plan to eventually eat the rabbit, eat the turtle, eat the toads and the squirrel. They are being fattened up.

To know what really obtains in the prison one always needs to do a psychological double take. (One is hyper-alert 24-7.)

In prison, I'm not immune to feeling, as so many inmates do, and always - surprisingly- to themselves- will feel, a revivification of lived life.

Prison, perhaps is like what the writer Nathaniel Hawthorne said of the utopian experiment of Brookfarm, in his novel *The Blithedale Romance*; "O, like a dream, yet a reality," and this is so because coexistent with each prisoner's confrontation with all that is abject in the subjugation of his

body and soul, there often is a remarkable fellowship which elevates an appreciation of an immanent life force. Indeed, civilities and courtesies exchanged as a matter of course here are remarkable, even by the most exalted standards of normal civilization.

For you could say, the crooks are "the best" of their kind, federal not merely state guarded.

The black bank robbers have felt compelled to cut loose from the ghetto even by the most desperate urging of their unrestful hopes. The war resisters are vigorous partisans of a robust optimism. In all I am moved to feel the abjection and elevation gather into this imposing dream-reality that I guess is the torturous essence of any coerced communal confinement.

An older war resister I have become friendly towards is a Quaker from Philly, a former elementary school teacher. Two days ago we went on the lawn behind the house we live in, and we found an abandoned army shed with sporting gear inside with a croquet set and now I've played my first ever game of croquet, on the prison lawn of a summers verdant afternoon.

I await your visit this coming fall my dear grandmother, much Love,

Robert (78612 - REISS)

For more go to Columbia University Oral History Project, Reiss Interview.

Back To School Guide To Greenwich Village

Reformative Education In Greenwich Village

By Dawn Lesley Stewart and Zola Oyer

Something was missing in the New York City education scene when I founded Perry School in 2001.

Namely, attention dedicated towards early childhood development was sparse at best. There were some daycares, yes, but they were more focused on keeping the children entertained and contained rather than exploring the limitless possibility of joyful learning in all areas of early childhood. I saw a pressing need to raise the bar and give young children their right to be intellectually, physically and socially superb. In keeping with ground breaking spirit of Greenwich Village educators that paved the way for progressive education in America, I made it my mission to be at the forefront of innovative and more effective methods of teaching.

I was in the heart of the historic progressive Greenwich Village, my fellow organizations inspired by the likes of renowned philosopher and educational reformer John Dewey;

Caroline Pratt, who created City and Country School in 1914, set forth on her endeavor that encouraged a flexible child centered curriculum. Little Red Schoolhouse, which recently celebrated its 100th birthday with a new playground, was founded by Elisabeth Irwin with the intent to get children to engage in the world around them, and validated childhood as its own experience. Young children are extremely intelligent, but many spend their early childhood years as if they are not. This is where I saw my opportunity to change the educational landscape in New York. I opted for a soothing earth-toned color palette and developed programs such as Think Tank, Les Beaux Arts, Teach Kids to Give and a unique Physical Program in an effort to utilize these precious years to the fullest and instill the joy of learning for a lifetime.

With the fall fast approaching, families new and old are flocking into the village to prepare for the Back to School season. As Greenwich Village residents we are fortunate to be surrounded by such an active warm community that offers such diverse and eclectic learning opportunities. I have included a Back to School guide that includes a little something for everyone.

Founder / Director
Perry School



New Location on West 10th Street



Think Tank

Little Red Schoolhouse and Elisabeth Irwin High School
Founder: Elisabeth Irwin
Opened: 1921
Address: 272 Sixth Avenue, New York, NY 10014

www.lrei.org

Elisabeth Irwin believed that engaging in the world around you was one of the best educational experiences a child could have.

City and Country School

Founder: Caroline Pratt

Opened: 1914

Address: 146 West 13th Street, New York, NY 10011

www.cityandcountry.org

Caroline Pratt placed emphasis on empathy, collaboration and communication in education.

Grace Church School

Founder: The Grace Church

Opened: 1894

Address: 86 Fourth Avenue, New York, NY 10003

www.gcschool.org

The institution is known for its rigorous academics as well as its founding on Episcopal principles.

P.S. 41 - Greenwich Village School

Opened: 1923

Address of School: 116 West 11th Street, New York, NY 10011

www.ps41.org

P.S. 41 is committed to the promotion of diversity, and believes that every child deserves a quality learning experience.

P.S. 3 - The John Melser Charrette School
Opened: 1892

Address: 490 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014

www.ps3nyc.membershiptoolkit.com/home

P.S. 3 boasts a strong arts program, and works to integrate the arts into the curriculum.

Downing Street Playgroup

Address: 37 Downing Street, New York, NY 10014

www.downingstreetplaygroup.org

Play-based learning is a cornerstone of this West Village institution.

St. Luke's School

Founder: St. Luke's Church

Opened: 1984

Address: 487 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014

www.stlukesschool.org

St. Luke's School is committed to creating well-rounded individuals, and understands that education happens when the community comes together.

West Village Nursery School
Opened: 1967
Address: 76 Horatio Street, New York, NY 10014
www.westvillagenurseryschool.org
The school's founders, a group of local mothers, wanted an emphasis placed on parent involvement.

Village Community School
Opened: 1970
Address: 272 West 10th Street, New York, NY 10014
Acts of service and community outreach are the backbone of this school.

Barrow Street Nursery School
Address: 27 Barrow Street, New York, NY 10014
www.barrowstreetnurseryschool.com
Barrow Street Nursery School considers imagination to be of very high value.

Morton School of Excellence
Address: 229 West 16th Street
The school provided students with a strong academic foundation, and encourages them to continue their academic pursuits even after they've graduated.

La Petite Ecole: Nurturing Global Citizens through Bilingual Education
Address: 159 West 82nd Street, New York, NY 10024
sitesgoogle.comsitelapetiteecolenyc
This hidden gem offers classes in both English and French and emphasizes an international perspective.

Tisch School of the Arts - NYU
Founder: NYU
Opened: 1965
Address: 721 Broadway, New York, NY 10003
www.tisch.nyu.edu
The famous school offers a place for artists of all backgrounds to hone their craft and take their artistic abilities to new heights.

The New School
Founder: John Dewey
Opened: 1919
Address: 66 West 12th Street, New York, NY 10011
www.newschool.edu
Phone number: 212 229 5600
The New School's defining feature is its commitment to the value of learning that adapts to the changing needs of society, rather than conforming to traditional norms.

Academy of Saint Joseph's: Empowering Young Women through Faith, Excellence, and Service
Founder: Sisters of St. Joseph
Opened: 1889
Address: 111 Washington Place, New York, NY 10014
www.academyofsaintjoseph.org
Phone number: 212 243 5420
Since its founding, the school has specialized in shaping its students into strong, empowered and compassionate women.

Manhattan School: Nurturing Excellence in a Supportive Community
Address: 7 East 96th Street, New York NY 10128
www.imsd.org
Phone number: 212 410 3140
Manhattan School encourages risk-taking and the embracing of challenges in order to become successful students.

Notre Dame School
Founder: Sisters of St. Ursula
Opened: 1912
Address: 327 West 13th Street, New York, NY 10014
www.cheznous.org
The famous Catholic school fosters the spirit of inquiry within its students, helping them become responsible members of society once they graduate.

Harvest Collegiate School
Founder: New York City Department of Education
Opened: 2012
Address: 34 West 14th Street, New York, NY 10011
www.harvestcollegiate.org
Phone number: 212 242 3384
Social justice is at the core of this tucked-away school, as is a commitment to teaching its students to be compassionate and understanding of the ever-changing world around them.

Lifelong Skills & Opportunities Center
Address: 27 Barrow Street, New York, NY 10014
Phone number: 917 261 4598
The Lifelong Skills & Opportunities Center offers resume and job search support among many other amazing opportunities.

Westbeth Artists Housing
Address: 155 Bank Street, New York, NY 10014
Phone number: 212 255 5191
The senior center at Westbeth partners with cultural institutions and politicians for events, and hosts a slew of art programs and fun opportunities. Each week the center serves a hot lunch!

Senior Center on the Square
20 Washington Square N, New York, NY 10011
Phone number : 212 777-3555
Senior Center on the Square puts importance on friendship, and included in the activities are bingo, health lectures, card games and more.

Academy of St. Joseph
Address: 111 Washington Pl, New York, NY 10014
Phone number: 212 243 5420
Academy of St. Joseph prioritizes a sense of community, featuring parent-inclusive Morning Assemblies twice a week.

Joel Gordon : Digital Art

Calla Lilies



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Photographic series of digital computer art from an image of Calla Lilies
Puzzle in my mind. When I find an image or photo I ask myself how can I best use it. Will it be the first piece in the puzzle? Or will it stand alone.
Using Photoshop creating a series of digital computer art from the first piece of the puzzle. Five or more layers were used to enhance, alter, manipulate the image, creating an abstract surrealistic mirrored symmetry. Blue Sky and Clouds layer were added. This process can take a few or several hours to complete.

Body & Soul

“MEDICINE FAILED US” - Nurse GAIL MACCRAE

By James Patrick

Having met and been impressed by Gail MacCrae at a number of conferences, I decided to interview her. She was a nurse in the San Francisco Bay Area throughout the entire COVID episode. I had heard horror stories of relatives not being able to see their loved ones, of deaths caused by the treatment protocols, and, finally, deaths caused by the injections people were pressured into taking just to make it all stop. My interview with Gail dives deep into these issues.

What went on in the hospitals during the so-called pandemic is a huge story. Many witnessed the hospitals' horror stories, but few have had the courage to talk about it. Because Gail is so refreshingly candid and forthcoming and doesn't pull any punches about what she saw, I found my interview with her to be one of the most compelling I've done to date.

Gail describes how patients were systematically offered a drug named Remdesivir, a drug owned by Gilead Sciences, a bio-pharmaceutical company with close ties to Bill Gates. Remdesivir was made the “standard of care” by Anthony Fauci for COVID-19.

As Gail recounts, Remdesivir caused patients' lungs to fill with liquid. Once that



occurred, the oxygen levels of the patients dropped, precipitating intubation—a procedure well known for its low survival rate. All the while, hospitals were rewarded for harming patients and ultimately for causing their deaths, Gail reveals.

Why were family members not allowed to see loved ones on their deathbeds?

Why were hospitals being financially rewarded for harming and killing patients?

Why were injuries from the “vaccines” being brushed under the rug and not

reported within the medical field?

In this emotional and fact-packed interview, we hear the true story straight from a nurse who lived through it.

Meet nurse Gail MacCrae.

Watch the interview online: <https://rumble.com/v36uula-medicine-failed-us-nurse-gail-mccrae.html>

James Patrick is a filmmaker, economist and investigator from Washington DC. The events of Covid-19 spurred him to produce an ongoing interview series and direct multiple documentaries to help enlighten the public as to the bigger picture of what is happening in our world. Coming from a prominent DC family and a mother who was a NY Time journalist, he is able to see between the lines and find the best people to tell the stories that matter the most.

He innovated a unique personable interview technique that allows the subject to speak freely and fully. The production value is cinema quality and the subjects found are the most credentialed in US and Europe to speak to the issues that matter.

BIG PICTURE WATCH PROPOSE FUND

FDA Approves Remdesivir in Kidney Patients After Failed Trial

Action added to Long List of Pandemic Regulatory Malfeasance

By Peter A. McCullough, MD, MPH

In a move that defies all regulatory convention, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a supplemental new drug application (sNDA) for the use of Veklury® (remdesivir) in COVID-19 patients with severe renal impairment, including those on dialysis. With this approval, Veklury is now the first and only approved antiviral COVID-19 treatment that can be used across all stages of renal disease but has no efficacy data to support its administration.

July 14, 2023

FDA Approves Veklury® (Remdesivir) for COVID-19 Treatment in Patients With Severe Renal Impairment, Including Those on Dialysis

- Veklury is Now the First Approved Antiviral Treatment for Patients Across all Stages of Renal Disease --

FOSTER CITY, Calif.-(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Gilead Sciences, Inc. (Nasdaq: GILD) today announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved a supplemental new drug application (sNDA) for the use of Veklury® (remdesivir) in COVID-19 patients with severe renal impairment, including those on dialysis. With this approval, Veklury is now the first and only approved antiviral COVID-19 treatment that can be used across all stages of renal disease. More than 1 in 7 (37 million) people in the U.S. are estimated to have chronic kidney disease (CKD) and are at increased risk of COVID-19 related morbidity and mortality.

The U.S. approval comes on the heels of the European Commission decision to extend the approved use of Veklury to treat COVID-19 in people with severe renal impairment, including those on dialysis, which was adopted on June 26 2023

About GS-US-540-5912 (REDPINE)

Gilead conducted a Phase 3, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group, multicenter study (REDPINE) evaluating the efficacy and safety of Veklury in patients with severely reduced kidney function who are hospitalized with COVID-19. The trial enrolled 243 hospitalized adult participants with confirmed COVID-19 and renal impairment who were randomized in a 2:1 manner to receive Veklury (n=163) or placebo (n=80), in addition to standard of care, and were stratified by ESKD, high-flow oxygen requirement, and region (US vs. ex-US). The study closed prematurely due to feasibility issues and was underpowered to assess for efficacy because of lower-than-expected enrollment. No

new safety signals were observed in the study and no additional adverse reactions to Veklury were identified in 163 hospitalized patients with confirmed COVID-19 and acute kidney injury (AKI) (n=60), CKD (eGFR <30 mL/minute) (n=44) or ESKD (eGFR <15 mL/minute) requiring hemodialysis (n=59) receiving Veklury for up to 5 days.

The phase 3 REDPINE trial failed to recruit sufficient subjects to assess efficacy. Instead of properly rejecting the application, the FDA went ahead and approved the drug with insufficient safety and efficacy data. The drug has struggled in recent years as patients commonly decline the antiviral since the November, 2020, WHO warning against inpatient use. Remdesivir can cause both kidney injury and liver damage, thus with no mortality benefit, many believe it should not be used.

AMINO ACIDS: The Building Blocks of Life

THE LINK TO VITALITY

Defying the Biology of Aging-5th in a series

By Dr. Nabil El-Hag, PhD

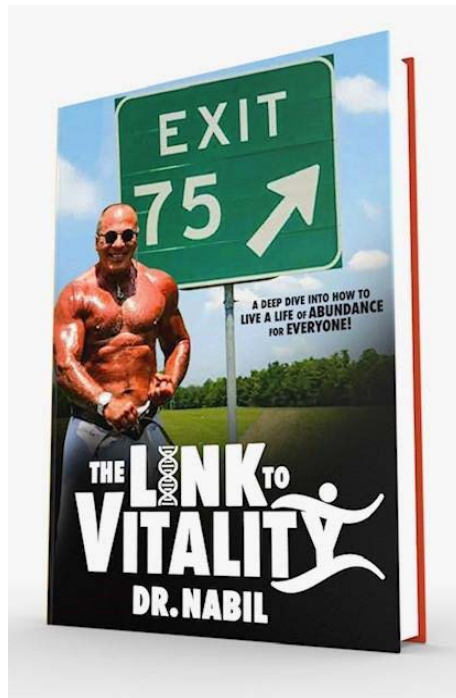
The “little blue pill” is a global phenomenon. It came to market in 1998, forever changing the trajectory of sexual viability for men. Because of Viagra, the decline of sexual prowess is no longer an inevitable result of aging. There is a drug fix. The \$4 billion global market that has evolved, proves that sex sells!

This pharmaceutical gold mine was discovered by accident. Scientists were in search of a compound that would dilate coronary blood vessels and increase blood flow to the heart. Researchers were looking at compounds that would stimulate the release of nitric oxide, a chemical that relaxes smooth muscles in the body. As the muscles relax, more blood flows through them; a process that not only helps to decrease blood pressure, but also works to enable healthy erections! In the lab, the Pfizer compound didn't do much for the heart, but it sure changed the landscape of the male domain.

Healthy circulation is, in part, reliant on the production of nitrous oxide, a chemical compound produced by arginine, an amino acid. It's why the folks at Pfizer were looking at nitric oxide precursors, including arginine. I first observed the near miracle effect of arginine and amino acid supplementation 30 years ago. My work assignment coincided with my battle with Lyme's disease. As a result of my illness, I was losing weight and having a tough time recovering from my workouts. I was struggling, but the mice in my research lab, who were on an amino acid regimen, all looked like Mighty Mouse. They were stronger, more muscular and decidedly more energetic than the placebo group. I wanted what they had! So at the age of 45, I began supplementing with amino acids. They are still a mainstay of my health regimen.

Amino acids are the building blocks of protein. There are 20 amino acids in our bodies, classified into two groups. The non-essential amino acids are manufactured in the liver, which builds them from the component parts of other digested proteins and nutrients. The essential amino acids cannot be manufactured by the body. Without them in our diet, we would slowly die.

Amino acids are neither drugs or medicine. They are food in their simplest and purest form. In their natural state, they form the basis of life itself. When you look at yourself in the mirror, you are seeing a protein



package. All that muscle, skin, bone, nails, and hair are made of amino acids configured into countless protein structures. Aminos also drive the chemical interactions required for metabolism and the manufacturing of new cells. For example, our bone marrow makes 2.5 million red cells every four days, our white blood cells are replaced every 10 days, and our skin cells turnover every 24 days. This non-stop production of new cells requires a continuous supply of amino acids.

Keeping your dietary protein needs in balance with your energy expenditure is key to healthy aging. Without a plan to course correct against the natural aging process, muscle mass starts to decline in the thirties. Our growth hormone also starts to decline. On average, we lose 8% of our muscle mass with each passing decade after the age of thirty. Somewhere between 65 and 80, that rate of decline accelerates. Our ability to absorb and metabolize proteins declines. The repair process slows. We start to look and feel old. We get tired and achy. The mirror reflects the old person we have become, not the vibrant person we were in our youth.

Unless we are proactively countering this natural process, we get smaller, weaker, and less energetic. This process of attrition results in poor health and eventually death. Of course, we can't avoid dying, but we can extend the life in our years. In order to do that, you need to work out strenuously and feed your body the right nutrients, including ample protein to build new muscle. Bolstering your protein intake with amino acids can help keep the old man out!

My goal over the last 35 years has been to maximize my capacity for work, to optimize my ability to recover from strenuous workouts and to maintain a healthy and vibrant appearance that reflects a similar inner state of being. Most importantly, I have wanted to delay the onset of muscle wasting, a natural phenomenon of the aging

process. In order to do that I have needed:

- A strong heart to pump nutrients and oxygen to my cells and to efficiently remove waste and toxins from my bloodstream and tissue.
- To prevent the decline of growth hormone as I am aging
- To recover from strenuous workout quickly and without injury, so that I can be consistent in my efforts.

Through trial and error, I've selected a few amino acids which I take religiously to meet these goals. These are my “go-to” supplements:

L-CARNITINE and CO; Q10: The Keys to a Healthy Heart

Carnitine, known as the heart tonic, is classified as a non-essential amino acid. It plays an important role in providing energy to all muscles, especially the hard working heart muscle. Carnitine acts by carrying fatty acids across the cell membranes to the mitochondria, the energy pump of the cell, thereby increasing the amount of available energy. Carnitine's ability to speed

up the oxidation of fats makes it an ideal supplement for people who want to lose weight and for those who want to improve their exercise endurance. Carnitine also inhibits the build-up of lactic acid, the main cause of fatigue and impaired muscle recovery.

Carnitine works synergistically with CoQ10, which is not an amino acid, but a vitamin-like substance found throughout the body. It is found in small amounts in meats and seafood, so can be provided through our diet. It is also manufactured by the body. It is a powerful antioxidant that ensures free radicals are neutralized when cells produce energy and fuel their internal processes.

Both L-carnitine and CoQ10 are vital for existence. They work best in combination. Together, they encourage the body to use fats as fuel, sparing muscle breakdown, and encouraging the release of growth hormone. Growth hormone also helps burn fats and strengthens muscle. As we age, the production of both L-Carnitine and CoQ10 decreases. The discovery of the synergistic impact of L-Carnitine and CoQ10 supplementation is transforming our understanding of the treatment of heart disease, neurodegenerative disease, male infertility, immune function and other age-related diseases..

ARGININE AND ORNITHINE: Twin Engines of Athletic Recovery and Vitality

Arginine is considered conditionally essential, meaning that it becomes essential under certain circumstances, including

pregnancy, infancy, critical illness, and trauma, meaning our dietary requirements vary with our health status. Aging, and its accompanying chronic illnesses, are reason enough to consider arginine supplementation essential.

Arginine is necessary for making proteins and is commonly used to improve circulation. A vasodilator, arginine, is converted in the body into a chemical called nitric oxide. It has been shown to lower blood pressure and address erectile dysfunction. It stimulates the release of growth hormone, insulin, and other hormones.. Arginine plays an important role in cell division, wound healing, removing ammonia from the body, and supporting immune function.

Ornithine is a precursor of arginine and is very effective in simulating the production of growth hormone. In combination, added to your workout regimen, these two aminos provide the spark that fuels muscle growth.

BRANCH CHAIN AMINO ACIDS (BCAA): High Octane Fuel for Muscle Growth

This is another important supplement for packing on muscle. BCAAs consist of leucine, isoleucine, and valine. They are considered essential and comprise 40% of the total daily requirement of essential amino acids. Uniquely, they are used as a direct energy source by skeletal muscle. They also promote protein synthesis and are involved in muscle repair and muscle building. Their role in muscle recovery makes them an ideal workout supplement, easing soreness, boosting muscle synthesis and preventing muscle wasting.

I take all of the above amino acids 45 minutes before, during and 45 minutes after my workout, in doses calibrated for my body mass. While I am working out, I also drink 48 ounces of water in which I dissolve 30 grams of glutamine. I've been doing this consistently for more than 3 decades. At 75, I'd like to think the results speak for themselves. I am getting stronger and bigger with time. I take no medications, am seldom sick, and have the same energy I had when I was twenty years younger.

However, as I keep reiterating, there is no magic bullet. No one supplement, and no single exercise has delivered results for me. It is the synergy of everything I do that has contributed to my vitality. I adhere to a balanced regimen of healthy living and employ all of the tools I am sharing with you in this series.

We've still got a lot of ground to cover. In next month's article, we'll explore the river of life flowing through our bodies and the body's electric system. It is sure to jolt your thinking about the fluids you ingest and what can zap your energy or ignite your vitality.

St. John's Alumnus Pharmacist Champions the Rights of HIV/AIDS Patients

John Kaliabakos '94P launched his pharmacy career just after graduating from St. John's University's College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, when New York City was engulfed in the devastating HIV/AIDS crisis.

His new employer was Village Apothecary, an independent pharmacy specializing in HIV care on Bleecker Street in Greenwich Village, an epicenter of the deadly disease.

"In no time, I couldn't help but feel an enormous sense of compassion for the patients that I got to know personally as they came to the pharmacy to fill prescriptions or to seek medical advice," recalled Mr. Kaliabakos of his earliest days as a pharmacist. "I witnessed the fear and uncertainty that this population experienced upon their diagnosis, and I had the misfortune of losing some patients in the battle with their illness."

"This firsthand experience in helping patients navigate through the trials and tribulations of HIV/AIDS was very impactful for me as a pharmacist," he added. "It led me to become not only the best provider of pharmacy services that I could, but also an advocate for these patients' rights and needs."

Nearly 30 years later, Mr. Kaliabakos remains an integral part of Village Apothecary, serving in the role of Director of Pharmacy Services, as he oversees the prescription profiles of more than 500 HIV patients while in consultation with HIV specialists in New York City. He has built a reputation as a fierce champion of the rights of these and other patients, with a particular focus on those most in need—a bedrock of St. John's Vincentian mission.

"As a student at St. John's, my values as a Greek Orthodox Christian were bolstered by the University's Vincentian mission," said Mr. Kaliabakos, who was born to Greek immigrant parents and raised in Queens, NY.

He attended The Bronx High School of Science from 1985 to 1989 before earning a bachelor's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences at St. John's.

Under the mentorship and leadership of Michael Konnon, a community leader, activist, and founder of Village Apothecary, who recruited him to work at the pharmacy, Mr. Kaliabakos honed his dedication to serving the needs of the pharmacy's HIV/AIDS patients. The establishment continued to burnish its reputation of stocking all AIDS and AIDS-related medications, while assisting patients as they navigated the vast financial and emotional burdens of the disease.

"As a pharmacist, I truly believed in Mike's mission and still honor it in my practice every day," said Mr. Kaliabakos. "In my years so far at Village Apothecary, the pharmacy has been recognized for outstanding service by proclamations from the New York City Mayor's Office, the Manhattan Borough President's Office, the New York State Assembly, the New York State Senate,

the Greenwich Village Society for Village Preservation, and the New York City Council's Office."

In his own right, Mr. Kaliabakos was recognized in 2022 for his work in the field of HIV pharmaceutical care with the Gay City News Impact Award, which spotlights individuals, according to the award description, "who make a difference and leave people better than they found them." This year, he received the Schneps Media Healthcare Heroes Award "for contributions and dedication to the health-care community."

"I am truly honored and humbled by these professional acknowledgments," said the pharmacist. "But ultimately what I find most rewarding is the appreciation and connection that I have with the patients I serve on a daily basis."

Mr. Kaliabakos, who is married to Polyxeni Mertsaris Kaliabakos '93P, expressed gratitude to St. John's University for helping to shape his career as an advocate for his HIV/AIDS patients. "St. John's has been an incredibly important part of my life, and the five years I spent there as a student have shaped me into the person I am today," he said.

Originally published by St. John's University. June 2023.

<https://www.stjohns.edu/news-media/success-stories/st-johns-alumnus-pharmacist-champions-rights-hiv-aids-patients>



John Kaliabakos

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Aetna Loses, City Retirees Win – Maybe

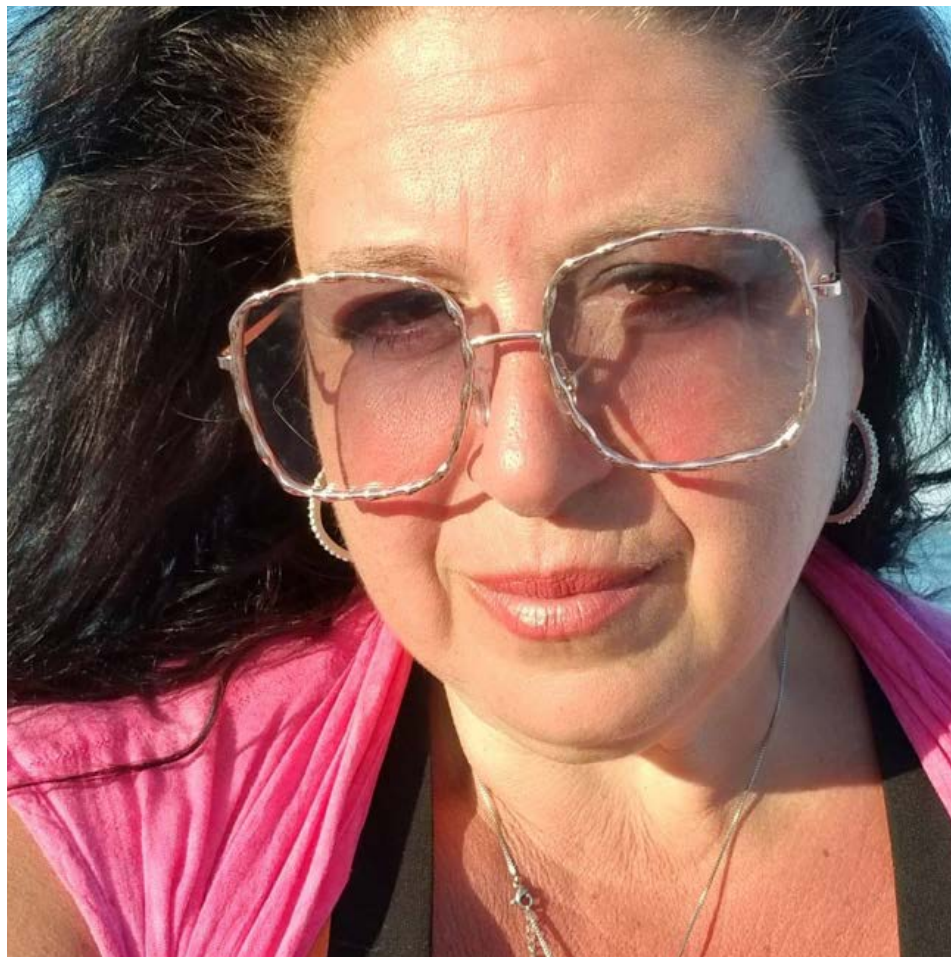
An Interview with Marianne Pizzitola

J. Taylor Basker

In Sicilian legend, Aetna, a beautiful nymph, who inhabited the island living in its highest mountain, had the skill of alluring men and making them do anything she wanted. On our NYC Island, many men were lured by this siren's namesake Aetna Medicare Advantage. Mayor Adams, Mike Mulgrew of the UFT, Harry Nespoli of the Municipal Labor Council, Henry Garrido of DC 37 and other union leaders were ensnared by Aetna Insurance's sleek Medicare Advantage plan, that promised everything, but led them into her volcanic lava bed, melting benefits of NYC retirees. Even the Speaker of the Council, Adrienne Adams, a female, was tricked by the attractive packaging.

However, thanks to a Sicilian female, who led hundreds of retirees in protests, court cases, expert PR, and political maneuvering, a judge ruled that this siren return to its cave and leave its hands off NYC retirees' Medicare. Marianne Pizzitola, a retired FDNY worker, led the powerful charge to protect the health benefits of NYC retirees. She founded the FDNY EMS Retirees Association, a Not For Profit organization to help members of the FDNY EMS in retirement by advocating for their continued benefits. When the city announced it was switching its retirees from Medicare to Medicare Advantage she founded the NYC Organization of Public Service Retirees, Inc, an organization to unite retirees, defend and protect hard earned benefits in retirement. Many, retired for 20, 30, 40 and even more than 50 years, infirm, disabled, disabled 9/11 responders, line of duty widows, all risked losing their Federal Medicare and City supplemental coverage and be forced into a managed plan with many restrictions. This group stopped them.

The Court had issued a preliminary injunction in July, with Supreme Court Justice Lyle E. Frank noting that the retirees "have shown by clear and convincing evidence" that implementation of the new Aetna Medicare Advantage plan would likely violate their rights in numerous ways. Justice Frank also ruled that "should this plan go forward; irreparable harm would result" to countless retirees. But on August 11, the New York County Supreme Court issued a final ruling permanently stopping the City from forcing a quarter-million elderly and disabled retirees off their longstanding Medicare insurance and onto an inferior type of insurance called "Medicare Advantage."



Marianne Pizzitola. Photo from FaceBook page.

Pizzitola commented "This is now the third time in the last two years that courts have had to step in and stop the City from violating retirees' healthcare rights. We once again call on the City and the Municipal Labor Committee to end their ruthless and unlawful campaign to deprive retired municipal workers of the healthcare benefits they earned. Knowing after every win, the City has found a way to go around the Judge's decision, the City Council should support Intro 1099 sponsored by Councilman Charles Barron and stop this administration from wasting taxpayer dollars appealing righteous decisions by the Court. NYC Retirees earned their right to Federal Medicare and we relied on the promise we would have this benefit through our lifetime. We hope this decision will help retirees nationwide stop their former unions and employer from privatizing the Federal Public Health Benefit of Medicare so we can live the rest of our lives in peace." The Mayor's office, who always refused to meet with the retirees, issued a statement that was both condescending and filled with untruths, accused the Judge's decision of "creating confusion."

Arlyne LeShack, a retired teacher and former UFT union delegate, expressed the relief of thousands of City retirees. She had been very concerned with the support that the Municipal Labor Committee gave to Medicare Advantage. She had a unique

reason – for years she had worked as a volunteer with a Medicare Rights group helping people cope with problems. In her experience most people she helped had problems with Medicare Advantage. Often doctors needed were not in the networks. Prior authorization was needed to be given for medical procedures and this process was lengthy and often unsuccessful.

Pizzitola reveals that the victory was messy and contends that the battle is not yet over. The City immediately filed an appeal to Judge Frank's decision. There was a civil war in the City Council. The Speaker, Adrienne Adams, although no relation to the Mayor, loyally and passionately led the battle for his agenda. Any Council member who objected was threatened with loss of funding and committee assignments. A freshman council member who introduced legislation against the change, Amanda Farias, District 18, the Bronx, backed off and gave the legislation to others. It went to the Legislative Committee where it was successfully buried, using Kremlin-like tactics. It was sponsored anonymously by many, sent back to Council, then declared illegal since they needed all the sponsors' permission to proceed, now impossible due to anonymity. Then a new bill was introduced by Charles Barron, Intro 1099, but this was also declared to be illegal by the Speaker as a violation of Labor law, the Taylor Law and Collective Bargaining.

However, Barron had stripped the bill down to essentials in just two sentences to make it sustainable. "This bill would require the City to offer Medicare-eligible city retirees and their Medicare-eligible dependents at least one Medigap plan with benefits equivalent to or better than those available to city retirees and their dependents as of December 31, 2021. The bill would not impair employee organizations from negotiating terms and conditions of employment for their employee members."

Yet this bill is still not passed; as of this writing Pizzitola counted just 17 signed in but 34 are needed. Fortunately, our Erik Bottcher has signed but it is crucial that all Council members be convinced. The Speaker's staff – especially Jeffrey Baker, Deputy Chief of Staff of Legislation and Policy and Nicholas Connell, Assistant Deputy Director, have been brutal. The Office of Management & Budget (OMB) run by Kenneth Godiner, contended this change is essential for NYC financial security, claiming that \$600 million a year would be saved, which is not true – the current costs are \$439 million, and no one admits that the City has now the largest budget reserve ever. This lack of transparency persists in other areas: Mayor Adams sits on confidential documents about post-9/11 air quality and its danger to responders and survivors, to protect the city from liability.

City Comptroller Brad Lander, who backed the retirees, accurately identified the Medicare Advantage v. Medicare problem as having state and federal implications. "As a matter of public policy, beyond the scope of our office . . . I was and remain seriously concerned about the privatization of Medicare plans, over billing by insurance companies, and barriers to care under Medicare Advantage. It is vital that all seniors—and all New Yorkers—get quality health coverage as a basic human right."

Pizzitola says she has no crystal ball to predict what will happen. She is under no illusions and believes retirees must remain vigilant and that the battle will continue. She quotes "tell a lie often enough and it becomes the truth." She stresses the need for ongoing legal and financial support. This generation of retirees came from the struggle for Civil Rights, fought against the Vietnam and Iraq wars and are comfortable with marches, petitions and protests. She worries that the next generation of retirees will be more pliable by the powers of big money and political persuasion. But meanwhile retirees with walkers, wheelchairs, canes, hearing aids but loud voices, are still around to save them – with the Sicilian Siren from Staten Island leading them, keeping the nymph Aetna in her cave.

Youth Replaces Age

Abstracted from “A Scientist’s View of Almost Everything”

By Mark M. Green

What if someone offers you a deal on a beautiful apartment in an ideal location where you always wanted to live? The apartment is occupied by a 90-year-old woman. If you pay the rent until she dies you will then own the apartment. Andre Raffray is only 47, so he bites, but the 90-year-old lives to 122 and he dies at 77. The woman was Jeanne Calment of Arles, France and you can find her in the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest person who has ever lived.

Is not youth supposed to replace age? There’s a wonderful madrigal claimed to be written by Shakespeare describing the differences between youth and age, which ends with:

“Age I do abhor thee, – Youth I do adore thee; – O! my Love, my Love is young! – Age, I do defy thee — O sweet shepherd, hie thee, – For methinks thou stay’st too long.”

Apparently, the sweet shepherd did not follow Shakespeare’s instructions, for Madame Calment, did not “hie thee,” and instead applied the instruction to Monsieur Raffray. Maybe Madame Calment defied death by her healthy life style. One web site reported that she gave up smoking at the age of 119 and only because her blindness made it too difficult to light a cigarette. She is also reported to have ascribed her longevity, among other things, to avoiding brawls, plenty of olive oil poured on everything she ate as well as rubbed into her skin, red and port wine and nearly two pounds of chocolate eaten every week. At 85 she apparently took up fencing and was riding a bicycle at 100.

Shakespeare was hardly alone in his

understanding of the conflict between youth and age. Mozart’s opera “Idomeneo” set in Crete in 1200 BC has youth replacing age as the central theme. On his victorious return from the Trojan Wars, Kind Idomeneo of Crete is obliged to kill the first person he meets on landing (in order to settle his debt to Neptune, God of the sea, for having saved him from a storm). This first person turns out to be his beloved loving son, Idamante. There are many twists and turns in the story but in the end, Neptune is satisfied. Idomeneo gives up his throne to Idamante – Youth replacing age satisfies the gods.

Is it any wonder that myths abound throughout the centuries in which some mystical-youth-restoring-drink will allow the aged to replace themselves – a fountain of youth. One has never been found and aging appears relentless. But modern science has joined the chase and plenty of money is being poured into trying to understand the biological basis of aging – why we age and how it might be stopped or delayed.

All science agrees that there is a genetic basis for aging, that there has to be aging. This view was first taken about half a century ago, by George C. Williams, who died at 84 and who has been called a “visionary evolutionary biologist,” and Peter B. Medawar, who died at 72 and who won a Nobel Prize for another of his interests, their relatively early deaths consistent with their scientific conclusions.

Williams’ argument was that Darwin’s theory favors passing on genes that help us early in life, when we are reproducing and passing on our genetic makeup, even though these genes may hurt our chances of survival later in life. Our genetic makeup “doesn’t care” if we age, that is, if we decay after our reproducing years are over. Medawar pointed out that if a mutation occurs in our genes, which has a harmful effect only later in our life it will probably be passed on



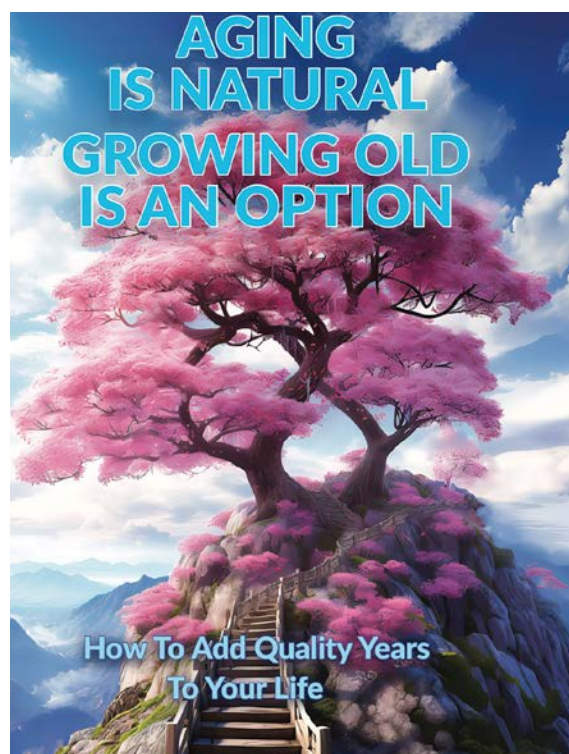
because those who have this harmful gene will already have passed through the years of having children. The genes harmful to life as we age therefore accumulate with the consequences, we all see and feel.

Recent research supports Williams’ and Medawar’s ideas especially in discovering that genes in certain kinds of worms act to enhance reproduction while at the same time contributing to the worm’s decay as it ages. And these genes are related to those found in human beings.

Consider nature’s love of youth over age. We eat organic matter, which means eating carbon atoms in their various states – sugar, fat, protein and so on. Much of what we eat is broken down into small molecules with two carbon atoms each, acetyl coenzyme A,

molecules that are produced by organelles called mitochondria found in each of the cells of our body. In the citric acid cycle the two carbon atoms in one of these acetyl coenzyme A molecules are ejected as two molecules of carbon dioxide CO₂ – exhale. The change yields the energy that sustains our lives: but it is not the newly arrived acetyl coenzyme A that become carbon dioxide. They have to wait their turn. The carbon dioxide is first formed from an acetyl coenzyme A, which has arrived earlier on the mitochondrial scene, which we have eaten earlier. Youth replaces age on the bio molecular level.

Youth replaces age – period!



AGING IS NATURAL, GROWING OLD IS AN OPTION

How To Add Quality Years To Your Life

By Gary Null

There have been many extravagant claims about miracle pills, revolutionary diets, and mystery creams that are supposed to stop or reverse the aging process. The commercialization of these claims have become clichés that last for some time only to be replaced by another new anti-aging secret. However, there has yet to be any scientifically verifiable proof through documented clinical trials on human beings that definitively show that aging processes have been significantly slowed or reversed.

Aging is Natural, Growing Old is an Option presents the

latest results from Dr. Gary Null’s ongoing anti-aging clinical trials in a beautiful retreat setting. In the grand symphony of life, the pursuit to age gracefully while feeling young is a melody that resonates with every facet of our lives. Beyond our skin is a holistic orchestration of our biology, psychology, moods, and habits. Dr. Null offers the fundamental instruments of lifestyle, attitude and embracing the beauty of our lives as a means to regenerate ourselves towards feeling younger as we grow older.

In the symphony of ageless harmony each note, from diet to exercise, from fasting to meditation, contributes to the masterpiece of anti-aging.

<https://youtu.be/jpHyv2IoTkw>

Ivermectin Could Have Saved Millions Of Lives

Reply to Gary Null's Article on Ivermectin in the Online Edition

"[Mr. Null,] You are out of your mind. I am a nurse an RN and Ivermectin is for parasitic infections worms and mites not a virus. Don't compare doctors and nurses today with Nazi Germany and also where is your citable evidence[?] I see no cited data done in the proper form. While the COVID vaccine is not perfect it has saved lives. Ivermectin has not."

Patricia J. Roderique

Reply by a reader to Patricia J. Roderique, RN

Hi Patricia,

Thank you for expressing your experienced opinion. I think you are missing some essential context and have unwittingly ignored some very important facts of the matter. The following is offered in good faith, but I don't presume to persuade you any more than you are willing to change your mind. Though we don't know one another, please accept any snark as friendly ribbing. It is a serious issue, so one that can benefit from humor and practical joking for the sake of levity.

Mr. Null has done a good job of summarizing the factual narrative put forth at greater length in RFKjr.'s book, "The Real Anthony Fauci." While that book admittedly suffers from the absence of an index in the printed version, it does manage to contain all of the citable evidence that any expert practitioner might require, both in the more robust body of the book's logical argument and in its very thorough end-notes and references. As I'm sure you know, newspapers inherently request a degree of trust and never cite references as is expected of scientific literature and academic non-fiction books. The legacy institutions like NYTimes have lost a great deal of credibility in recent decades by abusing that trust with systemic regularity. In my heartfelt opinion, you would improve your professional knowledge base well to digest Kennedy's book in earnest with an open mind, allowing for the possibility that you and your entire cohort has been rather remarkably well misled.

In fact, the renegade health-practitioners who refused throughout the pandemic

lockdowns to conform to captured health agency dictate and corporate media scolding demonstrated exceptional success with their patients using IVM (in protocol with a suite of vitamins and fats) to treat Covid symptoms and cure the infection long before cytokine storms could develop, thus otherwise requiring admission to hospitals, where healthy financial disbursements were received under by bursars for every Covid patient who died and a bonus if they died on a ventilator.

If you review the whole body of evidence concerning IVM you will learn that it is not merely an anti-parasitic (working in the gut), as you assert, but it also functions well as an anti-viral when it is provided with a vehicle to deliver it through the cell walls into the blood-cells. New, outsider research is also discovering that in other combinations, IVM can be reliably effective at combating a range of cancers, well beyond its anti-viral and anti-parasitic functions. It is a drug with remarkably few side-effects and it has no known lethal dose. Truly a miracle drug worthy of the Nobel Prize.

Perhaps the best public discussion of the mechanism at play in treating and defeating Covid is provided in a long-form conversation between clinician Dr. Pierre Kory (ICU & Lung specialist), evolutionary biologist Dr. Bret Weinstein, and podcast host Joe Rogan on his show #1671 found on Spotify. If those names induce in you a disgust response, I encourage you to hold your nose and endure. Because if you elect to ignore the legitimate discoveries and empirical evidence there detailed, or you simply seek to refute them with prejudice in advance, or just refuse to listen, the fact is that in doing so, you will be opting to favor ignorance over informed consent.

<https://archive.org/details/joe-rogan-experience-1671-bret-weinstein-and-dr-pierre-kory-ivermectin>

If "ignoring" something is not the source of "ignorance," then your mental model of language may have bigger problems. It is exactly ignorance with its potential for treachery (intended or not) that the Nuremberg Trials sought to defeat and prevent by establishing "informed consent"

as the standard of ethical medicine. Hence the analogy between Lockdown Policy and Nazi Germany is not as inappropriate and absurdist as you reflexively assert. Much work has been done to critique the historic parallels, some of it by holocaust survivors themselves. The persecution of the Jews in Germany was predicated on triggering the same psychological disgust response (based then on propaganda that Jews were carriers of disease) that was induced in 2021 in order to create the medical apartheid that possessed American populations who were historically liberal in the principled sense, rather than the merely aesthetic sense. (A syllogistic dose of Donald-Trump-Fear-Porn didn't hurt to drive everyone into blind conformance.) The argument to persuade the German population that it was acceptable to concentrate Jews in to camps was a public-health argument and the whole willing German medical establishment participated.

I appreciate the emotional extremity of your retort, in that nobody likes to think of their expert labor under employment reduced to a process of "just following orders." But, for most good and well-intentioned people, it is a hard fact of modern debt slavery and corporate employment that that's what most work at base amounts to in any field. Dissent is rarely rewarded, and silent conformance with predictable regularity is. Have you found differently in your career?

I'm sure that I'm not saying anything you don't already intuitively know, as a practicing RN, when I suggest that all of us ought to be much more skeptical of pharma and its captured mouth-pieces whenever they comment on drugs that have gone off-patent, as IVM has. In any honest evaluation, the expiration of patents should be a an opportunity for that drug's entry into higher distribution than lower, by virtue of increased affordability. Perhaps a public drug utility (in a different political environment, after the corporate capture of regulation is broken) would be in order. At best, the priority of pharma is not to cure disease nor save lives, unless these are side-effects of increasing their market dominance and improving their bottom

line. That is by law, in fact, because any for-profit corporation is required by contract to maximize profit for share-holders, such that CEO's have been removed by Boards in many industries for opting for the ethical over the profitable thing. (Odwalla Juice comes to mind.) This is the reason why the slow take over of the Hippocratic Profession by Financialized Corporate Medicine through the 20th Century was such a tragic coup.

Recognizing the inherent conflicts of interest entailed in every aspect of modern corporate medicine is, in my estimation, the first step to being a better practitioner of the art - in even reminding yourself that it is an art. In contrast, blind respect for "Standard-of-Care," which is in actuality Industry Standard, by Industry, for Industry (amounting to a computer program that presages your job replacement by automated tele-medicine) is not the same as good medicine, even if it does for the time being secure a steady paycheck on the back of insurance reimbursement streams that favor repeat customers, chronic treatment regimen, and an over-all unhealthy populace.

If you have not used the IVM protocol described by McCullough, Kory, et al., on yourself in treating your own Covid infection, so as to feel the symptoms abate quickly, to restore test-negative status, and to produce relief noticeably quickly, (or to find empirically that it doesn't help you), then you frankly do not have the experience to claim authority on the matter. Appeals to the exclusive authority of peer-reviewed studies amounts to an abuse of science and misunderstanding of its principles.

Next time your vaccine doesn't prevent you from contracting and conveying Covid, which I guarantee will happen, I encourage you to wax scientific by trying the protocol on yourself. There's truly no downside, if done correctly. This is not medical advice and I am not a medical doctor. But neither are you. You are merely the sole, primary advocate of your own well-being, and nobody else.

Sincerely and with due respect,

From out of your mind,

Good luck to you and your patients,

Survival In The New Woke Order

Continued from page 4

created by the agents of chaos and entropy who sit in the seats of power. "Just as the individual has a shadow," wrote Jung, "so does society at large. And just as the individual must come to terms with his shadow so too must society if it is to be healthy and whole." The rising psychological deindividuation and existential angst infecting our youth over their self-identity, gender, moral alienation and a lack of existential purpose in our technological driven materialistic society has reduced our youth to sentient robots screaming for self-expression. This is a cause for today's woke groupthink contributing to social and political unrest

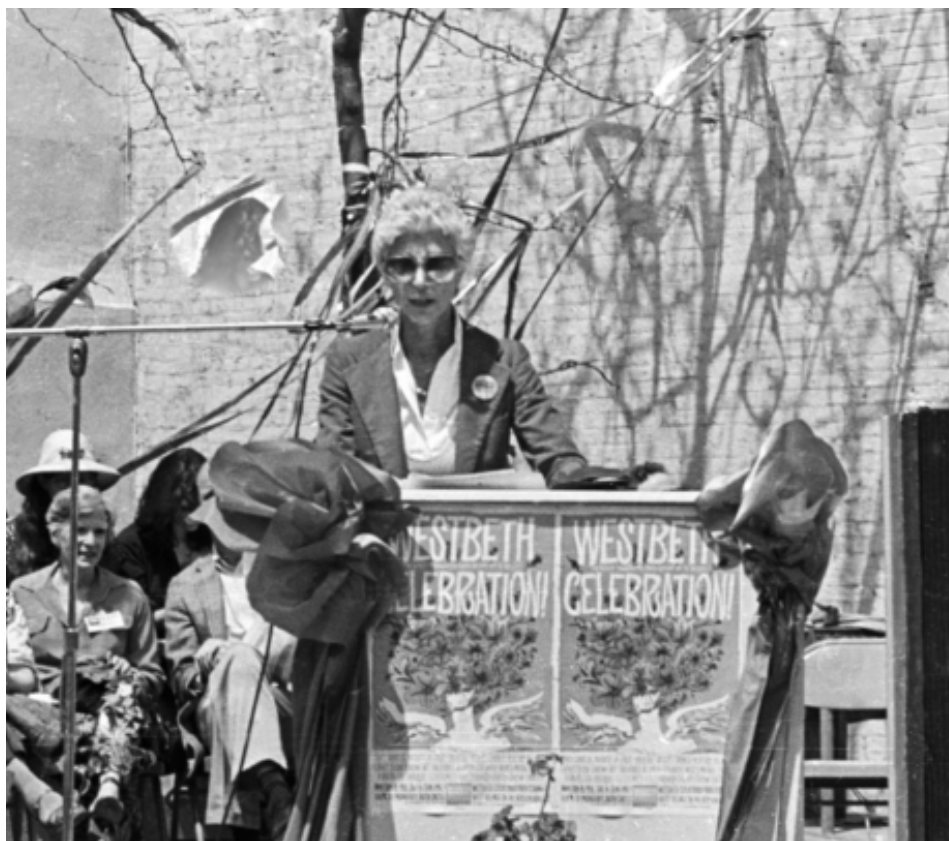
with its destructive outcomes. Or as Nobel laureate Bertrand Russell warned, the "collective passions" have a penchant to inflame "hatred and rivalry directed towards other groups."

Despite the original values of American liberalism and non-dogmatic healthy skeptical inquiry, today's Left has perverted its own legacy. The woke have become every bit as intolerant and wrong-headed as the most zealous fundamentalist on the Right. This "exclusivist humanism," as the prominent cultural philosopher Charles Taylor has termed it, is giving rise to a faux universalism. The new woke order's myopic obeisance increasingly relies on the secular

power structure of the ruling elite that in turn legislates on its behalf to marginalize and imprison alternative belief systems that do not embrace a secular universalism. Hence the new radical Left no longer tolerates the diversity of traditional beliefs and worldviews. The entropic descent into irrational hostility, collective emotional hysteria, and what the Russian-American sociologist Pitrim Sorokin called "cultural schizophrenia," clings desperately to a grossly materialistic society and a fragile false sense of individuality, an empty void, which is completely divorced from any deeper purpose in life.

America is a "society in chains," an

expression stated by Nelson Mandela to describe a citizenry psychologically crippled for making informed decisions and incapable of participating thoughtfully in a democratic process. Consequently, a democratic renaissance, a new energy to reverse entropy, can only proceed following a revitalization of moral and spiritual values that have universal appeal, which respects pluralist ideals both within and beyond national borders. To be worthy of participating in any viable possibility for a democracy in the 21st century, it is necessary to return to becoming John Adams' "moral people."



Joan Davidson at Tenth Anniversary of Westbeth, 1980. Photo credit: Shelley Seccombe.

In Memory of Joan Davidson

By Catherine Revland

In the early 1970s I was a secretary to the J.M. Kaplan Family Fund, and like most people who work for families of great wealth, their children often entertain us with stories about their formidable Dad. Which brings to mind just about everything you need to know about the humanity and grace of Joan, the eldest child. In the early days of Westbeth her father had heard rumors that the lights in the complex were on all night, and he sent his accountant out on an investigation. Sure enough, the accountant reported. Lights were burning all night long at Westbeth, a tremendous waste of electricity.

In a fury, Mr. Kaplan summoned Joan into his office to hear the accountant's dreadful report, to which she put on her stern voice. "Daddy, listen to me," she said, "They're artists. They make a living during the day and they work at night."

During the kerfuffle Richard Kaplan, her brother, had been eavesdropping. "What did Dad say?" "Nothing," she said. "What did the money nanny say?" (His favorite word for the grim accountant.)

"He said 'Humph.' Mission accomplished.

The lights are still on all night at Westbeth, now the largest and the only subsidized artists' housing in the country. May all the people of great wealth on this earth learn to be like Joan.

Master Puppeteer Ralph Lee; his HALLOWED Legacy at its inception



Ralph Lee

By Robert Reiss

Ralph Lee b. 1935, d. 2023

On one particular October 31 it was during my late afternoon visit in the Westbeth Home of Karl Bissinger, the Café Society, Photographer and activist pacifist, when he declared excitedly "let's go outside to Jane Street and see what fellow Westbeth resident Ralph Lee has been working on!"

Carl was talking about what, in retrospect, was to become the first of the annual Greenwich Village Halloween Parades, which started at Jane St and West Street's in association with Crystal Field and Companys Theater for the New City (TNC).

As we left Westbeth Carl and I fetched another Westbether, Josheph Chaikin, the actor director and founder of the influential The Open Theater to join with us as we left for the parade at its first expression of itself as an enduring cultural gift to the life of the city.

We joined about a hundred West Village families assembled in their costumed attire;

here I said hello to the famous memory expert Harry Lorrayne, (with his youngster Robert in tow) who had a Jane St townhouse thereabouts.

Our small procession proceeded through the sepulcher, serpentine streets of the Village winding our way past window-sills and doorsteps decorated into tableaux of ghouls, ghosts, and spectral Halloween characters arranged during the week prior by Puppet master and theater maven Ralph Lee.

For about one hour this procession of wide eyed revelers marveled at and were delightedly awestruck by these window frame Hallows Eve screens designed by Mr. Lee; the window frames aflame with devilry on display.

Indeed, WestView News publisher George Capsis for the first parade provided his Charles St townhouse for one of the puppet masters parade route stenographic creations.

As I remember it, that evening's adventure concluded under the Washington Square Arch.

The charming and neighborly gathering came to a lovely end, that loveliest of Halloweens, all thanks to the enchantments of the enlivened hand and imagination of Ralph Lee.

The Movie Palace, Now History

By Joe Albanese

*There are songs that sound like movies
There are themes that fill the screen
There are lines I say that sound as if they're
written
There are looks I wear the theater should have
seen*

- Widescreen by Rupert Holmes
*Today to get the public to attend the picture
show,
It's not enough to advertise a famous star
they know*
- Technicolor by Cole Porter

Films you didn't stream. Remember them? Taking your best girl (or guy – let's be liberal minded here) to the cinema on a Saturday night was considered a date.

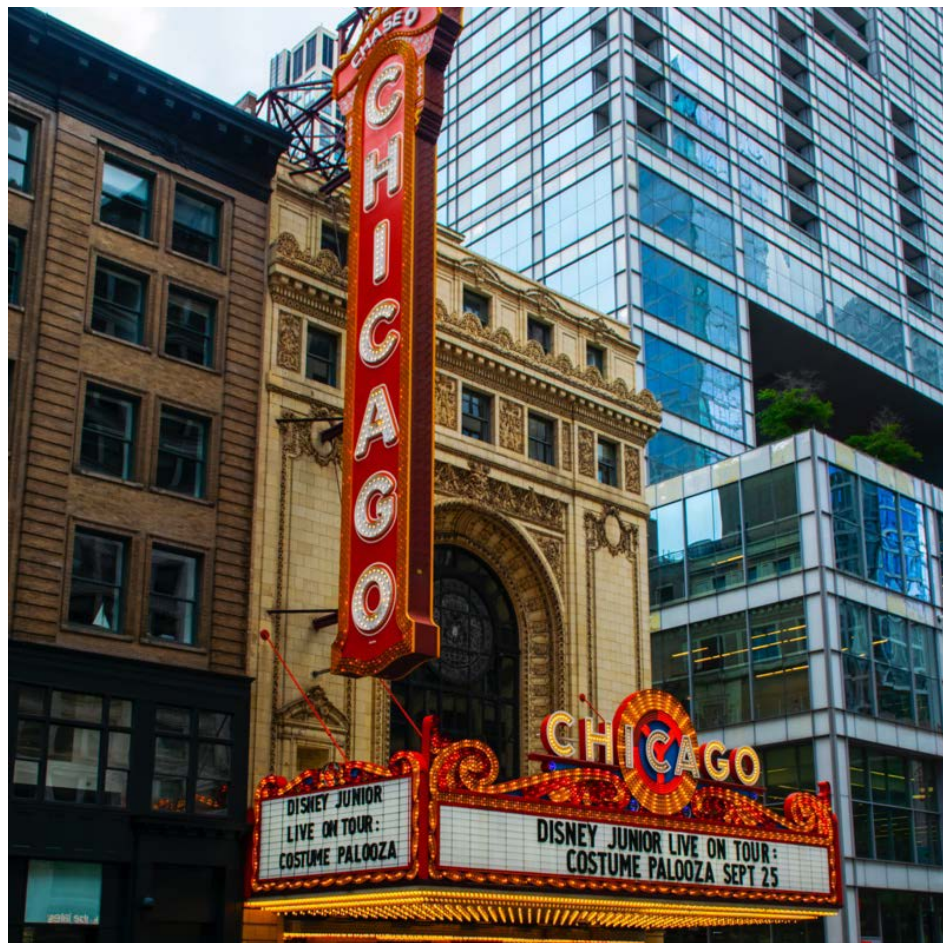
In New York every neighborhood (save Little Italy) had their own local movie house showing second or third run films. Marquees were lit with yellowish lights and drew crowds into the palace where you sat in a seat (generally red velour that was itchy) with the smell of popcorn filling the air.

There were so many choices and times to choose from that you were never at a loss to find a movie.

Delancey Street had a wonderful mecca – the Lowe's Delancey that had a jackpot bonus – it was next door to Ratner's whose name still invokes memories of cheesecakes dotted with fresh fruit.

You could see a double feature and then go next door blueberry blintzes or cherry cheesecake (and, believe me, the latter gave Sara Lee a run for her money).

Second Avenue had their own special places where, when heaven wasn't helping the working girl, she could step into a celluloid dream world at the Lowe's Commodore (also within walking distance of another Ratner's unless you wanted to go to the 2nd Avenue Deli which, back in the



The once grand and important Chicago Theater now serving as a theater. It is one of the few that has kept its neon sign and opulent grandeur but streaming means that now it is used solely for live productions.

day, was on Second Avenue). Or, one could travel east and go to the Lowe's Avenue B which, although generally showing movies on their third go-round (until they went into deep storage as television was still a dream) was still perfect for the locals. Founded by Marcus Lowe (hence the name) and B.F. Keith who was the "K" in "RKO". Both are gone – the Commodore ended so that the Fillmore East could exist and the Avenue B is a part of Beth Israel today.

The Village had the smaller places but

impressive, nonetheless. The Art on Eighth Street and the Waverly where, according to a song from Hair, a hippie lady met a hippie boy, Frank Mills, in front of it. Our theaters were so famous, they even made it into songs.

But the lost treasure had to be the Lowe's Sheridan. Made immortal by local artist (and legend) Edward Hopper. How many movie theaters do you know that are depicted in oil and proudly on display at the Whitney?

Uptown we had Times Square where you could see anything from a triple-feature to a reserved seating theater showing gems such as The Sound of Music (the Rivoli on 49th Street) or My Fair Lady (the Criterion on 45th).

I was too young to go to the Roxy which seems to be the place of dreams and legend but I still have fond memories of Radio City Music Hall when it had sole access to New York showing of Grade A movies and a stage show with the Rockettes. The Christmas and Easter spectaculars had crowds from around the world standing in long lines for hours just to get into the theater which housed over 5,000 seats (along with some of the most impressive architecture imaginable). As unimaginable as it seems today, both the Roxy and the Radio City Music Hall once showed the same movie at the same time – King Kong. 12,000 people per showing could discover that it was love that killed the beast.

And going to "see a picture show" was important event.

Women got dressed up to the nines. A hat, nylon stockings, high heels, a pretty frock with a slip underneath it (heaven forbid that, in the darkened movie theater, one could see a lady's unmentionables). Men didn't get away easy either. A white shirt, shined shoes, a tie (at night especially) and his hat (generally purchased from a haberdashery shop on Orchard Street – just because the hat came from a store near the Lowe's Delancey, it didn't mean you couldn't venture into the wilds of uptown wearing it).

Today that magic is gone. Rents for mammoth emporiums make a showcase impossible. The remaining theaters have been divided and subdivided several times over to fill seats. And the AMC Regal on West 13th Street now hosts video game machines, a concession stand and a full bar. Oh, and a movie.

Interview with Writer/Instructor Nancy Davidoff Kelton



By Russell Saray

Nancy Davidoff Kelton, my writing instructor at The New School for Social Research and now in her advanced private workshop, insists her students revise their work. And revise some more. If and when it becomes publishable, she urges us to submit it and despite rejections submit some more.

Unsurprisingly, Nancy revises her own work and persists with marketing.

For decades, she did so with essays and books and now with her play Everyone's a Stranger. Along with rejections it won Long Beach (CA) Playhouse's New Works Festival Competition 2023 where it had a terrific, staged reading April 1, 2023. Spark Theatre in New York at 15 West 28th Street will have a reading November 12 at 7 pm. (more about getting tickets at the end of the story) A pretty big deal for a new playwright in her 70s.

Here are questions I asked Nancy:

What inspired you to write a play?

I have been going to the theater since 1956 when my parents first took me to Broadway from Buffalo to see The Diary of Anne Frank. I am a theater buff. I love writing dialogue. I hear voices. If I weren't a writer, I'd probably be in a padded cell. I eavesdrop in restaurants, on buses, in parks, everywhere. Although plays are not just dialogue but are about gestures, behavior,

and what is not said, it is exciting to love writing it.

What are the themes of Everyone's a Stranger?

The main themes are a mother-daughter relationship, the impact of mental illness on a family, forgiveness, and learning to give and receive love.

How did the audience react to your Long Beach Playhouse reading?

With laughter and silence. The audience was touched and amused. The feedback I got after was that the characters and situations were very relatable. People told me I was writing about them. Yes. I believe we all have a certain degree of mental illness in our families and ourselves.

Can you share more about your revising ad persisting?

I am a born reviser. I love tightening my work and fleshing it out. I love seeing how to make it better. Revising thrills me. I

welcome constructive criticism. I ultimately let my gut decide what to delete and what to put in. I majored in persistence. A "no" from one theater does not stop me. I keep at it. Keep sending it out. In terms of writing, I say what is in my heart and soul first and foremost for myself. There is an urgency. The process excites me. Talent is a big part of it. But no one gets anywhere without hard work and hanging in.

Tickets for Everyone's a Stranger November 12 at 7 pm can be purchased at Spark Theatre Emerging Artists Theatre the night of the show. Beginning October 15, they can be bought in advance at a lower price through a link at :

<https://emergingartists theatre.org>

Russell Saray lives in the West Village, has had several pieces published including two in West View News, and is working on a memoir.

Culture & Cuisine

Kebab Express Halal Grill



By Ray Wahab

Welcome to Kebab Express Halal Grill, a family owned and operated by brothers Ramin & Freddy, proudly presenting a culinary journey through Mediterranean flavors. With two strategic locations, our brand has become synonymous with exceptional dining experiences. At Kebab Express Halal Grill, we curate a diverse menu that artfully combines traditional kebabs—featuring succulent lamb, savory chicken Kebab and our fresh falafels—with beloved American classics such as chicken wings, hamburgers, and perfectly seasoned fries. Our offerings also extend to include a delightful array of Afghan specialties, including shirazi tomato-cucumber salad and the sweet indulgence of baklava.

A hallmark of our culinary ethos is our commitment to serving only the finest halal meat, ensuring both exceptional quality and adherence to dietary preferences. The star of our menu, the kebab plates, offer a delightful scalability. Choose from a single skewer of exquisitely grilled chicken breast, tandoori kebab or our famous grilled chicken or lamb gyro. For a more complete experience, savor the same succulent skewer atop seasoned basmati rice, accompanied by a fresh salad, priced at \$10.49. The genesis of our unique fusion concept traces back to Owner Ramin Wahab’s extensive background, including his involvement in managing multiple Kennedy Fried Chicken establishments throughout New York City. This fusion philosophy allows us to seamlessly blend culinary influences, and bringing a halal option in NYC resulting in a menu that resonates with a diverse range of palates.



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Today We Talk To Brian Who Is A Barista At Caffee Aronne In The Village!

"Caffe Aronne, nestled in the vibrant West Village neighborhood, is a charming coffeehouse that exudes a warm ambiance, offering a delightful selection of artisanal brews, wines, and delectable pastries to satisfy every caffeine enthusiast's cravings."

SEVIER STORIES

Interview by: **Danielle Sevier**
Produced by: **Mike Persico**

DS: I'm here at Caffee Aronne with Brian who is the barista I come here often, and he serves a mean cappuccino. So, Brian, how long have you been working here?

B: I've been working here for the past two years now.

DS: Nice, and in those two years, have you had any interesting things happen or any celebrity sightings at least?

B: Yeah, actually Will Ferrell came in here, a few months ago.

DS: Really? Will Ferrell came in here?

B: I think he came in with two friends and they were just kind over there in the corner, like, trying to stay away but I noticed them



right away because I'm a big Will Ferrell fan. I was holding back the urge to spit out a line from one of his movies.

DS: No way, do you remember what he ordered to drink?

B: I have no idea. That was in the morning, so I think he had either a cortado or a macchiato or something.

DS: So, he didn't order a wine? (Ha-ha)

B: No, it was in the morning. (Ha-ha)

DS: And what is the earliest that anyone's ordered wine from you?

B: At around 9 in the morning.

DS: Wow really 9am.

B: Yea, I specifically remember it because I was like "hmm" in my head.

DS: And did you serve them?

B: I served them. I figured if you're ordering a wine at this time in the morning, you must really need it.

DS: I certainly agree!

B: Exactly!

DS: And I appreciate you taking the time out of your day to speak to me. I get coffee here all the time and you are a vital part of my day.

B: Thank you so much I appreciate you as well.

DS: Thank you!

Have A Question About Your Home?

Ask me. Your neighbor, friend & West Village expert!

Let's discuss over coffee!

Give me a call or send me an email. I look forward to talking to you!

917.991.5386



Danielle Sevier
Lic. Assoc. R.E. Broker
dsevier@compass.com





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WEST VILLAGE LOCALS

Text and photos by Rose Hartman

As a long-time West Villager (a resident from 1963), I have seen many changes (real estate boom that seems to have no end, exclusive boutiques and shops, the disappearance of mom-and-pop shops), but the one consistent feature is the beauty of the area, the civility, the very human scale, cobble-stoned streets, and charming, intimate cafes.

It is little wonder that the West Village has attracted international notables: actors, artists, designers, and restaurateurs who are able to relax in a neighborhood of tree-lined streets free from the prying eyes of the paparazzi.

www.rosehartman.com



CHRISTY TURLINGTON &
MICHAEL KORS



SARAH JESSICA PARKER



LOU REED



JULIANNE MOORE



Happy First Anniversary, Joe

It's been an incredible year of sharing dreams,
building memories, and growing together. I love you!

♡ Katie

Walk About New York

By Walk About New York

In a Greenwich Village guidebook written in the 1880’s, the author decried the row of ugly new brownstone townhouses on Charles and Perry and the tearing down of Sir Peter Warren’s mansion. Indeed, if you look at a map of the Village before 1866 you will discover the last square block of green between West Fourth and Bleecker and Charles to Perry but who was Sir Peter? Why was he so famous that he was buried in Westminster Abby?

Born in Ireland on the 10th of March 1703, Peter Warren entered the Royal Navy when he was 13 years of age. Rising rapidly through the ranks, he was appointed captain of his own ship in 1727. His ship patrolled the water off the American colonials, protecting British interests from the French. He commanded His Majesty’s naval forces during the attack on the French fortress at Louisbourg, Nova Scotia in 1745.

Peter Warren’s adventures on the high seas made him a rich man. It was common practice in the 18th century for the victorious navy to keep the spoils of the defeated one. With his wealth Sir Peter bought thousands of acres of land near present-day Schenectady, New York. He also bought 300 acres in Greenwich Village. He built a manor house on his Village estate; it had a direct sightline to the Hudson River. I have

it on good authority that behind Number 69 Charles Street a tree still stands that had been in Sir Peter’s front yard!

Sir Peter married well. In 1731, Susanna Delancey became his wife. She brought two trust funds to the marriage, as well as later inheritances from her father and her mother, who was a Van Cortlandt. Susanna’s brother James had a farm on land that would become Manhattan’s Lower East Side, whose main thoroughfare would be named for the family.

Susannah gave birth to six children; two died in 1744 during an outbreak of smallpox in New York. Sir Peter, his wife and their four surviving daughters moved to England in 1747. One of those daughters, Charlotte would marry Willoughby Bertie, 4th Earl of Abingdon. For a wedding gift, Sir Peter gave the couple some of the land on his Greenwich Village estate. That land was in the vicinity of the Village’s Abingdon Square Park. When New York City officials were seeking to purge the town of its British-associated names in 1797 it was decided that Abingdon Square should be retained because the earl and countess were supporters of the colonists’ drive for independence.

There are more stories connected with Sir Peter and his land. Discover what they are on Walk About New York’s Greenwich Village Walking Tour.

(<http://www.walkaboutny.com>).



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NY Copy, Print & Ship Center

By Matthew Collins,
Architectural Editor-at-Large

In 1992, inspired by his difficulty finding a copy store nearby his East Village home that could enlarge his wedding photo and frame it to his liking, Bidyut Sarker opened the 7th Street Copy Center at 34 East 7th Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenue. In 1994 his wife, Mousumi (“Mou”), emigrated to the U.S. to be with him, and in that time she often helped out at the storefront as they started their family.

Business in the ‘90s was good, so in 1995 Bidyut opened a second location at 204 East 11th Street at 3rd Avenue. As a result, eventually Mou began to run the 7th Street location on her own, even after her second son was born in 1997.

In 2013, the 11th Street building was sold by the owner and the Sarker’s almost lost the whole business. Bidyut desired to give it up, having suffered a stroke in 2009, but Mousumi persuaded him to hold onto it by insisting that she would run it herself, if he could just help her relocate to a new storefront that could accommodate the



consolidation of equipment.

In 2014 they moved across the street into 13 East 7th Street - two store fronts west of McSorley’s Ale House just off Cooper Square - and renamed the store *NY Copy, Print and Ship Center*.

“I love the store which gives me the opportunity to grow. I take care of it the same as I [would] care for my baby.”



Since 1997, Mou has single handedly run the shop on 7th. It is a retail print and copy shop in the old style - neither a B2B industrial-grade print shop, nor a stationary store outfitted with a customer-operated machine or two, and definitely not an impersonal Staples or FedEx/Kinkos.

NY Copy is the real deal - a true neighborhood spot.

Today, *NY Copy, Print and Ship Center* remains the last of its kind still operating in downtown Manhattan, according to this author’s survey.

When *Your Neighborhood Office* at 332 Bleeker Street near Christopher Street, which had been the West Village’s last remaining indie retail copy shop and mailbox service, closed in March of 2018 after 24 years of service, many local residents were left hanging, without a place to go for their retail printing needs and associated services.

NY Copy, Print and Ship may offer relief.

[Full disclosure: I’ve been a loyal customer at *NY Copy* for years.]

So the next time you happen to cross Broadway, stop in to say hi to Mou behind the counter, and - if you’ve got a big job for her to process - pass the time with a couple mid-day mugs and a nibble from McSorley’s while you wait, with the sure knowledge that you’ll be helping to keep the spirit of analogue culture alive.

NY Copy, Print & Ship Center is located at 13 East 7th Street

Sky Rink All Stars



By Amy Engeler

The Sky Rink All Stars, an ensemble skating troupe of young figure skaters at Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers, made New York City proud, winning bronze and pewter medals at the prestigious United States Figure Skating National Showcase competition in Boston, Massachusetts, August 5th. Moreover, every skater from the Skating Club of New York who participated came home with a gold, silver, bronze or pewter medal.

“It was almost like a dream,” explained coach of the All Stars, Marni Halasa, a veteran coach at Sky Rink. “But the skaters were so prepared, so excited and honestly, the energies aligned. Every skater not only skated their personal best, they came



together as a team and most importantly, had fun. We coaches can never guarantee that our skaters are going to win, but if they have a good experience, it becomes transformative and catapults them to the next level.”

Teamwork, Dedication and Entertainment on Ice!

The junior team, Avery Asher, Angelina Eckhard, Ryder Goldstein and Sophie Skinner, ages 8 to 12 years of age, had the skate of their lives, emulating the memorable characters Rose, Blanche, Dorothy and Sofia, from the 1980’s sitcom “The Golden Girls.” Definitely the crowd pleaser, the skaters executed synchronized jumps, complicated footwork, as well as a show-stopping “Single Ladies” dance and Rockettes-inspired kick line in unison. The senior team, Sarah Bluberg, Emily Farrell and Sofia Liu, also

made a splash, performing a more comedic routine, inspired by Boogie Storm, a group of hip hop dancing Stormtroopers from America’s Got Talent, with Halasa herself skating a cameo as a moonwalking Darth Vader as well as a vogue-ing Princess Leia.

“We wanted to do something that the judges had never seen before — which in our case, was ice skating Stormtroopers that could dance,” explained team captain Sarah Bluberg, who also qualified and had a stellar showing the prestigious Parade of Champions at the competition. “From Madonna’s “Vogue” to PSY’s “Gangnam Style” to the Sugarhill Gang’s “Jump on It,” we performed iconic dances that everyone knows and loves. And in the end, it paid off.”

With the use of props, scenery, elaborate costumes and theatrical performance, showcase fuses figure skating with artistic

creativity. For the past decade, is has been one of the most growing areas of skating according to US Figure Skating (<https://www.usfigureskating.org/skate/skating-opportunities/showcase>) because it is more about the theatrics and choreography, than having quadruple jumps. In that sense, said Halasa, it’s a better fit for our New York City skaters whose priorities are academics and getting into good colleges, while still wanting to have a compelling competitive national experience. But they still have to “bring it,” she added.

“Make no mistake, showcase competitions are extremely competitive. You have to search for months for the right concept, spend hours upon hours splicing music, and then come up with brilliant choreography. But if your team has the right stuff: teamwork,

Continued on page 27

THE FLUFFY MAFIA OF CENTRAL PARK

By Lydia DesRoche

The Fluffy Mafia is a group of fluffy dogs who hang out together in Central Park.

I named them the Fluffy Mafia because they are this group of little fluffy dogs who get to chase squirrels, roll in stink, jump, and do all of those things that dogs love to do but humans often discourage. They are loved for their individual personalities and not some ridiculous ideal. I love their humans because they're humans let them be who they are.

They came to be as a group of quarantine dogs who met in the park just as quarantine restrictions were starting to lift, and started with two dogs; Biscuit (a Havanese), who was a dog I was training, and Caramel (A Shipoo), who met on "dog hill" during off-leash hours. Biscuit had so much fun, that she never wanted to leave the park, and though I had worked with Biscuit at her home, that's when her parents asked if I'd spend mornings in the park with her as well, training her to come when she was called.

Over the course of a few months, Biscuit and Caramel developed an extra special relationship. They would meet every day. Soon they were joined by Maeve the Mudi, Teddy, the Canadian golden doodle, Fox the Cavapoo, Harper the mixed breed, who looks like a Dr. Seuss character, and Gidget who lives up to her name, and then some. I was fascinated by this little group of dogs. To me they were the Fluffy Mafia; ruling the great lawn and dog hill.

Grace (who was featured in this newspaper last month) had not been interested in going

to the park since losing her big brother Red and her friend Jake. She would tuck her tail and pull towards the exit, and so the decision was made not to force the issue of getting her to enjoy the park again, since she seemed perfectly happy running around the city with me during the week and being in the west village with her dad on weekends.

At one point, I wanted to gently reintroduce the park to Grace and she if she would take to the Fluffy Mafia and vice-versa. I asked my clients if I could bring her along. She's been going everywhere since she was a baby, galleries, shopping, hair salon, nail salon, she even joined me when I trained animals for the theatre on Broadway when I was working on *Of Mice & Men* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*. She's a great little companion and assistant and I didn't think she would distract from the lessons with the other dogs.

At first, Grace stayed close to me. She's 11 years old and through she has a lot of energy, hanging out with a bunch of two- and three-year-olds might not have been her cup of tea exactly, but I knew all the dogs well enough to know how to introduce them to each other gently. Over time Grace's confidence increased and now she runs amok with the rest of the gang.

Grace has helped the mafia up there training game, and she turned out to be the perfect role model for the group. The fluffy mafia quickly followed her up trees, on rocks, on benches, and any other object. And Grace is a seasoned model for the



"The Fluffy Mafia" (left to right): Biscuit, Grace, Teddy, and Caramel.

Photo credit: Lydia DesRoche

camera — she knows how to pose for the perfect picture, and she knows that hopping onto an object and looking at the camera makes treats magically appear. Now they all follow her lead.

These little group of sweet dogs have the most amazing friendships with each other. Even the way the dogs joyfully greet each other as everyone is arriving is absolutely beautiful. It's a really special

group of dogs and people, and I absolutely love our mornings together, so much so that it's very rare that the walks are just an hour. Usually, we get to the park at around 8 AM and we're still going at 10 or 11.

I can never get enough of them! They cutest, sweetest and funniest group of dogs you'd ever meet.



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BEASTY FEAST

Continued from page 26

commitment, the ability to take risks, along with a hefty dose of empathy for each other, then you're golden. That's not to say there aren't issues — these are young girls with Type A personalities — but we always work it out. We run the team very democratically, where each skater has an equal say. They learn early on that they have an important voice in the process."

The Group Dynamic

Known for teaching groups at Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers, Halasa believes that the group dynamic is important in child development. The team format, she explains, is an excellent learning exercise for children -- helping them understand how to work together, even if they have different visions or their skating levels are not the same. Studies show that children will participate more in sports if they believe they can do their best, exercise and play

well as a team. The likelihood of winning, researchers found, was not a priority in participation. (<https://www.vice.com/en/article/a35pmj/sports-are-fun-because-of-teamwork-not-winning>)

"In my experience, children begin to see that it is not all about their individual needs, but the needs as a whole. They begin to develop a certain maturity and begin to ask: 'How can we come together to make the group better.' There is a shift in consciousness that happens and it's amazing to see," she said.

The skaters, from neighborhoods all over NYC, always appreciate the performance opportunities they have had. Early on, the team had their own segment on NY1 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCNfqFoC40Q>). This winter season, the team will be performing at Chelsea Piers, South Street Seaport, Riverbank State Park and Brookfield Place.

In prior years, the team has performed for guests at the Standard Hotel as well as Olympic commentator Johnny Weir's birthday party at the Soho Grand, performing for his guests on synthetic ice.

It Takes A Village

A victorious team, said Halasa, always takes a village. The All Stars have a track record of success, as national medalists from 2013 to 2023, nearly 9 years in a row has relied on the major players in the city's figure skating community. We really have to thank everyone involved, she stated, including Sky Rink coach and colleague Nancy Quach who was the teams' secondary coach at nationals this year, Moira North of Ice Theatre of New York, Skating Club of New York's President Terri Levine, Sky Rink's Figure Skating Director Stephanie Hernandez and the other Sky Rink coaches and parents who never hesitate when lending a hand is needed.

"I've always said this: There is no better childhood than a figure skating childhood," Halasa asserted. "It gives you an identity, friends, incredible skills and challenges you in ways that ultimately prepares you for life. Years later when I see my students all grown up as adults, they always mention how important the team was during their teenage years, and how positively it impacted their lives. When you get that kind of feedback, you know you've chosen the right calling."

Marni Halasa has been a staff professional teaching figure skating at Chelsea Piers for nearly 30 years (<https://www.iceskatingnewyork.com/>). An owner of The Purple Tongue, a wine bar in Hell's Kitchen, she also ran for City Council in 2021 as a Democrat, pushing the Small Business Jobs Survival Act, saving Section 9 public housing as well as organizing independent contractors to have a voice in the workplace..

A Journey through Classical Reception in Modern Music



Triumph of Achilles by Franz von Matsch. Photo credit: Chenc67789, via Wikimedia Commons

By Anastasia Kaliabakos

Reprinted from The National Herald

One of the greatest benefits of having Greek heritage is being a part of the tremendous legacy of Greek antiquity. Oftentimes, when one thinks of ancient art, politics, and mythology, they think of Greece. Of course, this is due to many things, one being education about Greek and western history in schools across the country. However, an arguably larger influence on the association of such important things with Greece has to do with what is called classical reception. Classical reception refers to how the classical world, especially Ancient Greek and Latin literature, have been received since antiquity. Studying classical reception helps us to understand the portrayal and representation of the ancient world from ancient to modern times.

There are many different mediums of classical reception. An obvious one is through movies. Hollywood has put out many films over the past few decades that have revolved on mythology from antiquity, especially the epics of “Homer” (the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*). Examples of these kinds of movies include *Clash of the Titans* (both the 1981 and 2010 films), *Troy* (2004), *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* (2000), and the upcoming movie based on the *Odyssey* called *The Return* (anticipated release in 2024). There have also been a plethora of T.V. shows inspired by Greek history and mythology, such as *Blood of Zeus* (2020), a show that follows the story of Heron, a son of Zeus, and *Reign: The Conqueror* (1999), which is a Japanese anime based on the campaigns of Alexander the Great. There are also many popular books based on Greek mythology, most notably *Percy Jackson & the Olympians* and *The Heroes of Olympus* series, both of which are by renowned author Rick

Riordan.

In my quest to discover and enjoy various modes of classical reception, I decided to see what contemporary music I could find that was inspired by Greek mythology or Ancient Greek history. Before my search began, I was only familiar with a couple of rock songs that my dad had shown me when I was younger, such as *Flight of Icarus* and *Alexander the Great* (356–323 BC) by Iron Maiden. However, I was not expecting to find hundreds of songs inspired by Greek mythology and history in all different musical genres.

I started with what I was familiar with: Icarus. In Greek mythology, Icarus was the son of the famous inventor Daedalus who died by flying too close to the sun with wings made of wax and feathers. In addition to the Iron Maiden song I already knew, I stumbled across *Icarus* by Bastille, best known for their song *Pompeii*, arguably another example of Roman classical reception. *Icarus* the song directly engages with the Greek myth through its lyrics (Icarus is flying too close to the sun / And Icarus’ life, it has only just begun / This is how it feels to take a fall / Icarus is flying towards an early grave), thus bringing an ancient myth to new life in the modern day.

There is also a surprising amount of songs about Orpheus, a bard, poet, and musician who is said to have traveled with the Argonauts in search of the Golden Fleece and even journeyed to the underworld to find his lost wife, Eurydice. It is ironic that there are so many songs related to Orpheus, given his close relationship to music. A couple I particularly loved were *The Lyre of Orpheus* by Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds and *Orpheus Under the Influence* by The Buttertones. Additionally, *Hadestown*, a popular musical inspired by the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, is currently on Broadway.

There are also a variety of songs highlighting significant women from Greek myths. *Antigone* by The Cave Children, *Ismene* by Silo’s Choice, and *Jocasta* by Noah and The Whale are all inspired by characters from the *Oedipus Cycle* by Sophocles, which follows a ruler named Oedipus and his failed attempts to escape fate. Additionally, *Persephone in the Garden* by Aidoneus is arguably a take on the myth of Persephone from Hades’ perspective (Didn’t mean to take you down / Didn’t mean to take you down / I thought you’d wanna stay / I thought we would be fine whatever came our way). *Pandora’s Box* by MARINA (whose full name is Marina Lambrini Diamandis, and is actually half Greek) references Pandora, who is a mythological figure said to have released all the manners of misery and evil found in the world from a box. MARINA actually has a few songs that are inspired by antiquity: in fact, one of her albums is even entitled *Ancient Dreams in a Modern Land*. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention *Cassandra* by Florence + The Machine and also *Cassandra* by ABBA, songs both inspired by the figure Cassandra who was endowed with the gift of prophecy but fated never to be believed.

Songs inspired by historical figures are also of interest. There are a surprising number of songs inspired by philosophers, such as *Plato Song* by Hero Magnus and *Aristotle’s Denial* by Joe Hawley and Cojum Dip. *Sappho* by Ruby Shore was obviously composed with the historical Sappho in mind. Sappho was an archaic Greek poet from the island of Lesbos and is known for her lyric poetry. From ancient times to modernity, Sappho has been regarded as one of the greatest lyric poets of all time and has even been referred to as the “Tenth Muse.” *Sappho* echoes the longing qualities of Sappho’s actual poetry, which we can read today only in fragments.

Finally, there are an abundance of songs

about famous heroes from the Greek epic tradition and mythology. *Perseus* by Unknown Brain and Chris Linton and *Theseus* by The Oh Hellos are about two extremely famous mythological figures who remain popular in today’s day and age. *Tales of Brave Ulysses* by Cream, *Patroclus* by Anjruw McCarthy, *Songs of Achilles: My Name Shall Live Forever* by Deborah Stokol, and *Achilles Come Down* by Gang of Youths are all inspired by characters from Homer’s *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. There is even an entire album by artist Andrew Achilles DiMestico that came out in 2019 entitled *ILLIAD*. It is an album of instrumental music marking important segments of the *Iliad*. My favorite pieces on the album include *Appropriating a War Prize* (in reference to the fight between Agamemnon and Achilles over Briseis), *Patroclus Meets his Fate* (about the death of Patroclus at the hands of Hector of Troy), and *Kissing the Killer’s Hand* (Priam’s journey to the Greek camp to beg Achilles for Hector’s body).

Classical reception is an extremely interesting field of study, and I was pleasantly surprised with how much music I was able to discover in my self-imposed search. I invite you, reader, to embark upon your own journey through classical reception. In the words of classical scholars Anastasia Bakogianni and Ricardo Apostol, “The classics are indeed everywhere and for everyone, so may our odyssey never end.”

Kaliabakos is a graduate of The Brearley School and the College of the Holy Cross. She has been featured in *NEO Magazine*, *The National Herald*, *The Villager* and *The Village Sun*, and has contributed to *WestView News* since 2018. She will continue her passion for journalism this year as a Collegiate Network Editorial Fellow in Washington, D.C.

Stretto Festival 2023 Hails Innovation, Offers Choice Of Key Size for Pianists

A Global Celebration July 15 - 23, 2023

By Hannah Reimann

The Closing Celebration of live concerts for the Third International Stretto Piano Festival included two virtuoso pianists, Ran Feng from China and Yoshiko Kline from Japan, sharing the performance of David Amram's *Sonata for Piano* (1960). The Sonata is being re-introduced to new players and audiences by Stretto Piano Concerts, the festival, colleagues and supporters of Amram. A new recording by the excellent Thomas Weaver will be released in Fall 2023. Influenced greatly by the composer's love of Jazz, the three movements weave together flowingly with rhythmic crispness and emotive melodic motifs, sometimes requiring the performer to share complicated passages between hands, crossing the keyboard with gymnastic playfulness. The theme of the last movement is memorable, moving, and sublime.

Before the Amram section of the concert, Ms. Feng played an exuberant and commanding program of Liszt's *Müllerlieder von Franz Schubert* and the Brahms Sonata No. 1 in C Major, Opus 1. There were two pianos on stage and she played on a grand piano that has a 5.9-inch octave measurement rather than the conventional 6.5-inch octave conventional piano. After the Amram Sonata for Piano, the David Amram Band took the stage and brought the house down. Amram played the piano with 6.5-inch octave piano keys.

This was the first live event in a major city in nearly 100 years where pianists were offered a choice of piano key size — the invention prevents and helps cure injuries, offers comfort and freedom of expression, creates equity and inclusion, and creates beautiful



The David Amram Band: Kevin Twigg, Don Miller, David Amram & Adam Amram at Engelman Recital Hall, Baruch Performing Arts Center on July 22, 2023. Photo credit: Hannah Reimann

music. A growing number of pianists with small and medium-sized hands prefer to play repertoire that requires stretching and extending their hands and fingers using a Stretto instrument.

The 2023 Stretto Piano Festival was the most well-attended in its three year history since its inception in 2021 when it was a series of online concerts that created community, crossing international borders via cyberspace, attracting over 400 people to play and view concerts. In 2023, more than 10,000 online audience viewers experienced 27 concerts with over 35 artists from five continents. All the concerts can be heard online via YouTube or Facebook anytime. Search for Stretto Piano Concerts on both platforms.

Other live highlights included Roger Lord, a brilliant entertainer and scholar of new

piano music from New Brunswick, Canada who traveled the world collecting pieces and experiences. This gives his playing a great range of colors and styles, a sense of adventure and international panache. He performed works by 11 composers including his own arrangement of a Gershwin medley. Julia Furlan joined Lord on the stage, playing "Tea for Two" for as a four-hands encore.

The great Christopher O'Riley was heard on NPR's *From the Top* for decades and the internationally-known soloist and chamber musician has always got another innovative project up his sleeve, from Berlioz to Radiohead. He traveled from Los Angeles to play in NYC for Stretto 2023 to present the world premiere of his *Virtually Tempered Clavier Book 1*. This innovative event celebrating 300 years J.S. Bach's complete *Well Tempered Clavier*, was performed

on a Casio Privia electronic instrument. Sophisticated sound reproduction of fortepianos, harpsichords, various grand pianos etc. — a different sound and different temperament for each of the 24 preludes and fugues of Book 1 — are possibly more faithful to the original than playing one modern piano. O'Riley will play Book 2 and Radiohead at The Kennedy Center in November 2023.

Stretto 2023 also presented live concerts by Steve Sandberg, Luiz Simas, Anna Arazi, a Music Lovers concert, a children's concert and one by yours truly. Online concerts included Carol Leone, Tina Chong, Eliana Yi, Jocelyn Ho and many more.

Reach out to us at info.strettopianofestival@gmail.com and go to strettopianoconcerts.org for more information, future events and collaboration.

The Goddess Of Dance Vija Vetra

By Prakhar Bajpai

Meet my goddess of dance one in million iconic GURUMA VIJA VETRA. Age is just a number and this has been proved by her. Vija who lives in West village, new York. Dance for her is breathing and meditation. She is known for doing classical Indian dance form. She knows other various kind of dance form also and danced in almost every city of world from Delhi to New York to Sidney to London and many more. Recently she gave her 2 hours dance performances in Riga, Latvia at age of 100. earlier she has come on American TV show mister Roger's neighborhood also.

Her native country is Latvia and where ever she goes she brings the taste of Latvia and India with her. In fact, she is great

daughter of India and Latvia and great pride of New York, USA. She has great love for her country Latvia in her heart. Her life is full of struggle and she has seen wars in her early childhood but like true warrior she come out as winner who follows her passion for dance and become greatest dancer. She is the one who made her dream come to reality through self-education, discipline and courage.

She is biggest source inspiration for many around the world. She knows 8 different languages and she always convey her message to youth that Never grow up Always be like child who want to learn something new in life.

Her life is great source of motivation and inspiration and will guide the world forever. She is most humble person I have ever meet in my life. It's truly said that where there is will there is way "



Five Questions: with Hollywood Legend Lin Shaye, as She Comes to Off-Broadway on the West Side this Fall

By Robert Galinsky

Lin Shaye debuts her award-winning solo show “Tripping On Life” in an Off Broadway run at Theatre Row opening September 8. I have the distinct joy of directing her in this show and marvel at her searing storytelling and performance, both as we rehearse and as she prowls the stage in front of live audiences. I took time from our rehearsal and posed five questions to her.

R.G. The show “Tripping On Life” is a unique format. It’s “part theatre, part poetry, part song, part hear-say, and part sing along” performed with written material in hand. Tell us why that choice?

L.S. This show is a chronicle of a time in my life, a journal of sorts, and holding a physical script is a device that creates a different kind of audience experience. There is something about reading a story, the “once upon a time” moment, that I find as powerful as memorized moments of expression. There are moments where I comment on the document as I bring characters to life. It’s a hybrid theatrical experience showing that my life is still in process. It is a true hybrid which can also be considered part feature, part podcast, part... me.

R.G. You experienced “The Summer of Love” as a young woman and were deeply involved in the culture of the time. What was your experience of the 60’s like?

L.S. 1968 had more politics and more chaos in one year than almost any other single year in history. It was also a time of rich community, breaking down traditional expectations of relationships and routine and moving out of and questioning the designated structures that society had in place for so long. It was a time where politics, music, experimentation, and exploration of lifestyles all blended. My experience in the 60’s was more personal than political, as you’ll see in this show.

R.G. Stella Adler, Lee Strasberg and Uta Hagen are three of our greatest acting

teachers and you were a student of all three when you started out on stage. After a successful decades long career in film, you now return to the stage. What’s that like?

L.S. I started in theater and there is NOTHING like the energy of a live performance. You can begin to feel the electricity the minute the audience lands in their seats. My performance is affected as much by the energy of the audience as it is by my understanding of the words and story. It becomes a full relationship for the length of the show and to a certain degree, their reactions guide the performance. I work with the rhythm and energy that they provide, which is different at each performance.

R.G. In this show you play yourself and then step into several characters. How do you balance this?

L.S. I am telling a story and peopling it with different personalities. Each character is a product of their own unique experiences, which are different than mine, and I try through voice and physicality to bring their characteristics to life. The distinctions of each character are built and guided by the dialogue that I’ve recalled and written for each of them.

R.G. You work with your son as a sound designer and musician on this show. Was that in the plan all along? What does it mean to you to work with him?

L.S. I had no plan all along about any of this! It has sprouted its own garden which I now am trying to tend. My son is a gifted artist as a writer and musician. His voice is unique, sometimes jarring and very different from mine and the things I am familiar with. But his understanding of story, and his artful use of music, tells even more than words can say. It is fantastic. He has added a modern and emotional touch to this piece that is unique, individual and is connected to the emotionality of his mother! He is, dare I say, genius.”



Photo credit: Luiz Lima

Swann's Way Marcel Proust

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Unusual Guidelines:

- 1) There will be no set pages for each month; we will pick up from where we previously stopped.
- 2) We will stay within the text; we will 'read and respond.'

3) Thus, no spoilers, biographical information, or literary criticism will be welcomed.

We will read Combray aloud from William C. Carter's annotated edition of Swann's Way, by Yale University Press.

Starts September 12th.

Space is limited.

Register:

<https://www.nysl.org/events/programs/2023/09/12/reading-proust-aloud>

People's Symphony Concerts Fall 2023 Season And Upcoming 125th Anniversary

By Hannah Reimann

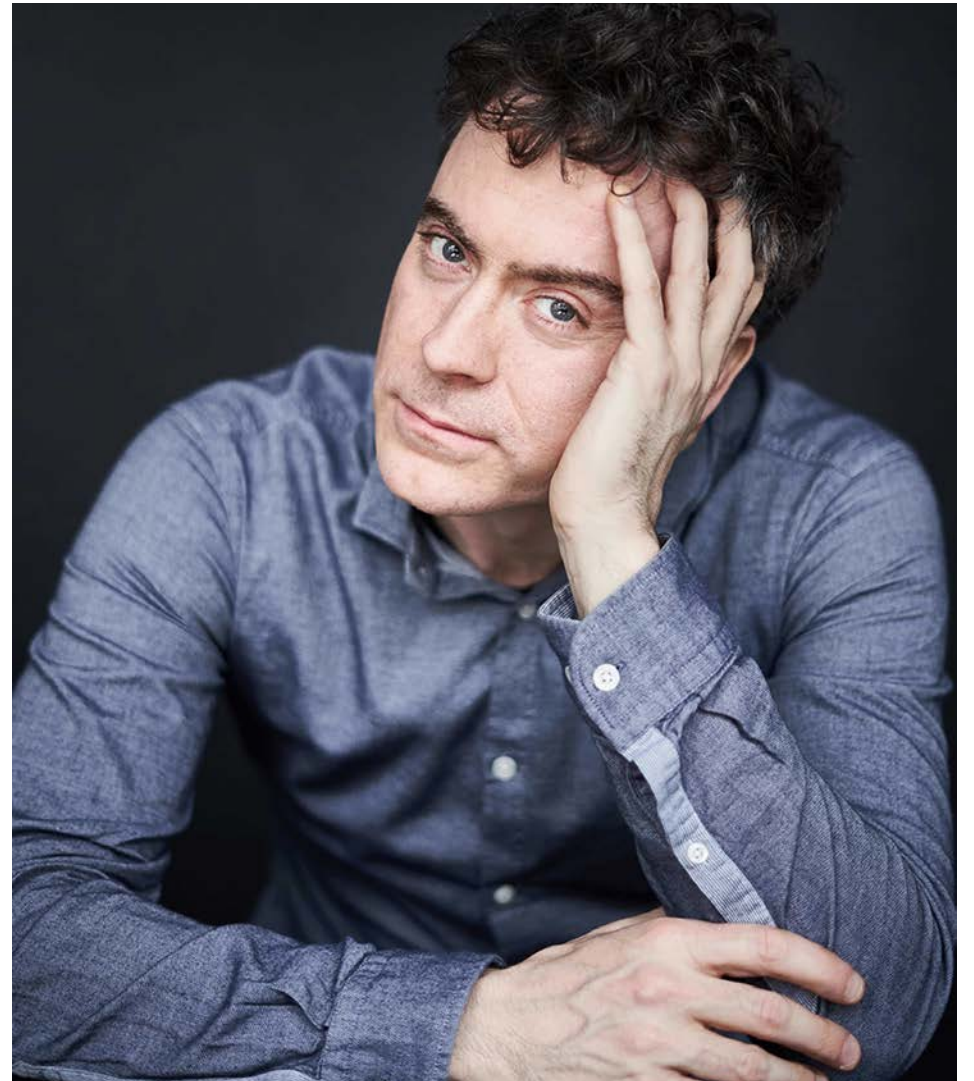
Looking forward to the Fall, Village residents are in for a treat and the best bang for your buck if you love classical music. Peoples' Symphony Concerts continues to provide an invaluable opportunity for New Yorkers of modest means to hear classical artists including wonderful new faces and new music. I have heard these concerts since I was a preteen pianist practicing my first sonatas and concertos - I can vouch that they are always outstanding, a tremendous value and well-attended. Plan ahead to get tickets for these popular and inexpensive concerts performed by excellent and famous musicians!

Frank Salomon celebrates his 50th anniversary as the Manager of PSC in 2023-2024. This and the series' 125th season in 2024-2025 are rare major milestones. Since 1900, the series has been offering those not able to afford regular ticket prices with what the New York Times described as "Carnegie Hall-quality artists for less than a Manhattan movie ticket or even a large popcorn." Performances are presented on twelve Saturday evenings at 7:30 PM at Washington Irving Campus (one block from Union Square) and on six Sunday afternoons at 2 PM in association with The Town Hall (one block from Times Square) and are also available virtually. Details on the series can be found at [pscny.org](https://www.pscny.org) for the 2023-2024 season,

Tickets are as low as \$9.33 with a 6-concert subscription, children free, and a Students & Essential Workers' Pass for its 18 concerts bringing the per concert ticket price to less than \$2 and single tickets 50% off.

A major project that will span both seasons is a four-concert Schubert Sonata Cycle with the noted British pianist Paul Lewis giving the first two performances on Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, May 19. New music will be well represented, starting with the world premiere of a piano concerto that the series commissioned from acclaimed composer and jazz pianist Vijay Iyer for its Resident Artist Shai Wosner and ECCO (East Coast Chamber Orchestra) on Saturday, October 28, and in the programs of the Juilliard, Calidore, Danel and Mystery Quartets and the Kenari Saxophone Quartet. Long committed to introducing its audience to exciting new artists and ensembles, eight of its eighteen concerts will present artists making their PSC debuts.

Over the last five decades that Frank Salomon has guided the series, the PSC audience has had the opportunity of discovering such exceptional young artists as Ax, Bell, Biss, Bronfman, Denk, Goode, Hadelich, Lang, Laredo, Lupu, Ma, Perahia, Serkin, Schiff, Shaham, Stoltzman, Zukerman, the leading emerging quartets and chamber ensembles, as well as the masters of the day. Highlights of the last fifty years and the impact that the series has had on music in The City can be found at <https://www.pscny.org/fs-history>



One of the world's most acclaimed pianists, Britain's Paul Lewis embarks upon a rare two-season Complete Schubert Sonata Cycle as part of the celebration of the affordable Peoples' Symphony Concerts 125th Season in 2024-25 and the 50th Anniversary of Frank Salomon as its Manager, in 2023-24. The legendary series has been providing world-class weekend concerts to New Yorkers on a limited budget since 1900 with subscription tickets as low as \$9.33 per concert and children FREE. Photo credit: Kaupo Kikkas

Interview with Crystal Field, Director Of Theater For The New City



Interview By Jacqueline Kirk

Crystal Field : I went to the High School of Theater and Art. And I have an associates degree in theater from Juilliard and one in philosophy from Hunter College. None of which is gonna do you much good financially, but spiritually, it was wonderful. And so I have a long history of living poor so that you can do your art. That is something that many artists accept and do and really don't complain about. But when they talk to other people, people think they're nuts. So what can I say?

Jacqueline Kirk : I completely understand you there.

Crystal Field : Theater for the New City

started when Mayor Lindsay was mayor. And that's why it's called Theater for the New City. It's because we hoped and believed that things were gonna change for the city under his direction. The problem was he had a problem that a lot of artists have. He didn't know how to deal politically or financially with the unions. He had a lot of trouble as mayor. He had great ideals but not enough practical skills.

I want very much to give artists practical skills. That is another mission of Theater for the New City. To give artists who are not educated in protecting themselves financially, to then have the skills to battle producers and sometimes, the press. So that they could write what they want to write and be successful. That is the mission of

Theater for the New City also.

Jacqueline Kirk : That title is such an interesting one. It sounds like an ideal. It brings to mind the idea of a perfect city. What is your idea of that?

Crystal Field : What we want, is art to be an important part of the budget. Hahaha! Of the budget! Let's put it that way. Maybe you have to worry about your food and your shelter. But you also have to worry about your soul and your psyche. And that's where theater comes in.

Read the entire interview on [Westviewnews.com](https://www.Westviewnews.com)

TROPICAL FEVER IN KEY WEST (THE CAKE and AN OLD TUNE)

By Robert Heide

Note: How a trip to Florida to a Book Fair at Disney World in Orlando, followed by visits to Miami, the Everglades and Key West inspired me to write my play *Tropical Fever in Key West* which was produced by George Bartenieff and Crystal Field at Theater for the New City.

Tropical Fever in Key West is the rubric I used to cover two interrelated plays. Both plays take place in Key West.

In *The Cake*, a curtain raiser for the second longer play, we are at the upscale villa of a famous, dissipated, aging writer, a character that blends some myths and some truths about several well-known American authors including Tennessee Williams and my friend and mentor Edward Albee. The confrontation here is between the writer, who either is or is not played out; his young, new assistant, whom he either does or doesn't intend to make his lover and the new course of his creativity; and his current, alcohol-wrecked lover, who is apparently trying to destroy himself, the writer, and the new assistant in turn, and who either has – or has not – poisoned the birthday cake which he and the writer are munching cheerily as the curtain falls.

In *An Old Tune*, we are on the downscale side of the street, where a worn-out New Jersey band singer and her birdseed wholesaler husband live in the emptiness of early retirement, trying vainly to buoy their spirits with drinking Red Parrot Vodka Zombies and talking agitatedly of large free-roaming Florida alligators while also swallowing the pills prescribed by a malevolently cheery local doctor. The action here, seemingly more static than in the curtain-raiser, is also more violent when the characters intermittently rouse themselves to life. Their fantasies about dying, doing each other in, her glamorous past, and the recently deceased drunken, falling-down playwright across the street are interrupted by an attractive uniformed sailor who walks into the scene and wants to know where Hemingway's house was and then in came the Doctor to look in on the couple but – captivated – he runs off with the sailor leaving his patients, again to ponder their existence over another Zombie. A critic from the Christian Science Monitor referring to the exiting of the doctor with the sailor wrote, "...and now we know what Mr. Heide is up to."

The inspiration for *Tropical Fever in Key West* came after a trip to Orlando with John Gilman where he and I were to be part of a book fair and promotion for our



Poster of *Tropical Fever in Key West* was designed by John Eric Broaddus. Heide/Gilman Files.



Mickey Mouse - *The Evolution, The Legend, The Phenomenon!* by Robert Heide and John Gilman, Disney Editions

co-authored *Disneyana – Classic Collectibles 1928 – 1958* published by Hyperion Press.

The focus of this lavishly illustrated coffee-table book was a man named Herman 'Kay'

Kamen who in 1933 became Walt Disney's sole licensing and merchandising agent. Kamen's ingenious methods made the already famous Mickey Mouse a superstar – that year, 1933, the worst year of the Great Depression, Kamen connected Mickey to the WWI surplus watches in bins in the cellars of the going-into-bankruptcy Ingersoll/Waterbury Clock Company – Mickey wristwatches and pocket and lapel watches, and alarm clocks sold like hot cakes during the Christmas season of 1933. Mickey was everywhere on everything from toy trains – he saved the Lionel Train Company from bankruptcy also with a ninety eight cent handcar – dolls, tin wind-up's, clothing, handkerchiefs, toothbrushes, comics, Big Little Books, jam, bread, milk, soda, chocolate candy bars, school pencil boxes and just about anything else imaginable. It was the genius of Kay Kamen that kept the Disney Studio afloat with the requisite cash needed to produce Mickey and Donald Duck and Goofy and Horace Horsecollar and Clarabelle Cow cartoon shorts, award-winning Silly Symphonies (like *The Three Little Pigs*) and eventually the animated features *Pinocchio*, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, and *Fantasia*. Kamen's last national merchandising campaign was for *Cinderella* (1950). Tragically he and his wife died in a plane crash in the Azores in 1949.

John and I were put up in a fancy house at Walt Disney World for a week, sold and signed books at the book fair daily, swam in the country club pool and rode all the rides for free. We were assigned a spiffy new car with no time limits and decided to tour Art Deco Miami Beach and ogle the scary alligators in the Everglades. We also drove down to Key West stopping frequently to eat conch fritters and home-made Key Lime Pie. I should add that since then we have written two more key books about Mickey Mouse and Walt Disney including *The Mickey Mouse Watch – From the Beginning of Time*, and *Mickey Mouse – The Evolution, The Legend, The Phenomenon!* – the latter Mickey's official biography. With all this we later wound up talking Disney on the Today Show with Katie Couric. I sported an original 1933 Ingersoll Mickey Mouse wristwatch showing it off to Katie and her 40 million viewers.

Once in Key West we checked into an old-time gay guest house. With all the travel and the in and out of the air-conditioned car and then suddenly languishing in the hot tropical atmosphere, I found myself passing out – quickly the two gentlemen hosts of the guesthouse took me to their doctor who turned out to have been Tennessee Williams' doctor when the playwright was in town.

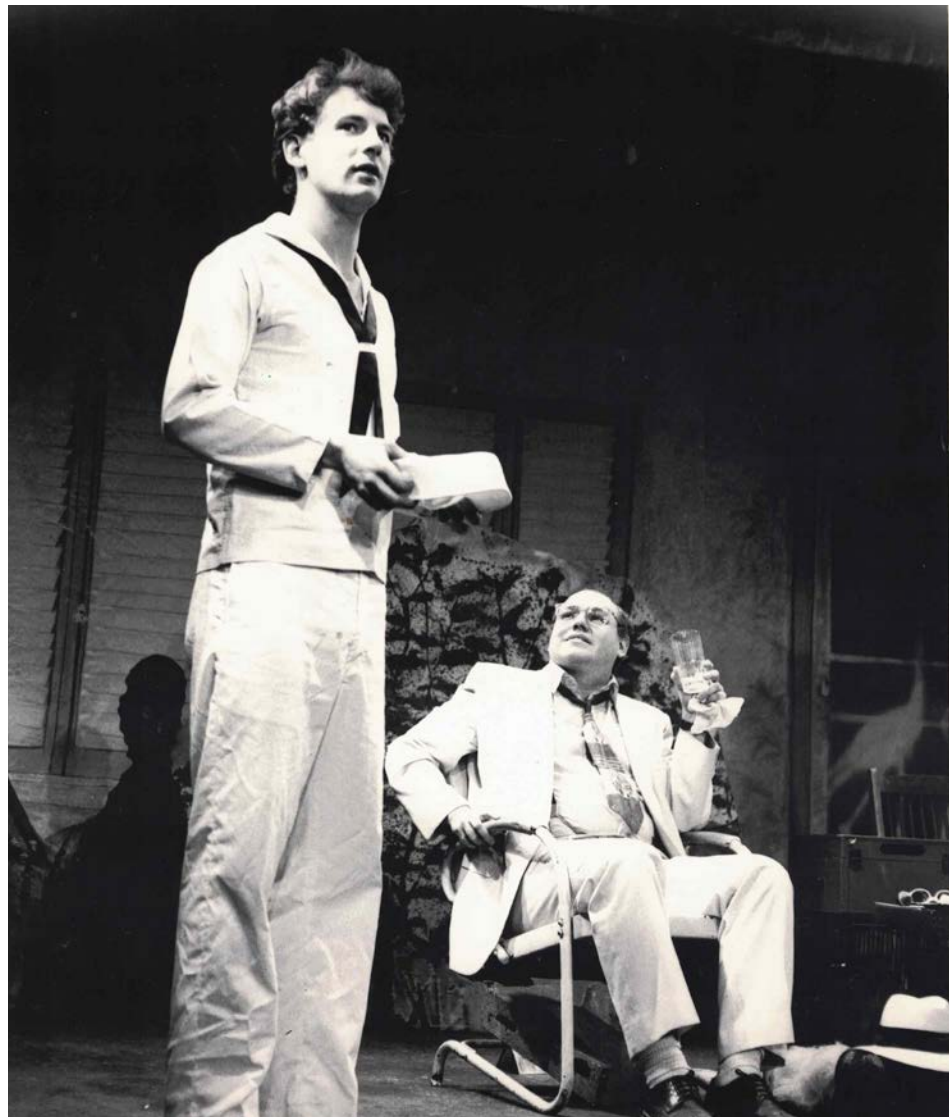


Rita, the retired band singer in *An Old Tune*, played by Regina David, is mixing Red Parrot Zombies. Heide/Gilman Files

He gave me all kinds of tests, including an electro-cardiogram, finally pronouncing that my heart was okay but declaring in his broad southern accent “you’re sufferin’ from exhaustion. Watcha been doing? You need to sit under a palm tree for a while.” He went on talking about Tennessee’s drinking and about his cousin, also a doctor, who had treated Elvis. “That boy was on so many drugs....”

Later I wandered around Key West with John and we watched amazing Pelicans diving into the water, perched on the piers and soaring in flight. It was after we found Tennessee’s house, unoccupied almost a year after his death, that we encountered the couple across the street on their lawn, waiting for the official start of ‘Happy Hour’

pouring drinks from their bar which was a converted ironing board. They pointed to his house saying “Oh, he was always falling down dead drunk on the stairs.” I thought to myself, ‘these people themselves are right out of a Tennessee Williams play.’ Later, I met a sailor on the train trip back to New York who had also gone on a pilgrimage to visit the storied Hemingway house. This trip to Key West somehow later entered my mind as a play. The characters demanded to be written. I hoped that if it worked it might be seen as a tribute to Tennessee. As it turned out the character of the playwright In *The Cake*, was a combination of my good friend Edward Albee and Tennessee himself whom I had met with his sister Rose at Robert Patrick’s Broadway opening night party at Sardi’s for his play *Kennedy’s Children*.



Dorsey Davis as Brian the sailor and J. P. Dougherty as Dr. Van Reve in *An Old Tune*. Heide/Gilman Files.

“Would you like to meet my sister Rose?” he asked, is a moment not to be forgotten. When Williams himself appeared onstage with Candy Darling, a good friend, in his off-Broadway *Small Craft Warnings*, I got to hang out with him and Candy at bars on the Upper East Side. I always thought Candy, who was sensational in the play opposite the author, could have been a wonderful Blanch Dubois in *Streetcar*.

When it came time to cast *Tropical Fever* an actor named John Uecker showed up at TNC to audition for the part of the playwright. It turned out he had been staying with and watching over Tennessee at the Hotel Elysee when he died succumbing to a combination of too much alcohol, drugs, and medication including sleeping pills. I

felt Uecker did well in the part – he gave the actor J. P. Dougherty Tennessee’s Panama hat to wear as the doctor in the play. Regina David as the retired band singer was perfect and when Mel Gussow, the New York Times critic, came to see it he pronounced her performance “sublime.” I felt all of the actors in this were just perfect. The director, Sebastian Stuart, brought it all together and understood what the plays were about. An actor himself he let the actors “do-their-own-thing” to use a Joe Cino phrase and with that everyone seemed to come together in the sense of ensemble.

Robert Heide’s plays entitled *Robert Heide 25 Plays* are published by fastbookspress.com and are also on Amazon.

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Marc Jacobs featuring Kim Kardashian for Fall 2023

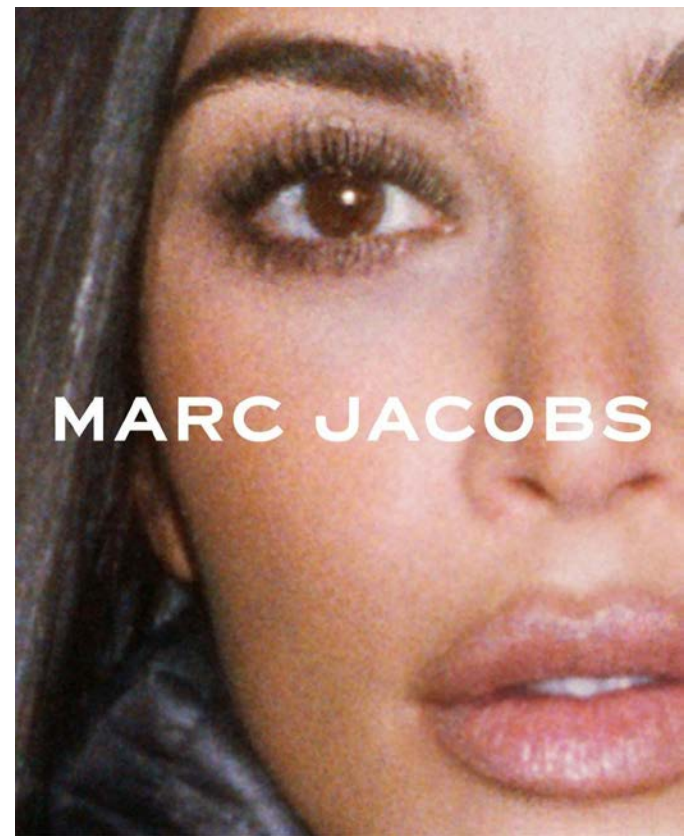
By Alexander Allen

Marc Jacobs posted a teaser for their upcoming fall 2023 ad campaign on Instagram, along with the 08.09.23 date. The next day, in another post, they revealed the star of their campaign was none other than Kim Kardashian. WHOA!

Last season, spring/summer 2023, Kim was the face of Dolce & Gabbana. For me, this is all very exciting to see unfold in real time because I remember the time when Kim wasn't accepted, nor welcomed into the fashion community, in spite of her uber popularity.

Most seem to forget that it was Kim's ex-husband and hip hop's premier juggernaut, Kanye West that secured her access into the community that she has longed to be a part of. The floodgates opened after their April 2014 Vogue cover, shot by Annie Leibovitz, followed by their September 2016 Harper's Bazaar cover, which was shot by Karl Lagerfeld. Kanye's September 2018 Bazaar cover, shot by Mario Sorrenti, featured his two kids, North and Saint West, sans their mother.

I also remember Marc Jacobs as one of the pioneers on Bleecker Street. At one point in time, he had four locations on the street and six in the West Village. His stores used to be a staple of mine for cool fashion finds



for myself and unique designer gifts for others. His location on the corner of West 11th and Bleecker Street, which had been there since 2001, is now occupied by SJP by Sarah Jessica Parker.

The last remaining Marc Jacobs store on

the charming Bleecker Street is BookMarc, which is a quaint shop with an eclectic collection of mostly coffee-table books, along with the above-mentioned Marc Jacobs trinkets. From the concept to the name of this store, I love everything about

this parlor.

I'm very much looking forward to seeing these electric MJ x KK x FW x 23 ads displayed all around the city.

The Inaugural VMAs' Block Party



By Alexander Allen

The MTV Video Music Awards held their first-ever block party in downtown NYC, at the Oculus Plaza, from 12pm - 4pm. A first for a well-oiled machine of an event, that has taken place for 39 years, is quite rare. What a cool event leading up to the

main event on Tuesday, September 12, in Newark, N.J., at the Prudential Center? One of the main reasons why the VMAs has been my favorite award show, for close to four decades, is that they completely take over NYC and make my hometown even more electric. Besides NYC, the VMAs have taken place in Los Angeles, Miami, Las Vegas, Inglewood, Newark,

and Brooklyn. In my expert pop-culture opinion, "Music's most iconic night," this year's tagline, belongs in the world's most iconic city, NYC. Secondly, in Brooklyn. The block party, which was hosted by MTV's Dometi Pongo and WCBS' Alecia Reid, contained all of the key elements: tunes by DJ CherishTheLuv, gaming (mini golf, Connect Four, a personal favorite

of mine, and Corn Hole), food, beer garden, live performances from Amaarae, Alexander Stewart, and Warner Records' Jenna Raine, live art, and giveaways (screen printing merch and VMAs tickets) and photo-ops, including Mr. Flower Fantastic's MTV Topiary Moon Person.

Fun times! I look forward to adding the block party to my yearly VMAs rounds.

Get The Party Started At Citi Field

By Alexander Allen

8/3 - Today has finally arrived. After seeing all of the cool Instagram posts, Pink's Summer Carnival.2023 is here at the iconic Citi Field. The home of the NY Mets.

I have such fond memories of Citi Field and Flushing, Queens. In 2017, I had the pleasure of working at the stadium for a scene in the HBO film "Paterno," starring the legendary Al Pacino, where I was a part of the wardrobe team, as a costumer.

Since around 2013, when I first began working at the US Open, coming to Flushing, Queens has been a fun jaunt and experience. Especially so, when there is a baseball game and a tennis match happening, simultaneously. The 7 train Mets-Willets Point station becomes super packed with sports fans.

Once I entered the ballpark, I immediately felt as if I was at an awesome carnival. Pink's pink and blue imagery showcased all around the venue set the tone, as did, the various hues of pink sported by the concert attendees, and the pink cotton candy that was being sold.

For tonight's concert, GroupLove and Brandi Carlile were Pink's opening act. One of the many aspects that I love about attending a headliner's concert is sometimes being introduced to their opening act(s) for the first time. That was the case for GroupLove and I tonight. Brandi Carlile, I was familiar with from fairly recent award show performances. Great voice and style. Tonight, however, I became even more acclimated with her talent. Especially, when she reappeared, this time for a duet with Pink to tribute the late, great Sinead O'Connor, with their beautiful rendition of "Nothing Compares 2 U," which was written by my all-time favorite artist, Prince.

Before and in between the opening acts, DJ Kid Cut Up, who I was also introduced

to tonight for the first time, was spinning aughts pop (Gwen Stefani's "Hollaback Girl") and old school hip hop songs (Salt-N-Pepa's "Push It") that kept the vibes light, nostalgic, and most importantly, fun. The moment we've all been waiting for; the lights went out and an AI simulation of Pink welcomed us to the show and encouraged us to "Get The Party Started." Cue a pair of tilted red rock-star lips, high above center stage, that opened up to reveal Pink. I mean!!! How cool is that?! It's one of the coolest concert entrances that I've seen to date. After greeting the crowd, acts one of four commenced with the first set of acrobatic visuals. Pink's astonishing entrances and exits are seriously unparalleled. More on the exits later. "Raise Your Glass" kept the high energy first act rolling, followed by more fan favorites before closing out the act with the dance remix to "What About Us." "Turbulence," one of several new, fantastic tracks off Pink's latest album, "Trustfall," was beautifully performed as an aerial stunt, with a fellow male dancer without a safety net underneath them. This added to the allure of the stunning, poetic choreography. Unequivocally, Pink has created, dominated, and owns this space. I consider myself a twenty-six year Pink fan; as in 1999, I had the opportunity to work as a fashion stylist assistant for an editorial shoot of hers, when she was virtually unknown. On set, I saw her authentic and raw personality, and talent, when she sang impromptu for the crew. I knew right then and there, that she was a star and that she was going to go far. Throughout those two and half plus decades, I wasn't aware that Pink knew how to play the piano, until this tour. She played and sang, "Make You Feel My Love," a Bob Dylan cover. Prior to doing so, Pink stated that she fell in love with the song when Adele sang it and that she likes her a lot.

In act three, the highlight for me was



when Pink performed, what is her favorite live song to sing, presently, "I Am Here," from her "Beautiful Trauma" album. The soulful rendition took me back to Pink's R&B debut album, "Can't Take Me Home." I love the music she is creating now, but I do miss the urban Pink, as well. Who else can completely switch genres on their second album? ROCKSTAR.

When attending concerts, I like to not know everything about the concert beforehand to keep an element of surprise in play. With that said, know that I've shared only key highlights. There are other very cool moments, that I will not spoil for you. In act four, my two highlights that I'll share are the following:

1. "Trustfall," the title track from Pink's latest album, showcases one of her newest tricks, which she displayed at the iHeartRadio Music Awards, where she

received the Icon Award. During the award show opening performance, Pink's acrobatic dancers repeatedly ricocheted themselves up and down the stage onto staircases and a tall, slender, center stage. Very cool sneak peek to what her tour would look like. A first!

2. To close out the show, Pink chose to do so the way she did her last tour, to her smash hit single, "So What," where she is propelled all around the stadium, including to the very back and nose bleed sections, while twirling, toppling, flipping, and most importantly, singing live! Another first that I, personally, never get tired of witnessing live.

Don't walk, but run to see Pink's Summer Carnival 2023 now and Trustfall tour in the fall.



WHITNEY STAFF EXHIBIT AT WESTBETH: DYNAMIC DIVERSITY



Elissa Medina: Ornament and Crime, Stoneware, 2022.
Photo by J. Taylor Basker



William Hempel: This Artwork Is Not True, Screen print on aluminum, 2023. Photo by J. Taylor Basker

By J. Taylor Basker

Diversity is in the splendid DNA of New York City. The exhibit *West Side Expo Sure* of art produced by staff of the Whitney Museum at Westbeth Gallery reflects this quality. The Whitney Museum, unique in the concept of most museums, doesn't wait for artists to die to show their art. Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney was determined to collect, exhibit and support living artists. She began this in her Greenwich Village studio in 1914. Now the museum has returned to our neighborhood from its sojourn uptown. Perhaps the high quality of its exhibits, programs, and curating reflects that many of

its staff are artists themselves. Their eyes and sensibilities help select art that authentically speaks to the contemporary zeitgeist. This is the sixth exhibit of its Staff Art Show in a public space, where these artists emerge from behind the scenes and reveal their own art out front. Westside Exposure describes the current situation of the artworld – there are no prevailing -isms. They are all there: Realism (Bronwyn Roe, *Over Yonder*) to Conceptualism (William Hempel, *This Artwork Is Not True*); traditional oil paint on canvas (Nathan J. Smith, *Portrait of Child, David*), to video installations (Christine Lin, *I Cast A Spell On The City*), multimedia

found objects (Eleanor Lovinsky (*Forgotten*) to fish ink print (Nora Gomez-Strauss, *Black Sea Bass*), from obsession with the minute in an assemblage of tiny photos (Heather Cox, *Mirror*) to a massive scale foot (Elissa Medina, *Ornament and Crime*) Seventy-four artists display the radical diversity of individuals creatively making unique statements in a wide variety of media from embroidery (Sarah Fortini, *Mother of Pearl*) to digital ink-jet prints (Reagan Brown, *Le Bagnaie, Italy*). Despite that many Americans are now feeling stressed and depressed over the current political situation, there is a lightness and sense of humor in this show as the large puffy wall

hanging in pink and white satin with glitter (Emily Jacoby, *You Don't Know Me*) at the entrance and the impressive cheerful paper sculpture (Doug Madill of the Security Department, *Paper-cut Carousel*). There is a lot of pink and sparkles (Barbie influence?) as the pink acrylic, glitter, yarn and felt piece by an artist from the Visitor and Member Experience Department (Caitlin Jones (*There is a Downtown Local 6*)). Artists always have a prophetic vision; it is hoped that this democracy of artworks predicts the preservation of democracy in the body politic as it now resides in the body aesthetic.



Village Views By Suze

Photography on display at
11th Street Cafe
327 West 11th Street
Suzanne McAndrews

646.689.3475
StarshowerNYC@yahoo.com

EVENTS

In And Around The Village

CITYWIDE SPECIAL EVENTS

THE NEW YORKER FESTIVAL, Oct 6-8

Join New Yorker writers and editors as they sit down with some of the world's most interesting authors, artists, filmmakers, actors, comedians, and musicians. General Admission, Early Entry, and Student & Educator tickets are on sale now, plus limited standing-room-only tickets.

<https://festival.newyorker.com/>

NEW YORK FILM FESTIVAL, Sept 29-Oct 15

Returning every fall to celebrate a new slate of essential cinema from around the globe, NYFF has been an enduring part of New York's rich cultural and historical landscape since 1963

<https://www.filmlinc.org/nyff2023/>

OPEN HOUSE NEW YORK, Oct 20-22

Open House New York Weekend is an annual festival that opens hundreds of noteworthy or significant places across the five boroughs to foster discovery and delight for New Yorkers and visitors alike.

<https://ohny.org/weekend/>

NEW YORK COMIC CON, Oct 12-15

An annual New York City fan convention dedicated to Western comics, graphic

novels, anime, manga, video games, cosplay, toys, movies, and television. It is North America's most attended fan convention

<https://www.newyorkcomiccon.com/en-us.html>

NEW YORK CITY WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL, Oct 12-15

NYC's premier wine and food festival. The four-day annual Festival showcases the talents of the world's most renowned wine and spirits producers, chefs, culinary personalities and America's most beloved television chefs.

<https://nycwff.org/>

OKTOBERFEST - Sept 8 - Oct 29th

There are lots of reasons to love OktoberFest NYC... the lederhosen, the beer, the GIANT pretzels... If you're not traveling to Munich this year, experience OktoberFest in New York!

<https://oktober-fest.nyc/>

GLOBAL CITIZEN FESTIVAL, Sept 23 11 AM-3 PM

Find tickets for Stray Kids with Red Hot Chili Peppers, Anitta, D-Nice and 4 more.

The 2023 Global Citizen Festival campaign takes aim at the major issues perpetuating extreme poverty

The Great Lawn, 79th Street & 85th Street, New York, NY

<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/>



THE NEW YORKER FESTIVAL

LOCAL SPECIAL EVENTS

JULIUS BAR - MATTACHINE PARTY, 9 pm-2 am

On the first Thursday of every month, the party that promotes and celebrates ethical homosexual culture, spinning vintage vinyl from queer yesteryear. Cash only!

159 West 10th Street

<https://www.juliusbarny.com/>

ABINGDON SQUARE GREEN MARKET, Saturdays, 8AM - 2PM

Hudson Street and West 12th Street, Manhattan, NY, New York, NY 10001

WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK

ART: TREE WONDER, Sundays, 10:45 am -12:30 pm

Meet in the NW corner of the park to draw the English Elm.

ADULTS AND SENIOR MOVEMENT, Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 am

Garibaldi Plaza

SALSA SOCIAL, Wednesdays, 6 - 9 pm

Garibaldi Plaza

HUDSON RIVER PARK

WETLAB LOOK-INS (every Sun, Tues, Weds, Sat) 4- 7 pm

The Park's Wetlab aquarium features Hudson River wildlife and provides guided tours for visitors of all ages.

Pier 40

<https://hudsonriverpark.org/visit/events>

INTREPID MUSEUM FREE FRIDAYS June through Sept, 5pm-9pm

Free Fridays are back! The Intrepid Museum is once again extending its hours free of charge the last Friday of each month June through September.

Pier 86

<https://hudsonriverpark.org/visit/events/event/intrepid-museum-free-fridays-september-29-2023/>

PUMPKIN SMASH, NOV 4, 11 am - 2 pm

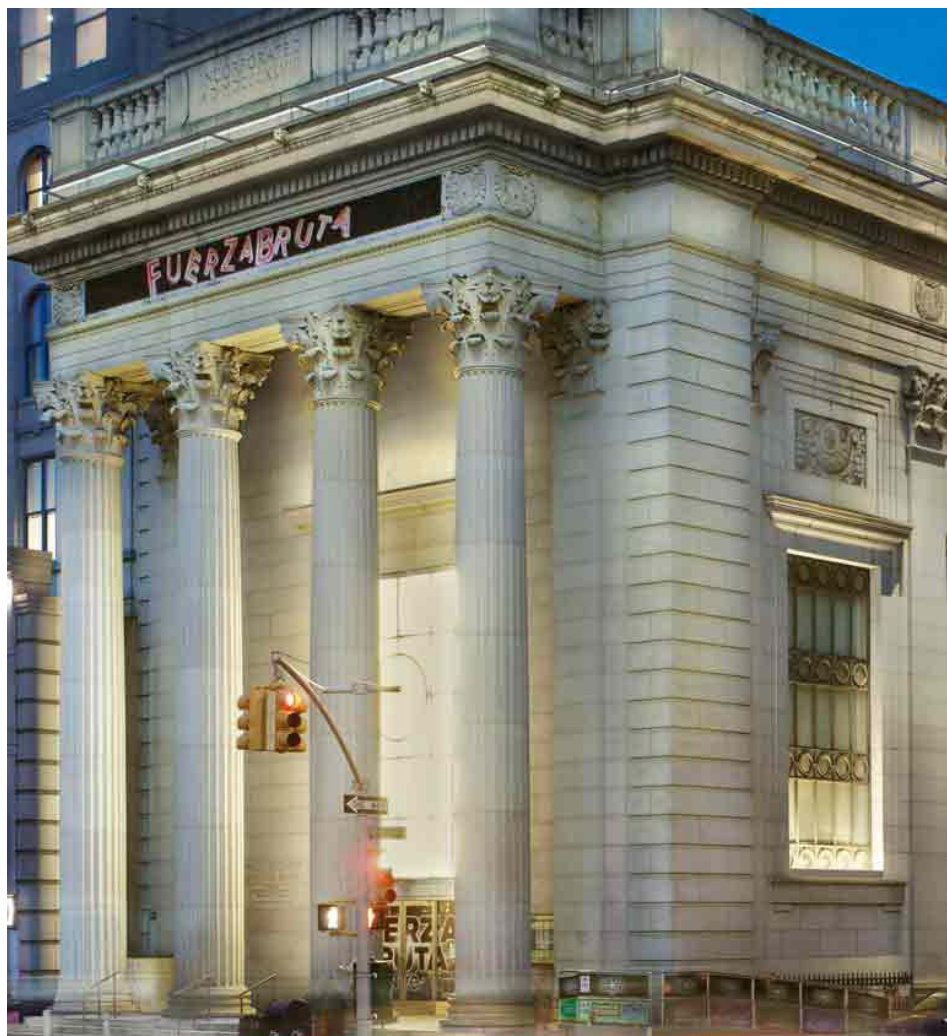
Are you ready for some post-Halloween fun? Bring your jack-o-lantern or uncarved pumpkin to HRPK's Pier 84 to squash, smash and smush them into compost to help keep our Park beautiful, green and growing.

Pier 84

<https://hudsonriverpark.org/visit/events/event/pumpkin-smash-2023/>



INTREPID MUSEUM



DARYL ROTH THEATER

THE HIGH LINE

SENIOR STRETCH, Sept 22 12:30 - 1:30 pm

In this free fitness class, movements are specifically designed to realign the skeletal system, while gently toning and elongating muscles.

<https://www.thehighline.org/events/senior-stretch/>

WEST SIDE FEST, Sept 30th

The High Line is thrilled to join the West Side Cultural Network—a group of more than 18 museums, parks, performing arts centers, and cultural institutions located within a half-mile portion of historic New York—to present the first-ever West Side Fest on Saturday, September 30, 2023.

<https://www.thehighline.org/west-side-fest/>

LITTLE ISLAND

CREATIVE BREAK - DIY every Wednesday, 11 am-1 pm

Visitors of all ages are encouraged to participate in Creative Breaks at Little Island

Pier 55 in Hudson River Park at, W 13th St
<https://littleisland.org/>

CHELSEA MARKET

YOGA CLASS, Thursdays, 7-8 am

An all-level 60-minute Vinyasa Flow. Bring a yoga mat & towel.

Maker's Studio, 450 W. 16th St. RSVP Required.

www.Chelseamarket.com

DRAW WITH STREET LAB, Fridays, 12-3 pm

Outdoor art studio with access to art materials and self-guided activities, 85 10th Ave.

chelseamarket.com

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES

THE WHITNEY

ILANA SAVDIE: RADICAL CONTRACTIONS, July 14–Nov 5, 2023

Ilana Savdie (b. 1986, raised in Barranquilla, Colombia and Miami, Florida; based in Brooklyn, New York) explores themes of performance, transgression, identity, and power in her vibrant, large-scale paintings. Her canvases assemble fragments into finely detailed, fluid compositions that pulsate with flamboyant color.

<https://whitney.org/exhibitions/ilana-savdie>

INHERITANCE, Jun 28, 2023–Feb 2024

Inheritance traces the profound impacts of legacy and the past across familial, historical, and aesthetic lines. Featuring new acquisitions and rarely-seen works from the Whitney collection by forty-three leading artists, the exhibition includes paintings, sculptures, videos, photographs, and time-based media installations from the 1970s to today. This diverse array of works consider what has been passed on and how it may shift, change, or live again.

<https://whitney.org/exhibitions/inheritance>

Eli Klein Gallery

YE FUNA: THE BIG DREAM SHOW, Sept 6 – Nov 1, 2023

Eli Klein Gallery is honored to present "The Big Dream Show," Ye Funa's first solo show with the gallery. The exhibition features 12 new mixed media collage works from the "Neo Folk Matrix" series, in addition to a video and two paintings, each demonstrating a unique "dream" where different characteristics, items, symbols, colors, traditions, and cultures intersect.

Eli Klein Gallery, 398 West Street, New York, NY 10014

<http://www.galleryek.com/exhibitions/ye-funa-the-big-dream-show>

Robin Rice Gallery

BILL PHELPS - VISITOR, Sept 27 - Nov 26, 2023

Robin Rice Gallery, 325 West 11th Street, New York, NY 10014

<https://robinricegallery.com/>

MUSIC, DANCE & COMEDY

DAVID SPADE: CATCH ME INSIDE, Fri, Sep 22 - Sat, Sep 23, 8PM - 12 AM

David Spade became a household favorite during his tenure as a cast member on NBC's "Saturday Night Live". Spade has received nominations for a 1999 Emmy Award, Golden Globe, and American Comedy Award. He continues to be a box office draw, touring his stand-up shows nationwide.

The Town Hall, 123 W 43rd St, New York, NY

<https://thetownhall.org/event/david-spade-catch-me-inside-9-22>

DEAD MAN WALKING @ METROPOLITAN OPERA HOUSE, Sept 30th - Oct 21st

American composer Jake Heggie's masterpiece, the most widely performed new opera of the last 20 years, has its highly anticipated Met premiere.

<https://www.broadwayinbound.com/shows/dead-man-walking>

CIMAFUNK & LA TRIBU @ BLUE NOTE JAZZ BAR, Sept 26

FREE THURSDAY NIGHT COMEDY SHOW IN WEST VILLAGE, every Thurs @ 7:30pm

Comedy Evening is a free comedy show in the heart of the West Village featuring comics who have appeared on Comedy Central, TruTV, & more!

Oppa Bistro
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/free-comedy-show-in-west-village-tickets-706669556667>

A NOT THAT FANCY CONVERSATION AND PERFORMANCE WITH REBA MCENTIRE, Oct 10, 7–11 PM

Reba Nell McEntire, better known by her stage name, Reba, is an actress, entrepreneur, and country music singer from the United States.

The Town Hall, 123 W 43rd St, New York, NY

<https://www.ticketmaster.com/a-not-that-fancy-conversation-and-new-york-new-york-10-10-2023/event/>



ILANA SAVDIE AT THE WHITNEY

THEATRE

DARYL ROTH THEATRE - TITANIQUE, Thru Sept. 10

Titanic, the film meets the music of Celine Dion.

101 East 15th St.,

Titaniquemusical.com

THEATER FOR THE NEW CITY - Sep 21, 22, 23; THU, FRI, SAT at 8 PM

This Random World

Mining the comedy of missed connections, This Random World asks the serious question of how often we travel parallel paths through the world without noticing. An ailing woman, Scottie is planning one final trip to cross off her bucket list. But Scottie is insistent: her adult children are not to know. In fact, they know very little about their mother or even themselves. Throughout this play, we follow a dynamic ensemble of interconnected individuals navigating their own complex lives, weaving a story of hope, failure, inspiration, and longing.

By Steven Dietz

Directed by Michael Luggio

<https://theaterforthenewcity.net/shows/this-random-world/>

DISNEY'S ALLADIN THE HIT BROADWAY MUSICAL Sept 30th-Oct 1st

<https://aladdinthemusical.com/event/20230930-1400-show/>

214 W 42nd St, New York, NY

FILM: SPECIAL SCREENINGS

ALL THAT JAZZ, Friday, Sept 22 - Thursday, Sept 28

The preternaturally gifted director and choreographer Bob Fosse turned the camera on his own life for this madly imaginative, self-excoriating musical masterpiece. Roy Scheider gives the performance of his career as Joe Gideon, whose exhausting work schedule—mounting a Broadway production by day and editing his latest movie by night—and routine of amphetamines, booze, and sex are putting his health at serious risk.” -Criterion

IFC Center, 323 6th avenue

<https://www.ifccenter.com/films/all-that-jazz/>

REALITY WINNER, Wednesday, Oct 11 - Tuesday, Oct 17

The incredible true story of Reality Winner in her own words. Filmed over five years, this is the only documentary about the young NSA whistleblower who exposed Russian interference in U.S. elections and went to jail for it.

IFC Center, 323 6th avenue

<https://www.ifccenter.com/films/reality-winner/>

Jean-Luc Godard's CONTEMPT, Sept 11- Sept 15

Contempt... that's what ex-typist Bardot has for screenwriter husband Piccoli—but why? Does she think he used her to get a lucrative assignment (a screen adaptation



RUBIN ART MUSEUM



JEAN-LUC GODARD'S CONTEMPT AT FILM FORUM

of Homer's The Odyssey) from overbearing American producer Jack Palance? Was it a flirtation with multilingual interpreter Giorgia Moll? Or does she just not love him anymore?

Film Forum, 209 West Houston St. west of 6th Ave.

<https://filmforum.org/film/contempt>

KIDS & THEIR FAMILIES

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN FESTIVAL @ BLEEKER PLAYGROUND, Oct 12-15

This annual celebration begins with a toddler-friendly costume parade around the nabe to the Bleeker Street Playground, and includes face painting, craft tables, and trick-or-treating.

Festivities include the children's parade (from Abington Square, at 10am), photo booth, entertainers, and live music.

<https://mommypoppins.com/event/bleecker-park-halloween-festival>

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 6 pm.

42 West 17th St.,

booksof wonder.com

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 whitney.org

SENIORS

GREENWICH HOUSE - OLDER ADULT CENTERS

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 the calendar at

www.greenwichhouse.org/network-of-older-adult-centers or contact

kbeckett@greenwichhouse.org for more info.

LIFELONG SKILLS & OPPORTUNITY CENTER, Mon-Fri 9-5

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.

www.greenwichhouse.org/lifelong

SENIOR PLANET

In-person and online free classes, workshops, talks, and social and cultural events covering

fitness and wellness to finance, book clubs, and tech sessions. There's even a virtual dance

once a month. For "life-long learners."

127 West 25th St.,

seniorplanet.org

277 West Village

277 West Village provides a science based and medically proven cosmetic enhancement and anti-aging journey.



Dr. Noah Sanni

Our clinic has the latest Morpheus8 upgraded technology for facial rejuvenation using advanced radiofrequency microneedling protocols. We are one of the few centers in New York City for non-surgical vaginal rejuvenation based on proven radiofrequency technology, with remarkable results after just two to three treatments. 277 West Village also provides men's sexual health and facial masculinization procedures with immediate results.

PRP for face and hair restoration, IPL for dark spots, sun damage and facial blemishes, Eye lid surgery for baggy eye lids, Botox, Fillers, HydraFacials and Laser hair removal are some of our services provided to our clientele.

We welcome you in for a free consultation!

277west 4th street NewYork. NY 10014

917.261.4599

Info@277westvillage.com

