

## My Arrest. It Wasn't Fair and It Wasn't Fun.

By Arthur Z. Schwartz



**FIGHTING ATTORNEY ARRESTED:** Arthur Schwartz after his arrest looks at the article in WestView News that started it all—the event also made the Times, the Post, Daily News and NBC TV. Photo by Maggie Berkvist

*Taken in handcuffs from the 6th precinct out onto 10th Street, Arthur Schwartz*

*experienced the searing humiliation of eyes asking “what crime did that man commit.” And the humiliation continued when police escorted him into the Criminal Court where he had brought dozens of clients. Now he was the criminal. Lawyers and even a few judges who recognized him looked surprised and stunned—“why was attorney Arthur Schwartz in handcuffs, what did he do?”*

*Arthur Schwartz had acted because an amoral landlord who contrived to get a ninety-two-year-old tenant committed to a nursing home and then installed surveillance cameras had simply gone too far. Schwartz removed the cameras—and became a victim of those who can afford and relish the abuse of law. —George Capsis*

Since Ruth Berk got home, I have dedicated myself, as her Guardian, to bringing about the repairs that her apartment has needed for twenty years. The situation has

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## Former Attorneys Take Croman to Court: The Game of Tactics

By Tres Kelvin

### **Greed Bites the Hand That Steals for It**

*The hand-cuffed arrest and subsequent arraignment in Criminal Court of activist attorney Arthur Schwartz and the false anonymous call to the health department that raw sewerage was contaminating the kitchen of Nelly's restaurant, Lima's Taste are just two of many actions taken by two different West Village landlords. These landlords use city regulations and false—but expensive to defend—legal and regulatory actions to push out low income tenants so they can enjoy the effulgent largess of exploding Village and City rents.*

*Shakespeare, cataloging the reasons to end it all in Hamlet's soliloquy, cites “the law's delay” and today we can add the cost of justice as a reason (to paraphrase the bard) to make our quietus with a bare bodkin (or commit hari-kari).*

*Imagine the shock of desperation and despair when Carol Yost, in her seventies, opens a very official envelope instructing her that she is evicted as of March 5 after decades in her Village apartment. (Arthur saved her.)*

*Or take a young African American attorney living in a Steve Croman brownstone who puts out flowering planters and tends them only to see landlord Croman sitting in the back of a limo watching as his men rip out the plants to make him hesitate to represent the harassed tenants.*

*We have a tendency to blacken villains to serve our prejudice, but the more incidents I hear about these landlords who have made the Ten Worst Landlords in New York list, the more I realize that the unquestioning embrace of greed wipes out any vestige of morality.*

*And that goes for paying your lawyers...*

*Here is an account of how landlord Steve Croman attempts to stiff the law-*



**\$790 or \$2,360—THE HALF MILLION DOLLAR “MISTAKE”:** Nelida Godfrey stands at the entrance of her apartment after winning a court decision. The apartment she leased 9 years ago for \$2360 a month should legally have been \$790. Now landlord, Steve Croman, owes her over \$500,000—he has appealed the decision.

*yers who have been doing his dirty work for seventeen years.*

*—George Capsis*

Landlord Steve Croman is notorious for somehow getting sweetheart treatment from governmental entities—from the Department of Buildings to the Environmental Control Board to DHCR, all the way to the wrist slapping Politicians.

His favorite Pit Bull is the law firm of Rose & Rose. After over seventeen years of legal services, Rose it seems is no longer needed. Could it be the impotence of every major “enforcing” entity (HPD, ECB, etc.) doing Rose's job for Croman? Or did his own dog just turn on him?

Rose was the law firm executing thousands of lawsuits on Croman's behalf, suing real New Yorkers from over one-hundred buildings for the last seventeen years.

In these cases, even if the Tenant wins, the Tenant has spent so much time and money that the battle was not worth winning.

And it's all legal.

Each tenant removed (otherwise known as “cleared”) brings in tons of cash. The only the cost would be: buying out the tenant (so low and so repeated that Bill “Int. No.757” was

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## Maggie B's Photo of the Month



**SHADES OF BOBBY FISCHER:** This young lad's performance had certainly attracted a fascinated audience. And his opponent, the regular Union Square chess player, “Twitty-from-the-City” was genuinely impressed, particularly when, on asking the boy's father at the end of the game, “How old is he?”—the answer that came back was “Six!”



## WestView

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## WestViews

### Correspondence, Commentary, Corrections

#### A Euphoria of Praise

Hi George—

My wife and I thoroughly enjoy reading your paper and believe you have a very good pulse on the neighborhood. We live in Connecticut, but nearly three years ago we purchased our dream apartment in the West Village. We have a few more years until we call the West Village home due to two sons that are not quite done with school yet, but we make it down a few times a month to shop or have lunch. Our apartment is being rented to a great person from Australia who takes care of the apartment as if it were his own and we consider him a member of our family.

The main reason for my note is to gripe about some of your readers complaining about not receiving their paper, and not willing to pay \$1 per month to have it mailed to them. Being in Connecticut, ours must be mailed—but come on, a dollar!? You cannot even buy a pack of gum for a dollar anymore. Having been in manufacturing for over twenty years, I understand material and production costs and applaud you for doing this amazing job for “free”! Somehow, some way—please keep up the good work.

I enjoy reading all sections of your paper, but particularly enjoy your then and now section. Being a bit of a neighborhood history buff, I have done some research into the building my wife and I bought into and I find it fascinating when you post your photos and descriptions.

Thank you for all you do, even in Connecticut, we look forward to your paper in our mailbox!

—Regards  
Tony Spadaccini

George,  
Enclosed is a check for a renewal to *WestView*.

Each issue of *WestView* continues to be a God send...

Hope you are healthy and happy!

Give our regards to the Village.

—Eleanor  
Tunkannock, PA.

*(The following is the text of a phone call to the publisher.)*

Hello, my name is Lydia Fogerty. I subscribe to the paper and I want to congratulate Mr. Capsis on his diligent reporting on Diller Island and how pleased I am for him that the story was picked up by the *Times*.

I am sure it has made a lot of people in the Village happy to not see this horrible creation in the river.

I want to thank him so much for what he has done for the neighborhood. I was born here ninety years ago at 125 Charles Street, so I am an old time Villager.

Thank you. Bye.

#### Future Leaders Visit Stonewall

To the Editor:

I was happy to see the July issue of *WestView News* mentioned the LGBT tour that I led on June 21, quoting from the introductory speech outside the Stonewall Inn by the State Department's Tom Gallagher, who made history in 1975 by coming out publicly of his own accord. Since this tour was for a special group of visitors, hosted by the US State Dept, I thought your readers would appreciate knowing a little more about the guests this month.

They were a special group of up-and-coming young leaders who were brought to our country by the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP). The goal is for these individuals to interact with professional counterparts and have a direct experience of America and with Americans. Over three-hundred and thirty-five leaders of foreign countries are alumni of this program, which celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.

In our case, our two dozen visitors were all LGBT activists. The group had meetings with such organizations as the LGBT Center of New York, which enabled them to speak with Robert Woodworth who discussed its history and current initiatives. The escorted visit to the famous “Stonewall Inn” bar (see photo page 7), generally accepted as the birthplace of the American

LGBTI movement, was a highlight.

It takes a lot of people to make this “people-to-people diplomacy” happen. We were especially lucky to have working with us Ms. Carolyn Nomura, and Mitchell Cohn who arranged the New York part of the program.

In the process, we have both taught and learned, and so have in our own ways, brought the world a little closer.

—Laurence Frommer

#### Lawsuit Will Hurt Long-Time Residents

*At our monthly planning meetings for WestView News, the subject of rising rents and affordable housing comes up frequently. In our latest meeting, I mentioned the lawsuit against the city for granting preference to neighborhood applicants, and mentioned that I was writing a letter to Mayor de Blasio and other city officials to urge them to fight this lawsuit. WestView's publisher, George Capsis, asked that I instead write it as an open letter to be published in the newspaper.*

—Stephanie Phelan  
Art Director  
WestView News

The Honorable Mayor de Blasio  
City Hall  
City Hall Park

cc: CB2 District Manager Bob Gormley,  
CB2 Chair Tobi Bergman, City Council  
Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council  
Member Corey Johnson

Dear Mayor de Blasio,  
I was very disturbed to hear that the Anti-Discrimination Center is suing the city for discriminatory practices in granting affordable housing by giving preference to applicants who currently live in the neighborhood where the units are being offered. The reason for the lawsuit seems outrageous to me.

As I understand it, with tens of thousands of applicants for each available unit, 20% of the units can go to local residents in need of affordable housing. That means that if a building is offering 20 affordable

*Letters continued on page 3*

## SHALL WE STOP WESTVIEW DELIVERY ?

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units, two (two!) can be given to neighborhood applicants who qualify.

Many people looking for affordable units hope to be granted one in the community they currently live in. Some have lived in these communities for a long time, perhaps were even born there. They have strong ties to their neighborhoods and for some, es-

pecially the elderly, leaving the place where they've made their homes can be a hardship.

I'm one of those people who has been fortunate enough to live in the West Village for 37 years, but find it increasingly difficult to live on my Social Security and freelance income, and am seeking an affordable unit.

I love this neighborhood. I served here in the Sixth Precinct as an Auxiliary Po-

lice Officer for thirty years, I've worked for *WestView News* for several years, and I have a blog that serves the neighborhood with listings of local events and occasional news items. ([www.westvillageword.com](http://www.westvillageword.com).)

I have applied to many other buildings offering affordable units, but being in a lottery group of tens of thousands of applicants makes the chances of even being interviewed

slim to none. I understand that the St. Luke's project, a few blocks from where I live will soon be offering applications, and my dearest wish is to have at least a small chance of staying in the neighborhood I know and love.

I hope the city will fight this lawsuit with all its might

—Sincerely,  
Stephanie Phelan

## BRIEFLY NOTED

### The Press Holds a Mirror up to Cuomo

The ultimate and fatal flaw in women is their emotions and in men it is their egos.

A woman sees "truth" through her emotions and a man through his ego, and the larger his ego the more reality is distorted. Cuomo apparently has a very big ego—I mean BIG—and hence Cuomo's ego has made handsome, six-foot-five, super-progressive-liberal Bill de Blasio its blind and unreasoning enemy.

When de Blasio suggested building a platform over the train yards in Queens to create acres of low cost housing, Cuomo had a spokesperson say, "They were not available."

When de Blasio wanted to continue city education control, Cuomo gave him only a year.

Oddly de Blasio seemed to eat the slights month after month—until an interview on June 30th when he let it all out and accused the Governor of "game playing" and having a desire for "revenge" for imagined slights.

What is interesting is not the careful, fairly temperate adjectives that de Blasio used to describe Cuomo's sometimes silly, self-triggered ego tussles, but the exhaustive search for explosive adjectives the press and commentators have used starting with Michael Grynbaum of the *Times* who call de Blasio's measured comments "searing words."

Other papers followed with heavy reliance on Roget's Thesaurus to fan the flames and Channel 1 hosted the 2nd-in-commands for three previous mayors to reminisce about former feuds—Rockefeller was going to come down and take over from Lindsey during the ten day garbage strike.

I have to confess I am prejudiced against Cuomo for small things like his New York accent (his father did not have it as bad) and when I see him defending himself on TV his eyes go wide and he curls up the corner of his mouth in an unconscious snarl.

Now I wrote this on the morning of June 8th and then later that evening in an interview, Cuomo was asked directly about the gauntlet words from de Blasio. A new relaxed, smiling and articulate Cuomo appeared and cataloged all of his legislative achievements—some of which de Blasio supports like pre K education—a different Cuomo, a very different Cuomo.

Perhaps de Blasio's complaints were a good thing—it allowed the press to spell out

Cuomo's one up-man-ship. Anyway he certainly will be conscious of it from now on. And if he is not—the press will remind him.

—George Capsis

### Bump in the West Village

By George Capsis

I returned from the weekend to see an enormous BUMP sign painted in white just outside my desk window. Soon after, a real, live, Department of Transportation bump appeared on the road. Curious, I asked Jose Bayona of the DOT Press office how it got there.

Here is what he said:

This is our response to your inquiry. Thanks,

On background: DOT installed the speed bump on June 12th, 2015 as part of our West Village Neighborhood Slow Zone Study. For more information about the West Village Neighborhood Slow Zone, please read below.

#### West Village Slow Zone:

The Manhattan neighborhood of the West Village applied for a Neighborhood Slow Zones in Spring 2013. The application was accepted due to the proposed zone's high frequency of crashes and injuries, strong natural boundaries and the presence of multiple schools in the area. The proposed treatments will lower the speed limit to 20 mph within the zone, improving safety for all roadway users, reducing traffic noise and cut-through traffic, and enhancing the social quality of the streets.

<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/2015-02-west-village-slowzone.pdf> (presented to Manhattan Community Board 2 in February 2015).

—Jose Bayona  
Deputy Press Secretary  
NYC Department of Transportation

Oh, oh, and just before the bump is a large square hole—too bad they didn't have enough hot asphalt to pave it over but hey, it was not on the work order.

### July VID Meeting Brings New Proposals

On Thursday, July 9th, the Village Independent Democrats met in St. John's Church on Christopher Street. Club Vice President Linda Jacobson substituted for several absent club members and gave the President's report

about a variety of club activities, small business preservation initiatives and legislation, and election preparation for November.

Keen Berger, Democratic party district leader, reported on the recent Senior Action Day sponsored by Community Board 2, progress on the new school at 75 Morton street, and a variety of internal party elections. Nat Johnson reported on opposition to the new Algonquin gas pipeline which will operate very close to the Indian Point nuclear plant.

In a surprise visit, state senator Brad Hoylman reported on a variety of recent and upcoming legislative proposals including environmental issues, the need for Democrats to recapture the state senate in the 2016 elections, and rent stabilization rules. Concern was raised by a club member that in the future legislation can be improved on rent controlled apartments and not just rent stabilized ones.

The meeting was also designated a "Members meeting" where club members could bring up proposals not already on the club's agenda. One resolution, passed unanimously, was to work with district leader Arthur Schwartz in an attempt to get presidential candidate Bernie Sanders to come to New York City and present his opinions to local voters. Other topics included supporting Mayor de Blasio on his Vision Zero auto safety proposal, campaign finance reform, and a new initiative to get high school and college students involved in grass roots and club level political activities.

—Alec Pruchnicki

*Alec Pruchnicki is a member of the VID executive committee.*

### You Don't Pay Me Enough to Think

As I reached the kitchen counter to make morning coffee for our French guests, Isabelle and Kumiko, I glanced through the garden door and viewed with alarm that the glass table outside had shattered into the proverbial thousand pieces—glass glittered on the gray slate ground.

This is the second time—the sister table in Bridgehampton did the same thing. Bang, just like that with no discernable trauma—a thousand pieces.

Google tells me that minute amounts of nickel sulfite located at a fracture plane will expand and shatter tempered glass. I have twice been the victim of this

phenomenon but this second time I had Isabelle and Kumiko about to descend for breakfast and no table to eat it on. Instead we ate on a small, very old, weather-roughened marble table.

Later I called Home Depot, where I believed I bought the tables originally, and after a very long wait a female voice with a German accent told me "no" they did not have a forty-eight inch round glass tabletop in stock but "here is the telephone number of Pier 1." (Pier 1? Why was she sending me to Pier 1?)

I called Pier 1's main number and got an aggressive young lady who I believe said her name was Tiesha or something close to that. After a search, she said they were out of stock. Disappointed, I asked if I could order one. Her response was "No, you can't order it, you have to keep calling to see when we get them in."

Hmm, I thought after I hung up, maybe I have missed another turn in selling protocol—now you can't order an out of stock item and instead must keep calling to see if and when it arrives. Hmm.

I started to ask around with depressing results—a Chinatown shop would make it up in four days for a staggering amount and ship it for an even larger amount.

But then a faint inner voice made me call the Pier 1 outlet on 15th Street and 5th, and after a short, polite search I got back "we have three of them." It was the lowest price by far and the lowest price to ship.

I biked over to confirm and within three hours the table arrived and was inserted—just beautiful—Isabelle and Kumiko were surprised and delighted, and we dined in new glittering elegance.

When I decided to write this Briefly Noted piece I called Pier 1 HQ again to find out why they would not take my order. But I did not get Tiesha this time, and the sales girl I spoke to had no idea why Tiesha refused to place an order. When I asked for Mr. Pier 1, she gave me the next level up who listened politely, but still had no idea of what her response should be since I had my table top. She began repeating my words just to have something to say until I explained that was not necessary as I could still remember what I had just said.

To, I am sure, her relief, she stumbled on "it must have been a new girl" and that was it.

Well, it is still better to talk to a human than a computer—but sometimes, not by much.

—George Capsis



*My Arrest* continued from page 1

been so bad for so long, that one can look back to a decision by now retired Justice Sarah Lee Evans, in 1996, awarding Ruth Berk an eight year 50% rent abatement along with \$62,000 in damages and attorneys' fees because of the horrible conditions, and get a description of what the situation was two months ago.

As of June 2015 little had changed.

Instead, the Landlord, Lloyd Goldman, began an amazing campaign to evict Ruth and her daughter Jessica from their stunning fifteenth floor terraced apartment. There have been a dozen eviction actions brought, some alleging non-payment and others alleging that the Berk's are a nuisance. None have succeeded, although the landlord did manage to get Ruth moved to a nursing home for eleven months, and probably would have declared that location her "permanent residence" (allowing eviction) had I not intervened and gotten her back home.

On June 4, the landlord's attorney, Jessica Berk's attorney, Yetta Kurland, and I had a conference with Judge Tanya Kennedy, who is overseeing all Ruth Berk matters. I asked that she order all repairs to be made before the latest eviction actions proceeded, and she did. Jessica Berk had told me that surveillance cameras were watching the apartment; when I asked on the 4th that they be removed the landlord's lawyer scoffed at me, and said that there weren't any cameras.

Frankly, I wasn't sure who to believe. On June 18 we met with the building manager (the infamous Sophia Lamas) at the apartment to assess the work to be done. At the end Jessica pointed out the surveillance cameras, which, as it turned out, were extremely obvious, and which pointed, from five different angles, directly inside the Berk apartment.

I was outraged. So as I said to the press, as Ruth's guardian, "I took appropriate action to abate what I perceived to be both harassment and an inappropriate invasion of privacy." I did no damage. In the end I had five unplugged cameras in a bag, which I intended to deposit with Judge Kennedy or with the Attorney General's Tenant Harassment Unit. I also called Community Affairs Officer James Alverici at the 6th Precinct and told him what I had done; I had been told that Community Affairs had looked at, and disturbed the cameras a month earlier.

He said he would get back to me.

A half hour later he called me and told me that Sophia Lamas had come in to file a complaint. He said that she had been told that it was a civil matter and that no complaint would be processed. An attempt by the Landlord's lawyer to get Judge Kennedy involved was rebuffed later that day. I sent the cameras on to the AG's office, with a harassment complaint.

Fast forward to July 9. I get a call from a Detective Massey from the 6th Precinct telling me that Sophia has come back, after reading an article about the camera removal in *Westview News*, and that I had to turn myself in on a grand larceny charge, or have a warrant issued.

I called a lawyer, James Roth of Stam-pur and Roth, the best criminal defense guys I know. I emailed Corey Johnson,

*I was handcuffed,  
behind my back, and stuffed  
into the back seat of a car with  
the cuffs digging deeply  
into my wrists.*

City Council Member, State Senator Brad Hoylman, and Borough President Gale Brewer. By the end of Friday, after I showed that the five cameras were only worth a total of \$550 (grand larceny is \$1000 plus), and the Precinct got tons of calls, I was told that I would get a Desk Appearance ticket for Petit Larceny. But at 7:30 pm that night my lawyer got a call that our new 6th Precinct Commander, Captain John Simonetti, wanted me to be charged with Grand Larceny, "stealing \$4000 worth of camera equipment," and that I must go through Central Booking, holding cell in the Tombs and all.

So on Tuesday at 8am, after the *NY Post* ran a page three story, and Channel 4 did a sympathetic piece, I went in to the 6th Precinct with my wife, and met Detective Massey, who put me in a cell for three hours, no handcuffs. He then said we were going to Central Booking at 100 Centre Street. He said he would spare me the indignity of going into the underground holding cells, something which can last twelve to sixteen hours, and would try to expedite my case.

I was handcuffed, behind my back, and stuffed into the back seat of a car with the cuffs digging deeply into my wrists. At 100 Centre Street, I was photographed and fingerprinted (cuffs off, thank goodness), and then recuffed, behind my back, and marched up to the hallway outside the arraignment courtroom. There I met judges who I knew and lawyers who I knew, and a handful of people who said they had seen the story on Channel 4 and were supportive.

That was at noon. It took till 2:30pm for me to get called into a courtroom, and another forty-five minutes to have my case called. I was cuffed through it all, even when I faced the judge, something I had never experienced. I didn't enter a plea because it involved a felony; instead I was given a grand jury date!

Yes, in order to move forward the DA

would have to have a grand jury indict me.

We immediately notified the judge that I would testify at the grand jury. Photographers were in the courtroom, and the press circled me on my way out the door. Even the reporter from the *Post* told me that his paper was on my side.

I am writing this about two weeks later, with some distance, and have two reactions. First, I believe that what I did was appropriate. I stopped a ninety-two-year-old woman from being harassed. I was doing my job, and I had been rebuffed and lied to when I asked "please." Harassment of any tenant is serious business; harassment of a ninety-two-year-old woman who travels in a wheel chair is outrageous! I can't wait to retain counsel for Ruth who will sue the landlord and his managing agent to stop the harassment, stop the lawsuits, and pay Mrs Berk some damages. (I am guardian so I can't be counsel; in Court I am Mrs. Berk.)

I can also say, that despite the fun of being in the media (even the *Times* did a half page story) for doing a "good deed," the experience was very disturbing. It awful to be locked up and handcuffed for the better part of a day. The photo of me in Court, published in the *Post*, shows the obvious strain on my face when I faced the Judge.

(In the two weeks since my arrest, two young women committed suicide in holding cells, waiting for arraignment; the family of one, Kindra Chapman, actually called me to ask for my assistance.)

I am extremely annoyed that we have a new CO at the 6th Precinct who reversed what his detectives had agreed to, and who thumbed his nose at Council Member Johnson and State Senator Hoylman (and me, an elected community leader.) I may just start a campaign to make his stay in our community as short-lived as possible. Perhaps next month the front page of *WestView* can say: "Simonetti Must Go". He is a friend of landlords, and decided, in my case, to get tough on a do-gooder.

Understand dear neighbors: I don't mind being arrested. If that is what it takes to achieve justice I will take an arrest. But the charges and the arrest here were totally unnecessary. The landlord should be charged with Harassment in the Second Degree and Ms. Lamas should be charged with Filing a False Instrument, claiming that the five cameras involved were worth \$4000. This fight is far from over!

And thank you to the scores of people who reached out to be supportive, most especially Corey Johnson, Brad Hoylman, Gale Brewer, and Maya Angelou, who tweeted about me when a reporter mentioned that the book I took to read in jail was *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.

*Arthur Z. Schwartz is the Male Democratic District Leader for Greenwich Village and President of the Public Interest Law Foundation Advocates for Justice.*

*Croman* continued from page 1

introduced to stop the Harassment); renovating the apartment (renovation defined as sending dust and noise towards Rent Regulated Tenants, with or without permits.), and the cost of litigation (now \$725,000 cheaper).

However, Croman figured that it was time for the proverbial, new wife and stopped paying the firm in 2013. Rose, deciding to cut their losses, sued for \$725,000 in unpaid fees. Croman, in turn, claims that Rose was overbilling but somehow it took Croman seventeen years to catch on.

That's right—in New York's Supreme Court, Croman is going to try to get Judge Cynthia Kern to believe that after years of "making" money, it took until now to uncover this ingenious scheme—which he had no idea was going on...for seventeen years.

Croman, in turn, countersued for "fraudulent billing, and punitive damages in an amount no less than \$5 million given the severity of The Rose Firm's intentional wrongdoing." (According to the NYSCEF Doc. No. 124, p. 98.)

With Rose and Croman choking each other, Judge Kern stepped in and recently issued a decision which strengthened Rose's grip. J. Kern decided that four out of five of Rose's Causes of Action (fingers) may remain around Croman's "neck." The remaining Causes of Action are: A reasonable invoice unpaid, a Breach of Contract, No value given for work performed and a legal promise broken.

On June 8th, 2015: Croman filed a Counterclaim. The claim is based around the accusation that he was overbilled (breach of [the Attorney's] duty, Fraud, Unjust Enrichment, etc.). Croman is asking for \$5 million dollars.

However, it doesn't sound too convincing. In his Statement of facts, Croman states that [...] as a result of a "cursory" review of The Rose Firm's bills... He requested an explanation for what "appeared" to be inflated rates for costs and disbursements". "Cursory" and "appeared to be"?

Was it mentioned that these "inflated rates" slipped by Croman? Some of them slipped right on into many monthly rent Bills sent to the Tenants...for seventeen yea—Oh, never mind.

Yes, it will be a tough sell for him to claim he was damaged, let alone that those damages add up to \$5 million dollars.

With Rose's help, Croman was able to borrow more money from the "cleared" buildings equity. However, instead of paying all of his (legal) bills and violations or all the repairs and maintenance—Croman simply bought more buildings. And nobody is stopping him.

There are very few signs that the entities that issue violations (DOB, ECB, DOT, etc.) will ever start to enforce them as they do against the average real New Yorker. However, the NYS Attorney General (Schniederman) declared that he is now investigating Croman. With baited breath, we are waiting to see whether Judge Kern or Schniederman (and now) Rose & Rose can stop the cancerous Donald-Trump-type growth called Steve Croman.

**STOP CRIME**

**Don't Let Your  
Super Throw Out  
WestView News!**



# No Avatar City

By George Capsis

On NY1 a very intense Mark Peters, the city's Commissioner of Investigation, was cataloguing the horrors in the city homeless shelters as revealed in a study ordered by Bill de Blasio—vermin, pools of urine, and festering dead rats.

Outraged by the situation, I tried to get the commissioner's office or the Coalition for the Homeless to answer some questions, but met with no success. They kept repeating "it's all in the 54 page report."

Homelessness might seem simple on the surface. The root cause of homelessness, though, is often anything but simple: domestic violence, job loss and mental illness are just some of the complex underlying problems. And this last one, mental illness, is the worst, people who have lost their minds do not know they are out in the killing cold—these are the people who sleep in the streets and never even think about going to a shelter.

In January the homeless population hit a peak—60,670. The Coalition for Homeless is now demanding that 2,500 apartments a year be built for the homeless and at least 10% of de Blasio's goal to build 200,000 apartments in the next ten years be set aside for those who cannot pay a

market rent or, in many cases, any rent at all.

Since 1981, a Coalition lawsuit has obligated the city and the state to provide shelter to those who are homeless by reason of poverty or due to mental, physical, or social dysfunction. New York is the only city in the United States in which this is the law. My only question is, do they all need to be in downtown Manhattan? It seems a disproportionate number of homeless are being housed in shelters in Manhattan.

De Blasio wants to change the zoning so he can build tall, skinny skyscraper apartment buildings with tiny, tiny apartments four hundred square feet or less (He uses the euphemistic "tall and dense").

I argue that the city and state should build these free apartments in the outer boroughs—where land is much cheaper and we still have some trees and you can walk to the sea. I also argue that the city and state should build a retirement colony in Florida.

We need to keep the best of the old city as we have in the West Village. We need to build large apartments in low rise buildings and build on a human scale—we do not want New York to become Avatar City.

And the next politician that is convicted for taking bribes should be sentenced to live in the shelter with the dead festering rat.

## "One if by Land" Defaced

Archway Removed While Owners Are Away



**DEFACED:** Removing the archway not only violates a historic landmark preservation ruling, but also leaves the restaurant facade looking generic and charmless.

In early July, while the owners were away in Europe, the company leasing the West Village restaurant at 17 Barrow Street, "One If By Land, Two If By Sea," took down the white stone archway that marked the entry. The archway was in place in 1969, when the 1834 building was landmarked as part of the Greenwich Village Historic District. Therefore, its removal is in direct violation of the landmark ruling. As can be seen in the photo above, in addition to being in violation of the landmark ruling, the new façade is generic and charmless. The Greenwich Village Society of Historic Preservation (GVSHP) began receiving many

distressed calls about the defacement. They quickly reached out to the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to report the unpermitted work, ask for inspections, and seek immediate enforcement action. Thus far the LPC has issued a stop-work order and violations for the illegal work. GVSHP has promised to pursue this case to seek full enforcement of the law and restoration of the historic architectural archway, which the LPC can require. The *WestView News* will continue to report on this issue until it has been resolved and the original archway is restored.

—Janet Capron



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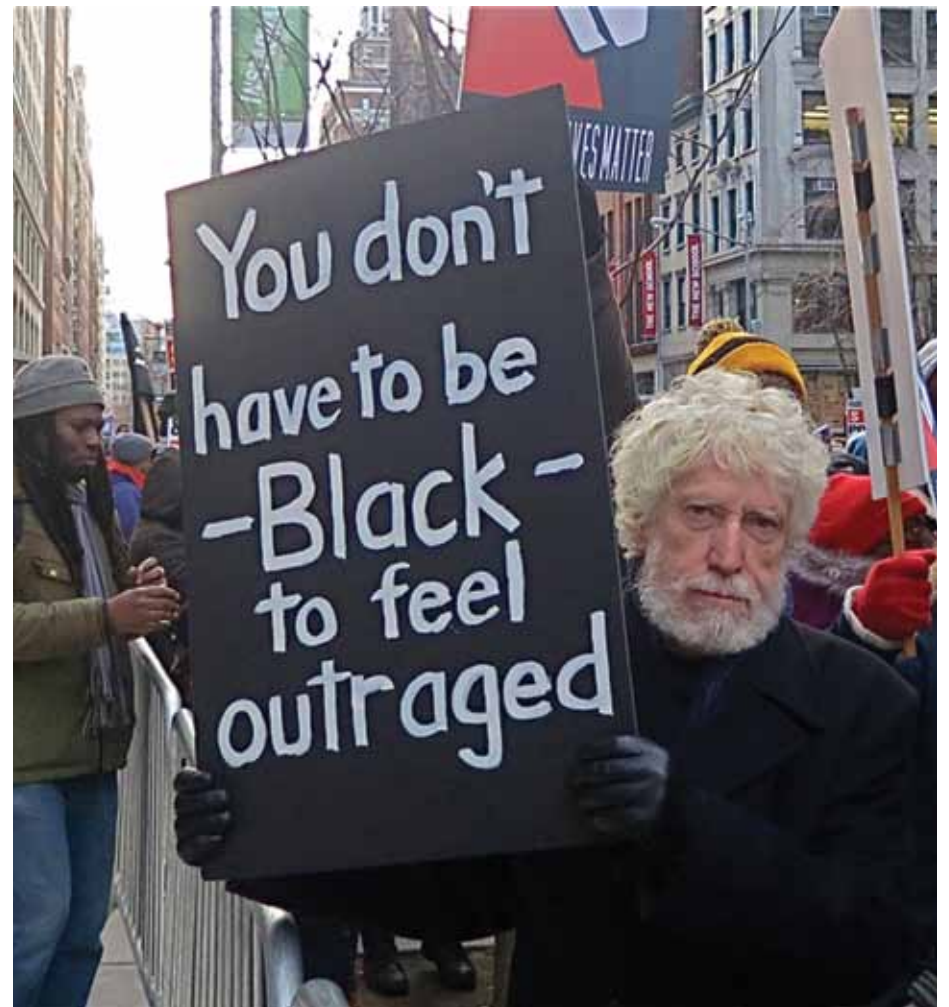
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# Race and the City

## The Crisis Continues



**THE DIVIDE CAN BE OVERCOME** : A demonstrator in the peaceful multi-racial New York protest in December 2014 that followed the deaths of Eric Garner and Michael Brown at the hands of police in Staten Island and Ferguson, MO. Photo by Maggie Berkvist.

By Arthur Z. Schwartz

I had an interesting experience a couple months ago, entering the R train at City Hall, just before a tall guy named Bill de Blasio. It took him five minutes to walk the length of the car because he was mobbed. High fives, lots of selfies (by passengers), handshakes, words of endearment. I thought back to our last two Mayors and how unlikely that scene would have been.

When he reached me I got a hug, and we launched into a discussion about the City helping to fund representation of tenants being harassed out of their apartments by rapacious landlords. We both exited at 49th Street, and his greeting from Black and Hispanic New Yorkers continued to be effusive. De Blasio's popularity in Black and Hispanic New York remains high; not so among White New Yorkers.

Contrast this pleasant ride with the continued reports of police shootings of unarmed, young Black men across the nation. In Atlanta a naked, mentally troubled vet was shot by a white cop, another Black man was shot in Philly, another in Madison, Wisconsin, and another in Roxbury, Mass. None had weapons. Then we all watched the video of Walter Scott being shot as he

ran away from a cop, across a field, in South Carolina, and then watched some more as the cop planted a taser near the body of the dying man, who he cuffed as he bled to death.

Then there was Freddy Gray in Baltimore, whose spinal cord was severed after a questionable arrest, leading to riots. This, most horrifically, was followed by the shooting of nine parishioners at a church prayer meeting in Charleston, South Carolina. And last week Sandra Bland, a Black young professional, was arrested for Driving While Black and "committed suicide" 24 hours later in a Texas jail, which she was sitting in because she could not pay the \$5000 bail.

Blacks and Hispanics continue to have a much harder time getting jobs, make less than Whites for the jobs they do get, make up an astoundingly large percentage of the prison population, and suffer from far less access to health care and educational opportunities.

Amazingly, even with a Black President and a Black Attorney General, progress seems stalled, and the divide between Whites and non-Whites continues to grow—perhaps even faster than the gap between the top 1% and the rest of working America.

On July 24th the *New York Times* pub-  
*Continued on page 7*

## *Race and the City* Continued from page 6

lished an amazing poll: 60% of Black Americans and 68% of White Americans view race relations as "Generally Bad." The numbers were half of that, for each group, as recently as 2010. And 40% of each group felt that things were getting worse. When asked whether President Obama had been judged more harshly because of his race, 80% of Blacks agreed, but only 47% of Whites. The anger and the distrust is palpable, but experiencing the reaction to Bill de Blasio in the subway shows me that the divide can be overcome.

What can we do, here in our little enclave in Greenwich Village? We need to support affordable housing efforts—in the Village—not just because we don't want to live in an "all-wealthy" community, but because we want to live in a racially integrated community as well. We, as educated adults, need to make sure our kids and our grandkids learn about slavery as part of our national heritage, and about how persecution continued after the Civil War with Jim Crow laws and the Ku Klux Klan. Instead of platitudes once a year on Martin Luther King's Birthday, we need to teach our children, and learn ourselves about the real stories about the Civil Rights Movement including those of the Freedom Riders, the Black Panther Party, Malcom X, Julian Bond and Andrew Young.

And we need to let our kids and neighbors know that we are upset whenever racial injustice occurs, and that we take it personally

We—residents of Greenwich Village, perhaps the most racially un-diverse community in the United States, a community which has a 2% Black population—need to be more conscious of how we address race in our everyday lives.

### *City Council Member*

*Corey Johnson participated in a "die-in" on Broadway after the Grand Jury cleared the cop who killed Eric Garner; but we need to see more, a lot more...*

And we need to demand that our political leaders do more. City Council Member Corey Johnson participated in a "die-in" on Broadway after the Grand Jury cleared the cop who killed Eric Garner; but we need to see more, a lot more, if our City is to become more liberal and diverse in the future, and our children and grandchildren can live in a country which is less divided.

*Arthur Z. Schwartz is the Village Democratic District Leader.*

## Bringing the World a Little Closer



**DIRECT EXPERIENCE OF AMERICA:** Outside the Stonewall Inn, LGTB tour guide Laurence Frommer (facing the camera, left) and the State Department's Tom Gallagher fielded questions from LGBTI activists brought here for the International Visitor Leadership Programs. Photo by Maggie Berkvist.

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*Dina, Nikitas and Chris*

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# Then & Now

## Broadway and East 10th Street

By Stan Fine



THEN

**1884.** The busy intersection of Broadway and East 10th Street in 1884. Chester Alan Arthur was the 21st President of the United States from 1881-85 and Franklin Edson was the 85th Mayor of New York City from 1883-84. The Victorian Gothic-Revival style St. Paul the Apostle Church on Columbus Avenue was completed in 1884, as was the Madison Avenue Bridge and The Dakota Residential building. On the right, we can see the edge of Grace Historic Parish Church, completed in 1847.  
*Photo: nycvintageimages*



NOW

**2015.** The hustle and bustle at the busy intersection of Broadway and East 10th Street in 1884 is as familiar today as it was then. The clippety-clop of horse and wagons gave way to noisy traffic and the blowing horns of vehicles. *Photo: Stan Fine*

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*Stan Fine, former Ad Agency Creative Director and CLIO judge, is now a freelance writer who has written plays and numerous travel adventure stories. [finestan@earthlink.net](mailto:finestan@earthlink.net)*



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# Lenox Health Passes First Year Anniversary

By Alec Pruchnicki, MD

On July 17th, the Lenox Hill Healthplex, now to be renamed Lenox Health Greenwich Village, celebrated the first anniversary of its opening. How is it doing?

To answer this question, Executive Director Alex Hellinger gave a tour of the facility to this writer and *WestView* photographer Maggie Berkvist. Although there have been anecdotal stories, some of which have appeared in *WestView*, the overall volume of the center has steadily increased from fifty a day to about one-hundred a day, which would give it a yearly visit volume of almost forty-thousand.

About 50% of patients are walk-ins and the others are brought in by EMS ambulances, similar to previous patterns. According to Medical Director Eric Cruzen, about 7% require hospitalization (about the same as other free standing emergency departments) with the majority going to Lenox Hill on the Upper East Side, but the others going to relatively nearby Beth Israel, or facilities of their choice. About 20% of these admissions go into intensive care units.

Although most visits are lower level emergencies, Lenox Health still gets strokes, heart attacks and low level trauma cases, which appear to be treated on a level similar to hospital based EDs before transfer to in-patient facilities.



**HOW IS IT DOING?** Lenox Health's Executive Director Alex Hellinger, right, leading the author on a tour of the renovations. Coming soon—private doctors' offices, a state-of the art imaging center and an entire floor for an out-patient surgery center. Photo by Maggie Berkvist.

EMS ambulances frequently screen higher level emergencies which are taken directly to in-patient facilities. Lenox Health also has started to institute observation status, which is common in most EDs for patients where the choice between discharge or admission has not been determined.

The Lenox Health staff also seems proud of the patient oriented, bottom up planning

that occurred, often with the extensive help of the North Shore/LIJ Health System staff, to organize the operation of the facility. Individual rooms (no curtains between crowded beds), specialized psychiatric and sexual abuse rooms, personal pagers instead of overhead speakers, and even some TV and Internet access makes the visit as tolerable as possible.

According to Dr. Cruzen, there have been about thirty-five deaths at the facility with many, but not all, predictable advanced illness cases. No births yet.

The Emergency Department is not the only resource planned for this building. Director Hellinger showed the fifth and sixth floors which will contain private doctors' offices, along with a separate entrance on 13th street. Additionally, this floor will have a separate area that will house conference rooms and meeting spaces for community use, spaces specifically planned with their needs in mind.

There will be an imaging center which would provide routine x-rays, CT and MRI scans, ultra-sounds, mammograms, and some specialized pediatric services. There will also be an entire floor for an out-patient, same-day surgery center similar to other ambulatory surgery facilities. Most of these services are scheduled to open in early 2016.

At a time when the Federal, State, and City governments are looking for ways to decrease hospital beds and more treatment is on an out-patient basis, establishment of a new hospital on the West Side is an uphill fight at best, and virtually impossible at worst.

But, free standing EDs throughout the country, in the Bronx, and possibly in Brooklyn (at the old LICH site) are multiplying to meet some of the community's needs. This appears to be working as well as can be expected and possibly better than anticipated. It had better work out, since this is what will be available for the foreseeable future.

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# Bernie Sanders Can Be Elected President. *Amazing!*

By Arthur Z. Schwartz

Last Sunday, I ran into a neighbor who I hadn't seen in a while, and she said: "Are you really for Bernie Sanders? Do you think he can win?" I responded: "Yes, I am for Sanders. I actually think that Hillary Clinton has peaked, is headed for big trouble with her email business, and is the Democrat most likely to lose the election." She was elated. "Wow, I can't wait to start talking to people about Bernie Sanders. It's so exciting!"

The Sanders campaign asked its generally amorphous and mostly web-site networked base of supporters (see <https://berniesanders.com>) to hold living room meetings on July 29th. Over one-thousand meetings took place, and in NYC most gatherings had to turn people away. A meeting scheduled for Brooklyn Heights in a two-hundred seat meeting room had to move to a five-hundred seat venue, and still folks were shut out. The largest rallies of any of the twenty some-odd candidates for President (and some are very odd) have been Bernie Sanders rallies, and in mid-July the Sanders campaign touted 284,000 donors with an average contribution of just about \$33. President Obama had about 180,000 donors at this point in 2007.

*And when CNN did a poll on July 22, Sanders was the only candidate who had more favorable numbers than unfavorable.*

And when CNN did a poll on July 22, Sanders was the only candidate who had more favorable numbers than unfavorable.

Hillary's favorable ratings peaked in 2009; she has been on a steady downhill slide since then, despite running a \$100 million campaign operation with staff and supporters all over the country. Her campaign is not whipping up anything near the enthusiasm of Sander's campaign.

The Corruption of Government is, I think, the central issue of the 2016 campaign (and why Trump, the anti-politician candidate is running so well on the right). It is the biggest problem facing our country. It's the reason other problems never get solved. Corruption, not the mess we call "partisan gridlock", is what makes our government so inefficient and ineffectual and our politics so vacuous. It's also why Democrats lose elections, though you wouldn't know it to talk to most Democratic leaders.

Most Americans agree with the Democratic Party on issues, by margins often exceeding 60/40. The list includes not just progressive economic policies like raising the minimum wage and paid family leave, but climate change, gun safety, gay marriage, all of the President's immigration re-

forms, every tax proposal and nearly every budget priority.

But Democrats preach the importance of government, while Republicans preach "less government." If Democrats call for more government, and don't show people how to eliminate the influence of big money on government, and rein in corruption, both illegal and legal (called taking campaign contributions) people won't vote for them.

A majority of Americans presently being polled see Hillary as just another dishonest politician. And her actions with her e-mail account, and the inconsistent explanations, haven't helped. I am not saying that Hillary is dishonest. I think she manifests not only great empathy and intelligence but also personal integrity. But I also believe that she fails to grasp either the intellectual bankruptcy of the economic policy put into place by her husband (the lessening of government regulation of big-business and the banking/finance sector) or the moral bankruptcy of pay-to-play politics. On top of that, her evasive and insular style may prove her undoing.

People don't just care about corruption, they hate it. Clinton's instinct, and that of many of her supporters, is to suppress the debate. They say a Republican victory in 2016 would be a catastrophe. I wholeheartedly agree, but the argument cuts both ways. The worst possible result would be for Clinton to be brought down in the general election. The time for full, fierce, open debate about how to win this election, and build a Democratic majority in Congress, perhaps the only time, is right now.

Bernie Sanders' remarkable campaign continues to shed the most light on issues and offer the country the most hope. His continued success is essential. He says: break up the big banks. He says "cancel all student debt." He says to give all new parents twelve weeks of paid leave, and he wants a single payer health care system, not one enriching insurance companies. He is not perfect, and he has yet to win much support in Black and Hispanic America, folks who are key to a Democratic victory. But his continued surge—and his call for an end to politics as we know it—is a galvanizing force, just like the Zephyr Teachout campaign was when she ran against Andrew Cuomo last year.

I want to be part of that effort to galvanize a new approach to politics. Bernie Sanders may force the Democrats to embrace real change and even lead them to victory. If he wins in Iowa and New Hampshire, Hillary may run away. And with Bernie Sanders we know that what he says, is what he will do.

I invite all of my neighbors to join me.

*Arthur Z. Schwartz is the Male Democratic District Leader in Greenwich Village.*

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# St. Vincent's Triangle Gets a New Park



**"DESIGNED TO BE A CLASSIC WEST VILLAGE PARK":** St. Vincent's Triangle Park (as it is currently being called) will showcase the New York City AIDS Memorial in the park's northwestern point. Rendering COURTESY of STUDIO A+I.

By Brian J. Pape

West Village residents and tourists will soon welcome a new public park on the site where the Loew's Sheridan Theatre, and later St. Vincent's Hospital materials handling facility, once stood.

Designed by New York City-based M. Paul Friedberg & Partners, the sixteen-thousand-square-foot park, called St. Vincent's Triangle Park for now, is a composition of curving benches, colorful plantings, and numerous trees. A wrought-iron fence encloses the triangular plot, which features light-toned pavers and curvilinear paths leading to a small lawn at the park's center. Play areas and water jets are also programmed for the space.

The truncated prow of the former theater, built in 1921, with classical treatment and enormous theatre marquee, was immortalized by the artist Edward Hopper.

Replacing the demolished theater, a one-story St. Vincent's Hospital Materials Handling Facility, with deep basement and tunnel connecting to the O'Toole Building, was completed in 1987.

The entire triangular block on Seventh Avenue and Greenwich Avenue has been deeded to the city as a concession to the community and the city, by developers Rudin Management, Eyal Ofer and Global Holdings, as part of their "Greenwich Lane" development. The developers agreed to cover the cost of the \$10 million new park. City Parks Department will then maintain the park.

"It's designed to be a classic West Village park," Bill Rudin, the CEO of Rudin Management, told the *Wall Street Journal*. The design showcases the New York City AIDS Memorial in the park's northwestern point.

Brooklyn-based Studio a+i, with the structural engineers Robert Silman Associates, won a competition to design the memorial in 2012, but its scheme was simplified at the request of the Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Parks Department, partly to avoid the temptation for humans of all ages to climb up and over it. An angular canopy structure eighteen feet tall covers a circular water feature. In March 2015, the memorial's planners announced that artist Jenny Holzer will also contribute to the memorial, by adding 8,992 words from Walt Whitman's *Song of Myself* inscribed into paving stones spiral-

ing around the memorial's water feature.

New York City already has an AIDS Memorial in the Hudson River Park at the foot of West 11th Street, but the new one will make the connection to the bankrupt hospital that treated so many dying AIDS patients. Financed by NYC AIDS Memorial, according to the group's founders Christopher Tepper and Paul Kelterborn, construction of the memorial and associated educational programs will cost about \$4 million. The sponsors hope to raise \$2.5 million from public sources and \$1.5 million privately.

The Greenwich Lane is a \$1 billion project with average prices of \$3,500 a square foot with about two-hundred residences in the towers and townhouses. 145 West 11th

Street will be the first of the buildings to welcome residents in September 2015. The new park is scheduled to open this summer and the memorial is slated to be unveiled in time for World AIDS Day in early December 2015.



**COMING SOON:** A preview of the green space that is the nearly completed park, with its delicate trees and welcome benches, on the sixteen-thousand-square-foot site of the former St. Vincent's Triangle. Photo by Maggie Berkvist.

## Father Walter's Private Passion

By Father Walter Tanelotto

*"Please, I want you to meet Father Walter" was the daily refrain from Nelida Godfrey—the diminutive fount of energy fighting the fusillade of legal tricks launched by landlord Steve Croman to push her out of her apartment and restaurant, Lima's Taste—she fights back, saying "I am an Inca!"*

*The hope of a respite from her pleas and the modest pleasure of challenging a defense of this still posturing, but certainly in the West Village aspiring, Roman Catholic faith made me agree.*

*Our Lady of Pompeii is big and elegant, and it was built in 1929 when at last the Italian emigrants had gathered position and wealth that they wanted to show in a gush of baroque marble. It is opulent.*

*I sat in the Church office waiting for Father Walter Tanelotto who was praying, when a fiftyish man entered dressed in shirt and pants reserved for cleaning day. When I realized it was Father Walter, I arose and attributed my late rise to my knee operation.*



**MINISTERING VIA RADIO AND INTERNET:** Fr. Walter Tanelotto was born in Sant'Eulalia, a hamlet in Treviso, north of Venice, Italy. He's been pastor of Our Lady of Pompeii since 2013, is a director of the Italian Radio Maria USA and is launching a Catholic Faith network. Photo Courtesy of Our Lady of Pompeii.

*Father Walter looked sad. He looked buried under decades of lost efforts to mature his boyish zeal to become a priest and buried under the reality of witnessing the end of the Italian community in the West Village—as we talked and I looked at his sad eyes I had a sudden thought "I wish I could find him a nice wife."*

*I offered that religion is dead and with a faint crackle of energy he replied "Not for everybody" and went on "we have young people with Italian companies in New York and members of the consulate who come here... we are the only church in Manhattan with a service in Italian" He then told me "I have spent 25 years in radio," and what followed was his joy, his reason to get up in the morning—he was about to launch a multi lingual online religious network. He stood with new life and asked us to walk to the next room where we saw a multitude of screens showing feeds from all over the world "It is a Catholic faith network" he explained, and it is about to be launched.*

*I glanced at Father Walter as he talked, and he had lost his sadness.*

—George Capps

### Pompeii: The Village Church

When I arrived at Our Lady of Pompeii as the pastor of this catholic community, I realized the great importance this church has in this area. Its strategic position at the center of the Greenwich Village, its open door policy and

*Continued on page 13*



## Father Walter

Continued from page 12

its historical significance make this church one of the most vibrant and welcoming.

The first thing I did was to make sure the doors stayed open till night. Many villagers and tourists go out to eat at night and many of them stop by the church to relax and say a prayer.

One day I saw a Buddhist monk, all dressed in orange, praying in a corner of the church; in another corner a lady holding her dog and praying; a young couple kissing and probably asking God to bless their love; and a young man taking pictures of the different artistic works. Many tourists come in who just say: WOW!! The soft religious Gregorian music helps people to relax. In a few months God's house has become everybody's house. Actually we all are children of the same God.

The beauty of this community is that it is very much diversified. The original group was Italian; in fact the church was built by Italians, even though Pompeii has always been a "mixed" congregation. The Irish immigrants have always been present since the beginning of the community; it is very interesting to notice that many Italian families have an Irish last name, which signifies the common trend to intermarriage between Italian and Irish youths.

The second ethnic group is the Filipino. Twenty five years ago, the late Fr. Bob Sison from the Philippines started a Filipino Ministry which served as a focal point of unity and faith for many Filipino families around the five boroughs of the city. Another very interesting group are the Brazilians; many of them are fashion designers and a good number of them are young models. Even though they come from Queens and New Jersey, they



**AS CHURCH DOORS CLOSE AN ELECTRONIC ONE OPENS:** New York just witnessed the closing of seven local churches as Father Walter opens a global multi lingual electronic network. Photo by Maggie Berkvist.

feel very welcome and at home. The priests next door (27 Carmine St.) are all Brazilians and this makes it easy for them to be the natural leaders of the Brazilian community.

Something very exciting is happening in the Italian Community. While the original group is in decline, a new phenomenon has appeared during the last two years. A good number of young professionals from Italy started a new Italian Mass on Saturday nights. These are the children of Facebook because they are all connected through social media; they talk to each other at least five times a day and most of them are not afraid to

show that they are Catholic.

On Thursday night they gather in someone's apartment to pray the rosary. They have started a Web TV Channel, called Telemater.org in order to reach out to all the 250,000 Italians who live in New York City; there is even an app for that channel, which everybody can download. The energy and enthusiasm of these young Italian professionals is incredible. They really feel they have found their own home away from home, a point of reference, a welcoming community.

The last newcomers are the Latin American restaurant workers. If you walk up and down Bleecker Street, you can hear Spanish spoken in most of the corners. These are the waiters who come from Staten Island and New Jersey and work in the Village restaurants and shops. It is difficult for them to go to church, because they come in to work long hours. But at least they know that they are welcome and they too are part of our Village.

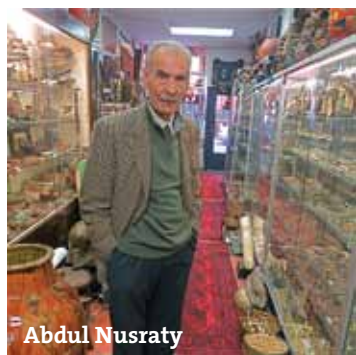
Someone told me last week: "Father, you have to admit that religion is dead."

Maybe religion is changing its face and color, but I can tell you that faith and spirituality are growing. I remember two Jewish ladies who came into the church to request that I give them God's forgiveness. I tried to explain how we Catholics do our confession, and I felt almost honored to be able to mediate the forgiveness of God for these two sincere ladies. Various people come into the church and when they see me praying they ask me to pray for them. I don't know if they are Catholic or not, but I know that they are searching for a connection with the Supreme; and if I can help, I feel privileged. I am sure that a certain type of religion is disappearing, but maybe a better one is coming back.

Certainly it is exciting being a man of God in the middle of Greenwich Village.



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# Now Get Out

By Keith Michael

## Summer is golden.

Millie hruffs inside from a sweltering walk, shedding a trail of fur-wisps behind her. Corgis were bred for herding in northern climes. New York summers are not that. Once in the door, she dashes to the bathroom for her water bowl, tags rhythmically jingling on the rim as she's lapping, finally she belly-flops onto the cool tile floor.

Contrary to working a relentless academic schedule throughout the school year, I have the summer off. For about half a day I feel guilty about that, but it just doesn't stick. I love the time on, but I love the time off too. However, to me, time off means: time out. I'm an obsessive New York City vacationer. By August my To Do list is nearly an I Did It list, and I begin to dread the relentless countdown to September.

My first official Friday off in June, I walked the newly reopened High Bridge, and topped off the afternoon with a visit to the Morris-Jumel Mansion. Having recently taken a friend to Greenwood Cemetery (a chance to review my Battle of Brooklyn history), standing in George Washington's bedroom where he, essentially, holed up (comfortably) for a few months to lick his wounds and strategize what to do next about those pesky British—this was a knitting together of geography, history and time.

I bought my first ticket for the new One World Observatory and headed downtown to revisit the Beaux Arts confection of the National Museum of the American Indian (free) with its colossal dome, chandeliers and staircases; oogle the rising winged Santiago Calatrava



**CUTER THAN A CORGI PUPPY:** A Piping Plover chick at Breezy Point, Queens. Photo by Keith Michael.

spectacle (free); go up and down and up again, once again, in the kaleidoscopic Fulton Street Station (free); wander the new corridors of Brookfield Place (free); then elbow my way to a 1WTC window seat (not free) to oogle the sunset. I like days of oogling.

In the neighborhood, I finally basked in the new Whitney (its art and its views) and further afield, took the tram to Roosevelt Island to scout out a new vantage for watching Manhattanhenge.

I enjoyed my evening walks at Plumb Beach, Brooklyn for the horseshoe crab mating orgies (a harlequin-billed Surf Scoter was a nifty summer visitor), and weekend outings to Governor's Island (for the Common Terns nesting on the Buttermilk Channel piers, and the Yellow-crowned Night Heron pair who

chose Colonels Row for homesteading this year). A day trip to Staten Island to see the first nesting Bald Eagles in the city (reportedly in over one-hundred years), and the summer solstice sunrise concert at St John the Divine, primed me: "Now, I'm ready for the official start of summer!" Are you tired yet? I'm just getting started.

On to Fort Tilden, Queens for Oystercatcher and Piping Plover chicks. (Even Millie might concede that Piping Plover chicks are even cuter than corgi puppies, but I won't risk rousing her to ask). Lounging on a shaded bench in the gardens at Fort Tryon Park, I hoped to see Hummingbirds, but settled for flourishes of butterflies. Further north, a friend took me for a day's walk in The Bronx: the art deco extravagance of the Grand

Concourse, the Ben Shahn Post Office frescoes, the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage, and then, ate, happily, far too much on Arthur Avenue.

Back south for an American Princess Dolphin and Whale Watch Cruise out of Riis Landing (yes, the desired cetacean sightings were seen with the Manhattan skyline as a backdrop—I'm not making this up); north to the new Hunter's Point South Park in Long Island City (more scouting for Manhattanhenge viewing locations—found one!); far west to Breezy Point (more adorable Piping Plover chicks and thousands of feisty Common Terns); and east to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (scores of Mute Swans and Yellow Warblers, and a tantalizing glimpse of a Barn Owl family). I told you—I get around.

Up for the challenge, another friend and I walked the Newtown Creek industrial shore (the super-fund boundary between Queens and Brooklyn). Somehow Barn Swallows, Blue Herons and Kingfishers make their homes along that fetid water. Back north to Woodlawn Cemetery in The Bronx (for the Great Trees, the impressive mausoleums, and, the day I was there, a spectacular thunderstorm), as well as east to Queens' Alley Pond Park and Douglaston (grand houses, salt marsh and prolific Ospreys).

There've been Gay Pride and 4th of July parties and fireworks. Oh, and there's a nest of Ravens in Chelsea—the first nesting Ravens in the city, apparently, ever. Two of the kids were playing king-of-the-water-tower on West 11th Street. And, whenever I can, I go to the High Line to see the crowds—of flowers.

Ah, it's Sunday, "Millie, let's go watch the sunset tango at the end of Pier 45."

What shall we do in August?

*For more information about nature walks, books and photographs, visit [www.keithmichaelnyc.com](http://www.keithmichaelnyc.com).*

# Bringing Poetry to the People

## Greenwich House Joins with Poets House

By Joseph Salas

### The New Country

By Edith Merle

cold and unwelcoming  
as unrelenting as the falling snow  
blaring fire engine sirens  
unfamiliar sounds—the foreign language  
unheated apartments devoid of hot water

year round summers—a distant memory  
sounds or ripened mangoes beckoning  
the children  
falling to the ground while quickly rescued  
the melodious song "El Coqui"  
Puerto Rico's petite frog

our lyrical Spanish our Christmas  
mesmerizing echoes  
of waves slapping the sandy beach  
weaving these memories  
into a tapestry of unrealized dreams and  
hopes

Edith Merle was raised in Upper Manhattan's "El Barrio," an area populated by the city's new immigrants, reflecting the melting pot that was America after her parents migrated from Puerto Rico in search of a better life. Today, Edith writes about her childhood, her college days and everyday life. She has been published in the UFT's magazine, Reflections.

Her poem *The New Country* is the result of a partnership between Greenwich House, a settlement house providing arts

education and social service programs to Lower Manhattan, and Poets House, a national poetry library and literary center based in Battery Park City.

This past year, Poets House led an intimate workshop for a group of aspiring poets at Greenwich House's Independence Plaza Senior Center. The goal of the program was to help seniors develop their inner artistic voice while learning different poetic styles and techniques. Over the course of eight months, seniors were asked to recall their earliest memories of New York and to use those memories as a critical lens to structure a poetic discourse on the New York they experience today. The workshop culminated in a reception and reading at Poets House, where their work was debuted.

At the reading, center member Amy Se-

idman lamented the rise in popularity of oversized doughy bagels, complete with their oversized price in her poem "The Real Schmeer." "I yearn for the days of the nickel bagel. A bakers-dozen for sixty cents," she recited; meanwhile, fellow member Marie Soffer embraced the new group of "exuberant teenagers of every ethnic background" who now share her commute on the Q60 bus in her poem "My Q60 Bus Ride." Explaining the difference when school is not in session, she read "The same trip in July and August. Deadly Silence. Too much time to meditate. I miss them."

Starting in the fall, the workshop will continue with the hope that more burgeoning poets will join in the free program. For more information or to join contact Nicole Brown at [nbrown@greenwichhouse.org](mailto:nbrown@greenwichhouse.org) or at 212-267-0499.



## Food is Love

By John Barrera

Have you ever cooked for someone and noticed the other person's face? I can almost guarantee that person was smiling. How about a conversation with your mother telling her you'll be coming to visit soon? Most times that conversation would include something about making your favorite meal or maybe visiting your favorite restaurant. These are examples of caring, of love. Before you start thinking I'm writing this as a prelude to an after-school special. I want to reverse this thought and think about what you would make for your loved one.

I believe everyone has their "go-to dishes." Whether it's a breakfast, lunch, dinner or dessert, we all have or should have one.



**EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A GO-TO DISH:** For author John Barrera, it is the simple and fresh clafoutis, above. Photo by John Barrera.

I asked my daughter what hers were, and without skipping a beat, she replied "Breakfast is scrambled eggs and sautéed kale and dinner is rice and beans." I know my wife's without asking her. Breakfast is soft boiled eggs with cubed French bread, olive oil and lots of fresh cracked black pepper, dinner is risotto and shrimp and

dessert is individual Tiramisu in espresso cups with Lady Finger garnish.

I personally change my go-to dishes every year. Because I've cooked professionally, I don't have a lunch or dinner go-to because I like to cook whatever I have to work with at that time. But, I find breakfast and dessert another story. Last year I memorized a pancake recipe that is sure to please. Seven ingredients—just make sure the baking powder is fresh and the maple syrup real, throw in some berries (I always keep frozen organic berries in my freezer) and I'm enjoying my coffee, reading the paper and never going near cleanup—while being told what a master I am in the kitchen. I'm not as interested in making a dessert. Unless my bride is in the mood to make her Tiramisu, if my guests ask "should we bring anything," I suggest bringing dessert.

But, I do feel as though I should have a go-to dessert. Most cooks will tell you keep it simple and fresh, so I chose Julia Child's clafoutis recipe. Any dessert with fresh fruit is always a crowd pleaser and Julia also keeps the preparation very simple.

My wife orders six pairs of shoes at a time from Zappo's and sends back the ones she doesn't like, so put her at a farm stand in the Hampton's you end up with more fruit than a Dole canning plant. To say I've made ten assorted clafoutis so far this summer would not be an exaggeration—blueberry-peach, peach, raspberry, plum, plum-peach and even chocolate-almond. At one point I was knocking out two at a time and giving one away. So it's a winner.

You don't need four different go-to dishes. You just need one. One dish that you can call on to tell one person or a group of people that you mean something to me and this is my humble way of showing it.

*If you would like to use any of the recipes mentioned in the article please email me at johnbarrera8@gmail.com*



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# Thanks

to all my neighbors and friends for your supportive words following my arrest.  
Special thanks to Council member Corey Johnson and State Senator Hoylman for their calls to  
Captain Simonetti (which he ignored).

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Whenever anyone calls on Arthur to do something good, he's there and he doesn't ask what's in it for him and he doesn't ask how much money there is and he doesn't ask anything. He just does it. And you know, when you think about it, he is the kind of person who – we use the word with a lot of cliché and it's overused– but he truly is a great American. You know when the founding fathers set up the country – if you read the Federalist's Papers, what was their greatest doubt? Well, they had a lot of doubts. There was dealing with this new little beast called democracy in a republic. But the thing they worried about most is whether the citizenry would come forward and stand up to the plate.

You know, for a thousand years people had let someone else run things and they were really worried that the only people who would get involved in their government, whether it be running for office or, more importantly, just working to see that the government worked, were people only of self-interest. And of course we have a lot of that. We have a ton of apathy, people don't care. And then it seems like all too many people who get involved are doing it because they're saying there's something in it for numero uno. But there are lots of people who are in it for the right reasons. And if you had to pick somebody who sort of –this room is filled with them, that's one of the nice things about Arthur and his friends– but if you had to pick somebody who symbolizes that, it would be Arthur Schwartz.

**WHEN ARTHUR SCHWARTZ  
SPEAKS  
IMPORTANT PEOPLE  
LISTEN**





# Summer in the City: Not a Bad Place to Dine

By David Porat

August in the city, with weather being cooperative, is a great time to enjoy restaurants that are not as easily available at other times of year. Between reservations that are generally easier to get and the very successful NYC and Co. promotion, Restaurant Week, you can enjoy good food, good value, and maybe a slight bit quieter sound level—and get there quicker and park easier if you happen to be driving.

Looking back at some of my favorites, both recently and over the years, and keeping in mind what deals can be had, the following is a list of where to eat in August.

Restaurant Week involves a good number of restaurants looking for business through the city and having a three course prix fixe lunch for \$25 or a prix fixe dinner for \$38. Some restaurants just do lunches, some are just open for dinner and generally Saturdays are not included.

The NYC and Co. web site (NYCgo.com) has a very comprehensive listing that links with OpenTable, making it very easy to check availability and make reservations.

Participating restaurants pay dues to NYC and Co.—an independent, not for profit organization that very successfully promotes New York City, and they all benefit by the publicity that is created around this event. During the summer it starts at the end of July and goes at least into the first two weeks of August.

As a person interested in better specialty food and restaurants, I can sometimes be a bit skeptical of getting the “cheap menu” in a good restaurant in that, as the old adage says, you get what you pay for. It can be a bit like outlet center shopping, clothes can be designed with a fancy brand but made cheaply to sell for a price point, hence the quality is not the same. But restaurants do need business in the summer, so hopefully the diner can get a bit more for their money during this promotion. And it is a great way to check out restaurants that you would less likely find yourself in and try something new.

I ate last week at Junoon, a high end Indian restaurant on 24th near 5th Ave. which had a very carefully chosen three course menu and nicely nuanced Indian food. The setting, the service—the whole package was a great deal. I am looking forward to eating at All'onda on 13th street tomorrow night. Some restaurants that participate and I have written well about in the neighborhood include: Left Bank, Perry Street, Spasso, Tertulia (just lunch during the week and lunch and dinner on Sundays) and Yerba Buena.

Getting a weekend reservation at a place like Carbone can be next to impossible—even for me who has tried

several times thirty days in advance. Mr. Obama ate there last Saturday with his kids, which probably was not too hard to arrange. I did score a reservation on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, and yes, a good bit of hype is well deserved as long as you do not focus too much on the bottom line.

The same folks—Major Food Group—have also brought us Santina, which is a slightly easier reservation. With their outdoor space, their summer occupancy goes up a good bit. They recently opened for weekday breakfast as well; this would be a great way to start a summer vacation day.

I also ate recently at Barbuto down Washington Street a bit and this is another one to try while vacationing. RedFarm continues to draw folks and the Decoy's Peking Duck in the space below was a great splurge. Typically it is a hard reservation, but it could be easier in August. A few other places that are popular and easier in August are Rosemary's, Toro, Market Table and Piora.

Enjoy some local good food in August—often better than vacation food. The competition, talent and ingredients available in NYC keep our city a capital in the world for good eating.

**All'onda**  
22 E 13th Street, (212) 231-2236

**Barbuto**  
775 Washington Street, (212) 924-9700

**Carbone**  
181 Thompson Street, (212) 254-3000

**Decoy**  
downstairs, 529-1/2 Hudson Street  
(212) 691-9700

**Junoon**  
27 W 24th Street, (212) 490-2100

**Left Bank**  
117 Perry Street, (212) 727-1170

**Market Table**  
54 Carmine Street, (212) 255-2100

**Perry Street**  
176 Perry Street, (212) 352-1900

**Piora**  
430 Hudson Street, (212) 960-3801

**RedFarm**  
529 Hudson Street, (212) 792-9700

**Rosemary's**  
18 Greenwich Avenue, (212) 647-1818

**Santina**  
820 Washington Street  
(212) 254-3000

**Spasso**  
551 Hudson Street, (212) 858-3838

**Tertulia**  
359 6th Avenue, (646) 559-9909

**Toro**  
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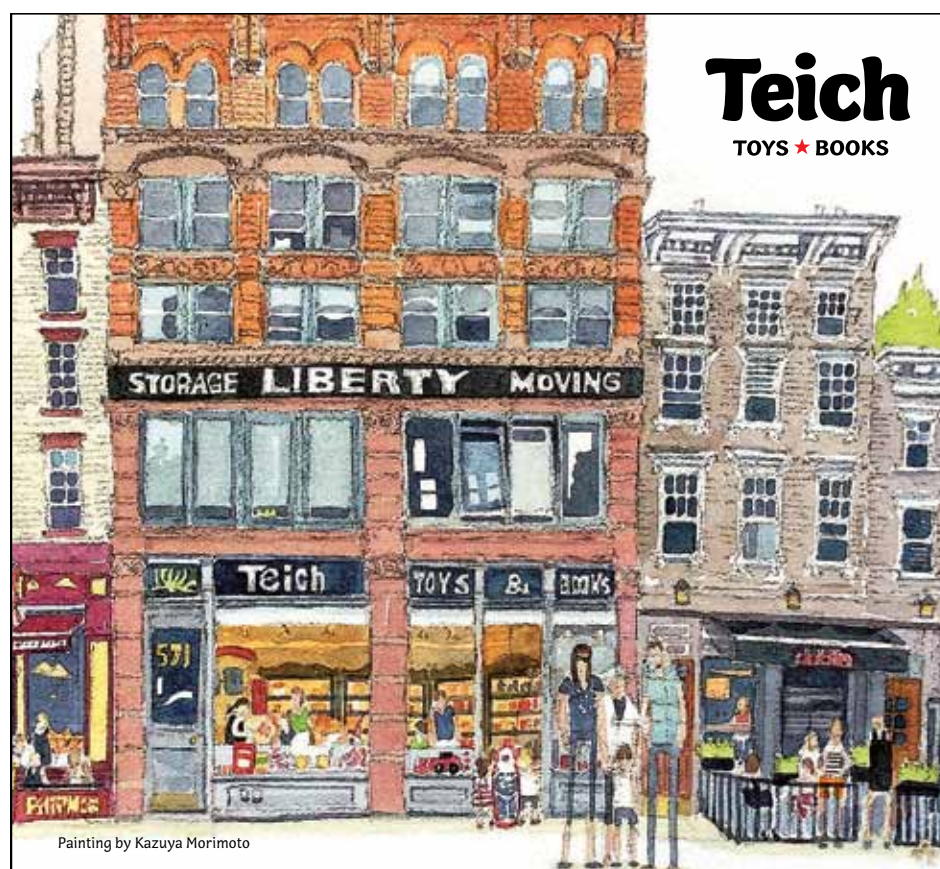
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# An Orgy of Killing Discovers the Brotherhood of Life

By Erwin H. Lerner

Not very many of us truly can Remember Pearl Harbor, or even recall the Korean War for that matter. We might be aware of Gregory Peck's Academy Award winning performance in the film *Pork Chop Hill*, a clump of land located above the Chorwon Valley in west-central Korea.

Not far to the west of Pork Chop Hill lies a hill called Old Baldy, which endured a series of five engagements during ten months in 1952–1953. Old Baldy earned its nickname after artillery and mortar fire destroyed all the trees on its crest.

An observation post attached to Old Baldy is described as being an area of machine gun and rifle positions atop a sheer, low lime rock battlement. Its crown, a bald knob connected to Old Baldy by a saddle ridge, was only large enough to accommodate a platoon of the 31st Infantry Regiment (nicknamed "the Polar Bears"). There barely was room for one log-walled lime rock battlement, insufficient to cover a full squad. The Chinese were obsessed with taking it, and three nights before the July



**THAT REMINDS ME:** Playwright Erwin Lerner recalls his days in the Korean War triggered by a familiar name. Photo courtesy of Erwin Lerner.

26–27 cease fire they came charging up the hill, lugging huge boxes of ammunition and rations, determined to take the outpost and keep it. Wave after wave poured uphill, and took half the outpost. But, L company counter attacked and drove the

enemy back down the trench line in close quarters combat with grenades, small arms, bayonets, and occasional rifle butts. When the Chinese lost grip on their last section of trench, survivors scurried across two-hundred barren yards to the safety of Chinese Communist lines on Old Baldy. They were chopped to pieces there by American artillery.

On Sunday, July 26, 1953, night fighting resumed at the outpost and raged for four and a half hours, until shortly after midnight when the Reds had been stopped. Another wave hit early Monday morning and fighting continued for another hour before the enemy fell back. At 9:45 p.m. a cease fire order came down from U.N. Command Headquarters. A minute later, an outpost lookout sounded like Paul Revere: "The Chinese are coming! The Chinese are coming!" What followed was an absence of weapons fire and shouting. There was no jubilation; only well-meant handshakes between adversaries. Both sides had seen too much slaughter. Suddenly there was peace.

The above history pertains to an Old Baldy outpost by the name of West View. Presently, fortunately for us, this monthly publication, *WestView News*, overlooks Greenwich Village and areas to the north, south, east and west, peacefully spreading awareness and enlightenment in the democratically free confines of America.

*Erwin H. Lerner has long approached his life with a keen inner sense of skepticism. Born on Simpson Street in the East Bronx, raised in the West Bronx, in 1952 he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force for four years of active duty during the Korean Conflict, serving out of the range of fire on Crete, in Germany and at the Pentagon, primarily assigned as a teletype and cryptography operator. He returned to New York City in 1956 and took residence in Greenwich Village to further his higher education at New York University and the New School for Social Research. Having found his calling as a playwright, four of his works have been presented Off-Off-Broadway and two short plays were aired on WBAI Public Radio.*

## I'm Mad at You, George

By George Capsis

"I'm mad at you, George—you told Carol Yost that just because she was old she didn't need to live in the Village anymore, that she should live in Florida to make room for young people. I've lived in the Village twenty years, George, and I am NOT going to Florida! I'm mad at you..."

And with that my neighbor of many years stalked off and will never speak to me again...

What I wrote, and yes, I had a moment of hesitation when I wrote it, was that laws of good intention caught in decades of mindless bureaucracy no longer address the ills they were made to correct but breed new injustices.

We have one million rent regulated

apartments. If they were put on the market there would be a new leveling of "market rate" rents—sure rents would go up but not as much as they do now when a landlord buys out a rent regulated tenant.

But forget it—we have come too far—New York will have rent regulations until the Brooklyn Bridge turns to rust and we will continue to grind our teeth in vain when we hear somebody boast of his twenty five-year-old rent controlled rent.

We liberals and now us de Blasio "progressives" believe that nobody should be homeless. We believe that rent controlled or rent stabilized rents are an immutable page in the sacred text of social justice and should continue until the sunset of history and that we should build housing for those that are old or handicapped or mentally ill who will never be able to

afford even the envelope into which to place a rent check.

Yes, this is what we liberals believe and even if we have some hesitation—it is the law, at least here in the most liberal city of the world—New York.

And yes, perhaps not Carol Yost, but someone like her paying \$500 rent for a \$3,000 apartment would like to live in Florida or San Diego for the same \$500 a month and then again perhaps not but I think she, and we, should have a choice—why not?

We should have not just New York City rent laws, but Federal ones so retiring New Yorkers may live near that sister in Florida or that daughter in San Diego.

Right now the young people from all over the world who, each spring, used to seed the Village anew with the searching

tendrils of youth are renting further and further out into Brooklyn and are spending a good part of their youth commuting back to MOMA or the MET and the other cultural treasures that I enjoyed as a Manhattan kid for a nickel subway ride.

What I argued for is that we must plan for a growing New York City population who less and less will be able to afford market rate rents. This is not a just a city problem but a federal one—so just as we have federal nearly-free medical care for the elderly, let us have nationwide affordable rents for everybody from the middle class on down—Rentacare.

And as for Carol Yost who sent me an e-mail asking for help when her landlord's lawyer had sent her an eviction notice—I called attorney Arthur Schwartz and she is still in her apartment and not in Florida.

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## Science from Away: Short Stories about Serotonin and More

By Mark M Green  
(sciencefromaway.com)

Simon N. Young began teaching at McGill University in Montreal, Canada in the early 1970s and went on to become Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Psychiatry and Neuroscience*. He also sat on committees, which decided who gets money to do what research—a professor of considerable influence. Just about when Dr. Young began his career, there were developed drugs to treat depression, a malady of great importance to his profession. Professor Young as President of the Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology played a key role during his distinguished career in the increasing focus on therapeutic drugs.

The most famous of these drugs, fluoxetine, was publicly named in 1974 by scientists at Eli Lilly, one of the giants of the pharmaceutical industry. We know this drug now as Prozac, and do we know it. According to a reliable Wikipedia site, within a short time of Eli Lilly introducing this anti-depressant, with Food and Drug Administration approval in 1987, sales reached \$350 million and by 2010 prescriptions reached approximately thirty million in the United States and Great Britain. This comes as no surprise considering the widely read and reviewed 1996 memoir, *Prozac Nation*, and a film made from it several years later. Though not a book well thought of, the thesis certainly demonstrated the wide use of this drug and the occurrence of depression.

Prozac and other drugs of that class inhibit very large proteins in the brain responsible for the reuptake of a small molecule called a neurotransmitter, serotonin. After the serotonin plays its role in allowing signals to be transferred from one neuron to another, it is up taken by this protein and removed. If Prozac inhibits this process, then the serotonin can continue to cause signals to be transferred, events that reduce depression by means that are not understood in full detail although the serotonin is very widespread and thought to connect parts of the brain associated with variable functions including mood.

Serotonin is quite an important biological molecule. Huge amounts of it are produced in our gut and it is critically important for the functioning of our digestive system, although that gut-produced serotonin is not allowed to pass into our brains. Scientists have recently shown that we can't produce this gut-important molecule without the intervention of certain kinds of bacteria. The bacteria are one of a very large number of kinds that constitute our microbiome. What's that: "the ecological community of commensal, symbiotic and patho-



**THE MAN BEHIND 'SCIENCE FROM AWAY':** A happy-looking Professor Mark Green (above) discusses the importance of feel-good chemical serotonin in the brain. Photo courtesy of Mark Green.

genic microorganisms that literally share our body space." Those are the words of Joshua Lederberg who won the Nobel Prize in 1958 for understanding much about the genetic makeup of bacteria. Now we know that the microbiome can contribute as much as one to three percent of our body weight! That deserves an exclamation mark, you must agree. There is a great deal going on now in the medical world about the microbi-

ome leading to a procedure called fecal transplant, in which the fecal matter of a healthy person is transferred rectally or orally to someone suffering from gut related problems to reinstitute a healthy bacterial population.

Perhaps Professor Young, who played a role as a young professor in the acceptance of the importance of drugs for treatment of psychiatric problems, in his later years as emeritus professor at McGill, has seen

a different light. As he was heading toward retirement as emeritus professor at McGill (in 2013) he published a paper in the November 2007 issue of the *Journal of Psychiatry and Neuroscience* entitled: "How to increase serotonin in the human brain without drugs" It is worth reading. Here we learn that finding a happy way of life is correlated with higher levels of serotonin and longevity and physical health including less cardiovascular disease. There is evidence, that while serotonin enhances good mood, good mood enhances the amount of serotonin available to the brain—a kind of yoga related idea. Bright light is also associated with higher levels of brain serotonin. Spending time outdoors is apparently healthy and the numbers of people seeking relief from depression may be connected with our increasingly indoor life style away from the farm. Light cafes have been introduced in Scandinavia. And evidence suggests that exercise, especially to exhaustion, leads to increased brain serotonin. And finally there is diet—foods that contribute high levels of the accessible amino acid, which is the precursor of serotonin, increase the chemical in the brain.

To return to Eli Lilly: The company is about to test another blockbuster drug, based on monoclonal antibodies, which is intended to remove the plaques associated with Alzheimer's disease. Their stock has already shot up as I write this piece, and speculation is rife.

*Mark M. Green is professor of organic chemistry at the Polytechnic Engineering School of New York University and an investigator of natural insect controls on his farm in upstate New York.*

The Voice of the West Village

# WestView News

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## Raffetto's



**ALL IN THE FAMILY:** Romana, daughter-in-law of founder Marcello and keeper of the Raffetto recipes, is still at work alongside granddaughter Sarah and son Andrew in the Houston Street store — a good place to shop for ingredients for an Italian dinner, or a ready-made one. Photographs by Maggie Berkvist.

By Caroline Benveniste

When you enter Raffetto's, you might be greeted by the sound of the guillotine. Not just one swift thwack, but repeated chopping. In the back of the store the ninety-nine year old pasta cutting machine chops away, cutting to order four different widths of pasta, from linguine to wide fettuccine. The one inch wide pappardelle must be cut by hand. Customers buying pasta choose not only the desired thickness, but also the flavor, of which there are more than a dozen, ranging from the basic egg to whole wheat, black pepper, chestnut, saffron, and even chocolate.

Founded in 1906 by Marcello Raffetto, the store was first located on Sullivan Street. A few years later, it moved to its current location on Houston Street, and the family wisely purchased the building in the 1920's. Gino,

Marcello's son, was born in the United States but grew up in Italy. He returned after World War II and worked at a bank for a number of years until one of his cousins retired and left an opening at the store. He much preferred working in the family business to climbing the corporate ladder at the bank, and eventually ran the business until he retired in the early 1990's.

Raffetto's originally sold dried pasta. The fresh pasta was formed into nests and allowed to dry overnight. Surprisingly, the dry pasta was even sent through the mail. As fresh pasta became more popular in the 1980's, Raffetto's made the transition from dry to fresh. Now in addition to the cut pasta, they make ravioli (in three sizes and with over a dozen different fillings), tortellini, cavatelli, gnocchi and manicotti.

For the first ninety years, all the pasta was made in the back of the store. As the business

continued to grow, the family bought a building on Leroy Street and West Street and production was moved there. In 2007, they sold that building and moved the operation to an even bigger factory in New Jersey. Raffetto's pasta is available vacuum packed at stores like the Fairway and Zabar's, and those products are shipped directly from the factory.

In the late 1990's Raffetto's added sauces and prepared foods to their offerings. All the cooking takes place in the kitchen at the back of the store, and the recipes are mostly Romana's, Gino's wife. The Classic Pesto is one of their best selling items, and many customers (this author included) like it so much that they no longer make their own. Another favorite is the lasagna, which some hotels order for banquets and weddings. The delicious and reasonably priced prepared foods have become very popular as many people don't always have the time or desire to cook.

Gino passed away in 2006, but Raffetto's continues to be a family business. At eighty-two, Romana still works at the

store and supervises much of the cooking. Her two sons, Andrew and Richard, have been involved with Raffetto's since grammar school and currently manage different parts of the business: Andrew runs the store, while Richard runs the factory. Two of Andrew's daughters, Sarah and Alex, represent the fourth generation working at the store. Sarah started working at Raffetto's in high school. While she was in college, Andrew encouraged Sarah to travel extensively and consider other careers, but all her experiences only served to affirm her decision to continue at the store.

In addition to the pasta and pasta-related products, Raffetto's also carries some cheeses, salami, bread and other Italian products, making it a convenient place to shop for ingredients for an Italian dinner, if one is in the mood to cook, or a ready-made meal, if not.

### Cacio e Pepe

#### Ingredients:

- 1 lb fresh Tagliarini alla Chitarra from Raffetto's
- 6 oz. grated Pecorino Romano (also available at Raffetto's)
- 2 TBS heavy cream
- 2 tsp extra-virgin olive oil
- coarsely ground black pepper to taste (at least 1 tsp)
- Bring large pot of water to boil with about 1 tsp salt
- When water is boiling, add pasta and cook for 5-6 minutes. When pasta is almost al dente, reserve ½ cup pasta water and drain.
- Turn heat to low. Add water back to pot and whisk in 4 oz. cheese. Add cream, oil, and pepper, and continue to mix until the mixture is uniform.
- Add the pasta to the sauce, stirring until it is completely coated. Turn up heat to thicken sauce, and if desired stir in up to 2 more oz. cheese.
- Taste and add extra pepper if desired (the dish should be very peppery).



**STILL MINDING THE STORE:** Over a hundred years after he opened Raffetto's, founder Marcello is still a presence, gazing down from his portrait on his creation, his family and their many customers.

## The Lost Cinemas of the West Village: It's A Wrap (Part Two)

By Clive I. Morrick

Remembering some favorite West Village cinemas which I and many readers have known but are now lost to us.

The Eighth Street Playhouse, 52 West 8th Street, now a Beth Israel Medical Center Walk-In (and former TLA Video store), 1929-1992. One commentator has written that the loss of this cinema is one of the saddest movie theater tales. Having reviewed its programming from its opening in 1929 (as the Film Guild Cinema) until its closure, I would go further—it is the greatest loss to New York cinephiles.

It was billed as the first theater specially designed and constructed as a Little Cinema. (For a history of its radical design see Sources in the on-line edition of this paper.) The *NY Times* reported on May 15, 1930 that the cinema would henceforth be known as the Eighth Street Playhouse and would present a series of European silent productions as well as American sound pictures. For its sixty-plus years it showed an eclectic mix of foreign and domestic classics, cult classics, festivals, and some way out schlock.

The cinema closed briefly in January 1978, but a new



**BLEECKER STREET CINEMA:** Opened by Lionel Rogosin as a showcase for independent films and revivals. Photo courtesy of cinematreasures.org, uploaded by robboehm; republished under Creative Commons License.

owner, Stephen Hirsch, reopened it as a cinema-restaurant on May 15, 1978. On July 21, 1978, it took over the weekend Rocky Horror midnight showings from the nearby Waverly Cinema and these lasted until 1989. Hirsch died in July 1986. Subsequent operators were B.S. Moss (now known as Bow-Tie Cinemas) (1986-88), United Artists (1988-89), and then City Cinemas (1989-closing).

City Cinemas said that beginning in the last week of November, 1991, the Eighth Street Playhouse would adopt a "something old, something new" policy of showing film classics and new foreign films. But that lasted less than a year and it closed in late 1992.

The Bleecker Street Cinema, 144 Bleecker Street, now a Duane Reade (and former Kim's Video Underground), 1960-1991. Lionel Rogosin, possibly best known as the director of *On the Bowery*, wanted to show his film *Come Back Africa*, a protest against apartheid, and created his own cinema to show it. His website explains: "In spite of the attention that *Come Back Africa* received abroad, Rogosin was unable to find a commercial outlet for it in the USA and as a result, he decided

*Continued on page 21*



## When Horses Ruled NYC: 53 Christopher Street "The Stonewall Inn"



### THESE LITTLE BUILDINGS HAVE SEEN MANY CHANGES:

The Stonewall Inn on Christopher Street, is a former stable, ca. 1846, for the mansion of Mark Spencer. Photo by Brian J. Pape.

By Brian J. Pape, AIA

Many in the West Village neighborhood celebrated this June when the Stonewall Inn was listed by the Landmarks Preservation Commission, which voted unanimously to approve landmark designation of the Stonewall Inn at 53 Christopher Street, the first such site the Commission has landmarked based solely upon LGBT history. Similar celebrations had been held on Monday, June 21, 1999, when Assistant Secretary of the Interior John Berry announced the addition of the site of the Stonewall Uprising (June 28, 1969) to the National Register of Historic Places (as well as a listing on the NY State Register of Historic Places). This is the first site listed on the National Register for its association with gay and lesbian history.

1969 was truly the "summer of love" and turmoil, and that included the Stonewall Uprising. For me, your cub reporter, just having arrived fresh out of my Midwest college, with no money and no job, I was thrown into the upheaval that was

New York, looking for a job as an architecture apprentice. To my good fortune, Tony Hoffman, a college friend of my older brother, offered me roommate status at 7th Av. and 13th St., and I remember many debates and demonstrations about the war in Vietnam, civil rights, and gay rights in the public squares of Greenwich Village. Later that summer, I married my college sweetheart, and we talked about going to Woodstock for the music festival; but without money or a place to stay upstate, and thunderstorms in the forecast, we stayed in the city. A very memorable time.

The existing Stonewall Inn building is actually a transformation that took place in the 1930's, as the owners combined the two previously separate structures at 51 & 53 Christopher into one commercial facility for the use as a restaurant. Today, we see the unifying brickwork around arched doorways and large picture plate glass windows on the first floor, and stucco applied to the upper story surrounding small casement windows with flower boxes, with Stonewall Inn at No. 53, and the QQ Salon at No. 51.

Now, let's go back in time to see why these two structures were able to be combined and were accommodating to the new uses, and why this fits our theme *When Horses Ruled NYC*.

No. 51 was originally built in 1843 as a two-story stable for A. Voorhis, and had a third floor added in 1898, only to be reduced to two stories again in 1930.

No. 53 was a stable built in 1846 for Mark Spencer, whose country mansion stood at the northwest end of the block (which at that time extended to West Fourth and West Tenth Streets, since there was no Seventh Avenue there).

So there we had two stables, probably arranged in typical fashion with large central carriage doors with smaller passenger doors at their side, all right at the street level for carriages to roll into them. Then when new unnamed owners bought the stables in 1930, they were able to put picture windows in the wide openings, and reconfigure the first floor as one contiguous space, easily accessible from the sidewalk. Separate passenger doors still lead to stairs for the upper floors.

These little buildings have seen many changes to the cityscape and cultural norms, and have adapted to the changing times, an admirable trait that serves them and us well.

## Lost Cinemas *Continued from page 20*

to open his own showcase for independent films and revivals. Taking a ten-year lease on the Renata Theater in Greenwich Village, he spent \$40,000 to renovate it, renamed it the Bleecker Street Cinema, and premiered *Come Back Africa* there on April 4, 1960. He ran the cinema till 1974. It was to be one of the chartered cinemas of the group of filmmakers who met in New York and became the New American Cinema Group."

In 1974, Sidney Geffen and his wife Jackie Raynal (herself a film-maker) took over the cinema. They opened a small second screen in 1980 called the Agee Room (after writer and film critic James Agee), which became the Bleecker 2 in 1982. Raynal kept it going after Geffen died in 1986, but a partnership split killed it.

It stuttered to its closure on September 2, 1991, first closing in September 1990, re-opening two months later as a gay adult theater, and then went back to its art house roots for a short time.

Although its capacity was only two-hundred and fifty its influence was immense, and many aspiring independent film makers congregated there.

Honorable mentions. Many cinemas of this ilk outside the boundaries of the West Village have closed in recent years. I

mention four which were nearby, one for its reputation, and three personal favorites.

The Elgin, 175 Eighth Avenue, now the Joyce Ballet Theater, 1942-1978. The Elgin was a senior member of the revival house circuit. It showed Mexican films for a time, pioneered midnight shows, but ended its days as an adult film venue.

St. Marks Theatre, 133 Second Avenue, 1914-1926 (as the Astor Cinema); 1926-1985. In the '70s and '80s this was a double-bill second run house, seating six hundred. It was the only cinema where I never shushed anyone because everyone was having such a damn good time.

Theatre 80 St. Marks, 80 St. Marks Place, now an off-Broadway theater, 1970-1994. Reverse projection, 16 mm films, lousy seating, and wonderful Howard Otway programming.

Le Cinematheque, 15 Vandam Street, now the Soho Playhouse, 1984-1990 (as the Thalia Soho); 1992-1993. A theater before and after its stint as a cinema, I recall its final year when Bleecker Street's Jackie Raynal ran it as Le Cinematheque and it seemed to show only obscure film noirs.

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## Mama Read to Me

By Maria Hadjidemetriou

"No mamma, you read to me like when I was little" my daughter said, and I did. This pattern during bedtime stories continued and it soon became evident that she didn't want to read because she was struggling.

I had discovered my child's first learning crisis and it broke my heart.

Knowing something was wrong, I sent an email to her teacher requesting a meeting. I was disappointed, though, when she offered no solutions, saying instead "it's still early, children regress during the summer months." I asked for my daughter to be placed with the Reading Specialist our school is fully funded for, but instead the teacher suggested we wait several months.

At home, I created word games, trying to make learning more fun for my daughter. I would have her write words on an erasable board and create sentences with these words. I saw her mature in her sentence writing from basic description to a deep sense of self. On one memorable occasion, she used the word "become" to write "I will become a woman soon."

Throughout the following months, I continued to email and call the teacher, and soon became familiar with her favorite question: "what are you doing at home?" I was trying so hard to help my child, and I'm not a bad parent, but I'm also not a teacher. I wanted to ask "what are you doing in the classroom?"

Finally the teacher agreed to meet with me in early February—months after I came to her with my initial concern. At the meeting, I was shocked to hear the teacher say there was

a "high probability" that my daughter would not move into 2nd grade. I'd been begging to have my daughter placed into a reading intervention program to avoid this very kind of problem.

That's when I realized the teacher wasn't going to provide the help my daughter needed, and my mission started. I quickly started moving up the school administration, finally reaching the Superintendent of our District, Bonnie Laboy.

Ms. Laboy was gracious, kind, understanding and sympathetic. I felt someone really had my back. In the weeks to come my daughter was assessed and placed with a talented and loving Reading Specialist, who uses the interventional program *Sounds In Motion*.

My daughter loved the new program, which helps improve early literacy by first focusing on listening skills. She came home excited every day—eager to share her new sounds and motions and asking me to repeat them.

The one-on-one training and attention paid off, and Julia was promoted to 2nd grade. And now that summer is here, during bedtime stories we found a way to make our special time a happy time—she reads one page, and I read one.

Moms and Dads, don't be afraid to push until your child gets the services they deserve. You are their only advocate.

*Maria Hadjidemetriou, passionate Downtown resident for over sixteen years, enjoys life as a mom to her seven-year-old daughter and being a Real Estate Sales Agent. You can find her on twitter at @downtownmomnyc*

## A Life of Apartments (Part Three)

By George Capsis

*Part Three concludes this walk down memory lane and looks to the future. If you missed Part One or Part Two, you can find them at <http://westviewnews.org/2015/04/a-life-of-apartments-part-one> and <http://westviewnews.org/2015/07/a-life-of-apartments-part-two/>*

The Depression stretched a very long time—from 1929 all the way up and into the War. In that 15-year period, prices stayed and stayed the same or even went down, so I learned them along with the alphabet. A hot dog was a nickel, a slice of pizza ten cents, Coke was a nickel then Pepsi came out and gave you twice as much for a nickel too, ice cream cones were two scoops for a nickel or one for three cents. *The Daily News* was two cents, the *Times* three cents and ten cents on Sunday. The subway was a nickel, the 5th Avenue bus a dime, but they guaranteed you a seat.

Now we talk about "affordable apartments," but the amounts considered affordable today would have been unthinkable in that time. Now, you can get a decent Manhattan one bedroom for \$3,000 a month, which means your take home sal-

ary has got to be \$90,000. That is much more than most young people just out of college are making, so their first apartment, and maybe their last, is in Brooklyn.

Things have to get very bad before this country turns to government for a solution. It was eighty years ago when Mayor La Guardia turned to Roosevelt to tear down the tenements to build decent housing on the lower East Side—the Eleanor Roosevelt Houses.

I have not heard of de Blasio asking Obama to contribute federal funding to his 80,000 units of affordable housing over the next ten years—no, simply not possible—in fact the last federal public housing effort was right here in the far West Village with the Fulton Houses.

I was discussing the idea that all the new college grads would move to Brooklyn with my next door neighbor, Joan McAlister, when she interrupted "but my kids already have and now their kids are graduating college and still living in Brooklyn."

So we already have two generations of the new Brooklynites, and I believe we will have three and maybe four.

Only disasters wait on political solutions.



# Shaping New York the BIG Way

by Barry Benepe

In 2006, developer Douglas Durst went with his Danish wife Susanne to Copenhagen where he met architect Bjarke Ingels. Mr. Ingels confronted Mr. Durst with the challenge, “Why do your buildings look like buildings?”

The Durst Organization had a ground lease for a site on the Hudson River at 625 West 57th Street from the descendants of Charles Appleby in whose hands the site had rested for generations. Durst considered a series of possible uses for the site zoned for manufacturing: data storage, school, medical facility, hotel and office. “Nothing penciled out,” said Jordan Barowitz, Vice President and Director of External Affairs for the Durst Organization. After careful consideration, the firm settled on residential as the most feasible use and a change in zoning was sought and received. There will be over seven-hundred rental apartments under an 80/20 split where 20% will be affordable under a 421a program, allowing an abatement of the real estate taxes for twenty years.

By 2010 the Bjarke Ingels Group, known as BIG, had established an office in Manhattan headed by partners, Beat Shenk and Daniel Sundlin. “The site presents beauti-



**GOING BIG:** With Douglas Durst's patronage, this magnificent new building at 625 West 57th Street will help move our city forward and shape a dynamic and memorable urban cityscape. Photo by Barry Benepe.

fully from the north where the elevated highway reaches grade as a gateway into Midtown,” exulted Barowitz. “Its angles, surfaces, crevices form a dynamic access to views and light, especially looking south along the Hudson River. There will be a

series of landscaped gardens, terraces and cockpits stepping down to the shore.” From the south this building does indeed not look like a building, but like a modern cruise ship which has pushed itself inland where its passengers can take in the North River from

its tapering decks and rise to the mast at the 21st floor overlooking the city.

Across the highway the existing Department of Sanitation waterfront transfer station will be relocated downtown to Pier 56 opening up new design possibilities for the north end of Hudson River Park where it joins Riverside Park.

The site suffers what all the sites along the shore front park suffer to some degree, a noisy, high-speed eight lane highway with too few and narrow crossings and traffic signals, making the park and waterfront relatively inaccessible. From 52nd Street to 29th Street there is virtually no park at all. 29th Street is the first point of access for pedestrians to the waterfront. Clinton Park rises high over the highway where it has its gates closed and locked. The recently opened Whitney Museum has no crossings to the park.

Nevertheless, this magnificent building due to open next year is truly a triumph. It has a presence unique to Hudson River Park much in the same way the Guggenheim relates to Central Park. Every great artist shines when he has an inspired patron. Douglas Durst has moved our city forward and helped shape a dynamic and memorable urban cityscape which future generations will enjoy.

## West Village Original: Peter Carlaftes



**VILLAGE COMPARISON OVER TIME:** “It was a lot less chichi back then” writer Peter Carlaftes notes, but “you’ve got to rewire yourself and look at it in a positive way.” Photo by Matthew Murphy.

By Michael D. Minichiello

*This month's West Village Original is writer and performer Peter Carlaftes, born and raised in the Bronx. He has published works in all genres: playwrighting (including the spoof “Spin-Dry”), comic writing (the recent*

*“A Year on Facebook”), and collections of poetry (including “Drunkyard Dog”). In addition, he and his partner, Kat Georges, own and run Three Rooms Press, which serves as a leading independent publisher of “cut-the-edge” creative writing. Peter currently lives on Bleeker Street.*

Growing up in the Bronx after his parents divorced, writer Peter Carlaftes did a lot of bouncing around. “I lived with all my relatives and was all over the place,” he says. “It’s not much of a tale, though. I enjoyed my handball and the streets, but the Bronx never really appealed to me. I always came down to the city and a lot of times I’d wind up in the West Village. I was always looking up so much I’m surprised no one cut my throat!” He laughs. “My upbringing certainly affected me as a person, but it’s nothing I haven’t dealt with and put into perspective.”

Besides, Carlaftes found that he could take care of himself. “Even though the particulars of my life weren’t secure, I always had a sense of security inside myself,” he says. “I’m also mostly self-educated but I was a good student as far as that goes. I did a lot of work on my own. Mostly I was just huffing around trying to figure out a way to make my dream come true, which was to be a writer.”

How did he make that happen? “I start-

ed out writing back in the 70s,” he replies. “I wrote a lot of short stories about crazy things in my life, kind of like Charles Bukowski but in my own voice, of course. It wasn’t until the 90s when I was out in San Francisco that I got involved in writing plays. In doing so I ran into my partner, Kat. She had a theatre and we turned that into a den of creativity for ten years. It was a great experience, making sure the audience had a place to get away to and be inside of another creation. There’s a day-to-day horror that most people get swept up by and art is definitely a way out of that.”

At the same time, the couple began Three Rooms Press when they started stapling chapbooks together with their and other people’s poetry. Over twenty years later, Carlaftes claims there’s a certain brand that the Press is known for. “There’s a key component that I can’t really describe,” he says. “It’s always different from the other stuff but it’s still going to shine. I do know it’s got to be something that inspires. That’s a necessity. If you can’t be somewhat open in art there’s not much room to go forward. I have no judgments on anyone else’s process, but for me that’s the criteria.” In fact, this is key to Carlaftes’ art. “The most important thing is not just to be heard, but to inspire in a way that others can find those feelings in themselves and continue them,” he says. “It’s passing it along because you’re

inspiring others by what inspired you. I think that’s the ideal.”

Carlaftes lived on Charles Street in the late 70s and early 80s, moved to San Francisco, and then moved back here to Bleeker Street in 2003. What was the difference between those periods? “It was a lot less chichi back then,” he says. “Just a little more solid than other neighborhoods. It was a true village. You can say that now, too, if you didn’t know it then. But there’s really no more regulars or neighborhood people. And there’s nothing new that’s lasting. I don’t want to complain or seem backwards but I see something that I don’t particularly care for.” Then he thinks for a moment. “You know, the people that were here before us saw their neighborhood change as well and I’m sure they felt the loss too,” he continues. “It’s not easy and it takes a lot of work but whatever you’re feeling, you’ve got to rewire yourself and look at it in a positive way.”

And these days, even some of Carlaftes’ offspring have ended up in the neighborhood. “One of my sons works at Kettle of Fish—which used to be The Lion’s Head—on Christopher Street. Drop in and say hello to Dylan. I named him after Dylan Thomas, and his middle name is O’Neill. Now he’s around liquor so I don’t know how good that is!” he says laughingly.



# A Boomer Roughing it on the Gulf Coast

By Barbara Riddle

Where to live out the last third of a full life?

Still craving museums, foreign flicks, yoga classes and organic, local blueberries and kale? Check.

Prefer to walk everywhere? Check

Prefer not to navigate black ice and gray slush? Check.

Liberal, left-of-center Democrat? Check.

Financially challenged? Check.

Creaky bones? Check.

So, what's a boomer bohemian to do?

Bouncing in the 1950's between the various abodes of my divorced parents, refugees from the Midwest drawn to the wonders of Greenwich Village, I lived on Perry Street, Bank Street, Charles Street, Washington Place and even resided in "housekeeping suites" in the ungentrified Hotel Marlton across from the original Whitney Museum at 5 West 8th Street, the Hotel Albert and the Hotel Earle (listen to "Diamonds & Rust"). My education began at P.S. 41 and P.S. 3; roaming the streets as a latch-key kid completed it. I was brought up to believe that no matter what your circumstances, as long you managed to stay in the Village, life was sweet.

Flash forward to 2007, and I am reading a *New York Times* article about a town called St. Petersburg, Florida. I had already begun to think that I needed a plan for the future. My social security check was not going to cover life in NYC, and certainly not in the newly popular West Village, no longer a haven for bohemians without rent-controlled apartments. A free-lancer all my life, I had no company pension. The life I had carefully built up for twenty-two years imploded when I decided to exit from a difficult marriage to a complicated Czech filmmaker.

I hopped on a plane and spent three days in St. Pete. And, yes, I fell in love with the shabby genteel feel of this former booming 1920's tourist mecca. Think of North Fork vs the Hamptons, and that's how St. Pete compares to Miami. Much quieter, stunning natural beauty, situated between Tampa Bay and the Gulf, twenty minutes from pristine beaches and national parks.

Priding itself on a kind of Brooklyn-esque emphasis on local organic food



**GULF COAST LIVING:** Mirror Lake, in downtown St. Petersburg, FL, is bordered by a vintage shuffleboard club and an exquisite 1925-era Carnegie library. This small spring-fed lake across the street from my apartment is also home to wild egrets, ibis, herons and wood-storks. Photo courtesy of Barbara Riddle.

and crafts and home to a thriving arts scene (Dali Museum, anyone?), it also has a liberal mayor and a strong sense of social responsibility—supporting movements as varied as gay rights, the Fair Food movement and climate change activism.

Haslam's of St. Pete is the largest bookstore in the Southeast and just celebrated its seventieth birthday. Since 2007, I have been going between NYC and St. Pete, gradually weaning myself

from the frenetic and demanding New York lifestyle that can be so stimulating and addictive. But—it is not the only way to live.

My friends on the Gulf are gay, straight, black, white, Latino; they are politically active Jewish atheists, Quakers and Unitarians who bring clothing and books to migrant worker camps, teach nonviolent conflict resolution in women's prisons, and worked to get out the vote for Obama in both recent elec-

tions. Current hot issues are overturning Citizens United and climate change lobbying and education. You simply cannot find a better group of people anywhere in the United States.

And, oh yes, I am now in contract to buy a one bedroom, 660 square-foot co-op (with a screened balcony and parking) for \$50K (not a typo) in a mid-century building which is an eight minute walk from downtown cafes and movie theaters, and a two minute walk from the library and a street with craft beer and vintage clothing shops. The monthly co-op fee of \$500 includes a storage unit, electricity and central A/C.

This is one tenth to one twentieth of what a similar place would cost in the West Village. I can live like a human being for what I hope will be another twenty years! Most importantly, I will have time to finish my second novel and start my third.

I left the Village because I had to.

I'm settling in St. Pete because I want to.

**Next up:** How does a free-lance writer and ESL teacher make a living in a city like St. Pete?

*Barbara Riddle has been contributing to WestView News since 2006. For information about her novel The Girl Pretending to Read Rilke (hard copy and eBook) and its screenplay adaptation, see [www.girlpretending.com](http://www.girlpretending.com). Her memoir, Lovers & Latchkeys: Tales From a Greenwich Village Girlhood, can be read online. At [www.talesfrommagreenwichvillagegirlhood.blogspot.com/](http://www.talesfrommagreenwichvillagegirlhood.blogspot.com/)*

## Tips to Enhance Enjoyment

By Ron Elve

Savoring life's enjoyments before, during and after life experiences can enhance and add significantly to overall feelings of wellbeing.

One way to do this is to focus mentally on the positive—including details of small joys, such as good weather. We tend to go overboard with the negative (road rage and other rages).

Before an experience, we can pump ourselves up with anticipation to more

fully enjoy each step of the experience. We should focus on the details of planning, call others, start getting excited. If we're not sure how it might go, we can anticipate the excitement of the unknown. In the play/movie West Side Story they sing "something's coming I don't know what it is but it is gonna be great..." These are great words to keep in mind.

During these experiences, we should be actively open to and searching for the positive. In groups, are we sufficiently

open to "friends we haven't met yet?" Are there good photo ops? Souvenirs? Can we do more discussing and planning "the here and now" as well as future experiences with others who are present?

Afterwards, we can continue to savor the experience with nostalgic remembering, reminiscing with others, and writing about it.

Get more for your enjoyment buck. It's free except for the effort involved!

*Ron Elve (Ronelve@aol.com) is tutoring and mentoring in the West Village.*



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Jim Fouratt's

# REEL DEAL: Movies that Matter

August 2015

August used to be the month that studios dumped all the films that had failure written all over them or the month when indie films and docs with niche audience potential were slotted. But our good neighbor on Bank street **Harvey Weinstein** upended that cinema game plan when he made a new template called **March Towards the Oscars** and began holding the films he wanted nominated until October-December. When Weinstein's *Shakespeare in Love* won Oscars, every other studio and the indie distributors jumped on board.

Oscar's eligibility rules require a narrative film to have a theatrical run of no less than one week in NYC and Los Angeles, so it began raining quality films almost on a daily basis here and in LA. The calendar is so crowded that first September and now August have become targets. Although August is still dicey in voters' memories as Weinstein's *The Butler* was dropped into an August slot and practically forgotten, not at box office, but by Academy nominators.

This year, the avalanche of movies in August is almost reaching tidal wave proportions. Sixty-five films will be in theaters in NYC this month. Readers know I do not normally review here movies that have major campaigns behind them—unless like *Spy* they are better than expected. I prefer instead to highlight indie features, documentaries and foreign films of merit that could get lost.

## Let's Go to the Movies

### THE END OF THE TOUR director James Ponsoldt

This film is based on the story of the five-day interview between Rolling Stone reporter **David Lipsky (Jesse Eisenberg)** and the award winning novelist **David Foster Wallace (Jason Segel)**. It takes place right after the 1996 publication of Wallace's groundbreaking epic novel, *Infinite Jest*.

Wallace was considered a genius with mental health issues. Critically acclaimed and awarded a **MacArthur Fellowship** at thirty-seven, he wrote widely—including *Rolling Stone* after this interview was published. To most people Wallace would have seemed odd and somewhat of a recluse. He loved dogs, had a wife, played tennis and made music. And he was on serious anti-depression drugs.

**Segel**, best known for *How I Met Your Mother* and as director/writer of *The Muppets* brings alive this complicated, troubled but productive writer and reveals a depth of character development not required on TV. **Jesse Eisenberg** is able to balance the arrogant ego of a *Rolling Stone* reporter on assignment who knows he is smart and

skilled at interviews (although used to interviewing musicians, usually inarticulate and suspicious around journalists) with his intuitive sensitivity to a shy author.

It is fascinating to watch as they go back and forth with Eisenberg always in control while letting the author think he is. We see the tension in Segel's portrayal of Wallace's depression and, most importantly, the side effects the psychotropic drugs have on the creative brain.

Ponsoldt never tips his hand nor does the Oscar caliber script by New York playwright Donald Margulies. *The End of the Tour*, along with *Tangerine* show that—despite Hollywood's attempt to co-op indie productions into their system—there still exist films of merit whose only goal is to authentically tell a story in a bold, honest cinematic manner. Ponsoldt achieves this goal and the two actors and writer deserve award recognition be it **Spirit**, **Sag** or **Oscar**.

### THE DIARY OF A TEENAGE GIRL director Marielle Heller



**THE DIARY OF A TEENAGE GIRL:** Happy Family? Kristen Wiig, Bel Powley and Alexander Skarsgard. Image courtesy of Sony Classic.

Sundance's breakout critical hit and festival circuit favorite *The Diary of a Teenage Girl* is set in 1970's permissive San Francisco where divorced mom (**Kristen Wiig** in one more captivating and complicated performance) and her fifteen-year-old daughter Minnie live. It is a coming of age story about the sexual awakening of Minnie (**Bel Powley**). The diary is actually what we today would call a graphic novel.

In a home where boundaries have no meaning, Minnie observes her mom and her friends' self-indulgent behavior lubricated by pot and cocaine right in front of her. It is a film about hormones and crushes and sexual freedom that riot girls would have a definite opinion on, but they were not born until the early '90s.

In this major mother-daughter movie, we watch this smart, observant teenager navigate herself and sexual desire while rejecting the adults she sees as failed role models—complete with a sexy predator (**Alexander Skarsgard**, playing the mother's boyfriend) who responds to Minnie's flirtations with sexual seduction. She has her first experience of how insensitive a handsome hunk can be.

What sets *Diary* apart from so many teenage girls films, be they Disney or indie, is the authenticity of Minnie as both written and performed by Bel Powley. Heller is so full of promise, I look forward to what she writes or directs next. I just hope she doesn't have to wait ten years to raise the money like so many promising female film makers have to do.

### BEST OF ENEMIES directors Morgan Neville and Robert Gordon

Oh Boy, it is 1968 and to beef up interest in the Republican and Democratic conventions **ABC** hires two of the smartest and TV savvy public intellectuals to debate the issues of the conventions. **William F. Buckley**, Patrician Editor of the conservative *National Review* and **Gore Vidal**—author, Hollywood screenwriter, guest on *Playboy After Dark* and cousin of **Jackie Kennedy**—engage in a crossfire discussion that sometimes looks like a the finals at Wimbledon.

They sound, at least in the beginning, like gentlemanly University debaters on political ideas. It soon becomes clear the two men do not like each or each other's politics but both thoroughly enjoy the verbal and intellectual fencing. Until the line is crossed and Vidal calls Buckley a "crypto-Nazi" for defending the Chicago police who are rioting in the Chicago streets as the Democratic convention goes on.

Buckley loses his cool. In debate terms, Vidal wins when Buckley starts to rise out of his chair and says to Vidal "Now listen, you queer, stop calling me a crypto-Nazi or I'll sock you in the goddamn face and you'll stay plastered." And suddenly one realizes the seed for hate radio and Fox news analysis has been birthed.

It is a must see if for no other reason than to watch how two major debaters parry and one-up each other. Politically, the very ideas they are discussing are in essence the same as the ones today: war, military, race, religion and greed. Oh—and as serious as it is, it is also hilarious.

### TRAINWRECK director Judd Apatow

**Amy Schumer's** funny, well written comedy is rescued from being just sexist crap by Schumer's sheer intelligence, **Bill Hader's** irresistible comic sense and Apatow's command of craft. What does a modern woman who is sexually free and not bound by old fashioned rules of monogamy do when she meets the right guy? I know it has **Tilda Swinton**, but the film is, in fact, inconsequential. Like a glass of ice tea on hot summer day at the beach—feels good but leaves you still sticky and most likely hungry. The poster says it all in one look. Frame it.

### IRRATIONAL MAN director Woody Allen

Allen continues with his short story telling in a narrative film form. *Irrational Man* is a summer mystery that charms as it baffles. In it, a college professor incapable of being either authentic or empathetic wants to plan a perfect murder.

Narcissism collides with pathology in the film, and Woody seems to be trying to say something very serious underneath the sugar-free frosting on this pastry of a film. **Emma Stone** is the new **Kim Novak**. She fills each frame she is in with cinematic magic as light pours off her face. Her energy level reaches off the screen and scoops you up and plays with you. Yes—**Parker Posey**, Queen of US Indies, shows up and **Joaquin Phoenix** again proves to be the best younger US actor in films today. *Irrational Man* is like a cup of expensive sorbet that tastes good until it is gone.

### LISTEN TO ME MARLON director Stevan Riley

Is there life after death? Well yes, if you are clever enough (and Riley is) to take audio recordings from Marlon Brando's personal archive and make a first person narration of the dead Brando's thoughts about almost everything. **Showtime's** *Listen to Me Marlon* is being released in theaters first so it will be eligible for an Oscar.

It is unlike any other documentary I have seen. A portrait of Brando that is riveting because the Brando we are listening to as if alive is the dead Brando. And the digital mask of Brando we are watching and listening to is the same head created for **Superman**. I wonder—are we inside Brando's head or are we just hearing what he said out loud? Fascinating, as is Brando.

### BACK ON BOARD: GREG LOUGANIS director Cheryl Furjanic

HBO airs a documentary on the four time Olympic gold medal winner and how homophobia—internalized and in the world outside—and an HIV+ diagnosis impacted the life of one of America's greatest Olympians.

(cc) Jim Fouratt [jimfourattsreeldealmovies.blogspot.com](http://jimfourattsreeldealmovies.blogspot.com) [reeldealmovies@gmail.com](mailto:reeldealmovies@gmail.com)



**BACK ON BOARD:** Greg Louganis never stopped diving. Image courtesy of HBO.

## AUGUST EVENTS

by Stephanie Phelan of  
westvillageword.com



for  
**WestView News**

### STREET FAIRS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- **Tuesday August 4: National Night Out Against Crime** An anti-crime rally with police, local businesses, organizations at Father Demo Square. The 6th precinct hosts a barbecue and offers tips on safety and crime fighting.
- **Saturday August 15, 11 am-6 pm: Waverly Place Festival** Along Washington Square North from University to 6th Avenue.
- **Saturday August 22, 11 am-6 pm: Broadway Festival** Along Broadway Street between Waverly and 14th Street.
- **Saturdays and Sundays, 9 am-7 pm: Our Lady of Pompeii Flea Market** Bleecker and Carmine Streets.
- **Saturdays and Sundays, from 11 am-7 pm: St. Anthony's Outdoor Market** Vendors will be selling a variety of interesting wares. West Houston St between Sullivan and MacDougal Streets.



#### THERE TO SERVE

Detective Raquel Warburton and Community Affairs Officer Robert Jackson give materials and advice on safety and crime fighting at the annual *Night Out Against Crime* on August 4.

### FILM

- **Saturday August 1 through Sunday August 2: Early Summer** As part of their Weekend Classics series, IFC Center at 323 Sixth Avenue will be showing the films of Yasujiro Ozu.

This 1951 film is about parents seeking a husband for their daughter. Japanese with English subtitles. Tickets \$14; for show times, go to [www.ifccenter.com](http://www.ifccenter.com).

#### ■ **Monday August 3, 6 pm: Sextette**

An elderly Mae West stars in this 1978 comic film about a woman on her honeymoon with husband number 6. Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue. **Free.**

■ **Friday August 7, 8:30 pm: Riverflicks Family Fridays — Jumanji** Free movie, free popcorn! Pier 46, Charles Street and Hudson River Park.

#### ■ **Friday August 7-Sunday August 9: The Flavor of Green Tea Over Rice**

Yasujiro Ozu's 1952 comedy will be shown in Japanese with English subtitles at IFC Center, 323 Sixth Avenue. Japanese with English Subtitles. Tickets \$14; for show times, go to [www.ifccenter.com](http://www.ifccenter.com).

#### ■ **Friday August 7-Thursday August 13: The Montage of Heck**

A documentary about Kurt Cobain at IFC Center, 323 Sixth Avenue. Tickets \$14; for show times, go to [www.ifccenter.com](http://www.ifccenter.com).

■ **Saturday August 8, 2 pm: The Water Diviner** Russell Crowe stars as an Australian trying to locate his three missing sons after the Battle of Gallipoli. Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street. **Free.**

■ **Monday August 10, 6 pm: Go West, Young Man** Mae West trifles with a young man's emotions in this 1936 movie at Jefferson Market Library 425 Sixth Avenue. **Free.**

■ **Friday August 14, 8:30 pm: Riverflicks Family Fridays — Paddington** Free movie, free popcorn! Pier 46, Charles Street and Hudson River Park.

■ **Friday August 14: We Come as Friends** A film about African colonialism and the clash of empires with wars over land and resources. IFC Center, 323 Sixth Avenue. Tickets \$14; for show times, go to [www.ifccenter.com](http://www.ifccenter.com).

■ **Friday August 14-Sunday August 16: Early Spring** Yasujiro Ozu's 1956 film about a marriage will be shown in Japanese with English subtitles at IFC Center, 323 Sixth Avenue. Japanese with English Subtitles. Tickets \$14; for show times, go to [www.ifccenter.com](http://www.ifccenter.com).

■ **Saturday August 15, 2 pm: McFarland, USA** Kevin Costner stars as an athletic coach in this 2015 film at Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street. **Free.**

■ **Sunday August 16, 8 pm: Wet Hot American Summer** Diners get to enjoy Sunday night movies at Left Bank restaurant, 117 Perry Street. Reservations recommended; 212-727-1170.

■ **Friday August 21, 11 am: Gone With The Wind** A special Summer screening at Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue. **Free.**



**"WHEN I'M GOOD, I'M VERY GOOD. BUT WHEN I'M BAD I'M BETTER."**

It's Mae West month at Jefferson Market Library, showing her films and holding a special Mae West birthday celebration on August 17.

■ **Friday August 21, 8:30 pm: Hook** Free movie, free popcorn! Pier 46, Charles Street and Hudson River Park.

■ **Friday August 21-Sunday August 23: Tokyo Twilight** Yasujiro Ozu's 1957 melancholy film will be shown in Japanese with English subtitles at IFC Center, 323 Sixth Avenue. Japanese with English Subtitles. Tickets \$14; for show times, go to [www.ifccenter.com](http://www.ifccenter.com).

■ **Sunday August 23, 8 pm: Il Postino** Diners get to enjoy Sunday night movies at Left Bank restaurant, 117 Perry Street. Reservations recommended; 212-727-1170.

■ **Monday August 24, 6 pm: Airport** 1975 Charlton Heston and Karen Black in yet another Airport movie. Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue. **Free.**

■ **Monday August 31, 6 pm: Five Easy Pieces** Jack Nicholson and Karen Black star in this 1970 film at Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue.

### SCREENINGS

■ **Thursdays August 6, 13, 20 and 27, 2 pm: Napoleon** The 2002 mini-series starring Christien Clavier, Gerard Depardeau, Isabella Rosselini and John Malkovich will be shown in four parts at Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street. **Free.**

■ **Tuesdays August 18 and 25, 2 pm: Napoleon** A PBS documentary on the Emperor will be shown in two parts at Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street. **Free.**

### KIDS/TEENS

■ **Monday August 3, 11:15 am: Stomp, Clap and Sing** An energetic music and movement experience for babies, toddlers, and preschoolers. Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street. **Free.**

■ **Monday August 10, 2:30 pm: Make Jewelry** Make bracelets, necklaces and more with marbles and wire. All materials will be provided; for ages 12-18. Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street.

■ **Thursday August 13, 6-9 pm: Teen Nights** Music, dancing, art and other activities for youth ages 13-19 at the 14th Street Passage on the High Line.

■ **Wednesday August 19, 3:30 pm: Fire and Ice** Mad Science teaches about the properties of fire and combustion, then kids get to cool off with demonstrations involving dry ice. Check out the "Big Burp", the "Screwdriver Sizzle" and the famous "Mad Science Bath". A live, interactive educational experience at Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street. For kids ages 4 and up.

■ **Sundays Through August 23: Pop Up Maker Space** Participants design and construct projects inspired by science and nautical concepts. 14th Street Park at Tenth Avenue and West Street.

■ **Mondays, 11 am: Toddler Time** Picture book stories, songs and rhymes for ages 18-36 months at Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue. **Free.**

■ **Mondays at 4 pm: Stories and Craft** Share favorite stories and make a simple craft after school. Recommended for ages 3-6. Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street.

■ **Tuesdays at 3:30 pm: Arts and Crafts** For kids ages 3-12 at Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue. **Free.**

■ **Tuesdays 3:30-5:30 pm: Chess Master Workshop** Kids ages 6 and up can learn chess at the beginner, intermediate or advance level. Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue. **Free.**



■ **Tuesdays, 3:30 pm: Phreaky Physics** Become a junior engineer by experimenting with axles, pulleys, levers, gears and wheels. Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue. Registration required in person or by calling (212) 243-4334. Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue. **Free.**

■ **Tuesdays at 3:30 pm: Afternoon Movietime** Classic and current movies for kids ages 3-12. Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street. **Free.**

■ **Tuesdays at 3:30 pm: Wildlife Superhero Series** Discover the story behind an assortment of animals such as an owl or hawk, chinchilla, White's Tree Frog, King Snake, lizard, or even a hedgehog. Recommended for audiences age 5 and up. Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue.

■ **Wednesdays from June 3-August 21, 10 am: Kids Yoga with Soothing Sounds** Recommended for kids ages 2-7. Class meets in the seating nook opposite the big playground at Washington Square Park.

■ **Wednesdays at 11:15 am: Toddler Time** Interactive stories, action songs and fingerplays for walking tots accompanied by parents or caregivers. Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street.



#### BEARING UP NICELY

A comedy film about an intelligent bear who can speak English. His dreams come true when he finds himself living in London and adopted by a nice family. Friday August 14, Hudson River Park and Charles Street.

**Free.**

■ **Wednesdays at 3:30 pm: Preschool Time** Picture book stories, songs and rhymes for children ages 2-5 at Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue. **Free.**

■ **Wednesdays at 3:30 pm: Seussology— Oh the Places You'll Go** Kids explore the ideas illustrated in Seuss's book and create their own three-dimensional landscape using Magic Noodles. For kids 6 and up. Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street. **Free.**

■ **Wednesdays at 4 pm: St. John's Choristers Free Musical Education** Training in music fundamentals and

vocal technique for children 8 and up. Open to kids from all over the city, but is made up primarily of neighborhood children. As part of the program, they sing once a month at a Sunday Eucharist. St. John's in The Village, 224 Waverly Place.

■ **Thursdays at 3:45 pm: Owls and Otters Storytime** Picture book stories for children ages 5-6 at Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue. **Free.**

#### MUSIC

■ **Saturday August 1, 2-3 pm: Lesbian and Gay Big Apple Corps** A Classical Music Concert at the 14th Street Passage of the High Line. **Free.**

■ **Friday August 7, 7 pm: Sunset on the Hudson** Chuck Braman Jazz Band will play at Pier 45, Charles Street and Hudson River Park. **Free.**

■ **Saturday August 8m 2-3 pm: Columbia Summer Winds** A free outdoor concert at the High Line, 14th Street. **Free.**

■ **Friday August 14, 7 pm: Sunset on the Hudson** Baby Soda Jazz Band will play at Pier 45, Charles Street and Hudson River Park. **Free.**

■ **Saturday August 15, 2-3 pm: Queer Urban Orchestra** Classical music concert on the High Line at 14th Street. RSVP to [www.thehighline.org](http://www.thehighline.org). **Free.**

■ **Friday August 21, 7 pm: Sunset on the Hudson** Max Gallico & Friends will play at Pier 45, Charles Street and Hudson River Park. **Free.**

■ **Saturday August 22, 2-3 pm: The Corona Youth Music Project** The project includes several tuition-free after-school programs, and intensive sessions for choral and instrumental ensembles throughout the year. About 100 children will present a concert to kick-off this celebration. 14th Street Passage on the High Line. RSVP to [www.thehighline.org](http://www.thehighline.org). **Free.**

■ **Sundays throughout August. 4 pm: CHOPIN & Frenchies** Classical music with pianist Emir Gamsizoglu and the music of Chopin, Debussy, Saint-Saens, Eric Satie, Ravel, Faure and Rameau (There will be no concert on July 19). Caffe Vivaldi, 32 Jones Street. Tickets (suggested donation) \$20. A brunch and full bar available. For more information and reservations, email [classicalforall@gmail.com](mailto:classicalforall@gmail.com).

■ **Friday September 4, 7 pm: Organ Recital with Jan Vermeire** St. Joseph's Church, 371 Sixth Avenue. For more information, go to <http://washington-squarecatholic.org>.

#### VILLAGE HISTORY

■ **Monday August 17, 6:30 pm: Onstage Outlaws— Mae West and Texas Guinan during the Lawless Prohibition Era** A special presentation of vintage photos and discussion

of the Village in 1927 when the blonde bombshell was arrested and brought to Jefferson Market. All this to celebrate Mae West's birthday. Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue.

#### DRAMA

■ **Saturday August 8, 2:30 pm: Instant Shakespeare!** A staged reading of *The Spanish Tragedy* by Thomas Kyd, which many view as an inspiration for Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue.

#### LITERATURE

■ **Thursday August 27, 4:30 pm: Beautiful Ruins** Jess Walter's book will be discussed at Jefferson Market Library, 426 Sixth Avenue.

#### EXHIBITS

■ **Through August 9: Asian Elephant Art and Conservation Project** A group show at Westbeth Gallery, 55 Bethune Street.

■ **Through September 2: Camera Work** Framed prints, moving images on a glowing screen, video installations, mock natural-history dioramas, and Instagram feeds by various artists at Sheila C. Johnson Design Center, 2 West 13th Street.

#### LEARNING

■ **Friday August 7, 1 pm: Twitter Basics** Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street. **Free.**

■ **Saturday August 28, 1 pm: MS Powerpoint 2010 for Beginners** Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street. **Free.**

#### HEALTH AND FITNESS

■ **Thursday August 27m 7-8:30 pm: Velvet Glove Gentleman's Boxing** Conditioning classes and lessons in boxing technique followed by a social cool-down at 14th Street Passage on the High Line. RSVP required; go to [www.thehighline.org/activities/velvet-gloves](http://www.thehighline.org/activities/velvet-gloves).

■ **Tuesdays June Through October 16: Tai Chi** Washington Square Park, Garibaldi Plaza. **Free.**

■ **Tuesdays June Through September, 10:30 am: Tai Chi** An introductory class at the High Line, under the Standard Hotel.

■ **Tuesdays at 3:30 pm: Yoga** St. Luke in the Fields, 487 Hudson Street., First come, first served. **Free.**

■ **Wednesdays June through September: Meditation** The seating steps on the High Line at 22nd Street.

■ **Wednesdays from June 3- Sep-**

**tember 16, 8:30 am: Yoga with Soothing Sounds** Washington Square Park, Garibaldi Plaza. Bring your own mat.

■ **Wednesdays Through August 18, 6:30 pm: Lolë/Fitist Meetup** Movement and well-being classes at Pier 45, Charles Street and Hudson River Park. To participate, RSVP to [lolo.nyc@lolo-women.com](mailto:lolo.nyc@lolo-women.com).

■ **Thursdays June 4-September 10, 8:30 am: Yoga with Yoga Vida** Washington Square Park, Garibaldi Plaza. Bring your own mat.

■ **Thursdays, June 4-September 10, 9:30 am: Dances for a Variable Population** Washington Square Park, Garibaldi Plaza.

#### ONGOING EVENTS OF NOTE

■ **First Saturday of Every Month, 2-3:30 pm: Jefferson Market Book Swap** Bring books and/or art you're willing to trade with others to Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue. Snacks will be provided, but bring your own coffee.

■ **Saturdays, 11 am: Hudson Park Book Swap** Exchange books one Saturday each month at Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street.

■ **Sundays July 5- August 23: Big City Fishing** Rods, reels, bait and instruction will be provided at Pier 46, Charles Street and Hudson River Park.

■ **Tuesdays at 3:30 pm: Yoga** St. Luke in the Fields, 487 Hudson Street., First come, first served. **Free.**

■ **Tuesdays June Through September, 10:30 am: Tai Chi** An introductory class at the High Line, under the Standard Hotel.

■ **Tuesdays, April-October: Stargazing** The High Line at West 14th Street.

■ **Tuesdays July 14-August 18, 6:30 pm: Sunset Salsa** Put on your dancing shoes and enjoy **free** Salsa lessons at 6:30, and put your new skills into practice with the dance party at 7:30. Pier 45, Charles Street and Hudson River Park.

■ **Every 4th Wednesday, June-August: ¡Arriba!** Latin dance party with Orlando Marin, tthe Last Mambo King, at the 14th Street Passage on the High Line. **Free.**

■ **Thursdays at 5 pm: Hudson Park Library Chess and Games** Chess, Checkers, Battleship, classic board and strategy games. and beginners' chess lessons. Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street. Bring your own games or use what's available at the library Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street. **Free.**

#### Having an Event?

If your organization is planning an event or a public meeting, or anything else you'd like us to consider for the Events page, please submit to: [westvillageword@earthlink.net](mailto:westvillageword@earthlink.net) by the 20th of the month prior to the event.

For weekly updates, go to EVENTS at [www.westvillageword.com](http://www.westvillageword.com)





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