



The Waverly Bank 11 Neighbors
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What to do...what to do? Although nagging is anathema, it's sometimes necessary. PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES. If you don't want to receive this newsletter, let us know; we'll take you off the mailing list. We want to keep folks abreast about what goes on in the neighborhood, but... Members in good standing will receive the complete newsletter. Those in "modest arrears" will get the first and last pages - consider this a gentle nudge to pay up. No response ever and, of course, we will give up. Everyone is welcome so please join if you haven't already.

The Waverly Bank 11 Neighbors met on Jan. 8 in the verdant (we got that from the *New York Times* rave) enclosed garden of the Waverly Inn. The Inn played host, serving wine and *hor d'oeuvres* to an appreciative standing room crowd...almost fifty people attended. Several possible beautification projects led the agenda.

Tree Guards - The West Village Committee has agreed to work with us. The last *GVBA News* (available at www.gvba.org) contained a detailed description of the Committee's efforts to work with block associations to install tree guards. Sally Stone is our voluntary "go to" person. If you want a tree guard installed in the tree pit in front of your building, tell us and/or how much you can contribute. Not everyone likes tree guards - we know that - so we'd like to know if you don't want one, too.

West 11th Street Bishops Crooks - Although Bank and Waverly had Bishop's Crooks lamp installed several years ago, West 11th Street wasn't so lucky - it wasn't part of the organization then. We've been searching for someone to spearhead the project; we hope we've found him - he's thinking about it. The lamps are now \$10,000 each; we need seven. It's possible that private and public moneys can be combined, but fundraising is critical. Only privately funded lamps may

bear plaques (The WB11 Neighbors installed one on Bank Street to honor Bill Bowser)).

We can also do a trade. In other words, if someone wants to put a plaque on a lamp-post on Bank or Waverly, they can buy a lamp for West 11th Street and put their plaque on one on Bank or Waverly. It is a lasting way to honor a loved one.

Bank Street Cobblestones - We've spoken to the National Architectural Trust about the possibility of restoring the cobblestones on the two blocks of Bank Street. The cost would be about \$30,000 per block (a total of \$60,000). The asphalt paving would be removed, missing cobblestones would be replaced and all the cobblestones would be leveled and reset. To get an idea of what this would look like - Fifth Avenue near the south side of Union Square Park has been re-cobblestoned. If you're worried about maintenance, don't...unless you're immortal. City laws now require that anyone opening up the street for repairs or connections must replace the cobblestones as they are - no more unsightly Con Ed patch jobs.

Both the Bishop's Crooks and the Bank Street cobblestones will improve the ambience of our already charming blocks and will undoubtedly raise property values. They both, however, require that residents make financial commitments. In other words, if we can't come up with the cash, it doesn't happen. Funds will come through the Greenwich Village Block Associations, thus, donations will be tax deductible. We **do not** want any checks now, but if you can pledge a contribution (any amount will help) to either project, indicate this on the membership coupon on the last page. We'd like to determine whether or not we can move ahead.

The group discussed several other issues, some with community wide ramifications. You can read about the meeting with St. Vincent's on January 28 concerning the future of the hospital in Greenwich Village further on in the newsletter.

We discussed the MTA's plans to use the triangular parking lot at the intersection of Greenwich Avenue and 7th Avenue for a new subway vent. The worst case scenario would be 4 stories high; our elected officials are aware of this impending project and are keeping an eye on things. The future of the memorial tiles that enhance the existing fence was a matter of concern. We were hoping for a memorial park on this spot. We've been advised that a group is forming to try to preserve the tiles. Mimi Miller is the person to speak to about this.

We moved on to the dangers of cyclists who fail to obey traffic regulations and who ride on the sidewalks as well as the proliferation of bicycles in our neighborhood. There are many bikes stored on the sidewalks instead of in their owners' apartments or buildings. There was general dissatisfaction, particularly with regard to bicycles locked to tree guards. The bikes discourage city gardeners from planting in the tree pits (which is a primary purpose) and spoil the view when the pits are filled with flowers and greenery.

The heavy chains used to fasten the bikes to the expensive ironwork cause damage over time. Since the WB11 Neighbors intends to install more tree guards, people were concerned. We urge resident cyclists to find more considerate places to store their vehicles. Sophisticated wall and ceiling storage solutions for apartments are available; collapsible bikes are available, too. We also urge landlords to provide bicycle storage within their buildings. Building owners can apply to DOT for a free bicycle rack to be installed in front of their building. (The form is available on-line). This doesn't eliminate the bikes (many people consider them unsightly in numbers), but, at least, they wouldn't be commandeering tree guards. We have reached out to Speaker Christine Quinn's office to work with us on getting rid of abandoned bicycles and those chained to tree guards.

Motorcycles and motor scooters **may never** be parked legally on the sidewalk; if you spot this sort of violation, we urge you to report it to 311.

Several people who attended the meeting had complaints about the Waverly Inn's operation, mostly the timing of garbage pickups and standing cars on Waverly Place. Emil Warda, the manager, said the restaurant was committed to being a good neighbor and would work on the problems until they were solved. The following day, he confirmed that he had spoken to the Inn's garbage company about the

problem.

Finally (but not mentioned at the meeting, because we didn't know it then), St. Vincent's Hospital has agreed to install a community bulletin board on the wall of the oxygen facility facing Bank Street. Information from the Waverly Bank 11 Neighbors will be posted there as well as other flyers of community interest (this includes lost pets). We trust this will cut down on postings on nearby lampposts and street furniture. If WB11 members want a notice to be posted on the bulletin board, send it our way. No commercial advertisements, please.

Also, we did an email reach-out to members to see if we wanted to participate in the Make Music New York Festival on June 21. Since there no negative responses and lots of suggestions for groups, we're going to move ahead on this. The intersection of Bank and Waverly seems perfect...very little traffic.

Remember, the 6th Precinct Council meeting (last Wednesday of each month at Our Lady of Pompeii on Carmine Street) is a good way to speak directly to the NYPD, particularly if a problem is ongoing.

Neighborhood Notes & Notables

The Go Fish Gallery, 675 Hudson Street. 4th FL NY, NY 10014 (between 13th/14th Street in the triangle building) presents **Suzanne Sattler's "drawstring"** February 15th---March 31st OPEN: Mon-Sat-12-6pm, Thursdays till 9pm



The new **Beatrice Inn** is causing consternation to West 12th Street neighbors. They complain that since the spot's reopening there has been an unacceptable increase in noise, litter and traffic. The restaurant is owned by **Paul Sevigny** (Chloë's brother); **Andre Love** (Graffiti artist); **Matt Brom-check** (part-owner of Employees Only). According to *New York Magazine*, *oil paintings, old chests and bureaus and nautical mirrors give the three front rooms — a tiny den with a brick fireplace, a main room with a leather couch, and a white-tiled barroom — a captain's-quarters vibe. Steps ascend to a back room with a D.J. booth, wooden ceiling beams, banquettes and mirrored walls. When we were there, the D.J. spun everything from metal to Motown, and there was dancing and decadence aplenty.* The neighbors don't seem to like it.

(Cont'd on page 7)

Old News

Since the day that the late lamented Rufus Leary acted as pallbearer to the late and equally lamented James Elliott, killed in a prize fight ...and headed the procession which followed the corpse of the pugilist up the Bowery, there has not been so much excitement as... yesterday among the Bowery dilettanti by the rumor that the name of the historic thoroughfare might be changed to Parkhurst Avenue. (For reformer Charles H. Parkhurst anti-Tammany Hall reformer who died in 1933)

...One old resident opined that Dr. (Chauncey) Depew (politician who became US Senator) and the Hon. Oliver Sumner Teall (crusader for cleaner streets etc.) were at the bottom of it. Since Dr. Depew was called a peach by an enthusiastic Bowery admirer, he has yearned for...similar happy epithets. But he has found that his associates up town consider the ordinary address at his downtown resort (he occasionally lived in a Bowery hotel although he had a fancy uptown house)... hard to swallow and the theory now is that he is using his influence ... to have the name of the Bowery changed to something which will sound better in ears polite, whether the thing itself is improved or not.

... the trade of the Bowery has fallen off alarmingly... The song known as "The Bowery" (a music hall ditty) has been mentioned as one of the possible causes....The Bowery has lost the customers who formerly resided east and west of it. The Polish Hebrews...are not liberal patrons of the Bowery saloons or the cheap dry goods stores or the concert halls...

On the west side of the Bowery the former residents, chiefly ...Irish... have given place to the greatest Italian colony in the city, and the poorer classes of Italians are frugal even in their vices.

No one lives on the Bowery except the denizens of the cheap hotels and the owners of the very few stores...There is no trade worth speaking of to be got from those who live from hand to mouth in fifteen or twenty-five cent lodging houses...

...Patrick Farley, formerly an Alderman...and a frequenter or saloon keeper on the Bowery for the past thirty years ... opposed... any change...when visited ... by a reporter ... at 131 Bowery. ...He said, "...There is not a man on the street who would not oppose any attempt to give Parkhurst's name to it. He has done the street all the harm he could, whether he meant it or not.

Bar a couple of houses, the Bowery is as safe a thoroughfare as any in New York and...safer than many uptown streets that have a better name. Soldiers and sailors...visit the Bowery now, on account of its former reputation, but they don't find any fun in it.

The other day a newspaper man came here.... He was introduced to me about 11 o'clock one night. He told me this was the quietest town he had ever struck, that he had just come from Philadelphia where there was far more life.

Then he asked...where the Bowery was. I said,... "You're on it now." He said he meant the place where you had to pay to see. I told him there wasn't any such place and he would hardly believe me.

...John F. Townsend, President of the Bowery Savings Bank, was almost choleric when the subject of the proposed change... was mentioned"... I think it's nonsense," he began. "It is the name of our bank and we do not intend to change that ...I do not think the name of any living person should be taken for a street name.

Opinions about living men sometimes change and you cannot always change street names with them."

"I remember the Bowery before the war... It was the centre of attraction for the whole east side. The old Bowery Theatre was the amusement headquarters, the fire laddies were always to be seen, there were Summer gardens and the street was a great promenade In 1835 this bank bought its first piece of ground in the Bowery just above Grand Street. It cost \$20,000 ... would probably sell for \$50,000 now, so that I think Bowery property has not done so badly?"

W. H. Wilson, who makes hats for volunteer firemen at 135 Bowery, has lived on or near the Bowery since he was two years old, which was 66 years ago. Mr. Wilson's memory goes back to the cholera time about 1832 which gave the Bowery a bad setback...

"I remember the rise of the fire laddies and their...spring into political influence," said Mr. Wilson, "...bless you! they weren't wicked. Sometimes, going to a fire, they would start a fight for the fun of the thing, but they were very quiet on most other occasions.

"People talked of Bowery boys' between 1835 and 1860.... every part of the town had its local spirit and the Bowery boys were not different from the Greenwich Village boys or any other set... you could find worse men and tougher men on Sixth Avenue today... The modern fellows are not so eccentric in their dress as our old rounders... but they have not nearly as keen a sense of what is fair as they used to have."

"...the old Vauxhall Gardens...between Fourth Avenue and Lafayette Place was a place where fellows and their girls would... get ice cream and walk under the trees... no liquor sold there..no performers, no show, no music. All the attraction was the little wooden booths. Open at front, where each boy treated his girl to ice cream. That sort of thing would not pay... nowadays..."

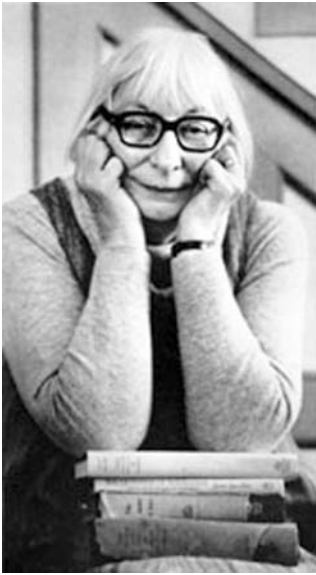
The Bowery is, perhaps, the greatest historic thoroughfare in New York City. It was originally the lane which led to Gov. Peter Stuyvesant's country house or "bouerie," near where St. Mark's Church now stands, at 10th Street. It was afterward...the through road from New York to Boston and Albany, and for a time, was the only means of getting to the upper part of Manhattan...Before the Revolutionary War it was called the Bowery or King's Highway. On its east side lay the great estates of the De Lancey family, between Division ...and Houston Street (s). On the west side lay the estate of Nicholas Bayard, his house being on a high hill near where Grand Street now passes and his avenue, shaded with trees, opening out on the Bowery, between Grand and Broome Streets.

Above the De Lancey property lay that of the Stuyvesant family, while on the west side there were... smaller estates. As both the DeLancey and Bayard properties were confiscated after the Revolutionary War and sold off in lots, the Bowery early became well settled with small storekeepers and residents. Among the purchasers of the confiscated lots of the De Lancey property was Henry Astor, who started a butcher's shop, and whose brother, the first John Jacob Astor subsequently became so well known.

It was down the Bowery that Washington rode after the British evacuated New York in November, 1783. In fact, except Greenwich Street, it is the only road running north and south on Manhattan Island which occupies the same ground and preserves the same name as it did before the year 1800.

from the New York Times, April 12, 1895

Resources & Information



In 1997, a conference in Toronto called “Jane Jacobs: Ideas That Matter” gathered hundreds of the world’s prominent thinkers and community leaders to exchange ideas and celebrate Jacobs’ work. The event culminated with the announcement of the Jane Jacobs Prize.

On February 12, 2007 **The Rockefeller Foundation** announced the creation of a \$200,000 award, called the **Jane Jacobs Medal** to honor the late activist, author and urbanist whose vision for the

urban environment has significantly contributed to the vibrancy of New York City. The award will recognize individuals who have made a significant contribution to thinking about urban design, specifically in New York City. The medal will be given annually to two people: one who has made a lifetime contribution and another who is at the start of a promising career.

Administered by the Municipal Art Society, one award will recognize leadership and lifetime contributions to the field of urban planning, while the other will recognize new ideas and activism that reflect Jacobs’ ideals. Nominations can be submitted electronically until March 2. The first recipients will be announced in June and an award ceremony will take place in September, simultaneously with the opening of an exhibit on Jacobs at the Municipal Art Society.

Jacobs died in April 2006 at the age of 89, but in the 1950s the then obscure resident of Greenwich Village received a grant through the Rockefeller Foundation’s Urban Design Studies program that enabled her to write her seminal work, *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. “Jacobs brought fresh thinking to the relationship between the needs of living communities and the urban environment,” said **Darren Walker**, Rockefeller’s vice president of foundation initiatives.

Jacobs is being honored with an award in her name and an exhibit, just when her longtime nemesis, **Robert Moses**, is having something of a rehabilitation — or, at least, attracting a flurry of renewed interest — with a three-part exhibit devoted to his influence now open around town. Jacobs fought against many of Moses’s projects and was instrumental in defeating his plan for the Lower Manhattan Expressway.

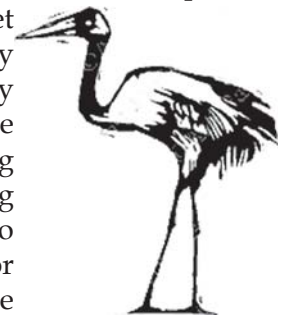
Through the years she bested Moses in public image and the long-term impact of her ideas.

Do you have something you don’t want, but it’s too good to throw away. **The Freecycle Network** (www.freecycle.org) is a grassroots, entirely non-profit movement of folks who give (& get) stuff for free in their own towns. Each local group is moderated by a volunteer; membership is free. Of the 3 million+ participants, 25,000 are New Yorkers. The Network was started in 2003 to promote waste reduction in Tucson and help save desert landscape from being taken over by landfills. One person’s trash is another’s treasure!

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey planned to place billboards and other advertisements from **Geico** at the toll plaza, tollbooths and approach roads to the George Washington Bridge. Less than a week after the Port Authority signed a two-year \$3.2 million deal, they were persuaded by reaction from preservationists and some local officials who, complained that the displays would destroy the aesthetics of the landmark bridge, to nix the deal on January 7.

A spokesman for **Gov. Jon S. Corzine** said his office planned to review the Port Authority’s sponsorship program because it was approved under the previous administration. “We’re sorry that they got the push back they got, but we will withdraw,” said **Bill Roberts**, Geico executive vice president. “We were concerned that we would be perceived badly. We want to be a good corporate citizen, but any time you do something new, it takes careful consideration.”

Whooping cough (pertussis) begins with symptoms like the common cold. The second stage includes attacks of forceful coughing. At the end of each episode, an inspiratory effort is made to get air into the lungs, accompanied by a ‘whoop’ sound. This stage may last ten weeks. Recovery may take up to six more weeks. Whooping cough is transmitted by inhaling droplets coughed or sneezed into the air by an infected person. For drug therapy to work, it must be given during the first stage. Sixty years ago, whooping cough was a common childhood disease. In the 1940s, the first vaccine became available; incidence of this disease decreased by more than 98%; we forgot about it.



In the last 30 years, there has been a rise in the number of reported cases. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, roughly 20,000 cases were reported in 2004 — 38% in children

10-19 years old. Classic symptoms of the disease are not always present in older children and may go unreported. A 2005 study reported that between 13% and 32% of older children and adults with a cough illness of six days or longer would show evidence of whooping cough in laboratory findings.

Most children receive a series of whooping cough vaccines with a booster around age five. It is now thought that immunity decreases after five years when these children are older. They may unknowingly pass the disease on to infants and younger children. On May 3, 2005, the United States Food and Drug Administration approved the first combination vaccine. It is pertussis combined with tetanus and diphtheria (Td) and is indicated for children 10-18 years.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), a group of immunization experts appointed by the secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, has formally recommended that Tdap vaccine be given to children ages 11-18 in place of the Td that is currently given. For more information, contact your healthcare provider or visit the following websites:

The US Food & Drug Administration (www.fda.gov)

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (www.cdc.gov)

The Parks Department will hold a public hearing on proposed changes to its dog leash laws February 22.

For more than 20 years, many parks have followed an unofficial policy allowing dogs to roam off-leash in designated areas from 9 p.m. to 9 a.m. Last May, a Queens community group filed suit against the city to challenge that practice, claiming it violated city health codes. Anti-off-leash groups say untethered dogs are a threat to other park users while pro-dog groups say socialized, well-exercised dogs are less aggressive. The Board of Health voted unanimously on December 5 to amend the health code, allowing off-leash hours in parks that do not have dog runs.

Parks will begin its process of deciding whether or not to amend its laws on the books and will accept comment from city residents before it decides. "The proposed amendment will simply ensure that Parks rules and regulations mesh neatly with the rules and requirements of other state and local agencies regarding dogs," a notice from Parks officials stated. The Parks hearing will be held **February 22 at the Chelsea**



Recreation Center at 430 West 25th Street at 1:00 p.m. Written statements may be mailed, but must be received by 5 p.m. February 22. **Write to New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, Office of General Counsel - Alessandro G. Olivieri, 830 Fifth Avenue, Room 313, NY, NY 10021.**

On January 11 representatives of nearby block associations **met with representatives of St. Vincent's Hospital to hear** the hospital's future plans. The existing building complex is outdated and extensive changes are in the works; the hospital is still in the consideration phase. In the next five years, considerable construction will probably take place. It seems probable that St. Vincent's will raze the O'Toole Building (the former Maritime Union) and replace it with a much taller structure to house St. Vincent's inpatient care. What happens to the present Coleman Building is unclear. The mid block buildings (on West 11th and West 12th Streets) may be sold. Unfortunately, there are few buyers that could adapt the existing buildings. New York University is one unfortunate possibility.

A developer could demolish the buildings and replace them with something else — apartments perhaps. In that case, present zoning does not permit construction as high as the existing structures, however, it seems *pro forma* nowadays for developers to apply for variances: they almost always succeed in achieving some accommodation. A possible bone of contention may be the triangular lot containing the hospital's oxygen and storage facility.

Years ago the hospital proposed building a high nurses residence on the site; the community objected and eventually an agreement was brokered limiting what could be built on the site: height restrictions, the maintenance of a community garden etc. When St. Vincent's installed the oxygen tank at the corner of Greenwich Avenue and West 12th Street a few years back, many neighbors objected that the hospital had breached its agreement. The NYC Landmarks Commission gave permission to build walls to hide the already installed tank.

A higher structure on this site would seriously impact the vicinity, particularly Bank, West 11th and West 12th Streets. The precious light and air afforded by the existing lowrise facility is a precious amenity. St. Vincent's has created a working group to help develop its future plans. **The group consists of representatives from the hospital, from our elected officials, from Community Board 2 and from the Greenwich Village Block Associations — Gary Tomai (West 13th Street), Marguerite Martin, (W. 12th Street), Ted Story (Mulry Angle/West 11th Street) and Marilyn Dorato (Waverly Bank 11 Neighbors).**

6th Precinct Community Council. Jan. 2007 (Abridged)

Calvin Solomon / Manhattan DA's Office: Update on the Recidivist Program tracking repeat offenders in categories such as prostitution, graffiti, shoplifting, metro card abuse and drug use. Since Oct. 7, 2006 the DA's office has overseen 15 recidivist cases with the following jail sentences: two cases of drug possession: 5 days / 5 days, one case of metro card abuse: 45 days, eight cases of shoplifting, one case of drug dealing: 45 days. In the past, judges dismissed repetitive low-level crimes with time served while offender waited for case to be heard or offender would receive community service as a punishment.

Deputy Inspector Shortell: In the categories of homicide, rape, robbery, felony assault, burglary, grand larceny and grand larceny auto within the 6th Precinct for 2006, the greatest decreases in cases since 1990 were in the categories of robbery (2006: 213, 1990: 1,328), burglary (2006: 272, 1990: 1,077), and grand larceny auto (2006: 72, 1990: 1,048). Total major crimes committed within the 6th Precinct in 1990: 7,250, as compared to 1,957 in 2006.

❖ Thanked Guardian Angels for their continued presence in the Christopher Street corridor. Noted that the continual complaint about prostitution activity is addressed by not only arrests, but additionally by other forms of enforcement, such as vehicular arrests of individuals driving in the known pick up area if they are violating laws. License checks have netted 111 arrests for suspended licenses and 113 DWI arrests. The Deputy Inspector proceeded with the awards ceremony. Recipients were:

Robert Shapiro: "On January 14, 1997 at approximately 1:15 am, Shapiro witnessed a suspect grab a woman's behind at Broadway and 8th Street. The victim ran to a taxi and left. Shapiro called 911 and followed the suspect as he walked south on Broadway. Shapiro stayed in contact with 911 while following the perp. As the perp reached Broadway and Waverly Place officers from the 6th Precinct, following Shapiro's directions, arrived and witnessed the perp attempting to steal a pocketbook from a second victim. The perp was arrested and charged with attempted robbery.

Dave Poster and the Guardian Angels; Big Mike, Crazy J, Midnight and Shaggy; "On October 26, 2006 at approximately 10:15 pm, Dave Poster was leading a group of Guardian Angels on patrol. They observed a male in what appeared to be a drug transaction. They called 911 and followed the suspect to the corner of Bedford and Christopher Streets where they surrounded him until officers from the 6th Precinct arrived. The suspect was arrested for criminal possession of marijuana and 19 bags were recovered. One Angel was slightly injured when the suspect attempted to escape. ❖ Mr. Shapiro explained he would not have responded so aggressively, but he saw the suspect had cornered his victim and was touching her all over when she screamed and fled. ❖ Mr. Poster thanked residents who attend Community Council meetings. He thanked patrol volunteers and appreciates the support given the Christopher Street Patrol. ❖ Crazy J said he had been working with the Christopher Street Patrol for two years and thanked Dave Poster for the 17 years of service with the group.

Christopher Street: Mentioned an article in *The New York Times* upgrading prostitutes to the category of sex workers. Considered this "A disgrace when police are trying to do their job."

Christopher Street / Kurt Kelly / Stonewall: Introduced himself to those assembled as the new managing owner of the Stonewall Bar. Promises to be good neighbors.

Downing Street: She had recently moved back to the Village and

a month ago an intruder tried to break into her apartment. Thanked police for prompt response to her call.

Jones Street: Heard about muggings in the West Village, concerned this trend is moving into her neighborhood. Shortell replied there is nothing recorded indicating such problems in the Jones and West 4th Street vicinity.

MacDougal Street: Reported three near mishaps with bicyclists riding on the sidewalk recently; Washington Square Park, MacDougal Street and in front of Amy's Bakery. This is a neighborhood with schools, churches, and parks with lots of children and the elderly, a dangerous situation. Shortell replied: Youth officers go to local schools to address this issue and auxiliary police officers will hand out flyers to fast food restaurants to be printed in English, Spanish and a yet to be determined Asian language. Officer Duffy added: Bicyclists are subject to the same fines as drivers of motor vehicles. Example: running a red light is a \$100 fine for both the two- and four-wheel offender. In each case, a police officer has to witness the event.

Thompson Street: Reminded police about the long-standing graffiti at 179 Sullivan Street, the American Legion headquarters. Mentioned that at a recent GVBA meeting, block association representatives noted the increasing number of fights on the street, bike riders knocking people down while riding on the sidewalk, bicycles chained to lamp posts and motor scooters and motorcycles parked on the sidewalk. Phluger replied: "Call 911 about these types of incidents." Assured everyone that police issue summonses for illegal riding and parking of two-wheeled vehicles on the sidewalk when it is observed by an officer. Remacle replied: Had recently attended a meeting of Community Council presidents below 59th Street. The bicycle/motorcycle problem is a major issue everywhere. Shortell replied: The 6th Precinct will distribute flyers to takeout places detailing the rules and regulations which must be abided by commercial owners of bicycles.

Waverly Place: Neighbors at Waverly and Bank are frustrated by the Waverly Inn. Called 311 six times about limo drivers parked on the block for the duration of their customer's dinner. Fire engines and ambulances cannot get through. Noted there is a white pickup truck belonging to the restaurant that parks by the establishment all day. Showed graphic documentation indicating space cars take when parked on both sides of the street, width of the street in question, and width of a fire truck that he measured at the West 10th Street firehouse to refute claim a fire truck could pass down the block.

West 13th Street: From 6th to 8th Avenue, graffiti has overtaken the neighborhood. Muggings and drug dealing incidents and panhandling are on the increase. A Viet Nam vet deals drugs and has hung out with the homeless by the Methodist Church for almost a half year. Calls to the police have not resulted in improvement. Shortell replied: No one from this section of the Precinct has come to a Community Council meeting before categorizing these problems. The church allows the homeless on their property. Police can only arrest panhandlers who are aggressively blocking pedestrian traffic or following individuals in order to obtain money; otherwise there is nothing more the police can do since loitering is no longer against the law.

Jackson Square Park developer rep: Promised attention will be paid to safety enforcement issues and park cleanup during construction of their new condominium. Believes West 13th Street residents will be pleased with the results.

NOWACKED
by **George Held**

The smeared mascara, the rouge and lipstick,
The face of a washed-up circus clown
Stares out at us from online news.

The diaper jokes on Imus in the morning
And Leno at night turn a space hero
Into a space cadet.

The dark wig and the light trenchcoat,
The pepper spray and the restraining
Order—you know all the sordid details

Of Captain Lisa Nowak's bizarre descent.
From crew on Discovery and capsule
Commander on the next space shuttle flight.

How we love to bushwhack the right stuff
And turn them into the latest humiliation.
Bring her down from the heights

To the muck where uppity women
Belong. So what if she's still grieving
Lost friends from the 2003 disaster;

So what if she feels a deep queasiness
About her own fate above the clouds;
So what if she needs the love

Of her fellow astronaut now that she's lost
Her husband and freaked under pressure
More than you or I could bear?

Paste her sorry face on all the tabloids,
Print or electronic, mock her, make her
Pay the price of daring to fly too high.

*George Held publishes widely online and in print. His tenth collection of poems, **The Art of Writing and Others**, will appear from **Finishing Line Press** this year. He lives in **Greenwich Village** with his wife, **Cheryl** and is a member of the **WB11 Neighbors**.*

Actor **Rupert Everett** (*My Best Friend's Wedding*) who once lived on Morton Street with his black lab, Mo, has published his biography, *Red Carpets and Other Banana Skins*. According to *People*, his "spot on observations are wickedly unapologetic.

On March 8. 6:30pm. the **Merchant's House Museum** will welcome the return of its newly restored glass chandeliers

which include a fiber optic system to allow more accurate simulation of 19th century gas light. Project director **Vincent Plescia** will recount the conservation process and his research on how the house was lighted during the 19th century. \$10, but free to members.

According to *More Magazine*, **Carly Simon** "wraps her distinctive voice around a collection of standards....that make her new album *Into White* chill out worthy." She keeps it in the family on *You Can Close Your Eyes* featuring her son, **Ben Taylor**, in the background.

On February 1, **Sushi Samba** agreed to pay the city \$500,000 in city penalties after a five year legal battle. The restaurant will, however, be allowed to build a permanent second floor. Awhile back, Sushi Samba gained permission for a wooden, open-air roof trellis. Not satisfied, the restaurant added steel beams, put a white tent over the trellis along with glass panels to partially close it. The Landmarks Preservation Commission declared that was illegal and ordered it removed. The restaurant refused and was fined. Neighbors complained about incredible noise from the terrace and this will, hopefully, solve their problems, however, some may see it as rewarding bad behavior despite the hefty fine.

The Village continues to attract trendy stores. Renovations progress on the former luggage shop site on the southish corner of Charles Street and Greenwich Avenue. Potter **Jonathan Adler** — real life partner of Barney's Simon Doonan — is opening a home furnishings store. Adler showed his pots to Barneys in 1994 and became successful. In 1997 he "hooked up" with *Aid to Artisans*, a non-profit organization helping artisans in developing countries make items for the US market. In 2002 he launched a furniture collection; we'll be seeing his latest designs up front and personal soon.

NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study hosts "Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans?" — a series of Black History Month events focusing on Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath in the city of New Orleans, Feb. 2-24 at various venues on the NYU campus. For a schedule of events, which are free and open to the public, go to <http://www.nyu.edu/gallatin/bhm>. Or call 212 998 9163.

How sad! According to Shophound, Clary & Co. the charming antique shop at 372-374 Bleecker Street will be replaced by a Coach store. *Manhattan needs another Coach store. Apparently the NINE we have already aren't serving the market adequately. Of course, this being Bleecker, it will not be any regular coach store....this branch will be a "Legacy Store". It will carry a special collection that is 45% more expensive than the regular collection. ... We (Shophound) liked Clary & Co. because, never having shopped there before, we purchased a gift there a few years ago with a check. When*

we asked if they wanted to take a credit card number for ID or security, the saleslady said, "Oh, it's not necessary. Our customers never bounce checks." We were sort of astonished and charmed at the same time... we always held that little shop in high regard for its gracious service. We hope they are just moving instead of being driven totally out of existence. Now that Coach is moving in, it only reinforces what we said before. Bleecker is officially over.

vive. Having gone on to success as a writer, she must now learn to share this beautiful gift with others, all the while struggling to define and accept herself without the crutch of her muse and savior. The cast includes: **Jenny Maguire, Sam Rosen, Thomas Sadoski, Maggie Siff and Jess Weixler** (*Teeth*, 2007 Sundance



On March 13, the **Rattlestick Playwrights Theater** (224 Waverly Place) hosts a benefit performance of *Stay*, a haunting and beautiful new play by playwright **Lucy Thurber** (*Where We're Born*) and directed by **Jackson Gay**. *Stay* is the story of a young writer who, in the darkest moments of her youth, found an angel who gave her the words to sur-

special jury acting award. 6:30-7:45pm. The evening begins with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres at AOC Restaurant (314 Bleecker Street). Tickets may be purchased by contacting Sandra Coudert at scourder@rattlesick.org or by calling the Rattlestick Theater box office at 212-627-2556.

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