



The Waverly Bank 11 Neighbors

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Members who up to date on their dues receive the complete newsletter. Others may receive a complimentary first and last pages. We welcome new members. Please join.

June Report

by Marilyn Dorato

On June 13, the Greenwich Village Block Associations will host a public information meeting in conjunction with St. Vincent's Hospital in the Cronin Auditorium at St. Vincent's. The hospital will present its current plans to build a new facility. Representatives from the Rudin family, St. Vincent's development partner, will attend. After the presentation, residents may ask questions and offer comments. Sign up to speak begins at 6:30PM. The meeting will run from 7:00-9:00PM. Everyone is welcome.

On page 6, you will find a position letter from Andrew Berman of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation to Guy Sansone, St. Vincent's CEO. The letter was endorsed by several block associations and nearby buildings that will be impacted by future construction. Following Mr. Berman's letter is Mr. Sansone's response.

I represent our block association on the St. Vincent's Working Group and will lead the information session on behalf of the GVBA. The Waverly Bank 11 Neighbors did not sign on to the letter, because I do not have a clear idea of what people on Bank, Waverly and West 11th Street think about the future of St. Vincent's. In part, that is what I hope to get out of the June 13 meeting - a better understanding of what my neighbors think about what the hospital plans to do and how it will impact us. So please, come to the meeting.

You may have noticed a community bulletin board on the Greenwich Avenue side of the oxygen facility. The bulletin board was installed as a community amenity by St. Vincent's and will be maintained by the WB11 Neighbors. Send notices of community interest along...no commercial bulletins, please. Thank you to St. Vincent's.

Sally Stone is working with Peter Falk of the West Village Committee on the installation of tree guards/wickets for Bank, West 11th and W. 4th Streets. We have a list of the spots where we think tree guards could be useful...more than we can buy at the moment. In order to install a tree guard we need the permission of the relevant building owner. One of our neighbor block associ-

ations is currently in the midst of a controversy because they installed a tree guard in front of a building and its owner is unhappy about it.

Anyone who contributes to the cost of a tree guard - they cost about \$850 each - will have priority. The more money we can collect, the more tree guards we can buy. So if you want a tree guard installed in front of your building, please send a written permission note from the building owner along with how much you/building residents/owners can contribute. The more tree guards we install, the lower the price for each of them. Please do not write any checks now...they will be made out to the West Village Committee and will be tax deductible.

One of the considerations in installing these tree guards is whether or not they will invite more bicycles to be attached to them, which defeats the beautification purpose of the tree guards. Suggestions for discouraging people from attaching bikes to the guards would be much appreciated. It is illegal to lock them to tree guards, but removing them isn't easy and it can be confrontational.

It is also illegal to park motorcycles and scooters on sidewalks and you can call 311 when you see this. Again, this is a difficult problem to tackle. For example, there is a gray scooter parked frequently on the sidewalk in front of 244 Waverly Place. When I approached the owner, thinking he might be unaware that he was breaking the law, he was abusive, unpleasant and unconcerned that he was doing anything wrong. Owners know that when they remove the license plates DOT cannot ticket them. The bikes are technically abandoned property at that point, but it's not easy to get the city to remove them. We are talking to the 6th Precinct and Speaker Christine Quinn's office to figure out an effective way to deal with the problem, but since I have a few things on my plate, I wouldn't mind delegating this issue to someone else. Volunteers???

I have had major computer problems for the past six weeks...Apple finally exchanged my computer. I may not have lost your email address. Please send me an email so that I can be sure you are on the WB11 Neighbors email block for notices etc.

Hope to see you on June 13.

Neighborhood Notes & Notables

A new three foot deep pool for small children and their parents is due to open at **Vesuvio Playground**. As *Gothamist* reported a year or so ago this shabby *little park was set for a \$2 million-plus make-over. So, what did a year and all that cash bring us? The NYC Department of Parks and Recreation website claims that this project will be complete by June 22 but some folks are skeptical. Recent photos show there's a lot of work to be done. Good luck!*

According to *The Villager*, when writer **Mary McHugh's** daughter died of diabetes, she found solace in walking one of the labyrinths at the north end of Union Square. The Parks Department plans to redesign Union Square Park's northern plaza, where three labyrinths are currently painted on the asphalt. The labyrinths would be painted over. **Diana Carulli**, who painted them — two labyrinths and one maze — is fighting for them to remain in the northern plaza. The difference between a labyrinth and a maze as Carulli explained it, is that a maze has choices — “It tricks you” — while a labyrinth has only one path.

Carulli is not pushing to save all three. McHugh wrote an article for *Family Circle* in which she described how walking helped her cope with her grief. Carulli painted the labyrinths in 1999. After learning of Parks' plan to pave over them, Carulli designed her own proposal, which includes a cement labyrinth. Despite writing many letters and petitions and offering to fundraise for her proposal, her request was denied. According to **Ashe Reardon**, a Parks spokesperson, the labyrinths don't go with the new design.

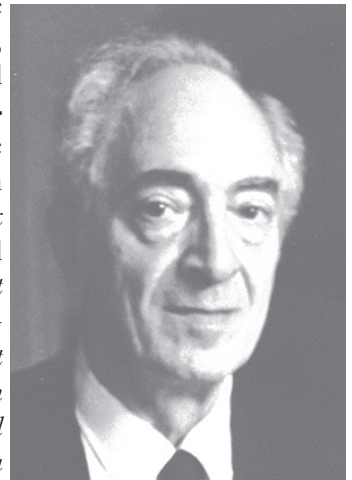
On Saturday, May 19th **Gen Art & C.O. Bigelow** — the oldest pharmacy in the US — sponsored a block party on Greenwich Avenue to benefit the **Children's Museum of the Arts**. Block Party activities included

- Live performance by DJ Qool Marv & DJ Gov
- T-shirt Reconstruction with artist, Megan Nicolay
- Jewelry Making with designer, Anne Woodman
- Custom Tote bag design
- Live Street Mural Painting
- Design your own C.O. Bigelow Apothecary Jar
- Free Candy Corner

There was also a raffle of apothecary jars signed by: **Kelly Ripa, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Christy Turlington, Parker Posey, Liv Tyler and Chad Pennington**.

In the *New York Observer*, **Max Abelson** says that 279 West 4th Street was sold for \$3.05 million to realty kingpin, **Robert DeLeonardis**, president of the Manhattan Association of Realtors). It was home to **Dr. Lillian Milgram Schapiro**, who died last year at 104. Her husband was the late Columbia University art historian **Meyer Schapiro**.

“He was the one person in the Village,” **Saul Bellow** said, “against whom no one had anything terrible to say.” **Robert Motherwell** said he came to New York to learn from him. According to the *New York Times*, the Schapiros moved into the townhouse in 1934 and it became a hub for radical leftist intellectuals. Those were more Marxist and boozier days for tiny West 4th Street. The English basement had a full-fledged speakeasy. There's a mirror atop the bar, a dumbwaiter and tin ceilings.



Meyer Schapiro

Meanwhile, again as reported in the *NY Observer* Saturday Night Live's **Amy Poehler** and husband **Will Arnett** are moving up — literally. They sold their fifth-floor condo at 1 Morton Square for \$2.2 million and bought a condo higher up in the building — closer to the Olsens — for \$5,275,000. *The couple's new digs has six and a half rooms and oodles of outdoor space with a wrap-around terrace. Otherwise, they can spend their time in the 2,446-square-foot apartment's three bedrooms or three bathrooms.*

Actress **Ellen Barkin** — currently in *Ocean's 13* — tells *More* magazine about her West 12th Street townhouse — the one with the evil fence: “It's beautiful, but I'd rather have an apartment, quite frankly. I don't like being responsible for a house. I don't want to shovel snow. I want to pick up the phone and say, “My bathroom is leaking' and hang up. I'm a New Yorker. I wouldn't care if I never saw a tree again in my life.”

Wynton Marsalis, musician and director of Jazz at Lincoln Center, was one of seven people receiving honorary degrees and delivered the response on behalf of the honorees at New York University's 175th commencement on May 10 in Washington Square Park. Tickets for the event were reportedly auctioned on eBay. Other honorees included **Baltasar Garzon Real**, an investigative judge on Spain's highest court; **Phillipe de Montebello**, chief executive officer of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and an NYU



Baltasar Real

Continued on Page 7

Old News

One of the strange yet interesting features which arouse the curiosity of the casual visitor to old Greenwich Village is the way some of the numbered streets have of crossing each other at right angles.

The reason...was revealed in a particularly interesting manner through the closing of a sale yesterday of the two...flats at 240 and 242 West 10th St... the buildings when erected were known as 136 and 138 Amos St. For more than half a century the street bore that name. About 50 years ago... the original name was dropped and it was merged into 10th St. at 6th Ave....

...Who or why was Amos? ...the street...was named for Richard Amos, a large land owner there in the early part of the last century. Among his possessions was...practically all of the block bounded by Bleecker, Hudson, Christopher & the old street called Amos. This, with adjoining property, Richard Amos purchased in 1788 from the Earl of Abingdon, whose name is retained in Abingdon Square...once there was an Abingdon Road. The Earl became possessed, through his marriage to Charlotte, eldest of the three daughters of Admiral Sir Peter Warren, of a goodly portion of the... Warren estate involving several hundred acres in the Greenwich Village area. The deed of sale of the Abingdon holdings was recorded in 1796 showing that the property was sold for the Earl through John Watts, acting as his attorney. John Watts was a prominent citizen both before and after the Revolution. He was the last Royal Recorder of the city...he held many honorable positions being for some years Judge of Westchester County.

The map of the property purchased by Richard Amos calls attention to its boundary on the south by a road called Skinner's Road. That...is closely associated with the Peter Warren ownings ...for his third daughter married an English officer, Colonel Skinner. The other daughter married Charles Fitzroy, created Baron Southampton in 1780. What is now the major portion of 8th Avenue below 42nd Street was once known as the Fitzroy Road...its name was recently revived by placing it among the telephone exchange systems.

Richard Amos cut up his property in building lots...He was a Greenwich Villager, early Directories giving his residence as 685 Greenwich Street...near the corner of Christopher, one of the pleasant home sections in that time. His widow, Elizabeth, was living there in 1840... Richard Amos died in 1836 and bequeathed all of the easterly Hudson St. block front...to his daughter Ann Elizabeth Van Beuren, wife of Joseph J, Van Beuren. She died in 1852, leaving her property... to her...three sons and one daughter. One of the sons, Edward B. Van Beuren lived... at 180 Amos Street, now a portion of 10th St.

In 1858...the grandchildren sold the two parcels, now 240 and 242 West 10th Street, to Joseph Haight Jr...the present sellers are grandchildren

of Mr. Haight, the sale being made in the name of George H. Foster, an official of the Lehigh Valley Railroad. The Haight family held the property for 63 years. Since 1788,...but two family ownerships, an unusual record...

Mr. Haight was a grocer, and made a comfortable fortune from flour speculations....Beginning about 1858, he was for many years an active buyer and building operator in the Greenwich Village area. The section was growing rapidly then, a better class of houses was being built than had been constructed in the 1820 to 1830 period and Mr. Haight had faith in its future...his grandson, George H. Foster, told a story about him that is worthy of a place in the annals of realty happenings in the metropolis.

"Before my grandfather's death,...I frequently heard him, tell how, back in the sixties or a little earlier, he had the choice of buying a corner plot at 5th Ave. and 42nd St...or a large parcel at the southwest corner of Greenwich and Bethune Sts. With its great vacant spaces and cattleyards just north of 42nd St., that 5th Ave. section did not look very prepossessing... and my grandfather turned it down and took the plot at Bethune and Greenwich Sts."

While Mr. Haight's decision lessened the value of his estate by thousands, if not by a million or so, his judgment was naturally sound at the time, for there was a demand for homes at Bethune St., with quick returns... The Haight estate still holds the Bethune Street corner... The buildings there, most of them five-story tenements, were built by Mr. Haight. When erected, Greenwich St. was one of the most desirable residential thoroughfares in that locality and the houses now denominated tenements were looked upon as fairly aristocratic apartment houses. Mr. Haight also owned the northeast corner of Bank St. and Waverley Place, and the neat brownstone flats at 8 to 14 Bank St. were put up by him in the early sixties. Mr. Haight, explained his grandson, was the first builder in the Greenwich Village area to erect brownstone flats. It was as much of an innovation to the neighborhood as the advent of a twelve apartment house to upper 5th Ave. a few years ago. All of Mr. Haight's flats were readily rented and he ranked as one of the successful operators and developers of the section.

The Purchaser of the 10th St. parcels...was Anthony Traina... Vincent Pepe...acted as the broker and he also closed yesterday two other goods deals, both being in the 8th St. block, between 5th and 6th Avenues, once a portion of fashionable Clinton Place... 17 West 8th St...was also bought by Anthony Traina. It was sold for Zachery T, Piercy...The second plot sold was the vacant lot at 37 West 8th St. It was purchased by C. Aloisi, another active Italian realty investor in the neighborhood. A vacant lot in that once well built-up block seems an anomaly. Mr. Pepe explains its presence by the fact that eighteen or twenty years ago an operator acquired the parcels at 37 and 39 for a twelve-story commercial structure. Excavation for the foundations disclosed the

existence far beneath the surface of a subterranean stream which in old times fed Minetta Brook. Only three years ago this same body of water was encountered by the builder of the apartment house on the north side of Waverley Place near 6th Ave., causing great delay and additional expense. The 8th St. operator unfortunately was not prepared to meet the excessive expense which the presence at the unknown brook forced upon him.... A new buyer ...put up the present building at 39, but 37 has been held ever since by the T. Edwin Ward estate, represented by De Forest Brothers, and the latter have closed the sale for the Ward heirs, ...Mr. Aloisi intends to cover up all vestige of the secret running water by a six, story loft.

The New York Times, August 7, 1921

Resources & Information

Greenwich House Pottery offers a 3-day per week workshop to cultivate creative exploration in the visual arts for young emerging artists. Children will discover the magical, messy, and multi-dimensional world of art making with their efforts celebrated in an exhibition presented in our Jane Hartsook Gallery. Found objects, body mapping, contour drawing, collaborative sculpture making, and of course, plenty of clay work are just some of the projects to be discovered. Tuition: \$850 for 4 weeks, or \$225 per week. July 10-August 2, Tues, Wed & Thurs: 9:30am -12:30pm.

Adapted from a statement from St. Vincent's Hospital

On May 16 Saint Vincent Catholic Medical Centers announced it will build a new state-of-the-art green hospital by selecting the Rudin family as the development partner. "St. Vincent's has a responsibility to be prepared for, and is committed to meeting the health care needs of its neighbors on the West Side and Downtown, now and for the next century. The hospital system will embark on a philanthropic campaign to raise funds for the new building, however it must also make the best use of its real estate assets to be able to make the needed capital investment...

The Berger Commission's recommendations for hospital closures will increase emergency department visits and inpatient admissions at St. Vincent's, making the commission's references to the need for the "hospital of the future," with the latest technology, flexibility to adapt as technology changes and greater operational efficiencies. St. Vincent's plans to build the new facility on the site of the O'Toole Building, the current location of physician offices and its outpatient health center. When the new facility is complete, St. Vincent's will vacate its current hospital buildings on the eastside of 7th Avenue, which the Rudin family will develop primarily for residential use.

St. Vincent's is mindful of the challenges and considerations inherent in the construction of a building

that needs to be consistent with the fabric of its historic surroundings. As a large-scale community facility development, St. Vincent's will submit the proposal for the project — including both the construction of the new hospital and construction on the Current Campus — to the Landmarks Preservation Commission and City Planning Commission.

St. Vincent's Hospital has formed a Community Working Group comprised of elected officials, representatives from Community Board 2, block associations, community leaders and physician representatives to provide a forum to receive input and disseminate information on the project throughout the public approval and development process.... Members of the Rudin family hold or have held leadership positions on the boards of many New York not for profit institutions including but not limited to: Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital, New York Downtown Hospital, Lenox Hill Hospital, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Central Park Conservancy, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Brooklyn Academy of Music, NY Hall of Science, Battery Conservancy, Whitney Museum and the Gay Men's Health Crisis.

There were **three muggings** of Village women during the week of April 2-7 on Bank Street near West 4th. The robber approached the victims from behind. knocked them to the ground and grabbed their handbags. It's possible he had an accomplice following on a bicycle.

The **Municipal Arts Society** is offering a number of interesting programs in June.

On the Waterfront: The West Village (June 6. 11:00AM) Fee: \$15, \$12 MAS members
Christopher St. ends at the Hudson River where recently designated historic districts and glassy apartment towers are transforming the waterfront. We'll examine the area's salty past, viewing structures associated with the neighborhood's mercantile origins, as well as the former Bell Labs complex, now Westbeth and the West Village Houses. The tour ends where the High Line, scheduled to open as a public park in spring 2008, begins. Leader: Matt Postal, architectural historian. Meet inside the park at Sheridan Square, at the intersection of 7th Ave. and Christopher St.

Where Does Harlem Begin? (June 24, 10:00AM - 12:30AM) Fee: \$15, \$12 MAS members
In what is a most remarkable transition from wealth to poverty, the grand apartments on the Upper East Side of Manhattan yield to the tenements and projects of East Harlem in just a few city blocks. The slope where this transition occurs actually stretches from the Hudson River to the East River and historically, has always marked a change in land-use. The walk begins at 86th St. and ends at 116th St. illustrating the evolving sense of Harlem and the definition of its edges. Leader: Jack Eichenbaum, urban geographer. Meet on the N.E. corner of Lexington Ave. and 86th St. (Transit: #4, 5,

6 trains to 86th St.)

The **New York Observer** (May 14, 2007) carried an interview with Barry Mallin, the “go-to guy, for neighborhood activists looking to combat the proliferation of bars in their communities.” He’s handled more than 100 of these cases over the last 10 years. Thus far, he hasn’t lost a case to the **State Liquor Authority**. “Some cases, we had to go to court to get the authority overturned...[the SLA] finally administered the law the way that they were supposed to — which was to find that these new clubs were not [in] the public interest, because there was an oversaturation of existing bars and clubs in that particular area.” Many believe the SLA abuses the 500-foot law giving it discretion to approve licenses even in densely liquor-licensed areas so long as the panel decides that it’s “in the public interest.”

According to the **NY Post**, scavenger hunts are back. Teams meet up at random street corners and begin searching for clues to solve a mystery. Their popularity has something to do with shows like “The Amazing Race” and “Treasure Hunters.” A few that focus on the Village:

Sex and the Village — *Players will find their way to the restaurant where Samantha threw a drink in Richard’s face, the pet shop where Charlotte learned that Elizabeth Taylor was pregnant and the West Village nook that doubled as Paris in the finale (the Commerce Street bend).* watsonadventures.com, (877) 946-4868.

Ghosts of Greenwich Village — *Sudden chills, apparitions and morbid rustlings put the haunt in this nighttime hunt. Follow clues through ghost-plagued buildings and secret cemeteries in search of restless souls such as Mark Twain, Aaron Burr and Edgar Allen Poe.* watsonadventures.com, (877) 946-4868.

Metropolitan Odyssey: It Takes a West Village — *This daylong hunt for trinkets includes maps, but the rented-out bar with three free drinks and free ziti (usually), prizes for best costume and after-party make us think it’s more of a search for spirits - the liquid kind. \$25.* metrometroland.com.

The *New York Times* (April 15) published a piece about the intra building feud at **250 Mercer Street**. Many residents say their efforts to prevent New York University from uprooting 18 trees have been undermined by their own co-op board. The conflict over preserving the trees stems from NYU’s proposal to expand a 30-year-old subterranean power plant. Although NYU runs a private polluting student bus system in a city with one of the best public transit systems in the world, its officials claim concern about reducing emissions and energy conservation. The excavation would require uprooting the trees, which are on public land and are overseen by the Parks Department. The Mercer Street Block As-

sociation, whose leaders are co-op owners from 250 Mercer, has been trying to persuade NYU to shift construction away from Mercer Street and use space under a courtyard behind Warren Weaver Hall. The same people felt sabotaged by an 11th-hour agreement between NYU and the co-op board. NYU agreed to payment the co-op in exchange for its support of the original plan. Neither side would disclose the amount of the payment. Shan Reddy, president of the block association, believes the board acted against the wishes of the residents. “We had the rug pulled out from under us,” he said, “and as shareholders we are paying for our own rug to be pulled out.” The dispute has galvanized previously uninvolved co-op owners. “No one ever runs for a spot on the co-op board; they just think it’s all about painting the hallways,” said **Robert Schwartzman**, co-chairman of the block association. “Now we’re all going to run.”

ProPiano at 85 Jane Street, seems to be in transition — on the market? Anyway, the sign is gone. The company has locations in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Another piece of Village history closed its doors. Vinylmania opened by **Charlie and Debbie Grappone** in 1978 was one of the last of the old-guard dance-record shops. For years, club-goers would rush from nearby Paradise Garage to buy one song or another that resident DJ Larry Levan had played. Vinylmania once had four shops on Carmine Street — one entirely devoted to morning music.

The *New York Times* (March 25, 2007) ran a great piece by **Christopher Gray** on Bleeker Street’s 1840 Depau Row, which was demolished more than a century ago. As advertised in 1840 “one of the elegant houses recently erected and known as Depau Row,” with a “pump of excellent water and two cisterns in the yard” (piped water was still two years away). The ad said the house was “finished in a costly manner, the hall lined with Italian marble.” Depau split the 200-foot length on Bleeker into six lots, giving each corner house a 42-foot frontage, the inside lots 29 feet. They interrupted the Bleeker Street numbering with their own: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 Depau Row.



Depau Row before and after

Dated May 10, 2007
abridged version

Dear Mr. Sansone:

...Some of us have participated directly in the Community Working Group (CWG) which St. Vincent's has established and have seen the hospital's plans for its properties take form. In observing those plans, we have developed a set of principles to which we all agree regarding the future planning for these sites. We strongly urge you to adopt these principles to guide further planning on this effort. We believe that it is absolutely necessary that these parameters be respected in order for the massive redevelopment plans being contemplated for St. Vincent's properties to be compatible with local and community concerns.

They are as follows:

We feel very strongly that there should be NO increase in overall density on the properties currently occupied by St. Vincent's, and in fact a DECREASE in density would be desirable. We were very concerned to discover at the May 2 CWG meeting that St. Vincent's was actually contemplating increasing the overall density on the sites it currently occupies. As the hospital itself has noted throughout this process, the existing St. Vincent's buildings are at much higher densities than their surroundings and than the Village in general. Given that St. Vincent's intends to consolidate its facilities and will need LESS space, we therefore see no justification for increasing the density in an area which is already uncharacteristically dense for our community, and which should be built up at a lesser density.

We feel very strongly that no one site should be overly burdened with extreme density, and are very concerned about the building currently being contemplated for the O'Toole site in terms of its size and density. At 600-650,000 sq. ft., the building currently being contemplated for the O'Toole site (which is 36,000 sq. ft.) would be at least as tall as the Coleman Pavilion — a height we consider inappropriately tall for this area- but significantly larger, as it would cover the entire western block front of 7th Avenue between 12th and 13th Street and rise straight up without setbacks over the entire footprint of the site. While we recognize that setbacks could be added to mitigate the bulkiness of the building, this would make the building commensurately taller, potentially far surpassing the height of the Coleman Pavilion. This would be an enormous building which would be much more out-of-context than any building currently occupied by St. Vincent's, and would be inappropriately dense for our neighborhood. If in fact St. Vincent's must build 600- 650,000 sq. ft. of new space, a significant amount of it must be on sites other than this one. While we are glad that St. Vincent's is open to the idea of doctor's offices spread out amongst other new private buildings which could be built on its current properties east of 7th Avenue, it would seem that an even greater amount of space than this would need to be located off the O'Toole site to bring development on the O'Toole site into some scale and context with its surroundings.

We urge stronger consideration of preservation and adaptive re-use of some of St. Vincent's historic buildings. Since the hospital intends to sell these buildings off for development, whether or not these buildings meet the hospital's current facility needs need not be a concern. While it is clear that some of

St. Vincent's current buildings do not merit preservation, others may. Especially as St. Vincent's has been an integral presence in this neighborhood for almost 200 years, it would seem odd to entirely wipe out any vestige of its history on these sites. Its early 20th century buildings on 12th Street especially share a common palette of materials which seem quite compatible with the Greenwich Village Historic District of which they are a part.

We feel very strongly that any new developments, whether for St. Vincent's or private development on former St. Vincent's property, be compatible in design and scale with the Greenwich Village Historic District. Given the size of the sites involved, whatever is built will have an enormous and lasting impact upon the look and character of much of the West Village. Scale is one key quality which will affect how well a new development will fit St. Vincent's historic surroundings. The materials, design, detailing and fenestration of the exteriors of any new buildings must also be carefully considered to relate to the historic character of the West Village.

We feel strongly that the triangle bounded by Greenwich Avenue, West 12th Street, and 7th Avenue should not be built upon and should serve as more of a public amenity and green space than it currently does, and as had always been promised. New development should not result in an increase in traffic on the narrow surrounding sidestreets. We were very concerned to hear at the last CWG meeting that St. Vincent's did in fact contemplate emergency and other vehicular entrances for its new facilities being on West 12th Street, instead of on 7th Avenue, where they currently are located, and where we had been told in response to prior inquiries at the CWG they would remain. It is critical that vehicular entrances for the hospital remain on the avenue, and planning for any new private developments must look to forgo or minimize vehicular entrances on the side streets.

There is a great deal of concern among neighbors about health and environmental impacts that could result from long-term, large-scale demolition and construction in their immediate vicinity, as well as the disruption which would inevitably result from such protracted work. Thus it is critical that any plans for these sites address such concerns in advance of work and look to minimize disruption to neighbors.

As St. Vincent's is moving towards solidifying its proposals for these sites, which must then be subjected to extensive public review and approval processes we strongly urge you to work within these principles in formulating your plans. As always, we look forward to continuing to work with you as this process which is so important to the future of St. Vincent's and our community, moves forward.

Dated May 18, 2007

Dear Mr. Berman,

Thank you for your letter dated May 10, 2007 outlining both the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation and immediate residents' suggestions on the new hospital project. Your recommendations are duly noted and greatly appreciated as we look at the overall concerns of developing a state-of-the-art hospital to address the healthcare needs of the residents of the West Side and Downtown.

As you know, we organized the Community Working Group

to provide information to the community about our plans for the new hospital and to encourage your feedback early in the process so it can be incorporated into the planning process, before we have developed specific plans. We have not yet contracted with an architectural firm nor completed a bed-need/services analysis that would provide us the information to answer some of your questions. We will be coming to the Community Working Group with specific designs for discussion once they have been developed later in the year.

We have consistently emphasized that our guiding principle on this project is to ensure that Greenwich Village—as well as all of New York City—has an appropriate and community-friendly 21st Century health facility. St. Vincent’s is extremely mindful of the challenges and considerations inherent in the construction of a building that needs to be consistent with the fabric of historic Greenwich Village.

Additionally, we were pleased to share with the community the news this week that the Rudin family was selected as the development partner to help us achieve our vision of a new hospital. I know that a senior representative of the Rudin organization will be at the next meeting of the Community Working Group. They too are committed to hearing about the interests and suggestions of the community as they begin their planning process with us.

Notes and Notables (Cont’d.)

alumnus; **Congressmember Charles Rangel**, an NYU alumnus and dean of the New York congressional delegation, received the 2007 Lewis Rudin Award for Exemplary Service to New York City.

According to the *New York Post*, **Soho House** - in the Meatpacking District (and originally London) - is taking over Morton’s restaurant in Los Angeles. The club’s founder **Nick Jones** will spend \$5 million renovating the West Hollywood location at the end of the year.

After nine years of decompressing in his native Washington, **Shaun Cottle**, the co-owner and principal stylist of Seagull Haircutters (West 10th between Bleecker & Hudson) is back in the Village to run Seagull along with **Joanna Fateman**, of the feminist dance band **Le Tigre**. Cottle was recently in the running to be on *Bravo’s Shear Genius*, but he pulled himself out — too much stress.

New York Magazine tells us that talk show host **Ricki Lake’s** documentary, *The Business of Being Born*, shows her naked in the bathtub of her Village apartment, delivering her second child, Owen. She wants to call attention to what she sees as the shortcomings of giving birth in hospitals, which she believes push for a Cesarean too readily: Lake wasn’t always the Al Gore of natural births—only after the drug-assisted delivery of her son Milo at St. Luke’s – Roosevelt did she look into alternative practices, which led to the tub birth that

gave her “an indescribable high.” “It’s not flattering in any way,” admits Lake whose movie premieres at the Tribeca Film Festival.

The former **Constanza Basto** store (formerly Second Hand Rose and then a video store) at W. 11th and Hudson has been vacant for months. It’s one of the largest spaces in the area so folks were speculating about another restaurant. 573 Hudson will be the second Manhattan location for a local mini-chain. **Plaza Too** — handbags and accessories. **Avalon** on West 4th Street is relocating to Christopher Street (in the Beach site) and **City Cricket** moved into 555 Hudson — Jane Jacobs’ former home — the **Art of Cooking** has moved its business online.

According to the *New York Post* (April 15) **Catherine Zeta-Jones and Aaron Eckhart** let a Bronx teen have his cake and eat it, too. The stars play rival chefs in the upcoming “No Reservations.” They presented **Matthew Finkel** with a \$100,000 Culinary Institute of America Scholarship during the Food Network Awards show. Finkel also got a two-foot-wide metallic wedge of cake that commemorated the occasion. The film was originally titled *Mostly Martha* and filmed extensively in the former unlamented Hue Restaurant (now Juicy Couture) at Charles and Bleecker Streets.

In the same issue the *NY Post* reports that **Arik Kislin**, one of seven owners in **Gansevoort Hotel** — the one that built the monster sign — once ran a firm with ties to a suspected Moscow hit man. In the early 1990s, a Manhattan company called Blonde Management, of which Kislin was chairman, co-sponsored a US visa sought by a Russian named **Anton Malevskiy**. The FBI believed Malevskiy to be a professional assassin and head of one of Moscow’s leading criminal gangs, according to a 1999 article by the **Center for Public Integrity**, which cited an FBI report. The Gansevoort at first denied Kislin had an ownership role or that his name

was on its liquor license, despite being told of a state agency document that shows otherwise. Now, it’s “No comment.” The bottom sign is no longer empty. It features “c o m i c” Sarah Silverman.



According to *New York Magazine*, “A dual career as an illustrator and star puppeteer isn’t exactly a route to fame and fortune today, but back in the twenties and thirties, **Tony Sarg** pulled it off... everyone knows Sarg’s biggest project: In 1928, he floated the idea of creating giant inflatable figures (with his protegee **Bill Baird**) that could be paraded down Broadway and got Macy’s to try them out on Thanksgiving. Raised in Germany, Sarg popularized old world marionette technique in the U.S., performing at the Chicago and New York world’s fairs and designing the latter fair’s official map. A master of branding before the word existed, he opened a small chain of kiddie stores and produced toys and books and puzzles until his death in 1942.” *Sarg’s Up & Down New York* has returned to print. Its isometric bird’s-eye views are madly lively slices of the twenties boom city, packed with tiny, scurrying urbanites.” Sarg lived on Jane Street.

is the setting for *The Secret of Lost Things* by **Sheridan Hay**. Rosemary arrives from Tasmania with ...an eagerness to explore the city. She begins her search for independence ...the moment she steps into the Arcade bookstore, she has found a home. Rosemary reads the letter from someone seeking to “place” a lost manuscript by Herman Melville. Mentioned in Melville’s personal correspondence but never published, the work is of inestimable value, and proof of its existence brings the simmering ambitions and rivalries of the Arcade staff to a boiling point.

Apple will open a four story store on West 14th Street and 9th Avenue in the old Western Beef building. This store may be the largest worldwide. The rent is estimated at \$400 per square foot, making this the most expensive Apple property yet — the Soho store rented for \$95 per square foot in 2004. Plenty of room to showcase computers, iPods, Apple TV and iPhones. *from Racked*

The Strand Bookstore — thinly veiled as The Arcade —

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