

THE HORATIO STREET ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Concerned neighbors dedicated to the Safety, Beautification and Preservation of our street

THE HORATIO



The Garret & Edward Green Lumber Yard (circa 1840) at the corner of West & Horatio Streets, undoubtedly providing building materials for many of the landmark houses of Greenwich Village.

April, 2005

Horatio Street Ass.: 71 Horatio Street, New York, NY 10014

Finally, a HSA Newsletter. In addition to reporting on our street and the neighborhood we are announcing the

ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, APRIL 26 — 7:30pm
WVNS @ 71 HORATIO STREET

Agenda:

1. Quality of Life Issues
2. Progress Report regarding SLA
3. Your comments and concerns
4. Election of Officers

www.horatiostreet.blogspot.com is up and running and is both amusing and informative (perhaps not in that order of importance). This is due to the effort of *Julie Culver*. We owe her many thanks. Read and add your own comments.

EXPANDING OUR ELECTRONIC MAILING

LIST is our goal for this spring. To add your name go to horatiostreet1@aol.com. To read the Horatio Street Newsletter now go to www.gvba.org; you will find a link.

CB2 LAUNCHES ITS WEBSITE — You can now see the posting of the monthly meetings by going to www.cb2manhattan.org. This is a big step and we encourage you to check monthly on important meetings and, of course, to attend.

PLACES TO TURN FOR INFORMATION AND HELP — The *Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation* has represented our community for many years and leads the preservation battles that we are support. To get information and to join go to www.gvshp.org.

The *Greenwich Village Block Association* is an umbrella group for many Village block associations. They produce an informative newsletter. To learn more go to www.gvba.org.

The Villager has become our strongest voice in the community; we recommend supporting the paper. Get a subscription! It is also available on line at news@thevillager.com.

The West Village Committee was founded by Jane

Jacobs and her colleagues in the 1960's. Many of the things we value in the West Village were championed by the WVC. Like many associations (the HSA is another example) as times and the population change, their role may be unclear. To contact the WVC you can Email Peter Falk at peter.falk@verizon.net.

PARKING CHANGES ON HORATIO STREET

DEFEATED — CB2's Traffic and Transportation Committee proposed changing Horatio Street from Washington to Hudson to alternate side of the street parking instead of our present rule keeping cars from Horatio Street during the week. A reason our block is considered so lovely is that it does not have cars parked on it 7 days a week. Due to a concerted effort, CB2 was convinced; the regulations will remain with no parking Monday-Friday 8AM to 6PM

SPRING PLANTING — The planting of our tree pits will take place close to Memorial Day when the caladium bulbs go in. To be included in the planting please contact Mark at mark@markmarkheim.com. Due to the Florida hurricanes, bulbs are scarce, but we will try our best.

TOM DUANE'S TOWN HALL MEETING — The meeting on Bars and Nightlife was well attended. CB2's Traffic & Transportation Committee will convene a meeting with the Department of Transportation to discuss issues regarding the Gansevoort Plaza. The standards regarding the issuance of restaurant and bar licenses will be investigated and changes pursued. In this regard some progress can be noted and there is hope that the community will finally have more say in these matters. Since the meeting 2 applications, one by the Hotel Gansevoort and the other by McKenna's Bar on 14th Street, have been denied. In both cases they were seeking to expand existing licenses.

MEETING HOSTED BY HOTEL GANSEVOORT

—The community was invited to the Hotel Gansevoort on April 6 to hear their plans to reduce the "jet airplane" noise that emits, 24/7, from the back of the hotel. Promise were given that all adjustments would be complete by May

6. There was a good turnout & hopefully nearby neighbors will join the HSA and we can expand our membership and our eMail list. The Hotel Gansevoort has received several fines and was recently denied an expanded liquor license. The interest in the community increased accordingly. Wine and hors d's were served but some guests expressed cynicism. Many people have been greatly impacted by the noise; the problem must be resolved. Write to: Diana M. Schneider, EPA, Bureau of Environmental Compliance, 57-17 Junction Blvd., Flushing, 11373-5108. You can also call 212-442-1886 and ask for Rudy Pacqua.

LOSSES, CHANGES, & RUMORS

- 163 Charles Street, built in the 1840s was demolished recently while protestors looked on. This property runs to historic Charles Lane which is now permanently affected.
- 360 West 11th Street, once a former carriage house and now owned by Julian Schnabel, the artist, may become an apartment tower. The only way to stop this would seem to have the Far West Village landmarked and this process is moving slowly if at all. To get involved we suggest joining the GVSHP.
- Another endangered species is The Superior Ink Company at Bethune and West Street. This may potentially become a *huge* residential site. By April 26 we should have a report on the first zoning meeting.
- *In the rumor category:* Sanbruca, a lovely antique store on Bleecker is gone; Abercombie and Fitch will move in. Hudson Street Papers must leave due to higher rent. Sacred Chow is relocating to the Washington Square area due to a rent increase.
- *67 Horatio Street* was sold last fall. It was bought in 1954 by 3 people who ran it as a partnership. The downstairs unit changed hands several times in the last decade; the last person to really live in the house was Henry Senber, whom we remember so fondly. He died in June of 2003. The house was sold, we believe, to a Brazilian couple who plan to restore it to a one family home (with elevator, of course.)

Old News

from the New York Times, February 8, 1886

A CHURCH WITH A HISTORY

75th BIRTHDAY OF BEDFORD-STREET METHODISTS.

Thirty-three ministers preceded the Rev. John B. Cookman in the Pastorate of the Bedford Street Methodist Episcopal Church. The church celebrated its 75th birthday yesterday... There was a "love feast" at 9:30 A. M., a regular service at 11 o'clock, a layman's meeting at 3 o'clock, and an evening service...

The first Methodist congregation in this city...was organized...in 1766. There were five members and they held their meetings in the carpenter's shop of Samuel Walgrove in Greenwich Village. On Saturday afternoon Walgrove swept his shop and put a number of deal (*oak*) benches in position and the church was ready... Greenwich Village, the upper part of New-York, (*was*) separated from the city proper by a considerable distance.... There were 12 cross streets in the village. There wasn't a store north of Canal-street....There were five markets: the Bear, Fly, Oswego, Exchange and Hudson. In those early days the savings banks were unknown. The Postmaster lived in the Post Office building and the Potter's Field was ... Washington Square.

In 1811 the date of the organization of the Bedford St. Methodist congregation, the 1st steam ferry was run between New York and Hoboken...the congregation...bought...lots in Bedford St. where it connects with Morton St. On these they erected a frame building with 2 entrances, one for the women and the other for the men, and for several years there was a dividing line between the sexes during divine "worship." The pulpit of the old church was a high box and among the church's traditions is one that when Freeborn Garrison was preaching in it he brought his fist down on the book board in the pulpit so earnestly that he split it into two pieces. Strong opposition manifested itself when it was proposed to carpet the floor and put blinds on the windows, but the work was done before the opposition was well organized. The sanded floor had seen its last days. The cornerstone of the old church was laid by John Robinson and the dedicatory sermon was preached by Dr. Phoebus. Night services were held by candle light and a company of young men...afterward escorted the minister "across lots" to his home. The 1st revival of consequence...was held by the Rev. Samuel Howe. In 1830, during the ministry of Samuel D. Ferguson, the sanctuary was enlarged and a new altar was built. The old church was occupied during the erection of the present brick structure. Dr. Rice preached the last sermon in the old church. The present church building was erected in 1840. It cost \$522,500. In 1874 the congregation bought a parsonage and today the church. Mr. Cookman thinks it as well equipped as any Methodist Episcopal church on Manhattan Island. It is... a church for the masses, and all who come to it are welcome. The church was demolished when 7th Avenue was cut through. *To see a photo, please go to our web page at www.gvba.org*

Lecture & Book Signing: Edward Hopper in His Studio with author Avis Berman

Wed., April 20, 6:00pm. Edward Hopper Studio, 4th Fl., NYU School of Social Work, 1 Washington Sq. N at Waverly (enter on University) — \$10 for GVSHP members, \$15 for non-members. PAYMENT IN ADVANCE; Mail checks payable to GVSHP — 232 East 11th Street, NY, NY 10003. Call 212 475 9585.

Resources & Information

New York Magazine reports that Cablevision's alternative-plan to the Jets West Side Stadium which includes a 5,800 residential complex etc. was said to be, according to **Alex Krieger**, former chairman of the Dept. of Urban Planning at Harvard University, in line with **Jane Jacob's** vision i.e. "sensible, people oriented planning." When Jacobs was reached by the magazine to find out her reponse to the allusion, she was unfamiliar with Krieger's work and said, "The Harvard School of Design has never been much of a mentor of mine...They've never respected the city street or the vitality of cities. They got terribly fond of Le Corbusier." Corbusier believed that city living should be stressful, it's part of the deal. Jacobs doesn't like the Jets Stadium either. adding, "That's an awful way to to use valuable land in Manhattan."

The Merchant's House Museum is conserving its collection of 30 19th century dresses that belonged to the Tredwell's. When complete, these dresses will be presented to the public. Pictured is a cream silk faille dress with green taffeta trim circa 1856. On Sunday, April 10th at 5:30pm the Museum features **Salon Music in the Parlors: "Farewell, Father, Friends and Guardian"**, a tribute of songs written in 1865 to commemorate Lincoln's death. On May 1 from 10:00am to Noon the Museum will sell plant divisions and seedlings. Call 212 777 1089 for reservations and more information.



The **Related Companies** has filed plans with the Department of Buildings to construct the tallest tower on "the Gold Coast," as the Greenwich Village waterfront is known. The **Superior Ink** factory, a Nabisco bakery when it opened in 1919, at 70 Bethune St. would be destroyed to make way for a 20 story high-rise to reach 225 feet, 15 feet taller than the **Richard Meier** glass towers. The amoeba-shaped tower would overlook the Hudson River; townhouses would be built along Bethune. Reportedly, the developer has been meeting with the Department of City Planning about a possible rezoning. The site is zoned for manufacturing, not for residential use. To build the 104-unit high rise, Related would need a larger floor-area ratio than the zoning allows. The factory site has a floor area of 32,210 square feet and a FAR of 1.76, which would allow the construction of a building of about 56,600 square feet. The proposed build-

ing would be 216,899 square feet, requiring a FAR close to seven. That could be achieved only through a rezoning or a variance.

March 25's *Daily News* featured the new **Balducci's** set to open at W. 14th Street and Eighth Avenue. The old bank building has a 50 foot ceiling, a dome and stained glass windows. In addition to foods, there will be a restaurant on the mezzanine and a kitchen in the basement. It's set to open this coming summer. The store is part of a plan to open more than 100 specialty food stores on the East Coast.

March 28's *Time* magazine reviews 2 new NewYork novels. Thomas Kelly's **Empire Rising**, set in the 1930s, features "a good natured Irishman named Michael Brody, (who is) riveting together the skeleton of the Empire State Building, which at the peak of construction grew a floor a day." Elizabeth Gaffney's **Metropolis** tells "of a hapless, nameless young German immigrant, fresh off the boat in 1860 who has a knack for falling into complicated plots," becoming part of a gang called the Whyos who are selected for their singing ability as well as their aptitude for skulduggery.

Government News

On February 2 the New York City Council passed an **amendment to the Landmarks Law** co-sponsored by **Councilmember Christine Quinn**. The allows the Landmarks Preservation Commission more enforcement authority in dealing with property owners who allow their landmarked properties to sit in disrepair to the point of creating irreversible damage.

A person believed to be responsible for **locksmith stickers** from L&M locksmiths and 24 HR Emergency Locksmith was served with 500 — that's right— Notices of Violation for posting these illegal stickers. The hearing was held on March 8th at the Environmental Control Board. **Department of Sanitation Commissioner John Doherty** responded to requests from **Councilmember Christine Quinn's** office that the 2004 law be enforced.

Our elected representatives— Councilmember Christine Quinn, Assemblymember Deborah Glick, Congressman Tom Duane and Congressman Jerrold Nadler — have reached out to a list of **adult use establishments** to begin a dialogue with the owners of these businesses so that the problem of offensive window displays and inappropriate signage can begin to be addressed.

The Greenwich Village Block Associations has a web site (www.gvba.org) Newsletters are available in PDF format on line. Each member block association has its own web page.

Neighborhood Notes & Notables

The **Cherry Lane Theater** celebrates 80 years with a performance by Edward Albee and the cast of *Slag Heap*. The Cherry Lane Theater is located at 38 Commerce Street. 212 989 2020 or www.cherrylanetheater.org

P.S. 41's annual fundraiser raised a record \$100,000. Two pieces of kindergarten art were the big-ticket items selling at \$4,100 and \$4,200 at an auction held in the Puck Building on March 18th. A group of around 20 volunteers solicited donations and received over 600 individual items as well as food and entertainment for the event. The biggest donation was the space of the Puck Building itself. The auction consisted of a live bidding auction, and a silent auction that allowed attendees to submit secret bids. It featured live mariachi music and a D.J.; local businesses donated hors d'oeuvres, desserts and beverages. The money goes to the school's extra programs that don't receive public money, including art, music, chess, theater and special speakers.

Who knew that **Ian Ginsberg**, the 3rd generation owner of **Bigelow's**, was so cute? The latest *Vanity Fair* magazine features Ginsberg photographed in the internationally Village pharmacy. According to the piece, by the 1970s more than a million prescriptions had been filled there.

According to *The Villager* **Peter D. Lax**, emeritus professor and former director of NYU's Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences, won the \$980,000 Abel Prize from the Norwegian Academy of Science for his work in theoretical and applied mathematics. The citation credits Lax with "laying the foundations for the modern theory of nonlinear differential equations and for devising methods of computing solutions that have practical applications ranging from weather prediction to aircraft design." We don't know what that means, but it's impressive. Lax receives the Prize from **King Harold V of Norway** in Oslo on May 24.

If you've seen **Glenn Close** in her new role as Captain Monica Rawling on *The Shield* you may not know that she was mentored for it by the 6th Precinct's own **Deputy Inspector Theresa Shortell**. As reported in February 22 *Daily News*, Close says, "She is phenomenal. She is a woman who has been the only woman for most of her career. And her most telling comment: The hardest thing about the the job was being a woman and having it not matter." DI Shortell assumed her new command in October. Exerpt from *The Daily News* at www.gvba.org

Squelching rumors that he's trying to wiggle out of the deal restaurateur **Jean-Georges Vongrichten** opens his eatery in

the Richard Meier towers on Perry Street this spring. Interior designer Thomas Juul-Hansen, designed the 25-seat bar and 60-seat dining room. Apparently, there's trouble at the Meier building; they're having difficulty staffing doormen. The job reportedly pays \$18 an hour so what's the problem?

Joe's coffee cafe (141 Waverly Place) devoted to "the art of coffee" has opened a new branch at 9 East 13th Street, The specialty of the house is a satisfying 12-ounce latte (\$3.65) decorated with a pattern of leaves or hearts. Owner **Jonathan Rubinstein** says the new cafe has more space for selling coffee beans and equipment and for giving classes about coffee. Joe's takes "the bean" very seriously.

As reported in *The Star*, **Matthew McConaughey** and **Penelope Cruz** have joined the celebrity horde hanging out in the Village. They were spotted — twice — at the Minetta Tavern during the first week of March.

The Village has its own **Christo**. Minetta's **Marjorie Kouns** places her "Well-lit Chess Pieces," in the corners of Washington Sq. Park from April 23 to Sept. 23. On March 16 the North Fork Bank (W. 4th & Sixth) held a fundraiser to help reach the project's goal of \$55,000. According to Kouns, "It's about the viewer as participant." 26 lampshades will hang over the park's lampposts. The installation is sponsored by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. The chess pieces (3 - 6 ft. high) include a king, a queen, a bishop, 2 knights, 2 rooks and 4 pawns made of iron rods, encased with chicken wire with thousands of Formica-tile counter-top chips — and MetroCards — secured to the mesh. The 26 flame-retardant canvas shades are coated with acrylic pigments and glaze sealant and will be secured to the lampposts with aviation cables and U bolts.

Daily Candy is a daily internet message service telling you what's new and hot....clever advertising, really. March 9's Daily Candy contained the following plug for one of our

CANDIES local bookeries — **You So Smart — Left Bank Books** (304 West 4th Street, between Bank and West 12th Streets; 212-924-5638) peddles used, rare, and out-of-print titles. Everything from art books to first editions — many starting at \$3. Now that's a best-seller.



6th Precinct Community Council Meeting
Wednesday - April 24, 2005
Our Lady of Pompeii (Carmines & Bleecker)
The meeting begins at 7:30pm; residents wishing to speak should arrive at 7:00pm.