



## Arthur Schwartz stealing George's last toy



For 20 years George Capsis has printed West View news for the readers of the West Village, asking to restore a hospital and build a heart emergency laboratory; to replace a hospital we had for more than 100 years and to build an emergency room for heart attacks. That emergency room called a Cath lab will soon be a reality. (We are waiting for state approval) and perhaps the first person whose life is saved in that facility will say thank you for WestView News.

By George Capsis

Oh, Wow, I am in the New York Times on February 24th and then on March the 20th The New Yorker magazine does another article on how attorney Arthur Schwartz and one or two staffers is attempting to steal my newspaper, WestView News.

At the same time staffers and supporters of Pacifica radio are picketing his office to prevent the sale of their L.A. Headquarters to pay Arthur Schwartz a \$150,000 fee.

The Times and the New Yorker are two publications I have read all my life starting almost from boyhood, but it took my getting to be 95 years of age before they wrote about me and put my name in their publications.

My daughter Athena just told me that she has been getting calls from old friends and acquaintances who read about me in one or both of these, but the story is about how an attorney I have known for years is trying to steal my newspaper .

I have read these two articles several times to help me to write what I am writing now, which is a kind of introduction and, what distressed me most was that the reporter for the Times and the New Yorker both came to the conclusion that I am crusty and difficult and mentioned my slapping a cop.

Of course there are these kinds of errors in the two articles and of course I think I am not being abrupt but correcting other peoples' misjudgements.

Both articles agree however that Arthur Schwartz, with the help and prompting of one or two former members of the staff, is trying to steal WestView News.

They also offer that most of my old readers feel that what he is trying to do is pretty low.

By far the hardest part for these two articles to understand is the conflict of personalities that perhaps triggered this gross action. But never the less, nothing any one of players has done can justify Arthur Schwartz to very deliberately try and steal, at 95 the very last toy I can expect to have in my life—the very last.

## The Battle for WestView News and the Importance of Unwavering Loyalty to Clients

By Justin T. Kelton

As an attorney who represents publishers, reporters, and media companies, I have been following the conflict between the stalwart WestView News and its breakaway competitor, the "New WestView News" (now known as the "Village View"). I do not represent any of the parties involved, but I have had the pleasure of befriending George Capsis, the legendary publisher of the WestView News.

Based on the information available, Mr. Capsis and his newspaper have been treated terribly by those they trusted, including Mr. Capsis' ex-lawyer, who tried to wrest control of the paper before leaving to form a competitor using a similar name, design, and focus.

Mr. Capsis, who is 95 years old, founded the WestView News more than 20 years ago. Since then, he's been churning out local news that matters to residents of the West Village and downtown New York. He has earned strong support within the community, and counts notable West Village residents like Sarah Jessica Parker among his many fans.

According to media reports, Mr. Capsis



and WestView News were represented for a time by a lawyer who tried to convince Capsis to give him control of the paper. When that failed, the lawyer left the WestView News, took almost the entire staff with him, and started a competing paper. He called it the "New WestView News"—a name that Patch wryly described as "just a bit similar to the original." The Village Sun reported that the competitor "replicate[d] the design of the original paper." And the attorney proudly boasted that his actions might destroy his former client, telling the Sun that WestView "would collapse on its own without any staff."

The WestView News accused the copycat competitor of unfair competition, including infringement of its logo, name, and intellectual property. Shockingly, Mr. Capsis' ex-lawyer responded by suggesting that he had

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# WestView

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the residents of the West Village.

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[westviewnews.org](http://westviewnews.org)

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# WestViews

Correspondence, Commentary, Corrections



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Dearest George,

I am so very sorry for all you are going through and if there is anything at all that my husband and I can do for you please let us know.

George, you are so dear to our hearts, you gave me, a nobody, an opportunity to speak out against the injustice and evil that our landlord was inflicting upon his tenants.

With no experience at all in writing, you gave me a voice. You were always so kind

To whom it may concern,

It's a small world!

What happens in your markets affects us all.

I am a huge fan of the people of the USA, visited many times and today proud to say I have many friends who live in your beautiful country.

I live across the pond in the UK, I am 51 years of age and lived through too many market crashes including 2008.

I have family who live in Seattle and Michigan and felt compelled to write a letter to you and all your readers.

Thank you all for your continued publications and all you do.

2008 we were told MBS and CDS were the cause, that the housing market and Ninja loans the reason.

Hello George,

We can never thank you enough for all you have done to help us to allow the truth to be told what my children and I are going through at the hands of our billionaire landlord Francis Greenburger bending justice.

Without Westview News and you giving us the place to let people know we have been silenced but you allow us to not be silent! We are forever grateful for all you do in the community to better the lives of New Yorkers in so many ways.

With utter respect and appreciation,  
Deborah and Children

To read Deborah's tragic story go online at [WestViewNews.org](http://WestViewNews.org)

and patient with me. Please know that my husband Peter and I will always have the highest regard and admiration for you. So does all the Croman tenants, you helped us so much, Thank you.

I'm not sure you've seen this article. That woman Carol Yost sent it and I usually don't read anything from her but I saw your name and read it. It is sickening.

Arthur Schwartz is a despicable lowlife. He and our slumlord Steve Croman are made up from the same gene pool. I trust

that his Karma awaits him.

George, always stay the beautiful soul you are because you have helped so many people like me and most of all you have made the world a better place.

May God Bless You with his Deepest Graces and Blessings Always.

Our Gratitude and Love,  
Cynthia & Peter Chaffee

We were not told or explained to, on how Banks across the world and the greedy unscrupulous individuals within the industry were directly responsible and after the crash acutely aware that no one was held accountable, no individuals or organisation, no regulatory bodies or CFO's, but we all paid a hefty price though, 12 years of Austerity here in the UK, pay freezes, loss of homes and jobs or worse and now many people, far smarter than I share the same belief that those not held accountable have continued as before, nothing changed.

Naked Short selling and other means of market manipulation raised in 2012 by Darren Saunders RIP, Mark Faulks and many others who appeared in The Documentary The Wall Street Conspiracy are now very much centre of retail investors focus, not only in the USA and Canada but

here in the UK, across Europe and elsewhere, we are aware that these practices have been allowed to escalate to unfathomable numbers and a genuine threat to us all.

We continue our fight, we will not leave, we remember 2008 and how we endured, all we did, only to realise now that all we sacrificed was in vain, not only has nothing changed it has become far, far worse!

We aim to warn as many people as possible, we do all we can to bring light to our concerns, no one warned us before 2008, right now 5-10 million of us do all we can to warn millions and millions of innocent hard working American citizens so they can take a look... we all did.

Kind regards  
Darren Arnold



## WestView Needs You Now !

*If you think it might be fun to work on a newspaper full or even part time and earn some money now is your chance.*

*We need you to visit the restaurants and shops of the Village to give them a free subscription to West View and to take their ads.*

*You make a commission which is yours for as long as the ad runs and you learn something about the newspaper business.*

*If you are a college student studying media communications or a related field of study this is a first hand way to get experience and even become a reporter. It is one thing to learn by listening to a lecture but quite another to actually do and even earn by doing it. ( you must make a six months commitment )*

*Positions are available immediately  
Call George Capsis 212 924. 5718 and come in to 69 Charles for a chat.*

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*Please check out  
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and other important  
information.*

*Don't forget to shop local  
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local small business owners  
across downtown  
Manhattan.*

Scotty is a long time West Village resident, broker, and neighborhood advocate and enthusiast. Go to [westvillagebroker.com](http://westvillagebroker.com) for detailed info on buying/selling/renting, and to support local.

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*By Justin T. Kelton*

COMPASS

# The Battle for WestView News and the Importance of Unwavering Loyalty to Clients

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inside knowledge that Mr. Capsis did not trademark the name “WestView,” because the lawyer had represented Mr. Capsis and WestView. According to Curbed, the lawyer then threatened to sue his former client, Mr. Capsis.

Reporters covering the situation pondered whether Mr. Capsis was “afraid” of his former lawyer (“of course not,” he says). But in my opinion, that question obscures the real issue: a lawyer’s apparent decision to go to war against his former client.

The duty of unwavering loyalty is a cornerstone of the legal profession. An attorney’s loyalty to clients is not only an ethical obligation, but a moral imperative. Lawyers are entrusted with enormous responsibility to advocate aggressively for their clients’ best interests, and to represent them with zealous devotion. At our best, attorneys should fight on all fronts—in court, at the negotiating table, and in the public sphere—to help our clients advocate, persuade, and succeed. This obligation extends beyond the confines of any one case or matter, and encompasses the broader relationship between the attorney and client.

Yes, there are sometimes fee disputes or other minor issues that cannot be avoided. But the conflict between the WestView

News and its former attorney is something very different: an attempt by a lawyer to stage a takeover of his client’s business and, failing that, to destroy it. It should go without saying that trying to harm a client is not only ethically questionable, but also violates an attorney’s moral obligations to safeguard client confidences, avoid conflicts, and protect the trust of the clients they are sworn to serve. It is also just bad business. What client would want a lawyer who may stage a mutiny to further his own interests?

Ultimately, those who seek to manipulate and exploit the trust of their clients must be held accountable. The WestView News saga should serve as a wake-up call to all of us to remain vigilant and steadfast in our commitment to transparency, integrity, ethical

behavior, and most important, loyalty. New York City residents and advertisers have a choice in what papers they support. If they value loyalty, they should support the original—Mr. Capsis and the WestView News.

*Justin T. Kelton is a partner and Co-Chair of the Litigation Department at Abrams Fensterman, LLP. His practice focuses on complex commercial litigation. He can be reached at 718-215-5300 or [jkelton@abramslaw.com](mailto:jkelton@abramslaw.com). This article represents Mr. Kelton’s personal opinions only, and does not constitute legal advice.*

*By Justin T. Kelton*

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## Neighborhood

## The Ballad of Arthur Schwartz

By Paul DeRienzo

The drama surrounding lawyer and Village district leader Arthur Schwartz took a dark turn in March as more of his clients screamed foul at the counselors heavy handed legal tactics. As readers to WestView News know Arthur Schwartz is a long time contributor to the paper who fell out with the paper's founder George Capsis when Schwartz allegedly tried to walk away with the publication.

The resulting conflict led to a blizzard of articles and angry letters to various publications and a possible lawsuit against Schwartz as well as a competing paper led by Schwartz using dissident staff.

The brouhaha eventually fueled a series of ongoing protests at Schwartz' Broadway offices that united a growing network of folks with a bone to pick with the self-described labor lawyer. Among the participants besides Capsis were Act-Up stalwart Dana Beal and members of not-for-profit radio station WBAI.

It's unusual coalescence between the iconic radio station, made famous by broadcasting the "George Carlin's Seven Dirty Words You Can't Say on Television" skit and prompting a legal case on obscenity that went to the United Supreme Court, and the popular community newspaper found by the 95-year old irascible publisher.

The two share one common feature, a relationship with Arthur Schwartz that turned sour.

WBAI activist Allie Murphy says Schwartz wants to sell valuable property belonging to the Pacifica Foundation, WBAI's owner, while undermining Los Angeles sister station KPFFK. She says the reasons that Schwartz, who is the Foundation's legal counsel, is pushing the sale is to get paid \$150,000 he's owed.

In an exclusive interview Schwartz tells this reporter selling the KPFFK building is a good idea. He claims commercial LA property is not appreciating in value because of COVID and the money is needed to retire several million dollars in debts. The question nobody has been asking is how Schwartz came to have such outsized influence with the Pacifica Foundation.

According to Schwartz he came to the job of representing Pacifica when he blocked the Foundation from firing his client at the time, current WBAI General Manager Berthold Reimers, who rewarded him with



Attorney Arthur Schwartz was picketed at his office at 225 Broadway for attempting to sell the offices of KPFFK in Los Angeles to pay his legal fees of \$150,000. Photo credit: Dusty Berke

a show on WBAI, until Pacifica took WBAI off the air for a month in a dispute that made it to Federal court after Schwartz filed for restraining order returning WBAI to its staff.

The Pacifica Foundation is the outfit that owns WBAI and four other stations, KPFA in the San Francisco Bay Area, KPFFK in Los Angeles, WPFW in Washington, DC and KPFT in Houston, Texas as well as New York based WBAI. According to numerous observers the Foundation failed over the past two decades to modernize its 60s radicalism and match the needs of current movements like Occupy Wall Street, and Black Lives Matter. Insiders say the management dream is mainstreaming WBAI, but those attempts have severely divided its fractious community into bitterly opposing camps.

A former KPFA board member Steve Zeltzer says "there's been an effort to corporatize Pacifica, and make it more like NPR (National Public Radio)." Zeltzer adds some board members (all five stations have an outsized 25-member board that elects members to a similarly sized national board) "especially at KPFA are of the view it should not be a democratic institution, but self-appointed boards."

Zeltzer says the biggest problem is that the "corporatizers" oppose covering live protests and have punished or removed broadcasters who promote actions against police brutality, white supremacists and other demonstrations. The Program Director once exclaimed to me when I was guest hosting Bob Fass' show "Radio Unnameable" "Are trying to get 3000 to come to a protest?" I answered, "a lot more than that if possible." I was removed from the show soon after despite strong listener support.

The conflict within Pacifica came to a head in October 2019, when a newly hired Pacifica Executive Director John Verniel and others showed up at WBAI's Brooklyn studios ripping equipment from the walls, shutting down the station and replacing programming with canned broadcasts originating from California. WBAI was off the air for a month during frantic legal proceedings and the lawyer representing the station against Pacifica was Arthur Schwartz.

Afterwards the Pacifica National Board voted to fire Verniel, but Zeltzer says they board members "were never held accountable." The problem says Zeltzer is the same people who remain on the Pacifica National Board who wanted to shut down WBAI

and they want to delay elections by ignoring bylaws that require a board member to leave office after 6 years. Adding, the lawyer for the faction trying to eliminate elections for board members is Arthur Schwartz.

Schwartz says he learned about Pacifica's byzantine election process from his experience suing the Foundation on behalf of his predecessor General Counsel Dan Silverman who Schwartz says was owed \$100,000. Money that came after a default judgement. Schwartz agrees that Pacifica has a history of not paying its lawyers.

"I haven't been paid in a year, 600 hours of work, and you know what my grand hourly rate is? \$250 an hour," says Schwartz.

But Schwartz continues, "My recommendation for selling the [KPFFK] building wasn't for getting my 150 grand, believe me. Schwartz says the Pacifica Foundation is in deep debt and has no cash to hire any national staff except for Executive Director Stephanie Wells, who Schwartz says he helped get the job. He says paid staff are more important than volunteers from bringing in cash.

Zeltzer disagrees that Schwartz has any altruistic motives. He says some Board members "want to sell off parts of the net

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## Neighborhood

# The Ballad of Arthur Schwartz



Rachel Barr of WBAI says the loss of WBAI station because of Schwartz will be met by more street protests. Photo credit: A Dope Artist

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work” and that Schwartz has a “conflict of interest” because he’s owed money.

Zeltzer claims Schwartz is “only going to get paid at this point by the sell-off of the assets of Pacifica.” The asset in question is a building used as a studio for KPFK in Los Angeles. It’s already been listed by Pacifica for about \$5 million. According to Zeltzer some of the Board members pushing the sale “voted for John Verniel” before his attempted WBAI takeover.

Who’s is attorney Arthur Schwartz?

A 2006 book “Solidarity for Sale: How Corruption Destroyed the Labor Movement and Undermined America’s Promise” by Robert Fitch describes Schwartz as resembling a “Wheaton terrier in a drip-dry suit,” adding “when this legal terrier sinks his teeth into an adversary’s ankle, the pain has just begun.” The excerpt continues, “[Schwartz’s] attack escalates in a flurry of lawsuits and biting newspaper leaks. It often ends with the mangled union leader limping off into retirement and Schwartz’s client in his place.”

Fisk goes on to recall the story of how back in the 1990s Schwartz helped a “reform” candidate in a major city union. According to Fisk a reform lawyer’s job is to ward off suits from opponents while collecting “lucrative retainers.” In one 1999 incident

Schwartz, “made Gus Bevona, the powerful boss of the SEIU’s Local 32BJ, disappear...,” by exchanging the dropping of a suit in return for Bevona’s retirement with a “\$1.5 million settlement.”

A lawsuit that has been wending its way through the courts accuses Schwartz of engineering a “stolen” election for presidency of the Transit Workers Union Local 100 in 2021. Train Conductor and Local 100 Executive Board member Evangeline Byars alleges in federal court filings that a union president, Anthony Utano engaged in “voter suppression tactics,” to disqualify her just days before the election was held.

Byars argues she was cleared to run by the TWU Election Committee with Schwartz as the committees lawyer. Byars claims her dues were current as of April 28th, 2021, but two days later the union said “she had lost her good standing for failure to pay her dues.” It was one week of dues, paid more than a month late. Byars says the union failed to send her a required 30-days notice for unpaid dues. She sued claiming her disqualification was unreasonable, but initially lost.

Schwartz represented Utano, the Transit Workers Union and its Local 100 simultaneously in the case.

In an email dated April 28th, 2021, before she was disqualified, Byars asks Local 100 Secretary-Treasurer Earl Phillips to provide her with instructions on applying for a waiver of the dues requirement. She writes in the email that no one in the office would help her.

In a video posted to her website shortly after she was disqualified Byars states directly, “this election was stolen.” She continues saying the theft was “orchestrated by Arthur Schwartz and the election committee.” Schwartz cooked up a “well devised scheme... that violated the by-laws of the unions to “disqualify members who wanted to participate in this coming election cycle.” She accuses Schwartz and the election committee of the union of changing the rules to “suppress the vote and block who could participate” in the election.

In a recent interview Byars tells the West View News that her suit is still in the courts and she maintains the Svengali figure behind her disqualification in the election was Attorney Schwartz.

But Schwartz says Byars has nobody but herself to blame. “She had month to pay her dues,” he says, “she was given notice, the rules are the rules, fair or unfair, and if you are going to enforce a rule fairly so it isn’t subject to manipulation improperly, you enforce the rule. If you have to cross every T and for every I. You cross every T and dot every I.”

Protests!  
WBAI listeners and other activists have been gathering for weekly protests at Arthur Schwartz’s offices at 225 Broadway near City Hall. In both actions 95-year old West View News publisher George Capsis has attended. He has his own bone to pick with Schwartz who Capsis claims has “attempted, attempted to copy my newspaper and take it over.” Capsis says Schwartz

wrote to the papers “key writers,” accusing the paper of a right-ward drift to siphon off writers to a new paper and trying to “cancel me out.”

Schwartz, disagrees. He says he represented George in several cases including one case where Capsis allegedly slapped a cop. A case that led to a \$50,000 settlement against the city for a broken eye-socket.

Schwartz says Capsis asked for his help and the attorney offered to purchase a 1% stake in the event Capsis died. Schwartz says his small stake would allow him to keep control of the paper in the hands of the staff.

But according to Capsis, the contract with Schwartz for 1% ownership of the paper was never fulfilled. Capsis says he checked with his accountant and Schwartz “never satisfied the requirements” of the deal. Schwartz “runs for public office almost every year,” says Capsis, adding, “the city has a program where they match the funds the individual candidate raises to run for office.” Capsis says, “Arthur had in mind giving me 1% when he ran for office and the city handed him money he would give me a percentage of that money.”

Capsis still publishes the bimonthly paper, while Schwartz publishes his own monthly called “The Village View,” the most recent issue has a cover story about the fascist Proud Boys attacks on Drag Story Hour events in the city this Spring.

Schwartz says he’s too busy to publish a newspaper and is looking to hand over the publisher job to a progressive replacement. He lays the blame on what he claims is the decline The WestView News on Capsis’ caregiver Dusty Berke. He accuses Berke of sleeping in the same bed as Capsis.

Berke responded that “it’s appalling” how Schwartz, “tried to taint my behavior by insinuating I sleep in bed with George.” Berke explains, “I sleep in bed fully clothed except for my shoes every night, because George got COVID and I took care of him through COVID.” Berke adds, “Arthur, who knows I’m not f\*\*\*\* George, wants me to have that reputation.”

Meanwhile, WBAI board member Rachel Barr is also a producer at the station and says the loss of WBAI or any other Pacifica station because of Schwartz or any other mischief by station managers will be met by street protests.

*Paul DeRienzo is news director for the Progressive Radio Network and host of a news magazine The Torch. You can catch The Torch on PRN.live every Sunday at 1PM EST. You can also hear Paul’s news on his website [paulderienzo.com](http://paulderienzo.com) or on Apple podcasts, on [TuneIn.com](http://TuneIn.com) and at his page on Soundcloud. Search The News with Paul DeRienzo for the latest episode.*

By Paul DeRienzo



# Maggie B

## LEFT BANK

CLOSED TODAY  
FROM 11AM-4PM  
FOR THE  
MEMORIAL SERVICE  
OF OUR FRIEND  
MAGGIE BERKVIST



Maggie B spoke slowly and carefully like a ceremonial March across Buckingham palace grounds. You listened and delighted in her imperial speech. She quietly savored life and slowly drank it in like her afternoon cocktail at the Left Bank. I will miss her voice, I will miss her words and I will miss her presence but I will savor her memory  
*George*



# WestView is Your Voice

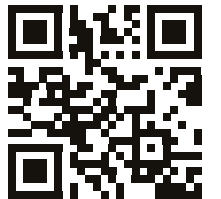


For 20 years George Capsis has printed West View news for the readers of the West Village, asking to restore a hospital and build a heart emergency laboratory; to replace a hospital we had for more than 100 years and to build an emergency room for heart attacks. That emergency room called a Cath lab will soon be a reality. (We are waiting for state approval) and perhaps the first person whose life is saved in that facility will say thank you for WestView News.



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## Neighborhood

# Climate Change: Does It Portend Irreversible Disaster? Can We Make A Difference?

By Roberta Russell

**T**here is a 1.1-degree Celsius rise in the global temperature. This is not a barely noticeable difference, requiring just the removal of your sweater. What does this much-examined thermometer rise mean?

To answer, Dr. Noam Chomsky, the founder of modern linguistics, author of over 100 books, and one of the most influential public intellectuals in the world, appeared online on March 16th, 2023 at the age of 94, clear as a bell pealing for our salvation. Under the aegis of the University of Arizona where he teaches, he presented a profound, dire, and publicly accessible message on the causes and consequences of climate change. Directly following Biden's approval of drilling for oil in the Alaskan wilderness, Chomsky's video, *The Future of Our World*, was posted at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dUOvpIOAmYk->, where you can hear his sage presentation. Please share it with your friends.

"The climate crisis, the environmental crisis...has to be dealt with in the next few years or else human society is essentially finished," Chomsky said. Asked if we will muster the will for change, equity, prosperity, and sustainability, he said: "There is no answer. We have maybe a couple of decades in which we can control the heating of the environment, the destruction of habitat, which is the destruction of the oceans, which is just going to lead to total catastrophe. It's not that everybody is going to die at once. We are going to reach irreversible tipping points. After that it is just steady decline. Look at the Middle East region, one of the most rapidly heating areas of the world. Projections by the end of the century...are that the sea level in the Mediterranean will rise about 10 feet. South Asians are now trying to survive temperatures in the 120s F. Less than 10 percent of the population even has air conditioning. It's unlivable. There is going to be enormous migration with people fleeing from areas of the world which are now uninhabitable. What's coming is completely unspeakable."

According to [climate.nasa.gov](https://climate.nasa.gov), while earth's climate has changed throughout its



history, the current warming is happening at a rate not seen in the past 10,000 years. Climate change alters the water cycles of the earth. For every one-degree centigrade rise in temperature, the atmosphere absorbs seven percent more precipitation.

Chomsky implores, "Destroying the world is much more profitable to fossil fuel companies than sustainable energy. Do we have the will to change that?" he asks rhetorically. "The answer had better be yes, or else the human experiment is finished, not in the distant future, but in the lifetimes of our grandchildren," he answers. He is not talking about eons from now. It's up to us to decide.

You may be surprised to learn that the cattle and livestock industry plays a more important role in global warming than transportation and buildings do. Jeremy Rifkin, author of *The Age of Resilience, Reimagining Existence on a Rewilding Earth* (2022, St. Martin's Press) and 21 other books, passionately tells us that there are 1.5 billion cows on this planet. More than emissions from transportation, the methane (25 times more potent per molecule than CO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrous oxide (298 times more potent per molecule than CO<sub>2</sub>) given off by farm ani-

mals have an even greater effect on climate change. These animals inhabit 26 percent of all the available landmass on the earth.

There is a mysterious silence about this major cause of global warming. The focus has been on fossil fuels, even though according to the legendary T. Colin Campbell, PhD, author of *The China Study*, with Thomas Campbell, MD, at least 70 percent of climate change is caused by animal farming. The most dedicated, high-minded, and accomplished climate scientist whose findings I have read, Sailesh Rao, PhD, has since published that this estimate is closer to 80-90 percent. His video, *The Surprising Truth About the Leading Cause of Climate Change*, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2hjjHXKUQA&t=2899s>, reveals the evidence.

In a world in which double the meat production is expected by 2050, Dr. Rao, founder and executive director of Climate Healers, warns that this is not sustainable. He offers some achievable solutions at [www.climatehealers.org](http://www.climatehealers.org), complete with a phone app that will plug you in.

Because we are attached to a beef culture, discussion of substituting more foods that are "lower" on the food chain has not been

considered as seriously as it should be. This is leading to catastrophe. Let's raise our consciousness and get connected. Learn what is true and what is right.

Eat more whole plant-based food, and less or even no meat. Call your neighbors, join activist groups, pressure Congress. There are endless opportunities to combat climate change.

© Roberta Russell, March 22, 2023, New York City

*Roberta Russell is the founder of the New York Calorie and Exercise Logging Group and author of R.D. Laing & Me: Lessons in Love with R.D. Laing (Hillgarth Press, 1992), Report on Effective Psychotherapy: Legislative Testimony (Hillgarth Press, 1981, 1984, 1994), and Report on Permanent Weight Loss (Columbia Academic Commons, 2017).*

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## Neighborhood

# SOME TRUTHS ABOUT UTILITY SMART METERS: SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED?

By Jill McManus

**H**ave you recently been informed by your utility, such as Con Edison, that they will be installing a digital “smart” meter in your home, or in your apartment building, or in your small business? The company is touting how much it will save you in costs, and how this safe wireless technology can help you lower energy use (not to mention allowing the company to cut employees and save a lot of money that never gets returned to the public.) Did you see a line in tiny script at the end of the notice offering you a chance to opt out? Didn’t do it? Whoops – you have implied that you consent.

The next notice will say you never responded to allow the installation, giving you another 30 days or else you’ll be charged \$100 a month for failure to provide access to your home. If they slip by when you’re out and install one on your wall and you later want it removed, they will also charge you a fee of \$104. Then they will charge you \$9.50 per month to send a meter reader for which you will be billed monthly or bi-monthly. The utility doesn’t reveal, nor does it care about, the health effects from your continuous exposure to radio frequency radiation (RFR) and electromagnetic radiation (EMR) by the



smart meter on your home, nor from the electrosmog, called “dirty electricity,” from oscillations and harmonics that ride the wires back into your rooms. Unlike cell phones, these meters cannot be turned off, so it’s 24/7 exposure. Emissions from your meter, or sometimes from a meter on a street pole nearby, are also blasting passers-by. For those who are electromagnetically sensitive (EMS), exposure to a smart meter can be a fast track to illness and disability, as many people have discovered.

Some of the symptoms of those exposed include: insomnia, headaches, malaise, tinnitus, eye problems, skin rashes, heart palpitations, fatigue, balance problems, brain fog, memory loss and learning difficulties, all signs of radiation sickness.

**A Trojan Horse on Your Wall?**

Smart meters are part of the Trojan horse

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of experimental 5G technology that we are being brainwashed to believe will improve our lives. While the technology makes some parts of daily life easier and offers engaging distractions, cell phones have taken over our attention, while our natural abilities and social skills have withered. Many people have never looked up from their cell phones to notice the enormous buildout of cell towers and rooftop base-

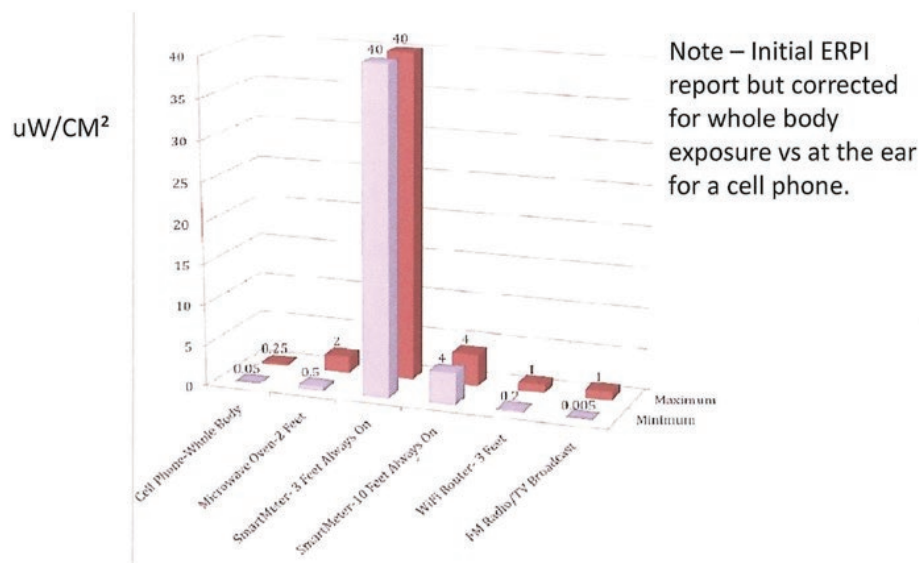


Analog meter with dials

stations sending their invisible electrical pollution through the air, trapping us in a giant fishnet of beamed signals. Nor thought about the ability of these transmitters, using a frequency slicing technique, to deliver blasts of skin-heating microwaves for crowd control (the military’s “Active Denial”). The public is not informed of a tower’s specs such as range, power or exact beam radius, and FOIL requests have so far been unanswered. In our homes, we can at least minimize exposure by going wired, and keeping an analog meter. Our exposure in the streets is involuntary non-consensual, and unavoidable. Are we committing connecticide?

Scientific studies are finding that the accumulated exposures, even at low levels, are causing oxidative stress that affects our

## The Truth on RF Emissions



Source – Dr. Daniel Hirsch on the CCST Report

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organs, and lowers our immune system. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36605238/>

Allowing corporations to endanger public health for short-term profit while creating future debts for us is, unfortunately, an ingrained habit of unregulated capitalism. Most insurance companies do not cover radiation harms. Major telecom companies, including T-Mobile, AT&T and Verizon,



“Smart” meter with digital readout

acknowledge the future liabilities in their annual reports. Self-driving cars, if safety is to be achievable, will be covered with radar instruments, linking to the beams of traffic control at all times (and thus controllable by others).

Unlike cell phones that radiate radio frequencies mostly into the head and ear (or breast or testicles if carelessly carried), smart meters radiate through the whole body and all living things nearby, and can emit as much power as a cell tower. [INSERT: Chart –The Truth on RF Emissions –CSST Report]

A generally recommended minimum safe distance from a smart meter is 40 feet, while their emissions can extend some 1,500 feet. Yet the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) radiation emissions “guideline” only calls

for keeping a distance of 20 centimeters, or about 8 inches, from the front of a meter. Some are installed right next to mailboxes by a front door or in a hallway.

However, the FCC guidelines, set in 1996, are now in question. After the agency’s refusal in 2019 to review their outdated guidelines, a lawsuit was brought by the Environmental Health Trust/ and Children’s Health Defense Fund. In August, 2021, the D.C. District Court of Appeals ruled that the FCC’s decision not to review – despite 11,000 pages of scientific evidence and personal testimonies to the biological harms that occur at levels well below the current limits – was “arbitrary and capricious.” The FCC was remanded to return to court and explain the reason for their refusal. To date they have not done so. Regulatory lag will cost lives

The old analog utility meters, which work safely for 30-50 years, measure the total amount of power used over a period of time, and must be read by an employee, although some homeowners obtain and report their own readings to the utility. An early version of wireless meters (AMR) was “one-way” and allowed collection from a passing truck.

The new digital “smart” meters (Advanced Metering Infrastructure, or AMI) which have already been placed in more than 111 million homes since 2009, have enabled companies to cut staff and save money. These meters use two-way wireless transmission (typically at 902-928 MHz or 2.4-2.48 GHz frequencies, but others such as 60MHz are also used ) to record the details such as times and frequency of use of each appliance. This data, although being recorded slightly behind real time, allows the company to charge higher rates for hours of high usage, and enables it to turn off your service for non-payment. AMI meters transmit from house to house in a neighborhood through a mesh system to a main node, which then transmits the data to the company. So while a company may say it only collects data a few times a day, there is almost constant chatter on the meters between houses. [.]

Both one-way and two-way “smart” meters can affect people who are electromagnetically sensitive.

**“Smart” Meters Have Operational Risks**

Unlike analog meters, digital meters present operational risks. The most dangerous omission in digital meters is earth grounding to protect them from power surges when power is turned back on after an outage, or from lightning, which can cause fires. Smart meters installed by untrained workers may overload old house wiring, which can cause the current to arc and heat up the setting. Since the metal setting of analogs has been replaced by cheaper plastic, the setting offers no sink for the heat, which can start a fire simmering



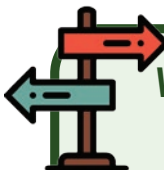
# CCEC Elections & NYCSA Explained

## Elections April 21 - May 9

### What is New York City Schools Account?

NYC Schools Account (NYCSA) is an official online NYC Department of Education portal for parents. With a NYCSA, you will be able to:

- track your children's attendance, grades and test scores;
- access other digital content only available through NYC Schools Account;
- receive updates on school closures, emergencies and upcoming events;
- review your children's bus routes;
- **vote for citywide and community education councils**



### What are Citywide & Community Education Councils?

Citywide & Community Education Councils (CCECs) are created by the State Education Law. There are 32 Community Education Councils, one for each school district. There are 4 Citywide Councils for Special Education, English Language Learners, High Schools, and District 75. CCECs:

- are NYC's versions of local school boards;
- are made up of elected and appointed members, majority of whom are current public school parents;
- represent the voices of parents with children in public schools in NYC;
- can elevate issues to the Superintendents or central DOE

### How do I get a NYCSA?

To create an account an account, you need a code from your school. Ask your parent coordinator for the code.

You can create an account by going to [www.schoolsaccount.nyc](http://www.schoolsaccount.nyc).

For a video guide on how to create an account, go to: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/learning/student-journey/nyc-schools-account/nycsa-account-set-up-guide-for-parents>

If you have not logged into your account for a long time, your account may need reactivation. Contact your school for a reactivation code.



### Why should you care?

- **Every parent of a child in NYC public school can vote**
- CCECs represent YOU and you want to make sure people elected to CCECs will represent your interest
- 2023 is an election year for CCECs
- Voting is all online through NYCSA. If you do not have an active NYCSA account, you will not be able to vote.
- Voting starts on Friday April 21 and ends on Tuesday May 9, 2023
- Which council(s) you vote for is determined by your child's grade and whether your child has an IEP and/or is an English Language Learner
- Depending on the number of children you have and their status, you may vote for multiple CCECs
- Find out more about CCECs and learn about candidates running for CCECs. Go to: [schools.nyc.gov/Elections2023](http://schools.nyc.gov/Elections2023)

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/Community-and-citywide-education-councils-cecs>

<https://www.schoolsaccount.nyc/>

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/get-involved/families/Community-and-citywide-education-councils-cecs>

- CCEC:** Citywide & Community Education Councils
- CEC:** Community Education Council
- CCD75:** Citywide Council on District 75
- CCELL:** Citywide Council on English Language Learners
- CCHS:** Citywide Council on High Schools
- CCSE:** Citywide Council on Special Education
- NYCSA:** New York City Schools Account





# News

## Letitia James And Erik Bottcher Confront Drag Story Hour Protesters

**There's probably no more liberal corner of the United States than Greenwich Village. So it's not surprising that parents took their children to a session in the LGBTQ center, on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately our correspondent could not attend but he did record the activities that surrounded the event.**

By Frank Quinn

On Sunday March 19<sup>th</sup>, New York State Attorney General Letitia James organized a Drag Story Hour at the LGBTQ Community Center on West 13<sup>th</sup> street which appeared to attract equal numbers of politicians and children. However, most of the people attending were protesters and counter protesters.

WestView News was not permitted to enter the event so this report is based on what we saw from the outside. Ms. James advertised the event on Instagram, but the 4-hour program was "sold out" on the Eventbrite webpage she provided. When this reporter arrived early he was told only pre-approved press would be allowed in and no information was available on how to get approved.

Ms. James, who discreetly arrived under

“  
It was inspiring to watch Mr. Bottcher stand defiantly in the face of empty braggadocio because he did so despite the potential danger he faces as a public figure



NY State Attorney Letitia James arrives under police escort. Photo credit: Frank Quinn



Council member Erik Bottcher stares down hecklers.

Photo credit: Frank Quinn

“  
Police intervened in numerous skirmishes but only arrested one intimidating anti-story hour protester.”

police escort, also advertised the event as co-sponsored by The New York Public Library, giving the appearance it was publicly funded.

The pro-story hour protesters arrived early, and the anti-story hour folks grew in number and volume as the event progressed.

Cops kept things organized by suggesting these groups stay on opposite sides of the street where they could safely shout demeaning remarks at each other.

Police intervened in numerous skirmishes but only arrested one intimidating anti-story hour protester.

From the outside I did not see many arrivals, so it was unclear who was attending. I witnessed a small number of adults with children entering the Center, and Councilmember Erik Bottcher was the only public official I recognized standing in front of the entrance for an extended time giving interviews while making eye contact with hecklers who insulted him by name. He told the NY Post there were “a couple dozen kids with their families,” and AMNY said there were “approximately 200 attendees.”

It was inspiring to watch Mr. Bottcher stand defiantly in the face of empty braggadocio because he did so despite the potential danger he faces as a public figure. For a public safety case study on the event I would contact the NYPD who had about as many members in attendance as the protesters did and can best explain how to ensure the safety of a public figure under dangerous conditions.



## Neighborhood

# ELECTRICAL ENGINEER EXPLAINS HOW “SMART” METERS CAN LEAD TO HIGHER BILLS

My grandchildren Teddy and Sofia complained about the jump in their electric bill.

And Dusty provided them with the following article

Jill McManus Interview with Bill Bathgate

To get more information about the inner workings of “smart” meters, we spoke with professional electric and mechanical engineer William S. Bathgate. [Bathgate worked at Emerson Electric as Senior Program Manager for Power Distribution Systems in charge of RF and IP based digitally-controlled high power AC power switching system products that sold worldwide. He has also served in the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, NASA, and Homeland Security. He is certified as a Building Biologist and Electromagnetic Radiation Specialist by the Building Biologist Institute, and an IEEE Certified Radio Frequency Safety Officer. He has testified on behalf of Resident Customer groups in Michigan and Iowa that have worked to prevent rate increases and installation of low-quality meters. He has two companies, has conducted many tests in his own lab and has test results from over a thousand homes. <https://buildingbiologyinstitute.org/find-an-expert/certified-consultants/building-biology-environmental-consultants/william-bill-bathgate-bbec-ieee/>]

While some details may appear very technical, the central theme here is that smart meters emit excessive levels of EMF radiation, harm the environment by consuming energy unlike analog meters (Check), are programmed to overcharge consumers, and are vulnerable to cyber-attack. Now here’s the breakdown.

Bathgate’s information was eye-opening. To illuminate the laxity of the FCC guidelines, Bathgate offers this example: “The Building Biology standard for the intensity of electromagnetic radio frequency (EMF) in sleeping areas is 10-100 microwatts per meter squared (10µw/m²). Most smart meters are mounted near a bedroom wall. Their range extends to 1,400 feet. Readings that exceed 100 µw/m² enter a range of ‘extreme concern.’ Based on the Letter of Authorization from the FCC, granted in what is called an equipment grant and which for many smart meters includes antenna gain, the present digital meters can emit up to or over 14,000 µw/m². That

**From the FCC Equipment Grant (ITRON Meter Example)**

Where:  
 S = power density (in appropriate units, e.g. mW/cm2)  
 P = power input to the antenna (in appropriate units, e.g., mW)  
 G = power gain of the antenna in the direction of interest relative to an isotropic radiator  
 R = distance to the center of radiation of the antenna (appropriate units, e.g., cm)

MPE Calculator for Mobile Equipment Limits for General Population/Uncontrolled Exposure*							
Transmit Frequency (MHz)	Radio Power (dBm)	Power Density Limit (mW/Cm2)	Radio Power (mW)	Antenna Gain (dBi)	Antenna Gain (mW eq.)	Distance (cm)	Power Density (mW/cm^2)
902.25	21.36	0.60	136.77	3.5	2.239	20	0.061
2405	-3	1.00	0.50	4	2.512	20	0.000
824	32.4	0.55	1737.80	0	1.000	20	0.346
1850	30	1.00	1000.00	3	1.995	20	0.397

**Summation of Power Densities – Simultaneous Transmissions**

This device contains multiple transmitters which can operate simultaneously and therefore the maximum RF exposure is determined by the summation of power densities. The maximum power density as calculated by a summation of power densities for each transmitter is as follows

**GPRS Modem Operating in the 800MHz Cellular Band:**

900MHz LAN: 0.061 (mW/cm^2)  
 2.4GHz Zigbee: 0.000 (mW/cm^2)  
 GSM 850 (GPRS): 0.346 (mW/cm^2)  
**TOTAL: 0.407 (mW/cm^2)**

µw/cm²	µw/m²	Plus gain of 3.5
0.407	4,070.00	14,245.00

would be 140 times over the Building Biology standard! (CK)

Some smart meters use other frequencies such as 2.4 GHz, but 99% of them use 900MHz. The FCC’s ‘safety’ guideline allows 2,000 µw/m² (2W/M²), which by our standards makes the present meters operating at 900 MHz unsafe.”

“The industry uses the environmental excuse that we will save the polar bears from rising oceans by saving CO², but none of this is provable as true,”Bathgate says. “Yet they are allowed to collect 10% a year as “Return of Investment” on the money they spend on smart meters until the terms of return of investment get changed. The energy that digital meters need to compute and send their frequent signals adds to energy use by about 2.75 KWh’s (kilowatt hours) per day. This, multiplied by millions of meters, wipes out any benefits of using a ‘smart grid.’ And this can add up to over \$120.00 per year in your individual power bill. There is no evidence that AMI meters save CO², kilowatts or money unless they ration

power. In other words, turn off your power. They are doing this today in Nashville by turning off the power to homes for 10 minutes per hour. The utilities’ ultimate goal is for you to ask permission to turn on your own lights. “Pretty Please, Mr. Utility company, can I turn on my lights and TV?”

Many people are aghast when they see their bill has increased, sometimes by as much as a third, or even nearly doubled after a digital meter is installed. Here Bathgate explains some of the hidden factors that might be causing these increases:

Unlike the steady flow of power through an analog meter, the smart meter measures by sensors that must be converted to digital signals, with computer-calculated averaging of sensor postings held in computer memory over a period of time. These computations take energy and may be reflected in usage time. The sensors can be affected by temperature or humidity, while analog readings rarely are. If the smart meter tried to keep data in real time, the data would overwhelm the ability to process

it. Collecting data once every 15 minutes will not ever accomplish the goal of being able to match capacity to demand in real time.

There is no direct ground connection in the meter for a zero EMF reference (i.e. as a base reading). Electronic circuits in the AMI meters have multilayer circuit boards where one of those layers is a “Relative Ground” reference, which refers to ground currents or voltage that may exist on the site where the house stands. In over 1,000 house surveys I’ve done more than 50% have serious wiring errors which can contribute to an unstable Relative Ground reference and affect the accuracy of the AMI meter reading. The analog meter is not affected by this characteristic.

With the AMI meter, when a light or appliance is first turned on there is a high but extremely quick surge of power, and that level is what is recorded until the next cycle begins. For example, if you open a fridge door and you cause the compressor to turn on you will be billed at the peak



## Neighborhood

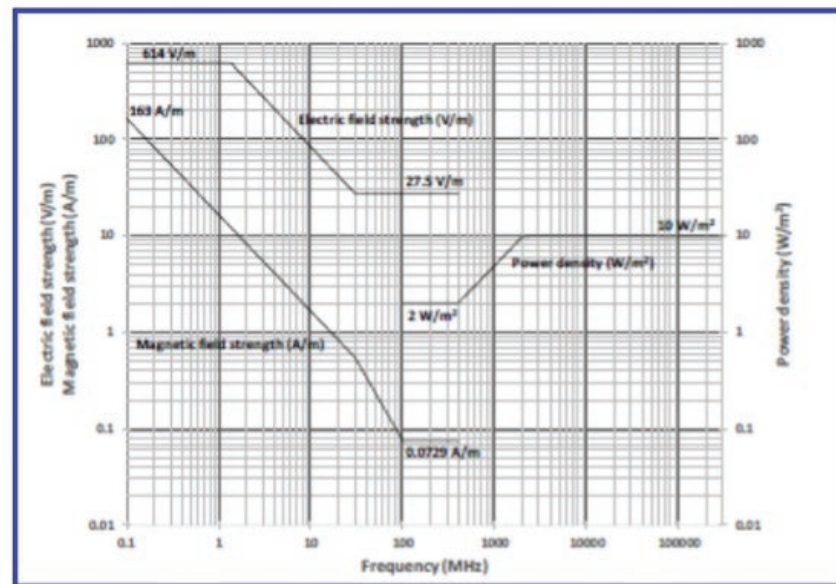
### ELECTRICAL ENGINEER EXPLAINS HOW “SMART” METERS CAN LEAD TO HIGHER BILLS

Continued from page 12

consumption rate of that appliance from that moment for the next fifteen minutes, or until the next measurement. This alone can add hundreds of dollars a year to your bill.

Claims that AMI meters are more accurate than analogs are false. The smart meter is populated with dozens of electronic components that have tolerance swing of up to 10% which varies with temperatures and humidity. The analog meters must meet the same ANSI C12 (American National Standards Institute) specs as AMI meters, but there are no electronic components. The AMI meter does not meet the same specs as analog meters in many ways. In fact, they don't synchronize the clocks of an electronic opt-out meter with Universal time so the calibration of measurement within certain time periods is not always accurate, and there is “drift.” The analog meter has precision gears that directly convert to KWh's and there is no need for a clock reference. How does a device which calculates KWh's do that accurately if the clock drifts?

Also, light bulbs vary in power use by plus or minus 10% and LED bulbs combined with dimmer switches lead to greater inaccuracy in readings.” For an example, testing at the University of Twente in 2016 showed very high smart meter inaccuracies of 582% (<https://www.utwente.nl/en/news/2017/3/313543/electronic-energy-meters-false-readings-almost-six-times-higher-than-actual-energy-consumption>)



with current transformers. AMI meters are generally accurate to within  $\pm 10\%$ . That is a 20% range. So, claims by utilities that the AMI is more accurate are highly suspect. This is only true in a very tightly controlled setting such as ten 100-watt incandescent bulbs in a temperature-controlled room, not with electronic appliances, motors, CFL's, LED's etc. (Note - a 100-watt light bulb can vary 5%). The only way to have an accurate load is with a large carbon pile which is unaffected by temperature and humidity.”

Personal privacy with AMI smart meters is also a key issue for Bathgate. Your information is collected and sold to third parties, whoever they may be. And there is no security. If you're away from home, it can be detected by hackers. Wireless networks, which use software and offer so many connection points, are easy to hack. Many

in the U.S. Government, and others such as former FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler, agree and are aware that 5G wireless technology is a national security issue.

What about meter shielding and filters? Bathgate doesn't believe most of the products offered online actually work, and full metal shields may cause the radiation to reflect back. He has developed a product that he feels can lower the RF emissions, called the Iron Maiden. “You can shield the front of the smart meter with metal screens or other special materials to block the RF up to a point, and that can be helpful,” Bathgate says, “but they don't block the electromagnetic emissions. There's no way to fix this without earth grounding of the smart meter, which means redesign.” He thinks the utilities should shield the back of the meters where emissions go through the wall, and also shield the electric closets and

nearby rooms in apartment buildings where banks of smart meters are placed. But “they will fight tooth and nail about this adaptation for millions of meters, he says, “and they will complain they can't read the meters. It will be left to property owners.”

Bathgate concludes: “We need a law that says the emissions from a smart meter should not exceed 100 microwatts per meter squared. That would make present AMI meters unusable.”

Finally, there is subterfuge. Says Bathgate, “Staff for the utility companies make statements like the AMI meter is less than a cell phone. This is provable as untrue and was concluded from a clearly biased study done by the CCST, where they compared the emissions of a smart phone at the ear but not for the whole body, but they used the whole-body measurement for the AMI meter. (See CCST Study chart in adjoining smart meter story.) Bathgate calls the comparison “totally apples and oranges. And he says, “Those that state this lie should sleep with a smart meter under their pillow every night and get ready for the diagnosis of cancer very soon.”

Bathgate suggest that readers check out the scientific studies such as the Bio-initiative Report on cancers and tumors from exposure in rats <https://bioinitiative.org/category/new>,

Could add this line to What You Can Do legislation box? Everyone who pays electric bills need to understand this information and demand that smart meters are replaced with traditional analog meters. Let your state legislators know today.

### SOME TRUTHS ABOUT UTILITY SMART METERS: SHOULD YOU BE CONCERNED?

Continued from page 9

through the house wiring. Due to its uneven bursts of pulses at millions of times per second, momentary spikes in power can cause wear and tear on the device, and on house wiring and connected appliances, just as they can on our bodies. Spikes in the pulses that go above FCC guidelines are often disguised because the guideline test averages power levels over a period of 30 minutes. If you check with your own meter you will see them. <https://mdsafetech.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/fire-and-electrical-hazards-report.pdf>

Engineer Timothy Schoechle, Senior Research Fellow with the National Institute for Science, Law and Public Policy (and author of “Getting Smarter About the Smart Grid”

<https://gettingsmarteraboutthesmartgrid.org/pdf/Smart%20Grid%20Report%203-15-13.pdf>) says that electrical power should be municipalized, and installation of current “smart” meters should be stopped. By

inserting a small part that costs less than a dollar, he writes, companies could provide a fiber optic or electrical connector and get rid of the problem of radiation, making current meters obsolete, and people a lot safer.

A practical, forward-looking society would heed this advice.

**For more information on smart meters see these sites:**

Ehtrust.org  
Physicians for Safe Tech  
(MDsforSafeTech.org)  
Americans for Responsible Tech.org  
NewYorkers4WiredTech.com

**WHAT YOU CAN DO**

Support Upcoming Smart Meter Legislation: NY S.5623

No Federal agencies are measuring or monitoring our levels of exposure to radiation, but local legislators are responsible for protecting the safety and well-being of their constituents. There have been several proposed bills in NY to regulate smart meters since 2013. Due to an uninformed public, and to the weighted

power of the appointed Public Service Commission that oversees electrical utilities, they all died in committee.

NY State Senator Pete Harckham introduced a bill last year (S. 8765), that would allow people to opt out of having a smart meter without a fee or monthly charge, and retain their analog if they wished. For those who already have a smart meter, the bill would enable the customer to instruct the utility to remove it. For those physically affected by the meter it must be removed within 10 days, and 30 days for anyone else who preferred their trusted analog meter.

In March, Harckham has reintroduced the bill, now called S. 5623, and expanded it to include digital water and gas meters as well. Although questions such as multi-family buildings, small businesses, and amendments for building and fires codes remain to be resolved, this bill would be a major problem solver, especially for those who are electromagnetically sensitive.

S. 5623 is also right in keeping with New York's Environmental Rights Amendment,

passed in 2021. As The National Law Journal ( March 17, 2023) pointed out: “The new “green amendment” or Environmental Rights Amendment” (ERA) places New York alongside six other states with similar provisions in their state constitutions ...These amendments may introduce new avenues for those aiming to enforce environmental laws in anticipation of harm and may invite novel protection litigation claims. (Our italics.)

Let's help Senator Harckham get S. 5623 passed! The NY State legislature is in session to June 4. Right now is the time for the process to take place that will require utilities to protect the health and privacy of New York residents as a matter of law. Please call and/or email Senator Harckham's office to support and applaud his efforts to get S.5623 passed! [harckham@nysenate.gov](mailto:harckham@nysenate.gov), phone 518-455-2340. Ask your NY Assembly Member to sponsor or co-sponsor a companion bill.

*Jill McManus is a writer and musician in New York City.*



# Neighborhood

## Meet Philip Mortillaro

### A Neighborhood Locksmith & Icon Of The West Village!

#### SEVIER STORIES

Interview by:  
Danielle Sevier  
Produced by:  
Mike Persico

"If you live in the Village, you know who Philip Mortillaro is and his authentic looking shop. Philip is the owner of Greenwich Locksmiths and he has been spending the last five decades mastering his craft and serving the neighborhood. Today we speak with Philip and get to know more about him, his trade, and how he started in the business."

DS: Hi, I'm here today with Philip Mortillaro, the owner of Greenwich Locksmith. Hi, Phillip.  
PM: Hello, how are you?



DS: I'm well, thank you. So, I understand you opened your first shop in 1968 when you were 18 years old.

PM: Yes.

DS: What I'm really curious about is who inspired you helped you do that?

PM: Well, I've been doing this trade since I was 14 years old. It was the summertime. Everybody was looking for a job and somebody told me that there's a shop that was looking for somebody just to help them move to another location down the block. This was over on Third Street and Second Avenue.

DS: Okay.

PM: When I was there, I spent about a month helping them pack the keys. The owner of the shop said, "well, you came in every day. Would you like to learn this trade?" I said, "I don't know." I was kind of interested. So that's how I started. I became an apprentice.

DS: Very nice. And what has kept you interested in this trade? What has it been, 40 years? I've been in the neighborhood 30 years, and you were already an old timer when I got here.

PM: In this shop, I'm here 42 years.

DS: Amazing.

Continued on page 15

## Everybody Has A Real Estate Question, What's Yours? Call Or Email Me. Your Neighbor, Friend & West Village Expert!

Q&A

### Q: Why should I stage my property before I sell my home?

A: The reason to stage a property is to show it at its best to facilitate a quick sale and achieve the best price the market will bring. A general rule of thumb assumes that a buyer walks in and knows within a minute or two if they are interested.

We have two primary goals:

- 1.) Set The Stage – No one would go on a job interview without preparation. The same goes for a property going to market. A professional designer has a stable of tradespeople to paint, de-clutter, refinish floors, make small repairs, etc. We can't over-emphasize the importance of a clean, refreshed space.
- 2.) Aspiration/Inspiration – When a buyer enters the property do they get excited? Does the furnishings, art and accessories make me want to live here? Where does the TV go? Can I have a king size bed? What about a dining table? Is the furniture available for purchase, it will save me time and money if I can buy it.

Question Answered By.



COMPASS



Send Me An Email Now!  
[dsevier@compass.com](mailto:dsevier@compass.com)



Danielle Sevier  
Lic. Assoc. R.E. Broker  
917.991.5386



# Then & Now

## Elizabeth Street Garden or Gramercy Park South?

By Alec Pruchnicki, MD

Supporters of the Elizabeth Street Garden who are willing to block construction of needed housing on part of that site have conducted a wide-ranging media, political, and legal campaign to get their way. If you look through all the statements they have made and wade through their websites carefully, you will see a proposal which, as far as I know, is unprecedented in New York City, to take this city owned-land and privatize it with something called a conservation land trust.

If you go to [elizabethstreetgarden.com](http://elizabethstreetgarden.com) (but not [elizabethstreetgarden.org](http://elizabethstreetgarden.org)) and click on About Our Future Plans you will see a description of what a conservation land trust is. It will be non-profit but will “own” the property, possibly on a long-term lease with the city, or maybe even permanent with ownership. This proposal is outrageous. Many parks around the city, such as Washington Square Park, Central Park, Hudson River Park, and the Highline, have conservancies or friends groups that support the parks and supplement city services. None of these “own” the parks they support. And they are also all identified as “.org” and not “.com.”

But if the land trust is non-profit and run by public-minded individuals for the benefit of the surrounding area, wouldn't that help the community? Not necessarily. In 1964, during our senior year economics class at The Bronx High School of Science, Dr. Silver explained to us how a non-profit business can make more money for you



The present Elizabeth Street garden is accessible to the community now, but what will happen after privatization? Photo credit: Alec Pruchnicki



The lovely, private, exclusive Gramercy Park—available to the fortunate local residents who are wealthy enough to access it. Photo credit Alec Pruchnicki

than a tax-paying business. You make sure that the board of directors, who are supposed to oversee the organization, are relatives, supporters, and friends who will pretty much give you the salary and benefits you want. Will the leader or leaders of the privatized Elizabeth Street Garden actually

do this? I don't know. But, I do know that they will be able to do it. On the [elizabethstreetgarden.com](http://elizabethstreetgarden.com) website, under Rentals, you can already apply to conduct video and photo shoots, weddings, and private events. As the garden has to raise money for maintenance or the ambitious expansion plans

they talk about at both their websites, this provides a reason, or maybe an excuse, for more private events and maybe even some type of membership or entrance fees.

This brings us to Gramercy Park. This beautiful park in the Gramercy neighborhood is privately owned. Local buildings and organizations pay fees for membership, and keys are provided to individuals who are lucky enough, and wealthy enough, to live there. It is not open to the general public. Why, in time and with a pliable board of directors, couldn't a conservation land trust start to impose private fees and benefits.

As Little Italy gradually gentrifies, there will be another similarity between Gramercy Park and a possible future Elizabeth Street Garden. Presently, both parks have clientele who are overwhelming white, with some Asian representation, and little African-American and Hispanic involvement. This was true on Elizabeth Street (see Westview News, August 2017, “Kill the Zombie Park Already III: The Hidden Problem”) and it is true in the neighborhood surrounding Gramercy Park (see the Wikipedia article on Gramercy Park and look under Demographics).

The people who run or support the present garden are honorable people in spite of opposing desperately needed housing, but what happens when you grant absolute power? According to Lord Acton years ago, “absolute power corrupts absolutely.” And what about future guardians of the garden? Once public property is privatized it will be very difficult to return it to public ownership. When you give people control, then they have control; don't expect them to use it only in beneficial ways.

Build housing on Elizabeth Street already.

Continued from page 14

PM: I've been doing this trade since 1954.

DS: So, what's kept you in it this long?

PM: Well, it's a multifaceted kind of trade with so many different parts of it. It's real locksmithing, not just somebody going out and putting a lock on a new door or whatever. The real lock, you think, is very intricate and it's very precise. It's not watchmaking. The watchmaking is smaller, but it's a little bit above that, and it's like machining. That's what we do. So, yeah, you can do a lot with it. It's very interesting. Then there's so many parts of it. There's the safe work, which I did for years. I did a lot

of safes. Then there's the regular locks with the master key systems, which are a lot of numbers that are going on in there so some of that involves coding, when you start doing that, in fact, it is like mechanical coding. It's very similar. And then you have, the antique club. You have fabricating for things that aren't made anymore. I do all the churches, really old ones, like Trinity Church and Grace Church.

DS: How interesting!

PM: And I did the New York City Housing.

DS: Do they still use these skeleton keys?

PM: Yes, but it's a lot of work that goes into it.

DS: You don't get bored?

PM: Never.

DS: Have you apprenticed someone else to take over some day?

PM: Yes, I have! My sons.

DS: That's nice to have it stay in the family. That's one thing I've read is that you're one of the few same owner businesses in New York.

PM: Most of these locksmiths may say they've been here for this many years, but they've changed ownerships many times. It bothers me so much when I show up at your house to open your door. I usually pick the lock, or I open it without doing any damage. These guys today come up there and start drilling everything out and use a crowbar. I mean, are you kidding? Why not have somebody do it right? When I open a safe, there's minimal damage. If I can't manipu-

late it, then I'm drilling one small hole. There's been times where I've showed up to see a safe and it was completely mutilated.

DS: I would say you're a real artisan.

PM: I take pride in my trade.

DS: Yes, and you can tell by the reviews you have online and just by your absolutely cool shop that you have here, that's been here, like you said, for 42 years. It was really nice talking.

PM: Thank you very much.

DS: Thank you as well!





# Culture & Cuisine

## Moustache Moves A Few Blocks East

Owner, Salam Al-Rawi  
from an interview by Hannah Reimann

Moustache Restaurant's 34-year Legacy in NYC Continues with a New Opening on 7th Avenue South in April 2023

**M**oustache originally opened on 405 Atlantic Avenue between Nevins and Bond Streets in Brooklyn in 1989. The original idea I had was to replicate the concept of a Lebanese furn which is a bakery that makes dough and customers bring their own toppings—for a nominal fee the baker puts your homemade toppings on the raw dough and then he bakes it for you.

I only wanted to use the pizza oven, but this didn't last very long because people kept walking in asking for falafel. The menu developed into new dimensions. One Sunday, I was hit with two reviews, one by the New York Times and one by the New York Daily News. After that, we couldn't make enough food. I didn't intend for this concept to become my career, then I felt forced to make it my career because I saw the profit coming from it, especially from those two reviews. These were print reviews before the internet—everyone read them.

It was due to two things—the financial rewards and the roughness of the area—that helped me make the decision to move to Manhattan. We got broken into over a dozen times on Atlantic Avenue. The neighbors would be calling me, calling the police. Once a thief loaded up a hand-truck with soda cases and came up the stairs only to meet the police! Since I couldn't identify him, he was arrested. Once time a guy showed up with a big Bowie knife—there were too many people there after his initial threat so he left.

I wanted to be here in the West Village because I worked previously on West 4th Street, waiting tables and bartending at La



I spoke with Salam Al-Rawi, the mustached owner of The Village's beloved eatery, in late March about the plans for his new location, the colorful history of Moustache and its great popularity, The paintings have already been moved to 7th Avenue South and fans including model Bella Hadid continue to come for lunch and dinner every day on Bedford Street. I notice that everyone is always happy at Moustache and I am, too. *Photo credit: Hannah Reimann*

Chaumière and then at Chez Ma Tente on West 10th Street between West 4th and Bleecker (neither are in the Village today). I loved the neighborhood and I wanted to be in this area. It reminds me of Paris where I lived for six years as a college student at Tours.

I walked by Bedford Street and wanted this space for my restaurant. Not many people want to risk a business on a side street, but I did. There was a barber shop in this space before we occupied it. There was no basement. I negotiated my terms—I wanted the basement space for one year free, and a lease of \$900 per month. I started construction and I built everything with my own hands. I had to sell the space in Brooklyn before I opened in Manhattan to afford to work on it. It was an immediate success with the neighbors and we continued to get good reviews.

In the early 1990s people used to break in to Moustache, again, and when they couldn't break open the cash register they would smash it on the floor to get whatever was inside. There was never any money in the register and we had to keep buying new cash registers. One day we started the habit

of leaving \$60 in the cash register and to leave the cash register unlocked. So the thieves would take the \$60 and we wouldn't have to buy a new cash register. After a while they stopped breaking in completely.

Over 32 years, the neighborhood lost its original population from the 60s 70s and 80s. The population was replaced by the rich and famous. I'm not saying this negatively, but this is the way it happened. When the rich and famous come to purchase real estate, as we all know, they don't buy a one-bedroom apartment, they buy an entire building. That reduced the population of the Village.

Everyone else agrees that they like the new space more than the new one even though I personally disagree. I cannot avoid having a sentimental attachment to this space on Bedford Street—it's a lifetime. However, business is business, this is New York City, it's a cutthroat place. You have to manage, deal, move on and do your best. This is what I'm doing. I worked very, very hard to build the new place for the past nine months. I built it myself with my own hands from sheet rock to electrical work to everything. I have one person working with me. The last

thing that's holding us back is the turning on of the gas, something contingent on a final building department inspection. The architect fixed the last glitch to clear the path to have our inspection date. When we get our Blue Card, we can get the green light from Con Edison to turn the gas on.

It's going to be a night move, like the owls. We're waiting for the gas to be turned on and when it is, after the last day on Bedford Street we'll carry the tables and everything else we need over to open on Seventh Avenue South the next day for lunch. We won't close for a day.

The food will be the same, but perhaps in mid-summer I'll open for brunch with a new brunch menu. There are flowers planted in the outdoor seating area. And there will be a smile when you come to Moustache. Always keep a smile.

*Moustache Pizza  
90 Bedford Street  
On or around April 1-4: 29 Seventh Ave  
South near Bedford*



## Culture & Cuisine

### Barrows Pub The “Cheers” of the West Village’s 40th Anniversary!



Photo credit: Robert Shapiro

By Robert Shapiro

There’s only one bar that I know of in the West Village that literally has no demographic. Old people, young people, black people, white people (and any other), red state, blue state, straight, gay, blue collar, white collar, dog collar etc. patronize this place at any given time, and they all interact and get along famously. It’s the way New York City life should be. It is one of the last authentic dive bars with a pool table and it’s called Barrows Pub on the corner of Hudson and Barrow Streets.

I run a local 501c3 animal rescue for underdogs, under-cats (mostly black) and reptiles called The 13th Floor Animal Rescue that is supported by the pub, which has been woman-owned and operated for 29 years. Established in August 1983, it was originally a “cop bar” owned by two retired policeman who were also big animal lovers. It was a haven for off-duty police officers from the 6th precinct on 10th Street between Hudson and Bleecker Streets.

In 1993, the bar was purchased by Missy Di Franco, a 57-year-‘young’ buxom blonde with a heart of gold and a voice like a drill sergeant who has worked the bar for almost three decades. Missy is one of those people who was born for the service industry. When she tends bar (Wednesday, Thursday, Friday nights) she brings food and treats (for humans and pets) goes out of her way to make people happy and has boundless energy. She gives her time, love and kindness to both her regulars and anyone

else who steps through the door. To Missy, everyone is family—until proven otherwise.

Barrows is also a great place to watch sports, and if there’s a big game on, Missy covers the pool table and provides the best bar food in the hood. During Happy Hour, which is 11-7 Monday to Friday, Pabst Blue Ribbon is \$2.50 and most other beers are \$5.00. This coming August, to celebrate its 40th anniversary, all drinks will be sold at 1983 prices! A highball will be 2.50 and beer will be 75 cents all day! Come thirsty.

The pub photographs so well that many movies and commercials are shot there. The walls are covered in a collage of funny signs (some poorly executed), sarcastic notices (except for the lovely animal rescue poster), old school beer promotions and union stickers. The grown children of the original union guys still come in to relax and shoot pool after their meetings.

Barrows is a neighborhood mainstay that sponsors co-ed field hockey teams, Gay Women’s Flag Football and softball teams, and also sponsors the Barrow Street Fair which allows the organizers to sell beer and wine to raise money for the community. In addition, Missy sponsors a few local pool leagues. She is also an active animal rescuer who is constantly taking strays to the veterinarian to get spayed and neutered out of pocket. Sometimes she rescues and finds homes for entire colonies of cats. She is a neighborhood gem.

In order to raise money for animals rescue, I bartend at Barrows every Sunday night. Come visit, even if it’s just to say hello, however if you would like to enjoy a beverage, mention Westview News and you get Happy Hour prices! Cheers, Robert.

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## Culture &amp; Cuisine

## Tavern on Jane

By Bria Schirripa

**I**t was 1985 when Michael Stewart, owner of Tavern on Jane, made his way up from the south with aspirations of working in New York's hospitality industry.

It would be about another decade until his big idea came to fruition.

Let's rewind—Michael grew up in Raleigh as one of twelve children, spending much of his boyhood in the kitchen with his mom and admiring his older brothers as they worked within the food industry. It was a no-brainer that Michael would follow suit.

He spent ten years working in New York City restaurants, gathering inspiration and industry knowledge. At the tail end of 1995 he alongside his partner at the time, Horton Foote Jr. would get wind of and move in on precious real estate at the corner of Jane and 8th Avenue.

"Horton and I built the Tavern wanting to create a neighborhood community center," Stewart notes, "we wanted our restaurant to be the local gathering place of the Village and to create the feeling and atmosphere of home."

The Tavern quickly established itself as just that, attracting locals and visitors alike. From Sunday fried chicken to Wednesday meatloaf night to the annual fall block party, Jane was where many came to find a sense of community.

The restaurant remained mostly the same since opening, but in 2013 changes were made. Michael Stewart bought out Foote and became the sole proprietor. He analyzed how the West Village was changing and took action to accommodate the younger crowd he was often seeing. At the advice of an architect friend he swapped



Photo credit: A Dope Artist

out tables at the front of house for high boys and banquettes, opening up the restaurant and giving it a new flow, but always keeping plenty of seats for their regulars.

"We adapted to how we saw the neighborhood changing, it gave us the chance to survive and update ourselves" Stewart adds that relevance and anticipating what the community needs is the name of the game.

A reliable place for many including the late Philip Seymour Hoffman who regularly enjoyed a pre-Knicks game burger with his son. Or Green Day frontman Billie Joe Armstrong who made reference to the restaurant in their 2012 album, "Uno!"

The selection of people who call Jane home knows no bounds.

Like many restaurants in 2020, Jane faced its own set of challenges that they are still facing today as collateral damage of the pandemic.

In 2019, Stewart took out a business loan for the Tavern, half of which was paid off

going into 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions on businesses stemming from the governmental response, much business was lost and Stewart was forced to refinance the loan several times over. To date, Michael's debt has grown to half a million dollars, and costs him roughly 20K a month calling it "a tremendous amount of pressure on the business."

Covid which has been unforgiving to many local shops and restaurants, hit Jane particularly hard.

Aside from having to make up for the money lost during the pandemic, interest on the loan accumulated and has made it extremely difficult for Stewart to get caught up. "The debt that is behind me, is the debt that's killing me".

It is worth noting that Stewart, a man committed to his community, never closed Tavern even for one day during the pandemic. Rapidly partnering with delivery services like Seamless and Grubhub, Michael remained a constant for his neighbors, healthcare workers and employees during a challenging time. In

fact a majority of his staff, some of whom have twenty-five years tenure under their belt, were eager to return to work.

"We didn't shut down for a second. We kept going so that we could serve the community and pay our employees", he says.

Today, Michael has applied for loan forgiveness. The RRF (Restaurant Revitalization Fund) launched in 2022 and gave out \$28 billion dollars to restaurants across the U.S., Michael has not seen a dollar.

Many restaurants applied for the fund under false claims and obtained money through fabricated qualifications "if I'd gotten the money, I wouldn't be in this predicament" says Stewart.

Through hardship, Tavern's never stopped giving back. The team hosts an annual golf charity for a dear friend, Christie Irvine Ryan who passed away on September 11th. Today, they've raised nearly half a million dollars in her name that goes to a Long Island based charity—Family Service League of Nassau County.

The painting of this picture would not be complete without mentioning the Jane Street Block Party. Every October since 1996 Michael pays for a city permit and obtains insurance to close down Jane Street for a day. It is here that the neighborhood gathers for free burgers, beers, hours of live music and of course the friendly faces of the West Village. To many, it is a day they look forward to all year.

Michael Stewart prides himself on relationships, putting patrons and community needs often before his own. Just as he did thirty years ago as a kid from North Carolina, he holds on tight to the idea that Jane will be around for a while longer.

Neighborhood friend and former TOJ employee set up a GoFundMe to collect donations to keep Tavern on Jane afloat find it here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-tavern-on-jane-survive>

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## Neighborhood

# New York's Pillar of Commerce and Culture

By Bruce Poli

**S**o often, we Villagers say, “I never go above 14th street,” as our cool and proud neighborhood defense. When you step across 14th street, and out of Greenwich Village, the world immediately changes: you’re entering the Grid, the crisscross pattern of streets that march uptown, sweeping to the tip of Manhattan and well up into the Bronx.

The Grid is New York’s well-planned commerce foundation, launched in 1811 at the street commissioners’ office (located on the second floor at the northeast corner of Christopher and Bleecker Streets). It is the very essence of how our city became the diverse business capital of America. It has been called “the single most important document in New York City’s development.” It’s our democratic glue, and why “we all get along” in New York despite our vast differences. Because business is its grand theme, our civil war in NYC is with our landlords, not each other. It was called commerce, and now called capitalism—originating with Alexander Hamilton and the founding of the United States.

New York and American culture and business are widespread, and nowhere less intense and welcoming than uptown. Herald Square is one of our great uptown tourist



Photo credit: A Dope Artist

magnets. Its brand has a long and colorful history. *The New York Herald* (1835-1924) and its renowned owner James Gordon Bennett built a major news and cultural force in the city’s rise during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The New York Herald building (1908-1921), designed by Stanford White, was an iconic architectural wonder until its demolition.

At the center of Herald Square is the story of Macy’s, the world’s biggest store and the source of the Thanksgiving Day Parade (formerly the Christmas Parade, 1924), the birth of Santa Claus in the department

store, and (not the least celebrated) the July 4th fireworks, often produced by the world famous Grucci family, adorning our two great bordering waters—the Hudson and the East Rivers. The fireworks stage a celebration of New York Harbor. The dynamic nature of our harbor is the reason the Dutch first settled here and why this city became so important in world trade over the past four centuries.

The story of the sinking of the Titanic was headlined by its most prominent patrons, Isidor and Ida Strauss, owners of Macy’s, who lost their lives. Because she refused a

lifeboat to remain onboard with her husband, they both drowned—a tragic but up-standing story of devotion.

A place where history, culture, and commerce have mingled for a century and a half, Macy’s (founded in 1858 by [Rowland Hussey Macy](#) at West 14th Street and Sixth Avenue, at the edge of today’s Greenwich Village), is a testament to the endurance of the very fragile democracy we so cherish and are now fighting to maintain amidst rampant autocratic aggression all around us.

Macy’s, I would say, is the ideal symbol of democracy and capitalism, rolled into one enduring historic story. The very essence of international tourism to this day includes a trip or two to this iconic store that serves as the touchstone of New York City.

It is perhaps a stretch to call such a “capitalist institution” an ambassador, but that is exactly what Macy’s is—welcoming the entire world to its doors (a large percentage of customers are tourists). The doors of a much larger dream, of “personal business” as a theme (everything in Macy’s is for your personal life use), represents a society’s historic democratic strength.

Because of the Macy’s “experience,” we can continue to share the hopes of our long experiment of America. And with Russia about to challenge the world to a duel, we’re reminded that our centuries of fighting for democracy have commerce and culture as its two principle tenets. And these are exactly what we celebrate as Villagers.

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## Culture & Cuisine

# Lord Byron's Epic Heroism and his Role in the Greek War of Independence

By Anastasia Kaliabakos

**A**pril 19, 2023 marks T-1 year until the bicentennial of the famous poet Lord Byron's death. Before doing any research into Lord Byron, I only vaguely remembered learning about him from English classes in high school and the dramatic reading of his poem "She Walks in Beauty" from the movie *Dead Poets Society*. However, he is more interesting, in my mind, than nearly any other modern poet due to his exotic and epic travels throughout his youth and young adulthood.

Byron was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1788. He did not have an easy early childhood, as he suffered from clubfoot and lack of wealth. However, his life changed for the better at age ten, when he inherited the title of his great uncle, William, the fifth Baron Byron-- hence, Lord Byron. He was able to attend various elite and selective schools, such as Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge. However, while he was honing his artistic craft and gaining knowledge from his high-level schooling curricula, he was acquiring a lot of debt and embroiling himself in dramatic and passionate relationships with a variety of partners-- arguably, fuel for future poems. In 1807, he published his first volume of poetry, entitled *Hours of Idleness*, which was not received well by critics.

After he obtained his master's degree in 1809, Byron traveled in Portugal, Spain, and the Near East for two years. Traveling abroad in your young adulthood was customary for rich men at the time, as it would increase their worldliness and sophistication. His experiences fed into his later works, including *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (1812), which he began writing during his travels in Greece. This particular epic brought him nearly instant fame in England. Upon his quick rise to fame, it is said that he exclaimed that he "awoke one morning and found myself famous." Afterwards, his poetry, style, and manners were widely imitated by others who sought to be like him.

In 1815, he married Anne Isabella Milbanke, and the couple had a daughter, August Ada, in 1816. Ada proved to be a mathematical prodigy and is actually considered to be the first computer programmer. However, Byron's marriage quickly failed and they were legally separated. Afterwards, he traveled to Geneva from England as a social exile, settling down near Bysshe Shelley and his



The Reception of Lord Byron at Missolonghi (1861) by Theodoros Vryzakis  
Photo credit: Wikipedia



Portrait of Lord Byron, artist unknown Photo credit: Wikipedia



Frontispiece to a c. 1825 edition of *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*  
Photo credit: Wikipedia

wife, Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, both famous authors. He continued to explore romantic options abroad for the next few years and worked on his writing simultaneously.

In 1821, the Greek War of Independence began. The Greek War of Independence of the Greek Revolution was a successful war fought by Greek revolutionaries against the Ottoman Empire. In 1826, the Greeks were assisted by the British Empire, the Kingdom of France, and the Russian Empire, while the Ottomans were aided by their North African allies. The war led to the formation of modern Greece, which would be expanded to include its modern borders in later years. The revolution is celebrated by Greeks around the world as independence day on March 25th every year.

Byron, who was known as an avid supporter of liberal causes (having participated in an uprising in Ravenna, Italy years prior and engaging in liberal dialogue in the House of Lords when in England), supported the Greeks in their fight. He decided to join the Greeks, sending £4,000 of his own money to prepare a Greek fleet for sea service and then sailed on December 29, 1823 to join Prince Aléxandros Mavrokordátos in Kefalonia, who was the leader of the rebelling forces in western Greece.

Additionally, a separate rebellion was being spearheaded by Mavrokordátos in Missolonghi, which is a town on the

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## Culture & Cuisine

# Guyana, the “Land of Many Waters”

By Yogendra Ram

**A**s a New York City resident, it's easy to feel that you've seen it all. From the hustle and bustle of the subway cars to the streets of the five boroughs, one simple fact becomes apparent. We're living in mankind's most culturally diverse city and community on the face of the earth. The colors on this vivid canvas of cultures, blends into one, in which many small beautiful details can easily slip past the eyes. One color on this canvas of the city does not seem to catch the eye of many at first, and it represents the “Land of many waters and five peoples.”

Located just on the coast of northern South America, sharing a border with Venezuela, Brazil and Suriname, sits Guyana. All of the wonderful rivers which run throughout the entire country seemingly endless, is what gave Guyana its nickname, the Land of Many Waters. Guyana is home to five main ethnic groups they are as follows; Indigenous, East Indian, African, Portuguese, European (mainly Portuguese) and Chinese. Yet to the amazement of many it's National Language is English!

Yes! A country in South America that has English as its primary language! Being from Guyana myself, the first question I'm always asked once the location of Guyana is established in conversation is “So you Speak Spanish, right?” Guyana is a former British colony and in the scope of things has only broken free of British rule recently on May 26, 1966. It is this one detail that will make you realize why this Country speaks

English amongst all its Spanish and Portuguese speaking neighbors. On May 5, 1838 a ship of about 396 indentured laborers arrived in what was then “British Guiana.” They had nothing but their religion, clothes on their back and whatever small belongings they were allowed to bring. A majority of these laborers hailed from the North Indian Province of Uttar Pradesh, India. A new diaspora begins to define itself over the years as the Indo-Caribbean country blossoms into a flower of multiple cultures. The land where Hindus, Muslims and Christians along with many other religions live in harmony and peace with each other.

New York City has become home for many Guyanese, who have migrated here seeking new opportunities and higher standards of living. According to the census bureau a total of 122,820 Guyanese reside in New York City as of 2020, with a majority of said population occupying the boroughs of Queens and the Bronx. The area of Queens known as Richmond Hill is now always referred to as “Little Guyana.”

Writing this Article raised a lot of feelings of love and pride for my Country and of course I have Mr. George Capsis to thank for this. Upon my meeting with this sharp and amiable 95 year old man, he inquired of my background. It sparked in me a fire of pride for the information I was about to spew at him. It was only then that I realized how little is known of not only Guyana but many other beautiful countries and cultures of the world that can be found right here within our very own New York City. The canvas is there for all to see, look closely and concisely and you'll learn of something or someone new everyday just like Mr. Capsis did.



Map Of Guyana

Photo courtesy: Yogendra Ram

## Lord Byron's Epic Heroism and his Role in the Greek War of Independence

Continued from page 20

northern coast of the Gulf of Corinth. The campaign there was fractured among the Greeks due to tension among the leaders there. However, Byron made immense efforts to unite the factions and even personally took command of a brigade of Suliote soldiers, who had a reputation of being the bravest among the Greeks. Byron wrote in his journal, “I came here to join a nation, not a faction.” And that he did. During his time in Greece, Byron set aside his previously hedonistic-leaning lifestyle to be a true military leader. In the face of factionalism and military ineptitude, Byron came into his own as a Spartan-like leader,

training his troops valiantly and subsidizing the Greek cause despite being a foreigner.

In 1824, his unwavering commitment to the war caught up with him. Weakened by a serious illness, he insisted on training strenuously alongside his undisciplined men in the cold, wet March weather in anticipation of an assault on the Turkish stronghold of Lepanto. Unfortunately, Byron contracted malaria and died on April 19, 1824. His body was brought back to England. Although he was refused burial in Westminster Abbey due to the reputation he acquired in his younger years, he was placed in his family vault near Newstead.

In 1829, Turkey accepted the Treaty of Adrianople, which recognized Greek autonomy. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, the Greeks continued to fight to

expand their boundaries to include the Greek-speaking population of the Ottoman Empire, eventually reaching what is the present territorial configuration in 1947.

Byron said on his deathbed, “Die I must. Its loss I do not lament; for to terminate my wearisome existence I came to Greece. My wealth, my abilities, I devoted to her cause. Well, there is my life to her.” Today, nearly every Greek town has its Odos Vyronos, or Byron Street, and statues memorializing the British expat are common. I am sure that Byron would be happy to know that his legacy is not only carried on eternally through his poetry, but by the Greeks today who continue to admire his dedication to Greek independence. This Greek Independence Day, be sure to remember

not just the Greek warriors, but also all the foreign volunteers and fighters, who earned Greece her long-deserved freedom.

By Anastasia Kaliabakos

Anastasia “Stacey” Kaliabakos is a current senior and Dana Scholar at the College of the Holy Cross. She is double majoring in classics and philosophy and is a member of the college's Honors Program. On campus, Stacey is the Chief Opinions Editor of *The Spire*, co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Parnassus Classical Journal*, and co-President of the Delta Lambda chapter of the national Eta Sigma Phi Classics Honors Society. Anastasia has been featured in *NEO Magazine*, *The National Herald*, and *The WestView News*.



## Culture &amp; Cuisine

## Terpsikord

By Drew Youmans

**T**he Phantom of the Opera is having its final curtain call at the Majestic Theatre on April 16<sup>th</sup> of this year. Despite creating an estimated 6,500 jobs and grossing \$1.3 billion in sales, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic was too much for even such a revered play and part of Broadway history.

For many Broadway fans, tourists from around the globe, and members of the City's arts scene, Phantom has been a part of their personal lives since it opened in 1988. Marriage proposals happen regularly during the number, "All I Ask of You." And just imagine what it will be like for the show's electrician Alan Lampel, who's seen roughly 13,000 of its 13,981 performances, once it has closed.

Inspired by the challenges of life in the theater, several members from the production have created a new organization comprised of entrepreneurial musicians and actors who would like to continue to create art...on their terms. WestView News is thrilled to introduce you to Terpsikord.

**Terpsikord:****A New Performing Arts Organization**

Founded in 2022 by conductor Carmine Aufiero and violinist Garry Ianco (concertmaster of the Phantom tour for many years), Terpsikord is based in Greenwich Village. It was established, in part, in response to the impact that COVID-19 and the ensuing lockdown had on the performing arts—they were the first industry to be closed and the last to reopen. Added to that, the impending closing of "Phantom of the Opera" on April 18<sup>th</sup> further solidified the founder's commitment to creating opportunities for performers in new way.

The connections between Broadway and members of Terpsikord are numerous. The Director of Marketing for Terpsikord is Raquel Suarez Groen (cast as Carlotta in Phantom since 2017), and their violinist and Director of Development is Drew Martin Youmans, the great-great nephew of Vincent Youmans, composer of "Tea for Two". Many of the core musicians at Terpsikord are regular subs on Broadway or play with older orchestral organizations in Manhattan such as The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and the New York Philharmonic.

New York has long needed a platform for star singers and instrumentalists who are between steady gigs and Terpsikord aims to hit these notes. To achieve that, it is ex-

panding its horizons and taking a detour from competing with other orchestra startups by embracing a flexible ensemble size and a vast repertoire of genres, ranging from Baroque music to works by living classical music composers and Broadway show tunes. Terpsikord's approach is to shake up the status quo in young arts organizations.

**Terpsikord's Offerings**

The organization's first educational program is a masterclass conducted by the longtime concertmaster of the Broadway production of "The Phantom of the Opera", Joyce Hammann. This masterclass will focus on orchestral leadership and ensemble playing for a cohort of young professional violinists. It is being held on May 13, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm at *Saint John's* in the Village, 224 Waverly Place. There are a limited number of tickets available for audience members to purchase at Terpsikord.com.

Terpsikord is also taking a different tact than most young arts organizations in its fundraising efforts.

After their May 13<sup>th</sup> masterclass, Terpsikord will be presenting a second masterclass on May 20<sup>th</sup> for young composers and conductors with Tom Cipullo, composer of "Glory Denied". This will also be held at St. John's in the Village, this time beginning at 11 a.m.

On May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m., Terpsikord will be presenting a salon style performance featuring young professional singers and future Broadway starlets at Don't Tell Mama (343 W 46th St.) There is a \$20 door fee, and a two drink minimum at this venue.

Terpsikord has several "for-hire" opportunities for the public to get involved with the trajectory of this organization, including multi-sensory food/drink/music/dance experiences, private concerts, and curated special events.

In July, Terpsikord will be hosting a gala (date and location forthcoming) to auction off a variety of musical services, signed memorabilia from Broadway shows, and other pieces of arts culture.

Terpsikord's 2023 fundraising season culminates on August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m., with a performance titled "Crossroads" scheduled at the Peter Jay Sharp Theatre at Symphony Space uptown. Star singers from Broadway and The Metropolitan Opera will be accompanied by a string orchestra, presenting a program of songs from Broadway, orchestral overtures, and the world premiere of a new clarinet concerto.

For more information on Terpsikord's full range of activities and personnel, and to subscribe to their mailing list to stay up to date on new events check out Terpsikord.com.



Co-Founder Garry Ianco, with Andrew Lloyd Webber. Photo credit: Drew Youmans



Director of Marketing Raquel Suarez Green, with Renee Fleming and David Lai. Photo credit: Drew Youmans



Phantom stars bow during 2021 reopening. Photo credit: Drew Youmans



## Culture & Cuisine

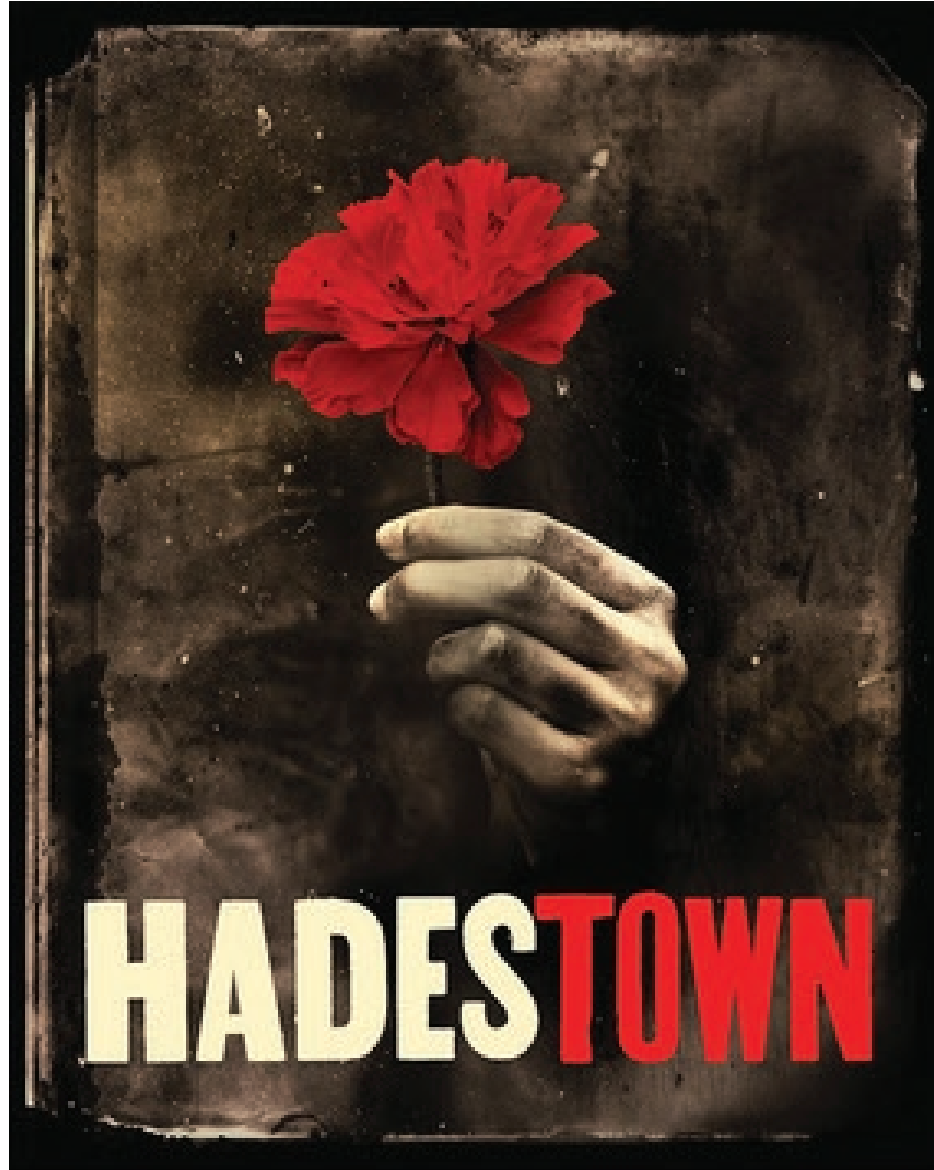
# “Hadestown”: A Story of Music and Romance

By Anastasia Kaliabakos

New York City has had a theater presence as early as the mid 1700s, but it was not until the 1800s that many theaters moved uptown to “Broadway.” It is widely acknowledged that the first Broadway musical was the five-and-a-half-hour-long “The Black Crook,” which played 474 performances in 1866. Ever since then, Broadway has held a special place in every New Yorker’s heart, including mine.

I was lucky to have seen a number of Broadway shows with my family during my childhood and teenage years, including “The Little Mermaid,” “The Lion King,” “Mary Poppins,” “Wicked,” “Hamilton,” “Mean Girls,” and more. However, excursions to Broadway were put on hold for a while due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and I had to satisfy my musical-loving heart by listening to Broadway soundtracks on Spotify. One musical I became increasingly interested in and just had to see was “Hadestown.” As a classics major and a second-generation Greek-American, “Hadestown” seemed to be the perfect blend of classic Greek mythology and modern funky music, and was also a great musical to discuss as Valentine’s Day approached. The play is an interpretation of not one, but two Greek myths: Orpheus and Eurydice, and Hades and Persephone. It seems fitting to give a brief description of each of these famous myths to set the scene.

Orpheus and Eurydice are figures who arguably endure an even more tragic fate than the mainstream Shakespearean ill-fated lovers, Romeo and Juliet. They were a happily married couple; however, Eurydice was fated by the gods to live a short life. While running along a river bank, a serpent attacked and bit the young woman, its poison causing her death shortly thereafter. Orpheus, consumed by grief, turned to the lyre and his gift of music, bestowed to him by



A “Hadestown” flier depicting a red flower, which is meant to symbolize Orpheus’ connection with nature and music.

his father, Apollo, and mourned every day for his beloved. Unable to bear his pain, however, he decided to journey to Underworld to strike a deal with the god of the dead. Using his formidable musical skills, Orpheus was able to convince him to allow Eurydice back to the human world, but under one condition, demanded by Persephone: he was not to look back at her, or else all his efforts to get her back would be fruitless. Their journey home went well, until they were nearly at their destination. A madness then overtook Orpheus, and, distrustful of the promise the gods had made, he looked back at Eurydice. Crying out to

him, she lamented his poor choice and was taken back to the depths of Underworld. Orpheus tried to cross back over the River Styx, but was not allowed to. Devastated by his failure, he lived the rest of his life in misery, eventually succumbing to death at the hands of Bacchus’ maddened maenads.

According to mythology, Hades, the god of Underworld, fell instantly in love with divinely beautiful Persephone when he saw her picking flowers. He decided to capture her one day, using his godly powers to trap her in his underground kingdom where he made her his wife. Persephone was not the only one who lamented her capture—her

mother, Demeter, caused the earth to fall into drought in order to convince the gods to release her daughter from Underworld. Eventually, Hades consented to a deal: Persephone would spend half the year with him and half the year with her mother on Earth. This explained the turn of the seasons each year to the ancient Greeks: her descent into Underworld can be seen as a representation of the coming of winter, when the land is not fertile and does not yield many crops, while her return to Demeter, the goddess of the harvest, symbolizes the coming of spring.

“Hadestown” brings these two centuries-old stories to the modern stage in a very fun and accessible way. The music has the audience clapping and swaying in their seats the whole time, and the stage sets convey the tragic circumstances of the two entwining stories extremely well. It is unsurprising, therefore, that “Hadestown” won eight Tony Awards in 2019 (including best musical, original score, direction, lighting, and scenic design) and the Grammy for Best Musical Theater Album in 2020.

I definitely recommend visiting the Water Kerr Theater to see “Hadestown.” Although the musical is heavily based on the aforementioned Greek myths, it undoubtedly contains many twists and turns that make this modern Broadway tragedy very much its own story. I guarantee that the musical scores of “Hadestown” will be playing in your head long after your own ascent from Hades’ town.

This article originally appeared in the *National Herald* and has been edited by *Westview News*.

Anastasia “Stacey” Kaliabakos is a current senior and Dana Scholar at the College of the Holy Cross. She is double majoring in classics and philosophy and is a member of the college’s Honors Program. On campus, Stacey is the Chief Opinions Editor of *The Spire*, co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Parnassus Classical Journal*, and co-President of the Delta Lambda chapter of the national Eta Sigma Phi Classics Honors Society. Anastasia has been featured in *NEO Magazine*, *The National Herald*, and *The WestView News*.

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## Culture & Cuisine

# From the West Village Cherry Lane Theatre, to Atlanta Georgia, NYC Playwright Galinsky Brings his Heart and his 'Bench'



Galinsky playing a character in *The Bench* at Cherry Lane Theater.

Photo credit: Aidan Grant

## THE BENCH

By Amiri Byrd

The first time New York Playwright and Poet Robert Galinsky had a eureka moment around the issue of homelessness was in New Haven Connecticut in 1986. It was a freezing winter night of five degrees Fahrenheit and he and his roommate and theatre collaborator Robin Selfridge, were living above a Popeyes Chicken, just off Yale University campus. As they entered their building, they stepped over an elderly man, shivering and crouched in the doorway. They knew the man. He was a local "street person" known as "Graveyard."

They got into their second floor well heated apartment and looked at one



Gary Cole playing a character in a charity reading of *The Bench* in Hollywood

another and said... "What are we thinking!? We gotta get 'Graveyard' some chicken from Popeyes to warm him up!" So they went back downstairs and purchased a huge meal of chicken, mashed potatoes, and coffee. "Graveyard" was incredibly grateful as the two handed him this hearty gift, said goodbye and went back upstairs to their home, feeling good about themselves.

Within minutes, they again looked at one another and said "What are we thinking!?" him take each step up to the second-floor landing. "Graveyard" stayed for three nights until the weather broke.

This was everything Galinsky had learned from his parents about how generosity brings humanity to less than humane situations. His parents were proud of him

but also thought he was out of his mind and over 30 years later, Galinsky still brings love and joy to our unhoused neighbors through: benefit readings, free workshops, sock donations (he has personally given away 10,000 pairs of Bombas Socks through their "Giving Partners" program), and through his Off Broadway play, *The Bench A Homeless Love Story*, touring theaters, colleges, and prisons from NYC, to Hollywood, and now a run at the Conyers Rockdale Center for the Arts in Georgia, August 3-5.

"People experiencing homelessness, and their families, tell me again and again that knowing their stories are being told through my play *The Bench* has made them feel alive and worthy of living again," says Galinsky. "They are thrilled that *The Bench* shows them as sentient human beings capable of emotions, and audiences alike are re-energized, because of the play."

Galinsky sees *The Bench's* impact through the messages of thanks from those with homeless sons, daughters, brothers and sisters and through emails and notes from audiences who share how they are less afraid to reach out to our unhoused neighbors. In Georgia, Galinsky continues to bring hope to a hopeless experience, through his play, *The Bench*.



## Culture & Cuisine

# Standing Room for Author Talk with Jennifer Coburn

WestView News Staff Report

**L**ast Saturday, as part of her national book tour, novelist Jennifer Coburn visited her childhood library, the Jefferson Market Library, to discuss her new book *Cradles of the Reich*. “The novel is set in a Nazi breeding program, but ultimately it is about the strength of women and how the connections we forge can help us rise to heroism we never imagined we were capable of,” Coburn told a packed house.

The Associated Press reviewed her story of three very different German women who meet at the real-life Nazi breeding program as setting a high bar for historical fiction, stating that “all historical novels should strive to be this compelling, well-researched, and just plain good.” David Rothenberg of New York’s WBAI radio station recently called Coburn’s novel “essential reading.”

“When I first heard about the Lebensborn breeding program, Heinrich Himmler’s plan to create two million new children for the Nazi’s so-called master race, all I wanted to do was read a well-researched novel that would answer my questions about the program,” Coburn said. “Where were these homes? How were women chosen for the program? And why in the world would women volunteer to have sex with SS officers they’d never met, just to have a child for the Reich?”

As it turned out, Coburn could not find that novel, so she decided to write it herself. “Before this, I wrote a mother-daughter

travel memoir called *We’ll Always Have Paris* and six romantic comedies, so writing about a Nazi breeding home was not the next natural step for my writing career. But I could not stop thinking about this program that existed in the same world as Nazi death camps. It was two sides of the same twisted eugenics plan to create what they considered a master race, but the Lebensborn—by creating life rather than destroying it.”

She said the more she learned the further she got sucked into the research, which included working with Holocaust scholars, German author Bernhard Schlink, and a former member of the Hitler Youth. “I consulted with a food historian—who knew this was a job?—to make sure I was setting the table with the right meals for the seasons and period of history. I know more about rabbit stew than I ever bargained for, but I wanted readers to feel confident that what they are reading is historically, culturally, and linguistically accurate.”

Coburn says the three fictional characters represent the different choices that non-Jewish women could make in Germany in 1939. “There’s Gundi, the resistor, who the Nazis consider genetic perfection, but they don’t know she is pregnant with a Jewish boyfriend’s baby. Nurse Irma is a bystander who, like many Germans, wanted to keep her head down. She feels like she’s doing a good thing for the women in the program—and for her country—but quickly learns what the program is really about and what the Nazi Party truly stands for, and she needs to choose sides.” Coburn said the hardest character to write was Hilde, the Nazi true believer. “As a Jewish woman, it was tough to crawl into the skin of someone who believed the world would be better without my family in it. But I needed to include this voice in order to examine how a country descends into madness and devolves into a cult of hate. Hilde’s character



Jennifer Coburn’s vivid fiction touches reality



Joining vivid pages of reality with fictional links

Photo credit: Sandra Geis.

is the personification of the rise of fascism, and that’s something I feel is critical to explore.”



Photo credit: Kenneth Karpel.



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# Art & Architecture

## Andy Warhol Pop Art Genius

By Robert Heide

I gave Andy Warhol the idea in the Silver Factory one night after a party at Bobo Rockefeller's at which Flor Trujillo the daughter of the assassinated Dominican dictator proclaimed her recent marriage to a very handsome young man; at the party Andy had asked Flor why she married the well known male hustler, to which she replied, "He give me a good f—ck." After the party, I pitched my idea to Andy as we sat alone together on Andy's red plush couch; it was to continue to paint his soup cans and celebrities like Marilyn Monroe, only changing and varying the use of color: in other words, a Marilyn with a fuchsia face

with different color backgrounds; they were all leaning against a wall when Dorothy Podber, the girlfriend of my pal collagist Ray Johnson, visiting the factory, asked if she could 'shoot' them. Andy, thinking she meant to take pictures, said sure. She pulled off her gloves, took a gun from her handbag and shot bullets into four of them. They were restored, and thus became Warhol's most iconic silkscreens, carrying with them the aura of death—Marilyn herself had overdosed two years before, and three years later Andy was shot by Valerie Solanas, the founder of S.C.U.M., the Society for Cutting Up Men. Over the years the 'shot Marylins' ended up in major collections after fetching record-breaking prices at auction. On a very positive note, in 2022 the proceeds from the champion—the 'shot blue sage Marilyn'—all went to a foundation for helping underprivileged children.

handed remark or joke suddenly startled him into stillness and, hiding behind his dark sunglasses, a rigid, passive blankness seemed to overtake him. Yet on another level this strange man in a Truman Capote styled wig which sat unevenly on his head with bangs falling to one side and over one eye—seemed to be totally in control. His relationship with Edward was intensely personal; but Andy clearly was intrigued by some of the photos Edward was showing him for possible use as pop art silkscreen blow-ups. At different times in their on-again-off-again friendship Andy would present Edward with a gift of a Campbell's Soup can painting or a silk screen of the two housewives who died from poisoning after eating tuna fish salad made from a can of tainted A&P Tuna. Edward sold these renderings early on for quick cash much to Andy's dismay and astonishment; and their relationship came to

anguish of existence." Andy, a devotee of the play came several times and gave it a glowing endorsement, a quote I used in ads and on the play's poster—"The Bed is beautiful emptiness!—a work of genius!" Subsequently he decided to make a film of the play. It was shot in 16 mm over the weekend of November 13 and 14, 1965 at the enormous loft on the Bowery (near the Cooper Union) of Interview Magazine's cover artist Richard Bernstein. (See *Starmaker*, a book of Bernstein's Interview covers published in 2018.) Danny Williams, a talented and trained filmmaker who had edited all of Albert and David Maysle's films, and had made over 20 films at the Factory in 1965 and 1966 co-directed *The Bed* with Andy with whom he had a romantic and creative relationship. (See 2007 documentary *A Walk Into the Sea* by Williams' niece Esther Robinson.) Both men considered it an am-



WARHOL, HEIDE, INGRID SUPERSTAR -1966

Photo credit: Heide Archives

and orange hair or a green and purple soup can, etcetera. This was in reply to Andy's persistent and annoying question: 'What'll we do next?' Andy's obsession with the repetition of image coupled with his profound sense of Zen emptiness caused him to remark, 'Oh, gee, yeah,' as he embraced the free-floating idea. And this became a major shift in his work. Four colored soup cans entered the world of Andy Warhol's pop art the following year, and decades later in 2022, one of five images of Marilyn Monroe, called the 'shot Marylins' sold for nearly \$200 million prompting Alex Rotter, Christie's chairman of 20th and 21st century art to state "we're very proud that we sold the most expensive painting of the 20th century." Back in the sixties Andy had just completed five silkscreens of a blonde Marilyn (from a publicity photo from Niagara)

By now everyone knows that Warhol is the foremost artist of the second half of the 20th century and continues to be the world's most famous well into the 21st—Picasso, of course was the big one in the first half of the last century. I first met Andy Warhol in the early sixties, through a mutual friend, photographer Edward Wallowitch, who was then living with his brother John, a cabaret performer, in a floor through basement apartment at 8 Barrow Street in Greenwich Village. John had a kind of salon and actors like George C. Scott, Colleen Dewhurst, George Segal and a coterie of cabaret chanteuse style singers including Lovelady Powell, Joanne Berretta, Alice Ghostly and Eartha Kitt showed up. Andy often appeared to me a pale white-silver-gray ghost-like apparition, who was quiet, shy, and totally in his own persona—an off-

an end. Not too long afterward, Edward died of a fall after a prolonged drinking binge. In 2013 Warhol's Silver Car Crash or Double Disaster, a silkscreen made from one of Edward's car crash photos, sold for \$104 million.

My next encounter with Andy Warhol was when he came to the Caffè Cino on Cornelia Street to see my play *The Bed*. The tiny stage area at the famed Cino became an oversized slanted-forward slab of a gleaming white bed; two young men struggle to get out of their bed of discontent as they encounter time blackouts brought about by booze guzzling and drugs. Twice they play the Dave Clark Five's *Anyway You Want It* on their record player, never saying a word, staring straight ahead into the audience. *New York Times* drama critic Elanore Lester wrote, "What we are witnessing here is the

bitious and complex project, grounded in the restaging and adaptation to film of the one-act play and filmed five hours of footage.

The original Caffè Cino actors, Jim Jennings and Larry Burns reprised their roles; under ultra bright light, Jack and Jim slowly wake up, smoke, drink, eat and discuss the deterioration of their relationship. At the end of the play one of them actually steps off the bed, dresses and walks out to "buy a pack of cigarettes and get a cup of coffee." Andy decided to make *The Bed* an elaborate dual screen sound version; the completed hour-long film was premiered at Jonas Mekas Filmmakers Cinemateque on 41st Street in 1966 and portions of it were spliced into early versions of Andy's breakthrough success, *The Chelsea Girls*. *The Bed* never went into distribution and after its initial showings was shelved, due to a law-

Continued on page10



## Art & Architecture

# A Day At the Whitney with Curator Marcela Guerrero

By Angela Montefinise

**M**arcela Guerrero—the newly-named DeMartini Family Curator at the Whitney Museum of American Art and curator of the renowned exhibition *no existe un mundo poshuracán: Puerto Rican Art in the Wake of Hurricane Maria*—has spent plenty of time in and around the Meatpacking District and West Village during her six years at the museum. The first Whitney curator to specialize in Latinx art and artists, Guerrero is now sharing which coffee carts, restaurants, quiet spots, and other neighborhood haunts are her favorites, to help visitors plan a perfect day at the museum at 99 Gansevoort Street. Below are a few of her suggestions.

Plan your perfect day soon, to see Guerrero's exhibition *no existe un mundo poshuracán*—the first survey of Puerto Rican art at a major U.S. art museum in fifty years—before it closes on April 23rd. Advance tickets are recommended; kids and teens are always admitted for free at the Whitney, and Friday evenings are pay-what-you-wish for adults.

For exclusive content from the Whitney, sign up for the museum's newsletter at [whitney.org/newsletter](http://whitney.org/newsletter).

### **Favorite place to eat when it's a nice day to walk outside: Los Mariscos**

"I lived in Los Angeles for three years, where you can find top-notch Mexican food. In New York...you have to search for it. Just a stone's throw away from the Whitney is Los Mariscos. This hole-in-the-wall restaurant serves Tijuana and Baja California tacos, aguachiles, and cocteles. My favorite is the enchilado taco. Pair that with a



Photo by Javier Romero

Michelada and you're set for the rest of the day."

### **Favorite bar to go to with a group of friends from work: Automatic Slims**

"We have a tradition at the Whitney—after we're done installing a show, we go somewhere to celebrate and wish the exhibition a good run. When we finished installing *no existe un mundo poshuracán*, I invited the art handlers and registrars to Automatic Slims for drinks. We had a great time, largely thanks to the staff who were so chill and accommodated our big group. Shout out to Maleek, who was the kindest!"

### **Favorite coffee: Ali's coffee cart outside**

### **of the Museum**

"I'm a no-frills coffee drinker. I like it black, no sugar, and with a kind person on the other side handing it to me."

### **Favorite stroll: The High Line**

"I don't necessarily have a favorite spot, but I love when I have the time to walk from one end to the other. In addition to the art displayed across the High Line, the chaise lounge chairs always catch my eye. I love seeing people relax and sunbathe. It's a reminder to slow down and appreciate the small things."

### **Favorite quiet spot at the Whitney: no existe un mundo poshuracán**

"These days, when the museum is closed to the public, my favorite quiet space is my exhibition. I love seeing people in the space, but when I'm there by myself, I feel like I'm in communion with the artists and the ideas reflected in the show. I can also see all of the hard work that went into putting it together."

### **Favorite music to listen to while wandering the galleries: Bad Bunny**

"While we were installing *no existe un mundo poshuracán*, we often had Bad Bunny playing in the galleries. Yes, Bad Bunny is my muse and I'm proud to admit it."

# Andy Warhol Pop Art Genius

Continued from page 26

suit brought by one of the investors. Fortunately a film historian named Callie Angel was employed at the Whitney Museum in 1991 to bring it and other 'lost' films into the light. A years-long project involving the Whitney, the MOMA, the Warhol Foundation and the Warhol Museum has resulted in *The Bed* and many more films being dusted off, analyzed, restored, and digitized. Two catalogue raisonnés of the films of Andy Warhol have been completed; the first features the famous three-minute

'screen tests' and was completed before Callie's untimely death and published in 2006. Curatorial consultant Claire Henry took over the job and in December, 2021 the *Catalogue Raisonné of Andy Warhol's Films, 1963-1965* was published by Yale University Press. In the huge \$100 book a 13-page prodigiously detailed essay on the making of *The Bed* by King's College-London film historian Elena Gorfinkel with over a dozen photos both from the play at the Caffè Cino and the filming in Bernstein's loft makes quite a splash.

Included in the big Warhol book is an essay by filmmaker Tom Kalin on the color film *Lupe* which has a luminous performance by Andy's muse, the 1965 'Girl of

the Year'—Eddie Sedgwick—and also has in the cast my old friend Billy Name, who created Andy's silvered Factory and became a photo chronicler of those early years. The film has become one of Andy's most popular. Not too long after *The Bed* was filmed Andy asked me to write a screenplay for Eddie in which she ends up killing herself. I decided that the spectacular and dismal death of the Hollywood star—the Mexican spitfire—Lupe Velez, based on a story told by Kenneth Anger in his blockbuster book *Hollywood Babylon* would be ideal for Eddie. My script, entitled *The Death of Lupe Velez* became just *Lupe* and it is one of the most popular of Andy's films. In the end Eddie as Lupe—is seen dying with her head in the

toilet. Around that time Andy had asked me when I thought Eddie might commit suicide. Of course I had no idea. He said "I hope she lets us know so we can film it." Eerily, Eddie more or less committed suicide of a drug overdose just a few short years later in Santa Barbara.

By Robert Heide

Robert Heide's plays including *The Bed* and another Caffè Cino classic *Moon and I Shop: Andy Warhol* as well as the film script of *The Death of Lupe Velez* have been collected in *Robert Heide—25 Plays* and have been published by Fast Books Press. The book is available at [fastbookspress.com](http://fastbookspress.com) and at Amazon



## Art & Architecture

# Proust's American Publisher: Albert Boni

Submitted by  
The Proust Center at  
Jefferson Market Library

Did you know that Albert Boni, a resident of Greenwich Village, rescued the first English translation of Marcel Proust's *Sodom et Gomorrah*?

Albert Boni's literary roots are right here in Greenwich Village, beginning in 1913 with his Washington Square Bookshop at 135 MacDougal Street. His first publishing endeavor, the following year, was the Little Leather Library, which were small abridged classics and sold mainly through Woolworth's. In 1917, with his publishing experience, Albert joined Horace Liveright in founding Modern Library. Desiring to have his own business, in 1923 Albert and his brother Charles opened their own publishing house, Albert and Charles Boni, Inc., in the basement of 19 Barrow Street.

During 1926 and early 1927 the first

English translation of Marcel Proust's *Sodom et Gomorrah* was in jeopardy. British experts on the 1857 Obscene Publications Act had warned the English publisher Chatto & Windus that they would risk a lawsuit if they translated *Sodom et Gomorrah*, Proust's fourth volume of *In Search of Lost Time*, in which Proust wrote openly and unapologetically about homosexuality. It was three decades after Oscar Wilde's trial in 1895. (Wilde was posthumously pardoned in 2017.)

Proust's English translator, C. K. Scott Moncrieff, frustrated by the warnings, wrote his London publisher: "...whether it was worth going on with Proust? Could they publish without contravening England's obscenity laws?" (Jean Findlay, *Chasing Lost Time*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux.) The answer was, "No." To secure continued publication, Moncrieff sold the American rights to Albert & Charles Boni, Inc. In 1927, Boni Inc. published Moncrieff's translation, titled *Cities of the Plain*, in a two-volume limited edition set of 2,000.

Surprisingly, the brothers found



then, was Albert Boni?

He was a strong individualist who published many of the most creative American and European writers of the first half of the twentieth century, an entrepreneur who developed a new technology, micro-printing, and understood the optics, physics, and engineering principles underpinning it, a critic of the establishment, a socialist for much of his life, and a man who—with committed determination—sought to make the great library collections accessible to the common man, the common reader—first through the modest Little Leather Library, and finally in the vast Readex library collections that are indispensable for researchers today."

*New York Times Obituary*

<https://www.nytimes.com/1981/08/01/obituaries/albert-boni-publisher-dies-founder-of-boni-liveright.html>

**Proust Center**

themselves "sending copies by post to England to those clamoring for the next installment of Proust." (Jean Findlay, *Chasing Lost Time*.)

August A. Imholtz Jr. is writing a biography on Albert Boni. Here is an excerpt: "One must ask, 'What sort of man,

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## Art & Architecture

# Joan Hall: Collage, Assemblage and Sorcery



Joan Hall With Box Construction "Girl with Puppy." Photo credit: Salem Krieger, 2023



Joan Hall. Parroquin Dreams 20, 2016. Paper Collage, 19"x15." Photo by Joan Hall

By J. Taylor Basker

Westbeth Gallery held a remarkable retrospective exhibit of the collages and assemblages of its long-term resident, Joan Hall. Entitled "Themes and Dreams." The Gallery became a vortex into the secret lives of objects, that Hall both conceals and reveals in 100 works—some compressed into boxes, others floating in space or hovering off walls. Her exhibit was not just to view, but to experience the mysteries of inanimate objects that vibrate, although still, that speak, although mute, that embrace, although petrified. Hall created mini worlds in boxes that turn into alternate realities. Here the strange laws of the physics of atoms prevail over human logic. According to quantum physics, everything is composed of countless atoms, charged with energy, attracted to each other and interchangeable. Hall thus juxtaposes unlike objects as a vertebra, old photos and lace, creating a dialogue that both perplexes and enchants the viewer. Her background in theater and dance enabled her to construct small stages in compressed boxes for these dramatic encounters of found objects that are alien but somehow magically allied. She evokes the work of the great surrealists

Joseph Cornell and Marcel Duchamp, in her mischievous manipulations of material forms.

Her Paris Project began her obsession with found objects. While wandering through the Parisian Flea market, she discovered an art student's drawings of objects. She then searched the market for the objects, created assemblages of her discoveries, later adding her own drawings as well. These were well received, and she then continued to use assemblage as her primary art form. She understood the power of the object itself as a means of creative communication. Isolated from its normal environment, it creates a dynamism of thought that triggers shock, awe, and wonder in the viewer.

Some of her object assemblages she calls icons. Here she combines natural with man-made objects to create archetypal figures, using her theater training in Mime to elicit the essence of characters with the simplest forms. There is a restrained balance to her arrangements, which are both lyrical and graceful. She freezes movement, preserving dramatic impact in constrained space.

While much of her work is in subdued, natural tones, color explodes in her collages entitled "Parroquin Dreams," inspired by the great Neo-Gothic church of the Parroquin in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, whose numerous pink spires soar like spears of its namesake, St. Michael the Archangel, dedicated to protection against evil, and de-



Joan Hall. "Childhood Dream," Mixed-Media Assemblage, 12"x10"x6", 1971. Photo by Joan Hall

livery into heaven. Hall's collages create fantasies that lift spirits into celestial spheres of swirling forms and colors. Her Mexico "Mi Amor" series on Mexican landmarks repeats this kaleidoscope of colors in collage.

Missing from the exhibit is the large illustration that won a 1980 *Omni Magazine* competition for an image predicting the year 2000. Her image depicted the WTC towers with wings ascending into heaven! In August, the month before 9/11 she did a

collage with a student that showed a plane headed into the Towers, next to a white-robed figure with arms raised. These powerful works presaged the 9/11 event and were featured in my film on 9/11 *New York Artists and 9/11* on YouTube. Her *Omni* piece disappeared in a shared artists space in Westbeth while she was traveling, when some artists cleared it out to create a sculpture space. Hall's psyche seems uncannily connected to events both in the past and in the future. Her artistic vision is that of a seer who transcends her own time and space.

Although born in Brooklyn, Joan Hall's travels and international experiences manifest a global creativity that she playfully turned into The Parcel Project where mixed media parcels were sent to her from all over the world, with an image of a landmark. Her desire for communication and interaction with the viewer is seen in Jill's Room where mixed-media create three boxes acting as rooms that use mirrors to reflect the viewer as well as create an illusion of infinite space.

Joan Hall bewitches us. Perhaps in a previous time, she would have been accused of witchcraft. Fortunately, today this sorceress is free to work her magic on us and we delight in the spells cast on us through her skillful use of objects, perhaps not dragon claws or spider threads, but bones, lace and antique photos.



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# Where is GREENWICH VILLAGE?

*A Map and Guide to NYC's Most Storied Neighborhood*

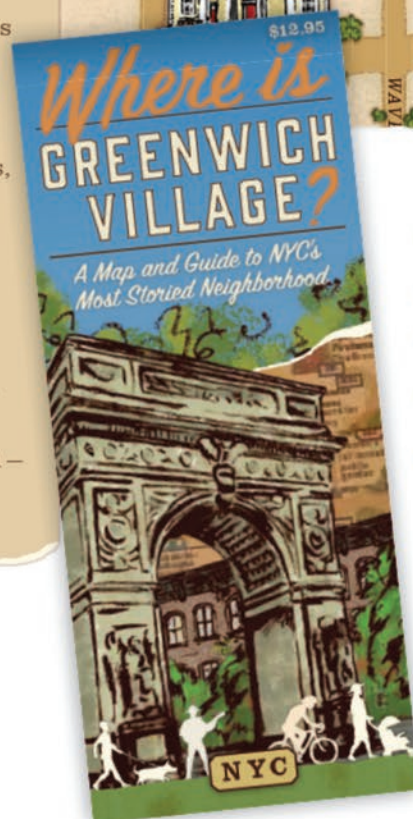
**You won't discover the real Village on your phone...**

**J**oin us for a stroll through Greenwich Village, known for its rich history, creative vibe, and picturesque row houses. Wander its leafy, winding side streets. Visit historic sites and the homes of legendary Villagers. Drop by TV and film locations. Soak in the sensibilities that inspired artistic masterworks. Relax in the gardens and playgrounds frequented by neighborhood families.

On this small tract of land, the Leni Lenape once fished and grew tobacco. Waves of immigrants and migrants, rebels and refugees have called it home. Beatniks and hippies, musicians and writers, celebrities and CEOs – all have found kindred spirits in the streets, parks, churches, schools, clubs, shops, and cafes of the Village. Here a legendary past coexists with a vibrant present.

As long-time residents who have shown many friends and family around the Village over the years, we developed this map as a guide to give all visitors that same insider's view. Experience the sights and sounds of our neighborhood as a real New Yorker would – up close and on foot.

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# Body & Soul

## THE KELLY CHRONICLES

By Kelly Gallagher

### Staying healthy in these crazy times

Last month we talked about the value of restoring a smile. Priceless. This month it's been non-stop stormy weather and depressing rain across the country and I am looking for a way to dry off, restore my mojo and jumpstart a new health routine. For me, it starts with assessing the terrain and cleaning out the things that are not working so I can make room for the new both physically and mentally. And ultimately, I think it's really about identifying our weaknesses and shifting our mindset so we can experience the restoration of the mind, body and spirit. Time to get honest.

What better time than now. Spring is here and it is historically and metaphorically time to clean the closets. I think we need to add "lighten your work load and detoxify your life" to that list. Two huge topics we could spend days talking about. Maybe in the next edition.

It's been an emotionally toxic time for everyone on this planet so to those people who still haven't come out of their houses after COVID...it's time to get some fresh air. Some of us didn't keep our News Years promises to ourselves so now is our second chance in 2023 to de-clutter with purpose. Spring is the perfect time to re-set new goals for ourselves. It may feel like a looming job to tackle some of these areas of our life but once you address them, wow, it's a relief and a stress reliever in so many ways. It makes room for more of what you do want to do by clearing what you don't want. Most of us have been paralyzed by the



Photo credit: Kelly Gallagher

events in the World over the last couple of years; COVID, Stock market crashes, Crypto, Digital Wallets, Digital Health Passports, War, Mandates, Bank failures, government controls, TikTok and looming social credit scores to name a few. There is not much we can do about a lot of the global dilemmas but what we can do is take better care of our own individual selves by implementing a few good habits and clearing the cosmic clutter on all levels. By taking care of ourselves we can then help take care of other people. It's so simple that we don't do it. At least I don't always do it until I am in trouble or not feeling my best. Who am I kidding? I work until I drop. And I just did it again.

I'm embarrassed to say that I was so

acutely and chronically dehydrated just yesterday that my Doctor could barely get a reading on me with the Zyto Bioscan machine, a biocommunication device that reads and relies on galvanic skin response (GSR)—an established technology that measures fluctuations in electrical conductivity of the skin. An application of GSR is lie detector testing. I was so dehydrated that the Zyto cradle could barely get a reading. I had been drinking too much coffee, water out of plastic bottles and sparkling water out of aluminum cans. Our water quota cannot be accomplished by drinking soda, coffee, tea, juice and/or alcohol....none of them count. I had to make a new goal. Drink more clean water.

#### ACTION STEP

Make goals for yourself.

Make a list of the SIMPLE things you know you need to do and check them off daily. Do something you know you should have done that you haven't. Do three things a day that move you closer to your goals.

Here's what I had to remind myself I can do at home and you can too.

- Drink more clean water preferably out of glass bottles
- Drink less coffee
- Reduce sugar intake
- Eliminate soda
- Don't drink out of plastic
- Don't drink out of aluminum cans that are lined with plastic
- Turn off TV and social media
- Jump on rebounder 500 times a day
- Go for a walk
- Meditate
- Breathe
- Get out in the sun
- Fresh air
- Clean out closet

\*Personally, I'm committed to getting rid of 25% of what's in my closet. Less is more. Let go. It doesn't fit.

Donate to charity.

Implement my restorative nutritional and supplemental program designed by my Integrative Doctors so that I might extend my life and health span.

What do you need to clean up in your life? What do you need to clean out of your life?

What do you need to recommit to?

I am here to remind us all that we become happier and healthier beings when we love ourselves and take better care of ourselves.

Clean the closets in your home and the closets of your mind and you will free up space to experience the blessings of the universe.

It's all connected.

With Cosmic Love,  
Kelly G

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## Body & Soul

# To Revive A Youthful Skin

By J. Mark

277 West Village has the feel of an elegant speakeasy. One might walk right past the unbranded storefront on West 4<sup>th</sup> Street without realizing that inside, they would discover an elegant, well-appointed clinic featuring state-of-the-art equipment, a team led by board-Certified surgeons, talented estheticians and medical grade skincare products.

The clinic will introduce a combination of holistic and contemporary medical non-surgical and surgical approaches to benefit the residents... Services include personalized nutritional guidance based on individual DNA and lab analysis while keeping personal and family medical and genetic testing in mind. Hormone replacement therapy if medically indicated will also be part of the patient's journey. The above will be complimented with non-surgical procedures like liquid face lifts for both men and women. Chin and jaw augmentation, non-surgical rhinoplasty and customized treatments for baggy eyelids and dark circles. Botox, fillers and PDO threads are also offered. Additionally on site cosmetic surgery for baggy eye lids (blepharoplasty) is on the menu. Consultation for breast and body are provided by a board-certified plastic surgeon. Some of the most popular treatments of the day such as HydraFacials, Dermaplaning, Chemical peels, IPL, Laser Hair removal, Votiva (women's sexual health) Microneedling, and the current rave from Hollywood to Saint Germain, Morpheus8 are also offered. Morpheus8 is the most effective non-surgical procedure for a



**Dr. Noah Sanni brings dermatological science to the Village. Dr Sanni has 25 years of experience and has performed over 15,000 surgical procedures**

Photo credit: A Dope Artist

toning and tightening skin. It stimulates collagen production by combining micro needling with radiofrequency and the remarkable results are addictive.

Dr Noah Sanni, a long-time resident of the West Village and a Board-Certified surgeon, has brought his anti-aging procedures to neighborhood residents with the opening of his new anti-aging and aesthetic clinic, discreetly named, 277 West Village.

The Clinic has over 25 years of experience in the field of cosmetic facial rejuvenation and enhancements and Dr. Sanni has performed over 15,000 surgical procedures.

277 West Village is certified in PRP/Hair restoration and offers specialized single follicle hair transplantation (Neografting) by some of most experienced technicians in the United States.

The doctor's philosophy for facial rejuvenation is rooted in natural looking results. His patient's do not look "worked on" but

rather refreshed and enhanced. He believes that current plastic surgery trends are working against the fundamental concepts of beauty. He explains, "Over exaggeration of physical characteristics can be unattractive if these look unnatural. Younger people look older with artificially exaggerated facial features whether its plump lips, lip flips, or overly inflated cheeks."

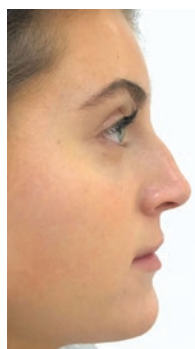
With regards to maintenance, Dr. Sanni recommends that patients begin when you start seeing signs of aging, "the facial muscular architecture can be supported (*before* we start seeing the aging signs in the mid-face and especially the lower face) ...*without* any surprising, exaggerated changes on the surface. Thus maintaining youthful serenity. ..this preventive protocol is non-surgical for the majority of patients." The clinic will also provide sessions for patients suffering from body Dysmorphia, a condition where one's body self-image is distorted.

Absolute discretion has always been the pillar of Dr. Noah's cosmetic practice, having treated many of the world's top celebrities. It is in the spirit of this discretion that he wants his neighborhood clinic to be an understated, tasteful relaxing private space for West Village residents to enjoy pain-free anti-aging procedures.

The clinic will continue to add other modalities to reduce cellular aging and regenerative medicine. Hyperbaric treatments will be introduced shortly together with cryotherapy.

Consultations are always complimentary and the team of 277 West Village looks forward to warmly welcoming new patients.

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# The Auxiliary of Lenox Hill Hospital raises \$96,000 at annual benefit

By Avinash Ramsadeen

The Auxiliary of Lenox Hill Hospital raised \$96,000 at its first in-person benefit since 2019. This year's event, which was held at the Union Club of New York, was dedicated to Lenox Hill Hospital's world-class neurosurgery department. Money raised will help support the Auxiliary's diverse programs across Northwell Health's Manhattan campuses.

"Lenox Hill Hospital is the home of extraordinary breakthroughs and discoveries," said Michael Dowling, the president and CEO of Northwell Health at the benefit. "The neurosurgery team is driving innovation, discovery and humanity forward while raising the bar and setting a standard higher than many."

To highlight the groundbreaking treatment and research provided by the neuroscience department, Daniel Baker, MD, the executive director of Lenox Hill Hospital, led a panel discussion with David Langer, MD, the chair of neurosurgery and John Boockvar, MD, the vice chair of neurosurgery and director of the brain tumor center at Lenox Hill Hospital. The panel reflected on the department's tremendous growth since its inception and spoke about a future with even more inclusivity.

Joining the doctors on stage for the discussion were Adi Barash and Ruthie Shatz of Yulari Films, the production company behind the hit Netflix documentary series "Lenox Hill" and its highly anticipated sequel "Emergency NYC." The producers shared compelling behind-the-scenes insights gained while chronicling the personal and professional lives of the two surgeons.

Dr. Baker delivered a speech about the

Auxiliary's "unwavering" support of the hospital and its mission to not only provide exceptional patient care but also assist with the professional development of its staff. Susy Holiday, the chair of the Auxiliary spoke about the many programs the all-volunteer group does to aid the community. Among the appropriations the Auxiliary will help fund in 2023 are:

The Auxiliary of Lenox Hill Hospital Women's Shelter Clinic which provides free primary care to the uninsured, undocumented, and those who lost primary care during the pandemic

Employee Merit Scholarships which provide financial support to Lenox Hill employees as they pursue continuing education

The Advancing Women in Science and Medicine Awards which funds research by medical professionals

1,000 free bike helmets that are distributed each year during the Third Avenue Street Fair to keep children and adults in the community safe

Multiple mental health initiatives which

include funding for adolescent psychology programs, mental health training for reproductive trauma treatment and a resident mental health program which provides support to residents and fellows who experience psychological difficulties on the front-line

Multiple nurse-centered proposals which include recognition awards, certifications that foster better quality of care outcomes and reimbursement for certification exams across many specialties

The Auxiliary of Lenox Hill Hospital, which began in 1861 as The Ladies Aid Society of New York is an organization working to benefit the hospital and community through various initiatives designed to improve patient care and employee satisfaction at all three of Northwell Health's Manhattan campuses which include Lenox Hill Hospital, Lenox Health Greenwich Village and Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital

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**RAISE HEALTH**



# Style On The Street

By Karilyn Prisco



Dewey



Gianfranco



Carol



Ankita



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Caroline



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# Neighborhood

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By Anyuta & Inna Zelikson

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**Far Left: Actress Jenn Lyon**  
**Middle: Singer/Actress Claudette Ortiz**  
**Above: Astrolofer Susan Miller**

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# Then & Now

## Can You Save A Park By Tearing It Down?

### NEW YORK CITY CONTINUES TO DEMOLISH PARKS TO SAVE THEM

By Eric Uhlfelder

Any day now bulldozers and chainsaws will visit Wagner Park to flatten it. This remarkable 3.5-acre space, named after the former head of the New York City Planning Commission, Robert Wagner, Jr., is an award-winning model of urban landscape that was in fact designed as a flood plain. And when Superstorm Sandy came roaring through, the park never flooded.

Yet, the Battery Park City Authority, whose very existence is owed to the man after whom the park was named, deems the park's destruction essential to save it. This is city planning at its worst.

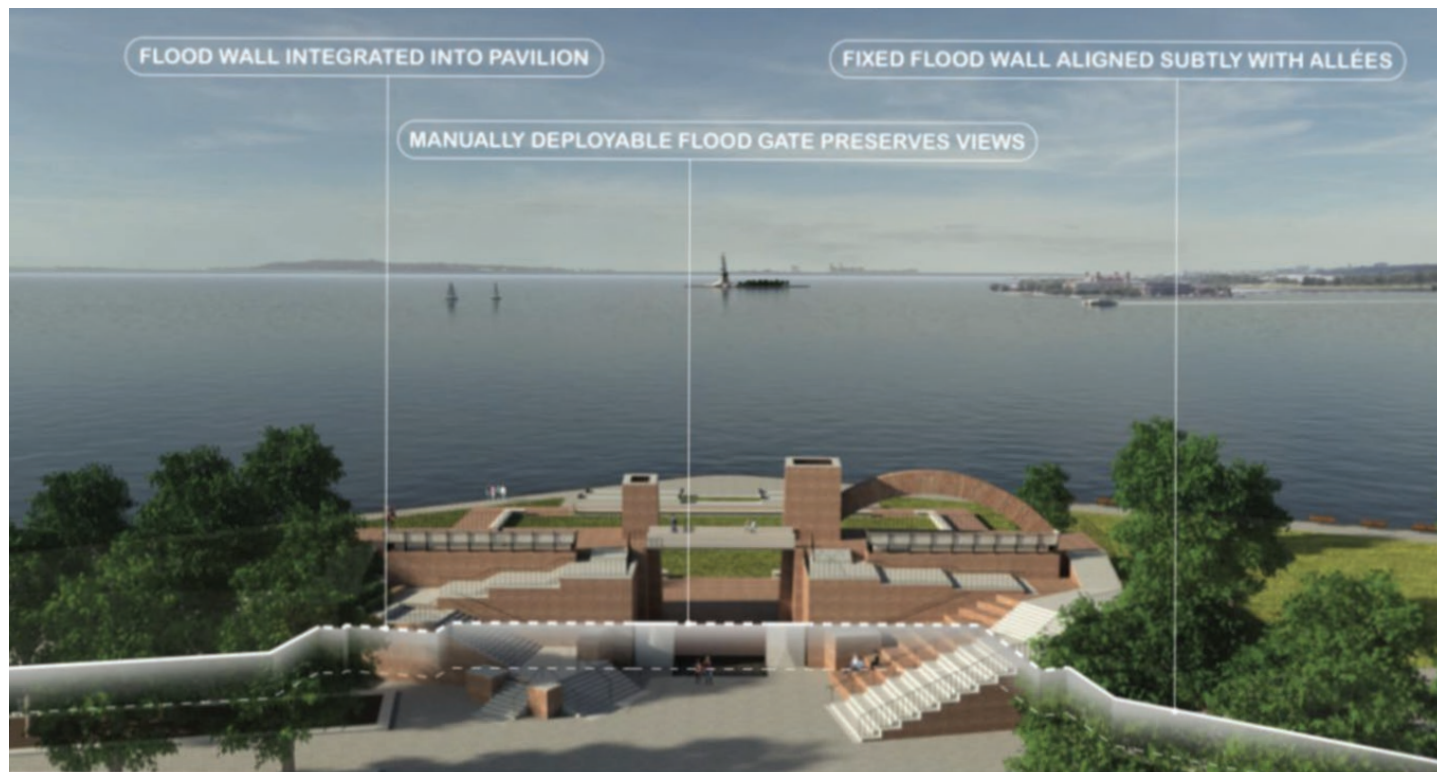
There is a cheaper and more effective alternative provided by the same design firm that planned the original park. It would save more than 100 mature trees that are essential for flood control and will avoid the heavy air pollution that will be brought about by the park's destruction and trucking in thousands of tons of earth to raise the park 10 feet.

After a NY State Supreme Court judge refused to extend the stay on the park's demolition, arguing there is no time to wait and assess if the BPCA's plan makes sense, the venerable Sierra Club wrote to Governor Hochul to intervene. The governor is the last hope we have to save this magnificent park.

An abridged version of the Sierra Club's letter appears below. Here's a link to the full letter and a detailed discussion of the planning issues: <https://savewagner.com/>

Here's a link to the judge's ruling: <https://iapps.courts.state.ny.us/fbem/Document-DisplayServlet?documentId=E6nIxx-jac9Wnn0/wKyx6SQ==&system=prod>

And to better understand how the city can more effectively protect Lower Manhattan and fight climate change without destroying our parks, see my recent opinion piece in the NY Daily News: <https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-stop-clear-cutting-new-york-city-20230302-dyreex-muk5e7llezkr3ijrbvby-story.html>



Plan for Wagner Park that was rejected.

Photo courtesy: Eric Uhlfelder



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March 21, 2023

Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of New York State

Dear Governor Hochul,

The Sierra Club New York City Group is calling on you as Governor to intervene to stop the unnecessary demolition of Wagner Park in lower Manhattan by the Battery Park City Authority. The destruction of a well-functioning green park and the destruction of trees should always be a last resort. We agree with the Authority on the necessity of protecting NYC from rising sea levels and more frequent and powerful storms. We accept the climate change-related predictions of NOAA and other respected scientific authorities. However, the community and the park's original designers have jointly proposed an alternative plan that accomplishes the Authority's stated goal of protecting inland areas from future flooding.

The Sierra Club calls upon you to intervene at this critical time to support and im-

plement the better community-backed, more environmentally responsible option available. The Battery Park City Neighborhood Association and lower Manhattan community worked diligently with Olin and Machado Silvetti, the world-renowned architects and landscape designers that originally designed this award-winning and innovative park in 1996. Olin/Silvetti created an alternative design that protects the inland residential/commercial area from sea level rise and storm surge without disturbing Wagner Park.

By adopting this alternative plan, the park could remain continuously available to the neighborhood without the community enduring a protracted loss of a very needed park space during construction. Importantly, the community plan provides the same height protection as the Authority's proposed elevation while leaving intact the water absorption elements of Wagner Park.

The BPCA plan will destroy 114 healthy and mature trees, which could endure for decades more to combat sea level rise. The Authority says it will plant a greater number of new trees at higher elevations, but these new plantings will take years to develop the same root systems that the current trees have established, which remain valuable to storm surge abatement and flood

water attenuation. The NYC Parks Department states that, "A large, healthy tree removes almost 70 times more air pollution each year than a small, newly planted tree."

The cost of the Authority's plan significantly exceeds that of the community's alternative solution...savings that could certainly be used for other critical environmental or social needs. Further, the Authority's plans allow the park's lone commercial restaurant building to add a subterranean floor. But such private sector commercial expansion should never justify destroying a public park and its trees at a needless taxpayer expense.

Governor, we recognize, appreciate, and support your environmental commitment and leadership. We call on you to remain true to your environmental record in this situation by intervening to stop the destruction of a critical green park space in favor of a plan that satisfies all the climate objectives and leverages the latest thinking on climate resilience, that's also supported by the community.

Sincerely,  
Karl Palmquist, Alan Ferson, Irene Van Slyke, and Lucy Koteen



## Body & Soul

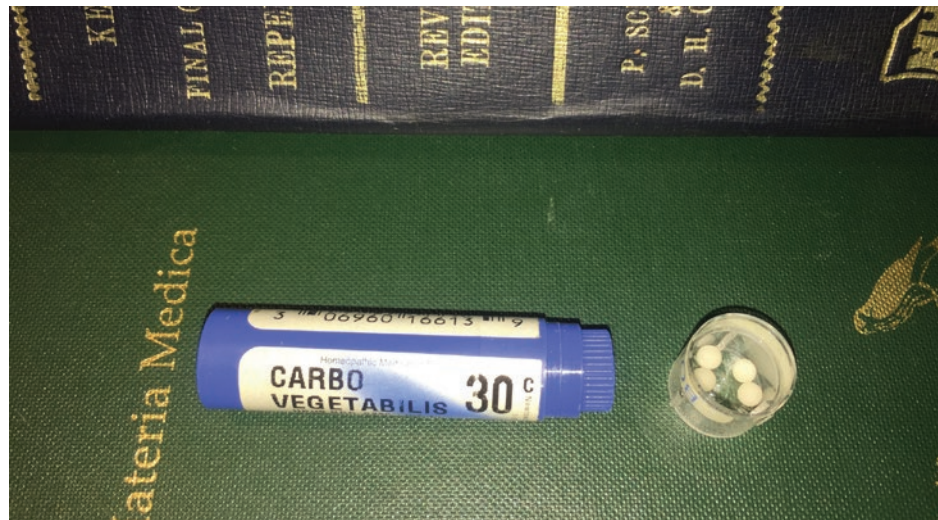
# Homeopathy: A Remedy in Time

By Lynn Pacifico

*Although Homeopathy is a healing modality that is used all over the world, it is denigrated by western medicine and it is almost impossible to get anything about it published. This account is my experience when I was forced to use it years ago.*

It's funny how an event can take a little twist and alter the course of one's life. This happened for me during the famous 1978 northeastern blizzard. It began early that evening when my son told me that he wasn't feeling well and that his throat was scratchy. As a single self-employed mother, I didn't have health insurance. I made him lemon honey tea and put him to bed.

Two years prior, I had been cured of an 'incurable' illness by a homeopath. I didn't understand homeopathy so I took a class in it. The premise is that a highly diluted, potentized substance will address the same symptoms caused by taking the gross form of that same substance or that "like cures like." After class I bought the basic homeopathy kit and book. When I got home I put the kit in a storage closet, thinking, "Why did I waste money on this kit!?"



A repertory (characteristic symptoms) and materia medica (the remedies) with a tube of homeopathic remedy globules. Photo credit: L Pacifico

During the two previous winters my son had developed high fevers, going to the emergency room both years. I was still paying off the second visit. This was all flowing through my mind as I heard the soon to be catastrophic storm outside. By midnight the wind with gusts up to 111 mph, screamed past the tower in which we live and I noticed that my son's face was bright red. His fever was 104. He was becoming delirious, flailing his limbs and shaking his head. Like the storm raging through the city, a fever was raging through his body. I called the ER. The nurse recommended that I bring him in right away.

It was the middle of the night, during

weather that made history by killing approximately 100 people, and I was to wrap my ten year old flailing, delirious son in a blanket, run out into the driving snow and freezing gale force winds (which were causing near invisibility), to find a cab to the ER. I didn't know if there were any cabs working in the extreme weather. I didn't know what to do and I was terrified for my son.

On the verge of panic, I remembered my homeopathic kit. I flung the closet door open to find the kit and instruction book. Running back with the kit under my arm, turning the pages while on the move, I found the chart for respiratory infections. My son's symptoms: began with a sore

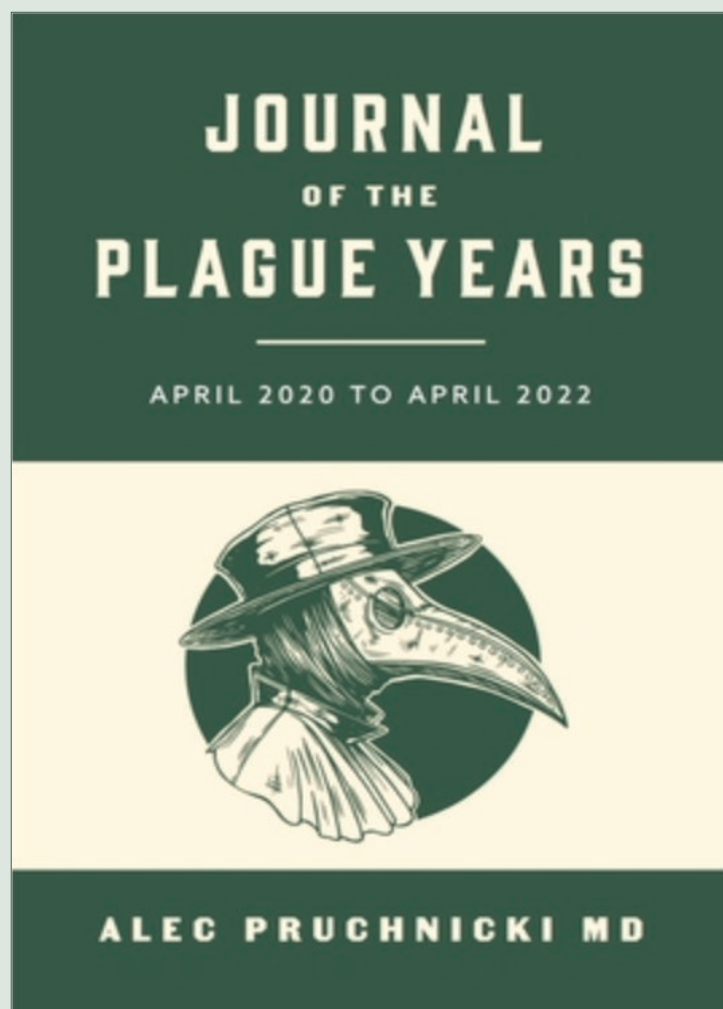
throat; red, hot, dry face; quick onset; high fever; delirium, were an exact match to the clinical picture of the remedy Belladonna. He had the symptoms a person would have if they had taken Belladonna in its gross form.

Hurriedly, as I believed that I would still be forced to run out into the storm to try to save him, I scrambled through the kit for the Belladonna. I took a deep breath and dropped one tiny pill into my son's mouth. Belladonna is highly poisonous and I thought to myself "What am I doing!?"

Immediately he broke into a sweat, settled down and went to sleep. I was in disbelief at what I had just witnessed and expected his raging fever to return. But, it didn't. I sat up for two more hours keeping watch. Then to the sound of the wailing winds outside, exhausted, I fell asleep on the sofa.

By the morning, the snow had stopped. So had my son's fever. He was draining mucus but otherwise fine. By matching his symptoms to the homeopathically prepared remedy's refined and potentized energy, the remedy stimulated my son's immune system to balance itself. The blizzard that dropped 17.7 inches of snow in Manhattan, causing billions of dollars of damage, forced me to try homeopathy.

*Lynn Pacifico is a fourth generation Villager who loves dogs, nature and New York City.*



These personal ground level observations and posts about life in New York City during the Covid pandemic are unlike anything commonly reported in the national mass media.

This looks at the people in the streets, subways, bars, restaurants, stores and museums. It is an attempt to see and remember the fine details that previous accounts missed. Ranging from April 2020 to April 2022 it is not just about the horrors of the plague itself, but also of the resistance, resilience and the start of recovery. It is as much about hope for the future as despair about the past.

**Available from Amazon and other internet sites. The paperback version is sometimes out of stock or on back order so if you are ordering that please be patient.**

**The e-books are available faster.**

**For more information go to [plagueyears.com](http://plagueyears.com).**



## Body &amp; Soul

# Transgender, The Facts

Abstracted from  
"A Scientist's View of Almost Everything"

By Mark M Green

In the Science and Technology section of The Economist, February 20, 2021 issue, was an article, which talks about gender dysphoria, described as "the miserable feeling of being at odds with one's sex." A statistic follows: America had one pediatric gender clinic in 2007 and now has at least fifty. In England and Wales there is reported to be a single clinic but which has seen a 30-fold increase in referrals in a decade. These clinics often give out puberty blocking drugs, consistent with the title of the article "Arrested Development."

It is clear that a segment of young people are increasingly expressing discomfort with their biological sex and finding themselves estranged from the world they live in. And that world does not respond well to these young people's discomfort, sometimes with fatal results, as occurred, for just one example among many in the world, to a murdered soldier rejected from the South Korean army. Politicians, especially Democrats have become involved. There was an Equal-

ity Act directed to this issue that passed the House of Representatives a couple of years ago but could not get passed the filibuster of the Senate. More recently one finds increasingly hostile reports about transgender individuals with frightening actions and threats. Perhaps the scientific facts could make, to some extent, a difference. Here they are.

The world is not an easy place for being as odds with one's sex. However, it's not unreasonable to see that understanding the "other" is a path to greater acceptance. Understanding comes from science, and biological studies teach us that the physical characteristics of one or the other sex are not always in line with an individual's perception (gender identity) of being male or female.

Independent of the sex our genes call for, XX for female and XY for male, we arise from a fertilized egg that is structurally sexually undifferentiated, a state we remain in for a considerable time. It takes almost two months after conception for this genetic information to arise from dormancy to begin to call for the changes that will, over time, fully distinguish the physical characteristics that distinguish male from female.

This male/female distinction arises from the Y chromosome, which activates biological mechanisms to produce androgens, that is male hormones such as testosterone and dihydrotestosterone, which begin the path

to the body's physical changes that distinguish us around the second month after conception and then further along at puberty. The male genitalia in other words arise from an action, the production of a male hormone. Inaction arising from the absence of the Y chromosome leads to the female genitalia

However the brain, in contrast to the physical genitalia, does not receive information from testosterone to take on male characteristics until later months of pregnancy. A brain not receiving this hormonal information because of the absence of the Y chromosome proceeds to female characteristics. The fact that the information about genital characteristics and those of the brain occur at different times in the fetal growth, and can be influenced independently of each other, allows the possibility of gender dysphoria leading to the transgender state.

The description above about testosterone and the Y chromosome describes a person with male genitalia but a brain structure corresponding to the female state, so called MtF. The biological details of, on the other hand, FtM, transgender with female genitalia and a male brain structure, such as the murdered Korean soldier, although less understood in detail, likewise arises from the fact that sexual differentiation of the brain takes place at a much later stage in development than sexual differentiation of the gen-

itals. These two processes, development of genital sexual characteristics and brain structure can therefore be influenced independently of each other either in an MtF or an FtM transgender person.

Although male or female genitals are obvious, requiring no scientific study of the individual, considerable research in several laboratories was necessary to demonstrate that MtF transgender people have certain characteristics of the female brain structure while FtM have male brain structure therefore giving rise in both situations to gender identity independent of the person's genitals.

The scientific facts as expressed by the Dutch expert, Dick F. Swaab follow: "There is no evidence that one's postnatal social environment plays a crucial role in gender identity or sexual orientation... In fact, all current data indicate that gender identity and sexual orientation arise in the womb." Experts in this field now generally accept that sexual identity is fixed in the womb and is not possible to change.

In summary of a proper attitude toward transgender people one could quote Chas Bono (formerly Chastity): "There's a gender in your brain and a gender in your body. For 99 percent of people, those things are in alignment. For transgender people, they're mismatched. That's all it is. It's not complicated. It's not a neurosis."

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'Greetings ma'am, we're from the Bureau of Timekeeping. We have a report that, a week after daylight saving, you still haven't turned your clocks forward one hour.'



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J. Meadows



# APRIL EVENTS

## CALENDAR EVENTS

### Citywide Special Events

#### The Macy's Flower Show in NYC

Take a moment to smell the roses at the annual Macy's Flower Show Theme, WE LOVE NYC Macy's Herald Square New York City

Sun. March 26–Mon April 10

151 West 34th St [www.macys.com/s/flower-show/](http://www.macys.com/s/flower-show/)

#### Blooms and Books Benefit

April 30, 2023 at 5pm Wine tasting and music in the Garden

6 - 8 pm Performance and reception in the Library

Join the Jefferson Market Garden for a special evening supporting the continued protection and preservation of the iconic Jefferson Market Garden and Jefferson Market Library. Explore the beautiful grounds of the Garden and admire the stunning renovations at the Library all while encountering stories from Greenwich Village's past and enjoying a festive evening of drinks, food, music, and surprises.

Jefferson Market Garden 10 Greenwich Avenue New York, NY 10011

Buy Tickets

[www.eventbrite.com/e/blooms-and-books-benefit-tickets-526710383937](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/blooms-and-books-benefit-tickets-526710383937)

#### THE ORCHID SHOW: NATURAL HERITAGE

New York Botanical Gardens

Saturday, February 18, 2023 – Sunday, April 23, 2023

Be Enveloped in Lily Kwong's Fantastical Vision

Acclaimed artist Lily Kwong, the designer for The Orchid Show's 20th year, presents a meditative and captivating design inspired by her ancestral connections to the natural world.

For Tickets <https://www.nybg.org/visit/admission/?keyword=orchidshow>

## Museums Galleries & Public Art

#### THE MUSEUM AT FIT

Wed-Fri 12-8pm; Sa-Sun 10-5pm February 8th–April 23, 2023 FRESH FLY FABULOUS

50 YEARS OF HIP HOP STYLE  
DESIGNING WOMEN

November 30, 2022 - May 14, 2023 Fashion Creators and their Interiors [fitnyc.edu/museum](http://fitnyc.edu/museum)

#### HIGHLINE ART: NYC LOVE

Nov-Fall 2023

A new mural, celebrating NYC via its iconography, by Nina Chanel Abney. 22nd Street on the Highline.

[thehighline.org](http://thehighline.org)

#### JACKIE ROBINSON MUSEUM

Thurs-Sun 11am-6pm

A tribute to the legend's life and legacy.

Highly recommended. One Hudson Sq. 75 Varrick

[jackierobinsonmuseum.org](http://jackierobinsonmuseum.org)

#### POSTER HOUSE

Thurs-Sun 10-6pm

Free Admission on first Fridays

119 West 23rd St. [posterhouse.org](http://posterhouse.org)

#### THE RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

Thurs-Sun 11am-5pm

Ideas, cultures, and art of the Himalayas.

Free Friday nights 6-10 with cocktails, Art and DJ Music

150 West 17th St.

[rubinmuseum.org](http://rubinmuseum.org)

#### SKYSCAPE

An interactive high-tech museum. Seven immersive zones; Encryption, Deception, Surveillance, Hacking, Cyber-Warfare, Special Ops, and Intelligence.

928 8th Ave.

[spyscape.com](http://spyscape.com)

#### WHITNEY MUSEUM OF ART

99 Gansevoort Street

[whitney.org/events](http://whitney.org/events)

#### MERCHANT'S HOUSE MUSEUM

Exhibitions on display

(No reservations, purchase tickets at the door) General Admission \$15

Seniors (over 65) & students (with valid ID): \$10 MHM Members FREE. Become a member. Contact Number

212-777-1089

[merchantshouse.org](http://merchantshouse.org)

## Theater

#### NEW YORK THEATER WORKSHOP

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG, music & lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, dir by Maria Friedman Through Jan. 21

Based on the play by George S. Kaufman & Moss Hart, Merrily...follows the relationship of three lifelong friends.

79 East 4th (2nd Ave); 212-460-5475  
NYTW.ORG

#### REPERTORIO ESPANOL

Plays in Spanish with English subtitles LA BREVE Y MARAVILLOSA

VISA DE OSCAR WAO

In rotating repertory through May 28, 2023 Based on Junot Diaz novel

EVA LUNA, by Caridad Svich, dir. By Estefania Fadul

In rotating repertory through May 27

Based on Isabelle Allende novel LA LOCURA LO CURA

In rotating repertory starting Dec. 28

Stand-Up Comedy LA GRINGA

(has been playing for 25 years!)

Plus additional plays in rotating repertory  
138 E. 27th St.

[Repertorio.org](http://Repertorio.org)

## Comedy

#### COMEDY CELLAR

Founded in 1982, widely considered best comedy club in NYC

117 MacDougal

[ComedyCellar.com](http://ComedyCellar.com)

#### THE VILLAGE UNDERGROUND

130 West 3rd St

New York, NY 10012

Greenwich Village

(212) 777-7745

[Thevillageunderground.com](http://Thevillageunderground.com)



Photo credit: A Dope Artist



# APRIL EVENTS

## GREENWICH VILLAGE COMEDY CLUB

99 MacDougal Street  
Greenwich Village  
212) 777-5233  
greenwichvillagecomedyclub.com

### Music

## ARTHUR'S TAVERN

Live jazz, bebop, rhythm & blues, and dixieland.  
57 Grove St.  
arthurstavern.nyc

## BITTER END

NYC's oldest rock club  
147 Bleecker  
bitterend.com

## THE BLUE NOTE

131 West 3rd St  
bluenotejazz.com

## CAFE WHA

Features a well-known house band. Former hangout of Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix, Allen Ginsberg, etc.  
cafewha.com

## SMALLS JAZZ CLUB

Live jazz bands and jam sessions in a tiny space  
183 West 10th St.  
smallslive.com

## THE VILLAGE VANGUARD

178 7th Ave South  
villagevanguard.com



Photo credit: A Dope Artist

## ZINC BAR

Live Jazz, Latin & World Music  
82 West 3rd St  
zincjazz.com

## GOOD FRIDAY CONCERT at St John's in the Village: Pergolesi's Stabat Mater

This haunting setting of the ancient hymn Stabat Mater by Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736) is one of the best-loved gems in the crown of Passiontide music. Performed with two voices and harpsichord, and at baroque pitch, this concert is free to attend, and no prior registration is necessary.  
7pm Friday 7 April  
218 West 11<sup>th</sup> Street

### Classes, Courses & Clubs

## MURRAY'S CHEESE

More than a dozen courses from Winter Whites & Cheese to Burrata or Mozzarella Making.  
254 Bleecker St.  
See calendar at murrayscheese.com

**SING TIME SESSIONS** at Westbeth With Voice Teacher Eve Zanni Jazz Artist and Somatic Voicework teacher. Fri 4:30-5:30pm  
or call 212-228-1141  
westbethmusicworks@gmail.com

**CRAFT CIRCLE; KNITTING & CROCHETING** Wednesdays, 11am Bring your project and meet fellow crafters.  
66 Leroy St.  
nypl.org

## MCBURNEYYMCA

Fitness and exercise classes, swimming, sports, dance, recreation and more. Membership required. 125 West 14th St.  
ymcany.com

## PURE BARRE/WEST VILLAGE

Free class for local residents & first timers. Low impact, high intensity group workouts. Daily classes, 273 Bleecker St.

## For Kids, Teens, and Families

**CHILDREN'S MUSEUM OF MANHATTAN** Tuesday-Sunday, 10am-5pm  
212 W. 83rd St., Upper West Side  
cmom.org

**FILM FORUM JR.** Reduced price tickets  
209 West Houston St.  
filmforum.org

**RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART**  
Family Sundays: Free art making Work shops 1-3pm Ages 3 & Up with Adult 150  
West 17th St.  
rubinmuseum.org

## CENTER FOR ARCHITECTURE,

536 LaGuardia Place, NoHo Youth and Family Vacation Program: Dream House (Grades 3-5)  
Vacation Program: Great Escapes (Grades 6-8)  
9am to Feb/23 4pm  
Register calendar/aiany.org

**HUDSON PARK PROGRAMS FOR KIDS** Download February 2023 events Calendar at NYPL.org/locations/hudson-park Hudson Park  
66 Leroy St NY, NY 10014  
212-243-6876

**HUDSON PARK PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS** Download February 2023 events Calendar at NYPL.org/locations/hudson-park Hudson Park  
66 Leroy St NY, NY 10014  
212-243-6876 <https://www.nypl.org/calendar>

**Downtown DEI: Spring Book Club**

Join friends and neighbors coming together to read ***The Women's House of Detention*** by Hugh Ryan – a true story about our neighborhood and the women and queer people who were imprisoned where Jefferson Market Garden is today.

Email [downtowndeinyc@gmail.com](mailto:downtowndeinyc@gmail.com) to:

- Sign up for group book purchase from local store Three Lives & Company by **Friday, March 31** or check it out on your own from the Jefferson Market Library or buy it online.
- Get the details on our book club meeting **with author Hugh Ryan on Tuesday, May 16!**

**And get started on reading – we look forward to discussing with you!**



# APRIL EVENTS

## For Seniors

### GREENWICH HOUSE OLDER ADULT CENTERS

Free social, education, cultural and wellness activities as well as free lunches at four downtown locations. In Person and On-line.

A vital; resource for seniors including case assistance and other social services. Download monthly calendar at [info@visitingneighbors.org](mailto:info@visitingneighbors.org)

### RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART

First Thursday of Every Month Free Admission For Seniors  
150 West 17th St.  
[rubinmuseum.org](http://rubinmuseum.org)

### SENIOR PLANET

Free programs, courses, activities covering health, and wellness tech services, book clubs, financials and creative expression. Online and at Chelsea Center.  
127 West 25th St.  
[seniorplanet.org](http://seniorplanet.org)

### ST JOHN'S IN THE VILLAGE

Senior Standby Program seats for the arts programs unsold at the time of the event are distributed, free on a first-come first-served basis.  
218 West 11th St.  
[stjohnsinthevillage.org](http://stjohnsinthevillage.org)

### VISITING NEIGHBORS

VN helps seniors maintain their independence by connecting them with dedicated volunteers and various health and wellness programs.  
Washington Square Village Suite,  
212-260-6200  
[info@visitingneighbors.org](mailto:info@visitingneighbors.org)

### WESTBETH CLASSES

Westbeth Community Room  
155 Bank St.  
[westbethevents@gmail.com](mailto:westbethevents@gmail.com)

## For LGBTQ+

### THE GAY CENTER 10th ANNUAL RAINBOW BOOK FAIR

The Rainbow Book fair is back! This year's theme is "Weird & Queer." There has always been a thin line between queerness and weirdness. After all, "queer" means not

conforming to gender and sexual norms, but to be strange and odd. The book fair will be celebrating the ways that queer writing has transformed science fiction, fantasy, and horror genres, with panels and readings showcasing the best in weird queerness (or queer weirdness!).  
12-6 P.M. Free but RSVP encouraged 208 W 13 St  
New York, NY 10011  
212.620.7310  
<https://gaycenter.org/rainbow-book-fair/>

### CENTER YOUTH: Clubhouse Music Group

February 23, 4:00 pm-5:00 pm  
The Clubhouse Music Group meets every Thursday from 4-5pm.  
This event is In-Person. Calling all musicians, singers, performers, music producers, spoken word poets and performance artists/creatives. Professional musicians from Road Recovery will work with participants to discover, their talents and develop their skills while working, towards a community performance. No prior musical experience needed.  
For youth ages 13-22.  
To sign-up contact  
[youth@gaycenter.org](mailto:youth@gaycenter.org).

## Tours

### THE HIGHLINE Free FROM FREIGHT TO FLOWERS

Wed.10-10:45am; Sats 12-12:45  
Tour The Highline with a knowledgeable docent. MEET at *Gansevoort St.* entrance  
Free The highline.org

### MADISON SQUARE PARK Free

Sundays 11am-12:30pm  
Tour the Park and surrounding area with a knowledgeable guide.  
Meet at the top of the Flatiron Bldg. 23rd & 5th Ave.  
flatiron free  
[nomad.org](http://nomad.org)

**PURE BARRE/WEST VILLAGE** Free class for local residents & first timers. Low impact, high intensity group workouts. Daily classes, 273 *Bleecker St.* [westvillage@purebarre.com](mailto:westvillage@purebarre.com)

### CHELSEA PIERS

Fitness-and sports-for all ages with 150 classes, 75ft. pool, 30 trainers and 5 star-gym. Day passes & memberships.  
*Pier 60, 20th St. & Hudson River Park* [Fitness.chelseapiers.com](http://Fitness.chelseapiers.com)



JOIN DR. GORDON AT A FREE VIRTUAL EVENT  
PRESENTED BY AVAIYA

## Breaking Free from Childhood Trauma

APRIL 10-16, 2023

Dear CMBM Community,

Trauma comes to us all. Often, it first comes to us during childhood.

Even before the global trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic, [two thirds](#) of children reported having experienced a traumatic event by age 16. Left unaddressed, childhood trauma can have a lifelong impact on our health and well-being. Thankfully, it's possible to heal and find more ease, wellness, and joy—even decades later.

We're pleased to share that our Founder and Chief Executive Officer, James S. Gordon, MD, will be speaking on this important topic at AVAIYA's [Breaking Free from Childhood Trauma](#) event.

**We invite you to join Dr. Gordon for this free virtual event!**

Dr. Gordon's session, *Transforming Trauma: The Path to Hope and Healing*, focuses on how we can use mind-body techniques to address childhood trauma, manage stress, and build our resilience against future challenges.



Photo credit: A Dope Artist



# 277 West Village

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



Dr. Noah Sanni

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

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

We welcome you in for a free consultation!

277west 4th street NewYork. NY 10014  
917.261.4599  
Info@277westvillage.com

