

Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts Newsletter

Vol. 4, No.1

Spring/Summer 1988

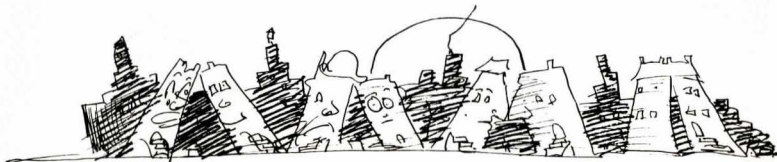
FOREWORD:
Of Youth,
Spring, And
Summer, Too

The Spring of 1988 has been a sometime and fleeting thing. It never came to stay, just paid us a very brief visit; now you see it, now you don't sort of thing. As Samuel Butler wrote in The Way of All Flesh, "Spring is like youth, an overpraised season." In New York we live in a world where The Four Seasons is the name of an elegant restaurant, not the march of time. We regularly meet the heat of summer head-on after we exit from the chill of winter months. Certain seasonal miracles occur when we are not looking....the greening of trees, the blooming of flowers, the dawn song of a waking bird...and certain others occur because day in and day out, regardless of the season, we work hard and try to make these miracles happen. We have had a few miracles and you will read about them here. This is a fascinating city getting more so all the time, in spite of the more obvious problems which we report to you ad infinitum.

I have recently experienced a personal pleasure which I would like to share with you and that was a trip to London and Paris. It was short, only a week, because I feared that New York City would go to hell in my absence--it did not. The pleasure of visiting these two great cities filled with architectural treasures which respond to the human scale and where you can still see and feel the sky above was marvelous. Returning home and finding FOR SALE signs on our own sky makes me more determined than ever to work for more and better zoning changes and for more historic designations. We cannot allow ourselves to be boxed-in and roofed-over by fast-multiplying, towering godzillas.

What follows is the tale of some victories and many plans. You shared in the victories, for which we thank you. And you are part of our plans because whatever we do, we must do together to make sure that our city, while not as ancient as some, is nevertheless a great and livable city.

Halina Rosenthal
President



ZONING:
THERE ARE NO
SMALL
VICTORIES

February 25, 1988 was a red letter day! The proposal to eliminate the Park Improvement District (SPID) was withdrawn by the City Planning Commission (CPC) at the eleventh hour, although we hear that it may re-appear in some other mutated form, we are happy to have won even a temporary victory. That proposal would have eliminated SPID from Park Avenue (60th to 96th Street) and from Fifth Avenue (59th to 111th Street). With its elimination we would have lost the present reasonable height limit of 19 floors or 210 feet, whichever is less. This ensures light and air on the avenues, is beneficial to the continued growth and health of trees and shrubs in Central Park, and also guarantees that the character of two of our historic districts (the Upper East Side Historic District and the Metropolitan Museum Historic District) will not be irreparably altered by the intrusion of somewhat taller buildings which would be allowed under the proposed R10A Zoning. Although we did not have the necessary votes on that February morning, as the day grew longer and as FRIENDS with members of several other organizations continued the rounds, which included visits to the presidents of all the boroughs, our efforts paid off--we finally had the votes. However, rather than accepting defeat, the item (as such things are modestly called) was withdrawn from consideration by those who had proposed it.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who worked with us, all those who wrote letters, came to meetings and hearings ... all who together brought this about! If some other assault on SPID comes, we will be ready for it! Our thanks to all our elected officials: Sen. Roy Goodman, Assemblymen Mark Alan Siegel and Alexander (Pete) Grannis, Councilmembers Bob Dryfoos and Carolyn Malony; Community Boards 8 and 11; the members of the Manhattan Borough Board; the many block associations; and the following sister organizations: Carnegie Hill Neighbors, Central Park Conservancy, Civitas, The Fine Arts Federation, The Municipal Arts Society, The Parks Council, and the Yorkville Civic Council.

MORE ON
ZONING AND
A WORD OR
TWO ABOUT
"REASON"

Once upon a time, when we talked to the City Planning Commission and asked for what we considered to be very reasonable zoning changes (i.e., a ban on "slivers", downzoning of Lexington Avenue, rezoning of our residential mid-blocks) someone listened, and our reasonable requests were granted within a reasonable time. But, living happily ever after is fairy tale stuff. After having achieved what we had asked for (including some measure of happiness), but knowing that much more had to be done to attain a truly livable city, we came back asking that the Upper East Side (UES) avenues and wide streets be rezoned so that projects such as 81-story buildings cannot happen (See: City and Suburban Homes). Our requests fell on deaf ears. Having been involved with other organizations and many extraordinary and helpful individuals in trying to bring beneficial changes to our neighborhoods, we became quite frustrated, and frustration is bad for you. REASON was born out of that frustration to discuss ways and means to bring about the desired changes. REASON is not an organization, it is a coalition

made up of organizations who think alike about zoning the UES should have, organizations who know what the UES should not be forced to have. We are strengthened by the support of our elected officials who believe as we do that the Upper East Side deserves better than glut. Please take notice that we will be calling on you. This is like the first salvo...we ask for your support as well as ask you to add your name to all those others who believe as we do that:

- 1) all the avenues east of Lexington, (the avenues west already have special zoning regulations) should be rezoned from R10 to R10A. R10 produces too many towers, R10A is a contextual zoning and is more appropriate for our residential areas,
- 2) the same R10A zoning should be put in place on our wide cross streets,
- 3) the useless Plaza Bonus and accompanying tower regulations which have given us just that, useless plazas and towers, must be eliminated,
- 4) in addition, because of our concern for moderate and low income housing (as opposed to the luxury kind of which there is plenty) FRIENDS would support the Inclusionary Zoning bonus which is the only bonus available under the provisions of R10A, even though we believe that the problem of supplying an adequate supply of affordable housing can only be resolved elsewhere through government subsidies.

Please note that not all persons who reason with us about REASON think exactly alike. Many do not want Inclusionary Zoning, others would like to see a more restrictive zoning than R10A, such as R9X or R9A. (These contextual designations produce lower buildings than R10A allows) FRIENDS believes that if we ask for something reasonable, we will eventually get it. Deaf ears cannot remain deaf forever. We have read the handwriting on the wall and we have seen the smoke signals; the vibrations are good and we feel that the deaf ears are due to have a miraculous recovery and that "the voice of the turtle will be heard again in the land".

What does REASON stand for? Rezone East Arterials Save Our Neighborhoods (See enclosed flyer.)

CONSIDER YOURSELF INVITED TO JOIN "REASON". There are no dues, no directors, this is not an organization. It is a body made up of organizations, elected officials, individuals, YOU and me who have had enough. CALL THE FRIENDS' OFFICE FOR DETAILS.

NIGHTINGALE The new plans are virtually the same as the old plans, the massing
BAMFORD has been slightly altered by setting back the street wall at two
SCHOOL levels. The overall height has been reduced by only a few feet. In
IS BACK the past few years, FRIENDS worked with seven private schools in need

of expansion--we helped them all. We supported them when they needed permits from the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) or variances from the Board of Standards and Appeals (BSA). All have either completed work or are under construction. The school in question hired a prestigious PR firm to tell us that is it prestigious, but we knew that all along. The school is prestigious, its teachers and its parents are dedicated people, and its students are exceptional. Management, however, still lacks an understanding of the community. If a commercial developer acts like a bull in a china shop, one expects calamity; but for a fine school to act in a similar fashion touches a very sensitive nerve. It is far worse to be hurt and violated by those we care about than by those that we do not. In this case, surely everybody cares about the school, but it cares only about itself as an entity. The proposed building is too large and bulky, is too voluminous for this narrow and lovely block which it would forever damage. The present building already intrudes, but it is there, it exists, and any enlargement of it would be an additional impact. Alternatively, the school could incorporate a modest addition on the site of the two brownstones which it demolished last summer, or it could perhaps look for some expansion into the rear yard...and it could certainly, as other schools have done, enlarge its underground facilities. Also, it could do what it has been asked to do all along, that is simply find another building for some of its functions. The often postponed variance hearing at the BSA is now scheduled for July 12, 1988 at 2:00 P.M.

BRIEFLY NOTED
COMING
ATTRactions:
TRUMP
ZECKENDORF
AND AARONS
TOWERS

FORMER FOUNDLING HOME: Third Avenue between 68th and 69th Streets. We are informed that Donald Trump anticipates commencing demolition of the Foundling Home block-front in July and will start construction of a yet un-named residential building to be 55-stories tall. Whereas five theaters were originally proposed for inclusion at the site, the plan now is to build as-of-right, therefore no variances or special permits are needed. An as-of-right building is just that, we have no say in the matter; but, because the impact of 55-stories will be felt, we believe that a building that large should be required to produce an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to learn the effects of such a project upon the UES' failing infra-structure. We also feel relieved (to a point) that the additional crowds that would have been generated by the un-needed movie houses have been eliminated.

BELAIRE on East 72nd Street: The tall structure currently growing east of York, is the future 42-story BELAIRE being built by the Zeckendorf Company. This building joins Macklowe's River Terrace on the same block, and the Solow building which is back-to-back with the Sanitation Department on East 73rd. Still to come is a tower to be built atop the Sotheby building! Apparently, big buildings like company.

88TH AND FIRST AVENUE: Another yet unnamed luxury apartment tower (50-stories tall) will be built by the General Atlantic Company. The developer is Philip Aarons who, as you may remember from our previous letter, wished to develop his property at Fifth Avenue and 108th Street, and brought about the flap over the demise of SPID (Please see Page 2, "Small Victories"). The work has started on the General Atlantic project. I don't know about saving graces, they always bring us grief; but in this case, there is at least a good architect designing the project--James Stewart Polshek.

WHERE ZONING
MEETS
PRESERVATION
FOR BETTER
OR WORSE:
A PAS DE DEUX

CITY AND SUBURBAN HOMES. The Peter Kalikow Company has proposed to erect (again, as-of-right) an 81-story building on the site of some of the most eastern City and Suburban homes which would be demolished if this plan moves ahead. Pharaohs erected pyramids, our developers erect glass towers. The pyramids have withstood the test of time; I don't know that the same can be said of the glass houses....While the City's Landmark Preservation Commission was not looking (or listening) the entire City and Suburban complex has been placed on the State Register of Historic Places and it is also eligible for the National Register. (It cannot be listed there because the owner's approval is needed, and this, of course, is not forthcoming.) The members of the Commission have taken a walking tour of the City and Suburban Homes on June 10, 1988 to ascertain whether a public hearing should be calendared to discuss the merits of the complex. We do not care how this group of low and moderate income housing units is saved, whether through historic designation, or through reconsideration of its owner. When everybody in this city is crying for such affordable housing units, to demolish them seems to be a foolish and unreasonable thing. As of June 14th, the LPC voted to calendar this complex. (See "Update", P. 12).

ALSO ON THE
PROGRAM:

THE WHITNEY MUSEUM will be coming back on center stage later this summer. Some design changes are anticipated, though not of great consequence, and the threat to the contributing brownstones continues. I don't know if anybody ever remembers the things we write about, but we compared contributing brownstones in a historic district to a corps de ballet, and we will oppose this dismantling of the Upper East Side Historic District, as we would the dismantling of the tout ensemble of Swan Lake or, for that matter, of A Chorus Line.

THE GUGGENHEIM MUSEUM The matter is in court. We still believe that to tamper with Frank Lloyd Wright's masterwork to gain only very little exhibition space is too big a price to pay! The total addition is 23,000 square feet, of which only 11,000 is usable space, and only half of this (5500 square feet) is to be devoted to the showing of art. We believe that the Museum had better solutions to its space problems. Its plan does not solve the problem but instead is proof of insensitivity to a most important work of architecture in its possession.

THE METROPOLITAN PARK TOWER: We hear that it is coming back, redesigned to haunt the Metropolitan Club, the Hotel Pierre and the environs. Stay tuned.

THE JEWISH MUSEUM: The models and plans for an addition to the Jewish Museum (The Felix Warburg Mansion on Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street) have been presented to Community Board 8 (CB8), and won its approval, and to the LPC on May 24th (decision pending) The proposal is quite extraordinary because it does not attempt to insert another tall tower into the space where the List Pavilion (to be demolished) now stands, and because it simply replicates the Warburg Mansion bringing its facade around the corner to the Fifth Avenue frontage! A true slight of hand performance. Kevin Roche is not only a prestigious architect, but obviously also a prestidigitator quite secure since he is willing to bow to the ornate style of C.P.H. Gilbert and keep things contextual. The result is felicitous....BRAVO!

FRIENDS ANNUAL AWARDS WINNERS



CYCLICAL RESTORATION AWARD
1026-27-28 Fifth Avenue
The Marymount School of New York
Metropolitan Museum Historic District



RESTORATION AWARD
4-6 East 62nd Street
Upper East Side Historic District



RESTORATION AWARD
168 East 73rd Street Carriage House
Individual Landmark



RESTORATION AWARD
131 East 91st Street
Non-Designated Building



Kent Barwick, President of the Municipal Art Society having just received the FRIENDS OF FRIENDS AWARD, delivering some appropriate remarks while Board Member David Teitelbaum looks on.

PHOTO CREDIT: Carl Foster



Board Member Frederick Papert presenting a FRIENDS' Award to Dr. William Davis (owner) for the Restoration of the Carriage House at 168 East 73rd Street. Upstage... Anthony C. Wood, Board Member.

PHOTO CREDIT: Carl Foster



The Award was just presented by the Very Reverend James Parks Morton to the Marymount School of New York for the School's ongoing Restoration program. Standing by: Mrs. Patricia Barter, Acting Headmistress, Halina Rosenthal, President of FRIENDS, and Kent Barwick with ANNIE BARWICK. Please note that appropriately....the ornate fireplace of the Tiffany Room was undergoing restoration, thus the scaffolding!

PHOTO CREDIT: Carl Foster



Roosevelt Island, Octagon in need of restoration.

Designed by Alexander Jackson Davis (1839)

Andrew Moore, photographer



View south of East 92nd Street with Park Avenue on the right in 1886. New landmark 160 East 92nd Street is the white house on the left with a picket fence.
(Courtesy of the New York Historical Society, New York City)

ANNUAL
MEETING AND
OTHER EVENTS

Since our last formal Newsletter (as opposed to the informal ones which are a bit shorter), FRIENDS held a splendid Annual Meeting on December 10, 1987 in the beautiful Tiffany Room of the Seventh Regiment Armory. Three hundred and fifty persons attended the Awards Presentation and reception, (see photos.) The following Awards were presented:

The Friend of Friends Award to: The Municipal Art Society for its exemplary leadership
Restoration Award to: 168 East 73rd Street and
and to: 4-6 East 62nd Street
Cyclical Maintenance
Award to: The Marymount School of New York
Restoration Award of a Non-
Designated Building to: 131 East 91st Street

A symposium titled "The Quest for a Certificate of Appropriateness" was held in April 1987 at our Monitors Meeting. The panelists were: Giorgio Cavaglieri, FAIA, William Conklin, FAIA, Dorothy M. Miner, Esq., Counsel for the LPC, Paul Selver, Esq., and Anthony C. Wood. The panel was moderated by Halina Rosenthal.

In September, we again participated in the Third Avenue Festival. More recently we conducted, with Ed Mohylowski of the LPC, a guided tour of the UES Historic Districts for the AIA. We also had a half hour interview on CBS FM radio, Debra Wutzel was our host on her Public Affairs Program. Halina Rosenthal joined Assemblyman Alexander (Pete) Grannis, Genie Rice and Martin Gallent, former Vice Chairman of the CPC to discuss (what else but) zoning. We have been profiled, described and quoted in the press, but will not bore you with the details.

AIA AWARD TO
THE UPPER
EAST SIDE
HISTORIC
DISTRICTS

In addition, FRIENDS worked with John Belle, FAIA, of Beyer, Blinder and Belle to prepare a submission to the AIA for an award for the Upper East Side and, happily these efforts produced results so that FRIENDS accepted a special AIA Citation on behalf of the Upper East Side Historic District for the "Excellence in Urban Design". In translation this means the fine collaboration (or was it marriage of convenience?) between the LPC and the CPC, resulting in the designation of the District. We are very grateful to those who bestow awards upon us. Our walls are beginning to look like a doctor's office. Although we have no medical degree, we often feel like some kind of witch doctors.

PRESERVATION
HAPPENINGS
OF ASSORTED
KINDS

Designated recently with our support:
In Manhattan 55 Water Street, a Cast Iron Building
(28) Broadway Theaters
Rodin Studios
Tudor City
The Majestic Apartments
(5) Brownstones at 95th St. and CPW
(2) frame houses on Clove Road
On Staten Island: Central Park West Historic District,
Still waiting in the wings: a small district at 107th-108th Street.

Ladies' Mile This has been heard but not as yet acted upon, and old stand-byes such as the extension of the Carnegie Hill Historic District, Washington Market Historic District are all waiting to be calendared with our patience wearing thin.

We have also requested that the Commission start moving on the designation of the Guggenheim Museum, a true landmark since it was first built, which becomes eligible for the official nod in August of 1988.

MONITORS MEETING 1988

Even on June 24th 1988, a late date, our annual Monitor's Meeting, Reception and Symposium was a great success. The topic was "a marriage of convenience between the LPC and the CPC". The meeting was held at the Municipal Arts Society and the discussion was lively. Panelists were: Con Howe, Exec. Dir., CPC; Dorothy M. Miner, Counsel LPC; Rebecca Robertson, Vice-Pres., 42nd Street Development Project; Anthony C. Wood, Pres., Hist. Districts Council; and Halina Rosenthal.

PRESERVATION MANUAL

As you know, FRIENDS has been working on this much-needed Manual which will serve to inform owners of designated properties, their architects, lawyers and contractors, as well as management companies, real estate agents, etc. about the facts of life pertaining to a landmark...what can be done to it, what cannot be done, and HOW TO GO ABOUT IT. By replacing the maps enclosed with the Manual, its use will be city-wide. Dale Reynolds has completed the text of the Manual, which now only needs the imprimatur of Dorothy Miner, the Counsel for the LPC. We are preparing the graphics and will be printing the maps and enclosures. We plan to print a first edition of ten thousand copies and, since there are many enclosures in the Manual package, we hope that some of the printing may be donated to help defray the high cost of production.

A COMPUTER FIT FOR A KING

Yes, we are now fully computerized, we are the proud possessors of a state-of-the-art IBM PS 2 with a hard disc and as many accessories as a pimp's car. It will be a while, however, before any of us are experts capable to use fully its esoteric capabilities. For the moment, we simply manage, and everyday we learn.

THE RUSH TO REFORM THE THE LPC IN SOME OTHER IMAGE OR IN SOPHOCLES' WORDS.... "A REMEDY TOO STRONG FOR THE DISEASE"

There are now at least six different committees trying to bring about changes that would affect the landmark law. We cannot say that they range from the sublime to the less sublime, because we find little merit in most of the proposals, regardless of their origin. It all started with the Cooper Committee which, after two years of labor, has delivered recently a very small egg, specifically advocating a protected list with expiration dates, as good an Rx for a priori demolition as anything we can think of, and with the suggestion that the Department of Buildings inspectors monitor the city landmarks. Having monitored the entire Upper East Side for many years now, we believe that cloning LPC's Superman Tom Reynolds, a most knowledgeable and sensitive man with the proper background for the job, is a better idea than the proposed tampering.

Once the word was out that the LPC was fair game, everybody took potshots at it and came up with ideas, some good....the Powman Committee (Chaired by Councilman Powman), the Katzman Committee (Chaired by Councilman Katzman), The Leffler Committee (Chaired by Councilman Leffler), The Citizen's Union, the Real Estate Board of New York all which have one thing in common, expertise in other fields which do not include landmarks. And then there is the Conklin Committee, chaired by William Conklin, FAIA, former Vice-Chairman of the LPC and a most thoughtful man trying to make some sense of this. We testified wherever testimony was required and wrote letters where it was not. Frankly, we believe that there are two things that can be done for the LPC, one is more generous funding and the other is less interference from above (and we do not mean the heavens). Mayor Koch will hold hearings dealing with the Cooper Committee proposals, "to solicit comments" from the public on June 30, 1988 from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. at the City University Graduate Center, 33 West 42nd Street. Please attend, call our office for further information. And, yes, we are quite ready to take up the challenge and speak our collective mind which, for the most part, can be summed up by one word: NO.

CHANGES
AT THE LPC

Commissioner Anthony M. Tung: Once in a while we found ourselves disagreeing with him, but we believed that Commissioner Anthony M. Tung was a great asset and served the Landmarks Preservation Commission well. With others we tried to see him reappointed. We felt that at a time when the LPC is threatened from the outside, it should not allow itself to be altered from within. The issue was finally decided by a vote of the City Council where only 12 out of 35 council members voted to retain Commissioner Tung. He has been replaced on the panel by Leyland Weintraub, a respected landscape architect. We are looking forward to working with him.

Sometime ago we also regretted the departure of Frank Sanchis, former Director of Preservation at the LPC, now Vice President of the National Trust. We find ourselves regretting again...this time it is William Cary, an exceptional Director of Preservation, who has left the LPC. We appreciate the depth of his knowledge, the gentleness of his manner, and his friendship. The void will be difficult to fill.

NEW
LANDMARK
UP FOR
DESIGNATION

The Seagrams Building: The designation of the Seagrams Building, its plaza and the lobby interior is pretty much a fait accompli. People were falling all over themselves to praise Mies van der Rohe's beautiful and pristine monument to the Modern Movement. Of course FRIENDS was there and, yes, we praised it with some eloquence, reminding the LPC that while in "Andrea de Sarto", Robert Browning wrote, "Less is more", Mies van der Rohe made this his motto and proved that less can be perfection.

OLD LANDMARK
UP FOR
DESIGNATION

The Octagon Tower and its Quintessential Stairway: Just across the East River there stands a handsome tower designed by A.J. Davis and built in 1848 and 1879 as a lunatic assylum. The spiral staircase within, is the most soaring and elegant architectural gem to survive from Roosevelt Island's early days. The Octagon's roof was damaged by fire a few years ago, and the interior, especially the precious stairway, is slowly being eroded by the encroaching elements. We are working with the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation (RIOC) in an effort to prevent further damage. First of all, the roof must be repaired, and funds are needed. If the interior is restored, the building could be recycled for a variety of uses, not the least of which being a joy for the eyes. (see photo.)

WITH OUR
THANKS

160 East 92nd Street: 1854 was a good year. A small gem of a house was being built at number 160 East 92nd Street for Robert N. Hebbard by carpenter and master builder, Albro Howell who conveniently lived next door. Yes, the frame house was small but it was endowed with lasting grace and charm and the strength of an ox. As life around it changed and as the countryside became New York City and as even the 20th Century became old, the old house withstood all changes and contretemps, proving once and for all that good things come in small packages.

And so it came to pass that 134 years later, Albro Howell's modest handywork joined the pantheon of buildings designed by the famous for the affluent and became the 120th individual landmark which we have on the Upper East Side. We thank the LPC and its commissioners for their eloquent praise of this survivor and we thank Jay Shokley for his thoughtful presentation which made this little building shine.

VERY, VERY
MINOR
MIRACLES

We have been successful in removing the graffiti-smearred mailboxes from many of our street corners and have had them replaced with brand-new ones. Please let our office know the location of any other such mailboxes which someone has used as a blackboard and we will see that these, too, are replaced.

KUDOS

To: John Burgee for his many projects and specifically, the IBM Tower at Atlantic Center in Atlanta, Georgia, as praised by Paul Goldberger in the New York Times on May 8, 1988; Red Grooms for winning the 1988 Mayor's Art Award; Richard Meier for the constancy of his work and for the delight of his recent show of collages and drawings at the Ex-Libris Gallery; Teri Slater for becoming a member of Community Board 8; David Teitelbaum for bringing a new life to The Archives, a great landmark building in Greenwich Village creatively reused with the help of the Landmark Conservancy.

FRIENDS is happy to have nominated Margot Gayle, an exemplary preservationist and a friend, for the 1988 New York State Preservation Award for her work. The award was presented to her on May 27, 1988 by Commissioner Orin Lehman. Congratulations, Margot!

FYI

108 East 96th Street: The twelve excess floors that won't go away even though fifteen judges sitting on three courts rendered the unanimous "take it off" decision. The latest try by Parkview Associates is a Hardship (self-created perhaps) Application at the BSA to be heard on August 9, 1988 at 2:00 P.M. at 161 Avenue of the Americas. Never mind the heat of summer, make an effort to be there.

LAST
MINUTE
UPDATE!

City and Suburban Homes: We were present on June 14, 1988 when the LPC voted unanimously to calendar both C&S complexes...(the First Avenue Estates, located on First Avenue between East 65th and 64th Streets, and the York Avenue Estates located between York Avenue and the East River Drive and East 78th and 79th Streets), for a public hearing in the early Fall. We know that there is a world of difference between calendaring and designation, but the joy of reaching this plateau is enough of a high! Thank you LPC!

FRIENDS
GOING
INTERNATIONAL

FRIENDS has gone international! Yes, we have. We joined the opposition to the proposed demolition of an unique triangle of thirteen buildings located in the very heart of the old City of London. Eight of these buildings are "listed" (the equivalent of our individual landmarks), the others are in a "Preservation Area" (an historic district). "Save Britain's Heritage" in London has proposed "refurbishing" rather than razing these significant and beautiful Victorian structures which Peter Palumbo, a London developer, proposes to replace with a glorified shopping mall which, even though designed by James Stirling, has a decidedly "Star Wars" look. We have written to the London Inspector in charge of the "Inquiry" to oppose the possible destruction... Lest, of course, they would like to move the entire triangle nestled between Queen Victoria and Poultry Streets and plunk it down on Columbus Circle. WOW!

GOOD THINGS
COME IN
SMALL
PACKAGES

We welcome a new FRIEND: a baby boy born to Susan and Jack Alpert on June 26, 1988. Congratulations!

IN
CONCLUSION

Unlike Robert Browning's "Less is more", when you confront one of our Newsletters, you find that, alas, is not our motto. We do not know how to live up to it. With us, more is more and more. Part of the problem is that we do too much. However, if there is an editor out there or a person whose ambition it is to write our next Newsletter, please let us know. We can use all the help that we can get and that you are willing to give us. Whatever we do we could not be doing it without your unfailing support.

EXPANDING
MEMBERSHIP

Membership is in excellent hands with Teri Slater at the helm with Judy Easton assisting. They brought creative energy to the task and we are very grateful for their good work....Which brings us to our final words: We depend upon membership contributions in order to do our work. All contributions are tax-deductible. Please become a volunteer--contributions of time and talent are also very important.

Edited by Halina Rosenthal, Alice McGown, and Susan Alpert

The Ruckus drawing of whispering brownstones is a gift from Red Grooms

...BE A FRIEND.....BE A VOLUNTEER.....

YES! I want to help protect
the Upper East Side by join-
ing FRIENDS. Enclosed is:

Please make all checks payable to Friends of
the Upper East Side Historic Districts. All
Contributions are tax-deductible.

___ \$15. Sr./Student	Name: _____	Bulk Mailings	___
___ \$25. Contributing	Address: _____	Fund Raising	___
___ \$50. Supporting	_____	Monitoring	___
___ \$100. Sustaining	Telephone: (home) _____ (office) _____	Research	___
___ \$500. Patron	_____	Newsletter	___
___ \$1,000. Best Friend	_____	Public Relations	___
___ Other	_____	Other	___

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REASON

Rezone Eastside Arterials / Save Our Neighborhoods
P.O. Box 6453, Yorkville Station, New York, NY 10128

A Call to Reason

Carnegie Hill Neighbors

CIVITAS

Coalition of Upper East Side
Block Associations

Coalition to Save City
& Suburban Housing, Inc.

Councilmember Robert Dryfoos

300 East 64, 65th Street Block
Association

5th-Park Avenue East 65th Street
Block Association

East 73/74/75th Street Block
Association

East 78th Street Block
Association

East 79th Street Block
Association

400 East 81st Street Block
Association

East 84th Street Neighborhood
Association

East 85th 200 Block Association

300 East 87/88th Street Block
Association

200 East 87th Street Block
Association

East 87th Street 400

200 East 88th Street Block
Association

200 East 89th Street Block
Association

East Side Tenants Coalition

1689 First Avenue Tenants
Association

FRIENDS of the Upper East Side
Historic Districts

Congressman Bill Green

State Senator Roy M. Goodman

State Assemblyman Pete Grannis

Councilmember Carolyn Maloney

Search and Care, Inc.

State Assemblyman Mark Alan
Siegel

Upper Yorkville 91st Street Block
Association

York East 89th Street Block
Association

Yorkville Civic Council

(List in formation)

REASON: Rezone Eastside Arterials/Save Our Neighborhoods

REASON is a network of civic leaders, concerned individuals, and community organizations urging immediate action to rezone sensitively the Avenues East of Lexington and major cross-town Streets from 59th Street to 96th Street in order to protect the quality of life that is now threatened by inappropriate development and inadequate planning.

REASON is calling for a Rezoning that would:

o adjust density levels to correspond to the existing infrastructure and service delivery limitations of the area

o establish bulk limitations and building configuration regulations that: shape buildings to maximize light and air; reduce shadow and negative wind impacts; and reinforce neighborhood character.

Please add my name to the growing number of New Yorkers supporting **REASON**

(Name -- Print)

(Signature)

(Street)

(Apt. #)

(City)

(State)

(Zip)

(Phone: Daytime)

(Evening)

(Organizational affiliation if any)

___ I will write a letter to the City Planning Commission
urging **REASON**

___ I would be happy to volunteer my time

Mail to: **REASON**

P.O. Box 6453

Yorkville Station

New York, NY 10128

Please feel free to copy and distribute this form.



Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts

ERRATA

Disaster struck! The bad news is that we find errors in the current Newsletter that need to be corrected. Following the good example of the New York Times, here they are....

Correction: page 2, paragraph 2: Councilperson Carolyn Maloney's name has been misspelled.
and...same page same paragraph;
2) Congressman Bill Green's name should have been included among the elected officials.

Correction: page 3, paragraph 5, line 5, should read: "See last page".

Correction: page 9, paragraph 3, line 4, should refer to the Municipal Art Society, not the Municipal Arts Society.

Correction: page 10, paragraph 2, line 10, should read: "We are looking forward to working with him".

In addition, there are a couple of extra typos which should not have been there....The good news is that obviously we at FRIENDS are human. Please accept our humble apologies.

Drawing of the proposed addition to the Jewish Museum, (The Felix Warburg Mansion, Fifth Avenue at 92nd Street), designed by Kevin Roche Architect. (see story page 5).



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