

# BOAT BASIN BULLETIN

Issue 10

All the news that floats we'll print

December 2009

## Not Ready For Prime Time Caroling on Sunday!

Ed Bacon  
S/Y Prelude

Had to rush this BULL to press. Simone di Bagno's book signing is 1:00 pm Thursday and the caroling is 5:00 pm on Sunday.

Thanks to Gary Oppenheimer, Mumfy Diehl, Cindy Kane, Doug Hynes and Steve Picciano for the photos and Chris Vallozi and Doug Hynes for the video in this issue. Anyone else with Basin pictures? Articles? News? Alumni life after the Basin articles? E-mail them to [ebacon@nyc.rr.com](mailto:ebacon@nyc.rr.com) and I'll publish them in a future issue.

-ED-

~~\_/)~~

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~~\_/)~~

PAST

*"The past is what you remember, imagine you remember, convince yourself you remember, or pretend you remember"*

- [Harold Pinter](#)

**Boat Basin History: Pre-Basin pictures**

:



Sailing vessel "Buccaneer" at coal company - 1931

- *From Gary Oppenheimer*



Rotunda and West Side Highway  
1937- Samuel Gottscho – NYPL digital Gallery

- *From Gary Oppenheimer*



Schwab (CEO of US Steel) Mansion at Riverside Drive Between 73rd and 74<sup>th</sup> Streets. The mansion was bequeathed to the City as a residence for the Mayor in 1939, a year after the Basin was built, but LaGuardia turned it down and moved into Gracie Mansion (barf). Today, the entire block is now a red brick apartment building, the Schwab House (double barf).



Photo taken from a dock or boat at the current Boat Basin site.

The building on the southeast corner of 79<sup>th</sup> Street and Riverside is the home of ex-Basinites Charley Kuskin and Dave Foster.

*Correction: In BULL Issue 1, it was stated that one of Robert Moses' Riverside Park re-landscaping funding sources was the Grade Crossing Elimination Fund and that there was no grade crossing of tracks at 79<sup>th</sup> Street. The crossing can be seen in this photo.*

- From Gary Oppenheimer



Riverside Park – foot of W. 79<sup>th</sup> Street - 1920's?

## Russ Johnson

Other than horizontal living versus vertical living, one of the characteristics of the Boat Basin that sets it apart from a similar-sized apartment building in Manhattan is the amount of artistic talent and skill that has passed through in its 70-year history. Arguably, it has been Manhattan's premier diversified artist colony through the years. The Basin's colony has included TV directors, producers, performers, news anchors, graphic artist, crew, playwrights, producers, comedy writer, stage managers, orchestra and band musicians, actors, actresses, opera singers, classical singing instructors, singer manager, recording company executive, public television producer, record producers and technicians, rock concert producer, classical impresario, celebrity pop singers, opera and ballet companies manager, symphony hall manager, international classical singing competition producer, fiction and non-fiction book authors, travel writers, biographer, political commentator, documentary producer, bloggers, magazine and newspaper editors, artists, stained glass designers, architects, concert halls acoustician, dancers, dance instructors, videographers, indie film producers, location scouts, musician/composers, cartoonist, fashion designers, runway models, and photographers.

One of the most talented was Russ Johnson, who died over two years ago after an illustrious career designing acoustics for symphony halls, arenas and performance spaces all over the world. Russ was THE top dog in acoustics.

Click for [Russell Johnson obituary](#)

In the 1970's, Russ had a Seagoing houseboat "Albemarle" (named by previous owner Ida Smyer of C and D Docks) and a wood motor yacht "Aria" (previous owner Bill Henson?? of C Dock). Russ worked for Bolt, Beranek and Newman on the original Philharmonic Hall (Avery Fisher Hall) at Lincoln Center. Reminiscing at the Basin, he said he fought the partners on the design, claiming it would be terrible acoustically. He was right and quit to form his own company, Artec.

Lorin Maazel, ex-Music Director of the New York Philharmonic and a frequent visitor to the Basin, when asked how well Russ re-vamped Avery Fisher Hall in 1992, said, "He did the best he could with what he had."

More tributes to Russ:

<http://championsofsound.blogspot.com/2007/08/russell-johnson-in-memori-am.html>

[http://www.artec-usa.com/04\\_personnel/consultants\\_bios/russell\\_johnson.html](http://www.artec-usa.com/04_personnel/consultants_bios/russell_johnson.html)

<http://archrecord.construction.com/news/daily/archives/070817RussellJohnson.asp>

<http://www.musicweb-international.com/sandh/2001/Aug01/Lucerne1.htm>

<http://www.andante.com/article/article.cfm?id=15096>

**Life After the Boat Basin Updates**

**Linda Reilly Exhibition**

**Linda Reilly Boehm**

Cordially Invites You The Sixth PAI  
Members'  
Photography Exhibition  
At the Historical National Arts Club

**Reception**

Wednesday December 9, 2009  
From 6:00 - 8:00 pm  
*Refreshments will be served*

**Show is from**

*December 9, 2009 to January 3,  
2010*

*The National Arts Club  
15 Gramercy Park South  
N Y, NY 10008  
212.475. 3424*

Dear Friends,

Attached is an invitation to a group show that I am part of. I have three photos in the show and hope that you get a chance to make it to the reception.

If you can not make it to the reception the show will be up for a month at the Historical National Arts Club.

Hours 10 AM to 5 PM, call to check weekend exhibition hours.

*All the other information is on the invitation.*

Wishing Everyone a Happy Holiday!

Warm Regards,

Linda

Linda Reilly-Boehm

[reillyeyes@aol.com](mailto:reillyeyes@aol.com)

917.400.4505

**Steve Picciano**

my girlfriend found this one...nick kuskon took it back in '89...'90....?

best,

steve

**Bijan Kalantari on "Anahita"**

Thanks so much for the Bulletin. Brings back lots of memories while sitting here in Marigot Bay [*French side of St Maarten in the Caribbean – Ed*]. I just returned from the Med. (Non stop from Gibraltar).

More soon,  
Bijan

**Ed Tiffany**

We have even gotten so soft that we are spending Christmas in Buenos Aires and will be doing a few days sailing with Smile on Sea Charters from there. We hope to sail across La Platte to Uruguay and check out some ports there.

Then back to Franconia NH with the hopes there will be snow. It is always cold there.

Ed

**Andy Sferra**

Hello to everyone and a belated Happy Thanksgiving. Well, I still live here in Connecticut 3 miles in from the New York border along I-95.

Just came back for Thanksgiving in New Jersey at special woman friends house after spending a week and a half in Palm Beach Florida. I will look forward to Florida towards the middle of January again. In the meantime I so enjoy December with the holiday season near New York City. Last night I was treated to a Christmas play at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square. It was Irving Berlin's this White Christmas with singing and tap dancing. It was absolutely marvelous and they made it snow in the theater and had the audience singing along at the end. I recommend seeing it.

Happy holidays, Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all and to all a goodnight.

Till I see you again,

Andrew Sferra

**Cindy Kane / Doron Katzman**

Cindy's art show this spring in a downtown gallery:

<http://www.cherylpelavin.com/exhibitions/0032/index.html>

A Youtube video featuring The Helmets Project:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iljfvQo8hy4>

I am very honored that Charlie Sennott has written about the Helmet Project on Global Post.

[Global Post Review of the Helmets Project](#)

Cindy



From Cindy: Doron scalloping in Martha's Vineyard:



### **Josh Goldberg**

Josh Goldberg, formerly of E Dock, ran for the City Council in this fall's elections. Too bad he had to run against one of the best Council members, Gale Brewer.

### **Jim Marsten**

Greetings from the Catskill Mountains. Christopher (was with me at the BB reunion) and some college friends spent this summer trying to gain fame and fortune by developing iPhone apps. Their first app:

<http://appshopper.com/utilities/alarm-clock-plus-2>

and their second app:

??



**Mumfy and Ryan Diehl**

The great Diehls were on the sailboat on the inside of the wave wall for the summer of 2008. They're back in Baltimore and Helina now has a sister, Mariana:



Friends,

Mariana Ruby Diehl was born Monday August 17 @ 12:47am: 6 pounds, 9 ounces.

She eats well, sleeps well, smiles a lot and is just as sweet as can be!

Love,  
Mumfy, Ryan and Halina

**Delta Willis**

Very nice obituary on Karla Kuskin [*mother of Nick Kuskin of "Dreamcatcher" on B-C crosswalk and ex-wife of Charley Kuskin*] in NY Times:

[Karla Kuskin's obituary](#)

Busy at work, Jasper and I spend many weekends in Mountainville, New Jersey where there is a pool and neighbors who hunt foxes.

This summer I was out on Christopher Street Pier for my usual cappuccino and long read. The ocean air is refreshing and that day there was a brilliant breeze, many sailboats on the water. I often think I have the benefits of the Boat Basin without the dreary maintenance issues. Had been there for 3 hours and turned to leave, slowly with the dog. Just before we reached the promenade I heard a loud double whack, looked back, and saw the Hudson swallow a copter.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/09/continuous/09crash.html?\\_r=1&scp=2&sq=mcfadden%20helicopter%20&st=cse](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/09/continuous/09crash.html?_r=1&scp=2&sq=mcfadden%20helicopter%20&st=cse)

Delta

**Tom Salmon**

I'm living in Mexico now, on the Baja peninsula.

I saw a NY Times piece not long ago focused around Leslie Day primarily but showing the old boat basin and what appears to be a greatly reduced population.

For myself, I left NYC quite a while ago - spent five years in San Francisco on my way to Mexico and in February I just upped and moved on down here. I love it a lot. Have a little two story casita about 6 blocks from the beach. Working as a consultant for independent producers who are putting their films into public television. You know, these days all you need is a computer and a phone and you can work from anywhere. I work about 30 hours a week. Which is perfect for me.

It's a quarter of a century since I first moved into the marina...imagine!

... at the old marina. I'm actually surprised it's still standing!

Tom

**Jill Baker**

I'm teaching at the University of Southern Indiana now and enjoying my 3 grandsons who live nearby in Evansville, Indiana.

*[Jill has written a book based on the Basin. More in a future issue – Ed]*

JILL

**John and Jacki Morrison**

From Doug Hynes:

Hi,

Had a nice nostalgic visit with John, & Jacki Morrison, he gave me his boat, the kuala bear, a 25ft. chris craft, in exchange for a ticket back to Australia, in the 80's, my first boat basin boat.

He played at Artiro's where he used to play back then in the mid 80's...

Here is his site:

[John and Jacki Morrison's website](#)

And a link to a swing video:

[Almost like Being in Love](#)

Doug

**Anina Gerchick**

Check out the Boat Basin series on her website:

[Anina Gerchick website](#)

*Correction for Issue 9 from Meg Berlin:*

On page 11 (FYI) its Didier in red in the foreground.

oxo  
Meg

*Corrections for Issue 9 from **DICK DEBARTOLO:***

Just so you know, Bob's last name is Kiloh.... And my name seemed to be in small type, and not in **BOLD** but I can live with that! :)

Dick De

~~\_/)~~

## **PRESENT**

*Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why we call it the present.*

- [Dan Millman](#)

### **Caroling**

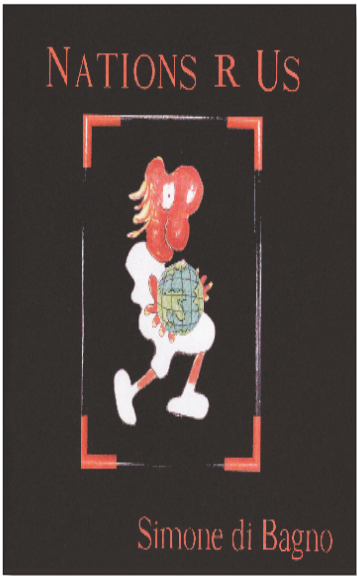
For the 10<sup>th</sup> time, the Not Ready For Prime Time Carolers will serenade the Boat Basin community on Sunday, December 20 at 5:00 pm. The rag tag group will be uplifted again by D Dock's Linda Mays, who sings at the New York Metropolitan Opera. Those who would like to carol should show up at the Dockmaster's Office at 5:00. Music sheets will be provided. Dress warm and bring a flashlight. Singing voice definitely not required.

The post-caroling potluck and BYOB (Bring Your Own Beverges) party will be held at 5:30 pm on Jan and Kazumi's "Alicia" on C Dock. We want to make this as easy as we can for Kazumi and Jan, who have graciously volunteered their boat. Leslie has volunteered to pick up plates, utensils, and glasses at Costco. There'll be a suggested contribution of \$1 at the entrance to cover these and other miscellaneous costs. Any monies remaining will be donated to Riverside Park Fund for the great job they do maintaining our backyard. Due to space limitations, the party is limited to Basinites (including summer season boaters) and Basin staff. We ask you not to invite your outside friends. If you have any questions, contact Raquel at 212-873-8963 or [raquelbuhner@mac.com](mailto:raquelbuhner@mac.com) or contact Regina at 212-873-7558 or [ebacon@nyc.rr.com](mailto:ebacon@nyc.rr.com)

**Simone di Bagno's Book Signing**


Simone di Bagno of C Dock, will be signing his new book:

**MEET THE AUTHOR**  
Thursday, 17 December 2009 at 1:00 p.m.



Simone di Bagno, Painter and Filmmaker  
will discuss and sign copies of the book "*Nations R Us*"

CONCOURSE LEVEL, GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING GA-32  
212 963-7680 or online at <https://unp.un.org/bookshop>

 UNITED NATIONS  
BOOKSHOP  
AT HEADQUARTERS - NEW YORK

## Ample Harvest

Gary Oppenheimer of "Zistgeit" on C Dock started his [Ample Harvest website](#) in the spring and it has taken off like a rocket:

Dear Boat Basin Neighbors:

Some of you may know that I am an avid gardener.

What you may not know is that in late 2008, I became the director of a local community garden. Soon after I took the position, I learned that our garden plot holders -- like millions of backyard gardeners nationwide -- left large volumes of fresh produce unharvested when they grew more than they could possibly use.

I found this to be troubling and created a program called Ample Harvest to gather the extra food and deliver it to local food pantries.

But it soon became clear that food pantries were hard to find. Most operate without an Internet site or yellow page listing. And it turns out this same challenge is faced nationwide by backyard gardeners wishing to share their bounty.

To address this dilemma, I created the AmpleHarvest.org campaign, a way for food pantries and gardeners with extra produce to find each other. AmpleHarvest.org gives food pantries the opportunity to be listed in a central directory so that gardeners can share their fresh produce and, garden-by-garden, help diminish hunger in America. *(As a side note, extra produce thrown into the garbage produces methane as it decomposes in the garbage... a global warming gas twenty times worse than CO<sup>2</sup>. By sharing their extra food with pantries instead of throwing it away, it will not only help feed people but it also helps reduce global warming).*

AmpleHarvest.org has received support and encouragement from the US Dept. of Agriculture as well as other government and private institutions. It operates on a non-profit basis with all involved donating their time and talent. There are no costs to the food pantries or the gardeners for use of the site.

The ultimate success of the campaign will depend upon the number of food pantries that get the opportunity to be in the directory.

You can help by forwarding this email (along with the attachment) to any/all of your friends nationwide... inviting anyone who knows of a food pantry in their own community to contact the pantry directly and encourage it to register on AmpleHarvest.org.

Additionally, please share this email with your "green thumbed" friends nationwide who may be interested in sharing their bounty later this year.

Lastly, a press release is available at [Ample Harvest press release](#) if you have friends in the media (you can visit [www.wastedfood.com](http://www.wastedfood.com) for an example of how bloggers have started spreading the word....)

Forwarding this information to your friends and family can contribute to diminishing hunger in America.

Take Care,

Gary Oppenheimer

[gary@AmpleHarvest.org](mailto:gary@AmpleHarvest.org)

*From Gary on October 16:*

Today is World Food Day.

Yesterday, AmpleHarvest.org, only 150 days old, registered its 1,000th food pantry (food pantries in all 50 states are represented).

Tomorrow, I'm receiving an award from the Association of New Jersey Environmental Commissions for environmental excellence for AmpleHarvest.org

And lastly, I was recently invited to participate in a very interesting project called the "Get Inspired Project" in which 365 people around the world are being interviewed, each being asked the same 4 questions... about what inspires them, and how they inspire others. Each day, a new interview is put online. My interview went live this morning at:

[Gary Oppenheimer's "Get Inspired" interview](#)

both audio and transcribed text. The experience was very humbling..... after listening to the other people who were interviewed, I really feel like someone walking amongst giants. Listen to some of the other people on the site.. very inspiring....

ps... Special thank you to Dick DeBartolo who already "Twittered" this information via his [thegizwiz](#) site to his almost 6000 [6738 – Ed] followers... thank you.

*See also:*

[Ample Harvest Six Month Report Card](#)

[http://www.kfyrtv.com/News\\_video.asp?news=32754](http://www.kfyrtv.com/News_video.asp?news=32754)



### **Jasmine Rios**

Jasmine Rios has transferred to another Parks unit. We thank her for the holiday decorations that helped make the Basin more of a community. We wish her the best.

### **Marina Day**

*We received this from a landlubber friend. Raise your hand if you didn't know this happened.*

[newsletters@nycgovparks.org](mailto:newsletters@nycgovparks.org) wrote:

> Volume XXIV, Number 5016

>

> Tuesday, August 18, 2009

>

> Parks Hosts Marina Day at the 79th Street Boat Basin

>

> On July 25, Parks and Recreation opened the doors of its flagship

> marina, the 79th Street Boat Basin in Riverside Park, to the public to

> learn about boating and meet expert dockmasters. First Deputy

> Commissioner Liam Kavanagh offered welcoming remarks to those that had

> strolled or paddled over to the Boat Basin for the event.

>

> Over 500 people received guided tours of Parks' popular west side

> boating site where they were able to learn about some of the exciting

> challenges—like large moving ice floes—that go with operating and

> maintaining a marina on the Hudson River. Visitors were able to

> examine the myriad of components that go in to construction of a

> floating dock while receiving a first-hand description of the process

> from a Parks' dockbuilder.

>

> Exhibitors from The River Project offered the public an opportunity

> to "touch the river" and many of the creatures that inhabit it via

> Hudson River touch tanks. Urban Park Rangers were on site with games

> and puzzles offering a wealth of facts and information on the Hudson

> River, the organisms that live there and best-practice ecological tips

> on how to keep our waterways clean.

>

- > More hands-on activities for the public included clinics on how to
- > tie a range of different boating knots as well as the proper procedure
- > to secure a vessel to the docks. Land-lubbers were instructed in how
- > to put on a life vest as they boarded the beautiful 42-foot sailing
- > sloop "Go Lightly" for free sailing trips to the George Washington
- > Bridge. Those waiting to set sail were excited to board other unique
- > vessels that had docked at the marina for the day. Parks Enforcement
- > Patrol's silver aluminum patrol vessel cruised up from Hudson River
- > Park. The opportunity to try out the elaborate lights and sirens of
- > this modern patrol vessel drew more than one potential future water
- > patrolman to the control cabin.
- >
- > Another vessel offering deck tours to all who had come to the event
- > was the 106-foot wooden Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. Launched by
- > music legend and environmental activist Pete Seeger in 1969,
- > Clearwater—a majestic replica of the sloops that sailed the Hudson
- > River in the 18th and 19th centuries—was named to the National
- > Register of Historic Places in 2004 for its role in the environmental
- > movement. Hosting educational programs each summer at the Boat Basin,
- > the Clearwater's 40th anniversary was recognized by Commissioner
- > Kavanagh with the presentation of an official Parks' routed sign.
- >
- > Other highlights of the day included a FDNY fireboat water display
- > just off of A-dock. A stentorian blast of the vessel's horn drew all
- > eyes waterside as the Marine 1 Fireboat powered up its six large
- > fire-extinguishing hoses, spraying arches of the river's water high
- > into the air. After watching the display, people were invited to take
- > part in the popular Parks' yellow "rubber-ducky" tugboat races. Kids
- > wrote their names on their tugboats before placing them in the water
- > where they experienced first-hand the effects of the Hudson River's
- > winds and tides on the path and speed of their small boats.
- > Participants were happy to learn that whether first or last in the
- > race, they all got to keep their personalized Parks' min-tug, a
- > reminder to keep an eye out for Marina Day 2010!
- >
- > About the 79th Street Boat Basin and Parks Marinas:
- >
- > The 79th Street Boat Basin accommodates over 200 boats daily
- > including power boats, charters, historic sailing vessels, and kayaks.
- > The marina has 110 permitted slips, 76 moorings, and six transient

- > slips for daily customers, and serves charters and yachts on its
- > western wave wall. Over 600 transient boaters visit the marina each
- > summer. There is a free kayak and canoe launch and storage for up to
- > 90 hand-powered craft. A-dock is open six days a week for the public
- > to stroll and patrons can enjoy a tasty meal with a view at the Boat
- > Basin Caf  .
- >
- > Parks & Recreation oversees 13 marinas and boat clubs citywide and
- > serves over 3,000 boaters annually, along with hundreds more kayakers
- > and canoers who use Parks' citywide Water Trail. Among Parks' well
- > known marinas are World's Fair Marina in Queens and Sheepshead Bay
- > Piers in Brooklyn. These marinas support a full spectrum of vessels
- > including hand-powered kayaks and canoes, powerful motorboats, large
- > commercial charter boats, fishing vessels, and more. Parks offers a
- > wide variety of useful information on the "Boating and Marinas"
- > section of the Parks website.
- >
- > Every year Parks' Marina Division hosts hundreds of kids from
- > schools, recreation centers, summer camps and youth groups to learn
- > about boating, water safety and marine ecology. Parks' expert
- > dockmasters instruct groups of students in nautical safety. Visitors
- > learn about marine ecology and identification of the many species of
- > birds and fish that inhabit our bays, rivers and estuaries. Parks'
- > marinas coordinate programs with Urban Parks Rangers and a host of
- > educational tall ships each summer to offer students diverse and
- > memorable experiences on the city's waterfronts and waterways.
- >
- > Written by Nate Grove, Marina Manager
- >
- > QUOTATION FOR THE DAY
- >
- > "I decided that if I could paint that flower in a huge scale, you
- > could not ignore its beauty."
- >
- > Georgia O'Keefe
- >
- > (1887 - 1986)

**July 4th Fireworks**

Remember the Macy's fireworks in the 70's? We had ringside seats with the fireworks barges on the Hudson but the Upper West Siders complained to Macy's that Riverside Park was being trampled and Macy's said screw you and took the fireworks to the East River. This summer, Macy's moved the fireworks back to the Hudson for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Henry Hudson sailing up the Hudson. Chris Vallozzi captured the fireworks on his iPhone and set it to Jimi Hendrix "Star Spangled Banner".

*From Chris:*

In case you wanted an E-Dock's view! I Took some vid last night on my new 3GS and spliced the best and posted here: <http://tinyurl.com/bbfireworks>

Best viewing: Download to your desktop or you kinda got to wait for the browser to upload the entire vid; your choice ; ) *[Got the audio but not the video on both Internet Explorer and Google Chrome. When I downloaded, I got both. – Ed]*

Best Regards,

Chris

**Cat Trying to Hide Under Barge**

Doug Hynes took this photo with his iPhone of a catamaran that dragged its Basin mooring across the river in June and became fouled in a barge's anchor rode. Even though the Harbor Patrol vessel was sitting there with its blue lights flashing, the NY Waterways skipper kept his pedal to the metal and whacked the cat with his wake.



~~\_/)~~

## PFUTURE

Telling the future by looking at the past assumes that conditions remain constant. This is like driving a car by looking at the rear view mirror.

- *Unknown*

### **Pfantasy Pfuture: Winter water hoses**

That we Basinites use the winter fresh water hoses properly:

- no disconnecting of hose segments
- no long-term direct connection to individual vessels
- no kinking of hoses
- no carrying the hose's flowing end down the center of the dock. The ice patches can be dangerous.
- no leaving the hose by your vessel when you're finished filling your tank. The hoses should always be extended to the head of the dock with the end of the hose hanging over the edge.
- no leaving a leaking connection between hoses for the next person to fix. .

C Dock owes a big thank you to Chris Williamson for setting up C Dock's winter hoses.

### **Parting proverb**

The whole life of the Boat Basin is but a point in time, let us enjoy it.

- *Modified quote from Plutarch*

~~ ^) ~~