



# The Library Branch

The Parks Library

Room 240, The Arsenal, Central Park

64th Street & Fifth Avenue

Number 14

November 2002

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## OCTOBER LUNCHTIME LECTURE RESCHEDULED

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If you wanted to come to last month's lecture but couldn't make the date, you're in luck. Opportunity is knocking a second time. The lunchtime Lecture by Edward S. Barnard will now be held on Wednesday, November 6 (the day after Election Day), at 1:00 p.m. in the Arsenal Gallery!

Although the date has been pushed back, the program remains the same. Mr. Barnard will present a lecture and slide show that draws from his new book and the 900 images it contains. An obvious treasure, this book appeals to confirmed tree lovers and to neophytes who perhaps have missed both the forest and the trees.

Produced in consultation with Parks, *New York City Trees* is one of a kind. Although there are many tree guides from many different authors which cover various spectrums of forestry, there has never been a book like this. Likewise, this will be a unique lecture that you don't want to miss.

For those of you who did show up last month, we apologize for the cancellation and hope you can make the new date.



**Wednesday, November 6, at 1:00 p.m., in the Arsenal Gallery**

*Please call 212-360-8240 or e-mail [Library@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Library@parks.nyc.gov) to reserve your seat.*



Andrew Haswell Green  
Worcester Historical Museum

### NOVEMBER DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

## *The City of Greater New York: The Story of Consolidation*

The documentary describes the fierce political battles preceding the creation of today's five-borough city in 1898. The video, which the *New York Times* described as "excellent," highlights the career of park-builder and pro-consolidationist Andrew Haswell Green, a forgotten master planner who is often compared to Robert Moses. It features period music (like the anti-consolidation anthem, "Up With the Flag of Brooklyn,") and interviews with filmmaker Ric Burns, former mayor Giuliani and historians David Hammack and Richard McCormick. Frances Sternhagen narrates.

The video's producer, **Michael Miscione**, will introduce the video. He is a native New Yorker, a former award-winning television producer for Crosswalks Television and a freelance writer. His pieces about NYC history have appeared in the *Times*, the *Post* and the newly published book, *City Secrets: New York City*. He has been waging a lonely campaign to raise awareness for Andrew Haswell Green since 1998, when he encouraged the Parks Department to replant the five long-gone symbolic elms around the Green Bench in Central Park. He is currently trying to convince the city to rename a bridge for Green in 2003, the centennial of his death.

**Wednesday, November 20, at 6:00 p.m., in the Parks Library**

*Please call 212-360-8240 or e-mail [Library@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Library@parks.nyc.gov) to reserve your seat.*

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Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor

Adrian Benepe, Commissioner

John S. Mattera, Librarian

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## THIS MONTH IN PARKS

- 1654 November 14: Thomas Pell, an Englishman, purchased 50,000 acres of what is now the Bronx and Westchester from the Siwanoy Indians. (Parkgoers can visit the site of the tree where Pell and Siwanoy leader Chief Wampage made their pact.) In 1666, King Charles II chartered this land as part of the Manor of Pelham. During the Revolutionary War, Pell's land was part of the buffer between British-held Manhattan and rebel-held Westchester. Hiding behind stone walls, 600 Massachusetts Patriots stopped the British and Hessian forces from making their way north from Rodman's Neck. Remains of the walls can be seen in the Split Rock Golf Course. A plaque at Glover's Rock commemorates this battle at Pell Point.
- 1870 November 1: First day of observations and reports from meteorological laboratory set up in the Arsenal by Dr. Daniel Draper. The Weather Bureau took over the operation in 1911, and moved it to Belvedere Castle in 1919, where it has remained ever since.
- 1923 November 11: Eternal Light Star lit. Sitting atop the flagpole in Madison Square park that stands as a monument to the veterans of World War I, the illuminated star shines in tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. Recently refurbished, the star now has lexan in place of its glass, and long-life light emitting diodes (LEDs) instead of incandescent bulbs.
- 1927 November 10: Cunningham Park acquisition. This date marks the beginning of a series of park acquisitions in the Hillside area of Queens, which at the time was in the beginning stages of its transformation from a rural to an urban area. In 1934 the park was named for W. Arthur Cunningham who died that year. Born in Manhattan in 1894, Cunningham was raised in Brooklyn, where he attended St. James's Academy. He received his L.L.B. degree from Fordham Law School in 1915, but postponed his legal career to serve his country in World War I. Cunningham distinguished himself in combat as a major in the 69th (later 165th) Regiment, A.E.F. He served as counsel and later vice president to the Textile Banking Corporation until 1933, when he was elected City Comptroller on Mayor LaGuardia's fusion ticket. Cunningham died suddenly of a heart attack while horseback riding on Long Island.
- 1940 November 19: Minerva and Bell Ringers monument unveiling. Originally atop the *New York Herald* building, the monumental clock honors the paper's founder, James Gordon Bennett, and his son. Now the centerpiece of Herald Square, this bronze work includes figures of Minerva, the goddess of wisdom and invention, and two bell-ringing blacksmiths.
- 1992 November 5: Gertrude Stein monument was dedicated in Bryant Park. The statue's location near the New York Public Library reflects Stein's role as a trail-blazing American author and arts patron whose works include plays, librettos, film scripts, biographies, autobiographies, lectures, essays, poems and novels. The casting is based on a model made by Jo Davidson in Paris in 1923.
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## The Green I see

an exhibition of the work of Parks photographer

### Spencer T. Tucker

On display until December 5, in the Arsenal Gallery, this selection of photos illustrates the endless variety of ways multitudes of New Yorkers express and enjoy themselves in parks. Simultaneously the show presents a look into the diversity of work performed by the dedicated Parks staff in fulfillment of our mission to provide the city with safe, clean, green spaces to enjoy.

presented by: **GreenPoint Bank** with additional donations from Hillcrest Florist, au bon pain, Tanqueray<sup>No.</sup> TEN, & Manhattan Penthouse

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