



Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I wish you all a happy and healthy 2011.

Wow! The past year was busy. A lot was done; a lot more remains to be done. First I want to thank you for your being part of our organization. Your membership in CGCAI proves that we are a living, vital and forward-looking group. Every organization is only as good as its members – and because of you we are very good indeed and getting better.

I am going to ask for your continued support but before I do, I want to give you a run-down of what we have accomplished this year.

- 1. We launched the “Save Our Community House” Campaign** – one of the most ambitious endeavors of the last decade. But our backs were (and are) against the wall -- the crumbling walls, that is. The engineer’s report we commissioned said the Community House will literally fall down in the foreseeable future unless we act now. There’s about \$250,000 worth of remedial work – and it would be really great to afford some cosmetic fixes to make the place a little prettier. After all, the Cherry Grove Community House is the oldest gay theater in the United States and probably the world. We got off to a good start in 2010, thanks to both the hard work and donations of so many individuals as well as the generosity of Ron King and Bob “Rose” Levine who sponsored fundraisers. Next year, we will be very busy with this project and we will turn to you for help.
- 2. We had the most successful Honors Dinner in history.** We made more money than ever before but that’s only part of the story. In addition to paying tribute to three outstanding Grovites, we had significant support from mainland businesses and from the Pines this year – a great step forward in bringing the two communities into a lasting, mutually beneficial partnership.
- 3. We filed for a \$50,000 grant from New York State’s Dormitory Authority.** The reimbursement got stalled in bureaucratic red tape but we expect to see the money in early 2011. The money will cover the expenses for much-needed renovations of the Doctors House, aka the Elmer A. Lindsay Memorial Center.
- 4. We established a Community Relations Committee to work with local businesses on shared issues.** To date, our concerns have been centered on reducing the loud noise from the bars. We remain very optimistic that we all can find common ground on this – a solution that enables the bars to make money and Grove residents to get a good night’s sleep. This is clearly a challenge but we are working diligently to create harmony in our community.

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5. **We began exploring the possibility of establishing a Beach Erosion District.** We don't know for sure yet if this a good idea but we will continue to examine the issue to ensure that we have the facts to determine how we can best be protected in case of catastrophic weather events on our beaches. This does not replace the great work done over the years by our Dunes Fund to build and protect our dunes. Please continue to support the Dunes Fund.
6. **We elected three great new Board Members** – Tom Cunningham, Gina Garan, and Richard Reilly. Tom serves as Treasurer, bringing us his substantial experience in non-profit financial management. Gina will chair the Membership Committee, taking over from Bobbie Green who moves over to chair the Labor Committee, and Richard will take a lead role in Community House fundraising. We said a sad farewell to Gerri Losquadro, Ray Baez and Audrey Hartmann with our heartfelt thanks to them all for their years of leadership and service to CGCAI.
7. **Our website is going live soon.** Thanks to Mary Ellen Manning who is handling the design and site management, as well as to Joyce Yaeger who will manage the content, [www.cgcai.org](http://www.cgcai.org) is very close to the launch. Meantime we now have a Facebook Fan Page. Check it out at [www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Cherry-Grove-Community-Association/149171485133517](https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/Cherry-Grove-Community-Association/149171485133517). Be sure to click "Like."
8. **We now have the best walk captains in history.** If you are on top of community news and functions, thank your walk captains -- an elite team of volunteers who walk the flyers and local announcements around to every house every week. Thanks to Lorraine Michaels who organizes this merry band.
9. **We also have a great group of dock managers** led by Paul Jablonski overseeing the traffic on our docks --- and the list goes on.

It's going to be a busy and challenging year -- and we need you with us. There are so many opportunities to make a real difference in our wonderful little seaside town, whether it's working on the Community House Campaign, helping with fundraising and membership, volunteering for the Honors Dinner, or helping with community relations and beautification.

Our spring meeting will be Sunday, May 15, 2011, so mark your calendars. Be there, stand with us, and let's all breathe new life and possibilities into Cherry Grove.

Of course we need your money too. We'd be so grateful if you could make a donation to CGCAI – anything you'd like to give – so that we can get a real head start on the 2011 season. Additionally, we have enclosed the 2011 Membership applications. Please sign up now!

Have a healthy, warm and productive winter. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Best,



Diane Romano  
President