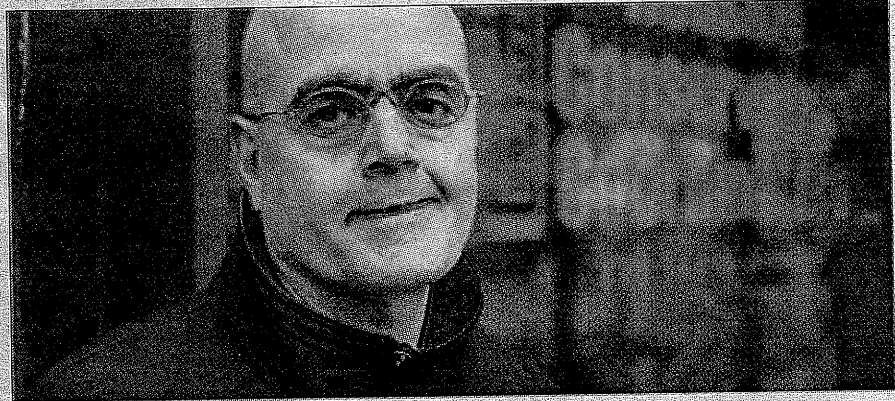




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Q&A WITH BOB KALIN



Bob Kalin, a tenant organizer at Housing Conservation Coordinators, has lived at 57th Street and 10th Avenue since 1981, when he moved here from the suburbs of Chicago with the intention of getting a degree in cinema studies from NYU.

What brought you to the West Side?

It was an old longshoreman's neighborhood, and I was attracted to working with low-income folks in a sort of colorful neighborhood.

What do you like best about it?

I think it's becoming revitalized, but it's maintaining some of the local color and

character that it's always had.

What would you change if you could?

I would try to integrate wealthier people into buildings that are lower [in height]. Along 42nd Street, 57th Street, along Eighth Avenue, we have these very tall buildings. I would try to ease the perimeter so we don't have a wall. Change and gentrification are inevitable; I just wish it weren't so crushing.

What's a neighborhood gem?

Metro Baptist Church [at 410 West 40th St.]. If you take the bus to the Port Authority, it's the last place



J&N Records, on 10th Avenue, is a wholesale record store.

you see before you arrive. It's a beautiful, simple church, and we've set up the Hell's Kitchen Cultural Center there. It's been open for community events, like when we were fighting the stadium, and now they let us do the Rhythm in the Kitchen festival, which is March 29-31.