



Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS (ONLY) \$15
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81 BEDFORD STREET #5F
PAYABLE TO BBC BLOCK ASSOCIATION**

BBC News And Views APRIL 2010

Next BBC Meeting — The next meeting is Wednesday, April 7 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.), 7pm. Coffee and cookies will be served at 6:45pm. We will discuss the May Fair and other community issues.

The annual BBC Spring Planting is set for Saturday, May 8. Bring your spade and trowel and help turn our tree pits into floral displays. Meet in front of 81 Barrow Street at 10 am.

On the Sidewalk

by BBC Poet Laureate, Holly Rose Diane Shaw

finding a bent broken twig
the callery pear blossom baby leaves
just starting

an April snowflake that fell from grace

at home I place it in a glass of water
never confusing love with easy

though french window panes
a ray of sunlight
touches the edge of sheer white curtains

near the song of the cardinal singing outside.

The 36th annual Ye Olde Village Fair is set for Saturday, May 15. All your old favorites will be back — International Food Court, Outdoor Café (Dancing Under the Stars!), live entertainment, crafts and children's activities. If you are interested

in being a vendor, call 212-366-1451.

Calling all bakers! Get your aprons ready and please plan on baking for Ye Olde Village Fair — cookies, cakes, pies and more are welcome at the BBC Coffee and Cake Table. We run out early and this is the one table whose proceeds ALL go directly to the BBC. Experiment, try something new, have fun — we need you and your baking expertise!! Bring your goodies to the BBC Coffee and Cake Table on Fair day — and please be sure to include a note listing your ingredients.

On February 16, 2010, near the corner of Bedford and Commerce, the BBC lost a thirty-plus year-old tree that stood three stories tall to a delivery truck. BBCer **Nate Ehrlich**, who sent the BBC a very generous “For the Trees” contribution, in the hopes that a new tree will be planted on “Cherry Lane” (the BBC is working on that!), wrote these moving words that sums up how so many of us feel about our beloved street trees:

“It [this tree] spread its leaves and branches across two of our windows and provided the urban-bucolic setting that drew us to the West Village and specifically to Barrow and Commerce. During the hot summer months, it provided shade from morning sun. During the winter, it captured the snow and ice and became sculpture. During the spring and fall we would open the windows, watch the birds and listen to the leaves”.

“During intermission at Cherry Lane Theater, people gathered under the tree. I suspect its leaves helped filter chatter and cigarette smoke that rose as a result. Without the tree, the theater and our neighbors seem closer. In the interest of providing privacy both to and from them, we now shroud our windows in curtains. Our apartment now seems to have closed in a little.”

“It is with pleasure that Vicky and I submit dues to the BBC in support of your ongoing work.”

“I admit, while admiring Tyler's work and even stopping to tell him so, I took the tree boxes for granted. I now understand how vital a role these small plots play in softening the city streets and inviting nature back into our urban dwellings.”

Thank you for your eloquence, Nate, and for your and Vicky's generosity.

Bob Oliver, our neighborhood historian and Chair of the BBC Historic Preservation Committee, has sent us the latest news flash about one of our most illustrious past neighbors and American patriots, **Thomas Paine**. Bob writes us this exciting news:

“I have been in contact with the New York Historical Society and both they and Friends of Thomas Paine have approved the historical content. My secret goal [which we are making public here, in support of Bob’s mission] is for New York State to join some 14 other states in naming January 28, Tom Paine’s birth date, as a recognized event.”

How did Tom Paine Land in Greenwich Village?

Founding Father Thomas Paine, lived here in lower Manhattan from 1805 till his death in 1809 at 59 Grove Street.

His residency was not a particularly pleasant experience. He suffered serious illness while imprisoned in Paris for advocating a written constitution for the new French Republic (as well as opposing the execution of the Royal Family).

He had a least two residences here in the Village: one on Bleecker Street (bet. Grove and Seventh Avenue South) as well as 59 Grove Street where he died. While in prison, Thomas Paine was *persona non grata* in three countries — the newly founded American Republic (Federalist Government), England and France. He was truly a “man without a country.” While in prison in 1794, Paine pleaded with the Washington Administration through our “ambassador” to France, **Gouverneur Morris**, for help with an appeal for his release. They were non responsive. He was finally released in late 1794 through the intercession of the next American Ambassador, **James Monroe**. He remained in France for eight additional years. At last, with the Jefferson Election of 1800, things changed. The “Republican-Democrats,” friends of Paine, were now in power. In 1802, **Thomas Jefferson** welcomed Paine’s return to the U.S. He arrived at his home in New Rochelle, a former Tory residence granted to him by New York State, for his valuable support during the American Revolution. He and his caregivers lived there for a year or so. Since his caregivers had a residence here in Greenwich Village, 59 Grove Street became his final home.

Legend of New York City — and The Village!

The BBC, with great sadness, notes the passing of BBCer **Jane Hawke Warwick**, an editor who raised her family in their apartment above the Cherry Lane Theatre on Commerce Street with her husband, **Arnold**. Jane died peacefully on Tuesday, February 23, at the age of 78.

Jane began her career at Mademoiselle in the fiction department where she became an editor and continued to work in publishing throughout her life. She married Arnold Warwick, manager of the Cherry Lane Theatre and later a real estate broker, 47 years ago and raised their three children in their apartment in the same building. Jane was an excellent cook and gave many lavish dinner parties there and in their

home in East Hampton. Jane was also known for wearing her bikini on East Hampton’s Indian Wells Beach, though, her son remembers, “she preferred to enjoy the waves from the comfort of her beach chair.” In addition to her husband, two daughters, a son and seven grandchildren survive. Jane’s life was celebrated at a memorial at the Commerce Restaurant on Commerce Street on March 6.

Nabe Notes

VillageCare CEO **Emma DeVito** has announced that a tree will be named in honor of the Bedford Barrow Commerce Block Association in the garden of the new rehabilitation and nursing center currently being built on Houston Street. This state-of-the-art facility, the first nursing home built in Manhattan in more than 50 years, will replace Village Nursing Home. VillageCare hosted a special birthday party for the block association on March 9. The Bedford Barrow Commerce Block Association has funded monthly birthday parties for the residents at Village Nursing Home for the past 25 years. “It’s a wonderful feeling when someone remembers your birthday and celebrates with you. Thank you for bringing that feeling to our residents,” Emma said at the event. “This tree will be something that residents, family members, staff and visitors will see and enjoy for years to come.”

The owner of Snack Taverna (63 Bedford St.) intends to open a new place at 60-62 Bedford Street (formerly a gallery and before that a laundry) and has applied for a liquor license. Because Greenwich Village has many licensed premises and because residents have concerns about the decreasing number of local service businesses, BBC’s guiding philosophy directs that we cannot support granting new liquor licenses on quiet residential blocks for locations that are not currently eating establishments. Nothing personal, just policy.

The Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St., between 7th Ave. So. & Bedford St.) announces its Annual Piano Recital & Master Class Series. Evelyn Crochet, Recital, on Friday, April 23, 8 pm; Master Class, on Saturday, April 24, 3 pm, Renee Weiler Concert Hall. Recital: \$15, general; \$10, students / seniors. Master Class: \$7. For more information, call 212.242.4770.

The Sixth Precinct is offering to register cellphones and laptops for identification purposes in the event they are stolen. For further information, contact the Sixth Precinct at **212.741.4811**.

The Cherry Lane Theatre’s (38 Commerce St.; 212.989.2020) Mentor Project 2010.

Belle of Belfast, by **Nathan Edelman**: “Seventeen-year-old Anne Malloy is lost and angry after the tragic killing of her parents to a terrorist’s bomb. Like many who suffered and survived during Ireland’s “Troubles,” she turns to the comforts of her local parish. However, her passion is not for the Church, but for her confessor and confidant Father Reilly, forcing both to re-evaluate where one finds solace

and faith during a time of conflict. Nate Edelman's sharp dialogue and dark wit shine through this moral conundrum, and his skillful depiction of this war-torn city forces us to reconsider what is wrong what is righteous. April 27 – May 8, Tuesday through Friday at 7pm, Saturday at 3pm & 7pm. Tickets: General Admission \$18, Students/Seniors \$10. on-line at www.telecharge.com or call 212-239.6200..

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation cordially invites you their 12th Annual Tour of Village Homes, Sunday, May 2, 1- 5:30 pm. Offering a rare glimpse into seven of Greenwich Village's finest and most exclusive townhouses, the Tour is held to raise funds in support of GVSHP's work to educate about and advocate for the distinctive character and irreplaceable architecture of Greenwich Village, the East Village and NoHo. Patron level tickets are now available. Individual tickets will go on sale April 1. Visit www.gvshp.org/benefit.

The GVSHP offers these programs for spring:

Jazz in the Village: Roots and Branches, a Lecture with Dan Morgenstern, Thursday, April 8, 6:30 – 8 pm (Le Poisson Rouge 158 Bleecker St.);

Helping Italians Settle in the South Village: The Role of Our Lady of Pompeii Parish, a Lecture with Mary Elizabeth Brown, Wednesday, April 21, 6:30 – 8 pm. Our Lady of Pompeii, (Father Demo (Basement) Hall, 240 Bleecker St.);

Focus on the East Village: Women Movers and Shaker of the East Village, A Walking Tour with Andrea Coyle, Sunday, April 18, 1:30 – 3 pm, (Meeting place given on reservation);

The Past, Present & Future of East 4th Street: Downtown's Theater Row, Tuesday, April 27, 6 – 7 pm, Tours start at 5 & 7 pm, 64 East 4th Street, Ground Floor Theater. All events are free, reservations required. Call 212.475.9585, x35; rsvp@gvshp.org

Neighborhood Notes & Notables

On the week-end before **President Obama** signed the health care legislation, **Michelle, Sasha and Malia Obama** were spotted at the Magnolia Bakery on Bleecker.

Newlyweds, **Michael Dvorkin and Ambre Brandis**, are suing the "632 on Hudson" loft for ruining their wedding day because of broken air-conditioning. According to the suit the loft, which once housed the cast of MTV's "The Real World: Back to New York," became so hot that the couple told the photographer to stop taking pictures "because everyone was so sweaty and wet." The guests at the June 7, 2008, wedding became "soaked in sweat" and the newlyweds' wedding-day gear "wrinkled and sticking to their bodies," the suit charges. Within an hour, the 120 guests had downed "more than 2,000 beverages." Loft owner **Karen**

Lashinsky disagrees with the charges.

Bond No. 9, which has a Bleecker Street shop, has just released its homage to the High Line Park with an eponymously titled fragrance. The scent comes with a \$145 price tag for a 50-milliliter bottle. According to founder **Laurice Rahme** "This is a real, local, New York railroad-track fragrance. Eighty percent of the notes come from plants and flowers that grow on the High Line." Earlier Bond No. 9 fragrances, pay tribute to Bleecker Street, Brooklyn, Central Park and Wall Street.

Actress **Kate Winslet** wants to escape the Chelsea apartment she shared with **Sam Mendes**. The couple is divorcing after seven years. She has told friends she wants to escape the \$6 million triplex which had been their home since 2005.

A source said told *Page Six*, "Kate sees it as a house of horrors because of the fights she and Sam had there. She feels it is tainted." Winslet is superstitious and refused to fly with Mendes, fearing they'd leave their children orphans. Because she's about to start filming a five-hour HBO miniseries, "Mildred Pierce"—based on the Depression-era novel by **James M. Cain** that became a **Joan Crawford** screen classic (Crawford won an Oscar for it herself), moving is tricky now.

Long time Villagers may remember Secondhand Rose when it was located on Hudson Street. First opened in 1965 it is now at 230 Fifth Ave.(fifth floor). Owner **Susanne Lipschutz** features more than 5,000 vintage wallpapers as well as linoleum.

We hear that the Beatrice Inn, scene of many scenes, will reopen under new owner **Cobi Levy**, a partner at the popular Charles Restaurant on the corner of West 10th and West 4th Streets. In order to assuage the trepidations of wary neighbors, Levy has agreed to a 12:00am week-night closing and a 2:00am time for Friday and Saturday. Food will be served.

Dane Chan is suing fortune teller **Sylvia Mitchell**, of "Zena Psychic." (Seventh Ave. & Bleecker St.) claiming Mitchell conned her out of nearly \$10,000, while Chan was going through personal problems under the guise of "cleansing" rituals to rid her of "impurities." Those rituals included the classic stuffing-money-in-a-jar trick: "Chan was told to tuck nine \$100 bills and a prayer list outlining her future goals inside a jar. She was told to fill the jar halfway with water, spit in it and sleep with it under her pillow for a week," before handing it over to Mitchell. Chan accuses Mitchell of stealing her credit card to go on shopping sprees. There are reports on different websites that warn about Mitchell including detailed descriptions by several victims on the Ripoff Report which describe the cons she pulled on Chan.

from Gothamist

Resources & Information

Ten friends were riding to Brooklyn shortly before 5 am on March 29 from the Cellar Bar in the Bryant Park Hotel, but an altercation turned violent. Apparently, one man tossed a bag of trash out of the train at the 14th Street Station. It hit an unidentified man boarding the train with his friends. The assailant took it personally. “We apologized to them,” **Brian Woods**, 24 told the *NY Post*. “Police sources tell the *NY Times* the stabbings occurred after the 14th Street station. The assailants are believed to have fled at Christopher Street. “When he left, he stood banging on the glass (train window) with the knife in his hand,” Woods tells the *Daily News*. “(He was) laughing like he knew he got one of us.”

Officers responding to an anonymous call found **Darnell Morel**, 24, of Brooklyn, and **Ricardo Williams**, also 24, of Brooklyn, in pools of their own blood. They were pronounced dead at St. Vincent’s. **Mark Joseph**, 23, was stabbed in the arm and neck; he’s in stable condition. (According to the *Times*, both Morel and Williams had arrest records.) Two potential suspects were questioned but released.

Through Thursday, at least 103 murders have been recorded by the NYPD, compared with 86 over the same period in 2009. But reported crime on the subways is at a record low; the *Times* says, “In 1990, an average of 47.8 crimes a day were recorded in the subway system. In 2001, the average was 10; last year, it was 5.6; and so far this year, the average is 5.3.”

Residents at St. Vincent’s were updated on March 23 concerning a possible takeover of by Mt. Sinai. They were addressed by **Mark Toney**, SVH Chief Restructuring Officer (CRO). Some key points were:

- * The goal is to keep the hospital open as an acute care hospital with an emergency department.

- * The restructuring team started by fundraising and cutting costs. In addition to cuts in services, pay cuts, and layoffs; they have looked into selling non-acute care assets and have letters of intent for Westchester and two nursing homes.

- * On February 4, New York Medical College sent a letter to the hospital asking if the hospital was stable enough to continue residency programs into the next academic year. The hospital asked NYMC for an extension to March 31 to respond. NYMC declined and began the process of withdrawing accreditation voluntarily out of concern for quality resident training.

- * In efforts to look for a new sponsor, SVCMC spoke to eight or nine interested organizations. These were narrowed

down to two, with Mount Sinai as top competitor. He could not promise there will be a hospital on June 30, but if there is, Mt. Sinai will preserve St. Vincent as a teaching hospital.

- * The plan is to determine in the next 30 days whether or not Mt. Sinai will take over (for a transition in management by the end of April.)

- * Residents were asked to hold off on signing contracts for positions in other programs until the end of April, however, if the prospective program needs an answer before that residents should do what’s in their best interest



A weird new structure has been rising on the Meatpacking District waterfront at the end of Pier 53 on the north side of the Gansevoort Peninsula. It’s a new home for Marine 1, the FDNY unit that patrols the coast. The \$11 million building designed by CR Studio replaces an old wooden stationhouse that was demolished in 2008, and will include a staging area for fireboats, communal space for the company and “more intimate space for rest and bathing.” It’s being built tall so that the mechanicals are up high, well above any rising flood waters. The facade will be wrapped in a skin of zinc, designed to be both durable and low-maintenance. The FDNY crew moved downriver to Pier 40 while Marine 1’s new stationhouse goes up, and original plans from April 2008 called for the company’s return to Pier 53 after 22 months, meaning they should have been back home last month.

If your bike use doesn’t justify your two-wheeler’s cost, upkeep, or monthly storage fee, then maybe it’s time to start an in-house bike-loan program. One Upper West Side co-op did just that. Here’s how it works at 262 Central Park West:

- * Residents contribute underused bikes, including road bikes (thin tires), mountain bikes (straight handlebars/thicker tires), and childrens’ bikes

- * The building pays a local bike shop to clean them up, and the building staff looks after them on a regular basis

- * Residents and accompanying friends can borrow bikes so long as they sign a release form held by the doorman

- * Helmets aren’t included and bikes can’t be checked out all day or overnight.