



Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

Please Renew! Annual Membership is (only) \$15
For information, call 212.366.1451.

BBC News and Views

There is NO March Meeting instead . . .
IT'S A BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Join your friends, neighbors, and fellow BBCers at a celebration of 35 years of The Bedford Barrow Commerce Block Association, hosted by our friends at the Village Nursing Home. "For 35 years the residents at the Village Nursing Home have enjoyed birthday celebrations funded by donations from the BBC. Now, the residents and VillageCare staff will be hosting a birthday party for the BBC!" Tuesday, March 9, 7 pm at Village Nursing Home (607 Hudson St. & W. 12th St). Please RSVP to KathrynDonaldson@aol.com or call Kathy at 212.366.1451. ALL ARE WELCOME at our birthday bash!

A special thanks to all BBCers who have renewed their membership. Enclosed please find another envelope for those who haven't yet re-upped. So far, over 230 BBC members have renewed. So, those of you who haven't, here's your chance to be part of the ultimate IN crowd!

(For those of you who haven't renewed, this will be your last newsletter. DON'T MISS OUT!)

Save the date!! 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. For vendor and general information, please call 212.366.1451 or email BBCBlockAssociation@gmail.com. The 17th Annual BBC Village Crafts Fair: American Handmade Crafts & Artwork has become a treasured part of Ye Olde Village Fair. If you are interested in participating in this juried "fair within a fair," which accepts only original or limited edition work made in the U.S., please contact **Diane Wildowsky** at BBCcraftsfair@gmail.com.

Brian Delate — BBCer and renowned New York actor — is performing his very timely one-man show Memorial

Day for a single presentation at the Cherry Lane Theatre on Wednesday, March 31 at 3pm. "A Vietnam veteran contemplates joining his dead comrades in the ultimate Memorial Day observation, but as he bids farewell to his live comrades he gains the courage to escape the war that has followed him into the 21st century." The running time is just under 70 minutes. Brian has been developing this piece for a couple of years at The Actors Studio, where he is a life-time member and now serves on the Board of Directors. Brian has been guided and encouraged by the very special talents of **Ellen Burstyn, Estelle Parsons** and **Harvey Keitel**. As well as having an extensive professional background, Brian was a decorated non-commissioned officer in the Vietnam War.

BBCer **Larry Selman** is in the digital age! Follow Larry on twitter at twitter.com/larrycollector. And Larry is still collecting! Be sure to say "hi" to him as you pass him on our streets.

BBCer **Dorothy Arkell** is presenting her "Walking Through Paris" class — ten sessions on Friday afternoons, from 12:30-2:30 pm, beginning March 12, at the United Federation of Teachers offices at 50 Broadway (it's an easy trip on the Seventh Avenue IRT to Rector Street, or the #6 train to Wall Street). Dorothy, a resident of Barrow Street and frequent visitor to Paris, has conducted these sessions for the past five years. For more information, please call 212.675.2438.

FLASH! Tom Paine Update!!

Chair of the BBC Neighborhood History Committee, **Bob Oliver**, reports: "Tom Paine (b. 1737 in Thetford, England, d. 1809 in his beloved Greenwich Village, at 59 Grove St.) was 'The Pen' of our American Revolution. In 1776, citizen support for the new revolution was essential. In its early stages, our revolution was of the established classes; businessmen, lawyers, the educated, landowners. In 1776, Paine published his 'Common Sense' in everyday, readable English, explaining the necessity for independence from England. The effect was miraculous. Support for taking up arms was generated and the revolution proceeded. Paine himself took

up arms under the command of General Nathaniel Greene who suggested that since Paine ‘couldn’t shoot straight’ that he could better serve the revolution with his pen. Once again, Paine came to the aid of his country with his publication of his pamphlet “The American Crises,” which began with those famous words, “These are the times that try men’s souls.” It created enthusiasm for the revolutionary army at its point of near defeat. **General Washington** was so impressed with Paine’s work that he requested it as required reading to the suffering troops at Valley Forge. It worked! Encouraged by its success, Paine continued, with enthusiasm, the series of thirteen additional pamphlets.”

Nabe Notes

The Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St., between Seventh Ave. So. & Bedford St.) announces its **Annual Piano Recital & Master Class Series**. Jeffrey Swann, Recital, on Friday, March 19, 8 pm; Master Class, on Saturday, March 20, 3 pm, Renee Weiler Concert Hall. Recital: \$15, general; \$10, students / seniors. Master Class: \$7. For more information, call 212.242.4770.

The Annual Village Awards are sponsored by The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSH) to honor people, places and organizations that contribute significantly to the quality of life in Greenwich Village, the East Village and NoHo. Since 1991, GVSH has recognized the unique contribution our small businesses, residents, and organizations make to our lives. The 20th Annual Village Awards will be presented at GVSH’s annual meeting in June, selected from the nominations submitted. Please nominate a Village individual, business, organization, streetscape, front stoop, restoration, or garden that you feel makes an impact on life in the Village. Send your nomination to The Awards Committee, GVSH, 232 East 11th Street, NY, NY 10003. Nominations may also be submitted via fax to 212.475.9582 or at www.gvshp.org/awards.htm. Nominations must be received by April 9, 2010.

The Gotham Center for New York City History announces its Spring 2010 Spring History Forum Series: “The Row House Reborn,” Wednesday, March 10, 6:30 pm, Elebash Recital Hall, CUNY-Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, 6:30 pm; “A Jewish Family’s Journey . . . to the Ports of London and Baltimore,” Thursday, March 18, 6:30 pm, Skylight Room, CUNY-Graduate Center. For more information, please call 212.817.8471; or visit www.gothamcenter.org.

Cherry Lane Theatre: New production *Extinction* starring **James Roday, Michael Weston,**

Amanda Detmer, Stefanie Frame. February 13 – March 14, Tues. at 7pm, Wed-Sat at 8pm, Sun at 3pm. \$46, \$26 for students with valid ID. 80 minutes-no intermission. *Extinction* is a play about what transpires between two college buddies whose annual outing of male-bonding and debauchery veers precipitously off course when unmet expectations spiral into a volatile showdown

Mentor Project: *Stray* by **Ruth McKee.** March 16 -March 27 Tues-Fri at 7pm, Sat at 3 & 7pm, \$18 regular, \$10 student McKee’s racially charged play underscores homogeny’s fragile nature, and questions whose responsibility it is to care for the “strays” of the world www.cherrylanetheatre.org

Neighborhood Notes & Notables

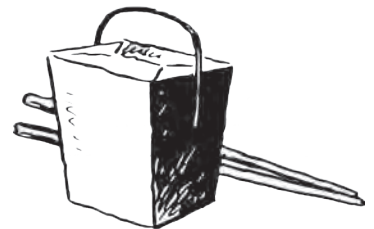
Chef **John DeLucie** of Waverly Inn fame is branching out. He and partner **Mark Amadei** are re-opening the Lion (W. 9th Street). Way back in the day, manager **Burke McHugh** gave song legend **Barbra Steisand** an early break and movie director **Joel Schumacher** bused tables.

Chef and restaurateur **Kurt Gutenbrunner**, who owns Wallsé and a nearby wine bar called the Upholstery Store in the Village was featured in a profile piece in the New York Post (February 5). The Austrian chef is a busy man. He recently created the sausage menu for the Standard Hotel’s Biergarten.

More restaurant news. **Francois Latapie**, “once a partner in La Goulue, which he managed for 10 years,” is taking over the 30 year-old Cafe Bruxelles (Greenwich and Jane) and will reopen with a new name in June. Signs in the window state that the restaurant is closed for the foreseeable future, and the owner tells Eater that the culprit was a recent basement fire.

Kawa Sushi (24 8th Ave.) fired **Tian Wen Ye** last October, but now the delivery manager is picketing his former employer daily. The Chinese Staff and Workers Association is joining Ye in his protest, and claim that he was fired for trying to start a union. The 318 Restaurant Union filed a complaint against Kawa Sushi with the National Labor Relations Board, claiming that Kawa management sent underlings to threaten him and other workers for their union activities. **Mika Nagasaki**, 25, an organizer for Chinese Staff said Kawa Sushi managers compelled other employees to “retaliate against him.” She said Ye was fired shortly after filing a complaint with the NYPD.

Kawa Sushi management disagrees. “The gentleman is making things up,” said an English-speaking friend of one of the restaurant bosses who declined to give his name. “Nobody pulled a punch on



Notes & Notables (Cont'd)

him. And we called the police the second day after Ye did when he sent a friend of his over to hit the chef in the kitchen. I think the problem started when [Ye] pressed charges against the company over not getting minimum wages. But he's totally lying."

Ye and three others were fired from Kawa Sushi in 2007, after, he claims, complaining about minimum-wage law violations. The four were subsequently rehired, but now Ye is out on the street again.

The west side of Christopher Street has always been viewed, especially by some who live on the east side of Christopher, as the raunchier part of the street. That's evidently changing. The Chair and Maiden Gallery (19 Christopher St.) has been forced to discontinue a live performance installation featuring a naked woman in the front window. The installation, part of an exhibit of work by artist Brian Reed, was covered on NY1, but by the following day the show was over. According to the gallery's Twitter page, the installation, which featured a woman standing in a net made out of shark eggs, beads and clay pipes, was "taken down by NYPD for public lewdness."

Actor **Alec Baldwin** (30 Rock which filmed on Commerce Street about six weeks ago) is house hunting and now he's been spotted in the Village checking out an apartment at 40 Fifth Avenue. StreetEasy shows three units for sale in the building, all between \$4.2 million and \$4.999 million.

We hear that the ongoing kerfluffle on Cornelia Street between successful eye surgeon **Dr. Emil Chynn** and his absentee neighbor **Kathe Sackler** is ongoing. Dr. Chynn loves his dog as much as he hates the derelict building at 33 Cornelia Street. In fact, one reason behind Chynn's cleanup crusade is that the place is so full of rats "the size of cats" that he's afraid they'll eat his Corgi, Hershey. ("And he is the block mascot, by the way, so people would go crazy if anything happened to him.") Dr. Chynn loves his dog so much that this is what he brought to a 2008 Cornelia St. block party, according to a tipster: Why doesn't Kathe Sackler care about her expensive property and if she doesn't care, why doesn't she sell it?

The latest New Yorker (March 1, 2010) pays several nods to the Village. "All's Well" introduces **Juliet Rylance**, an English actor, who is appearing as part of the Bridge Project at BAM, in "As You Like It" and "The Tempest," directed by **Sam Mendes**.) She and her husband, **Christian Camargo**, began their romance with dinner at Patis and a weekend at a friend's apartment on Jane Street. And Grove Street resident **Calvin Trillin** regales us with the tribulations of the "Changians" a posse of foodies dedicated to the pursuit of the mysterious and restless chef, **Peter Chang**.

Resources & Information

The DR2 theater in Union Square is now presenting *Zero Hour*, the hit play about theater legend **Zero**

Mostel. The producers have maintained a policy of keeping some seats available at TKTS because, while *Zero Hour* does have a natural audience for those who saw him on the stage, younger theater fans are turning up. Mostel got his start at the age of 27 in 1941, at Café Society near Sheridan Square. He adopted the stage name Zero (his given name was **Samuel Joel Mostel** — Zee to his friends). The press agent of the club prevailed upon Mostel to adopt this stage name, hoping that it would inspire the comment: "Here's a man who made something out of nothing."



Community Board 2 Manhattan and New York University will present "Parking: Outside the Box", a panel discussion on new approaches to on-street parking on Tuesday, March 9 from 6:00pm to 8:00 pm at NYU's Casa Italiana (24 West 12th Street). Panelists include parking experts from the NYC Department of Transportation, Columbia University, and Transportation Alternatives, as well as the author of a new study on US parking innovations, just released nationally by the Institute for Transportation Development Policy. A Question and Answer Session follows the discussion.

The North Sky Cello Ensemble will highlight the "Songs of Spring Concert" at the Manhattan Seventh-Day Adventist Church (232 W 11th St.) March 27, 2010 at 6:00 pm. The North Sky Cello Ensemble is unique in its rendition of the master composers work in technique and Style. Lead cellist **Rubin Khodeli** became interested in the collaborative symbiosis of dance, theater, and music. He started to explore music composition and wrotes additional score of the feature film "Precious." On television his music has been featured in the HBO series "True Blood." Songs of Spring Concert which will feature the works of Bach, Beethoven, Debussy, Hayden, Lizst, Mozart.



On February 10, a two-alarm fire tore through Village Paper. Over 100 firefighters were able to get the fire under after about an hour — part of the ceiling collapsed, leaving two firefighters with minor injuries — but the store was ruined. Owner **Sun Wong** spoke to the Daily News while in tears, “I worked so hard for this store, for my family. I’m so sad right now. I have three little ones. What am I going to do now? I feel sick about it.” Both the toy store and restaurant next door were also damaged by the blaze. This site was the home of the long lamented Sutter’s Bakery.

Old News

JESSE HAD A GUN

His bones are dust;
His gun is rust;
And we will have his cash, or bust.

Thus sang the small boy and all his chums in the lower part of old Greenwich Village yesterday. And as they sang they peered into holes and crevices in the sidewalk, into back yards, and ash cans, and looked quizzically at each other.

The cause of their unusual conduct was the startling discovery of a big army musket — one of the old-time muzzle loaders — and of documentary evidence alleging that it once belonged to the famous outlaw Jesse James. There was also documentary evidence, it was agreed that somewhere about the weapon was concealed \$10000.

Fifteen-year-old George Clifton Hall, Jr., of 675 Greenwich Street proposed to his chums the other day that they play “War,” and imitate the Russian and Japanese armies. To make the game realistic they let Christopher Street, near the corner of Greenwich Street, represent the Yalu. The Japs” made their stand on the north side thereof, while the “ Russian “ forces were on the other side of the “river.” Catching the latter off their guard the Japs” crossed the “Yalu” and started to loot the camp of the enemy.

Inadvertently, as the story goes, they looted the premises of a neutral citizen, one Lieut. Frederick Schmltdborn, who for several years has occupied humble quarters in the rear of 140 Christopher Street. At any rate, a part of their plunder consisted of a musket which had been given to the Lieutenant some years ago. He had, he says, never used it, but kept it near by as a reminder of the past and an object of terror to evil-doers.

The trick of the “Mikado’s” troops leaked out, and immediately there was a desperate hand-to-hand combat to get possession of the gun. In the struggle the mukset was broken in two, and from some unknown part of it, so the

story goes, two slips of paper, saffron colored, and one stained with what the boys thought was blood, fell to the ground. On the larger slip was written, in a bold hand:

St. Joseph, Missouri.
June 6, 1866.

*I expect to be caught
and killed by Tim-
berlake. If so, look in
this gun thoroughly
and find \$10,000, and
give to ulrs. James,
toy mother.*

*Yours, JESSE
JAMES.*



The accompanying slip bore the following

*I had to throw
this gun away, as I
am too weak to carry it. JESSE*

The sight of the dollar sign and the figures following it had the effect of at once pacifying the belligerents and re-establishing friendly relations between them. Then began a determined hunt for the money. Th boys say they saw nothing except the notes fall out, but some of them say that two strange men came along while the battle was on and picked up what looked like a wad of old paper.

Quite as mystifying as is the failure to find the \$10,000 is the disappearance of the stock of the musket. What became of that after the resumption of peace nobody appears to know. The theory of the amateur sleuths is that somebody has it and is keeping mum” for fear he will have to “divvy up,” as one of the boys put it. Every inch of the barrel of the gun and the woodwork about it has been explored in vain.

Lieut. Schmltdborn, who is nearly seventy years old and dislikes notoriety, said last night that he earned his title in the German Army; after that he came to the United States and enlisted for the civil war.

Knowing that I am an old soldier,” he said, “some friends gave me the musket a number of years ago. They came from the State of Missouri, where Jesse James and his gang used to operate, and brought the old gun with hem. I never knew where they got it. I often thought of trying the old thing to see how it would work, but was afraid it might rebound and kick me over.

“I draw a small pension from the Government, which keeps me alive, but that \$10,000 would come in mighty handy. Perhaps I shall get it yet.”

The New York Times, June 15, 1904