



## Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association  
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

**Annual Membership Is Still (Only) \$15;**  
**For Information,**  
**Please call 212.366.1451**

### **BBC NEWS AND VIEWS**

#### **November 2009 Meeting**

The next BBC Meeting is **Wednesday, November 4 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.)**. At 7 PM, **Steve Gould**, of Visiting Neighbors (serving seniors in Lower Manhattan since 1972) with escorts to doctors and shopping and friendly visiting, will discuss this terrific organization's (it also happens to be a BBC recipient) current programs, including the Elfing Project in which volunteers wrap gifts and deliver them to senior during the holiday season. At 6:45, coffee and cookies will be served. SEE FOLLOWING FOR DETAILS ABOUT THE UPCOMING VISITING NEIGHBORS BENEFIT — IT'S OUR TURN TO HELP THIS VITALLY IMPORTANT ORGANIZATION!!

#### **2009 BBC Holiday Party—Save the Date!**

The BBC Holiday Party is Saturday, December 12 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) 6-9 PM. Once again, BBCer **Dale Belli** has asked us to put the word out to encourage our members to make/donate items for the PWA Christmas Project. Especially needed are sweaters and sweat-shirts/sweatpants, hats, gloves scarves, mittens, etc. Dale writes that "we need more men's gifts than women's, and teens' gifts are needed too." (Any games, puzzles, DVDs, etc., are also appreciated!) These items will be distributed through The Urban Live Source Connection to people with AIDS in need of warmth in more than 40 NYC area hospices and hospitals. We'll collect all contributions at the BBC Holiday Party. Thank you all for your generosity and holiday spirit!

#### **BBC Fall Planting**

BBC gardener **Tyler Redmond**, who keeps our treepits immaculate and watered throughout the summer is currently cleaning and mulching them in preparation for fall planting.

Watch for those glorious yellow daffodils and colorful tulips that will bloom in the spring!

#### **Chumley's Update**

**Bob Oliver**, Chair of the BBC Preservation Committee, reports that "it looks like the reconstruction on the Chumley's complex will be complete within eight to twelve months. We are hopeful that the sidewalk shed will be removed well before then, freeing the corner of Bedford and Barrow Streets from the darkness and debris. We have assurances that the 'Ol' Chumley's Tavern' interior will return. Shortly before the collapse of the north wall, luckily, all the interior wall panels (with book jackets), benches and tables, etc., were removed to storage. The interior furnishings and finishes will be returned once the construction work is finished. The owners have recently applied to the Community Board for the reinstatement of their liquor license (which the BBC supports). The news is good but we are continuing to monitor the situation. We will keep you updated on future events. Hopefully, with good weather and no further construction problems, the 8-12 months completion time will be improved." Thanks to our stalwart BBCer Bob, for, as always, his hard and effective work on all of our behalf.

#### **Sports Bar Update**

BBCer Nancy Pasley writes "The Bleeker Heights sports bar and related Five Guys fast-food place at the corner of Barrow and Bedford continue to be open. The neighborhood continues to have all the problems we anticipated with both operations, noisy and unruly late-night patrons, garbage, heavy grease fumes and more. In many meetings the owners say they will do better, but actions speak louder . . . The BBC, many of our members and all our local elected officials, have protested to the SLA, asking for a denial of the bar's pending liquor license application. The SLA has not acted on the application but has given the bar an ongoing series of 'temporary' permits, allowing them to ignore our issues. They have said the record is closed; they do not want any new submissions, but if you want to express your opinion anyway, write to **William Crowley, Director of Com-**

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munications, NY State Liquor Authority, 80 South Swan St., Suite 900, Albany, NY 12210.” Many, many thanks to Nancy for all her hard work on this important issue!

**IN AND AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

Visiting Neighbors needs your help! For 38 years, this venerable organization has been helping our seniors. To continue their good work, they need your help. With the loss of NYC funding, they cannot meet their operating expenses. So our wonderful local artists have rallied to help. Come to *Art from the Heart*, on November 17 at NYU Hemmerdinger Hall, Silver Center for the Arts, 100 Washington Square East; suggested donation, which is tax deductible, \$50, \$75, \$100 (send check to Visiting Neighbors, 611 Broadway, #510, NY, NY 10012; or use Online Reservation: [www.visitingneighbors.org](http://www.visitingneighbors.org)), 7PM: Wine Tasting and Silent Auction; 8:15: Art Auction. Even if you can’t attend, please donate.

The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Kristallnacht Service is Monday, November 11, 7 PM, at St. John’s Church on Christopher St. (near 7th Ave). BBCer **Cheryl Brock** — thanks to Cheryl for calling this to our attention — writes that “I’ve gone every year. The music, readings, and choreography are increasingly poignant, pointed and even 71 years later, feel both urgent and relevant.” The service is free and is an integral part of St. John’s Peace initiative. St. John’s Pastor, **Rev. Lyndon F. Harris**, who directed the relief operation at St. Paul’s Chapel after 9/11, and who currently directs the international interfaith Gardens of Forgiveness initiative, will preside.

The Cherry Lane Theatre (38 Commerce St.; 212.989.2020) offers at The Studio, *Tyne Daly Master Class* on Monday, November 2 at 7PM; tickets: \$25 (\$10/students). Call 212.989.2020 x21 to purchase. Join the Tony Award winning actress, for an inside view of performance from a master of the craft in an intimate setting. For more information, go to [cherrylanetheatre.com](http://cherrylanetheatre.com).

NYU and **Lois Rakoff**, Community Director of the Poe Room invite you to *Poe and Beethoven*, a live, gothic musical performance by Outis, on Thursday, November 12, 6PM, NYU Law School, Furman Hall, room 216, 245 Sullivan St (between W. 3rd St. and Washington Square South). FREE! RSVP to NYU’s Office of Government & Community Affairs, 212.998.2400; [community.af-fairs@nyu.edu](mailto:community.af-fairs@nyu.edu).

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**Neighborhood Notes & Notables**  
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If you think the scenes in the new movie *Motherhood* with **Uma Thurman, Minnie Driver and Anthony Edwards** look familiar,



(that’s Uma with the stroller) you’re right. **Katherine Dieckman’s** new comedy is a “tender ode to the mothers of (the) West Village, those hardy souls who cart their moppets up three-story walk ups, braving such indignities as alternate-side parking, gawking tourists and snooty neighborhood kids who brag about over-the-top birthday parties. (It) charts a single day in the life of Eliza...a onetime fiction writer whose life is now consumed by her duties as a mother of two and wife to a well-meaning, but spaced out book editor.” from *People*

In mid-October the intersection of Greenwich Avenue and Christopher Street was temporarily co-named Mauric Sendak Way and Wild Things Way as part of the promotion for the **Where the Wild Things Are** movie.

The historic Gay Street house (at Waverly Place) is rumored to be haunted. Legend has it a man in top hat and tails has been spotted; perhaps, it is former **Mayor Jimmy Walker**, who once owned it. The house was put on the market with a \$4.2 million price tag. Built in 1827, it housed a speakeasy before Walker bought it for his mistress, **Betty Compton**, in the 1920s. Puppeteer **Frank Paris**, who designed the original Howdy Doody, also lived there. Once when Paris was away the house was

## Notes & Notables (Cont'd)

broken into by squatters who used the original puppets as firewood. Most recently it was home to Scientific American editor **Dennis Flanagan** and his wife, Barbara. Sold in 2007, it has been gutted and is an empty shell. “There are ghosts in all of these buildings,” said **Celeste Martin**, who owns and manages the next-door townhouse. “They talk; they’re living things these buildings.”

On September 26 the legendary **Barbra Streisand** returned to the Village Vanguard. According to New York Magazine, **Max Gordon** “liked to tell the story of the “little pisher” who hung around the club in 1961, pestering him for a chance to perform. He flicked her away for weeks, but when his headliner, **Miles Davis**, was later than usual for a gig one night, he gave the Brooklyn teen permission to audition a few songs. Within a year, she was a star. The 67-year-old who returned to the Vanguard this Saturday championed her natural repertoire in its natural habitat. *For Love Is the Answer*, the album the concert is meant to promote, she has chosen thirteen songs whose average year of composition is 1963. Actually, she sings each song twice: on one CD backed by **Diana Krall** and her jazz quartet, on the other immersed in a full orchestral soup concocted by arranger **Johnny Mandel**.”

If you stop into **John Bartlett’s** store on Seventh Avenue you may meet his trusty sidekick, a three-legged dog named Tiny Tim, who watches over the store and serves as mascot and logo of John’s menswear brand. In December 2002, Tiny Tim was hit by a car and brought into the North Shore Animal League (NSAL) to have one of his front legs amputated. John Bartlett stopped into the shelter on his 40th birthday looking for a companion. Tiny Tim’s shadow is everywhere as the John Bartlett logo. John has even designed a special T-shirt, the proceeds from which will go directly to the NSAL.

*Highlands*, the “first authentic Scottish establishment in New York City,” will open on West 10<sup>th</sup> Street Sold as a gastropub, the restaurant is owned by **Brian McGrory**, an alum of AvroKO, native of Scotland, and expert bar man, **Mary Wan**, who opened a boutique hotel with McGrory back in Glasgow, and **Donal Brophy**. The menu includes Mustard and Dill Steam Kintyre Mussels, House Cured Loch Duart Salmon, Oysters Loch Fyne, Princess Scallops and Bacon Burger, Beef Cheek, Mushroom, and Ale Pie, Roast Pheasant/Organic Chicken. The Scots aren’t known for their culinary *finesse* but this sounds interesting.

On October 23 a tombstone was unearthed in Washington Square Park’s as its redesign entered Phase II. Washington

Square Park was a potter’s field from 1797 to 1826: in early 2008, during a soil testing, four bodies were discovered (and left buried) there. There are 20,000 (known) bodies there. The old tombstone is a three-foot-tall sandstone marker that reads, “Here lies the body of James Jackson who departed this life the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September 1799 aged 28 years native of the county of Kildare



Ireland.” Workers dug deeper and uncovered James Jackson’s skeleton.

*from Curbed*

An NYU graduate who worked in an athletic equipment room during her school days found out that a bobcat logo she drawn was being used as the school’s mascot. NYU claims that the wages she received for clerking in the equipment room was fair compensation for their use of her drawing. What do you think?

*New York, I Love You* is the second installment in a franchise of urban anthology films that began in Paris. Some of the film was shot, no surprise, in Greenwich Village. “When **Bradley Cooper** is nervously awaiting a previous one-night-stand (**Drea de Matteo**) in a bar in the Village, he steps outside to calm his nerves in the brisk night air. Several characters meet and share moments over cigarettes outside of bars around the city.”

## Resources & Information

The Washington Square Association offers two chances to sing yuletide carols. The Association also provides the annual 45-foot Christmas tree under the Arch that will be lit for the season between the hours of 4 pm and 1 am. On Thurs., Dec. 10 at 6 pm, song leader **Mary Hurlbut**, accompanied by the Rob Susman Brass Quartet and children and grown-ups alike will sing holiday songs. The multi-colored lights on the tree will be turned on to mark the beginning of festive winter evenings. Santa Claus himself has promised to appear and lead the children in the illumination countdown.

Christmas Eve, Thur., Dec. 24 at 5 pm is the traditional time to celebrate the holiday with carols at the Washington Square Arch. The Rob Susman Brass Quartet, song leader and the revelers from all over the city will sing out the familiar tunes. “Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men” will ring out to remind us all of the true meaning of the holidays.

Event planner **Robert Isabell**, who died in July, owned 16 Minetta Lane, which is now asking \$2.85 million. It's a 2,813-square-foot building with attached carriage house. There's a concrete staircase, a tent-like roof, a basement hand-chipped by Tibetan-born sherpas from Brooklyn. Then there's ivy, crawling out the windows. Or, as the listing puts it: "It would be of great interest to someone looking for a truly unique home with open air qualities, loft like space and an outdoor living experience." *from Curbed*



The first Glassybaby store outside of Seattle is open at 555 Hudson Street (Perry Street). Glassybaby was born after **Lee Rhodes**, a mother of three, learned she had lung cancer in 1998. To relieve her husband's stress, she bought him glass blowing lessons and he began to make votives, which she started selling. They come in more than 300 deep colors, in a gently rounded form that enhances the appearance of the flame. Information: (206) 568-7368 or glassybaby.com.

**Juan Gonzalez**, 15, was taken into custody on October 13 in Queens Family Court for the dozen burglaries he allegedly confessed to in that borough after absconding from a facility for troubled youths in August. He has admitted to another 10 to 20 break-ins in the West Village. Cops then started eyeing Gonzalez in the East Village cases because of the recent rash of burglaries there, the sources said. The number in the East Village had more than doubled -- from 19 to 39 -- in the last monthlong reporting period.

On October 7 the Transportation Committee of the New York City Council heard testimony on several bills including Intro #624 which focuses on delivery men failing to follow traffic regulations. This bill is sponsored by **Councilmember Jessica Lappin**. Unfortunately, unless changes are made, there are omissions that may worsen the situation. The bill seems to shift responsibility from the rider to the restaurant owner (creating lots of paperwork) for noncompliance. It may make it more difficult to enforce traffic regulations with regard to all cyclists. The bill has the support of the cycling lobby. The Coalition Against Rogue Riding (CARR) is seeking to implement positive changes. "The current version of Intro #624 lacks balance and a comprehensive approach that will address traffic safety and allow the NYPD to be most effective when they enforce the law. The true value of "vicarious liability" is to cause the business owner to "RE Direct" their delivery agents into law abiding delivery practice.

Creating "true vicarious liability" means having the business owner take financial responsibility for the violations of the delivery agent. This version of #624 fails in this effort where it counts most — where the danger and damage lie — in the moving violations." Hopefully, Councilmember Lappin will effect a subsection that will address the needs and right of the public and the NYPD.

Intro #1063, drafted by outgoing **Councilmember Alan Gerson**, and initiated by local community activist **Ed Ma** would require mandatory community input on transportation capital construction projects (like the Ninth Avenue Bike Lane) Passage of this bill means that all city transportation construction projects must go through a democratic process. Legislation deals with reforming the process, not any one particular project. Greenwich Village had not been impacted recently, but the residents of Chinatown, in particular, are upset by the Dept. of Transportation's handling of such projects like the Chatham Square Reconstruction, Brooklyn Bridge Reconstruction, Water Tunnel Project, Grand Street Bike Lanes, etc. without proper community notification.

If you don't have a dog, but wish you did, consider walking a shelter animal to an event where animal lovers are likely to spot your charge wearing its orange "Adopt Me" vest. Shelter workers say the orange adoption vests add an extra layer of visibility to an adoptable pet. Walking around the city is great exercise for both you and the dog. The vests are distributed to animal groups by the Mayor's Alliance for NYC's Animals. Signing up to volunteer with your local rescue group or shelter to walk their pups can help save a life and offer a needy pet a well-deserved good time, too. Contact your local dog run, pet supply store or rescue group.

*The NY Post (Oct. 25, 2009)* reports that the City is cracking down on Vespa owners who've taken to removing the vehicle-identification numbers from their rides in a bid to thwart traffic agents from slapping them with tickets for parking on the sidewalk. Scooter owners have long tried to avoid tickets by removing their license plates, often attached with simple plastic fasteners. The paper does not explain whether or not this crackdown includes motorcycles whose owners often do exactly the same thing. Ten scooter owners have gone further and have been arrested this year for either altering a vehicle-identification number (VIN) — a felony — or attempting to alter it, a misdemeanor. They were caught when they came to reclaim towed motorbikes from the pound, said NYPD spokesman Paul Browne. Scooter owners gripe that the city lacks dedicated scooter parking, and that if they park on the street legally between cars, their scooters might be damaged by careless drivers. Reportedly, cops are more likely to ticket in Manhattan than in other boroughs.