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April 2013

## BBC News And Views

### Next BBC Meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 3 at the Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.), PLEASE NOTE, at 7-9 PM. Our special program will be “REMEMBERING LARRY”—Join your friends and neighbors in honoring everyone’s best friend and most famous neighbor, Larry Selman, who passed away, after a truly wonderful life, this winter. We will celebrate Larry’s rich, full and so very productive life, remembering all that he did for so many, with his extraordinary fund raising, for a myriad of good causes, including the BBC, for which he sold raffles, gathered raffle prizes, for both Ye Olde Village Fair and the annual Holiday Party. He was, in so many ways, the heart and soul of this community, bringing together his neighbors, making them his friends, animating our local streets with his incessant, but always good-natured, “Hey mistah (or Miss!), can I talk to ya for a minute?” Those who stopped, and allowed themselves to be talked into giving to whatever worthy cause Larry was working for that day, discovered in him, a bright, funny, kind and intensely caring person whose very existence helped dispel so many stereotypes about whom we call the “developmentally disabled.” Larry was a person, a very real person, and richer in so many ways than so many who have so much more—that more, measured in things, whereas Larry’s riches were measured in friends, and his good works, which benefited so many. The program will be hosted by longtime BBCer and baseball buddy of Larry, Leslie T. Sharpe (see her piece on Larry, online in The Villager, “Remembering Larry,” which first appeared in the BBC Newsletter), and will feature such local luminaries as our Assemblymember, Deborah J. Glick, who was a personal friend of Larry, BBC President and local legend, Kathy Donaldson, and of course, Alice Elliot, the director of the Academy-Award nominated short documentary, “The Collector of Bedford Street,” which starred Larry as the “Collector” and has preserved his life for us, now, as legend. We will serve dessert at the conclusion of our program, in honor of Larry, who LOVED dessert! And we invite you all to come and share your reminiscences of Larry over cake and coffee with us.

### Ye Olde Village Fair

The 39th annual Ye Olde Village Fair is set for Saturday, May 18, starting at 11 AM. Come enjoy the International Food Court, Outdoor Café (this year, centered around The Cherry Lane Theatre), live entertainment, children’s activities, and the one and only Juried Crafts Fair, featuring the original creations of wonderful artists and artisans. This year, the Vendor Chair for the Juried Crafts Fair, will be Stacey Miller. Thank you, Stacey, for taking on this very important and time-consuming task. We really appreciate all your efforts in making our Juried Crafts Fair the best in New York City. And special notice to Fair vendors: You can find applications online at the BBC Block Association website, [bbcblockassociation.org](http://bbcblockassociation.org). And 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.

### BBC Membership

BBC President Kathy Donaldson thanks all of you who have re-upped your membership to the BBC. Those of you who haven't yet rejoined will find a return envelope for to you to send in your payment (and please do remember those trees!). Be sure to make your checks payable to BBC Membership. And please do note that this will be the last Membership notice, and if we don't hear from you, this will then be your last newsletter. So, let's hear from you! Re-join us! Thanks in advance . . .

Congratulations to BBCer and resident of Bedford St., Anthony Tarsitano, whose new short film ICE will be shown at the Tribeca Film Festival in April. ICE stars Kevin Corrigan and long time West Village resident Tony Musante. All Festival packages and passes can be purchased online at [www.tribecafilm.com/festival](http://www.tribecafilm.com/festival), or by telephone at (646) 502.5296 or toll free at (866) 941.FEST (3378).

### Nabe Notes

The Cherry Lane Theatre (38 Commerce St.) presents, as part of its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Mentor Project, April 3-13, "Exile," written by Nastaran Ahmadi, mentored by Kia Corthron, directed by Lisa Peterson. Also, the Rattlestick Playwrights Theater presents, at the Cherry Lane Theatre, "The Revisionist," by Jesse Eisenberg, directed by Kip Fagan, with Jesse Eisenberg, Vanessa Redgrave (yes, you read that right!), and also featuring Dan Oreskes. EXTENDED THROUGH APRIL 27! (Tuesday-Friday, 8 PM; Saturday at 2 PM & 8 PM and Sunday at 3 PM). For tickets, call OvationTix---866.811.4111; or visit, [www.therevisionistplay.com](http://www.therevisionistplay.com). For more information as to dates and ticket prices, phone: 212.352.3101; online: [www.cherrylanetheatre.org](http://www.cherrylanetheatre.org).

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP) announces its upcoming programs (for more information, go to [www.gvshp.org/events](http://www.gvshp.org/events)):

Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 - 8:00 P.M., [La MaMa Experimental Theater Club](#), 74 East 4th Street Free; reservations required; space is limited. RSVP to [rsvp@gvshp.org](mailto:rsvp@gvshp.org) or (212) 475-9585)  
"Lower East Side Oral Histories" is a compilation of 25 unique interviews conducted by Nina Howes and edited by the [Lower East Side History Project's](#) Eric Ferrara. This book documents the memories of 25 people from diverse backgrounds—Jewish, Italian, Puerto Rican, Ukrainian, African-American, Muslim—who experienced life in one of the 20th century's most vibrant and complex neighborhoods. [Lower East Side Oral Histories](#) will be available for sale.  
The Measure of Manhattan: A Lecture by Marguerite Holloway. Thursday, April 18, 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. [Village Community School](#), 272 West 10th Street. Free; reservations required. RSVP to [rsvp@gvshp.org](mailto:rsvp@gvshp.org) or (212) 475-9585 A nineteenth century genius renowned for his inventiveness as well as his bombast and irascibility, John Randel mapped Manhattan's famous city grid but died in financial ruin. Telling Randel's engrossing and dramatic life story for the first time, Marguerite Holloway's biography [The Measure of Manhattan](#) introduces an unheralded pioneer of American engineering and mapmaking. The Measure of Manhattan: The Tumultuous Career and Surprising Legacy of John Randel, Jr., Cartographer, Surveyor, Inventor will be available for sale and signing.  
Celebrating Freedom: A Lecture by Sherrill D. Wilson. Part of the 2013 Program Series: Marking the 150th Anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Monday, April 22

7:00 - 8:30 P.M., [Washington Square Institute](#), 41-51 East 11th Street, 4th Floor

Free; reservations required. RSVP to [rsvp@gvshp.org](mailto:rsvp@gvshp.org) or (212) 475-9585. July 4, 1827 was the legal and official beginning of the emancipation of African enslaved people in New York City, although some did not gain full freedom until nearly 20 years later. Africans had been enslaved in the colony of New Amsterdam (and later New York) since 1623, more than 200 years. This slide lecture focuses on the formerly enslaved Africans, their institutions and organizations, and their celebrations of emancipation, from July 5, 1827 through the end of the Civil War. Parades, church attendance, elaborate dinners and other festivities marked the celebration of freedom for over 50 years, many of which took place in the Village.

2013 Program Series: Fifty Years since the Demolition of Penn Station. Preservation before the Demolition of Penn Station: A Panel Discussion. Tuesday, April 30, 6:30 - 8:00 P.M.

[Washington Square Institute](#), 41-51 East 11th Street, 4th Floor. Free; reservations required.

RSVP to [rsvp@gvshp.org](mailto:rsvp@gvshp.org) or (212) 475-9585. The original Penn Station, built by the renowned architecture firm of McKim, Mead, and White in 1910, stood for fifty years as a masterpiece of the Beaux-Arts style and a monument to New York's aspirations as a world capital. In 1963 the station was demolished, a loss that was bitterly protested. The demolition prompted deep self-reflection on the part of our city, and was soon followed by the passage of New York City's Landmarks Law. This episode is often cited as the beginning of the modern preservation movement in New York, but in fact preservation efforts in Greenwich Village and elsewhere had begun long before.

The Gotham Center for New York City History Presents: L is for Lion: An Italian Bronx Butch Freedom Memoir, Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 6:30-8 PM, Martin E. Segal Theater.

L is for Lion (SUNY Albany Press) is an achingly true story of a Bronx tomboy whose 1960s girlhood was marked by her WWII veteran father's lullabies laced with dissociative visions of trench warfare. At eighteen, on the edge of freedom, Annie Rachel Lanzillotto's studies at Brown University were halted by the growth of a massive tumor inside her chest. She walked out of Sloan-Kettering just as AIDS was named, and made a wild, truth-seeking ride out of survival, going into the fray of gay clubs and cross-dressing on the streets of Egypt. This poignant and authentic story could only happen in New York, with this quintessential New Yorker as narrator and guide into the world of Italian-American characters, immigration, gay sub-culture, cancer, mental illness, gender dynamics, drug addiction, domestic violence, the childhood wonder of Spaldeens – all climaxing in a reluctant return home to the timeless wisdom of her peasant grandmother.

Eighty Days: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making Race around the World Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 6:30-8 PM, Elebash Recital Hall. It's 1889, and the world is newly dominated by steamships, railroads and the telegraph. Two women take on the race of their life, spanning twenty-eight thousand miles through Europe, the Middle East, Far East and the North American frontier – for months, captivating the attention of the United States and much of the world beyond. Matthew Goodman's EIGHTY DAYS: Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland's History-Making Race Around the World (Ballantine Books) recreates the true story of two intrepid women determined to outdo Jules Verne's fictional hero Phileas Fogg and circle the globe in less than eighty days. Through meticulous attention to detail and years of research, Goodman brings these two trailblazers to vivid life as they face wild ocean crossings and freezing mountain train journeys.