



Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS (ONLY) \$15
FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 212.366.1451.**

BBC NEWS AND VIEWS **April 2011 Meeting**

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 6 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.), at 7:00 PM. This will be a meeting of the Fair Committee, which is open to any and all who would like to be a part of our own enduring Greenwich Village tradition, Ye Olde Village Fair. At 6:30PM refreshment will be served.

Ye Olde Village Fair

The 37th annual Ye Olde Village Fair is set for Saturday, May 21, from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. 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, the best in New York City, featuring the original creations of wonderful artists and artisans. For more information, please call 212-366-1451 or visit our new website bbcblockassociation.org. Both craft and food vendors can apply online.

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 — please be sure to include a note listing your ingredients.

A TRUE Legend of Greenwich Village **Lucy Cecere**

The BBC, with great sadness, notes the passing of honorary BBCer **Lucy Cecere**, a born and bred Villager of 87 years, who died at home on Saturday, March 19. Lucy was one of the founders, 37 years ago, of the Caring Community, which serves frail and elderly Lower Manhattan residents.

BBC President **Kathy Donaldson** remembers the time, nearly 30 years ago, that Lucy came to a BBC meeting, and spoke with such warmth and compassion and genuine caring about the elder Greenwich Village community. As a result of that visit, the BBC began an ongoing relationship with the Caring Community, faithfully contributing, every year, \$1,000 to the Village Center for Care's (formerly the Village Nursing Home) Birthday Fund, which assured that every resident would receive a gift — and thus be remembered — on their birthday.

Says Kathy: "Lucy was charming, genuinely nice, so easy to talk to—she listened as if she was really interested in you, and she was . . . If you needed anything—a dvce, or for her to make a phone call — Lucy was there. Her heart was always in the right place, with the underdog —s he was a tireless champion of those in need."

Lucy loved the Village, and worked tirelessly to preserve its institutions, such as the Village Nursing Home, as well as to seek historic district designation for the South Village and landmark protection for other Village locations. Remembering her own roots on Thompson Street, Lucy once said (and this might as well be the mantra of the BBC). "It was a village where people cared for each other. Don't let anyone take it away from us."

Assemblymember **Deborah Glick**, who knew Lucy for years, perhaps summed it up best, "I cannot imagine the Village without Lucy. Her indomitable spirit and her intense caring for her neighbors and her community were peerless. We will miss her every day of the week."

Lucy Cercere speaking to Channel One News at a demonstration supporting the preservation of the South Village.



We extend our deepest condolences to her family — and we also extend our thanks, to her husband, her children and her granddaughter, for sharing this wonderful woman with all of us, and most of all, with the Village that she loved and served so well, to make Greenwich Village the “caring community” that it still is.

At Last

the first white butterfly
among a few golden daffodils
just opening

a diamond glittering flittering

before sleeping branches
slowly awakening into the yawn
of spring.

by BBC Poet Laureate, Holly Rose Diane Shaw

Nabe Notes

Commerce would like to extend its Neighborhood Discount on Sunday Dinners through September 2011. Commerce will offer, to our neighbors, a 20% discount on ALL FOOD at SUNDAY DINNER from the regular Commerce Dinner Menu. The 20% applies to food only, at Sunday Dinner. Simply inform Commerce that you live in the West Village neighborhood, and 20% will be subtracted from the food portion of your bill Sunday evenings through September 2011. (Note: Easter Sunday and Mother’s Day are excluded.)

Greenwich House Pottery (16 Jones St.) presents an exhibition of the work of **Gerit Grimm**, April 14-May 12. For information, call 212.242.4106.

The Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St., between Seventh Ave. So. & Bedford St.) announces, as part of its North River Music Series, a Concert by **Morton Subotnik** on April 7. Tickets \$15 (\$10 for Students/Seniors). For more information, call 212.242.4770, or visit the Greenwich House Web site at www.gharts.org.

The Christopher Street Coffee House, as part of The Village Roots Concert Series, presents **Julie Gold & Christie Lavin**, on Thursday, April 7 at 7:00 PM (Doors open 6:30 PM). \$20 door cover. 81 Christopher St., in the Sanctuary of St. John’s Church. For more information, go to christopherstreetcoffeehouse.org. Also at St. John’s, 81 Christopher St., every Sunday at 6:00 PM, Jazz Mass, with the **Rev. Lyndon Harris**.

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP) offers these programs for spring:

Parks, Plants, and People: Beautifying the Urban Landscape, a Lecture by **Lynden B. Miller**, Thursday, April 5, 6:30-8:30 PM, (Westbeth Community Room, 155 Bank Street) free, reservations required;

Buildings that Grow: An Introduction to Green Roots, a Lecture by **Amy Norquist** of Greensulate, Monday, April 11, 6:30-8 PM (Judson Memorial Church, 239 Thompson Street) free, reservations required;

East Meets Green: A Walking Tour of East Village Community Gardens, Saturday, April 16, 12-1:30 PM (free, reservations required);

The Landmarks Application Process: A Presentation by **Elizabeth Finkelstein**, Wednesday, April 20, 6:30-8 PM (Neighborhood Preservation Center, 232 E. 11th St.) free, reservations required;

Community Documentaries: The Vanishing City & Twilight Becomes Night, Monday, April 25, 6-8 PM, (Film Forum, 209 West Houston St.) GVSHP members, Film Forum members, students, seniors: \$5; All others: \$10. For more information and reservations, please call 212.475.9585, x35; or email at rsvp@gvshp.org.

The Gotham Center for New York City History announces, — as part of its Spring 2011 Forum Series — *On the Bowery* Screening, Thursday, April 14, 6:30 PM. (CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue, Elebash Recital Hall). Tickets are \$8, Members, \$6. To purchase tickets, please call 212.868.4444.

Neighborhood Notes & Notables

Jennifer Anniston was reportedly set to end her Manhattan housing hunt at the \$14.95 million penthouse at 2 Horatio Street, but the 4BR/4BA renovated pre-war duplex is still on the market. Broker **Melanie Lazenby** (daughter of one time James Bond star *George Lazenby*) was on Open House NY this weekend pitching the place. The bathroom of this penthouse is an eye opener.



Critics gave actress and children’s book author **Julianne Moore’s** West Village townhouse (you need multiple revenue

Resources & Information

streams to afford a place like this) two thumbs up when it hit the market in August 2009. But good reviews do not a blockbuster make, and Moore didn't find a buyer for the \$11.995 million property. Which means it's time to list it again...for more money. Moore has just put the 6BR house back on the market after pulling it one year ago, and now it's asking \$12.5 million. Nothing appears to have changed in the house itself which means it still has a dedicated children's floor and that sweet 49-foot garden.

from Curbed

Rock greats joined forces on March 29 to benefit the relief efforts in Japan. **Yoko Ono** & Friends to Japan with Love show at Le Poisson Rouge featured performances by Yoko Ono Plastic Ono Band, **Patti Smith** with **Tony Shahan** and **Cibo Matto**, a New York-based band featuring a Japanese duo.

Andy Warhol is getting another extension on his 15 minutes with a life-size statue that went up March 27 in front of his old Factory studio in Union Square. Artist **Rob Pruitt** unveiled The Andy Monument at 17th Street and Broadway. He was commissioned by the Public Art Fund to create the 10-foot-tall piece, who tell us it's just "down the street from another Union Square West Factory location, around the corner from Max's Kansas City — a favorite Warhol haunt — and close to the spot where Warhol was shot by **Valerie Solanas** in 1968." Warhol would also often stand near this spot handing out copies of his magazine, *Interview*. At least, for now. The statue isn't scheduled to be



a permanent addition to the area, and currently will only be there until October. Also, coming in April, there will be an app for The Andy. Folks in his hometown of McKeesport, Pa. would be proud.

from Gothamist

Actor and Academy Award nominee **James Franco** will teach a third-year course on directing at the Tisch School of the Arts. A maximum of 12 students — with an annual tuition of \$46,000 — will be able to register for the course on adapting poetry into short films. The program has previously featured courses taught by *Winter's Bone* director **Debra Granik** and *Zoolander* co-screenwriter **John Hamburg**. Franco's prodigious output and tongue-in-cheek performances — including *General Hospital* — have at times veered into parody. He recently was co-host of the Oscars.

from the New York Post

Police are searching for a group of thugs that beat up **Damian Furch** at a McDonald's on March 27, leaving him with two black eyes and multiple stitches. Police are investigating the beating as a hate crime. Furch said he and a coworker from the Pink Tea Cup went to McDonald's after work and, where the two attackers began to stare at them. Furch and his friend felt uncomfortable and left, but the attackers followed them outside, asking "if he had a problem" and yelling anti-gay slurs. They began to punch Furch, and one of the attackers allegedly yelled, "You Fucking F---t." Furch's coworker wasn't hurt.

In a huge setback for the Department of Transportation's plans to add pop-up cafes — so-called "gutter cafes" because they sit just beyond the curb — to the streets of New York, Community Board 2 denied all but one application DOT met little resistance in other neighborhoods including the Financial District and parts of Brooklyn. Soho and the Central Village is a different world.

According to the NY Post twenty community members spoke out against the cafes last night and "Supporters of the pop-ups were drowned out by boos and hisses." Both **Gary Tomei** (Marisa's dad) and former Times restaurant critic **Mimi Sheraton** spoke out against the cafes, with Sheraton even calling for a boycott of the business that participate. Local Cafe, on Sullivan just below Houston, was the only business to win approval.

The cleaning out of the former Village Nursing Home has begun. The building is being turned into 10 huge — read superexpensive — condos by architecture/development firm FLAnk, which specializes in pads for the very rich.



If you spot some bomb shelters and hear sirens in Washington Square Park, don't panic. It's a new multi-media installation, titled *The Bomb Shelter*. It's intended to connect New Yorkers to what Israelis went through last week during the bombing of a Jerusalem bus stop. A periodic siren will sound and participating park goers will have 15 seconds to get to the shelter amidst the sound of blasts, immersive video continues the experience as an actual Qassam rocket barrage hitting Sderot unfolds around them. The shelters were designed by some of New York's top graffiti artists and the exhibit is sponsored by the Birthright Israel Alumni Community.

A business improvement district is being proposed for Hudson River Park with Friends of Hudson River Park kicking off the process of trying to build support. The district's borders haven't been set, but it could include about 1,700 properties west of Hudson Street and Tenth Avenue and take in \$5 million to \$10 million annually for park upkeep. If more than half of the property owners object, the district can't move forward, but the steering committee isn't expecting quite that much resistance. Why? Because the neighbors should be grateful. According to a 2008 report, the park has brought the neighborhood within a two-block radius a 20 percent increase in property values.

One blog commentor opined, "Here's a looney idea: build a park THEN figure out how to pay for its upkeep. Actually, the city/state did have that figured out but locals didn't want to have the self-sustaining financial part that came with it included. ... Locals fought like crazy to derail every revenue generating plan that was proposed. These people and the local community board wanted to keep the entire operation 'green.' Like maintaining a park doesn't cost money. Like somehow it'll all work out in the end. Like having a restaurant would be the worst possible thing that could happen for the park. Like having virtually any commercial vendor would destroy the beauty and serenity of the park experience." That's, of course, assuming that the city/state had it right and that it wouldn't have been the financial boondoggle that Chelsea Piers is.

New West Side strip club-turned-lounge Westway has been in the works for some time, with a plan for go-go dancing on Sunday and Monday nights and a run-of-the-mill club the rest of the week. 75 Clarkson Street is next to an XXX-rated video store and has been home to a couple of strip clubs. Westway's proprietors are **Matt Kliegman** and **Carlos Quirarte**, the folks behind the Jane Ballroom, which was so popular with its neighbors. In letters to the State Liquor Authority from the Greenwich Village Little League and Downtown Little League have protested, according to *The Villager*.

If you're still stocking up on sweets for Easter, try adding a little variety into your pile with Swedish sweets from the newly opened Sockerbit. The *Village Voice* divvied all the details of the Swedish candy store that's been long overdue to open. Inside you'll find a completely white interior, with shelves hanging off the walls and filled to the brim with Swedish candies that most Americans won't recognize. There are approximately 100 kinds of treats stocked at Sockerbit, running the usual gamut of hard and gummy candies, licorice, yogurt-covered treats and molded marshmallows, according to *The Village Voice*. Pricing goes by weight, at \$13 a pound, so you're free to mix and match however you like to scoop.

from Nearsay

Old News

Images of a squatter's colony during the Great Depression taken in 1932 (between Morton and Barrow Streets). The bottom photo shows the colony's store. At the time few safety nets existed for people fallen on hard times; scenes like this were sometimes the result.

NYPL

