



Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

BBC News and Views December 2010

There will be no December meeting. Instead, come to:

The Bedford Barrow Commerce Block Association 2010 Holiday Party

When: Saturday, December 11, 6-9 PM

Where: Greenwich House Music School,
46 Barrow St., Auditorium

Price: Adults, \$10; Children (under 12), \$5

Food, Fun, Fellowship—Greenwich Village Style

* **Buffet Dinner.** Fresh cold cuts, scrumptious salads, and succulent sweet treats are the fare. Don't miss Dora's famous cookies and pies! Drinks—juice, wine, and fresh-brewed coffee—are also provided. Home-baked goods are welcome; bring them with you or drop them off at the School at 4 PM on Party Day.

* **Al. E. Gator & Friends Puppet Theatre Presents puppets, puppets, and more puppets**—for children of all ages!

* **Special visit by Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and Rudolph, too.** Santa is dropping in early this year to give every boy and girl a holiday treat. Ho, Ho, Ho! And Santa has many prizes to give away.

* **Holiday Sing-Along**, with all your holiday favorites. Elves wanted to trim tree and help decorate! Report to Chief Elf, Kathy Donaldson, at the Music School at 4 PM on Party Day.

A BBC Holiday Tradition

Once again, BBCer **Dale Belli** has asked the BBC to put the word out to encourage our members to make / donate items for the PWA Christmas Project. Especially needed are sweaters and sweatshirts / sweatpants, hats, gloves scarves, mittens, etc. Dale writes that “we need more men's gifts

than women's, and teens' gifts are needed too.” (And 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 over 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!

Tyler Redmond, our intrepid BBC gardener, writes: “Over three days we planted approximately 2,300 flower bulbs in 70 tree gardens. One of these days was the BBC community planting day. Several BBCers were on hand, including **Kathy Donaldson, Bill Lavelle and Jeanine Flaherty**. The garlands hanging from our Bishop Crook's lampposts come from Ploch's Garden Center in Clifton, NJ, who supply us annually with plants, soil and much more. Earlier in the fall, we received a donation of 4 large knock-out roses—and thanks to Magnolia Bakery for donating them!—as well 2 hydrangea bushes and other perennials. These were very much appreciated, as in September we lost 10 hosta plants to theft. Many thanks from the gardeners to the numerous kind people in our neighborhood—the Cherry Lane and Commerce Restaurant for their restrooms—as well as the people at 81 Bedford St. where we store our wagon and landscaping tools!”

A SPECIAL heartfelt thanks to **Noah Isaacs**, of City Council President (and our own City Council member!) **Christine Quinn's** office, who helped us secure the new street tree on Commerce St. Noah also had Con Ed fix the “doors” on three of our Bishop's Crook lampposts, and he's also assisting us in helping our street trees get a much needed pruning. Thanks to Noah, and thanks to Chris!

BBCer, and Emmy Award-winning filmmaker, **Ken Kimmelman** will screen six of his short award-winning films and speak about the relation of aesthetics and ethics, in a presentation entitled “Film—And the ‘Art of Enjoying Justice!’” on Monday, January 17, 6-8 PM at the Jefferson Market Library (6th Ave. & 10th St.). Admission: Free. Ken will also be giving a special presentation on January 7, at the Modern Language Association's annual conference in Los Angeles, titled “Aesthetic Realism and the Literary

Cinema of Ken Kimmelman,” and a talk and screening of “Thomas Comma” at the Flushing Library on Saturday, January 22.

Nabe Notes

Annual Police Roast Beef Dinner, Tuesday, December 7, 6-9 PM, at Our Lady of Pompeii, Senior Center, Father Demo Hall (Bleecker & Carmine Sts.). \$12 Admission at the door. Join our Holiday Celebration! (Food has been donated by local merchants and the 6th Precinct Community Council and will be served by Members of our own 6th Precinct. All proceeds go to The Caring Community’s Operating Fund.)

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation announces “Remembering the Epidemic: A History of AIDS in the Village,” on Tues., Dec. 7, 6:30-8 PM at LGBT Community Center, 208 West 13th St. (btw 7th & 8th Avenues). Also in December: “Margaret Sanger and the Development of the Birth Control Clinic,” on Mon., Dec. 13, 6:30-8 PM at King Juan Carlos of Spain Center at NYU, 53 Washington Sq. So., Ste. 201 (btw Thompson & Sullivan Sts.) And “Thompkins Square North: Anatomy of an East Village Block—A Presentation by the NYU Public History & Archives Class on Wed., Dec. 15, 6:30-8 PM, at King Juan Carlos of Spain Center at NYU, 53 Washington Sq. So., Ste. 201 (btw Thompson & Sullivan Sts.) Free; reservations required. RSVP: rsvp GVSHP.org or 212.475.9585, x 34.

Morning

Where are the white and golden butterflies
of summer?

Each one a dream a memory
their silken wings fluttering....

In brightening sky
the lower December sun glares
with haunting breaths of winds
waving clattering branches
swirling dry amber leaves echoing....

I weep with weeping snow showers
clearing away sleepless nights....

I wonder....
Do you think of me
as I think of you
with each falling snow blossom?

Holly Rose Diane Shaw

2010 Guide to Holiday Happenings

The ever popular **West Village Chorale’s Caroling Walk** departs from Judson Memorial Church’s Assembly Hall, 55 Washington Square South (betw. Sullivan & Thompson Sts.), on Friday, December 17, at 7 PM, and will feature some lovely, newly choreographed routes through the Village’s winding streets. www.westvillagechorale.org for details.

Ever popular, too, is the West Village Chorale’s annual audience-participation **Messiah Sing**, on Sunday, December 12 at 4 PM, in Judson Memorial Church’s main Meeting Room. www.westvillagechorale.org for admission details.

Greenwich House Pottery (16 Jones St.) celebrates the Holidays with its annual **Made in Clay Student Sale** from December 3-January 6. For information, including times, visit the Greenwich House website at www.gharts.org.

Washington Square Park Tree Lighting

On Tuesday, December 7 at 6:00 PM, gather by the Arch in Washington Square Park for the annual (84th year!) lighting of the Christmas Tree. Sing carols with the Rob Sussman Brass Quartet with Mary Hurlbut, song leader, while we await a special visit from Santa! Songbooks of Christmas carols will be distributed. Free fun for all!

Christmas Eve Caroling by the Biggest Village Tree

On Friday, December 24 at 5 PM, gather again by the beloved Village landmark, the Washington Square Arch and Christmas Tree, to sing carols with our musicians and usher in Christmas Eve. The best things in life are sometimes indeed free.

St. Luke in the Fields Christmas Activities (Episcopal)

(212.989.0562), 487 Hudson St.
Fri., Dec. 24, 5 PM: Christmas Pageant
Fri., Dec. 24, 10 PM: Christmas Music by the St. Luke’s Choir;
10:30 PM: Christmas Vigil
Sat., Dec. 25, 10:30 AM: Christmas Morning Mass

Our Lady of Pompeii Christmas Activities (Roman Catholic)

(212.989.6805) 25 Carmine St.
Fri., Dec. 24, 5 PM: Vigil Mass; 12 AM, Midnight Mass
Fri., Dec. 25, 9 AM: Mass; 11 AM: Mass; 12:15: Mass

Judson Memorial Church (Ecumenical), 55 Washington Square South (betw. Sullivan & Thompson)

Fri., Dec. 24, 11 AM: Festival Service; 4 PM: Children’s Service;
7:30 PM: Dignity Mass

St. John’s Christmas Activities (Lutheran) (212).242.5737) 81 Christopher St.

Thurs., Dec. 9, 8 PM: A Christmas Celebration
Thurs., Dec. 16, 7 PM: A Coffee House Christmas Special
Fri., Dec. 24, 7 PM: A Festival Holy Eucharist for Christmas Eve

Neighborhood Notes & Notables

A New Jersey woman is suing East Village institution McSorley's Old Ale House because of a serious case of cat-scratch litigatory fever. **Cheryl Sibley**, 53, of Hasbrouck



Heights, claims that she was viciously attacked by a bitchy regular at the bar in October 2009 — bar cat **Minnie the Second**. Sibley says the “live animal” (...is there any other kind?) attack left her with “serious injuries” that required medical care. We assume it took the whole last year for her to recover from this vicious assault, and only recently was able to call her lawyer to file this incredibly important and timely lawsuit.

McSorley's owner, **Matthew Maher**, is shocked and confused by the allegations, and says he doesn't allow Minnie to roam the bar during drinking hours, which is a violation of city law: “I have no recollection of any attack. If I would have known, I would have been the first to call her and say ‘Are you OK? Can I do anything for you?’ ...[Sibley] must have been here after hours,” he said. As far as we're concerned, unless the cat bites through two of your fingers, you probably don't have a paw to stand on.

from Gothamist

Fashion designer and TV personality, Isaac Mizrahi, appears to be collecting apartments at 59 West 12th Street, reports *The Observer*. Back in March, Mizrahi purchased a one-bedroom home in the West Village building for \$1.1 million. Now he has bought a \$3.5 million dollar apartment 11 floors above his current home. It is unclear whether he will put the one-bedroom back on the market but if so, it'll certainly be interesting to see what he has done with the space.

Legendary Upper East Side restaurateur

Elaine Kaufman died at age 81, but what you may not know is that she got her restaurant start in the Village. Stretch your memories a bit and you may remember Alfredo Viaggi, who ran a widely successful restaurant called Trattoria D'Alfredo on Hudson across from Bleecker Playground. Packed with celebrities, the spot once served as the site of a birthday bash for **Richard Burton** given by his bride, **Elizabeth Taylor**. The furor caused by the two of them in their day hasn't been matched by anyone. Well, Alfredo and Elaine were an item — partners in business and in life — in their younger days before he dumped her and married songstress **Jane White**. Elaine was devastated and moved uptown.

On December 3 singer **John Mayer** played an unannounced set at the Village Underground (130 West 3rd Street) — acoustic, bespectacled, and sporting a little winter scruff. The venue Tweeted in the wee hours.: “John Mayer once again graced our stage tonight and shared three of his new original songs. AMAZING and HUMBLING!”

When hard-partying Goldman Sachs partner **Richard Kimball Jr.** left his \$35,000/month penthouse at 99 Jane Street, residents were relieved. The condo board refused to renew his lease because of his disruptive entertaining penchant.

According to *Urban Daddy* the \$85 Burger Comes to the Lion. *The definition of what makes a burger a deluxe can vary from person to person. For some, it's special sauce. For others, it's pickles. For you and the Lion, well, it's seared foie gras and black truffle vinaigrette.*

On the November 21 episode of Fox cartoon *Family Guy*, Brian becomes a best-selling author and hires Stewie as his manager. Of course, they stay at The Standard, hold a book signing at the Union Square Barnes & Noble, have an interview with *InStyle* at Pastis, and then enjoy a dinner at The Waverly Inn. Brian is in a rage because he was seated in siberia and leaves in a huff whereupon Stewie gets mugged outside the restaurant.



Unconfirmed reports have surfaced that chef **Jody Williams** (Gottino and Morandi alum) is on track to open another venue on her old stomping grounds, this time at the diminutive former Pink Tea Cup space (42 Grove Street), possibly partnered with rumored companion **Rita Sodi** (of neighboring West Village eatery, I Sodi).” Affionacos miss Jody’s cooking so this would be a welcome news for the much loved spot. *from PXTThis*

More foodie news — Zagat reports that Cupcake Stop, a cupcake truck with a brick and mortar location in the Lime-light Marketplace, is opening up shop on 70 Greenwich Avenue. Apart from traditional flavors, they offer unusual combinations like Nutella Crunch, Macchiato, Boston Creme, French Toast with Bacon, and Elvis (not sure what that is, maybe peanut butter and banana since that was his favorite sandwich). Hooray for calories!

Resources & Information

Thanks to a massive new real estate deal the honor of having the third highest retail estate value in the city goes to the western strip of Bleecker Street: three properties were recently sold for \$34 million, or \$6,700 a square foot. As the *News* notes, “the only retail units to fetch more since 2003 have been on Madison and Fifth Aves.”

Since Marc Jacobs moved onto the street in 2001 (and then moved in again and again and again) shopping in the area has grown increasingly upscale. According to some estimates, Greenwich Village currently has the fifth highest real estate values in the country.

An application will officially be submitted on December 20 for a project that would run a natural gas pipeline from New Jersey into New York and through part of the West Village, DNAinfo reports. Last Thursday, representatives of Spectra Energy, the firm that will build the proposed pipeline, met with members of Community Board 2 to discuss safety concerns. Jason Mansfield, chair of CB2’s Environment, Public Safety, and Health committee, said that he expects Spectra Energy to ‘work with us to keep their disruptions to a minimum.’ The pipe, endorsed by deputy mayor Stephen Goldsmith as part of Mayor Bloomberg’s PlaNYC sustainability initiative, is expected to take about four months to complete on the New York side, and will begin to deliver natural gas to Manhattan around 2013.

from Nearsay

*Sketch of Bedord Street
by Martin Lewis*

Old News

Henry Murray, a horseshoer ... was waylaid by five men at Washington and Barrow Streets last night, as he was coming home from his smithy... at King and Washington Streets. As a result of the attack upon him Murray lies in St. Vincent’s Hospital. his head swathed in bandages....

Murray told a reporter... that as he left his shop, he noticed two men following him. He watched them and just as he reached Barrow Street as he was about to turn into that street, he was struck from behind over the head.

The blow was a staggering one but Murray being a powerfully built man, turned upon his assailants. He knocked them both down, but at that moment three more men jumped up from behind a pile of boxes on the edge of the sidewalk and rained a torrent of blows on his head and body.... Murray cried for help and a policeman came running up; but when he reached the scene the five assailants had fled.

...He met a boy and asked him to guide him to St. Vincent’s Hospital. ...At the Charles Street Station the desk Sergeant professed complete ignorance of the matter, and said if there had been anything serious the policeman on the post would have made a report.

Captain McClusky walked in at that moment, and was asked by the reporter what he knew about the affair. He likewise professed ignorance. and made light of the whole affair. treating it as .. a mixed ale row among a lot of bums.” Nevertheless, he displayed enough interest to ask the reporter for the injured man’s name and address and requested that he tell the story to Detective Carmody.

The New York Times, July 5, 1901

