



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 **February 2011 Meeting**

The next BBC Meeting is Wednesday, February 9 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) at 7 PM. BBCer and Crafts Committee Chair **Diane Wildowsky** will speak about this year's new and improved Crafts Fair, the jewel of Ye Olde Village Fair. At 6:30PM, refreshments will be served.

BBC Membership

BBC President Kathy Donaldson reports that over 175 have already rejoined the Bedford Barrow Commerce Block Association. Thanks to those of you who have re-upped! You will find your new membership card in this mailing. 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. You'll feel great – guaranteed!!

From Larry Selman, Many Thanks!

BBCer, and the director of the Academy Award nominated *The Collector of Bedford Street*, **Alice Elliott**, writes: "The friends and neighbors in Larry Selman's Diaspora continue to come through. You are helping him to maintain his pets and allowing him to continue collecting for charity with more than \$6,000 in donations to his trust fund. You may live on Bedford Street, in Bedford Hills, or on Bedford Square in London, but he has somehow touched your heart, and you have given back to him. Our Collector of Bedford Street will be 69 years old this April 2nd. He will also be celebrating 40 years living in The Village. Please come out and join us on that day. Right now we are looking for a space to arrange a screening of *The Collector of Bedford Street*. If you haven't seen the film, you'll recognize

some familiar landmarks, if you've seen the film, come again. It's only 34 minutes and you know the story is still unfolding. Thank you for your contribution to the BBC and making Larry's life as full and generous as he has been to others."

Film and The Art of Enjoying Justice!

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. Join Ken on Monday, February 14, 6-8 PM at the Jefferson Market Library (Sixth Ave. & W. 10th St.). Admission is free.

Nabe Notes

A Valentine for the Village

The closing of St. Vincent's was a devastating blow to the Village and just as devastating for the businesses that depended on St. Vincent's for survival. Some have already closed and others are struggling to survive. To help these good neighbors, **Assemblymember Deborah Glick**, in conjunction with the Greenwich Village and Chelsea Chamber of Commerce and other elected officials, are planning a Valentine-themed shopping event on Saturday, February 2011 titled "Love the Village." This will be a day-long shopping extravaganza that will encourage the public to shop at our local businesses. Shoppers will be given a map of businesses on Greenwich Avenue, Sixth Avenue, and Seventh Avenue, and after shopping, will have an opportunity to exchange their receipts (that value at least \$10) for raffle tickets at the Lesbian & Gay Community Services Center (208 W. 13th St.), first floor, 10 AM to 3 PM, where raffle drawings will be held throughout the day. To show Valentine's Day appreciation, giveaways will



include specially designed "Love the Village" T-shirts for the first 100 shoppers to participate. Raffle prizes include gift certificates from outstanding local businesses such as Tea & Sympathy café/shop and Partners in Crime bookstore. Please call Assemblymember Glick's office at 212.674.5153 for more information.

GVSHP Upcoming Programs

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP) is sponsoring the following programs as part of GVSHP's African American History Month Series: "African American Movers and Shakers of the East Village Walking Tour," on Sunday, February 13, 12:00-2:00 PM, meeting location TBA. Free; reservations required.

"Little Africa Rediscovered: African Descendants in the South Village During the 19th Century, A Lecture by **Jamila Brathwaite**," on Thursday, February 17, 6:30-8:30 PM, Saint Anthony of Padua Church, 154 Sullivan St. (at West Houston St.). Free; reservations required.

"Discovering Black New York, A Lecture by **Linda Tarrant-Reid**," Tuesday, February 22, 6:30-8 PM, Hudson Park Branch Library, 66 Leroy St. (off 7th Ave. So.). Free; reservations required.

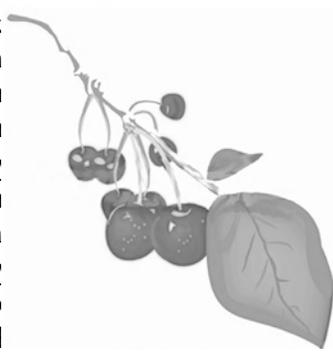
"Black Gotham, A Book Talk by Author **Carla Peterson**," on Monday, February 28, 6:30-8 PM, Jefferson Market Library, 425 Avenue of the Americas (btwn W. 9th & 10th Sts.), Free; reservations required. RSVP to rsvp@gvshp.org or 212.475.9585, X 35.

New at the Cherry Lane

The Cherry Lane Theatre (38 Commerce Street) announces its current offering, *A Perfect Future*.

a darkly comic and provocative play that explores the question of whether people can be married and truly love each other when their political persuasions are diametrically opposed. Performance schedule 2/4 through

2/27: Tues. - Fri., 8 PM; Sat. 2 PM & 8 PM; Sun. 3 PM & 7 PM. Performance schedule beginning 2/28: Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri., 8 PM; Sat. 2 PM & 8 PM; Sun. 3 PM & 7 PM. For information, go to www.cherrylandtheatre.org; or call 212.989.2020, X 30. 29



Rent the Historic Cherry Lane!

Considered the birthplace of Off-Broadway, the Cherry Lane Theatre has been home to countless productions, performers, and events, since 1924. Such artistic movements as the Living Theatre, Theatre of the Absurd, and Downtown Theatre took root here. Some of the most gifted writers of the 20th century worked at the Cherry Lane, including **F. Scott Fitzgerald, Eugene O'Neill, Clifford Odets, Gertrude Stein, T. S. Eliot, Samuel Beckett, Edward Albee, Sam Shepard, Lanford Wilson, Joe Orton, and David Mamet**. A \$3 million dollar renovation was completed in 2006, resulting in two beautiful theatrical spaces available for rent. The 179-seat Mainstage and the 60-set studio can be rented by the day, week, or long-term. Both come fully equipped with lighting, sound, box office, front-of-house, dressing rooms, and an unmatched record of artistic excellence. For more information, call Alex at 212.989.2020, X 24 or email info@cherrylanetheatre.org. Be part of theater history!

The Village & All That Jazz

An evening at the Village Vanguard, 178 7th Avenue South (btw. W. 11th & Perry Sts.) on Wednesday, February 16, 5:30-7:30 PM (doors open at 5 PM). Dr. Dave Schroeder, Professor of Music and Director of Jazz Studies at NYU, explores the inspiration and influences of legendary greats on the unique jazz culture of Greenwich Village. Lorraine Gordon, Vanguard owner and author of *Alive at the Village Vanguard: My Life in and out of Jazz*, will lead a brief Q & A. Following, Grammy Award-winning trumpeter, composer and band leader Brian Lynch takes the stage with his select NYU Artists Ensemble. Visit gvshp.org/jazz to purchase tickets and for more information.

Neighborhood Notes & Notables

Newark Mayor and politico on the rise was spotted dining with friends at Morani on Saturday, January 29. Very tall and very handsome. Later in the week, Pierce Brosnan — also very tall and very handsome — was spotted at the Waverly Inn.

According to an informal study by Jonathan Mandell at Nearsay there is a sudden phenomenon of gelato in the Village. Gelato is different from ice cream in three ways: 1) it is made more from milk than cream, and therefore has no more than seven percent fat, while regular ice cream has about 10 percent, 2) at the same time, it feels richer than ice cream because it's churned more slowly and has no more than 30 percent air (regular ice cream has up to 50 percent air), and 3) gelato isn't completely frozen, so its texture feels less like ice and ironically more like cream. Perhaps this explains why so many people are now saying that the best ice cream places in the Village are all purveyors of gelato. Harder to explain is why

they are all within a block or two of one another - and how they all get away with charging \$4.50 and up for the tiniest cup. Some recommended spots — all easy walking for BBCers. And then, of course, there's the walking it off walk.

L'Arte de Gelato (75 Seventh Avenue South, near Barrow).

Cones (272 Bleecker Street, near Jones).

Grom (233 Bleecker Street, near Carmine).

The New York Post reports, West Villager and illusionist **David Blaine** may have a claim to the “most improbable winter weather snafu: the lack of cabs on the road forced Blaine and pregnant fiancée **Alizee Guinochet** to hitch a ride on a snow plow when Guinochet went into labor on January 26. “The doorman and people on the street tried to help him flag down a taxi. But there were absolutely no cars on the road,” The illusionist got a bit panicky as Guinochet’s contractions accelerated and no vehicles appeared to take her to a doctor. When a snow plow turned onto the street where they live, a desperate Blaine flagged it down and the couple hopped on and rode to the hospital, where Guinochet delivered a healthy baby girl. They haven’t released the name of their daughter yet, but a representative assured the Post “Mom and baby are doing fine.”

The big snowzilla of 2011 evidently created an enthusiasm for snowman building on Carmine Street. Someone or someones built an army of two ball snowmen along Carmine Street — literally at least one hundred of them. Bound to make you smile on an otherwise dreary day. Hooray for snowmen!



Curbed reports that as far as undulating walls — a misnomer since the walls are not in motion — of glass go, “one of our favorites belongs to One Jackson Square, the ultra-fancy Greenwich Village condo building with an equally wobbly lobby. Turns out we’re not the only fans. The building (and by that we mean architecture firm Kohn Pedersen Fox and developers Hines Interests and RFR Holding) is being awarded an AIA National Chapter Honor Award for Architecture for its “modern digital fabrication techniques, its well-designed and executed window wall, and its textural and spatial qualities.”

Resources & Information

According to *Crain's* Walmart has reached a deal with the Building and Construction Trades Council of Greater New York that guarantees union workers will construct or renovate any stores that the retailer opens in the city during the next five years. The deal is a coup for Walmart Stores Inc., which faces stiff opposition from grocery and retail unions worried that the retailer’s entry into the New York City market will put downward pressure on the salaries of their members.

Walmart made a similar deal in Chicago. In New York, the company has capitalized on a split in organized labor that resulted from the 2009 defeat of the Kingsbridge Armory project in the Bronx. The construction trades lost an estimated 1,000 jobs when the



City Council voted the project down over the developer's refusal to guarantee that the permanent jobs at the site would pay living wages. Facing crushing unemployment rates estimated to be 25% to 30%, the construction unions have focused on winning any jobs they can.

Walmart's director of community affairs, Steven Restivo, said the agreement applies to all construction, demolition, excavation, interior build-outs and installation of green building technologies used in new construction, renovation, restoration or retrofit work.

He said both Walmart and the trades will recruit local residents who are interested in pursuing careers in the construction industry through apprenticeship and work force development programs. The deal also contains provisions that ensure minorities and women are included in the construction process.

Also on Wednesday, a Walmart official sent a letter and video to three City Council members in response to their last-ditch attempt to persuade the retailer to participate in a Thursday Council hearing on the retailer's bid to open stores in New York. In the letter, the Walmart official reiterates its position that it will not participate in the hearing unless the Council expands the scope to include the impact of existing national retailers on the city.

"Since we have not announced a store for New York City," the official wrote, "I respectfully suggest the committee first conduct a thoughtful examination of the existing impact of large grocers and retailers on small businesses in New York City before embarking on a hypothetical exercise."

This may be of particular interest to Villagers since we understand that one local activist reached out to Walmart to offer up Pier 40 as a location. One swallow does not make a summer and we would expect Walmart to encounter lots of heated opposition should they pursue that prospect.



Old News

GAUDY RECREATION PIERS

There will be some gaudy structures along the North (Hudson) River front in about four weeks. These are the seven recreation piers in Greater New York, and the embellishing of them is soon to take place. Long ago Dock Commissioner McDougall Hawkes decided to greatly improve these structures which draw an average attendance every Summer day of about 28,000 persons, so as to make them not only more comfortable; but considerably more attractive in appearance.

The plans are now in the hands of Mr. Hawkes, and a glance at them shows that when they are carried out the piers will be about the "loudest" things in the shape of buildings to be found in this town. They are to be painted in the most fantastic the roofs especially being touched up in fashions, with all kinds of combinations, unusually giddy colors. This is to be done in order, as Mr. Bleecker, the Secretary of the Dock Board, says, .. to make it impossible for people who frequent the piers to miss them when they have a little leisure, especially when the day is hot and sultry and one feels in need of ocean breezes.

In the painting of the piers the tastes of the people who most frequent them will be consulted, the painting being in the colors which those people most fancy. For instance, the pier at the foot of Barrow Street in the North River will probably have a lot of green on it, the people in that locality to a great extent being Irish. There will also probably be a dash of the orange in the scheme to appease such sons of Erin as hail from the North.

Up in Harlem, where the people who come from sunny Italy live, the indications are that the pier at the foot of East One Hundred and Twelfth Street, which they

frequent, will be a mass of color in which green, white, and red will predominate, those being the colors of Italy.

Down on the lower east side, however, the department has a hard problem in the selection of the color scheme. There the people come from all over the world, thousands being from Germany, Russia, Poland, and other Continental countries, not to mention great numbers from other parts of the world. Commissioner Hawkes will have

an investigation of some sort made in this district in order to ascertain what colors the majority prefer. The maintenance of the seven recreation piers costs the city on an average about \$140,000 a year. The first recreation pier, that at East Third Street, was opened in the Borough of Manhattan during Mayor Strong's administration and now they number seven in Greater New York

from The New York Times Street, March 15, 1903