



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 2011

There is NO Meeting this month.
Instead your BBC Block Association
is getting ready for –

The 2011 BBC Holiday Party – Save the Date!
The BBC Holiday Party is Saturday, December 3 at
Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) 6-9



PM. 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. Dale writes that “we need mainly men’s gifts.” – white t-shirts, flannel pajamas, bathrobes, sweat-shirts, sweatpants, socks, gloves, sweaters, slipper socks, scarves, toiletries, throw blankets and cd’s of Christmas music. Also very welcome – and appreciated – are rolls of wrapping paper and plenty of tape. 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!

BBC Fall Planting

Our fall planting is Saturday, November 12. Meet at 10:00 AM on Commerce St., at the driveway to the 81 Bedford St. garage. We have lots of bulbs – yellow daffodils and colored tulips – to plant. Our gardener Tyler Redmond will have prepared the soil so all you

have to do is plant. Be sure to bring your own gardening tools (a spoon and fork will work too!), and bring a friend as well!

BBC Fan Mail

These responses to your BBC’s contributions to our neighborhood cultural and helping organizations – which all our members and Ye Olde Fair patrons make possible – warmed our heart. We thought we’d share them with our membership – these thanks go to YOU all, as well, who are the BBC’s own heart and soul!

From our friend and neighbor Jeanine Flaherty, writing for The Jefferson Market Garden: “Your gift will help support the plants and trees of the garden in the coming season. You may be sure your thoughtfulness will make a visible difference here.” And Jeanine extends this invitation to all BBCers: “We hope that you will visit the Garden often and take pleasure in its beauty. Our benches provide a place to relax and enjoy this verdant oasis.”

From Greenwich House: “Thank you for your support of Greenwich House Pottery and the Greenwich House Music School. As per your request, \$500 of your donation to Greenwich House Music will be used specifically for scholarships. By supporting these scholarships as well as classes, concerts, and day-to-day operations at both the Music and Pottery School, you make a difference in the lives of the students we teach and help mold the future of arts in New York City, as we have been successfully doing for over 100 years. We are grateful that you share our commitment to providing quality, affordable arts programs to the community.”

From Visiting Neighbors: “With your help, Visiting Neighbors will be able to continue our 40-year heritage as a trusted lifeline for our community’s seniors, many of whom have nowhere else to turn as they struggle with the challenges of aging. As you know, this has been a very challenging time for Visiting Neighbors, and for other nonprofit agencies who are committed to

helping people in need. We appreciate your long-standing support, and the involvement of your Block Association in our activities."

From the Hudson Park Library: "It's no secret that the BBC is the best block association in the City and it's a joy to attend your annual street fair — also the best street fair in the city. Keep up the great work!"

Thanks to all for all your thanks, and most of all, for ALL that these great neighborhood organizations do!

The Villager, your award-winning community weekly newspaper, and the Bedford Barrow Commerce Block Association, are offering a special discount on Villager subscriptions to BBC Block Association members. As a BBC member, you will receive a \$10 discount off the annual rate of \$29 when you subscribe or renew your current subscription (you can renew at any time and we will add the new period to your existing subscription). *The Villager* has been named best weekly newspaper in New York State for three of the last ten years. No one has as much in-depth coverage of community events and local issues of *The Villager*, not to speak of its incisive award-winning editorials and always interesting letters page. Take advantage of this offer today, and in the process you will be supporting independent community journalism.

IN AND AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) presents **Pianist Masako Onabe** commemorating the 150th anniversary of the birth of American composer **Edward MacDowell** in the Renee Weiler Concert Hall on Sunday, November 20, at 2:00 pm. Admission: \$15 general; \$10 seniors & students; no advance reservations; payment at the door. For more information, call 212.242.4770; or go to the GHMS website, www.gharts.org.

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation presents "**Highline: The Inside Story of New York's Park in the Sky**," A Book Talk with **Robert Hammond**, on Tuesday, November 1, 6:30-8:00 PM, at the Hudson Park Branch Library, 66 Leroy Street (off Seventh Avenue South). Free; reservations required. RSVP rsvp@gvshp.org or (212) 475-9585 ext. 35.

Also in November: "**Much Ado About Noshing: A Benefit for GVSHP**," Monday, November 7, 6:00 to 8:00 PM, at Astor Center, 399 Lafayette Street at East 4th Street, featuring **Calvin Trillin**

and the Russ & Daughters Family in Conversation about Food, Heritage, and Community. (Legendary smoked salmon and other appetizing provided by Russ & Daughters.) Tickets: \$250 each. RSVP to rsvp@gvshp.org or (212) 475-9585 ext. 35.

The Gotham Center for New York History presents "**Tony Schwartz and the Sounds of His City**," on November 9, 6:30 PM, and on November 17, 6:30 PM, also at Elebash Recital Hall, CUNY Graduate Center, 365 5th Avenue at 34th Street, "9/11, Part II: How We Remember 9/11." Tickets are \$10, Members \$8. For more information, call 212.868.4444.

From the BBC Poet Laureate, Holly Rose Diane Shaw Falling Leaves

In this autumn of swaying branches
days of early fading light
in harshness heaviness of rain thunder lightning

will our rose bud still blush in morning sunlight?
unbent unbroken by wind after shadowy darkness?

or will her leaves be tempered with golden witherings
only thorns hips remaining on barren stems
all petals fallen? blown away in the wind?

Neighborhood Notes & Notables

Grey Dog Carmine Street, the sandwich and coffee shop that opened in 1996 and eventually spawned locations in Chelsea, Greenwich Village, and (soon) Nolita, closed after service October 16. In June, the owners said they were in danger of closing because the landlord claimed they owed him \$100,000 in fees, something they contested. At the time they wrote, "Should we be forced to leave it will break our hearts a hundred times over." Fans and Michigan sandwich lovers whose hearts are also breaking can go pay their respects at a "funeral" the shop had on October 19. The Mulberry Street location opened to the public on October 21.
from Eater

Silver haired CNN reporter **Anderson Cooper** and crew stripped off a century of paint from the upper floors of his little old firehouse on West 3rd Street. The shiny red and white are gone and the natural bricks are back. Over the arched entryway, a freshly-scrubbed terra cotta bust of Mercury keeps an eye on passers-by. This is all part of the massive makeover that Cooper undertook after he bought the 1906 Fire Patrol No. 2 for \$4.3 million. Then he hired



was a protegee of disgraced Brooklyn pol, **Meade Esposito** and eventually served as Deputy Mayor under **Abe Beame**. He now lives in Brooklyn.

Thanks go to **Lenscrafters Optique** (305 Sixth Avenue) for calling 311 to get the young Long plane tree planted by “Million Trees New York” restaked after it had been uprooted by Hurricane Irene.

Cornelia Street held its annual jazz concert on September 24. **Miles Arntzen’s** EMEFE began the performance followed by TLAB with free jazz arrangements. This event was created and continues to be held through the efforts of neighborhood resident and jazz performer, **Leif Arntzen**.

architect **Cary Tamarkin** to spruce it up, and promised to keep lots of the historic old bits intact. The restorative renovation is nearly complete.

Reportedly, the 4-floor interior, with original spiral staircases and brass fire poles, has been fitted out in granite and assorted stone, with lots of wood exposed. Inside there’s 8,997 square feet. Records on file with the Department of Buildings show that an elevator has been added, which required some boring work and soil tests, all documented with pages of hand-done drawings of the dirty work. *from Curbed*

Resources & Information

On October 24, American writer, composer, musician, and theatre director **Elizabeth Swados** brought her talents to the NYU Bookstore to talk about her new book, “Waiting: Selected Non-fiction” Swados fusing her pieces together for the first time and celebrities featured in the book will include **Sean Penn, Meryl Streep, Yehuda Amichai, Ellen Stewart, and Marlon Brando**, as well as moving accounts of Swado’s schizophrenic brother. Swados lively autobiographical pieces has also been featured in *The New York Times*, and *The Oprah Magazine*.



Observers of the Occupy Wall Street movement may wonder for whom Zuccotti Park is named. Mega-developer Brookfield Properties owns the park and its longtime CEO was **John Zuccotti**. Zuccotti was a Village kid and lived at 136 Waverly Place with his father Angelo, maitre d at the El Morocco in its heyday, his mother, Gemma, and his brother, Andrew. He attended St. Joseph’s Academy on Washington Square Park. He

Village parents are concerned about a Department of Education plan they say will shake up their lives. Redrawing boundaries of school district 2 would alter parents’ plans for their children, disrupt communities and sabotage the real estate deals that some families made based on school catchment areas, parents said at a Community Education Council hearing held on October 11 at P.S. 11.

“People make major plans so they can go to certain schools,” Tara Newman said. Newman and her husband bought a three-bedroom apartment on 16th Street, east of Sixth Avenue, with the expectation that their six-month-old son, Jack, would go to P.S. 3 in the West Village, she said. The rezoning proposal would instead send Jack to P.S. 11.

The proposed rezoning would eliminate a choice between P.S. 3 and P.S. 41 for families in the area roughly bound by 14th Street and Bethune Streets to the north, Fourth Avenue and Greene Street to the east, Canal Street to the south and the Hudson River to the west. The southern boundary of the P.S. 11 catchment would move from 18th Street east of Seventh Avenue and 16th Street west of Seventh Avenue, down to 14th Street east of Eighth Avenue and Bethune Street west of Eighth Avenue.

Department of Education representative Ben Taylor said rezoning of District 2 has been proposed because new space is available. Twenty-four of the 27 schools in the district are operating over capacity. Council member Michael Markowitz said if the council rejects the plan, area schools will likely have wait-lists for kindergartners.

Principal Lisa Siegman of P.S. 3 questioned whether zoning would reduce class sizes. “I don’t understand

how this improves the situation in the West Village,” she said.

P.S. 41 principal Kelly Shannon said she supported the rezoning proposal and hoped it would help prevent “class sizes that are maxed out because we haven’t made the appropriate plans for children’s education.”

Parents also questioned why birth rates, construction rates and The Foundling School, which is scheduled to open at West 17th Street and Sixth Avenue in 2014, have not been taken into consideration.

The council will discuss suggested changes to the proposal in the next three weeks, Markowitz said, and take a final vote on December 14. The council is also accepting feedback at d2zoning@gmail.com and on its Facebook page. Community Board 2 discussed the rezoning at a October. 18 meeting.

Old News

Seymour Pine Dies at 91; Led Raid on Stonewall Inn by Dan Hevesi

Seymour Pine, the deputy police inspector who led the raid on the Stonewall Inn...on a hot summer night in 1969 — a moment that helped start the gay liberation movement — died Thursday at an assisted-living center in Whippany, N.J. He was 91.

His death was confirmed by his son Daniel.

Inspector Pine, who later apologized for his role in the raid, was commander of the New York Police Department’s vice squad for Lower Manhattan when he led eight officers into the Stonewall Inn, an illegal club frequented by cross-dressers, just after midnight on June 28, 1969.

Although the ostensible reason for the raid was to crack down on prostitution and other organized-crime activities, it was common at the time for the police to raid gay bars and arrest cross-dressers and harass customers.

The club, on Christopher Street near Seventh Avenue South, was owned by members of the Mafia. Inspector Pine later said he conducted the raid on orders from superiors.

About 200 people were inside. When the officers or-



dered them to line up and show identification, some refused. Several cross-dressers refused to submit to anatomical inspections. Word of the raid filtered into the street, and soon hundreds of protesters gathered outside, shouting “gay power” and calling the police “pigs.”

The turning point came when a lesbian fought with officers as she was pushed into a patrol car. The crowd rushed the officers, who retreated into the club. Several people ripped out a parking meter and used it as a battering ram; others tried to set fire to the club. It took police reinforcements an hour and a half to clear the street.

It was the start of several nights of rioting, during which the police used force to disperse crowds that sometimes numbered in the thousands. Fewer than three dozen protesters were arrested, but hundreds were detained and released.

“The Stonewall uprising is the signal event in American gay and lesbian civil rights history because it transformed a small movement that existed prior to that night into a mass movement,” David Carter, author of “Stonewall: The Riots That Sparked the Gay Revolution” (2004), said in an interview. “It is to the gay movement what the fall of the Bastille is to the unleashing of the French Revolution.”

In 2004, Inspector Pine spoke during a discussion of the Stonewall uprising at the New-York Historical Society. At the time of the raid, he said, the police “certainly were prejudiced” against gays, “but had no idea about what gay people were about.”

The department regularly raided gay clubs for two reasons, he said. First, he insisted, many clubs were controlled by organized crime; second, arresting gay people was a way for officers to improve their arrest numbers. “They were easy arrests,” he said. “They never gave you any trouble” — at least until that night.

When someone in the audience said Inspector Pine should apologize for the raid, he did.

“There’s been a stereotype that Seymour Pine was a homophobe,” Mr. Carter said. “He had some of the typical hang-ups and preconceived ideas of the time, but I think he was strictly following orders, not personal prejudice against gay people.”

Seymour Pine was born in Manhattan on July 21, 1919, one of four children of Nathan and Anne Pine. Besides his son Daniel, he is survived by another son, Charles; a brother, Arnold; a sister, Connie Katz; and seven grandchildren. His wife of 45 years, the former Judith Handler, died in 1987.

Soon after graduating from Brooklyn College in 1941, he joined the police force, but within months he was serving in the Army, first in Africa and later in Europe. He returned to the department after the war, rising to deputy inspector in the late 1960s. He retired in 1976.

“He once told me,” Mr. Carter said, “ ‘If what I did helped gay people, then I’m glad.’ ”

The New York Times, Sept. 7, 2010