



Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

Annual Membership Is \$20;
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BBC NEWS AND VIEWS NOVEMBER 2013

The next BBC meeting is Wednesday, November 6 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) at 7:00 PM. Our speaker will be **Rachel Black**, the Music School Director. She was unable to speak last month (jury duty), so she has graciously agreed to meet with us this month. She will discuss the partnerships the School is undertaking with local music venues and local businesses.

Rachel is a classically trained actor as well as a graduate of the American Conservatory Theater's MFA program. She has worked extensively in film, television and theater. Most recently, she was General Manager at Central Park SummerStage, New York City's largest free performing arts festival. She expanded the growth in managed rental events by more than 30 percent, oversaw a major capital purchase to improve the festival's audio capabilities, started a new usher program, and created a vastly improved VIP/Member experience.

While working at SummerStage, Rachel improved festival efficiency and initiated many best practices including venue emergency protocol, sound control designs, an audio digital archive program, crew checklists, work policies, and personnel manuals. She also curated the festival's word and comedy programs, recently expanding comedy into the citywide schedule and creating a new speaker series, Forewords, which debuted this past season. At 6:45PM, refreshments will be served.

Attention BBC Filmmakers—the 2nd BBC Block Association Film Festival has been rescheduled for Wednesday, April 2. We are looking for short films (15 minutes max) of any genre. Excerpts of works in progress

will be considered. **Katy Jacobs** of The Paley Center for Media will curate the festival. Please email katyjacobson2@gmail.com for submission.

The 2013 BBC Holiday Party – Save the Date!

The BBC Holiday Party is Saturday, December 14 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) 6-9 PM. Adults \$15; Children (under 12) \$5.

Once again, BBCer **Dale Belli** has asked the BBC to put the word out to encourage members to make or donate items for the PWA Christmas Project. Dale writes that “we need mainly men’s gifts.” – white t-shirts, flannel pajamas, bathrobes, sweatshirts, 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, in advance, for your generosity and holiday spirit!

BBC Fall Planting

Our fall planting is Saturday, November 9. Meet at 10 :00AM on Commerce Street, at the driveway to the 81 Bedford Street 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, especially gloves, and bring a friend as well!

NYC311+

Recently, the New York City Comptroller’s Office launched NYC311+, a socially connected app representing the next generation of civic mobile apps. NYC311+ allows New Yorkers to electronically submit non-emergency service requests to the City’s 311 system—such as potholes or downed tree limbs, while also letting residents write reviews that evaluate gov-

ernment services. New Yorkers can also all their voice to the City's policy-making process by completing brief surveys about the condition of subway platforms, playgrounds, and libraries in their neighborhoods. Requests and reviews will be instantly displayed, and the app will allow users to propose new ways to improve City services.

IN AND AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD

The Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) Two-time Grammy award winning **Hilary Hahn** will have an album release party on November 3. Tickets are \$40. For more info go to www.gharts.org

Caffe Vivaldi continues its series with **Rana Farhan** on November 16 at 8:00PM. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased on their website www.caffevivaldi.com. Multiple Sound it Out Concerts, you can find out the details by visiting www.gharts.org

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation Community Meeting "The Sale of Air Rights from the Hudson River Park" What does this mean for development along our waterfront, and how can we protect our neighborhood? Wednesday, November 13, 6:30PM Our Lady of Guadalupe at St. Bernard's Church, 328-332 West 14th Street (8th/9th Ave.)

"Preservation after the Demolition of Penn Station: A Panel Discussion", Thursday, November 14, 6:30-8PM, Village Community School, 272 West 10th Street, free, reservations required rsvp@gvshp.org

"The History of the Greenwich Village Halloween Parade", a lecture by **Ralph Lee**, Wednesday, November 13, 6:30-8PM, Westbeth Community Room, 55 Bethune Street, free, reservations required rsvp@gvshp.org

"Shadows on Bleecker Street," a book talk by authors **Milton Polsky** and **Warren Wyss**, Monday, Nov. 18, 6:30-8pm, Father Demo Hall, 234 Bleecker Street, free, reservations required rsvp@gvshp.org

The Gotham Center for New York History presents "The New York Nobody Knows: Walking 6,000 Miles in the City" Sociologists **William Helmreich's** fascinating account of a 6,000 mile walk throughout New York City. His book gathers previously unknown facts and stories about

New York's many neighborhoods. Monday, November 4, 6:30 - 8PM Elebash Recital Hall, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 365 Fifth Avenue Free

Cherry Lane Theatre (38 Commerce Street) and Rattlestick Playwrights Theater present a world premier production - ONE NIGHT...a new play by **Charles Fuller** directed by **Clinton Turner Davis**. What happens to our servicemen and women when they come home? Exploring the lingering effects of trauma, injustice and one women's recompense, ONE NIGHT...takes an unflinching look at what has happened to women in the US Armed Forces when their decision to serve exposes them to an unforeseen battle against their fellow soldiers. ONE NIGHT...was commissioned by the Cherry Lane Theatre, November 6 - December 15. Special Discount to Cherry Lane Friends-use code 1nebird and pay just \$50 (a 25% savings) on preview performances: Nov 6-18. Tickets online: cherrylanetheatre.org or (212) 352-3101 / (866) 811-4111. Students \$20 with valid ID at box office, Military \$20 with valid ID at box office, Reg. \$66

Neighborhood Notes & Notables

The West Village Children's Halloween Festival was held at Abingdon Square Park on Sunday, October 27. The event began with the toddler parade at 9:45AM. The festivities included DJ Mark Flynn spinning tunes, merchant trick-or-treating, a performed by Princess Katie and Racer Steve followed by 0 - Brett's Band for Kids. Activities for the day included hay rides, Face Painting by Ellen Korbonski, Trick or Treat Bags by Kidville, pumpkin decorating by Perry School, tattoos by Girl Scout Troop 3041, bracelet making by Citibabes, Make Your Own Instruments by Greenwich Music School, cupcake decorating by Taste Buds Kitchen.

A new movie version of the Broadway show "Annie" is using Village locations. Starring **Quvenzhané Wallis**, **Jamie Foxx**, **Cameron Diaz** and produced by **Will Smith** and **Jay-Z**, it shot scenes at Cafe Cluny on West 12th Street.



A building **Bob Dylan** used as a practice space has hit the market for the first time since 1967 The 13,150-square-foot building at 124 W. Houston St. was listed for \$22.5 million by Warburg Realty and Eastern Construction. Dylan rehearsed on the ground floor of the building, which also housed early conceptual

artists **Arakawa** and **Madeline Gins**. Reportedly, Arakawa and Gins created some of their most famous works while living in the building in the 1970s. The duo had a retrospective at the Guggenheim Museum in 1997, called “Arakawa/Gins: Reversible Destiny.” Built at the turn of the 20th century, the West Houston Street building still has many of its original elements, including cast-iron details on the facade, slab marble floors and pressed tin wall designs.

Another candy store will open on Bleecker Street. Stieber’s Sweet Shoppe recently signed a 12-year lease at 195 Bleecker Street. “We’re just going to be a good neighborhood candy store,” said owner **Larry Stieber**, who opened a California shop a year ago. “We’re going to work very hard on community relations, and we’re going to stand out. When you see what our store’s going to look like, it’ll be impressive.”

Stieber’s sells Lemon Creme Almonds coated with white chocolate and lemon candy, Sea-Salted Caramel Balls with dark or milk chocolate, Jelly Belly brand jelly beans and assorted chocolates, according to their website. The company’s decision to expand to New York was partly motivated by family ties — Stieber’s niece, **Lee Manne**, lives in the East Village and will run the new Bleecker Street store.

from DNAinfo

A new play written and directed by Westbeth Artists’ Housing residents commemorates the community’s experience during Hurricane Sandy, when flooding destroyed the work, equipment and materials of more than 70 artists. The play, titled “Lost and Found: Scenes from After the Flood,” follows a young man as he searches for the creator of an unclaimed piece of damaged artwork, leading the audience through four locations in the Westbeth building at 55 Bethune Street. The plot reflects a reality Westbeth residents faced a year ago, when many artists lost their instruments, sculptures, paintings and sketches because of Hurricane Sandy.

Paul Binnerts wrote the play in January. After the storm, more than 8 feet of water sat in the basement studios of the West-

beth Artists’ Housing for two weeks. In addition to ruining artwork and supplies, the flood caused lasting damage to the building — one set of elevators was out of service



until last week.

Two of the play’s five actors are also Westbeth residents. But although play is inspired by the artists’ experiences, **Nancy Gabor**, who is the show’s director and Binnerts’ wife, said the themes are universal. The play never mentions Sandy by name, referring to it only as “the storm,” which Gabor said could represent any kind of adversity. Beginning Saturday, audience members can view a gallery of drawings and sculptures that were damaged by the storm and assembled to accompany the show. The play runs through Sunday afternoon this weekend, with three more performances Nov. 7, 8 and 9. Fifty tickets are available for each show, and can be purchased for \$18 at the door or through the Westbeth website.

Yoko Ono purchased a penthouse at 49 Downing Street for her son Sean in 1995, but he left after only a few years of living there. Ono now claims, in a \$6.6 million lawsuit, that the co-op board interfered with her attempts to sell the empty apartment. (Ono herself still lives in the Dakota.) The board, says Ono, has a pretty good thing going with an absentee owner who still pays all of her expenses, so they would prefer that she not sell.

from Curbed.

Scouting NY’s **Nick Carr** uncovered a pretty courtyard and quaint backhouse obscured behind the facade of 93vvv Perry Street. Among the unusual things he noticed: the side door to the second-floor apartment above the entrance archway; the tangle of fire escapes and arched French windows on the backhouse; the fact that a wooden staircase that climbs the back corner of the street-facing building has survived for 90 years. 93 Perry has a curious history, including some Halloween-appropriate tales from horror author **H.P. Lovecraft**, who paid the building a visit and later alluded to it in his writing as such: “The archaic lanes and houses and unexpected bits of square and court had indeed delighted me.” One of the photos below shows a drawing from a newspaper publish in 1924.

from Curbed.

Big congratulations to our local newspaper The Villager on its 80th anniversary. Festivities occurred on October 28 at Houston Hall, the new beer hall on West Houston St. between Sixth Ave. and Varick Street. On hand to give congratulations/proclamations were **Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, State Senator Brad Hoylman and Borough President Scott Stringer**. Also attending were **Congressmember Jerrold Nadler, Councilmember Gale Brewer, District Leader Keen Berger and Corey Johnson, Democratic nominee for the Third Council District**.

Resources & Information

One of the biggest controversies to hit the activist community in some time is the decision by the East Village's Community Board 3 (CB3) to suspend the LES (Lower East Side) Dwellers. A month ago, **David McWater**, the board's former chairperson, resigned from CB3 after blowing up at **Sara Romanoski**, a Dwellers member. The incident was caught on videotape and went viral. McWater — who owns several East Village bars — may actually live in Lambertville, N.J., which would disqualify him from being on a New York City community board.

Earlier this month, **Gigi Li**, CB3 chairperson, and **Susan Stetzer**, the board's district manager, told **Diem Boyd**, the Dwellers' founder and president that the board had "suspended" the group for three months. Neither the Executive Committee nor the full board had voted on the action.

Charging the Dwellers have overstepped their bounds in independently reaching out to liquor license applicants before they get to CB3, Li, along with District Manager Stetzer, informed the Dwellers that the board was suspending them — refusing to recognize them as a community group. Its members could testify as individuals. In addition, the board would not put the Dwellers on the "referral list" of block associations that it provides to new liquor license applicants.

Declaring the ban was a violation of their constitutional rights, the Dwellers subsequently asked **Manhattan BP Scott Stringer's** Office to review the ban. On October 21, Stringer responded in a letter to Stetzer and Li: "...I am concerned, as a matter of best practice, about the process and impacts of suspending an organization...in such a manner," Stringer wrote. "While I understand the view that the [Dwellers] may have detracted from community input by influencing certain applicants to withdraw from the board's process, I do not believe a 'suspension' of the organization is the most effective response to such a concern. The act of suspending a community organization for lawful conduct from a program promoting community input without a fully deliberative process has implications for the transparency and fairness of community board governance. For these reasons, I ask that the board reconsider its current policy of excluding organizations...to ensure that its mission of representing and

responding to community concerns remains fully transparent and open to public scrutiny."

On a tape that went viral, Li says she and Stetzer also discussed the suspension with **Alexandra Militano**, chairperson of the board's S.L.A. Committee, and that all three were on board with the decision. At their full-board meeting on October 22, board members held a vigorous discussion about Li's action and how to address it. However, for her part, Stetzer said she is to blame for creating the whole issue since it was her idea, a year ago, to create the referral list of block associations. The Dwellers are a multicultural group with mostly people in advertising and P.R., Boyd noted. They're savvy with social media, and are getting people involved who are under age 30, and in one case, as young as 24. "I think we're getting discredited because we're too effective," Boyd said. *from The Villager, October 23, 2013*

The 4th Annual Village Jazz Alive event, hosted by the Greenwich Village-Chelsea Chamber of Commerce will be held on November 3, 2013 at the Blue Note Jazz Club. The event celebrates the enduring music culture of Greenwich Village and honors the outstanding musicians who have helped to create and sustain it. This year's event honors the legendary **Arturo Sandoval**. Cuban-born Sandoval began studying classical trumpet at the age of 12. He is one of the world's greatest trumpet and flugel horn players as well as an acclaimed pianist and composer.

Old News

PIANIST IS FOUND DEAD

Victor Trerice, 40-year-old piano teacher, was found dead under suspicious circumstances last evening in his basement apartment studio at 21 Grove street, near Bedford Street, in Greenwich Village. The body was on a rumpled bed amidst overturned furniture in the apartment. Both eyes were blackened and there was a gash over the right eye. Gas was escaping from five jets in the kitchen.

The smell of gas aroused the suspicion of Miss Emilie Williams, occupant of an apartment directly above Trerice's in the five-story building and she notified the superintendent, who found the body. Miss Williams later told the police that shortly before 6 :30p. m., when the body was discovered, an unidentified woman and a young girl had been ringing the bell at the grill gate leading directly into the basement studio but had left when they received no answer.

Neighbors said the man's home was somewhere up-State and his wife lived there, occasionally coming to town to visit him. An autopsy will be held today.

from the New York Times, March 25, 1948