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## Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association  
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

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### **BBC NEWS**

October 2010

Annual Membership is still (only) \$15;

For information,

Please call 212.366.1451

#### **BBC News and Views**

The next BBC Meeting is Wednesday, October 13 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.). At 7PM, **Menon Dwarka**, the new Director of Greenwich House Music School, will speak on all the doings at our favorite neighborhood institution. Mr. Dwarka served as music program director for the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y and Harlem School of the Arts. He was appointed Director of the West Village's most historic music venue last April — come meet Menon! Also, a representative from Chumley's will update us on the progress of rebuilding our fav nabe eatery and watering hole. At 6:45PM, coffee and cookies will be served.

#### **Ye Olde Village Fair Fete**

The BBC thanks good neighbor **Caliente Cab Company** for generously hosting, yet again, a cocktail party on Monday, September 20 at which Fair volunteers were honored and charitable organizations received their contributions (more than \$19,000 raised through Ye Olde Village Fair, even more than last year!). The following is a list of organizations that received charitable contributions from the BBC Block Association this year: Caring Community; Cherry Lane Theater; Greenwich Village Music School; Greenwich House Scholarship; Greenwich House Pottery; Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation; Hudson Park Library; Jefferson Market Garden; Shadybrook Inc. (Stray Animal Fund); St. Luke's Saturday Night Supper (PWA); St. Luke's Garden Fund; St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen; The Christopher Street Patrol; Visiting Neighbors; Washington Square Association; West Village Chorale; Greenwich Village Block Associations.

We wanted to mention of one of our favorite charities, the Visiting Center for Care, Birthday Fund. This fund enables resident seniors at the Village Center for Care (the

old Greenwich Village Nursing Home, where yes!, Auntie Mame was once a resident) to receive a special gift on their special day. Thanks to all who attended the Fair and make your BBC's generosity possible.

#### **2010 BBC Holiday Party**

This year's BBC Holiday Party (it's never too early to mark your calendars to make sure you're in town for the best holiday party for kids and grown-ups, not just in the Village, but in all of New York City!) is set for Saturday, December 11 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) 6-9PM. Save that date!

#### **Update from Bob Oliver, Chair of the BBC Neighborhood History Committee, on Establishing a Permanent Holiday (January 29) to honor Thomas Paine's Birthday**

The BBC has secured the support of both our NYS elected officials in establishing January 29 as a permanent day of recognition for **Thomas Paine**. **Assemblymember Deborah Glick** and **State Senator Tom Duane** are both "on board" for this effort. Tom Duane has already secured a Resolution for 2011 (one year only). (Come to our next meeting to view this impressive document!) Due to Assembly rules, Deborah cannot introduce her resolution until the year 2011. After her resolution is passed, she will introduce a bill for the Governor's signature.

It is a lengthy, complicated process. We will keep you updated. It is long past due that New York State joins the other 11 states that already honor Tom Paine's birthday. As you know, Tom Paine lived in New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania — sadly, none have yet honored the memory of this great patriot and thinker. Let's hope New York will soon be the first of the three to do so!

#### **TIABE NOTES**

Attention gardeners! Volunteers are needed to plant bulbs at St. Luke's Garden, Hudson Street (corner of Barrow Street) on Saturday, October 16 (rain date: Saturday, October 23). Morning start is at 9:30-10AM. Come get down and dirty with your neighbors!

Then join your neighbors for a rally — 100 Days Without a Hospital — sponsored by the Coalition for a New Village Hospital, on Sunday, October 17 at 2PM at the site of the former St. Vincent’s Hospital (Seventh Ave. at West 12<sup>th</sup> St.). Our community needs to join together to bring back essential emergency and healthcare services. For more information, go to [www.DemandAHospital.blogspot.com](http://www.DemandAHospital.blogspot.com).

The Caring Community’s 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Dinner Dance is Monday, Oct. 18 at Tribeca Rooftop, 2 Desabrosses St. with the usual great cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, silent auction, lavish dining and entertainment with **Steve Ross**. This year’s honorees are Beth Israel Hospital’s Senior Health and House Calls Program and **Marge Champion** (who performed in many MGM films. **Rex Reed** will serve as emcee. For more information, call **Arthur Makar** at 212.777.3555, ext. 118. It’s a great party! Do come all!!

The Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) presents **Tatyana Sirota** performing works for piano solo by Beethoven and Schubert on Monday, October 18, at 8:15PM, in the Renee Weiler Concert Hall. Admission is payable at the door and costs \$10. For more information, call 212.242.4770.

GHMS also announces the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of the North River Music Series — the season kicks off on Oct. 21 at 8PM with a great new jazz ensembles, **The Respect Sextet**, in the Renee Weiler Concert Hall, followed by a reception with the artist. Admission at the door is \$15 general, \$10 for students and seniors. For more information, call 212.242.4770.

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation announces “Between Two Villages: A Walking Tour of NoHo with Architectural Historian Matt Postal” on Sunday, Oct. 10, 2:30 - 4:30PM (\$10 for members, \$15 for all others; reservations required). Join architectural historian **Matt Postal** as you explore NoHo, a neighborhood of great architectural variety and distinction. Focus on the area’s rich history and recent evolution. We’ll visit NoHo’s three historic districts as well as controversial new buildings and exemplary restoration projects. GVSHP also announces a Walking Tour on Sunday, Oct. 17 at 1 PM that will explore the history of GVSHP’s image collection, offering tidbits about the businesses where the photographs are located, and investigating the history of the neighborhood evoked by the archival images. And on Wednesday Oct. 27, 5:30-7PM, at Tompkins Square Branch Library, 331 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street (btw Avenues A & B), GVSHP will present “Landmarking the East Village: A Lecture with GVSHP Director

of Preservation and Research, **Elizabeth Finkelstein**.” These last two are free, reservations required for all events. RSVP at [resvp@gvshp.org](mailto:resvp@gvshp.org) or 212.475.9585, ext. 34.

The Gotham Center for New York History presents its fall 2010 History Forums. Wed., Oct. 13, 6:30PM: Elebash Recital Hall: “Old Nueva York (1613-1945) and New Nueva York (1945-2010): Acorn and Tree?” Pulitzer Prize-winning historian **Mike Wallace** (John Jay College) will give a brief illustrated overview of the exhibition, Nueva York (1613-1945), currently at El Museo Del Barrio. Tues., Oct. 26, 6:30PM: Elebash Recital Hall: “New Yorkers at Play.” Join historian **Jennifer Fronc** (University of Massachusetts, Amherst) with **David Freeland** and **Burton Peretti** (Western Connecticut State University) for a panel examining the history of leisure in Manhattan — both legal and extra-legal. Unless otherwise noted, all forums take place at the CUNY-GRADUATE CENTER, 365 Fifth Avenue at 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Please note that the CUNY-Graduate Center has instituted a fee for all Gotham Center Forums. Tickets are \$8, Members \$6. To purchase tickets, call 212.868.4444.

**Wearable Collections LLC** ([www.wearablecollections.com](http://www.wearablecollections.com)) is a socially conscious NYC-based clothing recycling company. Its goal is to reduce some of the 386 million pounds of textile waste heading toward landfills annually, while raising funds for charitable organizations. 5.7 percent of NYC’s residential waste stream consists of textiles like clothing and towels, at a cost to taxpayers and the environment. By placing bins in residential buildings throughout the city, Wearable Collections makes it as easy to recycle clothes as it is to recycle plastic, paper and glass. Several public sites are also available. Closest textile recycling collection site: Union Square North Plaza on Saturdays and Mondays, 8AM-6PM.

**Pete Seeger** will perform on Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4PM at Christopher Street Coffee House, 81 Christopher Street (St. John’s Lutheran Church) Tickets are \$35. Call 212.242.5737 or [st.johnschristopherstreet@gmail.org](mailto:st.johnschristopherstreet@gmail.org)

Big congratulations to **Christina and Doug Keppel** on the July birth of their daughter, **Grace**.

BBCer Holly Diane Shaw, our very talented BBC Poet Laureate, has graciously shared this poem for autumn.

### Few Leaves

left on the Autumn branches  
skittish winds playing  
stealing them slowly leaf by leaf.....

these last few moments  
before the whispers of first snow flakes  
arriving interrupting our kisses  
all we have left  
of our years of flowers.....

## Neighborhood Notes & Notables

## Resources & Information

**Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen** have finally sold their 5,700-square-foot five-bedroom penthouse at 1 Morton Square. The twins never occupied the 5,700-square-foot five-bedroom penthouse and have been trying to sell since 2005. The price started at \$11.995 million, but in today's market it was going for, \$8.45 million...quite a drop in expectations. The Observer notes that the final price, paid by Two BB LLC, was \$7.7 million. We know you were worried.

Local real estate guru **Diane Wildowsky** has the penthouse listing for 79 Barrow Street, a steal at a bit over \$2 million. "If you are looking for something sexy, unconventional, and truly one-of-a-kind, this loft-like penthouse, this is perfect for you! Inspired by nature's 4 elements and the city he loves, architect **Adam Kushner** successfully integrates glass, wood, quartzite tiles and stainless steel, with New York City subway tiles and doors to create a modern yet rustic private retreat...features a pebbled meditation pool (which also serves as a hot tub and shower) a roof that slides open to the sky and a master bedroom that floats above it all. The curved walls upstairs are edge light and the floor glides. Three exposures, bright, open, airy, one Juliet balcony, one terrace off the bedroom Your work ethic, commitment and professionalism resonate throughout your command and private access to the roof.

**Murray's Cheese Shop** received the 3<sup>rd</sup> place spot on a recent Huffington Post poll on the city's best gourmet shops. **Gobo** (Sixth Ave. near 8th St. ) picked up the 3<sup>rd</sup> place slot on another HuffPo poll of the best vegetarian restaurants.

Ex-Beatlewife **Heather Mills** paid \$4.9 million for the ninth floor of 173 Perry Street, the northernmost building in architect **Richard Meier's** trio of glassy waterfront towers, and the former home of **Vincent Gallo** and **Martha Stewart**. The purchase of the 2BR/2BA condo was seen as a fresh start for the one-legged tabloid target following a rough divorce from Paul McCartney and a rougher exit from Dancing With The Stars. The 1,808-square-foot apartment just hit the market for \$5.3 million. No pictures yet, so we can't confirm the presence of any Macca dartboards, but there is a floorplan, not to mention a great view of Hugh Jackman's Christmas Spectacular next door. (multiple trees)

*from Curbed*

If you dined at the Waverly Inn on October 5 you were probably aware that there was heavy security in the place. One of your fellow dinners in the secluded rear section of the main dining room was **Governor David Patterson**.

Two Staten Island men were arrested for allegedly attacking a man at the legendary Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village. According to the NY Post: Early Sunday morning (October 3), a 34-year-old man was standing at a urinal of the Christopher Street bar when a young man approached him and asked if he was gay, law-enforcement sources said.

The man laughed and replied, "This is the Stonewall, it's a gay bar," sources said. The other men then asked for a dollar, and then \$20 dollar when the victim refused to give him any money. At that point the man and another young man in the bathroom then pounced on the victim, punching him and tackling him.

"We don't like gay bars, and we don't piss next to f---ts," the thug said. **Matthew Francis**, 21, and **Christopher Orlando**, 17, are awaiting arraignment on charges of robbery and assault as a hate crime. The Manhattan DA's office is handling this and another attack as hate crime incidents.

**Keith McNally** wants to open a restaurant on the burned out Paper Party House site on Greenwich Ave. 14 community members came to oppose the application with concerns about potential crowding and noise from a space that has never been granted a liquor license, as well as the fact that there already are 25 licensed establishments in the area.

Mr. McNally agreed to restricting hours, handing out his home telephone number, keeping security outside à la Minetta, and soundproofing the locale. One thing Mr. McNally wouldn't budge on is completely enclosing the space; he explained his emphasis on aesthetics, how he designs his restaurants, and how his places "work in a way partly for that reason." Open French windows on to the street were a big objection. The board turned down the application, and it's yet to be seen if Mr. McNally will move forward with an amended application.

The Greenwich Village Block Associations recently sent a letter of appreciation to **Deputy Inspector Raymond Caroli** of the Sixth Precinct. "By following your example, the officers of the Sixth approach our crime, safety and quality of life issues with the same gusto that you personally display. You understand our problems and are dedicated to solving them. We have become used to straight answers to our questions and immediate response to our difficulties.

Although you were born in St. Vincent's Hospital, this is not the sole reason we consider you a real "Villager". Your fair treatment and respect for citizens of all races, sexual orientation and socio-economic status are evidence of your regard for Village values and make you a "perfect fit" for your position."

Jeffrey's, restaurateur **Gabe Stulman's** (formerly of the Little Owl) attempt to meld a grocery store, an oyster and wine bar, and a luncheonette, is open on Christopher and Waverly. Products are sourced from local spots Orwasher's Bakery, Samaki Smoked Fish, Stumptown, and the Brooklyn Grange rooftop farm in LIC. The storefront has been restored to its original 1920s look while the interior is stocked with furnishings and storage containers from antique markets. In sum, it's pretty, it's cool, and the stuff here is quality—like a mini-Eataly...but back in time. Not a surprise given the ethos of its sister restaurant across the street Joseph Leonard.

*from Eater*

If you'd like to take a Flash tour of the ongoing renovation at Fedora (239 W. 4<sup>th</sup> St.) go to FeastTV.

<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/feast/Gabe-Stulman-Excavates-Preserves-Fedora-102898704.html>

The 160-year-old townhouse at 75 Jane Street is a bit of a mess right now, but its new owner is trying to fix that. What might stand in his way? A hot cup of tea! **Maurice Regan** purchased the Greek Revival house from controversial landlords the **Ohebshaloms** for about \$5.5 million in March. The house had been partially gutted.. Architecture firm AKA was hired to convert the place into a single-family house, and some of the more drastic changes went before the Landmarks Preservation Commission this week.

AKA proposed demolishing the house's rear extension, rebuilding the rear wall and excavating the yard. The new design calls for a modern wooden window wall. According to the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation the LPC didn't vote on the proposal because there's confusion about whether the rear extension that would be demolished, described as a tea room, is actually part of the original 1840s structure. More research needs to be done, and everyone will do the dance all over again at a date TBD. This is become the *de rigeur* for townhouse rear walls. **Andrea Soros** has a similar design in her renovation of two combined townhouses on West 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

*from Curbed.*



## Old News

### Gang Shootings

Early last evening Detectives Stephen Devine and James Carney of the Charles Street station were informed that there had been a shooting in an alleged speakeasy at 526 West Tenth Street. At that address they found bloodstains on the floor and a man's hat and coat hanging on the wall, but they were unable to locate anyone who could tell them what had happened.

Devine and Carney were called not long afterward to a restaurant at 108 Christopher Street, where John Walsh, 45 years old, of 11 Leroy .Street, had been shot and killed while playing cards with three friends. The slayer escaped and the police were unable to establish any motive for the slaying of Walsh, who was an organizer and delegate of Local 895 of the International Longshoremen's Union.

While the .investigation was going on there Devine and Carney received a tip .from an underworld source that they could find Edward Shearen, 29 years old, under indictment for robbery, in an alleged speakeasy at 326 West Houston Street. They went to the place and found their quarry sitting at a table.

He greeted them with a shot which whistled past Devine's ear, but Carney was ready and quickly returned fire, sending the bullet through the gunman's abdomen. He fell to the floor, probably fatally wounded. He was rushed to St. Vincent's Hospital. The detectives were puzzles to find three empty shells in his pistol, although he had fired but once at them.

A few minutes later a patrolman found the body of an unidentified man in Barrow Street near the intersection of Washington Street. The man had been shot at close range behind the left ear. The body was hatless and coatless and the police found the garments left in the Tenth Street place has apparently belonged to him. They said that they would compare the bullets which had killed him with those fired from Shearer's gun to see if he had been slain by the latter...

*New York Times, March 23, 1931*