



## Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association  
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

### BBC NEWS & VIEWS OCTOBER 2011

Annual Membership is still (only) \$15; For information, Please call 212.366.1451.

### October Meeting

The next BBC Meeting is Wednesday, October 4 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.). At 7:00 PM, **Jeanine Flaherty**, a proud, long-time member of the BBC and co-chair of the Jefferson Market Garden, will give us the history, as well as what's doin' now, at this beloved Greenwich Village landmark. Dubbed "God's Little One-third Acre" by a local wag, the beautiful garden on the triangle between Greenwich and Sixth Avenues and West 10<sup>th</sup> Street was once the site of the notorious, clamorous Women's House of Detention. Jeanine will tell us how this precious urban green space got from There — a demolished prison on a rubble-strewn lot — to Here, a peaceful, welcome oasis from the hurly-burly of the streets for all Villagers to enjoy. It is a tale of community activism rich in history and high drama, and a few high jinks, too. 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 19, at which Fair volunteers were honored and charitable organizations received their contributions (more than \$10,000 raised through Ye Olde Village Fair). The following is a list of organizations that received charitable contributions from the BBC Block Association this year: Caring Community; Cherry Lane Theater; Greenwich House Music School; Greenwich House Scholarship; Greenwich House Pottery; Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation; Hudson Park Library; Jefferson Market Garden; Larry Selman Trust Fund; Shadybrook Inc. (Stray Animal Fund); St. Luke's Saturday Night Supper (PWA); St. Luke's Garden Fund; St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen; Visiting Neigh-

bors; Washington Square Association; West Village Chorale. We want to make special 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 of you who attended the Fair who make your BBC's generosity possible.

### 2011 BBC Annual Boat Ride

This year the BBC was joined by Grove Street Block Association and Christopher Street & Merchants Block Association in co-sponsoring a delightful voyage up the Hudson and past the Statue of Liberty. A highlight of the trip was sailing up to and beside the Intrepid. This view was absolutely a treat.

### 2011 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 3 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) 6:00-9:00 PM. So save that date!



Does the nabe look just a bit spiffier to you? The BBC has been busily at work on our streets. In addition to fall planting and tree maintenance, we have painted tree guard bumpers and our white planters, and have touched up our charming lampposts. Your BBC at work!

### Don Taffner

The BBC sadly notes the passing of good neighbor and wonderful friend, **Don Taffner**. Don was a longtime BBCer, and unfailingly generous to this organization. During our Bishop's Crook Lamppost fund drive of a few years ago, Don

opened his beautiful home on Grove Street as part of our House Tour. And he was always first to offer his help and support in so many ways. We extend our sincerest condolences to Don's family. He is already so missed.

## NABE NOTES

The Caring Community's last Annual Gala and Silent Auction is Monday, October 24 at Tribeca Rooftop, 2 Desabrosses St. Join us as we honor **Thomas Meehan**, three-time Tony Award Winner, with the Greenwich Village Alumni Award, and **Sister Miriam Kevin Phillips**, SC former senior vice-president for mission at St. Vincent Catholic Medical Centers of New York and New York University Office of Government Affairs and Community Engagement with the 2011 Humanitarian Awards. There will also be a special tribute to a true legend of the Village, **Lucy Cecere**, a founding Board Member. Come and enjoy great cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, silent auction, and lavish dining. For more information, call 212.777.3555. It's a great party!

To contribute to the improvements now underway to **St. Luke's Barrow Street Garden**, an enduring local resource offering respite and beauty to the entire neighborhood, you can make checks payable to the Church of St. Luke in the Fields, and send your gift in any amount to The Church of St. Luke in the Fields, Barrow Street Garden Project, 487 Hudson St., NY, NY 10014. For more information about this very worthy project, email [info@stlukeinthefields.org](mailto:info@stlukeinthefields.org).



**The Friends of LaGuardia Black and White Party**, honoring neighborhood heroes **Jo Hamilton** and **Martin Tessler**, will be held at AIA, 536 LaGuardia Place, New York, NY, on Wednesday, October 19, at 6:00 PM.

**The Jane Hartsook Gallery** at Greenwich House Pottery (16 Jones St.) presents an exhibit of ceramics by Molly Hatch, from October 20-November 17. For more information, call 212.242.4106.

**The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation** announces "The Beats in the Village: A Lecture by **Steven Watson**" on Monday, October 24, 6:30 – 8:00 PM, at the LBG Community Center (208 West 13<sup>th</sup> St., betw 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Avenues). On Thursday,

October 27, 6:30-8:00 PM, at the Museum at Eldridge Street, 12 Eldridge Street (betw. Canal & Division Sts.), "The Hebrew Union and Second Avenue: Caretakers of Yiddish Theater," A Lecture by **David Freeland**." Both are free, reservations required. RSVP at [resvp@gvshp.org](mailto:resvp@gvshp.org) or 212.475.9585, ext. 34.

**The Gotham Center for New York History** presents on October 5, 6:30 PM, at Elebash Recital Hall: "Yiddishkeit: Jewish Vernacular and the New Land." 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 \$10, Members \$8. To purchase tickets, call 212.868.4444.

## Neighborhood Notes & Notables

Architect **David Helpern** struck out with a joint townhouse-boutique hotel plan for 145 Perry Street last year, but he's back in action with new scheme for four adjoining townhomes, plus a preliminary OK from Community Board 2's landmarks committee. Three of the single-family four-story townhouses would be "about 7,000 square feet" while the fourth corner structure at Perry and Washington would amass 13,000 sq. ft. (Presumably, none of them will be wavy.) The committee chairman **Sean Sweeney** called the new designs "beautiful and sophisticated." Cur-



building "that was used as a freight loading station beginning in 1938," the corner lot had have its LPC hearing on September 27.

The West 4<sup>th</sup> Street newsstand was recently removed and it revealed: this old MTA sign. Eagle-eyed photographer **Kathryn Yu** spotted it. The sign reads: 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue Independent Subway Station, which opened in 1932 as the first line of the Independent Subway System. We don't know whether or not the MTA will preserve the sign — when the tiled mosaic was unearthed at



the 59<sup>th</sup> Street-Columbus Circle station the MTA said that they were “well aware of the historical significance... and we are working on a design for a window in the wall so this treasure can be shared with the public at some future date.” When the PATH was considering building two new entrances on Christopher Street several years ago, destroying the original streetbed, opponents cited the existence of this old entrance as a possibility for re-opening and re-use.

Ubiquitous designer **Marc Jacobs** finally made the switch from rent to own, moving out of his \$20,000/month penthouse at the Chelsea Mercantile and into the Neo-Georgian Superior Ink townhouse #2 that he bought in 2009. Reportedly, Jacobs moved into his new **Robert A.M. Stern** architect-ed home a few days before New York Fashion Week. Meanwhile, renters can rent Jacobs’ old unit. Corcoran is listing the 3-bedroom, 3-bath perch at \$23,000/month.

Meanwhile, there is a sun-kissed blonde vibe taking over the Marc by Marc Jacobs store on Bleecker Street and it might have something to do with the recent appearance from **Debbie Harry**, the lead singer of Blondie. The neighborhood shop took an electric turn when it was transformed into a pop-up Blondie shop when the band came into town for their two-night concert event at the Highline Ballroom, Billboard reported. Harry said of her recent trip, “I’ve had a longtime association with Marc Jacobs since the early days of CBGB, and he’s always been so supportive of the downtown scene.”

While the Jane Ballroom may not have had a great Fashion Week, it did prove in late September that it could still host a great night out. The Jane was the location for the weekly Saturday Night Live after party and **Thom Yorke** decided to wow the crowd with a late night DJ set. Yorke and Radiohead had been the musical

guests on the season premiere of SNL and he decided to join DJ Franco V in the DJ booth sometime after 3:00 AM for a few hours. Besides their SNL appearance, Radiohead is also played two shows in New York, but it’s doubtful that there will be any more club nights. You snooze you lose  
*from Eater*

Meanwhile, 64 Perry Street: the 1866 rowhouse entered the sales market with a New York Times feature following in this morning’s edition. 64 Perry has been on a wacky and wild ride through the Village’s cultural history, with guest spots from fashion personality **Tim Gunn** (who lived in a top-floor apartment there for 16 years) and **Carrie Bradshaw**, HBO’s fictional fashion plate who has, for better or worse, been burned into the collective consciousness. Though the facade of neighboring 66 was used during the majority of filming for *Sex and the City*, Gunn reports that the plainer facade of the \$8.5 million townhouse served as the original inspiration, in part because of its fabulous owners, one of whom established the interior design graduate department at Pratt.  
*from Curbed*

September 26 marked the third anniversary of **Paul Newman’s** passing. Newman was one of the most renowned American actors of the twentieth century. He was also an innovative philanthropist who created the Newman’s Own Foundation, based out of Westport Connecticut, which produces the popular lines of salad dressing, sauces, and other food products, the profits of which go to charity. But did you know that early in his career Newman and his second wife, Joanne Woodward (a 1957 Academy Award winner) lived in the Village?

The *Life Magazine* photo archive has some great photos of Newman and Woodward at their home on West 11<sup>th</sup> Street taken in 1960. Newman and Woodward lived together in the Village during the late 1950s and early 1960s with their two



chihuahuas and by 1959 had their first child together. The desire for privacy would eventually lead the couple and their growing family up to Connecticut.

*from Nearsay*

## Resources & Information

Whether your children love animals, shape-shifting little clouds or adventurous chameleons, this fall you can take your little ones to see them all! The Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia will be presenting *Treasured Stories* by **Eric Carle**, an award-winning children's book author, and re-told on stage in black light from Oct. 14-16.

The production will feature three shows: *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Little Cloud*, and *The Mixed-Up Chameleon*. The performances will take place at NYU's Jack. H Skirball Center for the Performing Arts. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* follows the adventures of a very hungry caterpillar's journey through a variety of foods leading to his eventual metamorphosis into a butterfly.

Children will also delight in two other playful children's stories of the *Little Cloud* and *The Mixed-Up Chameleon* as they both travel on adventures that lead them to shape-shift into the animals and shapes around them. Tickets start at \$15.

Jack. H Skirball Center for the Performing Arts: 566 Laguardia Pl., at Washington Sq. S.

*from Nearsay*

A few yards away from the Washington Square Arch are the crispy brown leaves atop a dead tree, one of eight that have died in the last two years. All of the doomed arbors were planted as part of a \$30 million park renovation championed by the Bloomberg administration.

"The Parks Department is knowingly committing arboricide," said **Cathryn Swan**, a neighbor who has been posting pictures of the dead trees on her website, the Washington Square Park Blog.

The New York City Parks Department said in a statement that it has experienced a series of "failed plantings" for the Zelkova trees in the area around the park plaza. "We are investigating potential causes of why trees are not surviving here and will conduct soil tests, examine the drainage, and determine if there is a problem with this particular species," the statement said.

Professional arborist **Ralph Padilla** diagnosed the planting problem as relatively simple. "It was planted incorrectly," he said after examining the dead tree near the arch. "It was planted too deep." "The giveaway is that all trees, before they enter the soil flare out slightly at the base," he added. When roots are submerged too deeply, recent transplants can die. rules only allow planting during certain seasonal windows, that part of the project is stalled.

*from NBC newsonline*

## Old News

### **BOY'S OFFER OF DOG BRINGS \$250 FOR IDLE Whalen 'Sells' Bootblack's Pet Twice, and Buyers at \$50 Get Only Certificates.**

He was a very little dog, not the kind usually described as pedigreed, with floppy ears and a pink spot at the end of his nose. He seemed rather bewildered by the proceedings. But he brought \$250 to the city's unemployed and a half-holiday to Greenwich Village.

Last Friday Jimmy Yorio, 10 years old, who lives with his mother, six brothers and six sisters at 114 Mulberry street, conferred with Grover Whalen at the Emergency Relief Committee offices, 401 Broadway. The interview was private, except for the dog, Chickie. Later it was revealed that Jimmy, a bootblack, had offered his pet as his bit in the drive to aid the jobless. Mr. Whalen decided to offer Chickie for sale at auction.

Yesterday afternoon, in front of the slanting-roofed Greenwich House, 27 Barrow Street, Mr. Whalen made good. A triple-horned Salvation Army truck traversed the surrounding streets in full blast. A crowd gathered. Pamphlets entitled "The Auction of Chickie," furnished by the committee, explained everything. Camera and sound-picture men trained their apparatus on the back of the red truck, which was to be the auction block.

Mr. Whalen arrived in a gray limousine. Members of the committee produced a dark, green-sweatered little fellow with a dog in his arms and lifted both up to Mr. Whalen on the platform.

Mr. Whalen sprang his surprise at the start. Jimmy's story, he said, already had drawn many letters, and checks totaling \$200. One contributor had specified that \$50 should go to the boy's family, But all agreed that under no circumstances should Chickie be taken from Jimmy.

The highest bidder, Mr. Whalen announced would not get Chickie, but a certificate signed by Harvey D. Gibson, Alfred E. Smith and himself, on behalf of the committee. The dog would go back to Jimmy.

The bidding rose in \$5 jumps until the high mark of \$50 was reached, the figurative hammer fell. and the sale was over. A duplicate certificate was offered to the second highest bidder for \$50. Frank Fanelli of 198 Sixth Avenue and George Jupp of 163 Charles Street stepped forward and paid.

The little dark fellow, who wasn't Jimmy at all, but "his best pal," Nick Lombardo. clung to Chickie and promised to rush him back to Jimmy, who was absent.

*from The New York Times, November 19, 1931*