



## 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 2012 MEETING

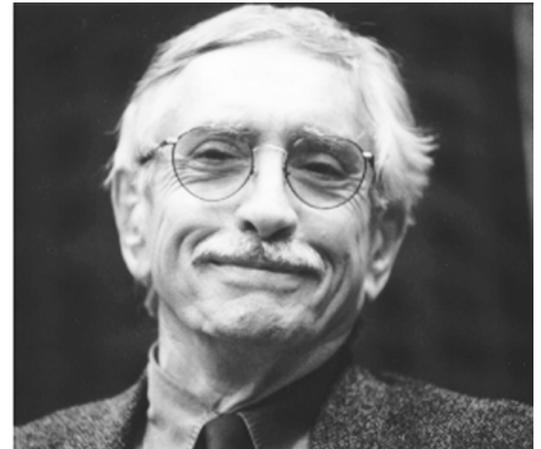
The next BBC Meeting is Wednesday, February 1 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) at 7:00 PM. **Alexandra Nudelman** will be our guest speaker. As the liaison to Community Board 2, Allie is the eyes and ears of the neighborhood for Speaker Christine Quinn. She attends Community Board and block association meetings, and is responsible for addressing any concerns of constituents who live in the Village, Soho and Hudson Square. Come hear the latest about our nabe from Allie! At 6:30 PM, coffee and cookies will be served.

**BBC Membership** — **BBC President Kathy Donaldson** reports that over 175 residents 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 (please do remember those trees!). Be sure to make your checks payable to BBC Membership. You'll feel great — guaranteed!!

The BBC notes with great sadness the passing of **June Rovenger**. June was a longtime BBCer who lived on Commerce Street for many, many years. She was a gourmet cook, taught Photography at the New School and was quite a theatre buff. She was a true Villager and we will miss seeing her around the neighborhood. We extend our deepest sympathy to her many friends here.

Intrepid BBCer and accomplished playwright **Larry Myers** leaves on January 27 to present sections of his play, *Penn State Pentagram* at State College, Pennsylvania and to speak at "40 Days of Prayer." (Penn State Pentagram is also set for Playwrights Lab West in Hollywood, California, on February 25.) Larry's *President Ulysses S. Grant* opens at The Starving Artist Theater in Ocean Grove, New Jersey on Presidents

Day, a double bill with **Edward Albee**, **Jack Kerouac** and **Tennessee Williams** at Café San Remo. This launches a yearlong international tribute to Edward Albee preceding Larry's book, *Edward Albee: Occupy Theater*.



*Edward Albee*

Come out on a wintry night and warm up with the sultry sounds of another BBC favorite artist, vocalist **Jaison Coles**, on Friday, February 10, at 8:00 PM, at the Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St., Auditorium). Those of you who attended the BBC Holiday Party will remember Jaison as the very handsome young man with the fabulous voice who led us all in singing. \$15 at the door for a Valentine's Day program of romantic music to remember. Can't beat that!

### NABE NOTES

The Cherry Lane Theatre (38 Commerce St.) is proud to announce the return of the Mentor Project, now entering its 13<sup>th</sup> season. Join us for *Relative Pitch* by **Elizabeth Rose**, mentored and directed by **Gretchen Cryer**, February 21-March 3. To learn more about the Mentor Project, visit [CherryLaneTheatre.org](http://CherryLaneTheatre.org). And also, do you NEED SPACE? You can rent the historic Cherry Lane Theatre, "the birthplace of Off-Broadway," in the heart of the West Village. The Cherry Lane offers two beautifully renovated spaces: 179-seat Mainstage and 60-seat Studio. For information, please contact **Nancy Beer**, 212.924.2817 or email [nbeer@lortel.org](mailto:nbeer@lortel.org).

The Gotham Center for New York History presents *Soviet-Jewish Experience in NYC, 1972-2000 in Fact and Fiction*, Co-sponsored by the Center for Jewish Studies. Every immigrant has a story. For Russian immigrants in New York, such stories reveal the history, politics, and passion for storytelling of the Russian people. February 16, 2012, 6:30 PM, Martin E. Segal Theater, at CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue at 34<sup>th</sup> Street. Tickets are \$10, Members \$8. For more information, call 212.868.4444.

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHSP) announces its February programs:

*When a Woman Gets the Blues: A Book Reading & Presentation* by **Rory Block**, Tuesday, February 7, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, Hudson Park Branch Library, 66 Leroy Street (off of Seventh Avenue South). Free; reservations required. RSVP to [rsvp@gvshp.org](mailto:rsvp@gvshp.org) or (212) 475-9585 (212) 475-9585 ext. 35. Considered one of the greatest living acoustic blues artists, Rory Block has committed her life and career to preserving the Delta blues tradition and bringing it to life for 21<sup>st</sup> century audiences around the world.

*Talking Carriage House: A Restoration Case Study Presented by Architects Anne Fairfax and Richard Sammons*. Thursday, February 9, 6:30 - 8:00 PM. Salmagundi Club, 47 Fifth Avenue (between 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Streets). Free; reservations required. RSVP to [rsvp@gvshp.org](mailto:rsvp@gvshp.org) or (212) 475-9585 (212) 475-9585 ext. 35. Carriage houses were once commonplace in the Village, but few survive today. Join architects and husband and wife team Anne Fairfax and Richard Sammons as they discuss the restoration process of their West 4<sup>th</sup> Street carriage house.

*Westbeth—Home of the Arts: A Film Screening*. Thursday, February 16, 6:30 - 8:00 PM. Westbeth Community Room, 155 Bank Street (between Washington & West Streets). Free; reservations required. RSVP to [rsvp@gvshp.org](mailto:rsvp@gvshp.org) or (212) 475-9585 (212) 475-9585 ext. 35. Join filmmaker **George Cominskie** at a screening of *Westbeth — Home to the Arts*, a documentary selected for the 2011 Manhattan Film Festival. The film explores the unique history of the recently landmarked Westbeth Artists Residence in the Far West Village.

*Markets of Greenwich Village: A Lecture* by **Karen Seiger**. Thursday, February 23, 6:30 - 8:00 PM. Hudson Park Branch Library, 66 Leroy Street (off of Seventh Avenue South). Free; reservations required. RSVP to [rsvp@gvshp.org](mailto:rsvp@gvshp.org) or (212) 475-9585 (212) 475-9585

ext. 35. Karen Seiger, market enthusiast, will discuss the treasures she has found in the Village and throughout the boroughs, the impact of these markets on the local economy, and some of the reasons why they are so wildly popular right now.

**The Greenwich House Music School** (46 Barrow St., Auditorium) announces with delight a concert with vocalist Jaison Coles, “The Strawberry Champagne Affair: A Celebration of Love.” Join Jaison on Friday, February 10, at 8:00 PM, for a romantic evening of elegance. Bring that special someone and enjoy some of your favorite love songs. This will be a Valentine’s Day to remember! Admission is \$15 at the door.

## Neighborhood Notes & Notables

Singer **Courtney Love** won a court battle to avoid being evicted from her rented West 10<sup>th</sup> Street townhouse after the owner claimed she set it on fire, “ruined” its designer décor and fell behind on the rent. The owner, **Donna Lyon**, went to court to kick out the Hole rocker, who’s been renting the landmarked four-story building for 11 months at \$27,000 a month. Last June, a candle set a curtain on fire in the master bedroom, but the property suffered little damage.

Lyon claimed Love damaged the house, altered its designer interior by painting and papering over hand-finished walls and owed over \$50,000 rent. However, pictures of the pristine-looking place were posted online, showing Love’s furniture and art collection, including works by **Damien Hirst** and **Francis Bacon**. On January 19 Love learned her motion to toss the case was granted. Despite the victory, reportedly Love will leave when

*The living room as decorated by Courtney Love.*



her lease expires February 14 and move downtown.

Who knew? The Kettle of Fish is home to a secret society. They gather around a round oak table, not far from the gaze of a bobblehead **Ray Nitschke** doll, and they watch their Green Bay Packers play — week after winter week. **Patrick Daley**, the bar's owner, is originally from Wauwatosa, Wis., outside Milwaukee. He began bartending at the Kettle in 1983. (The bar, once a Beat hangout, has had several iterations since it originally opened on Macdougall Street in 1950.) When his boss retired in 1998, Daley purchased the bar's name and the next year reopened it at its current spot on Christopher Street. Before games, Daley outfits the bar in Packer paraphernalia — pennants, flags and assorted other tchotchkes — and during them he serves summer sausage, cheese and bratwurst. **Pepper Burruss**, the Packers' head trainer, recently sent Daley one of the Gatorade coolers used on the sideline during last year's Super Bowl. The cooler was signed by **Aaron Rodgers**. But this year there was no celebration when the Giants beat the Packers.

*from the New York Times*

Members of the Greenwich Village Block Associations were invited to attend on January 27 when **Kenneth Adams**, President, CEO & Commissioner, Empire State Development presented **Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's** 2012-13 Executive Budget and Reform Plan in Lower Manhattan. This plan expands on the historic reforms enacted last year to continue building a New New York.

*Elle Decor* featured a spread on actress and former Charles Street resident **Hillary Swank's** new sleek digs in the former Superior Ink Building.



## Resources & Information

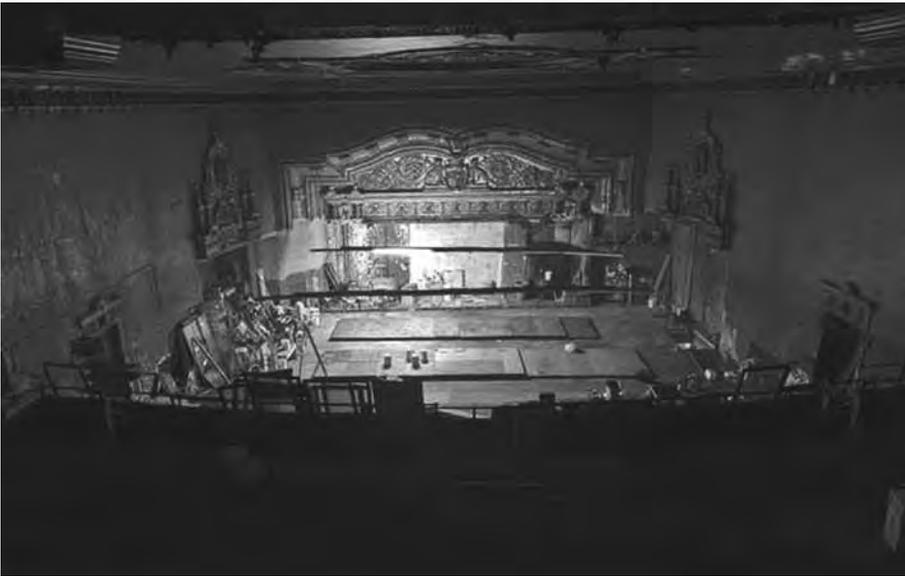
On January 23, the Rudin Management Corporation project on the site of St. Vincent's Hospital was approved almost entirely by the City Planning Commission — the second to last step in the lengthy public review process required in New York City for projects like this. The project is a proposed mixed-use development. The buildings, according to City Planning, would contain approximately 450 residential units, around 10,000 square feet of ground-floor retail space, 20,000 square feet of medical offices, and, notably, 17,000 square feet of public open space on the triangular parcel of land located west of the East Side. Among others, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, who has his eyes on the Mayor's office, was entirely supportive of the proposal. The controversy still continues. A group of advocates want the proposed park to be an AIDS Memorial, while most of the residents who live near the new park fear that this would become an unwelcome tourist attraction and would like the park to honor the entire 160 year history of the hospital, not a relatively small, although tragic, part of its history.

Meanwhile, the former Village Nursing Home is being converted to condominiums by Flank, a developer in Chelsea. It will be 10 apartments, each with 3,200 to 9,600 square feet. **Mick Walsdorf**, a partner at Flank, said that the dimensions of the former nursing home, with three street frontages and four exposures, were conducive to sprawling units, as was the location. (Recently, a penthouse in the Superior Ink building, a few blocks away, sold for \$31.5 million.) He said that, for the most part, buyers looking for a lot of space in the Village "have had to buy town houses, and the town house market has been incredibly tight." When Flank began selling condos at 385 West 12<sup>th</sup> Street, a building completed last year, buyers were interested in combining the smallish units. This time the firm decided to build large units and stuck to it, even after the financial collapse of 2008. And what developer wouldn't rather deal with 10 buyers who don't need mortgages than dozens of buyers who do?

*from The New York Times, January 22, 2012*

The public can catch a glimpse at those earlier times in NYU's Washington Square Park and Washington Square Area Image Collection that is available for browsing online. "Many of the photographs were created by the New York University's Photo Bureau to document the University's geography and cultural life, and they provide evidence of the history of the Park and the surrounding area from the early 1800s through the 1990s." *from BoweryBoogie*

East Village Farms on Avenue A, between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets, is closing its doors in early February; the building it's housed



in will be demolished. Local photographer Kevin Shea Adams recently got curious about what condition the old theater above the bodega was in, and here's what he found. A giant windowless brick shell traversed only by an old, warped fire escape juts up some 40ft directly above the store front, a giant black box. This was once the old Hollywood Theatre which shut down in 1959; it wasn't just another dusty, gutted empty space but was the functional store room for the bodega. *from Gothamist*

CBGBs may be coming back and soon. Reportedly the legendary venue is still alive in spirit, and angling to take over a new Manhattan space. With the contents of the original club still around in a basement somewhere, if all goes according to plan it may look like the old space. *from Gothamist*

## Old News

### **HOMES OVER THEIR STORES HOW THE EARLY NEW-YORKERS LIVED. A MERCHANT REMEMBERS WHEN BROOKLYN HAD LESS THAN 4,000 PEOPLE AND THERE WAS NO JERSEY CITY.**

The recent proposal to move the Stock Exchange further up town has brought out some interesting reminiscences of old New York and the men who laid the foundations of the great commercial interests of today. Merchants who began their business life when the city was in swaddling clothes recall the city of New York as they saw it then and contrast it with the New York of 1884. One of the younger of this class — a man who though fourscore and four years old, is still actively alive to the needs of the city he has helped to build up.... "My distinct recollection of the city," he said. "goes

back to 1810 when New York and Brooklyn combined had less than 100,000 inhabitants. There was no Jersey City, no Williamsburg, and no Long Island City. Jersey City was known only as Paulus's Hook. and everything east of Brooklyn was Greenpoint....

A line drawn across Manhattan Island from the foot of Duane Street (then called Barley Street) to the foot of Market Street took in the whole city in 1820. A brewery in Barley Street where the farmers used to take their grain gave the street its name. Not a house stood on Canal Street at this time...

We used to believe there was no bottom to the Collect Pond. It was there Fulton started his experimental steam-boat. I was a fireman in 1820 and the only way we could

get across the meadows to Greenwich Village was by way of Greenwich Street. I used to go up to Greenwich hooking apples....

In 1815 you could stand at White Street and Broadway and see the sloops sailing on the North River (Hudson River). There were no cross streets above that point.

The warehouses of many of the great merchants were built along the North River and ran through to Greenwich Street. The Greenwich Street ends were used for stores, over which the merchants lived. Many a man who could draw his checks for hundreds of thousands lived that way.... Many of the old merchants built substantial houses in Queen Street, Broadway, Greenwich Street and Hudson Street. Few of these are now standing...

As the city grew it had to stretch out to the north. The down-town district was more and more given up to stores and became less attractive as a place of residence. Still, many of the old merchants clung to their homes over their stores or to the houses they had built for themselves down town.... Peter Embury kept his great grocery store in Beekman Street till about 1830. Most of the time he lived over the store. When he gave up the business he went to live in a magnificent house he had built at No. 331 Greenwich Street. Old Phillip Hone, Embury's most intimate friend and the Mayor of the City lived in Broadway, a door below Park Place. The Hones were among the blue bloods. Harry Hone was considered the handsomest man in New York and some people used to say in the United States.

And the old man watched silently for several minutes the curling smoke from his cigar as it floated upward, as if lost in the memories the anecdote marshalled before him. "Yes," he said finally, in answer to a question. "I think as many of the young brokers do. The Stock Exchange should be moved up town. For 20 Years I have said that the real business heart of New York lies between Fourteenth and 26<sup>th</sup> Streets.

*from the New York Times, April 6, 1884*