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46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

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BBC NEWS AND VIEWS BBC MEETING

The next BBC Meeting is Wednesday, March 7 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) at 7:00 PM. **Angela Manno** will be our guest speaker. Angela is an environmental artist and activist and has been working to prevent a 30"-high-pressure gas pipeline from entering Manhattan at the Gansevoort peninsula that would put our neighborhood at grave risk. She will talk about the plans to convert New York City's buses, boilers and power plants to methane (commonly called "natural gas") and the incentives that are being given to buildings in New York City to switch their oil boilers to gas, rendering the switch irreversible. She will also talk about alternatives that could be implemented as well as where this gas will come from and the risks to our health. She will be co-presenting with **Jennifer Davis**, a live-in Superintendent of a Greenwich Village co-op, who has been working with Angela on this issue. At 6:30 PM, coffee and cookies will be served.

BBC Membership Drive

A special thanks to all our BBCers who have renewed their membership. Enclosed please find another envelope for those who haven't yet re-upped. So far, over 230 BBC members have renewed. So, those of you who haven't, here's your chance to be part of the ultimate IN crowd!

BBCer Dorothy Arkell will be teaching a class on French cinema, "beginning with the amazing works of **Rene Clair**," on Friday, March 16, 12:15-2:45 PM, as part of the UFT Retiree Programs, for UFT retirees, their spouses and domestic partners.

Dorothy notes that "the success of films such as *Hugo* and *The Artist* have created an interest in silent films morphing into talkies." Members of the UFT can come to the UFT Manhattan Learning Center, 50 Broadway, 2nd Floor,

with ID, and register in person before 12 :00 noon. For more information, call 212.510.6478/6479.

BBCer and our own Artist-in-Residence Cheryl Brock informs us of an exciting new neighborhood exhibit! She writes: "The BBC is having a Group Art Exhibit at the Hudson Park Library this Autumn. The room in the back (reference books, newspapers, big tables) is a charming, brightly lit space. Although the exact date is not yet confirmed, the exhibit is a definite GO! A small opening is planned as well. So many of our BBC members are professional artists, and yet we don't know each other's work. If you'd like to exhibit, please contact Cheryl Brock @ wintersand18@yahoo.com, putting BBC Exhibit in the subject line. Depending on the size of your work and the number of folks coming in, you should be able to hang 2 to 5 pieces. Obviously, all work must be framed or ready to hang. Sadly, neither sculpture nor video are appropriate for this space, which is not insured. Although email is strongly preferred, if not available, call 10 AM-9 PM, M-Sat, Cheryl, at 212.243.5378."

The BBC welcomes a new BBCer — and business — to our nabe. This February, designer **Jussara Lee** celebrated the opening of her new boutique, Vintage Jurassa Lee, at 60 Bedford Street. Lee is lauded for her beautifully structured, locally produced clothing for men and women. Her decision to move the store from her pioneering location in the Meat Packing District to the quiet, leafy corner of Bedford and Morton Streets is in keeping with her brand's tradition: "We stay young and relevant by reexamining our stance every ten years," says Jurassa. "The selection of simple materials and detailing is a nod to the vernacular and humble construction of the majority of the Brazilian built-environment," explains the architect of the project, **Jennifer Swee**. We urge BBCers to stop by and welcome Jurassa and her new boutique to the neighborhood.

BBC History Corner

Bernice Abbott (1898-1991), celebrated 20th-century photographer, moved to Greenwich Village in 1918. The



following year she almost died in New York's influenza pandemic. In 1925, while in Paris, she was introduced to the famous French photographer **Eugene Atget**, who sparked her interest in photography. When she returned to NYC in

1929, she saw immediately the photographic potential of the city.

She acquired a Century Universal camera, which produced large (8 x 10") negatives, and "the rest is history"! She set about photographing NYC with the diligence and attention to detail she had so admired in Eugene Atget. Her work has provided an historical chronicle of many now destroyed buildings and neighborhoods of Manhattan. She lived here at 50 Commerce Street for much of her photographic career.

NABE NOTES

The Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St., between Seventh Ave. So. & Bedford St.) announces, for the third installment of its acclaimed North River Music series — one of NYC's first concert series devoted to new and experimental music — that chamber group loadbang will celebrate the centennial of vital composer **John Cage** with an evening of some of his most treasured works, as well as the world premiere of composer **Randy Gibson's** new piece "Primary Structures I." Thursday March 8, at 8:00 PM. Tickets \$15 (\$10 for Students/Seniors). For more information, call 212.242.4770, or visit the Greenwich House Web site at www.gharts.org.

The Cherry Lane Theatre (38 Commerce St.) announces its Obie Award-Winning Mentor Project 2012. Four new plays, *Relative Pitch*, *Evolution*, *Mamma Roma*, and *Pas De Deux* (lost my shoe), will be produced this March, April and May. Use code MPPC to get two tickets for the price of one! For more information as to dates and prices, phone: 212.352.3101; online: www.cherrylanetheatre.org.

The Gotham Center for New York City History (CUNY Graduate Center, 365 Fifth Avenue at 34th St.) announces its Spring 2012 Forum Series: "New York at War," March 14, 6:30 PM, Martin E. Segal Theater.

New York, arguably the most powerful city on earth, is also extremely vulnerable.

From its earliest days, a host of dangers — from Indian warriors and British redcoats to U-boats and terrorist bombers — have menaced the city, shaping its landscape and character in fundamental ways. In *New York at War* (Basic Books), historian **Steven H. Jaffe** offers a riveting account of the attacks, battles, and acts of sabotage that, in threatening this defining American city, have helped forge its very identity. Book signing to follow. FREE.

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation announces its March 2012 Programs:

"Kleindeutschland: the Lower East Side's Forgotten Past," A Lecture by **Peter Conolly Smith**. Thursday, March 8, 6-7:30 PM. Bowery Poetry Club. 308 Bowery (between Bleecker & Houston Streets). Free; reservations required. RSVP to rspv@gvshp.org or (212) 475-9585 (212) 475-9585 ext. 35.

"The Piers: Art & Sex Along the New York Waterfront," A Lecture by **Jonathan Weinberg**. Wednesday, March 14, 6:30-8:00 PM. King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center at NYU. 53 Washington Square South, Suite 201 (between Sullivan & Thompson Streets). Free; reservations required. RSVP to rspv@gvshp.org or (212) 475-9585 (212) 475-9585, X 35.

Keeping It Cool: Fighting Climate Change with Preservation (Friday, March 9 and Friday, March 30, at 6:00 PM). These talks at the Pratt Institute, Manhattan, focus on climate change and preservation.

March 9, **Carl Elefante** will present "The Greenest Building Is . . . One that is Already Built"

March 30, **Lisa Kersavage** will present "Unlocking the Green Opportunity in New York's Old Buildings." Location: Pratt Manhattan, 144 West 14th Street (between Sixth and Seventh Avenues), Room 213.

Neighborhood Notes & Notables

The neighbors were far from thrilled with Brooke Shields when she purchased a Greek Revival townhouse on West 10th Street and began a renovation that involved 6:00 AM construction. Her renovation, done by decorator David Flint Wood, was featured in *Architectural Digest*. A few of the highlights: Keith Haring artwork and a lovely freestanding tub. *from Curbed*

According to an Eater poll, the two toughest places in the Village to land a table for dinner are Locando Verde (Greenwich Street) and Babbo (Waverly Place)

Nearby residents were quite concerned that the French fashion shop A.P.C. was creating a dramatic wooden facade of slatted fencing at their new store on West 4th and Perry Streets. Although the store is open for business, the facade is not finished and the fencing is temporary. The store's address at 267 West



4th Street is within the Greenwich Village Historic District and Extension and the Landmarks Preservation Commission did issue a permit for exterior alterations to the building, but not for wooden slats or a screen. The fencing is slated to be removed in the spring.

Le Poisson Rouge (Bleecker Street) hosted a family event entitled “Baby got Bach on February 26;” it gave children the rare experience to view, listen and even play rare musical instruments that others never get to see and touch anywhere else. Curated by pianist **Oril Shaham**, the event featured hands on activities focused on teaching children about different types of instruments as well as allowing them to play several rare instruments such as the French horn, violin and accordion.

from Nearsay

Last month, **Karl Lagerfeld** launched his Karl line with a Net-a-Porter online exclusive and a Village pop-up shop. The store debuted with a confusing clothing-free event; once the merchandise arrived, shoppers cleaned it out. On March 1 the Karl spring/summer collection arrived for a long-term stay. The range runs from \$69 to \$600 with lots of metallic details and a black and white color palette. Organizers plan to keep the store open through August 2012 and bring in new clothing every few weeks.



from Racked

Jay-Z and **Beyonce Knowles** were spotted having brunch in the West Village with their seven-week-old daughter, according to *Us Weekly*. Beyonce held her newborn, Blue Ivy Carter, close to her chest while the star-powered family dined at Sant Ambroeus (W. 4th & Charles St.) on Sunday, February 26.

R2-D2 is taking up a new post as bodyguard to a Village art studio. The Star Wars droid is inspiring a sculpture that will stand in the corner of Philip Mortillaro’s studio on Seventh Avenue South, at Commerce Street,

The new sentry was employed after the building was badly damaged when a van plowed into it Wednesday.

Mortillaro, who is known for building sculptures made of keys and who runs Greenwich Locksmiths, will build the four-foot-tall figure. “This very strong, short, R2-D2-type sculpture is going to be my protector — my bodyguard,” he said. “I will never have another vehicle drive into my shop again.” The droid will act as a buffer, hopefully stopping any vehicle that crashes into the building in the future.

Mortillaro was working down the block at his locksmiths store, which he has operated for 33 years, when the accident occurred around noon Wednesday on the triangular lot where a gas station once stood. “I heard a long screech like someone was sliding and then a huge crash,” he said.

When he went outside, he saw a van inside the studio where he had planned to work that day until his son, who usually runs the locksmith shop, called in sick. Mortillaro’s sculptures, made of steel, brass and keys were gnarled from the impact.

Resources & Information

The Coalition Against NYU’s 2031 Plan (CAAN), fellow community groups, NYU faculty and students wrote Borough President Stringer, asking him to hold a public hearing on NYU’s 2031 expansion plan application before he issues his recommendations on the plan. NYU is applying for zoning changes, alienation of public land, and overturning of urban renewal deed restrictions to allow the addition 2.5 million sq. ft. of space — the equivalent of the Empire State Building — south of Washington Square Park. Community leaders in Lower Manhattan have urged NYU to consider the Financial District as an alternative for their growth. Thousands have rallied, signed petitions, written, called, and turned up at public hearings to call for the plan to be rejected. A growing number of NYU faculty and students oppose the plan.

BP Stringer has 30 days to issue his recommendations. While those recommendations are advisory, they can have an enormously influential impact on the process and final decisions by the City Council and City Planning Commission. Since Stringer endorsed the massive Rudin development proposal in its entirety: he is seen by many in the Village as overwhelmingly pro-development. Word is that he plans a mayoral run.

Veranda (Seventh Ave. & West 10th Street was fined \$200,000 for underpaying more than two dozen employees and then firing two who spoke out against their labor practices, the New York State Attorney General said Thursday. The restaurant paid 25 employees below minimum wage, gave them no overtime and illegally distributed tips to managers, the AG's office said.

“By scaring employees into silence, employer retaliation undermines basic labor law protections. Now Veranda will be held accountable for violating the laws that protect our state's most vulnerable workers,” said **Attorney General Eric Schneiderman** in a statement.

Under the Wage Theft Prevention Act passed last April it is illegal for employers to retaliate against employees who report labor violations.

That month, workers complained about the treatment and two of the them had their schedules immediately reduced. They were fired shortly after, according to court papers. The establishment will have to pay \$150,000 in restitution to employees and \$50,000 in damages for terminating the two workers. Community members also complained about the lounge operating as a nightclub after hours even though it does not have a cabaret license, according to Community Board 2 records.

from DNainfo

and putting him through his intricate paces was Cora Baird who with her husband formed perhaps the best known puppetry team since Punch and Judy.

The Baird puppets were seen in animated films, convincing Latin American children that they should drink more milk; at industrial shows, and at world's fairs, singing, dancing, selling and promoting.

The marionettes burlesqued nearly every aspect of the human condition. There was Bubbles La Rue,

a strip-teasing doll, and there were bull-fighting puppets. . There was also Slug O'Brien, a honkytonk piano player with a cigarette hanging from his lip and looking for all the world like Hoagy Carmichael. .

Cora Baird married her way into this milieu. She met her husband while working on Orson Welles's stage production of "Doctor Faustus." Mr. Welles had commissioned Mr. Baird to recreate marionettes to represent the seven deadly sins. Cora, then Cora Butler did the voices.

Four weeks after their meeting they were married, and a short time later, Mrs. Baird decided to give up her career as an actress

“My own backyard became a lot more interesting than traipsing the streets for 11 months to get two weeks work,” she once recalled. “So I switched. But Bil didn't make the switch easy. He wouldn't let me touch the puppets until I practice and practice until my back felt broken.”

Gradually, she absorbed the puppeteer's skill that her husband has been amassing since he was a boy and ultimately, she became a full-fledge partner, helping design the dolls as well as operate them. ...

Of the work, she once said: “You have to feel as though you are the character the puppet is to imitate. Even though Bil and I are back of the puppets stage and no one can see us, we go through wild facial contortions.

The Baird homes...later at 59 Barrow Street, where they established their puppet theater, were the kinds of places in which youngsters dream of getting trapper.

The New York Times, December 7, 1967



Old News

CORA BAIRD DEAD; PUPPETEER WAS 54

Cora Baird, who operated a puppet theater with her husband that delighted adults and children around the world, died at New York Hospital last night after a long illness.

Mrs. Baird, who was 54 years old, performed her craft for the last time on Sunday at a showing of "Winnie the Pooh" at the Bil and Cora Baird Puppet Theater in Greenwich Village. She entered the hospital Tuesday.

During a career that spanned 30 years, Mrs. Baird pulled the strings and provided the voices that enlivened the wooden and papier-mache characters on stages, in film on television. cided to give up her career as;

A spotlight would shine on Snarky Parker, a goggle-eyed jerk of a master of ceremonies at a nightclub as he introduce Groovy Gus. Then the curtains would part and a .zoot-suited dancer, with his satin cottqail flying would go into a frantic buck and wing, twisting and leaping, his eyes rolling.

On Hand All Over.

Gus, of course, was one of the hundreds of Baird marionettes