



Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

BBC NEWS AND VIEWS MAY 2011

There is no May BBC Meeting!

BBC Spring Planting Day, Saturday, May 14

Bring your spade and trowel—or a fork and spoon—and help turn our tree pits into floral displays. Our own gardener-in-residence, **Tyler Redmond**, has readied the soil for planting and will be on hand to lend his advice and support for BBC green-thumbers. Meet at 10 AM on Commerce St., at the driveway to the 81 Bedford St. garage. For the horticulturally inclined as well as those without even one green thumb.

The 37th Annual Ye Olde Village Fair, Saturday, May 21 (No Rain date)

Greenwich Village's best and most enduring block party is back! From 11 AM to 6 PM: Come enjoy the International Food Court, Outdoor Café (this year, centered around The Cherry Lane Theatre), live entertainment, children's activities, and the one and only Juried Crafts & Fine Art Fair, the best in New York City, featuring the original creations of wonderful artists and artisans. The Crafts section is still accepting applications. For more information, please call 212-243-5378.

A quick preview: The off-Broadway musical COFFEE and the Jack Hardy Songwriter's Exchange, which is based in the West Village, will be performing at the Fair. AND our ice cream folks from Maine are bringing the ever favorite Ginger Ice cream, and this year it will have shaved crystallized ginger in it.

Calling All Volunteers:

We need you! Please call 212.366.1451.

Volunteering is a great way to spend a lovely May day, meet your friends and neighbors, and feel good about yourself. Join us! Contributions of baked goods are especially needed and very much appreciated. Yes, Dora, the world's most famous baker, will be making

her famous apple pies—but she can't do everything (contrary to public opinion,) and she needs your help, and we do too. We run out early, and this is the one table whose proceeds ALL go directly to the BBC. So experiment, try something new, and have fun—we need YOU and your baking expertise!

Bring your goodies to the BBC Coffee and Cake Table (which will be in front of the Cherry Lane Theatre) on Fair day—and please be sure to include a note listing your ingredients.

The Crafts section desperately needs someone to sign the tables in and out, from 9 AM to about 10:30 AM. We also need someone between 5:45 & 6:45 PM. Neither job requires standing or running around.

And don't forget to send in your filled-out raffles (enclosed find two books). Great prizes—Dinners for Two at Fab Village Restaurants. And all proceeds go directly to the BBC—to your community. Please return your raffle stubs in the enclosed envelope. Thank you all, very much. And raffles may also be purchased on Fair Day at the BBC Raffle Table.

A Hearty BBC Thank You!

The BBC extends heartfelt thanks to **Diane Wildowsky**, Sotheby's International Realty, New York University, and **Matt Umanov**, our 2011 Ye Olde Village Fair underwriters, who are helping to subsidize our entertainment, as well as tables and chairs, the cost of which really adds up. Many thanks to these generous BBC neighbors and friends.

NABE NOTES

Important Update from Chumley's. **PLEASE READ!**

From the team at Chumley's, to BBC members, friends and neighbors:

Just a moment to address a recent rumor which seems to have started somewhere in the neighborhood. It's actually being said (if you can believe this) that Chumley's plans to reopen as a sports bar type entity. Let us assure everyone immediately that noth-

ing could be further from the truth. Chumley's has operated as one of the city's oldest, most successful and most beloved landmark speakeasies in Greenwich Village since the twenties.

Our goal is exactly the same as it has been since the day of the collapse. To repair, restore and reintroduce Chumley's to the neighborhood and this city in the exact same way that it operated for 80-plus years. Nothing else makes sense. In fact, anything else would really be absurd, wouldn't it?

We really don't know how these rumors get started. We do understand that some neighbors may have concerns as we approach the reopening about noise levels and activity on Bedford Street and in the neighborhood in general. We have assured CB2, the BBC and Christine Quinn's office that we will take every measure to address and alleviate all of those concerns.

It does us absolutely no good to operate in a way that would alienate or make things difficult for anyone in this neighborhood. That's not who we are and we would encourage anyone with any concerns along those lines to please come and speak to us. We're totally approachable. We're not "corporate." We're not "outsiders." We are long-standing members of this community as well. We want everyone to enjoy, take part in, and be happy with our return.

We're sure the spirit of Lee and Henrietta Chumley, as well as all the writers, poets and artists who have frequented Chumley's, would have it no other way. Neither will we. Thank you so much for standing with us during this long and difficult process. We know it's been tough on the neighborhood as well.

A more complete update on our progress will appear in next month's newsletter. Thank you Kathy, Bob and the BBC for helping us clear this up and get the word out. Until next month, Happy Spring!

Greenwich House Pottery (16 Jones St.) presents an exhibition of the work of **Gerit Grimm**, April 14-May 12. For information, call 212.242.4106.

The Christopher Street Coffee House at St. John's, as part of The Village Roots Concert Series, presents 2nd Anniversary Special with **Pete and Maura Kennedy** on Thursday, May 5 and on Thursday, May 12, Martyn Joseph, both at 7 PM. (Doors open at 6:45 PM). \$20 door cover. 81 Christopher St., in the Sanctuary of St. John's Church. For more information, www.christopherstreetcoffeehouse.org.

Also at St. John's, 81 Christopher St., every Sunday at 6 PM, Jazz Mass, with the **Rev. Lyndon Harris**.

The Gotham Center for New York City History will host **John Sayles** on the launch of his new book, *A*

Moment in the Sun, on May 4, and on May 18, will feature Dressing America: Tales from the Garment Center, premier screening. Tickets are \$8: Members, \$6. To purchase tickets (and for more information), call 212.868.4444, or go to www.gothamcenter.org.

Jefferson Market Garden is looking for a summer aide. Work in a beautiful Greenwich Village Garden. Enthusiastic self-starter with good people skills. Greet and welcome the public, including children. Garden chores such as weeding, lawn moving. Friday through Sunday, May through September. 26 hour week at \$13.50 per hour. References required. Equal opportunity employer M/F. Email resume to georgepaulos@travelspan.com Send references to: Jefferson Market Garden, 70 A Greenwich Ave. PMB 372, 10011 Attn. George Paulos

Washington Square Music Festival celebrates its 53rd season of free alfresco concerts with a party at (Le) Poisson Rouge, Sunday, May 22nd, 4-7pm. For ticket prices www.washingtonsquaremusicfestival.org.

Chumley's was established in 1926 by the socialist activist **Leland Stanford Chumley**, who converted a former blacksmith's shop into the Prohibition-era drinking establishment. The speakeasy became a favorite spot for influential writers, poets, journalists, and activists, including members of the Lost Generation and the Beat Generation movements.

A number of qualities remain from Chumley's Prohibition history. The Barrow Street entrance has no exterior sign, being located at the end of a nondescript courtyard ("The Garden Door"), while the Bedford Street entrance is also unmarked. Chumley's is still equipped with the trap doors and secret stairs that comprised part of its elaborate subterfuge.

The term "86" originated when an unruly guest was escorted out the Bedford St. door, which held the address "86 Bedford St." A plaque at the tavern, dated September 22, 2000, and placed by Friends of Libraries USA, stated that Chumley's has been placed on a Literary Landmarks Register and goes on to describe Chumley's as:

"A celebrated haven frequented by poets, novelists and playwrights, who helped define twentieth century American literature. These writers include **Willa Cather, E.E. Cummings, Theodore Dreiser, William Faulkner, Ring Lardner, Edna St. Vincent Millay, Eugene O'Neill, John Dos Passos, and John Steinbeck.**" Posted on the walls of Chumley's were the covers of books supposedly worked on there. Chumley's was mentioned in *Mad Men* (episode 7) as a place where the creative staff were going for after-work drinks.

A Heart Lies Within Us by **Steven LaBree** uses Chumley's as the background for the story of Lucas Colby and Charlie (a character based on Chumley) along with the bar and its colorful history. *from Wikipedia*