



Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS (ONLY) \$15
FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 212.366.1451.

APRIL 2012 BBC NEWS AND VIEWS

Next BBC Meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday, April 9 at the Cherry Lane Theatre (38 Commerce St.) at 7:00PM. Refreshments at 6:30PM, We will present a short film about the community outreach programs available on our block from St. Luke in the Fields (487 Hudson Street). A neighborhood discussion will follow. The three programs featured in the film include the People Living with AIDS Project, Go-St. Luke's, and "The Church." Each program has a similar goal: to welcome those from all walks of life to the communal table.

The People Living with AIDS Project offers a four-course meal each Saturday evening to provide food, friends, and fellowship for those struggling with the HIV and AIDS. The program is in its 25th year.

Go-St. Luke's is a one-to-one tutoring program that has served children in grades 2-6 for 17 years. It was developed in response to the educational needs of low-income youth in New York City's boroughs and New Jersey.

"The Church" has provided a safe haven for LG-BTQA street youth under the age of 21 for the past 10 years. For more information or to support the community outreach programs at St. Luke in the Fields, visit www.stlukeinthefields.org or call 212.647.1837.

Ye Olde Village Fair

The 38th annual Ye Olde Village Fair is set for Saturday, May 19, starting at 11:00AM. 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 Fair, the best in New York City, featuring the original creations of wonderful artists and artisans. For more

information, please call 212-366-1451.

Special notice to Fair vendors: You can find applications at the BBC Block Association website, bbc-blockassociation.org. The website has been recently updated so everyone, do check it out!

And calling all bakers! Get your aprons ready and please plan on baking for Ye Olde Village Fair – cookies, cakes, pies, and more are welcome at the BBC Coffee and Cake Table. We run out early, and this is the one table whose

proceeds ALL go directly to the BBC. Experiment, try something new, have fun – we need you and your baking expertise!! Bring your goodies to the BBC Coffee and Cake Table on Fair day – and please be sure to include a note listing your ingredients.



The Spectra Pipeline

At the March 2012 BBC meeting, ecological artist and BBC member **Angela Manno** introduced a slide talk on the proposed 30" high-pressure gas pipeline running under the Hudson River into the West Village at the Gansevoort Peninsula. Named the New Jersey-New York Expansion Project, it is also known as the Spectra pipeline. If approved, the pipeline will cross the bike path and West Side Highway to an underground vault adjacent to the new Whitney Museum, and the treasured High Line Park.

Accompanying Angela were **Clare Donohue** of Sane Energy Project and **Jennifer Davis**, live-in Superintendent of a Greenwich Village co-op. Together they covered a vitally important proposed construction project that could have devastating consequences

for our neighborhood and the City at large. In the audience were a number of BBC members as well as a few non-members including **Lisa Dicaprio**, professor of Social Sciences at NYU and a member of the Energy and Water working group of the NYU Sustainability Task Force, who made the topic of boiler conversion in NYC surprisingly fascinating.

The synergy of all these voices led to a lively discussion ranging from how to capture the public's attention on this critical yet little known issue and bring together the related topics of hydraulic fracturing ("fracking"), water and air pollution, pipelines, explosions, fossil fuels, plummeting home values, fragmented communities, jobs, sustainable energy, public safety and consumer welfare. Although delivered to a small crowd, it was a highly engaged group, who left motivated to take action and with the further action steps to take.

For instance, the deadlines for a number of crucial decisions are coming up soon, including a comment period to the Hudson River Park Trust (the comment deadline is April 25). There is also an opportunity to test your dwelling for radon to create a base-line reading, as the gas coming into the pipeline from the Marcellus Shale formation is radioactive.

To learn more about the proposed Spectra pipeline and radon testing, please check the Sane Energy Project website at <http://saneenergyproject.org>. The Bedford, Barrow, Commerce Block Association hosted the talk's first run, which is now available to other block associations. If you would like to tell others about this slide talk or if you missed it and would like an opportunity to experience it, please contact Clare Donohue at Contact@SaneEnergyProject.org, to see how that might be arranged.

Village Street Lighting

One evening in March, neighbors and BBCers **Kathy Berger** and **Joy Hornung** surveyed street lighting on Bedford, Barrow, Commerce and Morton Streets checking to see if City and external residence functioning. The survey to cover lighting conditions on Christopher Street and surrounding locks. It was sponsored by **NYS US Representative Jerrold Nadler**, **NYS Assemblymember Deborah Glick**, **NYS Senator Tom Duane**, **NYC Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn**, Community Board Two and the West Village Coalition. The 6th Precinct was represented by **Martin Baranski**, Community Affairs



Officer. After filling out their forms, the returning survey participants returned to the meeting place and enjoyed hot coffee and doughnuts with Tom Duane and two of his staff members.

BBC ART EXHIBIT

BBCArtist-in-Residence **Cheryl Brock** has a wonderful update about our upcoming BBC Art Exhibit at the Hudson Park Library. The date is now set for the months of November AND December! We're planning a small opening 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, and put "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 10:00AM-9:00PM, M-Sat, Cheryl, at 212.243.5378.

CATHY NOLL REMEMBERED

The BBC is deeply saddened to note the passing of friend, neighbor, and longtime BBCer **Cathy Noll**, 92, who died peacefully this winter, her family reports. Cathy lived on Barrow Street for 50 years! Originally from Scranton, Pa., she liked to say that she was a Villager through and through. For years, neighbors will remember Cathy sitting on the stoop at 81 Barrow Street on her comfortable cushion, in all sorts of weather, greeting friends and neighbors, getting the "stoop scoop," as she liked to call it, on any and everything that had to do with the nabe.

Cathy loved the BBC, was a member since "before there was a BBC," as she liked to joke. And she loved all the BBC activities—she faithfully attended meetings, enjoyed Ye Olde Village Fair, never missed the annual Boat Ride, and most of all, adored the Holiday Party. We were all thrilled to see her last December, when she did make it to the Holiday Party, though wheelchair bound. That was her last public outing, and we are honored that she was able to share that event with us. We already miss Cathy's bright presence—she had a great sense of humor, and an ever-present twinkle in her eye. Cathy epitomized the heart and soul of the old Village, the neighborhood we are all proud to call home.

NABE NOTES

The 2012 Greenwich House Arts Benefit, Friday April 20, at The Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St., between Seventh Ave. So. & Bedford St.). The stage is set. Wine, dine and revel in exceptional music and

art during this special night of celebration. The event features a cocktail reception and silent auction from 6:00 – 8:00PM, and a dinner, live auction and musical performance from 8:00 – 10:00PM. For more information, call 212.242.4770, or visit the Greenwich House Web site at www.gcharts.org.

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHHP) announces its upcoming programs (for more information, go to www.gvshp.org/events):

WHAT: *The Gardens of Greenwich Village*: Tuesday, April 17, 6:30 - 8:00PM. A Lecture by Landscape Architect **Robin Key**

WHERE: Hudson Park Branch Library

COST: free; reservations required

RSVP: rsvp@gvshp.org or 212-475-9585 ext. 35

Residents and visitors journey through Greenwich Village’s intimately scaled streets and are exposed to an abundance of lush rooftop and private gardens, mature street trees, and cherished public parks. Join landscape architect **Robin Key** as she discusses how our interactions with these spaces affect us on many levels-aesthetically, visually, socially, emotionally, and environmentally. Ms. Key will review the year-round features of gardens in public and private spaces of the Village, and will discuss several of her firm’s projects, sharing images of the design and construction process.

WHAT: *City, Village, and Country: The Fever of 1822*. A Lecture by **Susan DeVries**

WHEN: Tuesday, April 24, 6:30 - 8:00PM

WHERE: Washington Square Institute: 41-51 East 11th Street, 4th Floor (between University Pl.& Broadway)

COST: free; reservations required

RSVP: rsvp@gvshp.org or 212-475-9585 ext. 35

Explore Manhattan as it was in the 1820s when the city was concentrated in the southern tip of the island, Greenwich Village was indeed a village, and the northern tip was a rural outpost. At a time when the total population of the island was just under 125,000, the last major yellow fever epidemic hit the city in the summer of 1822, impacting all three of these neighborhoods. Join Susan De Vries, Director of the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum and former GVSHHP staff member, for an exploration into architecture, fever, intriguing personalities, and one summer in the life of the early 19th-century city.

The Gotham Center for New York City History Presents: *The Eighth Annual Lewis Mumford Lecture on Urbanism*, featuring New York City Transportation **Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan**, Thursday, April 5, 6:30 PM, The Great Hall of Shepard Hall, CCNY, Convent

Avenue at 138th Street, New York, NY. This lecture is free and open to the public. No reservations are necessary.

The West Village Chorale’s 40th Anniversary Gala Benefit will be on Thursday evening, April 12 at the Judson Memorial Church. The evening’s festivities include light food and drinks, accompanied by the music of jazz pianist **Murray Weinstock**, followed by the performance by **Barbara Dana** of William Luce’s one-woman play *The Belle of Amherst*. Tickets are \$100 each. Visit www.westvillagechorale.org to book tickets ahead of time.

Neighborhood Notes & Notables

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor will deliver NYU’s commencement speech at Yankee Stadium this spring. The court’s first Hispanic justice will receive



an honorary law doctorate at the May 16 ceremony. NYU will grant honorary degrees to New York Times columnist **David Brooks**, French Roman Catholic priest

Patrick Desbois and Swiss microbiologist **Charles Weissmann**, according to the school. **President Bill Clinton** delivered the speech at last year’s graduation ceremony on economic inequality and environmental conservation.

Actor **Jude Law** – most recently Dr. Watson to **Robert Downey Jr.**’s Holmes in the Sherlock Holmes franchise – is looking for a flat in the West Village recently, according to the New York Post. Law visited an 1853



townhouse at 109 Greenwich Street. The 2,600 square foot 4BR triplex rents for \$10,500 a month, and features a backyard garden, wide plank pine floors, ceiling mouldings, window frames and antique pine doors. This address is further away from the prying eyes of NYU students, who annoyed Law

so much that he resorted to flinging fruit their way to discourage their nosy behavior. Law is reportedly looking to rent while in NYC working on his next film, which may be a **Steven Soderbergh** thriller about the psychopharmacology industry titled “The Bitter Pill.”

One hundred years ago this April 12, the Titanic made her ill-fated maiden voyage across the Atlantic destined for New York City’s Pier 59. On Jane Street you can still find an unassuming hotel whose chic facade hides the sad tales of those who were billeted there in April 1912, after coming ashore on the Carpathia, the ship that rescued survivors of the Titanic. The surviving crew waited here for news of their shipmates; some say they never left, and still rattle around the corridors waiting for news that never comes.

Ghosts of New York has crafted a maritime-themed ghost walk that will take participants from Spring Street, where one can still find markers of the old waterline of the Hudson River, up to Pier 54 in Chelsea. Guides will mix the city’s marine history with generous doses of sailors’ lore, telling tales of buried treasure, murderers, pirates, gangsters and other sordid folks.

New York Walks and Talks offers a different option: a 90-minute walking tour from the Seaport to the Battery, highlighting how sailing vessels from Henry Hudson’s Half Moon to Robert Fulton’s Clermont forever changed this town.

Take both tours together on the same night for only \$30 (that’s a savings of over 60%). Tickets and details can be found at www.ghostsofny.com.

Resources & Information

Herman Wayneracked up his 81st arrest in March after being banned from Washington Square Park and then allegedly found there with marijuana. Wayne was hit with a misdemeanor offense after his 80th arrest, which was also in the park..

Sixth Precinct police spotted Wayne back in the park on March 24 about 1:00 AM and saw a bag of marijuana sticking out of his pants’ back pocket, according to a criminal complaint. Wayne pleaded guilty to misdemeanors – criminal possession of marijuana in the fifth degree and loitering in a public park – and received 90 days in jail, a spokeswoman for the Manhattan District Attorney said.

But because of the judge’s order, he is subject to being resentenced on the prior charge from his

80th arrest. That could mean a year in jail. Wayne’s previous arrests in the Village include alleged drug sales and possession on Bleecker and Sullivan streets in February and alleged drug sales at West 10th Street near Fifth Avenue last August. *from DNA Info*

New York Water Taxi will resume service to Pier 45 on March 31. Water taxi service to Pier 45 ended about two years ago. The double-decker, air-conditioned boats will load and unload passengers from 10:20 AM to 5:50 PM., every 45 minutes from April-October. November - March, the boats will stop at the pier half as often, every 90 minutes.

Daily “hop on, hop off” passes – which also stop at Pier 84 near West 44th Street, Slip 6 in Battery Park, South Street Seaport and Fulton Ferry Landing in DUMBO – cost \$26 for adults and \$16 for children ages 3 to 12.

The former West Village nursing home (607 Hudson Street) will hit the market as “ultra-luxury” condos sometime this spring. Most of the building—now using the address 320 West 12th Street—won’t be on the market until May, but the penthouses are up for sale. The two units have gotten oodles of buyer/broker interest, and listing them early gives buyers the chance to customize while the penthouses are still raw space. They’re asking \$19.5 million and \$21 million.

The Abingdon was built as a hotel in 1905 in red brick and stone, in a stately, neo-Federalist style, and was converted to a nursing home in the 1950s. In January, 2011 VillageCare, a not-for-profit, sold the building to FLAnk for \$33 million. The penthouse sizes: the \$19.5 million place is 5,300 square feet, plus 1,250 square feet of private outdoor space. The \$21 million penthouse – both penthouse units are duplexes – clocks in at 5,574 square feet and 1,400 square feet of outdoor space.

from The Journal

The penthouse under construction

