



## Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association  
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

### BBC News and Views

There will be no December meeting. Instead, come to:

#### The Bedford Barrow Commerce Block Association 2012 Holiday Party

When: Saturday, December 8, 6-9 PM

Where: Greenwich House Music School,  
46 Barrow St., Auditorium

Price: Adults, \$15; Children (under 12), \$5

Food, Fun, Fellowship — Greenwich Village Style

\* **Buffet Dinner.** Fresh cold cuts, scrumptious salads, and succulent sweet treats are the fare. And yes! Bill's Famous Baked Beans are back! And don't miss Dora's legendary cookies and pies! Drinks — juice, wine, and fresh-brewed coffee — are also provided. Home-baked goods are welcome; bring them with you or drop them off at the School at 4:00 PM on Party Day.

\* **Al. E. Gator & Friends Puppet Theatre Presents** puppets, puppets, and more puppets — for children of all ages!

\* **Special visit by Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus and that Bad Elf, too.** Santa is dropping in early this year to give every boy and girl a holiday treat. Ho, Ho, Ho! And Santa has many prizes to give away to Raffle Winners!



\* **Holiday Sing-Along**, with all your holiday favorites. Elves wanted to trim tree and help decorate! Report to Mama Elf, Kathy Donaldson, at the Music School at 4:00 PM on Party Day.

#### A BBC Holiday Tradition

Once again, BBCer **Dale Belli** has asked the BBC to put the word out to encourage our members to make /donate items for the PWA Christmas Project. Especially needed are sweaters and sweatshirts / sweatpants, hats, gloves scarves, mittens, etc. Dale writes that “we need mainly men's gifts.” Also very welcome — and appreciated — are rolls of wrapping paper and plenty of tape. These items will be distributed through The Urban Live Source Connection to people with AIDS in need of warmth in over 40 NYC area hospices and hospitals. We'll collect all contributions at the BBC Holiday Party. Thank you all for your generosity and holiday spirit!



#### 10 Artists of the BBC Block Association Art Exhibit

When: November 13 to January 3, 2013.

Where: Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy St. (Reference Room Gallery).

Writes BBC Artist-in-Residence **Cheryl Brock**: “If there is a theme to this show, it might be this: that the interior journey each artist makes to define the meaning of Art for them, and then to evolve toward their own particular vision, was made — or enhanced — while living within mere blocks of each other. Perhaps that makes this little exhibit a paean to both the diversity and inherent haven of our home base.”

The Artists: **Cheryl Brock, Sally Dill, Cecily Fortescue, Brad Hampton, Ken Kimmelman, Bella Miller, Phillip Mortillero, Amy Storey, Susan May Tell and Charlene Weisler.** Cheryl adds this dedication of the exhibit to “our late beloved neighbor **Cecily Fortescue** and her wonderful husband, **Arnold Friedman.** Their kindness and wit have flavored all our lives subtly, gently for



years. Cecily made her final two pieces for this show. Only Cecily would give wall-vases their gravity-defying wings made from the earthy heft of stoneware. BRAVA Cecily!" And BRAVA all the artists of the BBC!

BBCer **Dorothy Arkell**, Urban Historian as well as published photographer, will give her exciting slide show lecture, "Christmastime in Paris," on Tuesday, December 4, at 6:00 PM, at 49 Fulton St. (block South Street Seaport), Private Room 2 & 3 (West Wing), \$2 donation. Dorothy will reprise her show on Saturday, December 22 at Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy St., at 2:30 PM. Don't miss Dorothy's gorgeous and insightful evocation of Paris, the world's most romantic city, through her wonderful photographs, at this most magical time of the year!

### Nabe Notes



The Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St., between Seventh Ave. So. & Bedford St.) announces, as part of its "Sound It Out" Jazz Concert Series: Saturday, December 1, 8:00 PM: NY3;

Thursday, December 6, 8:00 PM: **Tim Berne and Kris Davis**;

Thursday, December 20, 8:00 PM: **Darius Jones Quartet**. For ticket prices please call 212.242.4770.

And GHMS also announces "Music Together: Bringing Harmony Home": 12-week winter session begins December 11 (New afternoon class, Tuesdays 4:30-5:15 PM). For more info or to register, please visit receptionist or call 212.242.4770.

Music Together is an international music and movement program for infants and toddlers accompanied by an adult caregiver. CitySoundsMusicTogether.com.

**The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation** announces the following programs for December: A Holiday Afternoon at the Merchant's House. Wednesday, December 5, 2:00-3:30 PM, Merchant's House Museum, 29 E. 4<sup>th</sup> St. Free; reservations required. Open to GVSHP members only (non-members may join GVSHP at the individual member level and above to qualify for admission to this program).

*East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street: Anatomy of an East Village Block:* A Preservation by the NYU Public History & Archives Class. Wednesday, December 12, 6:30-8:00 PM, King Juan Car-

los I of Spain Center at NYU, 53 Washington Square South. Free; reservations required.

**New York Diaries: A Book Talk by Teresa Carpenter.** Tues., Dec. 18, 6:30-8:00 PM, Salmagundi Club, 47 Fifth Ave. Free; reservations required.

**The Gotham Center for New York City History** announces the following program for December: *Joe Papp in Five Acts* (2012, **Tracie Holder**, Film Director) — A Film Screening, Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 6:30 PM. Elebash Recital Hall (CUNY GRADUATE CENTER - 365 5th Avenue at 34th St.). The story of New York's indomitable, streetwise champion of the arts — founder of the Public Theater and free Shakespeare in the Park — who introduced interracial casting to the American stage and nurtured an entire generation of artists, along with their works — from *HAIR* to *A CHORUS LINE*. Papp spent a lifetime expanding public access to the arts; his mission was to widen the portals of the theater and invite everybody in. He was convinced that both women and minorities, denied power elsewhere in society, could develop it on the stage.

### 2012 GUIDE TO HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

#### Washington Square Park Tree Lighting

Wednesday, December 5 at 6:00 PM, the **Rob Susman Brass Quartet** and children and grown-ups alike will sing holiday songs. The multi-colored lights on the resplendent tree will be turned on to mark the beginning of festive winter evenings. Santa Claus himself has promised to appear and lead the children in the illumination countdown. The Washington Square Association provides complimentary songbooks.

Bedford Barrow Block Association Holiday Party — the BEST Holiday Party in the Village! — Saturday, December 8, 6:00-9:00 PM, at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St., Auditorium), Adults: \$15, Children (under 12): \$5. Food, fun, fellowship — Greenwich Village Style!

**Handel's Messiah Open Audience Sing** (Judson Memorial Church, 239 Thompson St.) Sunday, December 9, 3:00 PM. A Village tradition for over 30 years! **Michael Conley** conducts the audience in a joyful rendition of Handel's Messiah. Scores & refreshments provided with the wonderful David Ralph accompanying on piano. Tix at door (\$15 or \$10 students).

#### Shop Made in Clay for the Holidays!

Greenwich House Pottery presents its annual Made in Clay Sale. Friday, December 14; Saturday, December 17; Sunday, December 18. Featuring three floors of unique, handmade pottery and sculpture from exhibiting artists who convey the wonderful variety of American studio pottery and sculpture today. For times and admission fee, please call 212.242.4106. **A Village Noel Holiday Concert** (Judson Memorial Church,

## Neighborhood Notes & Notables

239 Thompson St.) The West Village Chorale's first holiday concert in several years! Sunday, December, 16 5:00 PM. Special guest artists **MAYA** — an acclaimed flute, harp & percussion trio — join us for a program celebrating the many moods, traditions, styles, and joys of this musical season. Please call 212.517.1776, for ticket information.

### Greenwich Village Caroling Walk

Saturday, December 22 at 4:00 PM. Judson Memorial Church Assembly Hall, 239 Thompson Street. Free event! Join us for our 38<sup>th</sup> year strolling through our historic, Dickensian neighborhood as we lead seasonal carols and songs. Refreshments, conviviality, and more singing follow back at the Assembly Hall at Judson Memorial Church (entrance at 239 Thompson Street, just south of Washington Square). Song books and light refreshments provided.



### Christmas Eve Caroling in Washington Square Park

Monday, December 24 at 5:00 PM is the traditional time to celebrate the holiday with carols at the Washington Square Arch. **The Rob Susman Brass Quartet**, song leader and the revelers from all over the city will lustily sing out the familiar tunes. The words are in the songbooks distributed compliments of the Washington Square Association, but many will know them by heart. "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men" will ring out to remind us all of the true meaning of the holidays.

### St. Luke in the Fields Christmas Activities (Episcopal)

(212.989.0562), 487 Hudson St.  
Monday, December 24, 5:00 PM: Christmas Pageant  
Monday, December 24, 10:00 PM: Christmas Music by the St. Luke's Choir; 10:30 PM: Christmas Vigil  
Tuesday, December 25, 10:30 AM: Christmas Morning Mass

### Our Lady of Pompeii Christmas Activities (Roman Catholic)

(212.989.6805) 25 Carmine St.  
Monday, December 24, 5:00 PM: Vigil Mass; 12 AM, Midnight Mass  
Tuesday, December 25, 9:00 AM: Mass; 1:00 AM: Mass; 12:15: Mass

### Judson Memorial Church (Ecumenical), 55 Washington Square South (betw. Sullivan & Thompson)

Monday, December 24, 11:00 AM: Festival Service; 4:00 PM: Children's Service; 7:30 PM: Dignity Mass

Actor **Kiefer Sutherland** sold his townhouse at 763 Greenwich Street for \$17.5 million after less than 24 hours on the market. He bought the house for \$8.2 million in 2008 and transformed the space into a five bedroom extravaganza.

Action star and West Village native **Vin Diesel** is helping the Westbeth artists' residences get "Fast & Furious" help for needy tenants. Diesel who grew up in Westbeth before going on to star in box-office hits like "Saving Private Ryan" and "The Chronicles of Riddick," donated funds for two weeks worth of hot lunches for homebound residents dealing with the effects of Hurricane Sandy, Westbeth Artists Residents Council president **George Cominsk** said.



The parent-teacher association at P.S. 3, which held a bake sale to raise funds for Westbeth, is providing dinners for the same group of about 25 elderly or disabled residents/ Many of these residents have not been able to leave home since the storm hit because elevator service is still being restored. Homebound Westbeth residents have been thrilled to find volunteers delivering meals from Bus Stop Cafe and Tea & Sympathy to their door.  
*from DNA Info*

As **Mario DiRienzo** prepared to reopen his pizza shop at Sixth Avenue and West 11<sup>th</sup> Street this spring, he taught his nephew the family trade. **Christian DiRienzo**, 27, learned the secret recipes for the sauce and dough used in the legendary slice shop his uncle first opened as Famous Ray's Pizza in 1973 and rejuvenated as Famous Roio's Pizza this April. Just months later, after Mario DiRienzo's death in September, Christian DiRienzo finds himself at the helm of the pizza shop, where he will try to continue the pizza baron's commitment to top-notch pies.

DiRienzo died Sept. 17 at age 71, leaving his nephew, two nieces and an employee of more than 20 years to keep the pizza ovens burning. After the business changed hands several times since the '80s, Mario DiRienzo told *DNAinfo.com* he was proud to reopen the slice shop with its original management and recipe. "I'm coming back. New York needs me," he said in February.

The 465 Sixth Ave. shop and dozens of other pizza places in the city named Ray's were targeted in a lawsuit last year by rival eatery Famous Original Ray's Pizza that challenged use of the moniker. So, DiRienzo — who worked in embassy kitchens in Rome and as a chef for corporate executives in

the city before opening his shop — renamed the restaurant in honor of his central Italy hometown, Roio del Sangro. This fall, he was buried there, Christian DiRienzo said. “He found out he had [lung cancer] and he went quickly,” he said.

“After hearing stories from all the customers who come in, I have a different view of the importance of this place,” he said. *from DNAInfo*

## Resources & Information

In early June, the Department of Transportation presented plans to increase pedestrian safety at Seventh Avenue and Bleecker Street. Road crews began implementing the project on October 5. The following upgrades were made: installing painted “neckdowns” and high visibility crosswalks to decrease crossing distances and reduce pedestrian exposure to oncoming traffic, separating vehicles to prevent double turns on to Bleecker and Barrow Streets, adding a new right-turn-only lane on Bleecker Street and Seventh Avenue in the bus stop area, and adding new sidewalk space in the roadbed with flexible delineators.

Soho residents who opposed the building of the mega-monstrosity Trump Soho may take some comfort in the financial problems besetting the building. Prudential Douglas Elliman has relisted a few units in the building at seriously reduced prices. According to the latest info, less than one fourth of the buildings 391 residences have been sold. Ten Trump Soho buyers have reportedly received a 90% refund on their deposits last year after taking the Soho’s developers to court.

## Old News

**Robert Gordon Switz**, who is accused of espionage in Paris, started his career of adventure when he was 18 years old, according to **Harvey Klemmer** of 18 Barrow Street. Mr. Klemmer, an author and former Detroit newspaper man, traveled through Germany with Switz in 1922 on a capital of \$15. He had not heard from Switz in several years, but last week completed a chapter of a new book, “Harbor Nights,” a story of his experiences at sea, which dealt with Switz and his adventures eleven years ago.

Klemmer yesterday recalled meeting Switz on the New York waterfront. Switz had failed in his examinations at a preparatory school and was determined to show his family that he had ability, despite the views of his teachers. Switz was 18 and Klemmer was 22. They obtained employment on the American liner St. Paul, which had provided the background of **Eugene O’Neill’s** “Hairy Ape,” and shipped for Germany.

Switz wore white knickers, Klemmer said, and was soon the object of caustic remarks from the experienced seamen.

He had never had sea experience and apparently was unconcerned about the size and reputation of the seamen, who giped at his “ice-cream pants.”

“The joking lasted about five minutes,” said Klemmer. “It ended abruptly when Switz laid out one of his shipmates with a beautiful right and hit another, a big brute armed with a sheath knife. The latter repaired to his bunk with a swollen eye and Switz was established as a person not to be fooled with.”

Klemmer had \$10 and Switz \$5 when the St. Paul reached Hamburg. The exchange rates permitted them to ride eight miles on an express train for 1 cent and made available the best German meals for 4 or 5 cents. They went to Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig and Munich with a suitcase filled with fiat money, which they spent lavishly. Klemmer recalled that he obtained 230,000 marks for his \$10.

On their return to Hamburg the vagabonds again obtained jobs on the St. Paul for their return home. “Switz was eager for a good rating on his ship’s work and did well,” said Klemmer. “We were paid off in New York, and I shall never forget the look on his face when we received our discharge cards. He took one look at his and tore it into bits, moved by rage and humiliation. I tried to console him; but he screamed ‘Let me alone!’ and ran from the room. I have not seen him since.

...Switz has obtained a Paris lawyer, Charles Moise, to defend him. Friends and relatives of Switz and of his wife... expressed deep concern yesterday at the couple’s predicament. All said they never had any reason to believe that Switz and his wife were involved with an espionage group.



*Marjorie Switz*

*The New York Times, December 22, 1933*

*L’Affaire Switz* was a sensation — the first time an American had been caught spying in France and the first Soviet spy scandal of the century. He had concocted a personal history and French police found 50,000 francs (\$3,800) in his apartment which he could not account for. He also possessed a set of French documents which had been rolled up into a cigarette. His role in espionage was to “gather French defense information for the benefit of Soviet intelligence”. He escaped prosecution by cooperating with investigators from La Sûreté nationale. When he was arrested, it led to the unraveling of an espionage network that included **Lydia Stahl**. Most of the information collected concerned French armaments and was a form of industrial espionage. They were freed on April 17, 1934 after being held for sixteen months.