



Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

**Annual Membership is \$20; For information,
Please call 212.366.1451.**

October 2012

BBC News and Views

The next BBC Meeting is Tuesday, October 9 at 6:30pm at the VillageCare Rehabilitation and Nursing Center (214 West Houston Street — between Varick and Sixth Avenue). VillageCare, in celebration of its longstanding relationship with the BBC, will host a wine and cheese reception, followed by a tour of its facilities. You will see a “Tree of Life” sculpture bearing a plague dedicated to the BBC Block Association in the Bamboo Garden. Please call 212-366-1451 or e-mail kathryndonaldson@aol.com to reserve your spot.

Ye Olde Village Fair Fete

The BBC thanks good neighbor **Caliente Cab Company** for generously hosting, yet again, a cocktail party on Monday, September 24, at which charitable organizations received their contributions (totaling \$10,000 raised through Ye Olde Village Fair). The following is a list of organizations that received charitable contributions from the BBC Block Association this year: Caring Community; Cherry Lane Theater; Greenwich House Music School; Greenwich House Pottery; Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation; Hudson Park Library; Jefferson Market Garden; Larry Selman Trust Fund; Shadybrook Inc. (Stray Animal Fund); St. Luke’s Saturday Night Supper (PWA); St. Luke’s Garden Fund; St. Joseph’s Soup Kitchen; Visiting Neighbors; Washington Square Association; West Village Chorale. A special

grant was awarded to BBCer **Patsy Powers** on her documentary of the late great American Social Realist painter **Jack Levine**. He was known for his satires on modern life.

2012 BBC Holiday Party

This year’s BBC Holiday Party — it’s never too early to mark your calendars to make sure you’re in town for the best holiday party for kids and grown-ups, not just in the Village, but in all of New York City! — is set for Saturday, December 8 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) 6-9 pm. So save that date!

From Assemblymember Deborah Glick: Pier 40 at Risk

The legislation that created the Park and prohibits large scale residential, hotel and office tower construction in the Park was the result of scores of public meetings where hundreds of individuals had the opportunity to voice their concerns and desires. In the 14 years since the legislation was passed, I would argue that this human need for open space has only become more pro-



nounced.

The Hudson Park Trust is offering a false choice for Pier 40 — either embrace residential development and press for legislative change to allow it or see the ball fields be lost. The take it or leave it nature of the construct presented by the Trust is unacceptable. There are other options, more consistent with the spirit of the Park that must be explored. In fact, in 2007, a study funded by local parents, offered a different path for incremental development of Pier 40, based on adaptive reuse of the existing structure, and much of what was suggested is being revived as the most appropriate direction.

At the same time, the City and the Trust are moving ahead with their own plans that are absent the input of the residents and taxpayers who deserved to be included. I believe that we can and must find a responsible and fiscally sound solution, but one that preserves the open public space for the current and future generations of Westsiders.

BBCer **Brian Delate** will perform his play *Memorial Day* — a play that concerns Suicide and PTSD among our veterans past and present — with a life affirming destination. A 20 minute version of *Memorial Day* was presented in Vietnam in front of our former enemy (Viet Cong & NVA) and the response was overwhelming. Presented at Drilling Company, 236 West 78th Street on October 2, 3, 4 7pm; suggested donation \$15, veterans are free. Reservations are recommended call 212.924.1154.

October Roses

bending swaying dancing
taken swept with the wind...

auburn tips of new leaves opening
near summer's fading green
still yearning towards the sun
touched by mystical fingers of light....

the last bluebird sings his song
taking off into the mystery....

Holly Rose Diane Shaw

Nabe Notes

Jefferson Market Garden is having their Children's Harvest Festival on October 20th, 11am to 2pm. There

will be entertainment, crafts and fun for all kids. Also, if you know anyone who is planning a wedding, please mention the garden as a great site. One recent bride wrote to say, "The Garden is so lovely and intimate and the volunteer staff make you feel welcome and cared for." Visit www.jeffersonmarketgarden.org to get guidelines to help schedule that special day with **Virginia Giordano**, vgpnyc@gmail.com,



who will provide guidance through the process. MFY Legal Services is working in collaboration with Community Board 2 and the office of **City Council Speaker Christine Quinn** to expand free legal assistance to residents who are experiencing problems in maintaining their affordable housing. MFY provides advice, counsel and representation to individual tenants and provides training and technical assistance to tenant organizations to preserve affordable housing and prevent harassment in CB2. Call 212.417.3797 for assistance or to arrange a training for your tenant organization.

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation announces *Keith Haring & the Streets of the Village*, Wednesday, October 3 and *Jean-Michel Basquiat: Graffiti & Glory*, Thursday, October 18 (Wollman Hall, Eugene Lang Building, 66 West 12th Street, 6:30 – 8:00pm Free; reservations required; space is limited. 212.475.9585 or rsvp@gvshp.org.)

The New York City Cartman: A Lecture by **Graham Hodges**, Tuesday, October 16 (Hudson Park Branch Library, 66 Leroy Street), 6:30 – 8:00pm. Free; reservations required; 212.475.9585 or rsvp@gvshp.org.

Special Members Only Program: Jefferson Market Revealed: An Exclusive Showing of the Greenwich Village Collection Tuesday, October 23 (Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Avenue) 6:30 – 8:00 PM Free; reservations required; space is limited. 212.475.9585 or rsvp@gvshp.org.

Greenwich House Music School, 46 Barrow Street, is offering a musical series called *Sound it Out*. Friday, October 5 guitarist **Joel Harrison's** String Choir- — the music of **Paul Motran**; Saturday, October 6 *Spun Tree*; Thursday, October 18 pianist **Harold O'Neal**

plays *Marvelous Fantasy*. All shows at 8pm, Tickets vary in prices. Call 212.242.4770 for details.

Please join **Senator Tom Duane** at Bubby’s Restaurant, 120 Hudson Street (corner of Moore Street) Monday, October 29, 6:30 – 9:00 PM for a fundraiser. *The Church Art, Acceptance and a Place to Be Yourself* for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Questioning Youth and their Allies, reaches out to homeless & marginally housed LGBTQA young people who congregate in the West Village. Programs offered include dance and arts workshops, nutritious home cooked meals, HIV testing, evaluation and referrals and trained social workers. Suggested donation is \$30. rsvp to **John Donnelly** at jdonnelly@stlukeinthefields.org or 212.647.1837

Neighborhood Notes & Notables

According to *Eater*, the owners of Magnolia Bakery are using a former employee that opened a copycat cupcake shop. *The Post* notes that this rival bakery, the Apple Cafe, actually closed after a year in business. No word yet on whether Magnolia will also try to sue every other bakery in this city that makes cupcakes.

Top Chef alumnae **Jennifer Carrol** is featured in a Bravo Spinoff with Carrol along with **Richard Blais, Fabio Viviani, and Spike Mendelsohn** as they open new restaurants. The latest scoop is that her new venture, Concrete Blonde will open at 33 Greenwich Ave, the old Maracas space. No word yet on what kind of food it will serve, or when it will

open. Reportedly, when Ms. Carroll appeared before Community Board 2, she was vague about her intended closing hours.

Resources & Information

The website Curbed hosts a survey called Real Estate Deathmatch. In a recent showdown participants were asked to imagine that they had around \$800,000 to spend on an apartment and narrowed it down to two co-ops in the same neighborhood. How do you make up your mind? The answer is simple: you shove them into a metaphorical cage and let them battle it out until one emerges victorious. In this case Apartment 1 is 15 Jones Street, priced at \$795,000 with a maintenance of \$1,110 per month. Apartment 2 is at 64 Barrow Street, priced at \$739,000 with a maintenance of \$782.

Both apartments look very nice and each has its own distinct advantages. For 15 Jones Street, those advantages come in the form of an extra half bath, a cool staircase, and some exposed brick. Its main disadvantage is that it’s on the first floor, but that also means that it has access to a back patio, which is an advantage again! But you have to share the patio with a neighbor (disadvantage.) But your neighbor has installed a koi pond! Advantage! Your neighbor seems like a cool guy or gal. 64 Barrow Street’s advantages are a lot of wood, a fireplace, and the fact that it’s \$56,000 cheaper and has 30% lower maintenance fees.

So which apartment came out on top. 72.4 respondents chose 15 Jones Street while the others opted for 64 Barrow. Looking at the two photos, which would you choose? The Jones Street apartment is shown on the left, the Barrow Street digs are featured on the right.



Old News

AFFIDAVITS MUDDLE SCHMITTBERGER TRIAL

Side Issue of a Rescue by

Roundsman Becker.

WHICH WAS NOT “FAKED”

James J. Butler doesn't know exactly how many affidavits he has signed relating to the night of July 24, 1904, when he fell into the North River at the foot of Barrow Street and was pulled out along with Roundsman Charles Becker who had jumped in after him.

Butler drifts a good deal between cities. He spends most of his time along the waterfront when he is in this city. His various affidavits ... relate indirectly to the trial of Police Inspector Schmittberger, which is not yet finished. They relate to the trial because Roundsman Becker was one of the leaders of the “furniture van” raids in the Tenderloin which were responsible for the charges filed against Schmittberger

Becker has not yet been put on the stand. George A. Voss, counsel for Inspector Schmittberger, says that Becker will not go on the stand. If he does, Mr. Voss threatens an affidavit made by Butler will be produced to show that Becker's rescue of Butler on July 24, 1904, was “faked” in order that Butler might get \$25 and Becker the glory and rewards. The substance of this affidavit was given out to the newspapers on Thursday. One of them printed it.

The publication sent Butler to Headquarters in a hurry yesterday morning to explain himself. Roundsman Becker was I there. Butler declared that if he had signed such an affidavit as was published he was drunk when he did it. Then he said that a private detective named Bangs, who declared he was employed by Lawyer Voss, had offered him \$200 for a “fake” affidavit saying that the 1904 rescue was “faked.”

When I got down to the docks this morning,” said Butler, .. the cops asked me if I was a squealer. I came around to square it with that feller Becker. The rescue was on the level. I am an epileptic and I can't swim much. I ain't no professional swimmer like the paper says this morning.”

Roundsman Becker remarked that he had not one, but three, affidavits signed by Butler, all saying that Bangs had offered him \$200 for a “fake” affidavit about the “rescue.” Two of the affidavits were dated Sept. 6; one was made on Sept. 11. .

Commissioner Bingham refused to discuss the swarm of Butler affidavits. Deputy Commissioner Mathot said that he, too, had an affidavit from Butler saying that the Becker rescue of 1904 was real.

The United German Society has invited all the Germans of this city to attend a meeting next Monday night at

101 Avenue A for the purpose of protesting against the persecution and conspiracy against Police Inspector Max F. Schmittberger and against his trial before Police Commissioner Bingham,” Incidentally, this letter from Lincoln Steffens was handed out by Commissioner Bingham for publication: ,



Inspector Max Schmittberger

Sept. 20, 1906. My Dear Gen. Bingham: It is due you, I think, to know in advance that I have told Inspector Schmittberger that I would testify, if he wished, to the fact that you said to me that you meant to get him.

And it is due me, I think, to have you understand that I venture to commit this breach of etiquette in the hope of helping to defeat a more serious offense upon your side, viz., sitting in judgment upon the case of a man whom you have already found guilty. I say this to you, not as a reproach, but simply in explanation of my repeating part of a private conversation.

Also, however, I am actuated by the conviction that a police officer who had many powerful friends when he did not do his duty, has been hounded ever since he set out to do right and made to feel that he has no friends except a few who have not power.

Yours very truly,

Lincoln Steffens

from The New York Times, Sept. 22, 1906

Maximilian Frances Schmittberger (July 27, 1851 - October 31, 1917) was chief police inspector for the New York City Police Department from 1909 until his death in 1917. He and Captain John Price were both wardmen closely associated with Inspector Alexander “Clubber” Williams while a precinct captain in the Tenderloin district. Schmittberger later became a star witness testifying before the Lexow Committee on police corruption within the NYPD. Schmittberger was the only police official to emerge unscathed from the Lexow inquiry, his former colleagues either allowed to retire or were dismissed from the force, and was called a “squealer” by members of the NYPD.

Lincoln Steffens (April 6, 1866 – August 9, 1936) was a New York reporter who launched a series of articles in McClure's that would later be published together in a book titled The Shame of the Cities. He is famous for investigating corruption in municipal government in American cities.