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## Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association  
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

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

### **BBC News and Views**

#### **February Meeting**

The next BBC Meeting is Wednesday, February 6 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) at 7 PM. We will have two outstanding speakers. **Cynthia Maurer** will update us on Visiting Neighbors, which for the past 40 years, has been a trusted lifeline for the elderly of our community who are struggling to remain independent — surviving on limited incomes, with no family or friends nearby.

As a result of City and State funding cuts, Visiting Neighbors, determined to keep its doors open because their seniors had nowhere else to turn, downsized their staff and moved to a significantly smaller office. The good news is that with the help of friends in the community and some loyal funders, VN has survived. (For more information, check out their website at [www.visitingneighbors.org](http://www.visitingneighbors.org) or call their office at 212.260.6200.

All donations to Visiting Neighbors are tax deductible and can be sent to Visiting Neighbors at 80 Eighth Avenue, #412, New York, NY 10011.)

Also speaking will be **Stacey Miller**, jewelry designer extraordinaire, who will be heading up the Crafts Fair portion of this year's Ye Olde Village Fair, and is excited to share with us all that she plans for that eagerly anticipated and really treasurable venue. At 6:30, coffee and cookies will be served.

Be sure to mark your calendars for our upcoming meetings — March 6 and April 3....the first Wednesday of each month.

#### **BBC Membership**

**BBC President Kathy Donaldson** reports that more than 160 people have already rejoined the Bedford Barrow Commerce Block Association. Thanks to those

of you who have re-upped. You will find your new membership card in this mailing. Those of you who haven't yet rejoined will find a return envelope for you to send in your payment — and please do remember those trees! Be sure to make your checks payable to BBC Membership. You'll feel great — guaranteed!!

The BBC was saddened to hear of the passing of **Nellie R. Small**, a longtime (over fifty years) West Village neighbor who passed away on Sunday, January 12, at 96. Nellie was an animal lover who cared for many neighbors' pets over the years. She was also a fanatic Mets fan who never gave up on her hapless baseball team and was the first woman who took part — many years ago — in the Mets spring Fantasy Camp.

She loved to regale any and all who would listen, about Mets great **Jerry Koosman** pitching to her, and how she, herself, was able to reach the plate with her fast ball — which, as Nellie said, “was more than a lot of those guys!”. Dressed in her blue and orange Mets warm-up jacket, Nellie would often visit Ray, who then ran the deli on Hudson Street, and with him as captive audience, would “broadcast” Mets games to him. He was bewildered but always polite. She was, indeed, an original. A real neighborhood character, and as such, a true Villager! A Memorial to honor her will be held at St. Luke of the Fields, which was Nellie's home away from home, on Saturday, February 9 at 1:30 PM with a get-together at the church afterward. Let's Go Mets, for Nellie!

**Dale Belli** writes the BBC: “With the BBC's help, our Christmas project (The Urban Life Source Connection) was able to give out 2,500 wrapped Christmas gifts, 300 Christmas stockings filled with toiletries, and 1,075 books and 250 CDs to those who wanted them. We also held sixteen Christmas parties and went Christmas caroling and distributing gifts at two hospitals. The parties were at various local hospitals and nursing homes, and at some we provided lun-

cheons and desserts as well. Thank you, BBCers, for participating by donating gifts at the Holiday Party. We wrapped and gave away every one of them.” And thank YOU, Dale, for YOUR generosity, and commitment to such a worthy cause.

**Remembering Larry, friend, neighbor, BBCer, a true “icon of the Village . . .”**

**by Leslie Sharpe**



*From the New York Times*

I first met **Larry Selman**, who passed away peacefully, his great heart finally failing, earlier this month, when I moved to our neighborhood in 1978. I would see him patrolling the streets, his close-cut pebbly hair (I always teased him it was too long), thick glasses, and rotund shape, reminiscent of one of those gawky kids in Gary Lawson’s cartoons, accosting friends and strangers alike, with “Hey mister / miss, can I see you?” (With, I would eventually learn, the goal of raising money for any number of worthy charities).

Invariably, I would flee to the other side of the street, his affect alarming me — and this was my own admitted ignorance — as he was clearly developmentally disabled (“Call me retarded,” Larry would later insist, “It sounds better.”).

Then, one spring day at a Mets game, I saw him roaming the stands at Shea in his Miss Piggy mask, delighting kids and adults alike, and inevitably, on the way home, he sat down beside me on the subway, announcing “I know you! Wanna go to a game?” He was, in a word, irresistible, and Larry and I would go to many Mets games together, getting the cheap seats in the upper deck but Larry would always make a bee-

line to the box seats on the first base line, where he would find his friend Gil, then the head groundskeeper, and miraculously, we would end up sitting behind the home dugout, with Larry calling out to the players who always waved back . . . Larry knew everyone, and everyone knew Larry.

He had a way of bridging so many worlds (which I chronicled in two pieces I wrote for *New York Newsday*, when I was a columnist for that paper, and which

Larry LOVED — he delighted in seeing himself in print) — from Brooklyn, the borough of his birth, whose accent he carried so well (“I shoulda stood in bed . . .”) and which he often joked he would return to (he could be so deadpan), vowing to live under the boardwalk at Coney Island where he would have the best view of the annual Mermaid Parade (“I like to watch the pretty girls . . .”), to Greenwich Village, where his devoted uncle Murray settled him after his parents died, so many years ago, in a tiny rent-controlled apartment on Bedford Street. They were were plentiful then. This move would make possible his life as an independent, fully engaged and productive member of our community. Finally, Larry made it to Hollywood, California, which claimed Larry as its own when our neighbor **Al-**

**ice Elliott’s** film *The Collector of Bedford Street*, which so movingly chronicles Larry’s life in the Village, received an Academy Award nomination for Best Short Documentary.

Larry took that in stride, as he critiqued his fellow stars (**Jack Nicholson** among them), for their generosity (he was always collecting for good causes), as he often did politicians (Republicans, he reported, were “cheap.”). But even before he was known as the “collector,” Larry for many years had been raising funds for the BBC — tirelessly working every spring to sell raffles for Ye Olde Village Fair, and also to “shake down” (as one local merchant described it to me with a laugh) businesses for raffle prizes — as he also did for the BBC’s annual Holiday Party.

He adored playing Santa at that Party. As recently as Christmas 2011, though he could no longer get up the stairs, played a new role, “Downstairs Santa,” where he greeted people on their way in to the festivities. In his earlier years, when he could still get around, he would dress as Santa during the holidays and traipse around the Village, offering good cheer to passers-by.

Also, he would invariably stop at local firehouses, dispensing candy to firefighters, whom he loved (as a

kid he had “buffed” — been adopted as a mascot by a local Brooklyn firehouse and had been allowed, from time to time, to ride up on the engine).

Larry loved baseball, cats and dogs, firefighters, his friends and neighbors, and especially raising funds for all sorts of causes — he loved life, and lived it so fully. I don’t know anyone who has done more with their life — who has lived up to every ounce of their potential, and way beyond it, in Larry’s case — than Larry did. Which doesn’t mean — any of this — that Larry was a saint. He wasn’t. He could be such a pain — stubborn, contrary, cranky, irascible, and just plain difficult.

But, none of us, as frustrated as we could get with him, ever stopped loving him. Because first and foremost, Larry was so lovable — his generosity of heart, his honesty, his devilish sense of humor, that infectious laugh of his, his never-ending phone calls (trying to convince me that **Leo Durocher** was returning to manage the Mets — I would get back at him by threatening to become a Yankees fan!) — and because he was ours, a member of the family, and family, at its best, is about unconditional love.

Kathy Donaldson, BBC president, who, like Larry, has given her heart and soul to this community, and has been the tireless force behind the BBC’s success as an award-winning neighborhood organization that has managed to do SO much good for so many — individuals and local nonprofits alike — remarked to me recently about how Larry never took no for an answer, when asking people for contributions to any of his causes. “He once said to me,” said Kathy, “he didn’t care how many people said no, because he knew, that eventually one person — just one — would say yes.”

So many of us get so discouraged, but Larry, whom, as he once told me, people called “simple” when he was growing up, never stopped believing, in his causes and in his fellow humans, and he never stopped trying. And he succeeded — he succeeded in raising money, in helping others, in making friends, in living a wonderful life. And most of all, he succeeded in making a difference . . .

In its obituary of Larry, *the Daily News* referred to him as an “icon” of the Village. As I referenced that, at the start of this remembrance, I could hear Larry, who would have loved all these tributes, say, “What’s an icon? Is that good?” Yes, Larry, it’s very good—it’s very good indeed . . .

We will gather to honor Larry’s memory, and celebrate his life, on Wednesday, April 3, which would have been right around his 71st birthday, at our BBC monthly meeting. We invite you to join your neighbors in doing so.

*Although it not usual for a block association to take on*

*this role, the BBC block association was of critical assistance in helping to make Larry’s life the remarkable success that it was. A number of its members devoted time and attention to Larry over the years and the organization, itself, created a trust fund to help insure Larry’s financial security.*

## Nabe Notes

### **Join Greenwich House on Monday, March 11 at the Metropolitan Pavilion for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Taste of Greenwich House.**

This annual benefit offers guests the experience of sampling a variety of equally sensational cuisines from over 30 venues as they support Greenwich House’s ten social service and community arts programs, including treatment for victims of child abuse, medical care for home-bound seniors, afterschool programs for urban youth, senior wellness programs, and those struggling with drug and alcohol addiction.

This year, Greenwich House is pleased to announce that Chef **Anita Lo**, Owner and Executive Chef of An-nisa and Greenwich House neighbor, will be on hand to talk with attendees and sign complimentary copies of her cookbook, *Cooking Without Borders*, for VIP Gourmet Guests during the exclusive VIP hour. To purchase tickets, please visit: [www.greenwichhouse.org/taste](http://www.greenwichhouse.org/taste), or for more information, please contact: Hannah Read at [hread@greenwichhouse.org](mailto:hread@greenwichhouse.org) or (212) 991-0003 x 401.

### **The Rattlestick Playwrights Theater presents,**

at the Cherry Lane Theatre, *The Revisionist*, by **Jesse Eisenberg**, directed by **Kip Fagan**, with **Jesse Eisenberg**, **Vanessa Redgrave** (yes, you read that right!), and also featuring **Dan Oreskes**. February 15 to March 31 (Tuesday-Friday, 8 PM; Saturday at 2 PM & 8 PM and Sunday at 3 PM). For tickets, call OvationTix ---866.811.4111; or visit, [www.therevisionistplay.com](http://www.therevisionistplay.com).



### **The Gotham Center for New York History presents,**

for February, these exciting programs: “Aspects of the African-American Experience in NYC.” Wednesday, February 6, 6:30-8 PM. CUNY Graduate Center Concourse Level, Rooms C201, 202 and 203, 365 Fifth Avenue at 34th Street. This event is FREE and open to the public. No registration required. And also, “Grand

Central: How a Train Station Transformed America.” Thursday, February 28, 6:30-8 PM. For more information, please go to: [www.gothamcenter.org](http://www.gothamcenter.org).

**The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation** is seeking volunteers for the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring House Tour on May 5. Volunteers will be placed at houses to monitor the flow of visitors. If interested, please contact Sheryl Woodruff at 212.475.95 X 39 or [swoodruff@gvshp.org](mailto:swoodruff@gvshp.org).

The Cherry Lane Theatre (38 Commerce St.) presents, as part of its 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Mentor Project, a double bill (February 20-March 2): *Pas De Deux* (Lost My Shoe) by **Lisa Ramirez**. Mentored by **Cynthia Hopkins**, directed by **Bryan Davison Blue**; and *Joe* by **Elizabeth A. Davis**. Mentored by **Enda Walsh**, directed by **Christine Henry**. Performance times for all Mentor Project Showcases: Wednesday-Friday at 7PM; Saturday at 3PM and 7PM. Single tickets are \$19. Tickets at [cherrylandtheatre.org](http://cherrylandtheatre.org) / 212.352.3101.

## Resources & Information

Former Community Board 2 chair **Brad Hoylman** was sworn in as state senator on January 13 at the auditorium at FIT’s Haft Auditorium in Chelsea. The state Senate district includes Greenwich Village, Hudson Square, most of Chelsea, Hell’s Kitchen, part of the Upper West Side, Midtown and East Midtown and most of the East Village, plus Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village. The 27<sup>th</sup>’s lines, which were recently redrawn, unite Greenwich Village in one district. Major additions are the East Village and part of Midtown, including Times Square, while lost was the Upper West Side north of 72<sup>nd</sup> Street.

Idea abound for what form the new middle school slated to be created at 75 Morton Street. According to a School Construction Authority official, a likely possible scenario for the building, between Hudson and Greenwich Streets would be two middle schools, including a number of special education students. The 177,000-square-foot, seven-story building can accommodate 900 students. The building is currently used by the state Office for People With Developmental Disabilities, which was supposed to have vacated; the move-out was delayed by Superstorm Sandy. As part of the approval last year of the Rudin residential redevelopment project for the former St. Vincent’s Hospital campus, the city agreed to buy 75 Morton Street from the state to help address the Village’s shortage of school seats. Although 75 Morton Street had been proposed for this use for many years, it was only when the Rudin

residential project was in the works was this idea taken seriously enough to move forward.

P.S. 3 parents support the idea that students for the middle schools be screened by geographical preference, meaning local kids would get first dibs. But, middle schools generally don’t work that way. District 2 covers a broad area, stretching from the Battery to the Upper East Side, and students for the middle schools would presumably be drawn from the whole district.

**Sharif Rizk**, 22, and **Hatem Farsakh**, 24, appeared in Manhattan Criminal Court on January 18, after being arrested in the brutal beating of **Kevin McCarron**, 24, as he was leaving Artichoke pizzeria on MacDougal Street. early Sunday morning January 13. McCarron, from Andover, Mass., was visiting the city and was out with friends when they bumped into another group of young men. A quarrel erupted and members of the second group reportedly fetched a baseball bat and other weapons from the trunk of a nearby parked car that were used in the vicious assault. At their Criminal Court appearances both men, who are out on bail, learned they had not yet been indicted for the crime, possibly because McCarron, who was beaten into a coma, has not been able to tell police what happened. Both men are due back in court in April. Video of this brutal beating was taped by a witness and posted on *YouTube*. It was featured on *the Huffington Post* as well as other internet outlets.

Neighbors have been concerned about what would happen to **Larry Selman’s** beloved dog, **Penny**. According to Penny’s Facebook page...yes, she has a Facebook page... Penny has found a new forever home. The 14-year-old beagle and Australian shepherd mix has been adopted, according to a post Saturday on the Facebook page in the dog’s name.

“It looks like I have a new forever home!” the Facebook page for Penny Selman says. “I’ve been told I’m going to have two little doggie buddies AND a backyard.”

Dozens of people on the Facebook page responded to the notice. “So happy! Lots of love to you and your new family!” one commenter wrote.

Penny’s new owner did not respond to an inquiry, and it was not immediately clear if the dog will be leaving the neighborhood.

from *DNAinfo*

