



Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS (ONLY) \$20
FOR INFORMATION,
PLEASE CALL 212.366.1451.
bbcblockassociation.org

BBC News and Views

February 2014 Meeting

The next BBC Meeting is Wednesday, February 5 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) at 7:00 PM. BBCer **Leslie T. Sharpe** will give insights into today's publishing markets and offer advice to writers on how to navigate these increasingly commercial waters.

Her essay "On Writing Smart: Tips and Tidbits," was featured in *THE BUSINESS OF WRITING*, edited by **Jennifer Lyons**, the cutting edge work on all things writing for writers today. Leslie taught at Columbia University's Writing Program, in both the undergraduate and MFA programs, for 20 years, and has also taught editing and publishing at CCNY and NYU. She is the author of *Editing Fact and Fiction: A Concise Guide to Book Editing* (Cambridge University Press, 1994), regarded as the industry standard.

Her essays and articles have appeared in the *Chicago Tribune*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Global City Review*, *International Herald Tribune*, *New York Newsday*, *New York Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Psychology Today*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Village Voice*, *The Villager*, *Yale Daily New Magazine*, and *The Writer*, among others. She recently finished her memoir of family, *Our Fractured, Perfect Selves*, and is currently at work on her new book, *The Quarry Fox and Other Tales of a Catskill Summer*. Her critters poems for kids can be read in *Ladybug* magazine, and she is currently preparing a collection of these for publication. At 6:30PM refreshments will be served.

BBC Membership

BBC President Kathy Donaldson reports that over 130

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 to 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!!

Dale Belli writes the BBC: "Since its inception in 1997, the BBC has been a part of The Urban Life Source Connection and their Christmas project. This year we were able to give out 1,500 wrapped Christmas gifts and 100 Christmas stockings filled with toiletries. We also held fourteen Christmas parties with complete lunches and went room to room and bed to bed caroling and distributing gifts at two hospitals. 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.

A very special thank you to past president and treasurer, **Bob Oliver and Bill Lavelle** respectively, and to stalwart fair workers at the beer truck **Rich Wise and Andre Jones** who donated all the wine for our holiday party this December. Although they have moved to Atlanta and Florida they have, not only remained BBCers, but have contributed to the tree fund. AJ wrote "me and Rich are really enjoying our relaxed life here in the country. I miss the old street still".

Attention BBC Filmmakers-the 2nd BBC Block Association Film Festival is coming Wednesday, April 2. We're looking for short films (15 minutes max) of any genre. Excerpts of works-in-progress will be considered. Our celebrity local filmmaker **Alice Elliott** has found the marvelous **Katy Jacobs** of The Paley Center for Media to curate our festival. Please email katyjacobs2@gmail.com for submission information.

There will be a rose garden renewal at Jefferson Market Garden this spring thanks to board member **Elizabeth Butson**.

The rose garden site will still remain the same, but soil, irrigation system and the roses themselves will be replaced to ensure vitality and viability of this historic place.

Buried in Snow

Stagnant the winter garden rests
blurred white and brown branches
shiver in harrowing wind
a few sparrows quiver—
and oh!
a blue and white breasted nuthatch
creeping along a tree trunk

Holly Rose Diane Shaw
BBC Poet Laureate

Nabe Notes

Join Greenwich House on Monday, March 10 at the Metropolitan Pavilion for the **12nd 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, the honorary chair is **Mimi Sheraton** former food critic of *The New York Times*. To purchase tickets, please visit: www.greenwichhouse.org/taste

West Village Chorale Winter Concert, Sunday, Feb. 23, 5:00PM. *Found in Translation*-a concert of choral music that isn't choral music, Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square Square., tickets \$25 general admission, \$10 students at door or online www.westvillagechorale.org

Greenwich House Music School is proud to announce **Café Au Go Go Revisited**, a live performance festival commemorating the spirit and innovation of the short-lived yet legendary 1960s stage in celebration of the venue's would-be 50th anniversary. The series begins on Mon, February 24, 8pm, with a special screening of *Seven Years Underground*, an intimate documentary on the history of Café Au Go Go directed by **Jason Solomon**. Mr. Solomon, son of Howard and Elly, the original owners of Café Au Go Go, will be on hand to present the film and speak about the rich history of the Café. Live performance by **Steve Cuiffo** as **Lenny Bruce** following the screening tickets \$20 (limit of 4 per order) www.greenwichhousemusicschool.org

Historic Districts Council Continuing Education Series: Working with Historic Buildings \$25, friends of HDC/\$30

general public *Aches and Pains in Historic Window Work*, Tuesday, Feb. 11, 9:00 -10:30AM; *New Designs in Historic Districts*, Feb. 25, 9:00-10:30AM Neighborhood Preservation Center, 232 E. 11th St.

Secret Lives Tour - The Bank of New York Mellon, Wed., Feb. 26, 4:00PM. Visitors will explore the bank's museum, 49th floor reception room and the Red Room, with its spectacular red and gold mosaics. \$50 friends of HDC, \$75 guests. To purchase tickets email bharmon@hdc.org or call 212.614.9107 ext. 14.

The Greenwich Village Society for Historic presents a documentary film screening *City Folks: English Country Dance and the Politics of the Folk in Modern America*, Mon, Feb. 3, 6:30-8:00PM, Jurow Lecture Hall at the Silver Center, 100 Washington Square East, free, reservations required 212.475.9585; *Farmers Markets from Gansevoort to Union Square to Abington Square* - an evening with Greenmarket founder **Barry Benepe**, free, to register call 212.475.9585;

From *Thomas Wolfe to the Mamas and the Papas: The Venerable Hotel Albert in Greenwich Village*, a lecture by historian **Anthony W. Robins**, Thurs, Feb. 20, 6:30-8:00PM. Third Street Music School, 235 E.11th St. free, reservations required 212.475.9585



The Albert Hotel (circa 1907)

The Cherry Lane Theatre (38 Commerce St.) presents, as part of its 16th Anniversary Celebration of Mentor Project, *The Hunters* by **Joe Silverman**, mentored by **Lynn Nottage**, directed by **Mike Donahue** Feb. 19-Mar 1; *Sonnets*

on *Tap* conceived and directed by **Awayne Timpa**, mentored by **Lisa Peterson** Mar 12-22; *The Ragged Claws* by **Lina Patel**, mentored by **David Henry Hwang** Apr 2 -12 Performance times for all Mentor Project Showcases: Wednesday-Friday at 7:00 PM; Saturday at 3:00 PM and 7:00 PM. Project Membership (3 performances \$45) Single tickets are \$19. tickets at cherrylandtheatre.org / 212.352.3101.

The Gotham Center for New York History presents *The Unmaking of a Ghetto*, Tuesday, February 11, 2014 6:30-8:00 PM Elebash Recital Hall Writer-photographer **Camilo José Vergara**'s deeply personal Harlem: *The Unmaking of a Ghetto* is an unprecedented record of urban change. Vergara, a MacArthur fellow, will talk about the neighborhood he chronicled for 43 years, documenting segregation, poverty, and crime, and eventually, economic recovery, gentrification, and racial integration. **Eric K. Washington**, author of *Manhattanville: Old Heart of West Harlem*; **Phil Bicker**, senior photo editor at *Time*; and **Sharon Zukin**, professor of sociology at The Graduate Center, join in the discussion. This event is free and open to the public. Need to RSVP at www.gothamcenter.org

Resources & Information

With their prior success in creating historically sensitive designs, BSKS Architects thought they might have done so again in late January when presenting their renderings for a mixed-use project at 130 Seventh Avenue South to the Landmarks Preservation Commission. The LPC and a room full of neighborhood preservationists proved them wrong, cit-

ing the design as “monolithic” and like a “glacier.” What BSKS proposed was a 14,000-square-foot residential, 2,000-square-foot commercial building with five full-floor units and a two-story penthouse. The building would stand 75 feet to the top of the bulkhead, and 85 feet at the building's highest point.

Commissioner **Diana Chapin** noting, “the verticality is not appropriate” given the scale of the neighborhood. Commissioner **Michael Goldblum** took a different stance on the scale of buildings in Greenwich Village, declaring, “It ain't Park Slope.” One speaker who represented several downtown City Council members declared that the building “will dramatically alter the sense of place at the site that lies in the heart of the historic district.” Another speaker argued that masses of the city's visitors flock to Greenwich Village specifically because of its scale and charm, in contrast to Midtown's.

New York University should go back to the drawing board after a State Supreme Court decision blocked most of the school's controversial expansion plan, elected officials and preservationists urged at a meeting Friday. Their goal is to extend “an olive branch” to NYU, and convince the university to scrap its plans to build towers on former park space, said Jim Walden of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, the pro bono lawyer representing the residents.

The decision handed down by Judge Donna Mills on January 7 found that the city wrongly gave away public parkland to the school. Her ruling allows NYU to move forward with one of the four buildings in its \$6 billion expansion plan, but said NYU must get approval from the State Legislature for the remaining three.

“NYU must go back to square one and present a different plan that does not include these open space elements,” said **Assemblywoman Deborah Glick**, who is one of the plaintiffs in the case against NYU. “They must go back and start from the beginning.”

NYU officials have previously said the school will appeal Mills' decision while also moving forward with the parts of the original plan that are still allowed under the ruling.

In another development scheme, The Church of St. Luke in the Fields is joining the recent trend of nonprofits turning toward real estate development to beef up their bank accounts. *The Villager* reports that the church wants to build a 15-story, 46-unit apartment building on its property at the corner of Greenwich and Barrow Streets. Church officials plan to grant developer Toll Brothers a 99-year lease to the site and the venture would fund expansion of St. Luke's school, as well as a new mission building. The “mission” of the mission remained mysterious and locals fear that it is



likely to be controversial.

During a community board meeting, the church pointed out that the size would be less than presently allowed under current zoning. The project would also be developed under the 80/20 affordable housing program.

The brick-and-glass design was not liked, and neither was the 153-foot height. The plans need approval from the Landmarks Preservation Commission. Construction of the mission, which would be “townhouse scale” would depend on the tower, as the church needs revenue from the apartments to be able to pay for the mission.

The plans go before the LPC on February 4. We’re curious to see if the commission agrees with board member **Doris Diether**: “I thought the building they’re putting up looked ridiculous. It looked like a sandwich — it’s brick on the bottom, glass in the middle, and brick on top.” What do you think?



Old News

St. Luke’s Church No More

Next Thursday Parish will add another chapel to its corporation by the annexation of the old St. Luke’s Church on Hudson Street....

Yesterday morning, the Rev. Dr. Isaace H. Tuttle who has been rector of St. Luke’s Protestant Episcopal Church for forty-two years and five months, preached his farewell sermon to his old parishioners. The church, which is a large one was crowded to its fullest capacity by a congregation which showed the deepest interest in the service.

Dr. Tuttle is the oldest rector in active service in the Protestant Episcopal Church in this city, being now eighty-three years of age. He was born in New Haven, Conn. in 1809, his father being a prominent merchant of that city. He entered Trinity College at Hartford, Conn., and was graduated in 1836. That year he entered the General Theological Seminary, and was graduated in 1839.

..... In June, 1850, he was installed as rector of St. Luke’s in this city succeeding the Rev. Dr. J. Murray Forbes.

.... In the beginning....that public-spirited citizen and good churchman, Don Alonzo Cushman, residing up in Greenwich Village away back before 1820, went down to old St. John’s Church and asked assistance...for the establishment of a church up his way. He backed up his request with a liberal subscription... St. Luke’s was found-

St. Luke’s Chapel in 1831.

ed and the present church edifice was erected in 1821.

The Rev. Dr. Uphold was the first minister... The church was built almost in the open country, pastures for cattle bounding it on all sides. Even as late as when Dr. Tuttle came to be its minister, the beautiful shade trees surrounding the church, which had been planted by Dr. Uphold, were still standing.

Under the Rev. Drs. Ives and Whittingham, the successors in order of Dr. Uphold, the parish grew apace, and when Dr. Tuttle succeeded Dr. Forbes, he found a strong, prosperous church....Regarding his own rectorship, Dr. Tuttle spoke ohlefly of the fond affection which had existed between himself and his parishioners and of the prosperity of the church until the inevitable march of commerce has made encroachments upon it....

from the New York Times, November 28, 1892

