



Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association
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Annual Membership is \$25;

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BBC FEBRUARY 2022 NEWS AND VIEWS

BBC Membership

Thanks to all who have re-upped. Those of you who have not rejoined will find another membership letter. What makes our neighborhood the beautiful place it is, and such a desirable place to live, is the efforts of your BBC. We have not reached our goal of ensuring that our community continues to thrive. Please consider making an additional contribution. You will see your money at work every day as you walk through our streets. Be sure to make your checks payable to BBC Block Association.



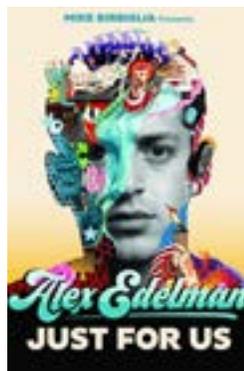
*Life Magazine, 1909,
by John Cecil Clay*

Membership is \$25 per person or you can also go to www.bbcblockassociation.org and click on join.

NABE NOTES

Cherry Lane Theatre

Alex Edelman: *Just For Us* returns to the Cherry Lane January 24 for four weeks only! Tickets from \$30 with code CHERRY. "Uproarious! Among his many strengths as a writer and performer is an exceptional eye for the absurd." – *The New Yorker*. "Edelman is master!" – *Time Out New York*



Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation
The Progressive Era, Book talk with **Paul Kaplan**.

February 10, 6:00 - 07:15pm. A Zoom Webinar.

Today's headlines are largely rooted in the Progressive Era. The years 1890-1920 produced sweeping reforms and profound change

in American life, especially in New York State. Reacting to the great inequalities from the Gilded Age, reformers pressed for laws for better housing, women's suffrage, personal income tax, labor protections, and far more. The era saw innovative ways of combatting social issues like the Settlement House movement. An unlikely alliance of reformers and Protestant ministers also passed Prohibition laws. Land preservation and animal rights were considered for the first time. Author Paul Kaplan will take us on a journey through these social movements, exposing their nuances and little-known dissenting voices. Historic photos, archived video, and poetry about and from that period will bring this era alive. Register: www.gvshp.org.



Paul Kaplan

Fighting Dark: A Talk Presented by the Black Gotham Experience Thursday, February 17, 6:00pm. A Zoom Webinar, **Kamau Ware** of Black Gotham Experience created a talk titled *Fighting Dark* in dialogue with the investigation of the legacy of racial violence in the United States in the exhibition **Howardena Pindell: Rope/Fire/Water**. The lecture focuses on Manhattan and Brooklyn's 19th century racial history and connects to Pindell's investigation of touch points in that same,



Kamau Ware

long history. Tracing back 100 years from the May 1963 Children's Crusade in Birmingham, Alabama, explored by Pindell in the exhibition's film, Ware's tours draw a line between that moment in the Civil Rights Movement and New York City's 1863 race riots here in Greenwich Village. These riots have often been explained as a consequence of the Civil War draft, an alibi that obscures the racial violence that white New Yorkers directed at their Black neighbors during the unrest.



Howardina Pindell

draw out lessons on how Black people find resilience in the face of racial violence. Register: www.gvshp.org

Save the Village, a Book Talk with **Michele Herman** Tuesday, February 22, 6:00pm. *Save the Village*, a fictional tale of life in Greenwich Village, is a literary love letter to the Village. Herman's protagonist, Becca Cammeyer — a Village tour guide living in a fifth-floor walk-up with her aging dog — barely escapes a devastating tragedy that forces her to confront her own paralysis, her survivor's guilt, and the mess she's made of her life. She embarks on wildly improbable reconciliations and new relationships, reflecting on a changing world and her beloved neighborhood.



Michele Herman

Herman's *Save the Village* is a true delight to read, and she'll join us via Zoom to discuss her literary inspiration and process as well as remark on her favorite memories of our neighborhood. Register now to eavesdrop on our conversation, and don't forget to purchase a copy of Herman's delightful new book. You can pre-order a hard-cover or paperback copy of *Save the Village* now from the publisher, Regal House. It will become widely available in paperback and ebook format after February 11. Register: www.gvshp.org



Children's March, Birmingham AL, 1963

Within this historiography, *Fighting Dark* speaks to a dark side of American history as well as the dark-skinned people who have been impacted by it, especially the Black New Yorkers who fled in the dark of night during the 1863 riots and those who enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War in what was called the "Colored Troops 20th Infantry" from New York City. The talk ultimately provides a platform to

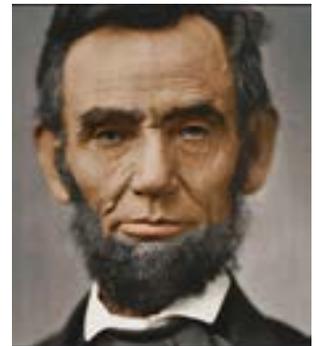


Draft Riots, 1863

Municipal Arts Society

[In-person tour] In the Footsteps of **Abraham Lincoln**, Saturday, February 12, 11:00am.

To mark the Great Emancipator's actual birthday, historian **Matt Postal** revisits the Civil War metropolis, considering a particularly historic stretch of lower Broadway, from the site of Barnum's American Museum to present-day SoHo. Highlights include various 19th century structures associated with the 16th president and his wife, **Mary Todd Lincoln**, including **Matthew Brady's** gallery and daguerreotype studio, the Haughwout department store, as well as theaters, saloons, and related amusements.



In-person tours are limited to 20 attendees and are held outdoors. Walking tours bring individuals into close proximity with each other, we therefore ask



Fire at P.T. Barnum's Museum at Broadway and Ann Street, July 13, 1865.

that all tour goers wear masks during the tours, regardless of vaccination status. Your tour guide and your fellow tour participants will thank you for your cooperation. Should the tours happen to venture indoors, many places require masks and/or proof of vaccination, so please be prepared to have both with you. MAS Walking Tours last approximately 2 hours. Meeting location is provided with registration. Members: \$20, Non-members \$30 www.mas.org



The Haughwout Building (Broome Street & Broadway, built 1857). It housed Eder V. Haughwout's emporium, selling cut glass, silverware and its own handpainted china. Wealthy clients included Mary Todd Lincoln, who had official WH china painted here. It featured the world's first successful passenger elevator.

Subway Art Tour Five Saturday, February 26, 12:00pm. [In-person tour] Most of the route for Subway Art Tour Five travels through the beautiful borough of Brooklyn! Join tour guide **Phil Desiere** as we continue our journey through the museum at the core of the Big Apple. After two stops in Lower Manhattan, where we see several artworks, Tour Five moves into Brooklyn. Four of the artworks date from late 2018. From examples



of picturesque 19th-century Bay Ridge houses to several colorful abstract artworks to the historic story of the subway Tour Five is a look at diverse public art. Masks are required on public transit. The fare is not included, so please have your own MetroCard or OMNY.

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Gotham Center for New York City History

Tuesday, February 15, 2022 4:00 - 5:30pm. A Zoom Webinar. *Where did all the Germans go?* By the early 1900s, New York City had one of the largest German-speaking populations in the world, and the largest in the United States. It became increasingly diverse economically and dispersed geographically, as second and third generation descendants from the 1840s-50s wave began moving out of the Lower East Side, America's first Kleindeutschland (Little Germany), moving uptown to Yorkville, and into Ridgewood, Glendale, and other neighborhoods in the outer boroughs. It was already in transition culturally when the anti-German campaign of World War I erupted.



Christina Ziegler-McPherson

In her new book, *The Great Disappearing Act: Germans in New York City, 1880-1930*, **Christina Ziegler-McPherson** takes a close look at the community before its ultimate assimilation, arguing that when confronted with the "One Hundred Percent Americanism" of the Great War, German Americans sought to make themselves invisible while still existing as a community. The book sheds new light on one of the largest urban ethnic concentrations in the US, one which has often been overlooked. A museum curator, visiting researcher at the Deutsches Schiffahrtsmuseum in Bremerhaven, Germany, and PhD, Ziegler-McPherson is the author of *Selling America: Immigration Promotion and the Settlement of the American Continent, 1607-1914*. Register: www.gothamcenter.org .

Resources & Information

A group of residents filed suit against the City of New York requesting an overturn of the Dept. of Transportation recommendation of the temporary restaurant sheds to become permanent. The twenty-three signers are members of CUEUP (Coalition United for Equitable Urban Policy), an alliance of neighborhood and block associations, organizations, institutions and businesses opposing making outdoor street dining permanent. They oppose the DOT's determination that the proposed Permanent Open Restaurants program would have no significant environmental impacts. The proposal, affecting the entire city, takes no account of those residents residing in areas with hundreds of sheds lining narrow streets, where residents have experienced increased noise, trash, congestion, and rodent infestation since the program started sixteen months ago.

The group is represented by **Michael Sussman**. In an interview, Sussman said, "The city owes it to the citizens to follow the law. You have to comply with very basic rules in implementing major changes to public policy and that just hasn't been done here." Most significantly, there has not been anything like a full environmental review...

Affidavits from residents that accompanied the lawsuit gave testimony to the problems they are experiencing. One petitioner attested that since six sheds and outdoor tables have been placed on her street, she feels as though she's walking through a restaurant. ...emergency vehicles as well as garbage and delivery trucks are unable to turn into some of the smaller streets in the neighborhood. Another petitioner who lives on West 4th Street, wrote about the privatization of public property...



Truck runs into abandoned outdoor shed.

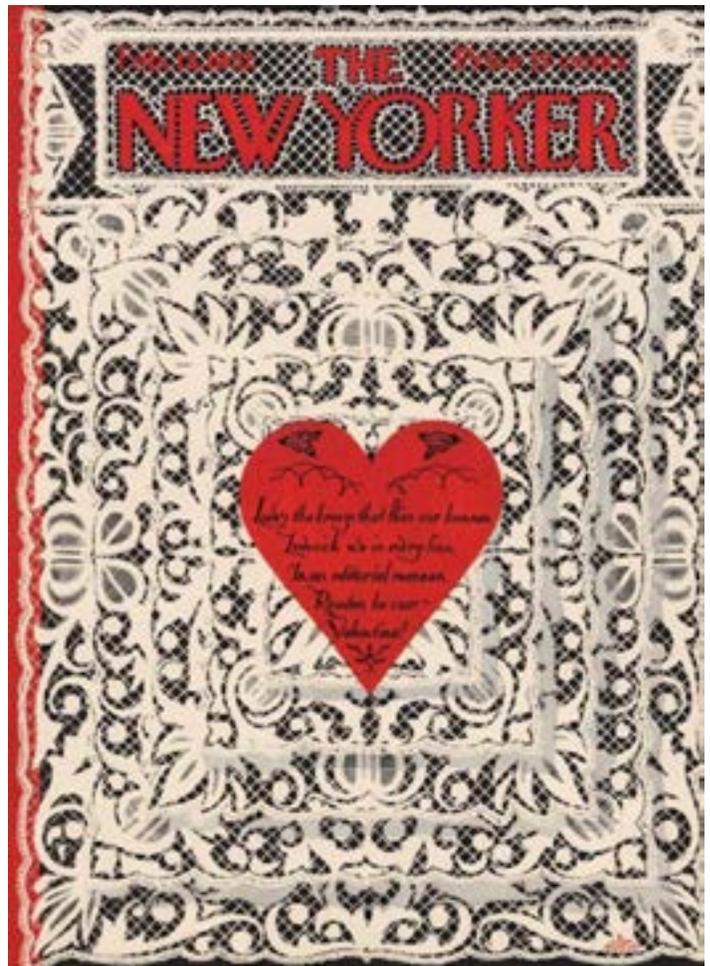
A petitioner attested that for an elderly person walking with a cane, the narrowing of the sidewalk made it more difficult and in places unsafe for her to walk. Others wrote about noise all day until midnight....And as others pointed out, in regard to rules accompanying the original program, hardly any have been enforced.

The proposed zoning regulations and the restaurant program policies will impact the entire city with little regard for street dimensions in particular areas...

abridged version written by a CUEUP member



A homeless person using a shed at 28 Cornelia Street



**Love's the breeze that flies our banner.
Lovesick we in every line,
In an editorial manner.
Readers, be our
Valentine**