



Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP IS (ONLY) \$25
bbcblockassociation.com
bedfordbarrowcommerce@gmail.com

April 2023
BBC News And Views

Nabe Notes

Save the Date

BBC Spring planting, Saturday, May 14, 10:00pm. Details to follow.

Greenwich House Music School:

Join us every Thursday night from April 6 - May 11 for an intimate concert experience with

April 6, Endea Owens and The Cookout, 4/13

April 13, Keyanna Hutchinson, 4/20

April 29 Mafer Bandola, 4/27

April 27 Nour Harkati (aka Mawwal),

May 4, Dana Lyn

May 11, the Oran Etkin Duo with Sasha Berliner.



Endea Owens & the Cookout

All concerts are held at the Music School Recital Hall. Tickets are \$20 or less and 100% of all ticket and merchandise sales go directly to the artists!

Uncharted is a concert series that encourages artists to take risks and work out new or existing material, col-

laborations, and projects for an intimate concert experience. In keeping with Greenwich House Music School's artist advocacy work, 100% of ticket and merchandise sales go directly to artists. Uncharted alumni include **Aaron Diehl, Marc Ribot, Sofia Rei, Deva Mahal, Bora Yoon, Shaina Taub, Celisse,** and many others.



Aaron Diehl

**Jefferson Market Garden
and Jefferson Market Library
Blooms and Books Benefit
Sunday, April 30**



Join them for the first annual benefit—5:00 pm wine tasting and music in the garden. 6:00 pm performance and reception in the library. Attire: festive: individual ticket \$250. Tickets available for purchase at jefferson-market-garden.org/blooms-books

**Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP)
WITH ROBERT PIGOTT**

American Renaissance-Architecture and the Gilded Age, Tuesday, April 18, 6:00 pm Zoom Webinar.

The book *An American Renaissance* has been painstakingly researched by author **Phillip James Dodd** and beautifully photographed by **Jonathan Wallen**. In this talk, Dodd offers us a close up examination of some of the finest examples of Beaux-Arts architecture in New York City. Greenwich Village has a deep histo-



The Neue Gallery, Carrere and Hastings, 1914

ry with many of the sites in the book, and author Phillip James Dodd will share some sites from Greenwich Village that did not appear in the book. Beautiful and rare images will be accompanied by Phillip's stories behind these buildings, their designs, those who lived or worked on them and the impact they had. Free Register www.gvshp.org

Women's History Tour Jefferson Market to Café Society, Thursday, April 20, 6:00pm.

Join Village Preservation as we walk through history in our own backyard. We will begin with a discussion of the current site of Jefferson Market Library and the impact this location has had on women's history in New York City. We'll end at Café Society, celebrating **Billie Holiday** and her courageous performance of *Strange Fruit* at that location. (Meeting location will be shared upon registration.)



Billie Holiday

Strange Fruit

Southern trees bear strange fruit
Blood on the leaves and blood at the root
Black bodies swinging in the Southern breeze
Strange fruit hanging from the poplar trees

Pastoral scene of the gallant South
The bulging eyes and the twisted mouth
Scent of Magnolias, sweet and fresh
Then the sudden smell of burning flesh
Here is a fruit for the crows to pluck
For the rain to gather, for the wind to suck
For the sun to rot, for the tree to drop
Here is a strange and bitter cry.

In between, we'll learn about women like **Lorraine Hansberry** who impacted the arts, literature, and culture, as well as those who fought for justice, such as **Edie S. Windsor** and **Thea Clara Spyer**. This is the first of our new Women's History Walking Tours series that will premiere new tours in Greenwich Village, the East Village, and NoHo throughout the year.



Lorraine Hansberry

Join us for this first tour, which covers a small area of our neighborhoods, but an incredibly wide array of women and the history they made. Register www.gvshp.org

Municipal Arts Society

Bensonhurst and Bath Beach in Brooklyn, April 16, 11:00 am - 1:00pm.

[In-person] Often used as the backdrop in movies to portray "the real New York," Bensonhurst and Bath Beach have been greatly influenced by the waves of immigrant groups that have made their homes here. Founded as part of Brooklyn's original six towns by possibly the first free Muslim American settler, they are now famed for their Italian and Chinese communities. We will groove around both neighborhoods with tour guide **Zack Rhodes**, visiting a site named after an



Italian national hero, learn about the murder/mystery of one of New York's earliest public park champions, and gaze upon the Brooklyn home of **Frankenstein, Superman, and Elvis**. By the end of the tour, you will understand why locals eat two slices of pizza stacked on top of each other. \$20 members, \$30 non-members. register www.mas.org

The Bowery: 400 Years on New York City's Oldest Street, April 23, 11:00am - 1:00pm. In-person] From flophouses to penthouses, the Bowery has seen it all. Native American footpath, Dutch farm road and site of NYC's first free black settlement, the Bowery was an early social hub for the working class, gangs, gays, and immigrant Irish, Italians, Chinese, Jews and Germans. **Stephen Crane** called it "the most interesting place in New York." An incubator of American history and culture, it has important links to Washington, Lincoln, baseball, streetcars, tap dance, tattoos, minstrelsy, Yiddish theater, vaudeville, **Stephen Foster, Irving Berlin, Harry Houdini, and Mae West**. A long-time home to rescue missions, affordable jewelry, lighting and restaurant supply districts, and an artist community, NYC's oldest, most architecturally diverse street — including its oldest brick house — was named to the Na-



tional Register of Historic Places in 2013. Despite such honors, it is one of the city's most endangered historic treasures. Join **David Mulkins** of Bowery Alliance of Neighbors for this tour. \$20 members, \$30 non-members register www.mas.org

Gotham Center of New York City History
Morgenthau: Four Generations of a New York City Dynasty, Thursday, April 20, 6:30pm - 8:00pm online
After coming from Germany in 1866, the Morgenthau family established a powerful dynasty in the United States. With an unprecedented, exclusive access to family archives, award-winning journalist and biographer **Andrew Meier** vividly chronicles how they amassed a fortune in Manhattan realty, advised presidents, advanced the New Deal, exposed the Armenian genocide, rescued victims of the Holocaust, waged war in the Mediterranean and Pacific, and, using their founda-

tion of private wealth, became a multi-generational force in local, state, and national government. In the words of former mayor **Ed Koch**, they were "the closest we've got to royalty in New York City." Hailed as "epic and intimate" (David M. Kennedy), "gripping and illuminating" (Fiona Hill), "a lasting achievement" (Adam Hochschild), and "utterly absorbing" (Gay Talese) register: [www.gothamcenter.org/upcoming events](http://www.gothamcenter.org/upcoming-events).



Henry Morgenthau, Jr.
Secretary of the Treasury

Resources & Information

In 2005, the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation organized a street tree inventory. Surveyors counted 592,130 trees which represents a "19% increase" in the population over the 1995-1996 population count of 499,130 trees. The 10 most common street trees in New York City as of 2005 are listed below.



1. London planetree 15.3%
"The London planetree is widely considered to be the world's most reliable city tree." The London plane tree was cherished by Robert Moses, NYC Parks Commissioner from 1934 to 1960. It is thought that the Parks Department's distinctive logo is based on the leaf of a London plane. The London plane is a hybrid between the native American sycamore and the non-native oriental plane tree.
2. Littleleaf linden 4.7
An allee of littleleaf lindens or Unter den Linden is famous in Berlin. The tree was said to be special to Freya—the Germanic and Norse goddess of love



and fertility – and Frigga – the goddess of love and marriage. Women hoping to carry would hug the tree wishing to become pregnant. The romance associated with the tree is still visible today, with its heart-shaped leaves and fragrant flowers.

3. Norway maple 14.1

“The very shade that endears the tree to some planters is bad news to others..

4. Green ash 3.5

“...even these most common street ashes have their



charms. The leaves grown fern-like, almost feathery, allowing dappled sunlight to reach the grass or espresso drinkers below.”

5. Callery pear 10.9

“A charming, widely used, and controversial street tree, cultivated from a hardy Asian species and embraced by urban landscapes for the last half of the twentieth century.”

6. Red maple 3.5

“Come spring, small, mostly red flower clusters emerge. The infant leaves that follow tend to be red. The paired seed wings (samaras) come out early, generally red-tinted. Through summer, the slender leaf-stalks glow a rhubarb red, though the leaf itself is medium green on top and whitish green below.”

7. Honeylocust 8.9

“The tree made it in New York, Chicago, and scores of other tough towns only when it lost its lethal thorns.... But the hybrid kept the traits that equip a tree for ur-

ban life: It shakes off heat, drought, air pollution, salt spray, and root drenching.”

8. Silver maple 3.2

“A big tree on American streets, Widely planted by earlier generations for its quick growth, shady spread, handsome two-toned foliage, and shaggy bark. Controversial for its tendency to break under stress.”

9. Pin oak 7.5

“A native of wet places (palustris is Latin for “of marshes”), the pin oak does fine in Cementland if it gets sun and acidic soil.”

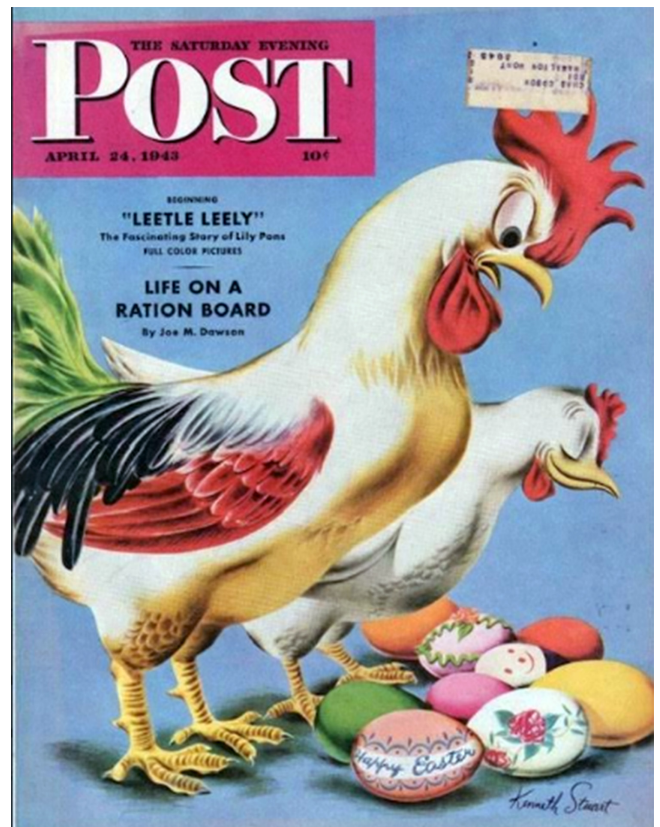
10. Ginkgo 2.8

“One of Earth’s oldest plant species, it spanned the temperate forests more than 200 million years ago.



And judging by fossil remains, it has not changed its essential character for perhaps 150 million years.”

by Georgia Silvera Seamans



Happy Easter from the BBC