



## Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association  
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

Annual Membership is \$25; For information,  
BBCBLOCKASSOCIATION.ORG  
BEDFORDBARROWCOMMERCE@GMAIL.ORG

### 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. Membership is \$25 per person or you can also go to [www.bbcblock-association.org](http://www.bbcblock-association.org) and click on join.

BBCer **Diane Wildowsky** has created a new website/blog [www.paintthetownmobile.com](http://www.paintthetownmobile.com) to help people navigate the 5 boroughs using a mobility scooter, which she now uses to get around the city. "I was very nervous about using it in the beginning, but it opened up so many opportunities for me. While there can be challenges using a mobility scooter on the subway and buses, it's all doable. You just have to be prepared."



#### NABE NOTES

##### Cherry Lane Theatre

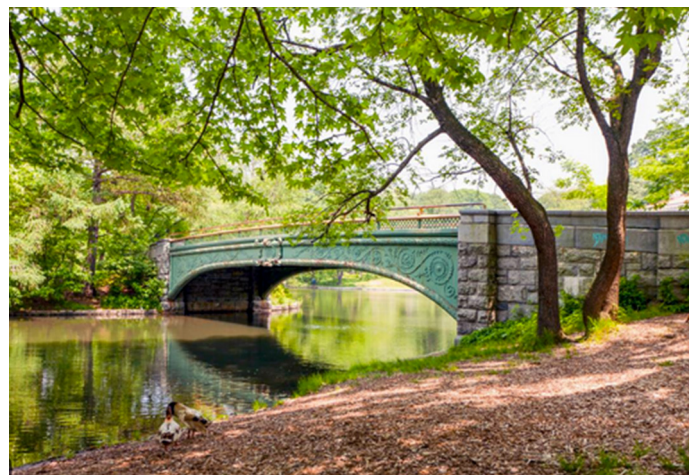
Cherry Lane Theatre Legacy Project. Call for Oral Histories! As a part of our centennial project, we are

putting together an oral history chronically life in our theatre spanning across the century. All who have come through the doors of the Cherry Lane are as vital to our history as each brick that makes up our stage...and that includes you! Have a favorite Cherry Lane memory? Did you work on a show at Cherry Lane? Please tell us! Email us at [company@cherrylanetheatre.org](mailto:company@cherrylanetheatre.org) to share your own. Cherry Lane story with us.



#### Municipal Arts Society

*From Howling Wilderness to Historic District: Prospect Heights and Grand Army Plaza.* February 18, 11:00AM - 1:00PM. (In-person tour) *The New York Times* once described the area of Brooklyn now known as Prospect Heights as a "howling wilderness." On this





tour of Prospect Heights and Grand Army Plaza with **Lucie Levine**, we'll find out how this petit neighborhood, located on the northeastern edge of Prospect Park, went from a rural expanse to a historic district, home to some of the city's most spectacular brownstone and row house architecture. Along the way, we'll find out where architects set out to build the world's largest museum, how Frederick Law Olmsted intended to connect Prospect Park to Central Park, and why



the Central Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library took nearly 40 years to build! For all tours, there are no refunds, cancellations, or exchanges unless we cancel a tour. Online registration closes one hour prior to the tour start time. Tickets \$30, [www.mas.org](http://www.mas.org).

**Exploring the Historic Meatpacking District**, February 25, 11:00AM - 01:00PM.

(In-person tour) Although today's Meatpacking District is known for its trendy restaurants and avant-



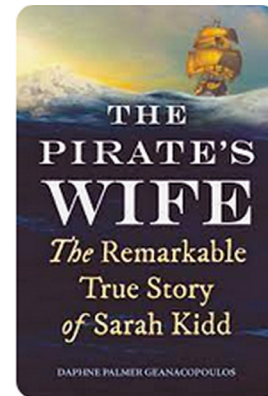
*The Meatpacking District in 1920*

garde art, it had been New York's meatpacking hub for over a century. How did this now landmarked area evolve over the course of 400 years, and what remnants from its rich past can still be seen today? Join native New Yorker **Jacquelyn Ottman** - a fifth generation member of one of New York City's pioneering family of butchers - to experience the legacy of the Meatpacking District. For all tours, there are no refunds, cancel-

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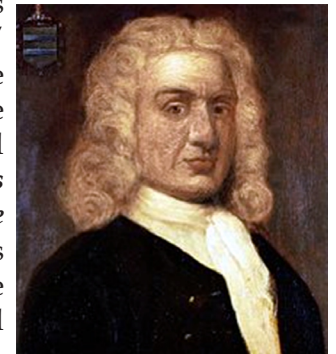
**The Gotham Center of New York History**

*The Pirate's Wife: Sarah Kid and the Golden Age of Piracy in New York City*, Tuesday, February 21, 2023



6:30PM - 8:00PM. Captain Kidd was one of the most notorious pirates to ever sail the seas. But few know the behind-the-scenes player who enabled his plundering and helped him outpace his enemies. That accomplice was his wife Sarah, a well-to-do woman whose extraordinary life is a lesson in reinvention and resourcefulness. Twice widowed by twenty-one and operating

within the strictures of polite society in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century New York, Sarah secretly aided and abetted her husband, fighting off his accusers alongside him. Marshaling newly discovered sources from archives in London, New York and Boston, historian and journalist **Daphne Palmer Geanacopoulos** reconstructs her life and places it within the city, a "utopia" for pirates in the Golden Age of Piracy. A compelling tale of love, treasure, motherhood and survival, *The Pirate's Wife: The Remarkable True Story of Sarah Kidd* weaves together the personal and the epic in a sweeping historical story of romance and adventure. General Tours [www.gotham-center.org](http://www.gotham-center.org).



*Captain Kidd*

**92nd Street Y Tours & Excursions**

Offers the most extensive tour program in New York, with hundreds of outings covering every aspect of city





life and everything there is to see and experience in and around “the best of all possible cities.” Whether you’re interested in the arts, urban planning, gardens and parks, or grand homes; whether you’re eager to sneak a peak inside “members only” locations, visit off-the-beaten-path locales, look behind the scenes at New York’s theater, design, food and financial services industries, or check out the city’s many diverse, thriving neighborhoods, the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y has a tour to suit your taste. [www.gothamcenter.org/tours](http://www.gothamcenter.org/tours)

### Artists’ Open Call

In keeping with the BBC’s long tradition of supporting the arts, the BBC wants to establish an artists’ network and community within the West Village. Visual artists working in all mediums, who are interested in personal and professional collaborations, expanding their network, and potential exhibitions are welcome to join. This is an open call to both BBC Members and artists living or working in the West Village, 10014. Join us in an excellent opportunity to make connections in our creative community and beyond. Galleries and Collectives are also welcome. If you have interest, please get in touch with Kathy at [bedfordbarrowcommerce@gmail.com](mailto:bedfordbarrowcommerce@gmail.com)



Pinky’s – a self-described “food art-space” on East First Street and First Avenue that opened in 2017 – says it invested \$90,000 to build an outdoor dining area and garden replete with “a crystal chandelier, hanging disco ball, neon lights and works of art to parallel its indoor space,” the filing claims.



*Morton Street at Bedford looking towards Bleeker on March 17, 1893. The piles of manure in the street were produced by some of the 150,000 horses which lived in NYC at the time.*

## Old News

The story of the twin houses of Commerce Street In the West Village, at that wonderful cow-path bend where Commerce Street winds around to merge into Barrow Street, sit two stately antebellum homes. Numbers 39 and 41 Commerce Street, built in 1831 when the village of Greenwich was transitioning from a suburb to part of the larger city, are twin separate stand-alone houses, joined together by a small shared garden behind a concrete wall.



## Resources & Information



Pinky’s Space says the city Department of Transportation on Oct. 27, without notice, demolished the 30-foot outdoor dining shed built during the pandemic under the city’s Open Restaurant Program, a Manhattan Supreme Court lawsuit filed Thursday charged. The suit is seeking \$615,000.





These two beauties remind me of sisters—and a legend about two sisters may be in their history. The story has it that the houses were built by a sea captain who had two feuding daughters. The daughters wouldn't speak to each other, so he built identical houses for them with the shared garden, hoping they would get along again. Who doesn't want to believe a story like that? Unfortunately, no evidence supports it.



*Houses in 1913*

A New Jersey milkman named Jacob Huyler is credited with building the twin houses, which originally stood only two stories high. Huyler never lived in New York, but he did not sell the buildings—he held them for rental,” wrote **Christopher Gray** in the *New York Times* in 1996. One of those renters was listed at the time as a captain.

By the end of the 19th century, the mansard roofs and a third floor were added, and both homes were carved



up into rooming houses for artists and working-class residents. Today in a pricier Greenwich Village, the houses are single-family residences again. They retain their 19<sup>th</sup> century loveliness, and strollers often stop and stare. These twin beauties are emblems of a much different New York, when a legend about a sea captain using real estate to help bring two sisters together doesn't seem like too much of a stretch to believe.



*Last two photos by Berenice Abbott in 1937*



**HAPPY ST. VALENTINE'S DAY  
FROM THE BBC**