



## Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association  
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

A Happy and Healthy 2023  
to All Our Friends and Neighbors!

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### BBC NEWS AND VIEWS

Re-up Your BBC Membership!  
And Become a BBC Tree Hugger!!

Our over 100 street trees give our neighborhood its special country village feel. But our trees, and the maintenance of our tree-pits, take an enormous financial commitment. In 2022, the BBC spent funds on fall and spring plantings, painting and maintaining tree guards and lampposts, and lastly graffiti removal. When you renew your membership, please consider becoming a BBC Tree Hugger and making a donation for the care and maintenance of our trees and tree-pits. You will be thanked many times over on summer days by shade and cooling breezes afforded by our trees, and the beauty of flowers always blooming in our tree-pits.



family and friends. This is the same Off-Broadway house where you can find Ars Nova producing the downtown theater scenes' hottest new shows. Register [www.greenwichhouse.org](http://www.greenwichhouse.org)

### Greenwich House Pottery School

"A Figure Enters", Paul Narkiewicz, January 13 - February 24, 2023. The Jane Hartsook Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of work by Paul Narkiewicz, curated by Megan Mi-Ai Lee. In the past ten years, Narkiewicz has created over 600 iterations of an abstract human figure in clay. Influenced by his background in painting and printmaking, each figure is composed of individual slabs of clay that are textured,



pigmented, cut, and assembled into distinct figures using nichrome wire. This exhibition brings together 50 of these sculptures, representing an overview of his pro-

### Greenwich House Music School

The magic of children's acting and theater will return to Greenwich House Music School. Acting and Improv and Musical Theater, for ages 8-11, will run from January through early June.

Acting and Improv, Thursdays, 4-5:30pm teaches performance and improv skills that empower young actors to create their own plays and characters.

Musical Theater, Tuesdays, 4-5:30pm. Introduces young performers to famous musicals and guides them to create their own original musical performance. Both classes culminate in a performance on the stage of our historic Greenwich House Theater in June for



duction and stylistic evolution over the past decade, and presents them with a selection of his watercolors capturing the Italian countryside from the 1970s.

### Center on the Square Art Show

Over 70 works are on display in various mediums such as acrylics, watercolors, linedrawing, photography, mixed media, crafts, and jewelry. The Art Show was produced by a dedicated volunteer committee of artists. The show is on view during center hours 9:00am. till 4:30pm. now through January 22 at Center on the Square, 20 Washington Square N.

### Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

Discover the Art of the NYC Subway System in the Village Date/Time: January 26, 06:00-07:15pm. Free. Zoom Webinar. Pre-registration required.

Join us for this fascinating look at a subterranean art world. The first NYC subway train set off from the City Hall station in October 1904. From this time to the present, art has been a feature of New York’s subway system. In its early years, the art served as directional and identifying signs, composed of mosaic 6:00 - 7:15pm ET Free. Zoom Webinar. Pre-registration required.

Tiles, used because of their durability. Tile mosaics remain the preferred medium for subway artwork in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s extensive art collection is managed by its Arts and Design department. Join Village Preservation and NYC tour guide and historian **Phil Desire** as we explore the art of the subways from the cozy comfort of our homes. As the weather warms, we hope to venture out into the subway system for an in-person tour. [www.gvshp.org](http://www.gvshp.org)

“The Legacy of Woman Sculptors in Public Art”, Date/Time: January 30, 06:00 - 07:15pm, Free, Zoom Webinar: pre-registration required.

Until August of 2020, New York City had only had five public art works that portray actual (as opposed to fictional) women. At the same time there were scores of

such works of men. But there is a huge number of sculptures which were created by female artists, starting with **Emma Stebbins’** iconic *Angel of the Waters* in Central Park. During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was mostly upper class women who

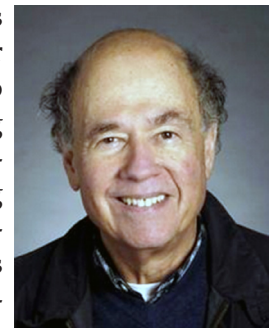


*Louise Nevelson*

received the artistic training and won the public commissions to create such statuary. But in the 20<sup>th</sup> century these commissions for female sculptors expanded and included both figurative and abstract works. Some of these artists include **Anne Huntington, Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney, Marisol** and **Louise Nevelson**. Join Village Preservation and art historian and tour guide **Sylvia Laudien-Meo** as we discover the role and responsibility of female sculptors in our neighborhoods. This program includes shared images via webinar and facilitated group discussion. [www.gvshp.org](http://www.gvshp.org)

### Gotham Center of New York City History

“Working Class Utopias: A History of Cooperative Housing in New York City, Tuesday, January 24, 4:00 - 5:30pm. As World War II ended and Americans turned their attention to problems at home, union leaders and other prominent New Yorkers came to believe that cooperative housing would solve the city’s century-old problem of providing housing at a reasonable cost for working-class families. In “Working-Class Utopias: A History of Cooperative Housing in New York City”,



**Robert Fogelson**, one of the nation’s foremost urban historians, tells the story of this ambitious movement from the construction of the Amalgamated Houses after World War I to the building of Co-op City, the world’s largest hous-





ing cooperative, four decades later. **Matthew Lasner**, co-editor of "Affordable Housing in New York: The People, Places, and Policies That Transformed a City", joins in conversation. Register: [www.gothamcenter.org](http://www.gothamcenter.org)

### Municipal Arts Society

"From Sugar Hill to Washington Heights" [In-person tour] Join MAS Director of Tours **Ted Mineau** for a walk in Upper Manhattan from Sugar Hill to Washington Heights. We'll look at architecture from colonial times to today and talk about the people who live and lived here, as well as the many changes that have occurred here. Saturday, January 21, 11:00am-1:00pm (meeting location delivered in registration confirmation email) Tickets: Member: \$20 Non-member: \$30 [www.mas.org](http://www.mas.org)



*Sugar Hill*

"New to New York: Midtown South/NoMad", January 28, 11:00am - 01:00pm. [In-person tour] Over the past decade or so, a varied group of new office buildings and residential towers have been planted in and around Madison Square. Join architectural historian **Matt Postal** for a walk through this rapidly evolving neighborhood, including structures with distinctive glass, metal and masonry facades by such prominent



firms as **CetraRuddy**, **Christian de Portzamparc**, **OMA** - **Shohei Shigematsu**, and **Rafael Vinoly**. \$30 [www.mas.org](http://www.mas.org)

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.

## Old News

New York City's first trains were above ground in the 1800s. Towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, they went from being at street level to elevated. The Great Blizzard of 1888 highlighted the need for an underground transportation system when trains were halted and buried in snow, according to an opinion piece in the *New York Tribune* in March of that year.

In October 1904, New York City's first under-



*NYC's first underground subway tour, 1904*  
ground subway opened. By 1925, the average New Yorker was riding the subway 276 times a year, historical author **Ronald Reis** wrote in his 2009 book, "The



*Subway car, 1930s*



New York City Subway System.”

In the 1930s, the city started a public line, IND, that swallowed the competing BMT (Brooklyn-based) and IRT (Manhattan-based) lines by the end of the decade. The IND cars were faster than the BMT fleet and larger than the IRT trains. The three lines merged into the New York City Transit Authority in 1939.

In 1953, New York City introduced the subway token to replace the coin system at the turnstiles. Trains in the 1950s had porthole windows, giving them a nautical look.

Before the 1950s, subway cars didn’t have air-conditioning. They were cooled with fans. In the mid-1950s, the city installed air-conditioning. But it failed within two weeks, with water dripping onto passengers. The first successful air-conditioned subways hit the rails in 1967.

By the 1970s, graffiti artists had “turned the city subway system into the world’s largest doodle board,” *The Sun* reported in 1972. The city painted many subways red to cover up the markings. But graffiti artists kept using freshly painted subways as blank canvases. This went on until the end of the 1980s, when the city increased security and sped up efforts to clean the marked cars, *The New York Times* reported in 1988. “If a train on a clean line was hit, it was taken out of service immediately until it was cleaned.” According to a 1989 *New York Times* report, the New York Transit Authority said that the subways were graffiti-free at the time.

In the early 1990s, the MetroCard was introduced. Unlimited cards weren’t introduced until 1998. **Jack Lusk**, senior vice president for customer service at the city’s Transit Authority, told *The New York Times* in 1993 that the cards would be “the biggest change in the culture of the subways” since the three systems unified in 1939.

The new millennium brought in a new subway fleet. The new cars had wider doors and flip-up priority seating, according to the subway’s new car procurement contract. The new cars brought digital directions to life, including signboards, a public-announcement system, and light-up maps that showed riders their location. Five years later, the newest cars on the tracks came out with digital boards that showed riders the order of stops and where they were.

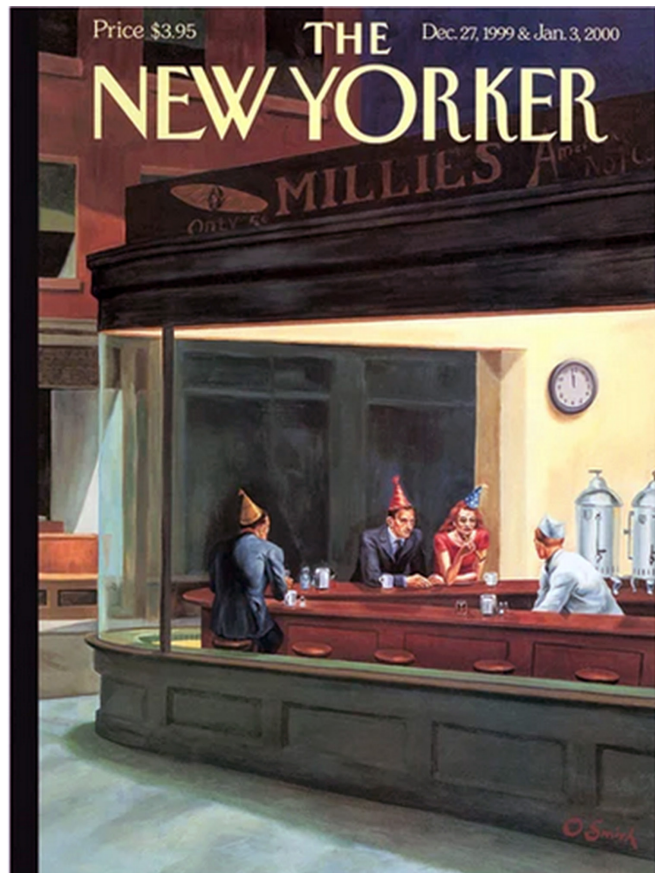
In 2022, the city released its most advanced

subway cars yet. The doors will be 8 inches wider than subway cars on the rails today. Eventually some of them will have open gangways instead of doors between cars, according to the same press release. The MTA announced that the cars will have a larger space reserved for people who use wheelchairs. Wider doors will also make these trains more accessible for people who have disabilities, according to the MTA. *from The Insider*



New subway cars

A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR FROM THE \$BC



Cover art by Owen Smith