



## Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association  
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

Annual Membership is still (only) \$25;  
[BEDFORDBARROWCOMMERCE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BEDFORDBARROWCOMMERCE@GMAIL.COM)

### BBC NEWS AND VIEW October 2017

There is no October meeting. The next BBC Meeting is Wednesday, November 1, BBC Literary Soiree! This will be our third BBC Literary Soiree! Featuring the talents of our very own BBC poets, novelists, playwrights and nonfiction writers . . .

The BBC invites YOU to read from your work, published or unpublished, at the November 1 BBC Meeting, at 7 PM, at the Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.). Please come and share your poems, your Great American Novel, your short story, your memoir, your narrative nonfiction, or your play. Open to all BBCers of ALL ages. Kids are very welcome to share their writing too!

We ask any interested writer to register, via email ([KathrynDonaldson@aol.com](mailto:KathrynDonaldson@aol.com)), if you would like to read. PLEASE NOTE: WE ARE LIMITING THE READERS TO TEN, WHO EACH WILL READ FOR SEVEN MINUTES, MAXIMUM.

If we have more than ten writers who want to participate, we will schedule another reading event. But please be aware, we are limited by time constraints. If you are interesting in participating, please register, and at the same time, include a brief bio (several lines), which will be read to the audience when you are introduced at the BBC Literary Soiree. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your work at this exciting premier event. And bring your fans, friends and family!

In spite of all the continual street work, the New York City Parks Department planted four new trees this summer. We are also promised one additional tree this fall. Concerning the road work and its end date, the New York City Department of Design and Construction sends weekly notices to Councilmember Corey

Johnson's office 212.564.7757 or [district3@council.nyc.gov](mailto:district3@council.nyc.gov). You can also contact **Joanna Jgiello-Moscibrodzka**, the Office Engineer at 917.675.7292 or at [hwp2013@gmail.com](mailto:hwp2013@gmail.com).

### 2017 Holiday Party

This year's BBC Holiday Party (it's never too early to mark your calendars to make sure you're in town for the best holiday party for kids and grown-ups, not just in the Village, but in all of New York City!) is set for Saturday, December 9 at Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.) 6-9 pm. So save that date!



**The Bedford Downing Block Association will carry on its unique tradition—a Fall sidewalk sale—on October 14, 10 AM to 5 PM, with proceeds going to neighborhood improvement and beautification.** The sale, which is open to the public, will be held on Downing Street between Sixth Avenue and Bedford Street. No rain date. Whether buying or selling, BBCers are always welcome! If you live in the "catchment area" of the Bedford Downing Block Association, the space costs \$25. (In other words if you live on Bedford or Downing

Streets between Sixth and Seventh Avenues or in 10 Downing or on that bit of West Houston that is like part of Bedford it's \$25.) If you live anyplace else the space costs \$50. Payment must be received up front and is non-refundable. NO payments on the day



of the sale. Please make checks to Bedford Downing Block Association and mail to **Mary Ann Pizza**, 19 Bedford Street, Apt. # 1, NYC, 10014. Please include your email with the check so Mary Ann can acknowledge receipt.

**The Greenwich Village Film Festival** is coming on October 25-28 at Greenwich House Music School Renee Weiler Concert Hall. This year we have 4 categories all 20 minutes or less.

Greenwich Village Portraits; Short Narrative Films; Documentaries; Animation

Go to [www.Greenwichvillagefilmfestival.com](http://www.Greenwichvillagefilmfestival.com) for tickets and details.

## NABE NOTES

**Cherry Lane Theatre** has announced the line-up for its third annual week long program of master classes, Cherry Lane School.

The program covers everything from audition prep with a casting director, playwriting and screenwriting workshops, and a conversation with Broadway designers. The initiative features panel discussions and workshop sessions with leading members of the theatre community.



Cherry Lane School begins October 16 and runs October 23 to 27. Admission to the individual events are \$30 for the first session, with additional classes priced at \$20. The panel discussions are free. More details to come, keep an eye on [CherryLaneTheatre.org](http://CherryLaneTheatre.org) for updates!

## Greenwich House Music School

Wednesday, October 4 at 8PM doors at 7PM \$20: **Kurt Anderson and Vienna Teng**: Words and Music. In this reading and live music series, songwriters perform "answer songs" written in response to a story. **Kurt Andersen** (host of Studio 360), will read from his new book "Fantasyland: How American Went Haywire" and songwriters **Vienna Teng** and **Ben Arthur** will perform their responses

Kurt Andersen



Friday, Oct 6, 8:00PM \$15 (\$12 for students & seniors): **Sound it Out**: Stephan Crump's *Rhombal* Bassist **Stephan Crump** returns to the *Sound It Out* series to present his quartet *Rhombal*, featuring trumpeter **Adam O'Farrill**, tenor saxophonist **Ellery Eskelin** & drummer **Kassa Overall**.

Monday, Oct 9, 8:00PM \$20 (\$15 for students & seniors): **Sound It Out**: **Ethan Iverson & Orrin Evans** *Play Monk* **Ethan Iverson & Orrin Evans** – the once and future pianists of The Bad Plus – join together to duet on the double Steinways at Greenwich House, performing the music of **Thelonious Monk** for the bebop icon's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Theolonius Monk

The October 12 show only has the following info since the original band cancelled: Weds Oct 12: 7:30PM: **Sound It Out** A solo double-bill with pianist, **Anthony Coleman** and TBD

Friday, October 13 at 7PM \$15 (\$10 seniors & students): *German Diez Recital Series* with **Jerome Lowenthal** Featuring pieces from Composers: Mozart, Chopin, Debussy, Poulenc, Prokofieff

**Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation** Native American History walking tour: From the West to East Village, Saturday, October 7AM-1PM. **Evan Pritchard**, author of *Native New Yorkers: The Legacy of the Algonquin People of New York*, will take you on a journey through the history of New York's streets from west to east. Starting in the Meatpacking District, you'll traverse the island through Greenwich Village before ending at the St. Mark's in-the-Bowery graveyard in the East Village where Peter Stuyvesant is interred. Co-sponsored by the Village Alliance. Free. Reservations required. Meeting location provided upon reservation.

[The event takes place entirely on the sidewalk and does not enter any buildings. It is fully accessible. For more information about accessibility on this tour, contact 212.475.9585.



Evan Pritchard

*Tenements, Towers, and Trash: An Unconventional, Illustrated History*, Wednesday, October 11, 6:30 - 8:00 PM, Loaisaida Center, Inc., 710 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street. **Julia Wertz**, the cartoonist behind *Drinking at the Movies* and *The In-*





Julia Wertz

*finite Wait*, presents this illustrated discussion of her newest book, *Tenements, Towers & Trash: An Unconventional, Illustrated History of New York City* which is an expansion of her monthly history comics for *The New Yorker*. [This event is fully accessible.]

**Lorraine Hansberry**  
**Plaque Installation**, Monday, October 16, 5PM. 112 Waverly

Place. Join GVSHIP on Waverly Place to mark this important site of Greenwich Village and African American culture. Guest speakers will highlight the many ways Hansberry inspired and influenced the world around her.

*New York Deco* with **Tony Robins** Wednesday, October 18, 6:30 - 8:00PM. Jefferson Mar-

Lorraine Hansberry



ket Library, 425 Sixth Avenue. Join Tony Robins, expert tour guide and author of *New York Deco: A Guide to Gotham's Jazz Age Architecture*, for this exploration of our Art Deco world. He will discuss famed skyscrapers including the Daily News, Empire State, General Electric, American Radiator, and RCA Buildings; and then trace the adaptation of this "skyscraper style" from apartment buildings on the Bronx's Grand Concourse and airport terminals at LaGuardia to charming Deco parking garages, diners, hotels, banks, and theaters. Purchase Tony's book at the event and have him sign your copy. Free for members of GVSHIP only. Call 212.475.9585 x35 to reserve.

[This event is fully accessible.]

*Twenty Years Later: Preserving Federal Houses* Tuesday, October 24, 6:30 - 8:00PM, Hudson Park Library, 44 Leroy Street. **Susan De Vries**, now a researcher, writer, and a building historian, began the Federals research as a GVSHIP intern twenty years ago and eventually expanded the project into her master's thesis. She will be joined by current GVSHIP staff members and others to discuss the long and arduous road towards trying to protect these charming and hearty survivors in the Lower Manhattan landscape.

## Neighborhood Notes & Notables

NYU and Community board 2 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Parade. will be held October 31, 3PM. Meet at the Washington Square Arch. This is the largest free children's event in New York City.

Hear from NY's top leaders in Technology in a roundtable discussion! The forum brings together over 200 technology experts and policy leaders responsible for technology, information, data, analytics, security and more. This event will feature 3 top government leaders in technology to sit in a "Fireside Chat" format with the editorial team at City & State. Tuesday, October 17. 8:30-10:00AM, 1855 Broadway, New York, NY 10023. For more information, please contact **Lissa Blake** at [Lblake@cityandstateny.com](mailto:Lblake@cityandstateny.com)

State legislators passed 606 bills this year, the fewest since 2012, according to a report by the New York Public Interest Research Group making it the fifth-least productive year in Albany since 1997.

The NYPD has to scrap the 36,000 Microsoft-based Nokia smartphones it just finished handing out to cops over the past two years as part of a \$160 million mobility initiative because they're already obsolete.

JAMES BEARD FOUNDATION'S

**TASTE  
AMERICA**

PHL



Friday, October 13, 2017  
6:00 PM

Museum of the  
American Revolution

Featuring a night of culinary stars, including Marc Murphy (Benchmarc Restaurants) and Greg Vernick (Vernick Food and Drink, plus an exciting line-up of Philadelphia's top culinary talent. Visit [JBFTASTEAMERICA.ORG](http://JBFTASTEAMERICA.ORG) for details.

## Old News

As the 19<sup>th</sup> century drew to a close, Greenwich Village was no longer a quiet hamlet. Apartment buildings re-



placed many of the old, low homes of the 1820s and cafes and artist studios were appearing. In the fall of 1898 partners **Gustav J. Dohrenwend** and **Otto A. Leister** purchased 90 and 92 Bedford Street, and 20 Grove Street from David B. Cocks. 90 Bedford was a three-story wooden house, 92 was a three-story brick house (both converted to “tenements”), and the corner structure at 20 Grove was a Federal-style brick house converted at street level for a store. It housed William Hineman’s grocery store. A Civil War veteran, Hine-man had only one arm; having lost the other in the Second Battle of Bull Run.

Leister & Dohrenwend demolished the old structures and hired architects Schneider & Hertzer to design a six-story “store and flat” building. The term “flats” as opposed to “tenement” in the filings suggested that these apartments would be targeted to middle-class residents. The cost of the building was estimated at \$26,000--more than \$765,000 today.

Completed in 1899, the architects had produced a strik-



ing Renaissance Revival structure of beige brick, with elements of Romanesque Revival. A cast iron store front faced Grove Street, necessitating the residential entrance to be placed on Bedford Street. Here a stately carved canopy protected the perhaps surprisingly narrow entrance--just one door wide.

Terra cotta spandrel panels between the second the third floor openings carried on the Renaissance motif with masks, dolphins and shields. Rising from ornate cartouches and executed in masterful brickwork, they included frame-like panels, and projecting pilasters joined by arches.

90 Bedford Street became home to respectable families who brought little unwanted attention to the building. Sons went off to fight in World War I, then World War II. One of them was **Ralph Sposato** who served in the Army Air Forces during the Second World War.

Early on the morning of April 19, 1946, just seven months after the war ended, the 23-year old was drinking in a nearby bar. Also in the bar was **Marine Corporal James Ward**, who lived in Bayonne, New Jersey. Sposato took a marked exception to a remark he overheard.

Ward was unhappy with the newly-formed United Nations. He said “In view of the way things are shaping up, I think it might have been all right if Hitler had won the war and we had one group of people ruling the world, such as the U.N. is trying to do now.”



Sposato walked over and asked the marine what he meant, adding that he was disgracing his uniform. Ward simply replied “Go back where you came from.”

The next thing he knew, he was looking up at the Sposato from the floor. He had been knocked down with a single punch to the jaw. Ward called for a policeman; but he probably should have let the matter die.

When **Magistrate Anna M. Kross** heard the reason for the assault, she notified Ward’s commanding officer and the marine found himself explaining his remarks to a Marine Corps inquiry. Following the hearing (his case was adjourned until May 10), Ward told a reporter he did not understand why everyone was upset, “just because I said one man should rule the world. I was making a comparison to the U.N., itself a dictatorship,” he said.

Ralph Sposato was let go.

*from Daytonian in Manhattan  
(Continued in November)*