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Block Association
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

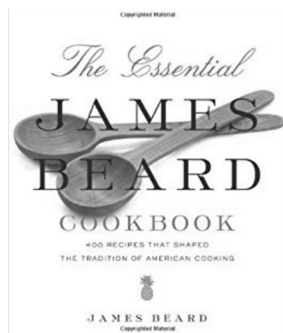
Annual Membership is \$25; For information,
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BBC February 2018 NEWS AND VIEWS

There is no February meeting. Our next meeting is Wednesday, March 7 at 7:00PM at the Greenwich House Music School. Documentary film *James Beard: America's First Foodie* will be shown. This is the first film to chronicle and celebrate the iconic American cook, James Beard. Written and directed by award-winning filmmaker **Elizabeth Federici** and produced by acclaimed food writer and bbcer **Kathleen Squires**, this documentary had its television debut on May 19, 2017 on PBS' *American Masters*. While many know the name James Beard because of the food industry awards that bear his name, few really know about the "man behind the medal". Beard was a longtime Greenwich Village resident, whose cookbooks, prolific and impassioned writing, and pioneering 1946 TV show celebrated American cuisine at a time when the food world was focused on all things European. Today's vibrant restaurant scene, our renewed focus on local ingredients and home cooking, even the Food Network, would not exist without Beard's groundbreaking work.



Co-producer BBCer Kathleen Squires has been a resident of Barrow Street for 24 years. A food and travel writer, Squires's work has spanned book, blog, newsprint and glossy, appearing in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Savueur*, *Conde Nast Traveler* and



many other publications. She is also the co-author of several cookbooks and in 2016, Kathleen was awarded first prize of Les Dames d'Escoffier International's M. F. K. Fisher Award for Excellence in Culinary Writing.

BBC Membership

Thanks to all who have re-upped. You will find your new membership card in this mailing. Those of you who have not rejoined will find another membership letter. Be sure to make your checks payable to BBC Block Association. Membership is \$25 per person. You can also go to www.bbcblockassociation.org and click on join. Either way, please do remember those trees! You'll feel great-guaranteed!!

Heartfelt thanks from **Dale Belli**, of The Urban LifeSource Connection, to the many BBCers who contributed so many useful items to the PWA Holiday Project. Dale writes that they gave 23 Christmas parties in 18 different nursing homes and hospitals, including refreshments, entertainment and wrapped Christmas gifts. Dale & company handed out over 1560 gifts, as well as, 50 stockings filled with toiletries and 75 gift bags. Thank YOU, Dale, for all that you do!



NABE NOTES

Cherry Lane Theatre JoinBBCer **Laura Fredericks**, Vice-Chair of Cherry Lane Theatre Board for Show-Score's Business of Broadway Salon on Saturday, February 10th at 1:00PM. Laura will teach you the best ways to ask for and get the funding you need. If you're interested in becoming a producer yourself, or



are only curious where all that money comes from, this class will teach you the best way to make the big ask. For tickets go to <https://fareharbor.com/show-score/items/61007/> There's a link at the upper left for times and tix. Laura's is on Feb 10. Use code CHERRY for 50% off.

Valentine's Day is right around the corner and we're offering a "sweetheart deal". Support Cherry Lane Theatre today and we'll DOUBLE your donor benefits. Our generous Board of Directors will match, dollar-for-dollar, contributions made now through March 5. Your gift will have TWICE the impact, so we're offering 2x the perks:

For \$100 or more, you and a guest are invited to post-show discussions

For \$250 or more, share your early access to premium seating with a friend

For \$500 or more, you'll receive invitations for two to our Opening Night receptions

Take advantage of this sweet opportunity and keep bold, new plays in the heart of Greenwich Village. Please consider making your gift at CherryLaneTheatre.org/support today. Literally, every dollar you contribute helps make our programming happen. We simply can not do it without you!



Greenwich House Pottery

FREE: Through Feb 9 at Greenwich House Pottery, 16 Jones St. The Jane Hartsook Gallery is pleased to present new work by **A.M Martens**. In her artwork, Martens uses everyday objects and spaces to reveal the inner structures that shape our individual points of view. In this installation, Martens uses imagery and personal recollections from exploring construction sites with her family as a child to consider the way experiences and relationships shape us and the way memory can be a window into our subjectivity.

FREE: February 16, at 3:00PM. at Greenwich House Pottery, 16 Jones St. **Eun-Ha Paek** will give a talk about the work she has been developing while in residence as Greenwich House Pottery's current Fellowship Artist. Paek is interested in the mutability of memory and has been developing her project using a 3D printer and

hand-built sculpture. Seats are limited.

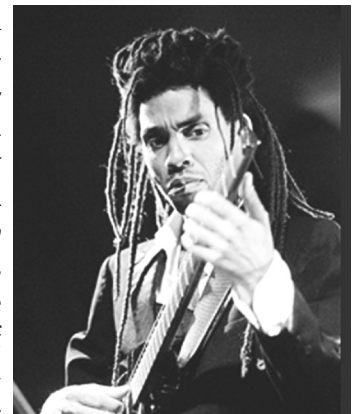
FREE: February 23 at 5:00 p.m. at Greenwich House Pottery, 16 Jones St. Opening reception for **Daniel Bare**. The Jane Hartsook Gallery is pleased to present new work by Daniel Bare. Bare's sculptures are a critique on the wastefulness of American consumerism. He collects unwanted pottery from thrift stores, landfills and abandoned kiln sites and assembles them into stacks that often seem posed on the brink of collapse.



Greenwich House Music School

\$20: February 10 at 8:00PM. at Greenwich House Music School, 46 Barrow St. **Sound It Out Returns** with drummer extraordinaire **Jim Black**. Black has long been a prime mover and shaker on the progressive music scene, his mixing of rock style with jazz chops a key influence on a subsequent generation or two of drummers. He has always been just as compelling for audiences, with *JazzTimes* saying: "In person, he is fun to watch because he is theatrical in his movements, a ballet dancer. On record, the drama and diversity of his percussion content still comes through."

\$15: February 15 at 8:00 p.m. at Greenwich House Music School, 46 Barrow St. **Sound It Out Returns** with Guitarist **Brandon Ross**. Ross has collaborated with a who's who in progressive music, from **Cassandra Wilson** and **Me'Shell N'degeocello** to **Henry Threadgill** and **Wadada Leo Smith**. *The Paris Review* has described Brandon as "a one-man atmosphere factory, availing himself of all the sounds — cries, squeaks, cracks, fuzz, whippers, organ-like echoes — that an electric guitar, in the hands of a master, can produce."



The Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation (GVSHP) announces its February Programs:

Enslaved and Free Africans in Lower Manhattan, 1613-1741 with **Sylviane A. Diouf**. Tuesday, February 6, 6:30-8:00PM Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street. This talk will explore the early slave trade, Africans' ownership of land during Dutch rule, slave revolts,

and the Negroes Burial Ground. Sylviane A. Diouf is an award-winning historian of the African Diaspora. Her works have been awarded Outstanding Academic Book, the Wesley-Logan Prize of the American Historical Association, the Sulzby Award of the Alabama Historical Association, and more. Free. Reservations Required. Register Online. This event is not fully accessible.

JML50 Art Installation Tour and Conversation: 50 Years of Writing on the Reading Room Walls at Jefferson Market Library Friday, February 9 6:30-8:00PM Jefferson Market Library, 425 Sixth Ave. In celebration



of its 50th year, the Jefferson Market Library's manager **Frank Collierius** and artist **Mark John Smith** joined forces to create **JML50**. Join Frank and Mark John as they discuss the origins, process, stories, risks, and handwriting of the installation, followed by a special tour of the exhibit. **JML50** is a unique series of installations and interventions that turn the library into a work of art. Housed in the Library's main reading room, the installation is made up of excerpts from the archives of the library dating back to the 1900s and the Children's Registration Book. Free. Reservations Required. Register Online. This event is fully accessible.

Recovering the Lost Origins of the Black Arts Movement in Greenwich Village, Harlem and San Francisco with **Komozi Woodard**. Tues-



day, February 13, 6:30PM. Starr Foundation Hall, UL105, The New School University Center, 63 Fifth Avenue. The Black Arts Movement inspired the creation of some eight hundred black theaters and cultural centers, where a generation of writers and artists forged a new and

enduring cultural vision. Komozi Woodard is a professor of history at Sarah Lawrence College. He is the author of *A Nation Within a Nation*; a co-editor of *Black Power 50* (The New Press); and the editor of *The Black Power Movement, Part I; Freedom North; Groundwork*; and *Want to Start a Revolution?* Free. Reservations Required. Register Online. This event is fully accessible. Co-sponsored by The New School

The Genius of Little Africa: Black Radical Thinkers, Entrepreneurs, and Abolitionists in the Village with **Jamila Brathwaite**. Wednesday, February 21, 6:30-8:00PM. Hudson Park Library, 66 Leroy Street. African Americans living in Greenwich Village during the 19th century were an enclave of free and self-emancipated people living, working, and thriving within the confines of an oppressive society. Learn of several little-known but not forgotten abolitionists, entrepreneurs, and radical thinkers whose efforts enhanced the lives of many, especially within the community known as Little Africa. Jamila Brathwaite is a trustee of the African American Historical Society of Rockland County, the oldest organization in the area dedicated to the preservation of local African American history. Free. Reservations Required. Register Online. This event is not fully accessible.



Old News

Already the epicenter of Manhattan's artistic community, in the mid-1920s Greenwich Village gained additional notice for its off-Broadway theaters. In 1925 two Federal-style houses at 22, 24 Grove Street were demolished by the Opera Players, Inc. They commissioned architect **Harrison C. Wiseman** to design their new 290-seat theater.

Theatre Magazine reported "The name of the new house is the Grove Street Theatre, and it is the third of a triumvirate of intimate theatres erected in recent years in Greenwich Village, the others being of course

the Greenwich Village Theatre and the Cherry Lane Theatre."

The ambitious endeavor would not survive for long. On January 10, 1929 *The New York Times* reported "The Grove Street Theatre....is to be replaced by a six-story apartment house."

The property had been sold to **Asher Osterman**, who announced the replacement structure would contain 42 "studio suites." The developer hired 32-year old architect **Hyman Isaac Feldman**. He would become well-known for his Art Deco apartment houses along the Grand Concourse in the Bronx and similar buildings in Brooklyn. Before his death in 1981 he would design more than 2,500 metropolitan area apartment buildings.

The Grove Street Theatre was not demolished until April 1930; the delay possibly due in part to the onslaught of the Great Depression. The financial disaster was perhaps also responsible for the scaled-back decoration of 22-24 Grove Street. The completed six-story building was nearly spartan. Faced in sandy variegated brick, Feldman relied for the most part on contrasting brick bandcourses and panels to embellish the facade. But he let loose his Art Deco passion at the entrance and on the top floor.

The single-door entrance sat within in a lush terra cotta stylized waterfall. Directly above the door a bright green and russet fountain or plant rose to a charming canopy in the form of a Juliette balcony. A colorful band of fans ran along the roof line, and a striking Art Deco ornament of scrolls and flowers decorated the sixth floor.

The building filled with middle-class professionals like retired advertising executive **Francis W. Hargitt** who was here in the late 1930s and early '40s, and author **George W. Seaton**, best known for his travel books, like his 1938 *Let's Go to the West Indies*, his 1939 *What to See and Do in Scandinavia*, and *What to See and Do in New England*, published in 1940. When World War II broke out in Europe, he was hired by the Office of War Information. He was still living in his Grove Street apartment when he died at the age of 56 in Au-



gust 1944.

In the building at about this time was the young lawyer **Emanuel Popolizio**. He took on a high-profile case in June 1946 that made newspapers nationwide. His client, **Henry Suckow** was 24-years old. On June 8 he and two other army vets went on what *The New York Times* deemed a "rampage of violence."

They murdered 20-year old **Jack Hylands** then raped his 18-year old female companion in Central Park. The trio headed to Queens where they spotted 24-year old **Antonio Marchisella** sitting in the car of his friend, **Charles Duff** on Shore Road. They fatally shot Marchisella, pushed his body into the curb, then drove off with Duff before beating him and pushing him out of his car. Ironically, like themselves their victims had served in the military during the war.

Little-known attorney then, **Emanuel Popolizio** would become a familiar name when **Mayor Ed Koch** appointed him head of the New York City Housing Authority in January 1986. He held the position through November 1990.

In the meantime, life at 22-24 Grove Street continued relatively quietly. Security in apartment buildings at mid-century was lax at best. When **Marian Sawyer** came home on a cold Thursday night in January 1954, she was followed by a young man who threatened her in the hallway with a knife. He took \$21 from the terrified young woman.

Her attacker, **Adam Perelman**, was responsible for several other similar robberies. He was arrested a few days later. Shockingly, the 17-year old was the son of the famous humorist and screen-writer **S. J. Perelman**.

Unlike many other apartment buildings of its size, however, such incidents were rare. Residents came and went quietly for the next half century, drawing little attention. And through it all **H. I. Feldman's** striking Art Deco design survived unchanged--a delightful addition to the architectural grab bag along the block.



from Daytonian in Manhattan