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BBCBLOCKASSOCIATION.ORG

BBC DECEMBER, 2021 NEW AND VIEWS

Our Sixth Annual Literary Soiree

On Wednesday, November 10, the BBC hosted, at the Greenwich House Music School (46 Barrow St.)—and thanks, as always, to the Music School for their hospitality—our sixth annual Literary Soiree, featuring Village writers reading their published work and works in progress. We were treated to such a talented assemblage of writers working in a variety of genres—essay, memoir, humor, children’s story, and satire. The Village still has it—it’s a place of talented, creative people and most of all, a place where neighbors with such an appreciation for the history and beauty of our neighborhood can come together to celebrate the uniqueness that is our corner of Greenwich Village.



We offer here our heartfelt thanks to these wonderful writers:

Michael Anastasio read a charming chapter, “Miss Garrison and God’s Work,” from his funny and moving memoir, *GAY BOY’S LIFE* (which Michael previewed at this event at previous readings).

Kathleen Squires, who has been nominated for an Emmy

Kathleen Squires



for co-producing “America’s First Foodie” for PBS, about Villager **James Beard**, read her touching essay, “The Angel of Barrow Street: How a Neighbor in New York Spreads Love Through Food.”

Bob Rothenberg, longtime Villager (he waited tables at the legendary Rienzi Cafe on Macdougall Street in the 50’s—**Jack Kerouac** stuff!), read “From Riches to Rags,” from his scintillating memoir of NYC life, *BOBBY R FROM THE BRONX*.

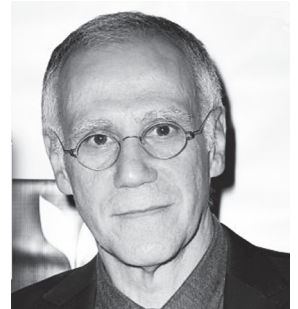
Anthony Tarsitano, award-winning film producer and an accomplished writer and director, as well as painter, whose works have been shown in NYC, read his strong, insightful piece, “Somebody to Blame.”

Fredda Seidenbaum, Village community activist and writer of everything from restaurant and theater reviews to short stories, read her enchanting children’s story about a very special cat whose life changes when he meets a very special mouse.

Matt Williams, writer, director and producer, kept us in stitches reading the story of Nova, his exuberant pandemic golden retriever—“Nova” is part of a collection of essays Matt is planning to turn into a book. Can’t wait!

Laura Fredericks, longtime Villager and BBCer, read from her seventh book, *HARD ASKS MADE EASY*, whose goal is to have her work erase the stress, anguish and struggle that people experience when they know what they want to ask, they just don’t know how.

Stuart Waldman, native New Yorker, longtime Villager and community activist—and conscience—as well as publisher, read his very pertinent essay, “Who Killed the Little Shops of Bed-



Anthony Tarsitano



Laura Fredericks

ford Street?”

Thanks, too, to our NYS Assemblymember **Deborah Glick**, who attended the event with enthusiasm—where else in NYC do elected officials show up at literary readings? And special thanks to our new NYC Councilmember-elect, **Erik Bottcher**, who read a hilarious satiric piece about that most pressing issue of our streets, doggie-do! What other NYC nabe boasts electeds that are also writers? And many congrats, Erik!



Deborah Glick

And most of all, thanks to ALL of you who attended our literary soiree. It was such a fun evening, and so wonderful for us all to be together again, celebrating the writers and writing of our beloved Greenwich Village.

Watch the BBC newsletter for news of more publications by our writers and more readings!

Leslie T. Sharpe, longtime BBCer and host of our annual literary soiree, who is also the author of the award-winning *THE QUARRY FOX: And Other Critics of the Wild Catskills* (Overlook/ Abrams, 2017)—as well as one of Fifty Stewards of the Catskills (so named by the Catskills Center for Conservation and Development in 2019)—tells us her essay “*The Bluebird Chronicles: A Catskills Romance*,” will appear in the December/Spring 2022 issue of *Appalachia Journal*. *Appalachia Journal*, the nation’s oldest conservation magazine and one of the most prestigious, is publishing a Catskills issue and asked Leslie to do a keynote essay. You can order individual copies from AJ directly, or even subscribe. It’s a great magazine!

Holiday Tradition

Dale Belli (BBCer) has been hosting holiday parties and gift giving for people with AIDS community for many years. *Urban Life Connection* visits over 40 hospices and hospital throughout the New York City. She asks us if we would contribute any amount. Please send to The Urban Life Source Connection, P.O. Box 2732, Clifton, New Jersey 07015. Note on the check PWA Christmas Fund. She thanks you in advance for your generosity.



Greenwich House Music School

Piano Lessons: The Art & Life of German Diez is a documentary about esteemed pianist, composer, and GHMS teacher **German Diez**—presented in partnership between Greenwich House Music School, Moving Garden, LLC., and the IFC Center. The screening will be held at the IFC Center on



German Diez

Thursday, December 16 at 3:30pm. The screening will be followed by a Q&A moderated by **Rachel Black**, Director of the Greenwich House Music School with guests: **Antongiulio Panizzi**, movie director, co-author, and producer; **Francesca Khalifa**, co-author and producer; **Justin Kolb**, American Liszt Society liaison; and **B. C. Vermeersch**, former Director of the Greenwich House Music School. Tickets are \$15 and a portion of sales goes to GHMS’s German Diez Scholarship Fund. Here’s the event link *Piano Lessons: The Art & Life of German Diez* Tickets, Thu, Dec 16, 2021 at 3:30 PM | Eventbrite

GVSHP

Tuesday, December 14, 6:00pm webinar

From the quiet of Westbeth comes *Behind the Mask: Living Alone in the Epicenter*, a memoir in essays by

Kate Walter that includes personal but universal stories from the pandemic. The normally lively community of Westbeth Artists Housing was gearing up to celebrate its 50th anniversary when New York went into lockdown. Westbeth turned into a ghost town, and like all of



Kate Walter

us, Kate’s life changed in a day. Lonely and scared, Kate did what she knows how to do best: she wrote about it. Join us for this special book talk with Kate, who will reflect on this time and share some of her writing and writing prompts for understanding the ways that we and our neighborhoods are forever changed. Register www.gvshp.org

Bootscape Entertainment’s Eggnog Edition: An Exploration of Literary Influences on the Christmas Tradition Thursday: December 16, 6:00pm. It’s that time of year again when the streets of NYC are dripping with lights, mugs are made merry, and religious and

cultural holidays come alive all around us! Bootscrape Entertainment, the creators of the *Greenwich Village Literary Pub Crawl*, chose to explore the holiday of Christmas, and how the writers, thinkers, and drinkers of the Village and surrounding neighborhoods shaped the lore and the traditions that are celebrated by millions to this day. Whether you celebrate or not, Bootscrape Entertainment's jolly cocktail of history, research, performance, and humor will surely ignite your yule log. Register www.gvshp.org

2021 GUIDE TO HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Municipal Art Society of New York — *Christmas Time on Arthur Avenue in the Bronx*, Saturday, December 11, 11:00am-2:00pm. [In-person tour] Residents of the Italian-American neighborhoods along Arthur Avenue in the Bronx are the guardians of what some would call New York's "real Little Italy." Home to Doo-Wop mu-



sic and authentic Italian restaurants and shops, many of the area's businesses have been family owned and operated for generations. The neighborhood is especially charming and festively decorated for the Christmas season! Join guide **Alexandra Maruri** to explore the history of this vibrant Bronx neighborhood bustling with long-standing neighborhood delis, pastry shops, restaurants, the Arthur Avenue Market, and more. (This tour may venture indoors.) tickets: \$30. Register mas.org

West Village Chorale's Annual Holiday Concert

2021 Holiday Concert: Holiday Pops Sunday, December 12 AT 5:00pm Admission (Advance): \$25 General / \$15 Student (with ID) at the door: \$30 General/ \$20 Student (with ID) Buy tickets online www.westvillagechorale.org. 55 Washington Square South at Thompson Street, Judson Memorial Church. Offering a variety of traditional returning favorites, holiday classics, and gorgeous contemporary settings of traditional texts, our holiday concert features our friends the **Caliope Brass** quintet, with sing-along carols on classics including "White Christmas" and "Jingle Bells." Come

celebrate the holidays with us!

Greenwich Village Chamber Singers

Date: Friday, December 17 at 8:00pm, Location: St. Joseph's Church. A holiday celebration of the Greenwich Village Chamber Singer's unique repertoire — the result of decades of inspired curation by late Music Director **Mark Mangini**. Spanning four centuries and seven languages, this collection of motets and contemporary arrangements of timeless melodies reflects the breadth and richness of choral music. Purchase advance tickets: \$20 www.gvsingers.org



Annual Greenwich Village Caroling Walk. (Since 1974.) Saturday, December 18, 3:00pm. Gather in the Meeting Room of Judson Memorial Church, 55 Washington Square South, in the heart of Greenwich Village.



We're off the screen and back onto the streets!! Bust out your Christmas sweaters, Santa suits, and other holiday finery and join us as we lead caroling enthusiasts young and old alike in a musical stroll through the streets of our Greenwich Village neighborhood! It's fun for the whole family, and free! No reservations required. Dig! Free for the whole family (donations accepted); songbooks provided. info: <http://www.westvillagechorale.org> or westvillagechorale@gmail.com.

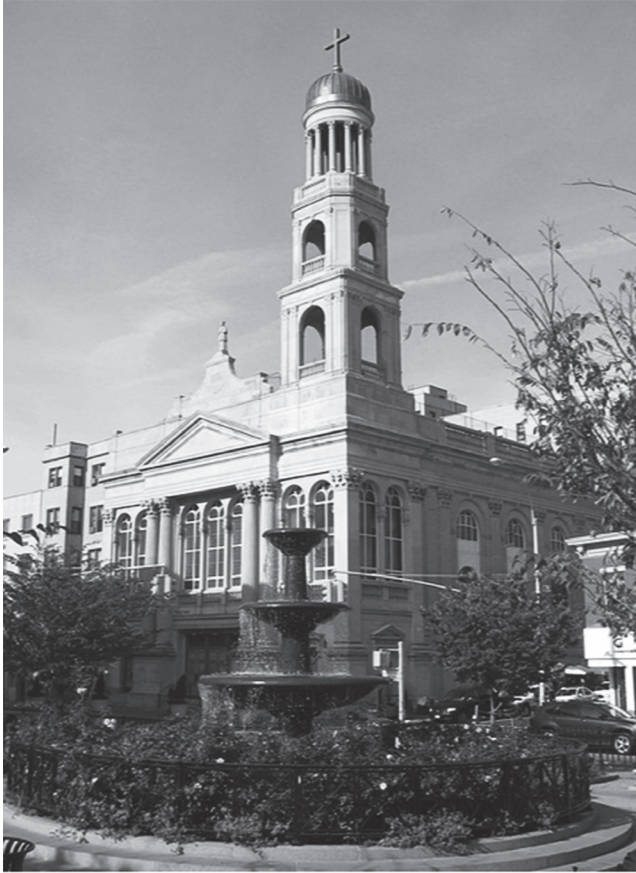
Judson Memorial Church (Ecumenical) 55 Washington Square South at Thompson Street. For Christmas service times, please call **212.477.0351**.

Our Lady of Pompeii Christmas Activities (Roman Catholic) (212.989.6805) 25 Carmine St.

Friday, December 24, 5:00pm: Vigil Mass; 12:00 am,

Midnight Mass.

Saturday, December, 25, 9:00am: Mass; 11:00am: Mass; 12:15pm.



Resources & Information

Drift: Fragile Future is an immersive exhibition of kinetic installations and sculptures showing from September 29 — December 19 at the Shed at the Bloomberg Building, Hudson Yards. Fragile Future can be experienced in two ways:

A gallery exhibition

On select dates, a gallery exhibition + a surreal, im-



mersive Drifters experience in the 17,000-square-foot McCourt space (Please note: Drifters experiences repeat throughout the day with periodic breaks of approximately 30 minutes.) Adults: \$25, Seniors/students: \$18. Shed members and children/teens (18 and under): Free

From December 21 — February 6, 2022. The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe, written by Jane Wagner and starring Cecily Strong. The iconic exploration of society, art, and human connectivity, revisited for our times.

The Shed is also home to a Spanish Food Court and Spanish Diner.

Word of the Month

Hiraeth — (n) Welsh. A spiritual longing for a home which maybe never was. Nostalgia for ancient places to which we cannot return. It is the echo of the lost places of our soul's past and our grief for them. It is in the winds, and the rocks, and the waves. It is nowhere and it is everywhere.



Christmas Carollers. 1938 illustration by Hank Porter for Disney Productions.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE BBC