



Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

Block Association
46 Barrow Street • New York, NY 10014

A happy and healthy 2022
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 2021, the BBC spent funds on pruning and spraying of our trees, fall and spring plantings, painting and maintaining tree guards and lamp-posts, 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 as well as by the beauty of flowers always blooming in our tree-pits.



GVSHIP

A Virtual Webinar: Thursday, January 20, 2022, 6:00pm
In 1935, **Berenice Abbott** (1898-1991) joined the Federal Art Project and chronicled the city in her seminal volume, *Changing New York*. Before she created that enduring portrait, Abbott arrived in Greenwich Village

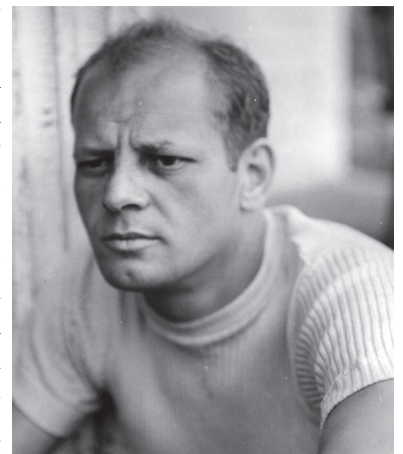
in 1918, where she lived and worked at the center of the contemporary artistic movements, then flourishing in the neighborhood. Friendships from that period, including with **Man Ray** and **Edna St. Vincent Millay**, would be life-long, as would Abbott's relationship to Greenwich Village. She lived with her partner, the art critic **Elizabeth McCausland**, on Commerce Street for 30 years, taught her craft at the New School, and arranged for *The Village Voice* to keep her photos on file. This virtual lecture from historian **Lucie Levine** will explore Abbott's relationship to Greenwich Village, both in her life and work. Register — www.gvshp.org.



Berenice Abbott

An American Saga: Celebrating Jackson Pollock's 110th Birthday. A Virtual Webinar: Wednesday, January 27, 6:00pm-7:30pm.

Jackson Pollock was more than a great artist; he was a creative force of nature. He changed not only the course of Western art, but also our very definition of "art." To discuss Pollock's life and legacy, we'll be sitting down for a conversation with **Steven Naifeh**, author of *Jackson Pollock: An American Saga* (1998). Naifeh's eight years of research on Pollock and interviews with over 850 people unlock a never-before seen ex-



Jackson Pollock

ploration of the artist's journey, filled with piercing psychological insights. His research brings us to a truer understanding of the power and pathos of a creative genius. Join our conversation for a behind-the-scenes look at Naifeh's fascinating literary process. Register — www.gvshp.org.

Historic Districts Council *Windows on the Bowery: 400 Years on NYC's Oldest Street* — An illustrated talk about the street and on-going efforts to preserve and protect it. A Virtual Webinar January 19, 5:00pm - 6:00 pm. This illustrated talk will look at the street's history and efforts to preserve and protect it, including designation to the National Register of Historic Places, and the acclaimed historic signage project that inspired



the book. Despite being the city's oldest thoroughfare and what one historian referred to as "an incubator of American popular culture," the Bowery is the city's most endangered historic streetscape. \$15 Friends/\$25 General Admission. Register — www.hdc.org.

Challenges in Cellar and Basement Use in NYC. A Virtual Webinar January 25, 6:00pm. With the recent flooding of cellar and basement apartments in NYC as a result of Hurricane Ida, particularly in Queens, providing apartments in these spaces has become even more debated. Located in a storefront office in Sunnyside, **Laura Heim** Architect has worked on numerous residential properties in Queens dealing with the issue of legal cellar/basement use. Her own office cellar has been impacted. While in concept, making existing illegal basement and cellar apartments up to code and safe could aid in alleviating the housing shortage, the reality is that there are nu-

Laura Heim



merous hurdles to accomplishing this goal, while providing safe and healthy spaces. This class will address the basic zoning and code restrictions which make the legalization of existing cellars and basements in many cases difficult and costly, if not impossible. The high standards set by the building and zoning codes have evolved over time to protect the health and safety of New Yorkers. Join us as we delve into this complex issue facing NYC in detail. \$15 Friends of HDC/\$25 General Admission. Register — www.hdc.org

Greenwich House Pottery

The Architecture of Solace: Eliza Au. Opening Reception — Friday, January 7, 2022, 5:00-7:00 pm Exhibition on view through February 4, 2022.

Municipal Arts Society

Historic Greenwich Village Postcards 1890-1920, Friday, January 14, 11:00am. Virtual tour — Join **Bob Singleton** for a nostalgic virtual tour of the Greenwich Village of yesteryear. Bob will tap

into his vast collection of vintage postcard images to take us on a voyage through time to see the people and places that made Greenwich Village America's Bohemia. This tour will examine colonial estates, picturesque dark alleys, drawing rooms and art galleries, and explore how it all came together to create this unique



Bob Singleton

neighborhood in the world's most fascinating city. \$15 members/\$25 non-members register — www.mas.org



Alphabet City, Sunday, January 23, 11:00am.

[In-person tour] (A) You're adventurous; (B) You're brave; (C) You're crazy; (D) You're dead" was a simple nursery rhyme repeated by many New Yorkers when visiting Alphabet City in the 1980s. What was once a bucolic fishing site for the Lenape and later filled with



Tompkins Square Park

campaign. The campaign launched in early June following seven construction related fatalities between January and March, 2021. There were 7,443 site visits in total, 3,666 violations and 1,499 stop work orders in all five boroughs. In Manhattan, 545 stop work orders were issued.

The Bedford Street restaurant scene now includes **Daily Provisions** at 29 Bedford Street. A **Danny Meyer** cafe, the venue serves coffee, pastries and a casual dinner menu centering around chicken and sandwiches.

bowerijes (bouwerijes) by Dutch settlers, this neighborhood's face and reputation have changed dramatically since its inception. On this tour with **Zack Rhodes** we will visit the sites and haunts of punk rockers, Nuyorican writers, Tammany Hall politicians, and the Astors. We will discuss how this neighborhood survived one of the worst maritime disasters in New York's history, and the continued relentless work of community organizations to support the neighborhood. We will cover the many waves of immigrants that called Alphabet City home, and answer the question "Why can I see a statue of Lenin from Houston Street"?

In-person tours are limited to 20 attendees and are held outdoors. Walking tours bring individuals into close proximity with each other, we therefore ask that all tour goers wear masks during the tours, regardless of vaccination status. Your tour guide and your fellow tour participants will thank you for your cooperation. Should the tours happen to venture indoors, many places require masks and/or proof of vaccination, so please be prepared to have both with you.

MAS Walking Tours last approximately 2 hours. Meeting location is provided with registration. \$20 members/\$30 non-members. Register — www.mas.org.

Resources & Information

The NYC Dept. of Buildings inspectors visited over 7,500 construction sites over the summer. On September 13, 2021 Commissioner **Melanie E. La Rocca**, formerly of Council Speaker **Christine Quinn's** office, released the results of the new Zero Tolerance Construction Safety **Melanie LaRocca**



On his last Monday in office, Mayor de Blasio honored, the "punk rock laureate," **Patti Smith. Smith** was overcome with emotion when she received the key. Calling it "awesome," she reflected on moving to New York City.

Smith moved to Detroit in 1979, where she lived with her husband, **Fred Sonic Smith**, but after his death in 1994, she moved back to the city. "It was very hard times, probably the hardest time



in my life," she said. "Again, with hard work and enthusiasm, the city embraced me again... gave me another chance to rebuild my life and continue to evolve as an artist."

She hoped that New Yorkers "will also protect our city, its history, its historic streets and architecture, its community gardens, its trees. All of these things we need, we need because they are part of our identity as New Yorkers. Also the Empire State Building, new skyscrapers, progress, but also the small things. That is part of our great city."

Neighborhood Notes & Notables

95 Bedford Street was recently sold on October 27, 2021 for \$15.95 million. *The AIA Guide to New York* says the following, "Originally J. Goebel & Company, 95 Bedford St. Once the end of the century (19th) stable of a wine distributor, as lettering on the façade indicates; converted to apartments in 1927." However, J. Goebel & Co. do not appear to have occupied this building until 1927. And the company was not a wine distributor but dealers in imported clay and crucibles.



J. Goebel was Julius Goebel (1844-1917). He was an immigrant from Germany, and appeared in New York city directories beginning in 1868, when his business was located at 166 Grand St. The claim "Established 1865" represents the year Goebel came to New York City. Subsequently, the business was located at 129 Maiden Lane for the 45-year stretch, 1873 to 1918. Julius Goebel died in 1917, and the business was continued by his son, Julius Goebel Jr. (1883-1940). The business continued until 1957. For the last 30 of these years (1927 to 1957) it was located at 95 Bedford St.

The New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission's Greenwich Village Historic District Designation Report describes 95 Bedford St. in these terms, "This narrow four-story brick building, with stone trim at the first story, was designed for Herman Schade by Kurzer & Kohl, architects, and erected in 1894 (cost \$14,000). The triple-arched, first story windows are

a reminder that the building was originally a stable; it was converted into apartments and offices in 1927. The brick panels under the windows of the third and fourth floors lend considerable interest. The paneled fascia board with bracketed cornice has a distinctive fan-shaped pediment, reminiscent of the Queen Anne style." In 1927, when J. Goebel & Co. moved here, it is likely they used their space in the building for offices and storage.

The Linda Hall Library in Kansas City, Missouri, holds a copy of *All about Grossalmerode clay*: sold since 1865 by J. Goebel & Co. Großalmerode, Hesse, Germany is the site of clay pits that yield a type of clay ideally suited to making products with very high resistance to heat. Among such products are crucibles used in glass manufacture. The town of Großalmerode has a Glass and Ceramics Museum, described as follows on <http://deutsche-maerchenstrasse.com> (as of March 2012), "The Glass and Ceramics Museum offers an impressive exhibition of manufacturing methods and products created from the region's mineral resources. trades that have given the town its special flair over the last 800 years. As early as the 16th century, Großalmerode was widely known beyond the state borders as a centre of glass manufacturing; today, it still enjoys a worldwide reputation for its extraordinarily high-quality heat-resistant ceramic products."

During the First World War, J. Goebel & Co. ran this advertisement to insure customers that substituting American clay for their usual German variety would not create an inferior product.

The Psychological Moment Has Come!

J. GOEBEL & CO.
famous for over fifty years for their
justly celebrated
GROSSALMERODE GLASSHOUSE CLAYS
(the clay all other clays are always compared with)
— announce —
the discovery and sale of the

First Perfect Substitute For German Clay

ALL other "IN LIEU OF GERMAN" are failures
Our substitute is the first success
We have never "knocked" a competitor,
we are not going to start now

All Orders Will be Executed in the Order Received

ORDER "YOUR" TRIAL CAR RIGHT AWAY
IT IS FOR SALE ONLY BY

By this sign shall you know the new substitute

J. Goebel & Co.
129 Maiden Lane,
New York, N. Y.

By this sign shall you know the new substitute

IT MAY SURPRISE YOU, BUT WE NOW CAN SUPPLY YOU SOME OF THE BEST DOMESTIC CLAYS AT LOWEST PRICES. HENCEFORTH YOU NEED ONLY ONE CLAY ACCOUNT. BUY YOUR DOMESTIC AS WELL AS GERMAN CLAY FROM "GOEBEL"

LEST YOU FORGET

We have always maintained that Goebel's German Clay was the best. We maintain this still, and most glasshouses agree with us, more so since the war prevented importation. We are now just as positive that the clay we are offering as U.S.A. Clay, is the **FIRST PERFECT SUBSTITUTE** for real German

AFTER THE WAR IS OVER, and you want GERMAN CLAY you can get it same as before. In the meantime we recommend U.S.A. CLAY — because we know it is good —