



Bedford • Barrow • Commerce

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Annual Membership is still (only!) \$25.
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BBC NEWS AND VIEWS JUNE 2024

66TH ANNUAL WASHINGTON SQUARE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Washington Square Music Festival presents its 66th season of FREE concerts every Tuesday in June. Join the Washington Square Music Festival celebrating soloists, at Garibaldi Plaza on the following dates:

Tuesday, June 4 (Traditional Afro-Cuban Music)

Tuesday, June 11 (Women in Classical Music)

Tuesday, June 18 (Baroque to Latin)

Tuesday, June 25 (A Tribute to Count Basie)

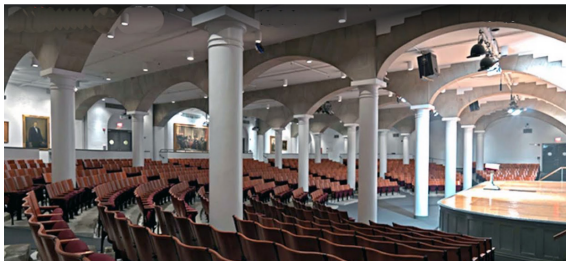
All concerts are at 8:00PM, Free and open to all, seating first come, first served.



Count Basie

Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation

Each year, Village Preservation honors invaluable local leaders, institutions, business, places and organiza-



Cooper Union Great Hall

tions at its Annual Meeting and Village Awards. This fun and free public event highlights and celebrates those that make our neighborhoods some of the most interesting and exceptional in the city. The night also includes a review of Village Preservation's activities and

accomplishments over the last year. The 34th Annual Village Awards and 44th Annual Members Meeting will take place on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, 6:00PM at The Cooper Union's Great Hall. Register now to save your space for this community driven event! www.village-preservation.org.

NABE NOTES

BBCer **Anne Marie Paolucci**, founder of Chemo Comfort, challenged bakeries to help celebrate the sweet victory of cancer survivorship for one week, beginning National Cancer Survivor Day, Sunday June 2. Bakeries are participating in "Confections for Comfort" with sweet treats, which will be on sale June 2-9, 2024. Establishments



in New York City, Westchester and Long Island will be participating in this tenth annual event, by creating signature confections for their patrons. Proceeds from these items will be donated to Chemo Comfort to support their programs. Chemo Comfort, an all-volunteer run organization, provides cancer patients with kits of products to help manage chemotherapy's side effects. Vendors: Manhattan: Mille-feuille Bakery Café - 552 La Guardia Place & 2175 Broadway.

Brooklyn: Cousin John's Bakery - 60 7th Ave (corner of Lincoln, in Park Slope); Mille-feuille Bakery Café - 622 Vanderbilt Ave.

You can find the complete list of vendors in Brooklyn, Westchester County and Long Island at chemocomfort.org.

Washington Square Park Conservancy

Led by our incredible partners at Salsa Dura NY, Salsa Social is back for another summer of dancing, laughter, and connection that you won't want to miss. Ar-



riving at Washington Square Park on a Salsa Social night, you'll be greeted by a plaza transformed into an open-air dance hall. As the DJ starts spinning the hottest salsa tracks, watch as the pavement comes alive with movement. We dare you to stop your feet from tapping! Each session kicks off with a free dance lesson from 6-6:30PM where you'll learn all the basic steps you'll need to join in. These free lessons give newcomers a chance to pick up the basics and for more experienced dancers to refine their skills with help from some salsa pros.. As the lesson transitions into open dancing, the plaza fills with dancers of all abilities twirling and spinning, their movements mimicking the cacophony of the park and city around them until we call it quits at 9:00PM. For more information about the Salsa Social and other events at Washington Square Park, visit washingtonsqpark.org.

Greenwich House Music School

Summer Session runs June 24 - Aug 2.

Summer Adventures: Songs and Stories (Ages 3-5). Summer is right around the corner! If you're still looking for activities for your little ones, look no further than Summer Adventures. This six-week small group class blends interactive music and



arts learning with outdoor adventures in our shaded back garden. Children must be potty-trained to attend.

Private Lessons for ages 5+. During the summer we offer six weeks of private instruction for adults and children (ages 5+) in piano, voice, drums, guitar, more! All skill levels accepted. Stop by the school or inquire with our Registrar for details mcramer@greenwich-house.org.

Literary Soiree

At our October BBC meeting (Wednesday, October 30) we will host our 9th BBC Literary Soiree! at 7:00 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), if you would like to



read. We are limiting the readers to ten, who each will read for five minutes. If you are interested 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!

GREENWICH VILLAGE FILM FESTIVAL

Save the dates of November 11, 12, 13, and 14 for the 10th Annual Greenwich Village Film Festival. It will be held at the iconic Quad Cinema at 34 W. 13th St. and is once again organized by our own BBC members and Grove St. residents, **Richard Eric Weigle** and **Michael Anastasio**, along with founders **Alessia Gatti** and **Antonio Padovan**. Submissions are now open for films under 20 minutes in length. Documentaries, Animated Films and Narrative films are all welcome. So if you know any creative filmmakers, encourage them to submit their films through the first week of September at <https://www.greenwichvillagefilmfestival.com>.

This year on opening night we will award a Lifetime Achievement Award to former Greenwich Village resident and our oldest living Academy Award Winner, Eva Marie Saint, who turns 100 years old on July 4. Tickets will go on sale around October 1. If you would like to make a contribution or be involved in this wonderful event which is helping to keep Greenwich Village a creative place and

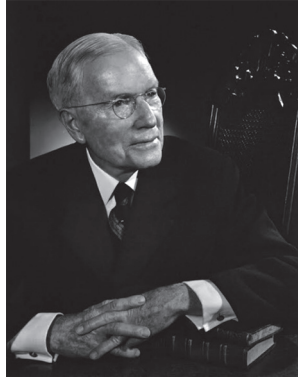
Anne Marie Sainte



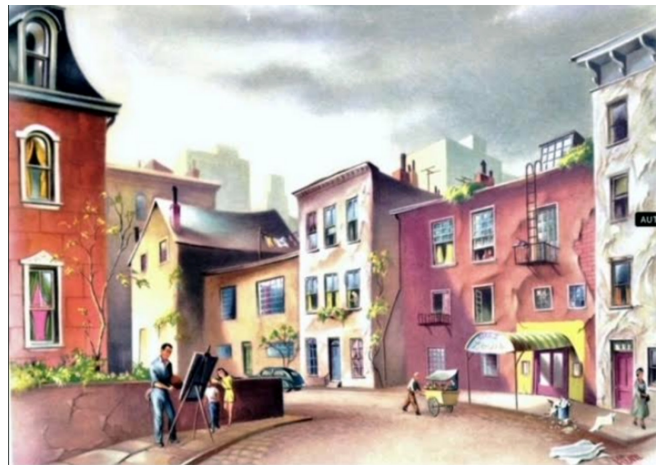
haven for artists of all kinds, please contact Richard Eric at richardericweigle@icloud.com.

Municipal Arts Society

Public Art of Rockefeller Center, Sunday, June 2 nd 12 to 2:00PM. From sculptures to mosaics to murals on canvas, Rockefeller Center bursts with a remarkable collection of artwork, most of it in the Art Deco style. All of it is meant to support the vision of the Center's founder and namesake, **John D. Rockefeller, Jr.** Man's achievements of the spirit, in science, and in industry are stressed, mainly in allegorical ways. Join **Phil Desiere** to learn about the Center's famous and not-so famous artworks and how they emphasize the importance of education, wisdom, and international trade. \$25 members, \$35 non-members www.mas.org Jefferson Market Garden, weather permitting, the garden will be open Tuesdays through Sundays 10:00AM-6:00PM.



John D Rockefeller, Jr;



Commerce St. Bend by Kevin Monaghan

their way through major art historical movements and genres. Key achievements by individual figures, including Georgia O'Keeffe and Jacob Lawrence, are interspersed throughout the show. Icons of the collection such as Calder's Circus and the work of Edward Hopper are featured. The Whitney's collection is a dynamic cultural resource that allows us to continually reframe the history of American life and artistic production.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art features Sleeping Beauties: Reawakening Fashion until September 2. The Costume Institute's spring 2024 exhibition reactivates the sensory capacities of masterworks in the Museum's collection through first-hand research, conservation analysis, and diverse technologies – from cutting-edge tools of artificial intelligence and computer-generated imagery to traditional formats of x-rays, video animation, light projection, and soundscapes.

A HAPPY AND SAFE SUMMER TO YOU ALL,



FROM YOUR BBC!
SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!!

Resources & Information

The Whitney's Collection: Selections from 1900 to 1965 Jun 28, 2019– ..This exhibition of more than 120 works, drawn entirely from the Whitney's collection. The Whitney was established in 1930 by Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney to champion the work of living American artists. Mrs. Whitney recognized both the importance of contemporary American art and the need to support the artists who made it. The exhibition begins with a gallery devoted to selections from the Museum's founding collection, followed by galleries that weave

Old News

Narrow House, Wide History
at 75 1/2 Bedford St. Part 1
By Bonnie Rosenstock

If you burn the candle at both ends horizontally at 75 1/2 Bedford St., you just might set the opposing walls on fire. At 9 1/2 ft. wide, 75 1/2 Bedford St., off Seventh Ave. between Commerce and Moore Sts., is the narrowest house in the city. On the inside, it measures 8 ft. 7 in. wide; at its narrowest, it's 2 ft. wide. From the facade to the rear garden the house is a cozy 30 ft. deep. Yet this svelte picturesque three-story red-brick structure casts a wide history as the cherished residence of regular folk as well as the renowned and the scandalous, most notably Edna St. Vincent Millay, who penned the famous candle quote – but alas, not while living here:

("My candle's burning at both ends/It will not last the night./But Oh my foes, and Ah my friends/It sheds a lovely light.")

The archives of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation state that the house was constructed in 1873 during a smallpox epidemic, for Horatio Gomez, trustee of the Hettie Hendricks-Gomez Estate, on what was the former carriage entranceway (with stables to the rear) between numbers 75 and 77. However, according to an article by Christopher Gray in the New York Times, dated Nov. 10, 1996, "The assessed value of the entire parcel did not change, suggesting that the house had been built before then but simply not noted."

In its early years, 75 1/2 Bedford was used as a cobbler's shop and then a candy factory (in 1880, Martha Banta, a candy maker, lived there). Thomas Newett, a shipper, lived there in the 1890s. By 1920, the neighborhood had become largely working-class Italian, and Victor Ponchione, a recent immigrant and a cooper in a vineyard, his wife and two children resided in the building. Then in 1923, when Greenwich Village was just beginning to reinvent itself as an artists' enclave, Spalding Hall and fellow artists and actors leased 73-77 Bedford St. from Hendricks-Gomez's descendants. The group established the Cherry Lane Theater around the corner at 38 Commerce St. and converted the three contiguous buildings into apartments in order to rent them out. Shortly thereafter the openly bisexual Millay, "Vincent," as she was known by her friends, and her new husband, Eugen Jan Boissevain, a coffee importer, took up residence at 75 1/2 Bedford. They hired Ferdinand Savignano to renovate the house. He put in a skylight and transformed the top floor into a studio for Millay, installed casement windows at each level and topped the front



Edna St. Vincent Millay and Eugen Jan Boissevain

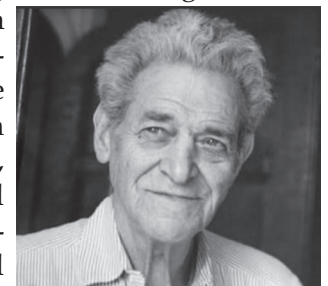
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with a tiny Dutch stepped gable, most likely to reflect Boissevain's Dutch heritage. Before that, reports Gray, the house had a typical Italianate look common to the 1850s, as depicted in a 1922 photograph at the New-York Historical Society.

According to the plaque on the front of the building, Edna St. Vincent Millay lived there from 1923-1924 and wrote "The Ballad of the Harp-Weaver," for which she won the Pulitzer Prize. Not so, says Elizabeth Barnett, literary executor of the Millay Society. Via e-mail, Barnett stated that Millay did not write this poem there. "Millay worked on that poem while living in Europe and finished it before returning to the U.S.A. Millay and her husband lived at Steepletop, Austerlitz, NY, beginning in 1925. She lived there until her death in 1950, her husband until his death in 1949." However, writer Ann McGovern (who lived at the building sometime in the late 1980s) asserted in a newspaper interview that Millay wrote part of "The King's Henchmen" there.

In the 1930s, the cartoonist William Steig, his wife and her sister, anthropologist Margaret Mead, lived in the house. According to an Italian guidebook that an Italian tourist had with him in front of the house recently, actors John Barrymore and Cary Grant also had a brief run in the place. In 1952, the entire corner was slated for redevelopment when Kenneth Carroad, a lawyer and Village resident, purchased the house to preserve it. His family lived here for many years.

In 1982, Jeffrey Carroad, a family member, put the house up for sale for \$350,000. Cedric Wilson and Christopher Dubs, an architect, purchased it in 1996 for a reported



William Steig



Margaret Mead



John Barrymore

\$270,000 and spent another \$200,000

on renovations. It was in dire need of repair. "It was a mess. I was afraid to use the stairs inside," said Monique, who lives next door at 77 Bedford St. in the landmarked 1799 Isaacs-Hendricks House.