

Source Letter

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FIRST OFF... The main gift that America offers is the right to disagree -- about politics, religion, the arts -- and not get shot for it. This has changed lately with Obama as president and the Democrats being in the majority. There's a segment that subscribes to the "my way or no way" theory which is an affront to the basic premise the country was founded on. Whatever your political leaning, there's room for all, and that's what separates us from the dictatorships & oppressors of the world. Debate and majority rule. Want a change? That's what elections are for. Spend your money wisely, your dollar is your political statement.

APRIL IS POSTCARD MONTH!

Many by Local Photographers:
Jeff Prant, Genevieve Hafner, Konstantino Hatzisarros

INFORMATION

ATTN PARKERS Alternate Parking is suspended:

•April 1st	Thursday	Holy Thursday
•April 1st	Thursday	Holy Thurs.Orthodox
•April 2nd	Friday	Good Friday
•April 2nd	Friday	Good Fri. Orthodox
•April 5-6th	Mon-Tues	Passover Orthodox

LISTEN, LEARN, SPEAK... The Ninth Precinct Community Council Meeting, Tuesday April 20th 7pm @ 321 East 5th Street 212-477-7805

LOOK UP! The Empire State Building lights are part of our everyday lives, but what do they mean?

Date	Color	Occasion
4/22	Green/Green/Green	Earth Day
4/16-18	Orange/Orange/White	Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
4/7	Blue/Yellow/Red	Annual EPIC Awards
4/2 - 4/4	Green/Pink/Yellow	Easter
4/1	Blue/Blue/Blue	Autism Speaks



THEY ALWAYS NEED YOUR HELP

- VISITING NEIGHBORS Call 212-260-6200 or visit their website at www.visitingneighbors.org
- FOOD BANK www.foodbanknyc.org
- ONE BRICK www.newyork.onebrick.org
- GOD'S LOVE WE DELIVER www.godslovewedeliver.org
- NYC HELP www.nycservice.org
- ANIMAL SHELTER www.aspca.org

DROP A CAN IN THE BOX Contribute to our ongoing food drive to benefit The Middle Collegiate Church Food Pantry Program. Bring your **CANNED ONLY** goods to our store. Thanks a lot.

OUT AND ABOUT

GET LISTED! UPCOMING EVENTS, GIGS, ITEMS OF INTEREST... To submit, e-mail us at: santo@sourceunltd.com
OR stop by our store @ 331 E. 9th Street *Inclusion subject to space availability.*

- **STAFF PICKS: MOVIE NIGHT...** Showing *American Splendor*, about Harvey Pekar, a hilarious grumpy observer of life's strange and unpredictable ways, (101 minutes.) Starring Paul Giamatti, Hope Davis, April 20 6pm, @ Ottendorfer Library, 135 2nd Ave. (& St. Marks) Phone: 212-674-0947 www.nypl.org/locations/ottendorfer
- **THE ABZZZ'S OF A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP...** Having trouble sleeping through the night? Dr. Seelall will review how sleep patterns change, what is normal, and how good sleep habits can help you get a better night's sleep. Information about major sleep disorders, their symptoms, and how they can be managed will be included. Friday, April 23, 2-3 pm @ Phillips Care Center, 10 Union Square East, Friedman Conference Center, 2nd Fl. Registration is Required! 212-420-4247
- **A MANIAC WITH A NEW CD....** Journalist Katherine Lanpher interviews singer/songwriter Natalie Merchant who'll discuss her work and perform tunes from her new CD, *Leave Your Sleep*, Wednesday April 14th, 7pm @ Barnes and Noble at Union Square, 33 East 17th Street, 212-253-0810.
- **GET ICED AND REACT..** Eileen Myles moved to NYC in 1974 to be a poet. She gave her first reading at CBGB's and has since published many books, including her recent book *The Importance of Being Iceland*. Laura Jaramillo is a poet from Queens. She is the author of two chapbooks, *The Reactionary Poems* and *Civilian Nest*. Readings on Saturday, April 10th, 4pm @ The Bowery Poetry Club, 308 Bowery (Between Houston & Bleeker) www.bowerypoetry.com 212-614-0505
- **TENEMENT TALKS...** Kevin Baker and Danijel Zezelj discuss the novel *Luna Park*, set in the ruins of NYC's and America's most famous amusement park. April. 20th at 6:30pm, Free @ The Tenement Museum, 108 Orchard Street RSVP to: events@tenement.org
- **EXPERIENCE IT...** The Penny Arcade Experience, April 23rd @ Le Poisson Rouge, Bleeker Street, 7pm. Tickets are \$15 adv \$20 day of show. Erotic dancers, Truth! Comedy! Content! Call 212-353-3474

COLUMN OF THE MONTH Be Part of the Column. Of The Month

The Importance of Being Harry by Penny Arcade

The Importance of Being Harry by Penny Arcade

It is improbable that anyone besides HM Koutoukas could have invented HM Koutoukas.

In the early hours of Saturday March 7th 2010 the restless spirit of Harralambos Koutoukas was stilled. I am sure I am not alone in wondering what Harry's last thought was. Few in the history of the spoken word were as salient as Koutoukas in summing up a situation in one enlightening, transforming and hysterically funny sentence. Yes, Harry was a wit. A real one. Like Oscar Wilde, Quentin Crisp, and Dorothy Parker. It was I might add his life's work.

Harralambos Monroe Koutoukas was born a twin in 1937 in Endicott, New York into a Greek Orthodox family residing in that backwater shoe town. "Yes," Koutoukas would sometimes muse, "I suppose if I had stayed up there in Endicott, I would have been a foreman in the shoe factory by now." Stay there he did not. Students of downtown history have long known that Harry Koutoukas, precient even at age nine with his own local radio program "Talking Leaves", met the drag queen, female impersonator, macrobiotic devotee and 19th century song specialist Minette in one of the local saloons that had entertainment while he was still a teenager, on one of the regional tours of left over vaudeville that Minette still engaged in thru the 1940's and 1950's when female impersonation was still an art form that minced thru the rural towns of America.

While Harry's twin brother Paul would enter the Greek Orthodox novitiate, studying in Athens for five years, Harry would enter the sybarite Mystery School of post WW2 NY bohemia. Harry's twin Paul would become a bishop in the Greek Orthodox Church, an archmandrite, the highest order a celibate Greek Orthodox priest can attain. A fact that Harry was always tremendously proud of and which he often bragged about. "My twin brother is a bishop in the Greek Orthodox Church." Harry would crow as if it was an important detail about himself. Harry's twin Paul would predecease Harry by less than two years, felled by the same diabetes that ended Harry's life.

Harry would become the Pope of Greenwich Village even as he was highly identified with The East Village doing many of his plays which he called camps at Theatre For The New City and La Mama.

Like the poet Max Bodenheim, whose presence remained for decades after his death in the telling and retelling of his legend so it will be for Harry Koutoukas in the decades to come because everyone who ever met Harry Koutoukas has a story to tell and one or more aphorisms and one liners to go with it. "Harry was vivid, confrontational, shocking, outrageous and verbal. Everything that is missing in today's theatre." said Dr Myers. "Harry lived in a fantasy world of being a highly successful, rich and glamorous star and this attitude attracted lovers, and patrons and fans" recalled playwright Robert Patrick in a recent phone call, "Most of us were gay and working class and we fled from our families and the passivity and mediocrity of the towns we were from and we all had that in common. We really never talked much about our backgrounds back then." We were absolutely the most sophisticated generation in history. We were the first generation raised with media. We had paperback books, tv, radio, magazines, movies. We were the first "media monsters". We were the first generation where many of us had been to college and most of us had never seen theater and that allowed us to make it up for ourselves."

After Harry's death people wandered around in a half trance in shock many saying that they didn't know what they would do with out Harry in the streets of Greenwich Village. But as Luc Sante pointed out in his brilliant book *Low Life* "NY has never had any truck with it's dead so they continue to wander the streets." Harry Koutoukas will never go away from the streets of downtown New York that he loved. Like Walt Whitman, Poe, Ginsberg and all the great poets he walks the streets now and always will.

"The night says things we aren't ready to hear and only poets and the living dead, may roam the night without fear."

HM Koutoukas from his play "Awful People Are Coming Over So We Must Be Pretending to Be Hard at Work and Hope They Will Go Away."

-Penny Arcade




Writer, performer Penny Arcade is a long time East village resident. HM Koutoukas referred to Penny as *The Little Sister of The Avant Garde*.

Satch's Corner Where you can read about some good cd's, books and videos



"Satch" drawing by Sara Hauser

CAROLINA CHOCOLATE DROPS -- Genuine Negro Jig  I once heard Steven Van Zandt say that music is never old because when you hear something for the first time, it's new to you. And this particularly holds true for American roots music. At some point, every generation discovers the blues, country or, in this case, "mountain" music". This trio leans heavily on the banjo and vocals of Rhiannon Giddons and the fiddle of Justin Robinson for a rousing disc. Their cover of the hip hop hit "Hit Em Up Style" swings and brings it all to 2010. I give it 3 bones. See you next time on the corner...

Closing Statement: "A man is but the product of his thoughts. What he thinks, he becomes." -Gandhi via digitalman@mac.com