

Source Letter

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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION & E-LETTER WITH NEWS ABOUT THE EAST VILLAGE COMMUNITY AT LARGE ©2004

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FIRST OFF- We work and we pay taxes. For this we get lights on the street, paved roads (sometimes) and a system that helps those in dire need. Now I have no problem with that 'cause I see the results daily. There are also abuses of the system, mismanagement by elected officials, able bodied people collecting, shoddy work on the infrastructure, and that's what we need to rail against. Hold everyone, citizens and government alike accountable for their decisions and actions. If everyone does their share, it's easier to carry the load. Slackers cause the wagon to break. Buy local when you can – your dollar is your political statement.

MAY IS DVD MONTH!

CONVERT THOSE OLD TAPES TO DVD's

INFORMATION

ATTN PARKERS Alternate Parking is suspended:

- May 13 Thursday Solemnity of the Ascension
- May 19-20 Wed./Thurs. Shavout
- May 31 Monday Memorial Day

LISTEN, LEARN, SPEAK... The Ninth Precinct Community Council Meeting, on Tuesday May 18th, 7pm @ 321 East 5th Street 212-477-7805

STREET FAIRS (just to name a few near us)

- Sat. May 8th Gramercy Park Neighborhood Festival (Broadway from 17th - 23rd St.)
- Sat., May 15 Astor Place Festival (Astor Place from Lafayette St. To Bdwy)
- Sun. May 16th Third Avenue Spring Fair (3rd Ave from 14th - 23rd St.)
- Sat. May 22 Lower Third Avenue Spring Festival (3rd Avenue from 6th - 14th Street)

VOLUNTEERS

THEY ALWAYS NEED YOUR HELP

- MARY HOUSE can always use donations of food and women's clothing, 55 E Third Street, 212-777-9617
- JOSEPH HOUSE need donations of food and men's clothing, 36 East First Street 212-254-1640
- VISITING NEIGHBORS Call 212-260-6200 or visit their website at www.visitingneighbors.org
- GOD'S LOVE WE DELIVER www.godslovewedeliver.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.*

- **THE FORMER NY, Photographs From The 1980'S...** by Richard Sandler. Above and below ground, crime and crack were on the rise, rents were still cheap, Times Square and the East Village were drug riddled, and Ronald Reagan was president. A screening of Sandler's EV documentary *Brave New York* and Opening Reception on Thursday, May 6th, 6-8pm. Show runs thru June 19th @ Millennium Film Workshop, 66-68 East 4th Street, www.millenniumfilm.org Phone: 212-673-0090
- **"Generation (bu)Y"** explains our slavery to marketing from the mouths of babes. Conceived and directed by Philip Suraci, the play is written in collaboration with & performed by a young (ages 11 to 13) ensemble of 18 plus three adult actors. The intent of the production is to raise awareness of the effects marketing and advertising have on children. May 6th-16th. Thurs. thru Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 3. @ Theater for the New City, 155 First Ave., Box office/info (212) 254-1109.
- **PEDAL POWER - 3rd Annual Kids' Art Bike Parade...** Celebrate green transportation by decorating your bike and joining the Parade. Saturday, May 8th, 10am - 2pm, @ Tompkins Square Park. E-mail: lesbikeparade@gmail.com
- **ORIGINAL JAZZ, BEBOP & RUMBA...** Evans Thompson & True Story @ Ashford & Simpson's Sugar Bar, 254 West 72nd St. (Btw. Amst. & West End Ave), Sat. May 15th, two sets, 8pm & 10pm, \$15. For Reservations Call: 212-579-0222, 212-473-1017 or email: evansthompsonmusic@gmail.com
- **BETH and FOREST** invite you to Paws 'N' Books held @ the Ottendorfer Library, May 21, June 18, July 16, & Aug. 20th. Children select a title from the ASPCA Henry Bergh Children's Book Award winners and read aloud to a registered dog & licensed handler. Registration required 212-674-0947. The Ottendorfer Library at 135 E. 2nd Ave.
- **PUNK ROPE GAMES...** Punk Rope's biggest event of the year! 10 four-person teams will be in hot pursuit of the vaunted Punk Rope Cup as well as a bevy of great prizes. Come out and cheer for your favorite team. The Games will be immediately followed by an awards ceremony and party/BBQ at the Gibson (Bedford & N. 11th). Games at Softball Field #1, McCarren Park, Williamsburg, Brooklyn, Saturday, May 22nd, from 10am-1pm. Fun for everyone.

COLUMN OF THE MONTH Be Part Of The Source Letter... Submit YOUR stories, photos, drawings to: santo@sourceunltd.com

East Village Profile: Richard "Handsome Dick" Manitoba



East Village Profile: In the clubhouse with Richard “Handsome Dick” Manitoba

Santo: Where are you from?

RHDM: I'm from the Bronx. Born in a hospital in Manhattan, raised in the Bronx in an area called Williamsbridge around Gun Hill Road, a block away from a restaurant called ‘Louie’s’ where Michael Corleone shot and killed Solotzo and McCloskey the cop in “The Godfather.”

S: What did your parents do?

RHDM: My father sold shoes and my mother went to work when I was in the sixth grade at Fordham Hospital.

S: So, from there, how did you wind up here owning a bar?

RHDM: When you grow up in the North Bronx, you either go up into Westchester for your fun, which there's not too many options, or you come down to Manhattan. You'd come down to the East Village, back in the late 60's, early 70's, there were places like the Fillmore East and The Living Theater and it was ultra thrilling. We used to come down and buy Robert Crumb comic books cause you couldn't get them in the Bronx.

S: How did you become aware of the Village cause I know the Bronx can be an insular type of existence.

RHDM: Well you're talking about the '60's where there was a lot of cultural connections. The East Village spread its wings and you knew where the Electric Circus was, this is where The Stooges play, this was the cultural capital of our universe and it was only a train ride down.

S: What drew you to this type of business?

RHDM: I always hustled up a living. I drove a cab for awhile, and I got a job bartending in a legendary bar in this neighborhood, 2A, and after a certain amount of years of doing that and having people come in from all over the world visiting me, and making money for somebody else, I thought why not do it for myself. So I got involved in the bar business. This was in the 90's. I opened this place up and it's been 11 years now. January 14, 1999. It's one of the things I do, I also do radio programming for Little Steven's Underground Garage on Sirius XM Radio.

S: Any favorite place in the Village?

RHDM: Russ and Daughters, B & H Dairy, Mogador, Veselka and Enzo's Pizza on Second Avenue, my favorite pizza.

S: What do you think is the best thing about having a business?

RHDM: The best thing and the worst thing is probably the same thing. It's the freedom, you're the boss. I love having a little rock & roll clubhouse where people from all over the world can come & hang out. You can't hang out in playgrounds any more at my age.

S: Playgrounds were the thing back in the day.

RHDM: I still love the playgrounds, I love walking in with my son, Jake, and Zoe, my babymama and playing with all his friends.

S: That was definitely a Bronx thing.

RHDM: We played every day. We went out, were supposed to be back by 5:30, with a rubber ball and our hands and our bodies and we played punch ball, stick ball off the stoop...box ball.

S: What about the hardest thing?

RHDM: The freedom, you know freedom is a great responsibility and a great burden. And sometimes people are busting your chops, officials and what have you, and you're sitting here as a target and you have to deal with it. When it's good, everyone's having a good time and patting you on the back for making them have a good time.

S: What about the future? Do you see yourself here for the long haul?

RHDM: I think about it. I have a few years left on the lease. It'd be nice to get another, we'll see. You know you don't want to live in the past or the future, you want to live in the moment but you want to ponder the past and future so you know who you are and where you might be going.

S: Any final thoughts?

RHDM: My foundation is based on staying clean and sober ... without that I'm nothing. If you're blessed enough to enjoy what you do and you can support your family doing it, I can't think of any better definition of success.




Manitoba's Bar is at 99 Avenue B (bet. 6th & 7th Sts.) (212) 982-2511 His radio show is on Sirius XM Radio weekdays from 8pm till midnight.

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



"Satch" drawing by Sara Hauser

SHARON JONES & THE DAP KINGS---100 DAYS 100 NIGHTS  Do you like soul music? I mean sweet soul music? If you do then you'll love this disc. Ms. Jones has the pipes and the band is tight and knows what not to play, keeping it simple, soulful and funky. Like the soulsisters of the sixties, the material defines the artist (think Aretha with "Respect", Otis with "Dock of The Bay", etc.) and 100 Days allows Jones to stamp her imprint on the genre. Recorded in Brooklyn, NYC with real people playing real instruments, it's a great listen. I give it 3 bones. See you next time on the corner...

Closing Statement: "When we played softball, I'd steal second base, feel guilty and go back." - Woody Allen