

A monthly publication with news about the East Village community at large ©2004 Free in The Village

Volume 1, Issue 9 December 2004 Priceless Everywhere Else

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FIRST OFF... We'd like to thank Mary Ann Rummage for the great job in conceiving, designing & decorating our first ever Source Christmas window. It adds a nice, festive feel to the lights on the block. There ain't no better place than New York at Christmas time, so enjoy the holidays with friends & family & try to make the feeling last through the year. We look forward to the future and doing whatever we can to keep our community safe and vital. On to 2005!

- SOURCE STUFF FOR DECEMBER

 STOCKING STUFFERS -- Journals, Rubber Stamp Kits, Home Office Essentials, Glossy Gift Bags and More. • DID YOU KNOW ...

We Sell Blank CD's as LOW AS 50¢ each? Also ZIP DISKS, DVD'S, CUSTOM BLANK VIDEO TAPES, MINI DV & HI 8MM TAPES.

COMMUNITY NEWS

These Listings Are FREE. To submit, Stop by our store at 331 East 9th Street or **e-mail** us at **santo@sourceunitd.com.** Submissions must be received by Nov. 26th. Inclusion subject to availability.

- * HEAR AND BE HEARD ... The next meeting of The 9th Precinct Community Council will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 14th @ 170 Avenue C (entrance on 11th St.) at 7 pm. At the last meeting identity theft was discussed. Be careful how & where you use your credit/atm cards & keep your social security # in a safe place.
- * KERRIGAN CAMPBELL GALLERY presents a Group Show "Home For The Holidays", Dec. 10-Jan. 30 317 E. 9 St. www.kerrigancampbell.com
- * HELL ON WORDS... Talks By/On Jewish Poets. **RICHARD HELL** discusses Nathaniel West & reads some of his own work. Tues., Dec. 7th 7:00 pm @ 5 Union Square West (above Staples). Call (212) 358-9534. FREE
- * FOOD FOR ALL... Stop by the store & contribute to our ongoing food drive to benefit The Middle Collegiate Church Food Programs. All canned goods are welcome. Thanks
- * THE GIFT OF COMPANIONSHIP... EAST VILLAGE VISITING NEIGHBORS provide help to seniors in our area. For info call 212-260-6200.

about sanitation, noise, etc.)

- SOUNDZ..Lessons * TRIBAL for Djembe, Mbira, Dumbek, & Tabla. Classes offered in Latin & Brazilian Percussion, Blues Harmonica. Children's after school drum workshops. 340 East 6th St. For Info Call: 212-673-5592 www.tribalsoundz.com
- * 8th Annual Season of Conscience Candle Light March to End Child Labor & Sweatshop Abuses. This year the focus will Wal-Mart, the worst abuser. be on Sponsored by The National Labor Comm., Thursday, December 9, 5:30 - 6:30pm at Washington Sq. Park www.nlcnet.org/hsc
- * PEARL CLASSICS...Gogol's MARRIAGE & Moliere's THE IMAGINARY INVALID at The Pearl Theatre Company, our neighborhood classical repertory theatre, Thru DEC. 19th. Theatre gift certificates are a classy gift for the holidays! Call 212-598-9802 (80 St. Mark's Pl. at 1st Ave.)
- * TAG SALE...to benefit the children's ministry of St. Mark's Church. Sat., Dec. 11 10:00-6:00 & Sun. Dec. 12 1:00-4:30. 131 E. 10th St. Call 212-674-6377
- SANTO GIGS...Every Wed w/ singer/ guitarist Jim Toscano at The 1849 Club, 9pm.....on (Bleecker & McDougal)



GUEST COLUMN OF THE MONTH

about sanitation, noise, etc.)

Guest Column of the Month Those Were The Days....A Weekend on Ninth Street, 1969. By Patricia Morrison Part 1

Warning: some of these memories could be off a little, geography-wise, though not by more than a building or two. Hey, it was the Sixties, we were stoned...corrections and additions gratefully accepted.

This is how you would see Ninth Street's 300 block and near neighbors, if you went magically back to spend a weekend in a very different day. Intriguing looking storefront apartments (with intriguing-looking tenants, when you saw them at all—very secretive) lined the whole north side of the block between First and Second Avenues, from the parking lot down to where Ninth Street Market and the laundry now are.

Which was a laundry back then, too: a Chinese laundry—on winter mornings you could smell the starchy steam billowing out and see all the neat brown packages of shirts stacked in the window. Later the laundry became Mercado, an import shop, then Geomancy, a stunning home-furnishings place. And now it's a laundry again. Nice symmetry there.

I loved the storefront pad where Mud now is, and I was furious when the Mud people covered up EOWYN written in the concrete slab in front of the door. I never knew who Eowyn was (apart from the Lord of the Rings character), but her name was inscribed in that pavement for as long as I've lived on the block, and I would look at it every time I went by and wonder about her.

Interesting neighbors back then: 321, the original home of the Cafe La Mama E.T.C. theatre company, could also boast "Jimi Hendrix slept here" (in a basement apartment that's now Uliana's hair place), and a building down the block could claim the same about Jim Morrison (on a regular domestic basis).

W. H. Auden lived around the corner, in the building on St. Marks with the hideous projecting terraces; no such ugliness when he was there—it was an elegant brownstone before it got architecturally mugged.

Over on 10th just east of First was the Cat Mother house, home to local rock group Cat Mother & The All-Night Newsboys. Janis Joplin crashed around a lot, in her early days with Big Brother. But so did pretty much everybody in the music, art and poetry scene. And of course there's still the Santa March, a week or so before Christmas, in which hundreds of costumed Santas march along from Tompkins Square Park, ringing their bells and chanting ho-ho-ho; I've never found out who they are or how the march got started.

And you can shop in the past here, too, then as now. In the space that became the first No More Eggs (which used to actually sell eggs), there was a leathercrafting shop (we bought some stuff), and then an antique shop (bought a nine-foot-tall carved black oak mirror) and then another leather shop; the antique shop moved to where Lord of the Fleas now is; a silversmith/jeweler once worked in Eileen Fisher's present space.

On the west side of Second just north of the Telephone was EKO, a Ukrainian shop with a windowful of those gorgeous embroidered blouses that any hippie chick worth her butt-length hair had to have; on St. Marks, clothes shops like Knobkerry and Grand Hotel and St. Marks Leather. There were tiny fabric and trimming shops all along First Avenue right up to 14th Street: a hippie goldmine of fancy fringe and jeweled trim and Cossack-shirt braid, and a fabulous fabric store on the southwest corner of St. Marks and First, where the shoe store is.

If you don't feel like sewing, buy some groovy threads at the Naked Grape (now St. Marks Pizza) and then go to the dollar movie theater, known locally as the Rat Ranch, taking up most of the ground floor of that corner building, along with the basement theater that housed the Negro Ensemble Company.

Back on Ninth, ... (to be continued next month...)

Patricia Kennealy Morrison, a retired rock critic, is the author of the Keltiad science fiction series and of "Strange Days: My Life With and Without Jim Morrison." She has lived in the East Village since 1967.



Satch's Corner Where you can read about some good cd's, books & videos which can be purchased at www.sourceunltd.com through our affiliate program with amazon.com

Los Mocosos -- American Us

This is the 2nd collection by this group and I really enjoy listening to both of them. Mixing rock, funk, latin and ska, with socially conscious lyrics that are on the money but not preachy, they just groove & take you along for the ride. "Hey Mama", is a standout; a 50's style ballad with ska undertones. "Senore Presidente" & "In The House" address issues facing minorities in America today. They don't get much play but they deserve to... Enjoy the holidays!See you next time on the corner...