

Source Letter

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

Free in The Village

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Priceless Everywhere Else

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FIRST OFF... Hope everyone enjoyed a peaceful, spiritual & relatively stress free holiday season. I'm not big on resolutions, but I find this is always a good time to look back on what went down the previous year & see where things could be made better for the future. So get a check up for your mental & physical well being, wipe the slate clean & gear up for some better days.

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Capeesh?

COMMUNITY NEWS

These Listings Are FREE. To submit, Stop by our store at 331 East 9th Street or e-mail us at

- * **HEAR AND BE HEARD...**The next meeting of The 9th Precinct Community Council will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 11th @ 200 East 5th Street (corner of Cooper Square & 3rd Ave.)
- * Tribes Gallery and Gallery OneTwentyEight present **Abstraction from Another Dimension** featuring under-represented Native American, Hispanic American, & Asian American artists, abstraction expressed through painting, sculpture, & photography. Jan. 8-Feb. 5th, Tribes Gallery, 285 E. 3rd St., 212-674-8262
- * **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.
- * **YOU WANT TO HELP**, but The Tsunami Disaster seems overwhelming? Here are a few sites that you can donate directly to:
www.unicefusa.org
www.habitatforhumanity.org,
- * **A READING, A BOOK RELEASE PARTY..**To celebrate the publication of a poem by R. Nemo Hill "*The Strange Music of Erich Zann*". Sat., Jan. 8th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm @ The Bowery Poetry Club, 308 Bowery (at Bleeker). Call 212-614-0505 for more info.
- * **MAC PROBLEMS?** ...Apple-certified consultant, Charles K. Noyes offers consultation, maintenance, training, on-site service & more. For rates & more info: 212-
- * Lenny Kaye's "**You Call It Madness: The Sensuous Song of the Croon**" is just out from Villard/Random House. Kaye will read & perform songs from his study of the romantic singers of the 1930s. Friday, Jan. 28 at 10:30pm. Poetry Project @ St. Mark's Church, 131 E. 10th St.
- * **LEND A HELPING HAND..** EAST VILLAGE VISITING NEIGHBORS provide help to seniors in our area. For info call 212-260-6200.
- * **A SAD FAREWELL** to a really good friend, long time neighbor & lover of life, Liz Konzen who passed away suddenly & unexpectedly in December.
- * **SANTO GIGS...Every Wed w/** singer/ guitarist **Jim Toscano** at **The 1849 Club**, 9pm.....on (Bleecker & McDougal)

Monthly Reminders

Attn Parkers: Alternate Parking is suspended on
• Jan. 1, Sat. - New Year's Day
• Jan. 17, Mon. -Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birth
• Jan. 20-22, Thurs., Fri, Sat -Idul-Adha

THE 311 HOTLINE

Dial for Non-Emergency Services such as Complaints about Noise, Sanitation, etc.

GUEST COLUMN OF THE



Guest Column of the Month

Those Were The Days....A Weekend on Ninth Street, 1969. Part 2 By Patricia Morrison

Back on Ninth, on your weekend in the past, you'll find entertainment right here on the block: La Mama; and also, a few doors down where the Vietnamese shops are now, the Bread and Puppet Theater had that whole double storefront before it moved to the Theater for the New City and then to Vermont. Not infrequently I'd wake up and see a giant dragon or hobbyhorse head on a pole going past outside while a brass band played "When the Saints Go Marchin' In" and it would be B&PT staging an impromptu parade; they'd march from Second to First, play a while and then march back again.

The spa place near First was a wine shop in 1969, from which we bought quite a few nice bottles. Then it was storage for Garibaldi's, the grocer on the northwest corner where the herb store is now, and then a bar, coming sort of full circle. I recall a butter and egg place too, and a tiny shop where the tailor's is that sold pantyhose, ladies' stockings and underpants. (Much later, a friend would open the third version of her Celtic bookstore Rivendell in the tailor's space.)

The big red windowless building above the herb store, seemingly a pigeon hotel, was a notorious shooting gallery in the Dark Years, at least according to gossip. You'd think that a prime chunk of East Village real estate could bring in a heck of a lot more were it renovated to house humans, not pigeons...yet there it sits, empty. Or...is it? A mystery.

And who can forget the previous incarnation of the Ninth Street Bakery: an ancient shack full of old built-in wood shelves and cabinets and cardboard boxes on the floor full of rolls and bagels and the best pumpernickel in the world, with a crust like polished black leather... delicious.

On the southwest corner of First and Ninth, a greengrocer had the pizzeria space; next door was a kosher butcher where I used to buy fresh ducks, which was replaced by a newspaper/candystore which was itself replaced by China Star. Another butcher I favored, on the west side of First between St. Marks and Seventh, did rotisserie chickens for a couple of dollars—big huge cooker that must have roasted twenty birds at a time, right on the counter.

Dodging the traffic in Memory Lane: It's a weekend night, so of course after you get dressed up and smoke a joint or two, you'll be going to the Fillmore East, now Emigrant Savings Bank, 105 Second Avenue, at Sixth Street; the brick apartment building along Sixth is where the side of the house and stage entrance was. The front of 105 is still remarkably the same, except for the marquee and the huge bronze doors;

upstairs were the offices of the East Village Other, underground journal of choice.

Tickets ranged from \$5.50 for orchestra seats to \$3.50 for balcony. That was considered a tad pricey in those days of \$75 weekly salaries, but you got fantastic value for money: three bands that were never less than commendable and often world-class, and sometimes the show would be four hours long. It was my job and my duty (as the editor of Jazz & Pop magazine and one of the few female rock critics in the business) to go there every weekend for free, sometimes more than once if friends were playing or if I really liked a particular band. A tough gig, but someone had to do it.

If the Grateful Dead or Hendrix or the Doors or the Jefferson Airplane are headlining, you won't be staggering out of the late show until it's daylight and time to have breakfast at Ratner's or Odessa or Veselka or Kiev, and lots of times the musicians would be eating eggs and toast and bacon and home fries right there with you.

Prior to the show, maybe you'll have dinner at Sing Wu, a cavernous Chinese place between St. Marks and Seventh, or at Ratner's (now part of NYU): the quintessential Jewish restaurant, complete with terminally irritated (and irritating) waiters. The food was okay, but the strawberry shortcake and four inch-high chocolate silk cream pie (our favorite) were the best in the galaxy.

On Second Avenue and Ninth, northwest corner, stood the glorious and lamented Orchidia, the only Slavic-Italian restaurant in town (maybe you'd have gone there, for pizza and pierogi), in the space Starbucks just moved to. Not much luck in that location since the landlord turfed Orchidia out: the vile Steve's Ice Cream, a long vacancy, In Padella now also gone. Perhaps Starbucks will inherit the bad fu in turn.

After the show, it's egg creams and pretzel sticks at Gems Spa, or maybe down to Chinatown (Wo Hop, *everybody* went there) if you had serious munchies from the concert contact high.

Some things are blessedly the same: Veniero, De Robertis. Some so very not: the Electric Circus on St. Marks, formerly the Dom, the Polish National Hall, is now the home of Quiznos. But back then it often showcased the Velvet Underground, and it was the very first place that I officially as a brand-new rock hack saw the Grateful Dead play.

It was simple. It was long ago. Life was good. Where's time travel when you really need it?

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"

by Sara Hauser

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

New World Order - Curtis Mayfield

This is the last disc released by Curtis before he passed on and the story has it that vocal mikes were hung on the ceiling over him so that he could sing while lying down. While it doesn't have the trademark Mayfield guitar sounds, the vocals are there and the duets with Mavis Staples and Aretha are happenin'. The spirit lives on. See you next time on the corner...

Closing Statement: True life lies in laughter, love and work.