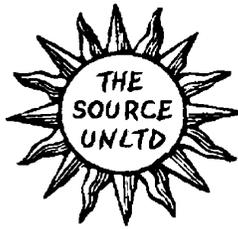


Source



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... We'd like to thank Michael & Nuri Wernick for their contribution of a story about hope and revival for this month's guest column. It's a great way to welcome Springtime! And on behalf of the 9th Street Merchants, we commend Deputy Inspector McCarthy, & Officers Hernandez & German for their quick and attentive response and action to recent incidents on 9th Street.

SOURCE STUFF FOR MARCH

4¢ OVERNIGHT RATE

SOME RESTRICTIONS APPLY. ASK FOR DETAILS.

REMINDERS

Attn: Parkers: Alternate Parking is suspended:
• March 24, Thurs. - Holy Thursday
• March 25, Fri. - Good Friday • Purim

HEAR AND BE HEARD at the next meeting of the 9th Precinct Community Council. March 8 @ 200 E. 5th St. (cor. 3rd Ave) 7pm. www.ninthprecinctcouncil.org

THE 311 HOTLINE

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

PLACES TO LEND A HAND

- **North Shore Animal League** on Long Island is a great place to find a dog or cat that needs a home. Satch recommends it highly. 516-883-7575 www.nsalamerica.org
- **HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE** with our ongoing food drive to benefit **The Middle Collegiate Church Food Programs**. All canned goods you bring to our store go directly to people who really need them.
- **EAST VILLAGE VISITING NEIGHBORS** provide help to seniors in our area. For info: 212-260-6200

COMMUNITY NEWS

GET LISTED! UPCOMING EVENTS, GIGS, ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST.

To submit, Stop by our store @ 331 E. 9th Street OR e-mail us at santo@sourceunltd.com.

Submissions must be received by MARCH 27th. Inclusion subject to space availability.

- * **TAOIST ENERGY CULTIVATION** with Susan Rabinowitz. Breathing, awareness & movement practices to help students develop, store, increase internal energy for health & relaxation. March 18, 7 pm @ Taoist Arts Center, 342 E. 9th St., 212-477-7055, www.taoist-arts.com
- * **GUITAR INSTRUCTION** for all levels. Certified instructor/professional recording artist. "Customized lessons". Develop technique, music theory, play any song (east village/gramercy area) Call 732-309-4127
- * **SHAKE THOSE WINTER BLUES...** East Village clown & costumed entertainer (gypsy fortuneteller, etc.) available for small parties & corporate events. Contact: Emily 212-674-1806.
- * **We should but we don't!**...but we have a dream, that one day we'll have a HBO special & an apartment with a bathtub. Theater For The New City Presents EPSTEIN AND HASSAN in "YOU TWO SHOULD HAVE YOUR OWN HBO SPECIAL" Fri, March 4, 10:30pm, 155 First Ave. Call: 212-254-1109
- * **MONK THE PLAY...** Rome Neal engages the audience with penetrating, intensely personal glances of Monk. He persuades us to listen to his music again. Performance at Abingdon Theatre Arts Complex, 312 W. 36th St. (bet. 8 & 9th Ave.). 718-288-8048 or www.monktheplay.com
- * **Urban Word NYC Teen Poetry Slam...** A round of the 7th Annual Poetry Slam, where a panel of judges determine which poets move on to the next level. March 5th @ The Poetry Project (2nd Ave. & 10th St.), Call (212) 674-0910
- * **FUNDRAISER...**Join Ekayani for an evening of socially conscious entertainment to benefit the victims in the Sudan and Doctors Without Borders @ The C Note, March 24, 8-11pm. Info: 212-677-8142
- * **SANTO GIGS...**with The Lone Wolf, Thurs. March 3rd at 169 Bar, (169 E. Broadway) 9:00 pm



GUEST COLUMN OF THE MONTH 

Guest Column of the Month

THE LONG RIDE HOME

The story begins when Gerard Baptiste from Engine 33, Ladder 9 approached fellow firefighter Michael Wernick and his wife Nuri to get their advice on buying a motorcycle. Not knowing what kind of bike he should buy, he began the search. A beat up, non-running 1979 Honda CB750 LTD was the bike to catch his eye. Rusted chrome, ripped seat, peeling paint and an engine that wouldn't start, most would agree with Michael, a NYC firefighter for 24 years, when he advised Gerard not to buy this bike. Two weeks and a hundred dollars later there was Gerard pushing the bike down the street to the firehouse. Michael Wernick, owner of Rising Wolf Garage on 9th Street recalls, "He was drawn to this bike, he was gonna buy this bike no matter what anyone told him, this was the one." Two weeks later, on September 11, 2001, when a call came into the firehouse to go to the WTC, Gerard jumped on the rig with Michael and their fellow firefighters. Gerard and 9 others from the Great Jones firehouse never came home. Michael Wernick barely escaped the collapse. Shortly thereafter, with the bike still at the firehouse, the idea to restore the bike in Gerard's honor was born. With the help and support of many, and after 15 months of restoration work, the motorcycle had earned the title, *The FDNY Dream Bike*.

After the restoration of the bike was completed it was decided to hold a raffle as a way to share the healing process with others, with all of the proceeds going to the Engine 33 Ladder 9 Children's College Scholarship Fund & the Firehouse Memorial Plaque.

This is where the story takes the final lap home. Thousands of raffle tickets were sold all over the world, spanning from as far away as Australia to our nearest borders. Gerard's mother was asked to do the honors of picking the winner but as the time approached, it was unclear whether she would be able to do so because of her health. As a "back-up" the filmmakers of a 50 minute documentary about the bike entitled, *FDNY Dream Bike* were asked to fill in. (See Editors Note)

As fate would have it, Mrs. Baptiste was able to attend and participate in the drawing and the person she chose was a California resident. Michael immediately called the winner only to find out that she was in New York visiting friends that week. Learning that she was only blocks away from the Firehouse, Michael and the others had the opportunity to meet with her only moments after and brought the bike to her. Wishing to remain anonymous, and not being a motorcyclist she decided to donate the bike to a fireman from Ladder 9 who had lost his brother on 9/11.

So from being wheeled in as a junkyard dog, the bike returned to Engine 33, Ladder 9 as a pedigree.

Editor's Note: On a lark after the raffle drawing, the film makers tried their hand at picking a name to see who the winner would have been had they done the official drawing instead of Mrs. Baptiste. They picked the same woman. The Dream Bike came full circle.

Michael Wernick is a recently retired 23 year veteran of the NYC Fire Department. Nuri Wernick is an established Medical Massage Therapist. Together they are the creators and owners of Rising Wolf Motorcycle Garage on Ninth Street.



"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

LOS LONELY BOYS ... If these brothers were lonely growing up, they put their time together to good use. This disc is an old school throwback from three guys who did their homework. A little bit of Santana, Los Lobos & Stevie Ray mixed in with their own natural harmonies & tex-mex sensibilities make for a good listening experience. There's an ease and flow to the playing & execution on this album which doesn't need a lot of studio tricks or over production. The songs are good and the playing is excellent. You can't ask for more than that. Check 'em out!

See you next time on the corner.

Closing Statement: An individual's first duty is to live his life as his principles demand. -H.D. Thoreau