

Source Letter

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

Free in The Village

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Pricelless Everywhere Else

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FIRST OFF... Time... we pass time on the street, we spend time watching movies, we while it away sitting on the stoop, we make it up while driving. 5pm eastern, 2pm pacific, what time is it in China? I got one clock that runs fast, one that runs slow and one that doesn't run at all, it just strolls. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour on the 11th. Springtime approaches. Support your local vendors when you can, keep the community strong and vital.

SOURCE STUFF FOR MARCH

SCANNING NOW AVAILABLE

PHOTOS, ARTWORK or TEXT converted to JPEGS, TIFF FILES, etc.

INFORMATION

Attn. Parkers: Alternate Parking is suspended:

- March 4th Sun. Purim
- SPRING AHEAD...Sun., March 11th, is Daylight Savings Time. Turn your clocks ahead 1 hour and welcome back the sun.
- The Ninth Precinct Community Council Meeting will be held on Tues., March 20th, 7:00 pm @ 200 East 5th Street (Cor. of Cooper Square & 3rd Avenue)



• Volunteers help seniors with shopping or errands, and accompany them to the doctor, as well as provide moral support. Contact: Visiting Neighbors, 611 Bdwy, Suite 510 (212) 260-6200

• **CANS IN THE BOX** ... People in need. Help them out by contributing to our ongoing food drive to benefit Middle Collegiate Church Food Program. Bring your canned goods to our store.

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 April 28th. Inclusion subject to space availability.

- **MOVE OVER DREAMGIRLS...** A 60's Girl Group with three white female singers from Detroit, struggle to change a racially divided society. *Betty And The Belrays*, a musical with book & lyrics by William Electric Black, @ Theater for The New City, March 8 - April 1, Call: 212-254-1109
- **THE OLD, WEIRD AMERICA...** Rani Singh's documentary film tracks the history of Harry Smith's *Anthology of American Folk Music 2006* from its initial compilation of 78rpm records from rural Americana to its release on Folkways Records in 1952. Thursday March 15th, 8:00 pm, @ Anthology Film Archives, 32 Second Ave. (at Second Street) (212) 505-5181 www.anthologyfilmarchives.org
- **KNIT 1, PEARL 2...** A reading of poems that have been transposed into song lyrics are at the core of the upcoming Mabou Mines production - *Song For New York: What Women Do While Men Sit Knitting*. The poet/lyricists reading will be Patricia Spears Jones, Migdalia Cruz, Imelda O'Reilly, Karen Evans Kandel and Maggie Dubris. Wed., March 28th, 8:00pm @ Poetry Project, 131 E. 10th St. Call (212) 674-0910 (In Sept. this piece will be performed on a barge at five locations in the waters surrounding the five boroughs.)
- **PAINTINGS OF COLOR...** work curated by Randy Bloom, March 3 -31, Opening reception, Sat., March 3rd, 6pm-9pm @ Tribes Gallery, 285 East 3rd Street, (212) 674-3778 info@tribes.org
- **WHAT?...** Learn strategies to help you boost your memory. This is a two-part workshop (to take part, you must attend both sessions), March 19th & 26th, 12-1:30pm at The 14th Street Y, 344 E. 14th St., FREE. Space is limited. Registration is required. For more info or to register call the Karpas Health Center at (212) 420-4247.
- **ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID...** *The Bride of Frankenstein* will be shown on Tuesday, March 20th at 2:00pm, @ the Kips Bay Branch of the NYC Public Library, 446 Third Avenue (at E. 31st St.) (212) 683-2520, Free
- **CHI KUNG: THE TEN TAOIST EXERCISES...** Athletic & energizing, the Ten Taoist exercises tone the internal organs & strengthen and relax the body and mind. March 11, Noon to 6:00pm @ Taoist Arts Center. 342 East 9th Street (212) 477-7055 . www.taoist-arts.com
- **ART AND REVIEW...** New York Times art critic John Rockwell discusses his book, *Outsider: John Rockwell On the Arts, 1967-2006*, a compilation featuring special selections of the journalist's commentary over the past 40 years. WQXR radio morning announcer Jeff Spurgeon will be interviewing. March 6 7:00pm - 8:30pm, at Strand Book Store, 12th Street and Broadway. Info: 212-473-1452

GUEST COLUMN OF THE MONTH 

THE DELI MAN AND THE PARK by Marilyn Appleberg

On New Year's Day, 2006 the Second Avenue Deli, a landmark on the corner of Second Avenue and East 10th Street for over 50 years, closed its doors. For longtime residents of this community it carried meaning far beyond the loss of great pastrami or chopped liver. It was the dropping of the proverbial other shoe – the first was dropped March 4, 1996. That was the day that the larger than life owner of the deli, Abe Lebewohl, was shot and killed on East 4 Street and Second Avenue on his way to the bank. "Death of a Deli Man" was the headline in one New York daily, a description that would have suited Abe's view of himself, but to this community he was so much more.

Abe, born in the Ukraine in 1931, arrived with his family from war-scarred Europe in 1950. His first home was the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, now the Public Theater, and in more than half a century he never lived or worked very far from this port of entry.

When Abe first worked at the deli, it was a 12-seat hole in the wall with communal tables. He soon bought out the owner and expanded both the physical space and its reputation over the next decades. His magnetic personality and his over-the-top generosity became as well known as the delectable Jewish fare he served. As the neighborhood's population changed, little but the deli served to remind of the avenue's past as the "Yiddish Rialto." To fill that void Abe created the "Walkway of Yiddish Actors" at the restaurant's entrance. In the 1970s when shuttered shops and methadone clinics ruled Second Avenue, Abe was steadfast in his devotion to the neighborhood; he not only stayed but he poured more money into what by then was a beloved institution. To Abe, in his own words, "the East Village was a good girl with a bad reputation."

In 1981, when I decided that the little WPA-era park- St Marks Park - in front of St Marks Church had been a misused and abused eyesore for far too long, everyone told me not to bother trying to change it. They said it could never be anything more, but Abe said, "What can I do." The park was just one of the causes he championed in this neighborhood. Abe gave out more free food – to the homeless, striking workers, block associations and non-profits – than most other restaurants serve.

Marilyn Appleberg, a published author of city guides and a longtime community advocate, is a 38-year resident of the East Village, President of the 10th & Stuyvesant Streets Block Association and "Steward" of Abe Lebewohl Park, an honorary title bestowed by Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe in recognition of her volunteer work on its behalf. She is currently an agent with Wohlfarth & Associates Real Estate.

When I partnered with Beth Flusser of the Third Street Music School to present a free weekly music series to bring a new population to the park, Abe provided free chopped liver and tuna as incentive for them to come where none had been before. Gradually, with the help of the Parks Department, the 9th Precinct, my group, the 10th & Stuyvesant Streets Block Association, and, of course, Abe, the space began to command respect. With the invaluable support of our then City Council-member, Antonio Pagan, a much-needed renovation was planned.

On that March 4th morning, 11 years ago, Abe's family, friends and this community were robbed of an irreplaceable treasure. His funeral the next day brought the East Village to a stand still and the synagogue on 6th Street was filled to the rafters. Within weeks I had succeeded in persuading all of the powers that be to agree to change the name of St. Marks Park to Abe Lebewohl Park; as Pagan said, "it was a no-brainer." The park was Rededicated in October 1996 and completely renovated in time for the start of the 16th annual concert series in 1997.

When I learned that the renaming was purely honorary, I was concerned. Perhaps the deli would be there for the next century (boy, was I wrong), but I wanted to make sure that Abe's name would forever remain on Second Avenue, where it belonged. With the help of the councilman's office I obtained a local-law change, making the name permanent. As shocked and saddened as we all were by the precipitous closing of the Deli, I was heartened by the knowledge that Abe Lebewohl's name would remain

Since the renaming, and especially since the deli's closing, I have rededicated myself to keeping this little (.155 acres) park safe and clean and deserving of such a proud name. I invite all of my neighbors to do the same. Remember and honor this wonderful man by sitting in his namesake park; patronize the Greenmarket (Tuesdays, May-December); attend Music in Abe Lebewohl Park (Thursdays at 12:30pm in June and July), and discourage those who disrespect the space by speaking up when they dump garbage or throw bread for the pigeons directly into the little flower garden – Abe deserves nothing less.

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

SISTER ROSETTA THARPE -- The Original Soul Sister

I can't say enough good things about this artist or this 4 disc box set. Although classified as a gospel singer, Sister Rosetta's style was filled with blues & jazz. She was the first to incorporate the "city blues" of the 1930's into gospel music & the only full-fledged gospel singer to cross over into the jazz field. The fun & joy she has playing her music jump right off the disc & before you know it, you're swinging with her. Many of her guitar licks are later found in classic rock & roll songs and her music, overall is timeless. Definitely worth a listen, so give soul sister #1 a shot. "See you next time on the corner...."



"Satch"

by Sara Hauser

Closing Statement: "Never look down on anybody unless you're helping him up." -- Jesse Jackson