

Source Letter

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

Free in The Village

Volume 1, Issue 7 October 2004

Priceless Everywhere Else

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FIRST OFF: We're heading into the home stretch & after all's said & done, regardless of who's sitting in the big chair it all comes down to one thing -- community. Those that live in one need to nurture, protect & support it. It's good to have government help when possible but we can't depend on it. So be sure to vote come Nov. 2nd, but look around every day to see what little thing you can do to make the big picture right.

SOURCE STUFF FOR OCTOBER

• Refill your cartridges for only **\$11.95!** HP, EPSON, CANON, LEXMARK, etc. inkjet cartridges. They are guaranteed to work and save you plenty of money. Ask us for details.

DID YOU KNOW...

• You can get great looking **BUSINESS CARDS** for **ONLY \$20?** The cards are Raised Print with Black ink on a white card. Other inks & cardstocks avail. at add'l cost



COMMUNITY NEWS

These Listings Are FREE. To submit, Stop by our store at 331 East 9th Street or e-mail us at santo@sourceunltd.com. Submissions must be received by Oct. 29th. Inclusion subject to availability.

- * **HEAR AND BE HEARD...**The next meeting of The 9th Precinct Community Council will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 12th @ 170 Ave C (entrance on E. 11th St.) at 7 pm. At the last meeting it was noted that most crimes are down but burglaries are still high. Know who you buzz into your building, make sure windows are closed & doors locked, be aware of who's hanging around.
- * **Still collecting** for The Middle Collegiate Church Food Programs. Help make a difference! Bring your cans to the shop.
- * **NEITHER RAIN NOR SNOW...**Call 1-800-ASK-USPS to voice your concern about the severe Post Office cuts in our neighborhood (collection cuts, removing boxes, etc).
- * **Volunteer...East Village Visiting Neighbors** provide help & companionship to seniors in our area. To volunteer: 212-260-6200.
- * **TIME TO LIGHT UP AGAIN...**9th Streeters, the holidays are around the corner. It's street light time! Store owners call Jennifer from Little King at 212-260-6140 for info.
- * **PUMPKIN CARVING...**A tradition that keeps on grinning. Friday, Oct. 29th, 7 pm @ the 6th & B Garden.
- * **SLEEPYHEAD...** A full length comedy written by Jade Sharma, directed by Penny Arcade & presented by The Tribes Gallery, will be at The Nuyorican Poets Cafe Oct. 7, 8, 9, 14, 15 & 16. (571) 237-6123
- * **POETRY PROJECT'S** fall calendar is out! Visit www.poetryproject.com/calendar.html for info.
- * **ON THE DIAL:** Listen to Ken Nash & Mimi Rosenberg's "Building Bridges: Your Community & Labor Report" Mondays @ 7pm on WBAI 99.5 FM
- * **ANGEL 11:11** plays his brand of funk/rock Sunday, Oct. 3rd, 10 pm at Sin-e. 150 Attorney (bet. Houston & Stanton). 212-780-3293.
- * **BBQ PRODUCTIONS** showing "Peace Through Understanding" a documentary about The 1964/65 NY World's Fair. Sat. Oct. 2, 3:30 pm, Queens Museum of Art.
- * **SANTO GIGS...**Jazz Brunch Sun., Oct. 3rd, 12 pm - 3 pm w/ Jazz Singer **Melissa Hamilton** @ **Washington Square Hotel** (Waverly & McDougal) & **Every Wed** w/ singer/guitarist **Jim Toscano** @ **The 1849 Club**, 9 pm, (Bleecker & McDougal).



Monthly Reminders

- Attn: Parkers: **Alternate Parking** will be **suspended** on Oct. 1, 7, 8, & 11.
- Daylight Savings: **Turn** your clocks **back** Sun., Oct. 31, 2:00 am.

GUEST COLUMN OF THE MONTH 

Guest Column of the Month

A Tribute to Ray Charles by Michael Lydon

Ray Charles lives. A spirit this noble cannot die. Artists like Shakespeare, Beethoven, Dickens live forever in their works. Generations will listen to Ray's music, marveling as we do at its beauty, vigor, insight into life, and titanic determination. God bless our friend, Ray Charles Robinson.

"I never wanted to be famous," Ray Charles said, "but I always wanted to be great." He succeeded, achieving a place beside Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and a dozen giants of 20th century popular music. Five decades of Ray's music pulse in the airwaves, touching millions every day. Total self-confidence fueled Ray's greatness. He knew, he declared, "no reason for the music to come out any different from the way I hear it in my head."

Ray's greatness endures because he became a superb sound painter. With his "Georgia" earnings, Ray built a studio in Los Angeles, and there, like Rembrandt in Amsterdam, Ray piled up canvases drenched in sexy red-purples, glorious gospel golds, blues of every shade, even the grays of Paris in the rain. Blindness posed no handicap for this sound painter. "You don't have to see life," Ray once said, "you have to observe life."

Writing *Ray Charles: Man and Music* was a challenging, absorbing four-year project. I travelled to his birthplace, Greenville Florida, to the school for the deaf and blind he attended in St. Augustine, to Seattle, Los Angeles, Dallas, New Orleans, and Paris, meeting many musicians and friends he knew along the way. Interviewing Ray was a thrill--he bounced up and down in his chair as he recounted fascinating stories of his past.

I last saw Ray Charles on stage Fourth of July a year ago in Atlantic City. Middle-aged couples sat at tables in the dark. An unseen voice boomed, "The Legendary Genius of Soul, Mr., Ray, CHARRR-LES!" and out came Ray on his valet's arm, grinning but stepping gingerly--arthritis in a hip, said band scuttlebutt. He sat at the keyboard,

found his mike, and kicked the band into a rocker. Applause, then "Busted." More applause and the band slid into "Georgia." The crowd sat back to listen. Ray Charles, now white-haired and spidery-frail, singing "Georgia": this is what they had come to see.

The energy flowing between Ray and the people became a bond woven from memories, music, and the crowd's shouts and cries. We knew Ray, Ray knew us. We admired Ray for his triumphs over blindness, poverty, and prejudice. We loved Ray Charles and believed he loved us. He'd become an old man, but none of us were as young as we used to be.

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Ray set up a driving keyboard riff, the drummer added a Latin sizzle on his cymbals, "What'd I Say." As one, we leapt to our feet, clapping and whooping.

"Ooooh" sang Ray.

"Ooooh," we sang with the Raelets.

"Ooo--oo-oooh," sang Ray.

"Ooo--oo-oooh,." Back and forth we went, oohing and eeing and ow-owing, following every goofy vocal contortion Ray put us through. All too soon, the valet reappeared, and a dapper MC told us we'd been entertained by the Ray Charles orchestra, the world-famous Raelets, and by the Genius himself, Mr. Ray Charles!

Ray bent to the mike. "Thank you, thank you, there are no words to say how much I appreciate you staying with me all these years." He stood and spread his arms and, as he had done countless times before, wrapped them around his body, embracing us. Then, bobbing his head and smiling, Ray disappeared offstage. Still stirred by all we'd felt, we drifted up the aisles to the exits.

Michael Lydon, a well-known East Village musician, is the author of *Ray Charles: Man and Music*, the definitive of the Genius, recently republished by Routledge and available at St. Marks Books, Barnes & Noble, Amazon, and bookstores everywhere.



"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

Ollabelle

I'm driving back from a gig one late a.m., fighting to keep my eyes on the road & hands upon the wheel, flicking the radio to find something to keep me going. Then I get a slap from a tune called "Get Back Temptation" from this group Ollabelle who, as it turns out, are an East Village crew that got to record with T. Bone Burnett and put out a really good disc of old & new folk tunes. Very live sounding; great harmonies; a touch of acoustic funk; spiritual.

Check it out, it'll wake you up & that ain't bad...

See you next time on the corner.

Closing Statement: When Your Neighbor's House is in Flames, Yours is in Danger.