

Source Letter

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

Free in The Village

Volume 2, Issue 7 October 2005

Priceless Everywhere Else

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FIRST OFF... Farewell to long time village resident & journalist Steven Vincent, whose reports from Iraq uncovered war time facts of life there that ultimately got him murdered. There will be a celebration of his life on Saturday, Oct. 1st, 6-9pm at the Great Hall at Cooper Union. All are welcome. Steven followed his heart & conscience to try to make a difference with his writing. While he will be missed, his spirit lives on.

SOURCE STUFF FOR OCTOBER

PRINTER PAPER \$4.95 REAM

REMINDERS

Attn. Parkers: Alternate Parking is suspended:

• Oct. 4th/5th,	Tues./Wed.	Rosh Hashanah
• Oct. 10th,	Mon.	Columbus Day
• Oct. 13th,	Thurs.	Yom Kippur
• Oct. 18th/19th,	Tues./Wed.	Succoth
• Oct. 25th,	Tues.	Shemini Atzereth
• Oct. 26th,	Wed.	Simchas Torah

• **HEAR AND BE HEARD** at the next meeting of the 9th Precinct Comm. Council. Oct. 11 @ 170 Ave C @ 11th St.
 • **Daylight Savings Time...Fall 1 hour Back on Oct. 30**

PLACES TO LEND A HAND

- **VOLUNTEER** & give NYC public school kids the educational help & support they need & deserve. www.learningleaders.org e-mail: hwhyte@learningleaders.org
- **EAST VILLAGE VISITING NEIGHBORS** provide help to seniors in our area. For info: 212-260-6200
- **HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE** with our ongoing food drive to benefit **The Middle Collegiate Church Food Programs**. 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 October 29th. Inclusion subject to space availability.

- **A BENEFIT** to raise money for relief efforts aiding the thousands of people displaced and otherwise affected by Hurricane Katrina and the devastating flooding of New Orleans. Details will be developing over the coming week to include: Cecil Taylor, Dael Orlandersmith, Edwin Torres, Yusef Komunyakaa, Patricia Spears Jones, Greg Fuchs, Tonya Foster, Denizé Lature, Anne Waldman, and more to come. This benefit is being organized in conjunction with A Gathering of the Tribes, & The Bowery Poetry Club. Sat., Oct. 1st, 1 pm, @ Poetry Project, St. Mark's Church (2nd Ave at 10th St.) Call 212-674-0910
- **POP-JAZZ CONCERT** of originals & standards with Michael Lydon (guitar, vocal & whistle), Ellen Mandel (piano), Wei Sheng Lin (bass), Rudy Lawless (drums), Fri. Oct. 7th 7:30pm @ the Third Street Music School Settlement. 235 E. 11th St. (bet. 2nd & 3rd Aves) Info: 212-777-3240 FREE!
- **PENNYBACKER...** An evening of improv comedy with ABCity's finest. Wed. Oct. 12th, @ 8pm. 6 & B Garden (6th Street & Avenue B) www.6bgarden.org
- **THREE THUG MICE** The Animated Movie, Oct. 5th, 7:30 @ Scenic, 25 Ave. B (bet. 2nd & 3rd St.). Free beer while it lasts, Live Go-Go dancers, Fried chicken by Jeans Cook Up, & DJ Outlaw J-One. www.threethugmice.com
- **CRAIG RUBANO** appearing (with Tedd Firth on piano) Oct. 18-21, 11:30pm, at The Hideaway Room at Helen's Supper Club, 169 Eighth Ave. (Next to the Joyce Theater at 19th St.) www.HelensNYC.com Call: 212-206-0609
- **ROME NEAL'S BANANA PUDDIN**, a jazz jam & open mic, Featuring The Onaje Allan Gumbs Trio. Sun. Oct. 23 at 7pm. Nuyorican Poets Cafe, 236 E. 3rd St. (bet. B & C Aves). RSVP 212-465-3167. Complimentary banana pudding!
- **STREET FAIRS**
 - Saturday, October 1, Caring Community Fair** Washington Square N. from Sixth Ave. to University Pl.
 - Saturday, October 8, Stonewall Vets Assoc.** Greenwich Ave. from Sixth to Seventh Aves.
 - Saturday, October 8. Union Sq. Autumn Fair** Park Avenue South from 17th to 23rd Streets
 - Saturday, October 22, St. Joseph's Fest.** Washington Pl. from Grove to MacDougal Sts.
 - Saturday, October 22, Washington Square Fest.** Waverly Pl. from Broadway to Fifth Ave.
 - Saturday, October 29, Astor Place Festival** Astor Pl. from Broadway to Lafayette St.

GUEST COLUMN OF THE MONTH 

Guest Column of the Month

From The Lower East Side To The East Village by Mel & Sheryl London

"Nothing endures but change" -Diogenes

The tour buses made their way down St. Mark's Place, slowly and deliberately, letting the visitors from New Jersey and Long Island and points East, West, and overseas take a good hard look at where the "hippies" lived, where the flower children smoked pot, and where the "revolution" against conformity and rigidity was taking place. Suddenly dashing over to the buses from the sidewalks, these same "flower children" appeared, holding up full length mirrors to the bus windows, so that all the tourists would take back with them to their suburban homes was images of themselves.

It was the 60's - the wonderful, wild, free sixties, when the East Village was still the Lower East Side, when the Fillmore East on Second Avenue featured the best of rock, the most original of bands and soloists. Jimi Hendrix and The Jefferson Airplane held forth. The Vietnam War was revving up and the anti-war movement was forming just as quickly from the Bowery to Avenue A and from Fourteenth Street down to Houston. The gentle quality of the flower children (due mostly to a very good quality of pot) finally gave way to the most vocal confrontations ("Hey, hey, LBJ, How many kids have you killed today?") to full scale anti-war riots - with the police and the local Ukrainian population fully supporting the war. Ah, it was a great time, possibly one of the best in an ever-changing neighborhood.

We moved here in the late fifties, when the Cafe Royale was still on the corner of 12th St. and Second Avenue, Moskowitz and Lupowitz reverberated with laughter and celebration down on Fifth Street, Ratners featured dairy dishes, live chickens were sold on 11th Street, and to get the pushcarts off the street, a fully enclosed market was opened where the Theatre for the New City now sits on 10th Street and First Avenue.

But the most vital signs of life in the neighborhood at that time was the final breath of the Yiddish Theatre - and most of the stages and motion picture theatres now in the area were still active and vital. Maurice Tomashevky, the shining star of the Yiddish Stage would walk down Second Avenue in the evening, nodding to the recognition of the elderly fans still living there. The most delightful memories of the Yiddish Theatre are those of the well dressed people who attended, but not so much for the plays - which were marvelous, cliché boiler plate - but for the social interaction of families, running up and down the aisles to greet neighbors and friends, while the actors toiled a few yards away. One of the biggest changes took place when the Phoenix (on 12th Street) gave way to live productions - "Oh Calcutta" among the first!

Through the sixties and then the seventies another change took place. The streets became littered with little vials - red, orange, yellow - all the colors of the rainbow and all the colors designating the signatures of the crack epidemic. There was a restaurant on Avenue C that had their windows glazed so that the customers could not see the crack deals taking place on the sidewalk just outside. Nevertheless, the lamp posts cast enough light so that there were silhouettes of the dealers closely outlined for the diners to watch.

The eighties brought with it the beginning of the gentrification of the East Village. Tompkins Square was the scene of some of New York's best riots as it was cleaned up -moving the homeless and their shelters to where? Rocks were thrown at Cristadora House, and through the next 15 years, we watched as taller and taller buildings took the place of the neighborhood stores, culminating in the expansion of both Cooper Union and NYU - and the construction of the monstrosity that now sits on Astor Place.

We have been here watching "the ever whirling wheel of change" as Edmund Spencer wrote - and there is no real way to describe it or to fight it - and possibly to accept it. Sheryl's background actually goes back to the 40's when she attended Cooper Union and she and her classmates would walk over to 3rd Avenue, with the elevated tracks still casting a shadow over the streets - to listen to Bunk Johnson play New Orleans Jazz at a dingy club, when smokers were part of the atmosphere.

But it is a neighborhood that we love - call it East Village - call it Lower East Side. There are still so many of us here who remember what it was, knowing full well that it will never be that way again. And, after all, that is not entirely a bad thing. Things change. We change. And we are delighted to have been a part of it.

Mel & Sheryl London have lived in the East Village since 1958. They have published 17 books while living here and have produced 42 documentary films, traveling to over 60 countries. Mel is also an Academy Award Nominee and both of them have won the James Beard Award for their work on cookbooks.

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



"Satch"
by Sara Hauser

LOS LONELY BOYS LIVE AT THE FILLMORE

This disc was recorded in the midst of the Lonely Boys rise to pop chart fame and it gives them a chance to show off their chops and make a case for them being more than just a one hit wonder. The vocal harmonies are right on and the energy of the playing draws you in and puts you in the audience. Some really nice guitar work & a cover of "Cisco Kid" complete the package & send up a flare that this is a group to be reckoned with. See you next time on the corner...

Closing Statement: *He is never alone who is in the company of noble thoughts"*