

MELVIN'S NYC GUIDE



November 2006
ISSUE #6

NON PROFIT EVENT OF THE MONTH!

ASSOCIATION TO
BENEFIT CHILDREN'S
THANKS FOR GIVING
CHEF'S TASTING EVENT

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF NEW YORK

LEARN MORE ABOUT JANY
AND FIND OUT HOW
TO START VOLUNTEERING

20 PINE STREET

FIND OUT HOW TO BE
ONE OF THE FIRST
TO SEE DOWNTOWN'S
NEWEST AND HOTTEST
CONDO'S

STK
NYC's
NEWEST
STEAKHOUSE
(NOT YOUR
DADDY'S
STEAKHOUSE)

**SECOND
ANNUAL
VENDY
AWARDS**
DID YOUR FAVORITE
STREET VENDOR
MAKE THE
FINAL FOUR

Recap of what happened in October from “Melvin’s NYC Guide October Issue”:

- On October 18th, *Friends of Rivington House* was a Success! We had a few great additions to the event and I cannot thank those that attended enough! DJ DeMarko had the CEO of Village Care of New York (parent company of Rivington House) dancing his feet off. To this day, some of us continue to laugh about Harmonica Sunbeam’s “testicle difficulties” comment (*sorry, you had to be there*). I cannot thank Rums of Puerto Rico enough for supplying those Mojitos (and other rum drinks). At the end of it all, we ended up raising more than \$6,000 and had about 130 attendees. Absolutely everyone that attended had a great time and that was my overall objective (well that and raising money, of course). Due to the success of this start-up project, we will be planning another one for first quarter 2007. *So Stay tuned!*
- On October 22, the Vendy awards took place and the finalist were:
(http://streetvendor.org/public_html/staticpages/index.php?page=2006101300295585)
 1. "Calexico," from the Vendley brothers (Wooster and Prince Streets, Soho)
 2. Piedad "the Arepa Lady" Cano (Roosevelt Avenue between 78 & 79th St, Queens)
 3. Samiul Haque Noor from "Sammy's Halal" (73rd Street and Broadway, Queens)
 4. Thiru "Dosa Man" Kumar (Washington Square South and Sullivan Street)

Featured Quote of the Month

"Surround yourself with only people who are going to lift you higher." -Oprah Winfrey

Mark your December Calendars!

- Thursday, December 15, 2006: *The Guggenheim Museum’s Young Collectors Council annual Artist’s Ball sponsored by Yves Saint Laurent*

Celebrating a generation of young artists, collectors, and friends of the Guggenheim Museum, the event is chaired by Sally and Rufus Albemarle, Amanda and Christopher Brooks, Amalia Dayan and Adam Lindemann, Eva and Lorenzo Lorenzotti, Lucy Sykes Rellie and Euan Rellie, and Jacqueline and Mortimer Sackler and honors new media artist Philippe Parreno and YSL Creative Director, Stefano Pilati. Funds raised from the event will be used to acquire works by emerging artists for the museum’s permanent collection and to support the museum’s progressive exhibitions program.

TICKETS— For more information or to purchase tickets, please call (212) 423-3534. Ticket Prices: \$200 for Individual tickets, \$150 for Members of the YCC, \$275 for Tickets at the door.

http://www.guggenheim.org/membership/ycc_ball/index.html

Featured Website

EventsMe.com - <http://www.eventme.com/Default.aspx>

This service is awesome, simple and best of all FREE. You do need about 5 minutes to fill out the detailed questionnaire, but it's well worth it. Basically, you fill out the questionnaire as honestly as you can. Then this service sends you emails with events that fall within your interests/needs categories (hence the questionnaire). I get about 5 – 10 EventMe emails and they are all very interesting events that I usually end up going to see. Go online and check it out. *Unique social, culinary, cultural & professional events in your city. EventMe's free service informs more than 40,000 subscribers about unique social, culinary, cultural & professional events in New York City, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, Miami, Philadelphia, Portland, the San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. More cities coming soon.*

Featured Restaurant: (STK – not your daddy's steakhouse!)

STK opened in the last week of September and yours truly managed to get a spot at the Meat Packing District's newest restaurant. While dining at STK I started thinking, are there any steakhouses in MPD? And the answer, much to my surprise, is NO! This isn't to say you can't get a nice NY Porterhouse at Buddha Bar or Macelleria, but they just don't offer the same environment as this very prominent restaurant does. STK offers two bar areas. The first one is the biggest, most appealing and where most patrons go to see and be seen. Hidden beside the second bar, is a DJ booth pumping club music while you dine or simply hang at the bars. Oh, and as if I had to say this, but it is impossible to get into the bar. My suggestion would be to try to get a dinner reservation and either go early or stay after you've eaten. Good luck getting a reservation! Now to the munchies! My hot date (hey Kara!) and I ended up spending around \$120 (not bad for MPD standards). We started off with the very tasty "Meat & Potato Soup". We decided to order their specialty alcoholic beverages, but were less than impressed (is it because it's a steakhouse?). For the main course, she had a small order of the "Skirt Stk – 6oz" and I had the "Beef Short Rib". While Kara thoroughly enjoyed her steak, I wouldn't say my short ribs were bad, but I've had better. In hindsight, I should have ordered Steak, so I don't blame STK for my simple selection. We ordered 2 sides, "Parmesan Truffle Fries" and "Oyster Mushrooms". We both weren't fans of the fries, but the mushroom were "OUT OF THIS WORLD!" Lastly for dessert, I forgot what Kara had, but rest assured it was something with a lot of chocolate and she was very impressed. I had their Raspberry float and it was pretty darn good, but I must warn you – you better love raspberry! For more information on this restaurant go to: <http://www.stkhouse.com/> STK, 26 Little West 12th St (Btwn Washington St & 9th Ave), New York 10014 - 646-624-2444

Featured Volunteer Organization

Junior Achievement (JANY) of New York, Inc. (<http://www.jany.org/jany/volunteer/index.shtml>)

I've been a volunteer for JANY for almost 2 years now. Please read below and I hope you can join us. The next session is about to start in mid-November. **Contact Christopher Ellis at cellis@jany.org**

The Difference for Them Starts with You

With JANY, you get an opportunity to share your personal insights with students who look up to you and who are eager to learn from your experiences. And JANY makes it easy for you. We provide structured lessons and a supportive environment, along with the flexibility for you to add your own personal touch. The result: JANY volunteers often feel that they get just as much out of the experience as their students do.

No Matter What You Do, Your Experience Counts

JANY volunteers come from diverse age groups, backgrounds and occupations. Among our volunteers are business professionals, parents, retirees, college students and high school students.

JANY Is Always Here To Support You

When you volunteer at JANY, we're there to guide you along the way. To support you in planning lessons, you receive a JA kit, which provides you with material and explicit lesson plans. In general, the JANY curriculum is flexible and creativity is encouraged so you can add your own personal touch with real-world examples. You will always be supported by a classroom teacher, who is in charge of discipline. You may also choose to team up with a partner. Learn more about teaching materials.

Whatever Your Schedule, JANY Works For You

Volunteering with JANY doesn't have to take up a lot of your time. Visits last from 45 minutes to 1 hour and course durations range between 5—10 visits, depending on the program you choose. Many companies provide release time so that you can fit JANY volunteering into your work day. There are volunteering opportunities in classes throughout the five boroughs and Long Island. View a current list of participating schools. Getting started is easy! Just attend one 2-hour training session and you're on your way.

A Chance To Make A Difference In Your Life, Too

When you volunteer for JANY, the students aren't the only ones who benefit. See more about what other volunteers have to say about their JANY experiences.

Featured Events for the Month

October 27, 2006 – January 15, 2007 @ Bryant Park: ***The Pond at Bryant Park***

The Pond returns as the centerpiece of Fêtes de Noël, which also includes the fifth annual Holiday Shops at Bryant Park. The 170' x 100' rink features free admission ice skating, in addition to high quality rental skates, skating lessons, skating shows, special events and activities. Skaters of all levels are welcome. Whether you are looking to skate before going to the office, through the lunch hour, with friends at a party, with a date, or for a spin under the stars at a holiday party, The Pond at Bryant Park, presented by Citi, is a perfect destination. **Admission to skate: FREE Skate rentals: \$8.75/pair Lockers: FREE Lock purchase: \$9.00 Bag check: \$6.00. Bryant Park (42nd street and 6th avenue).** For more info:
<http://www.bryantpark.org/amenities/thepond.php>

November 1 (Wednesday) 8:00-11:00am (Nassau County) & November 3 (Friday) 8:00-11:00am (Suffolk County):
Resources & Board Effectiveness for Long Island Nonprofits

Spend a morning expanding your awareness of resources for Long Island nonprofits and learn strategies for increasing the effectiveness of your board. Sponsored by the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee, Citibank, the Long Island Community Foundation and Governance Matters, this two-part session will offer insights on resources from Michelle Di Benedetto, Director and Vice President of Community Relations for Citibank, Suzy Sonenberg, Executive Director of the Long Island Community Foundation, and Michael Clark, President of NPCC. They will offer a session on increasing board effectiveness and will identify critical components in building a board of directors that is fully engaged and makes maximum use of key interests, skills, and resources. Michael Davidson, Chair of Governance Matters, and Lauren Goldstein, Consultant and Former Executive Director of Cause Effective, will guide participants through key steps in maximizing board engagement and effectiveness. ***Please note: the November 1 meeting will be held in Nassau County at Citibank at Reckson Plaza, 1 EAB Plaza, Uniondale, NY; the November 3 meeting will be in Suffolk County at Citibank, 150 Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, NY.*** Both workshops are free!

Thursday, November 2nd, at 7:30a.m. @ New York Marriott Marquis: ***The Girl Scout Council of Greater New York 14th Annual Women of Distinction Breakfast***

GSCGNY will honor seven remarkable women: Donna J. Blank, Dr. Vishakha N. Desai, Heide L. Gardner, Patricia J. Lancaster, Louise M. Matthews, Wenda Harris Millard and Tricia Tilford. Honorary Chair: Maria Bartiromo Breakfast Chair: Cheryl Swiatkowski. Mistress of Ceremonies: Deborah Norville. Time: The Women of Distinction Breakfast begins promptly at 7:30 AM Tickets: are priced at \$150 and above. Proceeds from the event will help fund vital services and educational programs for thousands of Girl Scouts throughout the five boroughs. <http://www.girlscoutsnyc.com> ***6th Floor Broadway Ballroom of the New York Marriott Marquis, located on Broadway between 45th and 46th Streets.***

Sunday November 5th, 6 – 9 pm @ The Living room: ***Join Us For A Night Of Musical Entertainment To Benefit Helping Hands Initiative Incorporated***

Musical Guests: Joseph Elmo, Jennie Walker, Von Cello. Food will be provided. Silent Auction and 50/50 Raffle will be held. Cover Charge is \$40.00 in Advance and \$45.00 at the door. ***Living Room 154 Ludlow Street between Stanton and Livingston Streets.*** Please RSVP by calling 718-356-4737 or
<http://www.helpinghandsinitiative.org/events.asp>

Monday, November 6th, 6:00pm at Union Theological Seminary: ***Association to Benefit Children's Thanks for Giving Chef's Tasting Event***

Please join Ed Levine, New York food critic and author, and friends of the Association to Benefit Children for ABC's 4th Annual Thanks for Giving Thanksgiving Dinner Buffet. Dinner is prepared by some of New York's finest chefs, and last year's chefs and restaurants included: Daniel Boulud/Daniel; David Bouley/Bouley & Danube; Tom Valenti/Ouest; David Pasternack/Esca; Gabrielle Hamilton/Prune; Thom Dugal/Showstoppers; Andy D'Amico/Nice Matin; Maurizio Marfoggia/Barolo; Lara Brumgnach/Felidia and Bayou. Silent Auction and Live Music. ***The beautiful Union Theological Seminary is located at 3041 Broadway at West 121st Street . <http://a-b-c.org/thanksgiving.htm>***
Tickets are \$175. For more information, please contact Judy Holtzman, 212-845-3823

Wednesday, November 8, at 7 p.m. @ 20 Pine Street: ***Lower Manhattan Cultural Council: "Fall benefit--Games People Play."***

Guests are invited to indulge in cocktails, sample Danny Meyer's delights, or challenge one of our celebrity guests to a round of Pictionary, a new video game, or a putt on the green. Marvel at magician Mark Mitton, as he plays games with your perception. The Vintage DJ will spin vintage vinyl. And do it all with a sneak peak behind the scaffolding at one of the financial district's most luxurious new residential buildings - 20 Pine, The Collection - with Interior Design by Armani/Casa. **All proceeds go to the hundreds of downtown artists and art groups supported by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council - which Makes Art Happen Here. 20 Pine Street, Tickets: \$250. 212-219-9401, ext. 121 or <http://www.lmcc.net/us/benefits/benefit2006.11.8/index.html>**

Thursday, November 9th, 7 – midnight @ the Lounge at Marlborough House: ***The Fish Foundation***

The Fish Foundation presents a benefit to raise money for an innovative way to help the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. We're building an online network that will deliver money to worthy grassroots organizations that are rebuilding the region with programs of reading literacy, financial literacy, nutritional education and psychological care. The goal is to help America's working poor help themselves by giving them access to the tools that the middle class enjoys. Our event features fine food, an open bar and live performances of hits from the 80s, all surrounded by the Manhattan skyline. Tickets are \$60, and can be purchased at <http://www.fishfoundation.org> ***For more information, contact Wayne Taylor at 347.277.3782 or wayne@fishfoundation.org Lounge at Marlborough House, 245 E 40th St (at Second Avenue), 35th floor.***

Thursday, November 9th, 6-9 p.m. @ The Town Tavern: ***The Young Professionals Committee of Partnership with Children presents "Bring-a-Single Friend" Happy Hour Benefit***

Gather up your single friends to mingle and celebrate for a great cause while enjoying 3 hours of open bar and appetizers from 6-9 p.m. at the ***The Town Tavern, 134 West 3rd Street***. The night includes a silent auction and a raffle for fabulous prizes. Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$55 at the door and can be purchased online at www.partnershipwithchildreennyc.org ***or by calling (212) 689-9500, ext. 308***. Partnership with Children is a social service agency committed to ensuring the social and emotional well-being of New York City's most at-risk children and youth.

Monday, November 13th, 6 PM @ Strata: ***“Legends of the Village”***

Please join Village Care of New York and the Legends of the Village. As we celebrate the unique spirit of Greenwich Village and its people, a diverse community of neighbors who work together to better the world. Honoring Judy Collins & Reverend Monsignor Charles J. Fahey. Village Care of New York is a community-based, not-for-profit service organization serving the elderly, persons living with AIDS, and individuals in need of medical and rehabilitation services. <http://www.vcny.org/LegendsEvent.html>, ***Strata, 915 Broadway @ 21 street, Manhattan***

Wednesday, November 15th, 6 PM – 9 PM @ The Westside Loft: ***“Building Communities, Changing Lives- 2006 Gala for the Supportive Housing Network of New York ”***

The Network represents more than 150 not-for-profit organizations that have created over 34,000 units of supportive housing across New York State. Permanent, affordable housing linked to services, supportive housing helps low-income, homeless and disabled people gain independence and live healthy, fulfilling lives in the community. The Network brings providers together to share best practices and advocate for the creation of enough supportive housing to end homelessness among the most vulnerable New Yorkers. ***Building Communities, Changing Lives*** will honor Carla Javits, President & CEO of the Corporation for Supportive Housing and Adolfo Carrion, Jr., Bronx Borough President for their dedication and commitment to supportive housing. The Network will also recognize Outstanding Residences, Tenants and Neighbors of the Year. There are tickets and various levels of sponsorships and commemorative journal packages available, www.shnny.org, ***The Westside Loft, 336 W. 37th St. (between 8th and 9th Ave.), Manhattan, Contact: Karen Trella 201.461.3717.***

Wednesday, November 15th, 6:30pm-10pm @ Tribeca Rooftop: ***Scenarios USA Presents the 2006 REAL DEAL Awards & Gal.***

Each year, the Scenarios USA REAL DEAL Awards & Gala brings together 300 leaders in the financial, media, and entertainment worlds, as well as past Scenarios USA directors and Scenarios USA student alumni, to celebrate and support the organization. In addition, guests celebrate the Scenarios USA REAL DEAL Honorees, dynamic individuals who have made important contributions to the Scenarios USA mission. This year, REAL DEAL Awards will be presented to Griffin Dunne, filmmaker/actor/Scenarios USA Leadership Committee member, and Debra Lee, Chairman and CEO, BET Networks, with REAL DEAL Awards. ***Tribeca Rooftop 2 Desbrosses Street New York, NY 10013*** For more information, check out our website at <http://www.scenariosusa.org> , and to buy tickets, visit <http://www.acteva.com/go/2006gala> . For more information, please contact Nicole at nicole@scenariosusa.org or at 718.230.5125

Wednesday, November 29th, 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. @ The Rockefeller Center: ***The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.***

The 2006 Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree will be lit for the first time this holiday season on Wednesday, November 29th, with performances from 7PM – 9PM, Rockefeller Plaza, West 48th & West 51st Streets between 5th and 6th Avenues, Manhattan. The two-hour long program will feature various celebrity appearances and a star-studded musical lineup. The tree is illuminated from 5:30 AM – 11:30 PM daily, all day (24 hours) on Christmas and 5:30 AM – 9PM on New Year’s Eve. The world’s most famous tree will be on display until January 8, 2007. The Christmas tradition began in 1933 making 2006 the 74th year! For more information, the public can call 212-632-3975... ***The Rockefeller Center*** For more information, check out our website at http://www.nyctourist.com/xmas_rockcenter1.htm and <http://www.rockefellercenter.com/home.html>

Featured Club – Element



We're finally heading to the best neighborhood in NYC – Lower East Side! While there aren't many mega-clubs located here, I'm glad to see a high caliber space reside in an area where it's much needed. Element has an interesting history as it was once a bank, then became someone's apartment, which turned into a club. That club closed and has now finally it re-opened as Element in April 2006 (whew!). During the week, most of the action happens downstairs (Vault) and Friday/Saturday Element brings out the big guns and pumps music into the main floor. For those NYC visitors that still think Roxy is the place to go on Saturday, please do yourself a favor and hang with the locals @ Element (mention Josh Wood's list at the front to get discounted entrance before 12:30a.m.) <http://www.elementny.com/> Element, 225 EAST HOUSTON ST @ Essex, New York, NY 10002 212.254.2200

I would like to especially thank those that helped me put this together.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Katrina McGhee, Atlanta, GA

NON-PROFIT EVENT CALENDAR

Special thanks to the **Young Nonprofit Professionals Network** (<http://www.ynppn.org/>) for providing the events benefiting non-profit organizations.

COMMENTS/QUESTIONS or want to be added to the list?

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