

JEREMIAH'S VANISHING NEW YORK

A.K.A. THE BOOK OF LAMENTATIONS:
A BITTERLY NOSTALGIC LOOK AT A CITY IN THE PROCESS OF GOING EXTINCT

MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008

Inside the New International

I spent a morning chatting with Shawn Dahl, proprietor, with Molly Mulholland Fitch, of the new International Bar at 7th St and 1st Ave. For months now, Shawn and Molly have been working hard to put the International back together, combining, as Shawn said, "Something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue. It's like a marriage." **And June 18 will be the big day.**



[More International Bar pics on my flickr](#)

While most of the place was gutted and dumped in a Dumpster (including the upside-down Christmas tree), much of it remains, along with pieces of other places. The vintage bar comes from the Raccoon Lodge of York Ave. The tables are a mix of International salvage and pieces from their shuttered neighbor, [La Casalinga](#). The vintage cash register came from third-generation cash-register restorer Brian Faerman. The [gold-leaf signage was done](#) by a guy named Kirk, though some of the letters are original (RNATION). The wall sconces and much of the artwork hung in the old bar. And the graffiti on the rear windows was made by numerous bathroom-users back in the day.

HELP US #SAVENYC



Looking for solutions? [Click here.](#)

JEREMIAH MOSS

"Jeremiah's Vanishing New York has become the go-to hub for those who lament New York's loss of character."
--Crain's

"Jeremiah Moss does an excellent job of cataloging all that's constantly being sacrificed to the god of rising rents." --Hugo Lindgren, **New York Times Magazine**

"No one takes stock of New York's changes with the same mixture of snark, sorrow, poeticism, and lyric wit as Jeremiah Moss... Even as the changes he's cataloging break our hearts a little, it's that kind of lovely, precise writing that makes Moss's blog essential reading." --Village Voice, **Best of NY**



"Jeremiah Moss...is the defender of all the undistinguished hunks of masonry that lend the streets their rhythm." --**Justin Davidson, New York Magazine**

"One of the most thorough and pugnacious chroniclers of New York's blandification." --**The Atlantic, Citylab**

[VIEW MY COMPLETE PROFILE](#)

FOLLOW ON FACEBOOK FOR MORE NEWS & DISCUSSION

Jeremiah's Vanishing New York

facebook

Name:
Jeremiah's
Vanishing New York
Fans:
23144

FOLLOW ON TWITTER

Follow @jeremoss

BLOG ROLL

[CLICK FOR ALL LINKS](#)

RECENT COMMENTS

James commented on [Genes Coffee Shop](#): "Coffee shops (as I prefer to call them, hailing originally from the Midwest) were always the one..."

Squach commented on [Genes Coffee Shop](#): "A depressing development, one of the few remaining places near my office that wasn't awful. ..."

Michael D. Subrizi commented on [Derobertis Opens Derolicious](#): "Great! I'm rarely in Jersey, but ate at the

Shawn and Molly are neighborhood people and hope to recreate a neighborhood bar. Said Shawn, **"We want a great place for people to hang out. A living room. Just a place to come and drink."** They'll be opening at noon to attract the thirsty locals.

Being green and economical, they're keeping the lighting dim, and the dark purple walls and brown varnished wood create a warm, cave-like atmosphere. For those who bemoan their choice to move the bar from the right side of the room to the left, Shawn gives a rundown of the bar's history.



spot in the village for years. Happy they're..."

Tal Hartsfeld commented on Showmans Jazz Club: "Here's to hoping that the new owners don't turn this establishment into a mere cliché..."

Twohusbands@Gmail.Com commented on On Spike Lee Hyper Gentrification: "P.S. Even in Perth, Australia in 1970s, historic affordable building were vanishing. Now the ones..."

Get this [Recent Comments Widget](#)

PRESS (SHORT LIST)

CLICK HERE FOR FULL LIST OF PRESS, AWARDS, & INTERVIEWS

Village Voice: Best of NYC 2014

Metro NY Column

NY Times: Room for Debate

NY Times: Opinion 2012

NY Daily News: Opinion pieces

New York Post

The New Yorker

Daily Beast

New York Observer

Financial Times

The Paris Review Daily

Village Voice: Gotham's Best
Playboy

The London Times

Dagens Næringsliv (Norway)

Frankfurter Rundschau (Germany)

24 Heures (Switzerland)

VILLAGE VOICE BEST OF NYC 2014

The International Bar & Grill began on St. Mark's (see 1979 photo) in the hands of Mary Petruno who moved it to its current spot when she bought the building. She put the bar on the left side of the new space. When she died in 1988, her son Michael (the "Sacred Cowboy") took it over and moved the bar to the right side where it stayed after his death in 1992 and throughout the years when his partner, Joy Jackson, ran the place. After Joy's death in 2002, without a will, the International and its building floated in limbo. It was sold and gutted, then sold again, this time to uber-landlord Steve Croman. The bar is actually now back in its original place.



When Molly and Shawn **open on June 18**, the jukebox will be filled with Molly's favorite albums (she's the musical one, guitar player for the rock band [Glass Hand](#)), an eclectic unexpected mix that will

include: *The Who Sellout*, The Shaggs, Charley Pride, and REM. (I put in a request for The Smiths.) On tap, you'll find Yuengling, Grolsch, and Stella, with Schaeffer in the can, "Nothing fancy."

Many of the bar's former regulars have stopped by to check it out. They generally approve of the freshening up and Shawn assures us that, while it's cleaner than before, "It will accumulate its own grime over the years." She hopes people will "feel as comfortable here as they did in the old seedy place."

- [International Bar Update](#)
- [International Bar Redux](#)
- [Interview with International regular](#)
- [Faerman's National Cash Registers](#)
- [Glass Hand's myspace page](#)



POSTED BY JEREMIAH MOSS AT 7:06 AM

LABELS: [EAST VILLAGE](#), [LOWER EAST SIDE](#)

15 COMMENTS:

Bob said...

Schaefer in the can? Awesome! My favorite low-end beer. Real New York swill without the pretension and faux-trendiness of Pabst Blue Ribbon. I'll have to check this place out, Jeremiah. Usually it's nothing but bad news when we hear about new establishments opening their doors on this blog but for once it looks like a genuine bar with genuine ownership (and hopefully genuine patrons) is back. Quite a rarity in the East Village these days.

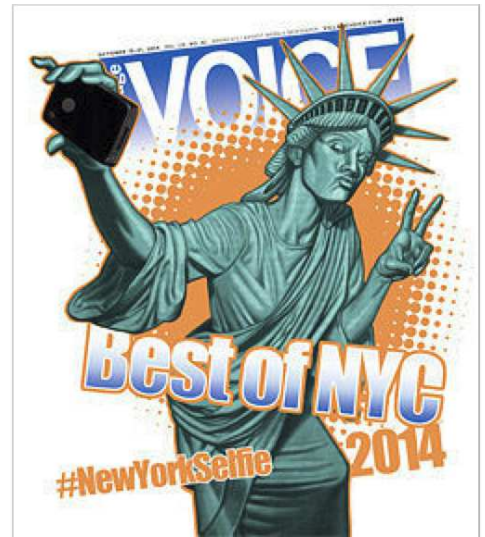
JUNE 2, 2008 AT 10:37 AM

Sir Thomas More said...

If a yunnie ever comes in, offer them Schaeffer and tell them it's a luxe drink from Germany or Czech Republic, and serve it on a Martini glass and charge them \$15-\$20 for it--they'll never know what it is since they're too caught up within themselves.

Aside from the Smith's, also request The Velvet Underground, The Pixies, Stone Roses, Pulp....

JUNE 2, 2008 AT 1:52 PM



Best Chronicle of New York's Ever-Changing Face

SOME QUESTIONS

WHAT CAN WE DO TO SAVE NEW YORK?

What's left to preserve?

How did this blog begin?

What is hyper-gentrification?

Is money & shopping evil? (No.)

What about shopping at chain stores?

How is a recession good for NYC?

Are non-natives New Yorkers?

How did Bloomberg ruin NYC?

What was lost during Bloomberg's reign?

Why does NYC feel like the burbs?

What's wrong with cupcakes?

How do I complain about noisy jerks?

Has sidewalk bumping gotten worse?

What's a YUNNIE?

BLOG ARCHIVE

► [2016](#) (51)

► [2015](#) (190)

► [2014](#) (242)

► [2013](#) (250)

► [2012](#) (271)

Anonymous said...

I've passed by this place numerous times--I will now stop in and have a drink--good luck with the newness--I remember all the old New Internationals.

[JUNE 2, 2008 AT 7:31 PM](#)

 Robin said...

Faux-trendy PBR may be, but the International Bar used to sell it for \$1 a can. I wasn't arguing.

[JUNE 3, 2008 AT 4:20 PM](#)

 Robin said...

I sit corrected, it was Milwaukee's Best!

Still not complaining.

[JUNE 3, 2008 AT 6:39 PM](#)

Anonymous said...

I was a regular before it closed down. Can't wait til it opens again!

[JUNE 3, 2008 AT 8:42 PM](#)

 giant squid said...

I think they should have kept the jukebox they way it was; Desmond Dekkar, Elvis Costello, The Clash, The Who, James Brown, Miles Davis (If memory serves)

[JUNE 5, 2008 AT 8:05 PM](#)

JB said...

International is now open, it's looking good.

[JUNE 8, 2008 AT 1:31 PM](#)

 Jeremiah Moss said...

thanks JB--i just came back from there, after enjoying a cold can of schaeffer. and it is looking good--and pretty cool and comfy in this heat wave, too.

[JUNE 8, 2008 AT 5:47 PM](#)

Anya from London said...

► [2011](#) (424)

► [2010](#) (430)

► [2009](#) (455)

▼ [2008](#) (431)

► [December](#) (37)

► [November](#) (34)

► [October](#) (41)

► [September](#) (35)

► [August](#) (41)

► [July](#) (40)

▼ [June](#) (42)

[*Everyday Chatter LINKS](#)

[*Everyday Chatter Bickford's & Gross](#)

[*Everyday Chatter 12th Street Books](#)

[*Everyday Chatter Finding Lost Houston](#)

[*Everyday Chatter Stroller Sports](#)

[*Everyday Chatter Mermaids in Peril](#)

[Men in Leather](#)

[*Everyday Chatter Discussing Eminent Domain](#)

[Nick's Hair Stylists](#)

[*Everyday Chatter Gramercy Pawnbrokers](#)

[*Everyday Chatter Taxi Ray Kottner](#)

[*Everyday Chatter Happy 20th Die Yuppie Scum](#)

[*Everyday Chatter Birdman & Rat](#)

[*Everyday Chatter](#)

If this bar is 1/2 as cool as Shawn & Molly, it'll be a very cool drinking hole, indeed. . . Cheers to the new International!

[JUNE 9, 2008 AT 3:41 PM](#)

Anonymous said...

Why oh why did they replace the old jukebox ? An absolute classic collection that was. Anyone know whether they still have Milwaukee's Beast in the can? I spent many a night accumulating a tower of cans in there, one of which involved Will Ferrell buying us rounds. A bit disappointed that they now serve tap beer too.

[JUNE 9, 2008 AT 4:55 PM](#)

 [Jeremiah Moss](#) said...

i didn't see milwaukee there. as for the juke, if i recall correctly, i think it was lost in the initial gutting, which shawn and molly had nothing to do with. much was lost, sadly...umm...will ferrell drank there?

[JUNE 9, 2008 AT 9:19 PM](#)

Ken said...

I live in London now but we (me and my friends) used to always stop by here for a couple of nightcaps.

IT IS A MUST that Al Green's "Let's Stay Together" makes it back onto the jukebox.

[JUNE 14, 2008 AT 5:24 AM](#)

 [alan77](#) said...

"Like a living room".

Sure is. The new International is verrry laid back. A good place to take a nap. And what's with the cheesy retro jukebox on the wall? That's always a bad sign. This place used to have a great old juke.

Disappointing to say the least. I was really looking forward to this place re-opening but it's very bland. Oh, well.

Back to the Blue & Gold I guess.

[JUNE 19, 2008 AT 5:16 AM](#)

[chris flash](#) said...

Thanks for the update on the International. So many of my

[UWS Forum](#)

[The Thing that Ate Gramercy](#)

[*Everyday Chatter](#)

[Shutters at the Breslin](#)

[*Everyday Chatter](#)

[1st at 7 and 8](#)

[*Everyday Chatter](#)

[Cosmos to Rokara](#)

[*Everyday Chatter](#)

[Chez Brigitte Vanishes](#)

[Sex Toys & the City](#)

[*Everyday Chatter](#)

[Notes to the City](#)

[*Everyday Chatter](#)

[Meatpacking Bway](#)

[*Everyday Chatter](#)

[Inside the New International](#)

► [May](#) (39)

► [April](#) (37)

► [March](#) (32)

► [February](#) (29)

► [January](#) (24)

► [2007](#) (172)

[My Favorite Posts](#)

[My Pics on Flickr](#)

[Urban Etiquette Signs](#)

TOPICS

[addresses](#)

[art/books/film](#)

[bloomberg](#)

[bowery](#)

[bronx](#)

friends hung there in the 80s in both locations -- my buddy Bobby Apocalypse bartended there on First Avenue for a number of years. What struck me most about that place was hearing Edith Piaf on the jukebox!!

NOVEMBER 17, 2008 AT 6:44 PM

[Post a Comment](#)

[Newer Post](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Post](#)

Subscribe to: [Post Comments \(Atom\)](#)

[brooklyn](#)
[chelsea](#)
[chinatown](#)
[condos](#)
[coney island](#)
[de blasio](#)
[downtown](#)
[dreams](#)
[east village](#)
[favorite](#)
[flatiron area](#)
[garment district](#)
[gramercy](#)
[greenwich village](#)
[grumbler](#)
[harlem](#)
[hell's kitchen](#)
[high line](#)
[hudson yards](#)
[hyper-gentrification](#)
[hypergentrification](#)
[islands](#)
[little italy](#)
[lower east side](#)
[meatpacking](#)
[metro](#)
[midtown](#)
[miscellany](#)
[murray hill](#)
[narcissism](#)
[news](#)
[park slope](#)
[press](#)
[profiles](#)
[queens](#)
[savenyc](#)
[soho](#)
[staten island](#)
[suburbanization](#)
[times square](#)
[tribeca](#)