

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019

Rally & Wake for White Horse

Earlier this month I shared the news that the famed [White Horse Tavern](#) would be changing hands, to be run by upscale restaurateur Eytan Sugarman, its building sold to notorious landlord Steve Croman.



Last week, Sugarman went before the Community Board 2 State Liquor Authority Committee and [promised not to change the spirit of the historic bar](#). "I have every intention of keeping this amazing institution the way it is," he said. "I have no intention of making any dramatic changes." But he also said he would raise prices and make "a

little bit of a better burger."

Locals are worried this means a very different White Horse that might look the same and have the same name, but won't be welcoming or accessible to the current clientele.

Now the Stop Croman Coalition is hosting a rally for the bar, this Thursday, March 21, at 3:00. After the rally, author Malachy McCourt will hold a traditional Irish wake for the White Horse.

Come to the Rally, Stay for the Wake

The Stop Croman Coalition will be holding a rally on March 21st, Thursday at 3 pm. at the White Horse Tavern, or as close as we can get to it. The Tavern is located at Hudson and 11th St. Housing groups, tenants, and elected officials have all been invited. Notorious landlord Steve Croman, has sold the White Horse Tavern with complete disregard for this iconic bar and restaurant. He made no effort to make sure the White Horse would continue to operate as the White Horse Tavern. We believe it will be a pizzeria.

Then at 4 pm, author and raconteur, Malachy McCourt will be holding a traditional Irish Wake for the White Horse. So we ask you to come to the rally and stay for the wake.

The Stop Croman Coalition, Stopped Him.

The rally will be held Rain or Shine, the wake too.

Is this the death of the White Horse as we know it? Locals have had plenty of reason to worry.

As I wrote in my book [Vanishing New York: How a Great City Lost Its Soul](#), "A virulent trend has been sweeping the Village, and the city, in which upscale restaurateurs take over vintage spots, refurbish them, and turn them into exclusive locales, keeping their names and capitalizing on their history. It's an invasion of the body snatchers. The old places look like themselves, sort of, but there's no soul inside. The blog Grub Street called the trend 'fauxstalgia.' It first happened to the Waverly Inn and the Beatrice Inn, prompting the *Times* to write about the practice in 2010. **The Village, they said, 'has become like a theme park of the past, as these restored standards offer a vision of a lost bohemian New York— albeit with a well-heeled clientele**

and prices to match." [New York](#) later wrote about how trendy, monied restaurateurs "seem to be in a race to acquire New York's oldest, most storied properties."

The people who take over often speak about preserving some aspect of the places. It happened to the Minetta Tavern when its new owner told Zagat, "No one familiar with the Tavern from the past will know exactly what's changed," but it [changed dramatically](#), with a whole new clientele. It happened to Fedora when the new owner went before CB2 and promised, according to Eater, to "[keep most of the cherished design details](#)," but the place was completely transformed. It happened to [Bill's Gay 90s](#), almost happened to [John's of 12th Street](#), and after it happened to [Rocco's](#), the new owners said they were paying tribute to the old place.



We only have the past to go by and we certainly can't see the future.

Maybe Sugarman plans to approach the White Horse with a light touch. Maybe he won't close it for renovations, upscale the menu, require reservations, and hype the place to a monied clientele of foodie Instagrammers and celebs. Maybe we won't lose the White Horse as a democratic and accessible place where anyone can sit at the bar for hours, shooting the shit and getting soused (including that grizzled

raconteur in the beret and camo pants with a knife hooked to his belt).

Or maybe we really do need a wake.

It looks like it'll be a wild one. Musician and composer David Amram told the [Irish Central](#): "I will leave my composing dungeon and celebrate the White Horse of the 1950s with Malachy at 4 p.m., and we will all have a toast to Ernie's succulent overcooked knockwursts, non-stop schmoozing between Jimmy Baldwin and Dan Wakefield, the Zola Sisters charming us all, weekends crowded with C. Wright Mills fans, moving men, ex-boxers, crazy poets and neighborhood cats and kitties, filmmakers, homemakers, and stay-awakers!!"



POSTED BY JEREMIAH MOSS AT [2:42 PM](#) 0 COMMENTS 

LABELS: [GREENWICH VILLAGE](#)

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2019

Visiting Hudson Yards

For its opening weekend, Hudson Yards, aka Dubai on the Hudson, is crammed with people. They walk the glistening floors of the luxury shopping mall and climb The Vessel, aka The Giant Shawarma (h/t [Eater](#)). They stand in line for free ice cream and ransack a refrigerator full of foul-tasting beverages that may or may not be free. They pose for Instagrammable photos with the mega-development's corporate logo and pay \$28 to visit Snark Park, an "art theme park" where the creators have seized an opportunity to "[literally control and curate everything](#)," which pretty much sums up everything about Hudson