

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2018

Caffe Vivaldi

VANISHING

On their [website](#), the folks at Caffe Vivaldi write:

"With heavy hearts we announce the upcoming closure of Caffe Vivaldi and the conclusion of our 35-year run at this magical room on 32 Jones Street in our beloved West Village."



Opened in 1983, Vivaldi has been fighting to stay in business for several years now.

Back in 2011, [Vivaldi was being forced to close](#) by a tripled rent hike from their landlord, the infamous Steve Croman. [They survived and got a new lease](#), but the struggles continued. In 2016, they reported [landlord harassment](#).

This April, Vivaldi owner Ishrat Ansari [wrote on the site's blog](#) about his struggles:

"My untimely stroke occurred two weeks before a crucial court hearing

BOOK EVENTS

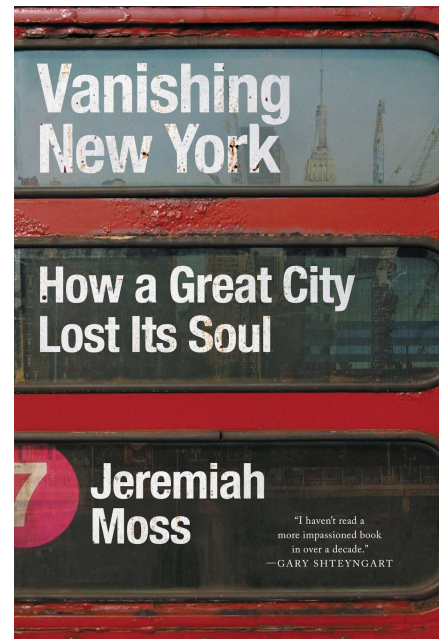
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about the Caffe's future—that has continued to drag on to the present. In 2011, my tormentor, Steven Croman, became the new owner of the building where Caffe Vivaldi resides. From the beginning, his conduct has been belligerent and illegal, unilaterally breaking the renewed lease, which commenced on January 1, 2012, that I signed with him for the Caffe Vivaldi space, and treating me with dismissive contempt. My emotional distress reached its most damaging state as Mr. Croman's conduct towards me rose further and further above the law. The menace that Mr. Croman continues to pose threatens to destroy 35 years of history nurtured by Caffe Vivaldi in the West Village... I want to let you all know that Mr. Croman, a convicted felon, is taking us to court again, and we might be forced to close our doors."



Mr. Croman was [released from prison](#) last week. He served eight months of a one-year jail sentence.

Vivaldi's fight has come to an end.

They explain: "our legal and financial difficulties with our landlord came to a head this spring. To continue to fight would be self-destructive in many, many ways for the business and for all of us. Because of these extenuating circumstances, **we will be closing our doors for the final time on the evening of June 23.**"

The live music cafe has been featured in Woody Allen and Al Pacino films, and their old wooden chairs have seated Andy Warhol, Bette Midler, John Cusack, Rob Reiner, Joseph Brodsky and many neighborhood folks and other New Yorkers.

You can [share your Vivaldi story](#) here.



POSTED BY JEREMIAH MOSS AT [7:36 AM](#)

LABELS: [GREENWICH VILLAGE](#)



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JEREMIAH MOSS

THE BOOK:

"Essential reading for fans of Jane Jacobs, Joseph Mitchell, Patti Smith, Luc Sante, and cheap pierogi." -- **Vanity Fair**

"a vigorous, righteously indignant book that would do Jane Jacobs proud." --**Kirkus Reviews**

THE BLOG:

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