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JC Fridays

Art & Music in Jersey City

By: Diana Schwaeble
Current Editor

Jersey City is gearing up for JC Fridays - a day of art, music, film, photography, and spoken word at various locations throughout the city. So whether you dig live performances or like to view them, this Friday, Sept. 9 offers something for everyone.

The idea

JC Fridays came about in response to the closing of 111 First St., a building of artists' lofts in Jersey City. Some in the community wanted to build up an audience for art in town and find a place for the displaced artists to display their work.

Groups at the first meeting included: Art House Productions, Jersey City Museum, Pro Arts, Victory Hall, Grace Church, Gallery 58, and Mana Fine Arts.

In addition to discussing what should be done, they went around in the community to involve local businesses. "111 First Street was a real loss to us," said Christine Goodman of Art House Productions. "A lot of people were hurt by it. We got together to try to make it work. The art scene in Jersey City has all this diversity. It's really exciting."

The plan

The goal is to offer JC Fridays four times a year, at the change of every season. Right now there is a tentative schedule up through 2006. According to Goodman, the response from the first JC Friday event in June was great. It was estimated that over 200 people came to the event. The venues involved said that it was busier than usual. "We did get such a great response from the first event," said Goodman. "We are looking forward to future JC Fridays, which will be even better."

The event

This Friday, the event starts at 9 a.m. and goes through midnight. (For complete list of times and events, see sidebar.)

City Hall will exhibit work by two artists in the second floor gallery. Ben Goldman, Hudson County resident, works primarily in oil on canvas or linen. Part of his series called "Fragments" features sliced-off images that take the viewer by surprise as the mind tries to fill in the missing pieces. For more information please visit, www.bengoldmanart.com.

Jun'ichiro Ishida, Jersey City resident, has been showing his art for the last 10 years. His acrylic painting on canvas (pictured on the cover) called "One Who Advances is Sure of the Pure Land" is a translation of the Chinese characters. Ishida's flower series is also symbolic. The flowers symbolize the process of enlightenment. "Human beings bloom out of a negative state," said Ishida. "They grow into a state of enlightenment."

Art House Productions will host their open mic performances at Victory Hall, featuring award winning spoken word artist Patrick Rosal. Christine Goodman, poet and actress, will be there for The Art House season kickoff. The bar, LITM, will exhibit "Eyes of Cassandra" an art show by Karina, curated by Maria R. Boobis. Sweet Priscilla will host a spoken word event featuring these performers: Mike D., Leila H, Karina, Brkn English, and Tiffany.



L.I.T.M.: One of 12 venues providing art and music for JC Fridays

Mana Fine Arts kicks off their grand opening party, featuring work by Deborah Crowell, James De Pastene, Mark Gibson, Chris Hearn, Tina Krause, Eugene Lemay, Mina Luxa, Arshak Martirosyan, David Rees, and Ev Stone. The exhibit has paintings, sculpture, photography, and mixed media.

The Jersey City Museum features a children's program. The event performed by Tempest productions is a story telling session told by Mother Goose and the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe. The kids that go to the event will receive a free book of rhymes and activities.

Grigory Gurevich will hold a Magic Art book demonstration every hour at his studio. Grace Church features short films about Latino life and an art exhibit "One American Dream." Gallery 58 presents background action photos by Mauro Altamuro. Yoga Shunya presents live jazz by the Dave Willocks Group. Attic Ensemble presents: An Evening of Cabaret at the Barrow Mansion. Reservations are recommended for this performance. Please call, (201) 413-9200.

The sponsors

The free events presented throughout the city were made possible by the generous support from the following: Mayor Healy, The Jersey City Division of Cultural Affairs, The Jersey City Reporter, The Jersey City Magazine, and Historic Downtown SID.

Local businesses that helped include: LITM, Hudson County Art Supply, Mana Fine Arts, Sweet Priscilla, and Beechwood Café. For more information on the event please visit: www.jcfridays.com .

JC FRIDAYS

City Hall, 280 Grove Street, art, 9 to 9 p.m.
Grigory Gurevich Studio, 282 Barrow Street, art, 12 to 7 p.m.
Jersey City Museum, 350 Montgomery Street, performance, 2 to 3 p.m.
Mana Fine Arts, 227 Coles Street, art, 5 to 9 p.m.
Grace Church, 39 Erie Street, film, 7 to 10 p.m.
Gallery 58, 58 Coles Street, art, 7 to 11 p.m.
Barrow Mansion, 83 Wayne Street, performance, 8 to 10 p.m.
Yoga Shunya, 275 Grove Street, music, 8 to 10 p.m.
Victory Hall, 186 Grand Street, open mic, 8 to 10:30 p.m.
LITM, 140 Newark Avenue, art, 4 p.m. to midnight
Sweet Priscilla, 530 Jersey Avenue, spoken word, 10 p.m. to midnight
Windows on Columbus, Christopher Columbus Blvd., outdoor art, all hours