

Re: Ping Sue Mitchell

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Miffed? OMG Sue! I thought they only took PayPal and I couldn't do that because my PayPal was all screwed up, seriously! I sent you Monk's for free, remember?

What was the name of his group? I can't remember now.

I'm so glad they're in France, and so jealous.

Monk is just finishing up bookings for concerts for a library grant he got from Elliot Spitzer's Payola Money. It's been going on for the last 18 months. It was awesome here in NYS. We brought people from all over the country to perform here in free library concerts. We got like \$150K and have been doing it for 18 months.

It has been so great. We brought people from Florida, Virginia, and local people too, air fare, hotels, the works. The grant money was through the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, you can check on line and see all the people who got all the money. The grant money was supposed to be used to present either original material with emerging artists, or older artists who may have suffered (like Monk!) by not being able to get a record deal. Our concert series was called "Jazz Blues and Libraries Too!"

The thing I posted last on Monk's blog, describes his experiences in the 80' with a Rock 'n Roll band called Mr. Edd (note the two D's). It took me all day Sunday to put it together, but it's there through the portal at monkrowe.com if you want to check it out.

Whatever is said about Elliot Spitzer and his meandering ways, I was horrified when he resigned so quickly. As our Attorney General, he made millions and millions of dollars available for the arts in New York State from suing the record companies for Payola, that's when record companies paid radio stations to play their tunes, and other artists may have been denied record contracts because their tunes weren't being played.

I'm so sorry the last of that grant money is gone because it was good income for us, but a ton of a lot of work (contracts, hotel bookings,

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press releases, coordination with the 25 libraries in central NY; dates, times, space considerations). The musicians, however, were paid well.

I worked really hard for Obama here, in the Mohawk Valley for Obama group, gave to Move On, etc. Thought I was going to go out of my mind if he didn't get elected. I was so worried about what happened with the swiftboaters in 2004 to Kerry. And a black man as president, holy cow. I was so glad when Hillary got beat. I couldn't stand her coming her to New York to be our senator when she never even lived here! Go back to Arkansas! Go to Illinois! Go to Pennsylvania! Her and her "stand by your man" thing in the 90's was a horrible role model for my two teenage daughters. They came home one day and go "Mom, why'd she [Monica] save the dress?" Then near the end of the struggle between Hillary and Obama, they were saying, among the dems in NYS, "let's offer Hillary the Governor of New York position because maybe she'll be satisfied with that." Hello? As a voter, do I have any say? She's a freaking junior senior here, only one term in the senate. We have Charles Schumer as Senior Senator from NY who I love. Personally I think current Governor Paterson is really fabulous with a difficult job because of the Wall Street crisis and the New York State budget problems which are positively enormous.

Meanwhile, very quietly, people don't realize that our governor of NY is a black, BLIND man named named Paterson. He quietly moved into the position when Spitzer resigned because he was lieutenant governor. He put all his crap out for everyone to see, like his and his wife's affairs. He is so awesome. He does not wear sunglasses like Ray Charles or Stevie Wonder, it's very obvious he's blind. He has to have everything read to him and reportedly has a phenomenal memory. So all the gays are complaining about "hey, what about us!" To them I say your turn will come. Meanwhile Patterson is a big kudo for Americans with Disabilities, and though we lost gay rights, Americans with Disabilities can be proud of Gov Patterson. On the Black Entertainment Network I saw him during the campaign and it was so funny, like the black interviewer said "good to finally have you here, Gov" to which Paterson replied "good to be here bro." He's can have that black ebonics thing happening if he wants to. Too funny.

Oh well, Monk does a lot of travel, and is doing well, but he tries to be home in his own bed every night.

We are doing a 9 day Western Caribbean cruise out of NYC on January 2. on Royal Caribbean. It's "off season" the cruise lines, so we got a really excellent deal. Who wants to travel on January 2 out of NYC? Well the colleges are still on vacation until January 21 so I just have a few clients to manage for us have to take any time off.

I'm really glad about your nephew, but OTOH Univeristy of Idaho thing really was very bad. There's hardly any money to preserve stuff, and the Lionel Hampton Institute probably just folded their stuff into all their other library stuff and now nobody will travel there. There used to be a

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great jazz festival there in the winter, people would come from all over to ski. Well all the funds dried up and the curator lost his job a few months ago.

Fortunately we're safe here at Hamilton. Our benefactor (who died in 2002) endowed Hamilton with a permanent Jazz Archive Director part time position, with health benefits, in perpetuity. There's no funds available for any more interviewing though. The college will not allocate any money at all for operating funds but he does have a free phone, a gorgeous campus space, a yearly jazz festival which the benefactor's widow puts on, and all those great jazz contacts from doing 300 interviews :). Next October we're bringing Dick Hymen (he did Moonstruck and the Woody Allen film scorer) on piano and as leader, plus Bucky Pizzarelli (John Pizzarelli's Jr.'s father), Eddie Locke (black drummer from NYC, awesome), and Nicki Parrot on bass (young fabulous blonde bass player). Monk hasn't decided on the horn player yet, and whether it will be sax or trumpet, but it doesn't matter. It's always a great concert and Monk makes the choices as to who comes.

I see you changed your screen name!

Good to speak with an old friend!

Romy

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