



search go powered by Google

- news
- nyclife
- music
- film
- arts
- people
- classifieds
- about us

NYC Guide



Boogie Rights: Dancing at the Mayor's House

by Tricia Romano



New Ashlee Plays the Victoria's Secret Pajama Party

by Corina Zappia

- best of nyc
- eats
- drinks
- shopping
- film
- music
- home

nyclife

Shelter

Hog Parts

Musée de Barb and Beth and also ninety other artists and bladders

by **Toni Schlesinger**
November 12th, 2004 6:50 PM

- EMAIL ALERT
- WRITE TO US
- EMAIL STORY
- PRINTER FRIENDLY
- NYCLIFE
- MY YAHOO!
- DEL.ICIO.US
- FURL IT

LOCATION East Village
RENT \$781.02 [rent stabilized]
SQUARE FEET 240 [studio in tenement]
OCCUPANTS Barbara Monoian [artist; commercial fisherman]; Beth Monoian [artist]

You have a twin! [Barbara] Beth lives with me part of the time. She commutes from Pittsburgh. [Beth nods.]

Where are the hog parts? O-kay. [Takes a breath.] The hog intestines are these pieces.

You have the work of 90 artists in here! I've started a museum. That's Beth on the video.

Beth is in a pink tutu. Tutu and you.

When did you turn your apartment into a museum? Last month. We have open hours.

Where do you keep your clothes? In a plastic garbage bag.

Are you sure you really live here? Yes! I've been here since 1996.

Where do you sleep? Beth's on the couch. I'm on the floor. It's like sleeping on my boat.

Ah yes, the fishing boat in Alaska. O-kay, my boat. [Takes a breath.] I've got a 36-foot, 1930 wooden hand troller. [She shows a picture.]

It's like a boat in a murder story or where they smuggle things. [Beth] It's not quite like that. [Barbara] I bought it in Hoonah, a Tlingit village I love near Juneau.

What do you catch? Salmon, crab, herring.

What's your best catch in a day? Those are difficult questions. O-kay, it's sold by the pound. All the fish are cleaned by hand—by me. Sixty silver salmon in a day would be fun.

Beth, do you help with this? [Beth] No. I fished once when I was 18.

You're slapping a pit bull on its behind. Barb is an exceptionally tough person. [Barbara] I'm thinking of going back in December. The northern lights are out, lots of dark nights. Last year I drove across Canada, alone, in a week. Usually I sleep in the car.

In the middle of Canada, my god. I got inspired when you said about being in Alaska and there's this story in Outhouses of Alaska about a woman who accidentally peed on a grizzly bear and



Beth and Barbara Monoian photo: tinazimmer.com

classifieds | [backpage.com](#) | Post ads for free!

real estate	91,178	adult	711
employment	13,147	personals	674
buy, sell, trade	14,910	musicians	1,719

Last Updated: Jul 27, 4:10 pm EDT

voice e-mail sign up [\[more info\]](#)

email zip code go

- send me the weekly villagevoice.com newsletter
- send me weekly freebies and special offers
- send me the daily "what to do in NYC" e-mail
- send me information on the performing arts

or, join our clubs for exclusive member benefits!

[First Choice Movie Club](#)

[advertise with us](#)

voice columns:

-- select --

more in **nyclife**

Sunday 7/30

Saturday 7/29

Friday 7/28

Movie Star Can't Stop Disrobing!

The Crobar Shooting Inspires Odd Rumors

Playing for Cash Money on the Bar-Room Game Circuit

Thursday 7/27

Wednesday 7/26

Monday+Tuesday 7/31 & 8/1

A Blast from the Past

- podcasts
- rss feeds
- most popular
- most recent
- most emailed

- about us
- advertise

villagevoice.com

awards
letters / corrections

VOICE Giveaways

See Soul Asylum
Win Tickets to See
Soul Asylum!

The New York Dolls
Enter to win a Les Paul
Melody Maker signed
by The New York Dolls!

Quinceañera
Win A Pass For You &
A Guest To A Special
Free Advance
Screening Of:
Quinceañera

The Pretenders And
IV Thieves
Enter To Win A Pair Of
Tickets To See The
Pretenders And IV
Thieves

Arts & Culture
Win a variety of prizes
with the Voice's
Passport to Arts &
Culture!

click links to win!

then I started looking at those thousands of miles of empty snow and I thought about the Gold Rush and the people who climbed up and down the Chilkoot Pass, 40 miles up and 40 miles down, and the avalanches and scurvy. They brag about that.

Oh, what gold will do to a person. Anyway, back to the snow, and the shifting polar ice cap and the thought of being abandoned, lost alone in that empty whiteness. Once on *The X-Files*, this man fell through an ice hole into the earth below Antarctica. I can't think of anything worse. [Beth] It's not quite that way.

Are those more hog intestines over there? [Barbara] Rawhide. It's a piece I did after September 11. After seeing a deer hunt, 20 deer hanging by the neck . . . [Beth] She has this photo of deer splayed. You should show . . . [Barbara] No, they're too graphic.

These hanging bladders? This is a hunk of sausage casing.

Look, a haunted roller coaster. Such a brilliant work. Why did you go to Alaska? My grandparents are in Ketchikan. The other grandfather's Armenian. He's in Washington State. [Beth] He was a hop farmer. [Barbara] We're from Yakima.

Is there a large Armenian community in Yakima? [Beth] Just our family. Our grandfather escaped the Armenian genocide. [Barbara] Hitler used it as a model. [Beth] Our other grandfather is part Cherokee. [Barbara] My mom's health care clinic is in the top six in the country.

Who else lives in Yakima? There's Mr. Paddock. He's important.

schlesinger@villagevoice.com

[send a letter to the editor](#)

More Shelter

On the Hard

They're buying up every inch of this island and building condos

The Young Ones

The landlords just put the rent up from \$3,200. They're just fucking ripping us off.

Green Afternoon

It was funded right before the crash. The owner jumped off the building.

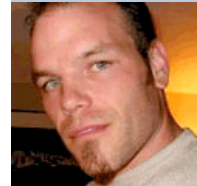
Rabbit Hole

When the pope passed away and the whole new pope election—I thought their hats were neat

New Fish

If Joe Socks were here now, I'd be a protected guy. Now I'm just . . .

PERSONALS



johndoe1234

Most humbling moment: "It's a long story, but ask me about the time I pulled a complete stranger from a burning car wreck."

[news](#) | [nyc life](#) | [music](#) | [film](#) | [arts](#) | [people](#) | [classifieds](#) | [about](#) | [contact](#) | [store](#) | [rss](#)

[LA Weekly](#) | [OC Weekly](#) | [Seattle Weekly](#) | [Minneapolis City Pages](#) | [Nashville Scene](#)

Copyright © 2006 Village Voice LLC, 36 Cooper Square, New York, NY 10003 The Village Voice and Voice are registered trademarks of Village Voice Media Holdings, LLC. All rights reserved. View our [privacy policy](#).