

Celebrate Café

CELEBRATE CAFÉ FAQs

308 Bowery @ 1st Street, NYC

Who Runs Celebrate Café?

Celebrate Café is a job training and employment program of *The Lower Eastside Girls Club* (www.girlsclub.org). Neighborhood moms and young women who have gone through our programs manage the café. Your server is a teenager from one of our leadership and career training programs in her first job. All staff would be happy to tell you more about the Girls Club and the role it plays in their lives. These young women also work in our Sweet Things Bake Shop at 136 Avenue C and at *La Tiendita*, our farmers market in the Essex Street Market at 120 Essex Street.

What Exactly are you Celebrating?

We are celebrating community. As our neighborhood rapidly changes we offer our patrons the opportunity to eat well, eat affordably, and help support programs and jobs for local teens. We are celebrating our regional farmers and local suppliers. We are celebrating our partnership with The Bowery Poetry Club, a unique and legendary resource for artists, poets, and musicians.

What does your neon sign “Eat Here. Not There” mean?

It means exactly that! We need your support. As the Bowery morphs from a low rent haven for artists and the less fortunate into a hotel, museum and gallery district, we want the community to know that there is still a place where coffee costs \$1, a full meal can be had for under \$10, and all are welcome at the table.

Who is Dorothy Day and how did you get her table?

Dorothy Day (1897-1980) was an American journalist, social activist, and devout Catholic. In the 1930's she established the Catholic Worker Movement, a non-violent, pacifist movement providing direct aid for the poor and homeless. Joseph House, where Dorothy lived for many years, is a block and a half away on 1st Street. The table Dorothy chopped many a soup vegetable on was recently replaced and the Girls Club inherited the old one. Dorothy Day is currently in the Papal queue towards Sainthood.

What is the Poetry Pushcart?

The Poetry Pushcart sells handmade and small press editions of some of today's best established and emerging poets. The Poetry Pushcart also sells greeting cards and arts and crafts made by members of the Girls Club and our sister clubs in Chiapas, Mexico and Katmandu, Nepal. All proceeds from sales go directly to the artists and writers. This is a way to show support for our creative community.

Who made the Art Work in the Café ?

The signage, including the Neruda poems on the stairs and mirror were painted by sign painter extraordinaire Mark Turgeon. The portraits of women poets on paper plates are the work of author/artist Ilana Simons, the magnificent sculpture on the wall above the counter, entitled “Loisaida”, is by artist Karl Mann.

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