

# OutThere

A street-smart guide to  
New York news and newsmakers



## TONY poll: Christmas trees

What kind of tree do you have,  
real or fake?

**A. Real**      **B. Fake**

To vote, go to [www.timeoutny.com/poll/](http://www.timeoutny.com/poll/)

Replies must be received by 10am on Tuesday, December 21.  
Results will be published in TONY 484.

**POLL RESULT:** In TONY 479, we asked if you thought  
basketballer **Ron Artest's** season-long **suspension** was too  
harsh. A charitable **20 percent** of you thought the **fighting forward**  
got a bum rap.

## Many happy returns

New Yorkers describe the good gifts, the bad gifts and the outright ugly

For every Red Ryder Carbine Action 200-Shot Range Model BB gun, there's a pink bunny suit from Aunt Clara. As last-minute-shopping season sets in, so too does the desperation that can lead to inspired or, more often, insipid purchases. We took to the streets to hear about your best and worst gifts. —*Joan Solsman*



**Carol Gary, 36,**  
Orange, New Jersey  
**Occupation:** Supervisor at Macy's  
**Best gift received:** My engagement ring  
**Worst gift received:** Pants. Oh God, they were ugly—and too small.



**Danielle Lanyard, 25,**  
Upper East Side  
**Occupation:** Aspiring screenwriter  
**Best gift given:** When I couldn't make it to my friend's birthday party, I found out where she was eating dinner, got the wine list and ordered a bottle of wine for her. It was Orvieto, from the Orvieto vineyards.



**Randy Arellano, 33,**  
Baldwin, New York  
**Occupation:** Electrician  
**Best gift given:** A diamond ring. She said yes.  
**Best gift received:** My son, Nikko. He's seven years old.



**Jillaine Gill, 22,**  
Greenpoint, Brooklyn  
**Occupation:** Actor  
**Best gift given:** A homemade Yoda ashtray. It was awesome. The guy I gave it to loved it. He was like, "I'll never ash in it."



**Robert Ortiz, 42,**  
Bay Ridge, Brooklyn  
**Occupation:** Maintenance worker  
**Best gift given:** A \$1,000 donation to the Salvation Army. I came into some money.  
**Worst gift given:** A blender



**Rebecca Honig, 23,**  
Lower East Side  
**Occupation:** Documentary filmmaker  
**Best gift given:** An iPod  
**Best gift received:** An iPod  
**Worst gift received:** A Melissa Etheridge tablature book. It would have been the worst gift I ever gave, too, if I had given it, but I didn't.

## What's up with that?

What's up with 8th Street? Why is it also called Astor Place and St. Marks Place, all within a four-block stretch?

Although far less disorienting than the West Village, the East Village harbors its own grid-defying cluster of nonnumeric streets. Commonly perceived as an extension of East 8th Street (which came into being with the Commissioner's Plan of 1811), Astor Place actually lies parallel to it to the south, extending from Broadway to Third Avenue. According to Andrew Berman, executive director of the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation, from 1896 to 1954 the block of Astor Place between Lafayette Street



and Broadway provided a pleasant alternative to the dead stretch of 8th Street behind the Wanamaker Department Store, which ran along Broadway between 8th and 10th Streets. St. Marks Place, on the other hand, is a continuation of 8th Street; named after the second oldest church in the city (St. Mark's in the Bowery on 10th Street at Second Avenue), it starts at Third Avenue and ends at Avenue A. For the directionally challenged, 8th Street picks up again on the east side of Tompkins Square Park. —*Erin Clements*

Curious about something around town?  
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