

# FRIDAYEXTRA!

The Daily Astorian

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Weekend Edition

It was a gift of time — living in New York City for three months this past spring.

The idea was to travel by spending time in one place. We headed off on the train (three days), arrived on March 1, and moved into a small, furnished apartment in West Harlem.

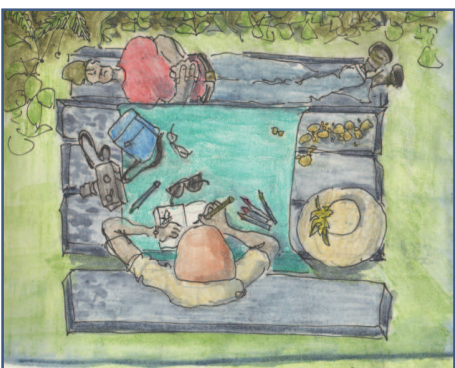
Soon we were discovering Morningside Park, Columbia University and the Hudson River, all within walking distance; or we were out for early morning bird-watching in Central Park (winter migrations underway); farther afield were more than enough museums, galleries, and libraries.

We gorged on music and culture — New York Philharmonic, Richard Strauss' "Elektra" at the Metropolitan Opera, jazz at Birdland that was so good we returned over and over, Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society, ballet and Broadway, readings at 92nd Street Y, a day trip up the Hudson to Dia Beacon and modern art.

We ate, of course — a pure and simple pleasure with so many choices. Did you know Lady Gaga's mother has a fabulous trattoria called Joanne?

For me, sketching was nearly always my favorite pleasure. They say drawing creates memory ... I will remember this trip for a long, long time.

Astoria artist Christi Payne took her sketchbook to Manhattan, and was happy to return to the cool Northwest just as summer settled on the city. You can see her work at RiverSea Gallery in Astoria, or visit her sketchbook blog — "Eyes Wide Open" — at [www.ewoandchristi.wordpress.com](http://www.ewoandchristi.wordpress.com).



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