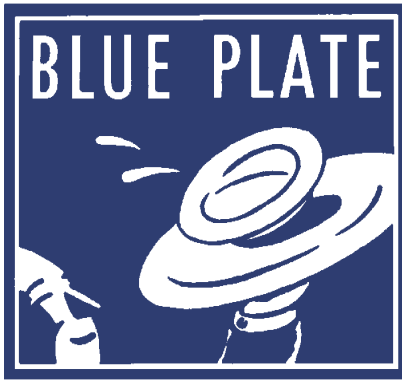


Chatham New York, 22 January 2005

Dear Friend of the Blue Plate :

I wish we all had better news concerning the State of the World at the beginning of 2005. On our own little Kinderhook Street corner, however, we continue our mission of expanding the range of local organic foods we offer you. I had no idea when I reopened the restaurant, nearly eight years ago, that it would become a useful tool in the effort to promote local agriculture. As I write, the very characteristics that have attracted people to Columbia County for generations are placing the land at increased risk. Development pressure here continues to grow, and the window of time left to protect our dwindling farmland & rural landscapes increasingly narrows.



Hopefully, in time for my next annual letter, the Town of Chatham will have completed the revision of its 35 year-old Comprehensive Plan which can then be translated into a zoning code that will maintain & enhance area agriculture & protect our extraordinary natural environment.

Meanwhile, we continue to support the work of Community Agriculture whose mission to create & sustain a local food distribution system is in the best health & ethical interests of each one of us. Local restaurants have a unique opportunity to lead in this effort.

During our eighth season we welcomed guests from Montreal & Ontario & the UK, from Niverville to Nyack, from Ghent to Galway, from Spencertown to Savannah, from Rhinebeck to Red Bank. Whether you come to us from just across town or from across the country, we love having you at our place!

---

**Our Wednesday night music** series continues. Every Wednesday except for the second one of the month, popular **pianist Lincoln Mayorga** & amazing **bassist Otto Gardner (AKA Me & the Mailman)** delight us with their elegant improvisations. Occasionally, when Lincoln is on tour, Otto invites other gifted jazz pianists such as **Francesca Tanksley** & **Sumi Tonooka** to join him. **Selma Kaplan** & **George Wilson**, beloved of the Bluegrass/folk dance community, appear every second Wednesday. There's no charge for listening & you don't even have to order! (But, hey, why not have just one beer?)

Our website, **[www.chathamblueplate.net](http://www.chathamblueplate.net)**, is where you'll find the current menu & pictures of staff & customers & the occasional brunch events that we enjoy hosting for local non-profits. There you can post comments & suggestions for dishes you'd like us to include. (Or EXclude!) If you have a digital picture of yourself or your family members wearing our now world-famous T-shirt taken in some exotic clime, send it to our webmaster, [Keetz@elite.nu](mailto:Keetz@elite.nu) & he will include it in the archives. (Check website for ideas...) Please include the date & place as well as the name(s) of the subject(s). (Non-digital prints can be sent directly to me care of the restaurant.)

After we reopen FOR OUR NINTH SEASON on Thursday, February 3rd, I hope to welcome most of you in person. The past year was our BEST EVER, & we will continue to do whatever we can to earn your continued confidence & respect.

Sincerely,

Judy Grunberg, owner

joined by Marcia Curran, manager, Leo Castellanos, chef, & the whole Blue Plate gang (alphabetically): Amy, Amy, Barb, Christina, Colleen, Dylan, Jennie, Juan, Katie, Krista, Marcia, Narciso, Noah, Owen, Quique, Renee, Roberta, Sarah, Shari, Teba, Vicki & Willa.