

QUEST

MAGAZINE

Volume 23, #1
January 2016

QUEENS
OF

2016

Dixie
BJ
Nova
Patti
Kari
Heidi
Melee
Gluttoni



DITA
VON

PHOTOGRAPHY
Bo Wesley

WYNONNA'S ALL 80'S BIRTHDAY BASH
JAN 16, 2016 10:30PM



WYNONNA



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FELICIA
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GAMMA Gives!

By Julia Kind

Milwaukee GAMMA marked the end of 2015 with its annual holiday party. But, this year, it had a new twist. Rather than hold a traditional potluck, board of directors President Bim Florek had another idea. "You know, throughout the year GAMMA holds monthly house parties where everyone brings a 'dish to pass'. People get used to it and may even see it as a chore," Florek explained. "So, this year, we decided to do something special and have a GAMMA member cater one of our biggest events, the annual holiday party. That way, members could come and just enjoy the evening. We usually get around 40 people. We supplied the ingredients and Paul Masterson volunteered to cook and cater. It turned out we had 55 RSVPs, so Paul had his work cut out for him. But beyond that, and here's the real reason behind the change, as an alternative to bringing food, we asked GAMMA members and their guests to bring a gift for a child to be donated to Milwaukee's youth support organization, Pathfinders. We called it 'GAMMA Gives'. I was amazed at all the beautiful toys, stuffed animals and books they brought!"

Then Florek and Masterson delivered the gifts to Pathfinders' drop in center on the city's north side. "We had a car load," Masterson said. "We were greeted by Pathfinders' Vice President for Programs, Julie Bock and arranged the gifts under a beautiful tree that was set up in a community room. It looks like we've created a new holiday tradition for GAMMA!", he added.

Founded in 1978, GAMMA remains one of the oldest, continuously active LGBT organizations in the Milwaukee Metro area. With over 100 members, the group offers recreational, cultural and social activities throughout the year. It can be contacted through Facebook at GAMMAMKE.



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2015 MARKS LGBT MILESTONES

By Paul Masterson

As we bring in the New Year, it's time for that obligatory review of 2015.

Nationally, the big news was marriage equality's first anniversary. A Kentucky county clerk objected but, mercifully, just in time for Halloween. Former Olympian Bruce Jenner transitioned became Caitlyn. But, the would-be trans-heroine dug in her heels as a Republican. Under public pressure to share the spotlight, she offered only tepid acknowledgement of equality for all, proving you can take the jock out of the dumb but not the dumb out of the jock.

Speaking of out jocks, a lot of professional athletes came out including an NBA referee. Even the Milwaukee Brewer's minor league now fields gay player. That news was accompanied by a photo showing the up-and-coming switch-hitter flashing his "Top Star Award" bat. And, speaking of well-heeled heroines, our own drag diva Trixie Mattel made it on RuPaul's Drag Race. She's now wowing crowds around the globe.

There were other milestones made this year. The all-volunteer driven Milwaukee Pride received 501c3 status. Its main event, PrideFest, broke previous attendance records and established a gender neutral bathroom policy. The organization presented its PrideFest Medal to Gender Queer Milwaukee, Don Schwamb, and Washington Heights Rainbow Association for their extraordinary contributions to LGBTQ life.

Alliance School graduated its 10th class. The Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce expanded to over 350 members. The LGBT Film/Video Festival celebrated its 30th anniversary, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center its 10th, while numerous other LGBT organizations racked up more years and even decades to their histories.

Also making the news in 2015, gay Cuban Doctor Alberto Rogue Guerra, MD, an LGBT health specialist in transgender issues, spoke to a capacity audience at the LGBT Community Center. Just in time for the thawing of US-Cuban relations, the event marked a significant moment for Milwaukee's LGBT history. Underwritten by Diverse & Resilient (D&R), the G/L Community Fund, and individual donors, the doctor's visit was facilitated by the Wis-



Doctor Alberto Rogue Guerra, MD
more photos follow on next pages.

consin Coalition to Normalize Relations with Cuba. The rare collaboration of such diverse entities is a credit to all those involved.

Leadership changes took place throughout Milwaukee's major LGBT organizations. New CEO/Presidents include Cream City Foundation's (CCF) Peter Holbrook, PhD, from the Diverse and Resilient board of directors and Gerald Coon, PhD, also from the D&R board, who took over that organization. He succeeds D&R founder, Gary Hollander, who retired after 20 years. Both Coon and Holbrook have introduced new strategies to raise their respective organizational profiles for greater visibility. Karen Gotzler returned as executive director of the LGBT Community Center. Dave Martin, for 13 years that facility's master of the keep, retired. The Center's youth program, Project Q, brought on Charles Smart, while the director of its senior adult program, Scott Miller, left suddenly to pursue other professional endeavors. In volunteer driven organizations, the Saturday Softball Beer League elected a new commissioner, Eric Peterson and Milwaukee Pride expanded its board to include, among others, a transwoman and a transman.

In financial news, the Milwaukee Catholic Archdiocese finally settled its decades' old sexual abuse legal suit, agreeing to pay \$21 million dollars in compensation to victims. The ecclesiastic shell game involved a bankruptcy claim and burying diocesan assets in a "cemetery fund". Because the settlement amount is to be divided among

hundreds of plaintiffs and their attorneys, according to Peter Isely, Midwest director of Survivors Network for those Abused by Priests (SNAP), "It is exponentially the lowest bankruptcy compensation for victims in the United States." The Archdiocese "cemetery fund" attorneys are estimated to have earned over \$4,500,000.

Meanwhile, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's lakefront AIDS Walk 2015 raised just over \$400,000 for that agency's fight against HIV/AIDS. If you're doing the math, yes, that's less than 1/10th of the fees paid to lawyers defending priest sex offenders.

Our major philanthropic institution, Cream City Foundation (CCF), granted \$111,000 to 27 LGBT and allied organizations in 2015 (compared to \$178,000 in 2014). CCF announced a LGBTQ Scholarship fund. It also funded LGBT Film/Video Festival interns travel to San Francisco's Frameline LGBT Film Festival and the Out receptions at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre. The smaller G/L Trust Fund gave \$7000 to 17 LGBT groups. Also in the spirit of giving, Milwaukee GAMMA created a new program, GAMMA Gives! The group changed its annual holiday party format from the typical Dish-to-pass potluck to an affair catered by a GAMMA member. In lieu of food, attendees brought toys to be donated to youth support organization, Pathfinders.

Sadly, although the LGBT dedicated troupe, Theatrical Tendencies, successfully ended its 2014-15 season, it seems to be currently on hiatus, with no announcement of a 2015-16 season.

Tragically, Tony Gonzales, a well-known community volunteer and personality about town, died in a hail of police bullets. His loss brought to light our need to better address mental health issues in our community.

With 2016 comes not only a Leap Year but another election year. Despite political gains under the Obama administration, our recently attained LGBT rights are at stake. With the exception of Donald Trump, Republican presidential contenders with any chance of becoming the GOP candidate have already promised to end marriage equality and, under the guise of religious freedom, endorsed discrimination against LGBT people. Meanwhile, Trump has promised to deny rights to everybody else except white folks.

QUEST Magazine wishes all its readers a happy, healthy, and successful 2016, but, as Bette Davis might say, fasten your seat-

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It has been a busy year for LGBT in 2015.

Left: Cream City Foundation President and CEO Peter Holbrook receives a Proclamation from Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett.

Below Left: GAMMA President Bim Florek chats with Skylight Music Theatre executive director Jack R. Lemmon and marketing manager Kendall Judy at the My Fair Lady BeOut reception

Right: Michael Lisowski receives the Shepherd Express LGBT Progress Award

Photos by Paul Masterson





AIDSWALK 2015

Photos by Paul Masterson



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The Iron Diaries – Fitness & Health

Lets fast forward a couple months; think of yourself, think of your body: Are you going to turn heads or turn stomachs?

Alright maybe that's a little extreme, but seriously – summer is a lot closer than you think and you don't want to be that guy stumbling down the beach or swimming with your shirt on. Fortunately for you, its not too late, and you have plenty of time to get shredded & sexy by summer – BUT you need to do it right, and you NEED to start RIGHT NOW!

Step #1: Lift...LIFT HEAVY! There's a little secret in the fitness industry that we keep close to the chest: If you want to get big, or shredded, or lean, or strong – you have to lift heavy weights. Your muscles respond best when introduced to increased tension, and in order to keep stimulating those muscles you have to continually increase that tension...aka progressively keep adding weight to the bar.

The ideal rep range is an endless conversation within the fitness industry and really is a big waste of time until you are very experienced. Lets just cut to the chase, chances are you're sticking to the same routine of 12-15 reps over and over again and the progress has all but disappeared. Forget that old routine, forget all the mumbo-jumbo, forget the stale shit – and dive in to the challenge of the 4-6 rep range with heavier

weights. Once you're able to hit 6 reps on an exercise, add more weight and start building back up. General rule of thumb is to add 5lbs if your using dumbbells, and 10lbs if you're under a barbell. Every so-called "fitness guru" will whine & moan that you wont get enough volume, but the research shows that this is THE ideal rep range for increasing strength, size, and definition (assuming of course your not on 'roids).

Through all my years of experience with housewives, professional athletes, weekend warriors, and average dudes – this is when startling gains are made across the board.

Step #2: GET OFF THE DAMN MACHINES! To be blunt, machines suck. They don't stimulate enough muscle compared to free weights. If you want to maximize your efforts leading up to the summer, then ditch the machines and grab the closest barbell or dumbbell – you'll thank me later. If you want to build an awesome chest, bench press. If you want legs to show off, squat. If you want a nice back, start deadlifting.

"But Darron, what about abs?!": Lift heavy, be active everyday, 20-30min of cardio at least 3 times a week...and don't eat garbage.

Last but not least, you don't have to go at it alone; I am here to help you turn every head on that beach! If you need advice, have questions, want



a killer 12 Week Summer Shred Program – shoot me a message at darron@dlfitnessfoundation.com or visit my website at www.DLFitnessFoundation.com. Also, find me on facebook, twitter, instagram, and periscope for more!

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Love is Love





Besides snow, there's been something else. To coin a phrase: In the air there's a feeling of Christmas! Think of the indomitable Doris Day. The song, of course, is **Silver Bells**.

"Children laughing. People passing Meeting smile after smile And on every corner you'll hear. Silver bells, silver bells It's Christmas time in the city!"

There is always something of a debate, this time of year, as to what sort of film to screen for the monthly cinema group. Should Glenn select one of the familiar Christmas classics? Maybe **White Christmas**, or perhaps the far superior **Holiday Inn**? Glenn recently uncovered a relatively obscure but utterly charming **Remember the Night** (1940) starring the always fabulous Barbara Stanwyck. Another fun option is to choose various Holiday episodes from 1960s television sit-coms. Whose heart, for instance, doesn't melt during the **Doris Day Christmas Party** as mean old Billy De Wolfe is reduced to tears listening to our gal Doris warbling **Silent Night**?

As gay as this wonderful Christmas episode undoubtedly is, perhaps there might be a new Gay or Transgender film with a Christmas theme, mused Glenn.

Suddenly, as if left by jolly old Saint Nick himself, Glenn discovered **Tangerine**, from director Sean Baker.

Now admittedly, **Tangerine** might not be everyone's idea of Traditional Christmas fare but helped by generous portions of Glenn's patented "Mistletoe & Holly" layered cocktail, the gentlemen who compose the monthly cinema circle proved surprisingly agreeable.

Following an enchantingly nostalgic instrumental version of Victor Herbert's **Toyland** (thank you Harry Horlick and orchestra) and a bracing, "Merry Christmas Eve, bitch" the stage is set to introduce our plucky protagonists,

NEW ON DVD "Tangerine"

By Glenn Bishop



transgender prostitutes both: Sin-Dee (Kiki Kitanna Rodriguez) and Alexandra (Mya Taylor).

So poor as to be able to afford and share just one of Donut Time's finest confections, Sin-Dee and Alexandra both have news to share. Just out of jail, having taken the fall for her pimp boyfriend Chester (James Ransome), Sin-Dee is excited to tell her best friend that Chester has proposed to her. Sadly, before Sin-Dee can share her news, Alexandra tells Sin-Dee that Chester has been cheating on her, in her absence.

"She's some white fish," Alexandra tells her, "like, vagina and everything."

Sin-Dee proceeds to fly into a proper rage. Armed only with the knowledge that the white fish's name starts with the letter d, Sin-Dee storms out of Donut Time. The sequence of striking tracking shots flawlessly punctuated with the dynamic soundtrack perfectly captures Sin-Dee's fierce determination and bloody-mindedness.

Eventually Alexandra tags along as Sin-Dee proceeds to question the various denizens of Los Angeles' seedy underbelly; fearlessly interrogating both friends and foes alike.

Determined to get satisfaction, Sin-Dee manages to track down the offending transgressor, a whore named Dinah (Mickey O'Hagan). Immediately Sin-Dee sets off to confront Chester, dragging the strung out meth whore by the hair, literally.

Even as Sin-Dee continues on her quest with admirable single-mindedness, Sean Baker's screenplay opens up to follow Alexandra as she sets out to promote her nightclub gig set for later on Christmas Eve as well as introducing Armenian taxi driver Razmik (Karren Karagulian).

Baker's screenplay gleefully follows the zany exploits of Alexandra and Razmik, from Alexan-

Buy it, Rent it, or forget it...

Clearly, when Glenn refers to Sean Baker's **Tangerine** as Holiday fare, it is with tongue firmly in cheek. There is, for instance, blistering Southern California sun with nary a snowflake in sight. Yet setting **Tangerine** at Christmas time cannot help but add poignancy to the proceedings.

Kiki Kitanna Rodriguez and Mya Taylor are wonderfully flawed and deeply compelling as Sin-Dee and Alexandra. How could Glenn not cheer when Sin-Dee finally finds Dinah, dragging her by her hair onto a crowded city bus, poor Dinah boasting just the one shoe. Then Glenn cheered even louder when Sin-Dee remembered Alexandra's gig and drags Dinah off the bus, determined to make it in time to see her friend perform.

"There is nothing out here but the hustle," claims Alexandra. Yet, thanks to a simple, beguiling final shot, **Tangerine** makes clear that what might be most important to these fabulous characters is to have someone; someone who has your back no matter what.

Sundance loved **Tangerine**, so did Glenn. You might, too! And Happy Holidays to all loyal **Quest** readers.

Just the facts...

Tangerine clocks in at 88 minutes and is in English.

Tangerine is available on DVD with a SRP: \$26.98

Tangerine is nominated for a flurry of Independent Spirit Awards (2016) including Best Feature Film. Special DVD features include interviews with Kiki Kitanna Rodriguez and Mya Taylor, theatrical trailer plus English and Spanish subtitles.

dra's haunting take on Victor Herbert's **Toyland** to Razmik's eclectic group of passengers and later a bizarre confrontation with his shrewish mother-in-law. **Tangerine** increasingly takes on a Dickensian feel.

Several members of the monthly cinema circle thought this notion something of a merry doodle but Sean Baker, serving as both director and screenwriter, is clearly as captivated by the mean streets of Los Angeles as Dickens was with London's Victorian East End.

What ultimately separates **Tangerine** from those wonderful cinematic adaptations of Dickens' novels presented under the auspices of PBS's classy **Masterpiece** is budget. Armed merely with a handful of iPhone 5s, Baker and company bring **Tangerine** to life with vibrant colors and an extraordinary immediacy. Like **Tangerine** with its roster of sex-workers and ne're-do-wells, Dickens delighted in bringing to life pimps and prostitutes and various and sundry nefarious characters and in general offering a peek into the seedy side of Victorian London.



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BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 15 #1 January 2016



**LGBT Chamber of Commerce
3rd Anniversary Gaka @ Casablanca**

All photos on this page
courtesy of Michael Lisowski (The Queer Program)



**Transforming Our Community
3rd Annual Gala @ Where House**



Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

Have you all survived the Holiday festivities? Obviously, or you wouldn't be reading this. Welcome back, and wishing you all a happy, healthy, prosperous, peace-filled 2016! I do so enjoy being Cordially Yours..

Let's kick off the New Year with a little Broadway! The 2012 Tony Award winning "Newsies" Tuesday, January 5 – Sunday, January 10, described as a high-energy explosion of song and dance, you just don't want to miss! Perfect family entertainment! The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts 929 North Water Street 414-273-7206 Broadway Across America – Milwaukee at it's very best!

My all-time favorite Broadway composer ("Hello, Dolly!", "Mame", "Mack and Mable", "La Cage" ...) is being celebrated by The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra – "The Music of Jerry Herman"

Wednesday, January 13 The Marcus Center of the Performing Arts 929 North Water Street 414-273-7206. One performance only

– so don't let this "Parade Pass You By".

The next RGF "Really Grand Fridays" benefitting The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is Friday, January 15 "Winter Masquerade". Jody Michael Armata and Bill Grey will open the doors of their plush, lush eastside manor – the landmark, Northshore Funeral Home 3601 North Oakland Avenue. To join the Masked Ball and get your dance card filled, please call Karen Gotzler at 414-292-3060 – See You there, if I recognize you behind your mask, not to be missed!

The next evening Miss Patti LaBelle raises the roof and lots of blood pressures at The Riverside 116 West Wisconsin Avenue. Saturday, January 16 – from baking her world famous pies to the concert hall a force to be reckoned with and always with a "New Attitude"!

The Milwaukee Repertory Theater 108 East Wells Street 414-224-9490/milwaukeekeerep.com Have two fascinating offerings

– Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" Tuesday, January 19 – Sunday, February 21 in the Quadracci Powerhouse, directed by Mark Clements. In the Stackner Cabaret, come commemorate the sounds and songs of Miss Bessie Smith with "The Devil's Music: The Life and Blues of Bessie Smith", Friday, January 22 – Sunday, March 20.

The Sunset Playhouse 800 Elm Grove Road 262-782-4430/sunsetplayhouse.com brings to the boards one of my all-time favorites "Steel Magnolias" Thursday, January 21 – Saturday, February 6. Well worth the trip to our very own "West End", Elm Grove. I would love to someday play the former mayor's wife, Claree. This vehicle will have you in a laughing jag one moment and sobbing the next – what a gem!

My Friends at Renaissance Theaterworks 158 North Broadway The Broadway Theatre Complex – following on the great success of their last production, "The Ballad of Emmett Till" will present "Agnes of God" by John Pielmeier, directed by Suzan Fete. Friday, Jan. 22 – Sun., February 14 (Valentine's Day), this 1982 Tony Award winner is a mystery of faith and the consequences of the truth. Come see if miracles really hap-

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pen or form your own conclusion. To quote George Michaels – which I rarely do – “You Gotta Have Faith” 414-273-0800 is the number to call and reserve your seat.

The “Pink Hat Party” at This Is It has a real special fund to rally around this month: ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis AKA Lou Gehrigs Disease). If you don’t know what this hideous condition is – you’re very fortunate. Unfortunately, Joe Brehm of This Is It fame has been inflicted with this and we have to erase ALS off the map! As always the “Pink Hat Party” is the last Wednesday of the month, January 27 8:00 – 11:00 pm. There will be drawings, cocktails and Ms. Karen Valentine to ring in the first fundraiser of the New Year! What better way to toast the Founder’s son, our friend and ally Joe, than all turning out and contributing in his honor?

Next Act Theatre 255 South Water Street which provides both intimate and powerful works, proudly executes “Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992” by Anna Deavers Smith. Thursday, January 28 – Sunday, February 21. In the troublesome times we’re living in – with violence, killings, and race wars – let’s travel back to L. A. and the chaos that incurred after the Rodney King beating trial and the not guilty verdict. Hopefully we will learn from our history – and find out why we can’t all get along... 414-278-0765 is where you call to witness this topical opus. Next Act offers ample, comple-

mentary parking.

How about a little camp, silly humor? Nothing profound, but guaranteed to tickle your funny bone – the return of Gallagher – the watermelon splitting comic and his comedy tour – will make you laugh! Thursday, January 28 Turner Hall 1034 North 4th Street – timeless, slap stick at its best! Bring a rain coat!

“Powder Her Face” is playing the glamorous Cabot stage of the Skylight Music Theatre of the Broadway Theatre Complex 158 North Broadway Friday, January 29 – Sunday, February 14. This creation was inspired by a real-life sex scandal of the “Dirty Duchess” – Margaret of Argyll. It’s so much fun following the tawdry stories of the Royals! An Opera in two acts – Brava!

Now this is something for your future calendar – but I wanted to share, so you have lead time... Come spring, Mother’s Day – Sunday, May 8th an M&M Club Reunion! It’ll be the 10th year without our favorite watering hole. Held at The Irish Pub – 124 North Water Street, formerly known as The M&M Club. The M’s opened April of 1976, over the Bicentennial Fourth of July weekend – the Grand Opening took place. And for over 30 years The M’s ruled over Water and Erie Streets in The Historic Third Ward. Closing night was Mother’s Day Eve – a Saturday May 13, 2006. The reason that date is etched in my memory; Rona, Jerry

Gin&Tonic, Jay and I walked out at 6:00 a.m. that Mother’s Day dawn knowing it was definitely an end to an era! Here we are a decade later to reconvene, remember, and relish what once was! Kudos to Rona for pulling this all together and Bob Schmidt will be back for this bacchanal.

What a fabulous Holiday Season, I enjoyed it all – ooh to be cloned and to experience everything! A great getaway to Chicago for a shopping spree, caroling with friends (Jay, Sharon, Loretta Poinsettia, Mary) at The Cathedral Center Shelter for Women and Families in Transition. A couple of rousing Sunday, Fun Day Show Tunes – back to back at Club Charlies with Brian Reinkober – getting everyone in the Seasonal Way! Helping out with “Operation Scarves” tying scarves, cap, mitten, and gloves – “mini survival kits” on trees throughout the public park system, insuring people in need will be warm-er. Brava Heather for steering this project. BLU-tending at BLU of The Pfister Hotel raising money for the United Way over \$350 in two hours! Keith the Bartender on duty is the best! Appearing at Fluid for their Christmas Party, working with my gal pal Maple Veneer in her Holiday Show, Phaedra Free and Lizzie Bordeaux rounded out the cast nicely. Peter Pitch catered, The AARP Table, among other notables turned out and proceeds helped out the Holton Street Clinic – the only Clinic that still does outreach! Maple and I have done Christmas Shows since 2001! First Switch when I worked there 2001 – 2006, then The Room



KV with Parker

January Bucket List

Wednesday, January 13

The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra –
“The Music of Jerry Herman”

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts
929 North Water Street

Friday, January 15

Really Grand Fridays “Winter Masquerade”
Northshore Funeral Home
3601 North Oakland Avenue

Saturday, January 16

Miss Patti LaBelle In Concert
The Riverside 116 West Wisconsin Ave.

Monday, January 18

Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Tue, January 19 – Sun, February 21
“Of Mice and Men”

Milwaukee Repertory Theater
Quadracci Powerhouse 108 East Wells St

Thur, January 21 – Sat, February 6
“Steel Magnolias”

Sunset Playhouse 800 Elm Grove Road

Friday, January 22 – Sunday, February 14
“Agnes of God”

Renaissance Theaterworks Broadway
Theatre Complex 158 North Broadway

Friday, January 22 – Sunday, March 20

“The Devil’s Music: The Life and Blues of
Bessie Smith”

Milwaukee Repertory Theater
Stackner Cabaret 108 East Wells Street

Wednesday, January 27

“Pink Hat Party – ALS Fundraiser”
This Is It 418 East Wells Street

Thur, January 28 – Sun, February 21

“Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992”
Next Act Theatre 225 South Water St

Thursday, January 28

Gallagher and his Comedy Tour
Turner Hall 1034 North 4th Street

Friday, January 29 – Sunday, February 14
“Powder Her Face”

Skylight Music Theater
Broadway Theater Complex
158 North Broadway

of Boom for eight years and once at Red Star! Thanks Maple and Bill Wardlow for allowing the tradition to carry on! Thank You my Dear Ruthie (Keester), my Sister-in-Print, for inviting me to make my debut at Hamburger Mary's – I've arrived! Gary and Staff were so welcoming! What fun a Christmas Party/Show/Fundraiser – all for Ruthie's Kennel Club.

The Parties – my ultimate favorite part of the season – Brian & Michael, Jay, Tracey & Bill, Paul & Jan, Blake & Jay – for which the line from The Christmas Song – "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire" has an all new meaning, and thank You in print

Kevin Nunn for saving my life! Corky, John, Dr. Beto & Tim, Nick & Tom, David & LaQuesha, Jim & Deb, Jim & Scott, Tom & Scott and Richard and James, Taylor's, Fluid, Hamburger Mary's and all the other gatherings You were all kind enough to include Cordially Yours – whether I attended or not being asked is the gift! A very special Happy Birthday to Mr. Fred Stewart! Fred commemorated his ninth decade – yes 90 years old in his usual style and élan at Victor's on Van Buren. Dear Fred you are an inspiration!

Please forgive me; if I forgot a name, a party, an invitation, an event – I truly appreciate making your list, You are all my

Santa's!

Food Time: Looking for a special spot to add a special afterglow, after the Holidays? Try sipping and supping at Bartolotta's Bacchus in The Cudahy Tower 925 East Wells Street, Contemporary American cuisine, exceptional service and an ideal way to chase away the after the Holidays blues. Bon Appetite!

Request Dan, nee Dooda, to be your server, you won't be disappointed!

And so ends my first effort of the New Year, wishing You all that's attainable in 2016! Please remember it's the glamor, not the grammar – looking forward to being with you all again, as I remain still Cordially Yours.



Above and right: KV at Hamburger Mary's
Below: More holiday parties with KV





BWMT Annual Christmas Party



BWMT photos by
Michael Lisowski



Kruz Christmas Party with Colt Santa

Kruz photos taken
from the Kruz Kruzbar
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Welcome to Ruthie's **Bitchin' Kitchen**



HAPPY NEW YEAR! May 2016 be the sort of year you dreamt of. May your spirits be bright, and may your wallet, pantry and bed always be full!

The year 2016 is already getting a jumpstart with plenty of fun to be had! My gal pal Jackie Roberts is back in town. Many of you recall all the years of entertaining and fundraising Jackie brought to Milwaukee before she sought greener pastures. Well, Jackie's back in town and now it's our turn to help her out a bit. To help Jackie's fight against cancer, Nova D'Vine is throwing a show at La Cage/Montage. Join her on Sunday, January 10...show time is 9pm.

You can also check out "HamBingo with the All-Stars" to benefit Jackie on January 13 at Hamburger Mary's. At 8pm, we'll play 10 crazy games of bingo with your hosts Shannon Dupree, Tempest Heat, Nova D'Vine and me. Plenty of drag numbers, prizes, burgers and more! Don't miss the fun! Call 414-988-9324 for reservations, then c'mon down and help out Jackie!

You can also catch me at "Ruthie's Three Girls Three" at Hamburger Mary's on January 29. My two guests, Myami Richards and Tempest Heat, and I put on a helluva show at 8pm and then another sassy spectacular at 9:30! Check it out.

Until then, let's step into the Bitchin' Kitchen for a spell, shall we? It's January and plenty of folks are planning on eating leaner, feeling healthier and dropping weight, and while I hate all that "New Year—new you" crapola, there's something to be said about having a few light recipes in your back pocket. Whether you're trying to lose weight or simply want to try some healthy recipes, whip up a few of these low-cal, less-fat bites. Have a great New Year, and as always eat great and shut up!

MINI TURKEY MEAT LOAVES

Not only is this a heart-smart take on meat loaf, but the tiny loaves can easily be frozen for future meals! Whether you're cooking for one or a few, this recipe yields the perfect amount.

- 1 small zucchini finely diced**
- 1 egg white**
- 1/2 cup Italian-flavored bread crumbs**
- Dash of salt**
- Barbecue sauce**
- 1 pound ground turkey**

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Spritz a muffin pan with nonstick cooking spray. In a large bowl, combine zucchini, egg white, bread crumbs, salt and 2 tablespoons barbecue sauce. Gently work ground turkey into zucchini mixture until just combined. Divide the mixture among 6 muffin cups. Top each with another 2 tablespoons barbecue sauce.

Bake at 400 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes, or until the inside is no longer pink and juices run clear. Serve with additional barbecue sauce if desired.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Get creative! Add some chopped onion, garlic or mushrooms to the meat mixture. You can even toss in some reduced-fat shredded cheddar cheese. Don't over mix when adding the meat. Handling the meat mixture too much can make the loaves tough. Pour a little water in any unused muffin tins to ensure even baking.

VERY VEGGIE PASTA

Skinny Gay guys have been enjoying veggies for years, so why not follow suit and toss them with pasta (not skinny Gay guys but the veggies). Don't let this recipe's long list of ingredients stop you from trying

the tasty sensation. Instead, hit the salad bar at your grocery store and buy the veggies there. Best of all, they're already cut up for you!

- 1 (16 ounce) box penne pasta**
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil**
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic**
- 1/2 cup chopped onion**
- 1 cup chopped carrots**
- 1 cup broccoli florets**
- 1 cup chopped green bell pepper**
- 1 (26 ounce) jar marinara sauce**
- Dash of red pepper flakes**
- 1 (10 ounce) bag fresh spinach, lightly chopped**

Prepare pasta according to package directions. Meanwhile, warm oil over medium heat in a Dutch oven or large, deep pot. Add garlic, onion, carrots, broccoli and green pepper for 5 minutes or until vegetables are tender.

Add marinara sauce, red pepper flakes and spinach. Reduce heat to low and simmer 15 minutes. Drain pasta. Toss vegetable sauce with pasta.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

If you really want to beef up your healthy-eating goals, try this recipe with whole wheat pasta. Check calorie and fat counts on the marina's label to make sure you're getting the leanest sauce you can. Don't like things spicy? Leave out the red pepper flakes. This recipe doesn't call for added salt since jarred sauces usually have sodium. Add salt to taste if desired.

SHRIMP SCAMPI OVER GREENS

Okay, so maybe this isn't the healthiest dish in town. But it's loaded with greens and shrimp...and who doesn't love shrimp? Enjoy this salad for a change-of-pace start to the New Year or serve the shrimp with toothpicks as a party pleaser.

- 1/4 cup butter**
- 1/2 small onion, finely diced**
- 1 tablespoon minced garlic**
- 1 tablespoon chopped dried parsley or 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley**
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice**
- 1/2 teaspoon salt**
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper**
- 1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined**
- 1/2 cup heavy cream**
- 1 head iceberg or romaine, torn into bite-sized pieces**

Melt butter over medium heat in an extra large skillet. Add onion, garlic and parsley. Cook 3 to 4 minutes, stirring occasionally, or until onion is tender and garlic turns golden. Add lemon juice, salt and pepper; heat through. Add shrimp and cook 2 to 4 minutes, or until the shrimp turn pink. Reduce heat to low and stir in cream until well combined; remove from heat. Place lettuce in a serving bowl. Add shrimp mixture; toss and serve immediately.

Ruthie's Culinary Clues

If you'd like to keep make things healthier, reduce the butter and omit the salt from this recipe. You can also replace half the cream with milk.

Got a recipe for Ruthie? Share it with her and she'll send you a free Bitchin' Kitchen T-shirt if it gets published in her column. Email Ruthie at DearMsRuthie@yahoo.com. Watch her cooking web series at www.RuthiesBitchinKitchen.com and learn more about her charity at www.RuthiesKennelClub.org.



Well we are back; I hope that you all remember New Year's Eve! But of course then again I am talking about my readers so I really can't hope for much. There is one thing I could do though! Knowing what kind of people who read this and actually think I know what I am talking about I can say this. Rather than hope you remember what happened new year's eve, I just hope you remembered to grab all of your clothes before you left whoever's house it was you went home with on new year's day. And of course I hope you at the very least kept it wrapped up, and for those women out there I hope you either protected that cucumber or at least threw it away. Lord knows I refuse to eat a salad made by any of my friends!

Well I think I have bored you enough this month lets get on with it. Last month I was talking with a friend and he wanted to know why people get pierced. So I figured any idea was a good idea for this column so I ran with it, so here we go.

People get pierced for tons of different reasons! Some people like them just for the look of it, wanting to separate themselves from the rest of our modern world. They just want to stand out, so they die their hair and get pierced so all the little ladies at Pick'n Save freak out as soon as they walk into the dairy

section.

Yet other people get pierced because of the social groups that they hang around with. For instance in the Leather/Kink community it has always been expected of the bottoms to get their nipples and genitalia pierced. (Gee, no wonder I like the leather community!)

Some of the people who get pierced do it for a deeper and more sentimental or emotional reason. Therefore are some people who obtain piercings and tattoos do so mainly because they feel some sort of a connection to the roots of tattooing and piercing. These people will usually get tribal piercings and/or tattoos, and usually there will be a deep spiritual meaning for these people with regard to their piercings and tattoos.

So in conclusion it really does depend on each individual person to find out the reason people get pierced or tattooed. So in my opinion if you want to know why people do it, then ask them! Don't sit there and assume that you can figure it out, because odds are that you will never hit upon the right reason. And you will end up buying a drink some night at a bar for someone you didn't even know existed until the exact moment you walked into the door! (Sorry, had a little flash back there, I'll try to keep them under control for you in the future!)

Well now that I have answered that let us see what we have in the old email bag shall we?

Brent

I was talking with a friend of mine the other day, and he asked me about my nipple piercings. He asked if they hurt and all the normal question but then he said something I had never heard of. He told me that nipple piercings reject out of the body in 5 years and they leave you with a split nipple. I have had my piercings for 4 years now tell me that he is wrong! — Becky

Well Becky, first off thanks for writing in. And secondly, your friend is full of horse shit. Piercings do not just reject at a certain time frame. Most piercings migrate out due to people not taking care of them properly. Any form of irritation, such as sleeping on them without the piercing being protected or playing with them can cause the body to give up on healing them and then it just pushes the piercing straight out the human body. So in a nut shell you have nothing to worry about in the coming year, provided you don't irritate your piercing.

Well it seems I have run out of space all over again so until next time have a great January and I will talk to you all again in February, the month of love! Well kind of the month for love. Either way you have to spend money on crap and we will talk about the best thing to buy your special someone. . . PIERCINGS!

Do you have questions? Do you want a piercing? You know you do! Email Brent at avantgarde@voyager.net.

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 Chances R 417 Jay St, La Crosse (608)782-5105
 Club 5 Bar/Restaurant 5 Applegate Ct Madison, (608)277-9700
 Plan B 924 Williamson Street, Madison
 Shamrock 117 W Main Madison (608)255-5029
 SOTTO 303 N Henry St Madison
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 Napalese 1351 Cedar Green Bay (920)432-9646
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 THE SHELTER 730 N. Quincy St. Green Bay 920-432-2662
 XS Niteclub 1106 Main Street, Green Bay
 The Remixx 8386 State Rd 76 Neenah 54956 (920)725-6483
 Debs Spare Time 1303 Harrison St Oshkosh (920)235-6577
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Adopted dogs Roxie & Rocco and entertainer Dear Ruthie believe local pride starts with local pets. They support shelters and rescues that do, too.

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