

FLORIDA WEEKLY®

KEY WEST EDITION

WEEK OF AUGUST 25-31, 2016

www.FloridaWeekly.com

Vol. 1, No. 21 • FREE



CHEAP THRILLS

Enjoy Key West on a tight budget

► The Sunset Celebration in Mallory Square costs you exactly nothing.

BY MAXINE LOPEZ-KEOUGH
Florida Weekly Correspondent

SOMEWHERE BETWEEN THE BREAKAWAY success of TLC's "Extreme Couponing" and billionaire Mark Zuckerberg's refusal to deviate from a plebeian uniform of gray hoodies and tees, it became clear: Frugality is officially cool again.

Yes, jumping on your private yacht and sailing off to Capri for the afternoon might sound luxurious, but what could be more satisfying than knowing you've enjoyed a full day out

SEE THRILLS, A10 ►

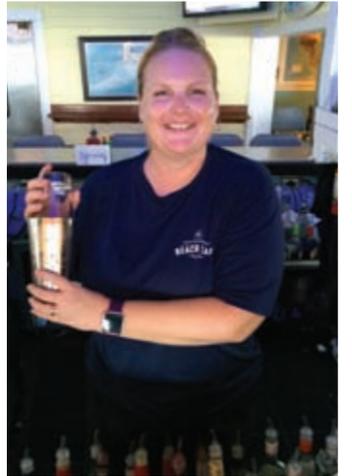
PHOTO BY JULI SCALZI

INSIDE



Hocus Potus

The kickoff for king and queen of Fantasy Fest. **A6** ►



Bartender of the week

Gretchen Richmond — daughter of a sailor. **A21** ►



Music scene

Chaka Chandler gets the party started and keeps it going. **A22** ►



COURTESY PHOTO

Tropic Cinema is Key West's favorite little cinema.

Tropic Cinema bids farewell to longtime executive director

BY MAXINE LOPEZ-KEOUGH
Florida Weekly Correspondent

For 10 successful years, Key West's Tropic Cinema — consistently voted one of the best in the state of Florida, thanks to its dynamite mix of special programming, charming décor, dedicated volunteer staff, curated film schedule and mouthwatering concessions —

has soared under the watchful leadership of executive director Matthew Helmerich.

After the announcement that he will step down from his role this month, the beloved community leader and movie lover sat down with *Florida Weekly Key West* correspondent Maxine Lopez-Keough to discuss his tenure at the theater, the radical ways in which the

SEE CINEMA, A14 ►



When it comes to drinking

You have some options. Check our happy hour guide. **A18** ►

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FLORIDA WEEKLY

KEY WEST EDITION

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OFF OFF DUVAL

An insider's look at Key West

The most traveled and visible street in Key West is only the beginning, the surface, of what the town has to offer. Ask the locals about their favorite spots, stroll through quiet neighborhoods or down alleyways off Duval and you'll begin to dive deeper into the quieter, more diverse and less readily apparent offerings. Here are eight spots that you might not see at first glance.

■ **Bobby's Monkey Bar** (900 Simonton Street; (305) 294-2655) This locals dive has nightly karaoke that often includes more than your typical drunken yodeling. Drag queens on their night off and former Broadway performers have been known to carry a tune here as well.

■ **Leather Master of Key West** (418 Applerouth Lane; (305) 292-5051) The guys who own this place hand-make many of the sexy leather products right here at their workshop. In business for more than 30 years, its selection of masks, head-dress, costumes and numerous accessories caters to any preference. The staff will also help you with makeup tips.

■ **2 Cents Restaurant & Pub** (416 Applerouth Lane; (305) 414-8626; 2centskw.com) is right behind Leather Master and just off Duval, but it's hard to find with little signage and inside feels like a world away. The nautical-themed bar is warm and homey. Small and large plates include items such as roasted bone marrow and yellowtail snapper and knowledgeable bartenders mix up craft cocktails such as Curse Like a Sailer with gin, dolin blanc, agave, basil, mint and grapefruit. F***in brilliant!

■ **Cornish Memorial African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church**, 702 Whitehead St. Established in 1864 by former slaves, Sandy Cornish and his wife, Lillah, who escaped to Key West and later became some of the wealthiest residents of Key West. The current building was built in 1894.

■ The Rev. Long organized the **Bethel A.M.E Church** in 1870 at 712 Duval Street. It was destroyed by a fire in 1922 and the congregation then moved to the corner of Thomas Street and Truman Avenue. The building features masonry walls, twin towers in front and pointed-arch windows reminiscent of the Gothic Revival Style.

■ **Key West Island Bookstore** (513 Fleming Street; Keywestislandbooks.com; (305) 294-2904). This decades-old boutique bookstore offers a surprisingly varied wealth of current and used titles, from best-sellers to rare titles. Often open late, it's an inviting place to browse among the crowded stacks.

■ **Cuban Coffee Queen** (284 Margaret Street; (305) 292-4747; cubancoffeequeen.com). The strong Cuban coffee at this hole in the wall is also rich in Key West heritage. A Café Con Leche paired with a classic Cuban sandwich or some Havana rice and beans will keep you going long into a Key West night.

■ **Better than Sex** (926 Simonton Street; (305) 296-8102; betterthansexkeywest.com). A great place for couples, swing by this dessert-only, adults-only restaurant late in the evening. Indulge your senses with chocolate-dipped wine glasses and cheeky, homemade desserts



COURTESY PHOTO

Leather Master of Key West

and beverages such as an Ephemere Apple Spiced Ale in a tall beer glass with a signature caramel rim-job. Lick it good.

■ **Deuces "Off the Hook" Grill** (728 Simonton Street; (305) 414-8428; offthehookkeywest.com). Tucked into a quiet neighborhood, Off the Hook serves breakfast and lunch, but the creative and well-executed dinner menu featuring fresh seafood is especially enticing. Grouper in a French bouillabaisse broth, fish and chips featuring mahi-mahi, and slow roasted Jamaican Jerk chicken thighs are recommended.

■ **La Rubia Fine Hats** (510 Fleming Street; (305) 296-6059, larubiakeywest.com). The Florida Keys' only importer of authentic Panama hats. The owners developed this boutique to carry on the centuries-old tradition of hand-weaving hats, which come from Ecuador. ■



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www.KeyWestCocktailCruise.com

MAP IT OUT

Getting around Key West



- 1. Southernmost Point**
The corner of South Street and Whitehead Street
southernmostpointwebcam.com
The city of Key West erected this now-famous concrete buoy in 1983 to denote the southernmost point in the continental United States.
- 2. Conch Tour Train**
303 Front St., Key West
(305) 294-5161 or (888) 916-8687
conchtourtrain.com
The Conch Train has been winding its way through the streets of Key West since 1958.
- 3. Sloppy Joe's**
201 Duval St.
(305) 294-5717
sloppyjoes.com
The historic bar has been a Key West tradition since it opened in 1933. Its most famous patrons were Ernest Hemmingway and the rum runner Habana Joe.
- 4. Mallory Square Sunset Celebration**
1 Whitehead St., Key West
(786) 565-7448
sunsetcelebration.org
This nightly festival begins at the water's edge about an hour or two before sunset and includes street performers,

- local artisans, food carts, palmists and psychics.
- 5. Truman White House**
111 Front St.
The Little White House adds a presidential luster to the Conch Republic. Originally built for naval officers in 1890 and used as a command headquarters in three wars, the Little White House later served as lodging for President Harry S. Truman's winter retreats from 1946 to 1952.
- 6. The Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum**
907 Whitehead St., Key West
(305) 294-1136
hemingwayhome.com
Take the tour and say hello to one of the 40 to 50 six-toed cats, all descendants of Hemingway's cat, Snowball.
- 7. The Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory**
1316 Duval St., Key West
(305) 296-2988 or (800) 839-4647
keywestbutterfly.com
More than 50 different butterfly species from around the world and 20 different exotic bird species coexist in this climate-controlled, glass-enclosed habitat that includes waterfalls, flowering plants and trees.

- 8. Mel Fisher Maritime Museum**
200 Greene St., Key West
(305) 294-2633
melfisher.org
Exhibits include treasures from the Spanish galleons of 1622 discovered by Mel Fisher and his crew.
- 9. Mile Marker 0 Sign**
490 Whitehead St., corner of Fleming Street
U.S. 1 begins here in Key West, continues 2,369 miles north up the East Coast, and ends in Fort Kent, Maine. Stop here to commemorate your visit to Key West with a photo next to the iconic Mile Marker 0 sign.
- 10. Fort Myers-Key West Express Terminal**
100 Grinnell St.
(239) 463-5733
Keywestexpress.net
Traveling via the Express is truly the best way to get to Key West or Fort Myers. You'll enjoy air-conditioned interiors, exterior sun decks, couches, tables and even reclining airline-style seating. There's a full-service galley, full service bar and flat-screen TVs with satellite television.

- 11. Audubon House and Garden**
205 Whitehead St.
(305) 294-2116
Audubonhouse.com
Original lithographs by John James Audubon are on display in the former home of shipwreck salvager Capt. John Geiger.
- 12. Key West City Cemetery**
Bordered by Angela, Frances, Olivia Streets and Windsor Lane
(305) 809-3986.
Stop by the sexton's office near the entrance at Passover Lane and Windsor Lane for a map containing a free walking tour.
- 13. Fort Zachary Taylor State Park and Beach**
Located at the ocean end of Southard Street and bordering the Naval Reservation.
(305) 295-0037
Fortzacharytaylor.com
"Fort Zach" is known to locals and tourists alike as one of Key West's best beaches. In addition to the expansive beach, there are nature trails, bike paths and Historic Fort Zachary Taylor, all within a 54-acre park with picnic tables and grills. Experience the beautiful view of the Atlantic Ocean and the Key West Shipping Channel. ■

Key West Express

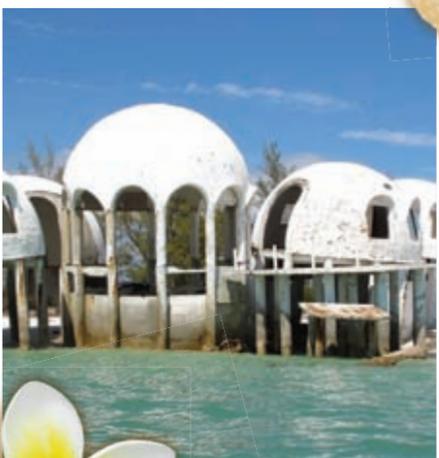
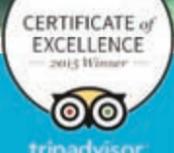
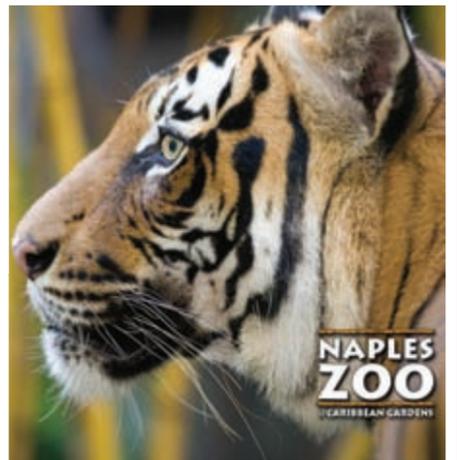
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GETTING THERE IS HALF THE FUN! WELCOME ABOARD!

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PINK TRIANGLE

Hocus Potus — the kickoff for king and queen of Fantasy Fest

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Every vote counts. But only in Key West does that mean going to the polls again and again — and again — where stuffing the ballot box is encouraged and a little hocus potus will work its magic for a queen and a king.

While the platforms will stress unity and education, expect a fair amount of political clowning for eight weeks after the kick-off for the 2016 Fantasy Fest king and queen on Friday, Aug. 26.

Beginning at 6 p.m. at The Southernmost House, 1400 Duval, the evening's poolside party renders official who has decided to compete to become 2016 Fantasy Fest royalty.

With the Atlantic surf as their soundtrack and a Friday night sky going South Florida violet as their backdrop, reigning 2015 Queen Jodyrae Campbell and King Mark Watson will preside.

"We are so fortunate to have a great cast of characters running again this year," noted AIDS Help executive director Scott Pridgen. "Each candidate has a unique story and a unique persona to tell the public about how HIV/AIDS affected them."

"As our ambassadors, each candidate can, in the midst of 50/50 raffles and various fundraising events, alter the path of someone's life: help avoid an HIV diagnosis, initiate conversations about PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), a daily medication for those who are HIV-negative but at high sexual risk of



COURTESY PHOTOS
2015 Fantasy Fest Queen Jodyrae Campbell and King Mark Watson.

contracting HIV, or remind folks that sex with a condom, provided free by AIDS Help, protects against a variety of ugly STIs (sexually transmitted infections)."

What follows the kickoff is a frenzied,

frisky, feisty and always fabulous series of fundraising events Keys-wide, all innovated by the candidates and the corps of volunteers they've assembled. The king and queen candidate who each

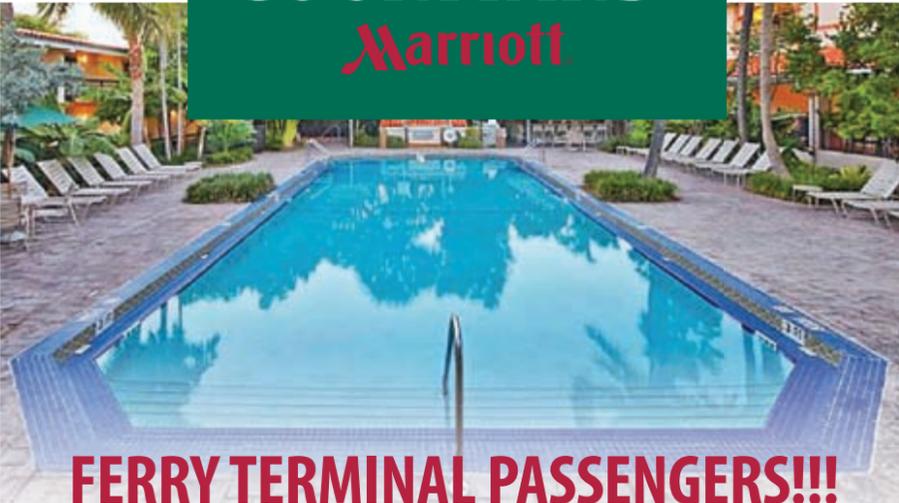
raises the most money will be crowned king and queen of Fantasy Fest and will ascend to the coronation throne on Friday, Oct. 21, as presented by the Casa Marina, a Waldorf Astoria Resort.

All king and queen candidate events, always subject to change due to weather and venue, will be accessible at AHMonroe.org, in *The Key West Citizen*, individual websites, YouTube and via various social media outlets.

"We expect a lot of tweeting and texting, apps and email blasts, radio and TV appearances. The methods candidates can use to communicate their individual messages is fairly limitless in 2016," Mr. Pridgen said.

Special events of benefit to all those competing range from a weekly Aqua Idol competition at Aqua nightclub, 711 Duval, commencing Aug. 30, to the much-loved Sunday bingo upstairs at the 801 Bourbon Bar, hosted by QMitch, which equally rewards all candidates, starting Aug. 28.

But first comes the kickoff song-and-dance. Home-grown entertainment will be provided, with DJ services by Soundwave and Jimmy Cooper, and then of course, the infamous presentations and speeches by the candidates. Admission is free, but come prepared to stroll by the tents to obtain candidate-oriented swag for sale that brands their campaigns with logos and catchphrases. ■

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OR visit: www.keywestbrewfest.com/hotel-information-2 and click on the Courtyard by Marriott Logo for package hotlink.



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Key West

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KEY WEST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

The E'Claire's

Aug. 25, 7-9 p.m.
Sunset Pier
0 Duval St.



The Birds — A WLRN Radio Play

Aug. 25, 7 to 9 p.m.
The Tropic Cinema
416 Eaton St.
Tickets at boxoffice.printtixusa.com

Custom Made — A History of the Custom House

Exhibition Opening
Aug. 26, 6-7:30 p.m.
Key West Art and Historical Society
281 Front St.



The Kickoff: The King and Queen of Fantasy Fest 2016

Aug. 26, 6 p.m.
The Southernmost House
1400 Duval St.

The Happy Dog

Aug. 26, 7-9 p.m.
Sunset Pier
0 Duval St.



Conch Revival Picnic

Aug. 27, 6:30 p.m.
East Martello Fort Museum
3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd.
Tickets at Eventbrite.com



Photo Circus — Revealed

Aug. 28, 6-8 p.m.
Little Room Jazz Club
821 Duval St.



Charity Bingo Night

Fundraiser for the Key West Art & Historical Society
Aug. 29, 7-9 p.m.
The Green Parrot
601 Whitehead St.

MUSIC

The Porch

429 Caroline St.
Check the schedule at Theporchkw.com.

Green Parrot Bar

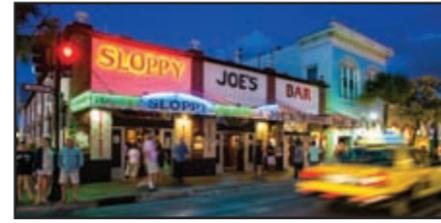
601 Whitehead St.
Live music nightly
Check the schedule at greenparrot.com.

Smoking Tuna

4 Charles St.
Live music nightly
Check the schedule at smokingtunasaloon.com.

Sloppy Joe's

201 Duval St.
Live music nightly
Check the schedule at sloppyjoes.com.



Irish Kevin's

211 Duval St.
Live music nightly
Check the schedule at irishkevins.com.

Lazy Gecko

203 Duval St.
Live music nightly
Check the schedule at thelazygecko.com.

Gas Monkey Bar and Grill

217 Duval St.
Live music nightly
Check the schedule at gasmonkeykeywest.com.

Little Room Jazz Club

821 Duval St.
Terri White
Saturdays, 9 p.m.
Live jazz nightly
Check the schedule at Littleroomjazzclub.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY



Photographs from the permanent collection

Ongoing
Key West Art and Historical Society
Custom House
281 Front St.
Kwahs.org

CINEMA

Tropic Cinema

416 Eaton St.
tropiccinema.com
Check the website for ongoing films.

LGBT

Aqua Nightclub

711 Duval St.
Aqua Idol for Fantasy Fest King and Queen
Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
Drag Shows
Nightly, 7 and 9 p.m.
Karaoke
Monday through Thursday, 11 p.m.

This week at the Green Parrot

Dave Jordan and The NIA bring NOLA roots and rock to the Parrot Stage

Dave Jordan & the Neighborhood Improvement Association in support of their new album, No Losers Tonight, brings a team of seasoned New Orleans players to The Green Parrot with shows at 5:30 and 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 26 and 27, and at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28.

For 15 years and counting, Jordan has

trafficked in high-octane, high-impact funk-rock as the bassist, singer and primary songwriter one of New Orleans' most popular bands, Juice.

Dave Jordan & the Neighborhood Improvement Association cover the spectrum of American roots music, from Bo Diddley to Bob Dylan and until recently, they hadn't ventured out of New Orleans.

The Neighborhood Improvement Association includes guitarist West-bank Mike Doussan, bassist Will Rep-



Dave Jordan

COURTESY PHOTO

holz, drummer Eric Golson and Rurik Nunan on fiddle.

Mike Zito brings mixed bag, blues, to the Parrot Stage

Playing what he calls "American music," a mix of rock, R&B, country and blues representing "a whole big variety" of styles, Mike Zito returns to The Green Parrot Bar with shows at 5:30 and 9 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31, and Thursday, Sept. 1. ■

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KEY WEST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Aquakeywest.com

Bobby's Monkey Bar
900 Simonton St.
Karaoke — nightly except Wednesdays, 9:30 p.m.
Bobby's Monkey Bar on Facebook

Bourbon Street Pub
724 Duval St.
The Men of Bourbon — nightly
Bourbonstreetpub.com

801 Bourbon Bar
801 Duval St.
Drag Shows — nightly, 9 and 11 p.m.
Happy Hour Drag — 5 p.m. Saturdays
Drag Karaoke — 4 p.m. Sundays
Messy Mondays with Mulysa — 1 a.m. Mondays
Fierce and Fabulous/Dragalicious — 1 a.m. Wednesdays
801bourbon.com

Island House
1129 Fleming St.
Islandhousekeywest.com

La Te Da
1125 Duval St.
Randy Roberts in the Crystal Room, Aug. 25, 27 and 30, 9 p.m.
3 Sum in the Piano Bar, Aug. 25-28, 8:30 p.m.
Dave Bootle in the Piano Bar, Aug. 29-31, 8:30 p.m.
Tea Dance, Sundays 4 to 6:30 p.m.
Lateda.com

AROUND KEY WEST

Ghost Tours and Ghost Hunts
Nightly
301 Whitehead and 1102 Duval St.
(305) 395-1435
hauntedkeywest.com

Green Market
Bayview Park
North Roosevelt and Jose Marti Drive
Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Key West Greenmarket on Facebook



8.25

■ Catch **The E'Claire's** featuring Lady B – Claire Finley, Aug. 25, 7-9 p.m. at the Sunset Pier, 0 Duval St.



■ Join the poolside party and see who will compete to become royalty at **The Kickoff: The King and Queen of Fantasy Fest 2016**, Aug. 26, 6 p.m. at The Southernmost House, 1400 Duval St.



8.26



■ You are invited to participate in **The Birds — A WLRN Radio Play** — on Aug. 25, 7 to 9 p.m. at The Tropic Cinema, 416 Eaton St. Get your tickets.

— *boxoffice.printtixusa.com*

8.25



8.26

■ Celebrate the 125th anniversary of the building's completion as it presents **Custom Made — A History of the Custom House Exhibition** Opening Aug. 26, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Key West Art and Historical Society, 281 Front St.

— *kwahs.org*



■ Try a cornucopia of classic Key West/Conch recipes at the **Conch Revival Picnic**, Aug. 27, 6:30 p.m. at the East Martello Fort Museum, 3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd.

— *Eventbrite.com*

8.27

THRILLS

From page 1

in paradise on a budget stricter than an Olympian's diet? True, when it comes to considering affordable vacation spots, Key West may not lead the pack (Hello, Peoria!), but that doesn't mean a trip to the southernmost island needs to bankrupt the family. And now that we're deep into summer, thinner crowds mean some of the island's best restaurants and bars are offering enticing price cuts on things so tempting, we're usually willing to pay full price.

In the spirit of pinching pennies, we've compiled a series of options for visitors looking to experience some of the best our island has to offer without breaking the bank. So put the hammer down, step away from little Susie's piggy bank, and read on for our recommendations for how to get the most out of your time here for as little dough as possible.

Start your day off like a local with breakfast at Sandy's Cafe, a laundry/24-hour Cuban/Mexican food stall. (It sounds weird, but trust us.) Sandy's is a great place to get you're a.m. jolt of caffeine on the cheap: Order one of their deliciously addictive bucci, essentially a shot of espresso done the Cuban way, i.e., served piping hot and teeth-achingly sweet. Pair it with a toasty-warm Cuban bread slathered with cream cheese and guava spread, and maybe a ham croquette with stuffed potatoes. The grand total? A whopping \$4.77 before taxes.

Don't worry about the sugar high — you'll burn it off by renting a bike up the street at Island Bicycles, which lends out beach cruisers via a shopfront Bob Marley would certainly have frequented if he were in need of wheels. Don your helmet (both it, locks and lights are included in the daily \$10 rate) and continue southeast down White Street toward the ocean, where you'll intersect with the Key West AIDS Memorial at the entrance to the White Street Pier, a 1,000-foot cement walkway straight out into the ocean with spectacular views.

Enjoy the scene, chat up a local fisherman and then double back onto White Street and head northwest to reach West Martello Tower. This historic military fortress, circa 1863, was declared a National Historic Site in the mid 1970s and is now run by the Key West Garden Club, which uses the picturesque grounds as its headquarters. It's free to enter the lushly landscaped space, which boasts ample views of the Atlantic thanks to its position perched above Higgs Beach. Lose yourself in the ruins of the property, take a moment to savor the view in the gazebo perched atop its highest point and luxuriate in the (free) sea air.

Now that you've secured your mode of transportation and had your first taste of Key West's historic architecture, explore the rest of the island's best-kept properties by way of the Pelican Path, a free, self-guided tour of the 50 most historic buildings in Key West. It's the brainchild of the Old Island Restoration Foundation, whose tireless efforts to preserve the architectural heritage of Key West have resulted in the protection of 188 buildings, ranging from tiny cigar makers' cottages to spectacular gingerbread-laden Victorian mansions.

The Pelican Path map can be downloaded for free off the internet, or you can pick up a copy at the Key West Chamber of Commerce on Greene Street. Take your time biking lazily from spot to spot, but be sure to step inside the Oldest House when you get to it. Not only is it free to enter, the property boasts a fabulously shady garden out back, perfect for resting your tired limbs after a few hours of sightseeing.

Once you've worked up an appetite



The Key West AIDS Memorial located at the entrance of the White Street Pier.

COURTESY PHOTOS



At Kojin Noodle Bar you will get reasonably priced deliciousness.

for lunch, there are a few spots we wholeheartedly recommend. Head over to El Siboney for authentic Cuban food at unbeatable prices — \$7.75 buys you the best Cuban mix outside of Havana. Or swing by Bad Boy Burrito, where the hippest-looking staff south of Brooklyn will happily serve you a trio of drool-worthy yet surprisingly healthful tacos for under \$10.

If neither of those sound right, make your way to Kojin Noodle Bar, a blink-and-you'll-miss-it locals favorite off Duval Street, where a half portion (roughly the size of a large mixing bowl) of its buttery-soft beef tenderloin Pho will set you back a measly \$9. Vegetarians can sub in tofu, or go wild over the Miso Hot Pot, priced at a competitive \$8.50.

Midday hunger satiated, laugh at those poor suckers shelling out the \$6 entrance fee per vehicle at Fort Zachary Taylor Historic State Park; you're on a bicycle, which cuts your fee down to \$2. The park is home to one massive, Civil War-era military fort, and to Key West's



El Siboney offers authentic Cuban food at unbeatable prices.



The Key West Garden Club is free to visit.

an excellent place for a cheap snack, with pizzas, hot dogs and ice cream all priced under \$5).

The park is open until sunset, but you'll want to head back to town in time to take advantage of the many tempting happy hours happening islandwide. Of particular note is the Conch Republic Seafood Company's 2-for-1 beer, wine and premium well drinks offer, all served harborside with a fantastic view of Key West's historic seaport. Or take advantage of the smaller summer crowds at the hugely popular Santiago's Bodega, whose normally reasonable menu gets downright cheap thanks to their \$5 happy hour tapas.

2 Cents, another local favorite located off Duval Street, offers Key West's closest thing to a casino at its happy hour, where — from 4-6 p.m. — you can roll the dice to decide the price of your drink. Roll a 1 or 2 and pay just that, while a 3 gets you half off, and a 4, 5 or 6 just



2 Cents, where you can roll the dice to determine what you pay for your drink.

most beautiful beach. There are plenty of shady picnic tables, walking trails and snorkel-friendly coral heads if you've remembered to bring your gear. If not, the Chickee Hut on site will rent you a mask and snorkel for \$15 (the hut's also



Bad Boy Burrito offers delicious tacos for under \$10.



Conch Republic Seafood Company's 2-for-1 beer, wine and premium well drinks are served harborside with a fantastic view of Key West's historic seaport.

formers and colorful-sky-worshippers jostle for the best view of Key West's most famous, free nightly show. It's worth experiencing once, but if you're sick of the crowds (or feeling bullied into tipping a 25-year-old for his sword-swallowing skills) enjoy the same view with approximately 99 percent less people by watching from the Truman Waterfront. Just head straight through the Truman Annex toward the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Ingham, one of only two preserved Treasury-class U.S. Coast Guard cutters, which now operates as a museum (and which, incidentally, offers its own happy hour on Friday and Saturday evenings, when \$5 buys you entrance to the ship and your first drink). Park your bike, grab a spot on the pier and settle in for a spectacular show, weather permitting.

If hurricane season has rained all over your evening sunset plans, fear not: In a world in which a couple of movie tickets and a small popcorn can cost as much as a bottle of Veuve Clicquot, the independent, volunteer-run Tropic Cinema remains refreshingly affordable, with general admission tickets priced at \$11.50. Consistently rated as one of the best theaters in Florida, the Tropic offers a mix of independent and major release flicks, plus a concession stand that will knock your socks off (though if you're wearing socks in Key West, you should probably re-examine your lifestyle). Key lime pie, craft beer, popcorn topped with actual butter, brie and crackers, artisanal candies — heck, they'll even sell you an entire bottle of wine and let you bring it into the theater with you. The screens are smaller than your average megaplex, but that's part of the charm.

Finally, if you're wondering where you're going to lay your head at the end of such an exhaustingly affordable day, you might want to take advantage of the Eden House's ongoing special of 60 percent off deluxe rooms through Oct. 6. With a prime downtown location and tropical oasis-style amenities (think floating in a pool surrounded by palm trees, hammocks and waterfalls), you'll sleep like a rock, dreaming about all the ways to spend the cash you saved — after all, what's the fun in being frugal if you don't get to reap the rewards occasionally? ■



Mangia Mangia is known for famous pasta.

encourages you to try again (such is the nature of gambling).

You could make a whole meal out of the restaurant's happy hour bar menu, which features knock-down favorites like General Tsao's Calamari or Quack Quack Duck Nachos, but why bother when the restaurant is offering its entire dinner menu at 50 percent off Sunday-Wednesday through September? We suggest the Brioche Grilled Cheese, which — at the discounted price of \$6.50 — is so cheap it makes up for the second Hibiscus Jalapeno Margarita you'll end up ordering.

If you're craving something a little more posh, head uptown. While its



Santiago's Bodega gets downright cheap thanks to its \$5 happy hour tapas.

upscale dining room (with prices to match) makes it one of Key West's most popular special occasion restaurants, if you can find a way to get seated by 6:30 p.m. at the normally pricey Tavern 'n' Town, you'll enjoy your fancy-pants meal for just \$19.95 per entrée — so go ahead, order the steak.

For a truly locals-friendly meal, dine al fresco in the garden at Mangia Mangia. Nestled in one of Old Town's most beautiful residential neighborhoods, the café's handmade pasta is famous for its tranquilizing properties; tuck into a bowl of garlicky linguine con vongole, parmesan-topped broccoli rabe or chicken piccata, and enjoy 10 percent off entrees and a free glass of house wine if you've yet to

make the move to Key West permanently. (Those already established as locals: a full 20 percent off plus free wine.)

Down the street from Mangia Mangia, another tiny garden with fabulous food beckons: Azur, whose Mediterranean-themed menu laden with fresh fish boasts a whopping 50 percent off all food through Sept. 1 if you dine between 5:30 and 7 p.m. Enjoy dining to the sound of a trickling waterfall as you order plate after plate of walnut-stuffed eggplant, branzino with rosemary, house-made gnocchi and the restaurant's famed charred octopus with za'atar spice.

Assuming you ate early, there's still time to make it over to Sunset Celebration at Mallory Square, where street per-

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Good times in the Conch Republic

Here are three attractions for the whole family that capture Key West's artistic inclinations, diverse history and whimsical beauty.

Mallory Square

The nightly Sunset Celebration at Mallory Square is the best free show in town, a center of Key West commerce and performance art (mallorysquare.com). The square's history dates back to the town's early years when it was incorporated in 1828. Everything blurs together here: past and present, tourists and locals, day and night, music and magic, artists and hustlers, photographers, friends and lovers. The aroma of food vendors fills the air along with the acrobatics of fire-juggling performers, the future told in tarot cards, and magnanimous good cheer. On any given night you might find the Rev. Bill Welzein preaching to the crowd, hear the melancholy stylings of Dennis Riley, the "southernmost bagpiper," or for the feline-inclined, Dominique the Cat Man. The festivities begin about two hours before sunset.



Indigenous Park at 1801 White St. and it is open seven days a week. Paved trails weave throughout the park, where you can visit and enjoy native flora and fauna. The main focus of the center is wild bird and wildlife services. It provides rehabilitative care to over 1,000 native wild animals and birds, while also providing rescue services for sea and land turtles, and marine and land mammals. It provides 24-hour emergency rescue services within Key West. In addition it provides chicken rescue services for sick, injured or orphaned feral chickens.

The mission of the Wildlife Center is to "Ensure the future of our diverse native wildlife by providing timely rescues and quality rehabilitation with the hope of release back to the wild."

It is located at 1801 White St. and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day. (305) 292-1008, keywestwildlifecenter.org.

Key West Wildlife Center

The Key West Wildlife Center is located inside the 8-acre Sonny McCoy



Key West Butterfly and Nature Conservatory

This peaceful enclave filled with dozens of butterfly species from around the world, flowering plants, birds and cascading waterfalls is its own world, a calming respite from Duval Street's bustling commerce. Take your time strolling through the conservatory with a computerized weather control system keeping it a tropical 85 degrees. Be still and the butterflies might land on you. Raised on farms in the tropics, they live

on average about 10 days. The female Queen Alexandra's birdwing, considered the world's largest butterfly, has a wingspan up to 11 inches while the pygmy blue, the smallest, has a half-inch wingspan. Check out a 15-minute film about these "flowers of the sky" in the learning center or view Sam Trophie's artwork in Wings of Imagination — the Butterfly Gallery. Butterflies that have lived out their life cycles are preserved in clear acrylic cases. More information: 1316 Duval St.; (305) 296-2988; keywestbutterfly.com. ■

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KEY WEST GALLERY GUIDE

SPECIAL EVENTS THIS WEEK

For a comprehensive guide and map to Key West's finest art galleries, visit keysarts.com/artist_connections/gallery_guide.pdf

Key West Art Center

301 Front St.
Aug. 26, 5 to 7 p.m.

Opening reception

"Poinciana" by Richard Peter Matson

The Historic Armory Studios

600 White Str.

Paintings by Michael J. Phillips

Ongoing
Conthead2@yahoo.com
(704) 819-2487

Mixed media work by Sherry Sweet Tewell

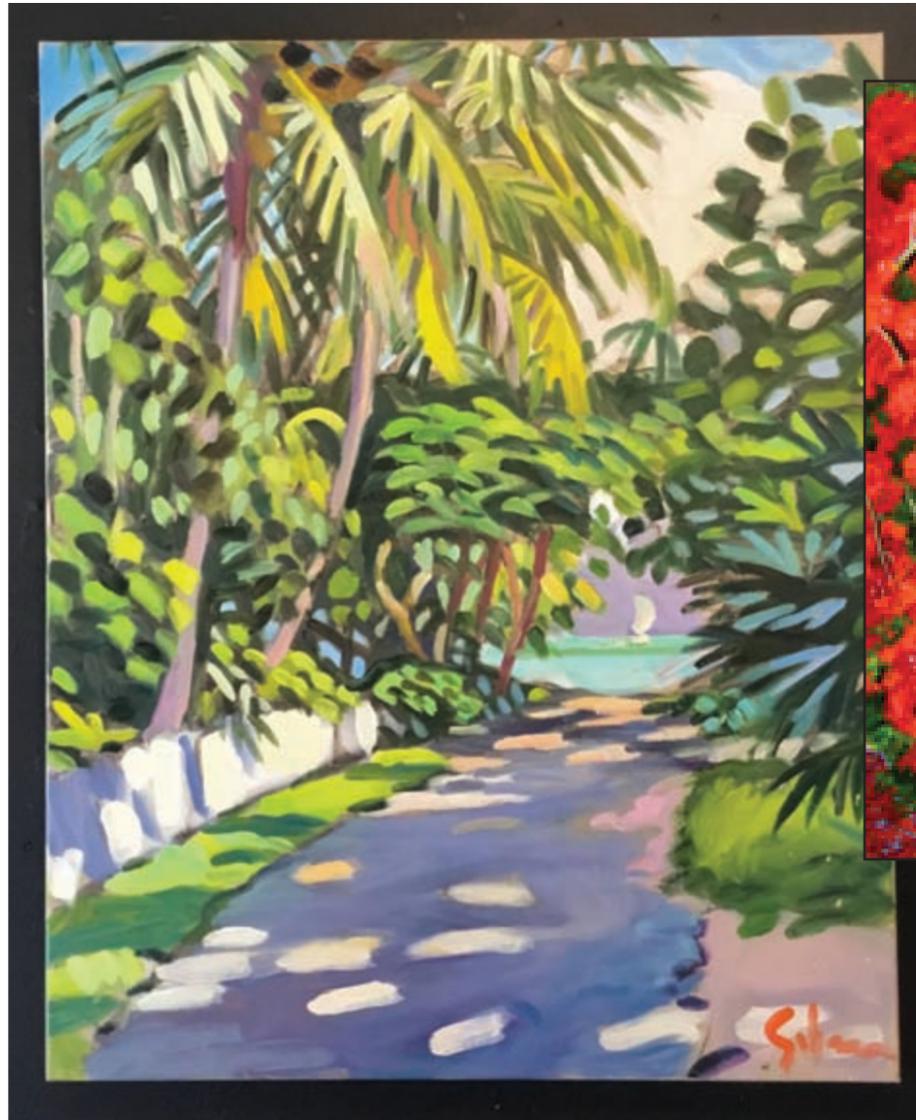
Ongoing
Sherrysweettewell.com Artbabe00@
aol.com
(859)-533-1874

The Studios of Key West

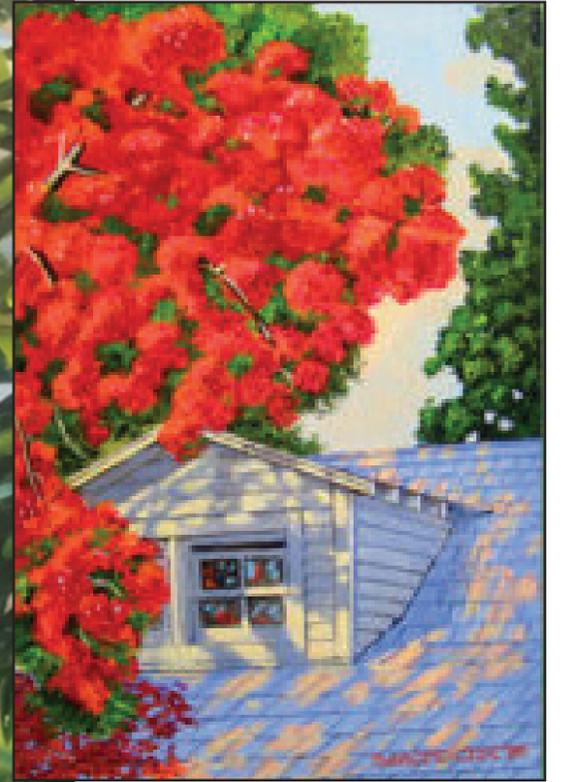
533 Eaton St.
Tskw.org

Benjamin Entner - "Inflatable Still Lives and Portraiture"

Ongoing



Beach Road, Islamorada by Greg Sobran



Poinciana by Richard Peter Matson

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COURTESY PHOTO

Key West's Tropic Cinema is not the typical movie house.

CINEMA

From page 1

movie industry is changing and what's up next for Key West's favorite little cinema.

MLK: How long have you been with the Tropic, and what are your responsibilities within the organization?

MH: I've been with Tropic Cinema for 10 years altogether — three years on the volunteer board of directors, and then another seven years as the cinema's executive director. I do a little of everything for the cinema — fundraising, selling popcorn, special film programming and management. We have a small staff of about seven people. Most of the folks you see working at the Tropic are volunteers. They rotate during the course of the year, but Tropic Cinema has about 200 active volunteers. It's a real testament to their love of cinema in general and the Tropic in particular.

MLK: What prompted your departure?

MH: I love this place, and leaving was one of the most difficult things I've ever done. Still, the Tropic is at a strong plateau — we have a visionary board, an excellent staff, a great membership base — and it's ready for an executive director who can take us to the next level. I'm proud of the work I've done here, but I'm the first to say we're ready for new leadership. As for me, I just turned 59 and I'm ready for a little blue sky.

MLK: Where do you see the Tropic heading — anything coming down the pipeline that readers should keep an eye out for?

MH: There are so many changes occurring in the film world now, and they all impact the Tropic in a wonderful way. For decades, studios and big commercial movie chains have engaged in an unwritten practice called clearance exclusives. It means that commercial cinemas like Regal or AMC have dibs on the initial release of big studio films, and independent cinemas like the Tropic don't get to show them until they've left the chain cinema. Last year, for example, we played "The Revenant" from 20th Century Fox after Regal Cinemas in Key West had screened it for six weeks. We did pretty well, but, of course, a lot of folks who might have preferred to see "The Revenant" at the Tropic couldn't — at least, not until Regal Cinemas let it go.

Now, four major studios, including Fox, have rejected clearance exclusives, and industry watchers say more studios will follow suit. We screened "The Secret Life of Pets" the same time Regal Cinemas did last month and did really well. It gives

filmgoers the opportunity, really for the first time in memory, to have a choice where they see a movie.

Also, small distributors are releasing amazing films we've never seen before. The Tropic has been screening filmed ballet and opera for some years. Now, we have filmed museum tours, architecture programming, artists' monographs — we had a wonderful program about Van Gogh a few weeks ago. This winter, we're booking Broadway musicals and plays and more.

MLK: What has been your favorite part of serving as executive director, and what did you find the most challenging?

MH: First of all, I love movies. I come by it naturally: My mom was a film actress in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Her name was Peggy Dow, and maybe her most famous part was opposite James Stewart in a charming movie called "Harvey." Stewart has a 7-foot invisible rabbit as his best friend. The characters in the film treat him as though he is crazy, of course, but by the end of the film, you wonder if he really was. Anyway, I love films — I don't see nearly enough of them at the Tropic. But now I will!

My favorite part of my Tropic work has been that magical community component. Sure, you can watch a movie at home, but there's something about watching a film in an auditorium with other people — even strangers — that brings it to life, that makes it more true and real. And, again, people are what make the Tropic unique: Volunteers, members, our board of directors and staff, visitors from all over the world — they all bring the Tropic to life. We really do belong to the people of Key West — that is a special place to hold in our town.

MLK: What exactly do you think it is that makes the Tropic so special?

The Tropic is unique because we are all about our community. The Key West Film Society started with a simple idea: Show good films for folks to watch together. That core idea is at the center of all we do, but it's grown so much. We have film education programs, visiting filmmakers (filmmakers love to come to Key West), birthday parties, concerts and, of course, we show the best films in the world. They're curated for Key West, but no cinema I know has a better range of films than the Tropic. We are definitely not like a regular movie house.

MLK: Where are you headed, and what will you do next?

MH: (I'm) staying in Key West, with maybe a little travel on the side.

Visit the Tropic Cinema at 416 Eaton St. For more information, head to Tropiccinema.com ■

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Hemingway's Key West legacy and six-toed cats

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The crown jewel of Key West's rich literary legacy, which has attracted writers such as Tennessee Williams, Ralph Ellison, Robert Frost and Carson McCullers, is Ernest Hemingway's old home at 907 Whitehead Street. The sprawling two-story property is a National Historic Landmark where Mr. Hemingway lived and wrote during most of the 1930s. It is also famously home to about 50 cats. They lounge among the tropical foliage and occasionally leap into visitors' laps. An average cat has five front toes and four back toes, but about half the cats have an extra toe on one or more paw since they're descendants of Hemingway's cats. All the cats on the property carry the polydactyl gene in their DNA.

Tour guides offer a complete narrative room by room, or you're free to explore on your own. Forget the crowd and listen to the breeze rustling the palms like the sound of gentle rain on his upstairs wrap-around porch. Then you can almost imagine the peace and solitude the famous writer may have felt as he hammered away on a typewriter working on stories he published at the time such as "To Have and Have Not" (with some characters inspired by his Key West friends) and "For Whom the Bell Tolls." He would write in the mornings and go out exploring in the afternoons.

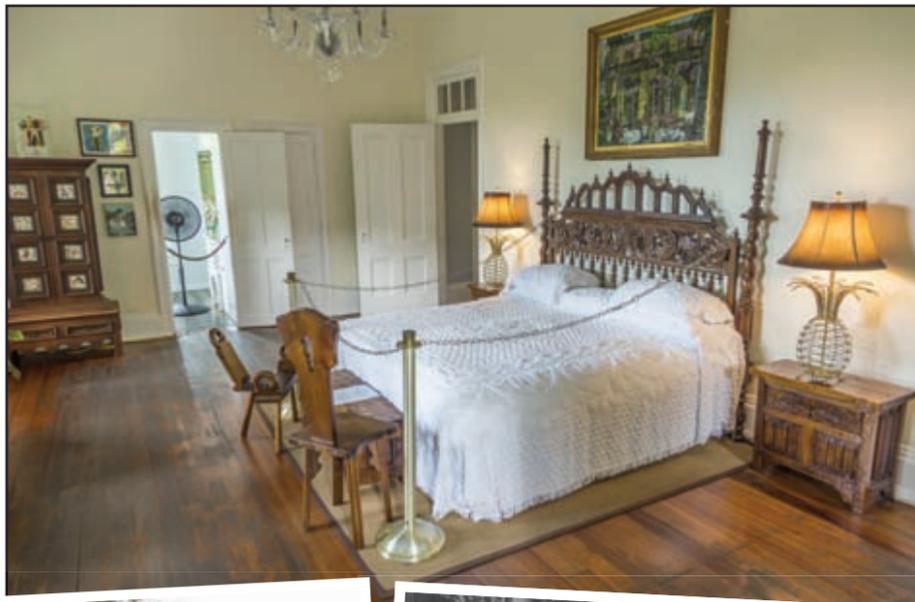
Later the press leaked his address. After that Mr. Hemingway and his friend, Capt. 'Sloppy' Joe Russell, who also owned Mr. Hemingway's favorite bar and indulged his taste for big-game fishing, built a brick wall that still stands

around the property. The bricks, tour guides note, are a little crooked, suggesting that the hard-drinking writer and his friend may have been a little sauced at the time.

Fellow writer John Dos Passos first suggested to Mr. Hemingway that he visit Key West. The first place he stayed in 1928 was the Trev-Mor Hotel at 314 Simonton Street with his wife Pauline, where he finished "A Farewell to Arms." They purchased the property on Whitehead Street, a 19th century Spanish Colonial style house, in 1931 for \$8,000. It's a lavish property and, including the gardens, the single largest property on the island. Mr. Hemingway, his wife Pauline and their two sons Patrick and Gregory lived there until 1940. They added a pool in the late 1930s, at the time the only one within 100 miles, that

cost an astounding \$20,000. The home is filled with original furniture, art, European antiques, and trophy mounts from Mr. Hemingway's African safaris. You'll also find his old bookshelf with outdated titles such as "Cranberry Red" by E. Garside, "The Iron Mistress" by Paul Wellman and "Poise: How to Attain It" by D. Starke.

The Hemingway Home & Museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. More information: (305) 294-1136 or visit Hemingwayhome.com. ■



COURTESY PHOTOS Ernest Hemingway's home, inside and out. At right is Hemingway with sons and kittens at Finca Vigia, Cuba, ca. 1942.

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DRAG LIFE

Fine time for the surprising Ms. Lucille

BY C.S. GILBERT

Florida Weekly Correspondent

The property was large, even for New Town, and enclosed by a tall concrete wall. Opening the gate, which revealed a huge patio and a large, free-form pool, was a very attractive and welcoming young man. It took a long split-minute to realize this was Kylie Jean Lucille.

Kevin Odon, pronounced just like the Norse god Odin, (also known as the all-father of all the Nordic gods, heavily associated with magic) invited this *Florida Weekly* Key West correspondent to interview him while he put on his makeup and to witness the transformation from Kevin Odon to Kylie Jean Lucille.

Turns out that Mr. Odon is distinctive in a number of ways. Most surprising is probably that he was a member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, worked for a grocery chain in L.A., and then made damn sure he was vested in his retirement fund before moving to Key West.

But let's back up a bit. Born in L.A. on Sept. 11, 1968 (he looks 10-15 years younger, really), the family moved to Keiser, Ore., a suburb of Salem, when he was in sixth grade. In high school he became best friends with a kid named Gary Marion, now better known in Key West as Sushi. Keiser "was a pretty conservative town and boy, did we make a racket," he said.

Mr. Odon said this while showing me into his bedroom and offering a chair in view of his vanity, a bamboo desk topped by four bright, theatrical lights; he immediately set about applying a substantial layer of old-fashioned pancake makeup, and then carefully pressing on an even layer of powder.

"Not that we dressed in full drag, but we wore dresses — didn't think of them as dresses, but we made box dresses with yarn." That was the beginning of Sushi's fabled co-career as costume designer and creator. "We both learned through trial and error," Mr. Odon remembered, "but it became a passion with him." Indeed.

In many ways, Sushi is the ultimate in feminine grace, delicate, and often quite ladylike. Not Kylie. "We were sent home for wearing makeup, he more than I," but there's not much that's delicate about Kylie. A strong woman originally inspired by Joan Crawford and "Bay-watch's" Pamela Anderson, with an overlay of Valley Girl; unlike his best friend, there's no inner feminine there. "I was just a gay guy who liked to dress up."

The school had a very conservative vice principal, who called his mother in and asked if she knew what her son was doing. "Mom's pretty liberal. She wasn't horrified — she thought it was a phase." When he came out as gay to his parents, his dad stormed out of the house. "Fathers always take it the hardest," his mother soothed.

By now he was pressing white powder under his eyes to define cheek and jaw lines, then applying a peachy pink from inside the bridge of his nose out



Kylie Jean Lucille

BARBARA RAMEY / COURTESY PHOTO

to his brows, followed by black liner in the same arc.

"I remember talking to Gary the summer between 10th and 11th grades, saying 'I just want to be crazy — not be bored.'" He admired the outrageousness of Boy George, David Bowie and RuPaul. Long story short: After high school and a year of college, he ended up as a Teamster in L.A. with a roommate who came home in drag one day, believing himself more attractive to men that way. But for the nascent Ms. Lucille — the name came from a game of musical trivia when a friend blended another friend's name, Kylie Jean, with "Fine Time to Leave Me, Lucille," then declared Kylie Jean Lucille was the perfect drag name — it was still all a lark.

"I didn't care," Mr. Odon shrugged.

"When Gary moved to Key West, I wasn't sure it was part of the U.S." But he visited during Fantasy Fest in 1996 "and moved here Dec. 15." Initially he and Gary both worked cleaning Bourbon Street Pub. "Then 801 Bourbon Bar called Sushi and said, 'This is yours.' We ended up putting on seven shows a week." He and Sushi bartended and hawked on the sidewalk. "I didn't really intend to perform" but he learned so much: theater from Inga, humor from R.V. Beaumont, makeup from Mila.

"We all liked each other, didn't go anywhere without each other ... I've learned a lot from every girl I've worked with," he said. Another close friendship was with Margo, "the oldest drag queen in captivity," until she died in 2006.

He had highlighted the black arcs with a narrow white line, applied bright yellow inside the top of the bridge of his nose and hot pink to his eyelids, then pressed on "pinkish" lavender sparkle eye shadow. "I like color a lot, so I tend to overdo it," he confessed. His persona "really took off and evolved over the years," but he no longer climbs naked in the cabaret rafters. He still, however, has a considerable fan base of returning tourists. "We're not getting rich, but we make a living."

Then came huge eyelashes and sparkle lipstick and there was Kylie Jean Lucille, in full riotous living color, ready to head in for 801's 5 p.m. Sunday family show, kids welcome. The colors glow in black light, he noted.

How has he managed to turn out so well?

"I'm lucky," he said. ■



KEY WEST HAPPY HOUR GUIDE

Your guide to where the locals go for happy hour drink and food specials.

- Alonzo's**
700 Front St.
4-6:30 p.m.
Half-price appetizers
alonzoysterbar.com
- Bagatelle**
115 Duval St.
4-6 p.m.
Half-price drinks
\$5 appetizers
Bagatellekeywest.com
- Bistro Sole**
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Tapas specials
Bistrosole.com
- Blue Macaw Island Eats and Bar**
804 Whitehead St.
Every day with live music
4-7 p.m.
\$3 well drinks, domestic beers and house wines
Bluemacawkeywest.com
- Boathouse Bar and Grill**
400 Greene St., #408
4-6 p.m.
Half-price well drinks and beers
Boathousebarandgrill.com
- Bobby's Monkey Bar**
Noon-8 p.m.
\$3 well drinks
\$2.50 domestic beers
\$3 imports
\$2 Pringles and \$2 Slim Jims
- Conch Republic Seafood**
631 Greene St.
4-7 p.m.
2-for-1 drink specials
Conchrepublicseafood.com
- Dante's**
951 Caroline St.
Monday through Friday
4-8 p.m.
Half off domestic beers and well drinks
\$3.50 Jagermeister and Fireball
\$4 Jameson
Danteskeywest.com
- Geiger Key Marina**
5 Geiger Road
4-6 p.m.
Drink specials and special happy hour menu
Geigerkeymarina.com
- Green Parrot Bar**
601 Whitehead St.
4-7 p.m. Monday through Thursday
4-5:30 p.m. Fridays
Discounts on selected drinks and beers

- Greenparrot.com
- The Grand**
314 Duval St.
5-7:30 p.m.
Half-price wine, cocktails and beer
Half-price appetizers
- Half Shell Raw Bar**
231 Margaret St.
4-6:30 p.m.
2-for-1 drink specials
Special happy hour food menu
Halfshellrawbar.com
- Hogfish Bar and Grill**
6810 Front St.
4-6 p.m.
Drink specials and special happy hour menu
Hogfishbar.com
- Island Dogs Bar**
505 Front St.
4-6:30 p.m. Monday through Friday
Half-price well drinks, bottled beer and wine by the glass
Half-price oysters, special \$5.95 menu
Islanddogsbar.com
- Kelly's Caribbean Bar and Grill**
301 Whitehead St.
4-7 p.m.
Drink specials
Appetizer and small bites specials
Kellyskeywest.com
- Lazy Gecko**
203 Duval St.
4-8 p.m.
2-for-1 well drinks and beer
Thelazygecko.com
- Little Room Jazz Club**
821 Duval St.
3-8 p.m.
\$4 Craft Your Own Aperitif Cocktail,
2 for \$8 wines, 2 for \$5 beers
Littleroomjazzclub.com
- Martin's**
917 Duval
4-6 p.m.
Half-price drinks and tapas
Martinskeywest.com
- Pepe's**
806 Caroline St.
4-6 p.m.
Half-price raw and baked oysters
\$5 fresh-squeezed Margaritas
Discounted well drinks, beer and wine
Pepeskeywest.com
- Pinchers Crab Shack**
712 Duval St.
3-6 p.m.
Oysters, clams, shrimp, wings
75 cents each
Pinchersusa.com
- The Porch**
429 Caroline St.
4:30-6:30 p.m.

- \$2 off draft beer and wine by the glass
Theporchkw.com
- Roostica Pizzeria**
5620 MacDonald Ave.
4-6 p.m.
Drink specials and special happy hour menu
Roostica.com
- Rumor Lounge**
430 Greene St.
5-8 p.m.
\$2 domestic drafts, \$3 well cocktails and \$4 select wine at Rumor Lounge
Rumorloungekw.com
- Sand Bar Sports Grill**
511 Greene St.
Check the website for daily specials.
Sandbarkeywest.com
Sand Bar Sports Grill Key West on Facebook
- Santiago's Bodega**
207 Petronia St.
3-6 p.m.
Half-price drinks
\$5 tapas
Santiagosbodega.com
- Southernmost Beach Café**
1405 Duval St.
Sunday through Thursday
\$5 small bites bar men, \$5 draft beer, house wine, well drinks and house margaritas
Southernmostbeachcafe.com
- Square Grouper Bar and Grill and My New Joint Upstairs**
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Check the websites for details.
Squaregroupbarandgrill.com
Mynewjoint420lounge.com
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1075 Duval St.

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Half off everything liquid at the bar
Squareonekeywest.com
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Galleonresort.com
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512 Greene St.
Stella on draft \$4 all day
Tattoosandscarssaloon.com
- Turtle Kraals**
231 Margaret St.
4:30-6:30 p.m.
Half off bottled beers, well drinks and house wines
Special happy hour menu
Turtlekraals.com
- Two Friends Patio Restaurant**
512 Front St.
4-6 p.m.
Early bird dinner specials
Twofriendskw.com
- Vinos on Duval**
810 Duval
4-7 p.m.
\$5 Sangria
Sundays
\$5 mimosas
Vinosonduval.com
- Virgilios**
524 Duval St., behind La Trattoria
Martini Mondays
7 p.m.-close
\$5 martinis
Latrattoria.com
- Viva Saloon**
903 Duval St.
4-6 p.m.
\$3 well drinks, \$1 off all beer and house wine, \$5 appetizers
Vivakeywest.com
- Willie T's Restaurant and Bar**
525 Duval St.
4-7 p.m.
Daily drink specials
Williets.com
- Wine-O at La Concha Hotel**
430 Duval St.
Daily
Buy one, get one free on selected glasses of wine
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THE FISHING REPORT

BY CHRIS MENDOLA
Special to Florida Weekly

Summer in the Keys can be the best time for catching spawning snapper such as yellowtail, mangroves and mutt-tons in the reefs. They usually respond to live or cut bait and anchoring and chumming the waters is usually your best bet. I personally like to fish in depths anywhere from 30-100 feet.

Inshore fishing for tarpon is also red hot right now, mostly in the channels and on the flats. For live bait I prefer pinfish and crabs. 50-pound leader and a circle hook are customary setups, sometimes used with a balloon to keep the baits up high.



Offshore fishing has been unusually slow for this time of year. The mahi bite has been the worst I've ever seen. There have been some skip jack, blackfin tuna and marlin being caught though. The swordfish bite should get better coming into this next full moon. I caught a 130 pounder this week using a fresh bonita belly as bait. I've also been taking advantage of the one snowy grouper per vessel limit. That will end in August and will remain closed until May.

Lobster season is around the corner. It's time to get your dive gear ready to go. Everyone please be safe and make sure to stay within 100 yards of your boats with a dive flag viewable. You can also encounter some hog fish and grouper while diving for lobster so having a spear gun or pole spear handy isn't a bad idea.

Please check out my Instagram page Faroutcharters for daily catch pictures. Tight lines and calm seas! ■

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Its namesake never saw it, but Audubon House still worth a look

BY MAXINE LOPEZ-KEOUGH

Florida Weekly Correspondent

It's midway through the tour of Key West's stunningly pretty Audubon House and Tropical Gardens that the truth comes out: John James Audubon — famed naturalist painter, whose lifelike paintings of bird portraits line the walls of the museum — never actually lived in the Audubon House. But don't let this spoiler keep you from visiting; indeed, a visit to the Audubon House offers so much beauty, charm and historical interest, you'll be left feeling only that it was Audubon's loss that he was never able to inhabit such a magical place.

Amassing a fortune from treasure gathered from the ruins of shipwrecks might seem like a job description for a storybook pirate, but in 19th-century Key West, it was a lucrative and respectable way to make a living. The busy passage between the Eastern Seaboard and the Gulf Coast was a dangerous place for ships to sail, and each year saw many boats wrecked on offshore reefs during the frequent storms that pummeled the area.

"Finders keepers" might not mean much today, but for those in the wrecking industry of Key West, it was law. When a ship ran aground, the first man to reach the boat became the "wreck master," who — after saving the crew and passengers, if possible — directed the salvaging of the ship and its cargo. Back on land, the recovered haul was auctioned off, with the wreck master taking the largest cut of the profits. It was a dangerous, highly competitive and regulated industry, the spoils of which helped solidify Key West as the richest city in the country by the mid-1800s.

For Capt. John Huling Geiger, a maritime pilot whose shipwrecking success had made him one of the richest men in the Florida Keys, such wealth demanded a home of appropriate grandeur. In 1846,



COURTESY PHOTO

after the rest of the island was mostly flattened in a hurricane, Capt. Geiger chose a prominent lot on which to build his family's new home — a lavish American Classic Revival mansion of tropical wood at the intersection of Green and Whitehead streets, with an unobstructed view of the ocean (and any new potential shipwrecks). It was a grand, busy estate encompassing 6 acres, home to Capt. Geiger, his wife, his children, and a number of slaves who, in addition to domestic chores, were made to assist in the wrecking business that fueled Geiger's wealth.

For over a century, Capt. Geiger's home remained in the family's possession, until Capt. Geiger's great-grandson, Capt. William Bradford Smith, took up residence. Smith, a Key West Harbor pilot, lived in hermit-like seclusion without indoor plumbing, electricity or cooking facilities, and by the time of his death in 1956, the house had fallen into ruin.

Slated for demolition, it was saved in

1958 by Mitchell and Frances Wolfson, who were compelled to purchase the property after hearing it was destined to become a gas station. The Wolfsons had heard the same folklore that speculated James Audubon might have conceived many of his bird portraits during a visit to the gardens of Dr. Benjamin Strobel, whose home was located on the property where the Geiger family mansion would later be constructed.

The Wolfsons began a two-year process of painstaking renovation, the first historical renovation of its kind in Key West, at the end of which marked the rechristening of the Geiger home as the Audubon House Museum. They filled the house with antiques, including many items from the Geiger family, as well as numerous original hand-colored lithographs by Audubon.

Today, Key West is known for having one of the most colorful and well-protected historical districts in the United States, with the highest density of historic frame

buildings in the nation. Yet few who visit know that it was the Wolfsons' renovation of the Audubon House that began this now-priceless movement to protect and preserve the island's oldest architecture.

To this day, the property is cared for through the Mitchell Wolfson Trust, and remains a reputable dealer of original Audubon work. The three-story home is filled with precious antiquities and, of course, with Audubon's work, as well as information about the artist's life and career. An acre of lush tropical gardens surrounds the home, featuring hundreds of orchids, a koi pond and a replica of the property's original 1850s outdoor kitchen building.

Visitors are encouraged to wind their way through the quiet brick pathways, taking note of the rare tropical plants (carefully labeled for those without extensive botanical knowledge) and view the medicinal and herb garden, a staple of 19th-century upscale homes. Though the museum and its grounds are located in the bustling downtown district, once inside the protective foliage of the grounds, the sights and sounds of the outside world are muffled. Visitors are transported back in time to an island without tour buses or T-shirt shops, where fame and fortune awaited any man brave enough to watch the sea for a wrecked ship, and beat his fellow wreckers to the prize. ■

in the know

The Audubon House

>> **Location:** 205 Whitehead St.

>> **Hours:** 9:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

>> **Tickets:** The museum offers discounted museum tickets to locals.

>> **Contact:** For more information, call (305) 294-2116 or visit audubonhouse.com.

The Conch Train

Rambling along the streets and through the history of Key West since 1958

On a blustery, partly cloudy Sunday afternoon The Conch Tour Train, Key West's old-time sightseeing tour, pulled out of the station on Front Street and rambled and jangled along the sometimes bumpy roads of Key West's historic district.

A ticket for the train, actually a car outfitted like a train with passenger cars in tow, is about \$30 (plus tip); not cheap, but the most thorough look at the second oldest city in Florida. Key West was incorporated in 1829. The tour goes on for a generous 90 minutes, the time it takes to watch a movie, including a 10-minute stop for a bathroom break. The movie in this case is the history and landmarks of Key West as told in gently rambling vignettes in the wry and quietly compelling voice of our driver and tour guide, Dallas. Each train driver follows a script, and each puts his or her own spin on the stories, fleshing out their favorites. Dallas' real name is Larry Clearman, and he is in fact from Dallas, a 66-year-old retired firefighter with an appreciation for history.

"To see where you're going, look where you've been," he said. "It's a guidebook to the future."

We looked to the left, and to the right, as Dallas peeled back layers of Key West past. It's a pleasingly kitschy and low-key trip, a great way to let lunch settle and take a break from the bustle of Duval Street. Later you might be inspired to point out quirky morsels of local history wherever you go with your friends, something they may or may not find amusing.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Did you know that there are no squirrels in Key West? Or that it's so far from mainstream America? One-hundred and thirty-four miles to the nearest Wal-Mart.

You see the town in a new multitude of colors that reach beyond the rainbow flags of prominent gay culture into origin stories about the scorned wife of a cigar baron who now haunts the town, cockfighting (where Key West's roughly 3,000 free-wandering chickens came from), and the rather gruesome details about the town's original name, meaning "Bone Island." You'll get a look

at attractions both well-known, such as Ernest Hemingway's house, and more obscure, such as the Trev-Mor Hotel on 314 Simonton where he lived when he first came to town.

A small placard on the side of the Trev-Mor reads mysteriously: "On this spot in 1897 nothing happened."

The train rolls on through the streets, making a wide loop around town. There's a story behind everything: the cemetery with its funny epitaphs ("At least I know where he's sleeping tonight," chiseled onto one philanderer's gravestone by order of his wife); homes made by ship-



builders; the sponge industry; a banyan tree "so big it has its own mailbox"; the Naval yard; how Key West once seceded from the rest of the United States and then demanded foreign aid; one of its most famous nude bars; and an escaped slave who founded a church here. And a lot more.

"That's right, folks," Dallas said over the intercom as we rambled along. "It's a true story. Everything I tell you is true."

Before stopping for a break, Dallas advised us to watch our step getting out of the passenger cars.

"If you fall off the train I'm required by my boss to take a picture of you and put it on Facebook."

And he advised us not to harm the chickens while we're here.

"If you harm the chickens, you run afoul of the law," Dallas said.

More information: conchtourtrain.com. (888) 916-TOUR. ■

BARTENDER OF THE WEEK

Gretchen Richmond – daughter of a sailor

BY BUCKY MONTGOMERY
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Outside of the military, the term “military brat” can sometimes be misunderstood by civilians, since the word “brat” itself is often a pejorative term. Research has shown that most current and former military brats like the description, and embrace it as a term of endearment and respect, as it connotes a sense of worldliness and pride in the experience of a mobile upbringing.

Gretchen (Voigt) Richmond was born in Misawa-shi, Aomori, Japan, to a Navy dad. Since that time, she has made her home in various locales around the globe, including Hawaii, Scotland, Maryland, Tampa and San Diego, before settling in Key West 13 years ago, where her father eventually retired from the service.

She started off in retail management at a shoe store before getting into the hospitality industry. She worked at Jack Flat’s on Duval Street for seven years, but you may now find her tending bar at the picturesque Southernmost Beach Cafe, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, Key West’s closest drinking and dining spot to Cuba.

“Key West is the home I never had,” Gretchen says. “I like seeing the same mail lady, getting my breakfast at Goldman’s Deli, knowing the guy at the post office — it’s my hometown.”

Gretchen graduated from the local Florida Keys Community College with an AA, and intends to continue in order to obtain a business degree now that it’s been accredited for four-year programs. When not working, she likes to spend time around the water with her husband, Mark (11 years together, one year married), although she prefers pools and the beach rather than boating. “I get sick,” she says with a guilty smile. So much for being the daughter of a sailor!

If you don’t mind getting some sand between your toes, the Southernmost Beach Cafe is a favorite hangout for locals and tourists alike. You can take in your favorite sporting events at the nearby poolside Pineapple Bar, feel the ocean breeze while listening to Key West’s best entertainers live at the Shores Bar, or grab a tropical drink at the convenient Sand Bar, and just relax on the private oceanfront pier. Guests relax along the sandy beach or float in the shallow shores, watching the sunset, drinks in hand.

The cafe offers a full-menu for breakfast, lunch and dinner, with a wide array of soups, salads and fresh appetizers. For dinner fare, if you don’t opt for their filet mignon or chicken dishes, you might try their plantain crusted hogfish, drunken scallops, a double-cut pork chop or a Sobe Wagyu burger.

Set right at the end of Duval Street, you won’t find a better spot for your



COURTESY PHOTO
Gretchen Richmond mixes a cocktail at the Southernmost Beach Cafe, right on the beach.

may bring it in off the beach and into the air conditioning, with blackout blinds, adjustable lights, and a 60-inch Sony LED flat-screen TV for business presentations.

“On this upcoming Labor Day weekend we’ve got the Brewfest again,” Gretchen advised, one of their biggest and most popular events of the year. “For all the beer lovers.”

For the seventh year in a row, the Southernmost Beach Resort and the Key West Sunrise Rotary have teamed up once again to celebrate the love of beer: The Key West Brewfest, with events throughout the entire week: beer dinners, brunches, happy hours, pool parties, late-night after parties and, of course, the Signature Tasting Event. This is your chance to taste over 150 beers in one weekend. Ticket prices are \$40 in advance, \$50 day of purchase. On Saturday, Sept. 3, from 3-5 p.m., there is an exclusive VIP hour for a lucky 300 guests (only), which includes an intimate tasting tour, a Key West Brewfest T-shirt and passed appetizers. That’s a \$75 per person advance ticket purchase. For more information: keywestbrewfest.com.

You can catch Gretchen behind the bar sometime between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m., any day of the week. “My schedule is all over the place. Just like my childhood!” ■

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MUSIC SCENE

Chaka Chandler gets the party started and keeps it going

BY BUCKY MONTGOMERY
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Chaka Chandler is just big. Big in stature, big in personality, big in reputation, big in heart. And big in voice, too; you can hear him booming from across the room.

Chaka was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, not far from my own hometown of Louisville, Ky. He attended the University of Evansville for five years with a basketball scholarship, playing for three teams that made it to the NCAA. "I used to travel to Louisville a lot, just to get White Castles," he told me. "We only had Krystal in Evansville."

Chaka remains a sports buff, particularly a diehard fan of his Ohio State Buckeyes. But as far as pro teams go, it's the Browns, the Yankees, the Blackhawks and the Bulls.

Out of college, he worked for a time at a sporting goods store, but soon got into radio sales and TV sales, before doing color commentary for a station in Mount Vernon, Ind.

Chaka had friends from school and home living here in Key West, and so he visited often throughout the years, his good friend John Neal in particular. Once, at a football game in Columbus, he met up with friends Terry Worthing and Corey Hankins, who told him, "You need to come down to Fantasy Fest." He ended up moving here and spent from October to February couch surfing with his two Rottweilers.

He began work by doing security at the Lazy Gecko on Duval Street, and then returned to radio and TV, partnering with Bill Hoebee. "Hoebee did the news and I did sports. We interviewed a lot of local celebrities and political figures." Before long,

Chaka was found himself doing less and less security and more and more DJ-ing.

"I started DJ-ing Christopher Schultz and David Sloan's parties at the Southernmost House, upstairs at the Bagatelle, Fat Tuesday's, Rick's and the Lazy Gecko. Before long, it was a full-time job."

From his college days on, Chaka has been a musician and promoter in his own right. He's currently working on getting his piano and guitar chops up to speed again and looks forward to working with other local musicians soon.

Chaka was recently awarded a Best DJ Award at the 2016 Bubba Award ceremony, an award possibly designed specifically for him since it was the first time for this category. But no one deserves it more. "I have to listen to new music every day to keep up with the trends. I always tell new DJs that this is a tourist town. People come here from all 50 states and from around the world to have fun."

Many DJs have a tendency to be snobbish and stand-offish. Chaka not so much. He won't shy away from requests, even when they sometimes make him cringe. "Sometimes a request jump-starts a mix. Sometimes my initial reaction is like no, but then I think, a request is good. Like a bachelorette party. Once it starts, the party is on for the rest of the night."

Chaka has been hosting the Dante's Pool Party from noon till 6 p.m. for a few years now, and isn't shy when it comes to posting pics and videos of the curvy patrons who are enjoying the beats he's laying down. Dante's Pool Bar is a favorite hangout for locals, particularly during Happy Hour,



NICK DOLL PHOTOGRAPHY

Monday through Friday from 4:30-7:30 p.m., when you can get Buy-One-Get-One domestic beers, well drinks, Fireballs, Jamesons, lemon drops, and several other drinks and shots. Also, three for \$2 raw oysters, clams and peel-and-eat shrimp, \$5 wings, bang bang shrimp, hot pretzel bites and jalapeno poppers. Often, you can scarcely walk without bumping into a bikini-clad girl, in or outside of the pool.

Dante's offers a full menu for your poolside pleasure, including soups, salads, appetizers, a raw bar and dinner entrees, along with a variety of frozen drinks. For just under \$9 per person, they will also cook your fresh catch for you, prepared one of three ways: fried, grilled or blackened, with

a choice of various side items.

In October, during Fantasy Fest, Dante's is the host of the very popular Halos and Horns Party, this year on Thursday the 27th, starting at 11 a.m. and going all day long. Cover is \$5. It is located at 951 Caroline St. in the Conch Harbor Plaza, near the Key West Express dock. The nearest cross-street is Grinnell. There are multiple points of entry and all are welcome.

Besides hosting the Dante's Sunday Funnies most Sunday afternoons, Chaka is upstairs throwing down the dance party at Rick's on Duval Street from 8:30 till close (usually the last place to shut down on the 200 block), Fat Tuesdays three or four times a month, and poolside at the Marker, where he's celebrating his one-year anniversary spinning this month, on Fridays from 2-5 p.m., with Happy Hour starting at 3:30.

"We started a year ago with just a few people. Now we've got a good crowd on Fridays."

On Oct. 1, the Marker will be hosting the Original SIN Pin-Up Girl Pool Party from 1-4 p.m. You might not want to miss that.

Chaka's been doing this long enough that he's seen not only the music change, but other trends as well. "I used to have to carry all my records and turntables to my gigs," he says. "Now it's just a computer and controller inside a backpack."

The best thing about living and working in Key West, besides looking at bikinis all day? "The locals. Everybody, whether born here or moved here. A great friend base. And being able to get off of land. One minute you're working, the next you're on a boat to Snipes." ■



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ARTIST PROFILE

ALAINA PLOWDREY

Alaina Plowdrey is a professional artist living in Key West. She has a MFA from the New York Academy of Art in NYC, BFA from the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, MI and AFA from Delta Community



Who is your favorite artist?

Traditional: William-Adolphe Bouguereau, Gustav Klimt, Alphonse Mucha
Contemporary: Will Cotton, Alyssa Monks and Brad Knukle

Where can we see your work?

Periodically at The Studios of Key West (Just had a solo exhibition May 2016 and exhibit in groups shows) and down the street at Island Wynds Gallery. I also show in various group shows around the country: New York City, Michigan, Oregon, California and have my eyes set on showing internationally.

How would you describe your style?

My work is femininely and psychologically charged. I look to create beautiful and open minimal spaces with extra detail where it counts.

What or who is your muse?

No particular person or group of people, rather I look at the "what" and try to embody peace, the ultimate divine, beauty, intelligence and confidence. For centuries people have looked for these characteristics/archetypes within that generation's human heroes and muses. Examples like Marilyn Monroe/Aphrodite. I understand the allure of witnessing that beauty in one person, but I also recognize we are all human, flaws included. So, again, it goes back to the "idea".

What is your workspace like?

Minimal yet filled with all the tools I need. Table saw, drills, extra 2x4's, birch panels, computer monitor to zoom in and out for details, a plethora of different brands and types of paint and brushes, paper, drawing tools And an exercise ball to keep it fun!

How do you feel your art contributes to the community?

I use the photographs I take of the ocean here as inspiration and reference a lot. One of my favorite things about living here is that big, beautiful ocean around us. I think the people who live and also visit the island feel that power of the psychological openness of that ocean. Perhaps that is one of the reasons people feel so free to really shine as who they are here. I also think a lot of people enjoy the fact that I bring in a traditional academy painting and drawing technique. I teach my methods at The Studios of Key West, and those more "technical traditional methods" courses are always nice and full of people ready to learn. I believe people enjoy art that is familiar yet also not of this world. I believe my art encompasses those qualities and the people who enjoy that combination respond to my art in their own personal and beautiful way. Emotion/response/reaction is all within the viewer. I just help facilitate that by doing something I love. ■



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NOT-TO-MISS ATTRACTIONS

Audubon House & Tropical Gardens

205 Whitehead St.
(305) 294-2116 or (877) 294-2470
audubonhouse.com
Original lithographs of John James Audubon's drawings are on display at this former home of shipwreck salvager Capt. John Geiger.

CityView Trolley Tours of Key West

1045 Whitehead St.
(305) 294-0644
cityviewtrolleys.com
These open-air trolleys offer hop-on-and-off tours that incorporate narration of the history of Key West.

Conch Tour Train

303 Front St.
(305) 294-5161 or (888) 916-8687
conchtourtrain.com
The Conch Train has been winding its way through the streets of Key West since 1958.

Custom House

281 Front St.
(305) 295-6616
kwaahs.org
The Custom House was originally home to Key West's customs office, postal service and district courts.

The Ernest Hemingway Home & Museum

907 Whitehead St.
(305) 294-1136
hemingwayhome.com
Take the tour and say hello to one of the 40 to 50 six-toed cats, all descendants of Hemingway's cat, Snowball. Florida Keys

Eco-Discovery Center

35 E. Quay Road
(305) 292-0311 or (305) 809-4750
floridakeys.noaa.gov/eco_discovery.html
Sponsored and operated in part by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and NOAA.

Fort East Martello Museum

3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd.
(305) 296-3913
kwaahs.com
This Civil War fort was built in the late 1800s and is now home to a sculpture garden and museum featuring a collection of relics from the Civil War.

Ghost Tours and Ghost Hunts

301 Whitehead and 1102 Duval Street
(305) 395-1435
hauntedkeywest.com
Discover the haunted history of one of the most haunted cities in the United States.

Harry S. Truman Little White House

111 Front St.
(305) 294-9911
trumanlittlewhitehouse.com
This historic building famously served as the winter White House for President Harry S. Truman in 1946.

Key West AIDS Memorial

Foot of White Street and Atlantic Boulevard
keywestaids.org
Located at the entrance to the White Street pier, the Key West AIDS Memorial commemorates Florida Keys-friendly people who have died from AIDS-related causes.

Key West Aquarium

1 Whitehead St., at Mallory Square,
(800) 544-5927
keywestaquarium.com

The Key West Aquarium is home to alligators, jellyfish, sharks and many other marine animals, and features a touch tank. Guided tours and feeding presentations are available.

The Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory

1316 Duval St.
(305) 296-2988 or (800) 839-4647
keywestbutterfly.com
More than 50 different butterfly species from around the world and 20 different exotic bird species coexist in this climate-controlled, glass-enclosed habitat that includes waterfalls, flowering plants and trees.

Key West City Cemetery

Bordered by Angela, Frances, Olivia streets and Windsor Lane
(305) 292-6718
friendsofthekeywestcemetery.com
Stop at the sexton's office near the entrance at Passover Lane and Windsor Lane for a map containing a free walking tour from the Historic Florida Keys Foundation.

Key West Historical Memorial Sculpture Garden

401 Wall St. (at Mallory Square)
(305) 294-4142
keywestsculpturegarden.org
This original sculpture garden, at the site of the original shoreline in Mallory Square, features 36 bronze busts of the most influential men and women from Key West's past.

Key West Lighthouse & Keeper's Quarters Museum

938 Whitehead St.
(305) 294-0012
kwaahs.com
The lighthouse opened in 1848, was decommissioned by the Coast Guard in 1969, and now stands as a museum dedicated to Key West's maritime heritage.

Key West Shipwreck Museum

1 Whitehead St.
(305) 292-8990
keywestshipwreck.com
At the Shipwreck Museum, you can walk up the 65-foot lookout tower for a 365-degree view of Key West and its harbor.

Key West Theater

512 Eaton St.
thekeywesttheater.com
The Key West Theater is a newly renovated performing arts center that presents original plays, musicals, films and concerts.

Key West Tropical Forest & Botanical Garden

5210 College Road, Stock Island
(305) 296-1504
keywestbotanicalgarden.org
This natural conservation habitat is home to many endangered flora and fauna as well as two of the last remaining freshwater ponds in the Keys.

Key West Wildlife Center

1801 White St.
(305) 292-1008
The Key West Wildlife Center is in the 8-acre Sonny McCoy Indigenous Park and includes a nature walk with a freshwater pond and two aviaries.

Mallory Square Sunset Celebration

1 Whitehead St.
(786) 565-7448
sunsetcelebration.org
This nightly festival begins at the water's edge about an hour or two before sunset and includes street performers, local artisans, food carts,



Above: The Harry S. Truman Little White House served as the winter White House for President Harry S. Truman in 1946.
Right: The colorful Southernmost Point concrete bouy.

palmists and psychics.

Mel Fisher Maritime Museum

200 Greene St.
(305) 294-2633
melfisher.org
Exhibits include treasures from the Spanish galleons of 1622 discovered by Mel Fisher and his crew.

Mile Marker 0 Sign

490 Whitehead St., corner of Fleming Street
U.S. 1 begins here in Key West, continues 2,369 miles north up the East Coast, and ends in Fort Kent, Maine. Stop here to commemorate your visit.

Old Town Trolley Tours of Key West

1 Whitehead St.
(305) 296-6688 or (888) 910-8687
historictours.com/keywest
Historic Tours has been running sight-seeing trolleys in Key West for more than 25 years.

Red Barn Theatre

319 Duval St.
(305) 296-9911
redbarntheatre.com
The Red Barn Theatre has been producing plays and musicals in Key West for more than 35 years.

Ripley's Believe It or Not!

108 Duval St.
(305) 293-9939
ripleys.com/keywest
Ripley's contains more than 550 odd, bizarre and unusual exhibits housed in a historical building.

San Carlos Institute

516 Duval St.
(305) 294-3887
instituteosancarlos.org
This historic landmark serves as a Cuban museum, library, art gallery and theater.

The Southernmost Point

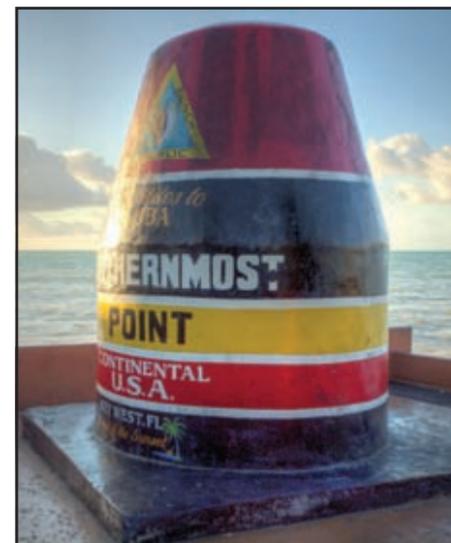
Corner of Whitehead and South streets
This colorful anchored concrete buoy was erected in 1983 to commemorate Key West as the southernmost point of the continental United States.

The Studios of Key West

533 Eaton St.
(305) 296-0458
tskw.org
The studios of Key West is a local nonprofit dedicated to nurturing artists and the artistic process.

Tennessee Williams Key West Exhibit

513 Truman Ave.
(305) 842-1666



twkw.org
Learn about Tennessee Williams' literary accomplishments and life in Key West.

Tennessee Williams Theatre

5901 College Road, Stock Island
(305) 296-1520 or (305) 295-7676 (tickets)
tennesseewilliamstheatre.com
The Tennessee Williams Theatre presents national tours, concerts and local and national cabarets.

The Tropic Cinema

416 Eaton St.
(877) 761-FILM (3456)
tropiccinema.com
The Tropic Cinema is a nonprofit movie theater that shows independent films and documentaries in addition to hosting a wide variety of community cultural events.

U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Ingham Maritime Museum and National Historic Landmark

0 Southard St.
(305) 292-5072
uscgcingham.org
With more than 50 years of service around the world, the USCGC Ingham offers a portrait of Coast Guard history from 1936 to 1988. It is the only Coast Guard cutter afloat today to receive two Presidential Unit Citations for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy.

Waterfront Playhouse

310 Wall St.
(305) 294-5015
waterfrontplayhouse.org
The nonprofit Waterfront Playhouse produces plays and musicals in its 150-seat theater.

West Martello Tower

1100 Atlantic Blvd.
(305) 294-3210
keywestgardenclub.com
The West Martello Tower is a former Civil War-era fortification that is now home to the Key West Garden Club and the Joe Allen Garden Center. ■

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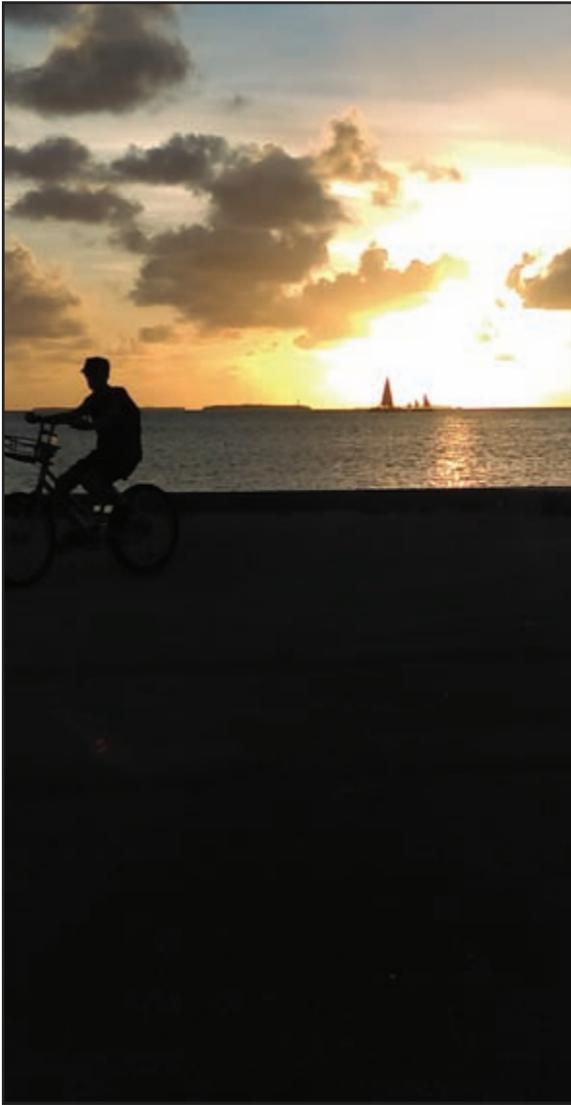
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Antonia's • 615 Duval Street
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Banyan Resort • 323 Whitehead Street
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Blackfin Bistro • 918 Duval Street
Blue Heaven • 729 Thomas Street
Blue Macaw Island Eats & Bar • 804 Whitehead Street
Bobby's Monkey Bar • 900 Simonton Street
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Casablanca Hotel • 904 Duval Street
Centennial Bank • 1229 Simonton Street
Coco's Monkey • 209 Simonton Street
Coconut Beach Resort • 1500 Alberta Street
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IV in the Keys • 624 Whitehead Street
Kermit's Key West Key Lime Shoppe • 200 Elizabeth Street
Keys Coffee Co. • 505 Southard Street
Key Plaza Creperie • 1105 Key Plaza

Key West Art and Historical Society • 281 Front Street
Key West Bait & Tackle • 241 Margaret Street
Key West Bed & Breakfast • 415 William Street
Key West Business Guild • 513 Truman Ave
Key West Express • 100 Grinnell Street
Key West Harbour Yacht Club • 6000 Peninsular Ave
Key West International Airport • 3491 S. Roosevelt Blvd
Key West Kia • 2826 N. Roosevelt
Key West Marriotte Beachside • 3841 N. Roosevelt
Key West Theater • 512 Eaton Street
L'Habitation Guest House • 408 Eaton Street
La Concha Hotel • 430 Duval Street
Lazy Gecko • 203 Duval Street
Last Key Realty • 1121 Duval Street
The Little Red • 419A Duval Street
Love in Bloom Florist • 134 Simonton Street
Monroe County State Attorney's Office • 530 Whitehead Street
Mr. Z's (new town) • 2798 N. Roosevelt Blvd
Mr. Z's (old town) • 501 Southard Street
Munch Box • 500 Truman Ave
Nail Bar & Lounge • 1075 Duval Street
Ocean Key • 0 Duval Street
Orchid Key Inn • 1004 Duval Street
The Peace Store • 419C Duval Street
Pinchers • 712 Duval Street
Publix - Key Plaza Shopping Center • 1112 Key Plaza
Publix - Searstown Shopping Center • 3116 N. Roosevelt Blvd
Roostica • 5620 MacDonald Ave
Royal Palms Realty • 533 Fleming Street
The Rum Bar/Speakeasy Inn • 1115 Duval Street
Sheraton Suites Key West • 2001 S. Roosevelt Ave
Spa Terre • 0 Duval Street
Spotless Dry Cleaners • 542 Truman Ave
Square Grouper Bar & Grill • 22658 Overseas Hwy
Square One • 1075 Duval Street
Stay Fit Studio • 804 White Street
Starbucks - La Concha Hotel • 430 Duval Street
Studio's of Key West • 533 Eaton Street
The Artist House • 534 Eaton Street
The Artist House on Fleming • 1016 Fleming Street
The Café • 509 Southard Street
The Flaming Buoy Filet Co. • 1100 Packer Street
The Gates Hotel • 3824 N. Roosevelt Blvd
The Mermaid & the Alligator • 729 Truman Ave
The Palms Hotel • 820 White Street
The Westin Key West Resort & Marina • 245 Front Street
Thirsty Mermaid • 521 Fleming Street
Truman Hotel • 611 Truman Ave
US District Court Clerk • 301 Simonton Street
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BY GAIL TRENHOLM2



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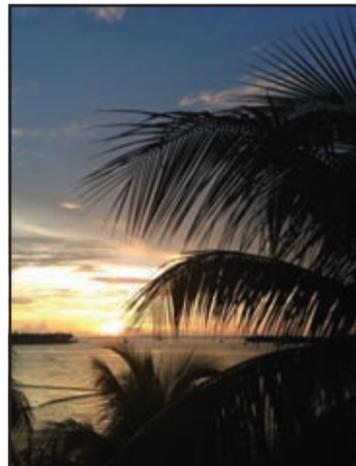
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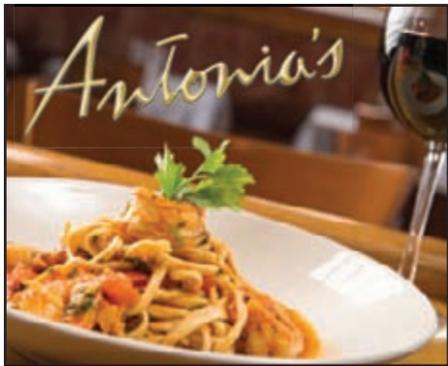
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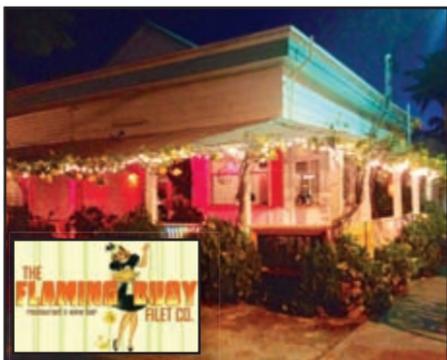
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615 Duval St.
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Antoniaskeywest.com



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233 Petronia St.
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Azurkeywest.com



The Flaming Buoy
1100 Packer St.
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Theflamingbuoy.com



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Mangia-mangia.com

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806 Caroline St.
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5 to 7 p.m. daily
Pepeskeywest.com



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951 Caroline St.
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Primekeywest.com

Thirsty Mermaid
521 Fleming St.
\$5 appetizers, \$5 wine by the glass, \$2 beer pints
Thirstymermaidkeywest.com

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Aug. 26, 5:30 p.m.

Chef Melissa Schwarz Indian Cuisine — \$80 — Paneer Tikka · Marinated Paneer Cheese, Grilled on a Skewer · Chole — Spiced Chickpea Curry Served with Naan · Chicken Biryani — An aromatic layered Rice Dish with Yogurt and Spices, Served with Raita · Kulfi — Indian Ice Cream Flavored with Pistachio and Saffron

Aug. 27, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Conch Revival Picnic Fort East Martello — \$35 — The Key West Art & Historical Society and Isle Cook Key West have teamed up to present a picnic-style Conch heritage dinner prepared by acclaimed chefs Martha Hubbard, Paul Menta, Dave Furman, Martin Liz, Ryan Shapiro and Doug Shook, featuring a variety of classic Key West/Conch recipes, some inspired by the postwar Key West Woman's Club Cookbook

edited by Wilhelmina Harvey and other books in the Key West Public Library collection. This picnic will be at historic Fort East Martello. For tickets and information, visit kwahs.org/learn/conch-revival-picnic/

Aug. 29, 5:30 p.m.

Chef John Inglesby Lobster 5 Ways — \$80
 * Roasted Red Pepper and Curry Bisque
 Lobster Corn Fritter
 * Butter-Poached Lobster, Edamame

Horseradish Purée, Micro Pea Shoots, Kafir Lime Oil and Furikake

* Grilled Lobster salad with Peaches, Chimichurri, Pickled Onion, Fennel, Radish, Balsamic and Toasted Papitas

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* Vanilla and Cognac Ice Cream with Lobster Sauce, Marcona Almonds and Mint ■

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in the yard. The property is in an X-500 flood zone, which means no flood insurance is required. It is perfectly located within walking distance of the world-renowned Casa Marina Resort and is close to beaches, shops, restaurants and Duval Street. Ask your agent for the video walk-through for a detailed virtual tour of the floor plan.

Available through Scott Forman at Royal Palms Realty. Contact: Forman | Luxury Real Estate, (305) 923-9884, RoyalPalmsRealty.com. ■



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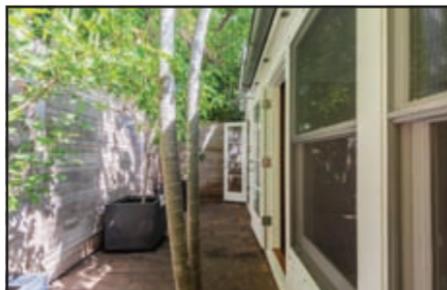
915 Cornish Lane

\$1,400,000

Two bedrooms, 1½ bathrooms

Recently featured on HGTV's new show "Hunting Vintage" and the home of men's fashion designer Andrew Christian, this stunning contemporary cottage is tucked away at the end of a quiet lane. It is beautifully renovated down to the last detail and will be sold turnkey with all of its designer furnishings. There are walnut wood floors throughout, Caesar stone counters in the kitchen and bathrooms, and wood built-ins that provide a seamless and

chic touch. Lush and private from the front, sun-filled and airy in the garden, this two-bedroom, 1½-bath home is the ultimate getaway. Viking and Subzero appliances, top of the line fixtures and high ceilings. It is wrapped in pipe decking with two outdoor showers and a stunning plunge pool. Contact the Doug Mayberry Team, Doug Mayberry Real Estate, 1075 Duval St., Suite C23, in Duval Square at the corner of Simonton and Virginia streets. ■



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Florida: Bonita Springs/Estero, Cape Coral, Captiva Island, Fort Myers, Naples/Marco Island, Ocala and Sanibel Island
North Carolina: Cashiers/Lake Glenville, Highlands, Sapphire Valley/Lake Toxaway



Luxury 5-Star Vacation Homes / 1-9 Bedrooms Daily, Weekly, Monthly Full-Time Concierge & Guest Services with Every Rental



Cool Breeze @ The Annex

2-Story Townhome / Gated Community / Community Pool
2 Bedrooms, 2.5 Bathrooms / Located in Truman Annex
Available Weekly \$2,600* - \$5,500 + taxes and fees
*Ask about 25% discount through September 30



Southernmost Hospitality VII @ Old Town

2-Story Private Home + Guest House / Private Pool
7 Bedrooms, 7.5 Bathrooms / Located on Duval Street
Available Weekly \$10,500* - \$23,000 + taxes and fees
*Ask about 25% discount through October 31



Mahogany House @ Old Town

2-Story Private Corner Estate / Private Heated Pool
3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms / Located in Old Town
Available Monthly \$7,500 - \$21,000 + taxes and fees



Conch Casa Grande @ The Annex

Grand Private Home / 11' Ceilings / 6 Bedrooms, 7 Bathrooms
Heated Private Pool / Located in Exclusive Truman Annex
Available Weekly \$9,500* - \$15,950 + tax and fees
*Ask about 25% discount through October 31

Exceptional Purchase Opportunities

Fully Furnished Vacation Homes With Repeat Customer Base



Southernmost Comfort @ 202 Admiral's Lane

Spacious & Elegant Private Home / 5 Bedrooms 4 Bathrooms
Heated Pool / Two-Car Garage / Truman Annex
Transient License / Gross Annual Rental Income \$204,000+



Location, Location, Location! @ 1215 South Street

Indian Block Construction / 3 Bedrooms 2 Bathrooms
Large, 4700sf lot / Casa Marina Neighborhood
Original Hardwood Floors/ Renovation Ready



CHECK OUT OUR BRAND NEW WEBSITE!

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