

FLORIDA WEEKLY[®]

KEY WEST EDITION

WEEK OF AUG. 30-SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

www.FloridaWeekly.com

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Key West BREWFEEST



INSIDE: Your complete day-by-day, hour-by-hour breakdown of BrewFest. **A10** ▶

Go ahead—have just one drink

BY LAURA RICHARDSON
Florida Weekly Correspondent

IN MANY WAYS, LIFE IN KEY WEST is like one of those idyllic Corona ads. Frosty drinks, crystal clear water and the sound of palm fronds rustling in the breeze are never more than a few footsteps away. What the ads don't tell you, however, is that Key West at the beginning of September is borderline unbearably hot. The gentle breeze isn't enough to cool your sweaty brow, the ocean is so warm it feels like nature's bathtub and it often seems like all the water (or beer) in the world couldn't possibly quench your thirst. And just when you think you couldn't possibly be any more parched, a woman with thick pigtails

SEE BREWFEST, A10 ▶

Celebrating being made here — in Key West

BY LAURA RICHARDSON
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Between the beaches, bars and barely-clad bodies bouncing around town, Key West can sometimes feel a little ... artificial. Sure, the sand is real and the palms are homegrown, but the whole rogue escapist “what happens in Key West stays in Key West” mentality can cause us to neglect the elements of our kooky culture that dwell in the alleys and crannies off Duval Street.

Our diverse, vibrant island community is home to artists and artisans of all kinds: painters, potters, jewelers, musicians, gas-

tronomes and everything in between.

Local businesses are a critical component of what makes Key West so special. And (thankfully, for us artsy folk) new businesses spring up seemingly every other day, thanks to the enduring spirit of quirky artistic innovation that pervades the island (they don't call us “Key Weird” for nothing).

Farm-to-table dining is all the rage these

SEE MADE, A12 ▶

COURTESY PHOTO

Papa's Pilar, one of Key West's newer rum distilleries inspired by Papa Hemingway himself.

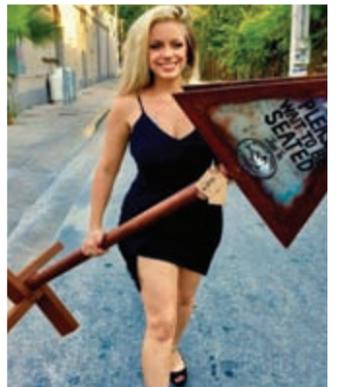


INSIDE



Music

Ship a' Dani Hoy! **A14** ▶



Top Picks

Happy hours with Kristen McNamara and other great things to do on the island this week. **A9** ▶



Bartender of the Week

Get to know Dennis Kearney. **A6** ▶



Cuisine

Bringing the Big Easy to Key West. **A17** ▶

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FLORIDA WEEKLY

KEY WEST EDITION

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OFF OFF DUVAL

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 you might not see at first glance.

Better than Sex, 926 Simonton St. 305-296-8102; www.betterthanssexkeywest.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 and beverages such as an Ephemere Apple Spiced Ale in a tall beer glass with a signature caramel rim-job. Lick it good.

Mellow Café and Gastro Pub, 1605 Roosevelt Blvd. 305-745-3874; www.mellowventureskeywest.com. Near the water in Old Town Key West, the café is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner and offers unique island fare with a mellow atmosphere to match. The menu items are crafted with fresh, locally sourced ingredients and include a fresh catch, Havana roasted pork, romaine leaf plates and caramelized banana chocolate tacos. Drink options include a large selection of craft beers, 11 rotating tap beers, wine, house-made sangria, and champagne cocktails. They have a great happy hour daily from 5-7 p.m., and delivery is available.

Cuban Coffee Queen, 284 Marga-



COURTESY PHOTO

The Mellow Café and Gastro Pub is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

ret St. 305-292-4747; www.cuban-coffeequeen.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.

Firefly, 223 Petronia St. 305-849-0104; www.fireflykeywest.com. Being that Key West is home to the southernmost point of the continental United States, it's fitting that the island is home to a very southern-inspired restaurant. Firefly's plantation-style look and Southern-inspired cuisine give it the most down-home feel of any culinary experience on the island. The shrimp and grits, fried chicken and bacon-wrapped meatloaf are a few fan favorites.

Key West Island Bookstore, 513 Fleming St. www.Keywestisland-

books.com; 305-294-2904. This decades-old boutique bookstore offers a surprisingly varied wealth of current and used titles, from bestsellers to rare titles. Often open late, it's an inviting place to browse the crowded stacks.

La Rubia Fine Hats, 510 Fleming St. 305-296-6059; www.larubiakeywest.com. This is the Florida Keys' only importer of authentic Panama hats. The owners developed the boutique to carry on the centuries-old tradition of hand weaving hats (which come from Ecuador and not Panama, by the way). There are styles for men and women in a wide array of colors and weaves. There's also a nice selection of wearable fair trade crafts such as jewelry, ikat wraps and shigra bags.

Little Pearl, 632 Olivia St. 305-204-4762; www.littlepearlkeywest.com. Nestled in the heart of Old Town Key West and away from the bustling downtown streets sits this excellent spot for fresh local catch and innovative cuisine with a tropical twist. It's new and it's hot. Reservations are required.

Nancy Forrester's Secret Garden, 518 Elizabeth St. 305-294-0015; www.nancyforrester.com. Ms. Forrester has a secret, and it's not her garden, per se: It's what she keeps there. The longtime environmentalist has been caring for orphaned parrots for more than 30 years. She invites the public to meet them, take pictures, hold them and listen as she educates the community about her fine feathered friends. ■

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#WATERFRONTBREWS



**CRAZY LADY
HONEY BLONDE ALE**

This blonde ale brewed with local honey is good as it gets. A nice clean ale with a subtle honey-like sweetness that lingers just long enough. Very drinkable and smooth.



**LAZY WAY IPA
AMERICAN IPA**

A medium-bodied, lightly toasted IPA with a malt character and a balanced bitterness. The piney hop notes carry through to the flavor. Finishes crisp and fairly dry.



**ISLAND LIFE
AMERICAN LAGER**

Standard American Lagers are the "regular" strength versions of the light American lagers. The style guidelines for this beer are almost identical as those for the light versions.



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KEY WEST
IRISH KEVIN'S
KEY WEST
OCEAN GRILL
KEY WEST



MAP IT OUT



Getting around Key West

1. Southernmost Point

The corner of South and Whitehead streets
www.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.
 305-294-5161 or 888-916-8687
www.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
www.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.
 786-565-7448
www.sunsetcelebration.org
 This nightly festival begins at the water's edge an hour or two before sunset and includes street performers, local arti-

sans, food carts, palmists and psychics.

5. Truman Little White House

111 Front St.
www.trumanlittlewhitehouse.com
 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.
 305-294-1136
www.hemingwayhome.com
 Take the tour and say hello to one of the 40-50 six-toed cats, all descendants of Hemingway's cat, Snowball.

7. The Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory

1316 Duval St.
 305-296-2988 or 800-839-4647
www.keywestbutterfly.com
 More than 50 butterfly species from around the world and 20 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.
 305-294-2633
www.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 and continues 2,369 miles north up the East Coast before ending in Fort Kent, Me. Stop here to commemorate your visit to Key West with a photo next to the iconic Mile Marker 0 sign.

10. Key West Express Ferry Terminal

100 Grinnell St.
 239-463-5733
www.Keywestexpress.net
 Traveling via the Express is truly the best way to get between Key West, Fort Myers Beach or Marco Island. 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
www.Audubonhouse.com
 Original lithographs by John James Audubon are on display in this former home of shipwreck salvager Capt. John Geiger.

12. Key West City Cemetery

Bordered by Angela, Frances and Olivia streets and Windsor Lane
 305-292-6718
www.Friendsofthekeywestcemetery.com
 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

At the ocean end of Southard Street and bordering the Naval Reservation.
 305-295-0037
www.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, the 54-acre park has nature trails, bike paths, picnic tables and grills and Historic Fort Zachary Taylor. Enjoy the beautiful view of the Atlantic Ocean and the Key West Shipping Channel. ■



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BARTENDER OF THE WEEK

Dennis Kearney: Pouring the perfect pint

BY JENNIFER WHITE
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Dennis Kearney tells me he's shy, but the fact that he had just talked his way into getting behind the bar where we are doing our interview so he can show me how to pour a proper pint of Guinness with a perfect stenciled shamrock says otherwise. The bar, which will remain unnamed so as not to cause anyone any trouble, is not the bar where he works.

"See, you turn the glass like this so that there are no bubbles," he teaches the bartender on duty. "In Ireland, if you don't like the way the bartender pours it, you don't drink the pint."

Irish born and bred, Dennis works at world-famous Sloppy Joe's on Duval Street and has been bartending there for 2 1/2 years.

"The fact that I'm working at a bar that's not an Irish bar means I might be able to take off St. Paddy's day," he says hopefully.

Dennis was just 11 years old when he started serving beers at his Uncle's bar in Athlone, Ireland. (If you've ever been across the pond and have never been served by someone who hasn't hit puberty yet then you haven't quite experienced the definition of a real local's bar. In Ireland and across the UK, it's normal to see kids whose feet can't touch the floor having an afternoon drink with their parents.)

So, with that in mind, by the time Dennis was of age to drink in America he was being featured in local newspapers for his Guinness shamrock artistry and smooth bartending ways. After gaining this fame in the Irish of hospitality business he decided he needed to get away from the "rain, rain and more rain" and moved to the states in 1993, landing first in Boston and then zigzagging his way down the coast from the Bronx in New York City, to summers in Cape Cod, to New Orleans and, finally, to Key West.

Key Westers who have visited the Big Easy will more than likely already know of the bar where Dennis worked while he lived in New Orleans. Like Sloppy's, Erin Rose is an institution in its own right, famous for the authentic po'boys and frozen Irish coffee.

Dennis describes his nine months in the French Quarter as an "amazing experience" — except for the city's well-deserved reputation for crime and violence.

"You had to have a bartending license, a gaming license and a gun license," he says. "It cost \$500 to bartend there."



Dennis Kearney behind the bar at Sloppy Joe's.

JENNIFER WHITE / FLORIDA WEEKLY

"Let's talk about Bogart's," I say as he drinks the pint of Guinness he poured at the bar that is not where he works. Bogart's is another institution where he once worked.

Once a grimy hole-in-the-wall hide-away for service industry folk and vampire vagabonds, Bogart's has since changed hands and undergone a facelift along with a name change that transformed the whole space from dark and mysterious to bright and cheery.

"It was pretty much a hot mess with beautiful people," Dennis answers, adding, "Bogart's back in the day was power-tending. On busy days you had to make drinks for three servers plus the whole

bar by yourself. I wouldn't get home until 7 or 8 in the morning.

"These days," he says about his job at Sloppy Joe's, work is much more relaxed and chill."

Given his early start, when it comes to bartending Dennis has done it all. Round up all the places he's worked in this town and the list includes the BottleCap, Cowboy Bills, the late Cowboy Bills Reloaded, of course Bogart's and now Sloppy Joe's.

"It's life changing going from one bar to the next," he says. "I went from old school Rob Roys and Old Fashioneds to dive bars ... I never thought I'd work downtown, but now I no longer work late nights, the people are great, the manage-



"The fact that I'm working at a bar that's not an Irish bar means I might be able to take off St. Paddy's day."

ment and staff are great, there's no drama and it's just a well-oiled machine."

Sloppy Joe's, which titles itself as a "Key West tradition," has just finished celebrating its 84th anniversary since opening on Dec. 5, of 1933 — the day after prohibition was repealed. It's a must-see destination on the island for its history, live music, comforting ground beef sandwiches and tropical libations.

Dennis works a full-time schedule between Joe's Tap Room, which is a Sloppy's sports and craft beer bar adjacent to the main dining room, and also at the satellite bar. His hours are constantly changing, but he does manage to have one shift at the satellite bar on Thursdays from 8 p.m. to close and on in the tap room for football on Sundays from noon to 8 p.m.

When he's not mixing and serving drinks, he says he can be found sitting on the other side of the bar enjoying a drink or two himself, or spending time with the rest of the Irish community in Key West. Or, after experiencing a guilt trip from family, going back home to Ireland for a visit.

"There are no long walks on the beach or any of that," he jokes about returning to his homeland when he needs "a real vay-cay."

When he does go back to the Emerald Isle he enjoys playing tourist. He admits to visiting the Guinness factory for the first time during his most recent visit.

I wonder if he showed them how to carve a shamrock into the foam, or if he refused to take a sip. ■

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4 oz lemonade
4 muddled strawberries

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lemon slice.



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KEY WEST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPECIAL EVENTS

Jerrod Isaman and Friends Live

Aug. 30, 10 p.m.
Mary Ellen's
420 Appelrouth Lane
www.maryellensbar.com

Happy Hours with Kristen McNamara

Wednesdays and Saturdays, 6:30 p.m.
Sidebar at Aqua
504 Angela St.
www.sidebarkeywest.com

Aqua Idol for Fantasy Fest King and Queen

Sept. 4, 6:30 p.m.
Aqua Nightclub
711 Duval St.
www.aquakeywest.com

Summerish Fun Movie Series: Monty Python and the Holy Grail

Sept. 5, 7 p.m.
The Key West Theater
512 Eaton St.
www.thekeywesttheater.com



Support local farmers and show some environmental love while learning about sustainable agricultural methods! Buy fresh locally grown produce, live plants, seedlings and seeds at the Local Farm Stand, Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m., Mellow Café and Gastropub, 1605 North Roosevelt Blvd.

Tickets available at www.comedykeywest.com

COMEDY

Comedy Open Mic Night

Mondays, 9 p.m.
Mary Ellen's Bar and Restaurant
420 Appelrouth Lane

Comedy Key West

Thursdays and Fridays, 7:30-10 p.m.
The Blue Room
1128 Simonton St.

MUSIC

Green Parrot Bar

601 Whitehead St.
Live Music Nightly
Check the schedule at www.greenparrot.com

Irish Kevin's

211 Duval St.

Live Music Nightly
Check the schedule at www.irishkevins.com

Mary Ellen's

420 Appelrouth Lane
Open Mic with Comedy Key West,
Mondays, 9 p.m.

Drunken Spelling Bee, First Monday
of each month, 9 p.m.

Trivia, Tuesday Nights, 6:30 p.m.

SIN Night (Service Industry Night),
Wednesdays 8 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Mellow Café and Gastropub

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www.mellowkw.com

Smoking Tuna

4 Charles St.
Live Music Nightly
Check the schedule at
www.smokingtunasaloon.com

Sloppy Joes

201 Duval St.
Live Music Nightly
Check the schedule
at www.sloppyjoes.com

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographs by Jorge de la Torriente

Ongoing
De La Gallery
419 Duval St.
www.delagallery.com
305-395-2210

Homegrown

Photographs by Michael Marrero
Ongoing
Gallery on Greene
606 Greene St.
www.galleryongreene.com

CINEMA

Tropic Cinema

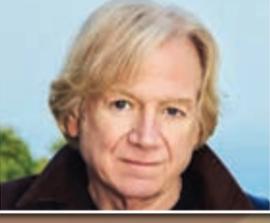
416 Eaton St.
www.tropiccinema.com



RAMS HEAD



PRESENTS AT THE KEY WEST THEATER

 09.30 LOUIE ANDERSON	 10.14 WHO'S BAD THE ULTIMATE MICHAEL JACKSON EXPERIENCE	 11.07 OTTMAR LIEBERT	 11.15 THUNDER FROM DOWN UNDER
 11.16 LIVINGSTON TAYLOR	 11.28 KINGSTON TRIO LEGACY TOUR	 12.07 PAULA POUNDSTONE	 12.16 JOHN WATERS
 01.10 THE WAILERS	 01.11 GARY PUCKETT	 01.20 RUMOURS A FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE	 01.22 HOT TUNA
 01.24 CRAIG ROBINSON & THE NASTY DELICIOUS	 02.02 BEGINNINGS A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF CHICAGO	 02.11 ARRIVAL FROM SWEDEN THE MUSIC OF ABBA	 02.18 JUSTIN HAYWARD

FOR THE FULL LINE-UP VISIT: WWW.THEKEYWESTTHEATER.COM

KEY WEST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Check the website for ongoing films

LGBT

Aqua Nightclub

711 Duval St.

Drag Shows

Nightly, 7 and 9 p.m.

Karaoke

Monday through Thursday, 11 p.m.

www.Aquakeywest.com

Bobby's Monkey Bar

900 Simonton St.

Karaoke Nightly, 9:30 p.m.

Bobby's Monkey Bar on Facebook

Bourbon St. Pub

724 Duval St.

Just Jeff (Moss), Thursdays through Sundays, 8-10 p.m.

Ronnie, Mondays through Wednesdays, 3-8 p.m.

The Men of Bourbon, Nightly

www.BourbonSt.pub.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

www.801bourbon.com

Sidebar at Aqua

504 Angela St.

Kristen McNamara, Wednesdays

and Saturdays, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

www.sidebarkeywest.com

La Te Da

1125 Duval St.

Christopher Peterson, Aug. 30, Sept. 1 and 4, 9 p.m.

3Sum, Aug. 30 and 31, Sept. 1-2, 8:30 p.m.

Ronnie Lively, Sept. 3, 8:30

The Fabulous Spectrelles, Sept. 4-5, 8:30 p.m.

Tea Dance, Sundays 4-6:30 p.m.

www.Lateda.com

AROUND KEY WEST

Local Farm Stand

Wednesdays, 5-7 p.m.

Mellow Café and Gastropub

1605 North Roosevelt Blvd.

Ghost Tours and Ghost Hunts

Nightly

301 Whitehead St. and 1102 Duval St.

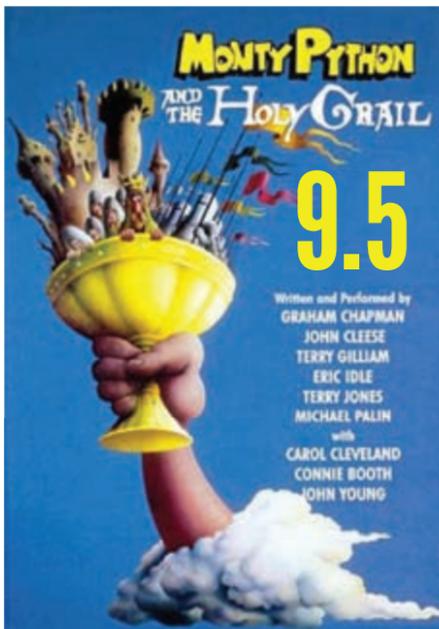
305-395-1435

www.hauntedkeywest.com ■



■ Catch Jerod and whichever talented friends and musicians join him for **Jerrod Isaman and Friends Live**, Aug. 30, 10 p.m., Mary Ellen's, 420 Appelrouth Lane

— www.maryellensbar.com



■ **Summerish Fun Movie Series: "Monty Python and the Holy Grail,"** Sept. 5, 7 p.m., The Key West Theater, 512 Eaton St. — www.thekeywesttheater.com



■ **Happy Hours with Kristen McNamara**, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 6:30 p.m., Sidebar at Aqua, 504 Angela St. — www.sidebarkeywest.com

■ **Aqua Idol for Fantasy Fest King and Queen**, Sept. 4, 6:30 p.m., Aqua Nightclub, 711 Duval St. — www.aquakeywest.com





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HAPPY HOUR
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KIDS EAT FREE

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ALL DAY EVERY DAY!

Facebook Twitter Instagram

\$14 SHRIMP DINNER

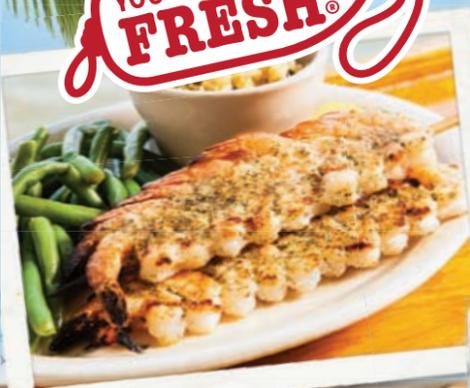
9 Delicious Ways to Choose From:

Peel & Eat, Scampi, Coconut, Fried, Buffalo, Boom Boom, Blackened, Grilled, BBQ

Served with a choice of 2 Sides

PINCHERS

*Must present coupon before ordering. Must purchase a beverage. Not valid with any other discounts or offers including Kids Eat Free. - FW EXPIRES 9/16/18





Anne Walters and Jennifer Franke in traditional German garb.

COURTESY PHOTOS

BREWFEST

From page 1

who is wearing a traditional German dirndl hands you a tall, foamy-headed golden pilsner and you think to yourself, "Wait ... have I died and gone to hoppy Heaven? Does everyone get a drink ticket at the pearly gates?!" No, friend, you haven't ascended to the great beer hall in the sky and this is definitely not a dream; you've just happened to find yourself at Key West BrewFest, an alcoholic oasis among the palm trees and the heat waves coming off of the scorching pavement.

Think of Brewfest as Key West's interpretation of Oktoberfest ... in September (don't ask questions; we do what we want down here). As though it's any surprise for a reputedly hard-drinking town, Key West BrewFest — now in its ninth year — has become a hugely successful event.

What started as a small town gathering for beer enthusiasts has ballooned to a five-day, 30-plus event festival featuring more than 200 beers, thanks to a generous collaboration between the Southernmost Hotel Collection and the Key West Sunrise Rotary of the Conch Republic, with proceeds to benefit the Rotary Club's many charitable efforts.

Spread out across Labor Day weekend, this year's Brewfest offers something to please even the most snobbish of beer consumers. There are intimate beer-paired cooking classes, raucous pool parties, sunset beer cruises, beer-themed fun runs, hangover brunches, late-night meet-ups and even a New Orleans marching band that will boogie you down to the Green Parrot after you've finished tasting every brew under the sun while relaxing on the white sand of South Beach, located at the southern end of Duval Street at the Southernmost Beach Resort.

The festival has been painstakingly put together for all manner of consumers, from beer aficionados to casual con-



Brewfest is Key West's interpretation of Oktoberfest.

sumers to total newcomers to the beer world. There will be ales, lagers, Weiss biers, stouts, microbrews, special brews, throwback brews and brews served in plastic buckets. Brews with no gluten, extra gluten and just the right amount of gluten. Brews with unpronounceable German names, classic favorites and limited-release drafts.

Representatives from breweries across the nation will be happy to chat you up over a frosty draft.

There will be tacos. There will be epic rounds of beer pong played in a sparkling hotel pool.

You're guaranteed to hear the word "mouthfeel" at least once per hour.

And yes, there will be pigtailed and

dirndls.

Here's the rundown of events:

Thursday, Aug. 30

■ **All day event:** Poker Run: Stop by five participating bars and have a pint from the featured brewery to receive a poker card from each bar. Turn in your hand at the Sunset Pier by 8 p.m. on Friday. \$200+ in prizes will be awarded to the winners. Participating bars/restaurants to receive a card are: Cork and Stogie, Old Town Tavern, Sinz Burrito, General Horseplay and Sunset Pier.

■ **1-4 p.m.:** Estrella Galicia Pool Party at The Marker Waterfront Resort featuring DJ Chaka, beer specials, tapas, a Jenga competition and giveaways.

Located at 200 William St.

■ **3 p.m.:** Duck, dive and dodge your way to the winner's circle in the first annual Key West BrewFest Dodgeball Tournament at 24 North Hotel, sponsored by Wynwood Brewing Co., Tampa Bay Brewing Co., Florida Keys Brewing Co. and Waterfront Brewing Co. Bring a team of five to compete in a bracket-style tournament. The \$20 entry fee per team benefits the Key West Sunset Rotary Club. Located at 3820 N. Roosevelt Blvd.

■ **5:30-9 p.m.:** Shipyard Brewery Tap Invasion at the Green Parrot Bar. Located at 601 Whitehead St.

■ **6 p.m.:** Opening Kick-off party at Waterfront Brewery. The Waterfront

Brewery will be releasing new brews at the event, in addition to their 13 beers on tap. Enjoy Key West specialty draft beers, great food and fun. Located at 201 William St.

■ **6:30 p.m.:** Blue Heaven beer dinner featuring Florida Keys Brewing Company. Reservations required. Located at 729 Thomas St.

■ **7 p.m.:** Dog Fish Head Beer Dinner at Bagatelle. Located at 115 Duval St. Tickets are \$99 per person plus tax and gratuity.

■ **7 p.m.:** Barrel of Monks Beer Dinner at The Perry Hotel. Located at 7001 Shrimp Road, Stock Island. Tickets are \$85 per person plus tax and gratuity.

Friday, Aug. 31

All day event: Poker Run: Stop by five participating bars and have a pint from the featured brewery to receive a poker card. Turn in your hand at the Sunset Pier by 8 p.m. on Friday. \$200-plus in prizes will be awarded.

Participating bars/restaurants to receive a card are: Cork and Stogie, Old Town Tavern, Sinz Burrito, General Horseplay and Sunset Pier.

■ **Noon to 3 p.m.:** BYOD (Bring Your Own Dog) to the Lagunitas Tap Takeover at Island Dogs during the Island Dogs Pup Kraal. Continue the party at Shots and Giggles, then head over to Turtle Kraals. A portion of all proceeds will benefit the local FKSPCA. The Kraal kicks off at 505 Front St.

■ **1-4 p.m.:** Come party with the Islamorada Brewing Company Crew at Southernmost Beach Resort's Pineapple Pool. There will be an Islamorada Brewing Company tap takeover, DJ, games and giveaways all afternoon long. At 1319 Duval St.

■ **1-4 p.m.:** Keybilly Island Ale Pool Party at The Marker Waterfront Resort. Enjoy tunes from DJ Chaka, giveaways from Keybilly Island Ale and drink specials all afternoon. At 200 William St.

■ **2-6 p.m.:** Florida Tap Takeover with special release beers released every half hour at the Waterfront Brewery, 201 William St.

■ **2:30-5 p.m.:** Bring your team of four to the second annual Paddle Battle at Mellow Ventures Café. Compete alongside your favorite breweries in this relay-style race. Located at 1605 N. Roosevelt Blvd.

■ **4:20-9 p.m.:** Link up with the Pup Kraal-ers for Lagunitas' Acoustic Sunset at the top of Turtle Kraals. Watch the famous Key West sunset from one of the premiere spots on the island.

There will be plenty of cold beer, live music and, of course, the world-famous turtle races. At 231 Margaret St.

■ **4-7 p.m.:** Funky Buddha and Ballast Point Brewery Pool Party at the Wicker Guesthouse. At 913 Duval St.

■ **5-8 p.m.:** Cigar City Brewing and Rodriguez Cigar Pairing at the Rodriguez Lounge at the Gates Hotel. At 3824 N. Roosevelt Blvd.

■ **5-8 p.m.:** South Beach Brew Company Pool Party at The Marker Waterfront Resort. Giveaways, a DJ and drink specials all evening long. At 200 William St.

■ **7 p.m.:** Kona Beer Beach Party at the Southernmost Beach Café overlooking the Atlantic Ocean featuring four food stations paired with Kona Beer, including one rare brew coming all the way from Hawaii. Tickets \$60, plus tax and gratuity. At 1405 Duval Street.

■ **7 p.m.:** Florida Whales at The Porch. Check out some of the rare and hard-to-find beers from some of your favorite breweries in Florida and beyond. At 429 Caroline St.

■ **8 p.m.:** Lagunitas Pint Night at the Green Parrot Bar. Buy a pint and keep the mason jar. At 601 Whitehead St.

■ **9 p.m.:** Let's get poppin' with Lagunitas and Corn & Co. Craft Popcorn as they pair some of Lagunitas' most special beers with Corn & Co. specialty

popcorn at General Horseplay. Try one or get a flight and try them all! All the way from Jupiter (Florida, that is), The Helmsmen will play Island Indie tunes on the patio. At 423 Caroline St.

Saturday, Sept. 1

■ **8:30 a.m.:** The Magic Hat BrewFest Hot Trot kicks off your Saturday nice and early. Jog from The Southernmost Beach Café to The Porch, drink a beer and run back. 7:30 a.m. bib pick-up and registration.

■ **3-5 p.m.:** VIP admission at the Key West BrewFest Signature Tasting Festival on South Beach. Tickets for \$75 must be purchased in advance and are limited, so act fast. At 1405 Duval St.

■ **5-8 p.m.:** The Signature Tasting Festival on South Beach. Tickets are \$40 in advance; \$50 day of or at the door. At 1405 Duval Street.

■ **8 p.m.:** The Second Line March led by New Orleans band Water Seed, sponsored by New Belgium Brewery, leaves South Beach at end of the Signature Tasting Festival.

Put your dancing shoes on to march your way from the festival at South Beach to the Green Parrot Bar via Duval Street. Keep the night alive with the live brass band leading you to the next party!

■ **8 p.m.:** Enjoy Water Seed on stage at the Green Parrot Bar for the after party. At 601 Whitehead St.

■ **8 p.m.:** Key West BrewFest's annual after party at The Porch and General Horseplay. At 423 and 429 Caroline St.

Sunday, Sept. 2

■ **9 a.m. until the party ends:** Hang-over Brunch and Pool Party at The Perry Hotel. Call 305-294-3939 to reserve your table for brunch at Matt's, then head over to the Perry's waterfront pool for live music, pool floats, beer games and more.

Pool party is open to brunchers and non-brunchers alike. At 7001 Shrimp Rd., Stock Island.

■ **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.:** First Class brunch at First Flight Island Restaurant & Brewery with beer specials to pair. At 301 Whitehead St.

■ **Noon to 7 p.m.:** Lagunitas Pool Party at the Southernmost Beach Resort Pineapple Pool. Cool off and ease into the evening at the Pineapple Pool as the sun sets on Key West BrewFest 2018. Enjoy cold beers, live music and fresh eats.

There will be a VIP area available as well, with proceeds benefiting the Key West Reef Relief Foundation. At 1405 Duval St.

■ **1-4 p.m.:** Kona Pool Party at The Marker Waterfront Resort, featuring tunes by DJ Jimmy and a pig roast. \$20 buys you a plate full of pig roast and a draft Kona beer. At 200 William Street.

■ **1-4 p.m.:** Funky Buddha Brewing Co. Tap Takeover at the Salty Lime in the Hilton Garden Inn. At 3850 N. Roosevelt Blvd.

■ **5-8 p.m.:** Islamorada Beer Co. Tap Takeover at Rum Row at The Gates Hotel. At 3824 N. Roosevelt Blvd.

■ **7 p.m.:** Funky Buddha Beer Dinner at the Southernmost Beach Café. Tickets are \$60 plus tax and gratuity per person. At 1405 Duval St.

Monday, Sept. 3

■ **7 p.m.:** Bingo at the Green Parrot. Located at 601 Whitehead Street.

■ **7 p.m.:** Funky Buddha Dinner at Roostica. At 5620 MacDonald Ave., Stock Island.

To book tickets to any of the above events, visit www.keywestbrewfest.com/tickets.



LABOR DAY WEEKEND CELEBRATIONS



friday, august 31
islamorada pool party

giveaways, \$5 drafts & \$6 new islamorada rum

noon-4pm



friday, august 31
kona beach party dinner

5 courses paired with kona beers
2 speciality beers being flown in to pair with fish from hawaii

7pm

\$60 plus tax per person



9th Annual



saturday sept 1
lagunitas pool party

hang by the pool with the helmsman's band

3-8pm

tickets on sale on keystix.com



sunday, sept 2
funky buddha beer dinner

tickets on sale on keystix.com

noon-7pm

\$60 plus tax per person



sunday, sept 2
funky buddha dinner

tickets on sale on keystix.com

7pm

\$60 plus tax per person



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Cupcake Sushi makes delicious mini-cupcakes.

COURTESY PHOTO

MADE

From page 1

days, and while there's an obvious way to partake in Key West — hello, hog-fish charter-to-table dinner — you'd be missing out if you thought the only way to pile your plate with local delicacies was by sampling whatever seafood was freshest on the docks this morning. First, when putting your cocktail order in, specify you'd like your rum from Papa's Pilar, one of Key West's newer rum distilleries inspired by Papa Hemingway himself. Named for Ernest Hemingway's favorite muse, his sailboat the Pilar, Papa's Pilar's motto is "Never a Spectator" — a tribute to the adventuring lifestyle of one of America's greatest novelists and (possibly) one of the world's greatest adventurers, if only on the page. Papa's Pilar rums are solera blended, a unique process that blends spirits of mixed ages in such a way that the average age of the spirit gradually increases as the process continues over a number of years. In the case of Papa's Pilar's rums, the blonde is solera aged in bourbon barrels whereas the dark is aged in a mixture of bourbon barrels and port wine casks. This time-intensive process lends each rum a very distinctive taste — citrus and vanilla for the blonde and cinnamon and coffee for the dark — and an exceptionally smooth texture. Though this author will never turn down a Dark and Stormy on a hot day, Papa's Pilar's rums are equally delicious served over ice and savored sip by sip. Those hankering for a taste should make their way to the distillery's home at 201 Simonton St. for rum tastings and hourly guided tours of

the factory's stills. And if rum isn't your thing (gasp!), the Papa's Pilar distillery is full of incredible Hemingway-related memorabilia and history so you can get an education while your companions get tipsy. Win/win!

Equally delicious but with decidedly less of a hangover, Denise Chelekis' "Lick Your Lips" Spinach Artichoke Dip is the island's latest savory snack of choice. After noticing that customers dining at Camille's (the restaurant she owned with her husband until recently) couldn't get enough of the scrumptious spinach artichoke dip on their appetizer menu, Denise decided to bring the creamy treat to the masses. At the moment, you can find the delectable dip in a number of locations in Key West, including at local grocery chain Faus-to's, fried chicken purveyor Dion's Quik Mart and Uppy's Quick Mart. Denise's dip is strictly locals only, so we recommend you get your fill here in Key West while you can snag a container or ten (and maybe stash a few with an ice pack in your luggage for a little taste of Key West when you get back home).

If you've saved room for dessert, Key West offers one of the more unique options available: sushi. No, we're not suggesting you follow up a plate of spinach artichoke dip with fish roe and seaweed (though we pass no judgment on those who think that sounds delicious). We're huge fans of Key West's own Cupcake Sushi, which is precisely what it sounds like: mouthwatering, colorful "sushi" rolls made of cake and frosting, authentically served with chopsticks. Local chef Lori Shubert, who invented Cupcake Sushi after trying to perfect mini-cupcakes for her clients, is fully cognizant of how much diners enjoy the theatrical aspects of watching one's sushi be handmade in front of them.

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Cupcake Sushi

As such, she makes each roll by hand behind her rolling sushi cart. Cupcake Sushi is available at its storefront at 7009 Shrimp Rd. on Stock Island, as well as at farmers markets and private events (occasionally you'll find a roll packaged to go at both Fausto's locations and at Eaton St. Seafood, but they tend to fly off the shelves as soon as they're stocked). With flavors like Caramel Peanut, Chocolate Almond, Red Velvet and even Maple Crunchy Bacon, it's a far cry from your traditional spicy tuna roll ... though we wouldn't say no to one of each.

If you've spent any time in Key West, you know our island is extremely walkable, with many historic points of interest located near enough one another to warrant a full day of strolling the streets. That kind of pavement pounding can be murder on the feet, not to mention your footwear.

Tradition says that when a pair of shoes is extremely comfortable, they're usually not very attractive (see: Crocs, Uggs and those white off-brand sneaker-



COURTESY PHOTO

Denise Chelekis' "Lick Your Lips" spinach artichoke dip

ers your grandfather wears). But if it's handcrafted quality you're after, be prepared to wait weeks, sometimes months, to receive your goods. And if, miraculously, a pair manages to be attractive, comfortable, made by hand and they don't take a month to arrive, they will invariably cost a fortune. The only exception we've found? Key West's local sandal shop: the eponymously named Kino's, whose origin story reads like a

Lifetime movie. After he and his family were able to escape Cuba in 1965, Roberto "Kino" Lopez arrived in Key West with the dream of opening his own leather sandal factory. His old-world style, handmade sandals quickly gained in popularity thanks to their legendary comfort, affordability, and quality materials.

Today, the Kino family manufactures more than 20 different styles of sandals,



COURTESY PHOTO

Kino sandals.

as well as purses, wallets and various other leather goods. Each is handmade in the family's open-air factory at Old Town's Kino's Plaza, corner of Green and Fitzpatrick streets. Shoppers waiting to snag a few pairs can watch the artisans assembling sandals by hand right in front of them. The whole experience conjures the feeling that one has stepped backward in time, with architecture reminiscent of Old Havana, the scent of leather and rubber heavy on the breeze and prices so low you won't have to choose between your top three choices; buy them all, as well as a couple pairs for folks back home.

Kino's doesn't ship or allow other stores to its their merchandise. Shoes are only offered at the factory, so you can feel good knowing you've purchased something truly unique to the island. So buckle on a pair, head out into the sun and start exploring. Who knows? You might wind up being inspired to start your own Key West business. ■

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MUSIC SCENE

Ship a' Dani Hoy!

BY BUCKY MONTGOMERY
Florida Weekly Correspondent

It's hard to believe Dani Hoy has only been on the island for four years and nine months, yet she's already etched out a notable spot among the island's most prolific trop rock entertainers, on and off Duval Street, with a little bit of country rock style.

Hailing originally from Baltimore, Md., Dani spent half her life in southeastern Pennsylvania. She started guitar lessons at age 12.

She moved to Key West from York, Penn., in 2013. She had visited before, back in 2010, and fell in love with the island and the lifestyle.

"I saw the opportunity to be creative," she says about making the move to her new home. "But I'll always be an Orioles fan," she's quick to add.

The trop rock bug had already bit tenher up north.

"I began writing there," she says. "I started traveling and promoting myself, mostly at Parrothead events, trying to find an audience. I heard all these guys on an internet radio station singing about escapism and realized I wasn't hearing many songs by women."

Thinking she "could probably figure out how to do this," she wrote her first sone, "Tropical Man," with that in mind. Still in Pennsylvania, she did open mics and played small restaurants around her home and in 2012 released her first CD. Appropriately entitled "Tropigal," it was a harbinger of things to soon come.

From her bio: "Carrying out her motto — 'Better late than never' — Dani started her musical career around the age of 40 and has established herself as a serious songwriter and an engaging vocalist. Her ability to connect warmly with audiences, as well as her adventurous yet vulnerable songwriting style, has garnered her many fans over the last few years."

She counts among her songwriting inspirations Lucinda Williams, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Bruce Cockburn and, of course, Jimmy Buffett.

"If it weren't for Jimmy Buffett, I wouldn't be here," she says.

It was around this time she met her Key West partner, Chris Rehm, at one of Howard Livingston's Meet Me in the Keys events. They became Facebook friends in June 2009 and moved here together in 2013. They share two adopted rescue whippets from Baton Rouge, Cajun and Tooloulou, and they play together in their band with the whippet-inspired name, The Shanty Hounds.

Dani says Chris believes all music created in Key West should be called Conch Rock because "we live in the Conch Republic, on a big rock."

Chris is also part owner of the Cork and Stogie bar on upper Duval Street.

After a previous life dedicated to graphic design (she has a bachelors degree in commercial art and was a graphic designer for 16 years), Dani feels fortunate to be playing music full-time now.

"My first job in Key West was doing



graphic design at the Key West Citizen," she says, adding the Shanty Hounds band logo is her work. "Playing in Key West is inspiring as a songwriter. Just looking out at the street, there's always a party going on."

Both Dani and Chris have songs on the celebrated "Best of Key West, Volume One" CD, the sultry and Sade-ish "Some Like It Hot" and the trop-rock "My Little Island Town," respectively, along with songs from 16 other popular Key West singers and songwriters. The CD is available at Key West retail outlets including Smokin' Tuna Saloon, Conch Republic Seafood Company and Key West Island Books on Fleming Street.

It's also on iTunes and at CDBaby.com for digital download and hard copies.

Her cherished EP, "At the End of a Long Road," an homage to the Mile 0 sign on Whitehead Street, was recorded via Skype in Abingdon, Md., with help from Orca Sound Studio producer Kevin Johnston and features Nashville studio musicians Jerry Roe on drums, Dave Roe on bass and Kenny Vaughn on guitars. In total she has three CDs: "Tropigal," "Songs of Love and the Ocean" and "At the End of a Long Road." Explore them at your leisure at DaniHoy.com or any major internet music provider.

"Dani has the best female voice on the island," Chris says. "Sure, I'm biased," he adds, "but it's not just me. She's also the reigning Best Female Vocalist from Beachfront Radio (based in Maryland), and we're always told The Shanty Hounds have great charisma and energy. People are always complimenting her on her beautiful voice. It never gets old."

Dani plays solo on Mondays at the Salty Angler. Hear her with Chris as The Shanty Hounds on Tuesdays at Ricks Entertainment Complex from noon to 4 p.m., on Thursdays at Grunts from 8-11 p.m. and Fridays and Sundays at Willie T's from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. They also play the occasional gig at Conch Republic Seafood Company, Two Friends and up the keys at Boondocks and Mangrove Mama's.

Given the choice, "I like playing off Duval," she says. "It's a more intimate atmosphere where I can connect with the audience." ■

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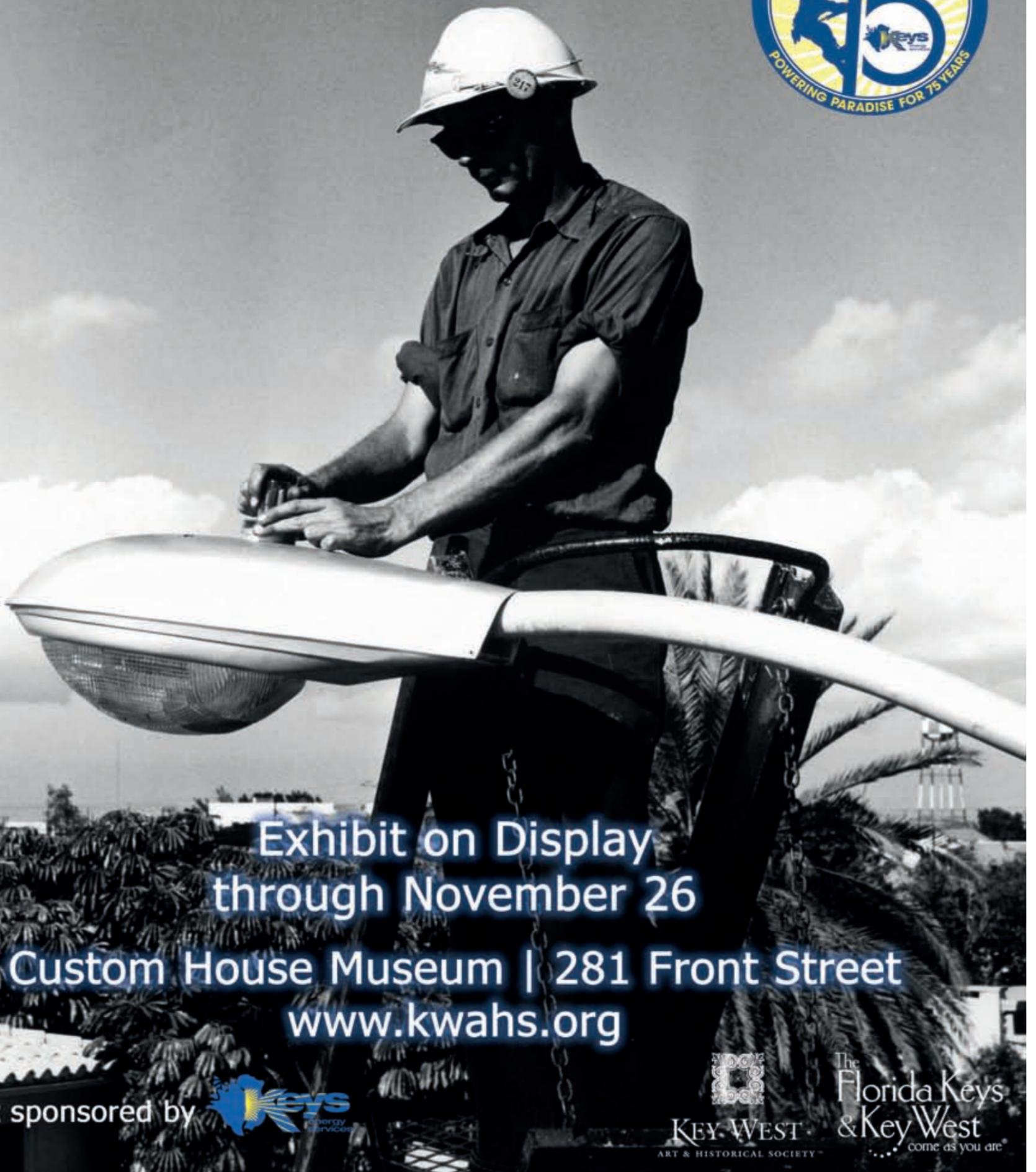


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My New Joint
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\$1 off draft beer and wine by the glass
\$6 cocktail specials daily
Happy hour menu and late-night menu
Check the websites for details
www.Squaregrouperbarandgrill.com
www.Mynewjoint420lounge.com

- Sunset Tiki Bar at the Galleon Resort**
617 Front St.
10 a.m.-noon (except Sundays)
2-for-1 Bloody Marys
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www.Galleonresort.com
- Tattoos and Scars**
512 Greene St.
Stella on draft \$4 all day
www.Tattoosandscarssaloon.com
- Tiki House**
430 Greene St.
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www.tikihousekw.com
- Turtle Kraals**
231 Margaret St.
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www.Turtlekraals.com
- Two Friends Patio Restaurant**
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Early bird dinner specials
www.Twofriendskw.com
- Vinos on Duval**
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Sundays
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www.Vinosonduval.com
- Viva Saloon**
903 Duval St.
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www.Vivakeywest.com
- The Waterfront Brewery**
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www.thewaterfrontbrewery.com
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KEY WEST CUISINE

Bringing the Big Easy to Key West

BY JENNIFER WHITE
Florida Weekly Correspondent

If you step into the walk-in refrigerator at Blossoms Cajun Kitchen at the quiet end of Old Town you would be hard pressed to find any store-bought non-perishable ingredients or ready-made sauces and seasonings. Instead almost everything will have been crafted just hours ago and labeled accordingly in its own reusable container. Whenever painstakingly possible, all that is made at Blossoms is carefully curated from scratch whether it be the muffuletta bread or the andouille sausage. That makes sitting outside on the patio, along the edge of a charming residential neighborhood while enjoying an authentic gumbo feel as though you have suddenly been transported to the humble yesteryears of the French Quarter before it was crowded. Except it is here, 1,000 miles away and located at 408 White St. with none of the pretense and with all of the charm.

“When you make it from scratch, you tend to run out of stuff sometimes because you only made enough for that day,” Blossoms owner Shannan De La Rosa admits. “It’s happened to us a few times. Once we ran out of almost everything and had to close early.”

For those seeking a change but not wanting to give up their identities, Key West can be the welcoming hug that you’ve been looking for. For Louisiana natives Shannan and her husband José, it was the sun they first came looking for. After Hurricane Katrina led them to the freezing winters of upstate New York for seven too long, cold years, they decided to go as far south as they could legally go. It took them only four hours to fall in love with the island that reminded them a little bit of where they came from. The couple moved down exactly 365 days later, having found the paradise they were looking for. But paradise was missing one thing: the food they were accustomed to eating.

Key West and New Orleans have a lot of similarities. Both are a little quirky. Thanks to their Bourbon Street and our Duval Street, both have developed a reputation as laid back and easy-going drinking towns, where walking around with a beverage in your hand is not only tolerated but perfectly normal. Yet even with all the boxes that each place simultaneously ticks off, one of the obvious differences between the Conch Republic and the Big Easy is the cuisine. With its blend of French, Spanish, West African, Amerindian, Haitian, German and Italian influences it is hard to compete with the assertiveness of this uniquely particular fusion that is the backbone of New Orleans. And although Key West lacks no shortage of world-class restaurants, most would argue that nothing comes close to not only the history, but the flavor of Creole and Cajun cooking.

“This is so much in Key West like New Orleans except there is way less crime here and you can swim in the ocean,” Shannon says.

“And the food is different,” I can’t help but add.

With that said it seems only natural that they would pool their years of experience in the hospitality industry with the knowledge of the dishes they grew up eating, buy the small café known as Blossoms and turn it into their own little culinary destination. What was once a sandwich shop with a shady history is now a mom-and-pop restaurant with all the fixin’s and it’s worth mentioning that they have recently renovated. Gone are the bags of animal feed that used to



be piled high in the corner. Brand new floors, a fresh coat of paint, up-cycled tiffany lamps and intimate tables have all been added.

“Everyone used to reference it as a hole in the wall or a dive,” Shannan explains. “Now they say it’s like eating at home with your family.”

Shannan and José have created a family of loyal patrons. Locals and tourists alike come back again and again for comfort dishes like the crawfish étouffée, the jambalaya and the bayou trio, a mix of alligator, crawfish and shrimp over rice in a rich, creamy sauce. Shannan tells me she takes more than six hours to make the sauce. And she won’t share the recipe.

“It’s orgasmic!” she exclaims. “Our food is authentic and savory and keeps you coming back for more. I’m very proud to say that we’ve gotten awards from Yelp because we are the only five-star restaurant in town with over 100 reviews. Even with 132 reviews we’ve managed to keep the five stars.”

They also come back for the laughs. “We joke around as much as we can. If they dish it out, then I dish it right back,” Shannan smiles.

The two make a dedicated team by respectfully honoring both their heritage and their customers. If Shannan isn’t managing the front of the house and José isn’t in the kitchen then that’s because they are not open.

Although Blossoms does not offer alcoholic beverages for sale, it is BYOB certified so make sure that you bring a six pack with you to go along with your traditional fried shrimp po’boy. An ice cold one will help wash down the little bit of heat from the homemade remoulade. They also offer catering for large events or will pack up quarts of their delicious stews for you to take home and pass around the table family-style with your friends. One thing is for certain though, that if you choose to visit their newly renovated dining room then it will be like you are hanging out with Shannan and José in a place that is a little like New Orleans, but without a doubt unmistakably Key West.

Bon appétit! ■

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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, 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



COURTESY PHOTO

remains a reputable dealer of original Audubon work. The three-story home is filled with precious antiques 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. ■

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

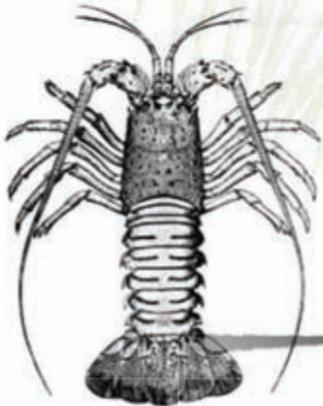
in the know

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 www.audubonhouse.com.



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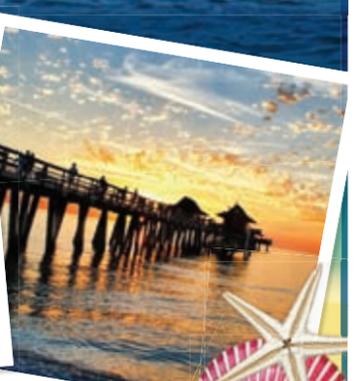
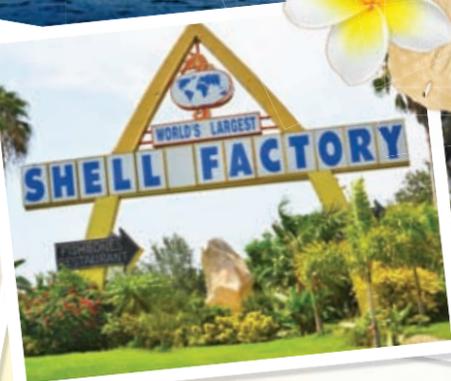
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www.audubonhouse.com
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CityView Trolley

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1045 Whitehead St.
305-294-0644
www.cityviewtrolleys.com
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Conch Tour Train

303 Front St.
305-294-5161 or 888-916-8687
www.conchtourtrain.com
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Custom House

281 Front St.
305-295-6616
www.kwahs.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
www.hemingwayhome.com
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Fort East Martello Museum

3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd.
305-296-3913
www.kwahs.com
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Ghost Tours and Ghost Hunts

301 Whitehead and 1102 Duval Street
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www.hauntedkeywest.com
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Harry S. Truman

Little White House
111 Front St.
305-294-9911
www.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
www.keywestaids.org
At the entrance to the White Street pier, the Key West AIDS Memorial commemorates Florida Keys-friendly people who died from AIDS-related causes.



The historic Key West Lighthouse and Museum located on Whitehead Street.

Key West Aquarium

1 Whitehead St., at Mallory Square,
800-544-5927
www.keywestaquarium.com
The aquarium is home to alligators, jellyfish, sharks and many other marine animals. Guided tours and feeding presentations are available.

The Key West Butterfly & Nature Conservatory

1316 Duval St.
305-296-2988 or 800-839-4647
www.keywestbutterfly.com
More than 50 butterfly species from around the world and 20 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
www.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
www.kwahs.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
www.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

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www.thekeywesttheater.com
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www.keywestbotanicalgarden.org
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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

www.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.

Mel Fisher Maritime Museum

200 Greene St.
305-294-2633

www.melfisher.org
Exhibits include treasures from the Spanish galleons of 1622 discovered by Mel Fisher and his crew.

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490 Whitehead St., corner of Fleming Street



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

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www.historictours.com/keywest
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Red Barn Theatre

319 Duval St.
305-296-9911

www.redbarntheatre.com
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Ripley's Believe It or Not!

108 Duval St.
305-293-9939

www.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

www.instituteosancarlos.org
This historic landmark serves as a Cuban museum, library, art gallery and theater.

The Southernmost Point

The Southernmost Point
Corner of Whitehead and South streets
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The Studios of Key West

533 Eaton St.
305-296-0458

www.tskw.org
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Tennessee Williams Key West Exhibit

513 Truman Ave.
305-842-1666

www.twkw.org
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Tennessee Williams Theatre

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www.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)

www.tropiccinema.com
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www.waterfrontplayhouse.org
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West Martello Tower

1100 Atlantic Blvd.
305-294-3210

www.keywestgardenclub.com
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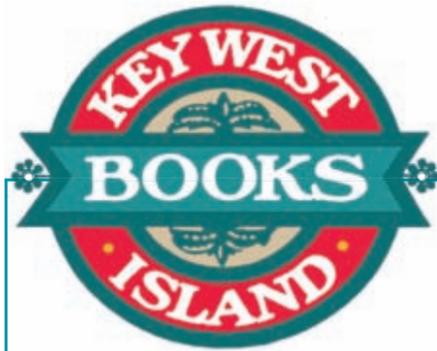


SUNSET BY NICK DOLL



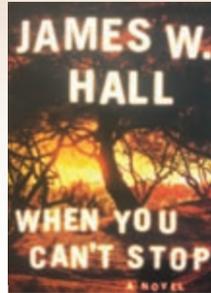
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The works of American photographer Walker Evans are on display at Custom House Museum

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A selection of prints captured by Walker Evans, an American photographer recognized for pioneering a documentary style of photography during the Great Depression on behalf of the Farm Security Administration, is currently on exhibit in the foyer at the Custom House Museum. “3 Weeks in Cuba: Walker Evans & Ernest Hemingway” features 12 of Evans’ 46 images taken while on assignment in Cuba and reveals a visual account of Havana in 1933.

Considered one of the greatest photographers of his time, Evans’ straightforward precision in his approach to portraiture and documentary redefined the genre. A literary thinker, most of his images were shot for books, magazines, articles and essays. Some of the prints in the Custom House exhibit were included in the book “The Crime of Cuba,” published in several magazines, and featured in other gallery exhibitions. They form part of the larger collection of 46 on loan by Key West local Benjamin “Din” Bruce, whose family were longtime friends of the Hemingways.

Evans, who was on assignment in Cuba for “The Crime of Cuba,” an expose of the corrupt regime of President Gerardo Machado, feared the images could be confiscated by Machado operatives. Evans entrusted the 46 images to Hemingway, who was also in Cuba gathering material for his novel “To Have and Have Not.” The two had met purely by coincidence, spending many afternoons and evenings together, forming an ephemeral friendship. Hemingway even loaned Evans money to extend his stay in Cuba when



his assignment money ran out.

The images capture a range of micro and macro information and reveal the context of Havana’s 1933 culture, doing with images what a writer might do in words. Beggars, children, café patrons, fruit cart vendors — the images relay “Cuba’s people, its ethnic diversity, its shops, professions, the look and feel of its street and urban life,” says Society Curator Cori Convertito, Ph.D.

“Life for Cubans in the 1930s was tumultuous,” she says. “Their political system was in the midst of an upheaval, but for visitors it was an entirely different experience. Havana was a flourishing and fashionable city which attracted many literary and musical greats, along with some of Europe’s most distinguished luminaries and personalities. The dichotomy of the poor residents alongside the well-heeled visitors shaped

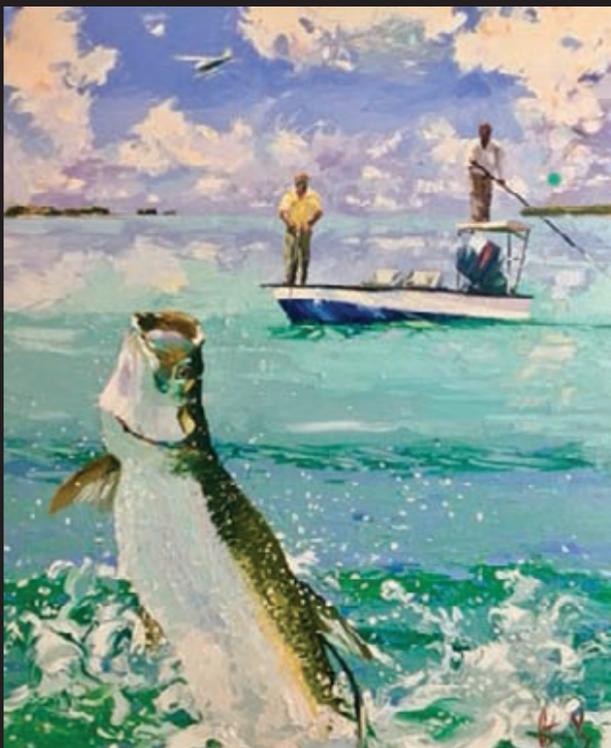
both Evans’ and Hemingway’s experience in Cuba in 1933.”

Though Hemingway and Evans never corresponded or met again, those weeks in Havana had a lasting effect on each of them. Over the years, both commented on their friendship and time together.

“3 Weeks in Cuba: Walker Evans & Ernest Hemingway” is on display in the Custom House Museum foyer until Oct. 10. ■

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The Key West Art & Historical Society's four museums free for locals the first Sunday of each month

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Round up friends and family or fly solo on the first Sunday of each month and check out the arts, history and culture of your hometown — for free. Key West Art & Historical Society celebrates locals the first Sunday of every month with free admission to all four museums under its stewardship: The Custom House Museum, Key West Lighthouse & Keeper's Quarters, Fort East Martello Museum, and the Tennessee Williams Museum. They're listed by TripAdvisor as four of the 10 best museums in Key West. Hours at all four are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily except for Christmas.

Here's just a sampling of what is happening now at all four museums:

■ **Custom House Museum, 281 Front St.,** is the iconic four-story architectural "crown jewel" of Key West and one of the finest examples of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture in the U.S.:

"Islands, Imagination and Instance: Florida Keys Folk Art," Bryan Gallery, on exhibit through Sunday, Jan. 6 - Discover how folk artists Stanley Papio, Makiki, Mario Sanchez, Jack Baron, Papito Suarez and others celebrated and expressed their cultural identity through community aesthetics. View the paintings, sculptures and works on paper that reveal how the flora and fauna (islands), the originality (imagination) and atmosphere (instance) of the Florida Keys have shaped them artistically.

"Powering Paradise: 75th Anniversary of Keys Energy," Bumpus Gallery, on exhibit through Nov. 26 - Explore the history and operations of Keys Energy Service, the public power company utility for the Lower Florida Keys that provides electricity from Key West to the Seven-Mile Bridge.

"3 Weeks in Cuba: Walker Evans & Ernest Hemingway" on exhibit in the Custom House Museum foyer through Oct. 10 - Features 12 images taken by Evans, considered one of the greatest photographers of his time, while on assignment in Cuba in 1933.

Ongoing: Guy Harvey's "The Old Man and The Sea" sketches - Featuring 59 original pen-and-ink drawings inspired by Hemingway's "The Old Man and The Sea," created by internationally acclaimed artist and conservationist Guy Harvey, completed when he was a teenager.

Ongoing: "Overseas to the Keys: Henry Flagler's Overseas Railway," second floor - Celebrating an important part of Florida Keys history and the incredible engineering feat that joined mainland Florida to Key West. Outstanding elements include a railroad car that transports visitors back to the early 1900s, an oversized map of the Florida Keys, home video shot from the railroad in the 1920s and related objects and ephemera from The Society's permanent collection. Supported by the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust, Thomas Kenan, the Monroe County Tourist Development Council, and Lamont Harris.

■ **Fort East Martello Museum, 3501 South Roosevelt Blvd.,** was constructed to provide protection for Key West against the possibility of an enemy sea assault and today is one of the finest preserved examples of Martello style military architecture in the United States:

"Stanley Papio - Junkyard Rebel," permanent exhibit - Namesake of the annual Key West Art & Historical Society Papio Kinetic Sculpture and Art Bike



COURTESY PHOTO

The Tennessee Williams Museum, 513 Truman Ave., one of four museums stewarded by Key West Art & Historical Society where locals can enjoy free admission on the first Sunday of each month, showcases highlights from the playwright's life and work while living in Key West from 1941 until his death in 1983.



The Custom House



The Fort East Martello Museum



The Key West Lighthouse & Keeper's Quarters.

Parade, Stanley Papio saw art where others saw junk. For more than three decades, the rebellious welder-turned-metal-artist transformed the "trash" in his Key Largo yard into extraordinary works of art, many of them comical and caustic commentary on neighbors and naysayers. Today more than 100 sculptural objects and three-dimensional constructions are housed at the Fort.

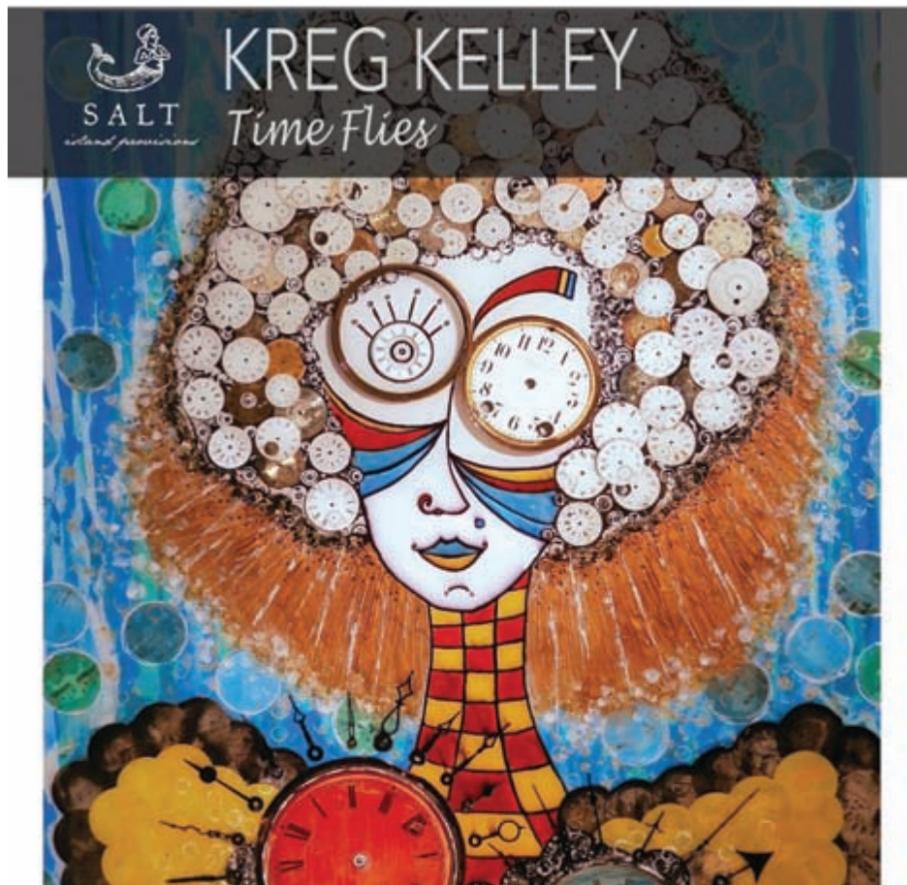
"Ghosts of East Martello," permanent exhibit - Pay your respects to Robert, the world's most famous haunted doll, whose mesmerizing and eerie history began just after the turn of the 20th century when he was created by the Steiff Company and given to young Gene Otto, son of a prominent Key West doctor. Delve into the bizarre but true lore of Carl Tanzler, self-proclaimed Count von Cosel, and his passion for the beautiful, but unfortunately deceased, Elena Milagro Hoyos Mesa, with whom he lived until 1940, when he was arrested for grave robbery and possession of a dead body.

■ **Key West Lighthouse & Keeper's Quarters, 938 Whitehead St.,** is one of the most visited historic locations in Key West:

Explore the Lighthouse Keeper's Quarters, now a museum restored to an early 1900s appearance with historic furnishings, photos and original artifacts depicting the life and times of generations of lighthouse keepers and their families. Climb the 88-step, circular, iron stairway of the 170-year-old lighthouse, owned by Monroe County and operated by Key West Art & Historical Society. Once a beacon for the island with its Fresnel lens that shined 11 nautical miles out to sea, the 48-foot tower also served to guide those on land. Ernest Hemingway, who once lived across the street from the structure, was known to use it as a North Star of sorts to find his way home after nights of heavy imbibing.

■ **Tennessee Williams Museum, 513 Truman Ave.,** pays tribute to one of the greatest 20th century American playwrights:

A destination for Tennessee Williams enthusiasts and scholars, the museum showcases highlights from his life and work while living in Key West from 1949 until his death in 1983. The collection of historic, archival materials keeps alive the importance of Williams' legacy and offers the largest collection of his memorabilia and literary artifacts available to the public. Displays include artist Jane Rohrschneider's model of the playwright's home at 1431 Duncan St., first edition plays and books, images from the late local photographer Don Pinder and original steps from the film adaptation of Williams' play "The Rose Tattoo," which was filmed entirely in Key West. ■



KREG KELLEY
Time Flies

After a successful career making and selling art in Washington D.C., Kreg moved to Key West in 2013 and wasted no time getting involved with The Arts Council of The Florida Keys, The Anne McKee Art Fund and The Studios of Key West. His works are a fascinating combination of antique artifacts and modern layering and lacquering techniques that give each piece depth and dimension.

"Time Flies" is much more influenced by Key West and island life, with an array of subjects like antique postcards of Key West, flowers, sea and marine life," Kreg says. "Also touching on the theme of 'Time Flies,' many of the pieces feature antique clocks from the 1800s."



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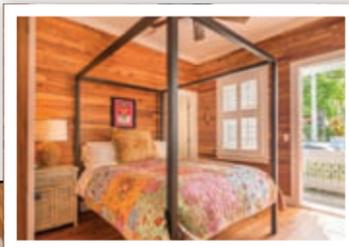
515 and 517 Margaret St. are two remarkable Key West cottages renovated with master craftsmanship on one of the best blocks in the Old Town historic district. Each house has two bedrooms and two bathrooms featuring beautiful Dade County pine walls, open living and dining areas, cathedral ceilings, high end finishes, custom cabinetry and lots of integrity.

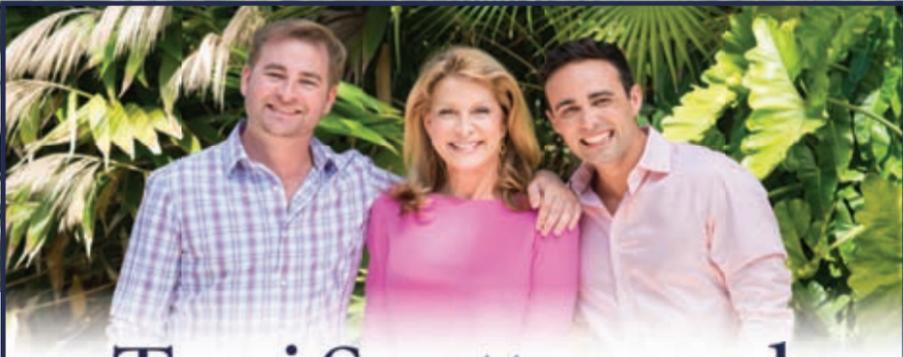
515 Margaret's second bedroom is set up as an artist studio with a separate entrance and a private brick patio. A large Ipe deck separates the houses and serves as an ideal place for outdoor dining and sunning.

You can live in one and rent the other or use it as a guest cottage.

This is an exceptional property within easy walking or biking distance to everything Key West has to offer. ■

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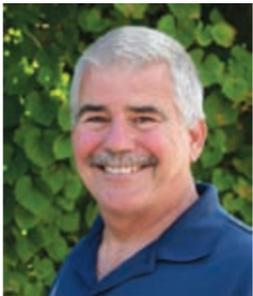
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