

OUT CLIQUE

Volume 1, Issue 4
March 2017

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MUSIC & CLUBS

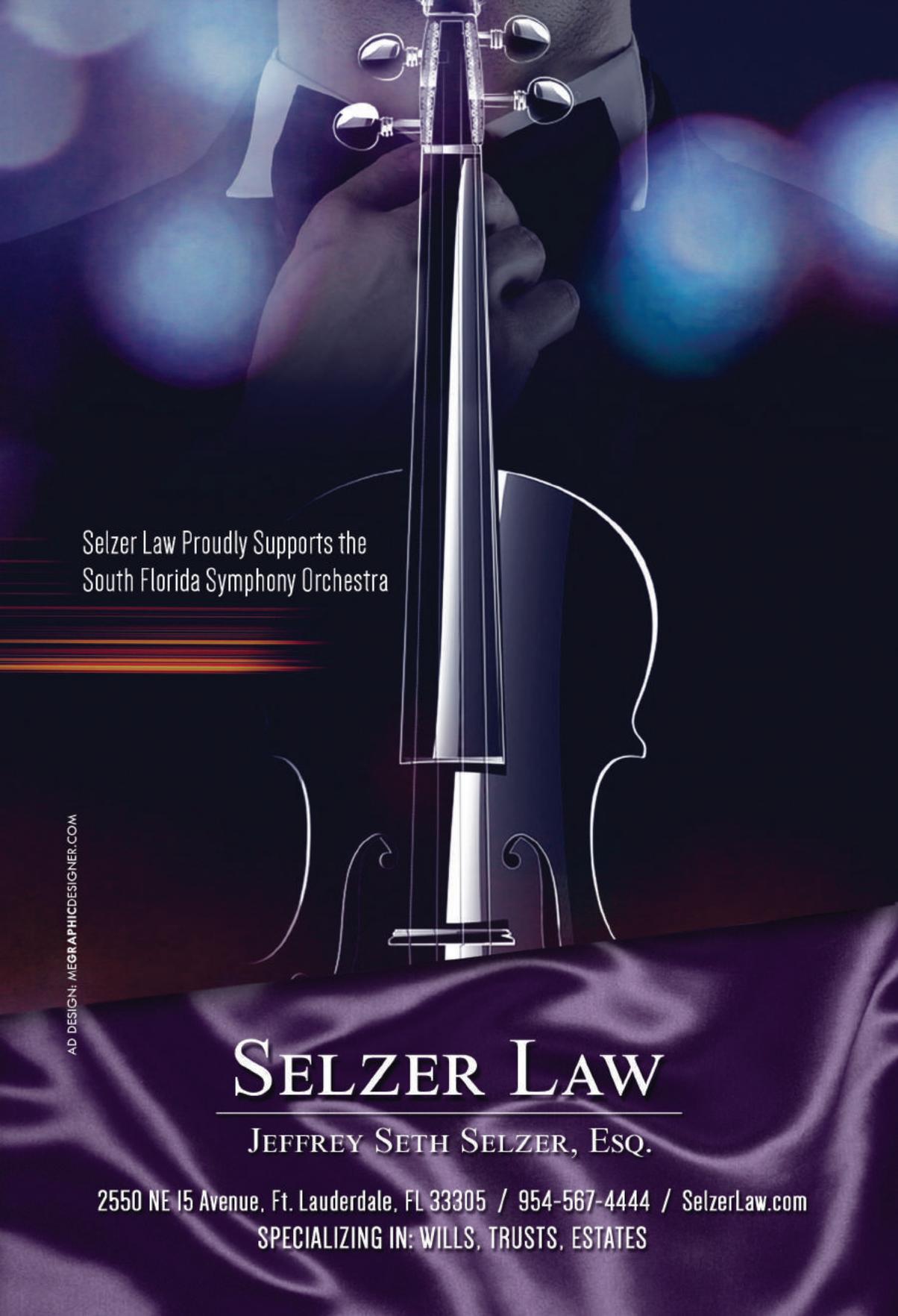
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APRIL 1

Two-time Tony Award-winner and *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* comedy star Andrea Martin joins forces with Seth Rudetsky for a night of Broadway music and hijinks that are not to be missed! After getting her start on SCTV, she won her first Tony Award for *My Favorite Year*, a second for *Pippin*, and received Tony Award nominations for her roles in *Young Frankenstein*, *Oklahoma*, *Candide* and *Noises Off*. When Martin and Rudetsky hit this stage, you know it's going to spark like fireworks!



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WHERE TO GO. WHAT TO DO. WHO TO MEET

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SONGS OF MY FAMILY

A PORTRAIT OF OUR LGBT LIVES TOGETHER

By Jim Lopresti



On Friday, March 24, 2017 at the new Lauderhill Performing Arts Center in Lauderhill, FL the Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida (GMCSF) will perform Songs of My Family, a 13 movement song cycle composed by Robert Seeley with words by Robert Espidola, in its show entitled We Are Family.

The song cycle was commissioned by the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C. and premiered in March 2007 at The Kennedy Center. Intended to give a musical voice to

the multiple ways gay men and lesbians have related to their families of origin and while building their own families of choice, its inspiration came from South Florida celebrations of the LGBTQ family life, called the annual Valuing Our Families Conference. This 10th anniversary performance will include updated personal accounts from chorus members and South Florida gay and lesbian families. The composer will be also in attendance for the performance. ➤





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When asked why the chorus is performing this particular work, Harold Dioquino, the Artistic Director of GMCSF, said, "So much has changed in America in the past decade. Adoption by gay men and lesbian couples is now fully legal in Florida. Families are inclusively defined across America and marriage equality is the law of the land. But we must remember our history and re-tell our stories to preserve those accomplishments. We are not immune from back-tracking. Now is the time for our stories to be kept alive in the public mind."

So why does the chorus sing, you may ask?

Over the years, many have discounted, and even detested, our intimate relationships and our unique, sometimes quirky families of choice. But just like any who give themselves to others as spouses, partners, and parents, we struggle, grieve our losses, and melt into loving arms. They sing those stories for ourselves.



Songs of My family gives a lush, choral voice to real stories that will tug at your heart strings, tickle your funny bone, bring a tear to your eye, and ultimately raise you up to stand tall "with arms far reaching." So they sing these stories to move and inspire you.

Our LGBTQ community values our Families. While we have nothing to hide and nothing to prove to anyone, we do have so very much to say, and we will be heard. Songs of My Family is a "tribute to our lives." We sing these stories because we must.





SERIOUSLY SANDRA

AN INTERVIEW WITH SANDRA BERNHARD

By Gregg Shapiro

Over the years, Sandra Bernhard has found a way to make us laugh and think, often at the same time. Bernhard has proven her mettle as an actress in movies alongside Robert DeNiro (among others) and on TV with Roseanne Barr. She's established herself as a singer with a few albums to her credit. Bernhard began as a comedian, doing stand-up and moving on to performing her acclaimed one-woman shows. As an author, she's also penned three books. More recently she's become known as the host of her own radio show, Sandyland. Bernhard, who is embarking on a series of concert dates for her new show, the cleverly titled Sandra Monica Blvd: Coast to Coast, spoke with me about the show, the current political situation and more in early 2017.

Gregg Shapiro: Sandra, we are speaking a few days after the Women's March on Washington, and those that took place around the globe. What can you tell me about your experience of the event?

Sandra Bernhard: It was amazing. I think everybody was so unified. The vibe was incredibly positive and upbeat. Everybody feels like they want to get back to the sanity here. Everything is completely off the rails, laced with uncertainty. It's a very scary, uncertain time for people.

GS: There is an LGBT March on Washington scheduled for June [2017]. Is that something in which you would participate?

SB: I'll be participating in whatever marches go on from here on out [laughs]! Absolutely! Whether it's LGBT rights or the environment or women's rights or health care, it affects the people we care about. We're one people in this country. Everybody deserves the best of all of it.

GS: The eight years that Barack Obama was President were probably slim pickings in terms of comedic subject matter. Are you, as a comedian, finding an abundance of material in Trump, Pence, Conway and the others?

SB: No, I'm not. I find little to no humor in it. If anything, it's verbatim. It's diatribes, and I don't like to do that in my shows. I try to bring as much humor as I can when I talk about it, which is little. The most important thing for what I'm doing is to lift up people, to bring smart, sophisticated material to my audience. To keep the conversation elevated.

GS: Your new stage show is called Sandra Monica Blvd: Coast to Coast. What can the audience expect from this new show?

SB: It covers a lot of territory. Funny encounters with people on the subway. A little bit of looking back at my own personal history. It's all interwoven with great music and pieces that weave throughout the music. It's a wild ride on Sandra Monica Boulevard [laughs].

GS: I'm glad you mentioned music, because I remember your cover of "Little Red Corvette" in your show and the movie Without You I'm Nothing. Sadly, Prince passed away last year. Do you have any thoughts about him that you'd like to share?

SB: Anytime you lose a great artist, it's devastating. It also wakes you up to the little bit of time that you have with somebody who has that kind of talent. He left behind an amazing legacy. It's terribly sad that he was living in this sort of state that nobody knew about; he kept it hidden. It's so sad.

GS: When did you know that now was the right time to put together a show such as this one?

SB: Every year is the right time for me because I do Joe's Pub here in New York during the holidays. It's my annual new show. Throughout the year, while I'm doing an existing show, I'm putting together new material for Joe's Pub. It's an ongoing process. I'm also doing my daily show Sandyland on Radio Andy and SiriusXM, that's also an incubator for me when putting together a show and new material. It keeps me on my toes. ➤

GS. You have written some wonderful books over the years. Is there another one in the works?

SB. There's supposed to be. But disciplining yourself to sit down and write every day is not always the easiest thing, with so many projects going on. Eventually there will be, yes, for sure.

GS. Later today, I'm going to attend a press screening of the new Robert DeNiro movie *The Comedian*. You played Masha in the Martin Scorsese film, *The King of Comedy*, alongside DeNiro. Have you remained in contact with DeNiro and Scorsese?

SB. I see them occasionally. Not very often. I wouldn't say we're on the phone catching up that often. I definitely have seen them at events. I'm going to try to make it to a screening (of *The Comedian*) next week here in New York.

GS. Could you ever see yourself directing a film?

SB. I don't think that's really my strong suit, to be honest with you. I guess if it was the perfect situation, maybe. But it's not something aspirational for me, no.

GS. I'm sorry to end on a sad note, but in June 2016, you performed at Gay Days in Orlando, just a little more than a week before the devastating attack at the Pulse Nightclub.

SB. A week before, yeah.

GS. Can you please say something about that?

SB. It was such a great vibe down there. I performed at Parliament House. It has a poolside stage and it was so fun.



It was a sultry, fun Florida night. Everybody was in great spirits. It (the shooting) was such a total shock on so many levels. I'm not saying it wasn't slightly terrorist in nature. When someone does something like that, it's a terrorist act. I can't say that it was influenced by international incidents. This guy was conflicted about his own sexuality and had been there (to Pulse) before. That doesn't make it any better or worse. I'm just saying you have to be clear about how you couch things. My point is that now, more than ever, people are able to disconnect emotionally and do terrible things that I don't think we ever imagined possible. Horrible. Let's hope these things are dwindling, but who knows? With what's going on in the White House. All bets are off.



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PROMOTING POSITIVE CHANGE IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S MONTH

By Holam Antonetti



With the discrimination and political upheaval around us, I asked myself, "Why don't we invest more time looking inward to what's happening in our own communities?" Ending discrimination has been a long fight that's yet to be accomplished. But, it is my belief that we must first look at what's right in front of us.

When I decided to create events for women, I thought to myself, "How easy would it be to work with some of the venues in the gay community, right?" But my task proved not so much. I pounded the pavement trying not only to bring business into our community, but also to provide a variety of places for women to come together. Some of the feedback I received was, lesbians are cheap, they don't support, and they create fights. One of the favorite things I heard was, "No, we can't do a lesbian event because the boys will think that this venue is now only for women, and the guys won't come back."

I look around at some of the nonprofits and I see amazing programs being offered, but to whom? Yup, barely any for women. Even some of the ones for women do not take the time to get to know their needs.

Here are some examples of what I have personally experienced. Boards of directors that neglect to include the opinions of women. The women involved do not use their voice for women. Women promoting to other women who are more concerned about being in the cool kids club instead of embracing everyone. Or, you have women in a position who can award to those in need, but instead they go to their friends, because they did not take the time to get to know the people in their community and their needs.

Does this mean that lesbians also discriminate? Yes, some do. I have been bullied and experienced deceit and defamation. After so many years

of fighting for equality outside of our community, we still have discrimination within. I ask all of you, "How can we expect to fight the bigger issues when some of us are still discriminating against ourselves?"

On a positive note, I have the pleasure of experiencing equality, love, and support from quite a few people in the South Florida LGBTQ community, including the creator of this magazine!

Finally, keeping it short and sweet, my women's month wish is to encourage equality and unity in our South Florida LGBTQ community. Let's celebrate each other, show the love, and embrace our ladies. After all, it was a lady that carried each one of us for 9 months inside and brought us here.

Much love and yours truly,
XO

Holam Antonetti (Lesbo GoGo)

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EVERYTHING AND MORE

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANDREA MARTIN

By Gregg Shapiro

Go ahead, just try not to smile when you think of award-winning actress Andrea Martin. Just try not laughing uncontrollably. Since the mid-1970s, when Martin first crossed our collective awareness as one of two female members of the sketch comedy TV series SCTV (the other one being Catherine O'Hara), she has been responsible for creating some of the most unforgettable characters. From Edith Prickley, Edna Boil, and Perini Scleroso on SCTV to Aunt Voula in the My Big Fat Greek Wedding movie series, and everything in between, Andrea Martin has been making us laugh for a long time. A recipient of Tony and Drama Desk Awards for her work on Broadway, there doesn't appear to be anything that Martin can't do. On April 1, 2017, Martin brings her Final Days! Everything Must Go!! tour, along with Seth Rudetsky, to Parker Playhouse in Fort Lauderdale.



Gregg Shapiro: I'd like to begin by saying that it's nice to speak to a fellow Emerson College alum.

Andrea Martin: Fabulous!

GS: I am class of '83.

AM: Oh, my God! I'm class of '69.

GS: Do you have any fond Emerson memories that you'd like to share?

AM: I have so many fond memories. I was so grateful to find Emerson. I'm from Maine and my first year of college I was going to school in Missouri, of all places, and I couldn't take it. I transferred to Emerson and it was the first time I'd ever been in a big city. The school was primarily on Beacon Street.

GS: As it was when I attended.

AM: (I remember) Copley Square and the Pewter Pot muffin shop and everything was within a mile radius and theater classes. I thought I'd died and gone to heaven. It was a big city and my real introduction to the possibility of having theater as a profession.

GS: There's a wonderful essay in the late gay Canadian Jewish writer David Rakoff's 2001 book *Fraud* titled "Extraordinary Alien" in which he writes about what he describes as a

game played by Canadian Jews, called "Who's Canadian?," a variation on the "Who's Jewish?" game. As it turns out, he writes about how he was disappointed to learn that you, of course, are neither Canadian nor Jewish. Would you care to comment on that?

AM: [Big laugh] I know! I would have liked to claim both of those. Here's what I am: an Armenian and a permanent resident of Canada. I should have become a citizen when I lived there for 18 years, but I didn't. Now I would have to live there continually for five years to get a Canadian passport. Now, of all times, I want one. But I consider myself entrenched in Canada. That's where I got married. My husband is Canadian. My kids have dual citizenship. I just got back from Toronto. My whole book that I wrote is dedicated to Canada. It really is a part of my life.

GS: You have earned a reputation for your impersonation skills, including impressions of Barbra Streisand, Liza Minnelli, Bernadette Peters, and Linda Lavin, to name a few. Do you have an all-time favorite person to impersonate?

AM: I think probably Bernadette Peters would be my favorite. Because I'm nothing like her. But when I first impersonated her, I was eight





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months pregnant, so my breasts were huge. That was the only time I could claim physically looking like her [laughs]. I've grown to know her over the years. She's just the kindest, loveliest person and she knows I did an impersonation of her and was delighted by it. I loved her when I impersonated her. I loved everybody I impersonated. I never made fun of them.

GS: The television show SCTV was the first place that many people became aware of your talents. Do you have a favorite character of your own creation from that time?

AM: I'd say Edith Prickley was my favorite character. I still do her. It's so much a part of who I am that it doesn't even feel like a character [laughs], it just feels like an extension of me.

GS: I'm glad you mentioned Edith. As her, you had the opportunity to sing a lot on SCTV, performing live from The Melonville Baths bit, which leads me to your career in Broadway musicals. You won Tony and Drama Desk award 20 years apart for My Favorite Year and Pippin. What does your Broadway career mean to you?

AM: I'd say that it's been the center of my career. It's the genre that fulfills me the most. I'm the most comfortable on stage. It's given me the opportunity to, more than anything, grow as an actress because of the different parts that I've been given. I've been able to take that kind of expansiveness to television and film. But really it all starts for me in the theater. That's the most joyous creative process that there is.

GS: Speaking of The Melonville Baths, you have a marvelous history of playing characters that are either queer or supportive of LGBT people, such as Dr. Ellen Wyckoff, mother of Eli (Dan Bucatinsky) in All Over The Guy (2001).

AM: Aww, I love that movie and I love that you know it.

GS: Yes, and there is also Aunt Voula, mother of Angelo, in My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2. Are you aware of your LGBT following, and if so, what do they mean to you?

AM: There weren't those initials when I was growing up, right? That's a whole new thing. I guess I have always been enormously comfortable around gay men. I didn't actually know many gay women. Without labeling anybody, I guess the gay men's nature really loved the characters that I played that were flamboyant. Most of the gay men that I know are extroverted and very comfortable in their own skin; not critical of me and maybe

whatever my outlandish behavior might be. There's a comfort and communication all my life with gay men. And now it's okay to be a gay woman. When I was growing up there was that stereotype and I played a character like that, Dutch Van Dyke (on SCTV), an old-fashioned, very masculine gay woman. Now it's so different. I've always felt comfortable in a non-typical world. I guess because I'm Armenian and I grew up in Maine, so I understand what it is to be a minority. When I was growing up, being gay was a minority, but it doesn't feel like that anymore.

GS: I imagine you'll probably see some of your gay fans on the Playbill Cruise, with Seth Rudetsky as pianist and host.

AM: [Laughs] How about that? There's no place to go. I hope they like me! You can't get away. A captive audience!

GS: What are you most looking forward to about the cruise?

AM: Honestly? Being alone in my room, reading a book [laughs].

GS: In March, you begin shooting the next season of your Hulu series Difficult People, with Billy Eichner and Julie Klausner. What has the experience of that series been like for you?

AM: Oh, my God, I've learned a whole new vocabulary. I understand what pop culture is. I can actually drop some names in pop culture and feel hip. It's given me a whole new audience. I think it has a big gay following too, maybe because of Billy, or the sensibility. It's a demographic and a world I didn't know. It was like playing (Phyllis Stein) in (the movie version of) Hedwig and the Angry Inch. It was eye-opening and I always considered myself a lot cooler because I was able to be in Hedwig. That's how I feel about Difficult People. I can wear the label of coolness now [laughs].

GS: Finally, in late April, your new NBC series Great News, executive produced by Tina Fey, will be premiering. What can you tell me about it?

AM: I can say that it was the most fabulous experience. I love Tina Fey. I adore the cast. I hope that it's a huge success. I hope that we get to do another season. It was a flawlessly enmeshed cast and creative team. We shot it at Universal. I rode my bike to work. I think it's a wonderful show for my demographic, but also for young girls who have helicopters and a co-dependent relationship. I think it speaks to two generations. I hope that people will watch it. I'm honestly really proud of it.



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HEALTHY YOU: SLEEP BETTER AND FEEL BETTER

By Beau A. Nelson, DBH, LCSW

Are you tired of being tired? You are not alone. Our busy lives seem to leave little time for ourselves. Whether it's exercising or getting enough sleep, there just are not enough hours in the day to get everything done! The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in 2016 that one in three people (a third of the United States) does not get enough healthy sleep to support daily activities and health. This is a serious problem and something that each of us should start to correct to live our best lives (both awake and at sleep).



Many people brag about how little sleep they can function with each day. People pull all-nighters for school, work, and family chores. It seems that some of us are superhuman, as we can go without sleep and still function. But the reality is that this takes a toll on our bodies and our minds and can be a real risk to our wellbeing.

Research shows that adults need 7-8 hours of sleep every night to function at their best. Sleep is a time when the body restores itself and it is vital to healthy body processes and is needed to help us to think and feel our best. Less than 7 hours of sleep per night increases risks for obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke, and mental health issues.

There are many reasons our sleep can be disturbed. We may have anxiety about an important meeting tomorrow; there may be worries and our brain doesn't seem to shut down; we may have physical issues such as pain that prevent restful sleep; or there may be an underlying sleep problem that is undiagnosed. Keep in mind that from time to time you may have a sleepless night, you might go out with friends and drink a bit too much and your sleep is affected, or maybe you just are too wound up to sleep. One or two nights

of sleep problems does not indicate a situation that needs to be worried about. But if you have successive nights of poor sleep, decreased functioning in the day at work, or an inability to stay awake during a movie or, worse yet, while driving, may indicate a sleep problem that needs to be investigated and addressed.

If you notice you are always tired and just do not feel right, start to look at your sleep schedule first. Keep a log for two weeks and record when you go to sleep and when you get up and include how many times you woke up in the night. Note on the log if you feel rested in the morning or are dragging in the mornings (before your coffee of course). If you notice that you are having poor duration or quality of sleep more than a third of the nights, you may have a sleep problem. Insomnia can be broken down into three categories, initial insomnia is trouble falling asleep, middle insomnia is if you wake up during the night many times and sometimes have trouble getting back to sleep, and terminal insomnia which describes a feeling of waking up being tired and lethargic and you feel as if you did not get enough sleep. There are different treatments that can help, talk to your doctor and seek out help to get back to a healthy state of sleep.

Here are some tried-and-true healthy sleep suggestions that will make a difference to get your sleep back on track:

- Go to bed and wake up at the same time every day (yes, over the weekends too)
- Make sure your bedroom is free of distractions (use bed for only sleep and sex)
- Stop using a computer, phone, or TV, for 30 minutes before sleep (the video waves inhibits the ability to fall asleep)
- Do not eat a big meal or drink alcohol before bed (alcohol may help you fall to sleep but it will wreck the quality of your sleep)
- Do not clean the house, exercise, or do intense physical activity before bed
- Turn the alarm clock around, don't watch the clock, if you cannot sleep this will raise anxiety and will prevent healthy sleep
- Do not take long naps, limit your naps to 20 minutes or less, long naps will reset your sleep clock and it will make sleep at normal times more difficult
- Take a warm shower or bath before bed, this helps with body temperature, your body sleeps better at lower temperatures
- Keep your sleeping space cool and dark, you will sleep more soundly, if needed use earplugs to cut out noise such as a snoring partner or sirens outside



- If you do not fall asleep after 15-20 minutes in bed, get up, read a book and return back to bed once you feel tired (tossing and turning in bed over and over can increase anxiety about not sleeping and lead you to be awake longer)

- Get outside for 30 minutes to an hour of sunlight in the morning, light helps to regulate sleep, so keep your environment bright in the day and then darken as you get closer to bedtime.

Try to change your sleep routine with these tips. If you find after a few weeks you are not feeling better, see your doctor. Some people have chemical issues that may inhibit sleep. Breathing difficulties such as Obstructive Sleep Apnea may also prevent you from getting the type and amount of sleep you need. Anxiety and excessive worries may indicate you need psychological help to deal with stress. Whatever you may need, do not suffer in silence, there are many effective ways to help you sleep better. Start towards a healthier you and make a difference that you will feel all day!



Dr. Nelson maintains a psychology practice in Fort Lauderdale and works with patients to develop healthy lifestyles and deal with a wide range of health issues including anxiety, depression, life transitions, and maintaining healthy habits. Information about his practice is available at www.ImproveYourMood.com. You can email Dr. Nelson at DrNelson@ImproveYourMood.com

BOYS WITH BOATS: OUT ON THE WATER

By Steven O. Evans

What's a day on the water like with a bunch of guys (or gals) in the warm Florida sun? Throw in some great food, drinks to quench your thirst, skimpy swimsuits, and, the most important part, a fabulous boat, and you have the perfect experience on the water. One of the unique activities for our climate and region is spending a day with friends out enjoying our amazing Intracoastal waterways. What ties all these together are the fun-loving members of the group, Boys with Boats.



Founded a year ago, the group has grown to almost 700 members from both South Florida and around the world. What makes them unique is not just their common interest in boating, but the community that they have formed. Their passion for being out on the water has provided the opportunity for the members to build relationships with each other that extends beyond just their recreation.

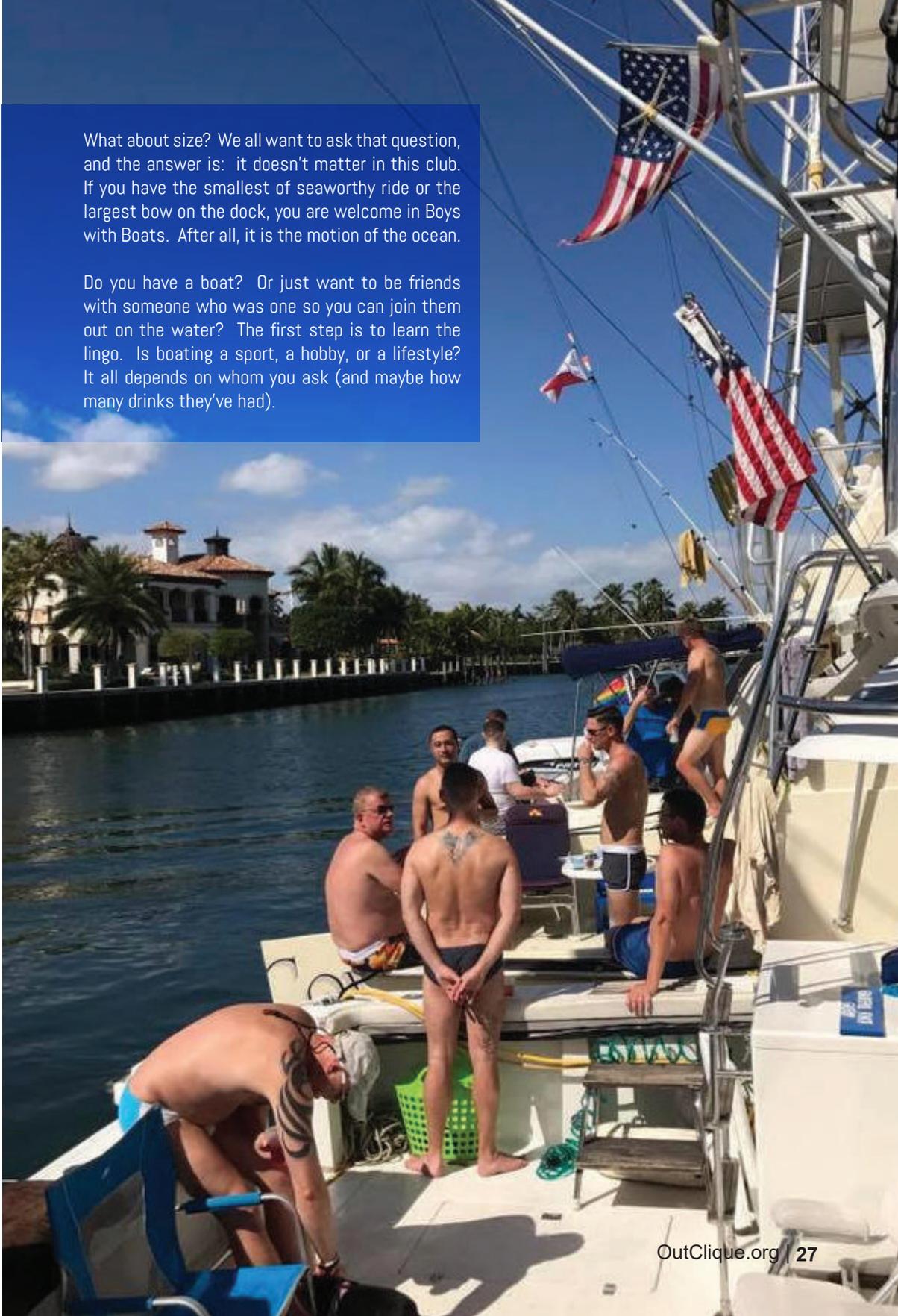
The founders, Jeremy and Joshua Pettus of Fort Lauderdale, saw that the gay boating community needed a group to provide activities, social connections, and a way to share nautical knowledge and experiences. Members Scott Schramm and Rod MacKenzie have found a great group of guys that share their love for boating of all experience levels. Scott said, "So many groups tend to be focused on one type of boating. Boys with Boats is an all-inclusive club that welcomes every level of experience and interest." Alan Kurland, referred to as the club ambassador, said, "I can't say enough good things about this wonderful group of guys that has entered my life and enriched the hobby I love so." Alan is always bringing new guys to the club and introducing them to boating life.

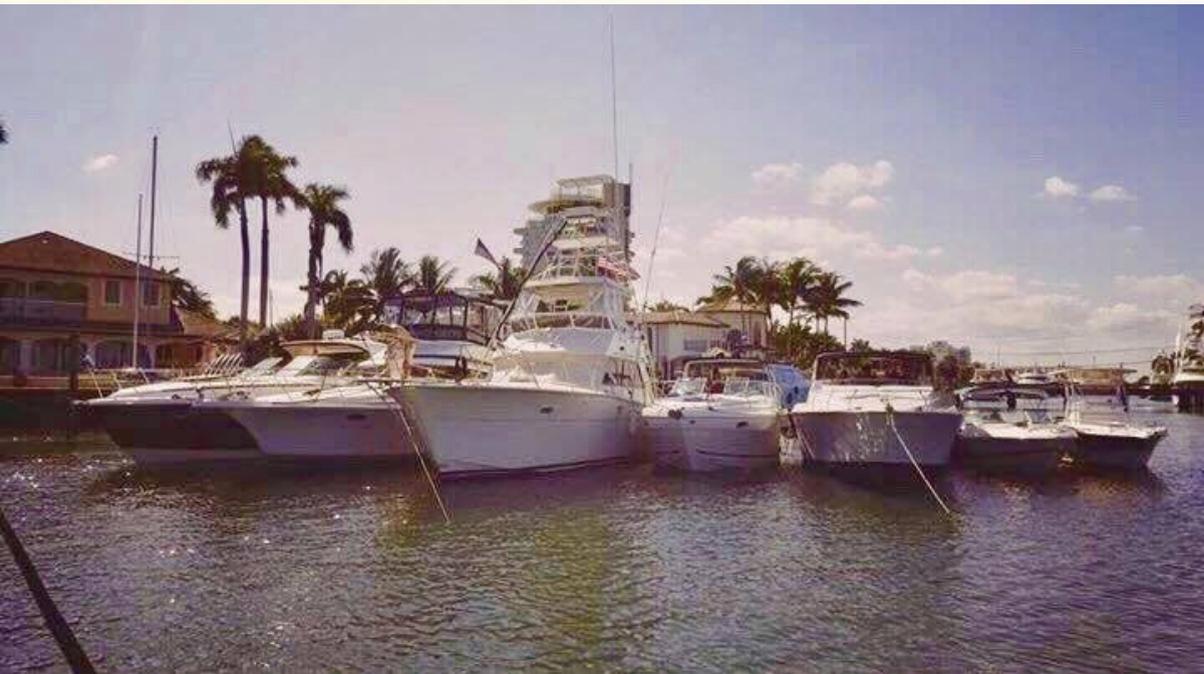


One of the rich aspects of South Florida is the LGBT community and the diversity of individuals and organizations. As part of that paradigm, Boys with Boats brings together boaters of all experiences. Their vessels can range from even a small kayak to a multi-million dollar yacht. But equally important, if not more so, are those that make up the group. The rainbow is well represented by ages, lifestyles, and backgrounds. >

What about size? We all want to ask that question, and the answer is: it doesn't matter in this club. If you have the smallest of seaworthy ride or the largest bow on the dock, you are welcome in Boys with Boats. After all, it is the motion of the ocean.

Do you have a boat? Or just want to be friends with someone who was one so you can join them out on the water? The first step is to learn the lingo. Is boating a sport, a hobby, or a lifestyle? It all depends on whom you ask (and maybe how many drinks they've had).





For some, it's a hobby as a weekend with their boat, partner, family, friends, or maybe even their dog. But for many others, it's a sport. Much like other water activities like fishing, scuba diving, and water skiing, people are engaged on a level of enthusiasm beyond a few hours a week.

But for many who have floating keychains or clothing monogrammed with their vessel's name, it has become a lifestyle. More than just something to do on the weekends, it is part of their identity. Rather than just owning the boats that grace our canals, it's become part of who they are.



And, what good gay doesn't love a sleepover? How about one with a circle of boys on boats?

The group hosts a monthly raft-up at various locations. A coordinator will anchor his boat, while the other boats tie to each other for an afternoon or overnight party. The floating string of boats creates a combination of gay bar, dinner party, guesthouse, and coffee shop all at the same time.

Is the gay boating lifestyle right for you? The Boys with Boats can teach you everything from docking, navigation, maintenance, to knot tying. Come get your feet wet with this unique South Florida group.

Check them out at www.Facebook.com/BoysWithBoats.



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THE SECRET TO AN ENDURING LOVE

AN INTERVIEW WITH GARY KEATING & RICHARD SCHULTZ



How did you meet?

At Uncle Charlie's bar in Coral Gables on Valentine's Day. The year was 1982.

What has been your biggest challenge as a couple?

We have grown over the years and changed jobs. Our families have changed. And we have needed to be flexible. But the thing that has kept us so tight is each other's family. Our nieces and nephews, now great nieces and nephews, and along with our two brothers, have drawn us closer and closer. We both took care of our parents as age and disease debilitated them. That was really difficult, but we realized that our families loved both of us unconditionally.

As founder and director of the Fort Lauderdale Gay Men's Chorus, how has that influenced your relationship?

In many ways it changed our lives. We developed lifelong friendships which have

supported us through good times and bad. We would feel incomplete without the men and women we have met through this organization.

What advice do you have to couples that are just starting out?

Talk and have patience. Sometimes you just have to realize that life isn't in your control and your spouse can't fix it! Also, there are things in relationships you can work on to help each other change, but know that some things won't. We are our mothers' and fathers' kids. We have some of their traits. Even if we would like to change some of them, others will always be with us. You love and accept who you are.

How do you resolve your most common conflict?

Trying to balance time commitments outside home and work. It takes patience from each of us.

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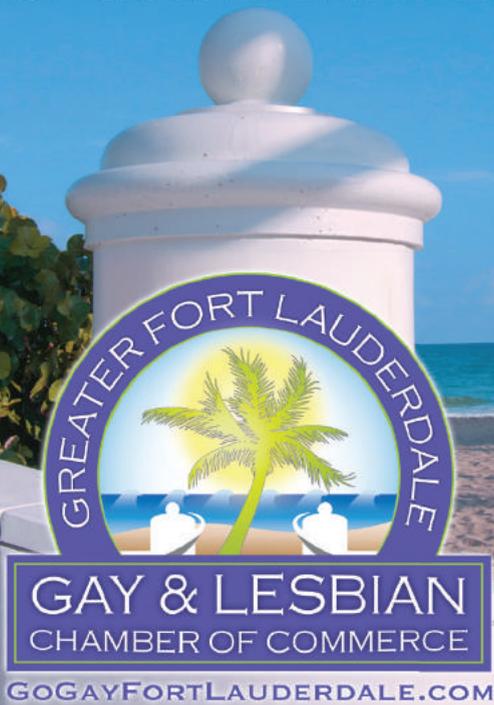
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What kinds of date nights do you have?

Date nights are vital and special. They should never go away. They can be flexible, but they need to be there so each of us continues to feel special to each other.

What do you think is the biggest challenge for same-sex relationships today?

Before the presidential election I might have had a different answer. Now, I would say we have to continue to work on acceptance and being safe. There have been too many incidents where someone has said, "My president said it is okay to attack you gay people." We need to hold the president elect accountable to be "everyone's president." My husband and I were born in this country. Our president needs to stand and be our president, protecting us as a legally married couple.

What's the best way to work through differences?

You have to realize you married a man who is unique and comes to you with a strong personality and ideals. You can talk and work together, but you can't change one another in all aspects. He is the one you married, and you work with together and respect each other.

What is your best vacation memory?

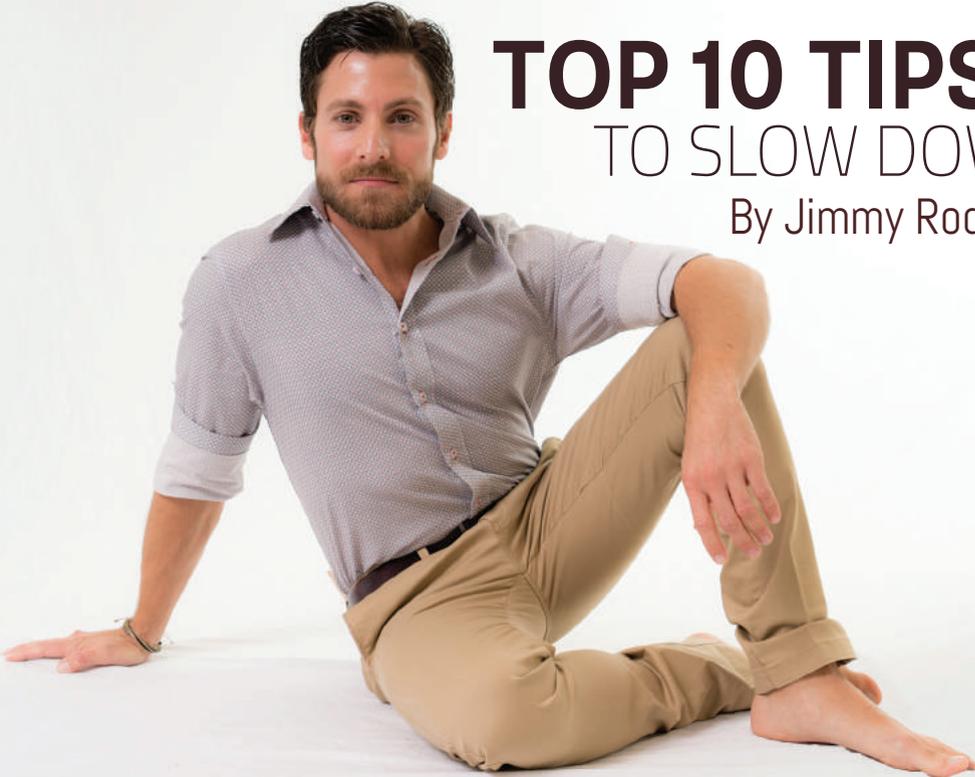
Our favorite vacation is a river cruise in Europe. Whether you enjoy the Rhine or the Danube, this vacation is so special. You pull into cities using your ship as your hotel in the center of everything. It is amazing!

What excites you about your future together?

We have a new home, maybe new jobs, upcoming travel, and great nephews and nieces. That is what is exciting possibilities! What excites me everyday is when my husband reaches to hold my hand when we walk our dog. Small, and yet so wonderful.



Gary and Richard have been together 35 years and were legally married January 1, 2011 in Keene, NH.



TOP 10 TIPS TO SLOW DOWN

By Jimmy Rodgers

It has never been easier to connect with someone on the other side of the world, yet it's so easy (and unfortunately too often) to feel disconnected from the people closest to us. We have way more tools than ever to simplify tasks and accomplish more things quickly, yet our to-do lists have never been longer. Life is short and time flies, especially in today's fast-paced world. So far this year it seems that everyone is on crunch-time, super busy, overwhelmed, and engaged in the mad dash to complete a deadline, cross off their to-do list, or just have taken on too much . . . maybe. (Guilty)

We are all way too busy. Now it's time to do something [small] to regain and appreciate yourself and enjoy your surroundings. I'm sure there are many things around you yet to be noticed. Once you give yourself the opportunity to "stop and smell the roses," you might be surprised at what you've been missing.

These exercises are meant to help you slow down, enjoy life, and focus on the most important parts of your day.

1. Take the time to prioritize daily objectives.

By focusing on the most important tasks to get done, we eliminate the hustle and stress of trying to accomplish everything at once. Yes, everything you need to do is important, but really focus on what needs to get done and accept that it won't all get completed in one day. Remember, you are one person. Personally, I'm still trying to be a Superhero. (I'm almost there, though, the flying part isn't working so well.)

2. Cut personal Internet use by half.

No, he didn't! Oh, yes I did! Please pick up your jaw from the table. Yes, technology has become a major element in most of our lives. Social networking, email, and web surfing and





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JIMMY SAYS

Jimmy says: Practice makes perfect, so practice until reminders are not needed. (This creates a new habit, hopefully replacing a not-so-great one.)

can occasionally cause our minds to lose focus and wander through hundreds of topics, thoughts, and ideas. Try to use half your designated Internet time to explore new hobbies, exercise, or meditate. Give your brain a break. It'll thank you.

3. Enjoy nature.

When time permits, take a 5 to 10-minute break to step outside and breathe in some fresh air. Disconnect from the rest of the world and concentrate on the beauty of nature. A brisk walk does wonders when your mind is in overload. Write down that last great idea and get your butt outside!

4. Eat slower.

A lot of us tend to speed through meals – missing the chance to appreciate different textures and flavors. Start to chew foods slower and distinguish new tastes, aromas, and consistencies. Besides actually tasting the food, by chewing well your body will assimilate and use the food (taking full advantage of all those great nutrients and stuff) to its best ability. Just swallowing food (or large pieces) is like standing outside of the hottest club waiting to get chosen, understanding that not everyone will be let in. Low and behold you wasted time buying that nice outfit for nothing because, like the huge chunks of food you swallowed, you are left outside and have not been picked. Chew your food, chew it well, and let your body use it to do what it is meant to do.

5. Connect with family and friends.

We all try to make a considerable amount of time to spend with close friends and family. We discuss life events and exchange stories, but how often do we catch up while truly listening and connecting? Put away the

cell phones and tablets and steer clear of noisy environments. Connect on a deeper level. Call a great friend you haven't talked to in a long time. A conversation is much more appreciated than the "thumbs-up" emoticon.

6. Make time for yourself.

The givers out there will have a hard time with this, but when did you last spend valuable time with yourself? No, I'm not talking about your favorite porn and "special time." Take a night to find a new book, watch a favorite movie, try yoga, meditate, or cook a new recipe. Revisit an old hobby or try one that you've been wanting to explore.





7. Give yourself more time.

Some of us like to stick to a tight schedule and plan all our daily events, even eating. Next time you're jotting down new tasks in your planner, factor in a few extra minutes when estimating how long things will take. This will help you not rush through daily tasks. Be realistic with the time it takes to get tasked finished, driving time, and waiting in lines, then work backward. Again, realize that there are only a few working hours in the day. Trust me I've tried adding more hours and Google said no.

8. Take the scenic route.

Next time you're driving a somewhat long distance, take the scenic route. Waze needs a break anyway. Driving through a brand-new area, community or viewing a city skyline can be very relaxing. My favorite time is around 4ish when the sun is the perfect temp, windows down and just driving. Try it, I bet you'll do it again.

9. Sit for a moment with your eyes closed when you start your computer.

Even just a few moments of meditation can set the tone for the rest of your day. Try to empty your mind and take deep breaths before jumping into your day's tasks. Emptying our minds is a tough road block for anyone, especially the busiest of people. If you can

try to do this and be successful, it is quite amazing!

10. Remember your goals and aspirations.

Each morning when you wake up, take a few moments to think about your life goals and aspirations. Recall the milestones you've already made in your life, and your drive to achieve new ones. Try doing this for about five minutes before getting out of bed to start your day.

To be clear, just by reading these tips won't make them happen. Try them, repeat them, add them to your daily schedules, and put a post-it on the bathroom mirror, anything that will help remind you.

[Feeling Super yet?](#)

Jimmy is a Holistic Health Coach who received his training from the Institute for Integrative Nutrition in New York City. He is also board certified by the American Association of Drugless Practitioners and provides continual support in the areas of food, nutrition, and lifestyle to locate the balance needed to achieve any personal health and wellness goals.

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**ROCK OUT WITH
FORT LAUDERDALE'S PAUL DE LEON**

By Denny Patterson

Paul Callens, also known as DJ Paul De Leon, quickly became one of Fort Lauderdale's hottest disc jockeys by his unique sound of vocals and rhythms that will guarantee an experience to remember. The passion has been with him ever since childhood.

"Basically growing up with my parents, we always had music in the house," he says. "They would set up times in the evening where we would throw on records and listen to the music. The range would be from Heart to Tchaikovsky. Something different was always played in the house."

Originally from Rochester, NY, De Leon began spinning in 1996, but took a bit of time off. In 2010, he came back and joined the Miami club scene and has since rocked out major parties all over Florida. I had the chance to chat with De Leon about his career and music, in addition to the rewards and challenges of being a DJ.

So, why did you leave the scene?

I moved from DC to Florida at the time and I did the mistake of having my DJing as a full-time job where I had to rely on it for making money. I was doing it five nights a week and I was burnt out from it. I just needed a break to revamp things. I thought it was going to be permanent when I did it and all of a sudden I got the spark again and it brought me back. Once it's in your blood, you can't get rid of it.

How did you get to where you are today?

A lot of it actually has to do with basically revamping myself. Rebuilding my passion for this. And also my best friend. He has stepped in and has been helping out with a lot of things. He's always been like my number one fan for years and he's at my side with a lot of stuff when it comes to my music and getting bookings. He's kind of like my manager basically.

Let's talk about your aesthetic. What kind of music and songs do you like to play?

Honestly, I love all style of music playing, especially like tech house and so on. However,





when it comes to the actual gigs at the clubs, I love old school style circuit and tribal vocals. You know, the old circuit clubs sounds from back in the days in the 90s where you have the vocals and emotions. Anything that stirs up emotions is my favorite to play.

Tell me about your first professional gig. What was it like and what were some of the feelings you were experiencing?

My first one was actually when I came back around 2011. I was invited to open at an after hours party for Club Mekka in Miami, and it was awesome. You know, I hadn't been in the scene for a while and I was working really hard to get back into things. I had an amazing time with it, it was so much fun. Especially with after hours. It was something I hadn't experienced before pertaining to DJing, and it was a whole different feeling. Very energizing.

Who are some of your greatest musical influences or icons?

When it comes to DJs, my all-time favorite has been Tony Moran. He's been amazing throughout the years when it comes to the music and artists I work with. His music is always emotional and it always strikes a chord with me. From the moment I first heard him,

which was in DC in 1999 if I remember correctly, he has been my biggest influence when it comes to music and so on.

Do you have any advice to those who want to make it into this business?

There is always a lot of advice [laughs]. Be patient. You know, it is really competitive nowadays. Everybody is a DJ at this point. So you have got to come up with something that is different from everybody else, but not outlandish. Sometimes it works, but be true to yourself. And you cannot be afraid to take chances. Even after years of being a DJ, I still have to take chances and try new stuff.

What has been one of your greatest or most memorable moments?

When it comes to spinning, one of my greatest moments happened last year when I did a tour of Brazil. There was a pool party I spun for in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. The energy from the crowd, especially when half of them didn't speak English, but to hear them sing to the music they all knew and bringing me into their lives was absolutely amazing. It was a short set, only about two hours, but it was one of the most exciting times I have ever had.

Are there any challenges to being a DJ?

Some of the challenges is trying to keep things new and fresh and trying not to worry about what everyone else is doing. You want to know what is going on with those around you and see what people are doing, but try not to worry about how far someone else has gone. Each person has a different direction they are destined for.

What would you say is rewarding about being a DJ?

To be able to take something that I love and enjoy and to be able to project that out into a crowd. You know, to see them enjoy what I enjoy. To be able to give them something that they can remember at the end of the night. Whether that be a song, a moment, or just the complete night itself, it is amazing to take what I feel and transfer that onto other people.

When not working, what is a typical day like for you?

It all depends. I definitely like to be active and go to the gym, but sometimes the motivation can be difficult. Each day I try to think of new music to create, especially on the weekend when I'm not working my other job. I will spend a lot of time at home trying to figure out some new music and new tracks to work on.

What are some of your hobbies and other interests?

Well, it's been music a lot lately [laughs]. Other than that, I enjoy reading, being active, going to the gym, and traveling. Traveling is one of my favorite things to do. I love meeting new people.

What can we expect from you in the future?

Basically right now, I have a lot of ideas in my head. When it comes to production, I am still learning, experiencing, and discovering new things. I hope to be able to get more exciting and powerful music out and to be able to grow to a whole different level than where I am at right now.

Denny is a St. Louis native who studied journalism at Millikin University. He has written for numerous LGBT publications covering a wide range of topics from celebrity interviews to breaking news. You can follow him on social media or email DennyPatterson7@gmail.com.



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AN INTERVIEW WITH MATT MURPHY

By Gregg Shapiro



Producer and playwright Matt Murphy has a runaway hit on his hand with *Sex Tips for Straight Women from a Gay Man*. In addition to a long-running off-Broadway production in New York, the show has a touring company that takes it across the country to cities big and small. Now based in New York, Indiana native Murphy is also behind a variety of other productions including the off-Broadway boy-band parody, *Altar Boyz*, and the Tony Award-winning musical, *Memphis*, to name a couple. I spoke with Murphy about his career and the success of *Sex Tips* in early 2017.

[*Sex Tips for Straight Women from a Gay Man* runs March 22 - April 9 at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale.]

Gregg Shapiro: Matt, what led you to becoming a theatrical producer?

Matt Murphy: That's a good question! I always wanted to work in theater, ever since I was very young. First, I told everybody that I wanted to be an actor and I acted in grade school, middle school, and high school. Then I realized that I wasn't very good at it and that was it. I thought, "OK, I guess that means I can't be in theater." Then I took a class in college (at CU at Boulder) called Musical Theater History and the professor there (Bud Collins) was talking about the directors and producers and the writers. Talking about those men and women who created the work as the pioneers of the industry, in addition to some of the actors. That was an eye-opening course for me. I realized that that was a job one could have in the industry. I started pursuing that. I wanted to direct, I wanted to produce and write a little bit. The way I began training myself to do that was by working behind the scenes as a stage manager and a company manager and a general manager. I always knew that I wanted to be in

this industry and it took me a minute to figure out that producing and writing was something I could be good at and I could contribute to the industry by playing that role.

GS: Your production work runs the gamut from adult content – *Sex Tips For Straight Women From a Gay Man* – to family-oriented – *The Berenstain Bears Live!* What are the challenges and rewards of such a production spectrum?

MM: I like to surprise audiences, I guess. Theater for young audiences, oftentimes being their first theatrical experiences, you get that immediate effect of awe from kids seeing live performance. Especially in today's age where they're so used to seeing things on their iPads or iPhones, to be sitting in a theater and see actors performing 10 feet away from them, especially actors performing in the *Berenstain Bears* costumes that they recognize from the books they are reading at home, is an experience unlike any that kids get today. I enjoy being a part of

sharing that with young children and their parents. It's incredibly rewarding to see them laughing and clapping and standing up at the end and dancing along with the music. There's something more visceral about family entertainment than typical adult drama. I would say the same thing about *Sex Tips*. It's a little more visceral in that it's audience participatory. We're dealing with a taboo subject, but we're handling it in what I would say is just the right way. Couching the sex tips within a romantic comedy storyline, making it palatable for the audience. While at the same time pushing the envelope just enough so that they might walk away from the experience that they have at our show and say, "Hey, honey, maybe we should try that."

GS: *Sex Tips for Straight Women from a Gay Man* is based on the best-selling book of the same name. What was it about the book that compelled you to adapt it for the stage?

MM: The tone of it is what I appreciated most. It was so inviting and encouraging. I tried to hold onto that tone in adapting it into a romantic comedy. It really is *Will & Grace* onstage. The character of (Sex Tips co-author) Dan Anderson as it is written in the book is the same way that he is written in our play. He wants people to succeed. He wants people to try new things. Not because he's challenging them but because they will enjoy it. I'm not just talking about enjoying

it from a physical standpoint, but enjoying the notion of trying something different. That comes across in every way, shape and form. He's funny, witty, supportive. You get that from reading the book. I hope you get that from seeing the play, as well. I think you do and I think that's part of the reason it's been successful. People come to our show and it's not like we're pushing this advice on people. We're presenting a classic American comedy story. We're entertaining them with theatrical tricks and props and fanfare, while also serving up a few bits of advice that they may or may not take home with them.

GS: *Sex Tips for Straight Women from a Gay Man* is on the bachelorette party circuit. How did that come about?

MM: I think anything with the word "sex" in the theater will become a destination for "girls' night out" groups. That wasn't by design, it just happened naturally. Shows such as *Menopause The Musical* and other fare geared towards or dealing with issues of interest to women will naturally bring out a female audience. We get a lot of bachelorette parties. More so, we get groups of women out for a night out on the town, whether it's a bachelorette party, a birthday party or just a night out. I have been heartened by the fact that a majority of our audience is couples, women coming with their boyfriends or their husbands. I think a lot of people step into the theater not quite sure what they're going to get. They walk out with a big smile on their face. They had a good time. It's a very funny piece of theater. On the way home, they may be thinking, "Up, twist, over, and down. I wonder what that's like!" Who knows where it goes from there? The play has been a great night for gay men, too. Gay men and their female best friends. Or just groups of people that include couples,



single people, gay or straight, young or old. I think because sex sells and it's a universal topic, it really has appeal to a wide demographic.

GS: I'm glad you mentioned gay men. What percentage of the audience at the show is gay men on any given night?

MM: When we first opened in New York it was quite significant. The gay audience in New York doesn't last forever. Once the word is out, the majority of gay theatergoers will come find your show and see it. Then that audience is on to the next thing. But when we go out on tour, the percentage of the audience that is gay men is higher again. I think there are fewer options for gay men when you get outside of major markets. When our play comes to town, it's a good option. We played Provincetown for a week. The audience there was majority gay men. I think the show is fun for gay men, too, because a gay man is the leading role in the play. He's handled with respect, he's charismatic, and he's not a caricature. He's an encouraging, supportive man who feels like he has something of value to share with the audience. There's a message in there for gay men, as well.

GS: Sex Tips for Straight Women from a Gay Man has a full tour schedule. How does the show play in other parts of the country? Say Fayetteville, Arkansas and Louisville, Kentucky, for example?

MM: We just sold-out Fayetteville, Arkansas. At the Walton Arts Center, which is majorly funded by the family who owns and operates Wal-Mart. They loved it! The presenter there loved it. We track all the social media mentions about the show from wherever we are and everybody in Fayetteville was talking about the show. It was couples in their 40s, couples in their 70s. Groups of women, groups of men, all posting, "This is hilarious!" "This is a must-see!" "You have to come check this out!" Wherever it goes, it seems to do well.

GS: Are there other upcoming productions, both New York-based and touring, about which you are especially excited?

MM: Nothing I'm ready to announce now in this interview [laughs]. There are a couple of things that are brewing that I'm excited about. Sex Tips... is still growing in a very big way. We are about to launch a Las Vegas production. We hope to finalize a UK production in the near future. Lots of exciting things.

GS: In addition to your theater producer duties, you also operate Marquee Merchandise, where theatergoers are able to purchase t-shirts, hats, mugs and other theater souvenirs. What show currently has the best-selling merch?

MM: Hamilton!



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Registration is well underway with sports enthusiasts from more than 25 countries ready to compete during World OutGames Miami 2017. The games are a ten-day event that will bring to life 30 sports and 400 events. Making its US debut, the games will welcome thousands of athletes, participants, and spectators from around the globe as they ascend to Miami on May 26 through June 4, 2017.

"We are proud to bring World OutGames to the United States as a global statement of unity, inclusiveness, and healthy competition," said Ivan Cano, CEO of World OutGames Miami. "There is still time to register for this life-changing experience which will inspire, motivate, and celebrate the human spirit through its three pillars – sports, culture, and human rights."

World OutGames Miami registration is available online at www.OutGames.org. The comprehensive registration package includes admission to the highly-anticipated opening and closing ceremonies at Marlins Park, access

to open sports and culture events, access to Festival Village, and much more.

Every four years, World OutGames brings together LGBT athletes, many from countries where homosexuality remains illegal and hidden. In the spirit of true inclusiveness, the World OutGames is open to all regardless of sexual orientation. Registration is open to anyone 18 and older. However, a specific youth program for ages of 14-17 will be coordinated in partnership with Pridelines Youth Services, a Miami based nonprofit which offers a safe place for LGBTQ youth, adults, and allies.

In addition to 30 competitive sports and a variety of cultural events, the OutGames will also feature the Global Conference on Human Rights. This three-day event (May 26-29) will be headlined by a distinguished roster of notable activists, thought leaders, and community figures promoting inclusivity in sports, health and wellness, and global social justice.

For more information visit www.OutGames.org , www.facebook.com/OutGamesMiami, www.twitter.com/OutGamesMiami , and www.instagram.com/OutGamesMiami.

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I'M "DELIGHTED TOBEHERE" AT VILLAGE PUB

By Jameer Baptiste

What exciting news we have for you! Delighted Tobehere will be at Village Pub this month. Say that again, you ask? Let us clarify. For those of you who haven't had the pleasure to meet her, Miss drag extraordinaire, Delighted Tobehere, will be at Village Pub Friday, March 24 and Saturday, March 25. You're not going to want to miss her and here's why.

Delighted Tobehere is more than just your one trick pony. Standing in her seven inches plus heels, this drag professional has a multitude of skills, so much so that her talent got noticed by the famous television show, America's Got Talent (AGT). Be stunned by her impressive vocal skills with a twist that wowed the AGT judges, stay in perpetual laughter with her stand-up comedy, and give her a standing ovation for her dead-on impersonation of none other than singer superstar.



Which specific acts she'll bring on stage at Village Pub for both nights starting at 10:00PM, we don't know. But whatever it is, you're sure to be entertained with the tricks she has under her wig cap. For now, delight in her comedic replies to our interview questions as she flashes us the "daddy" behind the lady.

What acts will you be doing for your appearance at Village Pub? Wilton Manors will be presented with two nights of award winning live vocals, a little lip sync, audience participation, death defying dance "breaks," and hilarious hijinks in my show "Delighted With a D!" Last month I celebrated 16 years of drag, so in dog years I'm 112, and that's a lot of jokes! I'm a live singing, Southern Baptist, tarot reading, dom[inate], leather top, drag queen who's a Gemini with ADHD, you're going to have a great time!

What is your most powerful form of drag? I'm a queen of all trades. I love celebrity illusion,

live vocals, lip syncing, or hosting. The works. I'm not sure I'd be happy doing just one of those things the rest of my life. I blame my ADHD. But I do different things for different responses. It's the cheers from a spot on, lip synced monologue, it's the laughs from the perfectly timed joke, it's the applauses for that belted high note, and it's the silent gasp from an audience when the spotlight hits your spot-on celebrity illusion. I'm a stronger entertainer because of my diversification.

When did you start doing drag and why? Picture it, Sicily, 1923. Or rather Atlanta in 2001. I was a young impressionable Baptist boy attending Clemson University when I was whisked off to "Hotlanta" by my roommate to see The Armorettes, the infamous camp drag queens of the South. I was freshly out of the closet and scared to death, but I fell in love with the comedy and heart of these men, balloon boobs, beards, and all raising money for people living with HIV/AIDS. It wasn't long

before I did my first talent show with them at Backstreet Atlanta on Charlie Brown's stage, [it was] legendary. I never looked back.

How did you come up with such an interesting, and in some cases confusing, drag name?

Delighted Tohere is a name created to remind myself and others to live in the moment and live [your] best life. When coming up with my name, a friend of mine asked, "What do you want people to feel at your show?" My answer was, "Happy." So we pulled out the thesaurus and I read out words until I stopped at delighted and [I] started laughing. I said, "Wouldn't it be funny if my name was 'Delighted Tohere?'" I believe that I don't own the name and it exists to be shared. So, I'm Delighted Tohere and I hope everyone I meet is as well.

What was your big break as a drag queen?

I think my big break happens every time I walk on stage. I am grateful for my beginnings in camp drag. I always say that I started out funny then I learned how to do makeup and became pretty. Now, I'm just pretty funny. So for me it's not all about looks or jokes. As a drag queen, you entertain to make life better for yourself and for others. You put on a great show because your audience deserves it. You bring your "A" game for the person in the audience fighting cancer or who's lost a partner or heck, [for] someone who just stumped their toe. We get to make them laugh for a little while, which gives them a break. I'm not sure how much bigger you can get than that.

What was your experience like on America's Got Talent?

America's Got Talent was a dream! I was found during a drag brunch in West Hollywood that had 10 people in the audience, a situation where you could either give a great show or phone it in. Luckily, I didn't choose the latter. My first experience with the show was walking on that stage at the Dolby Theatre (where the Oscars are filmed), in front of 3,500 people and 4 celebrity judges. It was surreal. I did get four yes votes from the judges, but was cut by producers before judge cuts. I'll go into more detail during my show, but bottom line I had a blast and the team at AGT treated me like a star,



so it was a win in my book. More importantly, I got validation that my talent isn't limited to the safe corners of nightlife, but [rather] could be shared with anyone at anytime.

How would you categorize your drag personality in comparison to your real life personality?

Delighted is a supercharged version of me, I suppose. She's definitely more outgoing than I am but a bigger flirt. I'm pretty low key out of drag. My favorite TV show is The West Wing. I'd rather play chess than video games. I love college football, especially my national champion, the Clemson Tigers. And I love Broadway musicals, karaoke nights, and photography. I'm a spiritual person and love life and all its quirks. I'm more reserved, as Clay Smith, but we share the same heart.

What is your philosophy on drag?

Drag is perfect in its imperfection. Just ask any queen looking at a picture of themselves from last year. We think, "Who let me out of the house looking like that?" knowing full well that we felt flawless that night. It's ever growing and ever evolving. From camp queens, to bio queens, to pageant queens, to grunge queens, skinny, big, old, young, drag is an all inclusive, diverse, and beautiful community. I wish that we respect those that came before us (including ourselves from last year), support those who come after us, and that we are Delighted to be on our journey wherever we are, here and now.



What is one drag secret that you are willing to share with the public? Drag may be fun, and it may be fabulous, but it isn't comfortable. Remember, every dollar you tip a queen goes directly to her chiropractor, podiatrist, and dermatologist, and payment is due. Also, most queens are tech savvy. For instance, you can Venmo your tip to me at [@DelightedTobeHere](#). Go on, try it out.

What is one of your funniest drag experiences? It's a story that celebrates the duality of man and drag. I recently received a message on Instagram ([@QueenDelighted](#)) after a show from an 18-year-old boy who was still in high school. He'd watched my show that night and wrote to ask me to be his drag mother. I graciously declined as I had my drag tubes tied at birth. While I continued to change back to my boy self I switched apps to Scruff to find a message from that same boy saying, "Hey Daddy." Within five minutes he had unknowingly asked me to be his mommy and daddy! I wouldn't change my life for anything because I promise you this, it ain't boring.

Is this your first time in South Florida? I have had the pleasure of visiting and working in Wilton Manors a few times over the years, and have always been overwhelmed by how warm and welcoming the folks are there. I'm treating myself to an extra day before and after my

shows so that I can enjoy the city a little while "off duty." A day on a boat sounds lovely. Maybe some incredible seafood? I love local theatre and art exhibits. Some pool or beach time would be nice. And I'm always up for getting to know the incredible folks in town. I know that I will be delighted to be at Village Pub in Wilton Manors on Friday and Saturday, March 24-25. Join me, won't you? You'll be DELIGHTED you did!

So, you travel the country performing? I consider it a huge honor to be invited to perform across this amazing country. [It's] a lot of networking and hard work. I am my own agent, so having a business mind certainly helps. The biggest tip would be to be good to work with. If you can be a nice person, professional, and talented, you've got a good shot at making it. I learn so much from the different styles of drag. You can drive 50 miles and the drag style can change so drastically it will shock you. Traveling exposes me to the wonderful diversity of our drag community, and that keeps me on my toes.

Have you traveled outside of the country doing drag professionally? I've been blessed to perform internationally. Early on in my career I did a few shows in Alberta, Canada that I tacked on to a work trip I was on. Since then I've performed over 150 shows in London with the incredible queens over there. I'll be returning to Puerto Vallarta in April to continue my residency with my show Turn Delight On. I will also be opening a celebrity illusions show called Legends, Divas, and Stars out of Palm Springs featuring myself, Gigi Monroe, Leah Halston, and hosted by the legendary Tommi Rose. Check out [www.act2pv.com](#) for dates.

It's going to be a blast to have the gifted Delighted TobeHere down in Florida. Don't miss your chance to experience her impressive talents at Wilton Manors' Village Pub on March 24 and 25 starting at 10PM both nights. And if you so happen to have a boat and want to take her out on the water, she's awaiting your call.



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A SOUTH FLORIDA SHOPPING GUIDE

By Jameer Baptiste

Traveling to South Florida and want to get some shopping in, but don't know quite where to go? Well, there are a slew of great malls here in the tri-county area from the high-end boutique mall in Miami Beach to its equally fancy counterpart in West Palm Beach. Of course, we won't leave out the thirty

malls for those who love a bargain and the convenient boutique shops you can just pop in and out of in a jiffy without all the endless mall walking and hassle. Here's your pick of the litter because, when on vacation, it's all about what atmosphere and vibe you are feeling at the time.

GALLERIA MALL

2414 E Sunrise Boulevard,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33304

There's no place better to start off with than the Galleria Mall, conveniently located just a hop-skip away from Wilton Manors, South Florida's gayborhood. The mall is literally only 3.5 miles away from the gayborhood by vehicle and is quaint enough to get in and out of without all the fuss. Consider the Galleria Mall a cross between an upscale mall and that of a neighborhood-shopping plaza. There are great department stores like Macy's, Dillard's, and H&M in the plaza. There's an Apple Store as well. The bonus factor is that it includes a few great restaurants like



the upscale seafood and steak chain Truluck's. Can't forget to mention that the mall is on the direct route to the beautiful Fort Lauderdale Beach.

SWAP SHOP

3291 W Sunrise Boulevard,
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

Next on the list is one of South Florida's most recognizable flea markets, the Swap Shop. Like their old time slogan goes, "Where's the bargain? At the Swap Shop!" At this indoor, outdoor mall you can find great bargains on apparel, jewelry, cologne, and accessories along with furniture, car accessories, and so much more. Not to mention, the Swap Shop is a perfect destination to find little knickknacks to bring back home as a traveler's gift. It's also a great shopping center for families where the kiddie carnival rides are just peachy for the youngsters. But above all, the Swap Shop's not-so-hidden treasure



(to us Floridians) is their drive-in theater. How often nowadays do you get to experience that? Enjoy a nice Florida evening under the stars in the car curled up watching a movie, all at an affordable cost might we add!





Miami Gay Men's CHORUS

For nearly 20 years, the Miami Gay Men's Chorus has been an inclusive, community-based organization of gay, bisexual, and transgendered men and supporting people that inspires and changes lives through the power of music. With humor and heart, they proudly entertain their audiences while striving for artistic excellence.

Soon they will be celebrating the 40th anniversary of the groundbreaking singing group, The Village People, with a show aptly titled "It Takes a Village, People!" The show is set to run in June. More information will be released at www.mgmchorus.org.

Continuing in their commitment to enriching the LGBTQ community, the Miami Gay Men's Chorus will be walking for a cure in AIDS Walk Miami April 23, 2017. You can help their team by making a donation at www.AIDSWalkMiami.org/MGMC. All proceeds will go to CareResource, an organization dedicated to education, prevention, research, care, treatment, and support services for our diverse South Florida communities in need.

Visit www.mgmchorus.org today to read more about this great contributing organization in our community!

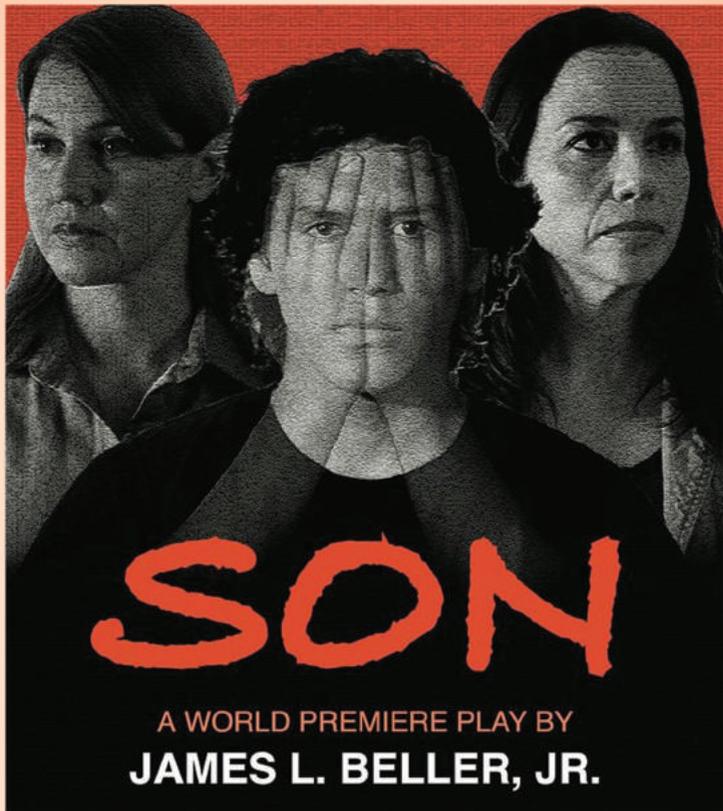
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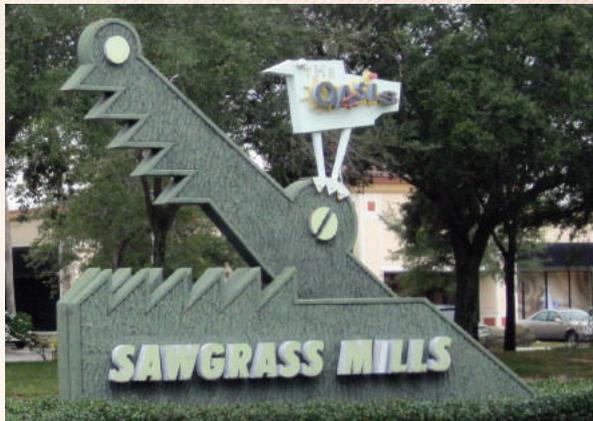
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SAWGRASS MILLS MALL

12801 W Sunrise Boulevard,
Sunrise, FL 33323

The Sawgrass Mills Mall is the South Florida mecca of outlet stores. From high-end designers like Versace, Gucci, and Prada to mid-luxury brands like Michael Kors, Tory Burch, and Coach, to department stores like Burlington, TJ Max, and Saks Fifth Avenue, Sawgrass Mills has it all. Be prepared because this mega outlet depot offers up some great exercise at 2,383,906 square feet. You sure will have to walk to take it all in. As if the deals and great finds aren't enough to keep everyone from wanting to flock to this mall, the facility also has everything your heart can desire from a movie theater, great restaurants like the Grand Lux, to an indoor role-playing



amusement center for kids called Wannado City. And flock they do. On any given day, Sawgrass Mills is swarming with travelers and shopaholics who can't resist an abundance of amazing merchandise at low prices.

AVENTURA MALL

9501 Biscayne Boulevard,
Aventura, FL 33180

Want to sidestep the bargain bins or go for the gold? Just beyond the Fort Lauderdale, Broward County border is Aventura Mall in Miami-Dade County. The 17-mile drive from the gayborhood, Wilton Manors, is worth the trip if you like the finer things in life, mixed with department stores, too. This upscale mall has all the amenities of a modern day shopping center, like that of a food court and movie theater, but sprinkled throughout the mid-size shopping square are luxury brand and fashion houses like Louis Vuitton, Chanel, Givenchy, Cartier, and Tiffany & Co. High-end departments stores like Lord & Taylor and Bloomingdale's are also onsite. Plus, the atmosphere is gay-friendly and trendy



to boot with chic fashion and eye-candy at every turn. We must admit window-shopping isn't the only stimulating scenery. But what can you expect from a mall with luxury brands that brings in the avid admirers of style and fashion? Altogether, the mall represents a mixed flow of patrons from teenagers to stylish, trendy adults.



TOWN CENTER

6000 Glades Road,
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Want to stick with the luxury brands but with a more leisurely atmosphere with not so much of the overt trendsetters and groups of youngsters hanging about? Then Town Center at Boca is the mall for you. Take a drive north to Palm Beach County where the atmosphere is tranquil and leisure. You will find pretty much

the same fashion brands and luxury departments stores (just a tad bit less) you would discover at Aventura Mall. An accurate description of Town Center's atmosphere would be like a shopping center in the serenity of a library. Not as quiet, but you get the gist. Make a day of it and visit the relaxing Red Reef Park Beach (400 N Ocean Boulevard, Boca Raton, FL 33432) located only five minutes driving distance from Town Center. It's clean, there are lifeguards on duty during the day, and the stroll down the walkway is just wonderful.

BAL HARBOUR SHOPS

9700 Collins Avenue,
Bal Harbour, FL 33154

If Town Center and Aventura Mall are the gold standards of luxury shopping, then Bal Harbour Shops is the platinum standard with nothing but five star, luxury brand boutiques. This outdoor mall is the epitome of luxury shopping. Going to Bal Harbour Shops means that you are ready to spend, spend, spend. However, you can go for a small trinket of sorts as there are luxury department stores in the plaza that offer merchandise at the same price point elsewhere. Other than the high-end shopping, Bal Harbour Shops gives you a sense of high fashion euphoria when you are in the boutique mall. It's a paradise of the latest styles and trends from the most



recognizable and acclaimed designers worldwide. The mall is a good 37 minute drive from Wilton Manors, but the 24 mile trip is well worth it, especially since this luxury locale is no more than 10 minutes from Florida's world famous tropical paradise, South Beach.

South Florida has more malls than just these six, but with a list like this you can find everything you need and more. But if you want to keep it simple and just grab something on the go, you should definitely make your way to Wilton Manors' strip mall down the city's main thoroughfare, Wilton Drive, aka The Drive. On The Drive are charming retail stores from

casual wear to thrift store finds to swanky apparel, all of which are primarily LGBTQ owned establishments. If you find yourself in Miami, make sure to stop by Bruce and Ben's store Creative Male 3227 NE 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33137), Miami's only gay-owned retail store that stocks swimwear and an assortment of apparel and accessories for all occasions.



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WHERE TO BE AND WHAT TO DO IN LGBTQ SOUTH FLORIDA

THE LITTLE MERMAID

Feb 22 - Mar 5

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

XANADU

Feb 23 - Mar 5

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

WINTER PARTY

Mar 1 - 6 | Miami & Miami Beach

TRANSCON '17

Mar 3 | Barry University

A TRULY GAY AFFAIR MIAMI LGBT WEDDING EXPO

Mar 5 | SeaFair Mega Yacht, Miami

A NIGHT OF STARS, SMART RIDE BENEFIT

Mar 9 | Lips

SANDRA BERNHARD

Mar 11 | Danio Beach Casino

2017 EQUALITY FLORIDA MIAMI GALA

Mar 12 | Nobu Hotel Miami Beach

LIP SYNC BATTLE TO BENEFIT POVERELLO

Mar 16 | Hunters

MR FLORIDA RUBBER

March 17 - 19 | Fort Lauderdale

COCO PERU

Mar 17 | Sunshine Cathedral

FLORIDA AIDS WALK & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Mar 19 | South Beach Park

CAROL BURNETTE

Mar 19

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

THE TEN TENORS

Mar 21 | Broward Center for the Performing Arts

SEX TIPS FOR A STRAIGHT WOMAN FROM A GAY MAN

Mar 23 - Apr 9

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

DELIGHTED TOBEHERE

March 24 - 25 | Village Pub

WE ARE FAMILY CONCERT

Mar 24-25 | Gay Men's Chorus of South Florida

MARCH ART WALK

Mar 25 | Fat Village

PALM BEACH PRIDE

March 25-26 | Bryant Park, Lake Worth

LINDA LAVIN

Mar 29 | Broward Center for the Performing Arts

ANDREA MARTIN

April 1 | Broward Center for the Performing Arts

SON - ISLAND CITY STAGE

Apr 6 - May 7 | Island City Stage

ONE WOMAN SEX & THE CITY

April 14 - 15

Broward Center for the Performing Arts

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MARCH 18, 2017

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SHARYN PEOPLES**



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Funding for this organization is provided in part by the Broward County Commissioners as recommended by the Broward Cultural Council.

LET'S GO CAMP-ING!

By Adam Cohen

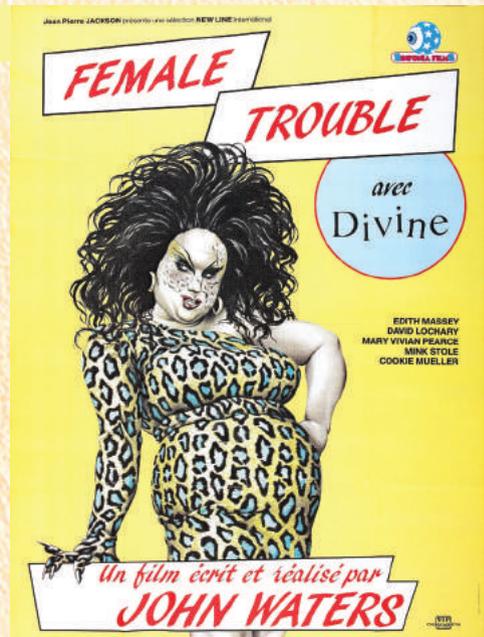
I love movies. Always have, always will. Sometimes, especially in these crazy, news media-addicted days, when even harmless Facebook political posts may lead to World War III, there is nothing more refreshing than disappearing into a dark theater with a tub of popcorn or hitting the sofa while hiding your cell phone for two hours. But I'll call it as I see it. Hollywood feels dead to me. The few times in the last year that I've stepped out to see a movie, I've been underwhelmed. Even the trailers left me sighing. I feel like Hollywood has run out of original ideas. To me, it's all a flash of war, violence, films about comic book heroes (and their subsequent remakes), and PG-rated, semi-scary horror flicks. I'm not being a Debbie Downer. The industry still puts out a number of quality flicks. But sometimes I like to indulge in the classics.

As someone approaching middle age, I have a passionate interest in the history of gay culture, and it has always been fascinating to

me that gay men don't change at heart through the years, although their fashion statements, body hair count, and locales might. Whether it's nature or nurture, even the most straight-laced of us can appreciate camp. There's just something about the absurd, the outlandish, the over-the-top in art that we can hoot and holler at, and get a bit catty with (we've all got that special quality deep down inside, after all.) Years ago, when I lived in New York City, I had a friend who schooled me in "gay cinema," and showed me some of the classics that every gay man (or woman) should see at least one time. Now mind you, these are not the definition of "high art cinema" (by any stretch of the imagination), but there's the campy elements in them that even to this day, make absolutely quotable lines and memes. There are way too many awesome campy movies, but for me, these would be the top 3 for anybody new to genre or the younger generation. (Go and see these movies! Keep them relevant!)

FEMALE TROUBLE (1974)

John Waters is still very much relevant today. Not only does he still make and write films, he's also become a gay icon in his own right and even contributes to the political arena (he recently appeared on Bill Maher's show). But before his films gained significant financial backing and celebrity cast members, he filmed all of his films in his native Baltimore, using his friends and other local bohemians called the "Dreamlanders" as his acting troupe. The sets are cheap, the costumes terrible, while even the lighting and sound have the qualities of 70's porn. But the dialogue is genius, and of course, Waters launched the career of the late Divine, one of the most famous drag queens of all time, and a close friend, who appears in almost all of



the Dreamlander films until his death in 1988. Divine plays the infamous Dawn Davenport, a teenage self-proclaimed bad girl and “s***-kicker” who runs away from home when she doesn’t get cha-cha heels for Christmas, gets impregnated and gives birth to her daughter, Taffy, and embarks on a life of crime that spins out of control when she is “discovered” by beauticians Donna and Donald Dasher who believe that “crime

makes you more beautiful” and who want to photograph Dawn committing violent crimes. And that’s just one of the film’s plots. Another of John Waters’ classics from this period is Pink Flamingos, which is terrific as well, but many consider Female Trouble to be his piece de la resistance. Not the faint of heart, these two films were quite prophetic in the glamorization of crime in the media, an issue we still grapple with today.

VALLEY OF THE DOLLS (1967)

Sex! Pills! Celebrity! Big hair! Catfights! Tacky clothing! Things we love as gay men, in addition to watching people implode! We get all that in this camp classic, based on notorious writer Jacqueline Susann’s runaway best-selling novel. Made on a big budget with big stars of the day (Patty Duke, Sharon Tate, and Susan Hayward, who replaced Judy Garland in the film after a day of filming due to Judy’s inability to stay sober and coherent during rehearsals), Valley of the Dolls was intended to serve as a cautionary tale about the evils of show business and the gluttonous lifestyle that accompanies it. Neely (Patty Duke) rises from chorus girl to international superstar; Jennifer (Sharon Tate) escapes the semi-clad showgirl life when she marries a famous singer, but is forced to star in French porn films when she is diagnosed with a mysterious illness; and Anne (Barbara Parkins) goes from secretary for an entertainment lawyer to cosmetics model, on the hunt for love, but is ultimately

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ANNE who goes from a secretary to a cosmetics model. She has it all: beauty, brains, and a big heart.

BARBARA who goes from a secretary to a cosmetics model. She has it all: beauty, brains, and a big heart.

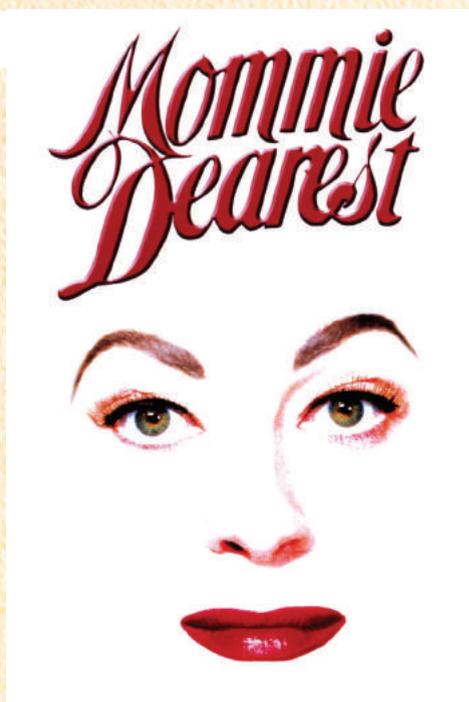
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disappointed when the love of her life has an affair with the boozy, drugged-out Neely. Besides the over-the-top costumes and sets and ridiculous overacting, this film has some of the most ridiculously fabulous dialogue in the history of cinema, truly making it one of the cornerstones of camp. I could literally go on for hours quoting some of the cheesiest dialogue ever written, but I wouldn’t want to ruin it for anybody who hasn’t seen the movie before. Suffice it to say that one of the most gay-celebrated scenes is where Patty Duke and Susan Hayward engage in a knock-down drag-out catfight in the ladies room at a Hollywood party, and a wig ends up getting flushed down the toilet. Need I say more?



MOMMIE DEAREST (1981)

Joan Crawford was one of the most classic gay icons and her influence lives on today, 40 years after her death. She rose through the ranks of showbiz from dancer to silent film star to a major Hollywood icon during the "Golden Age" of Hollywood in the 1930s and 1940s. She drank, she cussed, she had exquisite eyebrows and bizarre hairstyles, and absolutely loved her fans. Behind the scenes, however, was allegedly an entirely different situation as she mercilessly abused her children, most notably her daughter, Christina, who was disinherited in her will at the time of her death in 1977. Now child abuse is, of course, not a funny topic, but when you have a film as ridiculously written and overacted as this one, it crosses that line from serious to over-the-top, gut-busting camp. Star Faye Dunaway "chews the scenery" and acts like a damn lunatic, shrieking campy lines like "Tina, bring me the ax!" and "I don't ask much from you Girl!" Although over the top, Dunaway's physical transformation into Joan was breathtaking and some considered it one of her most accurate, on-point performances, although still to this day, she will not discuss the film in interviews. Coincidentally, the upcoming Ryan Murphy mini-series *Feud*,



will be about the ongoing Hollywood rivalry between Crawford and Bette Davis during the production of another major camp classic, 1962's *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* So if you haven't seen *Mommie Dearest*, this would be a terrific time to get out there so you know what you'll be "working with!"

Of course, by no means is this any sort of exhaustive list. I can think of at least fifty other amazing camp classics off the top of my head, but these three are a good start if one wishes to embark on a "film journey." It would also be terrific if any local theaters or venues had a "camp night," showing classic films that the LGBT

community would enjoy. It's always a fun time sitting among other filmgoers, quoting terribly written dialogue. So get out there! See these classics! Keep them alive and relevant! Until then, in the immortal words of Siskel and Ebert, I'll "see you at the movies!"

Adam Cohen is a South Florida based corporate suit by day and wannabe Carrie Bradshaw by night, who has proven that New York City (where he was born and raised) is not the only sexy city in the world. He relocated to South Florida in 2004 from the Big Apple and has never looked back.

Contact him at adamrobertcohen@gmail.com or follow him on [Facebook](#).

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GUY AT THE END OF THE BAR

JOSHUA PETTUS AT MONA'S COCKTAIL LOUNGE IN FORT LAUDERDALE, FL

By Arthur Wood

Occupation: Mixologist and photographer at Double J Photography.

Age: 33

Single or taken? Taken. Married for 2 years and together for 10 years.

Favorite drink at the bar? Josh Shot.

Favorite thing about South Florida? The ocean and the weather.

How do you stay so fit? Maintaining the boat and a pretty healthy diet.

Stay in or go out? Stay in. I go out once in a blue moon; I go out with Boys with Boats events.

What are your interests outside of work? Horseback riding, swimming, photography, diving, fishing, snorkeling, and now snow skiing. I love to travel.

What turns you on? Armpits.

What turns you off? Feet.

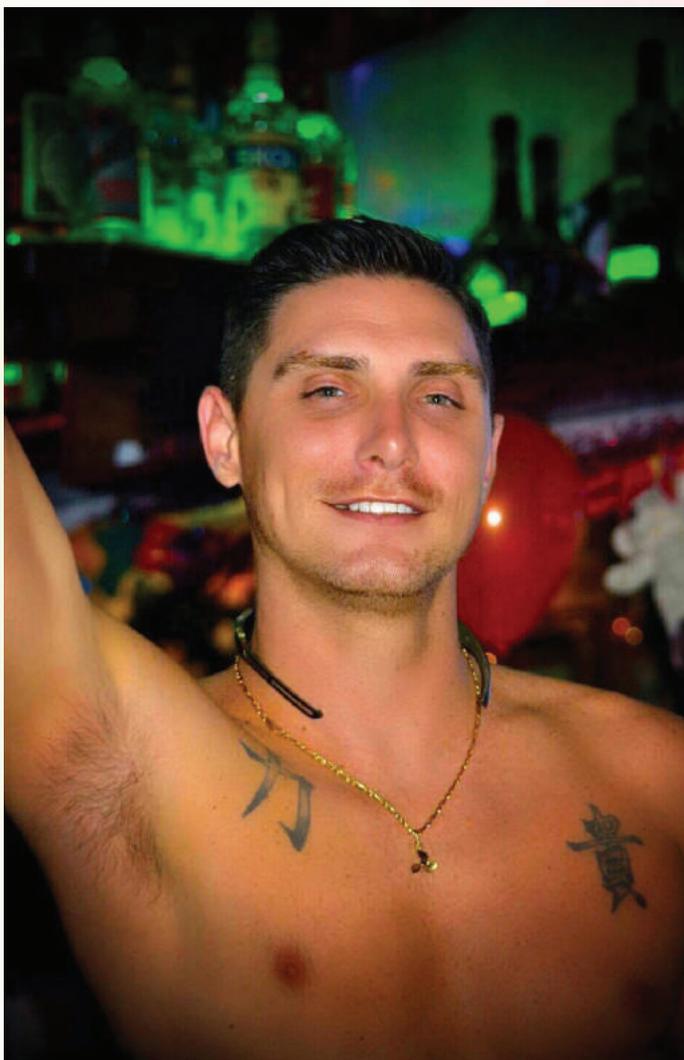
Favorite beach? Haulover Beach because I can be naked.

What's your idea of a perfect date? Going out on the boat, anchoring out, having a nice lunch with relations afterwards, and relaxing. I'm a simple guy.

Are you a romantic? I can be. I love to wine and dine here and there.

Celebrity crush? Zac Efron. He's the first one to come to mind.

What surprises people about you? My coming out as gay was a big surprise to everyone. Also, I was a martial artist for 7.5 years.



Proudest accomplishment thus far? My husband. I am spending my life with someone I love.

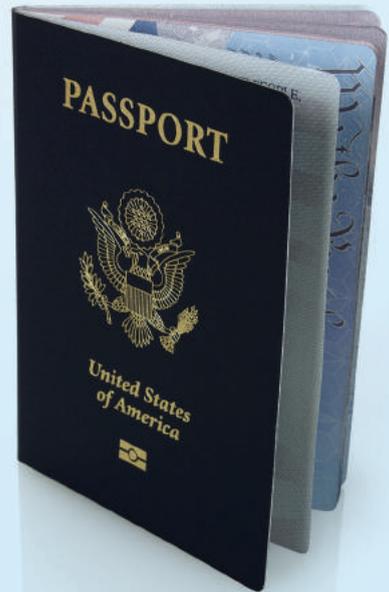
Resolution for 2017? To travel a lot more.



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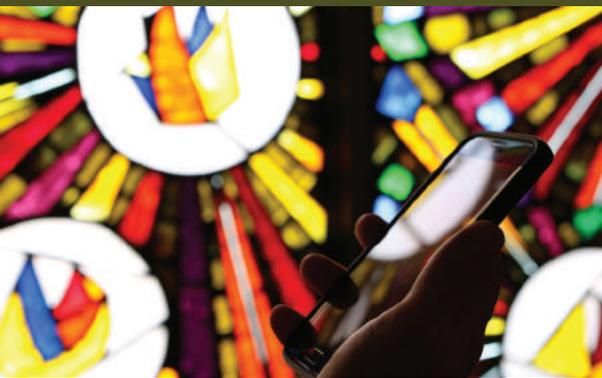
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THE CHOSEN ONE

By Rev. Patrick Rogers, MDiv



March 1, 2017 marks the season of Lent. As a solemn religious observance in the liturgical calendar, it begins on Ash Wednesday and ends approximately six weeks later just before Easter Sunday. It is a time when we are called to deepen our relationship with Christ and discern where God is working in our lives. We are invited to ask ourselves the question, "Where is God leading me to make a difference in this world?"

One of my favorite parts of the Lenten journey is Palm Sunday. It is the day we celebrate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem one week before His resurrection. This year we will celebrate Palm Sunday on April 9.

Palm Sunday began with Jesus and His disciples traveling over the Mount of Olives. The Lord sent two disciples ahead into the village of Bethphage to find an animal to ride. They found the unbroken colt of a donkey, just as Jesus had said they would. When they untied the colt, the owners began to question them.

So did Jesus send the disciples to steal someone's farm animal? One could look at the story that way but I choose to see this story from the viewpoint of the donkey itself. This pack animal is having a regular donkey-day, going through life with its belief in its intended purpose, but on this special day two strangers show up and reveal a different plan. It overhears two complete strangers tell its owner that "The Lord needs him" and they unveil God's plan that the donkey will carry the King through the King's triumphant ride into Jerusalem.

As the donkey hears the Lord's plan, I can imagine

his reaction in the voice of Eddie Murphy's character in the movie *Shrek*. I can hear Eddie say out loud, "Oh, not me boys, you got the wrong donkey here, you are looking for another donkey down the street!" Yet the disciples reveal that this donkey is the chosen one!

As the donkey accepts his intended role and carries the "King" into the city of Jerusalem, he travels his path in a way like never before. The previous rocky road beneath his hooves is now covered with palm branches and cloaks which softened that same harden road. Life was indeed different once he accepted his personal divine calling.

Each of us has a "divine" calling. When we choose to accept it, the roads we travel become transformed. When our personal fears and feelings of unworthiness move out of the way, there is no limit to what the Divine can do through us. We have been chosen by the Divine to carry the King (or our personal understanding of the divine). In today's context, we may be a Chevrolet, Ford, or even a foreign car, but we are also a vehicle of the Divine, the chosen one! It is time to say yes to our personal, divine, intended purpose!

Rev. Patrick Rogers, MDiv is Senior Pastor at United Church of Christ Fort Lauderdale, 2051 NE 30th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33306 www.UCCFtL.org

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SPOTLIGHT ON OUR COMMUNITY

THE POVERELLO CENTER

By Jameer Baptiste



May 2017 marks the 30-year anniversary of the Poverello Center and it goes without saying that a round of applause is in order. Poverello is a staple in greater Fort Lauderdale as one of Broward County's leading food pantries. To believe it all started with one member of our community to help the ailing is truly humbling. Father Bill Collins and his desire to help feed the growing number of HIV/AIDS patients in 1988 was the birth of Poverello.

Father Collins' initial endeavor has evolved over the years and thanks to him, nearly 3,000 deprived families visit the cherished nonprofit yearly for nourishment, a basic survival need. But that's not all. With three decades of growth, the evolving nonprofit organization has become so much more. Helping to ensure the longevity of the charitable organization is one of Poverello's fairly new bright stars, Kevin J. Clevenger. His work as the events and fundraising coordinator keeps Poverello on its mission with a course for new and exciting developments. With his drive and love for helping others, he's the perfect guy to navigate us through Poverello's chivalry.

What are your duties at the job?

I was originally hired to do one event and that was the annual Bowling to Fight Hunger. Once I got in there, I saw so many areas that I wanted to grow. We now have a great social media presence, we have events monthly, and during the holidays we have a food drive.

What services other than the food pantry does Poverello offer?

The Poverello Center has many different areas of services. Most people know our award-winning thrift store and that we are a food pantry. However, another one of our services that we offer for free to our clients is our Live Well Center. It's located in a separate building just a few steps away from our main facility. The Live Well Center offers a full range of services: a gym, acupuncture, massage, chiropractic, and barber services.

What changes has Poverello gone through over the years since it's been in existence?

Just recently as part of our 5-year strategic plan, we changed our mission statement.



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You noticed I mentioned chronic and critical illnesses. Currently, one large county HIV program provides funding for us. What we would like to do is find additional funding to help people with other critical or chronic illnesses like cancer, kidney, or heart disease. The things we've learned with HIV can easily be used to help people in the crisis of other illnesses. However, HIV is still the core of what we do.

What are some of Poverello's staple events and what are some new events and activities that are in the works?

The annual Bowling to Fight Hunger in August is our recurring fundraiser. This year will be our 27th event. We will also be participating in the Florida AIDS Walk and Music Fest this year. Some of our new events are Casino Night, dining out events, and, my new personal favorite, the Celebrity Lip Sync Battle. The battles are so much fun. This year I've invited the other beneficiaries of the AIDS Walk to come help fundraise for their efforts, too.

Where can people go to see the upcoming events and activities?

Facebook (@hungerfighter) has the most current events. Our new website will launch in March and will list our events there as well.



What does working at Poverello mean to you?

I have always enjoyed helping others, but now I get to see how my efforts benefit so many. If you were to sit in our parking lot for one day, you would see hundreds of families and individuals picking up food. I can see how my fundraising efforts have helped provide additional fresh fruits and vegetables each week to our clients. The food we collect at our food drives is distributed immediately. It is so rewarding to know that I can make a difference to so many people that are less fortunate.

What can you say about the Poverello staff?

Not only just the staff, but also our volunteers are truly amazing. We have people who volunteer from every walk of life. Their generosity helps the staff stay focused and encourages us to do more, be better people, and always remain grateful.

How can someone become a volunteer?

I want to invite anyone who is interested to schedule a tour of our facility. Or if they would like to volunteer to contact us at Volunteer@poverello.org. Volunteers play a key role in helping us keep our costs low. We have the equivalent of 19 full-time employees that volunteer each week.

To learn more about the Poverello Center visit them online at www.poverello.org.



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