

south florida's lgbtq magazine  
oct|nov 2017 • vol. 15

Miami Herald  
CLARITY

# palette



## A CUT ABOVE

Anabel Ruiz has crafted a beautiful life

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Celebrate Orgullo • The Miami Book Fair's LGBTQ Offerings & more...

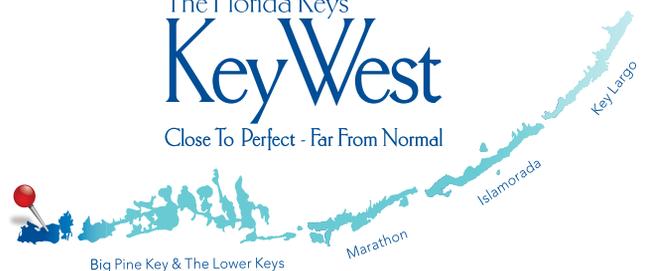
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PEKING DUCK THAT “SETS THE STANDARD”

– MIAMI HERALD

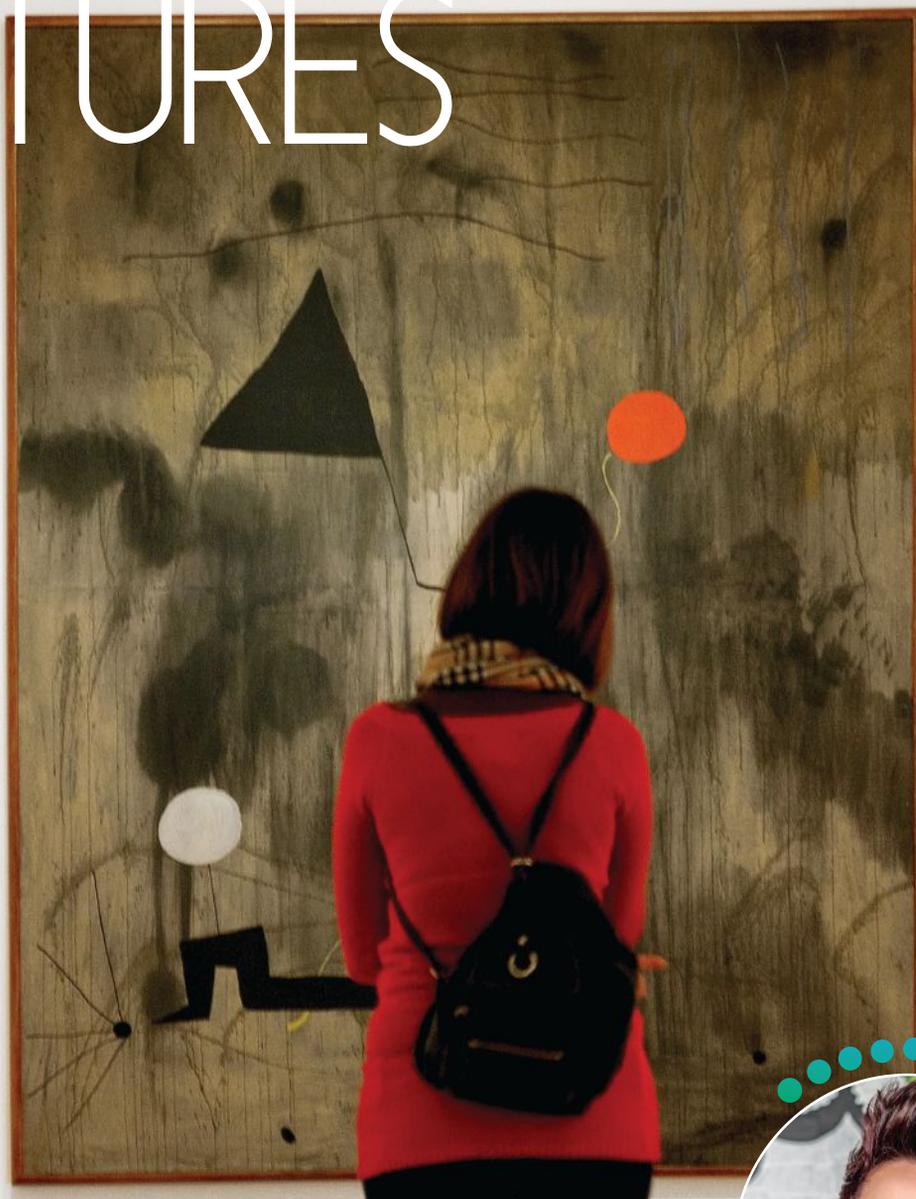


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# FEATURES



## 022 • **the ride of your life**

When South Florida's most beautiful season sets in, it's time to don the cycling gear and join the SMART Ride.

## 028 • **anabel ruiz**

This inspired local artist discovered that sometimes the quickest way to your truth and your art is around the world and back.

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Known for his bombastic style and playful antics, Enrique Santos takes a moment to discuss more serious matters.

## 036 • **roller derby queens**

Far south in a part of Florida known more for mini-malls and sprawling homes than fierce competitions, the Vice City Rollers add an exhilarating dose of spice to suburban life.

## 042 • **new york minutes**

Whether you are one of the many former residents who now live here, a frequent NYC traveler or completely uninitiated, there is something to see and do at all times in the Big Apple, the LGBTQ city that still never sleeps.



### on the cover:

Anabel Ruiz photographed  
by Nick Garcia  
at her art studio;  
hair and makeup  
by JPenn Hair and  
Makeup Artist



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# DEPARTMENTS

## 012 • reviews

March to the beat of your own drum with selections that are sure to entice you.

## 014 • arts & culture

The Miami Book Fair's annual literary fest treats us with readings, interviews and other events, featuring contemporary authors, including Armistead Maupin.

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## 068 • final thoughts

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## 055 • CLARITY

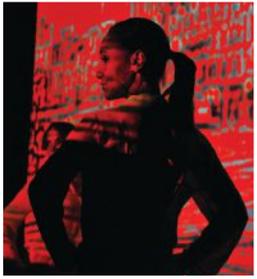
On the cover: Claire Lardner and Christine Sweeny, Certified Picture Framers and owners of FrameWorks (Corporate Partner Member of the Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce), photographed by Marta Neira of Marta Neira Photography at their store in Coconut Grove.



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# WORKING TOGETHER

**W**ithin this issue of *Palette* we have the great pleasure of publishing the final edition of our *CLARITY Business Magazine* for the year. The successful partnership between *Palette* and *CLARITY* was the direct result of the Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's more than 20-year relationship with the *Miami Herald*. From the outset, our mutual goal has been to showcase stories that are relevant to our community and feature the best of what we have to offer.

And our very best is indeed what's been in full display since Hurricane Irma tore through our area. On the streets and across neighborhoods in Broward and Miami-Dade fallen trees have been lifted, power has returned and neighbors, friends and families have come together to clean up and get back to a sense of normal living. That same drive and support extends down through communities across the Keys, still in dire need of assistance. Often said to be just a short drive away but a world apart, this last storm proved how easily the island chain could be cut off from the rest of us and how much our efforts really make a difference.

With this issue, *Palette* celebrates the artistic events and creative people in our region, as well as the ongoing efforts of organizations like SMART Ride, which raise funds that go directly to the neediest among us. *CLARITY* continues to provide its members with news and advertising by and about our nearly 600 member businesses.

Through our combined effort we hope to offer the local LGBTQ community the strength of a unified voice, along with broader market reach. But we also appeal to our readers and advertisers to support us. As Hurricane Irma just underscored, we are all in this together. It is only thanks to regular, committed advertiser support that we can continue to provide the caliber of reading material you've come to expect from our publications.

I want to thank you for a great year. We'll be back in the spring!

Sincerely,

Steve Adkins  
President and CEO



## USEFUL RESOURCES

### Miami-Dade

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[aquafoundation.org](http://aquafoundation.org)

Care Resource  
[careresource.org](http://careresource.org)

Latinos Salud  
[latinosalud.org](http://latinosalud.org)

Lotus House  
[lotushouse.org](http://lotushouse.org)

OUT Miami Foundation  
[outmiami.org](http://outmiami.org)

Pridelines  
[pridelines.org](http://pridelines.org)

SAVE  
[save.lgbt](http://save.lgbt)

The Alliance for LGBTQ Youth  
[glbtqalliance.org](http://glbtqalliance.org)

Unity Coalition | Coalición Unida  
[unitycoalition.org](http://unitycoalition.org)

Yes Institute  
[yesinstitute.org](http://yesinstitute.org)

### Broward

Broward House  
[browardhouse.org](http://browardhouse.org)

Pride Center at Equality Park  
[pridecenterflorida.org](http://pridecenterflorida.org)

Stonewall National Museum & Archives  
[stonewall-museum.org](http://stonewall-museum.org)

SunServe  
[sunserve.org](http://sunserve.org)

World AIDS Museum and Educational Center  
[worldaidsmuseum.org](http://worldaidsmuseum.org)

### Monroe

AIDS Help  
[ahmonroe.org](http://ahmonroe.org)

Key West Business Guild  
[gaykeywestfl.com](http://gaykeywestfl.com)

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# GET CONNECTED



**Steve Rothaus** covers LGBTQ issues in South Florida and is also the *Miami Herald's* assistant community news editor. Don't forget to check out Steve Rothaus' LGBTQ South Florida News in the *Miami Herald* and at [miamiherald.com](http://miamiherald.com) — and follow his Twitter account, @SteveRothaus — for the latest information about our community.



## NICK GARCIA

Born and raised in Barranquilla, Colombia, Nick began his photography training as an apprentice under his father, Enrique Garcia, and later studied at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. He now fields assignments for numerous international titles, including *Billboard Magazine*, *The Guardian* and *Women's Health*, and also contributes regularly on local publications like *Miami Magazine*, *Ocean Drive*, *Indulge*, *Haute Living* and *Weddings South Florida*, among others.



## SHAYNE BENOWITZ

Shayne is the Hotels and Travel editor for *Miami.com* and a frequent contributor to the *Miami Herald*. She is also the Miami destination expert and a hotel critic for the *Daily Telegraph* in London. Her work has appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* and *Charlotte Observer* newspapers and in *Modern Luxury Interiors South Florida* and *Aventura* magazines.



## LORRIE-ANN DIAZ

Lorrie-Ann Diaz is an 18-year veteran of the NBA, 17 of them with the Miami HEAT. She is the senior director of business communications for the HEAT and AmericanAirlines Arena. A Miami native, she enjoys the beach, the arts, traveling, reading, writing and working out. Among her lesser known talents: riding a unicycle, juggling and juggling while riding a unicycle. Check her out online: [LAthePerson.com](http://LAthePerson.com) or email her at [ladiaz@heat.com](mailto:ladiaz@heat.com).



## JULIE BALTER

Julie is a writer, yogi and calculated risk-taker. Her career has included everything from her 10+ years as a Screen Actors' Guild Florida Branch executive to her current role for LGBT-based marketing campaigns, such as Kiss for Equality. She's a former yoga instructor at Prana Yoga in Miami, the blog creator of *Yogi After Forty* and a contributing writer for *Elephant Journal*. [yogiafterforty.com](http://yogiafterforty.com)



## DANIEL SHOER ROTH

An author, journalist, biographer and essayist, Daniel's Sunday column in *el Nuevo Herald* casts a spotlight on critical issues often neglected in South Florida's melting pot. His work has received multiple honors from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the National Association of Hispanic Journalists and the National Association of Hispanic Publications. Daniel has published three books.



## LAWRENCE FERBER

Born and raised in New York, travel and arts journalist Lawrence Ferber has written for *National Geographic Traveler*, *CondeNastTraveler.com*, *Islands Magazine*, *Fodors.com*, *The New York Post*, *Passport Magazine*, *Time Out New York* and many others. He co-wrote the 2010 gay romantic comedy *BearCity*, and his hobby photo project, *I Am A Tourist* chronicles tourists across the globe. [iliketogethatthere](http://iliketogethatthere)

# Adrienne Arsht Center

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BY ROBERT SCHENKKAN

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September 29

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October 15

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October 20 & 21

MIAMI CITY BALLET

**Jewels**

October 20 - 22

**LUDOVICO EINAUDI**

**ESSENTIAL EINAUDI**

October 22

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in concert

October 27

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**YO-YO MA**  
Plays Strauss

October 28

Family Fest

**SPOOKY SYMPHONY**

October 29

**TOPDOG/UNDERDOG**

November 2 - 19

**Ella Fitzgerald**

100TH BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE

November 3

**Gavin Degraw**  
TOUR

November 4

**ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

November 5

FLORIDA GRAND

**opera LUCIA**  
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November 11 - 18

**MISOCNIC**  
music fashion & arts

November 12

J.K. ROWLING'S WIZARDING WORLD

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# DIFFERENT DRUMMERS



These selections will give you license to sing, draw and hum along to your own beat.

by GREGG SHAPIRO

**A**mong witty observations, erotic visuals and contagious dance tunes, these selections have one message in common: find your own truth and follow it.

## Deep Thoughts

Award-winning gay writer Tim Federle, returns with *Life Is Like a Musical: How to Live, Love, and Lead Like a Star* (Running Press, 2017), a self-help book/memoir that lives up to its titular claim. Federle, who describes himself as “perhaps the most prototypical snarky gay teen who ever lived,” incorporates personal anecdotes from his theater career over 50 quick chapters.

“Your dream role will likely change a few times, but the fun happens on the way to creating it,” he quips. Additional insights include, “confidence is overrated and courage is underrated,” “being gracious is an easier skill to master than being brilliant,” “never get so self-serious that you turn down the

chance to break into song” and “dance like everyone’s watching, soon they actually will.”

Federle extols the virtue of unbroken eye contact and being a “nodder, not a yawner,” as well as having the “audacity to belong in the room.”

## A Man’s Man

With a name as recognizable as his homoerotic images, visual artist Tom of Finland (aka Touko Laaksonen) is an LGBTQ icon. The legendary artist’s life is the subject of Dome Karukoski’s biopic *Tom of Finland*.

The film revisits pivotal moments of Laaksonen’s life — as portrayed by Pekka Strang — from his time as a World War II soldier exploring his attraction to men (and the influence the military had on his artwork) to his worldwide success as an artist.

In doing so, it also traces Laaksonen’s complex artistic development after the war.

• Clockwise from top: Stephen Granville, Ian Donaldson and Steve Bronski.

Below: *Life Is Like a Musical: How to Live, Love, and Lead Like a Star* by Tim Federle

Living with his sister Kaija (Jessica Grabowsky), who gets him a job as an illustrator at the ad agency where she works, he begins to secretly draw provocative pictures of muscled men — in an out of uniform. Besides sharing an apartment, the siblings also share romantic interest in a gorgeous gay dancer they take in as a boarder — Nipa (Lauri Tilkanen).

Ultimately, the men fall in love (despite Kaija’s best efforts), and Nipa becomes an especially powerful influence, encouraging Laaksonen to continue creating while seeking out ways to share his art. Their romance is one of the most charming elements of the story, while it’s sense of history reflects the changing views regarding homosexuality throughout the 20th century.

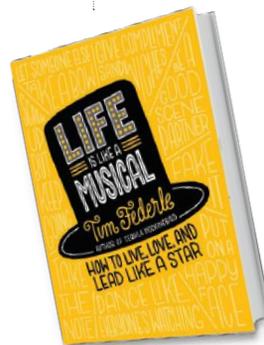
*Tom of Finland* is screening as part of the OUTshine Film Festival’s Fort Lauderdale edition. For more information, visit [outshinefilm.com](http://outshinefilm.com).

## Keep Dancing

Featuring the soaring falsetto vocals of Jimmy Somerville, along with Steve Bronski and the late Larry Steinbachek on keyboards and percussion, Bronski Beat first caught listeners’ attention with the groundbreaking dance single “Small Town Boy.” That track, one of the most powerful coming out songs ever recorded, was on the band’s seminal 1984 debut album *The Age of Consent*.

Somerville departed shortly thereafter, but Bronski kept his namesake band going on and off for years. It’s been two decades now since we last heard from them, but Bronski Beat is back with two new members for the double disc re-recording and expanding of *The Age of Reason* (SFE/Cherry Red).

New lead vocalist Stephen Granville does an admirable job covering Somerville, and there are also new tunes, such as a cover of Sylvester’s “Stars” and the tribute track “Flower for Dandara,” written for murdered trans-woman Dandara dos Santos. •



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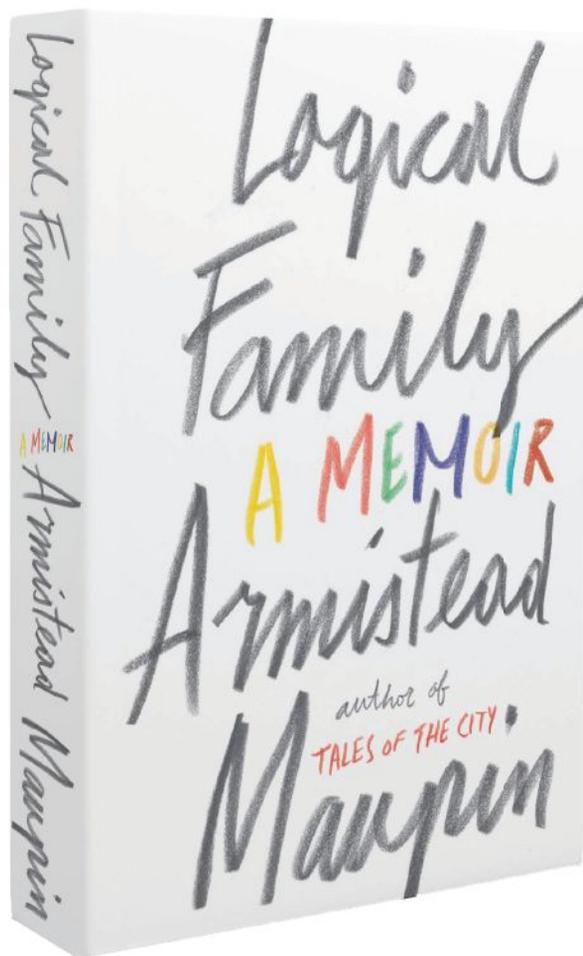
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Martin Kippenberger, *Worktimer*  
(Peter sculpture), 1987.  
Courtesy the Estate of Martin Kippenberger,  
Galerie Gisela Capitain, Cologne.  
Photo: Lothar Schreyer, Cologne.





## TALES OF A STORYTELLER

Armistead Maupin reveals his own odyssey in *Logical Family – A Memoir*, one of the works showcased at this year's edition of the Miami Book Fair.

by DANIEL SHOER ROTH

**T**he legendary author of the bestselling *Tales of the City* series loves to polish his work until it shines and then sprinkle it with rich details.

Even in the early 1970s, when he landed a job at the AP Bureau

### Bookish Types

Miami Book Fair 2017 – November 12–19 – features some of America's finest LGBTQ authors.

For information visit at [miamibookfair.com](http://miamibookfair.com).

in his new hometown of San Francisco, a veteran editor said to him, "I've got my eye on you. People tell me you're lazy and you talk too much and you waste too much time polishing the stories."

Certain about not changing his distinctive style, he quit within the month. "I don't put anything down that I am not absolutely happy with," he says.

With such a deliberate approach, it's no surprise that it took him a few years to write *Logical Family – A Memoir*, a moving and brutally honest portrait of his evolution from being a conflicted youth brought up in a conservative Southern family to becoming a groundbreaking writer and gay rights pioneer in 1980s San Francisco.

"People always tell me that I am a good fast read, but a good fast read is a very slow write," says the 73-year-old novelist, one of several LGBTQ authors featured at the 2017 edition of the Miami Book Fair.

"In order for language to flow through the reader's head at a certain speed, the writer has to be conscious of rhythm and make every effort not to bore the reader," says Maupin. "What you leave out is as important as what you put in."

Although he has extensively drawn from real-life experiences to craft his fictional accounts and characters, as he's grown older he's felt the need to sort out aspects of his own experience.

"It required me to be honest and that is especially challenging to a storyteller, because we always want to make things better," he admits. "There is a need for modesty."

There was also the ever-challenging task of reconstructing scenes from events that occurred long ago. "No writer can claim to remember conversations from 40 years ago, but you can recreate the spirit of the conversations," he says. "My job is simply to bring the reader into my life, encountering sensual items, smell

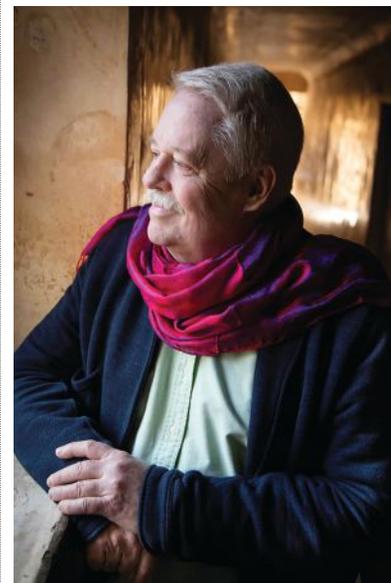
and taste, and tiny details that draw a larger picture."

Some memories of the Old South were painful. He recalls his mother's concern about his delicate appearance in his early teens. She once told him he shouldn't hang out with his friend Eddie because he was "a little bit sissy," thinking that if the two were seen together "people might get the 'wrong idea'."

Maupin eventually broke free. "My life story reverberates with a lot of people, because they've been through the same experience; men and women who have been raised in a hyper-religious, hyper-conservative atmosphere, and they've had to break away from it and form their own logical family."

Forming a new, nonjudgmental family creates the kinds of bonds that make sense to many in the LGBTQ community. It reflects our common experience and validates our connections and aspirations.

This message goes further than just celebrating the connections we make. "Don't think you are going to find total happiness on your iPhone. Meet people. Talk to them. Look into other people's eyes; look into their hearts. Be your true self; don't try to be something you aren't," he says. "That's the only way you're going to find real love in life. Keep your heart open in an honest way." •



# BRAIN

## THE INSIDE STORY

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The Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science is supported by the Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners of Miami-Dade County. This project is supported by the Building Better Communities Bond Program and the City of Miami. Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture. The museum is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and a member of the Association of Science and Technology Centers. Frost Science is an accessible facility. All contents ©Phillip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science. All rights reserved.



## LIVEN UP NEUTRALS

Set up a strong neutral backdrop and then make it pop with bold pieces that stand out.

by OSKAR TORRES

**M**ost of us can't change up our furnishings with the same frequency we change our clothing or even as often as we get our hair done, but we can do right by ourselves by setting up the right canvas. Step 1: Pick a few strong pieces that can anchor your room. This could be your new favorite couch, a welcoming dinner table or a fabulously inviting bed. Step 2: Make a statement — or as many as your mercurial heart desires. An eye-catching chair here, a brightly colored pillow there, a few bold and beautifully well-placed vases. You get the picture!•

where to buy •



1. Fold Sofa in Carbon Steel: Artefacto; 17651 Biscayne Blvd., Aventura; 305.931.9484; [artefacto.com](http://artefacto.com) 2. Multi Windmill Bargello Throw Pillow: Jonathan Adler, Miami Design District; 4040 NE 2nd Ave.; 305.576.0200; [jonathanadler.com](http://jonathanadler.com) 3. Bell Side Table Das Haus Edition by Sebastian Herkner: Luminaire; 2331 Ponce De Leon Blvd, Coral Gables; 305.448.7367; [luminaire.com](http://luminaire.com) 4. Mini Jelly Swivel Armchair: Luminaire Lab, Miami Design District; 3901 NE 2nd Ave.; 305.576.5788; [luminaire.com](http://luminaire.com) 5. Color Glass Vases – Collection 2: B+G Design; 410 NW 1st Ave., Ste. 301, Fort Lauderdale; 954.929.6949; [bandgdesign.com](http://bandgdesign.com)



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# REMEMBERING THE SPANISH DIVA

Celebrate Orgullo pays homage to screen icon Sara Montiel through a series of evening events.

by DANIEL SHOER ROTH

Unity Coalition/Coalición Unida's annual Celebrate Orgullo festival features thoughtful collaboration with local artists, musicians and activists to highlight the contributions of LGBTQ Latinas and Latinos during Hispanic Heritage Month.

The festival's seventh edition, which takes place October 1–15 this year revolves around legendary singer and actress, Sara Montiel.

"She was iconic to the gay Hispanic world," says festival

organizer Herb Sosa. "Probably there isn't a Hispanic drag queen in any bar that hasn't interpreted Sarita Montiel."

"She used her celebrity status and international recognition to protect the gay community under the dictatorship of [Francisco] Franco when no one was talking about LGBT rights. She was very outspoken and supportive."

Long before Penelope Cruz, Montiel was the first Spanish actress to conquer Hollywood. Her sensuous beauty and magnificent

voice fueled a 30-year film career, complete with a trail of famous lovers and husbands. In her twilight years, she shared some of those memories with Alberto Rivas, a multidisciplinary artist who became her personal photographer.

"Sara was my teacher, my artistic godmother and my confidante. She was a [selfless] woman who taught me that in this life one always has to be true to oneself," says Rivas. His stunning images will be on display during the SARA GALA, the highlight of the festival's programming which promises a celebration of art, music and glamour at the Coral Gables Women's Club.

Javier Montilla, author of *Últimos días con Sara Montiel (The Last Days with Sara Montiel)*, a fictionalized account of the actress' life, will read excerpts from his book at the gala, which will also feature performances by the Miami Gay Men's Chorus and local drag queens, Envee and Vinna Rouge.

Montilla is also scheduled to participate in the Rhythm, Rhymes and Writing workshop at Pridelines, along with Caridad Moro-Gronlier and other LGBTQ Latino authors.

As part of its celebration, the festival highlights a number of local artists in exhibits throughout the month of October at venues throughout the city, including the HUB@LGBT Visitor Center, Pridelines and MMM Gallery.

This year's festival coincides with Unity Coalition/Coalición Unida's 15th anniversary. Seven years ago, then Miami Beach mayor, Matti Herrera Bower, convened LGBTQ leaders to create an event to draw together Latin Pride and Hispanic Heritage Month.

The party continues, but now it's inside a bus. On Oct. 7, three buses hosted by drag performers Adora, TP Lords and Ann Anatomic-Lords will each take ticket-holders to an artist's studio, all culminating in Little Haiti's Fountainhead Studios for a gathering of live pop-up music and art performances. •

• Spanish diva Sara Montiel is the inspiration for this year's edition of the Celebrate Orgullo festival.





## IT'S PLAY TIME!

A few imaginative gadgets can turn a regular old afternoon into an artful journey.

**K**ids are by nature curious creatures. With the ongoing push toward science, math and engineering programs — from school curriculum standards to birthday party venues — it's a great idea to throw them an artsy curveball. Make music accessible, even to the seemingly tone-deaf, with a digital ukelele. Encourage your little doodler with a 3D pen. Invite everyone to get into the groove with a handheld device that lets you choreograph the music in your soul. Kick it old school with a fashion forward retro camera. Whether you have an incurable artist on your hands or not, these gadgets will have just about anyone in the mood to play. •

### where to buy •

1. Populele: [popuband.com](http://popuband.com)
2. Phonotonic: [phonotonic.net](http://phonotonic.net)
3. Lomo 'Instant Panama Camera: Barnes & Noble; 152 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables; 305.446.4152; [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com)
4. Scribbler 3D: Walmart; 2551 E Hallandale Beach Blvd., Hallandale Beach; 954.455.4700; [walmart.com](http://walmart.com)





## INSPIRED FLAVORS

Dizzying murals and contemporary art galleries may have put Wynwood on the map, but the neighborhood is swiftly transforming into one of Miami's hottest foodie destinations.

by SHAYNE BENOWITZ

**F**rom James Beard Award-winning chefs and omakase tasting menus to made-to-order donuts and breweries fueled by bao buns, the dining landscape is as vibrant and colorful as the neighborhood itself.

### Gathering Place

The brainchild of Harvard Business School alum Della Heiman, **Wynwood Yard** is like a test kitchen moveable feast with pop-

up restaurant concepts and food trucks situated on a gravel lot with overhead string lighting. Anchored by a central bar with picnic benches throughout, diners can divide, conquer and gather with their fare (everything from ice cream to mac 'n cheese). A good place to start is Heiman's own **Della Test Kitchen** serving a variety of vegan bowls with ingredients like black coconut sticky rice, adashah, marinated kale and avocado. For a more

formal dining experience, **Charcoal Garden Bar + Grill** is the first full-service restaurant at The Yard specializing in grilled farm-to-table fare, ranging from branzino to fennel sausage. The venue hosts a wide variety of events and performances, keeping the vibe lively and communal, ranging from the weekly Reggae Sunday party to essential oil workshops and yoga classes. Next up? The concept is expanding to Miami Beach with North Beach Yard. **56 NW 29th St.**  
**305.351.0366**  
**thewynwoodyard.com**

### Philly Imports

When you set foot inside **Federal Donuts** you'll wonder how you ever lived so long without fried chicken and donuts. In June, Michael Solomonov and Steven Cook, the James Beard Award-winning chef and restaurateur duo, chose Miami as the first location outside of their native Philadelphia to open the casual eatery. A month later, they doubled down with **Dizengoff**, an Israeli *hummusiyah*, next door. Both spots have swiftly become cult sensations.

You can sample the flavors of both in a single visit. Start at **Dizengoff** and order one of their creamy hummus bowls served with hearth-baked pita, a chopped Israeli salad and pickles. They come with a choice of toppings that change daily, ranging from merguez lamb sausage to fava beans and onion schug. Then head next door to Federal and share a fried chicken sandwich topped with American cheese, dill pickles and "spicy rooster" sauce on a squishy Martin's Potato Roll. For dessert? A made-to-order hot fresh donut dusted with cinnamon and brown sugar. Don't forget to take home a half-dozen fancy donuts for good measure (think, guava poppy, lemon meringue, black and white and blueberry mascarpone).

**250 NW 24th St.**  
**305.573.9393 | 305.573.9292**  
**federaldonuts.com**  
**dizengoffhummus.com**

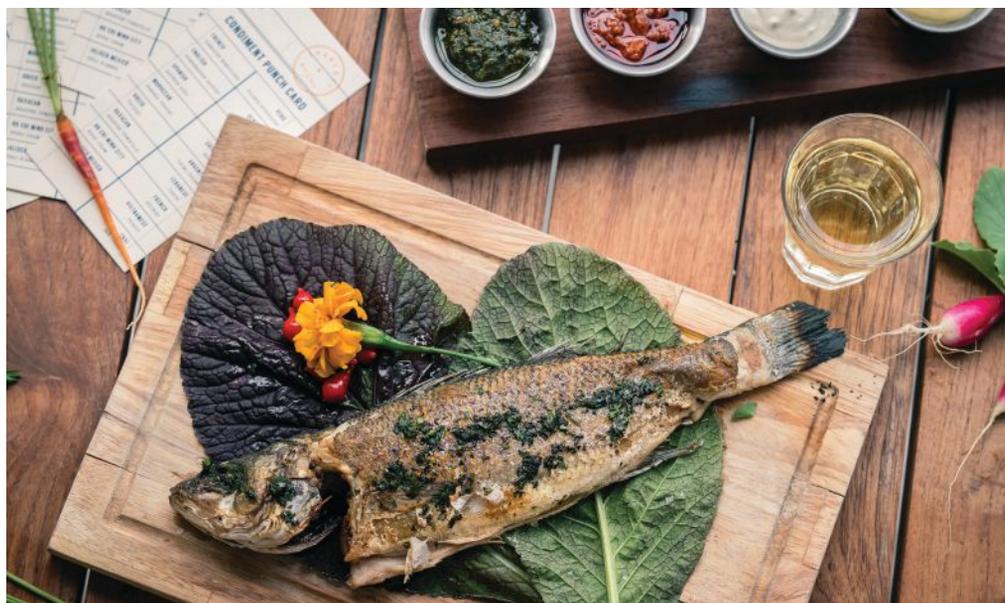
● This page: Korean BBQ steak bao at Baja Bao Wynwood

### Chef-Driven

When Chef Bradley Kilgore opened **Alter** in 2015, he gave Wynwood its first serious, chef-driven restaurant. Fortunately, the dining experience is relaxed and convivial inside an intimate industrial space guided by an expert waitstaff. A Food & Wine Best New Chef and James Beard Award Best New Restaurant semifinalist, Kilgore and Alter have cemented their place in Miami's gastronomic landscape with some of the most original and ambitious dishes in town. Experience Kilgore's cuisine with a five or seven course tasting menu and wine pairing highlighting dishes like the fluke mosaic made with Indian spices, tomato hollandaise and coconut and the lamb ribeye with koji salt and hijiki buttered cabbage. The charming outdoor bar is still the best kept secret in Wynwood, serving creative craft cocktails and elevated bar bites like an Iberico burger with chorizo mayo and fried brioche umami balls. **223 NW 23rd St.**  
**305.573.5996**  
**altermiami.com**

### Asian Inspiration

Since opening last February, **KYU** has swiftly become one of



the hottest seats in town, serving a diverse menu of beautifully executed pan-Asian cuisine inspired by Chef Michael Lewis' world travels. With a vertical garden exterior wall and a minimalist, yet chic industrial interior, the scene is buzzy and sophisticated from lunch to happy hour and dinner. A James Beard Award Best New Restaurant semifinalist and named best restaurant in Florida by *Time*, it's the kind of place where you want to order one of everything. A few recommendations: cauliflower drenched in shishito-herb vinaigrette and goat cheese, hamachi with white ponzu and green chili, Thai fried rice

• Top: whole branzino at Charcoal Garden Bar + Grill.  
Below: Multiple Bao options at Baja Bao Wynwood; Chef Michael Lewis at Kyu

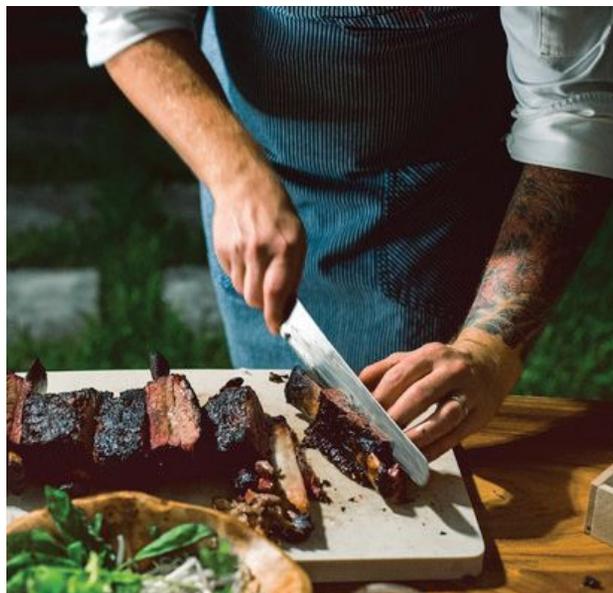
stone pot, Korean fried chicken, red snapper with brown butter-white miso... We could keep going, but you get the idea, right?

**251 NW 25th St.**  
**786.577.0150**  
**kyumiami.com**

### Brews & Bao Buns

Adding to Wynwood's ever-growing brewery scene, **Veza Sur Brewing Co.** opened in August with some heavy-hitting collaborators. Helmed by German-born brewmaster Asborjn Gerlach, their signature beer is a Brazilian-style Chopp, an ice cold lager poured with a creamy foam top designed to drink through. Start with a beer flight to sample their brewed-on-site creations, ranging from the crisp Latin Lager to the Blood Orange Gose, Guava Sour and Coffee Porter, then pick your pint from there. You can also opt for an original beer cocktail created by Bar Lab, including a refreshing michelada. The spacious front patio is anchored by Pubbelly's **Baja Bao** food truck where steamy bao buns stuffed with crispy mahi-mahi, Korean BBQ steak or lechon asado will definitely soak up the alcohol.

**55 NW 25th St.**  
**786.362.6300**  
**vezasur.com**



# THE RIDE OF YOUR LIFE

WHETHER YOU RIDE, JOIN THE CREW,  
CONTRIBUTE FUNDS OR PROVIDE  
SPONSORSHIP, THE SMART RIDE IS  
A SURE WAY TO HELP THOSE WHO  
NEED IT MOST IN THE COMMUNITY.

STORY BY JULIE BALTER | PHOTOS BY PAUL MCDERMOTT

# LIFE





# WWE,

SMART Ride volunteers help on the ground and also with the logistics of the event, including offering their expertise in sponsorship, fundraising, training, administration and more.

as a community, are far from content with our current lot. In spite of achieving milestones, many of us are all too aware that as a group we continue to experience persistent struggles and stigmatization. And yet, more than 30 years after the AIDS epidemic obliterated a large swath of our patch-quilted family, it could be argued that in large part we have become quite complacent within our everyday lives.

In our increasingly homogenized (if not harmonized) world, many of us have managed to live openly with our partners, exude a sense of comfort and even achieve success in our workplaces. We attend LGBTQ film festivals, sing in a gay chorus group or play on the queer softball team.

But just beneath our seeming communal comfort, HIV lingers large, especially here in South Florida, where the rate of new HIV diagnosis is three times the national average. For many, it seems the disease has been shoved back



**"I FELT IT WAS MY DUTY AS A PERSON WHO DIDN'T CATCH IT TO DO EVERYTHING I COULD TO HELP AN ORGANIZATION SEEKING TO FIND A CURE AND DIRECTLY HELP." – CARMINE MARTORILLI**

inside the closet. Some would even argue that our fight for the quality of our living rights has replaced the fights of those infected with HIV.

But Carmine Martorilli, one of the founding members of SMART Ride (Southernmost/HIV Ride) has not forgotten, and neither has his partner Robert Poster. Both Martorilli and Poster's former partners died from AIDS. Though both tested negative, they both felt the need to do something with that experience.

Martorilli, who is now 83, joined SMART Ride when there were just over 100 participants. Today, there are more than 400 who actively and annually participate in the second largest bicycle ride for AIDS in this country. It is also

the only fundraiser of this magnitude to give 100 percent of its proceeds back to direct support services for the disease.

"I felt it was my duty as a person who didn't catch it to do everything I could to help an organization seeking to find a cure and directly help people living with AIDS and HIV-infection," says Martorilli. "Same for Bob. I met him when he came onboard to give whatever help he could."

The event takes place every year in South Florida, right around mid-November. Whether your donation is financial, as a volunteer or both, you can manage your gifts so they can be put to use in the best way possible for immediate use by the most marginalized and critically in need.



“Miami and Broward lead new cases of infection, and ages 15-24 are highest rate getting infected,” notes SMART Ride founder Glen Weinzimer. “These folks never saw the worst of this disease, and it takes all of us to stand up, educate, assist and make a difference. Those living with HIV today may appear to look good in outward appearances when compared with the 1980s death sentence, and so it doesn’t get the same level of concern. But within our Florida communities, we need to speak up so as to avoid another pandemic.”

### SHIFTING LIVES

SMART Ride is a 165-mile community bike ride that takes place over two days, starting at the University of Miami campus and ending in a massive parade through Key West with a closing ceremony at White Street Pier.

The annual ride began in 2003 with a vision of making a direct impact with its fundraising mission. In order to assist those living with and at risk for HIV, the organization was committed to ensuring that 100 percent of the proceeds it raised would be channeled

back to AIDS service organizations for direct-implementation services (as opposed to administrative costs and overhead). In its first year, the SMART Ride organization raised \$169,000 — and realized its goal of full return.

Since the event’s inception, it has exceeded annual goals, with more than \$8.5 million allocated for direct care, social services, pharmaceutical care, dental assistance and education at seven Florida service organizations.

“We recently helped the client [of one our service organizations] diagnosed with CMV retinitis, a rare eye disease. It causes blindness, and was more common with AIDS patients in the 1980s,” says Weinzimer. “Today, with treatment funding inaccessible to this agency, SMART Ride stepped in and was able to cover the cost of treatment as well as ancillary care, such as transportation.”

The goals for this event have been auspicious from the outset, the outcomes are measurable and, more importantly, have a tangible impact: To date, the organization has raised more money than any other event of its kind has in the State of Florida — \$7.3 million over 12 years.

### GET MOVING

If you’re feeling inspired to ride South Florida’s most famous route to the Keys, awesome! Understandably it may be more of a physical commitment than the average Sunday cyclist may want to take on. The good news is that you are still a prime candidate for crew and fundraising, the kind of work Martorilli did for many years.

Some 200+ crewmembers are responsible for caretaking during the two-day trek. Their primary responsibility is to help riders stay safe. It does, indeed, take a village to support this life-affirming journey. Duties include setting up camp at midway point, establishing and providing medical support, and pit stops.

Over 50 percent of participants are SMART Ride virgins, who are nonetheless determined to bike the full distance the sheer gratitude of having the gift to be alive and be able

The opening Dedication Ceremony takes place at the Lakeside Patio Stage at the University of Miami the night before riders head out.



The ride culminates in a parade through Key West, complete with police escort. Fittingly, the parade ends at the AIDS Memorial on White Street Pier.



to do. The SMART Ride website offers comprehensive suggestions for a training regimen. If you're thinking you'd like to but are afraid you're not up for the rigor, SMART Ride makes it a point to remind everyone that it is a ride, and not a race. You can develop your stamina in training over time at a pace you're comfortable with. Kurt Arthur, who has individually raised over \$7,000 during his four-year riding stints, generally rides 30 miles twice a week. Closer to the ride he adds a few century rides and doubles his weekly ride.

Riders also commit to raising \$1,250. In the social media age, this has become much easier.

"Achieving something really hard physically is really rewarding," says Arthur. "Fundraising gets easier as you get older; hopefully, your friends have more money. I reward all my donors with a haiku about them (posted on Facebook). It's a lot of fun and can be really hard if you don't know the person well."

And, of course, SMART Ride depends on community sponsors and individual donors as its lifeblood. That pretty much leaves no one immune from supporting in some way. Folks like Martorilli — who in his octogenarian years no longer volunteers for crew — actively fundraise. He and his team work to help the Rosie's team, which is sponsored by Rosie's bar in Wilton Manors. They also travel to Key West every year to greet the arriving cyclists.

However, if you have the means, Martorilli gushes that participation is a life-changing experience. "There is a fun factor when gays put things together," adds Arthur. "It's bittersweet, memories of friends who have passed, humor and [the] resilience of those of who have survived the epidemic. The gay community survived an existential crisis and emerged stronger for it. Riding 100 miles in a day seems like a small tribute." •

Riders can register individually or as a team, with many teams representing various companies, bars and restaurants, nonprofits and other groups.



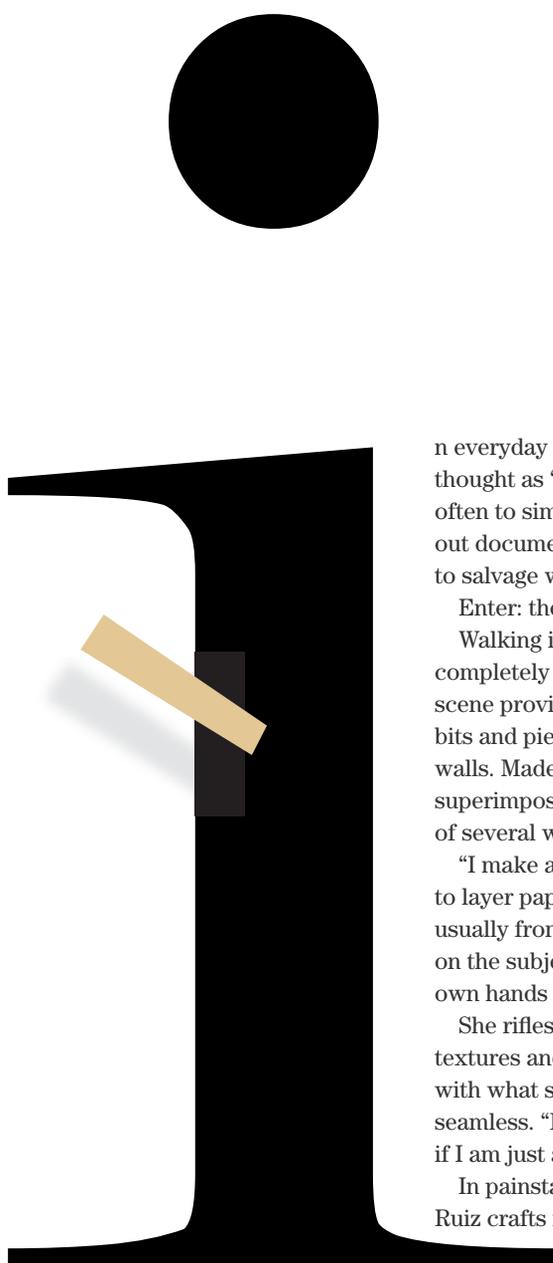




ANA  
BEL  
RUIZ

ALL THE LOVELY PIECES Story by SOLE SASTRE  
Photos by NICK GARCIA





n everyday speak, we refer to the easy, disposable or lacking thought as “cut and paste.” It simply refers to what we do so often to simplify our lives in a digitized world — when filling out documents, inserting images into presentations or trying to salvage work. It’s rote. Cookie cutter. Far from creative.

Enter: the collage artist.

Walking into Anabel Ruiz’s Hialeah studio, you enter a completely different kind of world. A quick scan of the scene provides a visual sampling of her process, in scattered bits and pieces. Beautifully crafted faces hang on white walls. Made of countless magazine clippings, arranged and superimposed to create the features, highlights and contours of several women’s faces. The canvases are layered, alive.

“I make an initial pencil drawing on canvas, and I proceed to layer paper cuttings,” she explains. “The paper cuttings are usually from fashion or other types of magazines, depending on the subject matter. I use scissors or rip the paper with my own hands in some cases.”

She rifles through magazines, hunting for the perfect colors, textures and words, gathering pieces that have a connection with what she is trying to create. Sometimes the flow is seamless. “I don’t know whether I am making these choices or if I am just an added element in a process,” she admits.

In painstakingly putting together just the right cuttings, Ruiz crafts not just faces, but mood and emotion.

Anabel Ruiz creates collage art pieces out of her Hialeah studio.



From left: Florida Woman; Aida on Silver;  
Aymée Nuviola

“Everyday, without them knowing, I choose to work with the greatest publishers, the most superb designers, the most diverse models,” says Ruiz. “[It’s] an infinite world of pleasure.”

### First Cut

In the 1970s Cuba was a place in flux. There was still a lingering romance with the idea of the revolution, but the veneer had begun to crack, peel and fall throughout society — piece by piece.

Ruiz was born in that wilting paradise populated by an impossibly resourceful population that remained upbeat despite the many hardships they lived and the many more they saw coming their way. By age 9, her parents packed up and left Cuba. They moved their three daughters — Cristina, Rita and Anabel — to Madrid, where the family would spend the next five years.

While in Spain, her father was able to secure a scholarship for her at a private Catholic school. That is where her lifelong

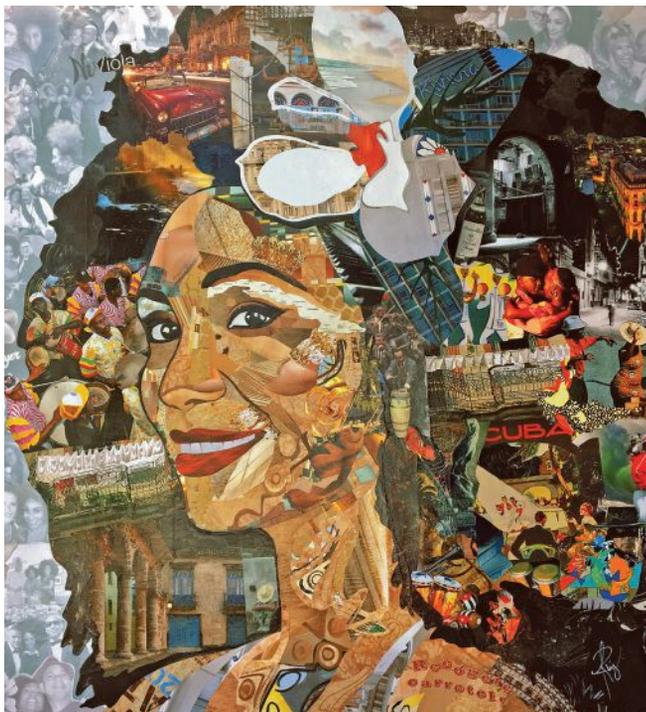
relationship with art began. Her education included learning the great masters, which she emulated, but her own art was mostly a self-taught affair.

“I get inspired by what invokes an emotion within me,” she says. “I am not afraid to say I get inspired by beauty.” By the time Ruiz was 14, her parents moved once again, this time to Miami.

“I have always been very intentional about having a universal heart. Learning other languages, reading about different cultures, befriending people outside ‘my own tribe,’” she says. “South Florida is a place that provides a perfect setting for that intention to flourish. Diversity happens here. We need to stay true to that.”

### The Order

The creative flame was lit, but the voices that insisted she think practically won out. Ruiz graduated from Southwest Miami High School, went on to Miami Dade College and then finished her studies at the business school at Florida International University. Following the sound, well-intended advice she got from loved ones may have made financial sense and, of course, it pleased her loving family, but it also left her feeling rudderless. She knew she could “make a living,” but felt desperately lost and without purpose. She set off on a quest of self discovery immediately after completing her studies, deciding to become a nun.



Ruiz's existential journey would lead her to two separate congregations — the first in Miami and the other in Fátima, Portugal. Over eight years, she became consumed with the creation of countless works of art, as well as essays on the subject. Bound by vows of obedience, chastity and poverty, all this work was completely anonymous.

"I cherish the time I spent in both orders," says Ruiz about her experience. "Religious life — aside from nurturing my own spirituality — helped me find myself and accept who I am. I am very happy that I left, but I don't regret any of it either."

It was a kind of sabbatical that ripped her away from the day-to-day long enough to let her finally learn to channel her own artistic energy. Many of her pieces currently grace the walls of churches, convents and the homes of private church patrons.

By 2011, she returned home, ready for a new future in which her art would be a reflection of the self-acceptance she had achieved. But in many ways she was back at square one, too.

"I came back to my hometown, having to start from zero, and my financial priorities did not leave much room for art supplies," she says. "I remember going to a local art supply store and leaving a bit disheartened. I couldn't afford oil paints or other materials."

Determined not to let the reality of her situation get her down, she went home to think. A stack of magazines reminded

her of two collages she had made in college — one for a school project and the other at her mother's request.

"I decided to use the colors contained within the pages as my palette. I drew a carousel horse and began to cut and glue colorful shapes on top of it on a canvas board," she remembers. That piece sold at the shop where it was to be framed. Surprised and exhilarated, she took the experience as a sign that she was finally on the right track.

### Sticking to It

Ruiz has come to a place of acceptance, both of her calling and her own sexuality.

"I 'came out' to my parents five years ago, a year after I left religious life, and I was single at the time," she shares. "But I think the most important person to come out to is yourself."

She currently lives in Coconut Grove with her partner and their two dogs, Toby and Sammy.

"I think 'coming out' is an ironic phrase," she says. "What it really is, is being honest about a lie we have been trying to live, having mercy with ourselves in a life of constant judgment and shutting out the gossip with courage and pride in who we are."

Comfortable in her own skin, it's fitting that she specializes in collage. The intricately designed pieces she makes are crafted, layer upon layer, to reveal beautiful women, super heroes and animals like flamingos and boldly colored fish.

The women are the most striking. From a pale geisha with onyx-black hair to a mocha-skinned Havanera in a headdress, all the cuttings come together to create fully realized humans.

"Although two-dimensional, don't fool yourself... these collages aren't silent. They are immensely vocal," she says. "They express my personal freedom."

In the short time Ruiz has been creating art publicly, her work has been recognized and showcased at fairs from SCOPE Miami Beach to Spectrum Miami. Blink Group Gallery showcased her work at the latter and she is going to participate at that event again this year.

Her pieces have traveled beyond South Florida, too, thanks to the ardent promotion of Elizabeth Reyes, curator and president of Blink Group Gallery. Earlier this year, she exhibited work at the 2017 LA Art Show. Through Art NXT Level she was also happy to be included in "Layered," an exhibit curated by Chicago artist and creative entrepreneur Sergio Gomez at 33 Contemporary Gallery.

Locally, Ruiz participates in Art on Palm, the monthly art fair that takes place every third Friday in Hialeah.

"Mayor Carlos Hernandez is strongly promoting the arts and culture in his city, and I am honored to be included."

Ongoing projects include an array of monthly artistic events that she helps organize with friends — Ignacio Font and Jean Blackwell at Warehouse 4726 in the Bird Road Art District.

From spiritual to spirited, Anabel Ruiz has cut her own path and crafted a beautiful life out of every piece of it.

[aruizart.com](http://aruizart.com)



# PUMP UP THE

KNOWN FOR HIS OVER-THE-TOP SATIRE, ENRIQUE SANTOS IS SHAPING ATTITUDES TOWARD THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY IN THE SPANISH-LANGUAGE RADIO LANDSCAPE AND BRINGING HIS WIT TO ENGLISH-SPEAKING AUDIENCES FOR THE FIRST TIME.

by DANIEL SHOER ROTH

# VOLUME

Spanish-language radio fans in South Florida know Enrique Santos all too well. His outrageous on-air antics are the stuff of local legend — he and a colleague once successfully telephoned Fidel Castro pretending to be Hugo Chávez. His audience has also witnessed his very personal journey from shock jock — in a show that showcased sexist and homophobic humor — to proud member of the LGBT community. Since coming out, the beloved Cuban-American radio host has also become an icon for the gay Latino community.

**You've been labeled a shock jock. How has that changed?**

I've had different phases; we live and we learn. I ran for mayor of Miami in 2005, and some of the stuff that I have done may be considered controversial. But I've always considered what I do real and with a purpose. I'm much more mature today. Radio has changed and evolved, and I have a great sense of responsibility when I am behind a microphone.

**How did you come to represent Latino millennials, the undocumented and the LGBTQ community?**

I remember when I was a kid listening to radio and the impact it had on me,

so I am very careful to filter what I say, what I don't say, how I say it, and to make sure that I am leading by example, especially given the challenging times that immigrant and LGBT communities are facing. As a country, we progressed greatly in domestic issues under the Obama administration. A lot of those steps forward are now being threatened.

**Coming out must have been difficult for a Spanish-language radio host speaking to conservative audiences.**

It was definitely much more complicated because of the machismo that exists in the Latino community and its conservative values. Are people going to like me less? Are people going to stop listening to me? But the day I introduced Obama at the Fillmore, I said to myself, "I need to explain why am I doing this." For the first time, I identified myself publicly as a member of the LGBT community.

**Do you receive a lot of hate messages because you are out?**

Yes, in social media. Some people think that it is cool to call you with expletives and titles; unfortunately that has become acceptable. So if there is a topic dealing with sexuality or politics, they just find it easy to insult this guy because he is homosexual. There is just no respect.

**And when you are on the air?**

I am happy to say that on the radio it's real; it's live. And I'd say 99 percent is positive, and people get what we are doing: empowering them.

**In addition to your weekday show "Tu Mañana," you recently crossed over to English-language radio.**

A lot of Latinos my age and younger enjoy listening to Spanish music, but they feel more comfortable speaking in English. My two-hour weekend program "On the Move with Enrique Santos" airs on more than 100 iHeartMedia stations.

**Last year, you joined forces with iHeartMedia to launch iHeartLatino, where you serve as chairman and chief creative officer.**

I am extremely excited about my growth as a brand on the Spanish side and on the English radio stations with this new project, but I am much more excited about what we are doing for our language, our music, our artists.

**Where do you see yourself in 10 years?**

Anything that I put my mind [to] and say I want to accomplish I end up accomplishing. In 10 years, I hope to have health, and whatever I am doing, I hope that it's helping others obtain their goals and their dreams. •



# Slka



# ★ Sisterhood

IN A NONDESCRIBT PARKING LOT OUT IN THE 'BURBS,  
A GROUP OF FIERCE WOMEN ARE WREAKING HAVOC,  
AND THAT'S ON A FRIENDLY NIGHT.

by LORRIE-ANN "LAGGRESSIVE" DIAZ

**of**

# ters



the 2009 film *Whip It*, a young, small-town rebel, played by Ellen Page, falls madly in love with women's roller derby after stumbling on her first bout — that's derby speak for a typical 5-on-5 match. It's not hard to understand why: fearless women kicking ass on roller skates. Hell yeah!

Page's character is so inspired that after the bout, she approaches Hurl Scouts skater "Maggie Mayhem," played by Kristen Wiig, and says, "I just want to tell you all that you're my new heroes," to which Mayhem replies "It's your first time here? Well put some skates on. Be your own hero."

**Call it instant sisterhood.**

It's not entirely clear if art is imitating life or life is imitating art as it relates to the movie's portrayal of this alternative

**Opposite page:** Jessica “Shakesfear” Giraldo.  
**This page:** Bout against Swan City (2).



sport. But in the case of the Vice City Rollers — Miami’s first and only women’s roller derby team — the word hero accurately describes every single one of the 20 or so female skaters who, on a recent Wednesday afternoon, were circling the Suniland Roller Hockey Rink on S.W. 152nd Street, just south of The Falls.

The rink is really an aged, outdoor space, which means the Vice City Rollers — a squad of ladies of varying ages, sizes, nationalities and orientations, representing all walks of life — are sweating their way through their usual two-hour practice in the Magic City’s searing heat. At 6:30 p.m., it’s still a stifling 88 degrees. All around, everything is wilting except their resolve and determination.

They’re a colorful bunch — what with their psychedelic tights, patterned socks, elaborate tattoos and body piercings aplenty. This particular practice session is attended mostly by “fresh meat” — the rookies. Round and round they go with a volunteer coach leading a series of practice drills. The women take turns pushing and pulling conga-esque lines of their teammates six, seven or eight skaters deep. They round the oval track countless times perfecting their crossover turns, stops and starts, and are schooled on how to deftly weave in and out and around one another without triggering a multiple human pile up. Water breaks are relatively frequent and always welcome. This grueling routine is repeated, on average, four times per week, weather permitting.

A couple of the new recruits, red faced and exhausted, are clearly struggling. And ironically, that’s what sparks the fierce camaraderie and collaborative nature of this full-contact, hyper-competitive and physically aggressive sport. It’s the veterans of the group, with cheeky pseudonyms such as Kraken Skulls, Power Puff, Velociraptor, Blink 1SK8E2 and Harley Quinn, who encourage the newbies to roll with the proverbial punches. Yes, every Vice City Roller must pay her dues — both figuratively and literally.

Roller Derby has been part of the American sports landscape since the 1880’s. During the early 2000’s, the sport experienced a renaissance of women-only, women-owned leagues that span the globe (more than 1,200 worldwide).



**This page:** The Vice City Rollers at the Swan City bout

**Opposite page, clockwise from top left:** Kristen “De La Ruthless” De La Rua, Nicole “Tear N Teaseher” Hermann, Jessica “Shakesfear” Giraldo and Keren “Velociraptor”

Two teams of five skaters each circle a flat track trying to earn points by passing their opponents. Players engage various maneuvers — blocking, jamming, walling and whipping to name a few — all of which are made trickier and more intense on skates. A derby bout is played in two periods of 30 minutes each with a 15-minute halftime. To be sure, this rough and tumble pastime, where bruises are affectionately referred to as derby kisses and collisions and falls are a given, is not for the faint-hearted. It’s Hell on wheels — so to speak.

#### **What’s not to love?**

“You get to hit people,” 38-year-old derby veteran, Rachele “Harley Quinn” Huelsman admits unabashedly. “Like, sorry,” she deadpans because she’s really not sorry. The sport demands copious amounts of physical and mental toughness. She should know having had surgery twice to repair a torn ACL/meniscus. And yet, there she is back at it without fear practicing moves she’s done thousands of times. Quinn’s been skating artistically since



age 10 and competing in roller derby bouts since 2007. By day, the outspoken Connecticut native is the director of alumni relations for Gulliver.

#### **Nothing if not dedicated.**

“We push them [fresh meat]. We ask a lot of them,” says Jessica “Wilma Shakesfear” Giraldo, a poetry lover and an IT professional at a big downtown Miami law firm who also dubs as the team’s secretary.

“You earn your [derby] name. And you earn your spot,” Shakesfear says referring to the 10 or so fresh meat who

partake in a six-week, paid course to learn the basics of roller derby. “The more we see you out here putting forth the effort, the more welcoming and accepting we’re going to be.”

In fact, social acceptance is one of the Vice City Rollers, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit, stated missions. So is female empowerment, providing a supportive environment and repeating body positive mantras, all of which make the sport attractive to women of all stripes including the LGBTQ community.

Founded in 2011 by Miami lesbian and nine-year derby veteran, Kristen “De La Ruthless” De La Rua, the Vice City Rollers counts 12 openly gay members of the LGBTQ community among its ranks of approximately 50 people — 30 skaters and 20 volunteers.

Nicole Hermann Robleto, “Tear N Teaseher” in the rink, is a 20-something Miami-Dade College film student and out lesbian whose derby name is based on her favorite director, Quentin

Tarantino. She expressed a deep appreciation for an environment that encourages her to be who she is.

“My heart is full, for sure, being on this team. They’re so loving and accepting and they show nothing but love and compassion for all situations. They listen to you. They’re really a family.”

Harley Quinn, who is straight, shared a similar sentiment. “The great thing about derby is that you have an automatic community when you play it,” she said. “People take you in. Everyone is super supportive of each other not only in derby life but in personal life.”

Shakesfear says the team is a “group of sisters,” and her “support network,” and keeps her coming back. Well that and the challenge of the sport.

On a macro level, the relationship with the LGBTQ community is reciprocal. The sport’s governing body, the Women’s Flat Track Derby Association, has issued an official gender statement, which reads that it

is, “committed to inclusive and anti-discrimination practices in relation to all transgender women, intersex women and gender expansive participants, and aims to ensure that all skaters’, volunteers’, and employees’ rights are respected and protected.”

Back at the Suniland Roller Hockey Rink, Shakesfear points out that that athletic ability, while appreciated, is not a prerequisite to join the sport. “Skates are the great equalizer,” she says. “There’s a learning curve.” There’s also no substitute for dedication and tenacity. And it’s the blood, sweat, tears and months worth of training that makes the Vice City Rollers highly watchable. “It’s not some staged thing,” Harley Quinn insists.

#### What to expect.

“The sportsmanship, sense of accomplishment, and general excitement in the air when a bout is happening is totally contagious and makes every game an awesome time, every time,” says superfan and number one volunteer, Cristina “Critt” Mazarredo. “The thrills of slamming into each other and putting their skills to the test seeps into the fans in a way that I haven’t seen in other sports.”

Fresh meat Jennifer “Red” Miguel, a redhead who easily tops six feet in her skates and says she’s pushing 50, doesn’t mince words.

“You’re gonna see some sick women kicking ass. It’s exciting. There’s food trucks. There’s lady on lady action, which is extremely hot,” she says, producing a round of hoots from her teammates standing nearby. “It’s a great time. It gets a little rowdy sometimes but it’s family friendly.”

And with a name like the Vice City Rollers, you’re sure to get hooked.

The season runs from January through September, but Fresh Meat classes begin immediately after the last bout of the season and run throughout the year. With ticket prices setting you back \$10-12, planning for a night of derby action is a no brainer.

To sign up for Fresh Meat classes or find out more about the team, visit [MiamiRollerDerby.com](http://MiamiRollerDerby.com).







# NEW YORK

## KIKI

THE LGBTQ CITY  
STILL NEVER SLEEPS.

by  
LAWRENCE FERBER

# PARIS

Kiki, the queen  
of Times Square

## IS BURNING TIMES SQUARE.

It's late June, and a throng of bemused tourists look on from the now iconic red TKTS staircase as a tall, lanky cappuccino-skinned queen — glistening, toned arms exposed through a cobweb-pattern black tank, and donning a straw hat along with several strands of beads and amulets — commences an impromptu ballroom-style *kiki*. He twirls, waacks, and sasses, bellowing, “Don’t ignore me!!!” It really is impossible. Tourists heed his call, pausing their own selfie frenzies to take photos and videos. Miss Thang spots me taking pictures with my zoom lens and struts forward, striking poses, bumping into a visibly annoyed local businessmen who has the misfortune of passing through circa rush hour. Legendary!

Queerness is truly everywhere in NYC, and Times Square serves as a southern border for Hell’s Kitchen,

currently the gayest neighborhood of all. It’s chock-a-block with gay bars, the clothing shop **TAGG** (think: LGBTQ Urban Outfitters with poppers and lube) and famous queer faces. I spot Andersen Cooper at least twice (his boyfriend, Ben Maisani, owns the local gay bar **Atlas Social Club**), and it seems a couple of *RuPaul’s Drag Race* alumni perform on a weekly basis at some bar or other (ditto for the fabulous NYC/Brooklyn club kids that served fierceness in Katy Perry’s now legendary SNL “Swish Swish” performance).

So, where should you begin when taking a decidedly gay NYC vacay?

For a Hell’s Kitchen-adjacent location, the **W New York** in Times Square, with its chic, renovated lobby in 2015; slick, innovative and functional, the budget-friendly, Japan-inspired **Yotel**; and the equally wallet-appealing **Pod Times Square**, are great places to set yourself up. If you happen to be a last-minute type, I strongly recommend using the **Hotel Tonight** app, for its sometimes shockingly good bargains during non-peak dates (we’re talking under \$90 for 4-star stays).

Theater fans take note: an Off-Broadway revival of Harvey Fierstein’s **Torch Song Trilogy**, directed by Moises Kaufman and starring Michael Urie, runs through November 19th at the Tony Kiser Theater, while October 7th sees the opening of director Julie Taymor’s



Broadway revival of David Henry Hwang's gender-bent romance, *M Butterfly*, starring Clive Owen.

How many cities can boast a contemporary art gallery, dedicated exclusively to LGBTQ work on par with Wynwood's slickest spaces? Soho's is exactly that, with both an impressive permanent collection and visiting

exhibits. October through January sees a themed retrospective by groundbreaking lesbian filmmaker/multimedia artist, Barbara Hammer.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Anna Wintour Costume Center annual exhibition and its legendary May gala are renowned, but The Museum at FIT (the Fashion Institute of Technology)

is criminally underrated. Check out its "Expedition: Fashion From the Extreme," dubbed "the first large-scale exhibition of high fashion influenced by clothing made for survival in the most inhospitable environments," which is running through January 6, 2018.

Fashionistas will also flip for **Dover Street Market**, a seven-floor store curated by Comme des Garçons' Rei Kawakubo and located in the bizarrely not-a-fashion-hub, largely residential neighborhood of Murray Hill. Loaded with cutting edge (and insanely pricey) clothing — including limited runs from cult urban brands (e.g. Supreme, Gosha Rubshinskiy) and young designers — it's like a funhouse in layout and design.

Another destination-worthy, under-the-radar gem is Keith Haring's racy 1989 mural, titled *Once Upon A Time*, which decorates a second floor restroom in the West Village's **LGBT Community Center** (Haring died the following year of AIDS). Also check out the Center's **Bureau of General Services Queer Division, aka BGSQD**, a bookstore and art gallery that started as a roving, crowd-funded pop-up. You'll find an outstanding selection of books, obscure queer zines, small press publications, comics and art collectibles. On the way out, grab a coffee from the outstanding, socially conscious craft java spot, **Think Coffee**.

A few blocks away, the striking, angular **NYC AIDS Memorial** is a fine place to sit and reflect or chat. Christopher Street's 1992 **Gay Liberation Monument** by George Segal, depicting a pair of life-sized same-sex couples, is another must. A brand new monument dedicated to the LGBTQ community and victims of 2016's Pulse nightclub massacre, designed by artist Anthony Goicolea, is in the works. Located at the waterfront Hudson River Park, its glass-embedded boulders will emit prism-like rainbows.

The **9/11 Memorial & Museum** is a must-see for anyone visiting the city (the latter's extensive underground exhibit is powerful and heartbreaking). Nearby, the year-old Oculus — Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava's \$4-billion shopping center and train station — has quickly become one of the city's most ridiculously photogenic spaces.

From top: the Urbanspace Vanderbilt food hall; imposing and stately, The Campbell Bar is a throw back to another time.

Hungry? Swing by **Brookfield Place** for its outstanding second-floor urban market (just don't call it a "food court," though we all know it is). You'll find branches of the excellent Mighty Quinn's BBQ, Umami Burger and Cambodian-sandwich spot Num Pang.

Urban markets are all the rage lately, and are especially handy for families with children — or friends with divergent cravings — thanks to their numerous vendors and options. Adjacent to Grand Central Station, **Urbanspace Vanderbilt** is a treasure with 20-plus vendors, including chewy dough pizza at Roberta's and bonkers-good fried

chicken sandwiches at Delaney Chicken. Opened in June, Brooklyn's 40-plus vendor **DeKalb Market Hall** features a branch of the world famous **Katz's Deli** (yes, you'll miss the Lower East Side location's *When Harry Met Sally* orgasm table, but not its festering tour groups and lines). There are also excellent

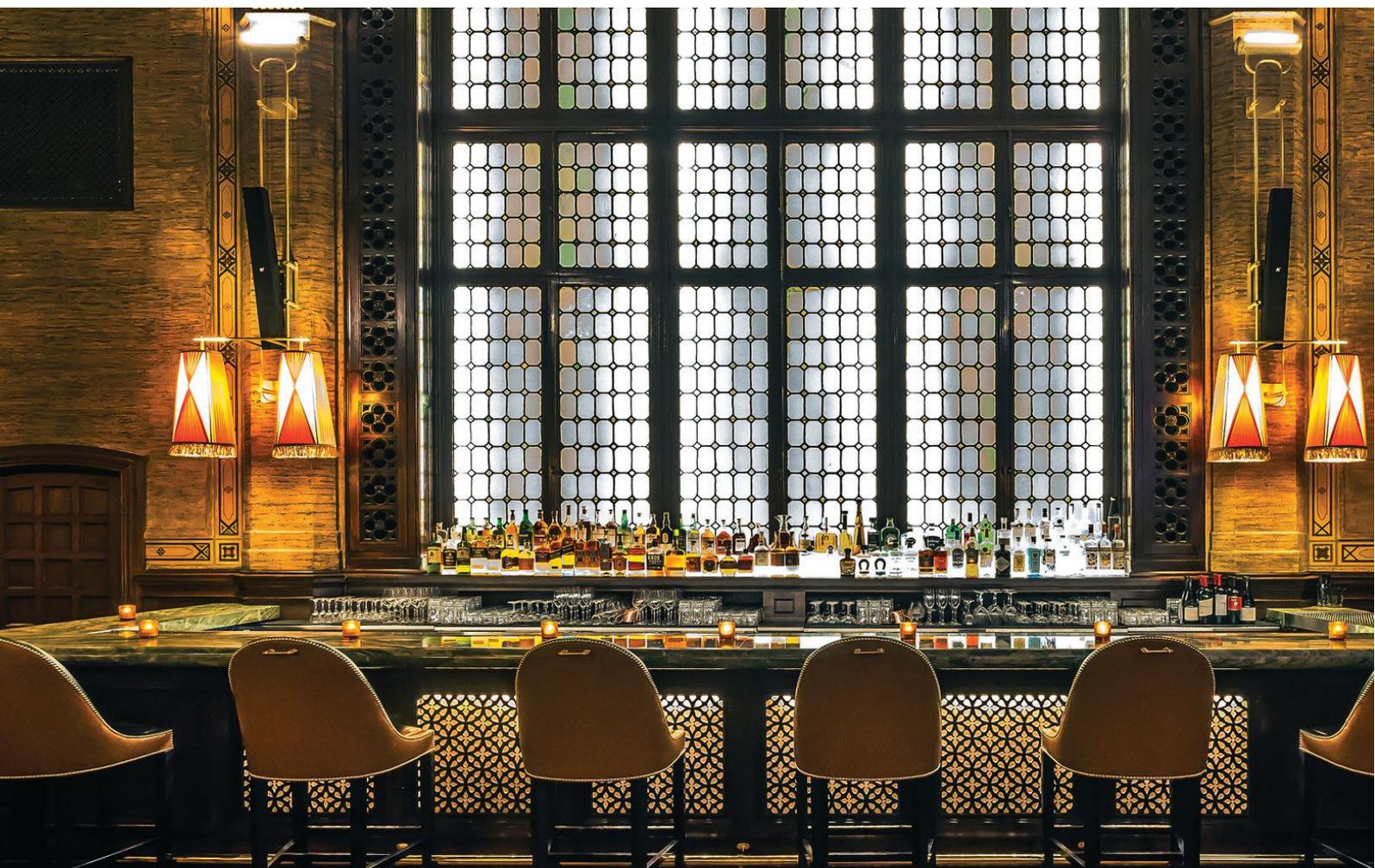


one-of-a-kind offerings: **Bunsmith's** succulent pork jowl bao, as well as **Bunker's** ban xeo stuffed crêpe and bánh mi are insanely good.

One of my favorite recent meals was at Williamsburg, Brooklyn's **Llama Inn**, where former Eleven Madison Park's Peruvian chef, Erik Ramirez, pushes his homeland's food into brightly flavored and textured post-modern territory (bonus: it's a few blocks to local gay hipster bar, **Metropolitan!**).

Back in Manhattan, celeb lesbian chef April Bloomfield's gastropub deliciousness rules at **Spotted Pig** and at the Michelin-starred **The Breslin** in the ACE Hotel, which is also home to her **John Dory Oyster Bar**.

Other places I tried this summer and would merrily revisit: I'm haunted by **La Pecora Bianca's gramigna** — a chewy, al dente einkorn wheat pasta with pork sausage, garlic, broccolini and chili flakes. The spot is contemporary, airy Italian. I also loved the crunchy "gringo" and soft lamb tacos at **Street Taco**,





a vintage Volkswagen van serving as a partial open kitchen.

A ballyhooed May 2017 opening, the eye-popping, yet hidden away Grand Central Station bar, **The Campbell** is set in the former turn-of-the-last-century office of wealthy railroad exec John W. Campbell, and it's straight out of *The Great Gatsby*. This spot is more about the cocktails than the food: The Bull Shot is a carnivore's bloody Mary, fashioned with beef broth (it's intense), while the gin-based thyme Collins is refreshingly tasty. Into wine? Le Bernadin's three-year-old sibling, **Aldo Sohm Wine Bar**, is incredible and thoroughly contemporary NYC, with expertly curated vino flights and tasty bites.

What about drinking in gay bars, you ask? First, check *Time Out NY's* LGBTQ section for the week's line-up of special nightlife events and parties. Gaycities New York is also a good source for full bar/club listings.

The densest concentrations of bars are in Hell's Kitchen and the West Village. The former's **Industry** is a 21st Century favorite for dancing and great music

(but, says my unexpurgated friend, "shitty" drinks), with a quirky Moulin Rouge-meets-London-lounge look.

Across the street, the two-level **Therapy** is favored for cocktails, chat, and weeknight entertainment. Tuesdays feature YouTube song parody diva, Sherry Vine. **Flaming Saddles** lacks steers but not queers - its country/cowboy theme seems to only extend to the music. Cozy by comparison, perpetually busy **Posh** keeps its music and vibe poppy, while **Rise** is especially popular among millennials, thanks to resident drag queen Peppermint (of *RuPaul's Drag Race* Season 9 fame), who appears every Monday. You can also expect surprise performances, dancing and pop tunes while there.

The West Village's **Stonewall Inn** — designated the country's first national LGBTQ monument no less — is home to a piano bar/dance club called **The Monster**. Cozy bear dens **Ty's** and **Rockbar**, and enduring albeit refreshed lesbian institution **Henrietta Hudson's** are all dependable and fun, as are West Chelsea's multi-level **The Eagle**, the East Village's **Nowhere Bar** (a haunt of

From left: One World Trade Center; Dover Street Market, the seven-floor fashion destination curated by Comme des Garçon's Rei Kawakubo in Murray Hill.

The Magnetic Fields' Stephin Merritt and other gay media luminaries), and Chelsea's gay sports bar **Boxers**.

Mind you, it's not a bar, but there's another stop local LGBTQs and Broadway queens in the know flock to when out late: **Schmackary's**. Beloved by the likes of Kristen Chenoweth, Megan Mullally and Michael Urie for its decadent cookies and brownies — the toasted marshmallow-topped Sch'more, hello! — it's the place to pick up something sweet, chance a celeb sighting or just wind down an day's worth of New York minutes. One night I waited in line behind *Mad Men's* Bryan Batt. He's tall!

Seems like some NYC nights you get a kiki, and on others you are happy to get a cookie... •

# THE BEAUTIFUL STRUGGLE IS REAL

Fear of intimacy is a major obstacle when trying to make connections in South Florida's body-obsessed gay culture.

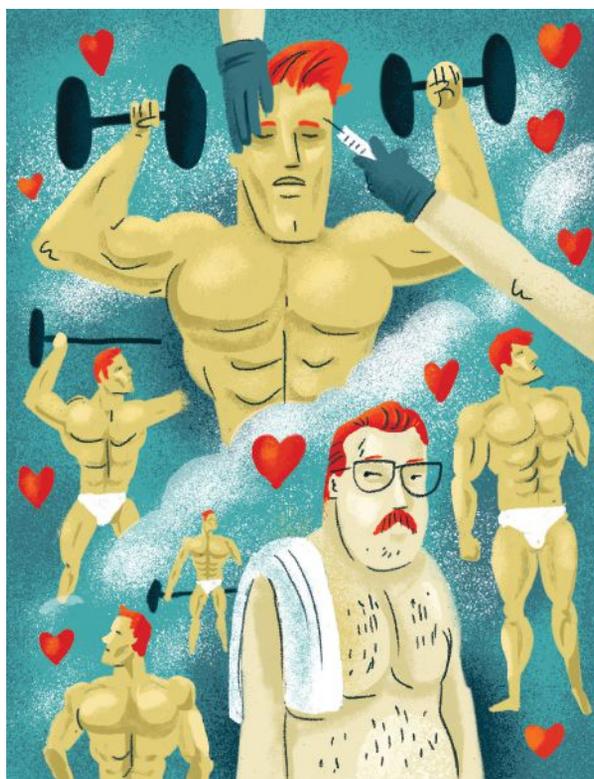
by DANIEL SHOER ROTH

Some days I wish I'd been born a few centuries earlier. As far back as the Middle Ages — and through much of the 19th century really — being doughy and pasty was considered beautiful and fashionable, a sure sign of health and wealth.

It makes for fun small talk in the steam room of the South Beach gym I frequent, while surrounded by scores of gay men with chiseled beach-ready bodies. I imagine that to them, my pale Rubenesque figure is flat out unappealing.

As I swipe through the profiles of local men on the various gay dating sites and apps, I can't help but think there is an obsession with body image that shows a marked preference for the gym-fit, muscular and "masc sexy" dudes. The apps are too sexually focused for me; many users show off their tanned physiques in designer underwear. Basic dialogue is not required before nude pictures are solicited or unlocked.

The scene is similarly devoid of what I consider substance at many bars and clubs, where bulky muscles and plate-size pectorals seem all too often to be the defining and most coveted quality about a person — though at the very least people can't be filtered out by their stats in this setting. Who knew we'd get to a point when the local bar would offer more opportunities to establish authentic romantic connections?



I admit, when I was younger and in better shape, I had my fair share of one-night stands and no-strings-attached sex. Even today, I too get easily caught up in aesthetics. I am attracted to men for their looks while being painfully insecure about my own. Yet I know that, at least for me, a fixation on physical appearance is not as significant as an individual's intellectual, emotional and spiritual qualities. It's what's on the inside that really counts.

Unfortunately, gay American culture has set and promotes unrealistic standards of beauty, and this is particularly true in South Florida. As a result, many gay men

— unsatisfied with their perceived physical imperfections — become fixated on drastic measures to meet these impossible standards, frequently resorting to performance-enhancing drugs, plastic surgery and all manner of less invasive cosmetic procedures.

Experts agree that this preoccupation with looks can result in lowered trust and intimacy within relationships, and, as it turns out, lack of intimacy is actually a common problem among gay couples.

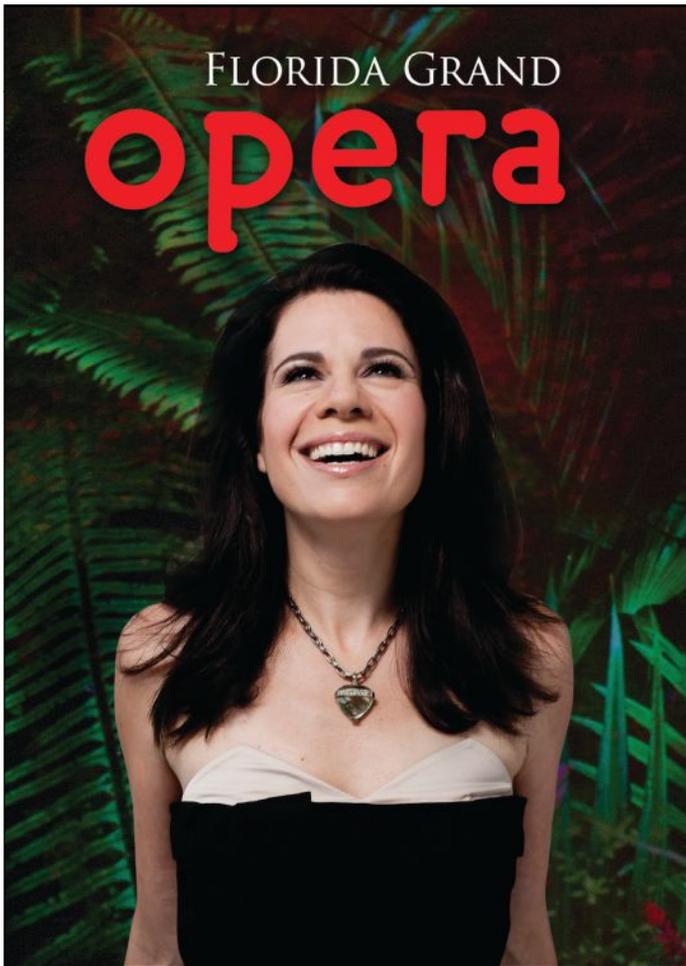
Beneath the surface, we often struggle with self-esteem and doubts about being romantically lovable — no doubt a result of long-standing societal rejection, discrimination and stigmatization since childhood as well. And like many people across the spectrum, there may very well be a part of us fearing long-term commitment, too.

In my case, I had to stop blaming my single status on others. I don't control them. My own insecurities are what has really been holding me back from experiences, including dating and building relationships. I have not been eager or willing to drop my own defenses and inhibitions, in short to become vulnerable. And yet, I long for intimacy, which demands that kind of vulnerability.

While I may not be outgoing in the dating scene, I do strive to be friendly, caring and grateful with those around me. This makes me approachable, so I often attract guys who are lonely or searching for new friends. I don't mind. I just have to see it for what it is: an opportunity.

It recently happened at the gym. A gay man who recently moved from New York introduced himself, and ever since we greet each other.

He came up to me one day while I was trudging along on the treadmill. "Can I ask you a personal question?" he said softly. "Could you recommend a place in Miami to get Botox?" •



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PEOPLE  
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CULTURE  
THE  
BEACH

OCT 08, 2017 - APR 02, 2018

PASCALE  
MARTHINE  
TAYOU:  
BEAUTIFUL

(Left): Ugo Rondinone, *curse*, detail: *vocabulary of solitude*, 2014. Milled foam and epoxy resin, fabric. Image courtesy of the artist.

(Right): Pascale Marthine Tayou, *Masque délavé*, 2015. Wood, mixed media. Image courtesy of the artist and GALLERIA CONTINUA, San Gimignano / Beijing / Les Moulins / Habana. Photo by Rémi Lavallo.

The Bass Museum of Art is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The Bass is generously funded by the City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, Cultural Arts Council, Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, and sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and The Bass membership. *good evening beautiful blue* is sponsored by Phillips. The exhibition is funded in part by Pro Helvetia, the Swiss Arts Council. Additional support for *good evening beautiful blue* and *Beautiful* is provided by Gander & White.

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# SHOW OFF YOUR HEALTHY SMILE

With so much focus on the beauty of the skin and body, it's easy to overlook your teeth and gums. But devoting time to proper dental care is critically important at every age.

by WYATT MYERS

Let's face it, we're all busy. Between the demands of our jobs, families and social lives, it can feel impossible to squeeze in anything.

Unfortunately, one area that often gets neglected is the basic need to look after our teeth and gums. After all, at the end of an exhausting day it can be easy to just leave the brushing and flossing for the following morning, right?

## Brushed Off

Lee Robert Cohen, DDS, a periodontal surgeon in Jupiter,

Florida, says the reality is that it's well worth the few minutes it takes twice a day to give your teeth and gums the attention they deserve for various reasons.

"The most important thing you can do to preserve your tooth and gum health as you age is stay vigilant about your oral health," says Dr. Cohen. "Brushing twice daily, flossing everyday, as well as regular visits to your periodontist for a comprehensive periodontal evaluation can preserve your teeth and gums and keep your smile healthy."

## Eat Your Way to Strong-Teeth

While routine brushing and flossing, as well as regular visits to the professionals make up the bulk of oral care, eating specific foods can help, too. Here's a quick list:

- Apples
- Ginger Root
- Milk (and its derivatives)
- Leafy Greens
- Raw Onions

## Stress & Dental Health

What's more, recent research indicates that the busier you are the more important being vigilant about your dental health may actually be. That's because stress can actually have a dramatic negative effect on the teeth and gums. "A recent study found that stress plays a huge role in oral health," says Dr. Cohen. "Stress decreases the saliva flow in our mouths, and as saliva helps us fight cavities and other bacteria that lives in the mouth, it can actually produce more plaque."

## Flossing: Still Important

One thing that has negatively impacted dental health recently, notes Dr. Cohen, is the widespread reporting in the media that flossing is not as important as previously believed. This has led to many people abandoning flossing, which has not been a positive development for tooth and gum health. "Brushing your teeth alone does not remove plaque that is below the gum line," he says. "There are over 500 types of bacteria that can live below the gum line. Flossing daily removes this plaque and keeps your gums healthy." •



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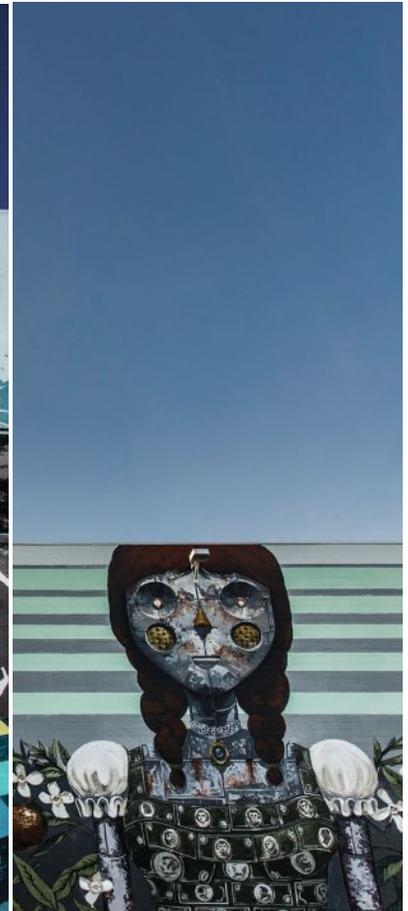


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## ARTISTIC ESCAPE

Characterized by graceful parks, broad streets and a lively arts scene, St. Petersburg is the ideal destination for South Floridians in search of a little culture.

by ANDREW PRINTER

Unlike its rambunctious Atlantic counterpart, Florida's gulf coast — stretching from Sarasota in the south right up to Pensacola in the panhandle — distinguishes itself with its easier pace, spectacular sunsets and serious arts cred.

St. Petersburg, home to seven arts districts each with a distinct flavor, is arguably the epicenter

of all the cultural activity. The Edge District, for example, is a bohemian neighborhood noted for its craft beer scene and for being home to the country's largest selection of mid-century modern furniture. The Warehouse District, along 22nd Street South, is home to a number of artists' studios that are accessible to the public and open late every second Saturday for a monthly art walk.

• The SHINE St. Petersburg Mural Festival takes place in October. To find out more, visit [shineonstpete.com](http://shineonstpete.com).

But the lion's share of the city's artistic action takes place in the Waterfront Museum District, which is home to both The Dalí Museum and the Museum of Fine Arts, cultural cornerstones within the community. This district is as good a place as any to set off on a sublime adventure.

Home to a remarkable permanent collection of works by the legendary Spanish surrealist — the most comprehensive outside of Europe — The Dalí Museum has long been an institution in St. Petersburg. It solidified its standing as such upon opening its new awe-striking, Dalí-inspired building in 2011.

This October, the museum is highlighting the creative relationship between Elsa Schiaparelli and Salvador Dalí, friends and collaborators that set Paris ablaze with their groundbreaking vision. Prepare



• The Dalí Museum houses more than 2,000 works of art, including the most comprehensive collection of Dalí's work outside of Europe.

yourself for a vivid display of haute couture gowns, paintings, drawings and objets d'art.

Farther up the waterfront, the Museum of Fine Arts has served as a magnet for creative minds and their patrons since 1965. Starting in November, Star Wars™ and the Power of Costume offers a close examination of the captivating process of costume design, displaying up to 60 iconic outfits

featured in the first seven films of the series.

Other districts worth visiting include the Central District, a nest of artist's studios and galleries; and Grand Central District, characterized by antiques stores and home to Haslans, Florida's largest new and used bookshop.

Deuces Live and M.L. King North are two emerging arts neighborhoods. The former

embraces the city's rich African-American Heritage, and the latter is where you might find artists and writers sipping coffee or tea.

Art is not just a body of work that a scholarly decision-maker schedules for a cultural institution. Strolling the streets and people watching can be just as inspiring, as is the enjoyment of the regional cuisine. Similarly, art isn't limited to flat pictures on walls. It's spoken, sung and often performed in unlikely spaces.

The third SHINE St. Petersburg Mural Festival returns in October, once again showcasing work by artists from around the world. A corresponding festival involves bicycle tours along with a diverse range of community projects.

This is just a sampling of what St. Petersburg has to offer tourists of all stripes, but especially those with artistic inclinations. Have fun and "may the force be with you." •



# MICHAEL LEGG

Front Desk Clerk and Concierge at the La Te Da Hotel in Key West

by ANDREW PRINTER

**M**ichael Legg's position as front desk clerk and concierge for the famous La Te Da hotel on Duval Street puts him smack-dab in the middle of the island's arts community. Originally from Germany, he and his husband moved to Stock Island in the Lower Keys in 2016. Legg's partner had been recruited by City Hall to help develop public transportation and biking options on the densely built island, and the move was ideal for Legg, as an avid cyclist and in many other ways.

**Q: What brought you to Key West?**

A: The first time I visited Key West in 2011 I said I would live here one day. Five years later my husband and I did it.

**Q: What are the pros and cons of riding a bike every day?**

A: Well, cycling everywhere keeps me in excellent shape. You really feel as if you are part of the island

when biking around, and you see so much more that's going on. For me there are no cons. I have never had a drivers license. I have biked everywhere all my life.

**Q: Visitors come to Key West from all over the world. Where do you direct guests who are interested in the arts – visual or performing?**

A: Obviously, La Te Da Piano bar, which is open 7 nights a week. Plus our cabaret shows, local theaters such as Red Barn, Waterfront, the Key West Theatre and the Tropic Cinema. My best advice: Walk down Duval street and when you hear the right music, go in. Live entertainment is everywhere.

**Q: What happens at La Te Da's famous Crystal Room?**

A: Christopher Peterson's Eyecons and Randy Roberts Live! Great cabaret. Great impersonators. And, no lip-synching.

**Q: What do you and your partner do for entertainment?**

A: The newly refurbished Key West Theater is a great new asset to the community.

**Q: What's your favorite place on the island to get a bite to eat?**

A: I can waste away an entire afternoon sitting at Blue Macaw

or Schooner Warf listening to live music.

**Q: Some might say the arts in Key West happens on the street, all year round. What are some of the more notable street events?**

A: Papiro Kinetic Sculpture Parade in May. It's human-powered art sculptures, and it's amazing. The best street event, however, is the Locals Parade/Masquerade March.

**Q: Key West's high season gets into full swing in the fall. Are there any events that visitors might enjoy?**

A: I'd suggest looking at exhibition openings at The Studios of Key West and theater openings at the Waterfront and the Red Barn. Of course, Fantasy Fest and Goombay Fest both happen in October.

**Q: You live on Stock Island. Tell us something about Key West's closest neighboring island community.**

A: The word on Stock Island is that we are the "Brooklyn of Key West." Lots of popular restaurants are there such as Hogfish, Chico's, Roostica, De Luna's, and the Rusty Anchor is open again. New Marina hotels like The Perry have opened and there's Safe Harbor Art Studios behind Hogfish Bar and Grill. •

• Michael Legg, front desk clerk and concierge at the La Te Da hotel in Key West

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# The Art of Living

FINDING AN APARTMENT HOME IN SOUTH FLORIDA GOES BEYOND LANDING A PLACE WITH GREAT CLOSET SPACE.

By Catherine Keeter

Today's consumers are not moving to apartments for short-term housing. They are actively choosing apartment living for the convenience, amenities and alignment with their lifestyles.

Young and mid-career professionals value a work-life balance that allows them to advance their careers while living in a beautifully landscaped community without worrying about lawn care; enjoying a luxurious pool without having to deal with the maintenance; and getting to work, restaurants or attractions around town without depending on a car.

As with most real estate, location is key. In the Miami area, being on or

close to the water with a panoramic view trumps all other settings. Renters seeking highly coveted locations have a number of great options, including the Flamingo South Beach, a resort-style community with picturesque views of Biscayne Bay.

Apartment dwellers often get perks beyond resort-style pools. The Flamingo, for example, also features private cabanas, poolside service and a tiki bar. Many who have actively chosen South Florida as their home, want to be transported to a vacation-like setting just steps from their home on a daily basis.

Beyond atmosphere, roughly 70 percent of greater downtown Miami residents describe themselves as

physically active. For many, it's not just about "staying fit," but about combining fitness with fun, engaging group activities. State-of-the-art fitness centers with the newest equipment, onsite yoga, and Pilates and kickboxing classes, along with easy access to parks and waterfront trails are no longer perks. They're musts.

Workout buffs might consider properties like Bay Parc Apartments in Miami, which boasts an onsite boutique cardio boxing gym. The apartments are conveniently located within walking or biking distance of nearby services, retail and restaurants, so residents can stay fit while being environmentally friendly, too.

Culture is another driving factor for renters, and easy access to the rich, vibrant and diverse arts and entertainment scene in the greater Miami area is a must. Whether taking in dance, opera or concerts at the Arsht Center or keeping the night spontaneous with a stroll along the many bars, restaurants and shops that line the streets of South Beach, residents relish the chance to relax and play close to home.

While many renters may not have children, creating a home for their pets is an important factor. With the unconditional love and companionship offered by four-legged friends, it's only fitting that they are fully welcomed and cared for in their owner's apartment community. Doggie day spas, grooming centers and dog parks are becoming staples of many apartment complexes and pre-requisites for residents.

Consumers ought to expect more from their apartment homes than just updated bathrooms and stainless steel kitchen appliances. While the appearance and comfort of an apartment surely remains paramount, choosing a living space that offers a better lifestyle requires looking for the perfect neighborhood and amenities for your needs and desires. •

*Catherine Keeter*  
*Regional Property Manager*  
*Bay Parc Plaza & Flamingo South Beach*  
[bayparcplaza.com](http://bayparcplaza.com)  
[flamingosouthbeach.com](http://flamingosouthbeach.com)  
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*Chamber of Commerce*

# Intelligent Finds

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS SHOWCASE WORK THAT COULD BECOME WORTH WAY MORE THAN THE FILM, CANVAS OR PAPER ON WHICH IT LIVES.

By Gail P. Williams

I am often asked, “What exactly is Blue Chip Art?” To keep it simple, it is art that generally appreciates in value over time. A resale market exists, so if you want to sell a work you acquired at a later time, there is another collector, art dealer, auction house or gallery that may be interested in buying your work. Like any investment, an increase in resale value is not guaranteed. The value can fluctuate up and down for a host of reasons, including current trends and fashion.

Blue chip artists include well-known names such as Andy Warhol, Pablo Picasso, Mark Rothko and Roy Lichtenstein. But like many investments, artists can quickly fall out of favor. A good rule of thumb is to genuinely like what you are buying. You may end up owning it for quite a while.

Bridging various artist communities and providing greater exposure for its artists in new markets, the Williams McCall Gallery promotes the rich

variety of talent found in the U.S. and around the world. You can find a unique mix of emerging, mid-career and established artists at the gallery.

Williams McCall began offering selected blue chip works a couple of years ago. The gallery quickly became a gateway for new and experienced collectors seeking fine art for investment purposes. This added another dimension to its roster of offerings, and it was positively received by collectors.

Those interested in building their collections should heed a few points of advice: Work with a reputable art gallery or art advisor; know what you are buying; keep in mind that the condition of a piece is key; take care of your art; and insure it.

A Wharton and Harvard graduate, Gail P. Williams enjoyed a successful career as a media marketing and financial services executive. Deciding the time was right to pursue her dream of owning an art gallery, she

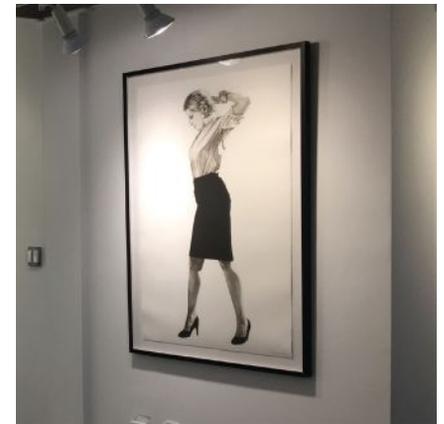
opened the Williams McCall Gallery in February 2012.

By the following year, the gallery was recognized in the Best New Art Gallery category by the *Miami New Times* and *Miami Sun Post* in their “Best of 2013.”

Williams is a former Board of Trustees member of the Provincetown Art Association and Museum, the oldest continuous art colony in America. She currently serves on its Nominating Committee.

Dawn McCall is a globally respected business person, recognized for building and managing international brand leaders in the media space.

After a successful career with Discovery Communications — where she served as president of Discovery Networks International — McCall was invited to join the U.S. State Department.



Most recently she returned to Miami, where she kicked off a career in international business with the launch of Discovery Networks Latin America, serving as its general manager. McCall also is also currently the Vice Chair of the Miami Beach Cultural Arts Council.

Truly loving Miami and the South of Fifth neighborhood, both Williams and McCall are proud to have established its first art gallery. •

*Gail P. Williams*  
 Gallery Owner  
 Williams McCall Gallery  
[williamsccallgallery.com](http://williamsccallgallery.com)  
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# Historic and Refined

SET IN THE HEART OF CORAL GABLES, THE HOTEL COLONNADE PAYS HOMAGE TO THE CITY'S RICH HISTORY WHILE REFLECTING MIAMI'S CONTEMPORARY CULTURE AND MODERN DESIGN.

**H**oused in one of the most historic buildings in Coral Gables — built in 1922 by the town's founder, George Merrick — the boutique property known as the Hotel Colonnade recently completed an \$18 million renovation, which granted it with the perfect blend of modern and classic South Florida design.

The renovation revealed 157 spacious guest rooms with modern, four-poster beds and expansive seating areas, featuring bright pops of color and contemporary original art. Guests now enjoy a new lobby bar with creative craft cocktails, plus a sleek, adult-focused game room that's ideal for unwinding and cutting loose.

Hotel Colonnade celebrates the history of travel and the luxury of

exploring a new destination in style while offering an intimate, celebratory experience in the heart of Coral Gables. Spirited travelers, adventure-seekers and work-hard-play harder weekend warriors will find an experience evocative of bold whimsy and exotic elegance at the newly re-imagined hotel.

With dashes of European elegance, sophisticated social spaces and an unparalleled location right on Miracle Mile, Hotel Colonnade is unlike any other property in Miami.

The artistry extends beyond the walls with the classic, amid a distinctive dining ambience of its various eateries, including the Aragon Café, House: A Town Kitchen & Bar, Cream Gourmet Espresso and even the lobby bar.

The Colonnade also boasts a lush rooftop pool, 24-hour concierge services and more than 23,000 square feet of flexible and natural light-filled meeting space.

Enjoying all the perks of being right in downtown Coral Gables — home to some of the city's best restaurants, art galleries and boutique shopping — the Colonnade is also just a short distance away from downtown Miami, South Beach and the Wynwood Arts District, making it an ideal place to stay for business and leisure travelers alike. •

*Hotel Colonnade Coral Gables*  
[starwoodhotels.com/tributeportfolio](http://starwoodhotels.com/tributeportfolio)  
 Corporate Member of the Miami-Dade  
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# Eye for Design

## ATTON BRICKELL MIAMI OFFERS A TASTE OF MIAMI'S DYNAMIC ARTS SCENE.

By Claudia Di Gino  
General Manager, Atton Brickell Miami

Miami is known for its gorgeous beaches, diverse culture, thriving nightlife and restaurant scene. It is, after all, one of the most popular vacation destinations in all of the United States. However, in recent years, Miami's burgeoning arts scene has sparked a modern, cultural renaissance. Miami has transformed into one of the world's hottest art destinations, thanks to the various art fairs, galleries, staged performances and the increasingly popular street art scene.

Right at the center of Miami's artistic and cultural landscape lies Atton Brickell Miami. The hotel is the premier U.S. flagship property of Atton Hotels. Aside

from its close proximity to the best art venues around, its modern design and décor elements provide guests with a taste of the city's dynamic arts scene.

Rising gracefully amid the busy streets of Greater Downtown Miami, Atton Brickell Miami brings Latin elegance to the heart of Brickell, offering the perfect enclave of convenience, comfort, efficiency and breathtaking views.

A light and airy lobby features a geometrical shapes and textures. The creative space provides both intimate and social zones, as well as furniture that is as comfortable as it is eye-catching.

The venue is comprised of 275 spacious guest rooms, each furnished with comfortable desk spaces, bedding and other in-room necessities allowing



travelers to truly unwind. Enhancing the experience further, the rooms also boast breathtaking views of Biscayne Bay and the Brickell skyline and feature images of Simpson Park, a nature reserve that is located steps away from the property.

Atton Brickell Miami also offers a variety of food and beverage options including a full-service Peruvian-inspired restaurant. The property is also Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certified as a result of its various environmental initiatives, which include a recycling program for guests and a waterless AC system, among others.

With a modern, lifestyle approach that blurs the line between business and pleasure, a stay Atton makes the perfect trip for any art aficionado. •

*Claudia Di Gino  
General Manager  
Atton Brickell Miami  
attonbrickellmiami.com  
Corporate Partner Member of  
the Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian  
Chamber of Commerce*



# Spotlight: JESPER SOERENSEN

## GENERAL MANAGER AT THE SHORE CLUB SOUTH BEACH

MORGANSHOTELGROUP.COM/ORIGINALS | CORPORATE PARTNER MEMBER  
OF THE MIAMI-DADE GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



### Please share with a bit of your personal background.

I was born and raised in Denmark. I grew up wanting to explore and travel the world, so I left Denmark in 1996 to embark [to the] U.S.A., Nicaragua and London. I first spent 10 years in the U.S.A. (Miami and LA). After that I was six months in Nicaragua, and finally I moved to London where I spent 10 years. Work offered me an opportunity again in the United States, and in 2013 I moved to Miami for the second time, where I currently [reside].

Prior to 1996, I went to school for four years to become a hair stylist, and later worked as a spa manager in Los Angeles while working as platform artist for hair care companies and traveled all over the United States. With this job I was transferred to Miami in 1999 where I opened my own salon. This led me to being introduced to hospitality through a good client of mine. Being adventurous, I took a job at a prominent hotel in Miami which led to a position in London. I learned everything about hotels and worked my way up through various departments to become the General Manager I am today at the Shore Club.

### Do any interesting guest stories stand out in your time as General Manager of the Shore Club South Beach?

There are so many great stories about amazing guests and staff members and what goes into guest experience, but our hotel motto is to we never kiss and tell. I will say though it's never boring and you

learn a lot about different people and certainly about your own abilities to adapt and learn.

### SBE (formerly Morgan's Hotel Group) the Shore Club and you have a history of support for diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Do you see that support being sustained?

Ian Schragar, Morgans Hotel Group and now SBE are pioneers in hospitality. Diversity and inclusion are our strengths. We embrace what's different and see it as a strength and an opportunity to develop some amazing individuals for our hotels and restaurants throughout the world.

### Denmark has a history of embracing diversity. What is one thing that we here in the U.S. could adopt?

I feel an open mind and no judgement will get everyone far in life. It's natural curiosity to explore without putting limitations on yourself or trying to fit in with what's identified as normal in society. Denmark is a very happy place and it fosters open minded, kind and ambitious individuals.

### Shore Club is a Corporate Partner Member of the Chamber. What makes the Chamber worthy of support?

MDGLCC reflects what I stand for and what I firmly believe in. It's in the willingness to help and reach out — to motivate, grow and believe in yourself and [that] everyone on the planet has a place and a purpose without prejudice. •



# Inspired Spaces

WITH SOME THOUGHT AND A LITTLE CREATIVITY YOU CAN BRING TASTE AND ARTISTRY TO ANY LIVING SPACE.

By Adrienne Moore

South Florida has a mind-boggling number of sources for flooring, furniture, contractors, artwork and accessories, among countless other offerings. This can be stressful for those unfamiliar with the market, or a pleasure for those getting the help of a professional to guide them. Designers spend their lives securing the best contractors and vendors to deliver high-quality goods, exceptional finishes and service. In the end, the interior designer's reputation is bolstered or tarnished by the client's satisfaction.

An interior designer plays many roles including psychologist, business negotiator and artist. Homeowners and large commercial operations alike have differing concerns, whether they have a strong sense of style or have no idea about where to start a project. Tapping into a client's taste and elevating it, while developing a cohesive, timeless design concept is no simple task.

Imagine a homeowner who has grown tired of the mellow pink polka dot motif in their home and wants to have it refreshed. By the end of the new project, that homeowner may love the clean lines, and timeless beauty of the dramatic "conservative with an edge" styled home, but it's the process in the middle that can become messy without a designer.

Style can be trendy, timeless, tacky or tasteful. For example, Frank Lloyd Wright's designs from nearly a century ago remain relevant because of their clean lines and organic use of space. These are almost universally viewed as timeless and tasteful. Regardless of a project's style or scope, an interior designer can help avoid trends that will make a space feel dated quickly.

Clients sometimes can have strong sentimental ties to pieces they've collected. Making the decision about what to keep a major challenge. An

interior designer can provide a cohesive vision that helps make it easier.

From navigating the ever-growing international art market to forging relationships with local galleries and artists, an interior designer often has the ability to negotiate the best price, and also arrange delivery and installation as part of the deal. It's wonderful if you purchase a piece of art that appreciates in value, but seasoned curators will tell you never count on that. Buy what you love! With a designer's trained eye you can add wow factor, pops of color and perfect lighting — the masterstrokes that will transform your space. •

*Adrienne Moore*  
*Interior Designer and Owner*  
[luxedesignbyam.com](http://luxedesignbyam.com)  
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## Framed!

A DIVERSIFIED, WOMAN-OWNED, COMMERCIAL ART CONSULTING AND FRAMING COMPANY, FRAMEWORKS CASTS A SHADOW WELL BEYOND ITS COCONUT GROVE LOCATION

By Claire Lardner

**F**rameWorks was launched over two decades ago when Christine Sweeny moved to Miami and opened frame shop Kennedy Studios in Coconut Grove in 1989. The original business she opened with her father was rebranded as FrameWorks and moved to its current corner on Commodore Plaza in 1995. At the time, Sweeny was a sole retail operator. Now, the company employs 22 people, many of whom have been with the company for over 15 years.

A year after the rebranding and the move, Claire Lardner became an equal

partner/owner in the business, bringing her experience as a successful attorney to the shop. The pair have been together since they met on a blind date in Miami Beach in the fall of 1996.

Prints and posters from catalogs were the hospitality industry artwork standard in the 1990s. Seeing an opportunity to provide custom imagery at a fraction of the price, Sweeny and Lardner purchased their first wide format printer in 1999. Today they offer wide format printing services with four printers, cutting edge software and alternative, innovative substrates for artwork printing and framing. Throughout their history, Sweeny and Lardner have maintained a constant eye toward future development.

Both have also earned the prestigious industry designation of Certified Picture Framers, awarded by the Professional Picture Framing Association. Less than five percent of all picture framers in the country hold this designation. Their commitment to continued personal development in their chosen trade has allowed them to enjoy consistent growth for more than two decades.

The two women are proud of their reputation throughout South Florida for exemplary framing services and for their constant and continued support of local charities, community events and school arts programs.

Married since 2004, the couple has raised two extraordinary daughters, who are currently high school students in the prestigious visual arts program at New World School of the Arts. Both Sweeny and Lardner are extremely proud of their family, for which they had to overcome many legal and social obstacles, their family is, as Cris' Mom says "the most normal queer family you could ever meet"! They remain active and involved in their church, South Miami's Riviera Presbyterian and are committed to being a shining example of what is possible. •

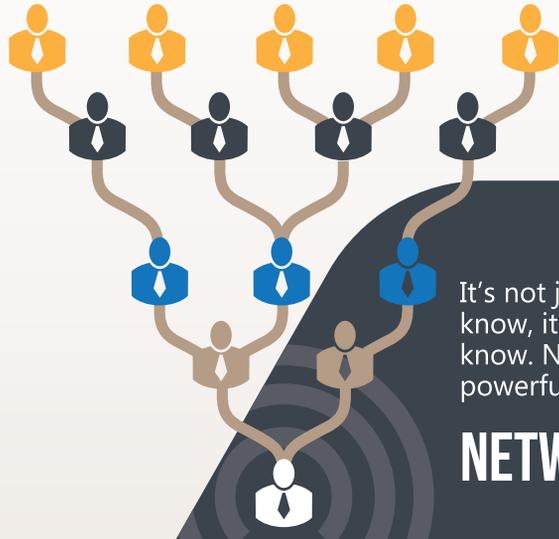
*Christine Sweeny and Claire Lardner  
Certified Picture Framers and Owners  
FrameWorks*

*frameworksmiami.com*

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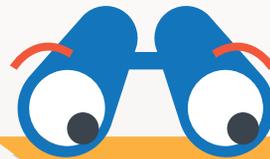
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**CLARITY: 2017 NGLCC (NATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE) INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS & LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

The Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (MDGLCC) staff, some board members and a few of their LGBTQ-business owner members attended the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's annual gathering, which took place the first week of August in Las Vegas. They joined more than 1,000 entrepreneurs, corporate decision-makers, affiliate chamber leaders and government officials from across the country and around the world. Clockwise from top left: MDGLCC's President & CEO Steve Adkins (2nd from the right) with NGLCC staff and conference guests and speaker Tim Gunn • The staff of the MDGLCC received a \$7,500 grant from the NGLCC & Wells Fargo to identify, grow and retain LGBTQ-owned businesses in Miami-Dade • MDGLCC's Director of Membership & Engagement Scott Bader served as guest panelist • Wells Fargo awarded more than \$50,000 in grants • Innovative programming at the three-day educational conference • Engaging workshops were held in the hotel's main ballroom



**GALLA (GAY & LESBIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION) NETWORKING RECEPTION**

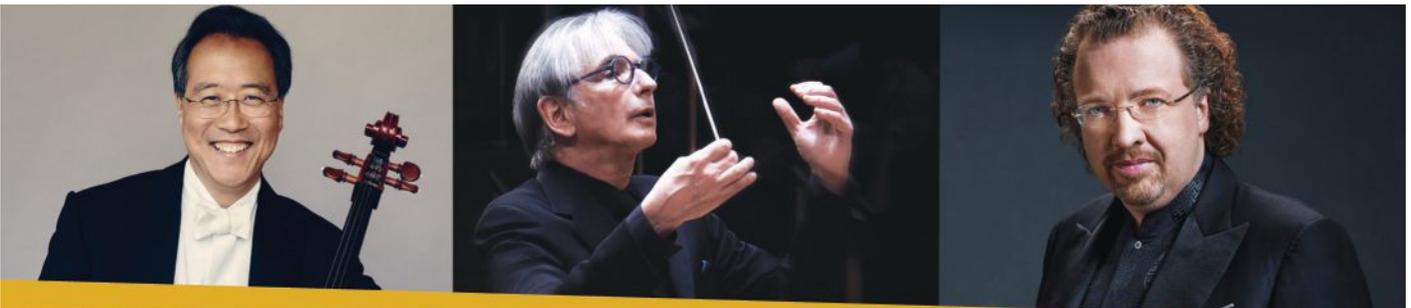
The Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (MDGLCC), GALLA and Akerman invited members, attorneys, judges and legal professionals to a social networking reception on August 24th at the offices of Akerman in Brickell. Guests socialized while listening to speakers Dale Noll (Akerman Associate and 2017 President of the National LGBT Bar Association) and Judge Darrin P. Gayles (Federal Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida). Clockwise from top left: Steve Adkins, Neisen Kasdin and Richard Milestein • Dale Noll, Robb Kiss, Randy Lakel and Antonia Canero • Stephen Paulson, Judge Victoria del Pino and Patricia Hernandez • GALLA Co-Chair, Patricia Hernandez, share the organization's upcoming events • Trelvis Randolph and guest • Attendees socializing • Judge Darrin P. Gayles



**SAVE'S TRANS JUSTICE RALLY**

Shortly after the administration's July Twitter announcement that it would prevent transgender individuals from serving in the military in any capacity — referring to this segment of the military as a distraction — SAVE organized a rally to show support for those who are already serving, as well as all those transgender individuals who wish to be recruits in the future. Clockwise from top left: Councilman Scott Galvin and artist Alessandra Mondolfi • Augusto Cividini and Felix Castro • Shane Landrum • Richard Murphy • Elliot Williams and Casey Bruce White • Kimberly Ambrose, Lau Rodriguez and Dieter Schniss • Tony Lima and Brother Ben Evans

Carina Mask



**COME BE INSPIRED**

**2017-18 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS**

**YO-YO MA  
PLAYS STRAUSS**

Saturday, October 28  
at the **Adrienne Arsht Center**

*Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor  
Yo-Yo Ma, cello  
Jonathan Vinocour, viola*

**THE  
FIREBIRD**

Saturday and Sunday, February 17-18  
at the **New World Center**

*Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor  
Leif Ove Andsnes, piano*

**MAURICE RAVEL:  
A MUSICAL JOURNEY**

Saturday, April 14  
at the **New World Center**

*Stéphane Denève, conductor*

**New World Symphony**  
America's Orchestral Academy  
Michael Tilson Thomas, Artistic Director

**30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

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**POVERELLO BOWLING TO FIGHT HUNGER**

The Poverello Center in Wilton Manors, which provides nutritious food, services and basic living essentials with the highest degree of understanding, respect and love for individuals living with critical and chronic illnesses including HIV in South Florida, held its 27th annual Bowling to Fight Hunger event in August at the Sawgrass Lanes in Tamarac. They raised more than \$104,000. Clockwise from top left: Magno Morales, Shanna Ratliff, Rafael Reyes, Chris Chavez and John Baumgartner • Kevin Clevenger, Nicole Halliwell, Steven O. Evans and Brett Yancey • Team Care Bears • Jason King and Pete Povoli • Mario Rosario and Mark McHugh • David Milu, Johnny Wolfe and Lorely Villela • Robert Boo and Roger Roa

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**Black Bean Quesadillas**  
Serves 4 | Prep time: 5 min. | Total time: 15 min.

<p><b>INGREDIENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 cup GOYA® Pico de Gallo Salsa</li> <li>1 can (15.5 oz.) GOYA® Black Beans, or GOYA® LOW Sodium Black Beans, drained and rinsed</li> <li>1/2 cup shredded Monterey jack cheese</li> <li>2 tbsp. finely chopped fresh cilantro</li> <li>4 10" GOYA® Tortillas (for Burritos)</li> <li>1 tsp. GOYA® Extra Virgin Olive Oil</li> <li>GOYA® Salsita (optional)</li> </ul>	<p><b>DIRECTIONS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Using small-hole strainer, drain liquid from Pico de Gallo Salsa; discard liquid. Transfer remaining tomato mixture to medium bowl. Mix in black beans, cheese and cilantro until combined.</li> <li>2. Divide black bean mixture evenly over half of each tortilla (about 1/2 cup each). Fold tortillas in half.</li> <li>3. Heat large griddle or skillet over medium-high heat. Brush with oil. Place filled tortillas on griddle. Cook, carefully flipping once, until tortillas are golden brown and crisp and cheese filling melts, about 5 minutes.</li> <li>4. Cut quesadillas into wedges. Serve with your favorite GOYA® Salsita variety if desired.</li> </ol>
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*If it's GOYA...it has to be good!*

\*As defined by the USDA  
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### KEY WEST TROPICAL HEAT

From August 16–20, locals and out-of-towners celebrated what is often dubbed “Key West’s hottest event for men”: Tropical Heat. Every year, the temperatures rise with the all-male theme parties, pool parties and adult-oriented entertainment that takes over the island for four steamy days of hot guys and sizzling fun. Clockwise from top left: Ronnie Carruthers • Kevin Broomell and Jack Anderson • Jason Champion, Robert Roubideaux and Jim Del Rio • Hans Berlin and Jeff Hillard • Jason Champion and Jim Del Rio • Erick Coffelt and Keith Hodges • Freddy Obregon • Jessica Deveraux

Andrew Printer



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# TAKING A DAY TO REMEMBER

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**I**t's hard to cope with the loss of a loved one. It's harder still, when that loved one had to endure a violent death. Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR), which takes place annually on November 20th, honors the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence.

After the 1998 murder of her friend Rita Hester, Gwendolyn Ann Smith held a vigil that would come to embody a day of hope and respect. Today, the week leading up to the 20th has become Transgender Awareness Week, because stories of contributions, success and perseverance are just as important as those of loss.

To find out more about the day and the events taking place — or the activities you can organize — visit [glad.org/tdor](http://glad.org/tdor).



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