

2nd Annual Potato Salad Contest raises \$275 for Southern Decadence @ GrandPre's ~ New Orleans ~ Photos by Darwin Reed



Krewe of Petronius BBQ & Bingo raises \$500 for Southern Decadence @ Tulane Ave Bar ~ New Orleans ~ Photos by Guest Photographers, Rip Naquin

## trodding the boards ...from 24

**Marquer Theatre**, playgoers are asked to reposition their chairs in between the plays as each is done in a slightly different area.

The evening begins with **Smokers** in which an ever-changing group of workers assemble on a loading dock for a couple of puffs. The dialog is naturalistic for this cross-section of ages, genders, sexual orientations and, especially, attitudes.

From talk of politics (“Hillary transcends gender”) to a pretentious poetry-spouting two-timer to one character who “wants to peel back the layers of space/time using just his hands,” it’s an intriguing group. But with small talk that’s a little too small, despite some amusing character-driven insights, **Smokers** is more sketch than play.

Under Daniel Schubert-Skelly’s direction, the large cast was still working out the rhythms of the play (apparently the first performance was washed out by rain; I saw what was to be the second), but they’re all game and easily establish the requisite familiarity with each other.

**My Hair, My Home**, the second work on the bill, is one of those classic love/hate letters to Nawlins. Though it threatens to slide into cliché with talk of go-cups, streetcars, potholes and the city’s “danger”, Martin’s knowing specificity when it comes to the city’s bars and other locales keeps it fresh.

Billed as a “parody of Margaret Abrams’ *A Bittersweet Goodbye to New Orleans*”, this sweet portrait of a party girl with glitter and champagne running through her veins is bought to piquant life by Maggie Blaeser whose captivating performance is utterly disarming. Glenn Aucoin directed this brief but highly enjoyable, less-than-ten-minute monolog.

And then there was **Thee**, in which two lovers in a boat “adrift on a Samuel Beckett sea” argue and talk endlessly about their relationship. Various people pop up out of the sea—a father with a bouquet of flowers, an ex, a gunman who robs one of the women of her tiara—but any real drama was scarce and unconvincing.

Though I have had the pleasure of working with Martin before and admire all he’s done for our theatrical community, this hour-long piece is simply not one of his better efforts. Director Andrea Watson and lead actresses Annie Gaia and Kathryn Merris Scott must share some of the blame for not bringing more nuance and stylistic variety to this soggy mess. While you can see one, two or all three of these playlets, my advice would be to bail after the first two.

## America’s Wartime Sweethearts: A Tribute to The Andrews Sisters at the WWII Museum’s Stage Door Canteen

[This show has been extended for Wednesday matinee performances through August 19. Here are excerpts from my review which ran last October.]

**America’s Wartime Sweethearts: A Tribute to The Andrews Sisters** is a sprightly hour-long introduction to a group that virtually defined the decade. Following other such revues that paid tribute to Frank Sinatra and Louis Prima, the Canteen’s Director of Entertainment Victoria Reed has discovered just the right ratio of words to music for these entertainments.

With over 30 numbers, the balance rightly tilts towards the music but along the way we learn that oldest sister Laverne was the only one who could read music; the trio recorded over 600 tunes, sold over 90 million records and was the best selling group during WWII; and that they were inspired by the Boswell Sisters of New Orleans.



## under the gaydar

by Tony Leggio  
Email: [ledgemgp@gmail.com](mailto:ledgemgp@gmail.com)  
Photo by: Larry Graham

### Book of the Month

I love discovering new writers whose books may not be in the normal genre of fiction that normally makes my must read list. That was the case with “Send More Idiots,” a darkly humorous thriller by Tony Perez-Giese. Set at the border between El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico, the novel begins with the disappearance of an American real estate broker under very mysterious circumstances.

His brother Jon comes to the area in search of him, not exactly knowing how to go about finding him. Soon he gets embroiled in a devious web of drug cartels and a host of other shady characters his brother was somehow mixed up with. Aided by a rag tag but interesting group of colorful people along the way who somehow fall into Jon’s life, he soon is drawn into this dangerous borderland world where death can

come very quickly.

The novel moves quickly into the action and the character development is wonderful, especially Jon, who leaves a life behind in which he was going through the motions to find his brother. His uncharacteristic actions create the draw for the reader as he risks his life for a man who he had at best a very strained relationship with. Tony does an excellent job at delving into his characters and their situations.

The humorous parts of the book are downright funny at times, as the reader gets a peek at a life in what many would see as a modern Wild West. The only minor complaint I have was the ending seemed slightly rushed, but still satisfying. “Send More Idiots” is a fast and funny read that has both action and heart. After the success of his first novel *Pac Heights*, it looks like Tony has another hit on his

[continued on 30]

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Reed’s supple direction unobtrusively keeps **Sweethearts** moving along fluidly while occasionally getting audience members involved for a little dancing with the featured performers, the Victory Belles. Reed’s inclusion of clips from some of the Sisters’ films is a nice touch. Heidi Malnar’s choreography is simple but period-appropriate and inventively enhances the vocals.

With their creamy voices and terrific harmonies, the Belles (Shelbie Mac, Cristina Perez, Mandi Ridgdell) gorgeously recreate the sound of that era without slavishly imitating the Andrews Sisters. The three of them effortlessly shift from a polka medley to a Latin one while capturing the differing styles of each Sister.

Canteen veterans Perez and Ridgdell take Maxine’s high and Laverne’s low parts, respectively, leaving Patty’s leads to newcomer Mac, who’s an absolutely adorable blonde.

From *Rum and Coca Cola* to *Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree* and *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy*, four generations after these songs sat at the top of the hit parade, they still hold up as archetypal pop tunes. The Andrews Sisters may have been “America’s Wartime Sweethearts,” but if there’s any justice, the catchy songs they made famous will live on forever.

Lots more classic hits can be heard Saturdays through September 12 in **Sentimental Journey: The Big Bands of World War II**, in which *The National WWII Museum’s Victory Swing Orchestra* celebrates such bandleader greats as Glenn

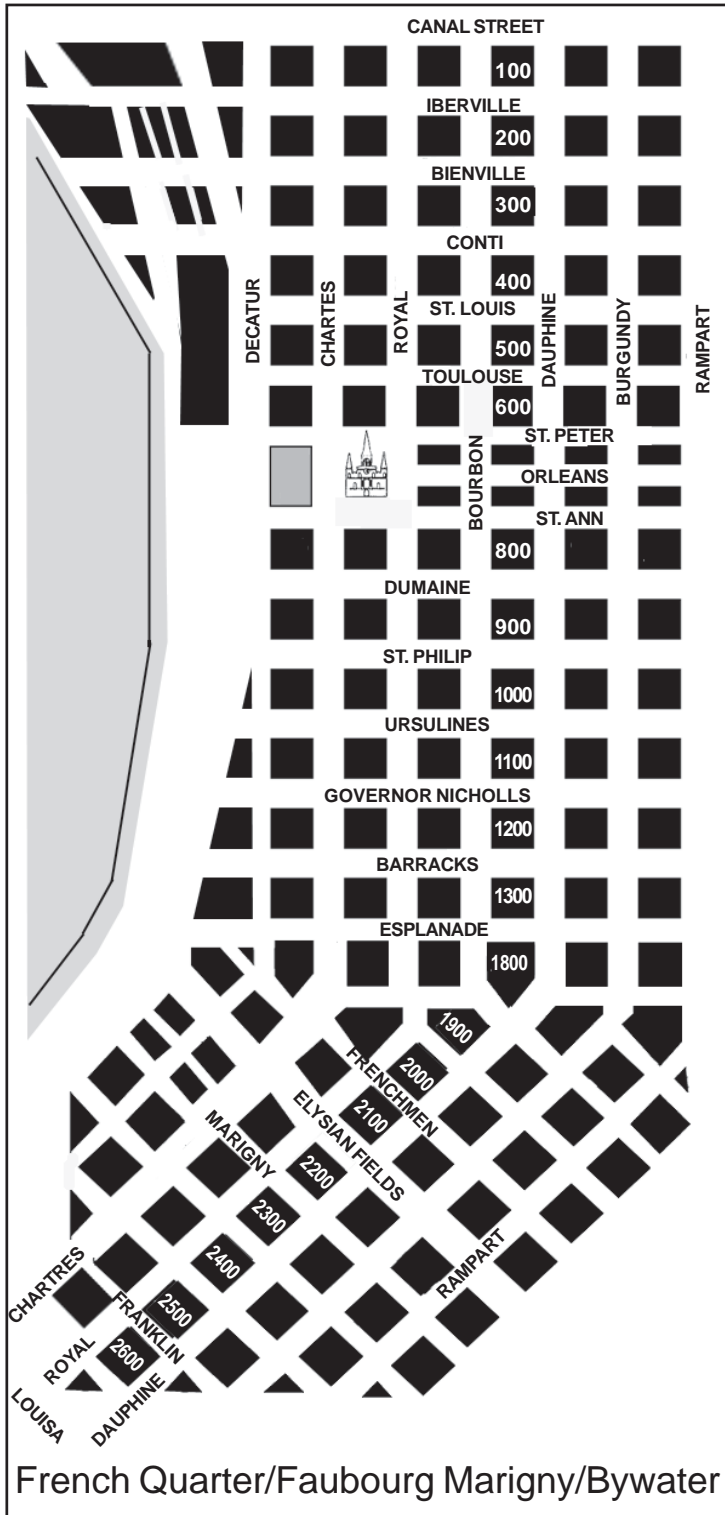
Miller, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, and Artie Shaw. The evening will feature memorable tunes like *Sentimental Journey*, *Begin the Beguine*, *Stardust*, *Sing, Sing, Sing*, and *Take the A Train* which are sure to put you *In The Mood* to dance the night away.

## And on the North Shore...

**Playmakers Theater of Covington** presents **9 to 5 - The Musical** through July 26. Based on the hit movie and with music & lyrics by Dolly Parton, **9 to 5** follows the exploits of three female co-workers and their ultimate revenge on the sexist, egotistical, hypocritical bigot they call their boss.

Directed by Justin Lapeyrouse, **9 to 5** features Arianne Poole, Madison Weathersby, Emily Hynes, and Shannon Williams. I’m planning to tumble out of bed and stumble to Covington for this one!

# classifieds



French Quarter/Faubourg Marigny/Bywater

## attorneys

**New Orleans, LA [504]**

**Troy A. Tureau, J.D., L.L.M.,** Attorney at Law, Tureau Legal, 4631 S. Carrollton Ave., New Orleans, LA 70119, 504.308.1608 [thelawprofessor@comcast.net](mailto:thelawprofessor@comcast.net)

## bars

**Mobile, AL [251]**

**B-Bob's Downtown,** 213 Conti St., 433.2262, [B-Bobs.COM](http://B-Bobs.COM)

**Flip Side Bar & Patio,** 54 S. Conception St., 431.8819, [FlipSideBarPatio.COM](http://FlipSideBarPatio.COM)

**GABRIEL'S DOWNTOWN,** 55 South Joachim St., 432.4900

**THE MIDTOWN PUB,** 153 Florida St., 450.1555

**Pensacola, FL [850]**

**EMERALD CITY,** 408 E. Wright St., 433.9491, [EmeraldCityPensacola.COM](http://EmeraldCityPensacola.COM)

**THE ROUNDUP,** 560 East Heinberg St., 433.8482

**Baton Rouge, LA [225]**

**GEORGE'S,** 860 St. Louis, 387.9798, **SPLASH,** 2183 Highland Rd., 242.9491, [SplashBR.COM](http://SplashBR.COM)

**Lake Charles, LA [337]**

**CRYSTAL'S,** 112 W. Broad, 433.5457

**Metairie, LA [504]**

**FOUR SEASONS & PATIO STAGE BAR,** 3229 N. Causeway, 832.0659, [FourSeasonsBar.com](http://FourSeasonsBar.com)

**New Orleans, LA [504]**

700 CLUB, 700 Burgundy, 561.1095, **BIG DADDY'S,** 2513 Royal, 948.6288 **THE BLACK PENNY,** 700 N. Rampart **BOURBON PUB & PARADE,** 801 Bourbon St., 529.2107, [BourbonPub.COM](http://BourbonPub.COM)

**CAFÉ LAFITTE IN EXILE,** 901 Bourbon Street 522.8397, [Lafittes.COM](http://Lafittes.COM)

**CORNER POCKET,** 940 St. Louis, 568.9829, [CornerPocket.NET](http://CornerPocket.NET)

**COUNTRY CLUB,** 634 Louisa St., [TheCountryClubNewOrleans.COM](http://TheCountryClubNewOrleans.COM), 945.0742

**CUTTER'S,** 706 Franklin, 948.4200

**THE DOUBLE PLAY,** 439 Dauphine, 523.4517

**THE FRIENDLY BAR,** 2301 Chartres, 943.8929

**GOLDEN LANTERN,** 1239 Royal, 529.2860, [Facebook.COM/GoldenLanternBar](http://Facebook.COM/GoldenLanternBar)

**GOOD FRIENDS BAR,** 740 Dauphine St., 566.7191, [GoodFriendsBar.COM](http://GoodFriendsBar.COM)

**GRANDPRE'S,** 834 N. Rampart St., 267.3615, [Facebook.com/grandpres](http://Facebook.com/grandpres)

**KAJUN'S PUB,** 2256 St. Claude Ave., 947.3735, [KajunPub.COM](http://KajunPub.COM)

**LUCKY PIERRE'S,** 735 Bourbon St., 586.1836, [LuckyPierresNOLA.com](http://LuckyPierresNOLA.com)

**OZ NEW ORLEANS,** 800 Bourbon, 593.9491, [OzNewOrleans.COM](http://OzNewOrleans.COM)

**PHOENIX/EAGLE,** 941 Elysian Fields, 945.9264, [NewOrleansPhoenix.COM](http://NewOrleansPhoenix.COM)

**RAWHIDE 2010,** 740 Burgundy St., 525.8106, [Rawhide2010.COM](http://Rawhide2010.COM)

**TROPICAL ISLE: Home of the Hand Grenade,** 721 Bourbon St., 529.4109, [TropicalIsle.COM](http://TropicalIsle.COM)

**TULANE AVENUE BAR,** 3813 Tulane Ave., 488.1400

**VOODOO LOUNGE,** 718 N. Rampart, 265.0953

**Slidell, LA [985]**

**BILLY'S,** 2600 Hwy. 190 West, 847.1921

**Biloxi, MS [228]**

**CLUB VEAUX,** 834 Howard Ave., 207.3271

**Houston, TX [713]**

**NEON BOOTS DANCEHALL & SALOON,** 11410 Hempstead Hwy., 677.0828, [www.neonbootsclub.com](http://www.neonbootsclub.com)

## body rubs

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## bookstores

**New Orleans, LA [504]**

**FAB - Faubourg Marigny Art & Books,** 600 Frenchmen St., 947.3700

## chiropractic

**New Orleans, LA [504]**

**DR. MICHAEL LECHLEITER, D.C.,** 1526 Magazine, 566.1833 [is1015]

## circuit/events

**Sept. 2-7, 2015, 44th Official Southern Decadence Celebration of Gay Life, Music & Culture,** end of Summer Blowout including the Southern Decadence Parade & loads of activities, bringing over 150,000 revelers to New Orleans, LA, sponsored by **Ambush & SouthernDecadence.com**

**Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 2015, Halloween 32,** benefiting Project Lazarus, New Orleans, LA, sponsored by **AmbushMag.COM, HalloweenNewOrleans.com**

**Dec. 26, 2015-Jan. 1, 2016, Gay New Year's in New Orleans,** New Orleans, LA, [GayNewOrleans.com](http://GayNewOrleans.com)

**Feb. 5-9, 2016, 67th Official Gay Mardi Gras,** New Orleans, LA, sponsored by **Ambush, GayMardiGras.com**

**Easter Sunday,** March 27, 2016, **17th Official Gay Easter Parade,** New Orleans, sponsored by **Ambush, GayEasterParade.com**

## costumes

**New Orleans, LA [504]**

**QT PIE BOUTIQUE -** 241 Dauphine St., 581.6633

## florists

**Baton Rouge, LA [225]**

**FOUR SEASONS FLOWERS & GIFTS,** 3482 Drusilla Ln., Drusilla Shopping Center, 924.1386, 1.800.237.5381

**Marrero, LA [504]**

**I BLOOM FLOWERS & GIFTS,** 1604 Barataria Blvd., 504.341.0248

## galleries

**New Orleans, LA [504]**

**CASSELL-BERGEN GALLERY,** 1305 Decatur St., [cassellbergengallery.com](http://cassellbergengallery.com), 504.524.0671

## guides

**America**

**Damron Travel Guide,** 800.462.6654, [www.damron.com](http://www.damron.com)

**Gulf South/United States**

**AMBUSH Mag,** 828-A Bourbon St., New Orleans, LA 70116-3137; 504.522.8049, [AmbushMag.COM](http://AmbushMag.COM); [marsha@ripandmarsha.com](mailto:marsha@ripandmarsha.com)

## groceries/delis

**New Orleans, LA [504]**

**QUARTERMASTER DELI, THE NELLIE DELI,** 1100 Bourbon, 529.1416

## hair salons

**New Orleans, LA [504]**

**HEAD QUARTERS HAIR SALON,** 900 Rue Dauphine, 522.2666

**MICKEY NOLAN'S SALON,** 717 Toulouse St., 587.7782

**TWO GUYS CUTTING HAIR,** 2372 St. Claude Ave., Suite 125, appointments: Adikus 215.519.5030, Trent 504.239.2397

## hardware

**New Orleans, LA [504]**

**MARY'S FRENCH QUARTER HARDWARE,** 732 N. Rampart, 529.4465

## health

**New Orleans, LA [504]**

**New Orleans Urgent Care,** 201 Decatur St., 700 Magazine St., 552.2433, [NewOrleansUrgentCare.com](http://NewOrleansUrgentCare.com)

## lodging/accommodations

**New Orleans [504]**

**AARON INGRAM HAUS,** 1012 Elysian Fields, New Orleans, LA 70117, PHONE: 504.949.3110, [www.ingramhaus.com/xqey](http://www.ingramhaus.com/xqey), e-mail us at [ingramhaus@yahoo.com](mailto:ingramhaus@yahoo.com). Condos with queen-size beds, private entrances; located only six blocks from Bourbon Street and walking distance to most New Orleans attractions. Several favorite bars are within one block. [0715]

**BURGUNDY BED AND BREAKFAST,** 2513 Burgundy St., New Orleans, LA 70117, PHONE/FAX: 504.942.1463, Toll Free (Continental US only): 1.800.970.2153, [theburgundy.com](http://theburgundy.com), E-mail us at [theburgundy@cox.net](mailto:theburgundy@cox.net). Gay owned and operated in newly renovated 1890's double. Four guest rooms with private baths, guests' parlor and "half-kitchen", courtyard and half-open tubhouse with spa (hot tub/whirlpool). Clothing optional in sunbathing and hot tub area. Walking distance to French Quarter. Immediate vicinity of gay and lesbian bars/venues. [0815]

**CHATEAU LEMOYNE FRENCH QUARTER,** 301 Dauphine St., New Orleans, LA 70112, Phone: 504.581.1303, <http://www.hiclneworleanshotelsite.com/gay-hotelsnew-orleans>. Enjoy a stay enriched with the culture and history of New Orleans at Chateau LeMoyne. Our historic building features all the best of old-time architecture and our prime location allows guests to stay just steps from the French Quarter, while still at enough distance to enjoy a peaceful night's rest. Versatile guest accommodations include charmingly appointed suites and cottages, while on-site amenities include drinks and dining, a scenic courtyard area and pool, and meeting and event space. When you're ready to explore, top New Orleans attractions are only moments away. We look forward to welcoming you to the "Big Easy." [0915]

**ELYSIAN GUEST HOUSE,** 1008 Elysian Fields Ave. New Orleans, LA 70117, Phone: 1.504.324.4311, [info@elysianguesthouse.com](mailto:info@elysianguesthouse.com). The Elysian Guest House is within walking distance to all the fun spots. Five to steps to a few blocks to all the action. We have a Jacuzzi too. Call and lets talk. [1115]

**THE FRENCH QUARTER GUEST HOUSES,** 1005 St. Peter, New Orleans, LA 70116, Phone: 1.800.367.5858, [FrenchQuarterGuestHouses.com](http://FrenchQuarterGuestHouses.com), email: [Info@frenchquarterguesthouses.com](mailto:Info@frenchquarterguesthouses.com). Four meticulously restored boutique inns located in the heart of the French Quarter's most popular LGBT neighborhood. Each building's individual charac-



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hands.

## Hot Happenings

The heat is on and so are the events in June. Here are just a few of the hot events coming up.

### Wednesday, July 15 – Sunday, July 19, 2015

Tales of the Cocktail is the world's premier cocktail festival, bringing together the international spirits community for five days of what's now, what's new and what's next in bartending. Founded in 2002, Tales of the Cocktail has grown from a small gathering of cocktail lovers into the world's premier cocktail festival. Each year, the international spirits industry comes to New Orleans for five days of seminars, tastings, networking events and much more. With 200+ annual events developed specifically for bartenders, distillers and other spirits professionals; Tales of the Cocktail has become the industry's annual meeting place for the exchange of new ideas, products and techniques. Tales of the Cocktail® also produces a number of other events and programs such as Tales of the Cocktail® on Tour, Tales 365 and Tales of the Toddy®, all to further the mission of supporting and growing the international cocktail community. For tickets and more information, go to [www.talesofthecocktail.com](http://www.talesofthecocktail.com).

### Thursday, July 16, 2015

That incomparable group the Big Easy Sisters is holding a variety show and Chinese auction to benefit St. Anna's Food Pantry entitled Yoko's Let's Have A Kiki. The event will be held at Mags 940 (940 Elysian Fields Avenue) from 7:30–10:30pm. With this zany and fun-loving group, you are assured to have an excellent time.

### Friday, July 17, 2015

In 1995 on July 17th, a monumental broadcast hit the radio. It was the broadcast of the very first show of OUT! With Michael-Chase. This groundbreaking show changed many lives including the star himself. After years of hearing personal stories from friends and total strangers, it apparently made a difference in thousands of lives in Southeast Louisiana in the mid 1990's. It was a fun, wild, explorative, and late night openly gay and everything else talk show on B-97 FM. It was the first one of its kind on a major market, commercial FM radio station. Come celebrate the 20th anniversary of that very first show and that historic night at Lafitte's in Exile (901 Bourbon Street). The event begins at 7pm and runs to midnight.

### Saturday, July 18, 2015

And if you miss the Sisters on Thursday, catch them on Saturday as they present their own twisted and festive take to Bingo from 8–10pm at the Phoenix (941 Elysian Fields). Bingo: Big Easy Sister style is always lively and you can win some fabulous prizes. But be warned if call a false Bingo, you will be spanked by a Sister.

### Sunday, July 19, 2016

If you are enjoying the fabulousness of Tales of the Cocktail, wind down your cocktail adventure for Distillery Day at Old new Orleans Rum (2815 Frenchman Street) featuring delicious barbecue, live music,

and never-before-tasted rums straight from the barrel. This local distillery will be having an open house from 12 to 5pm, with guided tours running at 12 and 3pm. You can get your tickets at <https://www.zerve.com/OldNolaRum/Distill>. Get an opportunity to meet the distillers behind our famous rums as they break open aged barrels for the first time and share them for you and enjoy a variety of delicious barbecued meats and sides from McClure's Barbecue. Live music keeps the party going! Gypsy Elise and the Royal Blues will serenade us all afternoon. Buy your tickets early to reserve a seat on our complimentary shuttle from the Michalopoulos Studio at 527 Elysian Fields Ave.

### Sunday, July 19, 2015

One of my favorite Petronius events is coming up, so get those credit cards ready and tune into the Petronius Queer Bar Shopping Network (WPQBSN). This festive event that supports the oldest Gay Carnival Krewe will be held at Mags 940 (940 Elysian Fields) from 1 to 4pm. There will be holiday and seasonal wreaths for all seasons and other super items for auction! Desserts will also be provided for your sampling pleasure! There is a \$10 donation at the door (American Express, Discover, Visa & Mastercard accepted).

### Wednesday, July 22, 2015

Everybody Scores! HRC Louisiana is hosting the 2015 Bowling For Equality event to help build a community focused on equality for everyone and raising money to support the efforts of the Human Rights Campaign. The event will be held at Mid-City Rock N' Bowl (4133 South Carrollton Avenue). Registration for the event is \$40 per person for unlimited bowling, drinking, and eating as well as membership to HRC Louisiana or \$20 for unlimited drinking and eating and membership to HRC Louisiana. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the event starts at 7:00 p.m. For more information, look on the Bowling For Equality Facebook Page.

### Thursday, July 23, 2015

Dinner never tasted so delicious then when it is for a great cause. Did you know that New Orleans consistently ranks in the top five cities in America for new AIDS cases? The NO/AIDS Task Force serves over 2,500 clients who need a variety of services. You can help these people by dining out at participating restaurants to increase profits and donations given back to NO/AIDS. Treat yourself to New Orleans' best local eats while also supporting an important cause. Participating Dining Out For Life restaurants will donate a portion of their customers' receipts from this day to benefit the Food For Friends program of the Task Force, which serves home delivered meals to home-bound clients who are not physically able to cook for themselves. Don't miss this annual fundraiser and awareness campaign, now in its 19th year locally, as it supports friends, families, and co-workers living with HIV and AIDS in the greater New Orleans area. For more information on the event and participating restaurants, go to [www.noaidstaskforce.org](http://www.noaidstaskforce.org).

### Saturday, July 25, 2015

Are you ready for one of the most incredible nights of entertainment in July? It's Johnny Passion's 2nd Annual Smatch Game! If you missed it last year, make sure

to put this on your calendar now. It is being held at the Pelican Bay Restaurant (1701 Elysian Fields Avenue) starting at 10pm. It's a fundraiser for Southern Decadence. How this event works is you take RuPaul's Drag Race and the old TV game show Match Game and blend them together with hilarious results and stars several of our local entertainers as your favorite celebrities (including moi)! Cover is only \$10 at door. There is VIP seating available and several baskets filled with Liquor auctioned off.

## Party Down

My last two weeks was quite the whirlwind of brunches, birthdays, tikis, wedding shows, proposals of marriage and a quick trip to Washington DC. And I still had time to buy a new vacuum cleaner, which by the way those Shark steam vacuums are amazing, but I digress.

I began my two weeks with a quick trip to Washington DC for the FICP convention. FICP stands for Financial and Insurance Conference Planners and they were having a convention in DC so I joined several of my colleagues from the Hosts family from around the country to throw a party for them during the convention at this hip warehouse called Union Market. I enjoy attending these types of conventions because I get to visit exciting cities, see new trends in events and promote our wonderful city to others. There were educational seminars and great events at several different rooftops overlooking the city. Two events were on the rooftop of the JW Marriott and the W Hotel with great views of the Washington Monument and the White House. I love DC; there is just something so awe-inspiring about being in a city with so much history and power. And the events at the conference will be exceptional, saw some new cool things in décor and entertainment that I will try out here like the disco/lounge in the back of the semi-truck. So way cool.

I got back from my trip on Friday and jumped right into the party scene; in fact doing an event I hosted. I was lucky to be named as Frankie Fierce's lieutenant for Southern Decadence and one of my duties was to host a fundraiser for the organization and the three charities they support. I came up with a LGBT inspired wedding event. Who would have guessed our timing would not have been more perfect than the day that gay marriage was legalized by the Federal Government. With Frankie at my side the entire way along with Laura Tennyson and Barrett DeLong, we threw one amazing event. But there are so many other people to thank beginning with the incredible people at The Chicory (Brent, Gina, Jay, Jim and Cindy) whose kind donation of the space, liquor and delicious cuisine could not have even made this event possible. The Chicory is truly one of the absolute best places to throw an event at in the city. Next Evie and the staff at Sapphire Events for their hard work in helping get vendors to donate as well as locating the perfect bridal boutique for the wedding fashion show.

The fashion show turned out better than I anticipated thanks to the models that made it fun, flirty and very over the top. The guys and girls worked that runway like they owned it. Good job to Chase, Chad, Beaux, Adrian, Jessica, Kitty, Elizabeth Bouvier and Frankie Fierce. The tuxedos were from The Formal Connection (thank you Ronnie and David) and the gowns were

from Wedding Belles. Adding to the fun, we had a cigar roller (The Cigar Factory), massage therapist (The New Orleanian), photo booth (Boogie Booth), interactive DJ and an on-site artist named Alex Harvie (who did a brilliant piece that now hangs in my office) painting the portrait of the party which we later auctioned off during the night. The décor was done by Luminous Events with their illuminated LOVE sign setting the tone for the entire night. It was truly an event filled with love. Three couples got engaged that night at the event including Misti Ates.

The breathtaking floral arrangements were donated by Urban Earth thanks to Julian and his wonderful team of designers. The spectacular cake with the rainbow interior was courtesy of Melissa's Fine Pastries. The rentals came from Perrier Party Rentals. I even supplied a basket of liquor and other fun goodies from my stash for the cake pull auction. Re-Purposing NOLA also donated the gift bags for the VIP's which were hand-made.

The entire night went off flawlessly. Huge thanks go to grand marshals Frankie, Steven, Misti, Rip and Marsha who worked their butts off. Laura who was my public relations guru had numerous newspapers (The Advocate, Gambit and the Times Picayune) and three television channels on-site doing interviews before and during the event. And lastly Barrett DeLong who kept me from losing my mind especially when I realized I was going to be in DC right up till the day of the event, no pressure whatsoever. It took a team of wonderful and talented people to pull this soiree off and I humbly thank each and every one of them and their organizations sincerely. Now we all can say "I Do."

I followed up the following day with another event I helped with, the Friday Night Before Mardi Gras' Twisted Tiki party at the luxurious home of Michael Shlenker and Don Schwinn. There was great cocktails provided by the host who had his mixologists create specialty libations just for the occasion. Food and exotic drinks in a nice setting who could ask for more.

On Sunday, I celebrated my friend Beaux's birthday with a dinner at one of the mainstay restaurants in NOLA that weirdly enough I had never been to before. The Crescent City Steakhouse on Broad Street is a gem in the increasingly growing number of eateries in the city. No pretension here, just good food and service for a great price. Their cozy dining room feels like you stepped back in time and their steaks are mouth-watering. I can see why they have been in business for over a decade.

The next week I began my evening events on Tuesday with the June Hobknobbers event at Canal Place. The monthly networking meeting was hosted by New Orleans Magazine and the Shops at Canal Place. The theme was centered on James Bond and each cocktail was a 007 inspired drink. Models milled around the crowd wearing the latest fashions from the stores in this upscale mall. It was a great event with music from the Brat Pack. Afterwards, a group of us went for a late night bite at Sukho Thai's newest location on Elysian Fields moving from the Marigny Triangle to the Marigny Rectangle and literally around the corner from my house. The new place is larger and laid out well, a great addition to the neighborhood.

Before I knew it, the week had slipped

[continued on 31]