

# KONK Life

JANUARY  
23 - 29, 2020



**Christopher Peterson Receives  
the 2020 "GOLDEN MANGO AWARD"  
from The Studios of Key West!**

Florida Keys 3-9 • Upper Keys 10-12 • Cover Story 13 • What's Happening 14 • Real Estate 26

Photo: Larry Blackburn • Cover: JT Thompson

# The Assassination

By Roger C. Kostmayer

America and the world community both have a stake in understanding precisely the how, why and when of the killing of Iranian General Soleiman by President Trump's order. The three questions that must be answered are: Was it legal under US and international law?; Was this decision the right thing to do to for America's national security? If the answers to the first two questions are "Yes", was this strategy executed effectively in America's best interests?

The legality question requires

"preemptive action" to have a clear, comparable and imminent threat - which is what the President claimed when he said four US embassies were in imminent danger from Gen. Soleiman. Senior embassy security officials now say they were unaware of any such threat and, secondly, the President authorized the killing 7 MONTHS before the act took place. The explanation is clearly a lie, and there was no specific imminent threat that would have been avoided by killing this Iranian adversary.

Even if there had been a clear and imminent threat, would

killing this senior government official have prevented it? No. And are America, our diplomats and troops, and US civilians all safer today? Clearly not.

Was the President following a rigorously debated and thoughtful strategy that would enhance US security? Meaning, was this unprecedented peacetime decision based on an international coalition with our allies, and was it discussed with the people's representatives? No.

So, based on lies, it seems this action was illegal, harmful to US security and was terrifyingly inept. ■

# Rip-Off Team Spokesperson apologizes

By Bruce Mitchell

I would like to sincerely and publicly apologize to anyone who attended the Mayor's Ball Saturday night at Michael Halpren's Southernmost House and was offended by the informational picketing by members of the Key West Rip-Off Rapid Response Team.

We were not protesting the mayor, the Mayors Ball or the great charities it supports. Rather, we politely brought public discussion of the rip-off shops and who

► Continued on page 4

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# KONK Life

## Panhandling zone for homeless fall on hard times at city workshop

BY TERRY SCHMIDA  
KONK LIFE STAFF WRITER



**E**victed! That's the fate of Key West's designated panhandling zone at Mallory Square, following a recent decision from City Hall.

The suddenly urgent issue of what do about increasingly violent panhandlers and their aggressive tactics at the zone was discussed at the Jan. 15 City Commission workshop, where there was near-unanimous agreement between commissioners and the public to close the zone down.

"There has been another incident that's been well-publicized," Mayor Teri Johnston said, referring to a

brutal assault last week that left one indigent man in a mainland hospital and another zone regular facing second-degree murder charges. "I think it's time that we have a conversation as a commission . . . we certainly recognize that it is not a positive situation in Mallory Square."

Commissioner Sam Kaufman, an advocate for the homeless in private life, asked City Attorney Shawn Smith if he might brief the chamber on the reasons behind the creation of the zone (and another on Caroline Street that will remain unaffected) in 2012, but the barrister, and the other commissioners agreed that the time to discuss how and why the zones came to be was less important than dismantling them.

" . . . I think the best course of action is tell the commission and the public what the city management intends to do with that location, leaving aside some of the background and other issues involved . . .with all due respect," Smith said.

Major Johnston was in accord: "I think we can all agree . . . that the Sunset Celebration group . . . has had a number of issues . . . with aggressive panhandling, and with assaults," she said. " . . . we welcome 900,000 people to the City of Key West, through this portal."

Commissioner Weekley agreed with Smith, adding an anecdote he had heard about people living in a tent at the zone, as well as some other complaints he'd heard from residents.

His colleague Clayton Lopez echoed these concerns, and related reports of boxes of supplies such as toilet paper in the public restrooms being pilfered.

"This kind of thing happens on a regular basis," Lopez said. "It is a conversation we need to have." He deferred on this issue to City Manager Greg Veliz:

"Unless I get a direction to go another way," said Veliz . . . I'd like to propose that we start to dismantle . . . put the parking spaces back . . . deterrents on the wall . . . put the fences back up at the dumpster, and perhaps get a keypad system . . . basically just return it back to its original state of

► Continued on page 4

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January 23-29, 2020

Published Weekly

Vol. 10 No. 4



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Advertising Deadline Every Friday

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KONK Life is published weekly by **KONK Communications Network** in Key West, Fla. Editorial materials may not be reproduced without written permission from the network.

**KONK Communications Network**

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## FLORIDA KEYS

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BONEHEAD ISLAND Tim Weaver

### Rip-Off Team...

► Continued from page 2

rents to them to a very influential group of Key West citizens.

Our purpose was to inform the community minded of Key West that Michael Halpern continues to rent to a rip-off cosmetic shop, Oh La La, 120 Duval Street, despite his public and private assurances that they would be gone by the end of last year. This is one of three remaining cosmetic shops that harass pedestrians, rip off tourists, violate city code, and give all of Key West a bad name.

For the last five years, our group of volunteer consumer advocates has tried to stop the cosmetic shop rip-offs, recover money for victims, warn cruise ship passengers, and lobby for stricter enforcement of

the city code. We also have staged sidewalk protests in front of the rip-off shops to warn consumers and stop the deplorable practices of these businesses.

For the last five plus years, Mr. Halpern has rented to a business many believe has no place in Key West. We are disappointed Mr Halpern didn't follow through on closing the store at the end of 2019 and don't understand why he hasn't returned our calls so he can explain his decision.

Thank you to many of the attendees who voiced their support for the fight against the rip-off shops, and again my apologies to any attendee who was offended by our actions. I am truly sorry.

To demonstrate the sincerity of this public apology, I am donating \$1,000 to each of the charities the Mayor's Ball supports and thank all of those who attended. ■

### Panhandling zone...

► Continued from page 3

being a parking lot, of being a dumpster area, and try to dissuade people from going there as opposed to inviting them to go there. I don't think that it's stopping people from going out into the streets and panhandling in the streets."

Finding support on dais for this approach, Mayor Johnston called on community members to give their input.

The commission got an earful, including horror stories of drug sales and prostitution taking place from the speakers, many of whom are Sunset Celebration performers and merchants.

The recommendation to remove the zone was even supported by an employee of the Southernmost Homeless Assistance League (SHAL.)

"I completely agree with this conversation, and with the city manager, that this is probably not accomplishing what it was set out to accomplish," she said. "It's a hard situation for everyone."

Just one speaker opposed closing the zones.

Other topics discussed at the workshop included restrictions on leaf blowers, future affordable housing planning including an update on the new KOTS homeless shelter, and sea level rise adaptation.

The commission will meet again on Jan. 22. ■

[keyscribe@aol.com](mailto:keyscribe@aol.com)

# Teacher of the Year

BY EMMA SCEPKOVA  
KONK LIFE STUDENT WRITER

Perseverance, respect, integrity, and dedication are qualities that students of the Monroe County School District (MSCD) aim to attain, and these very attributes are also what define an exemplary teacher.

In late November, Donna Tedesco was named the 2019 Teacher of the Year at Key West High School. Along with Tedesco, Richard Barber was recognized as Beginning Teacher of the Year and Pat Rech was elected as Inclusion Teacher of the Year.

The teachers who received an accolade felt “shocked, awestruck, and speechless,” as Rech remarked of the experience, “We



Impacting student’s lives one lesson at a time, Donna Tedesco (R), Richard Barber (center), and Pat Rech (L) stand smiling as they receive praise and accolades for all of their diligent work put forth toward enlightening the young minds of the future. Photo provided

have such a talented staff, so this truly

touched my heart that I was nominated by my peers and actually won.”

A common theme among each of these teachers is how imperative a connection with the students is to be a genuinely great teacher.

In the words of Barber, “The techniques I use truly revolve around my relationship with students, the reality I set for the classroom, and the processes I follow in each of my classes.”

These educators have been honored for their exceptional teaching skills and ability to connect with the students, but they all have differing techniques and perspectives on how to effectively teach. “I present each topic from different points of view and try to access each person’s learning style,” Tedesco briefly

summarized. Bringing a variety of perspectives and styles is imperative, in Tedesco’s opinion, to allow the student to learn the material presented.

Rech takes a different approach. She remarked on one of her specific teaching techniques, “Students work and assist one another in collaborative groups twice a week tackling concepts they do not understand in their core classes. Students actually prefer learning from each other, which is rather impressive to see!”

Barber noted how discussion is a successful method of educating the pupils of Key West High School. “I love discussion; any way to involve discussion during a lesson will liven up the classroom.”

▶ Continued on page 6

IT’S TIME FOR THE ANNUAL



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# Cannabis Clarity

## Cannabis in the Kitchen

I started my career as a registered dietitian leading to a life long love affair with food. Then came a breast cancer diagnosis and the hunt to find meaningful healing modalities to layer onto conventional treatments. Those modalities included cannabis which turned my career in a different direction, as a founder of an online cannabis education platform training health practitioners across the US. Now the stars have aligned to combine the best of both my worlds...teaching others how to use cannabis in the kitchen.

## Many Delivery Formats

For many people, smoking or vaping is an irritant or just not an experience they enjoy. Tinctures (dropped under the tongue as a sublingual) are effective and quickly absorbed, but the taste may be off-putting. Then there's edibles; those made with THC-containing cannabis (marijuana) and CBD-hemp derived edibles. THC, CBD or any other cannabinoid is metabolized differently when consumed in a food or beverage. They have to pass through the liver which slows down absorption and accounts for the delayed results compared to the quick update into the bloodstream with other delivery methods. Using edibles requires



patience and most of us can't wait, eat another edible and perhaps have an out-of-body experience. And because there is no standardization with cannabis labeling laws, what is actually in that gummy or cookie is often not accurately listed on the label. Lots of variables to consider.

## Cooking with Cannabis

Infusing oils and butters with cannabis a tried and true way to create the foundation for an endless number of recipes. We infuse fats because cannabis is

“lipophilic”, or it binds well to fat molecules. A great resource on this topic, with super healthy recipes, is *The Cannabis Kitchen Cookbook*. Ten culinarians, from across the US, collaborated on this book and I'm delighted to have been one of the contributors. Gone are the days of the stoner pot brownies; we have moved onto heathy, luscious flavors and beautiful presentation.

## CBD Recipes

If you want the therapeutic effect of CBD without the THC high, there's

lots of options for you too. CBD tinctures are a go-to ingredient, working well in beverages, desserts, savory dips and breakfast. I shy away from baked goods or any recipe requiring prolonged, high heat; this will breakdown the cannabinoids and dilute their effectiveness. One of my favorite new ingredients to work into recipes is CBD Bitters. Bitters are a great digestive on their own and when combined with CBD and other botanicals, they are powerhouse ingredient. I just developed a new recipe using figs, dark chocolate, candied ginger and a spice-flavored CBD bitter. These truffle-like little nuggets can be made ahead, kept in the fridge and enjoyed at a moment's notice. Making your own edibles lets you control the dose, create real food (not just a sugary gummy) and it's really fun to play in the kitchen with these ingredients.

*If you want to taste those fig truffles and learn how to make other CBD recipes, check out my CBD Culinary Workshop, Monday, January 27, Noon-2pm at the Oldest House Museum Garden. For tickets, go to [www.keywestfoodandwinefest.com](http://www.keywestfoodandwinefest.com).*

*For cookbooks or other questions, contact me directly at [shieldsdonna12@gmail.com](mailto:shieldsdonna12@gmail.com). ■*

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Photo: Larry Blackburn

# Trio Gaspard to give Impromptu Classical Concerts performance at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Jan. 26

The international Chamber music sensation, Trio Gaspard, will perform an Impromptu Classical Concerts presentation at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26. The concerts are held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 401 Duval St.

Because of its unique and fresh approach to music, this renowned trio has become increasingly sought after. It was founded in 2010.

Trio Gaspard is the winner of major international music competitions, including first prizes and special prizes at the International Joseph Joachim Chamber Music Competition in Weimar; the Fifth International Haydn Chamber Competition in Illzach, France; and the 2012 "Wiener Klassik" Preis de Stadt Baden in Austria.

As well as exploring and championing the traditional piano trio repertoire, Gaspard works regularly with contemporary composers, while performing seldom-played masterpieces. The ensemble members have given masterclasses at Kyung-Hee University in Seoul, South Korea, and also served as the resident piano trio of the Shanghai Chamber Music Festival in 2016. There they taught talented young ensembles, and sat on the jury of China's National Chamber Music Competition.

More recently, the trio was awarded a fellowship from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, England.

All three members are successful soloists in their own right, and each continues to pursue their own careers, giving recitals and performing internationally in prestigious venues with other chamber groups. The trio's first U.S. Tour is bringing them to Key



West for one concert only.

Violinist Jonian Ilias Kadesha was born in Athens of Albanian and Greek heritage. He is currently completing his Masters at Kronberg Academy in Germany, and has played with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe at the Kronberg Festival, and with the Athens State Symphony Orchestra at Megaron Hall. He will soon return to Wigmore Hall, in the United Kingdom, to perform a Beethoven Concerto with the Roman River Festival Orchestra as well as take part in festivals at the Schubertiade, in Austria; and Molyvos in Lesbos, Greece.

Cellist Vashti Hunter of Berlin, Germany is the first British cellist ever to be awarded a prize at the International Cello Competition Prague Spring. She has also been the principal cellist of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra. She won her Laureate playing Dvorak's Cello Concerto with the Pilsen Philharmonic Orchestra in Dvorak Hall, in Prague.

Last, but not least, is pianist Nicholas Rimmer of Wigan, England.

At an early age this talented Brit developed a diverse musicality and studied not only piano and organ but also composition, harmony, and conducting, as a junior student at the Northern College of Music, (subsequently earning a degree in Musicology at

Clare College, Cambridge.)

Rimmer also toured internationally as organist for the renowned Clare College Choir.

According to L'Arena de Verona newspaper, "Trio Gaspard has excellent credentials and immediately found its way into the heart of the audience."

At the Jan. 26 concert the trio will perform the "Piano Trio G-major, op. 1, No. 2," by Ludwig van Beethoven; and "Two Pieces for Piano Trio," by Lili Boulanger.

Following a short intermission the trio will return to perform, Piano Trio

No. 1 C-Minor, op. 8," by Dmitri Shostakovich; and Piano Trio G-Minor, op. 15," by Bedřich Smetana.

Maestros for the concert will be Christine Bassett and Carey Alexander.

Tickets for the concert cost \$20, and are available at [www.keystix.com](http://www.keystix.com), or at the door on the afternoon of the event. Cash, checks, or credit/debit cards accepted. Students will be admitted free. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information visit [www.keywestimpromptu.org](http://www.keywestimpromptu.org) ■

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**Teacher...**

► Contd. from p 5

With the diversity of methods and techniques, the truth of the matter is revealed: Teaching is all about the connections made. Rech summarized the importance of these connections, "Watching my current and former students learn and truly believe in themselves as they work toward their future goals, when it all comes together for them, no matter how big or small the achievement, and [they] share it with me... it's magical, and it truly warms my heart!" ■

# 37th Annual Wesley House Valentine's Day Gala

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General Admission includes a buffet dinner and open bar. ■

# Wesley House Family Services Offer Foster Care Training Classes

**W**esley House Family Services is seeking nurturing families interested in providing a loving home to children and teens who are in the foster care system. Classes begin February 26th in Key West and are held each Wednesday night for six weeks, and one Saturday day class. Registration is required.

To register or for more information call Megan Burgess at 305-809-5020 or e-mail at [megan.burgess@wesleyhouse.org](mailto:megan.burgess@wesleyhouse.org).

Together, Wesley House Family Services and prospective foster families can increase the capacity in our communities to provide nurturing caring homes to care for the most vulnerable children. ■

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# Phyllis Rose at the Friends of the Key West Library Series January 27

On Monday, January 27th, the Friends of the Key West Library will present Phyllis Rose, a biographer, literary critic and essayist. Ms. Rose's talk will take place at the Tropic Cinema on Eaton Street. Admission to the lectures is free. The talk begins promptly at 6:00 p.m. Seating starts at 5:40 on a first come, first served basis.

Rose's first book was the biography Virginia Woolf, *Woman of Letters*, published in 1978. A finalist for the National Book Award, it was in the forefront of feminist re-evaluations of literary figures and contributed to the surge of interest in Virginia Woolf and



Phyllis Rose

Credit must read: Photo © Sigrid Estrada

Bloomsbury in the late 1970s.

In 1983 she published *Parallel Lives: Five Victorian Marriages*, which, taking as its model Lytton Strachey's *Eminent Victorians*, considered a large issue (the institution of marriage) through portraits of individual marriages. Anatole Broyard in *The New York Times* called it a "brilliant and original book." It has stayed in print for over 25 years. Nora Ephron told *Time Magazine* in 2009 that she read it every four or five years.

Her most recent book, *Alfred Stieglitz: Taking Pictures, Making Painters* illuminates Stieglitz as a revolutionary force in the history of American art.

Stieglitz was one of the first American photographers to achieve international fame, and for many years, because of his active engagement in the camera club movement, he was in effect the CEO of photography in America. As part of his strategy for establishing photography as fine art, he produced beautiful and influential photography magazines, including the legendary *Camera Work*.

Rose lives in New York City and Key West, where she continues to collaborate with her husband, Laurent de Brunhoff, on the popular series of children's books featuring Babar the Elephant. ■

## Not Horsing Around!



Silent auction items are sought for the upcoming 2nd Key West Police Department Mounted Unit fundraising event, taking place Sunday, February 16 at La te Da on Duval Street, hosted by proprietor Christopher Rounds and Key West designer/businesswoman Jane Gardner. Can you donate something fun, functional or fabulous to help raise funds for this invaluable team of officers and equines?

Why a fundraiser, you may ask? It's because the City provides stables, feed, hay, and the officer's salaries, but all other expenses are covered by fundrais-

ing activities. The Sunday, February 16 event at La te Da, 1125 Duval Street, will kick off at 5:30pm with a meet & greet with the Mounted Unit Officers and Horses, followed by 6:00pm cocktails, a grand sit-down dinner, and a dazzling 9:00pm private Cabaret Show starring Christopher Peterson.

Event tickets are \$150 each for the full evening (50 available), and \$50 for the Cabaret alone (60 available).

To make a donation or purchase tickets, contact Jane Gardner at 312-914-7546 or email [jane@janegardner-interiors.com](mailto:jane@janegardner-interiors.com). ■

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## Key West Writers Guild Meeting Saturday, January 25, 2020

The Key West Writers Guild will meet Saturday, January 25, 2020, from 9:00 A.M. to noon in the Conference Room at the Condominiums at 2601 S. Roosevelt Blvd., Key West Florida. Enter through the gate just to the left of the flagpoles. Please park across the street on South Roosevelt (Free Parking). ■

# Monroe County Installs A New Boater Information Kiosk at Harry Harris Park



**K**EY LARGO, FL – Monroe County Project Management is installing a new boater information kiosk at the Harry Harris Park boat ramp in Key Largo. The project is funded using state boating improvement funds generated from recreational vessel registrations. The kiosks will have signage about local waters and will include boater guides and other water safety materials. “Informing boaters, especially those not familiar with our local waters is a significant concern for Monroe County,” said Project Management Director Cary Knight. “This project serves the needs of the boating community and will result in improved boating access, provide a benefit to recreational boaters, and afford for recovery of sensitive marine habitats especially since we have a high level of boating related activities from individuals who reside in other counties.”



A crew drills the foundation for the first boater information kiosk being installed at Harry Harris Park in Key Largo. *Monroe County File Photos*

The first kiosk is being installed as a pilot project at Harry Harris Park. As funding becomes available, project management would like to include them at other County boat ramps. ■



A conceptual image of a completed boater information kiosk.

## Key West Sunrise Rotary Golf Tournament set for Feb. 23



Key West Sunrise Rotarians Zach Bentley and Dr. George Lindner monitor for winners of the closest-to-the-pin contest during the club's annual fundraising golf tournament. (Courtesy Key West Sunrise Rotary)

Local students and charities will be the winners of the 27th Annual Key West Sunrise Rotary Golf Classic. Registration is open for the Feb. 23, 2020,

tournament at the Key West Golf Club. Proceeds fund college scholarships and worthy local causes.

Prizes are awarded for first, second and third place in each flight, as well as closest to the pin, longest drive, straightest drive and longest putt. Sinking a hole-in-one on any par 3 wins \$5,000. And four players will earn the opportunity to win a million dollars in a hole-in-one shootout from 165 yards on the 18th green.

The \$125 entry fee includes lunch, food and beverages on the course and a goody bag. To register, contact the Key West Golf Club at (305) 294-5232. ■



Key West Sunrise Rotary's custom golf balls for its annual fundraising tournament. (Courtesy Key West Sunrise Rotary)

## Calling All Artists



Artists in Paradise Gallery, Big Pine Key, will present Keys Color, their 25th annual Lower Keys Artists Network judged show with an awards reception on February 21, from 6 to 8 pm.

Artists who become members of the Lower Keys Artists Network for \$25 can enter two pieces of work, be eligible for prizes and awards and sell their art with no commission fee. Awards will include first, second and honorable mention plus a Best in Show and People's Choice. Prizes are generously

donated by our own artists, and friends and neighbors of Artists in Paradise.

All entries must be delivered to Artists in Paradise on Feb 15 and 16 during gallery hours. Awards and prizes will be presented at the reception on Feb 21. Art will be on exhibit at Artists in Paradise from February 21 until March 13. For information and a show application, go to [www.artistsinparadise.com](http://www.artistsinparadise.com) or stop in at Artists in Paradise on Big Pine Key.

For further information call Artists in Paradise at 305-872-1828. ■



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# Midway Specialty Care Center opens 2 new locations in the Keys in 2020



**M**idway Specialty Care Center, a 501(c)(3) non-profit clinic providing HIV specialty care and prevention services in 11 locations statewide, have announced two new sites in the Florida Keys.

Marathon, the inaugural Monroe County location, is open now, at 5701

Overseas Highway, Suite #10; the Key West site is scheduled to open February 11 at 1434 Kennedy Drive, Unit #1 (housed within the A.H. of Monroe County facility). Both sites take insured and uninsured patients on a reduced/sliding scale.

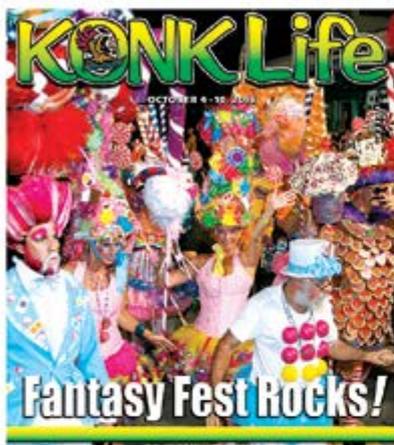
The Keys' Medical Director, Dr. Howard A. Grossman is a renowned physician for LGBTQ Care, HIV Care and Primary Care and has served as former President of the American Academy of HIV Physicians.

“Key West is one of the most important destinations for LGBTQ people and has long been known as an accepting, diverse community,” Grossman noted. “We hope to offer primary care to all, with a special focus on LGBTQ medicine, including hormone affirmation therapy for transgender individuals. We also look forward to working with the other primary care doctors in the community and coordinating with many specialists to address our patients’ needs.”

“Our expansion into the Keys is so critical to stopping the spread of HIV in the Keys. We look forward to following AH’s lead in understanding and contributing to the unique medical and needs of the Keys,” added Jana Eschbach, Midway’s Chief Development Officer.

“For consumers, there can be a great benefit to having our own Case Management and other services with medical care all under one roof,” Scott Pridgen, Executive Director of AH, noted. ■

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# Christopher Peterson Named by The Studios of Key West as Recipient of the 2020 Golden Mango Award



Christopher Peterson was honored at the Brunch with a Golden Mango Award. (photo courtesy the artist)

At The Studios of Key West's annual Patron Brunch on Sunday, January 19, the organization recognized Christopher Peterson as the recipient of the 2020 Golden Mango Award. Established in 2015 by The Studios, the award is presented each year to an outstanding leader who has benefitted Key West through significant contributions to the Arts.

Though Peterson is perhaps best-known for his live show "Eyecons" which he's performed at La-Te-Da since 2001, he is also a passionate advocate for community causes. His charitable efforts as a comedian, impersonator and master of ceremonies have benefitted many organizations over the past two decades including AIDS Help, Equality Florida, Special Olympics, Key West Business Guild, The Studios of Key West, Queen Mother Pageant, Royal



"Oceans of Gratitude" Annual Patron Brunch - Under the direction of Bonnie Piceu and Paul Dietz (brunch co-chairs) and with the help of dozens of volunteers, The Studios of Key West became an underwater wonderland for one day on Jan 19 to honor Patrons of The Studios of Key West. (credit: Larry Blackburn)

Coronation and many others. He is tireless in his devotion to Key West and its motto of "One Human Family."

Peterson's Key West roots run deep. He arrived in Key West in 1998 with his husband of 37 years, the late James Mill. His extraordinary talents were recognized immediately, and he has become a local legend as one of the foremost female impersonators who sing "live." He's known for his masterful characterizations of Marilyn Monroe, Madonna, Joan Rivers, Reba McEntire, Bette Midler, Tina Turner, Julie Andrews, Barbra Streisand, Liza Minnelli, Judy Garland, Cher, Bette Davis, Lucille Ball, Lady GaGa and others. In addition, his skills as a costume designer and fab-

ricator are unparalleled, manifesting in both his stage performances and charitable work. He is featured in the award-winning documentary "We're Funny That Way," which detailed the first gay and lesbian comedy festival in Canada and was later released on Showtime, Cinemax and HBO.

Danny Weathers, former director of Waterfront Playhouse and Peterson's longtime friend and colleague, helped to present the award, which is in the shape of a mango and is a custom work of art fabricated by contemporary sculptor Helen Harrison. Studios' Executive Director Jed Dodds and Board Chair Stephen Kitsakos were also on hand to congratulate Peterson.

Recipients of The Studios' Golden Mango Award may be artists, patrons or advocates, and may be honored as individuals, couples, or collaborative groups. Past recipients of the award include Judith and Stanley Zabar, Bill and Ann Lorraine, Anne McKee, and John Martini.

The Studios of Key West is an art center located at the landmark deco building at 533 Eaton Street. The Studios presents hundreds of programs each year including classes, exhibitions, concerts, performances and special events, and endeavors to use the arts to build friendships and establish Key West as a beacon of cultural activity. Find out about Studio' programs by visiting [www.tskw.org](http://www.tskw.org). ■

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SATURDAY, JAN. 25, at 7 PM

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**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

**Schooner Wharf Bar**  
202 Williams St., (305) 292-3302  
[SchoonerWharf.com](http://SchoonerWharf.com)

RAVEN COOPER BAND  
6:30 - 11:30pm

MAGIC OF FRANK EVERHART  
9:00 pm - 1am

**Thursday 01/23**

Michael McCloud  
Noon - 5:00 pm



**Sunday 01/26**

MICHAEL McCLOUD & FRIENDS  
noon - 5pm

ISLAND TIME DUO  
6:30pm - 11pm

MAGIC OF FRANK EVERHART  
9:00 pm - 1am

**COOL DUO**

Sam Ramos & Chris Case

6:30 - 11pm



Annual Schooner Wharf Wrecker's Cup Race

**Monday 01/27**

Raven Cooper

Noon - 5:00 pm



**MAGIC OF FRANK**

EVERHART

9:00 pm - 1am

Schooner Wharf Knot & Shot Competition Captain's Meeting

Schooner Wharf Wrecker's Cup Race

**ZACK SEEMILLER**

6:30 - 11pm

**Friday 01/24**

MICHAEL McCLOUD & FRIENDS  
noon - 6pm

**Tuesday 01/28**

GARY HEMPSEY  
noon - 5pm

RAVEN COOPER BAND  
6:30 - 11:30pm

TOM TAYLOR  
6:30pm - 11pm

MAGIC OF FRANK EVERHART  
9:00 pm - 1am

**Tuesday 01/29**

TONY BALTIMORE  
noon - 5pm

Schooner Wharf Knot & Shot Competition

RAVEN COOPER  
6:30 - 11pm

**Saturday 01/25**

MICHAEL McCLOUD & FRIENDS  
noon - 5pm

MAGIC OF FRANK EVERHART  
9:00 pm - 1am

**Whats Happening**

► Continued from page 14

**The Smokin' Tuna**

4 Charles St., (305) 517-6350  
smokintunasaloon.com

**Thursday 01/23**

Scott Kirby 5pm

Caffeine Carl & The Buzz 9:00pm

**Friday 01/24**

Key West Songwriter Sessions

Concert 7pm \$

Caffeine Car and Friends 9:00pm

**Saturday 01/25**

Scott Kirby 5pm

Caffeine Carl and Friends 9:00pm

**Saturday 01/26**

Dr VonHilsheimer 2pm

Caffeine Carl & The Buzz 9:00pm

**Saturday 01/27**

MIKE McADAMS DUO 5PM

Caffeine Carl & The Buzz 9:00pm

**Saturday 01/28**

MIKE McADAMS DUO 5PM

MILE 0 FEST KICKOFF

AFTER PARTY 10PM

**Saturday 01/29**

MIKE McADAMS DUO 5PM

MILE 0 FEST PRIVATE PARTIES 10PM

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**Thursday 01/23**

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Coffee

Butler 5:30-7:30

Peter Diamond and Friends 8-11

**Friday 01/24**

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Larry

Smith 5:30-7:30

Ericson Holt 8-11

**Saturday 01/25**

Piano Bar Happy Hour Peter

Diamond and James King 5:30-7:30

Denis Hyland Jazz Quartet 8-11

**Sunday 01/26**

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Any

Mayo 5:30-7:30

Barry Cuda 8-11

**Monday 01/27**

Sing-A- Long Piano Bar Happy

Hour with Malathi 5:30-7:30

Christine Cordone Jam Session 8-11

**Tuesday 01/28**

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Gayla

Morgan 5:30-7:30

Bluesday Tuesday with Larry

Baeder 8-11

**Wednesday 01/29**

Piano Bar Happy Hour with Karen

Heins 5:30-7:30

Victoria Horne 8-11

# 2020 35th Annual Schooner Wharf Bar Wrecker's Cup Race Series



The much anticipated first race of the Schooner Wharf Bar Wrecker's Cup Race Series is scheduled for Sunday, January 26th at 1:00 p.m. The course is 7 miles from Key West Harbor to Sand Key, re-enacting the ancient wrecking tradition of Key West...a series of ruthless one way races to the reef to claim the booty.

This all-in-fun race series recalls the tradition of the wreckers in the Key West of the 1800's. Vessels laden with rich cargoes from Gulf and Caribbean ports often became victims of storm and the unmarked reefs off Key West.

The first wrecker to reach the site had the responsibility to save the passengers and crew---but they also won the right to salvage the cargoes. Some historians have written that it was not unusual for 20 or 30 boats to race to a wreck.

The Captains' Meetings are held on the upper deck of Schooner Wharf at 7:00 p.m. the Saturday before each race. Captains enjoy complimentary Pusser's Rum punch and Schooner Wharf Galley hors d'oeuvres while reviewing race procedures.

The Awards Ceremony & Party is held at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, race day. The popular Wreckers BBQ is served to captains & crew while they view

film footage taken of the race by the official race committee boat and dance to the popular rhythmic steel drum sound of the Island Time Duo!

Trophies, Pusser's Rum and Schooner Wharf bar tabs and Wrecker's Race tee shirts are earned by the top 3 vessels in 6 classes --schooner, multi-hull, classic, monohull 29' and under, monohull 30-39 feet and monohull 40 feet and over. There could also be a separate class for Hoebee Cats this year! At the race start Key West harbor is a magnificent sight, filled with colorful sails and spinnakers on vessels ranging from 16 feet to 120 feet.

This original nautical event is another creation of Schooner Wharf Bar owners, Evalena and Paul Worthington, and is enjoyed by visiting yachters, local private boats and Key West charter vessels. You don't need a boat of your own to participate, book passage and crew on one of the charter boats in the Wreckers' fleet.

2020 Race Dates are Sunday, January 26 – February 23 – March 29 and April 26. Come join the fun. Fair Winds and Full Holds --- Wreck Ashore!

For information please call 292-9520. Visit SchoonerWharf.com. Photos of previous races are available on the Schooner Wharf facebook page. ■



## 1917



**W**ith breathtaking cinematography by Roger Deakins, Sam Mendes' "1917" takes you to the realm of World War I, one of the most lethal wars in Western history. The film is immersive, vivid, sardonic and surreal. It is epic in scale and never lets go of its tension.

The film focuses on Blake (Dean-Charles Chapman) and his partner in war Schofield (George MacKay) and their friendship shared in crisis.

Blake is ordered to deliver a message across enemy lines essentially calling off an allied attack, because the German forces are planning an ambush. Blake is determined to succeed, especially because the mission will save the life of his brother.

The film excels in atmosphere and virtuosic camera maneuvers. It also unfolds like a horror film. The two young boys are put in thick trenches. All seems the color of shit. Boots are deep in mud and soiled water and gray corpses pop up like jellyfish, mouths agape in mute terror, tongues poking from the teeth like bologna, as if making a joke of death. Barbed wire prevails over the barren land like a net of poison crosses that draw black blood.

With each forbidding location the two walk through, the suspense is palpable.

You will hold your breath.

There is one very pesky black rat that sets everything in ominous motion.

Suffice to say events are frequently deadly and episodes unfold upon Schofield so quickly that he becomes like a Marvel Avenger in a video game, dodging bullets at a pace that would make Indiana Jones shake his head in wonder.

Again and again, Schofield and Blake endure one mishap after another. All is done with very little dialogue. The camera in a long masterful takes sets the tone. One look into Schofield's eye says it all as his olive green iris becomes the exact shade of his helmet.

The film won a Golden Globe for Best Motion Picture and it earns its place among a long history of war films that include "Apocalypse Now" and "Saving Private Ryan."

"1917" carries us along in its journey feeling like a 3D film with its visceral effect that is poignant as well as jarring. ■

## Ford v. Ferrari



**F**or decades I have thought that J.G. Ballard's Crash (1973) is one of the most daring works of literature. Specifically, it is about symphorophilia, the sexual arousal and obsession with cars and collisions. Though not for all tastes, it is a great work of Surrealism and I have yet to read anything like it.

In the film "Ford v. Ferrari," directed by James Mangold, there is something of an obsession with cars and speed,

and of pushing the physical body to its limit. Carroll Shelby (Matt Damon) loves to race cars going well over the limit even while he is in danger of having a heart attack. Cars, danger and death are all inter-related.

His friend Ken Miles (Christian Bale) is a modest man and more reticent, but he is equally driven by acceleration. Both men put their lives second to the superiority of the auto on the track.

In the film, a restless CEO, Henry Ford II (Tracy Letts) is eaten by jealousy and wants to beat Enzo Ferrari. He hires Shelby to design a racing machine, one to win the 24 Hours of Le Mans.

Shelby in turn, gets Ken Miles to drive.

The film is an engaging portrait of two obsessive figures. Shelby is a cool cowboy type while Miles is slightly inward and more reserved, but both connect by their love of fast cars.

Letts is entertaining as the stone-faced boss who goes to pieces once Shelby takes him for a spin, beyond a comfortable pace.

Catriona Balfe has a scene-stealing moment as Miles's wife who drives in a bloodcurdling reckless fashion to get to her husband's truth.

Bale does handily as driver Ken Miles, who has a near supernatural merging with the racing machine in terms of how the car feels, its strengths and weaknesses. Damon gives another fine performance as a designer with only one thing on his mind: racing.

In watching "Ford v. Ferrari" one sees two people: Shelby and Miles, pointing to a new beginning of man merging with the automobile, a being of metal and mind, chrome and flesh poised for our millennium.

Ballard would have approved. ■

Write Ian at [ianfree11@yahoo.com](mailto:ianfree11@yahoo.com)

## Michigan's Cheap Dates Play the Hog's Breath Saloon

**T**he Cheap Dates - A fun "fresh water" cover band from Kalamazoo, Michigan, plays the Hog's Breath Saloon's mid shift, 4:30 - 8:30 pm, Jan. 23 - 26.

The Cheap Dates are a guitar and drum duo. Together for 16 years, the two have been performing an average of 180 shows a year up and down the coastline of Lake Michigan and University towns. They cover a wide range of music from old to new and a little in between. This marks their 11th trip to Key West. ■

## Atlanta's Mike Veal Band at the Hog's Breath Saloon

**T**he Mike Veal Band, Atlanta's favorite party band brings its energy and excitement to the Hog's Breath Saloon, 400 Front St., Jan. 23 - 26, rocking the night stage from 9pm - 1am. n.

The band plays a hot combination of blues, rock, and funk. Diverse musical backgrounds and regional influences color each member's contribution to the tight sound for which the band is admired.

Atlanta partiers and club patrons throughout the Southeast know the band delivers a killer show every time. Stop by the Hog's Breath and see for yourself. ■

# Glass: The World Premiere of a fascinating true story



By Joanna Brady

The Waterfront Playhouse continues to celebrate its 80th year with fresh, exciting work, this time with the world premiere of a terrific new two-person play, titled *Glass*, by Michael Aman.

Aman's play is based on a true story about a pivotal moment in the career of Tennessee Williams, a time when he was most vulnerable, facing perhaps his last chance at success.

*Glass* is set in Chicago on Dec. 26, 1944. At the heart of the play is the terrible fear of failure by two people locked in an adversarial relationship. A very young Tennessee Williams has written a play called *The Glass Menagerie*, and it is opening night.

The actress playing the lead role of Amanda Wingfield, is Lorette Taylor,

an alcoholic has-been on her umpteenth comeback attempt. Williams is understandably nervous, sure that she'll drink, forget her lines, and ruin his play—or not show up altogether.

In Lorette's dressing room, they thrash out their differences, occasionally reaching agreement on some things. But it becomes clear that Lorette's interpretation of the character of Amanda differs from the playwright's, even to the color of the dress Amanda is supposed to wear.

Williams knows something isn't working and has criticized her in rehearsals.

The problem is that Lorette is having difficulty feeling like the character she is playing. Lorette is earthy and Irish, fierce and tempestuous. Amanda the character is an ethereal Southern belle stuck in the past. One has to question whether Williams isn't struggling with the character of Amanda himself.

Through it all, a very important prop sits on Lorette's dressing table:

an unopened bottle of scotch. Will she or won't she? And will her decision alter the chances of success for the play, and the man who wrote it?

Will Lorette find Amanda—and more important, will Amanda find her? The answers may not be what you think.

► Continued on page 20



Photo: Larry Blackburn

WATERFRONT PLAYHOUSE OUR 80TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON

A WORLD PREMIERE BY  
MICHAEL AMAN

GLASS

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS...  
LAURETTE TAYLOR...  
A BOTTLE OF SCOTCH  
AND THE OPENING  
NIGHT OF  
THE GLASS  
MENAGERIE...  
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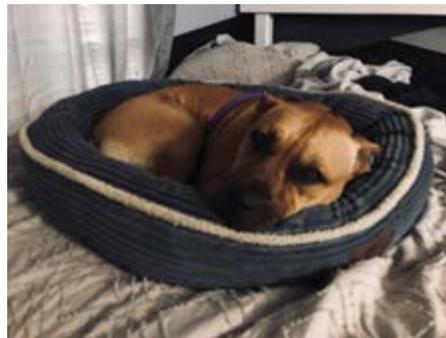
## ■ Rescue Tail Easy Breezy Beautiful

BY TARA MCFARLAND  
Director of Operations, Marathon Campus

There's always that one dog that seems to linger around the shelter, overlooked by potential families. The one that's sweet, friendly and full of personality. We do introductions, meet and greets, we highlight that particular animal in our pet of the week segment, or bring her to events, and yet at the shelter she remains. At our Marathon Campus, that dog was Breezy.

Social, curious, friendly and always smiling Breezy was instantly a staff and volunteer favorite. She could make you laugh for hours watching her antics. On one particular day, when she was feeling particularly clever, she stood in the yard upon her dog house, toy in mouth, and jumped up on top of the shade sails protecting her outdoor play yard from the summer sun. It was as if she had been planning it all along, she knew instantly what to do once she was up there. She ran and jumped from shade sail to shade sail, bouncing from one to another like a carefree child on a trampoline. All the while, her big smile shining and that toy dangling from her mouth. We laughed and laughed as each time we told her to get down, she simply jumped higher and bounced faster. You see, Breezy was no Chihuahua, but a sixty pound American Staffordshire mix! When the antics were over and Breezy came down, for her safety her dog house was moved but she'd always look up at the shade sails, reflecting on her time atop the colorful bouncy sails.

It was days like that that made staff and volunteers so enamored with



Breezy. We couldn't understand why the days turned into weeks, weeks into months, and eventually into an entire year. Breezy remained at our Marathon Campus until the fateful day that she met Robert, the day she met her person.

Robert was looking for companionship, someone to share his life with, someone to wait patiently by his side while he worked on his novels; a friend. Robert was instantly drawn to Breezy, and she climbed all over him and showered him with sloppy kisses. The two went for walks, played together, and their connection was felt by all of us. We held our breath when the meet finally ended, and with a warm smile he asked for adoption paperwork. It was finally a match!

Now, for the first time in her young life, after a year of patiently waiting, Breezy was finally going to be in a home! For 365 days her spirit never wavered, as if all along she knew what she was waiting for. Together they swim, walk and play, they read and write together, they complete each other. Robert understands her funny ways and even sends photos of Breezy winking at the camera, or sleeping under her dog bed instead of in it. Her personality shines even brighter now that she's with her new dad.

The Florida Keys SPCA is a no time limit shelter. Healthy adoptable animals stay at the shelter as long as it takes to find them the right family. For some this can be a year, or even longer. Caring for dogs like Breezy takes more than just time, it takes love and resources such as food, medication, preventatives, vaccines and spay/neuter surgeries. To help us care for dogs like Breezy your donations to the Florida Keys SPCA stay here in the Keys and help pets in Key West, the Lower and Middle Keys. For more information visit our website at [www.fkspca.org](http://www.fkspca.org) ■

# Pianist Jim Rice Takes The Spotlight at The Red Barn



Joy Hawkins, the Red Barn Theatre's Artistic Director, has been asking Jim Rice to do a solo show on their stage for years. To her great delight, he finally said "Yes".

So on February 2 and 3, Jim Rice will take the Red Barn stage in the spotlight for his own cabaret show, "The Mood I'm In". Tickets are already in short supply, so head to [redbarntheatre.com](http://redbarntheatre.com) or call 305-296-9911 to make sure you get yours.

"I've worked for everybody else," Rice said recently, "and on every stage in town, usually as the musical accompaniment. I've done the arrangements and led the band for most of Randy Roberts' big shows at the Ten-



JIM RICE

nessee Williams, and an awful lot of the musicals at the Waterfront and Red Barn. Guess it's time to take the mic myself."

Joining Rice on stage will be bassist Joe Dallas, and drummer Daniel

Clark, both veterans of many musicals and musical events around town.

"They're such good players," Rice said. "Their versatility allows me to do go pretty much anywhere I want to musically."

And Rice's show will definitely be taking quite a journey. While it's a cabaret-type show, Rice stresses that it's not a recital – all of the songs have stories connected to them. And he won't be sticking just to the American Songbook.

"I will be doing show tunes, of course," Rice said, "but not how they were originally done. I like to give them different and unusual arrangements, which is fun. There will be a little country and western, some Texas swing, some Paul Simon, some Cole Porter, some David Frishberg. And then we'll really cut loose – some

Blondie, and some Crowded House. It's all about the mood, right?"

And the Red Barn plays right into that mood, Rice says. Now celebrating their 40th consecutive year of bringing top professional theater to Key West, it's an intimate 88 seat beauty perfect for shows like Rice's. In recent years, they have brought several shows like "The Mood I'm In" to their stage, including another popular show coming up in March by Key West troubadour John Wells.

Curtain time for Rice's show will be 8 pm. The Red Barn's Gil's Bar will open at 7:30 pm each evening, and patrons are allowed to bring their drinks into the theater. For more information or tickets, visit [redbarntheatre.com](http://redbarntheatre.com) or call 305-296-9911. ■

## West Texas Singer-Songwriter Cliff Cody Plays the Hog's Breath Saloon

West Texas singer-songwriter Cliff Cody plays the Hog's Breath Saloon, 400 Front St., mid-shift gig – 4:30 – 8:30 p.m., Jan. 27 – Feb. 2.

"Chasin Whiskey," Cody's first recorded cut was recognized as a highlight of Julie Roberts' album "Men and Mascara" by Rolling Stone Magazine. Since first playing the Key West Songwriters Festival, Cody has become a favorite and regular performer in the Keys. His soulful voice and story telling style of writing has helped him build a loyal following. He makes fast friends and forever fans and once you hear him, you'll become both. ■



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**Glass: The World Premiere...**

▶ Continued from page 17

If you consider the title of this play, *Glass*, fragility comes to mind. And you wonder if the characters will be the fragile element. Will they be delicate, breakable, easy to crack? Or perhaps the play is about what goes into a glass—like scotch?

On the surface, it's a battle of a woman struggling to regain her glory and a playwright desperate to gain a foothold in the theatre world, but as the play unfolds, we discover there is more to it than that. There is a third element to this play—the demon they both share.

Williams had a lot riding on *The Glass Menagerie*. Through the rear view mirror, we all know that he needn't have worried: The Glass Menagerie was the play that catapulted him from obscurity to fame; the success of which could hardly have been predicted in 1944. Further, though he denied it was a 'memory play', *The Glass Menagerie*, with its strong autobiographical elements, featured characters based on its author, his histrionic mother, and his mentally fragile sister, so the play meant a lot to Williams personally.

*Glass* is a superb play, delivered with a whole range of emotion, even humor at times. The style reflects the tightly wound intensity of the characters, perfect for their interplay of insults and compliments in a claustrophobic dressing room.

The Director's Notes tell us that after its premiere in Chicago in 1944, *The Glass Menagerie* went on to Broadway where Lorette Taylor was

a sensation for over five hundred performances. When she died, it was a long time before anybody dared replace her. It was Williams' first successful play; he went on to become one of America's most highly regarded playwrights.

The casting in this production is terrific. Tim Torre, no stranger to the Key West stage, is excellent in delivering Williams in a rich Mississippi accent in his dress clothes and dazzling patent leather black and white spectator shoes. Merry Jo Cortada is a fabulous, seasoned professional, with a CV too long to list here. She is the perfect Lorette, even to the slight Irish lilt.

Orchestrating their repartee, arguments, and reconciliations, is director Michael Bush, the Artistic Director of the Jerry Herman Ring Theatre at University of Miami. Michael Boyer has designed the set with his usual amazing talent and creativity.

What more perfect venue to attend a play about Tennessee Williams than in Key West—a place he once called his home? This is entertaining drama, beautifully acted, and not to be missed.

*Glass* runs from Jan. 14 till Feb. 1, 2020. A special talk-back with the author and director follows the Fri. Jan. 17 performance. The play runs about 90 minutes. There is no intermission. Order your tickets by calling the box office at 305 294-5015 or by visiting [waterfront-playhouse.org](http://waterfront-playhouse.org). Ask about date night, student, and military discounts. ■

(Joanna Brady is a local writer, author of the historical Key West novel, *The Woman at the Light*, published by St. Martin's Press)

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# Fringe Theater Celebrates Black History Month



Fringe Theater celebrates Black History month with a staged reading of August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* presented on February 6 and 7 at the William Weech American Legion Post 168, located at 803 Emma Street.

The Pulitzer Prize winning August Wilson wrote ten plays, collectively referred to as his American Century Cycle. He set each play in a different decade in an effort to chronicle the twentieth century African American experience.

*Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* opened in 1985 to critical acclaim and won the New York Drama Critics' Circle Award for Best American Play. It also received a Tony Award nomination for Best Play.

The play mixes fact with fiction.

Ma Rainey was a popular blues singer who is often referred to as the Mother of the Blues. She was born to Vaudeville parents and spent the majority of her life successfully touring throughout the US. She was known as a shrewd business woman with a powerful command of her music and her audience. Ma Rainey also recorded over a 100 records, singing with the best known artists and musicians of the day.

August Wilson's *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* is set in a recording studio in Chicago in 1927. The band has gathered to record Ma's own version of "The Black Bottom," a popular dance of the period. Tensions rise among the band members when an ambitious trumpet player joins the session and sets in motion an irrevocable and tragic outcome.

Fringe Theater's reading of this American classic features readers Clayton Lopez, Joan Leggett, Gil Parker, Richard Quint, Eva Parker, Jerry Ginsberg, Bob Capetta, Tim Dahms, and Ervin Gallo-Tumm. Wilhelmina Lopez Martin will read the title role of Ma Rainey.

*Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* is funded, in part, through an Arts Builds Community Grant awarded from the

Florida Keys Council of the Arts. It is presented in partnership with the American Legion Post 168 which was built in 1951 by veterans and employees from the Key West Navy Yard to commemorate African Americans killed in WWI and WWII.

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom will be presented February 6 and 7 at 7pm. General Admission tickets are \$30 and are available online at [www.fringetheater.org](http://www.fringetheater.org) or by calling 305-731-0581. Advanced tickets are encouraged as last year's reading sold out both evenings. ■

*Fringe Theater is Key West's community-focused theater. Fringe is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to creating unique opportunities for people to see and do theater. Learn more at [www.fringetheater.org](http://www.fringetheater.org).*



Fringe Theater Readers for *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* include Wilhelmina Lopez Martin, Joan Leggett, Clayton Lopez, Richard Quint, and Gil Parker.

SPONSORED BY Florida Keys Council of the Arts  
ARTS BUILDS COMMUNITY GRANT

# Ricotta de blanc: Or how I learned to stop worrying and to love new flavors of pizza pie

BY TERRY SCHMIDA  
KONK LIFE COLUMNIST

**L**ike many rapidly aging people I've become something of a creature of habit in my cantankerous years.

I have a particular notion of the perfect pizza, so wherever possible, I resist encroachments upon the usual definitive three-topping formula so familiar to us all.

I was challenged, therefore, on a recent visit to Clemente's Wood-fired Trolley Pizzeria, once located in a home-built trolley parked at the corner of Duval and Angela streets. It is now nestled into a Mom and Pop Italian restaurant space at 516 Fleming St., though owners Angelo Scola and Eleisha Gallant still like to take their trolley pizza – and its full liquor license – on the road at concerts and other special events.

The Fleming Street eatery is a red-and-white checkered tablecloth, Knickerbocker Avenue kind of place with all manner of authentic Italian delights, including pizza slices lovingly prepared to order, using as many imported and from-scratch ingredients as possible. For their authentic New Haven, Conn. pizza, it is proudly baked in a brick oven constructed by Scola himself.

Hospitality lives here. The couple, originally from Rhode Island, take food seriously, though never so seriously that they're not quick with a smile and a refill.

On my recent visit, my out-of-town guest and I were treated to an impressive full meal that began with Baby's House Salad, combining



Salad and a pizza never looked - or tasted - this good, says Clemente's server Jennifer Fishman.

chopped romaine lettuce with cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, avocados, red onions, chick peas and carrots. It was topped with imported Gorgonzola cheese and Eleisha's zesty homemade Italian dressing.

Now, I've never been a huge fan of Ricotta cheese. (No real reason why. Why did George H.W. Bush hate broccoli?) I just never liked it, preferring a glorious fresh mozzarella or bu-

rata. But the whole point of dining out is the opportunity to sample exotic flavors. So I'm here to sample whatever is put in front of me. And I do.

Mostly out of blind faith that these two seasoned restaurateurs would never subject me to an unpleasant experience I accepted their offer of a sumptuous feast of Meatball & Ricotta pie, topped with plenty of heavenly homemade crumbled meatballs

and marinara sauce, mozzarella, and Parmesan cheeses and, yes, veins of imported ricotta. After a few bites I finally had the cosmic culinary explosion that comes when an edible light bulb goes off over your head. Ricotta isn't meant to be spread on crackers. It belongs among the melange of ingredients that set it off, ideally atop Clemente's wood-fired pie.

With this realization as fresh in my mind as the cheese on my pizza, we polished off the remainder of the pie with educated gusto.

To expose us to their thick crust custom-made slices, they served us the Honey Bacon pizza, with a garlic and olive oil glaze, hickory smoked bacon, caramelized onion, mozzarella, and honey.

Sweet-and-savory has always be somewhat suspect to me, so this was yet another taste revelation, satisfying and filling to boot.

Straight sweet has never been a problem for me, however, and the homemade Tiramisu was the perfect finale to the meal for both of us.

Looking and feeling like a happy python that just ate a puppy, I waddled from Clemente's, my dining companion in tow, in search of a place to lie down.

Long live pizza. Viva Clemente's! ■

*Clemente's Pizzeria is open from noon to late night from Monday through Saturday, and from 4 to 10 p.m. Sundays Credit cards are accepted. Free delivery is available throughout Key West. Any pizza or slice can be made gluten-free.*

*For more information, call 305-900-7035 or find them on Facebook. keysscribe@aol.com*

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# Local artist Suzie 'Zuzek' dePoo recognized with New York City exhibit, special group trip offered

Fans of fashion and the Big Apple will be pleased to learn of a trip organized by Key West Art & Historical Society to New York City from Wednesday, May 13 to Saturday, May 16 for a special curator tour and opening reception of an exhibit honoring the late beloved Key West artist Suzie 'Zuzek' dePoo. "Suzie Zuzek for Lilly Pulitzer: The Prints that Made the Fashion Brand" at the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum celebrates and recognizes Suzie dePoo's accomplishments as a prolific textile designer who created over 1,500 designs for Key West Hand Print Fabrics

between 1962 and 1985 for use by Lilly Pulitzer.

The Cooper Hewitt Museum exhibition will reveal the nature and scope of her previously unrecognized artistic contribution to the iconic upscale resort wear that became well-known for its vibrant colors and exuberant patterns, many of which were created by Suzie dePoo. It will feature more than 35 of the venerated Key West artist's original watercolor and gouache design drawings alongside finished screen-printed textiles and some of the fashions that made them famous.

A recognized legacy to the Key

West's arts community for her textiles, sculptures, and wood panel paintings, dePoo was celebrated by Key West Art & Historical Society in 2015 with an exhibit at the Custom House Museum that featured her talents as a designer for Key West Hand Print Fabrics, a factory that created up to four miles of fabric a week and was Pulitzer's textile provider. The Museum continues to house many of her displayed and archived works, including these textiles designed for Pulitzer.

The four-day three-night trip package is \$1,262 per person (based on double occupancy) and includes airfare

and transportation, lodging at Hotel Belleclaire near Lincoln Center, two free admissions to your choice of The American Museum of Natural History, The Museum of the City of New York, Circle Line Harbor Cruise, The MET, the Empire State Building Observatory, or the Top of the Rock Observation Deck, and shopping discounts and Macy's and Bloomingdale's. A \$50 deposit is due by January 31, with final payment due March 13. To book, please contact tour coordinator, Jenni Konrad at [jenni@threeseastravel.com](mailto:jenni@threeseastravel.com) or 305.912.3253. For more information, visit [kwahs.org](http://kwahs.org). ■

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# The Inaugural Southernmost Mardi Gras Festival at Key West Amphitheater

Rams Head Presents – Key West is proud to announce Southernmost Mardi Gras Festival!

Key West's first Mardi Gras festival will be held on February 9th at Coffee Butler Key West Amphitheater! Representing New Orleans will be Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews who was recently named Grand Marshall by Krewe of Freret for their Mardi Gras parade the following week in The Crescent City. Along with a performance by Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue, you can expect the likes of Big Sam's Funky Nation and Grammy Nominees Tank and The Bangas. Returning to Key West for the first time since 2018 will be Re-birth Brass Band!

**Tickets + Info:**  
Southernmost Mardi Gras Festival feat. Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, Tank & The Bangas, Re-birth Brass Band, Big Sam's Funky Nation at Key West Amphitheater February 9th, 2020

**Doors:** 2:30PM | **Music Begins:** 4:00PM | **Festival Ends:** 10:30P  
35 E Quay Rd. Key West, FL 33040

**Tickets:** [keywestconcertseries.com](http://keywestconcertseries.com), [thekeywestamp.com](http://thekeywestamp.com)

**Visit:** Key West Theater's box office at 512 Eaton Street Wednesday through Saturday from 12-6PM

This family friendly event of the season will include fun for all ages! Children five and under are free and the whole family can enjoy face painting, a bounce house and decorating their own masquerade mask. Would it be a Mardi Gras festival without beads? MARC House will be selling and distributing beads all day and in order to avoid waste and disposal so close to the Gulf of Mexico, their group will be collecting and recycling all necklaces when the festival comes to an end. Local artisans include: Lost Boy Creations, Concrete Ship Mercantile, An Elegant Touch Art & Engraving and

Sandbar Clothing, with more being announced soon!

Calling all foodies! Expect a great mix of NOLA inspired fare from our food vendors.

Rams Head Key West is thrilled to host the inaugural Southernmost Mardi Gras Festival at Key West Amphitheater. Enjoy local food vendors, stocked bars, take home items from local artisans, crème of the crop musicians from The Big Easy and a one in a million view of The Gulf of Mexico while residents of Key West and beyond gather to celebrate Mardi Gras – Key West style. ■

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# KONK LIFE'S REAL ESTATE in the KEYS

## An ultra-private oasis at the end of a quiet Old Town Key West Lane

BY **TERRY SCHMIDA**  
KONK LIFE REAL ESTATE EDITOR  
*Photos Contributed*

**F**or the discriminating buyer who respects the colorful history of Key West, here's a charming Old Town cottage you'll fall in love with at first sight. If living "off the beaten path" is important this one more than fits the bill.

In fact the home at 720 Passover Ln. is located at the very end of a quiet and private Old Town walking lane, some 50 paces from the Sexton house in the historic and picturesque Key West Cemetery.

This recently renovated jewel was built in Key West's heyday as a seaport town, and has the architectural styling to prove it. It's twice been featured on the Old Island Restoration Founda-



The open-concept living area has plenty of natural light and architectural details such as granite flooring and two barn-type doors painted as a mural by noted local artist Rick Worth.

tion's tours of exceptional Old Town properties, and for good reason. The 924-square-foot home is loaded with historic features that make it a perfect

oasis for island living, while the modernized interior has all the amenities and finishes of a decorator's dream.

High vaulted ceilings with lovingly exposed beams make possible the large sleeping loft located in the master suite, with its deluxe en-suite bathroom. The same cathedral ceilings add roominess to the open-concept living areas, which are bathed in natural light. Flooring is of bamboo and granite, and well-placed bamboo accents throughout give the place a truly tropical look, even in the gourmet kitchen with its top-of-the-line stainless steel appliances.

The good-sized bathroom is likewise tastefully appointed, with granite floors and walls, and over sized shower stall. Two handsome restored doors in the living area have been custom paint-



The chefs' kitchen features new stainless steel appliances and bamboo walls.



Efficient use of space allows for a decent-sized dining area.

# KONK LIFE'S REAL ESTATE in the KEYS



A spacious sleeping loft can be accessed through the master suite, with its beautifully remodeled ensuite bathroom.



The ultra-private rear deck is a great place to relax after a long day.



The bathroom has been tastefully remodeled.



This barn door mural by noted Key West artist Rick Worth is included in the home's purchase price.

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## OPEN HOUSE on Saturday, January 25th Noon - 2 PM 720 PASSOVER LANE, KEY WEST

SEE  
MAP

2

Tucked away at the end of a quiet, walking Old Town lane sits this beautifully renovated jewel of a historic home. Twice on the OIRF tour, this lovely home has it all. Beautiful finishes highlight this wonderful property with fabulous vaulted ceiling, chef's kitchen and open floor plan making this a true gem. Lovely master suite with loft and ensuite bathroom, bamboo floors and decorator finishes. Granite floors add elegance, stained glass accents and Rick Worth painted doors add Key West charm. Newly constructed rear deck provides perfect outside peace and quiet. Make this historic oasis your own Piece of Paradise. **\$789,000**



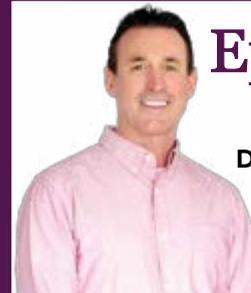
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Mature landscaping highlights the rear deck area.



The home is located at the very end of a quiet Old Town walking-only lane.

ed by well-known Key West artist Rick Worth, with an island scene that blends in beautifully with the setting of this pretty home. The doors lead to a small office that could be used as a guest bedroom if desired. There's also a full-sized, stacked washer and dryer placed in a convenient nook.

A new central air conditioning unit provides the climate control. There are even four stained-glass windows, for extra local color!

Enjoy romantic candlelit dinners on the newly constructed rear deck that provides perfect peace and quiet in this laid-back neighborhood, where street parking is easy to find. The lot is compact, which means lower maintenance, but it is taste-

fully designed and landscaped to maximize every inch with decking and beautiful mature plants.

This very desirable neighborhood is located just steps from some of Key West's finest restaurants, theaters and museums, and all the buzz of Duval Street. It's still just a short drive to New Town shopping and other amenities. ■

*This home is being offered for just \$799,000.00.*

*For more information, or to arrange a showing call Listing Agent Mike Caron of Keller Williams Key West Compass Realty at 508-269-8565 or email [mike@caronkeywest.com](mailto:mike@caronkeywest.com)*

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## FEATURED HOMES

### Providing Answers for Key West Property Owners and Buyers

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- Old Town Annual Sales Report 2019
- The Cost of GREEN Part 2 - A/C, SEER, Insulation and R-Value
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### 1215 Newton St, Key West, FL 33040

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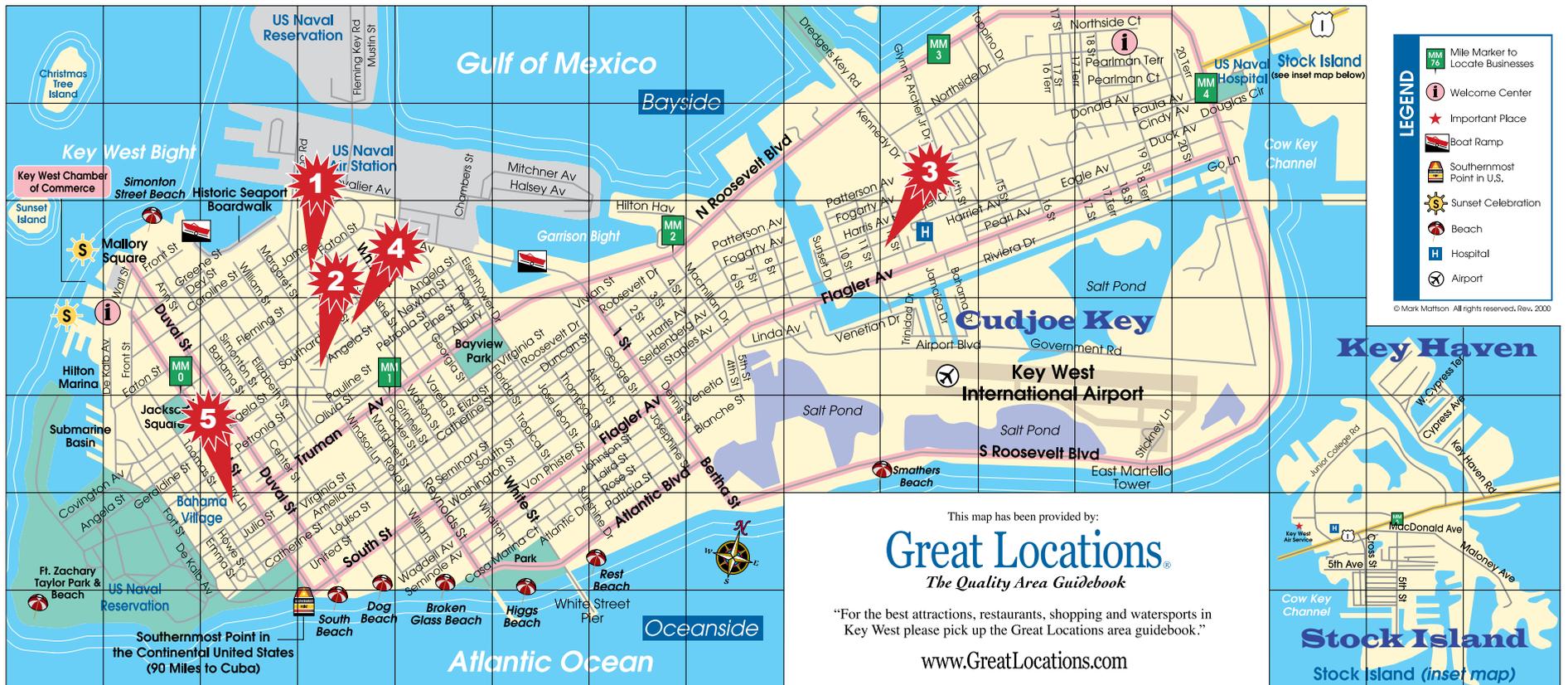
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# KONK LIFE'S FEATURED HOMES

## Featured Home Locations



### Featured Homes — Viewed by Appointment

Map #	Address	#BR/BA	Listing Agent	Phone Number
1	1000 Eaton Street, Key West FL 33040		Michelle Clauson Kirby, ReMax Keys Connection	305-849-1276
2	720 Passover Lane, Key West		Mike Caron, Keller Williams Key West Compass Realty	508-269-8565 305-296-7078
3	2916 Seidenberg Ave. Key West	3BD/2BA	Derek Epperly & Jenna Blackwell Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Knight & Gardner Realty	305-923-4833 305-393-6573
4	611 Grinnell St., #4, Key West	2BD/1BA	Derek Epperly & Jenna Blackwell Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Knight & Gardner Realty	305-923-4833 305-393-6573
5	1215 Newton St. Key West, FL 33040		Tina M Masters Coldwell Banker Schmitt Real Estate Co. (KW)	305-923-0062



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Keller Williams KW Compass	Keller Williams KW Compass	11/12/19	\$727,500	\$700,000	1001	16th Terr	1963	Single Fam	3	No	4
Coldwell Banker Schmitt	Coldwell Banker Schmitt	16/12/19	\$689,000	\$679,000	2421	Linda Ave	1953	Single Fam	2	No	3
BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	Keller Williams KW Compass	10/12/19	\$1,300,000	\$1,265,000	1500	Atlantic Blvd, #114	1986	Condo	2	Yes	2
Coldwell Banker Schmitt	Key West Properties	10/12/19	\$740,000	\$725,000	1800	Atlantic Blvd, C322	1987	Condo	2	Yes	2
BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	Ocean Sotheby's International	12/12/19	\$549,000	\$520,000	1075	Duval St, 15C & 16C	1987	Commercial	0	No	1
Ocean Sotheby's International	Ocean Sotheby's International	13/12/19	\$499,000	\$465,000	308	Margaret St, #6	1954	Single Fam	1	No	1
Truman & Co.	Truman & Co.	13/12/19	\$800,000	\$800,000	1023	Southard St	1938	Single Fam	2	No	1
BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	16/12/19	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	523	Elizabeth St	1938	Single Fam	3	No	1
BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	Keller Williams KW Compass	16/12/19	\$850,000	\$850,000	1016	Varela St, Rear	1994	Single Fam	3	No	1
BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	BHHS Knight & Gardner Realty	05/12/19	\$1,360,000	\$1,300,000	1119	Whitehead	1923	Single Fam	3	No	1

Based on information found in the Key West Association of Realtors® MLS from December 10th, 2019 to December 17th, 2019.

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