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Contributors:

Neil Chamberlain Brad Loekle Nana Terri Schlichenmeyer Stephanie Wise Jameson Rabbitt

Welcome To Paradise!

Thanksgiving is a time to . spend with family, regardless of what your family might look like.

Perhaps it's your friends, your in-laws, a neighbor, a shut-in, your pets, even the people at a shelter.

Whoever your family is, appreciate every moment you can with them.

Enjoy!

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Stephanie Wise

LEZ GO OUT



Having a core group of friends has proven to be important in this pandemic. But more than that, having a lesbian group has become critical.

While TikTok has taken over and connected the lesbian community at large, having a core group of lesbian friends that I can have a glass of wine with has been my sanity through these last several months. It seems common to hear that people have formed into pods of quarantine groups. People that have decided to socialize distantly with those who share similar safety practices. Really I think we've just decided that if we're going to get covid, we'd rather get it from this chosen group than a stranger. Right or wrong we are social creatures and this is how we've adapted to survive at this time.

My core group has chosen a singular activity. Lobstering.

As a group we rent a boat for the day, pick our corners of the boat and make our way out to the open waters of Key West. We all bring our own food and drink, do our best to stay away from each other and enjoy the water. We pick our spot, take turns gearing up and getting into the water. From there we spend the next eight hours lobstering. We take pictures to share with each other in a group text so that we don't touch each other's phones.



We fish for lobster until we've each caught what we want and head to a sandbar to enjoy the remainder of the afternoon floating far enough away from one another to be safe but close enough to hear our plights and successes while we each battle working from home, developing new careers and finding love.

Being in a group that shares similar ideals and lifestyles takes that extra layer of stress off of everything we say and do. Lesbians understand each other. Other groups, of course, that share similar, understand. There is just something magical when a group of like-minded women bond. I'm so grateful to have these women in my life.

If you don't have a group of like-minded people around you, I encourage you to develop one. it is a prescription for sanity in insane times like these. If you don't have this, look on Facebook. Ask your friends if they are in groups where they have people to talk to. Lez Go Out (virtually) and meet one another. Now more than ever I see this as a way to preserve your mental health. It's good for you to have friends.

This article today was a public shoutout to my tribe of lesbian women here in Key West. You seriously rock.

Thanks for being my tribe!



LOVE WHAT'S NSIDE*

HUGO LIVING WITH HIV SINCE 1995

KEEP CONNECTING.

Because HIV doesn't change who you are.

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in certain adults. BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you.

Featured patient compensated by Gilead.



IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY*

This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

(bik-TAR-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults and children who weigh at least 55 pounds. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:

- dofetilide
- rifampin
- any other medicines to treat HIV-1

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About BIKTARVY" section.
- Changes in your immune system. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.

- Kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "teacolored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- The most common side effects of BIKTARVY in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.

Continued on next page.



Meet a few of the extraordinary people who take BIKTARVY.

Watch their stories at BIKTARVY.com

Featured patients compensated by Gilead.

IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY* (CONTINUED)

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Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other health problems.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit BIKTARVY.com for program information.



WHAT'S INSIDE Please see Important Facts, including important warnings above and at BIKTARVY.com.



SNAP SNAP SNAP









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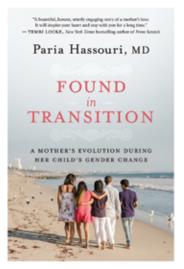




KwMabry@msn.com



"FOUND IN TRANSITION: A MOTHER'S EVOLUTION DURING HER CHILD'S GENDER CHANGE" BY PARIA HASSOURI, MD c.2020, New World Library | \$25.95 | 215 pages



In your mother's book, you were known before you were born.

She noted every kick, every head-bump, every stretch you made as she carried you. She felt your burps, and when you rolled over. And though she'd never met you, she recognized you the minute you arrived because your mother knew you before you were born. But as in the new book "Found in Transition" by Paria Hassouri, MD, a mother can't know everything.

She always wanted to be a mom.

Born in the U.S., raised in Iran, Paria Hassouri was a teen when she returned to

the U.S., where her mother insisted that Hassouri and her sisters get an education. But schooling was secondary in Hassouri's eyes. She'd wanted children since she was a child herself, and was particularly eager to have daughters, though she was not terribly disappointed that her first two babies were sons.

For much of her life, the second-born, Ava, had been a handful.

There were many conversations with teachers through the years, Hassouri recalls: teachers worried that Ava was depressed, had behavioral issues, or was suicidal. Ava was a smart kid with great creativity and she loved to try new things, but she didn't tend to stick with them for more than a few months. Because of that, when, at the edge of adolescence, Ava finally told her

parents that she was a girl, Hassouri thought it was another "phase."

To her own later guilt, she refused to believe her child.

Though Hassouri was a pediatrician, her first identity was as the mother of three children, two boys and a girl, and now what? She was confused, wounded, and greatly saddened. She and her husband had carefully named their offspring according to family tradition, and now one of them wanted a new name and new pronouns that sounded wrong to Hassouri's ears. She mourned that her second-born would never become the man she'd envisioned. She cried and grieved. And yet, she writes, there really were just two options.

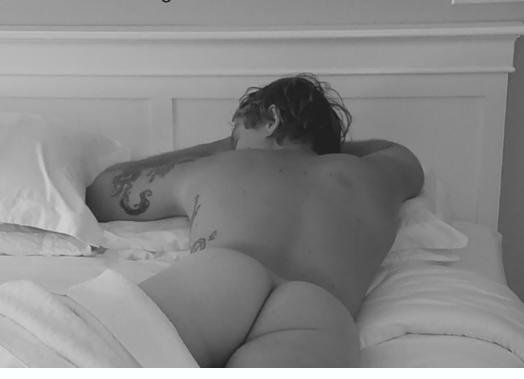
"I choose figuring it out," she said. "I choose my child."

Reading "Found in Transition" is tough – not for what it is but for what author Paria Hassouri says. It's almost like sandpaper on a sunburn.

Foremost, there are a lot of hard truths inside this memoir, for which Hassouri states "I have to own them and be honest about them," and that took courage — although confessions seem to be necessary here, for her and for readers. This book, in fact, would've been much different absent those harsh, sometimes incomprehansible feelings and thoughts; readers may've even sensed that it wasn't quite complete. No, it would have been the lesser without its brutal truths from this maternal point of view, because here's the thing: though Ava is a constant presence in a memoir that truly wouldn't exist without her, this is really not her story. It might make you angry, it might make you cry, but this tale belongs to her mother; indeed, "Found in Transition" is one-hundred-percent a mother's book.



The Nude Alone Is Well Dressed ~ Auguste Rodin



A Resort For Men!



MYBIG GAY LIFE Brad Toekle



GREASE LIGHTNING

Thanksgiving is right around the corner and I have to be honest: I've basically been eating like it's the last Thursday in November since about March 1st. I come from families on both sides that staunchly believe that food is at the center of everything. You use food to celebrate, to commiserate, to mourn, and to just flat out enjoy yourself. We live to eat AND we eat to live. So, this year has been a real hum dinger. There's been far more downs than there have been ups (in my life, at least... though I know I'm not alone on that) and it often feels like a roller coaster that only seems to level off slightly before it's next precarious drop. So, I've been eating like a king, drinking like a sailor, and masturbating like a teenage boy who is home from school on an unexpected snow day.

This has led to me packing on the pandemic pounds. So, this holiday season, though I will be indulging in all the fatty trimmings on the actual holidays, I will, the remainder of the time, try to get back down to my "agile cub" weight so that I can start 2021 on a good, and less swollen, foot. This isn't just a vanity project, mind you. Though being a gay man, and living in Hollywood, is more than enough reason for vanity to be the solemn cause of nearly everything. I am determined to get in moderately better shape only because of the shocking weight-related news I just learned. You see, like most of us, I've usually based my idea of how healthy I was by the traditional standards of measurement: Weight, clothing size, BMI, etc. But I've now discovered there is really only one measurement you should be judging yourself by, and that is this: will I start a grease fire in a crematorium?

It has come to my attention that America has a new, and tremendously American, problem facing the funeral industry. It seems that we Americans have become so "great"... in size... that more and more crematoriums are having serious problems with grease fires. It would seem that our increasingly super-sized society is not only a health risk when you're alive

MY BIG GAY LIFE

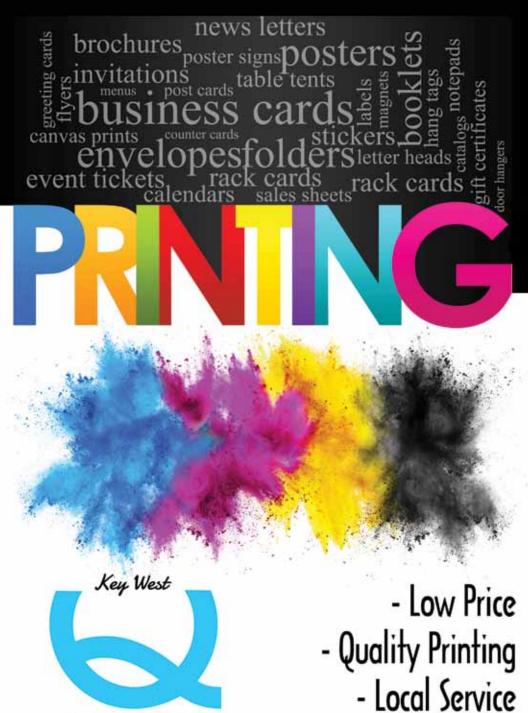
but a fire risk once you're dead. Once America hunted the great whales of the seas in order to gather the marine blubber that we used to fuel our lamps and lives. Now, it would seem, we need look no further than our own backyards, and back sides, for a new form of renewable energy.

So now, my motivation to go down a few dress sizes, isn't merely that I want to fit back into all the clothes I bought in 2019. But because I'd prefer to not have my last action on earth be a four-alarm fire. I mean, you can brag about your body fat percentage all you want, but the truth is the only measurement that really matters is did your fat ass start a wild fire that required FEMA funds to contain.

So, for me it's going to be a fairly sober season, compared to my usual yuletide tie-one-ons that have become tradition in years past. I'll be calorie counting and intermittent fasting. I'll be cutting back on candy and doing resistance band Pilates in my living room, just like a good middle-aged housewife. And as I watch my second chin recede like the great glaciers in Alaska, I will rest assured that with each pound shed, I will be saving the life of some sweet, innocent crematorium employee. This isn't just about my health anymore. This is about not creating a natural deep-fried disaster!

I'm not saying to cancel Christmas or stay away from stuffing yourself all together. But for me, at least, 2020 has been heavy enough both on my shoulders and on my waistline. And there's no reason for any of us to be compared with Hannukah, simply because we unexpectedly burned for eight days and nights! So, pass me the protein shake and let's try to make it to 2021 in a lighter state of mind and mass than how we were in 2020.

Brad Loekle's latest comedy special & album, "Brash Boys Club" is available on Amazon, AppleTV, iTunes, and other platforms. He was a semi-finalist on NBC's "Last Comic Standing". He can be seen every week on TruTV's "World's Dumbest", has written for Joan Rivers on E! "Fashion Police" & tours internationally. His book, "My Big Gay Life" is available on Amazon. For all this and more, check out: www.bradloekle.com



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ABART

HOWEVER, IN 2020,
YOU COUNTED YOUR MILES,
IT MEANT A LOT

OF HOUSING SMILES.



KEY WEST MILE MARKERS













COCQTALES

Local Bartender Interviews
By Fameson Rabbitt



A LITTLE PIECE OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND MAKES HIS WAY DOWN TO THE KEYS.

Carl Riecke is no stranger to the bar scene and a year ago he made his way down to the keys and found a slice of heaven at the infamous Bourbon St. Pub in Key West.

As the Food and Beverage Manager, he considers himself a classic bartender with a love for his costumers that may visit from all over the world, as well as from down the street. From Brazil to Alaska, you never who you're going to meet at the Bourbon St Pub. Which Is what makes this popular destination-bar a hot spot for meeting locals and foreigners when you're stumbling around Duval street on a warm tropical night.

The building which is also a guest house with a pool hosts the World-Famous New Year's "Shoe Drop" and it has been around since the late 1800's and has served as a Cuban Restaurant, and T-shirt

store along with several other businesses but for the last 25 years it has been Bourdon st. Pub, "a place of beads, booze, and boys" as the plaque on one of the walls describes it. Which lives up to its name with the weekly boozy pool parties that happen in the infamous clothing optional back courtyard.





During the Covid-shutdown the bar went through some renovations while still operating "to-go drinks", Carl can vividly remember trying to work through a construction crew, wires hanging, and T.V.s on bungee cords, while shaking margaritas, opening beers while operating through a tiny window; now back to somewhat normality, still masked he's never been happier to be behind the bar once again.

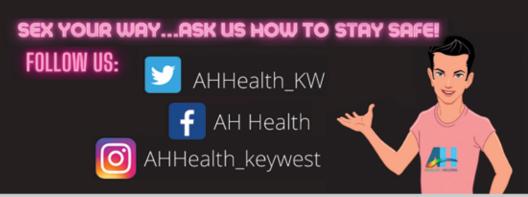
Some of the biggest challenges for a lot of service industry workers has been educating patrons on new guidelines for alcohol establishments that seem to change in a blink of an eye but Carl is managing to keep up to date with the latest changes, while smiling under his mask.

His favorite color is orange, he is single (accepting dates) and his favorite drink is simple but with a twist on the classic "vodka-cran" adding the sophistication of Pomegranate Vodka, served on the rocks with a lime, however his ultimate favorite is an Aperol Spritz.

Carl's Aperol Spritz:
½ oz. Aeprol
1.5 oz. Prosecco
Topped with soda water, and fresh squeezed orange!

(This season Carl also suggests chasing a typical Fire Ball shot with an Angry Orchard Cider for a complete Full-Fall Fantasy Moment in your mouth!)

On his time off, Carl is an explorer! He loves all kinds of music but his favorite Country Song is "You had me from hello" by Kenny Chesney, which he loves to blast on his convertible while driving to the different fun destinations that the Keys have to offer. He loves spending his afternoons at Fort Zach, but for date night Carl prefers to be classic and romantic which doesn't always have to break the bank but is completed with a Key West Sunset at Mallory Square.



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CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

COMPLIMENTARY HAPPY HOUR



STAY WHERE YOU PLAY!

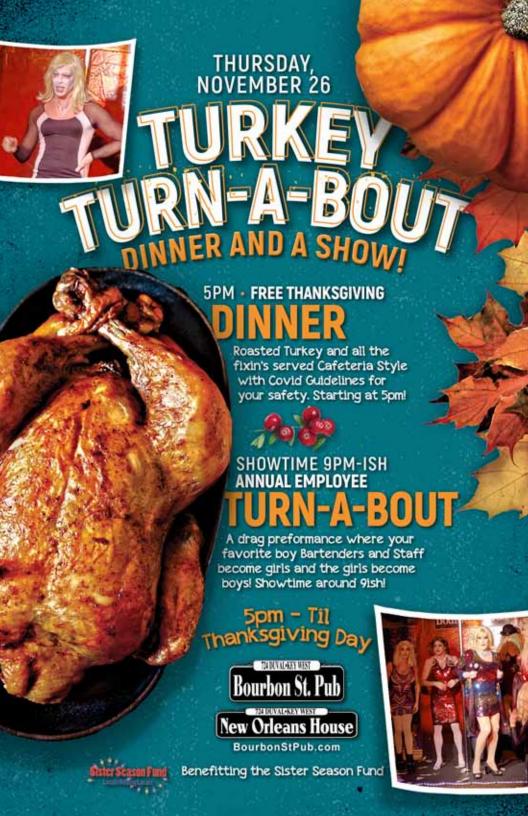






CALL NOW FOR MORE INFO

We continue to closely monitor information and updates from the CDC and local health departments, and adding their recommended policies and procedures to our already established infection control measures.





FREE SHOW ON OUR DUVAL STREET STAGE AT 9PM!

FEATURING LIVE LOCAL & INTERNATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT

VIP BALCONY TICKETS ON SALE DECEMBER 1ST













LOVE IS LOVE By Valerie Edgington

Would you know? Would you know if you just found your soul mate? Your happy? Your ever after?

Rob and David met 27 years ago. Became acquaintances but nothing more. The universe was preparing them though for a life of happy, they just didn't realize it. After meeting a couple of more times they found themselves auditioning for the same musical. Was it fate? Were they ready to meet their happy forever person?

Becoming friends first was the best thing that could have ever

happened to Rob and David. They got to know each other, learned about each other's lives, learned about each other's fears.

They listened to each other. and somehow realized their friendship had turned to love. That was 25 years ago.

They wanted to celebrate this milestone in Italy and then Greece but we all know what happens when we make plans.



LOVE IS LOVE

The world had other ideas for them. A need to be at home for a family illness and then the pandemic; their next choice was Key West. For Rob and David, they didn't realize the universe had a better idea for them. While most people would be upset, Rob and David took it as a sign.

Key West opened up enough for them to book their adventures here. In a week of whirlwind adventures and fun Rob and David spent the week with the ones they love and the ones that love them. You can count me in that club now.

So on September 21, 2020, Rob and David once again committed themselves, with the honor of the Mayor of Key West performing the ceremony. The day was perfect for them. Married at the edge of Fort Zach with the bluest of water and the clearest of skies Rob and David committed to another 25 years of ups and downs, tears of laughter and sadness, good health and not, these two will continue to be the example we all need of what real love is. While not perfect, nor easy, it is very much worth it. When asked what their secret was, they both said respect and listening. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we all did that a little bit more?

Love is Love

Congratulations again Rob and David!

- Photo credit: Maya Montana

WATERFRONT PLAYHOUSE and the KEY WEST BUSINESS GUILD PRESENT

JUDY

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Written by
Darrin
Hagen
and
Christopher
Peterson



Accompanied by
Tom Thayer
Musical

Musical Arrangements by **Jim Rice**

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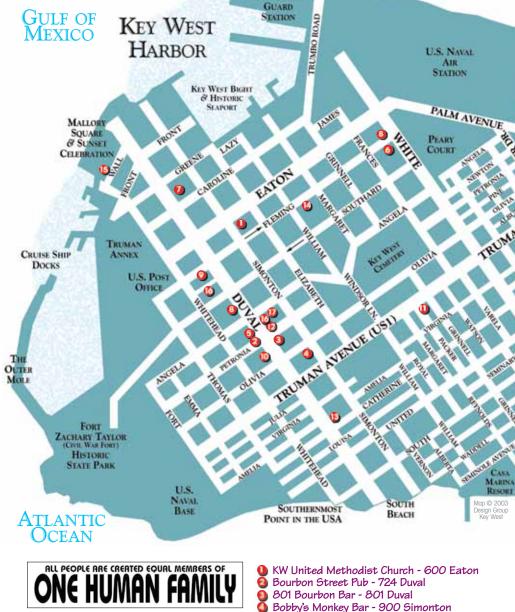
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U.S. COAST

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Key West's official philosophy is "ONE HUMAN FAMILY" which means we believe everyone is entitled to equal rights, dignity and respect.

You'll see a lot of these stickers, and you can get your own free "One Human Family" stickers at the Gay & Lesbian Visitor Center (808 Duval).

or by sending a SASE to ONE HUMAN FAMILY,

P.O. 972, Key West, FL 33041 or visit OneHumanFamily.info

- 🏮 In Touch 706Ă Duval
- Alexander's Guest House 1118 Fleming
- 🚺 Red Barn Theatre 319 Duval (Rear)
- 🚺 Island House Resort for Men 1129 Fleming
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- KW Gay & Lesbian Visitor Center 808 Duval
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WEEKLY EVENTS



MONDAY

801 Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon
Bria singing live at 8:00 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

TUESDAY

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon
Bria singing live at 8:00 PM
Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

WEDNESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8:00 PM Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Island House

Hot Naked Humpdays starting at 5 PM

THURSDAY

801

Karaoke starting at 5 PM Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

FRIDAY

801

Drag Shows at 5, 9, & 11 PM

Bourbon

Tea Dance starting at 5 PM Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

One Saloon

Cock Shock contest at Midnight

SATURDAY

801

Drag Shows at 5, 9, & 11 PM

Bourbon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

SUNDAY

801

Karaoke starting at 5 PM Gay Bingo starting at 5 PM Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM SIN night starts at 10 PM

Bourbon

Jeff Moss singing live at 7 PM Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Island House

Pre-Tea Pool Party starting at Noon

La Te Da

Tea Dance starting at 4 PM

LOCATIONS

801 - 801 Duval Street

Bourbon - 724 Duval Street

Island House - 1129 Fleming St

La Te Da - 1125 Duval Street

One Saloon - 514 Petronia St









ASK NANA

E-mail your questions to nana@keywestgayrag.com



Dear Nana,

With Thanksgiving around the corner, my boyfriend and I hosting out first thanksgiving for friends. Any advice on hosting the perfect "Friendsgiving"?

The first thing you'll want to make sure of is that there is enough wine and booze. And since you're both gay... and I'll assume at least half the people are coming are a bit light in the loafers as well... assume at least 2 bottles of wine per



per person or one bottle of booze per person. These sorts of quantities would horrify the average straight person. But straight people, by in large, are weak. Whereas, you gays know how to go to "pound town" both in the bedroom and at the bar. Besides, after the year we've all had, no one wants to be sober on a Thursday. Oh also, I'm a big believer that Thanksgiving is about the side dishes, not the bird. If you're even cooking a bird or meat at all. If you are, just remember that you lose the oven for a long time to olde Turkey Lurkey, so make sure it's worth it. Consider brining the bird ahead of time. (Old Lady Tip: if you do end up with dry white meat, use a little warm chicken or turkey stock to baste and soak it in. Your guests will never know it was dry before it hit the table and you'll have saved the day!). Oh, and music! Make sure to have good music playing. And just to keep them guessing... make sure WAP plays at least once, out of the blue. Maybe use it as the blessing.



Dear Nana,

I'm going to be alone on Thanksgiving. It's nothing depressing or anything like that. I'm actually looking forward to it. I have a huge Christmas and New Year's planned so I've decided to take Thanksgiving off, even from being a guest at someone else's table. I still want to stuff myself on Thanksgiving, though. Any advice for how to do a Thanksgiving for one?

Thanksgiving for one doesn't have to be the loneliest number. In fact, it can be one singular sensation! I find that supermarkets today are much more accommodating to solo shoppers. As a swinging single myself, I've noticed that in November you can often pick up a single Turkey breast in the meat dept. Then if you want to make your favorite sides from scratch, just cut the recipes in half or look for updated recipes online that are make for one or two. Or, just do what I do, and cook a full thanksgiving dinner for yourself and eat it over the course of the week. Actually, I've been doing that since the beginning of the Pandemic... because, fuck it! Pretty soon I won't be able to fit the turkey AND myself in the car at the same time. But who cares! Fat and happy!

Also don't forget about local restaurants. Since the pandemic many of them are offering a lot more to-go options than they used to. They'll be happy for the business and you'll save on cooking time! So maybe treat yourself, and a local small business, to gift of no cooking at all and have them do all the work for you! However, I would still recommend the same quantities of wine and booze as I did in the previous letter. Just because you're dining for one doesn't mean that Jack, Jim, Johnny, and Jose can't join you!

DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS? OF COURSE YOU DO! WHY NOT LET NANA HELP YOU?!

Send your questions to: nana@keywestgayrag.com



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AQUARIUS JAN 20 - FEB 18
You're nobody's fool, but maybe someone will adopt you.

PISCES FEB 19 - MAR 20 The next time your mind go

The next time your mind goes blank, do all of us a favor -- turn off the sound.

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

There's a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can't get away.

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 20

You're not yourself today. I noticed the improvement right away.

GEMINI MAY 21 - JUN 20

Worrying works. 90% of everything you worry about has never happened!

CANCER JUN 21 - JUL 22

Always take life with a grain of salt.... and a slice of lemon.... and a shot of tequila.

LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22

You may think the world sucks, but remember, if it didn't, we would all fall off.

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22

You are the reason that we have to put instructions on a shampoo bottle.

LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22

If you ran as much as your mouth, you would be in great shape!

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

One day you'll go far, and hopefully, you'll stay there.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

Common sense is like deodorant. The people that need it most, never use it.

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19

Now, I'm not saying your fat, but you're the only person I know that falls off both sides of the bad.







Original paintings by Key West artist Eric Haley

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