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weekly nightlife section in

WINDY
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the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Revival Food Hall

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Revival Food Hall (125 N. Clark St., RevivalFoodHall.com) aims to make quite a dent in the Loop lunch scene with what could be called a “culinary collage”—a compendium of some 15 vendors that sell everyone from tacos and catfish to health juices.

Vendors include **Aloha Poke**, **Brown Bag Seafood Co.**, **The Budlong**, **Smoque**, **Graze Kitchenette**, **Furious Spoon**, **Danke**, **The Fat Shallot**, **Harvest Juicery**, **Antique Taco Chiquito**, **Black Dog Gelato** and others.

And diners will have plenty of space to roam, as Revival is located in 24,000 square feet of The National, a historic space in the Loop.

A soft opening was held Aug. 10—and there were some standouts among the items we tried:

—The Budlong (which launched in May in Lake View at 2928 N. Broadway) served a Nashville hot chicken sandwich that was spicy and even a little sweet.

—Brown Bag Seafood Co.’s crispy shrimp roll with lobster sauce was fantastic.



From top: The Budlong; Revival Food Hall.
Photos by Andrew Davis

—Antique Taco’s crispy fish tacos really worked, thanks in part to the fish and also because of the sriracha tartar sauce.

—Harvest Juicery had several items that impressed, including the pear juice and Green Juice #1: “Straight Forward Green.” (However, be warned that a bottle of each of these juices goes for \$10.)

Revival Food Hall will officially open Thursday, Aug. 18, at 7 a.m.

Staff changes

—Michael Battocletti is the new executive chef of **Mon Ami Gabi**, 2300 Lincoln Park West. After beginning his career as a chef in his hometown St. Louis, Battocletti moved to Chicago and worked as the chef de partie and then sous chef at Next Restaurant before taking over at Mon Ami Gabi this summer. Among other things, Battocletti plans to introduce a new charcuterie program and spearhead a chef-driven happy-hour series.

—**Sable Kitchen & Bar**, 505 N. State St., has announced the promotion of Mike Jones to head bartender. John Stanton has stepped down for his post to accept the position of head bartender at the soon-to-open Kimpton Seafire Resort + Spa in Grand Cayman. A Midwest native from Cleveland, Jones brings more than 20 years of industry experience.



Mon Ami Gabi Executive Chef Michael Battocletti.

Photo by Anjali Pinto

nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

Cuba Libre: Holiday in Havana



Thu., Aug. 18, 6-9 pm

Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

Legal Council for Health Justice’s annual travel-themed fundraiser celebrates Cuban nightlife. Cuisine by 90 Miles Cuban Cafe. Entertainment and silent auction. Supporting LCHJ’s efforts to provide free legal services for the most vulnerable in our communities.

Golden Girls Trivia Night



Thu., Aug. 18, 8 pm

The Glenwood,
6962 N. Glenwood Ave.

Test your knowledge of everyone’s favorite Miami ladies! \$10 per team to play (limit of 6 members). Winning team gets 75% of the pot; second-place gets 25%. Hosted by KWizmaster Kirk Williamson.

Trikone Chicago presents Jai Ho: Summer Sutra



Fri., Aug. 19, 10 pm
Big Chicks

5024 N. Sheridan St.

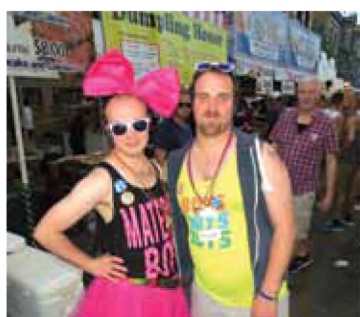
Jai Ho is a queer dance party featuring South Asian music and performances. It is open to all, so bring friends, lovers, and family. A \$5 donation that goes toward supporting future TriKone Chicago events is encouraged.

Welcome Back OTTER



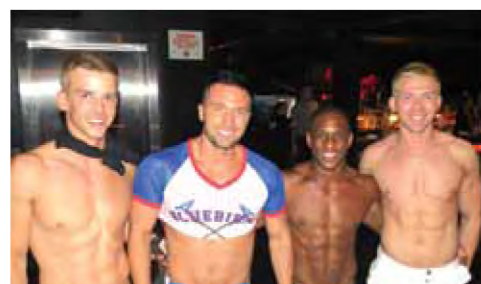
Sat., Aug. 20, 9 pm
The Sofo Tap,
4923 N. Clark St.

Go “back to school” with hot-for-teacher host Drew Skeens. DJ Moose spins your favorite ‘80s/‘90s jmas to take you back to your party days.



NORTHALSTED MARKET DAYS

Photos by Jerry Nunn



ALEGRIA @ CONCORD MUSIC HALL

Photos by Jerry Nunn



"I think the way David just described it was flawless. The fact that I was going into this event knowing that my identity is rooted in Christ and not what the result of this competition is just gave me peace."—**Steele Johnson** (a porn name if ever there was one) talks about winning the silver medal in synchronized diving with **David Boudia**, who also thanked Christ. As long as Christ wants them to have rockin' bodies, kicky haircuts and use the word "flawless," I'm happy.

Let me start this week's column by applauding the **U.S. men's gymnastic team**. Now, I'm not applauding them for any professional achievement. I'm applauding them because they've blatantly asked for the media to objectify them. And, in a striking departure from my typical sexual modus operandi, I am happy to take this direction. The team has posed for numerous shirtless pics and deluged social media with same. Prior to the Olympics, all-around national champion **Sam Mikulak** wondered how to get the attention of the American people (and, perhaps, score some financially lucrative endorsement deals post-Rio). His answer? He said, "Maybe compete with our shirts off. People make fun of us for wearing tights. But if they saw how yoked we are maybe that would make a difference." I don't know exactly what this "yoked" is, but I'm all for anything that delivers a little flesh.

NBC has received some criticism for bias against LGBT Olympians. While many parents, spouses and children of competitors are being mentioned on TV, the same cannot be said for same-sex partners. **Tom Daley's** fiancé, **Dustin Lance Black**, was shown on the screen sitting with Daley's mom—but only mum was acknowledged. After a volleyball match, **Larissa Franca** hugged her wife. The commentator said, "That is her husband. She married Lili in 2013." Huh? If you think this is all happenstance, riddle me this—why is **Greg Louganis**, possibly the greatest diver who ever lived, doing commentary for Brazilian TV and not NBC?

The Brits aren't much better. In reporting the bronze medal won by Tom Daley and Dan Goodfellow in men's synchronized diving, the UK press did something so egregious that even I was repulsed—they cropped Goodfellow right out of the photo! Headlines blazed, "Daley Wins Bronze," but relegated his lesser-known partner to the small print. I get it—Daley is a media darling (and a bobcat in the sack, btw). But still, he didn't win it alone. Shame!

If the U.S. media is here (I'm indicating a high level with my hand), and the Brits are here (somewhere in the middle), then the Daily Beast is close to the bottom of the barrel. You might have heard that a straight reporter was sent to Rio to lure gay Olympians on Grindr and out them. But that wasn't the purpose of the story (which has since been deleted). The story was ostensibly about how much sex is going on in the Olympic Village—something we've heard about for years. The writer went on both gay and straight apps looking for sex and—again, not surprising—he got more responses on Grindr than all the other apps combined. That explains why the piece was titled "I Got Three Grindr Dates In An Hour In The Olympic Village." What shocked me most is that the writer used his own photo—and let's just say he's not a looker. While no athletes are named, he included clues about the guys' events, countries, and placing. Ultimately, the takeaway is that gay men are looking for more sex than straight women—surprise, surprise. If he wanted to get a real scoop, he should have used the photo of a hot female on Tinder! My point is not to defend the writer or



Well-Strung, a caring hubby and death threats are all part of John Barrowman's (above) life.
PR photos

the Beast itself. But I do think it's important that this incident is reported by someone who actually read the article—which does not appear to include most critics.

This may come as a shock to you, but I just spent a lovely time with **John Barrowman** and his hubby, Scott Gill, in Provincetown. The duo were vacationing prior to Johnny's appearance at Boston's Comic-Con. The pair caught a number of shows while in town. The night before I arrived, they went to see **Well-Strung**, which they loved. We all went to see **Varla Jean Merman**, and I had the best time watching Barrowman—who, at one point, was laughing so hard, I thought he was going to hyperventilate. (To be fair, the sight of Merman in a burqa is quite hysterical.) We discussed my recent split-open forehead which was glued shut in an ER. Scott then told me that he sliced open one of his fingers while cutting vegetables and actually glued the wound shut himself! Johnny shared an anecdote about how pleasurable Scott's now-rough digit was, which I have filed away for future reference. It should be mentioned that Gill was quite tickled to visit the mega-popular ScottCakes shop in Provincetown, owned by my pal Scott Cunningham. You must sample his sinfully delicious treats—Cunningham's, not Gill's.

I also asked Barrowman about a death threat he received. The organizers of Montreal Comic-Con received an email from someone on the West Coast threatening a number of minority groups and targeting Johnny specifically. John refused to cancel, saying, "I wasn't gonna let the bastards win." But he wouldn't risk the well-being of his fans. So he was in a separate room and his talk was transmitted via video. As to meeting, greeting and autographing, security arranged limited groups to visit Barrowman in person, and everyone was served—so to speak.

I was fortunate enough to see the incomparable **Billy Stritch** at the Provincetown Jazz Festival. The sold-out show at the Crown & Anchor was a tribute to Mel Tormé. I am consistently overwhelmed by the limitless talent Stritch possesses, and this show was no exception. You should definitely see him if he appears anywhere in your vicinity.

The LGBT for Hillary Gala will take place at Cipriani on Wall Street in NYC on Sept. 9, and that event will feature a performance by **Barbra Streisand**! Tix range from \$1,200 to \$250,000, and the top price includes a meet-and-greet—obviously, not with Barbra, but with **Hillary**!

When I'm trying to decide if I want to be the "yoker" or the "yokee," it's definitely time to end yet another column. PHEW: Between the Olympics and Ptown, I'm exhausted—and running out of lube. But, I'm not so tired that I can't update www.BillyMasters.com—the site that likes its men over easy. Although I didn't have room for an "Ask Billy" question, you can always write to me at Bill@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before Barrowman buys a burqa! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.



Golden Girls TRIVIA NIGHT

WELL, PARDON ME WHILE I PLAY THE GRAND PIANO!

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18 8 PM

- CHALLENGING QUESTIONS •
- VIDEO AND DRAG ROUNDS •
- DRINK SPECIALS •

FOLLOWED BY DJ FOXFONIX KICK-OFF OF THIS YEAR'S GLENWOOD AVE. ARTS FEST

\$10 PER TEAM TO PLAY (max of 6 per team)
1st place team gets 75% of the pot,
2nd place gets 25%

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Market Days turns 35

Northalsted Market Days—the largest two-day festival in the Midwest took place—took place Aug. 13-14 on Halsted Street between Belmont Avenue and Addison Street. It was the 35th anniversary of the event, which is hosted by the Northalsted Business Alliance. Among the many acts that performed were Deborah Cox (pictured above), Diana King, Alex Newell, Erika Jayne, Jake Miller and Lez Zeppelin. Superstar Lady Gaga was also there, making an unannounced appearance. And there were, of course, dozens of vendors for the tens of thousands of people who attended.

Among those benefiting from the event's proceeds were the Northalsted Business Alliance (for its neighborhood safety and beautification projects) and The Legacy Project, the world's first outdoor museum, featuring LGBTQ icons throughout history. Visit Northalsted.com.

Photos by Kat Fitzgerald (www.MysticImagesPhotography.com) and Ed Negron

