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nightspots

weekly nightlife section in



Trans organization hosts 'Unicorn Ball'

BY ED NEGRON

Hundreds of people braved the last of the April showers—which were more like downpours—to attend the first-ever Unicorn Ball, which the Trans Liberation Collective hosted at Shapiro Ballroom.

The ball was a fundraiser to help open a center with the group's sibling organizations, Brave Space Alliance and the Chicago BTGNC (Black, Trans and Gender-Nonconforming) Collective. Every dollar raised will go toward obtaining a physical space for Chicago's first Black, trans-led LGBTQ resource center and the hiring of its initial staff. Organizers stated, "We hope that, with your help, we can create a space for our communities to be safe, loved, and thrive in their truths. We hope to see you all there, so we can each let our inner unicorns out together."

The truly intersectional crowd was treated to a fun night full of performances that included storytelling, live music, burlesque, lip-synching and guest DJs. In a separate room were resource tables from various TGNC and TGNC-affirming community organizations as well as silent-auction tables and raffle prizes, with many Chicago TGNC artists donating said items. Lastly, the ball would not be complete without a unicorn cake.

To learn more about the Trans Liberation Collective, visit www.facebook.com/TransLiberationCollective. Info about Brave Space Alliance and Chicago BTGNC Collective are, respectively, at BraveSpaceAlliance.org and BTGNC-Collective.wordpress.com.



SIDETRACK

Glowin' in the dark.
Photos by Jed Dulanias



Photos by Ed Negron

the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Roanoke; Andersonville Wine Walk

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Weekday lunchtime in Chicago's Loop is a boon for the area's many eateries. However, many of them suffer from a relative lack of business during the evenings and especially the weekends—when the many office denizens can't be found (al-



Mussels at Roanoke.
Photo by Andrew Davis

though some places benefit from theatergoers).

Such is the case with **Roanoke Restaurant and Club** (135 W. Madison St.; TheRoanokeRestaurant.com), a contemporary American spot that deserves to be crowded every minute that it's open. The decor is sleekly comfortable, the service is (mostly) attentive—and the food and drink will have you returning.

Housed in the Roanoke Building & Tower (hence the restaurant's name), the spot sports a menu that's varied and not too challenging. Snacks/starters at dinner range from braised oxtail taquitos to slightly kicky Miller High Life mussels (not Belgian Ale ones, as the menu states) to Southern fried chicken (with cheddar biscuits) that ranks pretty high on my personal scale of one to Table Fifty-two.

The tasty fare expanded to the entrees, which consisted of rotisserie porchetta and the most tender Scottish salmon I've had in quite some time. Even the Brussels sprouts were nice, dot-

Turn to page 37



BILLY Masters

will return next week.

DISH from page 36

ted with heavenly bits of pork belly. (The server forgot the mac 'n' cheese—but my dining companion and I didn't mind that much, as we were pretty full from what was served.) Vegetarians are hardly excluded here, thanks to dishes such as the hearth-baked butternut-squash rotolo.

By the way, make some room for a drink or two. I'm in love with the Old Colony 75 (a take on the French 75), and the refreshing Clarity isn't far behind.

Upcoming wine walk

Andersonville Wine Walk will once again invite guests to walk, sip and shop their way through the district on Sunday, May 21, 3-6 p.m.

The Wine Walk will feature 26 of Andersonville's businesses, including Candyality, Kru Strength + Fitness, Jerry's, Martha Mae Art Supplies & Beautiful Things, Andersonville Galleria, Notice, Orange Shoe Personal Fitness, TrueNorth Cafe, and Revive Massage Therapy and Spa.

Tickets to Andersonville Wine Walk include admission, wine tastings and a one-of-a-kind commemorative wine glass. Check-in for the walk will begin at 1 p.m. at the Swedish American Museum, 5211 N. Clark St., on May 21. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit Andersonville.org.

Note: Restaurant profiles/events are based on invitations arranged from restaurants and/or firms.

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