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Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR Truluck's; Andersonville Restaurant Week

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Truluck's Seafood, Steak and Crab House (41 E. Chestnut St.; <https://trulucks.com/locations/downtown-chicago-illinois/>) is one of the most recent restaurants in a city that has so many steakhouses that they range from the traditional (like Gene and Georgetti as well as Gibsons) to flashier, more contemporary models (STK Chicago).

And if you're not sure what type of establishment you're entering (located in what was seafood restaurant McCormick & Schmick's), look no further than the spot's website, which states, "We are business casual. Thank you for not wearing tank tops, sleeveless shirts, flip-flops, gym wear or short shorts. Dress shorts are acceptable. Please remove your hat when entering the restaurant." (Still, it's not like it's requiring suits—but don't think about donning a



Truluck's miso-glazed sea bass.
PR photo

muscle shirt.)

My friend and I knew we were in for an intriguing evening when we met our server, Rico, who said he's from Tierra del Fuego, Chile, and was once a Calvin Klein model (breaking out photos from his phone as we sat in disbelief).

What followed was, overall, a wonderful experience, with every diner's need being catered to. (Yes—I notice the people around me as well.)

Regarding drinks, I started with the Voila, which Rico insisted I get because "it comes with a show." I was afraid where this might go, but the "show" involved my drink bubbling and smoking like a witch's cauldron because of the dry ice it contains.

Things then progressed to stone-crab claws, which Truluck's is known for, as it has its own fisheries. The claws were meaty, indeed, and tasty even without the accompanying sauce. (However, one large claw is \$24, so one may want to tread carefully.) The crab cakes (and I'm a snob about these items) were actually impressive—sizeable

items with very little breading and full of plump crab.

A lobster bisque was very good (and the added goat cheese turned out to be necessary for taste and viscosity). Sides like the king-crab mac 'n cheese and kung pao cauliflower were surprisingly hit-or-miss, although my friend absolutely loved the cheddar grits.

As for the entrees, my friend had a New York strip that was done expertly—and I had to say the same for my miso-glazed sea bass, accompanied by cucumber slaw. (I wish the dish were larger, but that just be my greed talking.)

One other note: I have to give a shout-out to Nyla McDaniel, the chanteuse/pianist who beautifully sang songs by everyone from Aretha Franklin to Gnarl Barkley—and somehow her voice carried even though she didn't sing loudly.

Truluck's (which has social-hour and gluten-free menus, by the way) is a Houston-based chain

that has spots in Texas and Florida, with Chicago its foray into the Midwest. It's a most welcome addition to the Windy City.

Andersonville Restaurant Week

The Andersonville Chamber of Commerce is hosting this winter's Andersonville Restaurant Week through March 4, highlighting some two dozen Andersonville eateries.

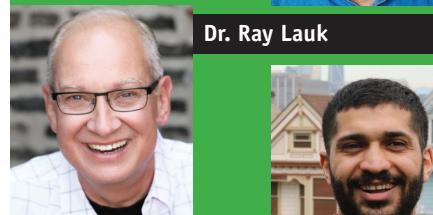
Each of the participating restaurants will offer at least one menu option priced at either \$10, \$20 or \$30 per person; however, many are expanding their focus this year to also include breakfast, brunch, drinks and lunch as well as dinner options. A few of the participating spots will include Appellation, Bar Roma, Big Jones, First Slice Pie Cafe, Hamburger Mary's, Hutch American Kitchen + Bar, Reza's and Vincent.

Visit Andersonville.org/events-2/andersonville-restaurant-week/.

Sidetrack's OUTspoken! Series: March's featured storytellers



Caleb Hearon



Hasan Kilani

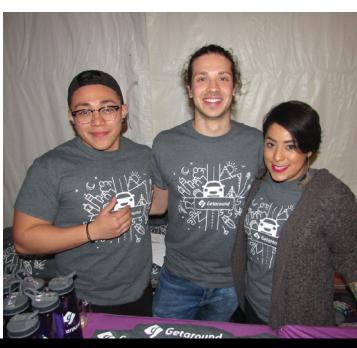
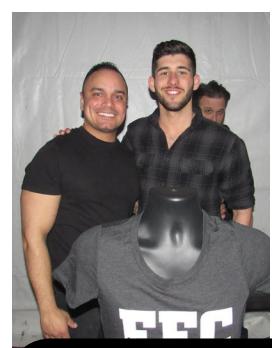


Grant Swanson



The March edition of OUTspoken! LGBTQ storyteller series takes place Tuesday, March 6, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. Doors open at 6 pm, stories begin at 7.

See www.outspokenchicago.com for more info.



FROST FEST '18

Northalsted's Frost Fest returned to Boystown Feb. 24 and 25, raising money for Hope for the Day, a suicide prevention organization. The event took place under a tent with many beer vendors and a DJ to keep the party going.

Photos by Jerry Nunn

—**Nicholas "Bear" Bade** is a 37-year-old transgender male. He holds two second-degree black belts and a license in structural massage therapy. After he beats you up on the dojo mats, he can put you back together on the massage table, and then he'll be more than happy to make you a fantastic cappuccino and discuss coffee and food pairings. At 37 years old, Bear is excited to celebrate his third name day coming up on March 25.

—**Caleb Hearon** is a rural Missouri transplant living and performing in Chicago. You can find him performing regularly at The Crowd Theater and irregularly at i0, Second City and The Annoyance. He is currently performing on college campuses and at improv festivals with his teams Fancy, Fancy and Paris, Texas. Caleb talks about Julia Roberts, the Dixie Chicks and being gay far too much but it's, like, endearing (he hopes).

—**Dr. Ray Lauk** is the owner of Dr. Ray's Toffee and is also a professional speaker and educator. As a professed "late-in-life gay," Ray is intent on making his second 50 years of life even more fun and exciting than the first 50. This October, Ray will be running his eighth Chicago Marathon in the last ten years.

—**Hasan Kilani** is an LGBT activist and co-founder of the first LGBTQ organization in Jordan. Since June 2017, Hasan has been serving with Human Rights Organization in Chicago as part of the fellowship program. Travelling, meeting new people and trying new foods are among his hobbies.

—**Allison Reese** is a comedian/ musician who performs in the Chicago Area. She is a former Bob Curry Fellow at the Second City and is the creator of Matt Damon Improv at the Annoyance Theatre.

—**Grant Swanson** was born and raised in Omaha, Neb. He attended North Central College and later taught sixth grade at St. Francis Indian School on the Rosebud Lakota Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. In 2015, he enrolled at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, began his ordination process as a deacon within the United Methodist Church and became a proud member of Urban Village Church: Wicker Park. Grant just married his partner of five years, Connor Showalter, on February 18.



BILLY Masters

"I want to normalize relationships like this. It's good for the world; it's good for me as a gay man with kids."—**Ricky Martin** explains how he hopes *The Assassination of Gianni Versace* makes gay open relationships more socially acceptable.

The Mardi Gras known as **Billy Masters' birthday** is slowly inching to a close after partying on two coasts. And one of the ways I did that was by seeing *Bananarama* on the act's first-ever North American tour. Admittedly, four dates make for a pretty paltry tour, but the capacity crowd at The Novo in Los Angeles was out of control as the girls played more hits than you even knew they had. Back in 2006, when *Bananarama* made a stop in LA as a duo, I sat down with Sara and Keren. We talked about them performing at LA Pride, and they asked if I thought gay men would come out to see them. Duh! The glitch was they didn't have background tracks without vocals—"but you guys could play the records and we could get up and dance," they said. I thought about that during this concert. While there was a band onstage, there were also background tracks and perfectly synced videos. So, I cannot attest to how much actual "singing" was going on. But for 90 minutes and 19 songs, the audience loved every second!



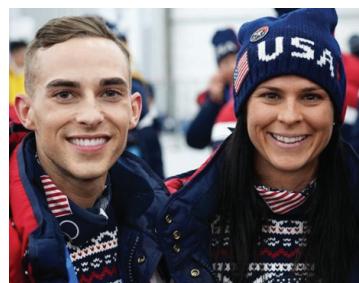
It's easy to see why actor **Russell Tovey** is engaged to **Steve Brockman** (above).

Image from Brockman's Instagram account

the games. This was news to Adam.

On Feb. 19, he tweeted, "I am flattered that NBC wanted me to work as a correspondent for them here in PyeongChang. Doing this would require me to leave Team USA and move out of the Olympic Village. I don't want to do that so I had to decline the opportunity." And, yes, that is exactly what he wrote! He added, "I love being on Team USA and representing our country. My teammates were there for me during the events, and now I NEED to be there for them. I look forward to being with them, and I'm very excited for the rest of the competition. Go Team USA!!!"

Gus Kenworthy made history when NBC tele-



Left: The kiss seen around the world: **Gus Kenworthy** (left) and boyfriend **Matt Wilkas**. See page 27 for more Olympic news. Right: **Adam Rippon** with **Brittany Bowe**, out and proud.

From Instagram

Each year, **Jeffrey Sanker** works hard to top himself, and each year I tell him to stretch first—that kinda activity could kill ya! This year, with his legendary White Party in Palm Springs, he has certainly outdone himself. Sanker has secured the services of **Kylie Minogue**! The party is April 27-30, and Kylie will be performing at the Sunday Tea Dance, and I can assure you that she will most definitely be singing LIVE! You can grab tickets to this sure-to-sell-out event at JeffreySanker.com.

I dunno about you, but I am all Olympic-ed out! But for a brief moment things appeared to be looking up with the announcement that **Adam Rippon** would be doing commentary for NBC. Then he wasn't. Then he was ... after hearing about the job via Twitter! Then he wasn't again. Frankly, if he spun this quickly in mid-air, he could have taken the gold! Here's how it all went down. On Feb. 18, NBC's spokesperson said that Rippon would be a correspondent for the rest of

vised him kissing his boyfriend before competing in the slopestyle ski. Gus was amused by all the attention: "Didn't realize this moment was being filmed yesterday but I'm so happy that it was. My childhood self would never have dreamed of seeing a gay kiss on TV at the Olympics but for the first time ever a kid watching at home CAN! Love is love is love."

Another athletic gay made a bit of news last week. Actor **Russell Tovey** announced his engagement to rugby player **Steve Brockman**, posting, "Completely unexpected but very very happy and looking forward to having a proper party to celebrate when back in London." Then we learned that Tovey's fiance has done some "adult film work" for Randy Blue under the name Ryan Stack. According to reports, he's done three hardcore sex scenes with partners and one solo scene. But despite the paucity of footage, he performed well enough to make it to the Randy Blue Hall of Fame. You can check out his body of work

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It's easy to see why actor **Russell Tovey** is engaged to **Steve Brockman** (above).
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on BillyMasters.com.

I can't tell you how many have written in asking for nude photos of **James Maslow**—probably because on Big Brother After Dark, he expressed concern that he might have made a "dick slip" on the live feed. I won't devote a full "Ask Billy" paragraph about this because nothing has come forward ... yet. But if you'd like to see what Marissa was drooling over, I'll post some hot photos on BillyMasters.com.

When people are wondering how big a brother Maslow is, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Congratulations to **Marissa Jaret Winokur** for winning *Celebrity Big Brother*. And congrats to **Ross Mathews** for being voted America's Favorite Houseguest—a prize he definitely deserves! This was one of those situations where I would have been happy with either winner, since I love them both. And, of course, all my famous friends check out BillyMasters.com—the home of brotherly love ... but only in places where that's legal! If you have a question for me, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com. So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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