



Special double combo issue of Triangle Downtowner Magazine and BOOM! Magazine





MAILING ADDRESS: PO Box 27603 Raleigh, NC 27611 OFFICE: 402 Glenwood Avenue | Raleigh, NC 27603 www.WeLoveDowntown.com Please call to schedule an office appointment

# 919.828.8000

ADVERTISING AND GENERAL OFFICE INQUIRIES: www.WeLoveDowntown.com/contactus

> PRESS RELEASES press@welovedowntown.com

PUBLISHER & CO-FOUNDER	Crash Gregg
CO-FOUNDERS	Randall Gregg, Sig Hutchinson
FOOD EDITOR	Brian Adornetto
LEAD DESIGNER	Cyndi Harris
VISIBILITY DEVELOPMENT	Geo Chunn
PHOTOGRAPHERS	Dave Gill, Randy Bryant,
	Darryl Morrow, Crash Gregg
WRITERS/COPY EDITORS	Brian Adornetto, Christy Griffith,
	Chika Gujarathi, Russell Pinkston,
	Allan Maurer, James Voltz,
	Liz Olivieri, J.B. Hartman
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT	Olivia Modling, Denise Sherman,
	Alex McTighe

The Triangle Downtowner Magazine and BOOM! Magazine are locallyowned monthly print magazines dedicated to coverage of the Triangle area. Current and archived issues of the Downtowner are available at

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# TRIANGLE**DOWNTOWNER**MAGAZINE — ISSUE 130

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Mittens Do you dream about

having a pet but worry your long

hours at work would be unfair to

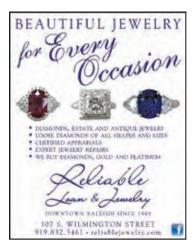
a sociable new friend? Mittens could be the answer. Mittens is

an independent cat that won't

have a problem keeping an eye

on things while you're away.

She's been waiting almost six





This is the first of a monthly column highlighting some of the dogs and cats who have called the SPCA of Wake County home for far too long. Since the SPCA is a no-kill shelter, their adoptable pets stay with them as long as it takes them to find a home. This means that when the shelter is full, there's no available space for new pets. Some of these wonderful animals are older or have traits that require special attention or medications but want and need to be loved all the same. We hope you'll consider giving one of these (and the many other) long-timers a place to call home where they can feel safe and be cared for. Visit the SPCA of Wake County for more overlooked pets who could use a new family. You can also visit www.spcawake.org/longtimers or call 919.772.2326.



months for a cat-savvy person who understands her. Mittens is a low-maintenance cat who doesn't expect, or want, her human to be constantly interacting with her. Think of Mittens as the ideal roommate - you have someone else around, but you aren't obligated to always be together. If you think you and Mittens would get along, call 919-772-2326 to speak with an adoption counselor. You can read her full profile at www.spcawake.org/adopt (Photo McCormick & Moore)

Waylon is much more fun than his brown tabby coat leads you to believe. If Waylon's personality matched his appearance, you would be looking at multicolored squiggles and polka dots instead of brown tabby stripes. He has been waiting for almost eight months to find a very special someone to adopt him. Waylon wants a family who wants to spend time with him. He likes people so much he would prefer to be the only feline in the home so he can have your undi-



vided attention. His new family will need to have a sense of humor, as Waylon will keep things interesting. He is about two years old and loves to be brushed. Waylon is FIV positive, but can still lead a happy, healthy life. To speak with an adoption counselor and learn more about him, call 919-772-2326.Read his full profile at www.spcawake.org/adopt. (Photo McCormick & Moore).

This space is donated to the SPCA of Wake County by Triangle Downtowner Magazine because we love our furry friends.



All the votes are counted, tallied, and in the books for the **8th Annual Best of ADowntowner Awards**. Our team has spent the last few weeks compiling and sifting through all your votes and it was exciting to see the winners begin to emerge as we got closer to finishing. There are lots of new names in this year's list, largely due to the many new businesses opening throughout 2016. Downtown Raleigh, along with North Hills, North Raleigh, downtown Durham, Cary, and Wake Forest have all enjoyed tremendous growth during the last year. In Wake County alone, there are over 60 new people moving in EVERY DAY. All those new people are helping to drive lots of traffic to both new and existing businesses.

It's refreshing to see that our Triangle-wide readers have such diverse and eclectic tastes for dining, entertainment, and business services. As always, the food and drink categories garnered the most votes and, judging by your picks, many of the most popular restaurants use locally sourced, sustainable ingredients, and make a great attempt at

being involved in their local community. In general, the foodie scene across the entire Triangle is pretty amazing and we're lucky to have so many great styles, price ranges, and dining categories to choose from.

We're proud to continue featuring only locally owned businesses in the Best of Downtowner Awards, and equally proud to see a few other magazines have begun doing the same. Buying local ensures more of our spending dollars stay right here in our local economy helping to create (and keep) jobs, drive growth, and show support for our community. So, be sure to always buy local first!

We hope this list provides you with plenty of new restaurants to choose from, businesses to patron, and interesting things to do! Be sure to watch for "Best of Downtowner Awards" stickers on business doors and windows and you'll know there's something good waiting for you inside. A huge *Thank You* to all who voted this year and helped to make the Best of Downtowner Awards a great way to support local business.

#### All Reader Favorites are listed in alphabetical order.

# **BEST APPETIZERS**

Bida Manda Laotian Restaurant Reader Favorites Crawford and Son Humble Pie Whiskey Kitchen

# **BEST SANDWICHES**

La Farm Bakery Reader Favorites Clyde Cooper's Barbeque Linus & Peppers The Pharmacy Cafe Remedy Diner Side Street Café

# **BEST STEAKS**

Angus Barn Reader Favorites Stanbury Standard Foods Sullivan's Vinnie's Steakhouse

# **BEST SUSHI**

Waraji Reader Favorites Cowfish M Sushi Mura Shiki Sushi Sono

# BEST SEAFOOD

42nd Street Oyster Bar Reader Favorites 18 Seaboard Margaux's Restaurant Second Empire

#### BEST PIZZA Lilly's Pizza

Reader Favorites DeMo's Pizzeria Mellow Mushroom Moonlight Pizza Mothers & Sons Trattoria Patrick Jane's Bar & Bistro

#### BEST TACOS Gonza Taco y Tequila Reader Favorites Centro Gringo A Go Go

Gringo A Go Go Jose & Sons Bar & Kitchen Virgil's Tacos Wicked Taco

# **BEST BBQ**

Wake County: The Pit Durham County: Allen & Son Barbecue Reader Favorites Big Al's BBQ Clyde Cooper's Barbeque City Barbeque Danny's Barbecue Ole Time BBQ The Q Shack

#### **BEST RIBS**

Angus Barn Reader Favorites Bu•ku Clouds Brewing Clyde Cooper's Barbeque The Pit

# Sullivan's Steakhouse BEST BURGERS

Wake County: Bad Daddy's Burger Bar Durham County: Bull City Burger Chatham/Orange County: Al's Burger Shack Reader Favorites Abbey Road Chuck's MoJoe's Burger Joint Player's Retreat The Station Whiskey Kitchen

# **BEST MAC & CHEESE**

Poole's Diner Reader Favorites Big Ed's City Market Capital Club 16



Chef Scott Crawford of the newly opened Crawford and Son

Dame's Chicken and Wattles My Way Tavern Oak City Meatball Shoppe Relish

# **BEST CHICKEN WINGS**

Woody's City Market Reader Favorites Carolina Ale House Clouds Brewing DeMo's Pizzeria & Deli H Street Kitchen Lynnwood Grill & Brewing Concern Sono

# **BEST FRIED CHICKEN**

Wake County: Clyde Cooper's Barbeque Durham County: The Pit



David's Dumpling and Noodle Bar chef-owner David Mao

Chatham/Orange County: Mama Dip's Reader Favorites Beasley's Chicken & Honey Dame's Chicken and Waffles The Pit Tupelo Honey Cafe

# BEST HOT DOGS

The Cardinal Reader Favorites CharGrill Cloos' Coney Island Snoopy's Hot Dogs Tasty 8's Hot Dog Co. Roast Grill

# BEST GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH

Relish Reader Favorites American Meltdown Food Truck Side Street Restaurant The Station Whiskey Kitchen

# BEST OYSTERS

42nd Street Oyster Bar Reader Favorites Mandolin Provenance Royale Stanbury BEST FRENCH FRIES Carolina Ale House Reader Favorites Bad Daddy's Burger Bar Chuck's Burgers Coquette Brasserie NOFO @ the Pig

#### BEST ONION RINGS Bad Daddy's Burger Bar

Reader Favorites Carolina Ale House MoJoe's Burgers Pharaoh's Grill

#### BEST DUMPLINGS David's Dumpling & Noodle Bar Reader Favorites Chirba Chirba Dumpling Kimbap Cafe Pho Pho Pho Noodle Kitchen and Bar

BEST DESSERTS Wake County: Lucettegrace Durham County: Guglhupf Bakery & Patisserie Chatham/Orange County: Weathervane Café Reader Favorites Biltersweet Crawford and Son Hayes Barton Café

#### Irregardless Cafe Sugarland BEST VEGETABIAN

Irregardless Cafe Reader Favorites Azitra Restaurant Fiction Kitchen Living Kitchen Neomonde Mediterranean Remedy Diner

#### BEST BLOODY MARY NOFO @ the Pig

Reader Favorites Clouds Brewing Raleigh Times Bar Stanbury Tupelo Honey Café Whiskey Kitchen

# BEST MARGARITAS

Centro Reader Favorites Cantina 18 Calavera Empanadas and Tequila Gonza Taco y Tequila Gringo A Go Go Jose & Sons Kitchen and Bar BEST MARTINIS Sullivan's Steakhouse

#### Reader Favorites C Grace Coquette Brasserie Fox Liquor Bar

**BEST LOCAL CRAFT BEER** 

#### Trophy Wife from Trophy Brewing Reader Favorites Hell Yes Ma'am from Raleigh Brewing Angry Angel from Big Boss Brewing

#### BEST LOCAL LIQUOR Topo Vodka

Reader Favorites Durham Distillery Pinetop Distillery Raleigh Rum

# **BEST CATERING COMPANY**

Catering Works Reader Favorites Ladyfingers Caterers Posh Nosh Catering Rocky Top Catering Sweet Magnolias

Royale

# **BEST NEW RESTAURANT**

Wake County: Crawford and Son Durham County: The Restaurant at The Durham Hotel Chatham/Orange County: Pizzeria Mercato Reader Favorites H Street Kitchen M Sushi Mothers & Sons NanaSteak

#### Tandem Whiskey Kitchen

# **FAVORITE GO-TO RESTAURANT**

Bida Manda Laotian Restaurant

Reader Favorites Humble Pie Mandolin NOFO @ the Pig Stanbury Taverna Agora

#### **MOST FAMILY-FRIENDLY** RESTAURANT

Cowfish Sushi Burger Bar Reader Favorites Bad Daddy's Burger Bar Cantina 18 Clyde Cooper's Barbeque Elmo's Diner The Pharmacy Café

### **BEST ITALIAN CUISINE**

Wake County: Bella Monica Italian Restaurant **Durham County: Gocciolina** Reader Favorites Caffe Luna Daniel's Restaurant Mia Francesca Gravv Mothers & Sons Vic's Italian Restaurant and Pizzeria

#### **BEST MEXICAN/CENTRAL AMERICAN CUISINE**

Centro Reader Favorites El Rodeo Gringo A Go Go Jose & Sons Kitchen and Bar Totopos Food and Tequila

#### BEST MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE Neomonde Mediterranean

Reader Favorites Jasmin Mediterranean Bistro Mediterranean Deli Sassool Sitti Taverna Agora

# **BEST JAPANESE CUISINE**

Waraji Reader Favorites M Sushi Mura Sono Sushi O

# **BEST CHINESE CUISINE**

**Five Star Restaurant** Reader Favorites Beansprout Chinese Peace China Red Dragon Chinese Restaurant

# BEST FRENCH CUISINE

**Coquette Brasserie** Reader Favorites La Farm Bakery & Café Rovale Saint Jacques

# **BEST INDIAN CUISINE**

Azitra Indian Reader Favorites Cilantro Indian Cafe Kabob and Curry Roval India

#### **BEST THAI CUISINE** Sawasdee Thai

Reader Favorites Lemongrass Thai Thaiphoon Bistro

The Neomonde family

**BEST BREAKFAST** 

Big Ed's City Market

Reader Favorites

Brigs Restaurant

Happy + Hale

Flying Biscuit Cafe

The Pharmacy Café

Sola Coffee Cafe

**BEST BRUNCH** 

Reader Favorites

Wake County: Bu•ku

**Durham County: The Restaurant** 

at The Durham Hotel

Chatham/Orange County:

Weathervane Café

**Rise Biscuits & Donuts** 

# **BEST LOCAL COFFEE SHOP**

Morning Times Reader Favorites 42 & Lawrence Brew Coffee Bar Devolve Moto Jubala Coffee Sola Coffee Cafe Third Place Coffee

#### **BEST LOCAL BAKERY** La Farm Bakery & Café

Reader Favorites Boulted Bread Guolhupf Bakery & Patisserie Neomonde Mediterranean Yellow Dog Bread Co.



Johnny Berry, Whiskey Kitchen's Master of Spirits

Clouds Brewing Elmo's Diner Irregardless Cafe Rue Cler Tazza Kitchen Tupelo Honey Café

# BEST LOCAL COFFEE ROASTER

Larry's Coffee Reader Favorites Counter Culture Coffee Oak City Roasters Raleigh Coffee Company

# **BEST HEALTHY FOOD**

Happy + Hale Reader Favorites B Good Living Kitchen Neomonde Mediterranean

# **BEST CHEAP EATS**

Mitch's Tavern Reader Favorites Armadillo Grill Carolina Ale House Clyde Cooper's Barbeque Elmo's Diner Mami Nora's Player's Retreat

# **BEST SOUTHERN FOOD**

**Clyde Cooper's Barbeque** Reader Favorites Beasley's Chicken & Honey Big Ed's City Market Farmers Market Restaurant The Q Shack The Pit Tupelo Honey Café Watkin's Grill Whiskey Kitchen

#### **BEST RESTAURANT FOR A** BUSINESS MEETING

Second Empire Restaurant Reader Favorites 18 Seaboard Angus Barn Bida Manda Death & Taxes Fairview Dining Room at the Washington Duke Inn Heron's at Umstead Sullivan's Steakhouse

>>>

# Thank you for voting us BEST HAIR SALON FOR WOMEN in this year's

Best of Downtowner Awards!

Come see us and find out why! 119 E Hargett St, 2nd Floor, Downtown Raleigh 919.832.6239 · www.alteregoraleigh.com







Bida Manda brother and sister team, Vanvisa and Vansana Nolintha

#### **BEST DIVE BAR**

Slim's Downtown Distillery Reader Favorites Black Flower Deep South Bar Flash House The Goat

#### **BEST FOOD TRUCK**

Cockadoodlemoo Reader Favorites American Meltdown Chirba Chirba Pho Nomenal Dumplings Porchetta

# **BEST BAR FOOD**

**Carolina Ale House** Reader Favorites Clouds Brewing Hibernian Pub My Way Tavern Raleigh Beer Garden Raleigh Times Bar The Point At Glenwood

#### MOST IMPRESSIVE WINE LIST

Mandolin Reader Favorites Angus Barn Second Empire Restaurant Standard Foods

#### **BEST CRAFT BEER SELECTION**

**Raleigh Beer Garden** Reader Favorites Carolina Ale House Clouds Brewing Flying Saucer Parkside Raleigh Times Bar Whiskey Kitchen Yard House

#### **RESTAURANT WITH THE BEST CRAFT COCKTAILS**

Stanbury Reader Favorites C Grace Clockwork Fox Liquor Bar Rovale Whiskey Kitchen

# **BEST BAR IN A BREWERY**

Lynwood Grill & Brewing Concern Reader Favorites Aviator Brewing Company Crank Arm Brewery Fullsteam Brewery Raleigh Brewing Company Trophy Brewing **BEST RESTAURANT** 

# **OUTSIDE PATIO**

**Raleigh Beer Garden** 

#### Reader Favorites Humble Pie Jimmy V's London Bridge Pub Taverna Agora Whiskey Kitchen

# **BEST WHISKEY SELECTION**

Whiskey Kitchen Reader Favorites Dram and Draught Foundation Havana Deluxe **BEST SPORTS BAR** 

# **Carolina Ale House**

Reader Favorites Player's Retreat Tobacco Road Sports Café Woody's City Market

# FRIENDLIEST STAFF

Whiskey Kitchen Reader Favorites Big Ed's Restaurant DeMo's Pizzeria & Deli Milk Bar NOFO @ The Pig

# Raleigh Raw

**BEST DECOR** Durham 21c & Counting House Reader Favorites Bida Manda Durham Hotel & Restaurant

# **BEST PLACE TO GO DANCING**

Leaends Nightclub Reader Favorites Coglin's Neptunes Parlour Ruby Deluxe

# **BEST IRISH PUB**

**Doherty's Irish Pub** Reader Favorites Hibernian Pub James Joyce Saints & Scholars Pub

#### **BEST PLACE FOR** LATE NIGHT FOOD

DeMo's Pizzeria & Deli Reader Favorites Armadillo Grill Capital Club 16 Five Star MoJoe's Burger Joint Snoopy's Hot Dogs

#### BEST NEIGHBORHOOD BAR Havana Deluxe

TRIANGLE DOWNTOWNER MAGAZINE THE TRIANGLE'S PREMIER MONTHLY ISSUE 130

Reader Favorites Mitch's Tavern My Way Tavern Person Street Bar Player's Retreat Whiskey Kitchen

#### **BEST PLACE TO HEAR** JAZZ MUSIC

C Grace Reader Favorites Beyu Caffe Brasa Brazilian Steakhouse Humble Pie Irregardless Cafe'

# **BEST CUSTOMER SERVICE**

The Raleigh Wine Shop Reader Favorites 42 & Lawrence Angus Barn Brigg's Hardware Heat Studios Raleigh Raleigh Raw

# **BEST HAIR SALON FOR WOMEN**

Alter Eao Reader Favorites Bottega Junction Salon & Bar Loxxe

# **BEST HAIR SALON FOR MEN**

Arrow Haircuts Reader Favorites Salon Blu Tesoro Hair Designs Thairapy 101

# **BEST AUTO REPAIR SHOP**

Allen's Automotive Reader Favorites Benchmark Autoworks Brown's Alignment & Auto Repair Renaissance Auto Care

# **BEST LOCAL PHARMACY**

Person Street Pharmacy Reader Favorites Hayes Barton Pharmacy Glenwood South Pharmacy and Market Greystone Village Pharmacy



The environmental superhero Larry Larson of Larry's Coffee

**BEST PLACE TO ADOPT A PET** 

Wake County SPCA

Saving Grace Rescue

Quail Ridge Books

**BEST LOCAL BOOKSTORE** 

**BEST VINTAGE FURNITURE STORE** 

Reader Favorites

Cause for Paws

Second Chance

Reader Favorites

Letter's Bookshop

Nice Price Books

Reader's Corner

Father & Son

Reader Favorites

Hunt & Gather

Form & Function

Union Camp Collective

### **BEST LOCAL TAILOR**

Lee's Tailors Reader Favorites Glenwood South Tailors North Hills Tailor

#### **BEST LOCAL GYM 02** Fitness

Reader Favorites CORE Fitness Studio Heat Studios Raleigh Madabolic Fitness

#### **BEST MED SPA / DAY SPA** Synergy Spa & Aesthetics

Reader Favorites Dilworth Bodyworks Glo De Vie Med Spa Skin Raleigh The Umstead Hotel & Spa

#### **BEST CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE** Triangle Chiropractic

& Rehabilitation Reader Favorites Chiropractic Partners Crabtree Chiropractic Center Oak City Chiropractic

#### **BEST TATTOO PARLOR Blue Flame Tattoo**

Reader Favorites Mad Ethel's Tattoo Oak City Tattoos Phoenix Tattoo Studio

#### **BEST PLASTIC SURGEON** Cynthia Gregg, MD

# Reader Favorites Davis & Pyle Plastic Surgery Synergy Spa & Aesthetics

#### **BEST DENTAL OFFICE** Renaissance Dental

Reader Favorites Ashley Lloyd, DDS Downtown Dental Rebecca Schmorr, DDS Stanley Dentistry Tryon Family Dentistry

#### **BEST VETERINARIAN City Vet**

Reader Favorites Care First Animal Hospital Hidden Valley Animal Hospital Dr. Marlon Sequeira, DVM (mobile vet) Quail Corners Veterinary Hospital Raleigh Community Animal Hospital

# **BEST PLACE FOR YOGA**

110 Yoga Reader Favorites Bliss Body Yoga Blue Lotus Core Power Yoga Indigo Hot Yoga Center Open Door Yoga



Pharmacist-owner Trey Waters and staff from Person Street Pharmacy

### **BEST ANTIQUE SHOP**

**Revival Antiques** Reader Favorites Antiques Emporium Cheshire Cat Gallery Hunt & Gather Union Camp Collective

# **BEST LOCAL WINE SHOP**

The Raleigh Wine Shop Reader Favorites Seaboard Wine Wine Authorities Wine Feed

# BEST BOTTLE SHOP

**Crafty Beer Shop** Reader Favorites Bottle Revolution Pelagic Beer & Wine Paddy O'Beers Tasty Beverage State of Beer

# BEST LOCAL GIFT SHOP NOFO @ The Pig

Reader Favorites **DECO** Raleigh Gypsy Jule Morgan Imports

#### **BEST WOMEN'S CLOTHING STORE** Edge of Urge

Reader Favorites **Bevello** Gena Chandler Art of Style Revolver Consignment

### **BEST MEN'S CLOTHING STORE** Art of Style

Reader Favorites Lyles Clothing Co. Nowell's Clothiers Lumina Clothing Co. Revolver Consignment

# **BEST PLACE TO BUY JEWELRY**

Bailey's Fine Jewelry Reader Favorites Booth Custom Jewelers Diamonds Direct Crabtree Johnson's Jewelers of Raleigh Moon & Lola Quercus Studio Reliable Loan & Jewelry

# **BEST HARDWARE STORE**

Seaboard Ace Hardware Reader Favorites Briggs Hardware Burke Brothers Hardware

# **BEST GARDEN CENTER**

Logan's One Stop Garden Shop Reader Favorites Campbell Road Nursery Fairview Garden Center Homewood Nursery & Garden Center

# **BEST LOCAL PET STORE** Unleashed

Reader Favorites Paws in the City Phydeaux

**BEST LOCAL ART GALLERY** Artsnace Reader Favorites Adam Cave Art Gallery

Gallery C MOST DOG-FRIENDLY BUSINESS

London Bridge Pub Reader Favorites Crank Arm Brewing Devolve Moto Raleigh Brewing Co.

# **MOST HELPFUL LOCAL CHARITY**

Interfaith Food Shuttle Reader Favorites Note in the Pocket Oak City Outreach Center The Green Chair Project

# MOST TALENTED LOCAL CHEF

Wake County: Scott Crawford **Durham County: Matt Kelly** Chatham/Orange County: Andrea Reusing Reader Favorites Ashlev Christensen Jason Cunningham Jason Smith Teddy Klopf **BEST BARTENDER** Johnny Berry, Whiskey Kitchen

Reader Favorites Kevin Barrett, Dram & Draught Mike Reid/Mike McDonald, Havana Deluxe

# BEST LOCAL ARTIST

Bob Rankin Reader Favorites Eric McRay Keith Norval Kyle Highsmith

Reader Favorites

Marti Hampton

Mikels & Jones

Reader Favorites

York Properties

Reader Favorites

Linda Craft

#### **BEST REAL ESTATE AGENT** Ann-Cabell Baum

**BEST COMMERCIAL BROKER** 

**BEST REAL ESTATE ATTORNEY** 

Duane Hall, Attorney at Law

Nathan Zaleski, Sterling Law



Anya and Arthur Gordon of Irregardless Cafe

**BEST MORTGAGE BROKER** James & Jean Hedges, Southern Trust Mortgage Reader Favorites

Robert Courts. Prime Mortgage Lending Sherry Riano, DNJ Mortgage

#### **BEST MASSAGE THERAPIST** Lindsay Riggsbee,

Dilworth Bodyworks Reader Favorites Jessica Bozza, Julep Massage Therapy Michelle McWhinney,

#### **BEST ACUPUNCTURIST**

Jinmei Xu (Jade), Raleigh Acupuncture Assoc.

#### Reader Favorites Ben Townsend, Townsend Acupuncture and Family Wellness Heather Bree, Tri-Point Acupuncture

### **BEST LITIGATION ATTORNEY** Bill Young, Hatch Little and Bunn

# BEST INTERIOR DESIGNER

Tula Summerford, Designs by Tula Reader Favorites Anita Bhattacharya Oates, Ostrada LLC Danny Taylor, DT&Co. Diane Makgill, 3D by D Designs Lauren Burns Interiors Lisa Stewart Design Rima Nasser, TEW Design Studio

#### BEST SUPPORTER **OF LOCAL BUSINESS**

Jean Martin. NOFO @ the Pig Reader Favorites Pam Blondin, DECO Raleigh Evelyn Scruggs Murray, Briggs Hardware

#### MOST INSPIRING **COMMUNITY PERSON**

Ann Woodward, Scrap Exchange Reader Favorites Dr. Marsha Gordon Sig Hutchinson

#### Dr. William J. Barber II MOST PASSIONATE GOVERN-

MENT REPRESENTATIVE Sig Hutchinson, Wake County Commissioner

Reader Favorites Jay Chaudhuri, Senator Jessica Holmes, Wake County Commissioner

# **MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY-**

FRIENDLY BUSINESS Larry's Coffee Reader Favorites FeelGoodz Mim's Distributing ReDress Raleigh

#### **BEST PLACE TO HEAR LIVE MUSIC (LARGE VENUE)**

**Cat's Cradle** Reader Favorites Lincoln Theatre Red Hat Amphitheatre The Ritz

#### **BEST PLACE TO HEAR LIVE** MUSIC (SMALL VENUE)

The Pour House Reader Favorites C Grace Deep South

# Slim's Downtown Distillery **BEST SPECIAL EVENT SPACE**

The Merrimon-Wynne House Reader Favorites Angus Barn Pavilion Bay 7, American Tobacco Campus Bridge Club The Stockroom

#### **BEST PLACE FOR GIRLS' NIGHT OUT**

Heron's at the Umstead Reader Favorites Whiskey Kitchen Wine & Design Vita Vite

#### **BEST PLACE FOR GUYS' NIGHT OUT**

Whiskey Kitchen Reader Favorites Boxcar Clockwork Cloud's Brewing Level Up Raleigh Beer Garden **BEST OVER-30 HANGOUT** 

# **Player's Retreat**

Reader Favorites Foundation Haymaker Raleigh Beer Garden Sullivan's Steakhouse Trophy Brewing



Gonza Taco y Tequila co-owners Gonza Salamanca and Carlos Rodriguez

#### **BEST HOTEL**

The Umstead Hotel Reader Favorites 21c Museum Hotel Aloft Hotel Durham Hotel

# **BEST GOLF COURSE**

Lonnie Poole Golf Course Reader Favorites North Ridge Country Club Raleigh Country Club

Artsplosure Reader Favorites

**MOST FUN OUTDOOR EVENT** 

Brewgaloo

Durham Bulls game Food Tuck Rodeos Hopscotch

#### **BEST PLACE TO TAKE TOURISTS** Downtown Raleigh Reader Favorites Downtown Apex Downtown Durham

Duke Gardens/Duke Campus Museum of Natural Sciences NC Art Museum/Museum Park Umstead Park

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# Oak City Chiropractic



Elizabeth Doran

By Chika Gujarathi

Tn March of this year, NC Theatre welcomed Elizabeth Doran as their new CEO, making her the fourth to hold this position since the Theatre's establishment in 1983. Hailing from California, Elizabeth has spent over 15 years as a producer and leading several arts organizations, including San Diego Theatres, the Pasadena Playhouse, and the State Theatre of California. This is Elizabeth's first venture to Raleigh and we couldn't wait to find out what she's discovered so far and hear about her passionate vision for NC Theatre.

# What attracted you to NC Theatre and the arts community here?

Elizabeth: There is more attention to the arts here than a lot of other places in the country. From how we educate our kids to the pride that people have; I find it crosses cultural and political divides big time. You have a very self-feeding ecosystem on arts and culture and sports. Everywhere else I have worked around the country, we always cast out of NY and LA, which drove me crazy. Here, I felt a wonderful brand identity, which was one of the things that attracted me to this job. Raleigh

# NC Theatre welcomes Elizabeth Doran as their new CEO

is home grown. We are makers. We bring in Broadway talent, and we create Broadway talent, and we match with Broadway level talent. That's super fun.

# How has NC been different than California in terms of arts and theater?

Elizabeth: In the West, things were very fused. There was a lot of fusion art; here there are some rooted, very diverse arts that have been attended to. So you have African American dance, and pottery creations from the coast, and bluegrass from the western part of the state. There's a botanical garden of culture, which is a bit different than a melting pot. I was reading about why this is the best test market in America: because there are highly developed, deeply rooted, diverse constituents here. It's not as melded as other places and I think that's really fascinating to me. On top of all that, you still have shared values.

# What new things would you like to incorporate into NC Theatre culture?

Elizabeth: I hope to have more communication with our audiences in the future about our brand. I like to evolve a theater company through partnerships. I have already begun talking to corporate sponsors to see if we can have a meaningful relationship where your brand of being homegrown ties into my brand of being homegrown and then we can help fund this new initiative of what it means to be homegrown in Raleigh. The other thing I want to do is make accessibility very important for our company. There are things we can do to help bring in the vision-impaired, hearing-impaired, families of veterans, and families of kids all across the spectrum. We need to do some science plays here, too... get the PhDs to enjoy something outside of their labs!

# Do vou see any topics as tabooed in theatre?

Elizabeth: I feel like I am only a month old in the South, but there is an emphasis on togetherness and loving your neighbor here I feel are core values that sit above a lot of the stuff that gets press. Love thy neighbor. Quoting U2, "We are one, but we are not the same, We get to carry each other." I love that idea and I feel this is a value in the South of carrying each other. The most financially difficult show I did in while in California was about two women who fall in love and share a kiss. Women on stage who fall in love is still tabooed, even on the most liberal stage in the country.

# How did you find your path to this career?

Elizabeth: I used to be an actor and singer and I just kept bursting off and saying let's produce this other thing together! I really liked working communally. I liked to develop and work with a team. So I kept pulling out of acting and then I discovered things like spreadsheets, which I love, and then I learned about debits and credits and accounting. I like it all. I can do both. My mom was an English teacher; my dad was a math teacher. So I happen to enjoy both, which is really fun. I wanted to do what I do now - to sit and watch rehearsals and then go do the math, then enjoy the show and community, then go do some more math to break even, and make a profit in a very uncertain industry.

# Where do you find your inspiration?

Elizabeth: My family inspires me. I have three children. My husband has a PhD in American history and I'm swept up in this world we've created. I'm very amazed at the innate compassion of children and I find that very inspiring. I serve on a board for drug and alcohol recovery. I have worked in prisons and with recovering addicts and I am very inspired by witnessing the power of human transformation. Artists who have made this a lifestyle choice inspire me: not because they are full of themselves, but because they have gifted talent.

# What do you miss about your home in California?

Elizabeth: We lived right on the ocean and I actually miss the desert, too. Right now, there's a huge bloom of flowers happening in the desert. But I'm definitely a people person and there are such great people where I lived. I love great communities as much as I love nature. I can't wait to explore all the green here!

# Favorite Southern food you have tried so far?

Elizabeth: Honey and biscuits! I'm going to find a honey and biscuits candle so that I can smell it every morning. I'm a vegetarian and this town is full of vegetarian food that I can't wait to try!

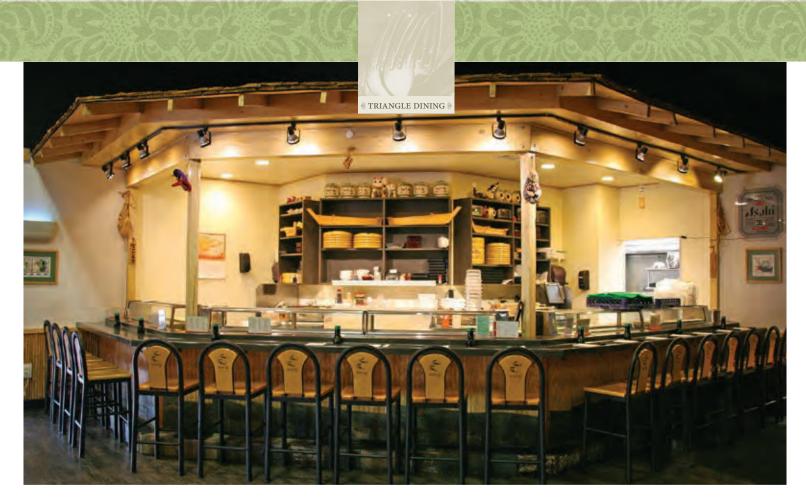
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# Waraji Japanese Restaurant Turns 20

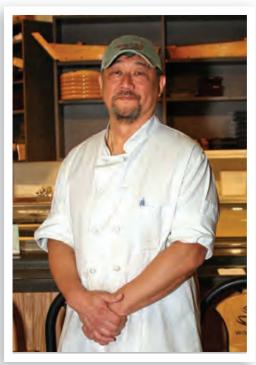
By Brian Adornetto, Food Editor • Photos by Crash S. Gregg

n June 11, 2017, Waraji celebrates its 20th anniversary; a remarkable feat given how frequently restaurants come and go. Chef-proprietor Masatoshi (Masa) Tsjimura recalls, "I remember our first day like it was yesterday. The entire time, I continuously ran back and forth between the kitchen, dining room, and sushi bar. It was like that every day for quite a while."



Fresh sashimi with a side of steamed rice

Masa's culinary tale began in 1980 when he moved to central Florida from Shimonoseki, a major fishing village in Japan and home of fugu, the potentially lethal blowfish. He migrated to earn a master's degree



Chef-proprietor Masatoshi "Masa" Tsjimura opened Waraji 20 years ago in 1997.

in operations research from the Florida Institute of Technology to complement the mechanical engineering degree he had earned in Japan. Masa worked his way through school by taking various restaurant jobs and, in 1982, landed a kitchen position at Kanki Japanese Steakhouse and Sushi Bar, where he found his true calling. As he rose through the ranks, he accepted an opportunity



Sunomono Ebi is a refreshing and light cucumber salad with boiled, chilled shrimp in a light vinegar dressing.

to relocate to Raleigh and open the Triangle's first Kanki restaurant. It was also here that he met his future wife, Naomi, who was attending UNC and working at the restaurant to help pay for her education. Looking back, Masa says, "Kanki allowed me to create and try many



Age Nasu, a lightly fried and grilled Japanese eggplant served with miso sauce, is available on the Seasonal Appetizers menu.

different things. They trusted me; first with the sushi bar and later with the entire kitchen." But in 1997, after fifteen years with the chain, Masa decided it was time to open his own restaurant.

When asked about the restaurant's name, Masa explains, "Waraji are straw sandals used long ago when traveling on lengthy journeys. Since I think of this restaurant as my life's journey, I thought it was a good fit. But when I played with the characters, I realized the name had even more significance. The character 'wa' means gather around, 'ra' means enjoy, and 'ji' means taste. So Waraji actually translates to 'gather together and enjoy the taste."

Located in a corner strip mall off Duraleigh Road, Waraji provides typical Western-style tables and chairs as well as traditional Japanese zashiki-style seating where guests sit at low tables set on tatami (soft, comfortable rice straw mats). In zashiki-style seating, it is customary to remove your shoes before stepping onto the tatami. The entire space offers an abundance of natural light, wasabi green colors, and light wood. The far wall of the dining room features a display of the restaurant's sake collection along with Japanese calligraphy art. Just to the left of the sake wall is the 17-seat sushi bar, where Masa now spends most of his time. If you're lucky enough to secure one of these coveted seats, it is not only probable that Masa himself will prepare your sushi, but also quite likely he will create something unique just for you.

Waraji's long, mostly traditional Japanese menu may seem complicated at first. There are twenty-nine appetizers alone. In addition, a specialty roll page includes maki (traditional sushi rolls) and nigiri (sliced raw



Chef Masa is passionate about providing the highest quality of authentic Japanese cuisine to his customers.



If you like tender beef, you'll want to try Waraji's Negimaki, made with fresh scallions rolled in beef and grilled with teriyaki sauce.

seafood, tofu, egg, or fish roe over vinegared sushi rice). Next comes the dinner page with its list of soups, salads, seasonal appetizers, entrées (which come with miso soup, house salad, and rice), and desserts. The entrées include selections of Teriyaki, Shoga Yaki (choice of sautéed meat or chicken in a ginger-soy sauce), Tempura, Katsu (choice of meat or chicken coated in panko and fried), Yose Nabe (seafood broth, yam noodles, and an assortment of seafood and vegetables), Sukiyaki (beef, vegetables, and yam noodles cooked in a sweet soy broth), Shaba Shabu (think Japanese broth fondue), Ochazuke (Japanese rice soup with seafood), and Zo Sui (Japanese rice stew with choice of egg, chicken, or seafood). The last two menu pages, Dinner Sets and Sushi & Sashimi, describe combination meals and platters. Dinner sets are mostly predetermined, >>>







Ika Butter, seasoned squid sautéed and thinly sliced

multi-course meals for one fixed price. These meals include a soup and salad, maki or appetizer, and entrée for \$16 to \$28 – a remarkable deal. The Sushi & Sashimi page, on the other hand, lists various platters of sashimi (sliced raw fish traditionally served without rice, but you can always order some on the side) and nigiri, as well an assortment of both. If you are overwhelmed just reading the menu or want to try something outside your comfort zone, don't be shy about asking for help. The friendly waitstaff is not only very familiar with the menu but also well versed in Japanese culinary customs. Masa even let us in on a little secret, saying, "Part of the fun for our staff is talking to the guests to see what they like so we can create a custom experience for each one." So take my advice and let them guide you.



Ochazuke, a Japanese rice soup, is traditionally served after the meal. Masa's Sake Ochazuke includes salmon with rice and broth.

Waraji specializes in impeccably fresh seafood, authentic Japanese cuisine (although a handful of Americanized preparations are available), as well as informative and personalized service. If you're craving expertly made sushi or traditional Japanese food or would like to learn about them, Waraji is ready and Masa is waiting to welcome you, as he has for the past twenty years.



Brian is a food writer, culinary instructor, and chef. His business, Love at First Bite, specializes in private cooking classes and intimate dinners. For more information, please visit www.loveatfirstbite.net. Contact Brian at brian@welovedowntown.com.



5910 Duraleigh Road, Suite 147 Raleigh, NC 919.783.1883 www.warajijapaneserestaurant.com

# \$\$\$\$

Lunch: Mon - Fri: 11:30am - 2pm; Sun: Noon - 2pm Dinner: Mon – Thur: 5:30pm - 9:30pm; Fri – Sat: 5:30pm - 10:30pm; Sun: 5pm - 9pm

Cuisine: Traditional Japanese Service: Knowledgeable, friendly, and helpful

Wine List: Global, with more than half available by-the-glass Dress: Casual

Noise Level: Moderate to loud at times

Reservations: Accepted

# Parking: Parking lot

Features: Gluten-free, vegetarian, and vegan options; Sushi bar dining; Beer, sake, and wine only; 70 different sake; Sake flights; Daily sushi specials; Monthly wine specials; Take out; Catering; Major credit cards accepted; No television; No wifi

Downtowner Tips: Good for groups and date night; Sign up for the "Waraji Lovers" newsletter (or like on Facebook) to learn about special events, features, and to be entered to win Waraji gift cards; Keep watch for Masa's popular sake dinners (they sell out fast) as well as Waraji's sake classes taught by a certified sake sommelier. Chef Masa also teaches quarterly sushi-making classes at Southern Season in Chapel Hill.



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What's Happening in and around Downtown Durham and the American Tobacco Campus **By Allan Maurer and Renee Wright** 



# MUSIC: Moogfest cosmic music and ideas

There are a lot of superlatives we can throw at Moogfest, which debuted last year in the Bull City and returns May 18-21. Avant Garde. Experimental. Cutting Edge. Also: fascinating, fun, and downright huge. The music is mind-expanding; ditto the conversations with the world's top tech innovators.

More than 150 artists, including Flying Lotus, Animal Collective, Golye, and synth pioneer, Suzanne Ciani, are slated and more than 40 performing artist will lead workshops and sessions.

This year Moogfest is dedicating a full stage to protest art installations. Moogfest 2017 also premieres its experimental film series, featuring live scores by 'Stranger Things' composers S.U.R.V.I.V.E., Suzy Analogue, and VHVL collaborate to present the live score to the film they created and directed, "No Moon, No Man." Suzi Analogue will also lead a workshop. Dave Harrington of Darkstar fame premieres the score to the infamous occult film, "Haxan."

Last year, we met a cyborg, made music with balloons, and learned to speak "machine." This year's themes range from Techno-Shamanism to Instrument Design and – always – the Future of Creativity. If you can't score tickets (last year many programs sold out), Moogfest still offers a wealth of free installations and events, including special workshops and performances for children. *Rolling Stone* magazine named Moogfest one of the 30 must-see music festivals of the summer. www.moogfest.com

# FOOD: Washington-Duke Spring Menu

Long our favorite spot for special events and family get-togethers, the Washington-Duke Inn (and Golf Club) on the Duke University campus wins awards in every category. Recently, Executive Chef Jason Cunningham gave us



Washington Duke Inn

a sneak peak of the Fairview Dining Room's new Spring menu, revealing trendy takes on traditional Southern foods.

Local goat cheese, strawberries, grits and sweet potatoes made appearances, along with Lady Edison "hoofed temptress" country ham from Chapel Hill. The Inn locally sources much of its food. The starring role went to a fork-tender domestic lamb chop topped with spiced shrimp. What could mark the change of seasons better? How about a vibrant pea and buttermilk soup, with a fresh green nose and color? It had the fresh aroma of Spring – and disappeared just as quickly.

The wines served with these menus are always carefully chosen to go perfectly with the food. www.washingtondukeinn.com



Ira Wiggins Quartet at Beyu Caffee

# FILM: Docs For Us / By Us at the Beyu Caffe

In association with the Southern Documentary Fund, Beyu Caffe screens documentaries by local black filmmakers once a month. Upcoming films take a look at the impact of Western ideals of beauty on black women and the nearly forgotten, but once vital role played by black washerwomen in our culture. Beyu's new, expanded location allows it to host a wide variety of programming, including open mics on Wednesdays, Latin Jazz on Thursdays, and Sunday Jazz Brunch. www.beyucaffe.com

DURHAM, NC



# ART + EXERCISE: Mural Bike Rides

The Nasher Museum of Art, Museum of Durham History, and Preservation Durham team up to offer free bike tours of the city's colorful murals. Public artworks grace many buildings throughout Downtown and these tours visit 13 of them. Join the group at 10am at the Central Park Pavilion on the first Saturday of every month from May through November. BYOBike, plus a helmet. A great way to get familiar with Durham's spaces and faces. www.muraldurham.com

# **BEER:** The Sours of Spring

'Tis Spring and the beers are sour! If you haven't tried the latest fave of the craft brew world, this is the time to try a sour. First brewed by the Belgians, their slightly funky flavors are the perfect antidote for tastebuds worn out by overhopped IPAs. You can find fresh sours this spring at several local breweries. Try the bourbon barrel-aged Blond Sour with blackberries at Durty Bull Brewing or a Secret Sour Saison, flavored with raspberries, at the Bull City Burger and Brewery. Stay street-legal by hitching a ride with Tap The Triangle, which runs a draft beer shuttle between Durham breweries on Friday evenings. www.tapthetriangle.com



# **Farm to Fork Picnic Weekend**

### By Jill Warren Lucas

If not for a drought, one of the Triangle's best known events to celebrate sustainable farming might not have launched the Farm to Fork Picnic Weekend, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary June 2-4 with events in Raleigh and Fearrington Village.

In 2007, with just weeks to prepare a proper welcome for Slow Food Movement founder Carlo Petrini, Portia McKnight was asked if she and partner Flo Hawley would be open to hosting a gathering on pasture land typically occupied by Chapel Hill Creamery's cows and pigs. The event would challenge about 30 farmers and chefs to collaborate on creating dishes that made best use of locally raised, seasonal ingredients. Oh, and there also would be hundreds of attendees, including farmers market advocates and fans of chefs destined to win prestigious culinary honors.

"Normally, a farmer doesn't hope for a drought, but it helped to protect the pasture that day," recalls McKnight, who has participated each year. "The fact that the soil was compacted and there was very little grass made it easier to say yes."

McKnight recalls the excitement of chefs and their teams, some of whom spent the previous night on the

land, cooking and helping to tend her animals. "It was a very heartwarming occasion," she says. "And it sold out so quickly. One of our regular customers begged to help park cars just so she could be there."

Andrea Reusing, who was named 2011 Best Chef Southeast by the James Beard Foundation for her work at Lantern in Chapel Hill, understands the buzz. Months before Petrini's arrival, she attended his Terra Madre convivium in Turin, Italy, which also drew Alex and Betsy Hitt of Peregrine Farm in Graham, Stanley Hughes of Pine Knot Farms in Hurdle Mills, and the late Bill Dow of Ayrshire Farm in Chatham County, which was North Carolina's first certified organic farm. She returned home deeply inspired and with a stronger sense of mission about promoting sustainable farming.

"The picnic was basically about having those farmers who had been at Terra Madre pair with a local chef to create this meal," explains Reusing, who has since opened a second acclaimed restaurant at The Durham Hotel, which hosted a Farm to Fork dinner last year. "It was conceived totally as a one-off to celebrate Carlo being here. We never imagined it would grow into what it's become today."

The nonprofit Farm to Fork Picnic Weekend has grown into a three-day event that consistently features

top Triangle chefs, farmers, culinary artisans and beverage producers. This year's keynote speaker at the June 2 Sustainable Supper is culinary historian and food justice advocate Michael W. Twitty, who has conducted extensive and deeply personal research on enslavement in North Carolina and across the South. His eagerly anticipated book, "The Cooking Gene: A Journey Through African-American Culinary History in the Old South," will be published in August.

As much as Farm to Fork is a thinking foodie's delight, it also is a fundraiser. Proceeds support the Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS), which develops and promotes just and equitable food and farming systems that conserve natural resources, strengthen communities, improve health outcomes, and provides economic opportunities in North Carolina and beyond, and the PLANT Farm Enterprise Incubator at the W.C. Breeze Family Farm in Hurdle Mills, which incubates new farmers and offers training on small scale sustainable farming techniques.

CEFS Director Nancy Creamer says Farm to Fork not only helps beginning farmers prepare for lasting success but also creates and builds vital relationships among farmers and restaurants that need to source fresh ingredients.

"The benefit for both is exposure; the opportunity to







Carlo Petrini and Andrea Reusing at the first F2F Picnic event in 2007

Flo and Portia with Hannah

when she was at the helm of Enoteco Vin

create new markets and connect with a larger consumer base," says Creamer, a professor of sustainable agriculture and community-based food systems at N.C. State. "It's a great way to keep the community engaged and aware of what it takes to put food on the table."

As successful as the festival has become, Reusing laments that the term "farm to fork" has become a cliché in recent years. A stunning 2016 series, "Farm to Fable," in the *Tampa Bay Times* revealed how unscrupulous restaurateurs were claiming false relationships with farmers and knowingly mislabeling ingredients as local.

"I think what's important to think about is that every

time we make a choice to support a local farm, we're doing something really powerful for our community," Reusing says. "Everyone has the right to healthy local food. The real challenge now is to expand access beyond farmer's markets and food coops to our entire community.

"Ideally," she adds, "this won't have to be a fundraiser one day and can just be a party. We shouldn't have to raise money to support new farmers because there would be plenty of them, and everyone would support them throughout the year."

McKnight says Chapel Hill Creamery is happy to support efforts to attract smart, capable people to

hands-on farming, as opposed to more lucrative adjunct businesses. "We need to support the people who want to take their smarts and use it to work the ground, work with the animals, and produce the food," McKnight says. "This program helps people who actually want to run the farm achieve their goal. As someone who hopes to one day retire from farming, I'm glad to know there will be people ready to step up and carry on."

Tickets are available online at www.farmtoforknc.com for 10th anniversary Farm to Fork Picnic Weekend events.





# NEON CAMP FOR KIDS



Hey Kids! (And by Kids, I mean Parents!) What do you have to show for your big camp experience from last summer? A t-shirt? A group photo and paper bag full of craft bracelets? Those things are terrific and can be cherished mementos, but we have a more meaningful idea for your 2017 summer day camp experience. NEON!!!

We're hosting two summer neon camps for boys &girls ages 13-17. Sessions run from 8:30am - 4pm daily: Session 1 - June 26-30, Session 2 - July 17-21. Included: materials to create a 3D neon sculpture, one field trip to another glass studio, and daily lunches catered by Posh Nosh Catering. Cost: \$575 per camper (\$275 downpayment holds your camper's place). For details, visit www.glas.work



Cynthia M. Gregg, M.D. & Associates



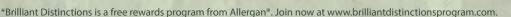
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# From the Publisher



O ur Best of Downtowner Awards issue is finally here and there are lots of new ideas for dining, places to hang out with friends, professional services, and ways to get involved in your local community. While you're reading through all the winners, we hope you'll discover a few places you might want to check out. We always do and it makes us appreciate the time our readers take to share all their favorites with us. I'm sure all the local businesses that placed in this year's awards appreciate it as well. The Best of Downtowner Awards is the direct result of your input and we're grateful to bring a new list of winners to you each year.

Our new website is live! Visit www.triangledowntowner. com to check it out. Here, we'll have lots of online news and articles between the monthly print magazines with new topics added each month. Want to help? We need more contributing writers! Would you like to promote all the great things about the Triangle that make it one of the top places to live, work, and play across the country? Are you passionate about the amazing food, people, music, arts, retail, charities, history, entrepreneurs, and more? Do you enjoy writing and want to show off the community we live in and love? Send us a writing sample and tell us what you'd like to write about to writers@welovedowntown.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

Cheers

Crash Gregg

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Seth Hoffman and James Voltz, co-owners of Raleigh Wine Shop with last year's Best of Downtowner Award for Best Wine Shop.

By James Voltz

he last decade has seen a sea of change in the way we shop for nearly everything. From dog treats to automobiles, houses to spouses - and even wine - the barrage of big box stores, warehouses, and online options have created a seismic shift in our daily lives and neighborhoods. Whether it's Costco, the latest website or a newest app, it seems like everything is available everywhere, and possibly one day delivered by drones. Yet despite all of this, and with apologies to Mr. Twain, we at The Raleigh Wine Shop are happy to report "the death of independent retail has been greatly exaggerated." For us, this is because we offer our customers the selection, pricing, service, and personal experience that chains don't and websites can't.

Unlike chains, we don't have a corporate mandate to sell certain wines and our selection of wines isn't made by number crunchers in far away corporate headquarters. The people who help you at our shop are the same ones that select all of the wines we bring in. We taste thousands of wines a year from all over the world to select the handful that meet our strict standards. And when you combine our carefully curated selection with our passion for serving our customers, it allows us to the opportunity to get to know your palate and match it with exactly the wine you want.

Not only do people want a wine that tastes good, but more and more want to know about its history - where the grapes are grown, who grew the grapes, and how the wines were made. Just as the farm-to-table movement gained traction in the restaurant industry, a similar movement is underway in the wine world. We are regularly asked about the provenance of the grapes and our wines. We're delighted to chat about natural, organic, biodynamic farming, what is (and isn't) added to the wines in our shop versus the manufactured wines found elsewhere, and where it all comes from. And if all of that isn't your cup of tea, we're equally delighted to simply choose a wine on your behalf while you rest comfortably, knowing that it came from a responsible producer.

After the proliferation of big box wine stores came wine websites, online wine clubs, and wine apps, the sheer volume of which I lost count of long ago. Functionally, the vast majority of these entities operate identically to the chains that came before them. You might read on one of their wine descriptions: "92 points and only \$24.99! You're going to love it!" But what exactly does 92 points mean? Who's doing the scoring? And what happens if you don't like the same types of wine that the scorer likes? Instead, we prefer to have a conversation to find out what sort of wine you would like to drink, your preferences, and what you've enjoyed in the past. If I gave you "a great price" on something you don't actually want, are you sill getting a good deal? A wine club will ask you just a few trivial questions and then use an averaging algorithm to make wine suggestions. We prefer to give recommendations based on a face-to-face conversation to learn your personal preferences and favorite wines, and then help find the wines that are right for you.

There's a feeling out there that if you receive less service, or no service at all (like sitting in front of your computer shopping at 3am), that you'll at least get a better deal than if you went to a small, specialty retailer. If your wine budget is in the "Three Buck Chuck" range and that makes you happy, I think that's fantastic. But if you prefer to spend just a few dollars more, then shopping at a good independent wine store doesn't have to cost you any more than shopping online, and the result is that your money will go further on a better bottle of wine (and more of it stays right here in our local economy!).

As we were drafting this article for the Downtowner, we were informed that we had once again won the award for not only Best Wine Shop, but also Best Customer Service. I'm not only mentioning this as a humble-brag, but it brings me to the most important point of what you should expect from independent retailers (and us): an invaluable shopping experience that is tailored to your needs and a by-product of doing something we truly believe in and love, all while serving the amazing community in which we belong.

James is the co-owner of Raleigh Wine Shop, a locally owned purveyor of wines and various provisions. James can be reached through their website at www.RaleighWineShop.com.

# Shopping Local for Wine

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8. Wee hour 11. Alternative to plastic 15. Abbr. after a comma 18. Beget 19. File 21. Blade of a rotor 23. Mamas and the Papas' song 26. German resort 27. "Have some" 28. Cap material? 29. Filch 30. Colorful parrot 34. Least amount (abbr.) 35. Autocrats of old 37. Doze (off) 38. Bug-eyed 39. Hidden valley 41. Prevent 42. Ponzi scheme, e.g. 45. Sparkling wine 46. Harebrained 47. Jute fiber 49. Beloved 53. Thelonius Monk song 57. Gaelic language 58. Be indisposed 59. Conclusion starter 60. First family's home 61. Basis of some divisions 64. Luck. in Ireland 67. Minds 69. A fifth of "Hamlet" 72. Beluga yield 73. Construct 75. Long, long time to Billie Joe" 76. 77. Coleridge character 79. Word repeated 4. Yellow, for one after "Que," in song 5. Sandler of "Big

80. Cellular stuff

of 85. Photo 87. Bank posting 91. Drifters' song 98. Record player 99. Nursemaids of India 100. Charged item 101. "Little Caesar" role 102. Broken 104. Epitome of easiness 105. Halftime lead, e.g. 106. New driver, typically 107. Be up 110. Hail 112. Took the cake, say 113. Gives a hoot 114. Charm 117. Aquatic shocker 118. Biblical verb ending 119. Global finance group 121. Stones' song 129. Wyoming city 130. Someone who keeps a journal 131. Brain wave 132. Chucklehead 133. Lavish affection (on) 134. Animal house 135. Advanced degree? 136. Picks up a pickup, maybe DOWN 1. 60s drug 2. It's inspired 3. Earlier suffix

Daddy"

81. Caddie's offering

82. "Anna and the King

6. D.C. bigwigs 7. Fraternity letter 8. Hyperion. for one 9. Whip mark 10. Bonanza find 11. Approximately 12. Arab rulers (Var.) 13. Masseur's workplace, maybe 14. Does some tailoring 15. Fey 16. Beat 17. Belief system 20. Draft holder 22. Cattle call 24. Kitten's cry 25. Throw a monkey wrench into, e.g. 30. Defensive spray 31. Mojave plant 32. Nightclub charge 33. Materials derived from algae 34. TV, radio, etc. 35. Bangladesh currency 36. Metrical analysis of poetry 39. Clock standard, abbr. 40. Note 41. "Humph!" 43. Magazine revenue source 44. Choral work 47. Leering watchers 48. Dashboard abbr. 50. Bucking bronco show 51. Alter 52. Doltish 54. Long (for) 55. "Good one!" 56. Mathematician 62. Ends one's travels 63. Chill-inducina

65. "Get the picture?"

66. Codfish and haddock 68. Gobble down cookies 69. Cockeved 70. Diamond measure 71. Cache 74. Spanish appetizer 78. Lifeless 83. Carte start 84. Center of some dances 86. Insinuating 88. Blood line 89. Judge 90. Mike holder 92. Contents of some bags 93. Attack, with "into" 94. Everyday article 95. Toothed wheel 96. Chemical suffix 97. Many eras 103. "They go offstage," in Shakespeare plays 105. It'll knock you out 107. Berry 108. Wet nurses 109. Radio sounds 111. Little laugh 112. Hindu principle 113. Freon, generically 115. Farm area 116. Got a good look at 118. Buffalo's county 119. Research facility, abbr. 120. Maker of holes 122. Married a Beatle 123. Annex 124. Folks 125. Emergency 126 Altar vow 127. Green, in a way 128. Neon. e.a.

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