



RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER

MAGAZINE

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 11

ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS & CULTURE, BUSINESS, DINING, EVENTS, MUSIC, AND MORE

FREE



9 for the needy



DOWNTOWN EATS

NOFO @ the Pig and Five Star get high marks from Brian



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RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER

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ON THE COVER AND LEFT

Shanna and her daughter are one of the many families the Raleigh Rescue Mission helped when they needed it most. Shanna told us, "The Raleigh Rescue Mission means a lot to me because it helped me get on the right track, and gave me a second chance at life."

Photos Max Cohen, www.cohenstudios.com



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If you have suggestions for another location where you'd like to see the Downtowner, email us at delivery@raleighdowntowner.com. We love hearing from our readers!

DOWNTOWN CONDOS

The Dawson
510 Glenwood
Park Devereux
The Cotton Mill
The Paramount

Palladium Plaza
The Hudson
West at North
RBC Plaza

DOWNTOWN

In all Raleigh Rickshaws
Wake County Courthouse
Raleigh City Council Building
Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
Office of the Secretary of State
North Carolina Theatre office
Broadway Series South box office
Raleigh Urban Design Center
Empire Properties
Raleigh City Museum
Downtown Raleigh Alliance
Raleigh Times Bar
Sitti
Gravy
Morning Times

French | West | Vaughn
Landmark Tavern
Sheraton Hotel info desk
Progress Energy building lobby
Cooper's BBQ
Capital City Club lounge
Progress Energy Building commissary
Fins
Crema
Spize
Raleigh Visitors Center

HILLSBOROUGH ST./NCSU

Second Empire Restaurant
WRAL-TV5 lobby
Porter's Restaurant (sidewalk)
Irregardless Café
Char-Grill (sidewalk)
Goodnight's Comedy Club
Clarion Hotel

YMCA Hillsborough Street
Theatre in the Park
Beansprout Restaurant

CAMERON VILLAGE

Harris Teeter/Suntrust Bank
BB&T
Capital Bank
Cameron Village Library
Village Draft House
York Companies
Village Deli
Great Outdoor Provision Company
Foster's

GLENWOOD SOUTH

Sullivan's Steakhouse (foyer)
510 Glenwood business foyer
510 Glenwood (sidewalk)
Mellow Mushroom
Hibernian

Sauced Pizza
Pourch/Bassment
Catch 22
Sushi Blues / Zely & Ritz (sidewalk)
Helios Café (sidewalk)
Salon 21
The Cupcake Bakery Shoppe
Primp SalonBar
Fly Salon
Lee Hansley Gallery
Bliss Salon
Revolver Boutique

HISTORIC DISTRICT

Legislative Building cafe
Peace Street Pharmacy
Oakwood Bed & Breakfast
NC Museum of History
NC Dept. of Labor
NC Dept. of Agriculture

FIVE POINTS/HAYES BARTON

Hayes Barton Pharmacy
Hayes Barton Cafe and Dessertery
Nofo @ the Pig
Rialto
Third Place Coffee
Lilly's Pizza
J. Edwin's Salon
Hayes Barton Salon

SEABOARD STATION

Seaboard Imports
Seaboard Fitness
Seaboard Wine
18 Seaboard (sidewalk)
Ace Hardware
Galatea

MOORE SQUARE

Artspace
Duck and Dumpling

Tir Na Nog Irish Pub
Big Ed's (sidewalk)

POWERHOUSE DISTRICT

Napper Tandy's
42nd Street

WAREHOUSE DISTRICT

Flying Saucer Bar
The Pit Restaurant
Jibarra Restaurant
Deep South—The Bar

MIDTOWN/N. RALEIGH

Barnes & Noble (Crabtree)
Borders Bookstore (Creekside)
Carolina Ballet office
Capstrat Advertising
Suntrust Bank (Creedmoor)
Q Shack (North Hills)

G for the needy

BY CHRIS MOUTOS WITH INTRO BY PETER EICHENBERGER

A singular connection of the holiday season that crosses religious and ethnic boundaries is a sense of generosity and enhanced giving to the less fortunate among us. Indeed, a marked increase of generosity during the holidays is a commonality displayed by all the various faiths. It is worth noting that among the many sad ironies the current economic situation has presented is visited upon charities: reduced circumstances have lessened the people's ability to give at the same time that the needs have been greatly increased. This reduced capacity to give may be less significant in a region blessed with a stronger economic basis such as the Capital City, but the reduction is still there. With the greater public visibility of the larger non-profits comes a natural and common advantage over the smaller, less-visible groups. The tightening of the belt often affects those charities that have smaller reserves.

Our inclination here at the Downtowner is to give special recognition to the smaller groups that play a proportionally larger, vital role in the local community in comparison to the resources they have available. In an attempt to give a leg-up to those smaller, less-visible charities that play an incrementally larger role in the community's fortunes, we have identified some that are particularly valuable to the local citizenry, that often form a bridge between a "normal" life and an existence at odds with what we value in this culture and community.

So it is with this criteria the Downtowner has compiled a summary of nine charities that help make Raleigh such a special place to live. We value the philanthropic, generous nature of her people and willingness to give of themselves to improve the lives of those who have been affected

by misfortune and hard times, or are merely in need of assistance. It is our sincere wish and hope that you are moved by this list and find it in yourselves to give what you can—be it monetary, donated items or volunteer time—to support the stellar reputation the Capital City enjoys nationally, not just one of gain and wealth, but of generosity and reciprocity.



Alliance Medical Ministry

According to the North Carolina Institute of Medicine, there was an estimated 1.5 million medically uninsured persons in North Carolina during the 2006–2007 year, with an estimated 123,000 of those residents of Wake County. As of January 1, 2009, the estimated that number of uninsured North Carolinians had risen to nearly 1.80 million, over 21 percent of the non-elderly. Based on its research, NCIOM estimates that this is the fourth largest increase of uninsured people in the U.S.

Tonia Zampieri with the Development department of the Alliance Medical Ministry states that "the working uninsured are coming from all walks of life. Many of the uninsured today are employed, but their employers do not offer health care coverage or are unable to afford the cost of health care insurance." The mission of the Alliance Medical Ministry is to provide affordable primary and acute medical care to uninsured working families in Wake County. Within the clinic, board certified physicians provide medical care to patients who pay a small

fee. In addition, Alliance works with community partners to provide a quality and complete medical treatment plan. According to Zampieri, "most people pay \$15 for an office visit, but care is provided on a sliding scale depending on income."

"Our Acute Care Clinic offers same-day appointments and this alleviates the burdens on emergency rooms," Zampieri continues. Alliance receives about 600 patients per month that are referred from the emergency room at WakeMed and another 100 from other hospital emergency rooms in the area. This makes sense since emergency rooms shouldn't have to deal with non-urgent needs.

In order to keep operating, Alliance depends on grants, "in-kind" donations, monetary donations, and volunteers. Approximately 200 clinical professionals volunteer their time each month.

To find out more about donating or volunteering, call 250.3320 or visit their website at www.alliancemedicalministry.org. Their offices are located at 101 Donald Ross Drive near WakeMed Hospital.



Pretty in Pink Foundation

The choice between food, shelter and health is difficult, yet is a very common one for millions of Americans. People tend to forget that if a person is employed and working, they may not qualify for Medicaid or other medical assistance. There are those who are "in the middle," so to speak. They generally do not go to the doctor since it can be cost prohibitive, even with insurance, so you can imagine the fear for those who

>>>

are uninsured or underinsured when they're diagnosed with a disease or medical condition.

Dr. Lisa Tolnitch, a breast cancer surgeon, saw this dilemma first-hand in her medical practice and in 2004 founded The Pretty in Pink Foundation. According to Penny Lauricella, its Executive Director, "the goal of Pretty in Pink is simple: to provide and ensure that quality and life-saving medical treatment is available to breast cancer patients regardless of ability to pay." With the help of relationships with vendors and providers, Pretty in Pink has been accomplishing its goals. "Pretty in Pink has a huge heart, and we are the only organization of its type in N.C. and one of three in the country that offers surgical oncology and radiation therapy," says Lauricella.

The patients who participate in Pretty in Pink have appointments set with participating physicians and medical treatment providers. Patients visit these offices just as anyone would who has insurance or is paying in cash. The patients are followed throughout the entirety of their medical treatment plan.

How can you help? Pretty in Pink is going national and is looking for professional and corporate partners. Monetary donations as well as volunteers are needed.

The Pretty in Pink offices are located at 2501 Blue Ridge Rd, Suite 201 and can be contacted through their website at www.prettyinpinkfoundation.org or at 532.0532.

Wee Care

Perhaps the hardest thing to fathom is children in need. Whether the need is hunger, education, socialization, homelessness, or presence of abuse, there are several non-profits in Wake County that are in need of volunteers and donations.

The goal of Wee Care Children's Enrichment Program is to "address the educational needs of young children who are in poverty and do not have access to enriching early childhood environments and experiences that help them develop cognitively, emotionally or socially to their full potential," says Executive Director Laurie Perry. Wee Care currently provides socially or economically "at-risk" children with a solid pre-school education in an environment that nurtures their development.

Perry states that "as a former first grade teacher at Hunter Elementary, I saw a need to give children an opportunity before they reached kindergarten in order to be able to compete successfully." Wee Care removes the obstacles of cost and transportation since all services

are free, including breakfast, lunch, snacks, early childhood curriculum and trips to age-appropriate sites such as museums. Children enter the program at the age of two and the low student-to-teacher ratio not only enhances learning but also provides an avenue for developing relationships with the parents to assist them with parenting and child development skills. The children "graduate" at the kindergarten level.

Wee Care currently rents space at Hayes Barton United Methodist Church on Fairview Road. Monetary and "in-kind" donations (such as movie tickets, etc.) are greatly appreciated in an effort to expand their services. For more information, visit www.wecareinc.org or call 272.4554.

Loaves and Fishes Ministry, Inc.

Fortunately, Wee Care graduates and other kindergarteners can take advantage of the programs offered by Loaves and Fishes Ministry, Inc. "Our mission is to provide an extended family atmosphere for children grades K-12



through long-term and individualized support so that they can succeed in school and society," says Executive Director Susan Duncan. Co-founders Betty Anne Ford



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and Nancy Newell started Loaves and Fishes in 1982 as a summer enrichment program for children in the first and second grades that were living in the Halifax Court federal housing community (no longer in existence) in downtown Raleigh. With the help of a grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, it was adapted to a daily after-school program and obtained non-profit status in 1984.



According to Duncan, “the program was expanded to include K-12 because it was determined that performance declined when the children left, so the mentoring efforts were established for their entire school careers. The kids come everyday until they graduate from high school. We are no different than a family because we don’t stop supporting our kids.”

Through donations of all types, Loaves and Fishes is able to provide students with both academic and enrichment programs by providing the materials, technology, places and teachers necessary to obtain these goals. Students in the program are also expected to abide by a rule of ethics named “RAPP”—Respect, Accountability, Positive Attitude and Pride. Currently, there are 48 full-time children and 75 volunteers. The community can help by volunteering time, such as reading to students or helping them with math. The Harris Teeter Together in Education program is another way to help. If you have a VIC card, you can ask the cashier to link your VIC card to program account code 5587 and two percent of the total of your store brand purchases will be donated. Loaves and Fishes is located at 1950 New Bern Avenue and for more information, visit their website www.loavesandfisheschildren.org.



SAFEchild

Sadly, the goal of eliminating child abuse may seem insurmountable, but SAFEchild is making a difference in Wake county. Seventeen years ago, the Junior League of Raleigh founded SAFEchild (“S”top “A”buse “F”or “E”very child). “Our core mission is the building of strong families,” says

Cristin DeRonja, one of the program coordinators. “Over 6,000 were served in the last year through our various programs.”

SAFEchild develops relationships with families and parents to foster and promote nurturing environments for children. With the

help of an accredited staff, they are able to educate individuals and families on parenting and communication skills. SAFEchild’s programs and services are designed to break negative parenting habits, build relationship skills and educate families about community resources that are available to them. With its evolving and expanding mission, volunteers are very important. SAFEchild has dozens of programs as well as parenting and family education classes. For example, there’s their new *Welcome Baby* initiative. Welcome Baby is a program wherein an experienced mom is paired with a new mom for mentoring and education. The volunteers could work with the new mom for a period of one year.

For more information on the programs offered by SAFEchild, visit www.safechildnc.com or call 743.6140. Their offices are located at 864 W. Morgan Street.

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Haven House Services

In 1972, the Rev. Al Dimmock was volunteering his services in juvenile court when a matter came up before the court involving a young girl who could not go home and had no other resources or eligibility for an alternative situation. With the help of then-presiding Chief District Court Judge George Bason, Haven House Services was incorporated in 1973 to help youth that were “at risk” and in difficult situations.

Over the years, they have implemented several programs to help at risk and homeless youth, as well as their families. According to Michelle Zeckman, Executive Director, “we are the only organization that does street outreach and provides crisis emergency shelter for youth.” Zeckman states that “the challenges faced by the youth of Wake County have been aggravated by the economic downturn causing family homelessness, ‘doubled-up’ living situations (individuals who don’t have a permanent resident but move in temporarily with family or friends), domestic violence and abuse, substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, and so on.”

Haven House Services is an organization comprised of multi-faceted programs designed to assist the health and well-being of children, including immediate crisis intervention, runaway and homeless shelter and outpatient therapy. They have various shelters, as well as community activity centers throughout Raleigh. During 2008–2009, Haven House Services has provided services to more than 3,000 youths. Other examples include providing of structured tutoring during short-term school suspension for 181 students from various Wake County schools, assisting 31 young adults in obtaining and maintaining market rate rental housing, engaging over 800 youth through street outreach, responding to approximately 900 crisis calls, providing close to 3,000 bus passes and several hundred hygiene kits to homeless youth, and enabling almost 300 court-appointed youths to earn restitution.

Haven House Services needs donations of all sorts. Adult mentors, clothing, food, and facility maintenance assistance is always appreciated. The Haven House

Services office is located at 706 Hillsborough Street, and they can be reached at 833.3312 or by visiting www.havenhouseenc.org.

Raleigh Rescue Mission

The organization that is now known as the Raleigh Rescue Mission has been helping the citizens of Wake County since 1959. Two local businessmen, Charlie Morton and T.W. McDaniel, and several other community leaders decided to help the homeless due to the lack of facilities to assist them. An invitation was extended to the homeless and eventually a weekly group was formed where everyone met for an offering of prayer and food. The evolution of these meetings created the Raleigh Rescue Mission, whose goal is to rebuild people’s lives by assisting them with their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

The Raleigh Rescue Mission provides several key and potentially life-saving functions which include emergency overnight services, recovery and rehabilitation, medical respite, a medical clinic, mental health stabilization, a child development center and an adult education center for both academic and vocational training.

“There are over 1,200 ‘known’ homeless people on any given night in Wake County” according to Brooks Ann McKinney, a social worker and the Director of Programs with the Raleigh Rescue Mission. McKinney goes on to say that “unfortunately, we have a finite number of spaces and have to turn people away. We have several other programs that help in order to get people into housing and physically healthy.”

It is important to note that the services provided allow for a foundation from which to build. For instance, the W.E. Mangum Children’s Development Center is an on-site, licensed four-star preschool for children ages 2 ½ to 5. It provides a safe environment for not only children in the homeless shelter but for children in the community from low-income families.

According to McKinney, mental health is a key factor in their services. McKinney states that “over 1,000 patients were discharged from Central Regional Hospital last year and that only 12 percent had follow-up. Many people with mental health issues go untreated. Mental health stabilization is a big problem and without it daily issues

are burdensome. We give people a safe place to go until they are able to hopefully move back into the mainstream population.”

You can help the Raleigh Rescue Mission with donations of ALL sorts; even small items like shampoo go a long way as the Raleigh Rescue Mission relies heavily on private donation from individuals. They have a drop box located at their location at 314 E. Hargett Street and can be reached at 828.9014 or www.raleighrescue.org.



Meals on Wheels

Although well-known, the Meals on Wheels program is always in need of volunteers and donations for its invaluable services of providing nutritious meals for the homebound elderly and disabled persons. The mission statement for Meals on Wheels makes it clear that their goal is to improve the health, reduce the isolation and to prevent the inappropriate institutionalization of those persons it assists.

Meals on Wheels provides up to 1,500 meals a day in Wake County for those who may be socially, economically or physically disadvantaged. Again, these persons come from all walks of life and circumstances. In order to accomplish its lofty goals, Meals on Wheels relies on over 2,200 volunteers to cover over 100 daily routes in thirteen different geographic areas of Wake County. As might be obvious, the food provisions are a primary focus, but there are ancillary benefits. Many homebound persons have little social interaction and look forward to a short visit from someone with whom they can chat.

There is also the benefit that daily visits provide the volunteer the ability to check on someone’s well-being. How many of us have heard stories of someone falling and lying on the floor for days? It might be a short visit, but enough to provide food, a brief chat and make sure someone is not in a dangerous situation.

Volunteers generally work once or twice a week, usually during their lunchtime, for about an hour to an hour and a half. The meals are picked up by the volunteers at various sites throughout the city and county depending on their assigned route. Meals on Wheels is located at 1001 Blair Drive and can be reached at 833.1749 or by visiting their website at www.wakemow.org.

Warmth for Wake

Warmth for Wake is an outreach program that provides seasonal energy assistance to residents of Wake County. The program begins on October 31 of each year through the coldest winter months. Warmth for Wake is co-sponsored by Wake County Human Services and the N.C. Bankers Association. Funding is



entirely by contributions of concerned individuals, businesses or groups. All donations go directly to families in need. Anyone who applies for assistance is screened through the Service Intake Division and eligibility is determined by taking into consideration all income and resources as well as expenses, emergency or special situations that may affect available income of the applicant.



There are several important functions Warmth for Wake performs to help those stay warm. Wood is used to offset the cost of gas or electric heat consumption for those who have either. Space heaters are also provided. To help with this cause, wood and equipment donations are greatly appreciated. Donated wood must be untreated for burning purposes. Equipment donations include axes, chain saws, hydraulic splitters, wheelbarrows, mauls and space heaters that are new or gently used. Monetary donations are always needed as well. To volunteer, donate or receive a wood delivery, please call 212.7083 or 212.7084. To get information on how to apply for assistance, call 212.7000.

There are many worthy organizations in our area that provide invaluable services for those in need of various types of assistance and in need of donations. Following is a partial list of those we found. Please send an email to editor@raleighdowntowner.com if there are other Raleigh area non-profit organizations that need to be added to the list.

South Wilmington Street Center
(shelter for men)
1420 S. Wilmington St.
857.9428

Helen Wright Center
(shelter for women)
401 W. Cabarrus St.
833.1748

Women's Center of Wake County
(women's day shelter)
128 E. Hargett St.
829.3711

Salvation Army
(shelter for women, women w/children, families)
215 S. Person St.
834.6733

Interact
(victims of domestic violence)
1012 Oberlin Rd.
Domestic Violence: 828-7740
Rape Crises: 828-3005
SAFE Center: 828-3067
www.interactofwake.org

Horizon Health Clinic
102 N. Tarboro Rd.
743.3315
www.whsi.org

Triangle Family Services
3937 Western Blvd, Ste. 101
821.0790
www.tfsnc.org

The Healing Place of Wake County
(rescue, substance abuse and rehabilitation)
838.9800
www.hpowc.org

Learning Together
568 E. Lenoir St. Ste. 204
856.5200
www.learningtogether.org

N.C. Heroes Fund
POB 652, Pineville, NC 28134
704.995.9976
www.ncheroes.org

Community Alternatives for Supportive Abodes (CASA)
624 W. Jones St.
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NoFo Café BY BRIAN ADORNETTO, Assistant Food Editor



Located in Raleigh's historic Five Points neighborhood, NoFo @ the Pig, a former Piggly Wiggly grocery store, has been a popular spot since December 2001. The space contains an upscale eclectic gift shop, gourmet food market and fanciful café. The charming and convivial owner, Jean Hunter Martin (who also co-owns the Glenwood Grill), says NoFo's goal is to be "comfortable and fun, provide good food, and give customers a full experience. Almost anybody can walk out of NoFo with a little piece of it."

The top floor entrance of NoFo leads to the gift store

which offers customers everything from linens, kitchenware, toys, antiques, books, bath products, and anything in between. At the food market in the rear, customers can find grocery items such as fine chocolates and candies, beer and wine, and coffee/tea, in addition to freshly-prepared foods.



NoFo Hostess Aly with Chef David Mitchell

NoFo Café, on the lower level, is whimsical, bright and colorful. On one side is a wall of windows letting in an abundance of natural light. On the other is an enormous wine display featuring roughly 90 selections. The other walls sport signs, photos and relics from the building's predecessor, a Piggly Wiggly (hence

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the “@ the Pig” portion of the name). The bar was even fashioned from old stone food cans and dairy cases. Via a little red wagon filled with ornate birdhouses set in the middle of the café and a hand blown glass chandelier featuring multicolored pigs, sausage links and glittering fruit hanging from the ceiling, NoFo supplies diners with a wealth of fanciful eye candy.



Our lunch at NoFo began with a basket of Sweet Potato Fries (\$4.50), a Cup of Corn Chowder (\$3), and the Shrimp and Mango Salad (\$9.50). The fries were crisp, light and nicely complemented with a lively Cajun Citrus Mayonnaise and sea salt. The creamy and hearty chowder was plentiful with chunks of potatoes and corn. The salad, a popular menu item, had blackened shrimp, mango, feta cheese, walnuts, and dried cranberries, showcasing a wide variety of intriguing textures and flavors.

Following our appetizers, we were delighted by NoFo’s Spinach Burger (\$8.50), Avocado BLT (\$9) and Shrimp Burger (\$10). The colossal Spinach Burger, which is made in-house daily, was delicious and filling. When asked about



(sweet yeast bread) adorned with very a tasty red pepper jelly. The sandwich was creamy, smoky and buttery, and the sweet and savory jelly was a great foil to the bacon and brie. The Shrimp Burger features a homemade patty consisting of ground fresh shrimp, peppers, egg whites, herbs, and spices. Crusted in panko crumbs, fried and topped with Key Lime Tartar Sauce, the burger was light, moist and well-seasoned. Chef David Mitchell really hit it out of the park with his sandwiches (which come with a choice of sides that are also available for take-home).

NoFo has an eclectic atmosphere, well-prepared food and unique gifts. The friendly staff and fun environment give it a neighborhood feel, while Chef David’s seasonal, interesting and delicious food give it a cosmopolitan energy. At NoFo, there’s definitely something for everyone.

the “burger” being a satisfying alternative to beef, Mitchell responded, “I just try to make good food. I really wasn’t thinking about making a vegetarian sandwich.” NoFo’s wonderful BLT was stacked with brie, bacon and avocado and served on toasted Hawaiian bread

NoFo Café

2014 Fairview Road
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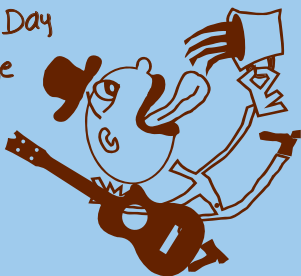
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10 QUESTIONS

with Robert Weiss, Artistic Director for the Carolina Ballet

BY CRASH GREGG

Robert Weiss is Artistic Director for the Carolina Ballet, now in its 12th season at the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts. He began his career as a professional dancer at the age of 17, when he joined the New York City Ballet at the request of George Balanchine. He remained with



the company for 16 years, rising to the rank of Principal Dancer. During this time he performed principal roles in over 40 ballets. As a choreographer, Mr. Weiss has created over 20 ballets, including commissions by American Ballet Theatre and the New York City Ballet, among others. His other achievements include choreography and staging for the New York City Opera as well as choreographing and acting for a feature film starring Anthony Quinn. Mr. Weiss has received great critical and audience response

for his Carolina Ballet world premieres including *Romeo & Juliet*, *Messiah*, *Stravinsky's Clowns*, *Carmen* and *The Kreutzer Sonata*, and in 2001 the brand new *Nutcracker* and *Firebird* were added to that impressive list.

1 Raleigh Downtowner Magazine: How did you originally get involved with the ballet? My parents really liked the arts, and they took me to the *Nutcracker* when I was five years old, and I said I'd like to do that. But in professional school, nobody studies until they're eight, so I waited until I was eight to take lessons. I was in *The Nutcracker* when I was nine and did that show until I was twelve. I had some doubts about my choice in my early teens—I had other interests such as acting and theatre—but in the end, I was invited by the greatest choreographer of the 20th century, George Balanchine, to join the New York City Ballet, and that was it; my mind was made up.

2 What was it like working with Balanchine? Well, this was a man who had so much experience. He had worked in Russia and right after the Revolution, he got out and went to Paris and had an incredible experience working with all the French painters. When he was invited to America, he brought all that experience with him. Ballet is an art form that's passed down from person to person because nothing is written; you have to talk about it and show it, just the way you were watching just now. So, he instilled all of that in us. It was incredible—like studying playwriting with Shakespeare.

3 Can you tell us about your background and your family? My father was a veteran. He had a lot of different jobs but ended up as a president of a company that was a subsidiary of an English company that handled import-export. My mother was a homemaker. She studied some ballet as an adult, but it was too late for her to become a dancer. I'm married to Melissa Podcasy, who is actually one of the Company's founding members.

4 Is there a favorite venue that you've performed in, and if so, why? We performed in Budapest which was very exciting. We also did a three-week tour of China and that was a lot of fun too. It's just a whole other world. There are two sides of the river in Shanghai, and on the old British side you see all these very old-fashioned buildings, and on the other side you have these amazing buildings that are all covered with LEDs and they flash pictures and lights. The theatre we were in was on the new side and it looks like a flying saucer that landed in the middle of a field.

5 You're now on your twelfth season with Carolina Ballet. What excites you the most about being here? I've been given a very free hand by my board of directors to shape the Company into the artistic vision I really believe in, and that has been a blessing and an incredible opportunity. I don't pander to the public but I still understand that I have to sell tickets, so on half of the programs, I do ballets that people know the names of and really want to see. But the rest of the time, we're

doing experimental work. We've created more new ballets in the 12 years than any other company in the United States, except for New York City. A lot of other companies with budgets twice our size, some five times our size, even, have not done the kind of new work we've done. They haven't been bold or taken the risks we have. But with risks come great rewards because if you do something good, it's brand-new, and no one else has done it but you.

6 Does performing in the Fletcher Auditorium create a more intimate, close experience for the audience versus Memorial? The Fletcher is more intimate and for the smaller works, a lot of people prefer it because they really feel like they're very close to the stage. But for the bigger ballets, I'm most comfortable with our performances in Memorial Auditorium.

7 What's involved in your creative process when you're developing a new ballet? If it's based on a musical idea, you find the music, and then you have to get inside the music and then try to make the music come alive. You live with the music sometimes for a month, sometimes a year, sometimes ten, until you understand what that music is trying to say. Of course, if you're telling a story, it's an entirely different process. You have to try to describe the story, and then you need to find music that expresses the things that you want to convey within the narrative.

8 What's your favorite comfort food? A baked potato. I like all potatoes, actually. You can't prepare a potato in a way that I don't like.

9 Do you have a favorite movie? My favorite dance movie is *The Red Shoes*, which was just re-mastered and is playing in New York now. And I actually knew the director, Michael Powell; he was a genius.

10 What do you do in your free time to relax? My wife and I watch DVDs because I don't get to the movies very much any more. And we love going out to eat. We're lucky to have so many great restaurants in Raleigh and all over the Triangle. 🍷



RALEIGH DOWNTOWNER MAGAZINE

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The Raleigh Downtowner Magazine is searching for contributing writers and photographers for both our print and web editions. If you're passionate about any of the topics below, or have a new idea you'd like to pitch, send us an email to writers@raleighdowntowner.com.

Music	Travel	Books
Events	Sports	Movies
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**RALEIGH
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Third Annual Downtown Santa Party



Raleigh Downtowner Magazine is proud to sponsor our 3rd **Downtown Santa Party** on **Thursday, December 17**, from 7-10pm in order to help children in need and to provide what might be the only gift they receive this holiday season. We're pleased to have **MeetandCompete.com** as a co-sponsor. This year, all gifts will benefit the **Raleigh Boys and Girls Club** and the **Wake County Foster Care Program**.

This year's event will feature great food donated by some of Triangle's top local chefs:

- David Mao, Duck and Dumpling
 - Jason Smith, 18 Seaboard
 - Ghassan Jarrouj, Sitti
 - Chris Hylton, The Mint Restaurant
 - Hector & Joel Ibarra, Jibarra
 - Michael Lee, SONO
 - Ed Mitchell, The Pit
 - Heath Holloman, Globe Restaurant
 - John DeAngelis, Sauced Pizza
 - Bill Kalyvas, Taverna Agora
- Beer and wine will also be complimentary,

provided by Big Boss Brewing Company and Epicure Distributing. A cash bar will be available for other spirits. Tir Na Nog has kindly offered to once again donate the location space, staff and additional food. Santa (John Snipes) will even be on hand to help get us in the holiday spirit!

We'll have plenty of giveaways throughout the night for great door prizes including Hurricanes and Carolina Railhawks tickets, passes to the North Carolina Theatre and Carolina Ballet, \$50 and \$25 gift certificates to Jibarra, Solas, Sono, Spize Café, and Oxford, a \$139 night stay in the Oakwood Bed and Breakfast, tickets to Goodnight's Comedy Club, and much more!



The suggested donation for entry is an unwrapped toy (any age range between 5 and 14) with a retail value of at least \$20. For those who might forget or simply make a last minute decision, we will be accepting a \$30 donation at the door (cash or check only please). Suggested attire is suit and tie/dress, but feel free to come as you are because the most important reason for coming is to collect toys for the kids. For more information, directions, or to RSVP, please visit www.raleighdowntowner.com/santa. If you are interested in donating a door prize, or toys in advance of the party, please call 919.821.9000.

Tir Na Nog is located at 218 S. Blount Street. Plan on staying after for Local Music, Local Beer night!

We look forward to seeing you there!

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DISCOVER

Hillsborough ST

BY PETER EICHENBERGER WITH INTRO BY CRASH GREGG | PHOTOS BY TED SALAMONE

Welcome to the first installment of our Hillsborough Street business series. Intended to bring attention to some of the great local businesses located on Hillsborough Street, which are currently almost hidden amidst the mass of construction surrounding the area. We begin our first of several monthly columns with those businesses at “ground zero” of the heaviest phase of roundabout creation, Hillsborough Street and Oberlin Road. We urge you to visit these local businesses, as they are struggling to attract customers through the debris.

Though parking for the businesses on Hillsborough Street may currently seem limited, in reality, it’s not. There’s an ample parking lot available for these and other businesses behind the Hillsborough Street branch of BB&T bank just before the entrance to N.C. State near the Bell Tower. Turn north on the new connector, at the Bell Tower (a right, heading from downtown), circle around and drive straight into the lot. If you’re approaching from Cameron Village, turn south on Oberlin Road where it crosses Clark Avenue. When you can drive no further on Oberlin, turn left into the lot, park, and walk along the makeshift path across Oberlin.



Locopops

1908 Hillsborough Street
919.286.3500 | www.ilovelocopops.com

For a little zany, local flavor, stop by Raleigh Locopops, a confectionery whose style you will not find at your corner convenience store. Located at the former location of Raleigh stalwart business, Weatherman’s Jewelers, at 1908 Hillsborough, Locopops produces a line of iced treats that will keep you coming back, if only to see what the visionaries behind the counter have come up with next: plum and black pepper, strawberry

balsamic, almond amaretto, lemonade blueberry rosemary are just for a sample of what is available. This outfit is as local as you’ll find, from the ingredients to the art on the walls. Don’t go there if you demand consistency. The only aspect to this place that remains so is the taste. So, come and prepare to be pleasantly surprised.



Players Retreat

(known to locals in the know simply as “the PR”)
105 Oberlin Road
919.755.9589 | www.playersretreat.net

There’s not much about Player’s Retreat, at 105 Oberlin Road, that can be said that hasn’t been written during the restaurant’s nearly 60-plus year run. The PR began its tenancy farther down Hillsborough Street in 1951 and has been in its second and current location for the rest of its existence. And for those decades, the sports wins, the losses, the passage of the years, have resounded in those walls. There is no one who frequents the place who would be unable to recount to you some milestone in their lives, either a private remembrance or event or one that spilled into the streets, notably N.C. State basketball national championships and Hurricane games. There have been a few big changes since Gus Gusler took the helm, conspicuously the addition of full-bar service, including one of the most ample selections of single malt whiskeys you’re likely to find anywhere, and the addition of plenty of widescreen LCDs. With its complete char-grilling kitchen, a Player’s Retreat burger is worth the visit alone. Come and be welcomed into the PR family.

Red, Hot & Blue

1900 Hillsborough Street
919.755.9699 | www.redhotandblue.com

If your carnivore instincts have not been settled by now, Red, Hot and Blue, 1900 Hillsborough



Street, is sure to finish the job. Founded in the late 80’s by Southerners in Washington, DC, hungry for the real thing (among them Lee Atwater), Winston Salem-based Red Hot and Blue takes some of its culinary cues from Memphis, the legendary home of pulled pork barbecue, as well as the origin of the chain’s name, DJ Dewey Phillip’s WHBQ-AM radio show that introduced stars such as Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis and Johnny Cash as well as B.B. King, Muddy Waters and Robert Cray. The kitchen features a dry-rub seasoning that has garnered the chain accolades from the public and press in national publications. Despite the cosmopolitan acclaim Red Hot and Blue has gained, the place is as down-home as one would expect on our little Hillsborough Street. Stop by and enjoy.

Sam and Bill’s Hair Design

109 Oberlin Rd
919.832.6393 | www.samandbills.com



Sam and Bill’s Hair Design, located near N.C. State, Cameron Village and Hillsborough Street, has been a fixture at 109 Oberlin for a remarkable 38 years. Sam and Bill’s is a full-service hair salon that offers comprehensive grooming, from a simple cut to full-color and everything in between. Known as the creator of the “Raleigh Bob,” this is very much a local place, and it feels like it as soon as you walk in the door. Sam and Bill’s is housed in an older, restored home and offers coffee with each visit to enhance that comfortable “hometown” feeling that is the salon’s hallmark. ☺

Sir Walter Records Launches Fourth Holiday Benefit CD with Help of Local Merchants and Musicians

BY ROBIN FASTENAU

Admit it—wouldn't some new holiday tunes be welcomed after hearing "Jingle Bells" for the 100th time in a week? Since 2006, the Have a Holly Raleigh Christmas CD project has raised money to support music education for local youth and helped promote some of the many talented musicians in the Raleigh area. The creation of Jeff Carroll, Robert Courts, Shawn Gillen, and Stephen Votino, Sir Walter Records has this year added a twist by producing a CD with kids in mind called "Have a Holly Raleigh KIDSmas." Even though the CD will appeal to kids, the entire family will enjoy this year's collection.

This year's CD features 12 new holiday tunes recorded by popular local bands and singer/songwriters which include Mommie, The Desmonds, A Rooster for the Masses, Big Bang Boom, The Rosebuds, and Jubal Creech.

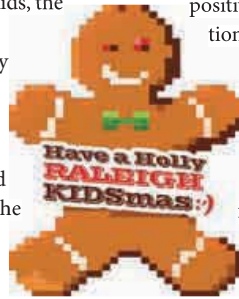
"This project could not happen without the musicians and volunteers who generously donated their time and talent and the local merchants who help us sell the CD in their stores," says Robert Courts, a co-founder of Sir Walter Records, LLC. "More importantly, when sales end after Christmas, we are able to donate needed funds to a charity that supports music education right here in Wake County."

"Community Music School is so grateful to benefit from the 'Have a Holly Raleigh KIDSmas' CD project," says Executive Director Carol

Walborn. "We know that music education is not only important for its own value, but research shows that children who study an instrument are better at abstract thinking and score higher on standardized tests. Our students improve in all of their academic endeavors. They are more engaged in school and more likely to complete high school and move on to higher education."

Celebrating its 15th anniversary this year, Community Music School has positively impacted over 1,500 local youth through its music education programs. Typically, private music lessons can cost a minimum of \$750 per child per year, not including instruments. Community Music School makes professionally taught music lessons accessible to families who otherwise could not afford them by charging only one dollar per lesson for each child.

This year's "Have a Holly Raleigh KIDSmas" CD is available for only \$10. To view our holiday events and growing list of retail stores, check out www.hollyraleighkidsmas.org and for more information about Community Music School, please visit www.cmsraleigh.org.



Community Music School is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located at 227 W. Martin Street, P.O. Box 2545, Raleigh NC 27602. The purchase of this CD may not qualify as a tax-deductible gift.

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CAPITAL CITY CLAUSES AIMS FOR 2,000 TOYS AT 16TH ANNUAL JINGLE BALL

Co-sponsored by Raleigh Downtowner Magazine

Join the Capital City Clauses' 16th Annual Jingle Ball benefiting The Salvation Army of Wake County's Christmas Cheer program and help grant less fortunate children's wishes of receiving a toy for Christmas.

On December 10, from 6:30 to 10:30 pm, a \$20 unwrapped toy donation or \$30 at the door will grant attendees an evening of dancing, drinks and delicious local food. The Jingle Ball is being held at Marbles Kids Museum in downtown Raleigh.

"The members of our organization want to bring the holiday spirit to children in the Triangle," says Christina Coffey, president of Capital City Clauses, a local nonprofit founded in 1994. "We work year-round to galvanize the community in collecting toys and organize a truly unique celebration."

At last year's Jingle Ball, the Capital City Clauses amassed more than 1,200 gifts, which were stacked from floor to ceiling. In 2009, the Clauses hope to

top 2,000 toy donations. This collection is a welcome blessing for the local Salvation Army which relies upon the Jingle Ball and other charity events to help more than 4,500 needy families in Wake County each year.

As part of the December 10 festivities, well-known band Doug Clark's Hot Nuts will be entertaining guests with its blend of beach, blues, soul



and not-so-subtle comedic routines that have made the group party favorites for more than 50 years. Additionally, DJ P-Fitty will play popular dance music when Doug Clark's Hot Nuts are not performing on stage.

Off the dance floor, sponsors Rocky Top Hospitality, North Carolina Beer & Wine Wholesalers Association, Top of the Hill Restaurant & Brewery, Pepsi Bottling Ventures, Capital City Cupcakes, and Dunkin' Donuts will all be providing food and drink for attendees.

"Each year so many local businesses and restaurants come together to make the Jingle Ball a success," says board member Antoine Pontón. "We are grateful to all of our corporate and individual sponsors and are aiming for the best Jingle Ball yet."

For more information about the Capital City Clauses, the Jingle Ball and its sponsors, visit www.jingleball.org.

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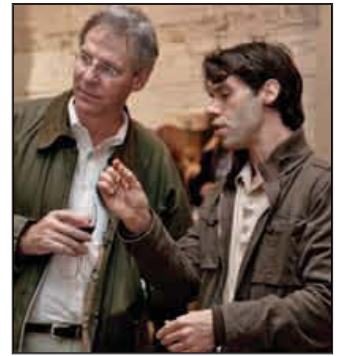
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Photos below from the new Flander's Gallery Opening *Photos by Will Connelly*



Photos below from the Raleigh Christmas Parade produced by the GRMA *Photos by Crash Gregg*



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Photos above from the Old Reliable Run benefit for the United Way of the Greater Triangle *Photos by Darryl Morrow*

Stephanie and Natalie at the Raleigh Times Bar



Ariya and Chanthima working at Thaiphoon Bistro



Antoine Ponton reading the Downtowner down under (Sydney, Australia)

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Joel's Holiday Wine Picks

Naming names to save you shopping time BY JOEL MORGAN



Okay, so you have a full social calendar this time of year due to holiday parties, charity events, family events, and general drinking events. The foods are of a richer fare; the attire is Festive Holiday, and your holiday season spare time is non-existent. This time of year is replete with excuses to indulge (okay, over-indulge) in tasty foods as well as interesting wines. Trying to choose a wine, however, can be daunting, so I'll help you break it down and offer a few good recommendations and save you a bit of shopping time at your local wine shop.

In case you're a total wine newbie, avoid wines that have a picture of Santa Claus or any other cutesy holiday motif as these are usually sub par and the novelty will wear off by January 1st (or as soon as you open the bottle and your guests taste it).

First, let's start with sparkling wines. To begin with, there is of course French Champagne; just make sure you are able to find a bottle that has a good ranking/points for a good pricing. Prosecco is always a great choice: the Italians take pride in what they make, and rightly so. South America also has some great sparkling wines which can have a great flavor without taking a hit to your wallet, with Novacento Brut being one. The Meinklang Winery in Austria, an organic and biodynamic winery, does a superb Blanc de Pinot Noir Frizzante which not only comes in an appealing bottle packaging but is a very flavorful sparkling wine as well. And then of course there are the sparkling reds. It seems that Australia has taken the lead in this with Galah Sparkling Shiraz and Mt. Jagged Sparkling Shiraz/Cab/Merlot being some good choices. Lighter and more brut styles of sparkling wines go well with cheese and cheese-based appetizers, oysters, tuna, and vegetable-based appetizers. Sparkling reds are always a good alternative pairing for any meat based appetizer, grilled pork, veal, or pasta with red sauce.

If white wines are more your forte, there are some great white wines and varietals that have captured my interest over the years. Viognier is a French varietal that started as a blending wine but within the past ten years has become a stand-alone wine. I would recommend Sawtooth Vineyards, but if you prefer the unoaked variety, try Domaine Peuch Cocut. Viognier complements richer seafood such as shrimp, Wahoo and grouper.

Chenin Blanc, like Viognier, can also be oaked or unoaked. I like Bellingham, Chateau de La Guimoniere and Ehrhardt Estates.

Gewurztraminer can range from bone dry to over-the-top. New Gewurz, Siskiyou, Barth Rene, and Siskiyou are good examples of a Gewurztraminers that are affordable as

well as flavorful, and they pair well with spicy foods, robust cheese and desserts.

Red wines seem to go better with more complex foods in cooler climates which works well for the Holiday Season. Also, most people switch to reds to keep them warm in the fall and winter months. This is where your local wine shop worker can really geek out and lead you to what they drink themselves.

Let's start with a recommendation for Cabernet Franc: Maryhill, Zerba, Steele, and von Strasser are all examples of Cabernet Franc worth owning, cellaring and drinking now. I like to pair Cabernet Franc with duck, venison, beef, pork, and rich cheeses.

Another varietal I suggest is Malbec. Like Cabernet Franc, Malbec is a French varietal used to make red Bordeaux wines but the French really don't do a lot of Malbec by itself. Luckily the grape came into the hands of Argentinian and Chilean wine makers, who have done a LOT with it. Look for Viu Manent Reserve and Single Vineyard, William Church, Trapiche Single Vineyard. Malbecs are great with any kind of grilled meat, foods with mushrooms, dark chocolate, or a good pâté.

Rounding out the reds is Zinfandel. No this is not a pink colored wine, which is a blasphemous oxymoron! Zinfandel has a great hearty flavor that can catch you off guard if you're not careful. One problem with some zinfandels is that they are a huge burst of flavor up front for about 2 seconds then there is nothing after, leaving you wondering "is that it?" Look for zinfandels that carry you through a beginning, middle and end. Try these a few and see for yourself: Norman, Karly "Buck's 10 Point", Sierra Vista, Cline Single Vineyard Small Berry, Ridge, and Dashe. They all pair well with full bodied rich holiday foods and will also do well with a good cigar.

Keep in mind fuller bodied or more complex wine are going to match better with the richer types of foods you will have this time of year. Also, they are a great way to drown the flavor of the inevitable culinary disaster someone will force on your palate. Just remember that everyone has their own style of cooking and at the very least you can say "The wine really is good with ____". If you see me during this time of the year you can expect that I will have one or more of these wines near or a glass in my hand. And, yes, of course you can have a glass. That's why I brought the wine!

So there you have it, a sampling of wines for the holidays, all of which are available at your local wine shop. Happy Holidays! 🍷

Joel Morgan is a wine distributor for Epicure Wines, committee member for Triangle Wine Experience and an avid wine geek. He can be reached at joel@epicurwines dot com.



Michelle and Jim enjoying a glass of wine at Jibarra Modern Mexican and Tequila Lounge (in the warehouse district across from The Pit Restaurant)

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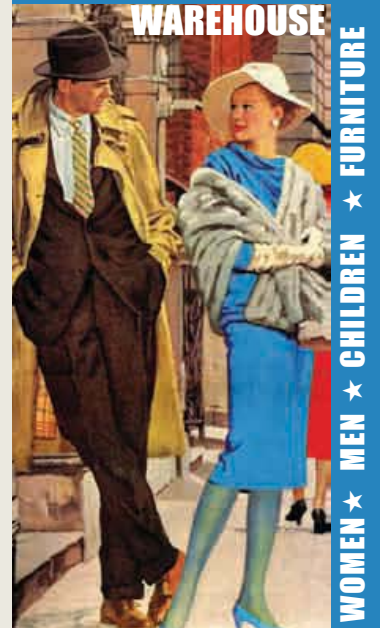
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Five Star BY BRIAN ADORNETTO, Assistant Food Editor

Entering through the large unmarked custom wood and iron door, you may feel like you've just stumbled upon a secret speak-easy club. Instead, you've discovered Five Star, a cool downtown restaurant/bar with a hip urban vibe and atmosphere.

As you walk into the foyer and look to the left, you'll find a graffiti mural reminiscent of a New York subway and a plush lounge with Oriental lanterns, comfy couches and a disco ball. Above the bar, new and old co-exist with an antique brass gong resting next to a wall-mounted projection TV. The full-service dining room, located past the bar, serves Chef Dan Gray's interpretation of time-honored Asian cuisine with a few modern, upscale twists of his own. The second floor loft is an open balcony that overlooks the downstairs bar and features pool tables, a second bar and resident DJs on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Five Star caters to a wide variety of patrons and events, and as you read their

website tagline "Hide Your Cats," you know that you're in for something fun and different.

The Bender family, who also owns Martin Street Pizza and Alibi Bar as well as Five Star, named this venture in honor of their 90-year-old grandfather. He retired as the equivalent of a Five Star General in the Hong Kong navy, and this theme manifests itself in the hand grenades and ancient warriors portrayed in their corporate imagery.

The staff at Five Star is friendly and extremely obliging. Not surprising considering the Benders have been involved in the Raleigh bar and restaurant scene for over ten years. Their bartenders and waiters are welcoming, knowledgeable and quick with a recommendation, and the kitchen staff prides itself on consistency and freshness.

Chef Gray's menu changes two to three times per year and he ensures that all wontons, dumplings, pancakes, rangoons, and spring rolls are made



in-house. Upon request, the kitchen will make any dish vegetarian by substituting tofu or tempeh (fermented cooked soybeans formed into a cake-like shape) for any meat on the menu. In addition, Gray tries his best to accommodate the individual tastes of every single customer.

From the current menu, we sampled the Scallion Pancakes (\$3.75), Chicken Lettuce Wraps (\$7.95), Roasted Duck Rolls (\$6.95), Teriyaki Filet appetizer (\$12.95), and Five Star's signature Heat Seeker Shrimp (\$8.95). The pancakes, which were served with a flavorful dipping sauce, had a surprising bit of a crunch to them and were similar to a good pre-meal flatbread. The lettuce wraps were filled with stir-fried chicken, carrots, onions, water chestnuts, and scallions. They were sweet, gingery and refreshing. The Duck rolls consisted of pulled house-roasted duck basted with a Peking style sauce and were served in a moo shu style pancake. The fork-tender Teriyaki Filet was marinated for 24 hours and cooked to a beautiful medium rare before being sliced and served with a spicy yet cool cabbage and scallion salad. The real show stopper though, was the Heat Seeker Shrimp. Marinated, battered, flash fried, and tossed in a secret sauce, these shrimp were crisp and sweet with just a slight touch of heat.

You'll find plenty of traditional Asian dishes on Five Star's



menu, but we opted for Chef Gray's more inventive entrees. The Grilled Lamb Chops with Sesame Garlic Sauce (\$19.95) were smoky, nutty and nicely grilled. They came with scallion and garlic smashed potatoes that were a welcome change from the typical mashed version. We also tried another signature dish, the Five Star

General's Chicken (\$11.95) which was battered, fried, sauced with a sweet teriyaki glaze, and sprinkled with sesame seeds. Our last dish was the Seared Duck Breast with Spicy Orange Glaze and Asian Greens (\$16.95). The expertly cooked duck showcased Gray's culinary prowess as it's a riff on the French dish, Duck l'Orange. He adeptly rejuvenated this old classic by injecting it with new, Oriental life and a little fire.

Five Star has a unique atmosphere, tongue-in-cheek attitude, approachable food, and affordable prices, which is why couples, groups and individuals will all feel welcome here. It's a great place to go for late night gourmet munchies, a night of dancing, some pool playing, a romantic dinner date, or after-work drinks and appetizers. 🍷

Brian is a culinary instructor, food writer and personal chef. His business, Love at First Bite, specializes in private cooking classes and intimate dinners. For more information, please visit Brian at www.loveatfirstbite.net or his blog <http://chefbrianadornetto.blogspot.com/>.

Five Star

511 West Hargett Street 919-833-3311
www.heatseekershrimp.com

Hours: Monday through Sunday 5:30 pm to 2 am (Food served until Midnight)

Cuisine: Pan Asian
 Dining Style: Casual
 Meals: Dinner, Late night
 Menu Type: à la carte
 Ambiance: Urban chic
 Dress: Casual

Features: Bar, Lounge, Vegetarian and Low Carb Options, Take Out, Catering, Group Friendly, Billiards, Late Night Food, DJ on Weekends, Smoking and Non Smoking Sections, First Friday Parties, Credit Cards Accepted

Alcohol: Full bar
 Parking: On street
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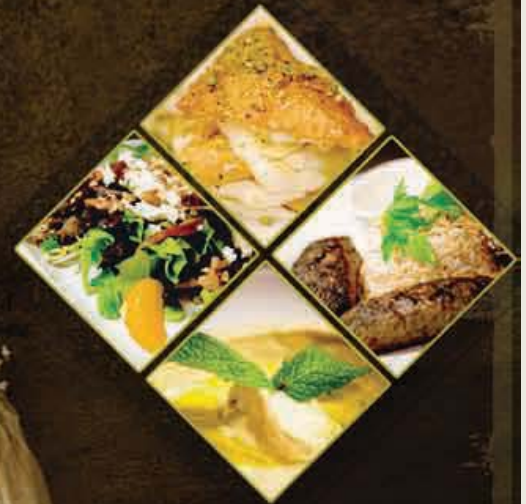
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Ice Skating & Igloos: Winter Memories of Raleigh

BY JENNY LITZELMAN, RALEIGH CITY MUSEUM



December 4 marks the beginning of the city's first annual Winterfest, sponsored by AT&T. The two-month long celebration will begin with Mayor Meeker's lighting of the downtown Christmas tree, as well as the unveiling of the city's outdoor ice skating rink in City Plaza. While 2009 marks the first year of this tradition, Raleigh residents have always enjoyed winter's seasonal activities. We asked several longtime residents what they remember most about winter in Raleigh, and we received a flood of happy and nostalgic memories.



Have you ever heard of snow ice cream? Well now you have. This was a long time ago, when I was in elementary school. My



Chuck, Marshall, and Emily Wyatt with backyard igloo, January 1955
COURTESY OF MARSHALL WYATT

sister Mary, my brother Jesse and I would head outside with a great big pan, and first we scraped off the top snow and then each of us had a large spoon and we quickly filled the pan with fresh snow. Mother was waiting in the kitchen to quickly add vanilla and stir, and then she dished the snow ice cream into our bowls; a morning treat which would be repeated in the afternoon. You had to work so darn quickly because it started melting when you came in the house. She knew just how to put the vanilla in and mix it. It was better than real ice cream because we went and did it ourselves. —Trudy Conrad, Raleigh native



Santa with children
COURTESY OF RALEIGH CITY MUSEUM

One of my most memorable winters was the first Christmas Nancy and I spent in Raleigh, the winter of 1960. I wanted the first Christmas to be special for her. We just moved from Washington and lived in a tiny apartment on St. Mary's Street. I went to Briggs Hardware and told old Mr. Briggs that we just got married and my wife is lonesome in this little apartment and I wanted to do something special for her.

He reached down and pulled out a box with these red plastic poinsettias with Christmas bulbs and he plugged it in so it would all light up and he said, "Isn't that about the prettiest thing you've ever seen?" And it sure was. So I brought them to our apartment and strung them around the mirror we'd gotten as a wedding present. Mr. Briggs was such a gentle, sweet man and I still I have that little string of lights. I saved them just to remember that first Christmas. We had a great first Christmas in Raleigh. —Charlie Gaddy, Raleigh resident since 1960

My dad sold Christmas trees, and they would order them by the box-load from Canada. He wanted to provide really nice trees for his customers and by the time he brought one home for us, all that was left were the scraggly trees and boughs that had accumulated. He would drill holes in the trunk of the tree and stick boughs in the holes and by the time he was finished and it was decorated you couldn't tell

the difference! We could make due with an improvised tree. —Marshall Wyatt, Raleigh native

I was born on Buck Jones and grew up on Jones Franklin. During winter, I remember building an igloo in our front yard during some of those big snows. You didn't have too many snows like that. I was probably 9 or 10 or 11; it was in the early 40s. We had to create our own ways of playing; we created our amusements all the time.

—Barbara Jacobs, Raleigh native

Relive more memories here at the museum on Saturday, December 12, at 1:00pm during our holiday program, *MIRACLE ON FAYETTEVILLE STREET*. Come watch the original 1947 version of *Miracle on 34th Street*, WRAL-TV's first broadcast on December 15, 1956. Enjoy cider and festive cookies with us. Explore your creative side as we make Christmas ornaments and other holiday decorations. Each visitor will also have the chance to win a prize in our KRIS KRINGLE RAFFLE from businesses such as KNOCKABOUT, ADVENTURE LANDING and THEATRE IN THE PARK. Suggested donations are \$5 per family. Please call 919-832-3775 to secure your place today!



Fayetteville Street, March 1960
COURTESY OF MARSHALL WYATT

The Raleigh City Museum is located at 220 Fayetteville Street in downtown Raleigh and is open from 10am-4pm Tuesday through Friday, and 1-4pm on Saturdays. If you have any questions, please call 919-832-3775 or check out our website at www.raleighcitymuseum.org.

Winterfest in the Plaza

— BY AMY GRETENSTEIN —

Taking a page right out of Rockefeller's book, downtown Raleigh is set to open an all-natural skating rink this winter in City Plaza.

The grand opening of the Plaza will take place Friday, December 4, from 5p-11p, and will feature a slough of fun activities for the entire family.

"[AT&T's Winterfest] is about bringing people downtown and promoting everything the city has to offer," says Brandi Barnhart, Public Space Manager for the Downtown Raleigh Alliance.

Opening night festivities include food, drink, the Mayor's tree lighting, a reading of "A Christmas Carol," carriage rides, live dancers, professional skaters, local choirs, and even a visit from Santa Claus himself. Also headlining the evening is Grammy-winning country-pop artist Michelle Branch.

"It's a free, family and community-oriented event," continues Barnhart. "In addition to all the festivities, local artisans and crafters will have booths set up."

Also opening that night is the 140-person capacity natural ice skating rink which will remain open through January 31, 2010. The rink will operate seven

days a week and on holidays and will be staffed mostly by community volunteers. The under-ice coolers can keep the ice frozen as long as the air temp is 65 degrees and under.

"The holiday season is approaching and I know my family is always looking to give to others by donating their time and effort, not just material things," LeCompte says. "It's a good way to give back to the community. It's thinking outside of the box and volunteering in different ways."

According to volunteer coordinator for the Downtown Raleigh Alliance Logan LeCompte, the volunteer positions are filling up quickly and there is something for everyone.

Throughout the two months the rink is open, the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, in conjunction with local restaurants, will be hosting special skate nights: Tuesdays will be family night and Wednesday nights will feature live music. Thursdays will feature a "Date & Skate" night where couples can enjoy dinner specials around the downtown area then bring their receipt to the rink for a \$4 discount per couple.

AT&T Winterfest is free to attend and City Plaza is open to the public year round. Ice skating is \$6 per person and includes skate rental. City Plaza is located at the south end of the 400 block



of Fayetteville Street in downtown Raleigh and will be open year-round for community events. For rink hours of operation, go to www.yourhere.com and click on the Winterfest icon. 📍



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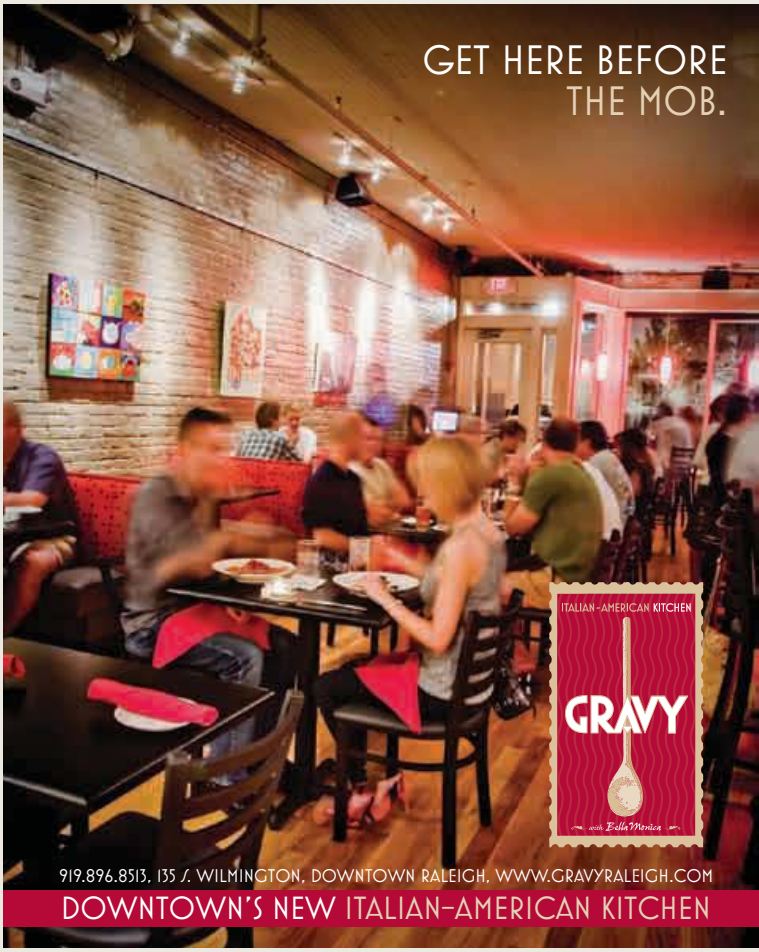
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EVENTS CALENDAR

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November 27-28

N.C. Symphony presents **Holiday Pops** at Meymandi Concert Hall. Sleigh bells ring, you sing along with us—all the best songs of the season to cheer your winter soul. We'll put you in a festive frame of mind and help you get your jingle on! Visit ncsymphony.org for tickets and information.

November 30, Monday

Broadway Series South presents **The Irish Tenors** at Memorial Auditorium. Concert begins at 8 pm. Call 831-6060 or visit www.broadwayseriesouth.com for ticket information.

December 1, Tuesday

N.C. Symphony presents **Educational Concert** at 10:30 am in the Meymandi Concert Hall. Visit ncsymphony.org for tickets and information or call 831-6060.

December 1-6

Broadway Series South presents **Cirque Dreams-Holiday** at Memorial Auditorium. An original new musical extravaganza filled with spectacle, imagination and whimsical dreams. Ornaments come to life as costumed characters who perform astonishing feats that celebrate the holiday season and showcase pageantry, ingenuity and breathtaking artistry. An international cast of

acrobats, aerialists, singers, dancers and musicians fill this Cirque Dream on stage, in the air and while dangling from a 24 foot tall magical tree. Call 831-6060 or visit www.broadwayseriesouth.com for ticket information.

December 3-January 11

City of Raleigh Arts Commission and the United Arts Council of Wake County present the **7th Annual National Arts Program Exhibition** featuring artwork by City of Raleigh and Wake County employees in the Miriam Preston Block Art Gallery located on the first and second floors of the Avery C. Upchurch Government Building at 222 W. Hargett St.

December 3-5

Stock up on delicious homemade Greek sweets and pastries and grab a dinner while shopping the **Holiday Cafe** at the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church at 5000 Lead Mine Rd. 10% of the proceeds will benefit The Pretty in Pink Foundation. Please visit www.holytrinityraleigh.org for hours and menu under Parish events or call 781-4548.

December 4, Friday

First Friday Downtown Gallery Walk. Visit the galleries, listen to live music and delight in a divine culinary experience and take advantage of the First Friday Specials offered by all participating restaurants.

December 4, Friday

City of Raleigh **Winterfest Celebration and Tree Lighting** in City Plaza. The opening celebration will feature performances by local choirs and bands, talented figure skaters and a multitude of other entertainers, a visit by Santa Claus, a reading by Ira David Wood III, delicious food and drink, a dazzling holiday tree lighting and Grammy-winning, country music headliner Michelle Branch. This FREE community-wide kickoff event will be

followed by two months of additional programming at the AT&T Raleigh Winterfest Ice Rink. Grab your mittens and scarves and make your way to the heart of the center city for Raleigh's premier holiday event. 5 pm-11 pm.

December 4-5

N.C. Symphony presents the **Organ Symphony** in the Meymandi Concert Hall featuring Grant Llewellyn, Music Director and Ami and Pascal Rogé on the pianos. The program will include Rousset: Symphonic Fragments from Le festin d'araignée; Poulenc: Concerto for Two Pianos and Saint-Saëns: Symphony No. 3, "Organ". Visit ncsymphony.org for tickets and information.

December 5, Saturday

A Holiday Show-Barbershop Recitals at the Fletcher Opera Theater. Performances at 2:30 pm and 7:30 pm. Contact the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts at 831-6060 for more information.

December 6, Sunday

Triangle Brass Band performing a **Holiday Pops** concert. Meymandi Concert Hall at 7 pm. Contact the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts at 831-6060 for more information.

December 8, Tuesday

Models For Charity kick-off fundraiser event. Come join us for this inaugural fundraiser featuring women's and men's fashions. All Saints Chapel at 6:30 pm. • 110 S. East St. \$25 regular admission and \$50 VIP admission. For more info, visit modelsforcharity.com.

December 10, Thursday

16th Annual **Jingle Ball Festival** at Marbles Kids Museum. Each guest is asked to bring an unwrapped toy for a child ages 2-12 valued at \$20 or more. Admission \$30 without a gift donation. Gifts will be given to

the Salvation Army Christmas Cheer Program. Cocktail attire and photo ID required.

December 10, Thursday

STATE TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY on the State Capitol grounds. Governor Beverly Perdue and the First Gentleman will light the tree. Music and other events, including an invitation for all to come into the Capitol building which will be decorated for Christmas by the Raleigh Garden Club. Events on the mall also. Free.

December 10-13

State Capitol Holiday Open House. Between the hours of 10 am-3 pm, come and enjoy the decorated Capitol Building with live music by musicians. Musicians will change on the hour. Free.

December 10-13

Join the Crabtree Rotary Club and Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department for the third annual **Holiday Express** (<http://tinyurl.com/holidayexpress2009>) from 4-9 pm nightly. Children and adults alike will enjoy this holiday experience as Pullen Park is festively decorated with thousands of lights and transformed into a winter wonderland. Tickets are \$7 per person, with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the Clarence E. Lightner Leadership Endowment Fund. • Guests will experience the Santa Express Train, carousel rides, holiday entertainment, concessions and more. More than 16,000 guests have attended the Holiday Express in its first two years • The Holiday Express is the final event held at Pullen Park before it closes for a restoration project by the Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department. The park is expected to reopen by spring 2011.

December 11-20

The North Carolina Little Theatre presents the classic **Cinderella**. Progress Energy Center For The

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December 12, Saturday

Historic Mordecai Park presents a **Christmas Open House** from 10:00 am–4:00 pm. The historic property will be decorated for Christmas. **Lantern Tours** of the property from 5:00 pm–10:00 pm. Santa and his elves will guide you on **Santa's Trolley** tours of downtown Raleigh at 6 pm, 7 pm and 8 pm. For more information or reservations, call 857-4364.

December 12, Saturday

A Taste of Downtown Raleigh Gourmet Chocolate Tour. Taste chocolate in many of its glorious forms: in upscale dishes, cupcakes, soda and stout, and at one of the country's most unique chocolate shops. Two tours at 10:30am–1:00pm. Includes lunch and visits to a chocolate shop, cupcake shop, and soda shop. Suitable for chocolate fans 8 years and up. Reservations required. Call 237-2254.

December 12, Saturday

Celebrate the holidays with the Raleigh City Museum from 1–4 pm. **Miracle on Fayetteville Street** will take you back in time for a fun, historic holiday celebration. Come watch the original 1947 version of Miracle on 34th Street, WRAL-TV's first broadcast on December 15, 1956. Enjoy cider and festive cookies with us and explore your creative side as we make Christmas ornaments and other holiday decorations. Each visitor will also have the chance to win a prize in our Kris Kringle Raffle from

businesses such as Knockabout, Adventure Landing, and Theatre in the Park. Suggested donations are \$5 per family. Please call 919-832-3775 or visit www.raleigh-citymuseum.org to secure your place today!

December 13, Sunday

NC Master Chorale presents **Joy of the Season** at 3 PM in the Meymandi Concert Hall. Celebrate the season as the NCMC Chamber Choir and Chorale join forces for this delightful and festive holiday program. The Carolina Brass joins the NCMC choirs for carols both familiar and new. Call the NCMC Box Office at 856-9700 for ticket information or visit ncmasterchorale.org.

December 17, Thursday

The *Raleigh Downtowner Magazine's* **Santa Benefit Party.** Beer and wine along with food from many of Raleigh's top chefs. Admission is an unwrapped gift with a minimum value of \$20 (or \$30 donation). All gifts are donated to The Raleigh Boys & Girls Club and the Wake County Foster Care program. Join us at Tir Na No'g at 7 pm. For more information or to RSVP, visit www.raleigh-downtowner.com/downtownsanta.html or call 821-9000.

December 18–27

The Carolina Ballet presents **Nutcracker** in Memorial Auditorium. Be transported to a fantasy land of whimsical characters with eye-popping sets, costumes and special effects with Carolina Ballet's Nutcracker, the holiday tradition you can't afford to miss. For ticket information, visit www.carolinaballet.com or call the Ballet Line at 719-0900.

December 19–20

The Raleigh Ringers at Meymandi Concert Hall. Contact the Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts at 831-6060 for more information or visit www.rr.org.

December 31, Thursday

The NC Symphony presents a **New Year's Eve Holiday Extravaganza** in the Meymandi Concert Hall. An Evening of Prodigious Talent featuring some of the most outrageously talented young musicians from North Carolina and beyond demonstrating jaw-dropping feats of virtuosity. Grant Llewellyn, Director. Visit ncsymphony.org for tickets and information or call 831-6060.

December 31, Thursday

First Night Raleigh is a weather-proof **New Year's Eve Celebration** of the arts and community featuring performances in 28 indoor and outdoor venues throughout downtown Raleigh. The festival includes the early afternoon Children's Celebration, early & late count-downs, the People's Procession, music, dance, theatre, the giant Acorn Drop, and fireworks. Scheduled to appear are Annuals, Crucial Fiya, Justin David, Barbara Bailey Hutchison, Bob Margolin, Lenny Marcus Trio, Red Herring Puppets, Transactors Improv, El Gleno Grande and many others. • First Night Raleigh admission buttons will be available at local Harris Teeter and Rite Aid stores, as well as other local outlets, beginning December 1. Buttons are \$9 in advance for children ages 6-12 and adults. Children five and under are admitted free. At the event, buttons are \$10 for children ages 6-12 and \$12 for adults. Call 832-8699 or visit www.firstnightraleigh.com or www.artspllosure.com for more information. The event begins at 2:00 pm and goes until....

January 1, Friday

First Friday Downtown Gallery Walk. Visit the galleries, listen to live music and delight in a divine culinary experience and take advantage of the First Friday Specials offered by all participating restaurants.

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BEST OF THE BEST! And now our new READER POLL! (see below) Fred Benton knows the Triangle! Benton, long-time lifestyle journalist covering the Triangle for over 20 years, has definite ideas about businesses that he feels are particularly consumer-friendly and offer superlative product and service. This list is the sole property and decision-making of Fred Benton and BetterlivingNC Productions and is not affiliated with the Raleigh Downtowner. This list is a companion information guide that Benton presents on WCKB radio and is heard throughout southeastern NC.

Angus Barn - Glenwood Avenue, close to RDU International Airport, 787-3505. *The BEST steaks!*

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The Point at Glenwood - 1626 Glenwood Avenue at Five Points, Raleigh, 755-1007. *BEST Reuben Sandwich!*

Lilly's Pizza - Five Points, Raleigh, 833-0226. lilyspizza.com *BEST pizza! BEST house side salad! BEST beer selection!*

Trish the Dish Catering - Raleigh, 852-0369. *Fabulous fun food for the budget-minded!*

Cafe Tiramisu - North Ridge Shpg Ctr, near Ace Hardware, Falls of Neuse Road, 981-0305. *BEST stuffed pork chop! BEST fried cheese souffle!*

William and Garland Motel - Hwy.58, Salter Path, 252-247-3733. *BEST budget-friendly family accommodations on the Crystal Coast!*

The Black Mountain Inn - 828-669-6528. *Best in Black Mountain! Pet-friendly! www.blackmountaininn.com*

Nina's Ristorante - 801 Leadmine Road, Harvest Plaza, 845-1122. *BEST NY-style Italian!*

Waraji Japanese Restaurant - Duraleigh Road, corner of Duraleigh and Pleasant Valley roads, 783-1883. *"If you knew sushi like I know sushi." BEST sushi! warajirestaurant.com*

larrybeans.com - 828-1234. *Your web site for BEST coffees.*

The Lamplight Inn - Henderson 252-438-6311. *Pet-friendly; great breakfasts! www.lamplightbnb.net*

Springfield Inn - a bed and breakfast, 252-426-8471. springfield@springfieldbb.com. *In Hertford, BEST breakfast! Farm-fresh everything!*

Simpson's Beef & Seafood - at Creedmoor and Millbrook roads, 783-8818. *BEST prime rib! BEST coconut shrimp!*

Apex Chiropractic - Apex, 362-9066. *I could hardly walk. Acupuncture saved my life!*

Broadway Series South - Progress Energy Center for the Performing Arts, 831-6060. *BEST dramatic arts performances; stellar 09 season that includes "Chorus Line" and "Wizard."*

READER EMAIL POLL: What is your favorite restaurant in Raleigh? Please send your vote to betterlivingnc@yahoo.com.

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DOWNTOWN SNAPSHOT

From the Downtown Raleigh Alliance

Dear Reader,

This winter, Downtown Raleigh is primed to welcome thousands of people with a variety of traditional events as well as many exciting new additions, one of which is the AT&T Raleigh Winterfest. When City Plaza opened with great fanfare in October as part of Raleigh Wide Open 4 festivities, it became a unique, central gathering space in the heart of downtown and is the perfect location for Raleigh's premier holiday event—the AT&T Raleigh Winterfest.



DAVID DIAZ
President and CEO
Downtown Raleigh Alliance
www.YouRHere.com

The AT&T Raleigh Winterfest is a two-month long extravaganza featuring an outdoor, natural ice skating rink. To commemorate the occasion, a kick-off event is scheduled for Friday, December 4, from 5 to 11 pm. Plan on bringing your family and friends to City Plaza for this FREE celebration and enjoy per-

formances by local choirs and bands, talented figure skaters as well as a multitude of other entertainers, a visit from Santa Claus, a reading by Ira David Wood III (star of Theatre in the Park's *A Christmas Carol*), delicious food and drink, a dazzling holiday tree lighting, and a performance by Grammy-winning, country music headliner Michelle Branch. Then from December 5 through January 31, come back downtown for the additional activities and programs taking place at the AT&T Raleigh Winterfest Ice Rink. Learn more details about Winterfest at www.RaleighWinterfest.com.

In this edition of *Raleigh Downtowner Magazine* you will learn more about the missions and goals of several charitable non-profit organizations. There are a variety of opportunities available for people to get involved in supporting their communities, whether it is through financial contributions, becoming active in committees or volunteering with outreach and events.

I encourage you to explore downtown Raleigh throughout the winter holiday season. See a convenient calendar of downtown events scheduled during the upcoming months and find information about parking, maps and the free R-LINE circulator bus at www.YouRHere.com.

Please enjoy this issue of *Raleigh Downtowner Magazine*.



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2920 BREAKFASTS and Counting

On September 1, 2009, Doris and Gary Jurkiewicz celebrated eight years as innkeepers of Raleigh's first B&B, the Oakwood Inn Bed & Breakfast.

"I've always seen both the Inn and Raleigh as a very positive thing that has come into our lives," says Doris. We've experienced ups and downs, but overall, I wouldn't trade where we are with anything." After 9/11, the couple saw a decrease in business because of stagnated travel, and like every other business, they saw their numbers fall again due to the recent economic downturn. According to Gary, "In 2001 people were afraid to travel but had the money and means. But now this economic crisis has people looking at their retirement plans and wondering how to pay for vacations and travel," he continues.

But Doris is confident that Raleigh will bounce back: "We've already seen some upswing in our



occupancy," she says. "It's just a shame that this happened now, because June 2009 was the 25th year anniversary of the Oakwood Inn Bed & Breakfast, and we were hoping for a banner year."

On May 28, 2009, a memorable reunion was held at the Oakwood Inn Bed & Breakfast between the first guests of the inn, Paul and Jean Higgins, and some of the original innkeepers from 25 years ago. In June of 1984, Paul and Jean Higgins were driving from Virginia to see their son at Fort Bragg and stopped at a visitor center at the NC border. They asked the visitor center staff if there were any B&Bs in Raleigh and were told one had just opened that very weekend.

The Innkeepers at the time were Oakley and Donna Herring, Chris Yetter and Steve Zamparelli, and Donna's mother, Olive Colman. And 25 years later, Chris Yetter, Oakley and Donna Herring, along with Doris, again welcomed Paul and Jean to the Oakwood Inn.


When you realize that many B&Bs are merely regular homes that are opened for daily renters, it's easy to see why many close down or revert back to personal residences after a short run. To achieve 25 years as a true B&B is a major achievement and Doris and Gary hope to see the Oakwood Inn Bed & Breakfast make it another 25 to celebrate their 50th year in downtown Raleigh.

Historic Oakwood will be holding its annual 38th Christmas Candlelight Tour on Saturday and Sunday, December 12 & 13. The event draws over 2,500 people over the weekend to tour historic homes in Oakwood. The Inn is always on tour and tickets are available prior to and the day of the tour. Visit www.historicoakwood.org for more details.



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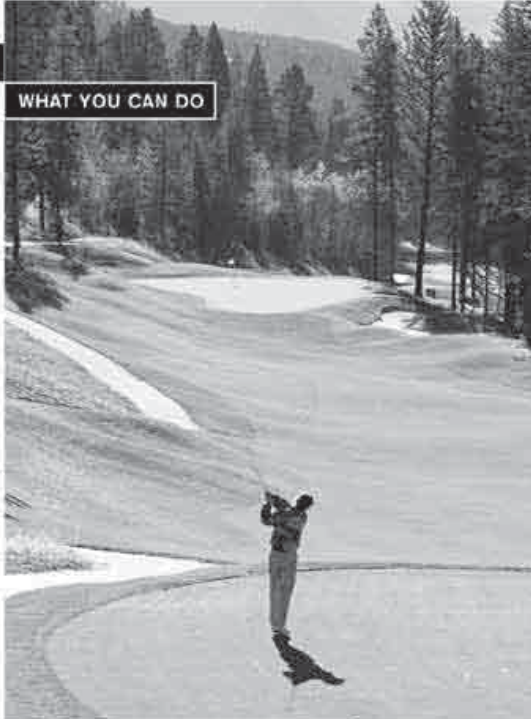
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New Downtown Businesses

Below is a list of new consumer businesses that have opened downtown since our last listing. Drop us an email with any new business openings, closings or news: biz@raleighdowntowner.com

The Acupuncture Center

112-B N. Person St.
Acupuncture and holistic solutions

Cohen Studios

311 W. Martin St.
Fine photography by a Raleigh native

The Collectors Gallery

443 Fayetteville St. (City Plaza)
Fine arts and crafts by North Carolina artists

The Downtown Sports Bar & Grill

410 Glenwood Ave.
Food, spirits, pool tables, video games, and more

Edelweiss Café

317 Blake St.
Authentic German cuisine, bread and pastries

Flanders Art Gallery

302 S. West St.
Fine art and exhibits

Krav Maga

115½ E. Hargett St.
Self-defense instruction for confidence, fitness and stress relief

Krispy Kreme

442 Fayetteville St. (City Plaza)
Delicious doughnuts....no more need be said!

Lee Hansley Gallery, Too

126 Glenwood Ave.
Holiday art exhibitions (a temporary space for holidays)

Noir Bar and Lounge

425 Glenwood Ave.
Euro chic lounge playing rock, funk, hip-hop, house

Rapid Fitness

509 W. North St.
Health fitness facility

Ripple City

603 Glenwood Ave.
"Everything your hippie little heart desires." Accessories of all types.

Spize Café

121 Fayetteville St.
Thai food restaurant

Taste of India

126 S. Salisbury St.
Indian cuisine restaurant

Y Respira Studio

234 Fayetteville St.
Yoga & belly dance classes for all levels



Krav Maga Training Downtown

BUSINESS PROFILE BY MELISSA SANTOS

Krav Maga (*pronounced Krahv Muh-gah*), a self-defense based system which originally started in the Israeli military before spreading around the world to law enforcement, civilian training and eventually, the public. This unique direct approach to self-defense training (which just happens to be a great workout too) is now being offered in Raleigh under the instruction Ken Richstad, owner of Krav Maga Raleigh, the Triangle's only source for Krav Maga instruction.



Ken, who has been studying martial arts since the age of six, originally opened the studio at the Studio @ Hargett in 2008 after studying Krav Maga at the national training center in LA, where the training was originally brought to the U.S. This October, Krav Maga Raleigh moved to its new location on the bottom floor of 119 Hargett Street (Alter Ego Salon is on the top floor).

Unlike other self-defense methods, Krav Maga is based in realism, meaning it relies on natural instincts rather than learned techniques. And to insure that people will be able to apply it outside of class, Ken creates real-life scenarios that contain elements of surprise, fatigue, adrenaline, distraction, and stress because as he says, "Let's be honest, you're never going to be attacked in the middle of a martial arts studio or anywhere else where you're prepared."

But even if you're not interested in self-defense, Krav Maga training is popular because it delivers a full-body, high-intensity workout—starting with the first class. Whether you're taking a beginner class or one of the more advanced ones, your body is always working at 100 percent. Ken tells us it's also an excellent form of stress-relief and is definitely a confidence booster, knowing you can properly defend yourself if the need arises. For those intimidated by other self-defense based classes, Ken says, "I understand that the same thing that makes Krav Maga effective is what makes it intimidating, which is why I work hard to create a supportive environment." The first class is free to give customers a chance to see if they like it. So far, everyone who has taken the trial class has signed up and is really enjoying the instruction as well as the exercise.

All Krav Maga classes are taught by Ken and are one-hour long, with an optional 30-minute workout and conditioning period before each. Currently all classes are offered at night, but look for day classes soon. For more information about enrollment and the studio, visit www.kravmagaraleigh.com.



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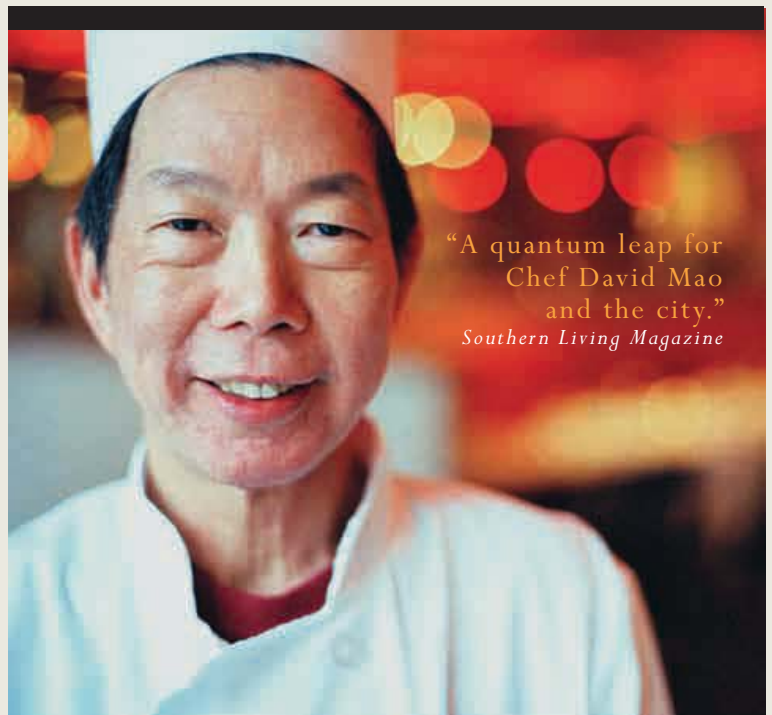
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<i>Chef</i>
Sitti, Raleigh |
| Scott James
<i>Executive Chef</i>
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<i>Owner</i>
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Roadhouse, Durham | Ian Sullivan
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Asheville | Tony Fusco
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Revolution Restaurant,
Durham | Lucindy Willis, PH.D.
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Yancey House
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and Gallery,
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| Vivian Howard
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Urban Living Without Downtown Prices: Renaissance Park



If you're in the real estate market for a downtown location but are also looking for a community with lots of amenities and plenty of room, you might want to check out Renaissance Park. Located only 2.9 miles from the city's center, this new home community offers a variety of townhomes, single-family homes and custom homes so you can choose a plan that truly reflects your style.

If it's a townhome you want, you can find one with about 1,250 square-feet starting around \$140,000. If a single-family home is what you're

looking for, you can find one beginning in the \$220,000's and into the \$300,000's. Homes in Renaissance Park have won HBA Parade of Homes gold and silver awards for their pricing and square-footage categories.

Amazingly, WinStar Homes is offering single family homes beginning around \$224,000 with square-footage ranging from 1,900 to over 2,400. In addition to affordability and close proximity to downtown, Cindy Morris, Vice-President of Sales and Marketing for WinStar Homes says that "aside from the first time homebuyer credit, we also have a wonderful 100 percent financing options available to buyers."

Community amenities include a 7,000-square-foot community recreation center with wi-fi access, fitness center, a 4,500 square-foot salt water pool, two lit tennis courts, sand volleyball court, pocket parks/ children's playgrounds, 49 acres of open space, business center, English gardens, and well-manicured greenways with seating areas and fountains.

A resident of Renaissance Park since May, 2008, Maurice "Mo" Johnson is pleased with the new home he's made in this community: "My wife and I both work downtown. We were looking for an urban feel and design within close proximity of downtown. This neighborhood had the right location, style and price for us. There's a really strong sense of community here with all our neighbors which is a great bonus in living here."



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