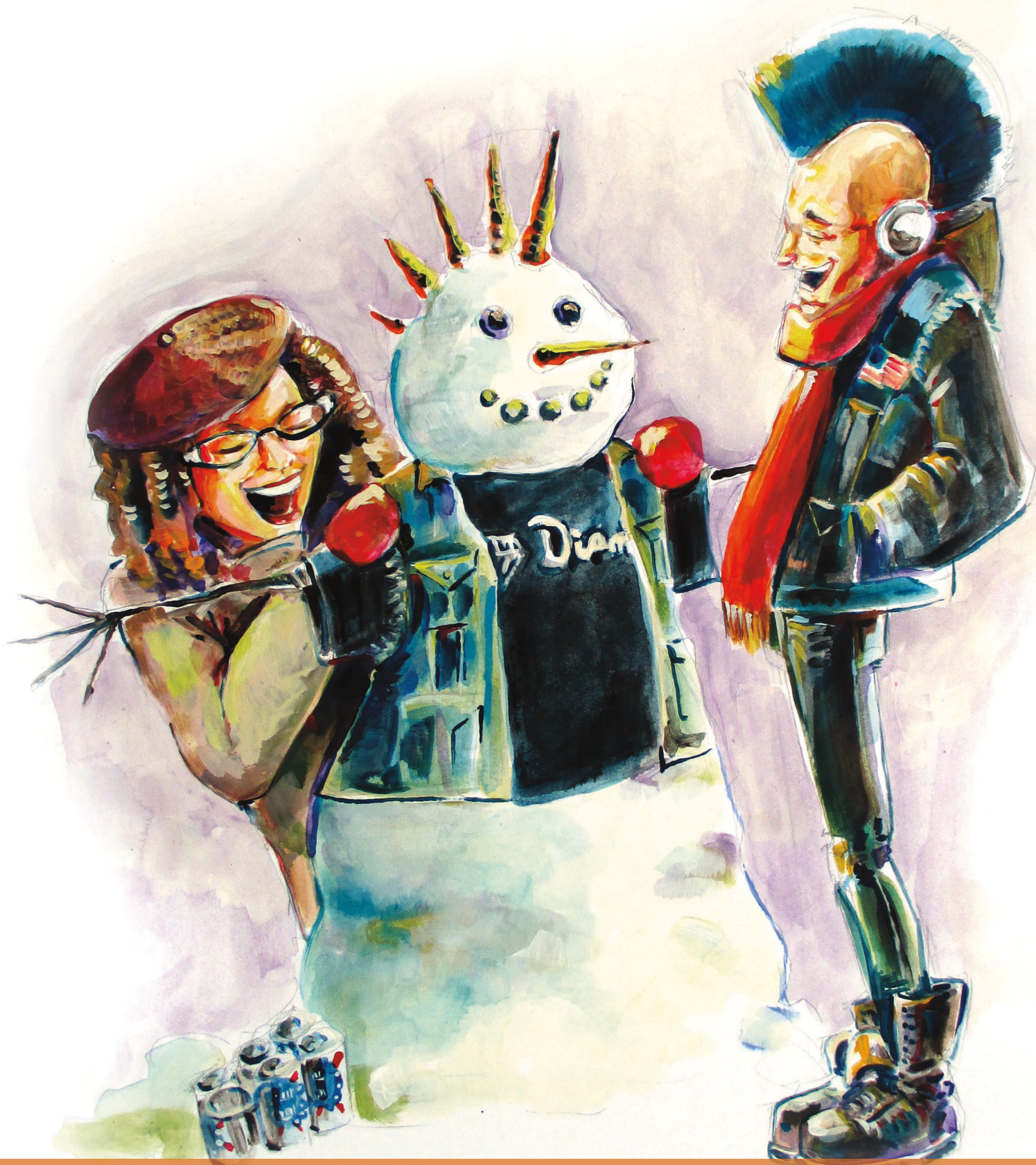


My City

magazine

DECEMBER 2013 / JANUARY 2014



News • Reviews • Interviews • Viewpoints

Letter from the Editor

December 2013 / January 2014

Hello Charlotte,

We just gave thanks for the things we have. Now onto the things we would like to have and the people we would like to be. December and January mean the same thing to all people; saying goodbye to the old year (savouring those last few days) and then making resolutions for the next. Will they stick? Only you know. Enjoy your holidays and your new year.

Love,
Ellen Gurley and the staff of My City Magazine

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Charlotte Beer for the Holidaze Please

by Ellen Gurley



If you're still grappling over what to get that special person this holiday season, stop now. They want beer. They want local beer. And they want it now. Whether you're lost on the perfect thing to show up with to that holiday party or what to get the people on your list, the answer, my friend, is beer. Charlotte has already given Asheville (the state's once 'capital' for breweries) a run for their money and we are still growing. Not only do we have a lot of wonderful breweries but new stores that carry our locals. Restaurants have quickly adopted several for their taps (from whence Newscastles once poured). Get with the program, my friends. Get someone (or everyone) in your life local goodness. If you're at a loss of where to go I'd be much obliged to point you in the right direction. Support local, my friend. These are my favourite. So what are you waiting for? Put down this magazine (in a safe place and keep it forever) and go to your local beer spot; buy a growler or a gift certificate (and a beer for yourself for being so thoughtful) and gift away. Have a hoppy, hoppy holiday!

Four Friends Brewing

10913-C Office Park Dr., 704.233.7071

I usually go for their seasonal anything. Weeks ago I enjoyed a brown sugar rimmed glass full of their Punkin Brewster. And after that I enjoyed the heck out of Hot Damn; this one was brewed with peppers. I love the Fultons and their brewery. Check it out for yourself.

www.FourFriendsBrewing.com

Triple C Brewing Co.

2900 Griffith St., 704.372.3212

These guys are very nice. I see them at almost all of

the beer festivals in the region. Chris Harker has his enthusiastic partner Scott Kimball running his lines. And I think it's a fine choice. They are growing quite well.

www.TripleCBrewing.com

NoDa Brewing Co.

2229 N.Davidson St., 704.451.1394

What a wonderful part of the beer community NoDa Brewing Co. is. They are in so many local restaurants and the Panther Stadium. I honestly could not imagine a Charlotte without Suzie and Todd Ford's wonderful brainchild. I constantly order Coco Loco. I used to only drink porters and stouts and though I've branched out, Coco Loco is right up my alley.

www.NoDaBrewing.com

Birdsong Brewing Co.

2315 N.Davidson St., 704.332.1810

These guys are directly across the parking lot from NoDa; making them not only both members of the beer community here but neighbours, as well. Sometimes they do events together. I think their most popular beer is JP's Jalapeno Pale Ale. People rave about it.

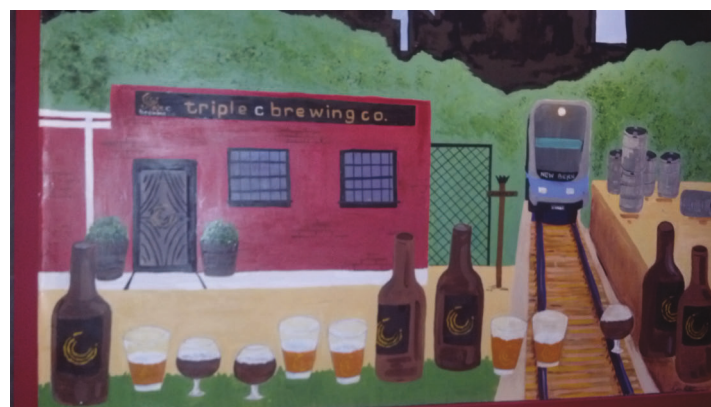
www.BirdsongBrewing.com

Ass Clown Brewing Co.

10620 Bailey Rd., Suites E & F, Cornelius, 704.995.7767

I'm in love with Matt Glidden's Dark Chocolate Sea Salt Stout. When I was there last he was awaiting locally harvested oysters to use in a beer. He tries to use as many ingredients as he can from the region in which we live. That's no clowning around.

www.AssClownBeer.com



You can buy local and regional beer at the following venues. And unlike the big box stores you will (I repeat will) have people that work there that will help you and want to help you find a good beer for you. Below are my favourites but there's still Good Bottle, Salud, World of Beer and Brawley's.

Common Market

2007 Commonwealth Ave., 28205, 704.334.6209 / 1515 S. Tryon St., 28203, 704.332.7783

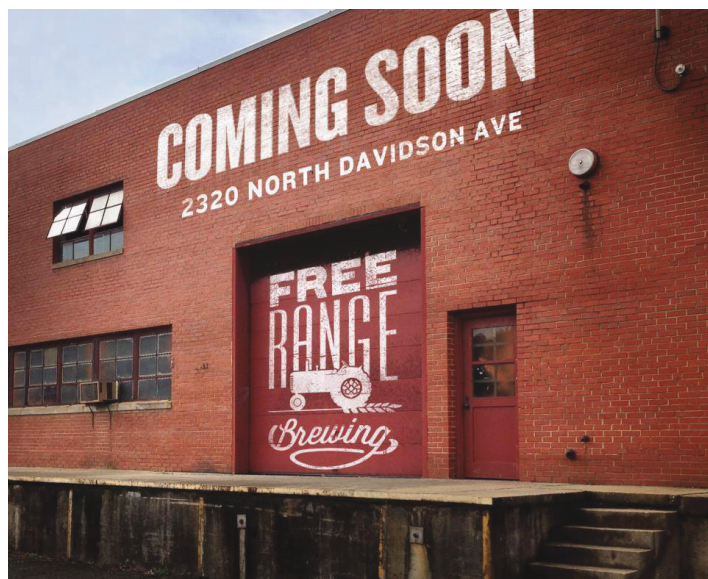
With two locations, one in Plaza-Midwood and one in Southend, I would recommend going to the Plaza-Midwood location and ask for Tom Stanfel. He knows his beer (all beer) and he carries locals, too. After you buy your gifts, have a seat at the bar and see what he's got on tap. You'll be impressed with how this man runs his beer program.
www.CommonMarketIsGood.com

Bulldog Beer & Wine

2447-B Park Rd., 28203, 980.335.0492

Joe Fortier is the resident beer nerd and he knows his stuff. These guys have a boatload of regional beers on tap and a wonderful painting of a bulldog by My City's own John Hairston, Jr. Like them on FB and follow them on twitter. They are very active on twitter and on social media. Keep up with them.
www.BulldogBeerAndWine.com

Charlotte and the surround can now boast (and keep an eye on) Lake Norman Brewing Company and Unknown. They're the newest. Let's not diss them til we try them, friend. Olde Meck., Rock Bottom and Heist are still there. And Lenny Boy has expanded it's fermented tea brewing to beers with cute names like "Spear-a-melon" that are almost like champagne. Up soon for Charlotte will be **Free Range Brewing Company** (www.FreeRangeBrewing.com) from the Alexander brothers. I've already



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tried their beer at an event. Now they move into their warehouse. Look very forward to trying them yourselves. And if you aim to brew yourself or have a keg set up in your own home, check out House of Brews (who do demonstrations at NoDa from time to time) (www.House-of-Brews.com) or Custom Home Pubs (www.CustomHomePubs.com) (next door to Sankey's). **Sankey's Taproom & Grille** (11416 E. Independence Blvd., Suite L, Matthews, www.SankeysGrille.com) is run by beer enthusiast and Charlotte native Andy Tritten. It's a super cute place with large paintings commissioned of lots of regional breweries including our Birdsong and NoDa. The food is pretty yum. I've had the Porter (a Portobello sandwich) and a Philly cheesesteak. They also home make some pretty amazing chips. They're just one of the many area restaurants that serve local beer. Lebowsky's, 300 East, the Diamond and others are also 'with the program'. I like it. So my point is - tis the season to be jolly and you'd be much jollier on local brew. Fact.

Didja Know?

Here are a couple of things you might not have known.



Didja know about the **Little Free Libraries**. If you listen to NPR or read Our State Magazine or the Observer (Parade), then you may have already heard about it. I first saw one last week at the corner off Kenmore and Laurel in Elizabeth. Since then I heard about it on the radio and read about it on my coffee breaks but I have yet to 'find' any more than the one I found. I know a lot of you that would find this interesting. You set one up and I will personally bring books to replenish it. This concept began in Wisconsin with one dude and it has spread like a good wildfire since. I'd love to see them all over Charlotte and the surround. Go to [little free www. LittleFreeLibrary.org](http://littlefree.org) and get information and please email me and let me know if you set one up outside your home. ellen.gurley@mycitymagazine.net

Didja know that there is a **Beard and Mustache Club** in Charlotte. Actually "BAM" is a national concept. They don't just sit around and tell each other how cool their facial hair is, they also raise

money for charities. The Charlotte Chapter of the Beard & Moustache Club of North Carolina meets at the Chop Shop every third Tuesday from 7 to 9pm. All are welcome to attend and you can learn about Beards BeCAUSE.

Didja know that poker is legal in Charlotte, and Jay Johnson's **I Move Poker** has a full service company that will bring the tables right to you. Charities and new businesses will utilize this company to run tournaments to get people in the door... and it works. He has tons of followers (both men and women). Contact him and he will bring you poker and traffic with no gamble. www.IMovePubPoker.com

Didja know that we have a sockeye salmon lover and (world peace) activist right here in our city. **Si Kahn** not only is a singer songwriter who plays

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(politically charged and peace packed) folk with the Looping Brothers and alongside the New Familiars and the Loudermilks from time to time but he also produces plays (most recently the musical Precious Memories starring Sue Massek at the Evening Muse - which was a packed house "who's who" of local art and politics), but to top that all off he is a part of a movement of national artists that called Musicians United to Protect Bristol Bay to stop the Pebble Mine and save the water and the community. He is up to some very amazing and unbelievable things. Looks like we may have to do an update on the fella. www.MusiciansUnited.info

Didja know that Mandi English moved **m.e. Boutique** from their location on Central Ave. to Commonwealth and The Plaza. You can find some of the original team and some new faces. The salon is "me" as an abbreviation of Mandi's name, but you can bet your bottom dollar that their clients refer to their visits to her spot as their "me" time. Mandi has an eye for fashion and a strong sense of community. She often partners with local clothing dealers (like Caroline Frers of the Frock Shop) to have in-house truck shows. Not only can a wonderful style be obtained here but an enduring relationship. Become a customer and you will return. www.MEBoutiqueSalon.com

Didja know that **Charlotte's Party Pedaler** (a pedal powered, eco-friendly, pub crawling trolley) goes "BYOB" in January. Bottoms up and enjoy. www.PartyPedaler.com

Didja know that Charlotte's artist **Sy Arden** just became the Arts & Sciences Council's regional artist project grant recipient. Look for exciting things from her. www.SyArden.com

Didja know that **Repo Records** just opened up a new store front. It's at the corner of Pinecrest Drive and Commonwealth Avenue. Jimmy Repo is back at it again; cassettes, '45's, posters, CDs and rare Ebay finds. www.Facebook.com/Repo.Record

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The Carolina Theatre

Charlotte's Hidden Movie Palace

by Brandon Lunsford



At first glance, the corner of North Tryon and Sixth Street downtown may not look very impressive. In fact, until a public green-space and sculpture garden was constructed there by the city for the Democratic National Convention in September 2012, it was basically a vacant parking lot. What's actually there, and is still hidden behind this unassuming corner, is the ghost of the Carolina Theatre, Charlotte's grandest movie palace.

In the golden age of movies in the 1920's, baroque cinemas were constructed to provide escapist entertainment on a grand scale, an "opera house for the masses." Marcus Loew, head of the Loew's theater chain, famously said "We sell tickets to theaters, not movies." Paramount Pictures' Publix Theatres Corporation established some of the most extravagant theaters of the era, including the Rialto and the Paramount in New York City and the Chicago and Oriental Theaters in Chicago. Many of their palaces were outfitted with exaggerated ornamentation based on historical motifs and when they started building the 900-seat Carolina in 1926 they spared no expense. The lavish interior was created by New York theater designer R.E. Hall and was decorated to resemble a Spanish patio overlooking the Mediterranean complete with wrought-iron chandeliers, reproductions of priceless Cluny weavings, Moorish tiled floors and a Spanish cathedral window. The façade was designed by local

architect C.C. Hook, who was also commissioned to build the Charlotte mansion of tobacco magnate James Buchanan Duke as well as many of the dormitories and the gymnasium at Duke University. In addition to all the bells and whistles, many Charlotteans were also happy that it was the first air-conditioned public building in the city.

The Carolina showed its first film on March 7th, 1927. Located in the center of the shopping and entertainment district of North Tryon, it quickly became a premier destination for people of all social classes and was the first racially integrated theater in the city. Earlier films from the silent era were accompanied by the Carolina's impressive 8-rank Wurlitzer Organ and in 1938 the theatre was overhauled to better accommodate audiences for the "talkies" that were exploding in popularity by the early 1930's. Larger seats were installed, new projectors and sound equipment were put in and new murals were painted on acoustic tiles designed to help moviegoers hear the sound with more clarity.

The theater was the only venue in the Carolinas to premiere "Gone with the Wind" in 1939 and it also became a focal point for live entertainment. The Charlotte Symphony's debut performance was there in 1932 and it also hosted vaudeville, variety shows, musicals and other events. On Friday, February 10th, 1956, twenty-one year old



Elvis Presley made his first appearance in Charlotte with four shows at the Carolina. According to the Charlotte News some “6,000 persons, mostly teenagers” were lined up around the block all day to see the new face of rock-n-roll. Other stars who graced the stage included Bob Hope, Tommy Dorsey, Jimmy Stewart, Katharine Hepburn and Frank Sinatra.

The Carolina continued to entertain Charlotte crowds through the 1950’s, when the popularity of television had a dramatic impact on the attendance of the movie palaces. It underwent a major renovation to compete with the new medium in 1961 and became a Cinerama theater with three synchronized projectors and a curved screen. It scored one more huge success in 1965, when it had a record-breaking seventy nine week run of “the Sound of Music” that earned special recognition from 20th Century Fox for being the first theater to have attendance records higher than the population of its surrounding community. But like the rest of the nation, Charlotteans were increasingly moving away from the centralized downtown area to the suburbs. The opulent older theaters downsized to accommodate smaller audiences and new cinemas were often situated in or near shopping complexes outside of town. The struggling Carolina eventually became a discount theater for low-budget films and finally closed in November 1978, after showing “Fists of Bruce Lee.”

The abandoned cinema soon became a home for vagrants and fire struck it on November 13th, 1980. The glittering marquee and the lobby area were demolished soon after and the Carolina became what many still see it as today: a vacant space no one has been able to fill. In 2004, the Arts & Science Council planned to use the theater as a museum and in 2007 there was a project in place to develop the site into boutique condominiums that would incorporate the theater’s old marquee structure into its design. Lack of funding brought them all to a

halt, but recent events have once again given hope to Charlotte’s hidden treasure. The Foundation of the Carolinas has purchased the site for one dollar from the city and wants to add an office building in front and renovate the theater as a venue for major speakers, symposia, town hall meetings, debates, documentary films and civic meetings. They will also partner with CMP Carolina Theatre LLC to make the theater suitable for films, jazz and chamber music and other entertainment on the weekends as part of a “Civic Campus” on North Tryon Street that includes Discovery Place, the Main Library and Spirit Square.

If the theater is ultimately resurrected, Charlotteans will be amazed at what was right under their noses. The interior of what remains resembles an excavated ancient Roman theater, complete with decaying columns and muddy brown paint peeling from grimy murals that are still beautiful. The original wooden seats are long gone, the iron chandeliers have been removed and the ornate balconies that once protruded from either side of the stage are missing. It is a cavernous and somewhat creepy building now, but it still has amazing acoustics. One thing is certain; you can’t walk around this ruined space now without feeling a sense of awe for the bygone era of the grand movie palaces and without hope that restoring the theater will bring that sense of wonder and over-the-top style back to downtown Charlotte. Ω (Photos by Austin Caine)

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Thomas Haapapuro

Interview with Ellen Gurley



You grew up in the Ohio's Appalachian Mountains? What initially brought you to Charlotte (or North Carolina)?

True. I was raised in a very rural part of Ohio, not far from Pittsburgh, PA. While I was in college, I grew to love hiking. My friends and I would travel to Kentucky (the Red River Gorge) for weekends, then we started to come to NC on spring breaks, mostly hiking in the Linville Gorge. It was a pretty long drive, so we could only do it when school was out for a week or more. Over my college career, I came to North Carolina to hike probably ten times. When school was over, I decided it was time to move closer. So I came to North Carolina for the hiking really. I liked Asheville, but there was not much of a job market for my profession there. I was not overly fond of the Raleigh area. So I interviewed in Charlotte and liked it and the job well enough, so I moved down. I liked the idea that Charlotte was close to both the mountains and the sea. Before my art started taking up most of my free time, I spent a lot of time hiking the mountains or kayaking at the beach. I don't have a lot of time for that these days though.

While in Ohio you went to the state university and obtained a BA in Landscape Architecture? What does that mean? Was working for Design Resource Group the first time you applied these skills?

I actually received a Bachelor of Science, not to be too particular, from the Ohio State University. I graduated from the college of engineering with a degree in Landscape Architecture. For those who don't really know what that profession is, and I meet many who don't, it is better described as land planning. I design sites for urban infill projects, multi-family apartment sites and plazas, that kind of thing. Architects design the buildings, civil engineers design the utilities, and I design how those two aspects fit together.

While I was in college, I worked for a civil engineering

company. I spent most of my time drafting and doing basic site design. When I was hired on at Design Resource Group I really began to utilize my skills and develop as a professional. I have designed a wide variety of projects here in Charlotte and throughout the southeast.

When I first saw your art it was made of concrete and on display at the American Beauty Garden shop. I even think one was a waterfall with plants in it. I have heard more about your woodworking (which we will get to), but do you still do concrete pieces and when did you first start this? Some of your concrete pieces look very organic, like you borrowed a vision from nature. Is that about right?

I am self-taught as both a concrete artist and a wood artist. I am not much for formal training, clubs, etc. What I learned most from college is that I didn't really need college to teach me things. The professor assigns a book, you read the book, and the test is the book. You get a degree. So now I just buy the books. That is how I learned both woodworking and concrete sculpting.

With concrete, I really liked the idea of direct sculpting which, as I mentioned, I learned from a book I had purchased. It was a very affordable way to create large, permanent sculptures. I did a lot of this kind of sculpture for a few years and really explored a lot of different forms, techniques, and tricks. It was a good way to learn the medium. The down side of it though is that it does take a lot of time to carve them and they are solely one-offs each time. I still work concrete and have done some pretty large and complex fountains; some for homeowners, some for businesses and some for apartment complexes. But they are no longer direct-carved pieces. They are made from molds that I construct. It costs a lot more to produce, but it also allows me to create larger and more complex pieces. Regarding the natural inspirations of my work, which is absolutely true, I mention in my artist statements my

upbringing in a rural setting because it is very relevant to my art and my design aesthetic. As a child, without the distractions of the city vying for my attention, I spent a lot of time really engrossed in the natural world. I made collections of insects, pressed leaves and spent hours with my microscope. I really was absorbed by the beauty of the natural world and spent most of my childhood studying it. That has never (really) gone away. Often today I see a natural shape and it sparks an idea in which I elaborate upon that natural shape. But I also don't want my work to seem duplicative of natural items. I am inspired by nature, but I have little interest in duplicating it exactly. Instead, I try to refine a natural shape down to its vital essence. For instance, take away the bark and reveal how the shape makes the thing beautiful. I tend to think of this as modern or sophisticated. That is, pairing something down to the simplest elements of beauty, balance and form without a lot of superfluous details to either vie for attention or distract from the elemental form.

You had some pieces at Red Sky Gallery last year? Were those concrete or wood? Are they still up there? Are you in another gallery?

I do still have pieces at Red Sky. I have been very lucky to work with that gallery. It was always one of my favorite Charlotte galleries and I am honored to be in that gallery with so many other talented artists.

At Red Sky most of the work I have there is wood; some bowls, boxes, and some sculptures. They are also the first gallery to have pieces from my current experiments with cast resins. That new direction in my art really has me excited, and could really open new possibilities for me. I am in other galleries, as well. I have been in a few other galleries in Charlotte (the Beet and Wooden Stone for instance) but have pulled back to just Red Sky in Charlotte. I also have work in Studio 19 in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and Primary Elements Gallery in Cannon Beach, Oregon. For my concrete work I do sell some of my work directly to Roundtree Plantation Garden Center here in Charlotte. This has been a wonderful relationship which has really allowed me to get my concrete work noticed around town and there are truly a great group of people who work there who have really supported my development. I would also like to mention that Hope Nichols has also been a great client of mine for a few years now. She also saw my work at American Beauty (thanks, Pete) and commissioned a direct carved planter. I have done a few pieces for her now and am currently putting the finishing touches on a fountain for her at Boris and Natasha's.

Ok, commissioned works; who has purchased these? Who is the average person who requests commissioned pieces from you?

The only commissioned work I do is for concrete. The woodwork tends to be whatever I want to create but concrete is necessarily different. I love doing work with private homeowners. These people are like Hope and they have an idea of what they are looking for. They give me an idea of what they want, but also allow me the freedom

to develop the final work to my own standards. I try to achieve their goals while maintaining my artistic vision. When I do large-scale fountains for apartment communities or architectural offices this is a much different process. Normally I work with a landscape architect, or architect like myself, who wants a piece that fits into a part of their design. They give me an idea of space, the kind of fountain they are looking for and an idea of budget. Then I create a few sketches and really work with them to get a design that meets their needs. Since I am also a professional designer I am familiar with their process and so that helps a great deal.

And onto jewelry. I've heard some of your stuff can be very intricate. How does one make jewelry from wood and where can some of these pieces be viewed?

You are very good at asking questions that are short but require long answers. Ok. With regards to my woodwork I harvest all of my own lumber. This normally starts with someone letting me know that they have a tree that is being taken down in their yard or a neighboring yard. If it's the right kind of tree I often will go and take a portion of that tree home. I like the idea of salvaging the wood and I like even better that all of my wood is local and represents the place that I live and work. When I get the wood home



I saw it up into boards and set it aside to dry. This wood is used in all of my art. But normally there are small bits of waste wood cut off when I am working on a larger project. So I started making jewelry, mostly necklaces and earrings, from these wood scraps. I like to say that when I harvest a log the only thing left of it will be finished art and sawdust. I try to utilize every last piece.

So, yes, I make jewelry and hair ornaments. I was selling these at a local gallery, Unexpected Finds, but they are now closing shop. So the only place to get these are by going to my website: www.modernwoodjewelry.com.

I love that you use the entire buffalo. That is beautiful to me in itself. Let's talk furniture. If you work with wood. I can only assume you make furniture too. I've heard of some shelves.

I do make some furniture but not traditional furniture. I make more sculptural forms (soft and sinuous) that look as if they have been grown rather than constructed.

Last year you became an author on the subject of woodworking. Is this the first time you've been published? Will it be the last? What was the title of this book and from whence can it be obtained?

I have written feature articles on woodworking for several years for a woodworking (trade) magazine. I eventually decided to sit down to write a book on woodworking. Luckily the publisher of the magazine also publishes books, so we worked out a contract and I wrote the book. It was actually a good use of my time while the 2008 recession was in full swing seeing as there was not much going on in the 'development world' at the time. The book is sold in most woodworking stores. It can also be purchased online at Amazon. I believe it is also sold in France and Germany, interestingly enough. The title of the book is Fresh Designs for Woodworking.

I'm going to say one word and you tell me (in a sentence or less what this word 'means' to you).

1. **Apricot** - I recently harvested an apricot tree, and have made a few bowls from it. I don't know what the fruit tastes like, but the wood was a beauty to work.
2. **Geometry** - All nature has a geometry, though it is hidden. It is my goal to unearth and exhibit these geometries.
3. **Domestic** - From home, I suppose. Like the trees I harvest.
4. **Love** - ah, my sweet wife. (mushy)
5. **Blanche DuBois** - I believe this name was used in the Observer article on me. I actually don't know the reference, though I suppose I could Google it. It seemed an odd reference, but that article opened a lot of doors for me and (so) I am very appreciative of the exposure from that interview.

Yes, I often do follow-up questions from interviews I find doing pre-interview research. I wondered about that Blanche DuBois. What is your favorite wood to

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work with; walnut, maple, cherry, apricot? Favorite tools to use? (Any unconventional woods or tools that you use?)

Each wood and each tool is unique and has its own opportunities and constraints. You have to find the right one of each for each project. I love pairing the warm tones of walnut with cherry. Fruit trees (such as apricot) are very heavy and prone to cracking but they work easily and usually have beautiful color.

I use the tools from King Arthur's Tools a great deal and have been doing demonstrations at woodworking shows for them for several years. They are a great group of guys and create truly wonderful tools that allow me to sculpt furniture from wood (instead of building it).

Ok, let's talk isolation. Is that the only way to get to know yourself and come to receive the truth from nature? I ask because I assume that's where your obtained such a mature, old soul, at such a young age; once living in a canoe with nothing but a frying pan.

Ah, you did read that article. That story got a little muddled in the re-telling. Let me square the details of that. When I graduated from college I was still working for the civil engineering firm Kabil Associates. There was a small recession back in 2001 and they put me on unemployment for five weeks. So I had a little bit of money and some time on my hands. I decided to do as much hiking and camping as I could. One of my first adventures was to borrow a canoe and go to a fairly isolated lake in eastern Ohio. The intent was to bring a fishing pole, lures, a cooking pan and butter (no other food than that). I wanted to get to that primal subsistence living for a week to see what it was like to have nothing to eat but that which I had caught for myself. In (all) reality I was pretty hungry for a week and grew quite tired of fish. When the week was over I returned the canoe and went hiking in the Adirondacks for two weeks. Then I drove to NC, did a few interviews and went hiking in the wilderness of Shining Rock for a week. I spent my unemployment time having a lot of fun adventures and even landed a job. I moved to Charlotte a few weeks later. I am, by nature, a fairly solitary person. I like the company

of people just fine, but I do like private time. I am not a joiner of clubs or groups. I have a lot of things I want to create. That is what drives me; to create. And that, for me, is a solitary pursuit.

Funny story, you were called to the principal's office for producing a figure for a high school project that no one believed you made. Was that something you considered a compliment? (I never went to the principal's office and came out feeling proud, except this one time, but I digress.)

That story is true. I had recently learned plaster carving and made this awesome little Olmec fertility sculpture. I experimented with various patina effects. It looked pretty spot on, if I do say so myself. I spent forever working on it. And, yes, the teacher accused me of having bought it. It was a compliment, in retrospect, but it really annoyed me at the time. It was as if she (they) could not believe that I was capable of making something beautiful. Though a very good student in high school, I spent a fair amount of time in the principal's office ... something about problems with authority or something.

I see. So I understand that you've listened to more than 800 audio books. What was your favourite this year?

Yes, I love audio books. While I am working I always have one going. I listen to them every day for hours on end. They add up quickly. Oh, there are so many wonderful books.



NEIGHBORHOOD THEATRE

THU DEC 5 8PM CREATIVE LOAFING'S HOMEBREW SHOWCASE COLBY DOBBS BAND, AMIGO, SCOWL BROW, FOREVER FC & ALT-CTRL-SLEEP	DEC 6 & 7 ALL ARTS MARKET FRIDAY 6PM-11PM SATURDAY 11AM-5PM	SAT DEC 7 7PM FOLLOWS FIGHTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BEARDS BECAUSE WITH CHASING PEDESTRIANS & GROWN UP AVENGER STUFF	SUN DEC 8 8PM TAB BENOIT WITH DEVON ALLMAN	FRI DEC 13 8PM 1065 THE END NOT SO ACOUSTIC XMAS FEATURING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD THE 1975 MS MR
SAT & SUN DEC 14 & 15 AC ENTERTAINMENT & MAXIMUS PRESENTS CAROLINA CHOCOLATE DROPS WITH POKEY LAFARGE	FRI DEC 20 9PM JUNIOR ASTRONOMERS & HRVRD	SAT DEC 28 8PM BLUE DOGS WITH RADNEY FOSTER	TUE DEC 31 8PM-2AM PERMANENT VACATION PRESENTS OVERBOARD NYE FREE 21+	TUE JAN 14 8PM HOT TUNA AND LEON RUSSELL
THU JAN 16 8PM JASON ISELL WITH HOLLY WILLIAMS	FRI JAN 17 8PM BETTIE LAVETTE	SUN JAN 19 6PM QUEEN CITY COMEDY JAM FEATURING TK KIRKLAND	FRI JAN 24 8PM AC ENTERTAINMENT & MAXIMUS PRESENTS PHOSPHORESCENT	SUN JAN 26 8PM JACS BOUSA & FAMILY MATTERS PRESENTS NIPSEY HUSSLE WITH DENIRO FARRAR
FRI JAN 31 8PM FOUND FOOTAGE FESTIVAL	THU FEB 13 8PM SNARKY PUPPY	SAT FEB 15 10PM-2AM RAPS & POUNDS PRESENTS DRE DAY	SAT FEB 22 7:30PM A CONCERT TO END HOMELESSNESS HOUSINGFEST FEATURING THE BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA & JIM LAUDERDALE	*THU FEB 27 8PM LAKE STREET DIVE

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Some of my favorites this year were Genghis Kahn and the making of the Modern World, Indian Giver and Howard Zinn's A Peoples History of the United States. These three books really change how I view history and our current situation profoundly so. I also re-read (just recently) The Evolution of God which really changed my understanding of where the main Abrahamic religions came from. I do enjoy fictions, too, though; anything by Chuck Palahniuk or Christopher Moore is definitely worth a listen.

Your name is from Finland in origin. That is your nationality. Your name actually means wood "Haapapuro (haapa - aspen) (puro - stream)". Your grandfather was said to 'work with wood'. So your destiny, then, was to be a woodworker, yes? Though you were mostly self-taught did he not have a part in your instruction (was he passed before you had a chance to meet him)? (Nature vs. nurture?) And have you visited Finland? (What are the laws of bringing wood "in" from another country, if any?)

That is my understanding of my last name. My grandfather passed only a few years ago. He did work wood and made a number of beautiful things, but no, I was not interested in woodworking as a child. I was a very bookish youth and so, when I wasn't chasing butterflies, I could always be found reading or studying. It was not until I moved to Charlotte that I decided to explore woodworking. I bought a cheap table saw, a few pine boards and a book of basic woodworking. I just went through the book, making all the joints and cuts that they did, until I understood the basics. Then I started designing my own stuff.

You make a lot of bowls and vessels out of wood. Do you use any of these for cooking (or serving) or are they mostly just for decorative display?

They take a lot of time and care to make. Unlike turned bowls these are painstakingly carved so there is a pretty fair price attached to them. But if you buy one to use for a serving dish, go right on ahead. It's your bowl now. But generally, no I wouldn't want to use them for that. They speak the language of a functional vessel but are really more an allusion to that aspect and are more truly meant to be enjoyed for their artistic merit.



Can it be safe to say that you would like to be contacted when people have fallen trees on their roadside?

I am actually pretty stocked up for the moment. If I bring home one more tree, I think my wife may kill me.

What's up next?

I have some shows coming up this fall. I have had some involvement with the McColl Center for the Arts and did a studio tour with them earlier this year. This December I will be part of the "Palate to Palette" event. I will be showing some of my wood sculptures, vessels and some other items, but it will also be the debut of my cast resin work. Nearly at the same time, I will be a featured artist at the Green Hill Art Show in Greensboro. At this show I will be debuting my first kinetic wood sculpture. It is a very large piece (about 8' tall and 9' wide) and features a flying space centipede as its central movement. I have never created a kinetic piece before so it is very exciting that it gets to debut at such an impressive platform (the Green Hill Art Show).

(Photos by Erin Hubbs)

www.ThomasHaapapuro.com
www.ThaaapDesigns.com
www.ThaaapDesigns.com.blogspot.com
www.ModernPatterns.com
www.ModernWoodJewelry.com

Financial Resolutions for the New Year

by Scott Collins

About 45% of Americans usually make New Year's resolutions, according to a survey from the University of Scranton. But the same survey shows that only 8% of us actually keep our resolutions. Perhaps this low success rate isn't such a tragedy when our resolutions involve things like losing a little weight or learning a foreign language. But when we make financial resolutions — resolutions that, if achieved, could significantly help us in our pursuit of our important long-term goals — it's clearly worthwhile to make every effort to follow through.

So, what sorts of financial resolutions might you consider? Here are a few possibilities:

- Boost your contributions to your retirement plans. Each year, try to put in a little more to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plans. These tax-advantaged accounts are good options for your retirement savings strategy.
- Reduce your debts. It's not always easy to reduce your debts, but make it a goal to finish 2014 with a smaller debt load than you had going into the new year. The lower your monthly debt payments, the more money you'll have to invest for retirement, college for your children (or grandchildren) and other important objectives.
- Build your emergency fund. Work on building an "emergency fund" containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses, with the money held in a liquid account that offers a high degree of preservation of principal. Without such a fund, you might be forced to dip into your long-term investments to pay for emergencies, such as a new furnace, a major car repair, and so on. You might not be able to finish creating your emergency fund in one year, but contribute as much as you can afford.
- Plan for your protection needs. If you don't already have the proper amounts of life and disability insurance in place, put it on your "To Do" list for 2014. Also, if you haven't taken steps to protect yourself from the considerable costs of long-term care, such as an extended nursing home stay, consult with your financial professional, who can suggest the appropriate protection or investment vehicles. You may never need such care, but that's a chance you may not want to take — and the longer you wait, the more expensive your protection options may become.
- Don't overreact to market volatility. Too many people head to the investment "sidelines" during market downturns. But if you're not invested, then you miss any potential market gains— and the biggest gains are often realized at the early stages of the rally.
- Focus on the long term. You can probably check your investment balance online, which means you can do it every day, or even several times a day — but should you? If you're following a strategy that's appropriate for your needs, goals, risk tolerance and time horizon, you're already doing what you should be doing in the long run. So there's no need to stress yourself over the short-term movements that show up in your investment statements.

Do whatever you can to turn these New Year's resolutions into realities. Your efforts could pay off well beyond 2014.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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Marcus Farrar of Antibalas

Interview with Ellen Gurley



Hello, Marcus, let me begin by telling you that your Charlotte friends and family are very proud of you. I always knew you'd be a lifer. What was your first gig in Charlotte (Lefty)? Your last gig (Wavy Train; the Grateful Dead and Phish cover band)?

Hey Ellen, It definitely makes me feel good knowing my hometown people are proud and still remember who I am. My parents moved just outside of CLT so I'm not able to get back to the city as much as I'd like. The first band I was ever in was a band called The Freds. I think we were about thirteen or so. I think the last band I was with there was, indeed, Wavy Train.

You play the shekere in Antibalas. The music is described as Afrobeat. What's Afrobeat?

Afrobeat is a style/genre developed by Fela Anikulapo Kuti in the late 60's in Lagos, Nigeria. It's a mix of American Funk, Jazz and is rooted with African rhythmic structure. As you can imagine, it is generally very danceable but also has a deep political message from the common man to the corrupt politicians (that were in power in Lagos around that time).

What is a shekere and what's its origin?

A shekere is an instrument made from a gourd. It is cut, hollowed out and dried. Then a strong net with plastic, wood or glass beads is woven around the gourd and many different shaking or "throwing" movements create percussive sounds. I don't know exactly the origin of the shekere, but I would imagine it is one of the oldest instruments known to mankind.

Do you miss playing actual drums or do you still own a set and hit 'em?

I'm still doing quite a bit of (actual) drumming. I've got about six drumsets at the moment.

You recently posted a picture of yourself and your mother. The love was very apparent (and has always been). Tell me about your relationship with her.

My Mom is the sh*t! She turned me on to music. We used to sing in the car together along with the radio. She'd sing the low harmonies and I'd sing the high until my voice changed and we switched. She was always playing piano at home. She actually didn't want me to become a working musician at first because she knew how hard life would be, but she realized quickly that I had no choice and that she didn't either. We talk often. About a year ago she was diagnosed with cancer. Trust me, NO ONE wants to get that call but we have been battling. We changed her diet and she's on an experimental chemo. I fly out to see her regularly and just found out we're very close to remission numbers so I'm very happy about that.

Wow, well I'll be pulling for her. Your father is an artist, yes? I can only assume they both your mother and your father (who created you) were very creative, caring and nurturing people. Talk to me about him.

My Dad is a Wood Turner and probably the most talented person I'll ever know. He's that dude that says, 'oh, I want new curtains'. He buys the fabric, sews it, then hangs it. If a chair gets old, he reupholsters it. And as for landscaping and architecture, yes, he does that, too. When I was around twelve, he and I built an addition onto our house. He also an artist, yes. If you count having a piece of art in the White House. Right now he's working on making hats; literally wooden hats - think the lightest, most comfortable Stetson made of wood. I learned from him that if you just do it and don't waste time thinking that you can't, you will eventually become awesome. So when I came to NY, I would go on auditions for everything; whether I had ever done it before or not and that was how I networked with people (and ultimately paid the rent). Recently a friend from France asked me to write some lyrics for a record he

was doing. I had never really written something for others to hear before. Now my songs are being used in a musical that we are trying to get on Broadway.

Antibalas was founded in 1997, yes? When did you join the group (2000-something?)? How did they “find” you?

Yes, '97 the band was formed by Martin Perna for a tribute to Fela who had died earlier that year. They played at a bar I was working at and I really liked what I heard. I was unfamiliar with the music and asked a bunch of questions. I probably gave 'em some free drinks, too. We stayed in touch and the percussion spot became available in 2005. Since then we've gotten to play some of the greatest venues in the world. Next month we will be in Africa for the first time playing in the compound/club that Fela built.

There are almost a dozen members of this band. Is it possible to get that many of you to every practice?

Ha! Yes, almost every rehearsal is with the full band. These guys are pros so we don't really need that many rehearsals. Booking hotels and getting cabs can be a little crazy sometimes, though.

I bet this is your “family”. Talk to me about this group of people and what they mean to you.

These guys, their wives and girlfriends, our subs and extended family of label mates, managers and crew are very much my family. I am a little bit better at what I do and who I am every time I see them.

I have to ask, how was being on Jimmy Kimmel?

Both TV Jimmys are very nice. Kimmel is down to earth, funny when the cameras are off and very, very smart. Fallon is like your cool neighbor that always says the right thing to make you feel good. And I HAVE to say that the Roots are good dudes or they'll tell Pres. Obama to send drones to my crib.

Oh, dear. Drones. I'm not going to ask you about labels or venues or studios or travels. But I am going to ask you about love. I know that you have been with the same woman since you left Charlotte and moved to New York. She is quite possibly the most beautiful person on the planet. But I'm judging from pictures. Tell us just how beautiful she is (on the inside) and what her presence in your life has done for you. You always wore a big smile. But this smile is huge and ever present.

My Lady is my best friend. It's been nine years and I'm still discovering things about her I didn't know. She is incredibly supportive and a really talented artist in her own right. She inspires me. I can't imagine life without her. It'll be fourteen years this month (November 2013) since I drove my friend's car up here with one hundred dollars in my pocket and a buncha dreams in my head. Feels like yesterday I was having that going away party on Bay Street.

You recently came back to Charlotte for a show at the Visulite (since having left in 1990-something?). What was it like to be back?

I was geeked to be back in CLT for the Visulite show... even if only for a little while. Next time we'll put a day off next to it so I can actually take more in. I was glad to see so many people doing well and I'm glad so many people could see what I'm doing now. I'm always thinking about my CLT people and I know that I'll be spending a lot more time down there in the future. The next thing for me is to get these investors to help us take LOST SOULS to Broadway. First we go to Africa then to Japan (in November). After Japan I have a solo record then a world tour supporting an amazing African artist. In between all of that, I'd like to revisit my talk show, the Marcus Farrar Show. Stay tuned...



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Events In Your City

Sundays in September

Sundays @ Soul Gastrolounge
12pm DJ Scott Weaver Presents:
"Disco Brunch"

Sundays @ Twenty-Two
(every other Sunday) "BRAIN
BUSTER BANANAGANS Trivia" an
unprecedented trivia adventure with
Bill "the Thrill" Cleveland (12.01,
12.15, 12.29, 1.12, 1.26)

Sundays @ Cathode Azure
Drag & Tea Dance w.DJ Lil Betty

Sundays @ Smokey Joe's
Greg Brangle & the Blue Tenders

Sundays @ Snug Harbor
"Bone Snugs-N-Harmony" karaoke
w.Bryan Pierce

Sundays @ Tremont
12.01 the Business, the Attack
12.08 10am-4pm Greg Neal's Record
Collector Show / Sale "Music Hub"
12.22 the Not Likelys, Aloha Broha

Sundays @ Scorpio
Gypsy Starr Presents: "Sexy Sundays"
feat. DJ RageN'Ray

Panthers
12.01 1:00pm TAMPA BAY
BUCCANEERS
12.08 8:00pm @ New Orleans Saints
12.15 4:05pm NY JETS
12.22 1:00pm NEW ORLEANS SAINTS
12.29 1:00pm @ Atlanta Falcons

Sun., Dec. 1st @ the Actor's Theatre
7pm Carolina RAIN - the Voice Project

Sun., Dec. 8th @ the Saloon
Take the Fall

Sun., Dec. 8th @ the Neighborhood
Theatre
Tab Benoit, Devon Allman

Sun., Dec. 15th @ Harris Teeter (Plaza-
Midwood)
6pm discussions on God w.Matthew
Eades

Sun., Dec. 15th @ Metrolina Expo
www.DixieGunAndKnifeShow.com

Sun., Dec. 29th @ the Comedy Zone
www.FightNightComedy.com winner
voting

Sun., Jan. 12th @ the Knight Theater
B.B. King

Mondays in October

Mondays @ Knight Theatre
12.02 Chris Cornell, Bhi Himan
12.16 Chris Isaak

Mondays @ Soul Gastrolounge
DJ Mookie Brill

Mondays @ UpStage
7pm Iron Bartender

Mondays @ Snug Harbor
Fresh Grounds Presents: "Knocturnal"
w.Justin Aswell

Mondays @ Growler's Pourhouse
DJ Elon Shomaker

Mondays @ the Double Door Inn
Monday Night All Stars

Mondays @ the Evening Muse
"Find Your Muse" open mic band night
w.guest headliners
12.02 Caleb de Casper, the Foxy
Jailvixens

12.09 Humble Tripe
12.23 Mike Maimone (of Mutts)
1.20 the Dawn Drapes

Mondays @ Twenty-Two
Figure Drawing & Beer Tasting

Mondays @ the Fillmore
12.30 Gregg Allman, the New
Familiars
1.21 Disclosure (Live), Vic Mensa,
Samo Sound Boy

Mondays @ Central Station
Magick Mike & Ryker + karaoke

Mondays @ Puckett's
open mic w.Piece Buckett

Mon., Dec. 2nd @ Charlotte Barreled at
the Lift
DJ Paul Vass

Mon., Dec. 2nd @ Thomas Street
Tavern
Luciferian Agenda, Steve Gilbert

Mon., Dec. 2nd @ Boudreaux's
Stone City, the Letdowns, Phthartic,
Acid FM (Wesley Hartsell bday)

Mon., Dec. 2nd @ the Comedy Zone
Jim Breuer

Mon., Dec. 2nd @ NoDa Brewery
5pm Happy Hour (Fundraiser)
(benefitting Sidekicks)

Mon., Dec. 2nd @ Crown Station
DJ Selector E (Eric Brayman) Presents:
"Monday Night Mic Fights" (final
night) & 4th annual Toys for Tots
drive

Tuesdays in October

Tuesdays @ Snug Harbor
"Country Tuesdays" w.Derek Dexter
Ghent & Corey Alexander Ziegler

Tuesdays @ the Double Door
Bill Hanna Jazz Jam

Tuesdays @ Crown Station
Karaoke with Bill "the Thrill" Cleveland
+ trivia

Tuesdays @ Chantilly Corner Studios
ladies night w.artist dissertation from
Sherry Azali
(an introduction to 3 mediums: pencil,
water colour, acrylic) + free wine \$12

Tuesdays @ the Dandelion Market
Shane "Mr. Red" Elks

Tuesdays @ Dharma
"Free Yoga" feat. DJ Jah-Sun Rising
(Jason Herring)

Tuesdays @ Soul Gastrolounge
DJs Shanti & Brad Pressley

Tuesdays @ Jackalope Jack's
Open Mic Comedy Night hosted by
James Dugan tomakeyoulaugh@gmail.com

Tuesdays @ Smokey Joe's
Band Open Mic Night w.resident band
the Smoking J's (feat. Peter Gray)

Tuesdays @ the Stashe House
DJ DR

Tuesdays @ the Comedy Zone
12.03 www.FightNightComedy.com
winner voting
12.31 John Heffron

Tuesdays @ the Milestone
12.03 Bookhouse, MC Stealth, Sulfur,
Lockstarr, Raz, Modern Primitives
12.31 Hectagons!, the Emotron

Tuesdays @ Petra's
(2nd & 4th) Trivia Nights hosted by
Lana Cane (12.10, 12.24, 1.14, 1.28)

Tuesdays @ the Comet Grill
Red Rockin' Chair

Tuesdays @ the Neighborhood Theatre
12.31 Scowl Brow
1.14 Hot Tuna, Leon Russell

Tues., Dec. 3rd @ Barnes Studio
5:30pm Holiday art show (reception)
feat. Jerry Kirk, Greg Barnes, Andy Smith

Tues., Dec. 17th FULL MOON 4:28 AM

Tues., Dec. 31st @ the Visulite
Unknown Hinson

Tues., Dec. 31st @ the Time Warner
Cable Arena
www.ZaliPresents.com the Avett
Brothers, Shovels & Rope

Tues., Dec. 31st @ Dharma
Mark Starr (Dirtybird), KT Caustic,
Dick not Richard, Nat Eichler,
Melodious Funk

Tues., Jan. 14 @ Amos'
Walk off the Earth, Parachute

Wednesdays in October

Wednesdays @ Crown Station
Open Mic Comedy Throwdown

Wednesdays @ Volume Lounge
8pm Open Mic Band Night Hosted by:
Joseph Morrison

Wednesdays @ Smokey Joe's
Quinchy & Friends

Wednesdays @ Scorpio
Tiffany Storm, RageN'Ray

Wednesdays @ the Fern
Jim Garrett

Wednesdays @ the Common Market
(Plaza-Midwood)
Free beer tastings

Wednesdays @ the Evening Muse
12.04 John Tosco Presents: "the Tosco
House Party"
12.18 Consider the Source, Fall of
Ashes

Wednesdays @ Zen Fusion
Robert Fernandez

Wednesdays @ the Comedy Zone
12.04 Christmas in Ireland (music,
dancing, comedy)
12.11 Shaun Jones
12.18 Keith Alberstadt

Wednesdays @ the Milestone
12.04 Cancellieri, Blaine Deboo, Dead
Night, Frontal Lobe
1.08 Back to Back, K9 Unit

Wed., Dec. 4th @ McGlohon Theatre
Clairy Browne & the Bangin' Rackettes,
Alex Kastanas

Wed., Dec. 4th @ Tremont
Hugh Cornwell, Blossoms, Temperance
League

Wed., Dec. 11th @ Amos'
August Burns Red

Wed., Dec. 11th @ the Visulite
David Bromberg

Wed., Dec. 18th @ the Chop Shop
Ink Floyd Presents: Diarrhea Planet,
No Regrets, Coyote, Little Bull Lee

Wed., Dec. 18th @ Belk Theater
7:30pm www.CharlotteSymphony.
org Presents: Handel's Messiah (Scott
Allen Jarrett conducting)

Wed., Jan. 15th FULL MOON 11:52 PM

Wed., Jan. 29th @ the Fillmore
Amon Amarth, Enslaved

Thursdays in October

Thursdays @ Snug Harbor
DJ Scott Weaver Presents:
"Shiprocked"

Thursdays @ UpStage
www.Touch1Productions.com
Presents: "We are Art" - spoken word
poetry

Thursdays on www.PBSCharlotte.org
8:30pm Charlotte Cooks

Thursdays @ the Charlotte Transit
Center Uptown (in Bay X)
www.Friendship-Gardens.org Mobile
Market

Thursdays @ the Saloon
"Party for the People : karaoke with
Bryan Pierce"

Thursdays @ Marigny
"Equality Thursdays" w.DJ Ghost

Thursdays @ Julia's Cafe & Books
9am "Cold Reads" feat. George Gray &
more (play reading)

Thursdays @ the Milestone
12.05 Chain Link Stains, Little War
Twins, the Spice of Life, Matt the
Movies
12.19 Rachel Kate, Sinners & Saints

Thursdays @ Studio 1212
"Arts Happening" feat. fire juggling,
DJs, poets, aerial dancing

Thursdays @ Roxbury
DJ DR

Thursdays @ the Comedy Zone
12.05 Al Ernest

12.12 Shaun Jones
12.19 Keith Alberstadt
12.26 Chris Destefano, Carly Aquilino,
Jessimae Peluso

Thursdays @ Tommy's Pub
open mic w.Brett Greer

Thursdays @ Blue
John Alexander, Ron Brenale, Chris
Garges www.JaJazz.net

Thursdays @ the Neighborhood
Theatre
12.05 8pm Jeff Hahne's "Home Brew"
feat. Amigo, Scowl Brow, Forever FC,
Colby Dobbs Band, Alt-Ctrl-Sleep
1.16 Jason Isbell, Holly Williams

Thursdays @ Jackalope Jack's
karaoke w.Greg Martinez

Thursdays @ the Evening Muse
12.05 Roseland
1.17 the Farewell Drifters

Thursdays @ the Chop Shop
12.05 www.ZaliPresents.com Bro
Safari, Crnkn, Torro Torro, Thump, MC
Sharpness
12.12 www.ZaliPresents.com Triptych
Collective Present: "Genealogy"
(a fundraiser for Charlotte Family
Housing) feat. Ancient Cities, the Colby
Dobbs Band, the Moving Poets & more
12.19 Bob Schneider, Ruston Kelly

Thursdays @ the Fillmore
12.05 Megadeath, Fear Factory,
Nonpoint
1.30 Moe, Jimmy Herring, the Ringers

Thursdays @ Crown Station
9pm Slam Duncan & Friends

Thurs., Dec. 12th @ Queen City
Bicycles
6pm Tougman Terry & Christmas
Party

Thurs., Dec. 19th @ Tremont
Torche

Thurs., Dec. 19th @ Label
www.SugarSociety.com Presents:
Benny Benassi, Rob Banks, Daniel's
Jack

Thurs., Jan. 16th @ Amos'
www.SingleCell.us Presents:
"Nocturnal Frequencies" feat. Die
Sektor, Angels on Acid

Fridays in October

Fridays @ Whiskey Warehouse
DJ Matt Bolick

Fridays @ Tyber Creek Pub
DJ Wiiz Kid (Steve Warwick)

Fridays in Southend (Camden & Park)
"Food Truck Fridays"

Fridays @ the Comet Grill
the Lenny Federal Band

Fridays @ the Chop Shop
12.06 www.ZaliPresents.com Junior Brown, Dean Alexander
12.13 the Chemist, Slow Motion, Riot, Wormholes, Flesh & Stone, Streets to Nowhere, Dollar Signs, Sun Dried Vibes, Bless these Sounds under the City
12.20 www.ZaliPresents.com Jeff Timmons (of 98 Degrees)

Fridays @ the Charlotte Art League
12.20 & 1.17 (every 3rd Friday)
6-10pm "Brush & Beats"

Fridays @ Vinmaster Wine Shop
DJ DR

Fridays @ www.CharlotteHaunts.net
7pm Riding Ghost Tours
8pm Haunted Pub Riding Tour

Fridays @ Crown Station
12.07 "Evolve" feat. Paul Margiotis, Sean McClellan
12.13 Soden, Mindelixir, fire performances & more

Fridays @ UpStage
12.06 & 1.03 (every 1st Friday)
7:30pm Improv Charlotte Comedy Show (+ dinner service) (each month proceeds benefit a different charity)

Fridays @ the Neighborhood Theatre
12.13 106.5 Presents: "the Not so Acoustic Christmas" feat. the Nieghbourhood, the 1975, MS MR
12.20 Junior Astronomers, H R V R D

Fridays @ the Evening Muse
12.06 George Tisdale Band
12.13 Jessica Hernandez & the Deltas

Fridays @ Central Station
DJ Eric B.

Fridays @ the Comedy Zone
12.06 Al Ernest
12.13 Shaun Jones
12.20 Keith Alberstadt
12.27 Chris Destefano, Carly Aquilino, Jessimae Peluso

Fridays @ Sullivan's Steakhouse
"Beer & Beats" w.resident DJ Selector E (Eric Brayman)

Fridays @ the Fillmore
12.27 Corey Smith
1.10 Face-2-Face (a tribute to Elton John & Billy Joel)
1.31 Marshall Tucker Band

Fridays @ the Visulite
12.06 Southern Culture on the Skids
12.13 Grown up Avenger Stuff, Semi-Pro, Shot Silk
12.20 Acoustic Syndicate

Fridays @ the Milestone
12.06 Dr. Cirkustein (CDE release), American Lesion, All Rise, TC Costello
12.13 Sinister Haze, Base of Bass
12.20 Those Lavender Whales
12.27 Flat Tires, Self Made Monsters, the AM/FMs, the Seduction
1.03 Harvey Pekar
1.10 Raintree, Claim Culture
1.17 Math the Band, Gearjammer

Fridays @ Scorpio
"Fabulous Fridays"
12.13 "Winter Wonderland" feat. DJs Rage N'Ray & Marky + Jessica Jade (Miss Gay America 2014)
12.20 "Christmas Gala & Celebration" feat. Tiffany Storm, Aiesha Paris, Vivian Vaughn, Chloe Cassidy, Valarie Rockwell, Lauren Scott (Miss Gay North Carolina)

Fri., Dec. 6th @ Finz (Matthews)
Perfect Strangers

Fri., Dec. 6th @ Tremont
Wretched, Syopsis, Invoking the Abstract

Fri., Dec. 6th @ Smokey Joe's
Sauce

Fri., Dec. 6th @ Petra's
the Shana Blake Band

Fri., Dec. 6th @ Coyote Joe's
Early Ray

Fri., Dec. 6th @ Chantilly Hall
www.GottaSwingCharlotte.com's Holiday Dance

Fri., Dec. 6th @ X Nightclub
Starkillers, Kevin Focus

Fri., Dec. 6th @ the Levine Museum of the New South
5th Annual Festival of Trees Celebration

Fri., Dec. 13th @ Winedown (Harrisburg)
Perfect Strangers

Fri., Dec. 13th @ Snug Harbor
Those Darlins, Music Band

Fri., Dec. 20th @ the Double Door
The Deluge

Fri., Dec. 27th @ Amici's (Concord)
Perfect Strangers

Fri., Jan. 24th @ Boudreaux's
Swamps, Distrust, Born Hollow, Crash Course

Saturdays in October

Saturdays @ Roxbury
DJ Jody

Saturdays @ www.CharlotteHaunts.net
7pm Riding Ghost Tours
8pm Haunted Pub Riding Tour

Saturdays @ Bistro La Bon
"Alter Ego Saturdays" w.DJ that Guy Smitty

Saturdays @ Tyber Creek Pub
DJ Wiiz Kid (Steve Warwick)

Saturdays in Charlotte www.JunkRescue.com
8am-1pm (last Saturday of every month) "Junk Sale" 1.800.JUNK.911
Saturdays @ Madison's Coffee House (Indian Trail)
12.07 & 1.04 "Cup of Humor" (every first Saturday) feat. comics: Darryl Smith, Rob McDonald, Roxanne McDonald, James Dugan, Ed Fox

Saturdays @ the Common Market (Plaza-Midwood)
10am-1pm Farmers Market w.the Farm at Dover Vineyards / PM local music

Saturdays @ the Milestone
12.07 the Independents, Samuel L. Jackson, Pinko & more
12.14 Dark Sun Kult, Cemetary Thieves, Greevace, Down to This (benefitting Bryan's Wish for Levine Children's Hospital Toy Drive)
12.21 Pig Mountain (last show together), Musket King, Satan, Machete!
12.28 Minority Party, Drone, HU/LK, Southside Punx
1.11 Ex Friends
1.18 25 Minutes to Go
1.25 "Installation" (goth night)

Saturdays @ Central Station
DJ Eric B., BethAnn Phetamine, Bella
Nichole-Dior Jade

Saturdays @ Amos'
12.07 Monster Magnet, Zodiac
12.14 www.SingleCell.us Presents:
Purgatory 55 : Season's Beatings
w.fetish artists, music & performances
feat. DJinn the Nytechyide, Dr.
Spankenstein, Black Widow & more
1.11 Kashmir
1.18 Badfish (a Sublime tribute)
1.25 Appetitie for Destruction (a G-n-R
tribute), Poison'd (a Poison tribute)

Saturdays @ the Neighborhood
Theatre
12.07 6:30pm Beards BeCAUSE
(Finale!) Funraiser feat. Grown up
Avenger Stuff, Chasing Pedestrians
(benefitting domestic violence victims)
12.28 Blue Dogs, Radney Foster

Saturdays @ the Comedy Zone
12.07 Al Ernest
12.14 Shaun Jones
12.21 Keith Alberstadt
12.28 Chris Destefano, Carly Aquilino,
Jessimae Peluso

Saturdays @ Coyote Joe's
12.14 Matt Tucker Band, Shook Lane
1.11 Colt Ford

Saturdays @ the Visulite
12.07 Sol Driven Train
12.21 Alternative Champs
12.28 American Aquarium

Saturdays @ the Evening Muse
12.07 Tyler James Mechem (EP
release), Joe Firstman
12.21 Erick Baker
1.04 Paleface

Saturdays @ Chantilly Corner Studios
10am-noon \$30 parents free - Kid +
Parent paint your own object

Saturdays @ Jackalope Jack's
karaoke w.Bill "the Thrill" Cleveland

Saturdays @ Bar 316
Buff Faye & Patti O'Furniture's Big Fun
Comedy Drag Hour

Sat., Dec. 7th @ Snug Harbor
Scowl Brow, Chalkies, Robert Childers

Sat., Dec. 7th @ Smokey Joe's
Jym Chapman & the Migrant Workers,
Pullman Strike

Sat., Dec. 7th @ the Fillmore
NOFX, Implants, Off with their Heads

Sat., Dec. 7th @ Ovens Auditorium
www.ZaliPresents.com John Prine

Sat., Dec. 7th @ St. Luke United
Methodist Church
8am-4pm Piedmont Folk Art Show &
Sale

Sat., Dec. 7th @ the Harvey B. Gantt
Center for African-American Arts &
Culture
11am-1pm Family First : Festival of
Lights : Celebrations from around the
World

Sat., Dec. 7th in Plaza-Midwood (on
Commonwealth)
4:30-6:30pm Holiday Central

Sat., Dec. 7th @ Gallery 102
10am jewelry by Paige Duke

Sat., Dec. 7th @ Vintner Wine Market
Rick Spreitzer, the Antique Babies

Sat., Dec. 7th @ Pura Vida
10am oil painting demo & artist talk
back w.Osiris Rain

Sat., Dec. 7th @ the Chop Shop
www.ZaliPresents.com Billionaires Get
Fantasy Wierd

Sat., Dec. 7th in Charlotte
12-4pm "Tap that Craft" (a brewery
tour) (Triple C., Birdsong, OMB, Heist)
www.CLclt.com/events <--- to reserve
your spot

Sat., Dec. 14th @ Metrolina Expo
www.DixieGunAndKnifeShow.com

Sat., Dec. 14th @ the Comet Grill
the Leisure McCorkle Three (feat.
Jamie Hoover & Gary Guthrie)

Sat., Dec. 14th @ Tremont
ANTISEEN, Vulture, the Poontanglers
(John Hayes' bday)

Sat., Dec. 14th @ the Knight Theater
the Yellowjackets, Spyro Gyra

Sat., Dec. 14th @ Boudreaux's
the Letdowns, Fire Marshall Bill, Pinko,
Preta, Flooding Atlantis, Imindset
Simcity, P.O.W., Gruppe 36, Tecate
Sunrise (a Dead Kennedy's tribute)

Sat., Dec. 14th @ Dharma
Black Sun Empire, Heavy Heads,
Soundgrave, Aggression

Sat., Dec. 21st @ the Thirsty Beaver
Over Mountain Men

Sat., Dec. 21st @ Dolce Vita
Sinners & Saints

Sat., Dec. 21st @ the Double Door
Ori Naftaly Band, Pam Taylor Band

Sat., Dec. 28th @ the Warehouse
Performing Arts Center (Cornelius)
6 & 8pm the Sittin' at the Kid's Table
Comedy Improv Musical Variety
Extravaganza feat. the Chuckleheads
(6pm family friendly)

Sat., Jan. 4th @ the Time Warner Cable
Arena
Jay-Z

SPECIAL OR MULTIPLE DAY EVENTS

- Wednesdays & Thursdays are Paint-
by-Number nights @ Chantilly Corner
Studios

- Dec. 1st @ Rebel Base Comics - Black
Friday Weekend Sales (major deals)

- Everyday through to Dec. 25th @ the
Common Market (Plaza-Midwood) :
Jason Lewis' Ashe Country Frasier Fir
Christmas Trees (for sale)

- Dec. 1st @ Charlotte Metrolina Expo :
Toy, Hobby, Nascar, Sportscard : 3day
show www.INSidePitchPromotions.com

- check out www.PMCRadio.org for a
schedule of DJs daily

- Fridays & Saturdays @ 316 DJ Jay-R

- Tuesdays & Thursdays @ Dakota's :
Poker Night

- Mon-Thurs @ Dilworth
Neighborhood Grille : Kids Eat Free
(w.purchase of one adult entree)

- THIRD WEEKEND of every month
@ the Metrolina Expo : Metrolina Flea
Bazaar (12.21 & 12.22 / 1.17 & 1.18)

- Saturdays in Charlotte : Learn to
Compost : different locations each
time / workshop www.WipeOutWaste.
com

- Nightly at Central Station : Coby Lee
massage \$5 / 10 minutes

- Dec. 13th & 14th "Broaway Holiday"
@ St. Martin's Episcopal Church www.
GMCCCharlotte.org (Gay Men's Chorus
of Charlotte)

- THRU January 19th @ the Mint
Museum (Uptown) World's Fairs
1851-1939

- THRU Dec. 14th @ ImaginOn : Children's Theatre of Charlotte Presents: "Miracle on 34th Street"

- THRU Dec. 30th
Speedway Christmas www.CharlotteMotorSpeedway.com

- Dec. 4th & 5th @ Booth Playhouse : Teen City Stage Presents: "When I grow up" (a musical journey)

- Dec. 5th - 8th @ Metrolina Expo Marketplace : www.ICAShows.com - treasure hunt / antique & collectible dealers

- Dec. 5th, 6th, 7th & 8th @ Belk Theater www.CharlotteSymphony.org Presents: Magic of Christmas

- Dec. 6th-8th @ Halton Theater "the Charlotte Youth Ballet Presents: the Nutcracker"

- Dec. 6th-15th @ Theatre Charlotte : a Christmas Carol - directed by Kevin Campbell

- Fridays Dec. 6th & 13th @ Gotta Yoga University 6-7pm candlelit healing yoga with raffles & snacks (for all ages) to benefit "Love the Little Ones"

- Dec. 6th & 7th @ Neighborhood Theatre : "All Arts Market" feat. 60+ artists (Fri 6-11pm / Sat 11am-5pm)

- Dec. 12th - 29th @ Ballantyne Hotel "Gingerbread Lane (over 40 gingerbread creations)"

- Dec. 13th-22nd @ Belk Theater : Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux's "Nutcracker"

- Dec 14th & 15th @ the Neighborhood Theatre : Carolina Chocolate Drops, Pokey LaFarge

- Dec. 14th & 15th @ Ovens Auditorium : www.CarolinaVoices.org 59th Annual Singing Christmas Tree

- Dec. 20th & 21st @ Knight Theater : www.BlumenthalArts.org Presents: the Colors of Christmas

- THRU Dec. 29th @ the Mint Museum (Randolph) : the American Art Tile

- THRU Dec. 31st @ the Mint Museum (Randolph) : Threads of Identity (attire of the people of Mexico & Guatemala)

- THRU Jan. 2014 at www.MintMuseum.org Randolph : "Elegance & Ease" feat. designs by Dior, Balmain, Saint Laurent

- Fri., Jan. 10th & Sat., Jan. 11th @ Belk Theater www.CharlotteSymphony.org Presents: Brahms Symphony No. 2 (Christopher Warren-Green conducting, Andrea Mumm - harp)

- Fri., Jan. 31st & Sat., Feb. 1st @ Knight Theater www.CharlotteSymphony.org Presents: Albert-George Schram conducting the Heart of Motown feat. Spectrum

TRAVEL TO EVENTS

- Dec. 7th & 8th Fairfax, VA @ the Arlington / Fairfax Elks Lodge : Exposition of 20th Century Decorative Arts www.ADSW.org

- Tues., Dec. 17th @ Ziggy's (Winston-Salem) : the Misfits

- Jan. 24th & 25th @ St. Mary's Pittenger Center (Stuart, FL) : St. Lucie River Questers - Antique show & sale 772.692.9679

- Fri., Jan. 31st @ DPAC (Durham) : the PIXIES

DECEMBER

Christmas Candlelight Tours, Historic Brattonsville www.CHMuseums.org

Santa Train @ the NC Transportation Museum (Spencer) www.NCTrans.org

"Gingerbread Lane" feat. gingerbread house competition to benefit Levine's Children's Hospital www.theBallantyneHotel.com

Charlotte Motor Speedway lights www.VisitCarolinaChristmas.com

McAdenville Christmas Town USA (lights) www.McAdenville-Christmastown.com

Zootastic Park Christmas Wonderland (Zootastic Park, Troutman, NC) www.ZootasticPark.com

Belmont Parade www.VisitGaston.org

Cramerton Parade www.VisitGaston.org

Bessemer City Parade www.BessemerCity.com

Kannapolis Parade www.CabarrusEvents.com

Lowell Parade www.VisitGaston.org

McAdenville Parade www.McAdenville-ChristmasTown.com

Santa at the Mall : www.Simon.com/Mall/Southpark , www.Simon.com/Mall/Concord-Mills , www.ShopNorthlakeMall.com/SantaPhotos , www.ShopMonroeCrossing.com , www.Westfield.com/Eastridge , www.CarolinaPlace.com/Events

JANUARY

MLK Parade www.MLK/CharlotteVibe.com

Charlotte Restaurant Week www.CharlotteRestaurantWeek.com

Tour de Food www.TourdeFood.com

To see your event appear on our listing, please email it to **ellen.gurley@mycitymagazine.net** and we thank you for supporting the scene. And, as always, the **www.MyCityMagazine.net** website has a full venue listing to correspond with the events above.

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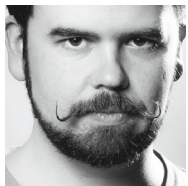
Contributors



John Hairston, Jr., Cover Illustrator - John Hairston, Jr. has been an artist for as long as he can remember. A North Carolina native, he created art before he could read or write. Throughout his grade school years, he spent the majority of his time drawing superheroes and listening to any old soul or hip hop records he could get his hands on. Little did he know that his love for all things spandex-clad and funky would play such a major role in his development as an artist. Under the guidance of his high school mentors and college professors, he learned to tap into these components to create a style of artwork that seamlessly blends political satire, social commentary and obscure pop-culture references. Hairston graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration and began his career as a professional artist illustrating storyboards for a string of independent films and several television ads. He has done commissioned pieces for numerous art collectors and various non-profit organizations. Hairston's work is currently on display in various art galleries all over the East Coast and Charlotte, NC.



Ellen Gurley, Columnist/Sales/Owner/Editor - Ellen Gurley has been in media for over fifteen years. She has sold print and radio and has been published in Charlotte (AMPS 11, Charlotte Mix, Q Zine, Elevate, TRIP, Live Wire, Genesis, Thrift, LNMental Aesthetics, Creative Loafing, Coatcheck, Banktown USA), Sweden (Pitch Adjust) and the UK (ATM & DOA). She brings to the table a relationship-based approach with both clients and team members. A dedication to all things local and better choices for entertainment have brought this poet, artist and DJ and her brain child to the market, My City Magazine, with a crew of amazing peers, all experts in their field. Enthusiastic is an understatement when describing this woman.



Austin Caine, Photographer - Austin Caine has been capturing souls for well over ten years, with a passion for photography that consistently drives him to outshine his own work. From his humble beginnings as "that annoying guy always taking pictures" at his friends' parties to a respected artist working with numerous talents within the entertainment and fashion industries. There's no telling where his incredible photographic journey will land him next. He enjoys being immersed in the moment and has developed a keen eye for freezing those intense fleeting images that define our most memorable experiences. The most important thing to remember about Austin is that he is a perfectionist and (should you have the chance to grace his lens) he will make certain you absolutely love the photo before he'll let you out of his sights.



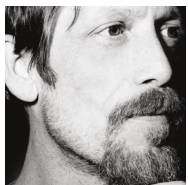
Brandon Lunsford, Columnist - Brandon Lunsford is a local history nerd. In 2008 he wrote Charlotte Then and Now, which compared historic photographs of the city to the current locations. A new revised edition came out this year. Brandon got his BA in History and his MA in Public History from UNCC and did several internships with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Landmark Commission and the Charlotte Museum of History. He has been the archivist at Johnson C. Smith University since 2009 and spends a lot of his time trying to convince people that Charlotte isn't just a stale banking town that wants to destroy all of its own history. There was and is some cool stuff around here and he intends for people to know about it. Brandon's Then and Now column will focus on the history of the city's neighborhoods, institutions, and people and how far they've come (or not). Not content with being a mere history nerd, in his spare time Brandon explores the depths of nerdiness in the realms of music, comics, and horror movies. He seems to think he's really cool because he wrote a book, which probably isn't true.



Scott Collins, Columnist - Upbeat and witty, Scott (a financial advisor) is a guy you want to hang out with - be it over a martini discussing Erté or at a Jazz bar with a glass of cabernet he is just as comfortable in a dive club with some local talent poppin' PBR tall boys. An accomplished drummer (Labrats, Scuttlebutt) his hobbies include reading, cooking, billiards, golf and gym time. After music store management and lessons he honed his people skills with nine years of on-the-road industrial sales followed by nine years of automotive sales. His passion, finally realized, he now helps people (young and old) to plan for life's financial events. You can find him at Freedom Park each year with his son's team in the "Energy for Life" walk (for those with mitochondrial disorders). Married with two children he is known as the "cool dad". His personal creed is "I do what I want".

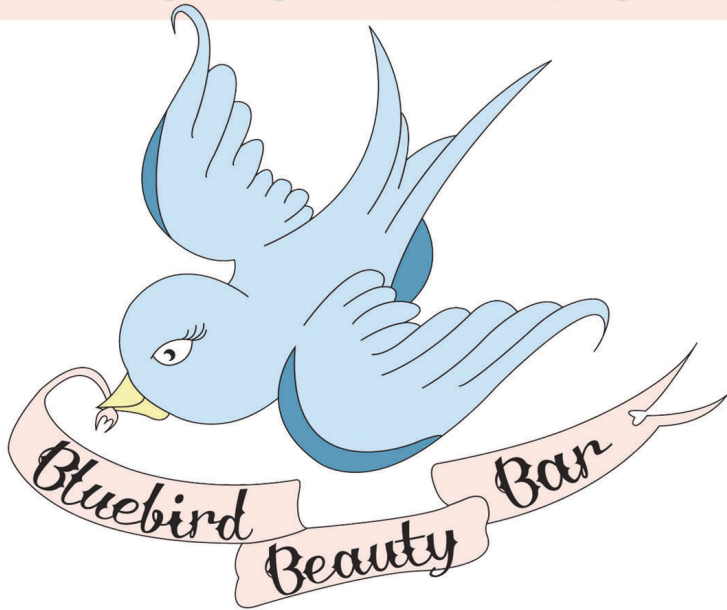


Kat Sweet, Designer - There's hardly a moment that goes by that Kat Sweet isn't involved in some form of art. She graduated from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting, but spends most of her time coding websites and creating ads for print. She's been sewing and crafting since she was old enough to hold a glue gun, and baking casseroles holds a special place in her heart. Kat is also a single mother of a fantastic little lady who is her best friend and awesome sidekick. When she's not stuck in front of a computer or hunched over an art project, you can find her riding bicycles around town with her club, RTA.



Alex Barnette, Webmaster - Alex Barnette loves selling things online, print work, small business, clean websites and consulting with new and existing companies on the business process. He spends his time 'tweaking' bleepy noises on his computer, brushing up beautiful images, and 'raging' at the "DJ show" (where he performs sporadically around Charlotte).

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