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the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Entente; lunch at Michael Jordan's

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Ty Fujimura is at it again.

His Japanese restaurant Arami—considered by some to be one of the best of its kind in Chicago—is thriving. However, another Japanese spot of his (Lake View's Ani) has been “re-conceived,” as they say. **Entente** (3056 N. Lincoln Ave.; <https://www.ententechicago.com/>) is the result, with Fujimura teaming with Chef Brian Fisher (formerly of Schwa) to create a dish that's distinctly American—and alluringly contemporary.

The decor is pretty contemporary as well, somehow radiating sleekness and efficiency (down to the hostess and servers). The drink menu is entertaining, in terms of the names of some of the cocktails, such as the Key Master and Peggy Loves Steve; the drinks were intriguing—with the former being a mix of Mizu lemongrass shochu, English pea, mint and bitter lemon tonic.



The lamb at Entente.
PR photo

As for the food, Entente may prove to be a haven for the indecisive, as there are only about a dozen appetizers and entrees combined. (By the way, patrons are asked to order all items at once to basically help things proceed as smoothly as possible, and I actually like that approach.)

But those items are prepared wonderfully. The green garbanzo hummus is a visual and gustatory delight, coupled with a fruit-and-nut flatbread (in this case, almond-and-apricot). The Slagel Farms shortrib (with cashew puree and oyster stout) is a standout, as is the skate—a dish I had returned at the last spot I tried. This skate dish incorporates the cheeks of the fish instead of the wings, and is teamed with fennel, grapefruit and licorice. Regarding dessert, top things off with a delicious (and suitably moist) tres leches cake.

Michael Jordan's for lunch

Walked by Michael Jordan's Steakhouse (505

N. Michigan Ave.; <http://mjshchicago.com/>) and thought about entering—only to be deterred for some reason?

Well, I'm urging people to check out the spot. An unexpected luncheon there revealed a couple surprises worth mentioning.

First, do not skip the salads. My dining companion and I tried the spinach salad, complete with andouille sausage and pecans. The nuts were actually so good (with a wonderfully smoky tang) that this restaurant is officially the only place

where I will eat pecans. (The only nuts I regularly like are almonds.)

Second (and this may sound surprising), the cheeseburger is outstanding. Now, I've had my share of burgers—and the steak house item (a blend of chuck, brisket and shortrib) is stellar.

On the restaurant's website, it says, “Excellence Served Daily.” I believe that now.

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

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



Melvyna Gaynor



Deborah Goldstein



Moose Flores



Jim Kelly



Johnnie Martin



Gregg Shapiro



Zeke Thomas

The August edition of OUTspoken! LGBTQ storyteller series takes place Tuesday, August 1, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. Doors open at 6 pm, stories begin at 7.

See www.outspokenchicago.com for more info.

—**Melvyna Gaynor** is retired from the Chicago Board of Education. She play drums and shakers with the Drum Diva Percussion Ensemble. She has told stories at the Museum of Science and Industry, DuSable Museum, and Malcolm X Community College. She produced a number of shows on Chicago Access Network.

—**Deborah Goldstein** is co-producer of the North Jersey Listen To Your Mother show, a national spoken word event showcasing original stories about motherhood. She sits on the board of North Jersey Pride and writes a medley of miscellany on her humor blog, Peaches & Coconuts. Deborah lives in South Orange, New Jersey with her lady-spouse and two man-children.

—**Moose Flores** is a recent transplant from Michigan, and a cat dad. He works as a church Youth Director in Elmhurst, he speaks Japanese, and has been to all 50 states. If you ask him to dance, he will gladly say yes.

—**Jim Kelly** was born and raised in rural Minnesota. After his 3 1/2 year Peace Corps service in El Salvador, he joined a non-profit organization focused on community leadership development and helped initiate projects in small villages in Venezuela and Chile. He returned permanently to the U.S. in 1981, and shortly thereafter joined Oak Park-based CHP International, a private training company that, under contract to the Peace Corps, staffed and managed pre-service training programs for in-coming Peace Corps Volunteers in many countries. Jim is “stepdad” to husband Bruce Broerman's two adult children, and is “Papa Jim” to their five grandchildren.

—**Johnnie Martin** is a Transgender MTF, Non Binary. He has been a Local Truck Driver/Trainer for 11 years. He's active in a Tran Fem group at Center at Halsted. Johnnie lives with his husband and their two cats. He is a past board member of the Lincoln Park Lagooners, a Chicago LGBT social group. He was a McHenry County PFLAG volunteer with his husband.

—**Gregg Shapiro** is the author of Fifty Degrees (Seven Kitchens, 2016), selected by Ching-In Chen as co-winner of the Robin Becker Chapbook Prize. An entertainment journalist, whose interviews and reviews run in a variety of regional LGBT and mainstream publications and websites, Shapiro lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida with his husband Rick and their dog k.d.

—**Zeke Thomas** is a renowned Open Format DJ and Producer. Paper Magazine calls his single, Blackness featuring Chuck D & Jasiri X “the civil rights anthem for the EDM generation.” As the son of NBA Hall of Fame player, Isiah Thomas, Zeke Thomas was born in the heart of Motown, Detroit, Mich. He is the first male spokesperson to the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, an advocate and supporter for GLAAD.org.



BILLY Masters

"I always try to dance when this song comes on, because I am the Queen ... and I like to dance!"—**Queen Elizabeth II** allegedly made this proclamation when ABBA's "Dancing Queen" was played at a recent dinner party. Whether it's true or not, isn't it an absolutely delicious vision? Particularly if you picture her trying to coax Prince Philip to join her!

One usually thinks of the Brits as a courteous group of people. But I believe they may be going overboard. In an effort to avoid offending anybody, the London Underground has made a decision. After more than 100 years of greeting people as "ladies and gentlemen," they will now switch to a more gender-neutral greeting. From now on, people will now be referred to as "everyone." Which begs the question—who, exactly, is being offended by the terms "ladies" and "gentlemen?" Is there someone who fits into neither category who comprehends human speech? In addition to wanting to be more inclusive, some felt that "ladies and gentlemen" was "too polite" and "outdated." Well, we wouldn't want to accuse the people who brought us Downton Abbey of being either of those!

Someone who has been addressed as both a lady and a gentleman is **Caitlyn Jenner**. And she is getting some flack after posting a photo with **Steven Tyler** on Instagram and captioning it, "@iamstevent and I are working on our duet for Dude Looks Like a Lady. One of my favorite songs!" Well, many trans people took offense to this, but I may be on Cait's side. One of the things we always say when it comes to offensive terms is that they are OK when they come out of the mouths of the people they are talking about. We don't want heteros calling us "fags," but some gay people can say it. Some Black people use the so-called "n-word" all the time, but don't want others using it.

So if Jenner wants to make a bit of a joke at her own expense, why not? She explained her feelings on the subject a while ago with **Jimmy Kimmel**: "I was at a fundraiser in Minneapolis and [Steven Tyler] was the entertainment. I met him once briefly, years and years ago, but I'm sitting there and I got to go and say hi. So I go backstage after and I say to Steven, 'I have had some really, really tough times in my life. For six years at one point I stayed in my house, and every once in a while, I would sneak out, get dressed and drive around in the dark. I always used to take your song, 'Dude Looks Like A Lady', and that became my theme song. Driving around in my little car with my little CD in there, whipping up the tunes and stuff. And I just wanted you to know that it made me feel good.'" And who am I to deny Caitlyn Jenner the chance to feel good? If it's OK with her, it's OK with me.

Director **Kevin Smith** was hosting a screening of the 20th anniversary of Chasing Amy at LA's Outfest, and he made a startling revelation. **Ben Affleck** said, "A man kissing another man is the greatest acting challenge an actor can ever face."



Singer **Liam Payne** knows how to get people's attention, **Billy** says. Instagram photo

That's funny—I never found it difficult in the slightest. Of course, Affleck made this revelation years before he went out and enthusiastically promoted Gigli—talk about your acting challenges! After he filmed the "Amy" scene, Affleck is said to have quipped, "Now, I'm a serious actor." After hearing all this sturm und drang, one actress was less than impressed. **Evan Rachel Wood** tweeted: "Try getting raped in a scene. Also, grow up Ben. Also, you think us ladies like kissing all the guys we kiss? Just cause its a 'straight kiss' doesn't mean we enjoy it. Ahem."

Liam Payne—formerly of One Direction—is willing to do whatever it takes for people to pay attention to him as a solo artist. While making an appearance on Virgin Radio in Paris, he started to sing "Strip That Down" and decided to take his own advice. People who were previously unimpressed with his vocals perked up and took notice—and you will, too, when you check him out on BillyMasters.com.

Remember **Andrew Garfield** telling people he's like a gay man—just without the icky sex part? Well, he feels his comments were taken out of context. He said, "That's, of course, not what I meant at all. That discussion was about this play and how deeply grateful I am that I get to work on something so profound. It's a love letter to the LGBTQ community. We were talking about, 'How do you prepare for something so important and so big?' and I was basically saying, 'I dive in as fully as I possibly can.' My only longing is to serve and to keep the world spinning forward for the LGBTQ community in whatever way I'm meant to. It's important to a community that I feel so welcomed by. The intention was to speak to that, speak to my desire to play this part to the best of my ability and to fully immerse myself in a culture that I adore."

And this leads perfectly into our "Ask Billy" question. Harry in Chicago wrote, "I just saw National Theatre's production of **Angels in America** at the cinema and was mesmerized. Are there any plans to release it on DVD?"

No announcement has been made about releas-

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ing **Angels in America** on DVD, and I doubt it will happen. These things tend to be licensed only to be shown in the cinema. But if you missed it, you're in luck. Someone leaked your humble scribe a copy of it—well, of Part One: Millennium Approaches. I assume we'll get Part Two: Perestroika after it airs next week. And, because I'm filled with the milk of human kindness (amongst other fluids), I want you to be able to watch it from the comfort of your own home. So, should you be interested in seeing the aforementioned **Andrew Garfield** act alongside actual gay men such as **Nathan Lane** and **Russell Tovey**, you should head on over to BillyMasters.com.

When I'm bringing you gossip from both sides of the pond, it's definitely time to end yet another column. And whether you're a lady, gentleman or "other," you can always check out BillyMasters.com, the site that's never outdated—or polite! If you have a question, dash it off to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Caitlyn and Steven Tyler make a music video for "Love in an Elevator!" Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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