

WEEKEND CUE

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FRIDAY

Movies: 'Godzilla' fun — eventually. **3E** **Dining:** Carol Deptolla's Side Dish. **8E**
Music: Slayer, Jason Derulo and more. **9E** **Good Morning:** Abby, comics, puzzles. **11-12E**



A brush with art

Milwaukee bars and restaurants are tapping a program called Paint Nite, which helps people create art while they eat and drink. Find out how it works on 7E.

Best of Brew City
Weekend Edition

The Best of Brew City is your mobile guide to going out in Milwaukee. Locate events, live music, bars and restaurants near you and in Milwaukee's most popular neighborhoods. Visit bestofbrewcity.com and download the app for iOS or Android today.

✓ Get a jump on the 2014 food-truck season with **Street Eats**, an evening of offerings from Milwaukee-area food trucks and food carts from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday in Catalano Square, at E. Menomonee and N. Milwaukee streets in the Historic Third Ward. More than 20 vendors are expected to be on hand for the event, sponsored by the Shepherd Express.

Info: expressmilwaukee.com/streeteats

✓ **Horror-O-Rama**, a multimedia horror-themed bash, haunts Best Place at the Historic Pabst Brewery, 901 W. Juneau Ave., from 6 to 10 p.m. Friday. Among the night's ghoulish festivities: live performances, horror-themed music, a sideshow tent, horror film shorts, a costume contest, art made on-site and more, courtesy Rockabilly Girl Productions. It's \$10 in advance (brownpaper tickets.com/event/606481), \$15 at the door.

Info: bestplacemilwaukee.com

✓ There's no better way to get your nerd on than joining Microsoft's **//publish/24-hour hackathon**, bringing together programmers and computer developers from around the world to connect and get their apps from idea to the marketplace. Among the sites in the 60-city global event, running from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, is Stone Creek Coffee's Factory Cafe, 422 N. 5th St. It's free, but you have to register to take part.

Info: publishwindows.com

Gunther von Hagens'

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Bonus Pack

- 2 Tickets to *BODY WORLDS & The Cycle of Life*
- 2 Tickets to the Dome Theater
- 1 FREE Parking Pass to MacArthur Square

\$60

TICKETS: (414) 223-4676





MARK HOFFMAN / MHOFFMAN@JOURNALSENTINEL.COM

Instructor Jamie Peschke (standing) helps students during a recent Paint Nite gathering at the Riviera Maya restaurant, 2258 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., in the Bay View neighborhood. Paint Nite is a program in which Karen Johnson, the local franchise holder, brings painting supplies to restaurants and bars and people create art while they eat and drink.

Fine art, with a beer chaser



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Bar patron Terrence Greer (above) celebrates his birthday with his fiancée, Mashay Tidmore, at a Paint Nite event at Horny Goat Hideaway.

Horny Goat bar patrons tap their inner artist at the event.

Sally Fisher concentrates during the Paint Nite gathering at the Riviera Maya restaurant.



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MARK HOFFMAN / MHOFFMAN@JOURNALSENTINEL.COM

Paint Nite classes in bars, restaurants make learning comfortable

By KATHY FLANIGAN
kflanigan@journalsentinel.com

Anyone walking past the window at Riviera Maya on a recent Sunday afternoon would have looked twice. Inside, 25 smock-wearing customers wielded paintbrushes. Easels were set up where chip baskets are usually in place.

Artist-instructor Jamie Peschke stood at the front of the room directing the painters step by step in the creation of a picture called "Calla Lily."

The restaurant hosts Paint Nite, during which customers can order a beer on tap while they tap their creative side.

Unlike stationary social painting studios in fixed locations, Paint Nite sets up in different venues, replacing bar stools with easels, paints and other supplies. (Classes and venues are listed at paintnite.com.) Classes last two hours, and participants take home their work of art at the end.

There is such concentration on students' faces it's a wonder they don't confuse their green plastic brush-washing cups with their margarita glasses. At a break, painters head for a bar in the adjoining room.

Karen Johnson, who worked in animation for the bulk of her career, brought Paint Nite to Milwaukee. Her Racine-based Karen Johnson Productions designed the original animated Famous Racing Sausage characters and Bernie Brewer featured on the County Stadium scoreboard. Johnson also worked on the movie "Ferngully: The Last Rainforest."

Paint Nite was a chance for her to get away from the computer screen and back to the canvas.

"I missed being an artist, a real artist," Johnson said.

She heard about Paint Nite, a Boston-based company active in 77 cities, and brought it to Wisconsin.

Hector Mosconi, Riviera Maya's event planner and head server, is also an artist. He set up the event because he liked the idea of customers socializing, drinking, eating and painting.

"We want to support the arts," said Mosconi, whose artwork is on one wall of the room. He may also want to sell some drinks.

Johnson schedules Paint Nites in venues from Racine to Lake Geneva to Madison. One night there might be a Paint Nite at Horny Goat Hideaway, 2011 S. 1st St., and another she might host one at Twin Lakes Country Club, 1230 Legion Drive, Twin Lakes.

"They come in very nervous," Johnson said of her students. "When they leave, they have this huge smile on their face."

Celeste Sylvans was nervous, but with a few Paint Nites under her belt, she has unleashed her inner artist. No wall space shall go unadorned.

Curious about Paint Nite and armed with a Groupon deal, the banker turned into an artist, if only for a night. And then another night. Her first work — a bird and trees — hangs in the vestibule of her Milwaukee home. Her 5-year-old and 8-year-old sons requested the painting she did of a turtle swimming toward the sun for their room.

The first Wisconsin Paint Nite took place in February at Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh St. It replaced the former Open Canvas night in which an artist would paint a blank canvas. The canvas would hang for a week, and then a different artist would paint over it.

Art Bar owner Don Krause was up for something different. Paint Nite participants don't have to be artists; most are amateurs. That "makes some excitement for the room.



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A student mixes colors on a paper plate for a painting that was being worked on during the Riviera Maya event.

OTHER SPOTS FOR BRUSHING UP

Other painting studios offer similar instruction but in a fixed location. Those in the Milwaukee area include:

■ **Splash Studio**, 184 N. Broadway. Painting costs \$28 for all sessions except after 2 p.m. Friday and Saturday, when painting costs \$33. Check the calendar for times and reservations at splashmilwaukee.com.

■ **Arte Wine and Painting Studio**, 1442 Underwood Ave., Wauwatosa, and 505A Wells St., Delafield. Both locations are open from 5 to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, 5 to 11 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Prices range from \$9 to \$17 depending on frame size. See artewineandpaint.com.

■ **A Stroke of Genius**, 250 W. Broadway (in the Metropolitan Building), Waukesha. Public painting is from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Cost is \$35. Check the website, www.paintwinestudio.com, for occasional couples night events.

Before there were painting studios or Paint Nite, there was the **Studio Lounge**, 2246 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., a cocktail bar and an art gallery. During a recent burlesque show, patrons were encouraged to bring a sketchbook along to make drawings during the show.

Painting the night away

To see more photos from Paint Nite, go to jsonline.com/photos.

It gives the regulars something to look at." "It's fun to watch the process," he said. "You can see it evolve in time over a couple drinks."

One night Krause watched a couple split painting duties. One person painted half the canvas and then the other took over.

"The paintings aren't hard," he said; sometimes they're too easy for the experienced artists. Paintings are rated by level of difficulty.

Sylvans, who visits Mo's Irish Pub, 142 W. Wisconsin Ave., has returned to painting several times, first bringing friends but also going solo. Everyone mingles, she said.

"The class brings out that side, that imagining side out of you," she said.

Now, Sylvans plans to take serious painting classes with her young sons. The family recently took a trip to the Milwaukee Art Museum.

Johnson said that watching her pupils enjoy making art is part of the reward. "The majority haven't painted since grade school," she said.

Tickets are \$45 and sold in advance (Sylvans got hers through Groupon). Would-be artists can choose where to take the class based on location or the ease of the effort. Classes include a 16-by-20-inch canvas, paints, brushes, a smock and professional instruction.