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the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

Local trans baker opens Filipino-inspired, late-night business

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Jenne Vailoces' passion for baking emerged young. Growing up in the Philippines, her mom would take her into the kitchen while she baked.

"I remember, when I was left to my own devices at home, I would take a bowl, take my mom's facial creams, baby powder, and mix it together, and then I would pretend to put it in a baking pan and put it in the oven. I would bring cake pans to the beach and make sand cakes. Who does that?" Vailoces laughed.

But employment with a chance to come to the United States dominated Vailoces' career options, and so she trained as a physical therapist. She



Jenne Vailoces of Jennivee's Bakery.
Facebook photo

never stopped baking, though, and her cakes earned rave reviews from friends. A few years ago, she started planning a physical storefront and, now, Jennivee's Bakery (at 3301 N. Sheffield Ave.) is due to open shortly.

"I like to use the word luxuriate. It's a place where you can indulge and take your time," Vailoces said about the space.

The cakes sound equally luxurious. As a fan of classic cakes like the American layer, Vailoces bucks the trend of single-serve cupcakes and macaroons. "You don't see a lot of actual slices of cake prettily served on a plate," she said.

She also describes herself as more chemist than cake decorator. "You have to understand how certain ingredients work and how and why," Vailoces explained. "I love simple, classic clean flavors. I like a really good vanilla cake, but it has to be made with the best ingredients. I use French butter, I use Madagascar bourbon vanilla. I like simple things made really, really well."

Yet the cakes she makes are traditional in a different sense. Vailoces wants to introduce Filipino flavors to the Chicago dessert world. Some flavors, like mango, coconut and papaya, might not be a stretch for a Chicagoan, but then there's ube.

"Ube is like a purple yam. It has a very mellow, almost like a vanilla flavor. It blends really well with a lot of Southeast Asian desserts. You can see it in a lot of pastries and ice creams and puddings," Vailoces explained.

Unique for Chicago, the bakery's hours will start in the afternoon, and continue until midnight during the week and two am on weekends.

Vailoces is a night person, and she got her vision of her dream bakery from visiting New York City.

"They have a lot of these really cool quaint little dessert shops and they're open until three in the morning. It's packed with people, actors, artists, musicians, they would all flock there and hang out and have dessert," she said.

Jennivee's heart-of-Lake View location seems positioned to attract a diverse crowd. Depending on the time of day, families with kids, young professionals on their way home, and bar crowds from Wrigleyville and Boystown might all pass by the bakery. And Vailoces wants to appeal to all of them.

As a transwoman, Vailoces was stunned by stories of bakeries around the country refusing to serve LGBTQ clients. "Why would you want to deprive someone of as simple of a joy like a cake or a dessert? I wanted to create this bakery to welcome everyone. I think everyone deserves good cake, and everyone deserves to have that in their life," she said.

Vailoces hopes to connect with the LGBTQ community, particularly at-risk youth, through offering internships in baking, decorating and customer service. She knows how her community can be discriminated against and victimized: though she considers herself fortunate, she's often aware

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SIDETRACK

On the edge of '17, Sat., December 31.
Photos by Jed Dulanis



THE PURITY BALL

NEVERLAND'S fifth annual year-end event at Fantasy.
Photos by Jerry Nunn



MARY'S

Two floors of NYE fun, Sat., December 31.
Photos by Jerry Nunn



BILLY Masters

"I don't vote with my vagina—this is bigger than that."—Susan Sarandon. So if you've got a problem with how the election turned out, reach out to Sarandon. Apparently her vagina is big enough to grab.

As we look back on 2016, I want to start—selfishly, perhaps—with a story about me. Many people were taken aback when I discussed my decision to go on PrEP as a form of HIV prevention. For me, it was a no-brainer; I tell you everything (well, almost everything). I don't understand all this PrEP-shaming. Here's how I look at it: Maybe someone who wouldn't typically read a medical article got some information from my weekly scribbles. I am heartened by everyone who wrote in—even those of you who felt it was mistake. At least you're paying attention.

Even in our darkest hour, there is some light. Most of us were horrified as news of the massacre at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando trickled in. But immediately following the tragedy, JetBlue offered to fly affected family members to Orlando for free. Disney donated \$1 million to the OneOrlando Fund. Other companies reached out. But perhaps most impressively, Seth Rudetsky and hubby James Wesley corralled dozens of Broadway luminaries to record "What the World Needs Now Is Love" and raised not only money but awareness. Bravo.

I love the summer Olympics. Lots of hot muscular guys showing lots of rippling flesh—what's not to like? In a first, an Olympian was actually robbed of a medal due to the size of his penis! Hiroki Ogita almost cleared the 5.3-meter pole he was attempting to vault when his protruding penis pushed the pole. That was topped by Brazilian gymnasts **Arthur Zanetti**, **Arthur Mariano** and **Sergio Sasaki**, who all made nude videos. Mariano's was the most impressive, since he was nude, fully erect and hanging around the team bathroom! Then there's Britain's **Louis Smith**, who was filmed polishing his javelin, if you catch my drift. You can see all on BillyMasters.com.

My favorite Olympic-related story is that General Mills finally put the legendary **Greg Louganis** on a box of Wheaties. Louganis said, "Back in '95, I wasn't expecting to live very long because we thought of HIV-AIDS as a death sentence. So to be here today, now 56, the box means so much more to me than it would have then because I feel like I'm being embraced as a whole person, not just for my athletic achievement."

Like it or not, we must mention Logo's Finding Prince Charming. Talk about being between a rock and a hard place—it's a show nobody but gay men has ever heard of, and yet one which almost no gay men admit to watching! It was a bold experiment gone tragically wrong. Logo touted it as the first gay bachelor show, discounting Bravo's Boy Meets Boy—which was far superior, despite its own icky twist. But nothing could be ickier than Logo's "prince," **Robert Sepulveda Jr.** Look: Nobody loves a hooker more than me. But once there are videos of you drinking someone's semen out of a used condom or shoving a shampoo bottle up your ass, I think you've lost the right to the holier-than-thou attitude—to say nothing of the title "prince." Logo missed a great opportunity for product placement.



Billy said that there was a different side to **George Michael** (here in his "Faith" video).

Picture it: Finding Prince Charming, brought to you by Head & Shoulders!

Now that the season is over, Sepulveda is more than happy to not only talk about being a hooker, but also make some money off it ... 'cause that's what hookers do. His latest venture is a 2017 calendar called "Rented," in which he "gives the recipient a glimpse into the harsh reality many sex workers face." Forget "prince"—the man is a saint. He's the Mother Teresa of prostitution! In the calendar, we see such telling photos as him counting the money left on a nightstand—I never saw Terry do that in Calcutta! To prove he hasn't left behind the world's oldest profession (many claim he's still escorting), the calendar costs a whopping \$50. Lest you think he's pocketing that money, au contraire. Allegedly, all of the proceeds will go to SexWorkersProject.org. If this is handled anything like his Atlanta Rainbow Crosswalks "charity," next year's calendar might be called "Incarcerated!"

There were lots of celebrity nudes. On BillyMasters.com, you can find people like **River Viiperi**, **Will Wikle**, **Orlando Bloom**, **Justin Bieber**, **Alex Bowen**, **Lewis Bloor** and **Brandon Myers**. Those last few are quite well-endowed British reality stars definitely worth checking out. Still, the top dog is **John Barrowman's** husband, **Scott Gill**—who is also a Brit. Scott nearly broke the Internet when he wandered by naked while Barrowman was doing a live web chat from their Palm Beach pool. You can see why Johnny is always so happy on our website.

What would a Billy Masters column be without a Fayewatch item? We have bookend items about **La Dunaway**. Near the beginning of the year, she was seen at a popular West Hollywood grocery store wearing plastic surgical gloves and talking to the tomatoes. It would really be a story if the tomatoes spoke back! As the year drew to a close, I ran into Faye in the most unlikely of places. While I can't share too many details, she looked quite frail and was sporting a soft cast on her right foot. When I asked her about it, she said, "Well, I had a little run-in with my refrigerator—but that's not how this happened." She then hobbled off as I said, "Huh?"

When Faye is speaking in riddles, it's time to wrap up another year of columns. As we go to press, we're shocked to learn that it was **George Michael's** last Christmas. But even with that sad news, I had to smile when I read **Sarah Michelle Gellar's** Twitter tribute: "Do you really want to hurt me? I guess you do 2016. #ripboygeorge." Always on the cutting edge, Buffy! That's why you get your news from BillyMasters.com, the site with a finger on the pulse of anyone with a pulse! If you'd like to reach out to us, drop a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before the next celebrity death. Thanks for yet another great year. And, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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of having to work twice as hard as others to be taken seriously. Yet she doesn't want the trans storyline to dominate her business's narrative.

"I'm a baker opening a bakery first, [and I'm] trans second," Vailoces said.

She's also a very busy woman who is still working full-time as a physical therapist, a job she calls "gratifying". Occasionally, it feeds her passion.

"I have patients that are African-American grandmothers from the South. They talk to me about how they used to love to bake, and I'm, like, 'Oh my god, I want to take notes,'" said Vailoces.

For the near future, Vailoces will juggle both careers, relying on her team of bakers and decorators to maintain the bakery when it opens.

And she absolutely can't wait any longer for that day. "I want this to be the bakery that the Chicago LGBT community can proudly call their own," said Vailoces.

Keep up with news about Jennivee's Bakery on Facebook.