

YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

Volume 21 Issue 3
March 2026



ASK NANA



BRAD LOEKLE



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YOUR LGBTQIA+ GUIDE TO

Key West



Q MAGAZINE

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Welcome To Paradise!

We had a bit of a nippy winter so the water may be a bit cooler than normal.

This is a great time to enjoy that heated pool at your hotel and soak up some rays. Or lay out on that clothing optional boat trip you've been thinking about!

Enjoy!

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Contributors:

Neil Chamberlain
Brad Loekle
Nana
Terri Schlichenmeyer
Stephanie Wise

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Stephanie Wise

LEZ GO OUT



I
It used to be said that February was known as the best month of the year in Key West. The droves flocked down to the island sometime in January and all of February was hailed as the best of everything: weather, sun and water... Not anymore. March is the new "it" girl!

Call it global warming, snowbirds moving more slowly (deeper snow) or that Mother Nature is perimenopausal, I don't know... But March is definitely THE month to be here now. The breezes have calmed down, days are a perfect warmth and the nights are absolutely PHENOMENAL for just about everything. Night kayaking, strolling neighborhoods and dining al fresco. The husbutch and I take our 10lb Havanese out for a walk every night and we walk all over town. Cool nights are ideal for hand holding. In the heat of the day or even particularly hot nights we have a pinky rule. You don't know the pinky rule? Ok, so I think it's an unwritten lesbian rule that you are touching at all times, or at least as often as possible. When it is particularly hot out and we still want to hold hands without it being a sweaty sticky experience, we hold pinkies. She'll reach out to hold my hand and I will answer with an extended pinky. This tells her that I am overheated (or close to being if she touches me), but I still want her close. We link pinkies and stroll on. Feel free to adopt this at will. It's quite effective.

I digress, the cooler evening strolls often lead us farther from home. The other night we strolled all of the way down through Bahama Village near Santiago's Bodega. Incredible tapas, by the way. You have to finish with the prosciutto wrapped dates. No really. They just about make a vegetarian fall off the wagon. I digress again. Just across the street is the American Legion Hall Post 168 at 803 Emma Street. In addition to being an exceptional resource for our veterans, this establishment currently has one of our own at the helm. Those of you who know Nancy know she is an exceptional force for good in our community. She quietly supports people who don't even know her and may never know she was the silent force behind her good deeds. She has poured her heart and soul into helping make the American Legion Hall a destination and a true resource for veterans within the community in her time as commander. One of the ways that Nancy is working to make the American Legion shine like its glory days is to bring back local jazz.

A little history... The William Weech American Legion Post 168 with its namesake, William Weech, a Black Key Wester who perished aboard the USCGC Tampa, which sunk off the coast of Wales during World War I, is a uniquely significant institution founded in 1946 by Black WWII veterans who returned to a segregated Key West and built their post home by hand, opening it in 1952. Located at 803 Emma Street, the building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Florida African American Heritage Trail, reflecting its role as a historic gathering place once known as the "Black Town Hall." For more than 70 years, the post has supported veterans, their families, and the community, while recent efforts have focused on restoring the aging hall through state grants, city funding requests, and partnerships with organizations like Habitat for Humanity. The reopened hall again serves as a vital community hub, offering veteran services, educational programs, youth mentorship, cultural events, and a planned museum highlighting Key West's Black and military history. The hall has a rich Jazz history, too. Local performers Robert Albury and Coffee Butler have been noted sharing that Louis Armstrong performed there along with many other famous artists like B.B. King, James Brown, Otis Redding, Debbie Wright, Della Humphrey, Ben E. King, Sam and Dave, Millie Jackson, Etta James ("At Last") all performed inside Post 168. In the early years, Bahama Village was the center of music in Key West. It has even been rumored that Duke Ellington fit a portion of his band on that stage.

Today, American Legion 168 has brought its heritage back to the stage with local performers and headlines alike. Expanding its reach the American Legion 168 is also known now as the Key West Cultural Center and Veterans Museum co-located with American Legion Post 168 at 803 Emma St.

They have weekly events such as:

Mondays: 6-8pm, Dinner and the Piano, 8:30-11:30 pm Larry Smith's Jazz Jams \$5 cover.

Wednesdays: Open 6-11 pm. 7-10 pm, Ladies Night w/ Larry Smith, \$5 cover.

Thursdays: Open 6-11 pm. pm. 6:30-9:30 pm. Terri White, Larry Baeder and Friends! \$5 cover.

Fridays: 6 - 8 pm, CASH BINGO! 8-11 pm See Facebook.

Saturdays: Live Music. See Facebook/legionpost168 for special music and events.

Walking up to and opening the doors to such exceptional history and music is why we love living in a place like this. This island has unbelievable history and the energy is still very much alive and welcoming. Lez Go Out and support our local community whether you hold hands or pinkies to get there. See you at the jam session!

Not just gay -GAY!



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BEACH READS

LGBT Book Reviews by *Terri Schlichenmeyer*



"THE QUEER THING ABOUT SIN: WHY THE WEST CAME TO HATE QUEER LOVE"

BY HARRY TANNER

c.2025, Bloomsbury | \$28.00 | 259 pages



Nobody likes you very much.

That's how it seems sometimes, doesn't it? Nobody wants to see you around, they don't want to hear your voice, they can't stand the thought of your existence and they'd really rather you just go away. It's infuriating, and in the new book **"The Queer Thing About Sin"** by Harry Tanner, you'll see how we got to this point.

When he was a teenager, Harry Tanner says that he thought he "was going to hell."

For years, he'd been attracted to men and he prayed that it would stop. He asked for help from a lay minister who offered Tanner websites meant to repress his urges, but they weren't the panacea Tanner hoped for. It wasn't until he went to college that he found the answers he needed and "stopped fearing God's retribution."

Being gay wasn't a sin. Not ever, but he "still wanted to know why Western Culture believed it was for so long."

Historically, many believe that older men were sexual "mentors" for teenage boys, but Tanner says that in ancient Greece and Rome, same-sex relationships were common between male partners of equal age and between differently-aged pairs, both. Clarity comes by understanding relationships between husbands and wives then, and careful translation of the word "boy," to show that age wasn't a factor,

but superiority and inferiority were.

In ancient Athens, queer love was considered to be “noble” but after the Persians sacked Athens, sex between men instead became an acceptable act of aggression aimed at conquered enemies. Confoundingly, raping a male prisoner was encouraged but “Gay men became symbols of a depraved lack of self-control and abstinence.”

Later Greeks believed that men could turn into women “if they weren’t sufficiently virile.” Biblical interpretations point to more conflict; Leviticus specifically bans queer sex but “the Sumerians actively encouraged it.” The Egyptians hated it, but “there are sporadic clues that same-sex partners lived together in ancient Egypt.”

Says Tanner, “all is not what it seems.”

So you say you’re not really into ancient history. If it’s not your thing, then “The Queer Thing About Sin” won’t be, either.

Just know that if you skip this book, you’re missing out on the kind of excitement you get from reading mythology, but what’s here is true, and a much wider view than mere folklore. Author Harry Tanner invites readers to go deep inside philosophy, religion, and ancient culture, but the information he brings is not dry. No, there are major battles brought to life here, vanquished enemies and death – but also love, acceptance, even encouragement that the citizens of yore in many societies embraced and enjoyed. Tanner explains carefully how religious credo tied in with homosexuality (or didn’t) and he brings readers up to speed through recent times.

While this is not a breezy vacation read or a curl-up-with-a-blanket kind of book, “The Queer Thing About Sin” is absolutely worth spending time with. If you’re a thinking person and can give yourself a chance to ponder, you’ll like it very much.

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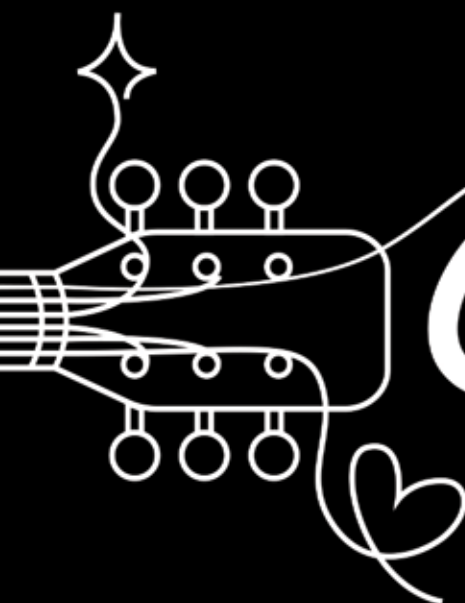


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A white line-art graphic of a guitar headstock on a black background. It features six tuning pegs (three on each side), a diamond-shaped logo at the top, and a heart shape at the bottom. A line from the body of the guitar extends to the right, framing the word "Once".

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MY BIG GAY LIFE

Brad Locke



CLUMSY FOR A CAUSE

Now, I don't know if I invented this idea... but I'm a gay man, so I pretty much think we invented everything. Except feminine hygiene products and cargo shorts. Neither of which are really in our wheelhouse. But lately, I've been wracking my brain and consulting with lawyer friends on what small acts of revolution I can do to contribute to the resistance. Because, let's face it, 'Merica is gonna get a lot worse before she gets better. We need to put some Victorian-era leeches on the nation's collective redneck and start sucking out some of the stupid.

Now, as my lawyers tell me all the time, "Brad... you can't go around looking to throw hands with every racist or fascist you see. You can only do that if they start it first. Then it's self-defense." But then it occurred to me... what if I didn't hit anyone. Even though I want to. I want to punch Nazis so bad. Hell, I saw a woman in the Atlanta airport wearing a tank top that said, "you can't prove the Earth is round" and it took all my strength not to beat her senseless with my MacBook. Though I don't know if she could have become more senseless in the first place.

My new invention is what I call "Clumsy for a Cause." And it works like this: Now when I see some gross person of any sort. A Karen, a clansman, a cube of "ICE", or one of the Red

Caps I just get REAL clumsy. Did you know it's not a crime to trip and spill an entire big gulp only a 63-year-old woman with varicose veins who is telling a cashier to "go back to their own country?" Cus it's not. It's not illegal to be clumsy.

Did you know dairy makes a great non-violent weapon? If you accidentally drop a tub of cottage cheese onto the crotch of a mulleted-man who is transvestigating women at a public rest room, that human puddle of a man won't get the stink of sour milk out of his feet, more or less the fabric of his 2003 Tacoma for years.

I understand that the answer to violence can't always be more violence. I agree (most of the time) with the idea that you can't fight fire with fire. But you can fight fire with pickled herring, expired dairy products, 120oz of Baja Blast, and gravy. Actually, don't use gravy. Gravy is delicious and those fat, fascist fucks would probably just lick themselves clean in the parking lot afterwards.

Brad Loekle's latest comedy special & album, "Brash Boys Club" is available on Amazon, AppleTV, iTunes, and other platforms. He was a semi-finalist on NBC's "Last Comic Standing". He can be seen every week on TruTV's "World's Dumbest", has written for Joan Rivers on E! "Fashion Police" & tours internationally. His book, "My Big Gay Life" is available on Amazon. For all this and more, check out: www.bradloekle.com

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- 3 **Alexander's Guest House** - 1118 Fleming St
- 4 **Alonzo's** - 700 Front St
- 5 **Belmare** - 700 Front St
- 6 **Bourbon** - 724 Duval St
- 7 **Graffiti** - 721 Duval St
- 8 **In Touch With You** - 706A Duval St
- 9 **Island House** - 1129 Fleming St
- 10 **KW Gay & Lesbian Visitor Center** - 808 Duval St
- 11 **La Te Da** - 1125 Duval St
- 12 **Mangia Mangia** - 900 Southard St
- 13 **Marc Ulanowski Realtor** - 420 Fleming St
- 14 **Red Barn Theater** - 319 Duval St (Rear)
- 15 **Red Shoe Island Bistro** - 411 Petronia St
- 16 **Saloon 1** - 504 Petronia St
- 17 **Waterfront Playhouse** - 407 Wall St
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WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

TUESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

WEDNESDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

Bria singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Island House

Hot Naked Pool Party starting at 5 PM

THURSDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

FRIDAY

801

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Boys Night Out starting at 10 PM

Saloon 1

Cock Shock contest at Midnight

SATURDAY

801

Drag Shows at 5, 9, & 11 PM

Bourbon

Naked Pool Party at Noon

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

La Te Da

Randy Roberts Live at 9 PM

SUNDAY

801

Karaoke starting at 4 PM

Drag Shows at 9 PM and 11 PM

Bourbon

After Tea 7 PM - 10 PM

Jeff Moss singing live at 8 PM

Dancers on the bar starting at 10 PM

Island House

Hot Naked Pool Party starting at Noon

LOCATIONS

801 - 801 Duval Street

Bourbon - 724 Duval Street

Island House - 1129 Fleming St

La Te Da - 1125 Duval St

Saloon 1 - 504 Petronia St

ASK NANA

E-mail your questions to
nana@keywestgayrag.com



Dear Nana,

My boyfriend didn't do anything for Valentine's Day. He didn't get me anything he didn't plan anything. It's not like we usually make a huge deal out of Valentine's Day but I still thought he'd do something?! I was really ticked off but I didn't want to make a big deal about it and then have a fight on Valentine's Day. But it's still sort of annoying me and he keeps asking why I've been in a low-key bad mood the last couple of weeks. What should I do?

Well, have you considered being less of an exhausting prick? That's definitely an option. My goodness, you queens are worse than women. And we women are A LOT. Just to be clear: he didn't "do anything or give you anything" ... but you also didn't do anything or give him anything?



That's correct, right? So, it wouldn't be insane for him to think that both of you just don't care much about the imaginary holiday of Valentine's Day? But, oh how wrong he is! Your little demon twink brain has turned this into a season of Ryan Murphy's "Feud." Before I talk to him about any of this, I would probably talk to a therapist. Watch their eyes when you're telling them this story. And if they don't blink... and then just quietly sigh. You're in the wrong and you should accept that your boyfriend is doing the Lord's work by staying with you.

Dear Nana,

My girlfriend wants me to leave Florida and move with her to Austin where she is from. We've lived together for 3 years and I work remotely so it's not an insane request. She said she just doesn't like the way the politics of Florida are going, in general, and she doesn't want to stick around and wait to see if it gets better or worse. Basically, she said she just feels safer in Austin. I love her and I don't want to potentially damage our relationship by making it long distance. But I also don't think I'm ready to uproot my whole life for a girlfriend. I mean, I'm a lesbian but I'm not that sort of lesbian. Any advice?

My first advice would be for your girlfriend to look at how the politics of Texas are going. Then have her look at a map of Texas and have her point to Austin. Then ask her if Austin is



its own nation-state or principality? Is it like Monaco? Is it the Vatican City of the South? Mind you, you're asking relationship advice from a woman whose been married 5 times but only divorced 3. The others passed away at a reasonable ages and under plausible circumstances.

If you don't see yourself living in Austin, or can't look at this as all some grand adventure or experiment, then I would say your mind is already made up. It might be time for you both decide just how serious this relationship is, regardless of where it is on a map.

DO YOU HAVE PROBLEMS? OF COURSE YOU DO! WHY NOT LET NANA HELP YOU?!

Send your questions to: nana@keywestgayrag.com

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WHORE--SCOPES

AQUARIUS JAN 20 - FEB 18

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PISCES FEB 19 - MAR 20

No one will drop to your level. They don't want to be on their knees that much.

ARIES MAR 21 - APR 19

Your phone isn't broken. You just have no friends.

TAURUS APR 20 - MAY 20

What's that cologne you're wearing? Oh, it's slut.

GEMINI MAY 21 - JUN 20

Salads are dressed better than you.

CANCER JUN 21 - JUL 22

I think your brain was logged off due to inactivity.

LEO JUL 23 - AUG 22

Of the 4 fat people I know, you're 3 of them.

VIRGO AUG 23 - SEP 22

Most drag queens have heels higher than your standards.

LIBRA SEP 23 - OCT 22

Your love life isn't going well. Have you tried chloroform?

SCORPIO OCT 23 - NOV 21

Being a tool doesn't mean you're butch.

SAGITTARIUS NOV 22 - DEC 21

Some things are better left alone. Like your penis for instance. Take a break!!

CAPRICORN DEC 22 - JAN 19

Your mind operates like a well soiled machine.



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steamroom

two jacuzzis
sun loungers
sun deck

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