

THE BEST OF BUFFALO TWOTHOUSANDANDSIX

This appears to be a remarkable year for Buffalo. We elected Byron Brown mayor; hockey is back and the Sabres are having a thrilling season; waterfront development is finally getting traction; Marv Levy returned to the Bills; Studio Arena sent a play to Broadway and appointed a promising new artistic director; Congressman Brian Higgins won his mega-million-dollar fight for us against the New York Power Authority; City Honors High School was ranked fourth in the country among public schools by *Newsweek*; and, probably most important, a majority of people are beginning to realize that a casino in downtown Buffalo would be about as smart as eating rat poison for dinner.

This is also a remarkable year for the Artvoice Best of Buffalo survey. Between our mail-in paper ballots and the spiffy online ballot (designed by our clever IT guru Dave Kleinschmidt), we found ourselves tallying more than 75,000 entries. In fact, the response was so overwhelming that we had to move the issue back a week so that we could continue tabulating all the votes. We've finished the counting and the top nominations are printed here for all to read. While most categories have five nominees, you will notice that some have more. In those categories that have more than five nominees, there were just such an incredible number of votes cast, and the races were so tight, that we felt the nomination list had to be expanded to recognize the strength of those named.

I would like to commend the Artvoice staff and interns for making sense of some of the ballots. We always have voters who misunderstand the concept of Best of Buffalo, voters who tell us Green Day or U2 are their favorite band and Angelina Jolie is their favorite actress. Forget those. Understanding what a voter has written on a legitimate entry can be more challenging than one might think, too. For example, someone, perhaps fond of bellybuttons, chose the Navel Park as the Best Tourist Attraction.

Names are often butchered almost beyond recognition. Channel 7 newscaster Keith Radford showed up as Keith Bredford, Keith Radcliff, Keith Rathman, Kieth Radston and "Keith the-guy-with-the-tan on 7." Talking Leaves Books received a great number of votes. However, many of those votes appeared as Falling Leaves, Turning Leaves, Counting Leaves, Reading Leafs and so on. Similarly, Rust Belt Books appeared as Rusted Root Books or Rusty Belt Leaves.

Perhaps, since I'm talking about book stores, this would be a good time to make it clear that while Barnes & Noble and Borders both received a great number of votes, the Artvoice survey is not intended to highlight national chains. Rather, it is to bring attention to places, people and businesses that are unique to Buffalo. While Barnes & Noble is an excellent store, and Starbucks has decent coffee, and many people like McDonald's fries, these chain stores offer the exact same product whether you're in Albuquerque, Seattle or Rochester. Apparently some people missed the notice printed on the ballot in all caps: "NO CHAIN STORES—VOTE LOCAL."

Please take note that the finalists are listed in reverse alphabetical order, not in the order they finished in the balloting. Winners will be announced at the **Artvoice Best of Buffalo Party** this Monday, May 8, 6-9pm at the Town Ballroom. Admission is free, so is the food, and music will be provided by Babik and the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus. Come one, come all.

—jamie moses

BEST OF BUFFALO PEOPLE & POLITICS

: NOMINEES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER :



RYAN GARKO

PHOTO BY ROSE MATTREY

Well, well—people and politics. If it weren't for the Sabres, what else would there be to talk about? There is hardly a politician in Western New York who did not receive at least one vote for **Best Politician**, which proves that every public servant has a mother collecting press clips somewhere. On the other hand—or maybe this is the same hand—there is hardly a politician in Western New York who did not receive a vote for **Worst Politician**, which proves that after every election there is a sore loser. The city's new mayor, after just 100 days in office as of the closing of the Artvoice polls, had managed to land on both lists—which proves that everyone is watching **Byron Brown** closely. It's worth noting that, excepting perennial finalist **Sam Hoyt**, the finalists for Best Politician are all new to their offices. Optimism?

Kevin Gaughan lived up to both his reputations—good citizen and gadfly—by finishing as a finalist on three lists: **Best Community Activist**,

Best Unelected Public Servant and **Most Eccentric Citizen**. If only he'd placed in **Best Buffalo Sabre** and **Best College Sports Team**, Gaughan would be the Mark Spitz of the People & Politics category.

Best Buffalo Sabre, of course, is a work in progress—the post-season continues and there is plenty of opportunity for new heroes to emerge. But we think our finalists, all except Martin Biron who did not play, had a good series against Philadelphia, and the winner...well, let's just say he made Artvoice's national team.

It's a little early in the spring to ask our readers to name a Best Buffalo Bison, it's true, but the Artvoice staff was chagrined that Buster—valuable as he is—was a finalist in this category. We suspect it means that too few people take advantage of the cheap seats at Dunn Tire Park. Really, Buffalo—take an afternoon off this summer, buy a bleacher seat, a hot dog and a beer and get to know your hometown team.

Finally, our **Drag Queens**—a furious contest this year, so close and rife with ties that we list the top eight finishers instead of the top five. This race is far too close to call. Who will emerge victorious: **Vanity Vogue?** **Vicky Vogue?** The indefatigable **Chevon Davis?** **V?** You'll have to attend the **Artvoice Best of Buffalo Party** on Monday, May 8 to find out.

Best Buffalo Bill

Willis McGahee
Takeo Spikes
Marv Levy
JP Losman
Brian Moorman

Best Buffalo Bison

Torey LoVullo
Tim Laker
Ryan Garko
Coco Crisp
Buster the Bison

Best Buffalo Sabre

Ryan Miller
Maxim Afinogenov
Martin Biron
Daniel Briere
Chris Drury

Best College Sports Team

University at Buffalo men's basketball
Niagara University men's basketball
Medaille College women's basketball
Canisius College women's basketball
Canisius College men's basketball

Best Community Activist

Tim Tielman
Robert Kresse
Michele Johnson
Kevin Gaughan
Harvey Garrett
Eugene Abrahamson
Camille Hopkins
Ani DiFranco

Best Drag Queen

Vicky Vogue
Vanity Vogue
Malibu
Jayme Coxx
fanta-see island
Chevon Davis
Armani
V

Best Entertainer

Tom Stahl
The Stripteasers
Terry Buchwald
Malibu
Lance Diamond



PHOTO BY ROSE MATTREY

Most Eccentric Citizen

The lady wrapped in white who walks Elmwood
The deer lady
Kevin Gaughan
Jimmy Griffin
Eric Starchild

Best Patron of the Arts

The Knox family
M&T Bank
Charles Penney
Cecile and Stephen Bilttehoff
Ani DiFranco

Best Politician

Satish Mohan
Sam Hoyt
Mark Poloncarz
Byron Brown
Brian Higgins

Worst Politician

Tony Masiello
Tom Reynolds
Joel Giambra
George W. Bush
Byron Brown

Biggest Waste of Taxpayer Dollars

Joel Giambra
Every other overpaid politician
Endless feasibility studies for Peace Bridge, traffic on Main Street, waterfront development, etc.
Bass Pro
Any money spent on a casino in Buffalo

Best Unelected Public Servant

Michele Johnson
Kevin Gaughan
Judy Einach
James Williams
B. Thomas Golisano

Best Use of Taxpayer Dollars

Waterfront development and greenway
Streets maintenance and repair
Police and fire departments
Buffalo school reconstruction
Arts funding



BEST OF BUFFALO

WHEN IT'S SWARMOUT

: NOMINEES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER :

Reading the results for our summer category almost always elicits the same set of reactions from AV staff: First there's cabin fever, then stunned silence and finally heavy drinking. While the folks who answer earnestly come back with many of the same answers year after year—**Sunset Bay** and **Evangola** in beaches, **Allegany** and **Letchworth** in camping, **Zoar Valley** in hiking, the **UB/Amherst bike path** for bicycling, **Delaware Park** and **Chestnut Ridge** in parks—occasionally a notable upstart makes the list, like **Jones Pond**, a gay campground in Angelica. They remind us of why everyone loves summers in Buffalo: long, sunny days and plenty of recreational opportunities. But there are others, the ones who cause stunned silence and drinking, who remind of us of why democracy is bound to crumble. In the beaches category, many people decided on far-off locations, like Laguna Beach, South Beach and Topsail Island, North Carolina. We can only assume that these are not the same people who directed their vitriol toward golfing. One told us to ask the rich white people, and a second simply declared, "Go golf in hell, yuppie scum." Another morbid person likes the "beach" at Mirror Lake in Forest Lawn Cemetery. Two responses that raised eyebrows under the camping category favored Girl Scout camp. We can only hope that there are Girl Scouts filling out our survey. Needless to say, none of these answers made the top five lists.

WHEN IT'S SCOLDOUT

Our winter category revealed a few indelible truths about Buffalonians. Namely that we like winter sports, we are all sex fiends, we really don't need any excuse to miss work, we spend way too much time in Florida and several of us don't quite get it...any of it.

As is usually the case, **sex** ranks high in the **Best Winter Activity, Nonsport** category. But what about these variations that didn't make the top five—"making love," "bury the weenie," "making whoopee" and "copulating"? These four answers came from a scientist, a romantic, a frat boy and an 80-year-old—you guess which came from whom. One person's favorite thing to do in winter is to plan for summer. Either he has a very busy summer or no job in the winter.

Under **Best Sledding**, Buffalo seems hopelessly outmatched by the hilly southtowns, but **Delaware Park's Shakespeare Hill** snuck its way in, as did **Ellicott Creek Park**. This, however, isn't half as depressing as one answer, the **I-90 split**. Don't sled too far, kids!

Buffalonians favor skating outdoors, as evidenced by three of the top five in **Best Skating**—**Fountain Plaza**, **Cazenovia Park** and **Hoyt Lake**. Other outdoor faves included the **Black Rock Canal** and backyard ponds. When we said "**Snowbird Destination**" some people must have read "snowbunny," because **Ellicottville** was nominated.

One fellow who likes to have "snowball fights with the neighborhood kids as a nonsport activity" also used "took ice-ball to face in snowball fight with neighborhood kids" as an excuse for missing work. Serves you right.



Best Beach
Sunset Bay
Sherkston Shores
Evangola State Park
Crystal Beach
Beaver Island State Park

Best Bicycling
Riverwalk
Niawanda Park
Niagara Parkway, Ontario
Buffalo's Waterfront
Amherst/UB bike path

Best Camping
Zoar Valley
Letchworth State Park
Jones Pond
Darien Lakes State Park
Allegany State Park

Best Fishing
Tift Nature Preserve
Sturgeon Point

Small Boat Harbor
Niagara River
Eighteen Mile Creek

Best Golfing
River Oaks Country Club
Glen Oak Country Club
Delaware Park
Deerwood Country Club
Brookfield Country Club

Best Hiking
Zoar Valley
Niagara Gorge
Hunter's Creek
Chestnut Ridge Park
Allegany State Park

Best Park
Niawanda Park
Letchworth State Park
Glen Falls Park
Delaware Park
Chestnut Ridge Park

Best Skating
Pepsi Center
Hoyt Lake
Fountain Plaza
Cazenovia Park rink
Buffalo State College rink

Best Skiing
Kissing Bridge
Holimont
Holiday Valley

Best Sledding
Kissing Bridge
Holiday Valley
Ellicott Creek Park
Delaware Park
Chestnut Ridge Park

Best Snowbird Destination
The Caribbean
Mexico
Florida

Ellicottville for skiing
Arizona

Best Winter Activity, Nonsport
Sex
Drinking, bar-hopping
Sitting by the fire
Going to the movies
Going to the theater

Best Winter Excuse for Missing Work
Snowed in, road closed, car won't start
Skiing
Sick
Sex
Hangover

Best Winter Sport
Snowboarding
Sledding, tubing, tobogganing
Hockey
Downhill skiing
Cross-country skiing

RATED ★★★★★ FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT FIELD GUIDE OF US & INTL. SITES



PERFECT FOR GROUP OUTINGS
LUNCH & BRUNCH
PACKAGES AVAILABLE

ESTATE TOURS AT FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S GRAYCLIFF

Standard Tours \$10 • Saturday In-depth "Architecture Tour" \$18

Visit the Pavilion Gift Shop • Great Selection of FLW items: Books • Jewelry • Decor
★ Gift Idea • Conservancy Membership: Benefits include Free Tours for 1 Year ★

20 mins. south of Buffalo on the cliffs of Lake Erie • 6472 Old Lake Shore Road
All weekday & weekend tours by reservation 947-9217 • Website <http://graycliff.bfn.org>

mother's day BRUNCH

Fiddle \$24 10am-3pm
\$9.50 children under 12

10am-3pm seating is limited call for reservations

Heads RESTAURANT & WINE BAR

62 allen st . buffalo . 883.4166

15% off

all products
and services

with this ad . expires may 30
excludes all other coupons or discounts

classes

repairs

parties

experienced staff

thebeadgallery

2 locations open 7 days

3963 main st amherst ny 836.6775

3402 orchard park rd orchard park ny 675.6491

beads@beadgallery.com

AN ILLOS FAMILY OWNED BUSINESS

Thank You Artvoice readers

for nominating Bagel Jay's
**BEST BAGELS in
BUFFALO**

For over 30 years Buffalo's only
locally owned and operated
NY Style Bagel Deli.



Marshalls Plaza, 2130 Delaware
Ave. 874.1800

Hopkins @ Klein Rd. Williamsville
639.1000

Hamburg @ Hamburg Village
Square 646.1234

BEST OF BUFFALO LOCAL MEDIA

: NOMINEES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER :

SHREDD & RAGAN of the Edge 103.3.
Courtesy of the The Edge.



Our readers tell us that among the region's **Most Under-reported Stories** is the danger posed to the city by the **Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino**. We think so, too—though we note that, to its credit, the *Buffalo News* is devoting more energy to exploring the issue in recent weeks.

Our readers tell us that the danger posed by a downtown casino is also among the **Most Over-reported Stories**. Ah, well—we plead guilty. And, given the inconclusive feedback, we'll just keep writing about it. Other stories Buffalo is tired of hearing about: the **Bass Pro** deal, the **parking ticket blitz**—god, so are we—and the **Erie County**

budget crisis.

The voting for **Best Local Blog** and **Best Local Web Site** engendered a fruitful conversation about where one draws the line between the two—**Buffalo Rising**, for example, won a substantial number of votes in both categories. But *Buffalo Rising* is not really a blog, at least not anymore. **Buffalo Pundit** clearly is, but at some point the increasingly popular blog is likely to become, in essence, a news portal for some readers—despite the intentions of its author, to be sure—at which point, we ask, will it have become something else? We're glad to be in the newspaper business—gratified, however, that our Web site placed among the finalists.

Two of our television categories proved the essentially shallow nature of the medium: You'll note that the finalists for **Best Local TV Personality** and **Best-dressed Local TV Personality** are practically identical. Note also that Andy Parker, a finalist for **Best Local Weather Person**, is the only broadcaster to make all three lists. This suggests, unscientifically, that most meteorologists and all the region's **Best Sportscasters** need help from the wardrobe department.

As for **Best Local TV Programs**, we were heartened by some of the quirkier and less popular answers: "public access roller-skating," "kung-fu movies set to rap music" and "Amherst school board meetings." Those of you who provided those answers: *Artvoice* has a desk for you in our newsroom.

Best Local Blog

www.nymusic.com
www.elmwoodstrip.com
www.community.livejournal.com/buffalo_dorks
www.buffalopundit.wnymedia.net
www.allentowngardener.com

Best Local Radio Personality

Val Townsend
Tom Bauerle
Ragan
Janet Snyder
Bull

Best Local Radio Show

WBFO Blues w/Jim Santella
Tom Bauerle
Shredd & Ragan
Sandy Beach
Dale & Clay Breakfast Club, WYRK

Best Local TV News Personality

Susan Banks
Mary Alice Demler
Keith Radford
Jodi Johnston
Jackie Walker
Andy Parker

Best-dressed Local TV News Personality

Victoria Hong
Susan Banks
Mary Alice Demler
Jodi Johnston
Jackie Walker
Andy Parker

Best Local TV Program

Sabres' hockey
PM Buffalo
Offbeat Cinema
Channel 2's Saturday Daybreak
Artscope

Best Local Weather Person

Kevin O'Connell
Don Paul
Chesley McNeil
Andy Parker
Aaron Mentkowski

Best Local Web Site

www.wedg.com
(The Edge 103.3)
www.buffalorising.com
www.buffalogaybars.com
www.buffalobarfly.com
www.buffalo.com
www.artvoice.com

Best Sportscaster

Rick Jeanneret
John Murphy
Ed Kilgore
Dennis Williams
Adam Bognini

Most Over-reported local Story

The Seneca Buffalo Creek Casino
The parking ticket crackdown
The Amherst deer lady
Erie County budget crisis
Bass Pro

Most Under-reported Local Story

Negative impacts of a casino downtown
Local poverty and illiteracy
Local entrepreneurs developing new housing, restaurants and businesses in the city
Anti-casino sentiment

Hush

NIGHTCLUB

IT'S ON EVERYBODY'S LIPS.
WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY · 7 PM - 4 AM
PROPER ATTIRE REQUIRED.

SENECA NIAGARA

CASINO & HOTEL

310 Fourth Street, Niagara Falls, NY 14303
www.SenecaNiagaraCasino.com • 1-877-8SENECA(73-6322)

WILD

WEDNESDAYS
& SERVICE INDUSTRY NIGHT

Kick off the weekend early with our
WILD WEDNESDAYS!

NO COVER.

Enjoy 25¢ wings and \$2 Coronas
and well drinks all night!

LIVE

THURSDAYS

Enjoy live music from **LANCE DIAMOND**
from 7 - 11 PM. Starting May 11!

NO COVER.

Enjoy half price pizza and
\$2 Labatts all night!

Ladies'

NIGHT

Ladies enjoy **NO COVER**
all night long every Friday!

From 7 - 9 PM, enjoy free wings,
\$2 Labatts and \$2 OFF
Frozen Drinks and Apple Martinis.

COSMOPOLITAN

NIGHT

Saturdays ladies enjoy
NO COVER all night long!

Enjoy half price wings all night!
\$2 OFF Cognac with purchase of cigar.



BEST OF BUFFALO DRINK

: NOMINEES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER :



CECELIA'S RISTORANTE & MARTINI BAR

PHOTO BY ROSE MATTREY

During the Blizzard of '77, then-mayor Jimmy Griffin advised Buffalonians to stay inside and drink a six-pack of Genny. While few agreed with his choice of beers, everyone agreed that drinking was a good idea.

Truth be told, we don't need a blizzard to drink. Buffalo's packed with watering holes of every stripe, and a lot of them are even open 'til 4am. Without looking at our list of nominees, you might think that "Best Bar Food" means greasy burgers, thick reuben sandwiches and chicken wings. But **Allen Street Hardware** and **Mother's**, with their cosmopolitan menus, remind us that it simply means good food, served at a bar. **Beer Selection** is key, and if another huge blizzard hit us today, Byron Brown would probably say, "Get out a shovel and dig your way to **Prespa**." Though no one quite understands why they have a neon sign advertising dirt-cheap PBR, **Prespa** won this category in last year's Best of Buffalo, offering customers more than 60 beers from around the world. **Pearl Street Grill & Brewery** also made the cut this year, based on its own delicious brews, including the popular Trainwreck Lager, Lake Effect IPA, Canal Street Oatmeal Stout and their rotating seasonal list.

Three of our **Best Dive Bar** nominees are conspicuously located in a two-block section of Allen Street—**Mulligan's Brick Bar**, **The Old Pink** and **Nietzsche's**. All we can say is that we think they're raising property values in the neighborhood. When it comes down to it, every bar is simply a gathering place. But only particularly friendly, long-established saloons are deemed **Best Neighborhood Pub**. Among those nominated are



2-2-3 ALLEN (THE OLD PINK)

PHOTO BY ROSE MATTREY

Founding Fathers—who won this category last year—and relative newcomer **Allen Street Hardware**.

There are plenty of affable bartenders in Buffalo, but **Roxy's Green Room** seems to take the cake, scoring hits in **Best Bartender** with both Jamie and Aimee. Roxy's was also nominated for **Best Lesbian-friendly Bar**, along with its new neighbor just up Main Street, **Miss Kitty's**.

Of course, all those late nights of boozing mean that we love our coffee, too. It's not exactly Seattle, but Buffalo has its fair share of coffeehouses that can brew an excellent cup of joe. Among those nominated are the usuals, **SPoT** and **Caffé Aroma**. In fact, both were voted in for best coffee and best coffeehouse. Hundreds voted for Tim Horton's for best coffee, and Starbucks would've been nominated for both coffee categories, but they're national chains, so their votes were tossed.

Notable is **Café Allegro**, a quaint neighborhood coffee shop on Hertel Avenue, which was nominated for best coffee and who hovered just off the top five list for coffeehouse. Allegro is owned by a local family, displays artwork by local artist and has almost nightly entertainment. Not to mention they have delicious baked goods. **Café 59**, at Franklin and Allen Streets, also was nominated for best coffeehouse, and for good reason. The popularity of its coffee and deli has recently merited an expansion into a neighboring storefront that once housed an antiques shop.

Best Bar Food

- Papa Jake's
- Mother's Restaurant
- Gabriel's Gate
- Founding Fathers
- Cole's Restaurant
- Buddies II
- Allen Street Hardware

- Aimee Zinzola at Roxy's
- Green Room

Best Beer Selection

- Prespa
- Pizza Plant
- Pearl Street Grill & Brewery
- Mr. Goodbar
- Colter Bay
- Cole's Restaurant
- Buffalo Brew Pub
- Alternative Brews

Best Bartender

- Will Waterrose at Amherst
- Pizza & Ale House
- Sammy at Mother's Restaurant
- Jamie at Roxy's Green Room
- Elizabeth Chadwick at Frizzy's Bar & Grill

Best Coffee

- SPoT Coffee
- Solid Grounds
- Caz Coffee Café
- Caffé Aroma
- Café Allegro

- Merlin's
- Essex Street Pub
- 2-2-3 Allen (The Old Pink)

Best Gay-Friendly Bar

- Underground
- The Cathode Ray
- Q
- Fugazi
- Club Marcella
- Buddies II

Best Happy Hour

- Soho Bar
- Darcy McGee's Irish Pub
- Crocodile Bar
- Cole's Restaurant
- Buddies II

Best Coffeehouse

- SPoT Coffee
- Higher Grounds
- Clarence Center Coffee Co.
- Caffé Aroma
- Café 59

Best Dive Bar

- Nietzsche's
- Mulligan's Brick Bar

Best Lesbian-Friendly Bar

- Roxy's Green Room
- Q
- Miss Kitty's
- Club Marcella
- Adonia's

Best Martini

- Simme's Martini Bar & Restaurant
- Shadow Lounge
- Prespa
- O
- Nektar
- Fugazi
- Cecelia's Ristorante & Martini Bar

Best Neighborhood Pub

- Mulligan's Brick Bar
- Founding Fathers Restaurant
- Essex Street Pub
- Doc Sullivan's
- Cole's Restaurant
- Allen Street Hardware

Best Upscale Bar

- Prespa
- Nektar
- Mother's Restaurant
- David's Grille
- Club Diablo



Grazie Buffalo!


for once again nominating Chef's the #1 Italian Restaurant in WNY

Chef's

a Buffalo tradition since 1923
Restaurant & Banquet Facilities

291 Seneca Street, Buffalo, NY | ph 856.9187 fax 856.9170
www.ilovechefs.com | open at 11am

Hand Fasting Ceremonies
Commitment Ceremonies
Traditional & Alternative Weddings
Blessing Ceremonies



Rev. M.A. Amschler
Rev. S.E. Samuels
Ordained Ministers
716-472-8069
samuels@adelphia.net

103.3:EDGE PRESENTS:
Edge Fest
 SUMMER '06
 WEDG 103.3 FM

Back At The
**Legendary
 Lasalle
 Park!**

Buffalo's
 "Coolest Event
 of the
Summer!"



Enjoy
16 Great Flavors

TAKING BACK SUNDAY

YELLOWCARD ★ HAWTHORNE HEIGHTS ★ 30 SECONDS TO MARS

★ BUCKCHERRY ★ HEAD AUTOMATICA ★ ANBERLIN ★ MATCHBOOK ROMANCE
 ★ THE SUBWAYS ★ THOUSAND FOOT KRUTCH ★ HIT THE LIGHTS ★ HALIFAX
 ★ ROCK KILLS KID ★ HEDLEY ★ SPEAKERFIRE ★ PRYDE

**TICKETS
 ON SALE
 MONDAY
 MAY 8TH**

MONDAY, JUNE 26 GATES 12:00PM ★ SHOW 1:00PM
LASALLE PARK
 PORTER AVE ★ BUFFALO, NY

ALL AGES WELCOME ★ 21+ w/ ID TO DRINK ★ THIS IS A RAIN OR SHINE EVENT. NO REFUNDS, NO EXCHANGES.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT ALL TICKETMASTER OUTLETS INCLUDING KAUFMAN'S DEPT STORES, HOME OF THE HITS AND NEW WORLD RECORD CHARGE BY PHONE (716)852-5000 OR ONLINE AT TICKETMASTER.COM. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WEDG.COM

PRODUCED BY FUNTIME PRESENTS and JOHN SCHER/METROPOLITAN TALENT PRESENTS





BEST OF BUFFALO

FOOD

: NOMINEES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER :

PAPAYA



PHOTO BY ROSE MATTREY

In the history of the Artvoice Best of Buffalo poll—now nearly a decade old—there are certain winners that have held steady throughout. While our readers have been fairly changeable in their top restaurant picks, when asked about the **Best Reason to Live in Buffalo** a top answer has invariably been “the food.” Year after year the Food & Drink section has been the one that gets the biggest response out of all the categories. It is also the largest in number, and counting the ballots is no small task. It is particularly daunting due to the sheer amount of different places that are offered as potential “bests.” With a few notable exceptions—the bus station for Best Breakfast?—all the candidates are worthy.

In terms of national image, Buffalo is hardly known for “foodiness,” a questionable word that smacks of pretension, a quality the majority of Buffalonians seem to detest. The term “foodiness” implies a certain amount of frivolity that neither the people nor the restaurants in this city have embraced—despite one of the **Best New Restaurant** nominees being named **La Tee Da**. (Don’t let the name fool you, the food is carefully prepared, ambitious and quite delicious.) Nowhere in Buffalo can you find bacon-and-egg ice cream, or spinach-date fritters fried in beer batter and dusted with confectioner’s sugar, both of which were dishes described in last Sunday’s *New York Times* food column. What one can find is an abundance of gimmick-free fare served in all manner of styles and settings. Restaurants with an ethnic bent are terrifically popular, perhaps because the city’s “melting pot” population lends authenticity to many culinary ventures and dislodges Buffalo’s blue-collar, meat-and-potatoes reputation. Still, steakhouses and traditional bar food are just as popular, and diners’ loyalties to their choices for **Best Steak** and **Best Burger** have remained pretty consistent through the years.

Illustrating this point, notable nominees this year in Best Steak include **Fiamma** and **Prime 490**, both brand new and both nominated for **Best New Restaurant** as well. The other three nominees in Best Steak are long-standing Buffalo establishments that seem to pop up on the list just about every time. (Much like the previously glorious but now defunct steakhouse Lord Chumley’s, R.I.P.)

Not surprisingly, **Best Sushi** got loads of votes for the bygone **Kuni’s Sushi Bar**. We kept it as a nominee partly out of respect for Kuni’s tremendous 10-year run, but also due to the whispers of a Kuni’s take-out joint happening on Lexington—as well as the now confirmed sale of his former business on Elmwood. If this means there will be two good places to get sushi within the city limits, it *might* make up for the suffering undergone by sushi-deprived city-dwellers. (Had enough of the guilt trip yet, Kuni?)

Some categories necessitated an expansion of our five-nominee limit. You may notice that **Best Bakery** is a huge list with eight possible winners. **Best Deli** has nine nominees, and **Best Italian** and **Best Patio** both have seven. While this may seem extreme, having so many nominees in the food categories is bound to benefit those who attend Monday’s free **Best of Buffalo Party**, since all the nominees have been asked to donate “tastes” of their specialties.

Now that ought to get people there, considering just how many of you voted for the food as the best thing about our city.

Awarded the #1 Independently Owned Pizzeria in the United States
Shipping Pizza and Wings Overnight to Anywhere in the United States

-A Buffalo Tradition Since 1957-

LA NOVA

PIZZERIA

Buffalo Location
371 West Ferry Street
881-3303

Enjoy Casual Dining,
Take-Out & Delivery

Williamsville Location
5151 Main Street
634-5151

Take-Out &
Delivery Only

Delivery
to your home or
hotel room!

www.LANOVA.com

**Buffalo’s Premier
Pizza and Wings!!**

SPECIALTY PIZZA’S -
CHICKEN ALFREDO, STEAK, WHITE,
CHICKEN FINGER & MORE!

WORLD FAMOUS BBQ WINGS -

BUFFALO WINGS -

HOT & COLD SUBS -

TACOS -

CALZONES -

BURGERS -

LUNCH & DINNER SPECIALS -

....AND MORE -

Thank you Buffalo for Making us #1 AGAIN!!!

Discover One of Buffalo's Best-kept Secrets!

Nominated in Three Categories

Best Brunch

Best Vegetarian

Best-kept Secret?

You be the Judge!



BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER
SUNDAY BRUNCH • COOL PATIO
EXTENDED WINE & BEER LIST
BOOKING PRIVATE PARTIES

370 VIRGINIA ST • 362-0633
One Block off Elmwood in Allentown

Curry's

"a very friendly pub"

casual dining & spirits

Casual Atmosphere

with a fine dining flair
... at a very casual price

WNY'S
BEST FISH FRY

lunch & dinner
specials daily

864 Kenmore Avenue
Buffalo 447-0502

ACROSS FROM ST JOE'S

Best Bagel

Wegmans Food Markets
Spot Coffee
Elmwood Bagel and Sandwich
Bagel Jay's

Best Bakery

Romeo & Juliet Bakery
Cafe
Pumpnick 'n' Pastry Shoppe
Eileen's Centerview Bakery
Dolci
DiCamillo Bakery
Delish!
Costanzo's Bakery
Butterwood Desserts

Best Barbecue

One-Eyed Jack's
Smokehouse Grill
Kentucky Greg's Hickory Pit
Fat Bob's Smokehouse
BW's Barbecue
Al-E-Oops

Best Beef on Weck

Swiston's Beef & Keg
Schwabl's Restaurant
Laughlin's Beef & Barrel
Charlie the Butcher
Bar Bill Tavern

Best Brunch

Pano's Restaurant
Left Bank
Deco at Adam's Mark Hotel
Cole's Restaurant
Betty's

Best Chinese

Ying's Pizza and Subs
Taste Good Chinese
Restaurant
Ming Teh Chinese
Restaurant
May Jen Chinese
Restaurant
Chang's Garden

Best Clams

Steve's Clam Bar
Root Five
Marrotto's
Cozumel
Boston Hotel

Best Deli

X-Cel Produce
Wegmans Food and Markets
Niagara County Produce
Marco's Italian Deli
Lexington Real Foods
Community Co-op
Guercio & Sons
Globe Market
Chris's New York Deli
Bidwell Farmers Market

Best Dessert

Sweet Tooth
Frosty's
Dolci
Dessert Deli
Delish!
Butterwood Desserts

Best Diner

Woodlawn Diner
The Towne
Lake Effect Diner
Bertha's Diner
Amy's Place

STEVE, OWNER OF STEVE'S CLAM BAR



Best Fish Fry

Meister's Pub
McPartlan's
Jade's
Hoak's
Hamlin House

Best French Fries

Ted's Jumbo Red Hots
Papa Jake's
Louie's Original
Jim's Steakout
Anderson's

Best Greek

Towne Restaurant
Pano's Restaurant
Mythos
Kostas Family Restaurant
Ambrosia

Best Hamburger

Zebb's Deluxe Bar & Grill
Ted's Jumbo Red Hots
Jimmy Mac's
Grover's Bar and Grill
Cole's Restaurant

Best Hot Dog

Ted's Jumbo Red Hots
Taffy's
Louie's Original
George's Hot Dogs (Boston, NY)
Dunn Tire Park

Best Ice Cream/Frozen Custard

Sweet Tooth
Hanna's Frosty Treats
Fran-celle (Blasdel)
Anderson's

Best Indian

Taste of India
Tandoori's
Star of India
Kabob & Curry
India Gate

Best Italian

Sinatra's Trilogy
Santasiero's
Salvatore's Italian Garden
Ristorante Lombardo
Frank's Sunny Italy
Chef's Restaurant
Carminé's

Best Japanese/Sushi

Tsunami
Shogun
O Restaurant and Lounge
Kuni's
Fuji Grill

Best Kept Secret Restaurant

Mother's Restaurant
Left Bank
Café in the Square
Betty's
Amy's Place

Best Mexican

Mighty Taco
Lone Star Fajita Grill
Gramma Mora's Mexican
Restaurant
El Canelo
Cozumel Grill & Tequila Bar
Cinco de Mayo

Best Middle Eastern

Teta's Middle Eastern
Cuisine
Sahara Grill
Falafel Bar
Byblos Restaurant
Amy's Place

Best New Restaurant

Vado Pazzo
Prime 490
La Tee Da
Fiamma Steak House
Amaryllis

Best Patio

Cozumel Grill & Tequila Bar
Mother's Restaurant
Pano's Restaurant
The Rendezvous
Dock at the Bay
Cecelia's Ristorante & Martini Bar
Astoria

Best Pizza

NY Pizza (Allen St)
Mister Pizza
La Nova
Just Pizza
Bocce's

Best Polish

Wiechec's
R&L
Polish Villa
Polish Nook
Broadway Market

Villa Maria College

...everything you're looking for!

ART & MUSIC

Music
Music Business
Jazz
Interior Design
(2- and 4-year)
Fine Art
Graphic Design
(New Media)
Photography



BUFFALO'S PREMIER
ART AND MUSIC COLLEGE

new 4-year program BFA interior design

Villa Maria College 716.896.0700 | 240 Pine Ridge Rd., Buffalo



PHOTO BY ROSE MATTREY

Most Romantic Restaurant

Salvatore's Italian Garden
Rue Franklin
Oliver's Restaurant
Mother's Restaurant
Left Bank

Best Salad

Poppysseed
Le Metro Bakery & Cafe
Globe Market
Café Allegro
Brodo

Best Sausage

Spar's European Sausage
Scime's Sausage
Peter's @ Broadway
Market
Mineo & Sapio
Hanzillan's

Best Seafood

Tsunami
La Marina Seafood Market
& Grille
Hayes Fish Company
Harry's Harbour Place
Brownstone Seafood
House & Oyster Bar

Best Service (Restaurant)

Tsunami
Oliver's Restaurant
India Gate
Hutch's
Carminé's

Best Steak

Prime 490
Kennedy's Cove
Fiamma Steak
E.B. Green's
Buffalo Chophouse

Best Sub

Wegmans
Mike's Subs
John and Mary's
Jim's Steakout
DiBella's Old Fashioned
Submarines

Super-cheap Breakfast

The Towne
Perison's
Pano's Restaurant
JJ's
Amy's Place
Acropolis

Best Takeout/Delivery

Mister Pizza
La Nova
Just Pizza
Jim's Steakout
Great Wall

Best Thai

The King & I
Taste of Thai
Saigon Café
Saigon Bangkok
Rice Paddy
Jasmine

Best Vegetarian

Off the Wall
Lexington Real Foods Co-
op
Falafel Bar
Betty's
Amy's Place

**Best Waterfront
Restaurant**

The Hatch
Shanghai Red's
Root Five
Hoak's
Harry's Harbour Place
Dock at the Bay

Best Wings

Nonna's
La Nova
Gabriel's Gate
Duff's
Anchor Bar

Best Wine Selection

Oliver's Restaurant
Mother's Restaurant
Left Bank
Brodo
Bacchus Wine Bar &
Restaurant
Allen Street Hardware



E.B. GREEN'S

PHOTO BY ROSE MATTREY

**the
CowPok
BODY PIERCING
AND TATTOO**

YOU NEED A LICENSE
TO CUT HAIR
BUT NOT TO
pierce PEOPLE?

THANKS
FOR EDUCATING YOURSELF
WWW.SAFEPIERCING.ORG



885-0252
177 Elmwood ave.
**the
CowPok**
(between North and Allen)

*one small flame
illuminates
even the deepest darkness*

Seeking to enhance your spirituality without getting caught up in religion? Trinity @ 7 offers the wisdom and poetry of the ages from many sacred traditions woven together with music of a piano ensemble under the glow of candlelight. You can be anonymous or stay around afterwards and meet other seekers too.

TRINITY @ 7PM EACH SUNDAY
371 Delaware Ave. at the heart of downtown
TRINITYBUFFALO.ORG

come as you are



This announcement sponsored by Steve's Wonderful World of Pets in Williamsville

Buffalo's Best Steak Hoagy

**OPEN 7 DAYS
A WEEK TIL 5AM**

2180 Sheridan
873.0300

3336 Sheridan
836.3636

194 Allen
886.2222

92 Chippewa
854.6666

3094 Main
838.6666

938 Elmwood
885.2900

**COMING SOON
2611 Delaware**



POWER FAILURE

Politics, Patronage, and the Economic Future of Buffalo, New York

DIANA DILLAWAY

266 pp (Illustrations)

ISBN 1-59102-400-5 / HC / \$24

"Power Failure offers a series of case studies in Buffalo's failures of leadership and missed opportunities over the past half century....Although politicians make easy marks, Dillaway's studies place the lion's share of the blame for these failures with the power elite—the city's oldest and wealthiest families, the heads of banks and influential law firms and insurance companies, those who sit on boards of directors for various companies—whose money and control of the city's institutions have always lent their decisions

(or lack of decisions) special weight....Reading Power Failure is a head-shaking experience—a painful reminder for the civic-minded of what might have been."

Artvoice

"Diana Dillaway has meticulously set out the causes—economic and social—of the decline of Buffalo, NY, once the fastest growing and most promising city in the nation...This compact volume is must reading for any North American student of urban history. It ought to be in every school and college library in Upstate New York."

Douglas L. Turner

The Buffalo News Washington, DC bureau chief

Available through all major bookstores or order directly through Prometheus Books. To order please call toll free at 800-421-0351 or fax at 716-691-0137 or order on-line at www.prometheusbooks.com

PROMETHEUS BOOKS
59 John Glenn Drive / Amherst, NY 14228

BEST OF BUFFALO SHOPPING & SERVICES

: NOMINEES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER :



We begin with a hat tip to some of our **Best Ballot Stuffers**, who congregate perennially in this section of the Best of Buffalo polling.

Of course, there's a distinction to be made between ballot-stuffing and mounting a campaign. Plenty of our finalists in this section handed out ballots to customers and urged them to vote. That's fair enough. It is likewise fair to send out emails to all your friends and customers with a link to the Artvoice Web site. We like that people want to win our Best of Buffalo awards; it's flattering. But sometimes the lust for recognition leads to perfidy. The telltales are the same every year: dozens of xeroxed ballots, for example, filled out with the same pen, in the same handwriting, mailed on the same day. Often the ballot stuffers will fill out just enough categories—roughly 25 percent of the ballot must be complete, or we throw it out—to make the ballot count. In this electronic age we can often uncover online ballot stuffers, as well; it's trickier, but our tech guys are aces.

To give an idea of how much ballot-stuffing we're talking about: More than 1,000 ballots were disqualified. The majority of these invalid ballots were chucked because they were obvious frauds.

Rotten Jack's Creep Shack was among the more ambitious of our ballot stuffers this year, having tried to creep into the winner's circle in the **Best Gift Shop**, **Best Men's Clothing**, **Best Women's Clothing** and **Best Web Site** categories. Perhaps they stretched themselves too thin; they didn't send in enough votes to win in any one of those categories. And once we pulled the fraudulent ballots, they didn't even place.

RedHouse Tattoo also mounted a furious ballot-stuffing campaign. Curiously enough, they need not have bothered: We pulled stacks of clearly bogus ballots for RedHouse out of the mix—a hundred at least—and they still finished as a finalist for Best Tattoo.

Have a little faith in yourselves next year,

RedHouse. Let the people speak. They like you...they really, really like you.

As for the rest of this section, our readers' responses begged the same question as every one of Artvoice's special issues: Who needs to go to the mall? We are a region rich with small, energetic and creative businesses. We make special mention of two that are likely to be displaced by the proposed Elmwood Village Hotel at the corner of Elmwood and Forest. **Don Apparel** placed in the voting for **Best Antique Store** and **Best Thrift Shop**. **Mondo Video**, owned and operated by Artvoice film editor M. Faust, placed in the voting for **Best Video Store**. Whatever one's position on the hotel, the city can ill afford to lose businesses like these, which thrive on high pedestrian traffic, proximity to college students and, frankly, cheap rent. Let's hope both shops find new homes that offer all those conditions.

Best Antiques Store

Stock Exchange
Horsefeathers Architectural
Gothic City Collector's Cove
Don Apparel
Coo Coo U
Antique World

Best Bookstore

Talking Leaves
Second Reader Book Shop
Rust Belt Books
Oracle Junction
Old Editions Book Shop and Café

Best Convenience Store

Wilson Farms @ Elmwood/Auburn
We Never Close
Lexington Co-op
Holly Farms on Allen Street
Dash's Market
Allentown Trading Post



Show Mom how much you love her!
Introducing
the ultimate
MOTHER'S DAY GIFT CARD!

THANK YOU BUFFALO for nominating us BEST DAY SPA!

ANCIENT SECRETS ~\$260

includes
• the nirvana massage
• the gem & stone facial
• mava wellness homecare kit

THE SILENT TEMPLE ~\$195

includes
• yin & yang poultice facial
• zen massage
• mava wellness homecare kit

KISMET ~\$155

includes
• herbal poultice facial
• milk & honey hand & foot treatment
• mava wellness homecare kit



5465 main street 635.0522

www.thevillagespa.net



PHOTO BY ROSE MATTREY

Best Gift Shop
 Spoiled Rotten
 Positively Main Street
 Neo
 Everything Elmwood
 Eminent Design

Best Hair Salon
 Studio 806
 Salon Rouge
 New Age Salon
 Kenneth James
 Envus
 Elite Salon & Day Spa
 Chez Ann
 Capello Salon & Day Spa
 Amy-n-Aimee

Best Head Shop
 Terrapin Station
 Skunk Tail Glass
 Pavilion International
 Desert Reflections
 Decades

Best Liquor Store
 Spirits of Allentown
 Premier Group: Prime Wines
 Hodge Wine & Liquor
 Gates Circle Liquor & Wines
 Frontier Liquor

Best Day Spa
 Village Spa
 Falling Waters
 Excuria Salon & Day Spa
 Elite Salon & Day Spa
 Capello Salon & Day Spa
 Attilio's Salon & Spa

Best Florist
 Wildflowers & Co.
 Mother Nature Plant Emporium
 Michael's Florist & Gifts
 Maureen's Buffalo Wholesale Flower Market
 Graser's Florist
 Floristry
 Brighton-Eggert Florist

Best Pedicure/Manicure
 Studio 806
 Signature Salon
 Salon Bandelian
 Papillon Salon
 Modern Salon
 Excuria Salon & Day Spa
 Elite Salon & Day Spa
 Chez Ann Salon
 Capello Salon & Day Spa

Best Men's Shop
 Urban Clothing & Snowboard
 Ultimate Men's Shop
 Riverside Men's Shop
 Napoli's
 Aldo's Uomo



EVERYTHING ELMWOOD

PHOTO BY ROSE MATTREY

PERRY'S SPRING OPENER
ACCENT YOUR YARD
 BIRD BATHS-YARD ART-STATUARY
 GAZING GLOBES & HOLDERS
 ARBORS-TRELLIS ALL STYLES
 SHEPHERDS-HOOKS & FOUNTAINS
COME IN & BROWSE! CHECK US OUT!

with COUPON while supplies last

ALL FLOWERING BASKETS & FLATS ANNUALS ALL VARIETIES
 10" & 12" BASKETS **\$6.00 OFF**
 32 TO 48 PLANTS ANY 2 PURCHASED

with COUPON while supplies last

LILAC SALE
 BUY ONE GET ONE FREE
 3 GAL REG \$29.99

PERRY'S 5203 Seneca Street West Seneca 674-7754

THE KING & I
 THE FINEST IN AUTHENTIC THAI CUISINE

Celebrate Mother's Day
 Sunday May 14th

serving noon - 9pm
 a complimentary glass of wine for mom
 call now for reservations

SPRING HOURS lunch: mon-fri 11-3;
 dinner: mon-fri 3-9:30, sat: 2-9:30
 takeout taxi service

2188 KENSINGTON AVE SNYDER 839-2950
 WWW.KINGANDIBUFFALO.COM

JUST PIZZA
 OVER 75 VARIETIES

For Franchise Information 1-800-251-5689
 VISIT US AT WWW.JUSTPIZZAUSA.COM

300 Elmwood Ave.....883-5650
 2350 Delaware Ave.....871-5700
 3172 Main St.....831-9979
 298 Main St. (express store only).....856-4444
 2319 Niagara Falls Blvd.....568-1000
 5445 Transit Rd. (N. of Maple).....688-7500
 1286 French Rd.....656-8040

COMING SOON 5380 Genesee St. (corner of Harris Hill) 683-8000
 COMING SUMMER 2006 Niagara Falls Boulevard (in Niagara Falls)

LET'S GO SABRES!

This advertisement is not an offering. An offering can only be made by a prospectus filed first with the Department of Law of the State of New York. Such filing does not constitute approval by the Dept of Law.



THE PARK LANE PRESENTS...

Mother's Day Brunch

FEATURING

HAND-CARVED PRIME RIB, HAM, AND TURKEY OMELET AND WAFFLE STATION...TO ORDER! COUNTRY SAUSAGE & BACON, SCRAMBLED EGGS WITH FRESH HERBS AND CHEESES, ROASTED POTATOES, VEGETABLE MELANGE, CHICKEN PICATA, ANTIPASTO DISPLAY & ASSORTED SALADS, ASSORTED BREADS AND PASTRIES, FRESH FRUITS AND CHEESES, DESSERTS & CONFECTIONS & MUCH MORE!

\$27.50 adults, \$14.95 children 12 & under, children 4 & under FREE

RESERVATIONS LIMITED. CALL TODAY!

**PARK
LANE**

33 gates circle buffalo, ny 881.2603

LEXINGTON CO-OP



PHOTO BY ROSE MATTREY

Best Natural Food Store

Wegmans Food Markets
Washington Market
Lexington Real Foods Community Co-op
Globe Market
Feel-Rite Fresh Markets

Best Pet Store

Steve's Wonderful World of Pets
Sonny's Doggie Bakery
Elmwood Pet Supplies
Animal Outfitters

Best Piercings

HOD Custom Tattoo
Hardcore Tattoo Studios
Express Yourself Tatooing
Cowpök
American Skin Art

Best Produce

Wegmans Food Markets
Niagara County Produce
Lexington Real Foods Community Co-op
Guercio & Sons
Dash's Market
Bidwell Farmers Market

Best Record Store

Sit & Spin
Record Theatre
Record Baron
New World Record
Home of the Hits

Best Sex Shop

Xsentials
Second Skin
Pandora's Boxxx
Kimberly's Intimate Apparel
2424 Hamburg Turnpike

Best Shoe Store

Tony Walker
Shoe Fly
Shoe Biz
Hook's Shoe Store
Fleet Feet Sports

Best Sports/Outdoor Gear Shop

Urban Clothing & Snowboard
Shickluna Bike & Fitness
Phatman
Handlebars Cycle Co.
Campus Wheelworks
Buffalo Fleece and Outerwear

Best Tanning Salon

Total Tan
Tantalize Tan/ City Tropic Tanning Salon
Tanning Bed
Sun Capsule Plus
Allen Tan

Best Tattoo

RedHouse Tattoo
Cowpök
HOD Custom Tattoo
American Skin Art by Dead Ed
Blue Moon Tattoo
Strange Brew
Nickel City Tattoo

Best Thrift Shop

Salvation Army
Junior League Shop
Goodwill Industries
Don Apparel
Amvets

Best Women's Clothing

Urban Clothing & Snowboard
Presence Unique Clothing & Jewelry
Half & Half Trading Company
Downtown Clothing Exchange
Allen Street Dress Shop

Best Video Store

Mondo Video
DVD Dot
Buffalo and Erie County Public Library

SHOEBIZ



PHOTO BY ROSE MATTREY

POSTER ART



WNY's largest selection of Buffalo-Niagara prints and posters.

New, old and rare posters of all types.

LOOKING FOR A CERTAIN POSTER? CALL US! 883-3034

1055 Elmwood Avenue www.posterartusa.com



BEST OF BUFFALO

FINE & PERFORMANCE ART

: NOMINEES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER :



Claiming four of the top five spots for **Best Exhibit**, the **Albright-Knox Art Gallery** nearly swept the entire category. Under the leadership of AKAG director Louis Grachos and curators Doug Dreishpoon and Claire Schneider, the gallery has completely reinvented itself in the past two years. The fall 2005 show "Extreme Abstraction" was the first time in the gallery's history that a single exhibit occupied every inch of the building: walls, staircases, floors, hallways, windows, upstairs, downstairs, main building, Clifton Hall and the sculpture garden. More importantly, "Extreme Abstraction" was a powerful confirmation of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery's strength and its most defining character: exemplary abstract and contemporary art.

Sailing right alongside the AKAG in *Artvoice* reader popularity is **Squeaky Wheel's** outrageously fun exhibit/art party "Love & Sex—the Peepshow," held at the Lenox Hotel. Sex-themed art installations, live music and hundreds of colorfully clad people from Buffalo's various art tribes wandered throughout the hotel sipping, ogling, chatting and bumping politely into tuxedoed gentlemen who had abandoned Mayor Brown's inaugural ball at the Hyatt for something more lively and gritty.

The finalists in the **Best Small Gallery** are something of which we should certainly be proud, too. Outside of New York City, you'd be hard-pressed to find the level of activity, energy and creativity invested here in Buffalo's small galleries. Honestly, in a side-by-side comparison we make toast out of the galleries in Rochester and Syracuse.

The **Best Dance Company** nominations are a mix running from ballet to belly dancing. Dance is the most physically demanding and disciplined fine art form. And unless you consider the hip-pumping and butt-grinding by Britney Spears art, dance is also the least rewarding in terms of fame or money. Nevertheless, whether it's attending Neglia Ballet performing *Don Quixote* or dance classes at Folkloric, UB's Zodiacque or Buffalo Contemporary, our readers continue to support dance in Buffalo.

In the **Best Fine Artist**, **Best Literary Artist** and **Best Performance Artist** categories the names appearing on ballots seemed endless. Clearly, we have a wholelottaluv for our art people and an enormous community of practicing artists. Eventually a handful of names appeared often enough to rise above the throng, and in a fine proof of Dar-

winian theory, those names truly are some of Buffalo's most talented individuals.

Voting on the **Best Actor** and **Actress** awards tends to be a silly act of camaraderie among the friends of various actors, various acting companies and loyal audience members. While all of the nominees are, indeed, very good actors—and we do disqualify animated characters and people whose only known acting has been in real-life drama—the roster should, perhaps, be thought of as a list of some of Buffalo's most fondly regarded actors and drinking companions.

The **Best Actor** nominees: **Saul Elkin**, founder of Shakespeare in Delaware Park and co-founder of Buffalo's Jewish Repertory Theatre is among Buffalo's most beloved character actors; **Jimmy Janowski**, current star of BUA's *I Am My Own Wife* is a gender-bending star of remarkable artistry; **Chris Kelly**, as well-known as an insightful director as an actor, is a performer of impressive versatility; **Vincent O'Neill**, currently starring in *Loot* for the Irish Classical Theatre Company, is a founder and mainstay of that company; **Brian Riggs**, who starred in *The Good Thief* this season, is equally adept in drama and musical theater; **Paul Todaro**, who starred in Kavinoky's production of *The Cocktail Hour* this season, is also a gifted director; and **Guy Tomassi** impressed with multiple roles this season, including hilarious turns in BUA's *Valhalla*.

Best Actress nominees: **Josephine Hogan**, star of this season's *Juno and the Paycock* with the Irish Classical Theatre, is the perennial Artist in Residence with that company; **Kelly Ann Krupski** arrived on the scene as Patsy Cline in Kavinoky's popular production of *Always...Patsy Cline*; **Lisa Ludwig** is the current star of *Urinetown* at MusicalFare (and was the *Patsy Cline* co-star at Kavinoky); **Mary Kate O'Connell** of O'Connell & Company is the silver-voiced star of her company, where *Diva by Diva* continues into perpetuity; **Leah Russo** appeared in *Number the Stars* at Theater of Youth this season; and **Maggie Zindle** starred as Aldonza in Kavinoky's *Man of La Mancha*.

As long as Broadway can produce new product, Shea's Buffalo will provide excellent entries in the category of **Best Touring Production**. This year we got some grade-A shows. Dame Edna, perhaps the most celebrated clown in the English-speaking world, made her Buffalo debut, and Cathy Rigby, the definitive Peter Pan of her generation, made her Buffalo farewell in the role. In addition, this year, Studio Arena pleased audiences, serving as a launching pad for the Broadway-bound *Ring of Fire—the Music of Johnny Cash*. Broadway didn't love the show the way Buffalo did, but though the show has closed already, it may be back as a touring show some day.

Best Theatre Company nominees: **Buffalo United Artists**; **Irish Classical Theatre**; **Kavinoky Theatre**; **MusicalFare**; **O'Connell & Company**; **Studio Arena Theatre** In this category, we compare apples to oranges, as fans of various theaters cheer for their own. It is nice to know we have so many theater companies worth voting for.

Best Actor

Vincent O'Neill
Saul Elkin
Paul Todaro
Jimmy Janowski
Guy Tomassi
Chris Kelly
Brian Riggs

Best Actress

Mary Kate O'Connell
Maggie Zindle
Lisa Ann Ludwig
Leah Russo
Kelly Ann Krupski
Josephine Hogan

Best Art Exhibit 2005-2006

The Wall: Reshaping Contemporary Chinese Art @ Albright-Knox Art Gallery
Love & Sex Peep Show @ Lenox Hotel
Georgia O'Keefe @ Albright-Knox Art Gallery
Extreme Abstraction @ Albright-Knox Art Gallery
Art Alive @ Albright-Knox Art Gallery

Best Dance Company

Zodiacque Dance
Pick of the Crop Dance
Neglia Ballet Artists
Folkloric Dance
Buffalo Contemporary Dance

Best Fine Artist

Peter Stephens
Peter Fowler
Courtney Grim
Catherine Parker
AJ Fries

Best Literary Artist

Ron Ehmke
Gabrielle Bouliane
David Butler
Celia White
Alexis De Veaux

Best Local Theater Production

Shakespeare in Delaware Park
Naked Boys Singing
Good
Diva by Diva
Always...Patsy Cline

Best Performance Artist

Ron Ehmke
Real Dream Cabaret
Michelle Gigante
Franklin LaVoie
David Butler
Chuck Basil
Amy Taravella
Aaron Piepszny

Best Small Art Gallery

Sixworks Art Gallery
Nina Freudenheim Gallery
Kepa 3 Gallery
Insite Gallery
Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center
College Street Gallery
CEPA
Big Orbit Gallery

Best Theater Company

Studio Arena Theatre
O'Connell & Company
MusicalFare Theatre
Kavinoky Theater
Irish Classical Theatre Company
Buffalo United Artists


Best Touring Theater Production

Ring of Fire
Peter Pan
Hairspray
Dame Edna

FENCING OF BUFFALO
CENTER 
AGILITY • BALANCE • CONFIDENCE

NEW BEGINNERS CLASSES
START EVERY MONTH
KIDS TEENS ADULTS
All equipment provided.
777 Maryvale Dr., Cheektowaga
553-3448
www.fencingbuffalo.com

ROTTEN JACKS
CREEP SHACK
horror • clothing • collectibles
& ALL THINGS WEIRD!
wny's only year round
HORROR BOO-TIQUE!
5821 transit road  681.7818
www.rottenjacks.com


the new age salon
1667 hertel ave.
836.8626
voted **BEST SALON**
in Buffalo 2005!
nominated **BEST SALON 2006**
we proudly use **REDKEN**

BARTENDER TRAINING

- * Job Placement Assistance
- * Student Discounts
- * Hands-On Training
- * 18ys & Older

BARTENDER'S PROFESSIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE INC.
Licensed by NY State Education Dept.

874-9112
3815 Delaware Ave. Kenmore
www.bartenderprotraining.com

Express Yourself Tattoos & Professional Body Piercings

Thank You Buffalo!
for nominating Express Yourself
BEST PIERCING SALON

Ask about our Wednesday and Thursday specials.

822-5358
1101 Ridge Road Lackawanna
WWW.EXPRESSYOURSELFATTATTOOS.COM
WALK-INS WELCOME



BEST OF BUFFALO MUSIC

: NOMINEES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER :

Whether your interest is blues, folk, rock, hip-hop, jazz or whatever, Buffalo has something for you. Buffalo has it all—not Lancaster, not Depew, not East Aurora, not Williamsville, not Cheektowaga. Buffalo. Got it?

It's certainly nice to see a few new names on the music scene. Not that we have anything against Buffalo's gifted veteran players or our long-standing music venues, but new blood is necessary and is good for everyone. **The Town Ballroom** on Main Street opened this year with concert promoters Artie Kwitchoff and Donny Kutzbach and attorney/guitarist Michael Lee Jackson running the show. The Town Ballroom easily grabbed a nomination for **Best Live Music Venue** and sidled alongside mainstays like **Nietzsche's**, **Mohawk Place** and the **Sportsmen's Tavern**.

Jesse Zephle, owner of the former Second Skin clothing and sex toy shop, opened **Club Diablo** on Washington Street last year and is enjoying instant success. Club Diablo received nominations in both the **Best New Club** and **Best Dance Club** categories. And speaking of dance clubs, **Club Marcella** also has a new look, a new location and a spot on the list of nominees in several categories. Another new club nominee is **Allen Street Hardware**, a successful bar, restaurant and live music venue opened in Allentown by Mark Goldman, the man cited most frequently for starting the resurgence of Chippewa Street. Goldman has also opened an Italian restaurant across from Hardware called Joe's Hard Times Café with Buffalo renaissance man, chef, actor, playwright and horn player Joe Giambra in the kitchen whipping up homemade dishes.

A new face on the jazz scene and a **Best Jazz**

Band nominee is the acoustic gypsy-jazz playing of **Babik**, who hold down Wednesday nights at Allen Street Hardware. The four-man combo, which takes its name from the son of Belgian swing-era guitarist extraordinaire Django Reinhardt, will be playing at the **Artvoice Best of Buffalo Party** this Monday, May 8, at the Town Ballroom, 6-9pm. Also a jazz nominee and a relatively new band on the scene is **Peggy Farrell & the Ladies First Big Band**. The Ladies First band may be new, but Peggy Farrell spent years playing with jazz piano legend Al Tinney, who died 2002. As one ballot put it, "Peggy is 75 years old and still cookin'." And she's not the oldest one in the band either. The Ladies First Big Band ranges in age from about 20 to close to 90. One sweet old gal, tenor saxophonist **Fran Scharett**, toured with the USO during World War II and entertained the troops with big band music when swing was the hot new thing.

The Skiffle Minstrels, led by actor Paul Todaro on bass, are a new breakout act in the **Best Folk/Acoustic Group** category. With five of the six players in the band coming out of Buffalo's acting community, and bringing to the stage rarely seen instruments like the accordion, harmonica and fiddle, they make a colorful cast of characters hooting, singing and thrashing their way through a mix of honky-tonk and other classic Americana.

A particularly interesting Artvoice reader nomination for **Best Vocalist** is the **Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus**. This chorus of almost 50 singers will also be performing at the **Artvoice Best of Buffalo Party** on Monday. They will take the stage immediately following some words from Mayor Byron Brown. We are certainly glad that the mayor of Buffalo has decided to come check out the Best of Buffalo. It makes perfect sense—something we're not used to seeing at City Hall.

DINNER • FRI/SAT/SUN BRUNCH
(CHECK SITE FOR NEW HOURS)

WEEKEND DJ'S

SPRING MENU

OPEN MONDAYS

BACKROOM LOUNGE

MORE SEATING

PATIO OPEN

OFF THE WALL
534 ELMWOOD AVE
(716) 884-9580

WWW.OFFTHEWALLONLINE.COM

Coles

EST 1934

Thank You

ARTVOICE readers for nominating COLES IN 8 CATEGORIES!

- best neighborhood pub
- best beer selection
- best happy hour, best brunch
- best hamburger & best bar food

1104 ELMWOOD AVENUE • 886.1449

ALWAYS READY TO SERVE LUNCH, DINNER, LATE NITE SNACKS, OR OUR WONDERFUL SUNDAY BRUNCH.
THE FINEST IN IMPORT & MICROBREW BEERS.

Best Blues Band

Willie & the Reinhardt's
The Jony James Blues Band
Harmonica Dean & the Blue Lights
Doug Yeomans & the Lo Blu Flame
Billy McKewen & the Soul Invaders

Best Club DJ

Ska Bean
Ry Diggs
Old Skool @ Diablo
Lil Joe @ Club Marcella's
Jessica @ Roxy's Green Room
Charles Masters (tied for 5th)

Best Dance Club

Roxy's Green Room
OPM Lounge
La Luna
Club Marcella
Club Level
Club Diablo

Best Folk/Acoustic Group

Tom Stahl & the Dangerfields

The Skiffle Minstrels

The Reminders
Steve Roth & Meredith Brown

Best Hip-Hop Act

Rhyson Hall with Type
Pseudo Slang
Milkfat
Baby Steps
Amilcar Hill

Best Jazz Band

Them Jazzbeards
Taylor Made Jazz
Peggy Farrell & the Ladies First Big Band
Jazz Line Quartet & Allen Street Jazz Band
Babik

Best Live Music Venue

Town Ballroom
Thursday in the Square
Sportsmen's Tavern
Nietzsche's
Mohawk Place
Icon

Best Musician

Rob Lynch
Marty Peters
John Schmitt
David A. Moore
Adam Zadok

Best New Club

New Marcella's
Hush
Club Diablo
Allen Street Hardware
Adonia's

Best Rock Band

Tom Stahl & the Dangerfields
Stemm
More Than Me
Jackdaw
Hit'n'Run
Eve's Apple

Best Vocalist

Tom Stahl
Paul Todaro
Mark Valentino
Lance Diamond
Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus



BEST OF BUFFALO

QUEENCITY

: NOMINEES ARE LISTED IN RANDOM ORDER :

Talk about a changing landscape; it seems only a few years ago that **Best Festival** comprised the Allentown Art Festival, which is almost a half-century old, and the Italian Festival, and that was about it. Today, Artvoice readers vote for literally dozens of other festivals that are relatively new: **Elmwood Festival of the Arts; Music Is Art; Pride Festival; Artvoice Street Festival; Wingfest; Wingstock; Irish Festival; Guitar Festival; Rock the Harbor; Canal Fest;** etc.

On a similar note, given the economic stress of both the city and Erie County, Buffalo's capacity for fundraising is quite remarkable. There are lot of good nominations in **Best Annual Fundraiser**, all great, all quite different and all exceptionally successful.

While the nominees for **Best Building** are unquestionably some of our finest architecture, heavy voting pointed out a considerably larger list of buildings that included the modern **Hauptman-Woodward Institute**, a refreshing choice; **the Church**, home to Hallwalls and Ani DiFranco's Righteous Babe Records; the **Butler Mansion; M&T's gold domed building** on Main St.; the **Albright-Knox** and many others.

While we obviously can't print the thousands of comments sent to Artvoice in the categories for **Best Reason to Live in Buffalo, Best Reason to Leave**

Buffalo or **Best Way to Improve the City's Image**, it is worth pointing out some things that are not evident from simply looking at the nominations. Citizens by the thousands expressed frustration with politics—no surprise there. One of our favorite suggestions was to require that all politicians live in homes on the East Side. Our readers said they want dilapidated buildings demolished or rehabbed and architectural gems restored. They are particularly vocal that city developers should build urban-style developments instead of "fake suburban." Our readers also complained about the proliferation of billboards for injury and divorce attorneys that are "ruining our landscape." Maybe it's time for attorney Steve Barnes to do what his hair did, and disappear...

Many, many people want the Skyway down and Main Street open to traffic; they also want to "vote down the casino"—which, unfortunately, they were never given a chance to do since Pataki and the state legislature never allowed any voter participation in the Seneca gambling compact.

On a more humorous note, it is suggested that we find a way to stop people outside of Buffalo from making wings and that we teach people coming from the suburbs how to drive. And of course, everyone wants the Sabres to continue winning.

Best Annual Festival
 Music Is Art/ Ellicottville Summer Festival of the Arts
 Italian Heritage Festival
 Elmwood Avenue Festival of the Arts
 Artvoice Street Festival
 Allentown Art Festival

Best Annual Fundraiser
 Variety Club Telethon
 Ride for Roswell
 Artvoice Mardi Gras
 Hospice Fundraiser
 American Red Cross M*A*S*H Bash
 AIDS Community Services "Cause for Celebration"

Best Bowling Alley
 Voelker's Bowling Center
 Transit Lanes
 Kenmore Lanes
 AMF Thruway Lanes
 AMF Lancaster Lanes

Best Buffalo Tourist Attraction
 The waterfront
 The city's architecture
 Darwin D. Martin House
 Anchor Bar
 Albright-Knox Art Gallery

Best Building
 The Guaranty Building
 H.H. Richardson Complex
 Ellicott Square Building
 Darwin D. Martin House
 Buffalo City Hall

Buffalo Central Terminal
Best Cultural Organization
 Shea's Performing Arts Ctr
 Shakespeare in Delaware Park
 Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center
 Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
 Big Orbit Gallery
 Albright-Knox Art Gallery

Best Place to Shoot Pool
 Slick Willie's Billiard Hall
 Pearl Street Grill & Brewery
 Hippodrome Billiards
 Classic Cue Billiards & Cafe
 2-2-3 Allen (The Old Pink)

Best Place to Take the Family
 Shea's Performing Arts Ctr
 Delaware Park
 Buffalo Zoo
 Buffalo Museum of Science
 Albright-Knox Art Gallery

Best Place to take Out-of-town Visitors
 Niagara Falls
 Erie Basin Marina
 Elmwood Strip
 Anchor Bar
 Albright-Knox Art Gallery

Best Place to Take Pets
 The Waterfront
 Losson Park
 Isle View Park
 Delaware Park
 Chestnut Ridge Park

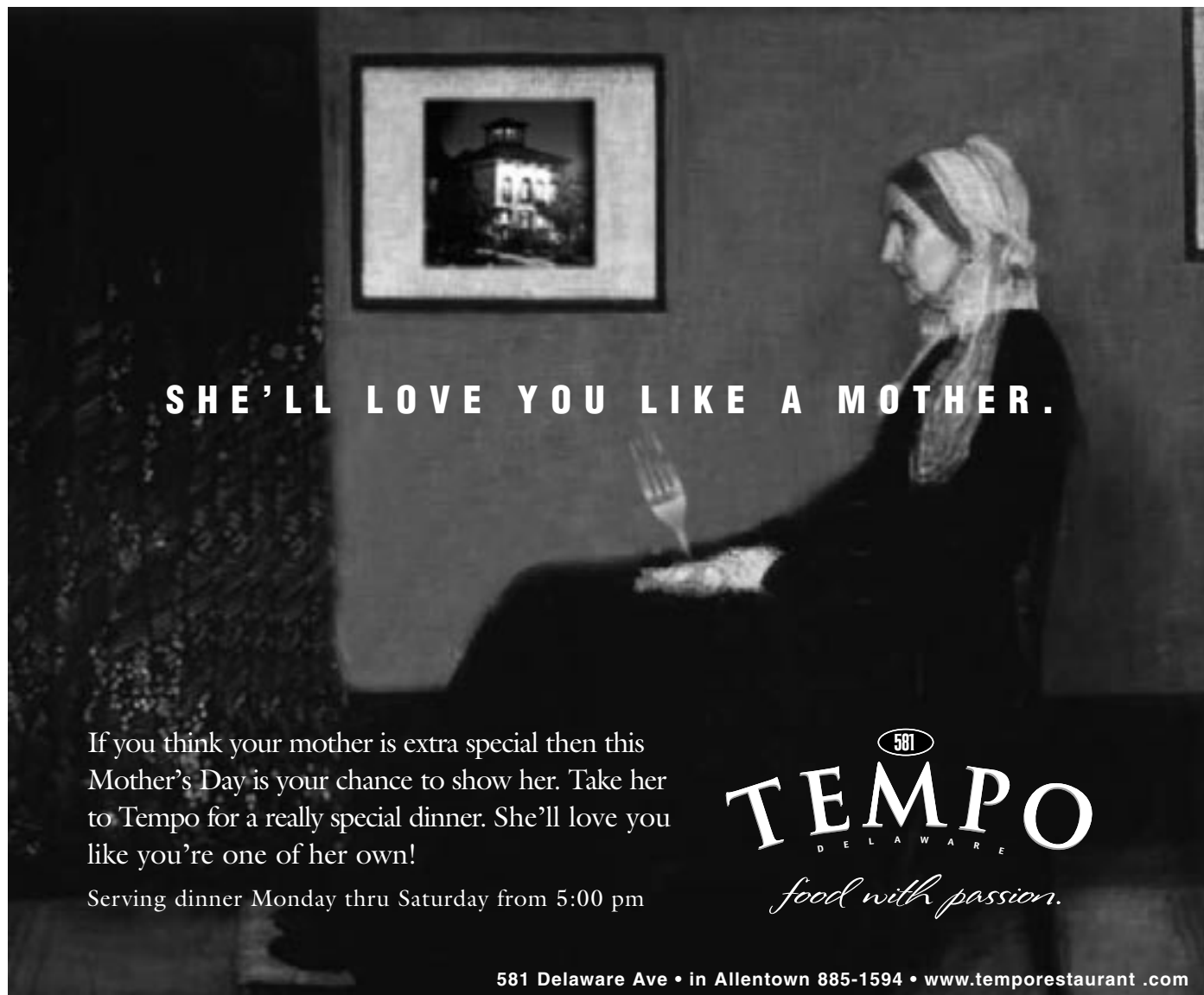
Best Playground
 Shoshone Park
 Maple East Elementary School
 Delaware Park Rose Garden
 Como Park Elementary School
 Chestnut Ridge Park

Best Reason to Leave Buffalo
 The weather
 The politics
 The economy
 Lack of jobs
 High taxes

Best Reason to Live in Buffalo
 The weather
 The people
 The food
 The cost and quality of life
 Family

Best Way to Improve City's Image
 Promote small business
 Promote & market the arts
 Develop the waterfront
 Clean up city streets
 Be upbeat

Best Street Corner
 Niagara Square
 Elmwood and Cleveland
 Elmwood and Bidwell
 Elmwood and Allen
 Delaware and Chippewa



SHE'LL LOVE YOU LIKE A MOTHER.

If you think your mother is extra special then this Mother's Day is your chance to show her. Take her to Tempo for a really special dinner. She'll love you like you're one of her own!

Serving dinner Monday thru Saturday from 5:00 pm

581 DELAWARE
TEMPO
 DELAWARE
food with passion.

581 Delaware Ave • in Allentown 885-1594 • www.tempeorestaurant.com

mother's day
 champagne
 BRUNCH
 Sunday May 14th

adults 19.95 | children under 12 9.95

featuring: carved
 prime rib
 lamb
 roast turkey
 grand buffet
 & gourmet desserts



serving brunch 10am-3pm
 serving dinner 4pm-7pm special menu

reservations recommended

www.marinaccios.com
 5877 main street
 williamsville
 633-7155

Marinaccio's
 steak & seafood