

# Looking Back At ... 2014



**JANUARY** ... Big seller at upscale Jeremy restaurant in Keego Harbor is the hamburger sandwich by former Tribute and Culinary Institute of America chef ... The Root Restaurant & Bar making large waves on second anniversary in White Lake ... Best Downtown Chef in Las Vegas goes to Joe Parrino at Joe Vicari's Steakhouse in the new "D" Hotel ... Heavy kudos for the meatloaf at Local Kitchen and Bar in Ferndale ... Crowd celebrates New Year's Eve both indoors and outdoors at Steven Lelli's Inn, Farmington Hills ... Crumpets in Troy honors 28th year with chef of 12 gold medals won in world competitions ... Crave in Dearborn not a Japanese restaurant but biggie sellers are sushi and sake.

**FEBRUARY** ... New president at University of Michigan is Mark Schlissel, closely named with local community stalwart Mark Schlusel ... Both are attorneys ... Maya Kuchersky knows plenty about food but a lot more about skin at her Maya's Skincare Center in West Bloomfield ... People remember Wai "Johnny" Chong, owner of Taste of China, Farmington Hills, from Great Wall ... Word comes that former Deli Unique, West Bloomfield, will be under new ownership as Pickles & Rye Deli ... Word, too, that Beau Jack's, Bloomfield Township, will be sold on its 36th birthday ... Ron Asmar says his Vineyards closing is only temporary ... People still asking if Caucus Club will open again ... Baseball Hall of Fame manager Tony La Russa named to receive the 2014 Hank Greenberg award in June ... Ray Hanson takes over as dining room manager at Bacco, Southfield.

**MARCH** ... The late Sammy and Ann Woolf's great-

grandson Sam Woolf, is one of 13 finalists on TV's *American Idol* ... Buddy's, celebrating its 68th anniversary, is named one of five best pizza operations in America ... Tai Sassoon brings his Israel dream concept of a food truck, Pita Post, to America serving Israeli food ... Fox Grill in Bloomfield Hills is bought by Bill Roberts ... First anniversary of Bella Piatti, Birmingham, by owners Liz and Nino Cutraro honors its huge success ... Beau Jack's becomes just Beau's and is set to open after major construction by new owners.

**APRIL** ... Georges Restaurant celebrates 10th anniversary at site in West Bloomfield ... Barbecued beef ribs touted at Brass Pointe and Boneyard, both in Farmington Hills ... Shirlee Bloom moves permanently to Prime 10 kosher restaurant in Southfield ... Townsend Hotel and Rugby Grille, Birmingham, fete 26th anniversaries with much acclaim ... Aaron Belen, grandson of Morris "Morrie" Fenkell, opens Bistro 82 in Royal Oak ... Latest pride of Big Rock Chophouse, Birmingham, is receiving American Culinary Achievement of Excellence Award ... 50th anniversary is honored by Roman Village Cucina Italiana in Dearborn.

**MAY** ... Little Daddy's chain big on Hebrew National kosher hot dogs to go with Greek specialties like Opa Burger ... Jeremy Restaurant, Keego Harbor, to close for new restaurant and concept... C.A.Y.A. (Come As You Are) Smokehouse Grill, Wolverine Lake, fetes first Seasoned Chef's Dinner Series ... Another award for excellent local Chef Hai Ling ... Marvin's Mechanical Museum, Farmington Hills, places second in TV's History Channel's *Modern Marvels of the World* ... Moro's Dining, Allen Park, again chosen among best all-around restaurant operations ... Joe Muer Seafood, Detroit, enters third year in Renaissance Center, with original traditional menu plus raw bar and sushi bar ... Wednesday night deal continues at Mr. Joe's, Southfield, of half-pound hamburger and French fries, \$3.95.

**JUNE** ... Harvey Barnett and sister Annette getting much notice with their Mt. Chalet in Royal Oak ... Noah Dorfman's Torino restaurant, Ferndale, is *Detroit Free Press* Restaurant of the Year ... Maya's Skincare Center in West Bloomfield celebrates its 27th anniversary ... 24th Annual Hank Greenberg Golf Invitational another huge success ... Steven Lelli's in Farmington Hills completes its wonder reality of an



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all-year dining emporium both inside and outside the veranda.

**JULY** ... Chef/owner Paul Grosz of Cuisine restaurant adds another dining feather as co-partner with John Kelly in The Stand Bistro in Birmingham ... O'Brien's Crabhouse celebrates its 24th anniversary with seafood hardly seen elsewhere ... Douglas and Barbara Bloom are grand marshals for Walk of Ages ... After 20 years, Steve Sollish finally gets a

hole-in-one ... Star Deli's 39th anniversary is as one of America's top little Jewish carryout only, no-table eateries.

**AUGUST** ... Shangri-La West Bloomfield is acclaimed one of the Midwest's finest dim sum restaurants ... News that Hogan's restaurant, Bloomfield Hills, may not be moved for new site of Walgreen Pharmacy ... New 5th Tavern at former Mountain Jack's location in Bloomfield Township is greeted warmly after opening ... Kosher lox at Dunkin' Donuts, Oak Park, goes along with cream cheese, bagels, etc. ... Pepino's in Walled Lake still featured as a big standout restaurant on its 30th year,

**SEPTEMBER** ... Fireworks light up sky at 10th annual Food, Fun & Fireworks by Temple Shir Shalom ... Head Chef Peter Chan is also co-partner at award-winning Hong Hua Hong Kong-style restaurant, Farmington Hills ... Hunter House follows 62 years with opening of a second location in Ann Arbor ... Another successful Grub Crawl in West Bloomfield is 10th annual ... First anniversary by Chef/owner Jeff Rose's C.A.Y.A. Smokehouse Grill, Wolverine Lake, is bigger success than expected and even serves potato pancakes ... Australian lamb chops in a peanut sauce featured at Mon Jin Lau restaurant, Troy ... Beau's opens at former Beau Jack's restaurant, Bloomfield Township, with indoor signs that say, "It's so loud in here!! Sorry, we're working on our noise" ... New dining series at Local Kitchen and Bar, Ferndale, features a new state every week and a new region every four weeks ... Barrister Jeffrey Sherbow finally gets a hole in one at Boyne Highland golf course.

**OCTOBER** ... Back to being kosher again, Shirlee Bloom at the new Prime 10, Southfield, is greeted with many open arms for the holidays ... Food change to fusion-style with dishes from other countries is made at New Mandarin Garden, Farmington Hills ... Golden Phoenix, West Bloomfield, is sold as new owners take over with retirement of former proprietors ... People are shocked at the huge selections at American

Bulk Food, West Bloomfield, including sugar-free and low-fat goodies ... Rochester Chop House and attached Kabin Kruser restaurants celebrate 23rd anniversary in Rochester, among Michigan's top eateries ... New president at Knollwood Country Club is Robert Nathan, taking over gavel from Larry Sobotsky ... "Lights, Camera, Auction" by Variety, the Children's Charity, is another big success ... A second Crave restaurant is set to open in Ferndale ... First annual Greek Night by Uptown Parthenon, West Bloomfield, brings many requests for more ... Another Buddy's Pizza opens at Novi's Fountain Walk.

**NOVEMBER** ... Beans & Cornbread fetes 17th anniversary in Southfield as one of America's top soul food restaurants ... Former Le Chef Lebanese restaurant reopens as Mandaloun Bistro, Bingham Farms ... Nancy Gurwin Productions' former youthful performers, now Broadway stars, are featured at B'nai B'rith concert for Great Lakes Region scholarship program giving financial assistance ... Huerto Mexican Restaurant & Tequila Bar, West Bloomfield, honors first anniversary ... Sposita's Italian Ristorante holds 15th anniversary with big cheers from customers.

**DECEMBER** ... Smoke Street Bar-B-Q in Milford reaches first year ... Sweet Lorraine's Fabulous Mac n' Cheez! to open first out-of-state franchise in Chicago ... If he makes the team, new relief pitcher Josh Zeid would be third Jewish member of the present Detroit Tigers ... Food prices by the Alfocino owners at their Loccino's on its sixth anniversary in Troy are a lot lower than the former Palm eatery on that site ... New Executive Chef Mike Osinski, at Andiamo in Bloomfield Township, a Joe Vicari stalwart, with him more than 10 years ... Excessive noise at Beau's, Bloomfield Township, lessened with addition of acoustical ceiling tiles ... The Scintas at Andiamo Showroom, Warren, one of very few acts appearing three dates at the same place in the same year ... Yardbird Smoked Meats takes over former site of Jeremy's in Keego Harbor ... Baseball Hall of Famer second baseman Joe Morgan named to receive 2015 Hank Greenberg Achievement Award ... More anniversary feting by Roman Village, Hudson Cafe, Steven Lelli's, Uptown Parthenon, Whitney, Hunter House, Highland House, etc. etc. ... Pars in West Bloomfield becoming a favorite for Persian food.

So great to see so many restaurants celebrating their anniversaries ... Good times are on their way back, folks ... Healthy and Happy New Year! □

