



Oz bartender Jared LeBouef, Bud Light's Jordan Dauterive and Oz manager Glenn Fonte hold a banner which received over 1,000 signatures during NOLA Pride weekend which was sent to Orlando the following week. The accompanying letter said, "LGBT Community of Orlando:

On June 17th thru 19th, the LGBT Community of New Orleans celebrated Gay Pride. Along with the entire world we mourned your loss. Please accept this banner of signatures to let you know that we are praying for those who lost their life and those who survived this senseless incident. As you preach love and not hate, your community stands as an inspiration to the world in the aftermath of this tragedy. And always remember that 'Love Will Conquer All.' One can only hope that politicians can put their differences aside and strengthen gun laws in the United States. We as a community should contact our local, state, and federal representatives if successful. They should name the legislation "The Pulse Bill" in honor of those pulses that tragically stopped and those that continue beating! All of our love and best wishes, ---Glenn C. Fonte, Manager, Oz, 800 Bourbon Street, New Orleans, LA 70116" (Photo by Rip Naquin)



Catherine Gaither and Misti Ates were married in a beautiful ceremony at City Park Garden Study Center in New Orleans. The intimate wedding brought together family and friends from across the spectrum enjoying a massive wedding buffet and delectable cake provided courtesy of friends of the couple. (Photo by Rip Naquin)



Baton Rouge Pride celebrated its 10th anniversary as the largest Pride celebration in Louisiana recognized by Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards making June LGBT Pride Month, and by Baton Rouge Mayor Kip Holden naming June 11 as Baton Rouge Pride/LGBT Pride Day. (Photo by Hubert S Monkeys)



The Corner Pocket in New Orleans celebrated its 34th anniversary and 9th Sugar Daddy Contest during NOLA Pride weekend. Dancer Daniel Echeverri won the dance contest making his sponsors Darwin Reed and Opal Masters Sugar Daddies of the Year. Photo: Darwin Reed, dancer Daniel Echeverri, host Barry Bareass, Opal Masters and last year's Sugar Daddy of the Year Clorox Bleachman. (Photo by Jeremy Weinberg)



The Big Easy Sisters lead the NOLA Pride Parade through the streets of the Marigny and French Quarter as one of this year's Pride Grand Marshals. They were joined by fellow Pride Grand Marshals Sandy Sachs, Robert L. Camina, and Breakout, Celebrity Pride Grand Marshal Debby Holiday, and Mr. and Miss Pride Eros Guillen and Vanessa Carr Kennedy. (Photo by Kim Welsh)

Always A SIZZLIN Lineup!

Its HOT!

Thursday July 7 10:30 PM
Thursday Tranny Thursday
Starring Jasmine SX



Friday July 8 11:PM
Dominique's Cabaret Show
A Benefit for Lana O'Day



Saturday July 9 10:30PM
The Glitter Girls
STARRING Countess C Alice,
and Guests !



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Its Sparkles!

Tuesday July 12 9:30PM
Lesbian Drag Queen Review!



Thursday July 14 10:30PM
The Carnival Kings
Friday July 15 11PM
LaFamilia
Starring Johnny Passion

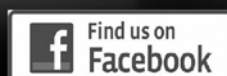


Saturday July 16 10:00PM
Exotique
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www.SouthernDecadence.com. Since 1996, the celebration has had a 1 billion, 705 million dollar economic impact on the New Orleans economy, with estimated crowds now totaling over 1 million, 757 thousand.

Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLII Tony Leggio, Felicia Philips, Jeffrey Palmquist and Derek-Penton Robicheaux are leading the 2016 celebration.

Official Southern Decadence Sponsors to date include **Presenting-Ambush Magazine**,www.SouthernDecadence.com, SKYY Vodka;

Platinum-Bud Light, Mike's Hard Lemonade, Gay Appreciation Awards, Crescent City Tour Booking Agency, Elizabeth Bouvier & Gary Vandeverter;

Gold-The Golden Lantern, Bourbon Pub & Parade;

Silver-Four Seasons & Patio Stage Bar, Cafe Lafitte in Exile, New Orleans Tourism Marketing Corp.;

Bronze-Quartermaster: The Nellie Deli; and

Pearl-Dawn Leggio, SDGMXXVII Errol Rizzuto, June Pennick, Alexis Grace, Cam Zimmerman, Bonita Folse/Solitaire, Fabulous Flowers LLC, Jay Crockett.

You to can become a sponsor of the largest LGBT celebration in Louisiana today! All funds raised minus expenses will benefit the official 2016 Southern Decadence Charities: New Orleans Advocates for GLBT Elders (NOAGE) and Animal Rescue New Orleans (ARNO).

There are several levels of sponsorship available including \$5,000 Presenting, \$2,500 Platinum, \$1,000 Gold, \$500 Silver, \$250 Bronze, and \$100 Pearl.

Sponsorship forms are available at www.southerndecadence.com/2016/NOSouthernDecadenceSponsors.pdf.

Are You Ready to Join Southern Decadence Fundraising Efforts?

Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLII Tony Leggio, Felicia Phillips, Jeffrey Palmquist and Derek Penton-Robicheaux invite you to join their efforts in making Southern Decadence 2016 a success. All funds raised minus expenses benefit the official 2016 charities: New Orleans Advocates for GLBT Elders (NOAGE) and Animal Rescue New Orleans (ARNO). Events include:

SATURDAY, July 9th...

10pm, 3rd Annual Johnny Passion's Smatch Game with local entertainers impersonating celebrities including: SDGM XLII Philip Anthony as Sophia Petrillo, Electra City as Liza Minnelli, SDGM XLII Tony Leggio and Elizabeth Bouvier as Patsy and Edina of Ab Fab, SDGM XLII Derek Penton-Robicheaux as Elton John, Tittie Toulouse as Johnny Passion, Catherine Gaither as Electra City, Errol Rizzuto as the "updated" Dark Lady, Princesse Stephaney as Marilyn Monroe, Nicole Lynn Foxx as Grace Jones, Miss Ebony as ???, and Frankie Fierce as ???; with contestants SDGM XLII Jeffrey Palmquist and Coca Mesa vs. Marshall Harris and Becky Allen; and special performances by Jupiter Phoenix as Adore Delano, Patsy and Edina (Tony Leggio and Liz Bouvier), and Marshall Harris and Becky Allen; benefiting Southern Decadence 2016 with auctions, \$60 VIP Table's for 4, \$10 door donation @ Allways Lounge

THURSDAY, July 14th...

7pm, Southern Charm Meets Southern Decadence: Enjoy an evening of open bar, passed hors d'oeuvres, live music, and of course, a group of very charming pool boys splashing about for your entertainment! Wear your finest linen and bring your swim suit (or not) and enjoy a fun filled evening of Southern Decadence in a private courtyard just off of Bourbon Street with the Quistadors!!! Only 25 tickets will be offered at \$100.00 per person, first come, first served (contact Jeff Palmquist or Coca Mesa for tickets) @ The Southern Decadence Grand Marshal XLII Jeffrey Palmquist & Coca Mesa Residence

SUNDAY, July 17th...

2-4pm, Southern Decadence Sister Sunday Social: Brunch & Jukebox Drag Show, celebrate with Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLII Felicia Phillips, Derek Penton-Robicheaux, Jeffrey Palmquist & Tony Leggio featuring "Fab Stars, Fab Food, Fab Fun!" benefiting Southern Decadence 2016, and starring SDGM Felicia Phillips, Miss Louisiana Leatherette Vanessa Carr Kennedy, GAA Top 5 Entertainer of the Year Finalist Coca Mesa, Easter Grand Marshal XII Elizabeth Bouvier, Queen Armeinius Elect Ebony Ross, Easter Grand Marshal XVII Monica Synclair-Kennedy, Eureeka Starfish & more surprise guests, \$5 Door Donation @ The Friendly Bar

WEDNESDAY, July 20th...

4pm, Southern Decadence Grill Off, Southern Decadence Grand Marshal XLII Jeffery Palmquist & The Page's Bar Baron Willie Mackie invite you to a dual of BBQ with SDGMs Tony Leggio, Felicia Phillips & Derek Penton-Robicheaux cheering on the grill masters, \$10 a plate to taste/judge including fixings (voting ballot with each plate) @ The Page

SATURDAY, July 23rd...

7pm, *Ambush Magazine* presents 29th Annual Gay Appreciation Awards Gala with "Walking the Red Carpet" with Southern Decadence Grand Marshals XLII Tony Leggio, Felicia Phillips, Jeffrey Palmquist & Derek Penton-Robicheaux 7-7:45pm, followed by the Gala 8-10pm announcing the Winners, benefiting Southern Decadence 2016, \$200 VIP Table's for 4, \$10 door donation @ Oz New Orleans

SUNDAY, July 24th...

2-7pm, Coming Home: Decadence Takes Biloxi, Join us for an afternoon in Biloxi welcoming Southern Decadence Grand Marshal XLII Derek Penton-Robicheaux back home. Lynn Koval, the owner of Just Us Lounge, has opened her doors to greet each of you with a home-cooked meal of BBQ, collard greens, and Potato Salad from 1:30 until everyone gets a plate. While you enjoy some refreshing beverages and this great food, lean back and listen to the sounds of Rewind 228, which has reunited the great talents of Lady Patrice Pickett and Johnny Fung. The band will be playing all your favorites from 2-5pm. Following, at 6pm, you will be entertained by some of the best entertainers the Coast has to offer with Estelle Suarez, Toni D, Nicole DuBois, and Merce...des Alexander storming the stage. DJ Powers will be playing the hottest hits and some classics for you all afternoon during the breaks and following the Drag Show. We will be having a 50/50 raffle, as well as general raffle for prizes including liquor baskets, food comps

and bar tabs from various businesses both in Biloxi and New Orleans. \$40 Bus passes from New Orleans to Biloxi, and back, will be available for purchase, which includes admission to the venue, meal, etc. Only 47 passes are available so get yours today. Bus will leave promptly at 12:30pm from GrandPre's, 834 N. Rampart St. Cover at the Just Us door without bus pass is \$15 and includes the meal, admission for the band and drag show, and one ticket for the general raffles. Tickets \$40 @ Just Us Lounge

TUESDAY, July 26th...

7pm, The Quistadors present Southern Decadence "S"ingo with SDGMs XLII Jeffrey Palmquist, Felicia Philips, Derek Penton-Robicheaux & Tony Leggio, and your chance to win fab prizes at SD's version of bingo (3 cards for \$10), plus 50/50 raffle, auctions & more benefiting Southern Decadence 2016; arrive early at 6pm where you can order some great eats off the menu @ Cheezy Cajun

SATURDAY, July 30th...

5-7pm, The Quistadors present "Mystic & Mystery: An Evening of Decadence" with SDGMs XLII Jeffrey Palmquist, Felicia Philips, Derek Penton-Robicheaux & Tony Leggio, with \$10 Taro Card readings, \$10 buffet courtesy of NOLA Poboys, Clover Grill & Le Fleur de Lis; plus raffles with great prizes & 50/50 raffle benefiting Southern Decadence 2016 @ Good Friends Bar

SUNDAY, July 31st...

3-5pm, Sippin' with The Sisters 2nd Annual Devil'd Egg Competition benefiting Southern Decadence 2016 with SDGMs XLII Tony Leggio, Felicia Philips, Jeffrey Palmquist & Derek Penton-Robicheaux, \$10 to Taste/Judge (Rules: 1. Must supply a minimum of 60 eggs (30 eggs cut in half) Grade A Large only; 2. Souffle cups will be provided by Cutter's (solo cup P150 1 1/2 oz., eggs must be presented in souffle cups; 3. Must be presented on platters provided by Cutter's - or equivalent - commonly referred to as a crawfish platter. If your eggs do not fit on the trays (for whatever reason-2 will be provided) you must provide the additional tray; 4. Competition starts at 3pm - there will be a grace period of 15 minutes only; 5. Competition ends at 5pm; 6. Winners will be announced as soon as possible thereafter; 7. Judging will be by public vote with ballots provided by Cutter's to all tasters; 8. Your eggs must fit within the confines of the souffle cup - meaning - the souffle cup will serve as the base of your entry. You may fill the egg with whatever you desire, but it must fit in the cup. 9. There will be plaques awarded for the Winner and 1st Runner-up; 10. You must not place anything on the top of the egg that is not edible-(or in it)-for that matter-no statues or tiaras, etc.; 11. If you are late (after 3:15) you will not be eligible for judging (however, we will keep the eggs and enjoy them). If you do not sign up for the competition and just show up out of the blue - your entry will not qualify for judging (however, we will keep the eggs and enjoy them). @ Cutter's

WEDNESDAY, August 3rd...

5-8pm, Burgers and Dogs For Southern Decadence, Krewe du Royale Revelers' Grand Reveler II Will Antill and Lord of Misrule Frank Perez will be grilling up juicy hamburgers and delicious hot dogs as well as serving up scrumptious potato salad and other fixin's. \$10 gets you an amazing meal

and benefits Southern Decadence, whose official charities are NOAGE and ARNO. ARNO is Animal Rescue New Orleans, the city's only no kill shelter. NOAGE stands for New Orleans Advocates for GLBT Elders. None of us are getting younger and we all like pets. And we certainly like to eat! So come join us and support Southern Decadence! @ Cafe Lafitte in Exile

Keep abreast of the latest information available in **Ambush Magazine**, your Official Southern Decadence Guide, www.SouthernDecadence.com, your Official Southern Decadence Website, or follow Southern Decadence at www.Facebook.com/SouthernDecadenceNOLA.

Greater New Orleans Foundations Launches LGBT Fund; Nonprofits Have until July 15 to Apply for Funding

The Greater New Orleans Foundation announced the launch of the LGBT Fund that will channel charitable contributions to local organizations supporting the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community.

"The Greater New Orleans Foundation is playing a vital role of raising awareness and support for organizations that represent the interests of LGBT communities," said Cheryl Teamer, board chair of the Greater New Orleans Foundation. "This fund will allow us to better understand LGBT challenges in the community and find ways to address them." Teamer also noted that no fees will be assessed by the Foundation to administer this fund, so every dollar can be put straight to work in our community.

Nonprofit organizations serving Orleans Parish that are working to improve the quality of life for members of the LGBT community can apply for grants by midnight on Friday, July 15, 2016. The application can be accessed at <http://www.gnof.org/the-lgbt-fund/>.

The Foundation anticipates awarding 10 to 15 grants in the first round. The amounts will vary between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The winners will be announced in late August.

For nearly a year, the Foundation has been raising money for the LGBT Fund from individual donors and national funders. "As the public response to the recent tragedy in Orlando has shown, there is great power in people coming together to take a stand against hatred and violence. Here in New Orleans, people are standing up for local organizations by making a gift to the LGBT Fund," said Erin McQuade-Wright, vice president for donor relations at the Greater New Orleans Foundation. Additional contributions to the LGBT Fund can be made here: www.gnof.org/givenow.

The fund was launched on the anniversary of the UpStairs Lounge fire, which was intentionally set in 1973 at a gay bar in the French Quarter and resulted in the death of 32 people. Until the recent mass shooting in Orlando, the UpStairs Lounge fire had been the deadliest known attack on a gay club in U.S. history.

The Greater New Orleans Foundation is the community foundation serving a 13-parish Greater New Orleans metropolitan area. We design and lead initiatives that improve the region, connect donors to community needs, identify and support great nonprofits, and strengthen civil society.

Friday, July 8th @ 10:30pm



**Starring Eureka Starfish, Liberaunchy,
Kedarva, Logan Faust
& hosted by May Hemmer**

Sunday, July 10th @ 5-8pm

**Big Easy
Sisters
2nd Sunday
Beer Bust**



**Friday, July 15th @ 10pm
The Lady Is A Tramp
Clorox
Bleachman's
One-Woman Show**

GrandPres.com
Facebook.com/GrandPres



**Join Ken Grandpre;
Bartenders Jimmy,
Michael, Philip & Jerek**

**Open 11am Daily
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**Tickling the Ivories
with Trey**
Sundays 3-5pm

**Game Night
Wednesdays**
7pm Fun, Shots, Bar Tabs
with Rikki Gee & DJ Ping

**Thursday 4:30-6:30pm
Cheesy
Thursdays**
with The Cheese Queen
Cocktails & Cheese!
then @ 7pm



Happy Hour
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**FRIDAYS @ 10 PM
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\$100 CASH PRIZE**

**SATURDAYS @ 10 PM
ALL BOY REVUE WITH
15 BOYS DANCING 'TIL DAWN**

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moments in gay new orleans history

by Professor Frank Perez
E-mail: f.perez@sbcglobal.net
Photo by: Larry Graham, GrahamStudioOne.COM

“A Pride Parade to Remember”

The recent New Orleans Pride Parade capped off a very emotional week.

I had traveled the previous weekend to represent the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana and **Ambush** in the Baton Rouge Pride festivities. While there, I remembered my life in the closet when I was in high school in Baton Rouge. I remembered meeting my first lover at L.S.U. and how we would come to New Orleans on the weekends to drink at Lafitte's. I remembered how careful we were to guard our deeply held secret. I remembered the fear of discovery. I remembered the self-loathing. I remembered the shame.

And so to participate so publicly in the Baton Rouge Pride celebration, to think about how far I had come in my personal journey, well, it made me feel proud. Waking up Sunday to the horrible news of the massacre in Orlando injected a dose of sad reality into my pride: there were still people who wanted to kill me just because of who I am. On the ride back to New Orleans it occurred to me that our past is never too far behind us—and I wept.

Upon arriving back home, I pulled myself together and went to activist Stewart Butler's home for a StoryCorps/NPR interview that had been planned for weeks. Then I was contacted by Steven Mora and Chad Boutte who asked me if I would say a few words that evening at a candle-light vigil on the river they were organizing. I said yes and hoped I could make it through my remarks without breaking down in tears, which I did.

The rest of the week was tough. Monday night was yet another vigil at St. Anna's Episcopal Church. Throughout the rest of the week I conducted several gay history

walking tours, which were especially poignant in light of Orlando. And then there were numerous interviews and requests for interviews.

Then came Saturday and the New Orleans Pride Parade. I marched with the LGBT+ Archives Project of Louisiana, a non-profit organization of which I am privileged to be a part. As we were lining up, we were joined by some younger folks (Sean Ortolano and John Green) who had attended but never before marched in a Pride Parade. As we began walking, I thought of the first Pride Parade I marched in years earlier. At that time, the route seemed really long and I told myself ahead of time that I would peel off before the end and head to the bar. But as I marched, the love and energy of the crowds were absorbing and sustaining and before I knew it, I had marched the entire route.

This year I almost didn't march at all. I underwent spinal cord surgery earlier this year and while my recovery has been nothing short of miraculous, I'm still not 100%. And although I'm walking fairly well, I cannot do it for too terribly long, especially not in the oppressive summer heat. The truth is, I feel fortunate to be walking at all.

Shortly after the parade began, I passed my cousin Trish who reached out and embraced me. I thought of the night she spent with me at the hospital when I was at my worst and I wasn't even sure I would ever walk again. I knew then my decision to walk the parade was the right one. In fact, at that moment walking the parade became a mission of personal resolve and triumph—a mission that was reinforced with every face along the way of someone I saw who visited me in the hospital.

Jannerson's poetry is marked by a grace and maturity rarely seen in debut collections.

Of all literary genres, poetry is probably the least read; yet, more poetry than ever is being published these days. The vast majority of it is fluff and drivel, which is why *Rabbit Rabbit* was such a pleasure to read. Good poetry is not only provocative and evocative, it is also absorbing; *Rabbit Rabbit* hits the mark on all three.

This chapbook is essentially a meditation on the symbiotic relationship among memory, identity, and meaning-making. The poetry is pensively exquisite, at times quite stunning.

Jannerson writes bildungsroman fiction and queer romance. Her work has been published by *Bitch*, *Curve*, *Helio-graph*, *Vertigo*, *Redlands Review*, *Bust*, *Nola Live*, *E-ratio*, *Ravishly*, *Cleis Press*, *Kore Press*, *BookByYou*, *A Room of Her Own*, *Deconstructing Glee*, *Crazy with a Side of Awesome Sauce*, *We Have a Fucking Right to Be Angry*, and *Women's Review of Books*. She is a two-time Short Lister and a three-time Finalist in the William Faulkner - Wisdom Competition for her new adult fiction. Jannerson resides in New Orleans.

But this parade was about so much more than just my personal struggle. It was about more than just publicly declaring my personal pride in being gay. It was about Orlando and how the horrible shooting there a week earlier demonstrated more than ever the necessity and importance of Pride Parades. Marching in that parade was a declaration that not only are we proud of who we are but also that we are not afraid.

As we marched I saw parents with their children lining the parade route. Several times I reached out to tell them that I wished when I was a kid that my parents had brought me to a Pride Parade. What a difference that would have made! But times were different then. I thought about how times have changed for the better but also about how much more they need to change.

As previously mentioned, we had some first time marchers in our group. I took great delight in introducing them to Mark Gonzalez, who was also marching with the Archives Project. Gonzalez (along with Charlene Schneider and Richard O'Connor) founded Gayfest in 1978. Gay Fest produced the

first Gay Pride Parade in New Orleans in 1980.

As the parade approached the intersection of Decatur and Iberville Streets, I began to think of the Up Stairs Lounge (located a block away) and the 32 people who died as a result of the arson there on June 24, 1973. What would those men have thought if they could have seen this Parade, this public display of pride? Could they have even imagined it?

The 2016 Pride Parade was the largest in New Orleans history, due, in no small part, to the massacre in Orlando a week earlier. The crowds were, for the most part, supportive and enthusiastic. There are, however, always exceptions. As we made our way down upper Bourbon, I heard a frat guy type on the sidewalk make a derogatory comment questioning why they don't have Straight Pride parades. If I could have talked to him I would have told him to be thankful they didn't need one. If Orlando teaches us anything, it's that Pride Parades are still just as necessary now as they ever have been.



lez talk

by Misti Ates
Email: Mistimichelleates@gmail.com

The New Orleans Krewe... Women's Football Team

In the South, there is one thing that we can all just about agree on, and that is our love of football. It doesn't matter if its pee wee football or the New Orleans Saints or LSU Tigers, we will be there cheering for our favorite team. I'm excited to inform those of you who do not know, New Orleans has its very own semi pro, full tackle, women's football team.

The New Orleans Krewe is getting ready for its second year and without a doubt, this is going to be the season that makes a statement. Nichole Doyle, team owner, founded the team on the premises that all women should be given a chance to play and become empowered by doing so. One of the things that impressed me while speaking with Nichole is, there are no labels concerning the ladies that play for the team. It doesn't matter if you are a lesbian or straight, if you can play football and have the tenacity it takes, then playing women's football is definitely an option you may need to consider. Nichole played tight end for The New Orleans MoJo before becoming owner of The New Orleans Krewe. Being a team owner has been a dream of Nichole's for years and through hard work and perseverance, it has become a reality.

Perseverance is a much needed trait to have when you are trying to make a success out of a women's football team. Unfortunately, women's football does not get the press or support that other football teams are fortunate to have. The Krewe is the third women's football team that has tried to make a go of it here in New Orleans. Years ago, it was The New Orleans Blaze followed by The New Orleans MoJo. Some may speculate that the lack of interest is because women's football is considered not to be as exciting and physical like men playing football. Well, if that's your opinion, I suggest you go see The Krewe play one of their games at Muss Bertolino Stadium. There games are hard hitting and exciting. It would be a great outing and something different to do with your family or friends. If you are up to traveling, The Krewe will also be on the road to Texas to play other teams in their division. Houston, San Antonio and Austin are just a few of the cities that can also boast of having their own women's all tackle football team.

On August 27, 2016 for 12:00pm, at Buffalo Wild Wings in Metairie, there will be an informative type meet and greet with the owner, Nichole Doyle and current players. They will be on hand to answer any questions concerning all you would need to know about becoming a part of The New Orleans Krewe. Conditioning for the team will be through out the months of October, November and December. January 2017 will begin their team practice. The Krewe is looking for not only new players, they are also are in need of team sponsors, volunteers and fans. It takes a village to make a team a success. We don't think twice about showing support to our furry friends, so let's step up and show The New Orleans Krewe some love. I, for one, am looking forward to attending their home games with the missus. Let's all get on board and cheer our very own women's football team on to victory!

If you are interested in learning more about The New Orleans Krewe, be sure to "like" their Facebook page or check out Instagram at <http://instagram.com/nolakrewefootball>.



book review

Rabbit Rabbit. Deb Jannerson. Finishing Line Press, 2016. \$14.49.

by Frank Perez

Years ago I attended a reading by the late, great Irish writer Frank McCourt. After the reading, McCourt entertained questions, one of which was from a young woman who asked what advice he would give to an aspiring writer. McCourt paused silently for a minute and looked longingly at the fledgling writer and said sardonically, "Have you ever suffered?" The audience chuckled but there was more than a kernel of truth in his remark; namely, that good, authentic writing, whatever the genre, stems from personal experience.

After reading *Rabbit Rabbit*, it is clear Jannerson has suffered. What's more, it is also clear that she has learned how to transform that suffering into poetic beauty. All that is to say this volume of poetry is delightful and worth a read.

Rabbit Rabbit is New Orleans novelist Deb Jannerson's first foray into poetry although readers might never guess it.