

# THE DIVA DIARIES

## Girls just wanna ... eat and drink and laugh, laugh, laugh



I tend to think men hold on to fantasy-based myths about what women do when we get together in groups for girls' nights. Years ago, a boyfriend asked me if we did each other's hair or painted each other's toenails. Did we do crafts? Exchange make-up tips? Talk about how great our boyfriends or husbands were in an effort to one up each other?

I wanted to ask him if he thought we told ghost stories and made s'mores, too.

When 35 local actresses were recruited by Theatre Conspiracy last spring to perform for a variety of area charities in "Love, Loss, and What I Wore," we wondered how we would ever be able to get together for one big cast party. Members of the 10 separate casts ranged in age from 20-something to 80-plus. Considering our various demands of school, work, husbands, kids and the need for precious sleep, it would be a challenge, indeed, to get us all in one place for a soiree.

But our fearless director, Karen Goldberg (who was also a cast member), gave us a date and opened up her home for what we decided should be called "EstroFest 2013," what with all the estro-

gen that would be in the room. Whoever could make it, would make it. And many of us did, this past Saturday.

So what did we do at the inaugural EstroFest to-do?

We did *not* discuss facials, beauty tips or diets — in fact, we ate like we had been fasting for weeks: bacon-wrapped weenies, cheesy artichoke dip, salty nachos, a "pizza" covered in peanut-butter and chocolate chips (I am not lying), cheese cubes upon cheese cubes. I'm *still* full. Oh, and we drank: red wine, white wine, vodka and shots of Jameson.

Sure, we talked about husbands and boyfriends, but it was mostly good-natured venting (and a few war stories) as opposed to bragging. But mostly, we laughed. We laughed about everything from Spanx to Botox to going gray.

There's nothing like getting together with a group of fabulous women you've known forever — especially when you can wear barely any make-up, a clip in your hair and a modern-day muumuu (Target maxi-dress) — and laughing until your sides



hurt as you eat bacon dipped in brown sugar and chocolate-covered pizza.

So fellas, if you want to picture us painting each other's toenails and giggling about boys, you'll just have to hold on to your dreams. When real women get together, real talk takes place over shots of Irish whiskey.

### LBD party at Blu

There are times, of course, when a girl has to ditch the muumuu and wiggle into a little black dress. When she has to step away from the chocolate chips and sip a sexy Cosmo instead. When she must toss the Birkenstocks and slip on some sparkly Jimmy Choos. The next time all of the above will be in order? The Little Black Dress party at Blue Martini from 8-11 p.m. Saturday, July 20. Put on your prettiest LBD and be there for a chance to win a weekend package at the Waldorf Astoria, a

\$1,000 gift certificate to Saks Fifth Avenue and more.

When it comes to *this* girls' night, men are more than welcome. For more information, go to [www.bluemartini-lounge.com](http://www.bluemartini-lounge.com).

### Speaking of dresses

The next Love That Dress! dress collection party to help stock the racks for the PACE Center for Girls-Immokalee annual shopping soiree is coming up from 5-7 p.m. Thursday, July 25, at the Goodwill Book Store on Ninth Street North. Bring something cute from your closet to donate to the cause.

### Crawling along

The third annual pub crawl for Hope for Haiti isn't happening for a couple of more weeks (Saturday, Aug. 3, along Third Street — how easy is that to remember?), but reservations are limited to 100, so it's not too early to declare your intentions. For just \$30 per person, all to benefit Hope for Haiti, pub parties will enjoy a cocktail at Campiello, followed by one at Sea Salt and a third at Ridgway Bar & Grill. Each establishment will offer food specials, and every reveler will receive a T-shirt and be able to enter drawings for door prizes along the way. ■

— *Ciao for now, my lovelies! Stay tuned for another divalicious diary entry next week ...*

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