

Longfellow's "Queen of the West"

Jack McGuinn, Senior Editor

LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT **CINCINNATI**—

HENRY LONGFELLOW'S "QUEEN OF THE WEST" AND OHIO'S THIRD-LARGEST CITY (POPULATION JUST UNDER 300,000)—AS GEAR EXPO AND ASM ATTENDEES AND **EXHIBITORS PREPARE TO DESCEND UPON THIS** MIDWESTERN ENCLAVE ON THE BANKS OF THE OHIO RIVER.

Aside from being one of the world's most difficult place names to spell—just for good measure, Cincinnati residents are known as "Cincinnatians"—and a world-class center for all things chili, the city's convention and tourism site (cincyusa. com) boasts of the more than \$2 billion invested in recent downtown and riverfront development, including a \$135 million renovation and expansion of the convention center and a \$43 million redevelopment of Fountain Square, a popular downtown meetand-greet nexus offering year-round programming and entertainment for the young, old and in-between. The Square has served as an incubator for new restaurants, shopping destinations and nightlife-all in short proximity with the convention center and hotels.

Chosen by Esquire for its list of top-ten list of U.S. "Cities That Rock," did you know that Cincinnati was the first American city to have a professional baseball team, is home to the world-class Cincinnati Zoo &



Botanical Garden (also known, intriguingly, as the "world's sexiest zoo") and is where William Procter and James Gamble established the Procter & Gamble empire? And something else you probably didn't know: abolitionist and novelist Harriet Beecher Stowe lived in Cincinnati for a time, where she had the opportunity to meet and question escaped slaves. She used their stories as a basis in part for *Uncle* Tom's Cabin. And one more thing: in 2012, the city will host the 2012 World Choir Games—reportedly the largest choral competition in the world. Cincinnati is the first North American city to host the event.

So what might participants at the Gear Expo 2011 pilgrimage want to see and do in Cincinnati once the curtain comes down each night of the show? For events and attractions, the convention/tourism site is your best and most reliable resource.

Dining out is of course a necessity on the convention circuit, and there is no shortage of spots within easy reach of Duke Energy Center. Following is a small, decidedly arbitrary sampling of restaurants-some old, some newoffering everything from BBQ to bread pudding. For hours of operation, menu information, etc., telephone or simply go to their website.

Restaurants

Jeff Ruby's Steakhouse

700 Walnut Street Cincinnati, OH 45202 513-784-1200 jeffruby.com

Maggiano's Little Italy

7875 Montgomery Rd. Cincinnati 513-794-0670 maggianos.com

Scott's BBQ

637-A Northland Blvd. Forest Park, Ohio Cincinnati 513-742-8646 scottsbbq.org

Skyline Chili

4180 Thunderbird Lane Fairfield, OH 45014 513-874-1188 skylinechili.com

Henke Winery

3077 Harrison Ave. Cincinnati 513-662-9463 henkewine.com

Cock & Bull English Pub

2645 Erie Ave. Cincinnati 513-533-4ALE (4253) theenglishpub.com

Sung Korean Bistro

700 Elm St. Cincinnati 513-721-7864 sungkoreanbistro.com

Buckhead Mountain Grill

35 Fairfield Avenue Bellevue, KY 859-491-7333 eatatbuckheads.com

Chart House

405 Riverboat Row Newport, KY 859-261-0300 chart-house.com

The Montgomery Inn

(original of various locations) 9440 Montgomery Rd. Montgomery 513-791-3482 montgomeryinn.com

Nightlife

And for those of you just looking for a place to relax and imbibe—or imbibe and make a fool of yourselfthe city is home to a number of cocktail lounges, martini bars, brew pubs and various other watering holes, many within easy walking distance—though the return trip may prove otherwise of Expo-guesting hotels. Phone ahead and or check their websites for Happy Hours, entertainment offerings, etc.

Bartini's

580 6th St. Cincinnati, OH 45202 513-381-5001 bartiniscincinnati.com

Pigall's Twist Lounge and Bar

127 W. Fourth St. Cincinnati 513-721-1345 jeanrobertgroup.com/pigalls

Mynt Martini

28 Fountain Sauare Cincinnati 513-621-6968 myntcincinnati.com

Tonic on Fourth

125 West 4th Street Cincinnati 513-721-1345 toniconfourth.com

Below Zero Lounge

1122 Walnut St. Cincinnati 513-421-9376 belowzerolounge.com

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Below Zero Lounge

1122 Walnut St. Cincinnati 513-421-9376 belowzerolounge.com

Cadillac Ranch

41 E. Sixth St. Cincinnati Phone: 513-621-6200 cadillacranchhome.com

Club Bronz

4029 Hamilton Ave. Cincinnati Phone: 513-591-2100 clubbronz.com

The Dock

603 W. Pete Rose Way Cincinnati Phone: 513-241-5623 thedockcomplex.com

Kick'n-Rock'n Country Bar

3620 Harrison Ave. Cincinnati Phone: 513-662-0555 kicknbar.com

Comet

4579 Hamilton Ave Cincinnati Phone: 513-541-8900 cometbar.com

