

A lesson in
local DIY television

Putting Down Roots
on Westminster

Art & Science
pop up in Pawtucket

FREE

PROVIDENCE

APRIL 2011 #173

MONTHLY



DRINKING
with **STYLE**

**A taste of cocktail
culture in the city**

*Raising a glass at RISD's
new Artisan Events Cafe*

Providence Pulse

CITY / MALCONTENT / SCENE IN PVD



Let's Just Check This Out

Local designer Jessica Brown has three rules for the do-it-yourself projects she covers in her blog and on her YouTube channel, **Let's Just Make That**. First, the projects should reuse stuff you have around the house. For example, cartridges from your aging eight-track collection might make a fine basis for a key ring holder. Second, the projects should only require tools you already (or should) have around the house.

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And third, they have to be so easy that her mother could complete them. It's from this third rule that the whole site came about.

"My mother, in Kentucky, just became a homeowner for the first time at age 57," Jessica explains. "I spent 45 minutes teaching her how to read a ruler. I wanted to be able to help her, even from 2000 miles away." Thus, a Youtube channel was born.

Jessica is an experienced furniture maker with a Master's in Industrial Design, focusing on sustainable products and systems. She is also extremely personable, witty, quick

spoken and decidedly local - the ideal person to show you low-cost ways to improve the space around you by using things you already have at home. At the end of her videos and posts, she gives a price breakdown for materials, as well as a difficulty rating for her projects (in wrenches, from level one, the easiest, to four, which require some professional aid), but all of her projects are well within your skill level - as long as you can read a ruler, anyway. Though if you can't, I'm sure Jessica would be happy to teach you. letsjustmakethat.blogspot.com.

-Michael Madden



Buy Local

A Crafty Affair

Sure, it may be nice to own a painting by Picasso or a sculpture by Michelangelo, but what's the fun in owning a copy of something countless other people have displayed in their homes that was crafted thousands of miles away? (And how many of us can really afford one?) Instead, plan on spending a fun-filled day at **Craftopia** to find a new addition to your art collection (or closet). This unique event at the Hope Artiste Village showcases and sells the one-of-a-kind handmade works of over 70 local artists. You will find arts and crafts of

all sorts, including repurposed clothing, handbags, jewelry, fine arts and housewares. For a sneak peek of what can be expected, pop into Rhody Craft 100, the local store (also in Hope Artiste) behind this event. With the paltry \$1 admission, it won't hurt your bank account as much as a Picasso would. Whether you desire an afternoon of shopping, simply browsing or eating, come help celebrate and support all things local and handmade. *Sunday, April 10. 10am-4pm. Hope Artiste Village, 1005 Main Street, Pawtucket. rhodycraft100.com.* -Ashley Graham

In Memoriam

A Musical Tribute

Larry Friedlander, owner of The Hi-Hat in Davol Square, tragically passed away on February 26 at the much-too-young age of 57. On April 10, the club will be hosting a musical tribute to him to raise scholarship money for music students.

The Larry Friedlander Scholarship Concert will feature a dozen bands, as

well as special guest bartenders, paying tribute to the beloved club owner from 3pm-9pm - and all for a good cause. Tickets are \$20 and are available at The Hi-Hat, Lupo's, Hot Club, Local 121, The Met, Nick-A-Nees, Z-Bar and Trinity Brewhouse. *3 Davol Square. 453-6500, thehihat.com*

Book Smart

Celebrate the Great White Whale

Indulge your bibliophilia at the **Providence Athenaeum**, which is hosting a celebration of all things Melville this spring. On April 21, the Athenaeum will host a reading and discussion of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven" and Herman Melville's *Bartleby the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street*. The reading, co-presented by Not About the Buildings, is part of the Athenaeum's "Hark! The White Whale!" program, a celebration of the 160th anniversary of the publication of *Moby-Dick*. While the private library's salon events are usually only open to members, this one is free and open to the public.

Poe's "The Raven," published in 1845, is one of his best-known poems and inspired praise and parody alike for the contrarian bird and its mantra, "Nevermore." Melville's *Bartleby* was published eight years later and also features a narrator whose life is upended by a mysterious, uncooperative visitor, in this case a clerk who responds to all queries and commands with a terse, "I would prefer not to." Is *Bartleby* an homage to "The Raven?" A coincidence? Participate in a discussion of both and decide for yourself. *251 Benefit Street. 421-6970, providenceatheneum.org* -Andrew Brennan

