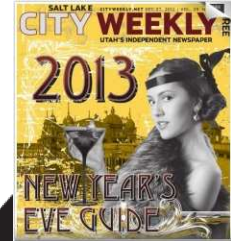




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### Best Poetic Injustice Jesse Parent's Second Place

In October 2011, Jesse Parent—computer programmer by day, improv comic and slam poet by night—attended the Individual World Poetry Slam in Cleveland, Ohio, and took second place overall, for the second year in a row. Yeah, it was second place. But not too shabby for a guy whose first slam performance took place in 2006 in a downtown SLC coffee house. Since arriving in Utah with his wife, Julia, in 1997 for what was envisioned to be a short stay, Parent has honed the craft of storytelling and audience engagement through his animated use of language and metaphor. Beating out more than 75 international competitors over a three-day period to garner second place two years in a row? That makes him the best in our eyes.

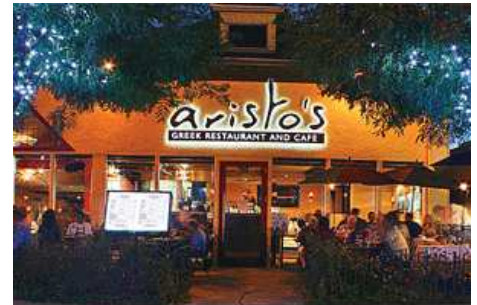
### Best Utah Politician **RC** Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker

Ralph Becker's living the charmed life of a re-elected Democratic Salt Lake City mayor. With a more-than-80 percent approval rating prior to his election, Becker's low-key way of getting work done makes him quite likable. His new public-safety building is under construction, and he continues to get ducks in a row for a new downtown theater. When he realized the city's watershed could be threatened by the proposed SkiLink connection between Canyons and Solitude ski resorts, he rattled more than a few cages in Washington, D.C., where the idea was being considered. Downtown is rising on Becker's watch, and that means fortune (and sales-tax revenues) will smile upon him. What Utah politician wouldn't envy Becker's political track record and the trust he inspires in voters?

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