

# The Art Issue

From Van Lynch, pictured, to the Omni, a look at Dallas' art community  
The holiday season is flush with great artistic opportunities

■ FINE ART, Page 21



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FREE | Friday, December 2, 2011

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Read about this and other holiday charitable events, beginning on Page 13.

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6

## headlines

### ■ TEXAS NEWS

- 6 Trans man wins first round in divorce
- 6 DISD gets 'F' in anti-bullying fight
- 9 Hit-and-run investigations continue

### ■ LIFE+STYLE

- 22 Caravaggio exhibit at the Kimbell
- 24 Art at the new Omni Hotel
- 26 New CD from Rihanna

### ■ COVER ART

Damon K. Clark, Rachel Dupard, Denise Lee and Patty Breckenridge rehearse for *A Gathering*. Photo by Tammye Nash. Cover design by Kevin Thomas.



22



26

## departments

- |    |                 |    |             |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------|
| 6  | Texas News      | 20 | Life+Style  |
| 8  | Pet of the Week | 34 | Starvoice   |
| 8  | Briefs          | 36 | Scene       |
| 18 | Viewpoints      | 38 | Classifieds |

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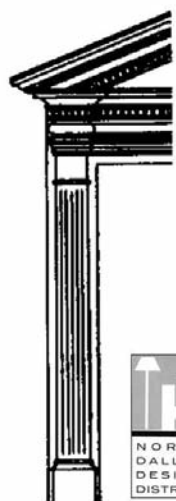
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## Fired coach addresses school board; National Center for Lesbian Rights may get involved

I wasn't able to make it to Lancaster on Wednesday, Nov. 30 for a meeting I told you about earlier in the week, at which fired lesbian coach Nichole "Nikki" Williams and her supporters publicly addressed the board of directors of Life School. But Williams fiancée, Jen DeSaegher, forwarded the below email she sent to the couple's friends recapping the meeting:

*We left the meeting with the feeling that it went well. Mind you, it wasn't an interactive discussion with the administration and the Board of Directors — so there wasn't any feedback. The meeting was merely an opportunity for the public (and particularly Nikki) to share our thoughts on Nikki's termination.*

*About 8-9 of us shared our thoughts in 3 minute increments (as allowed by the board. There was a 30 minute time limit).*

*What I found most touching, was that the board members seemed very receptive. They were attentive, and there was a certain type of peace in the room that is hard to describe. I truly attribute that to the prayers being sent our way — especially those of my faithful mom, Jani DeSaegher, the most amazing prayer warrior I know.*

*I think the most meaningful moment, for many of us, was when Jan Boyce spoke. Jan is the mother of Kate, a student Nikki taught five years ago — during her first year of teaching (at Red Oak). Jan spoke of Nikki's impact on her daughter's life, and how she couldn't be more proud that Nikki is her daughter's role model. As Jan started to cry, Nikki did too, and it was definitely a bit of an emotional moment.*

*As far as what's next? We actually don't know. Our lawyer will likely submit one final letter, asking for the termination to be removed from her record. That was the primary focus during all of the speeches we presented yesterday.*

*We can't thank you enough for the continued support, sweet thoughts, kindness, and awesome texts. Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will move in the hearts of the board members (and in the hearts of Nikki & myself), that the matter will be resolved, and that Nikki will have the peace to move forward.*

*We know that everything happens for a reason, and we continue to believe and keep the faith. Thanks again for all of the support.*

DeSaegher added the following in her email to me:

*Overall, it really did feel like the board was listening. The feelings in the room were genuine, and they really were attentive. The looks on their faces were soft. There was a peace in the room. Of course [Life School HR Director] Charles Puliam sat on the side and had a bit of a beaten look on his face. We wondered if once we left, the board members would shut the door and say to him, "Listen...why did we bypass all of the progressive discipline here and go directly to a termination for someone who was so obviously loved, respected and revered? This has caused a huge mess. Was this really necessary?"*

*We'll let you know what happens next, if anything.*



Coincidentally, I received an email Wednesday from Helen Carroll, sports project director at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, who was seeking contact info for Williams after reading my original story about the case.

"We would like to see if we could be of any help to Coach Williams," Carroll wrote. "If you could even forward my contact information to her, that will at least give her the opportunity to talk to a legal organization that has a successful track record in dealing with school systems that operate in this manner."

I've put them in touch, so I'm thinking we haven't heard the last of this.

— John Wright

## JR's patron exits over balcony

Over the weekend, a patron of JR.'s Bar & Grill on Cedar Springs Road thought he could leave the bar by climbing over the balcony and jumping to the street. Instead, he landed on his face and bar employees insisted he leave by ambulance.

Caven Enterprises President Gregg Kilhoffer said that the man climbed over the balcony and thought that when he hung from the ledge, dangling as low as possible, he'd just drop to his feet. The second-floor balcony is higher than the man thought.

Kilhoffer, who has been with the company for 27 years, said, "I thought I had seen everything."

Although the patron thought he was OK after he landed, Kilhoffer said, "We insisted he go by ambulance."

The man was taken to Parkland Hospital. The only injuries sustained were scrapes to the face.

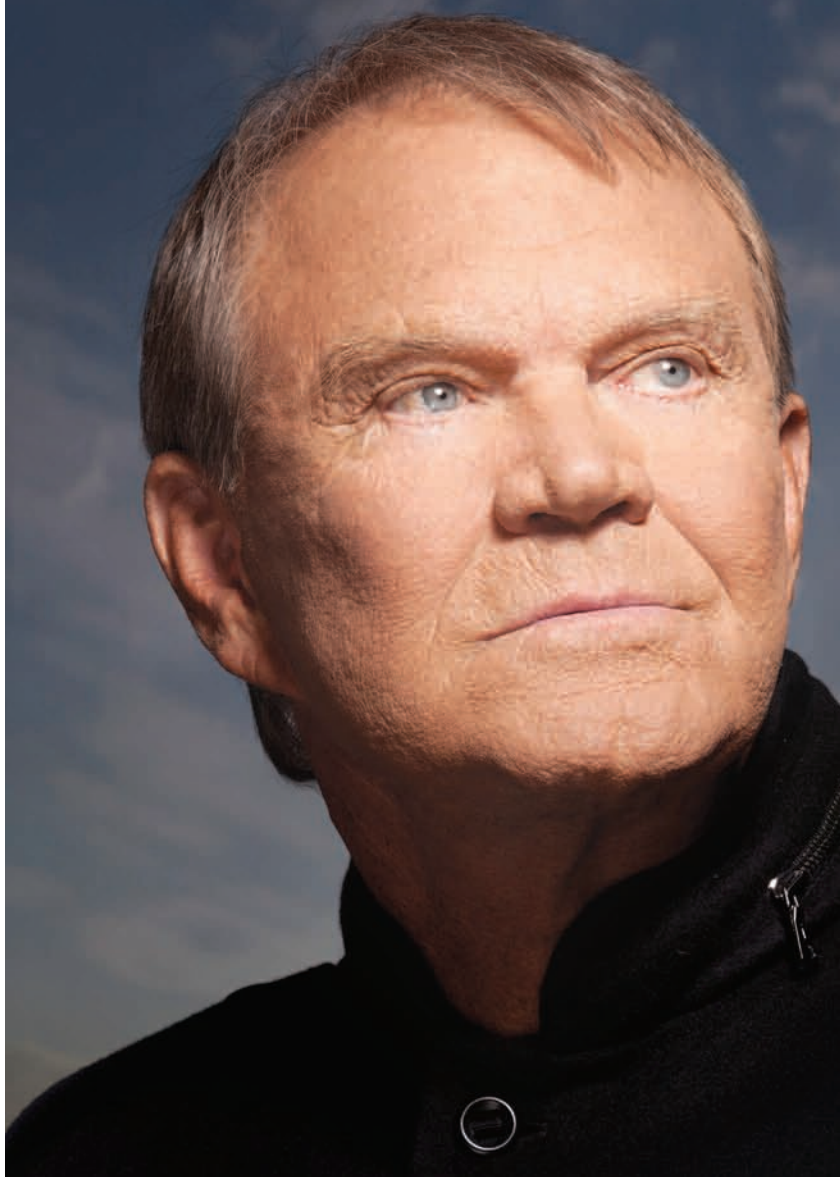
Kilhoffer said it was early in the evening and the man did not appear to be drunk.

He said he didn't think additional warnings to customers would be necessary.

Signs that read, "Please exit the bar from the first floor" or "Please use the stairs to leave the balcony" or even "Please do not jump off the balcony" would not be posted because most people who come to JR.'s understand how stairs and doors work.

— David Taffet

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# Trans man wins first round in divorce battle

Judge declines to void marriage between Robertson, Scott in case that could set precedent, but wife's lawyer downplays significance

**JOHN WRIGHT** | Senior Political Writer  
wright@dallasvoice.com

When Rebecca Louise Robertson and James Allan Scott married in Dallas in 1998, Robertson was well aware and fully supportive of Scott's status as a transgender man, court records indicate.

But when the couple split up after 12 years in 2010, Robertson sought to have their marriage declared void — based on the fact that Scott was born a biological female, and Texas law prohibits same-sex marriage.

Last week, a Dallas County district judge rejected Robertson's motion for a summary judgment in the case, declining to void the marriage and allowing the matter to proceed as a divorce.

Attorney Eric Gormly, who represents Scott, said if the judge had declared the marriage void, it would have prevented his client, who's physically disabled, from obtaining a fair division of the couple's property.

Gormly, who specializes in LGBT law, called the ruling from Judge Lori Chrisman Hockett a

significant victory for transgender equality in Texas.

"To our knowledge, this is the first time any Texas court has ruled that a transsexual man who marries a biological woman is in a legitimate marriage," Gormly said.

## Unsettled law

The issue of transgender marriage has made headlines in Texas of late, thanks in large part to the case of Nikki Araguz.

Araguz, a transgender woman, is waging a high-profile fight to receive death benefits from her late husband, Thomas Araguz III, a volunteer firefighter who was killed in the line of duty last year.

In May, a district judge in Wharton County ruled against Nikki Araguz. The judge granted summary judgment to Thomas Araguz's family, which filed a lawsuit alleging that the couple's 2008 marriage is void because Nikki Araguz was born a man.

Nikki Araguz has appealed the decision, and LGBT advocates believe Hockett's ruling in the Dallas case could help the transgender widow's cause.

In both cases, motions seeking to have the marriages declared void relied heavily on a

■ **TRANS**, Page 10



**WINNING ROUND 1** | Attorney Eric Gormly, right, says Judge Lori Chrisman Hockett's decision to deny a motion to void the marriage between trans man James Allan Scott, left, and his wife Rebecca Louise Robertson is, as far as he knows, "the first time any Texas court has ruled that a transsexual man who marries a biological woman is in a legitimate marriage." (John Wright/Dallas Voice)



**CALLING OUT DISD** | Cece Cox with Resource Center Dallas and Omar Narvaez with Lambda Legal this week urged DISD board members to force employees to step up implementation of the district's anti-bullying policy. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

## LGBT advocates give DISD an 'F' on implementing anti-bullying policy

Cox, Narvaez say some administrators are telling employees not to use online reporting system

**DAVID TAFFET** | Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Resource Center Dallas Executive Director and CEO Cece Cox this week accused Dallas Independent School District officials of instructing principals to ignore the reporting requirement in the school district's anti-bullying policy.

Speaking at a DISD board meeting Thursday morning, Dec. 1, Cox called board members that adopted the policy visionary, but gave the district a grade of "F" in implementing the policy.

Lambda Legal Community Educator Omar Narvaez also spoke at the Dec. 1 board meeting.

DISD passed the anti-bullying policy in November 2010, soon after a string of teens across the country committed suicide after having been repeatedly bullied at school. The Dallas policy

was implemented more than six months before the Texas Legislature passed and Gov. Rick Perry signed a new statewide anti-bullying law.

Narvaez said that the Dallas policy was cited repeatedly in Austin as the anti-bullying bill made its way through the Legislature.

But he said that a year after the Dallas policy was adopted, only about a third of principals have been trained on the computer-based reporting system, that most schools do not have the system in place and even more do not know how to use it.

Narvaez urged DISD to step up its implementation.

Cox said that many schools only sporadically adhere to key provisions of the policy — enforcement and reporting.

A year after adopting the policy, Cox said, "I'm sorry to report the wheels have fallen off. Your grade is 'F.'"

She said that there was a deliberate attempt

■ **DISD** Page 11

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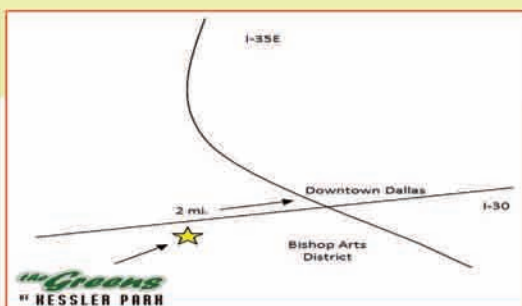
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■ localbriefs

**Stonewall Dems hold holiday party**

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will hold their 15th annual Holiday Party on Monday, Dec. 5, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

The event is free, but donations will be accepted and all donations will go to fund the group's Get Out the Vote efforts in the 2012 election cycle. Sponsorships are also available, and organizers are still accepting gift basket donations for the silent auction. Gilberto Hinojosa, candidate for chairman of the Texas Democratic Party, will be the guest speaker. Daniel Graney, president of the Texas Stonewall Democratic Caucus, will also attend.

The organization will also present its annual awards to members, allies and officeholders. This year's list of nominees are:

- For the Buck Massey Member of the Year Award: Deb Floyd, Clinton Swingle, Eddie Morgan.
- For the Harryette Ehrhardt Distinguished Democrat Award: Sheriff Lupe Valdez, County Commissioner Dr. Elba Garcia and Judge Lorraine Raggio.
- For the Ally of the Year Award: Cathedral of Hope, Organizing for America, Dallas Stonewall Young Democrats.
- For the Pink Pump Award: Dallas City Councilwoman Monica Alonzo, County Judge Clay Jenkins and Gillian Parillo.

Nominees for the Christy Kinsler Board Mem-

ber of the Year Award will be announced during the awards presentation.

For information on donating or sponsorships, contact Omar Narvaez by email at [Omar@stonewalldemocratsofdallas.com](mailto:Omar@stonewalldemocratsofdallas.com).

**Spirit of Giving holiday fundraisers**

• **BACH Blanket Drive for the Homeless**

In honor of the late Windy Churitch, friends will be collecting blankets for the homeless on Saturday, Dec. 3, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., at The Brick/Joe's, 2525 Wycliff Ave. The blankets will be distributed through Cathedral of Hope's weekly "Breakfast at Cathedral of Hope (BACH)" meals program for the homeless. Churitch, a longtime resident of the Dallas area, died unexpectedly in October.

• **Stonewall Democrats' 'Santa Can'**

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas will hold their annual "Santa Can" donation drive benefiting Legacy Finds Cottage during the Stonewall Democrats' Holiday Party Monday, Dec. 5, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. Items needed include clothes, socks, shoes, paper towels, eating utensils, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, latex gloves, heating pads, adult diapers, razors, soap, body wash and nail care products. Contact Omar Narvaez by email at [Omar@stonewalldemocratsofdallas.com](mailto:Omar@stonewalldemocratsofdallas.com) for more info or to arrange to have items picked up or dropped off.

*The Spirit of Giving calendar will be updated weekly during December. Email events to [editor@dallasvoice.com](mailto:editor@dallasvoice.com).*

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# Investigation continues into 2nd fatal hit-and-run on Cedar Springs

LGBT liaison officer says police have 'good information' from witnesses; Hunt says efforts to improve safety 'must be expedited'

**TAMMYE NASH** | Senior Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

Dallas police are continuing their investigation this week into the Nov. 25 hit-and-run on Cedar Springs Road that claimed the life of Edward Lee King, 61.

LGBT Liaison Officer Laura Martin said police reports indicate King was crossing from the west side to the east side, in the middle of the 4100 block of Cedar Springs, near the Knight Street intersection, around 10:30 p.m., when he was struck by a dark-colored SUV traveling south.

The vehicle, described by witnesses as possibly a Land Rover or a Range Rover with wraparound taillights, sped off without stopping and turned east on Throckmorton Street.

Martin said police have "some pretty good information" from witnesses and hope to locate the driver of the vehicle soon.

King, known to family and friends as Joe, worked part time at Amico Pizza, located on Cedar Springs near the site of the accident. He was the second person to be killed within a three-block area of Cedar Springs in November.

Wayne Priest, 55, was killed Nov. 3 in a hit-and-run near the intersection of Cedar Springs and Reagan Street.

Martin said that the two incidents in November were the second and third traffic incidents involving pedestrians between the 3800 block and the 4200 block of Cedar Springs this year. The first occurred in January, but Martin said the pedestrian in that incident was not seriously injured, according to reports she had seen.

Dallas City Councilwoman Angela Hunt, whose District 14 lines the east side of Cedar Springs Road where both fatalities occurred, said this week that city officials continue to search for ways to improve safety in the high-traffic entertainment district.

Following Priest's death early in the month, Hunt told Dallas Voice she had asked city officials to "look into exactly what happened and to make recommendations about how we can move forward in making the area safer."

This week, following King's death, Hunt said those efforts "have to be expedited. This is obviously a situation that needs immediate attention."

She said the city is looking at other cities to see how they have addressed the issue of pedestrian safety in similar areas.

"There are a range of issues involved," Hunt said. "I am no expert. But we have to find an expedited and thoughtful solution."



Angela Hunt

Councilwoman Pauline Medrano, who represents District 2 on the west side of Cedar Springs, did not return calls this week seeking comment. ■



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## ■ texasnews

### TRANS

From Page 6

San Antonio appeals court's 1999 ruling in Littleton v. Prange, which found that gender is determined at birth and cannot be changed.

However, critics argue that the Littleton decision is unconstitutional and isn't binding in other parts of Texas.

In response to the Araguz case, a bill was introduced in the Texas Legislature this year to ban transgender marriage. The bill would have removed proof of a sex change from the list of documents that can be used to obtain marriage licenses. Strongly opposed by LGBT advocates, it cleared a Senate committee but never made it to the floor.

Meanwhile, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, a Republican who recently intervened in two same-sex divorce cases to try to block them, has thus far stayed out of the fray over transgender marriage.

After a transgender woman and a cisgender woman applied for a marriage license in 2010, the El Paso County clerk requested a ruling from Abbott about whether to grant it. But Abbott opted not to weigh in, with his office saying it would instead wait for court rulings in the Araguz case. The couple was later able to marry in San Antonio, where the county clerk went by Littleton v. Prange.

A spokesman for Abbott's office didn't return a phone call seeking comment this week about

Hockett's ruling in the Dallas case. But Gormly said he'd welcome the challenge if Abbott chooses to intervene.

"Bring it on," Gormly said. "Let him give it his best shot. ... I've got to think that Greg Abbott has more important issues to deal with."

Attorney Thomas A. Nicol, a divorce specialist who represents Robertson, said he's already notified the AG's office about Hockett's ruling.

"I think certainly the attorney general, if it wants, can certainly jump in and say they have standing because it appears the statute is not being followed," Nicol said.

He called Hockett's ruling "disappointing" but downplayed its significance.

Nicol said for his motion to be denied, Gormly needed to show only that one material fact was in dispute. Hockett provided no explanation in her one-page ruling dated Nov. 21, and Nicol said he now expects the judge to fully address the transgender marriage issue at trial.

"It's hardly groundbreaking," Nicols said of Hockett's denial of summary judgment, which cannot be appealed. "It's a non-event except for these two litigants, so I'm a little bit surprised that press releases were issued at this stage of the game, because nothing's happened yet."

### From house-husband to activist

This coming weekend, the 57-year-old King will move out of a five-bedroom, 3,200-square

foot house in Cedar Hill — and into a small rental cottage. King is being evicted after the house, which the couple built together in 2001, went into foreclosure.

King, who's disabled from scoliosis, said he was a faithful "house husband" — he did the grocery shopping, took care of the dogs and provided emotional support — while Robertson worked as a radiologist at the Dallas VA Medical Center. "The only thing I didn't do was cook," King said.

King and Gormly allege that in July 2010, Robertson opened a personal bank account and cut him off from the couple's funds.

"After 12 years of marriage, she basically was trying to shove him overboard without a life jacket and sail off with her new boyfriend," Gormly said.

After Robertson filed to declare the marriage void in September 2010, King filed a counter petition for divorce in February. In June, Robertson filed her motion for summary judgment.

Gormly said the divorce likely would have been final six months ago if it hadn't been for the transgender marriage issue. Instead, both parties have racked up tens of thousands of dollars worth of legal bills.

King said the case is about money. "She stands to inherit a good deal of money that she doesn't want me to get my hands on," he said. "I didn't marry her for money. I married

■ TRANS, Next Page



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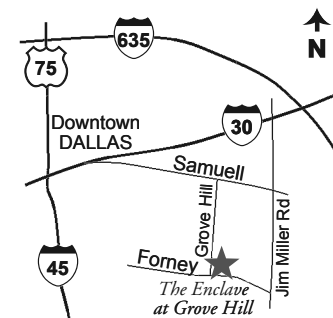
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■ **TRANS**, From Previous Page

her because I loved her. I just want what I would have gotten in a regular divorce."

King said he's known he was transgender since an early age. In high school he cross-dressed and dated girls. He jokes that he kept waiting for a penis to grow and was disappointed when his mother told him he needed to start wearing a shirt after he developed breasts.

In 1998, months before he married Robertson, King had his breasts and ovaries removed. At the time the couple had already been together for 10 years. King also obtained a birth certificate from his native Iowa identifying him as male. The only transitional step King hasn't undertaken is a phalloplasty — an expensive, imperfect and dangerous procedure for female-to-male transsexuals.

King, who sports a full beard and mustache thanks to hormone therapy, said no one except his doctor's office knew he was transgender during the time the couple lived together in Cedar Hill. He acknowledges this will change now, but says the case is about more than just him now.

"Most importantly if it keep kids from killing themselves because they're different — that doesn't need to be," King said.

"I'm fully aware that after this case comes out in the press, I could be threatened, but at the moment it seems minor compared to what my wife has done to me," he added. "It's about equality for everyone." ■

**DISD**

From Page 6

by some DISD administrators to stop the implementation of the anti-bullying policy. "My agency has received reports from [DISD] employees," Cox said. "They have been told not to use the online reporting system."

She warned the board of the serious consequences of ignoring bullying in schools: "You will have blood on your hands."

Narvaez also praised the policy that passed unanimously a year ago, noting that it is being used as "a blueprint across the state."

But, he added, two-thirds of DISD principals still need to be trained on the reporting system.

"It's time we forget about politics," he said.

Narvaez told the board several stories of DISD students having been bullied for a variety of reasons beyond sexual orientation and reminded them that the policy would keep all students safer.

Narvaez said that while some administrators fear that repeated reports of bullying would be counted against a school, instead, schools with the highest rates of reporting should be seen as having principals doing their jobs diligently and that schools that don't report incidents of bullying should be seen as having principals ignoring the problem.

After the two spoke during the brief public comments section of the board meeting, DISD trustee Nancy Bingham spoke privately with Cox. Bingham, an early supporter of the anti-bullying policy, said the board would be getting a briefing. ■

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Image (detail): Jean Paul Gaultier, *Punk Cancan* collection, cancan-style ruched tulle strapless dress with "whirl of legs" lining, haute couture spring/summer 2011, photograph © Patrice Stable/Jean Paul Gaultier

# A Gathering to remember



**RAISE YOUR VOICE** | Gary Floyd, right, directs singers, from left, Damon K. Clark, Rachel Dupard and Denise Lee during a rehearsal for 'A Gathering.' (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

The benefit gala commemorates 30 years of AIDS and its impact on Dallas, North Texas

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Life+Style Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

Charles Santos was having breakfast at Lucky's with Jonathan Palant last summer when the now-former artistic director of the Turtle Creek Chorale mentioned that the chorale was born in the time of AIDS. This year, Palant told him, marks 30 years since the first cases of what was first known as "Gay-Related Immune Deficiency," or GRID, were reported.

The comment got Santos thinking how deeply the arts — in North Texas and across the world — had been affected by the pandemic.

Some people might have spent time reflecting on how their lives and the world have changed; others might have felt compelled to discuss it with friends. Maybe some might have written an op-ed piece of the "lest we forget" variety.

But Santos had a different idea.

As executive director of TITAS, which has brought art and music performances to Dallas for decades, Santos was in a unique position. He had access to the Winspear Opera House and a Rolodex that included every major performing arts leader in the region.

More than that, he had a passion to produce a show. And he wanted everyone within earshot to participate.

Santos started by gathering a core group of area leaders, including the Dallas Theater Center's Joel Ferrell and Kevin Moriarty and AT&T Performing Arts Center external affairs director Chris Heinebaugh. They and others came up with the beneficiaries, how to approach arts organizations, the structure of the show.

"We wrote it, and it's pretty remarkable, unlike the other events I have done," says Santos. "We

talked about what the pieces were and what we wanted to concentrate on."

The idea of the staging will be like a deconstructed musical that lays out three emotional "arcs" to be covered in two acts: First, loss, heroism and fury; second, faith, family, friends and caring; finally, action and change.

Thus was formed *A Gathering: The Dallas Arts Community Reflects on 30 Years of AIDS*, a one-night-only concert and fundraiser being held at the Winspear Opera House on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Ultimately, about a dozen performing arts groups signed on, as well as many vocalists, musicians and other leaders. All told, more than 200 individuals will be taking part.

The ground rules for participation were simple: With the exception of certain unavoidable costs (unionized stage hands, licensing fees for music, etc.), everyone involved had to volunteer their time — every penny raised will benefit equally four local charities: AIDS Arms, AIDS Interfaith Network, AIDS Services of Dallas and Resource Center Dallas.

"Everyone's been great," Santos says. "ATTPAC donated the theater and waived all the ticket fees; a printer donated the programs and posters.

"I have been very clear that this is all being donated. When I was talking to one of the orchestras, they said they wanted to participate but couldn't donate their time. I said, 'I totally understand but I can't use you.' There are no comps — everyone is buying their own tickets. All the performers are buying tickets for their loved ones."

The outpouring of support from the community has been reminiscent of the town of Bedford Falls helping out George Bailey at the end of *It's a Wonderful Life* — a fitting metaphor during the holiday season. And while Santos has been grateful for the generosity, he says it really does not surprise him.

"One of the things the gay community

■ GATHERING, Page 14

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GETTING READY | Charles Santos, right, and Millicent Johnnie, assistant professor of dance at SMU's Meadows School of The Arts, second from right, look on during a recent rehearsal for 'A Gathering.' (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

## GATHERING

From Page 13

learned during the early days of the AIDS crisis was that we had to take care of our own — we had to change the world. What a remarkable thing it was," he says.

And it's that spirit that has driven *A Gathering*. "To my knowledge, this has never happened in this community, this many arts organizations collaborating on one event. Everyone has been so generous. That's why I'm interested to see what comes of it. I hope it generates more collaborative projects in our community. If these groups all say, 'Let's do another project, maybe in our own seasons,' that would be excellent. In this economy, we are in a real period of wearing collaborative clothes."

This kind of benefit wasn't really new to Santos, though it had been a long time coming.

"When I was a dancer, I did shows like this," he explains.

He put a performance fundraiser together in Austin that became an annual event. But since moving to Dallas in 2001, "I was focused on TITAS and didn't do any more AIDS work. I haven't done an AIDS benefit in years, so I'm really excited."

It is perhaps for that reason that Santos threw himself head-long into producing this show with only three months of prep time.

"It's a massive amount of work — I force myself to spend time on it every day," he says. "Chris [Heinbaugh] has been great about keeping my thoughts grounded and relating it back to Dallas."

Maintaining the focus on North Texas, in fact, was a key decision made early in the process.

"We all jointly made a decision to keep it local," Santos says. "We all had the contacts to bring in headliners like Kristin Chenoweth and Bill T. Jones, but then that becomes a different animal. This is about our community."

(The program will include a photo montage of

locals who have died of AIDS.)

Nevertheless, Santos' plan for *A Gathering* was a scope that extended beyond our borders — both Dallas' and the gay community's.

"One of the discussions I've had with everyone is that it doesn't all have to be about the gay community and doesn't have to be literal. We all know the impact on the gay community, but this is a global issue — gay, straight, single, married. It is a human issue.

"As we're talking about a particular emotion, we noted that something taken out of context can be very helpful — it doesn't all have to be *Rent* and *The Normal Heart* and *Angels in America*. There will be a microphone close to the audience where people [including former Mayor Laura Miller and various TV news anchors] will do readings.

"We include facts that deal with the impact of AIDS in Africa, so we have a piece of choreography that's a tribute to [composer and activist] Fela Kuti, who died of AIDS. We have a statement about discrimination. The opera is sending us a countertenor to sing for us. Some of the AIDS quilt panels will be flown in and be on display."

While some tickets have been set aside for clients of the AIDS organizations served by the benefit, Santos' great hope is that the entire community turns out to participate and reflect on AIDS.

"I hope the community comes out for it. It will be an amazing show, a real spectacular," he said. ■

Participating organizations include the AT&T Performing Arts Center, Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Bruce Wood Dance Project, CharlieUniformTango, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Dallas Opera, Dallas Theater Center, SMU Meadows School for the Arts, Texas Ballet Theater, TITAS and the Turtle Creek Chorale. Vocalists include Gary Lynn Floyd, Damon K. Clark, Denise Lee, Patty Breckenridge, John Holiday, Rachel Dupard and Cory Cooper.

Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. \$12-\$200. 214-880-0202.

# LGBT community gets into the holiday spirit

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** As the holiday season kicks into high gear, the LGBT community of North Texas once again is responding in a variety of ways to help out those who are less fortunate.

This week Dallas Voice profiles five events intended to raise funds or other donations for a number of different causes. But the community's good will doesn't end with these events.

If you know of an individual, business or organization that is holding or participating in a charitable holiday event or effort, email the information to [editor@dallasvoice.com](mailto:editor@dallasvoice.com).

## TGRA Dallas' Hard Candy Christmas Show and Auction

While some local charities have experienced major declines in fundraising due to the bad economy, the Dallas chapter of the Texas Gay Rodeo Association has actually seen an increase, according to President Dan Nagel.

"When I was first elected to the board as the chapter's state rep four years back, my partner Mark Gurrola and I knew there were opportunities for improvement in our organization that were greatly needed," Nagel said. "With the condition of our economy, change had to occur. Our

first goal was to partner with other organizations and businesses in the Dallas GLBT community. There really was no relationship at that time.

"Secondly, our events needed to be produced and promoted better than in the past. Third, the membership had shrunk and needed to grow," Nagel said. "We have successfully done all three."

The new and improved TGRA Dallas will again be on display Dec. 10, when the organization hosts its 25th annual Hard Candy Christmas Show and Auction. This year, TGRA Dallas will again team with the United Court of the Lone Star Empire for Hard Candy Christmas.

Nagel said Hard Candy Christmas was started by TGRA Dallas members Tom Davis and Michael Lee, who produced the first show in 1987. That night, a drag queen named "Boo-tee-La-Tits" took the stage and sang "Hardy Candy Christmas" by Dolly Parton, Nagel said.

This year, hosts and emcees will be Miss International Gay Rodeo Victoria Weston, Miss TGRA Trisha Davis and Empress XXIII Miss Donna Dumae.

"It's very Christmas themed," Nagel said. "Most of the entertainers will do Christmas numbers. There will be a lot of live singers. Not all of it is going to be live, but we try to fill this with 50



Mark Gurrola, left, and Dan Nagel

percent live vocal talents."

In addition to 20-25 auction baskets, the event will feature a Christmas tree on which bulbs will be sold until it's completely lit—and maybe even an elf or two, Nagel said.

"We produce this event basically cost-free," he said. "Our members will, out of their own pockets, go out and buy stuff and put auction baskets

■ **HARD CANDY**, Page 16

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**HARD CANDY**

From Page 15

together, so there's really no expense. I'd say about 99.9 percent of it will all go to charity."

TGRA Dallas, part of the 29-year-old TGRA, hosts 10 fundraising events each year — or one every four to six weeks, Nagel said. Each year the chapter's board votes on beneficiaries for the following year's events.

For 2011, beneficiaries are Health Services of North Texas, Youth First Texas, Texas Legal Hospice, Legacy Counseling Center, Resource Center Dallas, AIDS Services of Dallas, the Sharon St. Cyr Fund and AIDS Interfaith Network.

TGRA is a nonprofit whose mission is to promote the Western lifestyle, produce rodeos and raise money for charity. And when it comes to the latter, Nagel said the Dallas chapter does it best.

"We're the only chapter out of TGRA that has these big annual events that have a lot of longevity to them," Nagel said. "I think here in Dallas we've been fortunate, because I've seen the other chapters fundraising go down the last three or four years, where ours has gone up."

TGRA Dallas and the United Court of the Lone Star Empire team up for the *Hard Candy Christmas Show and Auction* at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

— John Wright

**Linze Serrell's Toys for Tots Show**

Saturday night, Dec. 10, Garlow's in Gun Barrel City will play host to Linze Serrell's annual Toys for Tots fundraising show, to gather donations of cash and toys for the U.S. Marines' Toys for Tots program.

Brian Paris, show director at Garlow's, said that this is the second holiday season since the bar opened, and the second year that the club has hosted the event.

Paris explained that the annual Toys for Tots benefit show was started more than 25 years ago by Bill Lindsey, known across the Metroplex as Linze Serrell, a female impersonator who sings live and focuses his efforts on charitable events.

"This is Linze's baby, her pet project, on top of everything else that [Lindsey and his partner Michael Champion, aka Sable Alexander] do," Paris said.

For Lindsey, the annual show is a way to give back and say thanks for the blessings in



Linze Serrell

his own life. "My mom was a single mom who worked three jobs. There were times growing up that we wouldn't have had Christmas without the support of the church and organizations like Toys for Tots," he said. "I know what it feels like to be without, and I want to do something to make sure other kids don't have to go without."

Despite a recent stroke, Lindsey said he would definitely attend the event at Garlow's. "I'd have to be six feet under not to be at this show! And even then, they'd dig me up and put me in the corner! I even plan on singing a song in the show."

Paris said the show will be "really just a regular drag show," except that all the performers are donating their time and all the tips go to help buy toys for Toys for Tots.

"Last year, we had a stage full of people participating, and we raised about \$2,000. And we had a lot of fun doing it. And all the people participating do it on their own dime. No one receives a penny of compensation.

"These entertainers, we all travel thousands of miles each year, whether it's to participate in a pageant system for the Home for the Holidays [a program that raises funds to send people with HIV/AIDS home]. But there is nothing in this show that has any personal benefit for the performers, in terms of winning a title or anything. They just do it for the fun of it and for the chance to make Christmas a little

bit better for some children who might not have had Christmas otherwise."

He said that this show is also the only time that Garlow's ever charges a cover charge, and that the suggested donation of \$5 or a new, unwrapped toy at the door will also go into the Toys for Tots total.

But Paris said he knows that a trip to Gun Barrel to attend the show may be out of the question for some. "If someone wants to help but can't make it down here to Gun Barrel City, then they should find someone where they are who needs help," he said. "It doesn't even have to be doing something for kids. There are lots of people in nursing homes who need a hug. Just go and sit and spend some time with someone who needs your company."

Linze Serrell's annual Toys for Tots benefit show begins at 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at Garlow's, 308 E. Main St. in Gun Barrel City.

— Tammye Nash

**Pam's Presents Toy Drive for Genesis Women's Shelter**

In December 2008, Daphyne Lyle didn't know what to expect when she organized the first Pam's Presents event. But that didn't matter, since Lyle merely wanted to continue the charity work her mother Pam Lyle did during the holidays with her partner Pat Wilson.

■ PAM Next Page

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■ **PAM** From Previous Page

Fast forward three years as the Pam's Presents Christmas Toy Drive holds its sixth event at TMC: The Mining Company on Dec. 11.

"She and Pat would have Christmas parties at their house for the employees and asked people to bring an item or toy," Lyle said of her mother. "She would donate those items to The Family Place. After she passed, I wanted to keep that spirit alive and do our own drive."

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And so Pam Lyle lives on with the help of Wilson and Daphyne Lyle and through their collective generosity, Genesis clients can look forward to a merrier Christmas.

"The only thing I want everyone to know is thank you," Lyle added.

*Pam's Presents will be held Sunday, Dec. 11, at TMC: The Mining Company, 3903 Cedar Springs Road. For more information, search "Pam's Presents" at Facebook.com.*

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This year for the sixth year, Metropolitan Community Church of Greater Dallas is collecting coats for the homeless.

The first delivery will go to clients of AIDS Interfaith Network, said the Rev. Colleen Darraugh, MCCGD pastor. Of people with AIDS in Dallas, that organization's clients are among the most at-risk and most likely to be homeless, she said.

Darraugh said that the annual coat drive has expanded this year to include sweats, hoodies and socks.

"A dry pair of socks can make all the difference," she said.

The church kicked off its holiday season of giving by participating in Saturday Night Live at AIN, in which a group prepared a weekend supper for clients and provided entertainment. After dinner, the 27 volunteers sent AIN's clients home with bags of granola bars, apples and oranges in addition to leftovers.

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"So we're asking people to ask neighbors and co-workers to contribute," she said.

They are collecting items every Sunday at the church at 1840 Hutton Drive #100 in Carrollton.

Anyone who would like to help

with delivery is welcome to join. Darraugh said they have a borrowed horse trailer that they expect to be filled with items. After stopping at AIN near downtown Dallas, they will distribute items to people living on the street.

But Darraugh said the need doesn't end at Christmas, and the church will continue collecting items to make a January delivery as well.

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# A Gathering to remember



**RAISE YOUR VOICE** | Gary Floyd, right, directs singers, from left, Damon K. Clark, Rachel Dupard and Denise Lee during a rehearsal for 'A Gathering.' (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

The benefit gala commemorates 30 years of AIDS and its impact on Dallas, North Texas

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Life+Style Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

Charles Santos was having breakfast at Lucky's with Jonathan Palant last summer when the now-former artistic director of the Turtle Creek Chorale mentioned that the chorale was born in the time of AIDS. This year, Palant told him, marks 30 years since the first cases of what was first known as "Gay-Related Immune Deficiency," or GRID, were reported.

The comment got Santos thinking how deeply the arts — in North Texas and across the world — had been affected by the pandemic.

Some people might have spent time reflecting on how their lives and the world have changed; others might have felt compelled to discuss it with friends. Maybe some might have written an op-ed piece of the "lest we forget" variety.

But Santos had a different idea.

As executive director of TITAS, which has brought art and music performances to Dallas for decades, Santos was in a unique position. He had access to the Winspear Opera House and a Rolodex that included every major performing arts leader in the region.

More than that, he had a passion to produce a show. And he wanted everyone within earshot to participate.

Santos started by gathering a core group of area leaders, including the Dallas Theater Center's Joel Ferrell and Kevin Moriarty and AT&T Performing Arts Center external affairs director Chris Heinebaugh. They and others came up with the beneficiaries, how to approach arts organizations, the structure of the show.

"We wrote it, and it's pretty remarkable, unlike the other events I have done," says Santos. "We

talked about what the pieces were and what we wanted to concentrate on."

The idea of the staging will be like a deconstructed musical that lays out three emotional "arcs" to be covered in two acts: First, loss, heroism and fury; second, faith, family, friends and caring; finally, action and change.

Thus was formed *A Gathering: The Dallas Arts Community Reflects on 30 Years of AIDS*, a one-night-only concert and fundraiser being held at the Winspear Opera House on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Ultimately, about a dozen performing arts groups signed on, as well as many vocalists, musicians and other leaders. All told, more than 200 individuals will be taking part.

The ground rules for participation were simple: With the exception of certain unavoidable costs (unionized stage hands, licensing fees for music, etc.), everyone involved had to volunteer their time — every penny raised will benefit equally four local charities: AIDS Arms, AIDS Interfaith Network, AIDS Services of Dallas and Resource Center Dallas.

"Everyone's been great," Santos says. "ATTPAC donated the theater and waived all the ticket fees; a printer donated the programs and posters.

"I have been very clear that this is all being donated. When I was talking to one of the orchestras, they said they wanted to participate but couldn't donate their time. I said, 'I totally understand but I can't use you.' There are no comps — everyone is buying their own tickets. All the performers are buying tickets for their loved ones."

The outpouring of support from the community has been reminiscent of the town of Bedford Falls helping out George Bailey at the end of *It's a Wonderful Life* — a fitting metaphor during the holiday season. And while Santos has been grateful for the generosity, he says it really does not surprise him.

"One of the things the gay community

■ GATHERING, Page 14

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GETTING READY | Charles Santos, right, and Millicent Johnnie, assistant professor of dance at SMU's Meadows School of The Arts, second from right, look on during a recent rehearsal for 'A Gathering.' (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)

## GATHERING

From Page 13

learned during the early days of the AIDS crisis was that we had to take care of our own — we had to change the world. What a remarkable thing it was," he says.

And it's that spirit that has driven *A Gathering*. "To my knowledge, this has never happened in this community, this many arts organizations collaborating on one event. Everyone has been so generous. That's why I'm interested to see what comes of it. I hope it generates more collaborative projects in our community. If these groups all say, 'Let's do another project, maybe in our own seasons,' that would be excellent. In this economy, we are in a real period of wearing collaborative clothes."

This kind of benefit wasn't really new to Santos, though it had been a long time coming.

"When I was a dancer, I did shows like this," he explains.

He put a performance fundraiser together in Austin that became an annual event. But since moving to Dallas in 2001, "I was focused on TITAS and didn't do any more AIDS work. I haven't done an AIDS benefit in years, so I'm really excited."

It is perhaps for that reason that Santos threw himself head-long into producing this show with only three months of prep time.

"It's a massive amount of work — I force myself to spend time on it every day," he says. "Chris [Heinbaugh] has been great about keeping my thoughts grounded and relating it back to Dallas."

Maintaining the focus on North Texas, in fact, was a key decision made early in the process.

"We all jointly made a decision to keep it local," Santos says. "We all had the contacts to bring in headliners like Kristin Chenoweth and Bill T. Jones, but then that becomes a different animal. This is about our community."

(The program will include a photo montage of

locals who have died of AIDS.)

Nevertheless, Santos' plan for *A Gathering* was a scope that extended beyond our borders — both Dallas' and the gay community's.

"One of the discussions I've had with everyone is that it doesn't all have to be about the gay community and doesn't have to be literal. We all know the impact on the gay community, but this is a global issue — gay, straight, single, married. It is a human issue.

"As we're talking about a particular emotion, we noted that something taken out of context can be very helpful — it doesn't all have to be *Rent* and *The Normal Heart* and *Angels in America*. There will be a microphone close to the audience where people [including former Mayor Laura Miller and various TV news anchors] will do readings.

"We include facts that deal with the impact of AIDS in Africa, so we have a piece of choreography that's a tribute to [composer and activist] Fela Kuti, who died of AIDS. We have a statement about discrimination. The opera is sending us a countertenor to sing for us. Some of the AIDS quilt panels will be flown in and be on display."

While some tickets have been set aside for clients of the AIDS organizations served by the benefit, Santos' great hope is that the entire community turns out to participate and reflect on AIDS.

"I hope the community comes out for it. It will be an amazing show, a real spectacular," he said. ■

Participating organizations include the AT&T Performing Arts Center, Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts, Bruce Wood Dance Project, CharlieUniformTango, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Dallas Opera, Dallas Theater Center, SMU Meadows School for the Arts, Texas Ballet Theater, TITAS and the Turtle Creek Chorale. Vocalists include Gary Lynn Floyd, Damon K. Clark, Denise Lee, Patty Breckenridge, John Holiday, Rachel Dupard and Cory Cooper.

Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Dec. 6 at 7 p.m. \$12-\$200. 214-880-0202.

# LGBT community gets into the holiday spirit

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** As the holiday season kicks into high gear, the LGBT community of North Texas once again is responding in a variety of ways to help out those who are less fortunate.

This week Dallas Voice profiles five events intended to raise funds or other donations for a number of different causes. But the community's good will doesn't end with these events.

If you know of an individual, business or organization that is holding or participating in a charitable holiday event or effort, email the information to [editor@dallasvoice.com](mailto:editor@dallasvoice.com).

## TGRA Dallas' Hard Candy Christmas Show and Auction

While some local charities have experienced major declines in fundraising due to the bad economy, the Dallas chapter of the Texas Gay Rodeo Association has actually seen an increase, according to President Dan Nagel.

"When I was first elected to the board as the chapter's state rep four years back, my partner Mark Gurrola and I knew there were opportunities for improvement in our organization that were greatly needed," Nagel said. "With the condition of our economy, change had to occur. Our

first goal was to partner with other organizations and businesses in the Dallas GLBT community. There really was no relationship at that time.

"Secondly, our events needed to be produced and promoted better than in the past. Third, the membership had shrunk and needed to grow," Nagel said. "We have successfully done all three."

The new and improved TGRA Dallas will again be on display Dec. 10, when the organization hosts its 25th annual Hard Candy Christmas Show and Auction. This year, TGRA Dallas will again team with the United Court of the Lone Star Empire for Hard Candy Christmas.

Nagel said Hard Candy Christmas was started by TGRA Dallas members Tom Davis and Michael Lee, who produced the first show in 1987. That night, a drag queen named "Boo-tee-La-Tits" took the stage and sang "Hardy Candy Christmas" by Dolly Parton, Nagel said.

This year, hosts and emcees will be Miss International Gay Rodeo Victoria Weston, Miss TGRA Trisha Davis and Empress XXIII Miss Donna Dumae.

"It's very Christmas themed," Nagel said. "Most of the entertainers will do Christmas numbers. There will be a lot of live singers. Not all of it is going to be live, but we try to fill this with 50



Mark Gurrola, left, and Dan Nagel

percent live vocal talents."

In addition to 20-25 auction baskets, the event will feature a Christmas tree on which bulbs will be sold until it's completely lit—and maybe even an elf or two, Nagel said.

"We produce this event basically cost-free," he said. "Our members will, out of their own pockets, go out and buy stuff and put auction baskets

■ **HARD CANDY**, Page 16

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**HARD CANDY**

From Page 15

together, so there's really no expense. I'd say about 99.9 percent of it will all go to charity."

TGRA Dallas, part of the 29-year-old TGRA, hosts 10 fundraising events each year — or one every four to six weeks, Nagel said. Each year the chapter's board votes on beneficiaries for the following year's events.

For 2011, beneficiaries are Health Services of North Texas, Youth First Texas, Texas Legal Hospice, Legacy Counseling Center, Resource Center Dallas, AIDS Services of Dallas, the Sharon St. Cyr Fund and AIDS Interfaith Network.

TGRA is a nonprofit whose mission is to promote the Western lifestyle, produce rodeos and raise money for charity. And when it comes to the latter, Nagel said the Dallas chapter does it best.

"We're the only chapter out of TGRA that has these big annual events that have a lot of longevity to them," Nagel said. "I think here in Dallas we've been fortunate, because I've seen the other chapters fundraising go down the last three or four years, where ours has gone up."

TGRA Dallas and the United Court of the Lone Star Empire team up for the Hard Candy Christmas Show and Auction at 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

— John Wright

**Linze Serrell's Toys for Tots Show**

Saturday night, Dec. 10, Garlow's in Gun Barrel City will play host to Linze Serrell's annual Toys for Tots fundraising show, to gather donations of cash and toys for the U.S. Marines' Toys for Tots program.

Brian Paris, show director at Garlow's, said that this is the second holiday season since the bar opened, and the second year that the club has hosted the event.

Paris explained that the annual Toys for Tots benefit show was started more than 25 years ago by Bill Lindsey, known across the Metroplex as Linze Serrell, a female impersonator who sings live and focuses his efforts on charitable events.

"This is Linze's baby, her pet project, on top of everything else that [Lindsey and his partner Michael Champion, aka Sable Alexander] do," Paris said.

For Lindsey, the annual show is a way to give back and say thanks for the blessings in



Linze Serrell

his own life. "My mom was a single mom who worked three jobs. There were times growing up that we wouldn't have had Christmas without the support of the church and organizations like Toys for Tots," he said. "I know what it feels like to be without, and I want to do something to make sure other kids don't have to go without."

Despite a recent stroke, Lindsey said he would definitely attend the event at Garlow's. "I'd have to be six feet under not to be at this show! And even then, they'd dig me up and put me in the corner! I even plan on singing a song in the show."

Paris said the show will be "really just a regular drag show," except that all the performers are donating their time and all the tips go to help buy toys for Toys for Tots.

"Last year, we had a stage full of people participating, and we raised about \$2,000. And we had a lot of fun doing it. And all the people participating do it on their own dime. No one receives a penny of compensation.

"These entertainers, we all travel thousands of miles each year, whether it's to participate in a pageant system for the Home for the Holidays [a program that raises funds to send people with HIV/AIDS home]. But there is nothing in this show that has any personal benefit for the performers, in terms of winning a title or anything. They just do it for the fun of it and for the chance to make Christmas a little

bit better for some children who might not have had Christmas otherwise."

He said that this show is also the only time that Garlow's ever charges a cover charge, and that the suggested donation of \$5 or a new, unwrapped toy at the door will also go into the Toys for Tots total.

But Paris said he knows that a trip to Gun Barrel to attend the show may be out of the question for some. "If someone wants to help but can't make it down here to Gun Barrel City, then they should find someone where they are who needs help," he said. "It doesn't even have to be doing something for kids. There are lots of people in nursing homes who need a hug. Just go and sit and spend some time with someone who needs your company."

Linze Serrell's annual Toys for Tots benefit show begins at 10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, at Garlow's, 308 E. Main St. in Gun Barrel City.

— Tammye Nash

**Pam's Presents Toy Drive for Genesis Women's Shelter**

In December 2008, Daphyne Lyle didn't know what to expect when she organized the first Pam's Presents event. But that didn't matter, since Lyle merely wanted to continue the charity work her mother Pam Lyle did during the holidays with her partner Pat Wilson.

■ PAM Next Page

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■ **PAM** From Previous Page

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Pam and Daphyne Lyle

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Colleen Darraugh

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— David Taffet

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viewpoints

# Barney Frank's lasting legacy

Congressman made history when he came out in 1987, opening the door for other LGBT politicians

Openly gay U.S. Congressman Barney Frank's monumental contribution to the LGBT rights movement will one day be honored in the collection of unique individuals and events that makes up every American history book. Frank, 71 now, may not be alive to see that day arrive, but as sure as God made little apples, it's coming.

That's because the LGBT rights movement has become an unstoppable force under the guidance of the testy congressman from Massachusetts and that of the scores of other openly gay and lesbian politicians who have joined him over the years in public office at every level of local, state and national government.

Now that Frank, a Democrat, has announced he will retire in 2012 and not seek re-election to the congressional office he has held since 1981, it is time to start putting his contributions to the American human rights movement in perspective.

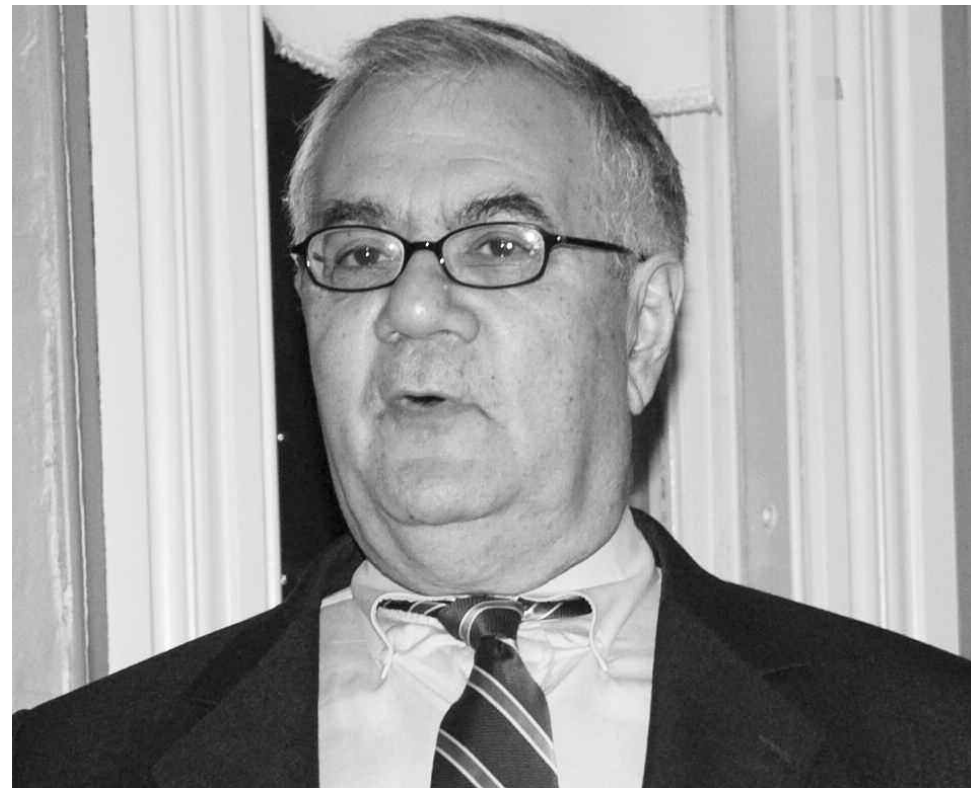
Most LGBT rights activists agree the single most important measure in achieving success requires securing a place at the table where law is being made, and Frank accomplished that at the highest level a quarter-century ago when he publicly came out.

At the time Frank came out he had already served in Congress for six years, and it surely was no surprise to his colleagues, friends and families to learn about his sexual orientation. But the same could not be said for the majority of the American public, which still viewed homosexuality as quirky at best.

Even many LGBT people were unsure in 1987 about what to make of a congressman coming out as gay and thought it would likely be the end of his political career, which he began in the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1973.

Probably to the shock of some, Frank continued to gain respect in Congress, and he now is viewed as one of the smartest, wittiest and most eloquent politicians in Washington, D.C.

Frank achieved success and gained admiration from his peers, the media, his constituents and others — even after being enveloped in a scandal in 1989 that nearly wrecked his career. The public learned that year that Frank had an affair with a male prostitute, whom the congressman had al-



U.S. Congressman Barney Frank

lowed to move into his home.

Frank was investigated by the House Ethics Commission at his own request, and it ruled after a 10-month inquiry that the congressman had not been aware the live-in prostitute had continued to practice his trade from the household. The commission did recommend Frank be reprimanded for using his position as a congressman to get favors for his prostitute boyfriend.

In the height of irony, Frank survived an attempt by former Republican Idaho Congressman Larry Craig to remove him from office. Craig, who was elected in 1991 to the Senate for Idaho, made news in 2007 for attempting to solicit sex from an undercover male vice squad officer in a Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport restroom.

Craig, who pleaded guilty to the charge but made laughable excuses about his predicament in an attempt to claim his innocence, did not run for re-election the following year. On the other hand, Frank went on after his scandal to win every following election by a wide margin.

At the time Frank came out as gay there was not much more than a handful of openly gay politicians in the nation, if that many. As Frank's fortunes rose, so did those of other politicians in the LGBT community, and today there are openly gay and lesbian people serving in a wide variety of major elective offices.

In the last election in November, the Victory Fund saw 53 of the 75 openly gay and lesbian candidates it had endorsed elected to office, includ-

ing Mayor Annise Parker of Houston, State Sen. Adam Ebbin of Virginia and State Assemblyman Tim Eustace of New Jersey.

As Frank retires from public office, he leaves behind in Congress his openly gay and lesbian colleagues Rep. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, Rep. Jared Polis of Colorado and Rep. David Cicilline of Rhode Island, who also are Democrats.

No openly gay or lesbian member of Congress has ever been elected on the Republican Party ticket, although there have been a number of gay Republicans who have served from the closet. And more than one has been exposed for their hypocrisy as a result of a scandal, something Frank wisely avoided.

Frank's legacy will be that he broke ground in American politics, inspiring other openly gay and lesbian people to seek and win elected office at every level. That has resulted in the type of political gains that many people who have been around since the start of the gay rights movement in 1969 never thought they would see, regardless of how Frank might be viewed on some other issues.

Considering what has happened in the past four decades, it is conceivable that one day an openly gay or lesbian politician could be elected to any office, including the U.S. Senate — or even higher. That's a thought that probably never even occurred to Frank back in 1987. ■

*David Webb is a veteran journalist who has covered LGBT issues for the mainstream and alternative media for three decades. E-mail him at davidwaynewebb@yahoo.com.*

# Feedback



Lupe Valdez

## Valdez vs. Latham for sheriff

"Southern Baptists don't believe in that." Don't believe for a second he won't use her sex-

ual orientation as a way to turn out religious voters for him if he feels the need.

*Tyler, via DallasVoice.com*

"I wasn't raised that way." What exactly is Latham implying by this statement? What exactly is "that way"? I guess in this part of the world religion trumps science.

*Lynn, via DallasVoice.com*

They can't attack her on job performance because she's doing a great job. After all, she brought the Dallas County jail up to state standards, something the previous sheriff wasn't able to do.

*Matthew, via DallasVoice.com*

## Texas Dems and gay marriage

While most of the GLBT community is focused on marriage equality and DOMA, personally I think that ENDA — the Employment Non-Discrimination Act — is vastly more important to the community. Marriage and the concomitant rights that come with it are great and I'm all for that of course. But having the right to "marry" your partner if you are unem-

ployed with no income means very little. Today, all over America, GLBT people can be fired just for being GLBT and that's wrong. I wish our community would fight as hard for ENDA as they seem to want to do for marriage. In today's very competitive economy, a good paying job should be of primary concern to our community, in my humble opinion.

*Jay Narey, via DallasVoice.com*

Jay, I agree. I just don't know why we can't put as much energy behind both. Both are important. Sadly there is not enough votes in congress to pass it. My side (Dems) are not all behind it, either. I know some think the president can just sign something and put it in place, but that's not how it works. Congress makes laws; the president enforces them. ENDA is vital for everyone, but is going to be just as hard to get through as marriage is. It sucks.

*George M., via DallasVoice.com*

Freaking cowards. And just hours ago here on the pages of Dallas Voice, we read about that Waxahachie gal who was fired from her job for "working while lesbian." It just sickens me.

*Ray Harwick, via DallasVoice.com*

This isn't strategic; it is cowardly. Principals should rule politics, not fear.

*Carrie Stewart, via DallasVoice.com*

Ray, you're not going to get ENDA from Texas. It needs to come from the U.S. government. Texas won't pass it, even if Dems scream it, and I'm sure you know that.

*George M., via DallasVoice.com*

ENDA won't pass here in the near term. But an ENDA resolution might help drive voter turnout. It could also help us to educate Texans. Most people don't realize that you can be legally fired in Texas for being gay.

*Matt, via DallasVoice.com*

A few things: Prioritization of rights (ENDA trumps DOMA repeal, blah blah blah) is insulting to anyone who really regards himself or herself as a free and equal person. In other words, "How dare you tell me that certain civil rights are more important than others." Injustice is injustice is injustice, plain and simple. I represent a growing LGBT population that is weary of this piecemeal, backburner approach to gaining our rights. "My thoughts are that we should be dealing with issues about jobs and education and the economy." This is a cop out, and not even a good one.

I will let the words of Harvey Milk sum this one up: "It takes no compromising to give people their rights. It takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no survey to remove repression."

What we are seeing is simply cowardice. The Democrats want our votes. They constantly remind us just how terrible the alternative would be. Well, NEWS FLASH! If they aren't even willing to SAY they support us, they are helping fuel the fires of bigotry.

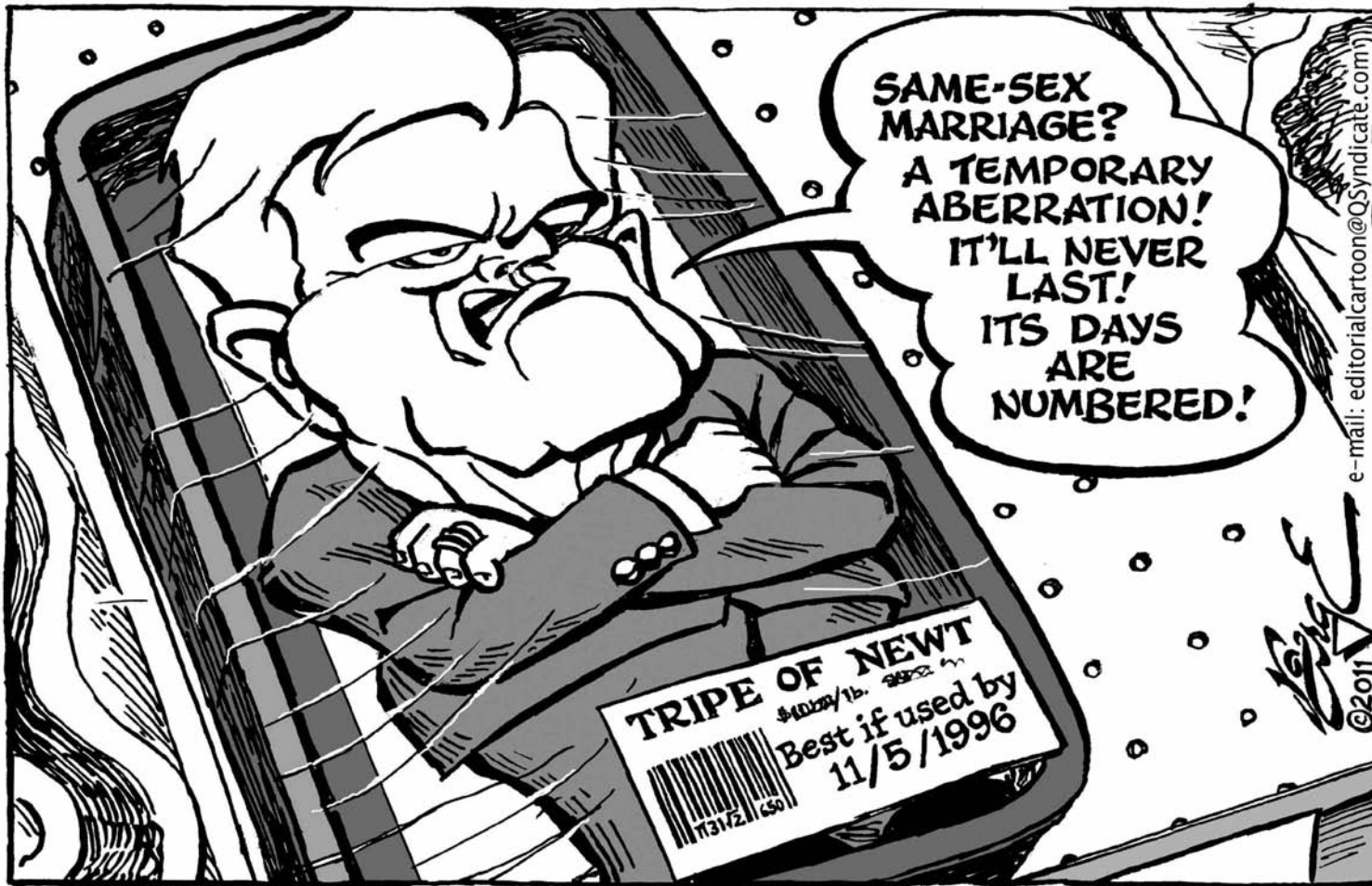
Remaining on neutral ground ALWAYS helps the oppressor, NEVER the oppressed.

So Dems, you want my vote? Make good on your commitment to this community or take a hike. I would rather sit out the damn election.

*DSC, via DallasVoice.com*

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**DRIVEN TO ABSTRACTION** | Lynch's varied, colorful paintings have earned him a following after just a few years in the art world. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

Van Lynch was a late-comer to painting, but he's made up for it with passion

# For the love of ART

Having only been painting for about two years, Van Lynch isn't at Thomas Kinkeade's level of fame yet. But that hasn't stopped him from selling multiple, high-price pieces to establishments around Dallas. (And he's much better than Kinkeade.) Lynch has turned his creative side into a lucrative part-time art career, working his way up through the ranks of local artists with his unique abstract style.

That's a far cry from his corporate background. Before he started painting, Lynch graduated Stephen F. Austin University with a degree in business and immediately began working into the hotel industry. He hopped from East Coast to West in various sales and marketing jobs before settling in his native Dallas.

"I was missing something, so that's why I kind of shifted gears," he says. Now, Lynch's day job as an apartment manager for the Amlis Residences allows him to live comfortably in his apartment, surrounded by his artwork.

Painting started as a Christmas present from his mother and sister — and he took to it like a fish to water.

"I've always wanted to paint or do something creative and I've never set aside a time in my life to do that," Lynch says. "One year, my sister and my mom bought me art lessons with [Cynthia Chartier] at her beautiful studio and that's where it all started. I painted with her for approximately six months at that studio. It went from there."

With Chartier's guidance, Lynch discovered a facility as an abstract artist.

"I came in for my first lesson and I was like, 'What do I do, teacher?'" Lynch recalls. "She said, 'Anything you want; I'm just here to guide you.'"

After his official lessons ended, Lynch bought studio time for a good place to "make a mess." It was also where he could meet and trade feedback with other artists, some of whom became friends.

Lynch draws from a variety of inspirations, from colors to images. He frequents the library and owns numerous art books, taking after his favorite artists such as Kandinsky, Mondrian and Monet. When he paints, though, Lynch doesn't always have a definite image in his mind; he says he works better when he sets out the colors he wants and just goes with it

until he deems it finished.

Lynch has displayed his art in shows and festivals around Dallas. His canvases start at about \$200 for a 36-by-48-inch piece, rising depending on size and complexity.

One of his biggest sales was to the Downtown restaurant Dallas Fish Market, which bought six canvases from him for their renovation. But even that money goes back into his art.

"I bought more canvas and paints," Lynch laughs about his proceeds. "For me, as a beginner, it's my secret little addiction, being at the art supply store every chance I get. I just can't stop myself."

The best part about painting for Lynch, though, isn't the paycheck that comes with a custom order — it's the happiness he gives someone.

"I think the biggest satisfaction is when someone sees something the first time and are like, 'Oh my God, I love it,' Something I did really spoke to someone." He recalls one instance when he sold a piece to a musician who said, "When I see that, I wanna go home and write a new song."

Lynch hopes he can retire from his day job eventually and become a full-time artist, painting and teaching on the side. He'd also like to expand his repertoire to include other artistic media.

"I'd love to do sculptures, mobiles, welding — things of that nature," he says. He'd also like to work lights and soldering into his art.

Lynch admits to being a bit of a size queen: His ideal work involves bright, bold colors, simplicity and a lobby-worthy size. His project dream is to combine two dozen of his own medium-sized paintings into a mosaic to make a larger "statement" piece.

The only regret Lynch has is that he waited so long to start what has become his favored hobby, but "now I'm doing it" and he doesn't plan on stopping.

In addition to commissioned paintings, Lynch likes to use *giclée*, a method where art is photographed with a high-resolution camera and then printed onto commercial items such as T-shirts and wood. "I'm not above coffee cups," Lynch chuckles.

— Draconis Von Trapp



**LIFE+STYLE**

fine art



Guitar hero

**Amanda Dunbar's bedazzling attack on axes makes art out of instruments**

Artist Amanda Dunbar spends hours attaching individual Swarovski crystals to her unique collection of guitars, but be careful how you refer to them. "I'm not sure Swarovski is into calling it 'bedazzling,'" she cautions. "Bejeweling might be better."

Whatever the term, Dunbar's glittering guitars — called Precious Rebels — have made her popular with musicians and bling-queens alike. She custom-made some for the Black Eyed Peas, Beyoncé's guitarist is a client and Crystal Bowersox used one on *American Idol*.

Although the encrusted axes are a fairly new addition to Dunbar's repertoire, she's not a newcomer to art — she had her first show at 16. But Precious Rebels does represent another aspect of her expression.

"It's the fusion between different forms of art, creating in essence another type that is totally different," that initially intrigued her, though she admits to another motivation too.

"I remember reading that the average person spends two to three seconds looking at a painting — two to three seconds! Even the *Mona Lisa*! That astounded me. I wondered what's a way to make people spend more looking at a piece of art. This was one way to have a functional piece of art. Painting will always be my first love, but I wanted to create a way to make it more appealing to a broader audience and incorporate another thing I love: Rockin' out in my studio."

"Creativity and art are a means of positive expression that transcends age, sexuality, gender, race. There's something powerful about being able to make a statement that can't be judged."

— Arnold Wayne Jones

**Amanda Dunbar Gallery, 154 Glass St. Precious Rebels exhibit runs through Dec. 31. [AmandaDunbarFineArt.com](http://AmandaDunbarFineArt.com).**

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## Renaissance man

Kimbell's exhibit on Caravaggio renews age-old question: Was the master of light and dark gay?



GREGORY SULLIVAN ISAACS | Contributing Writer  
gregoryisaacs@theaterjones.com



Four hundred years after his death, the private life of Renaissance painter Caravaggio remains a point of contention among scholars. Certainly, the artist (b. 1571) knew how to paint skimpily clad and sensual young men — but so did all his contemporaries. So what is it about Caravaggio that sets off our gaydar?

This question is back in focus because of the brilliant new show of the artist's work — as well as those painters he influenced — at Fort Worth's Kimbell Art Museum.

In *Caravaggio: A Life Scared and Profane*, an exhaustive, and exhausting, book about the life of the artist, Andrew Graham-Dixon sets it out.

"The sensual and sexual appeal of such smooth-skinned figures such as the youthful ministrant to Saint Francis, has been taken as evidence of the painter's homosexuality. The truth is not that Caravaggio was capable of

being aroused by the physical presence of other men. He could not have painted such figures in the way that he did if that were not so. Caravaggio's painting suggests an ambiguous sexual personality. On the evidence of his paintings, he was neither heterosexual nor homosexual, terms that are, in any case, anachronistic when applied to his world. He was omniseual."

"Gay" is such a recent invention, it's impossible to hold up historic figures to this modern classification. In his lecture at the Kimbell, Graham-Dixon denied that Caravaggio was a "proto-gay caricature who lived through the gay angst 400 years before it existed."

For evidence of Caravaggio's homoerotic leanings, one need look no further than the paintings themselves. In his 1604 portrait of John the Baptist, Caravaggio depicts the saint not as a grizzled ascetic but as a tousle-haired, brooding youth barely covered by his red robe. There is none of the usual props associated with St. John

— no sheep, halo, leather girdle or camel hair garment. It could just as easily be (and probably was) a lover, just emerging from sleep, draped with the bed sheet and needing a cup of coffee.

Caravaggio's painting *St. Francis in Ecstasy* is another example. Once again, there is little of the traditional trappings of the saint here, such as pools of blood from stigmata or a face contorted in pain. The cute, boyish angel, offering succor, is more prominent than the reclining saint, apparently sleeping in his lap.

Of course, buff young men were the subjects of paintings before Caravaggio. Few males wore clothing in the Greek era. Michelangelo — dead some 30 years before Caravaggio was born — also enjoyed his models, and his body of work that is full

of idealized hunks. But Caravaggio is different. His figures are lit with stark shafts of light emanating from above, as if from a single window in a dark room, letting the viewer observe them detached from their backgrounds. They are infused with a reality that was new and shocking at the time, but eventually much imitated.

He mostly worked from live models at a time when respectable folks didn't pose nude for artists, meaning theses were bodies for hire, usually prostitutes: street boys and women. Some were fellow artists (such as Mario Minniti, whose visage vanished from the artist's work after he married, presumably a woman, around 1600). But most of his models were paid for sitting buck-naked.

Gay, rough trade, omniseual or just a wild genius — whatever your position, Caravaggio remains one of the most influential artists of all time. Graham-Dixon put it succinctly. "He was the first modern painter."

**THE FIRST TWINK?** | The ivory-skinned youth in Caravaggio's painting of St. Francis has evoked images of homoeroticism in the painter's work for centuries. (Courtesy Kimbell Art Museum)

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# Omni sensual

New hotel's artwork is as much a draw as its location

"Did you see the gay clouds?" Jeff West asks.

Of course, the clouds themselves aren't gay — they are, at most, bi-cumulus — but West (who works with Matthews Southwest, the lead developer of the new Omni Hotel in Downtown Dallas) knows that many gay art fans will know just what he's talking about: The massive, dis-



tinctive digital wisps that are instantly identifiable as the work of Ted Kincaid.

*Thunderhead 1111* is Kincaid's largest work to date, and it dominates the lobby of the Omni — a great testament to the inclusion of local artists throughout the property.

Art, in fact, is a key aspect in the design of the hotel; the halls are decorated with unique pieces, as are the individual rooms. In most instances, pieces are for sale. It's probably a natural progression from being able to buy a hotel robe or slippers, but still a nice one.

Especially because of the Omni's attention to detail. Meeting rooms in the hotel are named after Dallas neighborhoods and landmarks (enjoy a conference in the Katy Trail room, a reception in the Oak Cliff), and the artwork reflects that, from photos of Deep Ellum to abstract paintings of Bishop Arts.



**'THUNDERHEAD'** | Gay artist Ted Kincaid's largest-ever work dominates the new Omni Hotel's lobby. He's one of a number of local artists represented throughout the facility. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

The building itself is dazzling as well, from the LED lights that decorate the exterior (but do *not* flood into the rooms) to the graceful lines in the Texas Spice restaurant. You can't call it a museum, but the Omni is a gallery of a kind, and worth a tour even if you aren't from out of town.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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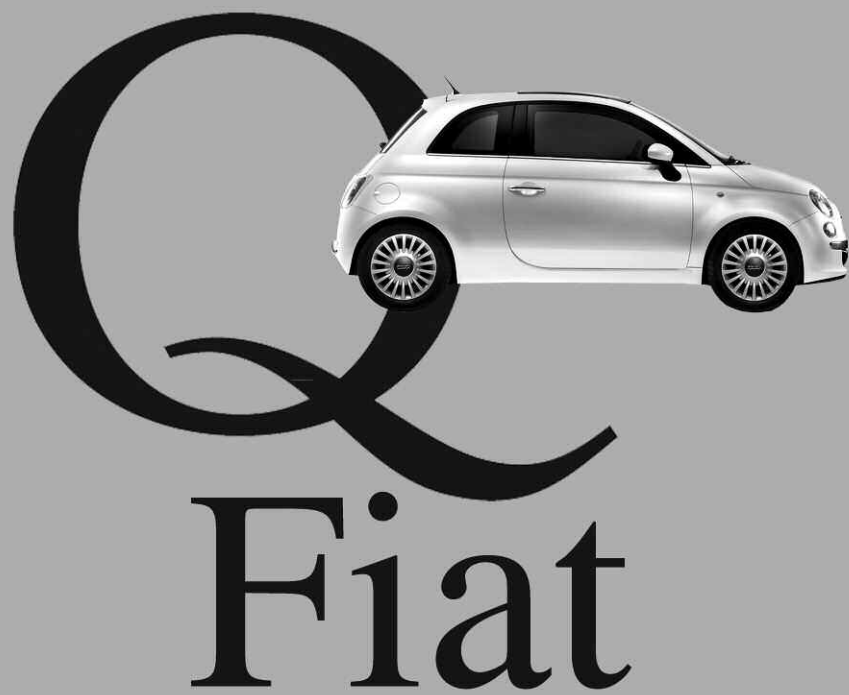
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## Art attack

Dallas gets a dose of queer and queer-friendly art options this month

Maybe the holiday season inspires artists or inspires buyers, but whichever the reason, Dallas' art scene is in full bloom with openings, closings and anniversaries. These galleries are ready to introduce you to a world of art in your own backyard.

Local queer artist Robb Conover closes his pop art extravaganza **Sweet Bullets** at Kettle Art Friday. Conover curated the show with fellow artist Corey Godfrey, which includes work by Tony Reans, Nix Johnson, Daniel Birdsong, Conover and Godfrey and more. Expect an explosion of bold colors and pop culture references in this eclectic exhibit. Upon the closing of the show, the gallery will celebrate its seventh anniversary. *Kettle Art, 2714 Elm St. KettleArt.com.*

Local funny gay guy Dave Cudlipp debuts as an artist in **Fresh Faces 2 x 2**. Curator Rita Barnard's goal of the show is to highlight local and regional artists both discovered and yet to be. Cudlipp, who we featured before as a writer for Dallas Comedy Conspiracy, shows his other talents in the exhibit where artists are required to get creative in a two by two inch space. *Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Jan. 28 with an artists' reception Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. 214-670-8749. BathHouseCultural.com.*

The Dallas Museum of Art continues its stunning exhibit **The Fashion World of Jean Paul Gaultier: From the Sidewalk to the Catwalk**, featuring the designer's edgy clothes over the years as well as added elements such as animatronic mannequins — including one of Gaultier himself. *Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood St. Through Feb. 12. \$16-\$20. DallasMuseumofArt.org.*

Alison Jardine displays her work, pictured, in

**PixelNation** at Ro2 Art gallery at the Aloft. The digital art works are the result of Jardine creating through her iPad for 365 consecutive days. With such a modern approach, Jardine ironically takes on nature as her theme with a pixel motif. *Ro2Art at Aloft, 1033 Young St. Through Dec. 29 with an artist's reception Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. 214-803-9575. Ro2Art.com.*

The Downtown gallery of Ro2Art will simultaneously feature Dallas-based artist R. Mateo Diago's work in **Every Then ... and Now**. The exhibit includes works from an array of media such as photography, painting, found objects and even letters and notes. Diago's work is described as giving weight to themes of lost loves, self-identity, dreams and sexual compulsion. Sounds like his work speaks to everybody. *Ro2 Art, 110 N. Akard St. Dec. 17-Jan. 28 with an artist's reception Dec. 17. 214-803-9575. Ro2Art.com.*

Applying math and musical concepts in his work, Dallas-based Rusty Scruby takes his photographic work to a new level. In **Memory Bytes**, Scruby hand cuts and reassembles his works into constructions of hexagons and circles in a simulated knitting style. Taking the seemingly mundane, he transforms family photos, yearbook pictures and more into further dimensions that demand a deeper look. *Cris Worley Fine Arts, 2277 Monitor St. Through Dec. 22. 214-641-9266. CrisWorley.com.*

The works of British artist **Nigel Cooke** can either bring forth a sense of renewal or evoke a feeling of dread. Either way it can be fascinating in his art currently on display at the Goss-Michael Foundation. *1405 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Feb. 18. 214-696-0555. GossMichaelFoundation.org.*

— Rich Lopez



**Advent:** (from the Latin *adventus* meaning "coming") is a liturgical season we observe as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. Part of our Advent observance is the use an Advent Wreath. The Advent Wreath is made of evergreen boughs, symbolizing everlasting life. The circle represents the continuous love of God, with no beginning and no end, as well as the soul's immortality. The four candles represent hope, peace, love and joy. On each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas we light one of the candles to help focus our preparation. On Christmas we light a fifth candle- the Christ Candle- symbolizing Emmanuel, God with us!



Please join us on the second Sunday of Advent as we light the Candle of Peace, symbolizing the peace Christ brought when He first came to us, and the everlasting peace He will bring when He comes again.

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# The princess and the KING

Rihanna can't seem to get from under that 'Umbrella,' while Cirque du Soleil extends Michael Jackson's legacy with 'Immortal'

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff Writer  
lopez@dallasvoice.com

Rihanna is a workaholic, pumping out albums faster than Black Friday shoppers busting out the pepper spray. She was still finding her voice after 2009's forgettable *Rated R*, but 2010's *Loud* was a success.

She's back in fine form with **Talk That Talk**, her new CD. But there's more potential than perfection here; perhaps it could have been better if she took more time between releases.

Rihanna sings of naïve love with clichéd perspectives on this, her sixth album. And while the lyrics work, the delivery doesn't. Starting with "You Da One," she takes a page from Beyoncé's book a la 4. There's no onslaught, but instead a chill groove with some reggae touches on this decent opener. Although it instills an (unannoying) earworm, it gets messy in its structure.

Energy courses through *Talk* with "Where Have you Been." It begins as a dance tune but veers into weird, house music tones. After discovering "da one," she's asking *where have you been all my life*. But producers Dr. Luke and Cirkut (Ke\$ha, Flo-Rida) ruin the

beat with a mish-mash of breakdowns pulling the song off its trajectory.

The album's lead single, "We Found Love," is addictively produced by writer Calvin Harris. The tone, while strong, feels like it would be more at place in the early '90s ... but that's not so bad. The keyboards are refreshing and even though the lyrics don't stray far from the we-found-love-in-a-hopeless-place center; it's the album's strongest early offering.

Jay-Z doesn't add much other than ego to the title track, but it's here where Rihanna switches from blind love to an assertive woman eager to please. She submits to her lover with *tell me how love to you, tell me how to hold you / I'mma get it right on the first try for you*. The dancehall groove works and continues into "Cockiness (I Love It)," which leaves little to the imagination with lyrics like *suck my cockiness / lick my persuasion*. But she starts trying too hard, like Christina Aguilera on *Bionic*. It doesn't help the song is



**STRAIGHT TALK** | Rihanna returns with her strange ways in her sixth album 'Talk That Talk.'

poorly constructed.

The songs balance out *Talk* starting with "We All Want Love." As straightforward pop, it adheres to a clean structure, which is a reprieve from the schizophrenia before. The lovey idealism returns more so with "Drunk on Love." Feeling hopelessly romantic, she's also creepy-weird. When she moans about craving love, you think if you got in a relationship with her, a restraining order is not out of the question.

Still, the track stabilizes the album, as does "Roc Me Out," the

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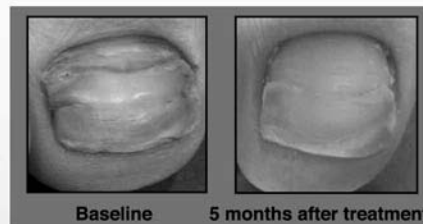
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CD's best track. Rihanna brings the intensity of her bigger hits. She may never have another "Umbrella," but this one comes close.

She channels some Janet Jackson in the sexified flirtation "Watch n' Learn," but closes with the gorgeous ballad "Farewell." She's in broken-up stalker mode with lyrics like *even though it kills me that you have to go / I know I'll be sadder if you never hit the road*. Talk about a no-win sitch. But it ends this chapter of Rihanna on a high note.

Speaking of Jacksons, Michael makes a sort of return with **Immortal**, the soundtrack to Cirque du Soleil's newest Vegas-style show celebrating the King of Pop. The album recalls his work from the Jackson 5 up to 2001's *Invincible*, his last solo album. (Thankfully, none of the 2010 embarrassing posthumous release *Michael* is in this mix.)

While the majority of the songs are still by Jackson, they have been reworked, remixed or reimagined by Rihanna producer Kevin Antunes. The double disc of 29 songs is a gloriously clean listen to some of the biggest hits in music.

Where this could easily have been an exploitation of his work (and maybe it is), it

only feels like respectfully updated versions of pop classics. When Fergie and Kanye West did their remakes for *Thriller*'s 25th anniversary, they were almost blasphemous; here, they are merely amplified with tweaks that never take away from that Jackson hit-making magic.

The subsequent tracks of "Gone Too Soon" and "Childhood" display his tender voice in crystal clarity and are tear inducing because they remind he's no longer here. The added spoken word could have come across as cheesy, but it works.

*Immortal* reads like a greatest hits with all the obvious inclusions. "Smooth Criminal" retains its power but in shorter time; the "Beat It/State of Shock" coupling is just short of brilliant; and the "Immortal Megamix: Can You Feel It/Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough/Billie Jean/Black or White" belongs more on the dancefloor than onstage.

Given all the hits on here, there is a surprising omission with "Rock With You." As big of a song as that was, it doesn't get its own redux. But Antunes clearly has a love for Jackson and this collection lifts the singer far above any controversy or strangeness that plagued him and instead reminds minds of both his genius and his legacy. ■



**TALK THAT TALK**  
Rihanna  
Def Jam Recordings



**IMMORTAL**  
Michael Jackson  
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### QUEER CLIP: 'House of Boys'

A teen with a Flock of Seagulls haircut and upturned collar pops a zit in a school mirror while New Wave music drones on in the background. If this sounds familiar, you probably lived through adolescence in the 1980s. If you didn't live through it, you have the opportunity to — and beyond — with **House of Boys**.

Gay cinema nowadays typically falls into one of three categories: Romances about coming out; coming-of-age period pieces set in the late '70s, '80s or early '90s; and contemporary dramas about the travails of sex in the post-AIDS era. *House of Boys* combines aspects of each of them.

Frank (Layke Anderson) is a twink in the pre-meth days of clubbing who alienates his parents and his best friend, eventually winding up as a dancer at the House of Boys, a brothel-like club run by Madame (Udo Kier). Frank develops a crush on Jake (Benn Northover), his straight roommate who goes gay-for-pay to make a living.

*House of Boys* is basically *Burlesque* with men, Mohawks and leg-warmers (and without Cher) — an otherworldly allegory about humanizing the denizens of the gay subculture. As such, it's both depressing and titillating. It convincingly recreates the era's sexual openness, but also its dirty authenticity: Sex in the shower with a young punk may be hot, but you *know* the tub is moldy. (European films seem unnervingly comfortable portraying the murky reality of life — and Udo Kier in a



gold bustier and blonde Marilyn wig is about as real and murky as life gets.)

There's merit to that, but while the emotions may be genuine, the plotting is pure genre cliché from start to finish. Frank resents that Jake prostitutes himself for every customer but won't get it on with him. Jake eventually sees Frank as a threat, but also develops an attachment to him. Another dancer dreams of a sex-change operation, but he's obviously a tragedy waiting to happen. And Madame presides over everything with Kier's trademark Easter Island-esque cold gaze.

Director Jean-Claude Schlim doesn't let a lot of light in. The House itself is a shadowy den of social misfits who live by night, and the tone is rarely buoyant, despite the cast of pretty young boys who drop trou with impressive regularity. Like the boys themselves, this *House* lacks a solid foundation.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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The lamb kebabs at Baboush are remarkably tender, and made even better by the tomato relish and juicy raisins in the saffron basmati rice. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

## Play it **again** With flavorful Moroccan dishes, Baboush brings Casablanca to Uptown

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Life+Style Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

Just a quick glance at Baboush — damask bolsters on the banquettes, invitingly overstuffed ottomans, tapestries clinging to the stuccoed walls with Persian tile behind the bar, all while Arabic music plays in the background — and you're immediately caught up in its distinctively lush Moroccan atmosphere, without being drowned in clichés. The front wall of windows looks out on a grassy field along the distaff corner of the West Village, providing tons of light during the day and a twinkling calm at night. All that's missing are Nazis coercing Rick Blaine while Sam plays "As Time Goes By."

Dallas' recent flirtation with Middle Eastern influences — from Samar to Kush to Fadi's and more — is a welcome addition to a culinary landscape dominated by steakhouses, taquerias and, of late, Asian bistros. Baboush's execution of the food helps validate the trend.

Certainly the kitchen doesn't scrimp when it comes to forward flavors, a point of view that may catch inexperienced palates unawares. Take the spinach "cigars" (\$7) — basically thick spanakopita tubes with goat cheese. My dining companion wanted more cheesiness to supersede the citrusy tang, though that didn't bother me. But be prepared for lemony accents in many of the dishes.

Their babaganoush is garnished with pomegranate seeds, which don't add much flavor but make for a nice presentation. While slightly sour, the lemon bite is nothing compared to the dolmas, which push citrus through the roof. That's not a downside in my book, though my guest, unaccustomed to the staples of Mediterranean cuisine, found it excessive. (A greater issue with the dolmas was an inconsistent texture: leathery one time, mushy another.)

One of the things to love about Baboush, though, is the boldness of its flavors. Case in point: Mergueze (\$9), a lamb sausage that's as spicy as a Mexican soap opera. It packs a wallop, though the effect is insidiously cumulative,

growing heat on your tongue with every bite. If comes with a Moroccan tomato relish (also available on its own as an appetizer spread, \$5), which comes as delightful surprise. Thicker than catsup but salsa-like in its consistency, the acid from the tomatoes and chunks of garlic are softened with a hard-spice cinnamon savoriness as well as a hint of sweetness. It's a complex dip, both familiar and unique.

I've often cast a jaundiced eye at kebabs: Stick-meats are hard to get right, especially if more than one type of food is on the skewer. That's not a problem here, where a single protein per stick allows even cooking. That was true of the shrimp kebabs (\$12), well-spiced and not overcooked; the lamb kebabs (\$14) were an even greater success — the meat incredibly tender and deftly seasoned, given a soothing finish by the juicy raisins in the saffron basmati rice.

The falafel (\$7) is Egyptian-style (a green interior), with sesames covering the moist, crisp patties; and the spiced-beef kefta burger (\$8, available at lunch) gets a final push from the smooth dipping sauce.

Although limited, the dessert menu is a definite attraction. The baklava here (\$7) is among the best I've had in town: crisp but deeply saturated in honey with a great crunch of nuts. And the ganache-filled ice cream (\$9) — a mini-bombe, sort of an exotic ice cream sandwich — was entirely indulgent.

It's too bad service, while adequate, has failed to impress. On our first visit, we asked a few questions of our waiter (fairly uncomplicated ones about Middle Eastern food) that he couldn't readily answer; on another visit, we were given lunch menus at dinner; on other, there were (short) delays in having the entree order taken and getting all the apps out. I'll tolerate that in a shared-plate restaurant like this, where breezy hospitality trumps minor glitches. Baboush might not be the Casbah, or even Casablanca, but it is something better: It brings that sensibility to us.

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**DEETS:** Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. 8 p.m. Through Saturday. DallasEagle.com.

## Saturday 12.03

### Olde English style

In Theatre Britain's panto play *Dick Whittington*, Dick goes to find his fortune in London. Of course, love gets in the way by the name of Alice and poor Dick is accused of a crime, gets fired and plans to leave, but something tells him not to. The panto play is a British tradition with outlandish characters, audience participation and the grand dame of the show played by a man.

**DEETS:** Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through Dec. 28. \$15-\$18. Theatre-Britain.com

## Sunday 12.04

### Chorale Christmas tradition

The holiday season isn't complete without the annual Christmas concert by the Turtle Creek Chorale. In *My Favorite Things*, they pay tribute to The Carpenters Christmas Collection and of course, they add their own special touch.

**DEETS:** Meyerson Symphony Center, 2300 Flora St. 8 p.m. \$16-\$65. TurtleCreek.org.



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**FRIDAY 12.02**

**COMMUNITY**

**Dallas Fresh Leather.** Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. NLA-Dallas.org.

**Oak Lawn Group for Gays Lambda** (formerly CODA) meets on Fridays at the St Thomas Episcopal Church, 6525 Inwood Road. 6:30 p.m. 214-868-7350.

**Youth First Texas** groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. Fridays-Saturdays and Tuesdays-Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Thursdays at 4 p.m. YouthFirstTexas.org.

**MUSIC**

**New Texas Symphony Orchestra** with conductor Cathy Brown performs holiday favorites. NorthPark Center, 8687 N. Central Expressway. 7 p.m. Free. NTSO.org.

**SATURDAY 12.03**

**COMMUNITY**

**Children's Medical Center Holiday Parade.** The parade celebrates 24 years with a special performance by *American Idol* winner Jordin Sparks. The parade ends at City Hall Plaza. Commerce and Austin streets in downtown Dallas. 10 a.m. Childrens.com/Parade.

**Dallas Gay Roleplayers Club** meet. Half Price Books Community Room, 5803 E. Northwest Highway. 3-6 p.m. 214-360-0833 ext. 222.

**Cathedral Couples** potluck dinner and social. For location, call 972-252-7124.

**SUNDAY 12.04**

**COMMUNITY**

**Interweave** meets for lunch. Community Unitarian Universalist Church, 2875 E. Parker Road, Plano. Noon. 972-248-9343.

**Order of St. Francis and St. Clare** every first and third Sunday. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 12:30 p.m.

**ART**

**Divine** featuring the art of lesbian artist Cathey Miller and Norbert Kox and Click Mort in the upstairs gallery. Opening party features DJ Wild in the Streets. Webb Gallery, 209 W. Franklin Road, Waxahachie. Dec. 4-Feb. 5. Reception at 4 p.m. Web-bArtGallery.com.

**MONDAY 12.05**

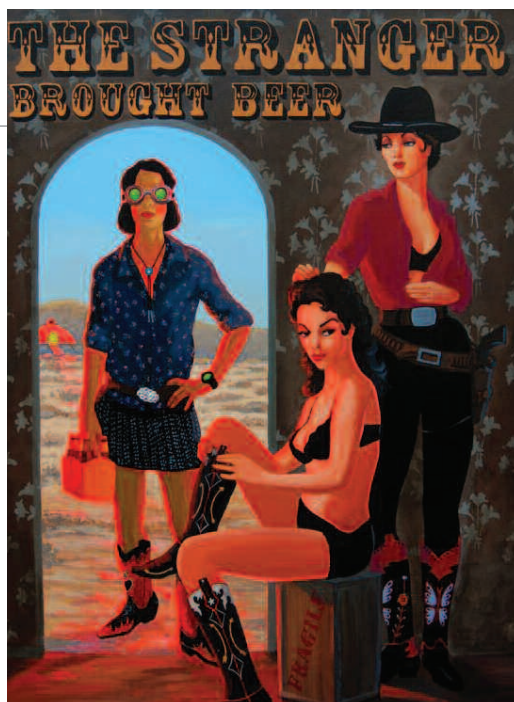
**COMMUNITY**

**DFW Prime Timers** play bridge every week at 1 p.m. Call 972-504-8866 for details.

**F.A.C.E.**, support group for those impacted by HIV/AIDS. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

**Women's Chorus of Dallas** rehearsals. Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. 7 p.m. 214-520-7828.

**Self esteem support group** meets. AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St., Fort Worth. 1:30 p.m.



**DIVINE MISS M** | Cathey Miller's art will be on display in 'Divine' at Webb Art Gallery in Waxahachie.

**TUESDAY 12.06**

**COMMUNITY**

**Classic Chassis Car Club.** Ojeda's 4617 Maple Ave. 6:30 p.m. 214-446-0606.

**National Leather Association-Dallas** meets. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7 p.m. NLA-Dallas.org.

**Q's Day Potluck.** Casual LGBT gathering every Tuesday. The Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth. 7 p.m. 817-446-3395.

**WEDNESDAY 12.07**

**COMMUNITY**

**Holidays on Cedar Springs** with wine and cider stroll, live music by the Oak Lawn Band, roaming sexy Santa and the lighting of the Cedar Springs Christmas tree. Throckmorton Street at Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. ShopCedarSprings.com.

**THURSDAY 12.08**

**COMMUNITY**

**PFLAG Dallas.** Northaven UMC, 12101 Preston Road. 7 p.m. 972-77PFLAG.

**The Group,** for HIV-positive black men, meets. Call 214-455-7316 for more information.

this week's solution

G	R	A	D	R	A	S	T	A	O	K	R	A	
R	I	V	E	E	R	N	E	S	D	I	O	R	
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D	E	N	T	T	A	N	G	O	S	E	E	M	
E	D	G	E	A	R	D	E	N	T	R	E	E	

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**CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY**

By Jack Fertig



**Ann Coulter** turns 50 on Thursday. The political commentator/author has never been a friend to the gay community, but her association with Taylor Garrett of *A-List: Dallas* resulted in alleged hate crimes against Garrett. Coulter still stirs the pot on her own, recently calling for Occupy protestors to be shot and publicly insulting John McCain. You know, the usual stuff.

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 20**

Standing up to authority will get you smacked down. It's possible you could be wrong. Think ahead! Be very pragmatic about your goals and how you intend to make them.

**CAPRICORN Dec 21-Jan 19**

Working hard is necessary. Working too hard is dangerous. Proper rest helps you work smarter. If you must tear apart authority figures, make sure they're far away. Politicians are fair game.

**AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18**

Listen to that deep inner voice as you consider sexual adventures. Trying to prove yourself can lead to injuries. Be especially careful of your mid and lower backside.

**PISCES Feb 19-Mar 19**

Turn lazy moods into times for creative reverie. Tough, honest introspection yields powerful insights. Guard against crankiness with your partner. You need to face some hard truths there.

**ARIES Mar 20-Apr 19**

Turn on the charm at work. Just don't be too pushy about it. Jealous colleagues accuse you of brown-nosing. Be considerate, but don't worry much. If you can't win, don't play the game.

**TAURUS Apr 20-May 20**

Playful teasing gets out of hand. That goads you into adventures that will test your limits. Be careful what you talk yourself into. You'll discover things that you've tried not to admit.

**GEMINI May 21-Jun 20**

Conversations with friends degenerate into arguments. What do you need to prove? Aren't you on the same side? Sexual tension is feeding into stress. Keep your home ready for company.

**CANCER Jun 21-Jul 22**

Pay attention to anxieties. They can teach you a lot about yourself. New info from a distant relative or a spiritual teacher can help you better to understand family problems.

**LEO Jul 23-Aug 22**

Playfulness is good for the soul. Worrying too much about the outcome inhibits your creativity and your growth. Get wild. What you release can offer insight into your work and your health.

**VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22**

Burying problems at home only makes them worse. Have the arguments and get them out of the way. Just remember that one of you is wrong and will realize it soon. Even odds on who that is.

**LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22**

Work out any domestic problems with your partner where money's involved. No partner? Down-home charm can help you find one. Some witty flirtation will help get things started.

**SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21**

Arguments with friends over money can lead to betrayal, hurting you a lot more than you would expect. Don't worry about the future. You'll figure it out as it comes present.

**THIS WEEK**

This week's lunar eclipse will be partially visible in New Zealand, but felt everywhere as brainstorming lead too easily to arguments. Rather than inadvertently showing off what you don't know, think about what you need to learn.

Jack Fertig can be reached at 415-864-8302 or Starjack.com

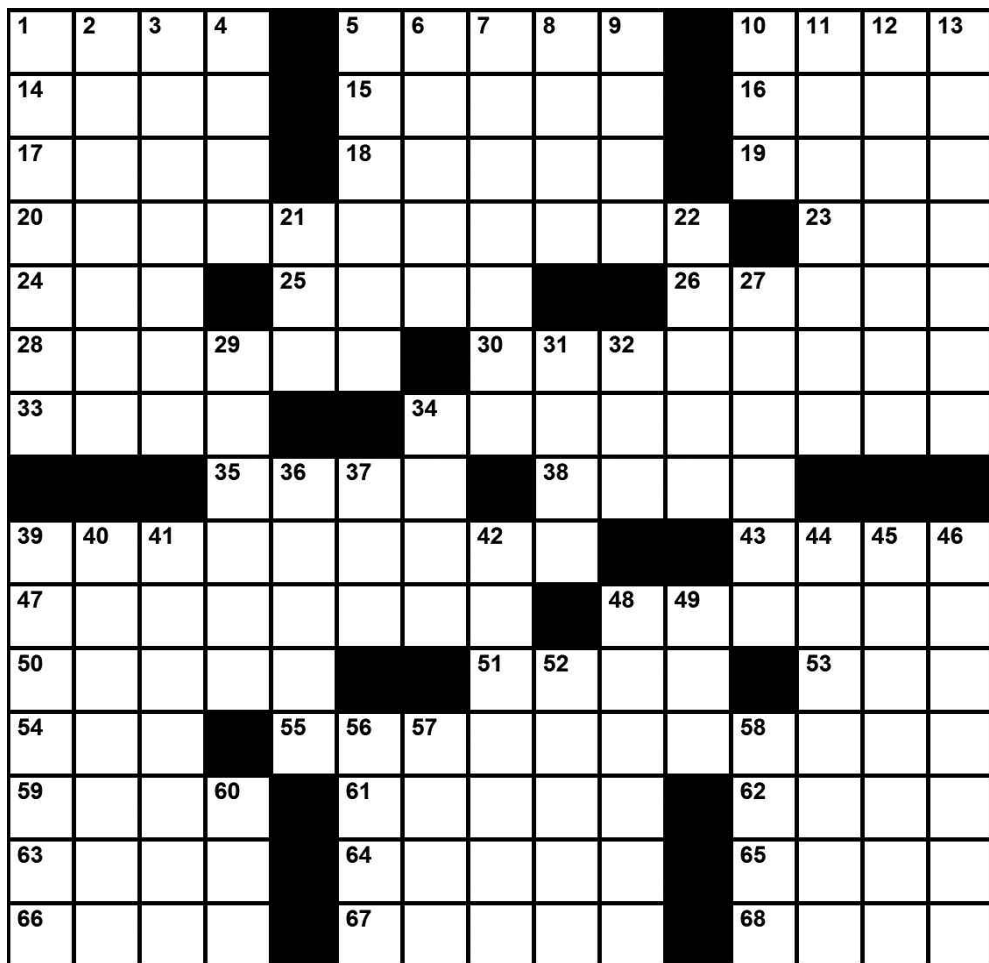
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# Remembering Barbara Grier

Solution on page 33

**Across**

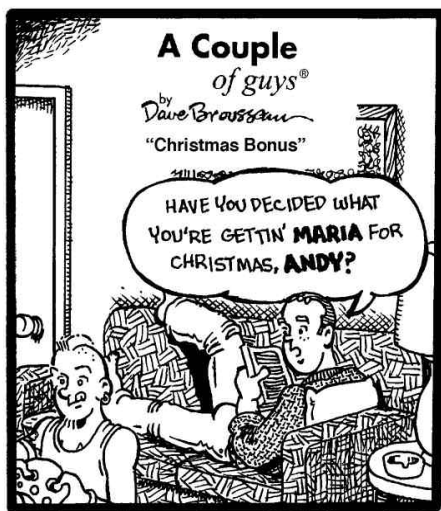
- 1 Jodie Foster, to Yale
- 5 Bob Marley, e.g.
- 10 Craig Claiborne's gumbo pod
- 14 Gauche side, for Debussy
- 15 Sea eagles
- 16 Fashionable Christian
- 17 Kind of round
- 18 Brand of foamy heads
- 19 Position to fill
- 20 Katherine Forrester novel published by Grier's Naiad Press in 1983
- 23 High-speed connection
- 24 Giant ball-handler Manning
- 25 Get ready for action
- 26 About to blow
- 28 Sports reports
- 30 Bust sites
- 33 Brady Bunch brother beginning
- 34 With 39-Across, Grier edited The Ladder for this group
- 35 Mary topper
- 38 Brest beast
- 39 See 34-Across
- 43 Splinter group

**Down**

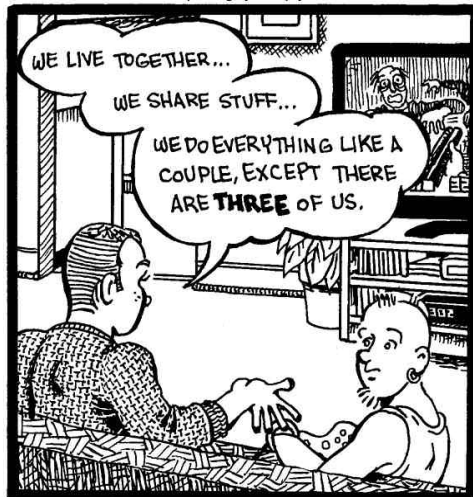
- 47 Club
- 48 Infomercial urging
- 50 Trunk of Charles Atlas photos
- 51 Big name in razors
- 53 Batman and Robin, e.g.
- 54 Siegfried's partner
- 55 Controversial subject of a book published by Naiad in 1984
- 59 Exodus author Leon
- 61 "I haven't a \_\_\_ to wear!"
- 62 Concerning
- 63 Result of getting rear-ended
- 64 Brando's last one was in Paris
- 65 Come off as
- 66 Beat, but barely
- 67 Shakespearean forest
- 68 Family diagram

**Down**

- 1 Fruit handlers
- 2 Small stream
- 3 Lust for lucre
- 4 Where you can eat a hero
- 5 Comes up again
- 6 End of a Stein quote
- 7 Stir-fry veggie
- 8 Hatcher of plots on Wisteria Lane
- 9 The A in GLARP (abbr.)
- 10 Takes too much
- 11 Richard Chamberlain's Dr. role
- 12 Prominent cock
- 13 Like a Paul Simon solo?
- 21 Pos., to neg.
- 22 Black billiard ball
- 27 Examine the testes again, e.g.?
- 29 Sap suckers
- 31 Rubber ducky spots
- 32 Personal-ad stat
- 34 Have an impact on
- 36 Star in Perseus
- 37 Controversial Michael Cuesta film
- 39 Push outward
- 40 Left with mouth wide open
- 41 Covering bones
- 42 Passive in S&M?
- 44 Top?
- 45 Poet Cullen
- 46 Heather's two mommies, e.g.
- 48 Bloody Mary's mom's home
- 49 Pink-slip
- 52 Hint of hue
- 56 Katharine's Butch Cassidy role
- 57 Author Rednour
- 58 Cartoonist who drew the Democratic ass
- 60 Mary, in Montmartre (abbr.)



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This Paper is 100% RECYCLABLE





Eric at JR.'s Bar & Grill.



Hector and Kevin at the Hidden Door.



Michael, Rick, Booger and Brum at the Dallas Eagle.

There is lots to do to keep you warm on these cold nights .... **Leah Marr** plays the **Roof Top Party** hosted by **LezBeProud** at the **Trinity Lofts**. There is even a VIP seating to bundle up and take in the city lights of the Dallas skyline .... The **2012 Mr. Dallas Eagle** contest goes down this weekend. **Meet and greet** the contestants on Friday and see who takes the title on Saturday hosted by **Patti le Plae Safe**. The club hosts the **Annual Wreath Auction** benefiting the **SSC Fund** and **Leather Knights**. Former **International Mr. Leather Jeffrey Payne** emcees .... **Mi Diva Loca** puts their spin on today's pop hits at **Alexandre's** on Saturday .... The **GLBT Leadership Education & Advocacy Program (LEAP)** hosts its second annual **Holly Jolly Ball** Thursday at **Zouk Dallas** .... **Sue Ellen's** is jampacked this weekend. Drag king troupe **Mustache Envy** presents **Naughty or Nice?** on Friday with appearances by **Lilly Lovely** and **Amber DeVille** and hosted by **Rebecca Cooley**. The **Paco Estrada Band** will bring on the sounds Saturday night in the upstairs **Vixen Lounge**. Sunday night, the club hosts **Anton Shaw's 9th Annual Christmas Extravaganza**, a night of holiday music from Shaw and guest performers. The night benefits **Cathedral of Hope's Service Outside of Service (SOS) program** and the music ministry .... Friends honor **Wendy Churitch** at the **Brick** Saturday. Bring a new or gently used blanket in to donate to **Blanket Dallas** and snag a cocktail while you're at it .... Is your favorite hot spot on the **Annual Santa Pub Crawl** Wednesday? If so, take in a new, unwrapped toy to benefit **the children of AIDS Arms** .... Go back in time with **Retro Karaoke with Tasha** on Thursdays at **1851 Club in Arlington** .... Warm enough for ya? ■

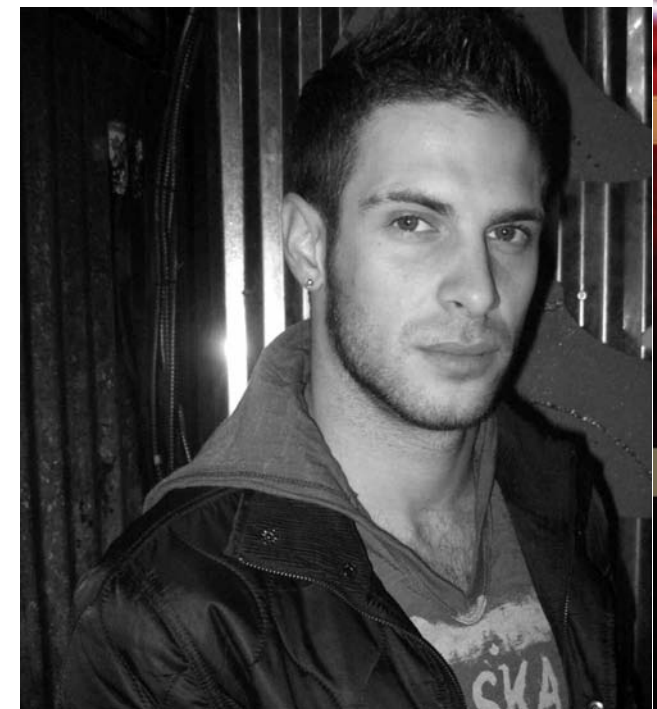
PHOTOGRAPHY BY GREGORY HAYES. FOR MORE PHOTOS, VISIT DALLASVOICE.COM.



Ernie, Victory, Michael and Travis at Station 4.



Kendra, Brock, Bryon and Mad C at Rainbow Lounge.



Dominic at the Tin Room.

## MONDAY

Hours: 2pm to 2am  
\$3.00 You call it - all day and all night

## TUESDAY

Hours: 2pm to 2am • Happy Hour from 2pm to 8pm  
\$2.00 Well Drinks  
\$2.00 Domestic Beer  
\$3.00 You call it - 9pm until 10pm  
Karaoke 9pm until 1am

## WEDNESDAY

Hours: 2pm to 2am • Happy Hour from 2pm to 8pm  
\$2.00 Well Drinks  
\$2.00 Domestic Beer  
\$3.00 You call it - 9pm until 10pm  
Dropping Aces Poker \$75.00 Free Roll at 7pm until  
Whitney Paige & The Cherry Girls Show at 11pm

## THURSDAY

Hours: 2pm to 2am • Happy Hour from 2pm to 8pm  
\$2.00 Well Drinks  
\$2.00 Domestic Beer  
\$3.00 You call it - 9pm until 10pm  
Coming Soon... Open Mic Comedy Night at 10pm  
Hosted by Kyle and Todd of QLive  
\$100.00 to the Best Comedian  
Patio Bar Open

## FRIDAY

Hours: 2pm to 2am • Happy Hour from 2pm to 8pm  
\$2.00 Well Drinks  
\$2.00 Domestic Beer  
\$3.00 You call it - 9pm until 10pm  
Patio Bar Open  
Kelexis Davenport Show at 11pm  
Live DJ Michael Jon Spinning

## SATURDAY

Hours: 2pm to 2am • Happy Hour from 2pm to 8pm  
\$2.00 Well Drinks  
\$2.00 Domestic Beer  
\$3.00 You call it - 9pm until 10pm  
Patio Bar Open  
Live DJ Michael Jon Spinning  
Saturday Night Midnight Madness Show • 2nd & 4th Saturdays

## SUNDAY

Hours: Noon to 2am • Happy Hour from 2pm to 8pm  
\$2.00 Well Drinks  
\$2.00 Domestic Beer  
\$3.00 You call it - 9pm until 10pm  
Patio Bar Open  
Texas Hold em Poker \$75.00 Free Roll at 1pm in the Cherry Room  
Hosted by Dropping Aces Poker  
"Rising Star Show" at 10pm



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Employment	38
Real Estate	38
Realtors	38
Property For Sale	38
Apartment Locators	38
Property For Rent	38
Movers	39
Insurance	40
Services	41
Computer Services	41
Home Services	41
General	41
Plumbing	41
Landscaping	41
Painting	41
Air Conditioning & Heating	41
Photography	42
Cleaning	42
Personal Care	42
Spirituality	42
Psychotherapists	42
Salons/Stylists	42
Health & Nutrition	42
Massage	42
Pets	43
Announcements	43
Internet	43

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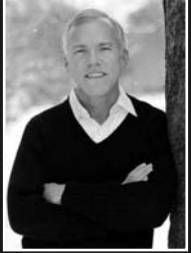
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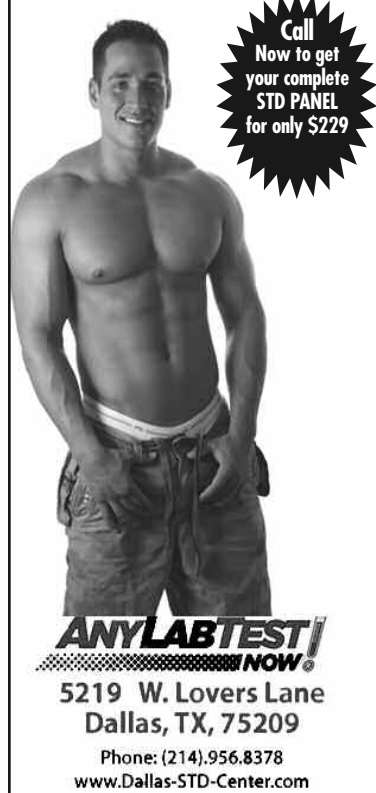
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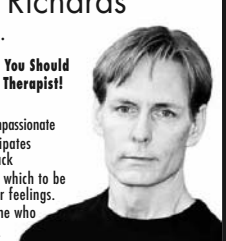


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