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Wedding Bells:

*Is marriage equality
a foregone conclusion?*

By David Taffet, Page 8

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Obituary

Kee Newman Holt, 58, died Jan. 19 after a long battle with cancer.

Holt had worked at Resource Center since 2005, first as coordinator of programming for LGBT seniors and more recently as center services manager. Before coming on staff, he volunteered at the center for many years.

He was from LaMesa, Texas and attended Angelo State University. For about 10 years he worked as an administrator at the state school in Denton.

Holt was an avid traveler and enjoyed traveling with his close friend, Doug Wright. Puerto Vallarta was one of their favorite places to visit.

Artist Rob Conover said, "Kee always had a story to tell and always made me laugh. His humor was so much like mine; we both knew the latest gossip and laughed together at some very insane things we saw."

Former Resource Center Board Chair Terry Loftis said, "I have no words upon hearing this news. [He was] and remain[s] an amazing spirit and man."

Kee is survived by his cousin Kelli Strube of Grapevine, his aunt Kay Robinson Eaton of Heber Springs, Ark., and his uncle Frank Kee Robinson of Knoxville, Tenn., as well as his family at Resource Center including co-workers and many people who use the facility for a variety of purposes.

There will be a celebration of his life later in the spring. To be notified, send an email to DR-WrightDFW@aol.com.

Memorials can be made in Kee's name to Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St., Dallas 75219.

instantTEA

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Bruce Jaster (Photo by Paul Kubek)

Bruce Jaster named interim executive director of Turtle Creek Chorale

Bruce Jaster has been named by the board of directors of the Turtle Creek Chorale as its interim executive director, replacing Kim Sosolik, who resigned this week to pursue other business interests.

Jaster was on the board of the Chorale for 10 years and sang with the group for 15 years. He also established an endowment for the Chorale.

He leaves a position with Price Waterhouse to take this job with the Chorale.

In the LGBT community, Jaster was known in the 1990s as an owner of The Reservation Desk, a travel agency based in Oak Lawn that specialized in gay travel. He serves now on the board of The Dallas Way.

Jaster begins his new position on Jan. 27, just two weeks before the Chorale's 35th anniversary concert that long-time Chorale artistic director Tim Seelig will conduct. Tickets for that concert are available at TurtleCreek.org.

— David Taffet

And the (Miss Gay Dallas State) winners are

On Saturday night, I was honored to be one of the judges at the 2015 Miss Gay Dallas State and Miss Gay Dallas State At Large pageants, held at The Brick as a preliminary in the Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System.

The very talented Victoria Weston won the title of Miss Gay State, and Basha Nicole, another very talented performer, won the Miss Gay Dallas State At Large title. First runners-up were Natasha Alexander Parson for Miss Gay Dallas State, and Kenya Rider for Miss Gay Dallas State At Large. Vanity Rains, second alternate to Miss Gay Dallas State, did an excellent job as well.

— Tammye Nash

Tickets to see Laverne Cox at UNT go on sale

Laverne Cox, the first transgender person to be nominated for an acting Emmy Award and a vocal advocate for LGBT issues, will present her talk "Ain't I a Woman: My Journey to Womanhood," at the University of North Texas Super Pit coliseum in Denton on Feb. 24. A Time magazine cover model, Cox is a co-star on the Netflix hit series Orange is the New Black, and will discuss the racism,

classism and gender bias she has dealt with. She's being presented through the Mary Jo and V. Lane Rawlins Fine Arts Series of UNT.

Tickets are \$10 for the general public, \$5 for UNT staff, and free for UNT students and are available at untunionstickets.universitytickets.com.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

California hate group left town after CoH protest

A group that protested Sabbath services at Cathedral of Hope on Sunday, Jan. 17, left Dallas after their appearance at the church.

The head of the group traveled to Dallas from Los Angeles to protest a Muslim



conference in Garland and Saturday's MLK parade before heading over to Cathedral of Hope to spread the hate. Police confirmed Cathedral of Hope was the group's last stop before heading out of town.

"On their way out of town, why not harass others," Dallas police spokeswoman Monica Cordova said.

According to its website, gays are just a small portion of what this hate group protests. Among its other targets are Catholics, Mormons, Muslims, atheists, rebellious women, adulterers, pot smokers, abortionists, witches, blasphemers and ... yes, hypocrites ... because they're not that.

The Los Angeles-based group, Official Street Preachers, is headed by Ruben Israel Chavez aka Ruben Israel. The Southern Poverty Law Center lists it as a "general hate" group.

"These groups espouse a variety of rather unique hateful doctrines and beliefs that are not easily categorized," the SPLC writes about "general hate" groups. In other words, they don't specialize in their hate.

— David Taffet

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Discounted tickets available for Tyler Area Gays ball

Tickets to the Tyler Area Gays' Sixth Annual Ball/Viva Las Vegas are available for purchase until doors open at 7 p.m. for the Saturday, Jan. 24 event. Discounted tickets are \$35, \$30 for students, and may be purchased either online at Tylerareagays.com/viva-las-vegas.html or through a Project TAG member by e-mail at Info@TylerAreaGays.com. Regularly priced tickets are \$40 at door.

Tarrant County Democratic Party hosts 2016 summit

Tarrant County Democratic Party is sponsoring a Strategy Summit to prepare for the 2016 elections. Texas Democratic Party Chairman Gilberto Hinojosa will be a guest speaker. The goal is to create a comprehensive Tarrant County 2016 Action Plan.

Topics include messaging, precinct chair recruitment and development, social media management, club integration, fundraising and voter registration and education.

The summit will be from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24 at the University of North Texas Health Science Center Research and Education Building, 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. Call 817-335 VOTE (8683) for more information.

DCHHS Kicks Off Chikungunya and West Nile Virus Campaigns

Dallas County Health and Human Services has begun its 2015 information and education campaigns to stop the transmission and spread of the Chikungunya and West Nile viruses.

The campaign involves public information and education initiatives as well as detection, prevention and control methods. DCHHS will continue with year-round surveillance, public health follow-up of reported human cases, public awareness and control through source reduction.

More information on the campaign is available online at Dallascounty.org/department/hhs.

Information for tax season released

As the 2015 tax season begins, individuals and families will be asked to provide basic information regarding their health insurance on their tax returns. People who purchased coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplaces, or decided not to enroll in coverage, should be aware of the additional steps that will be a part of the tax filing process starting this year.

More information and resources are available at IRS.gov or Healthcare.gov/taxes.

For more information, visit IRS.gov/freefile or IRS.gov/VITA. More information and resources are available at IRS.gov or Healthcare.gov/taxes. ■

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Reaching out in faith

Equality Texas seeking participants in Feb. 17 Faith Advocacy Day

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

The first of three advocacy days hosted by Equality Texas during the 84th Texas Legislature is less than a month away, and Daniel Williams, the LGBT lobby group's legislative specialist, this week encouraged LGBT people of faith from across the state to register to participate.

Equality Texas' Faith Advocacy Day is Tuesday, Feb. 17. It will include a short morning session on how to navigate the Capitol and most effectively communicate with lawmakers, followed by lunch. Participants will be divided into teams, with each team assigned to specific legislators. After lunch, the teams will spend the afternoon visiting their assigned lawmakers.

Family Advocacy Day will be March 23 and Freedom Advocacy Day will be April 13.

Williams explained that while the different dates have different themes, those coming to lobby elected officials all three days will address Equality Texas' full legislative agenda — they will just do so "through a different lens for each day."

"People [in general] think of LGBT people as kind of free radicals," Williams said. "They don't

think of us as people with jobs, people with families, people of faith who attend church. We have to draw those connections for them, and do it very clearly.

"The LGBT community includes people of faith, and those people use their faith to inform their actions and their decisions in all parts of their lives," Williams continued. "I am a person of faith, and my faith teaches me to treat others the way I want to be treated. So when I think about addressing discrimination or bullying in the schools, I think about making sure those children are treated the way I would want to be treated."

Williams said Equality Texas is asking those who want to participate in Faith Advocacy Day register in advance at EqualityFederation.SalsaLabs.com so that the organization can put together packets of constituent-matched materials and assign each participant to a team.

Each team will have a leader who has participated in previous lobby days and is familiar with the process. Teams leaders can then help their team members lobby in the most effective and efficient manner, he said. Each team will be focused on a specific issue on the organization's legislative agenda.

This year for the first time, Equality Texas is asking those registering for Faith Advocacy Day to pay a \$5 donation to help offset the cost of the materials, the staff time and other expenses the organ-



Daniel Williams

ization incurs in sponsoring the lobby days.

"But," Williams stressed, "we don't want that \$5 donation to keep people who really want to participate from being able to do so. We do have scholarships available, and anyone who has a question or a need can contact us."

Williams said that in years past, so many people

have turned out to participate in Equality Texas lobby days that some people didn't have the chance to fully participate. This year, by separating efforts into three different days with three different focuses, Equality Texas hopes to maximize its efforts, giving more LGBT community members the chance to interact with more lawmakers.

Participants can also choose the day that best fits their passion — faith, family or freedom.

Williams said Equality Texas has a wide-ranging legislative agenda this year that includes marriage equality and speaking out against anti-equality bills such as Rep. Cecil Bell's House Bill 623, which would punish state employees who comply with any future court order requiring Texas to recognize the freedom to marry.

Other issues include ensuring that LGBT people are protected from discrimination in the workplace, in housing, in public accommodations, in public schools, in state contracts and across the spectrum of daily life and business in the state. Equality Texas is also supporting efforts to allow both parents' names to be on supplemental birth certificates in adoptions, regardless of the parents' genders; efforts to equalize the "Romeo and Juliet" laws that govern consensual sexual contact between minors and older teens, making the rules the same for same-sex couples as they are for opposite-sex couples; and efforts to make it easier for transgender individuals to have their gender markers changed as necessary on official documents, among others. ■

For more information on Faith Advocacy Day, call Equality Texas at 512-474-5475 or email Daniel-Williams@EqualityTexas.org.

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Marriage equality and the Supreme Court

The conclusion seems foregone, but SCOTUS' timeline, other details remain uncertain

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When the U.S. Supreme Court accepted petitions from plaintiffs in marriage equality cases from four states, it laid out a timeline and limited discussion to two questions.

Unlike the 5th Circuit, which heard one hour of arguments on each of three cases from Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, the Supreme Court has consolidated cases from Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee into one, then divided the hearing into two parts.

First, the court will hear 90 minutes of arguments on the question, "Does the 14th Amendment require a state to license a marriage between people of the same sex?" Then the court will hear one hour of arguments on the question, "Does the 14th Amendment require a state to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out-of-state?"

Lambda Legal Supervising Senior Staff Attorney Ken Upton said the two cases from Ohio only involved recognition, so that state's attorneys and plaintiffs will only be involved in the second portion of the hearing. His organization was involved in one of the Ohio cases.

Despite what seems to be a limitation by the court to constitutional questions, Upton said he expects the states to argue their full range of excuses for refusing to treat gay and lesbian couples equally.

"I don't think arguments will be very different" than the ones already heard across the country in trial and appellate court proceedings, Upton said.

However, the court did limit discussion to the 14th Amendment, so Upton said that eliminates discussion of the "full faith and credit" clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The 14th Amendment does ensure due process and equal protection by the states.

The *Windsor* decision, which declared part of the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional, didn't address 14th Amendment issues. Instead, it based its decision on the 5th Amendment's right of due process by the federal government.

Matt Pepping, attorney for the plaintiffs in the Texas marriage equality case that was heard by the 5th Circuit earlier this month, agrees.

"The issue will come down to due process and equal protection," he said.

Pepping said as states have lost over and over again, their arguments have been winnowed down. He expects attorneys for the states will use the "responsible procreation argument." That is, he said, the "last man standing" in terms of usable arguments against marriage equality, but it is an argument that ultimately fails.

"In 30-odd cases, they haven't come up with any good arguments against marriage equality," Pepping said.

Upton said he expects attorneys for the states to argue the right of a state to determine who can get married. Attorneys for the states will argue they have a "legitimate" interest, while attorneys arguing for marriage equality will insist they'd need a "compelling" interest to limit marriage rights.

The time line

Briefs from the petitioners — those that originally sued their states for marriage recognition — are due at the Supreme Court by 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27. The states must respond by 2 p.m. on Friday, March 27 and reply briefs are due by 2 p.m. on Friday, April 17.

That doesn't leave much more time for the case to be heard this session.

The court hasn't set the date for the hearing but only hears arguments on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday through April 29 this session.

Decisions are written and issued through the end of June. Often the court leaves its most controversial decisions for the last day on its calendar — June 29 this year.

The most likely scenario for a hearing and outcome, according to Upton, is the case will be heard the last week in April with a decision rendered the last week of June. Should the same five justices (or more) that ruled for *Windsor* also come down on the side of marriage equality, the — at this time — 14 states that still don't recognize marriage equality should be marriage equality states by July.

That's the most likely scenario, but not the only one, Upton said. He said the court could decide to send the ruling back to the lower court — in this case, the 6th Circuit Court of Appeal, which ruled against marriage equality — and could do so without comment. If that happens, the 6th Circuit could change its mind or reaffirm its original ruling.

The court might want more time and decide not to hear the case until the fall session. It could wait to hear more circuit courts weigh in on the issue. The court hasn't heard from several appellate courts, including the 1st Circuit that includes Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. All of these states became marriage equality states without appeals court rulings.

Puerto Rico, however, is also in the 1st Circuit, and a judge there ruled against marriage equality last fall.

The 5th Circuit heard appeals on cases from Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi in January but has not issued its ruling yet.

"We've been surprised before," Upton said, referring to the court's surprise decision in October to not take any of several marriage cases appealed

from other federal appellate courts, effectively doubling the number of marriage equality states in a two-month time span.

Marriage equality in Texas

By Upton's likely scenario, Texas should be a marriage equality state by July.

Mark Phariss, one of the plaintiffs in the Texas marriage case and himself an attorney, said he believes the 5th Circuit will issue a ruling and will do so within the next few weeks. He said the court will probably stay its ruling pending the Supreme Court hearing and decision. But his attorneys plan to ask the court to lift the stay, and, if necessary, appeal to the Supreme Court to lift the stay as it did in the cases in October and more recently in Florida.

Phariss said he's immersed himself in the various court rulings and briefs filed around the country and he's "absolutely confident" of a positive ruling by the Supreme Court.

He cited the Michigan case, which involves a couple that adopted special needs children. Based on Kennedy's other rulings and how much he cares about what's best for children, Phariss said he couldn't imagine Kennedy ruling against that couple — especially after Kennedy wrote three previous, positive rulings on LGBT issues, including *Lawrence v Texas* (the Texas sodomy law challenge) and *Windsor*.

Other than the 6th Circuit and two lower court rulings, Phariss noted that every court has agreed.

"It's impossible they've all gotten it wrong," he said.

Co-plaintiffs in the Texas case with Phariss and his partner Victor Holmes are Cleo DeLeon and Nicole Dimetman, an Austin couple expecting a baby in March. They petitioned the court to hold the hearing before they have their baby, Pepping said.

"We expect the 5th Circuit to rule promptly," Pepping said. ■

Trans activist says nondiscrimination ordinance lacks teeth

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer
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Nell Gaither isn't having it with Plano's equal rights ordinance.

If anything, the Dallas transgender activist and Trans Pride Initiative president says she thinks the nondiscrimination ordinance, passed by the Plano City Council in December, is not just flawed but actually harmful.

Exempting organizations from the ordinance means any complaint filed under Title VII could be disregarded, Gaither said.

"It's a green light to discriminate with no recourse," she added.

According to the 2010 National Transgender Discrimination Survey, released jointly by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National LGBTQ Task Force, more than half of respondents reported being verbally harassed or disrespected in a place of public accommodation.

It's history repeating to Amy Stone, an associate professor of sociology at Trinity University in San Antonio who studies transgender issues. She

"The transgender community is once again left behind and twisting in the wind as the 'we got ours' attitude prevails once more. Not one organization that claims to represent LGBT interests stood up and cried foul. The LGB train left the station, again leaving the little 'T' far behind. 'We'll come back and get you later,' they say."

In an open letter also published in the Voice in December, the Transgender Education Network of Texas was blunt: The exemptions allow nonprofits to continue practicing bigotry.

"The city of Plano has created a situation wherein those who most need services such as shelter and other public accommodations can be turned away, refused service and ignored or treated badly simply because of who they are."

Gaither says Plano and its elected officials don't bear all the blame.

"Plano shut out

with many conservatives arguing it violates their religious liberties. That opposition includes Collin County's state House delegation, members of whom signed a letter opposing the ordinance.

On Tuesday, Jan. 21, representatives of a group calling itself Plano Citizens United claimed they have enough signatures to force a referendum on the ordinance. According to the Plano City Secretary, only 3,822 of those signatures must be valid.

A similar effort to repeal Houston's Equal Rights Ordinance by the Houston-based US Pastors Council ultimately failed.

leftT outT in Plano



LGBnot | Trans Pride Initiative's Nell Gaither, in this file photo outside Dallas City Hall, says the Plano equal rights ordinance is not just flawed, but harmful.

On Wednesday, Jan. 21 TPI released a position statement denouncing the ordinance. And the organization did not hold back: "[We are] publishing this statement to express our conviction that the Plano Code of Ordinances Section 2-11, as modified by the so-called 'Equal Rights Ordinance,' is detrimental to the trans community and other marginalized persons who may experience discrimination due to sexual orientation or gender identity."

Among the seven types of exemptions in the ordinance are nonprofit (except for city contractors), religious and educational organizations.

Gaither also believes the ordinance contradicts the announcement by outgoing U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder last year that Title VII of the 1964 Federal Civil Rights Act protects gender identity and sexual orientation.

couldn't comment on the specifics of the Plano ordinance, but her research shows Gaither is probably right.

"A lot of transgender discrimination happens in public accommodations, including bathrooms, and faith-based nonprofit organizations like homeless shelters. Because of religious right opposition and misunderstandings about the different needs of trans people in the LGB community, transgender protections in many municipal nondiscrimination ordinances are often ... weakened by unclear language over who is covered and exceptions like religious organizations and bathrooms."

And Gaither isn't the only trans activist decrying the ordinance. In December, Voice contributor Leslie McMurray blasted the ordinance in a column:

the trans community because they didn't understand the issues or the tactics of the conservative religious groups," Gaither said. "GALA [Gay and Lesbian Alliance of North Texas] has no interest in the trans community so didn't do the right thing in their communications by insisting that the ordinance actually be an equal rights ordinance. [So] we have a lose/lose situation that is incredibly problematic for the broad community."

Gaither also chided Equality Texas for accepting an ordinance that doesn't adequately protect anyone in the LGBT community, especially trans people.

Opposition from the right

Opposition to the ordinance is also coming from the farthest opposite end of the spectrum,

But Gaither was clear that she has hardly found allies in the Religious Right. "Even if I do really dislike the Plano ordinance, I just hate seeing the bigotry these folks express. I don't get where it comes from," she said.

Jeanne Rubin, vice president of Gay and Lesbian Alliance of North Texas and a Frisco resident, has felt the heat. She said GALA was not as involved as has been suggested. She agrees the policy doesn't go far enough, and stresses that her organization "didn't write or approve anything."

She also said the policy is an ongoing project, like so much of the political process.

"If you get 70 percent [of what you want], that's fantastic," Rubin said, quoting a friend and elected official. "We have to look outside of ourselves. It's politics." ■



THE GAY AGENDA

JANUARY

• Jan. 10-Feb. 15: Bruce Wood: A Retrospective

A new exhibition celebrating the life and creative contributions of the renowned Fort Worth dancer, choreographer and creative genius at the Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W. Main St, Arlington. Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-5:00 p.m. Sunday 1-5:00 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors. Children 12 and under are free. Call 817-275-4600 or email ama@arlingtonmuseum.org for more information.

• Jan. 24: Tyler Area Gays Winter Ball

Join the Tyler Area Gays for their "Viva Las Vegas" Winter Ball from 7 p.m.-midnight at the Holiday Inn South Broadway, 5701 South Broadway Ave., Tyler. DJ, dance floor, casino games, heavy hors d'oeuvres, a cash bar and a contest for best Las Vegas entertainer look-alikes with prizes. All tickets will include a stack of casino chips. Early bird discounted tickets are \$35 adult, \$30 student or \$40 at door. Tickets available at Tylerareagays.com/viva-las-vegas.html.

• Jan. 30-Feb. 7:

Couple's Communication Workshop

Candy Marcum, LPC and Jimmy Owen, LPC conduct a two-weekend workshop for couples. 5-7 p.m. on Jan. 30 and Feb. 6 and 10 a.m.-noon on Jan 31 and Feb. 7 at 3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 260. \$440 per couple. 214-521-1278. Candy@CandyMarcum.com.

• Jan. 31: Blue in the Heart of Texas 2

BITHOT is a biennial, one-day summit for Democratic Party activists toward the goal of discussing and maximizing the party's effectiveness in 2016. The summit includes an afternoon "KnowledgeFest" of breakout sessions on specific topics. Tickets are \$5 and cover meals. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at New Mount Zion Baptist Church, 9550 Shepherd Road. Register online at Bit.ly/BITHOTDCDP.

FEBRUARY

• Feb. 7: Turtle Creek Chorale 35th Anniversary Concert

Tim Seelig conducts this performance. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Tickets at Tickets.TurtleCreekChorale.com or at 214-526-3214.

• Feb. 7: Night Circus Masquerade Ball

The Women's Chorus of Dallas annual fundraiser. 7 p.m. at Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd.

• Feb. 14: LGBTQ SAVES Youth dance

Valentine's dance for youth 7-10 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 E California Way, Forest Hill. For more information visit

LGBTQsaves.weebly.com or e-mail LGBTQsaves@gmail.com.

• Feb. 14: Dash for the Beads

Oak Cliff Mardi Gras-themed walk, run and festival benefits local area schools to help promote healthy eating and physical activity. 9:30 a.m. at Kidd Springs Park. Register online at Bit.ly/1tZOtxv.

• Feb. 15: Mardi Gras Oak Cliff Parade

Bishop Arts District at 4 p.m.

• Feb. 17: Equality Texas Faith Advocacy Day

Lobby legislators in Austin about issues facing LGBT people. First of three EQTX's lobbying days at the Capitol. Co-sponsored by the Texas Freedom Network. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Austin Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St. Advanced registration required. Register at EqualityTexas.org.

• Feb. 19: Urban Engagement Book Club: Tomlinson Hill by Chris Tomlinson

CitySquare's monthly Urban Engagement Book Club explores various social justice issues with writer Randy Mayeux and local social justice leaders. Free. Noon of every third Thursday at the Opportunity Center, 1610 S. Malcolm X Blvd. More information at CitySquare.org.

• Feb. 22: He Said/She Said

The Human Rights Campaign Dallas Fort Worth presents the inaugural He Said/She Said fundraiser, a new twist on the Her HRC event. Events include trivia with cash prizes, HRC Bachelorette and/or Bachelor live auction and a drag show to cap off the day. Cassie Nova and Jenna Skyy host. 2 p.m. at Sue Ellen's.

• Feb. 28: 17th Annual Toast to Life: Voodoo on the Trinity

What do you get when you mix a bunny with magic? You get "Voodoo on the Trinity," the theme of Resource Center's annual Toast To Life fundraiser. DJ Lady Bunny will provide entertainment. The fundraiser begins 7 p.m. at The Empire Room, 1225 N Riverfront Blvd. For more information, visit Bit.ly/1BUUp2w.

MARCH

• March 7: 25th Anniversary of House DIFFA Celebration

DIFFA/Dallas celebrates the 25th anniversary of its House of DIFFA black tie fundraiser benefitting numerous North Texas AIDS service organizations. Silent/live auction, seated dinner and fashion runway show begins at 6 p.m. at the Omni Hotel Downtown Dallas, 555 S. Lamar St. Ticket prices vary and are available at Bit.ly/1ID2U2Y. For more information visit Diffadallas.org.



SPOTLIGHT:



Gay Agenda Spotlight: Couple's Communication Workshop

Communication is the key to happy, healthy relationships. And good communication consists of learned skills, according to Candy Marcum, LPC. Unfortunately many people learned how to communicate by watching how their parents, and therein lies the problem, Marcum added.

So if your parents didn't communicate well and you inherited that problem, join Marcum and fellow counselor Jimmy Owen, LPC, for a two-weekend workshop designed to teach couples the skills necessary to resolve and prevent conflict.

Those skills will include learning to speak for yourself, listening to your partner and the importance of communicating that awareness to one another. The counselors promise by the end you'll understand what makes each other tick and why conflicts arise.

Cost is \$440 per couple, and couples must be able to attend both weekends.

For more information contact Marcum by phone at 214-521-1278 or by email at Candy@CandyMarcum.com.

• March 19: Urban Engagement Book Club: Hatred's Kingdom by Dore Gold

CitySquare's monthly Urban Engagement Book Club explores various social justice issues with writer Randy Mayeux and local social justice leaders. Free. Noon of every third Thursday at the Opportunity Center, 1610 S. Malcolm X Blvd. More information at CitySquare.org.

• March 21: Tarrant County AIDS Walk

Registration at 9 a.m. \$20.

• March 21: South Dallas AIDS Walk

Takes place 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at St. Philip's School and Community Center, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Visit Bit.ly/1wxUG4I for registration details.

• March 23: Equality Texas Family Advocacy Day

Lobby legislators in Austin about issues facing LGBT families. Second of three EQTX's lobbying days at the Capitol. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Austin Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St. Advanced registration required. Register at EqualityTexas.org.

APRIL

• April 13: Equality Texas Freedom Advocacy Day

Lobby legislators in Austin about discrimination against LGBT people. Final EQTX lobbying day. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church of Austin Family Life Center, 1300 Lavaca St. Advanced registration required. Register at EqualityTexas.org.

• April 15: Evening of Hope Reveal Party Benefits AIDS Outreach Center. Blue Sushi, 3131 W. 7th St., Fort Worth.

A time for everything ...

Kathy Bowser retiring
as COTL pastor

DAVID WEBB | Contributing Writer
nash@dallasvoice.com

CEDAR CREEK LAKE — Celebration on the Lake Church Pastor Kathy Bowser announced Jan. 18 she would retire in May after leading the congregation for 10 years.

"There is a time to say hello, and there is a time to say goodbye," Bowser said in a telephone interview this week. "It is now a time for the church to begin again with a new pastor."

Bowser said she and Fluffy Jones, her wife who is active in helping lead the congregation, began talking about retirement last year.

The couple married in California last year on Feb. 13. They delayed their retirement plans until this year because of a new capital campaign the church undertook to raise enough money to pay off the church's mortgage. An anonymous donor offered a contribution of \$25,000 if the church could match the funds.

"We felt it would be really disruptive for us to retire during the capital campaign," Bowser said. "And we were as excited as everybody else about it."

The church realized the goal of paying off the loan early and burned the mortgage in a ceremony Jan. 12. The congregation rid itself of debt on the new \$250,000 building six years after its construction. Three capital campaigns and the sale of property given to the church by a member allowed the quick pay-off.

"We really blew it out of the water," Bowser said.

Before she made the announcement, Bowser said she individually advised the church's board of directors about her plans so a committee could be formed to search for a new pastor. She also met one-on-one with church founders and longtime members, so one-third of the congregation expected the announcement.

Bowser led up to the news with a discussion of Ecclesiastes 3: "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens ...," which is also the theme for a song by Peter, Paul and Mary.

"It feels very, very right," said Bowser, who is 70. "No matter how much I will miss everybody and how many tears I have shed, this is a good thing. Everybody will be okay. It is an excellent time to make the change."

In her sermon last Sunday Bowser fondly recalled her early days as pastor of the church when Pastor Carol West of Fort Worth's Celebration Community Church, who is also a weekender and helped found the church, asked her to take over as the lake church's pastor. Bowser said she stumbled through some sermons, and she once talked the congregation into bringing flashlights inside when sunrise services got rained out.

"That was the dumbest idea," she said. "How kind and patient everyone was."

Bowser said the Bible recounts the Baptism of Jesus as "changing his life radically" because he immediately began preaching and became consumed with spreading the word of God. Becoming pastor of the church changed her life similarly. "It was a huge change," she said.

In addition to the mortgage-free building, Bowser leaves the church with 82 members and a three-year plan to almost double the size of the congregation and to establish strong relations with other churches and philanthropic organizations in the Cedar Creek Lake area.

Church member Brenda Allen said she believes the congregation at large shares her reaction to Bowser's announcement. The church's founders agree the church is in a good place for continued growth, and that Bowser's leadership put the congregation in that advantageous position. Three new visitors attended church services last Sunday.

"We are sad to see her leave us but excited about she and Fluffy getting to enjoy some quality retirement together," Allen said. "They put their hearts, souls, energy and more into making our church what it is now. Kathy had a vision from the begin-



A TIME TO SAY GOODBYE | Kathy Bowser has announced her retirement as pastor of Celebration on the Lake Church, saying it is time for the church to 'begin again with a new pastor.' (Photo courtesy Brenda Allen)

ning, and she worked constantly to make us move forward without her leadership."

Bowser and Jones, who have owned a weekend home on the lake for 21 years and also own a home in Arlington, plan not to attend church services for a while to allow a new pastor to take over the leadership role and become comfortable. "I don't want to be a distraction," Bowser said.

Bowser noted she and Jones consider most of the congregation good friends, and they will be making a big adjustment in their lives. The couple usually spent time in their lake house only on weekends because of church duties, but now they will be free to visit the lake mid-week as well.

Daryl Wicks, a newer church member, said Bowser's departure will make him sad.

"I may sound corny, but it's from my heart and sincere," he said. "I am blessed to have Kathy in my life. She has not only been my pastor, but she has been my friend, welcoming me not only into Celebration on the Lake Church but also into her home."

Wicks said Bowser could retire from being his pastor, but she could never retire from being his friend. ■



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Progress beyond imagination

Marchers in NYC's '77 gay Pride parade wanted protection from discrimination and sodomy laws; same-sex marriage wasn't even a dream

The U.S. Supreme Court's Jan. 16 announcement that it would decide if the Constitution guarantees the rights of same-sex couples to marry wherever they reside, and whether states can refuse to recognize same-sex marriages sanctioned by other states left me marveling at the advancements of the gay rights movement in my adult life.

In 1977 I lived and worked for a time in New York City where I marched in my first gay rights parade at the age of 27. Up until that point I had not participated in any sort of activism, even though I had made no secret of my sexual orientation in Dallas prior to joining a couple of friends in Manhattan in search of excitement. During those days I aspired only to go out every night and to enjoy every bit of entertainment I could squeeze out of the big city that never slept.

The three of us shared a three-room boxcar-style apartment, and I worked for a temporary agency that sent me on office assignments across the city when I wanted to work. I felt like I had struck gold when the agency sent me to a public relations agency that represented all of the Broadway theaters, and they gave me free tickets to shows. God I loved that dead end job — answering the phone, typing and assisting the employees of the theaters and the celebrities the agency represented. I kept that assignment as long as possible.

I lacked purpose in my life in those days, and my friends shared my lack of enthusiasm for pursuing a career. We all worked just enough to pay the rent and utilities and to eat and drink in the endless array of restaurants and bars in the city. Weekends we spent at the beach when the weather turned warm enough. Sometimes people we met in the bars invited us to their weekend homes on the New Jersey Shore and Fire Island.

I couldn't imagine life beyond 30, and I wanted to extend my search for adventure indefinitely.

When June rolled around that year we started noticing fliers posted in the bars about the upcoming gay rights parade, and we decided to join in the fun. I had watched a small parade in downtown Dallas in 1972 with one of my New York roommates, but he and I had stayed on the sidewalk, unmoved by the experience. That would change in New York.

On the Sunday morning of the parade, my roommates and I made signs to carry in the parade. Mine said, "Gay freedom is my right." I doubt that I even knew what I meant when I



David Webb
The Rare Reporter

wrote those words.

I'm positive same-sex marriage didn't inspire me, and I doubt anyone else thought about it in 1977. We did fume about singer Anita Bryant's campaign in Florida to repeal an anti-discrimination ordinance in Dade County, Fla., that

succeeded June 7, 1977.

That became the rallying cry in gay rights parades across the country that summer. Everyone wanted protection from discrimination in jobs and housing, and we wanted the abolishment of sodomy laws. Few people in my presence ever mentioned the Stonewall Riots, which are widely

On the Sunday morning of the parade, my roommates and I made signs to carry in the parade. Mine said, 'Gay freedom is my right.' I doubt that I even knew what I meant when I wrote those words.

viewed today as the start of the modern-day gay rights movement.

When my roommates and I arrived after a short subway ride for the start of the parade on Fifth Avenue, the sight stunned me. Many thousands of people were lined up for the parade in New York, compared to less than a hundred people I had seen in Dallas getting ready to march. It overwhelmed me, and I sensed something earthshaking would be happening.

The parade got underway late as people continued to arrive for the lineup. The numbers astonished me, and I said that I had no idea so many gay people lived in the whole world, let alone the New York City area.

When the parade finally got underway it eventually stretched the entire length of Fifth Avenue,

and I remember seeing people all along the route hanging out of windows and cheering. As we passed the Arthur Murray Dance Studio, gay instructors with their straight female clients yelled and waved.

For the first time in my life I felt like I belonged, and it motivated me to take a stand.

Before the summer ended, I decided to return to Texas so I could finally finish college. Almost 40 years later, those days in New York seem like a dream. My two roommates — who remained in New York and never knew LGBT activists would focus on marriage equality — no longer are living.

Had I remained in New York City, I probably would be dead today, too.

Instead, I returned to Dallas and I enrolled in the School of Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin as soon as I could. One of my first stories for the Daily Texan explored a deadly new disease striking gay men in San Francisco and New York City. From then on I came across stories about the LGBT community that needed to be told at every newspaper for which I worked.

Sometimes I told the stories over the objections of others in the newsroom who failed to grasp the significance of the gay rights movement. At the same time I frequently attended the funerals of my friends, and I wrote their obituaries.

Over the years, I came to realize that every person who came out to a straight relative, friend or coworker contributed to the gay rights movement, whether they ever marched in a parade or otherwise demonstrated for the cause. As activist and former Dallasite William Waybourn pointed out to me in a discussion in the early 1990s when he led a national organization in Washington D.C., "If every gay and lesbian person in the country came out today, the discrimination would end tomorrow."

Eventually, I made my way to the Dallas Voice where I covered LGBT issues solely. But despite my specialization in LGBT issues and my association with local, state and national LGBT leaders, the marriage equality story caught me off guard. I never dreamed same-sex marriage would receive so much support in state governments, the courts and the American public in general. It took so long to get the sodomy law overturned that I thought marriage equality would be many decades off, if it even happened in my lifetime.

I'm glad that, at the age of 65, I've lived to see the gay rights movement succeeding in ways that seemed impossible a little more than a decade ago. But it is a bittersweet moment. So many people who helped lay the foundation for the success of the gay rights movement will never get to enjoy it.

Still, I'd like to think that they somehow know what they helped achieve. And if so, they are no doubt as amazed as I am. ■

David Webb is a veteran journalist with more than three decades of experience, including a stint as a staff reporter for Dallas Voice. He now lives on Cedar Creek Lake and writes for publications nationwide.

Trending toward discrimination

Marriage equality moves ever closer to being the law of the land, but the bigots keep looking for loopholes

As more and more state laws against same-sex marriage fall in the courts, I see an alarming trend elsewhere: People are claiming it is their “religious right” to discriminate against LGBT people.

While this is absolutely their right as individuals, it is not their right as owners of public enterprises, as law enforcement officials, as civil servants and as other folks involved with serving the public either for profit or civic duty.

Yet this is the argument being made.

Apparently, the idea that gays and lesbians could get some kind of equal treatment so raises the hackles of some Americans that they have to find loopholes in the law to continue not just their personal hatred, but to institutionalize discrimination. As an activist it makes me both sad and mad.

Let’s start with the “sad” part.

I have to believe that the people who are so vehement in wanting to deny us equal rights are not doing so based on logic. Logically, there is no reason for it. Therefore, I must assume it comes from something broken in them that leads them to search for scapegoats. They believe that their own misery must be caused by someone else, especially if finding that “cause” can divert them from examining their own condition and their own problems.

For example, “My marriage is in trouble because my spouse and I don’t spend enough time working on the relationship, therefore it must be somehow hindered by those gay guys down the street. After all if I didn’t spend all my time worrying about what they do in the privacy of their bedroom, and imagining how their sex must be more strange and lascivious and sinful, then I’d have more time to spend with my spouse.”

It should come as no surprise that studies show the most vocal homophobic voices belong to people who are trying to suppress their own homosexual desires. This has been proven out in the public eye by politicians, clergy and public figures whose voices are the loudest against LGBT rights, and who are exposed through an indiscretion or scandal as deeply closeted gay or lesbians.

Though I experience more than my share of “schadenfreude” at their public exposés, in my heart I ache for their pain, knowing if they had only been able to accept their own orientation honestly, things would be better for everyone. The train wrecks of “ex-gays” betraying their wives, or vehement anti-gay politicians being caught in restroom sex stings make for entertaining television. But they have long-term consequences for the people involved that are less entertaining.

That brings me to the “mad” part of my reaction.

I am angry that people can’t leave me alone and let live my life, loving who I do in whatever way I choose without making it a political statement.

I am angry that I have had to march on our na-



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

tion’s capital, spend my hard-earned money supporting organizations that fight for my rights, writing letter after letter to a non-responsive politician until I have writer’s cramp.

I am angry that bigots with their badly spelled signs

camp out at our parades and churches to spew their bile.

I am angry that we live in a country that finds it acceptable to put our rights to a vote! I am angry that my tax dollars support a system that categorically denies me the same rights as other citizens. I am angry that I have to write this damned column about a subject that should have been settled years ago.

So what the hell can I do about it?

Well, for one thing, I can try forgiving those broken folks who cause me such pain. And though that is small comfort, it is better than lashing out with the same vitriol I receive.

The second thing I can do is take action — not a protest or march, but direct action. I can get involved in the system that institutionalizes the homophobia and change it. That can be as simple as a vote, or as involved as running for office, something that I am more and more inclined to do.

The third possibility is one I am not really happy with, and that is pick up my toys and leave.

I have friends who have encouraged me to move to Canada, and others who are lobbying for South Africa. Both those countries have better protections for LGBT people and offer full citizenship regardless of sexual orientation. South Africa even has those protections written into its constitution, and that is certainly appealing.

The reason I am not going to leave is a stubborn streak ingrained in me by and inherited from my family. My maternal grandfather was an illiterate blacksmith, but he understood right and wrong and instilled in me that since of justice. He was a Roosevelt Democrat and he once told me if his hand ever pulled the lever for a Republican it would burn his fingers.

He refused to be bullied, and so do I.

So, if folks on the far right can claim it is their religious liberty to refuse to serve me, to protect me or allow me entrance to their place of business, I will claim my religious right to refuse to give them my money.

I will not just vote in elections, but vote with my feet and wallet. I consider that a sacrament, and to share my time or money with people who hate me is sacrilege.

I love the sinners, but not their sin. ■

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and board member for the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.



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Jonathan Palant re-emerges with a new choir and a mission — to bring attention to homelessness

For those who think of Jonathan Palant as merely the former artistic director of the Turtle Creek Chorale, there are many more verses yet unsung.

For instance, since arriving in Dallas eight years ago, Palant has volunteered as choral director for The Stewpot, the downtown soup kitchen serving Dallas' homeless and disadvantaged community. He's also been music minister at Kessler Park United Methodist Church, and teaches music at Richland College. Then three years ago, he founded his own group.

Called Credo, it was formed as a "mixed choir, in that it is interfaith and brings people of all walks of life with all different experiences and abilities together for a common purpose — of song, but also of service to our community. We intentionally kept it open-ended," Palant says.

One reason was that even Palant wasn't sure how long it would last. It was initially launched as what Palant joshingly calls "a choir in a box." A

group of 28 singers gathered for monthly rehearsals, culminating 11 months later with a trip to Cuba to perform. It was so successful, Palant extended it a second year, doubling rehearsals, growing membership and continuing to travel (last year they performed in Latvia, Estonia and Finland, and membership now stands at more than 75 singers). This year, the plan is to go to Iceland.

But while Credo has performed internationally and at Kessler Park Methodist, it has been largely off the radar for the wider Dallas community. And that's something Palant is hoping to change.

This weekend, Credo will perform its largest public concert yet in Dallas, with a show at the City Performance Hall. And what makes it even more special is how Palant and his singers have combined their mission of service with a worthwhile cause: Shin-

ing a light on homelessness.

"When I was approached by First Presbyterian Church to conduct the Stewpot Choir, the idea was to meet for three hours at a time and offer a concert immediately after that," he says. Each concert — up to four a year — was a new experience: Palant never knew what to expect. "We've had as few as 12 and as many as 40 singers," he says. The talent pool varied as well, as did the song selection — everything from gospel to hymns to even Puccini's "Nessun Dorma."

During the 2013 Christmas season, Palant united the work of Credo with the Stewpot Choir. "That's when we first started getting actively involved in the homeless community," he says.

Credo put together a fall concert at The Stewpot and staged an hour-long concert. "Everyone got a gift — new hats and gloves and a handwritten Christmas card from a child from the Kessler

School — we even had Santa Claus," he says. They repeated the event a few months ago.

That's when Palant decided they could — should — do more.

He came upon a choral work, co-written by the former director of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, Kathleen McGuire, specifically about homelessness. Called "Street Requiem," it had never been performed in the U.S. Palant decided it would be the ideal way not only to introduce Dallas to Credo, but also to bring The Stewpot Choir to community attention.

"When Kathleen sent it to me, I thought, 'Wouldn't it be wonderful to have The Stewpot Choir join us on this requiem?'" he says. The Stewpot Choir was rebranded as the Dallas Street Choir and "we met to figure out how can we make this work? I want to

make the choir meet weekly, to form an incentive program."

Since implementing the plan, the street choir has had "58 singers walk through the doors — five with perfect attendance," he says. Even more heartening has been how the process has strengthened his belief in the kindness and generosity of others.

"What I'm finding is that you have to be fearless in asking for help — and you get it," he says. "I reached out to [famed mezzo-soprano] Frederica von Stade thinking she'd say no — she said yes. The Men's Wearhouse has donated tuxedos for every man in the choir; another company has donated gowns for the women" — all for free. Local musicians, including those who perform with the Dallas Opera, have volunteered their time, and all three composers are flying in from Australia on their own dimes.

There was just one hurdle that concerned Palant: Where were the choir members going to sleep that night?

"The concert is at 7 p.m. To secure a bed in a shelter, you need to check in by 4 p.m. But then LaQuinta gave us a good rate on rooms so we can put the entire group up for the night," he says. Which means, for possibly the first night in a long time, singing members will have access to their own room, their own shower, their own bed. Palant hopes that's the kind of incentive that will encourage many of the homeless singers to show up.

"I don't know what kind of choir will show up for this concert," he says, noting that the full complement of Credo as well as the Richland College Chamber Singers will be on hand along with von Stade. "I've never faced this kind of unknown before."

Despite that uncertainty, Palant is exhilarated by the response (ticket sales have been strong so far), and it has him looking ahead. "I'm trying to figure out what's up next for the Street Choir," he says. ■

STREET REQUIEM

City Performance Hall,
2520 Flora St. Jan. 25. \$10–\$25.
214-871-5000. TicketsDFW.com.



Wall of Sound

Out dancer-choreographer Travis Wall brings Shaping Sound troupe to NT

Travis Wall was just 18 years old when he shot to the national spotlight as one of the most popular contestants ever on *So You Think You Can Dance*, becoming the runner-up on the second season of the show. That was nine years ago, though, and a lot has happened in the interim. In addition to returning to *SYTYCD* as a guest choreographer (and receiving an Emmy nomination for his work), he starred in a reality series called *All the Right Moves*, which tracked his efforts to found a new dance company called Shaping Sound.

It's that company that is now occupying most of Wall's, and it's what brings him to North Texas this week for the second leg of Shaping Sound's national tour.

We spoke with Wall by phone this week, and asked him how his style has changed since his reality TV days, whether his boyfriend is part of the act and what audiences have been like on the tour so far.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas Voice: Your reality series, *All the Right Moves*, was about the founding of Shaping Sound Wall: That was the beginning of it, where the company first started. We really did all get a house together and were all gonna put shows together. That's how the reality show came about. We did it for one season, so that was just a little glimpse of the idea we had. How it has evolved has been really mind-blowing. We are on our second national tour now.

What's the tour like? Do you travel with your partner? No, he's a coach for UCLA so he can't travel with me. The tour has been great — this is our second national tour. We did a lot of Texas on the first leg of this tour — Austin and Houston and El Paso — then a lot of east coast, including my hometown, Virginia Beach. Now we're hitting the Midwest, Canada ... it's pretty darn cold!

It's been warm in Dallas lately. Awesome!

You were a teenager when you appeared on *SYTYCD*. Has your style changed since then? Yeah, this summer will be the 10-year anniversary [of *SYTYCD*]. It's crazy to think who I was on that show and how I was dancing then — I was just "turn, turn, turn" instead of finding real purpose in

my movement. I kind of wish I had waited a bit [to appear on the show] because I didn't really come into my own as a dancer until [after that]. Every year I evolve — you have to keep learning and keeping it fresh.

You're the artistic director of Shaping Sound, but do you also perform? Oh, yeah — I'm all over the show! [Laughs] You gotta give the fans what they want.

How do you describe it? It's definitely a dance experience. When you're coming to see a dance company, you probably think you're going to see a few pieces. But

there's really a full storyline taking place over two acts — [the audience] is going along this journey with one dancer. People will be blown away with the music selection, which includes lots of different kinds of music. There's rock that gives us this edgy feel; there's what we grew up with, like Broadway and jazz, and even classical which forces us to do more classical ballet. It's really visual with beautiful bodies and beautiful lighting.

What have audiences been like? We have these fans who follow us on social media and Instagram and really [turn up for our tour]. And the people who come to our show get *loud*. We love it when people are cheering and screaming. ■

SHAPING SOUND

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Commerce St., Fort Worth.
Jan. 28. BassHall.com.



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New year, new you, New Orleans

A month-by-month guide to the gay playground that is The Big Easy

STEVEN LINDSEY & JEF TINGLEY

Contributing Writers
lifestyle@dallasvoice.com



DECADENT PARTY | Southern Decadence is just one of the draws the Big Easy offers to gay travelers each year. (Photo by Rod Orta)

When southern charm, a storied history and wild abandon collide, there's absolutely no mistaking what city you're in. The only dilemma a North Texan faces is exactly when to visit New Orleans to maximize the sensory overload. Fortunately, there are dozens

of annual events that are either primarily LGBT or extremely welcoming of our community, all just a 90-minute plane ride away. (Or an eight-hour drive if you're feeling road-trippy.)

With more than a dozen recent visits to the city between us, we've created a monthly guide

for indulgent ways to spend a long weekend letting those bon temps roll.

February: Some big event with beads & parades. Even though Mardi Gras is celebrated all over the Dallas area in various ways, there's nothing like the real deal in NOLA. Leading up

to the fattest of Tuesdays are a variety of LGBT events, including the dog-themed Krewe of Barkus Parade (Feb. 8), which was conceived at gay bar Good Friends. Three LGBT masquerade spectaculars — Friday Night Before Mardi Gras Ball (13), Armeinius (15) and Lords of Leather

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(15) — are great places to show off your feathery masks before celebrating the big day at the Gay Mardi Gras Bead Toss (17) on Bourbon Street.

March: Four-leaf clovers. Get your fill of green beer and shamrock-festooned strippers as the gay bars join the rest of the city in celebrating St. Patrick's Day (17). Two days before in nearby Metairie, the largest St. Patrick's Day Parade (15) features floats handing out cabbages, potatoes, carrots, onions, packaged seasonings and other ingredients for Irish stew. It's worth seeing, but best to skip on hauling veggies back to your hotel.

April: Bunny business ... and all that jazz. We love spending Easter afternoon in Lee Park, but it's always fun to mix things up and it doesn't get much more mixed up than the Gay Easter Parade (5) featuring men and women in their Easter finest reveling in celebration on a festive stroll through the French Quarter. This year's New Orleans Jazz Festival (April 24–May 3) is a who's who of LGBT favorites, including Elton John, No Doubt and Lady Gaga with Tony Bennett.

May: Wine and mascara. When the weather begins to heat up, so does the social calendar. Favorite festivals are Bayou Boogaloo (15–17), New Orleans Wine & Food Experience (20–23), and the New Orleans Oyster Festival (30–31). But it's the over-the-top hilarious MASCARA Run (15) that finds contestants bar-hopping and transforming from men into full-on drag queens, adding a different layer of femininity at

each stop.

June: Over the rainbow. If you can't wait for our own Pride parade in September, celebrate when much of the world does. New Orleans does it up big with a three-day gay Pride event filled with parties, a parade and a huge festival. Plus, the heat means guys and gals wearing much less clothing and that's always a perk.

July: Steer queer. Pamplona's got nothing on the Crescent City's Running of the Bulls (San Fermin en Nueva Orleans) (9–12). These heifers have been replaced by a herd of female roller derby players who gore the slowest runners with foam baseball bats. Participation is free. Simply wear a white shirt with red neckerchief and let the games begin. Celebrate your success (or failure) at the course finale with sangria, tapas and other Spanish treats.

August: Drinking and dressing. The Red Dress Run (9) gowns range from long and elegant to short and slutty... and so do the men and women wearing them during this bawdy, anything-goes charity run. Ranging from three to four miles (no one really measures the distance), the focus is mostly on drinking, singing songs with X-rated lyrics and showing off your gams without having to wear a pair of matching heels.

September: To (gay) infinity and beyond. As Liberace once said, "Too much of a good thing is wonderful." He could have easily been describing Southern Decadence (2–7). This epic, end-of-season gay send-off held Labor Day Weekend

blends together the revelry of Mardi Gras with naughtiness of Folsom Street Fair for three days of nonstop music, dancing, drinking and hot boy watching.

October: Magical mystery tour. New Orleans throws one hell of a Halloween party, but what really sets this city apart is the Voodoo Music Arts Festival (Oct. 30–Nov. 1). Past performers at this three-day celebration have included Foo Fighters, Skrillex and Outkast. In addition to the tunes and the art, there are other festival must-haves like amusement rides and a beer garden. In a city known for its ghosts, vampires and voodoo priestesses, Gay Halloween is superb, especially the massive HNO Costume Party (31) that goes until 4 a.m.

November: Lights! Get into the holiday spirit early with Celebration in the Oaks (Nov. 27–Jan. 3), one of the nation's most spectacular lights festivals held in gorgeous City Park.

December: Creole Christmas. Add a fresh twist to tired traditions with Christmas New Orleans Style. This month-long celebration offers up holiday staples with Big Easy flair. Stroll the French Quarter draped in wreaths and bows or enjoy caroling in Jackson Square, bonfires on the levee and even a "Santa Paws" Dog Parade Costume Contest. Who needs eggnog and cookies when there are Hurricanes and beignets? Plus, New Year's Eve in New Orleans is about as festive as it gets, from the bars to the street along the Mississippi River where a fleur-de-lis drop and fireworks start the next year off right. ■

Where to stay

There are hundreds of hotel choices in New Orleans, but our favorites roll out the pink carpet for LGBT travelers.

Windsor Court Hotel. Modeled after England's elegant Windsor Castle, this property recently experienced a \$22 million renovation. The only four-star four-diamond hotel in the city, it's classic sophistication at its finest with exquisite perks like a scenic club level on the 22nd floor overlooking the river and offering everything from nibbles and bubbly to heavy hors d'oeuvres and craft cocktails. The nearby French Quarter may beckon, but with these perks so does a full day at the hotel.

Audubon Cottages at Dauphine Orleans Hotel Tucked away in the French Quarter away from the hustle and bustle is the perfect location for a private getaway. These seven luxury cottages feature individual courtyards, a butler and complimentary breakfast. The centerpiece of this tranquil oasis is a saltwater pool shared by only the cottage guests and rumored to be one of the oldest in-ground pools in New Orleans. But really, any hotel in the New Orleans Hotel Collection is a good bet.

Hotel Monteleone Perhaps the most famous French Quarter hotel, this massive property boasts old-world details from the impressive lobby to every guest room and suite. Known for a few ghosts and its iconic rotating Carousel Bar, it's a must-visit whether you're sleeping there or just popping in for cocktails.



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I got pain

2 new releases, 'Still Alice' and 'Cake,' plumb the psychology of illness

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com



I'm just gonna say it: Jennifer Aniston was robbed. Sure, when news broke last month that she had been nominated for a SAG Award and a Golden Globe (for best actress in a *drama*, no less!), a hue and cry went out on the blogosphere: *Rachel* is a serious actress?! Since when? She started getting Oscar buzz for a film no one had heard of, called *Cake*, and until the nominations came out last week, she seemed a real contender. Yeah, right.

Yeah! Right! She really is as good as people don't seem to want to believe in this film, itself about as far removed from frivolous romantic comedies like *We're the Millers* as you can possibly get.

Aniston plays Claire, a woman about whom we know surprisingly little for a long time. All we are sure of is: She suffers from chronic pain, occasioned by a disfiguring accident; she pops Oxycodone like Altoids; and she's an angry, angry bitch. You might be too if you suffered as much loss as she has, though the scope of it only plays out in fits and starts. Is she *really* in pain, or just a malingerer? A victim or a drug addict? Is there hope for her?

The role requires Aniston to spend 100 minutes suppressing a grimace while still reaching out to the audience emotionally. It's a tough tightrope to walk. As she drives away those who seem to care about her — the other members of her support group (led by Felicity Huffman, who I could see playing the Claire role herself 10 years ago), her estranged husband (Chris Messina) and especially her housekeeper Silvana (Adriana Barraza), who both enables and looks after Claire. All of them — plus Sam Worthington, Anna Kendrick and more — add fine support, but this truly is The Aniston Show.

It's not just because Aniston has been Amer-

ica's sweetheart for two decades, first on *Friends*, then as the hapless romantic casualty of the tabloids ... though, in fact, going against type doesn't hurt. It's her focus, her determination to portray a character as superficially unlikeable yet sadly sympathetic, to eschew the trappings of studio glamour and dig deep into a character for art's sake. You're transfixed by her even as she makes you wanna pull your hair out.

Good as she is, Aniston didn't make the cut in the Oscar race. Too bad, but ultimately irrelevant. The work stands on its own, and her performance will have to suffice as the icing on this *Cake*.

Even if Jen had scored a nomination, she wasn't likely to win the Oscar, not when this is clearly Julianne Moore's year. With her pale skin, soft red hair and china doll features, Moore has always been both a dreamy film presence and an earthy one. She seems at once ethereal and relatable, a delicate flower with hidden thorns. Those traits are perfectly attuned to the title role in *Still Alice*.

Moore plays Alice Howland, a Columbia University linguistics professor who just turned 50. Words, language, family — they mean everything to her. So when she starts forgetting some of them, she seeks medical attention only to be told the worst: She has early on-set

Alzheimer's. There's no cure. She will, eventually, lose her memories ... and she'll know it.

The premise alone is the equivalent to the educated upper-classes of a medical horror show. Our identity, is, after all, the only thing we actually have, so when that goes, what's left?

Like *Cake*, *Still Alice* could have felt like a disease-of-the-week movie, something better suited for Lifetime than an art house cinema. But the

★★★★★

CAKE

Jennifer Aniston, Adriana Barraza, Sam Worthington, Anna Kendrick. Rated R. 100 mins. Now playing at the Angelika Mockingbird Station.

★★★★★

STILL ALICE

Julianne Moore, Alec Baldwin, Kristen Stewart. Rated PG. 110 mins. Now playing at Landmark's Magnolia.

MOORE, PLEASE | Julianne Moore is hotly fancied to win the Oscar this year for her work as a woman dealing with early on-set dementia in Wash Westmoreland and Richard Glatzer's drama 'Still Alice.'



RACHEL GETTING MARRIED | Jennifer Aniston brilliantly plays a woman coping (poorly) with exquisite loss in the indie film 'Cake.'

writer-directors, Wash Westmoreland and Richard Glatzer (*The Fluffer*), don't resort to cliché or mawkishness. It's not giving too much away to say we never see Alice completely ravaged by this illness. That's not the point. It's a story of survival in the face of insurmountable odds, of character and will power and love. (Glatzer himself was, with the past few years, diagnosed with ALS, a fact that gives resonance to

the storytelling.)

Moore is a savvy actress, one who engenders our affection with a fretful smile even more so than with outward warmth. She skillfully underplays the role so well, Kristen Stewart's ham-fisted pouting is almost not even a distraction. It's the kind of role awards were designed to honor; all the better that Moore indisputably deserves it.

Guinea pygmalion

It's 1879, Victoria is in her 42nd year on the throne (and still has more than 20 years to go), the British Empire is at its height, the Industrial Age has led to new technologies and the upper-classes are delighted to claim the world for their own. It is inconceivable they will not dominate culture for centuries.

Well, as it turned out, barely a few more decades. The empire collapsed (they almost lost neighbor Scotland last year) and other cultures had a way of resisting domination — even the savages, it turns out, are not as vulnerable as overly confident explorers.

It's from this framework that **The Explorers Club** unravels its farcical plot. A woman (Dana Schultes) has dared threaten the gender barrier of this clique, having returned to London with Luigi (Michael Ulmer, who makes feral fabulously funny), a native of a lost tribe somewhere in the jungle. But when Luigi slaps the queen (a perfectly acceptable greeting in his homeland), it triggers an international incident that begins to show the chinks in the British Empire.

The Explorers Club is a farce that does not rely (much, at least) on broad physical comedy, slam-



ming doors, mistaken identity or sexual desire to keep audiences laughing, although each time it does delve into those arenas it succeeds. (A stunt with cocktail glasses warrants spontaneous applause — several times).

From Thomas Ward's blowhard ignoramus to Mark Shum's milquetoast guinea pig lover to John Kyle Igneczi's half-crazed assassin (two, actually), the cast expertly navigates Nell Benjamin's smart script that touches on religion vs. science, sexism and cultural imperialism. Director Jim Covault — who mounted the same production last year at Stage West — delivers a confectionary delight.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Feb. 8. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

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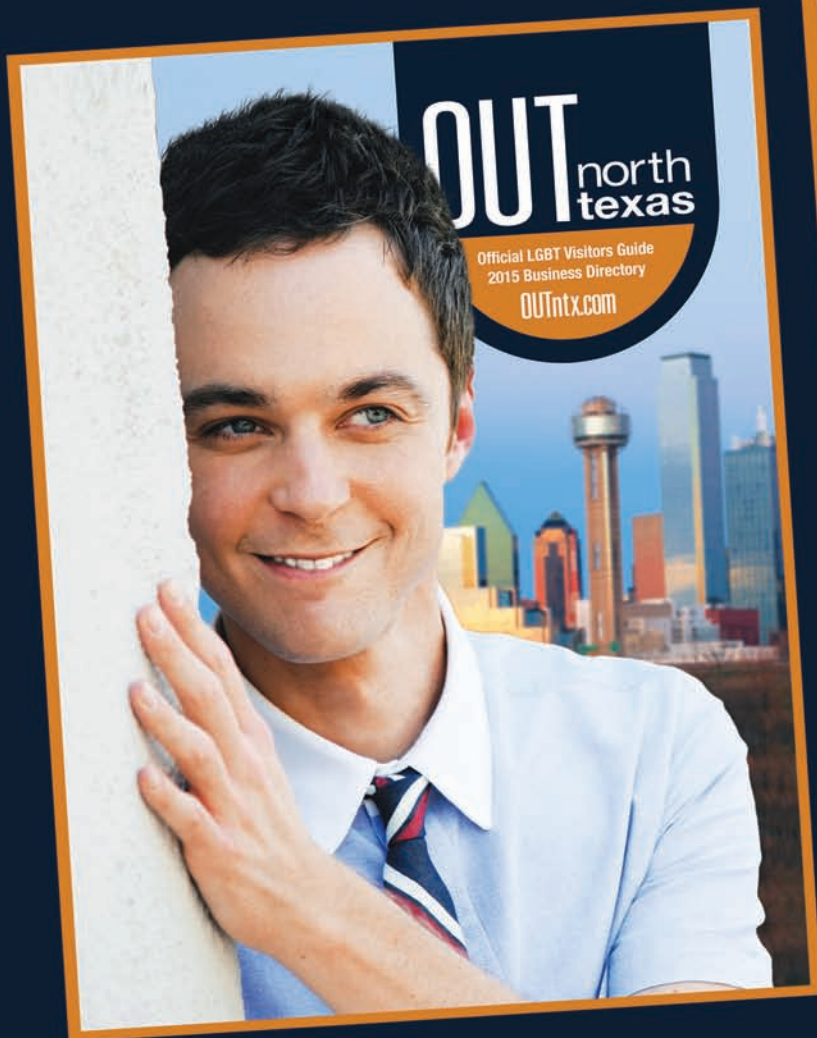
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Friday 01.23

'Annie Get Your Gun' gets concert performance

Lyric Stage's latest production is one of the most popular musicals of the golden age of Broadway, Irving Berlin's rarely-seen *Annie Get Your Gun*. The high-kicking Western-themed comedy features classic songs ("There's No Business Like Show Business," "Anything You Can Do"), presented as they were originally intended: A full 34-piece orchestra. This concert version plays only one weekend instead of the usual two, so now's the time!

DEETS: Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Jan. 23-25. LyricStage.org.

Sunday 01.25

Dish's Drag Brunch inaugurates 2015

This weekend marks the final Sunday of the month, and that means this is the first Drag Brunch of 2015. Drag diva Jenni P is the headliner for this essential new Dallas tradition, which includes three seatings (at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.) with a three-course menu from the Oak Lawn restaurant Dish. It's like going to a drag club without the late nights.

DEETS: Dish at the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. Dish-Dallas.com

Saturday 01.24

Cavalia Odysseo gallops into North Texas

If you've seen a Cirque du Soleil show, you know how fabulous something under a big top can be. Well, imagine the same, with horses. That's Cavalia, which combines the raw power and beauty of equestrian mastery with spectacle and showmanship that includes acrobatics, humor and hot men in singlets. It's been a decade since the show last made it to North Texas, and this new show, called Odysseo, promises new delights. It will play daily with matinee and evening performances; special packages, including premium seating and a full dinner service, are also available.

DEETS: Under the big top at Dr Pepper Ballpark, 7300 Rough Riders Trail, Frisco. Tickets from \$29.50. Cavalia.net.

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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK: NOW PLAYING

THEATER

Annie Get Your Gun. Lyric Stage presents a concert version of the Irving Berlin classic musical. Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Through Sunday. LyricStage.org.

Another Murder, Another Show! The latest from Pegasus Theatre, this In Living Black & White show — where makeup, sets and lighting make the play appear to be an old black and white film — brings back Harry Hunsacker in this spoof of 1940s-era film noir. *Final weekend.* Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 5231 Performance Drive, Richardson. EisemannCenter.com.

Boeing, Boeing. The farce about sexual escapades among the jet set. Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington. Through Feb. 1. TheatreArlington.org.

The Book Club Play. Members of a book club allow a documentarian to film them. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Feb. 1. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

The Explorers Club. A knockabout farce set in the age of exploration at the end of the 19th century. With Mark Shum, John-Michael Marrs. This co-production with Stage West moves to WaterTower for the remainder of its run. *Reviewed this week.* WaterTower Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Feb. 8. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

The Flick. The regional premiere of Annie Baker's 2014 Pulitzer Prize-winning play about a rundown moviehouse. Directed by Blake Hackler, who last year performed in *Cock*. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through Jan. 31. Undermain.org.

Stagger Lee. Dallas Theater Center presents a world premiere musical by writer in residence Will Power, about how a folk song in the African-American community became a huge R&B hit half a century later. Cast includes Denise Lee. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Feb. 15. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Tru. Jay Presson Allen's play starring legendary Texas actor Jaston Williams as Truman Capote. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Feb. 8. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Why Things Burn. Southwest premiere of a play by Ric Krause, an ode to '50s-era film noir and pulp fiction at the height of the Red Scare. *Final weekend.* Margo Jones Theatre at Fair Park, 1121 First Ave. \$15. WhyThingsBurn.bpt.me.

FINE ART

Modern Opulence in Vienna: The Wittgenstein Vitrine. The DMA's conservationists restore this century-old display case of silver, lapid and glass — an amazing example of Viennese craftsmanship. Dallas

TAKE FLIGHT | The live stunt show Marvel Universe Lives comes to American Airlines Center Jan. 30 — Feb. 1, with superheroes like Falcon.



Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Oct. 18. Free. DMA.org.

Bouquets: French Still Life Painting from Chardin to Matisse. A reexamination of the painting of flowers in the 19th century. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 8. Special exhibit fee. DMA.org.

The Mary Baskett Collection of Japanese Fashion. Stunning couture from three of Japan's most iconic fashion designers: Miyake, Yamamoto and Kawakubo. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Feb. 22.

EXPO

The Marvel Experience Tour. An interactive theme park attraction with rides and exhibits centering on the Marvel Universe. The Cotton Bowl, inside Fair Park. Through Feb. 1. TheMarvelExperienceTour.com.

FRIDAY 01.23

DINING

Cook Hall: Beer vs. Whiskey Dinner: Wine pairings are so 2014 — what about a dinner that pairs food with

beer? Or whiskey? How about both? Cook Hall at the W Hotel is giving you the chance to compare the two side by side, with a special chef's dinner tasting this night that includes three courses, each featuring a selection of food, brew and liquor. W Dallas Victory, 2440 Victory Park Lane. 7 p.m. \$68/per person. 214-397-4111 for reservations.

this week's solution

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SATURDAY 01.24

SPORTS

FrontRunners. Gay jogging group meets at 8:30 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park for a run along the Katy Trail.

CIRCUS

Cavalia: Odysseo. Dallas premiere of the new Cavalia, a Cirque du Soleil-ish show featuring horses, as well as acrobatic performers. Dr Pepper Ballpark, 7300 Rough Riders Trail, Frisco. Jan. 28–Feb. 8. \$29.50–\$229.50. Cavalia.net.

SUNDAY 01.25

BROADCAST

Downton Abbey. The fifth season of the addictive drama about life among the aristocracy continues. Airs on KERA at 8 p.m.

Girls. The fourth season of the quirky comedy-drama about modern living, co-starring Andrew Rannells and Zachary Quinto. Airs on HBO at 8 p.m.

Looking. The second season of the drama about gay life in San Francisco, starring Jonathan Groff. Airs on HBO at 8:30 p.m.

MONDAY 01.26

EXERCISE

Adult Broadway Butt Busters. DTC artistic associate Joel Ferrell leads an hour-long cardio-centric fitness class based on B'way choreography for an eight-week

session each Monday evening. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through March 2. 5:30–6:30 p.m. \$150. ATPAC.org.

TUESDAY 01.27

FILM

The Producers. Mel Brooks' Oscar-winning comedy about two Broadway producers who try to engineer a huge flop and thereby bilk their investors. The 1968 film included several flamboyant gay characters; in 2000, it was adapted to the musical stage. Screens as part of the Tuesday New Classic series at Landmark's Magnolia in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 01.28

BROADCAST

Top Chef. This season, in Boston, with Padme, Tom, Gail and Richard Blais, returns. Airs on Bravo at 8 p.m.

THURSDAY 01.29

BROADCAST

Project Runway All Stars. Returning contestants compete. Airs on Lifetime at 8 p.m.

THEATER

My Name Is Asher Lev. Circle Theatre kicks off its 34th

season with this adaptation of the Chaim Potok novel. Circle Theatre, Fort Worth. Jan. 29–March 7. CircleTheatre.com.

DANCE

Dark Circles Contemporary Dance. The winter series from the new dance troupe includes a world premiere (*You And Me*) as well as the recent *Critics of the Morning Song* from Joshua L. Peugh. Emma Lowe Hall Studio Theatre, 3000 S University Drive, Fort Worth. Jan. 29–31. DarkCirclesContemporaryDance.com.

FRIDAY 01.30

THEATER

In Real Life. The third installment of Charlayne Woodward's trilogy of plays about an African-American actress making it in the 1960s and '70s. Directed by Tre Garret. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Jan. 30–March 1. JubileeTheatre.org.

Marvel Universe Live. Not to be confused with the Marvel Experience, this is a live-action stunt show featuring favorite characters from Stan Lee's mind. American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. Jan. 30–Feb. 1. MarvelUniverseLive.com. Ticketmaster.com.

OPERA

La Wally and Everest. The Dallas Opera continues its season with two one-acts: The fourth act from Alfredo Catalani's *La Wally* (set in the Alps) and the world premiere of Gene Shceer and Joby Talbot's *Everest*, about the doomed 1996 expedition. They will be performed with an intermission. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Jan. 30–Feb. 7. DallasOpera.org.



AT THE MOVIES: '2 Days,' 'Humbling'

Jennifer Aniston is still getting sympathy for being passed over for an Oscar nom for *Cake* (see my review on Page 18), but if you want to do a side-by-side comparison to the woman regarded as taking her slot, check out Marion Cotillard, pictured, in *Two Days, One Night*. She plays a woman destined to lose her job, unless she can convince her co-workers not to take a bonus. (*Now playing at the Angelika Mockingbird Station.*)

For the week's gayest-themed new release, check out *The Humbling*. Based on Philip Roth's novel, it stars Al Pacino as a man who has an affair with a lesbian (Greta Gerwig). The relationship triggers a series of incidences with those from their romantic pasts resurface to cause chaos. (*Now playing at the Texas Theatre.*)

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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Cassie Nova

Love me, love my animals

I have been bitching a lot recently. I have complained about the youth of today, the lack of great quality music and my feet hurting — just your general “things that annoy me” stuff. Well not this week. This week I am only going to talk about awesome things, like dogs. I get quite a few questions for this column about my animals. Anyone who knows me well knows that I like animals way more than most people. Believe it or not, my husband and I have five really great dogs (Sunny, Lucy, Toby, Benji and Bentley), a fat cat named Kitty Walker, a 60 pound Sulcata tortoise (Ruby ... might be a Rudy, I think I recently saw a turtle penis) and two little Russian tortoises, Sheldon and Amy. I know it sounds like a lot and it is, but it works for my household. I enjoy taking

care of my man and my zoo. Talking about my furred and shelled kids always put me in a good mood.

Way back when I was in my 20s, I had my first kid, Dax: He was a golden Pomeranian who changed my life forever. Soon after came the first and only girl I ever fell in love with, Eevee. She was a loud mouth little bitch of a Pom whose nickname was Evil. The two of them truly taught me the value of companionship and helped me realize that I was worthy of being loved. They kept me from becoming a bitter single person and helped me recognize love when I found it. If you have a pet, you know what I mean. If not, think about adopting a dog or cat. But only if you can give them the love, time and care that they deserve.

Now let's help some of you mo-fos.

Dearest Cassie, Let's talk Stephen Fry. As many know, Fry (57) recently [married] Elliott Spencer (27). For the mathematically challenged, that's a 30-year age gap. Now I know many say that age is just a number, but there's more to it, right? Stage of life, changes in the body (my knees stopped working at



40, and that can be kind of important to a gay man), stigma, the inevitable Cher vs. Gaga super diva argument. Now while we, the fabulous people, have navigated the stigma waters before, can it really work? I have a proclivity for the younger variety and find myself asking out guys in their mid- to late-20s, but is that creepy? Is there such a thing as an “appropriate” age gap or should I not give a damn? Can I trust that any millennial is interested in anything more than daddy money? If I read “be under 30” one more time on Grindr, my head might explode. Is it time I hang up my twerking shorts and trade it in for a leather vest? Or is this just another form of discrimination in a community that's supposed to be about acceptance? — Dirty Old Creeper.

DOC: First off, you seem like your Grindr profile probably says “be under 30” as well. Am I right? Maybe your game would be different if you had lots of coin. There is nothing wrong with being a chicken hawk, but it definitely has its hazards. Relationships are hard enough, especially when you have little in common. Hell, when I was 19, I dated a 35-year-old. The sex was fun but everything else was *blah*. He liked *Perry Mason* and bland chicken for dinner; I wanted to go out all the time to dance. We didn't have enough in common to make a relationship. Second, you can't fault a guy for saying “be under 30.” You have your preferences, they have theirs. Grindr might not be the best place to find anything other than Mr. Right Now anyway. Third, regarding Stephen Fry and Elliott Spencer, I'm glad those two ugly men found each other. That should give you hope that a big age gap can work. Just lower your standards. I wish them and you a lot of luck, y'all are gonna need it. Just keep an open mind and an open heart and hopefully you will find the right twink with daddy issues. Now as for the Cher vs. Gaga case, they are both awesome. Cassie.

Dear Cassie, So I recently started dating a guy (I'll call him Luke) that I met two years ago. He is a good friend of your co-worker. I won't name names — Beyoncé is a private person. Anyway, I ran into Luke in the Rose Room and we exchanged numbers. Big mistake! We began texting the next day. I was off work that day so I was free to text all day. However, when I went back to work and couldn't text back he

started getting very clingy. He tried to make me feel guilty and kept asking if I really liked him. What happened to the days when you actually made a phone call or went out to dinner? I finally had to end it because of how clingy he was being. He called me a piece of shit and said, “This is why you're single.” Do you think I did the right thing Cassie? Should I have been more understanding? Signed, Frowny face.

Dear FF, I think you both could be better at communication, but yes, you did the right thing. If there is name-calling and paranoia before y'all have even officially gone on a date, then think of the nightmare that y'all would be as a couple. The problem with constantly texting is, you don't hear sarcasm or how things are said to know how they should be taken. Don't be afraid to say can we “talk” later. Also if things get weird, don't be afraid to peace out. Make a point to start the next relationship with actual one on one talking if that is what is important to you. In this world of instant information and short attention spans, it's easy to move too fast. Slow your roll, and make sure the guy you are interested in knows that is what you want. Cassie.

Dear Cassie, I have always wanted to ask a drag queen if you have ever had someone recognize you and geek out in public. What was your reaction? Is it weird when this happens? Thanks, Joseph.

Yo Jo, that has happened to me many times, but it is my voice that usually gives me away. Recently while getting groceries, the girl in line behind me was staring a hole through me. I can get quite defensive because of the whole “look at that fag” mindset because of my beautifully arched eyebrows. I turned to her and said, “What the fuck are you looking at?” She just smiled and said, “Oh my God, you're Cassie Nova! I thought that was you but wasn't sure 'til you yelled at me. I love you.” And on and on. I apologized for cussing at her and thanked her while blushing. I felt like a big shot in the checkout line at the Waxahachie Walmart. Cassie Nova: Superstar!

Now I must go rid my yard of doggie poop. That is the glamorous life of an animal lovin' drag queen.

Love more. Bitch less and be fabulous. XOXO, Cassie Nova.

If you have a question for Cassie Nova email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.



Grin and L.W. at Alexandre's.

Making the **SCENE** the week of Jan. 23-29:

Alexandre's: Jason Huff at 10 p.m. on Friday. **Bad Habits** at 10 p.m. on Saturday. **Mi Diva Loca** at 9 p.m. on Wednesday. **Lala Johnson** at 9 p.m. on Thursday.

Best Friends Club: Caress Riata and Celeste Martinez host **Sweet Dreams are Made of the 80s** with Sable Alexander, Diamond, Gemini Alexander Brooks, Aiden Coxx, Linze Serrell, JC Alexander, Brittney Brooks, Bristol Gunnz, Korina Duvalle, Desiree LaBouche, Roxianna Divine, Veronica Reyes, Jazznine St. James and Natasha Parson at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday benefiting **AIDS Outreach Center**.

BJ's NXSI: DJ Clint spins on **Friday 4 Play** each week in January.

Brick/Joe's: Dannee Phann Productions presents **Androgyny: The Fashion Show**, with Roxy Andrews from **RuPaul's Drag Race**, Will Jardell from **America's Next Top Model**, designers Thrill, Whittall & Shon and Jeremy Michael Calhoun, plus many special appearances. Benefits the **Sugarstix LifeWalk Team**. Saturday at 9 p.m. Ticket prices and details online at OneNightinBangkok.org. **LGBT Kings & Queens** presents **High Rollers Houston Turnup Queens** hosted by **Ida Mae Watergate**. Doors open at 9:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Changes: **Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington** show at 8 p.m. on Friday.

Club Cherries: Birthday bash for **Liza Cortez** with DJ **Chola** playing Tejano, old school, country and more on Saturday.

Club Reflection: **Trinity River Bears** meeting at 2:30 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Dallas Eagle: **National Leather Association-Dallas** presents **Leather Perspectives** from 1:30-5 p.m. on Saturday. **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents **Donna Duma's Birthday Show** from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday.

Pekers: **Mr. and Mrs. Charity America 2015 Linze Serrell** and **Ricky Pouhmann** present **Double Trouble** at 8 p.m. on Sunday benefiting **Miniature Schnauzers of North Texas** and **Home for the Holidays**.

Round-Up Saloon: **Like, Totally Awesome 80's Night!** begins at 9 p.m. on Monday with **Karaoke Out Loud** hosted by **Frank M.** with a night of fun and festivities.

Sue Ellen's: **Chris Pruett Annual Musical Birthday Bash** on Friday. **Miss Marcy and the Sugar Daddies** on Saturday. **Kathy and Bella** at 3-5 p.m. and **Mi Diva Loca** at 6-9 p.m. on Sunday. **Marisela** on Wednesday. ■

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: **Kat Haygood**.



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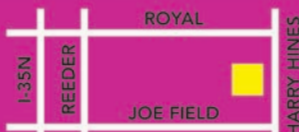
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Texas All-American Goddesses: Vita Summers (At-Large 2015), Kristina Starr (2013) and Raquel Blake (2015) at the Rose Room. (Photo courtesy Jesse Osuna)



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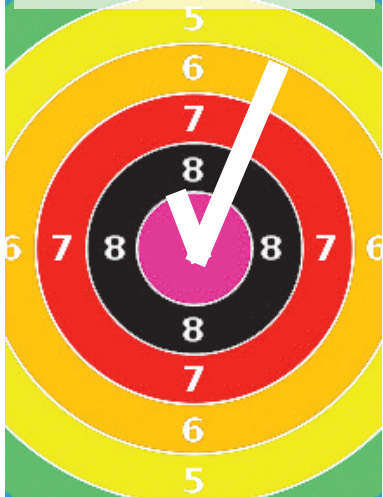
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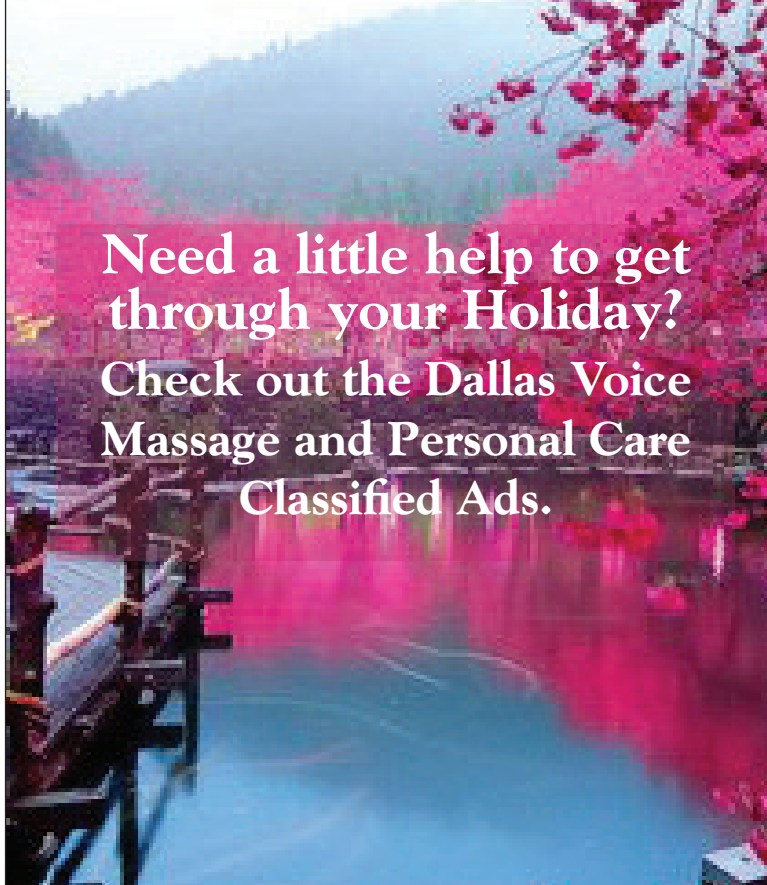
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDA) is a Twelve Step Fellowship of men and women whose common purpose is recovery from codependence and the development and maintenance of healthy relationships. CoDA meetings in the area meet:

- St. Thomas Episcopal Church
6525 Inwood Road
(Inwood at Mockingbird)
Dallas, Texas 75209
- LAMBDA GROUP
6:30 PM, Friday; 1 hour
OAK LAWN CoDA GROUP
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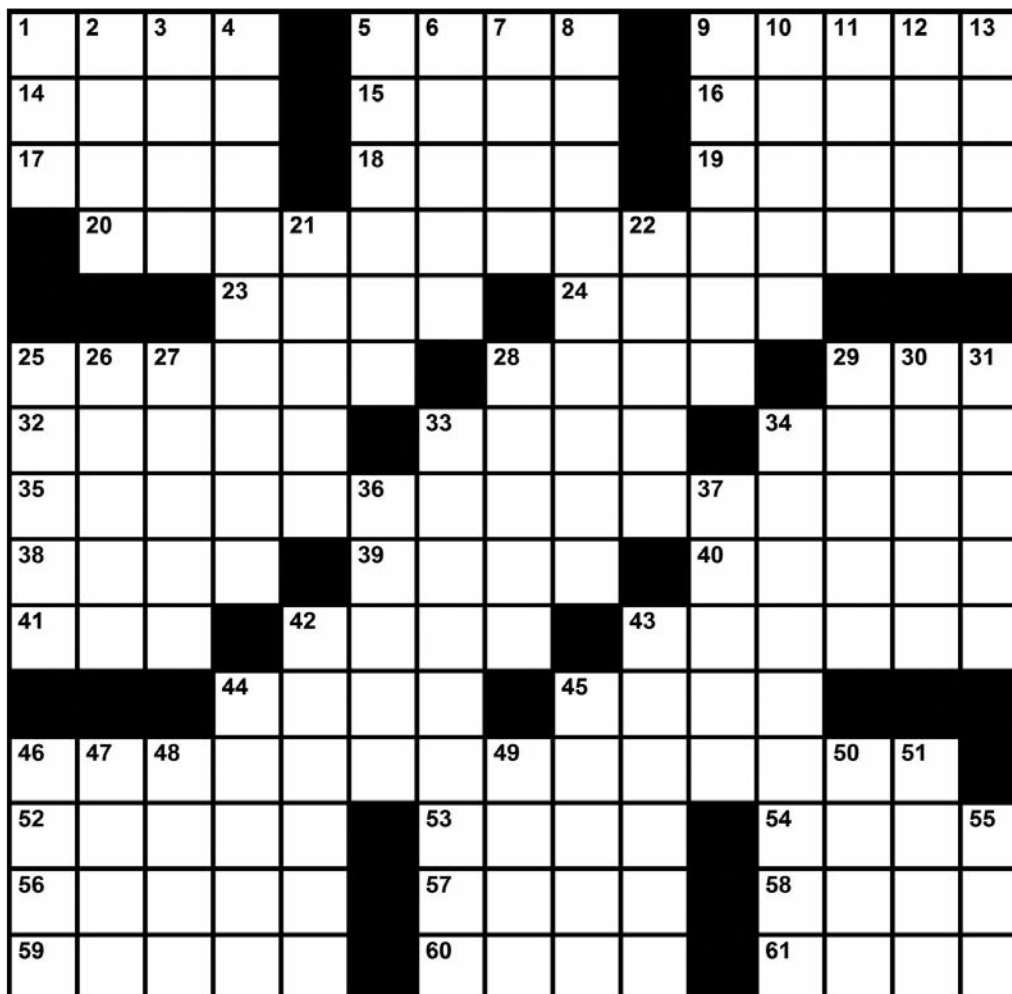
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q-puzzle



Touring with Alan Turing

Solution on page 22

Across

- They may be exchanged for tits
- Boat that's often blown up
- Stonewall
- For most students
- Scat queen
- Bone below the waist
- Sal Mineo played one in *Rebel Without a Cause*
- Antiaircraft fire
- Some tennis scores
- Feed a line to a portrayer of Alan Turing?
- Steely Dan's "___ Lied"
- Gallup specialty
- "With ___ toward none" (Abe phrase)
- Bottom support
- Straight line
- John of *Gay Sex Quotes*
- Platform at an HRC gala
- Not a short story
- Date a portrayer of Joan Clarke regularly?
- Queen's "subjects"
- Competes
- Up and about
- Saint, in Rio
- Lacking locks

43 Force from office

- Bear hunter Boone, briefly
- Shrewd
- The puns of this puzzle, if you think they're annoying?
- Cut of meat
- On-line 'zine
- Have itchy feet
- Gertrude's partner
- Home of some bubbly
- Amount of AZT, e.g.
- Lord of La Mancha
- The majority
- One way to cook fruit

Down

- Number of gay men under a centurian?
- Obi-Wan player
- Via, briefly
- Robin and Jimmy Olsen
- Prove wrong
- ___ Children
- Jazzercise target
- Be the recipient in S&M?
- Where to find a stallion
- Like some pools
- Somewhat
- The Mod Squad* character

13 S&M unit

- Secret store
- Portia de ___
- Flat tops
- Spartacus* venue
- "Of course I ___ people ..." (Quentin Crisp)
- Sounded off at a frat hazing
- Dustin in *Midnight Cowboy*
- Gawks at
- Batman's alter ego Bruce
- Group of dentists that penetrates your mouth?
- Where to see cracks in boat bottoms
- An ex of the Donald
- Allman ex of Cher
- Athlete who swings his stick
- "Doggone!"
- Music of the the Village People
- Librace's minks, e.g.
- Some nest eggs, for short
- Hedwig, to Michael C. Hall
- End of a dry spell
- Britney Spears' "___ Curious"
- Kind of point
- Make more bearable
- Small pussy noise

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