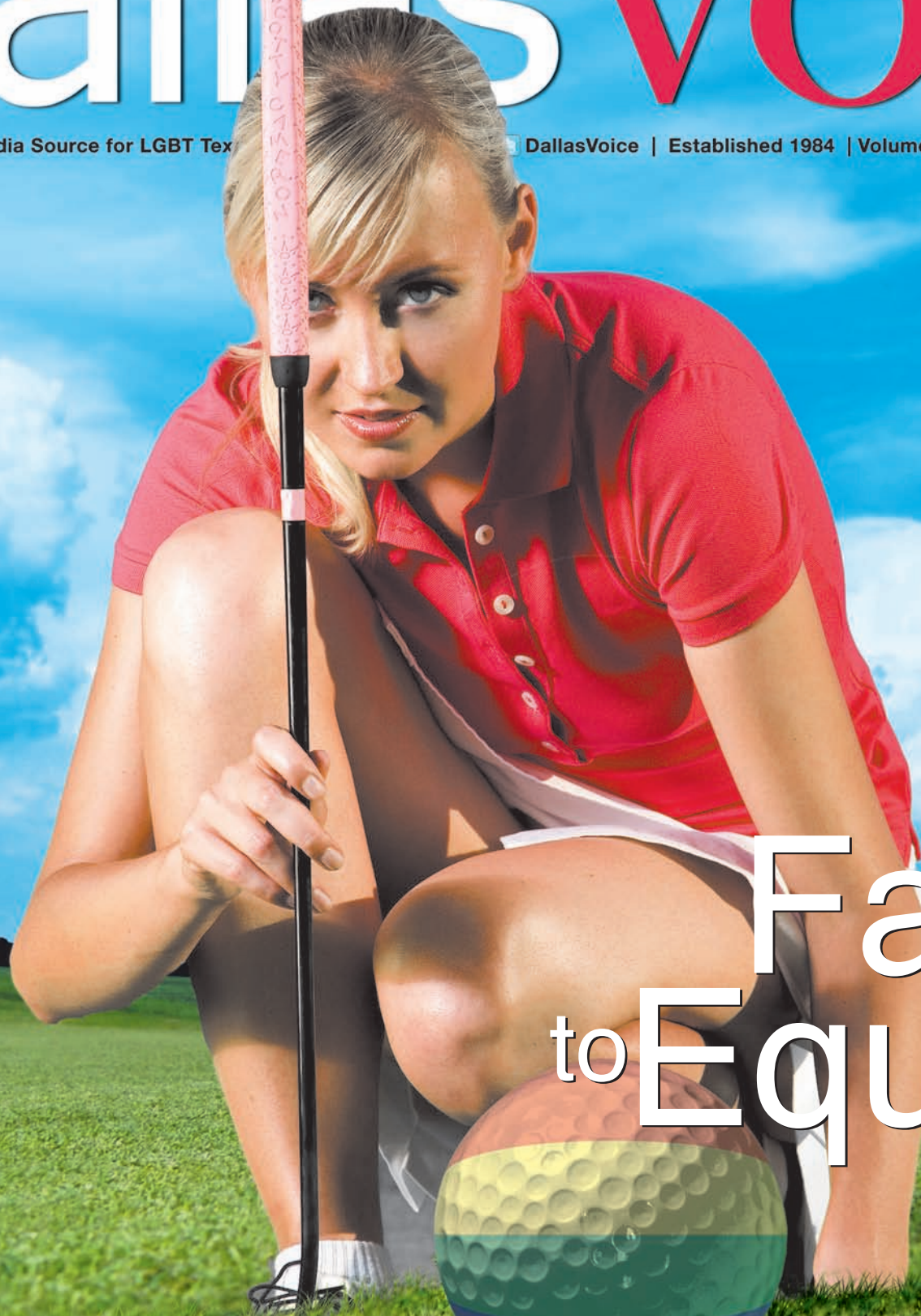


# dallas voice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Tex

DallasVoice | Established 1984 | Volume 32 | Issue 4 | FREE | Friday, June 5, 2015



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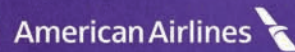
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AT&T wants everyone living openly to share their stories by creating their own 15-second "This is Me" video to tell the world how they live proud every day. The winner of the "This is Me" Sweepstakes will be awarded a trip for two to New York City and tickets to OUT100.

### Speaker and PFLAG display banished from Tyler library

The Tyler Public Library invited author Lou Anne Smoot to talk as part of the library's summer reading program. Smoot, who's from Tyler, wrote *A Christian Coming Out: A Journal of the Darkest Period In My Life*.

Tyler City Manager Edward Broussard, however, canceled the appearance and ordered the PFLAG display that Smoot and Brenda McWilliams just put up in the library removed.

"The reasons given to us for these actions were that the talk and display were political and that children might see the display or attend the talk," McWilliams said. "I suppose taking the display down is not political."

McWilliams pointed out in a letter to Broussard that PFLAG is a non-political 501(c)(3) organization that provides support and education, mostly to parents of LGBT children. However, the actions of a political appointee to block a library from distributing information and stopping an author — one whose book appears in the library's collection — from speaking certainly is political.

Keeping the level of discussion appropriate shouldn't have been very difficult for Smoot, who taught Sunday School class at Tyler's First Baptist Church.

Tyler's head librarian invited Smoot to speak as part of its summer reading series. In conjunction with the talk, she invited PFLAG to put up a display that consisted of pamphlets, books and other informational resources. After all, libraries are usually places where you find information.

The display was up on Monday (June 1) along with posters advertising Smoot's appearance. By Wednesday, the display case was down along with the fliers about the author's upcoming talk.

The librarian said one of the calls she received complained that taxpayer money shouldn't be going to promote events like this. The librarian explained no taxpayer money was being used — Smoot was not charging for her appearance and the library would already be staffed with the lights on, whether or not Smoot spoke.

— David Taffet

### Tarrant County will comply with marriage ruling with teeth firmly gritted

Tarrant County Clerk Mary Louise Garcia said she had no particular plans to deal with the rush of Fort Worth and other Tarrant County gay and lesbian couples who will apply for marriage licenses after the Supreme Court marriage equality decision is issued other than to comply with the ruling.

— James Russell

### Texas lege ends

After staving off the threats of ISIS at the border, struggling with the godlessness of pre-kindergarten education and failing to save the evil Speaker Who Doesn't Believe in the Messiah, the 84th legislature's snake charmers finally went back home on June 1.

On the bright side: Per the state's Constitution, they passed a budget. And their mighty efforts to slash taxes resulted in successfully saving the average homeowner...\$200-something in property taxes.

Just as important, they've stopped screwing with your lives! Any legislation harmful to the LGBT community was thwarted!

The bad part: They're now back home. They're among us.

— James Russell

### Waco plans for Day of Decision

Plans are underway in smaller cities around Texas for the Supreme Court's Day of Decision of marriage equality. The day the Supreme Court issues its ruling, Waco Interweave plans to meet in Heritage Square, N. 3rd Street and Austin Avenue at 6 p.m.

Waco Interweave was formed in December 2012. In February 2013, Susan Duty-Dennard and Carmen Saenz wrote to the Waco Equal Employment Opportunity Commission requesting that sexual orientation and gender identity be made protected classes in the city of Waco non-discrimination policy.

That request became city policy in June 2014.

Speakers at the rally include Duty-Dennard and outgoing Valley Mills Mayor Jerry Pierce.

— David Taffet

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## THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? E-mail your information to staff writer James Russell at [russell@dallasvoice.com](mailto:russell@dallasvoice.com) by Thursday at 10 a.m. for that week's issue.

### JUNE

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM.** This week's guests are Lou Anne Smoot and Brenda McWilliams from Tyler PFLAG; **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV / AIDS in the black community at 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce Street, Suite C; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening but the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Apt 2367; Fuse Connect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. at the Fuse Space.

• **June 6: Oak Lawn Library Friends** hosts *Transcending Gender* author **Tracy James Jones**

Jones will discuss her latest novel LGBT romance novel *Secrets & Lies* at 11 a.m. at the Oak Lawn Public Library auditorium 4100 Cedar Springs Road. Copies available for purchase. For more information e-mail Stan Aten at [s.aten@att.net](mailto:s.aten@att.net).

• **June 5: Fairway to Equality Auction and Calcutta**

Auction and fundraiser for HRC DFW's Fairway to Equality Golf Tournament with celebrity emcee Dana Goldberg begins at 6:30 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton. Free and open to the public.

• **June 6: Fairway to Equality Golf Tournament** Benefits HRC DFW. Sold out. For more information visit [HRC.org/Dallasgolf](http://HRC.org/Dallasgolf).

• **June 6: DFW Trans Ladies Monthly Meeting**

Meets from 7:00-8:30 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month at Agape MCC, 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information e-mail [info@dfwtgladies.org](mailto:info@dfwtgladies.org) or visit [DFWTGLadies.org](http://DFWTGLadies.org).

• **June 6: Free Dallas Zoo Day**

Dallas City Councilmen Adam Medrano, Scott Griggs and Philip Kingston host a free day for their constituents, friends and families from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Dallas Zoo, 650 S. R.L. Thornton Freeway. At least one attendee must live in Districts 1, 2 or 14. Check your



Rabbi Stephen Fisch, left, and President Josh Manes, take out the Torah at a previous Gay Pride Shabbat service. This year's event will take place on June 12 at Resource Center. People of all faiths are welcome.

district at [maps.DallasCityhall.com](http://maps.DallasCityhall.com). Admission is free. \$8 parking fee.

• **June 11: LifeWalk "What's the Fuss?" Tour and Mixer**

Meet the people behind the work at AIDS Arms clinics with a tour and mixer beginning at 6 p.m. at the Trinity Health and Wellness Center, 219 Sunset 116-A. Tours begin at 6 p.m. and the program at 7:15 p.m. For more information and to RSVP e-mail Hannah Orsburn at [hannah.orsburn@aidsarms.org](mailto:hannah.orsburn@aidsarms.org).

• **June 12: Congregation Beth El Binah** Celebrates the ancient Biblical holiday LGBT Pride Shabbat 7:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan. For more information visit [Bethelbinah.org](http://Bethelbinah.org).

• **June 12: High Tech Happy Hour** Texas Instruments Pride, the LGBT and ally diversity group, hosts its monthly High Tech Happy Hour to increase professional and social contacts between groups and individuals and to foster community. 5:30-

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7:30 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. 100. For more information e-mail Paul von Wupperfeld at pavw@ti.com.

• **June 14: SPCA Paws Cause 2015**  
20th anniversary celebration of SPCA fundraiser for SPCA of Texas' Mary Spencer Spay/Neuter and Wellness Clinic at Village Fair from 6-9 p.m. at the Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center, 2400 Lone Star Drive. Tickets are \$150 each. Limited quantity. For more information, visit Pawscausedallas.org.

• **June 14: Fifth Annual North Texas Gay Pride Festival**  
Family-friendly festival features entertainment including former McKinney resident Hollie Cavangh and Jane McGarry of WFAA as well as games, photo booths and vendors from 1-5 p.m. in downtown McKinney, 218 E. Louisiana. Benefits Collin County's Hope's Door, an organization offering domestic violence resources and services. Tickets are \$5 per person at NorthTexasPride.org or \$10 per person at the gates. Children 12 and under are free. For more information visit NorthTexasPride.org.

• **June 16: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFFA Meeting**  
Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information call Finn Jones at 214-499-0378 or by e-mail at sfinn.jones@gmail.com.

• **June 18: Urban Engagement Book Club: Capital in the Twenty-First Century by Thomas Piketty**  
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. Malcoln X Blvd. For more information visit CitySquare.org.

• **June 18: Pride Party in Plano**  
Celebrate pride and toast the pending Supreme Court decision on marriage equality with GALA North Texas from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Blue Martini Lounge, 7301 Lone Star Drive, A-110, Plano. Event includes half price discount drinks, free appetizers and raffle prizes. For more information visit On.fb.me/1PR9HrD.

## pet of the week / MIKE

**Mike** is a male, neutered lab mix about 2 years old, and is ready for a new home. He comes with all his vaccinations and a microchip. Come see this sweet, handsome boy at Dallas Animal Services, 1818 Westmoreland Rd. Ask for Mike, ID #A881156. His adoption fee has been waived.



The Adoption Center is open 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Mon.-Sat., and noon-5 p.m. on Sun. All adopted pets are spayed or neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. Standard adoption fees are \$85 for dogs and \$55 for cats. They also offer discounts on adoption fees for pets over 6 years of age, to any senior citizen that adopts a pet and to anyone adopting more than one pet at a time. For more information, visit DallasAnimalServices.org or find us on Facebook at Facebook.com/DallasAnimalServices. Photo contributed by Judi Burnett.

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# Fairway to Equality: Bigger and better than ever

**JAMES RUSSELL** | Staff Writer  
russell@dallasvoice.com

As marriage equality activists await a historic Supreme Court ruling, organizers with Fairway to Equality golf tournament are celebrating their own milestone. Only 20 years old, the golf tournament, with its preceding Calcutta auction, is one of the most successful HRC fundraisers of its kind in the country, said Deidra Burns, event co-chair.

The Calcutta Auction is being held tonight (Friday, June 5) at 6:30 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, and the golf tournament is Saturday, June 6, at Buffalo Creek Golf Club in Rockwall. It's hosted by the DFW

Human Rights Campaign Federal Club benefiting HRC.

A Fairway to Equality co-chair for eight years now, Burns has also served on the board of governors of the national LGBT rights organization and was co-chair for Black Tie Dinner.

After she rotated off the BTB board, a friend asked her to join the Fairway's planning committee. Burns didn't hesitate.

"I love golf, it's a passion of mine," she said.

It's a good thing she does, too. She's still at its helm eight years later.

Between reaching out to past participants and creating new ways to engage and sustain donors,

planning the event is a full-time job, Burns said. Most importantly, like a good fundraiser, you do it all with one goal: exceeding each previous year's goals.

Thanks to aggressive efforts over the past years, Burns said they've already exceeded those goals. By tying sponsorships to branding, they have created the largest sponsorship program to date.

But fundraising didn't end after the event successfully sold out in April. Recognizing it would sell out fast and that some people just really just don't play golf, they planned a "Calcutta Auction."

Emceed by out comedienne Dana Goldberg, the

auction is open to the public. It features vacation packages to Mexico and Hawaii, a private performance by Patrice Pike, dinner for 8 at a private home by Chef Blythe Beck and other opportunities.

Most notably, attendees will also have the opportunity to meet Elizabeth Birch, the former executive director of HRC. Golfers will be able to bid on a chance to have her lug around their golf clubs at the event, too.

Additionally they are selling all kinds of event swag — t-shirts, hats, other things to take away and commemorate the event. But the event isn't just about golf, said co-chair Ingrid Retzer. "[It's] everyone being involved and supporting one another."

She hasn't been involved as long as Burns, but she's witnessed the event's popularity, and fundraising efforts, skyrocket. (Her partner, Jamie Duggan, is a previous event chair as well.)

Both co-chairs praised their fellow event planning committee members for their hard work. "We have a creative and energetic planning committee. Many of don't even play golf but are simply passionate about the cause," Burns said.

The diverse committee is especially noteworthy because it represents the event's unique place in Dallas LGBT history, Retzer noted.

"Our committee includes men and others who remember the AIDS epidemic. A lot of the survivors remember when men were too ill to support the community," she said. "Lesbians stepped up to help with fundraising and the equality movement."

The event has long been popular among lesbians. In its earliest days, it benefitted lesbian programs and organizations. The event began as a benefit for the now defunct Oak Lawn Community Services and later, Uncommon Legacy, a national organization providing college scholarships to lesbians who otherwise couldn't afford to get a degree.

Only within the past decade did it become an event for HRC.

But how can Dallas, a big Human Rights Campaign city, afford another fundraiser?

"It's just the Dallas community. We are very generous and giving as a community to gay causes. I don't know if there are many cities like ours," she replied matter of factly.

She noted that everyone in her organization is also part of other local causes. It's a big event for lesbians for those reasons. "It's an event that women definitely look forward to every year, but we are inclusive, not exclusive." ■





## MetroBall celebrates a decade

Belinda Carlisle headlines the fundraiser for the funder of last resort

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

MetroBall celebrates its 10th anniversary tonight (Friday, June 5), with Belinda Carlisle headlining an evening of entertainment at S4.

For the past few years, MetroBall has been held during Razzle Dazzle Dallas weekend. But while Razzle is taking this year off to regroup, MetroBall chair John Cooper-Lara doesn't think it will impact his event.

MetroBall benefits the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, a funder of last resort that covers needs of the clients of AIDS service providers that aren't addressed by other sources.

Cooper-Lara said most people think of the AIDS crisis as being under control, with everyone receiving their medications and remaining healthy. But the need is greater than ever since funding levels and sources are decreasing.

Cooper-Lara said not only is GDMAF getting more requests for help, the amounts requested are getting larger. In addition, he said, GDMAF has widened its scope and is taking requests from AIDS Outreach Center in Fort Worth in addition to Dallas agencies.

"So we must find more funds to meet the gaps," Cooper-Lara explained.

Some of those gaps that need to be filled are utility bills or rent that need to be paid. Others, he said, are "not clean-cut."

Cooper-Lara used the example of someone needing a car repaired or a tire replaced. Without a running car, that person can't get to work, and if they can't get to work, they lose that job that provides the health insurance that makes their medication accessible.

"A tire can be everything to somebody," Cooper-Lara said.

Fernie Sanchez is intake supervisor at AIDS Arms and manages GDMAF requests from his agency.

He said among the requests he's seen are for a refrigerator to keep medication cold.

Not all AIDS Arms clients live in the city. During the cold snap this past winter, GDMAF funded a request from Sanchez that helped keep a family warm by filling butane tanks.

"They give help you won't find anywhere else,"

Sanchez said of GDMAF, adding that some clients can afford the monthly rent on an apartment, but can't afford the extra expense of the upfront deposit. By filling that need, he said, GDMAF has helped keep a family from being homeless.

Sanchez added that because GDMAF has answered the needs of so many of his clients when his agency couldn't, he'll be at MetroBall volunteering his time.

For the past few years, MetroBall has been the Friday night event of Razzle Dazzle weekend. This year, Razzle is taking the year off from producing a big street party. Instead, the organization is putting on several smaller events to keep the name alive, bring in some necessary seed money and even contribute to MetroBall.

Last week at The Brick, Razzle Dazzle ran the Big D Talent Contest and the winners, Michael Duane and Aaron Soto, will perform at MetroBall.

They'll also appear at Razzle Dazzle's Dazzler Awards on June 21. Razzle President Tom Dance said he asked agencies to nominate a male and female volunteer "who never gets the credit," but always gets things done and are essential to the organization. The awards will be presented on Fathers Day at the Round-Up Saloon.

Razzle has already done two party bus trips to Winstar Casino and has another planned for Aug. 22. Proceeds benefit GDMAF.

Dance said next year Razzle Dazzle Dallas will be back, but for now, "Destination unknown."

The committee will start planning later this summer.

So this year, MetroBall stands on its own, the way it started 10 years ago when it was a much smaller party at Throckmorton Mining Company.

Cooper-Lara is counting on the biggest turnout in the event's history as GDMAF celebrates a decade of MetroBall fundraising. In addition to Carlisle, Australian Internet DJ and performer Ray Isaac will perform along with the Big D Talent winners.

A silent auction featuring gift baskets, art and gifts has contributed to the event's success each year.

Cooper-Lara said GDMAF can only fund 60 percent of the requests it receives from area agencies. His board evaluates requests by deciding "will this make a difference." Still, the organization would like to help more people.

"That's why MetroBall is so important," Cooper-Lara said. ■

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# NATIONAL PRIDE EVENTS

June is Pride month around the country and around the world. And since Dallas Pride is held in September, this is a good month to experience the LGBT community in other cities.

Houston Pride is June 27, and you can visit [DallasVoice.com](http://DallasVoice.com) for details on this and other Pride celebrations around Texas. That information was also published in the May 29 issue of Dallas Voice.

This week, we are highlighting Pride celebrations in the four states surrounding Texas, and some of the larger events around the country.

We have included information on Louisiana Pride events, although some activists have called for a boycott of the state — and yes, including The Big Easy — to protest Gov. Bobby Jindal's executive order promoting discrimination against the LGBT community. But New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu has done his best to countermand the governor's bigotry by declaring that discrimination won't be tolerated in his city and local ordinances prohibiting discrimination remain in place.

## Oklahoma City, Okla.

**JUNE 19**

### **Block Party:**

Features the Village People and En Vogue. Free. 39th & N. Pennsylvania Ave. Concert at 8 p.m.

**JUNE 20-21**

**Arts Festival:** On the 39th Street Strip between N. Barnes Avenue and N. Youngs Boulevard.

**JUNE 21**

**Parade:** NW 36th and Classen north, turning west on 39th Street to Youngs Blvd. at 6 p.m. [OKCPride.org](http://OKCPride.org)

## New Orleans, La.

**JUNE 20**

**Festival:** Washington Square Park, 700 Elysian Fields Ave. 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. **Parade:** Makes a loop through the French Quarter mostly along Decatur to Canal to Bourbon streets at 7 p.m. [PrideNewOrleans.com](http://PrideNewOrleans.com)

## NATIONAL PRIDE Orlando, Fla.

**JUNE 2-8**

**Disney Gay Days:** celebrating its 25th year.

## Los Angeles, Calif.

**JUNE 12-14**

Features Ty Herndon, Kesha, Wilson Phillips, Fifth Harmony, Tamar Braxton, Tinashe and more.

**Parade:** in West Hollywood along Santa Monica Boulevard at 11 a.m.

**Festival:** West Hollywood Park, 647 N. San Vicente Blvd, West Hollywood on Saturday from noon-midnight and Sunday from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. [LAPride.org](http://LAPride.org)

## Washington, D.C.

**JUNE 13**

**Parade:** Dupont and Logan Circle neighborhoods beginning at 22nd & P streets from 4:30-7:30 p.m. [CapitalPride.org](http://CapitalPride.org)

## Boston, Mass.

**JUNE 13**

**Parade:** Copley Square at noon. **Festival:** City Hall Plaza from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. [BostonPride.org](http://BostonPride.org)



## Philadelphia, Penn.

**JUNE 14**

**Parade:** 13th and Locust streets to Great Plaza at Penn's Landing at 11:30 a.m.

**Festival:** Great Plaza at Penn's Landing, Columbus Boulevard and Chestnut Street opens at noon.

**JULY 2-5**

### **PhillyGayPride.org**

National LGBT 50th Anniversary Ceremony on July 4 at Independence Hall celebrates 50th anniversary of the July 4, 1965 demonstration for gay equality, the largest in history at that time.

**LGBT history exhibits:** at National Constitution Center, National Museum of American Jewish History, Independence Visitor Center, African American Museum in Philadelphia Liberty Bell Center and Free Library of Philadelphia Central Library.

**JULY 3**

**Live Nation 50th Anniversary Concert:** Festival Pier at Penn's Landing Blvd. from 7-11 p.m.

**JULY 4**

**50th Anniversary Ceremony:** James Obergefell, Edie Windsor, Judy Shepard, Wanda Sykes, Amanda Simpson speak at Independence Hall, 520 Chestnut St. at 2:30 p.m.

**JULY 5**

**Street festival:** The Gayborhood, Chestnut to Pine streets between 11th and Broad streets from noon-6 p.m. [LGBT50.org](http://LGBT50.org)

## Toronto

**JUNE 19-28**

**JUNE 19**

**Opening party:** on Church Street, between Maitland and Alexander.

**JUNE 22**

**Trans Pride:** Norman Jewison Parkette, Isabella Street from 2-7 p.m. features Chaz Bono at the Molson-Canadian stage in Yonge-Dundas Square. March at 8 p.m.

**JUNE 26-28**

**Street Fair:** Norman Jewison Parkette on Isabella Street from 2-7 p.m.

**JUNE 27**

**Dyke March:** Church and Bloor streets from 2-4 p.m.

**JUNE 28**

**Parade:** Yonge Street to Yonge-Dundas Square at 2 p.m. [PrideToronto.com](http://PrideToronto.com)

## Chicago, Ill.

**JUNE 20-21**

**Festival:** along Halsted strip from Addison to Grace streets from 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-10 p.m. on Sunday.

**JUNE 28**

**Parade:** Montrose and Broadway, south on Broadway to Halsted, east on Belmont, south on Broadway and east on Diversey to Canon Drive at noon. [ChicagoPride.GoPride.com](http://ChicagoPride.GoPride.com)

## Denver, Colo.

**JUNE 20-21**

**PrideFest:** Civic Center Park, E. Broadway and Colfax avenues.

**JUNE 21**

**Parade:** From Cheesman Park down Franklin Street to Colfax Street into Civic Center Park at 9:30 a.m. [GLBTColorado.org](http://GLBTColorado.org)

## New York City, N.Y.

**JUNE 26**

**Rally:** Hudson River Park Pier 26, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

**JUNE 28**

**PrideFest:** Hudson Street between Abingdon Square and 14th Street from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. **Parade:** Actors Derek Jacobi and Ian McKellan are grand marshals. 36th Street and Fifth Avenue to Christopher and Greenwich streets at noon. [NYCPride.org](http://NYCPride.org)

## San Francisco, Calif.

**JUNE 27-28**

**Celebration:** Civic Center Plaza noon-6 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sunday.

**JUNE 28**

**Parade:** Along Market Street from Beale to 8th St. at 10:30 a.m. [SFPride.org](http://SFPride.org)

# Profiles in Pride: Leza Messiah, singing on the frontlines of history

**L G B T**



**JAMES RUSSELL** | Staff Writer  
russell@dallasvoice.com

*Editor's note: Profiles in Pride is a series of articles featuring community leaders that will highlight each of the letters in our LGBT community. A new profile will be published each Friday in June, and the series starts here with the "L."*

has been a witness to the civil rights movement, the women's liberation movement and the fight for LGBT recognition.

Instead of being on the front lines herself, as her parents were in their work with the civil rights movement and their long-time involvement with the Buffalo chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, she's preferred to help those on the front lines.

As Leza Messiah puts it, she was there.  
The Buffalo, N.Y., native and Dallas transplant

■ PROFILE, Page 13

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# Surviving with pride

It's up to those who survived the early days of AIDS to remember, and to remind

The month of June is typically jam-packed with parades, events and festivities that bring many of us in the LGBTQ community together to revel in our uniqueness, pay tribute to our leaders and honor achievements in our ongoing fight for equality.

For those like me who are long-term survivors of HIV/AIDS, there is even more to celebrate — the fact that we have survived this long enough to be able to continue to achieve our own personal goals, have a career, or even start a family.

But surviving HIV/AIDS can often come with its own set of issues — isolation, depression, substance abuse, stigma and early aging and mortality, among others.

Over the last 30-plus years, I've lost hundreds of friends, acquaintances and colleagues to HIV and AIDS. In the 25 years since I first tested positive and began treatment, I've developed strange conditions such as thrush, kidney sludge and shingles.

I've been poked, prodded and bled, and made out living wills and medical powers of attorney. I've stood in protest lines and marched on Washington, walked marathons and participated in a bike ride. I've fallen in love, and I've broken hearts.

I've probably been on 10 different drug regimens during that time, which most likely saved my life but have also definitely taken their toll. My viral load is undetectable, and my CD4 T-cells and CD4 percentage are near what a normal, healthy HIV-negative person my age might be expected to have.



Jeff Berry

Positive Thoughts

and much more sinister enemy.

Those of us who have come through the fight know that enemy intimately, and we have the battle scars to prove it. But we need new tools and weapons to fight it.

I was first diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) shortly after I tested HIV-positive in 1989 and went into psychotherapy. PTSD, as defined by the Mayo Clinic, is a mental health condition that's triggered by a terrifying event — either experiencing or witnessing it.

Not everyone who experiences the event will develop PTSD. Some may just have difficulty coping for a while, but eventually they'll adjust and get back to their "normal" life. It's only when symptoms (which can manifest as intrusive memories, avoidance, negative changes in thinking or mood or changes in emotional reactions) start to cause significant problems in social or work situations and relationships, that it becomes a more serious issue.

While my PTSD was related to childhood sexual abuse, it was triggered by living in the midst of a holocaust and ending up testing positive my-

self. The disorder was no less real to me, however, and I still struggle with the effects to this day.

Just as veterans who return from war and who may have difficulty re-assimilating, long-term survivors of HIV/AIDS can often feel out of place and useless.

In a perfect world we would pay proper respect to our own soldiers, and let them know we appreciate all that they've been through. Programs and services designed and tailored specific to our own unique needs as AIDS veterans are desperately needed. It's time for us to create the structures and support systems that will help our veterans financially, mentally and physically, well into their golden years.

They — we — deserve no less.

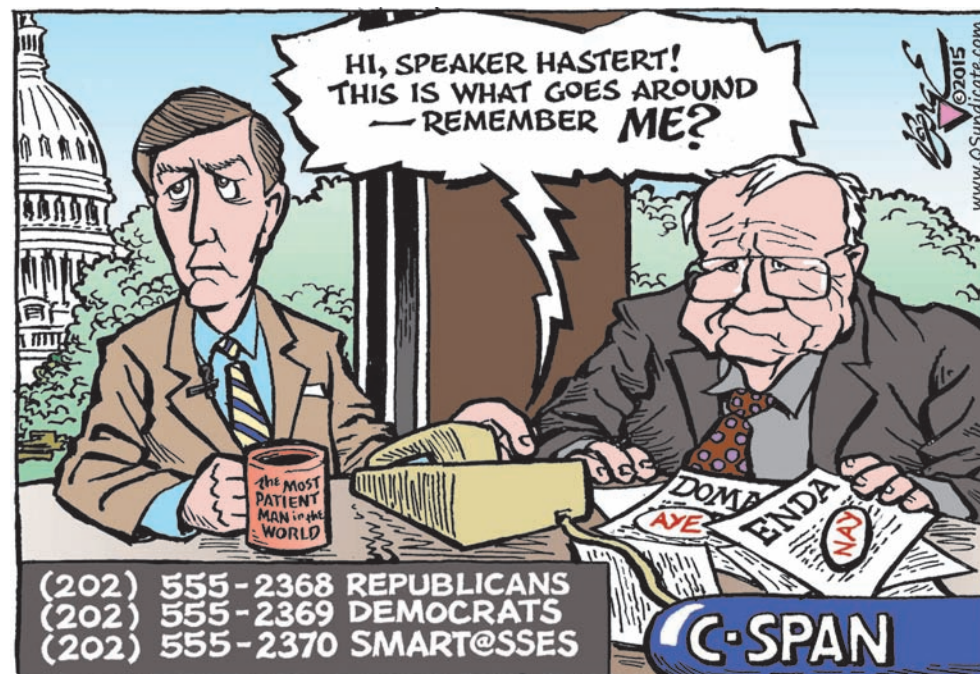
In June, Positively Aware magazine and its publisher, the Chicago-based HIV service organization TPAN, will launch The Reunion Project (TRP), to help long-term survivors of HIV and AIDS honor our past, examine resilience, and identify and develop successful strategies for living — today and into the future. The Reunion Project will be a series of summits and activities happening across the country, the next one being held in Palm Springs in November.

Those now coming into young adulthood never knew a time when HIV didn't exist, and for their entire life effective treatments for HIV/AIDS have always been available. In other words, for them it's always been a manageable chronic illness, such as diabetes or hypertension. While fear motivated us to fight to survive early on in the epidemic, it's no longer an effective deterrent or motivator for those who aren't experiencing the same sense of loss on a day-to-day basis. The fear of death from HIV/AIDS is now a distant memory, an abstract concept.

They say that with age comes wisdom. I'm not sure if I'm the best example of that, but I do think there's another exciting opportunity for long-term survivors of HIV and AIDS, and that is to engage the next generation to talk about some of the experiences we've been through, challenges we've overcome, and triumphs we've achieved, to try to start to bridge the gap that currently exists between us. And I'm sure we could learn a thing or two from those who are, or will soon be, leaders in their own right.

It's necessary to hear and share our stories with one another, for they define us. It's where we come from; it's who we are. We have the opportunity to learn from our past, and to mentor and guide an entirely new group — while honoring our history, and the fallen.

Jeff Berry is the editor in chief of Positively Aware magazine, and director of publications at Test Positive Aware Network in Chicago. Find him on Twitter @PAEditor. This column is a project of Plus, Positively Aware, POZ, The Body and Q Syndicate, the LGBT wire service. Visit their websites — hivplusmag.com, positivelyaware.com, poz.com and thebody.com — for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS.



# LGBT

■ PROFILE, Form Page 11

Growing up, Mesiah remembers all too well the threats her family faced because of their activism. "I like to be around people who make a difference in the world. I just didn't want the hateful phone calls," she said.

Everyone has a role in activism, Mesiah said in a winding conversation with the Dallas Voice. Hers was to support and help "her controversial friends," she said with delight. Friends like Steve Wilkins, Vivian Armstrong and Louise Young were on the front lines.

Mesiah said she chose to express her political commitment through financial support to organizations and events, often donating anonymously. But fear wasn't what kept her from a more visible role; she also had a job in media.

One of the founders of what is now the National Public Radio show *All Things Considered*, Mesiah came to Dallas after a job offer from WBAP and KSCS "before it was hate radio," she said. Given her public role, that concluded two years ago when she retired from WRR, she had to stay relatively objective — or at least fair.

For that same reason, she's never been publicly out. But she also never lied if asked. (Indeed, she married her partner in 2013 in San Francisco.)

"In order to change hearts, you have to come out," Mesiah acknowledged. "But I know some people can't, even though we're in a different time. My partner and I come from a different time. My generation was fearful because of the repercussions."

But one thing she was never scared of was performing — singing in particular.

The self-described "history geek" is a regular fixture at Scarborough Renaissance Festival where she performs as The Moor of Dundee. She has already recorded two albums, and is working on a third.

Among all the white noblemen and decked-out warrior princesses at the faire, Mesiah stands out. The Moor of Dundee, she explains, is "the generic African noble who fell in love with a Scot."

Being a character at the faire, to her, is akin to being a Civil War re-enactor. Both share a love of history, especially the type you didn't learn in school.

At the Renaissance faire, people aren't just dressed up for the fun of it. It's actually a lot more personal, Mesiah said. "We go beyond what we were told happened. We're re-enacting it the way history was but what it also should've been. There's a spiritualness to it," she said.

Mesiah continued, "Studying and exploring it on your own teaches you a lot more than any course. History teaches you about yourself. In order to feel better about yourself, you have to know your history."

That's especially what attracted to Mesiah Renaissance history. She wanted to know her role as a black woman in a pivotal time in Western history. "It was a time of great learning," she said. "The long lulls where nothing happened resulted later in great innovation as well. So much change was happening."

But amidst that change, history courses often overlook the contributions made by Africans. Her role as Moor of Dundee is to insert that history into the public domain. The Moor of Dundee is not just a rebellious noble, she said, but also an activist and musician. Don't confuse her with a Bob Dylan political crooner; her activism is more one-on-one.

The faire may bring good-natured egalitarians together despite the clearly indisputable segregation of the era. Even in the modern day, however, Mesiah still encounters the crusty white man; the type looking to take a jab, if only out of ignorance because of her race, and ask her condescendingly to sing. She'll belt out the Irish musical staple "Danny Boy."

"Nothing makes an old man cry like 'Danny Boy'," she said, briefly humming the tragic song before laughing. "They'll later come up and apologize. When you understand other cultures [even if someone is ignorant] you never meet a stranger."

Mesiah said finds power in music; it changes hearts and minds.

It was a power that helped her through the AIDS crisis when she lost her best gay male friends, including many of the forefathers of Dallas activism.

Were they still alive, she would've probably raised children with them. "It was a loss for families."

She also lost her partner Susan Eastman, to cervical cancer. But through song, she stayed strong. Music, too, helped then.

"I was trying to change hearts and minds during that time. I was trying to change the public perception [of AIDS] through song," Mesiah, an original member of the Women's Chorus of Dallas, said. In partnership with the Turtle Creek Chorale, they sang a harrowing set, *When We No Longer Touch: A Cycle of Songs for Survival*, to honor those who died from AIDS. One song in particular, "I Shall Miss Loving You," still rings in her ears.

In reconsidering her role in creating a Dallas LGBT scene, Mesiah re-thinks her earlier statement. "I didn't realize I might have been on the front of the frontline after all."

"The labor movement had a song. The civil rights movement had a song. The women's liberation did too. The gay rights movement does too."

She can't remember who said it, but a quote suddenly came to mind: "In every revolution, there's always music." ■

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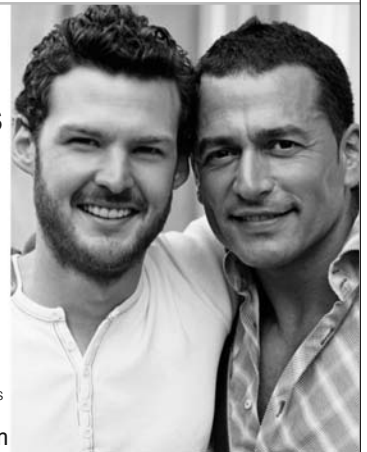
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Andy Jones grew up with 2 moms, which may account for why he now gets to play a ...

# Charming prince

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

I've never even met Andy Jones, but I already have a bone to pick with him. Sure, Jones — no relation — is a Broadway actor and currently starring in the national tour of **Rodgers+Hammerstein's Cinderella**, which dances into North Texas this month for a two-week stint at Fair Park Music Hall before heading west of the Trinity to Bass Hall. But does that give him the right to claim the Twitter handle @AJonesTweets. Hey! There are other AJoneses out there, doesn't he know that!?

"When I got my Gmail account, the name they assigned me was AndyJones, so I emailed all the other Andy Joneses and said, 'Can I pay you for this?' so that I could be just AndyJones. Of course, no one responded, so I know just how you feel," he says. But as with all fairy tales, Andy and I live happily ever after (though not, of course, together).

"I'm in the process of changing all my [social media names] so that they are all the same, so as soon as I do, you can snatch up AJonesTweets," he suggests.

You can tell Jones is born to compromise, which probably helps make him the ideal person to portray Topher, the resident Prince Charming in this new stage version of *Cinderella*. The prince in the show has long been considered the ideal boyfriend: Humble, powerful, rich, handsome and with a good eye for footwear. So we couldn't help but ask Jones whether being raised by two moms made it easier — or harder — for him to embody the perfect man.

"I was kind of the first of that generation of gaybies," he acknowledges. "I have to remind myself sometimes that not everyone grows up with two phenomenal women raising them, because it was all I ever knew. It wasn't until I was older that I realized it [was unique]."

One advantage for him being an actor with gay parents is his moms always encouraged him to be himself. "Who knows what my life would have been like with a more traditional family, but they were supportive of me following a path that made me happy," Jones says. "When they came out, they were following the life they knew would make *them* happy so at 16 when I said, 'Hey, I wanna run away and join the circus,' they were supportive of that."

And what about the absent father in *Cinderella*? Does Jones relate to that as well?

"My upbringing is very different than Prince Topher, who is heir to the throne with an advisor who has basically been ruling but his real parents are out of the picture," he says. "It's fun for me to play with this father figure, who may not be guiding me with the most sterling of intentions, but I never missed a father figure in

## CINDERELLA

**Fair Park Music Hall,**  
901 First Ave. June 9–21.  
DallasSummerMusicals.org.  
**Bass Performance Hall,**  
525 Commerce St., Fort Worth.  
June 23–28. BassHall.com.

■ CINDERELLA Page 20

**CINDERELLA MAN** | Andy Jones usually shares the stage with Paige Faure as his leading lady, but occasionally his girlfriend — who understudies the role of Ella — joins him onstage. (Photo by Carol Rosegg)

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# Nice wieners



Tallywackers officially opens, and sales in the shorty-short industry soar

The premise has been beat to the ground: What would you call a male version of Hooters, the breastraurant chain featuring buxom ladies in satin short and tight-fitting tanks? Why Tallywackers, a chrestaurant — likewise with the tight tank tops, but with clingy Spandex shorty-shorts that, ahem, “advertise” the menu’s signature footlong.

The grand opening of the Lemmon Avenue eatery, which has received national attention for its scandalous premise, was Saturday. But Winston Lackey, the media and marketing director for the place, told me he’s glad the “event” part is past; now it’s the day-to-day operation that he hopes will set Tallywackers apart, from the all-beef pound of frankfurter (served open-faced, and garnished with heaps of cole slaw and pickles) to the fried chicken and gravy entrée that wants to give home cookin’ a run for its money.

Of course, the appeal will continue to be the waiters, a team of muscular young men who, for your 21st birthday” (all birthdays are 21st, it seems), rip off the tanks to sing their best wishes. That beats a free sundae for the birthday boy any day.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

*Tallywackers, 4218 Lemmon Ave. Open daily for lunch, dinner and late-night, 11–2 a.m. [Tallywackers.com](http://Tallywackers.com).*





# Time machine

Turtle Creek Chorale's '80s-themed concert includes costume contest

I'm just gonna say it: The '80s was the best decade. Sure, there was Reagan and the rise of HIV and Kim Kardashian was born, but aside from those travesties, there's never been another decade like it. Hair metal. *Miami Vice*. Bill Cosby was still a good guy. Spandex. Where would we be without the '80s?

The Turtle Creek Chorale gets it. That's why their summer concert, which closes out their 2014-15 season, is a tribute to that one-of-a-kind era, titled appropriately Turtle-ly '80s. But it's not just the music of the era they are celebrating (from *Footloose* to Prince to,

oh, say, "We Built This City") but also the fashions. And they want you to play along.

Each performance next week will be preceded by a costume contest in the lobby, starting 45 minutes before curtain. Contestants (individuals or couples) will be judged on four criteria "Awesomeness," "Glitter," "Attitude" and "Amount of Hair Spray." Winners, chosen by a three-judge panel, will receive a walk-on in Act 2 of the concert, as well as a pair of season tickets to the chorale's 2015-16 season of concerts. How gnarly is that? ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones

### TURTLE-LY '80S

City Performance Hall,  
2520 Flora St. June 12-13  
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TurtleCreekChorale.com

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L+S screen

# When Ari met Lloyd

'Entourage's' Rex Lee, on being gay and Asian in Hollywood, working with George Takei and why marriage equality still seems like a dream



**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

While the TV series — and now feature film — *Entourage* has always been generously populated by bikini-clad bimbos and horny, boob-obsessed straight guys, for many gay fans of the show the secret weapon was always Rex Lee. The actor played Lloyd, the set-upon assistant to Jeremy Piven's abrasive, insult-throwing blowhard agent Ari Gold. Lloyd endures strings of Ari's hate-filled rants, which attack him as both gay and Asian in equal part. But through it all, Lloyd maintains his dignity and a demeanor that underlines a symbiotic, even loving (if dysfunctional) relationship.

"There were no obstacles for me [accepting Ari]," Lee says. The words that came out of his mouth and some of his actions were at odds with each other, but Ari showed his heart and love for his gay Asian assistant. I think he has a big heart."

It's evident in the *Entourage* movie, which came out Wednesday, that despite the tough game Ari talks, he cares for Lloyd — something Lee always kept in mind when the scripts would arrive.

"I was always aware that Ari was an equal opportunity offender — he insults gays and Asians and blacks and the mentally-challenged, and the physically-challenged and more equally. Not

that that makes it better, but it's harder to say he's a homophobe when he's that and *so much* more," Lee jokes.

Being an out Asian actor in Hollywood certainly created its own challenges for Lee.

"Out of everyone, *Entourage* probably had the most significant impact on my life," Lee says. "I was a struggling actor and it put me on the map. I always try to go through my life having a good attitude. I could have wallowed in this idea that no one would hire a gay guy or an Asian, but I realized that while there may be fewer roles for Asian actors, there's maybe a smaller pool vying for those roles."

The dearth of good parts often means making the most of what's available, something Lee did excellently on *Entourage*.

"When I played Lloyd, it was always about who is this human being and how can I honor him as best I can? My hope was I wouldn't seem stereotypical — I don't want to play stereotypical characters — but you can't deny that sometimes just getting the image of a gay guy, or an Asian guy, or a gay Asian guy, is significant and important. Just having that image us a stepping stone."

Coincidentally, Lee shares screen time with George Takei, a pioneering actor who in the 1960s was one of the first given something other than an archetypical Asian role on series TV.

"I met George several years ago, and he's so

lovely and warm and complimentary to me. He really paved the way [for Asian actors], so for him to praise me was great."

In *Entourage*, Takei officiates at Lloyd's wedding to his same-sex fiancé, and while Lee was excited by the chance to show Middle America a well-adjusted gay Asian in a happy marriage (that stepping-stone again), it's not something on his own radar.

"I just don't think any group of humans should experience discrimination, so in that way, I am very supportive of marriage equality," he says. "But in my own life, marriage is this nebulous dream that seems so far away. I am tragically single — I'm so far away from being married it's not even funny. I can't even get a date."

*Entourage* is now playing in wide release. ■



### Oak Cliff Film Festival kicks off with transgender film 'Tangerine'

North Texas' newest film festival is surely the Oak Cliff Film Fest, which begins its 4th iteration on Thursday as three venues (the Texas Theatre, The Kessler and Bishop Arts Theatre) join to display an array of interesting art film. And perhaps the most anticipated film of all is the opening night feature.

*Tangerine* was a hit at Sundance earlier this year, praised in part when the director revealed the entire movie was shot using only an iPhone 5. But even more buzzworthy was the story about two transgender prostitutes, played by newcomers Kitana Kiki Rodriguez (pictured) and Mya Taylor, on an insane New Year's Eve in Los Angeles. It has scored comparisons to such gay cult hits as *Paris Is Burning*.

— A.W.J.

Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. June 11 at 8 p.m. [OakCliffFilmFestival.com](http://OakCliffFilmFestival.com).

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■ CINDERELLA, From Page 14

my own life. I have a whole-family perspective in my heart. He is very alone in the world, but I was surrounded by so much love. The love you feel in *Cinderella* is like the love I've felt in my own life, and it's what makes the prince become a wonderful king. I hadn't quite realized that until just now."

Jones gets added support because his girlfriend in real life plays the understudy for Cinderella, which means they occasionally get to have genuine romance onstage and off.

"Having my girlfriend on tour with me has really been a lucky situation," he grins. "I suppose it had the potential to be smothering but has in fact been phenomenal."

And he doesn't feel the pressure to be that ideal boyfriend when the curtain falls — partly because this reimagining of the fairy tale, rewritten by Douglas Carter Beane, takes the characters along unfamiliar paths.

"I think one of the strengths of our production is we take these archetypes everyone knows — the dashing prince, the evil stepmother, the tormenting stepsisters — and modernize them. Topher is a normal guy who doesn't really know what he's doing — a real person who happens to have a crown on his head. I think some people are surprised by that and it takes the pressure off me at home," he says. "She never asks, 'Why can't you be as charming as you are onstage?'"

But I suspect Jones is already charming enough. ■



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# LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Friday 06.05

## 2nd annual Dallas Solo Fest focuses on queer content

Solo shows have become hugely hot in recent years, so Dallas is lucky to have its own festival devoted to one-actor plays. The second annual Dallas Solo Fest features familiar artists like Jeff Swearingen and Van Quattro, but also new, gay faces, among them '33 (*a kabarett*) about a Weimar Era cabaret, and *Mofujrmin*. After, Brigham Mosley's "dream ballet for the queer, prodigal son."

**DEETS:** The Margo Jones Theatre at the Magnolia Lounge in Fair Park, 1121 First Ave. Through June 14. DallasSoloFest.com.



Saturday 06.06

## Stage West beams up Chekhov with 'Vanya and Sonia and Masha'



Christopher Durang justly won a Tony for *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, his hilariously heartbreaking modern twist on Anton Chekhov about three middle-aged siblings who re-examine their lives when one starts dating a musclehead and her brother's latent gay feelings begin to emerge. Wendy Welch reprises her role as Sonia, which she played with Uptown Players last year.

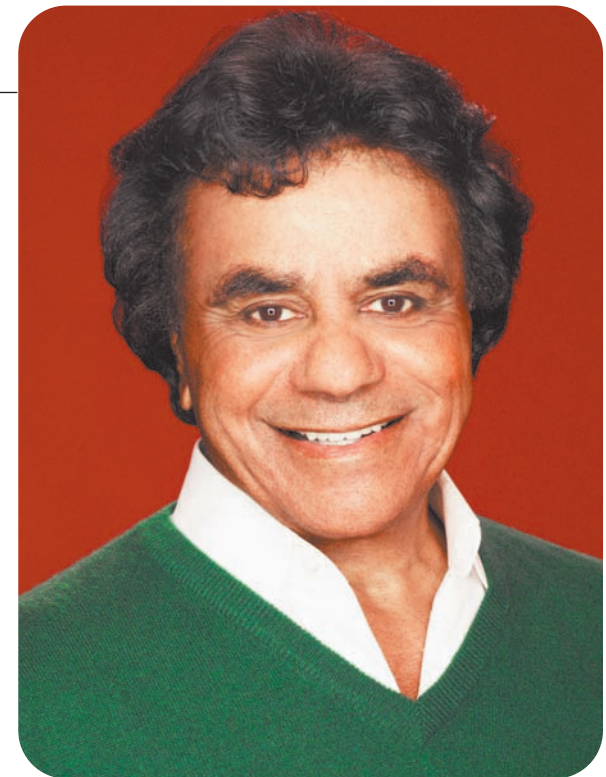
**DEETS:** Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through July 12. StageWest.org.

Thursday 06.11

## Chances are you'll want to see Johnny Mathis perform his greatest hits

His lilting tenor has made him Columbia Records' longest-signed artist (58 years!), helped cross racial barriers and led to enduring hits like "Misty" and "Chances Are," but Texas-born Johnny Mathis — who turns 80 this year, and who first came out in 1982 — is much more than your parents' generation of singer: He's a true legend of music. He'll perform from his extensive catalogue Thursday.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.



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## calendar highlights



**MANI-PEDI** | Local playwright Vicki Caroline Cheatwood's heartfelt comedy 'Manicures & Monuments' begins previews at WaterTower Theatre on Friday, with the official opening night of the world premiere on Monday. (Photo by Kelsey Leigh Ervi)

## ARTSWEEK

### THEATER

**Dallas Solo Fest.** The second annual collection of one-man (and one-woman) performance pieces, including such productions as Bremner Duthie in '33 (*a kabarett*) (about the Nazi closure of the Eldorado Club, the basis for Christopher Isherwood's stories that became *Cabaret*); *MojuJmin*: *After*, Brigham Mosley's "dream ballet for the queer, prodigal son," and performances from local luminaries Jeff Swearingen (*An American Asshole in France*) and Van Quattro (*Standing Eight Count*). Presented by Audacity Theatre Lab. Margo Jones Theatre at Fair Park's Magnolia Lounge, 1121 First Ave. Through June 14. DallasSoloFest.com.

**Pride Month Summer Play Series: *Precious Little*.** Echo Theatre, which produces plays by women for everyone, brings back its lesbian-themed Pride series with this piece, directed by Kelsey Leigh Ervi, from lesbian author Madeleine George, who also wrote *The (Curious Case of the) Watson Intelligence*. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. June 5–June 20. EchoTheatre.org.

***Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike.*** Gay playwright Christopher Durang's brilliant Tony-winning play about family dynamics and a brother and sister both lusting after the same sexy but dumb young man. A Fort Worth premiere. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through July 12 (in previews through June 5). StageWest.org.

***Manicures & Monuments.*** World premiere from local playwright Vicki Caroline Cheatwood, about a manicurist-in-training who clashes with a hard-headed manager at an Oklahoma retirement community where she volunteers. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. June 5–28 (in previews though June 7). WaterTowerTheatre.org.

***Dream Cafe.*** Brian's life as a single gay man is explored through six scenes, performed in a different order each night (as determined by the audience). A revival of Alejandro de la Costa's 2010 play. Contains nudity. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road,

Addison. Through June 21. MBSProductions.net.

***Old Time Music Hall.*** Theatre Britain's annual revue (and fundraiser) featuring song, dance and comedy in the classic style of a London burlesque. *Reviewed this week.* Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through June 21. Theatre-Britain.com.

***Rodgers+Hammerstein's Cinderella.*** The tuneful, lavish recent Tony Award-winner comes to North Texas. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. June 9–21. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. June 23–28. DallasSummerMusicals.org. BassHall.com.

***The Firestorm.*** A politician in an interracial marriage

## this week's solution

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browse

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).

submit

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit](http://Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit).

finds his campaign compromised by an episode of his past in this centerpiece mainstage production of Kitchen Dog Theater's annual New Works series. The MAC, 3120 McKinney Ave. Through June 27. KitchenDogTheater.org.

**True West and Speed-the-Plow.** Fun House Theatre and Film embarks on this repertory run of two show by classic American playwrights Sam Shepard and David Mamet, performed by a cast of teenaged actors. Plano Children's Theatre, 1301 Dolphin Drive, ste. 706, Plano. Friday-Saturday. \$8. FunHouseTheatreAndFilm.com.

**Belleville.** Drew Wall stars in this heartbreaking examination of a relationship in crisis, written by Amy Herzog and directed by Lee Trull. Presented by Second Thought Theatre. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through June 13. 2TT.co.

**The Lady with All the Answers.** Gay playwright David Rambo wrote this solo show about advice columnist Ann Landers. Starring Gene Raye Price. Theatre 3 in the Theatre Too space, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through June 14. Theatre3Dallas.com.

#### FINE ART

**Love Makes a Family.** A traveling exhibit of first-person stories and positive images of love and family from the LGBT experience, includes interviews by Peggy Gillespie and photos by Gigi Kaeser. Presented by the Family Diversity Project. Flor, 4527 McKinney Ave. Through June 14. Free. FamilyDiv.org/exhibits/love-makes-a-family.

**Between Action and the Unknown: The Art of Kazuo Shigara and Sadamasa Motonaga.** A side-by-side examination of the art of two of the post-war Japanese avant garde art movement known as Gutai, which sought not to transform matter but bring it to life with



**PRIDE PLAY** | Echo Theatre presents its second Pride Month Play Series with the lesbian-penned 'Precious Little' at the Bath House, directed by Kelsey Leigh Ervi.

experimental techniques. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through July 15. DMA.org.

**Ruben Nieto: Decollage.** The bold, colorful abstract paintings of Ruben Nieto, influenced by the pop art movement (especially Roy Lichtenstein), mark a new series opening Saturday. Cris Worley Fine Arts, 1845 Levee St., ste. 110. Through June 20. CrisWorley.com.

**Modern Opulence in Vienna: The Wittgenstein**

**Vitrine.** The DMA's conservationists restore this century-old display case of silver, lapis and glass — an amazing example of Viennese craftsmanship. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Oct. 18. Free. DMA.org.

#### FRIDAY 06.05

##### CONCERTS

**MetroBall.** The 10th annual party and fundraiser, featuring winners of the Big D Talent Content and headliner Belinda Carlisle. S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

**Brandi Carlile.** The out folk singer performs, with opening act Anderson East. House of Blues, 2201 Lamar St. HOB.com..

**Shelby Lynne.** The Grammy Award-winning country singer performs. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

##### FILM

**Movies in the Park.** A free film series at The Shops at Park Lane every Friday in June, including screenings of *Pitch Perfect* (June 5), *Jurassic Park* (June 12), *Zoolander* (June 19) and *Despicable Me 2* (June 26). 8:30 p.m. ParkLaneDallas.com.

#### SATURDAY 06.06

##### SPORTS

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

#### SUNDAY 06.07

##### WORSHIP

**Dignity (LGBT Catholics).** Worship the first Sunday of each month, led by ministers Cliff and Jon Garinn. Interfaith Peace Chapel (lower level), 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m.

#### TUESDAY 06.09

##### FILM

**Psycho.** Alfred Hitchcock's most enduring masterpiece, the template for every slasher film of the last 60 years, with an indelible performance by Anthony Perkins. 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.

#### THURSDAY 06.11

##### CONCERTS

**Johnny Mathis.** The golden-tongued crooner performs his greatest hits and personal favorite songs. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

##### FILM

**Oak Cliff Film Festival.** The fourth annual festival kicks off with the transgender drama *Tangerine* at the Texas Theatre. The festival continues with showings at the Texas Theatre, the Kessler and Bishop Arts Theatre. OakCliffFilmFestival.com.

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# Girl on Girls

Jenny Block counsels: Sex toys are your friends — don't be afraid!

To toy or not to toy. That is *still* the question.

And it can be a controversial one. Some women find sex toys offensive. Others see them as a threat to the ego. And then there are those who think they are just scary ... or dumb. Some say they are the cheater's route.

What do I think? Well, like most everything, I think it's all about what you're looking for in bed, what your motivations are, how self-assured you are and who your partner in crime is. If you're honest about what you desire, and you're ego-free in the bedroom (the true key to a great sex life), then my guess is, no matter who you are, sex toys can up your bedroom game.

Here's the thing: Sex toys, in general, are an add-on, not a replacement. They cannot — I repeat, cannot — render you unable to have an orgasm without one. Trust me on that. If usage really did cause that, I would be at the top of the list of victims.

My journey with them has been an interesting one. Once I discovered them, I thought of them as merely a masturbatory tool, and mostly for when I felt like I wanted to get the job done quickly. Then I started to explore them with partners, and what I discovered was mind-blowing.

The human body is capable of lots of sensations, acts and reactions. It is also *incapable* of plenty of other things, some of which a toy can easily do. For

example, a toy can maintain precision, speed and pressure for as long as the batteries last. A toy can reach a spot that no human appendage can manage. A toy, depending on what it is made of, can withstand all sorts of pressure under which human-equivalent part might fold.

Don't misunderstand: To my mind, there is nothing better than the warmth and feel of my girlfriend's mouth and hands. But there is also nothing better than being able to achieve the number and variety of orgasms which toys can assist. In honesty, in the past, I thought I *needed* toys, that I simply could not reach orgasm a high percentage of the time without them. That turned out not to be true.

What I needed was the right person, the right headspace and the right communication. I needed a super-safe space and someone who was willing to play in any way the two of us saw fit. I am now having the longest and best orgasms of my life. That being said, when we add toys and stir, multiple orgasms and four-minute-plus orgasms are suddenly part of our every day routine.

If you're not using toys because you think that makes you a lousy partner, it's time to let that nonsense go. Sex is about mutual pleasure. *Getting* there is the point; *how* you get there is secondary. Use what you have, add what you can, and you'll find yourself giving and getting the kind of pleasure you only previously dreamed of.

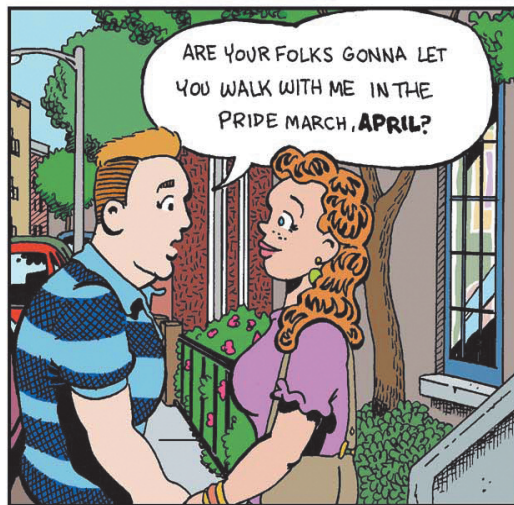
As far as recommendations go, I have two personal favorites. One is the Betty Dodson Vaginal Barbell. It doesn't look like much. But the one-pound metal toy is designed to hit all of the spots from G to A. (Keep your eyes out for future columns on those topics.) It is a bar, as the name suggests, with balls

and ridges on each end, one end larger than the other. Use it to provide penetration during partner play or masturbation. All I can tell you is, trust me here — it will revolutionize the kind of sex and orgasms you're having.

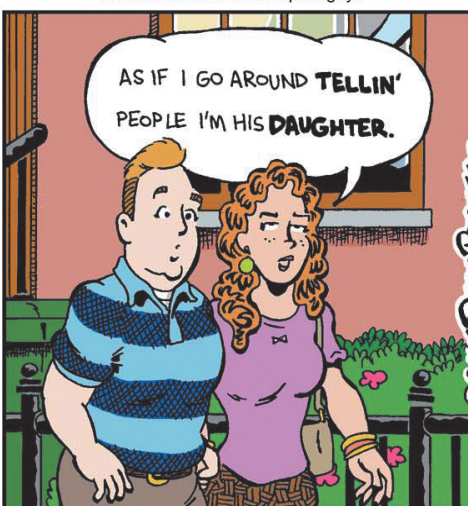
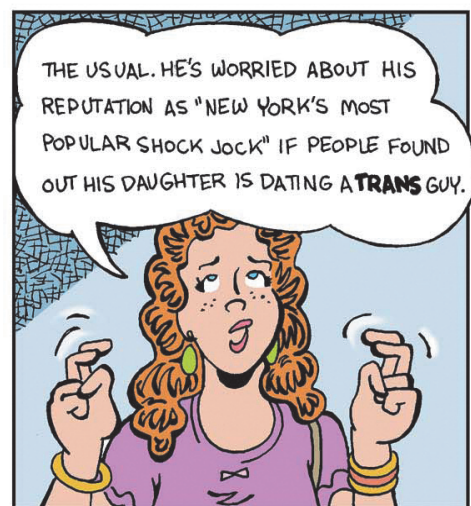
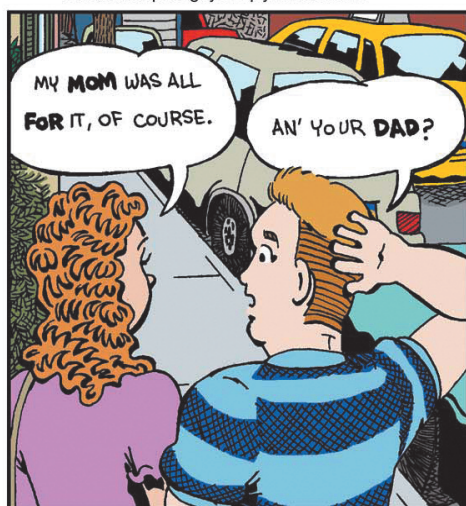
When I first introduced it to my girlfriend, she looked at me with a great deal of apprehension. Admittedly, the device is industrial-looking. "What is that?" she asked. But as soon as we got down to business, she immediately changed her tune. I believe, "Never mind. I don't care. More, please," was all she said.



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I also think a vibrator is a good tool to have on hand. I'm a big fan of JimmyJane's Form 2 vibrator. I like the soft texture of the material and the level and variety of vibration. Plus, the rabbit-like ears can be used to pinch the clitoris or can even be inserted. It can also be used for perineal stimulation, which is a very nice add-on!

Again, tongues and fingers do a very good job at clitoral stimulation. But after the first orgasm, a girl may need you to up the ante and a vibrator can do that. Use your fingers for penetration at the same time. Or, if you want to have to peel her off the ceiling, use the barbell and the Form 2.

Sex with someone you love can be revelatory. It certainly is for me as of late. Sometimes I don't want anything external between us. I don't want the noise or the distance it can create or the feel of anything that is not her skin, her mouth, her body. If you'll pardon the cheese ball sentiments, sometimes I want to make love to her and want her to make love to me. For me, that means gazing at one another and grasping hands. It means taking our time and, for me, it often means tears when I orgasm.

Other times I want to fuck and to be fucked. I want to be a greedy girl and come as much and as long and as hard as I can. And I want the same for her. I don't care the method or the means. The only thing that I care about is that she's the one I'm doing it with.

Beyond that, bring on the sex toy reinforcements. No shame in knowing your game.

So forget about the "I should be able to make her come without any help" nonsense and plug into pleasure. You just might be surprised about how far two AAs can take you.

Jenny Block is the author of *O Wow! Discovering Your Ultimate Orgasm*, to be published by Cleis Press in August.

Have a question about sex you want Jenny to address? Email it to [GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com](mailto:GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com).





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Making the **SCENE** the week of **June 5-11**:

- **Alexandre's**: *Girls Night Out with Peggy Honea* at 10 p.m. on Friday. *Sheran Keyton* at 10 p.m. on Saturday. *Chris Chism* at 9:30 on Wednesday. *Lala J* at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Brick/Joe's**: Saturday night is *Dannee Phann's birthday* with *MC Nicole O'Hara Munro* and *Frenchie Davis* and *TS Madison* performing at midnight.
- **Changes**: *Cowtown Leathermen* meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday.
- **Club Reflection**: *Texas Gay Rodeo Association* meeting at 2 p.m. on Sunday. *Cowtown Leathermen* cookout at 4 p.m. and pageant at 6 p.m. on Sunday. *Imperial Court* and *Cowtown Leathermen* game night at 7 p.m. on Wednesday. *NTXCC Fall Frolic* fundraiser at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Dallas Eagle**: *Women in Leather* social night at 9 p.m. on Friday. *Dallas Bears* and *Leather Knights* club night at 9 p.m. on Saturday. *Dallas Girls of Leather* monthly meeting at 5 p.m. on Sunday. *Bear of the Month Contest* at 10 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Havana**: *Curious* party on Friday.
- **Hidden Door**: Celebration of the life of *Rick Anderson* at 2 p.m. on Saturday. The *United Court of the Lone Star Empire* presents *All Bets Are Off* at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill**: *Voice of Pride* preliminary at 9 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Liquid Zoo**: *Voice of Pride* preliminary at 9 p.m. on Friday.
- **Pekers**: *Voice of Pride* preliminary at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Round-Up Saloon**: *Project Funway* continues with host *Sasha Leigh Chambers* at 9 p.m. on Monday.
- **S4**: *MetroBall* at 7 p.m. on Friday.
- **Sue Ellen's**: *Voice of Pride* preliminary at 9 p.m. on Monday.
- **The Rose Room**: *Miss Dallas FFI* on Thursday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar**: *Oak Lawn Tennis Association 2015 Texas Cup* welcome party at 6:30 p.m. on Friday. ■

To view more Scene photos, go to [DallasVoice.com/category/photos](http://DallasVoice.com/category/photos). Scene Photographer: *Kat Haygood*.



Jose and Cristian at Tallywackers.



Molly and Kiki at Sue Ellen's.



Guys night out at S4.



Hanging with the crew at Havana's.



Todd, Kyle and Jeff at Woody's Sports and Video Bar.



Michael, Jason and Jeremy at S4.



Todd and John at Marty's Live.



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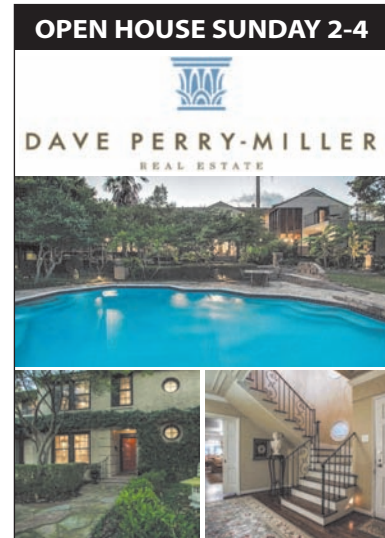


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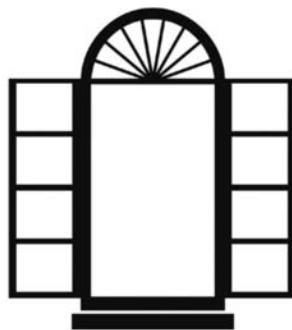
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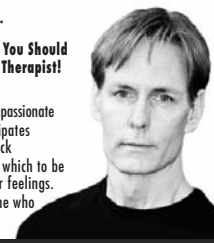
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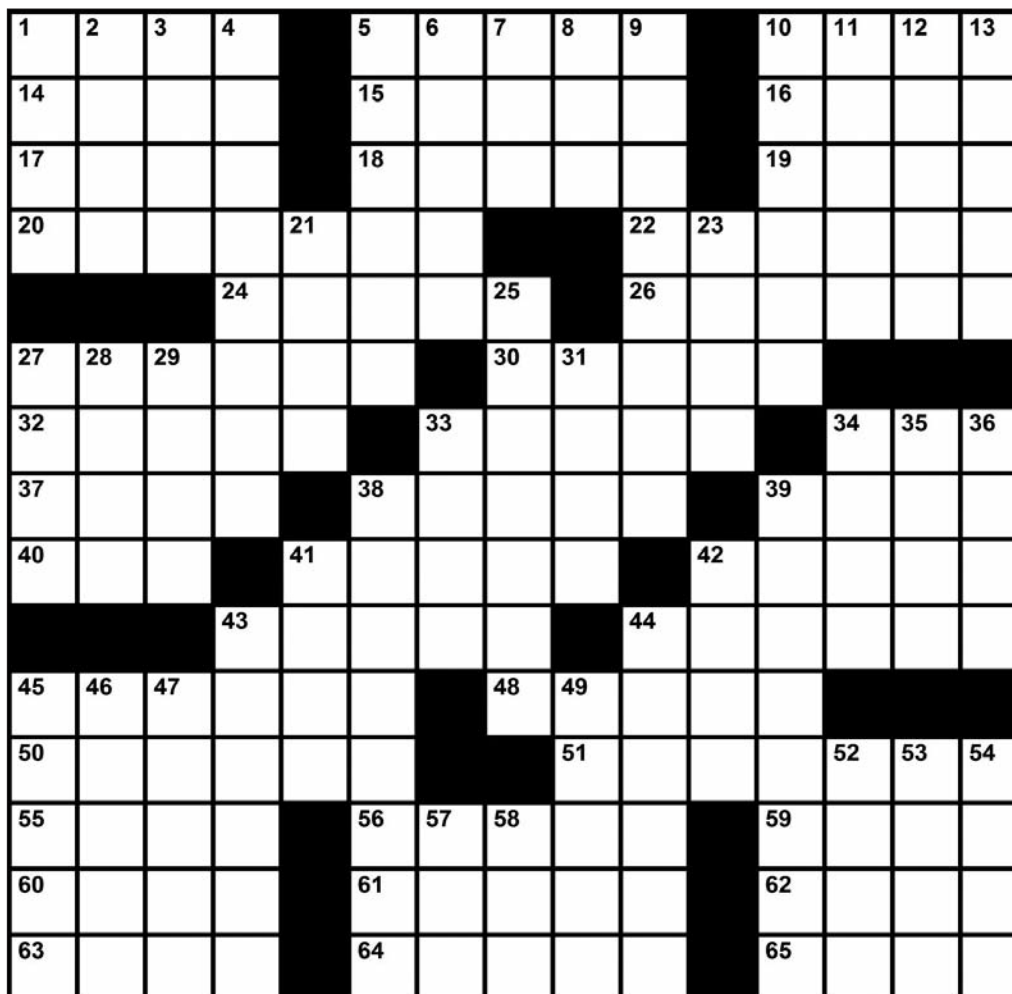
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## q-puzzle



## Where Gay Means Happy

Solution on page 22

### Across

- 1 Neuwirth of *Chicago*
- 5 IRS form
- 10 Mama's boys
- 14 Top
- 15 *Love Affair* costar Dunne
- 16 "\_\_\_ first you don't ..."
- 17 Like a stereotypical wrist
- 18 Salami you can put in your hero
- 19 Katharine's *Butch Cassidy* role
- 20 Nation where gay men are the happiest, per a Planet Romeo survey
- 22 2nd happiest nation for gay men
- 24 Buckeye State sch.
- 26 Seasonal songs
- 27 4th happiest nation for gay men
- 30 Rope at a gay rodeo
- 32 It helps you get to advocate.com
- 33 \_\_\_ Doctor (law degree)
- 34 Semen may be evidence on this program
- 37 "Metamorphoses" poet
- 38 Mullally of *Will & Grace*
- 39 Man in a skirt, perhaps
- 40 Porter's "\_\_\_ Out of Town"
- 41 Bone just over a foot
- 42 Carpet abrasions
- 43 Judy Reyes role on *Scrubs*
- 44 6th happiest nation for gay men
- 45 "For sure?"
- 48 Sentence units
- 50 7th happiest nation for gay men
- 51 3rd happiest nation for gay men
- 55 Seedless plant
- 56 Base neutralizers
- 59 Muscle Marys pump it
- 60 Fairy tale prince waiting to be kissed
- 61 Conductor Boulanger
- 62 Q to a Scrabble player
- 63 They come out in the lumber yard
- 64 Less sweet
- 65 In the pink

### Down

- 1 "\_\_\_ Hai"
- 2 Really big tale
- 3 Sammy Davis Jr.'s "I've Gotta \_\_\_"
- 4 Blew, big time
- 5 Register
- 6 Set of beliefs
- 7 Cock's mate
- 8 Bowie collaborator Brian
- 9 Clark Kent portrayer on TV
- 10 S, in communications
- 11 *A Tale \_\_\_ Cities*
- 12 Concerning one's coming out?

- 13 Chooses not to come
- 21 Throat-clearing sound
- 23 Mouthful for a stallion
- 25 5th happiest nation for gay men
- 27 West Hollywood pollution
- 28 Didn't go straight
- 29 Cut
- 31 Gershwin and Levin
- 33 Harden
- 34 Italian honey
- 35 Tickle pink
- 36 Ingrid's role in *Casablanca*
- 38 State that could describe the countries in this puzzle's theme?
- 39 Maker of things you shoot off
- 41 Maupin story of the city
- 42 Country dance spot
- 43 Bell bongs
- 44 Subject of pointed rebuke?
- 45 Guitar motifs from Etheridge
- 46 Former NFL player Tualo
- 47 Straight as an \_\_\_
- 49 Frasier pup
- 52 Diva's piece
- 53 Drum sound
- 54 Trick joint, maybe
- 57 The Batmobile, e.g.
- 58 *The Last King of Scotland* character



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