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— Dr. Robert Henderson  
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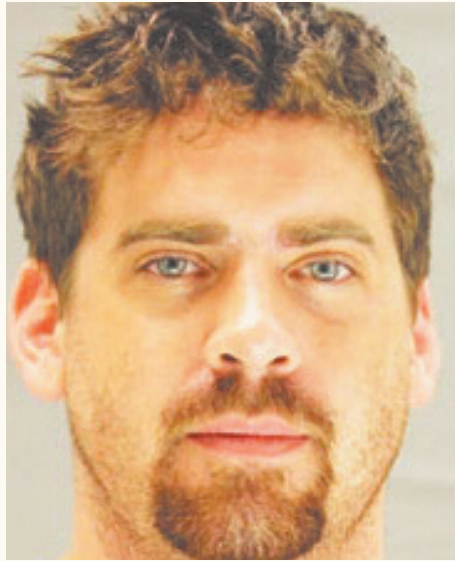
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## Dallas man received 10 years probation for trans murder

Jonathan Kenney has been sentenced to 10 years probation for the 2012 murder of his girlfriend, Janette Tovar, a transgender woman.



Kenney slammed Tovar's head into a concrete wall on Davis Avenue, a few blocks from their home but he refused to seek any medical help for her until she was almost dead.

Tovar died of her injuries later that day. When he



finally called for an ambulance, he denied knowing what was wrong.

Within days, Kenney confessed to police that he had beaten her, including hitting her head on the concrete.

Because the couple was fighting before she died, the DA's office implied Tovar might have started or been an aggressor in the fight.

Although the murder involved a trans woman, it wasn't a hate crime, because the motive wasn't animosity against trans people and instead a result of domestic violence.

Originally, Kenney was charged with first-degree murder but pleaded guilty to aggravated assault, also a first-degree felony, in exchange for probation.

If he violates his probation, he could be sent to prison for life. If he doesn't, he avoids a conviction on his record.

— David Taffet

## Judge declares lesbian relationship a 'common-law marriage'

A Travis County probate judge ended a year-long battle on Tuesday, Sept. 15 between an Austin woman and the family of her late partner by accepting a settlement agreement acknowledging that

Sonemaly Phrasavath and Stella Powell were in a common-law marriage, according to an article in the Austin American-Statesman.

Phrasavath and Powell had been together for eight years and had had a union ceremony — not legally recognized as marriage at the time — when Powell died of Cancer in June 2014. A hearing has been set for Oct. 5 to formally declare Phrasavath to be Powell's heir due to marriage. It is the first time in Texas history, lawyers said, that a same-sex couple has been deemed to have a common-law marriage.

— Tammye Nash

## Fort Worth man who invoked gay panic defense gets 35 years

A Fort Worth man who plead guilty to murdering a friend and unsuccessfully evoked the "gay panic defense" will spend 35 years in jail under a plea deal reached last month.

David Hidalgo, 23, admitted to the February 2014 murder of Stewart Trese, a 23-year-old Texas Christian University senior.

In an interview last year with WFAA, Hidalgo claimed Trese came on to him. When he refused the

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## THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? Email 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.

### SEPTEMBER

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM; **United Black Illument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community at 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., 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. For more information call or e-mail Ruben Ramirez at 214-540-4500 or [rramirez@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:rramirez@myresourcecenter.org).

• **Sept. 18: HRC DFW Federal Club Mixer** September mixer celebrating Dallas Pride from 6-8 p.m. at Dish Restaurant, 4123 Cedar Springs Rd.

• **Sept. 19: Team Clover and LifeWalk Present Drag Show-A-Gogo** Benefit for AIDS Arms' LifeWalk features drag

performances and silent auction from 7-10 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Rd.

• **Sept. 19: Gay Days at Six Flags** Join friends and allies for Gay Day at Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington from 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets visit [Sixflags.com/overtexas?promo\\_code=DALLASVOICE](http://Sixflags.com/overtexas?promo_code=DALLASVOICE).

• **Sept. 19: SHINE: The Dallas Pride Pool Party** Purple Party Weekend's pool party returns from 2-7 p.m. at SISU Uptown Resort, 2508 Maple Ave. \$30 at door. For more information visit [Dallasourpleparty.com](http://Dallasourpleparty.com).

• **Sept. 19: TEEN PRIDE: All Lives Matter** Third annual Teen Pride celebrates pride with a day of free food, drag performances, entertainment, games and prizes from 2-7 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Free for ages 13-19. \$5 for adult chaperones. For more information visit [Transtexas.org/realliveconnection](http://Transtexas.org/realliveconnection).

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**Chewy** is a male Pomeranian mix, about 5 years old. He is a small dog, weighing only about 10 pounds. He came to Operation Kindness as an owner surrender, when his owner had to go away to school and was unable to take Chewy along. Chewy's Operation Kindness ID No. is 29629435.

Other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is \$110 for cats, \$135 for kittens, \$150 for dogs over 1 year, and \$175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a \$20 discount



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• **Sept. 19: Music for Love, a Celebration of Unity and Diversity**

Lamont Wheat and others perform benefitting The Lavender Effect from 7-9 p.m. at Aloft Downtown Dallas, 1031 Young St.. \$10 donation at door. For more information visit [Thelavendereffect.org](http://Thelavendereffect.org).

• **Sept. 19: Wendy Ho: Save My Feral Pussy Fundraiser**

Wendy Ho performs live during karaoke benefitting Feral Friends Community Cat Alliance from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Barbara's Pavillion, 325 Centre St. For more information visit [Facebook.com/barbaraspavillion](http://Facebook.com/barbaraspavillion).

• **Sept. 19: Gaybingo: Rainbowlicious**

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center from 6-9 p.m. at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information, call 214-540-4458 or email [Bscott@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:Bscott@myresourcecenter.org).

• **Sept. 20: Family PRIDE Zone**

Safe space for LGBT parents and kids in conjunction with Festival in the Park from noon-7 p.m. at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. \$5 admission. For more information visit [Dallaspride.org](http://Dallaspride.org).

• **Sept. 20: Miller Lite Festival in the Park Presented by T-Mobile**

All day performances featuring Ty Herndon presented by the Dallas Tavern Guild from noon-7 p.m. at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. \$5 admission. For more information visit [Dallaspride.org](http://Dallaspride.org).

• **Sept. 20: Heineken Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade**

Celebrate the 32nd annual pride parade with floats, music, city officials headlined by this year's grand marshals Patti Fink and Evilu "Pridge" Pridgeon along Cedar Springs Avenue to Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. Free. Line-up starts at 10 a.m., street closes at 11 a.m. and parade starts at 2 p.m. For more information visit [Dallaspride.org](http://Dallaspride.org).

• **Sept. 20: Spectrum: The Dallas Pride Tea Dance**

Dallas Purple Party presents benefit for local HIV/AIDS organizations from 5-11 p.m. at Marty's Live, 4207 Maple Ave. For more information visit [Dallaspurpleparty.com](http://Dallaspurpleparty.com).

• **Sept. 22: AIDS Outreach Center Hope Walk Registration Party 2015**

Register for the 2015 Hope Walk and enjoy a free private party with a buffet spread from 5-7 p.m. at Buttons, 4701 W. Freeway #100, Fort Worth. For more information visit [AOC.org/walk](http://AOC.org/walk).



**Transgender 201: Beyond Jenner**

The Dallas Stonewall Young Democrats bring together faith and other community leaders for a forum to discuss "real life transgender issues" Tuesday, Sept. 29, 7-9 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Speakers include Cathedral of Hope's new minister, the Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas, Living Faith Covenant Church's Carmarion Anderson and others. A \$100 Starbucks gift card will also be raffled off. For more information contact Scott Payne at [board@dsyd.org](mailto:board@dsyd.org).

• **Sept. 23: Workout and Wine with Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas**

Tour of the new White Rock YMCA at 6 p.m. followed by 7 p.m. happy hour at Times Ten Cellars, 6324 Prospect Ave. For more information e-mail [Info@GLFD.org](mailto:Info@GLFD.org).

• **Sept. 25-27: Couple Communication Workshop**

Candy Marcum, LPC and Jimmy Owen, LPC conduct a two-weekend workshop for couples. 5-7 p.m. on Sept. 25 and Oct. 2 and 10 a.m.-noon on Sept. 26 and Oct. 3 at 3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 260. \$440 per couple includes two workbooks and eight hours of instruction. 214-521-1278. For more information call or e-mail Candy Marcum at 214-521-1278 or [candy@candymarcum.com](mailto:candy@candymarcum.com).

• **Sept. 25: Resource Center 5 Factor Awards**

Annual celebration of five Resource Center volunteers from 7-9 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd., #107, with appetizers, wine and entertainment. \$50 per person. For more information, including sponsor opportunities, visit [Myresourcecenter.org/5factor](http://Myresourcecenter.org/5factor).

• **Sept. 26: Greater Dallas Walk to End Alzheimer's**

Alzheimer's Association of Greater Dallas hosts its annual three-mile walk at 9 a.m. at AT&T Plaza at the American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. Day-of registration begins at

7 a.m. followed by 8:30 a.m. ceremony. To register visit [Bit.ly/1U3ZlbZ](http://Bit.ly/1U3ZlbZ). For more information contact Erica Goldberg at 214-540-2412 or [egoldberg@alz.org](mailto:egoldberg@alz.org).

• **Sept. 26: Dallas-Fort Worth Gay for Good Volunteer Project**

DFW Gay For Good's monthly volunteer project meets from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to prepare the science garden and paint exterior doors at Lee Elementary School, 2911 Delmar Ave. Register at [Bit.ly/1OuQ1ue](http://Bit.ly/1OuQ1ue). Lunch follows at Libertine Bar, 2101 Greenville Ave. For more information contact Rob Peters at 781-472-0745 or [robpeters70@gmail.com](mailto:robpeters70@gmail.com).

• **Sept. 27: Gay Author Alex Sanchez Speaks at Fort Worth Public Library**

The critically acclaimed author of eight award-winning young adult books speaks about growing up gay, emigrating from Mexico to Texas and signs books at Fort Worth Public Library, 500 W. 3rd, Fort Worth. Tickets are free. For more information, contact 817-392-6012 or [TeenScene@fortworthtexas.gov](mailto:TeenScene@fortworthtexas.gov).

• **Sept. 29: Transgender 201: Beyond Jenner**

Dallas Stonewall Young Democrats host workshop to discuss transgender issues from 7-9 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Rd. A \$100 Starbucks gift card will be raffled. For more information contact Scott Payne at [board@dsyd.org](mailto:board@dsyd.org).

• **Sept. 30: Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Kick-off**

Kick-off for Tarrant County Gay Pride with Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price at Trinity Park Arts Pavilion, 2401 University Dr., Fort Worth

**OCTOBER**

• **Oct. 1: Trans Pride Initiative Board Meeting**

Open to the public. 6:30 p.m. at Brazos Room, Center for Community Cooperation, 2900 Live Oak St. For more information e-mail Nell Gaither at [nell@tpride.org](mailto:nell@tpride.org).

• **Oct. 1: Fort Worth PFLAG Meeting**

Meets every first Thursday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. For more information, call 817-428-2329 or visit [PflagFortWorth.org](http://PflagFortWorth.org).

• **Oct. 2: Fort Worth Teen Pride**

Youth and young adult event includes free food, entertainment, drag show, prizes and more from 6-10 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 E. California Parkway, Fort Worth. Free for teenagers 13-18 with valid ID. \$5 suggested donation for accompanying adults. For more information contact [info@RLC365.org](mailto:info@RLC365.org) or [LGBTQsaves@gmail.com](mailto:LGBTQsaves@gmail.com).



# Celebrate good times

Organizers expect record numbers to turn out for Dallas' annual Pride parade and festival this weekend

**TAMMYE NASH** | Managing Editor

nash@dallasvoice.com

Celebration.

That's the byword for Dallas' Pride events taking place this weekend.

From the 32nd annual Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade to the Festival in the Park in its new location, and all the various parties planned over the course of the weekend, the Dallas LGBT community will have a chance to commemorate what has been a banner year for LGBT equality.

"We have been averaging attendance of about 35,000 to 40,000 for the parade and festival over the last several years. But we are expecting attendance this year to be much higher than that," noted Michael Doughman, executive director of Dallas Tavern Guild, which puts on the parade and festival each fall.

"People are celebrating all the positive things that are happening this year — marriage is one — and we are expecting record numbers of people to come out," he added.

And parade and festival organizers are offering those who come out plenty to enjoy.

Doughman said there are 89 paid entries in this year's parade, but with the VIP and sponsor entries the total number of entries will top 120. Those VIP entries will include Dallas Police Chief David Brown, Fire Chief Louie Bright along with former Mayor Laura Miller, who will be on the Tavern Guild Float with current Dallas City Council members.

"We are really glad to have Laura Miller in the parade again this year. She was the first mayor of Dallas to be in the Pride parade," Doughman said. "We also have former council members coming back this year as judges — Veletta Lill, Chris Luna and Lois Finkelman. As we celebrate the Supreme Court's ruling this summer on marriage equality, we wanted to bring back some of the people who were on the council back when the city was working to adopt the city ordinance" protecting LGBT people from discrimination.

Longtime community activists Patti Fink and Evilu "Pridge" Pridgeon were chosen as grand marshals of this year's parade. It is the first time that the two grand marshals were chosen "at large," as it were, rather than having one female and one male grand marshal. This year, potential grand marshals were nominated by the community, and then at the end of a specified online voting period, the two nominees — regardless of

gender — were named grand marshals.

Country music star Ty Herndon — who came out publicly last November — comes back to Dallas as honorary grand marshal of the parade. He will also perform during the Festival in the Park.

Doughman said those attending the parade can expect to see some major new corporate partners coming down Cedar Springs Road on Sunday, including Toyota, which signed on this year as presenting sponsor of the Family Pride Zone at the Festival in the Park. T-Mobile is another major new partner, coming in this year as presenting sponsor of the Miller Lite Festival in the Park. Andrews Distributing, Heineken and Miller Lite are all founding partners of the parade and the festival.

Virgin Airlines is also new to the parade/festival family this year, Doughman continued, and comes in as the official airline of Pride in Dallas. "There's no American Airlines this year," he said, noting that the sponsor agreement with American had ended and the airline did not step up with a new sponsorship offer.

"We looked at all the airlines who wanted to be the official airline for Pride, and we found a lot of support and really strong diversity within Virgin as a corporation," he added. "That's why we went with them."

Doritos will have an entry in the parade and a booth at the festival, Doughman said, and the chip company is offering those attending the festival a chance to be the first to see their new Pride-themed product.

"Doritos is a lead sponsor this year and will be in the parade as part of the Pepsico Company entry, because Pepsico is the parent company," Doughman said. "But Doritos, which is a corporate partner with the It Gets Better campaign, will have its own booth at the festival. They will be giving out bags of Doritos to folks who come by the booth. But anyone who goes by their booth and makes a donation to It Gets Better will get something special — they will get a bag of the new rainbow-colored Doritos.

"These are brand new," Doughman said. "We are the first Pride to have them. They are debuting the rainbow-colored Doritos right here in Dallas."

Doughman noted that officials will start shutting down streets around the parade route at noon. The parade itself steps off at 2 p.m., with entries lining up along Wycliff Avenue west of Cedar Springs Road, then moving down Cedar Springs along the same route the parade has taken for decades. The same route, at least, right up to the point where entries have traditionally turned left to move down Turtle Creek to Lee Park.

This year, the festival will be held instead in



Former Mayor Laura Miller will ride in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom parade again this year.

Reverchon Park, a move prompted by the fact that it is easier and less expensive to provide the necessary fencing and security required by the city.

"Having the new location for the festival is very exciting for us," Doughman said. "And we are very excited at the line-up we have."

Entertainment during the festival includes music by DJ Brandon Moses and performances

by Voice of Pride winner Vanessa Guzman and other VoP contestants, Mi Diva Loca and Chaz Marie and the Band.

"The grand marshals will speak, and [Herndon] is doing a full 90-minute concert with his band," Doughman said. "Then after he finishes, we will hand out the awards."



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# Real live pride

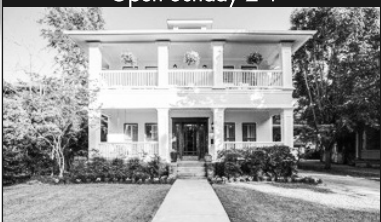


Amanda Robinson shows off her H4PJ Ambassador of Justice her award.

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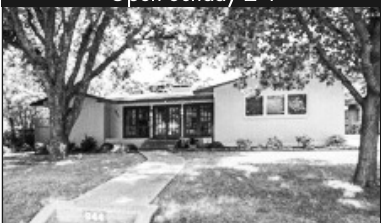
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Youth advocate Amanda Robinson awarded for work

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

Amanda Robinson was baffled recently when she received a Facebook message from the Rev. Jeff Hood, executive director of Hope 4 Peace and Justice. His organization was giving her an award.

"You sure me?" she asked.  
"Yes. #?" he wrote back.

On Sunday, Sept. 13, Robinson received the Hope 4 Peace and Justice Ambassador of Justice award for her work with Real Live Connection, a volunteer-run organization for LGBT and allied youth. She founded the group not to get awards, she said, but to bring LGBT youth into the Pride fold.

"[Receiving the award] was surreal," Robinson said. "It didn't hit me until the morning of," in part because her mother had driven from Mississippi, where she was raised, to see her receive it.

Other prior commitments were on her mind as well. Real Live Connection was hosting its motivational, faith-based Inspirational Sunday, also at Cathedral of Hope, later in the day. She

had the logistics under control, but she wanted it to be perfect.

It had to be perfect for the kids. "It was cool to receive an award for my youth work," Robinson said. "To receive an award for my efforts then work with the youth right after was an amazing feeling."

With the third annual Teen Pride coming up on Saturday, Sept. 19, Robinson hasn't had time to think about the rectangular glass block with her name etched into it. Then again, she didn't really have time to reflect on her work before receiving Hood's message either.

On Labor Day weekend, Robinson took Real Live Connection to Jackson, Miss. for a barbecue and pool party. About 50 people showed up for food and fellowship in a safe space.

Robinson is preparing to join LGBTQ.S.A.VES. in Fort Worth next month for another Teen Pride event during Tarrant County Gay Pride Week.

Because September is also Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, Robinson is hosting a National Day of Remembrance event for the LGBT youth who have died by suicide.

But there was another reason, besides being so short on time, that she hasn't talked much about the award: "I'm humble," she said. "I was raised that way."





Dana Goldberg



Well Strung



Betty Who



Ty Herndon

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# Gay Day at Six Flags is Saturday



When Dallas Voice led a group of more than 30 LGBT community organizations to sponsor the 1997 "Gay Day at Six Flags Over Texas" as part of Dallas' annual LGBT Pride celebration, then owner and publisher Robert Moore said the outing to the Arlington amusement park was "intended to provide visibility for our community and to provide some fun."

The event — which has taken place each September since — certainly provided visibility. And that visibility brought some unwanted attention, too, as right-wing groups responded in the years to come by staging protests outside the park and various other efforts to get Six Flags' management to cancel Gay Day.

In 2002, according to Dallas Voice archives, conservative religious groups launched a boycott campaign to try and shut down Gay Day at Six Flags. They failed.

An article published online at the Christian website World Net Daily in 2004 quoted Rick Warden, organizer of ProtestGayDay.com, as saying that "families that might not know about the homosexuals' plans could unknowingly come to the park Saturday and 'realize that they are waiting in line for one hour at a time with flamboyant homosexuals embracing one another and kissing. ... Six Flags Over Texas is willingly allowing families and children to be exposed to homosexual activities without giving them any warning.'"

Gay Day at Six Flags marks its 20th anniversary this year, and as the years have passed, the protestors that had been so vigorous in waving their anti-gay signs to warn off the innocent heterosexual families have faded away (although simply pointing this out might bring them back to the gates this year).

For Leo Cusimano, now publisher and co-owner of Dallas Voice, it is "a reflection of the changing times that we no longer see those protestors outside the gates on Gay Day at Six Flags.

"I think that is a sign that we are moving ever forward toward full equality," Cusimano continued. "And Dallas Voice is proud to be a part of the movement that is creating such a positive change in our society. We are proud to continue this contribution to creating a weekend full of Pride activities in Dallas."

Those headed to Six Flags for Gay Day on Saturday, Sept. 19, can get discounted tickets for \$36.50 plus tax online at [SixFlags.com/OverTexas?promo\\_code=DALLASVOICE](#). That price includes parking and is a savings of more than \$50

Tickets at that price are only available online and must be purchased in advance.

Six Flags Over Texas is located at 2201 Road to Six Flags St. East in Arlington. The park opens at 10 a.m.

— Tammye Nash



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# Pride Parties

• **Score: Pride Edition**

9 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday, Sept. 18  
 At Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.  
 A presentation of The Dallas Purple Party  
 Features DJ Justin Ryan  
 \$5 donation  
 DallasPurpleParty.com  
 DallasEagle.com

• **Shine: The Dallas Pride Pool Party**

2-9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19  
 At SISU Uptown Resort, 2508 Maple Ave.  
 A presentation of The Dallas Purple Party  
 Features legendary DJ Tony Moran  
 (see interview Page 74)  
 \$30 at the door  
 DallasPurpleParty.com

• **Music for Love, A Celebration of Diversity & Unity**

7-9 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19  
 At Aloft Downtown Dallas, 1031 Young St.  
 Features Lamont Wheat and special  
 guest performers  
 Some proceeds benefit The Lavendar Effect  
 \$10 donation at the door.  
 TheLavendarEffect.org

• **Wendy Ho: Save My Feral Pussy**

9 p.m.-2 a.m. Saturday Sept. 19  
 At Barbara's Pavillion, 325 Centre St.  
 Benefits Feral Friends Community  
 Cat Alliance  
 \$5 donation at the door  
 Facebook.com/Barbaras.Pavillion

• **House of Pride Party**

9 p.m.-4 a.m., 11 p.m. showtime,  
 Saturday, Sept. 19  
 At Brick/Joe's, 2525 Wycliff  
 Stars the Haus of Edwards featuring  
 Alyssa Edwards, Shangela and Laganja  
 (see interview with Shangela on Page 72)  
 \$150 VIP table for three, \$20 general admission  
 OneNightInBangkok.org  
 BrickDallas.com

• **Red Party 2015**

9 p.m.-midnight Saturday, Sept. 19  
 At Sixty Five Hundred,  
 6500 Cedar Springs Road  
 Presented by Clay Cooley Automotive Group  
 and featuring Dev (see interview on Page 76)  
 Benefits Dallas Red Foundation  
 \$55 general admission  
 DallasRedFoundation.org

• **CELEBRATION – After Parade Block Party**

noon-sundown Sunday, Sept. 20  
 In the back lot at Dallas Woody's,  
 4011 Cedar Springs Road  
 Hosted by Chanel Champagne  
 DallasWoody.com

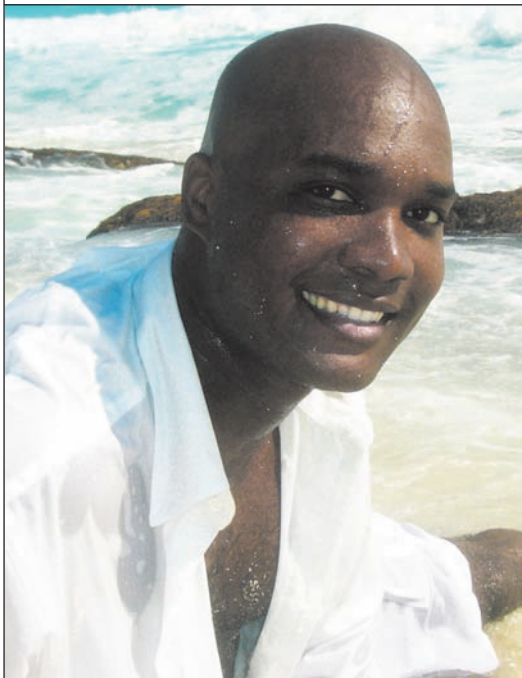
• **Latin Pride Party**

5-10 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19  
 At Kaliente, 4350 Maple Ave.  
 Free admission  
 Kaliente.cc

• **Spectrum: The Dallas Pride Tea Dance**

5-11 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 19  
 At Marty's Live, 4207 Maple Ave.  
 Presented by Dallas Purple Party and  
 featuring DJ Roland Belmares  
 Benefits local HIV / AIDS organizations  
 \$20 at the door  
 DallasPurpleParty.com

Need some help finding your way around the  
 gayborhood to get to all these fabulous parties  
 this Pride Weekend? Dallas Voice has  
 partnered with Smirnoff to create a map,  
 published on Page 96, that will lead the way.



Pride parties will feature Lamont Wheat, above;  
 Alyssa Edwards, center; DJ Roland Belmares,  
 right top; and DJ Justin Ryan, right bottom.



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Location: Buffalo Bayou, Downtown. Photo Credit: Spenser Harrison



# The birth of a Pride parade

After two years of celebrations in Lee Park, Dallas' Pride committee decided to add a parade in 1984

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The headline in the Sept. 14, 1984 Dallas Voice was "AIDS Vaccine Close to Reality." The next week, the headline read "The Big Event: Pride III."

For the first time, Pride in Dallas included a Pride parade. It wasn't until the second year that the name changed to the Texas Freedom Parade, and then 10 years later renamed for its founder and organizer, Alan Ross.

While several small parades were held downtown and in Oak Lawn during the 1970s, the annual parade as we know it today began in 1984 as part of that third annual September Pride celebration.

In September 1982, a celebration that later became known as Pride I was held in Lee Park to celebrate U.S. District Judge Jerry Buchmeyer's ruling declaring Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code, aka the Texas Sodomy Law, unconstitutional for the Northern District of Texas the previous month (August 1982). Pride I included political speeches and lots of beer.

That was a time before Facebook and Twitter and even a decade before email. The first issue of Dallas Voice was two years away. The Dallas Morning News wouldn't print anything about the LGBT community, and the only thing the Dallas Times Herald printed were license plate numbers and names of people parked at gay bars with the intent of getting them harassed and fired.

There was no monument on the corner of Cedar Springs and Oak Lawn for the community to gather round and celebrate within hours of a monumental event.

To start spreading the word, Crossroads Market owner William Waybourn bought several copies of Buchmeyer's ruling from the Government Printing Office. Waybourn then made more copies, distributing them from his store at the corner of Throckmorton Street and Cedar Springs Road. Then organizers made fliers, posting them in bars and around the neighborhood to get people to the park.

As word of the decision spread, the gay and lesbian community decided this was something to celebrate. Posters were printed and distributed to bars on Fitzhugh Avenue, Lemmon Avenue and the area around what is now The Crescent as

well as on the new strip that was developing on Cedar Springs Road.

Dallas Gay Alliance got out its phone tree and started calling people to let them know there would be a celebration in Lee Park on the third Sunday in September.

Hundreds of people turned out to hear community leaders like Waybourn, Bill Nelson, Louise Young and others talk about the monumental decision that meant, for the first time, gays and lesbians weren't criminals in North Texas.

The celebration was such a success that DGA staged Pride II the next year.

Pride II in 1983 still didn't include a parade, although parades were becoming the norm around the country. Indeed, Fort Worth celebrated Pride by staging its first parade that year. The Dallas celebration moved to the bar parking lots on Cedar Springs Road.

For Pride III, Dallas Tavern Guild, which continues to stage Pride, sponsored "The Big Event" in the parking lot behind 4001, the Caven disco that took up the building that now houses Zinni's, Gifted and Skivvies.

Booths operated by Tavern Guild members raised \$3,000, covering the cost of staging the event. The cost of the parade and festival today is more than \$150,000.

But that year, Pride for the first time included a parade. It began at the Oak Lawn Library, then located in the center of what is now the Kroger parking lot, and ended in Lee Park.

More than 50 organizations and businesses participated in that first Pride parade. Texas Gay Rodeo Association Color Guard led, followed by the Oak Lawn Band. The Montrose Symphonic Band marched midway through the parade, but the two bands played together at the Festival in Lee Park. They had performed together earlier that year when they marched in the Los Angeles Gay Pride Parade.

That first year, there weren't grand marshals. About 6,000 people attended. The Round-Up Saloon won an award for best float.

Among the speakers in the park was District 2 City Councilman Paul Fielding, best remembered for running a nasty, homophobic campaign against DGA President Bill Nelson before coming out himself.

By 1985, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals had overturned Buchmeyer's decision, but the com-



xx



munity remained optimistic. The Texas Human Rights Foundation, a statewide equality organization unrelated to the current Equality Texas, was prepared to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. However, there was enough doubt in the community that the Pride committee held a vote before deciding whether to hold a parade that year after the legal setback.

Pride won the vote: Organizers believed the Texas Freedom Parade was no longer about celebrating the Buchmeyer decision, but had come to be about a growing sense of pride in the Dallas' LGBT community.

That was the year the first grand marshals were chosen. Oak Lawn Counseling Center founder Howie Daire and author Rita Mae Brown were tapped for the honor. Brown was in town to receive the Humanitarian Award, now known as the Kuchling Humanitarian Award, at the Human Rights Campaign's "United Our Way" black tie dinner — as it was called then — at the Fairmont Hotel.

In addition to bands from Houston and Dallas, the Mile High Freedom Band from Denver, the Texas A&M Gay Marching Band and Gay Band of America performed in the parade.

After the Buchmeyer decision was overturned by the Fifth Circuit and the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal. But the court did hear a similar case from Georgia that affirmed the Fifth Circuit's reinstatement of the Texas sodomy law. Yet Buchmeyer was vindicated in 2003 when the Supreme Court ruled in the *Lawrence v. Texas* decision that sodomy laws were unconstitutional.

Through it all, Dallas' LGBT community has continued to gather each September for the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, now in its 32nd year. From the 50 entries in that first parade in 1984, it has grown to 89 paid entries this year, more than 120 counting the sponsor and VIP entries

Thousands are expected to line the parade route this year — which still starts at the intersection of Cedar Springs Road and Wycliff Avenue — and just as many are expected to gather in Reverchon Park for the after-parade festival.

What started as a celebration of a judicial victory has persevered through the dark years of the AIDS crisis and legal losses to come out on the edge of a bright new future for a community that has, through it all, maintained its pride and its hope. ■



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## Getting in the (Family Pride) Zone



Family Pride Zone returns to Dallas Pride's Festival in the Park this weekend, and organizers are promising the family-centered activities are here to stay.

Family Pride Zone will be a fenced-off area inside the section of Reverchon Park that will be fenced in to hold the Festival in the Park, from noon to 7 p.m. FPZ was a big hit in its first year in 2013, organizers said. But a lack of funding meant it was missing from the festival in 2014.

"But we're back this year in full force," said Leo Cusimano, Dallas Voice publisher and co-owner and FPZ director. "We now have financial support from Toyota, which has signed as pre-

sending sponsor with a multi-year agreement. That means that Family Pride Zone is not going away any time soon."

Cusimano said that bringing FPZ back to the festival was necessary because "it's important to have a safe place where LGBT parents and their kids can celebrate Pride."

Cusimano, who has two sons with his husband, Tony Cuevas, said the goal of FPZ is to create a "family-friendly environment for those of us who have younger children, but who don't want to be left out of the Pride celebrations. Having this space set aside gives us that safe place we need to be able to enjoy the day, and it also leaves plenty of room for those who are looking for more adult-oriented fun, too."

Cusimano noted he and his family participate in a number of LGBT parenting and family groups. "My goal in those groups is to help build a more cohesive LGBT parenting community in North Texas. Family Pride Zone, I believe, plays an important role in reaching that goal for all of us."

The canopied area set aside for Family Pride Zone will be located near the center of Reverchon Park, where playground equipment is already located. In addition, vendors and sponsors will offer games and entertainment including face painting, bounce houses and balloon artists. There will also be old-fashioned potato sack races and relay races for children and parents to compete in.

Admission to the Festival in the Park is \$5 a person, but those under age 13 get in free. There is no additional fee for admission to the FPZ, but organizers ask those going into the area to remember that younger children will be attending and to dress appropriately.

Family Pride Zone sponsors, in addition to Toyota, are Dallas Voice, the Law Office of David C. Cole Inc., and Family Equality Council. ■

— Tammye Nash





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# LifeWalk hits 25



Fundraiser celebrates a quarter-century of making a difference for those with HIV/AIDS

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

LifeWalk organizer Tori Hobbs said this year's 25th annual event will truly be a celebration: "Look back to where the epidemic was 25 years ago. People were still dying. New drugs were just coming out. People are now going to live a normal life."

But she cautioned that Dallas is still one of 12 cities with the highest infection rates and most new cases. "We have to keep up that aware-

ness," she urged.

So LifeWalk isn't just an event that raises money for client services at a number of Dallas organizations, the event raises awareness throughout the area.

AIDS Arms is the primary beneficiary of the walk, but other AIDS organizations receive LifeWalk funds, including Resource Center, Abounding Prosperity, AIDS Services Dallas and AIDS Interfaith Network. The Turtle Creek Chorale's AIDS fund covers special needs of their members.

A new beneficiary this year is Cathedral of Hope, which has had an AIDS fund to help its members since the beginning of the AIDS crisis. The church is hoping to reinvigorate that program through its new partnership with Life-

Walk.

Paul Kolasci, a volunteer with Cathedral of Hope, said the church is planning to partner with the area AIDS agencies to see how they can make a difference.

Kolasci recently noticed an article in AIDS Arms' newsletter saying the agency was running a school supply drive for clients' children. He called to ask how many they hoped to help, and was told the goal was 100. Cathedral stepped up and provided school supplies for 175.

In the past the COH fund directly helped church members with AIDS who had specific needs. The church might cover a member's rent while he was in the hospital or help with doctor's copays. Recently, money in the fund paid

for a cremation after the church received a call that the family of a homeless person couldn't afford the expense.

Kolasci said the church is exploring new ways to supplement the work area agencies are doing and to make itself available to those agencies with services it already provides. "We're excited to partner again with AIDS Arms and LifeWalk," he declared.

Hobbs described LifeWalk participants as loyal when she compared Dallas statistics with those of AIDS walks in other cities. The Dallas walk has a 50 percent return rate while the average return rate is around 16 percent.

And LifeWalk teams have raised a lot of money. The Green Team, returning for its 24th



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# Hope and change



Holly Edwards, left, with Scout, and former board president, right Kelly Smith with Gus. Lorie Kinler in center.

AIDS Outreach Center moves annual walk; new focus helps center better serve the LGBT community

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

After 23 years, the Tarrant County AIDS Walk has changed its name and moved from spring to fall. The AIDS Walk will now be the Hope Walk, slated for Sunday, Oct. 25, "but the cause hasn't changed," said Sarina Harz, development associate at AOC.

The move just fits with the center's current rebranding efforts, she said.

Currently, AOC's two biggest events are the walk and Evening of Hope gala in May. Moving and rebranding simply balances the growth of their two major special events, Harz said.

"We wanted to rebrand the walk to keep consistent with our message, which is that we offer help for today and hope for tomorrow. Each event has a theme of offering hope, because that is what we provide beyond the immediate help

our services offer," she explained.

Rebranding, restructuring and moving the walk from spring to fall allows AOC to stay true to its mission, which changed this past summer to also align with the organization's goals.

"We have changed our mission and vision statements to better serve our communities, especially the LGBTQ community," said Shannon Hilgart, executive director of AOC. "Serving people living with and at risk for HIV with dignity and respect' is our new mission statement, and you will start to see changes unfold very soon. Our vision statement is, 'In our community people living with HIV have access to quality care and new infections are rare.'"

To serve people living with or at risk for HIV with dignity and respect, Harz said, you have to go deeper.

Board President Cheryl McDonald said the change was also necessary given the evolution of treatment for those living with HIV. "As the epidemic of HIV has changed, so too [is our strategy]. As president of the board of AOC, as well as a physician who treats patients with HIV, I see firsthand the difference AOC makes in our patients' lives. The funds raised with the Hope Walk allow us to continue to fulfill our mission,

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Harz added, “We want that mission to go deeper than just a saying, we want to embody it in everything we do, including our special events.”

Those statements reflect the quality of AOC’s work. A staff of 30 provides 10 services to 1,600 people living with or affected by HIV/AIDS in Tarrant and seven rural counties.

The realignment isn’t just a fundraising ploy;



# Unified in moving forward

Dallas Southern Pride building bridges as it continues to grow

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

Having a separate Black Pride is not about being apart from the mainstream community. It's about celebrating what is unique about the African-American same-gender-loving community, organizers say.

And Dallas' annual black Pride celebration, known as Dallas Southern Pride, has become one of the largest black Pride gatherings in the country.

Dallas Southern Pride 2015 takes place Oct. 1-4, with the Crowne Plaza Dallas-Market Center hotel, 7050 Stemmons Freeway, as the host hotel.

There will be three "anchor events" — the Miss Dallas Southern Pride Pageant on Oct. 1 at the hotel, the annual DSP Sizzling Pool Party on Oct. 3 at the Bungalow Beach Club and The Unity Barbecue at Bachman Lake on Oct. 4.

But, DSP's lead organizer Kirk Myers said, there are plenty of other parties and special events planned leading up to the Black Pride weekend. And many of those parties and events are intended to stress the goal of unity in community, he said.

Black Pride in Dallas began in the early 1990s as a way to provide entertainment for the hundreds of men and women who flooded the city each year for the annual football game between Grambling University and Prairie View A&M, two historically black colleges who faced off at the Cotton Bowl each fall, explained Betty Neal, a DSP organizer who helped put together those early events.

Neal worked at a nightclub called Raps, which catered primarily to the black LGBT community, and business was always hopping at Raps the weekend of the big game, she said.

"We had people who came up from Houston, from as far away as Atlanta — from all over for that weekend. So we decided we should start planning a big 'purple vs. gold' weekend. We had a big show with the best entertainers," Neal recalled.

Another mainstay of the early Black Pride events in Dallas was a nightclub known as Elm



Kirk Myers

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# Celebrating Love!





## 4th annual B/HAP Conference comes to Dallas

Abounding Prosperity Inc. hosts the fourth annual Southern Regional Ball/House and Pageant Communities Leadership and Health Disparities Conference, better known as B/HAP, Oct. 1-4.

The theme for this year's conference is "Going 'Viral': B/HAP Communities Beat Down Disparities — A Record-Breaking Win. It focuses, AP's CEO Kirk Myers said, "on the future of B/HAP communities in terms of overcoming health disparities through effective, organic leadership."

The conference will "highlight specific indigenous leaders confronting those health disparities to inspire larger national conversations about the relationships between sexuality, public debate and equitable access to healthcare resources," according to a press release on the conference.

The idea, organizers said, is to focus on promoting "grass-roots voices and organic leadership" within the B/HAP communities and on promoting businesses that want to earn more significant market shares in the LGBT communities of color."

The host hotel for the conference is the Crown Plaza Hotel Dallas, Market Center 7050 N. Stemmons Freeway. The Crown Plaza is also the host hotel for Dallas Southern Pride, Dallas' Black Pride celebration, also taking place Oct. 1-3.

Registration for the conference is open now. For information call 214-421-4800, email conference manager Damon Humes at dhumes@bhapconference.org or visit BHAPconference.org.

— Tammye Nash

and Pearl, Myers noted.

As the years passed, more people began to get involved. DJs and promoters started planning parties all over the city to cater to the Grambling vs. Prairie View crowds. Women of Distinction, an organization for African-American women who love women, began to create events just for women, while other organizations created events just for men.

Black Pride, she said, had become a profitable endeavor. And so the number of parties and events grew. Eventually, Neal said, organizers decided to hold Dallas' Black Pride celebration on the first weekend in February every year, instead of tying it to the Grambling-Prairie View game weekend.

That change, Myers noted, was necessitated in part by the fact that the football game wasn't held the same weekend every year, and the football schedule isn't actually set until sometime in the summer. And Black Pride had become such a large undertaking that organizers couldn't wait that long each year to begin planning.

"Just like the Dallas Tavern Guild does with the Alan Ross Freedom Parade, we plan year 'round," Myers said. "As soon as this year's events are over, we will start planning for next year."

Over the years, Neal noted, a division began to form. Some people wanted Black Pride to be all about the parties. Others wanted to take a more educational route and include workshops and seminars on serious topics like HIV/AIDS. A split developed, Neal said, with the two groups "bickering back and forth," until finally, both side went more or less dormant.

And then, Neal continued, Myers, who is also CEO of the HIV/AIDS service organization Abounding Prosperity, stepped in and took control, reuniting the two once-separate groups under the banner of Dallas Southern Pride, and setting the organization on a path to success once again.

"With Kirk Myers in control, Dallas Southern Pride has really become a national-level Black Pride celebration. Dallas Southern Pride is one of the top five Black Pride celebrations in the country now," Neal said.

"Dallas is going in the right direction now,"

she added. "We are going in the direction of unity."

That includes unity with the area's "mainstream" Pride events, too, both Neal and Myers agreed.

"Having a Black Pride doesn't mean we are trying to be separate from the rest of the community. Everyone is welcome to come to all of the events," Neal said. "This is just a time that we celebrate our own unique culture and fashion and music and lifestyle, and we want everyone to celebrate that with us."

Myers agreed. "Every major urban area has at least two Prides," he said. "Some have more. New York City has Latin Pride, Indian Pride. It's no different here. It's not about being separate; we don't want to be divisive. We want to add to Pride."

In fact, he continued, Dallas Southern Pride continues to reach out to the larger LGBT community more and more each year.

"We have a Juneteenth picnic each year in June, which is national Gay Pride Month, and everyone is invited to attend," Myers said. "This year, for the first time in at least the last three years, Dallas Southern Pride will have a float in the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade."

"Also this year, we will [have a Dallas Southern Pride group] participating in the LifeWalk," the annual AIDS fundraiser that takes place Sunday, Oct. 4. LifeWalk is presented by AIDS Arms and benefits that agency along with several others, including Abounding Prosperity.

While there are "a slew of club events and parties" tied to Dallas Southern Pride and the days leading up to the weekend, the three "anchor events" are the Miss Dallas Southern Pride pageant, the Saturday pool party and the Sunday barbecue. The pageant and the pool party, Myers said, offer more examples of how DSP is branching out.

"Miss Dallas Southern Pride really is a top-caliber pageant that produces top-caliber performers. Kennedy Davenport, who has been on RuPaul's Drag Race, she is a former Miss Dallas Southern Pride," Myers said.

"This year, for the first year ever, we are having two hosts of the pageant. We have Kelexis Davenport, who performs at The Rose Room in S4,

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UNIFIED, From Previous Page

### Dallas Southern Pride

**Oct. 1-4**

• **Host Hotel:** The Crowne Plaza Hotel Dallas Market Center, 7050 Stemmons Freeway. King and double rooms are \$109 a night plus tax with the booking code Dallas Southern Pride. Make reservations online.

• **Miss Dallas Southern Pride Pageant:** Thursday, Oct. 1, at Crowne Plaza Hotel Dallas Market Center, 7050 Stemmons Freeway. Doors open at 9 p.m., pageant begins at 9:45 p.m. Admission is \$5 for registered participants in the B/HAP Conference, and \$10 for those registered for the conference.

• **DSP Sizzling Pool Party,** 5-10 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Bungalow Beach Club, 3121 Ross Ave. Presented in conjunction with Sizzle Miami, the Miami Black Pride, featuring the Sizzle Miami Hot Body Contest, and music by DJ C Wade, DJ 008 and DJ Rudeboy.

• **Black Pride Unity Barbecue,** 1-6 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 4 at Bachman Lake, 3500 Northwest Highway. Free food and beverages.

For more information on these events and for information on all of the other events and parties taking place during Dallas Southern Pride, and for the link to reservations at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, visit [DallasSouthernPride.com](http://DallasSouthernPride.com).



Kelexis, top, Kiana Lee, bottom, Betty Neal, right

and Kianna Lee. And that's another nod to inclusion, since Kianna is the first non-black host we have ever had for the pageant," he added.

Dallas Southern Pride is also reaching out to other Black Pride events around the country, looking to build its national profile and with that, its financial impact on the city of Dallas.

"The biggest event of the weekend is our Sizzling Pool Party that happens on Saturday. And this year, Sizzle Miami, the leading Black Pride in the country, is coming in as a host of our Dallas Southern Pride pool party," Myers said.

A pool party in June drew about 670 people,

he noted. "We're expecting well over a thousand people at the Pride pool party.

"We're seeing a new era of unity now," Myers continued. "Dallas Southern Pride has seen exponential growth. Growth in the number of people coming in for Pride, and exponential growth in the economic impact Dallas Southern Pride has on the city. We look forward to continuing to build bridges, bridges with Black Prides in other cities and bridges with the majority Pride here in Dallas. We want to build that bridge and really connect in a way that will make all Prides better for all our community."



# Legacy of service



The Rev. Mason Rice Jr. and his wife, Zetta Rice.

Historic Denton church promotes HIV/AIDS awareness

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

St. James African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, at 140 years old, is the oldest in Denton and third oldest in the state. And it is gaining notoriety for its groundbreaking efforts to increase HIV/AIDS awareness and education in the church.

According to Nita Thurman's Freedman Town & St. James A.M.E. Church, freed slaves founded the church 11 years after slavery was abolished in the Freedman Town colony. The Rev. M.P. Lambert, one of the colony's first residents, assumed the leadership role and met with parishioners in their homes every week for worship and Bible studies.

But as the region developed, congregants decided they needed their own church. They built a chapel by themselves, hired a full-time preacher and officially organized into Saint James A.M.E. Church.

As Denton grew, the church did, too. The congregation has been witness to American history, having stood through the racial tensions of the civil rights era to the development of the Dallas/Fort Worth region. In 1985, the church was designated a Texas historical site.

Having weathered evictions, racial tension and a 1962 storm that destroyed the building and its records, church leaders are now taking on another crisis.

"There is an HIV epidemic among African-Americans for a variety of reasons. They may get HIV through sharing dirty needles or from part-

ners who may not disclose their status, for instance," said Mary Taylor, a spokeswoman for the church.

It's estimated there are 40,000 new cases of HIV a year. Young black men report around 50 percent of new cases, more than any other demographic. And young black men between ages 25 to 44 are more likely to die from AIDS than any other disease.

Unfortunately, many don't even realize they have HIV until it is too late.

After one of his relatives died from AIDS-related complications, the Rev. Mason Rice, Jr., pastor of St. James, said he was compelled to act. Given the black church's sway over the black community overall, Rice and Taylor saw an opportunity to address the alarming rate of HIV diagnoses. Historically the black church boasts captive audiences who come together and listen as a community.

But the church also has a problem. "Churches have captive audiences but won't talk about [HIV/AIDS]," Taylor said. "It's a critical disease affecting our community, but it isn't treated like other diseases. The church needs to be as compassionate as they are with other diseases."

Data compiled by the Texas Department of State Health Services mirrors national the national data: People of color, and particularly young men of color, are most likely to contract HIV. Currently the state only estimates the rate of gay and bisexual men living with HIV or AIDS and does not track data based on gender identity.

It is estimated 80,073 Texans report living with HIV in 2014. Of those known cases, 37.3 percent, or 29,895, of black Texans report living with disease while 30.7 percent, or 24,607, of Hispanic Texans report living with HIV.

But the difference between contraction rates among genders is still stark. Black men comprise 32.9 percent of new diagnoses, while black women comprise 57.1 percent of all new diagnoses. Hispanic men account for 40 percent of new diagnoses while 26.1 percent of new diagnoses occur in Hispanic women.

Unfortunately, those numbers are likely much higher than statistics show, because of the stigma surrounding HIV, Taylor said.

"HIV transmission doesn't occur just through sex but all forms of blood transmission, including birth," Taylor said. "We need to stop discriminating against this disease."

Despite friction in the national A.M.E. church over LGBT rights, St. James A.M.E.'s events do not discriminate. With a disproportionate number of people impacted by the disease, all events are open to the public, regardless of race, sexual orientation or gender identity or expression, church officials stressed.

"It impacts everyone," Taylor said. "Everyone needs education and to communicate about HIV." ■



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## Parade, festival, picnic highlight TC Gay Pride

Tarrant County Gay Pride for 2015 kicks off Wednesday, Sept. 30, with a celebration hosted by the Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association, featuring Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, at Trinity Park Arts Pavilion. The park is located at 2401 University Drive, and the pavilion is located inside the park, near Crestline Drive and Trinity Park Drive.

The Tarrant County Gay Pride Parade, now in its 33rd year and focused on the national Gay Pride theme of "Color Our World With Pride," begins at noon on Saturday, Oct. 3, at Weatherford Street, going south on Houston Street to 9th Street, before turning east to end at Main and 9th.

The Pride Street Festival featuring live entertainment, vendors and food truck concessionaires takes place at Main and 9th, in front of the Fort Worth Convention Center, from noon to 6 p.m. Both the parade and the festival are sponsored by Ben E. Keith Beverages of Fort Worth.

The next day, Sunday, Oct. 4, is the Pride Picnic, from noon to 6 p.m. at Trinity Park Arts Pavilion, sponsored by Ben E. Keith Beverages - Bud Light.

The picnic — one of Tarrant County's oldest Pride celebrations — includes a DJ and live entertainment on the Bud Light stage, group activities, competitions and Pride Kids Zone. There will also be a







Vendors Market and booths from community organizations offering education and support services. Food concessions will offer the traditional hamburgers and hot dogs along with a variety of new food options.

Beverage concessions will also be operated by Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association, with volunteers from community organizations as servers. Proceeds from concessions help pay for permits and other fees associated with staging the parade, festival and picnic each year.

No outside canopies and fixtures are allowed at the picnic, except those brought in by contracted vendors. No coolers or outside foods and beverages are allowed either.

Those attending are welcome to bring chairs, blankets and beach umbrellas.

Rounding out the 2015 Tarrant County Gay Pride Week celebration is the 17th annual Q Cinema Film Festival, Oct. 8-10, at the Ridglea Theater, 6025 Camp Bowie Blvd. The festival will feature LGBTQ-oriented films and short subjects from around the world, events featuring filmmakers and actors, nightly parties, live entertainment stage productions and more. ■

For more information visit [QCinema.org](http://QCinema.org).

— Tammye Nash

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# Out & Equal returns to the Anatole

The Workplace Summit includes CEOs and celebrities committed to workplace diversity

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Hollywood's been debating lately about whether or not there could be a gay James Bond. At Out & Equal's Workplace Summit taking place at the Hilton Anatole on Oct. 6-8, the executive director of the CIA will be in Dallas to let people know there already are gay James Bonds.

Among this year's other speakers out basketball star Jason Collins, who will keynote the opening brunch, and Mayor Annise Parker will talk about the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance election. The producers of this year's Tony Award winning musical Fun Home will appear to discuss the show.

Out & Equal is dedicated to achieving LGBT workplace equality and works with corporations and government agencies to provide safe and supportive work environments. It provides resources and support to employee resource groups, a concept that began in Dallas when the

first ERG — LEAGUE@AT&T — was formed in 1987.

In 2011, the Workplace Summit was held in Dallas and, among the other attendees, attracted more than 50 corporate CEOs. Among the plenary speakers were Bravo's Andy Cohen and actress Candice Cayne, and Margaret Cho entertained at the final gala dinner. Singer/songwriter Cris Williamson is on this year's entertainment lineup.

This year, 3,000 attendees have registered from 600 companies and 30 countries.

Out & Equal Chief Development Officer Rachel Rubin described the week as an event where people at companies who rarely speak to each other interact and exchange ideas.

"Companies who don't agree on much, agree on diversity," Rubin said. "We're proud of that."

She said while companies don't often get together to share ideas, they do talk to each other at the conference to discuss diversity and what works.

Rubin added that 90 workshops would deal with a variety of topics, including a number of issues that have arisen as a result of the U.S. Supreme Court's marriage-equality decision. While many companies have a commitment to







Members of Out & Allied at NASA talked about diversity at the space agency at the 2011 Out & Equal Conference in Dallas. Paul von Wupperfeld, opposite page, from Texas Instruments, is organizing the night out on Cedar Springs event.

equal treatment for their LGBT employees, some issues are more complicated than simple recognition of a partner as a spouse, she said.

Executives at some companies like Walmart and Dow Chemical that have taken strong stands against so-called religious freedom laws will speak on their corporate positions. Pepsi and Disney executives will share case studies of programs that have worked for them.

Rubin said having the right CEO in place can make all the difference when it comes to equality in the workplace. She cited Frank Bisignano, CEO of First Data. After being hired from Citi, he made a commitment to diversity and raised his new company's Corporate Equality Index score from 40 to 100. He's the speaker at one of the convention's power lunches.

On the government employment side, Rubin said there would be what she called a coffee with Barney Frank and a luncheon that includes a speaker from the state department as well as the CIA.

#### CAREER PAVILION

A new feature for the convention is this year's AT&T Workplace Summit Career Pavilion. Attendees can meet one-on-one for career coaching to discuss their current career and future goals or have a professional review their resume.

The career pavilion will also provide the opportunity to meet with employers about career opportunities from a number of companies participating in Out & Equal such as AT&T, Thomson Reuters, Hewlett-Packard, Johnson & Johnson, Citi Bank, Northrop Grumman, AIG, Mass Mutual and Texas Instruments.

Rick Wilson, director of talent acquisition at AT&T and president of the DFW chapter of LEAGUE, said he expects people to be speaking

with mid- to high-level executives from companies that have already demonstrated their commitment to diversity that includes the LGBT community.

While this isn't a job fair, Wilson said he expects people may find some good opportunities.

"If we find talent, business cards will be exchanged and we'll point them to our careers website," he said. AT&T's booth in the exhibit hall will also have listings of job opportunities.

The career pavilion will be located inside the exhibit hall and will be open to anyone attending the conference on Oct. 7 from 8 a.m.-noon and 2:30-5 p.m.

#### NIGHT OUT

Texas Instruments is a sponsor of the night out on Cedar Springs Road.

When Out & Equal was in Dallas in 2011, they shuttled about 2,500 people between the Anatole Hotel and Cedar Springs.

"We used that number for our estimates so folks won't have to wait as long for buses," said TI's Paul von Wupperfeld.

This year, Cedar Springs Road will be closed to traffic and booths will be set up along the street like on wine stroll evenings.

He said the evening out is a great way to get people out of the hotel for awhile and introduce them to the community.

To welcome visitors to Dallas and especially Oak Lawn, von Wupperfeld said he'd like to station local hosts on the shuttles from 5-11 p.m. to welcome guests and answer questions about options for dining, shopping and nightlife. ■

Volunteers can work shifts of one hour or the entire evening. Anyone interested in acting as a host should send their name, time available and cell phone number to von Wupperfeld at pavw@ti.com.

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# The unstoppable Laurie Seidel

Dallas native, out lesbian, humble to a fault, doctor and proud

**JAMES RUSSELL** | Staff Writer

russell@dallasvoice.com

Laurie Seidel was a Greenhill School junior scribbling a math equation on the classroom board during her lunch period when poetry teacher Linda Woolley walked in.

"I said, 'Laurie, you know I'm going to have erase this, right?'" Woolley recalled.

Seidel understood, but she still offered Woolley this truth: "But math equations have an answer. Poetry doesn't have an answer!"

Like it or not, Seidel, a 2007 graduate of the Addison college preparatory school, was going to learn poetry. It wasn't her best subject, Seidel said, "but [Woolley] taught me how to write. She said,

'You may want to go to medical school, but you still have to write.' I still credit her and Greenhill for pushing me to write."

Seidel wrote and studied her way to Emory University in Atlanta, graduating in 2011 with a degree in linguistics. And she wrote and studied her way back to Dallas to attend the UT-Southwestern Medical Center. She graduated this past May with a 4.0.

In all her spare time, Seidel served as chapter vice president of the American Medical Student Association, founded the Gender Equality Medical Society and mentored high school students to pursue health care careers in the Health Professions Recruitment and Exposure Program. She also volunteered at Resource Center's Nelson-Tebedo Clinic.

Seidel met her partner, Maria Halmo, in medical school — after working a 36-hour shift no less. But whether discussing writing or meeting her

partner or starting a non-profit while in high school, Seidel maintains a sweet humility about all of it.

For example, when she received the 2015 Ho Din Award — the most prestigious award given by the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center Foundation — Seidel was stunned.

"I was totally floored," she said. "To be given the award among 200 graduates, who are all true physicians and movers and shakers — I was just surprised."

Looking at the roster of previous recipients was also fairly intimidating. Previous recipients include Nobel Prize Laureate Dr. Joseph L. Goldstein, who was a co-winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1985.

"I'm graduating from medical school and expected to do amazing things. I don't think of myself this way at all," Seidel said. "I'm still tempted to call myself a medical student."

Woolley, however, wasn't surprised Seidel won the award.

"The award describes Laurie perfectly. She loves knowledge, and uses it as a tool," the teacher said. "She sees a problem and addresses it."

Take, for example, the high price of hearing aids.

An interest in deaf culture and years of American Sign Language courses lead Seidel to a volunteer teacher's aide position in the Dallas Independent School District while she was still in high school.

"I was really interested in both honing my language skills and learning more about the deaf community and deaf culture by immersing myself in it," Seidel explained. "I learned a lot about hearing aids through the process, and I realized that they are both incredibly expensive and usually re-usable."

Not one to sit idly, the then-16-year old Seidel found a solution, establishing a hearing aid recycling program through the Callier Center for Communication Disorders at the University of Texas at Dallas. People who were no longer using hearing aids could donate them to be distributed to other deaf or hard-of-hearing people.

Seidel ran the program for 10 years until starting her residency this past summer at Children's Hospital Colorado.

"It was an amazing learning experience. It was the first time I had ever brought a big idea of mine to fruition, and although it was certainly challenging at times, it was so rewarding to know that I was helping people with hearing loss connect with their loved ones," she said.

Seidel may not be deaf, but she knows what it means to feel alone because you feel different.

"In some senses I think there are a lot of similarities between growing up gay with heterosexual parents and growing up deaf with hearing parents; in both cases it can feel isolating and lonely, because in both cases there's a significant part of your identity and culture that you don't share with your family," she said.



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"It meant a lot to me to know that I was playing a tiny role in helping bridge that divide for some deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, because I know what that isolation and loneliness feels like."

Seidel grew as a medical student and as an individual as a Nelson-Tebedo Clinic volunteer. But she won't say it. She gives all the credit to the Nelson-Tebedo staff and volunteers.

"They were my medical cheerleaders," she said.

After volunteering for four years, Seidel spent her last day at the clinic not as a medical student but as a doctor.

"I was a doctor for a day," she said enthusiastically.

J.P. Cano is the clinic's coordinator. He distinctly remembers Seidel's compassion and humility.

"Laurie was an amazing team player and volunteer with us at the clinic. I remember she was very well spoken and such a humble person," he said. "Her passion for serving others and the community definitely showed in her interaction with clients. She even recruited additional volunteers to join her in assisting clinic staff."

So, how does the unstoppable Seidel see herself?

Despite the international perception of Texas as a homophobic and racist state, she for one is a proud native Dallasite and Texan.

"To call myself a native Texan means being



Laurie Seidel, a Dallas native, stands in front of a plane she took her first flying lesson in. (Courtesy Laurie Seidel)

[part of the LGBT community] and an urban woman," she said. "Dallas is thriving and the diversity there spans beyond sexual orientation and gender identity and expression."

She is also proud to be out and partnered. "Never knowing any out physicians growing up, I thought I could only be physician or out, not both," Seidel said. "I'm proud to be an out,

partnered physician from Dallas. I'm proud of who I am. I get satisfaction from who I am, and what I do as a professional who cares for people." ■

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# The rest of the holidays



Jeff Zigman blows the shofar at Congregation Beth El Binah's tashlich service along Turtle Creek.

On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, members of Congregation Beth El Binah gathered along Turtle Creek to perform a Tashlich service — the casting away of sins by symbolically tossing pieces of bread into a moving body of water. The service ended with Jeff Zigman blasting the shofar, a rams horn.

High holiday services conclude on Sept. 22 with Kol Nidre service at 7 p.m. and Yom Kippur services from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Sept. 23 at the congregation's new home, Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road.

Yom Kippur, a day of fasting and meditation, is the holiest day of the year on the Jewish calendar, a day to atone for sins committed against God over the past year. Sins against another person must be reconciled with that person. The holiday ends asking God to inscribe their names in the book of life for the next year.

Several other holidays follow in quick succession. Sukkot, the festival of booths, is the harvest holiday and a week of thanksgiving. It's celebrated by eating meals outside in a temporary structure, called a sukkah, built just for the holiday. Sukkot begins five days after Yom Kippur and lasts eight days (seven in Israel and for Reform Jews).

Simchat Torah is a two-day holiday that coincides with the seventh and eighth days of Sukkot. On Simchat Torah, Jews read the last portion of the Torah, re-roll the scrolls and begin reading again with the first passages from Braishit (Genesis).

Shmini Atzeret is on the eighth day of Sukkot. It celebrates ... well we have no idea what it celebrates. It's commanded to be celebrated as a separate holiday in the Torah with no explanation and its meaning has been lost over the last couple of thousand years, so there's no particular observance. ■

— David Taffet





REAL, From Page 16



Real Live Connection volunteers make sure they reach each youth.

Robinson said she was raised in Mississippi by a "little bit of everybody in my family." While her mom, a single mother, was away, Robinson and her brother stayed with her grandparents, both sharecroppers. They would make her, her brother and collection of nephews and nieces work long days.

The workdays were nonstop; they didn't end even when driving back from the patch of land 45 minutes from the family home.

"We'd pick vegetables, but on our way back we'd also pick cans off the side of the road," Robinson recalled.

With sometimes nine people sharing a truck, there was a constant game of who'd get "shotgun" — the front passenger seat. Everyone else sat in the bed of the truck.

Work didn't end at the back door of the house either.

"We'd peel and clean the vegetables. And after that, my grandma would drop off bags of each to neighbors. Whenever we realized they were giving them away, we'd ask why" Robinson said. "She said because it doesn't cost a lot to help someone."

Just like her grandparents, Robinson wanted to give back. But she for sure wasn't staying in Mississippi.

She wanted to be in the entertainment business. "But there weren't a lot of opportunities [in the state]," she said.

Besides, it wasn't easy being an out lesbian growing up in rural Mississippi. But moving to Texas made it clear to her that being an out LGBT teenager wasn't easy anywhere, not even at a perceived safe space like a Pride event.

Pride events may be about glitz, glamour and celebration, but a lot of youth feel out of place,

Robinson said, adding that they've lost their feeling of what it means to be part of a family.

"A lot of us don't have family who accept us. We make our own family," Robinson said. "Having family helps you find confidence in your self-worth."

But because Pride is a celebration of the LGBT community, Robinson wasn't willing to give up on making Pride safe and welcoming for LGBT teens. If she couldn't change what was already in place, she decided, she would instead add to it.

As in previous years, this year's Teen Pride is free for youth ages 13-19 who present a student ID. This year's theme is "All Lives Matter: Peace, Love and Teen Pride." It's a throwback to the wild and free-spirited 1970s, but also a serious reflection on the current state of movements for peace and justice, including the recent #BlackLivesMatter movement.

"It's important to introduce young people to history," Robinson said. "Young people aren't activists anymore. I feel this [the LGBT rights movement] is the first civil rights movement to forget young people."

Teen Pride will be poignant, but fun, she insisted. Youth can expect tie-dye, drag shows, food and resources at their disposal. And it will have an authentic Pride feel.

Where else but a Pride event could someone get a library card and dress in drag? Nowhere else could youth have that opportunity but in a safe space.

"Lots of kids are limited in their surroundings. Providing them an experience [at their level] is the best thing you can do for them," Robinson said. "[With Teen Pride], we're saying don't limit yourselves in your dreams." ■

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# What does Pride

The LGBT community is used to celebrating a victory by jumping into the next crisis. But this year we should take some time to celebrate

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

When the film *The Dallas Buyers Club* was released, National Public Radio interviewed Dallasite Mary Franklin, who ran the Resource Center Food Pantry during the height of the AIDS crisis but who began her AIDS activism working at the real-life Dallas Buyers Club.

The recorded interview took about 30 minutes, but less than a minute made it on the air. One of the questions that made it into the NPR piece was about how she dealt with all these people around her dying? Franklin said she never had time to grieve: She went from one friend's funeral to another friend's hospital bed.

With the advent of HIV medications in the late 1990s, people with AIDS began to return to a normal life. New drugs have since been released that are more effective and less toxic. But when those first medications were released, the LGBT community could begin to breathe.

The fight for equal right has taken a similar path.

While we were still busy dealing with the AIDS crisis in the early '90s, additional, unconstitutional assaults on our freedom were thrown at us — Don't Ask, Don't Tell targeting gays and lesbians in the military, the Defense of Marriage Act and a slew of discriminatory state marriage amendments. Finally, in 1996, the LGBT community scored a victory. That year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Romer v. Evans* that a Colorado constitutional amendment preventing cities from protecting its citizens based on sexual orientation violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution.

Although that was the first ruling that protected gay and lesbian rights, it seemed like a minor victory at the time. It meant a city ordinance in Denver would remain enforceable in that city, even if the people in Colorado Springs didn't like it.

Dallas had no such protections at the time. Neither did any other city in Texas. What we had was the Homosexual Conduct Law, better known as Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Constitution, which prohibited private, consensual sexual contact between adults of the same gender.

So here in Texas, we applauded *Romer*, then ran to put out the next fire.

The next victory came five years later, in 2001, when the James Byrd Jr. Hate Crime Law, named after a black man murdered in a brutal hate crime in Southeast Texas in 1998, finally passed the Texas Legislature, where the battle to enact substantial hate crimes legislation had raged since the early 1990s.

After Paul Broussard was beaten to death in an anti-gay hate crime in Houston's Montrose neighborhood over July 4th weekend in 1991, Texas lawmakers passed legislation allowing for the collection of data on hate crimes, including those targeting gays and lesbians. The movement for a more comprehensive hate crimes law including enhanced penalties gained momentum again following the anti-gay murder of Nicholas West in November 1993 in Tyler. But it wasn't until the murders of James Byrd Jr. in Jasper, Texas in June 1998, followed closely by the murder of gay man Mathew Shepard in Wyoming in October that efforts to pass a hate crimes bill really took off.

And it wasn't until Byrd's family stood up and insisted that the law bearing his name include protections for gays and lesbians that an acceptable bill was passed.

Great: They couldn't kill us.

Well, they continued to kill us. But in a few instances, the penalty for doing so could be enhanced if they killed us because they hated LGBT people. And some police departments worked to investigate some crimes as bias-motivated.

Eight years later, in 2009, Congress passed — and President Barack Obama signed — the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, named after the Texas man killed by white supremacists and the young gay man killed in Wyoming by two young homophobes. This took hate crimes laws to the federal level at long last.

In 2003, the LGBT community scored a really big win. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled, in *Lawrence v. Texas*, that sodomy laws like Texas' violated the U.S. Constitution.

The Texas sodomy law was gone. For the first time we weren't automatically criminals because of who we were.



A group of protesters, above, in 1989 stage a die-in at the Sanus Insurance office in Irving after the insurance company refused to pay for treatment for people with AIDS. Activists participating in a LGBT rights march in Austin honor hate crime victim Nicolas West, who was murdered near Tyler because he was gay, opposite page, top. Mary Franklin, opposite page bottom, accepts a donation to Resource Center's food pantry, which she operated through the height of the AIDS crisis. In an interview on NPR, Franklin said she never had time to grieve because she'd run from a funeral to a hospital bed.



# mean this year?

But again, there was DOMA, which prohibited the federal government from legally recognizing marriage between two people of the same sex, and allowed individual states to ignore laws from other jurisdictions where marriage equality was recognized. And state constitutional amendments were passing around the country to outlaw any recognition of our relationships.

So we took a quick moment to celebrate *Lawrence* and the death of sodomy laws, then we rushed to try to put out the next fire.

Human Rights Campaign began counting the many special rights afforded to straight couples — more than 1,100 by the time the counting was done. Studies showed same-sex couples spent tens of thousands, sometimes hundreds of thousands of dollars more because of those special rights given to straight couples.

Then came Edie Windsor, a widow who had married her wife in Canada in 2008. Had she been married to a man, she would have paid absolutely nothing in inheritance tax. Since she was married to a woman, she owed more than \$365,000 in taxes when her wife died.

Edie Windsor sued, challenging DOMA in federal court. And in 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the one section of DOMA prohibiting the federal government from recognizing marriages between people of the same gender.

The Windsor case was a huge win, yes. But didn't get rid of all of DOMA. Texas and other states with marriage amendments could continue to discriminate just as they always had. And that partial victory over DOMA created a legal mess.

So we celebrated and went back into the streets and into the courtroom.

How was the government going to deal with this?

One married Dallas couple had moved to Texas from California. A year later, they were about to return to their native state for new jobs, but one husband remained behind to sell the house and take care of other business. So for that period they were apart, the husband in California was legally married to his husband in Dallas but the husband in Dallas wasn't married to his spouse in California.

But things began moving quickly after *Windsor*.

The IRS ruled it would recognize any legal marriage, no matter where the couple lived. One federal agency after another began to follow suit.

Couples around the country began filing lawsuits challenging their state marriage bans. Court after court struck down the bans.

Out of more than 60 marriage rulings, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, a U.S. District Court in Puerto Rico and one in Louisiana were the only courts to find the marriage bans legal.

Then in June, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision.

Jim Obergefell and John Arthur, his partner of 20 years who was dying of ALS, flew on a medical flight from their home in Ohio to a runway in Maryland. They were married on the plane and then returned home.

Arthur died two months later. Obergefell sued to have Ohio recognize their marriage for the sake of the death certificate.

The Sixth Circuit overturned a lower court ruling that would have forced the state to recognize the marriage in this once instance for the sake of one document. But it didn't end there.

In June this year, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Sixth Circuit and threw out all state marriage equality bans.

So now, where do we stand? DOMA is gone. Don't Ask, Don't Tell is gone. Sodomy laws are gone.

Make no mistake: There's still plenty of work to do. Nationwide employment, housing and accommodation protections for the LGBT community are still missing, although some state and local laws exist in various places — including Dallas and Fort Worth — to prevent that sort of discrimination. Plano has some protections, and hopefully Houston voters will step up in November and approve the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance banning discrimination there.

On another front, tons of work still needs to be done to get protections and equal rights for the transgender community. Even many of the laws already in place to protect lesbians and gays specifically leave out protections for transgender men and women.

Even with legal protections in place, the hatred and the discrimination still exist. Just look to







PRIDE, From Previous Page

Rowan County, Ky., where County Clerk Kim Davis has become a hero of the right wing for refusing to abide by her oath of office and issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

For our community to truly be equal, for us to be sure that equality is truly safe, we must continue to work to change the hearts and minds of those that hate us. At the very least, we must work to make sure our protections and our equality outlive the haters.

Even still, we have a lot to celebrate this year. Even as we fight on, we cannot forget to celebrate — truly celebrate — how far we've come.

That seems to already be happening at Pride celebrations around Texas this year.



From left: 1. James L. Byrd was murdered in a brutal hate crime in Southeast Texas. His death spurred passage of Texas' hate crimes law, named after him and including LGBT people. 2. Marriage equality plaintiff Jim Obergefell compares notes with HRC president Chad Griffin at a press conference in Dallas three days after the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a ruling in favor of marriage equality in June this



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year. 3. Tyrone Garner and John Lawrence walk with their attorney, Mitchell Katine, after a court hearing in Houston. Their case challenging Texas' sodomy law went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and resulted in a ruling that invalidated sodomy laws around the country. 4. Judge Denise Garcia marries Al and Greg, a Dallas couple together 30 years, three days after the Obergefell decision. The couple's best friends served as witnesses. 5. Thea Speier and Edie Windsor were married in Canada. After Speier's death, Windsor had to pay inheritance taxes because she was married to a woman. She filed a lawsuit that resulted in the Supreme Court finding part of the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional.

Houston Pride was held the day after the *Obergefell* decision. Crowd estimates ran as high as 500,000 to 750,000 people lining the streets downtown in the Bayou City to celebrate.

On Aug. 29, Austin Pride drew a record crowd of 150,000 people.

Will Dallas turn out in record numbers to celebrate Pride on Sept. 20?

The parade route is a few blocks longer than in the past so more people can get a front row seat. On Turtle Creek Boulevard, the parade makes a right and heads to Reverchon Park — instead of left to Lee Park as in years past — for a larger festival than in the past.

So let's stop this year as we get ready for the 32nd annual Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade and revel in how far we've come. Let's take a moment to celebrate — truly celebrate before the fight continues. ■



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LIFEWALK, From Page 26

year, is not only loyal but is closing in on a half million dollars.

Green Team founder Marvin Green said his team started with just three walkers, each donating \$25. Now, his team starts in February raising money with monthly events including shows, cookouts, tea dances and silent auctions.

This year the team added the Red Basket Affair at the Bridge Bistro. The event was a silent auction, but rather than buying the baskets for themselves, bidders bought baskets of merchandise and gift cards to give to AIDS Arms clients. Green said the auction raised \$3,400 for LifeWalk and about \$1,400 in goods and services for clients.

Green is passionate in his commitment to LifeWalk.

"I'm walking because I've lost 26 friends to AIDS. We lost team members who walked," he said, and then added sadly, "My whole core of friends from the 80s is gone."

Then he looked to the future and said for his team's 25th anniversary next year, they have even more planned. Credit, he stressed goes to the members of his team: "I couldn't do it without the Green Team members."

While the Green Team has participated since the walk's second season, they're not alone in their loyalty or success. The Guys & Dolls team,

now in its 19th year, is closing in on \$1 million raised over the years.

Team Clover, a newer team that's quickly gotten large, is this year's top fundraiser so far and its team captain, Terry Bax, is this year's top fundraiser.

Team Clover recently held a putt-putt event that turned all the bars on Cedar Springs into a miniature golf course. Each bar had a golf hole. The Round-Up Saloon had more than one. Not only did the bars set up the greens, but they also contributed directly to Team Clover. With 52 golf teams participating, Team Clover raised \$11,500 in one afternoon.

Bax said he participated in LifeWalk eight years ago before he moved away from Dallas. When he returned three years ago, he wanted to get involved again.

His individual goal this year is \$35,000. Since he's only at \$28,000, he scheduled a drag show at Cedar Springs Tap House for 7-10 p.m. on Sept. 20. The bar is celebrating its one-year anniversary and is donating 10 percent of all beer and liquor sales to support Bax's efforts.

Bax has one more fundraising secret.

"I beg my friends until they give," he said.

LifeWalk begins and ends in Lee Park, where the event began 25 years ago and where it has

had its most success. Originally called Walk for Life, the first walk in 1988 was held in Lee Park. The second moved to Winfrey Point at White Rock Lake.

Penny Stark-Lessley, chair of the second Walk for Life, told Dallas Voice at the time they wanted to "mainstream" the event.

By 1991, the event was renamed LifeWalk and had returned to Lee Park.

After Oak Lawn Community Services, the event's original producer, closed in 2000 and transferred LifeWalk to AIDS Arms, that agency in the early 2000s moved the walk downtown. Although the route went through the first floor of Neiman Marcus, the LGBT community saw the move from Oak Lawn as a snub to the gay community and participation declined.

Since returning to Lee Park, the walk has built steadily, raising a record \$592,000 last year.

Hobbs said LifeWalk is one of the largest grassroots AIDS walks in the country. Larger walks in cities like New York and Los Angeles are run by professional fundraising organizations that charge hefty fees. LifeWalk is mostly a volunteer-run effort, so all the money raised at LifeWalk after minimal expenses is returned to the beneficiaries, she said.

While LifeWalk's loyal teams and individual

walkers have already registered and many spent the summer raising money for the walk, Hobbs encouraged people to continue registering. About 600 have already signed up online. Usually 1,200 register by the day of the walk and then three times as many show up the day of the walk to participate.

A donation of \$25 allows any individual to participate in the walk and get a t-shirt.

Individuals who raise \$1,000 will be entered into a drawing for a trip for two to Maui. They'll get one entry for every thousand raised. The winners will stay at Howard Okon's house on Maui. Okon owns the Brick/Joe's.

LifeWalk sponsors have been loyal as well. Six — including Dallas Voice — have been on board since its first year.

A pre-party this year takes place at S4 on Sept. 27. The cover band M80s performs and the event is sponsored by Avita.

In addition to tents and tables set up in Lee Park for groups and vendors, there will be a display of quilt panels in Lee Park during and after the walk. Food trucks will be parked around the park.

Hobbs said volunteers are still needed and can register online.

To register to walk or volunteer, visit [LifeWalk.org](http://LifeWalk.org).



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# LGBT Community Center



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HOPE, From Page 29



Matt, Jeremy and Ana

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## Hope Walk Info box

**Sunday, Oct. 25**  
 Hope Walk  
 Benefits AIDS Outreach Center  
 1:30-5 p.m.  
 Trinity Park Pavilion  
 2300 W. Seventh St.  
 Fort Worth

3:15 p.m.: Heels for Hope Dash (.5K)  
 3:30 p.m.: Awards and Prize Presentation  
 3:45 p.m.: Velvet Love Box

Individuals: \$25  
 Students: \$15  
 Dogs: \$10

1:30 p.m.: Music by DJ David Moore, Jr.  
 1:45 p.m.: Speaker Sandra Ford  
 2 p.m.: Hope Walk

To register visit [AOC.org/walk](http://AOC.org/walk). For more information contact Kristi Wiley at 817-916-5256 or [info@aoc.org](mailto:info@aoc.org).

it's an effort to humanize their work.

"We share the stories of the people we serve in order to inspire hope in our community. Yes, this disease can bring on some dark periods in someone's life, but we want them to know that even when things seem dark, we are there to help them make it through — to be a beacon of light, a beacon of hope," she said remain undiminished.

For example, organizers have even added a "Heels for Hope Dash," a fun run where participants run, or fall, in their high heels. Awards will

be given out for best-looking heels.

Harz is confident the event will reach its goal of raising \$75,000 and engage at least 350 walkers. Sign up parties at bars and restaurants in Tarrant County have helped them reach their goal.

"It's poetic actually that Hope Walk is in the fall," Harz said. "That is the season when we begin to enter the darkness, foreshadowing winter. But here we are, ready to stand together, have fun, and help instill light and hope into the lives of the people we serve and the greater community." ■

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# Cowtown Leathermen honor members

Fort Worth organization names Mr. Leathermen of the Year, wins Condom Queen of the Parking Lot award

The Cowtown Leathermen kicked off their 32nd anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 12 with a celebration of safe sex, joining 19 other organizations for the first annual Jennings Street Jam in the parking lot of Fort Worth's Club Reflection.

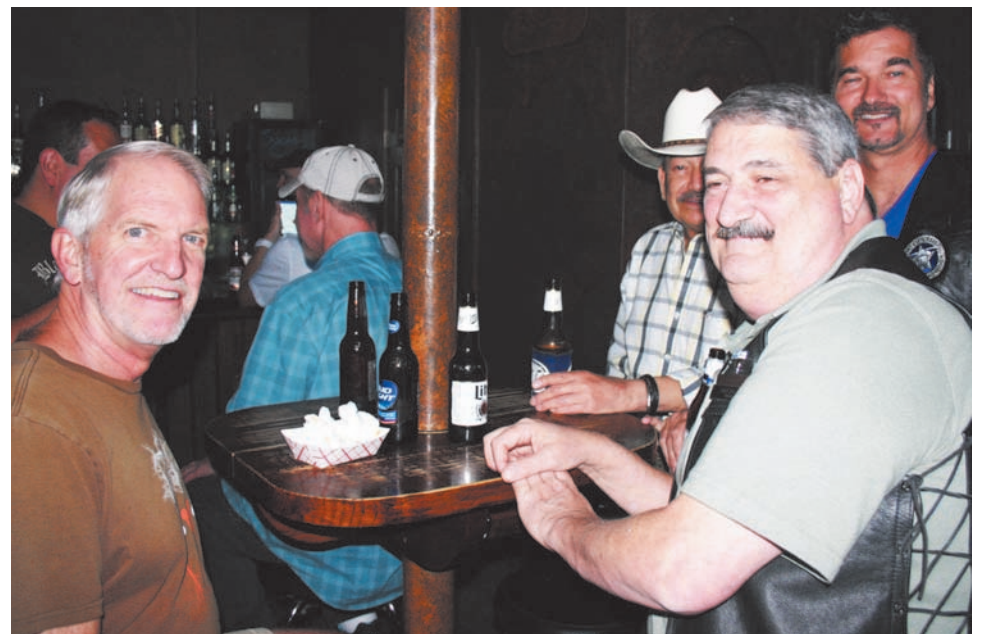
The group, believed to be one of the oldest in the country, kicked off festivities with the announcement of "Cowboy Jim" as Mr. Leatherman of the Year. It was the first time since 2009 that the Mr. Leatherman title has been bestowed on anyone.

But "Cowboy Jim" wasn't the only leather man to receive an award that evening. The night's other most coveted title, Condom Queen of the Parking Lot, went to the Leathermen's Desiree.

And the next day, Sunday, Sept. 13, the Leathermen continued the festivities, handing out awards to outstanding members.

Robert Whittaker, who was not in attendance, received the Carl Thorpe Community Service Award for community involvement; Bill Caram received Associate of the Year honors, and Jesse Lanier was named Member of the Year. ■

—James Russell





# Jamming success



The 20 presenting organizations behind the first Jennings Street Jam held Saturday, Sept. 12 in the parking lot of Club Reflection in Fort Worth had one goal: to promote safe sex.

But only one group left with an award.

Well, a drag queen left with an award.

Each sponsor, if they wished, backed a drag queen in competition for the evening's top prize: the Condom Queen of the Parking Lot.

While QCinema's Frida Monet — dressed in 1,000 used condoms — put up a good fight for the crown, the Cowtown Leathermen's Desiree — dressed, of course, in leather — ultimately prevailed.

To promote the cause of the night QCinema had "prevention pong" tables and gave participants an opportunity to win tickets to its upcoming film festival. The Leathermen had a mock jail cell to raise funds for outreach programs benefitting those living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. And ahead of its upcoming Hope Walk, the AIDS Outreach Center staff signed up walkers and volunteers.

The event was an opportunity to promote the spirit of community ahead of Tarrant County Gay Pride and just have some fun.

— James Russell



  
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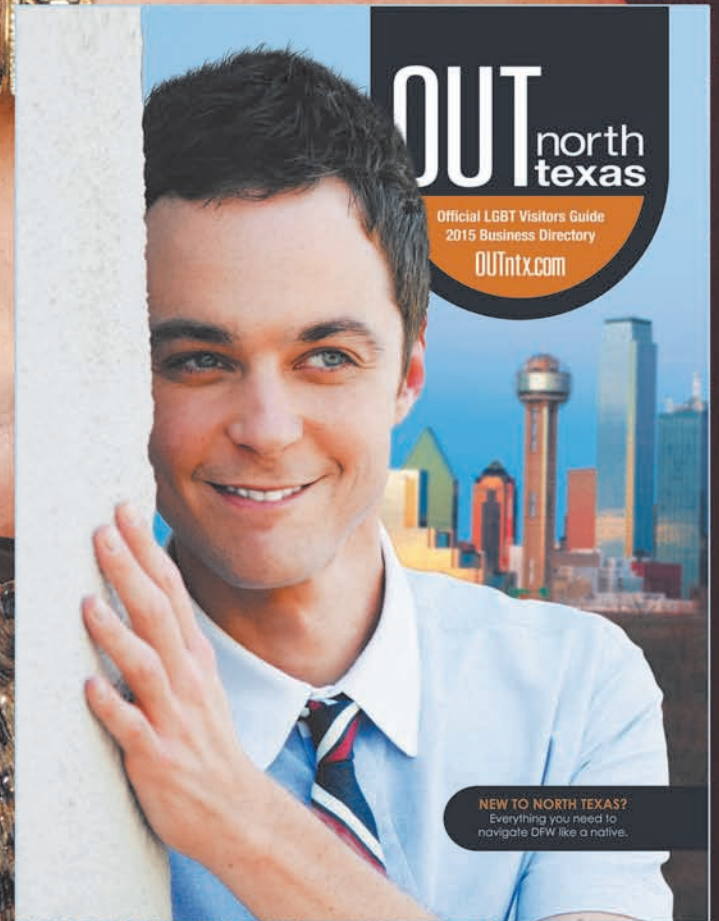
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# Dallas Aquatics

**Share in our future!**

**Attend an informational meeting to learn about Dallas' proposed Aquatics Master Plan!**

## YOU ARE INVITED: Aquatics Master Plan Public Meetings

Originally presented and adopted in 2012, the plan has been recently updated to determine facility types and locations and to reflect new aquatic trends, Dallas' evolving demographics and refined site selection criteria.

Public input is crucial and we want to hear from you.

Date	Location	Address
Monday, September 21 6:30 p.m.	Pleasant Oaks Recreation Center	8701 Greenmound Ave. Dallas 75227
Monday, September 21 7:00 p.m.	Fretz Recreation Center	6950 Belt Line Rd. Dallas, 75254
Tuesday, September 22 6:00 p.m.	Kidd Springs Recreation Center	711 W. Canty St. Dallas 75208
Wednesday, September 23 6:30 p.m.	Bachman Recreation Center	2750 Bachman Dr. Dallas 75220
Wednesday, September 23 6:30 p.m.	Lake Highlands North Recreation Center	9940 White Rock Trail Dallas 75238
Thursday, September 24 6:30 p.m.	Exline Recreation Center	2525 Pine St. Dallas 75215
Thursday, September 24 6:30 p.m.	Samuell Grand Recreation Center	6200 E. Grand Ave. Dallas 75223
Monday, September 28 6:30 p.m.	Singing Hills Recreation Center	1909 Crouch Rd. Dallas 75241
Monday, September 28 6:00 p.m.	Thurgood Marshall Recreation Center	5150 Mark Trail Way Dallas 75232
Tuesday, September 29 6:30 p.m.	Nash Davis Recreation Center	3710 N. Hampton Rd. Dallas 75212

**Not able to attend the meetings?**

visit **You Tube** Dallas Parks and Recreation to view the plan! More info on: [www.dallasparcs.org](http://www.dallasparcs.org)



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**Calling all LGBT Parents and kids!**

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**F**amily PRIDE Zone is a family friendly outdoor space in conjunction with the Festival in the Park, held on **Sunday, September 20th** from Noon to 7pm. The Festival in the Park is held with the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, a Dallas Tavern Guild event.



A fenced off safe space will be created in Reverchon Park inside the gates of the main Festival in the Park. Security professionals will staff our entrance. Park entrance fees are \$5 for adults and children under 13 are free. No coolers, no alcohol and proper attire will be listed among other house rules.

**The Family PRIDE Zone** will include food, games, entertainment, vendor booths and much more.

For more info, visit: [dallasprideparade.com](http://dallasprideparade.com).  
If you have questions, call Leo Cusimano 214.754.8710 ext. 114

**Family PRIDE Zone** Director: Leo Cusimano  
**Sponsors Include:** Toyota | Dallas Voice | HRC Family Project  
**Sponsors Available**

**Teen PRIDE Celebration**  
**Saturday, September 19th | 2pm to 7pm**  
**Location: Cathedral of Hope**

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**Sunday, September 20th - Noon to 8pm**  
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## Family PRIDE Zone

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**CELEBRATE**  
**PRIDE THIS YEAR**  
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CELEBRATE, From Page 14

"We are thrilled to have Ty Herndon here this year as our honorary grand marshal and to perform at our festival. We think it is very timely and very appropriate to have this out country/western star as part of our celebration," he continued. "He is doing a lot to break down barriers in the world of country music. He just recently hosted a big diversity fundraiser in Nashville. We are very excited to have him here for Pride."

Doughman noted that representatives of

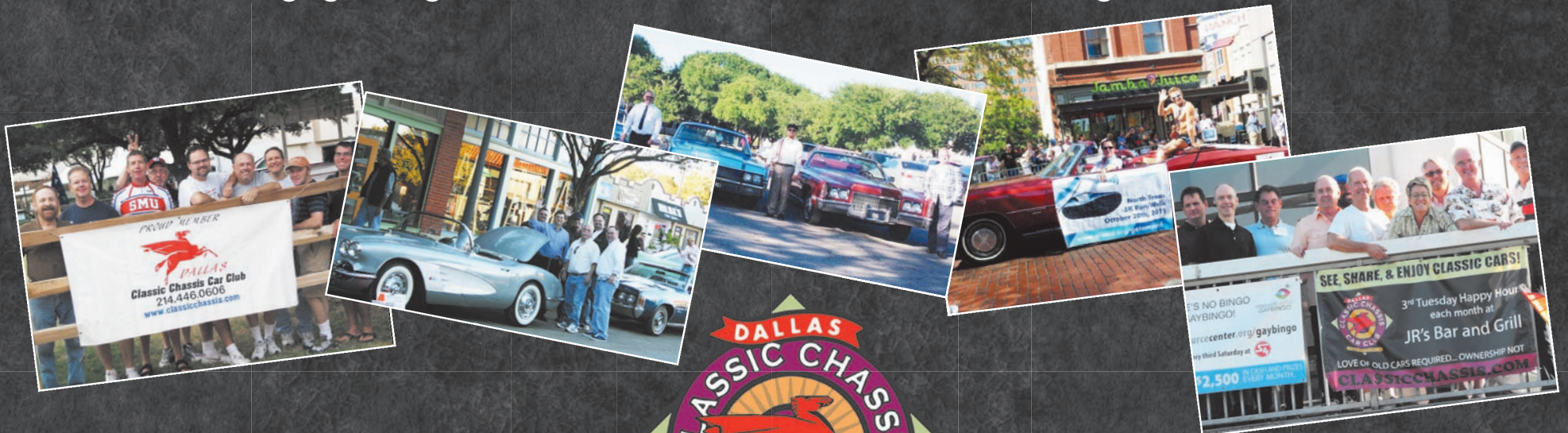
tourism boards from both Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Vancouver, British Columbia in Canada will have booths at the Festival in the Park this year. "Our festival is very affordable for people to participate in, and DFW is really very accessible from all parts of the country."

"On top of that, the tourism boards in more and more cities are reaching out more and more to the LGBT community, so we expect the number of [tourism boards attending Dallas Pride] to continue to grow."



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• **Oct. 2: Brandon Michael Fugate Memorial Golf Tournament**

Golf tournament benefits The BMF Project for Search and Rescue, which provides funds and resources for search and rescue agencies and provides emotional support for families during the process from noon-6 p.m. Tee off at 1:30 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m. at Riverchase Golf Course, 700 Riverchase Dr., Coppell. \$100 before Sept. 28 or \$125 after. For more information and to register online visit [Thebmfproject.org](http://Thebmfproject.org).

• **Oct. 3: DFW Trans Ladies Monthly Meeting**

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

• **Oct. 3: Tarrant County Pride Parade and Street Festival**

Parade begins at noon in downtown Fort Worth followed by a street festival until 6 p.m. at Main Street and 9th Street featuring live entertainment, vendors, and food.

• **Oct. 4: Tarrant County Pride Picnic**

Family-friendly annual event from noon-6 p.m. at Trinity Park Arts Pavilion, 2401 University Dr., Fort Worth. Live entertainment, group activities, food, vendors and Pride Kids Zone.

• **Oct. 5-8: Out & Equal 2015 Workplace Summit**

• **Oct. 5: AIDS Arms LifeWalk**

The 25th annual 5K (3.2 mile) fun run and walk benefits AIDS Arms. Registration begins at 11 a.m. and walk begins at 1 p.m. at Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. For more information visit [Lifewalk.org](http://Lifewalk.org).

• **Oct. 6: 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 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information contact Finn Jones by phone at 214-499-0378 or by email at [sfinn.jones@gmail.com](mailto:sfinn.jones@gmail.com).



**Workout and Wine with Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas**

The Gay and Lesbian Fund of Dallas hosts an event to introduce the new White Rock YMCA, followed by a GLFD membership happy hour at Times Ten Cellars on Wednesday, Sept. 23. The tour of the new YMCA begins at 6 p.m., 7112 Gaston Ave. and happy hour follows at 7 p.m. at Times Ten Cellars, 6324 Prospect Ave. For more information e-mail [Info@GLFD.org](mailto:Info@GLFD.org).



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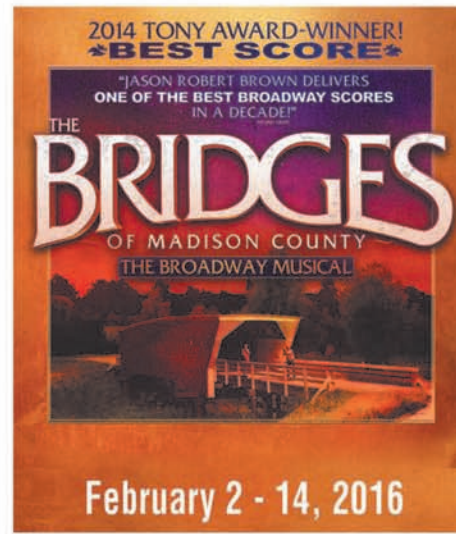
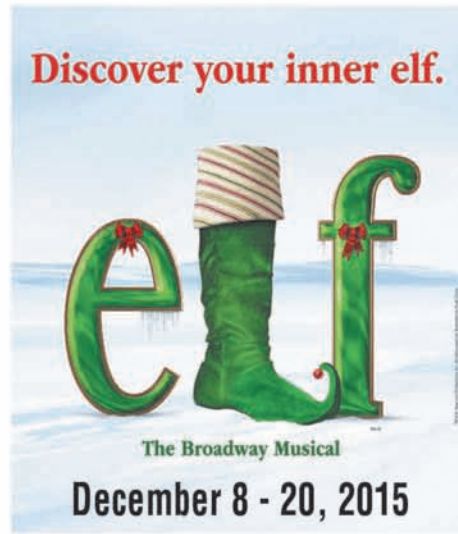
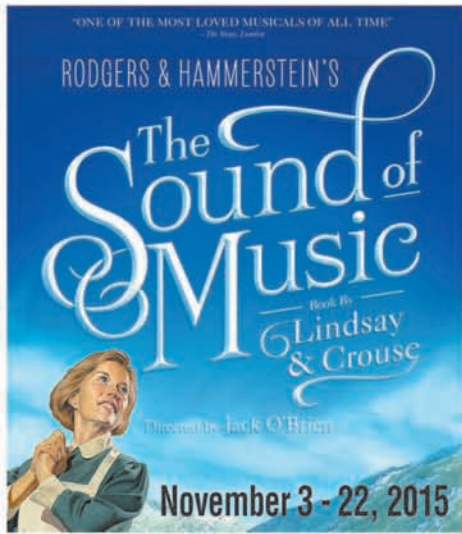


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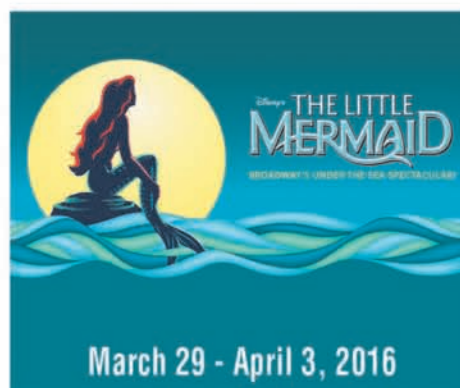
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INSTANT TEA, From Page 10

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sexual advances, Trese allegedly threatened him with a knife. He admitted to stabbing Trese about five times in the chest and throat.

He will be eligible for parole in Aug. 6, 2031, but not released until Feb. 4, 2049, according to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

— James Russell

**Time is running out to participate in U.S. Trans Survey**

If you haven't already participated in the U.S. Trans Survey — billed as the largest survey ever undertaken on trans lives in America — you'd better get with it. There are only a few days left.

The survey closes to participants at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 21.

This survey is a follow up to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey conducted in 2011, and is intended to create a more comprehensive picture of the lives and experiences of transgender Americans.

"While we're aware that trans people face extraordinary challenges, we cannot discern how frequent or widespread they are without up-to-date data," said Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality. "The survey will provide us with robust, fresh data, which will translate into significant knowledge about the trans community.

"This is," she added, "a survey for all trans, genderqueer and non-binary people. It is for us, about us, and by us."

Keisling said the 2015 survey will "inform life-saving laws and policies that meet the needs of our community," and that will "develop the information we need to understand the realities of our lives."

The survey can be found online at US-TransSurvey.org.

— Tammye Nash

**Uptown Players dominates DFW Theater Critics Forum awards**

Uptown Players' production of *The Nance* proved the prohibitive favorite at this year's annual polling/luncheon slugfest of the Dallas-Fort Worth Theater Critics Forum, which presented the show with four awards, while Uptown took nine total. Indeed, each of the mainstage productions won multiple honors. Critics partaking include me from the Voice.

*The Nance*, Douglas Carter Beane's poignant comedy about a self-deluded gay burlesque performer, won a best director nod for Bruce R. Coleman, acting for star B.J. Cleveland and for the ensemble, and outstanding original music composition for Adam C. Wright. Uptown's *Catch Me If You Can* won three awards, for director Cheryl Denson and actors Antony Fortino and David Lugo. And the just-closed *Hedwig and the Angry Inch* took a performance citation for star Kyle Igneczi and for director Jeremy Dumont.

Several other gay artists and gay-themed shows fared well, too, including Blake Hackler, Jonathan Norton, Joshua L. Peugh and Paul Taylor.

A full list of winners can be online in the Dallas Voice's instant tea blog.

— Arnold Wayne Jones





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# Why do I march in the Pride parade?

This weekend we celebrate Pride here in Dallas. As a newcomer to the Dallas community, I am very much looking forward to being a part of this annual event.

Over the years I have been asked why I march in a LGBTQ parade. Why is it important for me to be a part of this annual event? Both of these are good questions and worth pondering.

Throughout the years I have participated and marched in more Pride events that I could possibly count and remember. As a spiritual leader and pastor I have marched with congregations in Bournemouth, London, Europe, Los Angeles and, this weekend, Dallas.

It has been and it continues to be an honor to be a part of these events.

As a person of faith I believe it is important for me to a visible witness through my life. I believe that the love and faith that I enjoy so freely has often been denied many who will both participate in and line the streets this weekend.

I know that many who see my witness will have been rejected and ostracized by the very in-



Neil Cazares-Thomas  
Special Contributor

stitutions and faith that I represent.

It is important that all people get to see people of faith that have a fuller understanding of God's love which includes all people. It is imperative that LGBTQ people know that there are spiritual leaders and communities of faith that don't just affirm them or tolerate them, but who celebrate them as divine children of God.

We should never underestimate the difference our presence can make. I know that my participation over the years has made a difference for people of faith, for the young person who was kicked out of their home or church for being gay, for the parent who is trying to come to terms with their child coming out, for the transgender man

or woman who is coming into their fullest identity.

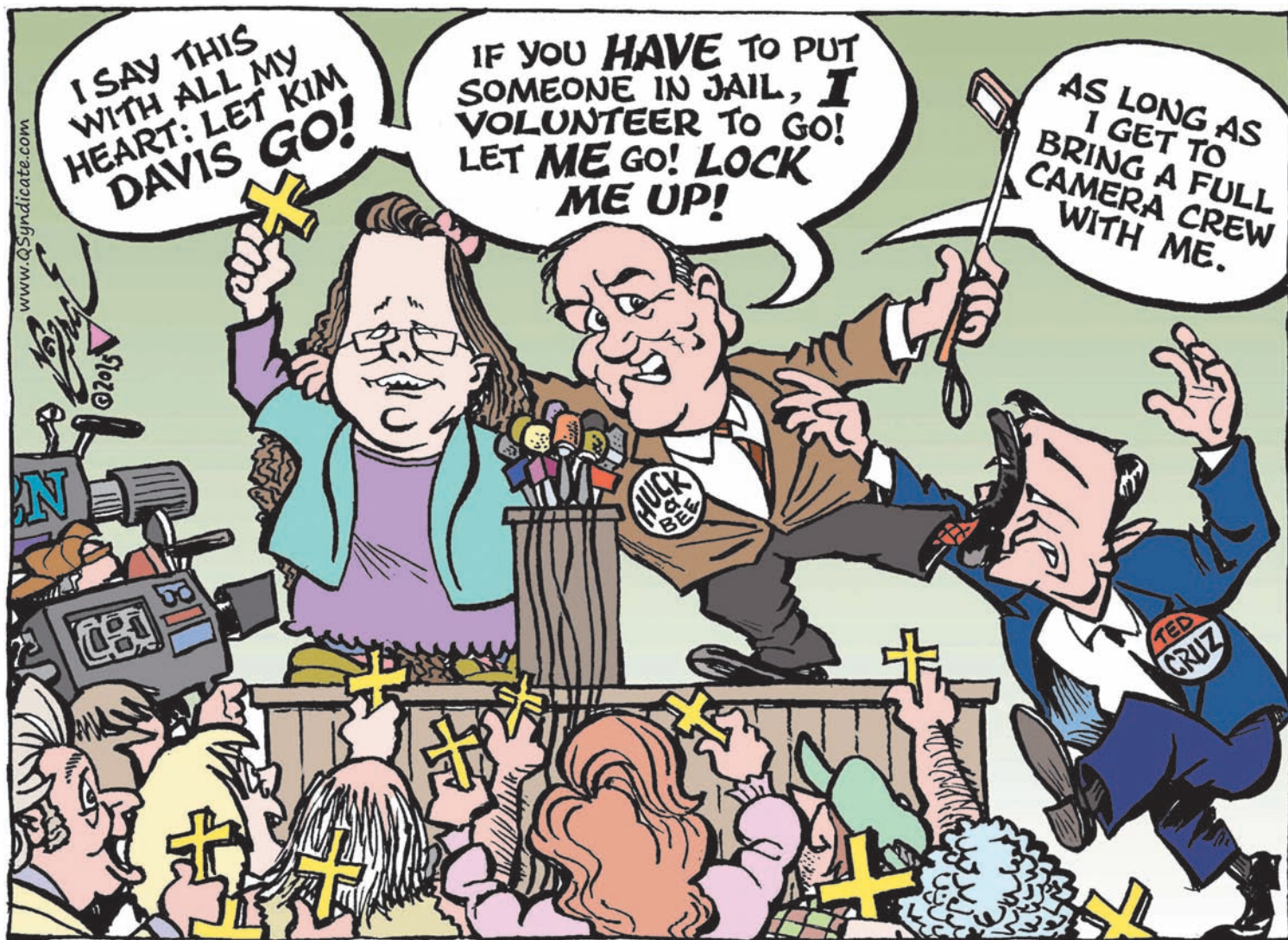
It makes a difference. Whether this is your first, or as for me, one of many Prides, it is important to "come out" and to be a part of this diverse community.

I sincerely hope that many who celebrate Pride will get a glimmer of hope from my presence and might decide to give God a chance, perhaps a second chance. My personal prayer is that those watching Sunday might find the joy, hope, peace and love that comes from a life of authentic faith.

If you see me on the Parade route or at the festival on Sunday, please come by and say hello as I along with my husband, Isai, and our daughter, Sofia, make our new home here in Dallas

I look forward to celebrating our love, our diversity and our community this Pride and in the many to come. Help me to help others use this experience to "Color our World with Pride."

Happy Pride Dallas!  
The Rev. Neil G Cazares-Thomas is the senior pastor of Cathedral of Hope UCC (United Church of Christ)





# Party or advocacy: What's Pride really for?



**Deneen Robinson**  
Special Contributor

It is an interesting time in the LGBT community. It is very much like *A Tale of Two Cities*: We have the best of times and the worst of times happening all at the same time. As we approach another Pride celebration, it is important that we take a moment to

reflect on our pride.

By definition, "pride" means "self-esteem; self-respect and gratification arising from association with something laudable." We have much to celebrate at this time in our community. Should we choose, we can legally marry in every state in the United States and a number of other countries. My love is celebrated just like every one else's.

But at the same time, there are places that will not give me a marriage license because of one government worker's religious convictions. These people act as if they are the ones being persecuted.

There are more and more places where we are able to experience the freedom of expressing our love with fewer and fewer side-eyes while our peers in some parts of Africa have to hide their sexuality just to save their own lives. And even here in Dallas, there are still individuals that are not fully free to celebrate their sexuality.

So how do they celebrate Pride? In many cases, those folks find gratification in their association with the larger LGBT community. But what are we doing to ensure that those folks have a chance at personal self-esteem and self-respect as it relates to their sexuality or self-expression?

We have this yearly celebration, but why? For many of us, it is to celebrate the accomplishments of our community. Others see it simply as a chance to party. In many cases, the divide is along the lines of age and level of activism. Why is that?

In my opinion, the older individuals are living their history and they remember. They remember what it took to get here where we are today.

As someone living with HIV, I have moments where I am genuinely frustrated by the cavalier attitude that exists in a particular subset of our community. HIV is a devastating disease that can now be managed for many of us with medications and some lifestyle changes but not cured. And yet, we are still trying to get our community to take our sexual health seriously enough to discuss risks and work to remain HIV-negative.

It is interesting to me that we choose this time of Pride to lay bare both the best of ourselves and the worst of ourselves, all at the same time. Why would we not just want to express all the laudable



things that have been accomplished in the previous year? Why do we consider it a let-it-all-out, let-your-hair-down-and-bare-it-all kind of moment in our year?

I venture to say it is because so many of us have masks — perceived or real — that we still have to wear daily. And we need a moment to breathe. I think it is because we are thrilled as a tribe to celebrate the accomplishments of our shared history. I think it is a time for families of choice to gather and honor the gift they are to each other.

And lastly, I think it is because some people simply just want to party and this gives them a reason to do just that.

For those folks that just want a party, Pride is

definitely a time to do that. After all, every bar on The Strip and in other parts of the community create avenues to ensure the party happens.

But when do we realize that all this partying can damage a person's pride? Individuals lose respect for themselves and can engage in behaviors that are damning to their self-esteem. Is it the responsibility of the community to stop the party, or should we find ways to manage the it?

Do we even think of this as a community issue? I know some of us do because we support the organizations that are there to assist folks with addictions, with HIV and with church and mental health issues.

We have to find balance. After all, true Pride is

both the combination of the party and the advocacy. There must be the moment when you recognize that the work is necessary and there must be a time to celebrate the accomplishments of the work.

We must have a time to honor each other and our shared history. We must have a moment to lift up each other's self esteem. And We must elevate and celebrate the accomplishments of our community.

We must have and live and show our Pride. ■

*The Rev. Deneen Robinson is managing elder of external ministries for Living Faith Covenant Church and co-chair of faith and religion for the Human Rights Campaign's DFW Steering Committee.*



LIFE+STYLE

concerts

# Ray of light

Indigo Girl Amy Ray on the duo's longevity, presidential politics and whether getting into the hall of fame would signal the apocalypse



MOOD INDIGO | Amy Ray, left, and Emily Saliers perform Sept. 18 at the House of Blues.



**O**ne *Lost Day* (IG/Vanguard), Indigo Girls' 13th studio album, is as awe-inspiring as anything Amy Ray and Emily Saliers have released over the course of their nearly 30 years as a duo. Sticking with the formula of alternating lead vocals (and songwriting) throughout the 13 tracks on the album, neither Ray nor Saliers has lost the ability to move us emotionally, on songs such as "Texas Was Clean," "Findlay, Ohio 1968" and "Fishtails," or physically, on rhythmic numbers including "Happy In The Sorrow Key," "Learned It On Me," "Olympia Inn" and "Southern California Is Your Girlfriend." We spoke with Ray, who will be performing with Saliers at the House of Blues Friday, shortly before the release of the album. ■

—Gregg Shapiro

**Dallas Voice: 2014 was the 25th anniversary of the Indigo Girls' self-titled commercial breakthrough, your album. What's the secret to the Indigo Girls' longevity?** Amy Ray: I think just giving each other space and knowing that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Just having the respect for the mystery of that and having an agreement with each other where we agree that we are going to evolve. When we can't do that anymore we're going to stop doing it. We know that there are going to be records that aren't as good. In retrospect, we can't always know that what we're doing is forward thinking, but the point is to make the effort. Really make the effort and not stagnate. I think we have a lot of great friends. Our management and our booking agent has been with us since we were 24, for 26 years, basically. That really helps, to be honest. Sticking with the same people, if they are doing a good job; growing up together and respecting each other and having this family and this good groundwork. That helps us stay together.

**Over the years, with the exception of a few albums, Indigo Girls have worked with producer Peter Collins. However, on *One Lost Day* you worked with Jordan Brooke Hamlin. How did this come about?** Peter actually introduced us to her. We talked to Peter before we asked her. He gave us his blessing [laughs]. He's a really big fan of hers. It felt like she's a young, up and coming, gifted musician/producer. She's like a renaissance woman, in a way. We've worked with Peter and Mitchell Froom, and John Reynolds being another producer that we really love. We feel like we've learned a lot from all those guys. I think we felt like we could work with Jordan and have this completely fresh and different perspective. She's a fan. She's listened to all of our records. She has a lot of depth of knowledge of the twists and turns in our career. That's always hard for us; a producer that knows where we're coming from. It also enables her to keep us from falling into the some old patterns. Not changing for change's sake, but don't do that "because it's the easiest thing to do" kind of thing. I heard a record that she did for Lucy Wainwright Roche. It blew me away what she was able to do with Lucy to bring something different to her sound. That is what I love in a producer. Someone that can completely change your perspective of an artist; wake you up to something. If she can do that, either for people who haven't listened to us for a while or have listened to all of our records and were waiting for us to do something that would turn their head a little bit — I thought she would be the one.

**Would you say that there was a noticeable difference working with a woman after working with men on those previous albums?** I wouldn't say [so] in this case. Because when we worked with Peter, for instance, we had Trina Shoemaker doing the engineering, so there was a woman in there. She works very closely with Peter. For me,

in this particular case, I wouldn't say it changed the music or anything like that because of gender.

**The songs on *One Lost Day* are like an atlas, taking listeners from Florida to Texas and Michigan to Singapore in your songs and from Alberta to Southern California to Ohio in Emily's songs. Can you please say something about the role geography plays in your songs?** I think the role is that we write in a lot of different places. Often when we're somewhere, that place is informing our writing. I think the idea of movement, the constant propulsion through time and space [laughs], really does inspire. You're constantly asked to look at things from different perspective. I like that. I like what that does. I think it's a good thing. For me, I think it informs it in a good way. I live in the south and it informs a lot of the songs that I write. With this particular batch of songs that fell together for me, they were all taken from different places, including where I live. I didn't actually think about it at all when we were doing the arrangements and stuff. Then, in the studio, I was looking down at all the song titles and reading the lyrics, and I was like, "Wow! This is all over the map, literally." It's like a travelogue.

**The cover art for the album features pictures of you and Emily in rear-view and side-view mirrors and the song "Olympia Inn" is about one of Indigo Girls' tour bus drivers. As someone who has spent a considerable amount of her life on the road as**

**a touring musician, what is the most significant lesson you've learned from that experience?** To be in the moment. That's the most significant thing I've had to learn. If you're constantly counting the days you're going to be on the road or how long until you get home or how many hours until you get to this place or when is this gig going to be over [laughs] — whatever you're doing because you're tired or you're waiting to get home or impatient or nervous or any of the things that are negative or cause you to roll through your time in a different way. Or if you're excited about something coming up so you miss the things you're doing. Everybody says, "Be in the moment." But I really have had to learn that on the road. It's really a good thing. It's made me enjoy where I am and what I'm doing. At this age, the passage of time changes so drastically when you get older, it really does move faster. I think even physics says that. Sometimes I'll be singing a song or I'm in the middle of a show and I'm super-tired, and I think, "Oh, man, I hope I can get through this show before my voice goes," or this or that. I'll just say [to myself], "This song or this show is going to be over in the blink of an eye. You're going to be 80 years old, God willing, and sitting on your bed wishing you were playing this show [laughs]. Be in the show! [laughs]." That really helps me because I can remember all my life, even as a kid, just being mysti-

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■ INDIGO Page 83

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# Venny, vidi, vici

Dallas design student Venny Etienne came, saw and conquered the fashion world ... well, at least that's his plan

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

It's Pride Weekend in Dallas, and more than most people, Venny Etienne has a lot to feel pride over. But while many of us will be gearing up for parade and parties, Etienne will be slapping on a mortarboard and accepting his diploma in fashion design from Wade College. And that's just the capper to a summer that has been filled with notable accomplishments.

Consider: In a few short months, Etienne has completed his education, won an important fashion scholarship including an all-expenses trip to study in Paris and has just returned from a whirlwind trip to New York Fashion Week. And it's not even close to being over: next month, he'll debut a spring collection for L.A. Style Fashion Week, following another accolade — the RAWard Fashion Designer of the Year for

**DA BOMB** | Venny Etienne stands alongside the sporty Neoprene bomber jacket that won him accolades, a scholarship ... and a dream trip to study fashion in Paris. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)







Several prestigious student designer awards, including a trip to study fashion in Paris this summer, have helped launch Dallas-based designer Venny Etienne's dreams. (Photo courtesy Venny Etienne)

2014. And if all goes as planned, his brand LeVenity will soon make its mark in the fashion world. And never once did he have to hear Heidi Klum say, "Auf Wiedersehen."

It's fortunate, then, that Etienne didn't end pursuing his initial interest: Investment banking. After a few semesters of that, he dropped that career path and enrolled in the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York. Then, four-and-a-half years ago, he moved to Dallas. He knew no one other than his partner. He enrolled in the fashion-centric Wade College in the Design District. It was there he first heard about a student competition offered through Fashion Group International: the Paris American Academy Couture Award.

"I remember when I first heard about the Paris competition, I knew I really wanted it," Etienne recalls. Usually, several dozen fashion schools in the Southwest compete, with literally hundreds of entries being submitted. Judges whittle down those to a small number that make it to a runway competition. That is the group from which all the awards and scholarships are culled. Twice Etienne entered, submitting the maximum of three garments. Twice he failed to make the cut.

"Each time they didn't call my name, I won-

dered, what am I doing wrong?" Etienne says. "So I focused on the entire construction to make one badass, perfect garment."

He only turned in one item for consideration earlier this year, but made sure it stood out: a Neoprene sporty bomber jacket with tailored trousers.

And he hit the jackpot.

Not only did Etienne win the grand scholarship — including money and a trip to Paris for a month of study in an atelier, only the third time a Wade College student won the prize in the school's 53-year history — he also took a "best sewing" award ("I won an industrial sewing machine for that," he says) and a third-place win in a different category that gave him more cash ... and all for the same garment. Add to that his 2014 award, and fashion appears to be a runway Etienne was destined to fly down.

Perfecting the one garment taught Etienne valuable lessons — not just about attention to detail, but perseverance. He'll debut the Spring 2016 collection of his brand, LeVenity, in Los Angeles on Oct. 17 — 10 to 15 women's pieces, all inspired by that Neoprene jacket.

"Right now we're fine-tuning the collection — I'm still working on the garments as we speak!"



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# Wendy Ho

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# Fits Dallas to a T

Jason Lising brings a queer sensibility to Bullzerk, the sassy Dalla-centric boutique on Lower Greenville Avenue

**J. DENTON BRICKER** | Contributing Writer  
dentonbricker@gmail.com

Since opening in February, Bullzerk — the quirky T-shirt boutique on Lower Greenville Avenue — has been known for its cheeky and clever designs specific to local neighborhoods in and around Dallas. Its aphorisms adorn an assortment of tanks and Ts, as well as coasters, coozies and wall art. (You might have seen their product in Dallas Voice's annual Swimsuit Edition earlier this year.)

And if you ever wondered, "How did they come up with those ideas?" the answer may very well be Jason Lising.

"I was the first person in the door — I hadn't been hired yet," Lising tells us. "I was working across the street at Clark [Food & Wine Co.], waiting tables. Dan [Bradley, owner of Bullzerk] used to come in there all the time and we would get to talking. He was super friendly and I finally just came in and checked everything out. I saw the sign on the door looking for graphic designers; I actually have a freelance business that does graphic design, web design and photography."

Since then, Lising has been a staple at the store, primarily serving as its manager, but also bringing other talents to the collective design process, some of which he already possessed and others he has honed from Bullzerk's central graphic designer Dan Bradley. "I wear so many hats it's not even funny," he jokes.

Lising helps with store operations, e-commerce and graphic design, and is responsible for product photography and anything that needs to be illustrated.

Lising designed a shirt for the Oak Lawn neighborhood appropriately called "Drag Me to Oaklawn," with the text on intersecting street signs that plays up the double entendre.

■ **BULLZERK** Page 68



**BULLY FOR YOU** | Bullzerk customers revel in everything about Dallas — the good, the bad and the fabulous — from coozies to T-shirts. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



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**JASON, REBORN** | Store manager Jason Lising is a vocal supporter of the Lower Greenville Avenue neighborhood — and Dallas overall. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

■ **BULLZERK**, From Page 66

"I wanted to offer a gay shirt and he didn't have one at first. Not that he was scared but he wanted to be cautious. We didn't want to do anything that would offend the gay community or anybody for that matter. We wanted it to be timeless and classy so it took many iterations to find something that we could settle on and once we did find it, it took ten minutes to put the graphic together. I actually have a picture of Jada Fox and she is pulling my arm while I am wearing that shirt."

Bullzerk's "design center" is in the back and open to the public, which helps foster a uniquely collaborative, creative environment while also providing a whole new level of transparency to patrons. A sign challenges guests to ask about making their own shirt if they don't see something they like.

"The whole store kind of helps with coming up with some of the designs," Lising says. "An idea can come from anyone, even a guest. When we're in the design center and a guest happens to stop by, we will get their opinion, too. We're going to ask questions like what neighborhood are you from, who are you shopping for or are you just looking around. It's all a work in progress. A design usually has multiple iterations before it makes to the shirt." (All shirts are made in the U.S.A., are pre-launched to minimize shrinkage, and the normal price point averages around \$23.)

So many ideas get floated, in fact, it's almost difficult to keep up.

"We want to know what our store is lacking and possibly provide that in the future," Lising says. "Honestly, by Christmas we should have double the designs. I think we have around 65 and it should be more like 120 by the holidays."

In addition to the "Oaklawn" shirt, Bullzerk is known for its designs that reference neighborhoods, and Lower Greenville is no exception ... which Lising embraces. He's not only worked in the area, but has lived there for more than six years, and his abiding love — and insider's perspective — for the evolving neighborhood comes through in another of his shirt designs,

Lowest Greenville, New Look, Same Great Neighborhood.

"If you are familiar with Coca-Cola they have a similar phrase," Lising says. "I wanted to give that sort of treatment because the neighborhood has changed. It's the same awesome place to go and hang out but the look of it is different. We're attracting different people from all parts of town, including gays. I have heard people joke that it's the new Uptown and I really don't know if I like that."

Attending high school and college in Montana, Lising moved to Dallas as a young man because he wanted the culture and community that comes with city life, not to mention career opportunities.

"Whenever I say I am from Montana most people are surprised — maybe they don't expect an Asian to be from Montana; I don't know. As a young, gay man, everyone is closeted and there is one gay bar four hours away. You want it to be more accessible. But I still love Montana ... though Dallas is cool."

Lising volunteers as a member of the street team for the Promote Love Movement (#promotelove) as a way to give back to the community and spread the message of love.

"What I love most about this movement is unlike some of the other movements that make themselves exclusive this one is more inclusive. We are talking about promoting love of all kinds no matter where you come from. The founder is one of our clients and a good friend — Steph Grant, a top lesbian wedding photographer," says Lising.

Lising plans for the immediate future are to continue to grow with and alongside Bullzerk as they are opening a second location at the Farmer's Market in October geared towards Dallas tourists.

"I will help launch the second store as far as logistics along with managing two store locations," Lising says. "I have also expressed interest to Dan to be his regional manager as we get more popular and open up more stores and that is going to require someone that has worked from the ground up with the company so he can recreate that same feeling in another store." ■



# Drawing Dallas

Gabriel Mendez & Kenneth Denson, on the road to superherodom

LIFE+STYLE

sketches

MARK STOKES | Illustrator  
mark@markdrawsfunny.com

**Names and ages:** Gabriel Mendez, 33, and Kenneth Denson, 38.

**Name of business and when you started it:** Red Pegasus Games and Comics opened Nov. 7, 2014.

**When was your earliest interest in comic books or superheroes?** Gabriel: I have no idea when my first experience with superheroes was. I have pictures of me as a toddler wearing a Batman onesie. So I'm going to guess... always?

Kenneth: My first real memories of comic books were going to the library with my dad. I don't know if there was a comic book store in my hometown, but at the library there were tons of collected editions of old comics. I must have checked each of them out a hundred times. And then Wonder Woman reruns — they were my favorite.

**How long have you been a couple:** 14 fun-filled years.

**Had you had a marriage ceremony of any kind before this year?** Gabriel: We originally got married in October 2005 on the rooftop of Club Clearview in Deep Ellum. Of course, it wasn't legal, but we didn't care. We wanted to get married, so we did.

Kenneth: Three of them now! Dallas in 2005, San Francisco in 2013 and now Dallas again in 2015.

**You became media celebs when you got married on June 26.**

**Explain that experience.** Gabriel: I've never been one to fall too deep into politics [but] Kenneth was a political science major in college — and he] had a theory about the Supreme Court's ruling [coming down on June 26] that sounded pretty legit. When I saw how convinced he was, I thought, "Sure, we can open our store a little late and hang out at the courthouse just in case." If I'm being honest, I never thought it would happen and I'm still shocked that it has. I'm terribly excited and proud, but it still seems so unreal. When the ruling came down I had trouble wrapping my brain around what this meant for me. To a certain extent, I didn't really consider myself in this situation. Mostly I just thought about all the people present and past who have fought so hard for that moment, especially those who didn't live to see the day. Once I got past that, of course Kenneth didn't need to ask me to marry him. It was a given.

Kenneth: There was no doubt in my mind that it was going to happen on the 26th, so we were at the clerk's office an hour before they opened. As far as the media getting involved, it was really strange. I'd posted a picture of the sign on our Facebook page and an acquaintance in New York tweeted the picture and it went from there. The next day we were wearing our shirts (because we were headed back to the shop as soon as we got married) and it made it really easy for the news folks to put the story together. It got really crazy for a week or two!

**What does it mean to you to be married in your own state?** Gabriel: That question takes on a different meaning when we're talking about the South. I mean, this *is* Texas. I feel validated. I feel seen and recognized, like our relationship is finally taken seriously. I remember while waiting in line at the courthouse, people were talking about the other counties that had denied people licenses. I was so proud everyone at the Dallas courthouse, from the clerks to the judges to the security guards, treated us with respect and congratulated us. It was a great day to live in Dallas.

Kenneth: It's really amazing. I believe that Texas would have done this on its own in another five years, but I'm glad we didn't have to wait.



**Do you have any plans for Dallas Pride Weekend? How do you mark Pride now ... or is marriage enough?** Kenneth: We're so boring that Pride usually sneaks up on us and suddenly we realize, "Oh, hey, Pride is today!"

Gabriel: Work. I know that sounds incredibly lame, but I love my shop and I love my job, so I'm going to work. How about I say we're going to embody the spirit of Gay Pride and equality by being successful, independent, gay business owners?

**Quick, no thinking: Marvel or DC?** Gabriel: DC all the way! I'm such a fanboy it's embarrassing. I love them both but I was raised on DC so those characters will always have a special place in my heart. Aquaman is my man! He's the perpetual underdog always discounted because of his abilities or where he comes from. But he's a lesson in making the most of what you have, right?

Kenneth: Gabriel is wrong, Marvel is better, and Spider-Man is awesome.



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L+S music

# Pretty boy Floyd

Miracles abound, Gary Floyd sings — and surely one of them is his voice

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES**

Executive Editor  
[jones@dallasvoice.com](mailto:jones@dallasvoice.com)



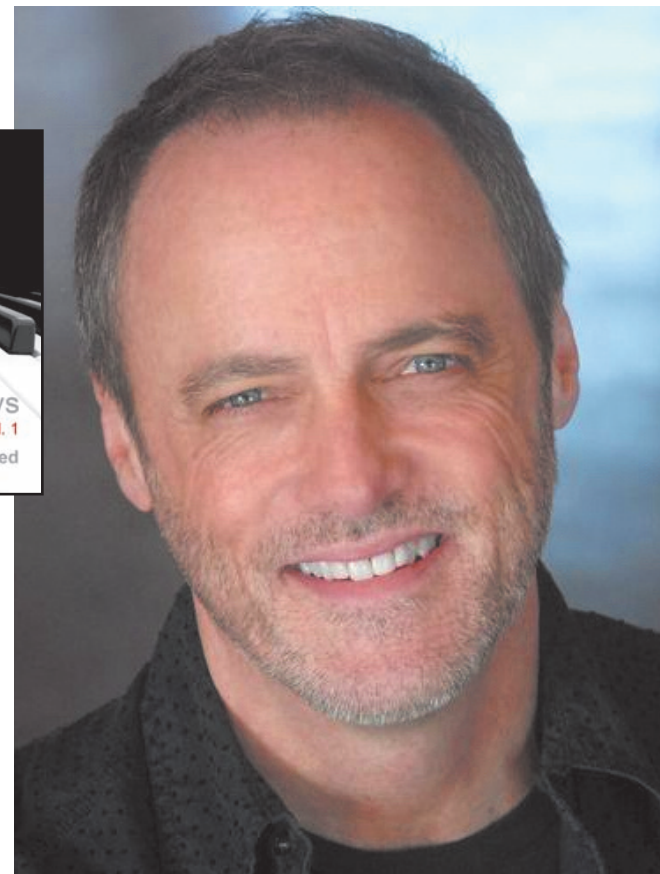
Gary Lynn Floyd's introduction to singing was through the church, so it was small surprise that — once he decided to pursue that as a career — he would start off singing Christian music. Of course, that genre is not the most accepting of out gay men, so Floyd transitioned more into the area of adult contemporary and even showtunes. Lucky for us he did. His satiny tenor is one of the most intoxicatingly romantic and soothing instruments this side of the dulcimer.

But Floyd never lost his sense of spiritual connection, and now, decades after leaving Christian music, he is reconnecting, musically and thematically, with his spiritual side — not through outwardly religious gospel tunes, but the kind of humanistic and comforting music that speaks to the soul even for those not of faith. His new album, *My 88 Keys Vol. 1 — Unplugged* is a salvo into his rediscovery of this genre. Just his words, his piano and his voice.

This collection of 13 songs — and the title suggests more are to come when volume 2 arrives — are all originals, composed by Floyd himself, so there's a synergy to the production: Every moment timed and orchestrated for Floyd's uniquely beautiful singing.

*My 88 Keys* preaches without getting preachy. I defy even the most cynical person to listen to the refrain of the disc's second and best track — *Love cover me, light any darkness / Love cover me, right every wrong / Cause me to see love over hatred / Guide me to be faithful and strong* — and walk away unmoved.

"Love Cover Me" might be the best song, but hardly the only good one. The lead-off track, "I Wouldn't Be Surprised," sets the tone of optimism. *And life keeps blessing me with so much good,*



**MUSIC IN THE MEANING** | Gary Floyd will perform as part of International Peace Day Sept. 21.

*I wouldn't change it even if I could ... / Blessing me in every way, and if it all turns out OK / I wouldn't be surprised* he sings with an intimacy that is almost therapeutic.

That's true of most of the numbers here, because while stripped down to its essence, the album is by no means stark. There's a lushness to a Gary Floyd song that transcends complex arrangements and elaborate post-production treatment.

It's appropriate, then, that Floyd — who tours extensively and doesn't spend nearly enough time in Dallas — will be performing some original compositions for a "music and meditation" event this week in honor of International Peace One Day, a worldwide communion that seeks to bring an end to the madnesses of the world.

"It probably sounds crazy to think one person or even a group of people can really bring about peace," Floyd tells me with modesty. But really, that's exactly how such things happen. The key even resides in the lyric of one of the songs here:

*Miracles abound, they happen all around me every day* he sings on "I Wouldn't Be Surprised." Certainly one of those miracles is Gary Lynn Floyd himself. ■

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# Earworm alert!

Infectious new discs from Robyn and Carly Rae Jepsen

**Carly Rae Jepsen, *E•MO•TION*.** Carly Rae Jepsen came out of nowhere, seized the radio, dug a hole in your head and planted a little song there named "Call Me Maybe." It grew and grew. It grew so much you are, at this very moment, singing it. And that just the beginning ... now that she's released her third album, which, again, will lodge itself into the depths of your consciousness. *E•MO•TION* stands as the singular best piece of pop music this year so far, and right about now, you're thinking: "But Carly Rae Jepsen?" Yes. I know. Carly Rae Jepsen. Who sings "Call Me Maybe."

For reals, though: *E•MO•TION* is a nonstop parade of hooks without being the "Call Me Maybe" confection factory it very well could have been. Jepsen and a crew of consummate producers shake up the formula that made her famous, and they do it with surprising stylistic flourishes, an ear for the '80s and a lingering sweet-pop center. Cyndi Lauper, Prince and the Go-Go's are ever present on *E•MO•TION*, their panache coloring in songs such as the brilliant sax-tinged "Run Away With Me" and "When I Needed You," with its "hey!" call outs (so awesomely '80s, right?). "I Really Like You" pops with infectious flair, and Sia gives the heartfelt "Making the Most of the Night" — a volcano of a song, its chorus spilling out everywhere — her magic music-making touch. *E•MO•TION* is this year's pop album to beat. Girls and boys, get to work. **Four stars.**



Robyn doesn't do full albums anymore). The four songs aren't as emotionally fulfilling as, say, "Dancing on My Own" or "Hang with Me," but not counting the awkward framing and wonky vocals on "Tell You (Today)," they certainly hold up on their own. And, you know, it's Robyn, whose presence alone makes even a tiny misstep like "Tell You" tolerable. "Love Is Free" is light on words and heavy on sound; it's untamed and exhilarating, and its house-vibed early-'90s build, inspired. "Set Me Free" works up a sweat, too, as it turns back time another decade. Swathed in '80s synths, it's further proof that — solo or not — nobody gets bodies talkin' quite like Robyn. **Three stars.**

**Ryn Weaver, *The Fool*.** Ryn Weaver went viral with a booming piece of jolty dream-pop called "OctaHate." If you've ever heard of the Internet, you've likely heard the song. Unleashing the 23-year-old onto the world, the song opened the doors to her full-length debut *The Fool*, a decidedly less straightforward pop album than her first single suggested. Is it alternative? Is it indie? Is it pop? It's all of these things. And more. There's no box for Weaver to step in; that's by choice. As she pursues a decently potent palette, from the Stevie Nicks-inspired "Here Is Home" to the percolating tribal-teemed "Runaway," her wild ambitions could use some honing. And soon enough, then, every song will live up to the pop promise of "OctaHate."

**Noah Gundersen, *Carry the Ghost*.** Unhurried and melancholic, Noah Gundersen's honed voice emerges like an early-winter frost on "Slow Dancer." A bed of electric fuzz and stormy strings cuts through the piano lead-in, and those who have not yet heard of Gundersen will, in that moment, wish they had sooner. And particularly for fans of Ryan Adams, one of Gundersen's obvious influences. Like Adams, the 26-year-old is a rousing emotional current — the moon to your ocean — and his sophomore LP, *Carry the Ghost*, brims with reflective doozies that bury themselves as deep as deep goes. ■

—Chris Azzopardi



**Robyn & La Bagatelle Magique, *Love Is Free*.** Remember 1997? You were fiercely smackin' that sonic bubblegum Robyn gave you. Years later, in 2005, the Swedish "Show Me Love" singer re-emerged as an edgier version of her '90s self. Harder, sadder, dancier. And those jams were consistently on point; Robyn knew the human psyche. She knew heartache. She was ... just like us.

Now, she's at it again. With keyboardist Markus Jägerstedt and the late producer Christian Falk, Robyn — fronting their new trio, La Bagatelle Magique — releases yet another mini-album (if her post-'90s career is any indication,

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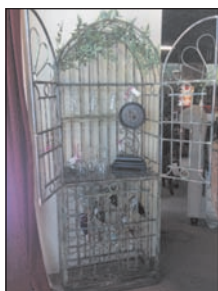


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L+S pride

# Shangela's assets

The Dallas-bred Drag Racer has a new series and a new tour— hallelu!

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

It's a week before Dallas Pride, and D.J. Pierce — better known by his nom

*de drag*

Shangela Laquifa

Wadley — is visiting Puerto Rico for a few days, in what is generously characterized as "down time." But still, Shangela is working daily, even taking time away from the gorgeous water and warm sand to chat on the phone.

It is a hectic time, for sure, but much better than the alternative for one of the most famous also-rans in reality-competition TV history.

Shangela was notoriously booted off of the Season 2 premiere of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, and might have drifted off into obscurity. But she would have none of that. Shangela was the surprise return contestant for Season 3, and fared much better, making it to the Top 5. Since then, she's been as busy as a beaver ... and yes, the double entendre is intentional.

"I've been consistently touring since 2011, so

**ALYSSA, LAGANJA, SHANGELA — OH MY!**

The trio of 'Drag Race' veterans are on a tour that includes multiple appearances at Dallas Pride.





it's just become a way of life," Shangela sighs. "It could be worse — I could be *not* working. And when you get to connect with so many people in the U.S. and abroad — to Dubai and the U.K. and Australia and all over the world ... well, it's been awesome. I don't think I ever would have visited the Middle East [without the success on *Drag Race*] — and to perform *in drag* in the Middle East! It's not even legal to be openly gay there, but they found a way around it."

"Finding a way" could be the scrappy motto of Shangela, if she weren't already identified with her praise-inducing "Hallelu!" She's made her mark not just in gay clubs, but TV (guest stints on numerous shows, including the much-anticipated reboot of *The X Files* with Gillian Anderson and David Duchovny) and indie film (the upcoming *Hurricane Bianca* from Texas filmmaker Ash Christian). It's all a fulfillment of Pierce's goal to be known as much as an actor as a drag star.

"I moved to L.A. to work as an actor," he says. "I loved being on *Drag Race*, but sometimes it's hard to make that transition back into scripted television. I

was very worried about how it would work out. But I've

guested on every major network — CBS, Fox, ABC. I did a pilot for Michael Patrick King for HBO that wasn't picked up, called *Spring Fall*, with Tea Leoni and Sigourney Weaver. And when Sigourney walked into the table read, I literally shit my pants. She looks just like she does in the movies."

One of Shangela's favorite celebrity encounters was working on *Glee*, when Sarah Jessica Parker was a guest star.

"I was so excited to meet her. I came up to introduce myself and she said, 'Oh, Shangela! I know who you are!' And we went and got coffee."

Indeed, she's constantly surprised how wide her fanbase runs — especially among straight fans.

"That is the power of television," she says. "People who wouldn't normally go see a live drag show know who you are."

And you don't need to see a live drag show to experience Shangela. She started a YouTube series a few months ago, *Living with Shangela*, which will continue until the end of the year. Viewers even get to see behind-the-scenes shot of Shangela and fellow Drag Racers Laganja Estranja and Dallas' Alyssa Edwards at Vancouver Pride and backstage with Miley Cyrus at the VMAs. "Me, Alyssa and Laganja were the only ones allowed to film at the after-party," she says.

The trio is also appearing in Dallas for Pride — several times. In addition to a set as Haus of Edwards at The Brick on Saturday, they will be riding in the parade and doing a special ticketed meet-and-greet at the ilume afterwards.

"We're excited to come down there, riding with Impulse," she says.

How excited? Well, it's enough to make a girl shout "Hallelu!"



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L+S pride

# Tony: Tuned in, toned up

Super-DJ Tony Moran is gonna make you wet at Pride Pool Party

SCOTT HUFFMAN | Contributing Writer  
[scott\\_in\\_dallas@yahoo.com](mailto:scott_in_dallas@yahoo.com)

As a producer and two-time Grammy-nominated remixer, superstar Tony Moran collaborates artistically with the cream of the musical crop. As an in-demand DJ, Moran headlines circuit parties and Pride events around the world. Did you know, though, that the globetrotting mix master and native New Yorker calls Dallas a part-time home?

“I travel there as much as possible,” Moran, whose partner lives in Uptown, says. “I’m going to be in Dallas the week leading up to [Pride] because it is one of my homes. You will find me occasionally in S4 or the restaurants. I just ate at Dish, like, two weeks ago. I love Hunky’s. I love Lucky’s.”

Moran, who earned his first two gold records by the age of 23, has worked with a number of mainstream pop divas including Cher, Gloria Estefan and Donna Summer. He considers gay-favorites like Martha Wash, Debby Holiday and Kristine W his extended family. However, the veteran DJ bristles at the sobriquet “legend.”

“I get kind of embarrassed getting called that all the time,” Moran says. “What does that mean? I’m alive! But I appreciate the term as being respectful. [My fans’] attachments to me are that I’ve been making music since the Cover Girls. They’ve gone through all these evolutions with me.”

Moran promises his signature spinning style will energize the crowd when he headlines Saturday’s Shine pool party, a Purple Foundation event at Sisu Uptown. The chart-topping DJ will

drop “Free People,” his latest Billboard No. 1 single with diva Martha Wash, into the mix. He also teases that he has more new ear candy in store.

“I’ve got like four new songs that I want to debut,” Moran says. “I don’t want to share yet. I want it to be a surprise. I’ve only been able to play them over the last couple of weeks as I’ve finished each one of them. We’re trying to finish something now to be ready for Dallas.”

Moran is excited to help North Texans celebrate gay Pride in this history year. In light of the landmark Supreme Court decision giving everyone the right to marry, this year’s celebration is particularly special.

“Pride is joyous by nature,” Moran says. “We are proud of ourselves because we

are now acknowledged. We have the choice to be individual and unique and expressive — sometimes over-the-top and sometimes conservative. We have the right to do what

other people have always had the right to do. That’s why people get so excited about it. They are celebrating all around each other being happy in their own skin.”

Moran also notes that Pride is a time for divisions within the LGBT community to come together. And he is pleased that music is often a

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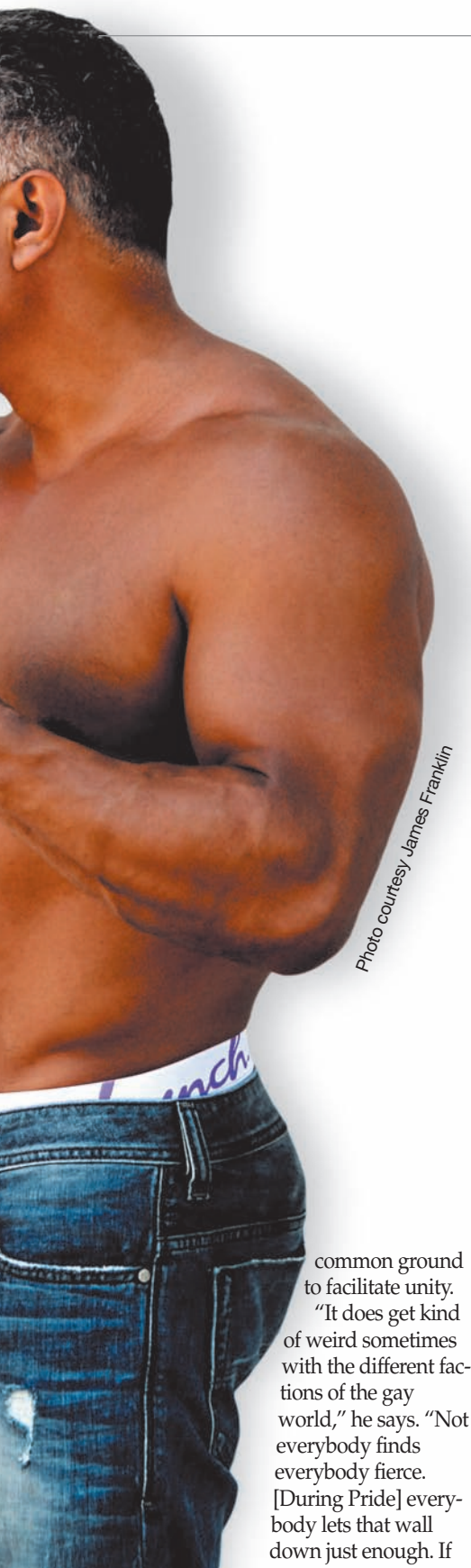


Photo courtesy James Franklin

common ground to facilitate unity. "It does get kind of weird sometimes with the different factions of the gay world," he says. "Not everybody finds everybody fierce. [During Pride] everybody lets that wall down just enough. If the music and the DJ is

giving it to you, you are knocking buildings down. You are knocking cities down."

Despite the SCOTUS ruling, Moran has yet to be asked to spin tunes at a gay wedding. And he's not sure he would want to take on the task. His feels his particular skill set is different than that of the typical wedding DJ.

"It's a totally different level of art," he says. "You have to keep people energized by things that are totally familiar. You have to bang in and

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Even if you don't immediately recognize the name, chances are you know the voice. Devin Star Tailes — known professionally simply as Dev — is the vocalist behind the catchy chorus of Far East Movement's No. 1 radio earworm "Like a G6." She's also charted two of her own radio hits, "Bass Down Low" and "In the Dark." And on Saturday, the spirited pop princess headlines The Red Party, the annual event benefitting Legacy Counseling and Founders Cottage. Ask Dev what music means to her and she'll happily share it. Just don't press the platinum-selling diva to describe her musical style.

"I never know what to say when people ask that," she laughs. "I always say 'weird pop

music,' which is probably the worst way to describe it. I grew up listening to a lot of different stuff. My parents bought me everything from Alice in Chains albums to the Chronic. I like to mix it up when I can. I like for things to feel fun, but I like to feel vulnerable. I like to be a bitch. I like to be sassy."

Dev is eager to return to Dallas, and she considers performances for LGBT crowds a homecoming of sorts. Prior to her radio success, Dev often played gay clubs and events on the Pride circuit. In fact, she considers the LGBT community the bedrock of her fan base.

"I get kind of emotional when I think about it," Dev says of the support. "I've been through

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so many highs and lows. I think that [my gay] following has been the most consistent for me. It means they never judge when something is on the radio or isn't. I am so grateful for that."

Currently, Dev divides her time between home — where she is the mother of a 4-year-old daughter — and the recording studio, where she is hard at work on her second full-length album. Both are labors of love. And both require mothering instincts.

"[It] is such an indescribable thing as a human to be able to make another human," Dev says of motherhood. "It's so insane. Musically, all of my projects that I put out are like babies themselves. You work on something for months and months and then you put it out and you hope people like it."

Dev, who grew up in a small California town, credits strong family ties for keeping her grounded amidst the craziness of show business.

Early in her career, Dev's father offered her sage advice: to work hard and to enjoy the accomplishments, but never to think that disappointment is not a possibility.

"He was preparing me," she says. "I've done shows when there are 20,000 people and I've done shows where there are 10 that show up. It ebbs and flows. Shit happens, but you work hard and you enjoy the moment. Even if you think there are failures, be proud of it. It's a totally different type of job."

Luckily, moxie is not something Dev lacks. And the spunky singer is not content to rest comfortably on her laurels.

"I don't know that I've gotten to the point that I can put my feet up — the 'I've made it!' thing," she says. "But hopefully I'm making it. I'm able to do what I love which doesn't feel like a job. At the end of the day, when I look back, I do get paid for what I love. I'm grateful for that." ■



Some of the couture Etienne enjoyed on his trip to Paris. (Photo courtesy Venny Etienne)

■ **LEVENITY**, From Page 65

he says. His trip to Paris proved to be an important step in his development, he admits.

"Paris was everything I thought it would be and more," he says. "You can feel the energy of the city. They are very structured." Professors demanded punctuality and were known to lock out students who arrived for class even seconds late. That degree of discipline expanded Etienne horizons for what he could accomplish.

"I learned so many different techniques — hand- sewing, tailoring, a tie-dyeing technique called shibori," he says. It was so inspirational, he's already looking toward his 2017 collection ... and nothing about it will have anything to do with Neoprene. Etienne is a peripatetic designer, someone itching to try something new whenever he can. And that investment banker background? Well, that taught him to have an eye on

business as well.

"Right now I do custom clothes, but next season, or perhaps the season after that, I want to begin the manufacturing process," he says. "Then I want to expand into retail — boutiques and luxury department stores, as well as my own brick-and-mortar shop eventually. And then hopefully trickle down into other markets, like handbags. It'll be an entire brand."

There's still one more step before any of that can happen, though.

"I'm still waiting for one more grade," he admits. "I mean, I know I passed, but I need to have it in to graduate."

Even a world traveler and budding entrepreneur needs to do his homework.

To see more of Venny Etienne's work, visit [LeVenity.com](http://LeVenity.com). ■



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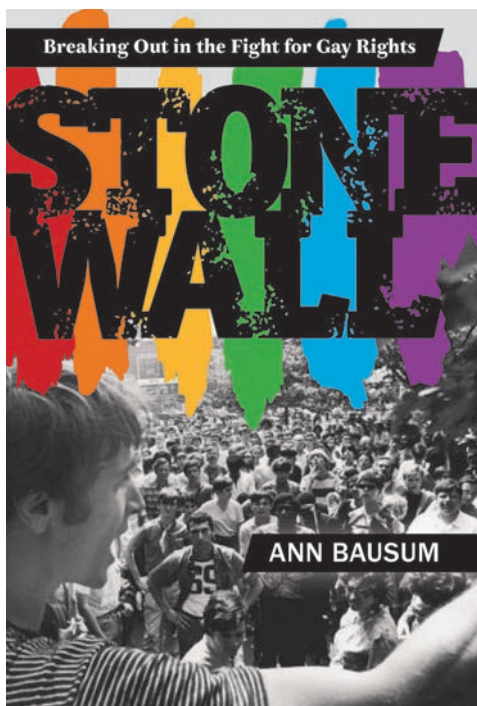
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# No Stonewall left unturned

Pride time: Histories of Stonewall, gay activism, Woodstock inform readers young and old; plus a language lesson



**Stonewall: Breaking Out in the Fight for Gay Rights** by Ann Bausum (Viking 2015) \$17; 120 pp.

Your favorite hangout may not be all that fancy, but you've got places to sit, flat surfaces for your stuff and your friends are always around. Best of all, nobody says you can't be there; everybody's welcome all the time. It wasn't always that way, though, as we learn in *Stonewall: Breaking Out in the Fight for Gay Rights*.

There was a full moon that night, and it was hot — not hot like you'd describe a person, but "beastly hot," weather-wise — and it was hotter still inside New York City's Stonewall Inn.

For years, it had been illegal in many cities to dance with someone of the same sex. With a few rare exceptions, being gay could get you fired from work, rejected by family and generally ostracized; if you were a man wearing women's clothing, you could be arrested immediately. But the Stonewall Inn allowed dancing, drinking and cross-dressing, and the police usually looked the other way because, says Bausum, the Mafia had

ties to the Stonewall and bribes kept things running.

By June 1969, this covert freedom started causing problems: "closeted homosexuals" involved in an international bond scandal were spotted at the Stonewall by "organized crime operatives" with blackmail on their minds. The New York police department was ordered to close down the Stonewall. In the hot early morning hours of June 28, they raided the packed bar.

It didn't go well. As partiers and staff were arrested, a crowd began to form to taunt police — and it grew as people ran to pay phones to call friends. Some of those arrested were freed; others were roughly handled. Bausum says that one of the latter, a lesbian, asked the crowd if they were going to do anything about it; they did.

At first, pocket change rained down on the police, then pebbles, stones, bottles, and burning containers. Some of the officers took refuge inside the bar, awaiting backup that didn't arrive for nearly an hour as two thousand people raged on the streets. Riot crews eventually showed up, and were mocked.



'Stonewall' author Ann Bausum

The unrest, says Bausum, lasted several nights — but what lasted longer was that lesbians and gay men suddenly knew that they weren't alone.

Although it can become florid for the sake of drama, *Stonewall* is a surprising book filled with history that younger people may not know.

The surprise comes in what Bausum shares, which seems tame by today's news, perhaps even quaint: nobody was seriously hurt, and the single death was accidental and barely related.

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That almost made me afraid readers might forget that the riot marked the coalescence of activism for gay rights, but Bausum anecdotally reminds us repeatedly of Stonewall's importance. She then goes on to look at activism at other times in LGBT history.

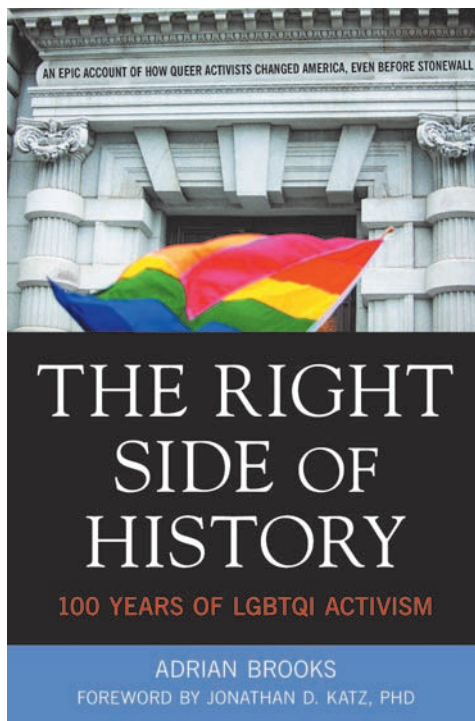
This book is meant for teen readers ages 12 and up, but it might be a challenge for those on the younger end and it certainly can be enjoyed by adults unfamiliar with this event. If that's you, then *Stonewall* is rock-solid.

***The Right Side of History: 100 Years of LGBTQI Activism* by Adrian Brooks (Cleis Press 2015) \$19; 243 pp.**

This summer's Pride Parades were raucous events. And why not? There's plenty to celebrate: new laws, old friends, and a sense of better — which can make it hard to remember that “such gains didn't occur in a vacuum,” as Adrian Brooks notes in *The Right Side of History*, “a chorus of voices untamed” that collectively offers an explanation.

To begin, Brooks writes of Isadora Duncan, a free spirit who, when ladies were expected to be proper, danced on-stage with abandon, bared her breasts in public, and slept with whomever she pleased — male or female.

Hayden L. Mora writes of gay life in the early 20th century, when clubs for “same-sex attraction” began to appear in larger cities, though being caught in a compromising situation then



could result in a loss of citizenship. For Henry Gerber, the choice was mental institution or U.S. Army; he picked the latter and came back from World War I, “determined to begin organizing gay men.”

The father of the gay liberation movement and founder of the Mattachine Society got his fire from another organization's strike. A well-liked gay African-American boy, lovingly called “Pinhead” as a child, grew up to be Martin Luther

King Jr.'s “right-hand man,” while a nerdy white doctor (who happened to sleep with men) changed our notions of male sexuality. Activists today fight for intersex infants, asking doctors to delay sex-assignment surgery. Conversation launched a lesbian organization, and people have stepped into activism roles because of Anita Bryant, out-of-the-closet writers, politics, personal discoveries and a 54-ton quilt.

And that parade you marched in? If you lived in San Francisco, you might like to know that Pride Parade routes are exactly the same as a funeral march walked by strikers and their families in 1934.

Lately, it seems as though I've been seeing a plethora of books on Stonewall — including one in this column ... as if that one event is where LGBTQI activism began. It's not, of course, and *The Right Side of History* proves that.

Though it's far from definitive, Brooks' collection informs and inspires readers who likewise want to make change or to know where change came from. I liked browsing the short biographies here, but I noticed one quirk: some of the profiles seemed to be a reach. Yes, they were very interesting, and yes, they were about people who stood their ground, but were they LGBTQI activists? Perhaps not always.

Even so, what you'll read here may make you want to do something. At the very least, it'll give you understanding for those who paved the way. And if that's information you need, then find *The Right Side of History*... and just start it.

The True Story of a Belgian Movie, an Israeli Wedding, and a Manhattan Breakdown

after-woodstock



**ELLIOTT TIBER**  
BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF TAKING WOODSTOCK  
FOREWORD BY ANG LEE

***After Woodstock* by Elliot Tiber (Square One Publishers 2015) \$25; 462 pp.**

Though their decision to purchase and operate a run-down motel in upstate New York was a disaster from the beginning, Elliot Tiber's parents refused to give up the “shambles of a resort” they'd dreamed of owning. Tiber, a dutiful Jew-

■ BOOKS Page 90

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# Brick layers

Roland Emmerich's new film 'Stonewall' stirred controversy when its trailer debuted, but will that distract from the real story?

LIFE+STYLE

screen



LAWRENCE FERBER | Contributing Writer  
lawrenceferber@hotmail.com

Who threw the first brick at the Stonewall riots in 1969 — which launched the modern LGBT rights movement and subsequent annual gay Pride parades — has been a point of controversy and disagreement long before director Roland Emmerich decided to make a film of the material. Yet the openly gay Emmerich — best known for bombastic, special effects-laden Hollywood disaster popcorn blockbusters like *Independence Day* and *Day After Tomorrow* — is the first to warn that audiences shouldn't regard this key moment in his new lightning-rod of a film *Stonewall* as a representation of historical fact.

"We said, let's make a movie about Stonewall and try to be as entertaining and accurate about it as possible, but it's a [narrative] movie, not a documentary," he says. "When you look at a movie like *Titanic*, at the end, the *Titanic* goes down, but the rest is a love story between a rich girl and poor artist. Those characters were probably never on the *Titanic*, but that's where it happened. Our story takes place [partly] in this club Stonewall and our main character, Danny, learns about what's going on, to be gay in NYC, from these homeless kids, falls in love, and learns to

survive."

Written by out screenwriter Jon Robin Baitz, *Stonewall* follows Danny (Jeremy Irvine), a teen from the small town Midwest, who hightails it to Manhattan after his father gives him the boot for being gay. Once arrived on Christopher Street, the city's gay crossroads, Danny falls in with a clique of rowdy homeless LGBTQ sex workers including Puerto Rican "scare queen" Ray/Ramona (Jonny Beauchamp), sassy African-American Cong (newcomer Vlad Alexis) and gender-bending hippie Orphan Annie (Caleb Landry Jones). The Stonewall Inn is their hub, and where Danny meets and falls for older Mattachine Society activist Trevor (Jonathan Rhys Meyers), who despises Danny's friends and their flamboyance. Add corrupt cops, homophobia and a Mafia-run prostitution ring, and it all combusts on a balmy June night during a police raid that started a movement.

Spoiler alert: Danny does in fact throw the first brick in the movie — he's motivated to do so when a lesbian is carried away by police and urges the angry gay crowd to do something, which did actually happen in real life — but those who suspect the film is a "whitewashing"

based upon the trailer (see sidebar, Page 82) will find that not to be the case at all.

*Stonewall*'s cast is diverse ethnically and in sexual/gender identities (including "scare queens," feminine males who couldn't afford proper drag get-ups yet wore eyeliner and whatever else they could cobble together) and Emmerich and his team decided to include many characters drawn directly from history including black drag activist Martha P. Johnson, played by Nigerian-American actor Otojo Abit. Ray/Ramona is a composite of Puerto Ricans Silvia Rivera (a drag queen and transgender activist) and Ray Castro; and Cong, portrayed by Alexis.

Despite the fact Danny throws the brick, a turning point in his character's arc and an embracing of his sexuality and friendships. "It's Cong's brick," notes Alexis. Openly gay, Alexis is a native of Montreal, where the film was shot — a detailed replica of 1960s-era Christopher Street and Stonewall Inn was constructed within a giant building.

Cong, who always carries a brick in a handbag for larcenous activities, is based on real-life Stonewall participant Congo Woman, chronicled in David Carter's excellent non-fiction *Stonewall*

tome. Alexis describes Congo Woman as "a nasty black drag queen that steals things, throws bricks and breaks windows just to survive."

"I also took inspiration from so many other trans and queer kids out there," Alexis elaborates. "The documentary *Paris Is Burning*, and Jason Holliday, who was a black artist back in the '60s [and subject of the 1967 documentary *Portrait of Jason*]. For me, it's not important who threw the first brick, because the fight was already happening [by the time it was thrown]. We don't have to praise a specific person."

The UK-born Irvine, who previously starred in Steven Spielberg's *War Horse*, admits that he was only peripherally aware of the Stonewall rebellion when he took on the role. Once cast, he immersed himself in research and drew personal inspiration and details from someone involved with the production. He won't name the person, but says they shared their coming out letter with him. While Irvine declines to divulge whether he ever questioned his own sexuality, he freely admits that his mother is pleased that Rhys-Meyers plays his onscreen love interest. "My mom says





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**L+S** screen

■ **STONEWALL**, From Page 80

you couldn't choose someone better to have your first gay sex scene with."

Unlike his film's hayseed protagonist, Emmerich was born into a relatively wealthy German family, and his own coming out took place comparatively late. "I didn't want to become a 'gay director' because in Germany when you were a gay director I couldn't have done the movies I wanted to do," he recalls. He arrived in the U.S. at age 33, fell in love with another man, and, eventually feeling much freer in his personal and professional life, considered making a gay-themed film.

It was during a tour of Los Angeles' Gay & Lesbian Center that Emmerich learned that 40 percent of today's homeless youth are LGBTQ. Upon digging into Stonewall's history, and the critical role homeless youth played in the riot, he whipped up the film's story outline.

Hollywood didn't exactly embrace the idea of backing such a film, so Emmerich financed *Stonewall* independently with friends, and brought on Baitz as screenwriter. He also enlisted surviving Stonewall witnesses to speak with the film's actors, and insisted that all extras taking part in the riot scene be LGBT-identified (when Emmerich learned that some straight extras were unhappy having to dance with other men during Stonewall Inn scenes, they were fired, Alexis shares).

"Montreal has a big gay population, and I insisted that everyone who is part of this riot has to be gay, and there was some real anger there," Emmerich says. "For two or three days they were pumped. A couple of times we said 'stop' with a megaphone and it took a while to stop them."

Apparently, some of the stars — including Irvine, Jones and Alexis — retained their characters' more rowdy, sassy traits off-screen, especially while enjoying down-time in Montreal's famed gay village.

"I told my friends before I started doing the project, I might not see you much this summer because I will be unbearable," Alexis recalls, laughing. "Cong is such a strong character who has no fucks to give. Without naming names, we went to a gay strip joint and someone [from our group] threw a glass of water at the stripper dancing. It was sort of a *Flashdance* tribute. He didn't receive it that well, and I needed to go speak to him in French and explain we are doing a movie and in our own heads! He understood and we shook hands after."

Despite whatever controversies may (or may not) transpire once audiences see the film, Stonewall's legacy has already imprinted itself on the filmmakers. The day after wrapping, Irvine visited New York's actual Stonewall Inn — "it was like I was back on the film set but for real, we got horribly drunk and danced the night away!" — and an empowered Emmerich ensured there are LGBT characters in his upcoming *Independence Day* sequel (he declines to share details beyond "I have a couple of them"). Meanwhile, Alexis, who recently shot a cameo in Bryan Singer's next *X-Men* film, admits he would have liked to keep a physical memoir of Stonewall — specifically, Cong's brick.

"I wish I could have!" he laments. "But this was my first movie and you never know what you can take or not and I don't want to be someone who steals from the set. That would be like taking Cong to another level. Some crazy method acting to steal from the set."

*Stonewall opens in Dallas on Sept. 25.*

### Trailer camp: 2 Stonewalls, 2 controversies

The *Stonewall* trailer received a standing ovation at the GLAAD Media Awards when it debuted in March, where director Roland Emmerich received the Stephen F. Kolzak Award for his work in promoting equality. So when it debuted to the public in early August, resulting in calls for a boycott of the film, Emmerich was completely surprised by this outraged reception.

"I was upset, I have to admit," he says, "but one of our investors, who is very involved in marriage equality, is already happy because we have to bring attention to Stonewall because kids these days don't know nothing. Already we made our goal — people are talking about who threw bricks, who was there and not."

A 1995 film of the same name, directed by the late Nigel Finch and written by Rikki Beadle-Blair (he also co-wrote Patrik-Ian Polk's recent *Blackbird*) based on Martin Duberman's book, also stirred up controversy in its day, although mostly concerning its historical accuracy and emphasis on drag queens (Guillermo Diaz, who has since come out publicly, co-starred as a headstrong Latino drag queen La Miranda). Beadle-Blair declined to be interviewed for *Stonewall*-related articles, while Emmerich says of Finch's 1995 film, "his was more like a musical. We have a totally different take and it was entertaining, but I wanted to tell another story."



— L.F.







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L+S dining

# Uchi, coochie— could she cook!

Hype is one thing, but does Uchi ultimately deliver the goods? ... Oh my, yes



**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor  
[jones@dallasvoice.com](mailto:jones@dallasvoice.com)

I imagine every restaurant wishes it could generate the kind of pre-opening hype and post-opening lines that Uchi managed. From the moment local foodies heard that Dallas would be getting its own iteration of the Austin-based sushi phenomenon, tongues were both wagging and salivating. Those who had been to the Austin edition spoke lovingly about it to newbies, like wizened prospectors repeating legends of gold mines. Those who had never been themselves nonetheless wept in anticipation of getting an early reservation and being among the first to see and be seen there (because, you know, Dallas).

But lines can die down, and hype can dry up. The murmur was that Uchi was too expensive and trendy but not as skillful as, say, Nobu.

So, to summarize: It will be great ... or a flash in the pan.

Whether Uchi will keep the crowds coming (I haven't had any trouble getting a reservation, but I don't try for parties of 4 at 7 p.m. on a weekend) is beyond my powers of clairvoyance, but as for the restaurant's bona fides? Oh, my,

yes. In some ways, the hype doesn't do it justice.

I know that I'm probably setting people up for disappointment. On my last visit, we still had to wait 20 minutes after our reservation start time to be seated. And while our bill (which included a few adult beverages) wasn't cheap, it wasn't astronomical, either, and we walked away fully sated. Uchi ain't cheap, it ain't fast ... but it's totally worth what you go through.

Consider first the service, which has been exquisite. A friend of mine recently lamented that true fine-dining was all but dead in Dallas, and while Uchi isn't white-tablecloth, it really does reach rarefied heights. The menus are stored in little trays under the tabletop, magically appearing in our server's hand as if a hint of legerdemain adds to the magic of the dining experience (it does, kinda). Service is perky but not officious, attentive but not hovering. And the staff *listens*. Really listens.

On one visit, after our waitress inquired about our favorite dishes, another complimentary item appeared which combined several elements of the ones we gushed about. Gratis. "This is courtesy of the entire staff, kitchen and servers," she said. An amuse bouche to start the meals is one thing; a complimentary glass of Chablis while

**HOLY MACKEREL!** | One of the mackerel dishes at Uchi uses truffle oil — not to mask the fishiness, but balance it. It's an exquisite dish. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



your wait at the bar another; but to complete our meal with a customized dish sui generis? Well, that's the difference between a good experience and a fantastic one.

It's mostly been fantastic. The menu borders on Russian novel-length, with the "official" bill of fare supplemented with a lengthy list of daily specials. Meals are meant to be enjoyed family/tapas-style, with warm dishes, cold, sushi/sashimi, an omakase option (where the chef trots out his greatest hits) and rolls, salads, desserts. The menu was designed to be explored — as Shakespeare said of Cleopatra, *Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale / her infinite variety*. So far, that's been the case with Uchi.

A good lead-off is from the raw bar, with the in-season oysters. I tried the Wellfleet with a traditional cilantro mignonette on my first visit, but more recently the Peter's Point, seasoned with mint, lime and a nigori granita (\$4.5 for a pair), and it set a surprising tone for everything that followed.

A few of the smaller bites — *age dofu* (fried tofu with a side of hand-crafted dashi broth, \$5); hama chili (salty-spicy baby yellowtail, \$18) and the single-bite madai nigiri — showed a sense of craftsmanship, but there were many other stars on the menu that eclipsed them.

Some people recoil slightly from the taste (really, the idea) of eel (*unagi*), but you need to be adventurous at a restaurant like this. The version here — a crunchy maki (roll), grilled and served with a schmear of avocado (\$12) — showed the kitchen's deftness with even the most prosaic of dishes. And it kept getting better.

Our server counseled us between versions of mackerel that were available, and convinced us



**RAISING THE BAR** | The buzzy sushi bar at Uchi, the hottest ticket in town right now ... and justly so. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

that one — which was described as having a touch of truffle oil, usually a red flag for me — would meet our expectations. She was correct, and truffle imparted a slight headiness but did not overwhelm the fleshy, fishy essence of the fish. The salmon belly sashimi (\$18), with shaved ginger root undergirding the lines of fatty fish and roe, was easily among our favorites.

But it's not all about fish at Uchi. Believe me when I tell you the best chicken you will have this year will be the awesomeness that is the *karage* (colorfully marinated balls of bird accented by pickles and cucumber, and at \$10, a steal), and the bacon steakie (bacon slab, citrus, herbs in a symphonic balance, \$19) will make you fall in love with the now-so-common pork belly all over again.

Asian restaurants typically don't offer an extensive desserts selection, but one of the offerings here made up for every green-tea-ice-cream finale you've ever picked through. I liked the peanut semifreddo (with an apple-miso sorbet) well enough, but the lime cream (\$9) is surely the most unexpected item on the menu: A terrarium bowl, inhabited by a citrusy custard, season fruit, colorfully expressive orbs of puffed rice and a garnish of edible flower. It's rich and refreshing, like a bracing splash of spring water with a suggestion of lavender in the background.

The most notable thing about Uchi, though, is that the memory of it lingers long after the final bite has been digested. The warmth of the space, the seriousness of the chefs, the knowledgeable waitstaff and of course the execution of the peripatetic food. Some places will never live up to expectations, but Uchi exceeds them. It's a rare confluence where the promise doesn't do the reality justice. It deserves to be Dallas' hottest place right now. ■

## OVERALL RATING ★★★★★

**Uchi**, 2817 Maple Ave. Cedar Springs Road. Open for dinner, 5–10 p.m. (11 p.m. weekends). 214-855-5454. [UchiRestaurants.com/Dallas](http://UchiRestaurants.com/Dallas).



Uptown's much-hyped sushi spot serves much more than just fish, including the best chicken in town and unexpected desserts like the lime cream, pictured.

**Food:** ☆☆☆☆☆

**Atmosphere:** ☆☆☆☆☆

**Service:** ☆☆☆☆☆

**Price:** Expensive

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# FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS... HAPPY PRIDE 2015!

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## OUR FAMILY





MASCULIN, FEMININ | Volkswagen's Jetta, left, has heart; Dodge's Challenger, below, tears up the road.

# Butch

# VS.

# Femme

VW Jetta versus Dodge Challenger:  
Brains versus muscles

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer  
autocasey@aol.com

What kind of guy are you? Do you go for the gregarious, muscle-bound jock with a kind heart (like the Dodge Challenger Hemi) or the introverted gent with smooth style and efficient manners (the VW Jetta 1.8T)? That's the dilemma, automotively speaking, of whether you get in bed with a butch love or one that's ever-so-femme. Maybe these attributes will help you make your decision. ■

#### Family tree:

Challenger: He's got the looks of a 1971 Dodge Challenger, but the undercarriage of a Mercedes E-Class. The HEMI is pure Americana, even if it's part of the big Italian Fiat family.

Jetta: Essentially a proletariat Golf with more junk in the trunk, Jetta dates to the 1970s. It's as German as the Graf Zeppelin.

#### Cruising power:

Challenger: It's no Hellcat, but the 485-horsepower 6.4-liter HEMI will blow your hair back. Get it with the 6-speed manual transmission that delights both wrist and ankle.

Jetta: Sip the 170-horsepower 1.8-liter turbo-4 like dark chocolate whiffed through honey air. The 5-speed manual clicks and kicks.

#### Big appetite:

Challenger: You'd think the Challenger would eat like a Hummer, but returns 14/23-MPG city/hwy.

Jetta: Clearly on a regimen of diet and exercise, the Jetta rolls 25/37-MPG city/hwy.

#### Best asset:

Challenger: Have you seen its hood shake from behind the wheel? Arrrrr!!!!

Jetta: I could tooth the waffle-pattern seats all day. Yummm....

#### Channels:

Challenger: The cartoon "super bee" clinging to the front fenders and stitched into the seats.

Jetta: A Bentley on a Greek plutocrat's budget.

#### Greatest talent:

Challenger: Clearing the left lane! You don't want

that grille up your ass.

Jetta: Streaming down the Interstate at triple-digits buttoned to the pavement. Its demure styling intimidates nobody, the big bottom.

#### Dating ritual:

Challenger: Revs up its engine, turns off stability control, and lays black streaks from Monday to Sunday. You'll wanna do it!

Jetta: Twinkles its eyes, spools up its turbo and chirps the front wheels from brunch to lunch. You'll wanna lick it!

#### Fancy chassis:

Challenger: Track Pack screen lets drivers configure the throttle, steering, and traction control for different drive modes. Fancy, dude!

Jetta: Has a 4-wheel-independent suspension and a steering wheel. And, it all works fine, thank you very much!

#### Entertainment:

Challenger: You can control satellite radio, media player and navigation by easy-to-use touch-screen, redundant controls below or by voice. Alpine's 506-watt audio will cause your neighbors to leap into their pools.

Jetta: How do you like a radio with last-generation

iPod connector and Bluetooth? Fender speakers are divine, but our base speakers were still beguiling.

#### Comparing equipment:

Challenger: With that long of a hood and buff muscles, you'd think he's compensating for something. Same with the 20-in. wheels, but it ain't bragging if you can back it up.

Jetta: It's always the small quiet ones with the biggest... heart. Those 16-in. wheels are no rocks, but it has all it needs.

#### Alter ego:

Challenger: Michael Sam — big and beefy, but a debonair sweetheart beneath it all.

Jetta: Vito Cammisano — don't judge him by his looks, he has the athletics and style to reel in the big guys.

#### Big checks:

Challenger: To get the power and pleasure offered by the Challenger Scat Pack, dig in for at least \$37,895 (\$46,880 as tested).

Jetta: Or, cuddle up with the classically understated and surprisingly affordable Jetta SE 1.8T for \$17,325 (\$19,815 as tested).



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L+S travel

## Pink, flaming... Oh!

Rediscovering Key West's queer  
appeal in three easy steps

After all of these years and after so many destinations have “come out” as gay-friendly, Key West retains the title of the quintessential LGBT travel experience.

Key West is simply fabulous — an island utopia that welcomes everyone and a destination where a bicycle and a sarong are all that you could need for a week of relaxation. To understand why Key West is the destination of the year, all that you really need to do is to go back to its roots: guesthouses, water and sunsets.

Navigating your trip to rediscover Key West could be a challenge. Key West has indeed changed over the years. There are more cruise ships, larger airplanes, fewer gay bars and the drag scene is missing the “World’s Oldest Living Drag Queen”— Margo, or David Feldstein — who passed in 2006. The Key West Business Guild is a terrific resource helping LGBT travelers plan their trip.

In October, Key West has one of its biggest events of the year: Fantasy Fest (Oct. 23–Nov. 1), a kind of Mardi Gras-meet-Halloween freak



show that raises hell shore to shore. But even if you can't make those dates, here are three ways to rediscover Key West:

**Stay at a guesthouse.** To experience the true spirit of Key West hospitality, stay at a Key West guesthouse. The island offers super-exclusive accommodations and upscale international hotel chains. This destination prides itself on good service to the guest, and there are exceptional guesthouses in Key West. Alexander's Guesthouse and Big Ruby's are terrific choices for gays and lesbians, especially when traveling together. New Orleans House, Equator Resort and Eden House are just a few of the great choices for the



**IT'S JUST A FANTASY** | Key West's Fantasy Fest in October, above and top, is among the area's biggest attractions; Mallory Square, right, is awesome at sunset. (Photos courtesy Florida Keys New Bureau)





gay, LGBT and the all-welcoming guests.

The big daddy though is the Island House. Consistently offering top-notch service with a consistent and well-trained staff, Island House retains the allure of gay-male travel. It is a destination within a destination. Offering an all-male environment and luxury rooms, fine dining, entertainment and great conversations, Island House delivers superior service. The resort offers great deals for free stays off-season when you buy a winter escape.

**Explore the water and sea life.** Dolphin Safari Charters is the perfect small-ship excursion. Super-friendly and handsome Captain Gary (originally from South Africa) leads this voyage into Key West's pristine waters. Offering a very private and a VIP trip experience, Captain Gary is part teacher and part fun-seeker. Dolphin sightings are almost guaranteed on every trip and a sighting is where the fun begins. A three-hour-plus trip for adults costs \$89 plus gratuity. The dock is located at the Banana Bay Resort and

Marina and includes free parking. Trips are offered each morning and afternoon.

For more gay-specific water frolicking, Captain Steve runs men-only Blu Q outings that offer snorkeling, swimming and fellowship ... and completely clothing-optional once you get away from prying eyes.

**Celebrate the sunset.** Of course, Mallory Square is the place to toast another perfect day and sunset in Key West. Danger Charters Wind & Wine Sunset Sail is a perfect way to celebrate Key West's legendary sunsets. Danger Charter boats are custom-built replicas of a type of American sailing craft called a Skipjack. Simply catch the boat at Westin Hotel on Mallory Square for a two-hour sail for a romantic sunset (or an all-day adventure). The ship's exceptional and friendly crew share with guests an impressive wine and beer selection from around the world for \$85-\$100. ■

— Jeff Guaracino (courtesy Philadelphia Gay News) and Arnold Wayne Jones



# THE MIDTOWN MEN

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■ BOOKS, From Page 77

ish son, “had been sucked into this black hole” 14 years earlier, and he was stuck now.

But in the summer of '69, something “just short of a miracle” happened: Woodstock. For more than a week, the motel was full of guests (at \$750 a night) and when it was over, the hippies were gone, the mud was cleaned up and the family was flush with cash.

Seizing opportunity, Tiber took his share and left “my largely miserable past behind.” He bought a new Cadillac and headed for Los Angeles, where two friends had invited him to live with them in exchange for decorating an old mansion they’d bought. Tiber was also excited to see the Hollywood sign: “the letters weren’t exactly straight; well, neither was I.”

Months after arriving, though, it was apparent that California wasn’t the place he ought to be. Tiber’s father was dying, so Tiber returned to New York, mourned his father, fought with his mother, sold the motel for her, and fell in love with a Belgian student who had to return home after his studies were done. Months later, Tiber followed André to Europe, learned French, and started writing in earnest: TV skits, movie scripts, and memoirs.

But true love never runs smoothly, of course, and though they enjoyed dancing at leather clubs together, André started going alone. Tiber never knew exactly what André was doing but he had his suspicions, and since a “gay disease” was rumored to be circulating, Tiber was concerned...

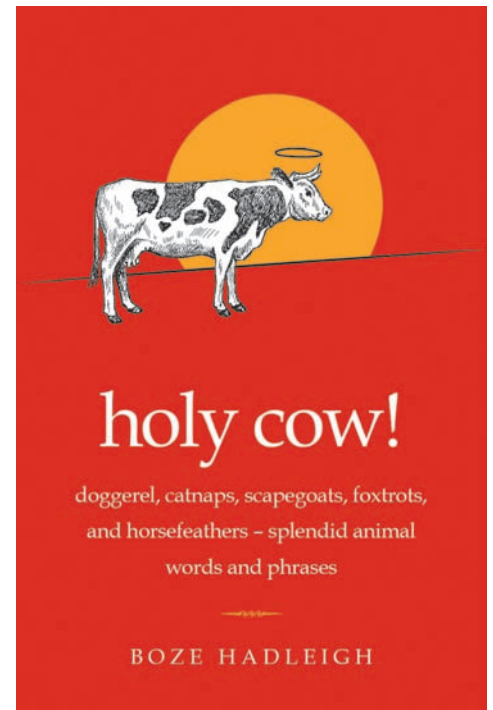
After reading *After Woodstock*, I think you’ll agree that Tiber is the Forrest Gump of gay memoirs. He has done it all: organized Woodstock, crossed the Mafia, hobnobbed with celebs, made movies, appeared on TV ... the list goes on. It’s almost exhausting — maybe because this book could have easily been *two* books: Tiber packs a lot — *an awful lot* — into this memoir, which can be overwhelming. Yes, he’s got a wicked funny bone, and yes, this is an appealing look at gay life from the Stonewall years forward, but it can be too much. While I didn’t *not* like this book, there were times when I needed a break from that frenzy.

I think stop-and-go readers will be able to get past the rompishness of this tale, and biography lovers will easily be able to ignore it. If, in fact, you like a little madness with your memoir, find *After Woodstock* and you’ll have it all.

***Holy Cow!* by Boze Hadleigh (Skyhorse Publishing 2015) \$14.99; 303 pp.**

No doubt about it, humans love our animals. We love them so much that we sprinkle references to them in our daily conversation, mostly without even thinking about it. Our shaggy dog stories are sometimes just that — but where did those old sayings, clichés, discouraging words and tender nicknames come from? The truth, as Boze Hadleigh shows in his new book *Holy Cow!*, is an interesting, yet convoluted, tale.

In many cases, animalistic words came about as description: Oxford, England, for instance, was once a place where oxen *forded* a river. Tell



someone there’s a dogleg in the road, and they’ll know what you’re saying — plus, a road like that might make them sick as a dog.

And then there are the words that really make you scratch your head: Great Britain’s hedgehog pudding isn’t made of the spiny mammals, and dogs and monkeys are much more likely to ape you than is a copy*cat*. And about that famed cat curiosity? It might’ve been targeted at another type of animal.

Let’s say somebody’s made you mad. Calling him a dog goes back many years, perhaps back into the mid-1800s when “the only good dog was a useful dog.” “Bitch” has always been directed at women; its first near-appearance in film was in 1939, and that was pretty scandalous. Call someone a rat and, well, that’s self-explanatory. The modern street use of the word “heifer” is pretty wrong, unless you’re in a barn.

There really *is* more than one way to skin a cat (catfish, that is). A sawhorse and a clotheshorse are similar in origin. And if you think a kitty really has nine lives, well doggone it, you’re barking up the wrong tree.

Ahh, language lovers. I can practically hear you howling for this book now — and for good reason. Like a dog with a bone, you won’t want to let *Holy Cow!* go.

Starting with canines and ending with birds, bees, and bugs, Boze Hadleigh — an openly gay chronicler of pop culture, who has also written about gay portrayals in film and music — goes whole hog in explaining where many of our favorite expressions originated. But this book isn’t just horseplay — he includes words that are archaic (but need resurrection), as well as localisms and words you’ll want to add to your vocabulary. That all adds up to fun that’s useful and, for dyed-in-the-wool linguists, it’s a golden egg.

So let’s talk turkey: if it’s been a coon’s age since you last read a book about language, it’s time you find this one. You won’t sound hackneyed or feel like a dinosaur with *Holy Cow!* This book is the cat’s meow.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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**FROM BIG APPLE TO BIG D** | Although he's a native New Yorker, Tony Moran's partner lives in Uptown, and he considers Dallas his second home. He'll spin here during Dallas Pride.

■ **MORAN**, From Page 75

bang out. And I'm a slow fuck. I'm gonna take my time, and you are gonna like it."

When he is not logging frequent flier miles or entertaining throngs of revelers, Moran is often in his home studio. Lately, he has focused energy on his first love, that of original production. Rather than remixing the works of others, Moran is enjoying the challenge of writing his own lyrics and creating his own sounds.

"Remixing is something that I've taken a couple steps back from, though I've enjoyed every mix," he says. "I love writing, and I love producing. I love working on my own songs. I'd rather create a new painting than a replica."

During his career, Moran has enjoyed working with many musical greats, but he admits there are few artists who remain on his production wish list. Male vocalists George Michael and Seal are at the top of it. And, naturally, he would love

an opportunity to produce music for the Material Girl.

"Madonna I would love to produce any day of the week," he enthuses. "If she called me during my own wedding — which I have not been asked yet — I would be like, 'You've got to wait a second everybody!' So let's just hope it doesn't happen on that day."

Rest assured, though, that Moran will continue tapping the reserves in his current collaborative relationships as well. Take, for example, his successful partnering with powerhouse vocalist Martha Wash.

"Martha and I, we look out for each other," Moran says. "When our names are back to back on a record, we've hit No. 1 two times in a row. I'm looking forward to future ones."

Moran's relationship with Wash is not limited to the recording studio, either. The two are pals who sometimes hang out after hours.

"I took her to go see *Kinky Boots*," he says. "I happen to be friends with Billy Porter [who originated the role of Lola on Broadway ... and won a Tony for his efforts]. I'm a New Yorker, so I happen just to be in that group of people. I loved being there with her. People are saying, 'Is that

Martha Wash? I see Martha Wash glowing and blushing. People whisper thinking they are far enough away that she can't hear it."

While he may call many celebrities friends, Moran — who has five brothers and sisters — is also well-grounded. He attempts to live by words of wisdom that renowned music producer David Foster gave him early in his career.

"David was basically like, 'Remain calm. At all times, when you are producing someone, keep it together,'" he says. "I haven't, you know, done it 100 percent of the time. I'm human, just like anyone else. But I try to keep my wits together." ■

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# LIFE+STYLE

best bets

**Friday** 09.18 —  
**Sunday** 09.20

## Raise a glass to Oktoberfest

If Pride parades aren't your thing no reason you have to hole up in your house all weekend. Addison Oktoberfest (in September!) arrives this weekend with loads of beer, brats, music and more. It's a German-themed foodie festival with a Teutonic tradition that'll make you fat and happy.

**DEETS:** 4970 Addison Circle Drive. For a complete schedule of events, visit [AddisonOktoberfest.com](http://AddisonOktoberfest.com)



**Saturday** — 09.13

## Outrageous Wendy Ho wants you to save her feral pussy (er, she means cat)

Wendy Ho is the kind of entertainer who refers to "her greatest shits," so it's no wonder the comedic performer has teamed up with a cat rescue group for a show this weekend called Save My Feral Pussy! You can be a fan of felines and of funny ladies by supporting them both at the show at Barbara's Pavillion in Oak Cliff.

**DEETS:** Barbara's Pavillion, 325 Center St. 9 p.m.



**Wednesday** 09.23  
— **Sunday** 10.04

## Musical adaptation of 'Matilda' makes North Texas debut

Roald Dahl specialized in subversive children's literature, from *Wonka* to giant peaches, and the creators of *Matilda The Musical* — based on one of Dahl's books — have captured that spirit. Consider, for instance, that the neglected but resilient young heroine faces off against a stern headmistress ... played by a man. The Broadway production of this show won four Tony Awards, and the national tour settles into the Winspear for a comfortable run.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Sept. 23–Oct. 4. [ATTPAC.org](http://ATTPAC.org).



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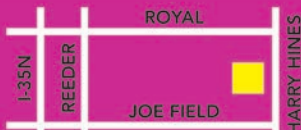
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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

**PlayPride LGBT Festival.** Second annual gay short play fest with \$500 going to the winning play's chosen charity. *Final weekend.* Bishop Arts Theatre, 215 S. Tyler St. TeCoTheater.org.

**Moonshine: That Hee Haw Musical.** World premiere musical from award-winning team of writer/composers, based on the variety show but camped up. Stars *American Idol*'s Justin Guarini. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Oct. 11. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**The Dumb Waiter.** Kitchen Dog Theater moves into its (temporary) new digs in the Design District for one season with this opener, one of Nobel Prize winner Harold Pinter's celebrated "comedies of menace." The

Green Zone, 161 Riveredge. Through Oct. 10. KitchenDogTheater.org.

**Fix Me Jesus.** A comedy set at Neiman Marcus. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Oct. 11 (in previews through Sept. 20). Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Catholic School Girls.** Susan Sargeant directs this nostalgic look at girls' schools in the 1960s. Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. Through Sept. 27. ContemporaryTheatreOfDallas.com.

**Bride of Frankenstein: The Musical.** An original popcorn-tosser spoof at Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane, ste. 119. Through Sept. 26.

**How the Other Half Loves.** Theatre Britain presents Alan Ayckbourn's comedy. Cox Building Playhouse,

Dallas Voice's Tuesday Big Movie lineup at the Magnolia

Landmark's Magnolia Theatre shows its commitment to classic film (and not just the hottest new Hollywood releases) with its weekly Big Movie New Classic Series. Each Tuesday night at 7:30 and 10 p.m., the Uptown arthouse screens a different film with contemporary appeal, from modern comedies to Golden Age epics to camp classics and more. The lineup, released quarterly, helps movie buffs plan their Tuesdays all the way from now through Thanksgiving.

Here, then, is this quarter's lineup, sponsored by Dallas Voice.

**Sept. 22: *To Kill a Mockingbird.*** Before we knew Atticus Finch would become a virulent racist, he was this upstanding, stalwart man of justice in Harper Lee's classic novel rendered exquisitely onscreen.

**Sept. 29: *The Andromeda Strain.*** Robert Wise directed the first film adapted from a Michael Crichton novel that, despite being slightly dated, is still eerie and thrilling.

**Oct. 6: *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*** Edward Albee's masterpiece of psychological drama, with Liz Taylor delivering her best (and Oscar-winning) performance ever.

**Oct. 13: *Hannah and Her Sisters.*** Woody Allen's biggest financial success is this thoughtful comedy, with brilliant work from Oscar winners Dianne Wiest and Michael Caine.

**Oct. 20: *The Seventh Seal.*** Bergman's oft-lampooned but rarely equaled reverie on death.

**Oct. 27: *The Shining.*** Just in time for Hal-



loween, Stanley Kubrick's unnerving horror with Jack Nicholson and a perfectly-cast Shelley Duvall.

**Nov. 3: *The Adventures of Robin Hood.*** Few men have looked as beautiful and manly in tights as the vastly underrated Errol Flynn does in this swashbuckling Golden Age classic.

**Nov. 10: *On the Waterfront.*** Wrenching drama with Marlon Brando at his Method best.

**Nov. 17: *Lawrence of Arabia.*** Simply one of the greatest films of all time, with a subtle but unmistakable gay subplot. (Noel Coward once said of star Peter O'Toole, pictured, "if he'd been any more beautiful, they'd have had to rename it *Flurence of Arabia.*")

**Nov. 24: *Mary Poppins.*** A childhood essential, with Julie Andrews winning an Oscar in her feature film debut as the practically perfect nanny.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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**The Beebo Brinker Chronicles.** Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Sept. 18–19 late-night at 11:15 p.m. \$12. 214-821-1860.

**The Mountaintop.** Play about the final hours of Martin Luther King Jr. Studio Theatre of the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Sept. 16–Nov. 11 (in previews through Sept. 22). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**Lovers and Executioners.** A cross-dressing comic battle of the sexes. *Final weekend.* Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. CircleTheatre.com.

#### DANCE

**Twyla Tharp.** World premiere works in celebration of the choreographer's 50 years of artistry. Presented by TITAS. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Sept. 18–19. ATPAC.org.

#### FINE ART

**Best Books Ever Written: Texas.** Artist/collagist Stuart Sheldon premieres the capstone of his new series of collages, including works in celebration of Texas authors and marriage equality. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. Through Oct. 17. ilumeGallerie.com.

**N.S. Harsha: Sprouts, reach in to reach out.** A site-specific mural, the first in Dallas for the Indian artist, transforms the main corridor of the DMA. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 21, 2016. DMA.org.

**Modern Opulence in Vienna: The Wittgenstein Vitrine.** Restored 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 09.18

### CONCERTS

**Indigo Girls.** House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. 8 p.m. Ticketmaster.com.

**Dave Aude and Crystal Waters.** It'll Do Club, 4322 Elm St. 9 p.m. \$15. Eventbrite.com.

### FESTIVAL

**Addison Oktoberfest.** Annual celebration of German cooking and all-around fun kicks off. 4970 Addison Circle Drive. Sept. 17–20. AddisonOktoberfest.com

### TRADE SHOW

**2015 Southwest RV Supershow.** Attention “glampers” — come here to find out how to make your weekend getaway special at this festival of recreational vehicles. Dallas Market Hall, 2200 N. Stemmons Freeway. \$8–\$13. SouthwestRVSupershow.com.

## SATURDAY 09.19

### COMMUNITY

**Shine Dallas Pride Pool Party.** DJ Tony Moran headlines. Sisu Uptown 2508 Maple Ave. 2 p.m. PurpleFoundation.org.

**Haus of Edwards.** Alyssa Edwards, Shangela and Laganja Estranja perform. The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Av. 9 p.m. OneNightInBangkok.com.

**Wendy Ho: Save My Feral Pussy.** A comedy-music show and fundraiser for Feral Friends Community Cat Alliance. Barbara's Pavillion 325 Center St. 9 p.m.

**7th Annual Red Party featuring Dev.** Sixty Five Hundred, 6500 Cedar Springs Road. 9 p.m. DallasRedFoundation.org.

## SUNDAY 09.20

### SHOPPING

**Belmont Bazaar.** Art, music, food and shopping at the Belmont Hotel, 901 Fort Worth Ave. 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

### DRAG

**My Oh My Show.** A new drag weekly show starts at the House of Blues, 2200 N. Lamar St. 10 p.m. \$10–\$18. MyOhMyTheShow.com.

## MONDAY 09.21

### EVENT

**International Peace One Day.** Music and meditator with Gary Lynn Floyd. Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m.

## TUESDAY 09.22

### FILM

**To Kill a Mockingbird.** Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie 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 09.24

### CABARET

**Judy Chamberlain Jazz.** The jazz vocalist's weekly cabaret performance in the back room of Zippers Hideaway, 3333 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m.

### THEATER

**Murder for Two.** A two-man musical, presented as part of the Off-Broadway on Flora series. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Sept. 24–26. ATPAC.org.

### BROADCAST

**Project Runway.** The latest season of competing designers is underway. Lifetime at 8 p.m.

 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).

### this week's solution

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A	R	A	L	O	B	A	M	A	O	R	L	Y	
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# Cassie Nova

Cassie reflects on parades past

Hello to all my babies and gaybies! Happy Pride! Because it's Pride Weekend, I thought I'd reflect on some of my memories of what has to be one of the best events ever in the gayborhood, The Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade.

My first memory of the parade was not a very good one. I was maybe 15 or 16 years old and seeing some light coverage of the parade on the news. It was just maybe 30 seconds of footage that I watched closely while pretending I wasn't looking at all, and all I saw were drag queens in feathers, dykes on bikes and big leather guys in harnesses. It kind of freaked me out. I did not see not one single regular-looking gay guy. So in my head I thought, "I will never be happy being gay." At the time, I couldn't see the vast-

ness of our culture. They only showed the shocking things from the parade — things that the media thought would make good TV. I know that now, but at the time, it broke my heart. I wasn't any of the things I saw on TV and had no intention of ever being them. Where were just the normal cute guys that I was attracted to? Where were young couples in love?

When I was 19 years old, I attended my first Pride parade. It was one of the best days of my life. To this day, it is still one of my favorite memories. I was dating a cute young man named Steven with a great big ... personality. We were both wearing short-shorts and being our truly authentic gay-ass selves. Back then, I did not get or care about the whole drag thing but Steven was obsessed. He made me go to every drag show we could sneak into. He knew every performer's name. He idolized Whitney Paige. He was a true fan of the art form.

Before the parade started, we were literally skipping from float to float or car to car, saying hi to everybody. We saw Valerie Lohr, who was Miss Gay America at the time, sitting in a convertible, fanning

herself. I think it was the first conversation I had with a drag queen that wasn't in a dark nightclub. She pointed to Stevie's package and told me I was a lucky boy. I blushed and we skipped along.

We perched ourselves in the middle of all the gayness at Cedar Springs and Throckmorton and watched in awe at the diversity of people we saw. Yes, there were drag queens, dykes on bikes and harnessed leather guys with their asses showing ... but there were also lots of just regular guys and girls. There were so many beautiful people out that day. Hot guys and gorgeous gals everywhere. I remember seeing PFLAG in the parade and how great it felt seeing a redneck-looking guy holding up a sign that said "I LOVE MY GAY SON!" I saw a beautiful lesbian couple, both carrying little kids on their shoulders walking hand-in-hand.

The parade ended and everyone made their way to Lee Park for more festivities. Oh my Lanta! The park was packed. I had never seen so many gay people in one place. I remember standing near Arlington Hall and looking over the crowd — people as far as I could see. I saw an elderly gay couple holding hands. It was one of the best things I have ever seen. The normalcy of it was mind-blowing. There were so many couples showing affection with no judgment. I had a beautiful moment of clarity that I was going to be OK being gay. These were my people and I was home.

During the celebration, for that was truly what it was, I remember Valerie Lohr performing in front of Arlington Hall. She looked beautiful. She wore a fabulous blue beaded gown and made me believe she was really singing Whitney Houston's version of "The Star-Spangled Banner" into "One Moment In Time." Seriously, the emotion she had during that song left tears in many an eye. It summed up the emotion I felt that day. Truly a wonderful day.

The next year I was in the parade. I was a member of GLYA (Gay and Lesbian Young Adults) and we wore hot pink capes and told everyone we were our own heroes. *Supergay!* I don't remember if we had our own float or if we just jumped on the DGLA float. Either way, it was a blast.

A few years later, I was doing drag full-time and let me tell you, doing drag at the parade is a completely different experience. It probably wouldn't be so bad if it wasn't so damn hot. There have been years where it was cooler. I remember one year it rained and there where melted drag queens everywhere. You know, cuz sugar melts. We felt like that damn cake from the Donna Summer song, but it was still fun.

For a drag queen, getting to the float, waiting on the float for the parade to start and getting back to the start after it is over are absolutely horrible. But the time on the float waving and throwing candy or beads makes it all worth it. It all happens so fast once we get going. I always try to take mental Polaroids for my memory of the fabulous things I see from up on our float.

I love it when I make eye contact with a friend in the crowd. There is this special split second connection with them that says, "isn't this awesome" or "oh



my God it's hot," or even "gay Pride! Woo-hoo!" I love hearing people scream, "Cassie Nova!" while frantically waving at me. It makes me feel like a genuine superstar.

I love to see people that don't come out to the clubs as much anymore but never miss a parade. I only wish I could stop time for a moment and reminisce with them.

My memories of the parades over the years kind of run together. I remember one year the fabulous Bill Henderson aka Wilomena being pulled behind a boat on rollerblades like she was skiing. Fabulous! I love seeing the Round-Up do their Texas flag coin toss. The amount of giving and support during the parade is a beautiful thing.

Another beautiful thing? The number of shirtless, scantily-clad men doing the most to my hormones. I mean come on, the most beautiful men in the world are gay men.

As our community grows, so must our parade. There is more and more diversity every year. More families with more children every year. I love seeing all the kids who look at the drag queens with a mix of wow and WTF. I think it is just the bright colors. But I guarantee that child will be more well-rounded and well-adjusted just by being exposed to so many fabulous things.

This will be the first Pride parade without Paul Lewis, whom we lost this past year. He would always stand at the beginning of the parade route and make sure things ran smoothly. He was like the fairy godfather of the parade and to so many in our community. The parade is what it is today because of Paul Lewis and the people like him. Paul, you will be missed. So to all the volunteers and community leaders that make the parade happen: Thank you. And to everybody that is going to the parade, I hope you have a blast! See you there.

Remember to love more, bitch less and be fabulous. XOXO, Cassie Nova.

If you have a question of comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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Derek and Marty at Dallas Eagle.



Dancer at Zippers.



Scott and Javier at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Friends hugging at JR.'s Bar & Grill.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Sept. 18-24:**

- **Alexandre's:** Ashleigh Smith on Friday. Chris Chism and the band on Saturday. Alicia Silex on Thursday.
- **Brick/Joe's:** Andrew Christian model Nick Stracener is among the hot dancers from 5-9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and hot dancers 11 a.m.-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** NYC Divas kick off Pride in this official Red Party event at 7 p.m. on Friday. Marti Cummings, Coco deBall and Fifi Dubois are featured.
- **Dallas Eagle:** The Purple Party hosts their Pride edition, SCORE at 9 p.m. on Friday. DFW Leather Corps club night on Friday. Pride Glow Party at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Havana:** Pride weekend kickoff with DJ Nonsense and MC Chris H on Friday.
- **Marty's Live:** Spectrum, the Purple Foundation Dallas Pride tea dance with DJ Roland Belmares and DJ Prince P at 5-11 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Bear Happy Hour pride edition from 6-9 p.m. on Friday. Project Funway fashion competition week 9 at 9 p.m. on Monday.
- **S4:** Gaybingo at 6 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Jason Huff and the Ignition on Friday. Chix on Saturday. Ciao Bella featuring Anton Shaw and Marcella Carmona on Sunday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Bleacher seating first come first seated at noon on Sunday. Backlot celebration hosted by Chanel Champagne after the parade until sunset. ■

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



The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence at Sue Ellen's.





Caleb and Trixy at TMC: The Mining Company.



Sami, Maggie, Phil and Ralph at DIFFA distribution party at Park Place Volvo.







Loch and Justin at the Dallas Eagle.



DIFFA Dallas board chairs at the funds distribution party at Park Place Volvo.



Staff at Liquid Zoo.



Saul at the Tin Room.



Dyce and Kennedy Davenport at The Brick.





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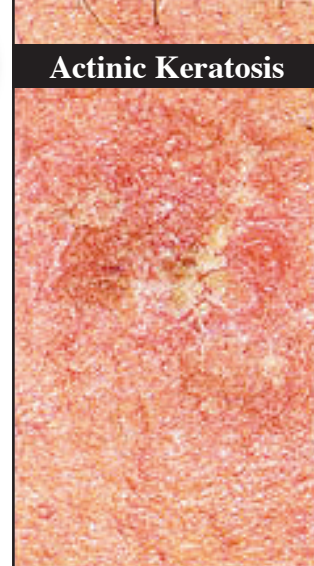
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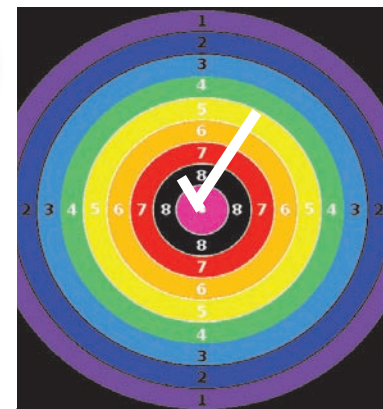
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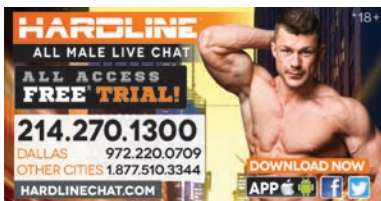
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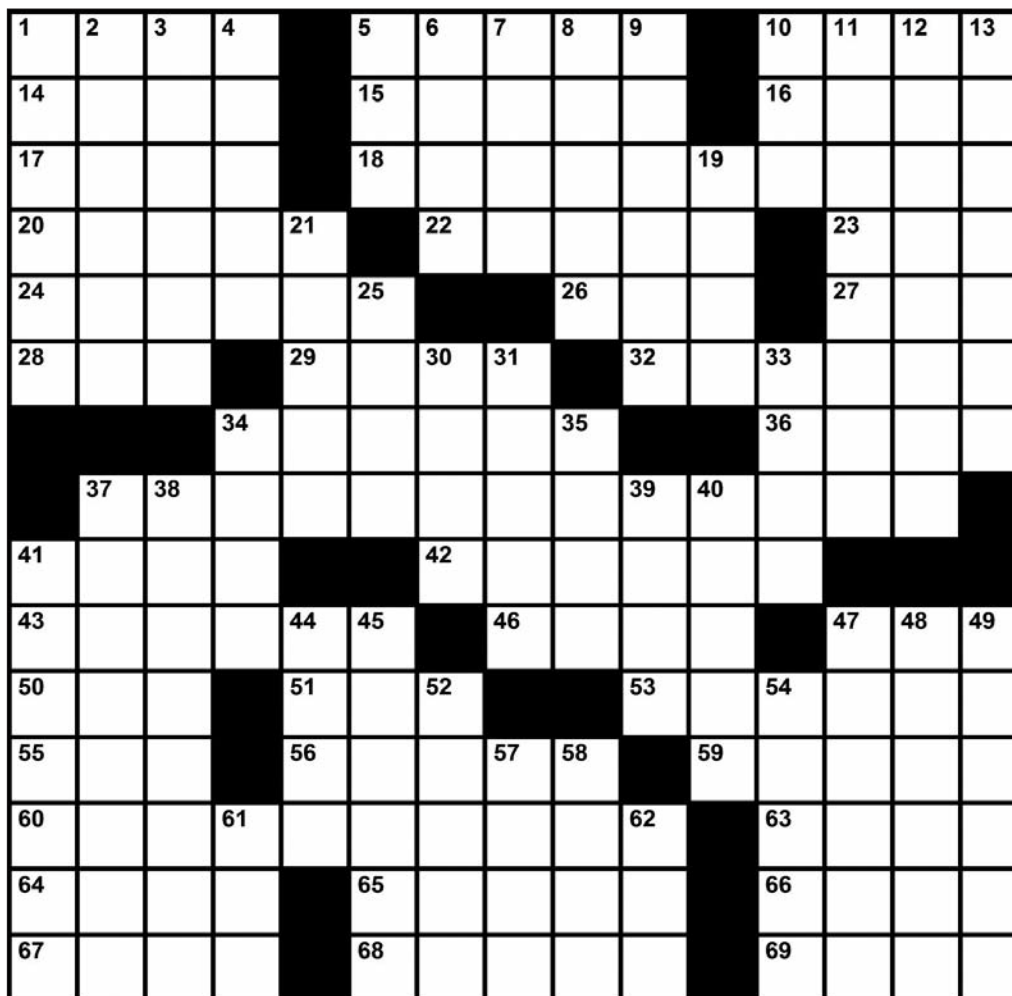
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## q-puzzle



## The Lynch-pin of Comedy

Solution on page 99

#### Across

- Get ready for a trip to P-town
- Gin diluter
- Low-quality meat
- Sea bordering Kazakhstan
- He repealed DADT
- Where to get off in gay Parea
- Funny thespian Lynch
- 2008 movie comedy of 17-Across
- From the top
- Moth tail?
- Coll. basketball competition
- "Oh What a Beautiful \_\_\_"
- Paul Cadmus' output
- One, for James M. Barrie
- In-case connector
- Features of Disney's *Dumbo*
- 2009 James Cameron film
- Have troops in
- Timothy or his sister Tyne
- New TV comedy of 17-Across
- Like a meticulous bottom?
- Comedies that are an  
Oscar Wilde forte
- Insertion marks
- Linda Hunt's  
*The \_\_\_ of Living Dangerously*
- Comics outburst

50 "Yadda, yadda, yadda," briefly

- Emissions-watching org.
- Psycho psycho
- Fashion photographer Herb
- Prolonged attack
- 2000 mockumentary film  
of 17-Across
- Fox comedy with 17-Across
- Top's betting phrase?
- Bone-chilling
- Angelina Jolie's \_\_\_ *Interrupted*
- Hairspray* list
- \_\_\_ Ste. Marie, Mich.
- Femme character in *Mango Kiss*

#### Down

- The \_\_\_ Game*
- Home of Bloody Mary's mom
- "Cock-eyed Optimist"  
shade of yellow
- Calvin of underwear
- Rocky top
- Double reed instrument
- Feisty female in *The Lion King*
- "... \_\_\_ man with seven wives"
- Bianchi's tool
- Native land

- In between breeder sex and birth
- Everything considered
- Sandra Scoppettone genre
- Where to see rabbit ears?
- Dorothy, to Em
- Chemist's condiment
- Dog of Dennis the Menace
- Fine mist
- Fruity drinks
- Rubberneck
- Long-ago time, to Shakespeare
- Gay life style is this to many  
religious conservatives
- Deep stupor
- Big name in shoes
- They hold your meat in a deli
- Biting
- Garr of *Tootsie*
- Bones in the back
- Flyer Earhart
- Men in shorts
- Gets on one's knees
- In a fog
- Filmmaker Marlon
- Via, briefly
- Get dirty
- Explosive stick
- Lube brand



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