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The Premier Media Source for LGBT T

Friday, November 29, 2019



world  
**AIDS**  
day  
twenty  
nineteen





# WORLD AIDS DAY

2019

FREE CONCERT

SPECIAL GUEST

**DIANA ROSS**



**KEKE WYATT**



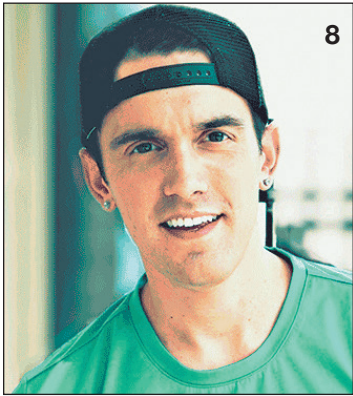
**TEYANA TAYLOR**

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NOV 29<sup>TH</sup> 7:30-9:30PM**

TICKETS AT [AHF.ORG/WAD](http://AHF.ORG/WAD)

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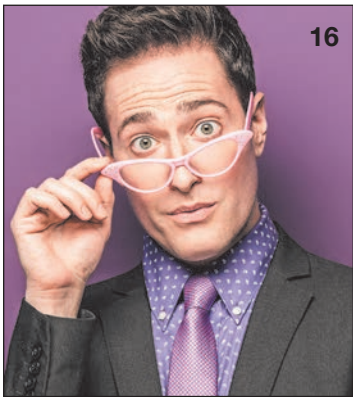




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Design by Kevin Thomas

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## instanTEA

[DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea](http://DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea)

### TCC names Jeremy Wayne executive director



The Turtle Creek Chorale's Board of Directors has voted to appoint Jeremy Wayne as executive director of the organization. Wayne joined the Chorale staff in May 2017 as director of operations and was promoted

to managing director a year ago, assuming executive director duties at that time.

In the last year, Wayne, who joined Turtle Creek Chorale in the fall of 2016 as a singing member, has been instrumental in helping strengthen the organization's finances, board officials said, introducing a new director of development with whom he has worked to create a new development plan. That plan includes Rhapsody, the chorale's upcoming 40th Anniversary Benefit Gala, featuring Idina Menzel. Wayne also created the position of director of patron experience, which will focus on strengthening relationships with the Chorale's patrons.

— Tammye Nash

### KNON finds a new home

KNON-FM, home of Lambda Weekly, an LGBT radio show that's broadcast weekly since 1983, has found a new home after its studio was demolished in the October tornado that cut a swath of destruction across North Dallas.

The new studio is on Coit Road, a few blocks north of LBJ, about a mile from its previous location.

After the tornado, the station was knocked off the air for about 36 hours. Since then, it has been broadcasting from a shed at its transmitter and tower in Cedar Hill with very limited equipment.

On Tuesday, Nov. 19, station manager Dave Chaos signed a new lease and by Friday, programming began using one small office in the new building while the rest of the space is built out. Chaos said he expects construction to be complete sometime in December.

— David Taffet

### Equality Texas celebrates 30 years, hands out awards

Equality Texas recently celebrated its 30th anniversary, spending Saturday evening, Nov. 6.

Equality Texas' history begins in 1978 when lesbian and gay activists recognized the need to be active at the Texas Capitol. In 1989, they incorporated into the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, which changed its name to Equality Texas in 2006.

Acting CEO Angela Hale and veteran journalist Harvey Kronburg emceed the gala, which included the presentation of several awards:

- State Sen. José Rodríguez and state Rep. Senfronia Thompson received the Legacy Award.
- Texas House LGBTQ Caucus co-founders state Reps. Jessica González, Mary González, Celia Israel, Julie Johnson and Erin Zwiener received the Leadership Award.
- State Rep. Sarah Davis received the Profile In Courage Award.
- Monica Roberts received the Transgender Activist Award.
- Kimberly and Kai Shappley received the Glen Maxey Activism Award.
- Apple received the Business Champion Award.
- Gearbox Software received the Business Leadership Award.
- VisitDallas and Texas Welcomes All former CEO Phillip Jones received the Business Association Champion Award.

— Tammye Nash

### LGBT Chamber brews up business in Plano

The LGBT Chamber of Commerce has been brewing up business in Dallas for years with a monthly morning networking event. In January, a new Brewing Up Business event begins in Plano.

Brewing Up Business Plano takes place the first Tuesday of the month starting Jan. 7, 2020 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at 3100 Independence Parkway Suite 300, Plano 75075. The program is free to Chamber members, \$10 in advance for non-members and \$20 at the door.

More information is available at the North Texas LGBTChamber.com.

— David Taffet



The Texas' House's five openly-LGBT members received the Leadership Award at Equality Texas' anniversary celebration.







# Happiest of Holidays

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# THE GAY AGENDA



Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammy Nash at [nash@dallasvoice.com](mailto:nash@dallasvoice.com) or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at [taffet@dallasvoice.com](mailto:taffet@dallasvoice.com) by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.

## NOVEMBER

### • Nov. 29: Diana Ross World AIDS Day concert

AHF and AIN host a free concert with Diana Ross, R&B singer KeKe Wyatt and singer Teyana Taylor at 7:30 p.m. at The Bomb Factory, 2713 Canton St. Admission is free but reservations are required. For reservations, visit [EventBrite.com](http://EventBrite.com).

### • Nov. 30: 6th Annual Salvation Sisters

The DFW Sisters will hold their sixth annual Salvation Sisters event, from 9:30 p.m.-1 a.m. on the corner of Cedar Springs Road and Throckmorton Street, in front of Hunky's. The Sisters will be ringing bells and raising money for the food pantry. For information visit [DFWSisters.org](http://DFWSisters.org).

## DECEMBER

### • Dec. 2: Freakmas

Cassie's Freakmas Show with auction and prizes from various merchants and individuals arranged by Chad Mantoath benefits Sam Houston Elementary School at 11 p.m. at JR's Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Dec. 2: Stonewall Democrats Holiday Party

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas hold their annual holiday party from 6-10 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, featuring a silent auction to raise funds for the upcoming election year. Will also feature catered food and the presentation of several awards, including the Pink Pump Award, the Board Member of the Year Award and the Elected Official of the Year Award. For information visit [StonewallDemocratsofDallas.org](http://StonewallDemocratsofDallas.org).

### • Dec. 3: Classic Chassis Car Club

LGBT car enthusiasts meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave. For more information visit [ClassicChassis.com](http://ClassicChassis.com).

### • Dec. 3: Oak Lawn Committee meeting

Meetings of the organization that weighs in on development in Oak Lawn are open to the public at 6:30 p.m. at Melrose Hotel, 3015 Oak Lawn Ave.

### • Dec. 3: Prime Timers

First Tuesday lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Golden Corral, 3312 Forest Lane. [chapters.thrimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth](http://chapters.thrimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth).

### • Dec. 3: Red Ribbon

Commemorate World AIDS Day at Red Ribbon presented by Dallas Red Foundation and Resource Center frp, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Hilton Dallas Park Cities, 5954 Luther Lane.



The DFW Sisters hold their sixth annual Salvation Sisters event Saturday, Nov. 30, beginning at 9:30 p.m. in front of Hunky's. See listings for details.

### • Dec. 5: Brewing Up Business

Develop new business relationships by giving your 30-second elevator speech, exchange business cards and learn more about this month's sponsor at 8:30 a.m. at Crickles and Co., 4000 Cedar Springs Road Suite E. \$10 in advance. \$20 at the door. Free to LGBT Chamber members.

### • Dec. 5: GLFD Holiday Party

Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas holds its holiday party to thank supporters from 6-8 p.m. at Musume sushi restaurant, 2330 Flora St. in Dallas. For information visit [GLFD.org](http://GLFD.org).

### • Dec. 6: Federal Club

Holiday party. [DFWFederalClub.org](http://DFWFederalClub.org)

### • Dec. 7: Lost Souls Rugby Toy Drive and Tacky Sweater Contest

Lost Souls Rugby toy drive benefits Adelfa Botello Callejo Elementary School and the tacky sweater contest is just for fun from 6-9 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. [RoundupSaloon.com](http://RoundupSaloon.com).

### • Dec. 7: Sleigh Ball

BearDance presents Sleigh Ball benefiting Resource Center from 9:30

**Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m.** on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with **David Taffet**, **Lerone Landis** and the late **Patti Fink**. This week's guest is The Women's Chorus of Dallas Artistic Director **Melinda Imthurn**; Silver Pride Project Coffee and Convo for LGBTQ+ seniors meets Mondays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road, Tuesdays from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Grauwlyer Park Branch Library, 2146 Gilford St. Wednesdays for Breakfast Club from 10 a.m.-noon at Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave. and Thursdays for Rainbow Rec from 10 am.-noon at Reverchon Recreation Center, 3505 Maple Ave.; **Unwired Group of Crystal Meth Anonymous** meets

Sunday at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St.; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail [Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org); LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets the second and fourth Sunday from 2-4 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email [pegasussquares@gmail.com](mailto:pegasussquares@gmail.com); **Dallas**

**Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run at Oak Lawn Park, near the intersection of Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 8:30 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Mondays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Thrive**, program of Resource Center for LGBTQ adults 50+ support group every Monday from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by free lunch at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at noon, 6:30 p.m., 7:45 p.m. and 11 p.m. at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 6525 Inwood Road.

Call 214-267-0222 for details; **LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** gay-identified Toastmasters group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at the First Unitarian Church, 4015 Normandy Road (does not meet on Mondays that are holidays); **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.



p.m.-1:30 a.m. at Dallas Eagle,  
5740 Maple Ave.

• **Dec. 7-8: The Nutcracker**

North Central Ballet presents The Nutcracker with discounts sponsored by Dallas Voice. With promo code: BALLET, buy one and at one half off at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday at Will Rogers Auditorium, 3401 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. NorthCentralBallet.com.

• **Dec. 8: The Dallas Way Winter Brunch**

Annual brunch benefiting The Dallas Way hosted by Richard Shampain and Jeff Henderson from noon-2 p.m. at 4060 Cochran Chapel. \$50 reservation, \$60 at the door. TheDallasWay.org.

• **Dec. 8: Prime Timers**

Games hosted at a private home in Carrollton. Call for address and directions 214-218-0912.

chapters.theprimetimersww.com/  
dallasfortworth.

• **Dec. 8: Stocking auction**

Stockings benefit Legacy Founders Cottage from 7-10 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Dec. 9: Creating Change Host Committee Meeting**

The Task Force needs volunteers to plan the January 15-19 Creating Change Conference in Dallas. Committees include fundraising, special events, hospitality, recruitment. Dinner at 7 p.m. and meeting from 7:30-9 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For more information visit CreatingChange.org.

• **Dec. 9: Black Tie Dinner Wrap Party**

Black Tie Dinner distributes checks to its 2019 beneficiaries from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Southside Music Hall at Gilley's, 1135 S. Lamar St. BlackTie.org.

pet of the week / JENSEN



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# Risky business

Risky sexual behaviors,  
lack of knowledge impacting  
younger generations

**MATHEW SHAW** | Contributing Writer  
mathews.yb@gmail.com

**I**n a reversal of decades of progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, millennials and members of Generation Z are more likely to report risky sexual behaviors and low knowledge of the virus, according to a survey released Monday, Nov. 25.

The survey also noted that HIV diagnoses for people ages 25 to 29 have increased from 2012 to 2016, meaning that young people account for a majority of new diagnoses.

The survey, *Owning HIV: Young Adults and the Fight Ahead*, asked a diverse set of 1,596 millennials ages 23 to 36) and members of Generation Z (age 18 to 22) online over the summer about their attitudes and perceptions of HIV.

Merck, a global biopharmaceutical company, sponsored the survey in partnership with Prevention Access Campaign, a health equity initiative that fights HIV and HIV-related stigma.

The survey found that HIV stigma remains a barrier for getting positive individuals the care they need. Of the HIV-negative millennials who participated, 28 percent said they have avoided hugging, talking to or being friends with

someone with HIV, and 30 percent prefer not to interact at all with someone with HIV.

For 36-year-old Josh Robbins, an HIV-positive activist, the stigma is overwhelming.

"It's sometimes even worse than even the medical problems or issues that may arise," Robbins said. "Having somebody that looks me up and down and just says that they're not wanting to be friends with me or want to avoid anybody that's living with HIV and doesn't even want a hug — it is heartbreaking that in 2019 we still have these attitudes and perceptions about HIV."

Robbins found out he was positive in 2012 at age 29. He recorded himself visiting the doctor and receiving the diagnosis then posted the video on YouTube, where it now has almost 150,000 views. He admitted that he feared HIV-positive individuals before he learned his status.

"I was terrified of people that were positive, and I'm embarrassed and ashamed of it," he recalled. "[On dating apps], if somebody was honest, and they told me what their status was, and it was positive, I blocked them."

More than 67 percent of HIV-negative young adults are more concerned about HIV than other sexually transmitted infections, according to the survey. Yet 54 percent have not used condoms or pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), a system of drugs that prevent HIV infection that has been shown to be effective at reducing the risk of infection, according to

the Centers for Disease Control.

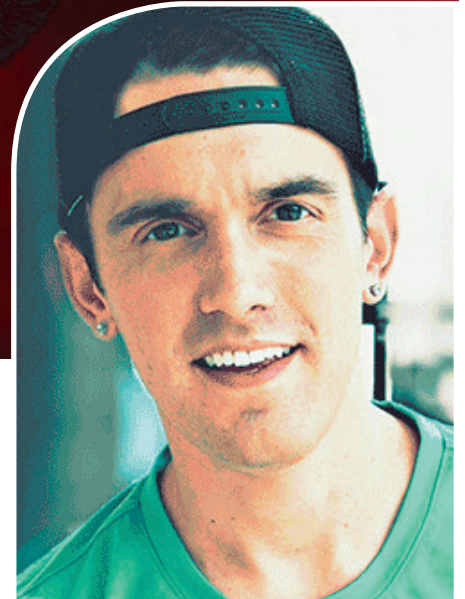
Among HIV-positive respondents, 75 percent of millennials and 60 percent of Gen Z have contracted HIV through sex without using condoms or PrEP, the survey noted.

Robbins said he can recall how he was exposed to the virus. "People talk about risky behaviors, and that language never really spoke to me," he said. "If I believed that something was risky, I don't know that I would have done it. For me, I know the exact moment that exposure happened. Some people know that, and some people don't."

Many young adults are unaware that having an undetectable viral load poses no risk of transmitting the virus sexually, the survey also found. Only 31 percent of HIV-positive respondents in the survey knew that being undetectable meant there was no risk of transmitting the virus sexually. And almost 50 percent of HIV-negative respondents believed the virus could be transmitted even if the person was undetectable.

Particularly troubling for Robbins was the finding that 33 percent of HIV-positive Gen Zers and 38 percent of positive millennials said they forgot to take their medication for three or more days in a row, and also that more than 30 percent of diagnosed respondents believed they could stop treatment if they felt better.

"Taking our medicine is the way that we stay alive or that we have good health or that we at least control the virus and become undetectable," Robbins



Josh Robbins

noted. "The knowledge gap of someone believing that they can just stop taking their medication because they feel better is certainly startling, and it just showcases that we need to do a better job of educating" people.

People under 35 accounted for 56 percent of new HIV diagnoses in 2017, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, a nonprofit organization that focuses on national health issues. Robbins noted that, for the first time, the survey exposed a knowledge gap among generations regarding HIV prevention and treatment.

But, he warned, "I think it would be a mistake for us to overly think and point fingers as to why a knowledge gap exists. The first thing we've got to know is why that knowledge gap exists, and now we do for the first time."

As an activist, Robbins acknowledged that he often forgets that people outside his bubble do not talk about HIV as much as he does. "As somebody that is a positive person, instead of saying there is a huge knowledge gap, [say] there is a huge amount of potential for knowledge and growth," he said. ■



# Judge: Stacy Bailey case can move forward

Ruling declares one parent's complaint can't be basis for discrimination against an LGBT teacher

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Judge Sam Lindsey, in a ruling denying a motion by Mansfield Independent School District to dismiss a lawsuit against the district by a lesbian teacher, referred to the U.S. Constitution's Equal Protection Clause and quoted from the U.S. Supreme Court's *Romer v. Evans* ruling that voided a Colorado constitutional amendment prohibiting any legislation or judicial action that protected anyone

based on sexual orientation.

Mansfield elementary school art teacher Stacy Bailey had filed suit against the district in May 2018 after she was put on administrative leave and then re-assigned to a high school because she let her class know she was engaged to another woman.

"The 'negative reaction' some members of the community may have to homosexuals is not a proper basis for discriminating against them," Lindsey wrote in his opinion, which also referred to *Brown v. Board of Ed.* He said the parent's and school district's perceptions of homosexuality were based on "unsupported assumptions, outdated stereotypes and animosity," making those perceptions "necessarily irrational."

"The question, therefore, is whether bias concerning Bailey's sexual orientation furnishes a rational basis for Man-



Stacy Bailey, left, and her wife Julie Vasquez

sfield I.S.D.'s decision to place her on an eight-month administrative leave," Lindsey wrote in his decision, "and, ultimately, not allow her to return as a teacher to Charlotte Anderson Elementary School."

He wrote that on the face of the pleadings, there's no job-related justification

for putting Bailey on her eight-month administrative leave and then refusing to give her back her job. Then he wrote that the school district failed to argue how her sexual orientation bears any ra-

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**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:**

- ▶ Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- ▶ BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

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- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ▶ **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

These are not all the possible side effects of BIKTARVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking BIKTARVY.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.FDA.gov/medwatch](http://www.FDA.gov/medwatch), or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

**Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with BIKTARVY.**

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- ▶ If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [BIKTARVY.com](http://BIKTARVY.com) for program information.



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# Escape from the traffickers

Woman forced into sex trade helping establish Bochy's Place to help victims build a new life after escaping human traffickers

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Although it's been more than 20 years since she was a victim of human trafficking, Chong Kim's life is still threatened by those who kidnapped and trafficked her. While not every story of forced prostitution is as dramatic, her life from the time she was kidnapped until she escaped through a hotel ventilation duct reads like something out of James Bond.

Rachelle Mendonca is a psychologist who works with human trafficking victims. In North Texas, human trafficking is a \$99 million industry, she said. And those who manage to escape their captors need drug treatment, counseling to deal with the sexual abuse they endured, medical care to address physical abuse they suffered and training in life skills they never acquired during their captivity.

To help what she says is only a small fraction of those who have been victims of human trafficking, Mendonca is opening Bochy's Place, a home where women can live for up to two years while receiving counseling, training and treatment.

"We set them up for success," she said.

Kim is one of the women Mendonca has worked with to help other victims, and she described Kim as particularly

helpful because she was a victim herself.

Kim, who identifies herself at times as bi, grew up in Oklahoma. She said she was beaten by her mother and abused from the age of 3. In 1994, when she was in her late teens, she moved to Dallas and met a man who, she said, was posing as a Marine. After they were together a few weeks, he told her he wanted to take her to Florida to meet his parents.

Rather than driving Kim to Florida, he instead took her to an abandoned house in Enid, Okla.

"I'm geographically challenged," she said, explaining why didn't realize until then they were driving in the wrong direction.

Once they arrived, her captor told her, "You're going to do what I say." Here was this Marine who had told her she was beautiful, she said. So, when he choked her, raped her and beat her, her first reaction was to wonder what she had done wrong. After all, that was how she had been raised, Kim said.

After three weeks in captivity, Kim escaped. She ran to a shopping center, but no one there would help her. And when her captor caught up with her, grabbed her by the hair and took her back to the house where he began making frantic phone calls. Someone should have been by to pick her up already.

Finally, two men came and transported her to a reservation in Nevada.

From there, Kim said, she was "sent out" with 20 to 30 other women to a variety of places around the country. They would be put in a truck and driven to the first location. There, a madam would choose a few of them, then send the rest on to the next location, where maybe five would be chosen. The kidnapped women were left to work at those locations for a week or two before being moved on to



Chong Kim

the next location or taken back to the reservation.

The women were forced to work naked, Kim said, and the only choice she had was to cooperate, adding, "The only way I could get out of that was to become a madam."

She was, she said, constantly terrorized. "If you have a baby, they take the baby," Kim said. If you cooperated, you might get to see your baby. "They'll torture your best friend, [telling you], 'You shoot her, or I'll shoot you,'" she said. "If you're so sore from having sex with men, you'll have sex with girls. Everything is about survival."

After a year and a half in captivity, Kim did manage to escape. She was working at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas and had befriended people on the maintenance staff. One of her few fond memories of childhood was watching James Bond movies with her father, so just like in those movies, she asked the staff about a way to escape though a back entrance.

They told her how to escape her room through a ventilation duct and then get off that floor by sliding down a laundry chute. When she went down that chute, she said, she landed in a pile of sheets, startling the women pulling sheets from the basket and putting them in a washer.

But she got up, brushed herself off as if everything were totally normal and walked out a service entrance to the hotel. Someone driving a Mercedes near the hotel picked her up, she said, and she carjacked him to make her getaway.

From there, Kim moved around quite a bit, just trying to stay just a step ahead

of the traffickers. She became roommates with three gay men in Raleigh for a few months, but when she got an anonymous call warning her that the traffickers knew where she was, she moved to another city.

Then Kim moved back to Dallas, and here she found a group that helped women get out of trafficking. But it was Christian group that wanted to baptize her, so she left and found a friendlier program in Minnesota.

Kim said she found that 12-step programs didn't work for her in battling her drug addictions, because she always got stuck on the step requiring her to say she was powerless over her addictions. She never felt powerless, she declared; if she were powerless, she would have continued submitting to her captors.

By 1999, Kim was back in Dallas. She met a man, got married and became pregnant. But before her son was born, her husband was dead.

Since escaping, Kim has worked as a consultant to the FBI, beginning when an FBI agent came to her door asking for help with Korean and Chinese organized crime. Kim is Korean. Her work, she

ESCAPE, Next Page



# Ask Candy

Improving a current relationship, reconsidering an old on

Dear Candy,

I'm finding it difficult to bring up to my partner that I'd like to try couples counseling. It isn't that things are wrong; they're just not completely right. He's very pessimistic, and I don't want him to blame himself for my wanting to seek third-party help. How can I break the ice on this difficult conversation?

— Wanting Help

Dear Wanting Help,

The best way to set up an important conversation is to ask your partner when a good time would be for the two of you to have about a 30-minute conversation. Give him the topic of the conversation



Candy Marcum  
Advice Columnist



so he doesn't have to wonder what's up with you and him. No alcohol; no TV; put down electronic devices. Find a place in the house where you are sitting and facing each other.

Use what is called a "soft start-up." The data shows that whether using either a soft start-up or harsh start-up, the rest of the conversation will stay in that style.

Think about the two to three messages you want to give to your partner. For example, "It isn't that things are wrong; they're just not completely right." Or, "It isn't about one of us; it's about both of us, and how we connect and relate to one another." Say, "I believe that couples

counseling can help us have a more fulfilling relationship."

These are the messages you put in your letter to me stated above.

Couples Counseling is not only appropriate for problems within a relationship but also for helping a couple have better conversations and, therefore, better connections.

— Good luck, Candy

Dear Candy,

I had a catastrophic breakup with my ex-girlfriend this time last year, and, while it didn't end well, deep down we can't deny that there will always be something there. Recently, she reached

out to me to rekindle our flame, but I'm very hesitant to put myself back in a situation that ended messy. What should my next step be?

— Hesitant

Dear Hesitant,

I've heard people talk about a relationship in terms of love: "It can't be over, because we love each other." But a relationship takes more than just love. It takes respect, trust, dependability, commitment, teamwork and friendship. Love alone is not enough.

I know that last sentence is not very romantic. But it is reality. Friendship is a very important characteristic of a healthy and fulfilling partnership. Sure, it's about whether you love her. But do you like her?

Listen to yourself. I hear real concern on your part about getting involved with your ex again. Whatever your concern and hesitation are about, pay attention to you. It may also help to run this reunion with friends and family who know you two. Their feedback may help you make that decision of letting the past stay in the past or giving it another go.

— Good luck, Candy



## ESCAPE

From Previous Page

said, has included going to bars on Cedar Springs Road to identify traffickers hanging out at the bars there.

Kim has also written a book called *Broken Silence*, and she's working with Mendonca to open Bochy's Place.

Not all victims of human trafficking go through the same situation as Kim endured. For example, some teens are recruited, Mendonca said, and then continue to live at home. But the traffickers warn them that if they tell anyone what's happening to them, their parents will be killed.

Still, Mendonca said, there are signs. Teachers should look for children suddenly wearing designer clothes and having their nails professionally manicured, and those who are suddenly well versed in sexual activity.

At a hotel, an older man with a younger girl who looks very disengaged is another sign, as is seeing a lot of activity in a certain room. Mendonca advises hotel desk staff to call police and ask for a welfare check if they see something

suspicious, noting that someone who has someone else always answering for them is a sign something is wrong.

Around the world, 20 to 40 million people are victims of human trafficking. In this country, the number is about 300,000, with 80,000 of those being minors.

Global profits top \$150 billion.

Bochy's Place, Mendonca's dream, will help a comparatively small number of people through education, medical care, mentoring, financial coaching and job counseling. After two years, she said, Bochy's Place will help these victims find an apartment and will follow up as long as necessary.

The land for the project has been donated, and a Fort Worth architect has drawn up plans to build the next phase of homes. Now Mendonca's looking for contractors and donations to build a safe community where those victims can get their lives back. ■

For more information, go to [BochysPlace.com](http://BochysPlace.com). The book *Broken Silence* is available at [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).



## JUDGE

From Page 9

tional relationship to her competency as an elementary school teacher, a position she'd held for 10 years, winning teacher of the year twice.

On the first day of classes, Mansfield teachers traditionally bring in family pictures to share with their classes, so students can get to know them better. That's what Bailey did. But one parent filed a complaint, claiming Bailey had shown the class sexually inappropriate photos.

That same parent filed a second complaint after Bailey mentioned to a class that Jasper Johns' partner was another artist, Robert Rauchenberg. Yet no complaint was made about her telling a class about artist Frida Kahlo and her partner, artist Diego Rivera.

Bailey, who has legally married her partner, was accused of promoting the "homosexual agenda."

Bailey's attorney, Jason Smith, said Lindsey's ruling indicates that "outdated attitudes about LGBT teachers can't ever serve as a basis for discrimination in

our schools." He said this ruling would be heard loud and clear by superintendents across Texas.

While Dallas and Fort Worth have gotten it right, he said, suburbs and rural school districts haven't always done the right thing. "Mansfield is a growing and diverse community," Smith said. "but I don't know if its old leadership has caught up to its new diverse population."

Smith called the decision a road map as to how to try the case. He said he's shooting for a late summer trial. He said Lindsey's ruling is a huge win for LGBT students and teachers and is something that every school superintendent should have on the front burner.

Although Bailey asks for financial compensation in her lawsuit against the district to pay legal fees as well as compensate her for lost promotions while on leave, she's more interested in MISD putting nondiscrimination policies in place that will protect other LGBT teachers as well as students. ■





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■ commUNITYvoices

Note to my younger self:

Don't ever give up hope

Dear Jeff,

It's 1989, you're 30 years old. And you are about to hear the most terrifying words you'll ever hear in your entire life: You are HIV positive. Your world will come crashing down around you, and you'll feel alone and full of shame.

I want you to know that you're going to be OK.

I know it doesn't seem this way right now, but you'll be all right. Telling the people closest to you — your partner, your family and your friends — will be difficult and emotional for you. But they will still love you, just the same. They'll support and lift you up, in good times and bad, even when things seem darkest, and you are forced to face your demons.

You'll find a good doctor, but right now there is only one drug to treat HIV — AZT — and it doesn't really work when taken by itself. So, your doctor will refer you to a therapist to help you deal with your diagnosis.

While in therapy, you'll reveal to another human for the first time that you were abused as a child by your father, a secret that you swore you would take to your grave. You won't be able to even look the therapist in the eye, and your own eyes will be full of tears and sadness. But he will comfort and guide you, and from there you will embark on a life-long journey of healing and forgiveness.

You'll continue with your college education in the midst of your diagnosis and finally get that degree that seemed so elusive right out of high school. The joy you will feel at this accomplishment will be like no other. You did it! And your family and friends will celebrate this life achievement with you. You will be happy.

When you go to an HIV support group for help, you'll be put on a mailing list to receive Positively Aware magazine where you'll read and learn about the virus. You'll start volunteering for TPAN, the agency that produces the magazine, and eventually be hired to answer phones and perform data entry, and one



Jeff Berry  
Positive Thoughts



day you will become editor.

It will become your life's work and your proudest achievement.

Your partner Jim will propose to you, and you will say, "Yes!" You'll have a commitment ceremony and buy a condo together. Eventually your 16-year relationship will end, but you will remain friends for life.

But life will once again turn dark and scary.

Soon after you and Jim break up, Mom's long fight with cancer will come to an end, and you and your family will be by her side as she draws her last breath at home in bed — her final wish. While your biggest fan and one of your greatest teachers in life will be physically gone, she will live on in your heart and your memories. Her love and her grace will continue to guide you throughout your life.

Your future husband, Stephen, you'll meet at a bar not long after you move out to live on your own. You'll fall madly in love and eventually move in and build a life together and will one day legally marry (Yes, you will be able to do that!).

You'll live long enough to take advantage of effective antiretroviral therapy, unlike many of your friends.

Warning: Those early drugs have some pretty severe side effects. Hang in there! The kidney stones from Crixivan and diarrhea from Viracept will eventually be replaced by medications that are easier to take with fewer and fewer side effects,

until one day, decades later, you'll be on one pill, once a day.

The greatest gift and opportunity in life will come when you are given a platform to share your story of survival and help others share their own stories, too. It is not something that you will take lightly. You understand that you have a responsibility to get the facts right and to be willing to admit when you are wrong or have made a mistake.

You will be given great license to be creative in the work you do, and you'll travel around the world and meet amazing advocates and researchers who are working to end the epidemic.

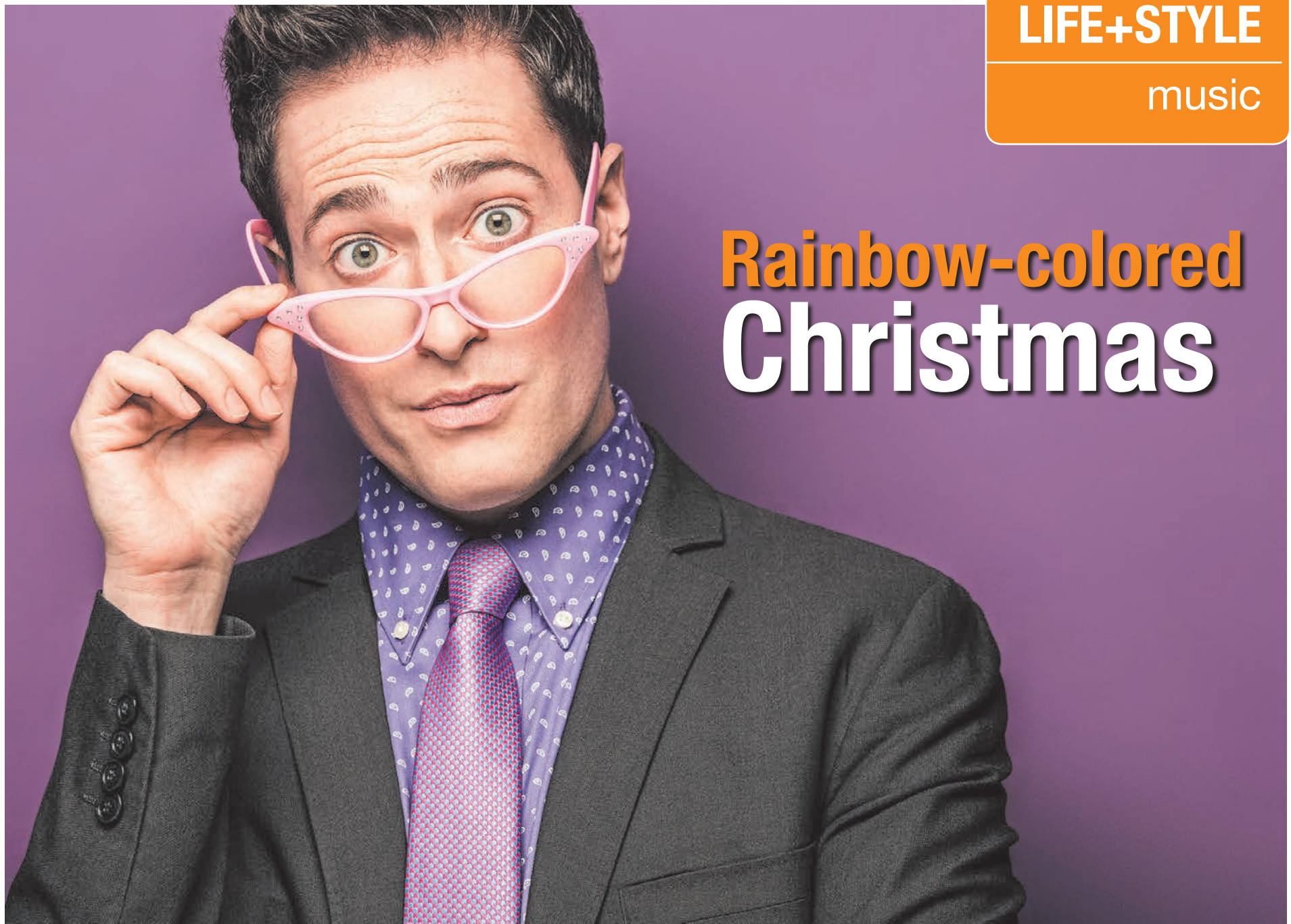
While there will certainly be bumps along the way, know that you're not alone on this journey. Don't be afraid to ask for help, and when you give back and help others along the way, you'll get so much back in return.

The world will be very different in 30 years, but hope has sustained you this far, and so it will continue to do so. Don't ever give up hope.

Take care of yourself. ■

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





# Rainbow-colored Christmas

Parodist Randy Rainbow out with new music for a caroliscious CD of holiday tunes

**L**ook out Mariah Carey! Randy Rainbow has released a Christmas album that rivals yours. *Hey Gurl, It's Christmas* (Broadway Records) has everything you want to unwrap in a Randy Rainbow holiday recording. The title track, co-written by Rainbow and Marc Shaiman, is seasonally sassy, combines a sense of humor with the spirit of the holidays. Rainbow's take on "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" features Kathy Griffin and Alan Cumming playing his shrinks. Norm Lewis joins Rainbow for the more straightforward "Merry Christmas Darling/What Are You Do-

ing New Year's Eve" medley, which is followed by the hilarious "My Favorite Things" parody number "Trump's Favorite Things," featuring Trump impersonator John DiDomenico. And all of this is before Rainbow is joined by Lorna Luft on "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town."

We chatted with Rainbow about teaming with celebrity collaborators and how a live show differs from YouTube. ■

— Gregg Shapiro

**Dallas Voice: You're known for your parodies. What would you say are the challenges and rewards of writing a new Christmas song, such as the title track of your new album?** Randy Rainbow: I found limited challenges — it was only rewarding. It was exciting for me, because I got to work with Marc Shaiman, who is an idol of mine. We sat in the room where

he wrote *Hairspray* and *Smash* and *Mary Poppins Returns*, among other amazing things. It was really exciting. If there was a challenge... I originally set out to write the gayest Christmas song we possibly could, as I told Marc. I realized, as I was writing the lyrics, that I wanted to add some substance and some kind of angle to it. I ended up gearing it more towards my specific audience, which is like so many people, consumed with news and social media. It became my musical prescription to dial it back for the holidays and enjoy yourself a little bit.

**Being a Jewish songwriter yourself, why do you think so many of the best and most enduring carols, including "White Christmas," "The Christmas Song," "Silver Bells," "Winter Wonderland," "It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and "I'll Be Home For Christmas" were written by Jewish composers?**

Because we know we're going to get paid at the end [*laughs*]. It's an interesting thing. As a Jewish writer-person, I don't know if I can be objective about that. For some reason, it's in our DNA that we write good Christmas music. Maybe [it's because] there's no pressure. We're kind of removed from it enough to just have a good time and write something that's creatively satisfying. We're not thinking about all of the other *mishegas*.

**Hey Gurl, It's Christmas has a marvelous lineup of guest artists including Lorna Luft, Kathy Griffin, Alan Cumming, Norm Lewis and Trump impersonator John Di Domenico. What does it mean to you to have that kind of artistic support?** It's amazing! That's been one of the most thrilling parts of getting some notoriety. Getting to connect with so many of my heroes. This was the first opportunity to present that in a concrete sort of way in that I got to collaborate with them.





The fact that they all said yes as soon as I asked them was mind-boggling to me. These are people who have been heroes of mine for many years, so to be associated with them on any level is a thrill.

**Di Domenico can be heard on your brilliant parody song “Trump’s Favorite Things.” Have you heard from the Trump clan regarding any of your parodies of them?** The actual Trump clan? I’ve not heard from anybody. I’ve not even been blocked yet on Twitter, although I try every day. I have heard from some whistleblowers that I do have fans within the administration. I’m assuming it’s Melania, although I have no concrete evidence.

**You also perform more straightforward renditions of “Merry Christmas, Darling/What Are You Doing New Year’s Eve?” “Make Someone Happy” and “The Christmas Movie Medley.” How important was it for you to show that side of yourself?** It was very important to me but more important to my mother, who relishes mostly in the compliments that people like my singing. To have the opportunity to showcase a little more of the non-comedic part of that was very nice. Kind of my Hanukkah gift to her.

**You have a series of concert dates through January. How is that experi-**

**ence unique?** It was kind of a challenge at the beginning to figure out how we would translate this video experience that people were liking to the live stage. It was kind of easy for me because I started out on stage. As a kid, when I was in Florida, I was playing shows on the condo circuit and doing regional theater. I was familiar with that format. It was a challenge to find a team to work with me. I found my musical director, Jesse Kissel, who did a great job in taking the arrangements that I threw together for myself for the videos and turned them into live musical experiences. I have a great band, some of Broadway’s best musicians, behind me. It brought it to a new level and added a new layer to what I was already doing.

**You offer a “Randy Rainbow for President 2020” T-shirt. What can you tell the readers about your platform as a candidate?** My platform is really just selling merchandise. So, I’m glad it worked, and you bought a T-shirt. I don’t know if we really want me to run for president. You never know what could happen. To be slightly more serious, I hope that if I’m doing anything with these videos, it’s injecting a little bit of humor and levity into these dark times. I hope that people remember to laugh as much as possible.

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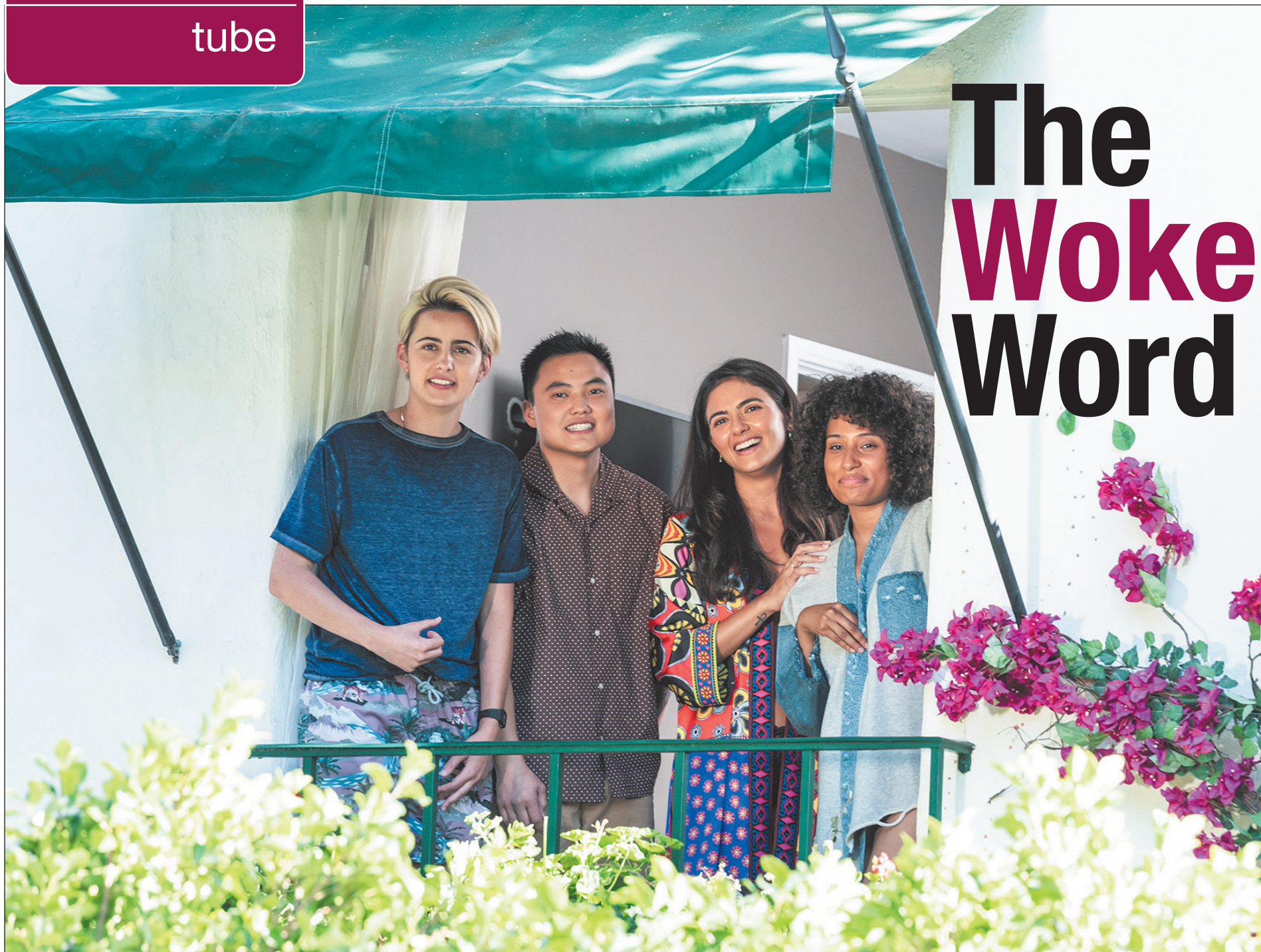
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# The Woke Word



'The L-Word' reboots with a more inclusive 'Generation Q'

**A**iring for six seasons starting in 2004, Showtime's *The L-Word* offered a Sapphic-centric L.A.-set successor to *Queer As Folk*. While groundbreaking, audacious and sexy (more than 110 sex scenes during its run!), creator Ilene Chaiken and her creative team were responsible for one of the most loathed, insane — literally! — main characters on cable TV: Jenny Schecter (Mia Kirschner), whose unsolved murder served as framework

and point of contention during the show's final season and a well-meaning but unflattering, inaccurate, cringe-y trans representation in Max (Danielle Sea).

But redemption is a theme in America. On Dec. 8, Showtime will premiere a follow-up series, *The L-Word: Generation Q*, with Marja-Lewis Ryan as showrunner. And boy! Does it acknowledge and make up for the sins of the past with ethnic diversity both in front of and behind the camera — including Latina screenwriters Tatiana Suarez-Pico (*Parenthood*) and Nancy Mejía (*Vida*); authentic trans representation; and socially

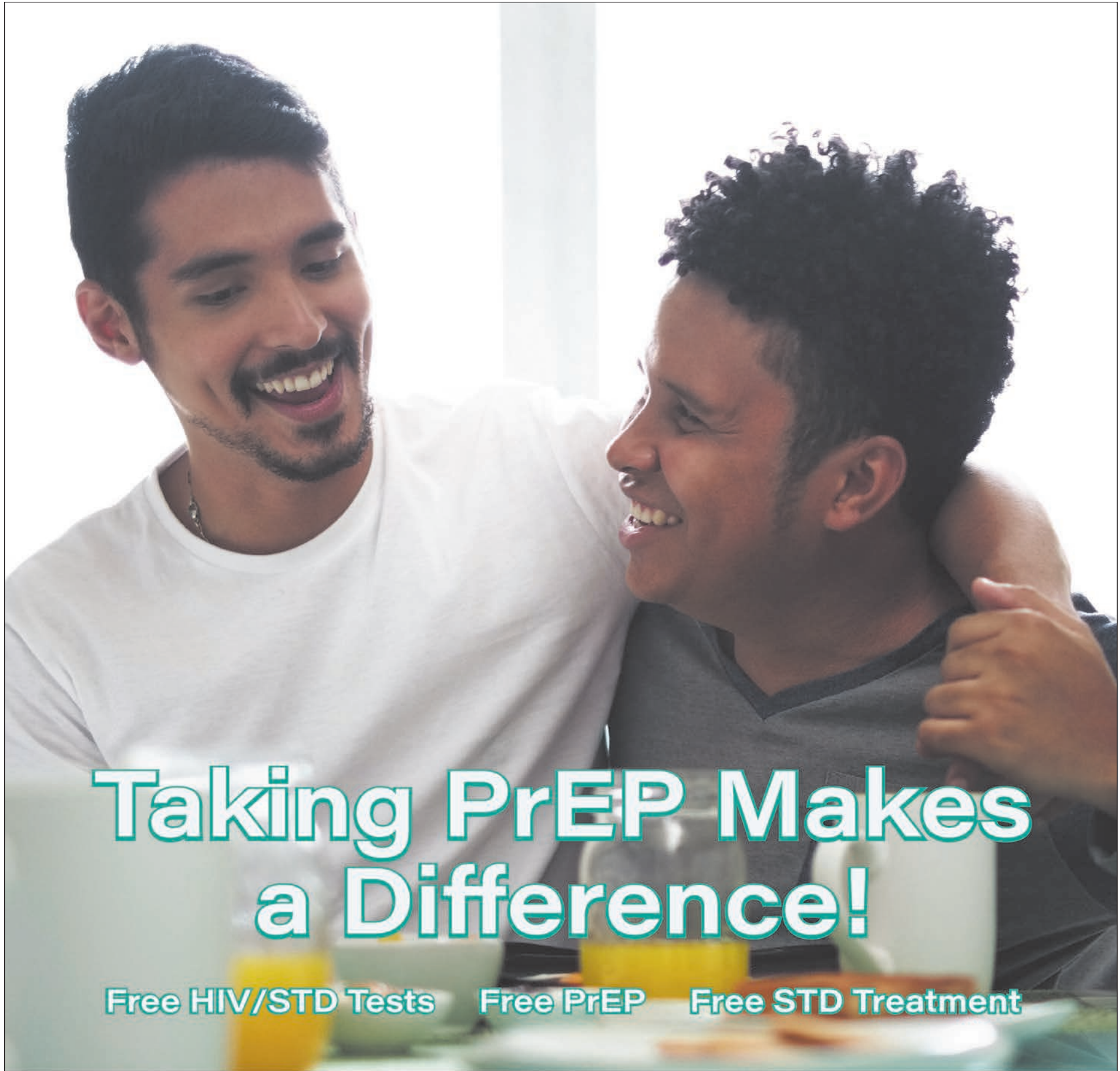
aware, hugely entertaining, drama-filled storylines involving both the original's characters and a fresh batch of new "Gen Q" faces.

Today, Bette Porter (Jennifer Beals) is running for mayor while raising teenage daughter Angie (Jordan Hull), who may be nursing an adolescent queer crush on a bad influence bestie, Jordi (trans actress Sophie Giannamore). Alice (Leisha Hailey) has a new, *Ellen*-ish TV talk show and is dating Gigi (Sepideh Moafi), a Realtor with kids and a meddling ex-wife. And wealthy lesbian lothario hairstylist Shane (Katherine Moennig) has just returned to L.A.

As for the show's *Gen Q*, Sophie (Rosanny Zayas) is a producer on Alice's show and lives with girlfriend Dani (Arienne Mandi), a PR executive working for her father's lucrative yet opioid-related business. The couple's transgender roommate, Micah (Leo Sheng), is an adjunct professor with the hots for a new gay neighbor, Jose (Fredy Miyares), while Sarah (Jacqueline Toboni), an Olympic swimmer turned assistant on Alice's show, parties hard while cozying up to her wishlist mentor, Shane. Other openly LGBTQ actors popping up in this eight-episode season

■ WOKE Page 20





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include Olivia Thirlby, Fortune Feimster and *Sense8*'s Jamie Clayton.

We got some scoop on *Gen Q*, how the old and new casts mixed and whether Pam Grier's Kit Porter will make an appearance. We spoke with Zayas and Mandi, both of whom are single and identify as pansexual ("I'm open to falling in love with someone's personality and how we connect as people," Zayas says).

— Lawrence Ferber

lieve Sophie's a hard worker and always had big dreams and goals, and one of them is to help Alice create a show that's relatable, queer, open, and honest about how Alice lives her life today, which is really cool. When *The L-Word* first came out, you saw Alice finding herself. Now Alice has her own show, and she's killing it, and Sophie is helping her step into her voice even more.



**And what is Sophie and Dani's dynamic like as a couple?**

Zayas: I think you'll see the ups and downs, and Dani's character is a very strong person, forward in what she wants, and you see Sophie as the heart of the relationship and a lot of times having to take on the emotional life and confronting things Dani doesn't want to talk about. You'll see how much they love each other and how much they will be there for each other, just like any other relationship.

Mandi: Sophie is Dani's anchor throughout the course of the season, and we experience changes together.

**Do you relate personally to your respective characters and their relationship?**

Mandi: Yeah. I pulled a lot from my own

life, and some things from my mother. I grew up in L.A. My mother is Chilean and my father is Iranian, and Dani is mixed ethnicity, too. The cultural upbringing is very much me. And I think I'm a lot like Dani. She keeps a lot of things very close to her, and I'm the same way. I'm not quick to divulge. It was really visceral to go through some of the things she does.

Zayas: Well, I'm a Dominican from New York, and Sophie is, too, and I think that Sophie's heart is my heart. The writing has been so amazing; they created a specific relationship between these two people, and there have been moments they went through that I think about and can remember a woman I was so hurt by, and also

felt so incredibly loved by another person that I can bring this into my relationship with Dani and Sophie.

**Is there a correlation between the *Gen Q* newbies and original's characters? Like is one the new Shane, the new Alice, etc.?**

Mandi: I think what's great about the new *Gen Q* is we're so diverse, but if I had to relate Dani to somebody else, it would be Bette. We're very different in our backgrounds, but we struggle with family issues, and we're both powerful and calculating in the same way. But all the new characters sort of speak for themselves and are very original and fresh.

Zayas: I think Sophie's a new creation. There

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# Bugging out

The VW Beetle sings its swan song with Final Edition

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer  
autocasey@aol.com

Today is a sad day: This is likely my last review ever of a Volkswagen Beetle; the Bug will be discontinued after 2019. It's an especially sanguine feeling because, like millions of drivers, I have fond memories of the car. I've of course driven many over the years, but I remember riding in the back of my uncle's orange Beetle in the '70s... I was at the unveiling of the New Beetle in 1998... I owned a 2005 edition for six years. But the car we have here may be my favorite of the bunch.

You're looking at the 2019 VW Beetle Final Edition, which is a fancy way

of saying the Beetle is going out in a fancy way. The shape defines iconic, essentially the same for 80 years, but it's snazzy in its final form. LED driving lights, 18-in. white disc alloy wheels and rear spoiler distinguish it. Of course, the bug-eye headlamps, horseshoe taillamps, bulging fenders and gently curved beltline remain. A beige canvas top contrasts with metallic paint. Classy.

Click open the door and scoot inside where body color dash and door panels connect to the original Beetles — as does the Kaferfach upper glovebox with satin silver latch. Weather permitting, press one button to retract the roof. VW keeps it simple with large analog gauges and a flat bottom steering wheel. Luxuries come in the form of heated diamond-stitched leather seats, dual zone automatic climate control, rain-sensing wipers and swipescreen for audio and

#### '19 BEETLE FINAL EDITION

Volkswagen. 174 horsepower, 2.0-liter T4. 26/33 MPG city/hwy. Base/As-tested price: \$20,895/\$30,89.



navigation. I could listen to the crisp Fender audio system for the *next* 80 years. Safety is enhanced by a rearview camera and blind spot warnings.

If you're only familiar with driving classic Beetles, I should tell you there's no chirpy little engine hanging out back. Nope — the front-drive car goes forth with a turbocharged 2.0-liter 4-cylinder dishing out 174 horses and

184 lb.-ft. of torque, all routed through a 6-speed automatic transmission with manual shift mode. Power is dropped smoothly to the road. It's no rocket, but there's plenty to move this compact with a sense off vigor. Step lightly to see 26/33-MPG city/hwy.

The Beetle cruises comfortably on its four-wheel independent suspension.

■ BUGGING Page 24



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# This is our youth

For the cast of Cara Mia's 'Swimming While Drowning,' the pitfalls visited upon queer Latin youth strike close to home

**JOHN CARDER MCCLANAHAN** |  
Contributing Writer  
john.mcclanahan91@gmail.com

Set in a large city's LGBTQ youth shelter, Emilio Rodriguez's *Swimming While Drowning* is a fictional coming-of-age story of two teenagers, Angelo and Mila, who seek asylum after they're forced to leave home because of their queer identities. And after they become roommates, they form a bond and learn to address internal struggle while trying to survive in the face of destitution.

The play delves into issues of child homelessness and queer identity in the Latinx community. But for the show's two actors, it means much more than playing roles: It's about portraying experiences that eerily resemble their own lives.

"It's kind of a cathartic thing for me," says Dominic Pecikonis, who portrays Angelo, the dreamer of the two. "The things that these characters go through and the growth that they have are things that I wish I had as a queer person growing up."

He found the opportunity important enough that he flew back from New York to his native Dallas when producers with Cara Mía Theatre Co. invited him to play Angelo for this regional premiere. Although he's now 26, Pecikonis connects with Angelo as someone who is "creepily similar" to himself; during rehearsals, he had to conjure the vulnerability he felt as a teenager.

"I knew I had to do it because it feels bigger than just doing a play," he says. "We're focusing on people who don't get enough attention, and I feel it's going to start some conversation that needs to be had."

Opposite Pecikonis is J. Davis-Jones as the mixed-race streetwise hustler Mila, another runaway who Angelo

eventually confides to.

Rodriguez originally wrote Mila as a gay male character, but with the playwright's permission, Cara Mía's creative team made him transgender specifically for Davis-Jones, who is trans. This offered Davis-Jones the opportunity to embrace a role and share it with the audience reflective of genderfluidity. But Mila's gender does not define the narrative.

"I hope the audience understands that the show is not about the fact that Mila is trans," Davis-Jones says. "I feel like when you see a show that includes a transgender character, *that's* the whole production. But this is about two people living their lives and trying to be resilient. It's not about the gender; it's about the journey."

Davis-Jones knows Mila's journey, because he lived it. Not long ago, he turned to CitySquare TRAC, a Dallas nonprofit that provides housing for homeless youth who need to escape dangerous living situations. He recalled several other young LGBTQ folks he met at CitySquare who, like his character, fled to the shelter out of desperation.

"It was very sad to see that," says Davis-Jones, now 23. "A lot of the people there were younger than me. Being able to be a part of this show and dive into this process from the point of view of a 15-year-old hurts my heart, because I was 21 or 22 going into that process — at least I was an adult and could figure it out a little bit better. I don't know how I would have survived if I were 15."

Davis-Jones connects with Mila, understanding the urgency to seek safer environments. The 23-year-old actor lived Mila's life and hopes to capture on stage what he witnessed while staying at a shelter — youth swept away by bigoted whirlwinds of race and sexual identity.

"Something I realized when I was in that situation and part of CitySquare TRAC is that a lot of kids put in that situation were *put* in that situation," Davis-Jones says. They had to run away because they were in dangerous situa-

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J. Davis-Jones and Dominic Pecikonis relate deeply to the characters they are playing in 'Swimming While Drowning.'

tions. They were dropped by CPS, and they had no idea what to do. They were lost in this system that was set up to sweep them under the rug. And with a play like this, it is important for people who come see it to open their minds more to what these characters are experiencing and to leave feeling they have the power to change what is happening. Because they do."

Neither performer has acted in a play quite like *Swimming While Drowning*. Both embraced a challenge to relive memories and feel scars left from their teen years. And now, as they channel themselves through Mila and Angelo, Davis-Jones and Pecikonis hope their performance will start conversations about LGBTQ youth and Dallas' homeless children. ■

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were Hispanic characters on the show before, but I don't think they've been as specific as being Dominican from New York. Even when it comes to the ethnic food she eats, that's something that wasn't specifically in the show before but you get to see now.

**How did the new and original casts go about getting to know each other? Was there a lot of bonding?** Mandi: We call them the OGs: Kate, Leisha and Jennifer. They really extended themselves to us and actually organized a dinner the first week of shooting. We sat at dinner for

hours and talked. We made it a point to hang out outside of work, and they really opened their doors to us and made sure we felt super comfortable but also experienced things on their own like they did. It felt like a family.

Zayas: As just a fan of the show, you don't get to see how the OGs are in real life, but it's been so awesome to see how well they connect. They actually do love and take care of each other and fight for each other during the process of making the show. It's been a learning experience for me, and I've been admiring them every day, want-

ing to be more and more like them.

**Would you ever bring up Jenny and how she died, or is it like Candyman, Bee-teejuice and Bloody Mary and nobody dares intone that name for dread of summoning her?** Mandi: Oh my god. She wasn't my favorite character, that's for sure. I do like the actress, Mia Kirshner, but Jenny's character was definitely not my favorite! I feel like there are online forums for just bashing poor Jenny. She definitely pumped up the drama.

Zayas: All of us are fans of the show, so there are always questions about Jenny

and what happened. I think I'll leave that up to the writers.

**Will we see Pam Grier's Kit Porter again?** Mandi: I can't answer! There will definitely be special guest appearances. I'm not saying from the past [series], but a lot of guest appearances, which is really exciting.

**How accurate is the show's depiction of modern Los Angeles lesbian and queer life, and how would you describe it?**

Mandi: Very edgy. Very competitive sometimes. Loving.

Zayas: I feel its changing every day, the way the world is. I can say that everyone is working as hard as they can to make sure it's as accurate as possible. The writers, creators, actors, costume design — we want to make sure this relays what we see today.

Mandi: Our set was incredibly queer — our directors, producers, our showrunner. It's still a lesbian show, but it's branched out as so much more now. We had everyone on the spectrum. It's pretty wonderful.

**Of course, I have to ask about the original show's infamous "Chart," which mapped out the characters' sexual and emotional connections. Is there one hanging in the writer's room this time, too? Are there already too many lines to fit?** Mandi: Not so much, but I see so many Post-Its and arrows. They have the overview of the season and where things go. All these things are subject to change, but it follows each person's drama.

■ BUGGING From Page 21

Even with the top deployed, there's very little cowl shake, and the car handles as good as a little car should. In typical VW fashion, the suspension just rumbles over rough city streets and washboard country roads with little drama, but turns crisply when commanded. It's a car you can enjoy on a thousand-mile journey or just to the ice cream shop with kids in the back.

I've relished many Beetles. There was the Dune we reviewed last year, and a base baby blue one I drove in California four years ago. But none were as elegant as the Final Edition. So why is VW killing it? Well, it's a very good car in a crossover world. Which makes me wonder why VW didn't echo the Fiat 500X and turn the Beetle into a cool little crossover. With the advent of electric vehicles, I bet the car will return again without a gasoline engine. It's too hard to imagine an automotive world without a VW Beetle. Given a base price of \$20,895 (or \$30,890 for our test car), you don't have to imagine your garage without one. ■



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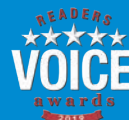
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**Friday 11.29 –  
Sunday 12.29**

**TBT brings back  
Tchaikovsky's timeless  
Christmas ballet**

Texas Ballet Theater's production of *The Nutcracker* is as much a seasonal tradition as DTC's *Christmas Carol*

or the Cowboys missing the playoffs. And just as traditionally, audiences in both Dallas and Fort Worth can see Clara cherish a toy brought to her by the peculiar Herr Drosselmeyer turn an ordinary Christmas Eve into a parade of colorful creatures, all set to Tchaikovsky's beautiful music.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Nov. 29–Dec. 8. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Dec. 13–29. [TexasBalletTheater.org](http://TexasBalletTheater.org).

**Tuesday 12.03 –  
Sunday 12.08**

**Epic tragedy 'Miss Saigon'  
choppers into Bass Hall**

Despite being from the same team, *Miss Saigon* was never the runaway hit that *Les Miserables* was, but this modern

updating of *Madame Butterfly* has enjoyed its own kind of success. Set in Vietnam during the U.S. involvement, it tracks an American soldier, the woman he loves and a devious manipulator called The Engineer as they endure hardship, tragedy and romance during wartime. It plays for one week at Bass Hall.

**DEETS:** Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. [BassHall.com](http://BassHall.com).



**Friday 12.06 – Sunday 12.15**

**Uptown Players jingles into the holidays with absolute 'Nunsense'**

The five zany nuns from playwright Dan Goggin's *Nunsense* musicals are back together for a nutty TV Christmas special, but this time something's amiss... well, really a-mister. *Nuncrackers A-Men!* adapts the silly sisters' show into a dragtastic experience with all the women played by men. It's the perfect spirit-lifting holiday show you'd expect from Uptown Players, which kicks off its 2019–20 season with sheer holy-arity of hymns and hims.

**DEETS:** Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. \$30–\$45. [UptownPlayers.org](http://UptownPlayers.org).

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## calendar highlights

### ARTSWEEK

#### THEATER

**A Christmas Carol.** The holiday tradition. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 29. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**Dear Evan Hansen.** The Tony winner for best musical, about how a misunderstanding at a high school escalates. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Nov. 26–Dec. 8. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

**Lifespan of a Fact.** A play about the modern age of journalism, truth and artistic license. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 8. StageWest.org.

**Noises Off.** The best modern farce conceived, a behind-the-scenes look at a disastrous play rehearsal. Nov. 29–Dec. 22 (in previews through Dec. 1). Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Queen of Basel.** At the high-falutin Miami art event, a privileged woman flirts with the help in a Darwinian battle of changing social mores. Hilary Bettis reimagined Miss Julie in the Latinx world of contemporary America. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 Stemmons Freeway. Through Dec. 15. KitchenDogTheater.org.

**The Thanksgiving Play.** Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through Dec. 1. Undermain.org.

#### DANCE

**The Nutcracker.** Texas Ballet Theater's annual Christmas show, Tchaikovsky's enduring holiday classic of beautiful music. Performed in both Dallas and Fort Worth. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 29–Dec. 8. ATTPAC.org. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Dec. 13–29. (The comic spoof *Nutty Nutcracker* is performed on Dec. 20.) BassHall.com. TexasBalletTheater.com

### SATURDAY 11.30

#### COMMUNITY

**FrontRunners.** Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 8:30 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

### MONDAY 12.02

#### CABARET

**Mama's Party.** Weekly cabaret night with special guest performances. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. 7:35 p.m. \$10.

### TUESDAY 12.03

#### FILM

**The Magnificent Ambersons.** Orson Welles' second film after *Citizen Kane*, is not as well-known but held in near equal esteem by film buffs, even though it was sharply edited down without his permission. Agnes Moorehead's performance is widely regarded as some of the best acting ever to be filmed. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

#### THEATER

**Miss Saigon.** The team responsible for *Les Miz* adapt Madame Butterfly to 1960s Vietnam. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Dec. 3–8. BassHall.com.

### THURSDAY 12.04

#### CABARET

**Glitterbomb Denton.** Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy's Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY 12.05

#### THEATER

**Cirque Holidays!** WaterTower Theatre and Lone Star Circus join forces for this Christmas show. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Dec. 5–22. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**Nuncrackers, A-Men!** Uptown Players present the sequel to the hit Catholic comedy *Nonsense*, this time with a drag-tastic bent. Kalita Humphrey Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Dec. 5–15. UptownPlayers.org.

## this week's solution

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**browse**

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

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# Girl on girls

Jenny Block on managing expectations during the holidays

The holidays shouldn't be stressful. *Shouldn't* be. They should be a time to relax and regroup and reconnect, spend time with family — chosen or blood — or much-needed time alone (as you wish). They should be a time to give and receive, if that's something you and yours enjoy.

It should be a time of "yes."

Instead it too often feels like a time of "no."

No, you can't have that.

No, I don't want to see them.

No, there isn't enough time or money or fill-in-the-blank.

The reason why is simple: unrealistic expectations.

This week, I saw an article on BuzzFeed that a dad had created sharing his 10-year-old daughter's Christmas list. *Ten. Years. Old.* It included things like Gucci slides, essential oils, AirPods, a Chanel purse, and \$4,000 hard cash. People responded with witty retorts, saying she had her priorities straight and, essentially, "You go, girl!"

One tweet though, caught my eye. It basically said, "You raised her like this, now deal with it." In other words, "These are her expectations, instilled by you, and now you have to pay the price."

I don't know that it's really the dad's fault. My daughter still thinks she's going to drive a Mercedes G Wagon one day, which is about as likely as my playing for the NBA. I've told her as much. So I don't blame the dad necessarily. I blame all of us.

Things have gotten out of hand. From expectations about Rockwellian family gatherings around the hearth to gift lists that are based on social media and reality TV (instead of reality), we've gone off the rails when it comes to what we expect, which can lead to only one thing in the end: disappointment. Completely and totally unnecessary disappointment.

If you know that most people don't fly to Aspen for Christmas or exchange gifts with five-figure price tags or adore every single person in their family with whom they've

spend the holidays, singing and hugging and agreeing on politics, you'll not only be a heck of a lot less disappointed, you'll also have a shot at being pretty damn contented.

I don't know when things devolved. I grew up Jewish in a small town, pre-Internet. I didn't know what I didn't know. I didn't miss what I didn't have until I got to college. I'll admit, it was confusing and it's

and relate stories from days of yore. Maybe every woman is 5-foot-10 and 130 pounds. and eats whatever she wants. Maybe every parent gets their child \$10,000-plus worth of Christmas gifts. Except for me, of course. And if that becomes my reality, *everything* is going to be a disappointment.

*Nothing* will make me happy.

holidays.

I'm a relatively non-practicing Jew. I happen to like Christmastime — the non-secular solstice celebration marked by trees and presents and pretty lights. I can also appreciate a holiday that, despite it all, does seem to do it's best to be one steeped in love and togetherness and peace, despite all of the trappings. Still I find it a challenge to rise above it all.

I still want my tree to glisten and my cookies to inspire awe and my gifts to the people I love to be the perfect ones. But what I do not want to do is ruin a lovely

holiday because of or based on those things. Needles fall from trees. Cookies aren't always Insta-worthy. Some presents will be misfires. This year, I'm going to focus on saying, "I don't care about all of that. All I care about is being with the people I love and being grateful for the life I live and honoring the one time of the year that most of us are given the chance to slow down and smell the pine trees."

So as you settle into your post-Turkey Day/Black Friday stupor, it's a challenge I'd like to extend to all of you.

Realign your expectations when it comes to what you want the holidays to look like.

Think: Is that reasonable? Is that possible?

Is that even what I really want to do, give, have, etc? If it feels like too much, bow out.

If the requests have gotten too big, regroup. If you no longer enjoy the season, step back and make some new choices that will allow you to breathe and appreciate this sweet time. Watch some Hallmark movies, eat some peppermint bark. Snuggle in with your family or friends or fur babies or, heck, yourself and recharge. The new year will be upon us before you know it. Time to enjoy the old year, old you before the new year, new you starts vying for your attention.

Send your ideas to [GirlnGirls@gmail.com](mailto:GirlnGirls@gmail.com).



only gotten more so as social media and reality TV have started to truly take the place of reality, which is sometimes considered "false facts" despite the fact that we can actually see it ourselves.

Maybe everyone does have a happy family who can't wait to gather round the yule

But none of that is true. Hallmark movies are my favorite guilty pleasure... mostly because they are so obscenely over the edge, and they remind me how preposterous it is to think that little girls should get things like Gucci footwear and stacks of cash for the



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# Equality Texas 30th Anniversary Celebration



Making the SCENE the week of Nov. 29-Dec. 5:

- **1851 Club:** Kiana Lee hosts the show at 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- **515 Bar:** Tap TV Trivia for cash at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Alexandre's:** Anton Shaw Band on Saturday. Wayne Smith Karaoke on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday.
- **Club Reflection:** Twisted Tuesday hosted by Sapphire Tailar and Amy Muah at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Brüt Bears at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Line Dance Lessons with Yoshi from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday. Dallas Diablos Cook-Out from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Havana:** Show Time is 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Hidden Door:** T-Bear Club Night at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **House of Blues:** Country Queens Drag Diva Brunch at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. \$45.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Cassie Nova's Holiday Freakmas benefits Sam Houston Elementary School at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** Cher-e-Oke at 9:30 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Wednesday.
- **Magnum:** The Boys of Magnum at midnight on Friday.
- **Marty's Live:** Sexcapade Friday.
- **Pekers:** Totally Twisted Karaoke at 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Line Dance Lessons with Ray at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday. Lip Sync Battle at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Cherry Bomb on Saturday. Vivienne Vermuth presents Rocky Horror Muppet on Saturday. The Queerdom at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **The Rose Room:** Kennedy Davenport on Friday and Saturday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** Trashy Tuesday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Cowboys vs. The Bears at 7:20 on Thursday.

Photos by Chad Mantoath and Nicholas Gonzalez





# Todrick Hall's Haus Party





# Mini Ball @ Urban Cowboy

Photos by Sergio Amara Photography



# Daddy Issues Party @ Urban Cowboy

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Current Turtle Creek Chorale Artistic Director Sean Baugh and former TCC Artistic Director Tim Seelig at the screening of "Gay Chorus, Deep South"

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## Atypical Actress

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66						67					68			
69						70					71			

Solution on Page 26

### Across

- 1 Put it in your mouth, enjoy  
 5 What kissers do with spit  
 9 Ancient erection  
 14 "\_\_\_ lay me ..."  
 15 Comedic actor James  
 16 "Ready \_\_\_, here I come!"  
 17 Foster role  
 18 Nicky portrayal, in *Funny Girl*  
 19 Former hotelier Helmsley  
 20 Start of a self description by recently out non-binary actress Brigitte Lundy-Paine  
 23 Noel of *Blithe Spirit*  
 26 Homophobia or gay-bashing  
 27 Miner concern  
 28 Make an emotional discharge  
 31 Seasonal serving  
 36 More of the self-description  
 39 One way to have one's meat  
 40 Williams of *The Birdcage*  
 41 "Yoo-\_\_!"  
 42 Use your butt to demonstrate  
 43 *Six Feet Under* creator Ball  
 44 End of the self-description

- 46 Frida's wrap  
 48 Menu option  
 49 Request to Sajak  
 50 Michelangelo's output  
 52 Circuit parties, for example  
 54 Character played by Brigitte Lundy-Paine on the Netflix series *Atypical*  
 60 Hayes of *South Park*  
 61 Roz portrayal on *Frasier*  
 62 Woolf wrote about one of her own  
 66 Houston ballplayer  
 67 Bowie married her  
 68 Vegas line  
 69 Erect  
 70 Diana of *The Avengers*  
 71 Red-ink figure

### Down

- 1 Anderson Cooper's network  
 2 Gardener's long tool  
 3 Night stalker  
 4 Novelist Cather  
 5 Albert to Armand, in *The Birdcage*  
 6 Prebirth berth  
 7 Anti-oxidant berry  
 8 Stops for pirates  
 9 Vague chat room boast?  
 10 Deuce taker  
 11 Carbon compound  
 12 *My Life in High Heels* writer Anderson  
 13 And others, for Nero

- 21 Novelist Shaw  
 22 Jessica of *I Now Pronounce You Chuck & Larry*  
 23 Phallic shaped creatures  
 24 Diamond bird  
 25 Potation location?  
 29 K-12  
 30 Vidal's story lines, e.g.  
 32 Small corn serving for Gomer?  
 33 Lane of *Modern Family*  
 34 Set straight  
 35 Gay mag and others?  
 37 Lollobrigida of film  
 38 New York college  
 42 One with a holey bottom  
 44 It made the Titanic go down  
 45 "Some Enchanted \_\_\_"  
 47 Give money to UPS  
 51 Jaguar's prey  
 53 Flynn with dashing roles  
 54 "See ya!"  
 55 The A in GLARP (abbr.)  
 56 Satisfy and then some  
 57 Make money  
 58 Maria's "Do-\_\_\_"  
 59 *Mrs. Doubtfire* attire  
 63 Rene Auberjonois role  
 64 Takes too much, for short  
 65 Papers of D.H. Lawrence, e.g.



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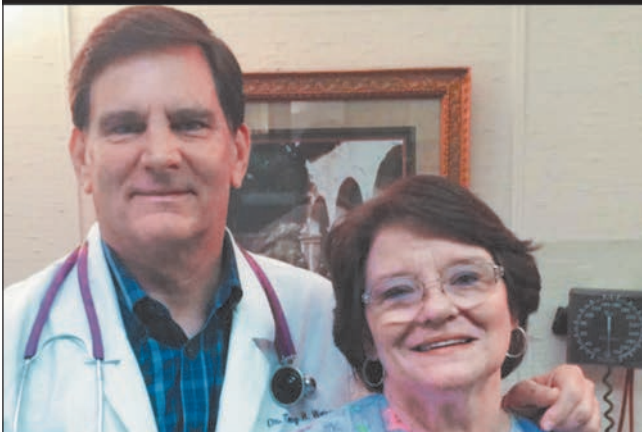
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