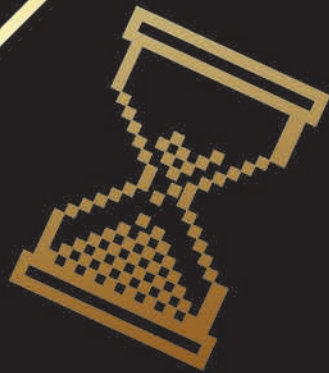


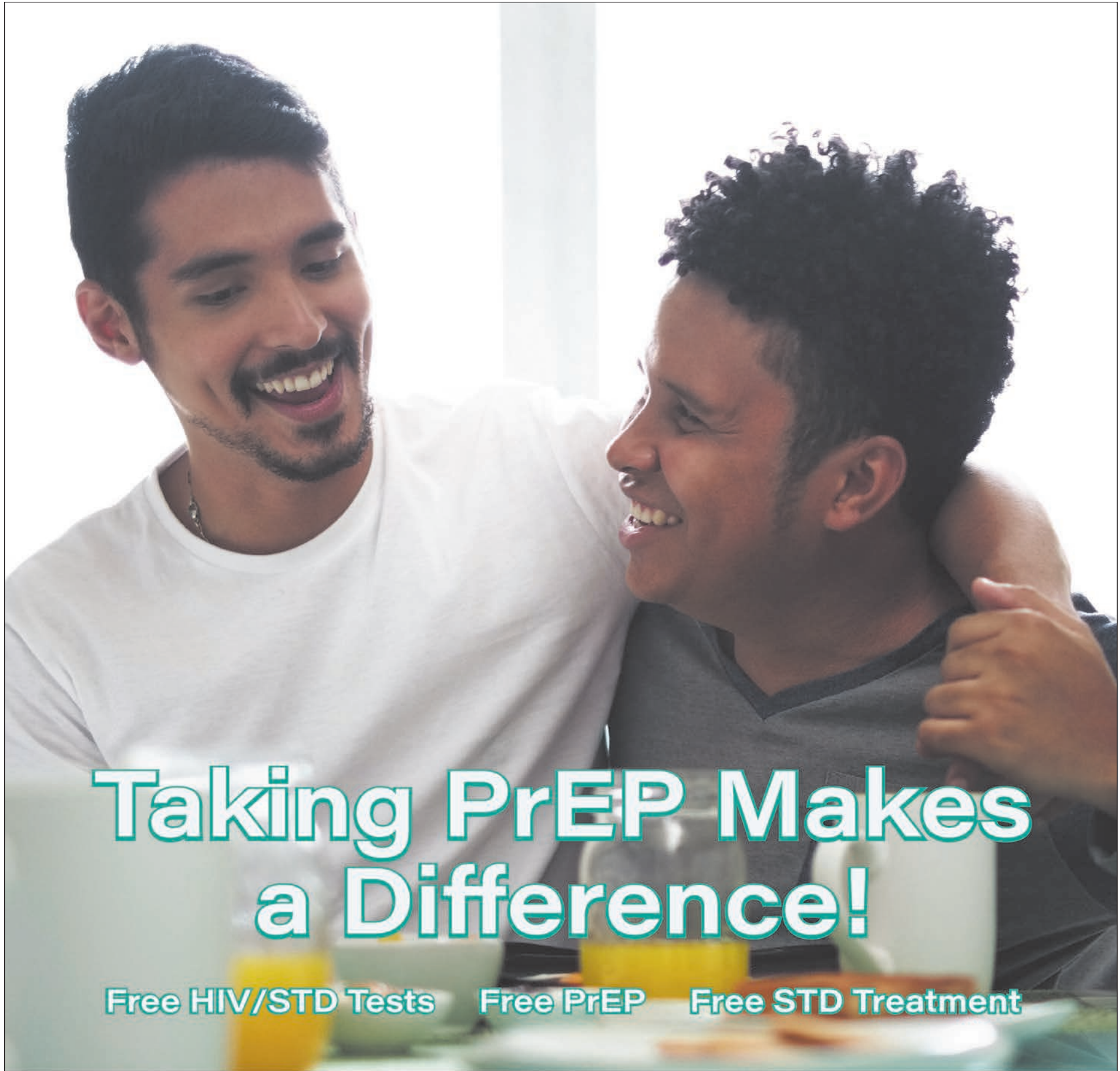
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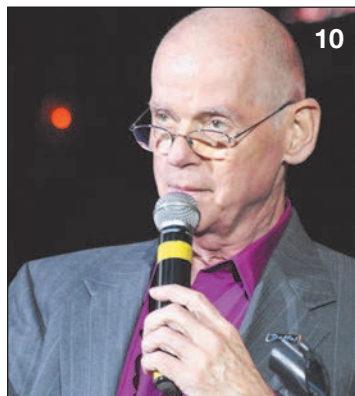
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10



15



16

## headlines

### ■ TEXAS NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR

- 8 The top stories of 2019
- 10 A month-by-month recap of 2019

### ■ LIFE+STYLE

- 14 STAGE: Best plays of the year
- 15 STAGE: Actor of the year
- 16 SCREEN: Best movies of the year
- 18 SCREEN: Best screen performances
- 19 SCREEN: Worst movies of the year

### ■ ON THE COVER

Design by Kevin Thomas.

## departments

- |    |                |    |             |
|----|----------------|----|-------------|
| 6  | The Gay Agenda | 21 | Best Bets   |
| 8  | News           | 24 | Jenny Block |
| 13 | Voices         | 25 | Scene       |
| 14 | Life+Style     | 30 | MarketPlace |

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**Say Her Name: Nikki Kuhnhausen's remains found; suspect arrested**

The number of transgender people murdered in 2019 now stands at at least 23 after authorities in Vancouver, Wash., confirmed that human remains found Dec. 7 in a remote area on Larch Mountain in Clark County, Wash., were those of 17-year-old trans woman Nikki Kuhnhausen.

Kuhnhausen was last seen alive June 6 when she left her apartment with a man she had met on Snapchat. Her mother reported her missing that same month.

Vancouver police on Tuesday, Dec. 17, arrested that man, 25-year-old David Bogdanov, and charged him with second-degree murder.

Police had questioned Bogdanov after Kuhnhausen went missing, and he told them at the time that he had picked the girl up at her home, and that they had driven to a "residence in the country," where Kuhnhausen "told him she was biologically male," Vancouver Police Lt. Tom Ryan said at a press conference this week.

Ryan said Bogdanov told police finding out that Kuhnhausen was transgender "made him really, really uncomfortable and disturbed him. And he asked Nikki to get out of his van, and she walked away."

Ryan also said Bogdanov told police that Kuhnhausen being transgender was "offensive to his culture." Portland, Ore., TV station KATU Channel 2 reports that authorities say that cell phone records for June 6 show that on that day, Bogdanov's cell phone was in the same area in which Kuhnhausen's body was found. Bogdanov is being held without bail in the Clark County jail.

— Tammye Nash

**Creating Change takes place in Dallas Jan 15-19**

The conference features over 250 workshop and caucus sessions. Workshops range from 90 minutes to three hours, addressing the vast scope of issues relevant to LGBTQ activism and organizing. There are nearly a dozen sessions on campus organizing, several intergenerational dialogues, many workshops focused on healing and well-being, art and theater activism, racial and economic justice, trans issues, and a robust track for political advocacy. Caucuses cover a broad

range of identities and interests, including caucuses for deaf queer people, lesbians, Queer Middle Eastern and North African (MENA) people, LGBTQ people in STEM, LGBTQ Jews, and parents.

The full schedule will be online soon.

**Awards**

The National LGBTQ Task Force announced awards that will be presented at the conference:

SAGE Award for Excellence in Leadership on Aging Issues: Carmen Vasquez.

Haas, Jr. Award for Outstanding LGBTQ Leadership for Immigrant Rights: Stephanie Cho.

The Leather Leadership Award: Judy Tallwing McCarthy.

The Susan J. Hyde Award for Longevity in the Movement, sponsored by Wild Geese Foundation: Monica Roberts.

**Accessible**

The Creating Change Conference, which will be held in Dallas from Jan. 15-19, is committed to radical accessibility. Everyone benefits when everyone participates fully and equitably in every aspect of the conference. When you register online for Creating Change, you can request:

- ASL interpretation
- Spanish translation
- Programs in large print
- Electric scooters and wheelchairs
- Assisted Listening Devices
- Magnifiers, readers, and step stools

**Fun and games**

Activists have to have fun, so Creating Change, the annual conference that attracts thousands of LGBT advocates, will include film screenings, a stage production, gaymers night and more.

Film screenings planned during the conference:

- Changing the Game
- Outspoken
- Forbidden
- Raid of the Rainbow Lounge
- American You Kill Me
- Dead Don't Die in Dallas

Dallas' CaraMia Theatre will present a production of Ursula, a play that tells the journey of Nadia, a 7-year-old, separated from her mother after seeking asylum at the US-Mexico border. As Nadia waits for her asylum to be processed, she reflects on the difficulties she is leaving behind in Honduras and the new reality she is facing.

— David Taffet





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# THE GAY AGENDA



Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye 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.

Dallas Voice offices will be closed from Saturday, Dec. 21-Sunday Dec. 29, half day on Dec. 31, and on Jan. 1 and Jan. 3.

## DECEMBER

### • Dec. 28: Prime Timers

Lunch and planning meeting at 12:30 p.m. at 2 Guys from Italy, 11637 Webb Chapel Road (south of Forest Lane). [chapters.theprimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth](http://chapters.theprimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth).

### • Dec. 29: Chanukah party

Beth El Binah's annual Hanukkah party at a private home in East Dallas at 6 p.m.. Info at [BethElBinah.org](http://BethElBinah.org).

### • Dec. 31: New Year's Eve

## JANUARY

### • Jan. 1: New Year's Day

• **Jan. 2: Pride night at Allen Americans** Hockey is for Everyone is the theme of tonight's game at 7:05 p.m. at Allen Event Center, 200 E. Stacy Road, Allen.

### • Jan. 2: Prime Timers

New Years potluck in Oak Cliff. Call for address and directions 214-218-0912.

[chapters.theprimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth](http://chapters.theprimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth).

### • Jan. 4: Stonewall Democrats Primary Screening

Members hear from candidates in all of the primary races and vote on endorsements from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

### • Jan. 7: Brewing Up Business Plano

Develop new business relationships by giving your 30-second commercial/elevator speech, exchanging business cards and learning more about this month's sponsor from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at 3100 Independence Parkway, Suite 300, Plano. \$10 in advance. \$20 at the door. Free to Chamber members.

### • Jan. 7: Pride Night at The Color Purple

Dallas Hope Charities and Cathedral of Hope present Pride night which includes an after-show party with the cast and crew at 7:30 p.m. at Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. [ATTPAC.org](http://ATTPAC.org).

### • Jan. 10: DFW Pride Happy Hour

LGBT Chamber of Commerce presents its first happy hour of the new year from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Crab House Seafood & Oyster Bar, 2508 Maple Ave. [LGBTChamber.com](http://LGBTChamber.com).

### • Jan. 11-12: Stonewall Democrats Primary Screening

Members hear from candidates in

all of the primary races and vote on endorsements from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 2-6 p.m. on Sunday at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

### • Jan. 12: Sweat for a Cause

Join Equality Texas - Dallas and Barry's Bootcamp for a feel good workout. Each spot for this class is \$32 with the proceeds befitting Equality Texas from 2-3 p.m. at Barry's Dallas, 3600 McKinney Ave., Suite 150. [EqualityTexas.org](http://EqualityTexas.org).

### • Jan. 14: Mingle with TWCD

Mingle with The Women's Chorus of Dallas with 25 percent of your dinner bill going to support the chorus from 4-9:30 p.m. at Rocco's Uptown, 2717 Howell St. [TWCD.org](http://TWCD.org).

### • Jan. 14: Same-sex partner grief group

Grief group for those who have lost a same-sex partner through death from 6:45-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Jan. 15-19: Creating Change

The annual LGBTQ activist conference. The first two days are all-day institutes. Friday-Sunday are workshops, plenaries, entertainment and plenty of time to visit with activists from around the country at the Sheraton Dallas, 400 Olive St. [CreatingChange.org](http://CreatingChange.org).

### • Jan. 16: THRIVE Game Night

Game night with food, drinks and friends. Free event for LGBTQ adults

50+ from 6-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Questions to [THRIVE@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:THRIVE@myresourcecenter.org).

### • Jan. 18: Gaybingo

[MyResourceCenter.org](http://MyResourceCenter.org).

### • Jan. 18: Bowling with the Dallas Bears

An evening of bowling from 6:45-9:30 p.m. at USA Bowl, 10920 Composite Drive. RSVP to [social@dallasbears.org](mailto:social@dallasbears.org) no later than Jan. 15. [DallasBears.org](http://DallasBears.org).

### • Jan. 17-19: Women Lead

Human Rights Campaign presents Women Lead Summit: Leading into the Future at Westin Dallas, 1201 Main St.

### • Jan. 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

### • Jan. 20: MLK Day of Service with HRC DFW

Volunteers will help by sorting donations and cleaning up around the shelter from 8 a.m.-noon at Jonathan's Place, 6065 Duck Creek Drive, Garland. No photography. [volunteersignup.org/WLJWH](http://volunteersignup.org/WLJWH).

### • Jan. 23: Toast to Life mixer

Learn more about Resource Center's signature event Toast to Life from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Mama Tried Deep Ellum, 215 Henry St. [MyResourceCenter.org](http://MyResourceCenter.org).

a.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. First Monday is birthday night at 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **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.



• **Jan. 23: THRIVE Discussion Group**  
Peer-led discussion group called "Let's Talk!" for LGBTQ adults 50+ from 6-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Questions to THRIVE@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Jan. 24: Educare**  
Educare presents Becoming Visible: LGBTQ+ Care from Theory to Practice with keynote speaker Tim Johnson from SAGE discussing serious and unique health challenges due to historically unfair and cruel treatment from 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road. Register at EduCareDallas.com.

• **Jan. 28: Get Centered tour**  
Tour Resource Center and learn about its programs from 5-6:30 p.m. at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. MyResourceCenter.org.

• **Jan. 28: Same-sex partner grief group**  
Grief group for those who have lost a

same-sex partner through death from 6:45-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Jan. 31: Business and Community Excellence Awards**  
Awards luncheon at Renaissance Dallas Hotel. LGBTChamber.com.

#### FEBRUARY

• **Feb. 6: Casablanca screening**  
The Texas Theatre presents a pre-Valentine's Day screening of the 1942 Humphrey Bogart-Ingrid Bergman classic Casablanca at 8 p.m. at the Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St. Tickets at prekindle.com.

• **Feb. 11: Same-sex partner grief group**  
Grief group for those who have lost a same-sex partner through death from 6:45-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Feb. 15: Gaybingo**  
MyResourceCenter.org.

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# The Top Stories of 2019



Muhlaysia Booker

It's that time again, the time when we put together our round-up of the biggest stories of the year to take a look back at where we've been and what we've done over the last 12 months. But how do we decide? It's all so subjective, anyway: What was a big deal to one person or to one segment of the LGBTQ community may have been a mere blip on the gaydar for one person or segment of the community.

And how many top stories do we choose? Five? Ten?

Here at Dallas Voice, we look at the stories that seemed to get the most response from our readers and those stories that had, in our opinion, the most significant and the most lasting impact. We also focus on local stories that we covered that we feel are most important to our North Texas community. That's why you won't really see a lot of the "national stories" that other outlets chose as "top stories for 2019" here in our list.

We also choose not to limit ourselves by choosing a specific number of "top" stories; perhaps there are 12 stories we felt are the most important, or maybe there were a couple. But just choosing our "top stories" rather than the "top five" or "top 10" lets us include all the stories we feel warrant that designation rather than limiting ourselves or padding the list.

With all that said, here is our list of the "Top Stories of 2019."

— Tammye Nash

## ★ Anti-transgender violence

Each year, the count of the number of

transgender people killed begins early, and 2019 was no exception. It started Jan. 6 when Dana Martin was shot to death in Montgomery, Ala. By the end of March, the count stood at three. And outside the LGBTQ community, the ever-rising death toll went, as usual, relatively unnoticed.

Then came April 12. That was the day that a 23-year-old black transgender woman in Dallas was attacked in the parking lot at her South Dallas apartment complex following a minor fender-bender accident, beaten by a group of men shouting anti-gay and anti-transgender insults. A large crowd gathered to watch the assault, with many of those in the crowd laughing and jeering as Muhlaysia was battered. Someone in the crowd videotaped the assault and put the video online where it quickly went viral.

The outrage from the public was quick and overwhelming. People who, for whatever reason, had previously turned a blind eye to the hate and violence trans people, especially trans women of color, endure every were suddenly paying attention. And when Muhlaysia Booker was found shot to death, her body dumped in an East Dallas street, just a month later, the spotlight turned on the epidemic of anti-trans violence became blindingly bright.

The violence didn't end. Since Muhlaysia Booker died on May 18, 17 more transgender people have been

murdered, including Chynal Lindsey of Dallas, found dead on June 1; Tracy Single of Houston, shot to death July 30, and Itali Marlowe of Houston, shot to death Sept. 20. In addition, another trans woman, Daniela Calderon-Rivera, was critically injured in a North Dallas shooting in September, the same month that Pauline DelMundo, a Tampa, Fla. trans woman, went missing from the DFW International Airport enroute to Cozumel.

But the difference this year, as compared to 2018 when 26 transgender murders were recorded in the U.S., and 2017 when there was a horrifying record of 29 trans murders, this year the country is paying attention. Mainstream media is doing a better job of reporting on the violence without mis-gendering or dead-naming victims. And police are doing a better job of investigating these murders.

There has been progress, but we have a long way to go. And the Texas transgender community is leading the way in the fight for full equality for transgender people everywhere.

## ★ Pride moves

Dallas Pride moved to the first weekend in June this year, for the first time since the early 1980s, and moved out of the gayborhood to Fair Park. Since 1982, Pride in Dallas had been held in September on Cedar Springs and in what is now Turtle Creek Park or in Reverchon Park to commemorate Judge Jerry Buchmeyer's ruling declaring the Texas sodomy law unconstitutional. But that history was fading in memory, and June is not only the anniversary of Stonewall but the anniversary of four important U.S. Supreme Court rulings that culminated in marriage equality in 2015. And many people felt Pride had outgrown Oak Lawn. Neither park could accommodate a great festival, and parking for an event that attracts tens of thousands of people was terrible. Security costs were getting out of hand as well.

So, a newly-formed Pride commit-

tee decided to move Pride to Fair Park, which was built for festivals and had great facilities to stage a parade. Security in the park, with no high-rise structures, would cost almost half what it did on the streets.

Most people agreed the festival this year was a success. By noon, a new attendance record was set. But the community was split on the parade: Attendance was about the same as it had been on Cedar Springs Road, and missing were people from the neighborhood who usually attend.

Staging was certainly easier, with large lots for floats and marchers to gather in and later disperse from. The route was simpler with no traffic lights and intersections to navigate. And onlookers were actually closer to the parade participants than on the wider Cedar Springs Road route.

But, some people contended, what impact does the parade have taking place in the "closet" of a gated park? And few people from outside the LGBT community attended. Trans activist Jayla Wilkerson organized the Pride is a Protest march, starting at City Hall and ending at Fair Park the morning of parade day, to take Pride into the streets.

Pride is again scheduled for the first weekend in June. The festival takes place on Saturday and the parade on Sunday. Many people who didn't know about the date change are likely to attend this year.

## ★ The Texas House LGBT Caucus

In the 2018 election, Dallas added two LGBT women — Julie Johnson and Jessica Gonzalez — to its delegation to the Texas Legislature. Hayes County, just south of Austin, elected bisexual Erin Zwiener to the House of Representatives, and Mary Gonzalez, D-El Paso, and Celia Israel, D-Austin both easily won re-election. And with five LGBT women in the House and more than 20 allies supporting them, they formed a caucus — the first LGBT Caucus in Texas history.

Their goals were to derail anti-LGBTQ legislation. Johnson was inspired to run when her state representative, Matt Rinaldi, wrote the previous session's bathroom bill, and she ran on a platform of increasing funding to public education — something, she said, that would actually help people rather than hurt a small but vulnerable population including his own constituents.



Their other goal is to pass legislation that's beneficial to the LGBT community. Israel proposed legislation that would ban performing the discredited reparative therapy on minors. Straight allies worked with the five founders of the caucus to propose a variety of legislation including a statewide equality act, similar to the bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives.

In January, a sixth member may be added to the caucus. Eliz Markowitz is running to fill a vacant seat in Houston. And in November 2020, at least three additional LGBT candidates are running for the Texas House — Shawn Terry from Dallas, Ann Johnson from Houston and Eric Holguin from Corpus Christi.

In the off-legislative season, the five members of the LGBT Caucus have been traveling around the state holding town hall meetings. Rep. Jessica Gonzalez said she's shooting for a day in March or April to host one in Dallas. As the caucus gains experience and allies, Gonzalez said, the first piece of legislation she plans to introduce in the next session is comprehensive LGBT protections. Even if Democrats take control of the Texas

House in the next election, a Republican Senate and governor would likely block the bill from passing or being signed into law. But passing one house of the Legislature would be a huge step.

### ★ The agencies

#### AIN moves and affiliates with AHF

AIN, formerly known as AIDS Interfaith Network, announced its affiliated with AIDS Healthcare Foundation. To improve its services, AIN and its Daire Center moved to new offices closer to Parkland Hospital and UT Southwestern, making it easier for clients to access its services and medical care in a single visit. Also in the works is an AHF medical clinic on site to make it even easier for clients who would like to see a physician there rather than at Parkland or one of the other agencies that provide medical care.

#### Resource Center opens new dental, medical clinics

Because the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic on Cedar Springs Road was bursting at the seams, Resource Center moved its dental clinic to a new office in northeast Dallas



Dallas Pride 2019

not far from AHF's Medical City clinic. That zip code has one of the highest rates of HIV in Dallas County, and the entire community is benefiting from the larger, modern new office.

At Resource Center's Health Campus in Oak Lawn, Dr. Gene Voskuhl is heading a new medical clinic. This is the first clinic geared to the LGBT community in general rather than only for people with HIV, although Dr. Voskuhl has plenty of experience treating HIV.

#### A merger and a new clinic for Prism Health North Texas

Uptown Physicians has been one of the largest private practices in Dallas targeting LGBT patients. Earlier this year, Uptown joined forces with Prism Health North Texas, a nonprofit health services organization. While both are operating independently, the merger allows the two to share their expertise on a wide variety of medical issues.

Prism also opened its third clinic this year. In addition to its Oak Cliff Health

TOP 10 STORIES, Page 12

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# 2019: Year In Review

## January

- Ministry with the Aging Inc., a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas, donated a total of \$130,000 to Coalition of Aging LGBT, Resource Center and AIDS Services of Dallas
- Christian Colbert pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 25 years in state prison in connection with the murder of his former landlord and housemate
- Samantha Smoot was named interim executive director of Equality Texas
- AIN opened the new Daire Center near the agency's offices at 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway.

## February

- South Bend, Ind. Mayor Pete Buttigieg announced he was running for president
- The Carrollton City Council approved an employment nondiscrimination ordinance that includes protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity
- Avery Belyeu was named South Central Regional director for Lambda Legal
- The United Methodist Church voted to continue its prohibition on LGBTQ weddings and ministers during a special meeting of the general conference in St. Louis.

## March

- Arttitude announced that it would be sponsoring a mural on a building wall on Cedar Springs to honor trans activist and commemorate the Stonewall Riots
- Black Tie Dinner officials announced they had chosen 16 local organizations and the Human Rights Campaign Foundation as beneficiaries for their 2019 event
- The Dallas Mavericks celebrated their first-ever LGBT Pride Night.

## April

- Oak Lawn Park, formerly known as Lee Park, was renamed Turtle Creek Park, despite efforts by some in the LGBTQ community to make Oak Lawn Park the permanent name
- The Texas Senate approved SB 17, which would allow professionals, including health care professionals, to discriminate

based on their "sincerely-held religious beliefs" • Officials with Prism Health North Texas and Oak Lawn Physicians group announced that OLPG would be merging with Prism • National LGBTQ Task Force launched Creating Change 2020 with a host committee party

- Transgender woman Muhlaysia Booker was badly beaten in the parking lot of her apartment complex by a group of men as onlookers laughed and egged the men on. Video of the attack went viral, prompting outrage nationwide
- Mack Campbell, aka Marsha Dimes, and Jeff Roose, aka Jenni P, were named Grand Marshals of the 2019 Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade
- Resource Center opened a new dental clinic in northeast Dallas
- The Anthony Bobrow Trust, represented by Harvey Meissner, donated \$25,000 to Dallas Hope Charities.

## May

- The United Methodist Church's judicial council upheld an earlier vote requiring the UMC to continue forbidding ordination of LGBTQ ministers and forbidding Methodist ministers from performing same-sex weddings
- CW33 announced plans to broadcast live from the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade
- Gay men Adam Medrano and Omar Narvaez were re-elected to the Dallas City Council, and Chad West was elected to his first term. Lesbian Erin Moore made a runoff in her bid for the council
- AARP sponsored the very first Miss Ageless Pride drag pageant
- The Texas Senate passed SB 1978 prohibiting the government from taking any "adverse action" against someone based on that person's affiliation with or support of a religious organization, a week after lesbian state Rep. Julie Johnson used a procedural tactic to kill the House version of the bill
- Dallas trans woman Muhlaysia Booker was found shot to death in the middle of an East Dallas street
- The Anthony Bobrow Trust ends its first year in existence having donated \$600,000
- The 86th Texas Legislature came to a close with LGBTQ enemies managing to pass only one anti-LGBTQ bill — a watered-down SB 1978
- Dallas-based art group Arttitude brought in New York artist Brian Kenny to paint a mural honoring transgender pioneers Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera on the side of a building at 4008 Cedar Springs Road.

## June

- Dallas transgender woman Chynal Lindsey was found dead in White Rock Lake on June 1
- The city of Dallas held a reception at City Hall to kick off June Pride Month
- Dallas' Pride celebration was held in June for the



first time since the early 1980s, and the Miller Lite Music Festival and Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade were moved out of the gayborhood to Fair Park

- Transgender Pride of Dallas held a Pride is a Protest rally and march from City Hall to Fair Park prior to the Pride parade
- Longtime Dallas Tavern Guild executive director Michael Doughman died at his home in Puerto Vallarta
- Police announced the arrest of Kendrell Lavar Lyles in connection with the murder of Muhlaysia Booker. Soon after the arrested Ruben Alvarado in the murder of Chynal Lindsey
- Dallas Southern Pride celebrated Juneteenth with a weekend full of activities
- Protestors came to Dallas from Louisiana to protest a planned Drag Queen Story Hour, only they came on the wrong date and protested outside the wrong location
- The world celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots
- The Tarrant County Commissioners Court and the Watauga City Council issued proclamations recognizing LGBTQ Pride Month
- Human Rights Campaign announced Alphonso David as the organization's new CEO
- Equality Texas named Angela Hale as acting CEO
- The city of Mesquite held its first-ever Pride Month event
- Prism Health North Texas opened a new PrEP clinic in Oak Lawn
- The city of Dallas announced plans to paint 10 rainbow crosswalks in the Oak Lawn gayborhood
- Dallas Bears distributed a total of \$78,754 to six beneficiaries.

## July

- Mike Steele, a member of the Fort Worth Human Relations Commission, was outed on Twitter for making racist, transphobic, anti-immigrant and highly partisan remarks on social media. He was later voted off the commission
- Officials with Black Tie Dinner announced that the former AIDS Services of Dallas president and CEO, Don Maison, would receive the 2019 Kuchling Award
- Resource Center opened a primary care clinic on its Reagan Street Health Campus, with Dr. Gene Voskuhl as its head.



## August

- Several Dallas-area pastors, including Beth El Binah Cantor Don Croll, Cathedral of Hope pastor the Rev. Neil Cazares and Oak Lawn United Methodist Church pastor the Rev. Rachel Baughman, participated in the Moral Monday protest outside immigrant detention centers in El Paso, organized by the Rev. William Barber
- Traswell Livingston was appointed as president and CEO of AIDS Services of Dallas
- Attorney Shelly Skeen of Dallas joined the staff of Lambda Legal as a senior staff attorney
- Early registration opened for Creating Change 2020, coming to Dallas in January
- Officials with Black Tie Dinner announced that award-winning singer and actor Billy Porter would be a featured speaker at the 2019 event
- Judge Hector Garza ruled against attorneys for Edward Thomas, the man accused of assaulting trans woman Muhlaysia Booker in April, in their effort to have Booker dead-named and misgendered in the indictment against Thomas. Thomas was eventually convicted.

## September

- Muhlaysia Booker's mother, Stephanie Houston, announced that she would be launching the Muhlaysia Booker Foundation
- AIN announced a new affiliation with AIDS Healthcare Foundation, with plans for AHF to add a clinic at AIN
- Dallas police arrested 29-year-old Domingo Ramirez-Cayente in the shooting of transgender woman Daniela Calderon-Rivera. Rivera was critically injured but survived. Ramirez-Cayente later jumped bail and fled the country
- Phil Johnson, a longtime activist, LGBT icon and the Dallas LGBTQ community's unofficial historian, died at the age of 94.

## October

- Officials with Turtle Creek Chorale announced that Broadway star Idina Menzel would perform at the chorus' 40th anniversary celebration in February





- The LGBTQ Victory Fund endorsed gay man Shawn Terry in his campaign for Texas House District 108
- Terry Loftis was named executive director of the Arts Community Alliance
- The Women's Chorus of Dallas celebrated its 30th anniversary
- Organizers for Creating Change 2020 announced that the Rev. angel Kyodo Williams, a Zen priest, will be the speaker for the opening plenary at the event
- The LGBTQ Victory Fund endorsed state Rep. Julie Johnson in her re-election bid
- LifeWalk 2019 Co-chair Mark Thibodeau announced that the event had raised more than \$502,000.

### November

- Officials with Abounding Prosperity Inc. announced that transgender advocate and activist Sharyn Grayson had joined the agency's staff as director of development and transgender programs and services
- Dallas trans man Ethan Avanzino and his partner, David Whitehead, announced the formation of Safe To Be
- Transgender activist Nikki Araguz of Houston died at her home
- Equality Texas celebrated its 30th anniversary
- Pioneering HIV specialist Dr. Steven Ponders of Dallas celebrated his 30th year in practice
- Super Happy Fun America and East Texas woman Teresa Stephens Richenberger announced plans for a Straight Pride Parade in Dallas. The march fell through when organizers learned at the last minute that they had to pay significant fees to the city for permits, security and insurance. SHFA representatives who came to Dallas for the event pledged to hold a rally anyway, only to become a laughingstock when they were the only two people to show up
- More than 75 percent of openly LGBTQ candidates running for office around the country won their races in November elections
- Trans attorney Katie Sprinkle was appointed as a Dallas County Criminal Court magistrate
- Texas Pride Impact Fund distributed a total of \$120,000 to

From left, Buttigieg, LGBT Caucus and Michael Doughman

- 17 grant recipients across the state
- North Texas marked Transgender Day of Remembrance with services in Dallas, Fort Worth and Denton
- Officials with Equality Texas announced that Ricardo Martinez had been named CEO of the LGBTQ lobby
- Rebecca Marques was named Texas state director for the Human Rights Campaign
- Turtle Creek Chorale named Jeremy Wayne as its new executive director
- Judge Sam Lindsey denied a motion by the Mansfield ISD to dismiss a discrimination lawsuit brought against the school district by lesbian teacher Stacy Bailey.

### December

- Both Dallas and Fort Worth received scores of 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index
- The mural on Cedar Springs Road honoring transgender icons and activists Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson was cleaned and then repaired by local artist Rafiq Saleh-Flowers after it was vandalized with spray paint
- Officials with Black Tie Dinner distributed a record \$1.44 million to the Human Rights Campaign and 16 local beneficiary organizations
- The Hidden Door celebrated its 40th anniversary. ■

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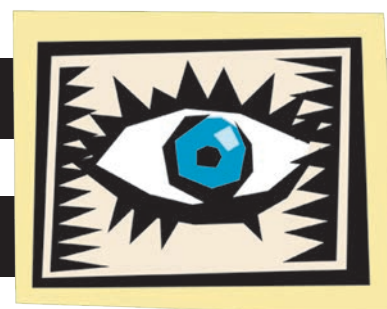
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Center on Sunset Avenue and its South Dallas Health Center on Spring Avenue, Prism now offers its medical services at its newest modern clinic, Oak Lawn Health Center on Lemmon Avenue near Central Expressway.

**ASD hires new CEO and acquires new property**

After the retirement of longtime CEO Don Maison, AIDS Services of Dallas hired Traswell Livingston as its new president and CEO. Livingston has been with the organization since 2011 and gained experience providing affordable housing working at Dallas Housing Authority before that.

Livingston is busy raising money to begin renovating and expanding ASD's newest property on Ewing Street. Once complete, the complex will be for clients who are working and HIV-positive, need permanent affordable housing but no longer require intensive case management, transportation or food assistance offered at other ASD properties.

**★ The murals**

The North Texas arts organization Artitude arranged for two murals to be painted on walls facing a parking lot between the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic and 4000 Cedar Springs Road. Dallas Red Foundation provided much of the funding.

The first of the murals was painted by Lee Madrid to remember victims of the AIDS crisis. The AIDS Memorial Quilt is shown between two sets of hands forming hearts.

The second, painted by New York artist Brian Kenney, is dedicated to the transgender community and features the likeness of transgender activist icons Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera. At 2,100 square feet, it is the largest mural honoring the transgender community in the world.

The AIDS mural was completed in the fall of 2018, while the trans mural was completed in time for the 50th anniversary of Stonewall in June of this year.

In December, the transgender mural was defaced when a tagger painted mustaches on the two trans women depicted in the painting. On Dec. 15, Artitude artist Rafiq Salleh-Flowers repaired the mural.

**★ Oak Lawn's front lawn is renamed**

The park originally known as Oak Lawn Park then renamed Lee Park after a statue of Robert E. Lee was placed there in 1936, reverted to its original name temporarily after the statue's removal in 2017. It was permanently renamed Turtle Creek Park in April.

The city of Dallas tried five times before it could lift the Lee statue off its plinth and remove it from the park. The plinth on which the statue stood for more than eight decades remained in place for more than a year, becoming a rallying place for white supremacists waving Confederate flags who demanded the park be renamed after Lee. The plinth was removed in January this year, the area landscaped and all traces of the statue removed. The conservancy that manages the park supported renaming the park after Turtle Creek, which runs through it, but many in the LGBTQ community wanted the park name to stay as Oak Lawn Park because of its place in the heart of the traditional gayborhood and the long association of the name Oak Lawn with the LGBTQ community. City officials, however, chose to side with the conservancy, and so the park became Turtle Creek Park.

**★ Religious controversies**

Marriage equality was front and center for two mainstream Protestant denominations in 2019. The Methodist Church voted not to change its Book of Discipline to allow the ordination of gay or lesbian clergy and not to allow same-sex marriage. The Episcopal Church, meanwhile, had already voted to allow same-sex marriage with the caveat that each bishop could stop that from happening in his diocese. Seven Episcopal bishops in the U.S., including the one in Dallas, had said no. But this year, the church decided that while a bishop may oppose same-sex marriage and didn't have to oversee a church that allowed it, arrangements would have to be made for those churches that wanted to allow its LGBT congregants to marry.

Three churches in Dallas — St. Thomas the Apostle in Oak Lawn, Church of the Transfiguration in far North Dallas and Episcopal Church of the Ascension on



The Transgender mural on Cedar Springs Road.

Greenville Avenue — now are overseen by the Rt. Rev. George Wayne Smith, bishop of the Missouri diocese.

The Rev. Gene Robinson participated in a ceremony with 15 couples who married elsewhere at Church of the Transfiguration. Robinson, who is retired, was the first openly-gay man elected bishop in the Episcopal Church.

At its General Conference in February, the Methodist Church upheld its ban on same-sex marriage and gay and lesbian clergy. About 55 percent voted for the Traditional Plan, a move that left many church members upset and wondering whether to stay in the church. The Rev. Judith Reedy, pastor of Grace United Methodist Church, said she returned from the conference "heartbroken."

That vote began a split that might divide the United Methodist Church into two denominations. Churches around Dallas protested by covering up the words "United Methodist" on their signs. Northaven United Methodist Church now refers to itself as Northaven Church and has a Pride flag covering the "United Methodist." St. Stephens UMC in Mesquite, covered "United Methodist" on its sign in rainbow tape and in June, brought its youth choir to Mesquite City Hall to perform at Mesquite Pride at City Hall.

**★ Mayor Pete's candidacy**

The same year that the LGBTQ community around the world celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, The LGBT Victory Fund announced it endorsed Pete Buttigieg for president.

Buttigieg is the second openly gay man to run for president of the United States, but considered the first viable candidate to do so.

In 2012, Fred Karger ran on the Republican side. But unlike Karger, Buttigieg has qualified for the debates and is considered a top-tier candidate.

Buttigieg took the lead in fundraising in the second quarter of the year and had the largest number of donors. As debate season began, Buttigieg remained in the top tier of candidates, but Elizabeth Warren, Joe Biden and Sanders surged past him in percent of support.

Although he has the Victory Fund's endorsement, the LGBT community, while acknowledging his historic run, has split its support among the various candidates. And while Buttigieg has made some inroads among gay voters, he hasn't spent much time or money to woo the LGBT community. In Dallas, he was the only candidate with a presence at the Pride festival in Fair Park. Several booths were selling his t-shirts that explained how to pronounce his name: "Boot-Edge-Edge."

While he's not running as the gay candidate, he also doesn't shy away from showing who he is. He and his husband Chasten are often shown in pictures holding hands or kissing. But there are many in the LGBTQ community and in other minority communities that see Buttigieg as just another white man who has no real insight into their issues.

But regardless of the outcome of the Primary, Buttigieg's candidacy has made history. ■



administration

Leo Cusimano Publisher ■ 114

editorial

Tammye Nash Managing Editor ■ 113

Arnold Wayne Jones Executive Editor Life+Style ■ 129

David Taffet Senior Staff Writer ■ 125

Philip Burton Proofreader

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advertising

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Nicholas Gonzalez Advertising Account Rep. ■ 115

Stephen Mobley MarketPlace Sales ■ 123

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art

Kevin Thomas Art Director ■ 119

Shawn Weston Graphic Designer ■ 132

multimedia

Stephen Mobley Social Media Director ■ 123

Brian Kennedy Video Producer

Israel Luna Video Producer/DVtv host

Brad Pritchett DVtv Host

Brandi Amara Skyy DVtv Host

Regina Lyn

circulation

Linda Depriter Circulation Director ■ 120

founders

Robert Moore ■ Don Ritz

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The old long since — good and bad

“For auld lang syne, my dear.  
“For auld lang syne.  
“We’ll take a cup of kindness, yet,  
“For auld lang syne.”

Most of us have been singing those words at midnight on Dec. 31 every year for, well, for our whole lives. But what the hell does it actually mean, this “auld lang syne”?

I looked it up. It’s from a Scottish poem written by Robert Burns. “Auld lang syne” translates literally to “the old long since,” which in plain English means “days gone by.” So basically, this song we sing each New Year’s Eve is reminding us to always remember our old friends (“auld acquaintance”) and to remember the bygone days, even as we move into the future.

Every year around this time, I always start feeling nostalgic, thinking about and missing those “auld lang syne.” Recently, drag entertainer Tasha Kohl posted a video on Facebook of one of her performances. It was, I think, a more recent performance, but it reminded of those days gone by when I never missed a Thursday night or Sunday night drag show at Joe Elliot’s bar on Pearl Street, The Landing. Tasha Kohl was part of the show cast at The Landing, and she was one of the first drag queens I ever saw perform.

Tasha and Lady Shawn and Kandi Delight and Deva Sanchez and Ricki Rousseau — they were all part of the cast there, and they were all fantastic. And that’s not even counting the guest performers — Naomi Simms, Tiger Lil, Jennifer Fox, Dana Manchester, Michael Andrews, Hot Chocolate and so many, many more. Tasha’s video on Facebook sent me to YouTube, where I searched for all those names and watched video after video of all my favorites from those days gone by.

So many of the people and places I knew back then are gone. And those of us that remain? Many of us have been scattered far and wide, our lives — and ourselves — so very different from what



Tammye Nash  
From Where I Stand

we were. But I do remember those “auld lang syne.” Those “auld acquaintance” are not forgot. But as I look back over these last 12

months, my memories really are not so fond.

Our LGBTQ community is no stranger to struggle, of course. We have had to fight for our rights, for our very lives, forever. But we had made progress — significant progress.

In the first decade and a half of the 21st century, we won precious victories that many of us “old folks” thought we’d never live to see, that many of our friends, in fact, did not live to see. The sodomy laws were overturned, marriage equality became the law of the land, LGBTQ students were beginning to see protections put into place for them, military policies were changed to allow lesbians and gays and, finally, transgender people serve openly and without fear of discharge if their “secret” was revealed.

We were winning. Love was winning. But then came November 2016 and the election of Donald Trump. And our world began to shatter. Maybe all the victories we had won and the progress we had made left us complacent, and we were caught off guard by the sudden turn backwards. We were left scrambling, it seemed, just to maintain the victories we had already won; moving ahead, it seemed, was impossible.

No, the bigotry, the hate and the violence spewing at us from the enemies of equality are not new this year. It’s not even new to see it coming from the White House and the halls of Congress.

That’s been happening since Day One of the Trump regime. But this year has seemed, at least to me, even worse.

Maybe it’s just the accumulation of oppression that has been building up over the last three years, growing heavier with every step. Maybe nerves have just become more and more frayed while stamina has waned. Maybe it’s because we are heading into an election year and the campaigns have brought the tension and the vitriol to the surface even more. Maybe it’s because of the impending — and now accomplished — impeachment vote.

Maybe we are — maybe I am — just freakin’ exhausted.

And now, as the year ends, it feels like we are just left hanging. Nothing is settled, one way or another, and as they feel more and more threatened, it seems that Trump and his minions are becoming ever more strident and vindictive, and they are targeting the country’s most vulnerable, including the LGBTQ community — especially the T part of the acronym.

So no, I am not counting the days of 2019 among the “old long since” that I will remember fondly (except for a couple of very specific days, like the day my wife graduated from Midwestern State). But I am looking ahead to 2020, with as much anxiety and trepidation as anticipation.

Because 2020 could be the year that the forces of reason and responsibility and maturity take back our country, and the year that we once again begin to move toward a better future. But at the same time, it could be the year we fall further into bigotry, violence and chaos.

It’s up to us. It’s up to you. So get informed. Get involved. Get registered to vote (if you aren’t already, and if you are, make sure you are). And get busy. Let’s make some better “auld lang syne” to remember on the next new year’s eve.

■ Tammye Nash is managing editor of Dallas Voice.





Kitchen Dog Theater's production of Steve Yockey's 'Reykjavik' was an unexpected exploration of contemporary life, above; Theatre 3 did two great farces in 2019, including 'Raptured,' opposite.

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor  
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I'm a huge cheerleader for local theater, especially in North Texas, where we have a number of amazing companies, a Tony-winning regional theater, at least three theatrical presenters that bring Broadway shows to the region, as well as programs, festivals and series that demonstrate that breadth. That said, 2019 wasn't my favorite year, especially following the standouts of 2018, but there were nevertheless many memorable productions (and performances; see side bar, Page 15). Here are 10.

10. *Aladdin* (tour presented by Dallas Summer Musicals). There were a number of hotly fancied national tours working their way through North Texas this year — *Hamilton*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Hello Dolly*. But the one that delighted me the most ended up being this lively, funny Disney production, starring two

former Dallasites. It may be the best of the Disney Theatricals I've seen... certainly the freshest.

9. *Noises Off* (Theatre 3). The fall's most satisfying comedy, this version of the classic Michael Frayn farce hit every comic beat, thanks to great casting.

8. *Lela & Co.* (Second Thought Theatre). A young girl named Lela endures the ravages of a war zone with unexpected perkiness — a disconnect so shocking, it's brilliant. This savage play, pitched dangerously as a Vaudeville, captured the absurdity of war, and its effect on people, with unnerving power.

7. *In the Next Room; or, The Vibrator Play* (Imprint Theatreworks). The upstart company Imprint continues to impress us, and it kicked off 2019 right with this well-acted telling of Sarah Ruhl's play about Victorian Era "hysteria" (i.e., sexual repression) among upper-class women (and some men!).

6. *Sweat* (Dallas Theater Center). Socially-conscious theater can sometimes

play as preachy or precious, but Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer Prize-winner, set in a Rust Belt town during a period of economic hardship, lends an air of depth and sophistication to issues of labor, wealth disparity and the bifurcation of community in the era of Trump.

5. *The Cake* (Uptown Players). We're all familiar with the conflict between gay couples and the conservative bakers who refuse, on religious grounds, to make them a wedding cake, but who-dathunk we might actually sympathize with the baker?! That's the genius of this heartfelt comedy, which humanizes conflict with great gentility, and also offered up one of the best portrayals of middle-aged marriage (between Shannon McGrann and Sonny Franks) anywhere onstage this year.

4. *Jo and Louisa* (WingSpan Theatre Co.). The standout production at this year's Festival of Independent Theatres came from an unlikely source, at least to me: *Little Women*. (I'm so over it,

including the recent film.) But playwright Isabella Russell-Ides' whip-smart construction of this two-hander — a sort of dialogue between the novel's author, Louisa May Alcott, and her alter-ego protagonist, Jo March — sparkles with clever insights about gender, ego and literary value without ever getting heavy-handed. What a discovery.

3. *Raptured* (Theatre 3). Theatre 3 did farce right this year twice — most recently with *Noises Off*, but earlier in the season with an original, East Texas comedy about chicanery and sexual goings-on in a smalltown church. Hilarious, unhinged and surprisingly smart, it hit all the buttons.

2. *Disaster!* (Uptown Players). It's easy to dismiss a spoof like this one, which skewers all-star disaster movies of the 1970s (*The Poseidon Adventure*, *The Towering Inferno*, *Earthquake*, *Meteor*) as lightweight nonsense, but I ask you: What higher calling is there in the theater than to create laughter, excitement





and joy? This show does that in spades, with a campy sensibility, expert comic timing from the large cast and helmed with the right touch by director B. J. Cleveland. It's wonderfully awful... on its way to awfully wonderful.

1. *Reykjavik* (Kitchen Dog Theater). Steve Yockey's seemingly piecemeal series of vignettes, all set in Iceland, is actually a puzzle box of interconnectedness, mysteries and fantasies and darkness rolled into a scary/funny dazzler of a show. The actors each embody many different characters with great specificity and versatility, and director Kara-Lynn Vaeni ties it up in a heart-stopping exploration of contemporary gay culture. ■



### ACTOR OF THE YEAR

They say TV is a writer's medium, film is a director's medium, and theater? Well, that's the province of the actor. We remember live performances so powerfully for that very reason: Because they are *live*, sometimes mere feet away. It's a personal experience. And North Texas is blessed with many great actors, who each year do standout work.

Some locals achieve greatness outside of Dallas — in 2019, **Betty Buckley** (*Hello, Dolly!*) and **Clinton Greenspan** and **Major Attaway** (*Aladdin*) returned to their native digs in national tours and showed us what they share with the rest of the country. Closer to home, more than a dozen actors shared their gifts with us. **Catherine Carpenter Cox** reprised her title role of *Evita* 10 years after first taking it on at Lyric Stage, and if possible, she improved in the interim. **Garret Storms** has become a stalwart of local theater in recent years, once again

impressing with roles in *Lela & Co.* and *Reykjavik*.

Storms' *Reykjavik* costars **Mitchell Stephens** and **Aaron Campbell** made that one of the most memorable productions of the year. Other shows hosting multiple star turns include **Quin Solley** and **Laura Lites** hamming it up hilariously in *Disaster!*, **Sally Nystuen-Vahle** and **Kenajuan Bentley** digging deep into the Rust Belt for authentically desperate characters in *Sweat*, and **Jeremy Whiteker** and **Christopher Lew** exemplifying farce in *Raptured*. Speaking of farce, when you're the best performer in a show overflowing with great performances, as **Tadeo Martinez** was in Theatre 3's *Noises Off*, that says something. By contrast, a solo turn — by **Paul J. Williams** as the ageing, bitter drunk in *Bright Colors* and *Bold Patterns* — transfixed audiences with the power of his solitary presence.

We've also come to expect good things from **Jennifer Kuenzer**, **Stephanie Cleghorn Jasso**, **Alex Organ** and **Sonny Franks**, and all of them delivered stellar characterizations this year: Kuenzer in *In the Next Room; or The Vibrator Play*, Jasso in *Queen of Basel*, Organ in *Twelfth Night* and Franks in *The Cake*.

But it was actually costars of the last two who most defined theater-going for me this year. **Blake Hackler's** Andrew Aguecheek in DTC's *Twelfth Night*, plus his work in *Two by Churchill* at Second Thought, proved he's not just a great playwright, but a great actor. And **Shannon McGrann** once again delved into the insecurities and depth of Christian middle-agedness via the medium of comedy: As an East Texas church lady in *Raptured*, and going one-on-one with Franks as a baker whose faith battles her feelings in *The Cake*. Especially in the latter, her ability to humanize internal conflict pierced our hearts and earned McGrann the accolade as my 2019 Actor of the Year.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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In a year of too much rehash, there were some amazingly unique voices in cinema

SCREEN

LIFE+STYLE

year in review



**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES** | Executive Editor  
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If you went to the movies in 2019, you probably thought it was Groundhog Day.

Not Feb. 2, but the sense, crystallized in the eponymous Bill Murray comedy, that you've seen it all before. There were more numbers following titles, "episodes," movies with colons and familiar names and caped protagonists

than I could stomach. There was hardly a week during the first three-quarters of the year that a wide-release film didn't feel like a rehash (even when good): *Aladdin*. *The Lion King*. *Shazam!* *Captain Marvel*. *Pet Sematary*. *Spider-Man: Far From Home*. *Fast and Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw*. *John Wick 3: Parabellum*. *Star Wars Episode 9: The Rise of Skywalker*. *Frozen 2*. Plus too many Legos, Angry Birds, Fallen things and Madeas. Heck, even the highly fictionalized Mr. Rogers

movie *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* trod the same ground as last year's documentary *Won't You Be My Neighbor*. Disney purchased Fox for the sole purpose of consolidating its library of tentpole properties. It felt like the death of creativity.

It showed at the box office, too. 2019 has been seriously off money-wise, and films just keep getting more expensive. But not better.

So it is probably not an accident that

my year-end list contains precious few remakes, sequels and franchise entries, of the superhero or animated variety, even though some were dandy. The best films, and the most memorable, were the ones that surprised me the most with their storytelling, their writing, their concepts (lots of unexplained fantasy elements) and their ballsiness. Here are the best of 2019.

■ SCREEN Page 18



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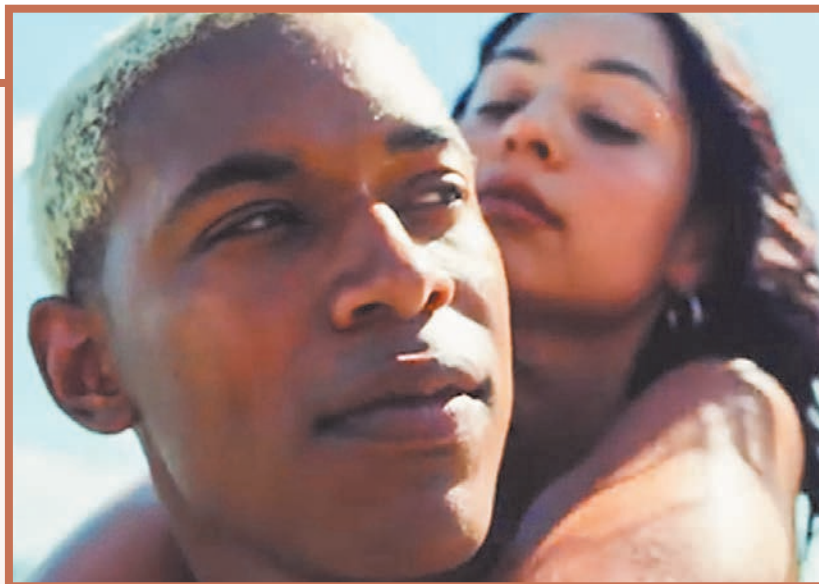
■ SCREEN From Page 16

10. *Avengers: Endgame*. The 22nd entry in the decade-long Marvel Cin-

ematic Universe had the potential to be the most bloated and troublesome of superhero movies, but something



Rocketman



### 30 for 30: The outstanding film performances this year

Scarlett Johansson, Adam Driver and Laura Dern, *Marriage Story*

Joaquin Phoenix, *Joker*

Renee Zellweger, *Judy*

Charlize Theron, Margot Robbie and John Lithgow, *Bombshell*

Taron Egerton and Richard Madden, *Rocketman*

Antonio Banderas, *Pain and Glory*

Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*

Roman Griffin Davis and Taika Waititi, *JoJo Rabbit*

Eddie Murphy and Wesley Snipes, *My Name Is Dolemite*

Maggie Smith, *Downton Abbey*

Kelvin Harrison Jr., pictured, *Waves* and *Luce*

Jennifer Lopez, *Hustlers*

Himesh Patel and Joel Fry, *Yesterday*

Tom Hanks, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*

Molly Shannon, *Wild Nights with Emily*

Cate Blanchett, *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?*

Jonathan Pryce and Anthony Hopkins, *The Two Popes*

Beanie Feldstein, *Booksmart*

Kenneth Branagh and Ian McKellen, *All Is True*

— Arnold Wayne Jones





## THE BOTTOM 10

It is much, *much* harder to pick the worst films of a year than the best. After all, the best you tend to love unconditionally. The worst? Well, they get under your skin in tons of ways — bad production values, poor acting, failed screenwriting, misguided direction, or they just don't do what they are supposed to do (unfunny comedies; predictable mysteries; dull thrillers). And let's face it: Many of the worst films project their terribleness by not even getting you into the theaters, so you don't even see them. (The worst movie I saw in 2019 was actually at SXSW, and hasn't, so far as I know, gotten a U.S. release yet, so I'll save it until it does find an audience to include it on the list.) But the ones that made this tried for something bigger... and failed miserably. Good riddance.

1. **High Life** (Claire Denis' insufferable, pretentious space drama actually made me angry). 2. **Serenity** (a close second sci-fi influenced potboiler, this McConaughey-Hathaway faux noir led the year with its stupidity). 3. **Midsommar**, pictured disappointing sophomore horror from Ari Aster, whose *Hereditary* was on the other end of the list). 4. **Godzilla: King of the Monsters** (how bad does your monster movie have to suck to even be considered worthy of such dislike? This is a standard-bearer). 5. **Long Shot** (bad Seth Rogen is less surprising than bad Charlize Theron... and this was *baaaaaadddd*). 6. **Stuber** (misfiring cop comedy that squanders virtually every bit of potential, and it doesn't have much). 7. **Greta** (frustratingly coy psycho-drama). 8. **Spider-Man: Far from Home** (the worst MCU film since *Thor: The Dark World*... odder still as it came immediately after one of the best). 9. **Papi Chulo** (cliché-ridden gay "comedy"). 10. **Harriet** (cumbersome and needlessly melodramatic biopic about the abolition hero).

— Arnold Wayne Jones

remarkable happened: The characters proved to be more important than visual effects. Following the epic battles of *Infinity War*, *Endgame* was doleful, serious and epic, providing a coda for the series, especially the Tony Stark character, that packed a wallop.

9. **Parasite**. Director Bong Joon-ho's dark comedy about class differences in South Korea, as a family of haves intersect with a family of have-nots, possesses an absurdist tone similar Yorgos Lanthimos with observations that hit a bit close to home.

8. **Bombshell**. FoxNews' coterie of blonde anchors fight back against Roger Ailes (John Lithgow) in this true story about the #MeToo movement. The screenplay is one of the smartest in recent memory, and Charlize Theron's embodiment of Megyn Kelly will leave you gobsmacked... and maybe thinking about familiar faces and facts in an all-new way.

7. **Rocketman**. Right on the heels of *Bohemian Rhapsody*, the biopic of fellow 1970s queer rockers Queen, came this musical fantasy about Elton John (Taron Egerton). The films actually share a lot

■ SCREEN Next Page

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(including the real-life character of John Reid, and even director Dexter Fletcher), but they're also quite different, with this one employing the classic song score in the way a stage musical would, digging deep into the psyche and life of rock's most flamboyant showman. Egerton nailed his performance.

6. *Marriage Story*. Noah Baumbach's semi-autobiographical portrait of an artsy couple (Scarlett Johansson and Adam Driver, each delivering ca-

reer-best performances) in the throes of a breakup was an astonishingly balanced and mature telling of people who, at their worst, are anything but balanced and mature. It finds the love and the comedy in even the most painful experiences for an emotionally impactful ride — *Kramer vs. Kramer* for the new millennium.

5. *Yesterday*. One night, the world suffers a huge blackout (why or how is never explained), and moments later,

the music of the Beatles has been completely forgotten by everyone ... except one frustrated musician (Himesh Patel), who wants to share the gifts of the Fab Four with mankind. And if he happens to be heralded as a genius? Well, fame is good, right? A charming examination of the creative process, the nature of self-identity and the power of music (and art in general) to affect us collectively, *Yesterday* plays like a familiar rom-com, but so elevates the genre as

to transcend into something ethereal and beautiful.

4. *All Is True*. After he retired from playwriting, William Shakespeare lived another decade in the countryside and did... well, we don't know. This lush and intelligent film, with probably the best three actors of their sort alive (Kenneth Branagh, Judi Dench, Ian McKellen), posits a delicate and lovely backstory for perhaps the world's most famous person about whom we know too little.

3. *1917*. Sam Mendes' towering but personal tale of war takes place roughly in real time, as roughly one continuous shot, but it surpasses any suggestions of gimmickry. Instead, it is the best war movie since *Saving Private Ryan*.

2. *Jojo Rabbit*. Writer-director-star Taika Waititi's comedy about Hitler — you heard right — doesn't pull any punches. From the opening shot of a small boy (the remarkable Roman Griffin Davis), dressed in Hitler Youth garb and conversing with his "imaginary" friend Der Fuhrer, Waititi himself), *Jojo Rabbit* grabs its absurdity by the nuts and squeezes tight, inducing painfully dark humor from the Holocaust. Until it isn't funny anymore. Without manifesting any disrespect toward its subject, the film chronicles the horrors of Nazism while also explaining its appeal, how it can poison young ideas and how humanity from unlikely places can overcome the worst in our nature. With great performances as well by Sam Rockwell and Scarlett Johansson, this was the unlikeliest bit of brilliance 2019 produced.

1. *Waves*. This small drama — about a well-off African-American family in Florida navigating the travails of seemingly idyllic suburban life — takes a sharp turn into existential crisis, touching on matters of race and class, but obliquely. It's not a political film, or even a social-issues drama, but a human story, expressed by writer-director Trey Edward Shults in a dreamy, vivid and tactile way. It leaves you breathless.

**The Second 10:** 11. *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* 12. *Rafiki*. 13. *Booksmart*. 14. *Joker*. 15. *Wild Nights with Emily*. 16. *Downton Abbey*. 17. *Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood*. 18. *Judy*. 19. *Raise Hell: The Life and Times of Molly Ivins*. 20. *John Wick 3: Parabellum*. ■



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Tuesday 12.31

## FWSO does Gershwin for New Year's Eve

You know Ann Hampton Callaway's voice even if you don't recognize her name — she sang and co-wrote about "the flashy girl from Flushing — the nanny named Fran!" for the hit sitcom. But she's a song stylist of the first order in recordings and concert halls... including, on New Year's Eve, the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, with whom she's teaming up for a show dedicated to the music of Gershwin. It's a 'smarvelous way to ring in 2020.

**DEETS:** Bass Performance Hall,  
525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m.  
BassHall.com.

Saturday  
12.28 —  
Sunday  
01.19Pegasus returns for  
the twisty spoof  
'The Color of Death'

Don't think the folks at Pegasus Theatre aren't aware of the irony in the title of their new production, *The Color of Death*, because the one thing you *won't* see in a Pegasus production is color — they use

the patented In Living Black & White effect for makeup and set design to keep it all looking like an old-timey movie. Only *this* time... Act 2 *is* in color! (It goes back to grey for Act 3.) Amateur detective Harry Hunsacker is back, bumbling his way through a solution, and as has become a tradition, there's a special New Year's Eve performance. Directed by Michael Serrecchia.

**DEETS:** Eisemann Center for Performing Arts,  
2351 Performance Drive,  
Richardson.  
PegasusTheatre.org.

Friday 01.03 —  
Saturday 01.04

## DSO gets its Cirque on

Music is always an integral part of the experience

at any modern circus, so the return of Cirque de la Symphonie offers a special advantage: The talents of the DSO supporting the acrobatics and acts of physical strength and beauty. Accentuated by the sounds of Bizet and Piazzolla, this cirque impresses with its daredevil, gravity-defying performances.

**DEETS:** Meyerson Symphony Center,  
2301 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. MyDSO.com.

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# Girl on girls

Jenny Block makes New Year's reso-listens

I don't like New Year's resolutions. I never have. I feel like rather than leading to a brighter future or a "better you" or long term change of any sort, they lead to feelings of failure and regret. Resolutions are almost always overly grand and unspecific and, more often than not, entirely out of character for the person making them. And we usually abandon them.

"I'm going to exercise every day," says the person who has not exercised once in the past five years.

"I'm going vegan," says the person who has enough meat in the freezer to feed a small country.

"I'm going to read every night instead of watching TV," says the person who is the ultimate go-to when it comes to getting the scoop about each episode of every show from five streaming services.

Here's the thing: A new year does not mean a new you. A new year means, well, a new year. It means a blank slate. It means an opportunity for change. It means a chance to do whatever it is you want to do and, equally, to not do anything that you don't want to do.

But a blank slate doesn't have to be filled with nonsense. Changes don't *have* to be made. Chances don't *have* to be taken. A new year is supposed to be about promise, about hope... not regret. So why not make a promise not to do anything dramatic, but instead, to listen...

**Listen to your body.** Does it want to exercise today? A walk? A bike ride? A rocky ascent? Go for it. Go for it *that day*, that moment, with no sweeping commitment to ever do it again. Does it want to eat only veggies? Does it want to splurge on carbs? Does it want to eat in? Go out? Go for it right there and learn from how your body responds. Learn to listen to what it really wants and needs. Go outside. Or don't. Be with people. Or not. Do a project. Or skip it. But listen to how your body wants to engage with you.

**Listen to your partner.** What does she need? When was the last time you just sat and talked with no distractions? What has she been asking for or at least hinting at that has remained unfulfilled — more cuddling? More date nights? More shared hobbies?

**Hear her.** Hear not just the words coming out of her mouth, but also what she is "saying." You have committed to being her partner. Commit to really hearing her, too.

Take her out or spend time together at home. Play a game or read together in the quiet. Watch a movie or listen to the radio. Whatever you choose, pay attention. She's telling you what she wants and needs even if indirectly. But you have to listen in order to hear.

**Listen to the world.** It needs us right now. It needs us to recycle and vote and clean up the beaches. It needs us to stand



up for it and for one another. It needs us to speak up and speak out and be woke to where we're going. You don't have to resolve to make a call or write a letter or march Washington every day. But heed what the world is telling us.

If it's asking you to vote in an election, vote. (Vote even if it's silent.) If it's asking you to make a call or not use a straw or take in a shelter dog or speak for someone who can't, do it. Don't make promises for the future. Just do the one thing the world is asking of you right this minute.

I don't like resolutions. I think they are

driven by peer pressure and fear. Everyone else is doing it and so we should, too. We're afraid that we're missing out or not doing life "right" or wasting our time on the planet. I think they make us think we have to be different or new every year. But we don't. We don't have to do anything really. But if we want to live fully, what we can do is listen and hear and take action when the call comes.

It's amazing how often we ignore our bodies, our partners, our world at large — how often we ignore our heads and hearts and spirits. Humans are amazing creatures.

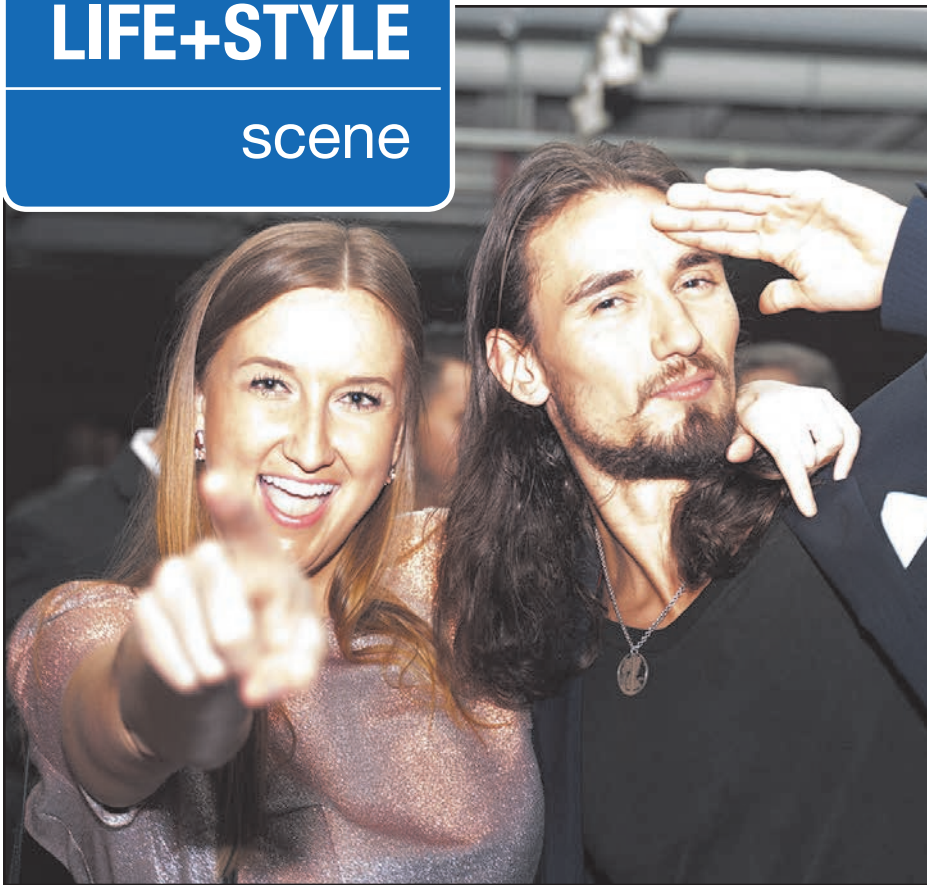
We know. We just sometimes don't want to do what we know. But we are equally as stubborn as we are amazing. So, this year, how about not promising to suddenly turn into someone we're not and instead committing to the simplest act that has the greatest power in our lives: listening.

This year let's tune in. You will be surprised at just how wonderfully that can make a year — and a life — turn out. And have a happy New Year!

— Jenny Block

Send your comments and questions to [GirlOnGirls@gmail.com](mailto:GirlOnGirls@gmail.com).





Fun at the Teddy Bear Party

### Making the SCENE the week of Dec. 27–Jan 2:

- **1851 Club:** Kiana Lee hosts all star drag show at 10:30 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **515 Bar:** New Year's Party begins at 8 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Alexandre's:** Wayne Smith on Sunday. **New Year's Eve at Alexandre's** with Jason Huff on stage at 10 p.m. on Tuesday. No cover but seating reserved at \$25 per person. **Vero Voz** on Wednesday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Drag on Tap at 9 p.m. on Monday.
- **Club Changes:** DeeJay DJ and the Legendary Shamoo with free champagne at midnight on New Year's Eve.
- **Club Reflection:** Complimentary champagne, black eyed peas and cornbread at midnight on New Year's Eve.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Post X-MAS, Pre NYE Party with DJ Perry at 10 p.m. on Saturday. **United Court** plays Match Game from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday. **New Years Eve 2019 Blue Bash** with DJ Drew G and a \$500 cash balloon drop at 9 p.m.-2 a.m. on Tuesday.
- **Havana:** New Year's Eve with DJ No Nonsense.
- **Hidden Door:** New Year's Eve party on Tuesday night. **T-Bear club night** at 7 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **House of Blues:** Drag Diva Holiday Brunch at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. \$45.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Double Trouble featuring Raquel, April, Rolla and Barbie at 11 p.m. on New Year's Eve with cash drop, 2019 top 10 countdown and champagne toast at midnight.
- **Magnum:** Great Gatsby New Year's Eve Party – The Roaring 20s are Back with free parking, \$1,000 cash balloon drop, free champagne at midnight. Reservations available. \$10 cover.
- **Marty's Live:** New Year's Eve party.
- **Pekers:** Show time at 10 p.m. Champagne toast at midnight and no cover charge on New Year's Eve.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** New Year's Eve at the Round-Up Saloon from 8 p.m.-2 a.m. on Tuesday. Tickets \$20-200.
- **S4:** Largest cash money drop on the Strip, top 10 countdown with DJ Jay and champagne toast at midnight on New Year's Eve.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Dripping in Diamonds at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Faron at 3:30 p.m. and Tyla Taylor at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Cash drop, Top 10 countdown and champagne toast at midnight on New Year's Eve.
- **The Grapevine Bar:** Dance music all night, party favors, champagne at night and a \$1 cover on New Year's Eve.
- **The Rose Room:** Edna Anderson on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** Top 10 Countdown with DJ Matteo, champagne toast and random cash drop on New Year's Eve. No cover.
- **Urban Cowboy:** New Years Eve Karaoke Edition at 9 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Cash drop, champagne toast, hot hits from the past decade, complimentary party hats and noisemakers, light appetizers and no cover charge on New Year's Eve.

Photos by Chad Mantoath and Nicholas Gonzalez



Friends at S4



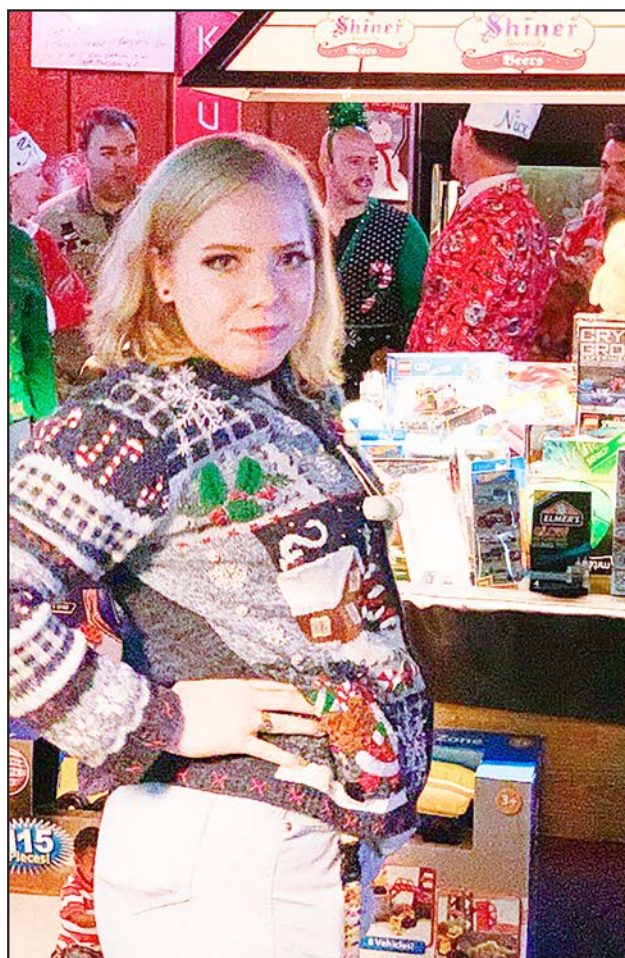
Holidays at S4





# Lost Souls Rugby Toy Drive and Tacky Sweater Contest

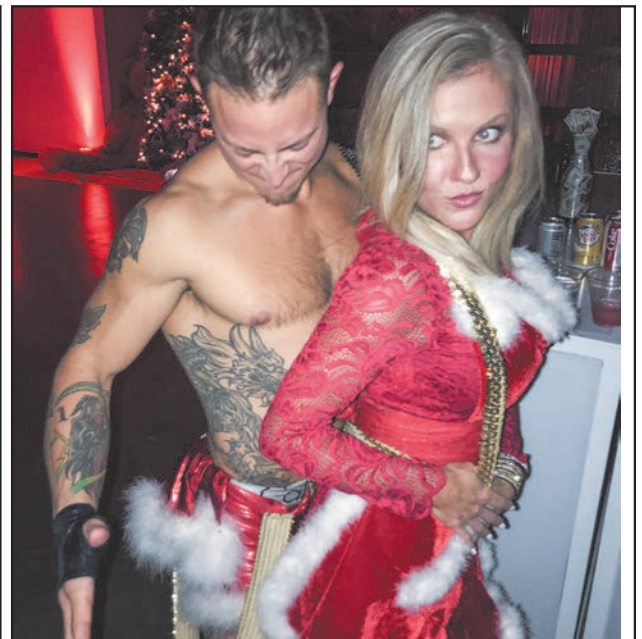
Photography by Todd Maria





# Teddy Bear Party

Photos by Chad Mantooh, Kevin Lofgren Photography and Sam Brand Photography

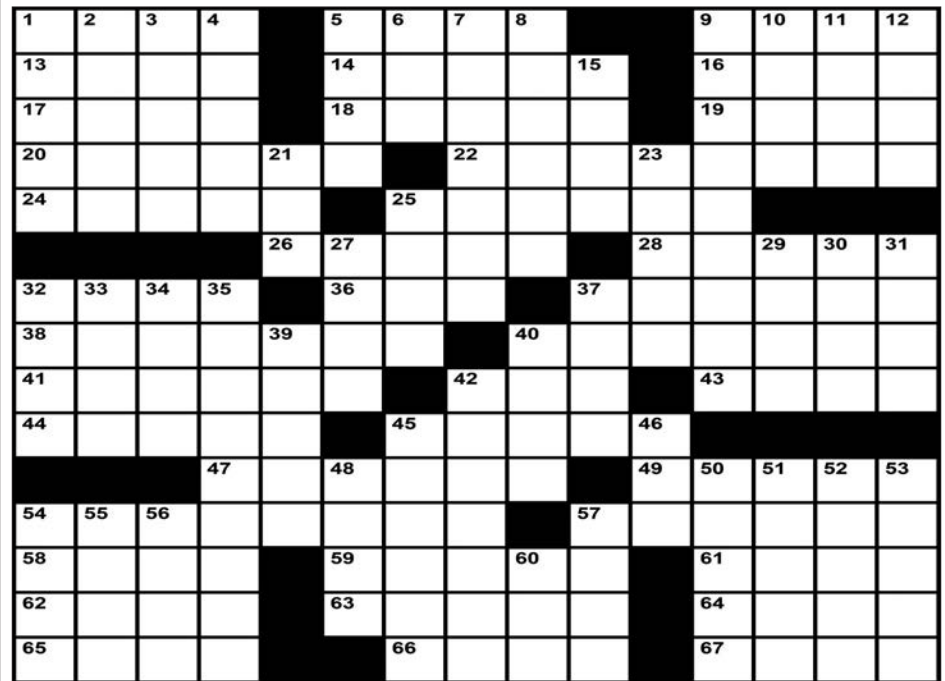






## q-puzzle

# LGBTQ-J



Solution on Page 22

### Across

1 Prepares to shoot off

5 *Project Runway* judge Michael

9 Broadway scenery chewers

13 Ballet move

14 Cuddly creatures of Endor

16 Click it to go to AfterEllen.com

17 Fairy tale bad guy

18 "Fiddle-\_\_!" (Scarlett's saying)

19 Pronoun for King James

20 New Queer Cinema pioneer Todd

22 *The Fall of America* author Allen

24 Antigay crusader Bryant

25 Take care of

26 Visitors at lesbianation.com

28 Gay cultural values, e.g.

32 Peril for Patty Sheehan

36 Hems and haws

37 Oral zinger

38 Billy of *American Horror Story*

40 I Love Dick creator Jill

41 It may cream your face when you bite it

42 *Argo* employer

43 Miss, to Mauresmo

44 \_\_ Ste. Marie, Mich.

45 Network of *Wedding Wars*

47 Makes up

49 Ass-kissers' responses

54 LGBTQ rights activist Jazz

57 Like the people in this puzzle whose clues are starred

58 Glenn, in *Fatal Attraction*

59 1971 Jane Fonda movie

61 Bishop's *Creep* \_\_ *Thy Narrow Bed*

62 Title for Edna or Judi

63 *Evita*'s married name

64 At no time, in verse

65 Mireille of *World War Z*

66 *Out in Left Field* host Goldberg

67 Verdon, who played Lola

### Down

1 Hawaiian howdy

2 Shakespearean king's daughter

3 Bloody queen

4 Ready for bed

5 Early sneaker brand

6 Be in the hole

7 *South Pacific* composer

8 Furry balls

9 Spank a passive one?

10 Pain held in by Schumacher?

11 Othello, for example

12 Like a tight opening

15 Tickle pink

21 La mer, to Debussy

23 Like Shirley MacLaine's magnolias

25 HI, once

27 He may have crystal balls

29 Poem of 22-Across

30 Anal alternative

31 Lid problem

32 Links athletic supporters

33 Affluent, to Lorca

34 Sometime defender of gay rts.

35 Units in Alexander's army

37 Thoroughfare with yellow bricks

39 Untouchable target

40 Homophobia and such

42 Pause in Dickinson's "I'm nobody! Who are you?"

45 Avoided going straight

46 Look in a gay bar

48 Peeling fruits for soldiers, e.g.

50 Georgetown Hoyas' coach Patrick

51 Muscle Mary's pride

52 Makeup maker Lauder

53 Like a clipped sheep

54 Green stones material

55 Zip

56 DeGeneres' *Finding* \_\_

57 Malone of *Life as a House*

60 Amount of bricks





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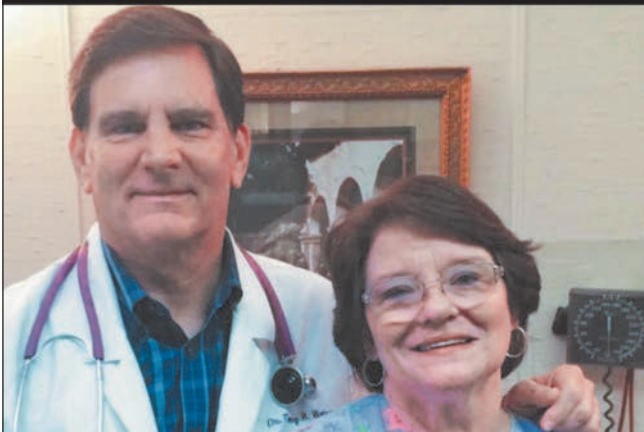
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