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Friday, February 21, 2020

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Comedienne Paula Poundstone  
hopes laughter can help heal  
a hurting country

by Arnold Wayne Jones, Page 16







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Paula Poundstone.  
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# MARCH 2020 PRIMARY ENDORSEMENTS

Listed here are all of the candidates we as a body have **endorsed**. Though they may not all be in your district, you may easily go to [dallascountyvotes.org](http://dallascountyvotes.org) and look up a sample ballot! Dallas county now offers voting centers which means you can vote at any polling place in the county no matter your district!

## IMPORTANT DATES

- ✓ Early Voting: **February 18th–28th, 2020**
- ✓ Election Day: **March 3rd, 2020**

### FEDERAL

<b>U.S. President</b> No endorsement*	<b>U.S. Senate</b> Amanda Edwards	<b>U.S. Rep. District 3</b> Lulu Seikaly	
<b>U.S. Rep. District 24</b> Kim Olson	<b>U.S. Rep. District 30</b> Eddie Bernice Johnson	<b>U.S. Rep. District 32</b> Colin Allred	<b>U.S. Rep. District 33</b> Marc Veasey

### STATE

<b>Railroad Commissioner</b> Chrysta Castañeda	<b>TX Supreme Court, Chief Justice</b> Amy Clark Meachum	<b>TX Supreme Court, PI 6</b> Larry Praeger
<b>TX Supreme Court, PI 7</b> Staci Williams	<b>TX Supreme Court, PI 8</b> Gisela D. Triana	<b>TX Criminal Appeals Court, PI 3</b> Elizabeth Davis Frizell
<b>TX Criminal Appeals Court, PI 4</b> Tina Clinton	<b>TX Criminal Appeals Court, PI 9</b> Brandon Birmingham	

### LOCAL

<b>TX House District 66</b> Sharon Hirsch	<b>TX House District 67</b> Rocio Gosewehr Hernandez	<b>TX House District 100 Primary Race**</b> Jasmine Crockett
<b>TX House District 103</b> Rafael M. Anchia	<b>TX House District 105</b> Terry Meza	<b>TX House District 107</b> Victoria Neave
<b>TX House District 108</b> Joanna Cattanach	<b>TX House District 109</b> Carl Sherman, Sr.	<b>TX House District 113</b> Rhetta Andrews Bowers
<b>TX House District 114</b> John Turner	<b>TX House District 115</b> Julie Johnson	<b>5th Court of Appeals, Place 3</b> Bonnie Lee Goldstein
<b>5th Court of Appeals, PI 6</b> Craig Smith	<b>14th Judicial District, Civil Court</b> Eric V. Moyé	
<b>95th Judicial District, Civil Court</b> Monica Purdy	<b>162nd Judicial District, Civil Court</b> Maricela Moore	
<b>254th Judicial District, Civil Court</b> Sandre Street Monciffre	<b>Criminal District Court, PI 2</b> Nancy Kennedy	
<b>Criminal District Court, PI 3</b> Alison Grinter Allen	<b>Criminal District Court, PI 4</b> Dominique Collins	<b>Sheriff</b> Roy Williams, Jr.
<b>Tax Assessor-Collector</b> John R. Ames	<b>County Commissioner, District 1</b> Theresa Daniel	<b>DCDP Chair</b> Carol Donovan

[STONEWALLDEMOCRATSOFDALLAS.ORG](http://STONEWALLDEMOCRATSOFDALLAS.ORG)

\*The following national campaigns called in: **Buttigieg Sanders Steyer & Warren**  
\*\*SDD has endorsed **Lorraine Birabil** for the HD 100 Special Election on 1/28/20 not to be confused with the March 3rd, 2020 primary election

Pol. Ad. paid for by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas. Treasurer: Anthony Storck

# instanTEA

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

## Magnum Dallas closing its doors

Tony Haas, owner of Magnum Dallas, confirmed Wednesday, Feb. 19, that the club has shut its doors, just over four months after it first opened, because the “competition is too much.”

Just before the Oct. 11 opening, Haas told Dallas Voice that the club, located at 1820 Mockingbird Lane, would be an upscale environment to enjoy the best live male entertainment. Wednesday, however, Haas told the Voice that the bar is closing and that he is filing for bankruptcy.

— Tammye Nash

## Bloomberg campaign holds listening session at CoH

Democratic presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg’s campaign held an event described as a listening session at Cathedral of Hope Wednesday morning, Feb. 19. The rally was organized by Adam Phillips, Bloomberg’s national faith advisor, and Mike Webb, Bloomberg’s Texas LGBT director.

Although Phillips is straight, he said he was kicked out of his denomination over his support of LGBT issues. He said Bloomberg has a pluralistic vision for America and that Trump “is run roughshod over our neighborhoods.” While acknowledging Bloomberg’s stop and frisk policy that was declared unconstitutional, Phillips said the former mayor, who took office just months after Sept. 11, defended the 9-11 mosque that opened blocks from the World Trade Center attack.

Webb said Bloomberg’s policies and proposals include ways to curb violence against the trans community and that, as president, Bloomberg would encourage education on trans issues and have police learn to protect the trans community. His positions also include education to prevent bullying in schools.

“So many campaigns overlook Texas,” Webb said, but Bloomberg has opened 19 centers across the said.

— David Taffet

## Irving-based Boy Scouts file Chapter 11

The Irving-based Boy Scouts of America has filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy.

The Boy Scouts have been on the decline for the last 10 years since fighting non-discrimination charges brought by gay scouts and LGBTQ scout leaders, a fight tied up in the organization’s pedophile problem.

Records obtained by Dallas Voice at the time showed that the organization’s homophobia stood in the way of protecting scouts: When gay Eagle Scouts who had come out volunteered to be troop leaders, they were banned. When random men who had no history with the Boy Scouts showed up, they were accepted as leaders. Many of those men turned out to be pedophiles.

New lawsuits against the organization prompted the bankruptcy. In many states, the statute of limitations was extended for sexual assault cases as a result of the MeToo movement.

The Boy Scouts current policy on LGBT discrimination is that local troops can decide whether to welcome gay scouts and LGBT scout leaders or not.

Boy Scouts of America officials told Dallas Voice that BSA filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy “to equitably compensate victims while ensuring Scouting continues across the country.” They said Scouting programs will continue, and that local Councils are “not filing for bankruptcy as they are legally separate and distinct organizations. ... The BSA cares deeply about all victims of abuse and sincerely apologizes to anyone who was harmed during their time in Scouting.”

BSA officials also noted that the organization has partnered with 1in6, “a trusted national resource for male survivors, so that victims of abuse are able to anonymously access vital support from trained advocates when and how they need it. Scouting is safer now than ever before: Approximately 90 percent of pending and asserted abuse claims against the BSA relate to abuse that occurred more than 30 years ago.”

— David Taffet

## Pedestrian killed on Cedar Springs Road in Uptown; driver arrested



Swinetta Marsh, 42, was arrested and charged with intoxication manslaughter after allegedly hitting and killing a pedestrian on Cedar Springs Road at Routh Street just before 5 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 16. Marsh, who was driving a Polaris Slingshot XL, left the scene of the accident but was arrested just a couple of blocks away, at the Cedar Springs/Maple Avenue intersection, after she hit a vehicle there. Marsh, who sources told Dallas Voice worked as a bartender at Marty’s Live, told police she had been out celebrating her birthday.

The Dallas County Medical Examiner has not yet released the name of the woman who was killed, but witnesses said she appeared to be between 50 and 60 years old. Police said the victim was crossing Cedar Springs Road “from east to west” in the crosswalk at Routh Street when Marsh, “traveling at a high rate of speed,” hit her. The victim was taken by ambulance to Parkland Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

— Tammye Nash



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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.

## FEBRUARY

### • Feb. 21: DFW Federal Club Happy Hour

Love is Love. Join HRC DFW Federal Club at the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, 300 N. Houston St. Parking in the garage is \$8.

### • Feb. 21: Toast to Life Sponsor Party

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

### • Feb. 21: LGBTQ Global Symposium on Equality and Human Rights

A coalition of Dallas-based organizations presents a symposium on equality and human rights. A diverse group of LGBTQ and ally presenters will highlight Dallas' rich history of moving from openly opposing to vocally championing human rights and equality from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Southern Methodist University, Tickets at [DFWWorld.org](http://DFWWorld.org).

### • Feb. 22: Turtle Creek Chorale gala

Idina Menzel performs at a gala benefiting the Turtle Creek Chorale at 7:30 p.m. at The Statler, 1914 Commerce St. [TurtleCreekChorale.com](http://TurtleCreekChorale.com).

### • Feb. 22: AOC Benefit Dance Concert

AIDS Outreach Center presents Dance

TCU, DBDT:Encore, Jordan Fuchs Company, Texas Ballet Theater and more at 7:30 p.m. at Studio Theatre in Erma Lowe Hall. \$20, students \$5. 817-257-4255 for reservations.

### • Feb. 22: Trinity Prom

A 21+ second chance prom benefiting Trinity Prom and LGBTQ Saves from 8 p.m.-midnight at The Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Tickets \$10 at [Eventbrite.com](http://Eventbrite.com).

### • Feb. 23: PrimeTimers

Games in Plano at 2 p.m. For address and directions call 214-218-0912.

### • Feb. 24: Alzheimers Workshop

Silver Pride presents a workshop to learn how to recognize common signs of Alzheimer's disease and other types of dementia and how to approach someone about memory concerns at 11 a.m. at Grauwlyer Park Branch Library, 2146 Gilford St. Lunch will be served. For more information, contact [portia@silverprideproject.com](mailto:portia@silverprideproject.com).

### • Feb. 25: Get Centered tour

Tour Resource Center and learn about its programs from 5-6:30 p.m. at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. [MyResourceCenter.org](http://MyResourceCenter.org).

### • Feb. 25: Steve Grand

Steve Grand performs benefiting the Suicide and Crisis Center at 7:30 p.m. at the Bob Hope Theatre, Owen Arts

Center, 6101 Bishop St. \$75-150. Tickets at [SteveGrandDallas.com](http://SteveGrandDallas.com).

### • Feb. 25: 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. 25: PrimeTimers

Dinner at 7 p.m. at Alfonso's Italian, 718 N. Buckner Blvd. #222. Info at 214-218-0912.

### • Feb. 27: Let's Talk

THRIVE's Let's Talk topic is Keeping Active. Snacks provided from 6-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Feb. 28: Go Red for Women Luncheon

The American Heart Association luncheon features Dr. Suzanne Steinbaum who's devoted her career to early detection, education and prevention of heart disease at Omni Dallas Hotel, 555 S. Lamar St. [GoRedForWomen.org](http://GoRedForWomen.org).

### • Feb. 28-29: Austin Car Club meet up

LGBT car clubs from around Texas meet at LaQuinta Inn, 11901 N. Mopac Expressway, Austin. [ClassicChassis.com](http://ClassicChassis.com).

### • Feb. 29: Understanding Transgender

Identities and Realities Deepen understanding of transgender

topics and practice skills to be a great ally from 6-9 p.m. at First Unitarian Church of Dallas, 4015 Normandy Ave. \$10. Register at [dct.org/andiboi](http://dct.org/andiboi).

### • Feb. 29: TAG Game Night

Tyler Area Gays game night will be held at The Well, 3320 Troup Hwy, Suite 230, Tyler. [TylerAreaGays.com](http://TylerAreaGays.com)

## MARCH

### • March 1: PrimeTimers

Games hosted at 2 p.m. in Oak Cliff. For address and directions, call 214-218-0912.

### • March 1: Queer and Trans Inclusive Lactation Workshop

Queer and trans inclusive lactation education workshop to help LGBTQ parents and prospective parents navigate the challenges of infant feeding options hosted by Precision Chiropractic from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at 4255 Bryant Irvin Road #101, Fort Worth. [EventBrite.com](http://EventBrite.com).

### • March 1: Evening of Hope Launch Party

Evening of Hope benefits AIDS Outreach Center. This year's theme is the Roaring 20s from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Mitchell Gold+Bob Williams, 5001 Ozona Blvd., Fort Worth. \$25 at the door.

### • March 3: PrimeTimers

First Tuesday lunch at Golden Corral at 11:30 a.m. 3312 Forest Lane. 214-218-0912.

### • Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m.

on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink with this week's guest **Scott Poggensee**; **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 a.m.-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. 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); LGBTQ 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).

and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 11:30 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); LGBTQ 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).

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.



• **March 3: Classic Chassis Car Club**  
Members socialize and talk about their rides beginning with a tire kick in the parking lot at 6 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

• **March 3: Brewing Up Business Plano**  
Develop business relationships and practice your elevator speech from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Legacy Texas Bank, 3512 Preston Road. Members free. General admission \$10 advance/\$20 at the door.

• **March 4: Wine Walk**  
Monthly first Wednesday wine walk on Cedar Springs Road. Purchase glass outside The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

• **March 5: Travelin' Voices**  
The Women's Chorus of Dallas sixth annual celebration of women composers for Women's History Month features Moira Smiley with her ensemble VOCCO

— known for providing visceral and experimental musical experiences — along with 200+ voices from TWCD and collegiate and high school choirs at 7:30 p.m. at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. \$20-45. TWCD.org.

• **March 8: Celebrate International Women's Day**

The 21st Dallas celebration of International Women's Day, "Hello Sisters," will be held from noon to 4 p.m. at Andalous Mediterranean Buffet, 1601 N. Central Expressway in Richardson, and will include a reading of the Words of Women Essay winning entry by Athena Jones, the Women's Herstory Quiz, MosaicSong and more. Parking and admission is free; buffet meal is \$17 plus tax and tip. Reservations required; RSVP by phone at 347-933-1256 or go online to EventBrite. WordsOfWomen.org.

■ pet of the week / NALA



lady already. Nala would love to go to a home with a friendly pup about her size who loves cuddling as much as she does. She'd also prefer a fenced-in yard so she can do her business without leaving the comfort of her domain. If you are interested in adopting Nala, you can actually take her on a test drive; she is eligible for a trial adoption, meaning we provide you with everything Nala needs for a few weeks until she's settled into your home. If it doesn't work out, that's totally ok; Nala will be happy to get a break from the shelter environment.

Email [foster@spca.org](mailto:foster@spca.org) if you'd like to learn more about adopting Nala. Regular adoption fees are \$150 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months and \$75 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older. Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetHealth, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

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# Openly called

The Rev. Christopher Thomas becomes first rector hired at St. Thomas the Apostle as an openly-gay man

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**W**hen Christopher Thomas was hired as the new rector at St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church in Oak Lawn, he was not the church's first gay pastor, but he was its first pastor who was openly gay when he was called as pastor. Thomas credits that to last year's compromise for churches in dioceses headed by bishops who don't approve of same-sex marriage, such as the Dallas diocese.

But that wasn't Thomas' only first. When he was ordained in Fort Worth, right after that diocese split over the issue of welcoming LGBT rectors and same-sex marriage, he was that diocese's first openly gay pastor.

Thomas grew up in Sugarland outside Houston and spent part of his professional life in Houston and New York. In Dallas, he's probably best known for the three years he spent as a church business administrator at Cathedral of Hope.

His vision for St. Thomas is for it to return to its passion for social justice: "My time at Brite [Divinity School at TCU in

Fort Worth] instilled that passion for social justice in me," he said. "We're going back to that."

Although his studies at Brite may have reinforced his passion for social justice, it was not a new calling for him. Thomas spent years during the AIDS crisis caring for friends. He described caring for people at Omega House, an AIDS hospice in Houston.

"The things I saw: working with patients with huge KS lesions, staring in the face of death at 23 years old," he recalled. Thomas said those experiences gave him a different appreciation for life.

Thomas was in Fort Worth in 2009 when TABC agents and Fort Worth police officers opened the then-newly-opened LGBTQ bar Rainbow Lounge. Patrons were injured in the raid, and as a result, the Fort Worth LGBT community demanded change from its city government. Members of the community, including Thomas, stepped up to help fight that battle

Thomas worked on a committee to develop a curriculum to train police officers on working with the LGBTQ community. What started as a group of 10 had shrunk to just two people by the time they were ready to make presentations, but Thomas worked with a transgender woman training police officers and new recruits. Although he's no longer involved, the sensitivity program he began continues today.

When he was hired by St. Thomas, Thomas made the move from Fort Worth to Dallas and decided to locate in the urban core. The church is near Love Field but is surrounded by trees — far enough



from downtown to feel a bit suburban, close enough to feel quite urban and be touched by the city's problems.

Thomas said that his church has always been the progressive leader in the diocese. St. Thomas was the first Episcopal Church in Dallas to have women in its leadership, the first to have LGBTQ people in leadership, the first to integrate and the first — and only — to deal with the AIDS crisis.

When the Episcopal Church sanctioned same-sex marriage, the Dallas diocese was one of seven nationwide whose bishops refused to embrace the new position. Fort Worth's diocese suffered a split, with conservative congregations leaving, and it is the only diocese still in court over questions of ownership of property.

But in Dallas, LGBT church members were left in limbo.

One compromise was worked out that allowed same-sex couples who were

members of Dallas churches to travel to Fort Worth and marry there. But a national compromise was reached last year that allowed more progressive churches in more conservative dioceses options. In Dallas, churches that wanted to perform marriages for same-sex couples would spiritually fall under the Missouri bishop while remaining in the Dallas diocese for business matters.

Three churches in Dallas, including St. Thomas, operate under that compromise.

Thomas said he's spoken to members of his church who would love to reconcile fully with Dallas Bishop George R. Sumner. Thomas said he's already had discussions with Sumner, and while he has no idea where those discussions will lead, Thomas said he is sure it will at least result in better relations on other issues if not on same-sex marriage.

Although he's only been in his new





# Promoting the power of LGBTQ women

Lez Talk hosting event with LPAC to help get queer women out to vote

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

**T**his year is “a critical time” for the LGBTQ community, especially for LGBTQ women, Lez Talk conference cofounder Stacey Stevenson said. To bring that

point home, Stevenson said Lez Talk organizers have decided not to stage the conference this fall, but to instead focus their energies on a series of political events aimed at engaging LGPTQ women in the political process.

“In light of it being a critical election year for our community and country, Lez Talk has decided to focus its efforts on disrupting the current political climate,” the conference’s four cofounders said in an email to supporters. “We plan on doing this by hosting, as well as participating in and supporting, organizations and events that support LGBTQ+ equality.”

In the first of those promised events,



Stephanie Sandberg

Lez Talk is hosting a gathering for North Texas LGBTQ women and allies featuring the executive director and political director of LPAC, the LGBTQ women’s political action committee. The meeting is set for 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 9, at The Riveter Dallas, 3333 Welborn St., Ste. 100. In addition to LPAC’s Execu-

tive Director Stephanie Sandberg and Political Director Lisa Turner, those expected to attend include congressional candidate Gina Ortiz Jones and Texas state Reps. Jessica Gonzalez, Mary Gonzalez, Celia Israel, Julie Johnson and Erin

**POWER,** Page 11

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# The philosophy and visual art of Thomas Massaquoi

When I first met Thomas Massaquoi, I immediately noticed that he had a calming artist vibe reverberating about him. He was wearing a shirt that was hand-painted with words like “dope,” “hope” and “resist” that he had made himself. I immediately resonated with and admired that he was the kind of artist who literally walked his art, wore his art and, as I would soon come to learn, *is* his art.



**Brandi Amara Skyy**  
Queer Creatives

dreaming up a panelist-lead series in hopes of creating dialogue and change in our community, his aesthetic — his vibe —

is ever-present.

What is that vibe? It begins and ends with his core love and value of philosophy, a field, he told me, that “wasn’t on my radar in college, but after taking a few classes and speaking to an adjunct from SMU, he convinced me to major in philosophy.”

Now, philosophy is deeply woven into all his work, and it is THE space in which Thomas resides.

One of my favorites of his works is *American Philosopher*, a short video he wrote and co-created with Jake Fordyce that is posted on his website. In it, we see Thomas in the middle of a field of grass, reading, reflecting and visually mirroring the vibe of his narration. It is a spoken-word piece that sounds like his life and artist manifesto.

But while all his works are grounded in philosophy, they are also brimming with visionary ideals rooted in action and bound for change — change to ourselves and to the world.

“Who am I?” his video asks. “My connection is with those who dare to challenge.”

And challenge us to question and change ourselves for the highest good of all is exactly what his body of work asks us to do, to push ourselves beyond our normal comfort zones.

I’m thinking specifically here of of *AmeriKa*, a work that uses the American flag as its canvas. In a country full of one-dimensional beliefs about patriotism where some vilify anyone or any-



thing they deem disrespectful to the flag — whether that’s kneeling during the national anthem, burning the flag or turning it upside-down in protest — a work that incorporates written words like “AIDS” “Slavery” and “Give me liberty or give me death” written on the Stars and Stripes challenges us right then and there to define what patriotism means for us as individuals. It forces us to put a stake in our own proverbial ideological ground and claim, “This is what I believe and why.”

Or it prompts us to ask ourselves an even more important question: “Can American patriotism really be singularly defined by how one treats its symbol (the flag) vs. how one treats its literal manifestation (the people)?”

But here’s what really excites me about Thomas’ work: It’s a quiet radicalism, the kind that doesn’t scream its ideals or shout its opinions in your face. Instead, it challenges us from the inside without demonizing us on the outside for making an educational choice to believe something different.

That’s because the heart that beats Thomas’ philosophy into all his work is a pulse of sameness. “My belief is that we are all the same. We are capable of doing the same, for better or worse,” he says. “And with that similarity, I know we can build something great, something better.”

And as a writer and activist (art + activist), I, too, am drawn to “those who dare to change.” And Thomas is change-maker.

But it is also the spirit of likeness that I identify with most within his body of work. And I believe that as much as we need people to remind us of how we are different, we also need people who remind us that, underneath all those layers of difference, is a shared sameness.

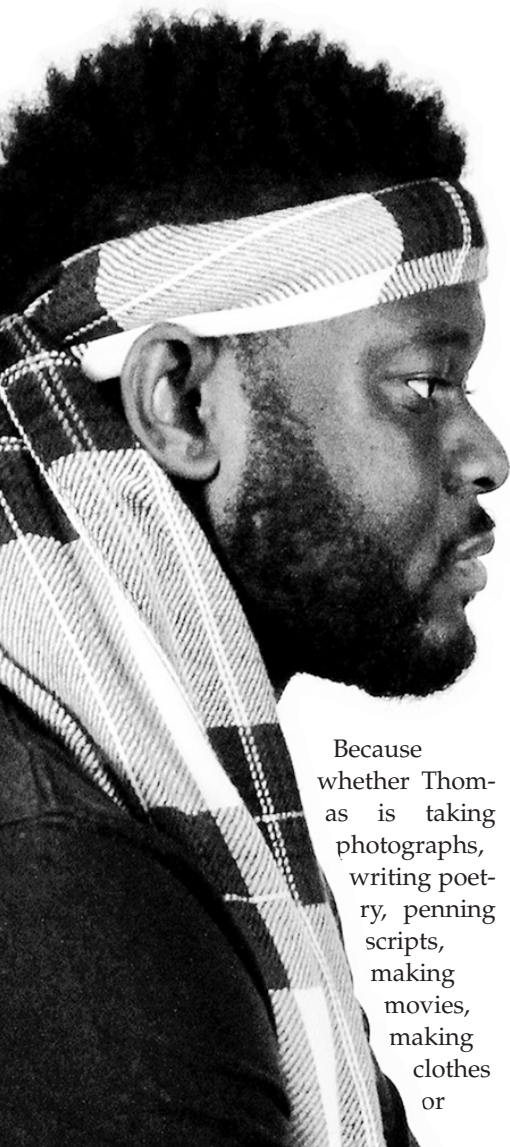
We need people — and need to be people — who honor all our differences, but also know that in the end none of it matters.

As I closed out my interview, I asked Thomas a question that I have been asking of myself and many other creatives and artists: “What is one small shift in our thinking or the way we view/go about our lives that has the potential to deeply change us?”

Thomas’ answers mirrored all the above sentiments: “Our time is finite, not infinite and guaranteed. Once your concept has been challenged or threatened, you will move through life differently.”

And to move and think differently is exactly what Thomas’ work inspires us to do. ■

*Brandi Amara Skyy is a queer artist and activist — an activist — who lives and works in Dallas. She writes a monthly column for Dallas Voice on queer creatives.*



Because whether Thomas is taking photographs, writing poetry, penning scripts, making movies, making clothes or





# POWER

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Zwiener, the cofounders of the first Texas House LGBT Caucus.

The whole idea is to disrupt the Washington, D.C., status quo by growing the political power of women — LGBTQ women in particular.

“It’s about getting people, women, to understand what’s at stake here, about what will happen if we end up having another four years like what we are coming out of now,” Stevenson said. “It’s about realizing we cannot stay silent, realizing that we have power. It’s about information and communication, rallying people around the cause and truly understanding what is at stake in this election.”

Lez Talk this year is “really targeting this contingent of women that ranges from those who are already politically astute to those who see that we are going backwards right now and want to do something about it,” she said. “We want to enlighten people and get them mobilized for November. Essentially, we want people to vote.”

And that goal meshes seamlessly with

the mission of LPAC.

LPAC was founded in 2012 as the Lesbian Political Action Committee, but the name has since been re-named simply as LPAC, with the L now standing for LGBTQ to be more inclusive, Sandberg said.

The organization was founded by longtime activist Urvashi Vaid, and she “galvanized” a number of other LGBTQ women who were, like her, “tired of walking into one too many rooms and [as women] being vastly outnumbered” by gay men, who made up, by far, the majority of the leadership in LGBTQ organizations and out LGBTQ executives and upper management in corporate America.

“Our mission,” Sandberg said, “is to elevate this community [of LGBTQ women] and give it a voice in politics.” LPAC does that, she continued, by operating as a values-based PAC that supports candidates — especially LGBTQ women candidates — that support LGBTQ equality, women’s equality and social justice.

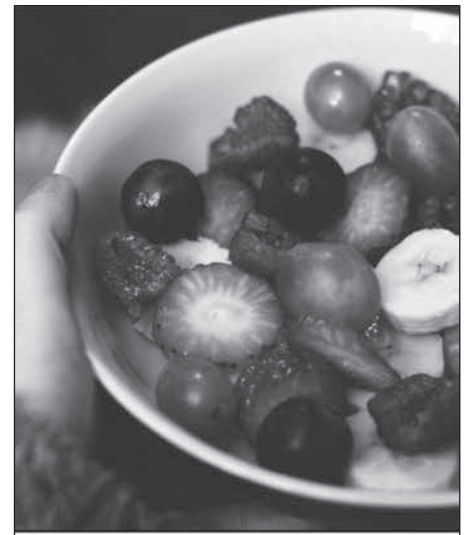
Even though people tend to

Lez Talk Dallas Presents LPAC takes place Monday, March 9, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at The Riveter, 3333 Welborn St., Ste. 100. The event includes wine and light hors d’oeuvres. Tickets are \$50, and available via a link on the Lez Talk Dallas Facebook page, Facebook.com/LezTalkDallas.

lump all of the members LGBTQ into one homogenous group, “our issues [as queer women] are a little bit different,” Sandberg said. And while LPAC certainly supports “our gay brothers,” she continued, “We are focused on creating a place at the table for LGBTQ women. We want to have a real impact and really move the needle, primarily by electing LGBTQ women to office.”

While LPAC hopes to “lift all votes by concentrating fiercely on LGBTQ women,” Sandberg said that those efforts in the past have been hampered by a lack of solid data. That’s why LPAC recently launched the nonprofit Project LPAC and then hired pollster and researcher Celin-da Lake to “undertake the first. Survey and first research study to understand LGBTQ women and civic engagement.” And they mean all women that come un-

POWER, Page 11



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Brian Smith





## OPEN

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position as pastor of St. Thomas for a few weeks, Thomas said he is excited about a new energy he feels in the church. The Rev. Steve Sprinkle, professor of practical theology at Brite, will be coming to speak at St. Thomas soon, and Thomas recently heard from Mark Jordan, professor of christian thought at Harvard Divinity School and professor of the studies of women, gender, and sexuality in

the Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Jordan, who won the 2011 Randy Shilts Award for nonfiction for his book *Recruiting Young Love: How Christians Talk about Homosexuality*, has recently moved back to Dallas with his husband and will be attending St. Thomas.

Thomas said when he worked at St. Thomas Church on 5th Avenue in New York across from Trump Tower, he learned that “you can’t phone it in,” and that he always has bring his “A” game. Part of that, he continued, means having fun along with doing good work. And

he’s excited about what the future for St. Thomas looks like.

“Let’s do some fun Jesus work in the world and heal some of the brokenness out there,” he said. “This church has so much potential.” ■ *The Episcopal Church of St. Thomas the Apostle is located at 6525 Inwood Road in Dallas. Eucharist services are held each Sunday at 8 a.m. for Holy Eucharist Rite One and at 10 a.m. for Holy Eucharist Rite Two. Office hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For information call 214-352-0410 or visit [TheDoubter.org](http://TheDoubter.org).*



## POWER

From Page 11

der the LGBTQ umbrella — trans women, women of color, queer women of all ages, all income levels, all races, ethnicities and backgrounds.

“We have been thrilled” with the results, Sandberg said. “We actually now have a starting point to understand and define our communities, and also to understand what we should be saying to these communities of women to get



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Lisa Turner

them out to vote.

“That’s where the impact really starts.”

Sandberg said that most people don’t know about LPAC but that the response to the first two Lez Talk conferences — in 2018 and 2019 in Dallas — has “proven the need for and the excitement about lesbians coming together to have these conversations.”

Tickets to the Lez Talk/LPAC event in Dallas cost \$50, but Stevenson and Sandberg stressed that there are options for women who want to attend but are unable to pay the \$50 fee. Organizers ask that those who can afford to do so buy extra tickets to be donated to those who want to attend but can’t afford it.

“I want people to know, queer women and allies, that there is an organization that exists with the sole mission to build political power and presence of LGBTQ women,” Sandberg said. “And this is the year we really should be turning a corner and having impact.” ■



Dr. Marc Tribble and Dr. Donald Graneto named to D Magazine’s Best Doctors in Dallas for 2017 in Infectious Disease and Family Medicine respectively.



Peter Triporo, NP named Top 10 in 2018 America’s Top Nurse Practitioner Awards presented by Point of Care Network



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Relationship goals? Set ones that work for you



How do you look up to couples when you don't know any happy ones? #RelationshipGoals have always been tricky for me. For years I've found it hard to find truly monogamous, happy gay couples to look up to, to see and think to myself, I want to be like them.

Is it because I judge these relationships by a set of standards that aren't really intended for gay couples? Is it just that straight couples are just better at pretending?

I've been in closed and open relationships. I understand why people would want either one.

Some people think monogamy isn't realistic, so why not avoid cheating by just being open about it? How can we expect one person to fulfill all our needs?

It sounds great, but I've seen relationships fall apart despite all the supposed freedom. Jealousy can still manifest, especially if boundaries and conversations aren't happening.

I've seen people act dishonestly toward their partner, using an open relationship as a way to shut someone out or transition into a new relationship altogether.

I also respect people who say they need one and only one person to be their main squeeze through life. Well, we all know what can happen there: break-ups, divorce. And whether it's because of money problems or cheating or years of resentment, it's devastating to lose that person.



Josh Robbins  
Contributing Columnist

But worse than a breakup is seeing someone stay in an unhappy relationship that isn't healthy. I've seen many friends in codependent relationships who have so much trouble getting out of them, because maybe the person was their first love or because the sex is the best or because when it's good, it's so good — that one is a classic line.

Seeing friends go through love drama and going through it myself, I've learned over the years that I need authenticity and, most importantly, transparency. I learned that I can't get bogged down by over-thinking the rules of my next relationship before it even begins.

So, I decided to switch up my thinking. I was gonna look for someone who understands that the rules are always subject to change — as long as we both agree and regularly check-in.

So how do you get that perfect relationship without good role models? Read about it!

*The Ethical Slut* by Dossie Easton and Janet Hardy describes such negotia-

tions between couples and is a must-read. The authors emphasize that as long as the couple maintains communication and flexibility, the relationship can still thrive, despite jealousy and times of anger. Don't worry about doing what everyone else does. It's your relationship.

Damon Jacobs is a known PrEP activist and a licensed marriage counselor. He's someone I like to bounce ideas off of from time to time. One time I asked Damon if he had ever seen a successful married gay couple who had chosen to live apart, each person in their own places. He told me that, in fact, he has seen such a couple, and the arrangement was working well for them.

We so often associate living apart as the step towards separation and breaking up, but for this couple, living apart made them happy. It all goes back to: As long as it makes you happy, who cares if it's not exactly typical?

Take advantage of online dating. Creating a good online profile can help you meet like-minded flexible people. Dating.com Group has tons of sites for every kind of person seeking out every type of relationship imaginable.

Give it a try! I did :)  
Josh Robbins is a spokesperson for Dating.com Group, an award-winning sexual health advocate, and author of the site *imstilljosh.com*. He was nominated for a GLAAD media award in 2017 and recently won the National Lesbian and Gay Journalist Association's Excellence Award in the blogging category.



# How's Trixie?



A new album, a new tour, a new book — drag queen Trixie Mattel does it all... and hopes to live long enough to enjoy it

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

**W**e are chatting the day before Trixie Mattel — perhaps the most hyphenated “hyphenate” in drag outside of RuPaul herself (she does comedy, has a cosmetics line, a web series, a new music album, an upcoming book and quite possibly a presidential run or interstellar exploration still in her purse) — will set out on her national tour, so she’s spending her last day at home paying bills and, most

importantly, packing for life on the road.

“When you pack for a tour, you don’t just have to get in drag once, but for months,” she sighs. “And [you have to pack] all that weird stuff you can’t find at CVS — wig glue and 99-percent alcohol and extra tights. And it’s always exciting [after you leave] to find out what key item you left behind. I’m sure it will be underwear or my phone charger or something essential. Logistically it’s a nightmare.”

It is also everything she lives for. If Trixie were to tell you she had no life outside of the limelight, you might well believe her. She soaks up the show business like sunlight.

“Being on tour gives me a reason to be,” she says. “I love having my whole

reason to live being a show: I wake up, have some tea, go to the gym, think about my jokes for that night and what happened the night before. You mold [the show] as you go. You get to dig into the performance and make it perfect.”

Trixie promises her upcoming performance at the Bomb Factory will be the best yet. And it seems possible. She doesn’t leave much to chance. For the

upcoming tour, she designed her own wigs and costumes, specifically to make them “travel-friendly” (most are collapsible; all the wigs merely attach to a foundation wig, “and then you can stack on an up-do or a flip,” she explains). In fact, she acknowledges her near-obsession with details — and the variety of enterprises she’s engaged in

**TRIXIE MATTEL  
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AXS.com.

— cannot be good for her.

“I was just telling my boyfriend, I need to pick a lane,” she says. “I am so deeply fulfilled by doing records, and when I do standup, I’m alive. And I love my makeup company. But that’s three different careers. Maybe I want to die young.”

If she does die soon, she’ll still have gotten in a lifetime of work. She talks with the speed of a crack addict, interrupting and blurting out ideas as fast as she can think them. She can rattle off her own CV like she’s aiming to win a rap battle. And nothing seems to be off-limits. Even though her victory on the third iteration of *RuPaul’s Drag Race All Stars* was a comparative lifetime ago, she’s happy to talk about it. When I tell her, with the utmost respect, that I was rooting for Shangela, she interjects: “Were you shook? Was she robbed? I thought so. I would have voted for her! I mean, you lose to someone like Shangela, and it’s no shame. It’s so crazy. Once Shangela was in the top it was like, ‘Fuck.’ But I’m glad I won.”

You see, what we mortals call simply “Trixie Mattel” isn’t just a drag queen, but a brand — an entity in and of itself — and one her alter ego (born Brian Michael Firkus) is determined to make a success.

“I worked so hard for so long for so little money, far be it from me if I see an opportunity not to take it. I just turned 30 and still dress like a slutty little girl for a living. I’m at an age where everyone like me is either getting married or having a baby — they all have different checkpoints for what an adult looks like. Am I a grownup? I guess. But my place is filled with Barbies. You know what the paint color in my living room is called? Baby Girl.”

Right now, though, her proudest achievement is *Barbara*, her just-dropped new LP of original music. When I mention that it sounds “like very happy beach music, sort of like Fountains of Wayne,” Trixie all but explodes over the phone.

“Oh my god — that was my goal. I. Love. Fountains. Of. Wayne! You know why it sounds like that? Because I grew up worshipping the ground Adam



Schlesinger walks on. It's like power pop from 2000, but really references the 1960s — very sugary and light and sincere but not curing cancer. The music has meaning but a sense of humor about itself. It's the sound of sunshine," she says.

Although when she began doing drag, she always did lip-sync, Trixie insists she's not faking her interesting music.

"I have been playing guitar since I was 12. Before I was a drag queen I wanted to be a songwriter like John Mayer; I wanted to be Michelle Branch, to be Sheryl Crow. But standup and guitar go so well together. I'm not a

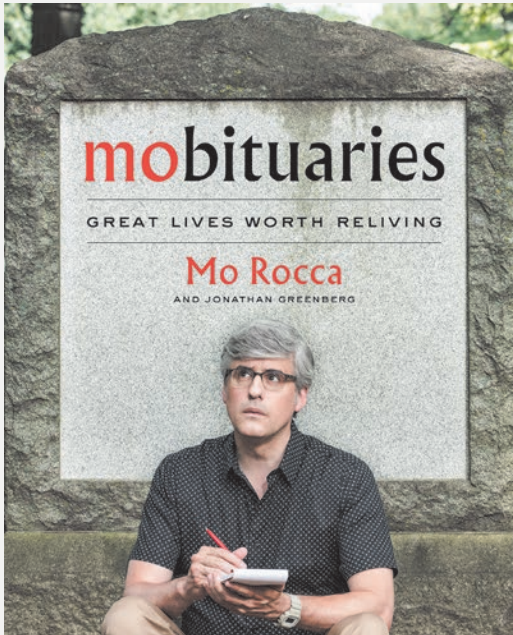
drag queen that decided later to be a musician — this is definitely in my wheelhouse."

So much so that her performance will feature a combination of her skills.

"It's like an hour of comedy and 30 minutes of music. But it's integrated. My audience is so diverse — some people love me because of records, some because of *Drag Race* some from my YouTube show. No matter why you're there, there is something you will like. It should run about an hour and a half... an hour and 15 if the audience is not laughing."

Somehow, that doesn't seem likely. ■

## Death becomes him



Queer humorist Mo Rocca gives the gone their due

**Mobituaries: Great Lives Worth Reliving by Mo Rocca (and Jonathan Greenberg) (Simon & Schuster 2019) \$29.99; 375 pp.**

"Nothing lasts forever." If you're old enough to read that, you're old enough to know its truth: Everything and everybody ends eventually, and some leave without fanfare. We might not even see them go because, as Mo Rocca muses, "Not everyone has gotten the send-off they were due." That set-things-right need for closure launched Rocca's idea for a "mobituary," which he defines as "an appreciation for someone [or something] who didn't get the love she or he deserved the first time around."

Take, for instance, "the long s," which looks something like a lower-case *f* and which can be found in the Declaration of Independence. It ceased to be used by late 1803 and while gone is not forgotten. Women don't wear hobble skirts anymore, and men don't

wear codpieces; doctors don't believe phrenology helps to diagnose your obsession with cats; encyclopedias won't help a young author-to-be who thinks he's gay, and you can no longer visit Prussia because it hasn't existed since 1947.

But *things* don't just disappear. People don't, either.

Once upon a time, every man wanted to dress like a guy named Beau Brummel. We don't talk about Ada Lovelace these days, or her 19th-century computer programming work. Few people know who Moses Fleetwood Walker is, and even in today's political climate, Billy Carter's name is rarely mentioned.

Reputations can die ignominiously, TV shows get canceled, and careers fade away (or sometimes end with a president's life). Complacency can die, as can grace. But sometimes, just when we think life is filled with nothing but death, demise and unpleasantness, it can return on the tops of champagne bubbles.

The first thing — perhaps the *only* thing — you need to know about *Mobituaries* is that it is absolutely delightful. Promise yourself two minutes with this book, and you'll close its covers a half-hour later. Dip in for a little nostalgia (when did station wagons depart, anyhow?). Step back in time to witness the acts of people who made big impacts but are now largely forgotten. See how celebrities can eclipse other celebs, even in death.

Like with a bag of potato chips, watch yourself reach into this book for another handful, because Rocca doesn't wade in too deeply; instead, he gives readers just enough to whet appetites but not so much that we get full. And as with any feast, literary or otherwise, you can nibble without thinking you must have a helping of everything.

Rattle around and you'll find that *Mobituaries* is gently humorous, kindly inclusive and plain fun to read. Have it nearby, and you'll know that this book won't collect dust.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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# In for a penny, in for a Poundstone

The observational comedian says she can't avoid politics in her act, but finds laughter therapeutic for her audiences and herself

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

**P**aula Poundstone exudes energy. No, like, she really seems to manifest an aura.

"Whenever I go to a city, it usually gets sunny," she says from her home in Santa Monica. "But I can also put out streetlamps — I walk under one as it goes out. I also can't keep a watch running."

Poundstone seems to take the phrase "animal magnetism" literally. Maybe that's part of what has attracted audiences to her for 40 years now.

Forty years! The number staggers. It has made her worry, in fact, if we could eventually run out of jokes ... or run out of notes to make new music? So far, that hasn't been a problem: Like Willy Wonka's waterfall, the chocolate churns itself. In fact, even after four decades, she's never done the same show twice.

"My favorite part of my show is the time honored, 'What do you do for a living?' bit," Poundstone explains — her way of pausing the one-liners in favor of personal interactions with members of her audience. "That has not changed over many, many years. I think the difference between me and [other comics] is that I leave my line out there longer. I like it to be a real conversation, and hopefully I get enough pieces to play with it." And she does it with almost no stock conversational tropes; she's genuinely interested in what people have to say.

Her quest for knowledge — and the desire to share what she learns with others — has driven most of her routines over the years. (Part of Poundstone's appeal has always been her disarming apparent ignorance; during our conversation, she can't recall her

children's ages, brushing it off with, "I'll ask them next time I see them... and I'll get their names.")

"All the shows I have designed over the years [including her current podcast, *Nobody Listens to Paula Poundstone*], at their hearts, have this real sharing of information. The best reason for doing that is, you're never gonna run out of material, because I can make jokes about any topic."

And while Poundstone's stream-of-consciousness style of humor has traditionally been gentle but obliquely withering around topics like politics, it's not something she shies away from anymore.

"I do talk about politics onstage — not as an historian or political analyst,

but as a voter battered by the wind and surf. [My comedy] has always been largely autobiographical. It used to be about raising

my kids, or taking the bus. Which is why I talk about politics now — my kids are grown and it's a large part of my day. Sometimes people get mad at me, because the tone has shifted [in the country]. It shocked the hell out of me at first. I used to make this speech about [why I'm discussing political stuff] — how I don't bill myself as an expert, just a citizen trying to figure it out. But now I just say fuck it. It's frustrating because I hate to be lied to — by my kids and by companies and by politicians."

She holds the current Commander-in-Cheeto in particular low esteem, in part because of where he has taken us as a society.

"The whole Susan Collins thing [where the Republican senator suggests she might vote with the Democrats but never does] is just embarrassing. During the impeachment, she said, 'I think he's learned a lesson.' One thing we know for sure [about Donald Trump] is that he doesn't learn lessons," she says.

"We're in big trouble as a country. It's shocking. I feel like it's a *Lost in Space* episode where we are under attack, but we always manage to get out of it! It's this fantasy we've created for ourselves

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Photo by Shannon Greer

[that we can weather any storm]. But maybe we're fooling ourselves, and when that fantasy dies, the streets are gonna fill."

Her concerns are based largely on her interactions with her fans.

"I think there's a desperation in the country," Poundstone says. "People often come up after a show and thank me for being there... which is a weird dynamic, since they paid to come see me. But I think people feel any feeling activity, like laughing, helps. They

come to comedy show like they used to go to hot springs. Sadness and apprehensiveness and anxiousness can be lessened with a night of laughter. It is helpful. It doesn't solve the problems — it helps with the symptoms, not the disease. I certainly feel like I don't know what to do. Comedy feels like an escape."

*Dallas Voice will be giving away two tickets to see Paula Poundstone in Dallas in a drawing next Thursday. See our social media pages for details.*

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# Goats story

Strange but winning, 'Alabaster' wears its heart on its sleeve

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

June (Kristi Funk Dana) lives in her family's moldering farmhouse outside Birmingham, Ala., her only companionship from two old goats — one of whom, Weezy (Tina Parker),

she can talk to. Into her sheltered world appears

Alice (Chase Crossno), a famous celebrity photographer from New York doing a series of "serious" portraits for

■ GOATS Page 20



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# Women on the verge



Lesbian romance 'Portrait of a Lady on Fire' scorches the screen

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

Two-hundred years ago, having a wedding portrait made wasn't as simple as a Google search, or even a selfie. Trained artists would have to journey to you and spend days, even weeks taking brush to canvas, capturing the visage of the bride ... and hopefully, something more.

That's the task set to Marianne (Noemie Merlant), a woman portraitist during an era when few women could make a living in any field. That may explain why she got this less-than-prestigious commission: To travel to a remote island in the English Channel, off the coast of Northern France. She's not the first to take on this assignment; the last painter left without finishing the portrait of the reclusive, headstrong subject, Heloise (Adele Haenel). Marianne feels ill at ease in these circumstances — how did Heloise's sister die? Why did she reject her suitor?

Told in flashback, *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* oozes Gothic mystery and clandestine sexual tension. The trope of the newcomer confronted by closed-lipped servants in a remote, wind-battered setting has been a surefire one since the

days of the Bronte sisters and Henry James. But what sets this film apart is how incisively writer-director Celine Sciamma uses her camera, sometimes with point-of-view shots that create tension or excitement, sometimes with the detachment of a painter herself; any given frame could be its own masterpiece — a Vermeer, or perhaps a Rembrandt. It's as ravishing as its subject matter.

But it's also a fully-formed love story. Despite their differences in station and position, both Heloise and Marianne are women — queer ones at that — at a time when that could strangle one's independence and self-determination. United by their brave defiance of convention, they forge a bond that is both sensual and spiritual.

Sciamma seems at least as interested in the artistic temperament and the process of falling in love as she is telling a stylish romance with elements of historical symbolism, but the remarkable thing is how well she does it. Both principal actresses are exceptional, with great chemistry, but Valeria Golino as Heloise's mother and Luana Bajrami as her maid steal their scenes.

Far more creative and empowering than the well-trod feminism of the recent umpteenth Little Women remake, *Portrait of a Lady on Fire* scorches the screen with its intelligence and sexiness. ■

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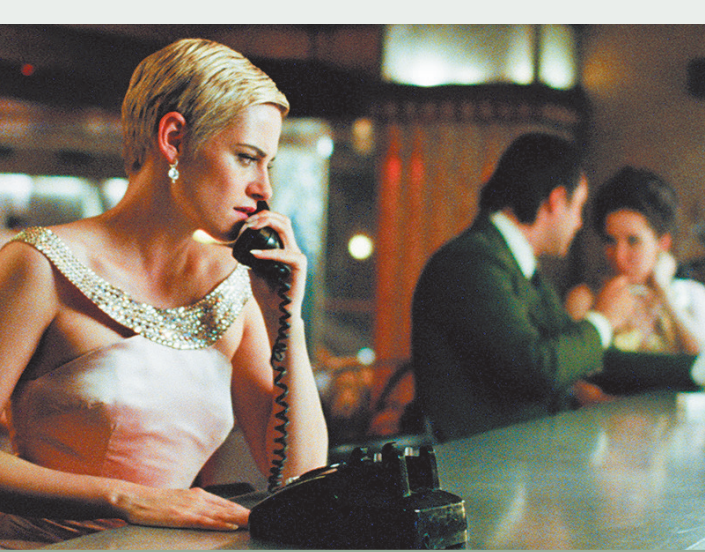
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## QUEER CLIP: 'Seberg'

*Seberg*, the new biopic of doomed film star Jean Seberg, takes a fairly straight-forward approach to its subject matter, sort of the flip side to a film like *BlackKkklansman*: How law enforcement can ruin a person with questionable justification. But it's a story that deserves to be told, and it does so maturely and seriously. And in the era of Trumpian politicization of the Justice Department, it feels eerily relevant today.

Kristen Stewart is an uncannily fortuitous choice for the title role: The right age, physically similar and herself a polarizing figure due to her personal life (as well as mixed reviews for her acting abilities). She delivers here, even if she doesn't ignite the screen. Even better is Anthony Mackie as the Black Panther she carries on an affair with. Their chemistry is the driving force of this long-overdue treatment of a Hollywood tragedy.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Now playing at Landmark's Magnolia.

## ■ GOATS From Page 18

a planned project: All of her subjects are women covered in scars, including June. Alice, who makes ponderous pronouncements about her artistry being the ability to "capture" the reality of these women past their physical deformities, is unprepared to have her own life similarity examined. June asks her equally invasive questions, but both are masking their own damage — mostly emotional.

*Alabaster*, a rolling world premiere play by Audrey Cefaly and presented in Dallas by Kitchen Dog Theater, is a strange, romantic and humorous play about serious issues told with a hint of absurdity... or is it magical realism? A talking goat, who offers Yoda-like advice? Meta-foreshadowing that indicates a comprehension of the play as a play... but doesn't really comment on that? Direct comparisons to *The Bridges of Madison County* presented unironically? Clear parallels to the play *Proof*? The secret to understanding *Alabaster* — and enjoying it as I did — is realizing Cefaly isn't interested in subtext. Her metaphors are all played at surface-level: If you ever wonder, "Are wounds to the body stand-ins for wounds to the soul?" or "is a talking goat meant to be a pun about Alice acting sheepishly?" or similar academic quandaries, the answer will always be "yes."

But just because the play is light on literary complexity doesn't make it any less affecting. June is fully a part of the tradition of angry rural women, perpetually underestimated and pigeonholed but also too afraid to dig themselves out of the hole society has put them in. June's attacks on Alice are clearly defensive, as is Alice's big-city cynicism. We can see through them even if they can't (though Weezy, in home-spun pronouncements, clearly can). In some ways, the play reminds me of the terrific podcast *Shit Town*: a droll gay Southerner's prickly relationship with a Northeastern intellectual.

Dana's performance is the cyclone of energy that propels the audience's interest. Even when she's unlikeable, she's fascinating. Parker's billy-goat-gruffness provides both comic relief, useful exposition and unexpected pathos. The director, Clare Shaffer, paces the dialogue in overlapping layers that demand our ability to cut through the clutter of noise in our lives, and in Alice and June's. If there aren't that many surprises, at least they we can hear it all clearly. ■



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## Friday 02.21 – Sunday 02.23

### Out folk duo Indigo Girls jam again in Dallas

For more than three decades, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers — better known as Indigo Girls — have written and performed heartfelt songs while championing LGBTQ rights. With a new studio album set to drop later this spring, Amy and Emily continue their lifelong creative collaboration (they remain the only duo to garner Top 40 hits on the Billboard 200 chart each decade since the 1980s). For this show, Grammy Award-winning singer-songwriters teams up with Dallas Symphony Orchestra this weekend for three nights of folk-rock.

**DEETS:** Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. MyDSO.com.



## Thursday 02.27 – Sunday 03.01

### Creative collaboration revisits an American catastrophe

The Elevator Project's first piece of 2020 launches with *Dust Bowl*, a show detailing the devastation caused by the infamous man-made environmental disaster of the 1930s. Verdigris Ensemble helps recapture a decade of droughts, insect infestations and famine that displaced families across the U.S. southern plains using text from newspaper articles, diaries and first-

## LIFE+STYLE

### best bets

hand oral accounts. True stories from the people who struggled through this sullen period are retold through a mix of music, movement and multimedia. This show runs for three nights in Dallas before a final evening in Fort Worth.

**DEETS:** Hamon Hall inside the Winspear, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m.; St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, 2700 McPherson Ave., Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. ATPAC.org.



## Friday 02.28 – Saturday 02.29

### Last-minute TITAS festival highlights best of local dance

After travel restrictions cancelled the appearance by BeijingDance/LDTX, TITAS/ Dance Unbound replaced the opening on their calendar with its first-ever Festival of Dance, a collection of performances featuring the best of local dance companies. Four of the area's most acclaimed dance troupes — Texas Ballet Theater, Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Bruce Wood Dance and B. Moore Dance — will showcase a diverse display of choreography and mesmerizing movement in this prelude to TITAS' larger festival scheduled for later this year. This surprise show gives audiences a chance to see some of the most talented local dancers move in one evening.

**DEETS:** Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.

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## calendar highlights

### ARTSWEEK

#### THEATER

**The Band's Visit.** Based on the hit arthouse film, this 10-time Tony Award winner about an Egyptian police band who spend a day stranded in Israel is full of rich music. *Reviewed this week.* A co-presentation between Dallas Summer Musicals and AT&T Performing Arts Center. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. *Final weekend.* ATPAC.org.

**Little Women.** Umpteenth adaptation of the 19th century novel. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through March 1. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**One Man, Two Guvnors.** A Mod 1960s farce. Circle Theatre, 230 W. 4th St., Fort Worth. Through March 7. CircleTheatre.org.

**Mlima's Tale.** Second Thought Theatre kicks off its 2020 season with this play by two-time Pulitzer Prize-winner Lynn Nottage about the black market ivory trade. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through March 14. SecondThoughtTheatre.com.

#### INSTALLATION

**PY1.** A light and music pop-up installation, with two shows (Through the Echoes and the family-style Stella: The Time Machine Journey) it also becomes a late-night dance club with themes on select weekend nights. 1550 Convention Center Drive, Arlington. Through March 1. Visit PY1.com for details

### FRIDAY 02.21

#### BENEFIT

**Cowboy Songs.** Bruce Wood Dance celebrates its 10th anniversary with this gala on food, spirits and performances of the legendary founder's Western-themed dances, plus musical performances by Joseph Thalken, Sonny Franks, Ginny Mac. Bruce Wood Dance Gallery, 101 Howell St. Feb. 21–22. 7 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.

#### CONCERTS

**Indigo Girls.** The Americana duo performs all weekend with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2303 Flora St. Feb. 21–23. MyDSO.com.

### SATURDAY 02.22

#### 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.

#### CONCERTS

**Rhapsody: Idina Menzel.** The Tony Award-winner is the featured artist at a gala celebrating the Turtle Creek Chorale's 40th anniversary. Grand Ballroom at the Statler. RhapsodyDallas.com.

### MONDAY 02.24

#### CABARET

**Mama's Party.** Amy Stevenson's weekly show featuring talented singers. Mainstage, 222 E. Irving Blvd., Irving. 7:35 p.m. \$10.

### TUESDAY 02.25

#### FILM

**North by Northwest.** One of Alfred Hitchcock's biggest hits, with Cary Grant mistaken for a spy who becomes involved in romance, intrigue and a murderous crop duster. 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.

### WEDNESDAY 02.26

#### COMMUNITY

**FrontRunners.** Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 7:15 p.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

**The Queer Off All Stars: The Winter Games.** Contestants from season 1 and 2 return for this elimination-style talent show for the queer community. Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. 10:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY 02.27

#### 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 02.28

#### DANCE

**TITAS/Dance Unbound.** The planned performance by BeijingDance, which was cancelled as a result of travel restrictions occasioned by the coronavirus, has been replaced by a program of equal value — performances by four local dance companies. Dallas Black Dance Theatre, Bruce Wood Dance, B Moore Dance and Texas Ballet Theater will each present performances for this mini-festival, preceded by a talk from each of the artistic directors. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Feb. 28–29. 7 p.m. ATPAC.org.

## this week's solution

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# Girl on girls

Jenny Block on setting a world record... on the Love Boat

I get invited to do all kinds of interesting things: Sleep on the Great Barrier Reef; rap-pel down a 21-story hotel; sand board the dunes of the Oregon coast; hot air balloon high above Santa Fe; climb the rocks of Joshua Tree. But I was particularly excited and definitely intrigued when Princess Cruises asked my wife and me to join them on a cruise that would be part of an attempt to break the Guinness Book of World Record for mass vow renewals. I've never broken, or even attempted to break, a World Record before. We were in.

The record stood at 1,201 couples ... that is, until Feb. 11, 2020. Early that afternoon, ceremonies took place on the top decks of three ships: The Regal Princess, Royal Princess and Crown Princess. Each ship had a Guinness World Records adjudicator to verify the record. We were on the Royal Princess on a five-night cruise to Cabo San Lucas, and it was quite an experience being with all of those people for this monumental event.

They counted and re-counted us. We waited until all three ships were ready. And then the ceremony began. I wore my wedding gown and my wife wore her wedding tux, which caused quite a stir as we were the *only* people — as far as I could tell, anyway — who were in full wedding garb. We both got teary-eyed as we recited our vows. It was kind of magical to be among all of those people and yet feel like I was in this perfect little romantic bubble with my wife of almost two years.

There were only about three other LGBT couples aboard. Still, I was over the moon at how sweet people were to us. So many people stopped us to comment on our outfits; some asked to take photos with us. With so much love in the air, no one seemed to care that we were a lesbian couple. It was really nice, to be honest. Since you never know, especially in today's climate.

The captains of Royal Princess and Crown Princess officiated the ceremonies on their respective ships, but on the Regal Princess, we had Gavin MacLeod aka Capt. Stubing from *The Love Boat* officiate, while Jill Whelan, his TV daughter Vicki, served as matron of honor.

MacLeod said the beautiful ceremony was such a special experience that it brought him to tears as he and his wife recited their vows with the crowd. Whelan said she was not prepared for how touching it would be. "I was so touched to be a part of it. I think if you have a good marriage, you think back to your own wedding and it brings back all those happy memories."

There were so many sweet stories that came to light as a result of the occasion. One couple on our cruise had been married



for 69 years. Another couple had met 40 years ago on a Princess ship and later married in the Virgin Islands. Yet another couple, from Australia, had met on a Princess ship, gotten engaged on a Princess ship, gotten married the day of the vow renewals on the ship and then renewed their vows there, too.

MacLeod met a wonderful woman who recently retired as a lieutenant colonel ... the same rank as her husband. "She did a tour in Iraq and Afghanistan [and then] retired because her husband didn't want her to go back for another tour in the Middle East once they started having grandchildren. She was so lovely, youthful, interesting and full of life," he said.

This was actually MacLeod's first cruise in a while and he said he was awestruck by what the Princess ships are like now. After a week, he still hadn't explored the entire ship. He also recalled the most memorable moments on his hit show were when he married Marion Ross on the very last episode, and when his wife Patti was a guest star. For Whelan, the best part was simple, "Working with Gavin. I'm a lucky woman that I got to be his TV daughter."

I feel really lucky to have had all the interesting experiences that my career as a writer has afforded me, including our vow renewal. We got to have high tea in the Sanctuary, the upper deck luxury quiet area. We ate

great food, including lobster tail two nights in a row. We went on two sailing excursions in Cabo and had an exquisite dinner there at El Farallon. We watched movies under the stars on the ship's top deck. We danced in the ship's club with great new friends we made onboard. We even toured the bridge.

You never know where life will take you. All I know is that I'm grateful for an amazing partner with whom I can take this journey. And I feel lucky to have had the chance to renew the vows we made on March 17, 2018, while sailing the high seas. It's amazing what can happen when you keep your eyes and your heart open to what awaits you.

Contact Jenny at [GirlOnGirls@gmail.com](mailto:GirlOnGirls@gmail.com).





GDMAF Metro Ball winds it up at the February Wine Walk

### Making the SCENE the week of Feb. 21-27:

- **1851 Club:** Addison Foster, Letha Jecktion and Chanel St. John on Friday. Rochelle Roulette, Aundra A Mikyles and Lana O'Hara on Saturday.
- **515 Bar:** Sunday Funday with free food at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Alexandre's:** Vero Voz y Compania on Friday. Girls Night Out with Peggy Honea on Saturday. Karaoke with Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie sings Broadway on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** Speed Dating with MPACT DFW from 8-10 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** Imperial Court presents Kickin It with 40: Our Last Hoorah at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** America's Bearded Queen Showstopper: A Benefit Tour from 7-10 p.m. on Friday. SSC Fund fundraiser from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday. Dallas Diablos Cookout from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Havana:** Sunday Funday from 2 p.m.-2 a.m. with the Mayra D'Lorenzo Show at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Hidden Door:** Weezie's Wheel of Drag from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday. United Court Club Night from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday. Cher-e-oke from 7-10 p.m. on Thursday.
- **House of Blues:** Drag Diva Brunch: Leviosa Mimosa! Wizards and Waffles at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. \$45.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Support Dallas Pets Alive from 5-7 p.m. on Friday. Face painters, live performers and more at Mardi Gras Carnival on Saturday.
- **Marty's Live:** Monday Night Showcase with Chanel Champagne.
- **Pekers:** Totally Twisted Karaoke on Friday and Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Bear Happy Hour at 6 p.m. on Friday. Fat Tuesday Crawfish Boil from 8-11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **S4:** Special guest DJ Paulo at Mardi Gras Carnival on Saturday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Face painters, live performers and more at Mardi Gras Carnival on Saturday. PSSA Uniform Party from 3-6 p.m. on Sunday. Miss Lady of the Lake State and State at Large in a night of Excalibur at 6 p.m. on Sunday. \$5 cover. Chix from 6:30-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** Kennedy Davenport on Saturday. Cassie Nova, Tasha Kohl, Dragula, Mulan Alexander, Porter Bella Graves and Evah Destruction at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** Face painters, live performers and more at Mardi Gras Carnival on Saturday.
- **Urban Cowboy:** Trinity Prom Fundraiser from 8 p.m.-midnight on Saturday. \$10.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Showtunes Tuesday. Jada Pinkett Fox Show at 11 p.m. on Thursday.

Photos by Chad Mantooth and Nicholas Gonzalez

# Equality Texas: Love Equality

Photos by David Taffet





# Equality Texas: Love Equality







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## q-puzzle

# Straight Lesbian Icon

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65						66					67			
68						69					70			

Solution on Page 22

### Across

- 1 Stroke the ball gently
- 5 Have an opening for
- 9 Artificial sweetener brand
- 14 Cincinnati's river
- 15 Art Deco design name
- 16 The Bee Gees' "\_\_\_ Me"
- 17 Foam at Sitges
- 18 Unthinking repetition
- 19 Fable fellow
- 20 Lesbian romance set in Queen Anne's court
- 23 Trick ending
- 24 Corporal or sergeant
- 28 Word after family or fruit
- 30 Some of Mary's lambs
- 33 Curse
- 34 Half a Latin dance
- 35 Enjoying REM without Stipe?
- 37 Frozen queen
- 38 Poet Adrienne
- 40 Lorre in *The Maltese Falcon*
- 41 Jerusalem server
- 42 Reverb
- 43 Where the action is
- 45 Jarreau and Jolson
- 46 Barely gets, with "out"
- 47 Opposite of erect
- 48 Enclosure with a ms.

### Down

- 50 Cut
- 52 Crew tool
- 53 Lesbian romance set in the Orthodox Jewish community
- 60 Flynn of *Captain Blood*
- 63 Nike's swoosh, e.g.
- 64 Coward of *Private Lives*
- 65 *My Fair Lady* composer
- 66 Gunfighter's cry
- 67 Shakespeare title starter
- 68 Lake ballet dancers
- 69 Enrapture, in slang
- 70 Foot bottom

- 25 Diva Maria
- 26 Marked down
- 27 Board in a rooming house
- 28 *Growing Pains* dad Alan
- 29 First name of 31 Down, or her costar McAdams in 53-Across
- 30 Writer Dykewomon
- 31 Straight lesbian icon who starred in 20-Across and 53-Across
- 32 Frightfully strange
- 34 "Gay is good," for example
- 36 Ballpark figures
- 39 One way to wear stockings?
- 44 Morales of movies
- 49 *Spartacus* venues
- 51 Scrabble pieces
- 52 Family name of Boy George
- 54 Cutlass or 98, for short
- 55 Brought forth fruit
- 56 Richard of *Pollyanna*
- 57 Brief plea
- 58 Oz setting
- 59 In addition to that
- 60 Trains at a higher level
- 61 Straight line
- 62 *Breakfast on Pluto* actor Stephen



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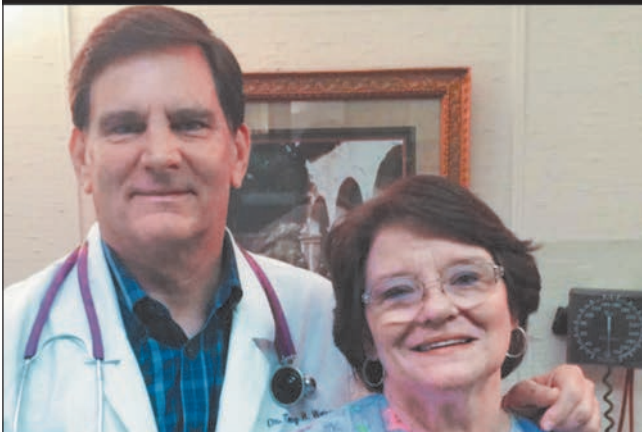
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