

dallasvoice

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Also:
See our queer
locals of 2015, Page 22



LGBT Texans of the Year

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**Please see Brief Summary of
Patient Information with important
warnings on the following pages.**

Brief Summary of Patient Information about GENVOYA

GENVOYA (jen-VOY-uh)

(elvitegravir, cobicistat, emtricitabine, and tenofovir alafenamide) tablets

Important: Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with GENVOYA.

There may be new information about GENVOYA. This information is only a summary and does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about GENVOYA?

GENVOYA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).**

Lactic acidosis may happen in some people who take GENVOYA. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms, which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

- **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems may happen in people who take GENVOYA. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large and you may develop fat in your liver.

Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking GENVOYA for a long time.**

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** GENVOYA is not for use to treat chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV). If you have HBV infection and take GENVOYA, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking GENVOYA. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

- Do not run out of GENVOYA. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your GENVOYA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking GENVOYA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking GENVOYA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking GENVOYA.

What is GENVOYA?

GENVOYA is a prescription medicine that is used without other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older:

- who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past **or**
- to replace their current HIV-1 medicines in people who have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months, have an amount of HIV-1 in their blood (“viral load”) that is less than 50 copies/mL, and have never failed past HIV-1 treatment

HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

GENVOYA contains the prescription medicines elvitegravir (VITEKTA®), cobicistat (TYBOST®), emtricitabine (EMTRIVA®) and tenofovir alafenamide.

It is not known if GENVOYA is safe and effective in children under 12 years of age.

When used to treat HIV-1 infection, GENVOYA may:

- Reduce the amount of HIV-1 in your blood. This is called “viral load”.
- Increase the number of CD4+ (T) cells in your blood that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV-1 and increasing the CD4+ (T) cells in your blood may help improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or getting infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

GENVOYA does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

Avoid doing things that can spread HIV-1 infection to others:

- Do not share or re-use needles or other injection equipment.
- Do not share personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them, like toothbrushes and razor blades.
- Do not have any kind of sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to other people.

Who should not take GENVOYA?

Do not take GENVOYA if you also take a medicine that contains:

- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafergot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- midazolam, when taken by mouth
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- pimozide (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John’s wort or a product that contains St. John’s wort

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking GENVOYA?

Before taking GENVOYA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have liver problems including hepatitis B infection
- have kidney or bone problems
- have any other medical conditions
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if GENVOYA can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking GENVOYA.
Pregnancy registry: there is a pregnancy registry for women who take HIV-1 medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take GENVOYA.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - At least one of the medicines in GENVOYA can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in GENVOYA can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how GENVOYA works.

Some medicines may interact with GENVOYA. **Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.**

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with GENVOYA.
- Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take GENVOYA with other medicines.

How should I take GENVOYA?

- Take GENVOYA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it. GENVOYA is taken by itself (not with other HIV-1 medicines) to treat HIV-1 infection.
- GENVOYA is usually taken 1 time each day.
- Take GENVOYA with food.
- If you need to take a medicine for indigestion (antacid) that contains aluminum and magnesium hydroxide or calcium carbonate during treatment with GENVOYA, take it at least 2 hours before or after you take GENVOYA.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking GENVOYA without first talking with your healthcare provider. Stay under a healthcare provider's care when taking GENVOYA.
- Do not miss a dose of GENVOYA.
- If you take too much GENVOYA, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.
- When your GENVOYA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to GENVOYA and become harder to treat.

What are the possible side effects of GENVOYA?

GENVOYA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about GENVOYA?”**
- **Changes in body fat can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine.** These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking GENVOYA. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking GENVOYA if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take GENVOYA. Bone problems may include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effect of GENVOYA is nausea.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of GENVOYA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.
You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

General information about the safe and effective use of GENVOYA.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use GENVOYA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give GENVOYA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about GENVOYA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about GENVOYA that is written for health professionals.

For more information, call **1-800-445-3235** or go to **www.GENVOYA.com**.

Keep GENVOYA and all medicines out of reach of children.

Issued: November 2015

Genvoya™
elvitegravir 150mg/cobicistat 150mg/emtricitabine
200mg/tenofovir alafenamide 10mg tablets



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Rep. Molly White: Obama should “be arrested and tried for treason against the US”

Fear, ignorance, Islamophobia and crank conspiracies are nothing new in the modern day GOP. Just look at the party's current frontrunners: Donald Trump, The Man with The Platinum Hair and the current presidential frontrunner and Sen. Ted Cruz, the partisan, flame-throwing Texas Republican. They instill fear, promote liberty in their own ways and enflame grassroots voters.

Alas, sometimes grassroots voters assume positions of power and influence too. And they sometimes take the form of state Rep. Molly White, a first-term Republican from Belton, who is absolutely fucking nuts.

During the first session she asked Muslims visiting her Capitol office to pledge allegiance to the American flag and denounce “radical Islam.” Her chief of staff, Hannah Bell, told some LGBT activists visiting the Capitol during an Equality Texas lobbying day that they shouldn't waste their time meeting her.

Her policies focused on bans – same-sex marriage and abortion primarily.

But she wasn't the Legislature's freak show only during the session. In fact, she's really that nuts outside of the Capitol's hallowed halls. In a Facebook post from Monday, Dec. 7, Ms. Molly asked “if Obama entertains the MB [Muslim Brotherhood], arms terrorists, ignores terroristic attacks on American soil, appoints Muslims to serve on Homeland Security positions, releases terrorists from Gitmo...Shouldn't he be arrested and tried for treason against the US? Makes sense to me.”

No it doesn't make sense to me. But defeating this embarrassment of an elected official sure does.

— James Russell

Lawsuit to remove D.A. Susan Hawk from office proceeds

Dallas County commissioners have appointed Ellis County District Attorney Patrick Wilson to file a case to remove Dallas county D.A. Susan Hawk from office.

Actual charges in the case aren't clear, but they apparently stem from her disappearance during the summer for what she has described as a bout with depression. She later took a leave of absence to deal with the problem.

According to the Dallas Morning News, Wilson, a Republican, has discretion about whether the case moves forward and he indicated he would proceed. The case was assigned to Judge David Peebles of San Antonio for a preliminary hearing. He'll decide whether the case moves forward.

Democrats hold a 4-1 majority on the Dallas County Commissioners Court. Hawk is the only Republican elected county-wide in Dallas.

However, Democrats might not get what they're wishing for. Hawk is a moderate Republican and previously served as a judge, elected as a Democrat. Should she be removed from office, the position will be filled by Gov. Greg Abbott who is a ... well ... not a moderate Republican.

Hawk will address the LGBT community on hate crimes on Monday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope. Just a guess, but an Abbott appointee probably wouldn't do that. Hawk's event is free and open to the public.

— David Taffet



Jesus Mireles, above right, is being charged with the murder of his boyfriend, Daniel Mendoza, above left, in a drunk driving accident

Former Republican chief of staff and campaign staffer arrested for soliciting minor

The former chief of staff to an East Texas state representative and campaign treasurer to a state house candidate has been arrested on charges he solicited a minor, according to the Tyler Morning Telegraph.

Judd Harrison Quarles of Tyler was booked Dec. 4 in Smith County jail. The arrest affidavit reveals he had multiple discussions with a minor on a hook-up website. The 14-year-old minor, who was not named because of the investigation, told authorities she registered as 18, the minimum age requirement to register an account.

The girl said, however, she quickly told Quarles her age, but he continued soliciting her for sex and sent her a photo of a man in his underwear, presumably Quarles.

Before joining the faculty of Tyler Junior College, where he taught economics and government Quarles served as chief of staff to Rep. Matt Schaefer, R-Tyler.

He also served as campaign treasurer for current Republican state house candidate and former land commissioner candidate David Watts.

TJC was notified of the arrest and immediately suspended Quarles, initially with pay per college policy.

Watts replaced Quarles with a new treasurer. “I communicated with Judd immediately and ended his service as treasurer for my campaign. A new treasurer was appointed as of Saturday morn-



Judd Harrison Quarles of Tyler

ing. We are blessed with a legal system where all are innocent until proven guilty, and I have confidence our legal system will discern the truth in this matter,” Watts said in a statement.

“It is difficult to comprehend,” Schaefer said in a statement. “Judd was a talented, hard-working former member of my staff. A friend.”

— James Russell

Man charged with murdering his boyfriend in El Paso accident

An El Paso man is charged with murder of his boyfriend in a drunk driving accident, according to KDBC, the El Paso CBS affiliate.

Jesus Mireles, 23, was driving with Daniel Mendoza, 25, in the passenger's seat. The couple had been arguing before getting in the car.

Mendoza called police from the car saying Mireles was driving more than 100 miles per hour and driving through red lights. Mendoza told 911 he wanted to get out of the car, but Mireles wouldn't let him out.

Police were dispatched and looked for the car, but didn't find it until Mireles crashed into three cars in a parking lot. Both were injured and Mendoza died in the hospital.

Charges were upgraded from intoxication manslaughter to murder when police realized that Mendoza had been trying to get out of the car.

— David Taffet

IT'S COOKIE TIME!

Guess who got a great big box full of different kinds of Girl Scout Cookies today?!

Yep, that's right! I did!

Do you know what that means? That means it's COOKIE TIME!

The 2016 Girl Scout Cookie Program begins with door-to-door and booth sales on Jan. 15. On Jan. 29, Council-hosted booth sales begin. The last day of the program will be March 1.

That means you will have just about a month-and-a-half to stock up on all those yummy Girl Scout Cookies you can't do without. So write those dates down and make sure you get your cookies while you can.

Just so you can plan ahead, here are the Girl Scout Cookie flavors for 2016: Thin Mints (my personal favorite), Tagalongs, Samoas (Stephen Mobley stole the Samoas that were sent to me), Trefoils, Do-Si-Dos, Savannah Smiths and Rah-Rah Raisons, all for \$4 a box, and Toffee-tastic, the gluten-free Girl Scout Cookie option, which are \$5 a box.

Here's what the press kit had to say about the Girl Scout Cookie Program: “When the girls participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Program, they develop important life skills — goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics — that will set them up for success beyond anything they can imagine! The cookie program is an integral part of the Girl Scouts' Business and Financial Literacy initiative for girls in grades K-12.”

Why should the LGBT community support the Girl Scouts of America and their Cookie Program? Because they support our community. As The Advocate pointed out in 2012, GSA posted a statement on its blog declaring the organization's commitment to diversity and inclusiveness: “Girl Scouts of the USA and its local councils and troops value diversity and inclusiveness and do not discriminate or recruit on the basis of race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, national origin, or physical or developmental disability.”

The Girls Scouts also have written policy declaring that transgender girls will be welcome.

So help the girls out and get ready to buy some cookies. You can always add a few minutes to your exercise routine to work those cookies off!

— Tammye Nash



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THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? Email your information to staff writer James Russell at russell@dallasvoice.com by Thursday at 10 a.m. for that week's issue.

DECEMBER

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM; **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community at 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; **Fuse** game night every Monday evening but the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Apt 2367; **Fuse Connect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. at the Fuse Space. For more information call or e-mail Ruben Ramirez at 214-540-4500 or rramirez@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Through Dec. 19: Team Friendly DFW's Warm Hearts, Warm People Coat Drive** New HIV/AIDS awareness group hosts a holiday coat drive benefitting Youth First, Legacy Counseling Center, Trinity MCC in Arlington and The Cenikor Foundation in Fort Worth. Drop locations include Dallas Eagle, Cedar Springs Tap House, Trinity MCC and Legacy Counseling Center. For more information or to donate visit TeamFriendlyDFW.org.

• **Dec. 11: High Tech Happy Hour** Texas Instruments Pride, the LGBT and ally diversity group, hosts its monthly High Tech Happy Hour to increase professional and social contacts between groups and individuals and to foster community. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Cedars Social, 1326 S. Lamar Street. For more information e-mail Paul von Wupperfeld at pavw@ti.com.

• **Dec. 11: CinéWilde Presents Auntie Mame** Doors open at 8 p.m. with pre-show discussion at 8:30 p.m. and movie at 9 p.m. and Ugly Christmas Sweater after party at 11 p.m. at Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson.

For tickets visit Bit.ly/212n291.

• **Dec. 12: DFW Transcendence Holiday Potluck** Dinner and Dirty Santa exchange from 3-6 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. Side dishes requested. Meat provided. For more information visit On.fb.me/1jMOzJx.

• **Dec. 12: LGBTQ Saves Winter Prom** Prom for LGBT youth from 7-10 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information visit LGBTQ Saves.org.

• **Dec. 12: The Teddy Bear Party** Benefits Family Equality Council, Children's Health, Equality Texas and Stand Up to Cancer. 6500 Cedar Springs Road. Door admission: one teddy bear and \$50 minimum donation.

• **Dec. 12: DFW Sisters Third Annual Salvation Sisters Benefit** The DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence ring their bells to raise money for HIV and AIDS groups from 9 p.m.-midnight outside of Hunky's, 3930 Cedar Springs Road. For more information visit On.fb.me/1NbzcGq.

• **Dec. 12: Christmas Cantata** *Let There Be Christmas* is a cantata written by Joseph M. Martin that will be performed by four Cedar Creek area church choirs. Celebration on the Lake Church, 9120 S. Hwy 198, Payne Springs. 7 p.m.

• **Dec. 12: Holiday Canned Food Drive** Project TAG (Tyler Area Gays) holds its annual Holiday Canned Food Drive, 6-9 p.m., at the home of Don Lindman. Guests are asked to bring canned foods to donate and their favorite finger foods or desserts to share. There will also be a silent auction with all proceeds going to the Project TAG Building Fund. For details visit TylerAreaGays.com.



Suvivors Offering Support

Cedar Springs Tap House invites everyone to "Raise a Glass, Raise Some Dough" on Sunday to help raise funds for victims of the recent assaults in Oak Lawn and other LGBT victims of violence. A portion of all Cedar Springs Tap House liquor sales between 6 p.m. and 1 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 13, will be donated to the recently-formed S.O.S. — Survivors Offering Support — which is operating under the nonprofit umbrella of Resource Center.

• **Dec. 13: Benefit for Survivors Offering Support** A portion of all alcohol sales benefit survivor of violent attacks support group from 6 p.m.-1 a.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Dec. 13: Expert Speaks About Personal Safety** Jeff McKissack of Defense by Design speaks about personal safety and awareness from 5-6 p.m. at Two Corks in a Bottle, 2800 Routh St. Ste. 140.

• **Dec. 13: Give a Damn Holiday Card: Support Incarcerated Trans Persons** Create and write holiday cards for incarcerated trans persons and learn more about Trans Pride Initiative's efforts from 3-6 p.m. at Abounding Prosperity Community Center, 1816 Peabody. Food provided. For more information visit On.fb.me/1PMtw6v.

• **Dec. 14: Hate Crimes Community Wide Discussion with District Attorney Susan Hawk** District Attorney Hawk discusses public safety issues and the process of evaluating a criminal offense to determine whether a hate crime was committed at 6:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Sponsored by Cathedral of Hope and Dallas District Attorney's office. For more information contact Lynn Taylor at ltaylor@cathedralofhope.com.

• **Dec. 15: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFFA Meeting** Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. at Agape MCC, 4615 East California Parkway, Fort Worth. For more information, contact Finn Jones by phone at 214-499-0378 or by email at sfinn.jones@gmail.com.

• **Dec. 15: JEWEL Lesbian Fiction Book Club** Monthly book club discussion meets every third Tuesday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Rd. Open to all

women. Free. For more information e-mail jewel@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Dec. 15: Dallas County Stonewall Democrats Meeting** LGBT Democratic group meets from 6:30-7:30 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month at Ojeda's Restaurant, 4617 Maple Ave. For more information call 214-506-3367 or e-mail Info@stonewalldemocratsofdallas.org.

• **Dec. 17: Safety and Security Expert Speaks About Personal Safety** Jeff McKissack of Defense by Design speaks about personal safety and awareness from 6-7 p.m. at Two Corks in a Bottle, 2800 Routh St. Ste. 140.

• **Dec. 17-20: Turtle Creek Chorale presents Home** The Turtle Creek Chorale's annual Christmas concert. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Thurs.-Sat. At 7:30 p.m. Sun. at 2:30 p.m. Tickets at TurtleCreekChorale.com.

• **Dec. 17: GALA North Texas holiday party** Hors d'oeuvres and open bar with beer, wine and a specialty vodka cocktail. Noah's Event Venue, 5280 Towne Square Dr., Plano. 6:30-10:30 p.m. \$20 in advance. \$25 at the door.

• **Dec. 17: LULAC Rainbow Holiday Pachanga** LGBT Latino/a group celebrates the end of the year and announces its scholarship and award recipients with hors d'oeuvres and entertainment. Mi Diva Loca performs. Taboo Lounge, 1418 N. Riverfront Blvd. 7-10 p.m. For more information visit On.fb.me/1P3uigY.

• **Jan. 17: The Wedding Workshop: An LGBT Community Event** Three-hour workshop features wedding industry experts to create a personal action plan for couples' wedding day from 1-5 p.m. at Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 Stemmons Fwy. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Free. To register and for more information visit LGBTWeddingWorkshop.com.

pet of the week / CHARLES

Charles is a domestic shorthair mix kitten who is about 3 months old and weighs about 3 pounds. When he first arrived at Operation Kindness, he and his siblings were under-socialized. Since then, though, they have spent time in a foster home where they worked on building trust. Charles would do best in a calm home without small children, and while he does well with other cats, he has never been around dogs.

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



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Dallas Voice honors our LGBT Texans of the Year:

The Icons of Marriage Equality

COMPILED BY DALLAS VOICE NEWS STAFF

The battle for marriage equality in the United States dates back some 45 years, to May 1970, when the Hennepin County District Clerk in Minnesota refused to issue a marriage license to Richard Baker and James Michael McConnell.

In the nearly half a century since, case after case has been filed, challenging laws at the local, state and federal levels. But most of the names associated with those cases have faded into the mists of history.

Today, the name perhaps most closely associated with marriage equality is that of Jim Obergefell, the man who was the named plaintiff in the combined lawsuits from the 6th Circuit through which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled, on June 26, 2015, that the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires all states to grant same-sex marriages and recognize same-sex marriages granted in other states.

But in Texas, especially here in North Texas, we have a whole set of names that add up to marriage equality, and this year, Dallas Voice recognizes those iconic marriage equality pioneers, as our LGBT Texans of the Year.

Couples we honor as this year as our Icons of Marriage Equality are Jack Evans and George Harris of Dallas, who after more than 50 years together were the first same-sex couple legally wed in Dallas County; Mark Phariss and Vic Holmes of Plano and Cleo De Leon and Nicole Dimentman of Austin, co-plaintiffs in the successful federal lawsuit challenging Texas' anti-equality laws; Sarah Goodfriend and Suzanne Bryant, the first same-sex couple legally married in Texas, who got their marriage license in Travis County before the Supreme Court issued its ruling; Jay Hoskins, who fought to force the state to list him as the spouse of his husband, James Stone, on Stone's death certificate; and Jim Fritsch and Bill Parker of Arlington, who forced Tarrant County to recognize their relationship as a common-law marriage dating back to the time they actually became a couple for purposes of retirement benefits.

Jack+George

Jack Evans and George Harris were the first couple to legally wed in Dallas County the day of the *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision. That wedding came more than 50 years after the two first met at the Taboo Room, a gay bar on Lomo Alto Drive off Lemmon Avenue in Oak Lawn, on Jan. 19, 1961.

Both men served in the military, but Evans didn't come out until he was 32. Harris says he has been out since he was 6 years old, and had a boyfriend in first grade.

Together Evans and Harris founded and served



Jack Evans and George Harris, top photo. Cleo De Leon and Nicole Dimetman, and Vic Holmes and Mark Phariss, bottom photo, Texas marriage equality plaintiffs.

on boards throughout the Dallas LGBT community including the Turtle Creek Chorale, Resource Center, Stonewall Professional and Business Association, the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce and, most recently, The Dallas Way.

For years, their company, Evans-Harris Real Estate was one of the largest real estate companies in Oak Lawn.

So when Marriage Equality Day finally arrived, there was no question who should get the first marriage license issued to a same-sex couple in Dallas County.

"They have always been there for all of us," said Resource Center CEO Cece Cox. "As a couple, they've been generous and giving. They've seen a lot, done a lot and made progress happen. It was only fitting for people to step aside for them."

The couple's wedding photos made the front page of The New York Times and other newspapers around the world as well as People magazine.

A year and a half earlier, Evans and Harris married in a religious ceremony that they described as a favor to the retired pastor of Northaven United Methodist Church where they've been members for 25 years.

The Rev. Bill McElvaney, who was undergoing chemotherapy for liver cancer, announced in January 2014 that he would perform same-sex weddings in response to the defrocking of the Rev. Frank Schaefer, another Methodist minister. McElvaney was well known throughout Dallas and in the Methodist Church as a social justice advocate.

Because of the ban on same-sex marriage in the Methodist Church, Evans and Harris held their ceremony at nearby Midway Hills Christian Church with McElvaney presiding. Methodist ministers from around the state filled one section of the packed church while news cameras and reporters filled the balcony.

"Jack and George are challenging the United Methodist Church to become a fully inclusive church," McElvaney said at the reception at Northaven following the service. His only regret, he said, was not performing a same-sex wedding sooner.

Charges were filed against McElvaney, but they were resolved before he died in August 2014.

A year and a half later, on the day of the *Obergefell* decision, Evans and Harris had their legal wedding.

County Clerk John Warren personally issued Dallas County's first same-sex marriage license to Evans and Harris before escorting the couple to a nearby justice of the peace courtroom in the Dallas County Records Building where they were legally wed.

Because the ban on same-sex marriage in the Methodist Church remains in place, Northaven's minister, the Rev. Eric Folkerth, could again only

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TEXANS, From Page 12

look on as his wife, State District Court Judge Denise Garcia, presided over the nuptials. After waiving the three-day waiting period on the grounds that 54 years together was long enough to wait, Garcia married the couple in a courtroom packed with TV cameras, reporters, friends and other well-wishers.

When Garcia read the line, "By the authority invested in me by the Constitution of the United States," the crowd erupted in cheers.

After the ceremony, couples who witnessed the marriage rushed back down to the second floor marriage license bureau to get their own licenses. Evans and Harris returned to the bureau to file their now-signed and witnessed license while about 170 more couples married in Dallas that day.

— David Taffet

Mark+Vic and Cleo+Nicole



Jay Hoskins and James Stone, above. Sarah Goodfriend and Suzanne Bryant with their daughters, at right.

Shortly after he and his partner, Vic Holmes, and Austin lesbian couple Cleo De Leon and Nicole Dementman filed suit — in October 2013 — challenging Texas' anti-marriage equality laws, Plano lawyer Mark Phariss told a Texas Monthly writer that he and Holmes still weren't sure they had done the right thing.

Holmes, a U.S. Air Force veteran, said he was worried that all the publicity that was bound to come with the lawsuit would put a target on their backs and leave them open to violence from homophobes. Phariss — who at that point wasn't completely out at work — would alienate colleagues and clients.

"The day it was filed, I literally got physically sick. Leading up to that, we definitely had moments where we looked at each other and asked, 'Have we lost our minds?'" Phariss told reporter Christopher Kelly, whose article, "The Accidental Activists," was published in the February 2014 issue of Texas Monthly.

Two years later, Phariss and Holmes have gotten over their reticence and their worries and are

proud — and lawfully wedded — poster boys for marriage equality. The two were married on Saturday, Nov. 21, in Frisco, 18 years after they first met.

About 300 friends and family members attended, including the legal team from Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld that represented Phariss and Holmes and their co-plaintiffs in the lawsuit. De Leon and Dimetman also attended.

The lawsuit — *De Leon vs. Perry* — originated with De Leon and Dimetman, who were legally married in Massachusetts in 2009. They decided to file suit following the U.S. Supreme Court's 2013 decision in *U.S. vs. Windsor*, that struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act.

De Leon and Dimetman have been together since 2001. Dimetman graduated from law school in 2007 and went to work for Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer and Feld in San Antonio. De Leon got a degree in applied statistics.



De Leon had given birth to the couple's first child, a son, in June 2012, and the couple had gone through an exhaustive second-parent adoption process to ensure Dimetman's legal relationship as the baby's parent.

By the summer of 2013, Dimetman and De Leon had moved to Austin. De Leon was working as a statistician and Dimetman had left the legal field to work in digital marketing. When her former colleagues at Akin Gump contacted them to see if they would be plaintiffs in a lawsuit to challenge Texas' marriage equality ban, they said yes. They already planned to have a second child, and wanted their marriage recognized before then to help avoid another second-parent adoption.

Their second child, a daughter, was born, in March this year, just three months before the Supreme Court's marriage equality ruling.

Attorneys reached out to Phariss and Holmes, convincing them to join the suit as co-plaintiffs despite the two men's concerns.

"Someone had to step forward, and we didn't see anyone else doing it, so we did," Holmes told

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another Texas Monthly writer, Pamela Collof.

The lawsuit was filed Oct. 28, 2013, in Judge Orlando Garcia's federal district court in San Antonio. Judge Garcia issued his ruling — in favor of marriage equality — on Feb. 26, 2014, but stayed the ruling pending appeals.

The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in appeals in *DeLeon vs. Perry*, along with *Robicheaux vs. Caldwell* from Louisiana and *Campaign for Southern Equality vs. Bryant* in Mississippi, on Jan. 9, 2015. But the 5th Circuit did not rule on the appeals before the Supreme Court ruled in June.

—Tammye Nash

Sarah+Suzanne

After 31 years together and eight years of trying to legally marry, on Feb. 19 of this year Austin couple Sarah Goodfriend and Suzanne Bryant finally tied the knot. Their two children — Dawn, 18, and Ting, 13 — stood with them as they exchanged vows.

Their trailblazing ceremony came after a probate judge's decision ordering Travis County Clerk Dana DeBeauvoir to issue a marriage license to the two women.

The petition asking for the ruling was filed in response to an earlier probate court's ruling in an estate settlement case that Texas' same-sex marriage ban was unconstitutional.

State District Court Judge David Wahlberg ordered DeBeauvoir to issue the license and then he waived the customary 72-hour waiting period, citing Goodfriend's poor health (she is battling cancer).

Even after getting the court order, the couple wasn't sure they'd get their license.

DeBeauvoir could have asked state Attorney General Ken Paxton, a foe of marriage equality, for an opinion in the case or found other reasons to stall. But she did not.

"She bravely said, 'I have a court order,' and issued the license," Bryant told the Dallas Voice at the time.

The Travis County Clerk doesn't allow weddings to take place in her office, so the couple went outside the building where their rabbi performed the ceremony. Anticipating swift action by Paxton, however, Goodfriend and Bryant then ran quickly back inside to get the license legally filed before Paxton could intervene.

Even then, not everyone was ready to acknowledge their marriage.

The Texas Legislature was in session at the time, and State Rep. Tony Tinderholt, R-Arlington, and Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, both filed bills that would strip county clerks of the duty to issue marriage licenses. Other officials, including Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, denounced the decision as well. Ultimately both pieces of legislation failed.

Goodfriend, an advisor to openly lesbian state Rep. Celia Israel, D-Austin, denounced the efforts to block Goodfriend's and Bryant's marriage. She called the bills "nasty" and said legislators like Tinderholt and Perry are "a particular segment that gets political mileage out of beating up on us."

Bryant and Goodfriend did not see themselves as heroes. In the midst of all the emotions and ten-

sion, they both said at the time they were surprised by the attention they received.

"It's an opportunity to put a face on this," Goodfriend said of her marriage to Bryant.

"Young couples came up to us with tears in their eyes," she added. "Everyone wants a picture with the certificate."

—James Russell

Jay+James

One man's attempt to have his name listed as surviving spouse on a death certificate forced Texas to fully implement the U.S. Supreme Court's marriage equality decision in *Obergefell vs. Hodges*, including how same-sex parents would be named on their children's birth certificates.

After New Mexico legalized same-sex marriage in 2014, Texas couple Jay Hoskins and James Stone decided to get married in Sante Fe in August of that year.

Just five months later, in January 2015, Stone died from the genetic autoimmune disorder Sjogren's Syndrome. Because his death occurred before *Obergefell*, Hoskins was listed as "significant other" on the death certificate, rather than as husband.

In June, after the marriage equality ruling, Hoskins tried to have Stone's death certificate amended to list him as husband. Texas' vital records office refused, claiming the U.S. Supreme Court ruling wasn't retroactive.

Hoskins contacted Neel Lane, the attorney from Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer and Feld's San Antonio office, the law firm that argued *De Leon vs. Perry*, the Texas marriage equality case, in U.S. District Court and before the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Rather than filing a new case that could take years to work its way through the courts, Lane filed Hoskins' request as a motion in *De Leon*.

In his motion, Lane asked for an expedited ruling, revealing that Hoskins was suffering from an incurable form of cancer.


U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia, who issued the *De Leon* ruling, was furious that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and Texas State Department of Health Services Commissioner Kirk Cole were not complying fully with his ruling, which had been affirmed by the Fifth Circuit after the *Obergefell* decision. (The Department of Health Services is the agency that maintains death records.)

Once the U.S. Supreme Court declares a law unconstitutional, it's as if the law never existed. So Stone and Hoskins' wedding had to be recognized by Texas from August 2014 and Garcia ordered the death certificate changed.

In addition to ordering the change on the death certificate, Garcia asked Lane if there were other areas where married same-sex couples were not being treated equally in Texas. Lane told the court Texas wasn't recognizing both married same-sex parents on their children's birth certificates.

Lane even presented an example of a birth mother whose name was taken off her child's

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No tie found between arrested suspects, previous attacks



Deon Fridia left, Donedwin Maxie, right

Frustration turns to anger as victims,
activists wait for concrete progress
in spate of assaults

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer

taffet@dallasvoice.com

Victims of recent attacks and members of the LGBT community working for more security in Oak Lawn were fuming this week over the way police handled the arrests of two teens who allegedly committed a carjacking last weekend.

Deon Fridia and Donedwin Maxie were arrested about two hours after assaulting, robbing and carjacking a woman in a parking garage at 2140 Medical District Drive, across from Parkland Hospital.

Police initially suggested the pair may have been involved in the string of attacks that have taken place in Oak Lawn since the night of the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade. But that theory was quickly discounted.

"As a matter of course we will be investigating as to whether or not we are able to tie these suspects to any of the other offenses committed in the Oak Lawn area," read a statement on the DPD blog. "We anticipate conducting photo lineups with these suspects and are therefore not releasing their photos."

Michael Phelps is a concerned Oak Lawn resident who has patrolled the neighborhood, walking up and down the dark streets late at night. He has been actively following the investigation, and insists there was little similarity between the previous attacks and the carjacking last weekend. Phelps said he believes police held the press conference and suggested a link to try to look like they were making progress.

"I'd say they rushed to get this in the news," Phelps said. "The car, gun and being connected to Irving don't fit."

The victims in the Oak Lawn attacks were gay men who were targeted for their sexual orientation, Phelps said, while Maxie and Fridia chose a woman as their target.

He listed other differences as well.

The woman was hit in the head with a stolen gun and the suspects made no attempt to conceal their identity. The men attacked in Oak Lawn were hit from behind with a baseball bat, making it difficult for them to identify their assailants.

The gun used in the carjacking was stolen in Irving and the pair took items from the woman's purse.

In the Oak Lawn attacks, any robbery was an afterthought. In most cases, nothing more than a phone was taken and that was probably to prevent the victims from calling for help.

The final straw was when Fridia's mother revealed her son had been in the Collin County jail during the period the attacks took place. Then in an interview with Dallas Morning News, Fridia said he had no problem with gay people.

Phelps said he's been talking to people on the street, including homeless people, who have given him some clues about the attacks. He's passed those on to the police who are following up on those leads.

"I'm keeping in contact with detectives and have been sending info to them," he said.

News of the arrests got to survivors of the attacks through the media.

Michael Dominguez is healing well from the injuries he suffered when he was attacked on Oct. 2. He has helped create a group for survivors of violent attacks and said he was expecting to hear from police after Fridia and Maxie were arrested. But he got no word.

"As a survivor whose assailant is still at large, anytime you hear about the possibility of a break in your case you get your hopes up," Dominguez said. "To have such heavy implications that these attackers could possibly be connected, and then to find out that at least one of the them is almost a complete impossibility, it's frustrating and disappointing."

Alexandre's owner Lee Daugherty has been attending meetings with police, LGBT Task Force meetings and protests. He encouraged the community to "continue to support DPD in any investigation they do."

But at the same time, Daugherty said the press conference and handling of the arrest were disheartening. He and Resource Center's Rafael McDonnell told local news on Sunday that the crimes didn't match, and Daugherty suggested the arrests were "a rush to pacify."

However, two customers came into Alexandre's this week and told Daugherty they were attacked outside their apartment a couple of years ago and the mug shots released of Fridia and Maxie match. They said the attack was related to gang violence and wondered if any of the Oak Lawn attacks were gang related.



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Challenging 'religious' freedom legislation



Mathew Barrett and Ed Suplee

Sexual orientation is 'not a message,' argues GLAD in important new case

LISA KEEN | Contributing Writer
KeenNewsService.com

A new case is underway in the ongoing and escalating conflict between laws protecting religious freedom and laws prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination. And this one has the potential to either strengthen or cripple laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation across the nation.

The case, *Matthew Barrett vs. Fontbonne Academy*, has been brought by Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD), the organization that won the right to marry for same-sex couples in Massachusetts. GLAD also led the way to strike down the federal Defense of Marriage Act and state bans on marriage for same-sex couples in all 50 states.

Barrett is one of many cases around the country that are testing the right of various employers to circumvent laws prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. In most of these cases, the employers claim their discrimination is a necessary part of their free exercise of religion.

And in most, the conflict has been played out between individual businesses in the public realm — bakers, florists, wedding vendors — refusing service to same-sex couples getting married.

In this case, however, the employer also claims a First Amendment right to "expressive association," an argument that could have far-reaching implications.

"The expressive association argument could be used by non-religiously affiliated institutions" to justify discrimination based on sex or sexual orientation, explained Bennett Klein, a long-time attorney for GLAD. Klein is representing Matthew Barrett, who lost his new job with Fontbonne Academy after he filled out some paperwork indicating that, in an emergency, his employer should contact his husband, Ed Suplee.

Fontbonne, a Catholic-affiliated secondary school for girls, had hired Barrett to be its director of food services. The school's student population includes non-Catholics, and the food services director has no explicit duties to instruct any of the students in religious tenets.

But at a preliminary argument on Dec. 1, an attorney for Fontbonne, John Bagley, said Barrett's being married to a man would interfere with the school's Catholic-oriented message.

"How can [the school] credibly talk to kids about the Catholic faith if somebody who's an employee is involved in activity inconsistent with the message of the school?" said Bagley. As an example, he noted that, if Barrett and his spouse show up at a school-wide party or event, the students might assume the school is conveying an implicit message that same-sex marriage is acceptable to the church.

To buttress his argument, Bagley pointed to the 1995 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the St. Patrick's Day parade lawsuit, *Hurley v. Irish-American Gay*. That decision held the right to expressive association permitted the private organizers of Boston's annual parade to bar a gay group from participating in the parade behind a banner which identified them as gay.

Bagley's brief also argued that a 2000 Supreme Court decision in *Boy Scouts v. Dale* held that a private organization had an expressive association right to bar a gay man from a leadership position in the group.

Klein argued Tuesday that Barrett, by being married to a man, is not attempting to convey a message, like the Irish-Gay parade contingent, and that Barrett is not assuming a role as advocate, as gay scout leader James Dale did.

"Sexual orientation is not a message, and there's no distinction between sexual orientation and being married to a person of the same sex," said Klein in court. Fontbonne's decision to withdraw its job offer "was based on [Barrett's] status ... not based on him doing anything [or] saying anything."

Neither of Fontbonne's attorneys, John Bagley

JACK PETTIT, ATTORNEY

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birth certificate when her wife adopted the child. The adoptive mother's name replaced the birth mother's name, because Texas refused to have two parents of the same sex on a birth certificate.

Garcia was so incensed, he ordered Paxton and Cole to appear in his court on contempt of court charges.

Paxton took the contempt of court order quite seriously, Lane said. Within hours, the AG sent the court a revision of the death certificate. But Hoskins rejected the first couple of revisions as incorrect or inadequate. The document went back and forth from Paxton's Austin office to the San Antonio court to Hoskins until Hoskins approved the final version and the revised death certificate was issued.

Paxton and Cole had their contempt hearing delayed for a month as they made changes to how birth certificates were issued. Within a few weeks, new rules were issued for birth certificates allowing both parents to be listed and Paxton and Cole avoided contempt of court.

The new rules in effect since October include a choice of how parents are listed. Attorneys still recommend same-sex parents complete a second-parent adoption or obtain a birth order from a judge to assure parental rights are backed by court order, but receiving a correct birth certificate should no longer be a problem in Texas as a result of Hoskins' motion.

Hoskins lived to see his legal motion have a positive effect on the lives same-sex couples in Texas, but he died of cancer on Oct. 10.

—David Taffet

Jim+Bill

Jim Fritsch and Bill Parker have been together for 23 years. But when the couple tried to file an affidavit of common-law marriage with Tarrant County following the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in June legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide, they were initially denied.

Tarrant County Clerk Mary Louise Garcia at first rejected Fritsch and Parker's petition for recognition of their marriage under guidance from the interim Director of State Health Services Kirk Cole.

A clerk at the Arlington Sub-Courthouse complied with Garcia's directive and would only accept the document if the men changed the affidavit date to June 26, 2015 — the day of the Supreme Court's ruling. But rather than apply for a currently-dated marriage license, the couple needed to prove they were married in 2009 to access city of Dallas benefits Fritsch had earned when he retired six years before.

Fritsch and Parker faced resistance from the Dallas Employee Retirement Fund, too. While retirement fund board members agreed that same-sex marriages performed legally in other states before the June 26 ruling would be recognized for benefit purposes, they wouldn't agree that Fritsch and Parker's relationship was a common-law marriage that qualified them for benefits.

Councilman Lee Kleinman, who sits on the board, said all couples should be treated equally. After heated discussions, the board agreed to extend benefits to retired employees in same-sex relationships as long as they prove they were married at the time of retirement.

Texas is one of just nine states recognizing common-law marriages. The law allows a couple that present themselves as married to file a common-law claim rather than applying for a marriage license. They may be declared at any time and the affidavit filed at any time.

The couple must agree they are married, cohabit within the state and represent to others they are married. At that point, the state recognizes the marriage as legal.

The marriage is recognized from the date the couple declared they were together. An affidavit of common-law marriage may cut the amount of other legal work required to have both parents' names placed on a Texas birth certificate.

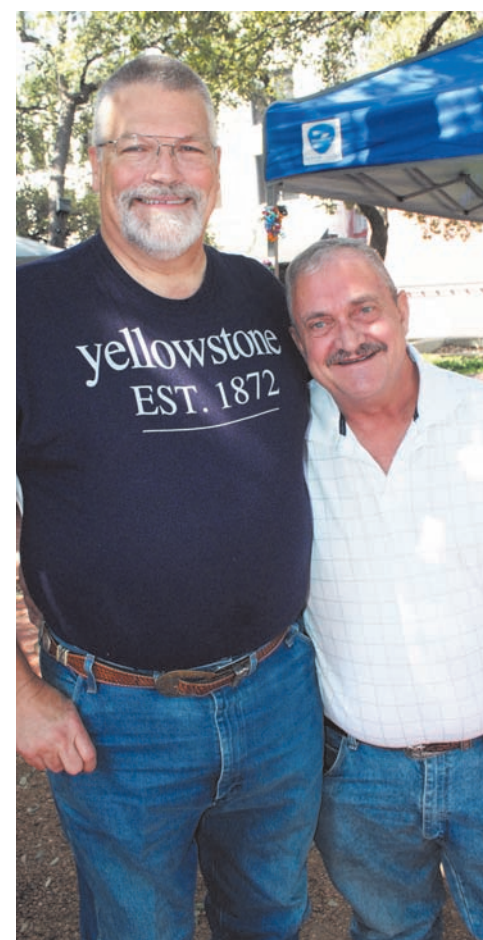
In the case of Jim Obergefell, the U.S. Supreme Court decision made his marriage legal, even though his husband had died more than a year earlier. He sued to get a death certificate.

A related case was settled earlier this year recognizing the marriage of an Austin lesbian couple.

Sonemaly Phrasavath and Stella Powell had been together eight years and had a union ceremony that was not legally recognized at the time. Powell died of cancer in 2014 and her family tried to take property from the estate.

Phrasavath filed a lawsuit to have her marriage to Powell recognized by the state of Texas as a legal common-law marriage. A Travis County probate judge declared the marriage legal and Phrasavath became the legal heir in October.

—James Russell



Jim Fritsch and Bill Parker

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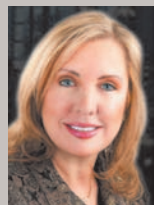
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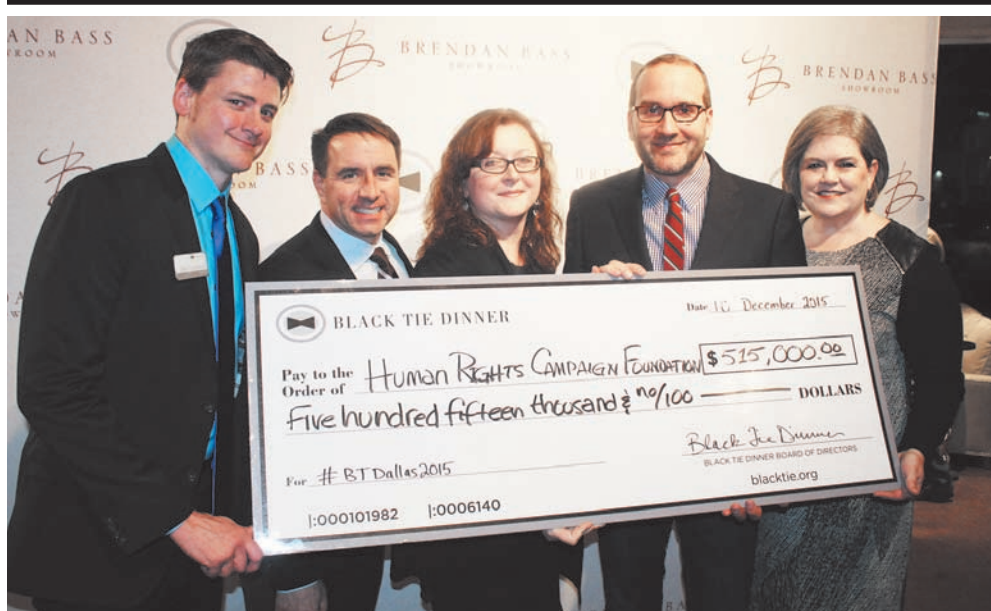
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Black Tie distributes \$1 million-plus



Black Tie Dinner chairs John Lawrimore, left, and Mitzi Lemmons, right, present a check for \$515,000 to HRC President Chad Griffin, second from left. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Brendan Bass has never attended a Black Tie Dinner.

But he has not only attended a Black Tie Dinner distribution party, he hosted the 2015 distribution party at his showroom in the Design District on Thursday, Dec. 10.

Baron Farha works at Brendan Bass Showroom and has contributed artwork and other items to Black Tie's silent auction for years. The more he talked about Black Tie, the more convinced Bass was that he needed to contribute as well.

Farha describes Bass as charity-driven; he has supported his church and the American Cancer Society — among others — for years. Then last summer, after the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its marriage equality ruling, Bass attended his first same-sex wedding. It was, he told Farha, "probably the classiest wedding I ever went to."

After moving to Oak Cliff, Bass started hearing his neighbors talk about Black Tie, and that piqued his interest. But what sealed his commitment to working with the LGBT community was attending a Anti-Defamation League luncheon.

"Why is everyone not treated equally?" he asked Farha afterwards.

So this fall, when Farha was talking about Black Tie Dinner and how much money it raises for so many organizations, "a lightbulb went off" for Bass, Farha said, noting that Bass asked, him, "How can we be more involved as a company?"

That's where Margaret Duncan stepped in.

Duncan is Black Tie's development director. She and Farha met years ago at a Black Tie Dinner and have been close friends ever since.

Black Tie's annual distribution party was coming up and Duncan didn't have a venue for it yet. Bass jumped at the chance to host the party and also offered his space for Black Tie's sponsor's

party next fall.

It is, they all agreed, the beginning of what looks to be a very satisfying arrangement, all the way around.

Black Tie 2015

Duncan said this year's dinner was a tremendous success, with almost 30 new sponsors and a number of returning sponsors who upgraded their commitment.

John Lawrimore rotates off as Black Tie co-chair this year, and will be replaced by Nathan Robbins. Mitzi Lemmons, who returned to co-chair Black Tie for a third time earlier this year when Debra Davis had to move out-of-state for family reasons, continues for another year.

Black Tie distributed a total of \$1,030,000 to 15 local organizations and to the national Human Rights Campaign Foundation on Thursday.

Of the local organizations, three are arts organizations, three are civil rights groups, four are religious groups, four are AIDS service organizations and one, Resource Center, does AIDS work as well as LGBT community advocacy and other work. ■

Human Right Campaign Foundation: \$515,000

AIDS Interfaith Network: \$31,213

AIDS Outreach Center: \$28,613

AIDS Services Dallas: \$41,387

Cathedral of Hope: \$39,362

Celebration Community Church: \$33,962

Congregation Beth El Binah: \$30,638

Equality Texas Foundation: \$31,663

Lambda Legal Defense and

Education Fundraiser: \$34,512

Legacy Counseling Center: \$30,588

Legal Hospice of Texas: \$30,588

Northaven United Methodist Church: \$35,458

Resource Center: \$53,362

Turtle Creek Chorale: \$31,812

Uptown Players, Inc.: \$33,079

The Women's Chorus of Dallas: \$28,763



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■ commUNITY voices

Ted Cruz, Dred Scott and the War on Christians



The *Dred Scott* decision, you guys. Have you heard of it? Because it's kind of famous.

Basically this guy, Dred Scott, sued for his freedom because he didn't want to be a slave any more and he wanted to be treated like a human being and stuff.

Fair enough!

But the Supreme Court was all, "No dice. If we let you go free then we're depriving somebody of their property, a.k.a. you. Oh, and P.S., you're not a citizen because you're a Negro so, like, why are we even talking to you?"

It was a total dick move on the Supreme Court's part, and the decision was one of the catalysts for the Civil War.

President Abraham Lincoln denounced the Scott decision, publicly declaring, "This is some bullshit." Or something like that. That may not be an exact quote.

It was, as history has helped to make clear, a terrible ruling. So terrible, in fact, that the anti-gay right wing has taken to comparing it to the Supreme Court's much more recent *Obergefell* decision (you know, the one that made same-sex marriage legal throughout the land).



D'Anne Witkowski

Creep of the Week

asks, "if you were president, would you treat the *Obergefell* decision like Lincoln did the *Dred Scott* decision?"

"Lincoln was absolutely right, I agree with President Lincoln," Cruz responded.

Because two people who love each other and get married is totally akin to keeping black people as property.

Honestly, the ease with which the right makes this comparison really speaks to how little they care about the years and years of slavery that created the foundation of racism that still prevails in this country.

Enter Ted Cruz, a guy who thinks he can actually be president someday, talking to National Organization for Marriage co-founder Robert George on a Catholic TV program about this very thing.

"Hey," George

asks, "if you were president, would you treat the *Obergefell* decision like Lincoln did the *Dred Scott* decision?"

"Lincoln was absolutely right, I agree with President Lincoln," Cruz responded.

Because two people who love each other and get married is totally akin to keeping black people as property.

Honestly, the ease with which the right makes this comparison really speaks to how little they care about the years and years of slavery that created the foundation of racism that still prevails in this country.

But then, they're not worried about racism. They're worried about two guys in tuxes using little Chihuahuas as ring bearers.

"And courts do not make law. That is not what a court does. A court interprets the law, a court applies the law, but courts don't make law," Cruz continues.

Which is true. Legislatures make laws, and sometimes really, really bad ones. Like laws that won't allow gays and lesbians to get married because they think gays and lesbians are subhuman sex fiends.

And so the Supreme Court was all, "Uh, these laws are discriminatory and that's unconstitutional, so nope."

Which is not the same thing as abracadabra-ing a law out of thin air, which is how the right wing sees things.

"And this is an area of really striking divide in this presidential election," Cruz continues. One candidate, Hillary Clinton, agrees with the court and embraces gay marriage and is happy that unelected judges have purported to tear down the marriage laws of all 50 states."

What a monster, that Hillary Clinton! How dare she be happy about equality in these United

States.

Cruz then chides some of his fellow Republicans for saying of *Obergefell*, "It's final, we must accept it, move on and surrender."

"I think they are profoundly wrong. I think the decision was fundamentally legitimate, it was lawless, it was not based on the Constitution," Cruz says.

I'm pretty sure that Cruz meant "fundamentally illegitimate." Then again, maybe that was a Freudian slip.

Then again, earlier this month Cruz said, "My response to [*Obergefell*] was that it was illegitimate, it was lawless, it was utterly contrary to the Constitution and that we should fight to defend marriage on every front."

Oooh, sounds like war talk!

It's not hard to imagine Cruz dreaming of another civil war over marriage equality between heathens and the Christians he believes are the real victims of discrimination in this country. Racism and homophobia are all in our heads.

But the War on Christians is real.

Real paranoia, that is. ■

D'Anne Witkowski is a freelance writer and poet and a writing teacher at the University of Michigan. She writes the weekly "Creep of the Week" column for Q Syndicate.



'RELIGIOUS' FREEDOM, From Page 17

nor Jeffrey O'Connor, were available to take this reporter's call, and Bagley begged off reporters' questions following the hearing.

Bagley also argued Dec. 1 that he believes there are some facts in dispute. If Norfolk County Superior Court Judge Douglas Wilkins agrees, he could schedule the matter for a jury trial. If he disagrees, he could rule on the merits of the case.

However the lawsuit is resolved, it will almost certainly be appealed to the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and, eventually, the U.S. Supreme Court.

GLAD founder John Ward, who argued the Hurley case in the Supreme Court, said he considers the Fontbonne case to be "hugely important" because, for gay people, "the issue around the country is: You can get married on Sunday and fired on Monday."

Ward said he thinks this case could help decide the current conflict over the use of religion to justify discrimination based on sexual orientation.

"There's been this trend in U.S. Supreme Court cases that hasn't been real helpful," said Ward, referring to recent decisions. Last year, in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*, the high court ruled that a federal law can not require a closely held commercial employer to provide health insurance coverage for contraception if that employer claims that to do so violates his or her personal religious beliefs.

Prior to that, in *Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC*, the Supreme Court ruled that the First Amendment bars lawsuits on behalf of "ministers" against their "churches," holding that it is "impermissible for the government to contradict a church's determination of who can act as its ministers." ■

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People of the year

LIFE+STYLE

queer locals

We recognize — and remember — those in the North Texas LGBT community who helped define life here in 2015

The LGBT Texan of the Year may be the grand prize of recognition for achievement in a year, but the fact is, 2015 was an accumulation of people and experiences, especially in the Life+Style Section. The following queer locals (including some who ended up being standard-bearers for marriage equality — *see sidebar*) achieved things in fields like entertainment, sports and community involvement that made the year memorable.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



COMMUNITY

Kennedy Davenport (left), runway ruler

The Dallas drag diva went from the stages of North Texas to the final four of *RuPaul's Drag Race*, building a slew of fans along the way.



FASHION

Arad (above), model citizen

We knew when we put Arad, a Persian living in Dallas, on the cover of our inaugural swimsuit edition in 2014 that he had sex appeal, but who could have predicted how quickly his star would rise? He's now the spokes-abs for Andrew Christian underwear, models for the PSA #ReadNaked and one of the most desirable men in the gay world. But we still get to call him a friend.

Venny Etienne (above left), sew talented

The local fashion student won an important award last spring that got him a scholarship to study in Paris, and even rocked a fashion show in Los Angeles this past fall. Dallas is full of fashionistas, but he's really one to look out for.



DINING
Casie Caldwell, *fierce foodie*

She's opened more than half a dozen restaurants in her career, but the homey stand-alone restaurant Pink Magnolia, led by chef Blythe Beck, is her most ambitious, quickly becoming an Oak Cliff staple.



MUSIC
Sean Baugh, *baton master*

Following a few rocky years, Baugh stepped up in late 2014 as the new artistic director of the Turtle Creek Chorale, but it was this year he let his vision — and his talent — be known.



SCREEN
Jitin Hingorani, *movie maven*

Seeing an underserved market in North Texas, Hingorani led the freshman South Asian Film Festival, focusing on filmmakers from the sub-continent, and met with unexpectedly welcome initial success.

Read about more **QUEER LOCALS** on Pages 26 and 27

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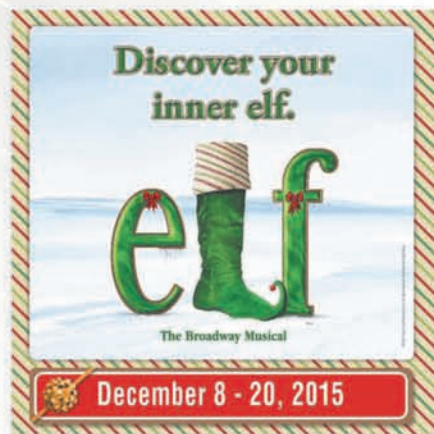
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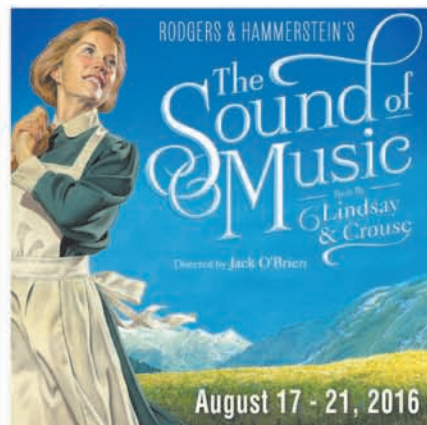
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Marriage equality icons

Two sets of Dallas comic book store owners — partners Richard Neal and Chris Williams of Zeus, and Gabriel Mendez and Kenneth Denson of Red Pegasus — gained their 15 minutes for being among the first same-sex Texans to get married on June 26; actress Whitney Hennen and musician Sara Bollinger gained notoriety of their own by becoming the first couple licensed in Denton County... after causing a public fuss about a resistant clerk.



SPORTS

Odessa Jenkins, *gridiron guru*

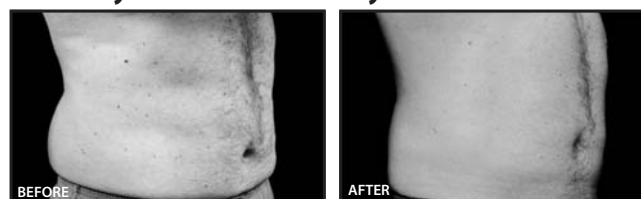
The Dallas Elite women's football team went from total newcomers in 2014 to one touchdown shy of a national championship under the leadership of coach, owner and running back Odessa Jenkins — an O.J. we can all be proud of.



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MULTIMEDIA

Terry Loftis (top left) and Taylor Cleghorn (right), media impresarios

Two North Texans made their Broadway producing debuts with the Kander-Ebb musical *The Visit* ... and netted Tony Award nominations for themselves along the way. They have since gone on to produce the TV show *Let's Go, DFW*.



STAGE

Donald Fowler (top right), Creep-y guy

Long a respected local actor, the first full-scale production of *Creep*, his musical about Jack the Ripper (he composed and wrote book and lyrics) debuted this fall with a flurry of excitement.

Jonathan Norton (left), the wright stuff

The young playwright impressed a lot of folks (including local critics) with his award-winning play *Mississippi Goddam*.



JERSEY BOYS

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A photograph of the Broadway cast of Jersey Boys on stage. Four men in suits are in the foreground, facing away from the camera with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. Behind them, a large group of other cast members in various costumes are standing.

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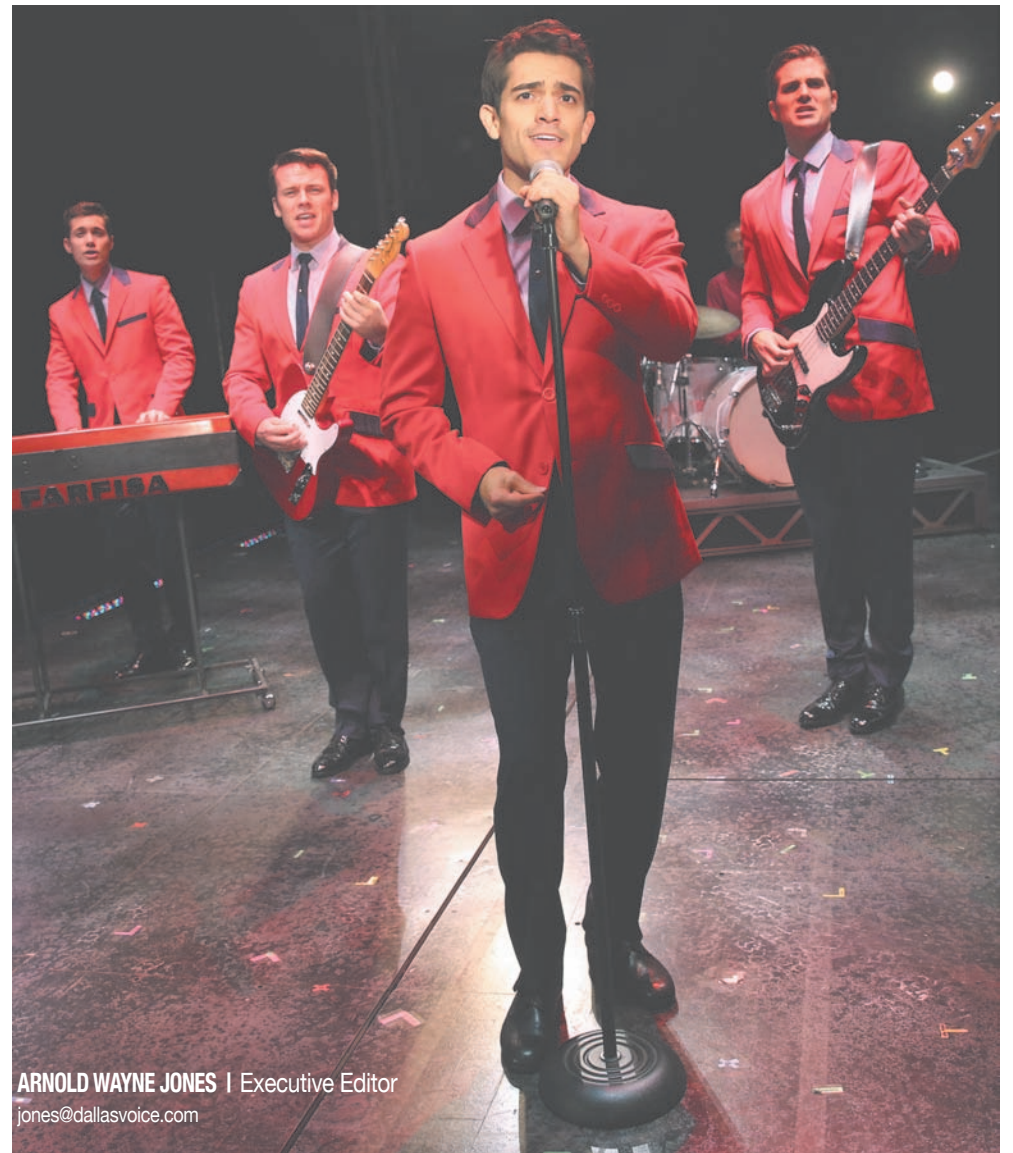
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L+S stage

'Jersey' boy

'Jersey Boys' out co-author Rick Elice, on his life-changing musical ... and the horrible, life-changing year he has endured



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Rick Elice still remembers the first time he saw Roger Rees. In fact, it was exactly 34 years ago this month.

"I saw him in *Nicholas Nickleby*, and my life changed," he says. The two formed a professional and personal partnership that lasted for decades, culminating a few years back when Elice wrote, and Rees directed, the award-winning riff on *Peter Pan*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*. Both were Tony-nominated for the show. They were riding high.

Then last year, Rees was diagnosed with brain cancer. Within nine months, it would take his life.

When writer Joan Didion lost her husband, author John Gregory Dunne, she referred to the aftermath as "the year of magical thinking." But

21 weeks after Rees' passing, Elice has a different term for it.

"It has been horrible — every day," Elice says grimly. "We were together for many, many years — he was a much more prominent part of me than I am of myself. It leaves a gaping hole in your life — as someone asked me, 'How do you move on without your arms or your legs?' He was performing until six weeks before he died; that's the kind of man he was."

JERSEY BOYS

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ATTPAC.org.

The loss has cast a shadow over 2015 ("I'm so sad all the time, I miss him every day," he says) but Elice still finds the strength to look on the positive — including the continued success of *Jersey Boys*, which he co-wrote 11 years ago and which continues to wow audiences worldwide. (The national tour returns to Dallas Dec. 16, and

settles in at the Winspear until Dec. 27.)

In case you've been under a rock since 2004, *Jersey Boys* is the smash jukebox musicals featuring the songs of the Four Seasons, the Frank Valli-led pop group that transitioned from street-lamp doo-wop to pop chart success. Elice and Marshall Brickman met the band members and were entranced by their anecdotes, becoming convinced it would make a great play. In the process, they helped usher in a sub-genre of jukebox musicals: the bioplay of supergroups and musicmakers from Barry Gordy (*Motown the Musical*) to Elvis Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis (*Million Dollar Quartet*) to Carole King (*Beautiful*).

Elice says his only goal was to make good theater, and dismisses the idea he helped invent a new musical trend.

"People want to [pigeonhole] shows, but it's sort of like walking into a gallery and saying 'Oh, no, not another rectangular painting.' The recontextualizing of popular songs did not begin with *Mamma Mia* or *Jersey Boys*," he says. "As a genre, the jukebox musical predates the jukebox really — Irving Berlin was doing this in the 1920s. If you do *Oklahoma* now, it's a jukebox musical because people go to hear 'Surrey with the Fringe on Top' and 'People Will Say We're in Love' — no one goes to see who Laurie takes to the box social. *Hamlet* is a jukebox show to see what Benedict Cumberbatch does with 'to be or not to be.'"

Nevertheless, Elice does appreciate how *Jersey Boys* has continued to amaze audiences ... and even surprise him on occasion.

"I feel entirely, utterly grateful [for *Jersey Boys*]," he says. "It changed my life in many ways. The writer starts with a very active role, but then the writer is in a passive role of specta-

tor, hearing people laugh at something you wrote. The real delight is in seeing people playing the show now who were too young to even audition when the show opened so who would never have been able to be in it, but who bring something really fresh to it. I like seeing when someone else brings their art to something you think of in one particular way. What's nice about *Jersey Boys* and shows that last is, they stand up to various interpretations.

(Elice politely distances himself from the 2014 film version of *Jersey Boys* which, despite a screenwriting credit, he had little to do with. "There was no process [of making the film] for me," he says. "Marshall and I had written a screenplay many years before, but it wasn't a shooting script — more of a treatment. Then four years went by and we got a call that Clint Eastwood wanted to shoot our prior screenplay. He had a certain window and budget and decided to shoot the script he had in his hand, which Marshall and I thought was never quite finished. We were never on the set.")

The success of any piece is something you can predict, Elice says ("There's so much you can't control — it's why there's no formula for success or every show would be a hit"), but he admits that the title of *Jersey Boys* — which he stressed was *not* his idea — really has contributed the show's meaning and longevity, which is deeper than just appeal to the bridge-and-tunnel crowd of Broadway attendees.

"[Band member] Bob Gaudio's son, Shannon, suggested *Jersey Boys*. As soon as I heard it, I said it was a great idea," he says. "If you stick up for people, if you have your friends' back, if you're drawn back to your old neighborhood ... you're a *Jersey Boy*." ■



HAPPIER TIMES | Rick Elice, right, during production on his play 'Peter and the Starcatcher,' which was co-directed (with Alex Timbers) by his longtime partner Roger Rees, left, who died earlier this year; opposite, the national tour of Elice's hit musical 'Jersey Boys' opens later this week.

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Holiday reading

Eric Jerome Dickey revisits Xmas; style maven Cintra Wilson reads fashion



***Naughtier than Nice* by Eric Jerome Dickey**
 (Dutton 2015) \$25.95; 357 pp.

There's a secret inside you, one you've been keeping far too long and you're about to burst. You need to talk about it. You need some advice, some perspective. And in Eric Jerome Dickey's *Naughtier than Nice*, if you don't talk about this issue soon, it could be the death of you.

Last Christmas Eve had been a memorable one for Frankie McBroom, for the wrong reasons: that was the day she spent thinking about how to cancel her wedding to Franklin Caruthers. He'd been her soul mate, her one-and-only... until she discovered that he was a married man.

As the eldest McBroom sister, Frankie felt as though she needed to set an example and she fought hard to forget Franklin. She wished her relationship with him had been like what youngest sister Tommie had with her Blue. Or like what middle sister Livvy had with Tony. But no, Frankie had something else altogether.

Tommie McBroom felt bad that she was cheating on her fiancé. Down deep, she loved Blue but he'd betrayed her: he knew how much she wanted a family and yet he'd had surgery to prevent it, which proved that he didn't care about her. Beale Streets, on the other hand, listened to her. Yes, Beale was a few years younger than Tommie, but that didn't matter when they were making love.

The delicate chain surrounding Livvy McBroom-Barrera's ankle spoke to Livvy of different times, of days when she and Tony were es-

tranged and she first slept with a woman. The charm on the chain reminded her of things she learned, and lovers who disappeared from her life so suddenly. She thought of them often — especially when she and Tony brought another woman to their bed.

It was hard to believe that a year had gone by since Frankie caught Franklin in a lie. So much had happened since last Christmas, so much that wasn't discussed. Tommie's life was taking a turn. Livvy's life seemed to be going backwards. And Frankie? She was dealing with a blown-up phone, an acid-ruined car, bricks through her windows, belongings rearranged in her home. Frankie was dealing with a stalker.

So you like a little spice with your Christmas nog? Or maybe some extra pepper in your peppermints? Then *Naughtier than Nice* will make you very jolly. In this sorta-sequel (to Dickey's 2004 *Naughty and Nice*), Dickey made a list of everything you want in a holiday drama — cheating, scandalous pasts, sex, murder and light humor — and it's obviously checked twice to add even more of the above. Although this book can be read as a stand-alone, readers then get to revisit some of Dickey's best characters from other novels. His usual themes are mashed-up, and there's a very nice gotcha or three scattered throughout this book.

That, and the fast-moving action, made me ho-ho-ho for this not-so-holiday holiday book and Dickey fans old and new will love it. Just beware: start *Naughtier than Nice* and you'll just have to tell somebody.

***Fear and Clothing: Unbuckling American Style* by Cintra Wilson** (W.W. Norton 2015) \$27.95; 336 pp.

Jackie O loved her pearls. Mary Quant made a teeny-weeny mini, perfect for the twiggy body of Twiggy. Kate Moss was waifish, Joan Collins pushed our shoulders out to *there*, and JLo and Nikki push the envelope every chance they get.

So what's your style? Dress up, dress down or, as Cintra Wilson says in *Fear and Clothing*, is fashion dictated by where you live?

Oh, what to wear, what to wear? Deciding, says Wilson, is a little like "portable feng-shui, right on your body." Clothes cover, costume, decorate, indicate personality, point at politics, and they speak volumes to fashion-watchers and journalists like Wilson, a freelance fashion critic for the New York Times whose work and an "absorbing curiosity" take her from runway to retail stores.

For this book, she traveled to places around the U.S. — both familiar and new to her — to report about style in various "belts."

In San Francisco, "The Macramé Belt" where Wilson grew up, she notes that the city is "one of



Gay author Eric Jerome Dickey's 'Naughtier Than Nice' is a sorta-sequel to 2004's 'Naughty But Nice.'

the few places... where a person really can create a fantasy avatar... and live in that costume full-time..." People come to San Francisco, she says, to "change the sex of their clothes, or to change their sex altogether."

In "The Beltway" of Washington, D.C., she noted that conservatism in dress for both men and women is almost mandatory in power-circles. In Utah ("The Chastity Belt"), she attended a major, star-filled film festival, an experience that clashed with observations of the women from the Yearning for Zion ranch.

In "The Frost Belt" (Wyoming), she fell in love with Western wear. In Miami ("The Sand Belt"), she noticed that naked equals fashion-forward. She went high-power shopping in "The Star Belt" of Los Angeles, high-hatted in "The Bourbon Belt" of Kentucky, high-brow in "The Futility Belt" of Brooklyn, and she noted "markedly different" body types in "The Butter Belt" of Iowa.

No matter where you live, Wilson says, your closet should be filled with things that are an


"expression of who you really are." Fashion should be a "joyful and important... way to empower yourself."

And those comments, made early-on, are interesting, although there are many instances in this book where Wilson seems to ignore them. But more on that in a minute; first, know that *Fear and Clothing* is funny — LOL funny sometimes, in a way that makes you wish you could hang out and people-watch with her.

Which brings me to what made me wince: while humorous, this book can be unkind, too, particularly when examining the fashion sense of people with arguably unsophisticated tastes. Wilson even acknowledges that she'll be taken to task for writing those barb-filled words, but that self-chiding doesn't minimize them.


Still, Wilson generally speaks the language of seasoned fashionistas, and it's good. If you love that, you love wit, and you can overlook the snark, then you might need this book. For you, *Fear and Clothing* is worth a peek. ■

— Terri Schlichenmeyer




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Saturday 12.12

A week of choral music from the Women's Chorus and the TCC

The holidays are a precious time for song, from sacred hymns to secular carols to simple feelings of warmth, family and fun, and two of Dallas' best — both with gay appeal — are performing this week... and not in competition! First is the Women's Chorus of Dallas with its one-night-only Winter Voices concert Saturday, featuring Metropolitan Winds and including the world-premiere song cycle How to Survive Winter. Then starting on Thursday, Dallas' gay men's chorus, the Turtle Creek Chorale, is back with its fan-favorite Christmas show, Home, which focuses on its own loving look at surviving the holidays. Both perform at City Performance Hall.

DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St.
Women's Chorus, Dec. 12 at 7:30 p.m. TWCD.org.
TCC, Dec. 17–19 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 20 at 2:30 p.m. TurtleCreekChorale.com.



LIFE+STYLE
best bets

Thursday 12.17 — Sunday 12.20



Saturday 12.12

2 groups hold holiday toy-and-teddy-bear drives

On Saturday you get your choice of gay events to do something for disadvantaged kids during the holidays... but there's no reason you can't do both. First the Lost Souls Rugby Club will host a toy drive and tacky sweater contest at the Round-Up. As that's ending, just down the street is the annual Teddy Bear Party, where admission is a new plush toy.

DEETS: **Lost Souls Toy Drive and Tacky Sweater Contest**, the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 6–9 p.m.
Teddy Bear Party, 6500 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m.–midnight.





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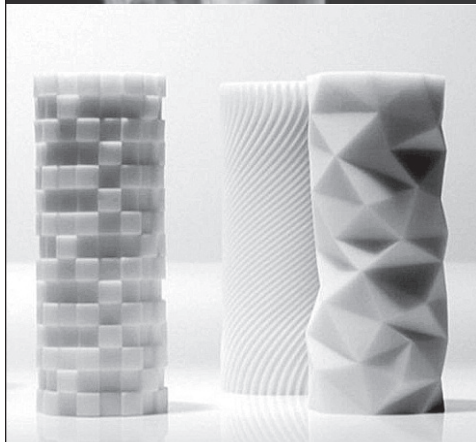
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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

A Christmas Carol. Dallas Theater Center begins its annual presentation of the Dickens classic, adapted by Kevin Moriarty, this time directed by company member Christina Vela and starring Hassan El-Amin as Scrooge. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 26. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Elf. The Will Ferrell Christmas comedy movie adapted as a stage musical. Presented by Dallas Summer Musicals. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Through Dec. 20. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Do You Hear What I Hear? A Jubilee Christmas. A heart-warming story about the meaning of the holidays. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 27. JubileeTheatre.org.

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Burlesque Nutcracker! The annual hilariously campy comedy about a small town that hires strippers to perform Tchaikovsky. Presented by MBS Productions. Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road, Addison. Through Dec. 27. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.

Miracle on 34th Street. Janelle Lutz, the reigning star of North Texas stages, returns in Dallas Children's Theater's adaptation of the warm holiday classic, with Francis Fusellier as Kris. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Dec. 20. \$15-\$28. DCT.org.

Black Nativity. A holiday tradition at TeCo Theatrical Productions, an abridged adaptation of Langston Hughes' Christmas story told from the POV of the African diaspora. Bishop Arts Theater, 215 S. Tyler St. Through Dec. 20. TeCoTheater.org.

King Arthur. Theatre Britain presents its annual panto, a cross-dressing, comedic, campy take on a traditional

story, this time, the legend of Camelot. Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through Dec. 27. Theatre-Britain.com.

Blood Wedding. Cara Mia Theatre continues its 20th anniversary season with this work by gay Spanish writer Federico Garcia Lorca. *Final weekend.* Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. CaraMiaTheatre.org.

The Totalitarians. Regional premiere by gay playwright Peter Sinn Nachtrieb, a dark comedy about politics. Presented by Kitchen Dog Theater in their new space in the Design District. Green Zone, 161 Riveredge. Through Dec. 19. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Sexy Laundry. The return of the hit from earlier this year, a co-production from WaterTower and Stage West, reuniting original cast members Bob Hess and Wendy Welch. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 13; moves to Stage West after Christmas. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Clarkston. Dallas Theater Center presents this world premiere from gay playwright Samuel D. Hunter, about a relationship between workers in a CostCo. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Jan. 31. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

OPERA

Becoming Santa Claus. World premiere holiday family opera from composer-librettist Mark Adamo. A spoiled prince learns the meaning of giving ... and creates a legend. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Sunday. DallasOpera.org.

PERFORMANCE

Peter Pan 360. A theatrical-stunt-circus hybrid, this multimedia presentation combines J.M. Barrie's story with high-wire acrobatics and CGI projections inside a



'BLACK ON BLACK' | Dallas Black Dance Theatre hosts a performance at party Friday and Saturday.

100-foot-tall structure in Downtown Dallas. ThreeSixty Theatre, 2450 San Jacinto St. Through Jan. 3 (extended). ATPAC.org.

DANCE

Black on Black. Dallas Black Dance Theatre performs, preceded by a reception and followed by an after-party. DBDT Studios, Ann Williams Way. Dec. 11-12 at 6 p.m. DBDT.com.

BALLET

The Nutcracker. Texas Ballet Theater's annual classic from Tchaikovsky, choreographed by Ben Stevenson. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Dec. 11-27. 877-828-9200. TexasBalletTheater.org.

CABARET

Mistletoe Magic: A Christmas Cabaret. The Bruce Wood Dance Company continues to grow with the opening of the Bruce Wood Dance Theater in the Design District to host the company's second fundraiser and gala, a two-night-only cabaret featuring Broadway star Liz Callaway, performances by Hugh Panaro and Joseph Thalken plus dances from the company members, all served over a dinner prepared by chef Abraham Salum. Attendees support the upcoming season of BWDP and are acknowledged in the program next season. Each evening limited to 130 guests). Bruce Wood Dance Theater, 101-103 Howell St. Dec. 11 and 12 at 7 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.




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FINE ART

Jackson Pollock: Blind Spots. An exclusive exhibit of the innovative American painter's late work, a departure from his classic "drip" paintings, but also showing the span of the artist's work. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through March 20. Special exhibit fee. DMA.org.

Castiglione: Lost Genius. Masterworks on paper from the Royal Collection. Kimbell Art Museum, 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 14. Free. KimbellArt.org.

Gustave Caillebotte: The Painter's Eye. Kimbell Art Museum, 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 14. \$18. KimbellArt.org.

SATURDAY 12.12

COMMUNITY

Lost Souls Rugby Toy Drive and Tacky Sweater Contest. The gay rugby team hosts a benefit for The Family Place. Prizes for ugliest holiday sweater. Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. 6-9 p.m.

The Teddy Bear Party. A fundraiser for gay causes, with DJ Brandon Moses spinning. Admission: One new teddy bear. \$50 suggested minimum donation in advance (\$75 at the door). 6500 Cedar Springs Road. 8 p.m.-midnight.

DANCE

Dark Circles Contemporary Dance. The dance company performs at NorthPark Center for holiday shoppers. 8687 N. Central Expressway. 1:30-2:15 p.m.

CONCERTS

The Women's Chorus of Dallas: Winter Voices. Singers and musicians (from Metropolitan Winds) will be onstage for this annual holiday concert. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. TWCD.org.

SUNDAY 12.13

CONCERTS

Oak Lawn Band: A Celluloid Christmas. Annual holiday concert for the whole family featuring movie music from films like *The Polar Express*, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, *Gremlins* and more. North Dallas High School Auditorium, 3120 N. Haskell Ave. 4 p.m.

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For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

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TUESDAY 12.15

FILM

Oliver! The last movie musical until Chicago to win the best picture Oscar, this dark but tuneful adaptation of Dickens' novel includes such memorable songs as "Consider Yourself" and "Food Glorious Food!" Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Sponsored by Dallas Voice. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 12.16

THEATER

A Ripping Christmas Carol. A staged reading of a new holiday themed comedy by Elaine Limer. Plano Children's Theatre, 1301 Custer Road, Plano. 7:30 p.m. Free, but a non-perishable food item requested.

Jersey Boys. The hit musical about the Four Seasons, with a classic pop score. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Dec. 16-27. ATPAC.org.

THURSDAY 12.17

CONCERTS

Turtle Creek Chorale: Home. The TCC's annual holiday concert, with guests including Denise Lee. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 17-19 at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 20 at 1:30 p.m. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

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Cassie Nova

May the force be with you, Santa

Hey, y'all. I don't know what I am more excited about this season: The new *Star Wars* movie or Christmas. They both give me goosies when I think about them. Christmas because of the gifts, the food and to say Happy Birthday Baby J. But *Star Wars* has been such a huge part of my life for as long as I can remember. There is just something so special about that series to me, and of course a lot of other people feel the same way.

I saw the first *Star Wars* film, *Episode IV: A New Hope*, when I was 5 and I was in love. So much so that when I was 7 and it was still playing at the Bruton Terrace Dollar Theatre, I saw it 22 times more. My mom would give me a couple of bucks on Saturday just to get me out of the house and I would go

see it again. Sometimes watching it two times in a row. I would sit in the front row and lip-sync the dialogue to the movie. When I couldn't sit still any longer, I would act out the scenes pretending I had a light saber. Until I was asked to sit back down. I was only asked to leave once.

I am embarrassed to say that I did not see *The Empire Strikes Back* until it made it to the dollar theater. It had been out for nearly 10 months before I found out about the whole Darth is my daddy thing. Being poor was a bitch.

Return of the Jedi came out when I was 11 and my mom took me to see it opening weekend. It was packed at that theater in Mesquite. We saw it at the same General Cinema that I would work at all through high school. *Return of the Jedi*, even now, remains one of the all-time best movies ever made. That's just my opinion, but if you don't agree, you are just wrong. I will not waver on this point. It had everything: Ewoks in a battle on Endor, Jabba the freakin' Hutt, the pathetic "death" of Boba Fett and a conclusion that showed the ghosts of Luke's mentors and

father. I still get choked up at that scene.

The Christmas after *Return of the Jedi* came out, my mom asked me what I wanted from Santa. I was too old to believe in that Polar Bear but we kept up appearances for my sister. She knew she didn't have to ask — I wanted all things *Star Wars*. I especially wanted a stuffed Wicket the Ewok doll. He was like the coolest teddy bear you ever saw. I wanted as many action figures as I could get. I already had a bunch but of course I wanted every single one of them. Obsessed children can be so selfish. I had the Millennium Falcon and an X-wing fighter, but I didn't have the Jabba the Hutt playset. If you turned Jabba's head, his wormy tail would move. It was the coolest thing ever.

On Christmas Eve, we went to my grandmother's and drove back late that night so we could be in our own beds on Christmas morning. I remember being in the back seat of my mother's van with my sister pointing to passing airplanes in the sky and telling her it was Santa. She was so excited. We both were — it was Christmas! It was a long ride home and we both fell asleep. When we got back to our cute little duplex we lived in, Mom sent us upstairs to go back to sleep. My sister and I were so sleepy we didn't notice that something was different in our living room.

Apparently we had been robbed while we were at my grandma's house. They took every single one of our Christmas gifts. They wiped us out completely. My mother came upstairs and woke us up to tell us the bad news. I can't imagine how hard that must have been for her. To have to tell her kids that there were no gifts from her or Santa. My sister said, we will still have gifts from Santa. Mom, trying to keep the magic of Santa alive said, "He had already been there and they stole the stuff he left for you, too." I think that was the last year my sister believed in Santa. People suck.

Mom called the police, they came. It was very surreal. I think they even took a fruitcake that some lady at my mom's job had given her. There was a security gate on the back door and the front door was intact, so the police had no idea how they got into the house. My heart broke as I overheard Mom tell the police all the gifts that were stolen. She got us every single thing my sister and I asked for: the Jabba playset, 20-plus action figures and a case to keep them in shaped like Darth Vader's head and the stuffed Ewok, a jam box and a little TV for my room. She even got my sister the girl Ewok with the pink hoodie thing. She must have spent a fortune on our stuff. She had two jobs and worked her ass off to provide for us. This was going to be the best Christmas ever. But people suck.

My mom though, kept our spirits up. The day after Christmas, she went and rebought us a bunch of the gifts we had lost. I got my Jabba playset. I got a bunch of action figures, and we both got our stuffed Ewoks. We had a delayed Christmas but it was still a great and memorable one.

A few days later, I opened my closet door and noticed insulation from the attic on the floor. I told my mom and she immediately called the police again. I had cracked the case wide open. In my head I was Inspector Gadget and the Hardy Boys all rolled into



one. It turned out that our horrible neighbors that lived in the adjoining duplex had cut a hole through our attic wall and entered our house through my closet. Long story short, they were arrested and we got back most of our Christmas gifts over the next few weeks.

I was in *Star Wars* heaven. I now had two of almost everything. I must have had 50 *Star Wars* action figures. I wish I would have been smart enough to save them and put them away. I would have a collection worthy of a nerdgasm but I gave a bunch to my cousin Jeremy. They had an offer on the back of the action figure package that if you sent something like 20 proofs of purchase in, you would get a free Emperor action figure with glowing red eyes. Well hell, we had enough proofs of purchase to get one for me and one for Jeremy. We cut them out, put them in an envelope and sent them to Hasbro. In four to six weeks, we started to watch the mail very closely. Jeremy received his at about the six-week mark. Not mine — weeks went by and still nothing. I remember complaining to one of my teachers and she told me to write Hasbro a letter. Maybe it had gotten lost of something. So I did just that, I used my letter writing skills, that I had just learned in school and sent my very business-like but heartfelt letter. It started with "Dear Sirs" — because back then that is how we were taught — and ended with a very stern, "I look forward to your immediate response, Sincerely, Mr. James Love."

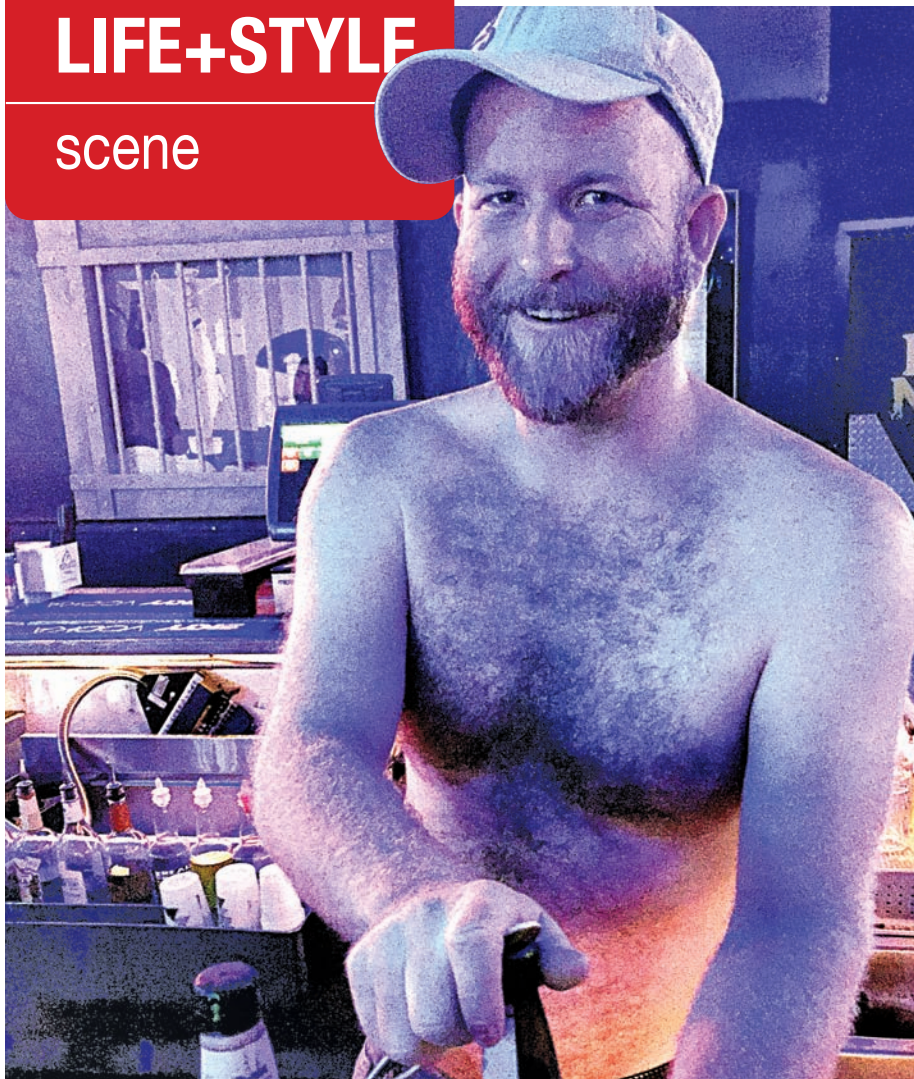
Respond they did. About a month later I received an apology letter. It said that due to the overwhelming response from the *Star Wars* fans that they ran out and had to make more. They informed me that I was at the top of the list when they came in. They apologized for the delay asked for me to please be patient but my Emperor would arrive eventually. Three months later it came. He was super cool, his eyes were demonic and reminded me of how much I disliked him in the movie. I made Darth Vader throw him off everything — the coffee table, the side of the tub ... I must have killed him a thousand times. The package from Hasbro also came with a set of die cast metal figurines as an apology for them being so late. It was awesome. *Star Wars* had once again rocked my world.

J.J. Abrams, do with *The Force Awakens* what George Lucas did for my generation. If you ruin *Star Wars*, I will personally push you into the Sarlacc's pit.

Love more, bitch less and may the force be with you. XOXO, Cassie Nova.

If you have a question of comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.





Dylan at Dallas Eagle

Making the **SCENE** the week of **Dec. 11–17**:

- **Alexandre's**: Briggitt Rideaux on Friday. **Chris Chism and the band** on Saturday and Wednesday. **Alicia Silex** on Thursday.
- **BJ's NXS!**: **Toy Drive through Thursday**. Every unwrapped new toy gets a raffle ticket. The drawing for a donated gift basket will be held at 9:30 on Thursday.
- **Brick/Joe's**: **Meech's Empire birthday celebration** with free food catered by **Meech Movement**. Showtime at 11 p.m. on Friday. Lip Sync battime at 11 p.m. on Friday. Lip Sync battle with **Katya** and **Kennedy Davenport** at midnight on Saturday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House**: Free gift wrapping for Christmas presents with donations to AIDS Arms from 5-9 p.m. on Friday. Raise a glass and raise some dough for SOS-Survivors Offering Support at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Changes**: **Cowtown Leathermen** meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday. Wall of Food Christmas Party at 6 p.m. and meeting at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Club Reflection**: **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **Imperial Court** show at 7 p.m. on Sunday. Wall of Food show at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Dallas Eagle**: **DFW Leather Corps** club night on Friday. **Dallas Bears** membership meeting at 11 a.m. on Saturday. **DFW Leather Corps** meeting at 2 p.m. on Saturday. **National Leather Association** club night on Saturday. **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** investiture from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday. **UCLSE Jingle Balls** annual fundraiser from 7-10 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Hidden Door**: Thursday was the bar's 36th anniversary and they'll be celebrating all weekend.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill**: **Cassie's Freak Show** with **Fantasha**, **Nikki**, **Alexis** and **Your Highness** on Monday.
- **Pekers**: **Is It Live or Memorex** benefits **C.U.R.E.**, the **Gregg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund** and **Miniature Schnauzer Rescue of North Texas** at 8:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon**: **Lost Souls Rugby Football Club Toy Drive** and **Tacky Sweater Contest** for **The Family Place** from 6-9 p.m. on Saturday. **Holiday Stocking Auction** benefits **Legacy Counseling Center** at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Sue Ellen's**: **Chix** on Friday. **Mojo Dolls** on Saturday. **Anton's Christmas Extravaganza** on Sunday. Open mic with **Kathy** and **Bella** on Wednesday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar**: **Dallas at Green Bay** on the big screen at 3:25 p.m. on Sunday. **Ugly Sweater Party** from 9-11 p.m. on Thursday. ■

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: Chad Mantoath.



Crowning Porscha Paris as the new Miss Fire and Ice



Krystal and Skandar



Edna Jean's annual fundraiser for the Pleasant Grove Senior Center Holiday Project raised \$1,971, enough to buy 85 blankets and everything else in the gift packs.



Fundraiser for Legacy Counseling at The Round Up



Photos by David Taffet



Friends at The Round Up Saloon



Friends at Woody's Sports and Video Bar



Birthday celebration at JR.'s

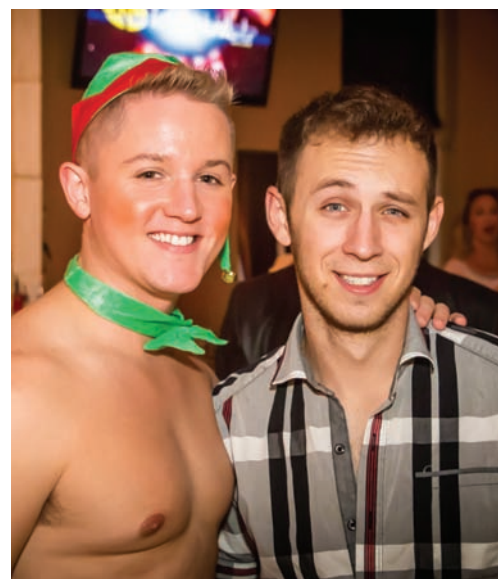


Hanging out at Alexandre's

Impulse Group's 'Deck the Hauls' Party



Photos by Chris Huffstutler



A Classic Chassis Christmas



Photos by Leo Cusimano

Cassie's Holiday Hoedown



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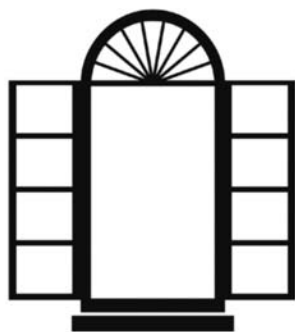
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 - OAK LAWN CoDA GROUP
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For more information contact

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q-puzzle

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In Gay Colors

Solution on page 37

Across

- Brown's *Cat on the* ____
- Cicero's singular
- Asks from one's knees
- After Delores* author Schulman
- Big ones in porn films, sometimes
- Focused on one's work
- Not novel
- Lesbos love
- Delany of *Desperate Housewives*
- Obsession with facial hair
- Almost ready for the tooth fairy
- Make airtight
- Charades, basically
- Prick
- Peace Nobelst Wiesel
- Eurythmics' "Would ____ to You?"
- Pub round
- Kind of man, in Oz
- Life style of hairy gay guys
- One to ten, e.g.
- Saltine brand
- DeLaria of *Orange Is the New Black*
- Journeys like a post-Trojan War epic
- Buck feature
- Lady Sings the Blues* star
- Queens ballpark
- Sci-fi that uses technology and aesthetic designs

- Artist Aaron, who's style has been described as a combination of 20-, 38-, and 50-Across
- Do road work
- "Let me repeat ..."
- 160 square rods
- Disney's ____ and the *Detectives*
- Lets up
- Bear's den
- Where you can eat a hero
- Bitchy warning
- Mireille of *World War Z*

Down

- One that comes quickly
- Eat pasta, with "up"
- Buffalo's lake
- Barney, who romanced Romaine
- Aileen Wuornos portrayal Charlize
- Boat bottom bumpers
- Be in harmony
- What an athletic supporter might do?
- Help out
- Whoopi's ill-fitting garb in *Sister Act*?
- Online prostitution?
- Big name in cutters
- Terence of *Billy Budd*

- Stray on the range
- Earhart's "Friendship" and others
- Gide's subway
- Homer-erotic tale?
- Of a coin factory?
- Brief moments in the "Kama utra"
- Turning tray for Anthony?
- Incenses
- Void's partner
- It can bear fruit
- Brown quickly
- It's a bust
- Place for Young men?
- One from the land of the circumcised
- Lays eyes on
- Some like it hot
- Biathlete, for one
- Went lickety-split
- Meek and mild
- Apt anagram for vile
- Org. that could help you see ranus
- "____ do anything better than you"
- Dixie Chicks, e.g.
- Word on either bride's towel
- Data transmission letters



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