

# dallasvoice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | DallasVoice.com |   DallasVoice | Established 1984 | Volume 32 | Issue 40 | FREE | Friday, February 12, 2016



THE  
Valentine's  
*issue*



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200mg/tenofovir alafenamide 10mg tablets

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is now available**







Actual Size

One pill contains  
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and tenofovir alafenamide (TAF).

Ask your healthcare provider  
if GENVOYA is right for you.

To learn more visit  
**GENVOYA.com**

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®)
- pimozone (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](http://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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It's almost time for lords and ladies, wenches and wayward jesters, knights and damsels to don their gayest 16th century apparel and head south — all the way to Waxahachie — for the 2016 Scarborough Renaissance Festival. Scarborough Renaissance Festival's Job Faire for part time and seasonal positions at the 2016 festival will be held at the festival's main office, 2511 FM 66 in Waxahachie, on Saturday, Feb. 27, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Scarby runs for eight weekends — Saturdays and Sundays every weekend, and Monday on Memorial Day weekend, which is the final day of faire — from April 9-May 30. There will also be a Student Day on Tuesday, April 26.

#### DA Hawk visits Resource Center

Dallas County District Attorney Susan Hawk toured Resource Center with CEO Cece Cox, today, Wednesday, Feb. 10.

It was the Republican's first visit to the center since taking office last year.

Rafael McDonnell, Resource Center's communications and advocacy manager, said he approached Hawk about touring after December's meeting addressing the uptick of violence along Cedar Springs.

Hawk was familiar with the Resource Center from her time as judge, but the tour offered an opportunity to see how the center operates.

Hawk's tour included stops in the food pantry, which is currently under construction, and a chance to meet center staff.

McDonnell said the center is interested in developing a relationship with Hawk and her staff. The tour hopefully established that relationship.

— James Russell

#### Dallas City Council bans sex in the city

The Dallas City Council voted to keep the Kay Bailey Hutchison Dallas Convention Center pure and chaste by banning the porn expo eXXXotica from the booking at the city-owned facility.

The mayor and seven councilmen voted for the ban at its weekly meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 10. The three amigos — Medrano, Kingston and Griggs — led a group of seven opposing the ban on sex in the Kay Bailey Hutchison.

Dan Adams, marketing and public relations director for eXXXotica, let Dallas Voice know on Thursday, Feb. 11 that the Dallas City Council's action blocking his company's expo at the Dallas Convention Center wasn't the last we'll hear of his company.

“We are in the process of preparing a lawsuit and

filing an injunction against the city,” Adams wrote to Dallas Voice.

An alternative location for the event would be Market Center Hall. Since it was Ray Hunt, owner of the Hyatt Hotel in downtown Dallas, who was the most vocal in wanting to ban sex in the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, I wondered if arch-rival Trammell Crow would accommodate the expo.

But eXXXotica wants to put sex in the Kay.

“We have not even considered an alternate venue at this time as we are confident based on advice from attorneys that we are within our legal and constitutional rights to return to the convention center for our 2016 expo,” Adams wrote.

— David Taffet

#### Dallas County JP refuses to conduct same-sex weddings

Dallas County Justice of the Peace Bill Metzger wrote on his Facebook page Wednesday that he will only conduct marriages between a man and woman.

“Because of my faith in God as a devout Catholic, I will only be conducting traditional marriages,” Metzger's wrote.

He cited a nonbinding opinion by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued last June that county employees, including clerks and judges, may refuse to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples if issuing those licenses would go against their “deeply held religious beliefs.”

Harris County Attorney Vince Ryan has also issued an opinion, following the Obergefell decision last summer, countering Paxton's opinion.

“A judge or justice of the peace is authorized to perform a marriage but is under no obligation to do so. However, once the judge elects to undertake the performance of marriages, the service must be offered to all (including same-sex couples) in a non-discriminatory manner,” Ryan wrote in his opinion.

— James Russell



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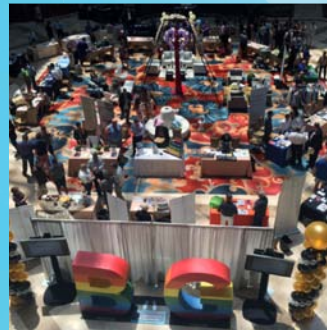
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**For more info: EXPO@dallasvoice.com ♦ 214-754-8710 ext. 126**





**Democrats of Dallas**

## Stonewall Democrats of Dallas 2016 Democratic Primary Endorsements

Election Day for the 2016 Democratic Primary Election is March 1st, 2016!

### Early Voting begins Tuesday, February 16th and ends on Friday, February 26th!

STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DALLAS IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE OUR LIST OF ENDORSED CANDIDATES IN THE UPCOMING MARCH 1st DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ELECTION !

#### 2016 DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ELECTION LIST OF ENDORSED CANDIDATES

##### DALLAS COUNTY

Constable Precinct 1 - TRACY GULLEY  
County Commissioner 1 - DR. THERESA DANIEL  
Tax Assessor/Collector - JOHN AMES  
County Commissioner 3 - DWAIN CARAWAY  
Dallas County Sheriff - LUPE VALDEZ  
Dallas Co. Democratic Party Chair - CAROL DONOVAN

##### DALLAS JUDICIAL

Justice of the Peace 2-1 - BRUCE PARROTT  
Criminal District Court 2 - MARILYNN MAYSE  
Criminal District Court 4 - DOMINIQUE COLLINS  
254th Judicial Dist. Ct. - DARLENE EWING  
14th Judicial Dist. Ct. - ERIC MOYE  
95th Judicial Dist. Ct. - KEN MOLBERG  
162nd Judicial Dist. Ct. - PHYLLIS LISTER BROWN  
Court of Criminal Appeals Pl. 6 - ROBERT BURNS  
Justice, 5th Court of Appeals - DENNISE GARCIA  
Justice, Supreme Ct. Pl. 5 - DORI CONTRERAS GARZA

##### STATE

State Rep. 115 - DOROTHA OCKER  
State Rep. 107 - VICTORIA NEAVE  
State Rep. 113 - RHETTA BOWERS  
State Rep. 102 - LAURA IRVIN  
State Rep. 105 - TERRY MEZA  
State Rep. 109 - HELEN GIDDINGS  
State Rep. 112 - JACK BLACKSHEAR  
State Rep. 104 - ROBERTO ALONZO  
Texas Railroad Commissioner - LON BURNAM

##### FEDERAL

U.S. Congressional District 33 - MARC VEASEY  
U.S. Congressional District 30 - EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON  
U.S. Congressional District 24 - JAN MC DOWELL  
President of the United States - HILLARY CLINTON

If you have any questions regarding our endorsements or the process by which we endorse, please contact our Political Affairs Committee Chair, Cannon Brown, at the following address: [Political@StonewallDemocratsOfDallas.org](mailto:Political@StonewallDemocratsOfDallas.org)

Go to [DallasCountyVotes.org](http://DallasCountyVotes.org) to check your voter registration, for Early Voting locations, or locate your Election Day polling place(soon!)



## THE GAY AGENDA

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

#### FEBRUARY

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM.** Activist Erin Moore is this week's guest; **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](mailto:rramirez@myresourcecenter.org).

• **Feb. 12-March 18: White Rock Community Church Stations of the Cross** The 14 Stations of the Cross are depicted by tattoo artists from Taboo Tattoo and Tigger's Body Art in Deep Ellum 6:30 p.m. each Friday through Lent at White Rock Community Church, 9353 Garland Road. To learn more

visit [Whiterockchurch.info](http://Whiterockchurch.info) or call 214-320-0043.

• **Feb. 12: "50 Shades of Gay": Speed Dating Mixer and Fundraiser** Speed dating mixer for gay, bi and trans men 21 and older takes place every second Friday of the month. 6-9 p.m. at Alexandre's, 4026 Cedar Springs Road. \$5. Benefits Real Live Connection. For more information call 469-666-7325.

visit [Whiterockchurch.info](http://Whiterockchurch.info) or call 214-320-0043.

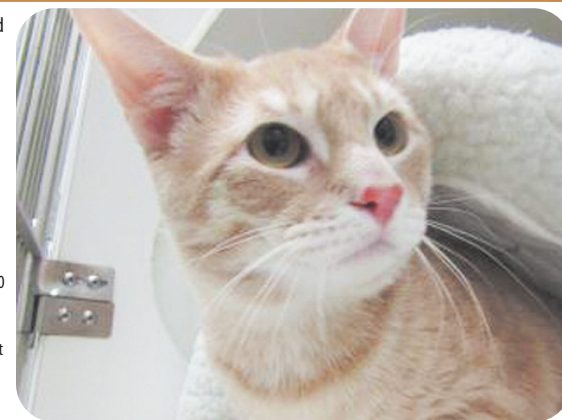
• **Feb. 12: High Tech Happy Hour** Texas Instruments Pride, the LGBT and ally diversity group, hosts its monthly High Tech Happy Hour to increase professional and social contacts between groups and individuals and to foster community. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Primo's Tex Mex, 1400 Hi Line Dr. For more information e-mail Paul von Wupperfeld at [pavw@ti.com](mailto:pavw@ti.com).

• **Feb. 12: Dallas Red Foundation takeover at Azure Addison** An opportunity to learn about Legacy Counseling and Dallas Red Foundation while drinking DRF Signature Cocktails, from 8-10:30 p.m. at Azure, 4080 Beltline Road, Addison.

### pet of the week / LEADBELLY

**Leadbelly** is a domestic shorthair mix, about 8 months old who is looking for a loving forever home. At about 11 pounds and still growing he is going to be a big fella when he's fully grown. He loves big dogs and gets along well with cats. And as for people, he loves everybody he meets.

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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• **Feb. 12-14: HRC Time to Thrive Conference**

Annual national conference promoting safety, inclusion and well-being for LGBT youth features speakers, workshops and more at Gaylord Texan Resort & Convention Center, 1501 Gaylord Trail, Grapevine. For more information and to register visit [Timetothrive.org](http://Timetothrive.org).

• **Feb. 13: LGBTQ Saves Valentine's Dance**  
LGBT-friendly youth and young adult dance includes free food, drink and entertainment from 7-10 p.m. at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

• **Feb. 13: Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington's Emperor's Ball**  
Annual fundraiser benefits Cancer Care Services at 7 p.m. at Urban Cowboy Lounge, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

• **Feb. 16: Young Adult Gender Identity Group**  
In partnership with SMU's Center for Family Counseling, GEAR is launching a new support group for young trans adults ages 18-29. 6 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St.

• **Feb. 16: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas monthly meeting**  
Cocktails at 6 p.m. and meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton Street.

• **Feb. 19: HRC DFW Federal Club Mixer**  
Happy hour from 6-8 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Feb. 20: Gaybingo: Queen of Hearts**  
Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place 6-9 p.m. the third Saturday of the month at Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 5 p.m. For more information, call 214-540-4458 or email [Bscott@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:Bscott@myresourcecenter.org).

• **Feb. 20: AOC Benefit Concert at TCU**  
TCU's School for Classical and Contemporary Dance's Chi Tau Epsilon Honor Society presents the 2016 AIDS Outreach Center Benefit Concert featuring dance groups from across the region. 7:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre of Erma Lowe Hall, 3000 S. University Dr., Fort Worth. \$20 for adults. \$10 for non-TCU students. For tickets and more information call 817-257-4255.

• **Feb. 21: Tarrant County Gay Pride Week Association meeting**  
Getting ready for fifth annual Easter and Pet Fest / Art Fest and general meeting. 3 p.m. at Barron House, 516 College Ave., Fort Worth.

• **Feb. 21: DRF Quiz for a Cause**  
Dallas Red Foundation, Geeks Who Drink — D/FW, and Cedar Springs Tap House team up to create a Quiz for a Cause benefiting Dallas DRF and Legacy Counseling at 7 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road.

**Feb. 21: East Dallas Christian Church Concert Series: *Adagios for Reflection: Gratitude in Community...Grace in Humanity***  
Performers include Meg Griffith, flute; Michael Scheuerman, clarinet; Daniel Sigale, viola; Keith Critcher, piano; Rev. Dr. Steve Sprinkle, John Ahne, David Lawrence, readers; The EDCC Chancel Choir; and Jonathan Merritt, piano. All concerts are free of charge with open seating. Donations will be accepted. 3 p.m. in the Grimes Choir Suite at East Dallas Christian Church, 629 N. Peak Street.

• **Feb. 25: Rainbow LULAC mixer**  
Membership mixer 6-8 p.m. at Mario Sabino's, 5404 Lemmon Ave.

## MARCH

• **March 5: Resource Center's Toast to Life Mad Hatter's Ball**  
Enjoy a night of food from top local chefs and entertainment by DJ Bunny at this annual benefit for Resource Center programs from 7-11 p.m. at the Empire Room, 1225 N. Riverfront Blvd. For tickets and more information visit [Bit.ly/1VnT1vq](http://Bit.ly/1VnT1vq).

• **March 5: Reverchon Park Roundup**  
The 18th annual cleanup includes planting flowerbeds, clearing out trash and removing fallen tree limbs. Pants, long sleeve shirts, sturdy shoes, gloves, rakes and other small tools recommended. 9:30 a.m. registration and orientation followed by 10 a.m. clean up and a complimentary lunch at 11:30 a.m. at 3505 Maple Ave. For more information and to volunteer e-mail [reverchon.roundup@tsrh.org](mailto:reverchon.roundup@tsrh.org) or call 214-559-7825.

• **March 6: You'll Never Walk Alone**  
Oak Lawn UMC presents "*You'll Never Walk Alone: A Community Gathering of Hope, Unity, and Support for the Oak Lawn Neighborhood.*" The program expresses the community's appreciation for the leadership displayed by Mayor Rawlings and the Dallas Police Department in the face of recent violent attacks in Oak Lawn. Performances by the Dallas Police Choir, the Oak Lawn Band and Oak Lawn UMC's Chancel Choir. 6-7:30 p.m. at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave.

## Feb. 20: AOC Benefit Concert at TCU



TCU's School for Classical and Contemporary Dance's Chi Tau Epsilon Honor Society presents the 2016 AIDS Outreach Center Benefit Concert, featuring student and professional dance groups from across the region.

• **March 9: Mother Micheal Community Service Awards**  
Awards presented by the Imperial Court de Fort Worth/Arlington with performances by category winners. 7 p.m. at Club Reflection, 604 S. Jennings St., Fort Worth.

• **March 11-13: Imperial Court Coronation XXXVII**  
Punking the Palace — The Windsors Meet Steampunk: An Evening at Buckingham Palace. Coronation is at 5 p.m. on Saturday night in the main ballroom of the host hotel. Radisson North-Fossil Creek, 2540 Meacham Blvd., Fort Worth.

• **March 20: The Wedding Workshop: An LGBT Community Event**  
Three-hour, hands-on seminar featuring wedding industry experts guide couples through all the steps for planning a memorable wedding. 9:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 N. Stemmons Freeway. For more

information call 214-754-8710 ext. 126 or visit [LGBTWeddingWorkshop.com](http://LGBTWeddingWorkshop.com). Admission and parking are free with registration.

• **March 20: The Wedding Party and Expo: An LGBT Community Event**  
Presented by the Dallas Voice, the largest LGBT wedding expo in Texas includes exhibitors, a fashion show, food samples, a community marketplace and free cake. Donnie Brown serves as celebrity host. 1-5 p.m. at the Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 N. Stemmons Freeway. For more information call 214-754-8710 ext. 126 or e-mail [EXPO@dallasvoice.com](mailto:EXPO@dallasvoice.com). Register at [TheWeddingPartyEXPO.com](http://TheWeddingPartyEXPO.com). Admission and parking are free with registration.

• **March 27: Easter in Lee Park**  
Easter in the park is back and celebrates its 50th anniversary. Pooch Parade, bonnet contest, music and more. 1-4 p.m. Lee Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd.



# The airman and the playwright

Gregory Craft and Buster Spiller celebrate their first wedding anniversary, after 19 years together, with advice for other couples

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

"Respect one another," Gregory Craft said, sitting next to his husband Linus "Buster" Spiller as he offered advice for couples. "And never go to bed angry."

Spiller agreed. But he pursed his lips as he said, "Even if it's one, small peck on the lips." He narrowed his eyes, obviously thinking of a recent fight, then advised to put the argument off until the next day.

Craft continued with his advice about how the couple has managed to stay together for 19 years: "Never introduce him as 'my other half.' He's a whole person."

Spiller added, "We have schedules that provide distance," with a side-long glance at his husband that suggested he might be relishing the thought of distance.

## Gregory

Craft works for Delta Airlines as a global ticketing supervisor, where, he said, "I deal with chaotic international travel issues. I have a passion to make people enjoy their journey."

And from the moment he starts talking, it's obvious Craft is passionate about everything he does. Before joining Delta, he spent 24 years in the U.S. Air Force. He served in Operation Desert Storm and in Kosovo. The way he tells it, he had to serve. His father was among the Tuskegee

Airmen, that valiant group of African-Americans who fought during World War 2.

Craft enlisted at a time it was illegal for gays to serve, thanks to the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. When he was challenged regarding his sexual orientation, Craft replied, "I didn't tell, why you asking?" His accusers, he said, backed off.

Craft said when he signed up he didn't see much conflict in signing the paperwork vowing he had no active homosexual tendencies. After all, he had no boyfriend at the time so there was nothing active going on. "I'm willing to give my life for my country and they're worried about my sexuality," Craft said, dismissive of the antiquated thinking.

He said he entered training with a group that he described as everything from guys who came "from the ghettos of Harlem" to the Ku Klux Klan.

When an officer challenged him, saying, "Mr. Craft, a lot of guys think you're gay," Craft said to himself, "Let's stop this right now." So he answered, "Sometimes I'm happy. Sometimes I'm not. I signed a contract to give my life for this country."

He then threatened to sue for defamation of character, thinking to himself the whole time, "This is one sissy who will whoop your ass."

Craft said being gay has never been an issue

for him. When he was young, his godmother recognized he was gay and told him, "Many people in the world aren't going to like you, but I'll always love you."

He said he never thought being gay should present any obstacle, even before he realized how many gay people were out there. But it wasn't until he was stationed in Germany and went to a huge disco filled with servicemen dancing together that he realized just how many gay men were actually in the U.S. military.

By the late 1990s, Craft was stationed at Carswell Air Force Base in Fort Worth, and that's when he met Spiller. They met at Iguana Mirage, a straight bar near NorthPark Mall. Straight friends had invited each of them out that night. Spiller, who had just broken up with a partner of

seven years, said he saw this cute man across the room; Craft recalled, "I was smitten."

He walked over to Spiller and asked if he had a pen. "I put my number on a card and said, 'Use it,'" Craft said.

Spiller added, "We parted and I didn't call him for four months."

Spiller said he set the card aside, but finally one day decided to call. He got through to someone Craft was doing contract work for and left a message. He didn't expect to hear back.

A half hour later the phone rang.

"This is Linus," Spiller said.

"I know," Craft said. "What in the hell took you so long to call me?"

Craft asked what time Spiller went to bed, an odd question, Spiller thought.



"I want my voice to be the last voice you hear before you go to bed," Craft explained.

For the next year, the couple courted, Spiller said. He met Craft's father, who welcomed him into the family, and then made an immediate connection with other members of the family. It was a closeness Spiller said he doesn't have with his own family.

Craft had planned to retire from the military in 2001. But then came the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and he was caught in the new "stop loss" program. His retirement was denied and his tour-of-duty extended four years.

"I was pissed," Spiller said. But Craft understood. He knew the military needed all its experienced personnel. So he continued in the military, working on deployment while remain-







Buster Spiller, left, with his husband Gregory Craft, dressed in his military uniform, pose for a NOH8 photo. (Courtesy Spiller and Craft)

ing based in the Dallas area. He finally retired from active duty in 2005, but spent several more years in the reserves.

### Buster

Spiller describes his own career in education-related fields as “the day job” that supports his true passion — entertainment. He has won playwriting competitions, and he had a theater company based at the Dallas Black Academy for four years. He said he is currently working on a screenplay and a documentary.

Spiller said he is planning to go to his hometown — Flint, Mich. — where his mother was a water commissioner, to document the stories of some of its residents who are affected by the water supply contaminated with lead. He said he doesn’t want their plight forgotten when the headlines shift to a crisis somewhere else, since the children impacted by the lead poisoning will be affected for the rest of their lives.

Craft stands behind his husband’s creative endeavors. “I’m waiting for my red carpet moment,” he said.

### Family

Family is important to Spiller and Craft. They took in three teens from other relatives, raising those children as their own. The kids are grown and on their own now, and have already given Spiller and Craft five children with another

grandchild AND a great-grandchild on the way.

A year ago, on Feb. 12, the couple married legally in Washington, D.C., before the U.S. Supreme Court’s marriage equality decision in the *Obergefell* case, but after the court’s decision striking down part of the Defense of Marriage Act in the *Windsor* case. Because the men had to be married for Spiller to receive Craft’s military pension, they decided Lincoln’s birthday in the nation’s capital was a good place to make their relationship official.

“I was in the military too damn long to lose that money if anything happened to me,” Craft declared.

While the ceremony was private, they’re still planning a more public ceremony for the family.

Craft makes it clear they’re together for life: Divorce isn’t part of their religious belief. Spiller agreed: “At this point, we know each other so well, we’re glued together.”

The two had more advice for other couples. “Be with someone who complements you, who celebrates your existence,” Craft said. “It wouldn’t be a good day for me if he weren’t in my life.”

Spiller added, “There are going to be days you’re lovey-dovey. Other days you just have to be civil enough to pay the bills and get past whatever it is.”

One of the keys to their 19-year relationship, the men said, is still doing date nights: “He’s my boyfriend again,” Spiller said. “We go to the movies and share popcorn.” ■

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# Building the community that helped build her

Dallas LGBT icon Betty Neal  
reflects on her Arkansas childhood,  
her years in the Dallas bar scene,  
and her role now

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

Betty Neal was working another shift at the local gay bar when a disgruntled former customer showed up on the property, drunk and looking for a fight.

The man was barred from the property "because he was an ass," Neal said.

He was not supposed to be there, but clearly hadn't learned his lesson after being thrown out multiple times then later banned completely.

"I was told he was outside. So I went outside and we got into a fistfight. I got him bad," Neal said. "He then told me he'd shoot me. I asked him, 'Why don't you shoot me now?'"

He answered by shooting Neal in the leg.

Some people don't learn their lessons. This guy was one of them.

But Neal already knew firsthand what happens when you don't listen to authority. She was raised by her grandparents in an all-black neighborhood

in Fayetteville, Ark., in the northwest area of the state. Her grandmother was a maid for a family in town.

Her grandfather fished Monday through Thursday. But blue laws banning the sale of liquor and other items on the weekend were common in midcentury America. So Friday through Sunday, Neal's grandfather was a bootlegger and loan shark.

"He was a nice guy but people were scared of him," Neal said. "He was known as a 'little gansta.'"

He was also a double amputee, a fact he reminded authorities during court appearances following occasional raids of the family business.

"He'd take off his legs and roll into court," Neal said. "Who would punish a double amputee?"

Neal said she respected her grandparents, who raised her from age 2, and diligently worked for the family business. She'd prepare meals, but she'd also deliver bootleg alcohol and visit people who owed her grandfather money. Neal was sometimes tasked, along with her brothers, with going to pay friendly visits to customers needing to pay back their debts.

"Most would meet him [after the youngsters visited them]," Neal said. Not all would, however. That's when there would be trouble.

Neal's grandparents didn't just rely on spank-

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Betty Neal, left, with Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez. (Courtest Betty Neal)



ings to get their messages across. Some lessons were subtler. One time she spray-painted her car with all black; it looked “bad,” Neal said. Her grandfather did not yell or scream, but one day, the car just disappeared.

“I just knew [what happened],” Neal said.

Another time, she wanted to meet some friends, but had to first wrap raw chicken breasts for the weekend. After she hastily wrapped the chicken breasts and tossed them into the freezer, her grandfather noticed her sloppy work. Without saying a word, he whacked her on the side of her head with a raw chicken.

She blacked out, woke up and without hesitation went back to wrapping the chicken. This time she was slower and more deliberate.

“He didn’t have to say anything. I knew what I did wrong,” Neal said.



But sometimes her grandparents didn’t need to intervene. In one case, she figures another force taught her a lesson.

In the summer of July 1970, Neal defied her grandparents’ wishes and joined other kids at the local swimming pool. It was hot outside and the cool water felt nice — until the chlorine pipes exploded. Along with other screaming kids, she was rushed to the hospital for multiple burns and wounds.

But for Neal, growing up wasn’t all risks and hard lessons. It was also a lot of fun.

She said she can’t recall much racial tension even though Fayetteville schools integrated when she was in the third grade.

“I had so many white friends. We never had racial problems,” Neal said.

Neal — athletic and popular at Fayetteville High School — was chosen to be part of an elite group of students known as the 26 Club. Students walked into classrooms and presented honorees with flowers. She was well liked, she said, and wanted to use that status to bring people together.

Even her high school group, Promotion of Black Students, or PBS, was not a “militant” group. Instead, she said, “We were best known for our annual fundraiser for prom. It was a soul food dinner, with chicken, ribs, cornbread and beans. The high school was packed.”

Aside from two high school friends, though, her friends were straight. It wasn’t until she took a job at a bar called 42nd Street that Neal finally met other LGBT people.

She also saw her first drag show at 42nd Street, and was entranced by the art of female impersonation and how the performers were clearly dedicated to their craft.

Neal quickly became not just a participant in the club scene, but a fixture, first at 42nd Street then at R.D.’s Disco, where she worked the door and was a DJ.

“I never missed a weekend,” Neal said.

But as her brother became increasingly involved with drugs and crime, Arkansas took its toll on Neal. When two friends asked her to join them in Dallas, she jumped at the opportunity. With her girlfriend and a glowing recommendation from her boss in tow, she headed south to Texas.

After settling in, Neal started job hunting. She walked into the door of Sassy’s on McKinney asking for employment, and she walked out with a job.

Neal said she liked the club business. “You party all night and sleep all day. You meet so many people too,” she said. “A stranger would become your friend.”

From Sassy’s, she went to the Conference Room, The Landing, High Country, the Delman, the Unicorn, Upper Level, Traxx, Meischas, Jugs, Raps, The Wave and, finally, The Brick.

At each bar she brought with her that quintessential personality that has made her famous. She was warm and friendly — and she was tough.

Neal said she liked the club business, yeah, but the hard drugs and liquor and late nights and bar fights were taking their toll. She found herself faced with a choice, and with her faith as her guide, decided to leave the club scene.

“After thinking and prayer, I chose to no longer hang out with some people,” Neal said.

Don’t get her wrong, she said; she’s not a sober evangelist for Alcoholics Anonymous. “I love happy hour,” Neal said.

But moving on from the bar scene required making other major changes. In 2006, Neal joined Wal Mart, working in asset protection, a managerial role where she makes sure no one robs the place.

Moving on from the bar scene also didn’t mean she relinquished her role as a board member of the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, which she has served on since 1993. Her efforts diversified the board. She made sure more African-Americans were involved.

“Volunteering is a way of giving back to the community that gave to me,” Neal said.

The community’s not forgotten her either. She’s received five LGBT awards for her community service. Last October during Dallas Southern Pride — Dallas’ black Pride celebration, which Neal first help organize in the 1990s — awarded her the Ball/House and Pageant Tommie Ross Pioneer Award in recognition of her “longstanding presence, her grace, her poise and her many accomplishments within both the pageant and the house/ball communities.”

The award may recognize her, but she said she received it in part because of a community that welcomed her in 1980 as a black lesbian.

“If you don’t mind giving back, if you give a helping hand, I’ll help you out,” Neal said. “But don’t get me wrong, I’ll stomp your ass. I don’t like to now, but I was known for it. It’s my responsibility.” ■

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# Oak Lawn UMC becomes reconciling congregation

To church members this is a natural progression, but to others it's a historic milestone

**DAVID TAFFET** | Senior Staff Writer  
[taffet@dallasvoice.com](mailto:taffet@dallasvoice.com)

Oak Lawn United Methodist Church voted unanimously on Sunday, Feb. 7, to affiliate with the Reconciling Ministries Network, whose goal is full inclusion of LGBT people in the church.

To the church's senior pastor, the Rev. Anna Hosemann-Butler, voting on the reconciling statement was a formality. What the church does everyday — demonstrating its welcome to the LGBT community as well as others — is what's important.

Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade day in September is a good example. Not only does the

up trash left from the parade, the woman said, "I'm just glad you haven't given up on us."

"That broke my heart," Hosemann-Butler said. "But for at least an afternoon a year, that's their connection to God."

That woman, who's been back to view the parade from the same spot every year and helps clean up the lawn afterward, reinforces Hosemann-Butler's belief that a church should open its door and meet people wherever they are.

Collen said one day a group from the church was handing out bottled water on the Katy Trail during a race. As he was handing out bottles, he welcomed people to visit the church. One gay man asked, "Will they welcome me?"

"I [pointed to my partner, who was helping hand out water, and] said, 'That's my partner and I've felt welcome for nine years,'" Collen said. "I walked in the church two months after coming out and I've been welcome ever since."

Because of an incident that happened in 1989,



church have a contingency that marches in the parade, it also opens its doors to parade-goers.

"It's one of the highlights of the year for us," Hosemann-Butler said.

The church council president, Scott Collen, who also serves as this year's Black Tie Dinner Auction Committee chair, said about nine years ago, the church set up a water table during the parade. The next year they opened the building so parade-goers could use the bathroom.

"The third year, it became a thing," Collen said, and the church has opened its doors and welcomed people to view the parade from its lawn and its steps ever since.

Hosemann-Butler said a group of young women always watch the parade from the lawn. After the parade, when they saw the pastor cleaning up, one said, "I'll help you." As they picked

many people in the neighborhood don't have such warm feelings about OLUMC.

In the fall of 1988, the church's pastor at the time, the Rev. Milton Guttierrez, announced that church doctrine precluded gays and lesbians from serving on the local church's administrative board. Then, in November that year, he condemned "alternate sexual relationships" in a sermon.

The final straw for many LGBT members came in June 1989. The district superintendent called a church conference after he received a petition signed by 10 percent of OLUMC's membership. Members voted on five resolutions: One would have allowed gays and lesbians to serve on the administrative board of the church; another would have allowed the church to rent space to Affirmation, an organization for LGBT Methodists.

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All five resolutions, including one that would just keep current programs in place, were voted down by a four-to-one margin.

As a result, about 80 gay and lesbian members and a number of parents with LGBT children resigned their memberships. Many of them moved to Northaven UMC. Those parents formed the Dallas area's first chapter of Parents, Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays, also known as P-FLAG.

But Guttierrez told Dallas Voice at the time, "There are no winners. Everybody loses."

Guttierrez saw himself in an uncomfortable position. He was one of the ministers who helped craft a letter calling for Judge Jack Hampton to apologize for derogatory remarks he made in an interview with a reporter for the now-defunct Dallas Times Herald about a gay murder victim.

"Now, I'm being grouped with him as a bigot," Guttierrez told Dallas Voice at the time. "That hurts."

But for years the church retained that image in the LGBT community, even as its LGBT membership grew again.

That's why the Rev. Eric Folkerth, pastor of Northaven UMC, called the vote to join Reconciling Ministries historic.

"It was a painful history I knew about from the moment I came to Northaven," Folkerth said.

Folkerth's church was already open and wel-

long. Last summer, Collen said, the church embarked on a new initiative to improve its ministry to the underprivileged, homeless and youth, especially the area's LGBT homeless youth.

He met with a number of people, including Resource Center CEO Cece Cox and the staff at Promise House and representatives from North Dallas High School. The church members are trying to determine how they can enhance available services without duplicating what's already being done.

For instance, during the week, Resource Center has a weekday hot lunch program and Cathedral of Hope has a breakfast program. Collen offered the church's weekend meal program to Resource Center and CoH clients to compliment what the community is already doing.

The Rev. Gregg Smith is working on a program called "You Never Walk Alone" on March 6 as a response to the string of violent attacks that have taken place in Oak Lawn. He called the evening a celebration and appreciation for the city's and the community's response to the violence.

"We have to make sure Christ's message of inclusive love is proclaimed," Smith said, adding that the message must come from the church that God values every human life.

OLUMC's congregation is also working on other ways to open the church to the community, including an upcoming facelift to the 100-year-old



The Rev. Anna Hosemann-Butler, left, and the Rev. Gregg Smith outside Oak Lawn United Methodist Church. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

coming at the time of the OLUMC exodus, but didn't have a large LGBT population. He said the unanimous vote at Oak Lawn showed "all the hard work had already been done."

Folkerth said OLUMC members have been working very hard for years to change from the inside and took very seriously their calling to reach their neighborhood.

"For the LGBT community this comes as a big surprise," Folkerth said. "But it's a great moment. They put to bed the ghosts that have been around for a long time."

For Oak Lawn's pastors and leadership, the step was almost unnecessary, because they've been so busy working with the community for so

church building. The stone-and-brick exterior of the national historic landmark will get a cleaning, and the stained glass will be backlit so it can be seen from the outside. New exterior lighting will be added to make the building more inviting, and a new entrance will be added.

Hosemann-Butler said the updates will give the church a higher presence in the neighborhood.

In a 1989 Dallas Voice article, Ed Young, a member who left the church, described it as "a country-club church, a very unusual Methodist church that sits right where it shouldn't be."

Today, Hosemann-Butler disagrees with that description. "We have the best corner in the city of Dallas," she said. ■

# CATHEDRAL OF HOPE

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## Essential Questions

#7Questions  
#DallasVoice

### 1. What Matters Most?

Over the next few weeks, Cathedral of Hope will be exploring some **essential questions** that impact us, and our lives, spiritually. These questions might help us to understand ourselves and our desire to connect with a higher power in a fast-paced world that leaves little time to ponder life itself.



**"What Matters Most?"** It's a question that I am sure you might have pondered at some point in your life. For some it might be friends, for others jobs or possessions, for others family or family of choice, and for others an intimate relationship.

Just a quick inventory of your own priorities will probably give you a clue to the answer to this question. Open your calendar and see where

most of your time is spent outside of the workday regime and you might discover an answer as well.

I believe that our lives are not simply a physical experience; they are spiritual as well. That is why I hope you will join me on Sunday at Cathedral of Hope, as together we ponder this essential question. Join the conversation at **#7Questions**.

—Rev. Dr. Neil Cazares-Thomas

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# East Dallas church

White Rock Community Church works with tattoo artists for unique depictions of Stations of the Cross

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

A Christian ritual around for centuries is getting a fresh take at a local church.

For Lent, White Rock Community Church is displaying the Stations of the Cross, a set of 14 images depicting of Jesus' last day on Earth, in a non-traditional way. Artists from Taboo Tattoo and Tigger's Body Art in Deep Ellum are using ink on paper to produce their own unique versions of those images that will be on

display in the church's sanctuary every Friday between Feb. 12 and March 18.

The Rev. Douglas Shaffer, White Rock's pastor, will guide congregants and visitors through the images for a time of contemplation, prayer and observance of Scripture.

"People who aren't tattooing may think it's a radical stretch [to use tattoo artists for a holy observation]. There's a lot of preconception about tattoo artists and the communities they serve," said Shaffer. "If you think about it, tattooing is a highly spiritual experience."

He would know. He doesn't hang out at his church all day, conducting weddings, tending to paperwork and church hierarchy. He gets out out in the community.

Musicians, performers and tattoo artists in Deep Ellum are among his flock outside of the

## Details

The Stations of the Cross images will be on view on view at 6 p.m. every Friday between Feb. 12-March 18, followed at 6:30 p.m. by observances in the sanctuary of White Rock Community Church, 9353 Garland Road. The exhibit is free, and open to the public. For more information visit [Whiterockchurch.info](http://Whiterockchurch.info) or call 214-320-0043.

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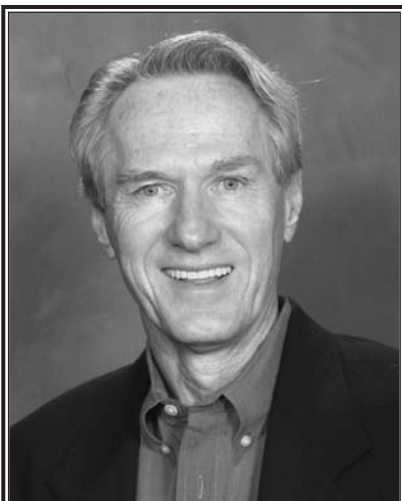
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# gets inked for Lent

church.

Shaffer explained that it was a White Rock deacon who first suggested a fresh take on the Stations of the Cross ahead of the holy season.

"He asked how we could depict the Stations of the Cross in a different way. He wanted images that hadn't been used," Shaffer said. That's when Shaffer decided to reach out to tattoo artists.

The Stations of the Cross ritual is not just an isolated Christian practice, but also an opportunity to reach out to the marginalized.

Wanting more than mere imagery, Shaffer wanted to reach out to a community that might be misunderstood by his congregation.

The artists didn't hesitate for a moment. In fact, a number of them clamored to participate.

"The collaboration quickly fell into place," Shaffer said.

"It's really not that dramatic a shift for our artists; they tattoo crosses, Bible verses and religious icons more than most people would ever know.

This time, they don't have to ask their canvases to sit still," said Sharon Flatte, who owns the two tattoo shops.

One of the artists, Cody Biggs, has a personal

passion for religious artwork. He organized the distribution of the panels among his coworkers.

"Most traditional Stations of the Cross are done by one artist. This project is an opportunity for us to work together. It's a rare chance for our individual work to be part of a larger collection," Biggs said.

Shaffer noted, "Lent is about listening to God in different ways. With this ritual, you go to each of the images and reflect on what you see.

"We're also making space for listening and different types of religious encounters," he continued. "We are called as a community church to be open and available for all people when they need it.

I hope the images provide solace and contribute to a personal journey."

Some congregants and visitors may be deterred by the unconventional approach to a longstanding tradition. But the White Rock pastor encouraged everyone to keep an open mind.

"Tattooing may be macabre," Shaffer said, "but so was Christ's struggle and death." ■

Tim Nichol, opposite page and Chelsi Nichols, right, from Taboo Tattoo work on images for White Rock Community Church's Stations of the Cross for Lent.



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# ■ commUNITY voices

# Time to grow up, America

Michigan's new sodomy law highlights this country's childishness about sex

Most Americans understand that the 2003 Supreme Court decision we call *Lawrence v. Texas* ruled that sodomy laws in this country are unconstitutional. Specifically, the court ruled that intimate consensual sexual conduct is part of the liberty protected by the 14th Amendment.

Justice Anthony Kennedy put it succinctly in the ruling:

"The petitioners [Lawrence and Garner] are entitled to respect for their private lives. The State cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime."

Shorthand? Get the hell out of people's bedrooms.

But apparently, the Michigan Legislature isn't most Americans. And apparently they have either failed to get the 12-plus-years-old news about sodomy laws, or they are just selectively ignoring it.

I'll lay money on the latter.

The Michigan Senate recently amended an existing law pertaining to animal cruelty to prohibit bestiality. But it was the sneaky inclusion



**Hardy Haberman**  
Flagging Left

Nice!

And Michigan isn't alone. There are similar laws being proposed or passed in Idaho, Utah, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama.

Meanwhile in our great state of Texas, the law is still on the books but only in regard to same-sex partners.

These legislators know full well this law is unconstitutional in regard to human partners and most likely would never hold up in a court. Then why are they passing or trying to pass these laws?

That is the big question. Let me attempt to answer it for you.

Conservative lawmakers are behind these stupid laws, and they are doing it to try and play to their right-wing, anti-gay constituents.

of the three words "either with mankind," just before the prohibition of sex with animals, that is making headlines.

What it does is, in effect, make any oral or anal sex illegal and punishable by "one day to life in prison."

Politics at the state level is even more of a stage show than in Congress. The actors posture in ceremonial poses like Kabuki theater, making broad melodramatic gestures that send multiple messages.

For those who understand the art, the message is much different than it is to a casual observer. The symbolic dance is geared toward the frightened conservative voter who is not just uncomfortable discussing sex, but with even the mere idea of sex — and especially sex that is non-missionary.

Those voters watch this choreography and take away the message that "Our lawmakers are watching out for the morals and values of our communities. They are outlawing that unnatural abomination of sodomy, something we cannot even think about much less discuss."

These are the kinds of folks that have the sexual maturity of a prepubescent teen and blush at underwear ads in the JC Penny catalog. They really don't understand or care that the laws are unenforceable and a nuisance at best.

For these conservative voters, there is a hidden message in the antics of these lawmakers passing unenforceable laws: "My legislator is doing God's work. Those godless Supreme Court justices might not understand how important this is, but my lawmakers do!"

So next election cycle, those same conservative legislators will be back in their respective statehouses, doing their stylized dances.

Meanwhile, some of us Americans who might fall afoul of these statutes will spend our treasure and time fighting a law that is nonsense to begin with.

For the legislators, it is a win-win.

The whole problem comes back to our country's inability to talk about sex without snickering and blushing — or making it illegal. That is a fucked up thing, but it is the reality of the U.S.A.

It is the reason we don't have real sex education in our schools. It is the reason we have campaigns against "human trafficking" that in reality just jail a lot of sex workers.

It is why we have homophobic politicians constantly getting caught with their metaphorical and actual pants down having gay sex.

It's time we grow up America!

We have been adolescents long enough. The rest of the world has grown up and moved on to adulthood in regards to sex. Our country's inability to do the same is holding us back from becoming the mature and rational democracy our forefathers envisioned.

It's time to start talking about sex: pleasurable sex, procreative sex, recreational sex — all kinds of sex. We have to get over this roadblock to our country's maturity.

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and board member for the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at [DungeonDiary.blogspot.com](http://DungeonDiary.blogspot.com).





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# Let's hear it for the Boyz

LIFE+STYLE

dance

BalletBoyz may be an all-male troupe, but don't expect a campy take on dance during its Dallas debut

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

When William Trevitt co-founded his U.K.-based dance modern troupe BalletBoyz around 2000, he and co-founder Michael Nunn were *not* setting out to turn the world of dance on its head. The goal was far more practical.

"Michael and I first started the company knowing that we could rely on ourselves to turn up for the show and be available for rehearsal," Trevitt says. Of necessity, they ended up "doing a lot of male duets."

That's when people

started to take notice.

"We had the idea there was more to [this concept] than just the two of us, so we set it up as an all-male dance company, which is relatively unusual. We invited choreographers to work with an all-male cast, and they were fascinated by the possibilities. Choreographers continued to want to have a play with us."

Fifteen years later, the idea of a men-only dance company continues to surprise and challenge audiences and artists alike. Trevitt and Nunn are still the artistic directors of BalletBoyz, but neither dances anymore; they have turned those duties over "to this group of 10 enthusiastic, energetic young dancers," he says. And they continue a legacy that had its roots at the Royal Ballet.

That's where Trevitt and Nunn were both soloists. A documentary filmmaking company decided to "make a dancer's-eye-view of ballet. We

had a working title for it of *Michael and Billy's Royal Ballet*, but the Royal Ballet wasn't a fan of that," Trevitt laughs. "The production company said, 'Well, we're calling it *BalletBoyz* with a Z.' We thought it was awful, but we couldn't come up with anything else in time, and the marketing people thought it was catchy."

The name of the company sends mixed signals, for sure; it is not, Trevitt insists, true "ballet;" but neither should the "boyz" spelling suggest anything campy or even hip-hop. Rather, it's a hybrid of styles — exactly as they set out to make.

"It's not ballet, but there are a lot of elements you would





associate *with* ballet — it's lyrical, beautiful. I like to think of it as a progression of ballet," Trevitt says.

The challenges in establishing an all-male troupe ended up being multifarious. For one, the skills involved on the dancers' parts were different.

"Obviously, they have to be very physically very strong — they are lifting men their own sizes above their heads," Trevitt says. And the dynamics of the company are different as well. "What you end up in the studio is a very tight group like firefighters or soldiers — that same camaraderie... though of course they are not saving lives."

Another hurdle was the fact there simply was not a significant repertoire of male-only pieces. If the company was going to work, they decided, they would need to create a catalogue. So they set out hiring inventive choreographers to create unique works exclusively for men.

"We look to people who are willing to collaborate. We have a few people who we have hired more than once, but we are looking not to repeat ourselves. We're always looking for the next challenge, the next person who can make this group of 10 men and do something different," he says.

"Everything we do is created new for us, with the exception of one of the pieces we're performing in America — it was created for two men and one woman," Trevitt says. "We always loved the ballet and thought it was a shame we couldn't do it anymore. So we hired [choreographer Christopher Wheeldon], who came to our London studio and reworked it."

A lot of it had to be changed — the woman had to be *en pointe* in the original, for instance, and the number of lifts had to be reduced. Nevertheless, Trevitt says, the end result was exciting.

"I wouldn't say I prefer [the all-male or co-ed] version over the other, but what's so special about Chris is, he comes up with the unexpected, turning this classical piece into something appropriate for our company."

And, Trevitt stresses, while BalletBoyz may not be classical, neither is it camp — audiences should not confuse what they do with Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, the dragtastic all-male ballet of gay men affectionately called "the Trocks."

"I guess it's inevitable that some people will think that's what we will be," Trevitt sighs. "But by the time the performance is a few minutes in, I hope you forget it's all-male and that it's just a company of dancers performing beautifully. They are artists in their own right, each of them. No one goes into dance because they are going to get rich or famous — you go into it because you just have to do it... and happen to look fantastic. I hope [the appreciation for what we do] goes beyond a sort of visually pleasure and you're appreciating the art they are creating and not being Magic Mike ... though the dancers *do* look like that!" (Indeed, like Mike, both Trevitt and Nunn are straight.)

The company, in fact, doesn't consciously create homoerotic dances, though sometimes they do venture into the risqué.

"This time last year we were deeply engrossed in creating a version of the Kama Sutra for television — for that we hired a group of female dancers as well. Caligula it wasn't quite ... but it wasn't far off," Trevitt says.

Saturday marks the Dallas debut of the company, who will perform a one-night-only show at the Winspear Opera House. And Trevitt and his dancers are as excited as dance fans about the

premiere.

"This is the second tour of the states for this group of men," he says. "Austin is about as close as we've managed to get to Dallas, but for the dancers, it's all a big adventure."

It would be, since the company members are all quite young — all 10 are ages 21–26. That's part of the plan with BalletBoyz's aesthetic.

"We hire them straight out of school or right after. The original intention was to make something of people who has no experience and we could push them — we could more than make up for their lack of experience with their energy and strength. The program we are doing in the States is great for them as artists, because it requires versatility — one is very physically, masculine and energetic and the other is quiet lyrical refined and quiet. It will really show their range," Trevitt says.

"We're very firmly of the opinion that our show shouldn't be medicine — people shouldn't leave saying, 'I have no idea what I saw, but I can tell people I saw it.' We want to put on a show that is entertaining, but not that is less rigorous or dumbed-down." ■

#### BALLETBOYZ

Winspear Opera House,  
2403 Flora St. Feb. Feb. 13.  
ATTPAC.org

**MESMERIZING** | Choreographer Chris Wheeldon created 'Mesmerics' for BalletBoyz, one of two pieces that will mark the all-male company's Dallas debut this weekend.



# Disc-appointing

Panic! at the Disco,  
Sia, Elton play it safe

**Sia, *This Is Acting*.** Before she rebranded herself as a behind-the-scenes scribe for mainstream pop giants, Sia reveled in authenticity. Every feeling was pure — and even if it didn't reflect her life, you believed it could. (Remember "Breathe Me?") There was a big sigh, and then

she broke you into a million sad, empowered pieces as she came clean one key change at a time. These days, having constructed a persona that's distant and vague, that same Sia hides behind actual veils so as not to reveal too much of herself, generating hits for radio heavyweights like Adele and Beyoncé.

So what happens when they and other pop stars pass on your songs? If you're Sia, you record them yourself. Once again, Sia, following *1000 Forms of Fear*, is larger than life. It's a role she's fine at playing — her distinctive warble packs a powerful punch — but it has become apparent that the same mask concealing her face is also obscuring the fact that Sia is a gifted storyteller full of things to say about herself. So if this is, indeed, acting, the bump-and-grind windup "Move Your Body" is either an Oscar winner... or a Razzie contender, depending on how you look at it. Same with "Sweet Design," a very Bey-during-B'Day banger, with Sia singing contrived lines like, "Word travels fast when you've got an ass like mine." Not that Sia doesn't

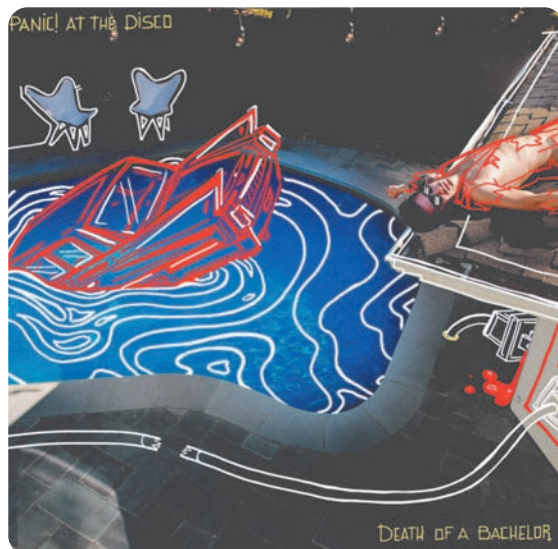
have a great ass, but it's a hard, silly sell for an artist not known for such boasts.

Her strengths lie in underdog anthems like "Bird Set Free," where she pushes through the cage door and unleashes herself, singing, "I find myself in my melodies." There are 11 other songs after "Bird Set Free," none of them great, leaving you thinking: If only they, too, could find her essence again. **2 stars**

**Panic! at the Disco, *Death of a Bachelor*.** You know how it goes with pop bands: Eventually the frontman becomes this red-hot superstud star whose spotlight-stealing ways make everyone forget the names of the other band members... or that they exist. Just ask Adam Levine... or better yet, ask his bandmates. Unlike Levine, though, Panic! at the Disco's most delicious dish, Brendon Urie, knows it's time to seize his solo status and move on. So with *Death of a Bachelor*, he has. On his own, but still under the

Panic! moniker, Urie doesn't reshape the band considerably, at least not for now, while he establishes himself as the Brendon Urie Band. It's clear from this solo release, though, that all his shameless pop dreams are coming true... which is to say, Urie is fixated on being your power-pop god.

Boisterous rock booms throughout the album's front-end, but so much of it is empty-calorie ear candy that fans will be longing for days of yore, when Ryan Ross and the rest of the band's pre-breakup lineup were also a part of the creative process. With *Death of a Bachelor*, where's the am-



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bition that once set Panic! apart from other dude bands? The band's delightfully wonky wordplay? Not on "Victorious," the album's first cheapshot of a single, a glossy grab stuck on a sound that's highly commercial and mind-numbingly insipid. It rolls right into the grungy piano-interrupted "Don't Threaten Me with a Good Time," better but typical. "Crazy=Genius" at least breaks the been-there-done-that mold with a fun old-timey swing sound, and it's good to hear Urie take it down several notches on "Impossible Dream." Still, though, *Death of a Bachelor* is a backwards evolution for a man still conceptualizing what it means to be on his own. **2.5 stars**

**Elton John, *Wonderful Crazy Night*.** No, Elton John hasn't had one too many — that face of his, all blithe and framed by pieces of an erupted rainbow to further emphasize the piano man's state of euphoria, is just his face. It's the face of a married man. It's the face of love. It's the face of "I have nothing to prove." And so on Elton's 33rd album, *Wonderful Crazy Night*, he doesn't. He's Elton John, and, at this point, isn't that enough? A unicorn of an album, Elton lets himself go, jetting back to his beginnings for a blissed-out, '70s-inspired rock 'n' roll romp where he beams and bounces. From the ebullient title track to the coda's lovey-dovey lyric "you're an open chord I'm gonna play all day," Elton's shine is affected and infectious. **3 stars**



**Lucinda Williams, *The Ghosts of Highway 20*.** Lucinda Williams is living. You can hear it in her voice, wrinkled and drunk. But death looms on the alt-icon's latest, soused in the smoky Americana sound she's forged for more than three decades. She's knocking on the "Doors of Heaven," riffing her way to the finish line with a surprisingly not-macabre Southern-rooted rollick. It's a striking contrast to "If There's a Heaven," a pained elegy. Death evokes childhood nostalgia on the wistful memoir "Louisiana," as Williams recalls growing up and experiencing both the "sweetness" and the "rough." Now 63, Williams comes to a powerful understanding on *The Ghosts of Highway 20* that you can't have one without the other. **3.5 stars**

— Chris Azzopardi



#### QUEER CLIPS: 'Zoolander 2,' 'Boy and the World'

The original *Zoolander* came out just weeks after 9/11, at a time when pundits had declared irony dead. A send-up of fashion culture, mocked male models and inane themes and was pretty much a mess. But while a modest success in its initial run, the intervening 15 years of exposure have allowed its silly charms to marinate. The new sequel is just as outrageous, but in many ways an even more absurdist romp — it leaves logic by the wayside in favor of its anything-for-a-laugh aesthetic. And that formula pretty much works. As much as the low-budget, hacky *Scary Movie* comedies, *Zoolander 2* is true spoof in the Austin Powers vein, mocking not just Bond films but also Dan Brown movies and even *Star Wars*. Tons of cameos, especially Benedict Cumberbatch as a genderfluid model and Kiefer Sutherland (playing himself) as the lover of Owen Wilson's Hansel give everything a delicious contemporary twist. The pacing is uneven, but who cares? Like the *Jump Street* movies — and perhaps fashion itself — the point is less about art than artifice.

If you're working on your Oscar pool, you might wanna catch *Boy and the World*, one of the nominees for animated feature film. Although it certainly doesn't have a shot against the juggernaut of *Inside Out* (or even the angst-ridden underdog of stop-motion *Anomalisa*), this line-drawn parable about a boy searching for his dad is a dazzling bit of retro visual splendor.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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# All tea! No shade

Out tea blender Christopher Coccagna wants to share his passion for tea while maintaining a snarky attitude that demystifies the legendary beverage

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

When Rose Fitzgerald opened Plum Yoga along Lower Greenville Avenue last summer, she knew she wanted to create a studio and storefront that appealed to the serious-minded but also was equally accessible to newcomers.

"We wanted yoga to be approachable," she says. And that philosophy spilled over into the retail portion of Plum Yoga, including its "artisanal tea lounge."

"There's a lot in tea culture that takes itself

*verrry* seriously," Fitzgerald says. "That's what first attracted me to Chris' teas."

"Chris" is Christopher Coccagna, founder of San Francisco-based T-We Tea, which he runs with his longtime boyfriend. Coccagna is a certified tea specialist and "tea sommelier" (and protégé of Dallas tea guru Kyle Stewart) — hifalutin designations that go against his egalitarian approach to tea appreciation. "Quality" is his watchword ... well, that and "snark."

First is the quality. When Coccagna first began his interest in tea about a decade ago, he was surprised that his initial class in tea blending taught how to mask inferior teas with flavor extracts.





**WHAT'S BREWING** | Plum Yoga on Lower Greenville — one of Dallas' emerging 'foodiehoods' — offers 20 teas by T-We, including three blended exclusively for Plum by out tea sommelier Chris Coccagna, opposite, who uses a serving process developed specifically for his teas. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

"While I do love that tea is a zero-waste industry, I wanted to create a handmade product of small-batch quality teas that brings the art back into the process. And blending is an art."

That realization came fairly recently to Coccagna, who founded T-We in 2009 after living in New Zealand, which he describes as steeped (*yuk-yuk*) in "tea culture." ("T-We" is a play on Kiwi, a nickname for native New Zealanders.)

"Our store in San Francisco is like Build-A-Bear for tea," Coccagna jokes, but the truth is, blending is an arduous process, at least if you want to do it properly. He will play with flavor combinations from types of tea (black, white, green, etc.) to regions where it is sourced, as well as additions like dried fruits and herbs. He'll brew at different temperatures (some teas take up to 210°F, while others top out about 180°F to prevent bitterness) and vary concentrations.

He also concerns himself with esoterica such as whether the nuances of a single-source tea were being highlighted in a particular recipe, and if the mouth-feel is "soft and lovely" or something stronger. All of this effort goes into creating the ideal blend ... and the perfect cup for his customers.

For Plum, which is the exclusive location in Dallas selling T-We Teas, Coccagna developed three exclusive blends ... and that's where you start to see the snark come in. In addition to T-We's already-existing recipes with names like Sexpot (Chinese green tea with orange peel and elderflower blossom) Bicurious George (three black teas with coffee and cherry) and Gurrl Grey (Ceylon black with jasmine and bergamot), Plum sells Dallas-centric brews with names like Lakewood DILF.

The packaging is as whimsical and campy as he can make it without compromising his dedication to the product. "We take our art seriously,

but not ourselves," Coccagna says, whose trademark bow-tie-and-suspenders couture began, he says, "as hobo chic, but which I now call hipster fabulous." (Hipsters in Wonderland is the name of another of his proprietary blends.)

"I was [originally] drawn to the cleverness of the descriptions of their products on the website before I had tasted them," Fitzgerald adds. They both call some of the puns "Easter eggs for our customers to discover."

*'We take our art seriously, but not ourselves,' says T-We founder Christopher Coccagna*

But because Plum is also a yoga studio, they were looking for a synergy in attitude. Fitzgerald presented Coccagna with a medicine wheel — breaking down health into "body," "mind," "spirit" and "heart" — and converting those elements to the effects of tea on the system ("energy," "creativity," "calming" and "comfort"). It's all intended to demystify the selection process and provide a beverage that complements the practice of yoga.

In addition, they worked together to create a set-up that was more than "a bag on a string thrown into hot water." Taking a cue from the pour-over coffee trend, they built a system where loose-leaf tea steeps in transparent pots, waiting for the precise moment to release the liquid into one of the shop's custom cups. Not only does the system allow the water to circulate freely (as opposed to the constrictions of a bag or tea ball) and release the full flavors of the tea, it allows more communication between server and customer.

"When you see the artisan making the tea, we are creating a community that elevates the connection," Coccagna says. "Our entire mission statement at T-We is: Truth, beauty, community. We like to bring elements of each into everything we do."

*T-We Teas are available exclusively in Dallas at Plum — A Yoga Community on Lower Greenville. PlumYogaDallas.com.*

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# Travel diary: Kathy, Melissa set sail

Comedy and music hit the high seas; Virgin to launch Hawaii service this summer

Gay icons take to the seas in 2016!

First up: Legendary ally **Kathy Griffin** helps expand the **Carnival Cruise Line's** "live" performance series, expanding it from music to comedy.

Griffin is the featured entertainer on two cruises leaving from South Florida this month, performing while the liners are docked in **Cozumel, Mexico**. She'll perform Feb. 24 on the four-day Carnival Fantasy cruise, and again the next night (Feb. 25) on the five-day Carnival Breeze. (I'll be aboard the Breeze — which starts in Miami and goes to **Jamaica** and **Grand Cayman** on the way to Cozumel — and be tweeting and posting during the trip.) There are still tickets available. Visit [Carnival.com](http://Carnival.com) to book, and maybe I'll see you at sea!

Not to be outdone, rock goddess **Melissa Etheridge** will host her own "rock the boat" cruise to the Caribbean this fall. The cruise sets sail from **Tampa** on **Royal Caribbean's Brilliance of the Seas** ship on Halloween and returns Nov. 5. In between, you'll see Melissa and special guests **Joan Jett and the Blackhearts** perform on the way to **Key West** and Cozumel. More guests will be announced as

the date nears. You can reserve a cabin now at [MelissaEtheridgeCruise.com](http://MelissaEtheridgeCruise.com).

If you like to get to your islands by airplane, **Virgin America** has a suggestion. The funky airline is launching daily direct service from **Los Angeles to Hawaii** — both Honolulu on **Oahu** (starting May 5) and Kahului on **Maui** (starting June 14). And with non-stop flights also offered from **Love Field** to LAX, it's a quick hop to get you to Barack Obama's (alleged) birth state. (We kid, we kid....)

For those who prefer to stay on dry land entirely, the historic **Ye Kendall Inn** in **Boerne, Texas**, is under new ownership. A jewel of the Hill Country, this ante-bellum

mansion was converted to a hotel in the late 1880s and was named Ye Kendall Inn in 1909. Reservations for a small-town-Texas experience can be made at [YeKendallInn.com](http://YeKendallInn.com).

Finally, if you're still not fully done with winter — and didn't get to enjoy it enough with all our warm weather — there's still one more major North American gay ski week of the season. **Mammoth Gay Ski Week** in California's Sierra Nevada Mountains takes place March 16–20. You can pre-order your passes and book lodging at [ElevationGaySki.com](http://ElevationGaySki.com). ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones



**CARIBBEAN QUEENS** | Gay fave Kathy Griffin makes us laugh on dry land already, and will really rock the boat for two concerts in Cozumel, Mexico this month, including a five-day cruise on the Caribbean Breeze, pictured.



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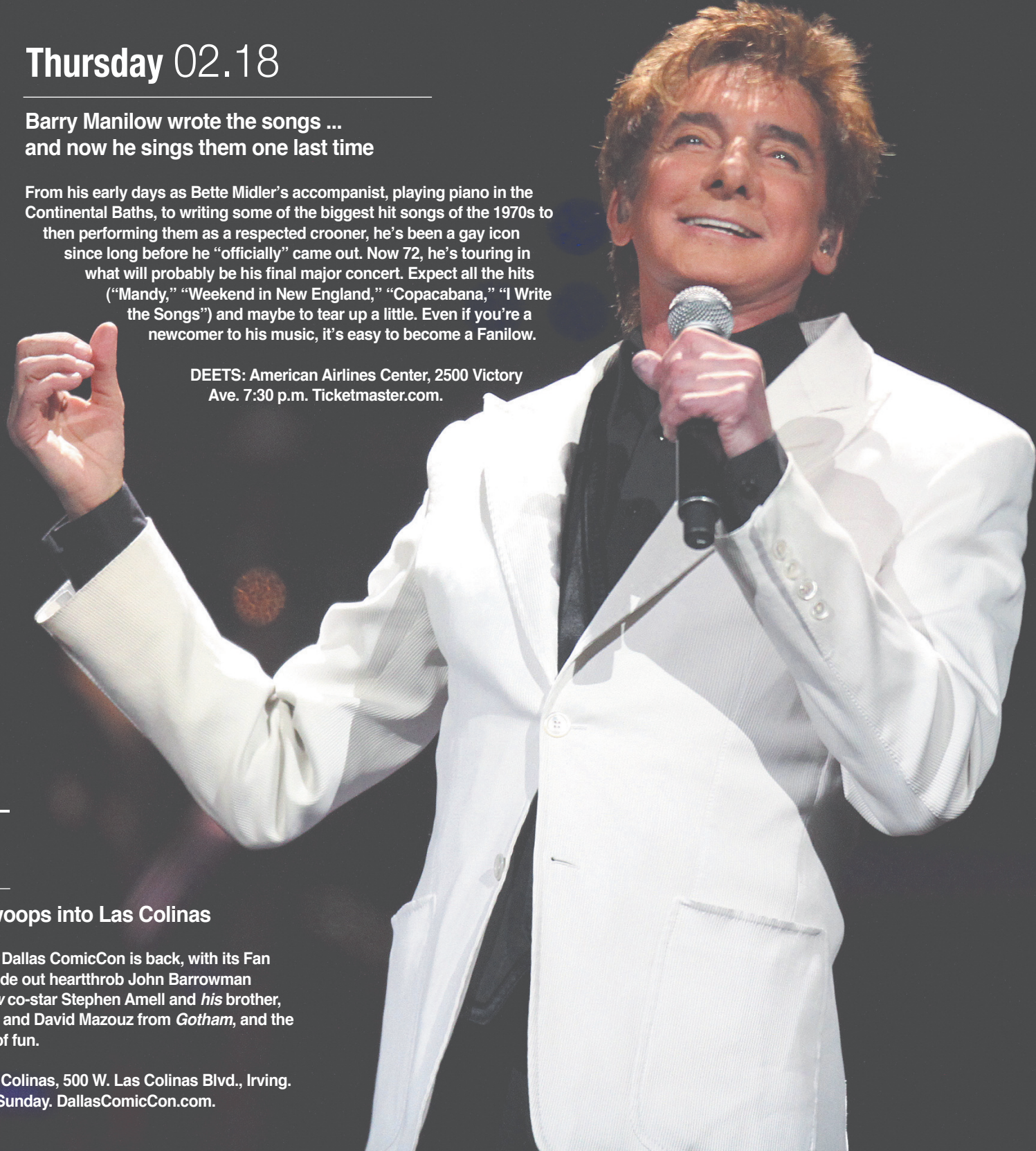
### best bets

## Thursday 02.18

Barry Manilow wrote the songs ...  
and now he sings them one last time

From his early days as Bette Midler's accompanist, playing piano in the Continental Baths, to writing some of the biggest hit songs of the 1970s to then performing them as a respected crooner, he's been a gay icon since long before he "officially" came out. Now 72, he's touring in what will probably be his final major concert. Expect all the hits ("Mandy," "Weekend in New England," "Copacabana," "I Write the Songs") and maybe to tear up a little. Even if you're a newcomer to his music, it's easy to become a Fanilow.

DEETS: American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. 7:30 p.m. Ticketmaster.com.



## Saturday 02.13 — Sunday 02.14

### Dallas ComicCon Fan Days swoops into Las Colinas

Time to have a nerdgasm, as gay geeks! Dallas ComicCon is back, with its Fan Days celebration. This time, guests include out heartthrob John Barrowman (*Torchwood*, *Arrow*), Barrowman's *Arrow* co-star Stephen Amell and *his* brother, *The Flash*'s Robbie Amell, Sean Pertwee and David Mazouz from *Gotham*, and the stars of *The Dukes of Hazzard*. It's tons of fun.

DEETS: Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas, 500 W. Las Colinas Blvd., Irving. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Sunday. DallasComicCon.com.

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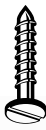
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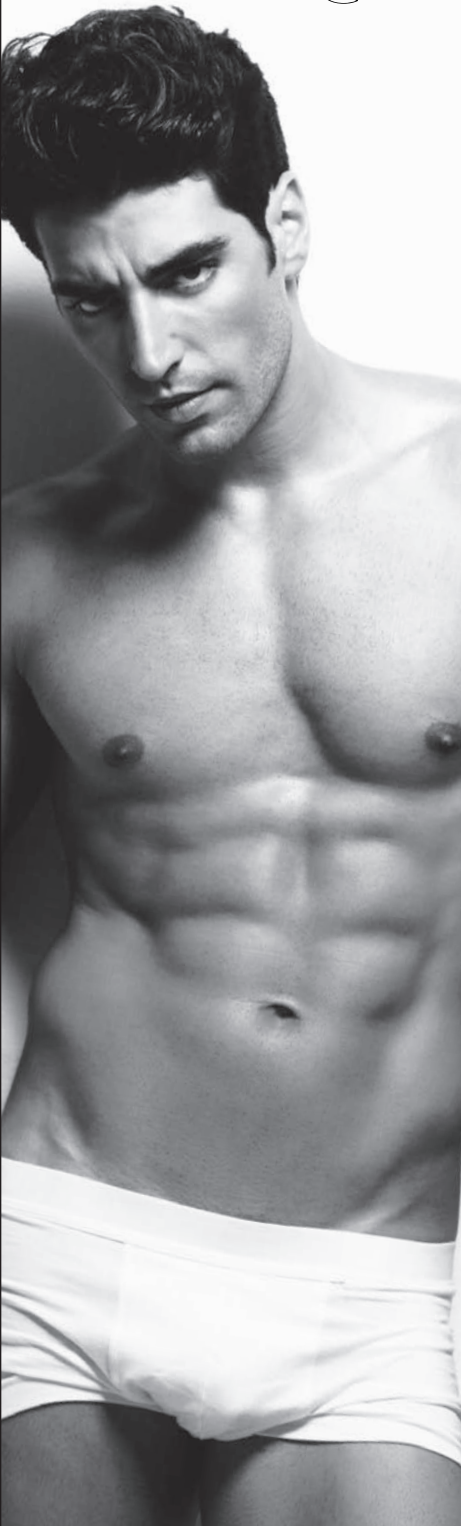




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## calendar highlights

# ARTSWEEK

## THEATER

***The Bridges of Madison County.*** The Tony Award winner for best original score makes its Dallas debut in this national tour. *Final weekend.* Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. [DallasSummerMusicals.org](http://DallasSummerMusicals.org).

***Dangerous Obsession.*** Theatre Britain continues with its expanded season with this psychological thriller about a mysterious stranger who unsettled a married couple. Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through Feb. 28. Theatre-Britain.com.

***I'm Gonna Pray for You So Hard.*** The third show of Kitchen Dog's 25th season, a dark comedy about an actress and her playwright-dad. The Green Zone in the Design District, 161 Riveredge. Feb. 12–March 12.

KitchenDogTheater.org.

***The Echo Room Presents: Her Song.*** A new tradition from female-centric troupe Echo Theatre, this revue features music and dance celebrating songs from the Great American Female Songbook, with music direction from Scott A. Eckert. The show will feature a cash bar, as well as food from chef Doug Brown, and guest stars at each performance. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Feb. 27; special 5 p.m. Valentine's show Sunday. [EchoTheatre.org](http://EchoTheatre.org).

**Long Day's Journey into Night.** Eugene O'Neill  
monumental family drama. Undermain Theatre, 3400  
Main St. Through March 6. Evening shows at 7:30 p.m.  
(earlier time). Undermain.org.

**Isaac's Eye.** A dark comedy about the unscrupulous steps some people will take to achieve fame — even

Isaac Newton. Presented by Amphibian Stage Productions. Milburn Theatre, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. Through March 6. [AmphibianStage.com](http://AmphibianStage.com).

**Slave Letters.** Mark-Brian Sonna presents this premiere, culled from actual letters written during slavery. *Final weekend.* Stone Cottage Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. MBS-Productions.net.

**Clever Little Lies.** Gay playwright Joe DiPietro's story of love, marriage and secrets. Features Bill Jenkins and Linda Leonard. Circle Theatre, 230 W. Fourth St., Fort Worth. Through March 5. [CircleTheatre.com](http://CircleTheatre.com).

**Romeo & Juliet.** The Dallas Theater Center's production of Shakespeare's romantic tragedy, directed by Joel Ferrell. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Feb. 28. [DallasTheaterCenter.org](http://DallasTheaterCenter.org).

**Seven Guitars.** One of August Wilson's acclaimed plays, portraying the African-American experience. This one, set in 1948, tracks how the death of a famed blues guitarist affects a group of friends. Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 28. [JubileeTheatre.org](http://JubileeTheatre.org).

***I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change.*** Gay playwright Joe DiPietro co-wrote this popular musical revue about relationships. Last week, B.J. Cleveland became a last-minute replacement for Doug Jackson, who fell ill. He co-stars with Amy Mills Jackson, Max Swarner and Kim Swarner. Theatre 3 in the Theatre Too space, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through March 6 (extended). [Theatre3Dallas.com](http://Theatre3Dallas.com).

**Lord of the Flies.** Kelsey Leigh Ervi directs this adaptation of the Nobel Prize winning allegory about young men stranded on an island who create their own civilization. *Final weekend.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. [WaterTowerTheatre.org](http://WaterTowerTheatre.org).

***Tick... Tick... BOOM!*** Before *Rent*, Jonathan Larson composed this reflected three-person chamber musical about relationships. Directed by Lon Barrera. Bedford Boys Ranch, 2821 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. Through Feb. 28. [OnstageInBedford.com](http://OnstageInBedford.com).

**Oil**, a new play set in Texas about family intrigue and fortune-grubbing. *Final weekend.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.

***Dont u luv me?*** Dallas Children's Theater presents this timely piece about violence in teen dating; feature Haulston Mann (Stage West's Vanya & Sonia; T3's recent Picnic). Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Feb. 21. \$15–\$28. DCT.org.

***A Year with Frog and Toad.*** The Dallas Children's Theater's sweet-natured adaptation of the children's book, equally good for kids and adults. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Through Feb. 28. \$15-\$28. DCT.org.

**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.

**Vermeer Suite: Music in 17th Century Dutch Painting.** A lovely original Vermeer (one of only three dozen in the world) is among the seven paintings in this intimate exhibit that explores themes in Dutch art. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Aug. 21. DMA.org.

**Castiglione: Lost Genius.** Masterworks on paper from the Royal Collection. *Final weekend.* Kimbell Art Museum, 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. Free. [KimbellArt.org](http://KimbellArt.org).

**Gustave Caillebotte: The Painter's Eye. Final weekend.** Kimbell Art Museum, 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. \$18. [KimbellArt.org](http://KimbellArt.org).

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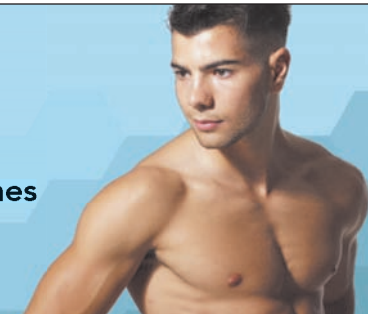
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specific mural, the first in Dallas for the Indian artist, transforms the corridor of the DMA. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 21. DMA.org.

## FRIDAY 02.12

### COMMUNITY

**Panoptikon.** The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

**High Tech Happy Hour.** The gay tech mixer, open to everyone. Primo's Tex-Mex, 1400 Hi Line Drive. 5:30–7:30 p.m.

### DANCE

**BalletBoyz.** The U.K.-based all-male dance troupe makes its Dallas debut. See the interview with company co-founder William Trevitt on Page 24. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATPAC.org.

## SATURDAY 02.13

### SPORTS

**FrontRunners.** Gay jogging group meets at 8:30 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park for a run along the Katy Trail.

## MONDAY 02.15

### CABARET

**Mama's Party.** Local singer Amy Stevenson hosts her ongoing cabaret series, always with special guests and a good time. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St. Grand Prairie. \$10.

## TUESDAY 02.16

### FILM

**The Grapes of Wrath.** John Ford's classic adaptation of Steinbeck, one of the most enduring portraits of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl of Texas and Oklahoma ever committed to screen. 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.

## THURSDAY 02.18

### CABARET

**Judy Chamberlain Jazz.** The jazz vocalist's weekly cabaret performance in the back room of Zippers Hideaway, 3333 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m.

### CONCERTS

**Barry Manilow: One Last Time!** The famed crooner treats audiences to his legendary songs, in his final concert tour. American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. 7:30 p.m. Ticketmaster.com.

## FRIDAY 02.19

### DANCE

**Dallas Black Dance Theatre: Cultural Awareness Series.** A special weekend of performances during Black History Month. Includes three world premiere pieces. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Feb. 19–21. DBDT.org.

## Dallas Voice's Tuesday Big Movie lineup at the Magnolia

Landmark's Magnolia Theatre's weekly Big Movie New Classic Series, sponsored by Dallas Voice, screens a different classic film each Tuesday at 7:30 and 10 p.m. The schedule lets movie buffs plan their Tuesdays all the way from now through Mother's Day. Here is this quarter's lineup.

**Feb. 23: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.*** Milos Forman directed this five-Oscar winner, based on Ken Kesey's novel, about madness in an Oregon asylum.

**March 1: *The Birds.*** Hitchcock's chilling allegory, a harrowing portrait of nature striking back at mankind.

**March 8: *Laura.*** One of the seminal films of the 1950s, Otto Preminger's elegant mystery features an iconic performance by Clifton Webb.

**March 15: *Planet of the Apes.*** Sci-fi classic (the 1968 version, not one of the remakes or reboots) about the survival of a civilization in a world upside down.

**March 22: *Annie Hall.*** Woody Allen's early masterpiece, an hilarious and moving account of a failed relationship.

**March 29: *Xanadu*, pictured:** Often consider the nail on the coffin of disco, this bit of fluffy nonsense is now considered a camp classic.

**April 5: *Medium Cool.*** The recently departed cinematographer Haskell Wexler made his feature directorial debut with this edgy political drama set during the 1968 Democratic National Convention in Chicago.



**April 12: *Paper Moon.*** Ten-year-old Tatum O'Neal won an Oscar for this whimsically enchanting period piece about grifters during the Great Depression. Directed by Peter Bogdanovich.

**April 19: *I Ladri di Biciclette (Bicycle Thieves)*.** Vittorio De Sica's Neo-Realist masterpiece, a drama about a man and his son trying to survive in post-war Italy. Wrenching.

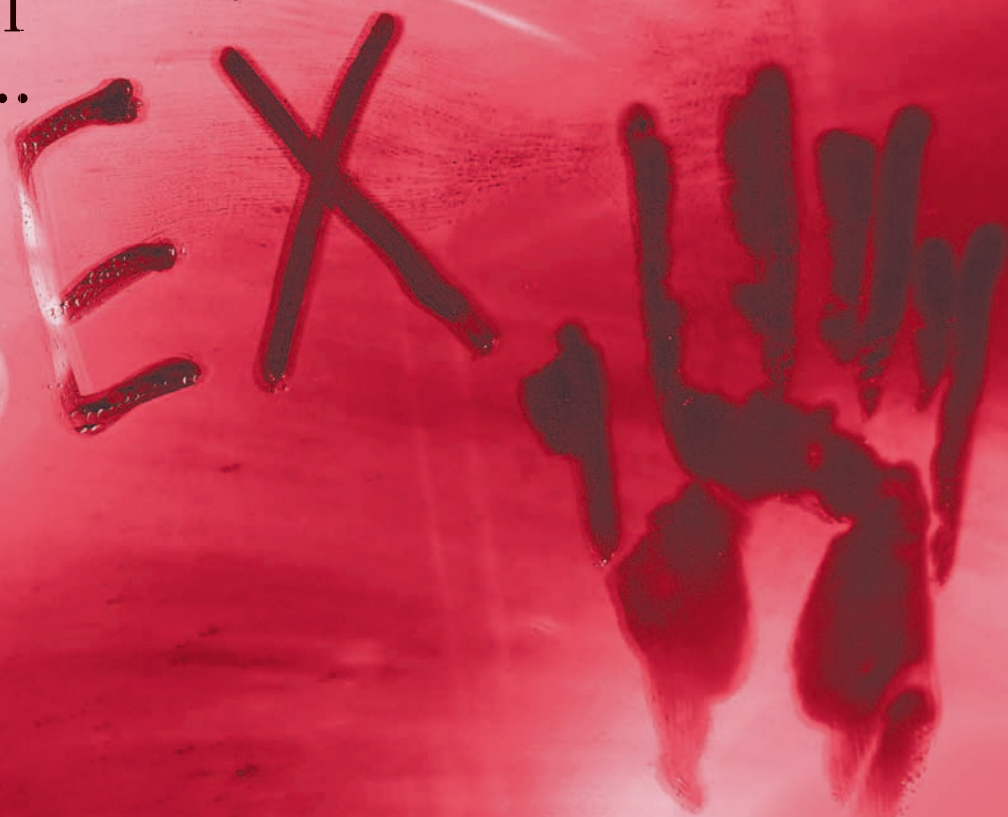
**April 26: *The Seven Year Itch.*** Marilyn Monroe at her sexiest in Billy Wilder's sexy comedy.

**May 3: *Repulsion.*** A young Catherine Deneuve electrifies in Roman Polanski's unnerving thriller about a woman on the brink of madness.

**May 10: *The Treasure of the Sierra Madre.*** John Huston won two Oscars (writing and directing) and dad Walter won for a third (supporting actor) in this iconic film about greed.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

New Time!  
New Space!  
Same....



Friday, | Stroke of  
Feb.19 | Midnight

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# Girl on Girls

Jenny Block addresses: Is liking butch girls at odds with lesbianism?

"If you like women, then why do you date women who look like or dress like men? Why be attracted to such masculine-of-center girls when you like, well, *girls*?"

I hear that question all of the time. The first few times, I didn't quite have an answer ready — I suppose because it took me awhile to figure out why I did like a particular genre of girl. And then I realized something: There is no reasonable answer because it's an inane question.

No one would ever ask a straight person the companion question. "Hey, sir, how can you dig a woman who is a CEO? If you want to be with a man, be with a man."

"Pardon me, ma'am, why are you with a man with long hair who is so sensitive and actually wants to stay home with the kids? You might as well have married a woman."

Sounds crazy when you look at it that way, doesn't it?

The woman I am currently dating — and the two women I dated before her — all leaned toward the masculine-of-center on the butch-o-meter. Why? Because *that's what I like*. It's not that complicated at all, really. It doesn't mean I actually *prefer* men — I don't. It doesn't mean I'm bisexual — I'm not. It doesn't mean I got hurt, abused or damaged by men and

"resort" to same-sex attraction. I've recovered. It doesn't mean I miss or want the D or just haven't had the "right" one. Trust me on this.

*Trust me.*

It means I like women in blazers. I like power lesbians. I like women who like a woman like me on their arm.

It means I just like being the only one wearing a dress. It means a killer pair of Oxfords and a button down make me weak in the knees. It means I am a sucker for having the door opened for me and flowers sent to me and that nothing will make me melt quicker than a woman who can lead me across the dancefloor.

And my experience has been that women with those traits are what we have come to define as masculine-of-center for no reason other than that, traditionally, those chivalrous traits have been more commonly found in men. But those traits are just that — traits. They are not gender.

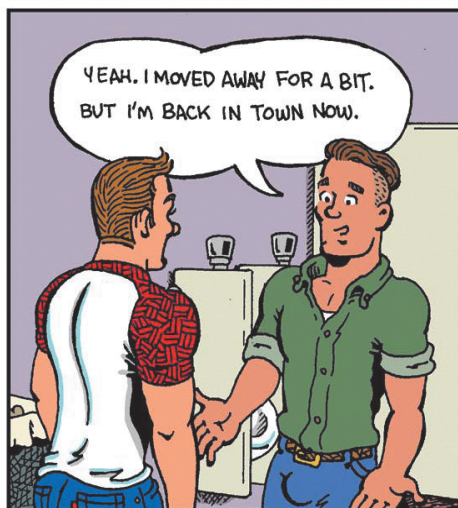
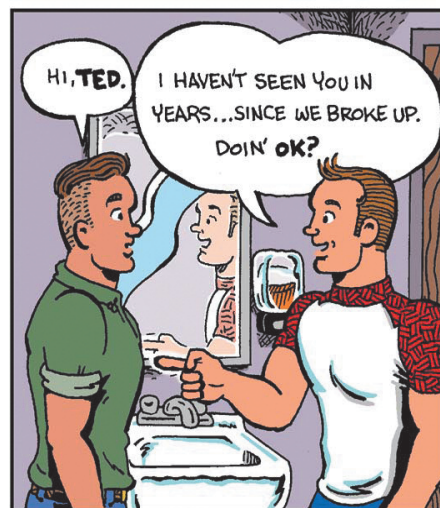
Men and women are different in so many ways. Much of that has to do with socialization, the majority of which is not helpful in the least. I love women because I love women. I love their bodies and their minds and their spirits. I love whatever that *thing* is — that essential center that defies definition.

Here's the thing. We love who we love. We desire who we desire. Asking why is as unhelpful as it is hopeless. Attraction is something we'll likely never be able to truly understand. It just is. So if you feel inclined to ask why a girl might want a girl who sometimes gets called sir, consider this: Love and desire defy explanation. The magic is in the lack of ability to comprehend or explain.

Besides, it's none of our business who someone else digs.



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All I know is what I know. And when my girl puts her hand on the small of my back and guides me to the center of the dance floor, her bow tie untied causally around her neck, her pocket square perfectly arranged, and her patent Prada's shined to a glow, I know I'm right where I belong...

Jenny Block is the author of the new book *O Wow! Discovering Your Ultimate Orgasm*.

Have a question about sex you want Jenny to address? Email it to [GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com](mailto:GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com).

Photo courtesy StephGrantPhotography.com

browse

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

submit

To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit](http://Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit).

this week's solution

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C	H	O	U	E	N	I	D	E	S	E	R	A
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Pussycat Doll Jessica Sutta at S4.

Making the **SCENE** the week of Feb. 12-18:

- **Alexandre's:** K-Marie on Friday. **Three Drunk Monkeys** on Saturday. **Chris Chism** on Wednesday.
- **Brick/Joe's:** **Bearracuda** featuring DJ **Mateo Segade** from 9 p.m.-3 a.m. on Saturday. **Shy T** presents **Valentine's Day Brick Pink and White Party** with special guest **Just Brittany**, DJ **Mmeka** and **Ida Mae Watergate** at 9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Changes:** **The Divine Miss Divas Show** at 10 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** casserole cookoff at 4 p.m. and **Valentine's Show** at 7 p.m. on Sunday. **Wall of Food Show** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **DFW Leather Corps** club night from 7-10 p.m. on Friday. **United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents **Angels vs. Demons** benefiting the **Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund** at 7 p.m. on Friday. **Discipline Corps** club night from 10 p.m.-midnight on Friday. **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** presents **Queen of the Closet** from 5 p.m.-10 p.m. on Saturday. **National Leather Association – Dallas** club night from 7 p.m.-11 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie's Freak Show** with **Stefani**, **Nikki**, **Alexis** and **Your Highness** on Monday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **The ManCandy Wig Party**, the most hair raising party of the year, with wigs, Jell-o, dancers and retro music and videos at 8 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **No Labels Band** on Friday. **The Roommates** opens for **Radio Love Bus** on Saturday. **Kathy & Bella** at 3 p.m. and the **Marisela Trio** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** **Rising Star** with **Layla** and **Kelexis** on Thursday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Emperor's Red Hot and White Ball** buffet at 6 p.m. and ball at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Music by **Spencer** at the **Anti-Valentine's Party** on Sunday. ■

To view more Scene photos, go to [DallasVoice.com/category/photos](http://DallasVoice.com/category/photos). Scene Photographers: **Winston Lackey** and **Chad Mantooth**.



Trixie Mattel and The Claw.







The staff at Zephyr.



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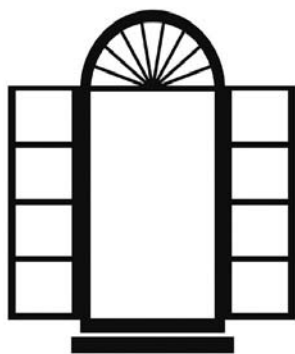
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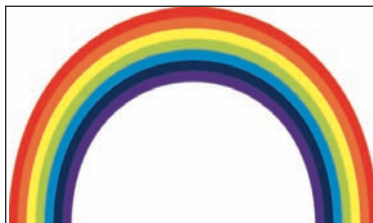
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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Save The Date!



MARCH 20, 2016  
1:00PM - 5:00PM

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POKER

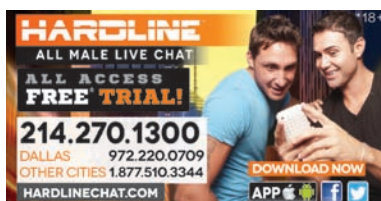
#### Freeroll Poker Tournaments

In the gayborhood  
British Beverage Company  
**Mondays**

Game Starts at 7:30

Nightly Prizes & Gift Cards

For More info go to:  
pocketrocketsdallas.com



### Co-Dependents Anonymous

(CoDA) is a Twelve Step Fellowship of men and women whose common purpose is recovery from codependence and the development and maintenance of healthy relationships. CoDA meetings in the area meet:

- St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
6525 Inwood Road  
(Inwood at Mockingbird)  
Dallas, Texas 75209
- LAMBDA GROUP  
6:30 PM, Friday; 1 hour  
OAK LAWN CoDA GROUP  
7:30 PM, Wed; 1 1/2 hours  
Meeting Type: Open, Sharing,  
Steps, Welcoming to all,  
Safe for GLBT

### Join us for Catholic Mass

for the LGBT community  
First Sunday of each Month  
Dignity Dallas Mass held at  
CATHEDRAL OF HOPE  
Interfaith Peace Chapel, Lower Level  
dignitydallas@hotmail.com  
972-729-9572 www.dignitydallas.net

### Pegasus Squares,

an LGBT Square Dance Club,  
meets every Sunday from  
2:30pm-4:30pm at the Dallas  
School of Burlesque, 2924 Main  
St. Dallas. Beginner lessons start  
in October. Contact **Rob Miller**  
at **682-238-3442** for more info.  
or visit **pegasus-squares.com**.

### Volunteer Needed!!

Be part of an exciting team  
and make a difference in  
someone's life. Volunteers  
will be trained to conduct  
HIV outreach in the  
GLBT community working  
along side of trained Risk  
Reduction Specialists.

For more information contact

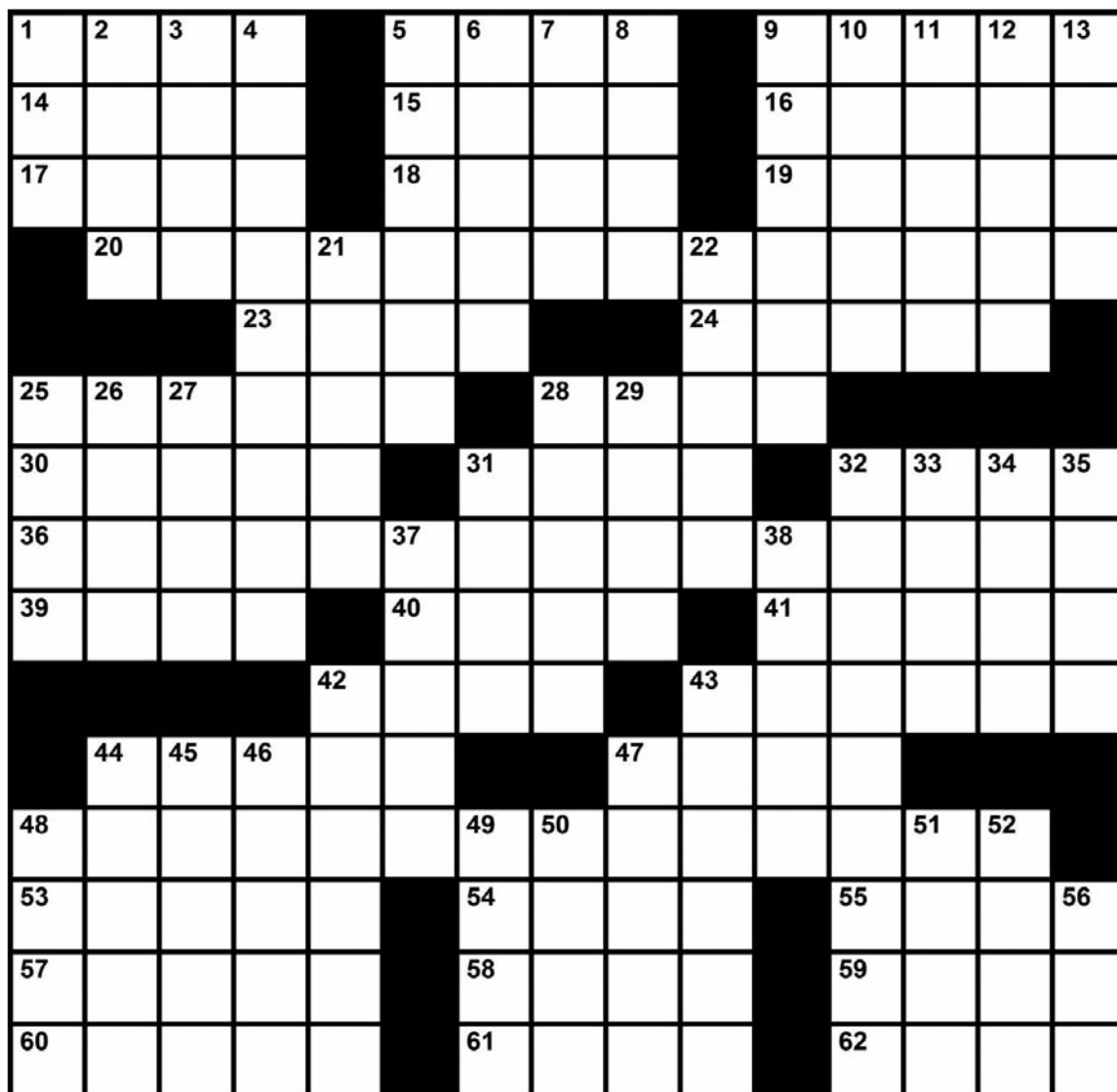
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## q-puzzle



## Piercing Remark

### Solution on page 35

#### Across

- 1 *Boys Don't Cry* character
- 5 Langston Hughes' "Life Is \_\_\_\_"
- 9 Poet Angelou and architect Lin
- 14 Cabbage, to Cocteau
- 15 Sooner city
- 16 Former NFL player Tuaolo
- 17 Porn star Long \_\_\_\_ Silver
- 18 Go down (on)
- 19 How to walk when you're tickled pink
- 20 Start of a comment to Pierce Brosnan's James Bond
- 23 Opponent of Tinkerbell
- 24 Joanna of *Growing Pains*
- 25 It shoots off in a high arc
- 28 Served perfectly, to Mauresmo
- 30 Alaska native
- 31 Precollege ed
- 32 Satisfy fully
- 36 End of the comment
- 39 Cathedral of Hope area
- 40 Actor Richard
- 41 Stop with
- 42 Stuff stuffed under G-strings
- 43 Chicago's Peter
- 44 Like a dancer's diet

#### 47 Arenas' house

- 48 Character who made the comment
- 53 Make heady
- 54 Laszlo of skincare products
- 55 Songwriter Holly
- 57 Computer lang.
- 58 Put out
- 59 Frequent award for *Modern Family*
- 60 Oceans
- 61 Go lickety-split
- 62 Amount of AZT, e.g.

#### Down

- 1 PC display
- 2 "Hey, sailor!"
- 3 Denial for Nanette
- 4 Saint who said "Give me chastity...but not quite yet"
- 5 Guy that cuts down trees?
- 6 Like someone blown away
- 7 Chihuahua child
- 8 Swirl around three men in a tub
- 9 Brown's *Murder, She \_\_\_\_*
- 10 Moore costar
- 11 Long
- 12 Ram as far up as you can get?
- 13 Poet Teasdale

#### 21 Place for a G-string

- 22 Yarn buy
- 25 Mineral that glistens
- 26 One way to come
- 27 Scores for Burke
- 28 Islam's deity
- 29 Stroke it
- 31 They get laid only once
- 32 Brown at South Beach, e.g.
- 33 Gal Friday, e.g.
- 34 Peter the Great, e.g.
- 35 Jazz singer James
- 37 "Faboo!"
- 38 They go down south for the winter
- 42 Rides for a crèche threesome
- 43 *Tru* story subject
- 44 French textile city
- 45 O-o-o-o-klahoma native
- 46 Size of Mapplethorpe's opening
- 47 Skeptical sort
- 48 Anthropologist Margaret
- 49 Not once, to Lord Byron
- 50 Humorist Bombeck
- 51 DeGeneres' *Finding \_\_\_\_*
- 52 Tasty tubers
- 56 Seed spilled by some farmers



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**FORMER  
SMOKER**

TM

**HIV alone  
didn't cause the  
clogged artery  
in my neck.  
Smoking with  
HIV did.**

*Brian, age 45, California*

*Brian had his HIV under control with medication. But smoking with HIV caused him to have serious health problems, including a stroke, a blood clot in his lungs and surgery on an artery in his neck. Smoking makes living with HIV much worse.*

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