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## Castro rising

by James Russell, Page 8

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Former Gov. Rick Perry

### New study: PrEP could prevent 168,000 new HIV infections

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released new research on Wednesday, Feb. 24, showing that reaching the National HIV/AIDS Strategy targets for HIV testing and treatment and expanding the use of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) could prevent 185,000 new HIV infections in the U.S. by 2020, a 70 percent reduction in new infections.

- The study estimates that, between 2015 and 2020:
- Reaching the nation's goal of ensuring 90 percent of people living with HIV are diagnosed, and 80 percent of people diagnosed achieve viral suppression could prevent 168,000 new HIV infections
- By also increasing the use of PrEP, a daily anti-HIV pill, among people who are uninfected but at high risk, an additional 17,000 infections could be prevented
- If HIV testing and treatment remained the same, expanded use of PrEP among high-risk populations alone could prevent more than 48,000 new infections.

— David Taffet

### Perry indictments tossed by state's highest criminal court

The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals dismissed the indictments against former Gov. Rick Perry Wednesday, Feb. 24.

The decision comes almost two years after he was indicted by a grand jury in the summer of 2014 after he threatened to veto funding for the public corruption unit in the Travis County District Attorney's office. He stated the Democratic incumbent Rosemary Lehmberg had lost the public's trust after being arrested for drunk driving. After Lehmberg refused to resign, Perry cut the funding.

A complaint filed by Texans for Public Justice alleged Perry abused his official capacity and accused him of “coercion of a public servant.”

Two of the court's nine justices dissented in separate opinions, while one justice abstained.

“The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals tossed out decades of precedent to grant a special privilege to Rick Perry, allowing him to escape a trial before any evidence against him was heard. Legal precedence and common sense make it obvious that argument's like Perry's are hollow. He didn't argue that his indictment was technically flawed. He asked the appeals court to toss out evidence that had never been presented. We have to assume that hundreds of accused criminals will now flood the court with similar arguments. It's a black day for the law in Texas,” Glenn Smith, of the liberal Progress Texas PAC, said in a statement.

— James Russell

### Alabama attorney sues Supreme Court

Dumb ass attorney or next Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court?

Alabama attorney Austin Burdick has sued Justices Anthony M. Kennedy, Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan for \$6 million to cover his mental anguish since the Obergefell marriage equality ruling.

Burdick is suing the justices for violating the Fifth Amendment, breach of contract (really? He had a contract with them?) and breach of fiduciary duty. He seeks compensatory, punitive and mental anguish damages plus attorney's fees, according to Alabama.com.

Hmmm ... so let's say this goes to court and whatever the results, it gets appealed. Let's say the U.S. Supreme Court takes up this case. Would the five justices have to recuse themselves? Even if they did, the remaining three rule that they can get sued for their rulings? If so, there's lots of people who think their decision on Citizens United and other cases was wrong. So we just sue.

Seems as though this qualifies for dumb-ass lawsuit of the year. Unfortunately, it probably only qualifies Mr. Burdick to succeed Roy Moore as the next chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court.

— David Taffet



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# STONEWALL



## Democrats of Dallas

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

### Stonewall Democrats of Dallas 2016 Democratic Primary Endorsements

#### DALLAS COUNTY

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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

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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!)



**Friday, February 26th  
is the last day to Early Vote!**



## 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. **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. 27: Dallas Red Foundation

**Sweethearts Party**  
Sweethearts Party benefits Legacy Counseling Center. 7 p.m. at 3700M in the West Village, 3700 McKinney Ave. \$75.

#### MARCH

#### • March 1: DFW Transcendence Trans/SOFFA Meeting

Trans and ally support group meets monthly on first and third Tuesdays from 7-9 p.m. at Barron House Counseling Center, 516 College Ave., Fort Worth. Child care offered. For more information, contact Finn Jones by phone at 214-499-0378 or by email at [sfinn.jones@gmail.com](mailto:sfinn.jones@gmail.com).

#### • March 2: Cedar Springs Wine Walk

Purchase a glass in the tent in front of the Round-Up Saloon. 6-9 p.m. on the Strip on Cedar Springs.

#### • March 4-6: Dallas Home and Garden Show

Features 250 vendors, entertainment and more from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday; and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at Dallas Market Hall Center, 2200 Stemmons Fwy. Ticket pieces vary. Discount coupons available at Tom Thumb and Randall's. For more information visit [TexasHomeandGarden.com](http://TexasHomeandGarden.com).

### pet of the week / MITCHEL

**Mitchel** is a terrier mix, about 6 years old and weighing about 12 pounds. He is a friendly dog with a great disposition. A little lap dog, Mitchel will do best in a home with quiet adults, where he will make a wonderful pet and companion.

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.



## Coming Out Workshop

A safe place to explore coming out to oneself, family, friends and at work  
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**Tuesday evenings, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m., March 15 – April 26, 2016**  
**Northaven UMC, 11211 Preston Road, Dallas, 75230**

**Register online at [Northaven.org](http://Northaven.org) or contact  
Jim McBride at 214-284-9194 or [jmcbriedallas@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmcbriedallas@sbcglobal.net)**





## March 5: Reverchon Park Roundup



The 18th annual all-volunteer cleanup includes planting flowerbeds, clearing out trash and removing fallen tree limbs. Complimentary breakfast and lunch.

• **March 5: Pride Easter Hunt and Pet Fest**  
TCGPWA hosts a free and family-friendly event with vendors, games, entertainment and more at the Forest Park Shelter House, 2600 Forest Dr. S. For more information contact Richard Tinker at 817-921-3318 or tink2withu@aol.com.

• **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" expressing 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.

• **March 7: Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats**  
LGBT Democratic group meets at 7 p.m. every second Monday of the month at Tommy's Hamburgers, 2455 Forest Park Blvd., Fort Worth. For more information e-mail [Info@tarrantstonewall.org](mailto:Info@tarrantstonewall.org).

• **March 8: Trans/SOFFA Group Meeting Dallas Transcendence**  
New Dallas chapter of trans and ally support group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays monthly at 7 p.m. at 1017 S Elm St., Ste. 105, Carrollton. For more information, contact Paula Ellis by e-mail [dallastranscendence@gmail.com](mailto:dallastranscendence@gmail.com) or phone at 469-607-9348.

• **March 8: The Group**  
Support group for black men who have sex with men living with HIV meets from 7-9 p.m. every second and fourth Thursday of the month at a private location. For more information call 214-455-7316.

• **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 10: Same Difference documentary screening**  
Screening of documentary about lesbians who discriminate against other lesbians based on gender roles at 8:30 p.m. at Angelika Film Center Dallas, 5321 E. Mockingbird Ln. Tickets available at [Tugg.com/events/87275](http://Tugg.com/events/87275).

• **March 11-13: Texas Bear Round Up**  
Annual Texas Bear Round Up takes place at two hotels, Love Field Hotel and Suites, 1241 W. Mockingbird Lane, and Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7050 Stemmons Freeway. Day time events including registration is at Love Field and evening events at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. To register and for more information visit [TBRU.org](http://TBRU.org).

• **March 11: TBRU BearDance Fat Friday**  
TBRU's biggest fundraiser featuring DJ Roke Cabrera and DJ Chris Spear at Crowne Plaza Hotel, 7050 Stemmons Freeway.

• **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 15: JEWEL Lesbian Fiction Book Club**  
Monthly book club discussion meets from 7-9 p.m. every third Tuesday of the month at

ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Rd. Open to all women. Free. For more information e-mail [jewel@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:jewel@myresourcecenter.org).

• **March 16: An Evening on Lesbian Pregnancy**  
Path2Parenthood and California Cryobank present a program focusing on critical information lesbians need to know when considering pregnancy. From 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• **March 17: Gray Pride: Senior Moments**  
Monthly Senior Moments series discusses topics and issues impacting LGBT seniors meets from 6:30-8:30 p.m. every third Thursday of the month at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St. Free. For more information call 214-528-0144 or e-mail [GrayPride@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:GrayPride@myresourcecenter.org).

• **March 18: High Tech Happy Hour**  
and SMU Cox School of Business LGBTQ & Allies Texas Instruments Pride, the LGBT and ally diversity group, and SMU Cox School of Business Strategic Alliance LGBT and ally group hosts a special High Tech Happy Hour from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Meadows Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd. Complimentary parking available in the two lower levels of museum parking garage. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. For more information e-mail Paul von Wupperfeld at [pavw@ti.com](mailto:pavw@ti.com).

• **Through 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.

• **March 19: Gaybingo**  
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).

• **March 20: The Wedding Workshop: An LGBT Community Event**  
Three-hour, hands-on seminar featuring wedding industry experts guides 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.



# Julian Castro's rise to the top

The former San Antonio mayor known as an LGBT ally is determined to make a difference for homeless LGBT youth

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

Sept. 5, 2013 was a long day for San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro. His city's comprehensive nondiscrimination ordinance had passed by an 8-3 vote. The crowd there to debate the ordinance was loud, and the opposition rowdy.

Yet after hours of testimony, it had passed.

But despite their defeat in Alamo City, conservative and religious groups would regroup and use San Antonio as a playbook for future battles against municipal nondiscrimination ordinances. Opponents of equality would lose some, like in Dallas and Plano, and they would win some, most notably in Houston, where the nondiscrimination ordinance known as HERO was repealed last November.

A year later, in 2014, President Barack Obama nominated Castro to serve as the next secretary of Housing and Urban Development. He was swiftly confirmed by the Senate at the beginning of July and began his term later that month.

But while Castro may live in Washington, D.C., he said on a recent trip to the DFW Metroplex that San Antonio is still his home.

Castro's mother was a Chicana activist who instilled a sense of civic responsibility in him and his twin brother, Rep. Joaquin Castro. His mother, he said, would have guilted him for not fighting for equal rights. (She unsuccessfully ran for city council in the 1970s.)

"[My mother] pushed for equality and fair treatment for everyone," Castro said. "So my concern is to help people gain full equality to ensure everyone has equal rights. I believe we should not have any second-class citizens."

Castro, a Harvard Law graduate, secured his place in San Antonio political history when he was elected to the city council in 2002. Councilman Castro then ran for mayor twice, waging his first unsuccessful bid in 2005. Then he was elected mayor in 2009 and re-elected in 2011.

"I was determined to do everything I could in city government to turn things around there," Castro.

While he was mayor, the city extended partner benefits to employees, appointed an LGBT liaison, and worked on various initiatives targeting homeless LGBT youth.

He wanted San Antonio to be a home for everyone who lives there. That's why, despite the opposition, passing the nondiscrimination ordinance was a priority for him.

## Joining the Cabinet

HUD secretary is a Cabinet-level position, reporting to the president, that oversees programs providing affordable housing and community development assistance. It also ensures people are free to rent or own homes without discrimination.

In his capacity as secretary, Castro has winnowed out a number of disparities facing LGBT homeowners and renters.

"We're at the beginning of looking at what executive action we can take to extend protections to the LGBT community in the Fair Housing Act. This is something that could be very impactful,"

pact when it comes to future research regarding LGBT youth homelessness. And it's taking root in Texas.

The LGBTQ Youth Homelessness Prevention Initiative is a pilot project organized by HUD with other federal agencies, including the Departments of Education and Labor in collaboration with the True Colors Fund, an LGBT homeless youth organization founded by entertainer Cyndi Lauper.

Pilot projects are currently under way in the Cincinnati, Ohio and Houston metropolitan areas.

"We want to know what are the types of things

**HUD secretary Julian Castro, recently spoke at the Time to Thrive conference in Grapevine. (James Russell/Dallas Voice)**



Castro said during his recent visit to the Metroplex.

"We've proposed a rule that would require folks who run emergency shelters to accommodate transgender individuals based on how they identify," he noted.

According to the National Center for Transgender Equality, one in five transgender individuals have experienced homelessness. The proposed HUD rule would prevent homeless shelters from denying shelter to transgender people based on their gender identity.

"A lot of folks seek homeless shelters, but they don't feel comfortable," Castro said. "They think they'll be harassed or bullied or even worse than that. So this pilot project should teach us a lot going forward so we can incentivize providers to adopt these practices."

The second project is expected to have a big im-

we can do with families to prevent LGBT youth homelessness and to address concerns LGBT youth have, to serve them better so they feel more comfortable, for instance, at shelters," Castro said.

Jama Shelton, deputy executive director of the True Colors Fund, said the project also looks at community networks that may prevent LGBT youth homelessness.

"The focus has historically been reactive, like providing shelter for the youth," Shelton said. "That is important, but if we know the primary issues we can work toward prevention."

Strategies include providing data, training and resources with various community stakeholders, such as clergy, law enforcement and youth workers. Research currently under way includes identifying LGBT young people who are at the highest risk of homelessness.

"There is a clear understanding that homeless

youth who are LGBT have been kicked out by their families because they do not accept or understand their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression," Shelton said.

Without community support, youth may jump from shelter to shelter.

Harris County is doing, in Shelton's words "a lot." Efforts include the formation of an LGBT competence committee, revising assessment questions to include sexual orientation and gender identity, working towards requiring all staff to be trained on working with LGBT in an inclusive and affirming manner and providing information about LGBT acceptance on their parent portal.

Organizers are also identifying community members who would have an impact but not realize it, like a local chamber of commerce or small



# Remembering Jake Odom

Dead man's girl friend says rumors, wild imaginations are adding to his family's grief

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

News of Jimmie Ray Odom's death has been making headlines in Dallas and in his home state of Oklahoma ever since Dallas police announced Tuesday, Feb. 22, that they had found his body.

The Oak Lawn man — known to friends as Jake — had been missing since, according to police, running from a "disturbance" at apartments near the intersection of Fairmount and Kings Road. Fed perhaps by the fact that police actually found his body on Feb. 11 but did not notify his family for 11 days, rumors of the circumstances around Odom's death have run rampant.

Now his girlfriend is stepping forward, urging people not to let rumors rule the day.

"People are out there, assuming this and assuming that. They're making up their own versions of what happened, and they don't have all the information," Chaselyn Wade said on Thursday, Feb. 25. "People need to remember, Jake has a mother and brothers. He has family. Don't disrespect his family and the people who loved him with all your rumors."

A celebration of life service for Jimmie Ray Odom, known to friends as Jake, will be held Friday, Feb. 26, at 2 p.m., at Floral Haven Rose Chapel, 6500 S. 129th E Ave., in Broken Arrow, Okla.

A memorial service is being planned in Dallas for friends who are unable to attend the services in Broken Arrow. The Dallas service is tentatively planned for 5 p.m. on Tuesday, March 8, at the pavilion in Lee Park.

According to police there was no sign of trauma to Odom's body, and an autopsy is pending. Dallas police LGBT liaison Laura Martin said it will be a "couple of months for toxicology and histology" test results come back and the medical examiner can determine his cause of death.

Wade said that she and Odom had been together as a couple for about 15 months, and that he had been living with her at her apartment in the Berkshire Medical Apartments on Fairmount. She also said that she was the one who called 9-11 for help the night he disappeared.

"No, the 'disturbance' the police talked about wasn't a domestic disturbance. We weren't fighting," Wade said of that night. She added that she called for help when Odom ran from the apartment because he was agitated, and she was concerned for his well being.

"He was behaving in a manner where people were worried he might hurt himself," she said. "That's why police listed him as 'critical missing.'"

Wade doesn't want to speculate on Odom's cause of death, again citing respect for and deference to his mother's wishes. But she said she does want people to know Odom and see him the way she did.



Jake Odom

"We kept our relationship private, as far as Facebook and the Internet goes," Wade said. "He was a dancer, and I am an entertainer, and so much of our lives were public. We wanted to keep our private life private."

And while some initial reports described Odom as a gay man, Wade said that wasn't accurate. "He was bisexual," she said. "Or maybe pansexual would be a better word."

Odom, Wade continued, "was a very nice, very loving person" who loved drag shows and dancing and reptiles ("We have two geckos; he got me interested in reptiles as pets"), and who "never did anything to hurt anybody."

"He never had an ill word to say about anybody, and he was very protective of people," she said. "If we went to a drag show or a pageant, and I said something critical about somebody's hair or their shoes or their dress, he'd say, 'Leave them alone. Let them be the way they are.' He didn't want to hear anybody making fun of somebody else. For him, any kind of negativity like that was a total no-go."

Even though he worked as a male dancer, Wade said she and Odom led a very low-key kind of private life.

"We'd get up in the morning and fix coffee and have breakfast together. He made me French toast almost every day for breakfast. We'd go work out together, maybe go shopping," she said. "He supported me in things I did, in pageants and stuff, and we did some projects together."

Wade also said that despite rumors, Odom was not involved in illicit drugs. "He used to be into drugs and he raised a lot of hell," she acknowledged. "But he went through the programs and got clean years ago. We both drank, yes, but he had transformed his life [when it came to drugs]. He transformed himself, and he used that to help others who were having problems with drugs."

Wade said she and Odom's mother and siblings still have a lot of questions about his disappearance and his death — questions the police are not yet answering. For one, she said, she wants to know why it took so long for police to find his body.

"They found him in that wooded area behind the Family Dollar Store on Maple, literally, a three-



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Tracy James Jones

# What it means to love

Local author's novels feature transgender characters struggling with love

JAMES RUSSELL | Staff Writer  
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Tracy James Jones, who splits her time between Dallas and Waxahachie, visited New York City for the first time in late February, at the invitation of her Facebook friend Jill Salvino. Salvino is filming a documentary, *Between the Shades*, about what it means to love in the LGBT community.

Jones learned about the project after Salvino posted in the group promoting the project's fundraising on Kickstarter, the crowdfunding platform for creative projects.

"I do a lot of blogging. I feature different artists, filmmakers and musicians, mostly books though," Jones said. With a popular blog at her fingertips, she promoted Salvino's project. But she did not just write about the documentary-in-the-making, she auditioned for it, too.

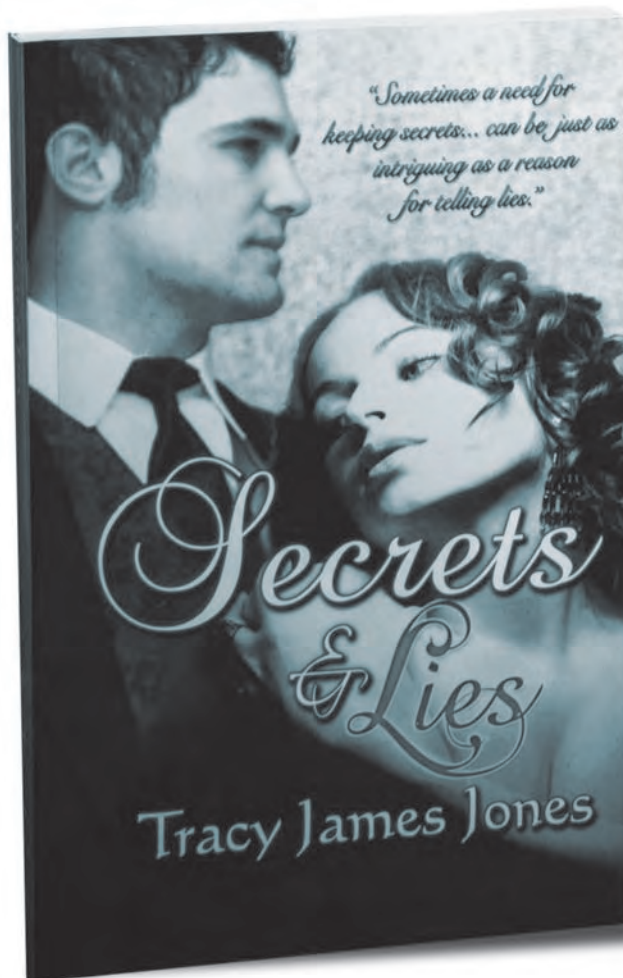
Jones' fiction focuses on her own experiences with loving and being loved. They include the 2012 novel *Secrets & Lies*, and *Torn: Sixty Days of Calaboose*, published in 2014.

Despite having been recognized locally for her work, Jones said she doesn't enjoy self-promoting. But she knew if her books were going to get attention — and if *Secrets & Lies* is going to get a TV deal — she had to step out of her comfort zone.

Her confidence paid off. In January, Jones learned she was among 50 people selected to share their stories for Salvino's film.

Jones made the trek to the Big Apple in the cold month of February to talk in front of a camera about her love life. That took a lot of guts.

Growing up in Waxahachie, Jones said, she



hung out with a band of misfits. They were straight, gay, African-American, Native American and caucasian. But even in that group, Jones stood out.

While her friends were the type to seek the limelight, Jones preferred to be a wall-flower. And she was also the only transgender person in the group.

A tall, African-American with short hair, Jones always knew she was female, regardless of her physical gender at birth.

"I've always been observant," she said. "It's one of those things, being raised as an only child. I noticed everything. My curiosity got me in so much trouble, mostly about love. Like hugging and kissing and how people walked and talked," Jones said.

"My first crush was in third grade on a boy. That was curious to me," Jones said. "I had a lot of female friends because I identified with them. So that got me in trouble. After you get in trouble, you start doubting yourself and hating yourself."

After pausing to breathe, she added, "And it was odd because no one in the family understood it."

Her family may not have understood her gender identity, but Jones clearly did. So she wrote stories, then screenplays and, eventually, novels about it.

Writing helped her understand her identity and document the world around her. But writing and publishing also took on a larger purpose.

"I want to give a voice to those in the LGBT community who are rarely seen, hardly ever heard, and often misunderstood," Jones said.

*Secrets & Lies*, for example, follows a love quadrangle involving 38-year-old Bren Searcy, a transgender woman, and her secret cisgender male lover, Kenny Jordan.

The novel, which is available on Amazon, is a hit with readers. Of the 20 reviews online as of press time, no review rates the book lower than four stars.

But getting to that level of success took a while.

"Growing up was a nightmare...for me I tried to blend in as best as I could. Thing is, I wanted to do more with my life. I wanted to be more than my fears. As difficult as it was, with the grace of faith, I fought my way through the many obstacles thrown in my way," Jones said.

Today I am finally the 'me' I have always wanted to be."

Visit Jones' blog, *Let's Talk About Books*, at [Tracyjamesjones.wordpress.com](http://Tracyjamesjones.wordpress.com). For copies of *Secrets & Lies* and her other books, visit her Amazon.com author page at [Amzn.to/1WJCrH6](http://Amzn.to/1WJCrH6).

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..... news analysis .....

# The price of mental illness?

Cedar Creek area gay man killed  
after standoff with police

CEDAR CREEK LAKE — A standoff between a 56-year-old gay man and law enforcement officers ended in the man's death Feb. 10, revealing how the isolation and disregard of a deeply disturbed individual can end tragically and endanger an entire community.

Anthony Bertoni, 56, lived in a small house surrounded by an eight-foot chain link fence on the county line between Henderson and Kaufman counties, on SH 274 near Cedar Creek Lake. He was a gay man suffering from an illness that resembled schizophrenia, according to an acquaintance, who knew him for several years.

Bertoni often complained about being the victim of anti-gay harassment, but the woman said she never witnessed nor saw any evidence of the harassment.

In truth, Bertoni may have imagined the harassment. He suspected his neighbors of throwing rocks at his house and other offensive actions, and Henderson County Sheriff Ray Nutt said law enforcement officers responded to disturbances at the small row of houses numerous times over the years to calm down quarrels between Bertoni and his neighbors.

On his car parked outside of the fence in front of his house, Bertoni posted signs saying, "Murder" and "Suicide," along with rambling, nonsensical letters.

Finally, the quarrels erupted in violence when Bertoni fired a shotgun at one of his neighbors about 7 a.m. on the day of his death. A pellet struck the victim in the face and several others pel-



**David Webb**

The Rare Reporter

lets injured his arm. A helicopter transferred the man to Baylor Medical Center in Dallas, where he was treated and released.

Law enforcement officers quickly descended on the scene, and a standoff ensued as

personnel from both Henderson and Kaufman Counties and the Texas Department of Public Safety shut down traffic in the neighborhood known as Cap City. Bertoni fired several shots as the standoff began, then at about 3:30 p.m. he opened the door of the house and fired more shots.

That's when a sniper on the roof of the Calvary Baptist Church across the highway shot and killed Bertoni.

A few days before the standoff, Bertoni visited a nearby store and complained to a clerk about being unable to sleep. Yet another neighbor who called emergency services after the initial shooting on Feb. 10 said Bertoni had quit taking medication that she suspected was designed to control his mental disturbances.

The acquaintance, to whom Bertoni had confided his sexual orientation, said he came to the Cedar Creek Lake area from California several years ago. Public records show he lived in Palm Springs and San Diego previously.

Cedar Creek Lake has a large LGBT community, and Bertoni engaged in a couple of relation-





ships with other men, the acquaintance said. But in the last couple of years, he professed to be asexual and kept to himself, she said.

Bertoni originally planned to open a business styling hair at his home on the highway, but he abandoned the plan and sold his equipment. He was estranged from his adoptive parents, who had rejected him after learning about his sexual orientation, the acquaintance said.

By the time the shooting started on Feb. 10, the woman had already severed contact with Bertoni because his obvious mental illness led him to paranoid delusions, she said. The woman said he accused her and her daughter of stealing his belongings, but later wrote them a long letter saying he found the missing items and apologizing for the accusations.

Bertoni suffered from a multitude of physical illnesses, and the woman said she suspected he might be HIV-positive.

In the wake of the standoff and the shutdown of SH 274 and CR 4044 that lasted for more than 24 hours, forcing traffic to detour on backroads,

the quiet community remains stunned. Residents shuttered themselves inside their homes during the standoff and until after the numerous squad cars and investigators left the scene the following afternoon.

Bertoni's car remains parked in front of the house where he died. The chain link fence lies on the side of the yard where an armored vehicle shoved it aside to allow law enforcement officers to get close enough to engage Bertoni.

Except for his immediate neighbors, no one in the small community knew Bertoni, and he seemed to not be well known in the LGBT community on Cedar Creek Lake.

At this point, with Bertoni dead and no one around who was close enough to really know much about him and his mental state, no one can say if an intervention might have saved his life and spared the community from the trauma of the standoff and shootings. But there is no doubt that doing nothing left the man's downward spiral unchecked, and put him on a collision course with the community around him. ■



Anthony Bertoni lived in a run-down house surrounded by an eight-foot chain link fence. Signs of his mental illness were obvious in his notes he taped all over his car. (Photos by David Webb)



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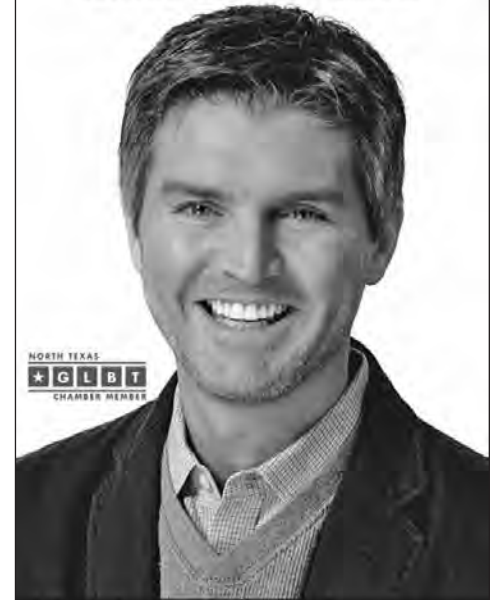


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# 'You'll never walk alone'



The Rev. Ben A. David Hensley, left, the church's music director, and John Horany planned the March 6 event. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

## OLUMC hosts concert benefitting Survivors Offering Support

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

Oak Lawn United Methodist Church presents the "You'll Never Walk Alone" concert on Sunday, March 6, to benefit SOS-Survivors Offering Support. SOS was formed by hate crime survivor Burke Burnett to help victims of last fall's series of attacks on gay men in Oak Lawn.

"We wanted this to be something for the community," said concert organizer John Horany. "We're trying to participate in the life of the community in a big way."

Oak Lawn United Methodist Church recently voted unanimously to become a Reconciling Ministry church, welcoming the LGBT community to join in all aspects of congregational life.

The Rev. Ben A. David Hensley, the church's music director and an event organizer, said this concert isn't a church event: "We're hosting as part of Oak Lawn. We're invested in neighborhood safety."

Hensley said a member named Lillian Lawson, who recently passed away, had the original idea for a candlelight concert. "When she died, we began talking about it again," he said. "One of us said, 'Why don't we make this concert in response to these attacks. Make it more of a community event than a church service.'"

Among those performing will be the Oak Lawn Band, the Dallas Police Choir, Resounding Harmony, the Oak Lawn United Methodist

Church Chancel Choir and the Turtle Creek Chorale Chamber Chorus.

East Dallas Christian Church organist and accompanist Jonathan K. Merritt will be featured, playing OLUMC's magnificent pipe organ.

OLUMC senior pastor the Rev. Anna Hosemann-Butler will speak, along with Cathedral of Hope senior pastor the Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas.

Dallas Northwest Deputy Chief Catrina Shead will speak on behalf of the Dallas Police Department, and hate crime survivor Michael Dominguez will represent Take Back Oak Lawn and SOS. Take Back Oak Lawn also formed in response to the attacks and is raising money to increase security and promote safety in the neighborhood.

The song "You'll Never Walk Alone," from the 1945 musical Carousel, will conclude the concert.

Hensley said it was important for a church located on the corner of Cedar Springs Road and Oak Lawn Avenue to make a statement with a program like this. He called violent attacks on members of the LGBT community immoral, and said he wants it clearly understood that's the church's position.

Horany said he hoped other attack survivors would attend.

"We're a community who cares," he said.

Following the program, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage and Dick Richardson sponsor a reception.

*You'll Never Walk alone at 6 p.m. on March 6 at Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave. Park in the Centrum. Free but accepting donations for the S.O.S. Survivor's Fund.*







CASTRO, From Page 8

“Expanding protections in the housing industry for the LGBT community is one of the things we want to get done.”

business.

“LGBT youth need careers, so why not establish an apprenticeship program?” Shelton suggested.

### Greater things?

Castro was seen as a possible vice presidential candidate even before he was named HUD secretary. And, if former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton wins the Democratic nomination for president, pundits are predicting he will surely make the VP short list.

Whether or not he is tapped by Clinton, who is locked in a tight race with Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders for the nomination, Castro wants to make something clear: He is not returning to San Antonio and to run against anti-gay Mayor Ivy Taylor. Taylor was one of the three council members who voted against the nondiscrimina-



tion ordinance. She stepped in as interim mayor when Castro moved up to HUD and is now serving her first full term as mayor.

“I can guarantee I will not [run for mayor],” Castro declared. “I look forward to getting back to San Antonio, but not in any capacity as an elected official.”

Whether or not Castro is the next vice president, he is committed to leaving a lasting legacy.

“I’m trying to continue my legacy at HUD,” Castro said. “There’s a sense it is past time to protect LGBT people. In this last year of Obama we want to make most of our opportunity to extend equal rights. Expanding protections in the housing industry for the LGBT community is one of the things we want to get done.”



ODOM, From Page 9

minute walk from our apartment,” she said. “The police searched and searched on [the northeast side of Maple Avenue]. They brought in dogs, and they searched all the way up to Cedar Springs Road. But they never went and looked on the other side of Maple? Why not?”

She also wanted to know what happened to Odom’s phone. He had it with him when he left the apartment that night, she said, and 13 hours after his disappearance, about 5:30 p.m. on that Saturday, someone used the phone to access Odom’s Facebook page. But police have not returned the phone to her or Odom’s mother. In fact, they haven’t mentioned it at all.

Most of all, Wade said, she wants to know why it took 11 days for police to notify her and Odom’s family that they had found his body.

“I do know they identified him from his fingerprints,” she said. “But the police won’t tell us if they found him during a search, or if someone else found him and notified them. And they won’t say why it took 11 days to tell us they had found him.”

The waiting, Wade said, was the hardest part. “You’re just on hold. And we had hope, right up until the end when the police came and told us they had found him. We had hope,” she said. “He had

been having a hard time, and we hoped that he had just chosen to go somewhere by himself to get his head together, and that he would come home before long.

“That’s what my friends, our friends, kept telling me. They said he’d come home soon, and that I needed to get on with life. So I tried to do that, and of course, that just made people talk even more,” Wade said. “People have been so cruel, in ways they don’t even realize how cruel they are. I’d say 99 percent of people have been loving and supportive. But there is that 1 percent of horrible, horrible people who ask the most absurd, the rudest questions — people who are strangers to me, who didn’t even really know Jake, asking such horrible, rude questions.”

It’s those people, Wade said, that need to stop, step back and take a look at their own behavior, who need to stop spreading rumors. “We’ll know what really happened eventually, when the police are all done with their investigation. Until then though, people need to stop making things up and starting rumors. They need to show a little respect, for Jake and for his family.”

Dallas Voice Senior Staff Writer David Taffet contributed to this report.

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Poverty, homelessness, violence and disaster surround us; the news is filled with acts of destruction in which humanity is involved. At the same time, people of faith speak of a God who is intimately involved in the world and pass off such acts with simplistic phrases such as “God’s will”.

While it might help us to justify our actions, this oversimplification makes God out to be one that lacks compassion and sets some people above others.

The faith of Jesus teaches us that, rather than abdicating our responsibility to some “out there” entity, we are to be in partnership with God who makes us agents of God in the here and now. This understanding challenges us to personalize our faith and to co-create with God.

**Where is God?** I hope you will join me on Sunday at Cathedral of Hope as together we ponder this essential question. Join the conversation at #7Questions and #DallasVoice.

—Rev. Dr. Neil Cazares-Thomas



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# ■ communiTEA voices

# The Republican SCOTUS gift

**OK** liberals, the Republicans, in their infinite “wisdom,” have said they won’t consider President Obama’s nominee to replace Antonin Scalia on the U.S. Supreme Court. By taking such an approach, the GOP has handed liberals a golden opportunity — and shown their absolute stupidity, as they trip all over each other to enter the clown car and be the first to utter their obstructionism.

Court experts, listen up: There are 13 appellate court districts in the United States and only four of the 13 are considered conservative. That means that nine — or two-thirds — are comprised of liberal-leaning judges.

When an appellate court rules, their position becomes the law of the land, unless SCOTUS agrees to hear an appeal and then overturns the appellate court’s ruling. And, if the court agrees to hear a case, and is split 4-4 — because of Scalia’s vacancy — the appellate court ruling stands.

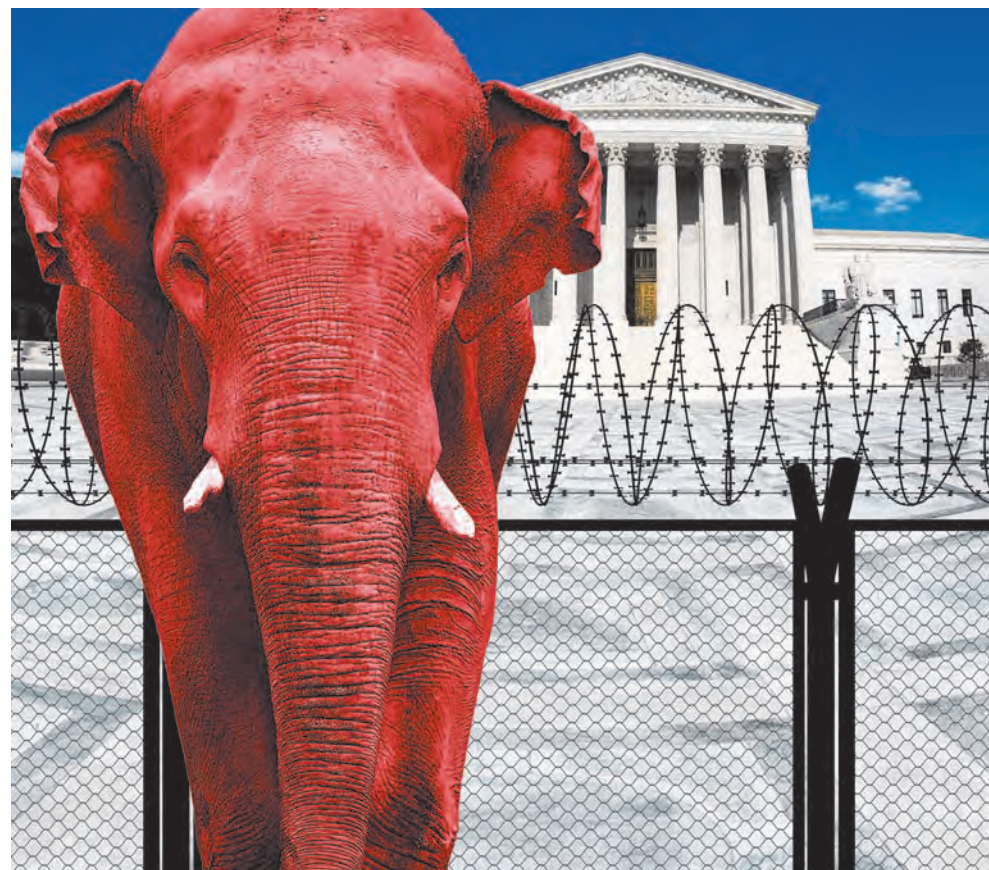
To make matters worse for Republicans, the court is due to rule this term on issues related to abortion, unions and even climate control. And in those cases, the chances are now four-to-four for what conservatives would say are liberal rulings. Appellate court rulings will become the law of the land.

Here’s my favorite case, in which everyone expects a 4-4 ruling: whether President Obama’s executive order allowing 5 million illegal immigrants to stay in the United States can stand, meaning Republicans have most likely created their worst fear. (I love it when Republicans shoot themselves in the foot.) At this rate, the odds are stacked for liberals by a two-thirds majority.

Let’s take it a step further.



**Mark Segal**  
Mark My Words



Bernie Sanders, or even Donald Trump — both of whom strongly believe in campaign finance reform and in overturning the SCOTUS ruling on *Citizens United* that allowed dirty money into political campaigns — could either file a case in a sympathetic state court and ask for an emergency hearing that the *Citizens United* ruling has irrefutably harmed their campaigns and needs to be overruled. On appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, there would be another 4-4 tie that would leave in place any state supreme court decision that prohibits corporate money in campaigns.

So if I were the American Civil Liberties Union, Planned Parenthood, Sierra Club, Lambda Legal

or any other organization considered liberal by conservative Republicans, I’d start filing those briefs now.

By rushing to refuse to hear any Supreme Court nominee, no matter his or her abilities, Republicans have, in actuality, helped President Obama, who they’re so eager to insult, as well as his political allies. Thank you Republicans for this great gift.

Please keep falling all over yourselves. ■

*Mark Segal has been an gay rights activist since 1969 and founding owner and publisher of Philadelphia Gay News. His best selling memoir And Then I Danced, Traveling The Road To LGBT Equality, is available online or at your favorite bookseller.*

## LETTER

### LGBT Dems: Vote Trump

Hillary Clinton will be the Democrat nominee. There is no doubt about that. So why not spend your primary vote in playing a little defense?

From what I hear, Ted Cruz is the candidate most LGBT people fear the most. So who is the best antidote to Ted Cruz? Donald Trump, of course.

How is that? It’s simply about the GOP delegate math.

Because Texas moved its primaries to March 1, it is no longer a “winner take all” state. It’s a race now, and it goes district by district. So in districts with a Democratic majority, Democrats who in-

stead vote in the Republican Primary and cast their ballots for Trump have an unusual amount of power. That’s how the process works.

Should Ted Cruz win statewide totals in Texas — which some say is likely — he still won’t win all the delegates normally available to the candidate who wins the state overall if Democrats in mostly Democratic districts will vote in the GOP primary for Trump.

The way it works is this: A GOP presidential candidate must receive at least half of the votes in each congressional district to win all three of that district’s delegates. Short of that, the winner gets two of the district’s delegates, and the second place finisher gets one delegate. So if LGBT voters will make a concerted effort to vote Trump in large enough numbers, you can reduce the number of

delegates that Cruz will get here.

It’s Rush Limbaugh’s “Operation Chaos” in reverse. Remember when he suggested Republicans vote as Democrats to defeat Hillary? Well, now it is your turn.

Why Trump? Pundits say — and polls back it up — he is the odds-on favorite to win most of the GOP’s national delegates. And he will likely finish well in Texas.

LGBT Republicans may prefer different candidates. But for LGBT Democrats, the pathway to Cruz’s obstruction is quite clear: Join me in voting for Donald Trump for president.

(This is not an endorsement of Trump or any other candidate by Metroplex Republicans.)

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Nicole Weiss, left, tells her personal story as part of the Vocalosity performance.

# 100% ME

Vocalosity a cappella concert takes its cast and its audience on a journey back and a journey forward

TAMMY NASH | Managing Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

Even the longest journey starts with a single step. But perhaps, in this case, it's more appropriate to say, with a single note. Nicole Weiss and her fellow performers in Vocalosity spent some eight hours on a bus last Wednesday, headed to Greenville, N.C. It was just the latest leg in their journey, which launched in January and will wind up, some two months later, in Galveston, Texas in the first week in March — including a March 2 stop in Dallas for a concert at McFarlin Auditorium on the SMU campus.

"Luckily, we don't have to perform tonight," Weiss said in a phone interview from the bus. "Tonight, we get to just go to the hotel and relax."

Vocalosity is the brainchild of Deke Sharon, vocal producer of the movie *Pitch Perfect* and musical director of the TV show *The Sing-Off*. The idea of the all-a cappella show is to put together 12 "all-star singers" into a

group with would "go into people's home towns, to sing and connect with people, to feel that joy of music and to inspire them to bring music back into their own lives."

It was a concept that resonated deeply with Weiss.

Weiss is one of several — how to put it? — non-straight performers in the Vocalosity cast. She describes herself as "queer, bisexual, pansexual — any of the above," and says that coming to terms with her identity has played a big role in her own journey.

Weiss says that when she first heard about Vocalosity and heard the names of Sharon and others who were involved in its creation, she knew right away she wanted to be a part of it. "I personally went to the open call in New York Center. I was the first person in line at the open call at 7 a.m., and I made it. That's pretty rare, as far as my experience goes," she notes.

The concert covers a "wide range of genres of music," Weiss says. "But the journey of the show, the music, is so deliberate. Deke's vision, his life's work, he would say, is to get people to sing, whether they are singers are not. The point is not just for us to get to sing songs pretty, but to get the average person — someone who might have been told they can't sing — to sing because they want to.

"There's so much joy — in singing, in being part of a community that

■ VOCALOSITY Page 23



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# Style & substance

Yves Donckier de Donceel and his partner will bring France to North Texas for antique show



Yves Donckier de Donceel, above right, have added mid-century modern to their style repertoire.

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DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
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Loyalty is how Yves and Armand Donckier de Donceel have built their antique business.

A woman was looking at a chandelier in their warehouse. Yves de Donceel asked her about the project. She told him she just bought a new house. "Have you painted?" he asked. "Done the walls?" She had not.

"I'm not going to sell it to you then," he told her. He said he didn't want her to buy the chandelier, begin decorating her house, get paint all over it and then tell him, "This is not what I want."

Instead of him making that \$1,000 sale, she hired him to decorate her house.

De Donceel splits his year between his homes in San Diego and Provence, in south central France. He used to work for an airline and traveled to California. In 2000, he and his partner decided to spend their winters in California and got into the antique business.

Yves de Donceel said when he moved to America, he learned that people liked what came from France.

So he imported French country items and began showing at flea markets. As he built a clientele, he began doing more interior design and now exhibits his antiques at about a dozen shows a year in the U.S.

He's been to Texas before. He goes to a show in Round Top, a town with a population of 93, halfway between Houston and Austin, that twice a year hosts one of the largest antique fairs in Texas. De Donceel

does well there and has developed a South Texas clientele from that show. He hopes to extend his appeal to North Texas with the Fort Worth Show of Antiques & Art on March 3-5 at Will Rogers Memorial Center. The Round Top show takes place a week later.

The annual Fort Worth show, now in its 53rd year, will include exhibitors from around the country. De Donceel will be one of 150 exhibitors with booths that include diverse styles and price points. Art, jewelry, photography, lighting and furniture will all be in the mix.

One exhibitor recently returned to the U.S. with a load of textiles from Afghanistan and Turkey. Another dealer who specializes in African tribal art recently returned with new finds from West Africa. And the de Donceels have shipped in pieces from their warehouse in France.

A recent trend de Donceel's been seeing is people buying mid-century pieces. Those should go well in many Dallas and Fort Worth homes that were built in the 1950s and '60s.

"I include that with my look," de Donceel said. "I'll have a few mid-century pieces mixed in with my look."

He said the mid-century style mixes well with the French country style, which he described as pieces owned by the French middle class from homes in the countryside and on farms. It's more rustic and, he said, comparable to American country pieces.

Pressed for what he likes about mid-century, de Donceel said he's mid-century himself, so it must be a pretty good style.

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# Bunny HOPS



Lady Bunny knows how to keep 'em dancing.

Drag queen DJ talks music and politics as she gets ready to head back to Dallas for Toast to Life

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

"In Texas, I've become the DJ for socialites." That's how it seems to Lady Bunny, who was the DJ on Halloween at Hotel Zaza and at the Fresh Arts benefit, both in Houston. In Dallas, she's DJ'd an event at the Rachofsky home known for its art collection and for a Dallas Theater Center fundraiser, as well as at a wedding held on marriage equality night at the W Hotel. Bunny admits that she's "not the greatest mixer," and that she doesn't have a lot in common politically with many of the people who attended those Texas fundraisers. "But I know music and I know what they'll like," she declares.

And after all, that's what counts, right?

Bunny says she knows how to please a crowd and has a wide variety of experience as a DJ. "When you DJ from Pride to Fashion Week in Paris to gay weddings to bar mitzvahs, you find out what a crowd likes," she says.

And knowing what the crowd likes shouldn't be too difficult for Bunny when she's next in Dallas, because she'll be spinning for a crowd that's much closer to her on the political spectrum: She'll be the star attraction at Resource Center's 18th annual Toast to Life fundraiser on March 5 at The Empire Room.

Surprisingly, Bunny has also made a name for herself in the fashion world since a fashion publication called Visionaire hired her as their in-house DJ.

"That started my DJ career outside New York," she says.

Her first party in Paris, on the Eiffel Tower, attracted fashion model Iman and designer Karl Lagerfeld as guests. From there, she's done Toyko, Milan, Bangkok, Beijing, Seoul and London.

"That gave me credibility as a DJ," she says. "It became OK to hire this drag queen."

Bunny says it was her years of working in clubs that helped her be successful as a DJ. "I remember what songs turned the party out," she says. "In every decade."

It also doesn't hurt that she breaks the ice by getting into the music and cutting up. "You get a DJ and a clown for the price of one," she says.

Currently, Bunny is on a DJ tour promoting the upcoming eighth season of *Drag Race*. Before coming to Dallas next week, she hits Phoenix and Kalamazoo. From here, she heads overseas to London, Manchester and Milan. But that doesn't mean she's carrying a lot of luggage around.

"I shock people how light I travel," she says.

For this tour, Bunny needs seven dresses. So she

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# Memories that sing

Author Rashod Ollison tells the story of his life, with the records he loved as soundtrack

***Soul Serenade* by Rashod Ollison. c.2016, Beacon Press, \$25.95 USA/\$30 Canada, 230 pages**

Vinyl is making a comeback.

Those are five words that put a smile on a music aficionado's face. A CD isn't the same, they say. An MP3 is nowhere near as good. You don't get the right sound unless you're spinning a record.

So vinyl is coming back. But for people like Rashod Ollison in *Soul Serenade*, it never really left.

There was once a time when "Dusty" Ollison's parents were happy. He knows it's true; he has evidence of it, in the form of a picture taken at the beginning of their marriage, which lasted 13 years.

When they split, he was old enough to witness but too young to understand, having become inured to the fights, the cheating and the drinking at his home near Hot Springs, Ark.

After Ollison's father fled his family — leaving Ollison's mother with a 'tween and two small children — he rarely returned. But he left a gift behind: stacks of vinyl.

Ollison says he remembers poking around music stores with his father, ogling covers, eager for approval of his taste in performers.

Chaka Khan, Bobby Womack, Stevie Wonder — Ollison recalls fascination with their record labels spinning on the turntable. Michael Jackson gave him comfort; Aretha was a mood barometer. They all taught him about grown-up



Rashod Ollison

love through lyrics.

With his mother working two full-time jobs to keep food on the table, Ollison counted on music to anchor him. It was his means of escape as his oldest sister took her rage out on him, as his family moved repeatedly, as he was bullied in school for "actin' like a woman."

He denied feminine gestures and a tender heart, but by age 13, he could no longer ignore that he was gay. School, by then, had joined music as a thing of refuge. Ollison excelled at his lessons, achieved good grades, made friends and expanded his playlist.

As he grew, he also wondered about his father sometimes but was largely indifferent, even as the man lay dying.

And then an aunt told Ollison something that made him change his tune.

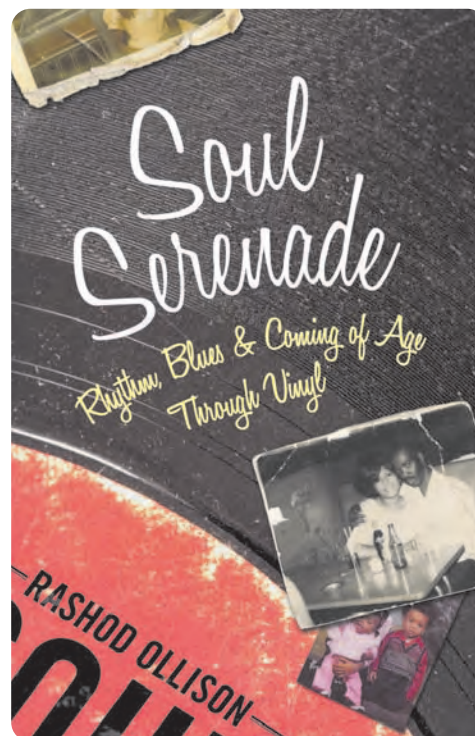
*Soul Serenade* starts where many good memoirs do: with a faded picture of a time that barely seems possible. From there, we're surprised by a death that promises to taint much of what's to come, all wrapped in family lore.

But don't get complacent. Author Rashod Ollison doesn't allow any lingering. Soon enough, his story becomes angry yelling, a smack upside the head, profanity, TV-as-babysitter, fists and sore feet.

We're taken from neighborhood to neighborhood as the lights are shut off, the rent isn't paid, and he's taunted with words that his sister has to explain. It's chaos — but it's also a darn good tale that it doesn't dissolve into whining or poor-me-ing, testament to Ollison's storytelling skills.

*Soul Serenade* is one of those books that sticks in your brain, not only for the suggested music, but because the memoir itself leaves its mark. And if that sounds like solid gold to you, then give this book a spin.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer





way," she continues. "And we sing in the show, of course, but there's also a section of the show where we tell her stories about how music has changed our lives, and made us who we are. We get such incredible feedback from the audience about how inspired they are by our stories."

Weiss is one of four Vocalosity cast members who tell their stories during the show. Her story, she says, begins when she was born.

"I exited the womb singing, really," she laughs. "I was always really confident about it. I sang all the time."

And then came that one vocal teacher who "was not the kind of supportive person I needed, and I kind of shut down. Because of that, I started having a lot of insecurities around singing. And that bled into the rest of my life," Weiss says. "I was afraid to be who I was. I so desperately wanted to fit in."

And then came high school, and a show choir director who "was so kind to me, and who took me under his wing. He told me to sing like me, to be myself and to celebrate who I am."

That choir director, she said, had her sing "Bridge Over Troubled Water" in a competition, and now, she gets to sing that same song at the end of her monologue in each performance of Vocalosity. And she gets to her from audience members who connect with her story and are empowered by it.

"When I was a teenager, I was bullied. I was made to feel I wasn't enough," she says. "So when I hear people who are like me, who went through those same things, telling me that hearing me tell my story inspires them to be themselves and live

their lives — I can't describe the feeling that gives me."

While Weiss's monologue in the show doesn't reference her sexual orientation — another cast member does talk about being a gay man — that is a big part of her personal journey as well, she says.

"It's just been in the past few years that I've really been able to own it," she says of her sexual orientation and her identity as bi/pansexual. "I am really passionate now about having those conversations with people. There's really a lot of bi-phobia out there. You'd think someone who is gay themselves would automatically understand. But it's not that simple."

Weiss says her personal journey helped her land her role in the musical journey that is Vocalosity. "I am who I am, and I am proud of that," she declares. "There has definitely been a shift in the last few years in my confidence and I think that came through in my audition. I went into it with the mindset that I was going to be 100 percent myself, and if that was what they wanted then good. And if it wasn't, I was going to be ok with that, too."

"As it turned out, that's what they wanted. They wanted people who were 100 percent themselves, people who would be that, own it."

Weiss says that she hopes the Vocalosity concert — and the journey it represents — helps those who come to see it take the next steps in their own journeys, too. "I hope people leave wanting to go sing, feeling like they can go sing and do whatever else they want to do. I hope they leave knowing that they can go be themselves and that being themselves will make them the most successful person they can be." ■

just packs fewer men's clothes. What about all of her wigs? They're big, she says, not teased out. So they stack and she combs them out.

Bunny says even when she's in men's clothes with no make up, she gets called "ma'am," especially when they hear her voice. It's not rude, she adds; at least they're calling her ma'am, not something derogatory.

But she's had a number of funny experiences with that. "A men's room attendant in Mexico told me I went into the wrong restroom," she recalls. When she explained she was a man, he propositioned her.

As passionate as Bunny is with her music and entertaining, she's equally as hot about her politics.

First, she rips fellow New Yorker Donald Trump.

"I was in L.A. and Walgreens had a life-sized cutout of Donald Trump," she says of an experience that happened before Trump launched his presidential bid. "Do they know no one in New York even likes Donald Trump? He's regarded as a joke."

Bunny says she doesn't think Trump is even seriously running. She's still expecting him to drop out and turn his run into a reality show about how to prank the press. He is, she says, a "jerk spouting nonsense."

But the anger Trump has tapped into is real, she adds: "People are angry. We're told the recession is over but people are still working two jobs and are still on food stamps."

After eight years of Bush and eight years of



Obama, she says, most of the wealth is going to "the 1 percent."

She criticizes Hillary Clinton for voting for the Iraq War, something Bunny believes was a disaster. "I'm a drag queen and she has access to secret dossiers," Bunny said. "She has the foreign policy of a Republican."

Bunny says she has a 75-year-old Republican aunt who lives in the south who's voting for Bernie because "the Republicans are clowns and she doesn't trust Hillary." Bunny's advice? Get involved.

Oh, and support Resource Center by coming to Toast to Life. Bunny promises it'll be a blast. ■

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L+S profile



The late Camilo Castro, left, with his son Marco Castro-Bojorquez. (Photo courtesy Marco Castro-Bojorquez)

## Family ties

Recognized by the White House as a 'Champion of Change,' Marco Castro-Bojorquez shows Latino families in a different light

CHRIS AZZOPARDI | Contributing Writer  
[chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com](mailto:chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com)

Marco Castro-Bojorquez was never very close to his father. They rarely spoke, especially about Castro-Bojorquez's sexuality.

But two years ago, on New Year's Eve, something changed.

His family went out that night, but not Castro-Bojorquez. He chose to stay home to spend time with his dad. He sipped a glass of white wine. His dad drank a cider. He remembers that the two "talked and talked" — something that didn't happen very often.

The next day, Castro-Bojorquez recalls, his father spoke these simple yet treasured words: "I really enjoyed talking with you last night. We should do that again."

Camilo Castro Casarez, died on May 15, 2015, just days before his son completed *El Canto del Colibrí* (*The Hummingbird's Song*), his documentary telling the stories of Latino immigrant fathers who've transcended racial stereotypes by showing their unconditional love for their LGBT children. The film is a tribute to his father Camilo.

"He was always very proud of me and my accomplishments and my independence, but we never really talked about me being gay openly until the very last month of his life," says Castro-Bojorquez, 48, noting that, together, they watched some of the unfinished

film just before his death. "He was very interested in the film and we talked about it, and it's kind of symbolic be-cause we had a great time."

Before Marco Castro-Bojorquez's documentary, two moms of Somos Familia, a San Francisco-based educational support program for moms and their LGBT kids, were in pursuit of culturally relevant programming that reflected being the mother of an LGBT child. They found nothing.

But then they attended an LGBT youth conference with which Castro-Bojorquez was involved. They met Castro-Bojorquez at an LGBT youth conference, and they all agreed: If there was no programming, it would have to be created.

Castro-Bojorquez and fellow filmmaker Jose Alfaro made the mothers' vision a reality with *Tres Gotas de Agua* (*Three Drops of Water*), a short doc featuring three Latina immigrant mothers pledging love for their LGBT children. It premiered in 2011.

Then, Castro-Bojorquez says, people began asking: What about the dads? After all, Latino fathers, he states, are the ones historically generalized as being "macho, homophobic and transphobic by nature."

But for Castro-Bojorquez, that is a "completely racist" assumption. "If you engage with people who are Latino, like the Latino immigrants in *El Canto*, you find out that, of course they go through the same process, and



some of them are not very accepting. But I think they have the capacity to transform.”

Shedding light on a wide-range of issues, including immigration, faith and coming out, that transformation is poignantly captured in a series of emotional interviews with Latino fathers and their LGBT children. El Canto is both culturally specific and universally affecting, but beyond that, it’s a powerful tool to bring fathers closer to their LGBT kids, regardless of ethnic background.

Castro-Bojorquez’s creation is close to his heart. The documentary, he says, is a hopeful yarn championing positivity when so little of it seems to exist.

“We have been smacked in the media with anti-immigration sentiments,” he says, “and there’s a lot of stuff that we see or hear that is negative about us. I wanted to balance it out and provide something that they could feel proud of.”

He breaks off, reckoning that, “I think that’s why they cry... people cry in the film. And I did too.”



Marco Castro-Bojorquez has been recognized by the White House as a Champion of Change (Photo courtesy Liz Salinas)

### Coming out for change

Castro-Bojorquez was studying medicine at Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León in Monterrey, Mexico, in the late 1980s, when AIDS was wreaking havoc. And the gay stigma associated with the virus made him even more wary of coming out as a gay man. Still, he told his mother, who then told his father, that he was gay while he was enrolled in med school.

“Coming out in Mexico, at least for me, with the lack of information and education and support, was trouble,” says Castro-Bojorquez, who was born and raised on the Mexican Pacific coast but, for political reasons, moved to California. “It was very confusing because I didn’t have anybody helping me to understand what it meant to be gay or queer. I had a couple of books and magazines, but I didn’t know what it was like to come out.”

It’d be reasonable to assume that Castro-Bojorquez’s own coming-out journey was the catalyst for his educational and advocacy-related work as a community educator in Lambda Legal’s western regional office in Los Angeles, but he considers his actual muse to be his mother, a rural school teacher who died in 2000.

“Losing my mom prompted my work [with Lambda Legal],” he says. “To honor my mother’s spirit and her legacy are the main reasons why I started to work with LGBT youth and their families.”

Last November, the White House recognized Castro-Bojorquez as one of nine “Champions of Change” for being a staunch advocate of LGBT-related issues. It was the first time, he says, that he won an award since he competed in a singing competition during a Mother’s Day celebration when he was in elementary school. “I won a lollipop,” he laughs.

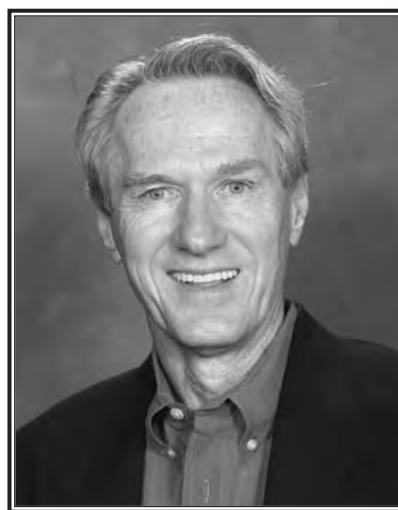
Leslie J. Gabel-Brett, director of education and public affairs at Lambda Legal, praised Castro-Bojorquez for having “made a beauti-

ful film that is a powerful tool for increasing understanding of the experiences of Latino immigrant families with LGBTQ youth. It is such a well-deserved honor for him, and an amazing opportunity to raise up the voices and stories of these families.”

Castro-Bojorquez said he was flattered to get the recognition from the White House. But he is quick to note that his film represents the work of many.

“I’m very grateful and appreciative of people recognizing my work,” he says. “But it’s not only my work, it’s the work of a team of people that have helped me for many years. Not only the people who did the film with me, but my mentors, the youth that I work with, the families. All of those people influence the things that we end up creating.” ■

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website, [Chris-Azzopardi.com](http://Chris-Azzopardi.com), and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).



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Friday 02.26 — Saturday 02.27

Black Academy of Arts and Letters  
presents 12th annual Festival of  
Black Dance Weekend

Jamaica's Stella Maris Dance Company returns to Dallas to share the spotlight with Atlanta Dance Connection, in its first Dallas appearance, at the Black Academy of Arts and Letters' 12th annual Festival of Black Dance. The Stella Maris company will perform the specially commissioned spoken word piece, "My Language," written by Curtis King.

DEETS: Naomi Martin Main Stage,  
605 S. Griffin St. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10.



LIFE+STYLE

best bets

Thursday 03.03

Dallas Theater Center and Alley  
Theatre present All The Way

Dallas Theater Center presents, in a co-production with Alley Theatre, a "Texas-sized" production of *All The Way*, Robert Schenkkan's fascinating portrait of Lyndon B. Johnson, from the moment of his accidental presidency in 1963 to his landslide election a year later. Directed by DTC's Kevin Moriarty, the show features actors from both DTC and the Alley Theatre in Houston.

Saturday 02.27

'Real Housewives' star performing Saturday  
at The Brick

With six consecutive No. 1 dance hits under her belt and a new album due out this spring, Erika Jayne is sure to get you in the mood to move. Dannee Phann Productions presents the *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* star at The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Road. Doors open at 9 p.m.; the show starts at midnight and will be followed by a meet-and-greet with Jayne.

DEETS: General admission tickets are \$20 in advance. VIP table for three packages are \$150, and table seating only is \$30 per person. OneNightInBangkok.org.



DEETS: It opens Thursday in Dallas after a successful run in Houston, and continues through March 27.

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## calendar highlights

### ARTSWEEK

#### THEATER

**Out of the Loop Fringe Festival.** WaterTower Theatre's 14th annual celebration of intimate and quirky performances, including music, solo performances and comedy. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through March 6. Visit WaterTowerTheatre.org for full lineup of performances.

**One-Act Festival.** Six plays by six women over six nights, including a regional premiere from Obie Award-winner Charlayne Woodward and local playwright Vicki Caroline Cheatwood. Presented by TeCo Theatrical Productions. Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 S. Tyler St. Through March 6. BishopArtsTheatre.org.

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

**All The Way.** After a successful run at Alley Theatre in Houston, Robert Schenkkan's portrait of Lyndon B. Johnson, from the moment he became president in 1963 after the assassination of JFK, through his landslide election the following year, opens Thursday, March 3 at Dallas Theater Center, 2400 Flora St. in the AT&T Performing Arts Center. The show, directed by DTC's Kevin Moriarty and starring actors from both DTC and Alley Theatre, runs through March 27. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**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. Through 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. *Final weekend.* Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. 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.

**Rodgers+Hammerstein's Cinderella.** The tuneful fantasy, with a new book by Douglas Carter Beane. Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St., Arlington, Through March 6. TheatreArlington.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.

**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.

**Romeo & Juliet.** The Dallas Theater Center's production of Shakespeare's romantic tragedy, directed by Joel Ferrell. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. 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. *Final weekend.* Jubilee Theatre, 506 Main St., Fort Worth. JubileeTheatre.org.



Walt Threlkeld and Stacy Ann Strang star in Theatre Britain's production of *Dangerous Obsession*, in its final weekend at Cox Building Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Theatre-Britain.com. (Photo by Mark Trew)

**Love, Loss and What I Wore.** Nora and Delia Ephron's confessional comedy about relationships. Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. Through March 6. ContemporaryTheatreOfDallas.com.

**I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change.** Gay playwright Joe DiPietro co-wrote this popular musical revue about relationships. Theatre 3 in the Theatre Too space, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through March 6 (extended). Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Tick... Tick... BOOM!** Before *Rent*, Jonathan Larson composed this reflected three-person chamber musical about relationships. Directed by Lon Barrera. *Final weekend.* Bedford Boys Ranch, 2821 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. OnstageInBedford.com.

**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. *Final weekend.* Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. \$15-\$28. DCT.org.

#### CONCERTS

**Hunter Valentine.** Edgy all-girl rockers has a new album out and will appear in Dallas with the So Long for Now Tour. Trees, 2709 Elm St. \$11. Friday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. show. TreesDallas.com.

**Erika Jayne.** Dannee Phann Productions presents the *Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* star performing at The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave., on Saturday, Feb. 27. Doors open at 9 p.m.; show at midnight followed by a meet-



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and-greet photo shoot. General admission tickets are \$20 in advance; VIP table for three package is \$150; table seating is \$30. [OneNightInBangkok.org](http://OneNightInBangkok.org).

**Anne Steel.** The openly gay singer performs Saturday, Feb. 27 at The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the show is at 8 p.m. VIP tickets are \$30; general admission is \$20 and standing room is \$10. [AnneSteele.tix.com](http://AnneSteele.tix.com).

**Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No. 1.** The Dallas Symphony Orchestra presents one of the great technical concerti on the canon for several more concerts, with Behzod Abduraimov at piano. Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. Feb. 26–28. [DalSym.org](http://DalSym.org).

**DANCE**

**12th Annual Weekend Festival of Black Dance.** A celebration of dance. Presented by the Black Academy of Arts & Letters, 605 S. Griffin St. Feb. 26–27. [TBAAL.org](http://TBAAL.org).

**Pilobolus Dance Theater.** The popular modern dance company returns Saturday, Feb. 27, for a third appearance at the Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson. Show is at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$44–\$60, available online or by calling 972-744-4650. [EisemannCenter.com](http://EisemannCenter.com).

**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](http://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](http://DMA.org).


**Salvador Dali: The Argillet Collection.** Milan Gallery, 505 Houston St., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 29. [MilanGallery.com](http://MilanGallery.com).

**FRIDAY 02.26**

**COMMUNITY**

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

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**MONDAY 02.29**

**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 03.01**

**FILM**

**The Birds.** Hitchcock's allegory of nature run amok. 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 03.03**

**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.

**FRIDAY 03.04**

**OPERA**

**Manon.** Massenet's masterpiece, starring Ailyn Perez (*Great Scott*) as the heroine. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. March 4–12. [DallasOpera.org](http://DallasOpera.org).

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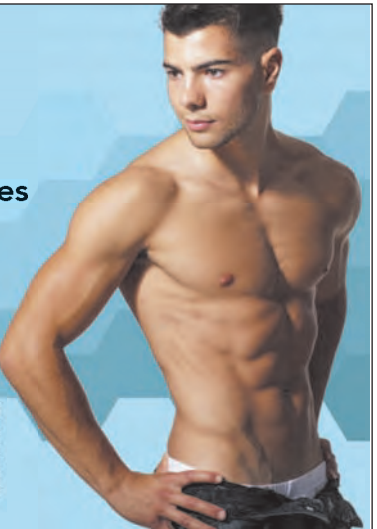
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# Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

Dear Howard,

I'm a pre-med intern — typically overworked, underpaid, with no spare time to cook for myself even if I had some leftover energy to. My fellow slaves and I, of which I'm their token, barely-accepted "homo" in this physician-wannabes' posse, are all regular/regular customers at practically every greasy spoon within a quarter-mile radius of Baylor; fractiously, I'm the sole one of us who bothers considerably tipping our equally overworked, underpaid servers. I put myself through undergrad waiting tables. I know first-hand *exactly* what sorts of rapacious vengeance gets served upon cheapskate "regulars" once the undertone snickers of "fudge-packer," or some similarly expressed ilk, get overheard by any waiter maligned by snarky customers. Sweet karma, I secretly smile, is always such a delicious bitch, though, don't you agree? — **Stuart**

I truly hope  
[my son] Paul  
meets a  
wonderful man  
down the road to  
fall in love with.'

Dear Stu,

Indeed, I deliciously do: Kudos to you, too, Stu, our future medicine man miraculous, for somehow *resisting* any comeuppance temptation to point out the so-simply obvious lesson still yet to be learned by your disbarment-worthy medical profession colleagues to whom you're homophobically shackled: Perhaps we should just keep it our jizzy little secret that it's *solely* due to your regular dining companions being flagged as nefariously-inexcusable bad tipplers that they're getting to enjoy that extra added squirt of sweetly flavorsome, creamy "secret sauce" on their burgers and in their beers — freshly home-made, daily, by the very adeptly practiced hands of their regularly stiffed, albeit graciously smiling "fudge-packer" servers themselves.

Dear Howard,

I'm mortified to ask this question: My fly boyfriend is super-stoked into "water sports" *hardcore*. In all SM honesty, man, this fetish is about the *only* bedroom burlesque I just do not *at all* twist into. But "Randy" laid *all* down on the table with me from our very first date, spelling out *exactly* what he enjoys doing most behind closed doors; miraculously, even I bit my toxic tongue for once about slinging Dallatude by not, oh, snarling, "What a coincidence! I'm also a total water sports' enthusiast — you know, Michael Phelps and I even train together at the very same pool; trust me, too, those size 14 Aquaman flippers

on him don't lie, either —wink, wink!"

No, instead, my backfired cocky-comeback retort was, "Proper hydration is my passion!" which Randy sleazily interpreted 100 percent at face value. It totally whirlpooled me, like, urinal-drain deep smitten with him instantly, and now, every morning since I'm awakened by my boyfriend smarmily, seductively spooning me with his forked tongue flickering in my ear, whispering, "Tonsils, baby, or tush?"

Usually, I just sigh and choose "tush" because, well, morning pee isn't exactly what the FDA labels a sunshiny day draught of orange juice, identical in color though it damned revoltingly is; ridiculous as this sounds, it's just a lot less bothersome, hygienically, for me to wear old man's incontinence underwear at work through noon, 'til my back-end leakage finally drips dry, than it is to guzzle down my boyfriend's proud, fresh, hot homemade "breakfast" to his last yummy drop every morning, instead. Howard, how do I stop this, gently, what I've absurdly started? — **John Hancock**



Dear J-Cock,

You can't. Not unless you'd rather belong to a different boyfriend, which you clearly do not: Listen, Johnny Lavatory, the man laid his deal-breaker fetishes at your back door from the absolute start, to which you delivered before him a big wide slutty smile of enthusiasm. On the hunk-o-meter scale, 1-to-10, exactly how far into the red zone beyond 10 does your needle quiver for this "fly" boyfriend? He surely must be some more off-the-charts specimen of filthy fine man flesh in your eyes *because* of his water sports' obsession, truth be told, is all I can tell you; otherwise, morning piss from anybody (be it up the gut or down the gullet) is worth neither the medicine cabinet of Alka-Seltzer one must keep fully stocked, nor the man purse full of Depends one must pack every morning for the office; fortunately, if you indeed love this "Randy," urine is hygienically sterile: Think of the relationship more in terms of you perhaps being, oh, goldenly-showered lucky — after all, stud, there exist *oodles* of lovesick bedroom fetishes far less [ahem!] . . . tasty.

Dear Howard,

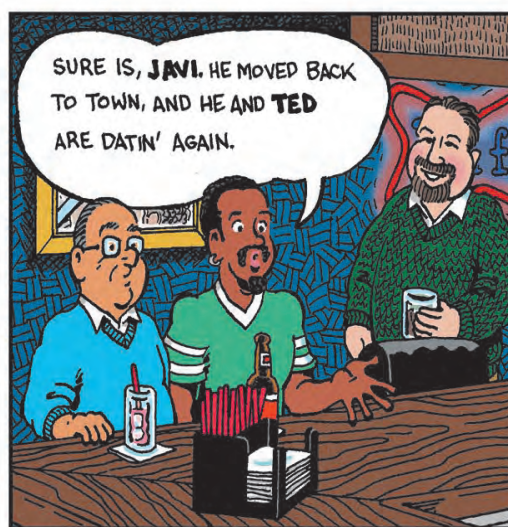
This isn't really a question so much as it's a "light bulb" revelation I wish to share: Last week, my youngest son of three exemplary boys, who is only 16, "came out" to me. Hesitantly, tactfully, concernedly, I asked if he was sure he's gay — that it didn't matter to me, at all, I only wanted him to be happy — but how was he certain he *knew* already? He lobbed back, "Dad, when did you *know* you were straight?" I blustered, "Well, son, but I've known all my life" . . . and suddenly *then* I got it, my "illumination" moment: I truly hope Paul meets a wonderful man down the road to fall in love with; I'll be just the happiest, proudest father in the whole wide world! — **Michael**

— **Howard Lewis Russell**

Do you have a question — about etiquette, love, life or work — that needs an answer? Send your problem to AskHoward@DallasVoice.com and he may answer it



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



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Friends hanging at Alexandre's.



Jose, Roy and Chad at Dallas Eagle.

Making the **SCENE** the week of Feb. 26–March 3:

- **Alexandre's:** **Filter Kings** on Friday. **No Label** on Saturday. **Chris Chism** on Wednesday. **So Strung Out with Spencer West** on Thursday.
- **BJ's NXSt:** Look and feel like a dancer. **Underwear Contest** at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Brick/Joe's:** Come and see one of the hottest adult performers, **Hunter Vance**, from 5-9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. **Real Housewife Erika Jane** at midnight on Saturday. **Man Dance** at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Changes:** **Wall of Food** show at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Trinity River Bears** meeting at 2:30 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **Leather Bear** meet and greet at 7 p.m. on Friday and contest at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Trivia Night** with **Mama Payne** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Hidden Door:** Tribute to **Lee Rodger** aka **Memory Lane** benefits **Legacy Founders Cottage** at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie's Freak Show** with **Bianca**, **Bronx**, **Athena** and **Aaron Rey** on Monday.
- **Rainbow Lounge:** **Imperial Court** candidate show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Oscar Party** hosted by **Greg Castillo** and **Mel Arizpe**. **Red Carpet** at 6:30 p.m. and show at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Country night with Barefoot Hippies** on Friday. **Ciao Bella** on Saturday. **Kathy and Bella** at 3 p.m. and **Bad Habits** at 6 p.m. on Saturday. **T & A karaoke** on Monday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** candidate show at 8 p.m. on Saturday. **College night** every Thursday.

Scene Photographers: **Kat Haygood**.



Emy and Kathy at Sue Ellen's.



Clowning with the staff at Marty's Live.

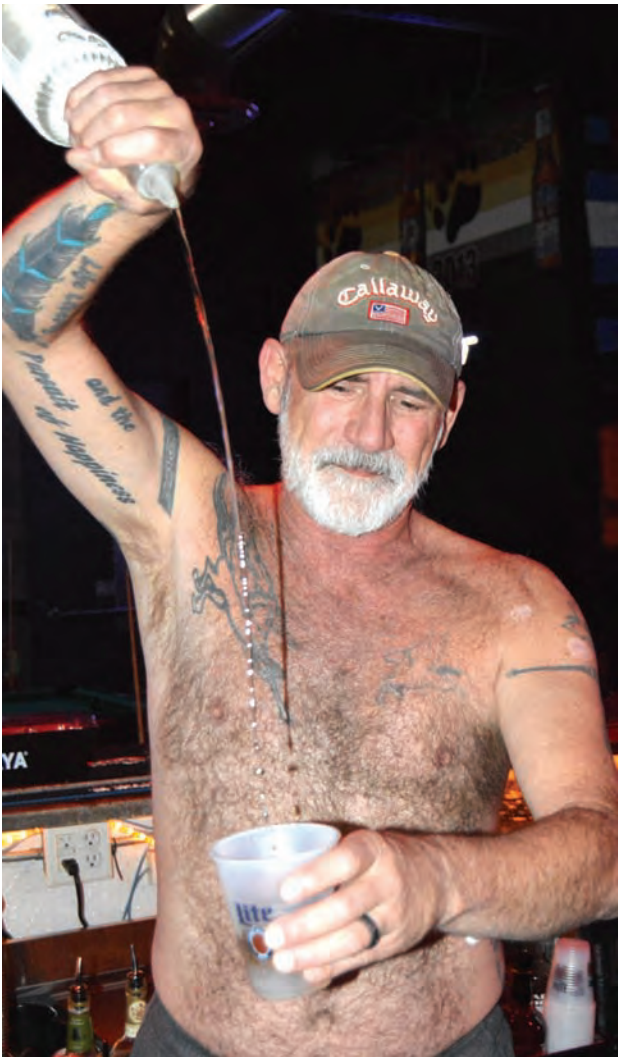




Chilling on The Strip.



All aboard the Birthday Party Bus.



Major pours a tall one at Dallas Eagle.





Friends' night out at Marty's Live.



Frances at Sue Ellen's.



Shawna celebrates her birthday with friends at Sue Ellen's.





Courtney and Mark at The Grapevine.



Sergio at Dallas Eagle.



Jonah at Woody's Sports & Video Bar.



Onyx says hi to a friend at Alexandre's.



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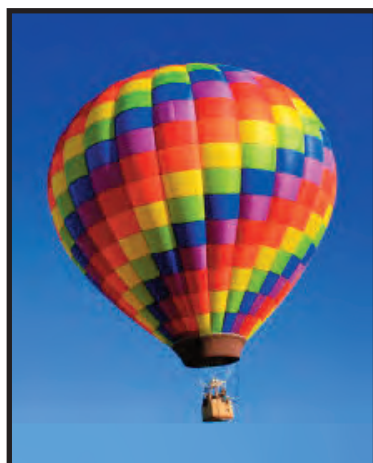
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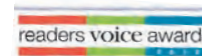


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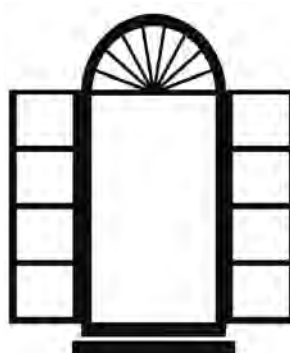


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## RESEARCH STUDY

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Save The Date!

The  
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An LGBT Community Event

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

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### POKER

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972-729-9572 [www.dignitydallas.net](http://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](http://pegasus-squares.com).

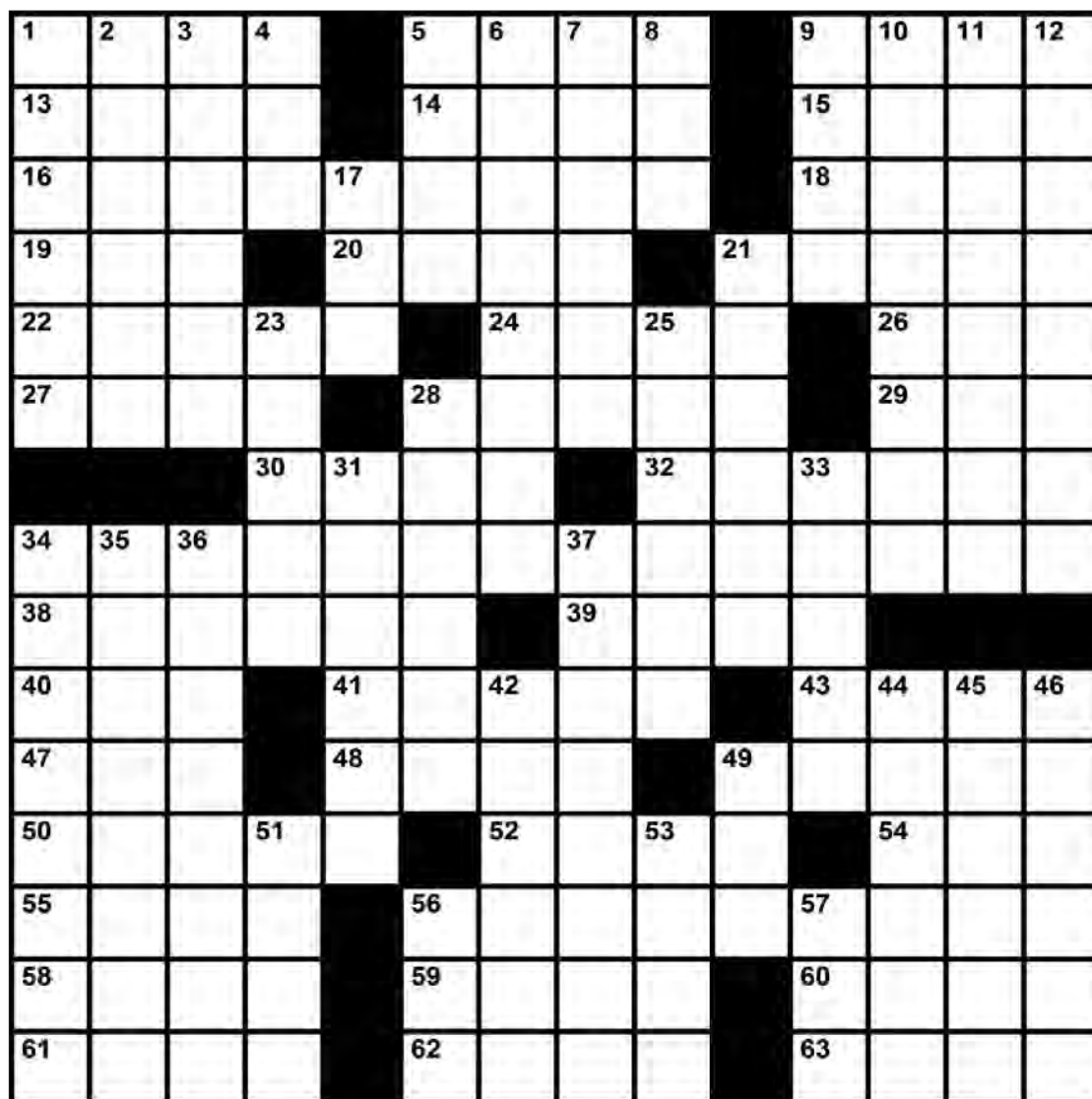
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## q-puzzle



## The Peace of Zion

### Solution on page 29

#### Across

- 1 Tennis stadium in Queens
- 5 Out and then some
- 9 Vaulted church area
- 13 She played gay in *Silkwood*
- 14 Signorile's column, with "The"
- 15 Tallulah Bankhead's home, for short
- 16 \_\_\_ Square (Zion Square's new name in honor of Shira Banki)
- 18 "Like \_\_\_ not"
- 19 Get behind
- 20 Spread it and lick it
- 21 Leather band
- 22 Like the Seven Dwarfs
- 24 It makes watching porn harder
- 26 First person in Berlin
- 27 Practice for a boxing match
- 28 Flynn role opposite Davis
- 29 Comedienne Margaret
- 30 Highly competent
- 32 Painter Freud
- 34 Event at which Banki was murdered
- 38 Flees to become wife and wife
- 39 Trust (with "on")

- 40 Pre-Epstein Beatle Sutcliffe

- 41 Out in front
- 43 Throw rocks at
- 47 It comes before Jack
- 48 Cameron and Mitchell, to Lily
- 49 You can use it to go down
- 50 First indications of orientation
- 52 Eats without one's dentures
- 54 Horny African animal
- 55 San \_\_\_ of the Italian Riviera
- 56 Location of 16-Across
- 58 Richard of *A Summer Place*
- 59 Deity on *Xena*
- 60 Rowlands of film
- 61 Roos and others
- 62 "Hey, over here!"
- 63 The A in GLARP (abbr.)

#### Down

- 1 Rupert Everett and Simon Callow
- 2 Make an appearance
- 3 *All's Well That Ends Well* heroine
- 4 Before, once
- 5 It gets a gel hard
- 6 Handled tactfully
- 7 Foppish neckwear

- 8 No. 6 to P-town
- 9 Some
- 10 *The Price of Salt* author Highsmith
- 11 Pleasured orally
- 12 Stick it in an orifice
- 17 Siegfried's partner
- 21 Like some relations
- 23 *The Sound of Music* name
- 25 Cried like a bitch
- 28 Inventor Otis
- 31 Coats with crumbs
- 33 Where one may be laid in the grave
- 34 Flipped off, perhaps
- 35 Bruce Wayne, for Batman
- 36 Chicken hawk's target
- 37 Evidence of rubber usage
- 42 They can cut leaves of grass
- 44 Two under scores for Sheehan
- 45 They come out of the closet when beds are made
- 46 *Breakfast at Tiffany's* author Capote
- 49 Sound a snake makes
- 51 Many, many moons
- 53 Can't help but
- 56 Tokyo's nation (abbr.)
- 57 Khan's title



# "The best Fringe Festival in Dallas." Dallas Observer



Over the past 15 years, WaterTower Theatre has hosted more than 100 artists and companies in its nationally acclaimed 11-day fringe festival of music, dance and theatre. Now recognized as one of the most important fringe festivals in the country, the Out of the Loop Fringe Festival has been instrumental in providing a forum for new works, new artists and emerging voices in the arts.

Sponsored, in part, by The Town of Addison and the Texas Commission on the Arts  
Media Sponsor: TheaterJones.com and Dallas Observer

## Out of the Loop Fringe Festival 2016 Performance Schedule

### THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

6:30 pm (L) FREE Art Show Preview (Angie Bolling)  
7:30 pm (MS) \$10 SOLA: Women Dancing Women (Dance Linkages)/Le Train Bleu (DNCEB)  
7:30 pm (ST) \$10 I Love You Honey Bunny (Rite of Passage)  
7:30 pm (SC) \$10 Missionary Position (Glass Half Full Theatre)

### FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

8:00 pm (MS) \$10 Innovation Through Tradition (Avant Chamber Ballet)  
8:00 pm (ST) \$10 Diana Sheehan Sings (Diana Sheehan)  
8:00 pm (SC) \$10 Oh Jesus... (Cattle Prod)  
10:00 pm (ST) \$10 Diana Sheehan Sings (Diana Sheehan)

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

2:00 pm (MS) \$10 SOLA: Women Dancing Women (Dance Linkages)/Le Train Bleu (DNCEB)  
2:00 pm (ST) \$10 Diana Sheehan Sings (Diana Sheehan)  
2:00 pm (SC) \$10 Jane and Mabel (Vox Productions)  
5:00 pm (MS) \$10 The Theatrical Piano (Jeff Lankov)  
5:00 pm (ST) \$10 The King's Face (Shakespeare Dallas)  
5:00 pm (SC) \$10 Missionary Position (Glass Half Full Theatre)  
7:00 pm (L) FREE Ian Ferguson, Guitarist  
8:00 pm (MS) \$10 Prospect High: Brooklyn (Grand Prairie Fine Arts Theatre)  
8:00 pm (ST) \$10 Hunger (Ebony Stewart)  
8:00 pm (SC) \$10 Down That Road (Front Line Cabaret)

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28

2:00 pm (MS) \$10 Innovation Through Tradition (Avant Chamber Ballet)  
2:00 pm (ST) \$10 Hunger (Ebony Stewart)  
2:00 pm (SC) \$10 Missionary Position (Glass Half Full theatre)  
4:00 pm (L) FREE Ian Mead Moore, Guitarist  
5:00 pm (MS) \$10 Prospect High: Brooklyn (Grand Prairie Fine Arts Theatre)  
5:00 pm (ST) \$10 With My Eyes Shut (Goat Song Collective)  
5:00 pm (SC) \$10 And Then I Woke Up (Kris Noteboom)

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29

7:30 pm (MS) FREE Are You Now Or Have You Ever Been Reading (WaterTower Theatre)

### TUESDAY, MARCH 1

7:30 pm (MS) FREE One Word Revolution Reading (One Word)  
7:30 pm (ST) \$10 With My Eyes Shut (Goat Song Collective)

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2

7:30 pm (MS) \$10 Le Petit Lone Star Circus (Lone Star Circus)  
7:30 pm (ST) \$10 I Love You Honey Bunny (Rite of Passage)  
7:30 pm (SC) \$10 Oh Jesus... (Cattle Prod)

### THURSDAY, MARCH 3

7:30 pm (MS) \$10 The Theatrical Piano (Jeff Lankov)  
7:30 pm (ST) \$10 The King's Face (Shakespeare Dallas)  
7:30 pm (SC) \$10 Jane and Mabel (Vox Productions)

### FRIDAY, MARCH 4

8:00 pm (MS) \$10 The Transformation Project (Junior Players)  
8:00 pm (ST) \$10 Pun: A Play on Words (It Ain't Shakespeare)  
8:00 pm (SC) \$10 Down That Road (Front Line Cabaret)

### SATURDAY, MARCH 5

2:00 pm (ST) \$10 I Love You Honey Bunny (Rite of Passage)  
2:00 pm (SC) \$10 Oh Jesus... (Cattle Prod)  
5:00 pm (ST) \$10 Diana Sheehan Sings (Diana Sheehan)  
5:00 pm (SC) \$10 Jane and Mabel (Vox Productions)  
7:00 pm (L) FREE Ian Mead Moore, Guitarist  
8:00 pm (MS) \$10 24-Hour Play Festival  
8:00 pm (ST) \$10 With My Eyes Shut (Goat Song Collective)  
8:00 pm (SC) \$10 And Then I Woke Up (Kris Noteboom)

### SUNDAY, MARCH 6

2:00 pm (MS) \$10 Le Petit Lone Star Circus (Lone Star Circus)  
2:00 pm (ST) \$10 Pun: A Play on Words (It Ain't Shakespeare)  
2:00 pm (SC) \$10 Down That Road (Front Line Cabaret)  
4:00 pm (L) FREE Ian Ferguson, Guitarist  
5:00 pm (MS) \$10 The Transformation Project (Junior Players)  
5:00 pm (ST) \$10 The King's Face (Shakespeare Dallas)  
5:00 pm (SC) \$10 And Then I Woke Up (Kris Noteboom)

L = Main Lobby SC = Stone Cottage  
ST = Studio Theatre MS = Main Stage

Some productions contain adult language, sexual situations and/or violence.  
Please consult the box office for content information regarding a particular performance. There are no refunds or exchanges on individual Loop tickets.



**WaterTowerTheatre**

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**Festival Pass: \$65 (\$55 for WaterTower Theatre Subscribers)**

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**Individual Event Tickets: All tickets are \$10**

Tickets for all Loop shows go on sale  
February 9, 2016 at noon.

Reservations can be made by calling the box office at 972-450-6232.



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