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9

headlines

TEXAS NEWS

- 8 Changing the wedding industry
- 9 Getting in shape: Fit to say 'I do'
- 11 Bringing new energy to Bloomin' Ball
- 12 Bathroom bill dead — for now

LIFE+STYLE

- 16 Hunks and hits of summer movies
- 18 California baker comes to Dallas
- 20 Project documents trans bodies

ON THE COVER

Cover design by Kevin Thomas



11



20

departments

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|-------------|
| 6 | The Gay Agenda | 25 | Calendar |
| 8 | News | 28 | Jenny Block |
| 14 | Community Voices | 29 | Scene |
| 16 | Life+Style | 32 | Classifieds |

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New food pantry open

The new Resource Center Food Pantry is open at 2701 Reagan St. Volunteers stocked shelves over the weekend to get the pantry ready to open May 2.

“Perishable goods should be available next week once refrigeration system is complete,” Resource Center posted on its Facebook page. So perishable items that need to be refrigerated such as eggs, meat or milk are not available yet.

— David Taffet

New play about Shade Schuler

Paul Kalburgi is a practitioner of a movement called “verbatim theater” — a sort of stage version of a documentary film where a playwright interviews and records the actual words of witnesses to real-life events, then mounts them, as spoken, in a theatrical setting. (If you’re familiar with *The Laramie Project*, you’re familiar with the essence of verbatim plays.)

The British-born Kalburgi moved with his partner to Dallas last summer, just as news was breaking of the murder of Shade Schuler — a trans woman of color whose decomposing body was discovered in a field in Dallas.

In the Tall Grass is Kalburgi’s project bringing this story — and the growing rate of transgender violence and murders — to the stage.

The world premiere will take place in a staged reading May 23–28.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Weddington files lawsuit against XTC Cabaret

Attorney Kasey Krummel filed a lawsuit on behalf of Cory Weddington against XTC Cabaret on Sunday, May 1, for damages stemming from an incident that occurred at the club on April 2 in which Weddington alleges he was assaulted by XTC employees.

Weddington is asking for at least \$200,000 in compensation for damages of any kind, penalties, costs, expenses, pre-judgment interest and attorney fees.

The suit alleges that an employee of the club shoved Weddington twice, the second time pushing him to the ground, after which four employees “delivered repeated blows to plaintiff’s head, neck, back, face, shoulder and hips, causing Cory severe and irreparable injuries including a fractured jaw,

broken nose, abrasions, and a seizure disorder caused by trauma to the back of the head.”

The lawsuit also charges that employees then refused to call for emergency help, and that “Defendant’s employees and agents made public statements on social media that Cory is a criminal and deserved to be attacked.”

The defendants have been given 50 days to respond to questions of discovery and the suit asks for a jury trial. Criminal assault charges have not been filed against any XTC employees yet.

The case has been assigned to Judge Tonya Parker.

— David Taffet

Abounding Prosperity’s PJ Moton named one of 10 HIV 360 Fellows

PJ Moton, the interim clinical programs manager for Dallas’ Abounding Prosperity, has been named an HIV 360 Fellow, one of 10 young nonprofit leaders recognized by the Human Rights Campaign and supported by the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

The nine-month program will help these advocates “elevate their work ending HIV in hard-hit U.S. communities,” according to a release. But as PJ told me, “It’s a much bigger deal than I anticipated. We have met all types of big-wigs.” How big are the wigs? I asked. “Traci Turnblad big,” PJ said.

Wow, that’s big.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

How did our out strongman do at the Ronnie Coleman Classic?

This week we ran a story about Jake Briscoe, the out athlete who was competing for the first-time ever last weekend in a bodybuilding/strongman competition in Fort Worth. Jake was just happy to make it to the competitive level — “winning” per se wasn’t the goal... but then again, who doesn’t want to win, even on your first time out?

There was no Cinderella story, however, for Jake... though he wasn’t exactly a wicked stepsister, either. He told writer Rich Lopez that out of 15 contestants, he came in 9th — a more-than-respectable showing, and certainly gratifying for all athletes who sacrifice to achieve something special.

And winning isn’t proof of greatness, anyway... I mean, look who’s winning the GOP presidential race...

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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THE GAY AGENDA

Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at nash@dallasvoice.com or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at taffet@dallasvoice.com by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue.

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with this week's guest is LGBT activist **Erin Moore**; **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Treymore Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org.

MAY

• **Through May 30: Scarborough Renaissance Festival**
Scarborough Faire features 200 quaint shoppes, food and grog from around the

world, swordplay, comedy, birds of prey, magic and more. Weekends from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at Scarborough Village, 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie.

• May 6: Who's Your Daddy?

The United Court of The Lone Star Empire hold a show and auction benefiting The UCLSE General Fund. Cocktails at 7 p.m. Showtime at 8 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

• May 6-7: Marriage Class: Preparation, Enhancement and Renewal

Explore the dynamics of family, future, finances, faith and faithfulness in your relationship with Rev. Colleen Darraugh. Friday from 7-9:30 p.m. and Saturday from noon-5:30 p.m. at MCC of Greater Dallas, 1017 S. Elm, Suite #105, Carrollton. \$60 per couple. Register at reveagle@gmail.com.

• May 6-8: The Grace Project

The world's largest conference for women living with HIV takes place at a hotel in the Coit/LBJ area. For more information contact Angela Huddy at Legacy Counseling Center at angela@legacycounseling.org or 214-520-

pet of the week / MONKEY

Monkey, a Brussels Griffon terrier, almost 6 years old and weighing about 12 pounds, is a feisty fellow who loves being held but also has energy to burn. He does not like being crated, and isn't so fond of children, and will need a stern owner to remind him who is in charge. Monkey's adoption includes a scholarship pairing the new owners with a certified trainer to make his transition to his new home successful.



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

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• **May 7: Park Cities/
Central Dallas Democrats**

Zach Thompson and Christopher Perkins of Dallas County Health and Human Services will discuss what's happening healthwise in Dallas from AIDS to Zika. 10:30 a.m.-noon at University Park Public Library, Suite 200, 8383 Preston Center Plaza.

• **May 7: Red in Wonderland Party**

Dallas Red Foundation, Clay Cooley Auto Group and Stoli Vodka present "*Red in Wonderland*," a silent and live auction party to raise funds for Dallas Red Foundation. Features a DJ, dancing, a performance by Miss Red Raquel Blake and a live musical performance by Chris Chism. Tickets are \$35 in advance at RedInWonderland.EventBrite.com, and \$50 at the door. From 8-11 p.m. at Seven for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd., Ste. 107.

• **May 7-8: Dance with the Sun**

An autobiographical one-act play written and performed by mother and son Stella Hlad and Scott Ramsey. 7 p.m. on Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• **May 10: Awareness about the care needs of LGBT older adults**

Light dinner, the film *Gen Silent* and a panel discussion about challenges of LGBT aging in our culture presented by Ed-U-Care. 6 p.m. at The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd.

• **May 10: Stand Up!**

Trans Pride Initiative invites anyone interested in becoming involved in leading or participating in a peer support group. 6 p.m. at TPI Community Center, 501 Wynnewood Village, Suite 213.

• **May 11: Anti-violence committee meeting**

Outrageous Oral 20



The Dallas Way's Outrageous Oral program features, from left, Michael Doughman, Mary Mallory and Dickie Weaver. The event starts at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 12, at The Round-Up Saloon.

Addressing violence against trans and non-gender-conforming people. 6 p.m. at TPI Community Center, 501 Wynnewood Village, Suite 213.

• **May 12: Trans Survivors Group meeting**
Peer support group. 6 p.m. at TPI Community Center, 501 Wynnewood Village, Suite 213.

• **May 12: Outrageous Oral 20**

The Dallas Way's oral history project welcomes Dickie Weaver, Mary Mallory and Michael Doughman at 7 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. (New location because of construction in the Rose Room).

• **May 12: Gray Pride presents Senior Moments: Supporting healthy minds and spirits**
SMU's Center to Family Counseling will lead a discussion exploring the practice of mindfulness and stress management to support healthy minds and spirits. From 6-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St.

• **May 13-14: Contemporary Relationships Conference**
Learn and discuss ways to strengthen LGBTQ dating, relationships, and parenting with over

30 international and national speakers from 8 a.m.-5:15 p.m. on May 14. Pre-conference institutes take place May 13. Both events are held at St. David's Bethell Hall, 301 E. 8th St., Austin. For more information and to register visit Bit.ly/1tZKykeor e-mail info@contemporaryrelationships.com.

• **May 14: Bloomin' Ball**

Ron Corning is the honorary chair of Sewing Seeds of Hope benefiting AIDS Interfaith Network at 5 p.m. at Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway.

• **May 14: TAG'S Annual Ball**

"007: A Night With Bond," Tyler Area Gays' 2016 Annual Ball, features casino tables, cash bar, live music, heavy hors d'oeuvres, silent auction and more. Tickets are \$40 in advance, \$45 at the bar; student tickets are \$35. For tickets and more information visit TylerAreaGays.com. For information email info@TylerAreaGays.com or call 903-312-2081. 6 p.m.-midnight, at Holiday Inn Tyler South Broadway, 5701 S. Broadway Ave.

• **May 14: MetroBall Winstar Casino Party Bus Trip**

Buses leave Sue Ellen's parking lot at 8:30 a.m. and Collin Creek Mall at 9 a.m. Arrive Winstar

Casino at 10:30 a.m. and depart Winstar at 2 p.m. Arrive Plano at 4 p.m. and Dallas at 4:30 p.m. \$75 for one person, \$125 for two and \$150 for three. Proceeds benefit the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund and MetroBall. Tickets at MetroBallExpress.BrownPaperTickets.com.

• **May 14: Yoga of 12-Step Recovery Workshop**

Yoga of 12-Step Recovery Workshop featuring Y12SR-certified instructor Julie Wright, and including detailed discussions, handouts and an all-level asana practice, is from 1-3 p.m. at City Yoga, 4311 Belmont Ave. Admission is \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. For information visit CityYogaDallas.com

• **May 15: 33rd International AIDS Candlelight Memorial**

AIDS Walk South Dallas presents the local observance from 3-5 p.m. at Cosmopolitan Congregation of Dallas, 1812 N. Haskell St.

• **May 17: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas**
May meeting with speaker Rebecca Cowle from Texas Central, the high-speed rail project that will create a 90-minute trip between Dallas and Houston. 6:30 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

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Changing the wedding industry



Christy Matthews moved from San Francisco to Dallas before planning her first same-sex weddings

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Before Christy Matthews moved back to Dallas, she worked as a wedding planner in San Francisco. But she didn't do her first gay wedding until she returned to Texas. That wedding took place on New Year's Eve, the happy couple's 27th anniversary.

"They never thought they'd be able to marry," Matthews said, calling their wedding one of the most joyous she's ever attended.

Matthews' parents are Mark and Lisa Daly, co-presidents of Fort Worth P-FLAG. Her brother, now 30, came out at age 18, right after he graduated from high school. She said her parents were leading the P-FLAG group within a year.

So there was no question when she became a wedding planner that same-sex weddings would be a focus of her business.

Matthews moved to California for college, then stayed in San Francisco and became an actress. She worked with a small theater company that did improv. That's where she first learned the art of event planning.

The theater company traveled a lot, she said, so "we — ultimately I — had to do everything ourselves." The skills that took, she said, are very similar to ones needed in event planning — working with vendors, creating a timeline, making sure everything is in place so that things go smoothly and as planned.

Eventually, Matthews went back to school and became a certified wedding planner. The course

involved reading and writing contracts, business classes and, as a final project, planning a full wedding. She said fewer than 50 percent of students pass the course.

In California, Matthews had a partner in wedding planning. Last June, when her husband was transferred to Dallas, she came back home and set up her own business, this time specializing in same-sex weddings.

Matthews said she has noticed quite a few differences between gay and straight weddings. "The straight couples are very young" for one thing, she said.

That means in planning a straight couple's wedding, she works mostly with the parents who are the ones paying for everything. Her same-sex couples, though, tend to be older and self-sufficient, which means parents aren't often involved in planning phase. One exception is a young lesbian couple she's working with now, who both have

very supportive moms.

"Same-sex couples are established and know what they want," Matthews said. While straight weddings tend to be copies of each other with little innovation, "Gay weddings are more custom," she said.

Everything from venue to stationery are more individualized for same-sex couples in Matthews' experience. She said one couple created their own font and drawing for their invitations and thank-you notes to better reflect who they are.

Same-sex couples are adapting some traditions and at the same time creating some new ones of their own, she said. Cocktails before the ceremony or a toast during the ceremony are becoming common in same-sex weddings, but are rarely seen in opposite-sex weddings.

Traditionally, the bride can't see the bridegroom before the wedding. What about the same-sex couple that's been together for years? Matthews said that's not a tradition transferring to gay or lesbian

INDUSTRY, Page 13



Christy Matthews, seated, worked as a wedding planner with her first same-sex clients, inset upper left, on New Year's Eve.

Fit to say 'I do' {

Expanding

Katherine Bahlburg's Bars and Barbells Wedding Fitness business is growing so fast, that she is planning to open her own studio soon, in a space on the eastern edge of the gayborhood. She also plans to add personal trainers to her staff "so maybe I can have a day off now and then."

Bahlburg said she plans to hold auditions at the end of May for trainers to join her business, and hopes to open her studio in June or July.

For more information about becoming a Bars and Barbells client or trainer, visit Bahlburg's website, BellsAndBarbells.com.



Bars and Barbells trainer Katherine Bahlburg works exclusively with engaged couples

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

"I have a passion for fitness and for helping people."

That's Katherine Bahlburg's explanation of how she is able to work 17 hours a day as a personal trainer and still be brimming over with energy, excited about the work she does and the clients she works with.

And while having a passion for fitness and for helping people may not be unusual traits for a personal trainer, it is Bahlburg's clients that set her apart from the pack: She only works with men and women who have gotten engaged and are trying to get in shape for their wedding day.

Bahlburg moved back to Dallas a little less than two years ago and started her own business, Bars and Barbells Wedding Fitness a little over a year ago. She said with Bars and Barbells, she feels like she finally found her niche, and she has been going full speed ahead ever since.

The road back home

Bahlburg was born in Dallas, but, she said, "I never really grew up here. I never really made friends here when I was a kid, and I never really felt like I was from here."

"I've always been a nomad," she said.

She went away to a boarding school in New York and from there, moved to Florida to attend the University of Miami and the University of Tampa. When she finished her undergraduate degree, Bahlburg headed to Arizona to attend graduate school. But her restless spirit nudged her out of Arizona, and she headed to California "to live on a sailboat for awhile."

Then she moved again, this time heading across the Pacific to Hawaii where she planned to get a master's degree in business administration.

"Then I dropped out to spear fish and sky dive," Bahlburg said. "I had all kinds of jobs in Hawaii. For awhile I tried to do the corporate thing because that's what I thought I was supposed to do — you know, the whole nine-to-five thing, with the briefcase and all. But that didn't work. I worked in a Costco in Hawaii, where I had to wear this horribly ugly muumuu. I was a nanny for awhile."

But through it all, Bahlburg's passion for fitness stayed with her. She had been a competitive swimmer since childhood, and involved in Olympic-style lifting since college. In Hawaii, she became

involved in cross-fit, and paddling "in old-fashioned canoes. She started coach and working as a personal trainer, too.

But the restlessness set in again, and Bahlburg headed back to the mainland, stopping first in Seattle because her father has a house there. From Seattle, she set out for Dallas, taking two weeks to make the trip stopping to work out at a new gym every day of the trip.

"I decided to come back to Dallas because, first of all, my parents still have a house here, in Frisco. The economy was good, and I felt like it would be a good place to be," she explained.

At first, Bahlburg said, she was "all over the place. I would go to one place to teach rowing, then somewhere else for spin classes, then somewhere else for a different class. I was spreading myself too thin. And then one day, I woke up and I realized I was miserable working for other people. And that's when I had a little mini nervous breakdown in my apartment."

Finding her niche

That breaking point, Bahlburg said, was when it became very clear to her that what she really wanted was to operate her own personal training and fitness business. And she realized, like a bolt from the blue, that focusing her attention on train-

ing brides- and bridegrooms-to-be would set her apart and make her business unique.

"That was about 13-and-a-half months ago, and business has just been growing exponentially," Bahlburg said. She has been steadily adding new clients, helping each and every one reach their wedding day goals.

But, she added, as much as she helps them, her clients have helped her, too.

"Every single client has added some incredible element to this whole thing," Bahlburg said. One client helped her write up a business plan, another has helped with marketing — and the list goes on. "I believe that light attracts light," Bahlburg said. "You help others, and others will help you."

Another aspect of Bells and Barbells that sets Bahlburg apart from other personal trainers is the network of vendors she has built, something that gives her clients added value for their money. Bahlburg explained that when she first started out, she tied business cards to little pink barbells and took them to every business she could think of that newly-engaged couples might visit — everything from bakers, to florists, to wedding venues, to photographers and more. And as they have helped her build her business, she has helped build theirs by referring her clients to the vendors in her network.

"My clients get a B-and-B membership card, and they can take that card to any of the vendors in the network and get a discount — on a cake, on flowers, on photos,

just whatever," she explained.

Bahlburg offers her clients a variety of personal training services, including three-month programs and six-month programs leading up to their wedding day. She also has a weekly free class for clients, encouraging them to bring someone from their wedding party with them to participate.

"Maybe you don't know your future mother-in-law very well. Bring to my class with you, then afterwards go out to brunch together," Bahlburg suggested.

And while she started out focusing on brides-to-be, she is branching out, offering training for bridegrooms-to-be. And it's not just opposite-sex couples; Bahlburg wants same-sex couples to know she is eager to work with them, too.

She added that every client gets a workout personalized specifically for their goals. "They tell me what they want to accomplish. They bring in what they are going to wear for their wedding. They tell me what they want, and I create a workout to help them get there," Bahlburg declared. "That's why you see my clients just crushing their goals."

For Bahlburg, clients often become family. She is often invited to their weddings, and many want to continue training with her beyond their wedding day. To make that possible, she said, she has come up with #FitHubby and #FitWifey.

"Even though I work mainly with people who want to get in shape for their wedding, it's not just about getting fit for the wedding. It's about helping them get fit for the rest of their lives," she declared. ■



Personal trainer
Katherine Bahlburg



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Traditions: Breaking old ones, making new ones



TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
and
DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer

Over the last decade and a half, as the battle for marriage equality built toward the ultimate victory that came on June 26, 2015, we heard a lot of talk about “traditional marriage” — mainly about how we, as lesbians and gay men were going to destroy “traditional marriage.”

But it’s been almost a year now since the U.S. Supreme Court’s historic ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, and the sky hasn’t fallen. Bigamy hasn’t been legalized, and neither has either incest or interspecies marriage.

And “traditional marriage” still stands. It just stands for everyone now, instead of only a select heterosexual few.

The truth is, though, that while traditional marriage stands firm, many wedding traditions are changing, for opposite-sex couples as well as same-sex couples. And that is perfectly OK. Perhaps the old wedding traditions don’t fit this new age of marriage, but there’s no rule saying we can’t create new ones.

Traditionally, a wedding has signified a new beginning, a time when two people come together to create a new life as a couple, as a new family. But for many of us in the LGBT community, especially over the last year, a wedding is simply putting a legal knot in ties that have bound us together as couples, as families, for many years.

So wedding traditions, many of them rooted in

superstition, have little or no meaning for same-sex couples. For example:

- Rice is often thrown at a newly-married couple, symbolizing fertility. That’s not usually an issue for same-sex couples.

- Brides wear white to symbolize their purity, a tradition started in the Western World by Queen Victoria in 1840 (it was a Japanese tradition long before then). Again, not an issue with same-sex couples, many of whom have been in committed relationships for years before having the chance to make it legal.

- The tradition of the bride wearing a veil started in ancient Greece and Rome, where the veil was believed to shield her from evil spirits. Well, considering the level of anti-LGBT animosity out there in the world, maybe we should keep this tradition, and have the brides and bridegrooms — and the attendants, and the officiants, and the guests — wear veils.

Of course, back in the days when brides and bridegrooms didn’t know each other and likely had never seen each other until joined in arranged marriages, veils were used to keep the bridegroom from seeing the bride’s face until the vows were exchanged and the marriage a done deal. Considering that same-sex couples often have been waking up to each other’s faces for years by the time they marry, that’s a useless tradition.

- It is tradition in Denmark for brides and bridegrooms to cross-dress to confuse the evil spirits. I think we’ve got that one covered.

- And again with the “warding off evil spirits” efforts, perhaps we should trade the modern tradition of wedding flowers for the older tradition of using strong-smelling herbs, like thyme and

SAME-SEX, Page 13

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From volunteer to employee



A friend's HIV diagnosis put Nestor Estrada on the path to AIDS activism, organizing

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When Nestor Estrada's friend began showing symptoms of pneumonia, Estrada knew his friend needed to be tested for HIV. As he got sicker, Estrada insisted that he be tested.

Estrada still gets emotional talking about it. He and his friend went together for HIV tests and his friend's came back positive. That was the first person he knew with HIV.

The next step was to get his friend into treatment and within weeks, the friend's health began to improve.

"Drugs and treatment are so important," Estrada said.

Recently, Estrada's husband, Cesar Aragon, was doing graphics for AIDS Interfaith Network's upcoming Bloomin' Ball fundraising gala. So Estrada began volunteering for the event. He said he had plenty of time because he was between jobs.

AIN Event Coordinator Miranda Grant said first Estrada was in the office a few days a week. Then every day. Then all day every day.

But when Aragon told him, "You can't be a socialite forever," Estrada convinced AIN Executive Director Steven Pace to hire him.

"He basically was working there [already] and we just made it official," Grant said.

AIN hired Estrada as a consultant and he is now working full-time on the 10th annual Bloomin' Ball, set for May 14. Then in November, the agency celebrates its 30th anniversary, and Estrada plans to make that event bigger and better than AIN's annual fall event, The Great

Gatsby Party.

In between, there's Black Tie Dinner, and Estrada said he will be spending a lot of time convincing the community to support the services AIN offers. "If we grow financially, we can reach more clients and touch more lives," he said.

AIN Executive Director Steven Pace said Estrada's brought a fresh new energy to Bloomin' Ball. "His passion and interest as a younger person is refreshing to see," he said, adding that he is happy to see younger people who didn't see the height of the AIDS crisis taking an interest in HIV services and prevention.

Estrada "works very hard and brings many new resources and donors to the table," Pace added.

Over the years, the Howie Daire Center has been among the AIN programs hardest hit by financial cuts. Grant said that the clientele for the center, which offers respite care for people with HIV, has changed to serve an older population. Between 40 and 60 people use the center each day.

The agency also provides translation services for everything from diagnoses and treatment to documents needed for everyday living. "Linguistic services not only serves our clients, but agencies throughout the system," Pace said.

AIN provides transportation services, each year giving clients 140,000 DART passes that allow them to get to doctor's appointments, pick up medications and go shopping for food. The agency serves people in 13 counties in North Texas with emphasis on Ellis, Navarro and Henderson counties specifically.

In those areas, clients share van rides to come to Dallas for appointments and then spend hours between appointments at the Daire Center. Once all of the appointments are done, they're given a van ride home.

AIN provide 26,000 meals for clients each year as well, not including meals arranged by volun-



Nestor Estrada, above left, with Miranda Grant. Above, Estrada with his husband Cesar Aragon.

teers for the agency's Saturday Night Live weekend meal program.

Grant said groups of friends, offices, churches and other organizations get together to provide dinner for the Saturday Night Live program, held from 2:30-5:30 p.m. at the AIN office. Groups can bring in food themselves or, with about a month's notice, arrange with Panera Bread or Jason's Deli to have the meal catered at no cost to the group.

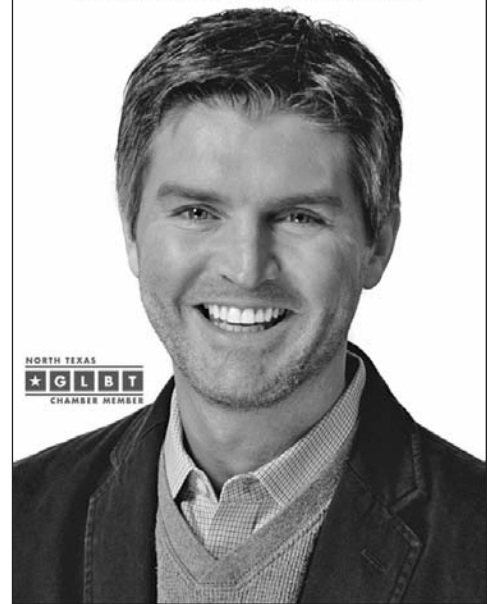
She said the fun part is mixing and mingling and enjoying the meal with the clients once they've all been served.

One of Estrada's goals this summer is to get people to come tour AIN's new office. They moved a year ago to a complex on Stemmons Freeway, between Inwood Road and Medical Center Drive.

"I want people to have a better understanding of what this small agency is doing," Estrada said.

AIN may be small, but its reach throughout North Texas is enormous as it makes sure clients can access the services others offer. ■

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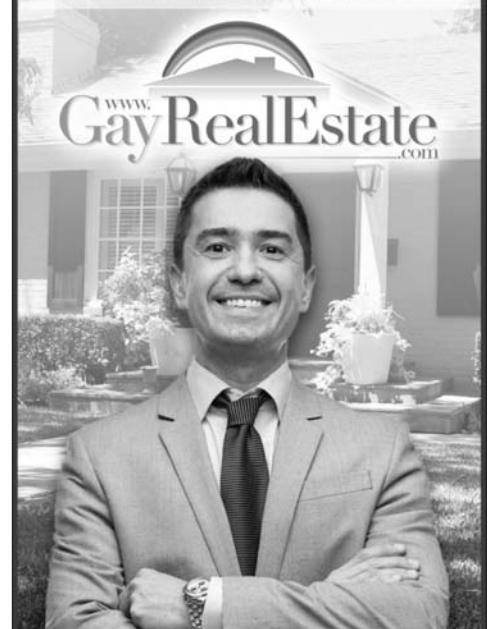
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'Bathroom bill' stymied in Rockwall — for now

TAMMY NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

A proposed ordinance that would have prohibited transgender people from using the appropriate public restroom in Rockwall died on the vine this week, when Rockwall Mayor Jim Pruitt couldn't even get a second to his motion that the city council vote on the ordinance.

Councilmen also defended Pruitt against accusations by some residents that the mayor only introduced the ordinance to try and use controversy over the issue to make a name for himself among conservative voters in hopes of being elected to higher office in the future.

"This is not a transgender issue. But it's been hijacked to be a transgender issue," insisted Councilman Mike Townsend. "It's all based on

room," Milder said. "But it's not about what I believe. ... It comes down to a policing issue. It's unenforceable.

"Above all else, God commands us to love each other," Milder added. "In a case like this, I ask myself, what would Jesus do? I don't think he'd vote in favor of this ordinance. Instead, I think he'd invite this community into his church."

While the councilmen didn't see the ordinance as being discrimination targeting transgender people, most of the residents who spoke certainly did. Several called the ordinance a "solution in search of a problem," and stressed the ordinance's unenforceability.

"Is the Rockwall City Council seriously suggesting that a business owner needs to inspect a patron's genitals before letting them use the rest-



But the issue may not be dead yet.

While many of the almost 30 Rockwall residents who spoke at the meeting opposed the proposed ordinance because they said it was bigoted and discriminatory, most of council members insisted the proposed ordinance was not aimed at transgender people, and instead said they opposed it because it was "unenforceable" and an unnecessary intrusion by government into private business' affair.

Several times in the debate during the Monday night, May 2 council meeting, Pruitt asked other council members if they would support such an ordinance if it were rewritten to address only public, multi-stall bathrooms on property owned and operated by the city.

"My feeling is, this might be back again in a form more acceptable to those who didn't support it" this time, noted Nell Gaither of Trans Pride Initiative, a transgender activist who helped organize a protest outside Rockwall City Hall prior to the council meeting.

At least four of the city six councilmen, not including Pruitt, said during the meeting that when they first read the proposed ordinance — which Pruitt himself drafted and put on the agenda, and which would require individuals to use public, multi-stall bathroom facilities based on the gender listed on their birth certificates rather than their gender identity and presentation — they supported it. It wasn't until they began thinking through all the ramifications, they said, that they began to have reservations.

Most of the councilmen also said Pruitt proposed the ordinance to address what they appeared to believe is a new policy instated by Target stores regarding use of public facilities by transgender people. In fact, Target simply recently reiterated, in light of North Carolina's infamous bathroom bill, its longstanding policy that employees and customers may use restrooms according to their gender identity.

Target's policy. ... I think this is a security issue."

He acknowledged that there are no known cases of transgender people attacking women or children in public restrooms, but insisted that Target's "new" policy "waves a huge flag, it creates an opportunity that anybody can walk in" the women's restrooms, including sexual predators looking to harm women and children.

"I agree with what I perceive as the intent of this ordinance, which is to protect people who need to be protected," Townsend said. But he added, "this ordinance isn't going to accomplish what we're trying to accomplish," and he suggested the council table it or rewrite it.

Townsend also reiterated his criticism of Target, suggesting that those who disagreed with the policy boycott Target store. He said Target has already lost \$2.5 billion — a claim Dallas Voice has been unable to confirm with mainstream news sources — because people are boycotting over the policy. "That's how you make them stop," he said.

Mayor Pro Tem Dennis Lewis said he, too, "was 100 percent behind" the ordinance when he first read it, and still supports what he sees as the bill's intent to protect women and children. But he said he reconsidered because of his belief that "government should stay out of private business" and because he sees a "huge enforcement problem."

Councilman Scott Milder said his first reaction was also "100 percent support" for the ordinance, and that he believes Pruitt "put it forth with public safety in mind." But, Milder added, after doing "a lot of reading and educating myself" on the topic, he couldn't support the ordinance.

"I don't want a man dressing as a woman going into the women's restroom. But I believe it would cause even more uproar for a man dressing as a woman to go into the men's rest-

room?" resident Sol Vilasano asked. One woman asked what protections the ordinance would put in place to protect transgender and gender-non-conforming individuals from harassment and vigilantism, and several speakers said they were ashamed to see the council even considering such a discriminatory law.

Pruitt said he asked Rockwall County Criminal District Attorney Kenda Culpepper, who is also his wife, to speak as a "resource witness" on why such an ordinance was needed. Culpepper said that suggesting that there are no sexual predators in Rockwall exhibited a "dangerous misunderstanding" of the truth.

She noted one case of a man caught masturbating in his car in a Target parking lot in view of a 7-year-old girl, and another of a man in Dallas County who would follow young boys into the men's restroom at movie theaters and then molest them under guise of being a doctor. She was not able, however, to cite any cases in which someone dressed up as a woman to get into a women's restroom to molest someone.

One of the most impassioned arguments of the evening came from Karen Roggencamp, the mother of a transgender child, who said the ordinance is based on "hideous stereotypes and misinformation," and would "take away the safety" of transgender people in Rockwall.

In a comment posted to the Dallas Voice website, Roggencamp said: "I found the mayor's desperate attempts to get the city council at least to let him discriminate against trans citizens and visitors in city-owned property perhaps the most pathetic moment of the evening. In speaking with him afterward, he continued to contend that this bill has nothing to do with transgender people, and it was only about protecting children — including, he claimed, mine. I am astonished at the illogic and his inability or unwillingness to see what is right before his eyes."

When Pruitt asked if he would support a rewritten version of the ordinance focused on city-owned property, Townsend said it is a "multifaceted issue. ... I don't know. I'd have to see it, think it through."



INDUSTRY, From Page 8

couples.

In straight weddings, usually the bridegroom is standing up front waiting for his bride to walk down the aisle toward him. What are same-sex couples doing? "They're finding different ways to walk down the aisle," Matthews said.

She's seen a variety of variations. Sometimes the couple walks down the aisle together and sometimes there are two aisles and they meet at the pulpit. Sometimes there's an altar in the middle and the couple walks toward each other.

"There's more a feeling of community with your tribe surrounding you," Matthews said of same-sex weddings. "I don't know that that much thought goes into it with a straight wedding."

Same-sex couples are finding new ways of expressing their vows, too. "It's more celebratory and less somber," Matthews said, celebrating not only the couple, but the idea that they can get married.

And, she continued, "Engaged same-sex couples are more savvy in finding vendors who are inclusive." That stems from years of working with companies to improve their workplace policies and benefits and watching out for companies making donations to hate groups.

Matthews said she vets venues before she suggests them to clients. She said she knows many

couples are looking for somewhere with a cool vibe — maybe a downtown hotel like The Joule. In her vetting, however, she makes sure the company won't just book a same-sex wedding, but wants to feature that wedding on its website.

She said if she found a venue to be anti-gay, she wouldn't send a straight couple there either. Who knows who else they really don't like?

A wedding planner can be particularly valuable the day of the event, Matthews said. Details of what happens that day can get most couples frazzled. Where do presents go? What needs to get to the hotel room and what needs to go home? Does the DJ have the names of the couple and know how to pronounce those names correctly? Who needs to be tipped? How does the couple get around on their wedding day?

While most couples know to book a venue, photographer, baker and florist, many don't think about details like parking and transportation for the couple or guests. She said parking can be a headache and warned couples to think about valets, tipping and pay parking.

"It's easy to say gay weddings are not different," she said, "but that's not true." Bridal shows should become wedding shows, she suggested, because same-sex weddings are changing the entire industry. ■



SMAE-SEX From Page 10

garlic, in hopes that the smell would scare away the bad spirits.

• Some African-American weddings include a "jumping the broom" ceremony, dating back to the days of slavery, when the African-American slaves were not allowed to legally marry. Back then, the sticks were placed on the ground for the newlywed couple to step over, symbolically stepping into their new home together. Today, "jumping the broom" symbolizes sweeping away the old, and welcoming in the new. This sounds like a tradition the LGBT community could appreciate.

• A Jewish wedding traditionally ends with the groom stomping on a glass. With same-sex weddings, that tradition continues, however both

grooms or both brides usually break glasses. And that tradition has carried over to some opposite-sex weddings as well, with both bride and groom breaking a glass.

• The wording on the ketuba, the Jewish wedding certificate, has changed dramatically as well. While the rabbi certifies that the bride is a virgin on an Orthodox certificate, a more egalitarian certificate for two grooms or two brides expresses the couple's love and respect for each other. That's a practice that has also been adopted by many opposite-sex couples. ■

Information taken from TheKnot.com, Brides.com, PIBWeddings.com, BrideAndGroom.com and HuffingtonPost.com and David Taffet's brain.



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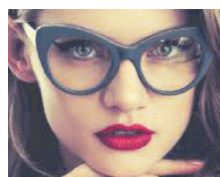
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■ commUNITY voices

Young at heart

Why we need to raise HIV/AIDS awareness among young people

I was 22 years old when I was diagnosed with HIV in 1992. I have now been living with the virus longer than I did without it.



Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr.
Positive Thoughts

I'm grateful for being alive and healthy, but I can't say that I'm happy to have HIV. I want to believe that I'll live long enough to see a cure for HIV, but in the meantime I live with it because I have no other choice.

After testing HIV-positive, I was convinced that I wouldn't even see my 30th birthday. As a young person, I thought that I was being denied something most of us growing up take for granted — dying old. My fear of dying young only grew worse in 1994 when my ex-boyfriend, the person who I believe gave me HIV, died. He was 30.

In 1996, effective HIV treatment finally became a reality. As more and more people began taking the new medications and living as a result, my fear slowly turned into hope. I had lived those first few years after testing HIV-positive as if I wasn't going to have a future. It actually took me a long while to get used to the idea again of growing old.

Much has changed in the HIV epidemic since those dark early days. Treatments have improved. Despite getting diagnosed with HIV today, you can expect to live a virtually normal life span as long as you adhere to effective treatment.

The research is advancing for a cure and a vaccine. New HIV cases are increasingly being prevented.

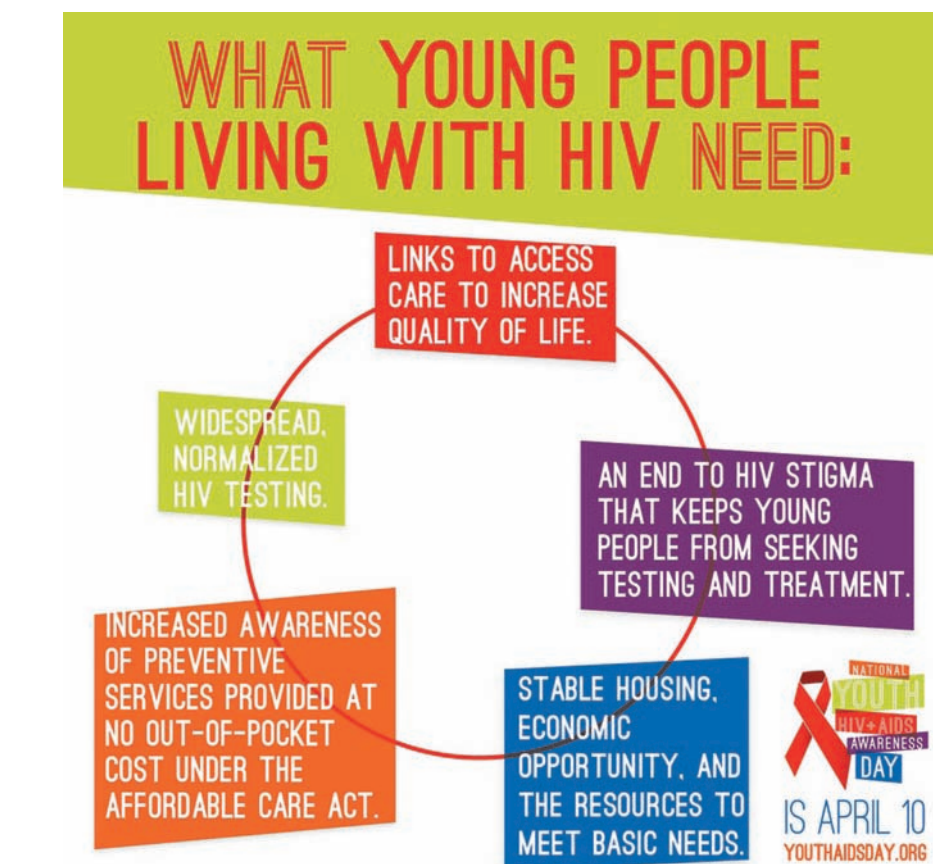
All that said, there remains much that isn't better.

Stigma and discrimination related to HIV are stubbornly resistant to change. Access to care and treatment remain out of reach for too many people living with the virus. Although HIV rates have declined, there are still up to 50,000 new cases each year — and that has been true for many years.

Unfortunately, one of the most disheartening truths about HIV is related to young people. Current estimates are that one in four new HIV cases in the United States occur among people between ages 13 and 24 — and that 60 percent of these young people living with the virus don't know they have it.

That is just unacceptable.

To sound the alarm about HIV among young people, National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day (NYHAAD) was created in 2013. Commem-



orated each year on April 10, NYHAAD seeks to educate the public about the impact of HIV/AIDS on young people. The day also highlights the contributions of young people in the fight against the virus.

The organizer of NYHAAD is Advocates for Youth, a nonprofit that educates young people about reproductive and sexual health. Events will be held nationwide with support materials from the advocacy group. Local groups and individuals will host events at such places as high schools, colleges, churches and community centers.

Awareness day organizers this year are promoting the idea of a NYHAAD Bill of Rights, which asserts that young people should have certain rights and protections related to HIV/AIDS. The declaration has five articles, which are listed below.

Article 1: The right to live free from oppression. Poverty, racism, homophobia and other forms of oppression all contribute to HIV risk and to quality of treatment and care.

Article 2: The right to education. Young people have a right to the education and skills they need to protect themselves from HIV.

Article 3: The right to prevention. Young people have the right to condoms, HIV testing and medication needed to help prevent HIV, and have the right to confidential, affordable and accessible services.

Article 4: The right to treatment and care. Young people are at risk of not receiving medication regularly enough to have their viral load suppressed. We must ensure that all youth have access to accessible and affordable HIV treatment.

Article 5: The right to live without criminalization, discrimination and stigma. Young people living with HIV have the right to freedom and dignity. Laws that criminalize HIV are founded in ignorance and serve only to divert attention and resources from real strategies to end the epidemic.

Approximately 1,000 young people in the United States become HIV positive each month. Undoubtedly, many of these young people living with HIV are LGBT. As such, they need and deserve help from the LGBT community.

To find out how you can help, please go to YouthAIDSday.org for more information. You can also get the latest NYHAAD updates by searching "National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day" on Facebook or following @YouthAIDSday on Twitter.

Oriol R. Gutierrez Jr. is the editor-in-chief of POZ magazine. Find him on Twitter @oriolgutierrez. This column is a project of Plus, Positively Aware, POZ, The Body and Q Syndicate, the LGBT wire service. Visit their websites —HIVPlusMag.com, PositivelyAware.com, POZ.com and TheBody.com — for the latest updates on HIV/AIDS

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THERE

Our annual peek at the hunks (and likely hits) of the summer's movies

We all try to get our beach bodies ready for summer, and Hollywood is no exception: They revel in showing off the abs, pecs and butts of their biggest stars. And they aren't shy about putting women in revealing garbs as well. Is this exploitation? Maybe. But summer is meant to be a little racy, a little fun, a little sexy. And the movies are where we escape to those fantasies.

Of course, it's not just about sex — there are female-centric comedies (The *AbFab* movie, the *Ghostbusters* remake), adventure (*Tarzan*, pictured, *Warcraft*), comic-book craziness (*Suicide Squad*, *X-Men*), animation (*Finding Dory*) and more, all of which turn out in large quantities, starting this week with the unofficial start of summer, as represented by the release of one of the year's most anticipated box office champs, *Captain America: Civil War* (see review, Page 22). But you can count on lots of other movies to come out every week until Labor Day, which is why we created this handy guide for planning your summer of moviegoing. Grab your popcorn and enjoy! ■

— Arnold Wayne Jones





MAY 6
Captain America: Civil War. Reviewed on Page 22.

MAY 13
Money Monster. Jodie Foster returns to the back of the camera to direct this political thriller about a cable financial TV show host (George Clooney, a sexier version of Jim Cramer) whose program is terrorized by a disgruntled investor (Jack O'Connell).

The Lobster. A favorite at last year's Cannes Film Festival (it won the Queer Palm, despite no actual gay content, for its allegorical nudging of societal convention), it stars Colin Farrell as a man who must marry or else he will be transformed into a crustacean. No, seriously.

Sunset Song. This latest film from gay filmmaker Terrence Davies (the original *House of Cards*) got its premiere last month at the USA Film Festival.

MAY 20
The Angry Birds Movie. Perhaps the first app-based feature film adaptation. Yep, we're there now.

Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising. Follow-up to the



hit comedy with Seth Rogen and Zac Efron's abs.

The Nice Guys. Russell Crowe and Ryan Gosling team for this buddy picture, set in Hollywood in the 1970s.

Maggie's Plan. Rebecca Miller wrote and directed this romantic comedy about a woman who plans to have a baby as a single mom, until that goes off the rails.

Love and Friendship. Indie filmmaker Whit Stillman makes a bid for mainstream cred in this light-hearted comedy adapted from a Jane Austen short story.

MAY 27
X-Men: Apocalypse. Out director Bryan Singer is back with this comic book series that focusses on the outsider element.

Alice through the Looking Glass. Follow-up to the noisy, colorful *Alice in Wonderland*, with Johnny Deep once again as the Mad Hatter.

JUNE 3
Popstar: Never Stop Never Stopping. Andy Samberg bring his musical and comedic talents together in this bid for film stardom.

Teenaged Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows. Sequel to the silly comedy, with Megan Fox.

Me Before You. *Game of Thrones'* Emilia Clarke plays a woman who falls for the disabled man she's caring for.

JUNE 10
The Conjuring 2. Sequel to the horror hit of several summers ago.

Now You See Me 2. The unexpected hit about criminal magicians returns with this sequel, now co-starring Daniel Radcliffe.

Warcraft. Film adaptation of the online multiplayer fantasy game.

JUNE 17
Finding Dory. Ellen DeGeneres' vocal performance stole *Finding Nemo* more

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L+S dining



Wedding Issue 2016

SusieCakes founder's unabashedly feminist bakery wants everyone to celebrate the sweet life — including betrothed same-sex couples

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

When Susan Sarich decided she wanted SusieCakes — her 10-year-old California-based bakery mini-chain — outside of its home state, she went about it methodically: She analyzed market data and demographics and came up with a half-dozen cities to consider branching into. But her very first trip was to Dallas, and she stopped the search that day.

"I'm on the intuitive side, and I knew this is where I wanted to be," she says from the floor of

her new Preston Center storefront. "The people here are great — such a strong sense of community. And we're about being the neighborhood bake shop. We want to be the In-N-Out Burger of cakes."

And that meant going old-school.

Every recipe originated from the kitchens of Mildred and Madeleine, Sarich's two grandmothers. And because they make everything from scratch, SusieCakes does; because they didn't use high-fructose corn syrup, preservatives, pre-mixes — or even schmancy add-ons like candied ginger and edible flowers — she doesn't allow them, either. Fondant is *verboden*, while

Susan Sarich's Preston Center cakery wants to be your neighborhood bake shop for daily delights or celebratory wedding cakes. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

buttercream is king. It's just basic, old-fashioned cakes, pies, cupcakes and cookies in classic flavors.

The signature creation is the celebration cake, a six-layer vanilla with confetti decorated in Susie's signature pale blue frosting, but there's also peanut butter, "flawless" chocolate and more. The slate of offerings is pretty set, with seasonal additions, although she did make one concession with the move to Dallas: A cookie in the shape of Texas.

All of these traditions evoke cozy memories of bakeries a generation ago, but SusieCakes isn't your granddad's shop — Sarich has a modern, even feminist, twist.

"We wanted to create a business model where we didn't have to sacrifice everything," she says.

Sarich knew what she wanted from experience. She started her career in the hospitality field, on the business side (she has a degree from Cornell), and saw a lot of women leaving her industry's workforce because of the demands. "Sometimes, you wanna have a date on a Friday night, not work," she says.

And she cultivates a contemporary attitude of inclusiveness — don't worry about *this* local bakery taking a stand against same-sex wedding cakes. In fact, the more challenging and specialized, the more they like it.

"We love customizing, especially wedding cakes," Sarich says. Among the usual selection are a cake with a Barbie Doll imbedded as a cen-



terpiece, but she also has served up Ken Dolls, as well as groom-groom and bride-bride tiered confections. Indeed, the bakers welcome the opportunity to be creative and come up with one-of-a-kind desserts.

It wasn't just Marie Antoinette who advocated to let 'em eat cake; it's Sarich's philosophy as well.

SusieCakes, 6100 Luther Lane in Preston Center. Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. SusieCakes.com. 214-983-2253.

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BOOK REVIEW

The Best Party of Our Lives: Stories of Gay Weddings by Sarah Galvin (Sasquatch Books 2015) \$19; 226 pp.

Even though she always figured she'd end up spending her life with a woman, Sarah Galvin writes that she "certainly had no interest in weddings." They just weren't relevant to her, except for an irksome knowledge that much of the wedding industry was biased against LGBT couples.

Later, as a writer for a newspaper in Seattle, she began getting requests to "crash" weddings and she was "blown away by the things" she saw. Weddings — especially for LGBT couples — weren't what she thought they'd be. Their parties were "the best ones imaginable." The stories of some she found are in *The Best Party of Our Lives*.

When a couple looks back on their boy-meets-boy (or girl-meets-girl) story, there's often an element of surprise. There was an introduction, either traditionally or through modern methods like Craigslist, online or dance rave. Falling in love might've begun with bumps and rough spots, followed by the realization of common interests and the happy idea that you can't get her out of your mind.

No two proposals are alike, although today's couples almost always have some sort of prior discussion on it. The actual "Will you..." might be romantic and accompanied by one or two rings, or it may be an out-loud wondering of whether moving in together means more than merely sharing a home. And just as the proposals are varied, so are the budgets, which usually leads to a DIY ceremony that more reflects the pair.

Some of the couples in this book had entered into domestic partnerships long before they legally "married." One couple debated marriage altogether, figuring that there was no reason to wed as an "affirmation of the love they'd known was true" for years. Some invited nearly everyone they knew, while one couple sent "Don't Save the Date" tchotchkes. There were cakes and cake-toppers, toasts and gifts, and one "thirty-three-year relationship [that] deserved a party."

So you got engaged over the holidays, or maybe you've got love on the brain. How do other LGBT couples make their special days... special? *The Best Party of Our Lives* is packed with ideas on that. If you've got stars in your eyes, a ring on your finger and romance on your mind, you'll barely notice. For you, newlywed-to-be, *The Best Party of Our Lives* will fill you with happiness.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer



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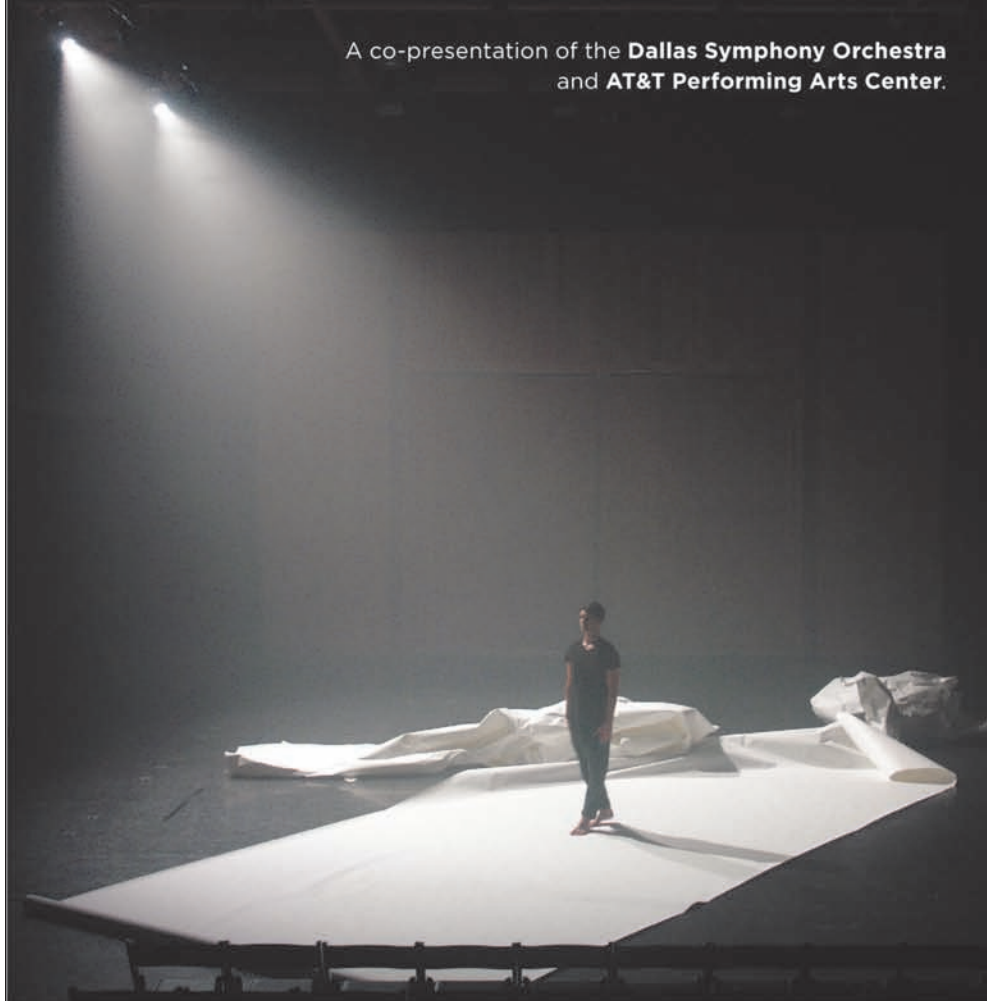
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There's a photograph of Jess T. Dugan from 2005 with bandages over where her breasts used to be. She's standing nude beside her mother and the two are pillars. The photo is a powerful declaration of self — recognizing it, embracing it.

"I have always used photography to understand myself and my place in the world," Dugan says. "At that time I used my work to come to terms with my body and my gender. Those earlier pictures were very much about, 'This is my body, this is my gender, this is my mother, this is my community.'"

Community was a harder find in high school ... and so were gay people, and butch women. Back then, Dugan found her people solely through photography books she sought out in stores throughout Boston's Harvard Square, where she first discovered the power of portraiture. There, she immersed herself (her preferred pronoun) in influential collections of images by Robert Mapplethorpe and Catherine Opie, a photographer known for exploring L.A.'s leather-dyke community.

"I look back and think, 'My 16-year-old self was interested in the same exact thing I'm interested in now,'" says Dugan.

For a decade, Dugan's photographs have explored gender, sexuality, identity and community, capturing the essence of transgender men and women, with a focus on aging adults in the last few years. Her staggering breadth of work has been exhibited internationally at establishments such as the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, the Grey House Gallery in Poland, the Leslie/Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art, and at many colleges and universities nationwide. In addition, her photographs have colored the pages of the New York Times, The Advocate and the Boston Globe.

She's worked for it, earning her BFA in photography from the Massachusetts College of Art and Design, an MFA in photography from Columbia College Chicago and a Master of Liberal Arts in museum studies from Harvard University. In 2015, the fruits of her labor were recognized tremendously when the White House named Dugan a Champion of Change.

That nomination came from Jennifer Levi, director of the Transgender Rights Project at Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders. Dugan previously took portraits of transgender people for a book that Levi co-edited called *Transgender Family Law: A Guide to Effective Advocacy*.

"I am a huge fan of Jess' work," Levi says. "I helped to curate a show Jess did in Western Massachusetts several years ago and was impressed with how her art touched a wide range of people. It was especially important for transgender and gender-nonconforming people to see their faces and bodies included in portraits. Jess' work captures [their] diversity and humanity."

For Dugan, it's "because of my own identity and my community. Deeply, at the core, I'm interested in people and identity and kind of how we each come to be who we are and then how other people perceive us as that person that we know ourselves to be."

At 13, Dugan came out as gay. Five years later, after questioning her gender throughout her teens, she underwent "gender-affirming chest reconstruction surgery" to remove her breasts. She



Queer

Queertographer Jess T. Dugan documents trans bodies in daring new project

now identifies as queer.

Dugan is now 29, and her artistic scope has broadened beyond herself, while also being "deeper and more subtle" in her approach to identity and sexuality. "Those issues are still there, but it's not always my primary need to assert my own identity over and over," she says.

Instead, Dugan has turned the lens outward, using portraiture to spotlight a niche transgender demographic. Her photos of trans people over 50 are honest, empathetic, bold and beautiful. And in the case of Stephanie James, frighteningly real.

"I was a little shocked actually," says James, 66, of St. Louis, Mo. "I've seen zillions of photos of myself since coming out, and I thought I looked pretty old and like a caricature of myself. Jess caught me just as I was."

Even before Dugan met her partner, Vanessa Fabbre, in 2012, her interest in portraying people's authentic self was evident in Every Breath

LIFE+STYLE

photography

eye



We Drew, a project she started in 2005 that examines masculinity in queer communities. Upon meeting Fabbre, a college professor whose research is centered on the intersection of aging and LGBT identity, Dugan narrowed her focus to older transgender and gender-variant adults. Dugan worried that concentrating only on transgender people of a particular age was too specific, but that concern was quelled when she made this surprising revelation: Many young trans people have never seen a photo of an older trans person.

"They didn't know what they'd look like as they got older," she says. "Because of the aging component, people who know nothing about the trans community or are not a part of the trans community relate to the images. People are talking about very universal ideas of wanting to authentically be themselves as they get older and wanting to have lived a life that feels true to them before they pass away."

For her new project To Survive on This Shore, Dugan has made 50 portraits, with 11 more scheduled. Shooting across the United States, Dugan has met a melting pot she says she never would have otherwise. Her subjects share intimate identity stories. On several occasions, she's shot men who medically transitioned in the early 1970s, which, for her, was "amazing because I had never known anyone that had transitioned before maybe the late '90s or early 2000s."

"I think just the whole experience has been moving and has been inspiring to me," Dugan muses, "and really I'm kind of in awe of the strength that each person has. A lot of these stories would be untold or kind of invisible if we weren't trying to capture and preserve them." ■

—Chris Azzopardi

 online exclusive

To see more of Jess Dugan's photos, visit DallasVoice.com.

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Vengeance is mine

Cap & Co. are back, but it's the newcomer who pounces in 'Civil War'



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor

jones@dallasvoice.com

Marvel fans don't want to hear it, but the plot of **Captain America: Civil War** bears striking similarities to DC's recent *Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice*: Both deal with nations getting antsy about whether so much power should be turned over to enhanced humans, and whether anyone but another superhero can keep them in line. In *Justice*, it was the Dark Knight who took on the Man of Steel; here, Cappy (Chris Evans) and Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.) divide over who gets to decide what's best for humanity.

As it turns out, though, it's actually beyond their control — a mysterious figure (Daniel Bruhl) is secretly orchestrating the implosion of the Avengers by framing Cappy's childhood pal (and Manchurian Candidate-like super-warrior) Bucky (Sebastian Stan) for a terrible act of terrorism. (It's sort of like what the Joker did in *The Dark Knight*... though Marvel fans don't wanna hear that, either.)

You have to admire Marvel Studios' commitment to create a Cinematic Universe with as much internal logic as they (and their budgets) can muster. This is possibly the densest concen-

tration of superheroes in any comic book adaptation, with fully a dozen armed and ready to bring it... which they do in several spectacular face-offs.

The action is top-notch, and while my dorkdom doesn't extend far enough to brush over the occasional plot holes, I did get rapt by the introduction of several new heroes — of course Spider-Man (Tom Holland), whose appearance has caused nerdgasms across the web, but it's really the addition of Chadwick Boseman as the Black Panther that got my Spidey sense tingling. Boseman's brief career has been marked by great performances as Jackie Robinson and James Brown, and his Prince

T'Challa — the African potentate who also has the muscular nimbleness of a jungle cat — conveys not only power, intelligence and grace, but also a sort of moral ambiguity in his gravitas.

Comic book movies like to create larger-than-life dilemmas solved by genetically advantaged heroes; here's one whose flawed humanity is compelling. It's the kind of through-line that makes you wanna come back for more... which is exactly what this kind of movie should do. ■

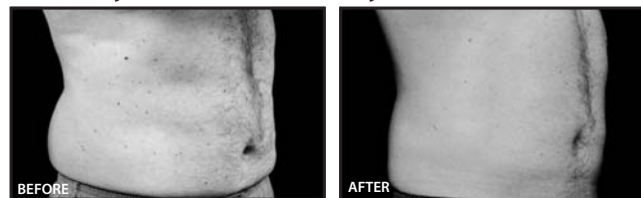
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■ MOVIES, From Page 17

than a dozen years ago; now her character Dory is the one lost in the big ocean.

Central Intelligence. Kevin Hart and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson team in this buddy comedy.

JUNE 24

Independence Day: Resurgence. It's been more than 20 years since the original *ID4*, but much of the cast is back, plus some sexy new blood (Liam Hemsworth) in this sci-fi followup.

The Shallows. A cat-and-mouse thriller, where the cat is a great white shark and the mouse is Blake Lively.

Free State of Jones. Matthew McConaughey stars in this historical drama, set in Mississippi during the American Civil War.

Weiner-Dog. More than 20 years after *Welcome to the Dollhouse*, Todd Solondz revisits lovable loser Dawn Weiner.

JULY 1

The BFG. Steven Spielberg directs this family fantasy about a girl who meets a big friendly giant.

The Legend of Tarzan. We always loved how Alexander Skarsgard wasn't afraid to show off his body on *True Blood*; now we get an entire movie of his abs, with equally sexy Margot Robbie as Jane.

The Purge: Election Year. Third entry in the dystopian horror series.

Cafe Society. The latest from Woody Allen — as always, shrouded in secrecy.

JULY 8

Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates. More sexiness from Zac Efron, Adam DeVine and Aubrey Plaza.

The Secret Life of Pets. An animated comedy about what really goes on when a house filled with privileged pets is invaded by a newcomer — a sloppy rescue dog.

JULY 15

Ghostbusters. More than 30 years after Venkman and company rid New York City of a gigantic Stay Puft Marshmallow Man, a new quartet of supernatural wranglers — all women — are back doing the same. A vey gay-friendly lineup includes out actress Kate McKinnon, plus

Leslie Jones, Melissa McCarthy and Kristin Wiig, with Paul Feig directing.

The Infiltrator. Bryan Cranston continues his string of high-profile performances as a U.S. Customs official who discovers a link to drug lord Pablo Escobar.

JULY 22

Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie. Patsy and Edina are back, boozing it up in this film version of the camp classic Britcom, an iconic gay comedy.

Star Trek: Beyond. The crew of the Enterprise

■ SUMMER Next Page



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Andreas Goss, Randy Harrison, Tommy McDowell and the 2016 National Touring cast of Roundabout Theatre Company's CABARET. Photo by Joan Marcus.

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Friday 05.06 — Saturday 05.14

DTC, Cara Mia cross the border with ‘Deferred Action’

What happens to a DREAM Act deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? That’s the question posed by the world premiere play *Deferred Action*, a co-venture of the Dallas Theater Center and Cara Mia Theatre Co. Locally developed by authors David Lozano and Lee Trull, the play explores the effect of the federal immigration DREAM Act and how its enforcement affects undocumented aliens and their families.

DEETS: Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through May 14.
DallasTheaterCenter.org.

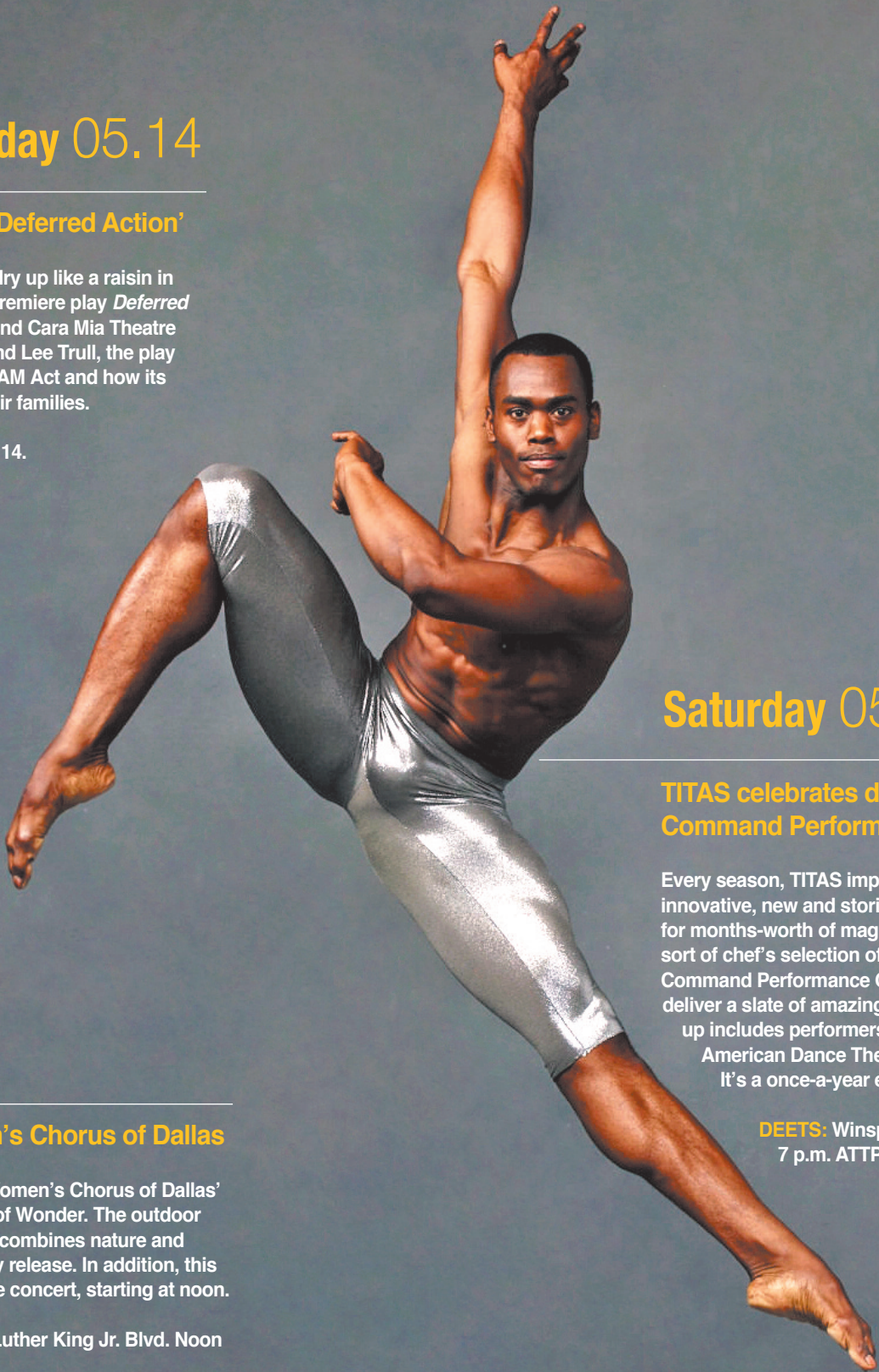
Sunday 05.08

Celebrate Mother’s Day with Women’s Chorus of Dallas

Mother’s Day is almost upon us, and so is the Women’s Chorus of Dallas’ annual spring concert, this year entitled *Voices of Wonder*. The outdoor concert at Fair Park’s Texas Discovery Gardens combines nature and formal music performances as well as a butterfly release. In addition, this year marks the inauguration of a shorter matinee concert, starting at noon.

DEETS: Texas Discovery Gardens, 3601 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Noon and 2 p.m. TheWomensChorusOfDallas.com.

LIFE+STYLE
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Saturday 05.07

TITAS celebrates dance with annual Command Performance Gala and dinner

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DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7 p.m. ATPAC.org.

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ARTSWEEK THEATER

The Big Meal. A romantic comedy about a modern family, from first date to old age. *Final weekend.* Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Deferred Action. A world premiere from David Lozano and Lee Trull about Dream Act-ers. A co-production with DTC and Cara Mia Theatre Co. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through May 14. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

The Great God Pan. The second show in Second Thought Theatre's current season is this drama by Amy Herzog about child sexual abuse and recovered memories. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through May 14. 2TT.co.

Jonah. A world premiere from Len Jenkin, a contemporary retelling of the biblical myth. *Final weekend.* Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St.

Undermain.org.

Memphis. The Tony Award-winner for best musical and best score is this nostalgic but racially-aware portrait of the early days of rock 'n roll. Co-written by Joe DiPietro. Stars Kyle Igneczi (*Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, *Aida*) and Ebony Marshall-Oliver. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through May 22. Theatre3Dallas.com.

The Mighty Valkyries. A world premiere popcorn-tossing melodrama from Pocket Sandwich Theatre, about a city run by butch female superheroes. Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Through May 14.

The Road to Appomattox. A regional premiere about the price we as a people pay for unity. With Jeff Swearingen, Kevin Moore, Catherine DuBord. Greenville Center for the Arts, 5601 Sears St. Through May 22. ContemporaryTheatreOfDallas.com.

Wicked. The return of the mega-hit by Stephen Schwartz, which Dallas gets but North Carolina won't

now! Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. Through May 22. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

FUNDRAISER

Broadway Our Way. Uptown Players’ annual fundraising show, a four-performance revue where men sing showtunes written originally for women and vice versa, plus a preview of this season’s musical, *The Toxic Avenger*. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. May 6 and 7 at 8 p.m., May 8 at 2 p.m. \$40–\$50. UptownPlayers.org.

OPERA

Fort Worth Opera Festival. The Fort Worth Opera returns with its 16-day festival, including the world premiere *JFK* (May 7), Rossini’s popular *The Barber of Seville* (May 6 and 8) and two one-acts, *Embedded* and *Buried Alive* (May 7). Performances at Bass Hall, 525 Commerce St., and the Scott Theater, 1300 Gendy St., Fort Worth. FWOpera.org.

FINE ART

Rebecca Warren: The Main Thing. A mid-career retrospective of the British visual arts and sculptress, in 20 diverse pieces. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through July 17. DMA.org.

Vermeer Suite: Music in 17th Century Dutch Painting. A lovely original Vermeer (one of only 36 in the world) is among the paintings in this intimate exhibit that explores themes in Dutch art. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Aug. 21. DMA.org.

Eye of the Collector. An exhibition of the quirky tchotchkes and unusual tricketts of nine people prove the axiom that every object tells a story. Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2201 N. Field St. Through Sept. 5. PerotMuseum.org.

SATURDAY 05.07

FESTIVAL

Scarborough Renaissance Festival. The annual trip to Medieval Europe, including dancers, musicians, food, crafts and cosplayers. Faire Grounds, FM 66, Waxahachie. Through May 30. 10 a.m.–7 p.m. \$25. SRFestival.com.

SPORTS

Dallas Elite Women’s Football. Dallas’ successful women’s team hosts its last home game against in-state rival Austin. Bishop Lynch High School Field, 9750 Ferguson Road. 7 p.m. \$10. DallasEliteFootball.com.

SUNDAY 05.08

CONCERTS

The Women’s Chorus of Dallas: Voices of Wonder. Annual outdoor Mother’s Day concert. Texas Discovery Gardens, 3601 Martin Luther King Blvd. Noon and 2 p.m. TheWomensChorusOfDallas.com.

MONDAY 05.09

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.

BROADCAST

RuPaul’s Drag Race. The eighth season continues. Logo at 8 p.m.

Real Housewives of Dallas. The new reality show, which features Dallas women (and a regular appearance by Steve Kemble). Bravo at 8 p.m.

Gay for Play Game Show. A new panel show a la Match Game with celeb contestants like Todrick Hall and Carson Kressley; RuPaul hosts. Logo at 9 p.m.

TUESDAY 05.10

FILM

The Treasure of the Sierra Madre. A still-relevant portrait of the power of greed, with an Oscar going to director John Huston and his father Walter in a supporting role. 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 05.12

CABARET

Judy Chamberlain Jazz. The jazz vocalist’s weekly cabaret at Zippers, 3333 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m.

THEATER

The Intergalactic Nemesis. A multimedia performance, as a cheesy graphic novel is embodied by live actors. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. May 12–14. ATPAC.org.

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Girl on Girls

Jenny Block gets off on May: It's National Masturbation Month!

Editor's note: May is National Masturbation Month. You can probably imagine what the best way to celebrate is. If you're a guy, you likely don't need a special month to remind you how great and important — and necessary! — masturbation is. But if you're a woman, that might not be the case.

Our columnist Jenny Block was so intrigued by that dichotomy that she wrote a book on the subject called *The Ultimate Guide to Solo Sex* (Cleis 2016), out this week. Here's a sneak peek into what the book has to offer and why Jenny is not only a clite-vangelist, but also a self-pleasure promoter!

In this life where we share so much in the public space, there are very few things that are all our own. Our bodies and our pleasure in those bodies are two such things. It makes no sense to waste that, and it makes even less sense that others would think they have a right to control or censor our behavior. And yet so many people who have no business poking their noses in are doing exactly that, and creating harmful myths as a result.

Here are nine of my least favorite myths about masturbation:

1. It's shameful.
2. Nice girls don't do it.
3. If you're dating or married, there's no need to do it.
4. It's gross.

5. It's not worth the time.
6. Women don't have strong sexual urges, so there's no point in doing it.
7. A woman will ruin herself for a partner if she does it.
8. A woman does not have a right to her own body or her own pleasure.
9. Women's bodies and sexuality exist solely for male enjoyment.

Not one of those is true. Here's what *is* true about masturbation:

1. It's healthy. Masturbating is good for so many things that ail you. It helps with pain, depression, insomnia, lack of energy and body image, just to start.
2. It's natural. You don't need anything except yourself to do it. We all come equipped with exactly what we need — a female body and a natural, healthy desire to engage in it.
3. It's as important in a relationship as it is out of one. Regardless of whether you are partnered or not, you should have a happy, healthy relationship with the body you live in, and that includes masturbating. You won't wear yourself out or use yourself up. In fact, orgasm and desire beget orgasm and desire. The more you do it, the more you want it.
4. All women should do it. No matter who you are, or what your religion or cultural background. No matter your age or whether or not you are a virgin or what part of the world you live in. Masturbation is an important part of knowing yourself sexually, and nothing should keep you from it.
5. We could set the world on its end if all women did do it. Masturbation is magical. Seriously. If all women masturbated, the world would be a better place. Women who masturbate regularly are happier, healthier, and more self-confident, self-sufficient and self-reliant.

6. It's empowering. It's next to impossible not to feel better about yourself when you masturbate. You know how to make yourself feel amazing, and that is amazingly powerful. You have the power to fuel yourself to do all of the incredible things you want to do. There is no reason not to tap into that source.

7. It can keep young women from looking outward for pleasure. When you're hungry for pleasure, when you're filled with sexual desire — as I hope every woman reading this is — it can distract you from what you are seeking to achieve. It can also lead you to settle when it comes to partnering. "At least it's someone. At least it's access to an orgasm," you find yourself thinking. But when you masturbate, you have an outlet for that desire, and you can focus on the things you want to do and on finding the partner you actually want to be with.

8. It's no one's business but our own. It's great to talk about masturbation, if you feel comfortable doing so, because it helps others to feel comfortable with their own masturbation. But you also don't have to tell a soul. That is one of the best parts about masturbation. It's about no one but you. It involves no one but you. Masturbation is your birthright.

9. It's nothing to be ashamed about.

It makes me angry that a woman making herself feel good is something that some members of society consider a shameful act. I've said it before, I'll say it again, and it won't be the last time you'll hear it from me — there is nothing wrong with masturbating.

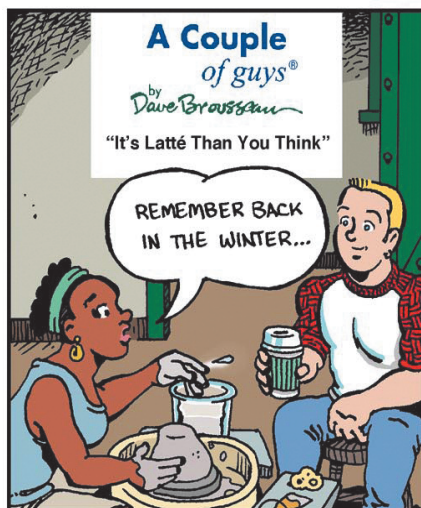


Ever. For anyone. Whatever you have to do to get your mind clear of the critics, do it.

It's not always easy. But it's always worth it. Start by avoiding sex-negative conversations, people and media. Instead, indulge in sex-positive dialogue and reading materials. In the moment, remind yourself that those naysayers are acting out of fear and clinging to misogynistic beliefs that have no value. Take a deep breath, remind yourself that what you're doing is healthy and safe, and trust that those critics are small-minded, hurtful people whose opinions don't deserve your attention. Then, turn your mind to pleasure!

Excerpted from The Ultimate Guide to Solo Sex by Jenny Block, foreword by Betty Dodson.

Have a question about sex you want Jenny to address? Email it to GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com.



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this week's solution

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LIFE+STYLE

SCENE



Mike and John at Alexandre's



Pageant night at The Round-Up Saloon

Making the SCENE the week of May 6-12:

- Alexandre's: Gary Floyd and friends on Friday. Ashleigh Smith on Saturday. Chris Chism on Wednesday. Illumin on Thursday.
- BJ's NXSI: First prize of \$100 for Strip Off from 10 p.m.-midnight on Sunday.
- Brick/Joe's: Miss DIVA Pageant benefits Resource Center Food Pantry at 7 p.m. on Sunday. Jennifer hosts the all new Poker Night at 7 p.m. every Thursday.
- Club Changes: Imperial Court show at 8 p.m. on Friday. Cowtown Leathermen meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday.
- Club Reflection: Texas Gay Rodeo Association meeting at 2 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- Dallas Eagle: United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents Who's Your Daddy Show from 8-10 p.m. on Friday.

- Dallas Bears and Leather Knights club night on Saturday. Trivia Night with Mama Payne from 8-10 p.m. on Thursday.
- JR.'s Bar & Grill: Cassie's Freak Show with Your Highness, Lu Lu, Aaron Rey and Bronx on Monday.
- Round-Up Saloon: Does Your Mother Know? benefits Round-Up Employees Benevolent Association with hosts Anesta Roaches and Peaches at 8 p.m. on Sunday.
- Sue Ellen's: Bad Habits on Friday. Kickback on Saturday. Kathy & Bella at 3 p.m. and Tyla Taylor Trio at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- The Rose Room: Miss Dallas FFI on Thursday.
- Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Woody's XP-C2 Extra Innings from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday. End of Season DIVA Seed Party from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday.

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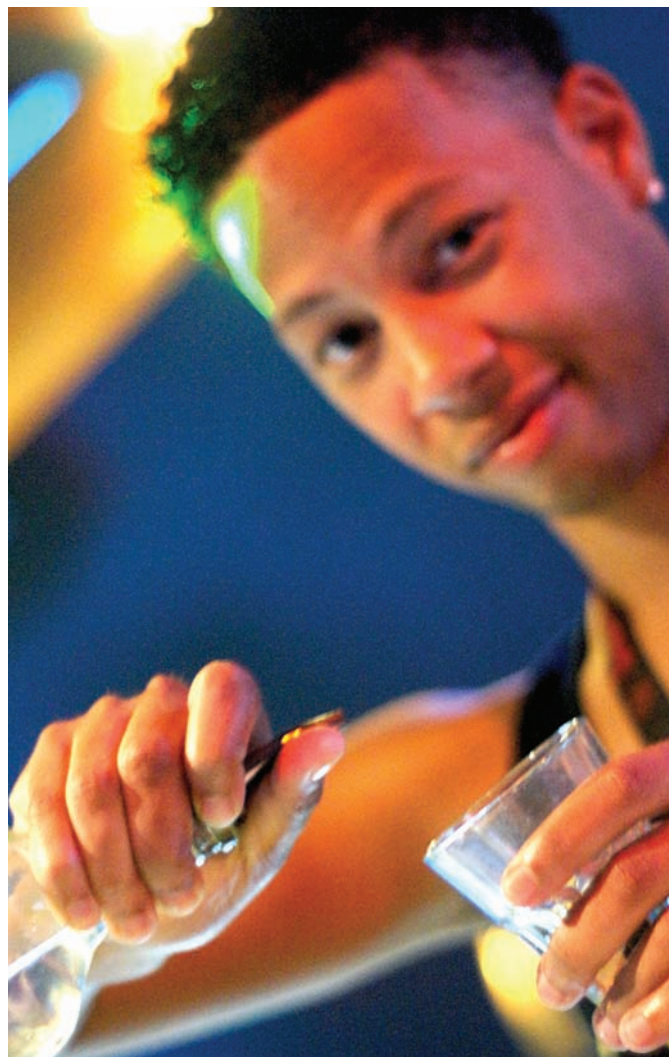
Wayne at Liquid Zoo



Royalty abounds at Scarborough Renaissance Festival, but there's always room for a few more queens!



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Mario at TMC: The Mining Co.



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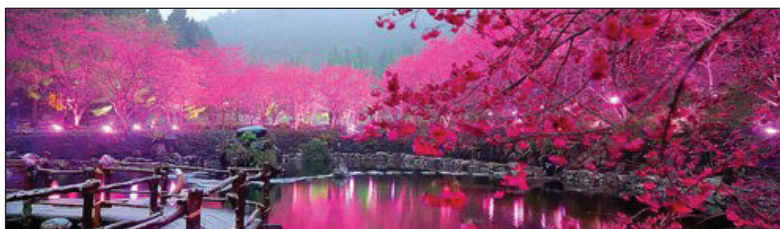
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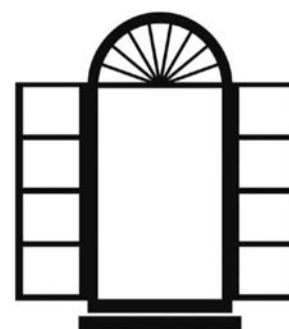
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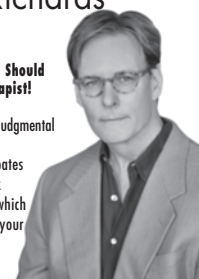
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Pegasus Squares,

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meets every Sunday from

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School of Burlesque, 2924 Main

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at **682-238-3442** for more info.

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For more information contact

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q-puzzle

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| 65 | | | | | | 66 | | | | | 67 | | | |

Legendary Lesbian

Solution on page 27

Across

1 Instrument with several G-strings

5 Toon Le Pew

9 Long, hard one of construction
workers

14 Israeli author Oz

15 Star quality

16 Fosse field

17 Able to bend over

18 *The Unicorn* author Murdoch

19 Standing up straight

20 Legendary lesbian name once
of Lansing

23 Start of an online view

24 Part of UTEP

25 Locale of valuable stones

29 Playful mammal

31 Bottom's cry

33 QAF network

36 Wear at the edges

37 Become like a bear

38 Legendary lesbian name once of
Fort Lauderdale

40 Legendary lesbian name once of
Philadelphia

41 *About Cherry* director Stephen

42 Trial run

43 NYPD rank

44 Succeeds a la Log Cabin

45 Needed some BenGay

47 Kind of IRA

48 "Etta ____" (old comic strip)

50 What an athletic supporter might
do?

53 Legendary lesbian name once
of Portland

57 *One of Ours* novelist Cather

60 Drag queen Gene

61 Fey of *30 Rock*

62 Poet Dickinson

63 Charged particles

64 Out partner

65 Events at Barney's

66 Petrol station choice

67 They wave their sticks in Cincinnati

Down

1 Shakespeare's own?

2 Greek theater opening

3 Composer Ned

4 Anthony Perkins flick of 1960

5 Two of a kind

6 Pole, for one

7 Early contest for Hillary

8 Lets up

9 Head output

10 Big yellow fruit

11 WSW opposite

12 Jock org. for UNC

13 Trysted

21 Come quickly, with "it"

22 Catch in the North Atlantic

26 Quit, with "out"

27 Brand for cutting leaves of grass

28 Adolf's intimate Rohm

30 Russian friend of Kahlo

32 Indiana Fever's conference

33 Look from Snidely Whiplash

34 Greeting for Dolly

35 One of the little hooters

39 Williams of *Brokeback Mountain*

40 Citrus fruit parts

42 Skin decorations

46 Arizona, on *Grey's Anatomy*, e.g.

49 Beatles manager Brian's nickname

51 Kind of drab

52 Adjusted guitar strings

54 G of PFLAG

55 Errol Flynn's *The Sun ____ Rises*

56 Four of the answers in this puzzle

57 Bentley of *American Beauty*

58 "____ Yankee Doodle Dandy"

59 Like a one-incher, in Dogpatch

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