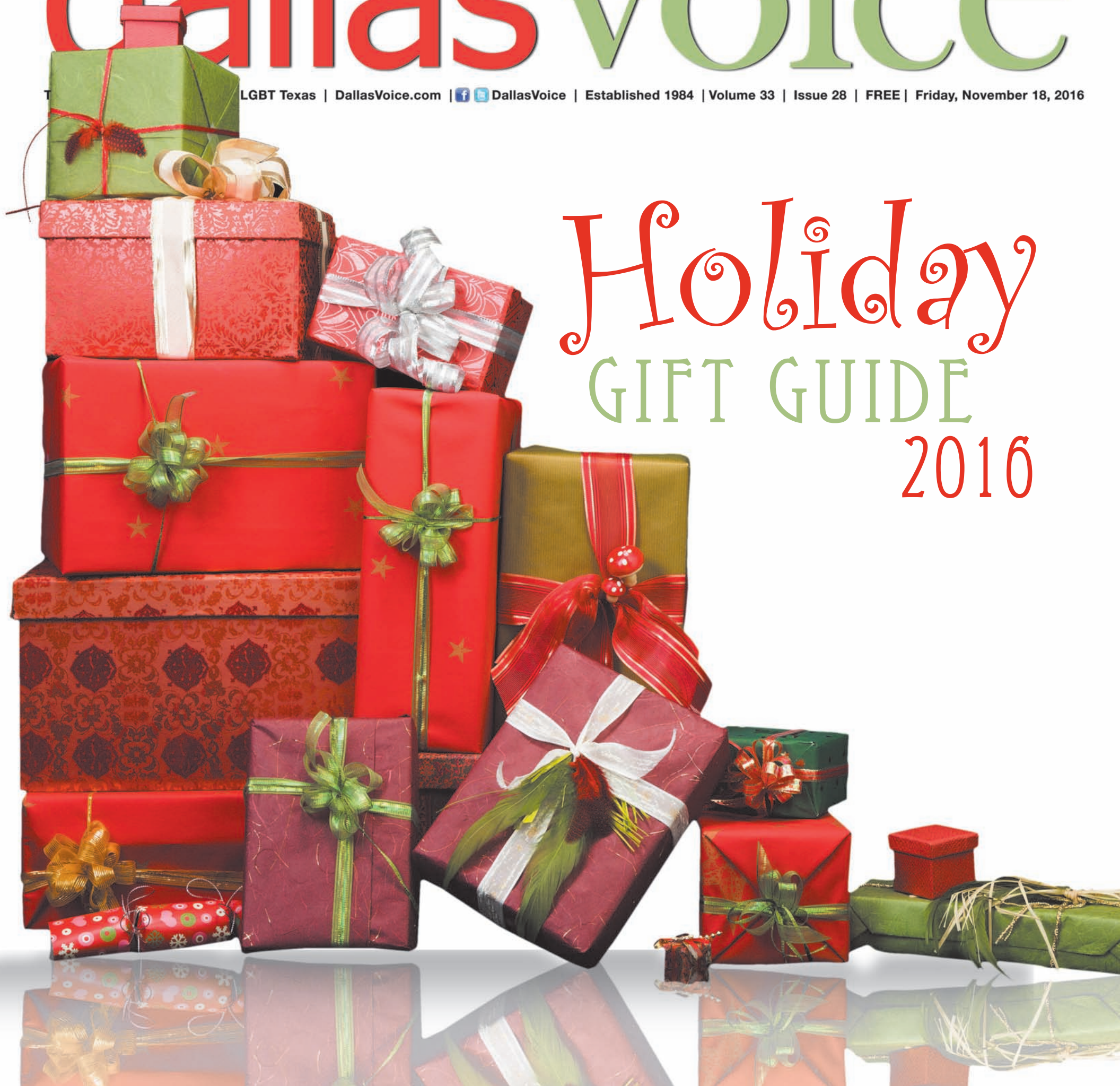


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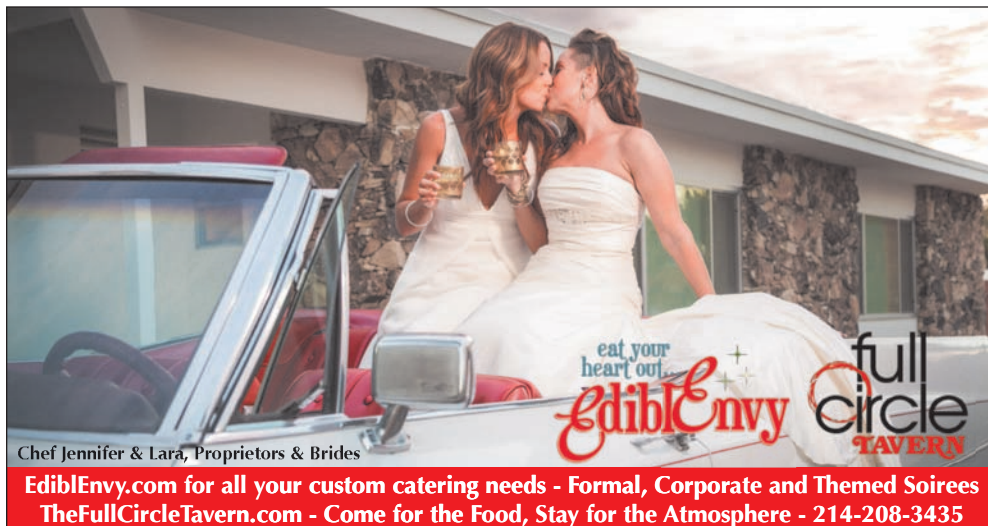
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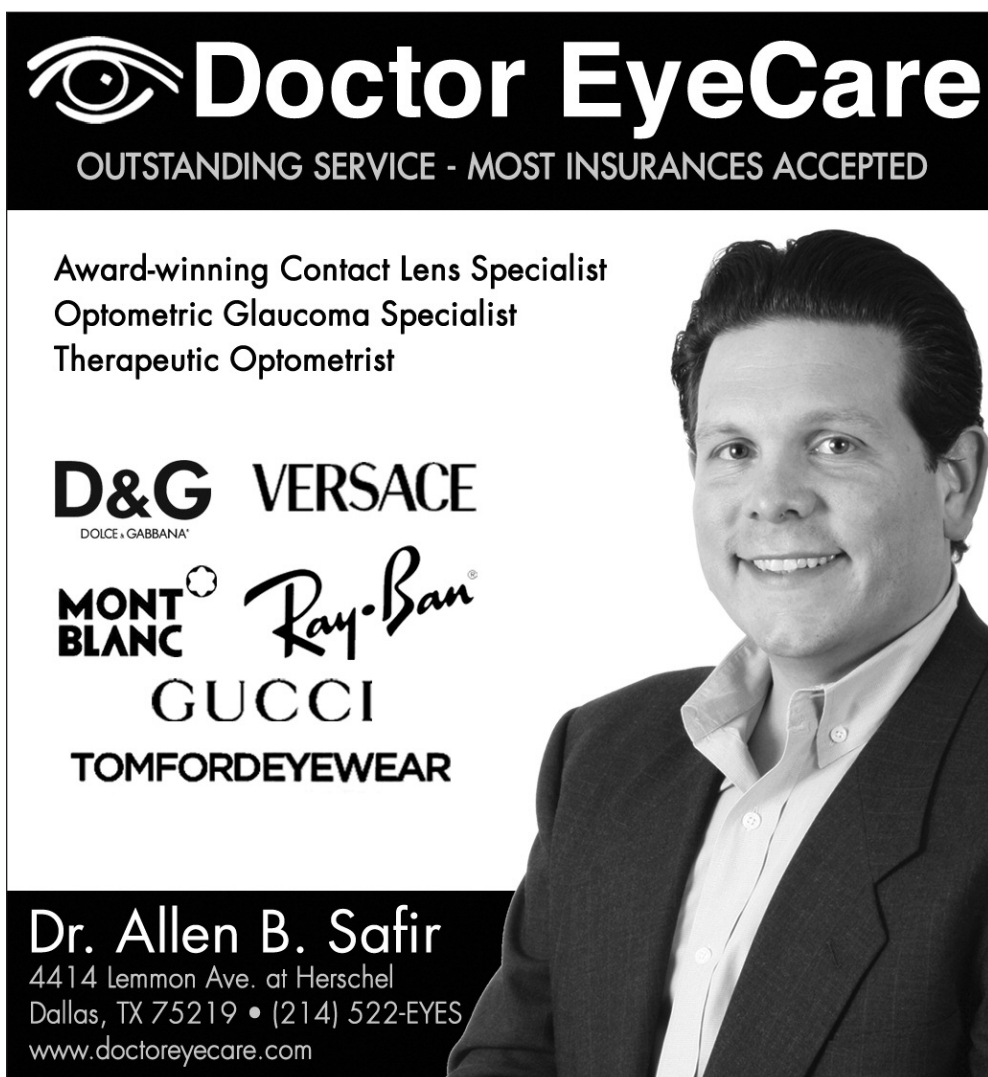


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Chaz Gilley

being gay.

James Murphy, 37, was arrested Oct. 18, and Lajerrian Morgan, 24, was arrested Nov. 10, and both have been charged with capital murder in the death of 18-year-old Chaz Gilley.

Relatives told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that Gilley had been living in Mansfield and had only recently moved to the East Berry Street area to live with his mother. He had gotten a job at a local Goodwill store and on Oct. 7 had ridden his bicycle to the Wal-Mart store on East Berry to cash his check.

According to reports, an informant told police that Murphy and "another Blood gang member" were selling drugs at the apartment complex where Gilley lived with his mother. The men "saw a 'white boy' looking at his check," and then followed the teen to Wal-Mart to wait for him to cash the check.

Police said security video from inside the store shows the two men shadowing Gilley, watching him count the money before following him outside. Video from outside the store shows Gilley riding away on his bicycle, with the two men following in a black car.

According to the arrest affidavit, Morgan and Murphy followed Gilley as he rode his bicycle down Berry, then used the car to knock him off the bike, then chased after him on foot, shooting him several times as he tried to run away.

Gilley was able to flag down a passing car, which drove him to John Peter Smith Hospital, but the teen died of his injuries about 24 hours later while in surgery.

The informant told police that several days after the murder, Murphy and Morgan were "laughing and bragging" about what they had done.

There is no indication that Gilley's sexual orientation played any role in his murder.

— Tammye Nash

2nd suspect arrested in October murder of FW gay teen

Fort Worth police have arrested two men in connection with the Oct. 8 death of a teenager friends have identified as

First Baptist Austin removed from convention

The Baptist General Convention of Texas expelled First Baptist Austin this week along with Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas for its acceptance of LGBT people.

While Wilshire voted on Sunday to accept LGBT people as full members, First Baptist Austin has already fully accepted LGBT members into its congregation.

"We have performed gay weddings, we have done dedications of gay leadership, we have celebrated children on gay couples and we will proudly continue to do all of those things, Rev. Dr. Griff Martin, senior pastor of First Baptist Church Austin, told Fox 7 in Austin.

And he had this to say to Austin's CBS affiliate, KEYE.

"I think I'll be sad there wasn't room at the table for love," Martin said. "We have ordained gay deacons. We have done gay weddings. We are celebrating children of gay couples."

Martin believes his church's public expulsion from the conference will have a positive effect that goes beyond his own church.

"It gives freedom to other churches to finally do the right thing, because somebody else has walked down the road and you're not alone," Martin told KEYE.

— David Taffet

Wilshire Baptist Church votes on accepting LGBT members

Wilshire Baptist Church, on Abrams Road between Mockingbird Lane and Northwest Highway, voted to give full membership to its LGBT member Sunday (Nov. 13). The resolution passed with 61 percent of the vote with 948 members voting in favor of the change, 367 against and four abstaining.

Wilshire Baptist Church and First Baptist Austin both received warnings from the Southern Baptist Convention last week that they would be kicked out if they changed their policy. Actually the convention warned it could no longer accept contributions from the churches if some of their money came from gay people who were members. The vote is a result of work by a diversity and inclusion committee created a year ago.

The resolution implies that the church already has a number of LGBT members, who currently have a second-class membership.

— David Taffet



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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. This week's guests are from the LGBT Aging Coalition; **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.

NOVEMBER

• **Nov. 18: Federal Club mixer**

Last mixer of the year from 6-8 p.m. at Chino Chinatown in Trinity Groves, 3011 Gulden Lane.

• **Nov. 19: Transgender Day of Remembrance — Fort Worth**

First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane Road, hosts a Transgender Day of Remembrance event from 7-9 p.m.

• **Nov. 19: Parents of Trans Youth Workshop**

Youth First, a program of Resource Center, hosts a workshop for parents and guardians of transgender and gender-non-conforming youth at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Topics include psychological aspects of gender identity led by Sabine Rakos, medical aspects of transition by Dr. Ximena Lopez, advocating for trans youth led by Lou Weaver with Equality Texas, and a panel discussion with parents of trans youth. The workshop will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and is exclusively for parents and guardians of trans youth. Admission is free and lunch is provided. RSVP at ParentsOfTransYouth.EventBrite.com.

• **Nov. 19: Nutcracker 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

pet of the week / HOUSTON

Houston is a 2-month-old blue tabby. He is sweet and outgoing and looking for a family to call his own. You can meet Houston in person at the Duncanville PetSmart.

For information on adopting a cat or a dog from the SPCA of Texas, visit SPCA.org or go to one of the SPCA's adoption events, like the Home for the Holidays event going on now at NorthPark Mall in Dallas. (See the Gay Agenda listings.)



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• **Nov. 19: Equality is Black and White photo shoot**

Be the face of equality from 3-5 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. EqualityIsBlackAndWhite.com.

• **Nov. 19: SPCA's Home for the Holidays**

Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas needs volunteers to help the SPCA for three-hour shifts at NorthPark to help place dogs and cats in new homes.

• **Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance — Dallas**

Black Trans Advocacy — Texas hosts a Transgender Day of Remembrance memorial event at Legacy of Love Monument, at the intersection of Oak Lawn Avenue and Cedar Springs Road, from 6-8 p.m.

• **Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance — Denton**

UNT Pride Alliance hosts TDOR in Denton from 7-9 p.m. at Denton Downtown Square, 110 W. Hickory St., Denton.

• **Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance — Waco**

InterWaco Community LGBT group hosts transsexual poet, playwright, artist and activist Alyssa Kerec Harley at a TDOR vigil from 3-5 p.m. at Heritage Square, 3rd Street and Austin Ave.

• **Nov. 20: Strong Sisters Support meeting**
Support for Collin County women living with HIV. From 5-7 p.m. Meet at Starbucks at The Shops of Legacy, Plano. RSVP dianer_strongsisters@curentx.org.

• **Nov. 22: LGBT Family & Friends Night**
North Texas Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA) holds its monthly LGBT Family and Friends Night at Durkin's Pizza, 8930 S.H. 121 (at Custer Road) in McKinney (in the Target Shopping Center), from 5-8 p.m. The family-friendly event includes networking, socializing, happy hour and pizza, and Michael Durkin donates 10 percent of sales to GALA Youth. LGBT Family and Friends Night is held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at Durkin's Pizza.

• **Nov. 22: Trans-Cendence Trans/SOFFA Support meeting**

Finn Jones is the speaker from 7-9p.m. At Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church, 1641 W. Hebron Parkway, Carrollton.

• **Nov. 24: Thanksgiving**

DECEMBER

• **Dec. 1: World AIDS Day**

• Dec. 1: World AIDS Day C.U.R.E. Awards C.U.R.E. (Community Unity Respect Education) marks Worlds AIDS Day 2016 with an event at Noah's Event Venue, 2251 N. Greenville Ave., in Richardson. James Lester, Marvin Green and Chris Bengston will receive C.U.R.E.'s 2016 Open Heart Award. Portions of the NAMES AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display. Auntjuan Wiley will be keynote speaker. For information email info@curentx.org.

• **Dec. 1-3: The Laramie Project**

The award-winning Lewisville High School Theatre Department presents three performances of The Laramie Project, the play by Moises Kaufman that revisits the 1998 anti-gay hate crime murder of Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming and its aftermath. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. each night in the LHS Stuver Auditorium, 1098 W. Main St. in Lewisville. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students.

• **Dec. 2: AIDS Arms 30th Anniversary celebration**

AIDS Arms celebrates its 30th anniversary with a celebration including light appetizers and beverages at 6 p.m. and a program at 7:15 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5901 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to info@AIDSArms.org. For information call 214-521-5191.

• **Dec. 2: Federal Club holiday celebration**

The 29th annual HRC Federal Club holiday party. RSVP by Nov. 22. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. for major donors and Black Tie board members and 8 p.m. for Federal Club members. Nuvo Room, 4241 Sigma Road.

• **Dec. 4: The Dallas Way fall brunch**

Fall Brunch: 2016 The Year in Review from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Location to be announced.

• **Dec. 5: Judge Don Adams retirement party**

From 5-7 p.m. at the Angry Dog, 2726 Commerce St.

• **Dec. 5: Stonewall Democrats holiday party**

From 7-9 p.m. at the Round Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Dec. 8-11: A Not So Silent Night**

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents its annual Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. on Friday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Tickets at TurtleCreekChorale.com.

• **Dec. 10: Super Hero Ball**

Holiday party from 7-10 p.m. at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.



SPCA's Home for the Holidays

Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas is looking for volunteers to help the SPCA find new homes for dogs and cats, like Athena pictured above, during an adoption event at NorthPark Mall on Saturday, Nov. 19. Volunteers are asked to work three-hour shifts. For information visit GLFD.org or call 214-742-7722. Athena, by the way, is a 9-year-old, 58-pound black Lab who loves children, being petted and riding in the car with her head out the window. Visit SPCAFindAPet.com for more information on Athena or the many other dogs and cats available for adoption.

• **Dec. 14: GALA Holiday Party**

North Texas Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA) holds its Holiday Party from 6-10 p.m. at Event 1013, 1013 E. 15th St. in Plano. Absolut Vodka is the liquor sponsor for the party which will include food, drinks, a raffle and a silent auction.

• **Dec. 24: Chinese food and a movie**

Congregation Beth El Binah has a traditional Jewish Christmas Eve dinner at 7 p.m. at Royal China, 6025 Royal Lane.

• **Dec. 25: Christmas**

JANUARY

• **Jan. 17: Stonewall elections**

Stonewall officer elections at 7 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

FEBRUARY

• **Feb. 25: Dash for the Beads**

5K and 10K run, 1K walk and festival at Kidd Springs Park, 711 W. Canty St.

MARCH

APRIL

• **April 8: No Tie Dinner**

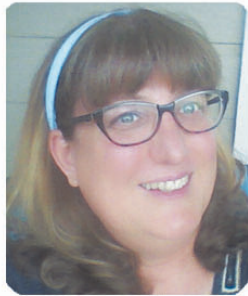
This year's theme is An Artful Life, inspired by the pop artists. From 7-10 p.m. at Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave.

JUNE

• **June 3: Bloomin' Ball**

Bloomin' Ball 2017 benefits AIDS Interfaith Network from 5-11 p.m. at Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 North Stemmons Freeway.

50 years later: Remembering Harry Benjamin and the transsexual phenomenon



Renee Baker
Contributing Writer

RENEE BAKER | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

Editor's Note: In honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance, Dallas Voice looks back at the legacy of "the father of transsexualism," Dr. Harry Benjamin, and offers advice for trans-

gender men and women and others in the LGBT community dealing with stress, fear and uncertainty in the wake of the 2016 elections. We also include here a list of TDOR events planned for North Texas.

Young people today may not have heard of her, but the rest of us history buffs readily recognize her name: Christine Jorgensen. More shocking in her day than Caitlyn Jenner is today, she rocked the world right off its gender foundation.

Jorgensen was no doubt considered a transsexual phenomenon in her day, becoming a celebrated figure in 1952 when the New York Daily News announced George Jorgensen's transition

with the oft-repeated headline "EX-GI BECOMES BLONDE BEAUTY."

But if it were not for a medical doctor named Harry Benjamin, they may instead have been calling Jorgensen's change instead, The Eonist Phenomenon. And if it were not for Christine Jorgensen, Harry Benjamin may not have become world-renowned as the "father of transsexualism" for his work with the gender-transitioning population.

We celebrate Harry Benjamin this year on the 50th anniversary of the publication his landmark and far-reaching book, *The Transsexual Phenomenon*, published by Julian Press in 1966, which ce-

mented the term used for individuals reassigning their sex.

Born in Berlin, Germany in 1885, Benjamin was a strong 81 years of age when he challenged the prevailing medical establishment belief that cross-gender behavior was a disorder, and defended the health needs of the trans community with this groundbreaking work.

That said, Benjamin wrote, "After 50 years in the practice of medicine, and in the evening of life, I need not be too concerned with a disapproval that touches much more on morals than on science."

Crisis? What Crisis?

Staying healthy, moving forward in the face of fear and hate and uncertainty

Unless you have been living in cold storage, you know we can cut to the chase: Our country and our community are in crisis.

We are living with a whole host of unknowns right now. The new administration set to take over the White House has not only unnerved practically every minority group in the country, it has the most anti-LGBT stance that many of us have ever seen.

This crisis is hitting especially hard on the transgender community, which arguably is at its pinnacle of empowerment since the Obama administration set a tone of advocacy — from equal opportunity in employment to groundbreaking educational protection for transgender children.

But the transgender community is also under fire like never before, with so-called "bathroom bills" targeting trans people still looming. Indeed, the Trans Lifeline crisis and suicide hotline number reports record numbers of calls since the day of the election.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Trans Equality, said, "Transgender people and those who love us are understandably gravely concerned about what this election will mean for our families, our communities, our children, and our country."

We can only imagine what could happen...

- Will I become the next victim of a hate crime?
- Will my gender markers on my legal documents be affected?
- Will I be allowed to use the right restroom?
- Will my school safe spaces be closed?
- Will I lose my medical insurance?
- Will my legal name or gender marker change be denied?
- Will I be discharged from the military?
- What happens if the president-elect were to die?
- Will Title IX transgender protections in the schools be undone?
- Will OSHA transgender protections in the workplace or shelters be undone?
- Will our marriages hold or will our rights be annulled?
- Should I buy a gun or weapons to protect myself from the hate?
- Will our gender creative children be forced into reparative therapy?
- Will I lose my publicly-funded HIV or transgender health treatments?
- Should I delay coming out of the closet and wait to transition in four more years?

- Will I be deported or will my immigration be affected?

No doubt, all these unknowns and more add up to anxiety, panic and the feeling we are in a crisis. And that is exactly what we are in — crisis.

There is much at stake and this is not a time to get stuck in quicksand. It is a time to play ball. It is by taking action that we maintain the momentum we have had these last eight years of the Obama administration.

It is also how we honor those that got us to where we are at thus far and keep the ball rolling.

Donald won, Hillary lost. But we can't let our joints rust from the tears we have cried in the last week. We absolutely can't slide down that slippery slope of self-pity. There is a time for mourning, but we must move forward into the future, too.

This is the time for us to identify as a new champion — a new, bolder champion for human rights. It is going to take more energy, more muscle, more compassion. Be ready for it.

Crisis, I hate to say it, is not always a bad thing. The Chinese symbol for crisis is a compound of two words — danger plus opportunity. It's an empowering way to look at it.

I'm not trying to sugar-coat the real danger we are in. I'm saying let's capitalize on the opportunity at hand and see how we can use this electoral change to our advantage, and to the advantage of all.

In the art of Aikido, the energy of the enemy is not blocked; it is redirected into a new direction. You take advantage of their momentum, shifting it where you want it to go. We need to shift it in a direction of justice and equality.

Our goal should not be to destroy the enemy or the haters or label them as such. Our goal is to find ways to open their hearts and minds, to bring them into the present moment, where they can understand — not an easy task, as their egos can be strong, rooted in righteousness.

We have to look for calm openings in time when they are willing to listen, then you can redirect and take advantage of the momentum. We have to let them save face. We need to listen to their anger. We have to accept them where they are at in their own growth.

The strong haters out there, though, will want to put us to sleep. They want to make us invisible, make us go away. But we are not going to let that happen either.

We are going to energize ourselves and double our activist efforts. We are going to be alert and pay attention. We will read and engage, write and listen. We are going to continue to unite across multiple and diverse fronts.

Remember: United we stand, divided we fall. In the end, we all

stand united, one world.

We have a big advantage over those that hate us: Hate is based in delusion. It's full of fear. It is group think gone amuck.

Love and consciousness go together, hand-in-hand. We do not have just eight Obama years of momentum when it comes to consciousness; we have thousands of years in awakening. So, the hate will fade over time, as long as we don't let them put us to sleep.

Keep moving. Stay conscious and present. While fear is the mind-killer, self-pity is the sleeping pill.

Let's affirm: "I do not wallow in fear and self-pity. I do not catastrophize over the 'what if' list above. I fight for truth. I fight for justice and equality. I do not give into lies and hate. I am discerning in my judgment. I admit my mistakes. I am gracious. I give people an opportunity to grow and accept them where they are. I am loving and kind. I care."

The Chinese have a well-known proverb, "It is better to light a candle, than to curse the darkness."

Yoda would say, "Beacon of light, I am."

Every minister has at one time taught their disciples, "The truth shall set you free."

We need to teach the haters. Hate-filled people are in pain and their band-aid is delusion. They may hate us, but the reality is that hatred is their own self-hatred projected onto us.

Don't take it personally; they need help. For them to change, they have to face their truth, rip the band-aid off and feel their pain. Compassion is needed here.

Together, now: "We are mindful and pay attention. We support our organizations. We help when they ask us for help. We call our local and state representatives. We keep ourselves well. We support each other. We are brave and courageous and take steps we have never taken before. We are grateful to our allies."

We don't want to go back to the 1960s. But in four more years, we do want to move liberally into a New Bolder Roaring Twenties!

So let's do it. Commit to action. Empower yourself. Don't let them take your power away and put you to sleep. Unite and embrace the blessing of diversity! And vote!

I'll leave you with some inspiring words from Supertramp to whittle, from their 1975 album, *Crisis, What Crisis?*:

"And if my thoughts had wings,

"I'd be the bird that sings

"I'd fly where love isn't shy

"And everyone's willing to try."

Renee Baker is a licensed professional counselor in Dallas. She can be reached at Renee-Baker.com.



Harry Benjamin

TDOR Calendar in North Texas

- Nov. 19: Transgender Day of Remembrance — Fort Worth
First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane Road, hosts a Transgender Day of Remembrance event from 7-9 p.m.
- Nov. 19: Parents of Trans Youth Workshop
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- Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance — Waco
InterWaco Community LGBT group hosts transsexual poet, playwright, artist and activist Alyssa Kerec Harley at a TDOR vigil from 3-5 p.m. at Heritage Square, 3rd Street and Austin Ave.
- Nov. 22: Trans-Cendence Trans/SOFFA Support meeting
Finn Jones is the speaker from 7-9p.m. At Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church, 1641 W. Hebron Parkway, Carrollton.

Though he lived to the ripe old age of 101 and died in Manhattan in 1986, Benjamin wrote about transgenderism long before the grassroots term “transgender” became a household word in the 1990s. He had adopted the term transsexual long before the term was used as the name of a clinical disorder of the American Psychiatric Association. With Benjamin’s classic work, he essentially defined the term in the way most use it today.

Benjamin’s book fought back against the pathological attitude that was common towards trans individuals in that day when trans individuals were often viewed as neurotic or psychotic. It set the blueprint for how to treat trans persons in a standard way using cross sex hormones — namely estrogen for transgender women and testosterone for transgender men.

Over time, his guidelines became known as the Benjamin Standards of Care, originally published by the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, named in his honor in 1979.

Benjamin was well known for advocating medical treatment, rather than reparative therapy. He stated with conviction, “Since it is evident, therefore, that the mind of the transsexual cannot be adjusted to the body, it is logical and justifiable to attempt the opposite, adjust the body to the mind.”

Today, the organization named after Benjamin is now known as WPATH, or the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, and is currently working on its eighth edition of the Standards. Dan Karasic, M.D., a board member of the organization, projects the new version to be out as early as October 2018.

Interestingly in 1949 San Francisco, Benjamin’s first transgender client was referred to him by sex researcher Alfred Kinsey. Kinsey is well known today for developing his Kinsey Scale, which indicates a degree of sexual orientation, ranging on a continuum from heterosexual to bisexual to having only same-sex attraction.

Correspondingly, Benjamin described a similar

HARRY BENJAMIN, Page 21



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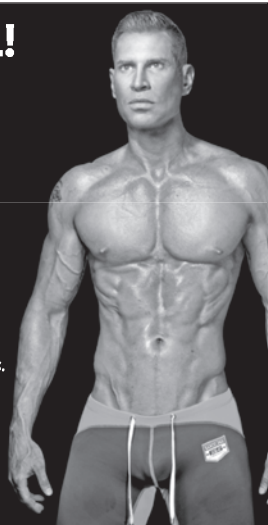


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Chuck Smith, CEO of Equality Texas

Bill pre-filed in Texas Senate targets
rights ordinances; Patrick
announces revamped 'bathroom bill'

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor

nash@dallasvoice.com

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Spanish philosopher George Santayana said it in his book, *The Life of Reason*, published between 1905 and 1906. And lots of other people have expressed the same sentiment throughout written history.

But it seems some Texas elected officials either have very bad memories, or they just never learn, considering that bills pre-filed this week for consideration in the 2017 session of the Texas Legislature reflect the same kind of anti-LGBT animosity that cost the state of North Carolina millions and Gov. Pat McCrory his job this year.

In March this year, North Carolina's legislature hastily passed House Bill 2, the so-called bathroom bill, and within hours, Gov. McCrory had signed it into law. The bill prohibits local jurisdictions in that state from enacting anti-discrimination statutes that offer protections not expressly offered by state law, and it prohibits transgender people from using the appropriate public restroom facilities.

By mid-September, North Carolina had already lost an estimated \$400 million because of businesses and events that either moved out of the state or changed plans to locate there because of HB 2, according to a report by The Business In-

sider. And as of Nov. 8, McCrory had apparently lost his job to Democrat Roy Cooper, the state's former attorney general who opposes HB 2.

And after then-Gov. Mike Pence, now the vice president-elect, signed the so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act into law in Indiana in 2015, that state lost at least \$60 million in revenue.

But Texas lawmakers, who in 2015 failed to pass "bathroom bills" aimed at limiting transgender people's access to public restroom facilities, are ignoring the lessons of North Carolina and Indiana and pledging to forge ahead with anti-LGBT bigotry in 2017.

Sen. Bob Hall, R-Edgewood, has pre-filed Senate Bill 92 that would over-rule local ordinances that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and other factors not as not been granted by state law. Dallas, Fort Worth and Plano are among the cities in Texas that have such local ordinances.

In addition, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who oversees the Texas Senate, this week released his own legislative agenda. It includes plans for the "Women's Privacy Act," a re-do of 2015's efforts to keep transgender women from using public restroom facilities.

Neither Hall's pre-filed bill nor Patrick's proposed bill are identical to HB2 in North Carolina. But, taken together, they would have the same effect, noted Chuck Smith, CEO of Equality Texas. And, he said, if passed the measures could have the same disastrous effects.

Texas lawmakers perhaps thought that separating the components of HB2 might make it more palatable, Smith said.



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Resource Center dedicates health campus



The main building of Resource Center's health campus has been named for its first executive director, John Thomas. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

26 years after Resource Center bought it, the Reagan Street property gets a makeover

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Resource Center rededicated its old building at 2701 Reagan St. as its new health campus this week, unveiling the main building's new name: the John Thomas Building, after the organization's original executive director.

The health campus will house the food pantry, the hot meals program, the insurance program, case management and the new counseling program. A computer room is available for clients to use.

Dallas County Commissioners Elba Garcia and Theresa Daniel along with County Judge Clay Jenkins attended the ribbon cutting ceremony, as did County Health and Human Services Director Zach Thompson. City officials were not available to attend because of a rescheduled city council meeting.

Other speakers at the event included Penny Pickle Crispin, a nurse who saved lives during the height of the AIDS crisis by administering pentamidine mist at the Resource Center to help prevent pneumocystis pneumonia. Parkland Hospital and other health care providers were precluded from administering the treatments at the time because the drug was not indicated for that preventive use.

In May this year, Resource Center opened its new community center on Cedar Springs Road near Inwood Road. While the original plan was to sell the Reagan Street property, the organization decided to retain the old property and put it to new use.

As Resource Center has increased its programming over the years, space in the old buildings became increasingly tight. In the renovated space,

areas that previously crammed five desks together now house two.

The food pantry already re-opened earlier this year in the John Thomas Building after its old location on Denton Drive Cutoff suddenly closed for projected redevelopment. A development described as similar to West Village in the Uptown section of Oak Lawn is slated for that property. Although the landlord was anxious to empty the buildings of tenants — so anxious that the food pantry had to vacate before being able to rebuild and relocate to the health campus — the property has stood vacant and boarded up for a year.

That sudden closure, however, forced Resource Center to scramble to rebuild a space for the food pantry in the Reagan Street property before the new building was complete.

Work on the second building on Reagan Street is not completely finished. The hot meals program has been providing boxed meals for clients as work has progressed in the lunch area. The full sit-down lunch service should resume over the next few weeks.

The counseling rooms need a little finish-out work and are awaiting delivery of furniture before the expanded counseling program begins.

The dedication of the space brings to a close the agency's construction, which was financed by an \$8.7 million capital campaign. Resource Center CEO Cece Cox said the organization needs about \$225,000 to close out the campaign.

Cox indicated that with the completion of the work, Resource Center becomes one of the four largest LGBT community centers in the country and one of very few with multiple properties.

History

The two-building campus on Reagan Street was acquired from Metropolitan Community Church Dallas, now known as Cathedral of Hope, after an arsonist set fire on Feb. 22, 1989, to AIDS Resource Center offices then located on Cedar Springs Road.

The Resource Center was located in the space on The Strip now occupied by Out of the Closet. The arsonist was Dale Wesley Biddy, a gay man who had been volunteering at Dallas Gay Alliance; he walked into the Dallas Voice office two weeks later, told his story to editor Dennis Vercher, who called police.

Biddy set the fire to cover up his theft of computers, disks and money from the center. The fire



Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel, Dallas County Health and Human Services Director Zach Thompson and Commissioner Elba Garcia attended the grand opening.

also destroyed the Round-Up Saloon and Union Jack, and did some damage to TapeLenders.

After the fire, AIDS Resource Center regrouped quickly. Agency officers held a meeting at MCC Dallas where Executive Director John Thomas revealed that the organization's insurance only covered depreciated value. But it was the height of the AIDS crisis and the organization had work to do so they rented a space at 4012 Cedar Springs Road. That property is now known as the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic.

By the fall of 1990, MCC Dallas had outgrown its Reagan Street location. The church purchased property off Cedar Springs in Inwood Roads, but it couldn't wait for the new building to be built before relocating to larger space. So the church rented a building at the corner of Maple Avenue and Hudnall Street. That building, which later became the home of radio station KNON, was torn down earlier this year to make way for a self-storage facility.

To help finance the new building, MCC Dallas approached DGA about purchasing the Reagan Street property. DGA had created the AIDS Resource Center as a charitable non-profit organization. In order to allow people who wouldn't write checks with the word "AIDS" on it, the nonprofit's official name was "The Foundation for Human Understanding," because, well, who could be against that.

The facility on Cedar Springs Road was administering more health treatments, both legally and not-so legally, including Pickle's clandestine pentamidine mist treatments.

So FHU decided to purchase the Reagan Street property. No bank would finance the organization so the church arranged financing for the \$235,000 mortgage. With no means to pay for the property and no real plan, John Thomas signed the mortgage on behalf of the FHU board.

"This community took care of its own," Cox said at the ribbon-cutting event as she talked about the history of the buildings.

Surprisingly, the mortgage — at least interest on the mortgage — was kept current. Groups that used the new building would pay for use of the

space and community members made donations. Lots of fundraisers held in the bars helped but a major source of income came from bequests by people who had died of AIDS.

One of those bequests was a lot directly across the street from the center, which became the center's first parking lot. A developer traded that lot for a larger space diagonally across from Resource Center. While the original parking lot remains

empty years later, another developer wanted the larger parking lot to add to the rest of the block he acquired. As part of the deal, he exchanged that property for an even larger lot adjoining the existing buildings and paved and fenced the lot for Resource Center.

But the largest bequest at the time came from Joe Desmond, who had served as secretary of DGA since its founding and of FHU since its founding. Whenever the topic of how to pay the mortgage came up, Desmond would say, "Don't worry. It's taken care of."

Desmond was a quiet, sweet and charming man who worked to keep the minutes current for the organizations until a few weeks before his death. When he died in 1994, the AIDS Resource Center was the beneficiary of his \$250,000 insurance policy. That paid off the mortgage.

The second building in the Reagan Street property had an industrial kitchen. Food pantry Assistant Director Bill Hunt had a plan for it. He wanted to create Chez Louise.

Many people with AIDS were unable to afford food. But they still needed a high-calorie diet to maintain their weight to stay alive. To make the situation worse, many of them became more and more reclusive as their health deteriorated. Hunt's lunch program offered nutritious food and socialization.

Chez Louise, simply called the hot meals program today, continues in a space that has now been renovated for the first time.

The main building on the newly-christened health campus, originally the MCC Dallas sanctuary, was renovated in the early 1990s. The space was divided into three meeting rooms, known as the color rooms. The building's architectural designed was mostly hidden.

In this latest renovation, the vaulted ceiling has been opened and the church's wooden arches are again revealed.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony this week, Cox described opening up the rooms to reveal that hidden architectural detail. She described the wooden arches as hands clasped overhead, protecting and sheltering the community, something Resource Center has done since its founding. ■



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What now?



President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence could spell trouble for the gains that the LGBT community has made under the Obama administration these last eight years. (Evan Vucci/Associated Press)

LGBT advocates ponder the possibilities for reversing rights under President Trump

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
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President-elect Donald Trump said in a post-election interview that marriage equality is “settled” and “it’s law,” and expressed no interest in pursuing an agenda to reverse the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2015 decision that struck down state bans on marriage licenses for same-sex couples.

That was welcome news to some LGBT people, as were the rumors that Trump is considering naming an openly gay man to a cabinet-level position.

But neither Trump’s statements nor the Cabinet appointment rumors was enough to assuage the deep concern of most LGBT legal activists that the incoming administration is poised to inflict enormous damage to civil rights gains from the past eight years for LGBT people.

Trump’s comment on marriage equality came in an interview broadcast Sunday, Nov. 13, on CBS’s 60 Minutes with newswoman Leslie Stahl. This was Trump’s first interview since winning enough states on Nov. 8 against Democrat Hillary Clinton to lay claim to 290 electoral votes. (Clinton won the popular vote by an unprecedented 1.5 million-plus votes. But, under the Constitution, the candidate with 270 electoral votes wins.)

Stahl told Trump that LGBTQ people are “expressing fear” of his impending presidency.

Trump interrupted to say he was surprised to hear that, noting that he “mentioned” LGBT people during his speech at the Republican National Convention.

“Everybody said that was so great,” he added. “I have been, you know, I’ve been a supporter.”

At the GOP convention in July, Trump vowed to do “everything in my power to protect our LGBTQ citizens from the violence and oppression of a hateful, foreign ideology.” He was referring to the massacre at the Orlando LGBT nightclub Pulse by an American citizen whose parents emigrated from Afghanistan.

But Trump sent other messages during his campaign that suggested his administration would not be a beneficial one for the LGBT community.

He said he would appoint a Supreme Court nominee in the mold of Antonin Scalia, who had the most anti-gay voting record of any justice in history. He said the treatment of transgender people in regards to public restrooms should be “left to the states.” He said he would sign the anti-LGBT First Amendment Defense Act, and he vowed to “cancel every unconstitutional executive action, memorandum and order” issued by President Obama.

Charles Moran, an openly gay businessman in Los Angeles who was a Trump delegate to the Republican National Convention, said Trump’s remarks about marriage equality being settled law are “consistent with his comments during the campaign.”

“We knew it would be a non-issue with him, and he won’t be distracted from his core mission of securing our borders, strengthening our economy and fixing Obamacare,” said Moran. “He is



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a modern Republican, and I'm happy to see he's fulfilling on his commitment to put this divisive issue behind us. It's good for the gays, good for the Republican Party, and good for America."

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said, "There is no reason to believe that Trump intends to go after marriage equality, and it would be very difficult for him to do that."

Minter continued, "I am much more concerned about his threat to undo protections for LGBT federal employees and students, deport large numbers of immigrants, privatize Medicare, turn Medicaid into block grants, and remove any checks on the misuse of police violence."

Stahl did not press President-elect Trump on any LGBT matter other than marriage in her interview, but Minter and other LGBT legal activists are "expressing fear" about a truckload of issues, not just marriage equality.

"The Trump administration has the ability to affect an awful lot more than the fundamental right to marry," said Camilla Taylor, an attorney and spokesperson for Lambda Legal.

She noted the Trump administration could wreak havoc over important gains for LGBT people under the Obama administration, including the Obama administration's lawsuit against the LGBT-hostile North Carolina law HB2, the interpretation of Title IX to protect gender identity, and the administration's willingness to stand up for LGBT equality in cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

"This is a terrifying time to be an LGBT activist," said Taylor.

And while Trump may say that marriage equality is a matter of settled law, Taylor said activists must anticipate the possibility that anti-LGBT forces will attempt to mount new challenges against marriage as they have against *Roe v. Wade* and a woman's right to seek an abortion.

"It's very unlikely we'll see the Supreme Court's *Obergefell* decision overruled," said Taylor, in reference to the high court's ruling in 2015 that state bans on marriage licenses for same-sex couples were unconstitutional. "But," she said, "there are a number of ways in which a hostile administration could try to chip away at those rights. We're extremely concerned."

Like Taylor, Gary Buseck of GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders, doesn't think the Supreme Court is poised to overturn marriage equality. But he, too, sees the prospects for anti-LGBT activists to employ *Roe v. Wade*-type strategies to undermine it.

"Even without a Trump presidency, we have those who oppose marriage equality and have been working and will continue to work to reverse our gains," Buseck said. "I am sure they continue to look for vehicles to set the question up for Supreme Court review in the future."

That increases worry around who Trump will appoint to the Supreme Court seat vacated in February when Scalia suddenly died. LGBT legal activists are concerned that a Scalia-like appointee, confirmed with relative ease by a Republican-

dominated Senate, could be on the bench when many upcoming battles arrive.

The court has already accepted a case over Title IX protections for transgender students and it is likely to take up one of several cases over whether religious beliefs can be used as an excuse to deny services to LGBT people in restaurants, hotels and other public accommodations.

Executive orders

Even beyond the court, LGBT legal activists are concerned that Trump may reverse executive orders signed by President Obama that ensured protections for LGBT people in important areas, including federal employment, health care and basic recognition of their relationships in hospitals.

In 2014, President Obama signed an executive order (E.O. 13762) prohibiting contractors who do business with the federal government from discriminating based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The same order also added gender identity to existing order (E.O. 13087, signed by President Clinton) that prohibited discrimination against federal employees based on sexual orientation.

President Obama signed a "memorandum" in 2010, directing the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that all hospitals receiving Medicaid and Medicare enable LGBT patients to designate their partners and families for visitation privileges.

He also signed a "memorandum" in 2009 di-

recting federal agencies to extend "as many benefits as possible under the law" to gay federal employees with same-sex partners.

And every June during his administration, President Obama has signed a "Pride Month" proclamation.

Anti-LGBT activists have been calling on Trump to reverse a Departments of Justice and Education memorandum interpreting Title IX as prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity. They also want him to reverse a determination by Health and Human Services that requires insurance providers to cover gender transition medical expenses.


Meanwhile, Bloomberg news reported Nov. 11 that openly gay PayPal founder Peter Thiel, another Trump delegate to the convention, is joining the Trump transition team.

And Associated Press reported Monday morning, Nov. 14, that Trump is considering appointing Richard Grenell as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. The position has been considered part of the president's cabinet in most administrations (but not those of the two Presidents Bush) and is currently held by Samantha Power.

Grenell, who is a political commentator for Fox News and was a Trump delegate to the GOP convention in July, was an openly gay advisor to 2012 Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney. Grenell resigned that position after only two weeks, reportedly after "a full-court press by anti-gay conservatives" to get rid of him.

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DISCRIMINATION , From Page 10



"Just taking HB 2 and cutting it into smaller bites still makes for a bad meal. It makes for bad law," he said, adding that the Texas Association of Business has already expressed opposition for both.

The association, Smith said, "has already said that any legislation targeting LGBT people would be damaging to the businesses in Texas, the economy of Texas and the brand of Texas."

Hall has also pre-filed SB 89, which Smith called "another futile attempt to use our state's constitution to pass an anti-freedom-to-marry bill." It would allow county clerks to refuse to issue marriage licenses to LGBT couples.

The community's allies in Austin are also already hard at work. In fact, bills that have been pre-filed include efforts to get rid of out-dated laws that ban consensual same-sex sexual contact between adults (the Texas sodomy law) and a law prohibiting legal recognition of same-sex marriages. Both of those laws have been over-turned by U.S. Supreme Court rulings.

And Sen. Jose Rodriguez, D-El Paso, has already pre-filed SB 165, a comprehensive non-discrimination bill prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in the areas of housing, public accommodation, employment and state contracting.

Gay and trans folks have the same values as anyone: to be secure in their livelihoods and to live a life of purpose, free from discrimination," Rodriguez said. "An inclusive Texas is critical to recruiting top talent, attracting business and maintaining a strong tourism industry. This session, we must also be mindful of lawmakers' attempts to authorize discrimination or even repeal the handful of local nondiscrimination ordinances and policies that we do have in Texas. We simply can't afford discriminatory legislation of the kind that only brought ridicule to other states."

Dallas Voice called Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's office and, at the request of a spokesman in the public information office, twice submitted emails seeking a statement from Abbott on Hall's bills and on Patrick's proposed legislative agenda. The governor's media office did not respond either by phone or email.

Smith said he expects a companion bill to Hall's

measure will be filed at some point in the Texas House, and that plenty more bills targeting LGBT equality will be filed over the course of the legislative session, including misnamed "religious freedom" bills that would allow discrimination against LGBT people based on the person's religious beliefs.

"This will probably be a very difficult [legislative] session" for the LGBT community, Smith said. "It's going to be more contentious than 2015, and there will be more negative bills filed."

Smith acknowledged that Donald Trump's win in the race for the White House has "emboldened people who area trying to advance discrimination." But at the same time, he continued, Trump's election and other recent incidents like the massacre at Pulse in Orlando "have awoken some people" to join the fight against discrimination.

"Many of the coalitions that worked together in 2015 [to fight discriminatory legislation] are already working together around the coming 2017 legislative session," he said. And Equality Texas is partnering with other progressive organizations to stage what they hope will be one of the largest lobby days ever.

"People can start right not by saving March 20 on their calendar and planning to attend our 'All In For Equality' lobby day," Smith said. "Equality Texas is partnering with the Texas Business Association, Human Rights Campaign, Texas Freedom Network, the ACLU, the Transgender Education Network of Texas. We will be looking to partner with other organizations, some that we may not agree with on every issue but that we agree with on the issue of equality."

"We want and need as many people as possible to be in Austin on March 20. We want to make this the largest and most effective lobby day ever."

Smith also encouraged LGBT people and allies of the community "join Equality Texas and sign the pledge" to advocate for equality. And, he added, "it's never too early to pick up the phone and call your representative or your senator. Take every opportunity to contact your lawmakers by phone, in person or digitally."

"And don't forget to buckle up. It's gonna be a bumpy ride."

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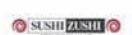
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HARRY BENJAMIN, From Page 9



Christine Jorgensen

way to categorize gender variant behavior on a spectrum. From one spectrum end he considered “lighter forms” to be that starting as in the “hippie movement,” with long-haired boys and trousered girls. Then, onto the cross-dresser who wants to wear clothes of the opposite sex, to the one who wants hormone therapy for further other sex characteristics, and on to finally the “true transsexual” who craves bringing the whole body into harmony with the mind, including gender-confirming surgery.

Another interesting contemporary and colleague of Benjamin’s was Magnus Hirschfield, a well-known early activist on behalf of LGBT people. Together, according to historian Susan Stryker, the duo “visited homosexual and transgender bars in Berlin” when Hirschfield was writing the first book on cross-gender behavior, called *The Transvestites: The Erotic Drive to Cross-Dress*, published in 1910.

Stryker elaborates that it was precisely this German influence on Benjamin that shaped him to take a much less moralistic viewpoint than many of his contemporaries. Though he quietly helped trans individuals with their transitions for a number of years, it was Christine Jorgensen that propelled him into the limelight. Jorgensen was a patient of Benjamin during her transition.

In 1953, Benjamin was asked to write on the subject matter of Jorgensen and gender transitions. In discussing the etiology of the word “transsexual” he said, “I chose the term transsexualism for this almost unknown syndrome [instead of the word eonism].”

Christian Hamburger, a medical doctor on the Jorgensen transition team, had preferred to use the term “eonism.” It is safe to say, that this word did not catch on and instead Benjamin’s term transsexual became ubiquitous in his day.

Because Jorgensen was a worldwide phenomenon, and Benjamin wrote about her life, the term transsexual proliferated about the corners of the globe. Though today, most prefer a more nonclinical term, such as trans or transgender, the term transsexual was probably a good steppingstone for the era in which it was born.

Benjamin gave much credit to Jorgensen, who withstood public scrutiny for the rest of her life until she died — just a few years after he did, from

bladder cancer, in 1989.

“Indeed Christine,” Benjamin wrote, “without you, probably none of this would have happened; the grant, my publications, lectures, etc. You will find me giving you credit in the book.”

Benjamin was also known for his interest in the aging process. As a centenarian himself, he attributed his long life to good genes, living a sensible life and finding meaningful work. Benjamin indeed found work that meant a lot. ■

Renee Baker is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Dallas, Texas and can be reached at www.renee-baker.com.



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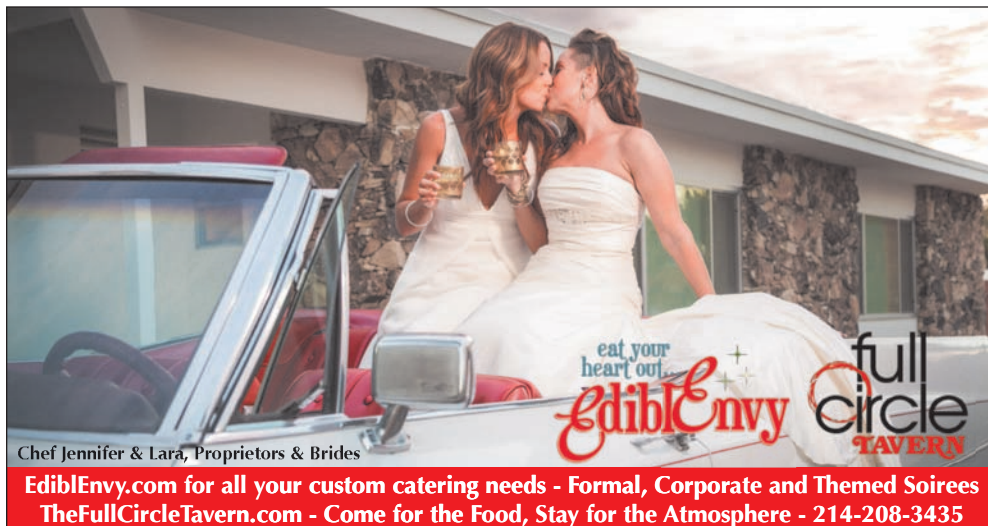
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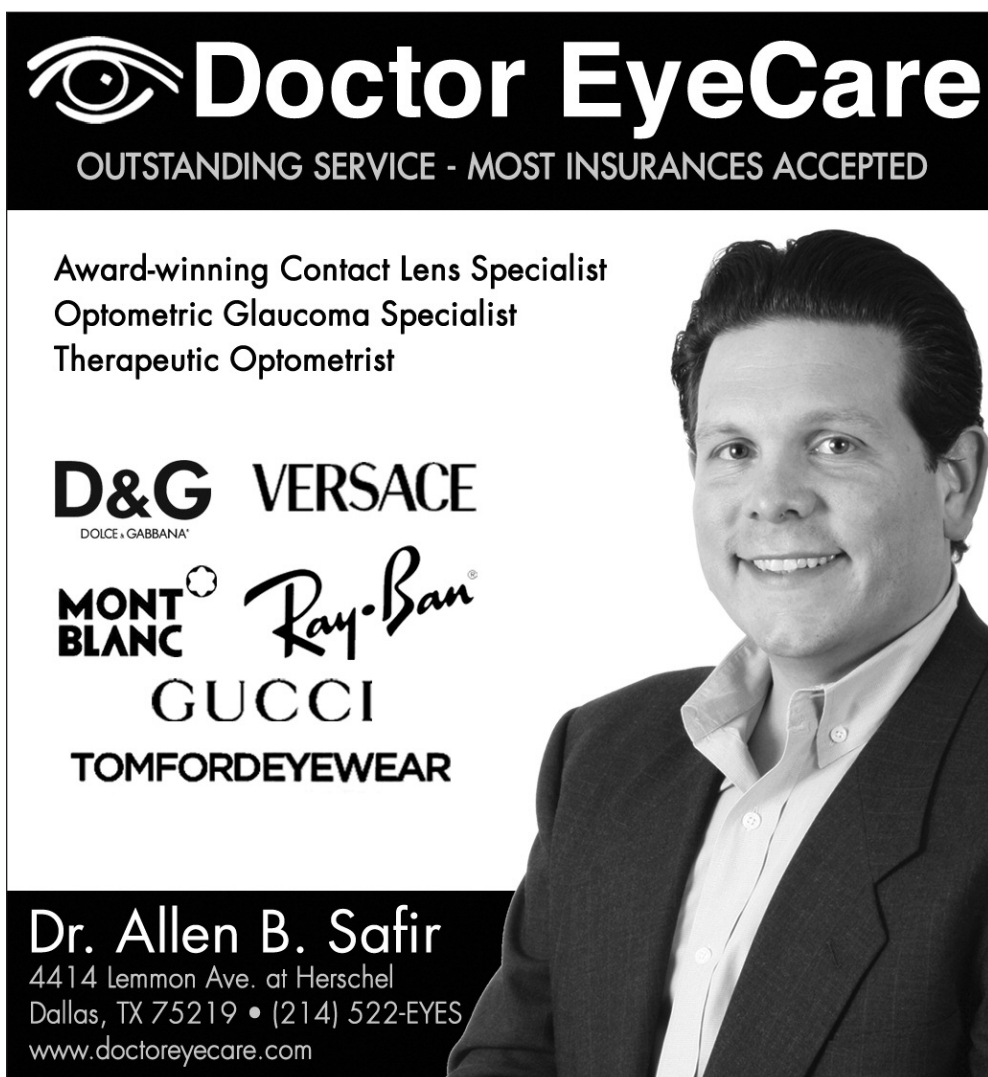


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Chaz Gilley

being gay.

James Murphy, 37, was arrested Oct. 18, and Lajerrian Morgan, 24, was arrested Nov. 10, and both have been charged with capital murder in the death of 18-year-old Chaz Gilley.

Relatives told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that Gilley had been living in Mansfield and had only recently moved to the East Berry Street area to live with his mother. He had gotten a job at a local Goodwill store and on Oct. 7 had ridden his bicycle to the Wal-Mart store on East Berry to cash his check.

According to reports, an informant told police that Murphy and "another Blood gang member" were selling drugs at the apartment complex where Gilley lived with his mother. The men "saw a 'white boy' looking at his check," and then followed the teen to Wal-Mart to wait for him to cash the check.

Police said security video from inside the store shows the two men shadowing Gilley, watching him count the money before following him outside. Video from outside the store shows Gilley riding away on his bicycle, with the two men following in a black car.

According to the arrest affidavit, Morgan and Murphy followed Gilley as he rode his bicycle down Berry, then used the car to knock him off the bike, then chased after him on foot, shooting him several times as he tried to run away.

Gilley was able to flag down a passing car, which drove him to John Peter Smith Hospital, but the teen died of his injuries about 24 hours later while in surgery.

The informant told police that several days after the murder, Murphy and Morgan were "laughing and bragging" about what they had done.

There is no indication that Gilley's sexual orientation played any role in his murder.

— Tammye Nash

2nd suspect arrested in October murder of FW gay teen

Fort Worth police have arrested two men in connection with the Oct. 8 death of a teenager friends have identified as

First Baptist Austin removed from convention

The Baptist General Convention of Texas expelled First Baptist Austin this week along with Wilshire Baptist Church in Dallas for its acceptance of LGBT people.

While Wilshire voted on Sunday to accept LGBT people as full members, First Baptist Austin has already fully accepted LGBT members into its congregation.

"We have performed gay weddings, we have done dedications of gay leadership, we have celebrated children on gay couples and we will proudly continue to do all of those things, Rev. Dr. Griff Martin, senior pastor of First Baptist Church Austin, told Fox 7 in Austin.

And he had this to say to Austin's CBS affiliate, KEYE.

"I think I'll be sad there wasn't room at the table for love," Martin said. "We have ordained gay deacons. We have done gay weddings. We are celebrating children of gay couples."

Martin believes his church's public expulsion from the conference will have a positive effect that goes beyond his own church.

"It gives freedom to other churches to finally do the right thing, because somebody else has walked down the road and you're not alone," Martin told KEYE.

— David Taffet

Wilshire Baptist Church votes on accepting LGBT members

Wilshire Baptist Church, on Abrams Road between Mockingbird Lane and Northwest Highway, voted to give full membership to its LGBT member Sunday (Nov. 13). The resolution passed with 61 percent of the vote with 948 members voting in favor of the change, 367 against and four abstaining.

Wilshire Baptist Church and First Baptist Austin both received warnings from the Southern Baptist Convention last week that they would be kicked out if they changed their policy. Actually the convention warned it could no longer accept contributions from the churches if some of their money came from gay people who were members. The vote is a result of work by a diversity and inclusion committee created a year ago.

The resolution implies that the church already has a number of LGBT members, who currently have a second-class membership.

— David Taffet



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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. This week's guests are from the LGBT Aging Coalition; **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.

NOVEMBER

• **Nov. 18: Federal Club mixer**

Last mixer of the year from 6-8 p.m. at Chino Chinatown in Trinity Groves, 3011 Gulden Lane.

• **Nov. 19: Transgender Day of Remembrance — Fort Worth**

First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane Road, hosts a Transgender Day of Remembrance event from 7-9 p.m.

• **Nov. 19: Parents of Trans Youth Workshop**

Youth First, a program of Resource Center, hosts a workshop for parents and guardians of transgender and gender-non-conforming youth at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Topics include psychological aspects of gender identity led by Sabine Rakos, medical aspects of transition by Dr. Ximena Lopez, advocating for trans youth led by Lou Weaver with Equality Texas, and a panel discussion with parents of trans youth. The workshop will be held from 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and is exclusively for parents and guardians of trans youth. Admission is free and lunch is provided. RSVP at ParentsOfTransYouth.EventBrite.com.

• **Nov. 19: Nutcracker 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

pet of the week / HOUSTON

Houston is a 2-month-old blue tabby. He is sweet and outgoing and looking for a family to call his own. You can meet Houston in person at the Duncanville PetSmart.

For information on adopting a cat or a dog from the SPCA of Texas, visit SPCA.org or go to one of the SPCA's adoption events, like the Home for the Holidays event going on now at NorthPark Mall in Dallas. (See the Gay Agenda listings.)



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Bscott@myresourcecenter.org.

• **Nov. 19: Equality is Black and White photo shoot**

Be the face of equality from 3-5 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. EqualityIsBlackAndWhite.com.

• **Nov. 19: SPCA's Home for the Holidays**

Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas needs volunteers to help the SPCA for three-hour shifts at NorthPark to help place dogs and cats in new homes.

• **Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance — Dallas**

Black Trans Advocacy — Texas hosts a Transgender Day of Remembrance memorial event at Legacy of Love Monument, at the intersection of Oak Lawn Avenue and Cedar Springs Road, from 6-8 p.m.

• **Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance — Denton**

UNT Pride Alliance hosts TDOR in Denton from 7-9 p.m. at Denton Downtown Square, 110 W. Hickory St., Denton.

• **Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance — Waco**

InterWaco Community LGBT group hosts transsexual poet, playwright, artist and activist Alyssa Kerec Harley at a TDOR vigil from 3-5 p.m. at Heritage Square, 3rd Street and Austin Ave.

• **Nov. 20: Strong Sisters Support meeting**

Support for Collin County women living with HIV. From 5-7 p.m. Meet at Starbucks at The Shops of Legacy, Plano. RSVP dianer_strongsisters@curentx.org.

• **Nov. 22: LGBT Family & Friends Night**

North Texas Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA) holds its monthly LGBT Family and Friends Night at Durkin's Pizza, 8930 S.H. 121 (at Custer Road) in McKinney (in the Target Shopping Center), from 5-8 p.m. The family-friendly event includes networking, socializing, happy hour and pizza, and Michael Durkin donates 10 percent of sales to GALA Youth. LGBT Family and Friends Night is held on the fourth Tuesday of every month at Durkin's Pizza.

• **Nov. 22: Trans-Cendence Trans/SOFFA Support meeting**

Finn Jones is the speaker from 7-9p.m. At Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church, 1641 W. Hebron Parkway, Carrollton.

• **Nov. 24: Thanksgiving**

DECEMBER

• **Dec. 1: World AIDS Day**

• Dec. 1: World AIDS Day C.U.R.E. Awards C.U.R.E. (Community Unity Respect Education) marks Worlds AIDS Day 2016 with an event at Noah's Event Venue, 2251 N. Greenville Ave., in Richardson. James Lester, Marvin Green and Chris Bengston will receive C.U.R.E.'s 2016 Open Heart Award. Portions of the NAMES AIDS Memorial Quilt will be on display. Auntjuan Wiley will be keynote speaker. For information email info@curentx.org.

• **Dec. 1-3: The Laramie Project**

The award-winning Lewisville High School Theatre Department presents three performances of The Laramie Project, the play by Moises Kaufman that revisits the 1998 anti-gay hate crime murder of Matthew Shepard in Laramie, Wyoming and its aftermath. Performances begin at 7:30 p.m. each night in the LHS Stuver Auditorium, 1098 W. Main St. in Lewisville. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$7 for students.

• **Dec. 2: AIDS Arms 30th Anniversary celebration**

AIDS Arms celebrates its 30th anniversary with a celebration including light appetizers and beverages at 6 p.m. and a program at 7:15 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5901 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to info@AIDSArms.org. For information call 214-521-5191.

• **Dec. 2: Federal Club holiday celebration**

The 29th annual HRC Federal Club holiday party. RSVP by Nov. 22. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. for major donors and Black Tie board members and 8 p.m. for Federal Club members. Nuvo Room, 4241 Sigma Road.

• **Dec. 4: The Dallas Way fall brunch**

Fall Brunch: 2016 The Year in Review from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Location to be announced.

• **Dec. 5: Judge Don Adams retirement party**

From 5-7 p.m. at the Angry Dog, 2726 Commerce St.

• **Dec. 5: Stonewall Democrats holiday party**

From 7-9 p.m. at the Round Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Dec. 8-11: A Not So Silent Night**

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents its annual Christmas concert at 7:30 p.m. on Friday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Tickets at TurtleCreekChorale.com.

• **Dec. 10: Super Hero Ball**

Holiday party from 7-10 p.m. at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.



SPCA's Home for the Holidays

Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas is looking for volunteers to help the SPCA find new homes for dogs and cats, like Athena pictured above, during an adoption event at NorthPark Mall on Saturday, Nov. 19. Volunteers are asked to work three-hour shifts. For information visit GLFD.org or call 214-742-7722. Athena, by the way, is a 9-year-old, 58-pound black Lab who loves children, being petted and riding in the car with her head out the window. Visit SPCAFindAPet.com for more information on Athena or the many other dogs and cats available for adoption.

• **Dec. 14: GALA Holiday Party**

North Texas Gay and Lesbian Alliance (GALA) holds its Holiday Party from 6-10 p.m. at Event 1013, 1013 E. 15th St. in Plano. Absolut Vodka is the liquor sponsor for the party which will include food, drinks, a raffle and a silent auction.

• **Dec. 24: Chinese food and a movie**

Congregation Beth El Binah has a traditional Jewish Christmas Eve dinner at 7 p.m. at Royal China, 6025 Royal Lane.

• **Dec. 25: Christmas**

JANUARY

• **Jan. 17: Stonewall elections**

Stonewall officer elections at 7 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St.

FEBRUARY

• **Feb. 25: Dash for the Beads**

5K and 10K run, 1K walk and festival at Kidd Springs Park, 711 W. Canty St.

MARCH

APRIL

• **April 8: No Tie Dinner**

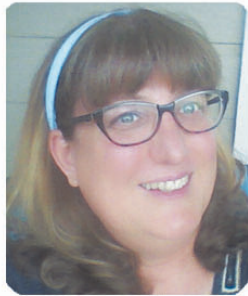
This year's theme is An Artful Life, inspired by the pop artists. From 7-10 p.m. at Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave.

JUNE

• **June 3: Bloomin' Ball**

Bloomin' Ball 2017 benefits AIDS Interfaith Network from 5-11 p.m. at Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 North Stemmons Freeway.

50 years later: Remembering Harry Benjamin and the transsexual phenomenon



Renee Baker
Contributing Writer

RENEE BAKER | Contributing Writer
editor@dallasvoice.com

Editor's Note: In honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance, Dallas Voice looks back at the legacy of "the father of transsexualism," Dr. Harry Benjamin, and offers advice for trans-

gender men and women and others in the LGBT community dealing with stress, fear and uncertainty in the wake of the 2016 elections. We also include here a list of TDOR events planned for North Texas.

Young people today may not have heard of her, but the rest of us history buffs readily recognize her name: Christine Jorgensen. More shocking in her day than Caitlyn Jenner is today, she rocked the world right off its gender foundation.

Jorgensen was no doubt considered a transsexual phenomenon in her day, becoming a celebrated figure in 1952 when the New York Daily News announced George Jorgensen's transition

with the oft-repeated headline "EX-GI BECOMES BLONDE BEAUTY."

But if it were not for a medical doctor named Harry Benjamin, they may instead have been calling Jorgensen's change instead, The Eonist Phenomenon. And if it were not for Christine Jorgensen, Harry Benjamin may not have become world-renowned as the "father of transsexualism" for his work with the gender-transitioning population.

We celebrate Harry Benjamin this year on the 50th anniversary of the publication his landmark and far-reaching book, *The Transsexual Phenomenon*, published by Julian Press in 1966, which ce-

mented the term used for individuals reassigning their sex.

Born in Berlin, Germany in 1885, Benjamin was a strong 81 years of age when he challenged the prevailing medical establishment belief that cross-gender behavior was a disorder, and defended the health needs of the trans community with this groundbreaking work.

That said, Benjamin wrote, "After 50 years in the practice of medicine, and in the evening of life, I need not be too concerned with a disapproval that touches much more on morals than on science."

Crisis? What Crisis?

Staying healthy, moving forward in the face of fear and hate and uncertainty

Unless you have been living in cold storage, you know we can cut to the chase: Our country and our community are in crisis.

We are living with a whole host of unknowns right now. The new administration set to take over the White House has not only unnerved practically every minority group in the country, it has the most anti-LGBT stance that many of us have ever seen.

This crisis is hitting especially hard on the transgender community, which arguably is at its pinnacle of empowerment since the Obama administration set a tone of advocacy — from equal opportunity in employment to groundbreaking educational protection for transgender children.

But the transgender community is also under fire like never before, with so-called "bathroom bills" targeting trans people still looming. Indeed, the Trans Lifeline crisis and suicide hotline number reports record numbers of calls since the day of the election.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Trans Equality, said, "Transgender people and those who love us are understandably gravely concerned about what this election will mean for our families, our communities, our children, and our country."

We can only imagine what could happen...

- Will I become the next victim of a hate crime?
- Will my gender markers on my legal documents be affected?
- Will I be allowed to use the right restroom?
- Will my school safe spaces be closed?
- Will I lose my medical insurance?
- Will my legal name or gender marker change be denied?
- Will I be discharged from the military?
- What happens if the president-elect were to die?
- Will Title IX transgender protections in the schools be undone?
- Will OSHA transgender protections in the workplace or shelters be undone?
- Will our marriages hold or will our rights be annulled?
- Should I buy a gun or weapons to protect myself from the hate?
- Will our gender creative children be forced into reparative therapy?
- Will I lose my publicly-funded HIV or transgender health treatments?
- Should I delay coming out of the closet and wait to transition in four more years?

- Will I be deported or will my immigration be affected?

No doubt, all these unknowns and more add up to anxiety, panic and the feeling we are in a crisis. And that is exactly what we are in — crisis.

There is much at stake and this is not a time to get stuck in quicksand. It is a time to play ball. It is by taking action that we maintain the momentum we have had these last eight years of the Obama administration.

It is also how we honor those that got us to where we are at thus far and keep the ball rolling.

Donald won, Hillary lost. But we can't let our joints rust from the tears we have cried in the last week. We absolutely can't slide down that slippery slope of self-pity. There is a time for mourning, but we must move forward into the future, too.

This is the time for us to identify as a new champion — a new, bolder champion for human rights. It is going to take more energy, more muscle, more compassion. Be ready for it.

Crisis, I hate to say it, is not always a bad thing. The Chinese symbol for crisis is a compound of two words — danger plus opportunity. It's an empowering way to look at it.

I'm not trying to sugar-coat the real danger we are in. I'm saying let's capitalize on the opportunity at hand and see how we can use this electoral change to our advantage, and to the advantage of all.

In the art of Aikido, the energy of the enemy is not blocked; it is redirected into a new direction. You take advantage of their momentum, shifting it where you want it to go. We need to shift it in a direction of justice and equality.

Our goal should not be to destroy the enemy or the haters or label them as such. Our goal is to find ways to open their hearts and minds, to bring them into the present moment, where they can understand — not an easy task, as their egos can be strong, rooted in righteousness.

We have to look for calm openings in time when they are willing to listen, then you can redirect and take advantage of the momentum. We have to let them save face. We need to listen to their anger. We have to accept them where they are at in their own growth.

The strong haters out there, though, will want to put us to sleep. They want to make us invisible, make us go away. But we are not going to let that happen either.

We are going to energize ourselves and double our activist efforts. We are going to be alert and pay attention. We will read and engage, write and listen. We are going to continue to unite across multiple and diverse fronts.

Remember: United we stand, divided we fall. In the end, we all

stand united, one world.

We have a big advantage over those that hate us: Hate is based in delusion. It's full of fear. It is group think gone amuck.

Love and consciousness go together, hand-in-hand. We do not have just eight Obama years of momentum when it comes to consciousness; we have thousands of years in awakening. So, the hate will fade over time, as long as we don't let them put us to sleep.

Keep moving. Stay conscious and present. While fear is the mind-killer, self-pity is the sleeping pill.

Let's affirm: "I do not wallow in fear and self-pity. I do not catastrophize over the 'what if' list above. I fight for truth. I fight for justice and equality. I do not give into lies and hate. I am discerning in my judgment. I admit my mistakes. I am gracious. I give people an opportunity to grow and accept them where they are. I am loving and kind. I care."

The Chinese have a well-known proverb, "It is better to light a candle, than to curse the darkness."

Yoda would say, "Beacon of light, I am."

Every minister has at one time taught their disciples, "The truth shall set you free."

We need to teach the haters. Hate-filled people are in pain and their band-aid is delusion. They may hate us, but the reality is that hatred is their own self-hatred projected onto us.

Don't take it personally; they need help. For them to change, they have to face their truth, rip the band-aid off and feel their pain. Compassion is needed here.

Together, now: "We are mindful and pay attention. We support our organizations. We help when they ask us for help. We call our local and state representatives. We keep ourselves well. We support each other. We are brave and courageous and take steps we have never taken before. We are grateful to our allies."

We don't want to go back to the 1960s. But in four more years, we do want to move liberally into a New Bolder Roaring Twenties!

So let's do it. Commit to action. Empower yourself. Don't let them take your power away and put you to sleep. Unite and embrace the blessing of diversity! And vote!

I'll leave you with some inspiring words from Supertramp to whittle, from their 1975 album, *Crisis, What Crisis?*:

"And if my thoughts had wings,
"I'd be the bird that sings
"I'd fly where love isn't shy
"And everyone's willing to try."

Renee Baker is a licensed professional counselor in Dallas. She can be reached at Renee-Baker.com.



Harry Benjamin

TDOR Calendar in North Texas

- Nov. 19: Transgender Day of Remembrance — Fort Worth
First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane Road, hosts a Transgender Day of Remembrance event from 7-9 p.m.
- Nov. 19: Parents of Trans Youth Workshop
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- Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance — Waco
InterWaco Community LGBT group hosts transsexual poet, playwright, artist and activist Alyssa Kerec Harley at a TDOR vigil from 3-5 p.m. at Heritage Square, 3rd Street and Austin Ave.
- Nov. 22: Trans-Cendence Trans/SOFFA Support meeting
Finn Jones is the speaker from 7-9p.m. At Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church, 1641 W. Hebron Parkway, Carrollton.

Though he lived to the ripe old age of 101 and died in Manhattan in 1986, Benjamin wrote about transgenderism long before the grassroots term “transgender” became a household word in the 1990s. He had adopted the term transsexual long before the term was used as the name of a clinical disorder of the American Psychiatric Association. With Benjamin’s classic work, he essentially defined the term in the way most use it today.

Benjamin’s book fought back against the pathological attitude that was common towards trans individuals in that day when trans individuals were often viewed as neurotic or psychotic. It set the blueprint for how to treat trans persons in a standard way using cross sex hormones — namely estrogen for transgender women and testosterone for transgender men.

Over time, his guidelines became known as the Benjamin Standards of Care, originally published by the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, named in his honor in 1979.

Benjamin was well known for advocating medical treatment, rather than reparative therapy. He stated with conviction, “Since it is evident, therefore, that the mind of the transsexual cannot be adjusted to the body, it is logical and justifiable to attempt the opposite, adjust the body to the mind.”

Today, the organization named after Benjamin is now known as WPATH, or the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, and is currently working on its eighth edition of the Standards. Dan Karasic, M.D., a board member of the organization, projects the new version to be out as early as October 2018.

Interestingly in 1949 San Francisco, Benjamin’s first transgender client was referred to him by sex researcher Alfred Kinsey. Kinsey is well known today for developing his Kinsey Scale, which indicates a degree of sexual orientation, ranging on a continuum from heterosexual to bisexual to having only same-sex attraction.

Correspondingly, Benjamin described a similar

HARRY BENJAMIN, Page 21



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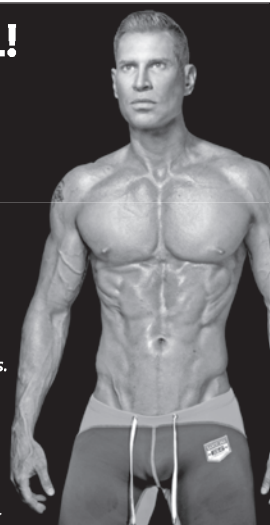


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Chuck Smith, CEO of Equality Texas

Bill pre-filed in Texas Senate targets
rights ordinances; Patrick
announces revamped 'bathroom bill'

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor

nash@dallasvoice.com

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

Spanish philosopher George Santayana said it in his book, *The Life of Reason*, published between 1905 and 1906. And lots of other people have expressed the same sentiment throughout written history.

But it seems some Texas elected officials either have very bad memories, or they just never learn, considering that bills pre-filed this week for consideration in the 2017 session of the Texas Legislature reflect the same kind of anti-LGBT animosity that cost the state of North Carolina millions and Gov. Pat McCrory his job this year.

In March this year, North Carolina's legislature hastily passed House Bill 2, the so-called bathroom bill, and within hours, Gov. McCrory had signed it into law. The bill prohibits local jurisdictions in that state from enacting anti-discrimination statutes that offer protections not expressly offered by state law, and it prohibits transgender people from using the appropriate public restroom facilities.

By mid-September, North Carolina had already lost an estimated \$400 million because of businesses and events that either moved out of the state or changed plans to locate there because of HB 2, according to a report by The Business In-

sider. And as of Nov. 8, McCrory had apparently lost his job to Democrat Roy Cooper, the state's former attorney general who opposes HB 2.

And after then-Gov. Mike Pence, now the vice president-elect, signed the so-called Religious Freedom Restoration Act into law in Indiana in 2015, that state lost at least \$60 million in revenue.

But Texas lawmakers, who in 2015 failed to pass "bathroom bills" aimed at limiting transgender people's access to public restroom facilities, are ignoring the lessons of North Carolina and Indiana and pledging to forge ahead with anti-LGBT bigotry in 2017.

Sen. Bob Hall, R-Edgewood, has pre-filed Senate Bill 92 that would over-rule local ordinances that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity and other factors not as not been granted by state law. Dallas, Fort Worth and Plano are among the cities in Texas that have such local ordinances.

In addition, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who oversees the Texas Senate, this week released his own legislative agenda. It includes plans for the "Women's Privacy Act," a re-do of 2015's efforts to keep transgender women from using public restroom facilities.

Neither Hall's pre-filed bill nor Patrick's proposed bill are identical to HB2 in North Carolina. But, taken together, they would have the same effect, noted Chuck Smith, CEO of Equality Texas. And, he said, if passed the measures could have the same disastrous effects.

Texas lawmakers perhaps thought that separating the components of HB2 might make it more palatable, Smith said.



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Resource Center dedicates health campus



The main building of Resource Center's health campus has been named for its first executive director, John Thomas. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

26 years after Resource Center bought it, the Reagan Street property gets a makeover

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Resource Center rededicated its old building at 2701 Reagan St. as its new health campus this week, unveiling the main building's new name: the John Thomas Building, after the organization's original executive director.

The health campus will house the food pantry, the hot meals program, the insurance program, case management and the new counseling program. A computer room is available for clients to use.

Dallas County Commissioners Elba Garcia and Theresa Daniel along with County Judge Clay Jenkins attended the ribbon cutting ceremony, as did County Health and Human Services Director Zach Thompson. City officials were not available to attend because of a rescheduled city council meeting.

Other speakers at the event included Penny Pickle Crispin, a nurse who saved lives during the height of the AIDS crisis by administering pentamidine mist at the Resource Center to help prevent pneumocystis pneumonia. Parkland Hospital and other health care providers were precluded from administering the treatments at the time because the drug was not indicated for that preventive use.

In May this year, Resource Center opened its new community center on Cedar Springs Road near Inwood Road. While the original plan was to sell the Reagan Street property, the organization decided to retain the old property and put it to new use.

As Resource Center has increased its programming over the years, space in the old buildings became increasingly tight. In the renovated space,

areas that previously crammed five desks together now house two.

The food pantry already re-opened earlier this year in the John Thomas Building after its old location on Denton Drive Cutoff suddenly closed for projected redevelopment. A development described as similar to West Village in the Uptown section of Oak Lawn is slated for that property. Although the landlord was anxious to empty the buildings of tenants — so anxious that the food pantry had to vacate before being able to rebuild and relocate to the health campus — the property has stood vacant and boarded up for a year.

That sudden closure, however, forced Resource Center to scramble to rebuild a space for the food pantry in the Reagan Street property before the new building was complete.

Work on the second building on Reagan Street is not completely finished. The hot meals program has been providing boxed meals for clients as work has progressed in the lunch area. The full sit-down lunch service should resume over the next few weeks.

The counseling rooms need a little finish-out work and are awaiting delivery of furniture before the expanded counseling program begins.

The dedication of the space brings to a close the agency's construction, which was financed by an \$8.7 million capital campaign. Resource Center CEO Cece Cox said the organization needs about \$225,000 to close out the campaign.

Cox indicated that with the completion of the work, Resource Center becomes one of the four largest LGBT community centers in the country and one of very few with multiple properties.

History

The two-building campus on Reagan Street was acquired from Metropolitan Community Church Dallas, now known as Cathedral of Hope, after an arsonist set fire on Feb. 22, 1989, to AIDS Resource Center offices then located on Cedar Springs Road.

The Resource Center was located in the space on The Strip now occupied by Out of the Closet. The arsonist was Dale Wesley Biddy, a gay man who had been volunteering at Dallas Gay Alliance; he walked into the Dallas Voice office two weeks later, told his story to editor Dennis Vercher, who called police.

Biddy set the fire to cover up his theft of computers, disks and money from the center. The fire



Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel, Dallas County Health and Human Services Director Zach Thompson and Commissioner Elba Garcia attended the grand opening.

also destroyed the Round-Up Saloon and Union Jack, and did some damage to TapeLenders.

After the fire, AIDS Resource Center regrouped quickly. Agency officers held a meeting at MCC Dallas where Executive Director John Thomas revealed that the organization's insurance only covered depreciated value. But it was the height of the AIDS crisis and the organization had work to do so they rented a space at 4012 Cedar Springs Road. That property is now known as the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic.

By the fall of 1990, MCC Dallas had outgrown its Reagan Street location. The church purchased property off Cedar Springs in Inwood Roads, but it couldn't wait for the new building to be built before relocating to larger space. So the church rented a building at the corner of Maple Avenue and Hudnall Street. That building, which later became the home of radio station KNON, was torn down earlier this year to make way for a self-storage facility.

To help finance the new building, MCC Dallas approached DGA about purchasing the Reagan Street property. DGA had created the AIDS Resource Center as a charitable non-profit organization. In order to allow people who wouldn't write checks with the word "AIDS" on it, the nonprofit's official name was "The Foundation for Human Understanding," because, well, who could be against that.

The facility on Cedar Springs Road was administering more health treatments, both legally and not-so legally, including Pickle's clandestine pentamidine mist treatments.

So FHU decided to purchase the Reagan Street property. No bank would finance the organization so the church arranged financing for the \$235,000 mortgage. With no means to pay for the property and no real plan, John Thomas signed the mortgage on behalf of the FHU board.

"This community took care of its own," Cox said at the ribbon-cutting event as she talked about the history of the buildings.

Surprisingly, the mortgage — at least interest on the mortgage — was kept current. Groups that used the new building would pay for use of the

space and community members made donations. Lots of fundraisers held in the bars helped but a major source of income came from bequests by people who had died of AIDS.

One of those bequests was a lot directly across the street from the center, which became the center's first parking lot. A developer traded that lot for a larger space diagonally across from Resource Center. While the original parking lot remains

empty years later, another developer wanted the larger parking lot to add to the rest of the block he acquired. As part of the deal, he exchanged that property for an even larger lot adjoining the existing buildings and paved and fenced the lot for Resource Center.

But the largest bequest at the time came from Joe Desmond, who had served as secretary of DGA since its founding and of FHU since its founding. Whenever the topic of how to pay the mortgage came up, Desmond would say, "Don't worry. It's taken care of."

Desmond was a quiet, sweet and charming man who worked to keep the minutes current for the organizations until a few weeks before his death. When he died in 1994, the AIDS Resource Center was the beneficiary of his \$250,000 insurance policy. That paid off the mortgage.

The second building in the Reagan Street property had an industrial kitchen. Food pantry Assistant Director Bill Hunt had a plan for it. He wanted to create Chez Louise.

Many people with AIDS were unable to afford food. But they still needed a high-calorie diet to maintain their weight to stay alive. To make the situation worse, many of them became more and more reclusive as their health deteriorated. Hunt's lunch program offered nutritious food and socialization.

Chez Louise, simply called the hot meals program today, continues in a space that has now been renovated for the first time.

The main building on the newly-christened health campus, originally the MCC Dallas sanctuary, was renovated in the early 1990s. The space was divided into three meeting rooms, known as the color rooms. The building's architectural designed was mostly hidden.

In this latest renovation, the vaulted ceiling has been opened and the church's wooden arches are again revealed.

At the ribbon cutting ceremony this week, Cox described opening up the rooms to reveal that hidden architectural detail. She described the wooden arches as hands clasped overhead, protecting and sheltering the community, something Resource Center has done since its founding. ■





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What now?



President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President-elect Mike Pence could spell trouble for the gains that the LGBT community has made under the Obama administration these last eight years. (Evan Vucci/Associated Press)

LGBT advocates ponder the possibilities for reversing rights under President Trump

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
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President-elect Donald Trump said in a post-election interview that marriage equality is “settled” and “it’s law,” and expressed no interest in pursuing an agenda to reverse the U.S. Supreme Court’s 2015 decision that struck down state bans on marriage licenses for same-sex couples.

That was welcome news to some LGBT people, as were the rumors that Trump is considering naming an openly gay man to a cabinet-level position.

But neither Trump’s statements nor the Cabinet appointment rumors was enough to assuage the deep concern of most LGBT legal activists that the incoming administration is poised to inflict enormous damage to civil rights gains from the past eight years for LGBT people.

Trump’s comment on marriage equality came in an interview broadcast Sunday, Nov. 13, on CBS’s 60 Minutes with newswoman Leslie Stahl. This was Trump’s first interview since winning enough states on Nov. 8 against Democrat Hillary Clinton to lay claim to 290 electoral votes. (Clinton won the popular vote by an unprecedented 1.5 million-plus votes. But, under the Constitution, the candidate with 270 electoral votes wins.)

Stahl told Trump that LGBTQ people are “expressing fear” of his impending presidency.

Trump interrupted to say he was surprised to hear that, noting that he “mentioned” LGBT people during his speech at the Republican National Convention.

“Everybody said that was so great,” he added. “I have been, you know, I’ve been a supporter.”

At the GOP convention in July, Trump vowed to do “everything in my power to protect our LGBTQ citizens from the violence and oppression of a hateful, foreign ideology.” He was referring to the massacre at the Orlando LGBT nightclub Pulse by an American citizen whose parents emigrated from Afghanistan.

But Trump sent other messages during his campaign that suggested his administration would not be a beneficial one for the LGBT community.

He said he would appoint a Supreme Court nominee in the mold of Antonin Scalia, who had the most anti-gay voting record of any justice in history. He said the treatment of transgender people in regards to public restrooms should be “left to the states.” He said he would sign the anti-LGBT First Amendment Defense Act, and he vowed to “cancel every unconstitutional executive action, memorandum and order” issued by President Obama.

Charles Moran, an openly gay businessman in Los Angeles who was a Trump delegate to the Republican National Convention, said Trump’s remarks about marriage equality being settled law are “consistent with his comments during the campaign.”

“We knew it would be a non-issue with him, and he won’t be distracted from his core mission of securing our borders, strengthening our economy and fixing Obamacare,” said Moran. “He is



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a modern Republican, and I'm happy to see he's fulfilling on his commitment to put this divisive issue behind us. It's good for the gays, good for the Republican Party, and good for America."

Shannon Minter, legal director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said, "There is no reason to believe that Trump intends to go after marriage equality, and it would be very difficult for him to do that."

Minter continued, "I am much more concerned about his threat to undo protections for LGBT federal employees and students, deport large numbers of immigrants, privatize Medicare, turn Medicaid into block grants, and remove any checks on the misuse of police violence."

Stahl did not press President-elect Trump on any LGBT matter other than marriage in her interview, but Minter and other LGBT legal activists are "expressing fear" about a truckload of issues, not just marriage equality.

"The Trump administration has the ability to affect an awful lot more than the fundamental right to marry," said Camilla Taylor, an attorney and spokesperson for Lambda Legal.

She noted the Trump administration could wreak havoc over important gains for LGBT people under the Obama administration, including the Obama administration's lawsuit against the LGBT-hostile North Carolina law HB2, the interpretation of Title IX to protect gender identity, and the administration's willingness to stand up for LGBT equality in cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

"This is a terrifying time to be an LGBT activist," said Taylor.

And while Trump may say that marriage equality is a matter of settled law, Taylor said activists must anticipate the possibility that anti-LGBT forces will attempt to mount new challenges against marriage as they have against *Roe v. Wade* and a woman's right to seek an abortion.

"It's very unlikely we'll see the Supreme Court's *Obergefell* decision overruled," said Taylor, in reference to the high court's ruling in 2015 that state bans on marriage licenses for same-sex couples were unconstitutional. "But," she said, "there are a number of ways in which a hostile administration could try to chip away at those rights. We're extremely concerned."

Like Taylor, Gary Buseck of GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders, doesn't think the Supreme Court is poised to overturn marriage equality. But he, too, sees the prospects for anti-LGBT activists to employ *Roe v. Wade*-type strategies to undermine it.

"Even without a Trump presidency, we have those who oppose marriage equality and have been working and will continue to work to reverse our gains," Buseck said. "I am sure they continue to look for vehicles to set the question up for Supreme Court review in the future."

That increases worry around who Trump will appoint to the Supreme Court seat vacated in February when Scalia suddenly died. LGBT legal activists are concerned that a Scalia-like appointee, confirmed with relative ease by a Republican-

dominated Senate, could be on the bench when many upcoming battles arrive.

The court has already accepted a case over Title IX protections for transgender students and it is likely to take up one of several cases over whether religious beliefs can be used as an excuse to deny services to LGBT people in restaurants, hotels and other public accommodations.

Executive orders

Even beyond the court, LGBT legal activists are concerned that Trump may reverse executive orders signed by President Obama that ensured protections for LGBT people in important areas, including federal employment, health care and basic recognition of their relationships in hospitals.

In 2014, President Obama signed an executive order (E.O. 13762) prohibiting contractors who do business with the federal government from discriminating based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The same order also added gender identity to existing order (E.O. 13087, signed by President Clinton) that prohibited discrimination against federal employees based on sexual orientation.

President Obama signed a "memorandum" in 2010, directing the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that all hospitals receiving Medicaid and Medicare enable LGBT patients to designate their partners and families for visitation privileges.

He also signed a "memorandum" in 2009 di-

recting federal agencies to extend "as many benefits as possible under the law" to gay federal employees with same-sex partners.

And every June during his administration, President Obama has signed a "Pride Month" proclamation.

Anti-LGBT activists have been calling on Trump to reverse a Departments of Justice and Education memorandum interpreting Title IX as prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity. They also want him to reverse a determination by Health and Human Services that requires insurance providers to cover gender transition medical expenses.


Meanwhile, Bloomberg news reported Nov. 11 that openly gay PayPal founder Peter Thiel, another Trump delegate to the convention, is joining the Trump transition team.

And Associated Press reported Monday morning, Nov. 14, that Trump is considering appointing Richard Grenell as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. The position has been considered part of the president's cabinet in most administrations (but not those of the two Presidents Bush) and is currently held by Samantha Power.

Grenell, who is a political commentator for Fox News and was a Trump delegate to the GOP convention in July, was an openly gay advisor to 2012 Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney. Grenell resigned that position after only two weeks, reportedly after "a full-court press by anti-gay conservatives" to get rid of him.

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DISCRIMINATION , From Page 10



"Just taking HB 2 and cutting it into smaller bites still makes for a bad meal. It makes for bad law," he said, adding that the Texas Association of Business has already expressed opposition for both.

The association, Smith said, "has already said that any legislation targeting LGBT people would be damaging to the businesses in Texas, the economy of Texas and the brand of Texas."

Hall has also pre-filed SB 89, which Smith called "another futile attempt to use our state's constitution to pass an anti-freedom-to-marry bill." It would allow county clerks to refuse to issue marriage licenses to LGBT couples.

The community's allies in Austin are also already hard at work. In fact, bills that have been pre-filed include efforts to get rid of out-dated laws that ban consensual same-sex sexual contact between adults (the Texas sodomy law) and a law prohibiting legal recognition of same-sex marriages. Both of those laws have been over-turned by U.S. Supreme Court rulings.

And Sen. Jose Rodriguez, D-El Paso, has already pre-filed SB 165, a comprehensive non-discrimination bill prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in the areas of housing, public accommodation, employment and state contracting.

Gay and trans folks have the same values as anyone: to be secure in their livelihoods and to live a life of purpose, free from discrimination," Rodriguez said. "An inclusive Texas is critical to recruiting top talent, attracting business and maintaining a strong tourism industry. This session, we must also be mindful of lawmakers' attempts to authorize discrimination or even repeal the handful of local nondiscrimination ordinances and policies that we do have in Texas. We simply can't afford discriminatory legislation of the kind that only brought ridicule to other states."

Dallas Voice called Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's office and, at the request of a spokesman in the public information office, twice submitted emails seeking a statement from Abbott on Hall's bills and on Patrick's proposed legislative agenda. The governor's media office did not respond either by phone or email.

Smith said he expects a companion bill to Hall's

measure will be filed at some point in the Texas House, and that plenty more bills targeting LGBT equality will be filed over the course of the legislative session, including misnamed "religious freedom" bills that would allow discrimination against LGBT people based on the person's religious beliefs.

"This will probably be a very difficult [legislative] session" for the LGBT community, Smith said. "It's going to be more contentious than 2015, and there will be more negative bills filed."

Smith acknowledged that Donald Trump's win in the race for the White House has "emboldened people who area trying to advance discrimination." But at the same time, he continued, Trump's election and other recent incidents like the massacre at Pulse in Orlando "have awoken some people" to join the fight against discrimination.

"Many of the coalitions that worked together in 2015 [to fight discriminatory legislation] are already working together around the coming 2017 legislative session," he said. And Equality Texas is partnering with other progressive organizations to stage what they hope will be one of the largest lobby days ever.

"People can start right not by saving March 20 on their calendar and planning to attend our 'All In For Equality' lobby day," Smith said. "Equality Texas is partnering with the Texas Business Association, Human Rights Campaign, Texas Freedom Network, the ACLU, the Transgender Education Network of Texas. We will be looking to partner with other organizations, some that we may not agree with on every issue but that we agree with on the issue of equality."

"We want and need as many people as possible to be in Austin on March 20. We want to make this the largest and most effective lobby day ever."

Smith also encouraged LGBT people and allies of the community "join Equality Texas and sign the pledge" to advocate for equality. And, he added, "it's never too early to pick up the phone and call your representative or your senator. Take every opportunity to contact your lawmakers by phone, in person or digitally."

"And don't forget to buckle up. It's gonna be a bumpy ride."

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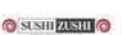


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- **Severe liver problems**, which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark “tea-colored” urine; loss of appetite; light-colored bowel movements (stools); nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking DESCOVY. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking DESCOVY or a similar medicine for a long time.

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- DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older. DESCOVY is **not** for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

HOW TO TAKE DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine that is taken with other HIV-1 medicines.
- Take DESCOVY with or without food.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY® and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY

DESCOVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About DESCOVY” section.
- Changes in body fat.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea.

These are not all the possible side effects of DESCOVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking DESCOVY.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with DESCOVY.

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- Have any other medical condition.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with DESCOVY.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to DESCOVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit DESCOVY.com for program information.



HARRY BENJAMIN, From Page 9



Christine Jorgensen

way to categorize gender variant behavior on a spectrum. From one spectrum end he considered “lighter forms” to be that starting as in the “hippie movement,” with long-haired boys and trousered girls. Then, onto the cross-dresser who wants to wear clothes of the opposite sex, to the one who wants hormone therapy for further other sex characteristics, and on to finally the “true transsexual” who craves bringing the whole body into harmony with the mind, including gender-confirming surgery.

Another interesting contemporary and colleague of Benjamin’s was Magnus Hirschfield, a well-known early activist on behalf of LGBT people. Together, according to historian Susan Stryker, the duo “visited homosexual and transgender bars in Berlin” when Hirschfield was writing the first book on cross-gender behavior, called *The Transvestites: The Erotic Drive to Cross-Dress*, published in 1910.

Stryker elaborates that it was precisely this German influence on Benjamin that shaped him to take a much less moralistic viewpoint than many of his contemporaries. Though he quietly helped trans individuals with their transitions for a number of years, it was Christine Jorgensen that propelled him into the limelight. Jorgensen was a patient of Benjamin during her transition.

In 1953, Benjamin was asked to write on the subject matter of Jorgensen and gender transitions. In discussing the etiology of the word “transsexual” he said, “I chose the term transsexualism for this almost unknown syndrome [instead of the word eonism].”

Christian Hamburger, a medical doctor on the Jorgensen transition team, had preferred to use the term “eonism.” It is safe to say, that this word did not catch on and instead Benjamin’s term transsexual became ubiquitous in his day.

Because Jorgensen was a worldwide phenomenon, and Benjamin wrote about her life, the term transsexual proliferated about the corners of the globe. Though today, most prefer a more nonclinical term, such as trans or transgender, the term transsexual was probably a good steppingstone for the era in which it was born.

Benjamin gave much credit to Jorgensen, who withstood public scrutiny for the rest of her life until she died — just a few years after he did, from

bladder cancer, in 1989.

“Indeed Christine,” Benjamin wrote, “without you, probably none of this would have happened; the grant, my publications, lectures, etc. You will find me giving you credit in the book.”

Benjamin was also known for his interest in the aging process. As a centenarian himself, he attributed his long life to good genes, living a sensible life and finding meaningful work. Benjamin indeed found work that meant a lot. ■

Renee Baker is a Licensed Professional Counselor in Dallas, Texas and can be reached at www.renee-baker.com.



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■ commUNITY voices

Softer, gentler Trump?

President-elect's words on '60 Minutes' are no guarantee of safety for LGBT people, but we will stand strong

Supporters of President-elect Donald J. Trump probably reacted with as much shock as did backers of Hillary Rodham Clinton did when she lost the election to the billionaire.

The television networks were abuzz Sunday with discussion about why pollsters got it so wrong when they predicted Clinton would win the election, widespread reports of angry protests in the streets of major cities and speculation about who would get top spots in Trump's Administration. That evening on *60 Minutes*, Trump, his wife Melania and four children appeared for a wide-ranging interview about his plans for the Oval Office.

Sunday morning, the media reported that Trump was considering Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus for his chief of staff, and the Trump Transition Campaign confirmed Priebus' appointment that afternoon. After weeks of promising to "Drain the Swamp" in Washington, D.C., Trump confounded observers by "putting the top alligator in charge" of the administration, as one pundit put it.

Trump also named Stephen Bannon, the arch-conservative chairman of Breitbart News and a white nationalist, as his senior counselor and chief West Wing strategist. Earlier, observers suggested Bannon would be Trump's choice for chief of staff.

Neither Priebus nor Bannon would be anything other than disastrous picks in the view of LGBT activists, but Bannon could at least be seen as an



David Webb
The Rare Reporter

outsider. Priebus, though, is the ultimate insider in the Republican establishment with whom Trump so virulently quarreled during his primary and election campaigns.

When Trump and his family appeared on *60 Minutes* some people surely wondered who had taken over Trump's body and mouth. The foul-mouthed, crass bully had disappeared to be replaced by someone almost palatable.

Trump, after weeks of bashing the media as dishonest and vindictive, answered interviewer Leslie Stahl's questions thoughtfully and politely. When she told him his election had sparked bullying in schools and on streets in the name of White Power, Trump said the news saddened him. He even looked directly into the camera and sternly said, "Stop it," to the bullies.

The shocks kept coming in the interview as Trump backed away from his promise to repeal Obamacare on day one of his presidency. Instead, he said, it would be replaced by something better that ensures all citizens will be insured, and the best parts of Obamacare (no pre-existing conditions denials and extensions of coverage for children to age 26 when they live at home) would be kept in place.

On the subject of the 30-foot-high, 3,000-mile wall being built on the U.S. and Mexico border, Trump said it would in some areas merely be a fence. Despite his many campaign pledges to form

a deportation troop and remove all undocumented residents, Trump said the focus would be on criminals only.

The other "terrific people" would probably be accommodated somehow, he hinted.

In a gracious nod to Clinton, Trump even said he wanted to cause no harm to former President Bill Clinton and his wife. He called them "good people," and he said he would think about his earlier threat to appoint a special prosecutor to "put her in jail" for allegedly lying before Congress about the private server and devices she used for email exchanges.

Trump proclaimed himself to be pro-life, but he said that there would be no assault on abortion rights. If the issue ever came before the U.S. Supreme Court again, the most drastic result would be a return of the issue to the states for consideration.

Finally, he said that marriage equality is already the law of the land, and there would be no impact on the rights of LGBT citizens to marry, he said. Trump even added that he knows many LGBT people.

I suspect that last one blew the socks off of many of Trump's supporters who propelled him to the top elected office of the nation. Pollsters identified rural Americans without college educations as the group that most likely came out of the woods in larger numbers than expected to vote for him.

Human rights groups disregarded Trump's softer rhetoric, saying his appointment of Bannon had made a mockery of his pledge to be the president for all Americans.

"Stephen Bannon, a man who led a media empire into becoming what a former Breitbart editor called a cesspool for White Supremacist followers simply has no business in the White House," said Richard Cohen, president of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Trump's victory led to an "avalanche of racist and anti-Semitic harassment that plagued the entire presidential campaign," Coehn said. "White Supremacist websites erupted into celebration on election night he added.

Like everyone else who voted for Clinton, I reacted in shock when I learned Trump would be our next president. I literally took to bed for a couple of days to recover from that harrowing night of election returns.

Trump's more tolerant stance on *60 Minutes* in no way protects the LGBT community from the threat of the conservative cause, but it reminds me of a few important factors. First, no candidate is ever able to deliver on all of the promises they make during a campaign, and second, the situation is never as good or bad as we might anticipate it to be following an election.

Most importantly, I am reminded that we as a community of LGBT people are always at the top of our game in the face of adversity. That's not going to change, no matter who becomes president.

David Webb is a veteran journalist with more than three decades of experience, including a stint as a staff reporter for Dallas Voice. He now lives on Cedar Creek Lake and writes for publications nationwide.





Holiday Gift Guide

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BODY & SOUL



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Available at
FirstAidBeauty.com.
and local Sephora and Ulta stores.

Candy coma

After the year we’ve all had, who wouldn’t appreciate snuggling up in a fetal position with a basket of handmade chocolates to soothe your frayed nerves? North Texas-based Yelibelly Chocolates makes everything fresh in the store, using preservative-free ingredients, locally sourced when possible. You can customize a basket for a friend, and pick up a seasonal box for yourself while you’re at it. We all need a chocolate hug. Boxes from \$12–\$24; custom baskets available.

Available at Yelibelly Chocolates,
2364 E. Northwest Parkway, Southlake. 817-789-5563
Yelibelly.com



When you pour, you reign

We live in a cocktail culture. (Hey, we’re gay. We like the word.) It’s one thing to get a shot at your local watering hole. But at home, you can class up any wet bar with designer decanters from Nuvo. This handmade cocktail set can gussy up any liquor — your moonshine can look like a fine sipping tequila, and show your guests (or the giftee on your list) that you know how to enjoy a refreshing adult beverage with some style. Glasses \$22.50; decanters \$125–\$150.

Nuvo Dallas
3311 Oak Lawn Ave. 214-522-6886
NuvoDallas.com



Cuff ‘em!

Jewelry has usually been the province of women, but Dian Malouf feels strongly that men also need a little beauty on their bodies that doesn’t come from the gym. The local designer has an entire line of boy-bling, from rings to bracelets and what may be the ultimate in masculine accouterment: cufflinks. Check out her sterling silver and 14k gold “Longhorn” cufflinks — nothing shows your Texas pride better. \$510.

Available at
Dian-Malouf.com
214-520-3123





A toast to savvy wine shopping!

Wine shopping can be intimidating. You may know what you like, but how do you take a chance on something new, to broaden your horizons? The folks at Whole Foods are specially trained to walk you through the vast oceans of fermented grapes, from regions to varietals to flavor profiles ... and they can set you up with the perfect hostess gift for under \$20. Raise a glass to that!

Available at Whole Foods Markets across the Metroplex.
WholeFoodsMarket.com.

Here comes the groom!

Few pleasures in life are as satisfying as the soothing ritual of a beauty regimen. When you surround yourself with quality products designed to make you look good, you also end up feeling good. The folks at S.E. Cote & Co. know this, which is why they have assembled a variety of packages for the dapper dandy in your life, such as the Deluxe Male Grooming Package that's like a home spa in a box. Or put together your own kit to show someone you love the way they look, and they deserve to feel that back. Available in a range of prices; Deluxe Package at \$34.95.

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Coin of the realm

Hand-crafted jewelry makes an excellent gift idea for the holidays, as does money ... and you can incorporate both with this Rewind Jewelers bracelet from Flower Reign. A 50-cent British coin, struck with the likenesses of Princess Di and Prince Charles, has been refurbished by artisans into dia de los muertos-inspired skulls and placed on a chain with this funky, steampunky piece of wearable art. \$120.

Flower Reign
3904 Cedar Springs Road. 214-774-9236.
ShaneWalkerDesign.com.

BODY & SOUL

Feed your hands ... and someone else

Winter is coming, and we all know what that means. No, not the white walkers — chapped hands. And Kiehl's Ultimate Strength Hand Salve is designed specifically to combat that. The legendary apothecary company imbues its lotion with soothing emollients that strengthen and soften your hands after exposure to the cold. And if you buy a special three-pack, Kiehl's will donate the equivalent of 295 meals to Feeding America. Pack/\$34.95.

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HOME, HEARTH & PETS



One-of-a-kind finds

Consignment stores and antique malls are excellent places to forage for one-of-a-kind items that say, "The thought counts — and I put in a lot of thought." We were instantly drawn to this distressed plaster lion face, (at left) which makes a bold adornment to a door or wall, when we stopped by Lula B's in Oak Cliff; over in the Design District, we got to choose from any number of vintage tree ornaments (far left) to brighten up your holiday décor. There's always something to find at Lula B's, if you put some thought into it.

Lion face (\$68) available at Lula B's
1982 Fort Worth Ave. 214-824-2185.
LulaBsDallas.com.

Ornaments (from \$2-\$14) available at Lula B's,
1010 N. Riverfront Drive. 214-749-9236.
LulaBsDallas.com.

The container story

Pandora had a famous one. So did Schrodinger. And pirates. Santa places them under a tree. There's something exciting about opening a box ... and something alluring about the box itself. A custom-made, local-artist-crafted steel gift box is both a container and the present itself — full of promise and hope. Jones Walker Home offers these custom creations in a variety of colors that will pop on Christmas morning. \$80.

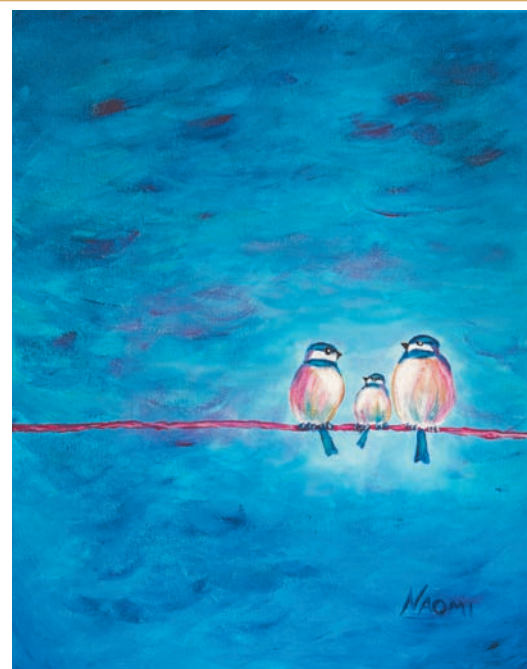
Available at
Jones Walker Home, 1531 Dragon St.
JonesWalkerHome.com.



Thar she blows!

You know when you hear that a piece of art glass was “mouth blown”? Well, whose breath gave it that shape in the first place? It could be yours. Dallas Glass Art in the Design District sells its own handmade ornaments to gift your friends, but will happily teach you how to make it your own, if you’d rather. Sign up for a class — solos, couples or private parties of six or more — to learn how it’s done, and make your own piece of glass art, where you can choose the color, style and shape under the guidance of an expert. It’s amazingly fun. Classes from \$50.

Dallas Glass Art
1820 Irving Blvd. 214-741-1442.
DallasGlassArt.com



Be a collector

The sign of a serious amateur art collector involves knowing what you like, and amassing great iterations of that preference. And if you want to show some style, consider an original piece from local painter Naomi Butler. Her original designs — acrylic on gallery-wrapped canvas — are colorful abstracts that will surely speak to any number of art lovers. \$295.00

Available from Abstract Art by Naomi 214-274-5060.
AbstractArtByNaomi.com.



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HOME, HEARTH & PETS



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J. Douglas Design
3301 Oak Lawn Ave.
214-522-8100.
JDouglasDesign.com.

Letting the dog on the furniture

You won't let Fido on the couch because he'll make a mess, and you don't let water glasses on the coffee table cuz they leave a ring. But you can fix the best of both worlds with these adorable Dog Is Good coasters by High Cotton. Amusing designs profess messages like "Welcome diversity" and "Make time for play" while reminding us of our four-legged friends. Available in a range of colors, styles and sayings. \$3.29.

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21 other DFW Hollywood Feed Locations
HollywoodFeed.com.





Art for art's sake

Gay people like to say, "Pets are our children," but some people can't handle the dander and dirt, the feeding and walking. Wouldn't it be nice to have an exotic pet that was, literally, zero maintenance? We have the answer: The "porcupine" sculpture from Dulce (below). OK, so it's not as cuddly as a cat, but when you're looking to give a gift, you want to stand out. And Dulce can help you stand out with its selection of unique consignment items.

Dulce Interior Consignment Showplace

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Door décor

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North Haven Gardens, 7700 Northaven Road. 214-363-5316. NHG.com.

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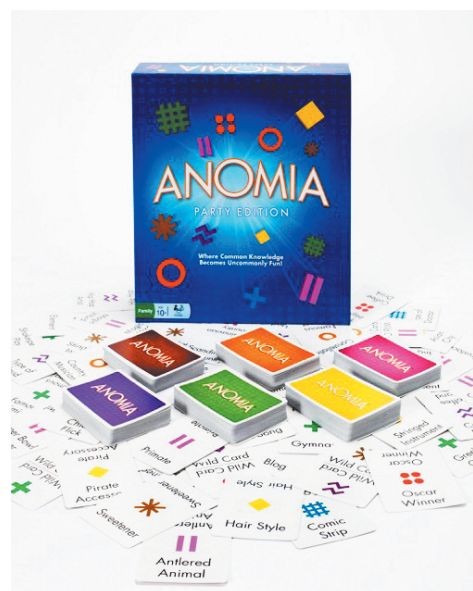


Gotta say: We are obsessed — obsessed! — with the Megaboom portable speaker from Ultimate Ears. Its wireless, Bluetooth connectivity puts it in touch with your smartphone, from which you can stream Podcasts, Pandora, saved music ... any audio you can throw at it ... all in crystal-clear 360-degree sound. (We even had property management tell us to turn it down — that's how good it is.) A waterproof casing and crazy-long battery life, plus a 100-foot range (and you can even sync it with multiple speakers) makes it our go-to gift for the techie on our list. \$299.99.

Available at UltimateEars.com.

Game Night is one of the great adult pleasures of friends who have grown tired of bars and like more engagement than movies, and this challenging game — which activates right brain and left brain — is one of our new favorites. Players match not only shapes, but ideas and pop-culture references and themes with as much speed as they can muster. It's challenging, fun and provides plenty of room to throw shade among friends — everything we adore about gay night. \$29.95.

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Noah's Arckit: A toy that challenges

Anyone with children on their shopping list knows it's difficult to find something unique and special for someone in the midst of growing up, but the Arckit may be one that actually challenges children and adults. An architectural puzzle — some call it “Lego for adults” — is like an Erector set for the modern age, allowing people to construct and design modern buildings with a variety of modular pieces. Don't be complacent — it requires concentration and time, in the most rewarding way. \$59.99 and up.

Available at Amazon.com.

Do I hear a song?

Believe it or not, some people still like to listen to music on CDs! I know!! But even if you prefer digital downloads, the gift of music is something everyone enjoys... and there's a lot of it out there. For brand-new, in-the-holiday-spirit ideas, try A Pentatonix Christmas from the local Grammy winners;

for a classics lover, check out the remastered release of Bette Midler's The Divine Miss M Deluxe. Figuring out your friend's taste is half the fun.

Available online and at local retailers.



Breathe a sigh of relief

It's the holidays, which means tons of parties and fair amount of showing... shall we say, “liquid enjoyment.”

But keeping the streets — and yourself — safe should be as much of a priority as a gift. So here may be the perfect gift to bridge the gap: The Revo, a personal blood alcohol content analyzer from AlcoMate. This discreet device quickly and accurately evaluates your blood alcohol level so that you can make intelligent decisions about driving and your own health. It's a device trusted by the Marines and Navy for their own usage.

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Sunday 02.12**

Rare collection of Picasso ceramics on exhibit in Arlington

Pablo Picasso was one of the defining artists of the 20th century — one best known for his painting. But he also dabbled in ceramics, as a new show at the Arlington Museum of Art demonstrates. Check out rare works from this legendary artist through February.

DEETS: Arlington Museum of Art, 105 W. Main St., Arlington. ArlingtonMuseum.org.



Saturday 11.19

Erykah Badu headlines fundraising show for Lone Star Circus ... musically and aerially

The Lone Star Circus has arrived every Christmas season for the past nine years, and to start its 10th season, none other than Erykah Badu will be headlining a fundraiser to kick off the new lineup, which the year will even travel to Moody Gardens on Galveston Island. Badu will not only be singing at the event — she'll also be performing her own aerial act! Is there nothing she can't do?

DEETS: 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd. ste. 107. 7 p.m. Tickets starts at \$125. LoneStarCircus.org.



**Wednesday 11.23 —
Wednesday 12.28**

Scrooge looks like a lady: Dallas Theater Center reinvents Dickens

The Dallas Theater Center has long believed in race-blind casting, so we've had a black Ebenener Scrooge before. But gender-blind? You betcha. Sally Vahle — Dallas Voice's Actor of the Year for 2015 and one of North Texas' finest thespians — will take on the iconic popularizer of holiday humbuggery in the DTC's annual incarnation of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. It's nice to see at least one woman getting a job she deserves this November. (And for the ninth consecutive year, DTC will partner with the North Texas Food Bank to raise money to feed those in need.)

DEETS: Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. In previews through Nov. 29. DallasTheaterCenter.org.



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A flamboyantly fun murder mystery, Fort Worth's Stage West presents 'Murder for Two,' with piano-playing actors Mark Schenfisch and Teddy Warren playing all the characters. (Photo courtesy Buddy Myers.)

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Angels in America, Part I: Millennium Approaches. Tony Kushner's Pulitzer- and Tony-winning play about the AIDS crisis in the 1980s, as filtered through perspectives of a closeted Mormon and a malicious powerbroker, the all-too-real Roy Cohn. Directed by Cheryl Denson. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

The Book of Moron. Robert Dubac's one-man show about a culture consumed by idiocracy. Five performances only. Eisemann Center for the Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Nov. 18–20. EisemannCenter.com.

A Charlie Brown Christmas. K. Douglas Miller directs an adult cast in this holiday classic, featuring the Peanuts gang for Dallas Children's Theater. Rosewood Center for Family Arts, 5938 Skillman St. Nov. 18–Dec. 21. DCT.org.

Chicago. MainStage Irving-Las Colinas opens its season with this sassy musical, directed by B.J. Cleveland, music direction by Mark Mullino. *Final weekend.* Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. IrvingArtsCenter.com.

Dreaming Electric, a world premiere play by local playwright Kevin Grammer about the revolutionary but troubled inventor Nikola Tesla. *Final weekend.* Ochre House Theater, 825 Exposition Ave. OchreHouseTheater.org.

Day Light. A blizzard in 1867 brings to light desires and secrets of a Texas family in this original play, written and directed by Bruce R. Coleman. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Dec. 11 (in previews through Nov. 20). Theatre3Dallas.com.

Murder for Two. An Agatha Christie-esque mystery, played by only two actors — one the detective, one all the suspects. A witty musical of dueling pianos and wits. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 18. StageWest.org.

Nuestra Pastorela. Cara Mia presents this family-friendly but zany spin on the traditional Mexican holiday shepherd tale. (In English with some Spanish.) Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. Nov. 18–Dec. 11. CaraMiaTheatre.org.

10 Out of 12. A behind-the-scenes comedy about a play in tech rehearsal, from Anne Washburn, author of Mr. Burns. The cast includes Paul Taylor and Danielle Pickard; directed by Blake Hackler. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through Dec. 3. 7:30 p.m. Undermain.org.

OPERA

Moby-Dick. Composer Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer devised this take on Melville's classic novel, which was commissioned by the Dallas Opera for the opening season at the Winspear and returns for the first time. *Final weekend.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. DallasOpera.org.

FINE ART

Pathway. A new and immense mural by Swiss artist Nicolas Party — a dreamy, cobalt forest of possibly underwater landscapes — occupies the main concourse of the museum, also featuring the pastel painting *Two Men with Hats*. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 5, 2017. Free. DMA.org.

Pablo Picasso: Ceramics. An exhibition of the great 20th century artists work in clay. Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W. Main ST., Arlington. Through Feb. 12. ArlingtonMuseum.org.

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Matthew Alexander. An exhibition of the British modern Impressionist's paintings. Alan Barnes Fine Art, 3906 Lemmon Ave., Suite 222. Through Dec. 31. AlanBarnesFineArt.com.

Divine Felines: Cats of Ancient Egypt. Highlights of works from the Brooklyn Museum that honor the mystical role cats played in the days of the pharaohs. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 5, 2017. Free. DMA.org.

EXHIBITION

Birds of Paradise. Developed by the National Geographic, this exhibition explores 39 rare birds found in the area of New Guinea. Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2201 N. Field St. Through Jan. 8, 2017. PerotMuseum.org.

FRIDAY 11.18

COMMUNITY

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

FILM

Serial Mom. CineWilde presents this acclaimed dark comedy from John Waters. Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 8:30 p.m. doors, 9 p.m. pre-show discussion, 9:30 p.m. screening, 11 p.m. post-screening cocktail party. \$10.

SATURDAY 11.19

SPORTS

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

FUNDRAISER

Bravo for Lone Star Circus. A fundraising cocktail part and show, featuring music and an aerial performance by Ekykah Badu. 7 for Parties, 107 Turtle Creek Blvd. 7 p.m. \$125. LoneStarCircus.org.

MONDAY 11.21

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 11.22

THEATER

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical. A newly-enhanced stage production of the holiday classic plays in Fort Worth and Dallas. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth, Nov. 22–23. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave., Nov. 25–27. BassHall.com. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

FILM

Murder on the Orient Express. A hated rich man is brutally stabbed on board the famed luxury train, and only Hercule Poirot can solve it. Albert Finney stars in the Agatha Christie thriller that launched a franchise in



CineWilde screens 'Serial Mom, director John Waters' 1994 comedy, as part of its monthly queer film series at the Texas Theater Friday.

the 1970s and '80s; Ingrid Bergman won an Oscar. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 11.23

THEATER

A Christmas Carol. The Dallas Theater Center's annual holiday show, this time with Sally Vahle in the role of Scrooge. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Nov. 23–Dec. 28. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**THURSDAY 11.24 —
THANKSGIVING DAY**

FRIDAY 11.25

DANCE

The Nutcracker. Texas Ballet Theater's annual production of Tchaikovsky's classic Christmas ballet, presented both in Dallas and Fort Worth. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St., Nov. 25–Dec. 4; Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth, Dec. 9–24. TexasBalletTheater.org.

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Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

Yes, that time of the year has rolled around again for all us good, queer Texans to give thanks for how very fortunate we are — LGBT citizens in this grand country of ours, in this colossally diverse, purple-ish state of ours, in this great city of Dallas we live in — where offenses of hatred and bigotry are societal crimes punishable by law, instead of lawfully condoned. Guys and gals, thank whomever you pray to this Thanksgiving for, indeed, being bountifully lucky.

Let's get right to it.

Dear Howard,

I feel blessed to have fully a dozen *true* friends; they've stood by me ever since way back in high school, throughout our sex-charged 20s, our career-angst 30s and now our diminishing late-40s. I say "blessed" because I know way too many guys who've exactly *zero* substantive friendships. They've Facebook "friends" by the dozens if not hundreds, sure, and Grindr "relationships" out the ass, aplenty; unfathomably, too, some of them have even successfully snared longtime partners! I was lucky in

work, retired at 49, and I'm (very rewardingly) now a Peace Corps volunteer. But a spousal boyfriend is the only type of friend I've *always* sought that's eluded me. I haven't seriously dated someone of any substance in years — honestly, maybe a decade now.

How is it that I'm able to maintain truly *rewarding*, long-term friendships around the entire globe, but can't find anyone emotionally worthy of even asking out to a dinner date with here back home, or just enjoy popcorn at the movies with—anyone worthy of sharing real intimacy with? I'm decent-looking and got lots to offer behind my Levi's zipper, also. Heck, I'd be happy with a shallow size-queen, or at least content with one, so long as he *wanted* me. Any pearls of cultured wisdom here, Howard, you could offer? The Kardashianization of this country is slowly just killing someone like me.

Thanks. — Allen

Dear Al,

Cultured insights (more flawless than a waist-length lavalier of *natural* pearls!) I do certainly possess. Wisdom-prognosis pearl No. 1: Twelve BFFs, Allen, is an *unsustainably* large number of "substantive" relationships to simultaneously juggle. Realistically,

only about half such an extraordinary juggling feat can be long-term maintained, and even but six *real* friends require *exhaustive* work ... constantly. Here's the truth: It's outright impossible for anyone, even herculean Howard here, to just toss in a private-life relationship, too, amidst such an already over-oiled, whirling friendship salad as you're frenetically juggling.

Real friends
require
exhaustive
work ...
constantly

Al, if you want my *totally* unprofessional, unlicensed Freudian opinion — which of course *every-one* does — it appears from this unqualified "psychoanalyst's" perspective that, quite early along your sidelined maturity path, somewhere long ago, you made a personal choice to enjoy *many* close companions but *no* intimate ones. I can't give you reasons *why* you shun sexual intimacy, and I'm certainly not going to say that you may squarely blame *all* on Kim Kardashian, nor your repressed memories of that pervert uncle, either — the one who always had a new litter of "just the cutest" dachshund puppies for you to pet out back in his tool shed. Seriously, Charlie Brown, *none* of your real friends are going to just yank away your football because you'd like to date someone regularly. True friends are friends, always, *especially* old school friends from pubescence, way back. They would *only* support you, to the last. My advice is both thanklessly mundane and superficially stoic: *Go out on a goddam date!* Put yourself all-out on Match.com, or even Grindr. Hell, stud, let these shallow queens see you're swingin' a Louisville slugger!



e-mail: acoupleofguys@qsyndicate.com



www.facebook.com/acoupleofguys



Dear Howard,

My honeymoon last Thanksgiving barely survived a potentially marriage-extinction tiff over how to cook one of those skanky Butterball frozen turkeys; instantaneously, me and Theo just veered off the rails into, like, palpable divorce territory. Howard, I can't endure cooking in the kitchen with her again this year — she's a culinary *Twilight Zone*, I am a *professional* chef. I literally prepare food for a living: Theo phantasmagorically *thinks* just because her starched apron came from Bloomingdale's she's Julia Child, resurrected! My lovely wife, bless her heart, believes sweetbreads is a dessert, tomatoes are a vegetable and carpaccio a breed of fish; I swear on Marie-Antoine Careme's very grave, only yesterday she asked me where (da dum dum!) *pick-les* come from — 'Vlasic friggin' jarred pickles! My shiksa sweetie grasps less about cooking than probably even our Food Network celebrity hall-pass does—that toothily gorgeous dingleberry dimwit, Giada De Laurentiis! — "Rachael"

Rachael, Rachael,

For the life of me, I can never figure out why you lesbian groupies of mine — expositionally long-winded fault — never actually get around to ever asking Dear Howard here what your question to me is: Rae, if you love your wife, just roast her "skanky" damned Butterball this year the way Theodosia likes, and respectfully enjoy your second Thanksgiving together with *thankfulness*: Holiday harmony means more than a frozen turkey cooked to cardboard.

— 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.

Artwork by Mark Stokes



Dancing man at The Tin Room



Party time on The Strip



Bright eyes and beards on The Strip



All hat and smiles at The Round-Up Saloon

Making the **SCENE** the week of Nov. 18-24:

- **Alexandre's:** Chris Chism and the Band on Friday. Ashleigh Smith with Linny Nance and the Network on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marle on Tuesday. Illumin on Wednesday.
- **Club Changes:** The Divine Miss Divas Show at 10 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** DMix69 on the patio and Fall Frolick in the house on Saturday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Fall Frolic Bar Crawl from 7-10 p.m. on Friday. M.r Leather Bear Dallas Fetish & Fantasy Show and leather fashion auction benefits Mr Leather Bear Dallas Travel Fund at 7 p.m. on Friday. MasT Dallas meeting from 1:30-4 p.m. on Saturday. DFW Leather Corps club night on Saturday. United Court Holiday Show at 7 p.m. on Saturday benefits Resource Center Nutrition Program. Fall Frolick Comedy Follies Show from noon-4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Cassie's Freak Show with Fantasha, May May, Graves, Stefani and Alexis on Monday.
- **Rainbow Lounge:** The Boys Next Door with Patrick Mikyles at 9 p.m. on Friday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Fifth annual Feed the Community Thanksgiving Feast with food and entertainment from 2-6 p.m. on Thursday. Volunteers and donations still needed. Contact Frank Martinez at fmartinez62672@gmail.com.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Mustache Envy on the main floor on Friday. Mary-Heather and the Sinners on Saturday. Linda Lucky's Christmas Benefit and Kathy & Bella at 3:30 and Bad Habits at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** Thanksgiving in the Rose Room with Asia, Kelexis, Krystal, Kira and Sassy O. on Thursday.
- **Two Corks and a Bottle:** Show Tune Night from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** Comedy Show at 9 p.m. on Friday. Pajama Jam Party at 10 p.m. on Saturday.

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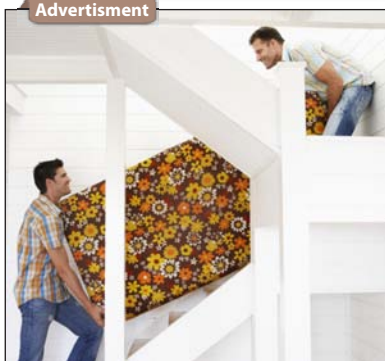


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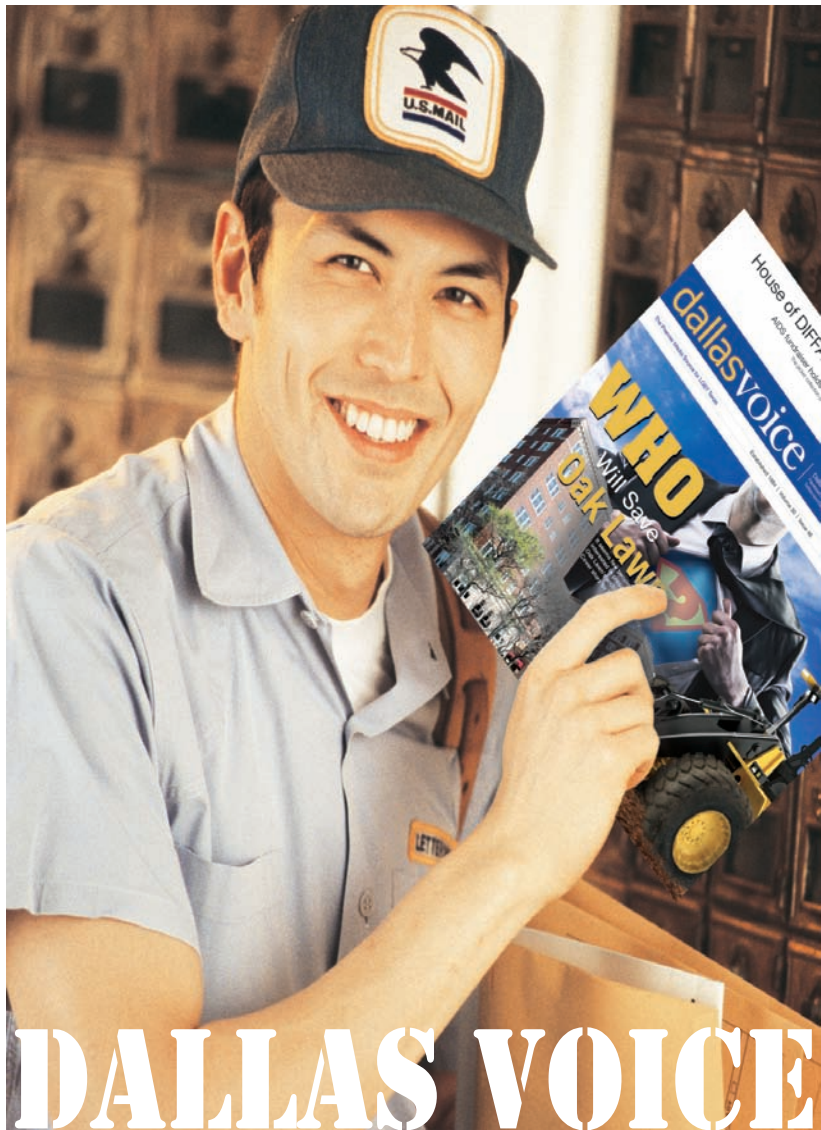
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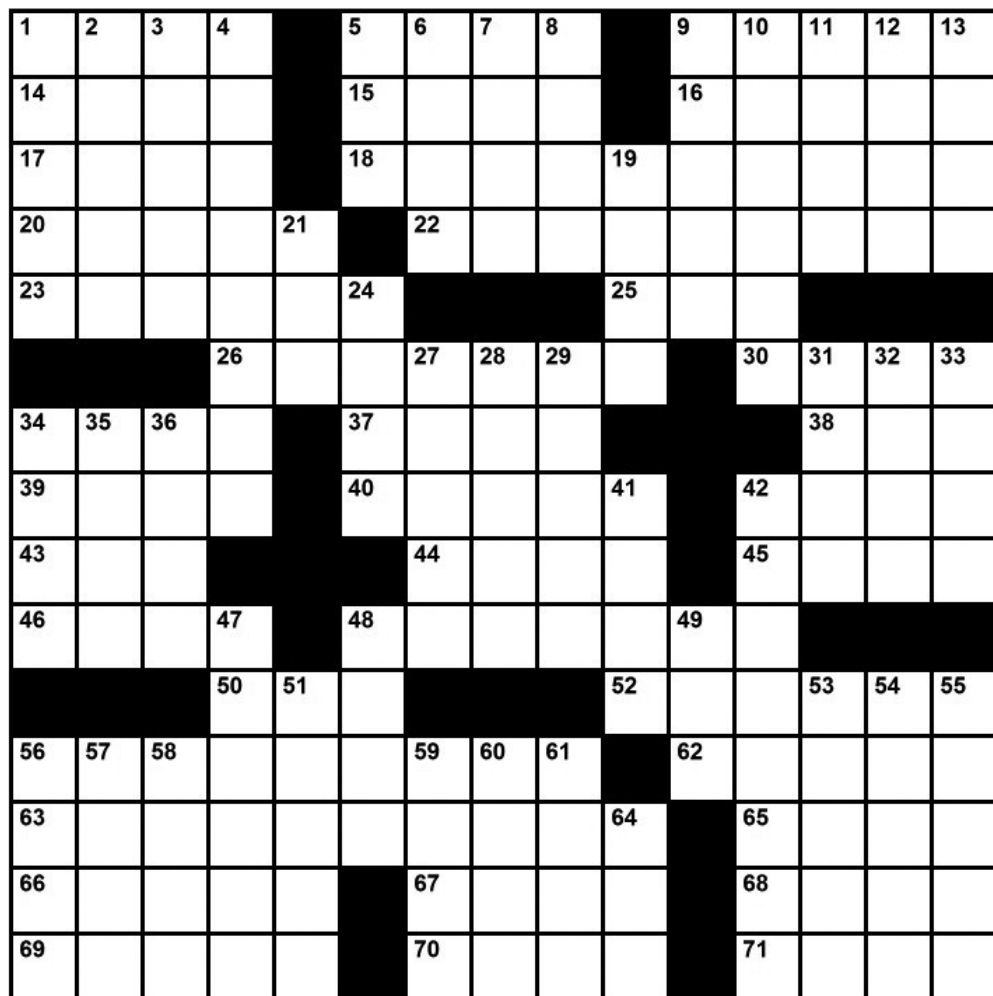
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q-puzzle



Brothers & Sisters

Solution on page 37

Across

- 1 Style of Marcel Duchamp
5 Showing a tiny opening
9 *___ of the Dead*
14 Aware of
15 "If I *___* a Rich Man"
16 Three-card hustle
17 Anna Madrigal's daughter
18 Responds to Marc Antony
20 Like X-rated fare
22 Start of a definition of 52-Across
23 End of the definition
25 Gore and *South Park's* Big Gay
26 Post office machines
30 Reid of *Josie and the Pussycats*
34 Young stud?
37 Strong wind, or Dorothy who rode a tornado
38 Word after post or ad
39 Matthew of *Brothers & Sisters*
40 With 56-Across, source of the definition
42 Rob of *Brothers & Sisters*
43 A as in Austria
44 River in the land of Colette
45 Bette Davis feature of song
46 "*___ Let the Sun Go Down on Me*"
48 Give a cocky look to

50 Root word

- 52 Not necessarily brothers & sisters
56 See 40-Across
62 Zellweger of *Chicago*
63 Vehicle for cruising
65 Chaplin spouse
66 Belief summary for Troy Perry
67 Part played by Nabors
68 Body of soldiers
69 Like soap operas
70 Room for Marga Gomez
71 Cash register section

Down

- 1 Joltin' Joe
2 Battery pole
3 Cushion under your bottom
4 Niles and Frasier
5 Leather sticker
6 M*A*S*H vehicle
7 Composer Thomas
8 What "let" means to Mauresmo
9 Vidal's *Visit to a ___ Planet*
10 Like Abe
11 From the top
12 Colorado neighbor
13 Peter by the piano
19 Sites for three women in a tub
21 To boot

24 Twist an arm

- 27 Falcon grabber
28 Porn director Francis
29 Witherspoon of *Cruel Intentions*
31 "Hi, sailor!"
32 Wade's legal antagonist
33 Deck foursome
34 Rep in the 'hood
35 Birth state of Langston Hughes
36 *Just As I Am* novelist E. *___* Harris
41 Big name in soft balls
42 Cry from the closet
47 Tire patterns
48 "A Boy Named Sue" writer Silverstein
49 Rhine tributary
51 Piss off
53 Combined
54 Pinko's hero
55 "Sailing to Byzantium" poet
56 *Before Stonewall* and others
57 Drag queen's stocking shade
58 Went right with your stallion
59 Splits open
60 *Lord of the Rings* singer
61 Bear market order
64 *Breakfast on Pluto* actor Stephen

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Sally Nystuen Vahle as Ebenezer Scrooge
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