

dallasvoice

The Pre

hed 1984 | Volume 33 | Issue 30 | FREE | Friday, December 2, 2016

Bear hugs for kids

by David Taffet, Page 10



What is TRUVADA for PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis)?

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine that can be used for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection when used together with safer sex practices. This use is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This includes HIV-negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex, and male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV-1. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must continue using safer sex practices.** Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
 - Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
 - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
 - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
 - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
 - Have fewer sex partners.
 - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
 - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- ◆ **Serious liver problems.** Your liver may become large and tender, and you may develop fat in your liver. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.

- ◆ **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking TRUVADA, they will need to watch you closely for several months to monitor your health. TRUVADA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you also take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- ◆ **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking TRUVADA or medicines like TRUVADA.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP. **Pregnancy Registry:** A pregnancy registry collects information about your health and the health of your baby. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take medicines to prevent HIV-1 during pregnancy. For more information about the registry and how it works, talk to your healthcare provider.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. The medicines in TRUVADA can pass to your baby in breast milk. If you become HIV-1 positive, HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA for PrEP, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (HARVONI).

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.



Have you heard about

TRUVADA for PrEP™?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

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IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must continue using safer sex practices.** Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.
- **You must stay HIV-1 negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **Tell your healthcare provider if you have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **See the “How to Further Reduce Your Risk” section for more information.**

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **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, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA 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 TRUVADA for a long time.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine used with safer sex practices for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk:

- HIV-1 negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex.
- Male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

To help determine your risk, talk openly with your doctor about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP” section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.
- Changes in body fat.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

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

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

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you become HIV-1 positive 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 TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- You **must** practice safer sex by using condoms and you **must** stay HIV-1 negative.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
- Have fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV-1 infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



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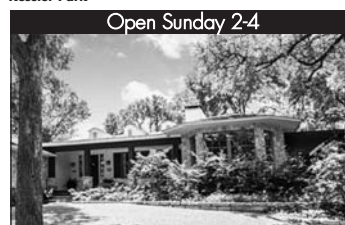
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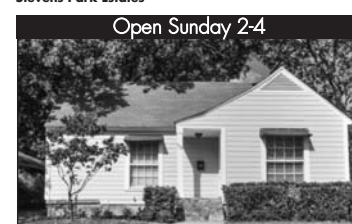
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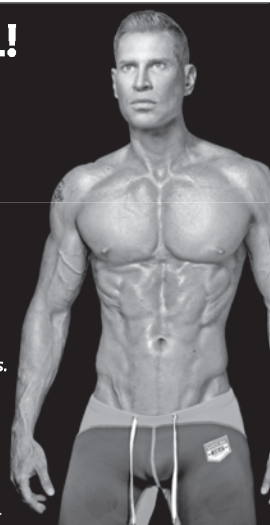


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Cece Cox

Cece Cox makes Dallas 500 list

Cece Cox was one of just a few LGBT community members to make D magazine's Dallas 500 list of the most influential leaders in North Texas.

Cox is CEO of Resource Center. Among her accomplishments this year is the culmination of an \$8.7 million capital campaign (there's still about \$250,000 to go) used to open the new LGBT community center on Cedar Springs Road in May and the complete renovation of the health campus on Reagan Street.

Of course, Cox deserves to be listed, but what makes her inclusion even more impressive is how few community members made the list. David Griffin is included under real estate executives and Stephen Pyles under chefs and restaurateurs.

Nancy Lieberman, who is an assistant coach of the Sacramento Kings and played for the Dallas Diamonds in the early 1980s, is listed for Nancy Lieberman Charities, which is based in Plano.

Under arts? None. Civic organizations? None.

And here's an odd one — not community-related, just odd. Under living legends: George W. Bush. Of course he belongs on the list. But he's listed as co-founder of the George W. Bush Presidential Center. Wasn't he, um, president or something? And Laura Bush. She lives here, right? Not on the list. Eh. What's she ever done, right?

— David Taffet

Meet the candidates for Dallas city manager

Dallas wants the public's input on the new Dallas city manager.

Meet the candidates at a reception on Tuesday, Dec. 6 from 6-8 p.m. in the second floor atrium of Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla St.

"As we all work with local entities to promote LGBT equality and equity, the next City Manager for the City of Dallas is Important," said Cannon Flowers, Dallas District 7 senior affairs commissioner. "I plan to attend the reception and I hope to see you there."

Parking behind City Hall is free after 6 p.m. Enter the building through the main entrance facing the reflecting pool.

— David Taffet

Texas elector won't vote for Trump

Art Sisneros, a Republican elector from East Texas, said as a Christian he can't vote for Donald Trump when the Electoral College meets on Dec. 18. Rather than be a "faithless elector," someone who votes for a candidate other than the one who received the majority of votes in the state, he will resign.

"The Electors were to be men who were selected to make this vote based on their own discernment," Sisneros wrote in a blog post. "There is no indication that Electors were ever to be directed by the population at large on how to vote. Their votes were to be their own, made in the best interest of those they represented."

In his post, Sisneros explains the constitutional wording that allows him to vote for someone else or resign. He also talks about George Washington's warning and warnings in the Federalist Papers, presumably written by Alexander Hamilton, about political parties and how they would interfere with the work of the Electoral College.

"The Electoral College was corrupted from its original intent once states started dictating the votes of the Electors," he wrote. "The two biggest aggressors to the original system were from political parties and the switch to winner-take-all states."

He said he did sign a pledge given to him by the Republican Party to vote for the winner, but said his conscience does not allow him to cast his vote that way.

— David Taffet



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THE GAY AGENDA

Obituary



Gina Brown, 49, peacefully passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas after a short battle with cancer.

Gina was born July 3, 1967 in Denison, Texas, the daughter of Bill and Virginia Brown. She graduated from Denison High School in 1985 and received her B.A. from the University of North Texas. She worked for Capistrano in Irving for 18 years.

Gina touched the lives of many people with her smile that could light up a room, her generosity and her loving way to always listen and try to find the absolute best in any situation. On any given day Gina always amazed everyone with her kindness she showed to others. She was a big fan of the Oklahoma Sooners, Dallas Cowboys and Chicago Cubs and was thrilled to see them win the World

Series. She loved the Lord, her spouse, family and her pets. If she could bring every stray animal home, she would. She recently saw a baby blue jay in the middle of the road and pulled over to wave an 18-wheeler to slow down so she could rescue the baby bird. Gina was a special lady with a heart the size of Texas. She has left such an impact on many people. Even though Gina is not physically here, her spirit is with each one of us and although her passing leaves a void in all of our lives, she will always live on in our hearts forever.

Gina leaves behind her loving spouse Rachel Keating of Grand Prairie; stepchildren Raymond and Ashley Keating both of Grand Prairie; her beloved family: parents, Pastor Bill and Virginia Brown of Denison; sister, Marjorie Brown, nieces, Ashley Crocker and husband, Jamen and Olivia Williams and husband, Jeremy; grandniece, Iva Crocker, all of McKinney.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, Nov. 19 at Harless United Memorial Methodist Church with Pastor Doyle Henderson officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made in her name to The Doris Day Animal Foundation, 8033 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90046. ■

pet of the week / GRADY

Grady is a two month old male Rottweiler hound who already weighs 12 pounds. This adorable little dog needs a loving forever home. Come visit us at Operation Kindness where you can find your new best friend.

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



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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 guest is **Ashley Lind**, CEO of Promise House; **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.

DECEMBER

- **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. 3: Black trans pageant winner announced**

Winners of the Black Trans Internation Pageant System announce Mr. and Miss Black Trans Dallas and Mr. and Miss Black Trans Houston emeritus positions. Info at BlackTrans.org.

- **Dec. 3: The Teddy Bear Party**

Collecting teddy bears for Children's Hospital and supporting Stand Up to Cancer, the Rainbow Roundup, Family Equality Council and Equality Texas. VIP at 7 p.m. and general admission at 8 p.m. at 6500, 6500 Cedar Springs Road. Suggested donation a teddy bear and \$50.

- **Dec. 3: Demonstration against Kelcy Warren's pipeline**

Kelcy Warren is expected to attend the Crystal Charity Ball. His company, Energy Transfer, is building the Dakota Access Pipeline. The demonstration, supported by several LGBT groups, is in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, who are protecting local water



The Turtle Creek Chorale presents A Not So Silent Night featuring the Lone Star Wind Orchestra and New York performer Jennifer Piacenti with updated arrangements of familiar favorites, Yuletide classics and new compositions. See listing for more information. (Photo courtesy Michael McGary)

supplies. Gather on the public sidewalk to call for an end to construction of the pipeline from 6-8 p.m. at the Hilton Anatole Hotel, 2201 N. Stemmons Freeway.

- **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. 6: GLFD Holiday party**

Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas holiday party for members and guests from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on the terrace at Bistro 31, 87 Highland Park Village #200.

- **Dec. 6: Meet Dallas city manager candidates**

The public is invited to come meet the candidates for Dallas City manager from 6-8 p.m. at Dallas City Hall, second floor atrium, 1500 Marilla St. Parking behind city hall is free after 6 p.m. Enter through main entrance facing the reflecting pool.

- **Dec. 7: Steps to PrEP**

Abounding Prosperity presents a forum for primary care physicians, OB/GYNs, physicians assistants, nurse practitioners, nurses, pharmacists and AIDS organization staffs for implementing PrEP from 6-8 p.m. at Westin Dallas Park Central, 12720 Merit Drive. Dinner and registration at 5:30 p.m.

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

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

TurtleCreekChorale.com. A shortened children's Saturday matinee requires no tickets.

- **Dec. 10: Super Hero Ball**

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

- **Dec. 10: Women's Alliance for Leadership**

Award recipients include Sarah Goodfriend and Suzanne Bryant, the first couple to legally marry in Texas and marriage equality plaintiffs Cleopatra De Leon and Nicole Dimetman from 6-9 p.m. at the Doubletree Austin-University, 1617 N. Interstate-35, Austin. \$55.

- **Dec. 10: 20th anniversary Oak Lawn Branch**

The Oak Lawn Branch Library celebrates its 20th anniversary at its current location from 2-4 p.m. in the auditorium, Oak Lawn Branch, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Dec. 11: Christmas with Charity America**

Mr. and Miss Charity America host a show to benefit the Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network from 7-9:30 p.m. in the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Dec. 11: Christmas Stocking Auction**

The annual Christmas Stocking Auction benefits Legacy Counseling Center from 7 p.m.-midnight at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Preview of baskets and stockings in the Parlor on Dec. 10.

- **Dec. 16-17: Nearly Naked Nutcracker**

Broads and Panties Burlesque presents *The Nearly Naked Nutcracker* benefiting Trans-cendence and The Battered Women's Foundation at 9 p.m. at Viva's Lounge, 1350 Manufacturing St., Suite 120. Tickets at NearlyNakedNutcracker.com.

- **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 4:30 p.m. at Royal China, 6025 Royal Lane.

- **Dec. 25: Christmas**

- **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve**

Find your party and party safely.

- **Dec. 31: Once in a Blue Moon dance**

New Year's Eve party for women from 7 p.m.-midnight at DanceMasters Ballroom located at 10675 East Northwest Highway, Suite 2600B. \$25.

- **Dec. 31: Masques at Midnight**

Formal gala and awards evening hosted by Tarrant County Pride from 7 p.m.-1 a.m. at DFW Airport Marriott South, 4151 Centreport Drive, Fort Worth.

JANUARY

- **Happy New Year**

- **Jan. 12: Little Black Dress Party**

The FashionCited preview party that benefits Legal Hospice of Texas from 7-9:30 p.m. at Goodson Acura, 4801 Lemmon Ave.

- **Jan 20: Protest at the Inauguration**

Protest on Inauguration Day Against War, Racism and Inequality from 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at Freedom Plaza, 14th St NW & Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, D.C.

Teddy Bears help children get through surgery

LGBT party supplies Children's Health with many of the bears needed each year to comfort kids

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Each of the 30,000 children who come out of surgery each year at Children's Health have a teddy bear with them. That teddy bear will have a similar operation. And the child and the bear will heal together.

Those teddy bears come from donations and the largest donation of stuffed animals comes from the Teddy Bear Party, which takes place Dec. 3 at 6500, an event space on Cedar Springs Road across from Love Field.

Jason Hanna began the Teddy Bear Party six years ago.

"My mom was diagnosed with cancer," Hanna said. "In honor of what she was going through, we started the Teddy Bear Party because her passion was kids, family and equality."

So they collected teddy bears and began donating them to Children's Health, where Hanna's cousin Mitch Hall works.

Hall explained that the teddy



The day after the Teddy Bear Party, the bears are delivered to Children's Medical Center. (Photo courtesy Children's Health)

bears aren't just for the children to cuddle when they're scared and feeling sick. Although the stuffed animals certainly fill that need well.

"Something as simple as a teddy bear can be incredibly powerful," Hall said. "It can help to ease a child's fears, recover from sur-

gery, and understand, cope and heal from their procedures."

The bears actually go through the procedures the child will experience first in the Teddy Bear Clinic.

"Our amazing team members at Children's Health use teddy bears to demonstrate and explain surgical procedures and reassure patients," Hall said. "If the kiddo gets an IV, so does the teddy bear. Patients wake up after their procedures with their teddy bears, and the bears become their best friends, their confidantes — they give them hope and lift their spirits."

Thresa Belcher, director of child life and social work at Children's Health, recounted a story of one little girl who was recently admitted to the ICU.

"A lot of invasive medical care happened very quickly and much of it was happening simultaneously," she said. "There were at least five medical care providers including nurses, doctors and technicians at her bedside. As a child life specialist, I went to the bedside to provide support and help her understand what was happening."

To keep the girl's neck stable she needed

to have a c-collar put on but it was uncomfortable and she became distraught and scared.

"We discussed a variety of ways to calm down and she said that a stuffed animal would help her," Belcher said. "I brought her a stuffed animal who she immediately began to hug close. I also brought a teaching c-collar to allow her to better see what she could feel on her neck but could not see. She looked at and touched the c-collar and then told me we needed to put it on her bear. She said the bear was going to wear the c-collar as long as she needed to wear her collar."

Hanna said he likes to think the Teddy Bear Party has come full circle for him.

He and his husband Joe Riggs have two sons who are now in their terrible twos. When one of the boys was nine months old, he had to have a medical procedure and they took him to Children's. While his son was too young to use the mock hospital, Hanna said the teddy bear he got was certainly comforting. He was clutching it as he went in for treatment and cuddling it when he woke up a few hours later. Now, at two years old, the bear he got at the hospital is still his constant companion.



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Oak Lawn Branch celebrates 20 years



Seen behind a Dallas Pride parade in the early 1990s, the old Oak Lawn branch, which sat in the middle of what's now Kroger's parking lot, featured an unfinished second floor (Dallas Voice archive)

Its partnership with Kroger gave the branch its first good building after 3 bad tries

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Oak Lawn Branch of the Dallas Public Library celebrates its 20th anniversary in its current building with an event on Dec. 10 at 2 p.m.

"We'll be celebrating our partnership with

Kroger and with Friends of the Oak Lawn Library," said Branch Manager Nello Moa.

Moa said the event will start with a small ceremony and will be followed by live entertainment.

Over the year, Friends of the Oak Lawn Library has purchased furniture for the branch, funded adult and children's programming and brought material for the collection.

The branch's connection to Kroger dates back 20 years when the supermarket chain replaced the library's former building with the current, larger




LIBRARY, Page 16

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Women's March planned for day after inauguration

While Austin hosts a companion march for Texans

BY MATHEW SHAW | Special contributor

On election night, Waxahachie resident Trisha Nemec watched the results with six other women on a Facebook group she had recently joined called Pantsuit Nation. As the results were coming in, Nemec and the other women posted their discontent throughout the night.

"We were like, 'This ain't happenin. This is just unbelievable,'" Nemec said. "It was a big wakeup call that we need to do something."

And so Nemec agreed to be DFW captain for the Jan. 21 Women's March on Washington, a coalition of women and allies throughout the country to demonstrate their concerns with the upcoming Trump administration.

"The rhetoric of the past election cycle has insulted, demonized, and threatened many of us," according to the event's mission statement. "Immigrants of all statuses, Muslims and those of diverse religious faiths, people who identify as LGBTQIA, native people, black and brown people, people with disabilities, survivors of sexual assault — that our communities are hurting and scared. We are confronted with the question of how to move forward in the face of national and international concern and fear."

The event will begin at 10 a.m. near the Capitol, though the exact location has yet to be confirmed. It is free and open to the public, Nemec said.

"The march itself is inclusive of everyone," she said. "One of the things I like about it is, we're asking anybody and everybody to come together. They're asking everyone to march to say, 'We're watching you. We're watching your administration, we're watching your policies, and we will come together.'"

Arrangements for busing participants to and from the event are also being made, she said.

"We wanted to be able to transport as many people as we possibly could," she said. "We wanted to help people who wanted to be there who couldn't afford a plane ticket or overnight stay."

As of Nov. 29, the group's official Facebook page for Texas has 1,500 people saying they will attend.

One of those participants is Dallas resident Erin Turley.

"I'm going to the march primarily because I think if you say something is important to you, you should show up and demonstrate that with your actions rather than with your words," Turley said. "And I think that it's an important time to draw national attention to the fact that women's rights are human rights and that's been overlooked for too long."

Turley said she hasn't seen the progress she would like to see with women's rights, and is now

concerned with a backward movement.

"The way we continue to glorify and promote and elect people who have a very flippant attitude towards violence against women, that's deeply concerning to me," she said. "And I don't want to look at the next generation and not be able to say that I tried to do something about that."

Things like sexual harassment in the workplace, being hit on aggressively or assaulted by friends are issues she has faced, and are not uncommon among other women, she said.

And she hopes to learn some things from other participants as well, she said.

"As passionate as I am about these issues that we've been talking about, I'm very aware that, as a white cisgender female, I am experiencing all of these things from a place of real privilege," she said. "I'm hoping that this will be a chance to learn from other women, rather than just focus on my own experience."

She is also confident the event will have an impact on the nation.

"I don't think it's possible to do something at this scale without there being an impact," she said. "At the very least, the impact will be [that] it will bring out conversations around the dinner table. The women of this country are not going to just sit back and accept whatever fate is just bestowed upon them. That we can be more active participants rather than just passive participants in our roles in



this society."

For people who can't get to Washington, a companion march is planned for Austin the same day. Organizers said the event is still in the early planning stages, but will take place from noon until 6 p.m.

What isn't determined is where the march will originate. During legislative sessions, marches often begin in a park across Lady Bird Lake along Riverside Drive, across the Congress Street Bridge and proceed up Congress Avenue to the Capitol.

On its Facebook page, organizers wrote they will march to the Capitol "to show our strength, power and courage in a peaceful march."

Although it's called the Women's March everyone is welcome. "Daughters and granddaughters welcome as well as like-minded men, sons, grandsons. Invite your friends, family and co-workers. Spread the word! Let the world know we women stand with all women! No woman is free unless all women are free."



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We're always thinking outside the box.

After Obergefell, the battle heads toward states' rights in Texas Legislature



Sen. Bob Hall

Nullification battles were echoes from last session

JAMES RUSSELL
Contributing Writer
james.journo@gmail.com

Ahead of last year's *Obergefell* decision legalizing same-sex marriage, state Rep. Cecil Bell, R-Magnolia, filed a slew of bills blocking enforcement of the pending decision. One of Bell's bills was expected to pass.

The Preservation and Sovereignty of Marriage Act, as it was called, would have withheld pay from county clerks issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. It died on the floor.

Before the session ended, Bell said his bills were not just about marriage equality — which he opposes — but “state sovereignty.” In Bell's minds, each state in the United

States has the right to regulate, for instance, who can and can't marry.

With marriage equality now legal, Bell and other conservative state lawmakers are now using the states' rights to usurp not just marriage equality but other federal decisions regarding weapons, immigration and the environment.

Sen. Bob Hall, R-Edgewood, has already filed 33 bills ahead of the 85th legislative session, which begins Jan. 10, 2017. The staunchly conservative lawmaker so far has filed four bills usurping federal laws. One of those bills, SB 89, would allow the Legislature to refuse to enforce any federal law in violation of the state constitution. That means language criminalizing sodomy and banning same-sex marriage still in the state constitution would be enforced despite the Supreme Court finding both unconstitutional.

When asked by The Dallas Morning News, Hall said he did not file SB 89 in response to the *Obergefell* decision. His focus is the enforcement of federal gun laws. But if the bill passes, the broad language could have an impact on same-sex marriages in Texas.

“If it does, it does,” Hall told the News.

The battle to preserve the Republic of Texas is not the only battle facing LGBT activists. Hall again filed a bill specifically preempting local nondiscrimination ordinances. SB 92, known as the Intrastate Commerce Improvement Act, would make protections not in the state constitution “null and void.”

Three states have already enacted forms of the Intrastate Commerce Act. Tennessee in 2011, Arkansas in 2015 and North Carolina in 2016.

North Carolina's HB 2, also known as the Public Facilities and Privacy Act, is the most sweeping example of preemption legislation, impacting all local ordinances, ranging from minimum wage laws to LGBT protections. But its target, the city of Charlotte's nondiscrimination ordinance, became known as the “bathroom bill” because it limits bathroom access to people based on sex and not gender identity or expression.


Like Hall's bill, Arkansas' and Tennessee's were more explicit: they narrowly focus on LGBT nondiscrimination ordinances.

LGBT activists haven't even seen all

the legislation they're up against this session. But they have gotten a glimpse of what's to come. In a letter to Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, Attorney General Ken Paxton listed 10 priority pieces of legislation for the upcoming legislation, including specific legislation protecting religious liberty. Paxton's letter argues the laws would protect an individual's religious conscience by carving out narrow exemptions for counselors, foster care providers, business owners and churches. Indeed, Paxton argues this legislation protects the “freedom of conscience of all Americans.”

On Nov. 30, Patrick announced another legislative priority: the Sermon Safeguard. The goal, Patrick said in a statement, is to “protect the most fundamental First Amendment religious liberty rights by protecting pastors from forced testimony and shielding sermons from government subpoena power.” The legislation was filed in response to lawyers with the City of Houston who subpoenaed five pastors in a lawsuit over the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, which they opposed.

That legislation was not filed by press time.



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Rev. Dr. Neil G. Cazares-Thomas
“Our Lady of Guadalupe”
(La Virgen de Guadalupe)
1 pm Worship Service and Procession
Spanish



The Teddy Bear Clinic at Children's Health makes any procedure easier for kids to understand. (Photo courtesy Children's Health)

Hanna said he likes to think that the bear his son has is one of the bears that was donated at one of the teddy bear parties.

Since its inception, the Teddy Bear Party has been growing. That small teddy bear collection the first year in honor of his mom grew into a party

and an annual memorial to her. The party grew so much from year to year, that until this year, they've had to find a new venue for the party because they'd outgrown the previous year's location. This is the first year the party returns to the same venue for a second year.

Each person attending is asked to make a donation — \$50 for general admission and \$150 VIP — as well as bring a teddy bear. The cost of the party is underwritten by corporate sponsors, so all donations go to the beneficiaries.



one at the corner of Cedar Springs Road and Knight Street.

The previous building was only about 12 years old, and was located in the middle of what is now Kroger's parking lot.

The building lacked much meeting space and never looked finished. A second floor that might have been intended to be a deck was surrounded by walls with openings that looked like windows were supposed to be installed but never were. For the first few years, the building looked like it was unfinished and for the last few years looked like it was abandoned and dilapidated.

Inside, weird, curved ramps led from the entrance to the stacks.

That building replaced a branch that was on Lemmon Avenue between Oak Lawn and Turtle Creek in a former Safeway. That branch had all the charm of an abandoned supermarket that was more than 30 years old and never updated. The building was where the Sub-Zero and Wolf showroom now stands.

Before the Lemmon Avenue location, a tiny Oak Lawn branch sat in the strip center on Oak Lawn at Lemmon avenues.

So after two small rental locations followed by an architectural disaster, Kroger's offer was welcomed. The new building would include a

community room, additional stacks, reading areas and ample office space. The new design was also classic and brought the library out to the street and closer to the Strip.

Earlier this year, Kroger offered to build a new, larger branch.

Kroger's Cedar Springs Road store is very successful and the company would like to expand it. That would mean taking up parking on the Knight Street side of the building. In a plan presented to the community, Kroger suggested putting the new branch on the second floor of the expansion, so it could use the area now taken by the library for more parking.

Moa said that plan is on hold. Councilman Philip Kingston had expressed legal questions about the city transferring property to a private company.

Moa said 20 years in this location and its partnership was Kroger was something to celebrate. He said in January, the branch will begin offering American Sign Language and art lessons. Later in the spring, he said to look for speakers and he invited artists looking for a place to showcase their art to contact him.

The official 20th anniversary celebration of the Oak Lawn Branch takes place in the auditorium of the Oak Lawn branch from 2-4 p.m. on Dec. 10.

The Teddy Bear Party at 6500, 6500 Cedar Springs Road. VIP at 7 p.m. General admission at

8 p.m. on Dec. 3. \$50 online at TeddyBearParty.org. \$75 at the door with a teddy bear.



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■ commUNITY voices

Trump's election: We have one last hope

The Electoral College was put in place to save the country from evil and mischief

This year, for the first time in our 32-year-plus history, Dallas Voice endorsed a political candidate. We officially backed Hillary Clinton for president, and we did so because we believed — and still do believe — that Clinton was the most experienced, most qualified candidate in the race.



Tammye Nash
Managing Editor

We believed that Hillary Clinton was the best candidate for our country in general and for our community, the LGBT community, specifically. We believed — and I still do — that Donald Trump presented a clear and present danger to this country in general and to the LGBT and other minority communities specifically — especially to minority communities.

And everything Donald Trump has done since Nov. 8 has proven that we were right.

So far, Trump has set about establishing a Cabinet full of white supremacists, homophobes and bigots of all types. His pick for chief White House strategist and senior counsel is Steve Bannon, a man who proudly proclaims his affiliation with the “alt-right,” which is code for white nationalist, which is just another word for white supremacist.

Trump has tapped Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama — a man rejected for a federal judge seat in 1986 because the Senate deemed him too racist — for attorney general. Rep. Tom Price of Georgia — Trump’s pick for Secretary of Health and Human Services — is already gleefully planning to gut the Affordable Health Care, and he is a Tea Partier who opposes a women’s right to choose and marriage equality.

And what about Trump’s choice for Secretary of Education? Betsy DeVos is a billionaire philanthropist who champions school vouchers over public schools, and who has no degree in education and no experience working in education. Her main qualification seems to be her money — she’s married to the heir of the Amway fortune and the sister of the founder of Blackwater.

Want more? Trump has nominated former Goldman-Sachs partner and current hedge fund manager Steve Mnuchin as Secretary of the Treasury, and billionaire Wilbur Ross, who made his fortune “restructuring” companies in the steel and coal industries, as Secretary of Commerce.

And then there are the people being considered for posts, like Gen. David Petraeus — on probation for sharing classified information with his



mistress — for Secretary of State, and former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin of “Drill, baby, drill” fame for Secretary of the Interior.

Oh, and let’s not forget that Mike Pence, the man Trump chose as his vice presidential running mate, advocates conversion therapy for LGBT people and cost his state, Indiana, millions with his anti-LGBT “religious freedom bill.”

Yet, as things stand right now, on Jan. 20, Donald Trump will be inaugurated as president of the United States.

Unless

We have one last hope of avoiding the unmitigated disaster that would be a Trump presidency, and it lies in the hands of the Electoral College.

Hillary Clinton, as I write this, leads Donald Trump in the popular vote by more than 2.2 million ballots (Trump’s petulant Twitter tantrum about “millions of illegal votes” notwithstanding). But thanks to minute leads in some “swing states” — Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania among them — Trump wins the presidency by virtue of a 306-232 lead over Clinton in the Electoral College.

But do the electors have to choose Trump? I say no.

As Alexander Hamilton explained in the Federalist Papers, this country’s Founding Fathers believed “that the immediate election should be made by men most capable of analyzing the qualities adapted to the station, and acting under circumstances favorable to deliberation, and to a judicious combination of all the reasons and inducements which were proper to govern their choice.

“A small number of persons, selected by their fellow-citizens from the general mass, will be most likely to possess the information and discernment requisite to such complicated investigations. It was also peculiarly desirable to afford as little opportunity as possible to tumult and disorder,”

Hamilton wrote.

“This evil was not least to be dreaded in the election of a magistrate, who was to have so important an agency in the administration of the government as the President of the United States. But the precautions which have been so happily concerted in the system under consideration, promise an effectual security against this mischief.”

In other words, the Founding Fathers were afraid that some con man would come along and dupe the American public. So they created a system whereby a small, select group of citizens “most likely to possess the information and discernment requisite to such complicated investigations” would have the last word in who sits in The Oval Office.

Times have changed since the days of the Founding Fathers, and the Electoral College system now gives an unfair advantage to some smaller states, giving greater weight to the ballots cast in those smaller states than those cast in medium and larger states. There’s also the fact that over the years, states have adopted an “all-or-nothing” system, in which whoever wins the most votes in a state gets all that state’s Electoral College votes.

That, folks, is not mandated in the U.S. Constitution. It is not set in stone. And the time has come, I believe, for that to change.

The Electoral College was put in place to save the American people, to save our country from evil and mischief. Well, we say it is time for the Electoral College to do just that.

We call on the members of the Electoral College to do their duty, to live up to the expectations of our Founding Fathers, and to avert the catastrophe of a Donald Trump presidency by voting on Dec. 19 to put Hillary Clinton in the White House. ■



You can't spell Arteaga without 'art'

The Dallas Museum of Art tapped out art historian Agustin Arteaga as its new artistic director. So what does he have in store for the venerable institution?

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

When Agustin Arteaga begins a new job at a museum, he likes to grab the keys to the storage room and begin rummaging. Many large museums are notorious for having extensive permanent collections, but only sharing a small percentage with the viewing public.

"One of the very first things I did [when I became director of Mexico City's Museo Nacional de Arte] was to dig into the storage and bring into a temporary exhibit 180 objects, about 60 percent of which had never been shown. Sometimes we lose perspective about what museums are about — we are focused on the new blockbuster and forget we have in our collections extraordinary works. That gives us a chance to look at them anew. Certainly one of the things we will be working on here."

"Here" refers to his new role as Eugene McDermott executive

director of the Dallas Museum of Art. When Maxwell Anderson suddenly departed the post more than a year ago, it triggered a worldwide search. Arteaga was announced last summer, and took over the role with barely a week's break this past September. Since then, he has been settling in, though his ties to the DMA run deep.

"Texas has been close to my heart in many ways," says Arteaga over a cup of coffee in his still-sparsely-decorated office. "I have had contact with the museum since the late 1980s and have known all the directors and came here many, many times. Dallas has lots

Agustin Arteaga inside the offices of the Dallas Museum of Art, where he is now the new executive director. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

of energy, so it's great to be here."

Although he's only two hours by plane from his prior job in Mexico City, the move is "a big deal in many ways." Arteaga moved here with his husband, who "has played a big role in my life in supporting me and helping with a very difficult part of the job — the fundraising," he says. Still, it's something he has done before (Arteaga has also worked and lived in Argentina, France and Puerto Rico), and the appeal of the position was too much to resist.

"I was excited about the chance of becoming the director here. An institution as prestigious as the DMA would be tempting for any museum professional — not just the [scope] of the collection, but so much more to continue to discover within our own storage rooms. It's all so vast."

Exploring the collection, however, is just one prong of Arteaga's approach to serving the community — a role he takes especial care with.

"An important end is the public," he says. "One reason why museums exist is to serve their constituents. Last year, the DMA had over 720,000 visitors. The demographics [of the city] are really changing — you can see people from all over the world coming to Dallas. That makes it exciting to serve all kinds of people."

Another component is "how much society en-

joys its cultural institutions — not just the DMA, but the Arts District and all across Dallas-Fort Worth. [It's great] how much people join together to sustain these institutions. Dallas has strength in opera, theater, museums ... those elements are very seldom found in one place,"

Arteaga says.

One of the jobs of an executive director, of course, is serving the twin masters of serving the community while being financially responsible.

"We have to let people know what a positive impact we have on the city, but on the other end is the challenge to find financial sustainability," he says. "Museums are balancing acts — how can you give people access to the best examples of 5,000 years of human creation,

while being able to sustain that? Because it's not inexpensive. When an institution proves to be deeply committed to everyone in society, it becomes relevant. That's what it's all about — to let people know what happens here will serve all of us and transform the quality of life. Sometimes we don't talk much about that."

Arteaga's thoughtful, holistic ideas about the role of a museum in the life of a city stem from a lifelong commitment to searching out the best that all cultures provide, and bringing together



■ ARTEAGA Page 26

NOW AT THE DMA

Several recent exhibitions, planned before the appointment of Agustin Arteaga, are currently on display. Among them:

Divine Felines: Cats of Ancient Egypt, pictured right. The pharaohs' fascination with felines is explored in the statuary they created to honor cats of all kinds. Culled from holdings from the Brooklyn Museum. *Through Jan. 7.*

Shaken, Stirred, Styled: The Art of the Cocktail, pictured below. Four dozen shakers, tumblers, bowls and buckets of exquisite craftsmanship, from the heyday of Art Deco designs from the post-prohibition era of the 1920s and '30s to the 21st century. *Through Nov. 12.*

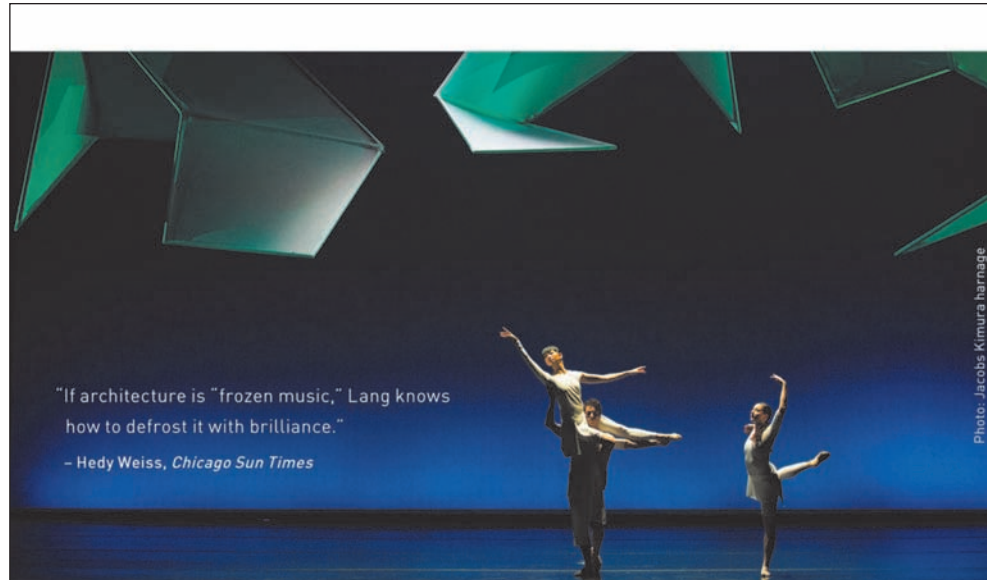


Art and Nature in the Middle Ages. More than 100 objects from the 12th through the 16th centuries portray the Europeans approach to representing the natural world. *Opens Sunday; through March 19.*

Daumier's Political and Social Satire. The famed 19th century cartoonist's scathing caricatures of lawyers, politicians and patriarchy. *Through April 23.*

Modern Opulence in Vienna: The Wittgenstein Vitrine. On display for more than two years, this extensively refurbished silver cabinet will conclude its exhibition this spring. *Through May 28.*

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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— Hedy Weiss, *Chicago Sun Times*

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The Kimbell is taking a Monet

Cowtown's museum exhibition makes a strong Impression(ist)

The best news about the Monet exhibit current at Fort Worth's Kimbell Art Museum is this: This is just Part 1.

Monet: The Early Years was built around one of the two Monets in the Kimbell's archives: *The Pointe de la Hève at Low Tide*, painted in 1865, early in the artist's career, according to George T.M. Shackelford, deputy director of the Kimbell. It inspired Part 1. But *Weeping Willow*, painted 1918-19, is the other work in the museum's collection. And in two years time, the museum will mount another exhibit revolving around that painting and focusing on the artist's later works. But for the time being, we can revel in the artist as a young man.

The 50-plus canvasses in this show — accumulated from a number of other museums and private collectors — were painted from 1858 to 1872, before Monet became well-known at the first Salon de Refuses, which helped define the Impressionists movement. Depending on how you count, there are 54 or 55 works in this show. The discrepancy revolves around two canvasses called *Luncheon on the Grass*, which were origi-

nally parts of one larger work that was to be submitted to the Salon de Paris. When Monet didn't finish the painting in time, he rolled it and stored it poorly. In the 1880s, Monet found that parts of the canvas were damaged, so he cut away the ruined portions. What's left are two magnificent works that fit together quite nicely, but were kept apart for 100 years. Here, they are reunited.

A series of three paintings of Paris are also on display together for the first time in a quarter century. Each is a view painted from the same vantage point from the windows of the Louvre. From a distance, the paintings have create the illusion of substantial detail; upon closer inspection, however, the "people" are mere dots and dashes of paint. Shackelford notes that Monet was genius in using little dots to give his characters movement.

The show examines how Monet experimented with techniques that eventually became his trademark, but also how he tried various ways in his early years to gain some attention to simply sell some work to support his family. *Grain-stacks at Chailly at Sunrise* was the first time





Monet painted haystacks. The water in *Seascape* is a precursor to many more famous later works filled with comma strokes that coalesce into ponds of lily pads or fields of flowers.

Several of the paintings are just studies for other works, indicated as just an impression by his initials as his only signature.

Two canvasses from 1869 that were quite experimental and not typical of Monet are still lifes, probably painted to generate sales, Shackelford surmises. A vase of flowers and several paintings done at La Grenouilliere were painted side-by-side with Renoir. (For comparison, Renoir's versions are reproduced on a label posted next to the Monet.)

Two of three snow scenes of the French countryside down river from Paris are from Musee d'Orsay. One, *The Magpie*, is the Parisian museum's most popular painting, based on postcard sales. Despite the blankets of snow, the canvasses are rich with color.

Monet left France in 1871 during the Franco-Prussian War. Four paintings from his stay in London show a unique insight into his influences. The signature on one — "Claude Monet London" — may have been an attempt by the artist to appeal to a British art collector, according to Shackelford. *Meditation*, *Madame Monet Sitting on a Sofa* is painted in the style of James Whistler, whom he knew and admired. The scene and style are quite British.

Before returning to France, Monet traveled to The Netherlands where he painted windmills and canal scenes. While the other Holland scenes reflect the muted, cloudy landscape, *Houses by the Zaan at Zaandam* jumps off the wall for its vibrancy.

Monet returned to Paris in 1871 where much of the city lay in ruins because of the Prussian siege and then the harsh period of The Commune, a short-lived revolutionary government that ruled for three months after the defeat of Emperor Napoleon III. But Paul Durand-Ruel purchased a number of Monet's works and



the artist and his family moved to Argenteuil where he rented and later purchased his first property and began painting what he became to famous for — the gardens, river and towns outside Paris. At this point, Monet's fortunes began to change.

For those discovering Monet for the first time, Monet: The Early Years will thrill as they discover how Monet turned delicate and tender brush strokes of vibrant color when viewed up close into a coherent, detailed work when seen from across a room.

But even for art lovers who know Monet's work well, the show will delight with paintings from private collections that have rarely, if ever, been exhibited and with groups of paintings they may have seen at various museums through their lives but never seen together. ■

— David Taffet

Kimbell Art Museum Renzo Piano Pavilion, 3333 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Jan 29. \$18 (members free). KimbellArt.org.

Monet's 'Pointe de la Have,' below opposite, part of the Kimbell's permanent collection, inspired this exhibit of his early works, also including 'Grainstacks at Chailly,' top, and 'Luncheon on the Grass,' above.

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Making merry

Gay artist Kevin Kloppenburg turns paper into hand-crafted art — especially for the holidays

SCOTT HUFFMAN | Contributing Writer
scott_in_dallas@yahoo.com

For most, the Yuletide season kicks off the day after Thanksgiving. For out artist Kevin Kloppenburg, however, *every* day is Christmas. Throughout the year, his Springfield, Mo., home is filled with baskets of handcrafted cast-paper Santa faces, nutcrackers, angels and other holiday ornaments in various stages of completion. Kloppenburg creates and hand paints the paper decorations in small batches to sell during his “high season” — the time between Halloween and Christmas. For Kloppenburg, this period becomes “one big blur.”

“When I get to this time of year, I simply run out of time,” Kloppenburg says. “I haven’t painted a single angel yet this year. The only angels I have are the ones left over from last year.”

Kloppenburg, a retired public school art teacher who currently teaches art at Ozarks Technical Community College, learned the craft of paper casting while he was a student at Drury University. Kloppenburg needed a flexible, independent study class to fit his student-teaching schedule. A professor needed someone to cast paper for her art projects. The collaboration was serendipitous.

“I was helping her create her art,” Kloppenburg recalls of the apprenticeship. “In that process we did a lot of casting. You take the pulp and cast it into a mold. It takes the shape of whatever the mold is. I would go at night and work in the studio for her and learned the process.”

Soon afterwards, Kloppenburg began teaching. As the holidays arrived, he found that his first-year teacher’s salary left him “flat-out broke.” With little money for Christmas gifts, he decided to cast and paint paper ornaments to give to family and friends.

“Everybody who got them went crazy for them,” he says. “They begged me to make more, saying that if I made more the next year, they would buy them from me. The first batch I made to sell was in 1987. It’s been a snowball effect ever since.”

This year, Kloppenburg has completed and will market about 1,200 ornaments. Because each piece is handcrafted, no two are exactly alike. Kloppenburg’s customers find this one-of-a-kind quality both delightful and befuddling.

“That’s what drives some people crazy,” says Kloppenburg. “I will pull out a dozen pieces from the same mold. Even if I try to paint them the same, I cannot. [An example] is Santa faces. Some look cheerier, some look sadder. Some look older, some look younger. They all take on their own little life. Some people find that very [frustrating]. They don’t know which one to pick.”

Kloppenburg personalizes many of the ornaments he creates at the buyer’s request. Customers have asked him to paint the names of children on angel ornaments and the names of family dogs and cats on pet ornaments. For one fan of *The Polar Express*, he added a silver jingle bell to a Santa ornament. In fact, Kloppenburg attributes the popular-



door or with the address on it. Once it’s personalized, people buy multiples of them. I always sell out. I have a lot of realtors who will buy them and give them to clients who just bought a house.”

It is another ornament from his collection, though, that captures

ity of his top selling item, a snowy Christmas cottage, to such personalization.

“The one [ornament] I sell like crazy every year is this little house,” Kloppenburg says. “It’s the perfect gift for people who have just bought a new home. I personalize it with the name over the

Kloppenburg’s heart. His favorite holiday adornment features a deer in the winter woods at night. Kloppenburg feels that, when it’s finished, the piece has an almost stained glass quality.

“What makes it spectacular to me is the blue,” Kloppenburg says. “I paint the blue sky to fade out. That’s what people tell me that they like about my painting style. I paint the sky dark to light with a gradual fade. I just really love that one. I don’t know why. I just think it’s pretty.”

Kloppenburg also crafts a few ornaments to appeal to LGBT buyers. With his Santa face ornaments, for instance, he replaces Fa-

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Sistine condition

Gay impresario Martin Biallas brings a bit of the High Renaissance to Dallas

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Stories of its magnificence are legendary. The time and logistics in making it come to life are impossibly harrowing. Its recent restoration only added to the acclaim. Its symbols have become etched in the Zeitgeists of almost every culture in the world.

Yet most people have never seen (nor will they ever see) the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel — a massive fresco painted from 1508 to 1512 by Michelangelo, overhead standing on a scaffolding some 40-plus feet above the marble floor — in person.

But Martin Biallas thinks he has come up with the next best thing. Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel: The Exhibition presents 34 full-sized photographic reproductions of the frescos, presented on 16 panels arranged overhead to recre-

ate, as much as possible, the experience of seeing the original.

And we have Capt. Kirk to thank for it.

Biallas started his career based in New York City doing talent management, with the likes of Tina Turner, Johnny Cash and Eartha Kitt as clients. It was a thrilling time, he recalls.

"I was in my 20s and partying at Studio 54 with everyone from Freddy Mercury to Elton," he says. "It was a very active gay life then — the clubs were open 24/7. My driver would be completely worn

out as I would leave [the clubs] at 8 or 9 in the morning and still be at the office by 10. I could do that back then, but it caught up with me — I was 30 and looked 80. That's when I moved to L.A. — at least the clubs closed at 2 there!"

Life in Hollywood opened news doors, including a job from Paramount Pictures to recreate the set of the Starship Enterprise for the 30th



The reproductions of the Sistine Chapel frescos are still overhead, but not as far away as in the original Vatican locale. (Photo courtesy Cameron Cobb)

Nice rear end...



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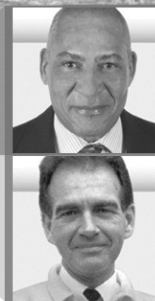
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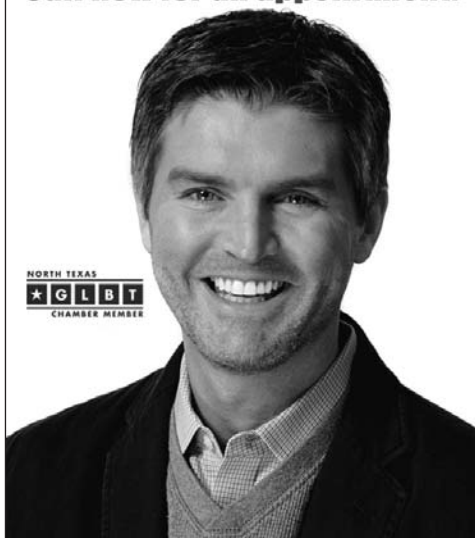
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guards to prevent you from taking photos and you're sharing about 10,000 square feet with about 20,000 other people," Biallas recalls. "All the main frescos are 45 to 60 feet away. It was such a miserable experience. That's when I had the idea of recreating them — visitors can take photos, be there as long as they want and learn about the art."

The process was exhausting. He contacted the arts curator from the Vatican several times ... and is still waiting to hear back. Most commercial uses of photographs were of too low resolution to create the experience as he wanted it to be. "We are reproducing in the original sizes — 33 frescos at an average of 10 by 20 feet, plus *The Last Judgment*, which is three or four times as big," he says.

Biallas eventually tracked down renowned art photographer Eric Lessing, who was the only source outside of the Vatican with resolution high enough to bring the frescos to life. The tour started late last year in Montreal; Dallas is the U.S. premiere of the exhibit, which continues until January before moving to New York. Two other versions are also traveling the world, and Biallas hopes he can continue to bring great art of the High Renaissance to audiences who can't make it to the hallowed cathedrals of Europe. And if there's one thing Biallas' past has shown, it's that he know how to boldly go where no one has gone before.

The Women's Building at Fair Park, 3800 Parry Ave. Through Jan. 8. \$10-\$16. ChapelSistine.com.

anniversary of *Star Trek*. Biallas embraced the task, reproducing the bridge, the transporter room, everything — 100,000 square feet of TV history. (The exhibit still tours today.) That's what got him thinking about doing the same with more high-brow aspiration. "I just felt like I could excite the same amount of people with more historical or artistic themes," he says.

Biallas' company first built replicas of the entire King Tut archaeological site, "just the way Carter found it," he says. It was such a smash, he started looking for other experiences to recreate.

Then about three years ago, he found himself in Rome with some friends. He suggested they visit the Vatican.

"The Sistine Chapel itself has 6 million visitors a year, with a lot of screaming and yelling, 100

ART ON THE PLATE

Not all great works of art are created on canvases, or in marble, or even on film. Not all are permanent. Some are meant to be savored for all their exquisite beauty briefly, passionately, completely. The experience may be fleeting, but the memories define a life in appreciation.

That's the case of great restaurants.

For my money, at this point in time, two Dallas are restaurants stand out — one an older, familiar face, one among the newest (though brought to you by Dallas' godfather of fine dining).

The dining room at the **Hotel St. Germain** remains one of the few truly breathtaking culinary and cultural experiences you can have in Dallas — Old World extravagance imported to trendy Texas. You arrive in the circular driveway and are escorted to a salon for cocktails; when dinner service is ready, you are whisked into a smallish but painstakingly decorated dining room of ornate elegance, from the personalized menus to the fine china. Servers call you by name as they deliver all the courses of the prix fixe menu with optional wine pairings. And what arrives at your table is not just worthy of Instagram — it would look comfortable in a museum. No where has service, atmosphere and food come together as con-



sistently strikingly, and as refined and classy, as at the St. Germain.

You get a similar feeling at **Flora Street Cafe** by **Stephan Pyles**, the newest concept from the James Beard-honored chef, who helped invent modern Southwestern cuisine. For fans of Pyles' recently-closed eponymous restaurant (or, going back further, Star Canyon, AquaKnox and Routh Street Cafe), there will be nods of familiarity in the detail, the exotic combinations of flavors, the one-of-a-kind twists on classic dishes (like his reimagined cowboy ribeye pictured). At the heart of it all is Pyles' exactitude, creating a seamless experience that delights all the senses, from the curated music to the wall of windows that bring the outdoors inside. Bon appetit.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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■ ARTEAGA, From Page 19

the community to share in our collective human existence.

"We are all different, but all human," he says. "The DMA is one of the leading institutions in the nation for learning and education — not *teaching*, but *learning*. A museum should provide the opportunity for raising questions and challenging visitors, so that they can experience their own desire of discovery. It's not about enforcing a point of view, not about absolutes and telling people what's right and wrong but triggering the desire to discover. We are absolutely one of the

most democratic spaces that exists in society — we are all safe, we are all welcome, no matter where we come from."

Arteaga's humanist philosophy is reflected in his dedication to expanding the horizons of the community by challenging himself as well.

"I love contemporary art because it's extremely challenging, even for me," he says. "Sometimes I see things that I really have to dig into to get it and experience the message of what's going on with that. It's important to remember [that contemporary art] is the art of our times, and someone reflecting the world we live in. At the same time, I've been trained in Western

traditions, so I am comfortable within that, but when I see art from Africa or Asia, I can recognize there's much more behind them. I always tell people that, when I am trying to talk about a world of art, we have to take a distance from the world we live in, and remove ourselves to the world where it was done — not our 21st century, occidental perspective. In that way, you can travel the world without leaving your city." ■

Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Free general admission. DMA.org.

Arteaga hosted his first public meet-and-greet with journalists last month at the DMA.



■ ORNAMENTS, From Page 22

ther Christmas' iconic red hat with one featuring Pride-colored stripes. And for his hirsute clientele, Kloppenburg keeps an inventory of bear ornaments.

"In Kansas City [at an annual trunk show], I get these big, brawny bears who come in," Kloppenburg laughs. "They always ask, 'Do you have any bear ornaments? Do you have any black bears? Do you have any brown bears? Do you have any polar bears?'"

Despite his best efforts to create a variety of pieces with broad appeal, Kloppenburg finds that he simply cannot please everyone. For example, his collection currently features six or seven dog breeds. Yet when dog lovers do not find their preferred breed among them, they are often disappointed.

"Dog people are *relentless!*" Kloppenburg says. "There are so many varieties of dogs. If I did nothing but dogs, I still wouldn't have all the right ones."

Still, he is grateful for the positive response his handcrafted ornaments have received. He feels the strong interest in his work is a validation of his tireless efforts. But the demand for his pieces has become somewhat difficult for him to manage.

"I work on this morning, noon and night all the time," Kloppenburg says. "I don't know how I could do any more. I literally start on December 26. When I am not teaching, I am making ornaments. It's how I relax. It's a passion." ■

For more information, search Kevin's Paper Ornaments on Facebook.

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**Friday 12.02 —
Saturday 12.24**



TBT busts a nut across North Texas

Dallas Theater Center has its *Christmas Carol*, the Turtle Creek Chorale has its seasonal concert, and the Texas Ballet Theater? Well, of course its holiday tradition is Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*. The classic, gorgeous ballet returns to both Dallas (Winspear) and Fort Worth (Bass Hall) for multiple performances until Christmas Eve. Support your local (sugar plum) fairies!

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2401 Flora St. Dec. 2–4; Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Dec. 9–24. TexasBalletTheater.org.

Friday 12.09



Jessica Lang Dance returns to Winspear

When Jessica Lang Dance premiered in Dallas in 2013, the recital was heralded as one of the best dance events of the season. The acclaimed company is back, for a one night only presentation featuring an all-new work created in collaboration with architect Steven Holl.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2401 Flora St. 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

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

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

A Christmas Carol: The Radio Show. Theatre 3's downstairs space, Theatre Too, presents this one-man show, with B.J. Cleveland single-handedly performing all the roles in Dickens' holiday story. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Dec. 11. Theatre3Dallas.com.

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker! The hilarious comedy about strippers mistakenly taken for ballet dancers returns. Presented by MBS Productions. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 26. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.

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. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Mrs. Bob Cratchit's Wild Christmas Binge. Christopher Durang's farce about the holidays through the eyes of a Dickens character. Bedford Boys Ranch, 2821 Forest Ridge Drive, Bedford. Dec. 2-18. OnstageInBedford.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. Through Dec. 11. CaraMiaTheatre.org.

Santa Claus: A New Musical. The legendary gift-giver gets his own musical, developed locally in a world premiere. Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 23. CasaManana.org.

Sister's Christmas Catechism: The Mystery of the Magi's Gold. It's *CSI: Bethlehem* as a Catholic nun solves the biblical mystery: Where did the gold that the three wise men brought to the manger go? Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Dec. 2-23. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

The Sleeping Beauty. An original English panto, a beloved holiday tradition, skewers a familiar fairy tale with cross-dressing and comedy in a family-friendly way. Cox Building Playhouse, 1617 H Ave., Plano. Through Dec. 30. Theatre-Britain.com.



'The Nutcracker' isn't just a formal ballet — it has whimsical incarnations as well. In addition to TBT's own 'Nuttty Nutcracker,' MBS Productions returns with its award-winning 'The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: A Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker!' at Addison Theatre Centre.

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. *Final weekend.* Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. 7:30 p.m. Undermain.org.

The Laramie Project. Lewisville High School Theatre Department will perform this true-life drama, about the murder of gay teen Matthew Shepard, for three performances only. LHS Stuver Auditorium, 1098 W. Main St., Lewisville. Dec. 1-3. 7:30 p.m. \$7-\$10. LewisvilleTheatre.com.

CONCERTS

Dallas Symphony Christmas Pops. The annual concert series of carols, classics and sing-alongs. Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. Dec. 2-18. MyDSO.org.

BALLET

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., Dec. 2-4; Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth, Dec. 9-24. TexasBalletTheater.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.

Matthew Alexander. An exhibition of the British modern Impressionist's paintings. Alan Barnes Fine Art, 3906 Lemmon Ave., ste. 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 12.02
COMMUNITY
Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

SATURDAY 12.03
SPORTS
FrontRunners. Gay jogging group meets at 8:30 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park for a run along the Katy Trail.


COMMUNITY
Teddy Bear Party. DJ Ryan Kenney spins at the annual fundraiser and toy drive. 2500 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. VIP admission (\$150); 8 p.m. general admission (\$50–\$75). Bring a stuffed toy to the door for entrance. TeddyBearParty.org.


CONCERTS
Dolly Parton. The legendary singer and gay icon performs. Verizon Theatre at Grand Prairie, 1001 Performance Place. 7:30 p.m. Ticketmaster.com.

SUNDAY 12.04
WORSHIP
Dignity (LGBT Catholics). Worship the first Sunday of each month, led by ministers Cliff and Jon Garinn. Interfaith Peace Chapel (lower level), 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m.

MONDAY 12.05
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 12.06
FILM
Wings of Desire. Wern Wenders directed this metaphysical fantasy about angels watching over Berlin and the human comedy below. (Remade a2 *City of Angels*.) Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New

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To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvsubmit.

Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THEATER
Broadway Christmas Wonderland. A family-friendly review of holiday songs and dancing. Presented by Dallas Summer Musicals, Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. Dec. 6–18. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

WEDNESDAY 12.07
THEATER
Gloria. The regional premiere of this Pulitzer finalist about the cutthroat world of magazine publishing. Studio Theatre of the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Dec. 7–Jan. 22 (in previews through Dec. 13). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

THURSDAY 12.08
CABARET
Judy Chamberlain Jazz. The jazz vocalist's weekly cabaret performance in the back room of Zippers Hideaway, 3333 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m.

Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday. Mable Peabody's Beauty Parlor and Chain Saw Repair, 1125 E. University Drive, Denton. 9:30 p.m.

CONCERTS
Turtle Creek Chorale: A Not So Silent Night. Dallas' gay men's chorus' annual celebration of the sacred and the profane. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 8–11. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

BROADCAST
Top Chef Charleston. Two Dallas chefs — John Tesar and Casey Thompson — are among the returning competitors who this season are pitted against newcomers. Bravo at 8 p.m.

FRIDAY 12.09
DANCE
Jessica Lang Dance. The modern dance company returns to North Texas after a successful appearance several seasons ago, with a new show. Presented by TITAS. 8 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

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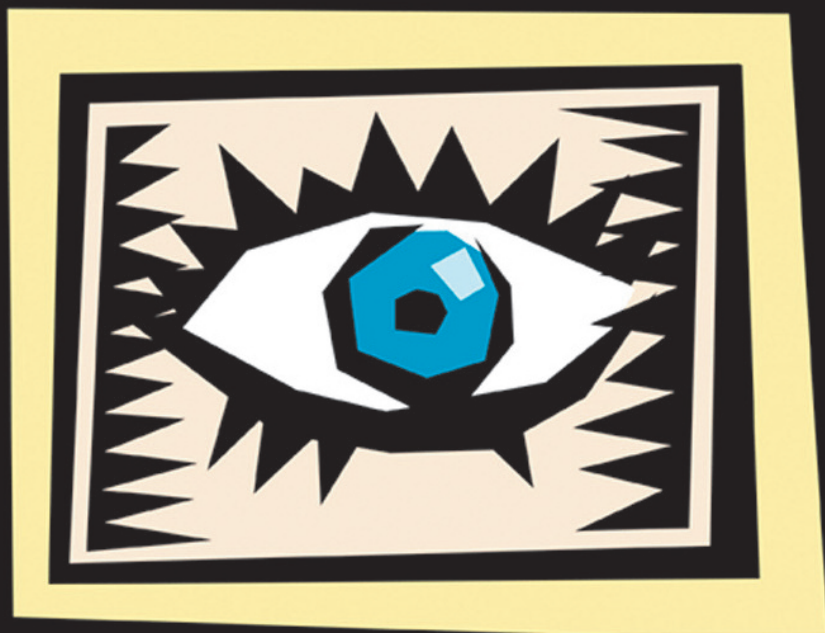
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Girl on Girls

Jenny Block learns a lesson about family and politics during holidays

I've learned a lot of things from my fiancé Robin, but the most recent lesson was the hardest one yet. You see, despite the fact that my (divorced) parents and I don't agree on everything — including not seeing eye-to-eye on my sister's and my less-than-picture-perfect childhood — we all stand on the same side politically. We may have some surface differences, but when it came to the most recent election, I didn't lose any sleep wondering if anyone in my family voted for Trump.

Still, the holidays have brought many lively discussions into our house over the years. Thanksgiving often meant a tableful of mismatched strangers and family alike, depending on who needed somewhere to go during the holiday. My dad is a rabbi, and he and my mother have always been extremely gracious and welcoming to strays, inviting to their table whoever needed a seat. Yet I remember some heated conversations between passing the yams. I even remember leaving the table a time or two. But I never remember being so diametrically opposite on an issue that any topic had to be banned for the sake of sanity.

This year, my fiancé and I hosted her dad and his girlfriend — as well as her two 20something sons — for the long weekend. For dinner, we added in our close friends (gay couple who live in our neighbor-

hood) and their "orphaned" friend, as well as the dad of some other friends who was stranded that night. It was a motley crew, to say the least. I was most nervous to meet my Robin's family. I am not a huge fan of a house crowded with guests who I do not know well. But those things were not the issue.

The issue was that Robin was unsure of how her family had voted. And we both felt very differently about what that meant.

For me, it meant it was time to speak to each of them and explain how this election was about life and death of many of us. For me it was about saying, "You are either voting for or against my right to marry; for or against my rights to my body; for or against my daughter; for or against our Muslim, African-American and Mexican friends. You are either voting for me, or against me."

For Robin, it was about not losing touch with her father.

Her mother died several years ago — suddenly and too soon. The two were very close and the wound is still fresh. Watching *Bride Wars* the other night, she cried seeing the brides with their mothers on the big day. For her, the personal is not always political — sometimes it's just personal.

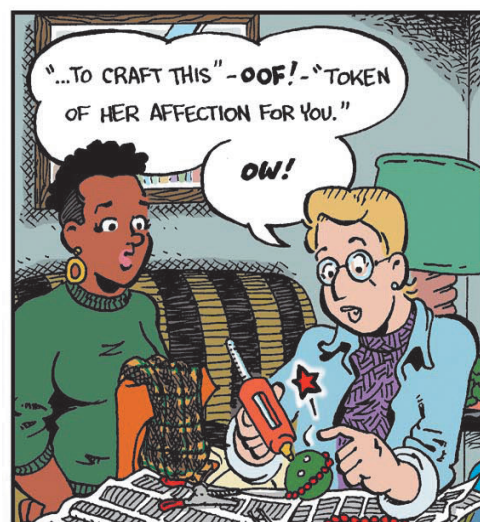
She is out to her family. When they post lies about Trump's prowess or Clinton's failings, she responds with facts, not opinions. She is clear about who she is voting for and what she supports. But in the name of protecting her family relationships, she refused to engage in the direct way that I would with my family. If anyone in my family said they were supporting Trump, I would have told them that vote was for racism and homophobia and Islamophobia and misogyny and I refuse to accept that it's OK to vote for him because you "just don't like" Hillary.



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And, you know what? A week or two might go by before I spoke to that family member again. But we would recover. I truly believe that.

But I have learned that not all families are like mine. And I have learned that sometimes you have to keep your politics to yourself.

I won't lie. That scares me. I wonder if we could change the world if each of us used our knowledge and our education to share truth and stop lies in their tracks. I wonder if we could change the world by starting at home, by not letting anyone get away with being lazy politically. I wonder if we could change the world by being honest with family members about our fears and our realities that for those of us who are Jewish or Muslim or queer or black or female or part of any of the favorite scapegoat group of those uneducated/naïve/hateful/disenfranchised/all of the above, we are scared. We are scared for our lives.

But I also know what happened at Thanksgiving. We all got along; it was nice. Politics was banned and we talked about tall ships and we went to the Renaissance faire. We played Scrabble and we ate too much pie. My fiancé's father put one arm around each of us and pulled us in tightly and said, with tears in his eyes, "I don't think I've personally said congratulations to both of you. You are the best thing that has ever happened to my girl. You make her so happy. I love you both."

That night, that weekend, we were a family.

Maybe we still did change the world that day, just a little. Not with the heated discussions that I am used to. But with just living our lives. They say it's hard to hate people whose stories you know. Now, they know our stories. Sometimes visibility is the most powerful form of activism.

Jenny Block is an award-winning author, most recently of *The Ultimate Guide to Solo Sex*, with a foreword by Betty Dodson.

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



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- **Alexandre's:** Girls Night Out with Peggy Honea on Friday. Repeal Prohibition Day–La Pompe on Saturday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** DJ Woofy for T-Dance on Sunday.
- **Club Reflection:** December Party on the Patio at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** Bear of the Month Contest on Friday. United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents Go Elf Yourself at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Dallas Bears and Leather Knights club night on Saturday. Line Dance Lessons with Yoshi from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Havana:** This Free Life featuring Alyssa Edwards at 10 p.m. on Friday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Cassie's Freakmas show benefits the Sam Houston Elementary School Secret Santa program at 11

- p.m. on Monday.
- **Marty's Live:** Rudeboy Dallas Boys N Booze from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. on Wednesday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Christmas Cookie Party with food, fun and frivolity from 6-9 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **The Rose Room:** Miss Gay Fire and Ice USofA Pageant starring Aurora Sexton, Porsche Paris, Krystal Summers, Onyx and Christina Ross at 10 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Two Corks and a Bottle:** Show Tune Night from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.

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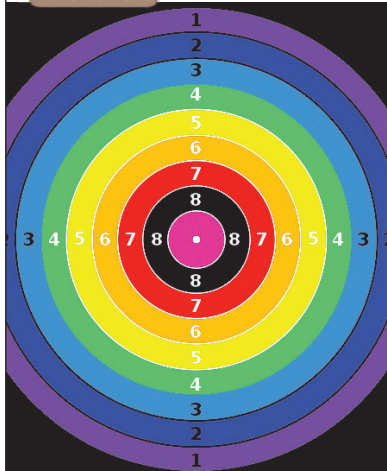
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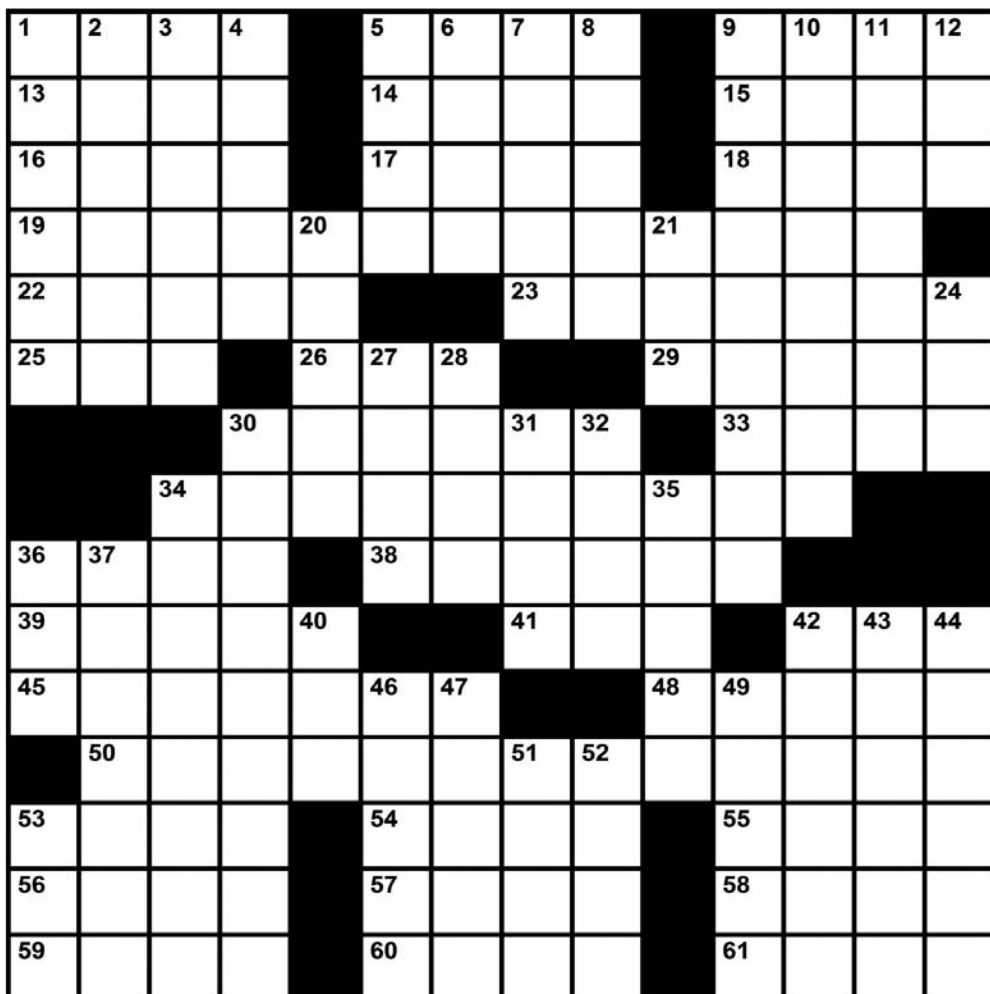
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Remembering Carol

Solution on page 29

Across

- 1 Dances like Hines
5 Mary's little pet
9 Come together
13 Small singing bird
14 *The African Queen* author
15 Actress Adams
16 "Tell ___ the judge!"
17 Verlaine's mother
18 Erotic opening
19 Seventies sitcom starring Florence Henderson
22 Use the Divine Miss M's name in vain?
23 Way back when
25 B. Bean's greatest hits
26 '50s dance
29 ___ Hall University
30 Clearest of head
33 Candace Gingrich's half-brother
34 He played Florence Henderson's husband on 19-Across
36 Red Skelton's ___ Kadiddle-hopper
38 Family of Mary, Queen of Scots
39 He played Huxtable

41 ASCAP alternative

42 Mineo of *Rebel Without a Cause*

45 Gave a tongue-lashing to

48 "Bear" that's not a bear

50 Group with step-kids, like 19-

Across

53 Arc on Bernstein's music

score

54 Tight-assed

55 It's for skin care

56 Dorothy's dog

57 Office slip

58 *The Children's* ___

59 Blows away

60 Dance instructor's topic

61 They're performing, in *Fame*

Down

1 Wiggle the nose like Samantha

2 Poet Rimbaud

3 Paige and Cameron

4 Snooty types

5 Star of *Hello, Dalai?*

6 Like fine wine

7 Miranda in *The Devil Wears*

Prada

8 Bannon's Brinker

9 French playwright and activist

10 Well-versed.

11 He played a transsexual in

The World According to Garp

12 Bloom of *The Producers*

20 Place where you go straight

21 Us, to Rilke

24 Can. province

27 *A Room of ___ Own*

28 Like boobs that don't sag

30 Hats from Kahlo's country

31 Broadway ticket souvenir

32 Amsterdam transport

34 Firm

35 Eleniak of *Baywatch*

36 Meas. for Dr. Kildare

37 Fellatio, for one?

40 Yokohama moola

42 Person in the Navy

43 Closet-emptying cry?

44 Cake parts

46 Affleck's *Chasing Amy* crush

47 Credo

49 Montgomery Clift's home-

town

51 Edna, for one

52 Lay an egg

53 Dupont Cir., on the Metro

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