

# dallasvoice

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## WWJD?

Midlothian church plans  
sermon on 'LGBT Agenda'  
by David Taffet, Page 8



## 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](http://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](http://start.truvada.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) for program information.





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## Major and Beau finally get married

Mark Jimenez, better known as Major, and Beau Chandler were married by Judge Tonya Parker in her courtroom at noon today (Thursday, Jan. 5) exactly four-and-a-half years after they were first arrested for trying to get married in Texas.

On July 5, 2012, Jimenez and Chandler got in line at the Dallas County Clerk's on the second floor of the Dallas County Records Building to request a marriage license. The clerk brought them into an adjoining room and, through tears, explained she was unable to issue that license under Texas law.

Chandler and Jimenez handcuffed themselves to the stanchion at the front of the line and sat in protest for the rest of the day.

When the building closed at 4:30 p.m., sheriff's deputies told the couple to leave or face arrest for criminal trespass. Jimenez unlocked the handcuffs, but the couple refused to leave. Deputies escorted them downstairs and privately offered to let the couple go, if they would leave. They refused and were escorted to jail.

The couple made several court appearances. Each time, a group of supporters protested outside the Crowley Courts building.

In a plea deal, they agreed to serve 40 hours of community service. Chandler raised money for Youth First and Jimenez for the North Texas Food Bank.



Jimenez was arrested a second time on Aug. 2, 2012 when he and Chandler again tried to get a marriage license. They repeated their protest throughout the day and at 4:30 p.m., they uncuffed themselves. Jimenez was arrested. Chandler agreed to leave the building and he left to get bail money. A group of protesters stood vigil outside Lew Sterrett until Jimenez was released.

— David Taffet

## Interfaith Peace Chapel defaced with graffiti

Dallas police were at Cathedral of Hope this morning (Thursday, Jan. 5) investigating graffiti painted onto the church's Interfaith Peace Chapel. The building was vandalized at about 11 p.m. on Wednesday night, according to the Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas, CoH's lead pastor.

Thomas said that he appeared on a talk show on KHVN, a gospel station, yesterday, but he doesn't think the graffiti was done by any of the callers, in particular. But it may have been someone who listened to the show that vandalized the chapel.

The spray-painted message included a Louisiana phone number and referred to a car as a "Brown Chivy Suburbin." The name "Johntion Kimbrou" — possibly "Kimbrow" — was also painted on the church, along with a reference to "kitty porn."

Cazares-Thomas said he is concerned about removing the paint from the porous surface and hopes to have the building clean by this weekend when a wedding is scheduled to be performed in the building. — David Taffet

## Patrick holding press conference to announce filing of bathroom bill

Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick is so proud that he is going to put Texas' economic health at risk that he's holding a press conference this afternoon to announce it.

Patrick and state Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham, sent out a "media advisory" on Wednesday, Jan. 4, to say they will be holding a press conference Thursday, at 1 p.m. in the Senate



Press Conference Room at the Texas Capitol, to announce the filing of Senate Bill 6, "The Privacy Protection Act."

For those who might not know, "Privacy Protection Act" is the alias Patrick has given to his version of HB 2, the anti-transgender bathroom bill that has cost the state of North Carolina hundreds of millions of dollars. Patrick thinks that by pretending he is trying to protect women and children from predatory men instead of just plain ol' hating on transgender people, he can fool people into thinking SB6 is a good thing. Of course, if he really wanted to protect women and children from predatory men, he would be working to stop the men in the Texas Legislature from passing laws that interfere with women's control over their own bodies and health decisions.

Hopefully there are enough people in the Legislature who have more sense than prejudice that they will be able to stop this bill before it gets anywhere. But we suggest that everyone who does oppose it put as much effort as possible into letting your representatives and senators know that this is a really really bad idea.

— Tammye Nash

## Roy Moore receives 'Bill of Rights Award'

Roy Moore, the former chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court who was suspended from that position last May after ordering the state's probate judges to ignore the U.S. Supreme Court's marriage equality ruling and instead continue to enforce Alabama's unconstitutional ban on same-sex marriage, last month was named the recipient of the 2016 Bill of Rights Award.

Carris Kocher, chair of the Bill of Rights Bicentennial Committee of Concordville, Penn., said that Moore won the award for his "courageous standing on the 10th Amendment," and the press release announcing the award points out that — to no one's surprise — "Like Judge Roy Moore, Mrs. Kocher believes criminal law and marriage law fall entirely under the jurisdiction of state law."

The 10th Amendment, for those who may not remember, is the one that says any powers not expressly given to the federal government or expressly prohibited to the states by the U.S. Constitution is "reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."

— Tammye Nash



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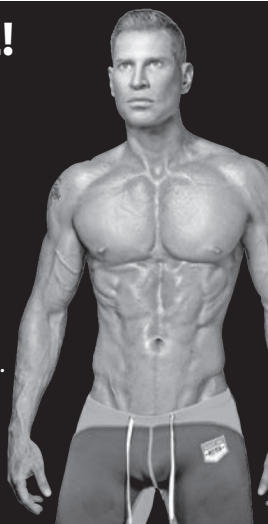


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## Notice of DART Public Meetings

### D2 Subway Public Meetings

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) invite you to attend a public meeting about the Dallas CBD Second Light Rail Alignment, known as D2. Based on input received to date, DART will be advancing D2 as a subway, rather than the original mostly above-ground route. We need your input to refine the project:

- What is your vision of a subway in downtown Dallas?
- What is most important to you about where it's located?
- What are your thoughts on potential subway alternatives and station locations?
- As an additional project in Downtown, a streetcar line is being considered to connect the modern streetcar and the historic trolley. What are your ideas about this connection?

### Public Meetings

**Thursday, January 19, 2017 • 12:00 p.m. & 6:30 p.m.**

**DART Headquarters – Board Room, 1401 Pacific Avenue, Dallas**

The same information will be provided at each meeting. Learn more and subscribe to project updates at [www.DART.org/D2](http://www.DART.org/D2).

**For Additional Information** Please contact  
DART Community Engagement at 214/749-2543,  
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**January 1, 2017:** 2017 coverage starts for those who enroll or change plans by December 15.

**January 31, 2017:** Last day to enroll in or change a 2017 health plan. After this date, you can enroll or change plans only if you qualify for a special enrollment period

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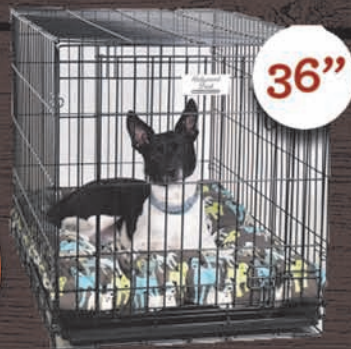
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## THEGAYAGENDA

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

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week's guests are **Karen McCrocklin** and **Steve Atkinson** talking about their experience at Gateway Church; **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@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org) at 214-760-9718 ext 3 or [jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org).

### JANUARY

• **Jan. 9: Soulcycle**  
Charity ride benefiting Black Tie Dinner at 7:30 p.m. at SoulCycle Uptown, 3699 McKinney Ave. \$40 basic 45-minute ride. \$100

VIP front row bike selection.

• **Jan. 9: Denton Trans/SOFFA meeting**  
Group meeting at 7 p.m. at Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1111 Cordell St, Denton.

• **Jan. 10: Snap Kitchen opening**  
Holiday cocktails and tunes from DJ Brandon Moses with 25 percent of sales going to Resource Center from 6-9 p.m. at Snap Kitch Oak Lawn, 4436 Lemmon Ave.

• **Jan. 10: Dallas Trans/SOFFA meeting**  
Group meeting at 7 p.m. at Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church, 1641 W Hebron Pkwy, Carrollton.

• **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. Tickets are \$25 at the door, and include food, drinks and music. For information call 214-521-6622 or email [kamesha@legalthospice.org](mailto:kamesha@legalthospice.org).

• **Jan 12: Gray Pride**  
First mixer of the year from 6-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

## pet of the week / MULAN

Meet **Mulan**, a fun, 1-year-old Rottweiler mix weighing 35-pounds. She is mostly black with rusty points on her muzzle, eyes and feet. She is very energetic, playful and friendly. She loves meeting new people, making friends, playing with all kinds of toys, going for long walks and running around in the yard. Mulan has been spayed, microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Her adoption fee is only \$50, so come on over and meet her today! #149779

**Mulan** is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas at 2400 Lone Star Drive near I-30 and Hampton Road. Hours are noon-6 p.m., seven days a week. Regular adoption fees are \$250 for puppies, \$125 for adult dogs 6 months or older and kittens 0-6 months, \$75 for adult cats 6 months or older and \$50 for senior dogs or cats 7 years or older and VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.



## INCOME TAX RETURNS



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• **Jan. 13: High Tech Happy Hour**

From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Two Corks and a Bottle, 2800 Routh St., Ste. 140.

• **Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

• **Jan. 16: 12th Annual MLK Symposium**

The Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture holds the 12th Annual MLK Symposium from 7-9 p.m. at Dallas City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. The theme for this year's event is "MLK's Legacy: Issues of Social Justice in the 21st Century," and it will focus on ensuring equality under the law and civil rights for all citizens. Keynote speakers will be Jelani Cobb and Alicia Garza. To register or for more information call 214-871-2440 or visit DallasInstitute.org.

• **Jan. 17: Stonewall elections**

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

• **Jan. 17: Fort Worth Trans/SOFFA meeting**

Group meeting at 7 p.m. at First Jefferson Unitarian Church, 959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth.

• **Jan 17: Outlast Youth**

LGBT Youth Homelessness Meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• **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.

• **Jan. 21: Women's March on Austin**

The Women's March on Austin, a sister event to the Women's March on Washington, is taking place in D.C. from noon-6 p.m. at the Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave., Austin.

• **Jan. 21: Gaybingo**

• **Jan. 23: Denton Trans/SOFFA meeting**

Group meeting at 7 p.m. at Denton Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 1111 Cordell St, Denton.

• **Jan. 24: The Refugee Camp Experience**

The Dallas Holocaust Museum in conjunction with the International Rescue Committee presents a panel on life in modern-day refugee camps with panelists from Rwanda, Sudan and Syria from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St.

• **Jan. 24: Dallas Trans/SOFFA meeting**

Group meeting at 7 p.m. at Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church, 1641 W Hebron Pkwy, Carrollton.

• **Jan. 29: International Holocaust Remembrance Day**



Wanna get your sweat on and kick-start that get-fit New Year's resolution, while at the same time raising money for a good cause? Soulcycle Uptown hosts a charity ride benefiting Black Tie Dinner on Monday, Jan. 9. Check Gay Agenda listings for details

On the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the Dallas Holocaust Museum has a gathering of hope and remembrance at 2 p.m. at 211 N. Record St.

**FEBRUARY**

• **Feb. 2: George Takei**

Dallas Holocaust Museum and SMU Embrey Human Rights Program present George Takei speaks about his childhood experiences during World War II in a U.S. internment camp at 6:30 p.m. at McFarlin Auditorium, 6405 Boaz Lane.

• **Feb. 18: Gaybingo**

• **Feb. 25: Dash for the Beads**

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

**MARCH**

• **March 4: Toast to Life**

From 7-11 p.m. at Empire Room, 1225 N Riverfront Blvd.

• **March 18: Gaybingo**

• **March 20: Advocacy Day in Austin**

Speak to your legislators. GALA North Texas

will sponsor buses to Austin. Texas State Capitol, 1100 Congress Ave., Austin.

• **March 25: AIDS Walk South Dallas**

• **March 31-April 2: Texas Traditions Rodeo**

Texas Gay Rodeo Association presents Texas Traditions Rodeo. Gates open at 11 a.m. at Diamond T Arena, 6900 E. Sherman Drive, Denton.

**APRIL**

• **April 8: No Tie Dinner**

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

• **April 15: Gaybingo**

• **April 16: Easter in the Park**

The pooch parade in Oak Lawn's Lee Park is an Easter tradition.

• **April 28: Celebration of Excellence Dinner**

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce presents its Business Excellence Awards at its Celebration of Excellence Dinner. Details to follow.

**MAY**

• **May 6: House of DIFFA: Arabesque**

At 6 p.m. at Omni Hotel, 555 S Lamar Street.

• **May 18-21: TBRU: Boot Camp**

TBRU 22 moves to the Hyatt Regency, 300 Reunion Blvd.

• **May 20: Evening of Hope**

AID Outreach Center gala and fashion show at 6 p.m. at the Worthington Renaissance Hotel, 200 Main St., Fort Worth.

• **May 20: Gaybingo**

**JUNE**

• **June 2: Metro Ball**

Taylor Dayne and Cece Peniston headline the fundraiser for the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund along with American Idol favorite David Hernandez from 7-10 p.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. \$250 VIP package for four. GDMAF.org.

• **June 3: Bloomin' Ball**



LGBT advocates headed to Midlothian to attend Gateway Church sermon on “LGBT war on Christianity”

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Karen McCrocklin is going to church on Sunday — despite the risk of being struck by a bolt of lightning.

McCrocklin doesn't usually attend church, but she said she felt compelled to go when she received an invitation from Gateway Church in Midlothian. On Jan. 8, the sermon topic will be “The War on Christianity: Exposing the LGBT Agenda.”

McCrocklin posted her version of the Gay Agenda on the church's Facebook page:

“The LGBT Agenda — Be kind, generous and productive members of society, pay taxes, spend time with family and friends, save for vacation, honor thy father and mother, do not covet thy neighbor's house or anything that belongs to thy neighbor, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not murder, etc. ... That's about it.”

McCrocklin said her first instinct was to stage a protest outside Gateway. But she said she isn't going to do that. “Part of me wants to stand up and tell them what I think,” she said. “But I'm going to listen. I'm not going to disrupt their service.”

She said what disturbs her is the prospect of a 15-year-old kid going to the church with his or her parents and getting the message that there's something wrong with them. As the Trump administration comes into office, McCrocklin said she expects to hear about a lot more similar incidents, and she worries that many people believe his election gives them a license to discriminate.

Gateway Church is a nondenominational Christian church with three campuses — in Midlothian, in DeSoto and the original in Duncanville, which opened in 1946. “Speaking in tongues” is mentioned among the church's beliefs and practices. Senior Pastor Ron Shull graduated from Southwestern Assemblies of God University in Waxahachie, with a B.A. in pastoral ministries.

The LGBT community isn't mentioned on the church's website, and among the tenets listed in Gateway's mission is “to seek and save all who are lost in sin.”

But if the LGBT community is among those lost in sin, Pastor Shull has a funny way of inviting them in.

The church hasn't posted its upcoming sermon topic on Facebook and has removed comments about the sermon topic. But the church didn't shy away from sending postcards to Midlothian residents with the sermon topic emblazoned across a Rainbow Flag. (McCrocklin suggested that the fact the church used the rainbow flag and called it the “LGBT agenda” and not the “homosexual agenda” indicates the community has made progress.)

The Rev. Steve Sprinkle, director of field

# See you in church



education and supervised ministry and professor of practical theology at Brite Divinity School, said, “There is no war between Christians and the LGBT community.”

He called it a diversion for something else.

“It's familiar stuff — attack the LGBT community and all eyes are directed there,” he said.

He said the church's mission of ministering to lost souls and an upcoming sermon, “Why is life so hard for me?” indicate that the Gateway church ministers to people with problems and who need someone to blame for those problems.

“They should pay attention to Jesus, who said, ‘If you intend to remove a speck from someone else's eye, remove the log from your own first,’” Sprinkle said.

He said the movement to accept LGBT members into Christian congregations dates back to 1948 with a church in Atlanta. Today more than 5,000 congregations are open and welcoming.

“That doesn't sound like a war to me,” Sprinkle said.

According to the Pew Research Center, between 2007 and 2014, the percentage of the U.S. population declaring themselves Christian slid 7 percent, from 78.4 percent to 70.6 percent. There was one increase in affiliation: Although three in 10 LGB people say they have been personally made to feel unwelcome in a church, more LGB individuals identify as Christian than ever before, 48 percent up from 42 percent in 2013, Sprinkle found in his research.

“Hardly a war on Christianity,” Sprinkle reiterated.

Sprinkle said he's been hearing from ministers about what they're calling a “Trump Bump” in progressive churches, an increase in attendance unlike anything they've seen since 9-11. People are returning to progres-

sive churches out of concern about the upcoming Trump administration, the anecdotal evidence suggests.

Sprinkle said he'd love to attend Sunday's Gateway service, but he'll be preaching in another church at the same time. His topic won't be an imaginary war. “I'll be talking about Jesus,” he said.

After services, Sprinkle said, he'll work on his own LGBT Agenda: “I'll be taking care of my family, my dog and my career.”

In the month following the November election, the Southern Poverty Law Center reported a quite different Trump bump — 1,094 bias-related incidents. Of those, 109 were anti-LGBT, and four of those in Texas.

That's only the fourth highest category. Anti-immigrant motivation accounted for more than 300 of the incidents, anti-black more than 200 and anti-Muslim a little more than the anti-LGBT.

Of the documented cases, in 37 percent the perpetrators referenced Trump, his campaign slogan or his remarks about sexual assault, according to statistics released by the SPLC.

The SPLC places the blame in one place: Hate speech throughout the presidential campaign that emboldened people to be open with their prejudices and bigotry.

Several LGBT people living in Midlothian said this is a new church and this is the first time they've received a mailer from it. They described Gateway as a small congregation that's been fairly quiet.

Tiffany Brown, who lives in Midlothian, received one of the church's mailers. What's worse than receiving the postcard herself, she said, is “knowing that my neighbors have been targeted for hate material that is specific to me.”

She described life in the community as peaceful. “We don't hide being gay and we don't shove it in the faces of our neighbors,”

she said. “We just coexist like every other resident here.”

Now, she said, she worries that her neighbors will think of them as “the female couple on the corner, and what they might be plotting to do.”

The only thing they're plotting, Brown said, is winning “Yard of the Month.” That's their LGBT agenda.

Penny Armstrong, who is working on a post-doctoral certification in sexual and gender justice at Brite Divinity School, wrote to Pastor Shull and laid out her case: “We both know that there are biblical passages that support racism, slavery, abuse of women and warring aggressions that we no longer apply in our lives,” she wrote. “We also know that Jesus taught us to show kindness to every person.”

She concluded her letter to Shull by “respectfully asking you to refrain from creating more hate and suspicion when it is completely contrary to the teachings we are called to follow.”

Shull's response indicates he's received a number of responses to his church's postcard. “Out of the numerous I have received, you are the only one who has been civil and that is appreciated,” he wrote.

The Gateway pastor criticized messages he's received, saying they're “making a judgment based on assumption. No one, even you, knows what my position will be nor the words that will be spoken this coming Sunday.”

But a quick check of his past sermons gives a relatively strong indication. In June, for example, he criticized President Barack Obama for issuing a Pride Month declaration so “the LGBT can celebrate their sin.” He said he feels sick when he sees parades, although he doesn't explain who's forcing him to watch these parades.

But in his response to Armstrong, Shull assures her “that my motivation is based solely on love, not hate nor contempt. Every comment I have received is undergirded with how much we should love people and not judge or condemn. I agree so I can promise you, and all who are concerned, that my words will neither condemn nor judge their actions; however, I do remember a great man once said that we are to ‘speak the truth in love.’”

He expressed a concern that “a segment in our society that is attempting to silence the voice of those who hold to the biblical position of sexuality and the biblical foundation for marriage.” Those are the people, he said, toward whom his sermon will be directed.

McCrocklin, former Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance President Steve Atkinson and several of their friends aren't making assumptions. Instead, they will be at the service on Sunday to learn about this war they're apparently waging. Whether they learn about some new tactics the LGBT community is supposedly using to wage war on Christians, or find out this was just a diversion for other problems people are seeing in their lives, they'll be there, listening.

“I don't want them talking about me behind my back,” McCrocklin explained. ■



# Resolution solution

Looking for a good way to make a difference? Check out Gay For Good

**ERIN MOORE** | Special Contributor  
Special to Dallas Voice

With so much loss and tragedy in the world, in the news, in our own communities, people are searching for ways to be nicer to each other. We have become so separate from each other, so distant, that it feels like we truly are isolated.

Facebook gives the illusion of friendship with people we don't even know. Twitter is a constant barrage of bumper-sticker thoughts that go swirling by without care or consequence. Snapchat and Instagram are temporary "LOOK AT ME...then gone" moments.

But it's time to make some real connections again. It's time to make a real difference again. It's time to remember who we are as a community. Time to volunteer our time again.

When I first started in the Dallas LGBT community, I was part of a group that organized events around National Coming Out Day. Our

chosen slogan was "Out Everyday," to show that we are a vital part of our community, every community. The idea was that we are all in this together.

I am now working with a group called Gay For Good, and it has much the same message.

G4G is an all-volunteer organization that goes out into the so-called straight community and to volunteer one day a month for a local charity. We have done everything from clearing bamboo stands for a trail around Elm Fork to placing flags at veterans' graves, to sorting clothing at Dress for Success. We volunteer with youth, seniors, veterans, the homeless, animals and for the environment.

It is a no-frills, sweat equity way to invest in our community. We do not ask for, nor do we give money. We give time; we show up and do whatever is needed.

What is perhaps more important than the work we do, though, are the conversations we have while doing it.

During a Habitat for Humanity build, we will converse with the local Baptist church volunteers about our personal stories. During a visit to a senior home, we will talk with the



Gay for Good volunteers work at Promise House. (Courtesy Erin Moore)

visit to Promise House, we will chat with the abandoned youth that feels like she has finally found some footing.

We make a difference in our community, one weekend, once a month.

In this next year — in the next four years — real connection, real impact and real work will matter more and more. Kindness and conver-

discrimination. Join us or any other volunteer group and make a difference in that group and with that group.

We need to know each other again and hold our community closer.

Erin Moore is the vice chair of the Dallas/Ft. Worth Chapter of Gay For Good ([gayforgood.org/dallas\\_tx](http://gayforgood.org/dallas_tx)).

## Atlanta's first LGBT mayor?



Cathy Woolard

Cathy Woolard's campaign, which brings her to Dallas in January, could have nationwide ramifications

**CHRIS CASH** | Georgia Voice  
Special to Dallas Voice

Cathy Woolard is used to being first, and she intends to keep it that way.

She was the first candidate to declare in the 2017 Atlanta mayoral race, the first openly gay official in Georgia history when elected to the Atlanta City Council in 1997, and the first woman to serve as council president when elected in 2002.

And if she prevails in her current campaign, Woolard will become the first LGBT mayor of Atlanta. Only three other major cities in the country — Houston, Portland and Seattle — have elected LGBT mayors.

"Following in the foot steps of great Atlanta mayors who also broke a glass ceiling — including Maynard Jackson, the first African-American mayor, and Shirley Franklin, the first female mayor — would be a great honor," Woolard said. "This is what makes Atlanta not only one of the great cities in America, but throughout the world. It is important to show future generations that anything is possible, regardless of the color of your skin, whether you are male or female, or even your sexual orientation."

Eric Johnson of Dallas is hosting a fundraiser for Woolard in next week because "with all that's happening in the country, it's more important than ever to elect LGBT people at all levels of government," he said. "Cathy Woolard's race for mayor of Atlanta is such an important priority in 2017. She will make a fantastic mayor for Atlanta."

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, whose mission is to elect openly LGBT officials, has endorsed Woolard's candidacy, citing its historical and practical significance. GLVF's vice president of political operations and communication, Martine Apopca, called Woolard's campaign for mayor of Atlanta "one of the most exciting and important in the country for LGBT equality. We endorsed Cathy more than a year before her election because of her visionary

leadership on the city council and because her candidacy represents an important step toward a more inclusive South — where LGBT elected officials are severely under-represented."

Woolard lead the Atlanta City Council in passing Georgia's only comprehensive civil rights bill protecting LGBTQ people from discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations; in adding "gender identity" to Atlanta's non-discrimination policy; and in suing Georgia's state insurance to allow benefits for LGBTQ partners of state employees

Woolard was also the first national field director for the Human Rights Campaign, and most recently, she lobbied against House Bill 757, the Georgia Religious Liberty Bill, for Georgia Equality. Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal vetoed the bill last May.

"Cathy Woolard has spent much of her life leading the fight for LGBT equality around the country and in Georgia, going back to the 1980s," said Jeff Graham, executive director of Georgia Equality. "LGBT people would not have civil rights protections in Atlanta if it weren't for her."

In a recent fundraising letter former Houston mayor, Anise Parker, called Woolard's bid "one of the most important for the LGBT movement in the next year," adding that "Cathy is a remarkable leader for our movement."

House parties in Dallas, Austin and Houston are planned for the second week in January to raise funds for Woolard's campaign. To learn more about Woolard's campaign visit [cathyforatlanta.com](http://cathyforatlanta.com).



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# Defend this!

Ted Cruz's First Amendment Defense Act in reality does just the opposite

I see where Sen. Ted Cruz, a Republican from Texas, is enforcing his brand of crazy by crafting another version of the First Amendment Defense Act, or FADA, although up til now, it seems to me that the only part of the First Amendment that needs defending is the part about a free press.



**Leslie McMurray**  
Accidental Activist

Specifically though, it appears that the FADA will focus on two things: Permitting businesses to discriminate against same-sex couples based upon religious beliefs that marriage is defined as one man and one woman, or that sex is reserved for hetero couples only.

I've about had it with people — especially evangelical Christians — feeling their freedom of religion is under attack because other people want fair and equal treatment. And I have my own idea as to what I think something protecting religious freedom would look like.

I believe this country was founded on some pretty sound principles, among them are freedom of the press and freedom of religion. As the Constitution states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press."

I suppose people a lot smarter than me have debated these simple words over the years. But I interpret them to be fair only if everyone's free speech is protected, along with everyone's freedom of religion. Even those who have no religious beliefs should be protected.

Keeping me from buying a bottle of wine at 11:55 a.m. on Sunday morning is inflicting your religious beliefs on my life and creating an undue burden on my pursuit of happiness.

Your religion ought to be practiced in such a way that you can believe in whatever superstition you want, as long as it doesn't impede someone else's celebration or observation of their beliefs. Christians — would you want to be compelled to go to church five times a day to pray just because some Muslims do? Should Muslims be prevented from praying five times a day because most Christians prefer not to?

This is tip of the iceberg stuff.

Nobody is trying to tell Christians they can't

worship Christ. Whatever helps you get through the night is fine by me.

But imagine Seventh-day Adventists telling you that church day is Saturday or Jewish rabbis telling you that you must keep kosher. What if Muslim leaders start forcing restaurants to take bacon off their menus? (By the way, I can buy all of the bacon I want on Sunday, it's wine they have a problem with.)

How would the Rev. Jeffress feel if his Dallas First Baptist Church had to integrate the handling of venomous snakes because the Pentecostals say that's how you demonstrate faith?

Can "religious freedom" be taken too far? Yes, it can. Permitting businesses to freely discriminate against potential customers is bad for business and an insult to true religious freedom.

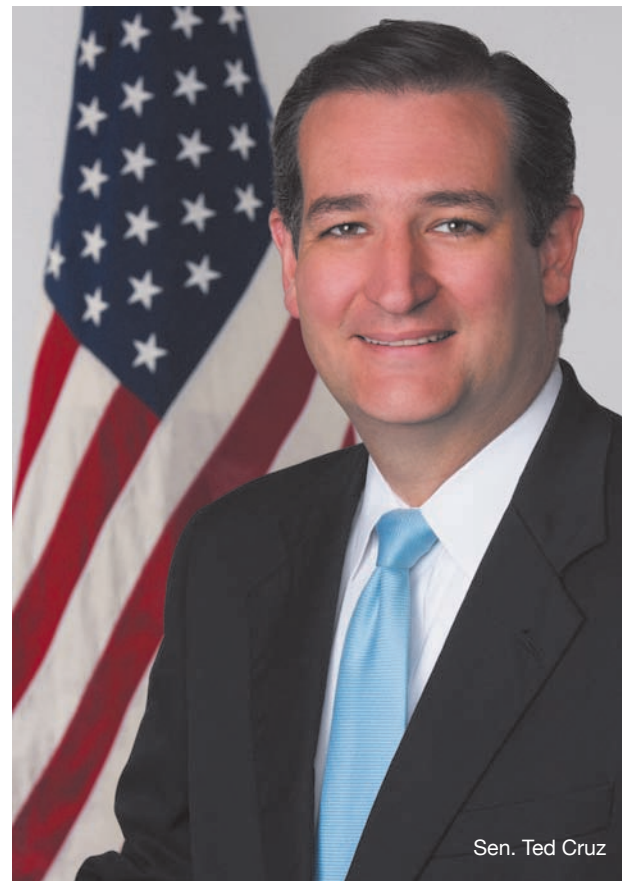
Recently, a Facebook friend posted the results of a research project into why Americans are dropping out of the Christian church and what Christian churches do to flip the script. My simple suggestion was: How about inviting Christ back into the church? That would be a start.

Someone asked me what that would look like to me. My answer is that it could be as simple as "Christians" truly following the teachings of Christ, not using his words to hurt others or justify their already deep-seated prejudices.

Or it could be much more detailed than that. I'd be happy to discuss it. Truly, I would. But my own brother is an evangelical Christian who refuses to utter or write my name for fear of offending his God.

I wonder what Christ would say about the way we celebrate His birthday — with Black Friday specials and an orgy of spending and lighting displays that would humble Clark Griswold. What would Christ have to say about how we live in a city with an estimated 800 to 900 homeless children, yet pastors who lead churches the size of sports arenas and go home to mansions are either unaware or unwilling to help.

Why don't LGBT people trust very many Christian leaders or feel welcome in their churches? Maybe it's because self-identified Christian evangelicals like Ted Cruz want to



Sen. Ted Cruz

put us in the crosshairs of legal and unconstitutional discrimination.

My hope is that if something this ridiculous passes, they at least tag this bill with a rider that requires businesses to declare, in writing, with signs prominently posted that they discriminate and against whom — "WE DON'T SERVE LGBT," or some such sign. Don't hide from it! Declare your bigotry up front and proud — so we don't even waste our time shopping there.

To me, freedom OF religion is no more important than freedom FROM religion. Worship or believe how you will, but your beliefs shouldn't get in the way of someone else's beliefs.

Trump wants to "Make America Great" again. What he may have missed is that what makes America great is that we can take a wide diversity of races, religions, sexual orientations, gender identities, nationalities and political viewpoints and, against all odds, make it work. It has worked because we have all earned a seat at the table, and adding a seat takes nothing away from the others.

To go backwards now makes us less great.

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at [lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com](http://lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com)



# An open letter to Kim Burrell: Please start acting like Jesus Christ!

Dear Kim:  
Sista-Gurl,  
we need to talk. Really, we do. Over the past weekend, the entire world has heard a portion of Kim Burrell's "Sermon on the Mount," in which you unabashedly made the following statements:



**Buster Spiller**  
Contributing Columnist

"Anybody in this room who feels the homosexual spirit, beg God to free you." ... "I came to tell you about sin. That sin nature. That perverted homosexual spirit, and the spirit of delusion and confusion. It has deceived many men and women, and it's caused a stain on the body of Christ." ... "You as a man, you open your mouth and take a man's penis in your face, you are perverted. ... You are a woman and will shake your face in another woman's breast, you are perverted."

Then you alluded to the fact (or prophecy) that all homosexuals will die in 2017 due to their sins, assuming that they don't repent and live a lie, meaning a lie because homosexuality is presumably a sin, per your beliefs and doctrine.

Oh, Kim ...

Sista-Gurl, as I sit here and wrestle with how to respond to you, I am conflicted for a number of reasons:

As one of God's children that belongs to group you have prophesied will die this year, my first inclination is to drag you through the muck and mire like everyone else has been doing through Facebook postings, memes, YouTube videos and personal conversations.

But I can't give you a public reprimand

like other celebrities, because my platform is decidedly smaller. I can't cancel your appearances, like Ellen DeGeneres did (Did you even REALIZE Ellen is like the most POPULAR lesbian on the PLANET? What in the HELL were you thinking?!?). And I can't make an off-the-cuff suggestion that you contact the Donald Trump campaign and offer to sing at the inauguration because he can't BUY entertainers to perform.

But since I can't do those things, I decided that dragging you through the muck just wasn't the response for me to make — even though I wanted it to be. And that hurts because I truly want to READ you for FILTH.

Why?

Because for me, this is all deeply personal. Because I was around when the AIDS pandemic was at its height, and black gays were dropping like flies, along with everyone else. A number of those black gay men who were in the black church sat in pews like those at your church Sunday after Sunday after Sunday, continuing to be victimized and ostracized at a time when they needed LOVE and support from their pastors and fellow parishioners.

Those men can no longer speak out. But I can. I strongly believe one of the reasons HIV can't be contained in the black community is because of the church's position on homosexuality. I've always believe that.

Then I considered issuing a national call to action that involved black homosexuals arming themselves with biblical scriptures highlighting the penalties for heterosexual sins, going to their neighborhood churches, and DRAGGING all those known to have violated the Bible, because as you so eloquently stated, God hates sin.

My favorite scripture of choice in that regard is found in Deuteronomy 23:2, which reads: "A bastard shall not enter into the congregation of

the LORD; even to his tenth generation shall he not enter into the congregation of the LORD."

Given the disproportionate number of black children born to single black mothers, hover-

ing around 80 percent, my call to action using this Bible verse ALONE would ensure that we could rightfully decrease the number of church attendees by well over three quarters, because these women and their children often seek refuge in churches as they attempt to find understanding, acceptance and a closer relationship with God. That would result in the closure of MANY black churches and pastors, like yourself, having to find other sources of income to live on, which isn't unprecedented because last time I checked, Jesus Christ worked as a carpenter while he shared his life-affirming ministry and at NO CHARGE.

How about that?

But Sista-Gurl, that option didn't work for me either.

So I contemplated going over every scripture dealing with homosexuality in biblical times and outlining what those scriptures meant in their historical, cultural, religious and political context — a process known as hermeneutical study. As an ordained minister, I believe that approach to studying and understanding the Bible is critical to understanding how we can synthesize that information and apply what we can to 21st century living.

Oh, about that ordained minister situation, it's something many don't know about me and I choose not to divulge it often for very specific reasons. Even though I'm not a Christian any longer, having left the faith several years ago over my growing dismay with the hypocrisy of the church, in particular the black church, I am still a firm believer in Jesus Christ and try to live by the principles he taught during his 33-year ministry.

However, because I have an affinity for profanity (Hey, at least I'm being honest!), I don't want people to associate the word "ordained" or "minister" with Jesus Christ and my personal journey and relationship with him, as people

will do. Trying to instruct them on right and abundant living YET struggling with this flaw would give the appearance that I was a "hypocrite," and my conviction is so strong that I refuse to let that happen.

So I work on myself (something you should consider) and try to love and help people during my journey in this form. It is a lesson you should STRONGLY consider.

So Sista-Gurl, in the end, I simply leave you with this: PLEASE start acting like Jesus Christ. It's not that hard and the gospel of Jesus Christ is more simple than Christians are willing to admit. It hinges on two commandments given by God, not all of those human commandments and prohibitions designed by the early Hebrews to make themselves right before God in a ritual sense.

By the way, homosexuality is not a sin and never was. It was considered a ritual impurity by the early Hebrews that prevented access to God per their standards, not God's.

The majority of biblical scholars, including Hebrew scholars, agree that "toevah," used to describe ritual uncleanness, was not considered a moral sin. Many prohibitions found in the book of Leviticus in particular fell under the banner of "toevah." Eating pork or shellfish, sleeping with a woman on her menstrual cycle, wearing fabric composed of two different fibers, those with leprosy and yes, even homosexuality were considered "toevah." But they weren't sins as you and other pastors erroneously preach.

In closing, Sista-Gurl if you hadn't canceled your latest Bible study due to putting your damn foot in your mouth with all this tired, played-out foolishness, perhaps you and your women could have had an insightful session on "toevah" and start the process of learning what the Bible really has to teach mankind because there are some importance lessons to be learned about loving your fellow man and woman. But I digress ...

My regards,

Buster

*Buster Spiller is a happily married, longtime activist, and award-winning playwright from Dallas.*

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# Top tables

10 new restaurants that most  
resonated in 2016

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
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**R**estaurants are an oddly egalitarian pop culture phenomenon. TV shows can “find” their audiences in reruns, movies’ success can depend on good marketing and distribution, but then be later discovered on cable or Netflix and gain a new life. But restaurants are chimeras. They are not static, like a film or a CD or a season of a TV show; they change depending upon many factors, from their staffs to the training to the attention of the chef to the menu to the neighborhood. Even the greatest of them eventually shutter. And even the best — as far as critics are concerned, at least — can fail to catch on with diners, depending on parking or price point or just the death of buzz.

A critic can only say what makes a great restaurant (or a bad one); what we cannot do is make you *like* it (if you have preferred deep-dish Chicago pizza since childhood, no amount of prose can convince you thin NYC style is superior, no matter how many adjectives we layer on like pepperonis). And a caravan of effusive encomiums can’t predict the future — my waiter happened to make a great wine recommendation; your experience may vary.

It’s why I call my year-end list Top Tables, because these are the new restaurants (usually since about Autumn 2015 and ending 12 months later, though there are some exceptions from late 2016; but look for many late-2016 openings — Kabuki, Sugarbaco Proper Kitchen Lakewood, HG Sply Co. Fort Worth, Flying Fish, TorTaco, V-Eats Modern Vegan, Beto & Son and a host of others — to be considered for my 2017 list) that captured dining in Dallas in the previous year. (Just missing this year’s list: Julia Pearl, Whistle Britches, Street’s Fine Chicken, 18th & Vine BBQ and Tacodeli.)

There might be better meals out there, or fancier décor, or slicker service, but not necessarily places that stuck with me more regarding my dining life. I stand by all of them.

## Restaurant of the Year: Flora Street Café by Stephan Pyles

The naming of Stephan Pyles’ Flora Street Café as the best restaurant of the year is less a selection than an inevitable apotheosis, a kind of beatification or consecration of what really

set North Texas’ dining scene apart in 2016. It wasn’t a question of being “good” or “better than someone else;” it was a matter of absolute culinary perfection, the kind that gave Pyles his reputation in the first place. (He cribbed the name from his first success, Routh Street Café — a reminder that as far as he’s come, he’s not far from his roots.)

There’s the décor — a wall of glass windows bring the tree-lined parts of Flora Street into the building itself; a whimsical light fixture pops from the ceiling like a perpetually blooming flower — which only enhances the sense of harmony between nature and man’s mastery of it in the form of culinary wizardry. There’s the warm, coddling elegance that makes you feel instantly ensconced in attentiveness. There are the subtle touches (small, discrete barrels upon which female diners may set their purses; the check, delivered rolled in a block of wood with a pen included, like some 18th-century scrivener’s desk set; the canelles of sweet butter) that add classiness.

And then, of course, there is the food itself, more curated than prepared. Each category (starters, entrees, desserts) is accompanied by a literary quote or poem as refined as the execution. Pyles’ renowned affinity for south-of-the-border delicacies (huitlacoche in the empanadas, cod prepared escabeche-style) elevated with his exacting standards transform even a prosaic fisherman’s dish like ceviche into a winding rope of amberjack specked with mango-lillikoi reduction and Marcona almonds.

This isn’t going to be your daily lunch hangout or a casual dinner date. It feels like an event. I guess because it is.  
2330 Flora St. [FloraStreet.com](#).

## The Rest

**2. Top Knot.** Last year’s No.1 restaurant, Uptown’s fine-dining sushi success Uchi, figures again this year with Top Knot, its upstairs sister restaurant. You have to respect the culinary lineage of these two. At Top Knot, the most common items are elevated to gourmet status (French toast gets a Thai twist at brunch, for instance). The kitchen is adept at taking food down inventive rabbit holes. If you’ve never tried katsudon (rice

topped with a breaded cutlet and gently fried egg), you’re missing out on an essential Japanese dish rarely found in North Texas. And you can wash all of it down with a well-priced cocktail menu with choices like pamplamousse and whiskey punch. It’s all top-knotch. 2817 Maple Ave. [TopKnotDallas.com](#).

**3. Filament.** Matt McCallister (a protégé of Stephan Pyles) is one of Dallas’ bright lights in the cheffy constellation, someone who takes many risks — some of which don’t always pay off, but which get you excited in their high-wire-act ballsiness. That’s how it seems at Filament, his Deep Ellum diner — part warehouse, part shabby-chic Southern manse. From the New Orleans-inspired tile floor to the old-fashioned accessories, you feel at home with the menu that reinvents country classics. The barbecue chicken is glazed in DrPepper sauce; the shrimp and grits Mexicanized with chipotle. Then there are outside-the-box items like the bonito flake johnnycake, dancing evanescently on the plate. Perfect — the food here not only moves, it moves you. 2626 Main St. [FilamentDallas.com](#).

**4. Sprezza.** A blind spot in Dallas cuisine has always been excellent high-end Italian food. Pizza? Yes. A good paparadelle here and there? Certainly. But consistent hand-crafted Italian? You can count them on one hand. But now you need to go to your thumb: Sprezza, which contributed to the resto renaissance in Oak Lawn (it has given buzz to Maple Avenue along with neighbor 18th & Vine BBQ, which just missed my finalists). The secret of great pasta is the rustic texture, which is designed specifically to grip various sauces, oils and vegetables to their highest flavor usage; these handmade ravioli, triangoli, bucatini and more accentuate the fresh flavors and the richness of the in-house bolognese, the shaved pecorino, the creamy burrata. You enjoy these treats (which evolve with a tweaked menu almost daily) in a bright, light-filled dining room with a large, inviting bar. Bravo! 4010 Maple Ave. [SprezzaDallas.com](#).



**AROUND THE WORLD** | The lamb loin at Flora Street Cafe, above, is just one of the dishes that made it the restaurant of the year. Other highlights: the katsudon cutlet at Top Knot, right; the handmade ricotta ravioli ragu at Sprezza, top opposite; and the trompo tacos and combination quesadillas at Trompo, below opposite. (Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones and Kevin Marple)



5. **Trompo.** So, great restaurants have a great location, superior service, warm atmosphere, an extensive menu and a laudable wine list, right? Well, not so much. Sometimes they are a total hole-in-the-wall that offers bottle of Topo Chico through a window and delivers your meal in a polyurethane clamshell. At least, that's how they do it at Trompo, a taqueria I adopted early (I was its first-ever customer, as well as first-ever reviewer) and have not lost my passion for. Owner Luis Olvera makes a small menu of three tacos and three quesadillas, either with trompo (a vertical rotisserie of paprika-spiced pork, sliced onto a hot tortilla and grill-finished), bistek (sliced beef) or paneer-and-no-pales (vegetarian), garnished lightly (cheese is added for the quesadillas) and with housemade salsas adding heat. It's simplicity turned into taste-bud porn: Sensual, satisfying, unique. Olvera will be opening a new version in Oak Cliff this year with slightly-expanded offerings and seating, but we'll always fondly recall our first love. 839 Singleton Blvd.

6. **The Theodore.** Where Filament focusses specifically on Southern cuisine, chef Tim Byers — himself a Southern-influenced



cook — takes a broader American approach to the food at The Theodore. There's chicken and waffles (coconutty!) for the Dixie fans, but also a traditional New England lobster roll, fluffy fish and chips and perhaps the best meatball appetizer I've had this decade. It's an eclectic menu (including inventive cocktails) that surprises with each mouthful. NorthPark Center, 8687 N. Central Expressway. [TheTheodore.com](http://TheTheodore.com).

7. **Grayson Social.** My initial impression of Grayson Social was a slight puzzlement. The website has no thorough menu listed, and the cocktail list looked extensive but overly sweet and directionless. I went in, frankly, as a skeptic. I emerged a convert. The drinks do tend a bit to the floral side, but not unduly so, and they have a hand-crafted quality that makes the bar menu fun to explore. But chef Daniel Tarasevich has designed some big-idea dishes with a Southern flair. (With Filament, The Theodore, Kitchen LTO, Mudhen Meats & Greens, Julia Pearl, Whistle Britches, here and elsewhere, redux Southern cooking was probably the major theme of 2016... other than tacos. See elsewhere on this list.) Look for a full review soon. 1555 Main St. [GraysonSocial.com](http://GraysonSocial.com).

8. **Montlake Cut.** 2016's first major restaurant opening remained one of the year's best, and the principal reason is probably authenticity. Nick Badovinus was already known for his casual concepts with high-end execution of comfort foods at popular spots like Neighborhood Services and The Porch. But this seafood-centric resto — which overtook the



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# Hear me out

Our picks for 2016's best albums



## 2016 YEAR IN REVIEW MUSIC

In a world of downloads, EP, singles and music videos, we still love full music albums. Here, then, our top CDs of 2016.

10. **Britney Spears, *Glory*.** If you counted the Holy Spirit out after 2013's weird let-down *Britney Jean*, you should know better. Brit's next success is always her next comeback, but *Glory* wasn't just the teeter-totter effect — she's over, she's back — in full swing. Her return to artistic, well, glory repositioned the Vegas-headlining mom somewhere between the hazy *Blackout* and *In the Zone* with its celestial pop and less-fabricated production. And the nod to her Southern roots, the country-licked "Liar," where she's actually, like, singing? More of this singing thing please and stat.

9. **Tyler Glenn, *Excommunication*.** Mormonism — but really, all organized religions — got a much-needed wake-up call thanks to the Neon Trees frontman. On *Excommunication*, Glenn was not about to sugarcoat his cutting words when he held the LDS Church accountable for his suicidal thoughts and made no apologies for being a glammed-out gay. In the process, Glenn's first solo project as an out man sticks to his pop sensibilities, which make for the best music of his career. Standouts include the soaring "Midnight" and the sparsely produced "John, Give 'Em Hell," a sincere moment of encouragement that every shamed queer kid needs to hear.

8. **Michael Kiwanuka, *Love & Hate*.** It's not until nearly halfway through "Cold Little Heart," the cinematic-like launch song from Michael Kiwanuka's stunning sophomore release, that we hear the British soul artist's vintage-sounding croon wash over us like a warm bath. Kiwanuka is a modern-day Otis Redding, and his sensitive-man voice is unshakeable as it imprints an old-school vibe on each of these timeless tunes.

7. **Angel Olsen, *My Woman*.** Some voices make everything in their path disappear. Angel Olsen's heavenly drawl is one of them. With *My Woman*, the St. Louis native tangled you within her intoxicating world of stirring melodies and whispery vocal flourishes. If she didn't have you with the stark synth-specked opener "Intern," well, that's probably your fault. But there's no way you could resist "Sister," a guitar sprawl that will have you yearning right along with it.

6. **Emeli Sandé, *Long Live the Angels*.** Five years is practically a lifetime between albums in the transient pop world, but for Emeli Sandé, that time, it seems, is just what she needed. Reeling from the end of a longtime relationship to her childhood sweetheart, the gifted "Next to You" soprano let her forlorn feelings simmer into this devastating (the breathtakingly raw "Shakes") and empower-

■ MUSIC Page 20

# Culture pearls

Not everything about 2016 sucked; here are some highlights

One thing we know about 2016: It was the year they never stopped sucking. From shootings to elections to celebrity deaths that all but exhausted everyone emotionally, the year was one horror show after another... although there were some memorable moments that did not revolve around Russian hacking or feeling like we are living "The Day the Music Died."

**Turnover — turmoil or progress in local arts groups.** The Dallas Summer Musicals canned longtime leader Michael Jenkins, the Dallas Symphony Orchestra announced the impending departure of music director Japp Van Zweden, the Dallas Museum of Art landed a new executive director (Agustin Artega) ... and that was just the first half of the year. Add Jubilee's new AD, and new leadership as well at WaterTower Theatre, Theatre 3, Upstart Productions, the shuttering of Contemporary Theatre

Zeke Elliott, right, set AstroTurf — and Instagram — aflutter with his amazing play and infectious personality; Tyler Glenn, above, delivered perhaps the year's most confessional album.

of Dallas and a new home for Kitchen Dog, and upheaval generally in Dallas arts... but the additions may bear fruit in 2017 to show that change is inevitable and even positive.

**Oak Lawn food scene blossoms.** In about a year, tons of new restaurants opened in the gayborhood (while others closed): 18th & Vine, Sprezza, Zephyr, Street's Fine Chicken, Tacos y Mas and Cedar Grove have all made their mark in the eating-out scene. (For more on the influence of the local food scene, see our Top Tables of the year, Page 14.)

**PokemonGO becomes "a thing."** In the days following the tragic police shooting, many Texas nerds lost themselves in an alternate world where Pokemon is real and can be found out and about. The interactive game caught on like West Texas brushfire and was inescapable for months.

**How 'bout dem 'Boys?** Can we all

finally agree that Tony Romo has been vastly overrated? With two standout rookies on the starting lineup this season — opening QB Dak Prescott and league-leading rusher Ezekiel Elliott, plus wide receiver Dez Bryant — the Dallas Cowboys had their best season since the glory days of Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and Michael Irvin. It's been a while since professional sports in North Texas have focused on football instead of baseball and basketball, and we're glad to see the 'Boys back.

**Lemonade.** Not the album, not the video, but all of it — Beyonce's smartly marketed concept album, CD, tour and controversy about all it really meant had people talking about pop music in a way they rarely do anymore. (See about the Year in Music, above)

**Easter (Back) in the Park.** After a disastrous year when the festival in Lee Park didn't happen, folks got their act together in 2016 and brought it back, better than ever.

**Angels return to Uptown.** The Dallas Theater Center famously staged both parts of Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize- and Tony Award-winning play *Angels in America* at the Kalita Humphreys Theater in 1996... only to have subscribers balk at the shocking frankness and political currency about the Reagan Era, AIDS and hypocrisy. Now, 20 years later,



■ CULTURE Page 20



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# Takin' it to the streets

From bargain to luxury, the year in auto excellence

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer  
autocasey@aol.com

A year has come and gone — and so have about 60 top-flight autos. From compacts to high-flying crossovers, here are some of the best we drove during 2016, from the most affordable to the highest end (with base prices listed).

2016 YEAR IN REVIEW  
AUTO

**Scion iA.** Sure, it's a compact built by Mazda, but the soulful chassis and steering engage. Interiors could have come from Audi with blue-stitched leatherette dash, console joywheel infotainment and faux carbon fiber. A 1.8-liter engine delivers 106 horsepower and 33/42-MPG city/hwy. Now called the Toyota Yaris iA, it's no less enjoyable. \$15,950.

**Fiat 124 Spider.** It's a Miata restyled like the classic Fiat 124 Spider from the '70s and with an engine transplant. Bodies echo classic Pininfarina styling, but the Spider harbors a 160-horsepower turbo-four from the 500 Abarth. Opt for Bose



**THREE FOR THE ROAD** | BMW's M2, above, Audi's S7, near opposite, and Volvo's XC90, far opposite, were among the best rides available during 2016.

audio, Blind spot monitoring and rear cross-path detection. A simple manual top and manual transmission are elemental. \$24,995.

**Chevy Volt.** An all-electric range of 53 miles, plus the ability to travel long distance on gasoline, makes Volt the green car for all reasons. It's rated 106-MPGe. Styling is futuristic, but it looks less concept car than its predecessor. Apple CarPlay and 4G Wi-Fi add tech. Pop the hatch, toss in your gear and go

across town electrically or further efficiently. \$33,220.

**Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid.** A mini-van seems ludicrous, but wait. This beautiful liner can take you and seven friends anywhere in mini-limo comfort and do it with 30 miles all-electric range — achieving 80-MPGe city — before the gas engine fires up to continue the journey. Euro handling delights. With a \$7,500 federal tax credit, it's cheaper than a loaded Prius. \$34,495.

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**Lexus RC200t.** Lexus' "affordable" coupe is sexy and spirited. The spindle grille, bulging fenders, LED lights and fastback roofline look good anywhere. A 2.0-liter turbo-four and 8-speed transmission delivers 22/32-MPG city/hwy. Adjust for ECO, normal, sport and snow. Flatscreen instruments and 835 watts of Mark Levinson audio seal it. \$40,155.

**Volvo XC90.** A Swedish Range Rover, streamlined and elegant, with a Scandinavian cabin finely strewn with light wood, soft leather, laser-etched switches and infotainment screen that swipes through logical screens. Bowers & Wilkins audio is deific. Thrust it forward with a 316-horsepower

supercharged and turbocharged 4-cylinder engine. \$45,750.

**BMW M2.** Like a nightmare stripped naked, styling is the Muscle Mary version of the classic 2002 model, but it's packing a 365-horsepower turbocharged six-cylinder engine. Click from 0-60 mph in 4.4 seconds and 155 mph. Testosterone splashes from deep front air inlets, 19-in. wheels, and faceted lower grilles. Color it Long Beach Blue Metallic! \$51,700.

**Cadillac CT6.** Cadillac's flagship sedan broadsides the Germans



without getting annihilated. Lightweight materials enable athletic handling. The cabin is awash in leather, wood and Bose Panaray audio. Rear passengers stretch like princes. Get it with turbo-four, V6, or a 404-horsepower twin-turbo V6 engines. Go plug-in hybrid to enjoy 30 electric miles. \$53,495.

**Audi S7.** Like a sedan in Armani, the S7 gleams with a sleek roof, clean bodylines, LED lights and electric rear spoiler. It looks wide and exotic. The four-place cabin wears quilted leather, suede and carbon twill panels. A tur-

bocharged V8 delivers 450 horsepower, 0-60 mph in 4.5 seconds, and 155 mph top speed. Elegance and sport automobilified. \$79,900.



**Range Rover Diesel td6.** If QEII and environmentally friendly Prince Charles jointly conjured a royal carriage, it's this. The Queen drives her own Range Rover across vast estates because it is divinely comfortable and imminently capable. Stoke it with a turbo-diesel engine that delivers 22/29-MPG city/hwy, and you have a big hoss that scampers off the line and rolls efficiently. \$86,950.

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■ MUSIC From Page 16

ing (the lifting mid-tempo “Babe”) diary of a healing heart.

5. **Lori McKenna, *The Bird & the Rifle*.**

Songwriter-to-the-stars Lori McKenna is nominated for four Grammys this year: one for Tim McGraw’s rendition of “Humble and Kind,” a song she wrote and also recorded for *The Bird & the Rifle*, along with best Americana album, American Roots performance and American Roots song. The recognition is overdue. As intimate as eavesdropping on a room full of revealing conversations, McKenna’s 10 character-driven songs — from the sincere “Wreck

You,” about a relationship that’s gone off course, to the sharp ageism-commentary “Old Men, Young Women” — are showcases for her unique ability to tap into the human condition.

4. **Miranda Lambert, *The Weight of These Wings*.** Country music’s incipient legend wanted her double-disc divorce album to speak for itself. She eschewed the typical promo interviews. There was no buzzy primetime confessional. Instead, Lambert’s glorious 22-song narrative — easily some of her best work — plunges deep into the heart and renders insight through her drunken, cigarette-dragging, broken-hearted path to contentment. The journey starts and ends with a pair of steadfast

mantras, “Runnin’ Just in Case” and “I’ve Got Wheels,” meanwhile also challenging gender norms on “Tomboy” and enlisting rebound sex to remedy her breakup woe on the glorious Grammy-nominated “Vice.” At least half of Lambert’s steel-pedal confessionals — undoubtedly, “Pushin’ Time,” which is sweet, tender, perfect — will be sitting comfortably amid country’s classics.

3. **Frank Ocean, *Blond*.** R&B’s out maverick Frank Ocean is responsible for some of this past decade’s best R&B, and this year, *Blond* proved that his skillful debut *Channel Orange* wasn’t just a fluke. The open-hearted *Blond* works like magic, slow burning snapshots

of childhood nostalgia, bygone relationships (with women *and* men) and one very moving car ride (the mesmerizing James Blake-assisted “White Ferrari”) into your life story as Ocean reveals his own.

2. **Bon Iver, *22, Million*.** “It might be over soon,” a piping voice cuts in. Amid the loop, a gospel sample and garbled synths, Bon Iver laments the inevitability of dissolve. Throughout *22, Million*, the Wisconsin-born songwriter is grappling with time through lyrical vignettes of life that are fleeting, just like this fly-by album and its transcendental back half. If you’re not moved to tears by the time you get to the album’s quiet coda, “000000 Million,” then it will purge you with its wistful reminder to surrender to the sometimes nasty doings of fate.

1. **Beyoncé, *Lemonade*.** Who even remembers Beyoncé before 2016? With *Lemonade*, the Slay Queen recast herself as an edgy auteur, thrashing radio pop parameters with a few swings of her baseball bat. Yes, she pretty much ran the world — and yes, she definitely made earlier career efforts look like amateur hour. Suddenly, she was more than a song slayer — she was a black voice that mattered. A risk taker. A meme-starter. She was the reason we couldn’t stop talking about some good-haired hussy named “Becky.” The story-book narratives lifted the curtain to potential personal reflections on married life with Jay Z, but also took a broader look at current gender and racial divides. “Freedom” furnished the strength for us to survive Trump’s America. “Daddy Lessons” was the country song you never knew you needed from Beyoncé. And *Lemonade* as a whole? A cultural and genre-busting touchstone in both Bey’s career and pop music itself.

— Chris Azzopardi

■ CULTURE From Page 16

Uptown Players — now also in the Kalita — started *Part One* (*Part Two* should come next season) in November ... without controversy, and powerfully performed, proof that the play remains relevant on the brink of Drumpworld.

**The ilume gallerie closes, and the property changes ownership... to the dismay of many.** Developer Luke Crosland sold his ilume and ilumePark properties, and before long, the complaints were numerous, and even the ilume gallerie — one of the first tenants, and a continuous supporter of local charities — shut down, sending many who enjoyed the hub of gay life to gripe.

**Deep Ellum roars back online.** Deep Ellum was a center of cultural growth in the 1990s, fell off in the 2000s, and started to come back in the 2010s, but last year seems like a watershed of new clubs, restaurants, businesses, traffic and energy.

**Superqueeroes.** Two shows, on two different networks, both had major characters (Penguin on *Gotham* and Kara’s spymaster sister on *Supergirl*) come out as gay.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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# LIFE+STYLE

b o e t s

Wednesday 01.11  
— Sunday 01.22

## Tony Award-winner 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' debuts in Dallas

A neighbor's dog turns up dead, so 15-year-old Christopher — a savant who struggles on the autism spectrum — sets about to unearth the true culprit. What he discovers impacts his life's course in ways he could not imagine. Mark Haddon's acclaimed book *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* was turned into an equally heralded play, winning five Tony Awards (including best play and best director) and running a staggering two years on Broadway. It makes its North Texas debut this week with a limited run.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2401 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

 **online exclusive**

Read our interview with co-choreographer Steven Hoggett only on InstaTea at DallasVoice.com

Friday 01.06—  
Sunday 01.29



## Beth Henley's 'Laugh' opens, directed by Jeffrey Schmidt

Playwright Beth Henley (*Crimes of the Heart*, *The Miss Firecracker Contest*) has been well-represented at Theatre 3 over the years — the Pulitzer Prize-winner and SMU alum even worked there once. So it's a kind of homecoming that the company will stage her comedy *Laugh*, about adventures in 1920s Hollywood. Jeffrey Schmidt, who last month was named T3's new artistic director, directs.

**DEETS:** Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. In previews through Jan. 8. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Thursday 01.12

## Little Black Dress preview party

For a decade, the Little Black Dress party has been a staple of the early social/benefit season. The runway show and party features hot couture looks, put on by FashionCITED, as a fundraiser for the Legal Hospice of Texas, which offers legal help to those with HIV/AIDS. Before the actual show, though, is the preview party, where you can check out a hint of what's to come.

**DEETS:** Goodson Acura of Dallas, 4801 Lemmon Ave. 7-9:30 p.m. [www.LegalHospice.org](http://www.LegalHospice.org).



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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

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. Through Jan. 22. [DallasTheaterCenter.org](http://DallasTheaterCenter.org).

**I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change.**

Theatre 3's annual musical comedy revue returns, but in a newly re-imagined production. Theatre Too inside Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Feb. 12. [Theatre3Dallas.com](http://Theatre3Dallas.com).

**Death on Delivery!** An all-new Pegasus Theatre show in the patented process of Living Black and White, set in 1939 in a maternity ward. Directed by Michael Serrecchia. Eisemann Performance Center, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Through Jan. 22. \$22-\$42. [PegasusTheatre.com](http://PegasusTheatre.com).

**Laugh.** SMU alumna and Pulitzer winner Beth Henley's play, directed by T3's new artistic director, Jeffrey Schmidt. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Jan. 29. [Theatre3Dallas.com](http://Theatre3Dallas.com).

FINE ART

**Pathways.** 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. Free. [DMA.org](http://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](http://ArlingtonMuseum.org).

**Art and Nature in the Middle Ages.** Evolving representations of the natural world in the Romanesque period, from England to Iran. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through March 19. [DMA.org](http://DMA.org).

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

EXHIBITION

**Birds of Paradise.** Developed by the National Geographic, this exhibition explores 39 rare birds found in the area of New Guinea. Final weekend. Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2201 N. Field St. [PerotMuseum.org](http://PerotMuseum.org).

FRIDAY 01.06

COMMUNITY

**HallowQueen:** Rave to the Grave. A new, monthly queer-centric Halloween-themed party with raffles, drag and burlesque performance, trivia contests and more. Costumes strongly encouraged. Hosted by May May Graves and Hella Lugosi. Taboo Lounge, 1418 N. Riverfront Blvd. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5-\$10 cover. Email [amanda@darkroomlament.com](mailto:amanda@darkroomlament.com) for more information.

**browse**

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

**submit**

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

SATURDAY 01.07

MAGIC

**The Carbonaro Effect — Live!** Gay illusionist Michael Carbonaro, who performs his magic on TV, brings his live show to the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7 p.m. [ATTPAC.org](http://ATTPAC.org).

TUESDAY 01.10

FILM

**The Great Escape.** John Sturges' exciting WWII adventure, about a real escape from a Nazi camp. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 01.11

THEATER

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.** The highly acclaimed stage adaptation of the book about a boy on the spectrum investigating the killing of a neighbor's dog. Read our exclusive interview with movement director Steve Hoggett at [DallasVoice.com](http://DallasVoice.com). Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Jan. 11-22. [ATTPAC.org](http://ATTPAC.org).

**Grounded.** A fighter pilot, put on desk duty because of her unplanned pregnancy, spends her day operating drones and her nights in carefree domesticity in this contemporary look at morality and modern warfare. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Jan. 11-Feb. 4. 2TT.co.

THURSDAY 01.12

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. Mable Peabody's Beauty Parlor and Chain Saw Repair, 1125 E. University Drive, Denton. 9:30 p.m.

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.

COMMUNITY

**Little Black Dress Preview Party.** A preview of the annual FashionCITED fundraiser for Legal Hospice of Texas. Goodson Acura, 4801 Lemmon Ave. 7 p.m. [LegalHospice.org](http://LegalHospice.org).

this week's solution

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■ **DINING** From Page 15

same space as the similarly-themed Spoon — may be his most personal place yet, a Valentine to his Pacific Northwest upbringing. Take, for instance, the NW clam chowder, a piping and potent stew of al dente cubes of russet potatoes (the signature tuber of the Northwest), chewy clams, salty-peppery lardons of bacon and a great crunch from, I suspect, celery and onion — it's his mom's recipe, so I'd never ask outright. But that's the kind of hominess that gives a restaurant heart: Montlake Cut even serves coffee from a Seattle roaster ... and it's not Starbucks. Like I say: Authenticity. 8220 Westchester Drive. [MLCDallas.com](http://MLCDallas.com).

**9. Kitchen LTO (v2.0).** Technically, this restaurant opened "too late" to be on this list, but it worked its way on for several reasons: First, it's the re-launch of a concept that closed in 2016 (in Trinity Groves) and emerged in November in Deep Ellum, so there's a history here. Second, the very nature of the concept is to re-invent itself every six months, so wait too long and you'll miss what it's all about: New and exciting food and décor. It's a risky proposition, but proprietress Casie Caldwell has upped her game with this new iteration. The space is more tailored to her vision — more warmth, more intimacy — and current chef Josh Harmon has gussied up some dishes (miso-praline bacon, as decadent as it sounds), done playful takes on others and generally created a kind of culinary playground. 2901 Elm St. [KitchenLTO.com](http://KitchenLTO.com).

**10. Resident Taqueria.** I swooned over more than one taco joint this year. There's a talent to tell a story on a pallete as small as a tortilla. But the three-dollar tacos at Resident Taqueria, on the secluded side



The small menu at Resident nevertheless offers a world tour of flavors, from pork belly to chicken to crispy kale-and-cauliflower tacos. The new Kitchen LTO space provides an even better neutral canvas for the art and food than its Trinity Groves incarnation. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

of a corner strip mall in northeast Dallas, are as thoughtfully conceived and executed as you'd find at the nicest Parisian brasseries — they are artfully magnificent mini-meals.

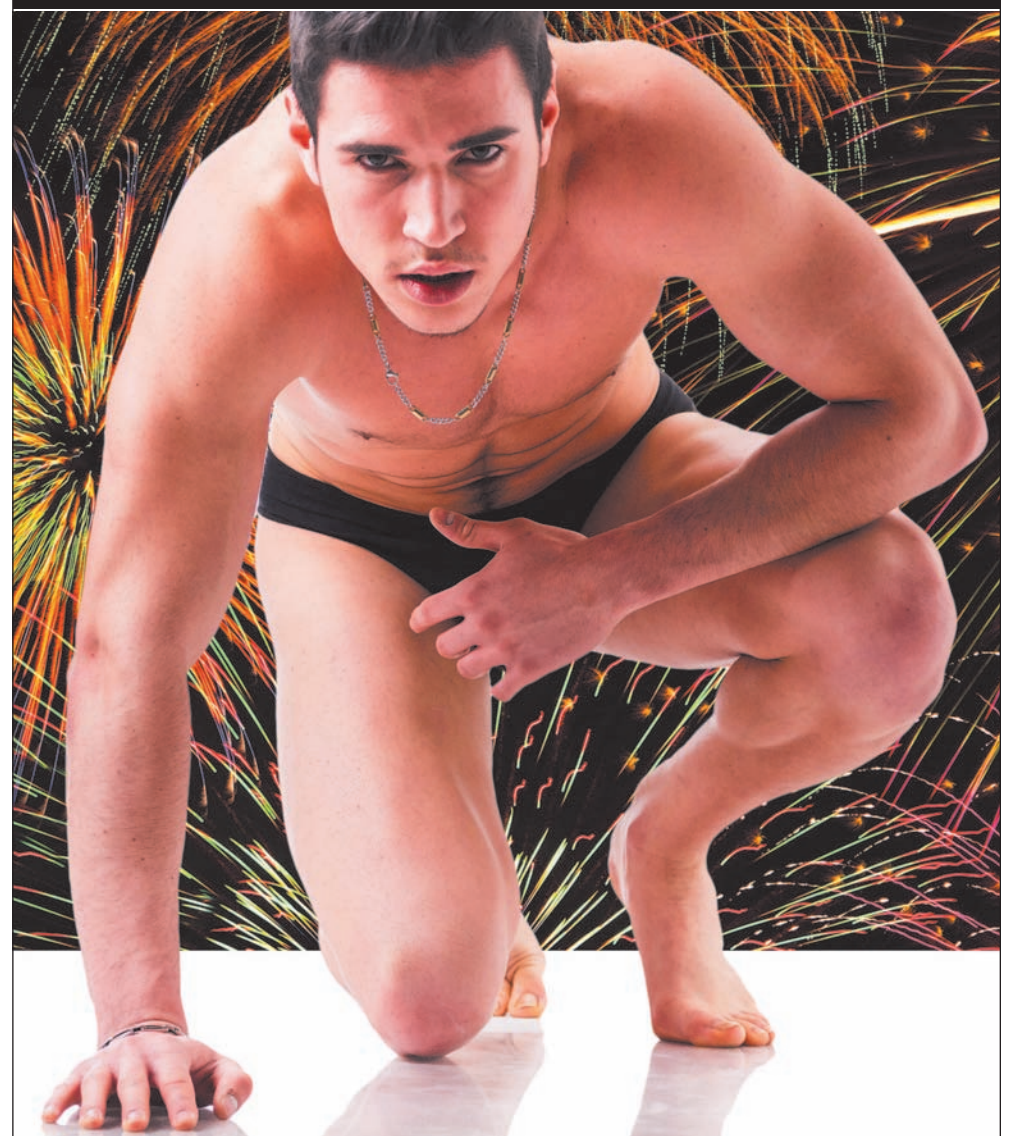
They are sizeable, first off, and three can take you through a tasting tour of the diversity and complexity of a great taco. The glazed pork belly perches like a queen atop a bed of lightly-vinegared slaw and coins of cucumber, crowned by a tiara of microgreens. It's a taco of surprising beauty, but the rich flavors justify your decision to stop lookin' and start eatin'. A tremendous mound of slow-cooked pulled chicken with peanuts and mole almost overwhelms the tensile strength of the single tortilla, so woof it down quickly. And vegans should appreciate the caramelized cauliflower with kale chips and lemon epazote aioli, with a choice of smoky guajillo, tangy verde or spicy arbol salsas. 9661 Audelia Road. [ResidentTaqueria.com](http://ResidentTaqueria.com).



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# Cassie Nova

2016 and dead, and it took with it some notable icons, Long live 2017!

Well, it is finally over. 2016 was a hateful bitch. Not to me personally — I had a pretty good year — but I feel the world was gang-banged with no lube. 2016 reminded me of *Game of Thrones*, they just love to kill off major characters. The freakin' "in memoriam" at the awards shows this season will be like an hour long. This last year was like the *nothing* from *The Neverending Story*, eating icons and destroying our world in its wake. Our collective hearts have been broken so many times it doesn't seem real. Please, 2017: We promise to be good, just leave our beloved icons alone. We can't take much more. If you leave Betty White and Dolly Parton alone, we will give you almost any politician you could want. Let's negotiate! Be gentle.

A couple of the most recent deaths have hit me hard. Carrie Fisher was like the cool aunt that would buy you beer before you were old enough to buy it yourself. She will always be Leia Organa to me. Y'all know I am a *Star Wars* fan and because of the impact those movies had on me from such a young age, I feel like I have known her my whole life. Any time I would see her in other roles I would always think how cool it was: They got Princess Leia to be on their show. *Sex & the City*, *The Big Bang Theory*, a random episode of *Smallville* — I was always so excited to see her.

My heart soared with nostalgic glee when she walked onscreen in *The Force Awakens*. I seriously almost teared up. I won't talk about *Rogue*

*One*, but if you have seen it... you know. I also teared up then. Hearing about her heart attack, and then her death, hurt more than I thought it could. I felt silly crying in my kitchen over a woman I didn't actually know. But it was like a punch in the gut.

I've read a couple of her books and knew about her and her mother's "relationship." Debbie Reynolds was a star first and a mother second for much of their lives. They had a mother/daughter dynamic that was hilarious and heartbreaking. So when Debbie died the day after Carrie, my first thought was of Carrie Fisher rolling her eyes and saying, "Really Mother! You stole my thunder again." I hope y'all know that that is mostly a joke on my part — I actually think it's kind of beautiful. I know they were close — hell, they lived next door to each other...on purpose. So rest in peace my sweet Princess. You and your mother will be missed.

The other death that has hit me pretty hard was the passing of George Michael. He was my first concert and one of my first crushes. The year was 1988, I was 16 and I loved all things George Michael. I have a picture of me from that year, standing in my bedroom and on the wall behind me was a wooden crate that held all of my cassettes. You see, kiddos, "cassettes" were how we listened to music before we could stream songs. It was a physical copy of a song that you could hold in your hand! ... Anyhoo, the cassettes held in that crate were probably a clue that I was one day gonna be a big ol' flaming drag queen. Madonna, Stacy Q, Debbie Gibson, The Bangles, Tiffany and one male group: Wham! And underneath that? George Michael.

I would spend all day watching MTV just hoping to get to see the "Faith" or "I Want Your

Sex" videos. He was so damn sexy in "Faith." His jeans, that ass, that perfect hair and sexy scruff, oh and those kick-ass boots made me shower a lot. In case I am being too subtle, what I am trying to say is I spanked it a lot to George Michael. Too much info? Sorry.

When it was announced that he was doing a concert at Texas Stadium in Irving, my awesome Aunt Zina got us tickets. I was so excited to go to my first concert. We had pretty good seats, too. I would have been happy in the nose-bleed section, so imagine my excitement when we had seats close enough that I could have hit him with a rock if I threw it. And I can't throw very far... not that I would have, just trying to give you a visual of how close but not too close we were. The energy of the people in our section was electric — mostly women with a few pretty obvious homos scattered around.

As soon as he came out we started screaming. It was so loud that I realized I could scream whatever I wanted and it would get drowned out by all of the other screams. I screamed, "I want your sex George Michael!" It was so freeing. I was screaming about wanting to have sex with a guy way before I ever admitted to anyone that I was gay. When he sang "Father Figure" and "One More Try," I openly wept and had goosebumps. It was one of the best nights of my young life.

He struggled with addiction and had his own demons and I rarely heard anything about him that was positive in the past 15 years, so when he died, I wasn't completely surprised. What I was surprised by was hearing about all of



his charitable contributions he made over the years. He volunteered at a homeless shelter and asked them all not to say anything. He paid for a woman's IVF treatment that he saw on "Deal or No Deal," anonymously. He gave so much to so many organizations that I was shocked by one man's generosity. I know he wanted to keep it a secret, but I love hearing about how giving he was. I guess I feel a little guilty that I allowed my thoughts of him to change over the years. I idolized him when I was young because he was sexy and talented. I should have continued to idolize him for his philanthropy and goodness. The world lost a good man that gave us some great music and I will love him forever.

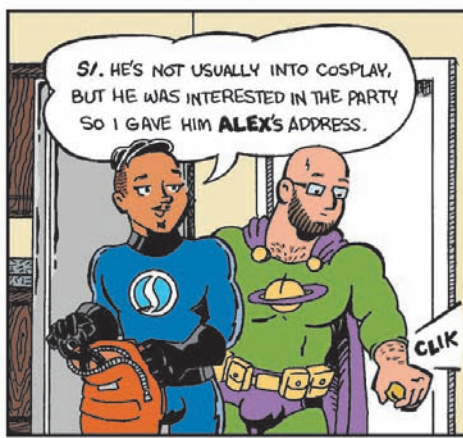
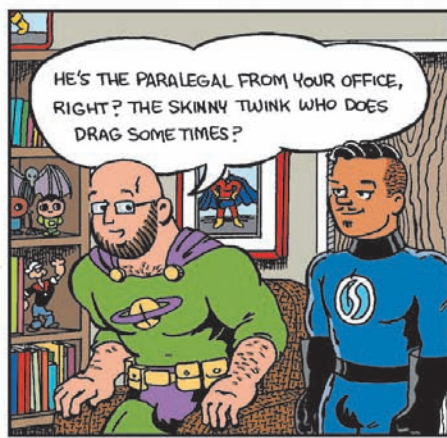
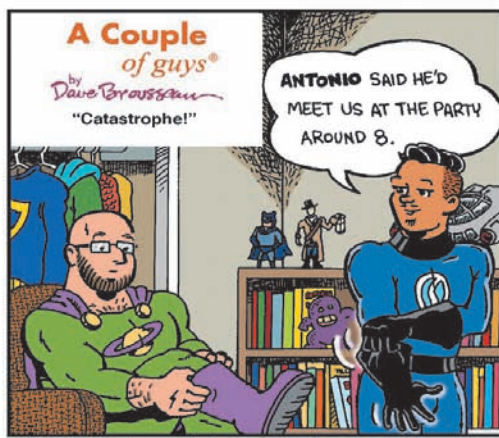
All right, enough of all that. On to a question.

Dear Cassie, My boyfriend and I have been together for three years and we have both cheated. He now wants us to get married. I want to marry him too but in the back of my head all I can think about is which one of us will cheat first? Cassie, what should I do? I love him and I know he loves me but will either of us be happy in a monogamous relationship? Signed, Questionably Together.

Dear Q.T., Break up now you cheating bitches! Just kiddin'...kinda. If you think getting married will keep either of you from cheating, you need to just check out the divorce rates of straight couples. (I don't think there is enough data on gay divorce yet.) It's easy to say "once a cheater, always a cheater" but each relationship is different. How old are y'all? If you are in your 20s, you may not even know what you actually want long term. Would y'all be into having an open relationship or is that only a thing when you want to cheat? If you really love each other then the thought of hurting the other should outweigh the want to dip your dick in other waters. Commit to each other or don't, there is no try! Good luck, you dumbasses!

Remember to love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova.

If you have a question of comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.







Gettin' goofy at Sue Ellen's



All smiles at The Round-Up Saloon



Carlos and Corwin at JR.'s Bar & Grill



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## Making the SCENE the week of Jan. 6-12

- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** **Geeks Who Drink Trivia** at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Club Changes:** **Cowtown Leathermen** meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday. **Fort Worth Treehouse** meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Club Reflection:** **TGRA cookout** at 4 p.m. on Sunday. **Frat Party Gone Wild** fundraiser for **IGRA** with entertainment and auction at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **Dallas Bears** club night on Saturday. **Line dance lessons with Yoshi** at 2 p.m. on Sunday. **Mr. Dallas Eagle** contest all weekend.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie's Freak Show** with **Fantasha, Raquel, Bleach** and **Rita Fine** on Monday. **Krystal & the Kool Kids** with **Chanel LaMasters, Athena, Rocky** and **Raquel** on Tuesday.
- **Marty's Live:** **Lesbian night** featuring sexy female dancers on Tuesday.
- **Pekers:** **Totally Twisted Karaoke** with progressive cash prize on Saturday.

- **Rainbow Lounge:** **Drag Warz** with new host **Chanel LaMasters** open to all talented individuals with cash prize of \$150 at 11 p.m. in Wednesday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Man Candy** at 8 p.m. on Sunday. **Dance lessons** at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Smokin Rita** on Saturday. **Kathy & Bella** at 3:30 p.m. and **Bad Habits** at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Open mic with **Kathy & Bella** on Wednesday.
- **The Rose Room:** **Cassie, Asia, Krystal, Jamie Perry, Kelexis, Jenna** and **Layla** on Friday. **Rising Star** with **Asia** and **Kelexis** on Thursday.
- **Two Corks and a Bottle:** **Show Tune Night** from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Imperial Court** annual **Snowflake Pageant** at 6 p.m. on Saturday.

*Scene Photography by Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth*



## New Year's Eve in Oak Lawn





# New Year's Day Brunch at Cedar Springs Tap House

*Photos by Josh Gustamente*



Robert and Juan keeping warm on The Strip.

# Alternatives

NEW FINE ARTS

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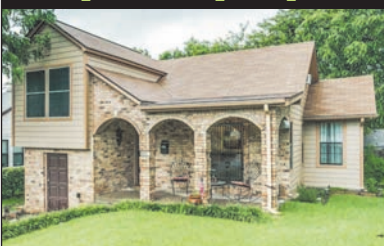
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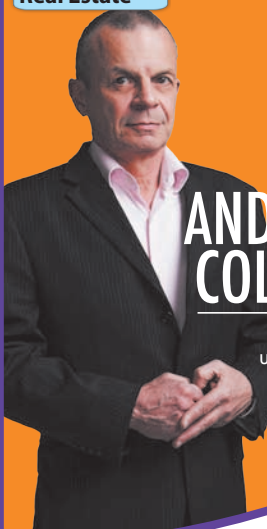
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DallasEagle.com
- 6 Cedar Grove**  
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CedarGrove-Dallas.com
- 7 The Grapevine Bar**  
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thegrapevinebar.com
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- 9 Hidden Door**  
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HiddenDoor-Dallas.com
- 10 JR.'s Bar & Grill**  
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Caven.com

- 11 Kaliente**  
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Kaliente.com
- 12 Liquid Zoo**  
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LiquidZooSportsbar.com
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- 16 Pub Pegasus**  
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- 17 The Round-Up Saloon**  
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RoundupSaloon.com
- 18 Station 4 (S4) and The Rose Room**  
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- 19 Sue Ellen's**  
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- 20 The Tin Room**  
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- 1851 Club**  
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682-323-5315  
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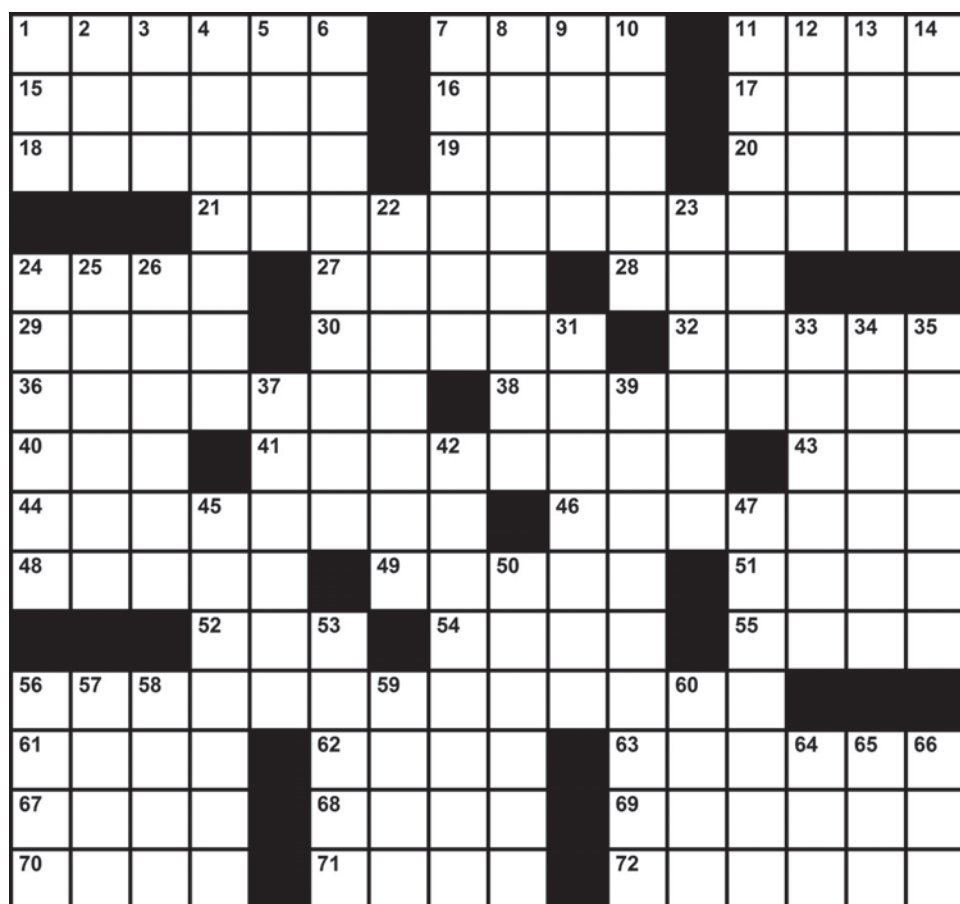
- Club Reflection**  
604 Jennings Ave.  
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ClubReflection.com

- Rainbow Lounge**  
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- Urban Cowboy Saloon**  
2620 E. Lancaster Ave.  
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## Remembering George

Solution on Page 22

### Across

- 1 Word that can take "homo" as a prefix
- 7 Bottomless
- 11 Christmas poem opener
- 15 Reign of \_\_\_\_
- 16 Stick it in milk
- 17 Phrase of discovery
- 18 Flowing, for Bernstein
- 19 Optimist's phrase
- 20 "See ya," in Soho
- 21 1984 song of 12-Down that ironically describes Dec. 25, 2016 for George Michael
- 24 "It's the End of the World \_\_\_\_ Know It"
- 27 Queens ballpark
- 28 Corp. bigshot
- 29 English actress Diana
- 30 Bottom
- 32 Antony or Caesar
- 36 Wet one's lips, e.g.
- 38 Reserved
- 40 Hairy member of the Addams family
- 41 With 56-Across, 1984 song of 12-Down
- 43 Doo-wop syllable
- 44 1939 Cukor movie
- 46 Tom Courtenay movie, with *The*

### Down

- 48 Cursive curlicue
- 49 Spacey in *Beyond the Sea*
- 51 David Bowie's "\_\_\_\_ Today, Gone Tomorrow"
- 52 Beatty of *Roseanne*
- 54 Get better
- 55 Piggied out (on)
- 56 See 41-Across
- 61 Word on a map of Israel
- 62 *Gay Cosmos* author Eighner
- 63 *Divine* director John
- 67 Actor Auberjonois
- 68 It can bear fruit
- 69 Sibling offspring
- 70 Title for Uncle Remus's bear
- 71 States further
- 72 Walked like a man

### 11 Skin art

- 12 George Michael (1963 2016) and Andrew Ridgeley
- 13 Early movie dog
- 14 In order (to)
- 22 Showed gratitude, after getting an Oscar
- 23 Frida's wrap
- 24 Lets in
- 25 Calm down
- 26 Whitman or Wolfe
- 31 Ranking Mauresmo, e.g.
- 33 Longed for
- 34 Stick
- 35 Came close to
- 37 Broadway deal
- 39 Rejections
- 42 Bewitched
- 45 Sway
- 47 Sue Wicks or Robert Mapplethorpe
- 50 Gets more mileage out of
- 53 Greek triangle
- 56 Streisand nickname
- 57 "If \_\_\_\_ I Would Leave You"
- 58 Just dandy
- 59 Barbecue site
- 60 Rate at which you come
- 64 *The Name of the Rose* author
- 65 Carpet color at the Oscars
- 66 Away from NNW



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