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INSIDE: YOUR LGBT REAL ESTATE SUPPLEMENT

DEFINING homes

SPRING 2017

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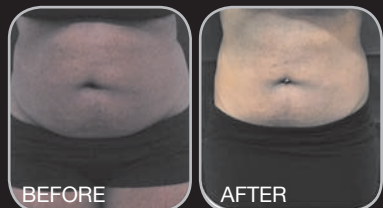
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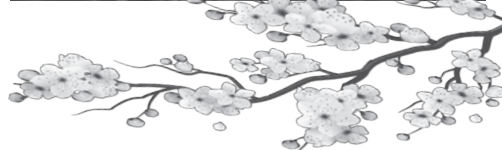
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Temple Shalom, a Reform synagogue in North Dallas, presented Cathedral of Hope pastor the Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas with its 2017 Shalom Award on Sunday, Feb. 26 at a dinner at the Intercontinental Hotel. This is the first time the award has been given to someone who is either not Jewish or not affiliated with a Jewish organization. Pictured at the award dinner are GLBT Chamber of Commerce CEO Tony Vedda, Cazares-Thomas, and Texas marriage equality plaintiffs Vic Holmes and Mark Phariss. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Senate committee votes to allow doctors to lie to women

SB25 — which would allow doctors to withhold information from pregnant women about the status of their fetus and then, if the child were born with a deformity or disability, prevent the parents from suing the doctor for withholding the information — has passed out of the Senate Committee on State Affairs on an 8-0 vote and is headed to the full Senate.

Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, the author of the bill, said current law sends the message that “wrongful births” are real and discriminates against children born with disabilities. “The presence of a disability in a child should not be grounds for a lawsuit,” Creighton said. “I feel that Senate Bill 25, if passed, would be in line with a large majority of Texans and their values.”

The purpose of the bill is to prevent women, who may consider an abortion if the fetus is not properly forming, from deciding whether or not to abort the fetus.

Blake Rocab, legislative director for NARAL Pro-Choice Texas, said, “We shouldn’t have to stand up and say that it shouldn’t be policy for the state of Texas to excuse doctors from lying to their patients, and that is what this bill does.”

Creighton has served in the Texas Senate since 2014 and voted against a bill requiring vaccines for minors and against a bill to prohibit texting while driving. I guess because he thinks contracting diseases and being killed while driving are both good things?

— David Taffet

Texas is out as host for Gay Games

The Federation of Gay Games has released its short list of three cities still in the running to host its 11th event in 2022, and Dallas — and Austin — are out the running.

As of this morning, the finalists have been whittled down to Guadalajara, Mexico; Hong Kong; and Washington, D.C. Other semifinalists whose cities didn’t make the cut are Denver, Salt Lake City and San Francisco. San Antonio also put in a bid, but was eliminated in the first round.

The 2018 games will take place next summer in Paris. The 2022 location will be finalized this May. (Personally, I’m pulling for Guadalajara because it’s closest!)

— Arnold Wayne Jones

‘Moonlight’ is already a success; now it can become a hit

Of the nine films that were nominated for the best picture Oscars this year — Arrival, La La Land, Hack-saw Ridge, Fences, Lion, Hell or High Water, Manchester by the Sea, Hidden Figures and Moonlight — the one that has made the least amount of money at the domestic box office is the winner: Moonlight. Before the awards, it had logged in about \$22 million — nowhere near the frontrunner Hidden Figures (with \$152 million), or La La Land (\$130 mil) or even Arrival (\$100 mil).

But those facts don’t tell the full story. Hack-saw Ridge, which took in nearly three times as much as Moonlight (\$66 million), also cost about \$40 million to make — when you figure in marketing and distribution expenses, it probably hasn’t broken even yet. And while Hidden Figures was a bargain at only \$25 mil to make, earning six times its production cost, even it doesn’t compare to Moonlight. That film cost only \$1.5 million to make, so its gross is already 15 times its cost.

Profitability isn’t the only story, though. You want eyeballs on the screen as well. And so, the Art-House-Queer-Black-Indie-Film That Could is expanding to 1,500 screens. That’s an amazing roll-out, and shows a lot of hope that audiences will turn out for a movie because of the acclaim and the accessibility... even if the subject matter is on the edge.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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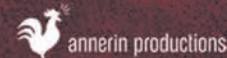
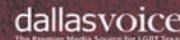
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THEGAYAGENDA

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

- **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM. This week's guest is **Jay Malone** from **Indivisible**; **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3116 Commerce St., Suite C; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; Fuse game night every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Treymore Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org. LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every Sunday from 3-5 p.m. at

Dallas School of Burlesque, 2924 Main St #103; **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy trail at the Robert E. Lee statue in Lee Park every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.

MARCH

- **March 3: Candlelight Memorial for Slain Trans people**

Trans Pride Initiative holds a Community Candlelight Memorial and Rally for Trans Inclusiveness on Friday, March 3, from 7-8 p.m. at Reverchon Park Recreation Center, 3400 Maple Ave. The event honors the lives of the seven trans women and one trans man killed since the start of Jan. 1, 2017.

- **March 3: The Women's Chorus of Dallas**

Voices of Women 3 with special guest Jocelyn Hagen at 7:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. \$15-40.

- **Through March 31: St. Matthew's Cathedral Arts**

Jessica Bell and Cristina Estrella Riggs

pet of the week / KIKI

Meet **Kiki**, a gentle, 3-year-old, orange-tabby-and-white domestic shorthair mix boy. He's a bit bashful when meeting new people, but loves to be petted once he gets to know you. He came to the SPCA of Texas on Jan. 31 when he was surrendered to an Animal Cruelty Investigator because his previous owner could not properly care for him. He adores other cats, enjoys soaking up the warm sun, having meaningful chats and people watching. Kiki is coming out of his shell and gaining confidence every day and would appreciate a family who can be patient with him. Because he can be a bit shy, he may do best in a home without children under 10. Kiki has been neutered, microchipped, tested negative for FIV/FeLV and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come hang out with this sweet soul today! #152074

Kiki is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 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.



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bring their artwork to the Sundermann Gallery exhibition: Project Hope. St. Matthew's Cathedral Arts, 5100 Ross Ave.

- **March 3-5: Scoot Back to Big D**

Pegasus Squares LGBT square dancing club hosts its inaugural Fly-In with more than 15 hours of dancing in two concurrent halls. Sons of Hermann Hall, 3414 Elm St. The host hotel is LaQuinta, 10001 N. Central Expressway.

- **March 4: Toast to Life**

Lady Bunny returns to host the Resource Center fundraiser from 7-11 p.m. at Empire Room, 1225 N. Riverfront Blvd.

- **March 4: Town Hall**

A raucous town hall meeting is expected when state Rep. Linda Koop, state Rep. Matt Rinaldi and state Sen. Don Huffines are in attendance from 10 a.m.-noon at Humperdinck's, 3820 Belt Line Road, Addison.

- **March 4: Coffee with Cops**

Dallas police will be at a number of McDonald's across the city from 9-11 a.m. including in Oak Lawn at 4439 Lemmon Ave.

- **March 5: Indivisible DFW Rally for Texas**

State Rep Victoria Neave and local candidates speak at a rally from 2-5 p.m. at Rockwall Harbor, 2074 Summer Lee Drive, Rockwall.

- **March 6: Meet the City Manager**

Meet Dallas' new city manager, T.C. Broadnax at 6 p.m. at Hitt auditorium, Methodist Medical Center, 1441 N. Beckley Ave.

- **March 7: Potty talk**

Senate State Affairs Committee chaired by Sen. Jane Nelson, R-Flower Mound, holds a hearing on SB6, the bathroom bill at 8 a.m. If you live in Nelson's district and would like to express your opinion, her Austin office number is 512-463-0112 and her district office number is 817-424-3446.

- **March 7: Lunch and Learn**

Sara Abosch, senior director of education, discusses Zakhor: the History and Politics of Holocaust Memorialization in Israel and the U.S. from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Dallas Holocaust Museum, 211 N. Record St. Free.

- **March 8: Planned Parenthood Awards Luncheon**

Marcia Clark is the speaker. Tickets are \$150. Reservations at 214-302-8382.

- **March 12: DFW Pride Happy Hour**

From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Stirr Dallas, 2803 Main St. #110.

- **March 12: Mikah Meyer**

To fund his world record road trip to all 417 national parks, Mikah Meyer sings at LGBT-friendly churches. He appears at 10:50 a.m. at St. Stephen United Methodist Church, 2520 Oates Drive, Mesquite.

- **March 16: Gay Women's Gathering: An Evening on Lesbian Pregnancy**

With a focus on legal and medical safety for the LGBT community, the event features a doctor, a lawyer and a sperm bank rep. From 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope Interfaith Peace Chapel, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

- **March 16: AWSD kickoff party**

AIDS Walk South Dallas kickoff party including a display of AIDS Memorial quilt panels from 6:30-9 p.m. at Level Office, 701 Commerce St. \$20 suggested donation.

- **March 18: Pot O' Gold Gaybingo**

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

- **March 18: QCinema**

Suzanne Westenhoefer live at 7:30 p.m. at Amphibian Stage Productions, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. \$25-75. QCinema.org.

- **March 18: HRC Spring Luncheon**

Mary Beth Maxwell, senior vice president for programs, research and training speaks. From 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Tower Club, Thanksgiving Tower, 48th floor, 1601 Elm St. Federal Club members free. Federal Club guests \$35. Others \$50. SpringLuncheon2017.eventbrite.com

- **March 19: 'Freedom to Marry'**

Local premiere of the film *Freedom to Marry* by Eddie Rosenstein at the Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd.

- **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.



Composer Jocelyn Hagen joins The Women's Chorus of Dallas for a performance on Friday. See listing for details.

GALA is chartering buses leaving from Collin Creek Mall and Cathedral of Hope. \$15.

- **March 23-25: Topsy Turvy**

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents Topsy Turvy: Songs You Thought You Knew at 7:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. \$25-65. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

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

From 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, 2922 MLK Jr. Blvd.

- **March 26: Holi celebration**

Enjoy Indian culture as Radha Krishna Temple celebrates Holi from noon-5 p.m. at South Fork Ranch, 3700 Hogge Drive, Parker.

- **March 30: FashionCITED Rhythm and Hues Show**

This fashion show fundraiser benefits Legal Hospice of Texas from 7-10 p.m. at Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. \$60.

- **March 30: Path2Parenthood**

An evening on lesbian pregnancy with information on sperm donors, medical procedures and legal safeguards. Dinner is included from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Space limited so RSVP to corey@path2parenthood.org.

- **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. \$75. Tickets at NoTieDinner.org

- **April 9: Sue Ellen's Throwback Party**

HRC brings back the old Sue's with DJ, silent auctions, door prizes and games from 2-6 p.m. at TMC: The Mining Company, 3903 Cedar Springs Road.

- **April 15: Purple Gaybingo**

Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

- **April 16: Easter in the Park**

The pooch parade in Oak Lawn's Lee Park is an Easter tradition. Bring picnic basket and lawn chairs. 1 p.m.

- **April 21: Compassion fatigue symposium**

Ed-U-Care presents its sixth annual symposium from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road. EdUCareDallas.com.

Trans candidate runs for GPISD school board

Johnny Boucher, right, at the We're Not Going Back rally held recently at Resource Center, to protest anti-LGBT actions by the Trump administration. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Johnny Boucher stays focused on teaching, not his gender identity

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Johnny Boucher said recently he has decided to run for Grand Prairie school board because he believes he can improve education in his city.

Although Boucher lives in Grand Prairie, he teaches children ages 3-to-6 at the Eduardo Mata Montessori School in the Lakewood area of Dallas. That school had been slated to close because of declining enrollment. But when the neighborhood was polled, residents said they'd return their children to public school if an innovative school opened. So after three years as a Montessori school, with mixed-age classes of children learning at their own pace, the school is looking at a waiting list longer than its total enrollment has been.

"Eccentric teaching and teachers are drawn there," Boucher said of the school, adding that he is proud to count himself among the eccentric. But how have parents reacted to their kids having a transgender teacher? There's been a "cool factor" about it, Boucher said.

This wasn't Boucher's first teaching assignment in DISD. Before finding a home at Mata, Boucher taught in a West Dallas

school where students overall tested in the 33rd percentile. During his first year at the school, his students tested in the 90th percentile.

When the principal called him to the office to discuss it, Boucher said he was expecting a pat on the back. Instead, he was accused of giving his students the answers to the tests. He said he discovered that the principal had expected students to fail, and had expected Boucher's students to fare even worse, since Boucher is transgender.

Even though he only recently announced his campaign for Grand Prairie school board, Boucher said he has quickly learned that some people in his district are suspicious. They want to know if he is running just to get protections for transgender teachers added to the district's policies.

Grand Prairie's enumerated anti-bullying policy is already as good as those in place in the Dallas and Fort Worth school districts so that's not an issue, Boucher said. But he readily admits that he thinks it would be nice if Grand Prairie ISD, which does have explicit protections in place for its LGBT students, would extend those protections to its faculty and staff.

Still, that's not why he's running.

As a teacher, he said, he's had success. But as a school board member, he added, he could work with an entire district to help implement the kinds of teaching methods he knows work.

Boucher, who's been living a quiet life in Grand Prairie for nine years, married his wife Ashley in 2014, before the *Obergefell* marriage equality decision. When a question arose of how transgender people

should be regarded by county clerks regarding issuing marriage licenses, then-Attorney General Greg Abbott said sex should be based on birth certificates. But since Ashley is also transgender, their birth certificates at the time showed them to be an opposite-sex couple.

So getting a marriage license wasn't a problem. The couple just showed their documents at the county clerk's office, which proved their eligibility. It was finding an officiant that proved difficult.

With marriage license in hand, the couple wanted to be married by a judge so their marriage would be less likely to be challenged. They also didn't want to just show up and surprise a judge who might be uncomfortable with the situation, so they began making calls.

"We mostly talked to clerks who never called us back," Boucher said. One clerk kept them on hold for more than an hour before telling them he'd get back to them — and then never did.

One judge told them he wouldn't be comfortable doing their wedding.

They ended up speaking to a dozen Dallas County judges before they got through to Judge Carl Ginsberg, who understood the marriage was perfectly legal under Texas law. So on Valentine's Day, Ginsberg married the couple. So many people attended, Boucher said, Ginsberg had to change courtrooms to accommodate the crowd.

At the time, Boucher was still teaching in West Dallas, and their wedding got quite a bit of publicity on local news. Afterwards, at school, Boucher noticed that he start-

ed getting written up for trumped-up infractions. So at the end of the school year, Boucher changed campuses and his former principal was investigated on a variety of issues, including accusing Boucher of giving students answers to standardized tests.

By June, Boucher will have earned his masters degree from SMU. He said he finished all required course work last semester and is currently taking a few electives. Since transferring to his current school in Lakewood, he's been named Teacher of the Year and received two innovative teaching awards.

Boucher said he's often thought it was "a shame that I can't help other teachers do this better." And he said he'd thought of running for school board before. But the tipping point, he said, was the appointment of Betsy DeVos as Education Secretary.

Boucher said issues he would want to address include teacher pay in Grand Prairie, which is lower than in Dallas. While GPISD pays based on years of service, Dallas has a program called Teacher Excellence Initiative, which pays successful teachers higher salaries.

"That keeps highly-qualified teachers" in the district, Boucher said.

Lots of DISD teachers live in Grand Prairie, Boucher said, adding that as a GPISD trustee he would look at what Grand Prairie can do about compensation that might attract some of those teachers to work closer to home.

Boucher knows his election will be a tough battle, but he hopes people focus on his being a good teacher rather than his being transgender. ■



The costs of living

A survey of home prices around Texas, tax rates around the country

FROM STAFF REPORTS

New listings of homes for sale in the North Texas region were up 4.1 percent to 10,300 in January, according to the latest monthly report for North Texas Real Estate Information Systems. Pending sales decreased 10.2 percent to 7,084, and inventory shrank 5.8 percent to 20,511 units.

But the median sales prices sailed up 15.4 percent to \$225,000, according to NTREIS. The average number of days units stayed on the market dropped 7.7 percent to 48, and “months supply of inventory” was down 8 percent to 2.3 months. That indicates that demand has increased relative to supply.

And NTREIS predicts that “the system is ripe for more home purchasing, if there are more homes available to sell.”

According to information compiled by REALTOR.com, the median listing price for homes in Texas listed on the real estate website is \$240,000, with an average price per square foot of \$103 and a median closing price of \$130,000.

In Dallas County, the median listing price was \$315,000, with an average price per square foot of \$144. The median closing price was \$131,000.

Listed among REALTOR.com’s “Top Cities” in Dallas County was “Village,” an area that, according to the website, encompasses the heart of Highland Park, bounded by Lovers Lane on the north side, Fitzhugh Avenue on the south, Dallas North Tollway on the west and Central Expressway on the east.

With 239 units listed for sale and none listed for rent, Village boasted a median listing price of \$1.8 million, and an average price per square foot of \$423. There was no median closing price listed.

Highland Park showed a median listing price was \$795,000, with an average price per square foot of \$315 and a median closing price of \$211,000. The Oak Lawn area had a median listing price of \$750,000, and an average price per square foot of \$327. The median closing price was \$174,000.

Across the Trinity in Tarrant County, the median listing price was \$278,000, and the average price per square foot was \$114. The median closing price was \$129,000.

Among the top areas in Tarrant Coun-

ty were Colleyville (median listing price \$641,000, price per square foot \$164), Grapevine (median listing price of \$399,000, price per square foot of \$153) and Westover Hills (median listing price of \$396,000, price per square foot of \$186 and median closing price of \$99,000).

According to a recent survey compiled for WalletHub.com by its senior writer and editor John S. Kiernan, Texas is 46th out of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, in a ranking based on effective real estate property taxes.

With an effective real estate tax rate of 1.90 percent, Texas only ranked higher than five states: Wisconsin (1.96 percent), Connecticut (1.97 percent), New Hampshire (2.15 percent), Illinois (2.30 percent) and New Jersey (2.35 percent).

Also according to the WalletHub.com report, the median home value in Texas was \$136,000 and the annual taxes on a home priced at the state median value were \$2,578.

Hawaii ranked first, with an effective real estate tax rate of 0.27 percent, and 24 other states had effective real estate tax rates of less than 1 percent. Hawaii also had the highest median home value at \$515,300,



with annual taxes on a home prices at the state median value standing at \$1,406.

The District of Columbia, fifth overall on the list with an effective tax rate of 0.56 percent, a state median home value \$475,800 and annual taxes on a home priced at the state median value adding up to \$2,665.

In New Jersey, which ranked 51st on the list, state median home value was \$315,900, on which residents would have paid a whopping \$7,410 in annual taxes.

The median home value in the U.S. as of 2015, the year of the most recent available data, was \$178,600. Annual taxes in Texas on a \$179,000 home were \$3,386, compared to Hawaii, where annual taxes on a \$179,000 home were only \$487 and to New Jersey, where annual taxes on a \$179,000 were a hefty \$4,189.



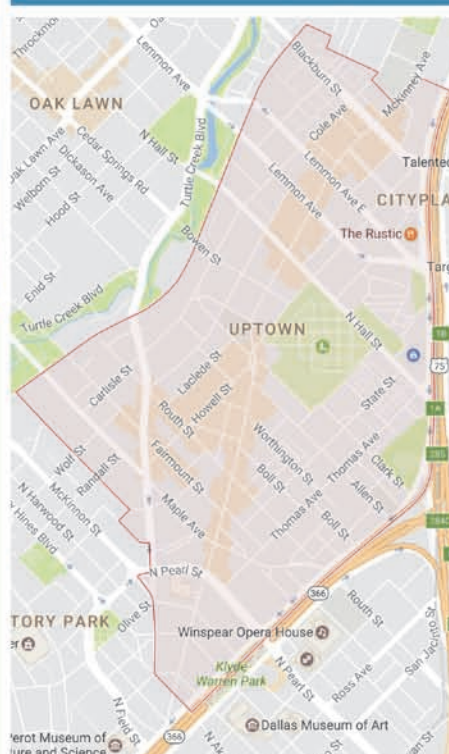
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Swing your partner

Pegasus Squares welcomes LGBT dancers from around the country

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Pegasus Squares hosts its first regional square dance weekend, with about 100 dancers from around the U.S. set to spend 15 hours swinging their partners around the dance floor of Sons of Hermann Hall in Deep Ellum over the weekend.

The International Association of Gay Square Dance Clubs has about 60 member clubs

around the U.S., with more in Canada, Germany and Japan. You'd think Texas would be the state with the most clubs, but Dallas, Austin and San Antonio are the only Lone Star State cities with affiliates.

California, on the other hand, has 20 clubs. And LGBT square dancing is surprisingly popular along the East Coast, with clubs from New York City — the Times Squares — to DelMarVa — the Delmarvelous Squares — to Atlanta to Fort Lauderdale.

Alan Josephson is president of the Pegasus Squares, which has been around for about three years. The group has moved around as it's grown, but currently dances on Sunday afternoons at Grace United Methodist Church in East Dallas.

Josephson said Pegasus Squares is mostly men, but the club would love to increase its women and transgender membership.

"Almost half the Austin club is lesbian," Josephson said.

What's surprising, he added, is the number of straight members the Dallas club attracts.

Josephson explained that in traditional square dancing, the man is expected to be on the left. "I learned to dance the 'girl's

part' first," he said. "So I've become bi-dancual."

But why does a gay square dance club attract straight members? Josephson said the first straight couple attended with friends who are gay. They had so much fun, they stayed.

"The nature of square dancing is turning and moving constantly, so you're making contact with everyone in the square," he said. "It's a non-issue."

While he invites people who aren't involved in Pegasus Squares to come and either observe or participate in the weekend, he said square dancing takes some lessons.

"We just finished our fourth set of lessons," he said.

That set of lessons was just for mainstream dancing, the lowest level of square dance that involves knowing about 70 calls. Josephson said it takes about 15 weeks of lessons to learn those steps. "Plus" is the next level, which adds an additional 30 calls. The top two levels rely on callers putting calls together in new ways to form a variety of combinations.

Bill Eyler is a California-based caller who will be in Dallas for the dance weekend. His love affair with square dancing began in Al-

buquerque in 1983. He said these weekends like the one Pegasus Squares is hosting are like family reunions.

Eyler said the gay square dance movement began in the '80s as an offshoot of the Reno Gay Rodeo Association. By the mid-1980s, there were 15 to 20 clubs that had no interaction with straight square dance clubs at all.

The calls were the same, Eyler said, but there wasn't much mixing.

"By the mid-90s, there was a push to be more accepted," he said, and the gay clubs hired straight callers.

"The straight callers loved [the gay clubs]," Eyler said. "There was more energy."

And the straight callers brought in some straight dancers who followed them.

Square dancing is different from other types of dance. One particular song doesn't set off a particular dance. Instead, dancers follow the instructions of the caller. And the music may be just about anything.

"Very little of the music is western music," Josephson said. He said he went to one dance where it was mostly '80s rock. Beyonce is more likely to be heard at a modern square dance than a country-western

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artist.

But, Eyler explained, whatever the music is, it must be formatted to a 64-beat tempo.

Then, the caller calls the steps. For mainstream level dancers, that may include any of the 70 calls mastered by first level dancers. For more advanced dancers, there are even more calls. Dancers follow the calls and each dance is different.

For the dance at Sons of Hermann, two internationally known callers are coming. They'll be supplemented by several other callers from around the country, like Eyler. Mixing the callers keeps the many hours of dance fresh.

Josephson said he first became involved in square dance in the mid-1990s when the Big D Longhorns, a previous gay square dance group, was active.

"It was so hokey, I loved it," he said.

Josephson called square dancing just good, healthy fun, very social with little drinking during the dance. Eyler said his husband began square dancing because it was a great gay bear men's event.

Last minute registration is \$130 and is available online at PegasusSquares.com. The fee includes snacks and some meals through the weekend.



Pegasus Square dance at Grace United Methodist Church on Sunday afternoons. (Courtesy Alan Josephson)

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The face of a predator

If you really want to protect women, children then stop focusing on trans people

I really wish we could get past the restroom debate. I get asked about it so much, seemingly every day. My Facebook feed is full of stories debating on both sides whether or not there is a threat to women and children in our public restrooms.



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

If you are looking for someone to tell you that assaults in restrooms never happen and to just relax, well, find someone else. They do happen.

One such incident occurred on a warm summer evening when I was 17 years old. I was out with two friends, Scott and Tom, and we'd shared a pizza and a couple of pitchers of soft drinks. (Yeah, we were really crazy!)

Scott was driving, and I told him I had to pee. So he pulled off and parked near the pump island at a Shell station. It was around 8:30 p.m. Tom had to go, too, so he and I walked to the gas station bathroom, situated outside the gas station with a wall next to the side of the station, creating a kind of external hallway.

The "men's" room (this was way pre-transition for me) was the second door, down near the end of the dead-end hallway.

We both took care of business, washed our hands and walked out. I saw Tom open the door, then the next thing I saw was Tom's blood splatter all over the door's painted-white surface when he was sucker punched in the face.

There were five guys who attacked, calling us "faggots" as they beat the hell out of us. There was no other conversation.

Tom ended up with a broken nose and covered in blood. I was knocked to the ground then kicked in the face so hard my jaw was broken.

Our assailants left in a car. We were able to get the license plate and reported it to the police.

There were never any arrests. Just excuses.

We were not attacked by transgender women; we were attacked by — presumably — straight white men.

Tom is not gay, by the way. But he was wearing tight, white jeans and a colorful shirt, so maybe that's what earned us a trip to the emergency room. There was zero provocation on our part that might have prompted the beating.

Just remembering this incident again is difficult for me. It was an extremely painful and emotional time. I rarely bring it up.

But when I hear ignorant, bigoted, hate-fueled politicians like Dan Patrick grandstand, posing as a "protector of women and children" and trying to paint women like me as the problem, well I just want to throw up.

See, I know what a "bathroom predator" looks like. I've seen five of them up close and personal. They look like white, straight men. That's the face of bathroom predators.

It's not transgender women, and most certainly not transgender children. They are the ones that need protecting. But if bills liked SB6 enacted, transgender kids will be the ones on the receiving end of a kick to



the face just for existing. No child deserves that. I sure as hell didn't.

Saying you want to protect women and children is fine. But if you really want to protect women and children, why not protect them from the people who actually hurting them — straight men!

Women are far more likely to be sexually assaulted by their husband or their boyfriend or even a classmate. Children are more likely to be victimized by someone they know — a creepy uncle, a clergy member or someone else considered "trustworthy" — than they are by a stranger in a bathroom, and when you compare statistics, it's not even close.

Look, I have two daughters. And I share the same desire for privacy and safety in public facilities that they or anyone else have.

But it makes me sad to think my daughters hear the hateful rhetoric and lies being told about transpeople. I know they love and worry about me.

I'm tired of talking about restrooms. I'd just as soon move on to discussions on why it's still legal in 31 states to fire me from my job solely because I'm transgender, or to deny me housing or health care.

That, by the way, is what happens when you leave it to the states, Mr. Trump — tyranny of the masses.

It's high time to stop lying about the whole predator thing and just come clean. It's about selling "stigma" and fear; about demonizing and erasing a group of people who have done nothing wrong.

I've seen the face of a predator. I've felt their boot shatter my jaw. It was a boot belonging to a straight, white male. When will we start looking long and hard at the true face of a predator?

Solving the real problem won't be easy. Our culture seems to look the other way when straight, white males force their will on women. That makes the problem two-fold: We need to raise our men to respect women, to care for children, to be respectful.

But bills like SB6 do nothing to address the real issue of protecting women or respecting their privacy. It's all a big distraction.

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.

The messages in the Oscars

If you really want to understand what's going on in our world, both globally and within our LGBTQIA community, you can learn all you need to from last Sunday night's Oscars awards show. And I don't just mean the fiasco that happened when Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway pulled a Steve Harvey and called out the wrong name for the winner in the Best Picture category. No, I'm talking about the entire show from, start to finish.

Start with the moment all the winners had announced and everyone was congratulating the Oscars for being "so inclusive" this year — this one year, out of 89 years. That's only 1.12 percent, so I think I'll hold off till the 90th year before I start handing out snaps for the Oscars, you know, just to make sure 2017 was not the "year of the token."

Then consider Jimmy Kimmel's live tweeting Donald Trump, exemplifying our urge to document, live tweet and live stream anything and everything, to such extremes that we fail to give the present moment — and the people in it — our full attention.

Then think about Kimmel parading celebrity chasers into the auditorium so they



Brandi Amara Skyy
Contributing Columnist

could gush over all the stars as if the actors and actresses were gods. As funny as I thought it was, I still wonder if it was the same celebrity worship mentality that allowed a certain reality star to rise to the ultimate office

of power. How's that celebrity idolization turning out for us now?

And then there's Casey Affleck, who received the Academy's top acting honor despite having been charged with sexual assault. It proves, once again, that women's bodies and women's rights aren't included in the equation.

What's worse is that Brie Larson — who won an Oscar last year for playing a woman who was physically, emotionally and sexually abused by her husband, the same things two women accused Affleck of doing — had to hand him the award. Perhaps the Academy just considers calling women "cows" and telling a woman she should sleep with a male crew member because "it's about time she had a baby" to be mere "locker-room banter," nothing important.

But for every real issue I had with the Oscars, there were many more moments that gave me so much life. Like the GE commercial dreamed off an alternative universe where female scientists are the real celebrities and are treated as such.

And I loved Jimmy Kimmel's opening monologue, in which he didn't try to say something to unite us, but instead told us something we all needed to hear — that change begins with a conversation and all we have to do is use our voices.

And then there was *Moonlight* winning Best Picture, despite all the odds and history being stacked against them, and despite the fact not many of our own community even knew that a story about them was being honored.

But where I really caught glimpses of hope for change were from the actors, directors and visionaries themselves.

Viola Davis' acceptance speech on art celebrating life and the herstory she made that night lifted my creative spirit and brought tears to my eyes. Gael García Bernal going off script when presenting the animation Oscar to let the world know that walls don't build better societies made my brown skin tingle and my Chicanx heritage proud.

When two-time Oscar winner Iranian director Asghar Farhadi made his priorities known by making a conscience decision

to be absent from the awards out of "respect for the people of [his] country and those of six other nations whom have been disrespected by the inhumane law that bans entry of immigrants to the U.S.," my third-generation immigrant roots rose with him.

Spoiler alert: We are all immigrants.

And *Moonlight* winning Best Picture — the first queer movie to ever do so — made me feel finally my experience as a queer person of color was being recognized as a more Oscar-worthy story than another musical set in a la-la land of make believe.

But what the Oscars really showed me — and everyone else watching on Sunday night — is that our art, our voice, our words, our actions — good or bad — hold the real power. And we the people, just like every person who stood on that stage, have the power to use our art and our voice to lift people up, make communities rise, to create dialogue and to create change.

The Oscars showed me is that my art is powerful. My voice is powerful. People are powerful.

I am powerful.

And that's an Oscar worthy message. ■

Brandi Amara Skyy is a drag artist who writes and plays in magic. You can find out more about her and many projects at brandiamaraskyy.com.

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Diavolical

For Jacques Heim, artistic director of Diavolo, diversity is important to the balance of a dance company



Jacques Heim's decision to study dance was not motivated, as one might suspect, by inherent liveness or a natural sense of rhythm. The Paris native, in fact, originally dreamed of becoming an actor when he entered the U.S. in 1983 to attend college. Unfortunately, Heim's heavy accent thwarted his attempts as a transplanted thespian. As fate would have it, that very same accent assisted him in discovering his true calling.

"My English was so bad nobody could understand me," Heim recalls. "I had some friends in the dance department [at Vermont's Middlebury College] who asked me to join them. They said, 'At least you don't have to speak.' That's how I ended up in the dance world."

Today, Heim is the artistic director of Los Angeles-based dance company Diavolo, which he also founded. The mission of the troupe is to employ dance to explore the complex relationships between people and their physical surroundings. Indeed, architectural structures are the central inspiration for each of Diavolo's works. This unconventional blending of dance and design are the result of Heim's long-held passions.

"I was this person who loved the arts," Heim says. "I love design, and I have a love and affinity for architecture. I fell in love with movement, which is a universal language. You don't need to understand it to enjoy it. [With Diavolo], I decided to mix my love for architecture and love for movement."

Diavolo returns to North Texas March 10–11 for the Dallas premiere of *L.O.S.T.*, an acronym for the title *Losing One's Self Temporarily*. The piece unfolds in two parts: Cubicle and Passengers. The first is an examination of the American corporate workplace; the second is a transformative train journey.

Heim suggests that, given today's political landscape, works that explore themes of freedom, unrest, oppression and hope are more significant now than when they were first created. They also serve to showcase the athletic abilities and tremendous physical

endurance of the show's five female and five male dancers. The show is so rigorous for its dancers that Heim requires a 25-minute intermission between parts.

"Those two pieces are physically demanding," Heim says. "I know you would imagine that every dance such as ballet and traditional modern [dance] is physical, but the work of Diavolo is on a different level of physicality. The 10 members of Diavolo go at it for 35 minutes [at a time] nonstop."

Heim aims for diversity among Diavolo's dancers, an equilibrium he sees as a key to the company's enduring success. He's found that if dance companies lacking variety in gender, ethnicity and sexual identities can result in imbalance. As an example, Heim recalls a time during the company's formative years when he noticed that all of his dancers, both male and female, happened to be heterosexual. It was an issue he soon corrected.

"The day I had diversity, it was the perfect balance," Heim says. "It became this beautiful balanced company. The more diverse you are, the more balanced your community becomes. If suddenly I realize I don't have diversity, I stop everything. I go after diversity."

While visiting Dallas, Heim will hold auditions for dancers who wish to join Diavolo. Those lucky enough to get offers are required to commit for a minimum of two years. Heim says that Dallas has proven in the past to be a fertile ground for recruiting new performers. He also feels that Dallas has become an important arts center in which he would today consider residing.

"Dallas, it seems to me, has changed a lot in the last 10 to 15 years," Heim says. "The theater district and the city [have grown]. It's become a really great city. That was my impression when I came in a couple of years ago. I thought I could live there."

Dallas, of course, would be lucky to have Heim — accent and all.

— Scott Huffman

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'Feud' on the fire

Oscar winner Susan Sarandon — on getting woke, portraying Bette Davis and her career in activism



xx

Maybe gay people are customarily compelled to thank Susan Sarandon for her longstanding advocacy, because that's how I begin my frank, anything-goes conversation with the 70-year-old screen legend and activist. After all, no matter where you stand on Sarandon's divisive decision to vote for Green Party candidate Jill Stein in the recent presidential election, we can all agree that the Oscar winner has used her massive screen-icon prestige to aid in the advancement of LGBT rights. She's been a staunch supporter through the AIDS crisis and the fight for marriage equality — even in times when vocal Hollywood allies were scarce.

Reinforcing Sarandon's pro-queer stance is a breadth of bold, iconic and uninhibited film roles dating back to 1970: Sarandon had sex with her co-star, Catherine Deneuve, in a lesbian-favored scene that steamed up 1983's vamp flick *The Hunger*; as Janet, she got her freak on in the cult classic *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*; in 1987, teamed up with Cher for *The Witches of Eastwick* to, presumably, offer fresh fodder to every late-'80s drag queen. Later, in

Dallas Voice: Between *Feud*, your film career and your LGBT activism, I'd say you have more than earned your queer cred. Susan Sarandon: Well, I hope so! I mean, I feel like an outsider myself. My people, my family for all these years, have always been my allies and have always been very, very important to me, very dear to me through the AIDS crisis and everything. It's just a natural, very easy extended family for me.

1995, Sarandon appeared with many of her industry peers in the acclaimed documentary inspired by gay activist Vito Russo, *The Celluloid Closet*, which examined depictions of LGBT characters in Hollywood.

The next step in being a gay icon, apparently, is playing one: Starring alongside fellow acting dynamo Jessica Lange as Joan Crawford, Sarandon portrays beloved Hollywood leading lady Bette Davis in Ryan Murphy's *Feud: Bette and Joan*. Sarandon was fresh off the set of the FX series when she dished on *Feud*, and numerous other aspects of her storied life and career.

"I'm just getting back and acclimated," she told me, dramatizing her experience shooting Murphy's latest creation. "I've been gone for a very long time. Once I joined this cult, I didn't get out."

Free from *Feud* and any canned-answer pretense, Sarandon refreshingly free-wheeled through revelatory discussions about her "up for grabs" sexual orientation, the gay actor she once romanced, and her impassioned response to critics ("to blame me is not productive") who challenge her political convictions.

— Chris Azzopardi

You grew up Catholic in New York City.

Would you say LGBT people felt like family then, too? Well, not in my high school; I had 500 in my class. This was ages ago. But sure, in college, of course if you're in a theater department or in any of the arts, that's just part of the landscape, so there wasn't any delineation as I became an adult. It was just natural. And, honestly, the people who I made friends with in my early day in



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We asked several local real estate agents to suggest where you should buy next

First-time home buyers have a lot of considerations — how much can they afford? Who to hire as a Realtor, mortgage lender, title company, etc. But perhaps no question is more important than, “Where should I even look?”

We asked some Dallas real estate professionals to weigh in on their favorite neighborhoods for up-and-coming homeowners, applying any criteria that in their experience are most important. Here is what they said.



Mikey Abrams

lies and professionals. It is a neighborhood rich with history and holds Dallas’s largest collections of mid-century modern homes. It’s no secret that this neighborhood has much to offer and has attracted a lot of investors and developers to capitalize on this opportunity.

— Mohammed Jaber,

Ebby Halliday Realtors/Preston Center



Mohammed Jaber

Casa View in Dallas is a very progressive and diverse neighborhood located east of White Rock Lake. It is one of the few remaining neighborhoods in Dallas where you can still find a single-family home in the low-\$200k range. Its proximity to the lake and all the trails make it a very attractive neighborhood for many young fami-

I recently had some buyers moving to Texas from out-of-state. They wanted to live near Downtown Dallas to enjoy restaurants, nightlife and shopping, but desired a spacious home with decent square footage. The Dallas market is on fire now, so finding a home with more than 2,500 square feet for under \$350K can be harder than getting *Hamilton* tickets. The Enclave at Grove Hill is the

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Everyone in real estate knows what a “looky-loo” is: Someone who attends an open house with no intention of buying, but just wants to see how other people live. Well, the Turtle Creek Association *wants* you to be a looky-loo — in fact, they are counting on it.

On April 9, the TCA will open doors in the gayborhood with its 16th annual Luxury Homes Tour. Three high-rise apartments and two single-family dwellings in the historic area will welcome

visitors into their sancti santori to offer a rare look at some of the designer showcases you’ve walked by but never seen up close. Money raised from the event helps the nonprofit in its restoration and preservation efforts.

The tour will be from 1–5 p.m., and culminates with a separately-ticketed post-tour reception, with bites and drinks from chef Abraham Salum. ■

April 9, 1–5 p.m.
Tickets run from \$54–\$125
and can be purchased at
TurtleCreekAssociation.org.



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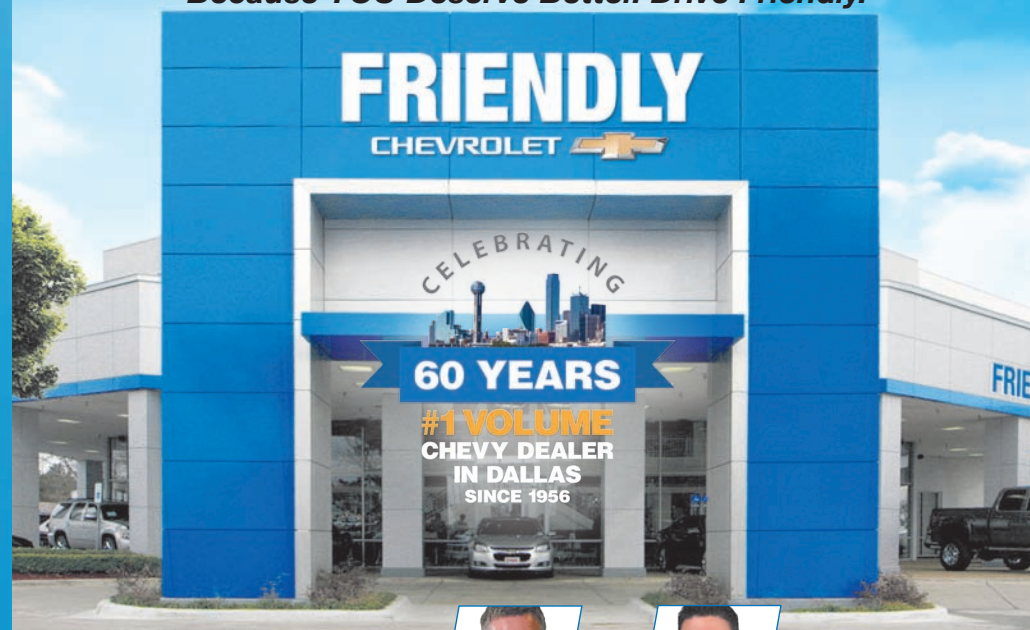


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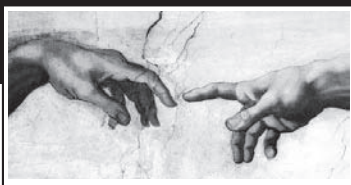


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Setting the STAGE

A checklist for deciding how and when to use a staging service when selling your home

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

When you and your real estate agent are preparing to sell your home, one of the most important tasks is to make sure it looks amazing. Potential buyers are going to start making snap judgments about your home the instant they pull up, so you have to make certain everything from the front yard to the back fence looks great. Many sellers work with their agent to make their home look great. However, there's a new trend that's becoming very popular and is getting better results: working with a professional stager.

What is a stager? A professional stager is an expert in bringing out the best a room has to offer. Their mission is to make every

room in your home look inviting, light, airy and beautiful. They do many things that an interior decorator would do. In fact, some staging professionals also offer interior decorating services to clients who aren't moving. However, there are a few differences between staging a home and decorating one.

Is using a stager that important?

Professional staging is a relatively new industry. Real estate agents used to do all of the staging themselves if their clients were still living in the house while it was on the market. However, agents aren't professional decorators, and many simply didn't have the time it often takes to professionally stage an entire house. Some people didn't see the point of staging, either.

However, in the last 15 to 20 years, staging has become recognized as a crucial factor in selling your home. The Real Estate Staging Association was even created to certify professional stagers and create a set of industry standards. According to a number of surveys done by the association and by the National Association of Realtors (NAR), staged homes sell on average 43 percent faster than homes that aren't staged. That alone is a great reason to use a stager.

It's not the only reason, though. Those who have their home staged often get their full asking price, and some even make over that price. In most cases, all you have

■ PROFESSIONAL, From Page 16



John C. Weber,

best-kept secret in Dallas. Very affordable, less than 10 minutes from Uptown, a gated community with homes built in the last 10 years. It gets you the most bang for your buck in the Dallas area... and you can still afford *Hamilton* tickets after closing.

— Mikey Abrams,
Texas Pride Realty

One of the best little hidden pocket neighborhoods in my opinion is Bryan Place. It is literally hidden and not many know it even exists. It is a neighborhood I personally lived in for many years and it offers a terrific variety of home styles — from single family to townhomes and condos, all within a short distance of Downtown, Uptown, Deep Ellum and all major highways. There is a ton of revitalization going on all around the neighborhood that should continue to raise property values! A buyer can get into the neighborhood starting in the mid-100s up to the 600s.

— John C. Weber,
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to do is to invest about 1 percent of your asking price in staging to see results. Because of this, more than a third of all real estate agents now stage every home they list, according to a 2015 NAR survey.

Staging in the world of online listings. The internet is partially responsible for the creation of the staging industry. Today, nearly every home that's listed with a real estate agent appears online in the MLS system, on the agent's website and on other sites. Many potential buyers browse these listings before they even approach an agent so they know exactly what properties they want to see. Between work, hobbies, their children and other demands on their time, buyers simply can't look at dozens of properties like they used to. Instead, most do their research ahead of time, before they find a real estate agent.

This means your home's online listing has to really shine. It's now doing the bulk of the advertising for your home. If the photos posted online are of messy rooms with poor lighting taken from awkward angles, you're not going to see many interested buyers. For many, these photos provide the first impression of your property. They have to be outstanding.

That's where the stager comes in. They will transform each room in your home into an organized, perfectly arranged space that potential buyers can see them-

selves in. Often, your stager will remove a lot of your personal effects to help make the room more of a blank slate. This is one way in which staging differs from interior decorating. With the latter, you're trying to add more of your personality to the room. With the former, you want to remove some of your personal touches.

Take advantage of staging. While staging may add another small upfront cost, it's something that more and more professionals are seeing as a necessity. The numbers clearly show that staging does have an impact on how quickly your home sells and the final price. If you plan on selling your home, consider bringing in a stager. You may be surprised at how they transform your property and at how quickly you get offers.

Finding a professional stager. Many real estate agents have formed professional relationships with a local professional stager. Usually, these stagers are familiar with the type of homes that the agent sells. For example, those who specialize in historic homes will work with a stager who knows how to make older homes look gorgeous. An agent who is well-connected to the LGBT community will likely work with a stager who is also LGBT, or understands the gay market. (GayRealEstate.com is one resource for tracking down queer Realtors in North Texas.) ■

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New York in the '70s are still my friends. I find the guys who don't stick with you are the guys that you've had affairs with or marriages... or whatever! It's very rare that those guys — once you're not involved in a relationship, it's hard to maintain those ties. So, really, my friends I've had forever and ever and ever are gay men and women.

That makes sense, unless you're having affairs with gay men. Well, I did at one point have a very successful and very loving and wonderful affair with a man who then wasn't with another woman after me, and that worked out fine! I don't think you had to declare yourself as rigidly as you do now in terms of having to declare yourself almost politically about your sexual preference.

You were in a romantic relationship with another actor who was gay? Yeah. Philip Sayer [who also starred in *The Hunger*] — he was a wonderful actor. He passed away, but yes, he was gay, and we had a great relationship in every way.

Is your sexuality more or less rigid these days? Basically, should we be welcoming you to the family? Well, I'm a serial monogamist, so I haven't really had a large dating career. I married Chris Sarandon when I was 20, and that went on for quite a while — each of my relationships have. I haven't exactly been in the midst of a lot of offers of any kind. I'm still not! I don't know what's going on! But I think back in the '60s it just was much more open.

Are you open regarding your sexuality? Yeah, I'm open. My sexual orientation is up for grabs, I guess you could say. [Laughs]

The great thing about *Feud* is having you, a gay icon, play a gay icon. I can't think of many things gayer than that. Well, I hope the appeal seems to be broader! I'm hoping we reach out across the aisles to heterosexuals also, because what I think the story is about is a really interesting examination of all kinds of things: power and roles and misogyny and ageing. Have you seen it?

Not yet, but I've seen *What Ever Happened to Baby Jane?* countless times. Oh, you're gonna love it then! Although it's not all about that. We do move on, so at least you don't think I'm wearing gobs of makeup [the whole time]. There are some younger folks who haven't seen *Baby Jane* who are like, "What is up with that? Does she do that through the whole thing? I don't get it." But we had a lot of fun recreating gesture for gesture, voice pattern for voice pattern. And some of the



little snippets of the scenes were very tough. **Shifting to politics, some LGBT people were disappointed in your decision to cast your vote for someone other than the predicted winner, Hillary Clinton. If you would've known that Trump would be elected, and that we'd currently be experiencing such a threat to human rights, which I know are so important to you, would you have voted differently?** This is the thing: To have the conversations about "woulda, shoulda, coulda" opens up everything about the primaries and all kinds of things. The important thing right now is that we stop harping on [assigning] blame. I was not the person who brought Trump into power. The DNC has a lot of... there are already suits all over the country about how that was rigged, the primary.

So, to talk about this, for me, is a waste of energy. I think right now we're about to appoint Scott Pruitt, which is the end of the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency], and we've got this gal, [Betsy] DeVos. People have to get over what happened, take some personal responsibility for being in a bubble and not paying attention to what was going on in the country, and start applying their anger and their energy to rectifying what's

going on.

We're at a moment in history where a revolution is taking place. We have a guy in there who is so obvious that he gives you very clear targets. This didn't happen overnight. In the last eight years, the Democrats have lost thousands of seats. In the last eight years, we've put fracking and Monsanto and everybody in place. In the last eight years, there were tons of people deported. This guy is horrible. But this didn't happen overnight.

So what are we gonna do now? This is a moment where we have to start using our energy and the time that we have and the media to divest from our banks that are building these pipelines all over the place, not just in Dakota, which are going to bring down this country. Fracking is going to go full speed ahead. We have to stop that. And we have to protect those who are vulnerable under this administration, and that's not gonna happen until we let go of what happened before and really dedicate ourselves to making phone calls, putting



our bodies in the street and, most of all, taking our money out of organizations, banks and networks that are supporting the actions of this guy.

Now that everybody is awake, we have to take that and that fear, and we have to not indulge our depression — not indulge on pointing fingers — and

get out there and work with some of the people who are going to be betrayed by Trump who voted for him and use that as a force for real change, because now it can happen. And we're in a moment in history where you're gonna either be on one side or the other, and to be quiet or to be depressed or to blame me is not productive, so that's what I would say about that.

ONLINE EXCLUSIVE

To read more of our interview with Susan Sarandon, visit DallasVoice.com.

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Saturday 03.04

Toast to Life features a farewell appearance by Lady Bunny

Toast to Life — the annual fundraiser for the Resource Center — has been a staple of the Dallas social (and socially-aware) scene for 19 years, and drag diva Lady Bunny has been there before, making music in her role as DJ. Well, Bunny is back by popular demand ... although this will be her farewell appearance at the Toast. Come here her spin like it's 1977, with a Studio 54-themed party you can boogie to. Steve Kemble serves as the evening's master of sass-emonies.

DEETS: The Empire Room, 1225 N. Riverfront Blvd. \$150.
RCDallas.org.

Saturday 03.04

Punk rockers Green Day perform at American Airlines Center



If businesses can have religions (I'm lookin' at you, Hobby Lobby), then surely bands can have sexuality. And while the musicians who make up the iconic punk rockers Green Day may be straight, they have always appealed to, and been supportive of, LGBT folks. (At the height of their fame, queer punkers Pansy Division even toured with them.) We're glad to see Billy Joe Armstrong and Co. back in Dallas for a concert promoting their latest album. Billy Joe has even been known to go au naturel at concerts ... not that that has anything to do with our love of their music.

DEETS: American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. 7 p.m. doors, 8 p.m. concert.
AmericanAirlines.Center-Dallas.com.

Friday 03.03 — Sunday 03.26

Funky musical 'Passing Strange' makes regional debut

A middle-class African-American artist, coming of age in the 1970s, explores sexuality, spirituality, life and drugs in his quest to make sense of the world around him ...

and lives to tell (and sing) about in the musical *Passing Strange*. The author, composer and narrator, the cult musician named Stew, told his own story on Broadway with one of the funkier rock scores ever, in a thoughtful and compelling journey. Stew isn't on hand for Theatre 3's version, but we're looking forward to this regional premiere. (It was outshone at the Tonys by *In the Heights*, but did manage a win for best book of a musical.)

DEETS: Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through March 26 (in previews through Sunday).
Theatre3Dallas.com.



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calendar highlights



When you're a Jet... you are probably watching 'West Side Story,' at Casa Manana this week.
(Photo courtesy Chip Tompkins)

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Broadway Our Way. Uptown Players presents this annual fundraiser, a revue of showtunes with a twist. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. March 2-5. UptownPlayers.org.

The Illusionists. An encore performance of this amazing collection of masterful magicians who dazzle with their feats of illusion. *Final weekend.* Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

Galileo. Bertolt Brecht's play about the famed, controversial astronomer, with Bruce DuBose in the title role. *Final weekend.* Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Undermain.org.

Paper Flowers. A regional premiere of a rarely-performed play about a man, a woman and the disruption of social order Presented by Kitchen Dog Theater in their new space. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway, ste. 180. Through March 11. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Passing Strange. The funky, edgy musical (winner of the Tony for best book) is an autobiographical account of performance artist Stew, and his journey of sexual, political and musical awakenings. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. inside the Quadrangle. Through March 26 (in previews through March 5). Theatre3Dallas.com.

West Side Story. The classic musical adaptation of Romeo & Juliet, set on the hard streets of New York City. Music by Leonard Bernstein, lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. March 4-12. CasaManana.org.

Will You Still Love Me in the Morning? The first show of Theatre Britain's final, five-show season, a farce about several couples sharing a house with comic consequences. *Final weekend.* Cox Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Theatre-Britain.com.

CIRCUS

Kurios — Cabinet of Curiosities. The latest creation from Cirque du Soleil. Lone Star Park,

1000 Lone Star Parkway, Grand Prairie. Through March 26. CirqueDuSoleil.com/kurios.

FILM

Third Annual DFW South Asian Film Festival. The annual festival of films from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and the Maldives returns, and once again includes LGBT programming. This year, it moves from Plano to Addison (as well as an opening night party at the Perot Museum). AMC Village on the Parkway, 5100 Belt Line Road. March 3-5. Visit DFWSAFF.com for full schedule.

FINE ART

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.

Landscape Relativities: The Collaborative Works of Arnold Chang and Michael Cherney. This exhibition highlights the blurred line between photography and Chinese ink painting from two contemporary artists. Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Feb. 25-June 25. CrowCollection.org.

DIGS

Fort Worth Show of Antiques & Art. Annual expos of dealers specializing in all things rich, rare and luxurious for your home. Will Rogers Memorial

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Get your green on! St. Patrick's Day is a few weeks away, but the North Texas Irish Festival returns to Fair Park this weekend.

Center, 3400 Burnett-Tandy Road, Fort Worth. Friday–Sunday. FortWorthShow.com.

Les Dames d'Escoffier. 6500 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. Search Prekindle.com for tickets.

FRIDAY 03.03

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

FESTIVAL
North Texas Irish Festival. Exhibits, demonstrations, music and dance performances and food, all with a Celtic flair. At Fair Park. March 3–5. NTIF.org.

SATURDAY 03.04

COMMUNITY
FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. at the statue in Lee Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.
Toast to Life: Time to Boogie. Steve Kemble hosts and Lady Bunny spins (her last time) at this Resource Center

CONCERTS
Green Day. The very edgy (and gay-friendly) punk band performs their hits as well as songs off their latest album, *Revolution Radio*. American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY 03.05

DINING
A Dame Good Party: Women in Wine. Top area chefs, all women, demonstrate their culinary mastery in this foodie festival, featuring luminaries like Sharon Hage, Janice Parigi and Paula Lambert. Presented by

MONDAY 03.06

CABARET
Mama's Party. Local singer Amy Stevenson hosts her ongoing cabaret series, always with special guests and a good time. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St. Grand Prairie. \$10.

TUESDAY 03.07

FILM
The Lion in Winter. Katharine Hepburn won one of her four Oscars (and Peter O'Toole should have) for this historical comedy-drama about Henry II and whether he'll allow his sodomite eldest son to succeed him. 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.

THEATER
Let It Be. What if all of the Fab Four reunited 10 years after their final breakup? That's the question answered in this cover-band-ish half concert, half musical. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. March 7–19. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

THURSDAY 03.09

CABARET
Judy Chamberlain Jazz. The jazz vocalist's weekly cabaret performance in the back room of Zippers Hideaway, 3333 N. Fitzhugh St. 9 p.m.
Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday. Mable Peabody's Beauty Parlor and Chain Saw Repair, 1125 E. University Drive, Denton. 9:30 p.m.



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Cassie Nova

Cassie gets all real-estate-diva on yo' asses!

Hello my gaybies. My birthday was just a few days ago — Feb. 27. I am now 45. Dammit! I am Forty-Five ... like our damn president! One thing I have noticed that has changed about doing drag as I have gotten older is: it takes me forever to learn new music. When I was in my 20s, and well into my 30s, I could hear a song three times and be ready to do it in the show that night. I remember doing "Can't Get Enough of Your Love" by Taylor Dayne the day that the CD came out (I probably bought it on cassette). I had heard it a few times on the radio and did it in the show that night at Big Daddy's. Back then, if you didn't record it off the radio, you didn't have a copy till the day it dropped in stores (no iTunes!).

Now, even if I love a song, it takes me at least a few weeks before I can comfortably lip-synch it in a show. And that's if I really like a song! Trying to force myself to like some young-ass song, just to stay relevant, is going to be the death of me. People that come to the shows a lot may see me doing the same song over and over again and I'm like, "Hell, yes, I'm doing that song again! Do you know how long it took me to learn it?" I like so little of today's music; we need to train the audience to like a wider range of music, but people tend to only respond to songs they know. Trust me, our tips prove that. So as long as my thick girls (Kelly Clarkson, Elle King, Megan Trainor) keep releasing singles, I think I will be OK, because Rhianna and Arianna I ain't!

Okay and now to help some folks.

Dearest Cassie, My boyfriend and I are considering co-habiting. He lives in a

one-bedroom apartment with a blend of Queen Anne and contemporary furniture. I own a one-bedroom unit in a high-rise condo with a stunning view — think glass walls and polished concrete floors. I really love my modern home and my modern furniture. And I really love my boyfriend. Any advice on how to join two households? Do I need to sell my dream home and buy something together to make sure he feels like it's "our" place? I really love my home, but I do want him to be happy. Signed, Skypad Lover.

Dear Skypad Lover, Gurrll, this is a tough one. If he loves you, he would never want you to give up your fabulous place. But you love him so you want him to feel at home if he moves in. I say hire a third party interior decorator. Have that person look at all of your stuff and go to your boyfriend's place and check out everything that he has. Let the decorator come up with a plan that includes both of your things in a fashionable way. Who knows, maybe your styles can go together better than you ever thought. A chocolate/peanut butter situation. Unless you are a control freak like me and can never be happy with anything other than your way.

Living together is a big deal, and you want to make sure that you compromise on the important things and pick your battles. Hopefully you quickly move from calling things "mine" or "his" to "ours." Good luck, and remember to keep an open mind.

Dear Mrs. Nova, I wanted to tell you about a recent experience I had in the Rose Room ... but first let me tell you about me. I am a 37-year-old gay man. I was in a serious car crash seven years ago that almost killed me. I have had 12 surgeries and will never have full use of my legs. I mostly use a wheelchair to get around and I have accepted that. I've been to the Rose Room a few times over the past five years because Station 4 has an elevator and I can easily get in and out of the room to watch the show. I have always loved a good drag

show.

Two weeks ago, a friend and I went to see the show. I usually wheel up to one of the tables in the back of the room and park it. The show started and you came out funny as ever. You picked on a guy for wearing corduroy and having little hands; you picked on a girl for wearing a dress so short you could read her lips; and then you saw me in my wheelchair. Without missing a beat you called me "Wheels" and told me to roll my ass to the front to get a good seat. Before I could say anything, you got behind me and pushed my chair to the front row, the whole time you were singing "Rollin' ... rollin' ... rollin' on the river." You moved a chair and told my friend to come sit with me. There was a bit of nervous laughter from the crowd but I was loving it. Many times I feel invisible when I am out, or even worse, I get those looks of pity that make me want to punch someone.

I just wanted to say thank you. You made me feel included. I haven't felt that in a while. My friends and I joke that being in a wheelchair may get you good parking but that was the first time it got us front row seats at a drag show. Seriously, thank you. The show was incredible and I can't wait to come back. Your fan forever,

Wheels.

Dear Wheels, Thank you for your kind words. Sometimes, some of the things I say or do onstage I replay in my head before I go to sleep — whether "was that too much" or "should I tone it down?" I say a lot of awful things and always hope the audience know that these are just jokes and they don't come from a place of meanness. I will do almost anything for a laugh and I want everyone to have fun. I'm glad you wrote me and you are welcome back anytime you want. Let this be a lesson to you all. I will pick on anyone if it's funny. I pride myself on knowing who can handle a joke and who is going to get pissed off or hurt. I figure if I make fun of my terrible self as much as I make fun of others, people will see it is all in good fun. I'm glad you felt included. That is one of my favorite things about my job. Thank you, Cassie.

Cassie, who let the dogs out? LBJ

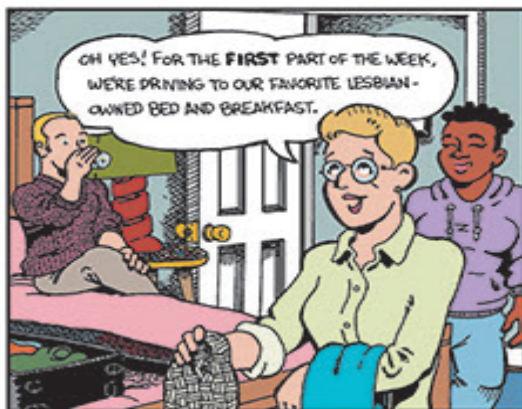
Well LBJ, If you are referring to the song, it was the Baha Men. If you are referring to my house, it is mostly me, sometimes my husband. Thanks for the question... I guess. Cassie.

Dear Cassie, Would you put me in drag and treat me like a bitch?

Dear Anonymous, You would be surprised how often I or my fellow drag queens get asked this question. There are a lot of you freaky bastards out there. My answer is absolutely. I will do it for the low, low price of \$1 million. I'm sure my husband would let me for that amount. Hell, he might even join in, but that will cost extra. Let me know if that price is OK, because now that the public knows my price I will probably be booked up soon. Cassie.

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.





Carnival at S4

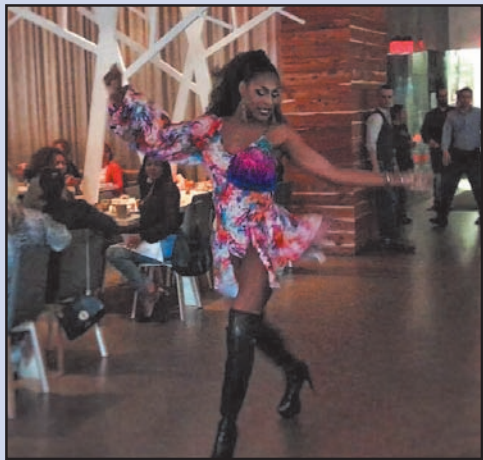
PHOTOS COURTESY THE MUG SPOT

Making the **SCENE** the week of **March 3-9**

- **Alexandre's:** *Girl's Night Out* with **Peggy Honea** on Friday. **K-Marie** on Saturday and Tuesday. *Karaoke* with **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Imperial Court's annual Red Ribbon Show** at 7 p.m. on Friday. **Texas Gay Rodeo Association** meeting at 2 p.m. and **Cowtown Leathermen's** first Sunday cookout and fundraiser from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday. **Mother Michial Community Service Awards** with buffet 7 p.m. and awards at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **South Central Leathersir, Leatherboy** and **Community Bootblack** on Friday and Saturday. **Dallas Bears** club night on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie's Freak Show** on Monday. **Krystal and the Kool Kids** on Tuesday.
- **Pekers:** The prize is \$300 at Saturday night **Karaoke**. Sign up before 10:30 to win.
- **Rainbow Lounge:** **Imperial Court candidate show** at 6 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Boys, Boots and Boxer Briefs** on Monday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Ciao Bella** on Saturday. **Kathy and Bella** at 3:30 p.m. and **Barefoot Hippiess** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Two Corks and a Bottle:** **Show Tune Night** from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Imperial Court In-Town Show** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Scene Photographers: **Kay Haygood** and **Chad Mantooth**

Drag Brunch at Cedar Grove



Erin, Jeff and Oscar at JR.'s Bar & Grill



Friends' night out at The Tin Room



Deon and Lilly at The Grapevine



Hope and Josue at The Grapevine



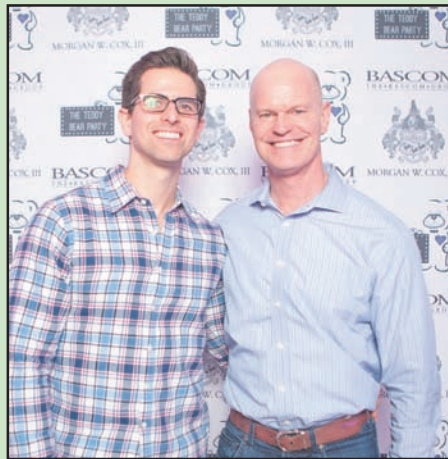
On The Strip with Jay and Daniel



Jeff and Michael at JR.'s Bar & Grill

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Miguel, Josh, Antonio, Jose and Steve at The Tin Room



Wendy at Sue Ellen's



Megan at The Grapevine



Les and David at Dallas Eagle

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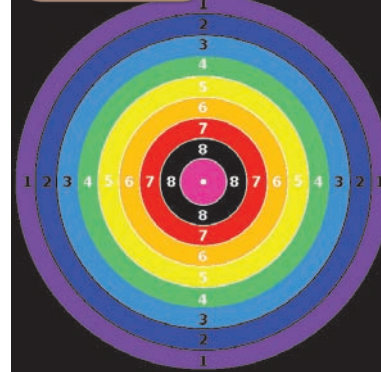
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Mother-in-law

Solution on Page 22

Across

- 1 Y.M.C.A., e.g.
5 Type of father Rober
Reed played
9 Madea cross-
dresser Perry
14 In the pink
15 Greek queen of heaven
16 ___ Cologne
17 First name among
lesbian poets
18 Auth. unknown
19 Emulated Neil
Patrick Harris
20 Samantha's husband
on *Bewitched*
23 "___ Enchanted
Evening"
24 Owl sound
25 He played 20-Across
on TV
29 Shakespeare's Puck, e.g.
32 Like Parminder
Nagra's parents
33 Diana of *Lady Sings
the Blues*
34 Lesbian opponent
of Wade
35 "Doggone!"
36 Sweetie pie
37 Salty, white stuff
from the Greeks
38 B'way hit sign
39 Deli side dish

- 41 More fruitless
43 Pro follower
44 He played 20-Across
in the movie
46 Cabaret singer Edith
47 ___ *Upon a Mattress*
48 She played Endora, the
mother-in-law of
20-Across on TV
54 It may be out on a limb
55 Positive sign
56 Bone shot, often
58 Make easy to swallow
59 *Desire Under the* ___
60 Trials and tribulations
61 Great balls of fire
62 Sally Ride's org.
63 Work your fingers
to the bone

Down

- 1 Mandy Patinkin's
Evita role
2 Cheryl of
Charlie's Angels
3 Wrist bone
4 Hairy guy's hide?
5 *Hairspray* scorer Marc
6 Equivalent of two fins
7 Boy who shoots
off arrows
8 Group of Greek gods
9 Oolong brewers
10 Cruise in style
11 Guitar of Shakespeare's
day
12 James Dean's *East of* ___
13 Cincinnati team
21 Painter Bonheur
22 Years on end
25 Performed, for Byron
26 Harden
27 PC drive insert
28 Kennel warning
29 Cara of *Fame* fame
30 Norman Bates' place
31 Jethrene Bodine's
mother
36 Like a suggestive blouse
37 Way out
39 Nothing-but-net
sounds, for Sue Wicks
40 *Kinsey* title role
portrayer Neeson
41 Williams of *Ugly Betty*
42 Rainbow shape
45 Open discussions
46 Pears or Paige
48 Biters of Marc
Antony's girlfriend
49 Excess supply
50 *You've Got Mail* female
51 Earthenware jar
52 The younger Guthrie
53 "Limp Watches" painter
57 Fashion initials

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