

dallas voice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | Dallas

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‘Small Town,’ **big music**

Brandy Clark comes to Fort Worth
by Jonanna Widner, Page 14

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2017 BENEFICIARIES



Please join us in congratulating the 2017 Black Tie Dinner Beneficiaries!
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Suicide and Crisis Center of North Texas
The Trevor Project

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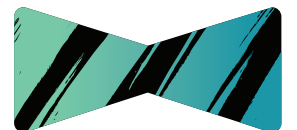
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Brandy Clark performs
at the 2015 Grammy Awards.
Photo by Omar Vega, Invision/AP

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Mayor proclaims April 26 as LGBT Youth Homelessness Awareness Day



Mayor Mike Rawlings

WHEREAS, up to 40 percent of youth experiencing homelessness identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT); and

WHEREAS, LGBT youth experience homelessness because of being forced to leave or running away from their homes due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression; and

WHEREAS, we must all agree that no youth should be homeless, no matter our individual differences in personal beliefs and ideologies; and

WHEREAS, there are youth in our communities who are experiencing homelessness due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression; and

WHEREAS, many cities in our nation are vowing to fight this injustice; and

WHEREAS, the LGBT rights movement has made great progress over the years though the fight for inclusion and equality is still alive today; and

WHEREAS, on this special occasion, we must bear in mind that while together we have overcome difficult obstacles, we must practice tolerance and continue to teach it our future generations; and

WHEREAS, those that have found authenticity living in their truth carry the responsibility to help others do the same.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL S. RAWLINGS, mayor of the City of Dallas, and on behalf of the Dallas City Council, do hereby proclaim Wednesday April 26, as

LGBT YOUTH HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS DAY in Dallas, Texas.

— David Taffet

'A Very Sordid Wedding' adds more Dallas screenings

A Very Sordid Wedding had its Dallas debut April 21 at the Texas Theatre, and added more screenings over the weekend, in addition to two more this week. They have all been sell-outs, so the Texas Theatre has already added more dates, through May 4. The dates/times are; Sunday, April 30 at 6 p.m.; Tuesday May 2 at 6 p.m.; Wednesday, May 3 at 7 and 9:20 p.m.; and Thursday, May 4 at 6 p.m.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Victory Fund endorses 2 local candidates

The Victory Fund, a Washington-based organization that provides campaign, fundraising and communications support to LGBTQ candidates to increase the number of openly LGBTQ elected officials, endorsed two local candidates — Omar Narvaez and Johnny Boucher.

Narvaez is running for Dallas City Council. He's in a crowded race for the District 6 seat currently held by Monica Alonzo, who is running for her fourth term. Six people are on that ballot in that race, including Linus Spiller who is also gay and has run for that seat in previous elections.

Narvaez is a former president of Dallas Stonewall Democrats, whose endorsement he received. Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance also endorsed Narvaez. He currently serves on the Dallas County School Board.



Omar Narvaez

Boucher is a Dallas ISD teacher who is running for Grand Prairie ISD school board. Dallas Voice ran a profile of the candidate earlier this year.

Early voting began on Monday, April 24 and runs through May 2. Election Day is May 6. Runoffs in races where no candidate receives at least 50 percent of the vote will be held on June 10 with early voting from May 29 through June 5.

— David Taffet

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THE GAY AGENDA

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

- **Weekly: Lambda Weekly every Sunday at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM.** This week's guest is **Portia Cantrell** from the Gray Pride Prom; **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.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews.

APRIL

- **Through April 30: National Black Trans Advocacy Conference**

The National Black Trans Advocacy Conference and Awards Gala is an educational and empowerment event, attended by 300 trans and gender non-conforming individuals, family, friends, allies and corporate partners from across the country. Marriott Quorum, 14901 Dallas Pkwy, Addison. BlackTrans.org.

- **Through May 1: Purple Party Weekend 2017**

Dallas Purple Party 2017, presented by Purple Foundation, continues with Pump! the Welcome Mixer on Friday from 4-8 p.m. at Aloft Hotel, then the Ignite Opening Party from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at S4, continues Saturday with the Rise Pool Party from 1-7 p.m. at Sisu Uptown and

the Purple Party Main Event from 10 p.m.-5 a.m. at South Side Music Hall, followed by the Refresh Sunday Brunch from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Aloft Hotel and Revival Tea Dance from 1-7 p.m. at The Nines, and concludes with Glow Closing Party from 9 p.m.-4 a.m. at the Hall of State at Fair Park. For information and tickets visit PurpleFoundation.org.

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

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce presents its Business Excellence Awards at its Celebration of Excellence Dinner. Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 N. Stemmons Freeway. GLBTChamber.org.

- **April 28: Women's Business Conference**

The Dallas Regional Chamber hosts the 21st annual Women's Business Conference with keynote speaker Judy Smith at 8 a.m. at Hyatt Regency Dallas, 300 Reunion Blvd. \$99 members, \$250 nonmembers. DallasChamber.org.

- **April 29: An April Arts Salon**

April is Arts Month in Dallas. The Turtle Creek Chorale and Bruce Wood Dance Project present An April Arts Salon with The Women's Chorus of Dallas, Uptown Players, the Cathedral of Hope Choir, and others at 7:30 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. \$25. AnAprilArtsSalon.Eventbrite.com.

- **April 29: Operation Kindness Clinic**

Operation Kindness no-kill animal shelter partners with Pets for Life and the city of Carrollton to host a pet health clinic, from 10 a.m.-noon at the Crosby Recreation Center, 1610 Crosby Road in Carrollton, offering microchipping and city licenses to low-income pet owners, along with spay and neuter humane education. For information call 972-247-1369.

- **April 30: Operation Kindness Hope Gala**

Dinner and entertainment by Ricki Derek and his six-piece band from 7-10 p.m. at Sambuca, 2120 McKinney Ave. OperationKindness.org.

- **April 30: Miss Big Thickette**

Nelda Pickens hosts as members of the Turtle Creek Chorale dust off their wigs



It's Purple Party Weekend in Dallas, and the fun lasts until the wee hours of Monday morning. For details, see the listings. (Photo by Chuck Marcelo)

and paint their faces to compete for the coveted title of Miss Big Thickett from 7-10 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Benefits Prism Health North Texas, formerly AIDS Arms. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

MAY

- **May 2: Resource Center tour**

CEO Cece Cox leads a behind tour from 11 a.m.-noon at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

- **May 2: Lunch and Learn**

Alain Ruvuga, who immigrated from Burundi, discusses the political situation in central Africa from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 7900 Northaven Road.

- **May 4: StayProudBeLoud**

Miller Lite and the Matthew Shepard Foundation present "StayProudBeLoud," a hate crimes awareness program in two parts. Judy Shepard, mother of anti-gay hate crime victim Matthew Shepard, will share her story during a community round-table including representatives from the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, the FBI and community organizations, at 3 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Shepard will also speak at an event emceed by Wayne Smith from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. 100. See more on Page 11.

- **May 4: Brewing Up Business**

North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce networking at 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Zephyr, 4001 Cedar Springs Road.

- **May 4: Outrageous Oral**

Mica England talks about her lawsuit against the Dallas Police Department, Maj. Barbara Hobbs talks about the department today at 7 p.m. at The Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. TheDallasWay.org.

- **May 5: Cinco de Mayo**

Bloomin Ball's Cinco de Mayo celebration benefits AIDS Interfaith Network from 4-7 p.m. at TK Dallas, 1919 McKinney Ave. #1056.

- **May 5: Cinco de Mayo Oh Myyy!**

Mr. and Miss Charity America present the Cinco de Mayo Oh Myyy! show, benefitting the Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network, Rhonda Mae's Wall of Food and Tucker's Gift, at 8 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. Features Miss Charity America 2017 Jazzmin St. James D'Monaco, Mr. Charity America 2017 Preston David Pickett and a host of friends.

- **May 5-6: Contemporary Relationships 2017**

Equality Texas hosts its fourth annual conference on strengthening LGBTQ relationships in Houston, with keynote address by Harville Hendrix, Ph.D., and Helen LaKelly Hunt, Ph.D. For information and tickets visit ContemporaryRelationships.com.

- **May 5-7: Grace Project**

Largest conference for women living with HIV. Westin Park Central, 12720 Merit Drive. Register at LegacyGraceProject.org.

- **May 5-7: Titanic — The concert version**

Uptown Players and the Turtle Creek Chorale present the concert version of the Broadway musical Titanic on Friday and

Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m.
at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St.
\$15-55. TurtleCreekChorale.com

• **May 6: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)**

Playdate open to all interested golfers, starting at 10 a.m., Sherrill Park Golf Course 2, 2001 E. Lookout Dr., Richardson. \$55.00. DSGADallas.org or email info@DSGADallas.org for information.

• **May 6: House of DIFFA: Arabesque**
Celebrate fashion and design at DIFFA's annual black tie gala including silent and live auction, seated dinner and runway show at 6 p.m. at Omni Hotel, 555 S Lamar Street.

• **May 7: Pre-needs planning**
Free educational seminar and dinner. Funeral and cremation pre-planning from 5-7 p.m. at El Fenix, 6811 W. Northwest Highway. To reserve a seat, contact Scottlynd Colgrove at 214-398-8133 or scolgrove@lincemetery.

• **May 10: Lambda Legal Spring Mix and Mingle**

• **May 10: The ABCs of LGBTQ**

The Transgender Council of Cathedral of Hope present a non-religious event at 1 p.m. at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

• **May 11: Federal Club women's event**
Visit DFWFederalClub.org or email co-chairs@dfwfederalclub.org for details.

• **May 12: DFW Pride Happy Hour**
Texas Instruments sponsors the gathering from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• **May 13: Lambda Legal women's event**
For information call 214-219-8585.

• **May 13: Strutt Your Mutt**
SPCA event to end animal cruelty. Festivities begin at 7:30 a.m. 5K at 8:30 a.m. 3K walk/run at 9:30 a.m. Trinity Groves. \$35.

• **May 13: Gray Pride Senior Prom**
Fifty Shade of Gray Pride is the theme of the prom for anyone 50 and older from 7-11 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. \$10.

pet of the week / ITTY BITTY

Itty Bitty is a 7-year-old, brown-tabby-and-white domestic shorthair mix. He's a small guy, weighing only 4 pounds, but his heart is big. He was surrendered to the SPCA of Texas because his previous owner developed allergies to him. He is a total lovebug and adores having his head and neck scratched. Itty Bitty has been neutered, microchipped, tested negative for FeLV and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. He is positive for FIV, but he can still live a long, happy life; he'll just need to be the only kitty in the home, or will need to live with other FIV-positive kitties. His adoption fee is only \$50. #86693

Itty Bitty 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. Sunday-Wednesday and noon-7 p.m. Thursday-Saturday. 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 free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.





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Black Tie announces 2017 beneficiaries



LGBT families recently spent a day out at North Texas Jellystone Park, an event organized by first time Black Tie Dinner beneficiary Rainbow Roundup. (Courtesy Marcia Stuhler/Love Is Love Photography)

A family organization, two crisis prevention lines and a youth agency are added to the mix

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Black Tie Dinner released its list of 2017 beneficiaries this week, and while one organization from last year is not on the list, four new ones have been added.

The Women's Chorus of Dallas was dropped from the roster of beneficiaries; new agencies added are Big Brothers Big Sisters, Rainbow Roundup, Suicide and Crisis Center of North Texas (SCCenter) and The Trevor Project.

Although Trevor Project is a national organization, earlier this year it opened a Dallas office.

Lambda Legal, another national organization that has been a Black Tie beneficiary for years, maintains its South Central regional office in Dallas.

Funding from Black Tie Dinner to local organizations must remain in the Dallas area, but that shouldn't be a problem for The Trevor Project.

"A large majority of the LGBTQ young people we serve contact us from southern states, including a significant number from the state of Texas," said Steve Mendelsohn, interim executive director of The Trevor Project. "We are incredibly grateful for the support of the Black Tie Dinner, and the funds raised at this event will help us to expand our ongoing Southern Initiative to amplify the programs and services of the Trevor Project to all who might need our help."

Rainbow Roundup is an educational and social organization for LGBT families. Founder Kimberly Kantor, who has two children, created the group in 2012 with 19 people. Today more than 1,700 people are involved.

Kantor said her group helps connect families to resources and support. Events have included trips to zoos and museums, swim parties and picnics.

She said her group's Black Tie proceeds will go toward events, promoting visibility "and to provide more services to more families."

Black Tie Dinner Co-chair Nathan Robbins said he was excited to have a family-oriented beneficiary among the mix for the first time in the dinner's history. He also noted that Rainbow Roundup is based in Collin County, and a Black Tie goal has been to expand into that market.

Neither Big Brothers Big Sisters nor SC-Center are LGBT organizations, but both hope to provide more services to the LGBT community.

Big Brothers Big Sisters has launched programs with PFLAG, and "A good chunk of the youth they serve are LGBT," Robbins said.

SCCenter runs a hotline for people in crisis or having suicidal thoughts. They hope to use Black Tie funds for additional training for all support staff on LGBT issues and for marketing to enable them to do more in the LGBT community.

"We're excited about this partnership," Robbins said.

Scheduled for June 3 is the new Black Tie Brunch. The price for tickets is being finalized, but the event will be held at the Crescent Court Hotel.

Robbins said he expected to sell 125 to 150 tickets to the event, which is underwritten by Mindy Berkson and Morgan W. Cox III. Because of that underwriting, all money from ticket sales should go toward beneficiaries.

Robbins said he expected some form of entertainment at the brunch.

"We've been talking about it, and this is something we've been wanting to do for a number of years," he said.

He said the inaugural event would have a lower price point than the dinner, so he hopes to attract some people who are priced out of attending the dinner.

The first announcement of this year's Black Tie Dinner entertainment will be at the Sneak Peak event on Aug. 25. The winner of this year's Kuchling Award and speakers or entertainment who have been signed by that time will be revealed then, too.

Until then, Robbins said, Black Tie is looking for sponsors and for silent auction donations. With the selection of beneficiaries, raffle ticket sales have begun, and table captain sales are getting under way. ■

A mother's story

Activist and advocate Judy Shepard coming to Dallas for hate crimes awareness event

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Judy Shepard was your typical mom from Middle America — right up until the day her son Matthew was beaten, tied to a fence and left to die in Laramie, Wyoming on Oct. 6, 1998.

On that day, Matthew Shepard became perhaps the most well-known anti-gay hate crime victim in the country, if not the world. And Judy Shepard started down a path that led her to become one of the most well-known anti-hate crimes activists in the world.

Matthew was a student at the University of Wyoming in Laramie in 1998. On the night of Oct. 6, 1998, he met Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson when all three

were out at the Fireside Lounge. McKinney and Henderson offered to give him a ride home.

Instead, McKinney and Henderson drove Matthew to a remote area out in the countryside where they proceeded to rob him, pistol-whip him and torture him before tying him to a fence and leaving him there to die. News reports at the time focused on the brutality of the beating, noting that the thin young man's face was covered almost completely in blood — except for where his tears had washed streaks down his cheeks.

Matthew was discovered some 18 hours later by a passing bicyclist, who at first thought he was just a scarecrow. He had fractures to the back of his head and in front of his right ear, and had suffered extensive brainstem damage that impaired his body's ability to regulate his heart rate, body temperature and other vital functions. Doctors said he was too severely injured to undergo surgery.

Matthew Shepard died six days later, at 12:53 a.m. on Oct. 12, never having regained consciousness.



Judy Shepard, left, and Ellen Kahn speak at a Human Rights Campaign event in 2014.

Matthew Shepard's murder put his parents, Judy and Dennis Shepard, in the spotlight nationwide. And while that spotlight was a new and uncomfortable experience for them, they chose to step forward and turn their grief into action in an attempt to combat the kind of hate that had killed their son.

Judy and Dennis Shepard formed The Matthew Shepard Foundation in 1999, and Judy Shepard served as its founding president and as its executive director through

2009. She remains president of the board.

In 2007, Judy and Dennis were present when Congressman John Conyers and 171 co-sponsors introduced the federal Matthew Shepard Act that would have expanded federal hate crimes statutes to include anti-LGBT crimes. Despite widespread popular support, then-President George W. Bush announced he would veto the measure if it passed, and Congress defeated the bill.

STORY, Page 11

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More to worry about than bathroom bills

The Texas Legislature considers allowing the religious 'right' to discriminate and whether to limit a city's ability to write ordinances

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Equality Texas categorizes anti-LGBT legislation currently being debated in Austin into four categories — religious exemptions, bathrooms, local control pre-emption and specific exemptions.

Bathroom bills have gotten the most attention during this session of the legislature. SB6 easily passed the Senate, which Speaker of the House Joe Straus derided and then buried in an unreceptive committee.

But Republicans in the House of Representatives offered their own version, and Deanne Cuellar, spokeswoman for Equality Texas, said the House version may be even more insidious than the original bill, because it pretends to not discriminate against the trans community.

"There's no metric for what is acceptable discrimination," she said.

Those offering the bill point to removing any mention of birth certificates and gender identity as improvements to the Senate version. But that might allow the bill to actually discriminate against even more people.

The House version also includes local control pre-emptions that would invalidate nondiscrimination ordinances such as the ones in place in Dallas, Fort Worth and Plano.

Cuellar worried that even if the bill is not voted out of committee, the measure's provisions could be tacked onto other bills as amendments, and said she and the staff, field team, fellows and interns working with Equality Texas won't rest until the session is over.

For months, Gov. Greg Abbott stayed silent on Texas' bathroom bill. Now Abbott's all-in, making the prospects for Texas blocking its own cities and school districts from instituting transgender-friendly policies on public restrooms suddenly bright — even with barely five weeks left before the legislative session ends May 29.

Abbott promised to cooperate with state lawmakers to "get a bill to my desk that I will sign into law."

Local control

Equality Texas is also worried about other bills that would restrict

a city's ability to protect its own citizens. Cities like Dallas have extended protection to all citizens based on gender identity and sexual orientation. Austin protects students from housing discrimination, an issue important to that city, but not to the other cities or the state in general. Grand Prairie, Mesquite, Arlington and others protect their LGBT city employees from employment discrimination.

Under the "home-rule charter city" provision of the Texas Constitution passed in 1909, Texas gave cities with a population of more than 5,000 broad discretion in making local laws. Restrictions proposed by the current legislature could inadvertently restrict everything from a city's ability to set local speed limits to eliminating these nondiscrimination ordinances.

RFRA

Religious Freedom Restoration Act or RFRA laws would remove the requirement to prove "substantial burden" and allow anyone to claim religious reasons as the right to discriminate against LGBT people.

For example, a florist would have to prove that selling flowers to a same-sex couple would be a substantial burden to his business. Since selling flowers is what a florist does, selling flowers to any particular couple isn't a substantial burden.

Under the proposed RFRAs — and Cuellar said a number of RFRA bills have been

proposed — the florist wouldn't have to prove any particular burden. They could just claim selling flowers to same-sex couples is against their religion.

Equality Texas points out that this argument was used in the 1960s by people who wanted to ignore the Civil Rights Act.

Sanctuary cities

This week, the Senate held hearings on SB4, the sanctuary cities bill, a solution to a problem that doesn't exist because Texas has no sanctuary cities.

The measure compels state and local police to help enforce federal immigration law. It even allows for criminal charges against sheriffs and city or county officials who intentionally refuse to comply with attempts to deport people in the country illegally who already have been jailed on crimes unrelated to immigration.

The Senate already approved the bill, which has been bitterly opposed by immigrant rights groups, civil liberties organizations and top Texas sheriffs.

The bill's author, Sen. Charles Perry, R-Lubbock, accused local sheriff departments in major cities of "perpetuating instability."

In an Op-Ed piece in the Austin American-Statesman, Sheriff Lupe Valdez, along with sheriffs from Travis, Harris, Bexar and El Paso counties, argued that his bill would cause instability by preventing sheriffs from doing their jobs.

"Immigrants who are here are significantly less likely to commit crimes," Valdez and the other sheriffs wrote.

The sheriffs argue that crime victims and witnesses should feel safe reporting crime to police and sheriff departments.

"We cannot drive crime victims and witnesses into the shadows without undermining local public safety," they argued.

The FBI found that sanctuary cities actually have lower crime rates for all crimes including homicide. So solving the "problem" of sanctuary cities, like bathroom bills protecting people from attack by transgender people, something that's never happened, is a solution in search of a problem. ■

Just before Dallas Voice's press deadline on Thursday, April 27, the Texas House tentatively approved its version of the sanctuary cities bill, including a provision that allows local peace officers to question the immigration status of people they legally detain.

Will Weissert with Associated Press contributed to this story.



Dallas Sheriff Lupe Valdez



But on Oct. 22, 2009 — 11 years and 10 days after Matthew died — Congress passed comprehensive hate crimes legislation named in honor of him and James Byrd Jr., the Jasper, Texas man killed in a horrific anti-African-American hate crime in June 1998. Judy Shephard and members of Byrd's family were on hand six days later, on Oct. 28, 2009, when President Obama signed the legislation into law.

On Thursday, May 4, Judy Shepard comes to Dallas to participate in StayProud-BeLoud, a hate crimes awareness program presented by Miller Lite and the Matthew Shepard Foundation. She will participate in a community roundtable at 3 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road, along with representatives from the Dallas County District Attorney's Office, the FBI and community organizations. She will share her own story and participate in a question-and-answer session.

The event continues at a happy hour at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. 100, from 5:30-7:30 where, organizers said, "the same material will be covered but in a much more light-hearted manner." Judy Shepard will also speak at this event, which will be em-

ceed by Wayne Smith.

Even with hate crime laws in place, bias-based crimes continue to plague this country and have, according to some sources, even been on the increase over the last year-and-a-half, thanks in large part to Donald J. Trump's fear-mongering, racist, anti-immigrant, anti-woman and anti-LGBT presidential campaign and the first 100 days of his administration.

According to the most recent FBI statistics available, 5,850 hate crimes were reported in the U.S. in 2015. Of those 56.9 percent were motivated by bias based on race/ethnicity/ancestry; 21.4 percent by religious bias; 18.1 percent by anti-lesbian/gay bias; 2 percent by anti-transgender bias; 1.3 percent by disability bias and 0.4 percent by gender bias.

Transgender people, especially transgender women of color, have been targeted in ever-more-alarming numbers in recent years. In 2016, a record 27 transgender people were murdered. At least seven trans women have been murdered this year.

And a string of attacks in the Oak Lawn area that began in early September 2015 remains unsolved, leaving the community angry and on-edge. ■

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■ commUNITYvoices

Anger, love and a bridge

I was in my 20s, and I was angry. Angry that my then-girlfriend got involuntarily recalled into George W. Bush's Operation Iraqi Freedom. Angry that she was forced to fight and potentially die in a war that neither of us supported. And angry that even with all that, she couldn't get married because she was gay.

I was so angry when I saw the footage on CNN of how police were corralling protesters like cattle in orange work-zone fences that I got in my car and drove 2,000 miles to New York to protest Bush and the 2004 Republican Convention, alongside hundreds and thousands of people.

I was so angry in 2005 when Rick Perry chose to hold his anti-gay and anti-abortion bill-signing ceremony at Calvary Cathedral International in Fort Worth, completely ignoring the separation of church state. And I was even angrier when, as I was protesting outside the church, a white heterosexual male told me to quieten down and "let's get Perry to tackle my issue first, and then we'll work toward yours."

I was so angry that in 2006, when my graduate professor AnaLouise Keating introduced the class to Gloria Anzaldúa's ideas of *nepantla*, the spaces in-between, and *nepantleras*, those who travel between and bridge worlds together, I tuned her out before she could even speak.

Why would anyone want to build bridges when the whole world was falling apart? It was us-against-them. And I was with us.

I was angry in 2008 when I met Candace — a woman that even my vivid imagination couldn't dream up. Love doesn't necessarily tame anger, and I was still angry when I married her in 2016.

I was angry that my parents were right —



Brandi Amara Skyy
Contributing Columnist

that the pendulum always swings backward with just as much force (if not more velocity) than it had going forward.

Angry that we're still — in 2017! — having to shout to the world that #BlackLivesMatter, #Brown-

LivesMatter, #TransLivesMatter and #WaterIsLife.

Angry that even members in our own queer community can still be racist assholes and drop the "N" word like it's the 1950s. (And angry that I can't drop kick them every time I hear it.)

So when, during the April 21 episode of DVTV in Spayse, Tammye Nash asked, "How do we even begin to coexist with the other side? How do we do that?" I couldn't help but internally add the caveat: Especially when I, and the world, are still so angry.

But attempting to coexist doesn't mean we have to erase, deflate or douse the flames of our anger with some Pollyanna kumbaya bullshit. What it does mean is that we have to become conscious and cognizant of where we place our anger and onto whom and — most importantly — how we chose to funnel that anger.

And that's what Dr. Keating was trying to teach me in her U.S. Women of Colors class. She wasn't asking me to give up my anger; she was trying to show me that where I only saw one way, there were multiple ways. She wanted to show me that I could funnel my anger into hate and blame, or I could funnel

it into trying to understand and make connections.

She was trying to show me how to be a bridge for my community instead of a being a ladder for myself.

If love can build a bridge, then anger can steel its place in the resistance.

And we need bridgers, just as much as we need radical revolutionaries and pacifists. We need both/ands instead of being forced to choose either/or.

We need those who work with the system and those who want to dismantle it because the answer (as it always is) is somewhere in the middle.

But in order to see that answer, we need to be able to stand in the center, surrounded equally by all sides. In order to understand, to connect, to coexist, we need a bridge.

But the bridge we offer isn't our back; it's our work. It's our words. It's our art. It's our ear. It's our understanding. It's our love.

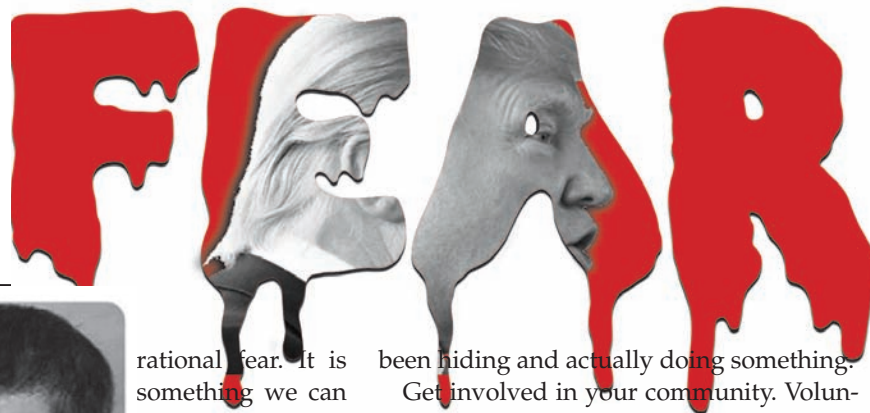
And love, especially when you fall in it, opens portals inside you that allow you to see the world in dimensions no one ever told you existed. Where anger opened my heart to extreme empathy, Candace's love opened my eyes to extreme possibilities — the biggest one being myself.

As we gear up to celebrate Candace's birthday on Sunday, I am reminded that sometimes the most important bridges we need to build are the one's we build with ourselves. She taught me that. It was a revelation and an evolution I would have never been able to come to if not for her, for love, and yes, even for my anger.

Happy Birthday Candace; I love you. ■

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.

Facing



It was not the kind of reaction I expected.

I had written what I thought was an opinion piece on the new administration's attitudes toward LGBTQ people and how we needed to be extra vigilant to preserve what advances we have made in securing our rights. I don't get a lot of personal responses to my writing, but this time was different. This time, I got a very heated response that gave me pause.

It was not from a conservative defending Trump and his cronies, but from someone who I know is a genuine "bleeding heart" liberal. (I consider that term as a deep compliment, by the way.) And what he was upset about was the lack of a hopeful message in what I wrote, the lack of something reassuring to those of us in the LGBTQ community who are frightened.

I believe he expected me to help calm the nerves of people who rightfully might be afraid that things could go badly for us, and very soon.

Since he is a friend, I answered, telling him that I was merely expressing a valid fear and backing it up with several points that were disturbing. It was not my job to make readers feel safe and calm, after all.

That was several weeks ago, and since then I have thought long and hard on the subject, so I decided it was only fair to try to understand his point of view.

Today, things have not changed much with regard to the Trump presidency (a phrase that still makes me vomit in my mouth a little when I say it). What has changed is my attitude — and that's what this is about.

Fear is a powerful emotion, and it has been successfully used as a tool, a weapon and a tactic by the Right, especially the "Alt-Right" (aka Neo-Nazis and white supremacists). They use it because it has been proven successful.

Fear drives people to do irrational things, and voting for Trump is just one example.

Fear led us to rescind some of the basic rights on which our country was founded. Fear made us suspicious of our fellow Americans simply because they wear a head scarf or turban.

Fear made our fellow citizens afraid of being served by waiters who were gay because of the false idea that AIDS could be spread by simply touching food. Fear led legislators to pass ridiculous laws about bathrooms and gym showers.

The world can be a scary place sometimes. That is the truth, and I won't sugar coat it.

But fear is not an absolute, especially ir-



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

rational fear. It is something we can embrace and take into ourselves, or we can reject it. It is ultimately our choice which path to take.

We can simply be pawns in the game, or we can take control of our emotions and change the rules. We can turn the energy we waste being fearful into energy we use fighting back. We can create action instead of reaction. We can do *something* instead of doing *nothing*.

We can fight the fear on the most basic level, and we can inspire and motivate others to do the same.

It starts with getting involved. That means getting off your ass, crawling out from under the blanket fort where you have

been hiding and actually doing something.

Get involved in your community. Volunteer to help a political candidate who shares your views. Work with a social justice organization to bolster existing protections. Give to social and political causes that resist the growing nationalistic trend.

Share your opinions and concerns with your elected officials by attending town halls and demanding meetings when those same officials try to hide. Lobby your relatives; influencing their opinions is easier than influencing politicians and, in the long run, more effective for you. If you are really energetic, run for office, especially one that has been unopposed for too long.

Finally, take to the streets in organized peaceful protests if the situation warrants.

Will any of this instantly change things? No.

Because the world is not a video game where you can hit "reset" and have things get back to normal. These are not normal times.

But we can get busy to make a difference. Most of all, taking action reminds us that we are not powerless. Feeling powerless is a perfect way to fall prey to fear. Your action might not seem to make a difference at first, but after a few weeks I know you will not feel so afraid.

You might feel angry, frustrated and exhausted, but you will also feel accomplished. You will have taken a small measure of control back from that fear, and in doing so, you will be able to see reality clearer than ever.

You might also just change the world. ■

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBTQ activist and a board member of the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.

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Perhaps more than any other genre, country music can provide a showcase for a songwriter's chops. Take, for instance, Brandy Clark. The 41-year-old Washington State native started her career in a band she and her mom formed when Clark was just a teenager. She briefly traded the stage for the court when she devoted herself to her college basketball team (she was a shooting guard), but the siren-song kept calling. So she put hoops behind her.

"I remember telling my coach I was gonna quit," she says during a recent phone conversation. "I told him and left. And I bought a new guitar on the way home."

Clark has been crafting country music ever since. And when she takes the stage at the Live Oak Music Hall in Fort Worth on Saturday with rising star Charlie Worsham at her side, fans will be treated to someone who is well on the way to mastering her craft.

As a songwriter, Clark stands alongside names like Reba, Barbara Mandrell and Kacey Musgraves (with whom she collaborates frequently). As a performer, she can make even the drabest concert hall shake like a backwoods party barn. But it wasn't always like that.

"I moved to Nashville thinking I was a really great songwriter and realized I wasn't," Clark says. "I needed to get better. I wrote a lot of bad songs. Then some good songs. Then some great songs. Then I got a publishing deal."

The deal was no magic bullet. Clark still had to keep her day job, and her songwriting sensibilities — influenced by the Patsy Cline, Merle Haggard and Loretta Lynn records her parents used to play — weren't quite in line with the exaggerated pop focus of modern Music Row.

"People I saw who were successful had different priorities than me," she says. "My priority has always been to write

great songs. I'd love to write somebody's 'Crazy.'"

She almost gave up. "I wrote for years and years," she says. "I started to think maybe as an artist it's not gonna happen for me."

But in the meantime, she wrote or co-wrote some of the best songs of the modern country era. Songs like “Mama’s Broken Heart,” which Clark co-wrote with frequent collaborator Shane McAnally (with whom she co-composed *Moonshine: That Hee-Haw Musical*, which debuted at the Dallas Theater Center in 2015) and Musgraves, which became a hit for Miranda Lambert; Reba McEntire’s “The Day She Got Divorced” and Wade Bowen’s

"Songs About Trucks." Clark and Musgraves also collaborated on Musgraves' "Follow Your Arrow," an open-minded, open-hearted tune that cemented Musgraves in the f country, alongside the likes of pson and Chris Stapleton.

Clark wrote her first album, a stunner called *12 Stories*, but nobody would pick it up. Finally, Jim Burnett of Slate Creek Records (based in Frisco) signed her. "About the time I had given up, that opportunity presented itself," Clark says. "It's amazing how fast I was right back in it."

The highlight of *12 Stories* is “Stripes,” a saucy, hair-tossing foot-stomper in which a pissed-off woman debates revenge on her cheating partner. *I hate stripes and orange ain’t my color / And if I squeeze that trigger tonight / I’ll be wearin’ one or the other*, she sings. The song is quintessential Clark — heartache with a twist, a smart look at the harder edges of life.

"I think historically, country has been truth-telling music," she says. "It's the adult format about real truths. When you hear the greats like Merle and Dolly, the great singer-songwriters, you hear that."

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■ **GIRL**, Page 20



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Lito's way

'Sense8' actor Miguel Angel Silvestre on working with the iconic Wachowskis and celebrating gay Pride in Brazil ... in (or out?) of character

Netflix's soapy sci-fi series from Lana and Lilly Wachowski, *Sense8*, revolves around a telepathically-connected group of strangers called Sensates. Located all over the world, these diverse individuals can see and even teleport via their fellow Sensates' minds to help each other, especially when avoiding the dangerous enemy Whispers, who is determined to track the Sensates down.

Handsome Spanish actor Miguel Angel Silvestre plays one of the Sensates — Lito, a gay actor in Mexico City who went from hiding his relationship with boyfriend Hernando (Alfonso Herrera) during the first season to being publicly outed in December's *Sense8* Christmas special. May 5 welcomes the global debut (and, surely, binge-watching session) of *Sense8* Season 2.

Silvestre, who previously co-starred in Pedro Almodovar's *I'm So Excited*, discussed the upcoming season, which will see the Sensates — including Nomi, a San Francisco-based lesbian transgender blogger/hacker played by Jamie Clayton, as well as native North Texas Brian J. Smith — come together for plenty of action, thrills, and perhaps even another one of those famous polysexual orgies.

— Lawrence Ferber

Dallas Voice: How do you connect most with Lito as a character? Silvestre: When I first started working as an actor, I did a role, and the character was very cool. It was my breakthrough in Spain, and when I was doing interviews, I was scared to not be as interesting as the character was. Now I'm becoming comfortable with who I am, and the result in the end is better. So I can understand Lito in



Silvestre and Smith shared a kiss at gay Pride in Brazil... but was it in character or for real?
(Photo by Murray Close)

that sense — to be perceived onscreen as the perfect man, masculine, heterosexual. That's why his performances were all very false. Lito's facing a new era of his life, and he's accepting his darkness, his light, and it will make him more real and have more meaningful relationships and performances as an actor.

Lito's career seemed to be in jeopardy by end of the Christmas special since he refuses to pretend to be straight anymore. How will that play out? Lana wanted to be very real about what would happen to someone like Lito, so we'll see he's being more authentic with himself and live great moments, and at the same time a lot of things in his life will go to hell. The best of Lito and worst of Lito.

And how will things go with Hernando now that they don't have to hide their relationship? With the relationship, beautiful things will happen, but at the same time when you face Lito not having work, that makes a huge change in how you behave when your dream goes away. There will be many surprises.

Episode 6 this season will feature a highlight when Lito and Hernando go to gay Pride in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Photos and videos leaked of the entire *Sense8* cast there, actually, with lots of making out and you

kissing Brian J. Smith as well! Can you talk about shooting that? Lana wanted to mix reality with fiction, and the show is very famous in Brazil. So she hid some cameras in public in the actual LGBT parade, and she made me do a speech. Some people didn't know whether it was Lito or Miguel saying the speech, but it was so beautiful the way they reacted. Everything was happening like written in the script. I'll always remember it. Brazilian people are very generous and passionate. It was impossible to keep cool!

During production of Season 1, Lilly Wachowski was still male-identified and went by the name Andy. Were you surprised when she came out as transgender last March? I was surprised, if surprise would be that I didn't know. I always have a lot of admiration for people who follow what they really believe and feel, regardless of the system. I see it as a very positive thing when somebody can connect their hearts and desires with their minds. There's no contradiction. You get the most authentic, loving person when somebody is not in conflict. For me, [Lilly's announcement] was something to celebrate, it was a beautiful thing, but I didn't know anything when we were shooting

■ LITO, Page 20

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Blurred lines

Octavio Moreno navigates mariachi opera's geographical and generational divides



Octavio Moreno, above, plays the younger and older versions of his character to a score played by live mariachis, opposite, in FWO's 'Cruzar.'

Opera strikes many as a somewhat haughty affair. The word alone evokes images of impeccably dressed ladies and gents, a full orchestra tuning instruments before house lights dim and costumed divas start belting out arias in a foreign language. And a lot of times, that's absolutely the case. But the Fort Worth Opera is challenging some of these notions with its production of *Cruzar la Cara de la Luna* (*To Cross the Face of the Moon*), a contemporary bilingual opera with an unexpected twist.

"Basically, I think that what makes [Cruzar] different from other operas is that instead of an orchestra, we use a mariachi band," baritone Octavio Moreno says. By "band," Moreno means the world-renowned Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán, a full mariachi ensemble including guitars, violins, trumpets, a harp and, yes, native costumes. "Aside from that, it's [still] storytelling by singing."

Moreno uses words like "passion" and "home" to describe the emotionally-charged show that addresses squarely (and timely) the topic of immigration. But he also cautions that "it's tough to use single words to describe it." In *Cruzar*, Moreno plays an elderly Texas immigrant with two families — one in the U.S. and one he left behind in Mexico. The character's dying wish is to reconcile the two. Some

of his progeny, of course, are more willing than others to cross the geographical and cultural boundaries. The story, according to Moreno, is not an uncommon one.

"My first reaction when we began rehearsing was 'Oh my God! This would be a good movie!'" Moreno says. "It's [about] things that happen on a daily basis. You definitely know someone — or you know somebody who knows someone — who has been through this."

Moreno, a Houston resident, has publicly performed the piece, which the Houston Grand Opera commissioned and premiered in 2010, roughly two dozen times. While most of the productions have taken place in the Southwest, Moreno has performed it as far away as France. Indeed, it was while performing in Paris that Moreno began to understand the broader nature of the opera's themes. In a riverside café, patrons recognized the *Cruzar* cast (a moment which Moreno says made him feel like a "rock star") and began recounting their local immigration stories. The familiar tales were evidence that immigration concerns are not exclusive to the southern border of Texas.

"It's not only U.S. and Mexico," Moreno says. "It's all over the place. People need these stories. Be it a desert or a river or a sea, [there are] many, many unimaginable things people go through just to get a

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For Moreno, the most appealing — and simultaneously, the most challenging — aspect of his role as Laurentino is the opportunity to play the character as a grandfather. It is a stage in life the 35-year-old actor/singer has yet to experience and one he strongly desired to depict convincingly. To prepare himself for the task, Moreno carefully studied photos of his late paternal grandfather. He also spent several afternoons with his maternal grandfather to observe the older man’s walk, speech patterns and movements.

“The young Laurentino is in his teens,” Moreno, who plays Laurentino both past and present, says. “Midlife, he is in his 40s. That is not so complicated [for me]. But being a grandfather is a challenge. It still is every time we do it. I still have to go back to my notes and review that and use a mirror to portray the physicality and the weight of the body and the strength of an old man.”

Moreno recalls a passion for mariachi music since childhood. When he was 5 or 6, his grandfather would ask him to sing a mariachi song each morning before school. Moreno says his fondness for the style of music made him “weird” in his community, where other regional types of music were more popular. In college, Moreno knew he wanted to study music, especially

mariachi. The thought of performing opera, however, never crossed his mind.

“I wanted to sing mariachi music in the old-fashioned way and then sing properly,” Moreno says. “That was my goal. Eventually my voice teacher got me [to sing] opera. He was very smart. He used songs he knew I was going to like and that were going to help me develop my vocal technique.”

It seems Moreno, with his strong love for both mariachi and opera, was destined for the role of Laurentino. Oddly, Moreno says he has never considered the convergence of his professional passions in that light. He does, however, consider the role a turning point in his career as a mariachi singer.

“I had quit twice as a mariachi performer,” Moreno says. “[After *Cruzar*,] I got a few gigs singing only mariachi music. I got to meet the best mariachis of the world. A few of them became very good friends of mine. I made my first mariachi CD with them.”

Though *Cruzar* lacks gay characters or themes, Moreno feels the opera has the power to touch everyone who sees it, including members of the LGBT community. This, perhaps, is the secret to the show’s success. The subject matter transcends race, religion and sexual orientation.

“Aside from the fact that Laurentino was married, [nothing] in the story has sexual



intonation or connotation whatsoever,” Moreno, a straight man who married his high school sweetheart, says. “It doesn’t matter what your beliefs are or what your likes are. The fact is that this immigration problem is with us. It can touch anybody.”

As for the future of immigration policy, Moreno is hopeful.

“Things can happen,” Moreno says.

“Things have happened throughout history. Different cultures have been separated by whatever you might [imagine]. Eventually nature or whatever it is comes to a full circle, and everything works the way it is supposed to work.”

For now, however, the struggle continues.

— Scott Huffman

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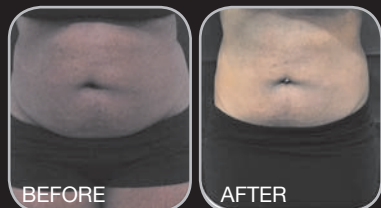
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■ GIRL, From Page 16

12 Stories was nominated for several Grammys and CMA awards, clearing the path for Clark's follow-up, *Big Day in a Small Town* — an album that follows the stories of small-town characters like the hairdresser, the football hero, the homecoming queen. Full of cocky rockers, *Big Day* takes on the country tropes of disappointment, heartache and big dreams in a little place, all with a refreshingly defiant backbeat. Clark's small-town sadness often comes out as bad-assedness. *If you want the girl next door*, she sings, *go next door*.

Even the requisite C&W pain comes with phrases that turn on a dime. *Since*

you've gone to Heaven / The whole world's gone to hell she sings in "Since You've Gone to Heaven," a song about a woman whose husband just died.

"I loved heartbreak songs long before I even had my heart broken," Clark explains. "You know, like Patsy Cline — she had such an ache in her voice that most people have somewhere in their heart that they don't get to express."

Also nominated for a couple of Grammys, *Big Day* stands as a rarity in the pantheon of sophomore efforts. It's smarter, sharper and sassier than its predecessor — which itself was darn good — and also marks a new level in sophisticated songwriting.

That's not to say that kind of cerebral approach will be worth a whit at the Fort Worth show. When asked what fans can expect when she takes the stage, Clark has a simple answer. "Country music. The one thing you're gonna take away is it's a really good time."

It's pretty much the only answer she needs.

— Jonanna Widner

■ LITO, From Page 17



Season 1.

On this season, Lilly took a break, leaving Lana in charge. How were things different with just one of the Wachowski siblings in control? We missed Lilly a lot. It was so beautiful to see how two geniuses work together. They say that Lana is the balloon that wants to fly high and Lilly was the person holding the balloon so it wouldn't get lost. Lana is very creative, and had a lot of support from many people, for instance David Mitchell [who wrote the *Cloud Atlas* novel] writing the show with her. Lana did a great job. I have excitement to see what came out — if there are any differences. Definitely we missed Lilly's energy, but I don't know how that will be reflected in the show.

Have you ever felt as connected to someone as the Sensates do to each other? Well, I guess the closest I have been connected to has been my mom. Sometimes out of telepathy I think about her and she calls me right away without knowing!

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Friday 05.05 —
Sunday 05.07

Chorale and Uptown Players join forces to sink the 'Titanic'

The Tony Award-winning musical *Titanic* has nothing to do with James Cameron's 20-year-old film, other than the subject matter. But as a musical, it's ripe for a large chorus. That's why Uptown Players and the Turtle Creek Chorale are co-presenting this concert version of the show, for one weekend only. Get that sinking feeling all over again.

DEETS: City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. From \$40. UptownPlayers.org.



Sunday 04.30

Come out for Drag Brunch at Cedar Grove Sunday

It's Drag Brunch time at Cedar Grove again, with Jenni P hosting, but there's something different: Dallas Voice is co-sponsoring the event. Tickets remain for the 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. seatings, but the 12:30 p.m. is already sold out. Come out and for \$35 enjoy a three-course and a show. And say hi to us.

DEETS: Cedar Grove at the ilume, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. CedarGrove-Dallas.com.

Saturday 04.29

Dan Savage's Hump! porn fest returns to Dallas

There are international film festivals and gay film festivals and Asian film festivals... but how about a porn festival? Dan Savage's 12th annual floating adult-movie festival Hump! returns to Dallas this weekend, with a slate of shorts and documentaries filled with nudity, kink and out-of-the-mainstream moviemaking. What else would you expect from Dan Savage? Runs for one day only.

DEETS: The Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. 6:30 p.m. HumpFilmFest.com.



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calendar highlights



Uptown Players and the Turtle Creek Chorale present a concert version of the musical *Titanic*. Pictured, from left Chapman Blake, Laura Lites, Tom Grugle, James Williams, Chris Ramirez and Lois Sonnier Hart and Seth Womack, front center. (Courtesy Uptown Players/Mike Morgan)

ARTSWEEK THEATER

Electra. DTC artistic director Kevin Moriarty has adapted Sophocles' tragedy for an outdoor experience just as in ancient Greece, with the audience intimately involved in the production. Abbey Siegworth takes on the title role. Annette Strauss Square (beside the Winspear Opera House), 2403 Flora St. Through May 21. Start time will be after sundown (8:30 p.m.). DallasTheaterCenter.org.

The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord. A metaphysical comedy about religion and personalities throughout history. WaterTower Theatre, 15650 Addison Road. Through May 7. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Let It Be Me. Theatre Britain continues its final season with this tale of a caretaker for her senile aunt whose life is complicated when she falls in love. *Final weekend.* Cox Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Theatre-Britain.com.

Straight White Men. A father deals with his three sons — two successful, one not so much — in this modern comedy. Presented by Second Thought Theatre. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through May 6. 2TT.co.

Susan and God. The 1937 stage version of one of the film Joan Crawford made at MGM. Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle.

Through May 14. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Disney's The Little Mermaid. The charming stage adaptation of the movie musical, written by Dallasite Doug Wright. Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Through May 14. CasaManana.org.

OPERA

Norma. Bellini's classic of the bel canto canon, about a doomed Druid priestess in Ancient Gaul. *Reviewed this week.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through May 7. DallasOpera.org.

Fort Worth Opera Festival. The performances continue. See feature story on Page 18. Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through May 7. FWOpera.org.

this week's solution

H	E	D	D	A	C	R	E	E	K	A	L	E	G
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browse

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

submit

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Roger Ebert's camp classic 'Beyond the Valley of the Dolls' screens Tuesday at the Magnolia Theater. See listings for details.

FINE ART
Mexico 1900–1950: Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, Jose Luis Orozco and the Avant-Garde.

A magnificent exhibition of nearly 200 works showcasing the impressive diversity — from realism to cubism to surrealism and even film — of Mexican art in the first half of the 20th century. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through July 9. 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. Through June 25. CrowCollection.org.

FESTIVALS
37th Scarborough Renaissance Festival. The annual faire that takes you back to 17th century Europe features vendors, performances and cosplay. Scarborough Faire Grounds, FM 66 in Waxahachie (exit 399B off I-35). Weekends through May 29. SRFestival.com.

FILM
USA Film Festival. The 48th annual event concludes this weekend, with screenings and appearances by Nancy Cartwright, Mary Lynn Rajskub and more. Angelika Film Center at Mockingbird Station. Through Sunday. USAFilmFestival.com.

FRIDAY 04.28
COMMUNITY
Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

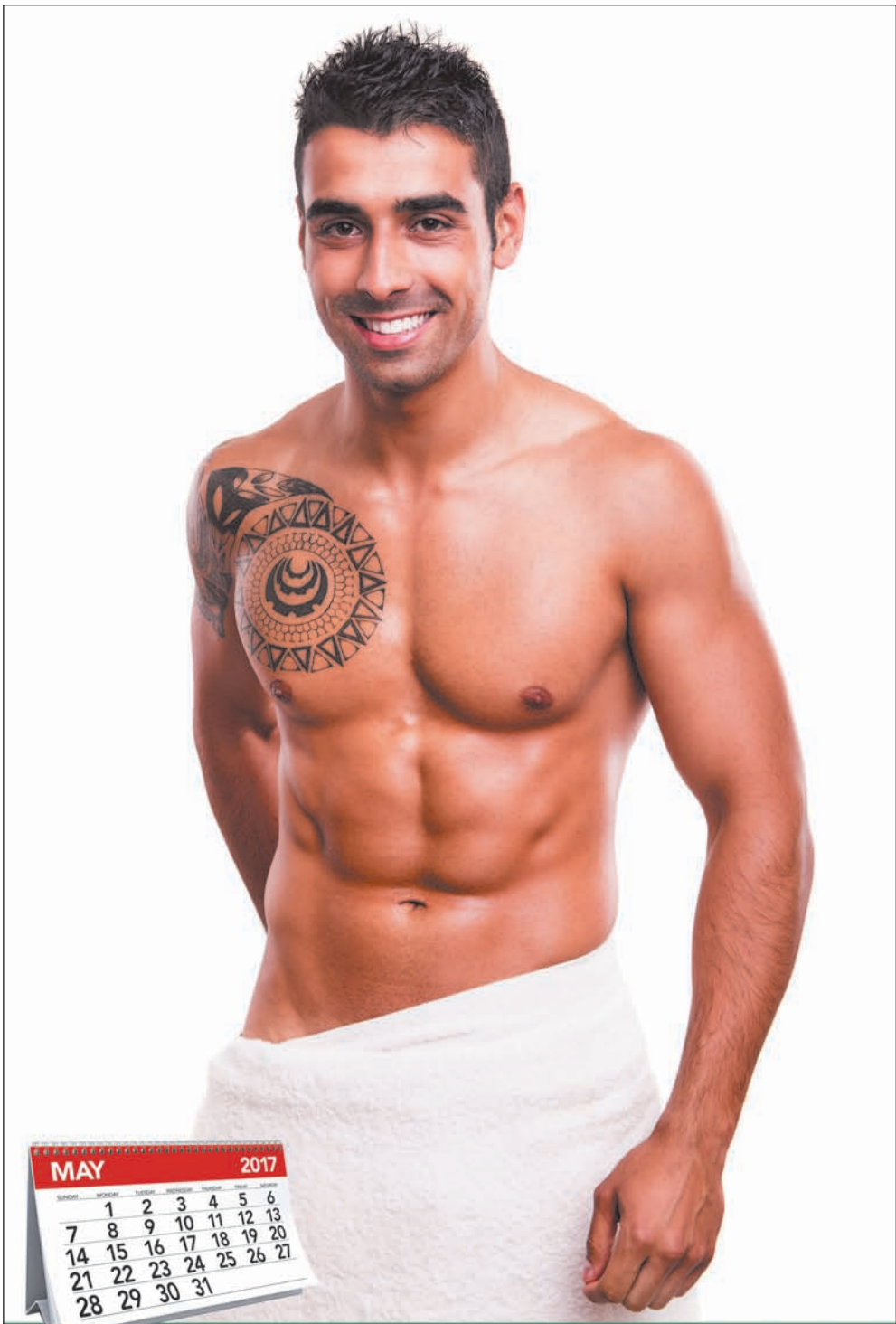
SUNDAY 04.30
CONCERTS
Bill Maher. The politically savvy comedian performs, in the make-up concert following his last-minute cancellation in January. Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. 7:30 p.m.

MONDAY 05.01
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 05.02
FILM
Beyond the Valley of the Dolls. Roger Ebert wrote this camp classic, a sequel to another camp classic. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theater in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY 05.04
CABARET
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.

FRIDAY 05.05
THEATER
Titanic. The Turtle Creek Chorale and Uptown Players reunite for this concert version of the Tony Award-winning musical as a special add-on to both seasons. City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. May 5–7. UptownPlayers.org.



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Cassie Nova

On ugly babies, moms and exes

The past few weeks have been an amazing whirlwind of fabulousness. Between Easter in Lee Park and the Texas premiere of *A Very Sordid Wedding*, I have been a busy party girl and I have a couple of quick stories to tell you about each one.

First, picture it: Easter Sunday. My friends and I got together as a big group to hang out, people- and puppy-watch and have a few cocktails. We took our two Pomeranians, Sunny and Riley. This was Riley's first big day out, and he was having a blast with all the different sights and smells — so many people to say “hi”

to and hands to lick, not to mention the endless barrage of butts to sniff.

My friend Justin brought about 150 Jell-O shots that he insisted we down quickly in fear they would melt. We found an out-of-the-way spot to set up our base camp. We were all having a blast. Eventually my poor Riley finally got tuckered out. He decided to plop down and rest. He was on his leash, right in front of me, just sprawled out. He is all of maybe five pounds, so he takes up no room at all.

That's when this festively-dressed guy — red blazer, blue bowtie and the prisiest loafers I have ever seen — comes through the middle of our little area, pushing a baby carriage with what I am assuming to be his wife a few feet behind him carrying a diaper bag. He stopped it in front of Riley and expected my dog to move. Riley could not be bothered. It was funny to me, but he just stood there waiting for me to force

my dog to move. I would have, if the guy didn't have like 10 feet on the other side of my pup. I laughed at how adorably stubborn my pooped-out pup was being and said “Sorry, he's tired.” Then I said “It's like he is telling the world, ‘Go around me, bitches.’” I giggled, he backed the stroller up and turned and walked away.

A full 10 minutes go by when the Mr. Metrosexual comes back over to me, this time carrying his baby. He walks up and says, “You better watch who you call bitch!” I laughed because I thought he had to be kidding. Coming up on me with his wannabe badass attitude while literally using his baby as a shield. I told him to calm down — it was a joke. He said something like “That's what I thought,” and pranced on with his ugly baby in tow. (I know we are never supposed to call babies ugly, but we have all seen them. They exist. They are out there.)

I was completely flabbergasted. It took me a minute to realize what had just happened. I looked around to my group of friends and just shook my head. I don't think any of us thought he was being for real. Who in the hell would come over and try to pick a fight while holding a baby? He had to take the kid out of the stroller and come all the way back over to where we were just to get an attitude. But if I punch the guy with the baby, I'm the asshole. Other than that kind of hilarious moment, the day was one of the best days ever.

Last week, I attended the Texas premiere of *A Very Sordid Wedding*. It was a really big deal for me. I invited my mother to attend. My mother and I have had a very turbulent past. First she finds out I'm gay, then she finds out I'm a drag queen. Neither of us have handled every situation the best. When she first found out I was gay, there was a lot of Bible talk. We didn't go to church a whole lot, but suddenly everybody could quote passages to me. As many of my fellow Southern gays can attest, this is the unfortunate norm. I struggled with my faith and being gay, and when many of the people I love told me that basically, “You are going to hell” — well, it can fuck with your head.

So, Momz and my fabulous Aunt Tammy were asked to come see me in this movie that has a wonderful message of love and acceptance. I warned her that I would be attending in drag, and she said OK. My mom had not seen me in drag in over 20 years. I think over the years, she has just come to grips with what I do for a living. The great thing about taking her to see the movie the other night was that she got to see how well-liked, even loved, I am by my community. I felt like a fucking superstar on the red carpet and being asked to take pictures with so many people. I noticed my mom standing over with my husband and my aunt with a look of pride on her face.

My mother-in-law and my two sisters-in-law were there as well. I have never felt anything but love and support from those three awesome ladies, but it was a new feeling to have that from my own blood relatives. We sat and watched the movie — for the record, it's even better than the original. It was cool to hear my mom and Tammy laughing as hard as every-



body else.

Near the end, there is a great scene where Bonnie Bedelia's character, Latrelle, gives a heartfelt sermon where she says so many things that hit close to home. In that moment, that was my mother on the screen. I looked over at my mom and she was crying. I put my arm around her, and we shared a very beautiful moment. If you have seen the movie, you know why, if you have not seen it yet, please do — super funny with a lot of heart. I truly believe my mother and I have turned a page in our relationship, for the better. It was a wonderful night.

Ok enough about me.

Dear Cassie, So my ex texted me, saying he will be in town and would like to introduce me to his new boo. I haven't seen or talked to my ex in five years. Why would someone do this? What is the point? I told him that I have prior engagements and can't make it. Is that taking the high road or the low road? Either way, I want to keep the past exactly where it is. Sincerely, Dazed/Hazed/Confused.

Dear DHC, Grrrl, don't give him and his new man a second thought. It seems to me that he just wants to rub his new life and his new “wife” in your face. If y'all haven't spoken in five years, then why start now? You have moved on, he has moved on, but seems like he has something to prove. Y'all are exes for a reason, and since y'all have not kept in contact, don't open old wounds.

Continue to have prior engagements; if he persists, just be honest with him and say it's not going to happen. No hard feelings, but you just don't want to see him. Sometimes the right thing to do is to keep that door closed. Keep moving gaily forward and live your drama-free life ... if there is such a thing. Good luck.

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



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- **Cedar Springs Wine Walk** at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Alexandre's: Three Drunk Monkeys** on Friday. **No Label** on Saturday. **K-Marie Broadway** on Tuesday. **Chris Chism** on Wednesday. **So Strung Out** with **Spencer West** on Thursday.
- **BJ's NXSt!:** A night full of Latin flair on **Fiesta Wednesdays**.
- **Cedar Grove: Drag Brunch** emceed by **Jenni P** at 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Resident smartass, **Jason Warren**, kicks off **Geeks Who Drink Pub Quizzes** on Tuesday.
- **Club Changes: The Divine Miss Divas Show** at 10 p.m. on Friday. **Wall of food Show** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection: King Of The Rodeo candidate** event at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle: United Court of the Lone Star Empire** presents the **CPR Ball** from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday and **Match Game** benefiting **GDMAF** from 6-10 p.m. on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill: Cassie's Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Rainbow Lounge: Illusions of Rainbow** show at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon: Miss Big Thickette 2017** at 7 p.m. on Sunday. **Mis Gay Texas USofA New-comer Pageant**, Monday through Wednesday.
- **S4: Tasha Kohl** show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Sue Ellen's: Lauren Alexander** on Saturday. **Bella & Darla** at 3:30 p.m. followed by **Marisela** on Sunday.
- **Two Corks and a Bottle: Show Tune Night** from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon: Rick & Phil's Bon Voyage Show** benefits **Wall of Food** at 7 p.m. on Sunday.

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



The golden eagle is one of the birds featured in the Birds of Prey show at Scarborough RenFest

HRC Federal Club Mixer



Photos courtesy Paul Jantz



Patio time at Dallas Eagle



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Out and about on The Strip



Good times at Woody's Sports & Video Bar



The new Miss Gay Fire & Ice State At Large Jade Cochran and first alternate Diamond Alexander Serell Brooks, left, and Miss Gay Fire & Ice State Carmella Dubuque and first alternate Kristie Onassis Dupree were crowned April 23. The state pageant is Labor Day Weekend in Waco at Club Connect.



Jenna, left, and Asia, above, at S4



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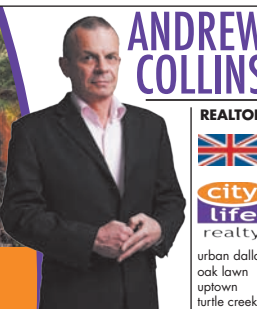
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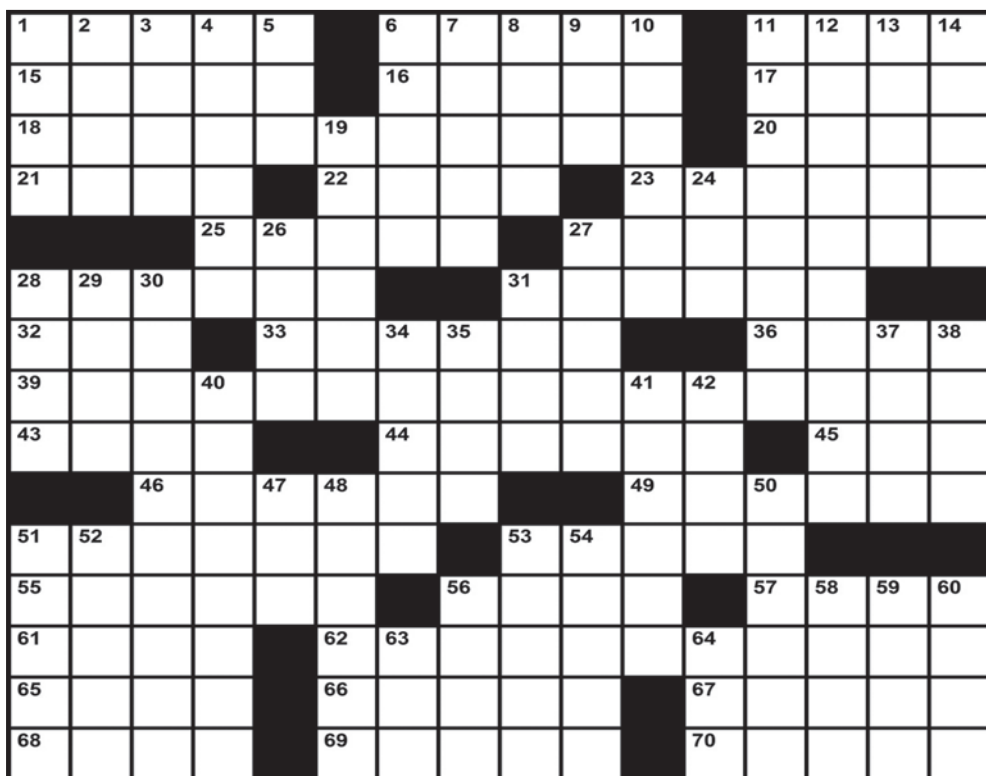
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q-puzzle



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Solution on Page 22

Across

- 1 Drag queen ____ Lettuce
6 Dawson's, in teen TV drama
11 Break it on Broadway
15 Oral performances
16 Primary blood carrier
17 Novelist Patricia ____ Warren
18 Out Pentatonix singer
20 Handle a shrew, for Shakespeare
21 Sexy clothing material
22 "Don't Look ____ That Way" (Cole Porter)
23 Potbelly, and others
25 Endora portrayer
27 Sawbucks
28 Used the Divine Miss M's name in vain?
31 Jeremy Irons role as a pope
32 Lines at checkout? (abbr.)
33 Medical research monkey
36 For-skin cream ingredient
39 Pentatonix cover of a Freddie Mercury song that went viral
43 Give ____ to (approve)
44 White water site
45 Virginia Woolf ____ Stephen
46 Pulling out of the closet?
49 Rock Hudson's *Winchester*, et al.

- 51 Lubricant containers

- 53 Prefix with vitamin
55 The Spanish one was huge
56 Pound sound
57 De Matteo of *Desperate Housewives*
61 Top target
62 Out Pentatonix singer
65 ____ *The Woods*
66 Gung-ho
67 *Amadeus* star Tom
68 One who gazes at crystal balls
69 *Bewitched* aunt
70 Go lickety-split

Down

- 1 Top-remover Mia
2 Buffalo's lake
3 Morse clicks
4 Country houses, to Nureyev
5 It hangs from your butt
6 Montmartre menu
7 Travels aimlessly
8 Highland dialect
9 Heteros, on PlanetOut?
10 *The Gay Metropolis* writer Charles
11 Willa Cather character, and others
12 Go from the bar without a partner
13 Recipient of Bugs' kisses
14 Sharon of *Queer as Folk*
19 1982 biopic with Ian Charleson

- 24 "Star Trek: ____"

- 26 Word after wheat, for granola lesbians
27 Singer Reagon
28 OJ portrayer Gooding
29 Second word of fairy tales
30 Bill, to Hilary at Yale
31 Tupperware sound
34 Makes money the old-fashioned way, to John Houseman
35 Unforeseen difficulty
37 River of Hirschfeld's country
38 Davis pair in *Feud*
40 Cam Tucker, on *Modern Family*
41 Brewer Coors
42 Exam for jrs.
47 Abe Lincoln's boy
48 Bad way to come
50 Emulate half of the Odd Couple
51 Wet spot on a blanket of sand
52 Cara of *Fame*
53 Online stat exaggeration?
54 A lot up front?
56 Madonna taught this in *The Next Best Thing*
58 Get under the skin of
59 Suffix with prefer
60 Like finer wine
63 James Dean's *East of Eden* role
64 Grateful cries for one who satisfies

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