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LIFE+STYLE

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- **Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m.** on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. This week's guest is state senate candidate **Mark Phariss; 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 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **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 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **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 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasussquares@gmail.com; **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, 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; **Gray Pride** support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

DECEMBER

- **Dec 30: Game Night**
Food drinks and games provided for Tyler Area Gays Game Night from 6-9 p.m. at Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce, 315 N Broadway Ave. #100, Tyler. 903-312-2081.

• Dec. 31: New Year's Eve

- **Dec. 31: New Year's Eve @Nerdvana**
AMD sponsors a New Year's Eve party @Nerdvana, 5757 Main St., No. 112, from 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

- **Dec. 31: NYE event to benefit HELP**
Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., hosts a New Year's Eve party with a portion of proceeds benefitting the Health Education Learning Project (HELP). The event includes a show at 10 p.m. featuring Laganja Estranja, Gia Gunn, DJ Adam Joseph, Raquel Blake and Chanel LaMasters. General admission is \$20; admission to the meet-and-greet is \$10. VIP tables on the stage are \$150; tables off the stage are \$100, and all tables include a bottle of champagne and party favors.

JANUARY 2018

• Jan. 1: Happy New Year

- **Jan. 2: Classic Chassis Car Club**
Monthly Tire Kick and Dinner. Love of old cars required, not ownership to attend at 7 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

- **Jan. 3: Wine Walk**
Cedar Springs Merchants Association presents the monthly first Wednesday Wine Walk. Buy glass in front of the Round-Up Saloon from 6-9p.m.

- **Jan. 8: Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats**
Monthly meeting with Ag Commissioner candidate Kim Olson speaking at 7 p.m. at Tommy's Hamburgers, 2455 Forest Park Blvd., Fort Worth.

- **Jan. 11: PFLAG Dallas**
PFLAG meets the second Thursday of every month from 7-9 p.m. at Northaven United Methodist Church, 11211 Preston Road. 972-849-0383. PFLAGDallas@outlook.com.

- **Jan. 12-15: DSGA hosts Sin City Classic**
Different Strokes Golf Association hosts the golf portion of the Sin City Classic in Las Vegas. The two-day tournament one-day fun round takes place at Bali Hai Golf Club. Pricing and info at SinCityClassic.org. Early registration ends Dec. 15.



- **Jan. 13: Celebration church's 25th anniversary**
Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave. in Fort Worth, celebrates its 25th anniversary as a church with a party in the new Rev. Carol A. West Community Center. The celebration includes dinner, dancing and a cash bar, and tickets are \$50 each. For information visit Celebration-Community-Church.com or call 817-335-3222.

- **Jan. 18: Toast to Life mixer**
From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Zatar Lebanese Tapas Bar, 2825 Commerce St.

- **Jan 20: Slumber Party 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.

- **Jan 20: Stonewall Goes Hollywood**
Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats holds a fundraiser, Stonewall Goes Hollywood with QCinema founder Todd Camp speaking at 7 p.m. at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. Tickets at

tarrantstonewall.org/hollywood. \$50.

- **Jan 23: Senior Services Program listening session**
Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano hosts a program on the city's senior programs from 10-11 a.m. at Catholic Charities of Dallas Brady Center, 537 S. Hall St.

FEBRUARY

- **Feb. 8: PFLAG Dallas**
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.

- **Feb. 10: Love Equality**
Benefit for Equality Texas at 8 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd., Suite 107.

• Feb. 14: Valentine's Day

- **Feb. 17: Gold Medal 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.

• **Feb. 17: Krewe to Cure Arthritis-Mardi Gras Ball**

From 6-11 p.m. at The Hall on Dragon Street, 1500 Dragon St.

• **Feb. 20: Early voting begins**

Early voting for the March primary runs Feb. 20-March 2. Vote at any early voting location in your county.

MARCH

• **March 4: The Women's Chorus of Dallas**

TWCD performs with TWU and DISD singers at 7:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. TWCD.org.

• **March 6: Democratic and Republican primaries**

Vote in your precinct polling location only.

• **March 8: PFLAG Dallas**

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 17: Leprechaun 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 23-25: Turtle Creek Chorale**

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents Anthems, the songs that shaped the movements, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

• **March 24: Green Tie for Green Haus**

The Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas event benefits Shared Housing Center from 7-10 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd. www.GLFD.org/greentie.

APRIL

• **April 7: No Tie Dinner**

Benefits AIDS Services Dallas from 7-11 p.m. at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. \$75-150.

• **April 12: PFLAG Dallas**

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 21: Gaybingo of Oz**

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 25: Woman to Woman luncheon**

Jill Biden is the keynote speaker at the Jewish Family Services luncheon at 10 a.m. at Hyatt Regency Hotel, 300 Reunion Blvd E.

Tickets at jfsdallas.org/woman.

MAY

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.

• **May 11-14: Purple Party**

• **May 13: Mother's Day with**

The Women's Chorus of Dallas TWCD performs at 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. at Texas Discovery Gardens, 3601 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.

• **May 14: First day of early voting**

Early voting for the primary runoff election runs May 14-18. Vote in any early voting location in your county.

• **May 19: Marvel vs. DC 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.

• **May 22: Primary runoff election**

Vote in your precinct polling location only.

JUNE

• **June 2: Bloomin Ball**

Benefits AIDS Interfaith Network from 6 p.m.-midnight at Renaissance Dallas Hotel, 2222 N. Stemmons Freeway.

• **June 8-10: Turtle Creek Chorale**

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

• **June 14: PFLAG Dallas**

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.

• **June 16: Waikiki 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.

• **June 23: Houston Pride**

40th anniversary celebration. Parade at sunset in downtown Houston.

• **June 30: Pride San Antonio**

Crockett Park

JULY

• **July 21: Orange You Glad It's 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..

AUGUST

• **Aug. 18: Geek Chic 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.

• **Aug. 25: Austin Pride**

SEPTEMBER

• **Sept. 9: Erev Rosh Hashanah**
Congregation Beth El Binah service begins at 7:30 p.m. at 11211 Preston Road.

• **Sept. 10: Rosh Hashanah**

Congregation Beth El Binah service begins at 10 a.m. follow by a catered luncheon at 11211 Preston Road.

• **pet of the week / JOHN COUGAR MELLENCAT**

Meet **John Cougar Mellencat**, a friendly, 6-year-old, buff-and-white tabby domestic shorthair mix that was transferred to the SPCA of Texas from The Cattery in Corpus Christi on Aug. 25 to evacuate from Hurricane Harvey. He is sweet, affectionate and loving. He adores being petted, especially on his head, ears and neck. He'll even grab you with his paw to ask for more attention. He's pretty quiet but has a playful side, too. Still, he is gentle when he plays and doesn't even use his claws. His dream home will have plenty of windows to look out, comfy beds to nap in and people who will give him lots of love. He has never been around dogs but would probably be ok with a laidback small-medium sized dog. He is positive for FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), a treatable but transmittable illness, so he'll need to either be the only cat in the home or live with other FIV positive cats. John Cougar Mellencat has been neutered, tested negative for FeLV, microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet him today! #156784

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The Trump Effect

Donald Trump campaigned on the promise to “Make America Great Again.” Since being inaugurated last Jan. 20, amid widespread allegations of Russian meddling in the election, the country’s 45th president has proven time again that his version of a great America does not include LGBT people — or people of color, or people of different ethnic or religious backgrounds, or immigrants, or, really, anyone who isn’t a rich, white, cisgender heterosexual.

Despite his half-hearted denials, it’s been crystal clear over the last year that Trump is a racist, a homophobe, a xenophobe and a misogynist, with probably a dash of anti-Semitism thrown in for good measure. And in what

some are calling The Trump Effect, it’s becoming ever

more obvious that those who once felt compelled to try and hide their own racism, homophobia, xenophobia, misogyny and anti-Semitism now feel empowered to put their hatred and bigotry out on proud display — as the white nationalist rally in Charlottesville in August clearly proves.

When, in mid-2016, Trump tapped notoriously anti-LGBT former Indiana Gov. Mike Pence as his running mate, it put the LGBT community on notice that a Trump presidency would not be friendly to our community. And once he was inaugurated, it didn’t take long for the administration to start straight-washing federal policies, programs and informational sites.

On Jan. 31 when Trump nominated Neil Gorsuch to replace the late Antonin Scalia on the U.S. Supreme Court, Gorsuch was on recording as saying that civil rights issues, like marriage equality, should be decided through elections or legislative action and had, in lower court rulings, signaled support for allowing “religious liberty” claims to outweigh civil rights.

Trump went on to nominate the supremely unqualified and anti-LGBT Betsy DeVos as secretary of Education and racist homophobe Jeff Sessions as attorney general, and he has continued to nominate other homophobes to positions of power within his administration.

In the first two weeks of his presidency, the Trump administration removed any policy stances or language regarding the LGBTQ community from official government web pages.

By the beginning of February, media outlets were reporting that Trump was set to sign an executive order that would allow employers, businesses, schools and even healthcare providers to refuse services to LGBT people on the grounds of religious freedom. While that executive order was never signed in that form, it signaled the administration’s

intent to do all it could to roll back the LGBT community’s progress toward equality.

the last 12 months have been a roller coaster for the LGBT community. Still suffering a grief hangover from Donald Trump’s unexpected victory in the November 2016 presidential election, when faced with the reality of his inauguration in January, progressives of all stripes stood up to fight back against what many see as a regressive and oppressive regime.

From the women’s marches that saw millions of people take to the streets of cities across the country on Jan. 21, to the Pride parades and marches in June and September; from the crushing results of 2016 election to the renewal of November 2018 when progressive candidates rebounded and at least openly-transgender candidates won office — we look back at six of the stories that shaped our world in 2017.

In February the administration rescinded the Obama administration’s federal guidance recommending equal treatment of transgender students in public schools, and by March 20, the Center for American Progress had discovered that the administration had removed all mention of LGBT people from the the National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants and the Annual Program Performance Report for Centers for Independent Living. A week later, reports leaked that the administration had canceled plans to add the LGBTQ community to the 2020 U.S. Census.

As more and more horrific reports leaked out of Chechnya that gay men were being abducted, tortured and killed by the government there, and by family members doing the government’s bidding, other world leaders spoke out to condemn the torture. But U.S. officials remained silent until April 17 when Nikki Haley, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, finally spoke up. Trump himself, however, still hasn’t condemned the torture and murders.

In May, Trump offered up a 2018 budget that proposed cuts to any number of programs affecting LGBT lives, including the Ryan White HIV/AIDS programs, the Centers for Disease Control and Planned Parenthood, while at the same time pushing relentlessly for Congress to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

In late May, DeVos told the House Appropriations Committee that states should get to decide whether schools receiving federal funds can intentionally discriminate against LGBT students. In mid-June, DeVos invited representatives from two anti-LGBT organizations, Focus on the Family and the Family Research Council, to speak at a Department of Education conference, the same day Pro Publica published contents of a DOE memo ordering the process for investigating civil rights complaints in schools to be rolled back.

During the eight years that Barack Obama was president, the LGBT community had grown accustomed to declarations from

the White House recognizing June as National LGBT Pride Month. In 2017, not only did Trump completely ignore Pride Month, he instead went out of his way to deliver a speech at a conference hosted by the anti-LGBT Faith and Freedom Coalition.

On June 30, Trump named Bethany Kozma — an infamous anti-transgender activist — as senior advisor to the Office of Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment at the U.S. Agency for International Development.

At the beginning of July, a year after the Obama administration announced that the ban on recruitment of and service by openly-transgender people in the U.S. military would end, Defense Secretary Mattis unceremoniously announced that ending ban on new transgender recruits would be delayed. And then, on July 26, Trump announced via Twitter that transgender people would be banned from serving in the military in any capacity.

He made the ban official a month later with a memo to the Department of Justice, and several advocacy organizations, representing transgender servicemembers, immediately filed suit challenging the ban. As of December, a federal court in Washington, D.C., had ruled against the ban, ordering the military to begin accepting transgender recruits as of Jan. 1.

On Oct. 5, AG Sessions reversed a federal policy protecting transgender employees from workplace discrimination. On Oct. 11, the National Park Services withdrew its sponsorship of New York City’s first permanent Pride Flag, at the Stonewall Inn, and canceled its planned participation in the flag dedication ceremony.

On Oct. 13, Trump outraged LGBT advocates when he became the Family Research Council’s anti-LGBT Values Voter Summit, and less than a week later, he added insult by speaking at the annual meeting of another rabidly anti-LGBT organization, the Heritage Foundation.

Just days later, the LGBT outrage jumped several notches higher when, in a profile on Pence, the New Yorker quoted Trump as joking with reporters not to ask Pence



about LGBT people because “he wants to hang them all.”

In late October, when the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the *Masterpiece Cakeshop* case — in which a Colorado baker is fighting under the banner of religious freedom for his right to refuse to bake wedding cakes for same-sex couples, in violation of Colorado state law banning discrimination — Trump’s Department of Justice weighed in on the side of discrimination, even filing a formal request to speak during oral arguments.

In early November, the U.S. Department of Agriculture posted a statement on its website supporting the discussion, display and distribution of religious materials on “same-sex marriage, gender identity and sexual morality,” by USDA personnel and those working in facilities inspected by the USDA.

And in December, the Washington Post reported that Trump had banned the Centers for Disease Control from using seven words — diversity, evidence-based, entitlement, fetus, science-based, transgender and vulnerable — from all documents dealing with the preparation of next year’s budget. The director of the CDC has denied those reports, but the rumors persist.

Just as he ignored National Pride Month completely, Trump made no mention of the LGBT community — one of the populations hit hardest by the HIV/AIDS pandemic — in this Dec. 1 World AIDS Day speech.

Even this exhaustive list does not include all the ways the Trump administration has targeted the LGBT community for discrimination. For example, LGBT people make up a significant percentage of communities that would suffer most from most of Trump’s pet issues — repeal of the Affordable Care Act, repeal of DACA and the recent passage of a so-called tax reform bill that will add more than \$1 trillion to the deficit.

But amid the anger, the fear and the hatred that the Trump Effect has unleashed on the country, there have been some shining moments — moments of resistance, of small victories, of hope. It started on Inauguration Day with riots in the streets of Washington, D.C., that, while destructive and frightening, were proof that people would not allow fascism to reign unopposed.

The very next day, millions of women and their allies took to the streets — in D.C., in cities around the country including Dallas and Fort Worth, in cities around the world — in a show of strength, in a show of resistance, in a show of power. In fact, what has been on one hand the Year of Trump has, on the other, been the year of the woman, as the #MeToo movement continues to gain strength and sexual predators and their enablers are being pulled from their seats of

power and influence.

And as the year draws to a close, Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller is closing in on Trump and those who have aided his rise to power. Trump campaign advisor George Papadopoulos has already pleaded guilty to making false statements to the FBI regarding contact with Russian agents and is cooperating with investigators. Former Trump campaign chair Paul Manafort and his business partner Rick Gates are under indictment on unrelated charges brought by Mueller, and former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn has been indicted and is cooperating with investigators.

More indictments are expected soon, and are expected to reach into Trump’s own family, even to the president himself.

— Tammye Nash

Transgender Americans: Battling back in 2017

Transgender Americans started 2017 knowing they would have a target on their backs, and the Trump administration wasted no time in showing just how big that target was. And yet, as the year draws to a close, the trans community is fighting back, with big wins at the ballot box offering the promise of better things to come.

Administration orders removing any mention LGBT people and issues from all federal policies, programs and polls affected the LGBT community as a whole. But there were many directed specifically at trans people.

The first volley in the war on transgender people came from the Trump administration on Feb. 22 when the federal departments of Justice and Education withdrew the landmark 2016 guidance issued by the Obama administration explaining how schools should protect their transgender students under Title IX. It was just the first of many such moves repealing or dismantling federal protections for transgender people and others in the LGBT community.

The DOJ in March refused to appeal a nationwide preliminary court order halting enforcement of the Affordable Care Act’s anti-discrimination protections for trans people, and abandoned its request, issued under the Obama administration, for a preliminary injunction halting enforcement of North Carolina’s HB 2. A month later, the DOJ dropped its suit against HB 2 completely.

Also in March, the Department of Housing and Urban Development removed from its website links to key resources telling emergency shelters how best to serve homeless trans people.

Then on July 26, Trump dropped a big bomb in the form of a tweet declaring that trans men and women would not be al-

lowed to serve in the military in any capacity, completely rescinding policy enacted the year before completely lifting the ban on military service by transgender people. A month later, on Aug. 25, he issued a memo directing the Department of Defense to go ahead with developing a plan to discharge trans people currently serving in the military and to continue its ban on recruiting trans people. A federal judge in Washington, D.C., has since ruled against the administration in a lawsuit brought by trans servicemembers and advocacy organizations, but the battle isn’t over yet.

On Oct. 5, the Justice Department released a memo instructing the DOJ to take the legal position that federal law does not protect transgender workers from discrimination, and a day later issued a sweeping edict allowing federal agencies and contractors to discriminate based on their personal religious beliefs.

And in December, “transgender” was included in a list of seven words that the Trump administration allegedly ordered the Centers for Disease Control not to use in official documents pertaining to next year’s budget.

And all that was just at the federal level. Here in Texas, right-wing forces in the Texas Legislature, led by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick focused intensely on passing some version of North Carolina’s anti-transgender bathroom bill, ignoring dire warnings from the state’s business leaders that doing so would hurt the Texas economy. Such was their zeal to punish transgender Texans, that other vital legislation — such as bills that would keep state agencies like the Texas Medical Board operating — were left to languish as Patrick and his minions retaliated against those blocking passage of the bathroom bills.

Thanks primarily to the conscience of Republican Speaker of the House Joe Strauss, bills that passed in the Senate never even made it to a hearing in the House, and the regular session ended without final passage of a bathroom bill.

But true to his word, Patrick had managed to block other important legislation out of revenge, forcing Gov. Greg Abbott to call a special session. And Abbott, playing to his own transphobic base, put passage of a bathroom bill on the special session agenda, too. Again Strauss and fair-minded Republicans in the House blocked the bill that passed in the Senate, refusing to back down before Patrick’s bully tactics. And against all odds, the 85th Texas Legislature adjourned without enacting a bathroom bill.

In another victory for the trans community, the city of Dallas in March added gender transition, including gender reassignment surgery, to its health insurance coverage

for its employees. But that progress paled in the face of the unprecedented wave of violence against transgender people in the United States this year.

As of Dec. 21, 28 transgender people — mostly trans women of color — have died violent deaths. Four of them died in Texas:

Kenne McFadden, 27, was murdered in San Antonio, her body found April 9 in the San Antonio River; Gwynevere River Song, 26, was shot to death at a relative’s house in Waxahachie on Aug. 12; Stephanie Montez, 47, was found shot to death in a Corpus Christi suburb on Oct. 21, and Brandi Seals, 26, was shot to death in Houston on Dec. 13.

More than 300 transgender men and women were murdered worldwide in 2017.

And yet, despite the violence — physical, spiritual, emotional and political — transgender women and men made great strides forward in the November 2017 elections, when at least eight transgender candidates across the country won their races.

The highest-profile trans candidate to win was Danica Roem, the first openly-trans woman to win a seat in a state legislature. Roem, a married step-mother of two, defeated long-term incumbent Republican Bob Marshall, the state’s self-proclaimed Chief Homophobe, for a seat in the Virginia House of Delegates.

But there were other trans candidates who victories were just as important. In Minneapolis, trans woman Andrea Jenkins and trans man Phillipe Cunningham were both elected to the city council. In Palm Springs, Lisa Middleton won a seat on the city council, making her the first openly-transgender candidate elected to a non-judicial office in the state of California.

Stephe Koontz won a seat on the city council in Doraville, Ga., population 10,000, by a six-vote margin. In Stamford, Conn., Raven Matherne became the city’s first openly-trans lawmaker by winning a seat on the city’s Board of Representatives. She is believed to be the first openly-trans lawmaker in the state.

Tyler Titus became Pennsylvania’s first openly-trans elected official by winning a seat on the Erie School Board. And in Somersworth, N.H., Gerri Cannon became the first openly-trans person elected to the school board.

— Tammye Nash

Putting the rainbow on the ballot

In the 1990s, the LGBT community was well represented on the Dallas City Council. At one point, three openly gay councilmen served at once.

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas grew to become the largest political club in Texas,

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spite that, Jess Herbst, mayor of the small town of New Hope, came out as transgender. And the big news there is that no one really seemed to care.

A reporter has attended every New Hope council meeting since Herbst announced her transition. Each meeting, the same thing happens: Nothing. The town's road commissioner sometimes slips up and calls Herbst by her former name. She just laughs it off and tells him not to worry about it. They've known each other 20 years.

Right now, she's the highest-ranking elected transgender official in the country. That changes on Jan. 1 when Danica Roem is sworn into the Virginia House of Delegates and two transgender city council members join the Minneapolis City Council.

In Texas, the election cycle for state and federal offices is long. Candidates for November 2018 elections had to register for the March primary by mid-December. Quite a few LGBT candidates are running for offices up and down the ballot.

For the office of governor of Texas, one lesbian and one gay man are among 10 Democrats running for their party's nomination.

Jeffrey Payne is a business owner with companies as diverse as a court reporting firm to the Dallas Eagle. He's well known in the community for his charitable work, including the Sharon St. Cyr fund that provides hearing aids for hearing-impaired individuals and provides grants to organizations for ASL interpreting services.

Sheriff Lupe Valdez is known well regionally and has some name recognition across the state as the country's only Hispanic lesbian sheriff. She's known for cleaning up Dallas County jails, bringing them up to federal standards. She's also known for Gov. Greg Abbott's attacks on her on the issue of sanctuary cities. She's an Army veteran and was a former agent for the Department of Homeland Security as well as four-term Dallas County sheriff.

Running for the U.S. House of Representatives are Lorie Burch in District 3 and John Duncan in District 6.

When District 6 incumbent Rep. Joe Barton was caught sexting, he decided to retire and the race blew wide open. Five Democrats are vying for their party's nomination, including Dun-

can, Prism Health's compliance officer. On the Republican side, 13 people jumped into the race. While the district leans Republican, none of the candidates running in the district that includes Ellis, Navarro and part of Tarrant counties are well known.

In Collin County, attorney Lorie Burch faces four Democrats for the nomination to replace Rep. Sam Johnson. One of her Democratic opponents is a candidate named Sam Johnson. Three Republicans are vying for the position as well. Republican state Sen. Van Taylor is among them.

Texas marriage equality plaintiff Mark Phariss is running for Taylor's Texas Senate seat. He has one opponent in the primary. The winner of that race will face either Philip Huffines, brother of state Sen. Don Huffines, who represents North Dallas and part of Oak Lawn, or Angela Paxton, whose husband is indicted Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.

Three LGBT candidates are running for the Texas House of Representatives from North Texas.

Veteran Democratic fundraiser and attorney Julie Johnson has one opponent in her primary for the District 115 nomination. If she wins, she'll face bathroom bill author Matt Rinaldi in November. In his last election, Rinaldi won by about 1 point after narrowly winning his primary. He's been no friend to public school financing in a district with some of the best public schools in North Texas.

Former Stonewall Democrats Secretary Jessica Gonzalez is challenging long-time incumbent Roberto Alonzo for his West Oak Cliff seat. The winner of the primary faces no challenger in November and wins the seat.

In Tarrant County, Finn Jones, a founder of the group TransCendence, has no primary challenger and will face right-wing Rep. Tony Tinderholt for the District 94 seat. Tinderholt is on record for wanting to jail women who have abortions. He made a name for himself as a defender of true conservative values in 2015 when he appeared with his fifth wife at a Playboy party.

—David Taffet

Into the storm

Hurricane Harvey, which made landfall near Corpus Christi in the early morning hours of Aug. 25 as a category 4 storm, was the first major hurricane to come ashore in the United States since Wilma in 2005. It is the costliest cyclone on record, having inflicted some \$200 billion in damage, mostly in the Houston area.

Although Harvey weakened fairly quickly after coming ashore, it settled in over the

Houston/Southeast Texas area where over the course of a four-day period it dumped up to, in peak accumulation areas, 60 inches of rain, while more widespread areas received up to 40 inches.

The storm caused catastrophic flooding in Houston and across Southeast Texas, leaving at least 89 people dead, billions of dollars in damage and more than 300,000 Texans without electricity. Some 30,000 people were displaced by the storm and Harvey's impact on the Gulf Coast refineries created a temporary gas shortage that sent prices soaring and created long lines of panicky motorists waiting to fill their tanks.

While the Dallas/Fort Worth area was spared the wrath of Harvey, many local residents found themselves able only to watch from afar as family, friends and other fellow Texans struggled to keep their metaphorical — and sometimes, actual — heads above the ever-rising flood waters. But one Dallas woman refused to just stand by and watch.

Karen McCrocklin created a GoFundMe page to collect cash donations while at the same time she set about personally collecting and delivering everything from boats for the Houston Fire Department to use in search and rescue efforts in the flooded areas, to food, water, clothing and more that the flood victims needed.

McCrocklin and other volunteers made numerous trips to the Houston area in the days just after Hurricane Harvey to deliver supplies, connecting with Houston Fire Department Capt. Iris Rodriguez to get those boats and other supplies where they were needed most. McCrocklin also helped organize crews of volunteers who returned later to help residents clear out their flood-damaged homes and get ready to start over.

The GoFundMe campaign funds that were not spent on immediate needs were used to help a new lesbian-led nonprofit organization, Texas Leaders Recovery Squad, that focuses on ongoing disaster relief efforts.

Within weeks of Hurricane Harvey, on Sept. 6, Category 5 Hurricane Irma skirted Puerto Rico before weakening and hitting Florida. The storm killed at least 75 people, and caused between \$42 and \$65 billion.

Then came Hurricane Maria, which hit Puerto Rico on Sept. 20 as a Category 4 storm. Maria left at least 66 dead and Puerto Rico in ruins, still struggling to regain some semblance of normalcy.

President Trump, who is at best skeptical of the science of climate change, has come under intense criticism for his lackadaisical response to the devastation in Puerto Rico and for seeming to not know that Puerto

and we've elected a lesbian sheriff, a gay county clerk and a lesbian judge. But in 2017, after the election of Donald Trump as president, a new wave of LGBT politicians came forward.

Most gay Dallas councilmen have come from Districts 2 and 14 that include Oak Lawn. This year, Omar Narvaez was elected to District 6, which covers West Dallas. Not only did Narvaez get elected in an area not known for its LGBT population, but he defeated an incumbent, a rare occurrence on the Dallas City Council.

Narvaez spent much of the campaign working with a landlord and the tenants of his West Dallas properties, brokering a deal that allowed the tenants to buy and repair their homes and help bring them up to code.

But while Dallas trends blue, Collin County is known as one of the reddest counties in Texas. De-

Rico is a U.S. territory and its residents U.S. citizens.

While climate change did not cause these three terrifyingly strong storms to form, consensus among scientists is that the effects of climate change, such as rising sea levels and warmer oceans, made those storms far more destructive than they would have been in previous decades, according to CNN.

— Tammye Nash

The stubborn Southern general

Who knew so much could go wrong with moving a statue? The Nasher Sculpture Garden does it all the time. But after several tries, the statue of Robert E. Lee as well as Lee's name were finally removed from Oak Lawn's most popular park.

After a confrontation between white supremacists and counter-protesters in Charlottesville, Va., that turned deadly in August over the removal of statues honoring Confederate leaders, cities around the country began considering their own public displays.

In Dallas, two monuments stood honoring the leaders of the Confederacy — one in Pioneer Park, Dallas' original cemetery, and one in Oak Lawn's Lee Park.

The Dallas City Council voted on Sept.

6 to remove the statue of Robert E. Lee in Lee Park. And within hours, a crane and trailer drove up to the park, but that statue wouldn't budge.

Placed in 1936 and dedicated by President Franklin Roosevelt, who was also in town to open the Texas Centennial celebration at Fair Park, the statue of Robert E. Lee should have simply been set upon its pedestal. That's how large monumental statues were placed at that time.

Instead, when crews gathered on Sept. 6 to remove it, the multi-ton bronze statue of Lee and his boyfriend on horseback wouldn't budge.

After crews had been working for several hours to loosen the statue and seemed on the verge on finally unseating it, word came that Judge Sidney Fitzwater had issued a restraining order stopping the removal. One Hiram Patterson, a Dallas resident who said he had never seen the statue until a few weeks prior to its planned removal, represented by an out-of-state attorney, sued to stop the irreparable harm he would suffer if the statue was removed.

The next day, Fitzwater heard the case and dismissed it.

Crowds gathered again, but no cranes appeared to remove the statue: The crane that had been at the park the day before was sent to Houston for some scheduled work. Work

to remove the statue was expected to resume when the crane returned, but on its return, it was involved in a fatal accident with an 18-wheeler.

Meanwhile, the monument remained cordoned off. Almost a quarter of the park remained closed. Statue supporters held pro-statue demonstrations around the park and a vigil for the monument whose days were numbered. Police were particularly concerned about one rally held by a "pro-open carry" group that arrived with their guns ablazin' (figuratively speaking).

After several more false starts, crews discovered the statue was bolted to the pedestal. In addition, it was wedged into the stone so some of the ornamental edging on top would have to be chipped off.

On Sept. 14, the general finally surrendered. Hiram tried to stop removal once again, but Fitzwater had left his office early that day.

A smaller crane than the one sent weeks earlier drove up to the statue. A low-slung trailer pulled up next to the crane. Bolts were cut. Stone was chipped. Rather than raise the

statue high into the air, the smaller crane lifted it up just a few feet and placed it on the trailer where it was securely strapped into place.

The statue barely fit under traffic lights and underpasses as a convoy drove it under the Katy Trail to a city storage location

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RAINBOW LOUNGE



where it remains.

On Sept. 22, the Dallas Park Board voted to restore Lee Park's name to its original moniker, Oak Lawn Park. That name, which Dallas Voice had been using since the controversy began, is the historic name for the park. Developers William H. Lemmon and Oliver P. Bowser built Oak Lawn Park in 1903 as an amenity for the surrounding residential area they were building. From its opening, the park was popular, and the city bought it in 1909.

Today, the statue's pedestal still stands in Oak Lawn Park on the corner of Turtle Creek Boulevard and Hall Street. The Confederate monument in the Pioneer Park cemetery remains, standing close to one of the Dallas Convention Center's main entrances. Dallas Independent School District renamed three schools from names of Confederate leaders to local heroes.

— David Taffet

Fires

Two fires affected the LGBT community this year — one marked the end of an era and another propelled an agency to new heights.

On June 1, an electrical fire at Fort Worth's Rainbow Lounge started just after 3 a.m. Shortly after firefighters arrived, the roof collapsed, and by 6 a.m., the building was a gutted shell.

No one was in the bar when the fire started, and there were no injuries.

The fire occurred just short of the eighth anniversary of the raid on the Rainbow

Lounge, a joint operation "bar check" by Fort Worth police and TABC agents, in which several people were arrested and one man suffered a serious head injury with lasting effects.

The raid occurred the second week the bar was open, on the 40th anniversary of the historic raid on the Stonewall Inn in New York City and led to the formation of Fairness Fort Worth. What started as an adversarial organization soon was embraced by the city, and many changes to city law over the next few years — such as nondiscrimination ordinances — resulted from recommendations made by the LGBT coalition.

Rainbow Lounge's owners announced they had secured a new location nearby and began work on the property. But by September they announced they were abandoning their attempts to reopen.

The 651 S. Jennings St. location operated as a gay bar for decades.

A month after the fire in Fort Worth, an arsonist set fire to the Abounding Prosperity Community Center on Peabody Street in South Dallas.

Video taken from Peabody Clinic across the street shows a man driving up to the property and pouring a supposedly flammable liquid outside the property and then going into the house just before flames engulfed it.

Abounding Prosperity opened the community center in 2011 to do HIV testing and help HIV-positive clients get into treatment. Groups for both positive and negative clients met in the comfortable setting of the old house.

AP Inc. was about to begin a capital campaign to raise money to build its own building on property acquired along MLK Jr. Boulevard. The fire propelled the organization to move quicker. By World AIDS Day, the agency had rented and renovated a larger space a few blocks from the old community center.

The new community center picks up all the services provided at the old house and adds an essential new service. AP Inc. opened a "bridge" clinic to get newly-diagnosed clients into medical care and on HIV medication. The agency will see clients for three months as they adjust to their new regimen of medications and get into permanent medical care.

— David Taffet

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Personally, politically — 2017 sucked

I'm delighted 2017 is done. What a terrible year.

It was horrible personally because my husband, Brian, died suddenly on March 6, after it took 20 minutes for 9-1-1 to answer my frantic call for help. Unacceptably low staffing levels at the city, problems with the equipment, problems with the software and problems with the way our antiquated equipment responded to the software all contributed to the deaths of at least three people that week.

Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano's office let me know on Dec. 6 that the city had completed the first phase of an upgrade to a new 9-1-1 system that includes "digital communication lines, statistical reporting and workforce management/scheduling tools to improve service efficiencies in the 911 Call Center." The second phase of the upgrade comes online next August.

Of course, all of that is useless without great 9-1-1 operators. By August, the city had gotten serious about maintaining staffing levels in the 9-1-1 office, and the last figures I saw showed we were up to full staffing level, if you include trainees.

On a side note, I've said it before and I'll repeat it as many times as I have to: Once I did get through, the 9-1-1 operator I spoke to was fantastic. Yes, I caught that gasp of hers when she asked how long I'd been on hold and doing chest compressions. But she was calming; she got the paramedics to my house in three minutes, and she helped me until they arrived.

I'm not sure when the last time was Dallas increased the number of officers in the 9-1-1 office, but the city is growing and so should the size of that staff. Austin, a smaller city, employs more 9-1-1 operators than Dallas.

Starting to heal

As a way of healing after Brian's death, I did something that's very Dallas. I wasn't the only person who had recently lost a spouse. So several of us did what we do best in Dallas. We started a group.

Our LGBT grief support group meets every other week. We started with six people and a new person has shown up almost every meeting since. Some who attend for the first time have lost a spouse just a few weeks earlier; some lost spouses more than



David Taffet

Never one to complain

a year ago.

All of our stories are different. Three of us lost our spouses suddenly. Others cared for their spouses for weeks, months and, in one case, years before their deaths. Some couples had been

together just a few years while one was approaching 50 years together.

What our group does better than anything is allow each of us to grieve in our own way. It lets us blow off steam. We can cry without someone criticizing, "Oh, you're depressed." We can laugh without someone criticizing, "Oh, so you're over him already."

We can help each other figure out how to move forward or decide that for this week, we don't feel like moving anywhere. We can make sure each of us has plans for holidays or anniversaries and birthdays. We can just chat without having to explain anything.

I was delighted when a new person came to the group and said he was getting so many dinner invitations, but he really didn't feel like going out to dinner. I thought I was the only one who couldn't know in advance that some nights I would just feel like sitting home crying, without having to carry on a conversation at a restaurant.

While 2017 was a terrible year, I made it through with help from some wonderful friends and family. The Turtle Creek Chorale sang at Brian's funeral, and I love those guys for that. I was already a fan, and Brian and I enjoyed attending together.

Since his death, Brian's mother has been attending TCC concerts with me. She lives in Athens, and she's already planning to be at the Tyler concert in June.

I spent some time with Brian's father, as well. He lives in Austin, and I stayed with him and his wife when I went to the capital for some special session bathroom bill bashing.

When he died, Brian and I had only been married nine months. The top layer of our wedding cake was still wrapped in the

freezer.

My cousins, Suzanne and Jody, came to Dallas to spend my wedding anniversary weekend with me. We went to museums and the Stockyards, ate out, said Kaddish at Friday night service at synagogue, looked at pictures and shopped.

And before they left, we ate the top layer of my wedding cake.

I made it through Brian's birthday and mine, as well as our anniversary. I went on a vacation we had already booked, spending a week with family. I went to a journalism conference where I spoke on "When a reporter becomes the story." I made it through the holidays just fine, thanks to friends.

Now I have only one more first to face — the first anniversary of his death.

Beyond the personal

This year was pretty bad for lots of other reasons as well.

We have a president who didn't understand the job when he was elected and hasn't seemed to learn anything during his first year in office. We have a vice president who is so extreme, if the tweeter-in-chief is impeached, the replacement could be even more dangerous.

We have a Congress so desperate to get something — anything — done, that they threw together a tax plan that will cost \$1 trillion, and who knows if anyone actually benefits.

Our healthcare remains in place — for now. The Supreme Court still tilts in our favor on LGBT issues, but that could change with one death or retirement.

In 2018, we elect all members of both the state and federal House of Representatives. Ted Cruz, along with a third of the U.S. Senate, is up for re-election, and half the state Senate will be elected. We have a long list of great LGBT candidates up for election in a variety of offices and some wonderful allies running as well, and one way we can make 2018 a better year is to make sure we get those allies and LGBT "family" members in office.

We have to. I don't think I can take another year like 2017, either personally or politically. 2018 has got to be a better year. We have to make it so. ■

David Taffet is senior staff writer for Dallas Voice.

The year in entertainment

LIFE+STYLE
year in review

Critical rankings of the best of 2017 in screen, stage, and tube...plus our local Actor of the Year



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES
Executive Editor
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2017 YEAR IN REVIEW
SCREEN

'Battle of the Sexes,' left, looked at gays in sports;
'Cedar Springs,' right, looked at straights in the gayborhood.



2017 YEAR IN REVIEW
STAGE

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES
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2017 was a year of wonder. We wondered what happened to our political systems. We wondered if there were any men who wouldn't be accused of sexual misconduct. But there were good wonders, too.

Like Wonder Woman — both in her own, record-breaking original movie and the much lesser *Justice League*; *Professor Marston and the Wonder Women*, about the radical psychologist who invented a superheroine; *Wonder*, the heart-warming, string-tugging story of a boy with facial deformities; *Wonder Wheel*, Woody Allen's best tragedy and most cogent expression of his craft in more than a decade; and *Wonderstruck*, a magical meander through the interconnectedness of those who mean something in our lives. We were lucky.

And we got to see *Lucky*. And *Logan Lucky*. And *Logan*. We saw a movie called *LBJ* about LBJ, and a movie called *Lady Bird* that was *not* about Lady Bird. Bad TV shows (*CHiPs*, *Baywatch*, *Power Rangers*) became bad movies. There was *The Greatest Showman* and the lamest *Snowman*, a *Boss Baby* and a *Baby Driver*.

But it was the idea of wonderment that resonated most, because we look to movies to sometimes make some sense of the world around us. To relieve us from gloom, make us care, inform us, entertain, give hope, tell a story and most importantly treat us with respect — for our time, for our intelligence.

I screened countless (well, I counted, but let's not get in the weeds) movies in 2017 — some, though technically released in 2016, did not open in North Texas until this year. The ones that stuck with me left me with a sense of anticipation — sometimes of dread, sometimes of hope, but either way got my heart racing. Any Top Ten list is inherently arbitrary, even if informed. It's a comparison of inherently unequal things. Nobody will probably agree with all my choices, or the order. But it wasn't hard to remember these films, and what they meant to me. And what I expect they will mean to others for years to come.

10. *Beatriz at Dinner*. A dour but spiritually centered massage therapist (Salma Hayek, in a career-best performance) is inadvertently invited to a business dinner among well-heeled captains of industry and sets off a series of uncomfortable confrontations, especially with the blustery Trump-like developer who may have ruined her family. Woke, insightful, darkly comic social satire from Mike White and Miguel Arteta, approximating the stinging symbolism of Luis Bunuel.

9. *I Am Not Your Negro*. The best documentary of the year was this profile of the great gay intellectual and writer James Baldwin, whose insights into racial politics — which got him labeled a radical in the 1960s — have borne out to be prescient,

■ SCREEN, Page 18

There were tons of great plays and musicals presented locally this year, but we narrowed it down to 10 (plus the best touring show we saw)... As well as the actors who made a difference (see sidebar, Page 15).

Top tour. *Something Rotten!* (ATTPAC Broadway Series). This frolic through the Renonsense was a whiz-bang nerdgasm about the hidden history of musical theater. It was easily the most exhaustively entertaining touring production of the year.

10. *Hit the Wall* (WaterTower Theatre); directed by Joanie Schultz. WTT's new artistic director made a statement with the first production under her watch, an in-your-face anthem about the Stonewall Riots.

9. *Br'er Cotton* (Kitchen Dog Theater); directed by Rhonda Boutté. In the era of Black Lives Matter and the call to "get woke," Terrance Arvell Chisholm's bracing, alert yet abstract drama about an African-American teen self-radicalizing, and unable to see beyond the limits of his own rage, was a sobering and important reflection on where we are as a culture ... and how far we have to go.

8. *The Gospel According to Thomas Jefferson, Charles Dickens and Count Leo Tolstoy: Discord* (WaterTower Theatre); directed by Emily Scott Banks. Three important writers spanning more than a century find themselves in limbo, negoti-

ating the scope and limitations of religious principles. It sounds heady, and it is, but also fast-paced, smart and entertaining. If only Sunday school were this inviting.

7. *The Minotaur* (Theatre 3); directed by Jeffrey Schmidt. One of three riffs on ancient myths to make a strong impression this year, this one the murky fable of the Labyrinth, with all its Joseph Campbell iconography intact. Like *Discord*, it employs a trio of thinkers to parse out the morality, but it's the emotional grab, embodied by Darren McElroy as the cursed monster, that clinches the deal.

6. *Hair* (Dallas Theater Center); directed by Kevin Moriarty. The definitive counterculture musical always risks devolving into quaint-ified period piece, but the DTC's recent version created a genuine "happening" — not condescending nostalgia, but turning the Wyly into a unique community, if only for a few hours. Groovy.

5. *Cedar Springs*; or *Big Scary Animals* (Theatre Three); directed by Jeffrey Schmidt. Intensely localized, this dark comedy by playwright Matt Lyle posits what happens when a well-intentioned but unsophisticated older couple move next door to a gay mixed-race family, at least two of whom have poor social skills. Who's to blame for all the misunderstandings? Lyle toys with your expectations and loyalties and forces the audience to see The Other in a sympathetic (or critical light), and does

INDEX TO THE YEAR IN REVIEW: ENTERTAINMENT: Screen • Page 14 ... Stage • Page 14 ... Actor of the Year • Page 15 ... Gay Movies • Page 19 ... Tube • Page 16
NEXT WEEK AND BEYOND: Music ... Books ... Arts/Culture/Sports ... Auto ... Dining ... PLUS THE TOP NEWS STORIES OF 2017

so through one of the densest string of laugh-out-loud comedies you'll ever see.

4. *Hood* (Dallas Theater Center); directed by Douglas Carter Beane. Like *The Minotaur*, this updating of the Robin Hood legend trades in the iconography of myths, but turns the tropes on their head in this exhaustingly energetic romp through Sherwood Forest.

3. *Pride & Prejudice* (WaterTower Theatre); directed by Joanie Schultz. Jane Austen has been so over-adapted, a new version of one of her Regency novels sounds like dread, but this version, by playwright Kate Hamill, traded on its familiarity for a streamlined farce instead of a staid comedy of manners. Nineteenth century romantic entanglements have rarely felt so modern.

2. *The Necessities* (Second Thought Theatre); directed by Joel Ferrell. Playwright

Blake Hackler's four-hander about the denizens of a small Texas town precariously navigating their ways through the emotional damage of life was a deft, moody, heart-breaking character study.

1. *Electra* (Dallas Theater Center); directed by Kevin Moriarty. The DTC won the Tony Award this year for best regional theater in the country, and by all indications, this production of the Greek tragedy was the clincher, and justly so. Adapting the production for an outdoor space (the audiences moves three times), adding an essential element of noise-cancelling headphones to pipe the dialogue and sound effects into your brain with shocking clarity, and turning a lurid and melodramatic story into shockingly relevant and visceral experience, this was transformative theater — the one unforgettable show of the year. ■

ACTOR OF THE YEAR

Here it is again: My favorite story of the year, the one time I get to offer unqualified praise for the folks who mostly toil with minimal pay and tons of passion: The local artists, especially the performing artists. They elevate our cultural experience, often buoyed only by the roar of the greasepaint, the smell of the crowd. So a big hand to the ensembles of *Pride & Prejudice* and *Hood*, whose entire casts impressed me in 2017 precisely *because* they embodied the strength of ensemble acting: Unity, versatility, generosity.

It comes as little surprise, then, that some members of those same casts stood out in other productions as well. *P&P*'s **Bob Hess** stole all his scenes in Uptown's *La Cage aux Folles*; **John-Michael Marrs** caricatured Charles Dickens expertly in *Discord*; **Brandon Potter** stood out in Austen as one of the *Straight White Men*; and **Wendy Welch**, **Mikey Abrams** and especially **Jodi C. Wright** totally delighted audiences in the unexpected musical confection *It Shoulda Been You*.

Linda Leonard was also great in *Shoulda*, but it was her turn (again) as former Gov. Richards in *Ann* that became her signature role. **Morgana Shaw** likewise revisited a part, that of Bette Davis, in *All About Bette*, and she was transformatively excellent. **Sherry J. Ward** played herself in her self-written solo show *Stiff*, about her battle with a rare muscular disease, but it was an acting triumph nonetheless — one breathtakingly real.

Everyone in *The Necessities* was at the top of their games as well in the year's most exciting new play: **Christie Vela**, **Alison Pistorius**, **Matthew Gray** and **Tex Patrello**. Patrello was one of the revelations this year, but hardly the only one. It is always



wonderful to discover younger, newer artists, like the raw work by **Zach Leyva** in the monologue *Tommy Cain* and **Doak Rapp** in *Ironbound*, **Kyle Fox Douglas** as the angry teen in *Br'er Cotton*, and **Darren McElroy** in both *Passing Strange* and *The Minotaur*. Meanwhile, some experienced actors reminded us of the depth of their talent, like the unstoppable **Julie Johnson** as *Mame*, and **Jennifer Kuenzer**, in her best role in ages, as Desiree in *A Little Night Music*. **Chad Cline** made us laugh at ourselves as the goosey gay hubbie in *Cedar Springs*, and **Anastacia Munoz** opened our eyes and cast them to the heavens in *Silent Sky*.

Two actors stood out especially in 2017, though. **Kyle Ignecci** seemed to be everywhere: As the hero in *The Minotaur*, a hippie in *Hair* and a budding drag queen in *The Legend of Georgia McBride*. This guy can go places. But it was his co-star in *McBride* who seemed incapable of making a bad choice: **Walter Lee**. As Miss Tracy, he lectures a straight man about the empowerment that comes with drag; he did something similar in *Hit the Wall* — not lecturing about the past, but living it, as a cross-dresser in 1969 who risked (literally) life and limb to live his truth. There's rarely ever been a false note in a Walter Lee performance, whether singing, synching or outright dramatic acting. He had a banner season in 2017 — good enough, in fact, to be named Actor of the Year.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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L+S | year in review

X-streams

The best new things on TV and the Internet



ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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'Will & Grace' made a triumphant return to NBC, above; opposite, black students defy racism on campus in 'Dear White People.'

We consume our entertainment a lot differently now than we did even five years ago. "Tube" used to mean "television," but what does that even mean in an age of podcasts, streaming services, video on demand, network and cable, YouTube and the like? Well, just about anything that's episodic and piped to you over the air. We consume it all — sometimes on our phones, sometimes on hi-def monitors — and it's a rich pageant, a window on our world. And some of them stood out more than others.

There's so much broadcast content available every year, that, as with films, I limit my list to new programs — those that debuted (in their present incarnations) from Nov. 1, 2016—Oct. 31, 2017 (to allow a series to develop at least three episodes before deadline).

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW
TUBE/ONLINE

11. The Guest Book (TBS). Greg Garcia, who created the quirky, deceptively smart *My Name Is Earl* and *Raising Hope* for network TV, got to explore his more adult side in this quasi-anthology series for cable — a season of loosely-interconnected stories about people occupying the same cabin and writing about their experiences. Garcia's signature deadpan humor while dealing with genuinely dark subjects (blackmail, drug addiction, infidelity) made this one endlessly where-will-they-go-next.

10. Feud: Bette vs. Joan (FX). Ryan Murphy launched his new anthology series, *Feud*, with one of the classic tales of Old Hollywood: The notorious rivalry

between two grandes dames of Warner Bros., especially during the making of their Grand Guignol piece *Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?* It's both a rumination on the treatment of actresses "of a certain age" in entertainment, and a fascinating "making of" docu-drama. Jessica Lange's desperate Joan Crawford dominates Susan Sarandon's fierce Bette Davis, but Jackie Hoffman as Mamacita and Alfred Molina as their director steal their scenes.

9. American Gods (Starz). Neil Gaiman's riff on mythology as updated to modern-day America was a scintillating, racy, sweaty, lurid and compelling fantasy melodrama, like *Oz* among the gods. And star Ricky Whittle is more than a bit easy on the eyes.

8. Big Little Lies (HBO). This high-powered miniseries about desperate housewives in an affluent coastal California town could have been a soapy West Coast *Peyton Place*, but instead became a social satire about suburban cattiness and, eventually, domestic violence. The cast — Reese Witherspoon, Nicole Kidman, Laura Dern, Alexander Skarsgard, Shailene Woodley — was perfection.

7. Dear White People (Netflix). Queer filmmaker Justin Simien adapts his 2014 feature film satire into a sharply written comedy series about black students on a predominantly white Ivy League campus, and the controversy when one of the black student leaders starts dating a white man. Creatively told from the perspectives of eight students, Simien makes race relations

uncomfortably satiric. Woke, wise and wonderful.

6. *American Vandal* (Netflix). In the wake of true-crime online mini-series like *Making a Murderer* and *The Keepers* comes this version, set in a California high school, that sets to solve a mystery: Who painted 27 graffiti dicks on all the cars in the faculty parking lot? Seriously. Only not. This mockumentary, about teens investigating a crime, strikes the absolute perfect tone of it source material but never devolves into camp or farce — you really care, because the filmmaking is so accurate. Superb humor.

5. *The Handmaid's Tale* (Hulu). A series that in the spring was merely a juicy adaptation of a feminist allegory has become, in #MeToo America, an uncomfortable meta-documentary about an all-too-possible future of theocratic laws, female subjugation and right wing nuttiness. See? Documentary.

4. *Anne with an E* (Netflix/CBC). Don't be fooled into dismissing this umpteenth adaptation of the girl-lit chestnut *Anne of Green Gables* as "just" a safe, tame, family-friendly miniseries. Amybeth McNulty, as the annoying, loquacious orphan

girl who up-ends a puritanical farming community in turn-of-the-century Prince Edward Island, was the most bingeable streaming series of the year.

3. *Twin Peaks: The Return* (Showtime). David Lynch's original 1990-91 foray into episodic television was a sea-change show that someone redefined the syntax of TV. It would be hubris to expect the 18-episode revival to do that same, but Lynch's singular vision, so specific and yet perversely universal, left us breathless with anticipation each week. Strange, impenetrable, addictive.

2. *Will & Grace* (NBC). Sometimes you don't know you miss something until you get it, which is how the return of this groundbreaking sitcom felt: The characters are the same but have matured into middle age, their banter sharp as ever but their situations mellowed by the post-*Obergefell* era. Reunions always have sentimental appeal, but this one somehow thaws the iciness of the Trump age.

1. *Shit Town* (podcast). In the wake of the podcast *Serial*, an Alabama man calls into a producer of a public radio show and announces a murder has been allowed to go unprosecuted in his podunk burg — a



place he calls "Shit Town" — for years. The reporter decides to follow up, and what happens next, over the course of seven chapters — including a revelation at the end of Chapter 2 which surely stands as one of the most shocking moments of the year — forces you to re-examine what you know about people. An endlessly compelling character study, a sad portrait of being gay in rural America, a mystery that is unsolvable yet deeply satisfying ... *Shit*

Town was the most humane expenditure of six hours of your time in 2017, and the program of the year.

Honorable mentions: *The Mayor* (ABC); *Young Sheldon* (CBS); *Missing Richard Simmons* (podcast); *Good News* (NBC); *The Vietnam War* (PBS); *Prison Break* (Fox); *Too Funny to Fail: The Life and Death of the Dana Carvey Show* (Hulu); *Ozark* (Netflix); *Dirty John* (podcast). ■



Dr. Marc Tribble and Dr. Donald Graneto named to D Magazine's Best Doctors in Dallas for 2017 in Infectious Disease and Family Medicine respectively.



Dr. David Lee and Dr. Brady Allen voted Best General Practitioner and Best HIV Specialists in the 2017 Readers Voice Awards.

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■ SCREEN, From Page 14

measured, incisive. In the world of Black Lives Matter, Baldwin was a visionary, which this film movingly conveys with narration of his actual writings (perfectly read by Samuel L. Jackson).

8. *Coco*. The year's best animated film, it should come as no surprise, is from the geniuses at Pixar, who have the uncanny ability of taking prosaic stories about ordinary characters and turning them into extraordinary portraits full of heart. This colorful tale set on Dia de los Muertos and the unseen world of our departed ancestors overflows with heart and family affection.

7. *The Shape of Water*. A host of out outsiders — a mute woman (Sally Hawkins, in the clear Oscar frontrunner), a black woman (Octavia Spencer), a gay man (Richard Jenkins) and, peculiarly, a fish man (Doug Jones) — struggle to make a difference during the Cold War, while Russian spies wander the halls of science untouched. Guillermo del Toro's dreamy fantasy — part political thriller, part modernizing of *The Creature from the Black Lagoon* — plays like *E.T.* as re-written as torture porn and directed by Woody Allen. All of those are good things.

6. *The Killing of a Sacred Deer*. Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos' flatly disturbing style owes a debt to Stanley Kubrick, but his twisted take on modern life is all his own. Like last year's *The Lobster*. This film operates in a netherworld of sci-fi and hard reality, where the act of a surgeon comes back upon him and his family in disturbing ways. Singular and unsettling, you can't look away.

5. *The Greatest Showman*. Hugh Jackman may be the only legit movie star of the day who can pull off old-fashioned musical comedy panache and seem sincere and authentic. He's a stand-out as circus pioneer P.T. Barnum but not the only one in this wholly satisfying modern musical from director Michael Gracey. Michelle Williams, Zac Efron, Rebecca Ferguson and Keala Settle all show magical talent in the genre. It's the most delightful musical since *Moulin Rouge*.

4. *Victoria & Abdul*. Late in her dominant reign Queen Victoria (Judi Dench, natch) strikes up an unlikely friendship with an Indian Muslim named Abdul (Ali Fazal), and brings him into her inner circle, shocking the priggish courtiers, politicians and family who object to the platonic but unconventional friendship. Stephen Frears



'Kong: Skull Island' was easily one of the worst films of the year.

may well be the most insightful director of mismatched pairings and public-bemadamed iconoclasts in film today (perhaps ever). He usually deserves more credit than he gets, including this lush, funny, touching and finely acted biopic.

3. *Wonderstruck*. Two stories — one told silently in the 1930s in black-and-white, one told with dialogue in the 1970s in color — unravel side by side, as a deaf-mute girl (Millicent Simmonds) rebels against the expectations and limitations of her day and a young boy (Oakes Fegley) searches out the father he has never known. The way the stories converge, and comment on our enduring institutions, the fungibility of love and the cosmic whirlpool that unites us with those we are meant to be with, is lovingly told by director Todd Haynes in 2017's most underrated film.

2. *Battle of the Sexes*. In the year when women stood up against sexual predation, including by a pussy-grabbing chief executive, this historical sports comedy-drama about the focal point of the early feminist movement and resistance to "male chauvinist pigs" — amazingly, a tennis match between the world's top female player and a middle-aged has-been male — told a history as well as a coming-out story, and portrayed the seemingly villainous showboating hustler Bobby Riggs (Steve Carell) in a sympathetic light. As a lesbian romance (between Emma Stone and Andrea Riseborough), it's also tender, lovely and captures the dangerous excitement of self-discovery. The result is unlikely — a gay sports movie — but also deeply wonderful.

1. *Call Me By Your Name*. Luca Guadagnino's woozy romantic drama tells more about character with a brush of skin and a lingering glance than most Hollywood films do with three pages of dialogue. This sensual exploration of a 17-year-old boy (Timothée Chalamet, who deserves the Oscar) and his longing for an older grad student (Armie Hammer) is tactile and alluring but never salacious. It captures the essence of the arc of desire — urge, touch, sex, love — like few films since *Brokeback*

Mountain, and is hands-down the best film of the year.

11.-20. *The Big Sick*. *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*. *The Post*. *War for the Planet of the Apes*. *Suburbicon*. *The Disaster Artist*. *Beach Rats*. *BPM*. *Get Out*. *Tom of Finland*.

21.-30. *The Only Living Boy in New York*. *Beauty and the Beast*. *Detroit*. *Wonder Wheel*. *Molly's Game*. *Lucky*. *Novitiate*. *Lady Bird*. *Good Time*. *The Square*.

Performances: Meryl Streep and Tom Hanks, *The Post*; Sally Hawkins and Richard Jenkins, *The Shape of Water*; Frances McDormand, Sam Rockwell and Woody Harrelson, *Three Billboards*; Hong Chau, *Downsizing*; Kamail Nanjiani, *The Big Sick*; Oakes Fegley and Millicent Simmonds, *Wonderstruck*; Salma Hayek, *Beatriz at Dinner*; Emma Stone and Steve Carell, *Battle of the Sexes*; Lois Smith, *Marjorie Prime*; Colin Farrell, Barry Keoghan and Nicole Kidman, *The Killing of a Sacred Deer*; James McAvoy and Betty Buckley, *Split*; Jim Belushi, *Wonder Wheel*; Jessica Chastain and Idris Elba, *Molly's Game*; Timothee Chalamet and Michael Stuhlbarg, *Call Me By Your Name*; James Franco, *The Disaster Artist*; Harry Dean Stanton and Tom

Skerritt, *Lucky*; Melissa Leo, *Novitiate*; Saoirse Ronan and Laurie Metcalf, *Lady Bird*; Judi Dench and Ali Fazal, *Victoria & Abdul*; Hugh Jackman and Keala Settle, *The Greatest Showman*; Andy Serkis, *War for the Planet of the Apes*; Mary J. Blige, *Mudbound*; Allison Janney, *I, Tonya*.

Bottom Ten. Picking the worst movies is much harder than picking the best. There's a bit of natural selection: Really bad movies often don't get seen, or are avoided by serious critics; and what makes a film bad is debatable — a high-budget blockbuster can be equally as rotten as a low-budget flop, and vice versa. So when dredging for the worst of the worst, I'll often turn the hardest eye on films where those involved should have known better; where there was unrealized promise; where the comedy was unfunny or the thrills cheap and toothless and dramas with no drama. By those standards, these ten films were definitely among the rottenest I saw this year (roughly from worst to worster):

Justice League; *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales*; *Baywatch*; *The Snowman*; *Lemon*; *The Mummy*; *Mark Felt: The Man Who Brought Down the White House*; *All I See Is You*; *Kong: Skull Island*; *The Great Wall*. ■



BEST GAY MOVIES OF 2017

A good movie is a good movie no matter what, but when you cover queer culture for a living, you tend to see symbols and excellence in places that others might not notice.

Gay films have a tortured history; often, the (non-porn) films we embraced as a subculture spoke to us as LGBT folks, but maybe less so as cinema connoisseurs. Looking back, there were a lot of stultifying gay romantic comedies in past decades that don't hold up now. And many films that would have been instantly labeled "gay-interest" and assigned to the gay ghetto of video store back walls and arthouse are now considered mainstream.

Many of the films on my Top Ten list broadcast their queer cred from the outset,

some others approach it more obliquely. And some don't address gay themes even at the margins, or don't do so especially well. So here is a kind of shadow list — the 15 best films of 2017 that spoke to us as gay audiences (sometimes they are listed in a different order than my best-of list, because the gay content is specifically handled better). Seek them out.

Call Me By Your Name, pictured. *Battle of the Sexes*. *The Shape of Water*. *BPM*. *Tom of Finland*. *Beach Rats*. *I Am Not Your Negro*. *The Greatest Showman*. *Novitiate*. *Wonderstruck*. *Lady Bird*. *The Disaster Artist*. *A Very Sordid Wedding*. *Professor Marston and the Wonder Women*. *Beauty and the Beast*.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



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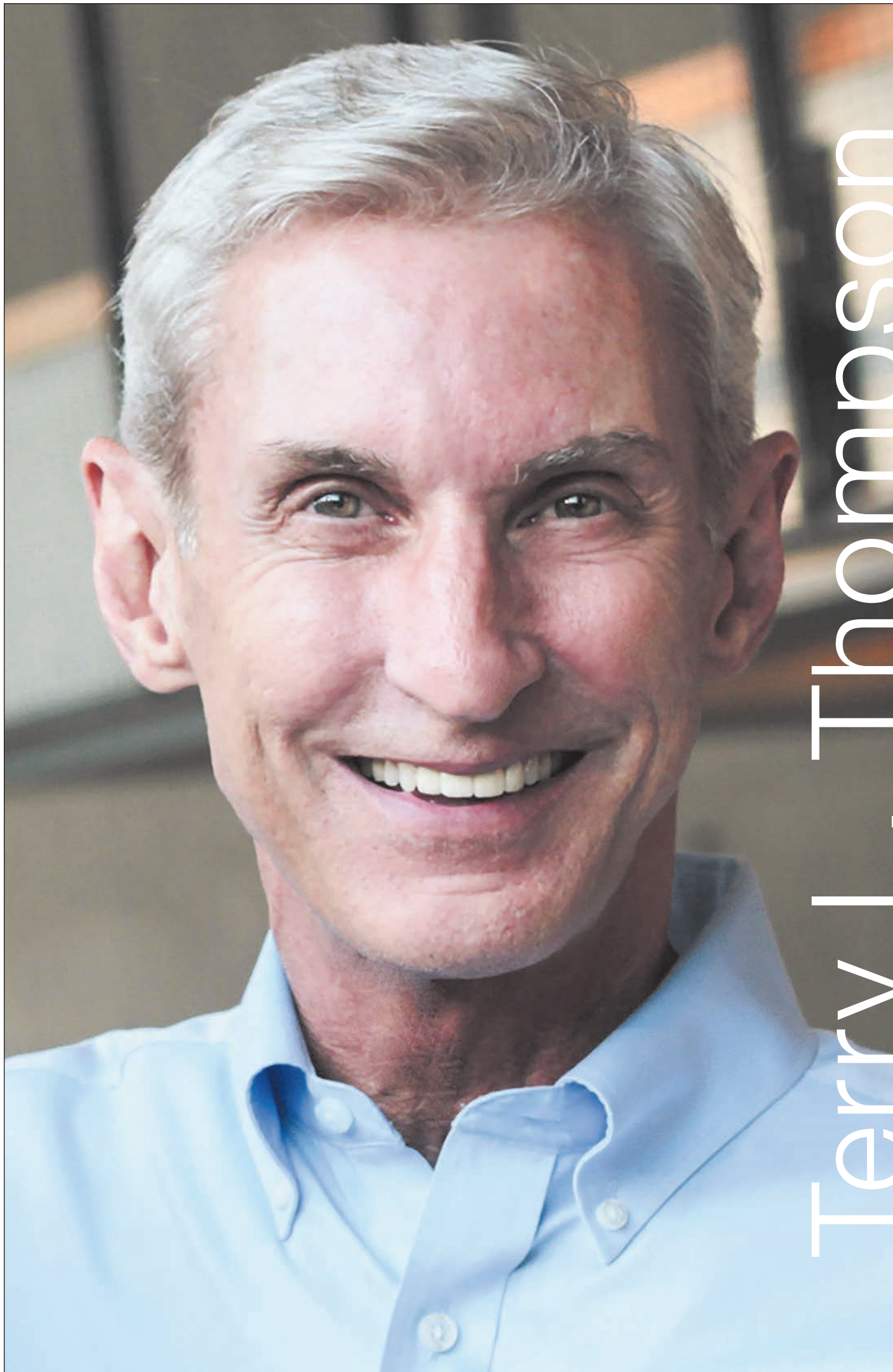
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Leaving a 19-year tenure with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas, Terry came to Dallas Voice in 2001. Starting as office manager, he served in several capacities moving through numerous responsibilities throughout the company.

In 2013, Terry and I purchased Voice Publishing Company from founder Robert Moore. Terry became president of the company and I became its publisher.

Terry: You have exhausted every talent and effort to keep our media company the strong, thoughtful and honest voice of the North Texas LGBT community — keeping it fresh and relevant in our changing media climate. This company will miss you greatly.

Thank you, Terry, for all you have given Voice Publishing and for helping us give a trusted voice to our beloved LGBT community.
Enjoy your retirement!

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Friday 12.29 — Sunday 12.31

Last chance to spend 2017 in the presence of a king

The national tour of *The King & I* settled into Dallas for the holidays, and it's a lovely musical from the peerless Rodgers & Hammerstein, featuring gorgeous songs ("Shall We Dance," "Getting to Know You," "Hello, Young Lovers"), gorgeous sets and a pretty gorgeous cast as well. (You can read our review at DallasVoice.com.) Your last chance to catch it extends all the way to New Year's Eve (for a 1:30 p.m. matinee, so there's still time for a midnight toast).

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

Monday 01.01

Enjoy a 'A Very Electric Christmas' with Lightwire

Lightwire Theater is renowned for its unique artistry and storytelling, which employs "electroluminescence" as its signature medium. (The group even appeared on America's Got Talent.) The spectacle of *A Very Electric Christmas* arrives at the Winspear for two shows on New Year's Day.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

**Friday 01.05 —
Saturday 01.06**

**Mr. Dallas Eagle leatherman
contest returns**

Last year's Mr. Dallas Eagle became the first-ever trans man to hold that title (and went on to become Mr. Texas Leather, which holds its contest this year on Jan. 25). He'll be passing the sash to a new honoree, in this annual celebration of the leather community. There's a meet-and-greet on Friday and some behind-the-scenes activities, but Saturday will be the pageant night, including crowning the new Mr. Dallas Eagle. Come cheer on your favorite.

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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

Act of God. B.J. Cleveland, typecast once again, as the Almighty in a regional premiere from David Javerbaum about the secrets of the universe. *Final weekend.* Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.org.

Fade. Lucia, a Mexican novelist, gets a job as a TV writer and realizes she has more in common with the cleaning crew than her fellow scribes in this comic drama from Tanya Saracho. Studio Theatre of the Wyly Theatre 2400 Flora St. Through Jan. 7. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

The King & I. Rodgers & Hammerstein's adaptation of Anna and the King of Siam, featuring classics like "Getting to Know You" and "Whistle a Happy Tune." *Final weekend.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

The Three Musketeers. Theatre Britain's annual Christmas panto, with Ivan Jones returning in the hilarious cross-dressing role in this family-friendly treatment of the Dumas novel. Cox Playhouse, 1517 H. Ave., Plano. Through Saturday. Theatre-Britain.com.

FINE ART

Sopheap Pich. The Cambodian sculptor's work, including the massive *Rang Phnom Flower*, on display at Crow Collection of Asian Art, 2010 Flora St. Through Jan. 7. CrowCollection.org.

Tom Sachs: Tea Ceremony. The Nasher presents this exhibition of Sachs' reworking of Japanese traditional tea service. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Through Jan. 7. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

Yayoi Kusama: All the Eternal Love I Have for the Pumpkins. The DMA features the only Infinity Mirror Room of its kind in a North American collection, this tribute to the gourd by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 25. DMA.org.

EXHIBITION

Holiday Wonder Dallas. A display of lights and lanterns including 2 million bulbs, 23 illuminated scenes, 750,000 sq. feet of space on 17 acres, food, dancers, music, acrobats and more. Fair Park Lagoon, 1318 S. Second Ave. Through Jan. 7. HolidayWonder.com.

FRIDAY 12.29

COMMUNITY

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

SATURDAY 12.30

COMMUNITY

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SUNDAY 12.31 — NEW YEAR'S EVE

MONDAY 01.01 — NEW YEAR'S DAY

TUESDAY 01.02

FILM

The Great Gatsby. The original 1974 version of the classic of American literature, with Mia Farrow as the callow Daisy and Robert Redford as the mysterious bootlegger. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 01.03

COMMUNITY

First Wednesday Cedar Springs Wine Walk. Monthly stroll through the gayborhood. Pick up a wine glass for \$10 outside the Round-Up Saloon. 6–9 p.m.

THURSDAY 01.04

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 01.05

COMMUNITY

Mr. Dallas Eagle. The two-day contest for the leather title begins, concluding Saturday. Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. DallasEagle.com.

this week's solution

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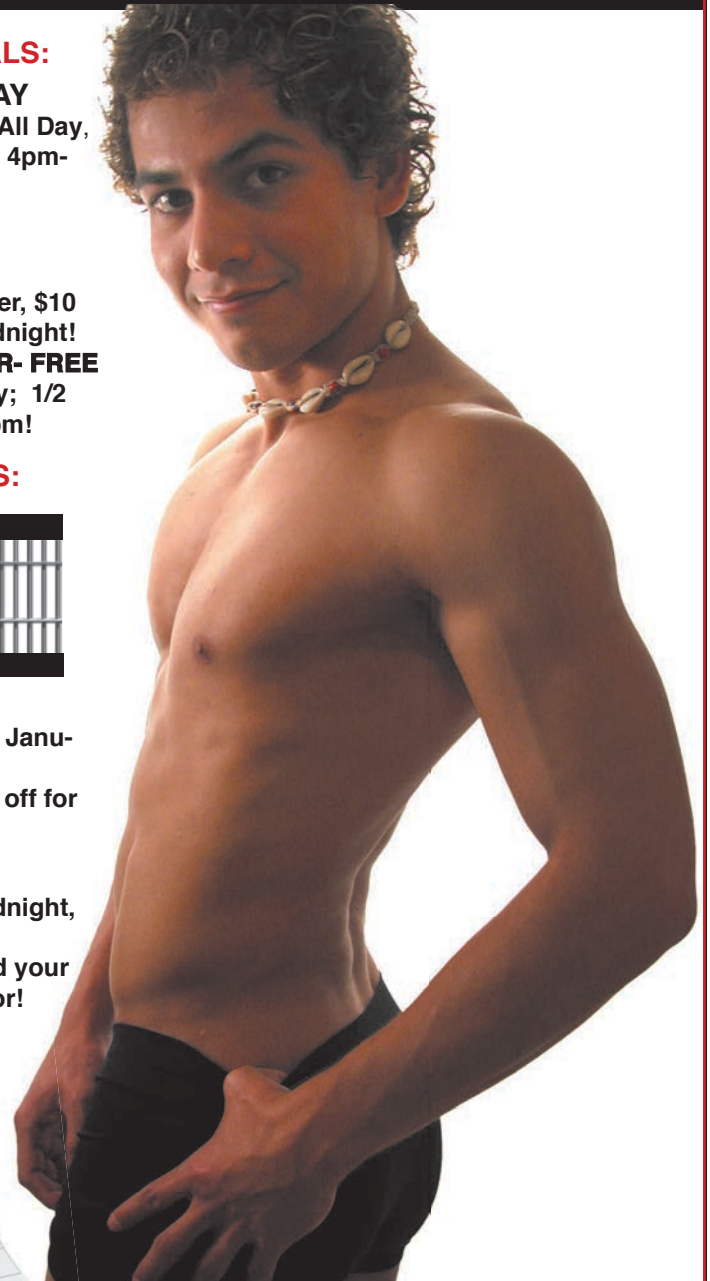


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Girl on girls

Jenny Block gives you a gift — permission to love

It's hard not to be really distraught and anxious right now. Distraught, anxious, irritated, angry, depressed, scared even. A madman is in the Oval Office and we are surrounded by those who put him there. And, in some ways, it's the latter that's the scariest part. All around us are people for whom hate is their family value. His presence feels particularly oppressive considering it's the holiday season and all. Hard to be merry and bright when people are aggressively seeking to strip you of your rights.

So, I have a gift I'd like to give all of you this holiday season. It won't fit in a box, and it doesn't need any ribbons or bows. It's likely not something you asked for. But it's something that we all desperately need. I'd like to gift you with permission, permission to revel in love at a time when it can feel harshly inappropriate.

We shouldn't need permission, of course.

But being in love and sharing love and acting in love can feel more than difficult, it can be near impossible really, when hate is the prevailing guide to living. So perhaps my gift should be two-fold, permission and perhaps a little prodding too. Right now, not only do you have the right to love. You also have the responsibility.

We have to love our partners with more ferocity than ever before. We have to not only love them. We must also revel in that love. That means not feeling guilty for being in love. That means not feeling like we have to apologize for having full hearts. That means pleasure seeking without regret.

Yes, I am talking about having sex. I am talking about having lots of sex, great sex, romantic sex, filthy sex — all of it. It can be tough to imagine languishing in love when the wolves seem to constantly be at our door. But



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these wolves are unique. They feed not on blood. They feed on fear. They feed on seeing us shrink away. They feed on robbing us of all things joyful.

Nothing thrills a hate monger more than suffering. So, let us not suffer. Let us not give up the greatest thing we have, perhaps the only thing we really have, this crazy thing we call love.

In fact, I challenge you. I gift you both permission and prodding and I challenge you to love with abandon in spite of it all, because of it all, maybe even, to cure it all.

Imagine, if you will, a whole country full of people who every time another right is threatened, take to the streets, vote, rally, donate to the fight... and then go home to our partners and love them. We don't spend every moment listening to the endless commenting. We don't spend every moment bickering over the what-ifs. We don't let the hate rob of us our love.

We use our love like a shield. Or, better yet, like a battery charger. When the fight saps us, we turn to love to fuel us. We turn to sex to reinvigorate us. We turn to our partner to remind us that they can spew all the hate they want, but we will live another day to love another day and, in the end, no matter how hard darkness tries to cover our light, it doesn't stand a chance if we insist on taking a stand.

I like to think orgasm works in our world the same way screams do in the movie Monsters, Inc. They use screams to harness energy, to create power. I vote we do the same with orgasm. The more pleasure we enjoy, the more strength we have against hate. We can store it up and radiate a field of love that simply can't be pierced.

The hatemongers are like the Grinch — they think they can threaten us and take away our cakes, and we will shrivel up and turn against each other and join the hate clans to which they belong. But their thinking couldn't be any more foolish. They are forgetting who we are, how far we have come, just what we will do for one another to protect and save one another in the name of love.

"They buried us, but they didn't know we were seeds." Have you seen that quote? That is us. Poet Dinos Christianopoulos said that. He was gay, and the Greek literary community cast him aside for that in the 1970s. And now his words make the rounds. How apropos for us. We are seeds, and the more they water us with hate, the more we shall grow in love.

We have to vote. We have to donate. We have to march. We have to be visible. We have to fight lies with facts. We have to be vigilant. And we have to dance and sing and smile and love. We have to. Think of the way positive thinking affects healing. You still need the chemo. But the pulsing of love and light serves as the reinforcements.

So, this holiday season — and as a kind of resolution for the coming year — I give you permission; I urge you; I challenge you to hold your partner tightly; kiss your partner passionately; and whisk your partner away to the bedroom. Take delight in the fact that every embrace, every stroke, every moan is like a caging, a clawing, a screeching to those who would see us destroyed. My mother's generation used to say, "Make love. Not war." Today we must make love to fight the war. ■

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



Jenna Skyy and the Rose Room crew take a walk on the wild (animal print) side



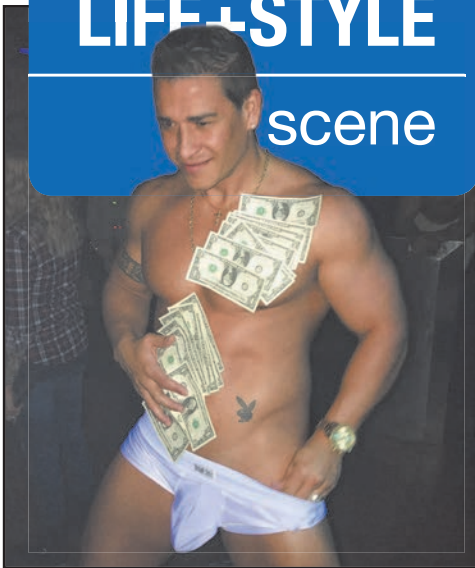
The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce celebrates the holidays



Girls' night out on the town



The higher the hair, the closer to God



Making that Christmas cash at The Tin Room



Big gay fans showing some Dallas Voice love

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- **Alexandre's:** **Stephanie Sallie** on Friday. **Filter Kings** on Saturday. **K-Marie sings Broadway** on Tuesday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday.
- **Club Changes:** **Deejay DJ and Shamoo** present **New Year's Eve** on Sunday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Imperial Court cookout** at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **Blue Bash** from 5 p.m.-2 a.m. on **New Year's Eve** with a complementary champagne toast and a \$500 money drop.
- **Full Circle Tavern:** **New Year's Eve party** with karaoke, food, drinks specials all night and champagne at midnight. Doors open at 6 p.m. and there's no cover.
- **Hard Rock Cafe:** An acoustic artist plays at 6:30 p.m., **karaoke DJ** from 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. on **New Year's Eve**. Cover charge of \$25 for adults and \$15 for kids includes party favors, champagne toast at midnight and one VIP "skip the line" for karaoke. Cover starts at 8 p.m.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **2018 New Years Party** with Top 10 countdown, champagne toast at midnight and cash drop.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Hors d'oeuvres all evening, a complimentary champagne toast and cash balloon drop at midnight followed by a breakfast buffet until close on **New Year's Eve**. \$20 in advance and \$30 at the door.
- **S4:** **Station 4 New Years Eve** celebration begins at 9 p.m. on Sunday, featuring money drop, Top 10 countdown and midnight champagne toast.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Chix** on Saturday. **Mojo Dolls** on Sunday. 2018 **New Year's Party** with Top 10 countdown, champagne toast at midnight and cash drop.
- **The Grapevine Bar:** Dance from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. on **New Year's Eve** with party favors, champagne toast at midnight and a \$1 cover.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** **2018 New Year's Party** with Top 10 countdown with **DJ Mateo**, champagne toast at midnight and random cash drop. No cover.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **New Years Eve bash** with **Raquel Blake, Chanel LaMasters, Laganja Stanja, Gia Gunn** and **DJ Adam Joseph** on Sunday. Showtime at 10 p.m. Tables come with a bottle of champagne. A portion of proceeds benefit **HELP**.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Dallas at Philadelphia** football game at noon. **New Year's Eve party** begins at 10 p.m. on Sunday, with hits from the past year with **Spencer**, cash drop at midnight, champagne toast, party hats, noisemakers and a buffet. No cover.

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



Feeling the holiday love at Woody's



Having a laugh on The Strip



Captain Morgan sweaters and Christmas with friends on The Strip



Walter's not having it at Woody's



Friends enjoying the holidays



The friendly staff at Liquid Zoo



Friends' night out on The Strip



All smiles on The Strip



Friendly staff at TMC: The Mining Co.



Sue Ellen's wishes you a bony Christmas



Friends pay tribute to the late Bianca Giselle Davenport Starr at Sue Ellen's



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Out and about on The Strip

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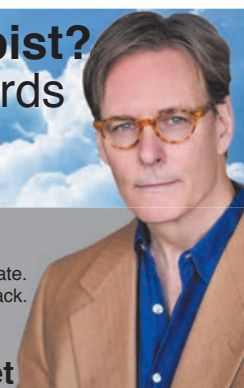
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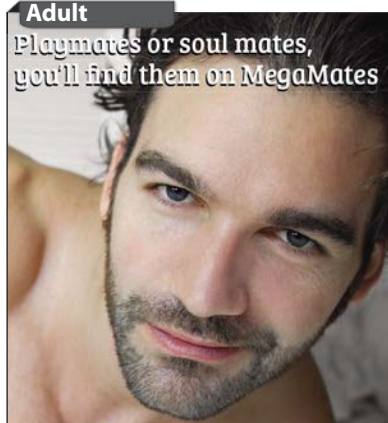
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Kama Fault

Solution on Page 22

- Across**

1 Fairy tales and such

5 Alpert of *Mame* fame

9 Larry Kramer’s alma mater

13 Liberace’s style, for example

14 Skin softener

15 Estimating words

16 They call it the ____

19 *The Iceman Cometh* writer Eugene

20 They may lie on the bed together

21 On bended knees perhaps

24 ...because it asserts positions ____ (with 42-Across)

26 BenGay target

28 Eye problem

29 *You’ve Got Mail* female

32 It’s human

34 King in *Jesus Christ Superstar*

35 Marilyn Monroe’s two big ones

36 Pack up

41 Little bit

42 See 24-Across

45 Gallo portrayer in *And*
- the Band Played On*
- 46 Emulate Bonheur
- 49 “Good grief!”
- 53 ...and when I look at it, my face ____
- 58 *Lawrence of Arabia* director David
- 59 Material for a drag queen
- 60 Coloratura Gluck
- 61 Giant table
- 62 Oral votes
- 63 Dated, with “out”

Down

1 Linking toy

2 Buck heroine

3 Martha, who was married to Mark Harris

4 Translate into code

5 Small towns, to Shakespeare?

6 It spreads its limbs

7 Rimbaud’s king

8 Direct path to a queen

9 Kid

10 Opening amount

11 Sad ending for love

12 Stats from *A League of Their Own*

17 Heterogeneous mixture

18 ____ Fein

22 Thespians do it

23 Frequent Rock Hudson co-star Doris

24 Not that, and more

25 Rich cake with nuts

26 Went down on

27 Honey holder

30 Yellow-brick way

31 Write further

33 George Babbitt’s field

34 Olympic skater Eric

37 Vardalos of *Connie & Carla*

38 Anderson Cooper’s network

39 Two-time link

40 Mineo of movies

43 Tomorrow, to Frida

44 Pesters

46 Miami branch location

47 Position at sea

48 Queen’s “____ Born to Love You”

50 Folk singer Guthrie

51 Tammy Baldwin, in brief

52 Neighbor of Neb.

54 Like a cunning linguist

55 Word before kwon do

56 Thurman of *Kill Bill*

57 Second pitches f or Copland



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