

dallas voice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | DallasV

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'Black Panther' Pounces

In time for Black History Month,
a game-changer at the movies

by Arnold Wayne Jones, Page 18

What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

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

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

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

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

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ◆ **Severe liver problems**, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **Bone problems**, including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

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

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

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

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

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



I'm active, not unaware.

I know who I am. And I make choices that fit my life.


TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

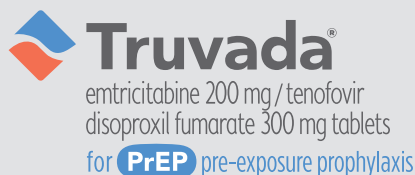
- ◆ **TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.**
- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**

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

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(tru-VAH-dah)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
 - **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
 - **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
 - **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the “How To Further Reduce Your Risk” section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

IMPORTANT FACTS

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

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP” section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

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

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

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

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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AIN changes name but not acronym

AIDS Interfaith Network is now Access and Information Network. The organization — mostly known by its acronym AIN — is still AIN.

The new name reflects the expanded services AIN provides, Development Associate Mark Quigley explained. Each year, AIN reaches 14,000 people with HIV and STD testing and information. But AIN also teams with Dallas County Health Department and other health departments in North Texas to offer glucose testing and provide information on other medical conditions.

AIN continues to provide HIV services through the Howie Daire Center.

Quigley also said that although the “interfaith” part of the name was dropped, faith leaders still provide a major part of AIN’s core base of volunteers. AIN was originally founded by religious groups to provide information to churches and other religious institutions on how to help members with the virus and had a buddy program to team volunteers with people living with AIDS.

—David Taffet

Headliners announced for MetroBall

Expose and Shannon will headline this year’s MetroBall, organizers announced Monday, Feb. 12.

The Greg Dollgener AIDS Memorial Fund stages the annual event at S4 to provide funds for services for people with HIV that other grants won’t cover. GDMAF provides emergency financial assistance



through its partner agencies when all other resources have been exhausted.

Expose is known for the hits “Come Go With Me,” “Point of No Return” and “Seasons Change.” Shannon’s chart toppers include “Let the Music Play” and “Give Me Tonight.”

MetroBall 13 takes place on June 29. General admission tickets are \$30. VIP tickets include the opportunity to meet the ’80s pop dance icons. Tickets are on sale now.

—David Taffet

Texas candidate gets LPAC endorsement

Officials with Lesbian Super Pac — LPAC — on Tuesday, Feb. 13 announced that the PAC is endorsing three more candidates, including a lesbian running for the Texas state Senate.

Fran Watson, who is running to represent Texas District 17, which starts on the west side of Houston and runs south to Freeport on the Texas Gulf Coast, is a native Houstonian who works as an attorney. She and her wife, Kim Atkins, were married in 2013.

According to the LPAC press released District 12 is a traditionally Republican district, but “the demographics of the area are shifting. ... Watson

appears to have the edge in her primary as well as the ability to mobilize young, energetic voters.”

The other two candidates included in LPAC’s most recent endorsements include U.S. Rep. Krysten Sinema of Arizona, the first open bisexual elected to Congress, who is now running for the U.S. Senate, and Lauren Baer, who is running to represent Florida’s District 18 in the U.S. House.

Watson is one of 40 openly LGBT candidates



Fran Watson

running for public office this year in Texas.

Although LPAC says that if elected, Watson “would be first openly LGBTQ candidate elected to state’s upper chamber,” two other openly-LGBT candidates are also running for the Texas Senate:

Mark Phariss, an attorney who with his husband Vic and an Austin lesbian couple successfully sued the state of Texas for marriage equality, is running against Brian Chaput for the Democratic nomination in District 8.

And in District 25, Shannon McClendon is challenging incumbent state Sen. Donna Campbell in the Republican Primary.

—Tammye Nash

Trump’s popularity in Texas tracks with national disapproval

President Donald Trump’s approval rating in the latest Gallup Poll is 38 percent. In Texas, his approval rating stands at 39 percent.

It seems the closer people are to Trump, the less they like him. In the election, only 8 percent of voters in Manhattan voted for him. Now, Trump’s lowest approval rating is in Washington D.C. with 6 percent approval.

Among states, Vermont likes Trump the least giving him a 26 percent approval. Rounding out the bottom are Massachusetts (27 percent), California (29 percent) Hawaii (29 percent) and Maryland and home state New York (30 percent).


In 12 states, Trump’s approval remains about 50 percent — Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Idaho, Kentucky, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Trump’s first year approval rating was the lowest in Gallup polling history. His approval at the end of one year was 20 points lower than President Barack Obama’s.

The Gallup organization noted that in the low polling number is significant in years with Congressional elections. “Popular presidents also tend to weather midterm election years with fewer party losses in Congress,” Gallup reported.

In addition, Trump will be a drag on elections in more states than expected, including Texas. However, Democratic senators in Montana, North Dakota and West Virginia are up for re-election. Should Trump’s popularity in those states translate into Republican wins, a Democratic takeover of the Senate could be difficult.

—David Taffet




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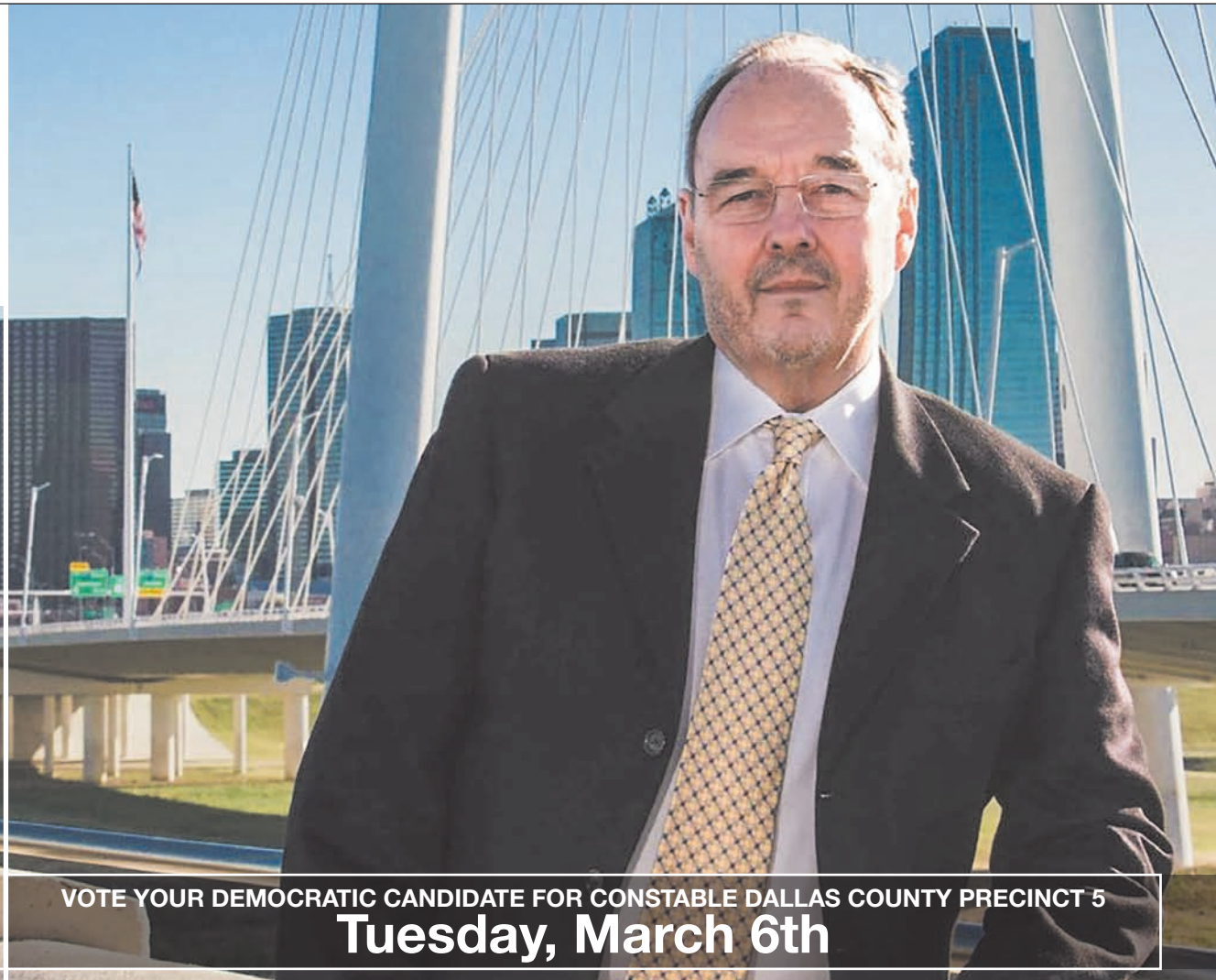
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Jeff’s passion for creating a close-knit community and his ability to communicate effectively under stressful situations WILL positively impact Precinct 5.

“We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools”
— Martin Luther King, Jr.

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U.S. Rep, District 24
Jan McDowell

U.S. Rep, District 26
Co-Endorsement
Linsey Fagan and Will Fisher

U.S. Rep, District 30
Eddie Bernice Johnson

U.S. Rep, District 32
Colin Allred

U.S. Rep, District 33
Marc Veasey

Governor
Lupe Valdez

Lt. Governor
Mike Collier

State Comptroller
Joi Chevalier

State Board of Education,
District 11
Carla Morton

State Senator, District 8
Mark Phariss

State Senator, District 16
Nathan Johnson

State Rep, District 100
Eric Johnson

State Rep, District 104
Jessica Gonzalez

State Rep, District 105
Terry Meza

State Rep, District 108
Joanna Cattanch

State Rep, District 109
Carl Sherman, Sr.

State Rep, District 113
Rhetta Bowers

State Rep, District 115
Julie Johnson

District Judge, 68th District
Martin Hoffman

District Judge, 160th District
Jim Jordan

District Judge, 193rd District
Carl Ginsberg

District Judge, 203rd District
Raquel "Rocky" Jones

District Judge, 204th District
Stephen Duplantis

District Judge, 255th District
Sandre Monciffe

District Judge, 265th District
Jennifer Bennett

District Judge, 283rd District
Lela Mays

(Warning issued against Mays' opponent, Vonciel Hill)

Criminal District Judge, No. 1
Tina Yoo Clinton

Criminal District Judge, No. 6
Alison Grinter

Criminal District Judge, No. 7
Mark Watson

Family District Judge
302nd District
Sandra Jackson

Family District Judge 304th District
LaDeitra Adkins

District Attorney
John Creuzot

Judge, County Court at Law
No. 2
Melissa Bellan

Judge, County Court at Law
No. 4
Ken Tapscott

Judge, Criminal Court at Law,
Court 3
Audrey Moorehead

Judge, Criminal Court at Law,
Court 10
Roberto Canas

Judge, County Court Criminal
Court of Appeals, No. 1
Kristin Wade

Sheriff
Roy Williams Jr.

Justice of the Peace,
Pct 2, Place 1
Margaret O'Brien

Justice of the Peace,
Pct 4 Place 2
Katy Hubener

Justice of the Peace,
Pct 5 Place 2
Juan Jasso

Constable, Pct 1
Tracey Gully

Constable, Pct 4
Sha Steger Knight

Constable, Pct 5
Beth Villarreal

Dallas County Party Chair
Carol Donovan

Early Voting

February 20 – March 2

Vote at ANY early voting polling location.

Visit **Dallascountyvotes.org**

for complete list of voting locations.

Make sure to tear this page out
and take it with you to the polls

Political Ad paid for by Cassandra Gandara,
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THE GAY AGENDA



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

FEBRUARY

• Feb. 16: Federal Club mixer

Dallas/Fort Worth Federal Club celebrates the Chinese New Year with a mixer at Chino Chinatown, 3011 Gulden Lane in Dallas, with complimentary chips, salsa and guacamole, \$7 cocktails and \$5 selected beers, from 6-8 p.m. Sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas. Self parking is available; valet service is \$5. Ride-sharing is encouraged.

• 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.

• Feb. 20: Love, Simon

GALA North Texas hosts a screening of the gay teen love story *Love, Simon* at 7 p.m. at Cinemark West Plano, 3800 Dallas Pkwy. For information visit GALANorthTexas.org.

• Feb. 21: Conspire — “Considering Matthew Shepherd”

Berklee College of Music presents the Dallas debut of vocal ensemble Conspire, performing *Considering Matthew Shepherd*, a three-part oratorio composed by Craig Hella Johnson, at 7:30 p.m. at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Tickets are available online at DMA.org.

• Feb. 21: Digit 1919

Meet and greet cocktail hour from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 1919 S. Akard St. Visit Digit1919.com for info.

• Feb. 27: Family Night at Durkin's

GALA North Texas hosts Family Night at Durkin's Pizza, 8930 Texas 121 in McKinney, from 5-8 p.m. Bring a few cans of fruit cocktail to donate to Frisco Fastpacs. For information visit GALANorthTexas.org.

• Feb. 28: Aging in the LGBT Community

The Coalition for Aging LGBT hosts “Aging in the LGBT Community: Our History, the Unique Challenges and How to Engage,” from noon to 2 p.m. at The Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd. Free CEU's for social workers. Registration required at tinyurl.com/yc05ktef.

MARCH

• March 2: Bianca Del Rio

Performance at 8 p.m. at Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St.

• March 3: Toast to Life—Bollywood

Steve Kemble hosts and DJ Jennifer Miller entertains. 7-11 p.m. at the Empire Room, 1225 N. Riverfront Blvd.

• March 3: Carousel of Love

Garza Productions presents “Carousel of Love: A Magical Night of Cabaret Extravaganza,” at the Margo Jones Theatre in Fair Park, at Magnolia Lounge, 1121 First Ave. Tickets are \$27 and parking is free. All proceeds will benefit a charitable organization in North Texas. This is an adult-only event. For information visit Facebook.com/GarzaProductionsDFW.

• 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 6: Miss Red Pageant

From 8-11:30 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

• March 8: Mr. Gay Highland Park USofA

The Mr. Gay Highland Park USofA pageant begins at 10:30 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon and Dance Hall, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Cover charge is \$10.



Gala North Texas hosts a screening of the gay teen love story *Love, Simon* Tuesday at Cinemark West Plano. See listings for details.

• March 8: 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.

• March 11: Mr. and Miss North Texas Pride Pageant

• March 13: Resource Center tour

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center's community center at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@mysresourcecenter.org.

• 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: AIDS Walk South Dallas

AIDS Walk South Dallas takes place at Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 2922 MLK Blvd. Registration is at 8 a.m., followed by the opening ceremonies at 9:15

a.m. and step-off at 10 a.m. Register at AWSD2018.EventBrite.com. For information visit AIDSWalkSouthDallas.com.

• March 24: Green Tie for Green Haus

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

• March 24: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)

New Members Open Scramble is the inaugural event of the 2018 season, starting at 10 a.m. at Cedar Crest Golf Course, 1800 Southerland Ave. \$55.00 includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. DSGADallas.org or email info@DSGADallas.org for information.

APRIL

• April 7: No Tie Dinner:

A Night to Remember Presented by Purple Foundation, and benefits AIDS Services Dallas from 7-11 p.m. at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, 6911 Lemmon Ave. \$75-150. Tickets available online at NoTieDinner.org.

• April 7: Scarborough Faire

The annual Renaissance Faire opens and runs through May 28.

• **April 8: Turtle Creek Association Tour of Homes**

The Turtle Creek Association hosts the Tour of Homes, featuring five residences along the Turtle Creek Blvd., from 1-5 p.m. Tickets are \$54 each for non-association members and \$45 each for members through March 31. Prices go up after that date. Parking will be available at 3811 Turtle Creek Blvd. For information visit TurtleCreekAssociation.org.

• **April 10: Resource Center tour**

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center's community center at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@mysresourcecenter.org.

• **April 12: 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.

• **April 13: Compassion Fatigue Symposium**

Ed-U-Care presents a program for caregivers from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at Lovers Lane United Methodist Church, 9200 Inwood Road.

• **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 21: Chamber Gala**

The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce hosts its Gala from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at a private estate in Old Preston Hollow. Includes a silent auction, hors d'oeuvres and libations. Individual tickets are \$65; sponsorships are available. Contact the chamber at 214-821-4528 for details.

GAY AGENDA, Page 16

pet of the week / MARLON

Meet **Marlon**, a 3 1/2-year-old cream-colored Anatolian shepherd mix weighing 65 pounds. He's a goofy, energetic guy who is athletic and a total pro at playing fetch. He'd enjoy a home with a big yard to run in and a family that will take him on adventures and give him lots of attention. Marlon has been neutered, microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Put on your tennis shoes and come meet him today. #144225

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Getting back on the right path



President Barack Obama, right, leads applause to the parents of Matthew Shepard, Dennis Shepard, left, and Judy Shepard, center, and James Byrd Jr.'s sisters, Louvon Harris, second left, and Betty Byrd Boatner, during a White House reception commemorating the enactment of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, on Oct. 28, 2009. This week, Judy Shepard said she believes the country is going backwards in terms of fighting hate crimes and bigotry. (Manuel Balce Ceneta/Associated Press)

As she plans a visit to Dallas, Judy Shepard talks about keeping up the fight and the importance of voting

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

This year, in October, we will have been without Matt for as long as we had Matt," Judy Shepard said in an interview this week, noting that Oct. 10 will mark 20 years since her son was beaten, tied to a fence outside Laramie, Wyo., and left to die in the most infamous anti-gay hate crime in U.S. history. "Sometimes, it seems like it was 100 years ago. And sometimes, it seems like it was just yesterday," said Judy, who with her husband, Dennis, co-founded the Matthew Shepard Foundation after their son's murder to "erase hate by replacing it with understanding, compassion and acceptance." But although they've seen much progress in the years since, Judy said every day she is reminded how far we have yet to go. The last year has been especially trying, she said, noting that hate crimes and discrimination are again on the rise since Donald

Trump was elected president. "It's very frustrating because we've not come any further than this," Judy said. "I thought we were on the right path. We were making progress. But we made a wrong turn and it seems we're headed the wrong way now."

The crime

Matt Shepard had only recently moved to Laramie to attend the University of Wyoming when he decided to go to a local pub, The Fireside Lounge, for the evening. It was in the early morning hours of Oct. 7, 1998, when two men — Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson — lured Matt away from the pub to rob him. They drove him out to the countryside, tied him to a fence and beat him, using the butt of a .357-caliber handgun as a weapon.

The two then drove away, leaving Matt tied to the fence in near-freezing temperatures, just barely clinging to life. Eighteen hours later, a passing bicyclist found him, although the cyclist said he nearly rode on by, thinking that it was a scarecrow that he saw and not a human being.

Matt Shepard was rushed to Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Colo., where he lay comatose for four days, suffering from brain injuries and severe hypothermia, before being pronounced dead at 12:53 a.m.

on Oct. 12.

Shortly after, Henderson and McKinney were arrested and charged with Matt's murder. At trial, McKinney's own defense lawyer said that McKinney had only intended to rob Matt but became enraged when Matt made a pass at him. McKinney's girlfriend also said that his hatred for gays played a role in the killing, although she later recanted, claiming she had only said that because she thought it would help McKinney's case.

Henderson pleaded guilty, striking a deal to testify against McKinney to avoid the death penalty. McKinney was found guilty at trial. Both men were sentenced to two consecutive life sentences.

The foundation, the law and the fight against hate

Matt's murder set a new life course for his parents. Judy and Dennis Shepard have made it their mission for the last 20 years to combat hate with love.

"I was so idealistic back then," Judy said this week. "I thought if people could just get to know gay people, it would be different. I thought, if they just knew who these wonderful people really are, it would all be OK. If I hadn't lost Matt, I would be that PFLAG mom in the kitchen making cookies now, not the mom at the podium" fighting for change.

It didn't take long, in the years following Matt's death, for Judy Shepard to realize that it would take more than just non-gays getting to know LGBT people. In fact, it took 11 years for Congress to finally pass a comprehensive hate crimes law. President Barack Obama finally signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act — named after Matt and the African-American man dragged to death in an equally horrific hate crime in June, 1998 in Jasper, Texas — into law.

Still, slow as it was, Judy said, "We were making progress."

Then came November 2016 and Donald Trump's election. In the year-plus since he took office, Judy said, "the haters have been given permission to voice their hate, to be right up front about it without worrying about facing any consequences. Why should they? No one in the White House suffers consequences for any of the hateful things they say and do.

"It's all the federally-protected minorities, the fringe folks, who are targets now," she continued, "the Muslims, the ones targeted because of their origins, their race, their orientation, their gender. It's just heartbreaking to think that folks think this [hateful bigots] is what we are now, what we've always been. This is not the America I know. It's not where I want to live.

"We all need to stop and realize, we are

all an 'other' to somebody else. We're all different somehow. It's just heart-breaking to see so much hate."

Getting back on the right path

Still, Judy Shepard has hope. "I have to have hope we can get better, just to get through the day," she said.

"We can get back on the right path," she continued. "But we will have to do it without the help of the federal government" which has in the past year given the haters not only permission to stop progress but to move instead in the other direction.

This time though, "we are organized now," Judy said. "We have our voices now, and we know how to use them. People know who we are." Judy and Dennis and the Matthew Shepard Foundation are using their voices in a number of ways right now. Productions of *The Laramie Project*, a play about the response in Laramie to Matt's murder, "are one of a handful of things we officially endorse now," Judy said. Another is *Considering Matthew Shepard*, the three-part oratorio written by Craig Hella Johnson and performed by Austin-based Conspirare, which will be performed next Wednesday, Feb. 21, at Moody Performance Hall in Dallas (see story, Page 24).

"But our main focus right now is hate crimes conferences," Judy said. "We are working on educating the public and law enforcement on how to recognize and report hate crimes. We're working with the non-government agencies and nonprofits. We used to have the support of the Department of Justice and the Attorney General.

We don't have that anymore. That's another setback."

That can change again, Judy said. But it will take everyone working together to make that happen.

"I think people understand now that they got complacent, even lazy," she said. "People were not paying attention. I heard a lot [in the 2016 election cycle] about how one candidate was just as bad as the other, so people weren't going to even vote. But you have to pay attention; one candidate is always worse than the other.

"I blame the people who didn't bother to vote at all for the mess we're in now," she continued. "I hope that this [past year] has truly shaken them to their core. It's got to be a wake-up call.

"Y'all have got to vote," Judy insisted. "You have to register and you have to go vote. You have to go through all the nonsense that includes. We need to have automatic registration — when you turn 18, you are automatically registered to vote. That would solve some of the problems. Make Election Day a holiday or put it on a Saturday — anything to make voting easier. We have to educate people, give them a civics lesson, because we all need a general idea of how this works.

"We have to organize," she said. "We have to stay in tune. Know what's real and what's not. Pay attention. Really pay attention. You still need to be out there, using your voice. You just cannot be silent now."

For more information about Matthew Shepard, Judy and Dennis Shepard and the work of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, visit MatthewShepard.org.



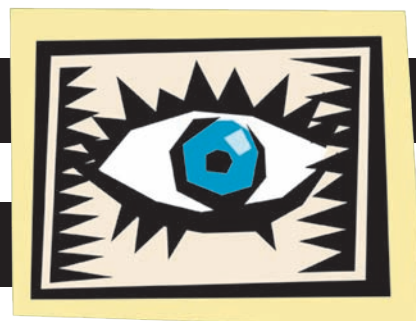
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A new entryway for a new era

Cathedral of Hope breaks ground
for new monument and entrance road

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Cathedral of Hope will break ground this weekend for a new entryway into the church grounds, and church officials say the new entryway marks the beginning of a new era for the church.

Cathedral of Hope has never had its own formal entrance, from either Inwood Road or Cedar Springs Road, although there have always been three ways to get onto the church property.

One entrance from Cedar Springs Road goes through the doggy daycare parking lot. That building was a Ruth's Chris Steakhouse when Cathedral of Hope was first built. Although someone else owns that building, the church owns the driveway.

The two other entrances are both off Inwood Road. One is marked by a sign, and

that entrance zigzags through a car dealership. The other is down Nash Street. The Nash Street entrance is marked by a Jack in the Box on one side and a Taco Bell on the other.

When the church was built, the street was residential. Those houses are long gone and the road has been abandoned by the city. Although Nash Street is no longer an official city street, Dallas hasn't blocked the right-of-way as it would normally do when it abandons a road, so congregants still use that entrance.

Since Resource Center opened its new building at 5750 Cedar Springs Road, a fourth entrance to the church grounds has been created through its parking lots. But none of those entrances go directly into the property, and just finding the church can be a problem at times for newcomers.

The new, formal entryway will solve that problem.

It will be located along Cedar Springs Road, between Resource Center and the doggy daycare. In the initial phase of construction, the entry road will connect Cedar

Springs Road and Nash Street and will be known as Covington Way, honoring former church employee Lee Covington.

Covington, who served as assistant to senior pastor Neil Cazarez-Thomas as well as his two predecessors, was murdered in his home last summer. Yevin Rushing, 22, has been arrested and charged with Covington's murder. Rushing had had several of Covington's belongings in his possession at the time of his arrest, including Covington's keys and Rolex watch. Rushing was arrested when he drove to Covington's house in a U-Haul just hours after Covington's death, presumably to empty the house. He remains in Dallas County Jail awaiting trial.

A monument will be built at the corner of Covington Way at Cedar Springs Road and will, Cazares-Thomas said, be named for Robert Trost, a long-time CoH member who died 18 months ago and left \$1 million to the church. Half of that money went into a long-term endowment, and half went toward the new master plan for the church complex.

Implementing the master plan began with long-overdue repairs, including repairs to the roof. "The bell tower was leaking like a sieve," Cazares-Thomas said.

Other improvements included fixing sound problems in the Interfaith Peace Chapel, a problem since the building opened, and buying new furniture for that building.

The first phase of construction on the road and monument should begin soon after the groundbreaking. Weather permitting, the church hopes to complete the work by Easter Sunday.

The cost of the first phase of construction is \$395,000 with \$315,000 already collected. Selling bricks is one way the church will raise the funds.

"We'll also be making personal asks of people for whom this has been a dream in the making," Cazarez-Thomas said.

The next phase of construction will be to extend Covington Way behind the Interfaith Peace Chapel into the main parking lot.

When that's completed, the road between the church and chapel will be closed to traffic and turned into a landscaped plaza. The driveway through the doggy daycare would become a service entrance that would only be used by staff to access employee parking.

Other long term plans include using some of the property for senior housing, homeless youth housing or community space. Any of those proposals would be in conjunction with other organizations and possibly the city.

A proposed Philip Johnson-designed cathedral, of which the Interfaith Peace Chapel was just a small piece, is no longer part of the church's master plan.

"Multipurpose space is more important than space just used on Sundays," Cazarez-Thomas explained.

Cazarez-Thomas called the new entrance "a new entryway for a new era." He said when the church was built, it was purposefully secluded and without a sign marking its presence.

"In the early days of this congregation, there was a notion of security, of not being seen from the street," he said.

But today, the church is often a wedding destination attracting out-of-town guests who have trouble finding the building. The monument, which includes "Cathedral of Hope" written on both sides, should fix that.

Groundbreaking begins at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 17. Enter through the doggy daycare, car dealership, Nash Street or Resource Center.



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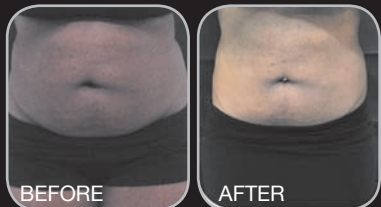
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LGBT smoking rates



New American Cancer Society studies why certain groups smoke more

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Smoking has decreased among the general population in the U.S., from 42 percent of all people in 1965 to 15 percent in 2015, according to a new study released by the American Cancer Society.

But despite the overall decrease, a much higher percentage of LGBT are smoking than are heterosexuals.

In his study "Who's still smoking? Disparities in adult cigarette smoking preva-

lence in the United States," Jeffrey Drope, vice president of economic and health policy at the American Cancer Society, found a number of reasons LGBT individuals smoke more. Those include the stress of living in a hostile society, advertising targeting the LGBT community and promoting tobacco products in gay bars.

Overall, Texas has one of the lowest rates of smoking in the U.S. and, in Dallas, smoking is prohibited in bars. A similar ban was recently enacted in Fort Worth.

Dallas Tavern Guild Executive Director Michael Doughman, who coordinates the Pride festival and parade each September, said tobacco companies do not promote their products at Dallas Pride.

"Early on we declined," Doughman said. "And they haven't approached us in 10 years."

Smoking rates across the U.S. vary based

15



and tobacco products are not promoted at Pride or other LGBT events. McMurray said the trans community is rarely targeted for any marketing, anyway.

"We go under the radar," she said.

But the third reason people smoke is stress and societal pressure. In addition to anti-LGBT hostility, trans women lose any male privilege they previously had when they transition. But trans men, who gained that privilege when they transitioned, are more than twice as likely to smoke as trans women.

Drope said he'd like to see a study that looks into the lower rates of smoking among a few groups like trans women and Hispanics to learn how certain cultural norms somehow insulate some groups from smoking.

Despite the downward trend in smoking throughout the U.S., Drope said 40 million people still are addicted to cigarettes.

"Thirty percent of all cancer deaths are smoking attributable," he said.

Most people associate lung cancer with smoking, but 16 forms of cancer can be triggered by tobacco use, including breast, colon, prostate, cervical, bladder, kidney, stomach, liver and a variety of cancers of the mouth and throat. Smoking related cardio-vascular diseases are even more likely to occur.

Texas has a lower rate of smoking than any of the surrounding states. Drope attributed that to high risk factors in surrounding states.

New Mexico and Oklahoma have large Native American populations. Louisiana is a much poorer state than Texas. Arkansas, Kentucky and West Virginia, all with lower socio-economic levels, have the country's highest smoking rates.

In Texas, our large Hispanic population factors into our lower smoking rate. So do regulations in Dallas and other large cities that prohibit smoking in public places.

Dallas had one of the first — if not the very first — no-smoking ordinances in the country. In 1964, a fire swept through Neiman Marcus in downtown Dallas, causing \$10 million in damage. The fifth floor was gutted, according to news reports from the time, but smoke and water damaged merchandise throughout the store. In response, the Dallas City Council banned smoking in retail establishments.

That history of no smoking locally may contribute to the lower smoking rate in Texas.

While Drope said he didn't have the statistics, it made sense that in states with lower rates of smoking, LGBT smoking rates were correspondingly lower as well. ■



• April 23-29: 7th Annual National Black Trans Advocacy Conference

Workshops and the Mr. & Miss Black Trans International Pageant. Wyndham Dallas Suites—Park Central, 7800 Alpha Road. BlackTransMen.org.

• 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

• May 8: Resource Center tour

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center's community center at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@mysresourcecenter.org.

• May 10: 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.

• May 11-14: Purple Party

• May 12: House of DIFFA: Alter Ego Celebrate fashion, design and philanthropy at the annual black tie gala including runway show and after party at the Omni Dallas

• 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: AOC Evening of Hope

AIDS Outreach Center of Fort Worth hosts its annual Evening of Hope gala at the Hilton Hotel Fort Worth, 815 Main St. Single tickets are \$200. Sponsorships are available. For information visit AOC.org/eoh.php.

• 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.

• **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 activist Karen McCrocklin; **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@mysresourcecenter.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.

• May 19: GLAAD Media Institute

Equality Texarkana presents Engagement 101: Telling Your Story: Messaging and Media Tools for Today's Activist from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. at Texas A&M Texarkana, 7101 University Ave., Texarkana, Texas. Tickets at GLAAD.org/institute/courses.

• May 22: Primary runoff election

Vote in your precinct polling location only.

• May 31-June 3: TBRU

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 9: North Texas Pride

Come As You Are Festival from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Haggard Park, Plano.

• June 12: Resource Center tour

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center's community center at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@mysresourcecenter.org.

• June 14: 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.

• 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 29: MetroBall

Expose and Shannon headline the fundraiser for Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund from 7 p.m.-midnight at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Info at GDMF.org.

• June 30: Pride San Antonio Crockett Park

JULY

• July 10: Resource Center tour

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center's community center at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@mysresourcecenter.org.

• 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.

administration

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Holding dreams and counting blessings

Like many people, Katie and I have been watching the Winter Olympics from Pyeongchang this last week. I'm continually inspired by the amazing things these kids do. NBC has done a number of pre-packaged interviews with Olympic athletes and their families, and a common thread among them is big dreams.

One athlete told of his dad saying the very same words my dad said to me: "You can do anything you want to if you want to do it bad enough."

My dad would have never put up with it if I told him my dream was to live life as a woman. Who could blame him? It was the early 1960s, after all.

But that was my dream. I thought about it a lot, but not even I believed it was really possible. Happily, I was wrong.

One thing I'd like to do — if not today, then maybe this weekend — is take a little time to count my blessings. I have the life I've always dreamed of — even though some of the details are quite surprising. But it's so easy to get self-absorbed on a day-to-day basis, where "planning" is sometimes figuring out what's for dinner or what to do this weekend (if we want to really get long range). And the weight of the day can seem to take on more importance than it really has.

I think that is a common barrier to happiness. That, and Facebook.

I need to take a few deep breaths, get quiet and just remember how hard I fought to get where I am and all that I sacrificed to



Leslie McMurray

Accidental Activist

be who I am. Just living every day as Leslie is a revolutionary act. It is my closest-held dream that never carried with it the possibility of really coming true.

Yet here it is.

It's funny that something so momentous, so im-

possible and so rebellious is now ordinary. It's just the new normal. It's easy to take for granted the miracle I'm living every single day.

When I was little and would dream of living my life as a woman, I always thought I'd be ridiculed and laughed at. I'm not — at least, not that I'm aware of.

I never imagined the big challenges would be political — institutionalized bigotry designed to deny me healthcare and access to public accommodations necessary to participate in society. I never thought that political leaders — grown men and women — would sow the seeds of fear and hatred towards someone like me with no evidence at all that I deserve either. That's been a surprise.

In dreaming about this impossible dream, I never pictured my finding love. That was so far removed from the realm of possibility. I'd always imagined myself living as a

happy hermit — living my authentic life, but completely alone.

The reality is that, somehow, the stars aligned, and Katie and I ended up crossing paths, and her kindness towards me that began as nothing more than helping a friend has turned into something more — a lot more. Having someone who loves me like she does makes this journey so much richer and so much more worth living.

I love her dearly and would do anything for her. I have no doubt she feels the same way about me.

Pushing 60 gives things a sense of urgency they didn't have when I was younger. My dad's "some days" ran out Feb. 21, 1987, when he was only 67 years old — just eight years older than I am now. I plan on living way past 67, but so did my dad.

It's a somber reminder that sometimes things don't work out according to plan.

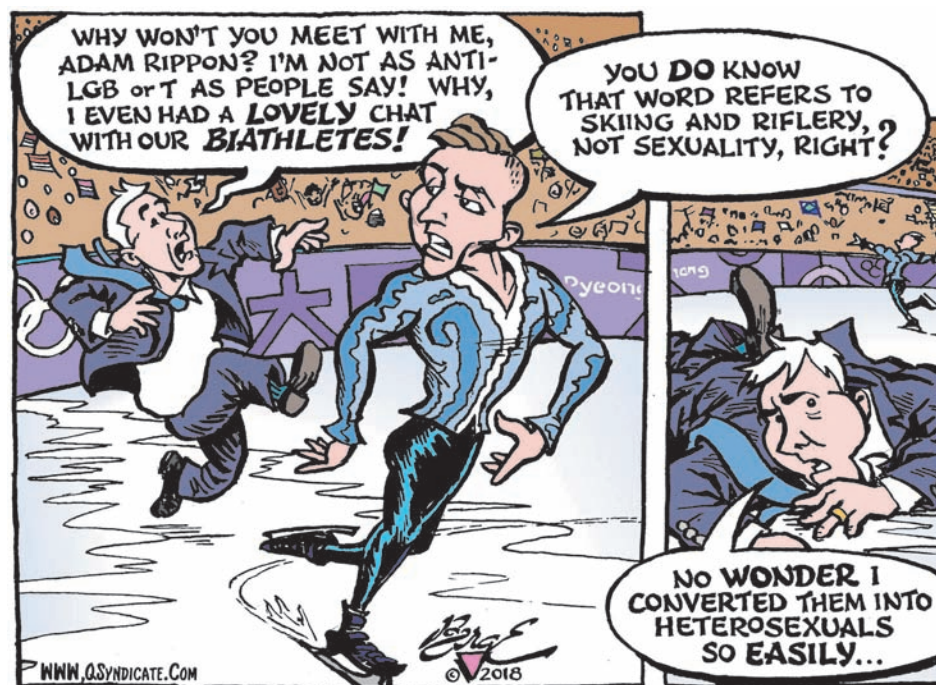
My first thought is to create a list of blessings — write them out — so I can see them. Then I want to create a visual reminder of sorts that represents these blessings and add to it as life goes on. I'm already realizing that I'm going to need a pretty big canvas or a smaller medium. It could be a rock garden, or wine corks, or a jar of marbles with each one representing a blessing in my life for which I'm humbly grateful.

I don't think the form it takes is nearly as important as remembering and acknowledging each blessing. They can be whatever I want them to be, from huge ones, like my daughters who love and accept me, or the warm and safe house Katie and I bought together and our two border collies. Or they could be simple things, like the feel of the warm sun on an early spring day.

The point is that believing in your dreams and being thankful for the people and things that make life worth living are important to living a happy life. I also hope to live my life in such a way that I can be a marble in someone else's jar.

I live a simple life, but a good life. I'm happier than I ever thought I would be, and I understand things now that I didn't when I was younger — like how you should never let go of your dreams, because they might just surprise you in the most incredible ways.

Leslie McMurray, a transgender woman, is a former radio DJ who lives and works in Dallas. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com.



LIFE+STYLE

screen

Back in Black

Few superhero movies have been as buzzed about as 'Black Panther' ... and the socio-political climate may be the biggest factor

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com





Michael B. Jordan faces off with Chadwick Boseman.

When it comes to social activism in the arts, TV and pop music, especially hip-hop, are the leaders. TV hosts like Bill Maher, Stephen Colbert and Sam Bee, and musicians like Kendrick Lamar, can turn out their product with enviable speed, instantly capturing a mood and a moment and expressing it for the masses.

But cinema — especially big-budget superhero tentpole films — is less nimble than television and music. Movies just can't follow social trends as easily.

Sometimes, though, a movie can precede a trend, or even establish it. Sometimes, the real superhero is timing.

That feels like the case with *Black Panther*. This cat has claws.

It was already the most pre-sold film in Hollywood history before a frame had been screened by anyone, and that ain't just marketing. And as far as the pantheon of superheroes goes, *Black Panther* simply doesn't (didn't?) have the cache of a Batman, Superman, Spider-Man, Wonder Woman, Iron Man or Captain America. Star Chadwick Boseman isn't a household name (yet). So how did the new film, out today in 3,800 theaters, become a sensation, sight unseen?

The answer might lie at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Or on the streets of Ferguson, Missouri.

Black Panther is, simply put, the movie of the moment; but even more, the cultural touchstone that people have demanded without even realizing it. In tone, look, story and style, this is everything we never knew we all needed.

Last summer, *Wonder Woman* benefited from similar confluences of the Zeitgeist.

Even before the #MeToo movement got underway, the defeat of what seemed a shoo-in for the first female president in a corrupt election to an incompetent wind-bag primed the pump for a woman who got her way by the force of her convictions. Diana Prince was royalty who left her homeland (which was hidden from the world by bits of alchemy) to protect the world at large from forces only she could fathom.

That is, essentially, the same plot of *Black Panther*, in negative. Prince T'Challa (Chadwick Boseman) inherited his country's throne upon the assassination of his father (we saw that play out in 2016's *Captain America: Civil War*). Wakanda is a nation of untold wealth, but with the use of secret technology, a force field has hidden that from the outside world. To the United Nations, Wakanda is a third-world nation of destitute farmers; under the dome, it's a vibrant utopia that looks like *Blade Runner* without the rain. Wakanda has maintained its culture by staying out of worldwide involvement — it makes Switzerland look like Putin's Kremlin — though it sends spies to monitor the goings-on around the world. One such spy turned on his homeland decades ago when he witnessed the infestation of drugs, oppression and violence leveled on people of color across the globe, but especially the U.S. His treachery was uncovered, though, before he could put his plan into action. Now, 30 years later, his business partner (Andy Serkis) and a mysterious commando known as Erik Killmonger (Michael B. Jordan), are poised to bring about a change in policy, through

■ BLACK Page 26

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Brandi Carlile, shero of outsiders

LIFE+STYLE

music

The out musician instills power in the powerless with her new album



Photo courtesy Alysse Gafkjenh

Brandi Carlile knew the kid from somewhere. She'd seen him before — not this particular one, but others like him. Nervously pulling at his T-shirt, worn under a chic blazer that stuck out amid a sea of casual tracksuit bottoms and hoodie sweatshirts, Carlile recalls, "He just wanted to disappear inside of it."

"It's a lot of kids — it's all of us," the Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter laments, offering the impetus for her transformative orchestral-augmented rouser, "The Joke." Carlile's impassioned ode to queer kids soars during its pick-you-up chorus, when a tender tip-toe of piano balladry erupts into a fiery rocker with Carlile's Chrissie Hynde-level wail, enkindling the spirit of all that is empowering and celebratory about individuality.

Here, Carlile — openly gay, and once an "eccentric" kid herself — is a galvanizing boost of encouragement, lifting the outsiders, the outcasts, the unwelcome, the kids in blazers, a young girl who still dreams of being the president to new enlightened heights on the sturdy wings of her robust voice. Her lived words help,

too: *Let 'em laugh while they can, let 'em spin, let 'em scatter in the wind / I have been to the movies, I've seen how it ends, and the joke's on them.*

Growing up 40 miles outside Seattle, in the small town called Ravensdale, where her family lived in a single-wide, three-bedroom mobile home, Carlile transcended real life through the surrealist lens of 1984's beloved childhood fantasy about a bullied outcast, *The NeverEnding Story*. (The aurn symbol — snakes biting each other — is tattooed on both of her shoulders, a testament to the film's significance during her youth.)

Later, as an Elton John-enthused teen who came out at age 15 (in the album's liner notes, she calls Elton her "constant muse" and "very clearly a living angel"), she discovered queer cinema, first watching the pioneering AIDS drama *Philadelphia*, then buying the soundtrack. She learned Neil Young's "Philadelphia" and Bruce Springsteen's Oscar-winning theme song, "Streets of Philadelphia," on the guitar. The soundtrack also introduced Carlile to Indigo Girls, whom she'd later collaborate with on numerous occasions (she also collaborated with Elton, who

plays piano on "Caroline," from 2009's *Give Up the Ghost*). Roy Orbison and the Carpenters came to her courtesy of 1995's lesbian-inclusive road movie *Boys on the Side*, "another gay movie that hugely impacted me."

In 2005, when Carlile was 23, that arsenal of folk-rock idols assembled a foundation for her own roots music: a polished self-titled collection of campfire sing-alongs with mass appeal released on Columbia Records. Four studio albums followed, including 2007's *The Story*, which elevated her musical profile and led to TV spots on shows such as *Grey's Anatomy* and an Adele cover of the album's hidden track, "Hiding My Heart." Produced by Fort Worth native and Americana staple T Bone Burnett, Carlile let the rougher edges of her booming instrument catch the light, particularly during the title track, her voice a tsunami of raw, thrashing power.

But you've never heard Carlile quite like you do on *By the Way, I Forgive You*, an early contender for album of the year and her most accomplished, heartfelt set to date, her stunning voice carrying more weight than ever.

With Grammy Award-winning producer Dave Cobb, best known for his work with famed roots-music fixtures Jason Isbell and Shooter Jennings, who co-produces, Carlile hunkered down with twin bandmates Phil and Tim Hanseroth in Nashville's historic RCA Studio A. In the same studio where Dolly Parton, Nancy Sinatra and Willie Nelson once recorded, Carlile went for the same kind of impulsive intimacy of her live shows, and she achieves it: This album most wholly captures Carlile as if she's singing to you from across the room. Her front-and-center voice conveys an abundance of in-the-moment spontaneity, making it impossible not to envision tears she might have shed while singing the wistful standout among standouts "Most of All," a touching tribute to her forgiveness-instilling father and her mother, who "taught me how to fight." On "Whatever You Do," her restlessness is manifested through her heavy-hearted timbre and a cathartic gut-punch of a scream.

"[Dave] sent me out there and was like, 'Just wail on the end of it and take half steps all the way up and just sing until you get to the end of it,'" she recalls. "I

just kept holding the note out and letting it break apart and he loved it. It felt good, and I was really feeling the pain of that song and wanting to show that even though the lyrics had just ended and I had come to some kind of peaceful resolve, there was still a part of me that wasn't letting it go."

Fade outs are to be expected at a Carlile live show, but generally not on a Carlile album — not until Cobb insisted outros could exist in both places. With earlier albums, the set's peace offering, "Party of One," may have been cut just after her recurrent line of devotion, "I am yours, I am yours," but the cinematic ebbing of a mounting string arrangement by the late Paul Buckmaster is soothing and graceful — a warm bath after a long day. "Harder to Forgive" flips the script midway, morphing a familiar backwoods Carlile sound into a pummel of drum-smacked, piano-flecked rock, marked by a tremendous vocal that, again, ends with a delectably charged howl.

"I've always been mild to moderately inconvenienced when making albums," the singer admits. "I always feel like they're kind of an uncomfortable break in my live journey, and Dave Cobb particularly really wasn't having that. He was not impressed with that at all, and he started asking me uncomfortable things like, 'How have you never made an album that's as good or unabashedly kind of what you do on stage live?'"

She has now. Nearly 15 years into their recording career, *By the Way, I Forgive You* is a thrilling sonic turning point for Carlile and her band, with the revelation that their live presence can indeed translate to the studio.

"I just always thought of myself as two different artists — there was a recording artist and a live artist, and it's not the case," she explains. "There are a lot of things I would record differently if I could go back and do it now, but I don't know that I should because it's like trying to change what you were wearing in a photograph in the '80s — you kind of don't want to because it captures the moment. Even if I had affectation in my voice or even if I was crowd-pleasing with some of my lyrics now and then, it was still where I was emotionally at that time."

Carlile is 36 now. She's a wife (to Catherine Carlile, whom she married in 2012) and a mother. And with that, the desire to nurture and be nurtured in a time of political discontent and total world chaos is apparent both in conversation

and on the tender, soul-nourishing surface of these vulnerable compositions. Family has changed her.

"I've been a lot more honest with myself about what's worth writing about and what's not worth writing about and what my motive is," she says. "Do I care anymore about mass appeal? Do I care about universality if it's not moving people?"

The answers are clear on *By the Way, I Forgive You*, as she turns her artistry outward and shines some light on the people who need it most: kids in blazers, a forgotten Jane Doe (*I'll always save some room for you / I won't let you get left behind*) and Carlile's own dear friend whose drug addiction cost him his life. Called "Sugartooth," Carlile's elegy for her late friend will resonate beyond its direct muse, with all castaways, when she offers a hard truth: "What in the hell are you going to do when the world has made its mind up about you?"

Since 2008, Carlile has enriched marginalized lives through the charity she co-founded with the Hanseroth brothers,

called the Looking Out Foundation, which funds oft-overlooked causes and organizations related to the arts, gender equality and civil rights. Now more than ever, her music pledges the same: to give a voice to the voiceless.

"At the end of the day, the thing that I've learned the most since having Evangeline [her daughter] is that everybody is

somebody's baby," she says. "I know that should just be a given and we should just know that, but for some reason I don't think I did know it until I had one."

Addressing parenthood as a lesbian mom, "The Mother" is a love letter to her nearly-4-year-old daughter, with an irrefutable declarative statement sung during the chorus — *I am the mother of Evangeline* — that suffuses undeniable humanness into its significant political assertion. "The world has stood against us, made us mean to fight for you," she acknowledges, pointing to the queer parent struggle. "And when we chose your name, we knew that you'd fight the power too."

With *By the Way, I Forgive You*, Carlile's show of compassion and mercy — passed from her parents down to her and now her daughters (Elijah is on the way), as the album's threaded narrative goes — challenges that same power by merely existing. The message here is one of love: the love we learn, the love we lose, and the love we leave.

— Chris Azzopardi




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L+S | concert

Music of the heart

2 upcoming concerts share the healing power of music



Craig Johnson. (Photo courtesy James Goulden)

Music is an undeniable force. In the form of a Sousa march, it invigorates; as a lullaby, it soothes and comforts; and in the form of a ballad, it can simultaneously break and mend hearts. Without a doubt, music holds the power to unite people of dissimilar cultures and even different languages. Often, we seek music for another of its remarkable powers, that of healing. In this regard, two upcoming musical presentations offer Dallas special opportunity to celebrate community with song.

From hate springs hope

As it did for many, news of Matthew Shepard's horrific October 1998 murder pierced Craig Hella Johnson. While circumstances surrounding the brutal killing unfolded, Johnson found himself introspective, examining the notions of both hate and love. It was then that he realized a need to respond in a way he knew best:

through music.

"[Music is] a language that runs deeper than our spoken language," says Johnson, the out conductor of renowned Austin-based choral ensemble Conspirare. "I think the only language for me that is deeper is silence itself. That space that communicates the deepest is in stillness and silence. I've devoted my life to the premise that music always carries transformational power. How music changes us is different for every individual. I just believe in the power of music to change lives and to heal."

Nearly 15 years passed before Johnson began work on the oratorio *Considering Matthew Shepard*, a concert which DMA's Arts & Letters Live presents Wednesday at Moody Performance Hall. Despite the passage of more than a decade, Johnson's emotions remained raw. Early in the process, he determined the proper way to address the tragedy was to take listeners on a lyrical journey, at times dark and dif-

ficult. Audiences needed to face the story's ugliness in order to take something meaningful away. More importantly, Johnson knew he had to ask listeners to examine themselves.

"I think [the key is] stepping into this story and meeting it directly and being able to experience it together in a communal space," Johnson says. "As we address this, and if we are willing to allow music to hold up a mirror and help us examine our own interior story in our lives, there is this potential to come together in a place that's meaningfully deeper and broader."

Predictably, the piece resonates strongly within the LGBT community, as it centers on the merciless treatment of one of our own. But Johnson learned that the core message is also transcendent, cutting through many other segments of society.

"This kind of hateful thinking, this kind of mindset in the culture that's really so deeply embedded: that I am separate from you, that we share nothing in common, this way that we project out onto this separateness ... that's universal, that's not just LGBTQ," Johnson says. "There is powerful resonance in the story across the spectrum of human community."

Johnson finds that audience reactions are always powerful, from vibrant and robust ovations to profound, calming silences. Perhaps the greatest testament to the concert's moving nature, however, is the sheer number of people who stick around afterwards for talkbacks. At the Dallas event, both Judy and Dennis Shepard, Matthew's parents, are slated to attend representing the Matthew Shepard Foundation.

"At some of these talkbacks we've had 400 people ... 500 at one," Johnson says. "It's sort of like they want to stay in that communal space. I think one response that has been interesting to me, [one] that's very common, is [hearing], 'I was reluctant to come to this because it's such a sad story and I thought it was going to be all down.' They would [then] remark, 'I was very surprised at how hopeful I felt, how joyful at the end of this.' They really took the journey."

As for the future, Johnson intends to keep singing his way through troubled times.

"It's a deeply unsettled time and very difficult for so many people," Johnson says. "Everyone is feeling a fatigue. There is so much swirling around right now. We need to make art. We need to sing into this in a very active way to be participants in the forward motion and the healing. This is really an important part of what Conspire and I want to do."

Sharing through song

David Freidman offers another per-

spective on the power of music. Over the course of his career, Friedman has worn an assortment of hats, working as a conductor, a musical director and a composer. He finds, however, the hat that fits most comfortably is that of songwriter. In fact, Friedman considers songwriting more of a calling than a job.

"I would say that my purpose on this earth is healing," Friedman says. "My music is written to heal. A lot of my music — a lot of my songs — were written because of the AIDS crisis. 'We Can Be Kind,' 'Help is on the Way' and 'We Live on Borrowed Time' were songs written for [charitable] events. Whenever I've conducted on Broadway, when I have done Disney movies, it was always about healing."

Friedman's life, though, was not always as sunlit as the style of songs for which he has become known. During his college years, he married his high school sweetheart, despite knowing that he was gay. He also considered studying business — "I was an artist raised to be an accountant," he jokes — even though he believed he was destined for more creative pursuits. Before resolving to come out, Friedman's acts of self-denial eventually led to depression and a little time in a mental hospital.

"I remember thinking in college, 'If I'm gay, I'm going to have to kill myself,' Friedman says. "Actually, coming out was the first real act of me deciding that what was going on inside of me was more important than what anybody might think of me. I actually hanged the hat of my self-confidence on that."

Friedman's darkest hours were difficult and painful, but it was the suffering that led him to songwriting. As Friedman began to figure life out, he began to write. He found that songwriting revealed aspects of himself of which he had not consciously been aware.

"My friends say, 'Oh my god, your songs are so wise! You must be so centered!'" Friedman says with a laugh. "I say, 'These songs are given to me because I need to hear them as much as you. If you think I think help is on the way, you are out of your mind!'"

On Feb. 24, Friedman visits Unity of Dallas to lead a very personal concert. *Listen to my Heart* is a collection of Friedman's works performed by local artists. He sees the event as a unique opportunity to bring various members of the immediate community into one setting for the purpose of healing.

"I have a lot of connections down there," Friedman says of North Texas (he has worked with both Lyric Stage and Casa Manana). "We collected a great group of singers and thought, 'Let's get all of their



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■ MUSIC Next Page

fan bases in the same room. [Let's] get me there and do a healing, joyful, entertaining evening of songs.'"

The concert ends with a number of Friedman's most popular hits — ones he calls his "warhorses" — including "We Can Be Kind," a song Friedman feels offers an especially relevant message at this time. It also happens to be his favorite.

"Kindness is something we can always choose," Friedman says. "We can hate someone and be kind. We can be helpless to help someone and be kind. We can have

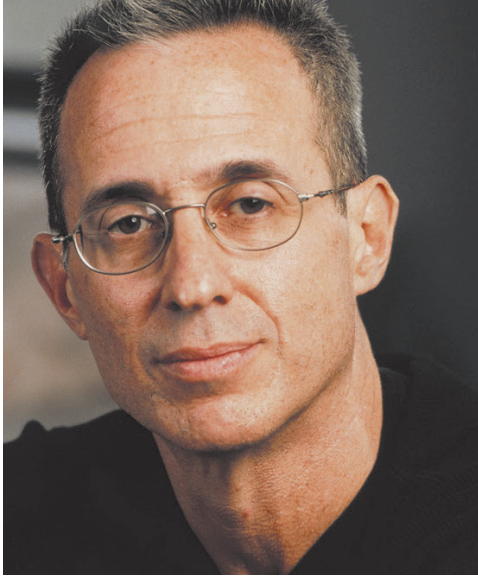
a very big difference of opinion politically or in terms of taste, but we can be kind. I just find that, especially now that there is such a climate of unkindness in this country and in the world, that's the song I see as what I have to offer the world more than anything."

— Scott Huffman

Considering Matthew Shepard, Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Feb.21, 7:30 p.m., DMA.org.

Listen to my Heart, Unity Church of Dallas, 6525 Forest Lane. Feb. 24.

David Freidman



Any Means Necessary. And T'Challa vows to do what it takes to keep Wakanda an informed but neutral party.

If that sounds vaguely like the conflict between Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr., then you have caught on to the inherent drama — and the current cultural boiling point — that has set this film ablaze. T'Challa vs. Killmonger: spy vs. assassin, diplomat vs. soldier, reason vs. emotion, leadership vs. demagoguery. The cognitive dissonance is that both are correct, and neither are. Erik's behavior is brutal, but his aim is justice. Anger drives him more than compassion and patience. Wakanda allowed the slave trade to take place as an observer, and Erik won't let that happen again.

If that doesn't resonate in the context of the Black Lives Matter movement, then you ain't woke.

Director-co-writer Ryan Coogler's genius is making a case for both sides while casting two actors of such diverse styles as to draw the tension into sharp relief. Boseman is studied, elegant, mature; he walks down the halls of his palace like he's strutting into a club. Jordan, on the other hand is an actor of presence, of fiery eyes and overdeveloped muscles. He's physically imposing and a little scary — more so than inspiring, which is one of T'Challa's gifts. He's Richard III in a bodysuit. And for a while, he displaces T'Challa with his greater display of strength and ruthlessness. The the second half of *Black Panther* plays out so that it could be subtitled *How T'Challa Got His Groove Back*. (Angela Bassett is even on hand!)

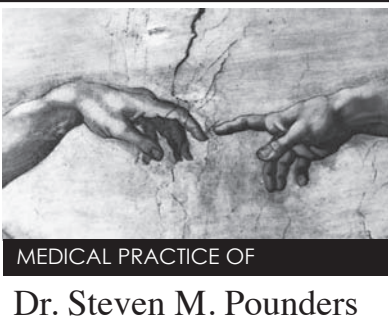
Coogler also commingles other elements. Ludwig Goransson's score combines tribal instruments with orchestral bombast (it's amazing); T'Challa's first mission is put together as is he could be the next James Bond, with a Q-like recitation of weaponry and an elegant sophistication between action set pieces, then morphs into a war picture; and the theme of family adds emotional resonance to the whole affair.

But it may be the mythmaking where Coogler & Co. achieve their transcendence. At a time when racial divides are more frustrating than ever precisely because our institutions flog false narrative of post-racial society, *Black Panther* empowers us by showing strong, smart, rich people of color as leaders, not warlords. The film's coda brings it all back home to remind us that we are all part of the same family, and we owe everyone our best. Only fools build walls; the wise build bridges.



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**Friday 02.16 —
Sunday 02.18**

**'Chicago' brings the ol' razzle dazzle
back to Bass Hall**

Chicago the musical has been around almost as long as Chicago the city. And the musical, unlike the town, tours. The tour will arrive again this weekend in Fort Worth for one weekend only at Bass Hall. It features such classic songs as "The Old Razzle Dazzle," "Roxie," "Mr. Cellophane," "Cell Block Tango" and more.

DEETS: Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. BassHall.com.



Tuesday 02.20

**Dallas Chamber
Symphony marks
'The Creation of the World'**

The Dallas Chamber Symphony is still a young musical group in North Texas, but it performs a full season of concerts each season. The next one takes place Tuesday, and is modestly titled *The Creation of the World*. That's the name of French composer Darius Milhaud's celebrated early 20th century avant-garde work. The program will also include Charles Ives' contemplative *The Unanswered Question*, and a humorous film score set to the Harold Lloyd silent short *A Sailor-Made Man*. Artistic director Richard McKay, pictured, conducts.

DEETS: Moody Performance Hall, 2420 Flora St. From \$25. DCSymphony.org.



**Wednesday 02.21 —
Saturday 02.24**

**Imprint hosts First Impressions,
a festival for local playwrights**

So, there's this group of theater critics, see? And they gather once a year to decide what they considered the best in local theater. There's back-biting and grousing and cake. Any resemblance to a North Texas critics' forum is purely intentional. Former Dallas Observer critic Elaine Liner's withering one-act called *Crickets' Lunch*, based on some recognizable locals (including one in these very pages!), is one of 10 world premiere short plays being staged by new company Imprint TheatreWorks (they just did an acclaimed version of *Glengarry Glen Ross*) over four days. Check out as many as you can.

DEETS: Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Visit ImprintTheatreWorks.org for a complete schedule.

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The Crow Collection of Asian Art celebrates The Year of the Dog on Feb. 17 with free events at Klyde Warren Park and NorthPark Center.

ARTSWEEK
THEATER

Chicago. The long-running Broadway hit returns to North Texas for one weekend at Bass Performance Hall, 525 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Feb. 16–18. BassHall.com.

Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Feb. 18. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

Detroit '67. A play by Dominique Morriseau set against the backdrop of the civil rights riots (the same profiled in last year's film *Detroit*). Jubilee Theatre. 506 Main St., Fort Worth. Through Feb. 25. JubileeTheatre.org.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. The 18th (and final) production from Theatre Too of this musical revue about romance. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through March 4. Theatre3Dallas.com.

Like a Billion Likes. An unpopular high school girl starts up a relationship with a gender-non-conforming boy and abuses social media in this contemporary dark comedy. *Final weekend.* Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. StageWest.org.

Frankenstein. A new adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic of modernity, written by Nick Dear, directed by Joel Ferrell. *Reviewed this week.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through March 4. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

PostSecret: The Show. The PostSecret.com

website is an ongoing community art project where people anonymously contribute facts about themselves that can be funny, poignant and terrible. This live show takes audiences on a journey into the deeper recesses of people's lives. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts, 2351 Performance Drive, Richardson. Feb. 15–18. EisemannCenter.com.

Quills. Dallas native Doug Wright wrote this play about the life behind bars of the notorious Marquis de Sade. Presented by the recently-formed Black Flag Theatre Company. Cox Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. Through March 3. BlackFlagTheatre.org.

The Woman Who Knew Too Much. A new play written and directed by Kevin Grammer, about a woman with amnesia trying to solve the mystery of who she is. Ochre House Theater, 825 Exposition Ave. Through March 3. OchreHouseTheater.org.

Thurgood. George Stevens Jr.'s play about the pioneering lawyer. Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 S. Tyler St. Through Feb. 25. BishopArtsTheatre.org.

Three Sisters. Undermain's new staging of Chekhov's classic. Undermain Theatre, 3200 Main St. Through March 11. Undermain.org.

OPERA

The Ring of Polykrates. Korngold's one-act opera is performed in addition to a violin concerto on the bill of Korngold's *Concerto in D Major*. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St.

Through Feb. 17. DallasOpera.org.

FINE ART

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.

First Sculpture: Handaxe to Figure Stone. An exhibit of found and modified objects from the Paleolithic era of human enterprise. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Through April 28. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

Memory Mind Matter: The Sculpture of Eduardo Chillida. The work of 20th century Spanish sculptor and artist. Meadows Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd. Through June 3. MeadowsMuseumDallas.org.

FRIDAY 02.16
COMMUNITY

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

SATURDAY 02.17
COMMUNITY

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets

weekly at 9 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

Chinese New Year Festival. The Crow Collection of Asian Art celebrates the Year of the Dog with its free annual festival. NorthPark Center, 11 a.m.–2 p.m.; Klyde Warren Park, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY 02.20
FILM

The Searchers. One of the signature Westerns of director John Ford and star John Wayne, about a man obsessively tracking down his niece (Natalie Wood) kidnapped by Indians. 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 02.21
THEATER

First Impressions: A Festival for Local Playwrights. New theater company Imprint Theatreworks presents 10 readings of 10 world premiere plays by local playwrights. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Feb. 21–24. ImprintTheatreworks.org.

CONCERTS

Considering Matthew Shepard. A three-part oratorio about the slain iconic of gay-bashing victim, performed by the Austin-based Conspirare and presented by the Dallas Museum of Art. See story Page 24. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. DMA.org.

THURSDAY 02.22
CABARET

Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy's Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.

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**browse**
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A close-up photograph of a man with a beard and glasses, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a white dress shirt. His hands are clasped together in front of him. The background is plain white.

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Cassie Nova

Drag regrets/ Cassie's got a few

Hello, my people. Today I am gonna talk about regrets. We all have them, but I want to tell you about some of my biggest drag regrets. About a thousand years ago, I was just a little skinny gayby that just so happened to dress as a woman. As a young drag queen, my wardrobe was very limited, so I would get creative and try to make costumes for the show. I would usually go to a bunch of thrift stores and buy cute-ish things that fit and embellish the hell out of them.

Looking back now, I realize how horrible most of that stuff looked, but to me I always wore my shit like it was the best ever. Ignorance is bliss. I was too naïve to care much about what other people thought. I had a pair of cut-off shorts to which I glued sequins on the

pockets and trim. It was tacky *af*, but I thought I was the tea. I would buy stretch dresses and wear them backwards to show off my tit-tie-painting skills. I didn't have the money back then to get stuff made, so I just would try to make ridiculous shit work for the show.

Then in 1994 or '95, I heard a song that I immediately wanted to put in the show: "Gotta Be" by Des'ree. I loved the song and wanted to be the first in the show to do it. I had a vision in my head of how I wanted to be dressed, and my creative juices were flowing. I knew I could make the whole outfit for probably less than 20 bucks — which for me, at the time, was more than I spent on a lot of my stuff. So I was excited.

I got up early that next day and took the bus



downtown. (Back before Amazon Prime you had to go all over the place to get the things you needed.) I needed those little tittie pads, and the only place I knew to get them was at the H.L. Green Variety Store. They sold just about everything, so it was my go-to place when I didn't have a ride to someplace better. I bought two pairs of tittie pads, a few yards of iridescent pink fabric and two packages of hot pink sparkly Payette sequins — the large ones, about the size of a nickel.

Back home I got right to work. I glued the sequins to those tittie pads in a fish scale pattern, I cut and shaped that fabric into a layered skirt that went almost to the floor and listened to my cassingle of "Gotta Be" for hours. I glued sequins to a pair of earrings and glued even more to some ugly bracelets. I already had this pink and white tie-dyed hooded cloak that was going to hide my new killer look until the big reveal. I was so excited. I couldn't wait for the show that night.

That night I spent literally hours getting my make up right. I blended black into hot pink into bright white for my eye shadow and fierce bubblegum-pink lips. I duct-taped the tittie pads to my chest. I was a little skinny fuck back then, so I had my stomach exposed and my "fabulous" skirt draped around my waist. (In reality it was a folded and tied-off square of fabric.) My wig actually was fabulous, before they sold good quality wigs in bright neon colors. So if you wanted a hot pink wig, you would have to soak a white wig in Rit dye. The wig was on point. (Side note: Even then, as skinny as I was, I remember thinking I was fat. How stupid is that? If I could go back in time I would tell myself to STFU and show your thin body off with pride. Another regret!)

For those who remember the old Rose Room, you know the queens had to walk through the crowd to get to the stage. I was standing in the back waiting for my name to be called, covered in my cloak with the hood covering most of my hair and face, concealing my freshly made costume.

Donna Day called my name and I stepped onto the stage. Well, about eight feet shy of the stage was when I realized that this may not have been my best idea. The music started and I began to lip-sync my song. The first time she sings "Gotta Be," I open the cloak to what I thought was going to be *ooohs* and *aaahs*, but instead... lots of laughter. I love to make people laugh, but I thought I was about to give them a sickening Tandi/Erica/Krystal trans woman with

beautiful breasts reveal. I did not.

I was just "a boy in a dress" with goofy-looking glittering breasts taped to his boy chest. I had never misread my own ideas so badly before. I wish I could say I was on drugs, but I wasn't at the time. It was just my own delusional idea that I thought briefly was a good one.

Once I realized that everyone thought I was doing a comedy number, I switched gears, sa-shayed around and shook my bodacious ta-tas. I acted like the whole thing was meant to be a joke, but inside, my stupid heart was breaking because I had something so different going on in my head. I thought I was serving glamazon fish realness when in actuality I was getting served cracked face realness with a side of byes. I learned a real lesson that day: Ask your sisters if this is a good idea before you do something, not after.

One of my other regrets is only a half regret. One of the first pageants I ever did was Miss Dallas America, around the same time. Celeste Martinez let me borrow a beautiful gown that fit me really well. For talent I kept it simple: I was going to lip-sync a Mariah Carey song into an old timey microphone and show off my lip skills.

I actually did two Mariah songs — "Vanishing," dramatic and lovely, then "Vision of Love," when things took a turn. I figured that the number was cute but how could I *zhuzh* it up. Well, I went to the High School for the Health Professions and took dental technology, so I just so happen to have a few pair of dentures that I made in class. I took the uppers from one of the sets and kept it in my cleavage. When "Vision of Love" started, I turned around and put the dentures in, over my teeth.

The effect those teeth had on my face was somewhere between full on horse and Jerry Lewis doing his very racist Confucius character. It was so stupid, but for some reason I loved it. It was unexpected and wrong. I spent the first half of the talent being so serious and glamorous and the second half being ridiculous.

The only reason I say I half regret it was because Whitney Paige, who was a judge at that pageant, later told me I probably would have been first runner-up that night if I hadn't put in those stupid teeth. Things happen for a reason, and sometimes that reason is you're an idiot and I'm OK with that.

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

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





Val, Gayle and Chan at Panda's



Eddie and David get out and about



Smiling the night away at Sue's

Making the SCENE the week of Feb. 16-22:

- **Alexandre's:** **Vero Voz y Compania** on Friday. **Linny Nance** and the **Network** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie Sings Broadway** on Tuesday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** **RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars** watch party on Thursday.
- **Club Changes:** **Imperial Court candidates show** on Sunday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Cowtown Leathermen** cookout at 4 p.m. and **Queen of the Rodeo Contestant Show** at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **Weezie Davis** hosts the **United Court's Wheel Of Drag Show** from 6-10 p.m. on Friday. **United Court Angels Vs. Demons** benefits **GDMAF** at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter** club night on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Cassie's Freak Show** at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- **Marty's Live:** **Drag It Out** hosted by **Nicole O'hara Munro**.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Bear Happy Hour** on Friday. **President's Day Man Candy Wig Party** at 8 p.m. on Sunday. **Project Funway** on Wednesday.
- **S4:** **Boys' Night Out** with **DJ Snowwhite** on Sunday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Mustache Envy** on Friday. **Ciao Bella** on Saturday. **Bella, Darla & Izzy** on Sunday at 3 p.m. followed by **The Tuxedos**. **Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System** presents **The Shining Stars Show** at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The 515 Bar:** **Free food** with hamburgers, brats, beans, & grilled jalapeños on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** **Ka'Aliyah Diamond** on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. **Miss Gay Southern States** at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday. \$10 cover.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **Heartbreak King Show** hosted by **Frida Money** at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Olympics in HD** throughout the bar every night.

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Hard Rock Drag Brunch

photos courtesy Blake Smith





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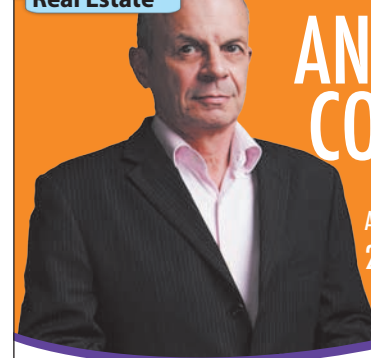
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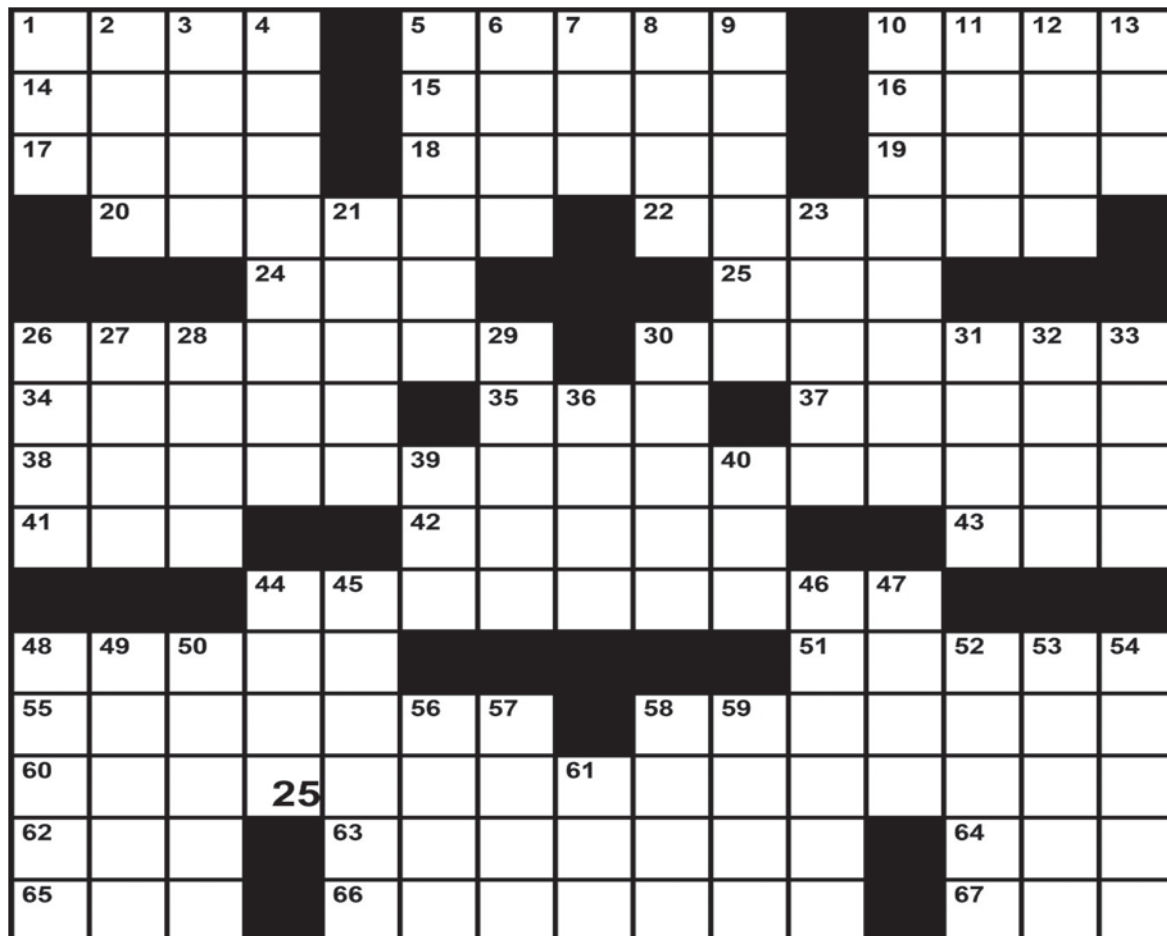
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q-puzzle



Advice from Frasier's Dad

Solution on Page 29

Across

- 1 Alfred Douglas' title
- 5 Spit out
- 10 Ending for Copland
- 14 Islamic ruler
- 15 *Cabaret* line about screwing Maximilian
- 16 Out partner
- 17 The lowdown
- 18 Climax at the end of an action film
- 19 Pay for a pad
- 20 Start of advice from Frasier's dad
- 22 More of the advice
- 24 One of TV's *Bosom Buddies*
- 25 Da Vinci's threesome
- 26 Rod on a screen
- 30 Frilly mats
- 34 John of *Gay Sex Quotes*
- 35 *Sex and the City* shower
- 37 Come slowly
- 38 More of the advice
- 41 Wicks once of the WNBA
- 42 Penny pincher
- 43 Madonna's Peron role
- 44 "I tried my ___ to believe in the rainbow" (Judy Garland)
- 48 One coming from Uranus, e.g.

- 51 "Bear" that's not a bear

- 55 Gay men's chorus event
- 58 Gutsy Greek
- 60 End of the advice
- 62 Uey from WSW
- 63 Say again
- 64 Hawk-chicken difference
- 65 Streaker over the Atlantic
- 66 *The Wapshot Chronicle* author
- 67 Initials of Stonewall Jackson's boss

Down

- 1 Bloomers worn around the neck
- 2 Old Dodge
- 3 *Rocky Horror's* ___ Raff
- 4 Old maneuver in David Kopay's sport
- 5 Slip away
- 6 Mahoney (1940-2018), who played Martin Crane, Frasier's dad
- 7 Childcare writer LeShan
- 8 Leonardo's thing
- 9 Linked with
- 10 King Lear's youngest
- 11 Where to find hot buns
- 12 Result of getting rear-ended
- 13 "Wherefore ___ thou Romeo?"
- 21 Audre Lorde's *A Burst of* ___

- 23 Like Oscar Wilde
- 26 Works under Edith Head, perhaps
- 27 Pants dropped
- 28 *At Swim, Two Boys* is set in this land
- 29 River through K'In
- 30 Put out
- 31 Words before delighted
- 32 How far up it goes (abbr.)
- 33 Stiff bristle
- 36 Home, to Dave Pallone
- 39 "Very interesting ..."
- 40 It comes before mature ejaculation
- 44 Date of Xmas
- 45 Iron-poor
- 46 Adam Rippon, for one
- 47 Legal wrong
- 48 Remembers some S&M
- 49 Students may take them out
- 50 Atlas enlargement
- 52 You might shed this
- 53 Inevitable online claim
- 54 Gay porn director Rainier
- 56 Kind of IRA
- 57 It can bear fruit
- 58 Navratilova, for one
- 59 Townshend of The Who
- 61 Before, to the Bard

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