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LGBT REAL ESTATE EDITION

DEFINING homes

SPRING 2018

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.

A photograph of two men with beards and short hair, both smiling and looking towards the right. They are wearing black leather vests over their shirts. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and buildings.

We're adventurous, not reckless.

We know who we are. And we make choices that fit our lives.


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.

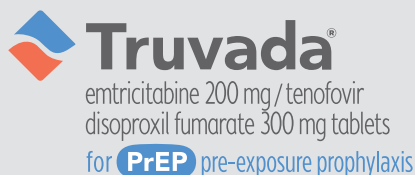
- ◆ **TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.**
- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**

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

GILEAD

Learn more at truvada.com

 **Truvada®**
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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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Benefit show raises \$6,800-plus for Chanel Champagne



The show featured more than 25 drag performances. All tips went to Chanel.

An accident in Denison on Feb. 7 left entertainer Chanel Champagne with a broken clavicle and fractured ribs. In addition she lost a finger in the accident and her arm was broken in 2 places.

A special show staged Sunday night at The Round-Up Saloon brought in \$6,864 for local drag entertainer Chanel Champagne, to help Chanel pay for surgery and other medical expenses following the car wreck.

The show featured more than 25 drag performances. All tips went to Chanel.

An accident in Denison on Feb. 7 left the entertainer with a broken clavicle and fractured ribs. In addition she lost a finger in the accident and her arm was broken in 2 places.

— Tammye Nash

Advocates applaud first openly-trans person to enlist in U.S. military

Pentagon officials confirmed Monday, Feb. 26, that the first transgender person has signed a contract to join the U.S. military.

A federal judge's ruling last year pre-empted Donald Trump's plan to reverse changes made by the Obama administration that allowed openly trans people to enlist and to serve.

Matt Thorn, president and CEO for Out-Serve-SLDN, said, "This is a proud day, not just for our country gaining a qualified and dedicated individual who wants to volunteer in our armed forces, but also for this young individual who doesn't have to hide who they are to serve the country they love."

LGBT advocates have "worked exhaustively to witness this day because we know, as everyone has come to know, that any qualified individual who meets the standards of our armed forces should be allowed to serve regardless of their gender identity," Thorn continued. But, he noted, "this fight is not over until the Trump-Pence administration fully retreats from their bigoted pursuit of banning transgender individuals from military service."

And, he added, OutServe-SLDN and Lambda Legal will continue their legal challenge to Trump's trans ban, with plaintiffs including HRC, the American Military Partner Association and Gender Justice League, "for as long as necessary to defend

transgender service members and recruits who meet the standards and qualifications for their willingness to serve and defend our country."

Ashley Broadway-Mack, president of the American Military Partner Association, called the news "a huge step forward as the world's finest fighting force welcomes into its ranks an out transgender recruit to serve alongside those who are willing to risk their lives for our freedom. At the end of the day, what truly matters with military service is if you are qualified and willing to serve — not your gender identity."

SPARTA President Blake Dremann said, "What we know is that the military is

gaining a recruit who is qualified and meets the standards that have been set forth and that their gender identity is no longer a disqualifying factor. Our military needs capable, qualified and dedicated individuals as we continue to tackle potential threats and carry out our current missions. I am proud to have another service member to serve alongside me to help us to carry out those missions."

— Tammye Nash

Asia O'Hara is in 'Drag Race Season 10' line-up



Asia O'Hara

Texas drag star power continues to rock the catwalk, with Dallas entertainer Asia O'Hara announced as one of the 14 queens vying for the title of America's next drag superstar in Season 10 of RuPaul's Drag Race.

Season 10 starts Thursday, March 22, at 7 p.m. on VH1.

(That's 7 p.m., CST, by the way.)

Other queens competing for the crown will be Aquaria, Blair St. Clair, Dusty Ray Bottoms, Eureka (again), Kalerie Karbdashian Williams, Kameron Michaels, Mayhem Miller, Miz Cracker, Monet X Change, Monique Heart, The Vixen, Vanessa Vanjie Mateo and Yuhua Hamasaki.

Asia O'Hara is not just a female impersonator, she is also a costume designer and dance instructor. She also owns her costume design company, Helen of Seven, through which she creates custom designs for a variety of clients, from high school color guards to ice skates to other drag queens.

Asia's drag career started when she won the amateur night contest at The Rose Room at S4. She has since gone on to win numerous pageants, including Miss Gay USofA 2007, Texas National Entertain of the Year in 2010, All-American Goddess 2012 and Miss Gay America 2016.

Asia promises that Season 10 of Drag Race will be "The most remarkable thing the LGBT community has ever seen."

— Tammye Nash

Vote Tuesday, March 6th!

Endorsements for the 2018 Democratic Primary.

U.S. Senator
Beto O'Rourke

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 Moncriste

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

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Treasurer, Stonewall Democrats of Dallas

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.

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 from 7-11 p.m. at The Empire Room, 1225 N. Riverfront Blvd. For information email bscott@myresourcecenter.org or visit redallas.ejoinme.org.

• March 3: Coalition for Aging LGBT seminar

The Coalition for LGBT Aging North Texas presents its first educational program, Healthcare Benefits and Resources, from 1-3 p.m. at the UNT Health science Center in the Education and Administration Building, on the 7th floor, 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd. in Fort Worth. For information visit CFA.LGBT

• 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 6: HRC Federal Club Mixer

From 6-8 p.m. at Sallio Itallio, 3232 McKinney Ave. #150.

• 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

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink.; **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org. LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every Sunday from 2:30–4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegassussquares@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.



Miss Red 2017 winner Jada Fox, left, pictured here with her friend James, will crown the new Miss Red at the 2018 pageant Tuesday at The Round-Up Saloon. See listings for details. (Photo by Josh Gustamente)

charge is \$10.

• 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 9: DFW Pride Happy Hour

DFW Pride Happy Hour, an LGBT+ community sponsored by Texas Instruments, meets from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Cedars Social, 1326 South Lamar St. For information visit DFW Pride Happy Hour on Facebook.

• March 10: Del Shores comes to Fort Worth

Q Cinema presents Del Shores in his one-man show, *Six Characters in Search of a Play*, at 8 p.m. at Sander's Theater in the Fort Worth Community Arts Center, 1300 Gendy St. in Fort Worth. Tickets are \$30, \$50 and \$75, available online at QCinema.org. For information email Kathryn@qcinema.org.

• March 11: Sweat for Charity

The Ridehouse Indoor Cycling & Fitness,

5600 W. Lovers Lane, hosts the Sweat for Charity ride to benefit DIFFA Dallas, beginning at 11:45 a.m. Reserve your bike online for \$35 per seat at TheRideHouse.com. And between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., on the day of the event, enter the raffle to win either a 2018 Lexus NX300 or a 2018 Lexus IS300. Tickets are \$100 each.

• 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: Rainbow Roundup Parents' Night Out**

Rainbow Roundup hosts Parents' Night Out beginning at 9 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. For information check the Rainbow Roundup Facebook page.

• **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 7-8: Texas Tradition Rodeo**

Texas Gay Rodeo Association hosts its 35th annual Texas Tradition Rodeo Saturday

GAY AGENDA, Page 13

■ **pet of the week / GINGER**

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Toasting to 20 years

Local restaurants provide a variety of food samples at Toast to Life.

Food Network will be on hand to help celebrate Toast to Life's 20th anniversary

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Toast to Life celebrates its 20th anniversary this week in an event that has steadily helped fund the programs of Resource Center.

Toast to Life began as a wine auction, but it's maintained its success by regularly re-inventing itself. The event has grown into a silent and live auction, but for the last 15 years or so, rather than featuring wines, restaurants are the star attraction.

Among the restaurants at this year's event are a number of Oak Cliff venues from in and around Bishop Arts, including Bolsa, Oddfellows and Stock & Barrel.

Cameron Hernholm, Resource Center's chief development officer, is amazed by the generosity of the restaurants who not only supply the food for 800 guests but also the

staff who aren't in their restaurants on a Saturday night, normally their busiest night of the week.

Stock & Barrell owner M.G. Stevens just shrugged and said they'd make it work, just as they have for the past three years they've participated.

"We have a really great team," she said. "Several folks are helping me out."

Stevens said some staff will come help her set up and others will stop by after the event's over.

Not only is Stevens participating in Toast to Life on her restaurant's busiest night of the week, she also helped recruit a number of the other restaurants participating, and she is in the middle of preparing to open a second location. Her new place will be in the Design District, right down the street from the Empire Room, where Toast to Life will take place.

Stevens said she does it because Resource Center makes a difference in the community and because the event is just a lot of fun.

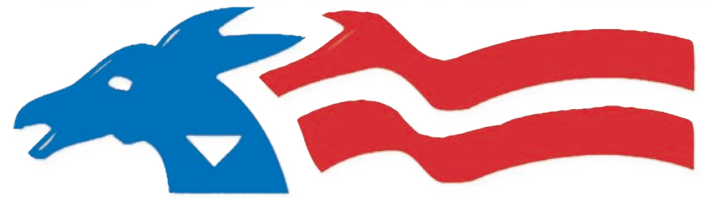
Hernholm's favorite thing about the event is the cake that Food Network star Bronwen Weber creates for Toast to Life each year. This year, a film crew will follow



2014 Toast To Life cakes – Circa 1983, left, 2016 Frosted Art Bakery & Studio, right



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TOAST, From Page 10



2015 Toast To Life - Voodoo on the Trinity, left, 2017 Toast To Life - Time To Boogie, right

Weber to the event with her cake and stay through the cake cutting, getting video for use in Weber's new show, *Dallas Cakes*.

The Toast to Life auction includes a variety of items. Hernholm said volunteers spend days going door-to-door asking storeowners to donate to the event. And Toast to Life's auction has gained a reputation for the collection of fine art it offers each year.

Each year's party has had a different theme. To celebrate the center's 30th anniversary a few years ago, the theme was "1983," and people came dressed as Michael Jackson, Madonna and others. "Voodoo on the Trinity" spotlighted New Orleans, and for the "Mad Hatter's Ball," attendees came dressed as characters from *Alice in Wonderland*.

This year's theme is "Bollywood," and the night will feature a hookah lounge, a Bollywood flash mob and henna artists.

The event contributes \$250,000 a year to Resource Center in unrestricted funds — money that can be used for anything from starting new programs to paying the electric bill. But Resource Center hasn't always been so successful in raising money through events.

Toast to Life grew out of the much less successful Dance for Life, the brainchild of Resource Center's first executive director, John Thomas.

The first Dance for Life featured Grace Jones and her backup singers performing at the Convention Center Arena, a venue that holds 6,000 people. Jones and entourage were living in Amsterdam and agreed to perform for a fee. Once the contract was signed, they refused coach seats and insist-

ed on first class only, boosting the cost considerably.

Ticket sales for her concert were dismal. Without social media and with no advertising budget to help out, Resource Center only sold a few hundred tickets.

The venue was booked only until midnight, but Jones and company remained backstage until well past then. The audience dwindled, and by the time the show began at about 1 a.m., only about 40 people remained in the audience. Once she began performing, though, Jones and her dancers quickly moved from the stage to the center of the arena, and the few remaining people left in the hall all got a chance to dance with her.

From that disaster, which cost the agency \$40,000, Dance for Life moved to The Bomb Factory in Deep Ellum and began to make money.

In 1999, Dance for Life became Toast to Life, a wine auction that was profitable from the beginning and has since been the signature fundraising event for Resource Center.

Until 2014, Hernholm said, proceeds benefited HIV services. Since then, money has been used for a wide variety of programs under Resource Center's umbrella. Those include youth, aging and transgender programs as well as simply funding maintenance or paying for utilities.

To explain the importance of those unrestricted funds that Toast to Life brings in, Hernholm said she's gotten grants to fund Resource Center's expanded counseling programs, but there's no such thing as a grant to turn the lights on in the counseling rooms.



and Sunday at the Mesquite Arena, 1818 Rodeo Drive in Mesquite. Stay tuned for details. (The rodeo was moved from the initially-announced location in Denton.)

• **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.

• **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.

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LGBT opponent Hill and Mays face off in judicial race

Former city councilwoman Hill has an extensive anti-LGBT record, but Mays' record means she's more than a protest vote

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

When it comes to the candidates for judge in the 283rd district criminal court, members of the LGBT community have an opportunity to vote *against* a candidate that, as a Dallas city councilwoman, repeatedly voted against them. And at the same time, they have the chance to vote *for* a candidate who is a solid ally.

Lela Mays supports the LGBT communi-

ty and has the support of Stonewall Democrats in her bid to become judge for the 283rd district criminal court. She's currently a criminal district court magistrate.

Her opponent is former Dallas City Councilwoman Vonciel Jones Hill. During her eight years on the council, Hill refused to sign an annual letter welcoming people to Dallas for Pride and was a staunch opponent of anything LGBT-positive.

Mays runs a drug treatment court and, she said, accesses resources from throughout the community to help people who come before her. She addresses underlying issues, understanding and caring for LGBT and HIV issues that may be involved.

On the other hand, Hill has opposed the

LGBT community at every turn and, based on her history on the city council, couldn't be trusted to issue fair rulings for LGBT defendants that might come before her court.

"There are some acts God doesn't bless," Hill once told Dallas Voice to explain why her signature wouldn't appear on a letter welcoming people to Dallas for the city's annual Pride celebration.

In another incident, Hill criticized a billboard in her South Dallas district encouraging people to be tested for HIV. The ad portrayed two black men. Hill told Fox 4 at the time she objected to presenting African-American men who are gay as acceptable. She said engaging in such conduct presents health risks.

Before the federal marriage equality decision equalized benefits for same-sex and opposite-sex couples across the country, the Dallas City Council voted to offer equal pension benefits to same-sex couples that were married. At the time, many Texas couples had already married out-of-state, and the city would have been following federal law governing pensions. Hill voted against the proposal.

In 2014, Dallas council members passed an equality resolution directing city staff to evaluate and fix the inequities for LGBT employees in city employment. Hill voted against it.

Now she's looking for support in her bid to become a judge.

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Lela Mays seeks advice from around the community when working with LGBT defendants in her drug court.

Mays has served on the bench as a magistrate for 18 years. She said she's come to understand the LGBT community as she's ordered treatment rather than prison time, especially for first-time offenders.

"LGBT people have to be honest about issues they're dealing with," she said.

Mays said she has learned from her experiences. A recent case involved a trans woman who needed a court order to be placed in a female group. Mays said she understood that would be the best treatment option.

"I've learned a lot from past mistakes," Mays said, adding that she knows who to rely on for advice to make the best treatment options available.

Attorney Katie Sprinkle, who is transgender, agreed. She said Mays invited her to her office to learn about trans issues and what resources trans people coming before her court might need. Mays didn't just listen, but she then had Sprinkle speak to her probation officers, caseworkers and staff.

"She doesn't fall back on 'one size fits all,'" Sprinkle said, calling Mays "thoughtful."

As a criminal court judge, Mays said she would bring her experience with mental health issues and drug treatment to the bench with her, and she urged voters to look at each candidate's history and what they have accomplished for the community.

Mays said her history includes working with Prism Health, Parkland Hospital, Dallas Can Academy, Resource Center Food Pantry and other agencies to address literacy, hunger, health and more for defendants in her court. Drug problems have underlying causes, she explained.

Dallas Stonewall Democrats Vice President Brandon Vance said he's regularly asked by people who to vote for. Mays is the one candidate he consistently recommends.

"She has a heart for justice," Vance said. "She's doing the good work."

Mays, he said, understands the needs of the LGBT community and the disservice that's been done to the community over the years, and he added, "She's a stark contrast to Vonciel."

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No Re-Pete

Salerno could be among the first new women sent to Congress from Texas in 22 years

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

In a crowded field of candidates hoping to replace Rep. Pete Sessions, Lillian Salerno hopes to distinguish herself from the pack of seven candidates and win the Democratic Primary on March 6. Texas has 36 congressional districts and only three are represented by women — Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and Rep. Kay Granger, Salerno said. And the last time Texas sent a newly-elected congresswoman — Granger — to Washington was 22 years ago. This election, voters have a chance to send more women to Congress than ever.

In District 3, Lorie Burch is running to replace Rep. Sam Johnson. Jan McDowell faces three opponents to win the right to oppose Kenny Marchant in District 24. And in the six-way primary, Salerno hopes to face Sessions in the fall to represent District 32. Salerno spent most of her professional life in the private sector but has government experience as an official in the Obama administration. During the AIDS crisis, Salerno and her business partner addressed a need she saw. Healthcare professionals could become infected with HIV by accidental needle sticks. While that rarely happened, one Fort Worth physician did become infected that way and was forced to retire from her practice. The fear of needle sticks was real, adding to the fear healthcare workers had of treat-



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Lillian Salerno pioneered retractable needles during the AIDS crisis and now hopes to replace Pete Sessions in Congress.

ing people living with AIDS. But Salerno's "safe syringe" transformed the industry.

Salerno and her partner patented a retractable needle that prevents those sticks. The company that had a monopoly on manufacturing needles offered to buy her invention for quite a bit of money but wasn't going to manufacture it. Salerno refused the money, opened her own factory in Little Elm — now employing 140 people — and saved lives.

When Resource Center's Nelson-Tebedo Clinic began a needle exchange program in the early 1990s, Salerno's company provided those retractable needles for the project.

In addition to her business background, Salerno has government experience as well. After working on the Obama campaign, Salerno was appointed deputy undersecretary in the Department of Agriculture. She was in charge of the rural loan portfolio to promote affordable housing and clean water and to connect farmers to markets.

Salerno said her government experience taught her how important it is for both sides to work together. On the day of the Sandy Hook massacre, she was in the White House. In the subsequent weeks, she

said, she felt sick as she watched everything proposed by the White House thrown out simply because it was an Obama or Democratic proposal.

And unlike the current administration that blames everyone else, she said, "That happened on our watch," and she wants to do something so that this time it doesn't happen again. That won't happen with Republicans in control of the White House and Congress, she said.

"After a little over a year of Donald Trump, I want to make sure we still have a democracy," Salerno said. "The only way to do that is win back the House."

Salerno thinks she's the best chance Democrats have in that district. To win in an area that includes Highland Park and Preston Hollow, a Democrat has to rely on crossover votes. Her story will resonate better than the other candidates, Salerno said.

The other five candidates in the Democratic Primary are Colin Allred (who won the endorsement of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas), Ron Marshall, Todd Maternowski, Ed Meier, George Rodriguez and Brett Shipp.

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Get ready to boycott Georgia

William Ligon says banning LGBT parents will make it easier to find homes for foster kids

While the nation has been grappling with the fact that we have too many guns, there is something else we have too many of that's not getting enough attention: children in the foster care system. And interestingly enough, the Republican plan for dealing with these two issues couldn't be more different.

When it comes to guns, Republicans don't want to ban anything. In fact, they say the more guns the merrier! Give every teacher a gun! Have armed guards roaming the streets! Everybody gets a tank!

But when it comes to the hundreds of thousands of kids in the child welfare system, Republicans are all about banning potential parents — specifically, LGBTQ parents.

In fact, I would not be surprised if Republicans believed children would be better off with an AR-15 as a parent than with two dads. Come to think of it, that's probably being written into the law advancing in Georgia that would allow adoption agencies to refuse LGBTQ people on "religious freedom" grounds.

The bill, called the Keep Faith in Adoption and Foster Care Act, was sponsored by Georgia Sen. William Ligon, who claims, "The goal is to open as many doors as possible for those children that are in need of homes, and this bill will do that."

And how does limiting the number of families an agency will work with increase the number of homes available? Well, it doesn't. But Ligon believes that this bill would result in religious adoption agencies flocking to Georgia where they can be anti-gay in peace. Or anti-single-parent. Or anti-Muslim. Or anti-whatever they want so long as they say Jesus is the reason for the season.

In other words, if two women want to adopt a child, this law would allow agen-



D'Anne Witkowski

Creep of the Week

cies to say, "Nope, Jesus thinks little Johnny would be better off without a family at all than with you. Now get out of our office before our Virgin Mary statue starts bleeding from her eyes."

"Just because you are a faith-based organization, doesn't mean you have to check your faith at the door and cannot participate in government programs," Ligon told WRAL.com.

But, funny story, actually it does. If you are "faith-based," you don't pay taxes. And if you don't pay taxes then, yeah, I think it's okay if you're excluded from taxpayer-funded areas of civic life, especially if you want a license to discriminate.

It's important to note that Georgia isn't the first or the only state to try to do this. Michigan, for example, is currently being sued by the ACLU over a similar law that Gov. Rick Snyder signed in 2015. In Texas, a law enacted in 2017 allows child welfare providers to use "sincerely held religious beliefs" to discriminate against potential parents.

The Georgia bill is getting a lot of attention, which is nice to see considering how

the news cycle is so frantic that it's hard for anything to gain much traction these days.

Chelsea Clinton tweeted about the bill: "Because what we clearly need right now is ... less love? Fewer loving parents?"

To which some Twitter users probably screamed at her, "YOUR MOM LOST THE ELECTION SHUT UP AND GO KNIT A MAGA HAT!" Because Twitter is full of monsters.

People in the film industry, which does a lot of business in Georgia, also took notice. Showrunner Ben Wexler tweeted, "To my fellow showrunners: if this dumb bill becomes law, let's be done filming television shows in Georgia."

It really does seem like economic pressure is the only thing Republicans understand (see: North Carolina's bathroom bill fallout). So if this bill passes, you could boycott Georgia. Or you could work like hell to help get the GOP out of office there. And in Michigan. And everywhere.

D'Anne Witkowski is a freelance writer and poet and a writing teacher at the University of Michigan. She writes the weekly "Creep of the Week" column for Q Syndicate.



Letters



Finding support to keep going

One year ago, on Feb. 24, 2017, my life changed forever.

Before bed, I kissed my sweet husband goodnight before going into the living room so as not to bother him as he slept.

“Good night. I love you,” we both said, as we did every night.

The next morning I woke to find he had passed away during the night.

The next few months were a blur. The subsequent year went by both too slowly and too quickly. Those of you who have experienced a great loss know what I mean.

My life has changed, and it has scared the hell out of me. I am a creature of habit and crave consistency. But I’ve persisted, and I’ve adapted, and I am living the best life I can — thanks in no small part to my family, especially my sister, Megan Bozarth, who has been my rock, my friends old and new, and my colleagues.

I used to joke with El Tommy that if he died, I’d

just become an old Italian widow and wear black and go to church every day, because I really didn’t know how I’d go on. He said if I did that, he’d haunt me and make my life hell.

Those of you who knew my husband know that he did not make idle threats.

He wanted me to live my life, changed and evolved and better for having had him be in it for 15 years. I’ve tried to do this.

I am thankful to Legacy Counseling, who provided much-needed help in the initial stages of my loss. In my grief, I realized there was no outlet to share with others. With the help of others who have lost their same-sex spouses, I started an LGBTQ Grief/Loss and Support Group in Dallas.

I know it’s helped me; hopefully it is helping others and will continue to do so. I think Tommy would appreciate the use of my energy in that way. I’ve made new friends, who have been patient and kind while I reminisce about a person they know only through my stories. I know Tommy would like that.

Cesare Pavese said, “We do not remember days; we remember moments,” and that is true. It’s the little things that trigger a memory — a smell, a song, a sense — and it’s these I’ve learned to remember and reflect on and embrace. Sometimes it’s a sad one, but most are not; most are the happy moments, the silly moments, the private joke moments.

As I said at his memorial, for those of you in relationships, take a moment and think of the happiest you have been with your partner, and *TELL* them that. Tell them you love them, frequently and honestly.

To those of you *NOT* in relationships, allow yourself to be open. I was so anti-relationship

and determined to remain an independent single person I almost let Tommy slip by. I am so happy I did not. My life has been so much richer because I allowed myself moments of vulnerability.

I have learned, especially in the past year that most people, given the chance, are good. And that is something Tommy would appreciate.

If you have lost your same-sex spouse or partner through death, please feel free to contact me at Raymond.sablack@gmail.com for more information about the D/FW Grief/Loss and Support Group. We meet every other Tuesday from 6:45-8 p.m. at the Oak Lawn Branch Library.

Ray Sablack
Dallas

Supporting Ed Meier

As a single father and a member of the LGBTQ community, I’m proud to support Ed Meier in the 32nd Congressional District, Democratic Primary.

The reason I’m supporting Ed is simple: my son, Marco. When I came to Texas nearly 15 years ago, I never thought I’d be able to live my dream of starting a family and being a dad. But my dream became a reality because brave people stepped up, rolled their sleeves up and engaged their community.

Now I want to ensure he grows up in a society that works for everyone. And that’s why I’m excited about this race.

It’s rare we find a candidate who lives our

values and who will fight for us. We have that in Ed.

As a devoted dad, Ed knows the challenges working parents face and will fight for the changes we need. Most personal to me, Ed has shown up for the LGBTQ community, standing side-by-side in our fight for equal rights. I know that when elected, Ed will fiercely protect our rights.

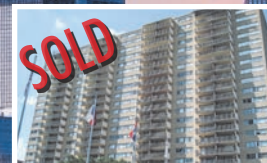
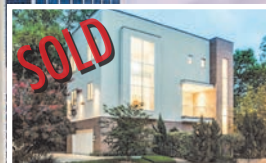
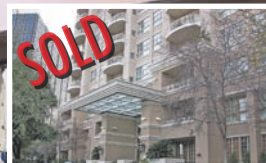
Our community needs a champion, and I believe we’ve found our champion in Ed to take us over the top in November.

Please join me in supporting Ed Meier on March 6.

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Up with Downtown

Downtown Dallas isn't just office space — thousands of North Texas residents call it home. Here's why

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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LIFE+STYLE

defining homes



Downtowner Troy Stacha stands outside his apartment building at the Mosaic inside a sculpture located at Thanks-Giving Square. The city center boasts more than 100 pieces of public art, making it attractive to residents. (Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones)

It's a cool, brisk Saturday in Downtown Dallas as the wind whips through the canyons of skyscrapers, but Steve Shepherd, Oliver Roberts and Bill McKnight are undaunted. In fact, they have prepared for the cold with some carefully crafted bloody marys (courtesy of Roberts) before braving the chill for a walk, hearty but purposeful, with lightness in their steps. They may not enjoy the cold more than anyone else, but they enjoy their neighborhood.

"We love to spread the word about Downtown," says Shepherd.

For 13 years now, the trio — Shepherd and Roberts, who have been partners for nearly 40 years, and McKnight their best friend, who lives in the apartment below theirs at 1505 Elm — have called Downtown home. After all these years as evangelists for urban dwelling, they've even been given a loving nickname: The Downtown SOB's (for "Steve, Oliver & Bill"). The SOB's seem to know everyone.

They know all the businesses — more importantly, all the business owners. On the way to a lunch res at Mirador (the high-end restaurant at the top of the Forty Five Ten boutique), they pause to hail down Josh Florence, who owns City Tavern, the beloved dive bar that is moving locations after ages at the same spot. It doesn't take much cajoling to get Florence to give us a personalized tour of the new space, which delays lunch even further. When they finally arrive at Mirador, they are greeted by the staff as crosses between dignitaries and favorite uncles.

Not everyone gets such treatment of course, but you sense that Downtowners are all in this together. It's remarkable how the small-town vibe infests the symbol of the big city at the same time.

Downtown Dallas has been the Little Engine That Wants To for nearly two decades, real estate-wise. Residents linger on the 10,000 range, occupying a number of high-rises, lofts and even hotels. There's all-new construction, of course (including the much-debated Museum Tower), but tons of the expanse for urban dwellers is renovated older buildings given new life as hotels, lofts and mixed-use apartment complexes, many of which offer great advantages over "modern" buildings.

"There are several examples of Brutalist architecture and lots of old Art Deco buildings," notes Elaine Liner, who used to conduct driving tours through the corridor. "The old post office now has apartments, and the walls are so thick, they're pretty soundproof."

The architecture and public spaces continue to inspire locals; in addition to the ink devoted to the Arts District, Klyde Warren Park and Farmers Market, there are more than 125 pieces of public art, sculptures, mosaics and murals in the Central Business District, including works by Henry Moore, Seward Johnson and even buildings by I.M. Pei and Renzo Piano (and of course the Santiago Calatrava-designed Margaret Hunt Hill Bridge). The original Neiman Marcus is here, and the Works Progress Administration built Dealey Plaza during the Great Depression. That's where you'll also find the Texas School Book Depository of JFK infamy; and the Belo Mansion was once a funeral parlor where, in the 1930s, Clyde Barrow's body lay in repose, visited by 20,000 mourners/curious onlookers. There's real history here.

But it's the people who drive the enthusiasm for Downtown life.

"So many people here are very active and passionate about improving Downtown for everyone, regardless of if they live here or not. Because of that, there's a real sense of community," says Troy Stacha, who has lived in the Mosaic apartment high-rise in Downtown for three years. "People here are accepting. I've never felt uncomfortable, whether I'm by myself, on a date or with LGBT friends to be myself and enjoy whatever I'm doing."

And there's plenty to do here, from shopping to clubs and bars for celebrating, restaurants for dining, and even grooming option, like Vertigo 12 hair salon and Pink Toes nail bar. And that's just getting started.

In addition to the aforementioned Mirador, the brand-new Bullion, the high-end restaurant from Michelin-starred chef Bruno Davillon, anchors the southwest end of the city (it's open for lunch and dinner; look for a review soon in Dallas Voice). The recently renovated Adolphus Hotel has just reopened its storied French Room restaurant, but already the City Hall Bistro is one of the newer dining gems in Dallas. All told, countless dozens of restaurants and bars — from Dallas Chop House to Zenna to Midnight Rambler to Scout, one of several just-opened eateries inside the Statler Hilton — populate the neighborhood.

"I think the biggest misconception about Downtown is that there isn't anything to do here, or that all the bars and restaurants cater to the business crowd and close at 5



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On prep, real-estate-style

Here are ideas for making your home more attractive to buyers



Professional staging companies know how to make the house or condo you're trying to sell look as presentable as possible ... which is all well and good for an investment property that's always unoccupied. But how do you make your home appealing while you're still living in it? Trying to schedule showings around your work and home schedule can drive you crazy, even with a gay real estate professional working with you. Here are a few tips that will make the entire process easier.

Leave when an agent is showing your home. It's very difficult for a real estate agent to successfully show your home when you're sitting right there. "Some buyers will feel uncomfortable having the seller or even a tenant home during the showings," says Dallas Realtor Tim Stoll of JP and Associates. "And as the seller, you don't

want to unintentionally say something that will negatively influence the [potential] buyer." They might be too nervous to really inspect the home and speak freely as you want them to.

Fortunately, agents always schedule showings and let you know ahead of time when they will be by. This will let you know when you need to make arrangements to be somewhere else, so you're not surprised in the middle of dinner and have to walk out of your own home.

Mind your pets. While some people love to meet curious dogs and playful kittens, others are allergic or simply aren't pet people. Some of our trusted companions can be nervous and unpredictable when strangers come into the home when you're not there. For the



Suburban renewal

These projects can increase the value of your home



There's no better time than the present to start adding extra value to your house. Even if you're not planning to sell until summer or even until the end of the year, doing small projects slowly will help you avoid the rush in the days and weeks before you sell. Best of all, you can do many of these projects at any time of the year. While we're setting these projects at one per month, you can rearrange this calendar to fit your particular needs or compress it by doing one of these projects every two weeks.

March: Outdoor cleanup. Anything you want to remove from your landscaping? Now's the time to do it since it likely hasn't started blooming yet. Note that the keyword is "remove," not move. If you want to transplant anything, be sure to check the weather first. If it looks like it's going to

get cold again, you may want to wait.

April: Revamp the flowerbeds. You might be reworking your flowerbeds during April no matter what, but if you're looking to sell, make sure you think about curb appeal. You want your home to be inviting and attractive from the street, so

prepare for the summer with this in mind.

May: Paint the exterior.

Giving it a new coat of paint can perk everything right up, even if you paint it the exact same color. Go with a nice, neutral color that will appeal to everyone. Bright pink or black are likely to scare off some potential buyers.

June: Trim the trees. Another project you might do regardless of whether or not you're selling is to trim your trees. Get rid of all the dead branches and anything



■ RENEWAL Page 25

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■ DOWNTOWN From Page 20

p.m. There's tons of great bars and restaurants that stay open past 5 p.m. during the week and later on weekends," says Stacha.

Even the hotels strive to be good neighbors, courting locals with special treatment and friendly offers. The Statler is the newest gem of the CBD — a restoration of the old Dallas Grand Hotel and reemergence of one of the premiere properties of the Hilton brand. It has 219 luxury residence units on its upper 11 floors for living in the newest old building in Dallas. And it's just one of the hotels welcoming locals.

The AC Hotel is a boutique concept under the Marriott umbrella. The first one in Dallas, just a block from the Statler, is attached to the Residence Inn on Commerce, and features a bar that offers daily happy hour specials on drinks and small bites. And if you wanted to try some time actually *living* Downtown, the Residence Inn offers long-term stays (it costs less the longer you stay!) with full kitchens as well as a free breakfast.

Adjacent districts include Uptown, Deep Ellum, The Cedar and Oak Cliff — all popular entertainment spots for LGBT Texans and each of which have their own personalities and living options. Of course, there are some downsides. Parking can be an issue (although every DART Rail line passes through the city center), and there is one especially irksome absence.

"My biggest complaint about living Downtown is we don't have a grocery store, but thankfully that will be changing soon," Stacha says.

Downtowners endure a few inconven-



iences; it's the price of loving where you live.

The Statler Hilton hosts its "finale" to its grand opening week with music, a laser show and more on March 2. You can also see more photos of Downtown living at our online gallery at DallasVoice.com.

A view of Downtown from Waterproof, the bar at the top of the Statler Hilton, top; the Old Mercantile building, above, is an iconic piece of architecture that now serves Downtown residents. (Photography by Arnold Wayne Jones)

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comfort and safety of everyone involved, take your animals with you when you leave for showings. And clean up after them! “Pick up poop from the back yard,” advises agent Todd Maley. “I once walked into a yard that had a huge dog living there, and the buyers couldn’t even stand outside for the smell. They couldn’t wait to get out of there.”

Clean, clean and clean some more. “You can never have your house too clean for a showing,” advises Jason Melton of David Griffin & Company Realtors. “First impressions are key to getting your home sold quickly.” Since you’re living there, you’re always going to be making small messes all over the house. Even the smallest thing like a few dirty dishes in the sink needs to be taken care of before potential buyers arrive. “Clearing off countertops, putting away clutter and leaving a few lights on can make a huge difference — the more inviting, the better!”

This may mean you’ll be sweeping and vacuuming much more often than you’re used to. You also want to keep everything as organized as possible. Throw away or organize your mail each day, keep the family room looking tidy and get your closets, the garage, basement and attic in order. That sounds like a lot of work, but if you make it a point to clean and organize every day, it won’t be that bad.

Put away anything confidential or

valuable. In an age where identity theft is more common than we’d like to admit, you can’t risk leaving out anything with identifying information on it. Put away any paperwork that has your date of birth, Social Security number, account number or other information on it.

Additionally, make sure your valuables are locked up. While a licensed real estate agent will be there with the potential buyers the entire time, you don’t want to take any unnecessary risks.

Remove anything that’s truly personal. When a potential buyer sees something they find distasteful or that clashes with their beliefs, it can cause them to instantly dismiss your home from their shortlist of properties. While it’s true that your religion, political beliefs or other beliefs have nothing to do with your home, people don’t always separate the two. To that end, it’s a good idea to remove anything that’s overly personal from sight. That doesn’t mean you have to scrub your home of personality, but take a critical look at your décor. You may want to take down or put away things that you could see someone else disliking.

Your agent can assist you with staging your home so that it looks as bright and as spacious as possible, even while still serving as your living space.

*For additional help in finding gay and gay-friendly agents, visit GayRealEstate.com and check out *Dallas Voice*!*

that’s low-hanging. Again, look at your home from the street and make things look nice and tidy.

July: Paint the interior. Over time, every room in your home will lose a little of that new luster. In order to get the most response from your painting job, try going with light, neutral colors, as this will appeal to the widest audience. Painting gives you a reason to stay indoors and be productive during one of the hottest months of the year.

August: Redo the flooring. If your floors are starting to show their age, it might be time to put down new tile, carpet or laminate. You don’t need to redo all the floors in your home during a single month; instead, pick the most worn part of the house, or the room with the oldest flooring, and give it an update.

September: Tackle the garage, attic or basement. If you’re like most people, your garage, attic or basement has become a catchall for everything you’ve accumulated over the years, don’t want to get rid of, and don’t have a place for. Take this month

to go through some of that stuff. You might find that you really don’t need all of it. Even if that’s not the case, you may be able to organize it and pack it away more efficiently.

October: Fall cleaning. During October, go through all of your closets and weed out what you don’t need, just like you did with the garage. You could also continue your purge of those spaces if you haven’t got it finished. This not only makes it easier for you to move, it also creates a clean space you can utilize for more storage if needed.

November and December: Consider a remodel. What better way to prepare for the extra time off during the holidays than to give your home an updated bathroom or kitchen? Plan out a room remodel that transforms a part of your home that might be showing its age. Besides adding value, this also gives you a great new space to enjoy up until the point you sell.

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Having an out of body experience

Out young adult novelist David Levithan's genderfluid fantasy 'Every Day' hits the big screen, and he couldn't be more pleased

A different person, a different body, a different life each day of *your* life. It's not a typical biography. Then again nothing is typical about out author David Levithan's popular young adult novel, *Every Day*, which has been adapted for the screen and opened last week.

Although he didn't write the screenplay, Levithan is no stranger to film adaptations of his books, including *Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist*, so the genial, disheveled author has been on a whirlwind promotional tour, which ended in Dallas just before *Every Day* opened. And Levithan couldn't be more pleased with how it turned out.

That was far from certain. The main

character in the book, called simply A, is a non-corporeal entity who leaps from body to body every day — always the same general age, but sex, race, gender orientation? Totally up for grabs. A — who does not claim any gender identity for itself — ends up falling for Rihannon, but how can they make it work?

That works fine on paper, but the movie must perpetually re-casts the actor playing A. That means refocussing the story with Rihannon at the center of the narrative. Levithan was cool with that, he just wanted to make sure that the filmmakers didn't screw up his sequel, which comes out in October. (They didn't, he insists.)

As a writer of YA fiction, Levithan is

glad to see his story reaching to core issues of adolescence that would have been off-limits less than a generation ago.

"So many conversations came from this [book]," Levithan says. "So many high schools adopted it as their guided reading and would go around and talk about it. In 2012 talking about non-binary gender and loving someone for who they are, not

what body they are in, sometimes that would be controversial."

Some readers suggested A was in some ways a transgender character, though Levithan refines that analysis.

"A was never a trans character; A is really non-binary, or *a*-gendered," which is where the name came from, Levithan explains. "A is *a*-gendered and *a*-racial. That



Rihannon (Angourie Rice) caresses A — temporarily in the form of classmate Alexander (Owen Teague) — in the film adaptation of the genderfluid romance 'Every Day.'

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was very conscious. Thematically, it fits. You are not born into the body that you should have, so you change your identity, defy the body and find the right identity.”

In the intervening years, however, the term gendefluid has become more mainstream, and *Every Day* has taken on more cultural resonance.

“I’m finding that so many more readers of any age are more familiar with those terms [a-gendered, non-binary, gender-fluid] and I think that’s great that we’ve caught up to it,” Levithan says. “Over the past six years, [the novel] became so much more a part of the conversation, and made the notion that gender is a construct and you can pick whatever gender you want, you can love whomever you want.” “Love is love” takes on a deeper meaning.

Telling the story and living the story are two very different things, yet Levithan did both when first putting A’s life into words. When detailing the day-to-day adventures, it was crucial to be authentic and to mirror the truth of crossing the barrier of gender and identity. Yet he began the writing without an outline and just waited for the characters to tell him where to go.

“I wrote first thought, best thought,” he says. “I was mirroring A’s life. A does not get to choose, so the first thought I had I ran with it. Looking back, I can see different threads or connections between all of

[the incarnations of A] and that I didn’t put myself in a situation I didn’t know anything about. It has to be authentic and real and doing guesswork wouldn’t do anything justice.”

While Levithan has had a heavy influence in the LGBTQ community, his characters have also reached out to other communities, reassuring that our body is often half of the battle.

“I often tell the story of a friend who has a son who is severely autistic,” says Levithan. “After reading the book she said this really resonated with her: ‘You are a person inside and your body is not allowing you to express it,’ she said. ‘That is so much what autism is and I know my son has a pure self but the translation is bad because of the body.’”

While there is sci-fi element to the film and the book, Levithan actually thinks that grounds the story.

“There is a paranormal sense in simply waking up every day in a different body,” Levithan observes. “People are much more comfortable talking about it than if I had written a realistic novel about an a-gendered teenager. I love that something incredible contrived from science-fiction has lead to a conversation in the real world, and I think those conversations are being had.”

— Emma Bittner



AND THE OSCAR GOES TO....

The number of gay-themed films that compete in the major categories at the Oscars has always been pretty small, but we’ve seen a slow but steady rise over the past few years: *Brokeback Mountain*, *The Kids Are All Right*, *The Danish Girl*, last year’s best picture winner *Moonlight* (despite what Faye Dunaway said) to name a few. And it seems our time has really arrived. Not only is the same-sex romance *Call Me By Your Name* in the running for best picture (though it probably won’t win), it’s practically a lock for best adapted screenplay for out filmmaker James Ivory, who turns 90 later this year and would be the oldest person ever to win a writing Oscar. But that’s only the start. There were prominent gay characters (or queer imagery) in nominees like *Lady Bird*, *The Disaster Artist*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *A Fantastic Woman* and especially 13-time nominee *The Shape of Water*, which — set in 1962 — uses homosexuality as a stand-in for all overlooked members of society (including African-Americans, women, mutes and fishmen). There’s even the first trans man director ever nominated for Oscar (best documentary feature filmmaker *Strong Island*’s Yance Ford).

All of which gives us more reason than ever to watch the ceremonies, which arrive late this year thanks to the Olympics. Jimmy Kimmel hosts the event, airing Sunday on ABC. Cheer for *Call Me By Your Name*, but enjoy it whoever wins.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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**Saturday 03.09 —
Sunday 03.10**

Lucky Plush makes Dallas debut with quirky superhero dance show

Imagine you used to be a superhero, and now you're just a superzero. What to do? Well, how about a nonprofit startup for other has-been heroes? Maybe a think tank? That's the premise of Lucky Plush Productions' quirky, colorful dance performance *Trip the Light Fantastic*. The show — and the company — make their Dallas debut for two performances, courtesy TITAS.

DEETS: Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

LIFE+STYLE

best bets



Sunday 03.04

A Super Dame Good Party raises a glass to women

We are living in an era of awareness when it comes to women in the workforce, but Les Dames d'Escoffier has been championing that issue for years. On Sunday, the group is back with its annual culinary fundraiser where visitors can wine, dine and bid on auction items to support scholarships for women to pursue careers in food, wine and hospitality. Among the 20 chefs participating with bites to taste are Sharon Hage, Jennifer Uygur (Lucia) and for *Top Chef* contestant Tiffany Derry, pictured.

DEETS: 6500 Cedar Springs Road. 4–8 p.m. LDEDallas.org.



**Friday 03.02 —
Sunday 03.04**

Detour performing arts fest continues at WaterTower

Last week, we wrote about Dark Circles Contemporary Dance's new show debuting at Detour, WaterTower Theatre's new festival of original performance art. (It replaces the now-defunct Out of the Loop Fringe Festival.) Well, in addition to DCCD, which you can should see this weekend, check out gay performance artist Brigham Moseley's latest solo show of movies that show be musicals. Up this time? *My Best Friend's Wedding*. It plays Saturday, but there are shows all weekend at the festival work exploring. (Moseley's show moves on Monday to Wild Detectives in Bishop Arts!)

DEETS: Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. For full schedule, visit WaterTowerTheatre.org.



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calendar highlights



Michelle Obama will appear in Dallas at the Winspear Opera House on Thursday for a chat about her life.

ARTSWEEK THEATER

The Royale. One of the greatest boxers in history faces substantial obstacles as a black man achieving fame under Jim Crow. Based on the career of Jack Johnson. Presented by Kitchen Dog Theater. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. Through March 18. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Detour: A Festival of New Work. WaterTower Theatre presents this inaugural weekend of readings and workshop performances from a variety of artists. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. March 1–4. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

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

Frankenstein. A new adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic of modernity, written by Nick Dear, directed by Joel Ferrell. *Final weekend.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

On Your Feet! The Broadway jukebox musical based on the music of Gloria Estefan. Fair Park Music Hall, 909 First Ave. Through March 11. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

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. *Final weekend.* Cox Playhouse, 1517 H Ave., Plano. 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. *Final weekend.* Ochre House Theater, 825 Exposition Ave. OchreHouseTheater.org.

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

EXHIBITION

Fort Worth Show of Antiques and Art. The 55th year of the showcase of jewelry, furniture, fashion and styles from mid-century modern to French colonial and beyond. And there's always some gay exhibitors to bond with. Free parking. Will Rogers Memorial Center, 3400 Burnett-Tandy, Fort Worth. March 2–4. FortWorthShow.com.

FRIDAY 03.02

COMMUNITY

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

COMEDY

Bianca Del Rio: Blame It On Bianca. The Drag Racer performs. Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. AXS.com.

SATURDAY 03.03

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.

FUNDRAISER

Toast To Life: Bollywood. The 20th annual fundraiser for Resource Center, with host Steve Kemble. Empire Room, 1225 N Riverfront Blvd. RCDallas.org.

SUNDAY 03.04

BROADCAST

The 90th Annual Academy Awards. Airs on ABC. Jimmy Kimmel hosts. Coverage begins at 6 p.m.

TUESDAY 03.06

FILM

Suspicion. Winner of the best actress Academy Award for Joan Fontaine, this thriller from Alfred Hitchcock also stars Cary Grant. 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 03.07

COMMUNITY

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

THURSDAY 03.08

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.

APPEARANCE

Michelle Obama. The first lady speaks from the stage of the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

FRIDAY 03.09

OPERA

Sunken Garden. The modern opera by Van Der Aa, features digital projection and even 3D glasses for audience members! Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. March 9–17. DallasOpera.org.

DANCE

Trip the Light Fantastic: The Making of SuperStrip. Dallas debut of Lucky Plush Productions, a dance company whose show poists washed-up superheroes joining forces to create a think tank. Presented by TITAS. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. March 9–10. ATPAC.org.

this week's solution

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Cassie Nova

Cassie has a 360 moment with Anderson Cooper

Hello, my lovelies. I have to share with you the latest celebrity sighting we had in the Rose Room. It started out just a normal fabulous night. We had opened the show with a new production. Lots of sequins and big feather fans. I did my monologue, then my number and then walked around and kikied with the crowd. Then one of the floor guys that work at S4 (I refuse to learn any of their names until they have been there at least a year, and this guy has only worked there for about 11 months) walked up to me and says Anderson Cooper is in the back of the Rose Room.

I immediately grabbed my phone and ran back. Sure enough, the silver fox was standing there in a black baseball cap. He looked adorable. I walked up and said hi, he said, "Great show, you are very funny." I said thank you and batted my eyelashes. I asked him if I could get a picture with him and he said, "I'd rather not; I'm trying to stay low-key."

I totally get that. I know I am nowhere near Anderson Cooper famous and someday you just wanna be left alone. As he is telling me

this, a drunk girl stumbles up to us, pushes The Coop out of the way and says, "Oh my Gawd, Cassie Nova! I love you! Can I get a pic with you?" Before I could even answer, Anderson says, "I will take it for you," and snatches the girl's phone with the biggest shit-eating grin on his face. He makes a big production out of taking the pic. "Get in close, and smile!" While taking the pic, I look at him and say, "You are an asshole!" He just laughed and took a few more pics like we were doing a freaking photo shoot. At one point in our impromptu photo shoot I look at him and say, "Sorry, but I am very famous!" He just laughed and said, "I see that."

Cooper was a nice guy with a great sense of humor. I've always loved him for being the voice of reason in this messed up world, and his ability to show compassion in difficult situations. I love that he "goes there" when he is interviewing the most awful people and a lot of times says what we are feeling. But now I adore him for just being a nice guy with no ego. He was friendly to everyone that approached



him. He later came backstage and met all of the girls in the show. Krystal Summers fangirled out. (She keeps her television on CNN.) We would have loved the obligatory selfie with a famous person but I prefer to have a great story instead and I totally have that.

Now let's see if I can help a few folks out.

Dear Cassie, I am a trans woman who is 66 percent out. The other 34 percent is mainly my day job, where there is no possibility of coming out, and a very few distant relatives and friends. My problem is my older brother, who knows all about my transness. When he found out, he seemed really cool with it all. Recently, however, he has become a member of Facebook (late bloomer) and friend requested me on my old "boy" account, which I accepted and then sent him a friend request from my regular female account, which went unanswered. A couple of times I deleted the request and resent it, to make sure he got the notification. Still no response. I tried "liking" a few things on his account from my female account, but a couple of days later I found that he had closed that loophole by making his account friends-only.

I would like to remain in contact with my brother. He is pretty much my only remaining blood relative that I grew up with, but it makes me pretty pissed that he would be this way. How do you think I should handle this going forward? Love, Heather.

My dearest Heather, This is a tough one. First I want to applaud your bravery to live your life, for the most part, the way you choose. Coming out as trans can be hard but also completely liberating. The brother thing is rough but I will tell you what someone told me years ago about coming out as gay. How long did it take for you to accept that you are trans? It was probably something you wrestled with for a while. You should give your friends and family at least that much time to accept the new you.

It won't be easy and it will probably hurt but give it some time. Your brother is going to have to know that you are still the same person and hopefully he cares enough to want to keep you in his life, but if he can't eventually wrap his head around the new evolved version of you, then let him go.

Another bit of advice I can give you is don't let likes and Facebook requests be the only way to judge how your brother feels. Pick up the phone and talk to him. Let him know that you know that your transition might be hard

for him but you are still the same person you always were. The ties that bind us to our blood family are strong but sometimes the best thing for you to do is step away from them and let them come to you. Good luck, Cassie.

Dear Cassie, I don't have a question for you, exactly. Rather, I'd like to ask you to share my story.

I have syphilis. Hopefully, I'll be cleared up by the time this is printed. I was stupid, thinking it would never happen to me. I tend to, umm, get around quite a bit. Bottoming. I usually use condoms. I always ask my hook-up if he's HIV and disease free. On occasion, if he claims to be "clean," I'll play bare. I've been good the last few months, using protection all but twice. On those two occasions, the other guy was hot and hung, and in both instances, he had no visible sores.

One day, I noticed a couple of sores under my tongue. They didn't hurt at first. A couple of weeks later, I noticed a pimple on my balls. The pimple turned into an ulcer, and within a day, the single ulcer turned into open ulcers covering my whole scrotum. I was encouraged to see a doctor, but I wasn't in any pain or discomfort, and I was so embarrassed by the thought of explaining to a doctor how I, a married man in an open relationship (that's a whole other area to be judge for), got syphilis. So I never got tested and let the sores clear up on their own. When they did, I was relieved and believed that it must not have been syphilis after all. And then it all came back, along with rashes on my hands.

I finally went to a doctor and found out that I was in a late stage of syphilis. It was still curable, but required more medical care than it would have if I had just gone to the doctor when the sores first appeared.

The point of telling you all of this is to ask your readers to please know your status, but not just your HIV status. Know your STD status. And don't think it won't happen to you. It will. It's just a matter of time. When it does happen, for heaven's sake, go to a doctor. Don't be embarrassed. Get over it and go to the doctor. The longer you wait, the worse it will get. Thanks for listening, Cassie. I appreciate the chance to make others aware. Signed, Stupid Syphilitic.

Dear SS, Thank you for sharing your story. Now use a fucking rubber every time! Sheesh!

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.

WHAT WE'RE STREAMING: 'Queer Eye' on Netflix



Remember when the word "queer" was an insult hurled by homophobes against gay people? Remember a time before the words "metrosexual" and "zhuzh" has entered the lexicon? If not, good for you. But either way, we have a TV show to thank for it. *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* was a cultural phenomenon from 2002–06, making household names out of Carson Kressley and Ted Allen and doing extreme makeovers before that term existed, either. It ran its course, but all things just keep getting better... especially given a lapse in time. (*Will & Grace*, *X Files*, *Roseanne*.... We're looking at you.)

The new incarnation of the show, called simply *Queer Eye*, has returned via Netflix for

an eight-episode tryout, and what a welcome return it is. The set-up is essentially the same, with five out gay men descending on schlubby, mostly middle-aged straight men from Greater Atlanta, to teach them how to live better lives with style. I say mostly, because one notable episode involves AJ, a ripped, shy but secretly freaky gay man who hasn't come out yet. If you're not sobbing openly by the end, you might wanna seek counseling. And that happens over and over.

Forget the tongue-clucking about how the show promotes stereotypes, and just enjoy what it has to offer: Feelings of pride, hope and joy. Hey, we're called "gay" for a reason.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



CORRECTION: These handsome men are bartenders at Marty's Live. Last week we said they worked at Dallas Woody's.

Making the **SCENE** the week of **March 2-8:**

- **Alexandre's:** **Girls Night Out** with **Peggy Honea** on Friday. **Chris Chism and the Band** on Saturday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie sings Broadway** on Tuesday. **Anna Fredericka Popova** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Red Ribbon Candidate Show** at 7 p.m. on Saturday. **Mother Michail Awards** buffet at 7 p.m. and awards at 8 p.m. on Wednesday. **Cowtown Leathermen Cookout** at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **South Central Community Bootblack Travel Fundraiser** from 6:30-10 p.m. on Saturday. **Dallas Bears Club Night** at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Dreamgirls** at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Marty's Live:** **Nicole O'hara Munro** hosts **Drag It Out** competition on Tuesday.
- **Pekers:** **Miss Gay Texas Pageant System** presents **There Are Lucky Charms at the End of the Rainbow** with food at 4 p.m. and show at 5 p.m.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Jock Strap Sports Happy Hour** at 6 p.m. on Friday. **Wine Walk** on Wednesday. **RuPaul's Drag Race** watch party at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Drag, queerlesque, circus arts, sideshow, burlesque and more** at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday Tease.
- **The 515 Bar:** **Sunday Funday.**
- **The Rose Room:** Singer, rapper truth-teller **Wendy Ho** on Sunday.
- **TMC The Mining Company:** **Athena O'hara** at midnight on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy Saloon:** **In Town Show** at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** **Dallas Woody's Venom extra innings** from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday.

Scene Photographers: **Kat Haygood, Chad Mantooth** and **Nicholas Gonzalez**



Loved ones hanging on The Strip.



The musical twins at The Tin Room

5th Annual Stoli Key West Classic at the Round-Up

Pictures by Nicholas, Harmony Yesenia & Samuel Allen



S4 bartender Jamie Ortiz was the winner of the Stoli Key West Classic





Casey on The Strip



Gloria Devine on The Strip



Amy on The Strip



Raunda, the one and only



Friends turned out in full force last Sunday at The Round-Up Saloon to raise more than \$6,800 for Chanel Champagne.



Staff at JR's



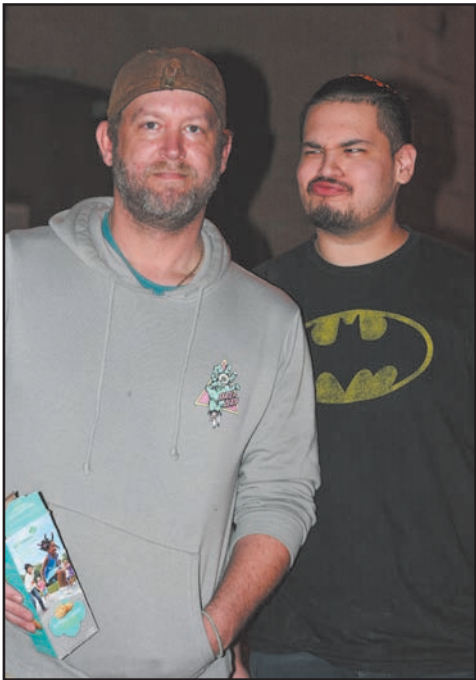
Brian at The Hidden Door



The Tuesday Tease at Sue Ellen's



Happy birthday Cyran at Sue Ellen's



Staff at JR's



Brian at The Hidden Door



Deborah at The Hidden Door



Jenni P and her future ex husband at The Tin Room



Snuggling up on The Strip



Crystal Dubois and Sebastian Crystal on The Strip

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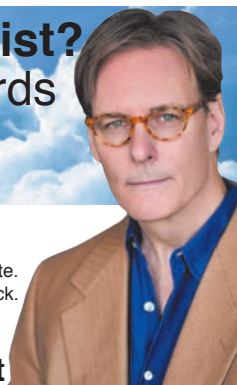
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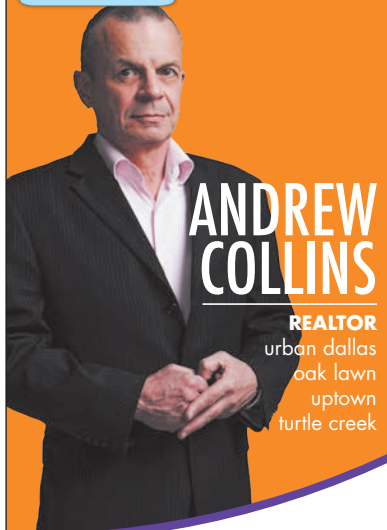
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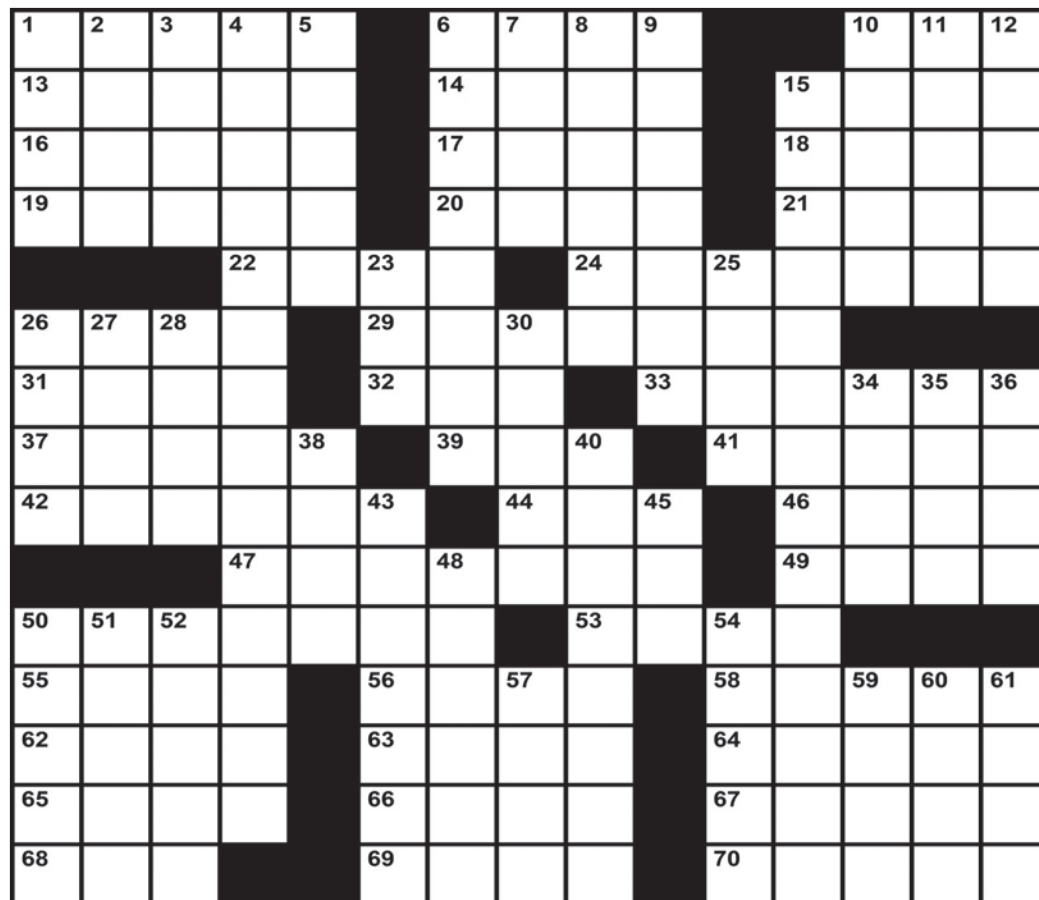
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The Bottom Line

Solution on Page 29

Across

- 1 Queer-looking E
- 6 Opening noted at the office
- 10 Hieroglyphic serpent
- 13 Hometown of Brando
- 14 C&W singer McCoy
- 15 Homophone of a Broadway bio
- 16 Target of deep thrust?
- 17 Lynch of *Glee*
- 18 Will beneficiary
- 19 Jabbed with a joint
- 20 Bear of the night
- 21 Bannon and others
- 22 Decide not to go straight
- 24 Performing in the Globe, e.g.
- 26 Suffix with cigar
- 29 *Sweatin' to the Oldies* guru Richard
- 31 Marvel Comics superhero
- 32 ___ tape (video starring Trump)
- 33 Tavern with naked dancers?
- 37 Word before "ass"
- 39 Org. for Jodie Foster
- 41 What parents may hope homosexuality is
- 42 Beat up on
- 44 "I have a headache" et al.
- 46 *Brothers & Sisters* producer Ken
- 47 Washington setting of *Frasier*
- 49 Strip under the futon

50 ___ People

- 53 Wannabe singer's tape
- 55 *Spamalot* writer Eric
- 56 Type of bag
- 58 Paul Lynde, on *Bewitched*
- 62 "The multitudinous ___ incarnadine" (*Macbeth*)
- 63 Man, as a cruising goal
- 64 It comes under a jockey's shorts
- 65 Scots cover their heads with them
- 66 Adverb in verse
- 67 News show of Jenna Wolfe, formerly
- 68 State that didn't elect homophobe Roy Moore (abbr.)
- 69 Oldest of the Brady kids
- 70 Begins, on Broadway

Down

- 1 Batman word like "Pow!" and "Bam!"
- 2 "Move your butt!"
- 3 In the pink
- 4 Start of the "bottom line" about lesbian sex as you get older
- 5 Alternative to TNT
- 6 More of the "bottom line"
- 7 Kind of beer
- 8 1996 Lili Taylor movie with Mel Gibson

- 9 She loved Franklin and Lorena
- 10 *Spartacus* venue
- 11 Filing for palimony, e.g.
- 12 As such
- 15 End of the "bottom line"
- 23 Gaydar, for example
- 25 Move the football between your legs
- 26 Jazz singer James
- 27 What you must remember, as time goes by
- 28 Todd Oldham designs, e.g.
- 30 Stood for
- 34 Bouncer for Amelie Mauresmo
- 35 China setting
- 36 Money from Lucy to Ethel
- 38 "___ yellow ribbon ..."
- 40 Comic Dana, source of the "bottom line"
- 43 Falling behind
- 45 Cole Porter's "___ America First"
- 48 More economical verbally
- 50 End of a farewell from Frida
- 51 Like Everett, as a movie husband
- 52 Wool source
- 54 Michael of *The Village Voice*
- 57 Away from the wind
- 59 Turn over
- 60 Like some meat
- 61 Maker of some fruity flavors

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