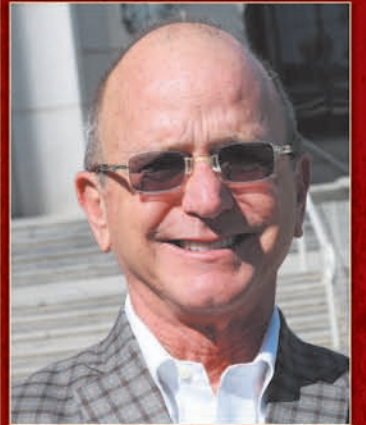


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2018 VOTE MIDTERMS



What is BIKTARVY®?

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about BIKTARVY?

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects:

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking BIKTARVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take BIKTARVY?

Do not take BIKTARVY if you take:

- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin
- ▶ any other medicines to treat HIV-1

What are the other possible side effects of BIKTARVY?

Serious side effects of BIKTARVY may also include:

- ▶ **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **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.

The most common side effects of BIKTARVY in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%). Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don’t go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking BIKTARVY?

- ▶ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ▶ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements. BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all of your other medicines.
- ▶ **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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.

Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you.



Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the following page.

Get HIV support by
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BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

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(bik-TAR-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:

- dofetilide
- rifampin
- any other medicines to treat HIV-1

BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

Tell your healthcare provider all your medical conditions, including if you:

- Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY® and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- Changes in your immune system.
- 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.
- **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (5%), and headache (5%).

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

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

HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

GET MORE INFORMATION

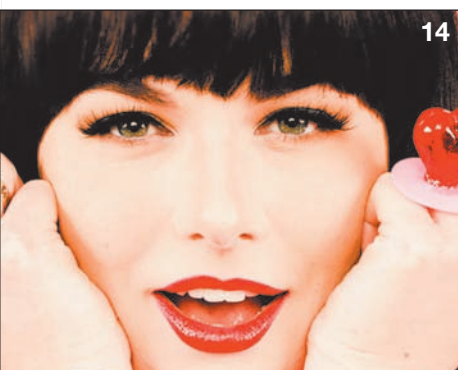
- This is only a brief summary of important information about BIKTARVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to BIKTARVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit BIKTARVY.com for program information.



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Design by Kevin Thomas.

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Dan Wood

Wood charges voter intimidation in U.S. House District 5 race

Black and elderly voters are being intimidated in the 5th District congressional race to replace retiring Rep. Jeb Hensarling, Democratic candidate Dan Wood charged in a press conference held on Tuesday, Oct. 30, on the grounds of Cathedral of Hope.

About 20 voters (whose names have been redacted) were listed on a lawsuit that Republican Lance Gooden sued to seal in June and Democrat Dan Wood succeeded in getting unsealed this week. Speaking at the press conference, Wood said Gooden asked the attorney general to investigate voter fraud but then sued to seal the case.

Elderly and minority voters from Terrell who

mailed in ballots were called into court in Kaufman County and asked by the judge who they voted for, according to Wood, who said he found out about this voter intimidation when his volunteers were canvassing neighborhoods in Terrell and voters told them their experiences. One woman said she had to find out how to get a bus to Kaufman from her home because

she doesn't drive.

Five voters told Wood volunteers they would never vote again after their experiences.

The message that minority voters in the district are getting, Wood said, is that "if you mail in or early vote, you'll be hauled into court." He said his volunteers have offered elderly supporters rides to the polls and they've been refused, with individuals telling them, "I'm never voting again."

In June, Gooden's attorney, Elizabeth Alvarez, sent an email to Kaufman County officials and others that included a motion and order to seal the case. "This is in regards to the cancellation of those mail-in ballots," Alvarez wrote in the email. "This order will be filed as confidential, and we will request the order be made under seal, because

we do not want the media to find out."

In May, Gooden, who was in a Republican runoff, filed a lawsuit against the Kaufman County Republican Party after the county's Republican precinct chairs cast a unanimous vote of no confidence in him. The next week, Gooden won the runoff, then filed a temporary restraining order to nullify mail-in ballot applications for the year.

The judge granted the motion to seal the case on June 21. Wood learned of the seal on Oct. 12. He went to the county clerk's office in person and was told he couldn't have any part of the file. Two days later he filed a motion to unseal the court records. On Friday, Oct. 26, the court held a hearing to unseal the case, but the names of voters remained redacted. On Oct. 29, the judge signed an order to unseal the case, and the clerk released files to Wood.

— David Taffet

LGBT liaison Roman named Community Outreach Officer of the Year

Dallas Police LGBT liaison Officer Amber Roman was awarded Community Outreach Officer of the Year at a banquet at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Dallas on Monday. The event is staged by Friends of the Dallas Police Department.

Roman said she heard she was nominated but was surprised when she won.

"I'm extremely grateful," Roman said. "Makes me want to work hard for the community and the Dallas Police Department."

More than 600 people attended the banquet.

Officers were awarded in a number of categories including Rookie of the Year, Field Training Officer, Non-Sworn Employee of the Year, Detective of the Year and Officer of the Year.

Roman was also nominated for Officer of the Year.

— David Taffet

Phariss runs TV ads in last week of the campaign

State senate candidate Mark Phariss has had TV ads running the last week of the election. He's running for an open seat in Collin County against Angela Paxton, wife of Attorney General Ken Paxton. The seat is open because incumbent Van Taylor is running for U.S. Congress against Lorie Burch.

Phariss is best known as one of the Texas marriage equality plaintiffs.

The ad is about Paxton's lies about her background.

"While Angela Paxton claims to have more than 22 years of classroom experience, her own resume shows that over the last two decades she has spent no more than 5 years in the classroom, mostly in a private school," Phariss campaign manager John Shanks wrote in an email.

— David Taffet



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



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THE GAY AGENDA



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

NOVEMBER

• Nov. 1-4: Strength Conference

The fourth annual Strength Conference for men living with HIV, a program of AIDS Walk South Dallas.

Embassy suites Dallas Market Center, 2727 N. Stemmons Freeway. Facebook.com/NationalStrengthConference.

• Nov. 2: B4Black

Black Tie Dinner pre-party. Preview and begin bidding on silent auction items at 8-10 p.m. at Sheraton Dallas, 400 N. Olive St.

• Nov. 3: Block Walk for Beto

Comedian and activist Dana Goldberg headlines a rally, beginning at noon at Alexandre's, 4026 Cedar Springs Road, to kick off an LGBTQ Block Walk for Beto O'Rourke. The event is aimed at getting LGBTQ voters to the polls on Tuesday, Nov. 6. Other celebrity guests may attend, as well. Sign up online at Act.BetoForTexas.com/event/attend/28189.

• Nov. 3: Black Tie Dinner

Annual fundraiser for Human Rights Campaign and 20 local nonprofits at 6:30 p.m. at Sheraton Dallas, 400 N Olive St.

• Nov. 3: It's My Park Day

Help clean up litter, weed or mulch a local Dallas park from 9 a.m.-noon. After you register online, someone from our staff will call you to coordinate getting you the supplies you need for the cleanup. DallasParks.org/FormCenter/Registration-Forms-9/Its-My-Park-Day-Fall-2018-126

• Nov. 3: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)

DSGA, the LGBT golf organization, plays at 9 a.m., at Ridgeview Ranch, 2701 Ridgeview Drive, Plano. \$60 Includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. Information at DSGADallas.org or email info@DSGADallas.org.

• Nov. 3: Food addiction information session

Free session hosted by Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous for anyone suffering from an eating disorder including overeating, under-eating, bulimia or other issues from 2-3:30 p.m. at Campbell Green Recreation Center, 16600 Park Hill Drive.

• Nov. 6: Election Day

• Nov. 8: Business connections mixer

The GLBT Chamber of Commerce mixer and performance by Tom Rhodes from 4:30-6 p.m. The Improv, 4980 Belt Line Road #250. \$10 advance. \$20 at the door.

• Nov. 9: DFW Pride Happy Hour

Monthly happy hours and psychic night at restaurant from 5-7 p.m. at Two Corks and a Bottle, The Quadrangle, 2800 Routh St. #140.

• Nov. 10: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)

DSGA, the LGBT golf organization, plays at 8 a.m. Shotgun, at Cowboys Golf Club, 1600 Fairway Drive, Grapevine. \$152.42 Includes golf, cart, range balls, prizes and all food and beverage (excluding alcohol) in clubhouse and on the course. Information at DSGADallas.org or email info@DSGADallas.org.

• Nov. 10: Holiday kickoff celebration

Coalition for Aging LGBT Tarrant County buffet lunch from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Chadra Mezza Grill Restaurant, 1622 Park Place Ave., Fort Worth. \$10. RSVP at Eventbrite.com search Coalition for Aging LGBT.

• Nov. 10-11: Turtle Creek Spring Arts & Craft Festival 2018

About 100 local artists and craftsmen display their work from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave.

• Nov. 13: I'll Have a Blue Christmas

Ed-U-Care presents I'll Hve a Blue Christmas: How to Navigate the Holiday Season for LGBT Older Adults from 6-8:30 p.m. at Senior Source, 3910 Harry Hines Blvd. \$8. RSVP for dinner and event at EduCareDallas.com.



Comedian and activist Dana Goldberg headlines a rally kicking of an LGBTQ Block Walk for Beto O'Rourke Saturday at noon at Alexandre's. See listings for details.

• Nov. 13: Resource Center tour

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center's community center at 11 a.m. at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@mysresourcecenter.org.

• Nov. 13: Grief support group

LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 7-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• Nov. 14: TAG Dinner Group

Tyler Area Gays co-ed dinner group meets at 7 p.m. at Manny's Tex Mex Cafe, 1433 S. Beckham, Tyler.

• Nov. 15: SMU Triumph of the Spirit Human Rights Award

SMU's Embrey Human Rights Program in Dedman College presents its 2018 Triumph of the Spirit Human Rights Award to Nazi hunters Beate and Serge Klarsfeld at 6 p.m. in the Mack Ballroomn at the Umphrey Lee Center, 3300 Dyer St. on the SMU campus. Sponsorships and tickets available.

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m. on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink.** This week's guest is community counselor **Candy Marcum**; **Core Group Meeting** every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game night** every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **FuseConnect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org; LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every Sunday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasussquares@gmail.com; **Dallas Frontrunners** meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; **Gray Pride support group** from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** gay-identified Toastmasters group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at the First Unitarian Church, 4015 Normandy Road (does not meet on Mondays that are holidays); **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.; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

• **Nov. 15: DIFFA Wreath Collection**

The 2018 holiday wreath collection and works of art and curated accessories from 7-10 p.m. at Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. \$75.

• **Nov. 16-17: TranScending Hope Conference**

Conference at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, to educate clergy and lay leaders about the Trans experience with special guest Austen Hartke, the author of *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*. For info, contact the Rev. Erin Wyma at 214-351-1901.

• **Nov. 17: Bah Humbug 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.

• **Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance**

Transgender Pride of Dallas hosts a Transgender Day of Remembrance event from 7-9 p.m. at J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, 1515 Young St.

• **pet of the week / CHAMP**



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urday. Regular adoption fees are \$100 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months, \$50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older, \$25 for senior dogs or cats aged 7 years and older and \$25 for VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

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Celia Israel

LGBT candidates in Texas looking to high turnout to put them in office

BY DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

With Election Day for the 2018 midterms just days away, progressive candidates in Texas this week were upbeat and enthusiastic, encouraged by reports of extraordinarily high early voting counts here in the Lone Star State and around the country.

There are at least 18 openly-LGBT candidates on the ballot in Texas, ranging from Justin Mosely, the 21-year-old justice of the peace candidate in deep red Angelina County, to lesbian Latina and former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez, who is running for governor. Gay West Texan Kerry McKennon is running for lieutenant governor, and Texas Supreme Court candidate Steven Kirkland is the third openly-LGBT candidate running for a statewide office.

There are three LGBT candidates for U.S. Senate — Lorie Burch in District 3, Gina Ortiz Jones in District 25 and Eric Holguin in District 27.

Openly-LGBT candidates for Texas Senate are Mark Phariss in District 8 and David Romero in District 7.

Openly-LGBT candidates for the Texas House are: Erin Zweiner in District 45; Celia Israel in District 50; Sam Hatton in District 71; Mary Gonzalez in District 75; Finn Jones, who could become the first transgender person elected to the Texas Legislature, in District 94, and Julie Johnson in District 115.

Judge Tanya Parker is running for re-election to the 116 Civil District Court in Dallas County, and joining Mosely as a justice of the peace candidate is Sara Martinez in Dallas County.

All of the candidates, with the exception of McKennon, are running as Democrats, and they are joined on the Democratic side of the ballot by a number of strong allies of the LGBT community. Not the least of those allies is the wildly-popular U.S. Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke, who is neck-and-neck with incumbent Ted Cruz in that race. Demo-

crats across the state hope that O'Rourke's popularity will bring crowds of people to the polls, who will then vote Democratic down the line.

Early voting numbers

The early vote in the 40 largest counties in Texas, which account for 88 percent of the population, had already surpassed 2016 totals by the end of the first week of early voting.

And in the three largest counties in North Texas, voting remained strong into the second week of voting. In Dallas County, 27 percent of registered voters (367,375) had cast a ballot by Oct. 30. In Tarrant County, 28 percent or 319,379 people had voted, and Collin County had the highest percentage in the state at 35 percent, or 20,7814 voters.

Harris County (including Houston) broke the half million mark on Tuesday, Oct. 30. That's 23.83 percent of the county's 2,338,460 registered voters.

A quarter of Bexar County (including San Antonio) voters cast ballots by Oct. 30. More than 32 percent of Travis County (including Austin) voters cast early votes by Tuesday.

A greater turnout in the larger, more urban areas of the state often bodes well for Democratic candidates, since those areas tend to be more progressive overall.

Mail-in ballots have increased the early vote total tremendously. The Democratic Party sent out a mailer to all voters over the age of 65 encouraging them to apply for a mail-in ballot. By Oct. 30, Harris County had received 80,279 mail-in ballots, Dallas 33,390, Tarrant 30,499, and Collin 13,160.

In the Rio Grande Valley, the two most populous counties — Hidalgo (McAllen) and Cameron (Brownsville and Harlingen) — voting is also at record levels. In Hidalgo, 24 percent of registered voters and in Cameron 20 percent of registered voters cast ballots, including mail-ins.

More than 30 percent of registered voters have cast ballots (including mail-ins) in the 40 largest counties.

Stonewall Dallas

Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, the largest Democratic organization in Texas, has endorsed the full slate of Democratic candidates, and Stonewall President Lee Daugherty recommends voting straight party ticket.

"While Beto [O'Rourke] is taking a lot of resources, we're reminding people there are 60 other people on the ballot who need

your help,” Daugherty stressed.

He said his organization has focused on the top 10 precincts where its members live, which were mostly in Oak Lawn, Oak Cliff and downtown. The organization is targeting those areas with ads on social media and mailers as well as placing ads in Dallas Voice.

Chad Crews runs Stonewall’s campaign activities. He said his group of volunteers is concentrating on two state House and one state Senate race. Joanna Cattanch is challenging incumbent Morgan Meyer in a House district that crosses part of Oak Lawn. And Ana-Maria Ramos is running against incumbent Linda Koop, who originally won with LGBT support after serving as an ally on the Dallas City Council. Once in the House, though, Koop became a bathroom bill supporter.

For state Senate, Nathan Johnson is challenging Tea Party-affiliated incumbent Don Huffines, whose district also encompasses parts of Oak Lawn.

Parts of these districts overlap U.S. House District 32 where Colin Allred is challenging incumbent Pete Sessions. Crews said because his committee is part of a state PAC, they can’t directly contribute to the Allred campaign, but they are supporting his campaign in ways they legally can.

Crews said his group donated about \$7,000 to candidates in September, and his committee spent an equal amount supporting candidates and a get-out-the-vote effort.

Lupe Valdez

Elizabeth Lewis, campaign spokeswoman for Lupe Valdez, said the former Dallas County sheriff had “just finished a 10-day, 50-city, 5,000-mile bus tour around the state.” Wednesday was the campaign’s last day in the Dallas area, “Then we’re back on the road through Election Day,” Lewis said.

She said the early vote turnout was a good sign for Valdez. “People are ready for a change,” she said.

Lewis described the Valdez campaign as historic, since Valdez is the first Latina and the first openly-LGBT candidate for governor in Texas. Texas’ Hispanic-American citizens are also backing Valdez, Lewis said, noting, “When we’re in the Valley, people look to her as inspiration. She’s waking up that sleeping giant.”

Lorie Burch

Congressional candidate Lorie Burch said this week that she and her supporters “are feeling confident and enthusiastic. Our

field game is like nothing Collin County has ever seen.”

Burch said each week, more and more volunteers have been showing up for block walking and phone banking efforts on her behalf. “We’ve seen a huge uptick in younger voters and minority voters — especially the Muslim community,” she noted.

Burch is running against state Sen. Van Taylor, who has been running TV ads that describe him as an Iraq War veteran and family man. But, Burch said, “We haven’t seen any change in the polling data since his ads began to run,” Burch said.

She added that her campaign decided not to run TV ads. Instead, she’s spent her money on social media to target younger voters. She also said she’s been running into many voters who don’t know who Van Taylor is because they just don’t watch much TV.

Like Texas Senate candidate Mark Phariss, whose state senatorial district overlaps Burch’s congressional district, she said her opponent avoids any interaction with her. In fact, she said, she’s run into him at only two forums. Her campaign reached out to his to set up a debate, but “he ignored us,” she said.

Burch said Collin County Republicans seem to be working on the assumption that if they can just get out their base, they’ll win. But, she declared, “They’re sorely mistaken.”

Burch said her watch party will be at the Nylo Hotel in Plano. She asked anyone planning to attend to RSVP to her campaign, because they’ve received threats and there will be security.

Mark Phariss

While Angela Paxton, wife of Republican incumbent Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, has declined all Chamber events in the Collin County race for Texas Senate, Democrat Mark Phariss has gone after the business vote.

Phariss said he approached the Texas Association of Business, which was instrumental in working against the bathroom bill last session, but they endorsed Paxton, who didn’t want their endorsement and hasn’t put it on her website.

“I’m the business attorney,” Phariss said, frustrated that the organization didn’t even interview him for the endorsement.

In the last week of the campaign, Phariss started running TV commercials, and he said his fundraising totals have passed the half-million-dollar mark.

Phariss’ TV ads challenge Paxton’s claim

ELECTIONS, Next Page

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ELECTIONS, From Previous Page

that she was a teacher for 22 years, noting that according to her own resume, she taught for maybe seven years — and mostly in private schools.

Phariss said his TV ads are targeting the undecided voters and those who vote on Election Day.

In addition to the bump all Democrats are getting from the Beto campaign, Phariss said he is also benefitting from the campaign of Justin Nelson, who is challenging Attorney General Ken Paxton. Nelson’s ads talk about Ken Paxton having been indicted for securities fraud and question how he can remain the state’s top law enforcement officer if he can’t follow the law himself. Ken Paxton faces up to 99 years in prison if he were to be convicted.

Nelson’s ads also question how Paxton’s net worth could grow from \$30,000 to \$3 million since he has been in public office. This charge may also rub off on his wife and her campaign for the Texas Senate seat.

Phariss said that while the numbers of people considered Republicans in Collin County has traditionally been high, that’s because people vote in the Republican Primary since the Democrats generally hav-



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en't had contested elections there.

A larger number of people have moved into Collin County from out of state, and Phariss said his polling shows that as many as 80 percent of the new voters are Democrats.

So what are his chances of winning? "We have no clue," Phariss said.

Julie Johnson

"We're feeling good," House District 115 candidate Julie Johnson said this week. "We're excited about the high voter turnout."

Johnson is running for the seat currently occupied by bathroom bill author Matt Rinaldi in a race that has garnered attention from supporters across the country. She said she was lucky to have a close group of supporters, who helped her from the beginning, and to have hired a top-tier campaign team.

As with other Democratic candidates throughout North Texas, Johnson said her opponent hasn't shown up for most forums, although she did get to debate him a few weeks ago on *Inside Texas Politics* on WFAA Channel 8.

When Rinaldi tried to paint her as a left-wing extremist, Johnson pointed out all the Republican support she is getting, including from Rinaldi's predecessor as well as the Texas Association of Business.

Still, Johnson said her campaign is continuing at full steam. "We need to keep up the gas and not take anything for granted," she said.

She and her campaign workers have been at the polls talking to voters, hammering away at her campaign themes — stronger schools and healthcare.

"I'm a small business owner," Johnson said. "I want to take that business acumen to Austin and work for the people."

On Election Day, Johnson's watch party takes place at Yard House in Village on the Parkway in Addison.

Finnegan Jones

Finnegan Jones, running for a Texas House seat in Arlington, said he's ready to get some sleep. As the first openly-transgender man to run for the Legislature in Texas, Jones said his campaign strategy has been simple and apparently effective — stick to the issues.

Poll numbers have him within a few points of five-times married, "family val-

ues" incumbent Tony Tinderholt.

Jones said when he's talking issues such as "public education, healthcare, women's rights, gas well drilling in Arlington 350 feet from schools and homes," people are listening.

Jones points out that a gas well in Arlington ruptured recently, and the Arlington City Council can't do anything about it because of legislation that Tinderholt supported.

Democrats are at a disadvantage in Arlington, Jones said, because out of 38 precincts, only about a dozen have precinct chairs. Those chairs are valuable in introducing voters to local candidates and helping get out the vote.

Although the city has mostly voted Republican over the last 20 years, Jones said he's finding lots of Democrats — or at least, people who've told him they're going to vote for Democrats.

"Lots of teachers are having to work two or three jobs," Jones said. "One retired teacher contacted me about how cuts to the TRS [Teacher Retirement System] health plan have affected her. She's cutting her pills into thirds so they'll last the month."

Jones said if he wins, a major part of his support will have come from students at UT Arlington.

"The lines at UTA are out the door," he said. "From what I understand, that's never happened before."

Jones said most people don't think about his gender identity or his status as a transgender man. When women ask him where he stands on women's issues, he has to explain he was raised female and has been sexually assaulted. He said their reaction is, "Oh ... yeah."



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Pol. adv. paid for by Stonewall Democrats of Dallas PAC

Black Tie weekend starts Friday

B4 Black to include Ivory Layne performance

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

The line-up for Saturday night's 37th annual Black Tie Dinner includes opening speeches by U.S. Senate candidate Beto O'Rourke and actor Matt Bomer, along with appearances by actor Erich Bergen, accepting the Media Award, TV host Jessi Cruickshank, receiving the Ally for Equality Award, and comedian/activist Dana Goldberg, returning to conduct the luxury auction.

Transgender pop star Kim Petras will perform, and local activist Kay Wilkinson will receive the Kuchling Humanitarian Award. And Black Tie Co-Chair Nathan Robbins said guests will also be treated to "surprise special appearance" during the dinner.

But, Robbins said this week, Black Tie fans don't have to wait until Saturday night for the fun to start.

"We will be having our B4 Black event on Friday night again, like we have done for many years now, but this year we wanted to make it more of a experience," Robbins said. "BBVA Compass, our presenting sponsor again this year, has an arrangement with AEG entertainment, and they are going to host a concert with us Friday night at B4 Black" featuring up-and-coming pop singer Ivory Layne.

"Her music is very entertaining and very approachable," Robbins said. "I think people



Nathan Robbins, left, and David Gifford-Robinson. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

will really enjoy her performance."

AEG and BBVA Compass have both been promoting B4 Black and Layne's performance through their own channels, which

should help boost attendance, Robbins continued, noting, "They will also be recording [Layne's performance] and will broadcast it across all their channels afterward, too."

B4 Black is also the first chance for people to get a look at the more than 100 items that have been donated for this year's silent

BLACK TIE Page 18



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Bryan's House losing Ryan White funds

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Cuts to federal funding for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program have left a North Texas agency scrambling to find the money to continue its programs for children with HIV/AIDS and the children of parents with HIV/AIDS.

Abigail Torres, CEO of Bryan's House in Dallas, said this week that her agency "took a \$117,000-plus hit" in funding after officials "removed language in the contracts allowing for funds to be used for day-care for families."

Now Torres and Bryan's House board are hoping that the community will step up to help make up at least some of those lost dollars.

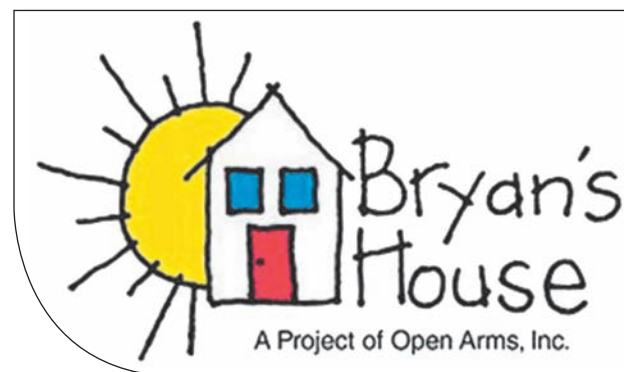
"The current administration has cut funding or diverted funds that had been used for this program in the past," Torres said. "We are the only provider [in North Texas] offering that kind of program. We are beyond saddened" at the prospect of having to cut the program.

Bryan's House was founded in 1988 to care for children born with HIV/AIDS. According to the CDC, from 1988 to 1993, between 6,000 and 7,000 children were born each year to women infected with HIV. Of those, an estimated 1,000-2,000 were themselves infected each year with the AIDS virus. Thanks to advances in HIV research and treatments, that number has dropped dramatically; CDC statistics reported in March 2017 indicated that only 69 cases of HIV-infected infants were reported in 2013.

Although the number of children with HIV/AIDS is much lower, Torres said Bryan's House works with children of parents with HIV/AIDS, and that studies have shown that those children often suffer from "toxic stress syndrome," because the children often bear all the stress that their parents deal with. These children, Torres said, often struggle with "environmental, social and developmental delays."

She also noted that HIV infections are on the rise, according to statistics from the Department of Health and Human Services, which means that the number of HIV-positive parents is likely to rise, too.

As the number of children with HIV/AIDS has dropped through the years, Bryan's House — which serves eight North Texas counties — has broadened its scope,



Torres said.

Today the agency offers direct child care services for special needs children, from infants through age 5, including medically-managed child care, an early childhood education program, after school, summer and holiday programs and respite care.

Bryan's House also offers a variety of family supportive services, including case management, financial education classes, emergency financial support, parent support groups and more.

It is the daycare program, Torres said, that is in danger.

"Parents [with HIV/AIDS] need that time on the weekend to rest, to regroup," Torres said of the respite care program "And the daily child care program allows those parents to be able to go to work" without worrying about whether their children are being properly looked after.

Because of these cuts, Torres said, many of the children Bryan's House serves will have nowhere to go. While the agency is "always grateful for the money we get" through federal programs, she added, "these cuts hit hard. We need to make up the loss.

"We need the community to help," Torres continued. "We need the community to step forward to help make sure we don't lose this program, to make sure these children have someplace to go."



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Reverchon ballpark re-do



The ballpark currently seats about 500 in dilapidated bleachers. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Baseball field expansion not expected to disrupt activities in the park

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Reverchon Park's ball field is getting an upgrade, but construction will not prevent any group from holding events there — especially annual events that have already been held in the park, according to Dallas Parks and Recreation Department officials.

"Any existing annual event can stay at Reverchon and will be accommodated," parks board member Jesse Moreno told Dallas Voice. "Anyone who uses the park today can continue to use it."

The parks department has an agreement with owners of a minor league baseball team to upgrade the baseball field. The new ballpark will have more amenities and seat more people, but it will sit on the same footprint as the current field.

No parking will be added, Moreno said, and none of the park's green space will be taken up by a paved lot. Instead, the city is negotiating with surrounding office buildings and other facilities to use their lots for events, Moreno said.

North Dallas High School uses the baseball diamond as its home field and will continue to do so in the enhanced facility. The Pride festival in September is also welcome to continue using the park, he said. Moreno even suggested the ball field would be a perfect location for Pride festival concerts.

The bleachers on the baseball field currently seat 500. The owners of the baseball team have permission to add seating for up

REVERCHON, Page 19



Federally Funded, Ryan White Grant for Daily Childcare, **Going Away...**

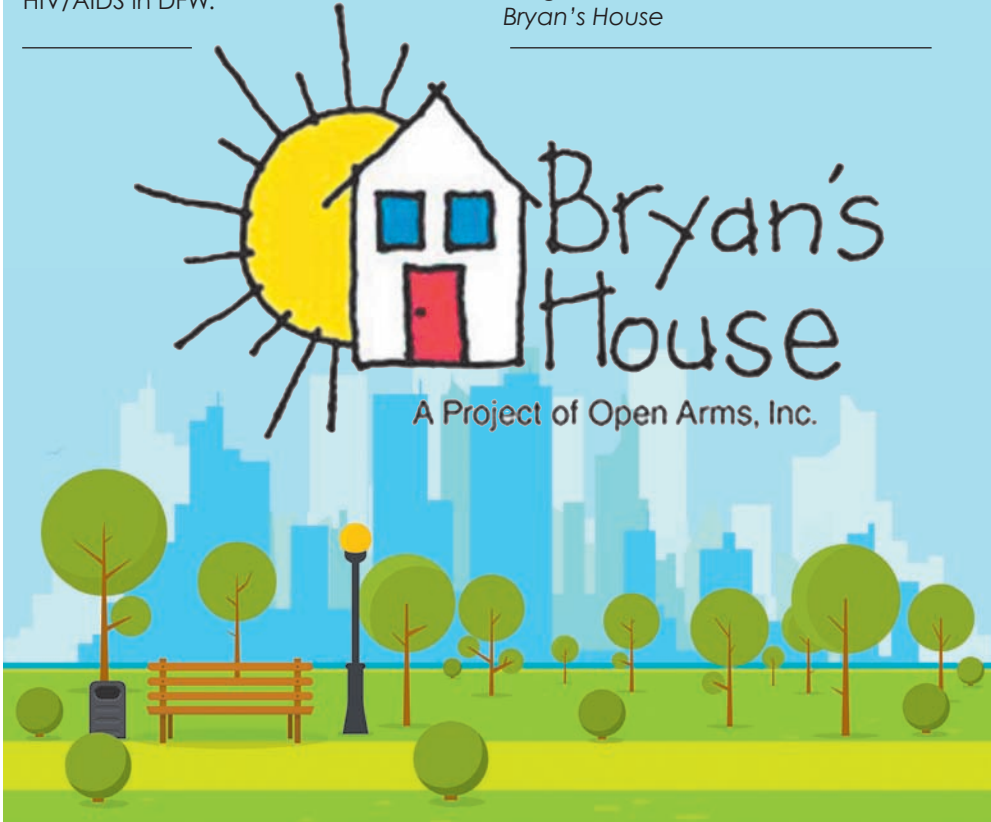
Beloved Nonprofit, **Bryan's House** established as the first agency in the nation in 1988, to provide holistic 24/7 respite care for babies dying from AIDS. Even though our mission has changed to serve all children with special needs, we have suffered a blow in one of their best-known programs to care for families living with HIV.

We receive \$117,747 a year through Ryan White, to provide clients with a direct daily early childhood education forty eight weeks a year, and health management services to children ages 0-5, for families living with HIV/AIDS in DFW.

The current administration announced that they have cut funding for childcare for job-seeking and working moms, parents and partners. They are still funding respite care and drop in care for doctors appointments. We ask that the community rally around **Bryan's House** and the existing families served, to raise funds to help continue our daily education, childcare, therapies and family supportive services.

We are all in this together — help me change the trajectory of these deserving children with special needs.

Thanks so much,
Abigail Erickson-Torres, CEO
Bryan's House



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BLACK TIE, From Page 14

Getting to Black Tie

With renovations underway at Sheraton Dallas downtown, getting to Black Tie Dinner this year will be a little different.

The hotel's lobby, on the east side of Olive Street, is no longer accessible. Instead, the valet parking stand will be in the garage on the west — or left — side of the street, directly across from where the lobby was, and people will enter the venue from that side of the street,

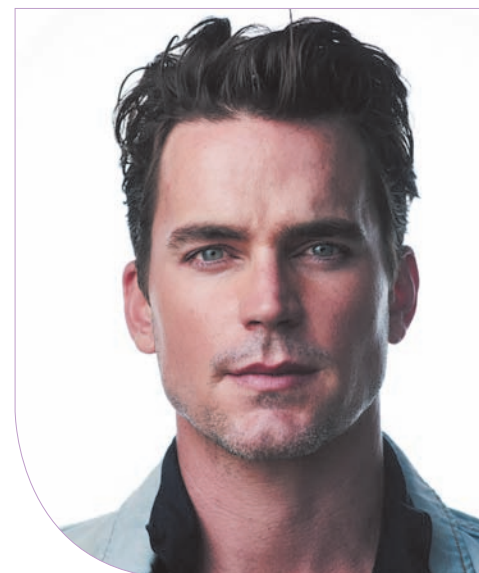
as well.

Registration and the Champagne Welcome event will be in the San Antonio Ballroom on the third floor, beginning at 4:45 p.m. The pre-dinner cocktail reception and silent auction will be in the Lone Star Ballroom pre-convene area on the second floor.

Doors to the Lone Star Ballroom open at 6:30 p.m., and the 2018 Black Tie Dinner begins at 7 p.m. The AfterBlack Party starts at 10 p.m. in the preconvene area.



Ivory Lane, above, and Matt Bomer, left



online at BlackTie.org to learn how to view auction items and bid on them online.

Several especially attractive auction items are held back each year to be auctioned off live during the dinner on Saturday night in what organizers call the Live Luxury Auction. This year's Luxury Auction include a vacation package at an Italian villa, complete with miles from American Airlines; and a Sun and Ski vacation package that includes three trips — one trip to Maui, one summer trip to a new hotel in Aspen and one trip to Gay Ski Week in Aspen.

BBVA Compass has donated a VIP Coachella package for the already-sold-out 2019 event, and Mitchell Gold and Bob Williams have upped the total of the gift certificate they donate for a shopping spree in their home furnishings store to \$15,000. The luxury auction also includes stays at a variety of privately-owned vacation homes.

The AfterBlack Party on Saturday also promises to be a lively event, Robbins said, with Morgan W. Cox underwriting the party for the second year, and Los Angeles DJ Jeremy Blacklow coming in to provide the music.

"The whole idea of the after-party is to give our guests a chance to keep the party going, to spend more time together enjoying themselves. We know it will be a really fun evening," Robbins said.

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to 1,400 people. That seating will be removable so the field can be configured for other uses.

In addition, the proposal allows the team's owners to add boxes, a ticket office, concessions and restroom facilities.

The city has negotiated with the private ownership group that will be building in the park to have restroom facilities open and available for other groups holding events in Reverchon. Moreno suggested that could be a cost savings for groups that normally bring in port-o-potties.

The group proposing these changes to the baseball field has until the beginning of December to put together the funding. The size and scale of the project will depend on how much the group has raised by that deadline. If they haven't raised the money by then, the Park Department can then tear

up the contract or decide to extend it.

No matter what happens, the city isn't spending any money for the park improvements. All upgrades to the facilities will come from private funding.

The 41.3-acre Reverchon Park was established in 1914, 11 years before the nearby city of Cedar Springs was annexed into the city of Dallas. The park's only vehicle entrance is from Maple Avenue. More recently, a bike and foot entrance was added from the Katy Trail.

Several years ago, there was talk of opening the far end of Reverchon Park to Harry Hines Boulevard. Moreno said that would cross an access road to the Tollway and involve working with the North Texas Tollway Authority, so those plans have been dropped.

Currently, there are no plans to close, alter, upgrade or work on the rest of the park.

Moreno said the next thing to look at would be the recreation center, which was built in 1974.

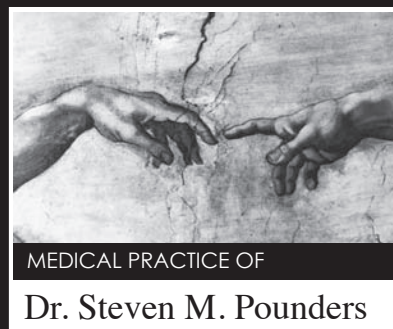
"The rec center needs to be torn down and rebuilt with a better design," Moreno said.

He suggested he'd like to see a new building placed closer to Scottish Rite Hospital. That would allow for more green space where the current building stands and any construction wouldn't interfere with events that take place in the park.

Moreno said he'd like to see even more small events take place in the already heavily-used park, such as concerts that could take place on the ball field.



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In the darkness there is light

Cards from Northaven UMC to Congregation Beth El Binah offer hope during a week of darkness

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer

I was searching for something to say about the Oct. 27 massacre at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. But which shade of disgusting accurately describes gunning down a 97-year-old woman?

All I could do was post the names and ages of the victims. I had nothing much else to say, and I spent a good part of my Monday talking to Dallas police about security for our local LGBT synagogue.

Then, that evening, I went to a Congregation Beth El Binah emergency board meeting. Waiting for us in the board room of Northaven United Methodist Church where we meet — I mean, where we share a home — was a beautiful plant and more than 60 handwritten cards.

One of them read simply, “In the darkness, there is light.”

The cards expressed sympathy for our congregation’s pain, but actually, our friends at Northaven were grieving along with us. Our residence in their building only brought the shootings closer to home. Our pain is their pain.

“Please know that we share your pain, and we stand in solidarity with you,” the Rev. Marti Soper wrote in her card to our congregation. “Know you are indeed a part of our family — the family of our shared God.”

The Rev. Bill McElvaney, who performed the wedding ceremony for George Harris and Jack Evans in 2014, was pastor emeritus of Northaven until his death later that year. His widow, Fran, is still a member of the congregation. She wrote, “Please know that we are holding you in our hearts and in our thoughts and grieving with you that there is such enmity and hatred in our world.”

Mrs. McElvaney, I had the pleasure of spending some time talking to your husband at Jack and George’s reception and was an instant fan of his wit, his warmth and his love. Thank you for your love at this difficult time.

From congregants, some of the messages were short:



David Taffet
Senior Staff Writer

One wrote, “Remember you are loved.”

Some turned to prayer: “Our hearts are broken at the violence your community is suffering. We will pray for changed hearts and speak that

prayer at every opportunity,” one wrote, while another communed, “May our Creator, Sustainer and Provider be your Comforter.”

All expressed love: “Our hearts are broken — as are yours,” and from another Northaven member, “My heart and love are with you all.”

Some turned toward hope: “May love and tolerance overcome hate and evil.” Some looked for a solution: “There are many who stand with you, and together we will be the light to overcome the darkness,” wrote one Northaven congregant. “You are not alone. Love will win.”

Some wrote something simple but so deeply genuine: “Thinking of you.”

Some comments were directed at Tree of Life Synagogue as much as to Beth El Binah: “My heart breaks at the tragedy that was so cruelly brought to your congregation as you worshipped yesterday. You are not alone. We share your grief.”

We’ll make sure Tree of Life gets these beautiful notes. But that message was also to Beth El Binah, because a shooting in one synagogue is like a shooting in every synagogue. That gun was aimed at all of us.

The wonderful partnership Northaven and Beth El Binah developed started when both congregations were accepted as Black Tie Dinner beneficiaries. When Beth El Binah lost its longtime worship space a few years ago, Northaven welcomed us with open arms.

Things have worked out so well, I’m not sure why lots more congregations don’t do this.

Northaven, of course, celebrates Sabbath on Sunday. Beth El Binah celebrates Sabbath on Friday night and Saturday, and Jewish holidays can’t fall on a Sunday for a variety of reasons that have to do with prohibitions against preparing for a holiday

on Shabbat and our crazy lunar calendar.

Our first year at Northaven, we spontaneously came up with the obvious solution for the one Friday night a year that we overlap — Good Friday. We attended their service and some of them attended ours right afterwards.

Wow. What a concept — enjoying each other’s traditions; loving and respecting each other; caring about each other; learning from each other and just becoming friends.

And putting up with some of our nonsense.

When Beth El Binah moved in, we renamed parts of their church. For example, the building is equipped with a Schindler brand elevator, which we refer to as “Schindler’s Lift.”

The only thing that could make our churchagogue better is if we could find a Muslim group to share the space with us. That would be the ultimate efficiency in use of space since Islam’s sabbath is Friday.

What?! A Jewish group working with a Muslim group?!

In the ultimate act of community goodness, Pittsburgh’s Muslim community has raised more than \$150,000 to cover funeral costs and other expenses for Tree of Life Synagogue. That story needs to get more attention — not visits by politicians looking for publicity before an election.

In the mean time — security concerns. If Democrats do well in the elections, will that anger racists? And if Republicans do well in the elections, will that embolden those same bigots?

So when one Northaven member wrote to the congregation, “We are grateful that we share this space as we work to spread love and peace in the world,” I was glad I did what I did. When I spoke to Dallas police about security, I made sure they had not just Beth El Binah’s schedule, but Northaven’s as well. That’s because, as one member of Northaven wrote in a card to us, “To all of you — We are your family.”

In dark times, it’s so good to have family. We’re your family as well.

And another wrote, “We are glad you are here.”

So are we. ■

David Taffet is the senior writer for Dallas Voice and is secretary of Beth El Binah, the predominantly LGBT Jewish synagogue in North Texas.

Out of OMGs

Did it really take a bomb — literal and figurative — to wake us up?

OMG!
I haven't written for a while. The outrageous acts coming from Washington and the insanity of the campaign season have, frankly, left me numb: "OMG! Did you see the crazy tweet from Trump?"

"OMG! Can (insert candidate name here) really be serious about what they just said?"

"OMG! They are actually trying to make that insane idea a law?"

"OMG!"

"OMG!"

"OMG!"

And after a while I don't have any more OMG's to give. But maybe it took a bomb to wake me up. I don't mean just the actual bombs delivered to Democrats and Democratic supporters but the legislative bomb of the leaked memo asking for the definition of gender to be changed to effectively erase an entire class of citizens.

The real bombs and the legislative ones are not accidental. They are calculated to boost the "base" of what passes for the Republican Party these days.

The gender bomb was not something Trump calculated; he is too stupid for that. It's an attempt to pass a national "bathroom bill" to mollify the fear-ridden suburbanites that want their world to go back to a simpler time when everything was easy to understand.

The move was designed to assure these predominately white, middle class voters that the GOP is working to simplify life and clearly limit everything to black and white — in many cases, literally, black and white.

For conservatives, rules mean everything, and if we don't allow a legal definition of people we don't understand, well then, they just don't exist. Problem solved!

It's a simplistic world view, but one that works for them well enough — until they run into a big dose of reality. It worked for them until cisgender-white-straight was no longer a secure majority in the country. It worked as long as they could continue to live in isolated enclaves and not interact with people of color in roles other than anonymous serving class. It worked as long as they never knew or met anyone whose sexual orientation or gender identity was anything different from their own.

The gender erasure efforts are specifically designed to satisfy the fantasy world in which the GOP base lives. They are a bomb designed to do little damage to the right-wing voter and provide lots of political



Hardy Haberman
Flagging Left

Trump and Alex Jones and read Breitbart and watched FOX News. He figured he be a hero by attacking all those "enemies of the people" Trump screams about. He is a white guy who saw his world changing and his power and privilege declining. He is someone who is, at his core, afraid.

The same goes for the terrorist who attacked Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh. He's another white guy who feared losing what privilege he had to the "other," in this case, Jews. His actions and words showed just how afraid he was.

The fear the right wing cultivated and used with so little discretion has come home to roost. The constant barrage of accusations and hyperbole are not seen as political bombast, but as real battle cries. Much as Trump and his toadies deny it, they are inciting the violence. And sadly, I believe we have not seen the end of it.

Our country is in a very precarious state. We have an administration that behaves more like a crime family than the executive branch and a Congress that is more concerned with staying in control than the welfare of the nation. We have politicians who are caricatures rather than statespersons, and media outlets that are no more than propaganda machines for the right wing.

Until the majority of Americans realize that the phrase "OMG" has lost all meaning and that social media will not protect them from either the legislative "bombs" or the real ones, the madness will continue. Until America wakes up and faces the reality that our country is headed down a very rough road to ruin, we will all become numb.

We have a chance to change this. It starts at the ballot box, and it continues through the way we treat our fellow citizens. We cannot be numbed by fear. We cannot be complacent. We must use our power at the polls and join hands with our fellow Americans to build a better country.

That is not just a bunch of happy horse-shit. It is a prescription for saving our democracy and maintaining a semblance of peace. Oh My God! Why are you still reading this? Go vote!

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

impact to motivate them to the polls.

What about the real bombs? Those, apparently, were the work of a Trump supporter who lived out of his van, who listened to

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Here she goes again

A conversation with Cher — on her music, her acting, her activism

Cher is so low-key about being Cher that calling her is like calling your mom. “Hi,” she purrs with signature simplicity when I phoned her in late August. We are speaking matter-of-factly about gay things, political things, Twitter things (“I’m finished with the emojis that we have”). About going to Walgreens and trying to remember why she went to Walgreens. This seems so very ... normal?

Certainly, Cher is the most multi of multi-hyphenates — fiery human rights activist, Auto-Tune pioneer, a unicorn, the Phoenix — but no, not at all normal. Not from down here, where we’ve basked in the long-reigning diva’s treasure trove of film and music and bedazzled Bob Mackie costumes, and admired her ability to get down, do a five-minute plank (seriously), and somehow get back up again. That motion is the time-tested motion of Cher’s enduring six-decade career. It’s where grit meets guts meets glitter.

Our Oz, our Wonderland; a safe, shimmering space providing escapist refuge since the 1960s, a span which has seen Sonny (Bono, her late ex-husband) and Cher, anthemic rock and gay dance, inventions and reinventions — Cher’s mere existence brought us closer to those within our own

community and closer to ourselves.

She has an Oscar, a Grammy, an Emmy and three Golden Globes, and in December, she’ll be the recipient of the prestigious Kennedy Center Honors for her indelible contributions to culture. But Cher’s super-heroine, Hollywood-royalty sheen isn’t without genuine normal-person realness. Unlike “Believe,” there is nothing artificially manufactured about Cher’s no-nonsense, everywoman, Walgreens-shopper persona. Because even when her sequins glisten like a galaxy of stars on a lit Vegas stage, when she’s floating high above you in majestic-goddess fashion, and when she’s still wearing a variation of her “If I Could Turn Back Time” music video one-piece at her current age of 72, Cher does the least pop icon thing a pop icon can do: remind you she’s still living in your world.

In July, she did her gay-icon due diligence by helicoptering onto the set of *Mamma Mia 2! Here We Go Again* to play the role she’d been playing in front of the world, most discernibly to generations of baby-gays and grown-up gays: maternal pillar. Armed with a cannon of glittery ABBA bops, Cher has come to our rescue once again with an ode to the Swedish disco-pop supergroup titled — what else? — *Dancing Queen*, her 26th album and first since 2013’s *Closer to the Truth*. In December, *The Cher Show*, a musical about her life

which she is co-producing, officially opens on Broadway. And next year, because she just can’t help herself, she will embark on a tour appropriately titled *Here We Go Again*.

The night we spoke, Cher was laid-back, reflective and full of hearty chuckles as she talked about that Walgreens detour, kissing *Silkwood* co-star Meryl Streep, the wedding dress she’d wear to Trump’s impeachment party, the “breadcrumbs” of her legacy, Twitter, the devil, jumping out of a window ... and not only her long-standing influence on the LGBTQ community, but our influence on her.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: I have a story you probably haven’t thought about in some time: It’s 2016, you’re at a Walgreens in Flint, Mich., on Halloween. You were there campaigning for Hillary and some Walgreens shopper told you they loved your Cher costume. Cher: Yes! Oh my god! Wasn’t that, like, the weirdest experience at the Walgreens?!

You tell me. I wasn’t there! Haha! I needed to go into the Walgreens for something. Or: I had a moment to breathe ... I don’t know. I went into Walgreens, and I was looking for something, and then the girls who were helping me realized it was me, and then there was a whole kind of hubbub thing, and all these little trick-or-treaters, came in as I was leaving. So they were all outside, and I piled

them into the limousine and we were hanging out in there. I mean, I was supposed to be going to a whole bunch of fundraisers — I ended up making them, of course — and I was busy playing with the kids.

Are you frequently mistaken for a Cher impersonator? Because, I mean, how often would the real Cher be at a Walgreens? Right? And in Flint! Well, probably not often. Ha! But you know, the minute I start talking, they pretty much know it’s me.

You’re hard on yourself when it comes to your music. Are you happy with *Dancing Queen*? I think I did a good job. Now whether people are gonna like it...

Less studio drama than that time you stormed out on producer Mark Taylor after recording “Believe?” Well... yes. Haha! But I have to tell you something: These songs are not easy. You’d think, “Oh, they’re pop-y and Björn [Ulvaeus] and Benny [Andersson] and the girls start to get into them,” and they’re not. No more Mr. Nice Guy! They’re rough songs. And they’re much more intricate than I thought, but I had a great time. Some of them are easier, and some of them have some rough spots.

You could’ve easily found enough inspiration in the world’s current plight for another album like your 2000 indie album *Not Commercial*, which was dark. But we don’t need that right now! We need ABBA right now! If anything, we need to *not* be brought down because everything is so terrible. I was just talking to this one boy who came in and

Photos courtesy Machado Cicala

he was asking me what did I really think and I said, “Babe, I think the picture’s bleak. I think everyone’s gotta vote.”

Thankfully, *Dancing Queen* is a slice of gay heaven in hell. Well, look, I wasn’t doing it for that, but I’m happy if it can make people happier than they were before they heard it.

When were you first aware that the LGBTQ community identified you as a gay icon? I don’t think I was when I was with Sonny. I think it happened on *The Sonny and Cher Show*, somehow. I don’t know — I don’t know how that happens. I mean, how *does* it happen? I have no idea! It’s just like, we made a pact and we’re a group and that’s it.

But you were seeing more of the LGBTQ community come out at some point? **There was a switch?** Yeah, there was a change, there was definitely a change. And I think it was when I was not with Sonny anymore, and then somehow it all started to click. But I always had gay friends. I actually almost got arrested at a party with my best friend at school. He was gay, but he couldn’t let anybody know, and he wanted me to go with him to a party, and the party got raided. And we jumped out the bathroom window! It was *high*. We had to go over the bathtub into the window and jump out.

And you got away? Yep.

Do you recall the moment that galvanized you to stand up as an ally for the LGBTQ community? I really don’t know if there was a moment. I’m not sure there was a moment; I’m not sure what it was. I just feel that, probably, there was a moment where guys thought I was just one of you. It’s like, there’s a moment where you’re either part of the group and you’re absorbed into the group and people love you as part of the group, or they don’t even know you’re alive, you know? Gay men are very loyal.

Look, I had a friend, [makeup artist] Kevyn Aucoin — he’s dead now — but he told me when he was young, he was growing up in some place in Louisiana and said how horrible it was to have to hide and be frightened, and he said he loved listening to Cher records. I think that’s a dead giveaway! Haha! If you want to hide being gay, do not buy Cher records!

And I had another friend who had a Cher poster on his wall. I don’t remember where he came from — some small town, too — and his dad ripped it off the wall, and he bought another one, put it inside his closet and said it was a way to really be who he was in spite of who his dad wanted him to be.

When in your life have you felt like the LGBTQ community was on your side when the rest of the world maybe was not? Always. I remember when I was doing [the play] *Come Back to the Five and Dime* [in 1976] and we had standing room only before we got reviewed, and after we got reviewed nobody came except the community — the community, and little grey-haired old women who came to matinees. We managed to stay open until we could build back up the

following. Also, the gay community, they just don’t leave you, they stay with you; that’s one thing that always keeps you going.

What does that loyalty mean to you? There’s been sometimes where I was just, you know, heartbroken about things, but it always gives you hope when there are people who think that you’re cute and worthwhile and an artist. It’s a great thing to have in your back pocket.

Your mother once told you when you were a child: “You won’t be the prettiest, you won’t be the most talented, you won’t be the smartest, but you are special.” What kind of mark did that leave on you? It just left some sort of indelible, interior tattoo. Because I have gone through so much shit in my life. I can’t tell you how many times people have written, “She’ll be gone by next year.” I remember I got really pissed off at somebody and I went, “I’ll be here, and you’ll be gone.” I don’t think I believed it at the time, but I was just angry.

So what you’re saying is what I’ve longed to hear: You’re immortal. Well, no, I’m not saying that. Ha! I’m just saying I can be really pissy.

At the *Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again* premiere in July, you and Meryl Streep kissed on the lips. Was that meant to be the *Silkwood* reunion the internet wanted it to be? Haha! No! We were just thinking it was stupid! It was so dumb! Meryl came behind me, and I didn’t know it, and then we turned to each other, she looked up at me, and she said, “You weren’t this tall yesterday!” And we laughed. And we just kissed! I had on my 10-inch heels, and you can see how tall I am next to her, and we just thought it was funny. I said, “Kiss me!” And we just kissed!

I have to tell you something: She is funny. She is wicked funny! And I don’t know that she gets to show that side all that often, but she’s wicked funny, and she just will do anything for a lark. She’s got a really great serious side, but she’s got this really hysterical side, too.

How do you hope your role as the mother of a trans son, Chaz Bono, has influenced other parents of LGBTQ kids? This is what I think, and this is what I would hope: I would hope that, look, I didn’t go through it that easily. Both times. When I found out Chaz was gay, I didn’t go through it that easily; when I found out Chaz was [transitioning] ... except we talked about it a lot, actually. But then Chaz didn’t mention it anymore, so I kind of forgot. And what I think is, there’s such a fear of losing the child you love, and what will replace that child.

I think it’s about the fear, mostly. I felt, who will this new person be? Because I know who the person is now, but who will the new person be, and how will it work, and will I have lost somebody? And then I thought of something else: I thought, my god, if I woke up tomorrow, and I was a man, I would be gouging my eyes out. And so I know that if that’s what you feel then, that must be so

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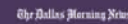
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L+S | interview

The lesbian we've always wanted

She's conquered comedy. Now Melissa McCarthy is bringing queer forger Lee Israel to (dramatic) life

Melissa McCarthy knows her way around women who don't care what other people think. This is the foundation on which her bawdy and vanity-free slapstick characters have been created, from her anti-feminine hornball Megan in *Bridesmaids* (which earned her an Oscar nomination) to gun-toting ballbuster Officer Mullins in *The Heat*, McCarthy's daring approach to all-out characters has made her a hero to audiences and critics.

If you've ever gotten a lesbian read on McCarthy's subversive heroines, you're not misreading... exactly. The 48-year-old actress (and bona fide action star) says the characteristics of *being* lesbian — not caring, disregard for convention, sensible shoes — are absolutely at play in her work.

There's nothing vague about Lee Israel's sexuality in McCarthy's latest film — the poignant, Oscar-worthy dramedy *Can You Ever Forgive Me?* — but even if you didn't know her as a real-life literary scammer (she forged and sold letters by famous writers like Noël Coward and Dorothy Parker), McCarthy will make you care deeply about this woman who, in true McCarthy fashion, has few cares herself.

Recently, McCarthy talked about

steeping her onscreen personas in lesbian qualities "out of admiration," her appreciation for queer films wherein a character's sexuality is not the whole story and why her drag alias is "Miss Y."

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: What took you so long to play a lesbian character that went beyond being just suggestively lesbian? Melissa McCarthy: [*Laughs*] It hadn't been presented to me. I just fell in love with Lee. I was not even a quarter of the way through the script and I thought, "My god, she's so unapologetic about who she is and how her demeanor is." I tend to always fall in love with women who simply don't care what other people think of them — sometimes to their detriment. I don't think it made her life easier that she was so prickly with so many people, to say the least. But I think in a world where so many people look outward to see, "How do you think I am?" as opposed to, "I know who I am, I know how I am, and I'm fine with it," there was something in Lee's voice that really appealed to me. I thought a little bit more of Lee in all of us would not be a bad thing.

Was there something special that stood out to you about the film's treatment of her sexuality? Yeah, I liked that it wasn't treated as if her sexuality was something new — a new sweater she got, or something she was trying on. I would say 80 percent of my friends are gay and it's not something that is an integral part of who they are — it's not



an accessory or a phase — and I thought it was just simply sunk into who she was as a woman, and I related to that. That seemed real to me, and it's about time that's the type of character you see: where it's part of the whole person, and it doesn't always lead with it.

Eighty percent is very precise. Has it always been 80 percent? Probably! I mean, still to this day, I don't know why. Who knows how and why and who you pick as your friends, but it's usually me and all my lovely, dear gay friends that I've had forever.

In the film, Richard E. Grant portrays Jack Hock, a charming gay boozier who becomes Lee's drinking buddy and partner in crime. Do you have a gay friend as close to you as Lee Israel was to Jack? I have about five of them. They were all my bridesmen. I had my sister — and then I had five bridesmen.

Did you make some new gay friends while shooting at New York City's oldest gay bar, Julius'? I didn't meet anyone new in there, but I found it fascinating that that's where Lee hung out. I thought that was very telling of her not wanting to be seen, but to still be with people who wouldn't judge her, especially in the early '90s. But no, no new friends! Richard's my new friend!

Richard as Jack is everyone's new gay friend. Isn't he? I think it took me three seconds to literally fall in love with him. I was just like, "Oh my god, where have you been all my life?" I think how he played Jack and how

bigger-than-life he was, and then how vulnerable and how he could break your heart — I just can't imagine anyone else on the planet playing Jack. I thought Richard was perfect.

How did Lee's friendship with Jack — two gay people living during the AIDS crisis — speak to you? I thought what really tethered the whole story were these two characters. These people are so lonely, so isolated, desperate in different ways but similar in others. Who hasn't had that feeling? Who hasn't felt completely alone or undervalued? And to put that in this time period, I mean, that's part of why I'm so fascinated. When I found out she hung out at Julius', especially in the early '90s, I thought she wouldn't meet anyone there. Then I thought, "Of course!" And she knew that. So she would go to just be isolated, and I thought, "Oh, Lee." I just sometimes rooted for her. I know it's crazy, but the scene with Dolly Wells, who plays Anna so brilliantly... and I know how this movie ends; I've seen it, I did it. And yet every time right before Lee makes that turn outside the restaurant, I can't help but go, "Oh, please, let it work out." She's so close to having a lovely thing, and then Lee kind of could not get out of her own way.

The LGBTQ community has seemingly found lesbian subtext in some of your characters. Did you recognize the lesbian sensibility when you shot *The Heat* with Sandra Bullock as much as gay critics did? It wasn't intentionally driven by that,

■ MCCARTHY, Page 30

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The historic LiveAid concert performance by Queen is a highlight of 'Bohemian Rhapsody.'

Bryan Singer's powerful biopic 'Bohemian Rhapsody' is killer, queen. Plus, the remake of 'Suspiria'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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The cliché about nerds and misfits is that they retreat into insular worlds like comic books and magic acts, maybe into alternative music scenes, where they establish their own culture of acceptance. Sometimes they meet with success, even stardom. But Freddie Mercury — born Farrokh Bulsara to Zoroastrian parents of Parsi descent — turned his otherness into one of the greatest rock acts of all time. And he may have fooled everyone at the time about what he was really doing.

Mercury may have been the first great example of hiding in plain sight. With his

bandmates Brian May, Roger Taylor and John Deacon, he gave his band the name Queen, projected raw sexuality into arenas not clubs and even popularized gay leather culture without officially coming out of the closet until the day before his death, in 1991, from complications from AIDS at age 45. (In later concerts, he was a walking Tom of Finland poster; the Village People wish they had his balls.)

Bohemian Rhapsody, the much-anticipated big-budget biopic of Queen (but mostly of Mercury), tracks the creation of not just a collection of musicians but of a style of rock that had not been seen before. Queen as a group lasted barely 15 years in its original formation, but it transformed the landscape of pop culture.

This is not unfamiliar territory to the director, Bryan Singer, whose X-Men movies brim with suggested queer content (mutants as outsiders vilified for having different natures). Here, he gets to be more

explicit, and do so in the context of an historic figure who really did revolutionize identity. How was Mercury able to get not just eccentrics and geeks but truck-driving heteros to sing along to his operatic, gender-bending imaginings? By being true to his clear vision.

It wasn't easy, and a lot of *Bohemian Rhapsody* trods the familiar ground of artistic temperament, band in-fighting,



drug abuse, self-destruction and eventual redemption. That comes with the territory. But Singer tells it with a compelling through-line that makes you care about how they did what they did. (One of the great touches: After the band finally releases the single "Bohemian Rhapsody," Singer follows it with a montage of reviews... all trashing the song as nonsense. He lets history speak for itself, and gets a dig in to critics at the same time.)

Every element of the film comes together, from the costumes to the soundtrack to the makeup, but even under the big teeth, Rami Malek's Mercury is a masterstroke of uncanny characterization. He doesn't just look like Freddie, he seems to channel him (even though most of his singing was dubbed). During the climactic finale — the famed concert at LiveAid, which Singer virtually reproduces in its entirety — we see the band come together and go all out. It's like being there, only made more powerful by all the backstory we know about Freddie's life until then, but also after.

Bohemian Rhapsody is a moving document not just of a man, but of an era haunted by AIDS.

Slashdance: The unsettling, crunchy horror of *Suspiria*

Remakes are tricky things. Sometimes, recycling plots and characters for a new generation, or with new technology, makes perfect sense... at least when done well (see the recent *A Star Is Born*); sometimes, you just scratch your head and wonder, "What were they *thinking*?" (Gus Van Sant's shot-

for-shot remake of *Psycho* jumps to mind). I went into *Suspiria* open-minded but at least with the lingering feeling that the latter might be the case.

The original 1977 film from Italian director Dario Argento was a garishly bloody slasher that became a cult hit, less for its compelling story than for its stylistic excesses and camp outrageousness. Truth be told, I haven't seen that one since I was a teenager, and was left more with impressions and images than a vivid recollection of plot points. So the idea of taking a film

of shaky pedigree and redoing it just for the sake of redoing it — *trash gratia trashis* — filled me more with curiosity than hope, more suspicion than dread. What did Luca Guadagnino, himself an Italian director of mostly artsy, lustful dramas (*Call Me By Your Name*, *A Bigger Splash*, *I Am Love*) want to say?

I'm still not sure how to answer that. But I was fascinated by how he said it.

This *Suspiria* is set in 1977, in Berlin, a divided city being plundered by the

■ FANDANGO, Page 31

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■ **CHER**, From Page 23

painful that it doesn't make any difference what anyone else feels or what anyone else thinks. Chaz is so happy now, and we get along better than ever.

You're known to speak your mind. When's the last time your mouth got you into trouble? I think it was my fingers that got me into trouble last time. I had to delete a couple of things that I tweeted, which now what I do is: If I'm gonna just go off on a rant, I do it first, I look at it, I delete it, but I take a picture of it first and then I have it. Then I decide if I really wanna put it on my Twitter or if I really wanna tweet it — or if I got it out of my system. I said something that I thought was really funny, but obviously the people on Trump's side didn't feel it was funny, and I got so much shit that I didn't expect.

There seems to be a fair amount of homophobes who you end up calling out. Yeah. I mean, I don't know what they are. There's just so much phobia of everybody. You've gotta be the same color, you've gotta like the same things, you've gotta be the same religion. It's like if you're not one of them, you're an enemy.

You're known for your emojis — do you have a go-to? Well, I have a few of them. I have cake when I'm really happy, I have a ghost when I'm really happy, and when I'm really, *really* happy I put them together. I wish I had something that was more than the guy who's got the blue head that is screaming. I wish I had somebody with a scream and his head was coming off the top of his body. I really wish there were better emojis. I'm

finished with the emojis that we have.

Am I hearing right: You're done with emojis? Yeah, stick a fork in 'em! I just want there to be more. I like the emoji that's the red-faced one with all the little signs over his mouth, which I always imagine is "fuck." That's what I put instead of the letters because they just get so angry. But also, I use the guy with the zipper across his mouth because I can't say that. I have little fans, so I have to stop using that.

You could send out the shit emoji and you know what, Cher, the gays would go wild. Oh, I've done that before! I put a bull and that together for when I think, "Oh, this is such bullshit."

What will you be wearing to Trump's impeachment party? Well, I think that we're all a little bit too premature for that, because I don't think that's gonna happen. But in my dreams I will be wearing something... oh, I think I'll wear a wedding dress! Haha! I think I'll just wear a white wedding dress. And a veil.

To symbolize? Just purity and excitement and something new. A new phase!

And we'll all go on a honeymoon after. Yes, we'll go on one big honeymoon forever afterwards. I don't see that happening, because I think that there too many really smart people, in the devilish kind of way. All those people who are advising him, they're really smart. But they're really from the dark side. I don't mean the actual devil in reality — not that I think that there is a devil in

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reality — but just a real dark side of gutting the entire government and gutting everything that was meant to preserve our safety and the water and the air and the land and schools and healthcare and all of it.

When it comes to our current pop landscape — Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, Lady Gaga, et. — who do you think does or doesn't have the staying power that you've demonstrated throughout your entire career? Gosh, I don't know. It's really hard to know until there's more time under their belts, do you know what I mean? There's got to be a little bit more time under their belts to know that. I think they've all done a pretty good job so far, but I think you've gotta have ... like, I'm 54 years into this business, so I think we have to wait a

minute.

I've been thinking a lot about how we interpret an artist's legacy after Aretha passed, and every time an icon passes on. Do you think about yours and what you hope that will be? You know, I don't really think about it. The only provision I've made is: I want all my friends and family to go to Paris and have a big party. I'm gonna fly everybody to Paris and have a big party. But no, I don't think about it too much because it's like, thinking about it can't do me any good. It is what it is, and to think about it, what will that get me? Kind of nothing. Also, what's really great is there's music left behind and there's film left behind, you know? I'm gonna leave a trail. I'll leave breadcrumbs.



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■ MCCARTHY, From Page 25

but it was driven by a sense of, I don't have to be anyone else than I am. I've had and still have so many great lesbian friends. I remember early on just being like, "Boy, they're just not putting on these airs and stereotypes of what it means to be a woman, and they certainly seem comfortable and at ease with it," and there was a real weighted feeling to that. I remember being like, "Yeah, why am I in a heel? What am I doing?" Like, "This seems dumb. She's not in one and between the two of us that's the smarter move." I just remember thinking someone who stops doing certain social cues that have been assigned and simply does what they want is very appealing to me. I find it very strong and respect it quite a bit.

So many of the women I play when I do play these characters — because I love them, I love them because they're too aggressive, too whatever it is — but I love that they're really in their shoes and some of those great women I've known over the years always carry into them because I think, "Don't mess with her because she knows exactly who she is and she's standing solid." I love the fact that they've crept in. You know, it's out of admiration.

These characters you play are a real subversion of conventional gender norms. Yeah, that "who's to say what" — I do love playing with that. It's like, you don't know anyone's story. You can't go off a look or a feeling; you don't know until you know. And maybe it'll never be any of your business.

The lesbian chemistry between Sandra Oh and Kathy Bates in your film *Tammy* — you called it "magical." If you were to play another lesbian role after Lee, who would you want your love interest to be? That's a tough question! That's like, "What's your favorite album?" I don't know! Oh, god. Glenn Close, I don't know. There are so many women that I love, that I find magical, I couldn't possibly answer that. It would be endless.

As a kid who grew up on a farm, where I imagine there weren't a lot of out and loud farmers... Not many that I knew of!

... What was your experience the first time you stepped into a gay bar, then? I thought, "Where has this been all my life?" That's the honest to god truth. There was a feeling of anything goes, you're OK, no one's gonna find you odd. What you're wearing, who cares! What you're doing, dancing all night! There just was a celebration innately built in. It's like, I didn't go there to be somber, I went because I was like, there's such a feeling of unity and I never felt... I just... I really did, I had such a strong reaction to it. It's like, I think, certainly, from many of my friends I was with as they came out and struggled with their families or had delightfully surprising responses from their family, to have a place to go where they were just fully accepted, a lot of joy went with that. So I kind of sat in the backdrop of that and enjoyed it.

The feeling must've been so strong that "Miss Y" was born. How did you get your drag name? [Laughs] I do kind of consider it my drag name. I was given it by a lesbian in southern Illinois. When I went to college, I went by Melissa, but up until college I had always been called "Missy." And someone who knew me before said, "Missy," in front of this woman and she went, "Uh! My friend 'Missy'? Completely unacceptable! I'll call you 'Miss Y.'" I don't know why she was really offended by Missy, but bizarrely it stuck and everyone called me Miss Y. When I ended up in New York, it had become somewhat of an alter ego... and in my wig and silver lamé trench coat dress, Miss Y was born.

Which drag look was physically easier to transform into: Miss Y or Divine, who you impersonated for an Entertainment Weekly cover shoot — or Sean Spicer? Sadly, Sean Spicer was quicker. I was like, "This will take hours," and they're like, "Not really. It'll take about 17 minutes," and I was like, "Oh, come on!" I would've loved for them to have been like, "Oh, it's really difficult to make her that masculine." Instead, nope. Really easy. I had no problem doing it!

What do your daughters think of Miss Y? They don't really know her — thank god they were not at the Palladium [a NYC gay bar] in '92 with me!

Wait, what happened at the Palladium in '92? Oh, so many things. So many things that I'll never put on a recorder. Susanne Bartsch parties and debauchery; the ball pit, the slide. I could go on but I won't!

You know, one day they're gonna ask about went happened with Miss Y in '92 at that bar. You know, something I hope my girls feel is a freedom. I always say I find them delightfully weird, which I have always rooted for. We play a strange game that is not really meant to offend any banker, we just mean this as a generalization, which is terrible — but we play a weird game where we're a very serious family and Ben [Falcone, McCarthy's husband] will come out and say, "Hello, children, how was education?" And they answer very properly and we can only do it for about a minute and a half. It's really weird and then we all feel uncomfortable and a weird dance party starts. So I love that they fully embrace that they can be as strange and goofy as they want to be. I think that's a feather in my cap, that they're not afraid to be exactly who they are.

Do pieces of Miss Y exist in any of the characters you play? I think there's always a bit of her. Not surprisingly, the beginning of me being a character actress — I didn't even do stand-up for that long. I couldn't possibly do it as myself. It didn't make any sense to me. But I could go on as her and tell amazing stories about myself and talk about being so young and wealthy and tall and all these things that I was not. And I could kind of channel it through someone and do that without any reservations or embarrassment. I think I've taken that into so many of these flawed, challenging women that I play. As long as I can channel through someone else, I feel quite a bit braver.



supersaturated colors, Guadagnino's palette is muted, dark, moody. And his style is more insidious. Even if you can't *watch* some scenes, you can't not *listen* to them. But while the violence is visceral, often to the point of nauseating, it never feels exploitive. (It seems significant that the film is being released *after* Halloween — it's not a fan-boy fright extravaganza, but a deeply unsettling quasi-feminist epic; at more than two-and-a-half hours, fully 60 minutes longer than its predecessor. It's art-house horror.) I looked away many, many times... but I never walked out.

That says at least something about the performances, or at least the one by Swinton. The way she moves across the screen suggests those of both a dancer and a conjurer; it's lizard-like. You're not quite sure the arc her character will take, but I have to say, I didn't see it coming where she ended up. Johnson, on the other hand, is not an actress for whom leaving an element of mystery is an option. She's a flat, two-dimensional actress at best.

Maybe she would have done better with a better script. Guadagnino's *Call Me By Your Name* (which won the screenplay

Oscar earlier this year) was magnificent because it had so little dialogue, and what dialogue it did contain didn't comment on what was happening onscreen, but rather undercut it. *Suspiria* is the opposite — it's talky, but you're not entirely sure what's going on (even in the post-credits sequence). Guadagnino is riffing not so much on Argento as on Kubrick (*The Shining*), Polanski (*The Tenant*) and the paintings of Hieronymus Bosch. It's a feverdream without logic, playing with you on a mental, physical and emotional level. It exhausts you.

Tilda Swinton's lizard-like movement is just one of the compellingly weird aspects of 'Suspiria.'

■ FANDANGO, From Page 27

terrorist group known as Baader-Meinhof. Into this ravished world comes Susie Bannion (Dakota Johnson), an American farm girl with a penchant for modern dance, auditioning for an acclaimed troupe run by the charismatic Madame Blanc (Tilda Swinton, whose presence in any movie ups the weirdo factor geometrically). Susie gets into the company but has a sense for a lot of strange goings-on; the girl she replaced disappeared under circumstances nobody is willing to talk about.

It doesn't take long for the audience to get clued in: The academy is basically a coven of witches whose leader, called Mother, is dying, and it seems she needs a sacrifice to increase her powers... though to what end, we can't be sure. We just know that what's going on in the bowels of this old building is gruesome, demonic, violent ... and very, very noisy.

Some horror films (including the original *Suspiria*) are wet; this one is crunchy. Where Argento's film became synonymous with candy-apple blood and gaudy,



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Here's to the Queens

Cher is our 'Dancing Queen' while Christine drops her Queens

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
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When word came that Cher, that iconic cultural touchstone, was returning to major motion picture acting for the sequel to the ABBA movie musical *Mamma Mia*, it seemed like a dream pairing: Two pop icons of the '70s, who defined different aspects of disco, converging on screen, with Cher singing "Fernando," one of the few ABBA hits that didn't work its way into the original film.



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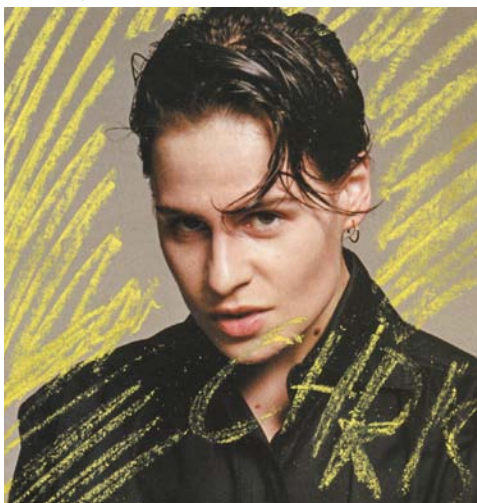
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Her late appearance in the movie kept her fans in rabid anticipation, and she delivered. (The sequel wasn't as big a hit as the original, but still made a ton of money.)

So the arrival of *Dancing Queen*, her new album entirely comprised of ABBA covers, is sort of an eargasm for Cherophiles — in other words, tailor-made for gay audiences.

Truth be told, most of the arrangements don't veer into anything experimental. We've all heard and loved these songs for decades — at least since *ABBA Gold*, the 1992 19-track greatest hits collection that led to the group's renaissance. Cher only covers 10 songs, though, omitting classics like "Knowing me, Knowing You," "Voulez-Vous" and "Lay All Your Love On Me" (the last one especially a missed opportunity — I'd love to hear Cher's take on that).



But something better than "experimental" emerges from the album: A simultaneous deeper appreciation for Cher as a stylist and Ulvaeus and Andersson as composers. Most of the ABBA hits are cemented in our minds as they were recorded nearly 40 years ago, with the vocals often back in the mix. Cher shows herself to have clearer diction, and her singing of the lyrics reveals new meaning. On "The Name of the Game," "Waterloo," "The Winner Takes It All" and the title track, we get pure Cher — at 72, still our queen.

When Heloise Letissier initially chose the stage name Christine and the Queens, it was in tribute to the drag queens who supported and inspired her while she was making her bones in the clubs of Paris. The title of her second studio album, *Chris*, establishes that Letissier has dropped the Queens part of her public identity, if not her dedication to queer, trans and pansexual individuals. Indeed, more so than on her eponymous first album (also known by the French title *Chaleur Humaine*), Chris is

all about sex this time out — not so much love, but horny lust. *Oooh la la!*

Much of that desire is couched in French lyrics. The lead track, "Comme si," repeated states *comme si on s'aimait* (as if we loved each other), though subsequent songs get racier, more direct — *Let me taste / on a butch babe in L.A.... / Let me spit / on this young man fresh asleep* she sings on "Damn (What a Woman Must Do)". On "Comme si," the pace is catchy and fresh and danceable — it sets up a potentially hook-

filled synth-pop album of electro beats. But soon you realize the album's reliance on minor keys and downbeats eventually overwhelms it. There *aren't* the hooks the first song promises, nor is there a strongly defined R&B vibe, which lingers in the background. Even the synth elements seem underproduced, like on the end track "The Stranger," and Chris' accent clouds many of the English lyrics. There's no drive to the album musically; it's orgasmic, but not to orgasmic. ■

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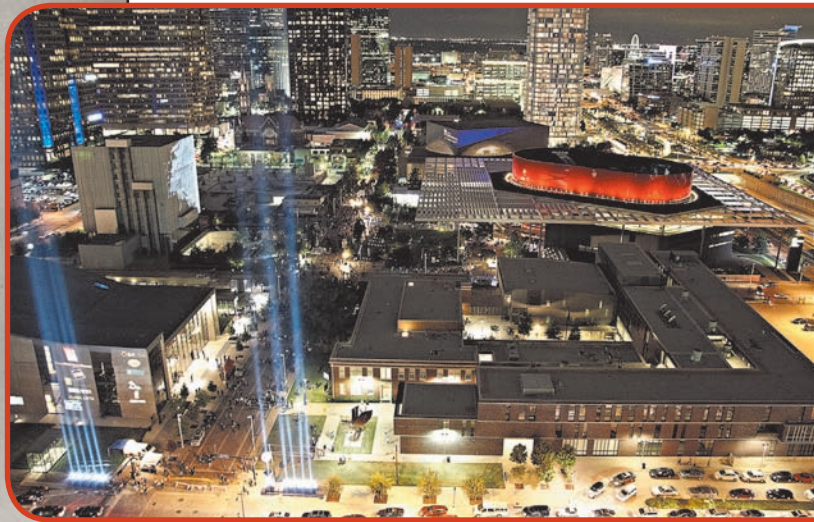
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Saturday 11.03

DSM gala features 'Glee' stars Lynch and Morrison

The Dallas Summer Musicals' next production of *Elf* doesn't arrive until after Thanksgiving, but that doesn't mean the company isn't making good use of Fair Park Music Hall. This week's Best of Broadway is a gala performance fundraiser for the theatrical presenter, featuring musical theater stars Shoshana Bean and Matthew Morrison, with hosting duties from Morrison's *Glee* co-star, Jane Lynch.

DEETS: Fair Park Music Hall, 901 First Ave. 8:30 p.m. DallasSummerMusicals.org.



Saturday 11.03

Aurora returns for a dazzling outdoor lights and media display

Since 2010, Downtown Dallas has been transformed biennially into a free, open-air new-media sensory extravaganza. The display, known as Aurora, is back this weekend, this time around City Hall, for another go at dazzling audiences for one-night-only, starting right around dusk (i.e., 7 p.m.).

DEETS: 1500 Marilla St. 7 p.m.–2 a.m. Free. AuroraDallas.com.

Saturday 11.03 — Sunday 11.11

Powerful musical 'Next to Normal' opens at Casa Manana

We used to think of "musical" as meaning "musical comedy," and most are, even those (like, say, *The Sound of Music*)

with serious themes. But few are more serious — and more powerful — than *Next to Normal*, the Tony Award-winning musical about mental illness and a family in breakdown mode. Casa Manana presents the show for two weekends only, with stars Charlie Pollock (*The Good Wife*, *Urinetown*) and Christine Sherrill.

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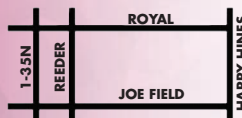
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calendar highlights



ARTSWEEK THEATER

Blood Brothers. A musical by Willy Russell about twins separated at birth who become friends. Presented by Imprint Theatreworks. Bath House Cultural Center, 5321 E. Lawther Drive. Through Nov. 11. ImprintTheatreworks.org.

Elwood. A world premiere musical comedy by Matthew Posey, presented by Ochre House Theater, 825 Exposition Ave. Through Nov. 17. OchreHouseTheater.org.

Next to Normal. Powerful musical about death and mental illness. Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Nov. 3-11. CasaManana.org.

The Moors. The lives of two Victorian era sisters are disrupted by strange arrivals in this dark comedy. Directed by Garret Storms. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Nov. 18. Theatre3Dallas.com.

OPERA

Carmen. The classic by Bizet, about a fiery woman and the man who cannot resist her. Presented by the Dallas Opera. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Nov. 4. DallasOpera.org.

FINE ART

An Enduring Legacy: The Eugene and Margaret McDermott Collection of Impressionist and Modern Art. The recent death of Dallas arts patron Margaret McDermott, at age 106, led to a bequest of 32 works from her private collection, housed in her own home until recently, and now on display with three previously-donated works to the DMA. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 17, 2019. DMA.org.

The Nature of Arp. Exploration of the work of the influential 20th century artist. Nasher Sculpture Center, 2001 Flora St. Through Jan. 6, 2019. NasherSculptureCenter.org.

Dali: Poetics of the Small, 1929-1936. Before he was an acclaimed surrealist of monumental work, Salvador Dali was a craftsman of small, classic (and modernist) paintings. Meadows Museum of Art on the SMU campus, 5900 Bishop Blvd.

EXHIBITIONS

Ultimate Dinosaurs. Exhibit analyzing the history of the creatures that would come to occupy Jurassic Park. Perot Museum of Nature and Science, 2001 N. Field St. Through Jan. 6, 2019. PerotMuseum.org.

Slavery at Jefferson's Monticello. Archeological exhibition that details life for possessed peoples who worked the plantation of the third president of the United States. African American Museum at Fair Park. Through Dec. 31.



Gay choreographer Dwight Rhoden created a stirring tribute to David Bowie, which comes to Moody Hall Nov. 9 and 10.

MONDAY 11.05

CABARET

Mama's Party. Weekly cabaret night with special guest performances. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. 7:35 p.m. \$10

TUESDAY 11.06 — ELECTION DAY

FILM

Fatal Attraction. A phenomenal hit that tapped into the Zeitgeist of the 1980s, this thriller is about a one-night-stand gone wrong. Nominated for five Oscars. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY 11.08

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.

FRIDAY 11.09

DANCE

Complexions Contemporary Ballet. Choreographer Dwight Rhoden stages an inventive tribute to David Bowie. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Friday–Saturday. ATPAC.org.

FESTIVAL

Chefs for Famers. The annual benefit for local purveyors, with acclaimed chefs, returns for three days of events. Visit ChefsForFarmers.com for full lineup.

FRIDAY 11.02

COMMUNITY

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

SATURDAY 11.03

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

Black Tie Dinner. The 37th annual benefit for the Human Rights Campaign. This year's theme: Visible. Sheraton Dallas, 400 N. Olive St. Registration begins at 4:45 p.m. BlackTie.org.

Dallas Summer Musicals Gala. Jane Lynch, Matthew Morrison and Shoshana Bean in a tribute to Broadway. Music Hall at Fair Park, 901 First Ave. 8:30 p.m. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

this week's solution

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Girl on girls

Jenny Block learns how we have to take care of each other

When I think of that line in traditional wedding vows that reads, “In sickness and in health,” I used to think, “Of course. You wouldn’t leave someone you love because she’s sick.” But that’s just a teeny part of that vow. The bigger part is about taking care of that person who you love. And that is not always an easy task.

My wife has had three dental surgeries within the last six months: Tooth extraction, bone graft, sinus lift. None of them fun. She has way-too-high tolerance for pain, so her tooth went bad while she was trying to be “good” and not let the pain get her down.

I’m a Jewish mom — literally and figuratively. I will always make sure you are warm and well fed and that you get an A-plus for patient compliance. When someone I love is recovering, I fill my brain with information; I fill the watch list on Netflix; I fill the couch with pillows; I fill the fridge and pantry with food; and I fill every pot with matzo ball soup. I clear my schedule so I can drive to the doctor, drive back home, run out for meds and missed necessities, and keep her company while she heals.

So it came as quite a shock when I took care of my wife for the first time. She hates to be drugged up and fights taking pain meds instead of minding my carefully drawn out schedule. She wants to be alone in the bedroom instead of on the sofa. She wants mashed potatoes and chocolate pudding instead of matzo ball soup and grape Jell-O. Just like when she’s well, she’s her own person when she’s *unwell*. And I didn’t know how to handle it.

The irony is, I’m my own person when I’m sick, too. I don’t want to hear about ice packs and water for headaches or Neosporin on healing cold sores. I am a by-the-book, old-school girl: Aleve and Allegra and Abreva all the way. I want the sofa. I want a med schedule. I want to do exactly what the doctor ordered.

So I don’t know why it would come as such a blow to me that my wife didn’t want me to take care of her the way I wanted to take care of her but instead the way she wanted to be taken care of.

I did it. I didn’t like it, but I did it.

But more than the doing — like in most instances — the value was in the learning or in the reminding at the very least. In caring for my wife in the way in which she wants to be taken care of, while still assuring that the antibiotics are taken on time and at least Advil is taken so as to not get behind the pain, I am reminded that while she is my wife, she is herself first. Always.

Couples have a way of melding into one, of losing themselves, of expecting one another to be and react and do as we would without remembering that that person was a person before she became half of a couple.

All of the violence and hate pervading our country, inspired by 45, is making me ill. It’s making many of us ill. We all need something different as we work to survive it. My wife goes into protection mode. I go into tears followed by fury. Both are acceptable responses because they are our responses and both deserve respect. It can be hard to care for someone in the way they need. But it is the hard parts of

loving someone that make the journey so rich.

When you get married in your early 20s, you grow up with your partner. You are your own person already, but there is still much change and growth ahead, so you have the chance to do it together. I was 48 when I got married in March; my wife was 54. We knew ourselves, and who we were was pretty cemented. Getting married meant agreeing to crack those walls and make adjustments.

It did not, however, mean destroying them. I am allowed to be who I am, and she is allowed to be who she is, and we can only expect to be loved and respected. We cannot expect the other to suddenly trade mashed potatoes for matzo balls or agree that not everything can be fixed with an ice pack and a bottle of water.

I was a little sad when she crawled into bed and asked me to shut the door. I diligently gave her her meds and gently asked what I could make her to eat every few hours. But, other than that, I had to let her heal her way.

That’s the thing about committing to another human being. We have to love and adapt and respect while still remaining true to ourselves. We must care for others as they wish to be cared for, and we can expect the same in return.

The world is no different. Instead of one couple, it’s millions of people. And, in a way, we’re all in a relationship. We’re in a relationship as citizens of the world. We are not going to agree on how we need to be taken care of and how we should take care of one

another. We have to come to a community census. That’s what’s voting is for — fair, unadulterated voting. What comes after that is respect. I don’t have to like who you pray to or who you donate to or who you vote for or the fact that you live with hate in your heart. But as long as you are not hurting anyone, I have to let you live as you wish. The minute you do threaten to hurt someone, or actually hurt them, then you lose that respect and the right to do as you please. It’s really that simple.

My wife has been through a lot. I have a past to contend with as well. In being together, we have chosen to accept and respect those pasts and the people they have crafted us into. The hate and violence we are seeing today grows from a lack of education, an ignoring of mental

health needs, a lack of awareness of the disenfranchised. All of that has created a despicable sense of entitlement and hatred and violence. It has to stop and the only way to stop it is to cease making excuses and allowing tolerance of any and all acts of violence or threatened violence. Differences can be tolerated. Hate cannot. Somewhere along the way we forgot that. Freedom of speech is not about spreading hate. Thomas Jefferson is dead, but you can trust me on that interpretation.

When it comes to how my love wants to be loved, I have a 100 percent acceptance policy. When it comes to how people want to hate and kill and violate, I have a zero acceptance policy. Call me intolerant. Call me judgmental. Call me what you will. But I have no tolerance for intolerance.

And if you aren’t well, I will always make you matzo ball, but whether or not you eat it is entirely up to you.



2018 Halloween!



Making the **SCENE** the week of **Nov. 2-8:**

- **1851 Club:** Kiana Lee hosts **All Star Drag Show** at 10:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
- **515 Bar:** **Karaoke Party** from 9 p.m.-12 a.m. on Wednesday.
- **Alexandre's:** **Girls' Night Out** with Peggy Honea on Friday. **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie** on Tuesday. **Vero Voz** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** **AHL Poker Night** from 7-10 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Changes:** **LaTasha Neic LaMoore** performs at 10 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Reflection:** **Cowtown Leathermen Cookout** from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **South Central Leather** from 6-10 p.m. on Friday. **Dallas Bears** from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. on Saturday. **Jennifer Faubion Memorial** from noon-2 p.m. on Sunday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Dream Girls** at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** **Steak Night** at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Monday.
- **Marty's Live:** **Sexcapade Fridays**.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Election Night Watch Party** hosted by **Stonewall Democrats, Dallas Stonewall Young Democrats and Rainbow LULAC**, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **The Queer-Off** at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **TMC:** **The Mining Company: Trashy Tuesdays** at TMC.
- **Urban Cowboy:** **Jack Daniels Happy Hour** benefiting **Operation Ride Home** from 6-9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Early voting happy hour from 5-8 p.m. on Friday. **Tennessee Titans at Dallas Cowboys watch party** at 7:15 p.m. on Monday.
- **Zipper's:** **DJ Rudeboy** on Tuesday.

We send out a special thank you to everyone who sent in their Halloween photos this week!

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







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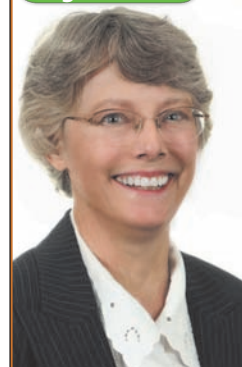


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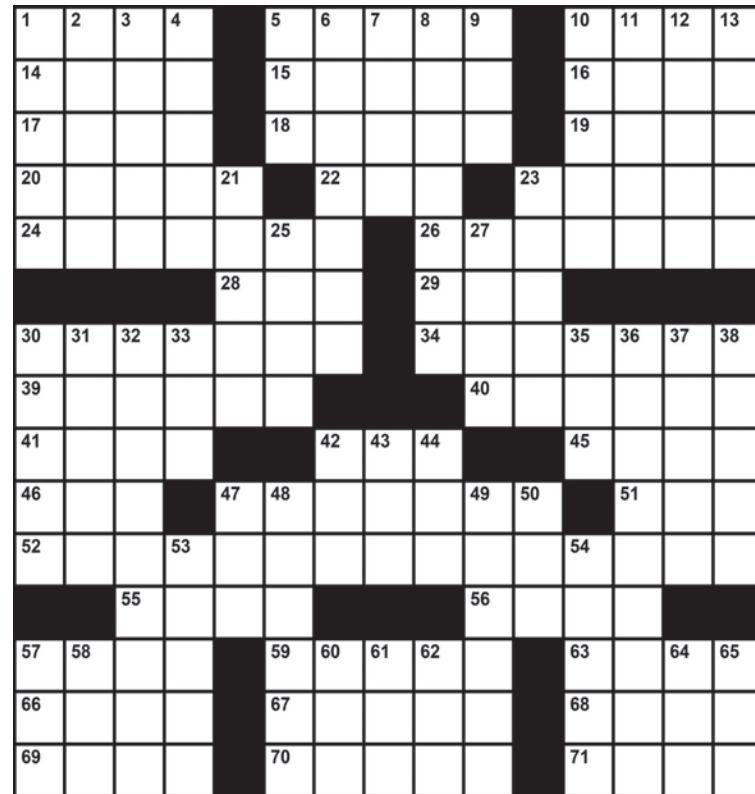
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What Bob Said to Bob



67 Sample some buns, e.g.
 68 United, to Vivien
 69 "Why, ___ delighted!"
 70 German industrial hub
 71 Say whether or not you're coming

Down
 1 Superman portrayer Henry
 2 Rub the wrong way
 3 Cosmetics name
 4 One who gives AZT, e.g.

Solution on Page 37

Across

1 Reproduced nonheterosexually?
 5 Nut from Oak Lawn
 10 Nuts and bolts
 14 Facetious "I see"
 15 Lindsay of *Liz & Dick*
 16 Farmer's tool
 17 Chocolate factory vessels
 18 Photographer Leibovitz
 19 Cocksure Aesop character
 20 Start of what Bob Armstrong said to Bob Barnard, on *Insatiable*
 22 Coal delivery unit
 23 More of what Bob said to Bob
 24 *A Girl Thing* director
 26 Most like Patrick Stewart
 28 Einstein's birthplace
 29 Plug attachment
 30 More of what Bob said to Bob
 34 More of what Bob said to Bob
 39 At the top
 40 1943 Bogart film
 41 "If ___ my way ..."
 42 Split one in the locker room
 45 "Beat it!"
 46 Long-jawed swimmer
 47 Like Philip Seymour Hoffman playing a movie priest?
 51 Wall St. bears watch it
 52 More of what Bob said to Bob
 55 PinkNews, for one
 56 R.E.M.'s "The ___ Love"
 57 It's glorious, in *Oliver!*
 59 End of what Bob said to Bob
 63 Marilyn Monroe facial feature
 66 Maria's "Do-___"

5 It borders Tenn.
 6 Denounce, to Shakespeare
 7 Cry after getting the shaft
 8 *Black-ish* character or gay symbol
 9 SSW's opposite
 10 One that sucks some sap
 11 *The Pink Panther* director Edwards
 12 They're found in some fruits
 13 Result of a good, hard workout
 21 "Meet Me in St. ___"
 23 Andean pack animal
 25 Supporter of bedroom activity
 27 Stein fillers
 30 One of the Mario Brothers
 31 Green with an unfabulous social life
 32 Style that's fashionable but a failure?
 33 Muscle Mary's pride
 35 Actress Sandra's family
 36 You can take them at Palm Springs
 37 Use a rubber
 38 Mr. Right-now
 42 D.C. summer clock setting
 43 Drama in the land of Samurai
 44 Expected to come soon
 47 Parting words, old style
 48 Veto
 49 Dean Cain's *The ___ Hearts Club*
 50 Catch some rays at South Beach
 53 Any song by Johnny Mathis
 54 Bone near the scrotum
 57 Good da. in Lent
 58 Ref for Lytton Strachey
 60 Geoff Ryman AIDS novel
 61 Sink-trap shape
 62 Summer for Rimbaud
 64 Tyler of *Lord of the Rings*
 65 Sixth sense

VISIBLE

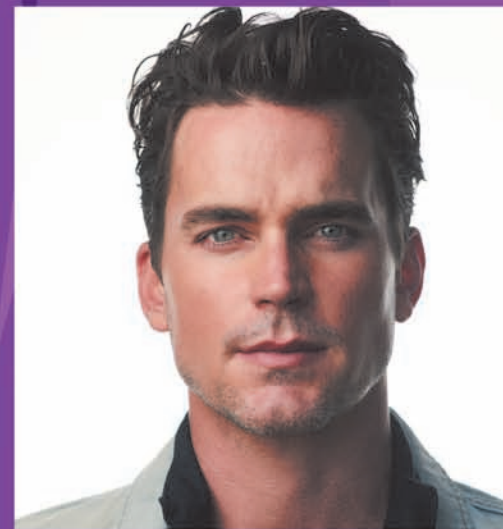
THE 37TH ANNUAL BLACK TIE DINNER



presented by
BBVA Compass



BETO O'ROURKE
Opening Speaker



MATT BOMER
Speaker

NOVEMBER 3, 2018

FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFO
VISIT BLACKTIE.ORG

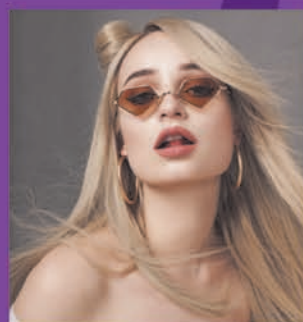
#VISIBLETOGETHER



JESSI CRUICKSHANK
Ally for Equality Award



ERICH BERGEN
Media Award



KIM PETRAS
Entertainment



DANA GOLDBERG
Luxury Auctioneer



VISIBLE

THE 37TH ANNUAL BLACK TIE DINNER

November 3, 2018

presented by

BBVA Compass



DAVID W. CARLSON

VANCE LOUIS HINES

MORGAN W. COX III



Mercedes-Benz
Financial Services



JOHN MCGILL & MARK HOPPER

JOHN LAWRIE & BILLY PINSON

TIM & LITA WELCH