

# dallasvoice

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*Don Maison*



*Carol West*

## LEGENDS retiring

Stories on Pages 8 & 9





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## Pastor arrested for murder of trans woman in Detroit



So-called pastor Albert Weathers, 46, has been arrested and charged with the murder of 36-year-old Kelly Stough in Detroit.

According to WXYZ Channel 7, the ABC affiliate in Detroit, investigators say Weathers shot Stough Friday morning, Dec. 7. They said he clocked in at his job at the Great Lakes Water Authority and after about an hour called police to say he had shot someone that had tried to rob him. But, according to LGBTQ News, prosecutors have said they will be presenting evidence to show that the shooting was motivated by anti-transgender bias.

Weathers has been charged with "open murder and felony firearm (use of a firearm in commission of a felony)," WXYZ says, and remains jailed on a \$1 million bond.

Someone who said they know Weathers but did not want their name revealed told WXYZ that Weathers is married with children and that he rents space in a local church for his own small congregation.

Stough, the TV station said, was beloved in Detroit's LGBTQ community and was an aspiring fashion designer and buyer.

The TV station also reports that the case has been assigned to Special Prosecutor Jaimie Powell Horowitz of the Fair Michigan Justice Project, a collaboration between the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and the Fair Michigan Foundation that is focused on "serious crimes against those in the LGBTQ community."

— Tammye Nash

## Republican wants to make it illegal to change your school's name

State Sen. Pat Fallon, R-Prosper, has pre-filed legislation to block cities from removing monuments or renaming schools or streets honoring "historical figures." Dallas ISD has changed the names of several schools named after Confederate figures, and Dallas removed a monument honoring a Confederate general from Oak Lawn Park.

"If a school district or campus has operated under its current name for at least 20 years, the name may be changed only by approval of a majority of the voters of the school district voting at an election held for that purpose," the bill states.

So to save taxpayers the money it would cost to change a few signs on school property, the law would require an expensive election.

No "permanent monument, memorial, or other designation, including a statue, portrait, plaque, seal, symbol, building name, bridge name, park name, area name, school name, or street name" could be changed or removed either under Fallon's bill.

Much of this was prompted by the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue from Lee Park, and the renaming of the park, because what we do in a Dallas park is the concern of voters in Prosper.

Also affected would be a plaque outside the offices of state Reps. Eric Johnson and Rafael Anchia in the Texas state Capitol. That sign states that slavery wasn't the cause of the period of great unpleasantness between the states. No, states' rights was the issue, the plaque claims.

Well, in the name of historic accuracy, we agree that states' rights was the issue. And what was the states' right that is being referred to on the plaque?

The right to own people. Slavery.

Now, in the Dallas Morning News, Fallon makes it clear he's not a racist. No, he was born in Massachusetts surrounded by statues celebrating the victory of the North over the South. Hmmm ... I grew up in the North as well. You know one thing the northern states never spent a lot of taxpayer money on? Gloating over the victory over the south.

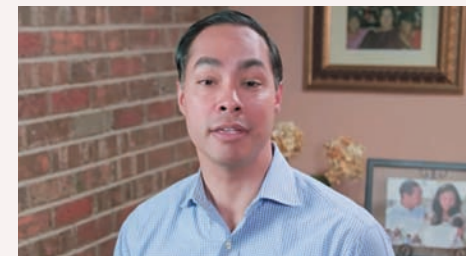
So, once again, Republicans — who believe in local control, of course — have started the new session of the Legislature butting into the business of local governments.

But so far no bathroom bills.

Rest assured, those are coming, because where you pee is as important to Austin lawmakers as what the name of a school is down the street from your house.

— David Taffet

## Julian Castro sets up presidential exploratory committee



Former San Antonio Mayor Julian Castro, who served as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Barack Obama, has announced he has set up a presidential exploratory committee. He said he'll make an announcement on Jan. 12 about whether he'll actually run.

Castro wrote on Twitter:

As a kid growing up on the west side of San Antonio, I never thought that I'd one day be making this announcement: JulianForTheFuture.com I'm exploring a candidacy for President of the United States in 2020 to renew the promise of this country for all.

See his video online at [DallasVoice.com](http://DallasVoice.com)

— David Taffet



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# THE GAY AGENDA



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

## DECEMBER

• **Through Jan 11: Branch Out Dallas**  
The City of Dallas will provide residents a tree at no cost. Register online at [GreenDallas.net](http://GreenDallas.net) or for assistance go to any Dallas Public Library.

### • Dec. 14: The Final DFW Pride Happy Hour

All good things must come to an end. This is the final DFW Pride Happy Hour sponsored by TI Pride from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Monica's Tex-Mex Cantina at the Cedars, 1326 S. Lamar St.

### • Dec. 14-16: Shimmer & Shine

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents its annual holiday spectacular on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St.

• **Dec. 15: Gray Pride Holiday Party**  
Food, drinks, ornament making, games and prize for best holiday attire from 5-7 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• **Dec. 15: EqualiTea: Trans Experiences**  
Join a conversation about the transgender experience and learn more about local resources with former Mayor Jess Herbst and Carter Brown from 3-5 p.m. at J. Erik Jonsson Library, 1515 Young St.

• **Dec. 16: GALA Youth**  
White elephant gift exchange. Bring a wrapped gift worth no more than \$15. Pizza provided but bring something sweet to share. Ugly sweater contest too.

From 6-8 p.m. at 1641 W. Hebron Parkway, Carrollton. RSVP at [youthinfo@galantx.org](mailto:youthinfo@galantx.org).

### • Dec. 18: Classic Chassis Car Club

See, share and enjoy classic cars the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at JR.'s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

### • Dec. 25: Christmas

### • Dec. 31: Celebration honors Carol and Angela

Celebration Community Church honors retiring pastor the Rev. Carol West and her wife Angela from 7 p.m.-midnight at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth.

## JANUARY

### • Jan. 1: New Year's Day

• Jan. 8: 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.

### • Jan. 12: LGBT Family Building Conference

Comprehensive LGBT family building conference includes two fertility physicians who are part of the LGBT community, donor egg agency, surrogacy agency, donor sperm bank, attorney specializing in surrogacy and adoption, third party reproduction psychologist, parents who have built their families through donor egg and surrogacy and adoption, as well as gestational carriers and egg donors from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at LGBT Babies, 6750 N. MacArthur Blvd., Suite 209, Irving. Register at [TheDonorSolution.lpages.co](http://TheDonorSolution.lpages.co).

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](mailto: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**



Jess Herbst, pictured, former mayor of New Hope, Texas, and Black Transmen founder Carter Brown will lead a discussion on the transgender experience and local resources Saturday. See listings for details.

### • Jan. 19: Halftime Gaybingo

Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at [rcdallas.org](http://rcdallas.org).

### • Jan. 19: Scarborough Faire auditions

Come be a part of a theater experience like no other. Auditions for volunteer lane performers (actors and musicians) for Scarborough Renaissance Festival's performing company — Scarborough Academy of Performing Arts (SAPA) — will be held 9 a.m.-noon and 1:30-4:30 p.m. Auditions are by appointment at [SAPA@SRFestival.com](mailto:SAPA@SRFestival.com).

### • Jan. 22: 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.

**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

### • Jan. 29: Eat for Change

Support AIDS Walk South Dallas from 5-9 p.m. at Chipotle, 4330 Lemmon Ave.

## FEBRUARY

### • Feb. 1-2 Out for Health

Out for Health is a medical conference organized by students from Texas Health Science Centers across the state to address the needs of the LGBT population. Offers continuing education credits. Students \$15, General \$50, Healthcare professionals \$120. UNT Health Science Center, Medical Education Training Building, 1000 Montgomery St., Fort Worth. Register at [UNTHSC.edu/OutForHealth](http://UNTHSC.edu/OutForHealth).

### • Feb. 9: Love Equality

The Equality Texas Dallas Steering committee presents Love Equality, a nice of dancing with drinks and light food,

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.

• **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 state Rep.-elect **Jessica Gonzalez**; **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](mailto:Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org); LGBT



benefitting Equality Texas, will be held from 8-11 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd. Ste. 107. Advance tickets are \$50 until Dec. 31, and \$75 from Jan. 1-Feb. 1, online at [Secure.EveryAction.com/HZCrJuU7wUaaHfLftkj1Sg2](http://Secure.EveryAction.com/HZCrJuU7wUaaHfLftkj1Sg2). Tickets at the door \$100.

**• Feb. 12: 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.

**• Feb. 26: 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.

**MARCH**  
**• March 12: 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.

GAY AGENDA, Page 14


▪ pet of the week / JACK

Meet Jack, an 8-½-year-old shepherd mix weighing 54 pounds. He may be an older guy, but he still has plenty of pep in his step. He's very friendly and loves to be around people. He's well-mannered, and knows how to sit, come and lie down on command. He likes to play with other dogs, and in his previous home, he did great with children. He's loyal and protective of the people he loves. If you're looking for a gentleman to join your family, he's the one for you. Jack has been neutered and microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. #69087

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# Don Maison is retiring from ASD

No one else in the U.S. has served as CEO of an AIDS service organization as long

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**A**IDS Services of Dallas CEO Don Maison said this week he thought this would be a good time to announce his retirement. With the agency acquiring an apartment complex near its four other Oak Cliff properties and taking over a housing program from the city, ASD has never been busier. But after 32 years at the helm — longer than any one person has run the same AIDS agency anywhere in the U.S. — Maison decided it was time to pass the baton.

Tras Livingston, who has been ASD's chief operating officer for the past seven years and has worked in affordable housing for 20 years — will be interim CEO as the board searches for a new leader. Livingston is among those applying for the permanent position.

## Business as usual at ASD

In many cities, new HIV diagnoses are decreasing; New York City, for example, has seen a dramatic decrease in new infections — as much as 60 percent in the last four years. But in Dallas the rate of new infections is going up. Livingston attributes that in large part to the refusal by the state of Texas to expand Medicaid. That refusal, he said, means fewer people already infected have access to the medications that could control their HIV, meaning they are more likely to pass the virus on.

"Housing is a health indicator," Livingston said. "In New York, a landlord can't turn away a housing voucher."

Without permanent housing, people living with HIV are much less likely to remain compliant with their medication and more likely to spread infection, Livingston said, adding, "People's lives are improved when their housing is stabilized."

Which is why, Maison said, ASD is increasing the number of affordable housing units the agency has available. He said the newly-acquired complex at 511 N. Lancaster Avenue will be renovated to provide long-term housing for current ASD residents that are ready to live independently.

## Looking back

When ASD was created as PWA Coalition of Dallas in the 1980s, few people diagnosed with AIDS survived for long. Maison has framed photos of groups of residents through the years at ASD's Ewing and Revlon complexes. He pointed to one picture — the first group of Ewing residents — and said they were all gone. In one of the other photos, he found one person he thought had survived.

Over the years, HIV has gone from being a death sentence to being a survivable chronic condition. And as proud as he is of the care each resident who didn't survive received, Maison is just as proud of some recent ASD residents' success stories.

"One resident was a truck driver," Maison said. When he became HIV-positive, he lost his job and his housing and moved into an ASD residence. Now, though, "He got stable with his meds and got his CDL license back. He got his own apartment, and he just bought his own rig."

Maison smiled as he thought about how far we've come since the dark days of the AIDS crisis. But he disagreed with the description of Ewing or Revlon ever being places people came to die: "This was never a sad place," he said.

The care at ASD was always top notch, Maison continued. In the early days, he said, he hired two refugees who had been doctors in their home countries. Until they returned to medical school in the U.S. — at Maison's urging — they served ASD residents as health aides.

He also recalled how Ewing's units were first furnished and decorated by different groups and individuals. The most famous — and most sought after — apartment was the bubblegum one designed by Patti Le Plae Safe. The walls, carpet and furniture were all bright pink — and there was a waiting list of residents who wanted to live



there.

Maison said he will miss ASD's staff and residents when he leaves. What's just as obvious is how much they'll miss him, too. For lunch, he often goes to one of the residence dining halls. Residents sit at his table and chat with him about their lives and ask about his as they eat. When the table's full, others stop by just to say hi.

His volunteers are just as loyal. Maison introduced the man serving lunch at Ewing on recent Friday as a volunteer who's been behind the lunch counter every Friday for more than 20 years.

## Taking the reins, making a difference

Maison said when he took the top position at ASD 32 years ago, he could have been very idealistic about it all and try to do it all. But if he had, he knows he would have burned out quickly.

Instead he decided ASD would do one thing and do it well: "I knew I wasn't there to find a cure," he said. "I put blinders on."

That led to the development of what was seen from the beginning as a model for AIDS housing around the country, and ASD



Don Maison, top, and Tras Livingston.

became the first AIDS housing organization in the U.S. to receive a MetLife award for excellence in affordable housing.

A book published in 1991 about AIDS housing around the country featured ASD. Of course, the best part of the rough draft was a description of Maison as "flamboyant, chain-smoking, irreverent and obnoxious." That was removed from the final version.



# 'It's been a good ride'

Carol West is retiring after 20 years as pastor of Celebration Community Church

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

The Rev. Carol West will preach her final sermon as pastor of Fort Worth Celebration Community Church on Sunday, Dec. 30. She said she will be in the room to the right of the main sanctuary, serving communion, from about 9-10:45 a.m. Then she will preach at the 11 a.m. service.

It will, undoubtedly, be an emotional service. She has, after all, been the church's senior pastor for the last 20 years — and that's about four-fifths of the church's 26 years in existence. The church, West said this week, is her home, and the people who make up its congregation are her family.

And that sermon on Dec. 30 will be, in many ways, a farewell to home and family.

"It's really not ethical for a pastor to continue attending a church after they leave as pastor," West explained. "It wouldn't be fair to the new pastor. You want the congregation to look to the new pastor for leadership; having the old pastor still there makes that more difficult."

It will be hard to leave, West acknowledged. She said that her and her wife Angela's social life is "here at the church. Our extended family is here. We'll still see some of the people from the church, of course. But we won't see them all together as a group any more."

Still, West said, she knows she has made the right decision, at the right time. She had, in fact, planned to retire last year. But in the fall of 2016, she was diagnosed with breast



cancer. And she knew retirement needed to be delayed.

"I knew that if I announced the cancer diagnosis and then turned around and announced I was retiring, then people would think, 'Oh, she's leaving because she is dying,'" she said. And West had no intention of dying any time soon.

She spent the last year-plus battling the cancer, and now that she is winning that fight, West is ready to step down from the Celebration pulpit. "I'm healthy," she said this week. "I went through chemo and through 34 rounds of radiation, and now I'm healthy. My scans are all good. And this church is healthy, too. It's time."

## The path to here

West, a seventh-generation Texan with degrees from the University of North Texas and Texas Christian University, spent the first 17 years of her professional life teaching high school English. But in 1990, she was ordained and licensed as a minister through Dallas Metropolitan Community Church.

(Dallas MCC was, at the time, part of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches. The church later changed its name to Cathedral of Hope, then left UFMCC and is now affiliated with United Church of Christ.)

West's first full-time job as a minister was with Dallas MCC/Cathedral of Hope as the AIDS chaplain. It was the height of the

AIDS epidemic in North Texas at the time, and West provided counsel and comfort for hundreds of people struggling through illness.

She eventually left the Cathedral and spent a brief time away from the ministry before being called as pastor of Celebration Community Church in 1998.

Celebration Community Church started in January 1993 as a satellite congregation of White Rock Community Church in Dallas. Soon, however, Celebration became its own entity. The church's first pastor left, and Celebration operated with an interim pastor for awhile.

In May 1998, with 35 members, the congregation signed a lease on the historic old church at 908 Pennsylvania Ave. In August of that year, they called West to be their first full-time pastor.

"They had 35 members at the time. That's a pretty big step to take in faith," West declared.

Under West's leadership, the church began to blossom. Celebration's congregation and its programming grew steadily. By 2001, membership stood at about 300, and the church decided to purchase the sanctuary and fellowship hall/office building they had been leasing from First Congregation Church UCC. They paid \$850,000 for the facilities, with West herself entering a "10K for 50K" run with a goal of raising \$50,000 to help with the down payment. The race ended up bringing in \$102,000, bringing the church's down payment to \$250,000 total.

## Services at Celebration

### Sundays

- 9:15 a.m. — Biscuits & Bible
- 11 a.m. — Sunday Service
- 11 a.m. — Sunday School in the Fellowship Hall, with classes for age 2 through first grade and for second grade through teens

### Wednesday Night Live

- 6 p.m. — Dinner
  - 7 p.m. — Bible study
- (Wednesday night services are on hold through the holidays and will resume after Jan. 1)

And still the church continued to grow.

A church member purchased an old four-plex on property adjacent to the church and then donated it to Celebration. Thanks in part to a donation from Black Tie Dinner, the building was remodeled and turned into the Barron House Counseling Center.

Celebration in Fort Worth, which itself started as a satellite church, started its own satellite church in Gun Barrel City, known as Celebration on the Lake. That church has since become independent, just as its mother church once did.

The most recent addition to Celebration's facilities is the Rev. Carol A. West Community Center, located on the lot behind the church's original fellowship hall. Construction began on the building in November 2016, and it was dedicated in October 2017.



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# Where LGBT seniors can grow old gracefully

Coalition for Aging LGBT  
releasing report grading  
17 senior living facilities

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Coalition for Aging LGBT is set to release its first report on LGBT-friendly senior housing in North Texas. The report includes ratings on 17 senior facilities in the area's four largest counties.

This project was prompted by the coalition's survey of the LGBT community regarding concerns surrounding the issue of aging. The most pressing concern from those responding was housing.

Coalition volunteer Robert Emery had been working on creating an LGBT senior residence since 2004. But, he said, he dropped that idea a year ago when he saw the survey results. Overwhelmingly, the survey found, people don't care about being in exclusively LGBT facilities; they just want housing that's welcoming.

Brian Price is the chair of the Coalition's housing committee. He traveled to Portland to talk to that city's chapter of SAGE. SAGE is the country's largest and oldest organization dedicated to serving LGBT seniors. Price said Portland was the only other city he found that had done something similar to what the DFW coalition wanted to do, in terms of surveying housing for seniors to find those welcoming to LGBT people. Based on Portland's matrix, the DFW Coalition found 17 senior facilities located across Dallas, Collin, Tarrant and Denton counties that were interested in participating.

In the Coalition's report, Section A rates the facilities on inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in their employment policies and their residents' bill of rights. Section B includes resident procedures and forms.

One of the questions on the questionnaire sent to participating senior living facilities was, "Do intake forms provide an option for unmarried couples to identify their status?" Another was, "Are preferred pro-



nouns used?"

Section C includes outreach and marketing questions, and facilities get points for having LGBT-themed programming. Section D asks if the staff has received competency training on LGBT issues in the past year.

Price said they quickly found that none of the interested facilities had done any competency training for their employees on LGBT issues. So the coalition offered a program provided by the Rev. Colleen Darraugh.

"We make the assumption not everyone is on the same page," Darraugh said, explaining that her training starts with basic information, like what the acronym "LGBT" actually stands for, and the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity.

Because many seniors in assisted living or nursing care fear mistreatment in a facility, they often go into the closet, and "That adds to feelings of isolation," Darraugh said.

She said one of the things she heard in



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Colleen Darraugh, below,  
Brian Price, right



many of the facilities she trained was that employees treat everyone the same. But, she explained to them, that's not necessarily good if everyone is being treated as if they're heterosexual.

In other cases, she said, janitorial staff asked why they had to go through this training along with nurses or administrative

staff. Darraugh explained that in those cases, they still had interaction with residents, even if that interaction was just saying "hi" in the hallway. In those cases, she said, everyone should be treated the same.

Price said the new guide rated facilities on their LGBT housing competency rather than on their amenities. He said the facilities his committee found had champions already working there who were delighted the group was offering the training and ratings.

Each year, the facilities will be rated again, and Price said he hopes additional locations will continually be added. But that will involve additional volunteers, since approving the facilities required multiple visits to each one.

Smaller, privately-owned homes could add nondiscrimination to their policies just by going online and adding the wording to their websites, Price said. But for those owned by corporations, it was a longer process. The new wording had to be approved by a board before it could be added to printed and online material.

Training took at least one more visit, and for larger facilities, several sessions more.

Price said the Coalition is also offering programming the facilities can offer residents. He said the Coalition prefers to see facilities offering such programming on site rather than just providing transportation to the Resource Center for an event or to Gay-bingo or a Turtle Creek Chorale concert.

On-site programming could include showing a movie and following up with a discussion, facilitated by a Coalition volunteer, on a gay character or theme in the film.

As more LGBT people age, the need for LGBT-competent senior housing will continue to grow, Price stressed. According to the Census Bureau, more than 194,000 lesbians and gays over the age of 45 live in Dallas, Tarrant, Collin and Denton counties.

There are no estimates on the number of transgender people living in North Texas because no questions were asked on the last census from which information could be extrapolated. But if the current estimate is accurate, about three-quarters of 1 percent of the general population are transgender. That translates to more than 50,000 trans people in North Texas.

Price said the report will be printed and go online on Dec. 18.

Portland released a pamphlet summarizing its results. In its first year, that pamphlet included nine facilities.

Price said he hoped at first that the North Texas report would include one facility to use as a model. Then the responses started pouring in, and he upped his goal to 5. After all was said and done though, he report actually includes 17 facilities. And the DFW report won't be a pamphlet; in typical bigger-and-better-Dallas style, the full-color printed report is 80 pages. ■

*Anyone who would like to volunteer, contact Coalition for Aging LGBT through its website, CFA.lgbt.*

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**DON MAISON**, From Page 8

Over the years, Maison's agency drew enough national attention to attract visits by Elizabeth Taylor and Billy Jean King.

When founders Mike Merdian and Darryl Moore hired Maison, they chose him over almost 100 others who applied for the position because, for one thing, they liked his legal background. In his 13 years practicing law before becoming ASD's CEO, Maison had developed a name for himself as a civil rights attorney.

Maison made a name for himself when he represented defendants when Dallas police raided the Village Station dance bar in 1979 and arrested a number of men for lewd conduct. The claim was the men had touched each other while dancing.

But the officers' testimony seemed fabricated, and they couldn't describe accurately what they had seen. So Maison had plans for the bar delivered to the courtroom and used them to prove that from where the officers testified they had been standing, they couldn't possibly have seen the men touching each other on the dance floor.

Since the officers were obviously lying, the cases were dismissed.

Maison joked that after winning that case, he was known as being "board certified in public lewdness."

During the case, DPD officer John W. Przywara bragged to the Dallas Times Herald that he loved to bust homosexuals because police had the gays "over a barrel." Once Maison got the Village Station case thrown out of court, that was no longer true.

Another of Maison's cases dragged on for years, but every male Southwest Airlines flight attendant and ticket agent owes his job to Maison, the lawyer that filed *Wilson v. Southwest Airlines*.

The case began when Southwest Airlines applicant Gregory Wilson was told he wouldn't be hired because "you're the wrong sex," and he filed a class action lawsuit. Southwest sent a large team of attorneys into court, so Maison asked Ken Molberg, who was recently elected to the Texas Fifth District Court of Appeals, to join his "team."

On the first day in court, attorneys for Southwest Airlines referred to its employees as stewardesses. Maison said he knew right then that he'd win, because Judge Patrick Higginbotham told them, "You will refer to them as flight attendants in my court." Maison eventually scored the victory, and Southwest began hiring male flight attendants and ticket agents — but not before the case went back and forth on



### Steven Pace: An architect of service

While Don Maison is the longest-serving executive director of the same HIV/AIDS organization in the U.S., AIN Executive Director Steven Pace holds the record as the person who has spent the most years as executive director of HIV/AIDS organizations.

Pace has been at the helm of AIN for 21 years. His title when he started was executive director, but the agency has since changed that title to CEO. But Pace helped create and nurture several of local AIDS organizations before joining the AIN team.

He began as a minister for Dallas Metropolitan Church, now Cathedral of Hope UCC, doing pastoral care, much of it for people with HIV. He helped found AIDS Arms, which is now known as Prism Health, and he helped create programs such as the Buddy Project and support groups at Oak Lawn Community Services. When OLCS closed in 2000, several of its programs transferred to AIN, including the Daire Center day care center for people with HIV/AIDS and AIN's transportation program.

— David Taffet

appeal for years.

AIN CEO Steven Pace, whose history administering AIDS agencies goes back even farther than Maison's, said Maison's retirement is a big loss to the community. "Don brought about a model that's respected and widely used across the country," Pace said. "He's provided a safe space and safe place for people to live.

Pace said in the priority of people's needs housing comes out on top, and ASD's comprehensive approach to care promotes good health for its residents.

"Don brought it from its grassroots beginnings into maturity," Pace explained. "And he's kept HIV and AIDS on the agenda nationally."

Mostly, Pace said, he is sad for the residents of ASD, who are losing not just a CEO, but a friend: "Don cares, he's interested and he knows the people," he said. ■





## CAROL WEST From Page 9

At one point in the first decade of the 21st century, Celebration Community Church's membership had exploded to about 600, and the church was taking an ever-more active and visible role in the life of Tarrant County's LGBT community. In 2009, when Fort Worth police officers and TABC agents raided the newly-opened Rainbow Lounge gay bar on the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, West and her church stepped up to take a major leadership role in holding the city and TABC accountable.

West and the church then played an even bigger role in first healing the rift between the city and its LGBT residents, and then creating a lasting bond between them.

"I am very proud that the mayor of Fort Worth [Betsy Price] speaks well of this church, and that she and her husband like to drop in and attend services here some times," West said. "I am proud that the officers of the Fort Worth Police Department know they are welcome here, and that they come here and serve meals each week for Wednesday Night Live."

Today, West said Celebration Community Church has about 400 active members, and prides itself on being a welcoming and loving congregation. "The people of this church love each other," she said. "They are happy to be here, and they love coming together and worshipping together." But it's not an insular kind of love, she continued. "This church is so very open and welcoming to everyone. We have 400 members, but there are a lot of people who don't come all the time who call Celebration their church. They know if they need help, they can call us. If they need somewhere to go, they can come here."

### The path forward

Earlier this year, after West announced her plans to retire, the church formed a search committee to find a new pastor. The three board members and two members of the general congregation have spent the time since in a nationwide search for the perfect person to fill their pulpit.

They will choose one person from the many who have applied, West explained, and bring that person to Fort Worth to preach for and meet the congregation. That's likely to happen in January, she said, and after that, the congregation will vote on whether they will call that person as their pastor or the search will continue.

"I'm kind of excited to see who it is," West said this week. "I have no idea who they will choose."

But, she added, she hopes it is someone



After retirement, West said, "I'm gonna fish."

who is "charismatic and energetic, a people person who will be a good shepherd for the church. I hope it is someone truly seeking to be involved in the community — not just the LGBT community, but this community right here at the corner of Pennsylvania and Fulton Street.

"I hope the new pastor here is someone seeking to grow this church, because there are so many opportunities here for growth," she said. "There's a lot of expansion to do here. And I am looking forward to some new blood coming in."

As for West herself, she said that after she is officially retired, "I'm gonna fish!"

She and her wife have a vacation home on Cedar Creek Lake and a new boat that, due to the cancer treatments, she hasn't had much chance to use. So she plans on using it as often as she can.

"I'm gonna fish, and I'm gonna golf. I may do some writing," West continued. "I'm gonna see what it's like to actually have a weekend, to stay up late on Saturday night and sleep in on a Sunday morning sometimes."

But even though she won't be attending Celebration services after she retires, West said, the church won't be far from her thoughts.

"My heart is here," she said. "We've had lots of laughter here. There's a lot of family here. It's been a good ride, and I have been more than blessed by the people of Celebration."

And West had one last word of advice to those in her congregation and beyond: "Find your passion," she urged. "Find your passion and stay with it, whatever that means."

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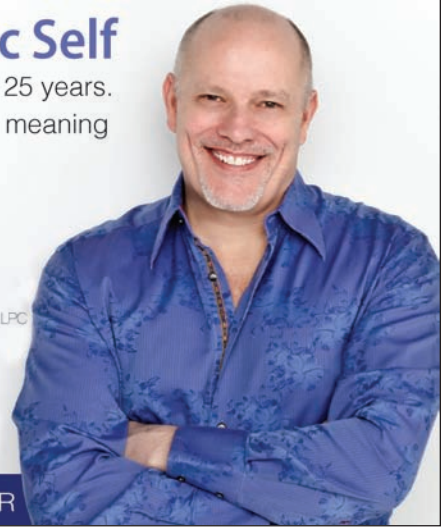
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• **March 15-17: Blinded: Turtles Rock Out**

The Turtle Creek Chorale sings classic rock — Aerosmith, Bon Jovi, Meatloaf, Queen — on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St.

• **March 16: House of DIFFA: Futuro**

A fashion experience that provides an

exciting mix of philanthropy, theatrics and DIFFA's legendary runway production at 6 p.m. at the Omni Hotel Dallas, 555 S. Lamar St. Tickets at [DIFFADallas.org](http://DIFFADallas.org).

• **March 23: AIDS Walk South Dallas**

• **March 26: 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.

• **March 30: Toast to Life: Bootlegger's Ball**

Steve Kemble hosts with the Singapore Slingers and DJ Blake Ward at the Empire Room, 1225 N. Riverfront Blvd. Tickets at [MyResourceCenter.org/ToastToLife](http://MyResourceCenter.org/ToastToLife).

• **March 30: Casino Night**

Tyler Area Gays presents Wild, Wild West at Holiday Inn, 5701 S. Broadway, Tyler. Need 3 people to sponsor tables at \$250 each. Contact TAG at [info@TylerAreaGays.com](mailto:info@TylerAreaGays.com).

**APRIL**

• **April 9: 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.

• **April 19: First Passover seder**

• April 20: Beth El Binah community seder Congregation Beth El Binah Passover seder at 6:30 p.m. at Deli News, 17062 Preston Road. \$60.

• **April 21: Easter**

• **April 23: 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.

**MAY**

• **May 2: 2019 Way Forward luncheon**

Luncheon, awards and fashion show supporting Bryan's House

• **May 14: 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.

• **May 28: 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.

**JUNE**

• **June 1: Miller Lite Music Festival**

The Pride festival moves to the Esplanade in Fair Park.

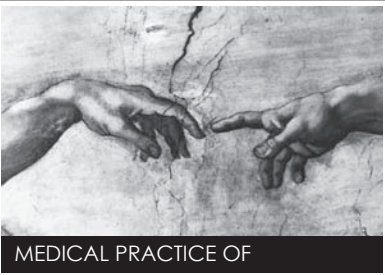
• **June 7-9: You Are Light**

Based on the work of Brene Brown, The Turtle Creek Chorale focuses on the role of music in shaping what we think about ourselves and how we love others with personal stories of challenge and triumph on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St.



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## Dangerous lame ducks

Michigan's breaking up with the GOP — and Republicans aren't taking it well

You know, even though our country seems more divided than ever before, surely we can at least count on our elected leaders to respect the system of government that we've created and have been trying to get right for 240 some years. Right?

I mean, the key word here is "trying." The United States actually has a super-ambitious system of governance based on admirable ideals. Unfortunately, we have yet to really live up to those ideals.

There's a lot of work to do! Thankfully, our elected leaders, regardless of party, care deeply about democracy.

Right?

LOL. Just kidding!

Republicans DGAF — and they are the worst! Oh, wait. Was that hyper-partisan? TFB.

While there are plenty of examples of Republicans trashing the will of the people across the country, one of the best examples of their total disregard for what voters actually want has been happening in Michigan, where Democrats, all women, won all three top races for the first time in 28 years and will be replacing the Republicans currently in office next month.

Gretchen Whitmer will be Michigan's next governor. Dana Nessel will be Michigan's next attorney general. Jocelyn Benson will be the next secretary of state.

And Republicans, who will retain control of both the state House and Senate, are losing their minds. They are acting like Michigan's psychotic ex-boyfriend, complete with a dangerous "if we can't have her, no one will" mindset.

So Michigan Republicans are rushing through bills that would weaken the powers of Whitmer, Nessel and Benson before they ever take office. The GOP is also gutting the minimum wage and paid sick leave



D'Anne Witkowski  
Creep of the Week

bills they passed (and they only passed them to keep those issues off of the November ballot) and attempting to gut the anti-gerymandering and pro-voting ballot measures

that passed with wide margins.

According to The Atlantic, "These fights capture the virtual collapse, especially in the Republican Party, of the informal constraints that established boundaries in po-



Dana Nessel, center, on election night with her wife

litical combat."

In other words, Republicans are on a rampage to get what they want at any cost, even at the expense of governance itself.

"It's a slap in the face to the voters," Rep. Christine Greig, a Democrat, told The Daily Beast. "We had record turnout in the election. People were taking their government back, and they were so proud of it."

But Republicans apparently forgot that the government belongs to the people of Michigan, not to them.

And speaking of proud, Dana Nessel is the first out and proud lesbian to hold statewide office in Michigan. Republicans are seeking the power to over-ride the Michigan Attorney General's Office should Nessel decide not to defend some of the GOP's

most shameful policies, including a law that allows religious adoption agencies to discriminate against same-sex couples.

It was, in fact, Nessel who took on the anti-gay marriage and adoption ban in Michigan, a ban that the current attorney general, Bill Schuette (who ran for governor and lost to Whitmer), spent thousands and thousands of dollars defending.

The case was eventually combined with other similar cases across the country and ended up at the Supreme Court, where same-sex couples finally won the right to marry.

Nessel is also against other things that Republicans love — like pollution — and for things Republicans hate — like civil rights.

We are in the midst of what is known as the "lame duck" period, where the folks who were elected wait to take office while those about to leave office have a small window of time to get last-minute things done.

And Republicans in Michigan are choosing to trash the place on their way out the door.

As Michael Tomasky writes for the Daily Beast, "Lame-duck legislatures ... do not exist to invalidate choices the voters just made. That isn't democracy. That's anti-democracy."

Of course, one need only look at the pathological liar and tweeting man-baby currently in the White House to see how much Republicans respect democratic norms.

Will Gov. Rick Snyder sign these bills when they come across his desk? I don't know,

but we are talking about a man who oversaw the poisoning of an entire predominantly black city — Flint — and suffered no real consequences for it.

So he's not exactly someone I trust to do the right thing.

Have Democrats ever done unseemly things during lame duck? Yes. But the dismantling of norms and disregard for democracy is being accelerated by Republicans at all levels of government.

America needs to leave the Republicans for good — and get a restraining order while we're at it.

D'Anne Witkowski is a poet, writer and comedian living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBT politics for over a decade. Follow her on Twitter @MamaDWitkowski.



# A queen holds court

'Mary Queen of Scots' star Margot Robbie talks Queen Elizabeth drag, her gay brother and Harley Quinn's queerness



After a fierce, Oscar-nominated turn as scandalous skater Tonya Harding in last year's *I, Tonya*, Margot Robbie is off the ice and holding royal court as Queen Elizabeth I in *Mary Queen of Scots*. Exercising a power over Europe so great during the 16th century's latter half, nothing could stop Her Majesty — not even her cousin, Mary Stuart (Saoirse Ronan).

Their vicious and ultimately deadly contention, the result of Mary's request to be Elizabeth's heir, is chronicled with delicious matriarchal bite for the #MeToo era, glamorous period-film beauty (those gowns!) and one very infamous beheading in director Josie Rourke's diverse doozy of a historical drama. Beau Willimon's screenplay also turns a tender, heartbreaking eye to Elizabethan Era queerness via Italian courtier and Mary's friend and private secretary, David Rizzio, known in the film

simply as Rizzio and portrayed by Ismael Cruz Cordova.

Ruler of the box office in films such as 2013's *The Wolf of Wall Street* and 2016's *Suicide Squad* as hammer-wielding warrior Harley Quinn, a role she will reprise in 2020 for a Harley-centered spin-off, *Birds of Prey (and the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)*, the 28-year-old Australian actress is a queen in her own right.

Read on for Robbie's essential tips for drag queens looking to perfect their Elizabethan look (hint: no arsenic) — plus, talk about her "too gay to function" brother Cameron Robbie, whom she considers her best friend, and a career highlight: watching Martin Scorsese direct a gay orgy. ■

— Chris Azzopardi

**Dallas Voice: What tips do you have for drag queens looking to transform themselves into Queen Elizabeth I?** Margot Robbie:

[Laughs] Well, you definitely want to avoid getting smallpox — you have to really layer on the makeup to hide those pox-mark scars! So avoid that at all costs. For a drag makeover, I could give you a list of what not to do: No. 1, don't put lead and arsenic in your makeup the way Queen Elizabeth did because, uh, it really could shorten your life. And I love that she stuck to the red hair and went with the even more vibrant color red and the more elaborate hairstyles as the years progressed.

**The contrast with the white makeup, it really worked on her.** Mhmhm! Serious contrasting. I mean, she had very thin eyebrows — I don't think that's really the style these days. Not really in vogue right now.

**But if you really set yourself apart...** Exactly. If you wanna make it clear that you're really heading toward Queen Elizabeth, yeah, the thin eyebrows are a definite giveaway. White makeup. Fiery red wigs. And just bedazzle yourself. Jewels everywhere!

They wore their jewelry in a different way.

Instead of wearing necklaces and bracelets and earrings, which they did do, jewels and diamonds and rubies were sewn into their outfits, which I thought was really amazing. Then when they would get undressed — at the end of it their ladies in waiting would undress them — the jewels would just scatter to the floor and someone would have a dustpan and sweep them up for the next outfit.

**When you read the script, were you surprised by the film's queerness? And were you disappointed that Mary got a gay "sister" friend in Rizzio and you didn't?** Yes! I was very jealous of Mary's plot in general. I think it was actually a big part of it, that Elizabeth was more isolated. I think that was kind of self-inflicted; she had such a mistrust in almost everyone around her and had a very cynical nature out of self-preservation, therefore she isolated herself. Even with the gowns, you see over the years, as they get bigger and bigger, she's literally keeping people at arm's length at all times. So, I was very jealous that I didn't have the same [relation-



ship] as Mary and Rizzio. So very unfair!

**What about this time period were you most surprised by?** I was interested to kind of discover that the Renaissance period was much more liberal in terms of sexuality than it is today. It's interesting to kind of consider that, or to recognize how we just put labels on everything today. We label everything, and in doing so we often simplify often-complicated things. We're so quick to say, "This person's straight, this person's bisexual, this person's gay, this person's Republican, this person's whatever," and we label everything.

But in terms of sexuality, the Renaissance period, they were far more fluid about sexuality, and bisexual wasn't really a term that had to be placed on someone — it was very common for men to be married and also sleep with other men. That wasn't something that people felt the need to label.

So that was really interesting, and then on the flip side the women at the time, particularly

female monarchs, literally were a body. That was their commodity. Producing a male heir was kind of their purpose and once they had done that and achieved their purpose they were kind of swept aside. So, it was interesting to see, on one side, how liberal and open sexuality could be at the time — but on the other side, how women were seen as a commodity, and not more than a conduit for their male successor.

**Shifting to your portrayal of Tonya Harding, did you know that you were playing someone who many in the LGBTQ community consider a queer icon?** I did not realize that at the time. I did hear that, and I thought, "Oh, she's got some pretty fun skate costumes!" But tell me more about that.

**It's her underdog status.** Underdog status — I love that, yes. Well, as an Aussie, we always gravitate toward underdog stories, anyway, so yeah, that's one of the reasons I played her.

■ QUEEN Page 20

## A GAME OF THRONES



There is a moment in the juicy new historical drama *Mary Queen of Scots* where the evangelical Protestant fanatic John Knox (David Tennant, looking as wild-eyed as Rasputin), so vocally excoriates the Catholic queen of Scotland, Mary (Saoirse Ronan), in front of his flock, they begin chanting for her ouster. And for a second, it's impossible to differentiate between their hate-fueled 16th century chorus from a current-day refrain of "Lock her up!" Which, ultimately, is a big point of this film, at this time.

The story of Mary — granddaughter of King Henry VII, niece of King Henry VIII and therefore possibly claimant to the throne of England as well as Scotland — and her rivalry with Elizabeth I (Margot Robbie) — has been dramatic fodder for centuries, from Donizetti's opera *Maria Stuarda* to the Glenda Jackson-Vanessa Redgrave stolid biopic of the 1970s to even a pair of Cate Blanchett films of recent vintage. But rarely has this look backward on the centuries felt so contemporarily relevant. In screenwriter

Beau Willimon's retelling, Elizabeth and Mary were sister sovereigns: women trying to prove themselves in a male-dominated world as something other than "too emotional" to rule kingdoms. But they also might have to destroy each other in order to gain the respect of the old boys' network.

The film is a lush and often swashbuckling affair with a good head on its shoulders, but first-time filmmaker Josie Bourke makes a mess of the editing (it's often insanely choppy and abrupt, just when it needs to be measured and explanatory), and she probably assumes too much familiarity with the historical context for most audiences. But she also addresses aspects of sexuality (a gay servant is treated as "true to his nature" by Mary, and Elizabeth's barrenness plainly attributed to contracting disfiguring syphilis), and elicits many fine performances, including Ronan. But none of them is better than Robbie, whose glorious supporting turn is delicate, furious and complex.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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# Nanny GOAT

‘Mary Poppins’ was the greatest of all time, so who needs her ‘Return’?

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor  
jones@dallasvoice.com

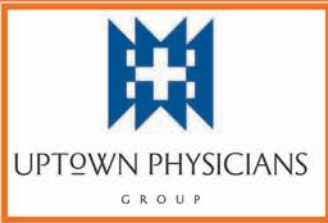
*Mary Poppins Returns* is a sequel more than half a century in the making. The original live-action Disney fantasy, released in 1964, starred Julie Andrews (she won an Oscar) as a magical nanny who suddenly appears on the doorstep of the Banks family — a buttoned-down Mr. Banks, an activist Mrs. Banks and their two children, Jane and Michael — and, through her unconventional (and super-



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natural) child-rearing techniques awakens a sense of wonder and unity in the fractured home, circa 1910.

*Mary Poppins* is a delight, to be sure, but it's also something of a one-off: A series of loosely (if at all) connected adventures with Mary, a chimney sweep named Bert (Dick Van Dyke) and the tykes. It works, against all better judgment. But hey! It's a family film, warm as cocoa and woolen socks.

And the sequel, which had 54 years to percolate...? It hits the exact. Same. Beats. Note for note.

This is not, critically speaking, a good thing.

Remember when Mary, Bert and the kids rode a carousel, and entered a world of animation? Yeah, that happens here, too — again with horses, a musical number and the same (lovely) style of hand-drawn Disney animation from before. How about Uncle Albert, who took afternoon tea on the ceiling? We now have Topsy (Meryl Streep, hamming it up deliciously), whose atelier turns upside down every first Wednesday. Flying kites becomes magical balloon rides; chimney sweeps dancing become lamplighters... dancing. Curmudgeonly banker Mr. Dawes Jr. becomes his slicker (but equally curmudgeonly) bank-running nephew (Colin Firth).

The plot and style is, simply put, a complete rehash, from the now-grown Michael Banks (Ben Whishaw, even sporting David Tomlinson's push-broom moustache) and Jane (Emily Mortimer, bearing a striking resemblance to Glynis Johns and now a labor crusader rather than a suffragette... but fully a decade too old for the part) having forgotten all the lessons Mary taught them 25 years earlier. It is a *remakequel*, like *Superman Returns*, that cleaves dangerously close to its predecessor while nevertheless continually acknowledging the events of the original. It's a Mobius strip of storytelling, eternally looping upon itself.

I suppose we shouldn't be too surprised. Disney has been milking the brood cow of Poppinalia for more than a decade — first with the stage musical in 2006, then the fictionalized "behind the scenes" drama of *Saving Mr. Banks* in 2013. They aren't about to risk doing anything that veers too far from the brand, even when turning it over to someone as capable as director-choreography-co-writer Rob Marshall. Marshall's skillset mimics the energy and style of the original, but we are living in a post-*Greatest Showman* universe, one where a little edge goes a long way. *Mary Poppins Returns* has less edge than a tortilla.

It doesn't help that most of the songs, by

Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman, pale by comparison to those of the Sherman Brothers; indeed, the most emotional moments in the film are when the score samples phrases from the "Spoonful of Sugar" or "Feed the Birds." It's weakest when you actively think, "Oh! This is just like 'Chim-Chim-Cher-ee!' ... 'Chim-Chim-Cher-ee' was better." Which is a lot.

Some of that burden falls, unexpectedly, on the shoulder of Lin-Manuel Miranda as Jack, a leery who knew Mary 25 years before and remembers her fondly. His British accent is no better than Van Dyke's

famously off-model version, and for the most part he's saddled with singing traditional showtunes while repeatedly looking at Mary with doe-eyed wonder (it comes off as smug). When he's finally allowed a rap sequence — he really drops the accent there — we see Miranda for what makes him such a genius entertainer. It's too brief.

But Emily Blunt almost saves the day. She captures Andrews' sly humor and whimsy, with an underlying sense of menace. She looks and sounds positively ... er... lovely. (Two late cameos, by Van

Dyke and Angela Lansbury, also generate so much good will you just want to explode with affection.)

*Mary Poppins* plopped this Greatest-of-all-time governess into the likes of the Bankses, allowed us to casually accept her magicality, and plucked our heartstrings like a zither playing "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring." *Mary Poppins Returns* muddles the meaning of that magic (is it really happening? Hypnosis? Mass delusion?) and simply retreads old imagery with slightly improved visual effects. I'll stick with the original, thank you very much. ■

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■ QUEEN From Page 17

**Is being an underdog an Aussie thing?** Yeah, yeah. Always. The country identifies itself as an underdog itself and has that mentality of fighting for your place, so I love underdog stories.

**You've long fought for LGBTQ underdogs.**

**You were a staunch supporter of marriage equality before Australia finally legalized same-sex marriages. You even wore a "Say I Do Down Under" shirt when you hosted *Saturday Night Live* in 2016. December marks the one-year anniversary of that landmark ruling. How did you celebrate the legalization of same-sex marriage in Australia last year?** Honestly, I almost didn't feel like celebrating because I was so upset that it took them that long to legalize it. I feel like when it was legalized across America that's when I really wanted to celebrate. I thought, "Wow, this is a long way for America to come." America, to me, holds such conservative Christian values, generally speaking, so for that to happen in America was like, "Wow, this is really a time to celebrate."

The fact that Australia, who really does pride itself on being such a progressive nation — and it is in a lot of ways. Australia is awesome and can be so progressive, but the fact that we were so late in doing that upset

me so deeply that I truly almost didn't want to celebrate because I thought they didn't deserve celebration.

**Too little, too late, Australia?** Yes, too late, Australia! No, no; it was bittersweet. Of course, I was happy and proud that we finally joined the 21st century in that regard, but at the same time, it was bittersweet. I really felt it should've been done a lot sooner.

**You have a brother, Cameron, who has described himself on Instagram as "too gay to function." Are you aware of the gay community's interest in your brother?** No! But I'm sure he would love to hear that. He's awesome. I have two brothers and a sister, but Cameron and I were particularly close growing up. He's always been my best friend — since he was born, really. So, he would be thrilled to hear that. He would really appreciate that.

**How did he come out to you?** Well, I guess that's kind of his story to tell. I wouldn't feel right to speak on his behalf. But like I said, he's my best friend, as are all my siblings. I love them endlessly and always will.

**Does he take you to gay bars?** I've been going to gay bars and clubs since I got my ID — and probably long before that! There was this fantastic gay club in Melbourne, so when I turned 18 — the legal drinking age in

## TOTALLY 'VERSE'



Miles Morales is a typical biracial teen from Brooklyn: He drinks Koka-Kola and his dad works for the PDNY and he admires Spider-Man... until the Webslinger is killed by Kingpin. And if any of those phrases sound a bit off, that's because Miles exists in a parallel universe to the Peter Parker we're all familiar with. In his world, Parker is murdered just as Miles is himself bitten by a special arachnid who imbues him with remarkable powers: spidey-sense, wall-crawling capabilities, even invisibility and electromagnetism.

***Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*** is the animated continuation of the Spider-Myth, an alternative reality that allows for infinite pos-

sibilities. And many of them manifest into this very entertaining, family-friendly adventure. A rift in space-time allows a half-dozen super-heroes from the multiverse — each drawn in a different style (among them anime, Warner Bros. and a Watchmen-esque retro) — to assist Miles in defeating villains common to all Spider-Men.

Colorful and funny, with some engaging vocal performances (including Shameik Moore, Lily Tomlin, Nicolas Cage and even John Mulaney), this non-MCU Marvel story goes right where *Venom* went wrong: It respects its characters and its audience.

— Arnold Wayne Jones





Australia — and while I was living in Melbourne we used to always go, because on a Saturday night they would do a musical drag performance. It was always incredible. I don't know how they would get it together every week. I don't know where they found the time or the costumes; they had the costumes put together, the musical art, the choreography. But every Saturday night we would go to this club and just have the best time ever. And I remember they did this one musical performance about *Wicked* and it was just the best thing you've ever seen. So, I've been going to gay clubs ever since I've legally been able to go to clubs. I always have more fun.

**Those queens are gonna be very proud to see you as an actual queen.** Yes, I hope so!

**Iconically, you walked in on a gay orgy dressed in Versace in *The Wolf of Wall Street*. Was that a first for you?** That was a first for me. I can't say that I've walked in on any gay orgies in the past.

**In a Versace outfit, no less.** In the most fabulous Versace outfit you've ever seen! I really wish that they got more screen time — I don't think you ever get to see them — but they were incredible vintage Versace boots buckled all the way up to mid-calf.

**Hate to break it to you, Margot, but I don't think that scene was about your boots.** Yeah, yeah, yeah, I don't think anyone was looking at the boots. But to watch Martin Scorsese choreograph a gay orgy was truly a highlight of my career. He really approached it with as much professionalism and dedication as any other scene in the movie. I mean, a lot of the scenes are absolutely crazy with so much happening, but to see him sort of choreograph the gay orgy was truly a wonderful experience.

**I had read that Scorsese even brought in another choreographer, Michael Arnold, to help organize the shoot.** Oh yeah! It was intricate. There was a lot going on. It was wonderful to be a part of it, though.

**In August, DC Comics confirmed that Harley Quinn and Poison Ivy are married, and in 2020, you will play Harley in her own movie. For *Birds of Prey*, are you mindful of the way Harley is portrayed when it comes to her sexuality?** Yeah. If you read the comics you know that Poison Ivy and Harley have an intimate relationship. In some comics they convey it as a friendship; in other comics

you can see that they're actually sexually involved as a couple. I've been trying to — I would love to have Poison Ivy thrown into the universe, because the Harley and Poison Ivy relationship is one of my favorite aspects of the comics, so I'm looking to explore that on screen.

**Have you considered who you'd want as Poison Ivy?** You know what? I've thought about it a lot and there's no one person who springs to mind. I'm pretty open-minded.

**You have your own production company, Lucky Chap, which is committed to producing female-led films. How conscious are you of LGBTQ inclusion in the films and TV shows your company produces?** Our goal for the company has always been

to tell female-driven content with as many female filmmakers as possible. As far as including content for the LGBTQ community, that's a huge aspect. We make movies for audiences to love. A huge portion of the audience is a part of the LGBTQ community, so we obviously wanna make content for everyone. I don't know if anyone could say that they don't have someone close to them who isn't a part of that community, so of course it's important. It's a part of everyone's life; everyone's gonna relate to those stories. We have a lot happening, actually, at the company, especially on the TV side. I'm not sure when they would actually be released — nothing's been announced yet — but what I can say is, absolutely. We always wanna make stories for everyone.

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## Friday 12.14 — Sunday 12.16

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## Tuesday 12.18 — Sunday 12.23

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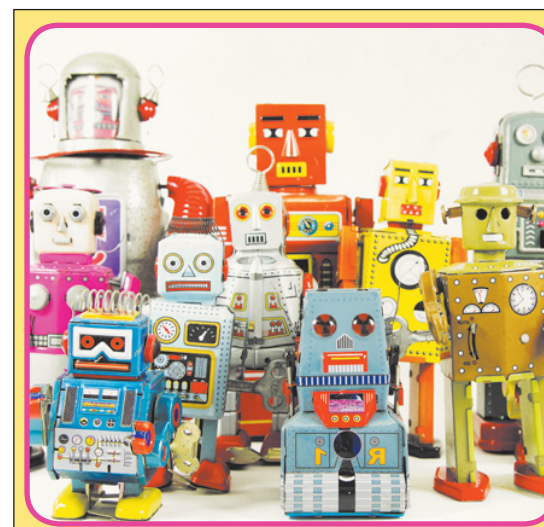

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**A Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker.** Strippers get unwittingly enlisted to perform to Tchaikovsky. Studio Theatre at Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Dec. 30. BurlesqueNutcracker.com.

**A Christmas Carol.** Dallas Theater Center's annual holiday tradition, this year with Alex Organ as Scrooge. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 30. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**A Christmas Story, the Musical.** Stage adaptation of the hit film about holiday nostalgia. *Final weekend.* Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

**Fetch Clay, Make Man.** A world premiere play by Dallas Theater Center playwright-in-residence Will Power about the intersection of the lives of Muhammad Ali and Stepin Fetchit. Studio Theatre of the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Jan. 13. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**The Great Distance Home.** Return of last season's story about the holidays. Written and directed by Kelsey Leigh Ervi. Terry Martin Main Stage at the Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Sunday. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**Jacob Marley's Christmas Carol.** A retelling of Dickens' story from the perspective of Scrooge's business partner. Emily Scott Banks stars. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 23. StageWest.org.

**The Santaland Diaries.** David Sedaris' essays of working at Macy's form the basis of this one-man comedy. Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 22. CasaManana.org.

**Solstice: A New Holiday Adventure.** Characters from last year's holiday hit return for a new play from Jonathan Norton about the magic of winter. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Dec. 6-30. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**A Very Judy Christmas.** Janelle Lutz plays Judy Garland (again) in this world premiere from writer-director B.J. Cleveland. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Sunday. UptownPlayers.org.

#### BALLET

**The Nutcracker.** Tchaikovsky's timeless classic of Yuletide, presented by Texas Ballet Theater. Bass Performance Hall, 535 Commerce St., Fort Worth. Through Dec. 24. TexasBalletTheater.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

**The Artistry of the Nativity.** Hundreds of crèche displays, exhibited for the holidays. The DeGolyer House inside the Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. Daily 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Through Dec. 31. DallasArboretum.org.

**The 12 Days of Christmas.** Outdoor nighttime light show for the holidays. Dallas Arboretum, 8525 Garland Road. Daily 6-9 p.m. Through Dec. 31. DallasArboretum.org.

**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 Jan. 21 (extended)

## FRIDAY 12.14

#### COMMUNITY

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

#### CONCERTS

**Shimmer and Shine.** The Turtle Creek Chorale presents its holiday of seasonal music. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Dec. 14-16. TurtleCreekChorale.com.

#### BROADCAST

**RuPaul's Drag Race: All Stars.** The fourth installment of returning queens competing for the crown. VH1 at 7 p.m.

## MONDAY 12.17

#### CABARET

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

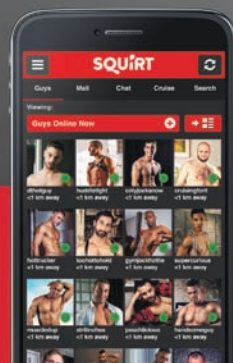
## this week's solution

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**browse**  
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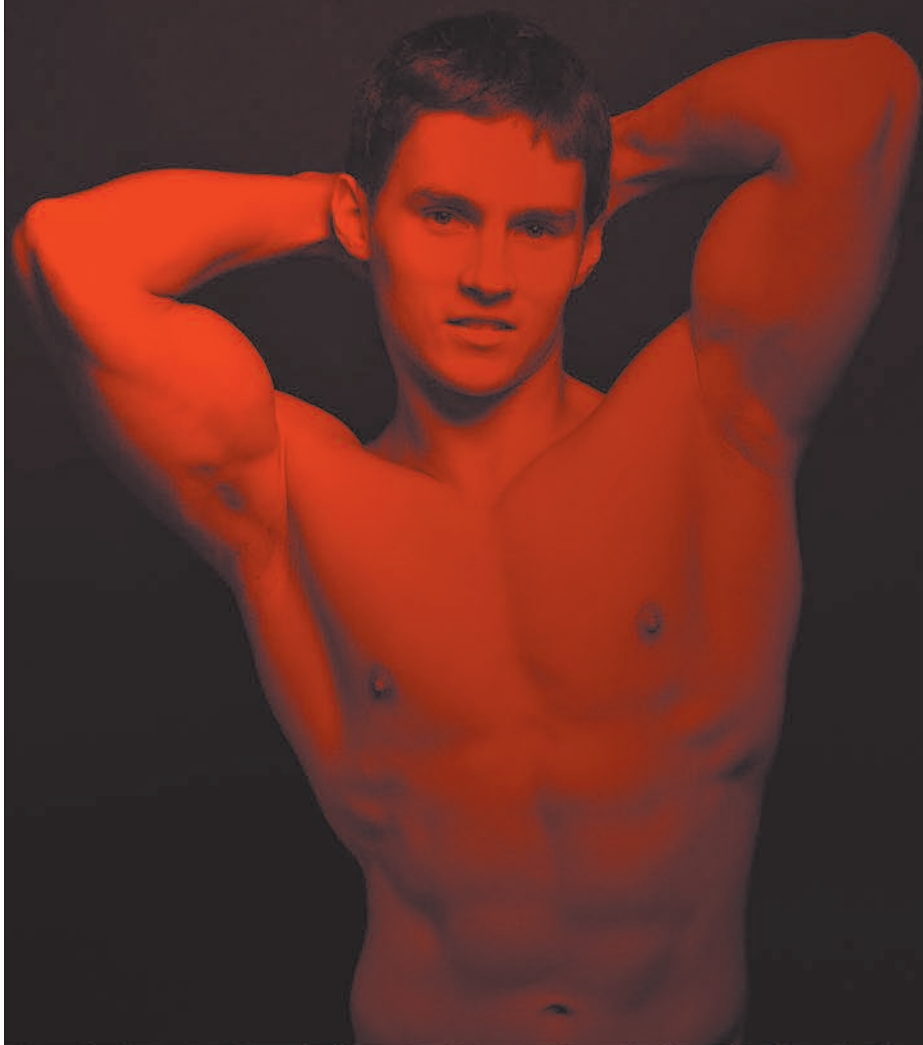


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# Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

“Do you have any regrets?” is always the extraordinary question everyone is taught to solemnly reflect upon as a given year closes... almost instantly followed by, “What are your resolutions?”

It's the nutrient-free pabulum we all learn to mollify said exiting year's dastardly acts of procrastination with. On my voicemail the other day lurked a long-winded Christmas greeting from a longtime friend in New York. Fortuitously larded within his usual merry stream-of-consciousness tangents and ornamental offshoots, yet leaping out at me, sang a singularly obtuse, 100-percent-relatable question that illuminated my eardrums in near identical equivalency to, say, the flashing beacon of Rudolph's honker. Moreover, when answering Joe's question, I miraculously managed to circumnavigate the globe traction-free, through solid air on nothing but enchantedly inexhaustible hoof-power... though at least I was saved having to additionally haul (like a freak cherry on top!) some morbidly obese, hysterically chuckling, white-bearded lunatic puffed out in flashy/trashy neon vermilion scraps trimmed with cottony Christmas tree fluff culled from the floor of RuPaul's sewing room. Hence, hallucinatory dancing sugar plums be damned, kidz: With a big, jelly-belly jiggling, “Oh, no, Ho, *no you diin't!*”, let's get noses so brightly lit right to it.

**Hey Howard:** This whole year long through has been, like, it's hard to put into words, but some kind of, almost, weird *mirage* to me. Everything about 2018 felt really *extreme*, but totally numb, *both* at the same time—you know? I dunno, Ward, I can't explain it: Does this make any sense to you? — **Joe P.**

Dear Joseph: A whole lotta sense — you, too, felt it? Hmmmm. Well, fortunately, or maybe not, I can only illuminate my own mirage-esque experiences of the year, and all the yearlong through, they certainly were whoppers. Perchance, Joe, you'll even find here an anecdotal tidbit that'll shed light on your life-path's betterment during this, our gratefully now waning year of 2018 which, sweet readers, shall forever go down in the calendrical annals of Howard's own lifespan (should I live to be even a grinningly gnarled century ... knock on my hickory wood walking

cane!) as *the* definitive, monumental year of my whole life. 2018 has tallied the largest accumulative number of benchmarks in my 50-plus years' existence. Its high watermark cannot be topped: my wedding to the love of my life, on the 25th anniversary *to the day* of our very first laying googly eyes upon one another; nor, conversely, can its lowest ebb be bottom-dredged deeper: my mother's slow, agonizingly long goodbye.

For the remainder of my years, 2018 shall always be my “before-and-after” Rubicon — everybody, sooner or later, personally crosses it. It's that year of too many drawn lines obliterated in the sand, in which too many major personal/professional/private milestones occur back, to back, to back, repeatedly, with scant time in between to digest and absorb, enjoy and/or grieve what exactly just occurred, before the next once-in-a-lifetime rogue wave rolls through, sweeping all that happened previously back out to sea in a riptide undercurrent of surrealism versus unpreparedness.

2018 started out for me, straightaway, with a January plunge off the gangplank via the unexpected, relatively sudden death of one of my longest friends — someone I'd known since way back in my teenage years in Alabama. Miraculously, Randy survived the minefield of those unnerving '80s and '90s obstacle-course plague years, only to be done in (ignobly and ironically) by just run-of-the-mill lung cancer, even though he never smoked. On the very heels of Randy's memorial service, coinciding with my birthday in February, another longtime fellow Aquarian showed up to work with her clothes on backwards, leaving her car parked the wrong way (with its keys still in the ignition) in a one-way street, and unable to recognize her coworkers' faces. Cryptically, things have only descended from there for her since. Oh, and in between, I started a New Year's diet — yeah, me and every other gay man residing in our solar system. My laughably-lofty aspiration was simply to see a “1” as the first number on the bathroom scales come swimsuit season. Hey, we all have our fantasies, but I did choose a plan simple to remember, its instructional mantra consisted exactly of these three words: “Eat nothing white.”

In March, my mother — to the frustratedly exhausted relief of both my brother and me — finally passed peacefully away, a mere 10 months after our dad. It was merely the physical end of Mom's very long, gut-wrenching

demise through the miasma of dementia. She hadn't remembered I was her son for more than four years. It was Christmastime then, too, that I remember Mom last recognizing me, sort of: I'd flown home, as always, for a holiday visit, and had brought her a framed gift of her favorite old photo of her young sons. We sat shirtless on a tree stump, me holding up a fascinating insect and my brother grinning at it in diapers: “Mom, do you remember who these two little boys in this photo are?” A tiny spark lit the back of her eyes. “I think I ought to,” she smiled, fuzzily. And the spark never ignited again. This vivacious, eternally serene woman who I'd always called Mom vanished for good, to be replaced by a replicate that only breathed an imitation of life in a dead soul for four long more years afterwards.

“You boys scatter my ashes someplace pretty,” was Mom's sole, final written request. And on her birthday in April, Wiley and I (quite illegally) followed her wishes to the letter. My mother — Nova was her lovely name — now prettily resides, among a happy chipmunks' den, in a patch of early May apples next to a sun-dappled wishing well at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens. “And what about dem apples?” phoned my flabbergasted brother to me, a month later, with the unexpected revelation of Mom's accrued estate. An Arkansas farmgirl who never bought herself so much as a stitch of clothing new apparently sure knew the hidden beauty of investing in cheap, unglamorous, rural electric company stocks.

And thus, in serendipitous haste, suddenly followed my whirlwind summer of middle-aged marriage and an upsized lifestyle: The apartment next door to mine unexpectedly went on the market — a rare enough occurrence in my building — and before I knew it, my theoretical living space had doubled (as had my monthly HOA fees), followed by five months of hurry-up-and-wait for the city permits, to allow two units be forged into one. Basically, it amounted to the removal of a wall separating them ... an undertaking on par with the incompleteness of purchasing, oh, The Winter Palace, fully staffed. Then with June and July came the opposing factions at work of moving out 25 years' worth of accumulated stuff ahead of the wrecking ball, while simultaneously arranging all the flourishes for the splashiest gay wedding reception of the summer: my own.

On Saturday, 8/18/18, a refreshingly atypical August evening summer shower (Hollywood movie rain) glittered amethyst-like against the



transformed The Mansion on Turtle Creek's gleaming ballroom windows as I sliced into a five-tiered, fairytale confection weighing more than a grown man, and my beaming new spouse, who'd *finally* made a decent man out of me, lifted his champagne glass, took my hand into his other, and conspiratorially whispered a kernel of sage wisdom to our guests that sent the entire congregation reaching for their handkerchiefs: He said, “I was attending another wedding last week in Boston, and would like to share with you the secret to a successful marriage that the father of the groom there told me. ‘Sir,’ he said, ‘You don't marry someone that you can live with; you marry someone that you can't live without.’”

I'm a lucky, fortunate and blessed man, bois and girlz; hence, take it from me: Never, ever believe anyone who tells you that fairytales don't come true. They do. I'm living proof. The only hole-in-my-soul “regret” (for lack of any better word) regarding 2018 is that my mother passed just shy of getting to see her eldest, “My own happily homosexual son,” become legally hitched in all constitutional eyes of the law, and God's, within this grand country of ours we bravely call home of the free. Mom would have so loved to have been witness to, front and center, this newly courageous, fine world, welcoming us one and all, for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in mortal illness and in glowing health to 2019!

PS: I almost forgot—dear Howard here dropped 40 lbs. this year: Yeah, bitches, that's right, I went from XL to Slim Fit M, and promptly rewarded myself with an entire new wardrobe from Sid Mashburn to ensure I, permanently, do leave something behind for 2018.

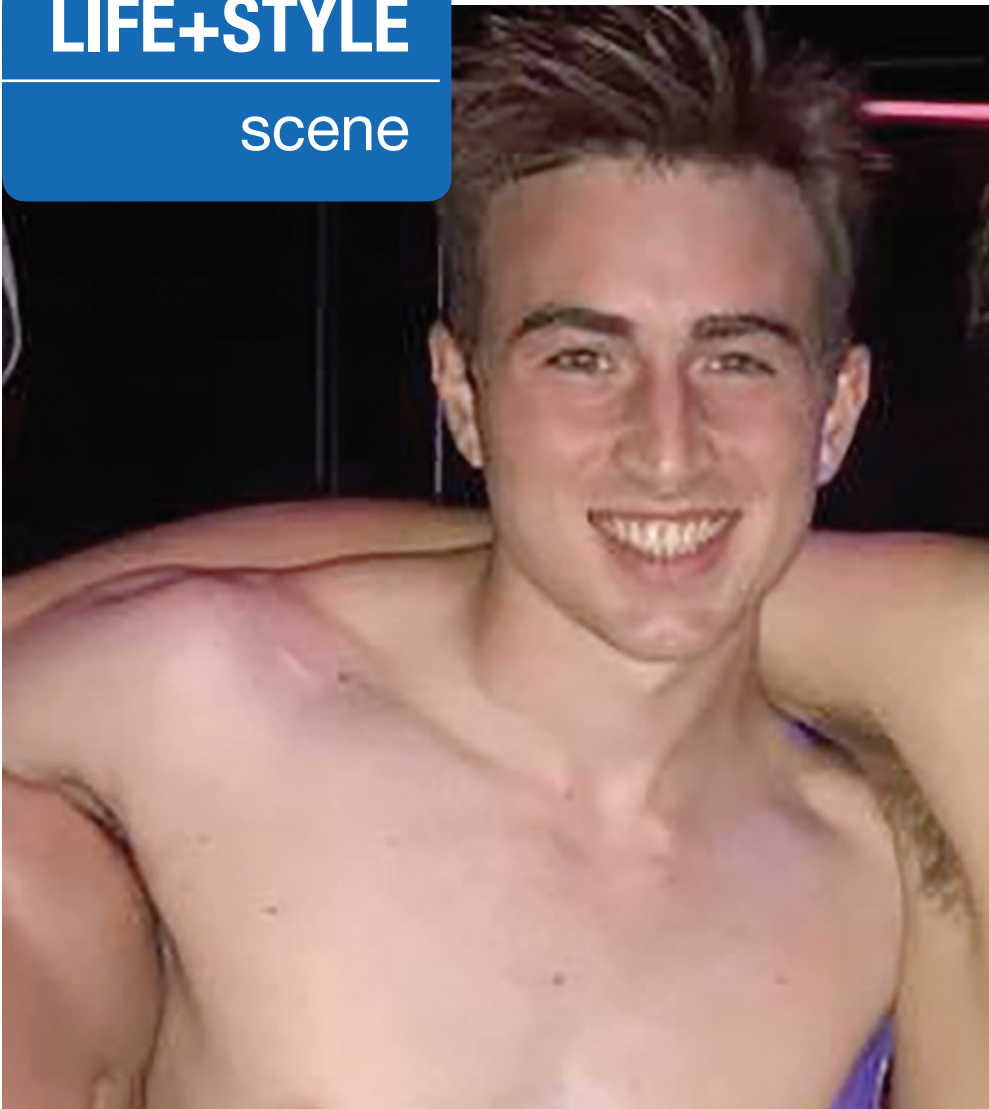
— Howard Lewis Russell

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- **515 Bar:** Tap TV Trivia for cash at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Alexandre's:** Stephanie Sallie on Friday. Chris Chism on Saturday. Wreath Auction at 8 p.m. and Wayne Smith at 10 p.m. on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** RuPaul's Drag Race Watch Party at 7 p.m. on Friday.
- **Club Changes:** Divine Miss Divas: We Wish You a Slutty Christmas at 10 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Club Reflection:** Wall of Food Show at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Club Stallions:** Christmas Party from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. on Tuesday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** United Court Toy Drive and Show on Friday. United Court presents Jingle Balls on Saturday. Dallas Bears and Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter Club Night on Saturday. Winter-Onesie-Land Toy Drive on Saturday. DIVA Night with DJ C-Rail on Saturday.
- **Havana:** Cowboys Watch Party on Sunday.
- **Hidden Door:** The 39th Anniversary Celebration continues throughout the weekend.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Dreamgirls at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Kaliente:** An Ugly Sweater Christmas Party from 9 p.m.-midnight on Friday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** Drag Brunch at the Zoo Christmas Party hosted by Sapphire Davenport at 2 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Marty's Live:** Miss Wanda Show from 9 p.m.-midnight on Sunday.
- **Pekers:** Ugly Christmas Sweater and Costume Karaoke at 9:45 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Saturday Karaoke at 7 p.m. Sunday Funday Dance Party at 4 p.m. and Mancandy at 8 p.m. on Sunday. The Showdown at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **S4:** Winter edition Sunday Funday Disco with your disco host Craig Reed on Sunday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** The Tuxedos on Saturday. The Southpaw Preachers from 3:30-5:30 p.m. followed by Droo's Peace Crush on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** Shavonna Brooks on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Tommie Ross Benefit Show at 7 p.m. on Sunday with a \$10 donation at the door.
- **TMC: The Mining Company:** Fuego Wednesdays Latin Dance Contest hosted by Sasha Andrews at 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Urban Cowboy:** RuPaul's All Stars Watch Party at 6 p.m. on Friday. DJ Phanz Benefit at 2 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Cowboys at Indy Watch Party at noon on Sunday.
- **Zipper:** DJ Rubix on Unzipped Saturday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth

The 2018  
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Party

(Watch the Dec. 21 issue  
for photos of the  
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(Left photo courtesy of Leslie Frye)



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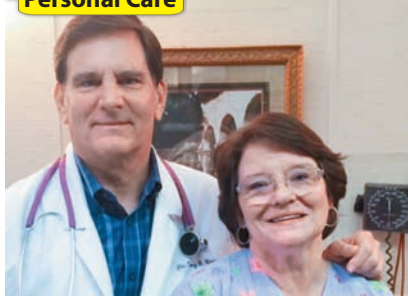
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AWARDS 2018

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AWARDS 2017

**rva** dallas voice  
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AWARDS 2016

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READERS VOICE  
AWARDS 2014

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READERS VOICE  
AWARDS 2013

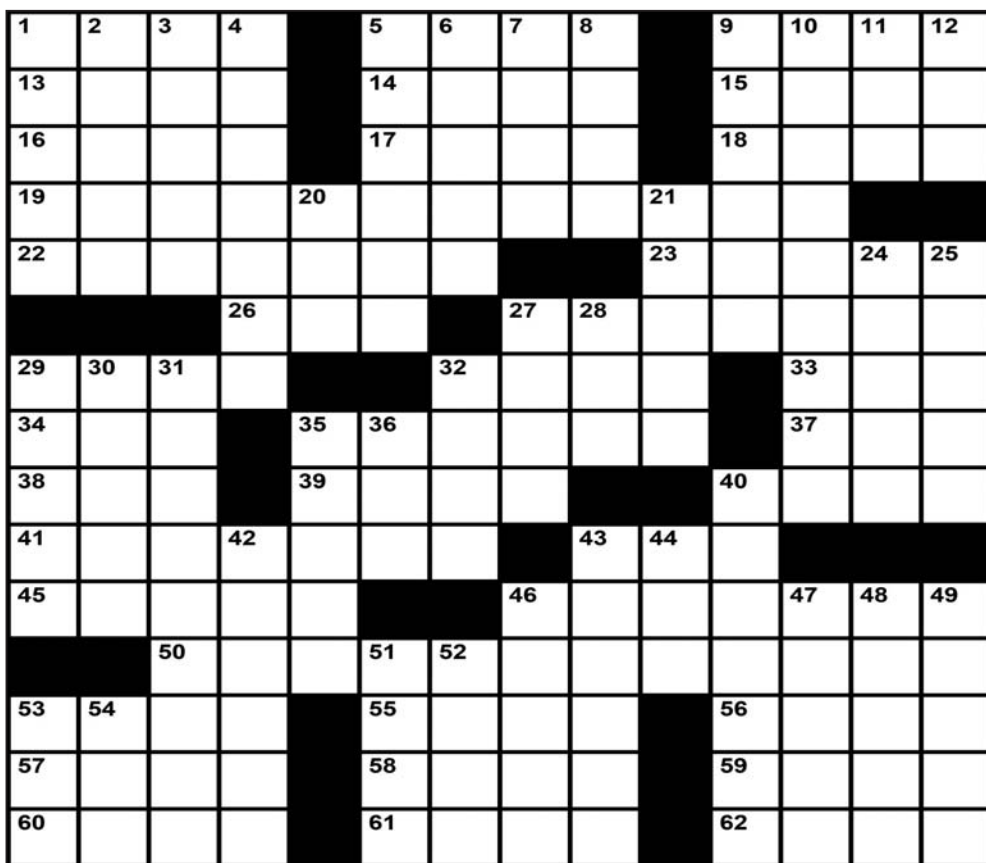
**rva** dallas voice  
READERS VOICE  
AWARDS 2012

**rva** dallas voice  
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AWARDS 2011

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AWARDS 2010

Experience Counts!  
20+ Years Supporting the Community  
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## Tough Love Triangle

Solution on Page 26

### Across

- 1 No-no on the South  
Beach diet  
5 Foe of Peter Pan  
9 Like a top  
13 On \_\_\_ with  
14 Wet hole  
15 Mauresmo's dividers  
16 Gay-friendly Barrett  
17 Witty Bombeck  
18 Enjoy a hot tub  
19 She plays Queen Anne  
in 50-Across  
22 In need of some lube?  
23 Words before "forgiven"  
26 Dorm VIPs  
27 One who doubts in the  
Divine Miss M?  
29 Heartbreaker for a big,  
hairy male  
32 Mishima's continent  
33 Mop & \_\_\_  
34 NATO turf  
35 With 29-Down, she plays  
Lady Sarah in 50-Across  
37 Solo of sci-fi  
38 End of Debra's Mess?  
39 Tops  
40 "Look \_\_\_, I'm  
Sandra Dee"  
41 Not like a breeder  
43 "Just \_\_\_ thought"  
45 Some defenses by  
Indiana Fever

- 46 Frilly, for instance  
50 2018 historical period  
drama film with a love  
triangle of women  
53 Artist Catherine  
55 \_\_\_ impasse (stuck)  
56 Be reminded of S&M,  
e.g.  
57 Sup in style  
58 Start of a Mozart title  
59 "If \_\_\_ my druthers..."  
60 Hand out some  
queens, maybe  
61 911 respondents  
62 Pride places

### Down

- 1 Substitute for Nick  
Malgieri's *Chocolate*?  
2 Ohno of Geert Blanchart's  
sport  
3 Took to the police station  
4 Balls  
5 Says "'\*%#@#!'"  
6 TV series in which  
Guillermo Diaz played  
a nurse  
7 Giggling Muppet  
8 Airline to the land of  
the cut  
9 Enticing words at  
Barney's  
10 Broadway luminosity  
11 "Is \_\_\_ boy or..."  
12 Condescending cluck  
20 Lupino of *Women's Prison*  
21 Taj \_\_\_  
24 Religion of Allah  
25 Emma, who plays  
Abigail in 50-Across  
27 Queens stadium name  
28 Butch lesbian's fashion  
accessory  
29 See 35-Across  
30 Approach in a hurry  
31 *Evita* setting  
32 Teen outbreak  
35 Erect  
36 Internet trigram  
40 Attack by spraying  
from above  
42 Fix some kinky boots,  
e.g.  
43 Handsome young man  
44 Trifling amount  
46 Shout used to stop  
seamen  
47 Area of expertise  
48 Hawke of *Hamlet*  
49 Boy Scouts do good ones  
51 It's hard to keep a  
straight one  
52 Molecule part  
53 Ann Bannon's  
\_\_\_ *Girl Out*  
54 Often fruity dessert



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