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of the year

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and
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Photo by Richard W. Rodriguez/AP

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Maison leaving ASD in February

Don Maison will be stepping down from his position as president and CEO of AIDS Services of Dallas effective Feb. 1, 2019, according to a post the agency made to its Facebook page Thursday, Nov. 29.

Traswell Livingston III, the agency's current chief operating officer, will serve as interim CEO, and Board Chair Sam Etheridge is forming a search committee to find a new president and CEO.

AIDS Services of Dallas was founded as the PWA Coalition of Dallas on April 28, 1987, to provide housing for people with AIDS. The newly-formed agency retained Maison as its lawyer that May. Maison was hired on in the position then known as executive director and which is now president and CEO, on Dec. 1, 1988, and has led the organization ever since.

The dba AIDS Services of Dallas was formed in May 1989.

Watch for more about Maison, his career and his future plans in next week's Dallas Voice.

— Tammye Nash

Dallas marks World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day commemorations in Dallas this year included one at Central Congregational Church in North Dallas on Nov. 30 and one at Cathedral of Hope on Dec. 1.

Robert Suttle spoke at the Nov. 30 event organized by C.U.R.E. that also included a remem-

brance by Alpha Thomas of the AIDS crisis in Dallas, especially in the black community.

Suttle is a victim of HIV criminalization. After a relationship that lasted several months, his ex-boyfriend charged him with not disclosing his HIV status. He was arrested and charged in Louisiana under an HIV criminalization law.

That law still doesn't take into account that those in compliance with their drug regimen and are undetectable will not transmit the virus.

Originally, Suttle had a plea bargain for a two-year probated sentence. When he questioned being registered as a sex offender, the judge ruled he would have to spend six months in prison. Since his release in 2011, he has been fighting his sex offender status. His argument is that sending notification to everyone living within a certain radius about his sex offender status violates the law by releasing his confidential medical information.

At the event at Cathedral of Hope on Dec. 1, about 40 members of the Turtle Creek Chorale sang, and those lost to AIDS were remembered.

Prism Health CEO John Carlo talked about information released at the World AIDS Conference. Among the most important studies was one on U=U, or "undetectable equals untransmittable." One of the most dramatic and promising statistics is from New York City where over the past four years, there has been a 60 percent drop in the number of new HIV infections directly related to U=U and use of PrEP.

The goal among AIDS activists is elimination of HIV as a global health threat by 2030.

— David Taffet

Theater Jones wins Press Club award for Lee Trull exposé

On Saturday night, Dec. 1, the second annual Hugh Aynsworth Awards for Texas Journalism were presented by the Press Club of Dallas (of which, full disclosure, I am a board member) at a ceremony at the Irving Convention Center. Winners and finalists were honored in 17 categories, including newspapers, magazines, radio, TV and digital media. It was in the later that our colleague Mark Lowry, who co-founded TheaterJones.com 10 years ago, walked away as a two-time winner. Lowry won for digital criticism for his review of *Hit The Wall*, a play about the Stonewall Riots that was the first directorial effort, in 2017, of WaterTower Theatre's then-new artistic director Joanie Schultz, who was recently let go from her post.

Lowry was also the co-recipient, with Shelby-Allison Hibbs and Katy Lemieux, for investigative journalism for their December 2017 piece revealing how Dallas Theater Center administrator Lee Trull has been accused of serial sexual harassment.

The ceremony was marked by a number of meaningful moments, including a Q&A with veteran journalist Hugh Aynsworth (a witness to the Kennedy assassination) and speeches that emphasized the value in — and difficulty of — practicing legit journalism in the current environment.

Congrats to Mark and all the winners.

— Arnold Wayne Jones



The Rev. Rachel Baughman, senior pastor of Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, traveled to Washington, D.C. to see President George H.W. Bush lie in state in the U.S. Capitol rotunda. See photos of her trip at DallasVoice.com.



David M. Lee, M.D. • Marc A. Tribble, M.D. • Donald A. Graneto, M.D. • Eric Klappholz, NP • Peter Triporo, NP
Jason Vercher, PA-C • Vanessa Bludau, NP • William Hays, MD, ATC, LAT • Hollie Williams, NP

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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.





Peter Triporo, NP named Top 10 in 2018 America's Top Nurse Practitioner Awards presented by Point of Care Network.



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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.

DECEMBER

• Through Jan 11: Branch Out Dallas

The City of Dallas will provide residents a tree at no cost. Register online at GreenDallas.net or for assistance go to any Dallas Public Library.

• Dec. 7: An enchanted Evening Under the Mistletoe

Federal Club party from 8-11p.m. At the Old Red Museum, 100 S. Houston St.

• Dec. 8: The Teddy Bear Party

Annual party that collects teddy bears for children at Children's Health from 8 p.m.-midnight at the F.I.G., 1807 Ross Ave. #167. \$50 and a 24" teddy bear.

• Dec. 8: Lost Souls Toy Drive

Tacky sweater competition and toy drive

benefits Adelfa Callejo Elementary School from 6-9 p.m. at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

• Dec. 8: Bells, Baubles & Babbist Women

Holiday celebration featuring the Austin Babbist Women with proceeds benefiting the Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network at 7 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. \$10.

• Dec. 8-9: Pet photos with Santa

Photos of the family and your pets in holiday attire with Santa includes one framed and a flash drive of the others for \$25 benefiting Operation Kindness from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Pet Food Pantry, 3955 Belt Line Road, Addison.

• Dec. 9: Stocking Auction

Annual holiday auction benefits Legacy Counseling Center from 7-10 p.m. at Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

• Dec. 10-23: Wrapping for Kindness

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

Santa's gift-wrapping elves will be on hand to wrap gifts for a donation the will benefit Operation Kindness from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 2201 Preston Road, Plano.

• Dec. 11: Resource Center tour

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

• Dec. 11: 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.

• Dec. 11: GLFD holiday party

The Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas presents a holiday party from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Musume, 2330 Flora St.

• Dec. 13: Business Connections Mixer

GLBT Chamber presents its business connections mixer from 5:30-7 p.m. at

Courtyard by Marriott Downtown/ Reunion District, 310 S. Houston St. \$10 in advance. \$20 at the door. Free to Chamber members. GLBTChamber.com.

• 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.

• **Weekly: Lambda Weekly** at 1 p.m. on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. **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.; **Fuse-Connect** every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalenzski@mysresourcecenter.org; LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets every

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 Adicts 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.



Toys and Tacky Sweaters

Lost Souls Rugby holds its annual toy drive and tacky sweater contest from 6-9 p.m. on Dec. 8 at the Round-Up Saloon. All toys will be donated to Adelfa Botello Callejo Elementary School, a Title I School located in the Pleasant Grove with 680 students attending this year, according to the school's principal, Sandra Fernandez. More than 95 percent of the school's students are considered socio-economically disadvantaged. The contest is open to everyone, and sweaters will be judged in three categories: Traditional, Illuminated and Open.

pet of the week / DONALD



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LGBT Texan of the Year: Lupe Valdez

Lupe Valdez didn't win her bid for governor, but her campaign was a transformative moment in Texas history

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

There were four openly-LGBT gubernatorial candidates across the U.S. running in this year's mid-term elections. Dallas County's former sheriff, Latina lesbian Lupe Valdez was one of them. While Valdez did not succeed in her bid to oust Republican incumbent Greg Abbott, she brought in nearly 43 percent of the vote — an amazing feat for an openly-LGBT Democrat in a state-wide race in such a deep red Republican stronghold.

Valdez's campaign signaled a huge step forward for LGBT candidates — indeed, for all progressive candidates — in Texas. And for that reason, Dallas Voice names Lupe Valdez as our LGBT Texan of the year.

Valdez's race was, "transformative," said LGBT Victory Fund CEO Annise Parker, the former mayor of Houston who is herself a history-making LGBT candidate in Texas. And, she added, Valdez knew "when she got into it" that her run for governor was a long shot, a total uphill race.

Still, Parker said, Valdez is "an experienced candidate" with a compelling personal story.

Valdez is the child of migrant workers. She grew up in San Antonio, in a neighborhood without paved streets. On the campaign trail, she often told the story of commuting across town to attend a better high school and stopping in the bathroom when she got to school each morning to wipe the mud off her shoes.

After she graduated from high school, Valdez paid for her own college and earned a masters degree in criminology from UT Arlington.

Valdez joined the U.S. National Guard, reaching the rank of captain. She then went on to work as a federal agent, investigating fraud and abuse in the U.S. and working undercover in South America to gather information about drug traffickers and money launderers.

In 2004, Dallas County Sheriff Jim Bowles, who had been in office for 20 years,



Lupe Valdez announced her candidacy in Oak Cliff last December. (David Taffet / Dallas Voice)

was fighting allegations of corruption. A 30-year veteran of the sheriff's department defeated Bowles in the Republican Primary, and Valdez won the Democratic Primary. The Latina lesbian was all but written off in the general election, but she surprised just about everyone by winning. With that victory, Valdez joined a handful of other Democrats to become the first Democrats to win county-wide office in Dallas in years. It was the year that Dallas County turned blue.

When she took office, Valdez knew that very few people in the sheriff's department supported her. So she spent quite a bit of her first year as the county's top cop winning over the support of her staff — and then replacing those who refused to accept the leadership of the country's first lesbian Latina sheriff.

One of her biggest challenges as sheriff was bringing the county jail up to standards. Poor sanitation, an inadequate smoke evacuation system and substandard medical and mental health care plagued

Lew Sterrett Justice Center. And the number of guards at the jail fell below a legally mandated guard-to-inmate ratio.

In 2010, the jail finally passed state and federal inspection for the first time in years.

In 2016, Valdez hit the national stage when she was a prime-time featured speaker at the Democratic National Convention, and rumors that she was planning a run for higher office began to fly. But Valdez remained as sheriff until 2017, when she officially declared her candidacy for governor.

At that time, Kate Brown, who identifies as bisexual, had been governor of Oregon since 2015. The country's only other LGBT governor was New Jersey Gov. Jim McGreevey, who came out in 2004 and immediately resigned from office amid scandal.

This year, in addition Valdez here in Texas and Brown, who won her re-election in Oregon, transgender candidate Christine Hallquist ran for governor of Vermont and Jared Polis, who is gay, ran for governor of Colorado. Hallquist lost in Vermont, but in



As sheriff, Lupe Valdez always rode in the Pride Parade

Colorado, Polis made history as the first gay men elected governor of a U.S. state.

Celebrating Texas' Rainbow Wave

Candidates up and down the ballot stepped up and stepped out in Texas this year

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

In North Texas, you did great," Equality Texas CEO Chuck Smith said the success that LGBT candidates had in the midterm elections this year. Even those who didn't win their races made huge inroads into the political arena for the LGBT community, and we celebrate the Lone Star Rainbow Wave by honoring those candidates for their efforts, naming them honorary LGBT Texans of the Year.

This year, Democrats came closer to winning and raised more money than ever before in the GOP stronghold of Collin County — and it was two LGBT candidates leading the way. In a Republican Tarrant County district, a trans man put on a very credible campaign for the state Legislature — one that didn't revolve around bathroom bills. And in Dallas County, two lesbians were elected and will join returning incumbent Reps. Mary Gonzales, Celia Israel and newly-elected central Texan Erin Zweiner in Austin.

Smith said having 30 LGBT candidates who made it through the primaries and onto the November ballot around the state was an historic accomplishment. "I hope it's a trend that continues," he added.

Just to be part of the political conversation in Texas, Smith said, LGBT candidates must be elected at state and local levels to legislative, judicial and executive positions. Having five LGBT people in the Legislature will make a difference when negative legislation is introduced.

Julie Johnson was elected to the Legislature in a northwest Dallas County district, defeating bathroom bill author Matt Rinaldi in a sweet victory for the LGBT community. "Last session we wasted an inordinate amount of time on bullshit bathroom bill BS," Smith said.

But, Smith said, Johnson wouldn't have been elected if bathroom bills were her focus. She addressed real issues that affected people, centering her campaign on fully funding education to improve schools,



Texas Senate candidate Mark Phariss, right, with his husband Vic Holmes

which would result in a cut in local property taxes.

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance President Patti Fink said Johnson is an incredibly successful attorney "who gets it about everyday people in one of the most diverse districts in the country."

Jessica Gonzalez's first run for office resulted in a surprise upset over incumbent Rep. Roberto Alonzo in the Democrat Primary, and she had no opposition in the general election. Some described her win as a battle between old guard and new guard. Others said she won because she simply worked that hard.

In the months before the election, Gonzalez knocked on doors throughout her Oak Cliff-Grand Prairie-Irving district, asking people for their vote and talking to them about their concerns.

"She won," Fink said, "because she worked her ass off."

Finn Jones was the first trans man to run for the Texas Legislature, and he ran in a very red Tarrant County district. Still, Jones' gender identity wasn't an issue in the race, although he was open about who he was.

When the subject did come up during the campaign, Jones said, it was more in the context of people asking him where he stood on women's issues. His answer was that he could relate to those issues personally — and they'd both laugh about it, he said.

Jones' candidacy and his respectable showing in a conservative district — he

WAVE, Page 15

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CEO Cece Cox and other representatives were on hand Thursday night at the Black Tie Dinner's 2018 Wrap-Up Party to accept a check for \$48,906, the largest amount Black Tie allocated to a local beneficiary this year. Visit DallasVoice.com for a slideshow of more photos from the event. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

BTD distributes \$

Officials with the Black Tie Dinner distributed a total of \$1,185,000 to 19 beneficiaries Thursday evening, Dec. 6, at the organization's 2018 Wrap Party and Beneficiary Distribution event at the Winspear Opera House.

"With the help of our 2018 sponsors, table captains, and supporters, the Board of Black Tie Dinner is excited to distribute well over \$1 million to the work of our beneficiaries in the LGBTQ community," said BTD Co-chair David Gifford-Robinson. "Giving away these checks tonight makes the thousands of hours our board and volunteers contribute throughout the year worth every second."

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation, BTD's national beneficiary, got a check for \$569,375. The two local organizations receiving the largest amounts were Resource Center, which received \$48,906, and Rainbow Roundup, an LGBT family orga-

nization, which received \$48,030. The third largest local check went to Equality Texas, which received \$47,181.

"We are always grateful" for Black Tie's donation to Resource Center, said the center's CEO Cece Cox.

"Every nonprofit always likes cold, hard cash. We do have bills to pay and programs to run and services to offer," she said. "But the opportunity for engagement with the community is very important to us, too. It gives us exposure to a large local audience, and that is very valuable to us."

Cox also noted that BTD's donation to the Resource Center comes in the form of "unrestricted money," which can play a vital role in the center's budget.

"Much of the money we get through other sources, like government funding and grants, is restricted to specific programs and specific purposes. But no grant ever completely covers the cost of that program. So we always have to fill the gap, and unrestricted money [such as the BTD donation] allows us to fill those gaps."

Kimberly Kantor, executive director of Rainbow Roundup, said Black Tie's dona-

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FROM STAFF REPORTS

tion to her organization would help pay to develop a free, downloadable Rainbow Roundup app.

Much of Rainbow Roundup's event are coordinated and announced through the organization's Facebook page and other social media platforms. But, Kantor said, there are families out there who aren't on Facebook and don't use social media very often.

"So we want to offer them a free app that will let them connect with their communities and keep track of events happening in their area," Kantor said. "The money will help us connect families to resources and make a difference for them and for our community."

Kantor's wife, attorney Lorie Burch, added that while Kantor never "toots her own horn," she has always been dedicated to making sure that Rainbow Roundup is able to provide free or low-cost events, giving LGBTQ families the chance to connect with each other and with individuals and organizations offering resources they need. That, Burch said, "is really critical," because it helps those families that don't have the

financial resources to make those connections otherwise.

BTD officials also announced that BBVA Compass is returning as the presenting sponsor for the 38th annual dinner, set for Nov. 2, 2019, again at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel.

Co-chair Nathan Robbins offered a huge thank you to Rey Ocañas and BBVA Compass for their continued and generous support. As we enter our third year with BBVA Compass as our presenting sponsor, we are excited for the impact we are making on the community together.

Robbins continues as BTD co-chair for 2019 and will be joined by Jeremy Hawpe, whose election as co-chair was also announced Thursday. Brad Pritchett was announced as co-chair elect, with Caleb Patterson as secretary, Doug Bedell as treasurer and Brandon Baker, John Mason, Ethan Skinner, Stacey Stevenson, Nick Totin and Liliana Villarreal as new board members.

The other 16 local beneficiaries receiving donations from Black Tie this year are, in alphabetical order:

- AIDS Outreach Center (\$27,306)
- AIDS Services of Dallas (\$37,381)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters Lone Star (\$34,205)
- Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ (\$34,271)
- Celebration Community Church (\$29,325)
- Congregation Beth El Binah (\$30,382)
- Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (\$45,002)
- Legacy Counseling Center (\$29,831)
- Legal Hospice of Texas (\$31,092)
- Northaven United Methodist Church (\$31,928)
- Promise House (\$31,806)
- Trans Kids and Families of Texas (\$16,726)
- Turtle Creek Chorale (\$30,481)
- Uptown Players (\$32,127)
- The Women's Chorus of Dallas (\$29,646)

The DFW Black Tie Dinner is the largest LGBT event of its kind. The first dinner, in 1982, raised \$6,000 for HRCF. In its 38 years, Black Tie has distributed more than \$24 million for HRCF and local beneficiaries. ■



Jeremy Hawpe, pictured, joins Nathan Hawpe as co-chair of the 2019 Black Tie Dinner. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

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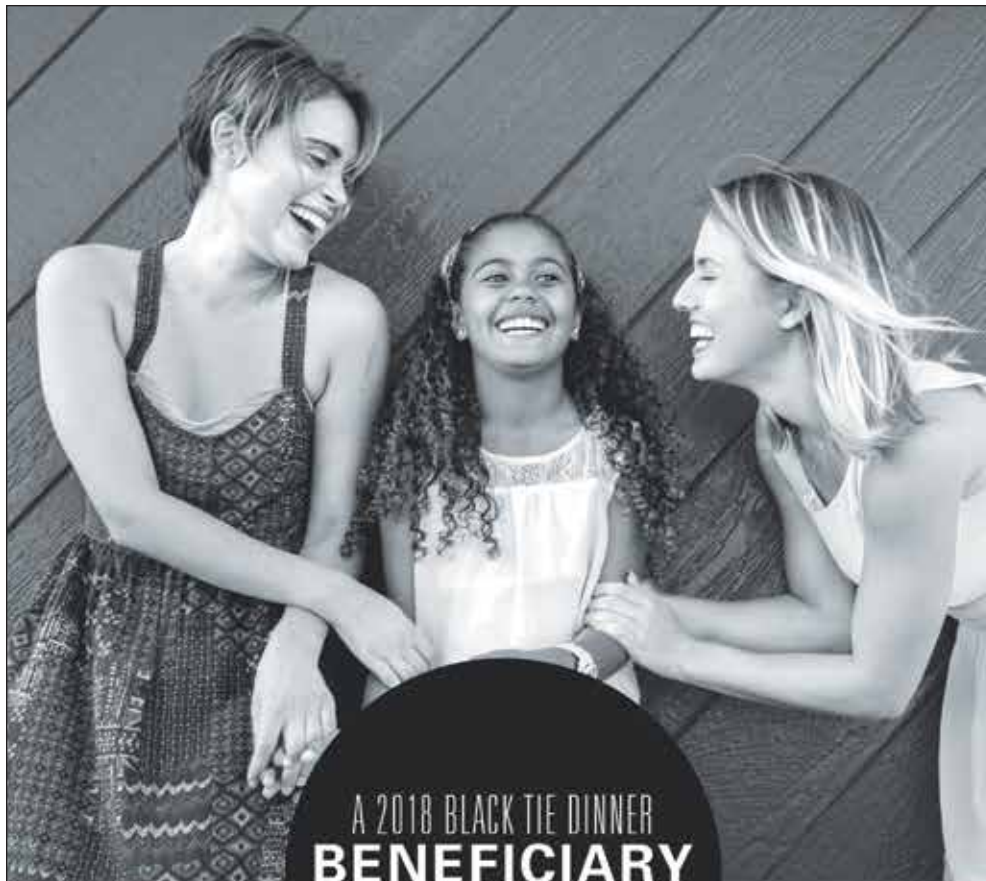
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A portrait of a woman with dark hair, wearing a blue headscarf with gold and green feathers, and a blue and gold beaded necklace. She is smiling and looking towards the camera.



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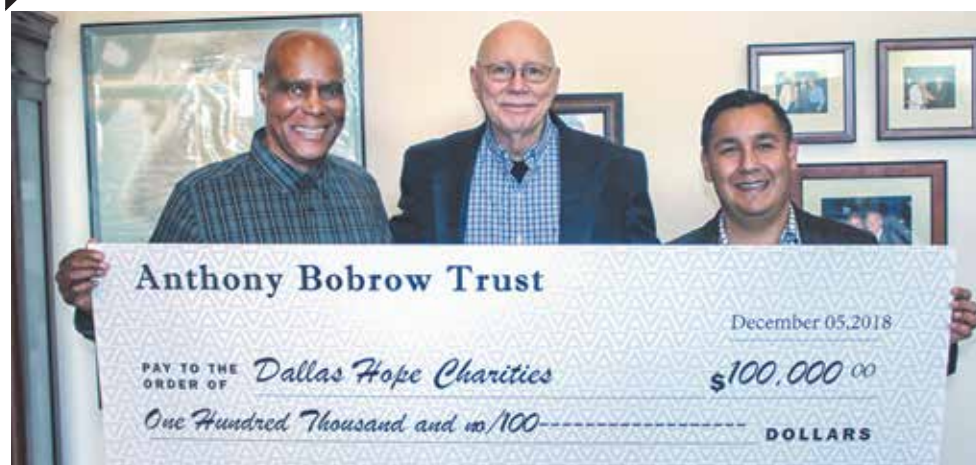
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Bobrow Trust donates \$100K to Dallas Hope Center



Harvey Meissner, center, presents a check to Cline Taplin, left, and Jason Vallejo of Dallas Hope Charities. (Tammye Nash / Dallas Voice)

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Anthony Bobrow Trust this week donated \$100,000 to Dallas Hope Center, a shelter for homeless LGBT youth ages 18-24 that is operated by Dallas Hope Charities. The donation makes the Bobrow Trust Dallas Hope Center's anchor donor.

The Anthony Bobrow Trust was established following the death of Anthony "Tony" Bobrow, longtime philanthropist and owner of The Hidden Door, in February this year. On May 1, Harvey Meissner, president and general manager of The Hidden Door Inc., presented checks totaling \$250,000 to three community organizations — Resource Center, Legacy Counseling Center and AIN — in the first outlay of funds from the Bobrow Trust.

In announcing the donation this week to Dallas Hope Center, Meissner, said, "Anthony Bobrow, for 35 years a leader of the LGBTQ community in Dallas, left his

entire estate in trust to provide resources for projects like this. Through the decades, The Hidden Door, under Tony's leadership, supported efforts vital to us. He left instructions [that] we're to continue" that tradition.

"Most of the annual net revenues of The Hidden Door are being returned to non-profits serving GLBTQ people in Dallas," Meissner continued. "In our first six months, the Anthony Bobrow Trust has contributed almost \$400,000. We thank the customers of The Hidden Door for making that possible, and we look forward to continuing doing that in 2019."

Meissner said officials of the trust chose to donate funds to Dallas Hope Center because "we've all heard the horror stories of young adults being kicked out of their homes and onto the streets." He noted that an estimated 40 percent of homeless teens self-identify as GLBTQ. In fact, he said, the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance counted, in one week, 179 young adults experiencing homelessness.

"And many of them tell the same story: They've been kicked out by parents who

Continued on next page

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Thomas among Dallas Peace and Justice Center award winners

FROM STAFF REPORTS

The Rev. Neil G. Cazares-Thomas, senior pastor of Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ, was among the local leaders who received awards at the Dallas Peace and Justice Center’s annual Peacemaker Awards Banquet, held Thursday night, Dec. 6, at the Double-Tree Campbell Center.

Dallas Peace and Justice Center presented Cazares-Thomas with a “Justice Seeker of the Year” award in recognition of his efforts in promoting peace and justice since his arrival in Dallas.

“This is huge honor, and I am humbled to receive this award,” Cazares-Thomas said. “I am only the public face of Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ, a congregation that has long been involved in the work of peace and justice. I receive this in honor of the past, present and future Cathedral.

“The work of justice and peace and mat-



The Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas

ters of our faith are vital to the Cathedral, and we are commanded to make this world a more peaceful and just place,” he said.

Cazares-Thomas was joined at the event Thursday by members of the Cathedral’s Board of Stewards.

Others honored at the event were Hadi Jawad, Julio Acosta, Green Source DFW, Force for Immigrant’s Rights and Empowerment (FIRE) and Jan Sanders, widow of U.S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders, who received the Lifetime Peacemaker award.

Those honored in memoriam were the Rev. Dawson Tunnel, Isabelle Collora and George Crawford.

Continued from previous page

think their sexual orientation or gender identity is a sin,” Meissner said. “We join the center in asking all our community to come together and aggressively deal with the crisis.”

Dallas Hope Center has already opened transitional housing for homeless GLBTQ youth and is providing shelter and making medical and psychological care available, Messiner noted, “with guidance for a future that includes employment and education.”

The center has “an emergency need” to expand that to at least 10 beds, Meissner said. And Dallas Hope Charities Director Jason Vallejo and Development Director

Cline Taplin both said this week there are even greater things to come.

Vallejo and Taplin said this week that Dallas Hope Charities currently has a one-bedroom apartment available, and a bank has offered the agency a larger house, assumed by the bank through foreclosure, to use once the agency has funds to cover the costs of operating a larger facility. They said they estimate it would cost about \$250,000 a year to operate.

Dallas Hope Charities’ eventual plan, though, is to have a much larger, multi-unit facility, with one side dedicated to housing for LGBTQ youth, and the other to housing for LGBTQ seniors.



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While Valdez didn't win the governor's seat in Texas, her campaign still has some victories to claim: Valdez closed the electoral gap between herself and Abbott by 6 percent compared to the 2014 election when Abbott defeated popular and high-profile Democratic state Sen. Wendy Davis. Valdez got more than 1.7 million more votes than Davis did, and almost 800,000 more votes than Abbott did in his first governor's race.

In addition to being the first lesbian to run for governor in Texas, she was the first Latina to run for the office. And she was only the fourth woman to receive a major party's nomination for governor in Texas.

Had she won, Valdez would have been only the third Catholic governor in Texas — Abbott is Catholic, as was Francis Lubbock who served from 1861 to 1863. But Valdez would have been the first Texas governor to have been born Catholic rather than converting after marrying a Catholic.

All of those factors figured into making her election a long shot in red Texas. But Valdez addressed that the night she won her runoff against Andrew White, son of former Gov. Mark White: "I am constantly hearing this is going to be such an uphill battle," she told a crowd of supporters gathered for her runoff. "Please, tell me when I didn't have an uphill battle."

Parker said Valdez connected to everyday people across Texas.

"Lupe is Texas," Parker said. "She built bridges. She connected to kids facing their own challenges. Win or lose, she was inspirational."

While she doesn't expect Valdez to run another statewide race, she said she hopes she stays engaged, especially with the state's growing Spanish-speaking population. She can, Parker predicted, "be an amazing bridge-builder" with that community.

Valdez has been part of the Victory Fund family since her first campaign, and Parker said she expects the former sheriff will remain involved, teaching a new generation of candidates across the country how to run for office.

For Equality Texas CEO Chuck Smith, Valdez's story is compelling. "She's who we are as Texans," he said. She demonstrates "our grit; our resourcefulness. We persevere through anything. She speaks to many people."

And incoming Stonewall Democrats President Brandon Vance called Valdez an inspiration. "Her race was great in that way, especially to black and brown children," Vance said, noting that young minority children can look at Valdez and said, "I can serve the public. She just did it."

Vance said she inspired him to become the first African-American president of Stonewall and to run for public office himself. Most recently, Vance was a candidate in the Dallas City Council District 4 special election in November.

Vance also praised Valdez for being openly LGBT, too. "Over the years, she's been open about who she is," he said, noting that the first time he met Valdez, he was at the Round-Up Saloon.

A friend told Vance, "Hey, there's the Dallas County sheriff," and he responded, "What's she doing here?" His friend answered, "Just enjoying herself with friends."

So Vance walked over and introduced himself to the sheriff who was, he said, warm and gracious. Vance said he told her then that she made him proud.

Resource Center CEO Cece Cox praised Valdez's gubernatorial campaign for raising visibility. "In Texas, it's no small feat to run as an openly gay candidate," Cox said. "We know she didn't win, but her race was an act of bravery in itself."

And, Cox said, Valdez inspired other people to run and be involved during her tenure as sheriff. "What I have noticed is that she showed up everywhere," even though she could have played it safe by staying on the sidelines of the LGBT community, Cox said.

"But a lot of organizations would ask her to do things and she would show up every time," Cox said. "She was engaged with the community."

There are very few female sheriffs, Cox said. So "having an out, elected official in a position traditionally held by a man, that again opens up those doors and conversations and opportunities for people who come after her. Maybe someday we'll get to a place where sexual orientation doesn't matter, a time when what matters is what kind of person we are and how well we do our jobs. But we aren't there yet."

Mark Phariss, who ran for a state Senate seat in Far North Dallas and Collin County, called the Valdez campaign historic.

"I went block walking with her and she's a hard worker," Phariss said. "She very savvy. I respect her as a campaigner and like her as a person. I enjoyed spending time with her."

Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance President Patti Fink said Valdez has given people in the community hope.

"She's been elected four times," Fink said. "She's shown you can be LGBT, elected and out."

She called Valdez an amazing leader in the past and expects her to continue to be a role model for the LGBT community in the future.



won 44 percent of the vote against the incumbent, right-winger Tony Tinderholt, Libertarian Jessica Pallett — shows that trans candidates can run good campaigns in Texas, and in the future will win.

Mark Phariss raised more money and came in closer than any Democratic candidate ever has in Collin County. He ran for a state sen-

ate seat, and he won a majority of votes in the Dallas portion of the district, in Plano and in unincorporated portions of Collin County.

Phariss had a good showing throughout the district but lost McKinney by about the number of votes by which he lost the race. Angela Paxton, wife of the incumbent Texas attorney general, won, but only by 2 percentage points over Phariss.

As with most of the LGBT candidates running, Phariss was a first-time candidate who hasn't decided whether he'll run again — but he is not ruling it out.

Lorie Burch ran about as well as Phariss, and she raised about as much money as he did, in her bid for a U.S. congressional seat. The district is redder than Phariss' state senate district because it doesn't include any portions of blue Dallas County.

Burch did especially well among many of Collin County's rapidly-growing number of Texas newcomers. She outperformed Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign in the district: Clinton lost to Trump by 27 points in 2016, and Burch closed that gap against Republican Van Taylor by 17 points. To do that in just one election cycle, she said, is something "we really feel positive about."

Burch said this week she now sees her loss as a "blessing in disguise," because this first time around no one on her campaign had any real political experience, but this race did allow her to build a solid foundation for what she intends to be a future victory.

"There's been a lot of lessons learned," Burch said. "I would never say anything is easy, but we'd definitely have a strong shot at winning it all in 2020. At first, I didn't think I would even contemplate running again. But the minute we saw the numbers coming in on Election Night, I couldn't



U.S. House candidate Lorie Burch, center, with her wife, Kimberly Kantor, left, and daughters

think of a reason I wouldn't."

Brandon Vance was one of two LGBT candidates who ran in a special election to fill a vacancy on the Dallas City Council. He called his experience fascinating.

"With 13 candidates, it turned into a positive race," he said. "We all became friends."

He said the campaign was "cordial and kind." So kind, in fact, that eight of the candidates went out to dinner together after the election. And only scheduling prevented more of them from joining.

The seat will be up again in May, but Vance isn't going to throw his hat in the ring that quickly. In January, he'll start his term as president of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, which will keep him busy.

Although he plans to run for office again, he hopes to run in a race where he had time to "put in the work to run a successful campaign."

But as Smith said, we did very well in North Texas. In January, we'll have more out lesbians from Dallas County serving in the legislature than some counties in Texas have out lesbians.

"This," Burch said, "is how we change hearts and minds," adding that "what changed this election cycle is that we did have candidates running. We had choices. And there was a concerted effort to get out the vote."

With the success of these candidates, and that of other LGBT candidates around the state, Burch said, "All people who feel marginalized and un-represented will feel inspired to step up and run for office. We need to have a seat at the table. This is how we will get that seat."

And that is why our Rainbow Wave candidates — those who won and those who didn't — join Lupe Valdez as our LGBT Texans of the Year. ■

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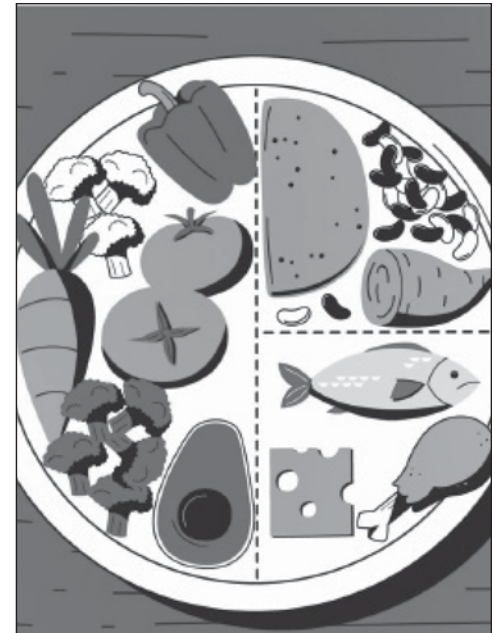
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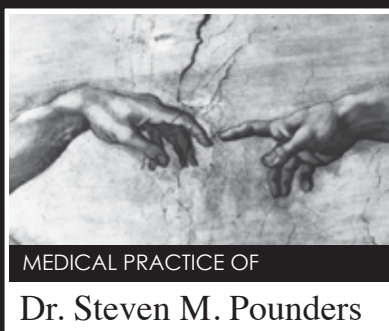
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■ commUNITYvoices

‘Tis the season (for condemning the Salvation Army)

What would the holidays be without the annual ranting about the Salvation Army? Already the traditional social media postings have begun making the rounds — each one delivered in the hope that it will go viral.

Most everyone is aware of that religious-based agency’s well-documented history of discrimination towards the LGBT community. We’re also not finding much credence in the double-speak issued by the national headquarters’ public relations department trying to challenge this reality.

We are justified calling out the Salvation Army. In the past, LGBT advocates have demanded a written apology in the midst of what Salvation Army calls its efforts to be inclusive. But getting an apology from any organization for its ill treatment of LGBT people is extremely rare; having a religious entity admit that we deserve their concern is even more of a pipe dream.

But I just don’t know if the LGBTQ folk direly in need of shelter share our activist concerns. A warm place to sleep safely overrides the demand for justice and inclusion that many of us dish out from our own positions of privilege.

Last year, about this same time, I lobbed my most scathing — and now final — salvo at the Salvation Army. And then a few days later, a longtime friend and former employee challenged my viewpoint.

Kira Bergman Casimir had gotten her college degree and had become a family violence counselor at the Dallas Salvation Army shelter. She asked me to meet her there so she could introduce me to the Dallas operations director, Blake Petterman. I agreed, and I ended up spending a long time talking to these two women.

My takeaway was that Blake is the real deal. She has a firm grip on the hard realities of homelessness. She made the effort to help me move away from my own personal level of comfort so that I could begin understanding the issue. She also has a very developed insight into the LGBT community. The shelter under her watch has been criticized. So she listened. And she made changes.

Today, in 2018, the Dallas Salvation Army is, in my opinion, the safest and most accepting of all the area shelters. It’s



have only surface knowledge. Leaders in our community, including transgender advocates, support Ms. Petterman and her staff’s commendable efforts. In Dallas, at this moment, the Salvation Army is fulfilling its mission of providing shelter in a dignified manner for the homeless, including LGBT people. Let us hope this continues.

I have seen and worked with a few Blake Pettermans during my time as an activist. They are gold. They have a vision that transcends the organizations that employ them.

It seems to always involve a religious entity sworn to service for the higher good of everyone. But beneath the surface of their lofty goal is the nagging reality that keeping their promise includes accepting and helping a group that they, in their moral superiority, deem sinful and thus, unworthy.

But somehow, progressive individuals like Blake Petterman managed to find rules within these agencies supporting their vision of truly working for the good of all. Their work is brilliant, and it allows them good leverage.

But change is inevitable. The day arrives when that progressive person is no longer at the helm, and assumptions have a tendency to quickly revert quickly when they are gone. When that happens, our LGBT community is so often left scrambling.

The maddening part is these organizations insist on trying to maintain the illusion of inclusiveness, even though they’ve made their real position very clear through their actions. And their message to LGBT people is always the same: We will let you in, but only if you stay quiet about your identity.

That way, they convince themselves

not perfect. But it is what’s available. And it serves well the needs of the homeless in this community.

These are needs of which we more privileged types

they are delivering on the promise of their mission, while at the same time not letting us sinners taint their piety.

I am feeling good about Blake Petterman. Between her incredible work and the national body’s bumbling efforts to make it totally clear they embrace LGBT people, there is an optimism that the services they provide in Dallas will be maintained and serve as a constructive model for the rest of the country.

Add into this conversation Oak Lawn United Methodist Church, a church in the heart of the gayborhood that at one time turned its back on the LGBT community. Today, the two lead pastors at the church, Rachel Baughman and Heather Gottas, are making strides to develop their ministry for the homeless of the Oak Lawn area. They initiated an emergency shelter effort during a bad freeze last winter and were so moved by what they experienced that today they are creating a real program.

Since the early 1990s when Oak Lawn UMC closed its doors to the LGBT community, a faction of the UMC has become all-inclusive and welcoming. This church is part of that movement and does broad outreach to LGBT people. They have also apologized for abandoning their LGBT neighbors in the past.

Both of these organizations deserve our praise and financial support. Now is the time for the Dallas LGBT community to establish services that concentrate on the needs of homeless LGBT. Housing is incredibly difficult to establish. This is our best hope.

We are a community that has proven it can accomplish the near-impossible. But we have to abandon our uninformed high ground and commit to doing the work if we hope to make that happen.

We all want to say we are concerned about the homeless. But the unfortunate truth is that few of us really want to get that close. So we have to choose between joining an effort already underway or abandoning the notion that we actually care.

And choosing to be involved means setting aside our preconceived notions about homelessness and actually listening to what homeless people tell us they really need to survive.



Laura Carrizales and Mel Arizpe, aka Mi Diva Loca, head to Helsinki later this month to compete in the world finals of karaoke. (Arnold Wayne Jones)

The **dynamic** duet

Local divas (and Divas Loca)
Mel Arizpe and **Laura Carrizales**
prepare to go international at
the world finals of karaoke

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Mel Arizpe and Laura Carrizales
are widely known in the Dallas
club scene by their group name

Mi Diva Loca. But before too long, the
entire world may know who they are. And
they are as surprised by that possibility as
anyone.

Six months ago, neither Arizpe nor
Carrizales were really aware of the inter-

national singing competition known as the
Karaoke World Championship, though
they probably should have been. Their
lives — separately and together — have
been inextricable linked to music.

The two first met 11 years ago, when



called us and said, 'If you wanna get some musicians together, we have a spot for you [at the old] Sue Ellen's. If you want, you came come to build off that,'" Carrizales recalls. "That's how Mi Diva Loca came about — they made us choose a group name. It had never occurred to us in our own world. We both have full-time jobs. We would have never come up with that idea" to turn singing into a side gig.

Arizpe now hosts karaoke at the Round-Up Saloon, and they continue to perform several times a month around town, often at Alexandre's. But taking it to the next level was — once again — something someone else had to foist upon them.

Robert Olivas, another karaoke host and VOP contestant, told them this summer about auditions for the Dallas level of Karaoke World Championship (KWC) and suggested they try out. At that level, duets aren't permitted, so Arizpe and Carrizales both entered... again facing off *against* each other.

"We like to compete, and we're very competitive with each other," Arizpe says. (Adds Carrizales: "I like to compete whenever money is involved.")

Before they knew it, both had advanced — Carrizales by winning first place, Arizpe second.

"I remember it clearly, because it never happens that I beat Mel," Carrizales laughs. At the Texas state championships in Plano later in July, Arizpe won, and was flown to nationals in Las Vegas in August. Carrizales accompanied her, with the plan that Arizpe would try to be the top female vocalist, and together they could try for top duet. Arizpe lost the soloist set, but the pair became, once again, the top duetists in the land. And that meant a trip to the world finals in Helsinki, Finland from Dec. 19–21.

The prospect of singing north of the Arctic Circle in December didn't exactly thrill them at first — the event was originally going to be held in Spain — but they figured out a compromise: Fly to Barcelona for four days, then go on the Helsinki.

There are 26 teams, representing 26 countries, and the competition is what you'd expect for people on the world stage. They've heard that the pair from Brazil is the favorite, but they aren't focusing too much on the other teams ("you mean like karaoke warfare?" Carrizales asks), only on themselves.

"The trick is not to make any unforced errors," Carrizales says. That means, finding outfits to perform in that are comfortable and eye-catching (they are looking for something white to stand out against the many black gowns they anticipate from other contestants), good song choice and

both made it to the final round of the Voice of Pride competition. On the night they arrived at rehearsal, they realized that they were both singing the same number.

"I was like, 'Who is that bitch singin' my song?'" Arizpe now laughs. "But she was very good and cute, though we both had girlfriends at the time."

That eventually changed. Within a few years, they were up against each other at Voice of Pride 2010, but also working in tandem, as that year the rules permitted a duet category. Arizpe came in first place; Carrizales took home second; and together, they won the duets. It was a total sweep.

But it also transformed their performing life.

"A few days after we won, Anton Shaw

■ DUET Page 23

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A campy, poignant 'Judy Christmas' at Uptown; and why it may be time for DTC to rehearse a new 'Carol'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES

Executive Editor

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Judy Garland gave us one of the most enduring holiday songs, "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and she hosted some of the iconic "evening with" TV shows of her era, so it doesn't seem too far-fetched that a revue built around her catalogue of songs would be a good fit for December. But when Uptown Players is involved, you know they won't tackle that chestnut head-on with just a playlist of carols... especially with a mischievous elf like B.J. Cleveland behind the scenes as writer and director, and Janelle Lutz — whose performances as Judy are still indelibly seared on our collective theatergoing experience — adding her touches of wit and tragedy.

And so the world-premiere of *A Very Judy Christmas*, coming down the chimney of the Kalita through Dec. 16, is not merely a collection of two dozen songs (though there is that), but a charming and occasionally emotional glass of holiday cheer.

It's putatively 1963, on the faux living room set of a TV Christmas special (though tons of anachronisms elbow the audience about the artifice of it all), and Judy Garland is welcoming guests to her nog-flowing party — among them,



A VERY JUDY CHRISTMAS

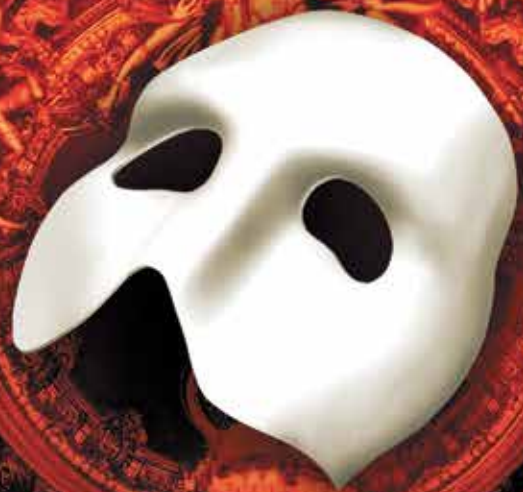
Kalita Humphreys Theater,
3636 Turtle Creek Blvd.
Through Dec. 16
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celebrity pals Marilyn Monroe (Grace West), Pearl Bailey (Dana Harper), Ethel Merman (B.J. Cleveland), Frank Sinatra (Jeff Wells)

and Mel Tormé (Christopher Curtis). They come, tell some anecdotes, drink a

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most of all minimizing the ways things can get screwed up.

Because it is a karaoke event, there will be projected lyrics for all the singers (though most, of course, will have committed the words to memory). But there is still room for mess-ups on the pre-recorded tracks, where the wrong version of a song is used, or it is set in a different key or arrangement than they expect. (That plagued Arizpe during one of her solos at nationals in Vegas.)

They will get to sing at least two songs, with the top five cumulative scores going on to the final round and a third, deciding performance. And frankly, the number of duets written for two women are few and far between. So they went with one of their go-to selections: “Does He Love You,” popularized by Reba McIntire with several co-stars (Linda Davis, Carrie Underwood, Kelly Clarkson). “We’ve used it before. We wanted something we’re super comfortable with, and it’s already a duet,” Carrizales says. They will also do a version of Adele’s “All I Ask.”

If they make it into the top 5, they have made the conscious decision to go with Ike and Tina Turner’s “River Deep, Mountain High.”

“We decided, everyone’s gonna be singing ballads — what will make us stand



out? So let’s do something upbeat,” Arizpe says. They considered leading off with that one, actually but decided to save it for the close... if they make it there.

Which, in the end, makes it all come down to a bit of luck: Will their voices sound OK in the cold air? Will they follow

the Brazil team — or some other unknown frontrunner — and be psyched out? Carrizales says all these factors turn it into something akin to *Survivor Karaoke*.

“Ultimately, we are facing the best singers in the world,” she says. “The people are from all over the world, and

many will be singing in English because most pop songs are *in* English. So even if we don’t win, we’ve already won. It sure would be nice, but this will be an adventure from beginning to end. And hey, if we lose, we have four days to hang out and enjoy ourselves!” ■

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Tech-Mex

Visionary filmmaker Alfonso Cuarón goes retro with the amazing 'Roma'

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Alfonso Cuarón is probably as responsible as any current filmmaker, other than Spielberg, Cameron and perhaps Ang Lee, for helping steer us toward the limits of moviemaking. With *Children of Men*, which combined a documentary style with seamlessly processed long takes, and then *Gravity*, the near-space thriller that won him an Oscar, he has in just a handful of films demonstrated a forward-looking sophistication.

So you might be surprised to realize his newest film, *Roma*, is actually *by* him. It looks backward in almost every way: It's in black-and-white in the first instance. It doesn't rely on any stars. And its lopey, studied slowness vigorously conjures the films of the Italian neorealists (De Sica,

Rossellini, early Fellini and Visconti). And it is *brilliant*.

It comes as a shock to me, too. Critics think of classical neorealism, which arose as a reaction to fascism in the wake of Italy's devastation in the years immediately following World War II, as a point in time — one that paved the way for future movements (the French nouvelle vague, India's "parallel cinema," Britain's "kitchen sink" dramas, and less directly, the American cynicinema of the 1970s), but which *ended*. Maybe mockumentary and found-footage films owed a nod to neorealism, but no one has seriously attempted to capture that moment again?

But *Roma* does it. (Even the title is almost certainly a nod to the neorealist classic *Rome, Open City*.) Cuarón lulls us into the situation. The film opens with a still shot of what we eventually realize is a tile floor. As the camera begins to move, you subtly realize it almost never stops moving in rich, wide-screen panoramas, while action takes place within the *mise-en-scene*. We're



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literally immersed in the world of an upper-middle-class family living in the once-tony-but-still-elegant Roma neighborhood of Mexico City in 1970. The live-in maid and nanny, Cleo, takes care of the four children of Sofia and her absent, controlling husband Antonio. Cleo quietly endures the demanding expectations placed on her and the minor assaults on her dignity, and carves out dates with Fermin, an ambitious young man. When Cleo becomes pregnant, it triggers a flood of regret, hope and confusion, as her own pending role as a mother contrasts with her role of de facto maternal figure to the young kids.

But Cuarón doesn't broadcast to us what his point is, or even his point of view (that moving camera helps). When you think it will be a coming-of-age story, it changes gears; as you settle into the idea that it will become a melodrama, he inserts sly political commentary. In each frame, he painstakingly creates moments, played out with unrushed verisimilitude and long shots that breathlessly conjure a period of personal and social unrest, played out over one year, that is both universal and specific. As plot-heavy potboilers go, there's not much going on here. But for fans of serious cinema, it's a staggering achievement. ■

Now playing at the Magnolia; Roma will debut on Netflix on Dec. 14.

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hot toddy or six, and sing a few songs. At first it has the structure of a *Saturday Night Live* sketch (or a drag show), where the cast show their versatility at impersonations ... and the impersonations are pretty stellar. But as the show progresses, Cleveland-the-playwright throws in sly historical references, digs at contemporary society, gags about alcoholism and pill-popping, and, ultimately, a poignant appreciation for the significance Garland plays in the gay firmament.

Until then, we are treated to a breathy Marilyn singing “Diamonds Are a Girl’s Best Friend,” a silken-voice Harper killing it as Pearl Bailey, Cleveland as a blowsy Ethel (and later as an older Liza) chewing up the scenery as only he can and Trevor Wright, a stand-in for all the gay boys who loved (and often married) into the Minnelli clan.

But it’s largely Lutz’s show. She sings only two solos — the lead-off “Some-

where Over the Rainbow” and the closer “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” — but duets on many others, and there are long stretches where you’re certain you’re watching the reincarnation of Judy. The tone of her voice is spot-on, and her expressive eyes capture the sadness and genius of Garland. An especially memorable moment is the mash-up duet of “Happy Days/Get Happy” between Lutz and Sarah Elizabeth Price

A CHRISTMAS CAROL
Wyly Theatre,
2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 30.
DallasTheaterCenter.org.

as a young Liza. Then she improves banter with the actual audience with a bitchy camp sensibility that Uptown Players’ exceeds at. In fact, it’s such a delightful sleigh ride of song and sentiment that I hope this becomes an annual tradition in North Texas. We need a little Christmas, right this very minute... and at least until the next election.

Since the Dallas Theater Center moved its annual staging of *A Christmas Carol* to the Wyly Theatre about a decade ago, it has employed artistic director Kevin Moriarty’s adaptation of Dickens’ story of holiday redemption — an industrial, bleak world that ends with Scrooge keeping the season in his heart. The theater has gussied up each year’s version with tweaks — new director, new leading actor, sometimes super-imposing social critique as well, such as making Scrooge a woman two years ago. But I think it’s finally time for the DTC to do something more radical.

The version now playing through December casts Alex Organ as probably the youngest Ebenezer yet, and while Scrooge was probably much younger than the shriveled curmudgeon he’s often played as (after all, his older sister, Fanny, died giving birth to his nephew Fred, who couldn’t be more than about 25; Scrooge probably hasn’t left his 40s yet), the casting of Organ doesn’t quite work... and points out the weaknesses in the script and design.

If you’re one of those who sees the production every year, you could probably recite every line from memory, and it feels like Organ is so intent on breathing a different sensibility into the lines, he doesn’t project the same style of black-hearted misery that makes his transformation feel meaningful. There’s also the gnawing disconnect of how Scrooge soured soooooo quickly on the holiday spirit (in one scene, he’s laughing it up with Mr. Fezziwig; in the next, he’s plotting his ruin) that you wonder if he was ever a good person in the first place, or a predator lying in wait for his mentor to slip up. Sure, by the end, your cockles are properly warmed — I like Jahi Kears as Bob Cratchit, and director Tiffany Nichole Greene’s casting of the Ghosts of Christmas Present as a pair of Thing 1/Thing 2 scamps — gives a lovely jolt of energy. But the sewer-like set is cumbersome and ultimately a distraction. After 10 years, it seems a humbug to continually trot out this warhorse for one more campaign. Here’s hoping that the new year, the regifting will end and something fresh will come about. ■

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**Tuesday 12.12 —
Sunday 12.16**

Ralphie sings in musical of 'A Christmas Story'

In the 1940s, a boy from the Midwest longs for a BB gun but suspects his parents won't approve. That sense of longing, and the nostalgia of family during the holidays from the POV of a child, form the basis of the hit film *A Christmas Story*, which was adapted as a stage musical by the team of Pasek and Paul (*Dear Evan Hansen*, *The Greatest Showman*), which has a limited run at the Winspear this week.

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



**Thursday
12.14**

'The Nutty Nutcracker' makes fun of the holiday staple

You get many chances to see the traditional version of *The Nutcracker*, but once every year,

Texas Ballet Theater pulls out all the stops to go more comic than heartwarming with *The Nutty Nutcracker*. Imagine how different Christmas morning would be with Edward Scissorhands rather than the Rat King! This zany parody dances into Bass Hall for one night only.

DEETS: Bass Performance Hall,
525 Commerce St., Fort Worth.
TexasBalletTheater.org.
BassHall.com.

Saturday 12.08

Teddy Bear Party returns to make holidays happy for kids

Since 2009, the Teddy Bear Party has held a big seasonal blowout that's not only fun but brings some joy to underprivileged children by requiring a plush teddy bear for admission. It returns this Saturday to the Fashion Industry Gallery. DJ Blacklow spins, with a musical performance by Brian Justin Crum.

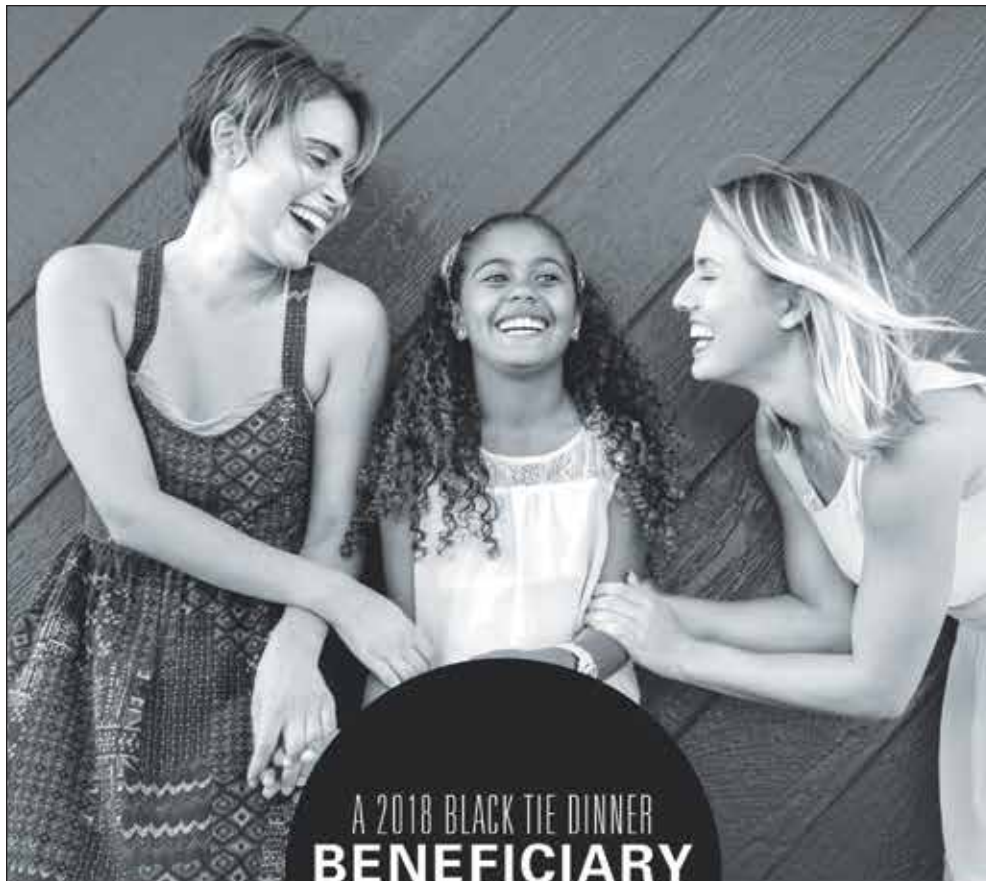
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ARTSWEEK
THEATER

The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents: 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. *Reviewed this week.* Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 30. DallasTheaterCenter.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 Dec. 16. 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. Dec. 6–23. 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. Dec. 6–22. 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. *Reviewed this week.* Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Dec. 16. 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 creche 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)

MONDAY 12.10

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 12.11

FILM

Auntie Mame. Rosalind Russell's flamboyant, heartfelt performance is the cherry on this delightful sundae of a movie about a young boy and his Bohemian guardian. 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.

THEATER

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

THURSDAY 12.13

CABARET

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

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Cassie Nova

Cassie gets in (and out) of the holiday season

Hello, my pretties! 'Tis the season of good tidings, mistletoe and other cliché Christmas crap. I am not saying I am a Scrooge or a Grinch, but when y'all start playing Christmas music the day after Halloween, by the time Christmas actually gets here, I just want it to be over. When I was a kid, I never in a million years thought I would say anything close to that, but as an adult I feel I have been ass-raped by Santa's candy cane by the time the joyous day actually arrives.

To be honest, I love Christmas, but I only have a good two weeks of Christmas cheer in me ... that have to be split up into about seven weeks' worth of celebrations. I love (non-Hallmark Channel) Christmas movies — you know, the classics: *A Christmas Story*, *Christmas Vacation*, *Die Hard* and *Scrooged*. I remember seeing *Scrooged* in the theater with my mom, and at the end, when they sing, "Put A Little Love In Your Heart," I swear the entire theater was clapping and singing along — so corny, but I got emotional. That was a great Christmas memory.

Have you watched *The Christmas Chronicles* on Netflix? It's goofy and sweet and awful and wonderful all at the same time. Perfect kids movie, but I will say: Kurt Russell as Santa Claus ... damn, he looked fine AF. His beard did something to me. Hot daddy alert! My fat ass would like to sit on his lap and talk about the first thing that pops up. Now I feel dirty.

I actually like some Christmas music. Jessie J, Kelly Clarkson and Cyndi Lauper all have kick-ass Christmas albums. But none of them are as good as the best damn Christmas album of all time: Kenny & Dolly's *Once Upon A Christmas* from like 1986. One song, "A Christmas to Remember," talks about hooking up and having sex after just meeting then right into a song about the blessed birth of Jesus. I love it. Seriously, it is a great album.

The best Christmas gift I ever received was from my mother: a Pomeranian puppy I named Dax. That gift changed my life forever. I owe every bit of happiness I have in my life today to that dog. He took away so much loneliness and desperation I was feeling at the time and opened my heart up to love and be loved. I know I have probably written about that be-

fore, but I will share that story every chance I get. There is nothing like the love of a furbaby.

Oh, shit. I just realized I am doing the same thing I was just bitching about: forcing Christmas down your throat ... and it is just the first week of December. Oh well, at least I waited until December. I'm talking to you Wal-Mart. Now let's see if we can help some folks out!

Dear Cassie, I have been a fan of yours for several years now. I no longer live in Dallas, but I read your column all the time. I could use some advice. I separated from my partner a few years ago and have since gotten a divorce. I'm almost 30 now, and I don't feel like I belong anywhere anymore. I'm very shy and have an extremely hard time meeting people. My past relationships have destroyed my self-esteem and my trust in people. I have been cheated on much that I'm not sure I can ever trust again. So do you have any advice to make help take away this feeling? Thanks, Signed Lonely in Houston.

Dear L in H, First off, thank you for being a fan. I truly appreciate it. Now do I have any advice that can take away what you are feeling? No, I am not some godlike being, regardless of what you have heard. Have you tried alcohol? Just kiddin'. Being cheated on sucks big time and, unfortunately, can have a lasting effect on your emotions. Men can be the most horrible creatures on the planet, but they can also be the most wonderful; you just gotta give them the chance. Easy to say, harder to put into practice.

Earlier I talked about how getting a dog helped change my heart. Do you have a dog? You should think about getting one if not. Taking a dog to the dog park is a great way to start talking to guys. It's hard to be shy when you have a dog as your wing-man. Make sure he or she is well trained. Your dog is a reflection of you — if they don't like your dog, they won't like you.

Volunteer at some place that means something to you. It's a great way to meet like-minded individuals that could lead to great friendships or more. Stop putting so much pressure on yourself to meet a guy and hurry into a relationship. Desperation looks good on no one ever.

I know you are shy but you have to take



risks. Force yourself to smile at someone you don't know just to be friendly. Send a message to someone you are interested in on Facebook or Insta, just asking if they want to hang out sometime. I know it's hard and uncomfortable to put yourself out there, but where there's no risk there's no reward. Good luck and chin up. Don't self-sabotage. You can't fill your heart with love if you don't open it up. Love, Cassie.

Dear Cassie, I have been doing drag for almost a year now, and I love it. I need some advice on what to do when you know someone is sitting in the audience and they hate you and talk shit about you all the time. It makes me uncomfortable. What should I do? Thank you, New2dis.

Dear New2dis, Bitch please, if you ain't

hated you ain't doin' it right. Doing drag, either you develop a thicker skin or quit. I get it though — you want love and adoration, but when you know someone is in the audience reading you, it can affect you in one of two ways. Either you get in your head too much and it keeps you from enjoying yourself, or you can use it as fuel and kill it onstage.

I guarantee you that every performer has dealt with this: it is just part of the game. But there is no greater feeling than succeeding at your craft while your haters look on. Always do your best and let them read you from where? The audience... while you are in the spotlight! Eat my glitter, bitch!

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



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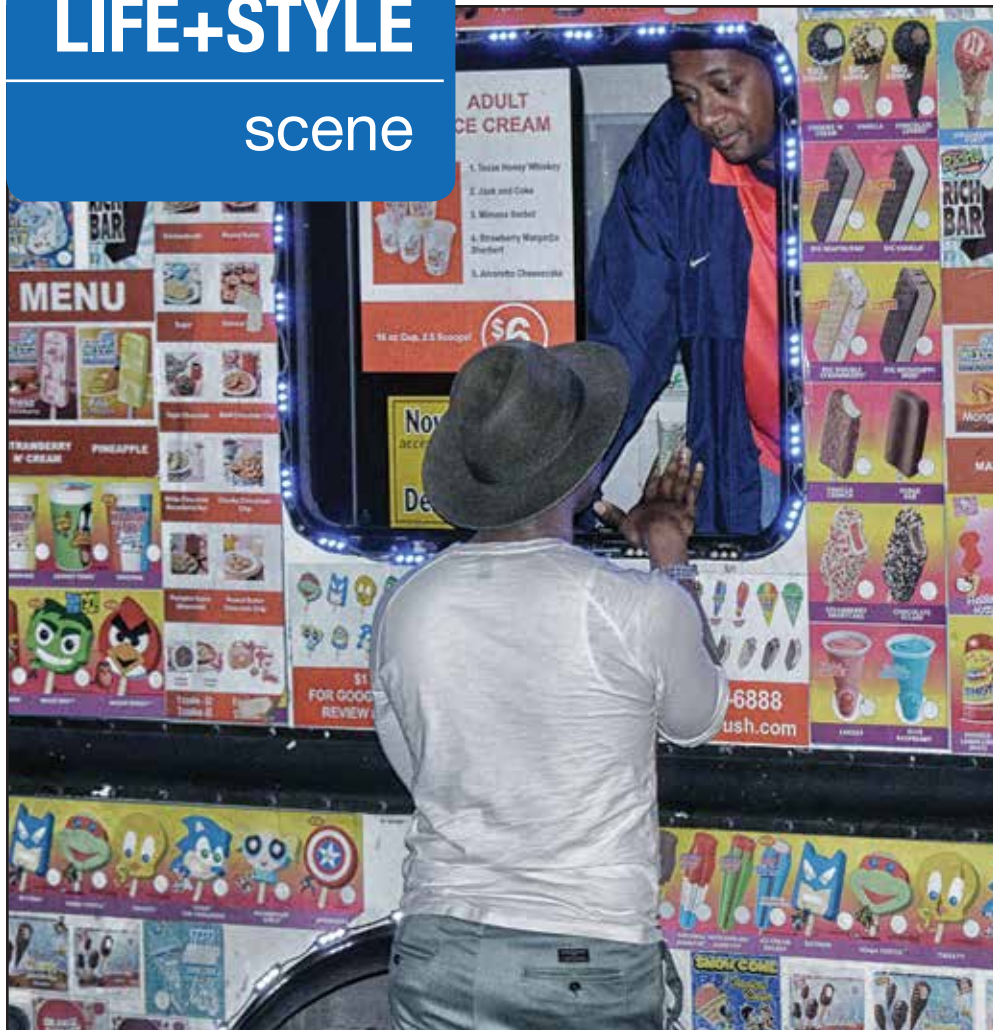
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Time for some ice cream in the gayborhood

Making the SCENE the week of Dec. 7-13:

- **1851 Club:** Barbie Davenport, Sapphire Davenport and Dantel McKim at 10:30 p.m. on Friday. Tara St. Stone, Candi Carroll and Rochelle Roulette at 10:30 p.m. on Saturday.
- **515 Bar:** Karaoke Party at 9 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Alexandre's:** Girls Night Out with Peggy Honea on Friday. Vero Voz y Compania on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie Broadway on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Poker Night at 7 p.m. on Friday. Hangover Brunch at 10 a.m. on Saturday. Drag on Tap at 9 p.m. on Monday. Geeks Who Drink at 7 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Club Reflection:** Imperial Court Show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** United Court presents "Anything Under the Tree" on Friday. Discipline Corps Club Night on Friday. TDFW presents the "Warm Hearts, Warm People" Coat Drive on Saturday. Twisted Party on Saturday. Miss Gay Texas Benefit Show on Sunday.
- **Hard Rock Cafe:** Drag Brunch at 1 p.m. on Sunday. Reservations required. \$5 cover donated to Hard Rock Heals Foundation.
- **Havana:** Game Day Cowboys Party on Sunday.
- **Hidden Door:** A special Happy Anniversary to the Hidden Door from Dallas Voice Scene. 39th Anniversary Party with buffet at 7 p.m. and specials all day on Thursday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** Cassie's Freak Show at 11 p.m. on Monday. Krystal Summers and Girls Like Us at 11 p.m. Tuesday.
- **Marty's Live:** Miss Wanda's Show at its new home from 9 p.m.-midnight on Sunday.
- **Pekers:** Progressive cash prize at Totally Twisted Karaoke on Friday and Saturday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** Jockstrap Sports Happy Hour from 6-9 p.m. on Friday. Sunday Funday Dance Party at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Mancandy at 8 p.m. on Sunday. The Showdown at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** Kristmas with the Karmichaels benefiting Tuckers Gift and Lifewalk at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room:** The Austin Baptist Women with Linze Serell, Patti Le Plae Safe, Sable Alexander, Lipps LaRue, Celeste Martinez and Victoria Weston in "Bells, Baubles & Baptist Women," benefiting Texas Red Ribbon Wish Network, at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Gay Kickball presents Bases & Faces Drag Contest, hosted by Jada Fox, at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Urban Cowboy:** RuPaul's Drag Race Holi-Slay Spectacular Watch Party at 7 p.m. on Friday.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar:** Dallas Lonestar Basketball League raffle during the Cowboys-Eagles Watch Party from 3-6:30 p.m. on Sunday.

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



The "Pam Presents" event at Sue Ellen's



The DFW Sisters and DJ C-Rail recently presented "Diva Night: The Glow Up" at Dallas Eagle, a glow dance party that raised \$2,795.40 for Resource Center's Food Pantry (above). Sisters presented the check to Bill Scott with Resource Center on Nov. 30 (below).

Photos courtesy of DFW Sisters.



Cassie's Freakmas Show

Benefitting Sam Houston Elementary's Secret Santa Program • Photos courtesy of Chad Mantooth, Justin Dean Davis, Roger Huffman and Jeremy Pierce



World AIDS Day @Cathedral of Hope & @C.U.R.E.

Photos by David Taffet



Impulse Dallas: World AIDS Day 365 @S4



Don Maison practices being retired



Hale tries to convince Santa she's been a good girl



Max and his Mom on The Strip



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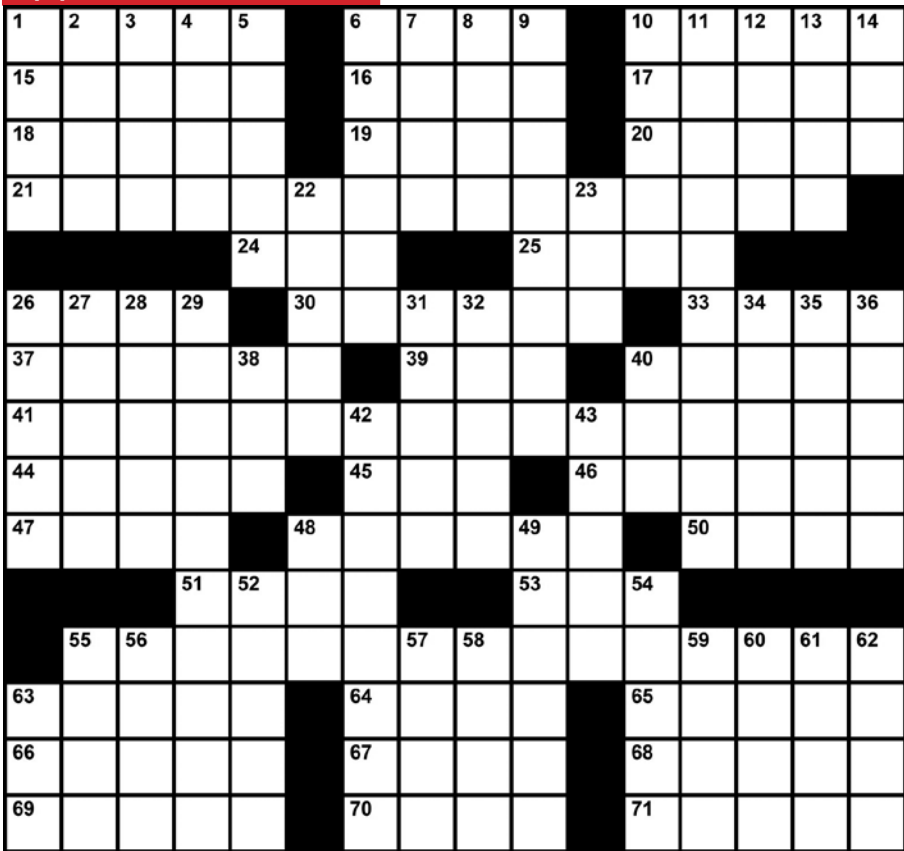
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q-puzzle



Bohemian Rhapsody

Solution on Page 29

Across

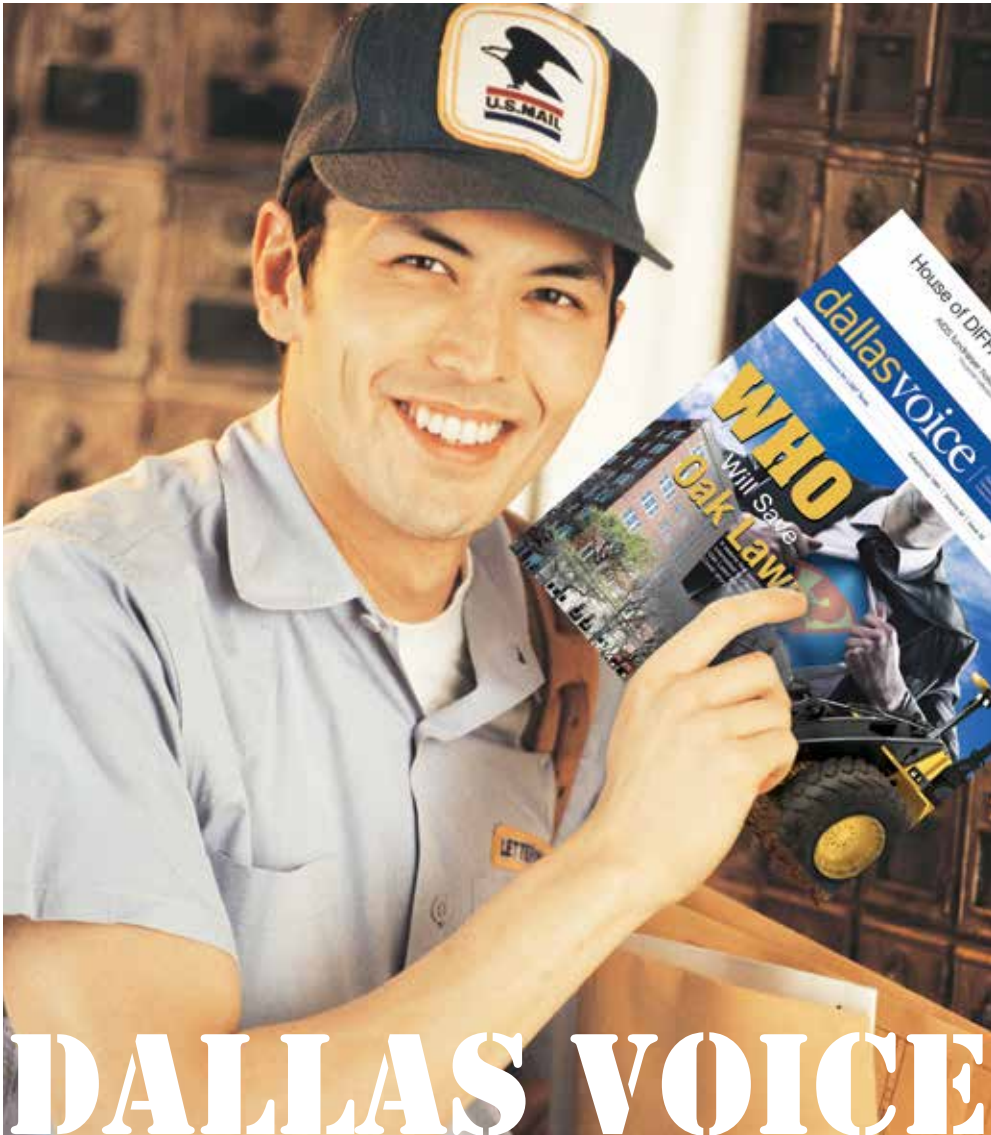
- 1 Erection supporter
- 6 Like recently cut leaves of grass
- 10 Janis Ian's "At Seventeen," e.g.
- 15 Owen of *Closer*
- 16 Fortune-teller's opening
- 17 Short story writer and poet Bret
- 18 Dog-___ (shabby)
- 19 Cabbage salad
- 20 Doubleday of balls and strikes
- 21 Start of what Freddie said to an upset Roger in *Bohemian Rhapsody*
- 24 Tooth care org.
- 25 Wine info, for Antoni Porowski
- 26 Direction from Rick Rodgers
- 30 You bend them in gay bars
- 33 Hustler from Minnesota
- 37 Coin in Lorca's pocket
- 39 Golden Girl McClanahan
- 40 Rent sign
- 41 More of what Freddie said
- 44 Lucy's gal pal
- 45 Mandela org.
- 46 Anderson Cooper, to CNN
- 47 Queens ballpark of old

- 48 Most queer
- 50 Pull down
- 51 Sound like Harvey Fierstein
- 53 Swan Lake step
- 55 End of what Freddie said
- 63 Phallic oral pleasure
- 64 Wings for Julia Morgan
- 65 "___ Tom" (Langston Hughes poem)
- 66 Got to second base, perhaps
- 67 *The King and I* setting
- 68 H2O threesome
- 69 To the point
- 70 Makes costumes, e.g.
- 71 Chaz and family

Down

- 1 *Johnny Mnemonic* actor
- 2 Vanilla
- 3 Land of Sinéad O'Connor
- 4 Declare firmly
- 5 Greek sorceress
- 6 Prayer book, to Father Mychal Judge
- 7 Capital of Norway
- 8 Get off the breast
- 9 Either wife, right after the nuptials
- 10 Butler's burden on the Tara stairway
- 11 Working stiffs
- 12 James Bond opponent
- 13 Bit from Michael Musto

- 14 Suffix with musket
- 22 Head set?
- 23 "Thumbs up!"
- 26 Undercover agents
- 27 First extra inning
- 28 "Grease ___ word!"
- 29 Run-throughs on Broadway
- 31 Mark on the rear of a steer
- 32 Cup fraction
- 34 It comes with a lei
- 35 Opera guy
- 36 *Private Parts* author Howard
- 38 "Shop ___ you drop"
- 40 Great deal
- 42 What homophobe Trump got from Access Hollywood, e.g.
- 43 Glenn Close's ___ *Attraction*
- 48 Fruit sugar ending
- 49 Orgasms, e.g.
- 52 Up ___ (stuck)
- 54 Young pigeon
- 55 Sexologist Shere
- 56 Role for Bela
- 57 Confession of mendacity
- 58 Leave marks on the back
- 59 "Render therefore ___ Caesar..."
- 60 Bus. major's study
- 61 Patron of people in the navy
- 62 Untouchable head
- 63 St. Louis clock setting



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