

# dallasvoice

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas | Established 1984 | DallasVoice.com | Volume 35 | Issue 52 | FREE | Friday, May 3, 2019

## Weddings AND CELEBRATIONS 2019







# ★ Scott Griggs

for  
**Dallas Mayor**

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**VOTE SATURDAY, MAY 4TH!**



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I am

CHAD  
WEST

FOR DALLAS CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

AND I AM ASKING FOR YOUR VOTE.

I'm a homeowner and small business owner in Oak Cliff. My family and I bought our first home south of the Trinity River over a decade ago, and we are proud to call Oak Cliff home. I love every single quirky, fun thing about our neighborhoods. I especially love that we're a tight community – a small town – in the heart of a world-class city.

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### LOCAL BUSINESS OWNER, ATTORNEY, AND VETERAN

The U.S. Army paid for Chad to go to college and eventually brought him to Texas in 1999. After serving at Fort Sam Houston and later in Bosnia and Hungary, he was honorably discharged as a combat veteran. He attended law school at Texas Tech, graduating with honors

Chad opened his law firm in Oak Cliff in 2010 and has won numerous awards for his legal advocacy. He is a four-time D Magazine "Best Lawyer," an eight-year "Readers Voice Awardee" for the Dallas Voice, a five-year selectee as "Rising Star" for Texas Super Lawyers, and he was selected as the 2012 Dallas Association of Young Lawyers – Outstanding Lawyer of the Year.

Learn more at: [ChadWestDallas.com](http://ChadWestDallas.com) | Go West!



Chad and his partner, Brian Bleeker, and their two children, Victoria and Preston, live in Stevens Park.

## ENDORSEMENTS

### ORGANIZATIONS

- ◆ 23<sup>rd</sup> Senatorial District
- ◆ Tejano Democrats
- ◆ AAGD
- ◆ Dallas AFL-CIO
- ◆ Dallas Firefighters Association
- ◆ Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance
- ◆ Dallas Morning News
- ◆ Dallas Police Association
- ◆ Dallas Sierra Club

- ◆ Dallas Stonewall Democrats
- ◆ MetroTex Association of Realtors
- ◆ National Latino Law Enforcement Organization
- ◆ Victory Fund

### CURRENT AND PAST ELECTED OFFICIALS

- ◆ Honorable Scott Griggs
- ◆ Representative Jessica Gonzalez
- ◆ Representative Julie Johnson

- ◆ Honorable Amanda Johnson
- ◆ Honorable Audrey Pinkerton
- ◆ Honorable David Dunnigan
- ◆ Honorable Elaine Lantz
- ◆ Honorable Mark Clayton
- ◆ Honorable Philip Kingston
- ◆ Representative Jim Pitts
- ◆ Honorable Angela Hunt
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- ◆ Honorable Laura Miller



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Cannon/Lucero engagement photo by Michael Bush (MBushPhotography.com). Design by Kevin Thomas.



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## VOTE

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## instanTEA

[DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea](http://DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea)



### LGBT issues come up in FWISD board election

LGBT issues became a hot topic in the race for the District 2 seat on the Fort Worth Independent School District Board of Trustees in the last week before Election Day (Saturday, May 4).

Supporters of District 2 incumbent Tobi Jackson, the current board president, are pointing to an apparent endorsement for District 2 challenger Chad McCarty by an organization called Stand for Fort Worth as evidence that Jackson is being attacked for her support of LGBT students. But McCarty, in a statement posted Sunday afternoon, April 28, to his campaign's Facebook page, denied any knowledge of Stand for Fort Worth and appeared to repudiate the endorsement.

In a statement posted to Facebook, McCarty said, "Over my years as an educator I have come to know many students from many walks of life. As an educator it is your responsibility to educate the whole child so they have the supports in place to learn and grow. I have always been there to support our LGBT families, students and staff. Any group who exists to harm them, or any other marginalized community, is a group that I do not want support from."

In a statement e-mailed to Dallas Voice, Jackson said: "All kids are welcome and loved in the FWISD, and we are going to do our best to teach them."

— Tammye Nash

### Dallas Pride announces entertainment

Dallas Pride's Miller Lite Music Festival announced headliners for the June 1 event that takes place in Fair Park.



Estelle is a Grammy award-winner known for her eclectic mix of various

musical genres including R&B, soul, reggae, grime, hip hop and dance.

Ada Vox is a San Antonio-based drag queen who sang her heart out on ABC's *American Idol*.

IDT Band features Michael Duane and Alvaro Ramalho. The Hip Van Winkles, The Roommates and the Rose Room cast round out the main stage entertainment.

Tickets for the festival go on sale on May 1 and can be purchased at [DallasPride.org](http://DallasPride.org). This year's Pride festival takes place on Saturday, June 1. The Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade has also moved and takes place in Fair Park on June 2.

— David Taffet

### Tony nominations announced

The Tony Awards, the gayest of the major arts awards (at least until the Oscars this year), were announced this week in a ceremony dragged out by awkward banter with Gayle King while most people just wanted to know who the nominees were.

#### PLAYS

Play: *Choir Boy*; *The Ferryman*; *Gary, a Sequel to Titus Andronicus*; *Ink*; *What the Constitution Means to Me*

Actor: Paddy Considine, *The Ferryman*; Bryan Cranston, *Network*; Jeff Daniels, *To Kill a Mockingbird*; Adam Driver, *Burn This*; Jeremy Pope, *Choir Boy*

Actress: Annette Bening, *All My Sons*; Laura Donnelly, *The Ferryman*; Elaine May, *The Waverly Gallery*; Janet McTeer, *Bernhardt/Hamlet*; Laurie Metcalf, *Hillary and Clinton*; Heidi Schreck, *What the Constitution Means to Me*

#### MUSICALS

Musical: *Ain't Too Proud*; *Beetlejuice*; *Hadestown*; *The Prom*; *Tootsie*

Actor: Brooks Ashmanskas, *The Prom*; Derrick Baskin, *Ain't Too Proud*; Alex Brightman, *Beetlejuice*; David Dano, *Oklahoma*; Santino Fontana, *Tootsie* Actress: Stephanie J. Block, *The Cher Show*; Caitlin Kinnunen and Beth Leavel, *The Prom*; Eva Noblezada, *Hadestown*; Kelli O'Hara, *Kiss Me Kate*

— Arnold Wayne Jones



# STONEWALL



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**District 4**  
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**District 5**  
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**District 6**  
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**District 7**  
(co-endorsements)  
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Joesph Thomas

**District 8**  
Tennell Atkins

**District 9**  
Erin Moore

**District 10**  
DeDe Alexander

**District 12**  
Cookie Peadon

**District 14**  
Philip Kingston



## Richardson City Council

**Place 3**  
Dan Barrios

**Place 4**  
Johnny Lanzillo

**Place 5**  
Mauri Long

## Cedar Hill City Council

**Place 5**  
Victor Gonzalez

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**District 4**  
Omar Jimenez

## Irving City Council

**Place 2**  
Shayan Elahi

## Duncanville DISD Board of Trustees

**District 3**  
Alexander Bomgarden

# VOTE Saturday May 4th, 7am-7pm

For voting locations go to: [dallascountyvotes.org](http://dallascountyvotes.org)

If you have any questions or feedback regarding our endorsements or the process by which we endorse,  
please contact us at the following address: [Chad@StonewallDemocratsOfDallas.org](mailto:Chad@StonewallDemocratsOfDallas.org)

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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.

## MAY

### • May 3: ASD Founders Day

AIDS Services Dallas presents awards and serves lunch at 11:30 a.m. in the courtyard of Revlon Apartments, 720 N. Lancaster Road.

### • May 3-5: \$10 Adoption Pet Special

Dallas Animal Services is hosting a \$10 adoption special at 1818 N. Westmoreland Road and PetSmart, 16821 Coit Road.

### • May 4: Election Day

Municipal elections. Polls are open 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

### • May 4: A Conversation with Dustin Lance Black

Black Tie Dinner hosts "A Conversation with Dustin Lance Black" at Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road, from noon-1 p.m. Admission is free, and copies of Black's new memoir, *Mama's Boy*, will be available for purchase. The conversation and book-signing will be preceded by a ticketed cocktail brunch with Black from 10:30-11:45. Tickets for the brunch are \$65 and include a copy of his book. All proceeds benefit the 2019 Black Tie dinner. For information and tickets, visit [BlackTie.org](http://BlackTie.org).

### • May 4: Spectrum Ensemble's 'A New Light'

Spectrum Ensemble, a new music group founded by Jaime Esposito and Stephen Hall focused on commissioning and performing new works by queer artists, presents its premier concert at 2:30 p.m. at Denton Black Box Theater, 318 E. Hickory St., Denton. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students with ID and free for children 12 and under. Proceeds benefit the Coalition for Aging LGBT.

### • May 4: Casino Party

Team Metro holds a casino party to raise money for the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund from 7-11 p.m. in Allen. Info at [GDMAF.org](http://GDMAF.org).

### • May 4: A Day at the Races

Kentucky Derby viewing, southern cuisine, mint juleps, open bar and live music from the Taylor Pace Orchestra benefiting the Turtle Creek Conservancy from 4-7:30 p.m. at Arlington Hall, Turtle Creek Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. Tickets at [DallasDerbyParty.org](http://DallasDerbyParty.org). \$150.

### • May 4: Prime Timers

Meet Dave and Mike on the NW corner of Tenth and Beckley Avenue in Oak Cliff to stroll through Taste of Oak Cliff at 12:30 p.m.

### • May 4: Angela's Drag Brunch

Chanel Champagne, Sable Alexander and more at 11:30 a.m. at Cafe Del Rio, 401 Central Expressway South, Allen.

### • May 7: Classic Chassis Car Club

LGBT car enthusiasts meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave.

### • May 7: DPD Listening Tour

Dallas Police Department North Central Division listening tour from 6:30-8 p.m. Location to be announced.

### • May 7: Prime Timers

Lunch and games at 11:30 a.m. at Golden Corral, 3312 Forest Lane.

### • May 9-13: Purple Party

Seven parties all about high energy music and higher-energy dancing. The marathon party raises money for AIDS Services Dallas and other HIV and LGBT organizations in Dallas. Individual tickets are \$5-100 at [PurpleFoundation.org](http://PurpleFoundation.org).

### • May 10: Prime Timers

Happy hour at 5:30 p.m. at J.R.'s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

### • May 10: DFW Pride Happy Hour

Drink specials for DFW Pride Happy Hour from 5-7 p.m. at Lekka, 17606 Preston Road.

### • May 11: Evening of Hope

AIDS Outreach Center presents Evening of Hope 2019 — Hope: Imagine & Believe from 6 p.m.-midnight at Hilton Fort Worth, 815 Main St., Fort Worth. Tickets at [AOC.org/eoh](http://AOC.org/eoh).

### • May 11: DSGA Rescheduled

DSGA, the LGBT golf organization,

plays at 10 a.m., at Twin Creeks, 501 Twin Creeks Dr, Allen. \$60.00 Includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. Information at [DSGADallas.org](http://DSGADallas.org) or email [communications@dsgadallas.org](mailto:communications@dsgadallas.org).

### • May 11: A Rock n Roll Country Disco

A raising the roof variety show and retirement celebration for Marsha and Bill Thomas benefiting North Texas Pride with food at 5-6 p.m. and show from 6-9 p.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

### • May 12: TWCD Mothers Day concerts

The Womens Chorus of Dallas presents a shorter young child-friendly concert at 12:30 p.m. and a full Mother's Day concert at 2 p.m. culminating in a butterfly release at Texas Discovery Gardens, 1601 S. 2nd Ave. \$10-25. [TheWomensChorusofDallas.com](http://TheWomensChorusofDallas.com).

### • May 12: Prime Timers

Games hosted by Brian at 2 p.m. at 2925 Myerwood, Carrollton.

### • May 13: Creating Change Host Committee Meeting

The Task Force needs 50-75 volunteers over the next nine months to plan parties, workshops, dances, community housing, recruit attendees, read proposals and more. Four sub-committees will be forming: fundraising, special events, hospitality, recruitment. Dinner at 7 p.m. and

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@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org); LGBT square dancing group **Pegasus Squares** meets the second and fourth Sunday from 2-4 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 Turtle Creek 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; **Thrive support group** from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; **Lambda AA** meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men's meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; **LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous** meets at 6 p.m.

every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details; **Leadership Lambda Toastmasters** gay-identified Toastmasters group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at the First Unitarian Church, 4015 Normandy Road (does not meet on Mondays that are holidays); **United Black Ellument** hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; **DVtv in Spayse**, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

• Weekly: **Lambda Weekly** at 1 p.m. on Sunday on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. This week's guest is community counselor **Candy Marcum**; **Silver Pride Project Coffee and Conversation** from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. on Monday at Oak Lawn Library and 10 a.m.-1 p.m. on Wednesday at Grauwyl Library; **Unwired Group of Crystal Meth Anonymous** meets Sunday at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Resource Center, 2701 Reagan St.; Core Group Meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; **Fuse game**



meeting from 7:30-9 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

• **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 14: Prime Timers**  
Dinner at 7 p.m. at Celebration, 4503 W. Lovers Lane.

• **May 16: GALA Happy Hour**  
Free appetizers, game tables, for GALA's third Thursday happy hour from 5-8:30 p.m. at Henry's, 5741 Legacy Drive, Suite 100, Plano.

• **May 16: TAG Youth Support Group**  
Open to youth of all ages from 5-7 p.m. at Tyler Public Library Taylor Auditorium, 201 S. College Ave., Tyler.

• **May 18: Rocket Man Gaybingo**  
Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at rcdallas.org.

• **May 18: I Stand Corrected**  
QCinema presents the film *I Stand Corrected* at 1 p.m. at Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, 3800 Darnell St., Fort Worth. Tickets at Qcinema.org.

• **May 18: Tyler Pride Picnic**  
Tyler Area Gays present Pride in Park from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Southside Park, 455 Shiloh Road in Tyler. TAG is providing burgers and hot dogs and all the trimmings and attendees are asked to bring side dishes and desserts. The event includes vendors, HIV testing, pet adoptions, a silent auction, games, prizes and more. For information email info@tylerareagays.com.

• **May 18: LGBT Senior Prom**  
AARP sponsors the third annual LGBT Senior Prom. The theme is the Silver Days of Disco from 7-10 p.m. at Erik Jonsson Library, 1515 Young St. Free underground parking accessed off Wood Street. Free to those over 60. \$10 for 21-59.

## pet of the week / FRANNY



**Franny**, a 9-year-old, female Australian cattle dog/Labrador mix, weights in at 56 pounds. She has a shiny, solid black coat with flecks of white and grey sprinkled all over her face. She may be an older gal, but she still has plenty of pep in her step. She loves meeting new people and going new places, and she enjoys lots of petting and attention, especially back scratches, and will sit on command for treats. She's a great at cuddling, so if you're looking

for a sweet, affectionate girl to curl up on the couch with, she's the one for you. Franny has been spayed and microchipped and is current on all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet her today. #69865

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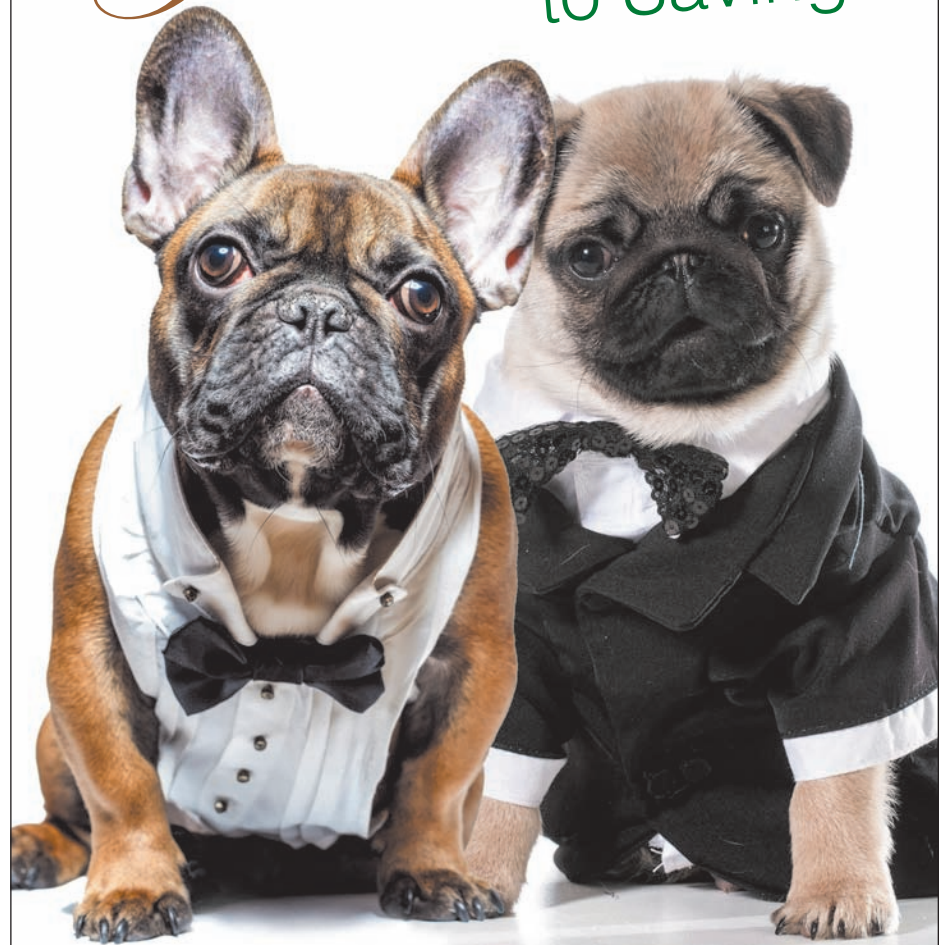
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Photo by Michael Bush

# A wedding story

How one venue almost ruined the perfect wedding day and how a variety of vendors came to the rescue

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

When the Collin County wedding venue Waterstone refused to host a gay couple's wedding, Lynn Jackson of Fit and Fab Weddings stepped in and offered her wedding planner services at no charge.

So did photographer Michael Bush. And then a venue called Whispering Oaks, located north of Denton, offered its facility at no charge. And then a florist, a tuxedo rental company, a cake baker, a limo service, a videographer, a DJ and more all stepped in to provide their services at no cost.

Jeff Cannon and Aaron Lucero were overwhelmed by the reaction and the

chance to have the wedding of their dreams.

Cannon and Lucero met a little more than four years ago using OKCupid. Lucero said he was attracted to Cannon's profile because Cannon liked to travel. But he was surprised he even was able to see Cannon's profile since Lucero's age fell out-

side the parameters Cannon had set on his profile.

But despite their age difference, the two found they had a lot in common: Both were raised Mormon, and both were at about the same point in their personal lives, despite their age difference. Cannon had come out later in life because he grew up in the church and dealt with conflicts between his religion and who he knew he was. And even though he was younger, Lucero said, he was ready "to find someone to spend the rest of my life with."

Last June, after they had been dating for several years, Cannon popped the question. It was, Lucero said, "one of the best days in my life."

Despite their Mormon backgrounds, both men said their families are accepting.

Lucero emigrated to the U.S. from Mexico when he was 2 years old. He came out when he was 23, and his family embraced Cannon from the first time they met him. Cannon worked for AT&T in Mexico for a while, so he speaks fluent Spanish. Lucero said that was one of the things that ingratiated Cannon to his family.

As he was growing up, Cannon said, he heard his own father make comments about gays, so he was nervous about coming out to his family. When he told his brothers and sisters, they told him they already knew, and they "fine with it," he said. To prepare his father, he sent him a book about other Mormons who had come out. They spoke after he read it.

Cannon's father told him that while he didn't understand it, "You're my son, and I love you."

"Now he's great," Cannon said of his father. "My whole family loves Aaron."

Lucero said he and Cannon haven't been excommunicated by the Mormon church, but that doesn't mean they've tried to maintain their Mormon ties. "We don't want to be where we're not wanted," he declared.

Cannon added, "We've walked away from our faith."

After becoming engaged, Cannon and Lucero decided to begin planning their wedding right away. Lucero created a profile on The Knot, a wedding planning website, and the couple talked about what kind of wedding venue they wanted. "We wanted to celebrate with as many people as possible," Cannon said. And because Lucero loves country music and his brother is a cowboy, he felt like "It would be nice to have a country wedding in a barn," Lucero added.

The Knot recommended The Waterstone, and "We instantly fell in love with it," Lucero said.

So they set aside a couple of weekends to look at venues and made an appointment with several places online. Then,

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TiltEvent.com
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(Caterer Jason Lewis)  
FSEventservices.com
- **Toast Entertainment**  
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ToastEnt.com/dfw
- **Yelibelly Chocolates**  
(Sarahbeth "Yeli" Marshall) Yelibelly.com
- **Joche W. Events**  
(Floral designer Joche Westmoreland)  
JocheW.com
- **The Dallas Makeup Team**  
(Hair and makeup by Misty James)  
TheDallasMakeupTeam.com
- **Prime Limo** (Michael Burrowes)  
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- **One Fine Day LLC**  
(Planner/Décor Danielle Hasting)  
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# ASD honors founders by recognizing current supporters

At earlier Founders Day events, Don Maison with a picture of Mike Merdian and Daryl Moore, below, and Acting Executive Director, Traswell Livingston, pictured bottom

Supper clubs continue to be the backbone of ASD volunteer support

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**A**IDS Services of Dallas celebrates Founders Day today (Friday, May 3) with a cookout and awards presentations in the courtyard of Revlon Apartments.

The event honors the memory of Daryl Moore and Michael Merdian, the two AIDS activists who in 1987 founded what was then known as the PWA Coalition of Dallas, and Phil Morrow, ASD's second board president. Merdian was the original board chair from the time he helped form the organization until his AIDS-related death in 1990. Moore passed away in 1988.

Top Chefs Supper Club will receive the Daryl Moore Memorial Award. Originally formed in 1989, Top Chefs has provided meals for ASD residents once a month for the past 30 years.

Texas Capital Bank – Richardson will receive the Phil Morrow Memorial Award for 30 years of support during the Christmas and Easter seasons.

The Michael R. Merdian Memorial Award will go to an ASD resident in recognition of service to the community during the last year.

Moore and Merdian began their involvement in housing for people living with AIDS after Oak Lawn Community Services leased two houses on Nash Street. That was a small, residential dead-end street off Inwood Road that's now an entrance to the Cathedral of Hope campus.

The housing was meant for the rapidly-increasing number of gay men who lost their jobs and then their homes because of illness and discrimination. In 1987, OLCS lost its lease on the Nash

Street houses, and the residents were again facing homelessness.

Moore and Merdian purchased a three-story apartment building in North Oak Cliff with the help of Evelyn Petty, an Oak Cliff investor. They named the house A Place for Us, and the residents of the Nash Street houses had a place to live.

A Place for Us is now known as Ewing House, the centerpiece of an expansive housing program for people impacted by HIV.



When the property first opened, protesters picketed with signs reading “No AIDS colonies” and “Keep Oak Cliff Clean and Healthy.” Ironically, ASD's renovation of Ewing along with Hillcrest House and Revlon is now credited with raising property values throughout the North Oak Cliff neighborhood where they are located.

In 1989, the PWA Coalition began doing business as AIDS Services of Dallas and hired Don Maison as its first executive director. Maison was a civil rights attorney who was best known at the time for defending a group of men who had been arrested at Village Station for dancing.

Maison got the charges dropped when, at trial, the police officers incorrectly described the line of sight from the entrance where they claimed they had seen the men dancing. Presenting floor plans



provided by Caven, Maison proved that the dance floor was not visible from the door and that the officers were lying.

When Maison retired earlier this year, he was the longest-serving CEO of an HIV/AIDS organization in the U.S.

Currently, AIDS Services of Dallas is renovating another property to provide transitional housing as residents return to work and move out of care. Development director Chris Turman said plans are being drawn up, and ground should be broken by the end of the summer. Plans are to turn the property into 16 apartments, he said.

## The Supper Clubs

Top Chef Supper Club has been providing meals for ASD residents for 30 years. Turman said it is one of more than 60 clubs that regularly bring dinner for

the residents, either monthly or quarterly.

ASD, he noted “only provides breakfast and lunch [for residents] five days a week.” So residents rely on supper clubs for their dinners and weekend meals.

Jimmy Bartlett belongs to two supper clubs, and he has been helping prepare meals for the past eight years. His suggestion to anyone forming a supper club is to get together a group of at least five — although eight is better. That way, if something comes up one month for one or two members, there are others to bring the meals.

Bartlett said there are months his supper clubs are providing meals for as many as 30 people, but normally they serve between 16 and 20 people.

“Everybody brings a different portion of the meal,” he said. That includes a main course, side dishes, bread, dessert and drinks. Leftovers are wrapped and refrigerated for residents to have over the weekend, he noted, so they always bring a generous amount of food.

“It's a nice, community thing to do,” Bartlett said. “I enjoy doing it. It's fulfilling.”

Turman said church groups, fraternities, sororities, clubs and just groups of friends form supper clubs, and ASD is always looking for more groups to form supper clubs and participate in the program.

Anyone interested in forming or joining a supper club can contact volunteer coordinator Alex Sanchez at 214-941-0523 ext. 5010.





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— David Taffet

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# UMC Court upholds Traditional Plan

*Editors Note Updates with details. With AP Photos.*

DAVID CRARY | Associated Press

NEW YORK — The United Methodist Church's judicial council on Friday, April 26, upheld major portions of a new plan that strengthens bans on same-sex marriage and ordination of LGBT pastors.

Conservatives welcomed the decision and said key elements of the policy, called the Traditional Plan, could begin taking effect in January. Among liberal and centrist opponents of the plan, there was dismay; one group, Reconciling Ministries Network, called for an upsurge of resistance.

The Traditional Plan was adopted in February on 438-384 vote by delegates at a special UMC conference in St. Louis. Most U.S.-based delegates opposed that plan and preferred LGBT-inclusive options, but they were out-voted by U.S. conservatives who teamed with most of the delegates from Methodist strongholds in Africa and the Philippines.

The nine-member judicial council, at the close of a four-day meeting in Evanston, Ill., ruled that some aspects of the Traditional Plan — mostly related to enforcement of its rules — were unconstitutional under church law. But the council upheld the bulk of the plan, clearing the way for its implementation in January.

The Rev. Tom Lambrecht, general manager of the conservative Methodist magazine Good News, hailed the council's ruling as "strong affirmation" of the Traditional Plan's core elements. He suggested that Methodists opposed to the plan should start negotiating to leave the UMC and form a new denomination that would allow them to adopt LGBT-inclusive policies.

Opponents of the Traditional Plan will have a chance to overturn it at the UMC's next general conference in May 2020. But Lambrecht said he agreed with other analysts who predict the UMC's conservative bloc will be even stronger then.

An alliance of Traditional Plan opponents, calling themselves UMC-Next, has been holding meetings to discuss the best path forward for those who share their views.

Its leaders say one option would be for

centrists and liberals to leave en masse to form a new denomination. Under another option, opponents of the Traditional Plan would stay in the UMC and resist from within, eventually convincing conservatives that they should be the faction that departs.

Lambrecht dismissed that possibility. "We're not leaving," he said.

Formed in a merger in 1968, the United Methodist Church claims about 12.6 million members worldwide, including nearly 7 million in the United States. It is the largest mainline Protestant denomination in the U.S.

While other mainline denominations have embraced gay-friendly practices, the UMC still bans them, though acts of defiance by pro-LGBT clergy members have multiplied. Many have officiated same-sex weddings; others have come out from the pulpit.

Enforcement of the bans has been inconsistent; the Traditional Plan aspires to beef up discipline against those engaged in defiance. Under rules upheld by the judicial council, bishops are prohibited from ordaining "self-avowed homosexuals," while clerics who perform same-sex weddings could be suspended without pay for a first offense and ousted from the ministry for a second offense.

Under the ruling, individual churches could disaffiliate with the UMC if two-thirds of the church community agrees, and if the church meets certain financial requirements.

The Reconciling Ministries Network, which supports LGBT inclusion, called its supporters "to repeatedly state your dissent, to support the work of resistance by United Methodist seminaries, to continue to write open letters and visibly be in solidarity with those on the margins."

"We call upon the Church to repent of the sin of homophobia," it said. "Now is the time to rise and resist."

Many Traditional Plan opponents already are expressing their dissatisfaction. Some churches have raised rainbow flags in a show of LGBT solidarity; some are withholding dues payments to the UMC administration in protest.

The Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBTQ-rights group, said the judicial council's ruling "is deeply disappointing for countless LGBTQ Meth-



odists, including young people and their families, who are yearning for a welcoming church family."

Methodist youth are, in fact, at the forefront of the push for change in many instances. Eight teenagers, aged 13 and 14, who make up this year's confirmation class at First United Methodist Church in Omaha, Neb., stood before the congregation on Confirmation Sunday

(April 28) and read a letter explaining that they don't want to become members of the church right now because of the move to exclude LGBT people, according to a report by Religion News Service.

The teens said they took their stand on principle because they believed the denomination's vote to uphold and strengthen its ban on LGBTQ ordination and marriage to be "immoral" and "unjust." ■



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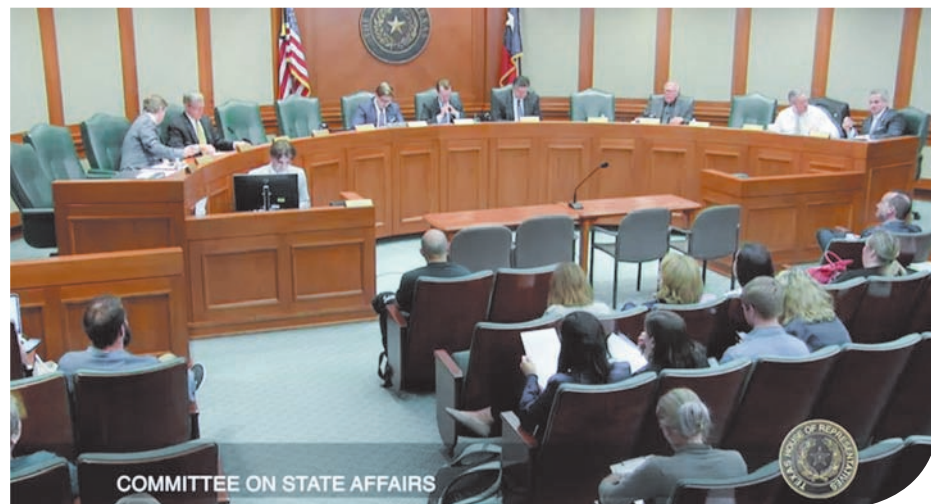
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# A step forward, but we're not safe yet



A House committee has re-inserted protections for NDOs into a religious exemption bill, but there's a long way to go

**TAMMYE NASH** | Managing Editor  
[nash@dallasvoice.com](mailto:nash@dallasvoice.com)

**Y**ou win some; you lose some. That was definitely the story for the LGBT community this week when it comes to the Texas Legislature.

Several pieces of legislation potentially harmful to the LGBT community were heard in committee this week. And while the community scored a win regarding an effort to repeal local non-discrimination ordinances, Equality Texas Interim Executive Director Samantha Smoot said Thursday, May 2, a religious exemption bill that could cause great harm has been advanced.

The win came in the House State Affairs Committee, where, shortly after midnight Wednesday night, passed Senate Bill 2486, authored by Beaumont Republican Brandon Creighton, out of committee on a 9-2 vote — but only after adding back in protections for NDOs that have been removed in the Senate.

"Now, what does that mean? It means

that this committee did hear the voices of those who mobilized in support of protecting NDOs," Smoot said. "This is the same committee that heard testimony on two terrible bills [that would have, essentially, allowed anti-LGBT discrimination]. They have heard from a lot of LGBTQ people about how discrimination affects them and their families. I believe that our voices have been heard, and in that sense, this is a tremendous victory."

Among those testifying this week were Dallas activist Steve Atkinson and former Fort Worth City Councilman Joel Burns. Atkinson, Smoot noted, "made a point that no one else has made during the debate. He said that he was one of the activists who worked so hard to get Dallas' NDO passed 17 years ago, and in the 17 years since then, not a single business has had any issues with the NDO. That's an important note for these legislators to hear."

Burns, as part of his testimony against the measure, presented an "Open Letter in support of NonDiscrimination Ordinances from Dallas, Fort Worth and Plano Community Leaders" to committee members. The letter, signed by more than 200 elected officials, community leaders and advocates, cited surveys showing that more than two-thirds of Texans support nondiscrimination laws protecting LGBT people, and that NDOs are "an important competitive tool in the war for talent, corporate investment, in-



novation, and tourism."

And while Smoot counts the House committee's move to re-include NDOs as a win, the fight's not over yet.

"Now the bill goes back to the Senate, and the question there is, will Dan Patrick accept NDOs protections for our community or not," she said. "We've got a long way to go before we are in the clear. Still, this was a very positive step" that happened because the LGBT community and its allies, especially in the business community, mobilized against the effort to repeal NDOs.

### Another looming threat

Another looming threat to the LGBT community, Smoot said, is HB 3172, authored by Fort Worth Republican Matt Krause, which "is on its way to the Calendars Committee" where it could be scheduled for consideration on the House floor.

HB 3172 "started out as one of the most wide-ranging, dangerous religious exemption bills," one of several bills introduced in this session that would allow individuals to discriminate against LGBT people and others by claiming a "sincerely-held religious belief," Smoot explained. "it has since been whittled down considerably and is pretty hollow, but it is still dangerous," she continued. "It is still the first chapter in the Project Blitz playbook," a publication intended to help right-wing legislators around the country push through an agenda codifying their far-right agenda and imposing their religious beliefs on government.

"The first chapter is to pass hollow legislation and resolutions that advance the idea that our culture is under attack from the LGBTQ 'lifestyle,'" Smoot said. "This is also a bill that would be a prime vehicle for anti-LGBTQ amendments on the House floor and, of course, in Dan Patrick's Senate."

Smoot said Equality Texas and other equality advocates are encouraging LGBT people and their allies statewide to contact members of the Calendars Committee and urge them not to schedule the bill for a vote.

"They don't have to be your specific representative for you to contact them," she noted. "These committees are all statewide committees, and committee

members are representing the interests of the whole state, not just their district.

"So contact them now, and send the message. And the message is, 'Do not send HB 3172 to the floor.'"

Calendars Committee members are Reps. Four Price, Joe Moody, Joe Deshotel, John Frullo, Craig Goldman, Oscar Longoria, Will Metcalf, Tom Oliverson, Eddie Rodriguez, Toni Rose and John Wray.

### Also this week

A bill sponsored by openly-lesbian state Rep. Celia Israel, D-Austin, that would ban anti-gay "conversion therapy" for minors in Texas, was heard in the House Committee on Public Affairs this week. And although it is unlikely to advance out of the committee, just the fact that there was a hearing was a big step forward, Smoot said.

Israel herself spoke during the hearing, telling her own story of how she was afraid to come out as a youth and how, at age 17, she tried to commit suicide, before eventually finding love and acceptance.

Israel's closing "was emotional and wonderful," Smoot said.

On Monday, April 29, the House Criminal Jurisprudence Committee heard testimony on Houston Democrat Garnet Coleman's HB 1513, which calls for protections for transgender people to be added to Texas' James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Law.

It was, Smoot said, "a remarkable hearing," with six transgender people testifying in support of the measure.

HB 2109, introduced by Rep. Dan Flynn, R-Canton, had a hearing Wednesday in the Juvenile Justice and Family Issues Committee, Smoot said. This bill would allow justices of the peace, judges, magistrates and other elected officials to refuse to perform same-sex marriages by claiming a sincerely-held religious belief against such unions.

Smoot said witnesses testifying against the measure far out-numbered the "bigoted witnesses" who spoke in favor of it at the end of the hearing.

Contact information for state legislators, as well as videos of committee hearings, can be found online at Capitol.Texas.gov. ■

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## STORY , From Page 10

the night before they were supposed to visit their first choice, they received an email from the Waterstone: “We don’t cater to the LGBT community.”

Cannon said the rejection was cut and pasted into the email they received, so it was clear to them this wasn’t the first time that venue had turned away same-sex wedding business.

Lucero said he was devastated: “I’d never experienced discrimination personally,” he said. “I’m Mormon. I’m Mexican. I’ve never felt that kind of hate.”

“It made us question everything,” Cannon added. “Should we go elsewhere? We’re going to have to come out to every vendor.”

A venue in Van Alstyne, in Collin County, also told the couple they weren’t sure if they could host their wedding — sort of: They said they didn’t know if they were “equipped” to do a same-sex wedding.

That left Lucero and Cannon wondering what sort of equipment the venue thought would they need. But they didn’t pursue it.

But Lucero, who described himself as “more of a pit bull,” decided to post the story on Facebook. The story was posted and reposted. Even *Will & Grace* star Debra Messing weighed in after hearing the story through and friend of a friend, and reposted the story on her Facebook page. Out magazine picked up the story and spoke to The Knot.

While Cannon was angry that the venue had been recommended to him by The Knot when Waterstone clearly didn’t host same-sex weddings, Out magazine went one step further. The magazine insisted that since The Knot has a non-discrimination policy, the venue should be removed from the website. The Knot agreed, saying that Waterstone would be removed.

But just this week, when Cannon and Lucero appeared on the podcast Engayged — found at EngaygedWeddings.com — the host, Michael Jamrock, pointed out that Waterstone is, in fact, still listed on The Knot. It’s just harder to find than before. Still, a simple search for venues in the Dallas area using the tags “barn,” “rustic” and “romantic” brings up a list that still includes Waterstone — without any warning that same-sex cou-



Photo by Michael Bush

ples are not welcome there.

“We just wanted transparency,” Cannon said of his reaction to the uproar. He didn’t want other same-sex couples to be hurt the way he and Lucero were. Now he’s thinking of contacting the New York attorney general because New York, where The Knot is based, has strict non-discrimination laws.

Most people reacted to the situation with outrage, but there were a few that offered comments like, “What did you expect? You live in Texas.” But the sur-

prise of it all, Lucero said, was that offers to help them with their wedding started pouring in from all over the country.

Lucero was working on sifting through all the offers of help when he received a call from Michael Bush, a photographer who had done a wedding at Waterstone just a few weeks earlier. Bush offered to photograph Lucero and Cannon’s wedding at no charge.

Then Bush called Jackson, the wedding planner who had arranged the wedding Bush had photographed at Waterstone.



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Jackson, noting that Lucero and Cannon had been the talk of the show at the recent Dallas Bridal Show, quickly offered her services, free of charge.

Jackson also told them she won't go back to Waterstone.

Next the couple heard from Whispering Oaks, a similar venue located in Sanger, north of Denton.

"Jessica at Whispering Oaks contacted us via Twitter," Lucero said. "We were getting offers left and right," but after visiting Whispering Oaks, Lucero said they knew they had found the place. The property "beautiful" and "secluded" and far nicer than Waterstone. "It will be the best wedding ever," Lucero said,

Once Jackson was onboard, she took over fielding the offers.

"This is going to be the dream wedding they didn't have the budget for," Jackson said. "All they're going to have to pay for is the cake and flowers."

And by "pay for," she means they'll pay for the ingredients for the cake and the wholesale cost of flowers — not for the time to prepare the cake or the floral arrangements; not for the delivery; not for the artistry. They'll just pay for the materials.

Shane Morgan of Posh Cakes is baking the cake. He's the one who made the cake for *Real Housewives of Dallas* star LeeAnne Locken's wedding at Cathedral of Hope last weekend. He's also been featured on Martha Stewart and has baked for Toni Braxton and others.

Morgan said Jackson contacted him, and "Once she told me the story, I was on board."

Morgan said that when he was married, he and his husband "were welcomed with open arms everywhere we went." He couldn't imagine a couple having their special day ruined by a vendor, and he wanted to help make things right.

"I can relate to those two guys," Morgan said, recalling a situation in which he was rejected as a vendor because of his sexual orientation. "A couple came to me in my shop," he said. "They paid a consultation fee. Then they went to their wedding coordinator and told her they couldn't put up with my lifestyle."

As plans for the wedding went on, Jackson contacted Danielle Hasting of One Fine Day, who describes herself as a wedding advocate. Hasting, who has a team of six, could help with some of the logistics.

Hasting said she loves Whispering

Oaks, calling it the perfect wedding venue because of "the staircase. I'm a staircase whore. The bridge; you feel like you're in the woods. But it's clean and polished. The staff. You feel like you're home — perfect since a wedding is two families coming together."

Hasting has dealt with a number of crises during weddings that just made the events more memorable. A complete power outage at one could have been a total disaster. Instead, she got candles and the ceremony took place in candlelight.

Another — a Laotian-Orthodox Jewish wedding — could have been a disaster without careful planning, since a Laotian wedding involves a roasted pig. She said curtained off areas, separated different parts of the wedding party and turned what could have been mayhem into a joyous celebration.

"Is someone going to freak out, or will someone know how to handle it?" Hasting said, explaining her role in the event.

But with Cannon and Lucero's wedding, Hasting said, she wants the event to be "more than this story." She wants both families to remember why they came together.

"I just want it to be their wedding," she said. "It's about them."

And Hasting said the other vendors she's spoken to have the same motive: They'll all be there to support these two people coming together.

"We believe in them as a couple that deserves to be together," Hasting said.

Sarahbeth "Yeli" Marshal of YeliBelly Chocolates agrees. "We are huge supporters of the LGBT community," she said. "We were shocked there were still vendors treating couples in love that way. We wanted to make sure that's not the way the wedding industry is."

Oh, and she said she's looking for full- and part-time chocolatiers. Some food service experience would be awesome.

Jackson said a total of about 20 vendors are participating in the wedding. And while the vendors are in place, there's still lots of planning to take place before the wedding — scheduling a tasting with Morgan for cake flavors, picking out a menu, sending save the date cards and invitations, deciding on flowers, colors for linens, getting fitted for tuxes.

Cannon and Lucero both said they feel a little guilty about receiving all these services for their wedding. "We want it to be special for everyone working with us," Lucero said. ■



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## Targeting Mayor Pete

Trumpettes Wohl, Burkman get caught trying to frame gay Democrat for sexual assault

Well hello, and welcome to another episode of “A Gay is Running for President,” a minute-by-minute freak-out by the conservative right, sponsored by Homophobia and The Dumb.

The gay in question is Pete Buttigieg, the current mayor of South Bend, Ind., and his last name is pronounced “boot-edge-edge.”

And right-wingers are losing their minds over him.

First, he’s gay, so they’re against him even existing, let alone running for the country’s highest office. But he’s also a white male, which polls well in this country, and he’s getting a lot of buzz in what is a very crowded Democratic field.

Would Buttigieg be a good president? Probably. Would he be a better president than Trump? For sure — though that’s an awfully low bar. My 10 lb.-dog, who freaks out whenever he sees any living creatures not in his immediate family, is scared of his metal food bowl because his tags once clanged against the side of it, and who sometimes eats his own poop would be a better president than Trump. Because at least he isn’t racist and has never stolen anyone’s children.

But apparently, Buttigieg has some folks on the right nervous enough that they’re trying to sabotage him by drumming up false accusations of sexual assault.

According to The Daily Beast, right-wing smear team Jacob Wohl and Jack Burkman were caught on tape trying to get a guy to accuse Buttigieg “of engaging him sexually while he was too drunk to consent.”

If you’re not familiar with Wohl, then I congratulate you because you don’t need that kind of negativity in your life. Wikipedia calls him “an American far-right conspiracy theorist, fraudster and internet troll,” a description that would be right at home on the page for Donald Trump.

As for Burkman, he’s a Republican



lobbyist and professional homophobe. He thinks that Trump is too nice to immigrants, so that says a lot.

Wohl and Burkman also tried to drum up false accusations of sexual misconduct against Robert Mueller in retaliation for his investigation into their Lord and Savior Donald Trump.

And now they’re doing it again, only to Buttigieg this time, because, according to an April 22 tweet by Burkman, “2020 is shaping up to be more exciting than 2016. Looking like it will be Trump vs. Mayor Pete! Get the popcorn ready!”

Now, will 2020 yield a Trump vs. Buttigieg race? I don’t know. But the fact that Wohl and Burkman seem to have gone to an awful lot of trouble to try to damage Buttigieg is pretty telling — although it might be more telling about Wohl and Burkman than it is about Mayor Pete.

It’s interesting to me that Wohl and Burkman want to get people to accuse Buttigieg of sexual assault, something their Dear Leader Trump has not only been accused of but has admitted to.

It’s almost as if one party — the Democrats — believes that sexual assault is wrong and that we need to reverse the trend of thinking everyone who comes forward with charges of sexual assault is lying, and the other party — the Republicans — does not give a fuck about sexual

assault at all unless they can use it as a weapon against their political foes.

It’s especially clear that sexual assault against women not only doesn’t interest them, but it’s something they are totally fine with so long as their political agenda is being carried out. Ah, but if a GAY does the sexual assaulting, then that’s super badly terrible and must be punished right away.

In reality, ALL sexual assault is wrong and should be punished. But the Republicans can’t possibly expect anyone to take their concerns about assault seriously while they do everything they can to prop up Trump, the Sexual Assaulter in Chief.

As for Buttigieg, he said to The Daily Beast about the foiled Wohl/Burkman plot, “It’s not going to throw us. Politics can be ugly sometimes but you have to face that when you’re in presidential politics.”

No matter what you think of Buttigieg, the man has class. Seriously, he’s so patriotically wholesome I suspect he bleeds gay apple pie, which is just regular apple pie with rainbow sprinkles added for fabulousness.

Oh, also, while I was looking for info about this story online I wasn’t confident that I’d be able to spell Buttigieg off the top of my head, so I just Googled “Wohl Butt” and have learned that said search turns up a LOT of links to porn. And so I’m putting it in writing in case my wife has questions about my search history. ■

*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 more than a decade. Follow her on Twitter @MamaDWitkowski.*



# ELECTION DAY VOTING LOCATIONS

## MAY 4, 2019 GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT ORDER

The most current list of voting locations is available in the City Secretary's Office, and the status of a particular location may be checked by calling the city secretary at 214-670-3738 or accessing <http://www.dallascountyvotes.org/upcoming-election-information/>.



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2. Jeremy T. Boss
3. Sylvana Alonzo
4. Chad West

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2. Paul A. Freeman
3. Barbara Coombs

### PLACE 3

1. Davante D. Peters
2. Denise Benavides
3. Casey Thomas, II
4. Charletta Rogers Compton
5. Britannica Scott

### PLACE 4

1. Dawn M. Blair
2. Carolyn King Arnold
3. Keyaira D. Saunders
4. Karon "K" Flewellen
5. Asa O. Woodberry

### PLACE 5

1. Yolanda "Faye" Williams
2. Jamie Resendez
3. Ruth Torres

### PLACE 6

1. Tony Carillo
2. Omar Narvaez
3. Mónica R. Alonzo

### PLACE 7

1. Tiffinni A. Young
2. Adam Bazaldua
3. Kevin Felder
4. Joseph Thomas
5. Sandra Crenshaw
6. Yvette Gbalazeh
7. Calvin D. Johnson
8. Sade' Johnson
9. Korey Deon Mack

### PLACE 8

1. Tennell Atkins
2. Erik Wilson

### PLACE 9

1. Tamara "Tami" Brown Rodriguez
2. Erin Moore
3. Sarah Lamb
4. Paula Blackmon
5. Jacinto Valdespino

### PLACE 10

1. Serrano Keith Baldeo
2. D'Andrala Dede Alexander
3. Adam McGough

### PLACE 11

1. Curtis T. Harris
2. Lee M. Kleinman

### PLACE 12

1. Carolyn "Cookie" Peadon
2. Cara Mendelsohn
3. Daniel Powell

### PLACE 13

1. Jennifer Staubach Gates
2. Laura Miller

### PLACE 14

1. Philip T. Kingston
2. David Blewett
3. Warren Ernest Johnson

### PLACE 15 (Mayor)

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2. Jason Villalba
3. Scott Griggs
4. Mike Ablon
5. Miguel Solis
6. Alyson Kennedy
7. Regina Montoya
8. Eric Johnson
9. Albert Black





# Dreaming the dream

LIFE+STYLE

travel



A couple enjoy their poolside room, above, at the Brass Key Guesthouse in Provincetown, also above opposite.

In Provincetown, everyone lives for the inclusiveness of a guesthouse summer ... or even a hot honeymoon

**I**t's September in Provincetown, Mass., the cool-crisp calm before the bitter-cold calm: wintertime, when travelers admire the cozy Cape Cod resort town's frosted beauty beside a fireplace inside a cabin. The iced rich-blue harbor to the southeast, Cape Cod Bay to the south and west, Massachusetts Bay to the northwest and north, and the Atlantic Ocean to the northeast catch peeks of sunshine that the boys of summer cannot enjoy until they eagerly return again.

After a long stretch of hibernation, those boys fly or ferry back to the island, beach-ready. When temps reach a desirable enough high (60 degrees is fine),

they rush over in droves to one of the hottest gay vacation getaways to partake in the reason for the season: pool parties. They are reunited with direct sun, gyrating porn stars, unicorn floats and Mr. Turk banana hammocks.

A luxury resort owned and run by three gay men who are partners in business and life — Thomas Walter, David Sanford and Ken Masi — the Brass Key Guesthouse has established itself as a home away from home for LGBTQ (and sometimes straight, married) vacationers. For the town's biggest party, Carnival Week, last year at the Brass Key, held as a benefit for the Provincetown Business Guild, everything that might restrain pool-goers' pure water fun (tables, lounge chairs) was stashed away to accommodate a line so long it looped around the block. A couple hundred attendees splashed and romped around in the pool, riding their gay

floats, sipping their festive margs.

It's busy. How busy? Because of shampoo and "whatever else," "the water's not so clear" at the end of the day, says Walter, sitting in a quiet, conversational nook near the pool where, come 1 p.m. Aug. 19, porn star Trenton Ducati will greet sunbathers with a smile and a bulge. (Ducati will meet-and-greet guests and visitors inside the Shipwreck Lounge, a laid-back bar that also serves as the Brass Key's check-in lobby.)

Nestled within the Brass Key's 43 rooms and suites, housed in nine buildings, is an enchanting, flower-filled playground: the heated infinity-edge outdoor pool, a sizable 15-person hot tub, with rows of poolside recliners for ogling nearby frolickers (there's even a small nudist section if you prefer an even, full-body tan). Within the pool area is an inviting communal patio, where every day at 9 a.m. I could step

down from my pleasantly new-old upstairs room and enjoy a hot, hearty breakfast; at 5 p.m., I sip wine and overindulge on hearty spreads of artisan cheese set up for happy hour.

Guests will say "hi." they might even pull up a seat. As a lone traveler, I greatly relish their amiable company. I meet a polite and self-effacing gay guy and his spunky gal pal, a lovely gay couple who invite me on their afternoon bike-riding excursion into town, some chatty lesbian wives, and a manager of a nearby boarding house known for its bathhouse-type appeal who took a late-night dip in the hot tub with me. His budget lodge is far from a resort, and he really loves their jacuzzi. In Provincetown, everyone is dreaming the same dream.

Convenient adventures await you elsewhere: Brass Key is just steps from Commercial Street, P'town's main drag,





lined with art galleries, clothing boutiques, trendy restaurants and glimpses of the bluest of water. Like clockwork, the ever-popular Tea Dance, the town's outdoor gay dance party, begins at 4 p.m. and runs through 7 p.m. at the Boatslip Beach Club (which begins this weekend).

Charming, right? Walter and Sanford, who met in their senior year of high school, thought so, too. Even though Fire Island was closer, they would occasionally leave New York, where they were living, to head to the queer mecca. "We were just drawn to P'town," Walter says. "We just fell in love."

They had envisioned themselves living there one day but thought it a long shot. "It was always a pipe dream," Walter says. But when they eyed a corner property, the Dusty Miller Inn, on Bradford Street, their hearts were set on owning it. Aware of their interest, their friend Adam left a message on their answering machine: The current owners of the guesthouse at the time were willing to sell, he told them. In 1998, Walter and Sanford officially became the owners of the property, now called Crowne Pointe Historic Inn & Spa (Masi would join them as a proprietor in 2007).

Their quaint sprawl comprises six buildings, including the full service Shui Spa, one of two spas in the country exclusively using Kiehl's products, and The Pointe Restaurant. Named one of "The Best Hotel Restaurants in Cape Cod" by Fodor's Travel, the pier-to-plate restaurant impresses with a modern, premier dining experience and a full wine bar.

Across the street is the Brass Key, a property they bought in 2008 (altogether, Walter estimated they own "around 20" buildings in P'town, including the Provincetown Pet Resort). Unit by unit, the owners gutted the Brass Key's buildings to modernize their "grandma" look, adding luxury suites and the Shipwreck. Now, the property is coastal chic but still of another time. Walter calls it "historically hip." With big hand-carved headboards and antique furniture, "each building has its own identity," he says.

"Ken and I were saying it was closed off and known as the place rich old men would stay, and it's not friendly," Walter says. "We worked really hard to change that culture and change that perception." On Shipwreck's patio, a giant fire

■ DREAMING Page 38



Brass Key's Carnival pool party, which takes place every August.

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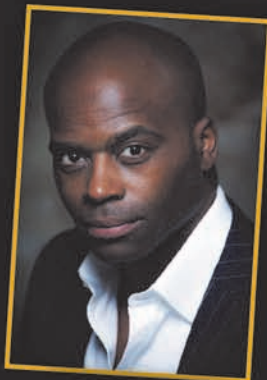
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## LIFE+STYLE

weddings

# Doing God's work

Couple reconciles being queer  
people of faith in a world of  
same-sex marriage

**JONANNA WIDNER** | Contributing Writer  
jonanna.widner@gmail.com



When David and Constantino Khalaf became engaged in 2015, they had no plans to write a book about navigating LGBTQ identity, marriage and religious faith — they were just trying to figure out the best way to celebrate and elevate their relationship to a higher level.

But as they progressed through the planning, they started asking deeper and deeper questions — of themselves as a couple, and of the Christian faith and what it meant within the context of same-sex marriage. Initially, they took these thoughts to the internet, beginning with a blog. And as they started figuring it out together, they also figured something else out: As far as guides to queer marriages of faith are concerned,

there just wasn't much out there.

"There was virtually nothing as far as books and other resources," David says in a recent telephone interview. "So we said, 'Let's just start writing about our own experiences, and this will be a way for us to process what we're going through.' And if it's of use to anyone else who is reading it... then awesome!"

They supplemented their own journey by interviewing queer couples of all backgrounds, genders and identities. The end result is their groundbreaking book, *Modern Kinship: A Queer Guide to Christian Marriage*, a thoughtful, insightful and brave guide that completely rethinks the traditional Christian perspective on marriage.

That rethinking is crucial, both David and Constantino say, because most of the history between the church and the LGBTQ community is, shall we say, fraught. The Khalafs readily admit that the struggle is real; David himself endured years of faith-initiated reparative therapy. But they say that doing the work to ask what they wanted out of their relationship helped them recast that history.

"Not many gay people have grown







up with the notion that you can get married someday,” Constantino says. Indeed, the legal sacrament has only been universally allowed in the United States since 2015. “We asked ourselves, ‘What’s the point of marriage — is it just a heteronormative institution [or something more]?’”

These are the kinds of questions that *Modern Kinship* takes on.

“Faith has traditionally defined the roles in marriage, and so much in American Christianity, marriage is about procreation and creating a hierarchical structure in society where the man is the head of the household and the wife is in a supporting role,” David says. “We had to ask ourselves questions about the role of men and women in a marriage. We had a whole conversation about what that looks like in a same sex marriage, and deconstructing the notion of the roles of gender in marriage and then reconstruction rhythms that fit for us.”

That deconstruction/reconstruction theme carries the book, as the pair question, examine and break down Christian-based models... along with their own personal motivations and ideas about their relationship.

“The first question was, why do we even want to get married in the first place?” David says. “And, as Christians, what does that even mean? I feel like the Christian church has made a mess out of marriage by saying it’s just this thing about raising children.”

As they continued to ask questions, Constantino says, they began to understand what they *didn’t* want... and conversely how they could restructure marriage in way that’s mission-based — not in an evangelical sense, but in an altruistic one. “We seek to fill each other up as a couple so that we then have the energy to turn outward to turn and help others,” he says. “Rather than marriage being defined as this insular unit of community where it’s only served to feed itself.”

It sounds like a fulfilling, and giving, way to treat marriage, but the couple said they’ve met resistance from several sides of the issue.

“It’s common to being a queer person of faith that you’re going to have both camps telling you you’re the odd one out,” David says. “People of faith won’t

■ GODS WORK Page 36

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# What women want

Trends on wedding attire for brides of all kinds



Whether you’re a girly-girl, a fun girl or embrace the butch, there’s a wedding gown out there for you. We scoured collections from as far away as London to as near-by as Dallas to find a selection of looks to appeal to any more, personality or body type. Find what’s right for you and go for it.

- 1. Show Me Your Mumu.** Funky-chic clothing brand Show Me Your Mumu has now branched into wedding wear with collections available exclusively at Nordstrom, including The Contessa Collection, which highlights a bride’s curves in this shape.
- 2. The Groomsmen.** This female-led company originally came up with the idea of making affordable, fashionable tuxedos for men that



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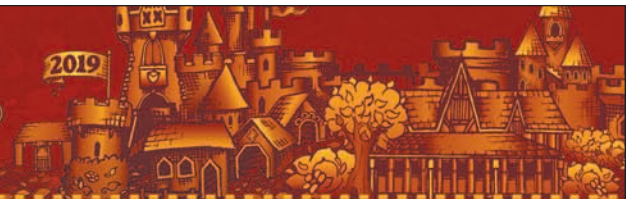
would cost about the same as a rental (usually under \$200). But the upcoming women's line gives the ladies a chance to look just as tailored as the boys. (But the boys can still get their tuxes online, too.)

**3. and 4. Willowby by Watters.** The Dallas-based gown designer's Willowby line is especially geared to that boho woman who flaunts convention and tradition but still wants to look hot. This season's Chasing the Sun Collection is intended to evoke the romance of the Western spirit.

**5. and 6. Halfpenny London.** Celebrating the art and glamour of La Belle Epoque, The Painter Collection (no. 5) from British designer Kate Halfpenny luxuriates in sumptuous fabrics and fine detailing but also a sense of playfulness and Old World sophistication, while her Harbour Top and Cape with Euston Skirt goes more modern. ■

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# Food for thought



Catering chef Connor FitzGerald has plenty of experience planning a wedding menu. (Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)

5 tips from a caterer about  
how to plan the menu at  
your reception



While a wedding is a special ceremony in which two people are bound by love for eternity (in theory, at least), often what most people remember after the specific vows have faded from memory is the party that follows. The reception can be as lovely to everyone else as the ceremony is to you and

your spouse. With that in mind, if any element of your wedding does not align with your vision, there is one key component in which you absolutely cannot afford to slip up: the food. Yes, of course your friends and family are happy for you and your spouse and grateful that you invited them to celebrate your special day, but let's be real — we're all looking forward to an open bar and a memorable spread.

Accordingly, choosing a caterer can be as crucial of a decision as finding the right venue, the right gown or the right color palette. It is essential that with your caterer, you have that same cama-

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**2. Knowing exactly what you want goes a long way.** Buffet, sit-down dinner or passed bites? Finger food or gourmet? Conveying your ideas is essential to getting what you want. “Your

— Alex Gonzalez

— *Arnold Wayne Jones*

05.03.19 ■ dallasvoice 31



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## Tell it to the Bs... and Gs, Ls and Ts



Photo courtesy Kevin Scanlon

Queer Oscar winner Anna  
Paquin talks LGBTQ  
representation, understated  
queer roles and trans teachings

**E**nough with the labels: Anna Paquin just wants LGBTQ people to be *people*. As star and executive producer of Pop TV's *Flack*, Paquin's celeb-PR spin doctor, Robyn, fascinates because her hyper-controlling nature at work is in sharp contrast to her out-of-control family life. Robyn's bisexuality is a mere footnote.

It's 2019. This is the queer-is-human moment Anna Paquin has been waiting for. This explains why, though she plays a lesbian character, she appreciates that her love interest (Holliday Grainger) in her upcoming film *Tell It to the Bees*, out today, eludes any kind of fixed sexual identity.

Openly bisexual herself, Paquin

came out in 2010 in a public service announcement for Cyndi Lauper's Give a Damn campaign, dedicated to LGBTQ equality. At the time, she was portraying southern heroine Sookie Stackhouse on HBO's vampire queerfest *True Blood*; she married her co-star, Stephen Moyer, that same year. (The couple has 6-year-old twins, Poppy and Charlie Moyer.)

But the 36-year-old actress' precocious career in film and TV goes back decades to her childhood, when, at just 11 years old, she won the best-supporting actress Oscar for her portrayal of Flora McGrath in 1993's *The Piano*. Cross-genre roles abounded: *Fly Away Home* (1996), *She's All That* (1999), *Almost Famous* (2000) and three *X-Men* films. In 2017, Paquin starred as a detective investigating the disappearance and murder of a trans woman (Sadie O'Neil) on the short-lived drama series *Bellevue*.

Nearly 10 years later, Paquin still gives a damn — about inclusivity in her



work, entertainment as a way to open close-minded minds, and actors who are forced out of the closet in the name of representation.

— Chris Azzopardi

**In *Flack*, there's a gay scandal, a trans scandal and a lesbian sex tape, and that's all within the first three episodes. I mean, this show was made with the LGBTQ community in mind, right?**

Anna Paquin: I mean, not intentionally. It was just made more with, you know, the human race in mind. And that includes all of us [laughs]. There's humor and drama to be found in all of our communities, but, yes, there is definitely something to be had for our LGBTQ community in the world of *Flack*. Although a lot of people ask me if that was me, because obviously it's important to me, but that was just always part of the fiber of the show in those episodes, and that was our writers. I wish I could take more credit for that, but I really can't.

**As an actress, are you drawn to stories that tell our stories?** Yes, but I'm also just drawn to really amazing writing, and I think especially when there are stories that are our stories but are also written in a beautiful and eloquent way, that, to me, is a twofer. I mean, I love the fact that Robyn being bisexual just kind of casually drops in; it's not a thing because it shouldn't be a thing. And I feel like so many movies and shows, if they have characters who are leading anything other than heteronormative lives, it's made into a big deal. It really shouldn't be and isn't. So I do love that part of the show.

**It sounds like you don't think we're at a place where LGBTQ characters can simply live within the fabric of the world, and maybe that's because LGBTQ people can't just yet, either.** Are we? [Laughs] I mean, I think everyone has different experiences. I really think it depends what part of the country you're in and what kind of community you grow up in. Look, I'm a non-American-born Canadian-Kiwi living in liberal California, so my experience of the world as a bisexual woman is probably incredibly different from someone who lives in — not to single anyone out in particular, but let's say a less progressive state. So I feel like we still have a ways to go, but we're obviously going in the right direction.

**Where do you stand on the debate that exclusively LGBTQ actors should be playing LGBTQ roles?** In casting all the characters in this show it would never have occurred to us to look at anyone other than trans actors for trans roles. I frankly did not ask the actress who plays Robyn's ex-girlfriend because I also don't really think it's any of my business.

What's tricky around some of that stuff is that, while I think representation of people within our community is incredibly important, I think it's also putting a lot of pressure on people to come out in a public way that they may or may not be ready to do yet. I don't think it's anyone's place to force people out of the closet, to be like, "Hey, you shouldn't be playing this role because you're not gay." Well, what if that person is but isn't comfortable coming out? Where does that leave us as far as representation, but also respecting people's own timeline for their own lives and what they're comfortable with? I think

it's incredibly complicated.

**Was there pressure on you when you came out?** If there was, I certainly didn't experience any. Everyone in my private life knew. It wasn't a big deal. But also, things aren't a big deal if you don't make a big deal of them.

**I'd like to note that your show *Bellevue* represented the trans community in a very real way. I know you really bonded on the set with actress Sadie O'Neil, who played a trans character. What an awesome, smart, talented actress and writer and poet. She was incredibly**

patient with all of us who know less about her community asking quite specific questions as far as how we're representing the community on the show. Because the script, you can do a good approximation, but if that's not the life that you have lived then, obviously, you're not gonna get all of it right. And being patient with the fact that we had taken a good stab at it, but then wanting to actually get it right, was something we were really very grateful for, and we obviously very much deferred to her on a lot of it.

■ PAQUIN Page 37

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#### ■ GODS WORK From Page 25

accept you, and queer people also won't fully accept you because they've been hurt by the church. You're siding with your oppressor. And we understand that."

Constantino notes, "We're not out to justify anything the church has done, because I think the church has been awful to queer people. And most people hear about the book and think, 'Oh, what is this? They are just going to give us another list of to-dos.'" But, David adds, "Our book couldn't be further from that, because if anything we raise more questions about marriage, rather than trying to provide any kind of black and white solutions."

Between profound examinations of their relationship, questioning their own faith and navigating different sides of the issue, the road to writing *Modern Kinship* has been full of challenges for the Khalafs. But in the long run, Constantino observes, it's been a fruitful journey. "We're not saying that if you're gay and you're Christian, your marriage should look like this," he says. "In the end, a queer marriage is allowing you to deconstruct everything that society has told you, and then you build it back up with the truth that you have found." ■



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**In what ways was the show and being with Sadie on set a teaching moment for you?** It's one thing to conceptual-ly support all members of our rainbow community, it's another thing to pretend that you know what somebody else's life experience is like, and I don't pretend to know things I don't know. So, to me, getting more information is something that I just think you can't have enough of. And the more you know, the more helpful you can be. It literally had never even occurred to me that feminism could exclude trans women. That, to me, just doesn't make any sense, and that's a huge deal and kind of blew my mind. You know, these kinds of conversations that end up casually happening because you're working with them and getting to know them, it's like, "Wow, I feel a bit embarrassed that I didn't know that and I'm glad I know that now."

**Does it mean something to you that a role such as Robyn or your role as Dr. Jean in *Tell It to the Bees* is creating greater visibility for the LGBTQ community?** Absolutely ... *absolutely!* Yes. I think that people learn about people they don't understand through entertainment. That's one of our most powerful tools for bringing people out of their own bubble and their own world, because if you see somebody depicted on screen you sort of are emotionally connected to that person and their story and their life, and maybe it can change people's minds about how they sort of snap-judge other people and their sexual orientation or gender identity or whatever it may be. I think entertainment is a very powerful tool for that, so yeah, it's very meaningful to me.

**When were you first aware that entertainment had that kind of power?** Honestly, not really until I was a grown up, because when I was a teenager just, you know, doing my thing and going to school, I wasn't massively conscious of it. Becoming a parent I think also makes you more aware of that, the cause and effect when your kid watches something and repeats something back that you're like, "We don't speak like that." You get to see a very tiny microcosm of what its effect is, just even on little humans, because they don't know. But it's all around us. That's not to say that all entertainment that I do (laughs) can be watched by all people of all ages, because I do some stuff that is, obviously, very adult-oriented, but it has made me think about what kind of things I put out there into the world.

**In *Tell It to the Bees* you play your first explicitly queer character in film.** In a film, yes. But my character in [2017's sci-fi anthology TV series] *Electric Dreams* was also a lesbian.

**Why did it take so long?** It wasn't really

a conscious thing. A lot of times with choices it kind of depends on what material comes your way and when. I hadn't happened to have a proper lesbian love story of any sort really come my way prior to that. I think I was probably somewhat obvious casting for that [laughs]. But it's a beautiful love story, it's set in the 1950s in Scotland, my character is adopted, basically got outed as a teenager and left her community under quite traumatic circumstances. [She] falls in love with another outsider, a young mother in the community who is — we don't ever really

put a label on her sexuality, but it's proba-bly more on the bisexual-to-straight-but-falls-in-love-with-the-human. It's about what they bring out in each other.

**I'm surprised to hear that you haven't been offered more queer film roles.** I was on a TV show for, like, the entire time surrounding (coming out), so I wasn't really available to do anything else [laughs]. And also, *True Blood* reps are hard on the Pride front.

**How aware were you of what *True Blood* was doing for the LGBTQ community at the time it aired?** Vampires coming


out of the coffin: the metaphor was pretty specific! [Laughs] And also just the sexual fluidity of all the vampires. Obviously, we would have to have been living under a rock not to have felt the support and love from the community.

**Do you hear from gay fans on Twitter?** In general, yes. Whenever I've done work that has any representation of our com-munity, yes, I always end up hearing really cool, nice feedback from people who are appreciative of conversations being easier to have because they're happening in the public eye.



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pit sizzles, occupied by a small crowd of diverse, friendly blend minglers. The non-guests look on through the gate, curious of what dreaminess and late-night debauchery awaits.

Inside the bar, Masi or Walter sometimes tend bar, because if you own a business, everything is your responsibility. As a business developer for a major entertainment TV giant (he said he's unable to mention the company by name, per their request), Walter wore many hats, involving marketing, accounting

and creative ventures, which offered him insight when it came to running his own business. Staying in a variety of hotels, he said, is where he learned hospitality dos and don'ts.

As for Sanford, his engineering background aids in maintaining the physical plan and overseeing renovations and maintenance, while Masi, a Duke grad whom Walter calls "chameleon-like," was an editor for Boating magazine and does promo and website writing for their properties. He said their day-to-



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day is wildly unpredictable.

One late night during my visit, Walter was handling a diabetic guest who wasn't responsibly managing his alcohol intake (he sent a pizza to the man's room); the next morning Walter was checking on — and, naturally, playing with — the dogs at their pet resort. "Because there's three of us, we're able to divide and conquer," he says. "David always thinks of the business as a cruise ship: I'm the captain and my job is to just get the cruise ship from one place to another."

Their operation is fine-tuned, their dream realized. The three of them split their time between two gay-friendly places: Fort Lauderdale and P'town. Walter says P'town "is not necessarily a gay town; it's a town where being gay is a non-issue; it's not even really considered; it's not even a factor in town politics."

"It's a town where sexual orientation is a non-issue, which is unique and special," he emphasizes, "and one of the things that drew us to it."

For this reason, my new P'town friends Jay and Alan return to Brass Key every year. They love it in September, just as the party winds down and solitude sets in. I loved it then, too.

One early afternoon, we walk the magnificent breakwater, a mile-long stretch of granite boulders, snapping photos of each other as we trek through scattered brush and the damp low-tide bed, bound for the lighthouse near the shore of Herring Cove Beach. They kindly treat me to dinner at Mistralino Ristorante on our last night.

After finishing our meal, we laugh some hearty laughs over more wine on the porch of the two-level Brass Key suite they book every year. For one night, we all experienced the same magic of a shared dream in the wine-drenched stillness rendered by our postcard-perfect surroundings.

— Chris Azzopardi





Friday 05.03 —  
Sunday 05.26

**'Babette's Feast' will be a real feast onstage (and off)**

If you saw the Oscar-winning film *Babette's Feast* — about a Frenchwoman living as a cook and maid among austere Lutherans, only to bid her farewell to them with a sumptuous feast — you know that food plays a vital role on the telling of this tale (from a story by Isak Dinesen). Amphibian Stage Productions won't

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just be putting that feast onstage in their adaptation, but will offer opening weekend audiences the chance to enjoy a meal from chef Jen Williams on May 3 and 4. Even if you can't make those, you have three more weekends to catch this heartwarming show.

**DEETS:** Amphibian Stage, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. AmphibianStage.org.



Thursday 05.09 — Saturday 05.11

**City Dionysia throws an artsy bacchanal in the Arts District**

Dionysus is the Greek god of ... well, everything fun: wine, madness, theater, religious ecstasy, fertility. So you don't need a scholar to tell you that City Dionysia — produced by Giant Entertainment as part of ATPAC's Elevator Project series — will be a party. For three days, guests will get to discover music, art, food, puppetry, ritual and more at an outdoor festival centered at Strauss Square adjacent to the Winspear Opera House.

**DEETS:** Arts District at Flora and Jack Evens streets. 7:30 p.m. ATPAC.org.



Friday 05.10 — Sunday 05.12

**Broadway Our Way taps genuine Broadway vets**

Uptown Players' annual fundraiser Broadway Our Way is always one of the sassiest and funniest events of the year, as men and women switch songs. But this year has even added oomph. In addition to the lineup of super-talented Dallasites, two former locals will perform as special guests: Cedric Neal (*Porgy & Bess*) on May 10 and 11, and Anthony Fortino (*Fun Home* national tour) at all performances. Paul J. Williams hosts.

**DEETS:** Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. UptownPlayers.org.

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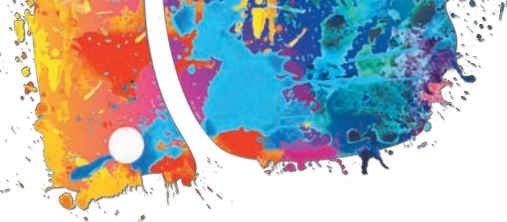
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## calendar highlights

### ARTSWEEK

#### THEATER

**Babette's Feast.** Isak Dinesen's story about a French maid who endures the austere surroundings of her employers only to wow them with a farewell meal. Amphibian Stage Productions, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. Through May 26. AmphibianStage.org.

**Everything Is Wonderful.** An excommunicated Amish woman returns home to deal with the consequences of a car wreck that killed her two brothers. Directed by Kelsey Leigh Ervi. Presented by WaterTower Theatre. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through May 12. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**Hamilton.** A small musical you may have heard of. *Final weekend.* Fair Park Music Hall, 909 First Ave. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

**Raptured.** A world premiere commission by Matt Lyle and Matt Coleman — a comedy about the end of the world. *Reviewed this week.* Theatre 3, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through May 19. Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Real Women Have Curves.** Stage adaptation of the hit film about Latinas dealing with life and body issues. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through May 19. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

**Wolf at the Door.** Marisela Trevino Orta's new dark fairy tale about Isadora, who finds the strength to stand up against her abusive husband Septimo. *Final weekend.* Presented by Kitchen Dog Theater. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. KitchenDogTheater.org.

#### OPERA

**Falstaff.** Verdi's comic masterpiece, centered on Shakespeare's blustery buffoon (and, across three plays, the longest role in the canon). This version is based primarily on *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. *Reviewed this week.* Winspear Opera House, 2401 Flora St. Through Sunday. DallasOpera.org.

#### CONCERTS

**Andrew Lloyd Webber and Stephen Sondheim's Broadway.** The Dallas Symphony Orchestra celebrates two great theater composers; Hugh Panaro is one of the guest vocalists. May 3–5.

#### FINE ART

**Jonas Wood.** Mid-career exhibition of the modern American painter. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Free. Through July 14. DMA.org.

**Fortuny: Friends and Followers.** Examination of the influence of the 19th century Spanish painter. Meadows Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd. on the SMU campus. Through June 3. MeadowsMuseumDallas.org.

### TUESDAY 05.07

#### FILM

**Hunchback of Notre Dame (1939).** This Charles Laughton classic, in an 80th anniversary release, arrives just as the real cathedral suffered a devastating fire recently. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark's Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY 05.09

#### BROADCAST

**Project Runway.** The design competition returns, with two Dallas designers in the mix. Now back on Bravo. 7 p.m.

#### FESTIVAL

**City Dionysia.** A bawdy celebration in honor of the Greek god of revelry, including food, performances and fun. Presented by Giant Entertainment as part of ATPAC's Elevator Project series. Strauss Square at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. May 9–11. ATPAC.org.

### FRIDAY 05.10

#### THEATER

**Broadway Our Way.** Uptown Players' annual fundraising performance where women sing songs written for men and vice versa. This year's special guests include Cedric Neal and Anthony Fortino. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. May 10–12. UptownPlayers.org.

## this week's solution

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# Ask Howard

How to do the wrong thing right

People, there's no turning back from here: It's an insanely impressive testament to just how very far the internet has infiltrated the mundane when sex toys can now be purchased at ordinary brick-and-mortar discount retailers, and wedding gift registries commonly list their preferred online BDSM purveyors. The point of no return has been stabbed up the anus of an inflatable gimp doll. So, whaddya say, boys? Shall we go ahead and just cut to the chase and get piston-pumping, butt-machine-dialed-up-to-psychotic-level-10 right to it!

**Dear Howard:** I need a super high octane, savage wedding gift idea — something different than just another set of ben-wa anal balls everybody else is gonna bore-the-whore bring, you know? What's an appropriately edgy wedding gift for a pair of middle-aged, BDSM bears? (I guess at 34 the younger one is technically still a cub.) Both of them have careers in "the theater" and neither needs anything that matters in the ways of making their public personas more pleasant — they already have plenty of farcical super glue "lace" doilies and Minnie Mouse fucking Pluto teacups. Their wedding invitation reads, "Uniquely Bedroom Specific Gifts Only, Please." So, I guess my question runs something along the lines of: What the hell is "unique" anymore to a couple whose only spare bedroom is painted black-leopard psychedelic, its décor a psych ward flourish of interlocking rubber floor mats, neoprene curtains, blackout drapes and a double-sling "bunkbed" hung from ceiling hooks on chains the size of squirming, clanking cobras? I won't even mention what sorts of three-dimensional "ornaments" adorn their jagged glass-front custom built-ins, except to say it's probably not for the faint of heart. "Heart-free" is the more appropriate description. Any perfect wedding gift suggestions, Howard? — **Prince, the Fencer**

**Dear Principessa:** How far outside fencing just the plain old ordinary, 24"x12-in. dildo cake (replete with flesh-colored frosting and vertical veins) for this occasion do you want to go? If I've learned anything over my years of writing this column, it's that keeping a cub slung up and moaning in ecstatic agony year upon happier year requires an ever-progressively more expensive imagination. My predominant takeaway, regarding the underworld of BDSM fetish-play, is that it's always better to go ultra-sleaze-generous when you don't have to, than it is to be just plain piggy/petty when it doesn't matter. Thus, based upon the info you've provided me — *The Hostel* anthology meets *The Abominable Dr. Phibes* — I say, go for heart-stopping here: A brief perusal through the Dr. Sado catalog might be just the perfect grooms' table invitation to Lucifer's wedding pyre you're seeking.

Upon voluminous research, I've narrowed

down some options appropriately "unique" for your blissfully theatrical couple of grizzlies. You didn't mention a price point, but I'm assuming you're well familiar with the highway-robbery inflationary costs of "adult novelties" — after all, little more raw materials go into producing, say, a total sensory deprivation "hospital" hood than go into manufacturing just any old given household toilet plunger. So, on the pretense of this being a perfect (under)world here, where everything's cheap at any price, let's start with this pervy jewel of a wedding gift from the Dr. Sado line of MEO Germany Sex Toys, they being the most creatively imaginative, by far, of anything else out there, kids (trust me, Howard always does his homework for you):

As for those of you men who are already fans of his well know, Dr. Sado's post-midnight T-shirt mantra reads, "Sex Without Pain Is Like Food Without Taste." (FYI, dear readers, any attempt to interpret Dr. Sado sanely is a fool's errand, so it's best not to overthink the good doctor's logic too literally.) When in doubt regarding just that *perfect* wedding gift, one simply cannot go wrong with either Dr. Sado's Gates of Hell Penis Plug or, better still, Dr. Sado's Super Evil Balls, described in his catalogue of horrors thus: "Unlike ordinary CBT [cock and ball torture] that stimulates the testicles simultaneously, Dr. Sado's latest development comes with his Hellish Pain Guarantee" — the visual of which, kids, is just too romantic: Imagine two separate egg-shaped, hollow stainless steel forms, with numerous "thorns" lining the interior of each egg's individual chambers, each of which houses one testicle, allowing each testicle's desired degree of pain be handled separately (both with their own padlock sharing but one Allen key): To quote the good doctor, "Love can hurt so beautifully! Be sure to hide the key!" Oh, Dr. Sado, wherever do we find a man of our own so romantic as you?

Then there's this: "The No Pacha Chastity Device for men is ideal for 24/7 torment — deviously featuring silicon spikes fitted *inside* the ball encasement area for that extra bit of chastity-motivation. The No Pacha is locked using only a small metal padlock with our PVC seals — perfect for traveling, as they don't show up on airport metal detectors, and is even equipped with an opening to urinate through — to wear comfortably, but discreetly, for an ever-uncomfortably longer time: In short, a modern chastity device that meets the challenges of strict chastity."

Now, on the other hand, Prince, if it's a backdoor gift you're more inclined towards, then I seriously doubt you'll have to worry about any of the other wedding's invitees duplicating one of these alternate suggestions: a Butt Bong Recycler (finally, a simple portable recycler that is easy to use ... milled from solid aerospace-grade

aluminum. Pissing into your own ass has never been easier!")... Or, perhaps, the Doc Johnson XXL Colossal Challenge Butt Plug ("You might think your appetite is bigger than you're a-hole ... and at 9-inches wide the CCBP is not for the weak of heart, but the smart design advances of the Colossal Challenge Butt Plug combined with a spongy taper, allows it to gently slide into your pucker — whether you're training for a fist, or just going for a nice ass gape — are you ready to take the challenge? Proudly made in America") ... Or, if still in doubt, Miss Priss, one may always opt to go "reverse chic" via a simple slave collar. They range in imagination from a mere strap of leather with a buckle, on up to a Heretics Fork Posture Collar ("The double-ended prong, with its attached elegant leather collar wrapped around your slave's throat, will dig mercilessly into their chest and neck; the Heretics Fork is easily lengthened with a thumb-screw, forcing your pet's head up high as you want — why settle for the same old posture collar?").

If you ask my opinion — which technically you did — I'd personally go with ... hmmm, oh, just something classically simple. Perhaps a ball crusher (one of those that only involves two square, transparent acrylic plates — y'all know the one I'm talkin' about). Plus, Dr. Sado's instructions couldn't be any easier: "Twist the two screws on the (newlywed's) bottom plate and watch his eyes grow larger as he starts to feel the pressure. The clear acrylic lets you get a great view of his flattened nuts from every angle. It won't be long until a fraction of a turn has him begging and panting for mercy." Oh, Dr. Sado — you metaphorical rascal, you ... call me, girlene, let's do lunch!

Clearly, Princely Fencer, in our brave new underworld there's no such thing during these rudderless (end) days — especially with Oracle L'Orange at our conflagratory superliner's bombastically burning helm — as possibly gifting too twistedly over-the-top or under-the-belt.

**Dear Howard:** I just received a "save the date" invitation from a former work acquaintance, announcing, "Here ye,



HUGGLES! We are elated to have you celebrate our love with us this July's final day, 2019. Formal invitation to follow." Howard, what does this mean? Am I to brace myself for some atrocious Harry Potter-themed wedding — the last day of July being the wonderful wizard's birthday, and all? Or, am I just totally off course here? By the way, what the heck are "HUGGLES"?

— **Renny Ren Ren**

**Dear Run, Renny, Run:** Ordinarily, I'd say you're reading way too much into this; however, considering that July 31 happens to fall on a Wednesday this year, and since nobody in the history of civilization has *ever* gotten married on a Wednesday without the presence of an angry father wielding a firearm in the background, I'd inform whatever Snape-esque queen sent you this invitation that she needs to go back to her bedraggled sorting hat if she expects anybody's gonna actually show up, mid-week, to her quidditch festivities featuring "Heterosexually-Undetectable Gaily Gathered Erudites."

**Dear Howard:** I've enjoyed reading your column for years but I never thought you were an actual *real* person — I guess because your column always shows you as a cartoon character. Then somebody told me they showed your photo recently, that you're blond and you own a pet monkey and you're married? I guess I must have missed that column. Are you married to a woman?

— **Paul the Brawler**

**Dear Brawlin' Paul:** LOL ... well, you're referring to my April 5 column, and it's sure not the monkey pictured on my back whom I married, pretty though his ass was. Nor do I own one as a pet. Nor am I heterosexual. And, Paul, that's where information made public of my private-life ends. You'll just have to make do with inventing the rest ... my sole request, please, is that you make it deliciously, frightfully scandalous!

— **Howard Lewis Russell**

*Have a question about love, lust, etiquette or anything else you'd like Howard to answer? Email him at AskHoward@dallasvoice.com.*



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- **Alexandre's:** **Wayne Smith** on Sunday. **K-Marie** on Tuesday. **Vero Voz** on Wednesday. **Chris Chism** on Thursday.
- **Cedar Springs Tap House:** Kick Off Pool Party: **Down to Fiesta** from noon-4 p.m. at ilume pool hosted by Cedar Springs Tap House.
- **Club Reflection:** **Latino Night** at 11 p.m. on Wednesday.
- **Dallas Eagle:** **United Court Quiz Show** from 7-10 p.m. on Friday. **Heroes and Villains Party** with **DJ Blaine** starts at 9 p.m. on Saturday. **Dallas Diablos Cookout** from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Havana:** **Showtime** is 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill:** **Double Trouble** with **Raquel Blake** and **Bleach** at 11 p.m. on Tuesday. **RuPaul's Drag Race Watch Party** with **Krystal Summers** on Thursday. **Dreamgirls** at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Liquid Zoo:** **Party on the Patio** with **JD Cobb** on Friday.
- **Round-Up Saloon:** **Boys Boots and Boxer Briefs** at 10 p.m. on Monday. **Saloon Star Live Singing Competition** at 10 p.m. on Wednesday. **RuPaul's Drag Race Watch Party** at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday. **Lip Sync Battle** at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Sue Ellen's:** **Miss Golden Globe State and State at Large** at 6 p.m. on Sunday. **The Queer Off Open Auditions.** Sign up by 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday. **Karaoke World Championship Auditions** at 7 p.m. on Thursday.
- **TMC:** **The Mining Company: Fuego Wednesdays** at 11:30 p.m.
- **Urban Cowboy:** **RuPaul's Drag Race Watch Party** on Thursday.
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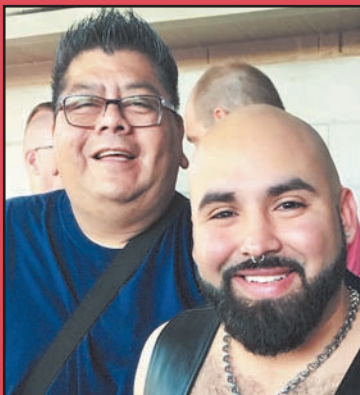


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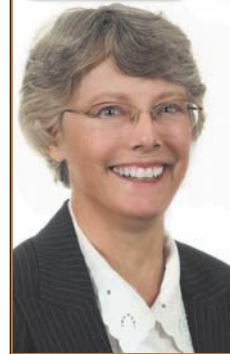


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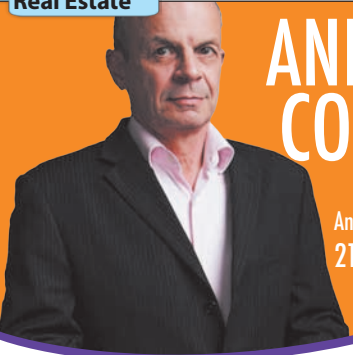
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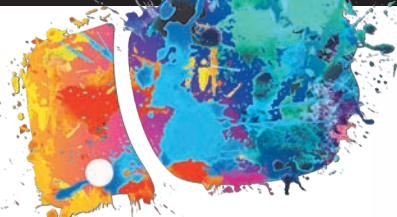
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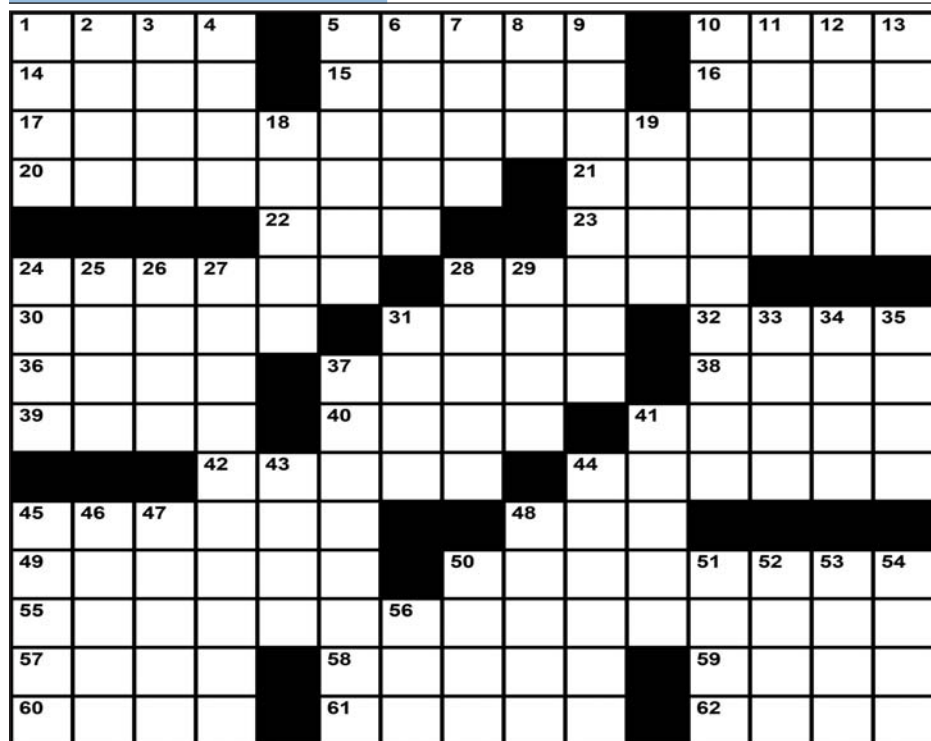
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## RecomPence

Solution on Page 40

### Across

- 1 Ones stuck under G-strings, e.g.  
 5 *Downton Abbey* neckwear  
 10 Mistake for Paul Taylor  
 14 Chocolate sandwich  
 15 Joe of *NCIS*  
 16 Go in only partway, at the beach  
 17 Start of a Mike Pence "quote" attributed by Bill Maher  
 20 Switch positions  
 21 Minor scrape  
 22 Wet area around bushes  
 23 Makes alterations to  
 24 Fraiser portrayer  
 28 What the Devil wears, in a movie  
 30 More frigid  
 31 Angry in., for example  
 32 Trick joint, maybe  
 36 More of the "quote"  
 37 Discharge on one's face  
 38 More of the "quote"  
 39 Legal matter  
 40 Land of Emma Donoghue  
 41 Hagar's dog  
 42 Enjoys phone sex  
 44 Gather closely  
 45 Two-footer?  
 48 Org. for narcs

- 49 Gave the slip to  
 50 John of *Hairspray*  
 55 End of the "quote"  
 57 Taking care of business  
 58 Cut out  
 59 Coin of Versace's homeland  
 60 Walk the waiting room  
 61 Prefix with dog  
 62 *Brady Bunch* prefix

### Down

- 1 Do that may need hair spray  
 2 Sea bordering Uzbekistan  
 3 Top Four game  
 4 Where Dr. C. Torres works  
 5 Leslie in *Gone with the Wind*  
 6 Cuddle in bed  
 7 Tent site  
 8 The Plastic \_\_\_ Band  
 9 High-ranking active partners?  
 10 Queen of diamonds and queen of spades, e.g.  
 11 Steven Greenberg, for one  
 12 Bonehead  
 13 Bill of legend  
 18 Put forward  
 19 Cultivated pansies

- 24 Catwoman portrayer Eartha  
 25 Off-the-wall feedback?  
 26 One with flaming pants?  
 27 Pick a time to become wives  
 28 Benjamin Britten's Peter  
 29 One way to have your meat  
 31 Golda from the land of the cut  
 33 Have an opening for  
 34 British peer  
 35 Feminizing tail  
 37 "I Shall Not Care" poet Sara  
 41 Gracefully tactful  
 43 Adam and Steve's locale?  
 44 Presided over  
 45 Jazz genre  
 46 Ex of one we hope will soon be an ex-president  
 47 \_\_\_ Room  
 48 Tee shot for Rosie Jones  
 50 Peter or Paul but not Mary  
 51 Mail carriers at Hogwarts  
 52 Debussy's milk  
 53 British car wheel  
 54 Lickety-split  
 56 Cruising locale



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