Black history, LGBT Pride
Dallas Southern Pride celebrates Juneteenth
by Tammye Nash, Page 10
WE’RE HERE FOR IT!

Pride is about more than an event or a day. It’s about self-care, self-love, compassion, celebration, social justice, community support, and equality.

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  Kirk Myers, P.J. Moton-Poole and Ahmad Goree of Dallas Southern Pride. Design by Kevin Thomas.

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The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas
New poll shows increased support for transgender rights

A push to limit transgender access to bathroom facilities in public places a couple of years ago backfired, a majority of Americans now favor transgender rights. Public Religion Research Institute released a new poll showing majority support for protecting trans men and women from discrimination.

Six in 10 say they’ve become more supportive of transgender rights than they were five years ago, while 25 percent said they are more opposed than they were five years ago.

About 76 percent of Democrats and 64 percent of independents are more supportive of transgender rights than they were five years ago, compared to only 47 percent of Republicans. Conservative Republicans are the only group with less than half reporting increased support.

“We will continue our fight to achieve full equality for transgender Texans and to do everything we can to educate fellow Texans, including elected officials, to ensure no one faces discrimination for who they are in our state,” said Lou Weaver, transgender programs coordinator for Equality Texas.

— David Taffet

Arrests made in Blake Edwards’ murder

Three men have been arrested and charged with capital murder in connection with the May 27 shooting on Mahanna Street that left 29-year-old Nicholas Blake Edwards dead.

Dallas police arrested Jamie Israel Saenz, 17, and Lupe Anthony Zavala, 18, on Friday, June 7. A third suspect, Carlos Rodriguez-Quinones, 19, was already in jail on unrelated charges. Homicide detectives added the capital murder charge to the charges he already faced.

Edwards was shot shortly after midnight on May 27 in the 3100 block of Mahanna Street, near the intersection of Mahanna and Longden Street, near the intersection of Mahanna and Lemmon.

Witnesses told police they saw two men get into a red Dodge and drive away toward Lemmon.

Bond was set at $350,000 for aggravated robbery charges and $500,000 for capital murder charges for Saenz, and bond for Zavala is set at $250,000 on capital murder charges.

— Tammye Nash

Michael Doughman has passed away

Former Dallas Tavern Guild/Dallas Pride Executive Director Michael Doughman died at his home in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, on Sunday, June 9, following an illness of several weeks.

Doughman “died peacefully in his sleep at home in a place he loved so much. We all were blessed to have our hearts touched by this brilliant, wonderful man. We can all say we are truly better for having known him.”

A benefit show planned for 3 p.m. Saturday, June 15, at The Round-Up Saloon, initially intended to raise funds for Doughman’s medical expenses will instead raise funds to pay his final expenses. In addition, a GoFundMe page set up to raise money for his medical expenses will now go toward covering his final expenses. Any money remaining will be donated to the scholarship fund established last year in Doughman’s name.

Adam Lynn, manager of the Round-Up, said Doughman will be cremated and his ashes spread in Puerto Vallarta, as per his wishes.

— Tammye Nash

Abbott signs ‘anti-LGBT dog whistle’ SB 1978

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed Senate Bill 1978 — the so-called “Save Chick-fil-A” bill into law on Tuesday, June 11, according to an email from Equality Texas. “This comes as no surprise,” the email noted, “as he had already signaled his intent before the bill was passed in a tweet showing a Chick-fil-A meal on his desk with a pro-Chick-fil-A news article on his laptop’s screen.”

SB 1978 was one of several so-called “religious refusal” bills introduced this year in the 86th Texas Legislature, but it was the only such bill to make it to Abbott’s desk. In its original form, SB 1978 would have allowed Texans to discriminate against LGBT people and others by claiming their “sincerely-held religious beliefs” required them to do so.

The watered-down version that finally passed in the waning days of the session, said, “a governmental entity may not take any adverse action against any person based wholly or partly on a person’s belief or action in accordance with the person’s sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction, including beliefs or convictions regarding marriage.”

— Tammye Nash
THE GAY AGENDA

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

JUNE
• June 14-20: Juneteenth Unity Celebration

• June 14: Gay Pride Shabbat
Congregation Beth El Binah in partnership with Temple Shalom LGBTQ Pride, Rainbow Roundup and the UNA-USA Dallas Committee on Refugees presents its annual Gay Pride Interfaith Shabbat with beverage reception at 6:15 p.m., service at 7 p.m. and Oneg Shabbat dessert at 8 p.m. at Congregation Beth El Binah-Northaven Church, 11211 Preston Road. For more information visit BethElBinah.org.

• June 14: QCinema
Beyond Stonewall at 2 p.m. at Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. Tickets at Qcinema.org.

• June 15: United Court
Emperor & Empress Ball benefits Resource Center Nutrition Center from 6-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 11311 Harry Hines Blvd. For more information visit DallasCourt.org

• June 14: DFW Pride Happy Hour
Celebrate Pride with the DFW Federal Club from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Open Palette, Sheraton Dallas, 400 N. Olive St. For more information visit DFWFederalClub.org.

• June 15: Unicorn Gaybingo
Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at rcdallas.org.

• June 15: Longview Pride
From 1-8 p.m. at Maude Cobb Convention and Activity Center, 100 Grand Blvd., Longview. Sixth annual event includes food trucks, shopping, a beer garden, live entertainment and an outdoor children’s area. For more information visit Facebook.com/longviewpride

• June 15: Trinity Pride Fest
A night of music, fun and food from 4-9 p.m. at Magnolia Green Park, 12-1 Lipscomb St., Fort Worth. For more information visit Facebook.com/trinitypridefw

• June 15: Oak Cliff Pride
Hosted by Texas Latino Pride from 5-10 p.m. at CocoAndre Chocolatier, 508 W. Seventh St. For more information visit Facebook.com/TexasLatinoPride

• June 15: Queen Supreme Court
TS Madison’s Queen Supreme Court Juneteenth Edition from 8 p.m.-1 a.m. at Deja Vu, 10945 Composite Drive. After Party from midnight-4 a.m. at Babylon, 11311 Harry Hines Blvd. For more information visit DallasSouthernPride.com

• June 15: QCinema
Beyond Stonewall at 2 p.m. at Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. Tickets at Qcinema.org.

• June 17: Stonewall Democrats of Rockwall
Stonewall Democrats of Rockwall meets at 7:30 p.m. at Harry Meyers Community Center, 815 E. Washington St., Rockwall. For more information, contact Patti or Heidi at sdrockwall@att.com.

• June 17: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas
Stonewall Democrats of Dallas meets at 6:30 p.m. at Mattito’s, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave. For more information visit StoneWallDemocratsofDallas.org

• June 18: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas
Largest Democratic club in Texas meets at 6:30 p.m. at Mattito’s, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave. For more information visit StoneWallDemocratsofDallas.org

• June 19: Prime Timers
Lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Charco Broker Steakhouse, 413 W. Jefferson Blvd. For more information visit PrimeTimersww.net

• June 19: Love What Makes You Real
Join us for a fundraiser to support the Resource Center. Just come into any Dallas Wings play the Phoenix Mercury at 7 p.m. at College Park Center, 600 S. Center St., Arlington. For more information visit DallasWings.com.

• June 19: An Evening With! A History and Celebration of Juneteenth
Dallas Historical Society celebrates Juneteenth with “An Evening With!” featuring Donald Payton and the South Dallas Concert Choir, 6:30 p.m. at the Hall of State in Fair Park. Admission is free. For more information visit DallasHistory.org

• June 20: GALA Happy Hour
Free appetizers, game tables, for GALA’s third Thursday happy hour from 5-8:30 p.m. at Henry’s, 3741 Legacy Drive, Suite 100, Plano. For more information GalaNorthTexas.org/happyhour

• June 20: THRIVE Summer Potluck
Bring your favorite summer dish and come socialize with other LGBTQ folks age 50+ from 6-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For more information visit MyResourceCenter.org

• June 20: Pride Night at Dallas Wings
Dallas Wings play the Phoenix Mercury at 7 p.m. at College Park Center, 600 S. Center St., Arlington. For more information visit DallasWings.com.

• June 20: 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. For more information visit TylerAreaGays.com

• June 20: Love What Makes You Real
Join us for a fundraiser to support the Resource Center. Just come into any Dallas – Fort Worth area Chipotle on Thursday June 20, from 10:45 a.m. to 10 p.m. Tell the cashier you’re supporting the cause to make sure 33 percent of the proceeds will be donated to the Resource Center. For more information visit MyResourceCenter.org

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Pet of the Week / Pecan

Meet Pecan, an 8-year-old, female pit bull mix weighing 72 pounds. She’s a big gal with an even bigger heart. She is extremely sweet, loving and affectionate, and despite her size, she is convinced she makes the perfect lap dog. She loves to cuddle with people and is so gentle with everyone she meets. When she’s not being a lazy dog, she enjoys going for walks outside, playing with toys and car rides. She walks well on her leash and loves to go new places. If you’re looking for a laidback girl to share your life with, she’s the one for you.

Pecan is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas’ Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive (near I-30 and Hampton Road). Hours are noon-6 p.m. Sun-Wed and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Sat. Regular adoption fees are $125 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months and $60 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older. Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FeLV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

Obituary

William Dockeray, 69, better known as “Doc,” had no family and told everyone different stories about his past when they asked. Somehow, through the years, he remained consistent about which stories he told to which people. Only after he died did his friends realize each one knew a different past about him.

But after finding some paperwork in his apartment after his death, we learned he was born in Chicago and lived in Phoenix before moving to Dallas. Chicago and Phoenix were about the only places he never mentioned to anyone. Only one thing was completely consistent in our knowledge of him: He was a character.

Doc was known around the community for shooting video of a variety of events. He recorded Lambda Weekly every week for about 10 years and posted the recordings to YouTube. He did the same for a number of organizations, including Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance and Silver Pride Project.

Among the events he recorded and posted was Transgender Day of Remembrance. After standing out in the bitter cold recording the 2018 TDOR ceremony at Dallas City Hall Plaza, he said he was there because he thought it was important for more people to know about it.

Before marriage equality became law, DART spent a year debating whether to offer partner benefits to its LGBT employees. Doc recorded and posted DART board meetings, letting the board members dehumanize their LGBT employees in their own words. While his presence seemed to annoy everyone at DART, he always insisted he had a right to record public meetings and returned month after month.

Doc died of heart failure, kidney failure and a stroke, but had been sick for only a short time and was recording and posting until just two weeks before his death. He leaves behind his friends at KNON, MDHA and other organizations.

A graveside funeral service was held for Doc at Restland, 13005 Greenville Ave. at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 14.

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PLU# 81042
Kendrell Lyles charged in Booker murder, is person of interest in others

DAVID TAFFET AND TAMMYE NASH
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Dallas Police on Wednesday, June 12, announced the arrest of Kendrell Lavar Lyles, 34, in connection with the murder of Muhlaysia Booker and two other people. Investigators said Lyles is also a “person of interest” in the murder of Chynal Lindsey and is also possibly connected with the 2017 death of Armani Dante Morgan whose death was ruled “unexplained.”

Investigations continue to look into those deaths and the deaths of at least two other black transgender women in Dallas — Shade Schuler, whose body was found in a field in July 2015, and Britney White, who was shot to death in October 2018.

Abounding Prosperity CEO Kirk Myers has been working with Dallas Police since Booker was first attacked in the parking lot of her apartment. He redoubled his efforts after Booker’s murder. Myers said he was pleased with the arrest of Lyles and praised DPD Chief U. Renee Hall for her commitment to find the murderer.

“Despite issues surrounding limited resources and the rapidly increasing crime rate in our city, the Dallas Police Department maintained focus on bringing justice to Ms. Booker’s family and committed countless hours to this investigation,” Myers said. “We encourage the Dallas Police Department to maintain this momentum in their continued efforts to determine whether Mr. Lyles is responsible for the additional murders of black transgender women in Dallas.”

Myers said the community is looking to District Attorney John Creuzot “to prepare a zealous and fair prosecution and secure a conviction.”

Lyles was picked up in Collin County on two traffic violations, a few days after Dallas police found Lindsey’s body in White Rock Lake. He was being held on under $1,000 bond on a Garland warrant for driving without a valid driver’s license and without insurance when witnesses came forward and identified him as the person who murdered Leticia Grant. Grant was shot to death on May 22 in a parking lot at 7815 McCallum Blvd. and died at a local hospital two days later.

On May 23, a man police have not publicly identified was found shot to death in a parking lot at 17509 Coit Road, within a block of where Grant was killed. Both locations are in the city of Dallas but in Collin County instead of Dallas County.

Lyles was already being held in the Collin County Jail when Dallas police put together information it received from the community with evidence from the Far North Dallas murders to link Lyles to Muhlaysia Booker’s murder.

During their investigation into the shootings on May 22 and May 23, detectives realized that Lyles drove the same type of car — a light-colored Lincoln LS — believed to have picked up Booker near the intersection of Spring and Lagow the night she was killed. That led investigators to begin analysis of data from Lyles’ cell phone, and that analysis indicates that Lyles frequented the Spring Avenue/Lagow Street area and that he was in that area at the time Booker was picked up the night she died.

The traffic violations were dismissed on Tuesday, June 11, based on time served, but Lyles remains in jail without bail on sheriff’s office holds from both Collin and Dallas counties.

Lyles has been charged so far with three counts of murder, including the May 18 murder of Muhlaysia Booker. He is also charged with the murder of a woman shot to death May 22 at 7815 McCallum Blvd., and with the murder of a man shot to death May 23 at 17509 Coit Road.

Police said that tips called in to detectives in connection with the May 22 murder in Far North Dallas, corroborated by information from a witness and information from cell phone records, led them to issue an arrest warrant for Lyles on June 5.
Suspect Kendrell Lyles, left; Carmarion Anderson, above; Muhlaysia Booker, below left, and Chynal Lindsey, below right.

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HELP Center
for LGBT Health and Wellness
The men behind Dallas Southern Pride discuss the importance of culturally specific Pride celebrations.

Dallas Southern Pride, the organization that presents Dallas’ huge Black Gay Pride celebration each fall, this weekend presents its annual Juneteenth Celebration, three days and more of parties celebrating LGBT Pride Month and Juneteenth, the commemorations of June 19, 1865, the day that slaves in Texas learned that Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation two years earlier, freeing all slaves in the U.S.

It is, the three men spearheading the celebration said, a chance for black LGBTQ people to celebrate both sides of their identity in a space where they are valued for both.

“Often times, black folks don’t necessarily have a lot of the privilege in being gay that the white gay community has,” said Kirk Myers, business advisor and lead organizer for Dallas Southern Pride. “It’s easy to segregate yourself away in a gay enclave like Oak Lawn, but black and brown folks often still live in the neighborhoods where they were born. And [being openly gay] isn’t so easy there.

“The larger [LGBT] community wants you to embrace being gay without addressing the fact that you are also black. But the thing is, even when you show up [in the larger LGBT community], you are still black,” he added.

P.J. Moton-Poole, DSP’s development director, elaborated: “When you think of the LGBT community at large, it’s important to acknowledge that, historically, the community hasn’t celebrated the contributions of black and brown people in general. At the same time, [black LGBTQ people] were not accepted in the black community.

“So we had to create our own communities, our own programs,” Moton-Poole continued. “And a lot of times, things that the black and brown people started, the white gay men would take over. It was black trans women that started Stonewall, but white gay men got the credit. It’s a cyclical trend. But one of the things that is most beautiful is our resilience: We create something, and then we go on and create something else.”

Black LGBT people fight the battle for acceptance on two fronts, Moton-Poole continued. “The LGBT identity is misunderstood in the larger black community. They see it as a choice, and their religion tells them it is wrong. There are a lot of reasons why the [larger black community and the black LGBT community] could never really merge.

“For the mainstream LGBT community, coming out is often a celebratory thing,” he added. “But for black and brown bodies, it is a point of trauma, an intense life battle.”

Myers, who is also founding CEO of Abounding Prosperity Inc., said he has been ‘doing work in HIV prevention for more than 25 years now,’ and that he was “led to do the work because of my own diagnosis and not having a lot of service providers that looked like me at the time.” His goal, he added, to give others like him the support they needed, to “show them what care looks like and help with navigation issues.”

Dallas Southern Pride is “very intentional” in organizing Pride events especially for the black LGBT community. But the intent is never to segregate or separate the black LGBT community from the larger LGBT community, he stressed.

“I see myself as a bridge, he said. “I am able to move easily between the communities, and I do have a certain amount of privilege. But there are many who don’t have that ease, that privilege. What we are trying to do is give them the chance to live and to present in that way that’s comfortable for them.”

In his interactions with the larger LGBT community, Myers continued, “often times I am asked to assimilate. It’s subtle, of course. They say, ‘You’re gay. You’re queer.’ And I say yes, but I am still showing up black. I am black and gay; I am black and queer.

“Especially in times like these, with our political climate the way it is right now, it is even more important for black LGBT people to have a sense of cultural identity,” he continued. “There are so many attacks on trans folks from all sides, especially black trans folks. Trans people are being attacked by everybody from the president on down. You can only imagine the severity of being black and trans in this environment.

I have seen the white LGBT community fight with the community overall for inclusion and diversity. But at times we [as black LGBT people] aren’t getting that same inclusion from the larger LGBT community,” Myers said. “As welcoming as they think they are, again, you are expected to assimilate to be welcome — to assimilate in your dress, your music, your social norms.”

Myers said that while Dallas is already one of the top five markets for Black Pride, and while Dallas Southern Pride continues to grow, the organizations in place to promote Dallas as a destination for LGBT people to visit or to move to are not making an effort to reach out to the black LGBT demographic.

VisitDallas, the city’s convention and visitors bureau, recently produced a video promoting Dallas as an LGBT destination. That video, however, “didn’t include any black perspective,” Myers noted. “I asked them, what do you think of [populer rapper] Cardi B? They said, ‘Oh we love her. She’s great.’ So I said, then when didn’t you mention in your video that she came and performed for Dallas Southern Pride? They didn’t even know.”

There is, Myers said, “still such a disconnect. It’s inadvertent, well, I’m not going to say racism, but there is a willingness not to acknowledge the black LGBT community. There is still so much structural and systemic racism, and we still all bring our biases into the room with us.”

At meetings of the North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce, he noted, “Ahmad [Goree, DSP’s director of public affairs] are often the only people in the room that look like us. And when Dallas Pride decided to move to Fair Park in South Dallas, they never consulted with us. We could have made that an easier transition. It was a chance to highlight even more diversity. But what you had was a bunch of white gays come and take over a non-white community. And no one felt the need to address the community that was already here.”

Finding Pride in other events

While Dallas Southern Pride’s main
way, Moton-Poole said, for black LGBT people to celebrate their black identity as well as their LGBT identity.

Goree explained: “Juneteenth is a part of who I am as a black male, born and raised in Texas. It’s even more important to the black LGBT community because it symbolizes unity from a struggle forever etched in history. The black LGBT community still suffers from mistreatment not just because we are LGBT or black, but because we are black and LGBT.

“Juneteenth is motivation for our people to overcome tribulations we currently face by being in unity just with each other, but with everyone — black, white, brown, straight or gay.”

Myers and Moton-Poole explained that the Juneteenth Celebrate as it stands now started out about 12 or 14 years ago as a Unity Pool Party at Myers’ home. When the party outgrew his backyard, they began partnering with other organizations to create a larger, more expansive celebration.

The celebration has continued to grow, so much so that for two years in a row — 2017 and 2018 — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott sent a proclamation honoring the events. “That says something,” Myers said, “for a conservative governor in a conservative state like Texas to do that. It shows how transformative and innovative our efforts have been. We set out to create a unifying event, and we have done that. Now we have people from as far east as New York and as far west as California coming to Dallas to celebrate Juneteenth with us.

“We have given them a reason to come here, and they have come. We are breaking down barriers — internal and external. It proves that you can change hearts and minds and opinions when people are able to come together and experience you.”

Goree concluded: This is a time in our society for all of us to have each other’s back. With all the hate and mistreatment, we must show that we can’t be broken or brought down for long.

“This Juneteenth weekend, we will celebrate our trans sisters that have lost their lives and those who have been abused physically and mentally. We will show that this bigotry has not weakened us but has made us more unified and stronger than ever.”

Juneteenth Calendar

• June 14: Juneteenth party. From 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at Marty’s Live, 4207 Maple Ave. After Party from midnight-4 a.m. at Babylon, 11311 Harry Hines Blvd.

• June 15: Juneteenth Unity Festival and pool party. Pool party from 4-10 p.m. at Cedar Canyon Dude Ranch, 4523 N. Houston School Road, Lancaster. Unity Mega Party from 11 p.m.-5 a.m. at Gas Monkey Live, 10110 Technology Blvd. E. After Party from midnight-4 a.m. at Babylon, 11311 Harry Hines Blvd.

• June 16: Juneteenth Unity BBQ. From 3-7 p.m. at Bachman Lake Park, 3500 Northwest Highway. Party from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at Deja Vu, 10945 Composite Drive. After Party from midnight-4 a.m. at Babylon, 11311 Harry Hines Blvd.

• June 17: Queen Supreme Court. TS Madison’s Queen Supreme Court Juneteenth Edition from 8 p.m.-1 a.m. at Deja Vu, 10945 Composite Drive.

For more information visit DallasSouthernPride.com.

Black Pride celebration is held each year at the end of September, organizers decided to use an event already popular in the larger black community — Juneteenth — to create a second Pride celebration for black LGBT people. It is a

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June Pride Month celebrations are planned all around the Metroplex over the next week.

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Pride month continues in North Texas with events in Plano, downtown Dallas and Fort Worth. See the story on Page 10 for Juneteenth events, presented by Dallas Southern Pride.

FORT WORTH

While Fort Worth’s annual downtown Pride parade and picnic in Trinity Park remain in October, new events have been planned for June.

On Tuesday, June 11, the city presented a Pride Month proclamation at Fort Worth City Hall to Stonewall Democrats of Tarrant County.

QCinema is screening Before Stonewall: The Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 15.

Trinity Pride Fest takes place on Saturday, June 15 from 4-9 p.m. at Magnolia Green Park, 1201 Lipscomb St., Fort Worth. The park is on the south side just south of W. Rosedale Street. Free parking is available at 1201 Alston Ave.

DJ Hautemess, Gollay, Svenny Baby and Flip and the Combined Effort are among the entertainers at the picnic. Chairs and “social pets” are welcome. No outside food or drinks will be allowed. Organizers said support of vendors is what keeps the event free.

An official unofficial Trinity Pridefest After Party takes place at The Urban Cowboy Saloon with a show at 10:30 p.m. featuring Evah Destruction and Dru Holiday.

On Saturday, June 22, Fort Worth’s LGBT community remembers the 50th anniversary of Stonewall with its Equality March for Unity and Stride, from 9-11 a.m. at the Fort Worth Water Gardens.

PLANO

North Texas Pride takes place from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday, June 15, at Haggard Park, Saigling House, 902 E. 16th St., Plano. Tickets are $8 for adults or $20 for VIP.

Entertainment, speakers and vendors are featured at the 9th annual Collin County celebration.

The festival is an annual fundraiser whose goal is to build an LGBT community center for organizations for events, meetings, education and more north of I-635.

GALA presents its Third Thursday Happy Hour at Henry’s, Tavern, 5741 Legacy Drive, Plano with complimentary appetizers, drink specials, games and prize giveaways.

Then GALA presents the North Texas premiers of Alabama Bound and Lady Eva on July 25 at the Angelika Plano, The Shops at Legacy, 7205 Bishop Road, Suite E6, Plano. Tickets are $15 online at GALANorthTexas.org or $20 at the door.

ARLINGTON

Pride Night with the Dallas Wings is Thursday, June 20. The Wings play at UTA College Park Center at 600 S. Center St., Arlington.

DALLAS ARTS DISTRICT

The Dallas Museum of Art holds an even more ambitious Pride Late Night than last year with the addition of a late night at the Nasher Sculpture Center as well on Friday, June 21 from 6 p.m.-midnight billed as The Arts District Block Party.

Arts, culture and LGBT community Pride meet in the Arts District with pride-themed tours of the museums collections, performances, story time, movies, local artists, food trucks, makers and artisans, drag shows, runways, outdoor activities and more.

DENTON

Denton Pride Fest takes place on June 28 from 3-10 p.m. at North Texas Fairgrounds, 2217 N. Carroll Blvd., Denton. Non-profit and business vendors, music, food and entertainment will be presented throughout the afternoon and evening.
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*Our PrEP Navigator has more information about the free PrEP medication program.

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CheckYourStatus.org
A new location housing three Resource Center programs for young LGBTQ people is creating a “space for empowerment” and has already “done great things for race relations” among the their various target groups, according to Jalenzski Brown, empowerment programs manager for Resource Center.

Because United Black Ellument, Fuse and Gender Brave, each designed to serve a different segment of the LGBTQ youth population, were all looking for new homes at the same time, Brown said, they decided to find one space large enough to accommodate all three.

UBE is for black gay and bisexual men ages 18-29, while Fuse serves gay and bisexual men ages 18-29 of all races. GenderBrave is for transgender and gender-non-conforming individuals ages 18-29. While each group needed its own space, Brown said, the new location — at 2600 North Stemmons Freeway near the AIN offices — is large enough to give each program its own separate private space, while at the same time providing shared spaces that are letting the different groups interact in positive new ways.

“This new space has multiple rooms, allowing us to cater to different segments of each of the three demographics we serve,” Brown said. “For instance, on a UBE night, we might have folks watching RuPaul’s Drag Race in one room, a book club meeting in another room and a resume writing workshop going on in a third room.

“At the same time, we have common spaces that all the programs can use, and that means that we are able to bring people together in a magical way,” he said.

In addition to the private spaces set aside for each of the three programs, the new space includes multiple shows, a laundry room, a snack room, internet...
service, TVs, a game room and access to computers and printers.

“A lot of the participants in our programs are transient, so having access to things like showers and a place to do laundry or access the internet is vital to them,” Brown said.

Brown explained that Gender Brave is “an extension” of the Fuse program, created as a separate sub-program in 2017 when it became clear that it was “no longer appropriate to combine trans programming with programming for men who have sex with men.”

There is, he said, “a lot of transphobia in the gay community,” which is one reason it was important to provide a separate and safe space for young trans people.

Each program, Brown continued, serves a distinct demographic. And these distinct demographics have their own cultures. It is important, he added, for group members to have those private safe spaces where they can find support and understanding from others who share their culture.

But at the same time, having the common spaces for all three programs “has given us a lot of opportunities for cultural cross-pollination and for these young people to find additional peer support,” he added. That cultural cross-pollination, he said, is what is creating more understanding and less tension between races and more.

Aiming for prevention

The underlying goal for all three programs — UBE, Fuse and Gender Brave — is HIV prevention, Brown said, noting that CDC research has shown the effectiveness of empowering individuals in lowering HIV transmission rates in gay and bisexual men ages 18-29. Fuse and UBE use an empowerment program developed by the CDC, and program coordinators have adapted that program for the trans youth demographic.

Each of the programs has a core group of leaders who work with Resource Center staffers — Jalenzski Brown, Tres Brown and Dylan Shurts — to customize and implement the programming. And all of it, Brown said, has an HIV prevention component.

“We have information and resources related to testing, PrEP, condoms and more,” Brown said. “There is information posted throughout the space, and we have safer sex ‘shops’ set up around the space where they can get condoms and things. We offer HIV testing regularly and help connect people with treatment or PrEP.

“That is the real goal here, to connect them with the resources they need and to provide them with a welcoming space for empowerment with good energy that can be their second home.”

United Black Ellument meets Tuesdays-Fridays, from 3-9 p.m. Fuse is open Mondays from 4-10 p.m. and Tuesdays-Fridays 3-10 p.m. Gender Brave meets Mondays from 6-9 p.m.
WRCC offers an affirming and welcoming ministry in a new location

NICK TOTIN | Contributing Writer
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White Rock Community Church (WRCC) is celebrating the one-year anniversary of its move to a new location in East Dallas and the addition of a new clergy member, the Rev. Pablo Guardiola. Guardiola joined the church to expand its Hispanic ministry and outreach.

Lead Pastor the Rev. Douglas Shaffer, said he had grown weary of the common approach he has witnessed of adding Hispanic ministry that often creates separation or forces a congregation’s existing style on an outside community.

“A lot of predominately white churches think they’re doing the Hispanic community a favor by teaching them English as a second language,” Shaffer said. “We asked, ‘What does it look like if we teach our congregation Spanish, so that when we’re ministering to people, we can have basic conversations in their own language?’”

Hiring Guardiola brought WRCC one step closer to their mission of creating an all-affirming, all-inclusive church environment, Shaffer said.

“White Rock Church needed someone to go out into the Hispanic community and begin to build the bridge between their community and this church,” Guardiola said. Every Tuesday evening church volunteers prepare dinner, and Guardiola offers a conversational Spanish lesson to members of the congregation and anyone else interested in learning the language.

“Pastor Pablo has a great track record of church growth and Hispanic ministry,” Shaffer said.

The church now uses a space they rent from the Owenwood United Methodist Church, in Eastwood Hills on John West Road, in a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood. Shaffer described the area as lacking in availability of fresh food and produce, and said he saw an
Guardiola recognized the needs of this community and helped facilitate a connection between the North Texas Food Bank and WRCC.

“We’re in a food desert,” Shaffer said, “and [last Saturday] more than 100 households got fresh produce from us working collaboratively with another non-profit.”

WRCC’s move to a new location has given the church the opportunity to expand its community outreach programs, too.

“The church realized that maintaining a sanctuary the size [of the church’s former facility of Garland Road] was just too much cost. But we’ve always wanted to be a church in our community,” Guardiola said.

The high cost of maintaining the building made it difficult to continue the community work the church was committed to doing which led to the decision to sell their building. “Now we are able to work in their community with the loosening up of the financial burden of the old building,” Guardiola said.

Although adding Guardiola to the pastoral staff meant an expansion of the Hispanic ministry, WRCC has a long-standing tradition of serving the LGBTQ community. And the church offers services and support to the community of people living with HIV through its Friends Ministry.

“We serve a hot lunch to the community of people living with HIV and offer a dry goods store that goes beyond what most people get from regular help,” Guardiola said.

While all are welcome, the congregation is mostly comprised of members of the LGBTQ community. Guardiola, who identifies as a straight male, has experienced issues with his previous denomination over his affirming approach to the LGBTQ community. Ultimately, joining WRCC offered Guardiola the chance to minister to everyone, regardless of their community or background.

“This is not a gay church or a straight church; this is God’s church,” Guardiola said. “People like to try and dictate what church should look like instead of working to make their church look like their community.”

Happy for the welcome

Two members of the congregation, Jen Spivey and Devyn Box, the church’s organist, are engaged to be married soon and are thankful to have a home church community that welcomes them.

Spivey has been attending the church for more than a year. She says what sets WRCC apart is the church’s mission to go out and meet the needs of the community they serve through its food bank and Friends Ministry programs.

“As people see that, they see who we are as a church and what we believe church can be,” Spivey said.

For Spivey, WRCC is a place where she can live congruently and not have to separate her faith from her sexuality.

“I wrestled with this thing that I knew was a part of me and my faith,” Spivey said, “so I think by having churches that are affirming and are willing to say you can honor and serve God was really valuable to me.”

White Rock Church offers worship service on Sundays 10:45 am and Bible Study classes Sundays at 9:00 am and Wednesdays at 7:30 pm.
FROM STAFF REPORTS

Transgender performer and media personality Alok Vaid-Menon is commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots with a Pride Party in their hometown of Bryan/College Station, home of Texas A&M University, today (Friday, June 14).

The party will take place from 8-10 p.m. at Halo Nightclub in downtown Bryan. Other performers from across Texas are also slated to appear, including P1nkstar, Y2K, Brock Bottom, Target, Lagniappe, Colby Calhoun, and Infinity. DJ Aracely Manterola, “the only drag queen DJ in Texas,” will provide the music.

Brazos County Precinct 4 Justice of the Peace Celina Vasquez, an LGBTQ advocate, will also speak briefly at the event.

Everyone age 18 and up is invited to attend. There will be a $5 cover charge at the door, and proceeds from the event will benefit local community organizing groups Young Dems BCS and Transcend, a student group at Texas A&M University that supports transgender and gender-nonconforming students.

Noting that they were bullied frequently while growing up in College Station, Alok Vaid-Menon said, “In the 50 years since Stonewall, Pride has become recognized in urban spaces on the East and West Coasts, but it has yet to really reach many rural areas in the South where queer and gender-nonconforming people still often live in fear of expressing their authentic selves.”

“Grapevine: A Southern Trans Report,” published by the Transgender Law Center and Southerners on New Ground, shows that 47 percent of trans and gender non-conforming people in the South report experiencing high levels of violence from strangers and 40 percent report high levels of violence from healthcare providers.

Stephanie Koithan, president of Young Dems BCS and organizer of the event, said, “The situation is dire for trans people in the South, especially trans people of color. Much has changed since 1969, but the recent murders of black trans women Muhlaysia Booker and Chynal Lindsay in Dallas remind us that, sadly, too much remains unchanged. “It’s important to come together and show our support for the local LGBTQ community,” Koithan added.

Young Dems BCS is a community organizing group dedicated to creating change on a local level in Bryan/College Station through voter engagement, registration and education. The organization also partners with other activist groups and marginalized communities to “build a strong intersectional coalition, providing data strategy, organizing support and practical solutions to create a more equitable Brazos County.”

Koithan said, “Young Dems BCS ex-
ists to channel the ideals and energy of young progressives into sustainable activism infrastructure, serving as a bridge between campus and community activism and empowering young progressives to participate in the political process.”

Transcend works to meet the needs of the growing population of students on the A&M campus that identify in the transgender, bi-gender, agender and gender-nonconforming spectrum. It serves as a support group for these students to connect with allies and others that identify as they do.

Transcend works alongside existing LGBT organizations and institutions to further the acceptance, recognition, and fair treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and especially transgender students on campus and serves as a reminder to prospective or incoming transgender students that there are others like them currently on campus and that they have a place on the campus, as well as directing transgender students to available resources.

During a press conference on Wednesday, June 12, Assistant Chief Avery Moore indicated that Lyles is considered a person of interest in the murder of Chynal Lindsey, a black trans woman whose body was found in White Rock Lake on June 1, and possibly is connected to the death of Armani Dante Morgan, a black trans woman whose July 2017 death was initially thought to be a suicide, but was then ruled unexplained. Her family has insisted that it was murder.

Police continue to investigate the October 2018 shooting death of Brittany White, the July 2015 murder of Shade Schuler, both black trans women, and an April 2019 knife attack on another black trans woman, who has not been publicly identified.

Moore praised Dallas PD detectives for having done “an excellent job in investigating these cases,” commending them for “their diligence and coordination.”

He also thanks the community “because without the tips and witnesses coming forward, it is likely these cases would remain unsolved. It is through our partnerships with the community that we are all able to successfully combat crime.”

Officer Amber Roman, DPD’s LGBT liaison officer, noted in an email following the press conference that the two other murders Lyles has already been charged with “involve individuals that are not a part of the LGBTQ+ community.”

Krista De La Rosa, a black trans activist who organized the Sunday, June 9 #BlackTransLivesMatter march on Cedar Springs, said, “I know this is far from ‘mission accomplished,’ but if this is the guy, this is one less monster on the street!”

TransGriot publisher and activist Monica Roberts serves on the board of Black Trans Advocacy, a Dallas-based national group that advocates and empowers black trans men and women.

“Can’t think of a more wonderful thing to celebrate during this Pride season than the alleged killer of Muhlaysia Booker and two other trans women being behind bars,” Roberts said. “May the next step be that justice is served in this case.”

The Rev. Carmarion Anderson, executive director of Black Transwomen Inc., which is part of the Black Trans Advocacy coalition, was more cautious.

“In light of recent news coverage and with someone in custody, that brings some relief,” Anderson said. “But it doesn’t bring closure, because there’s a bigger picture.”

Anderson said the black trans community lacks resources and visibility and that the trans community overall “is still dehumanized.”

Gender identity is still not included in the Texas hate crime law, Anderson pointed out, stressing, “There’s still a lot of work to be done.

Myers agreed that if the suspect in custody is indeed the murderer, the community is safer. But he also had a warning: “We implore our transgender sisters to maintain caution in their daily lives because hate and ignorance are still present.”

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Invasion without inclusion

Pride celebrations in South Dallas are not ‘new’

Black LGBTQ communities are not strangers to the historical trend of erasure without inclusion. This year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, and pioneering black trans women like Marsha P. Johnson and Miss Major Griffin-Grady were driving forces behind the 1969 uprising. Yet the 2015 major motion picture based on the events of Stonewall depict only white gay men as leaders in the revolution that set the foundation for the freedoms we celebrate today.

Time and time again, black LGBTQ folk are erased from the narratives of movements that mobilize our people, and that is continuing to be proven true even today, even right here in Dallas.

Pride in South Dallas is not new to Dallas’ black LGBTQ communities. Since 2013, Abounding Prosperity Inc., in collaboration with Dallas Southern Pride, has hosted a variety of Black Pride events throughout the year in South Dallas. On the first weekend in June, for more than six years now, black LGBTQ residents of Dallas have celebrated the life, love and culture of our community.

One such event is the Black Pride Block Party, formerly known as the Pre-June-sixteenth Weekend Celebration, which has taken place in South Dallas during the first weekend of June for more than six years now. Through the Black Pride Block Party, black LGBTQ residents of Dallas have celebrated the life, love and the culture of our community.

Without consultation, consideration, or concern, Dallas Pride decided less than a year ago that it would relocate the mainstream Dallas Pride celebration right into our front yard. Now, black LGBTQ folk have no monopoly over any geographical area in Dallas. And it is exhausting to continue to fight for inclusion in the mainstream LGBTQ community, only to be retraumatized through small gestures of tokenism for the sake of calling Dallas Pride “diverse.”

To be black and a part of the LGBTQ community is to be constantly aware that you are never safe. We attempt to socialize in Oak Lawn, only to be racially profiled and mistreated due to perceived threats by others for “living while black.” We attempt to integrate into the larger black community, only to be rejected by the religious-driven belief that we are immoral.

We are forced to seek safety in spaces that we create. Only in these spaces can we be seen, understood and whole. For years, black LGBTQ leaders have sought opportunities for inclusion in Dallas Pride only to be ignored time and time again. I’ve been in community leadership locally for more than seven years now and have personally found intense frustration in my community not being reflected in Dallas Pride efforts.

For example, there are no black gay men on the Dallas Pride board, despite the fact that black men statistically head within Dallas Southern Pride. But Pride in South Dallas is not new, nor is it innovative; it is invasive.

Dallas Southern Pride creates space for our people because you don’t make room for us. Now that we have created that space, you want to bring your corporate-branded rainbows and floats to our front yard as if we and our efforts never existed. You did this without so much as a call to collaborate and truly create an inclusive environment where all Dallas LGBTQ folk can see themselves reflected.

This move was not about growth or unity; it was an exercise of concentrated power that continues to rear its ugly head within Dallas’ LGBTQ communities.

P.J. Moton-Poole is an HIV/AIDS and LGBTQ activist and is development director for Dallas Southern Pride.
FREE HIV AND HEP C TESTING! ONE DAY ONLY.

FREE HIV Testing Event • Thursday, June 27 • 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

In recognition of National HIV Testing Day, Methodist Dallas Medical Center Partners Clinic is teaming up with Walgreens and Greater Than AIDS to provide FREE, confidential, and fast HIV and Hep C testing at the Walgreens on the corner of Beckley Avenue and Colorado Boulevard on Thursday, June 27. No need to register. Call 214-932-1712 for more information on event.

Call 214-947-6780, or visit PartnersClinic.com to learn more about Partners Clinic, your partner in HIV prevention, treatment and primary care.
Let’s have a kiki

As the Arts District readies for its next Pride Block Party, members of the Vogue Academy plan to have a ball.

JOHN CARDER MCCLANAHAN
Contributing Writer
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Sweat drips from a panting Toriell Williams as he removes a long black wig from his head. Williams, who goes by Jet on the dance floor, just spent 20 minutes spinning and dashing to the floor to strike a pose during pulsating moments boomed from a black speaker. Sporting a tight blue tank-top and gray tights with two black knee pads, Jet flashes several hand waves before he drops to another seemingly back-breaking position.

On Friday nights, in a safe space unit off North Stemmons Freeway, Jet meets with friends to practice a series of explosive dance moves they call voguing. For them, the multi-colored tile floor inside United Black Ellument’s community center is enough room for each dancer to let loose and vogue.

For those who have not seen Paris is Burning (the 1990 documentary about the history of ballroom culture in the 1980s) or even Pose (the fictionalized TV series on the same era, which just started its second season on FX), voguing originated in uptown New York as far back as the ’60s and was pioneered by mostly closeted black LGBTQ individuals to free themselves of social strictures of the time, when homosexuality and even cross-dressing was criminalized. More than just a form of dance, voguing represented a cultural war-cry for the sexually disenfranchised. Since then, the art has spread across the U.S., especially where a ball is happening.

And while you may not have been to a ball before, voguing enjoys underground popularity in Dallas. But if you don’t know where to find it, here’s a suggestion: The Pride Block Party in the Dallas Arts District will once again feature a kiki ball as part of its programming on June 21. (See sidebar, Page 23.)

U-BE’s space is one place where local voguers can practice their moves, preparing to rock down a runway during an upcoming ball. But vogue culture is often misunderstood. Unlike other forms of dance, voguing usually
The Dallas Museum of Art has long sponsored Late Nights at the DMA, and has made the open-door policy an even bigger deal by throwing a summer block party each June. In 2018, organizers decided why not theme that event around Gay Pride Month? For the first year, they didn’t know what to expect, despite months of planning and input from gay arts and social groups from around town. And it ended up being a smash.

For 2019, the DMA has expanded the event even further, eliciting the participation of both its neighbor, the Nasher Sculpture Center, and the Dallas Arts District to turn the art-centric summer mixer into the spectacular Pride Night Block Party.

Sprawling across acres of space on June 21, from the galleries of the DMA and the Nasher along the grounds and streets in between, the festivities will include food trucks, live music, theatrical performances (including a kiki ball; see story Page 22), film screenings and tours of the resident artwork.

Among the highlights:
• Actress Janelle Lutz, acclaimed for her impersonation of Judy Garland, performing a musical history (with accompanist Adam Wright) of the impact of the woman whose death is seen as a marker of the launch of the modern gay Pride movement.
• Verdigris Ensemble will present an oral history of gay Dallas through the eyes of activist Patti Fink.
• The locally-made documentary Raid of the Rainbow Lounge and the camp comedy To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar will screen at times throughout the night.
• Vogueing will be on display at a kiki ball, sponsored by United Black Ellument.
• Musicians Dezi 5, pictured, K. Avett, Chris Chism Simply Queen and more will sing live.
• Rose Room mistress of ceremonies Cassie Nova will lead a family-friendly drag queen storytelling, while queens Frida Monet, Bleach and Raquel Blake will perform live; there will even be a fashion runway finale to close the evening.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Pride Block Party, at the intersection of Harwood and Flora streets and inside the DMA and Nasher. June 21, 6 p.m.–midnight. Admission is free.
Proud papa

For you, your dad or your daddy, some
Prideful ideas for Father’s Day

Is it a coincidence that Father’s Day falls during Gay Pride Month? Scores of gay daddies (and gay dads) might wonder. But there’s no reason you can’t be supportive of your supportive papa… or generous to the older man in your life. Here are some items for the active man, especially one with a queer streak or a penchant for Pride event.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

Cock du Soleil boxers from Shinessy, left. These awning-stripe orange and teal boxers are labeled “ball hammocks” by creator Shinessy, and there’s a reason why — the front pouch cups you gently like Joey Tribiani’s tailor, giving lift, but you look good from the backside, too.

Poison Apple men’s leggings from Kapow Meggings, right. Nothing will catch more eyes than one of the metallic meggings from Kapow, and we were instantly drawn to these neon standouts, which include a back pocket for carrying your cell phone or some cash while on a run… or at a Pride event.

Highlighter Yellow Workout Essentials Gado bag from Delgado NYC, below. Designed and made-to-order by hand here in North Texas, the variety of carry-alls by gay-run Delgado NYC, including the Sweat line, perfectly created for the gym with a waterproof inner pouch, oil cloth bottom and non-rust plastic zippers so your phone and wallet won’t get ruined in the locker room.
Party Lights running belt from SPI, above. When your dad wants to go for a jog, or just doesn’t want to be encumbered by stuff in his pockets, the running belts from SPI offer stylish options, easily stretching to hold a cell phone, house key and money clip while looking fashion forward.

Pot of Gold fanny pack with suspenders from Tipsy Elves, left. You and your daddy will be prepared for any outing with the Pride collection from Tipsy Elves, especially the versatile pairing of suspenders and fully-loaded utility fanny pack.

Dad Bod Burger from Rodeo Goat Ice House, below. Maybe pops just wants a card, some Old Spice and a meal with his kid. Then we suggest the aptly-named Dad Bod Burger, an all-natural 44 Farms beef patty topped with a fried mac-and-cheese patty, bacon, Fresno-chile mayo, arugula, pickled and queso. The offer is good all day Sunday.
It’s just a fantasy

Surrealism, singing and experimental theater

I

cide a Hi-NRG dance club in

land in

 and perhaps something more sinister. Across
town, a gay couple in post-coital bliss

steps on them. Later, two
women who work at the same bar flirt
with each other, but one suspects they
have met before.

On and on the scenes role out in Steve
Yockey’s sexy, scary, funny play Reyk-
javík, enjoying a rolling world premiere
from Kitchen Dog Theater. Most of the
vignettes appear connected only by the
city of their setting, but slowly patterns
and themes begin to connect. Haven’t
we seen those men doing karaoke
before? And what happened to the
missing raven?

Reykjavík shares some structure and
tone from other plays of loosely-con-
nected moments with mythic, super-
natural, surreal and goofy connections.
How is it the birds send messages to the
hotel concierge in Icelandic? Who is that
lanky, hooey-eyed figure shadowing the
young man who has been beaten up?
This is a land where gnomes and fairies
are considered protected species, if that
helps at all.

Part of the thrill is, from scene to
scene, you’re never fully prepared for
what is coming next. It could be comic
or violent, naturalistic or spiritual, but
all the pieces fit together in a magnifi-
cently queer jigsaw puzzle.

Yockey smartly parses many collective
experiences in contemporary gay cul-
ture. The first scene, set in a loud bar, is
entirely superstitious so we can read what
the characters are saying (they them-
selves have difficulty understanding
each other, which is part of the point).
Who hasn’t struggled to converse while
a little tipsy? Most of us have navigated
the shared newness of a relationship
and the tiny lies we tell our new partner
(they pretend not to notice from
him), or engaged in sexual fantas-
ies, or given over to confessional pillow
talk in a moment of woozy bliss. Scene
after scene — even the ones of height-
ened emotion or exaggerated compre-
hension — strike familiar chords. And
then Yockey will pivot quickly, and pull
the rug out from under you.

The cast is uniformly engaging (each
takes on about four roles), with stand-
out performances by Mitchell Stephens
(especially as a twisted rentboy), Aaron
Campbell (seamlessly toggling between
dangerous psychopath and schlubby
john) and Garret Storms (duh) in, well,
everything. Director Kara-Lynn Vae-
ni makes excellent use of Clare Floyd
DeVries’ colorful, functional set, and
whisks us across the Arctic Circle in
85 joyous, heartbreaking, unnerving
minutes.

The appeal of the stage version of
Disney’s musical Aladdin (now at Fair
Park) is far less tortuous than Reyja-
vík, but also more satisfying than the
current film adaptation in cinemas.
That’s almost surprising, since the 1992
animated film inspired both. But the
story is more streamlined, the jokes land
better and the cast? Well, let’s just say
the ensemble of shirtless, bearded, mus-
cular residents of Agrabah is the hottest
collection of hirsute hunks since TBRU.

That includes former Dallasite Clinton
Greenspan, as the upbeat street thief
Aladdin, who inadvertently meets a
princess (Kaenaonalani Kekoa), discov-
ers a lamp with a magic genie (fellow
North Texan Major Attaway) and tries
to reset his life with a little sorcery, all
to the tuneful music of Alan Menken.
Greenspan is endearingly light, and in-
teracts well with his trio of besties (Zach
Bencal, Ben Chavez and Colt Prattee),
sans his monkey and with only a cameo
appearance by the flying carpet.

But the lion-king’s share of star power
emanates from Attaway. Amazingly, he
virtually makes you forget about Robin
Williams in a way Will Smith doesn’t.
After introducing the show with an
open-armed welcome, he disappears
until just before intermission for the
number “Never Had a Friend Like Me,”
a show-stopping spectacle that had half
the audience members on their feet by
the last note. Director Casey Nicholaw
— who also directed The Book of Mormon
and Something Rotten! with similarly
campy brio — knows how to make the
musical numbers work by respecting
his audience’s understanding of musical
conventions. The only downside is that
the two biggest numbers — this one and
“Prince Ali” — end up being back-to-
back, one closing Act 1 and the other
opening Act 2, so that the finale is, if not
a let-down, at least not the panic button
on which to electrify the crowd on its
way to the parking lot. But honestly,
who cares? With faboo sets, amazing
costume changes, energetic dancing
and (did I mention?) an attractive cast
drawing your eye to every corner of
the stage, this Aladdin creates for you a
whole new world.

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

FANTASY Page 28
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If *Reykjavik* is edgy and *Aladdin* is accessible, then the two plays by 80-year-old playwright Caryl Churchill being staged by Second Thought Theatre occupy the far end of experimental. These one-acts — *Drunk Enough to Say I Love You?* and *Here We Go*, not written to be performed together, but shoehorned together into an evening of Churchilling theater by director Alex Organ — bend the theatrical form, sometimes to the edge of breaking.

This first appears to be a gay romance between an otherwise straight man named Guy (Blake Hackler) and the seductive Sam (Brandon Potter) who seduces him. But in Churchill’s construct, Sam is actually America, the love affair an abusive one between its rah-rah jingoistic heart and the easily swayed patriot. Sam convinces Guy that, if he really loved him, he’d torture Muslims, secretly carpetbomb Cambodia, prop up South American dictators and spy on fellow citizens. The metaphors aren’t subtle, and they make a point, but maybe one we don’t need to be all that convinced of. The second play is a non-linear journey of a man (Kieran Connolly) from decline to death to afterlife. It starts with mourners at his funeral, each of whom flash forward to their own deaths years (or even days) hence; it ends with the gruesome repetitiveness of routine.

Churchill, as the program notes, is a “playwright’s playwright” — an artist revered by her peers. And she’s written some compellingly surreal plays. But this one-two punch feels less illuminating than burdensome, a dark lesson in the futility of life. Not my favorite way to spend a Saturday night.

*Reykjavik* at the Trinity River Arts Center through June 30 as the mainstage production of the New Works Festival. KitchenDogTheater.org.

*Aladdin* at Fair Park Music Hall through June 23. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

*Drunk Enough to Say I Love You*/*Here We Go* at Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphrey campus through June 23. SecondThoughtTheatre.com.

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**FANTASY From Page 26**

A sexy, surreal trip through the Zeitgayst marks *Reykjavik.*
does not require training. More so, it’s a culture centered around a community.

U-BE, which recently moved its location from Harry Hines Boulevard, bums house music on the third Friday night of every month for its Vogue Academy. The beat suits the sculptural rhythm of voguers mastering their death drops.

The bass from the black speaker fades, and Calvin Payne, who goes by Cali, caresses his face with his hands, dips and strikes one last pose in front of a large vanity mirror placed on the floor. After the almost non-stop three-hour dance session, the voguers stroll to a changing area where they slip out of their dance attire and put on their street clothes.

“Vogue is not really a trained thing,” says Cali, a voguer originally from Dallas who now lives in Los Angeles. “It’s something that’s always within you. So, if you truly do not understand the culture, the best way to get involved or learn how to understand is to surround yourself with the good people who do and be here at U-BE for practices to get a taste of what it would actually feel like to be at a ball.”

For some, it is simply another form of dance. For others, it is a way of life centered on self-expression that battles adversity.

“I know a lot of people and they always say like it’s telling a story, but for me it was like an escape from the world, like the real world,” Jet says. “I’d be so stressed out before I’d come and dance, and every time I see people dance, I feel they are so free, and they feel so good afterward.”

He first discovered the vogue scene in L.A. when he met a girl named Pack Rat who was big into the vogue scene, and she encouraged him to attend classes. Soon after, he fell in love with it. Jet, who moved to Dallas from Mississippi in 2013, says vogueing is a way to release his femininity. Since he began voguing nearly three years ago, he has used it as a means to express something he usually keeps to himself.

“For me, it’s like letting it out — letting out all those expressions, letting out that cuntly feeling, because I hold in my feminine ways a lot,” Jet says. “But when I come here, I let it all out.”

LaToby Daida, a Dallas-native wearing a powder-blue cutoff shirt and leggings, dances alongside Jet in front of a large vanity mirror on this Friday, jumping up and dropping to stationary poses with attitude and flair and decisiveness.

“Basically, it’s like a pose for a picture,” Daida says.

For Jet, Cali and Daida, a night at Vogue Academy is another session for the three voguers to prepare for their next ball … which could be this week. Members of U-BE, including vogue instructor JRock, will again bring the ball to Pride Night.

“Our visitors thoroughly enjoyed last year’s kiki ball — it was one of the most popular events of that evening,” says Stacey Lizotte, director of adult programming for the DMA. Because the DMA is currently mounting the fashion exhibition Dior: From Paris to the World, Lizotte sees the synergy this year as being even greater.

“Kiki balls are a great mix of performance art, dance and fashion. This mix is a reflection of the arts culture in Dallas, especially in the Arts District,” says Lizotte. (This year, in fact, the performance will be in the atrium on a large stage with an actual runway.)

Jet says there are five elements to vogueing — cat walking, duck walking, hand moves, spins and dips and floor performances — and people attempting to dance should know what they are doing to avoid injury. But really, there is only one move in vogueing: to look ferociously fabulous.
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**Friday 06.14 — Saturday 06.15**

**Bruce Wood Dance premieres powerful new work this weekend**

Choreographer Garrett Smith has never been a political person, but that changed when he learned how dangerous it is just to dance in many oppressive countries. And so for his commission for Bruce Wood Dance, he created Forbidden Paths, a powerful piece getting its world premiere this weekend. It will be accompanied by two other works — one from artistic director Joy Bollinger, and a classic from the founder’s repertoire.

**DEETS:** Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. 8 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.

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**Friday 06.21 — Sunday 07.07**

**Uptown Players puts on regional premiere of ‘The View UpStairs’**

Until the Pulse nightclub shooting, the largest mass-murder of gays in the U.S. was a fire at New Orleans’ UpStairs Lounge in 1973. The View UpStairs, a 2017 Off-Broadway musical by Max Vernon, chronicles the background of those events. Uptown Players stages the regional premiere of this show, with Priscilla Queen of the Desert’s Blake McIver back on the Kalita stage, plus William Blake, Walter Lee, Steven Pounders and more.

**DEETS:** Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

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**Tuesday 06.18 — Sunday 06.23**

**Carole King musical ‘Beautiful’ returns to Dallas**

A substantial part of the appeal of a jukebox musical is the quality of the songs being jukeboxed, and when Carole King is the composer — she of “You Make Me Feel Like a Natural Woman,” “You’ve Got a Friend,” “I Feel the Earth Move,” “It’s Too Late” and almost too many more to count — you’ve got the makings of a masterpiece. And the story of King, as performed in Beautiful, is just as powerful. It returns to the Winspear for one week.

**DEETS:** Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.
**ARTSWEEK**

**THEATER**

*Aladdin*. Tour of the stage musical (currently also in theaters) of the animated Disney film set in the mythical Middle East. **Reviewed this week.** Through June 23. Fair Park Music Hall, 909 First Ave. DallasSummerMusicals.org.


*Drunk Enough to Say I Love You?/Here We Go*. Two one act plays by Caryl Churchill. **Reviewed this week.** Presented by Second Thought Theatre. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through June 29. SecondThoughtTheatre.com.

*Ghost Quartet*. An earlier work from composer-lyricist Dave Malloy, who wrote Broadway’s *Natasha, Pierre and the Great Comment of 1812*. Presented by Imprint Theatreworks. **Final weekend.** Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. ImprintTheatreworks.org.


*Unveiled: A One Woman Play*. Five Muslim women (all played by the same actress, playwright Rohina Malik) sip tea and talk about their stories of faith, culture and prejudice. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through June 30. WaterTowerTheatre.org.


**DANCE**

*Bruce Wood Dance*. Two world premieres introduce the new season from the local company. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. June 14–15. 8 p.m. BruceWoodDance.org.

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**FRIDAY 06.14**

**COMMUNITY**

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

**SATURDAY 06.15**

**COMMUNITY**

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. in Turtle Creek Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

**MONDAY 06.17**

**CABARET**

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

**TUESDAY 06.18**

**FILM**

*The Letter*. One of Bette Davis’ best, although not as widely known as some of her other roles. She plays a woman who kills a man. But why? A steamy romantic mystery. 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.

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Girl on girls
Jenny Block navigates the travel relationship

I travel a lot — for work and for play. And to do volunteer work, too, actually. I’ve been traveling a lot for a long time, which means not only am I good at it, I also have very specific ways of doing it. Very specific. So when I met my now-wife, who also loves to travel and does a ton of it, there was a bit of the clashing of the minds… and the egos.

It all started just three weeks after we met. We were heading to Isla Mujeres.

“May I have your passport?” Robin asked me.

“Why?” I replied.

“So I have it,” she answered.

“But why?” I asked.

“So I know where it is,” she said.

“But I know where it is,” I responded. Long pause.

“May I have your passport, please?”

For whatever reason, I handed it over. Probably because I’m not a huge fan of confrontation and, heck, if someone else wanted to be responsible for me after I’d spent all of my grown-up years being responsible for myself, have at it.

She was the same about my plane tickets, even putting my electronic ticket on her phone. And she had everything perfectly planned — the shuttle to the ferry, the ferry ride itself, the taxi to the hotel, the restaurants, the activities. Thing was, I loved it. And I felt super weird about it. I always did all of that stuff. I liked doing it. I was also the boss of all of the passports and tickets. I liked that, too, because it meant I didn’t have to worry about any of that stuff because I did and had all of that stuff.

Why? Well, here’s the thing. I have a rule. If you are as good or better at “the thing,” whatever “the thing” may be, then I am delighted to step aside. If not, just let me do it. I don’t need to be the boss. But I won’t be bossed by someone less capable than I.

Turned out, she’s great at most of the travel stuff. I say “most” because foreign languages are 100 percent my wheelhouse, as is finding a taxi when getting a taxi is “impossible.” But it left me wondering: Does she love doing all of that stuff. Does she love doing all of it, or did she just do it because, like me, she believed that the girl who’s best at the thing should do the thing?

After a couple of trips, I discovered it was the latter.

She had had a heap of trouble with former partners when it came to traveling together. One insisted she knew where her passport was only to discover three days before an international trip that she had no idea where it was. Another caused flights to be missed because she just could not get up and out on time. Another simply could not behave in travel groups, causing others not to want to travel with her. So, when I met Robin, she was operating on travel offense and prepped for additional defense.

And here’s one reason why I fell in love with her: When I not only explained, but also showed, what a wiz I am at switching her from a checked bag to a carry-on in an emergency travel situation; at snagging impossible-to-land reservations at Michelin-starred restaurants; at zipping through airports to make preposterous connections; at cancelling and getting refunds on non-cancelable/non-refundable reservations… not only was she thrilled, she handed over at least half of the reins.

She does all the things at work. She does a lot of the things at home. So she is happy for me to do at least a lot of the things when it comes to play. She still loves to hang on to my passport. She loves to book the flights and the hotels — which she is ace at. The point is, we work together and it works well.

We also push each other when it comes to our adventures. I have always loathed anything that smacks of touristy. She introduced me to the delights of the Hop On/Hop Off Bus. It’s totally silly, and it’s a totally great way to get the lay of the land before you begin to discover the intricacies of a new place. I introduce her to restaurants she never would have otherwise found and to places she didn’t even know she didn’t know about.

We are still working on the on-going, “No, you decide what we’re doing today/No, you decide” banter, which has led to missing out on things one or the other of us wanted to do but was too busy deferring to the other. But with each trip we learn. It’s OK to put your foot down or to go off on your own. Yes and no are always the correct answers. The keys are kindness, consideration and compromise. And no regret. There’s always the next trip.

This is a piece about travel. And it isn’t. It’s really about marriage, about relationships. It’s about self-respect and respect for the person you love. You learn as much about yourself and the person you love when you travel as you do about the world beyond your front door. I’ve learned that nothing is more important than working together, on your relationship, on yourself, on healing our nation, on saving our planet, and on exploring all the places about which we know nothing and from which we can learn everything.

Contact Jenny at GirlOnGirls@gmail.com.
Making the SCENE the week of June 14–20:

- **1851 Club**: Aries Noir, Kristie Davenport and Nia Courtland on Friday. Barbie Davenport, Sapphire Davenport and Candi Carroll on Saturday.
- **515 Bar**: Candidate Show for Miss Cowtown at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
- **Club Reflection**: Pride Picnic After-Party and show at 11 p.m. on Saturday. Cowtown Leathermen Cookout from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday. Mr. Cowtown Show at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Dallas Eagle**: United Court Presents A Night of Magic from 7-10 p.m. on Friday. Discipline Corps Club Night on Friday. United Court Presents A Night of Illusions from 6-10 p.m. on Saturday. Loaded featuring DJ Roland Belmares at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Onyx: Central Southwest Chapter Club Night on Saturday.
- **Havana**: Show starts at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Henry's Tavern**: Celebrate Pride with GALA on Thursday.
- **Hidden Door**: S.L.U.T.S. Club Night on Wednesday.
- **JR.'s Bar & Grill**: Cassie's Freak Show at 11 p.m. on Monday. Dreamgirls at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Marty's Live**: Juneteenth Wednesday.
- **Round-Up Saloon**: A Memorial Show to honor Michael Doughman from 3-6 p.m. on Saturday. To Texas, From Agrabah, With Love features the cast of Aladdin in a benefit for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. $20. Miss Firecracker Pageant hosted by the Dallas Chapter of TGRA.
- **Sue Ellen's**: Mustache Envy on Friday. Droo's Peace Crush at 3:30 p.m. followed by Ciao Bella on Sunday.
- **The Rose Room**: Nicole Luv Dupree on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- **TMC**: The Mining Company: $100 cash prize on Fuego Wednesday at 11:30 p.m.
- **Woody's Sports & Video Bar**: Karaoke at 10 p.m. on Sunday. Variety Show at 11 p.m. on Thursday.

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Across
1 Chops off, like at a circumcision
5 Trick director Jim
9 Being an active breeder, in slang
14 Part of, as a plot
15 Warhol pal ___ Sedgwick
16 Escorted from the door
17 Drag queen’s leg scraper
18 Starch source
19 Able to bend over
20 Biopic/musical fantasy of 2019
22 It dangles on a private
23 Half of a pair of balls
24 Bisected
26 Symbols of queens
29 Egyptian king of the dead
32 Foursome at a car
36 Sgt. Snorkel’s pet
38 Gershon of Bound
39 For most students
40 Egerton, who plays the title role in 20-Across
41 Fag ___ (women with gay friends)
42 Cheese in red
43 It may get a licking
44 Charles, who could make you a man
45 Type of aircraft engine
47 It is butt a toy
49 Cornmeal breads
51 Nap with Frida?
56 Liszt of piano pieces
58 Subject of 20-Across
61 Having nice stems
62 Cloverleaf part
63 A Streetcar Named Desire director Kazan
64 Caligula’s year
65 Folk history
66 Permission request
67 Carolyn who wrote about a Nancy
68 Marsh of South Park
69 Very in Vichy

Down
1 They serve up whoppers
2 In a dominant position
3 Swingers’ place?
4 Venom carrier
5 Put in shackles
6 Cukor’s rib donor
7 Old Italian coin
8 Tea of Fun with Dick and Jane
9 Makes pigtails, maybe
10 58-Across before he changed his name
11 Opinion piece in The Advocate, e.g.
12 Arizona river
13 Force that causes you to go down
21 He took a bow
25 Time that goes either way
27 Wild pig
28 Deep throat problem
30 Cunt author Muscio
31 Give some lip
32 Raspberry that isn’t a fruit
33 Alan of M*A*S*H
34 Region of Vivien’s country
35 Dictator that homophobe Trump nicknamed with 20-Across
37 Member
40 Package carrier
44 Opposed to, to Gomer
46 Pepsin, e.g.
48 Billie Jean won this often
50 Acts like a bear
52 Spit out
53 Like rays caught at Sitges
54 “To ___ own self be true” (Hamlet)
55 Lover of Henry and June
56 Antiaircraft fire
57 Actor Auberjonois
59 Pirates’ take
60 Japanese attack word

You bet your sweet astronaut

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