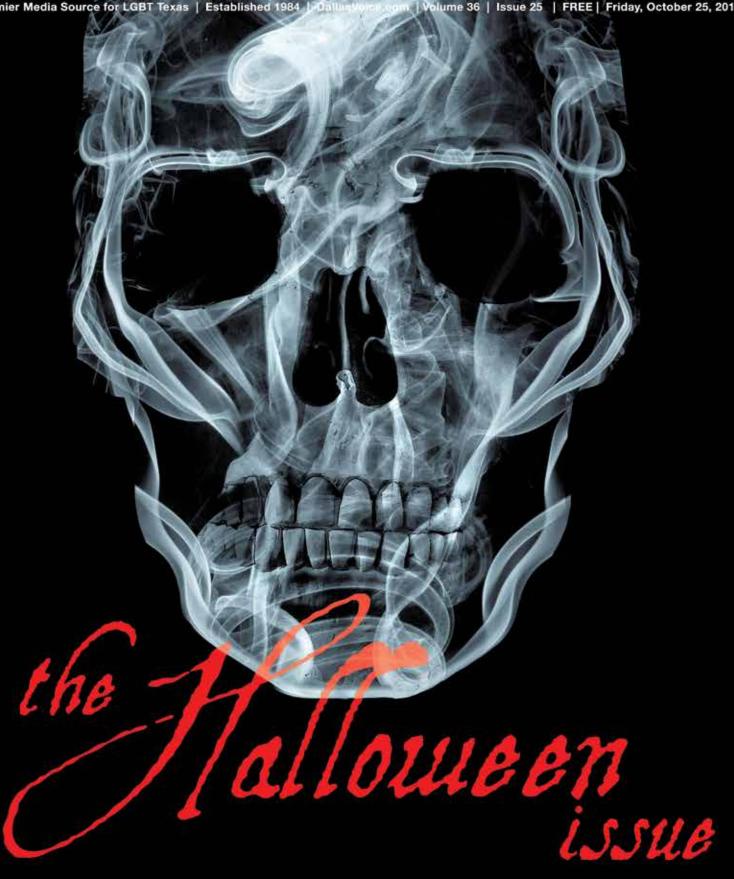
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# 10.25.19 | Volume 36 | Issue 25



#### headlines

- ■TEXAS NEWS
- 8 A funeral home for everyone
- 9 Halloween happenings
- 10 LGBTQ History Month concludes
- 12 Bonnen's retirement: What it means
- 15 Ask Candy advice column



- 18 Kristen Chenoweth's unicorn magic
- Spooky tales from North Texans



Design by Kevin Thomas and Shawn Weston.



### departments

The Gay Agenda 27 Best Bets 8 News 31 Cassie Nova

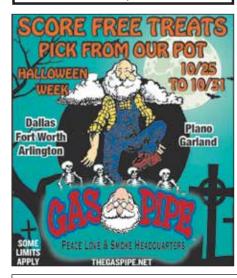
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## instan**TEA**

# Creating Change: plenary speaker, early registration deadline and more

With just about a week left before the end of early registration on Oct. 31, organizers of the National LGBTQ Task Force's 2020 Creating Change Conference, coming to Dallas in January, have announced that the Rev. angel Kyodo williams will be the speaker for the Opening Plenary.

williams is a writer, activist and ordained Zen priest who is the author of Being Black: Zen and the Art of Living with Fearlessness and Grace, published by Viking Press in 2000, and the co-author of Radical Dharma: Talking Race, Love, and Liberation, published by North Atlantic Books.

She is also only the second black woman ever recognized as a teacher in the Japanese Zen lineage.

Creating Change 2020 is scheduled for Jan. 15-19 at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel. Creating Change is already the largest LGBTQ activist conference in the country, and organizers said they "expect it will be even bigger [in 2020] because it's in Texas."

In collaboration with COLAGE, kids Programming at Creating Change will premiere in Dallas for 25 children, so children ages 8-13 with a LGBTQ parent or guardian at the conference are welcome to register.

Oct. 31 is the last day for early registration for the conference, and those joining COLAGE at the conference are encouraged to register by that deadline, and to use the discount code COLAGE to get a 15 percent discount on the registration costs.

The next Creating Change Conference Host Committee meeting will be Nov. 11, at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Dinner is at 7 p.m., followed by a business meeting from 7:30-9 p.m. ASL and Spanish language interpretation are provided.

For details on registration, being a community housing host or a volunteer, visit the Creating Change website.

- Tammye Nash

### Victory Fund endorses Johnson for re-election

The LGBT Victory Fund has endorsed state Rep. Julie Johnson for re-election in 2020 to the Texas House of Representatives.

In her first election, Johnson defeated Rep. Mat Rinaldi, who authored the bathroom bill. During the 2019 legislative session, she was credited with derailing, via a procedural maneuver, the one anti-LGBT bill that made it to the floor of the House.

Texas Monthly named Johnson one of the 10 best legislators of the session.

Johnson represents District 115, which includes Addison, Coppell, Farmers Branch, the Dallas County portion of Carrollton and parts of Irving.

In announcing the endorsement, Victory

DallasVoice.com/Category/Instant-Tea



Rose Room cast member and Halloween aficionado Jenna Skyy offers up a quick and (relatively easy) makeup option for the Cedar Springs Halloween Block Party — and beyond. Watch the video online at DallasVoice.com. (Video by Nicholas Gonzalez; edited by Israel Luna)

Fund wrote, "Julie will continue to be a powerful voice for LGBTQ people in Texas."

- David Taffet

#### LifeWalk 2019 raises \$500K+

LifeWalk 2019, held Sunday, Oct. 6, at Turtle Creek Park, raised more than \$502,000, event Co-Chair Mark Thibodeau announced via video during a party on Tuesday, Oct. 22, celebrating this year's successful event. The 2019 total is \$100,000 more than the 2018 LifeWalk total, according to organizers, making LifeWalk the largest HIV walk event in Texas.

Proceeds from LifeWalk benefit Prism Health North Texas, which organizes the walk each year, and Prism's LifeWalk partner agencies, all of which serve people in North Texas impacted by HIV/AIDS. Those partner agencies were AIDS Services of Dallas, Dallas Hope Charities, Dogs Matter, Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund, Tucker's Gift and the Turtle Creek Chorale.

Terry Bax and Team Clover set new individual and team fundraising records for the LifeWalk event — \$110,000 and \$138,000 respectively. Rounding out the top five LifeWalk teams were Turtle Creek Chorale (\$54,490), MAC Cosmetics (\$43,024), GD-MAF (\$28,892) and Guys & Dolls (\$24,000).

Bax was also the recipient of the annual Heart & Hands award, PHNTX's most prestigious award, which is bestowed on an individual who has given significant time, talent and resources to Prism Health North Texas over a decade or more.

For more information on Prism Health North Texas and its services, visit PHNTX.

- Tammye Nash



# LifeWalk

Thank you to all the participants, donors, and sponsors!

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# CONGRATS

**TO THE 2019 AWARDEES** 

**Heart & Hands Award** 

Terrence Bax

#### Points of Light

Generosity: Max Rippletoe · Health: Tim Blackburn

Legacy: Green Team · Advocacy: Bea Dazzle · Community: Jeremy Reigel

#### **Top Teams**

- 1. Team Clover
- 2. Turtle Creek Chorale
- 3. MAC Cosmetics
- 4. Team Metro GDMAF
- 5. Guys & Dolls
- 6. DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
- 7. Team LUV
- 8. Green Team
- 9. HMS
- 10. Dallas Hope Walkers

#### **Top Individuals**

- 1. Terrence Bax
- 2. Bea Dazzle
- 3. Betty SiSonnet
- 4. Sister Polly Von Acocker
- 5. Gloria Devine
- 6. John Gordon
- 7. David Hearn
- 8. Jeremy Reigel
- 9. Shantaé Morgan
- 10. Marvin Green

See you next year for LifeWalk's 30th Anniversary on October 4, 2020.

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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.

#### **OCTOBER**

#### • Oct. 18: DFW Federal Club Happy Hour

DFW Federal Club meets for happy hour from 6-8 p.m. at Souk, 3011 Gulden Lane, Suite 114. DFWFederalClub. org.

• Oct. 19: Goosebumps Gaybingo Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at MyResourceCenter.org.

#### • Oct. 19: Lez Talk Dallas

Lez Talk Dallas conference featuring keynote address, panel discussions, workshops and networking from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. For more information visit LezTalkDallas.com.

#### • Oct. 19: QueerBomb 2019

Gates open at 6 p.m. The rally with speakers at 7:30 p.m. The liberation march at 8 p.m. The celebration from 9 p.m.-midnight at Deep Ellum Art Company, 3200 Commerce St. Free.

#### • Oct. 19: Boo-lathon

Animal Crusaders of Texas presents Pins 4 Paws Boo-lathon family bowling event. Silent auction, door prizes, raffles. Prizes for best costumes, top scores. Free desserts. From 12:30-4 p.m. at Plano Super Bowl, 2521 Avenue K, Plano. Register at arcrescuetx.org.

#### • Oct. 19: Fall Festival

Free games, bounce house, face painting, indoor keno and card games, petting zoo and pet adoptions from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Aley United Methodist Church, 1215 W. Cedar Creek Parkway, Seven Points. Facebook.com/aleyum-church

• Oct. 21- Nov. 1: Early Voting

#### • Oct. 21: 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.

#### • Oct. 22: Family Night at Durkins Pizza

GALA family night's 10th year of networking, socializing, happy hour, rock n' roll and pizza and 10 percent of proceeds benefits GALA Youth from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Durkins Pizza, 8930 State Hwy 121, McKinney. For more information visit GalaNorthTexas.org.

#### • Oct. 22: Grief group

Grief group for persons who have lost a same-sex spouse meets the second and fourth Tuesdays each month from 6:45-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

#### • Oct. 22: Prime Timers

Lunch at 12:30 p.m. at Asian King Buffet, 953 Melbourne Road, Hurst.

#### • Oct. 24: Prime Timers

Dinner at 7 p.m. at Flying Fish, 6126 Luther Lane. RSVP 214-218-0912. chapters.theprimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth.

#### • Oct. 24: AIN presents Art+Fashion+Community

Special art exhibition, fashion from local designers, drinks, bites and a silent auction of wearable T-shirts created by Texas celebrity designers and artists from 6-9 p.m. at Samuel Lynne Galleries, 1105 Dragon St. \$55. AINDallas.org.

• Oct. 24: TPIF DFW Legacy Workshop Texas Pride Impact Funds planned giving discussion. Wine and light bites served at 6 p.m. at The Dallas Foundation, Old Parkland, 3926 Maple Ave., Suite 390. RSVP to info@TXPIF.org.

#### •Oct. 25: Last Day to Apply for Ballot by Mail

• Oct. 26: Trans/SOFFA support group An open group for those who identify as other than their assigned birth gender, significant others, friends, family and allies at 5 p.m. at Heart of the Matter Healing Center, 2060 N. Collins Blvd., Richardson.

#### • Oct. 26: Spooktacular

LGBT Chamber Foundation raises money for its scholarship fund with DJ Corey Craig, open bar, drag hostesses and costume required from 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Park West, 4123 Cedar Springs Road. LGBTChamberFoundation.org.

#### • Oct. 26: Silver Pride Halloween

Food, beer, wine, games and fun at Silver Pride Project's Halloween Extravaganza. Come in your most exciting Halloween costume for a contest with prizes. If you are going to the Oak Lawn Block Party after you can leave your car parked at the library and ride share to the strip. From 6-9 p.m. at Grauwyler Park Library, 2146 Gilford St. Free.

#### • Oct. 26: DFW Federal Club luncheon

Presentation on the impact of women leaders within HRC from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Tower Club, Thanksgiving Tower 48th Floor, 1601 Elm St. Free for Federal Club members. \$35 for their guests. \$50 advance. \$55 at the door. \$10 self parking. Business casual. 2019OctLuncheon.eventbrite.com.

#### • Oct. 26-27: Dallas Festival of the Arts

Two-day arts festival featuring 185 local and regional artists and crafters from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at Kidd Springs Park, 1003 Cedar Hill Ave. For more information visit DallasFestivaloftheArts. net.

#### • Oct. 27: Prime Timers

Games hosted in Hickory Creek by Chris and Robert. Call 214-218-0912 for address and directions. chapters.theprimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth.

#### • Oct. 29: GayLFD Membership Reception

The Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas holds its annual Membership Appreciation Reception fropm 6-8 p.m. at Daniel Padilla Gallery, 2629 N. Stemmons Freeway, #104. The event includes complimentary bites and beverages. For information visit GLFD.org.

#### • Oct. 30: Resource Center Speakers Series

UT doctoral candidate Chris Babits speaks about conversion therapy. A wine and light bites reception at 5:30 p.m. and speaker from 6-7 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Free. RSVP to tfrank@myresourcencenter.org.

#### • Oct. 30: THRIVE Zoo Outing Free outing for LGBTQ adults 50+ to the Dallas Zoo from noon-3 p.m. Must

RSVP to THRIVE@myresourcecenter.

#### • Oct. 31: Denton Halloween Fest

Denton Pride Foundation presents Denton Halloween Fest with drag show, costume contest, music, food and vendors from 6 p.m.-midnight at North Texas Fairgrounds, 2217 N. Carroll Blvd., Denton. Free. DentonPride.com.

#### • Oct. 31: Creating Change Early Registration deadline

Early registration for the 2020 Creating Change Conference, happening Jan. 15-19 in Dallas, ends today. For information on registering and volunteer opportunities, visit CreatingChange.org.

#### **NOVEMBER**

#### • Nov. 2: Glory HOLElelujah

The United Court fundraiser for the new non-profit Safe To Be from 6-10 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

#### • Nov. 5: Prime Timers

First Tuesday lunch at 11:30 a.m. at Golden Corral, 3312 Forest Lane. chapters.theprimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth.

#### • Nov. 5: Classic Chassis Car Club LGBT car enthusiasts meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave. For more information visit ClassicChassis.com.

• Nov. 7: Brewing Up Business

Develop new business relationships by giving your 30-second elevator speech, exchange business cards and learn more about this month's sponsor at 8:30 a.m. at Crickles and Co., 4000 Cedar Springs Road Suite E. \$10 in advance. \$20 at the door. Free to LGBT Chamber members.

#### • Nov. 9: Prime Timers

Brunch at 11 a.m. at Barbec's, 8949 Garland Road. RSVP 214-218-0912.

#### • Nov. 10: Prime Timers

Games at 2 p.m. in Carrollton hosted by Brian. Call 214-218-0912 for address and directions. chapters.theprimetimersww.com/dallasfortworth.

#### Corrections

- · The article "Reigning it in" in the Oct. 18 issue of Dallas Voice mistakenly identified United Court of the Lone Star Empire Emperor 44 Larry Carter's spouse. Larry Carter is married to **Empress XLI Anna Conda Carter.** 
  - The article "The work, life and art

of Del LaGrace Volcano" in the Oct. 18 issue of Dallas Voice described Femmes of Power: Exploding Queer Femininities as Volcano's second book. It is Volcano's fifth book and the second by that author that columnist Brandi Amara Skyy read.

#### ■pet of the week / MOMMA MARGE



Meet Momma Marge, a 5-year-old pit bull mix weighing 57 pounds. She's a lovable girl who had a tough past, but that doesn't stop her from being sweet to everyone. Momma Marge loves

being outdoors and would do great with a family who likes to go camping and be outside. She knows sit, stay, come, down and heel, and she walks great on a leash. She is very sweet and gentle with kids, so if you're looking for a loving family dog and momma, she's the one for you. Momma Marge has been spayed and microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations.

Momma Marge 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, ageappropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FeLV test for cats six months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by Pethealth, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.





# A funeral director for the **Community**

Ferris has welcomed gay couple who've taken over a 137-yearold business

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

hen the business opened on the town square in Ferris in 1882, it was known as Green Funeral Home and Hardware. Today it's just Green Funeral Home.

But Jeremy Lewis and Ben LaFleur do have a related business in downtown Ferris. A Bundle of Love is a florist that provides flowers for its funerals and sells directly to the public but also sells gifts like Tyler Candles, LaFleur Brothers Seasonings and Hops Farm Soap made in flavors like beer.

When Lewis and LaFleur bought the business a year ago, they had architect Mark Nelson tear down walls and modernize the funeral home. And they moved the florist a few doors closer to the town square into a larger space.

Three generations of the Green family operated the funeral home. When Helen Green took over the business, she became one of the first women licensed by the state of Texas to become a funeral director. While the Green family is gone from the business, Lewis and Lafleur respect the company's history.

Lewis said being a funeral director is something he wanted to do since he was a child. While other kids were playing cops and robbers, he was playing funeral home. And, yes, he does understand how disturbing that is.

When he was 16, he applied to work at a funeral home near his house in Joplin, Mo. They turned him down suggesting the local McDonalds was hiring.

"If I wanted to work at McDonalds, I would have applied there," Lewis said.

So when he was 18, he applied again and this time the funeral home hired

him. He said he even lived above the funeral home and did everything from polishing the floors to emptying the waste baskets to assisting the funeral director with the bodies.

He also began taking mortuary classes at Missouri Southern.

Then he moved to Dallas and began classes at the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service on South Buckner Boulevard and did much of his practical work at Sparkman-Hillcrest to earn his associates in applied science.

He met LaFleur 16 years ago. LaFleur was is in retail and isn't a funeral director. They met at JR.'s.

"We stared at each other from across the room," Lewis said. So one day he finally walked up to LaFleur and said, "Are we going to just stare at each other across the room or are you going to ask me out?"

LaFleur gave him his email address. Lewis went right home and sent LaFleur a message and the email bounced. LaFleur insists it was an honest mistake.

They met up at JR.'s again the next week, exchanged phone numbers and made a date to see each other the following weekend. Lewis said they ate dinner, watched a movie but he left, and they didn't see each other for another four years.

LaFleur was diagnosed with cancer and then he left for Louisiana to take care of his mother. When he returned to Dallas, they met up again on MySpace and have been together ever since.

A few years ago, Lewis, who's a member of the Turtle Creek Chorale, was talking to another member, who is also a funeral director, about how hard it was working for a funeral home owned by a large corporation.

"I still want my own place," he said.

"I know a place in Ferris for sale," the other member told him.

A year passed before he decided to at least check out Ferris. The funeral home was still for sale, so on a Sunday morning, he drove to Ferris just to take a look even though he knew the place wouldn't be open.

As he was driving through town, though, he noticed signs for an open house. He decided to stop in and maybe get a feel for the town from the real estate agent.

She asked what he was looking for in a house, and he said he was actually interested in Green Funeral Home that was for sale but stopped by the open house to get some information about Ferris from someone local. The agent told him her father owned the funeral home, and she called her dad and arranged for Lewis to meet him.

Six months later, Lewis and LaFleur were in the funeral business.

Their goal, LaFleur said, is to outgrow the current building within five years. "That means we have four years left," Lewis said.

While Ferris is growing quickly — 150 homes are already under construction on the west side of I-45, and T. Boone Pickens' widow owns a ranch on the east side of the highway that she plans to develop — the couple knows they can't rely on business just from the Ferris area.

So, Lewis said, anyone was welcome to come to Ferris and use their facility, and







# A scary good time

Where to go and what to do for Halloween

It's October in the gayborhood, and that means it's time for the LGBTQ high holiday: Halloween! And while Halloween proper isn't for another six days, you don't have to wait to celebrate. Here are a few options for some super(natural) fun. — David Taffet

#### Spooktacular

The LGBT Chamber of Commerce raises money for its scholarship fund each year with the Spooktacular Halloween party. This year's party takes place Saturday, Oct. 26 from 10 p.m.-1 a.m. at Park West (formerly known as ilume Park), 3109 Douglas Ave.

The party features DJ Corey Craig along with an open bar, professional photography and a costume contest judged by drag hostesses. Tickets are \$100-500.

#### Halloween Block Party

Cedar Springs Road closes for the annual Halloween Block Party on Saturday, Oct. 26. Join the costume runway parade down the center of the street for official judging to find the best individual and couples costumes. Eight booths will be set up along The Strip for beer and food, and the parking lot behind S4 will have a DI and a show featuring the cast of performers from The Rose Room.

#### Caven clubs celebrate Halloween

All four Caven Enterprises clubs join forces on Thursday, Oct. 31 — Halloween night — for a grand costume contest. Preliminary contests take place at TMC: The Mining Company, JR.'s Bar & Grill, Sue Ellen's and The Rose Room at 11 p.m., with two to three winners chosen at each club. Those winners then advance to the final contest, hosted by Cassie Nova at midnight on the dance floor of S4. The contest features \$1,500 in cash and prizes for first, second, third and fourth place winners.

#### **Backlot Party at Woody's**

Jada Pinkett Fox hosts the party in the back lot on Saturday, Oct. 26 at Woody's, 4011 Cedar Springs Road.



#### **Dallas Eagle**

Nightmare on Maple Street Halloween Party starts at 10 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26, featuring DJ C-Rail. No cover. Costume contest at midnight with cash

#### Marty's

Marty's offers a \$50 cash prize for the best dressed pet at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 27 at Marty's, 4207 Maple Ave.

#### The Round-Up Saloon

The theme for Halloween at the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road, is Glitzy Ritzy Las Vegas, and the decorations are up. For the Block Party, the doors will be wide open. But on Halloween night the Round-Up holds a Haunted Lip Sync Battle. Customers will lip sync against host Domita Sanchez and the Saloon Girls for a cash prize starting at 10 p.m., followed by the annual costume contest at midnight that offers \$150 for best individual costume and \$300 for best group costumes.

#### Magnum

A costume contest takes place on Saturday night, Oct. 26 at Magnum, 1820 W. Mockingbird Lane. There's no cover

SCARY, Page 16



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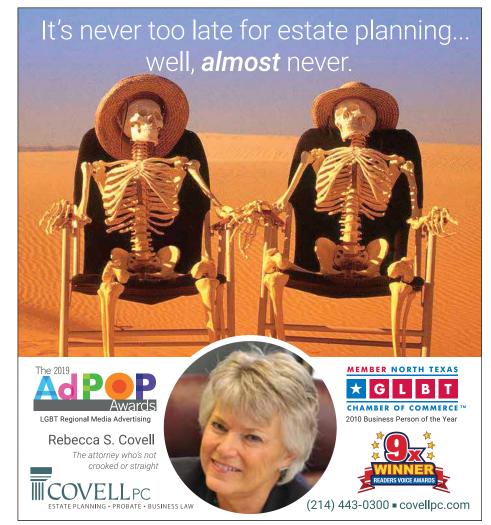
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# Our Genderqueer

# Forging History: The Humanity 101 series and how to be the change we wish to see

"I alone cannot change the world, but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples."

- Mother Teresa

s I started thinking about how I wanted to wrap up this LGBTQ+ History Month installment of my Queer Creatives series, I circled back to my original intention in creating it to begin with: I wanted a series that highlights queer artists whose art inspired change both in my/our lives and the world as a whole as well.

But I also wanted to answer questions I had as an artist living and creating amid many intersections. How do the beginnings of change that ultimately make up our history happen? How does someone who wants to create something even start to bring that idea to life?

How do everyday people like us go from the place they are to making real, long-lasting and impactful change?

The exploration into these answers was/is the driving force behind this series.

And as I was kicking off this weekly October series, I was asked by Gage Baird and Thomas Massaguoi to be on their final Humanity 101 panel of the year. Their series has covered a range of topics, from dating to entrepreneurship to the generational gap in our community. The last panel — happening on Monday, Oct. 28 — is a conversation between all the humans that LGBT represents. It's called "Alphabet Education" a name based on the label, The Alphabet People, that Dave Chappelle uses to refer to us in his new Netflix comedy special.

The conversation is held in the spirit of hoping to understand one another better, to learn something that we may not know about a different subculture within our own community and to dispel some myths that we might carry about each other.



Brandi Amara Skyy TrendingTEA

And there. while deciding profile Hu-101 manity and thinking this about series as whole, was the answer to my first question: How do the begin-

nings of change that ultimately make up our history happen? History is created by those who not only wish to be a part of the change but take action towards that change.

The Humanity 101 series is an LGBTQ+-focused lecture and conversation series founded in February 2019 with its the main objective being to "facilitate dialogue among our community members." That dialogue and the premise for the series was dreamed up by Gage Baird, lead strategic pricing analyst at McKesson Corporation and co-chair of their LGBTQ+ employee group, OPEN, and Thomas Massaguoi, a self-sustaining artist, writer, activist and community outreach cordinator. They came up with it over brunch.



"Thomas began talking about this idea he had been pondering on for quite some time. He mentioned that he had seen the idea done before in other large metropolitan areas [and] after some further discussion, we determined that Dallas didn't have something like what we were proposing," Gage explained.

So they set out to do it.

Which answers my second question: How does someone who wants to create something even start to bring that idea to life? You just start, despite perhaps not knowing where it's going to go or where it's going to end up. You take a leap of activist faith, and you just do it.

The part where most of us who have a great idea get lost or lose our steam is in the details and logistics. Gage mentioned

that it took them "nearly 10 months to lay it all out," choosing "what topics we wanted to discuss, how we would organize the flow of the segments, the timeline and the types of panelists we wanted for our series."

But on Feb. 25 they hosted their first event, "Why Are You Still Single? A talk on relationships and online dating."

In addition to understanding how they began, I was deeply curious about their name choice, Humanity 101, as opposed to LGBTQ 101 or anything else that was more queer-specific. "Humanity 101 just seemed fitting, since our sole purpose is to provide an educational platform where people can learn and discuss important topics, bettering humanity in its

HISTORY, Page 14

# **INCOME TAX RETURNS**



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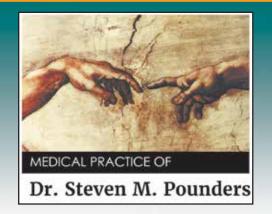
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# With Bonnen gone, what's the future of **LGBTQ** rights in the Texas House?

JAMES RUSSELL | Political Writer james.journo@gmail.com

peaker of the House Dennis Bonnen was fresh off a successful legislative session when he met with the far-right conservative activist Michael Quinn Sullivan last June. Bonnen had shepherded through a school finance reform bill increasing state funding for public education and a controversial law stopping municipalities from raising property taxes by more than 3 percent without voter

Social issues like abortion and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights were largely avoided in the House under

his reign.

LGBT advocates were relieved by that after previous sessions when they had to fight off numerous bills seeking to restrict bathroom access for transgender people and were unable to stop lawmakers from passing a law allowing adoption agencies to decline services based on religious beliefs.

Observers credited Bonnen for his hands-on approach during the 140-day session, which began in January and ended in May. And the victories were seen as a way for Republicans who narrowly won re-election in 2018 to go home and tout their successes among swing voters.

Rebecca Margues, Texas state director for the Human Rights Campaign, cited Republican progress on LGBT issues this past session:

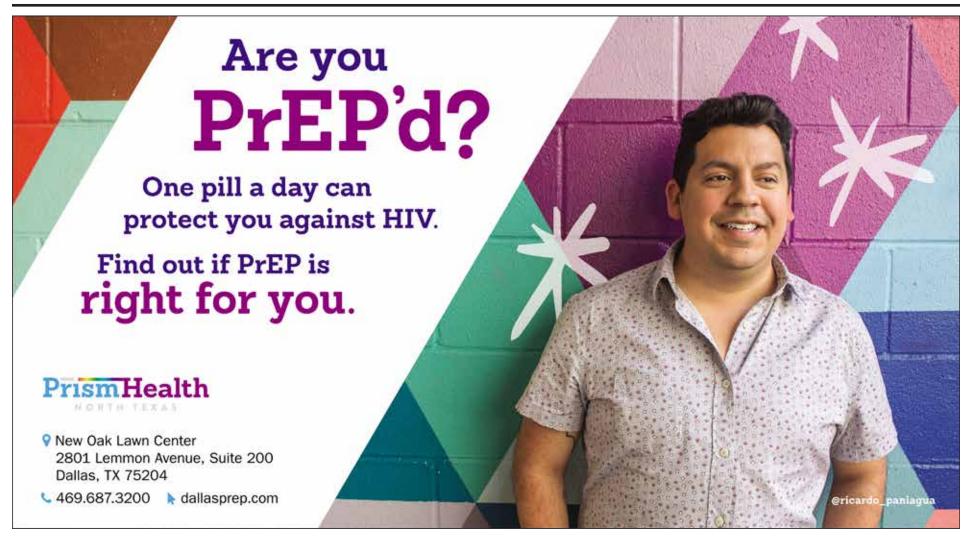
"This session brought several significant milestones when it comes to Republican support for LGBT rights. State Rep. Sarah Davis has long been a strong and consistent champion for LGBT equality. This session, she became the only Republican to co-sponsor a bill introduced to protect LGBT youth from the dangerous practice of so-called 'conversion therapy," Marques said.

Even in the very conservative Republican-led Senate, "Sen. Kel Seliger (R-Amarillo) became the first Republican in the Senate to vote in defense of the LGBTQ Texans. These are two great examples of Republicans doing the right thing," Marques added, "and we hope more will join them in the effort to make Texas a welcoming place for our community."

But on Tuesday, Oct. 22, after several



House members, including some of his committee chairmen, called for his resignation, Bonnen announced his retirement after two decades in the Legislature. Their calls stemmed from outrage over a summer meeting between Bonnen Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dustin Burrows, who was then the GOP Caucus Chairman, and Michael Quinn Sullivan, the leader of Empower Texans. The





group is funded by evangelical Christian and school voucher advocate Tim Dunn of Midland and collaborates with Texas Values and the Eagle Forum, all of whom oppose LGBT rights.

The organization regularly attacks Republican lawmakers who break with hard right priorities. During the era of former Speaker Joe Straus, the group spent millions on primary opponents with mixed results.

Bonnen and Burrows wanted a frank, off the record meeting about his organization's tactics. In exchange for not targeting vulnerable Republicans in the primaries, the group could go after 10 Republicans, including some who ran against Bonnen for speaker, in the primaries. Burrows, who resigned as caucus chairman after portions of the tape were

released, included the 10 lawmakers because they voted against a bill banning so-called taxpayer funded lobbying.

But Sullivan released a tape and transcript of what was said in that meeting earlier this month, and when he did, the chorus of outrage grew. The tape and transcript showed Bonnen not only slandering members of his own party and saying he hates cities and counties, they also document how he went after Democrats, too.

On the tape, Bonnen described freshman Rep. Jon Rosenthal of Houston as "mak[ing] his skin crawl." Then he added, referring to his chief of staff Gavin Massingill: "Massingill said it best — 'Well, his wife's gonna be really pissed when she learns he's gay.'"

Bonnen also described Rep. Michelle Beckley, the Carrollton Democrat who defeated former Rep. and anti-transgender bathroom bill author Ron Simmons, as "vile."

The comments about Beckley and Rosenthal, both members of the House LGBTQ Caucus, flew in the face of Bonnen's decision to steer clear of social issues as well as his promise to go after any member who goes after another.

The House Democratic Caucus praised his decision not to seek re-election.

Caucus Chair Chris Turner of Grand Prairie, First Vice-Chair Celia Israel of Austin, Second Vice-Chair Toni Rose of Dallas and Treasurer Oscar Longoria of Mission issued a statement saying, "Speaker Bonnen has made the right decision, as it has become increasingly clear that he no longer has the support to serve as speaker again. Democratic Members of the House will continue our work to lead Texas to a better tomorrow by focusing on strong public schools, affordable health care and stopping gun violence,"

#### What happens in 2021?

But now that Bonnen is gone, what's going to happen around LGBT issues in the 2021 Texas legislative session? Marques said it should be business as usual.

"Regardless of this scandal, the fundamental political dynamics haven't changed for LGBTQ Texans," she said. "After the 2018 election, it is clear that Texans want to elect and be represented by pro-equality candidates. And it's

BONNEN, Page 16









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they can handle a funeral anywhere. Not that Ferris is that far from the Metroplex — from downtown Dallas, it's about the same distance as Plano. It's just over the Ellis County line, four miles south of the Belt Line Road exit.

Green Funeral Home can handle embalming, whether the family is using his facility or not. He can deliver the casket to any church for a funeral service, and if the family chooses cremation, Lewis said he can do that, too.

Lewis said they've driven as far as Houston to pick up a body, so they can certainly perform a funeral anywhere in the Dallas area.

While the current Green Funeral Home building is a few blocks from the town square and can hold about 120 for a service, Lewis said they also hold services in area churches all the time.

The Rev. Neil Thomas, senior pastor at Cathedral of Hope, said he was glad to have the services of a gay funeral director available in the area.

"I think in this era of religious liberties, we find people are being turned away from all sorts of services," Thomas said.

"When you're at that place of deepest need, we don't need to overcome needless hurdles at a time of loss."

Thomas said he feels we're returning to an era when, just as during the AIDS crisis, LGBT people are even being turned away from funeral homes. So it's good to have a funeral director who is openly gay to handle our final needs, he said.

It's also comforting to have two people who do their jobs well working with you at the hardest time of your life.





HISTORY, From Page 10

entirety," Gage told me. And Thomas added, "Because we are all human at the core, and we're bound to [have] similar feelings."

And isn't that — finding ways to connect (NOT assimilate) in the spirit of solidarity in a way that honors (NOT erases) the individual in their complex personhood and experiences — the roots of art, creativity, change? Of connection itself?

Which answers my final question: How do everyday people like us go from the place they are to making real, long-lasting, and impactful change? The answer: We start from where we are.

Change is made when the personal what is happening in our daily lives, in the community around us - becomes political. But it only becomes political, social change if we make it so.

When I asked Gage & Thomas about their plans for the future of the series, they let me know they "have big ones" — like "grow our platform," "a podcast,"

"branch out to schools and universities," "create a Humanity 101 Youth version."

"Right now it's grassroots style; we want this to build organically," Thomas

And isn't that how all great movements begin? How long-lasting, impactful change happens? With the people? From the people? From the self?

"I change myself, I change the world," Gloria Anzaldúa, the first artist I profiled in this LGBTQ history month series, wrote in her book Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza.

"Reading Isherwood, I am thinking about the difference — the possibility of the difference — of writing about yourself as 'me' as opposed to 'a human being,"" Joe Brainard, the second profile in the series, wrote in his personal journal. "And I suspect that yes, there is a difference. And that, though I pretend to write about 'me,' I am secretly more aware of myself (writing-wise) as 'a human being.' And that this may well be my salvation!"

Last week's profiled artist, Del La-Grace Volcano, wrote on their Facebook profile, "I believe in crossing the line. Not just once but as many times as it takes to build a bridge we can all cross together."

On Monday I, along with Justin Rogers, Roxy Acuna, and Gabriel Matlia get to play a small role in being a part of the change and dialogue we wish to see.

You can too.

All you have to do is show up, stay open, listen deep and engage.

Because if change is a ripple, this is how we cast the first stone to get the ripple started.

The final Humanity 101 panel, Alphabet Education, will be hosted upstairs at Sue Ellen's at 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 28. The event is free and seating space is limited. Find out more by visiting facebook.com/humanity-101series/

# Tackling holidays; talking transitions

#### Dear Candy,

The holiday season can be tough for my partner and me. He doesn't have a good relationship with his family, and he gets very anxious when he's surrounded by my hectic family. Is there anything I can do to maybe help him enjoy quality time with my family, or would it do more harm than good?

— Wanting to Help

#### Dear Wanting,

First, it's good you are aware of the family dynamics of your partner. Plus, you're sensitive to his anxiety around your family during the holidays. Second, it's never a harmful thing to do to communicate with your partner — when it's done in a respectful, sane way.

I'm sure you're curious about what is going on with your partner around your family. Ask him to tell you how it is to be with your family during the holidays.

You mentioned hectic. Let's see what he says about them. Then, after listening to him, ask him if there is anything you can do to help him enjoy the visit with them. If he says yes, see if that's something you're willing to do. If not, let him know that, too.

Sometimes, just having you listen to him may be enough to help him through another holiday. You might also ask him what he himself can do to help himself manage his emotions during these holiday visits.

The goal here is for both of you to celebrate the holidays together and with family in an enjoyable way. I'm sure you two can make this happen.

Good Luck, Candy

#### **Dear Candy**

I am a trans male working on my marriage to my wife of nine years. I began my transition in 2015 and, at first, it was kind of a shock but it seemed ok. Now, almost five years later, we are fighting to keep our marriage together. It seems like the only thing holding us



together are our two kids. I don't want to lose hope, but I don't want to keep her miserable.

— Losing Hope

#### Dear Losing,

Transitioning itself comes with many twists and turns. Transitioning is not done in a vacuum. As you've alluded, there are other people who are also impacted by these twists and turns.

This is an excellent time to take your marriage to a licensed marriage and family counselor, and work these twists and turns out with a professional.

Your marriage is about two people. You both need to present to a counselor how the conversations go in your marriage. The marriage counselor will not tell you what you should do but will help you two have a better conversation. You will learn to say what you want to say, so your spouse can hear you, and vice versa.

This is not a one conversation and done. The journey is about learning the skills to better communicate. You and your wife will figure out how your relationship will look going forward.

Good luck, Candy

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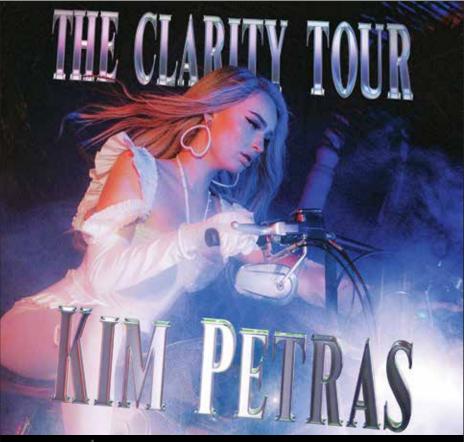
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#### BONNEN From Page 13

clearer than ever that Texans have no appetite for discrimination.

"We will be working closely with our state partners to ensure that even more pro-equality lawmakers are elected in 2020," Marques said. The 2019 session saw the number of LGBT members of the Legislature increase from two to five. They formed the state's first LGBT Caucus, which is led by Chairwoman Mary Gonzalez, D-Clint.

Like Margues, Mary Gonzalez noted many pro-LGBT bills were heard in committee for the first time this year.

"We got hearings on the conversion therapy ban for teenagers 18 and younger," she said, referring to a bill filed by Israel, who is lesbian. Another bill adding hate crimes protections for transgender individuals, introduced by County Affairs Committee Chairman Garnet Coleman, D-Houston, was also heard, although neither passed out of committee.

Still, Mary Gonzalez said, "I'm glad we got the ball moving forward."

And while the goal next session should be getting that ball across the finish line, the Senate remains a barrier to progress, the El Paso lawmaker noted.

While Democrats picked up two seats in the upper chamber in 2018, the Republican caucus is far more conservative there, thanks to the efforts of groups like Empower Texans. Democrats predict they will only pick up one seat — a sprawling district stretching from West Texas and into San Antonio that is currently held by Sen. Pete Flores of Pleasanton. Flores became the first Republican

to hold the seat since its inception after winning a summer special election.

With Bonnen gone, Democrats are also now aggressively recruiting candidates to oppose those Republicans they see as vulnerable. For the first time in two decades, Democrats are close to seizing control of the lower chamber; they need to claim nine seats.

Sam Robles, advocacy director of Progress Texas, which supports LGBT rights, thinks a Democratic-controlled House is possible.

"The Republican Party is losing their grip on political power with the rise of young people, women of color, and people of color taking back Texas," she said. And if that happens, Bonnen's absence won't mean nearly as much on LGBT issues.



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#### SCARY, From Page 9 \_\_\_

and free parking. The costume contest finale will be held on Thursday night when \$1,000 in prizes and cash will be awarded.

#### Silver Pride Project's Halloween Extravaganza

Silver Pride begins an evening of food, beer, wine, games and fun as well as a costume contest from 6-9 p.m. at Grauwyler Park Library, 2146 Gilford St. before carpooling over to Cedar Springs Road for the block party. Admission is free.

#### **Fright Fest**

Art of Torture, artists creations that will live in your nightmare, Curse of Ra, Alien Incubator and Dead Man's Party: Hellz Bellez are the special new features of this year's Fright Fest. Haunted attractions, scare zones, entertainment, rides and more are included in a Halloween visit to Six Flags. Runs through Nov. 3 at Six Flags Over Texas in Arlington. \$59.99 plus parking.

#### Screams

Scarborough Renaissance Festival turns into Screams for the Halloween season with five haunted houses, each with a different theme. Walk through a haunted graveyard. There are also pubs, tarot card and palm readings and a variety of entertainment. Tickets are \$32 advance and \$35 at the gate. Parking is free. From 7:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. on Oct. 25-Oct. 26 at 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie.

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# **Coming out about HIV**

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"Josh Robbins Comes Out." That was the headline on the April 2012 cover story of Nashville's LGBT monthly publication, O&AN, detailing my announcement in my community that I was newly diagnosed with HIV.

During the photoshoot for the cover story, I remember explaining to the photographer and editor of the publication how important it was to me that I looked healthy, strong and sexy. I didn't want to look too pale, too thin — I didn't want to look sick.

It was important to me to look as normal as possible, so I wouldn't look like the stereotypes. It's funny how much image plays into how the public sees a chronic condition like HIV.

As I sit and look at the 20 extra copies of that magazine that I kept for some unknown reason, I can't help but wonder what if it wasn't as newsworthy as it is currently when a public figure or celebrity announces they are living with HIV? But there always has been a big media frenzy when someone known discloses publicly.

The first time that I remember talking about HIV in my life was when a celebrity decided to come out with their diagnosis. It was Magic Johnson in 1991. I remember hearing adults around me discussing everything from how scared they were of the virus to how much Johnson deserved it since he slept around on his wife with so many women to people saying he had money so he would live. I remember some people calling him gay, and it was then I heard my first jokes about AIDS.

I was 8 years old. I lived in Jackson, Tenn., and I watched the news about Magic Johnson along with the rest of the world. It was not the terrible news that blood-stained my innocence to HIV/AIDS as a child; it was the adults' reactions to his honesty that made me begin to fear people living with HIV.

I don't think I understood much more then than that Magic was going to die.

But yet, he didn't. He hasn't. And now 28 years after he became the face of HIV, the reality is that when he does pass away,



Josh Robbins
Contributing Columnist

AIDS — that the face of the virus is a long-term survivor.

But Magic became much more than the face of HIV. He became the example of how to live with HIV. And for that, the rest of us living with HIV have an example of one way to choose to take this journey — to face it and try to become a better person.

As I reminisce about my own journey, I recognize that Magic Johnson really is a hero of mine and someone that became more important to me as I age.

In previous interviews, I have often

Magic Johnson coming out about his medical diagnosis created more than just a news memory for me as a child. I think watching him bravely face the world to announce something so personal helped prepare me for my own moment of sharing on social media that I was diagnosed with HIV in 2012.

Every time a celebrity, a public figure or someone we know more personally chooses to announce they are living with HIV, it helps to educate the public about the real day-to-day journey of those living with this condition. Education also helps to curb stigma against us.

Gareth Thomas' recent announcement (See it at WaxOh.com) is a sad example of how extreme stigma affects celebrities, sometimes forcing them to make an announcement and coming out before being forcibly outed.

Recently when Jonathan Van Ness went public about living with HIV (see also at WaxOh.com), it provided a mass media exposure and opportunity to educate about U=U (Undetectable equals Untransmittable).

Although I wish someone announcing they are living with HIV wasn't as news-



joked that the only things I knew about HIV before I was diagnosed came from the film *Philadelphia* and basketball star Magic Johnson. Although I still don't identify with the film personally, I am starting to understand the impact of what Johnson did to elevate awareness of the epidemic at the time — and still to this day.

worthy as it is, I'm certainly respecting of the big choice that they are making. And I'm thankful that they continue to pave the future of eliminating stigma surround living with HIV

Josh Robbins is a spokesperson for DatingPositives.com, an award-winning sexual health advocate, and author of the site imstilliosh.com.

# Unicorn magic

Singer, Oklahoman, Christian, gay icon: The many faces of Kristin Chenoweth

ristin Chenoweth likes to say that if it can't be explained, it must be the unicorns. So how does she ►explain her many gay fans? Well, you're only partially right if you thought it was because she originated the role of a beguiling, bedazzled, not-wicked witch who belts in a cloud of bubbles while flailing a wand. Because it's also, obviously, a "unicorn thing."

And why, exactly, did our call abruptly drop mid conversation? Was the Broadway star in a deep canyon? Was it AT&T? An overloaded cell tower? A weak signal? "You know what," she squeaks when we reconnect, "it's unicorn problems!"

Chenoweth's perpetually chirpy way of life is a mood that can also best be explained as being ... well, it's unicornian, of course. It just is, and we're all better for it. Ahead of her appearance in Mansfield this weekend and the release of her latest album, For the Girls, we caught up with the 51-year-old Broadway legend and gay cruiser to talk about not stalking Dolly Parton, new details on the Death Becomes Her musical she's set to star in and why she thinks it's important to perform on Mike Huckabee's show ... but especially in a rainbow dress.

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Before we get to the album, I have to know: What was your favorite part of sailing on a cruise ship in August with so many gay men? Kristin Chenoweth: [Laughs] It's my version of heaven!

I haven't even gone on a gay cruise, and I think it's my version of heaven, too. I can't say I blame you. I mean, first of all, all the love on the cruise ship, obviously, from audience to singer and singer to audience, but for each other.

So you'd recommend I go? Yes! You know what it should be called? Love Cruise, because everybody is just there to have fun. I just loved it. I wanted to actually go on the thing, but it's kind of hard for me [laughs] to be on a cruise because it's pretty widely known I have Ménière's Disease, an inner ear vertigo thing. So it's hard for me to be on a boat ... for very long, anyway. So it always bums me out when I have to disembark. I'm like, "Man, I wanna be on this thing!" But you should go!

You performed "For Good" with Katharine McPhee on the cruise. The video of it went viral. Where does that rank among the gayest moments in a career filled with them? know, right? It was awesome. I've always been so moved when we've done it, because her heart is so big, and that's who needs to sing that song — somebody with a heart, really big and open. Never mind that voice. The voice is ridiculous, it's just wonderful. But I always look for the heart, too. She's got it in spades. And it was just a pleasure for us to do, and it was also a pleasure for it to be received so well.

Whose idea was it to put you in a super cute Michael Kors rainbow dress? Well, whose do you think? [Laughs] It was mine! I called my publicist. I said, "Do you think Michael would make the dress?' Because it's so perfect. And he was kind enough to just gift me that dress. It's so funny: I'm gonna have to do Huckabee [former Arkansas governor and conservative commentator Mike Huckabee's weekly talk show] and Michael's like, "You're not gonna do Huckabee." I'm like, "I sure am! I'm gonna wear my rainbow dress. You know I'm gonna wear my Pride flag. You bet I am! Of course I am!" It's important for us to not only wear it with our people but with our not people.

Why is that true for you? Because if we don't talk to each other, and if we don't talk to people who disagree with us or don't believe like us, then we will never move forward.

Shifting to your new album, I know this is called For the Girls, but Babs, Judy, Dinah and Doris... some of these songs strike me as ones that maybe you listened to with gay friends growing up. You think? How did you guess? Of course! You know, I had such a blessing in high school: I did have a group of friends — some were in the closet, and some weren't — and I feel like we did sit around, and obviously we listened to Judy and we listened to Barbra, but I think I would've done that anyway, because my parents, even though they're engineers, loved music. They would listen to everything - I mean from Puccini, everything that was on PBS. And I introduced them to Madonna, which was shocking at first. But we kind of loved everything in our house, and I think that says a lot about the way I was raised and also just what my musical tastes are. I

wouldn't say



I've mastered them all, but country music was a big part of me. I've wanted to do that Dolly song ["I Will Always Love You," which is featured on *For the Girls*] since I can remember, with her, and I never thought she'd say yes and, man, she did. I can't believe she did.

But of course I'm gonna honor Judy on that record; of course I'm gonna honor Barbra. People forget about Eydie Gormé's "I Wanna Be Around;" I'm gonna sing Eydie Gormé. I'm going to honor Linda [Ronstadt], who was one of the most versatile singers we had. I was on the cheerleading squad, and I remember we had to make up a routine for halftime, and mine was a lyrical dance to Linda's "Desperado." I remember the cheerleaders going, "I don't think so. I don't think that's gonna work out." That tells you where my brain and heart always were.

With the gay icons, of course. Yeah, right.

How would you describe this album to a straight man? My producer, Steve Tyrell, is as straight as they come, and he and I both wanted to honor the women. But I said to him in a recording session, "You know, this isn't just about the women, this isn't just about the renaissance that we are having now." My tribute to them is about the men who've loved them. Gay, straight, tall, short. It's really about the men who've been behind the women, like my dad. And so I think that's kind of where

it's "for the girls," for sure, but I hope the men who love us love it, too.

Which, of course, includes gay men. I know you know there's a special

bond between gay men and straight women. There is. I've been asked before to explain that, and I say that's a unicorn thing. I don't know. It's just how it is. It started for me when I was a little girl; I've always just been drawn to that community. Especially when I went to college, my world was opened up even more by some of my best friends, especially growing up in the Bible Belt and how interesting that's been, as well. But I say that it goes together for me, my faith and my love for not just gays but people. Listen, if you're a jerk, I'm probably not gonna like ya.

And listen, there are gay jerks. Just like there are straight jerks, so I get it, baby. I get it.

You are meticulous in your approach to the roles you play on TV, in film and on Broadway. Like for your part on NBC's Trial & Error, you knew the slap gloves had to be leather, and you knew why, and you were very specific. How does your creative brain work when you're taking on a song that's been done to death, like "Crazy" or "When I Fall In Love?" Yeah, thank you for saying that. I absolutely am. And I know that sometimes it makes other people bananas, but I have to say what I know, and one thing I've learned — and this is just what you call evolution in life — is if you do your truth, and you have a reason for it, they might

not all agree or like it, but they can't get mad at you for it. I'm gonna say what I think because a) I've been doing it for a second, and b) I've been trained, and c) I care! If I didn't care I'd say, "OK, I'm just gonna release a record, who cares." I wouldn't have a thought about it. I wouldn't.

When we were recording "I'm a Woman" with Jennifer [Hudson] and Reba [McEntire], I said, "I have to have Aretha on this album, I don't know how to do that." Steve Tyrell was like, "We're gonna have her speak at the end." Blew my mind. And that's why I went to work with Steve, and that's why I went to work with the people that I worked with on *Trial & Error*, because they think like me; I think like them. It's kind of a unique club, and I'm not saying that we're more precious or more special than others; I'm saying that being meticulous about your art is a gift. The day that I don't care is the day I'll quit.

How has "You Don't Own Me," which you've recorded as a duet with Ariana Grande, influenced you? I remember the first time I heard it: I heard Lesley Gore's version, because in my family we listened to Lesley Gore. Then I became a big fan of Dusty Springfield's and over the years have kind of compared the two, and I always, for me, love the original. I always go back to the original. It's just kind of who I am. Which is interesting that I chose to do this record, because I'm trying to put

my stamp on original songs. But I went back to Lesley's version, and I wanted Ariana because I feel like it's kind of my version of old school and new school together. I just felt like the words and lyrics

were us.

KRISTIN CHENOWETH

Mansfield ISD Center for

Performing Arts, 1110 W. Debbie Labe, Mansfield. Nov. 2. 8 p.m.

Eventbrite.com.

You've spoken a lot about Dolly over the years and her influence on your career. Now that you've recorded a song with her, how chummy are you and Dolly? Do you text each other? Well, mainly what I do is video because these nails don't really do well with texting. [Laughs] And if I could just quit and go on tour with her, I would do it. I would do it! It's not stalker-y, but it is a healthy obsession, and it started, again, when I was little, and I thought, "I feel like her." That was the feeling I got. Then a long time ago, when we first met she was like, "You're like me!" And I was like, "I know!" It's been like that over the years. And do I wish I could see her more? Yeah. Do I wish I could be with her on the bus watching her cook? Yes.

Hey, I bet you never thought that you would record a song with her, so you never know. I never did. My next dream: I wanna go to Dollywood real bad.

With her? Yeah, with her. But you know what, if it doesn't happen soon, I'm just gonna go by myself and have my own party. Because I've got to go.

And you'll FaceTime her when you're riding the rides? That's exactly what I'll do.

Have we gotten any closer to a *Pushing*■ UNICORNS Page 22



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Daisies musical or potential TV revival? I think Lee Pace and series creator Bryan Fuller have been maybe trying to cook up something. Well, I wish they'd hurry up, because we didn't really get closure, which was, if you want to look at it this way, also a beautiful thing. But Bryan keeps talking about it, and I know nothing would make me happier. I just felt like we got the slow "no." Networks and studios, I get it, it's a business. It's nothing against them. It's just that we didn't know that when we filmed our season finale that it was our series finale. I think we've all been kind of searching for [a revival]

Do you have a preference as to whether the show should return as a musical or TV revival? Gosh, you know, I think it would be lovely to have a TV revival, because it was so unique looking on camera. It was beautiful. And the music ended up being ... well, anything Bryan does, music is a big part of it, whether there's singing or not. I just would hate not to have that look again on film.

I feel like as a gay man I already know the answer to this, but what sold you on a musical version of Death Becomes Her? Everything. At first, when they approached me, I thought it was obviously for the Goldie Hawn part. And they said, "No. The Meryl Streep part." And I was like, "Really?" 'Cause I love her, I love that role. I just knew I wanted to do it. I

knew the story was funny. I know that it is going to be unique in the trickery that they are inventing. And I know it's funny. That doesn't always mean that the show will be funny, but I know the writer, and I have read part of it — we have part of the show — and I have complete confidence in what we're going to create, and I can't wait to show the world.

I can't wait to see how they're going to make your head turn. I have a bad neck, so I'm like, "Good luck with that, people." [Laughs] But I think they've been talking with different kinds of illusionists and magicians, and I think it might be kind of a .... not kind of, I think it will be the first on Broadway of its kind, and I just can't wait. I cannot wait.

RuPaul gave you his blessing to play **Christian singer and evangelist Tammy** Faye Baker. Is Ru the ultimate seal of approval? Yes! I've been waiting. I mean, I'm sitting here doing a time step. I'm waiting for the script. We just hired Robert Horn who just had great success with Tootsie on Broadway and David Yazbek, so you know, tick-tock, tick-tock. I'm waiting. I can't wait to get the lashes going, but also, I just can't wait to explore her spirit, which was very deep. A lot deeper than people understood. I don't see it as a big Broadway musical, per se. I don't think that's what we're looking at. I think it's much more of a small – you know how Audra [McDonald] did Lady Day?

More in that vein.

You didn't exactly plan to become the belle of Broadway, and I've read that you even thought you'd just become a singer, but obviously your career took you in different directions. What is the most pleasantly unexpected detour your career has taken up to this point? Aww, what a great question. Seriously. I guess when I think about the work

I've done, I would say having the opportunity to do all kinds of music. I didn't think I'd have the opportunity to do a country record. I didn't think I'd have an opportunity to make an inspirational Christian record. I didn't think I'd get the opportunity to put my stamp on Gershwin and Cole Porter last time. I didn't know that I'd get to do a live record with film at a theater. And now this one. My label has given me great opportunities to do all of the kinds

of music

I like, and that was a big surprise to me because so many times labels get a bad rap, like, "I'm gonna be handcuffed to doing just one thing." I have been able and allowed to do several things; that's been a big surprise.

The personal thing that's been a surprise with my career has been getting to talk about my faith and my beliefs behind that, and my love for our community

> that we're talking about right now. I didn't know that that was going to become so important, shall I say. I didn't know. much like Tammy Fave was a trailblazer, that I was going to be ... I just always was who I was. I have lost fans because of it; I have gained fans because of it. But the most important part of that for me, personally,

is knowing in my heart that one of my purposes in life is being fulfilled: getting to say what I think and what I believe.



# Wake in fright

Tales of true terror and the supernatural, told by those who lived them

**ARNOLD WAYNE JONES I** Executive Editor jones@dallasvoice.com

ilestones in the gay community have always been perversely tied to death. Gay Pride Month (June) was selected because that's when the Stonewall Riots began, themselves occasioned by the death of Judy Garland (as well as violence against queer people). October became Gay History Month in part because of

the murder of Matthew Shepard. The fact this is also the month of Halloween, a holiday the LGBTQ community has embraced as "Gay Christmas," only reinforces our association with the macabre.

As perverse as it may be, it's not surprising. Gay people have long been objects of violence, derision, scare tactics.

Local raconteur Rawlins Gilliland even created a one-man show, titled Happy Murder Stories, about actual incidents of horror he has encountered during his travels. (Among them: A homicidal truck driver, and a family of rednecks literally hunting him for sport.)

"A scary story can be a close call with violence or prolonged suspenseful

tension with physical or even mental danger imminent," explains Gilliland of his definition. "These sagas tend to be graded on a curve. Some of us conflate being on a ship that loses power [and] food becoming scarce as terrifying, while someone like me has enough horror stories to fill a one-man show."

Even the first show in his trilogy of

■ FRIGHT Next Page



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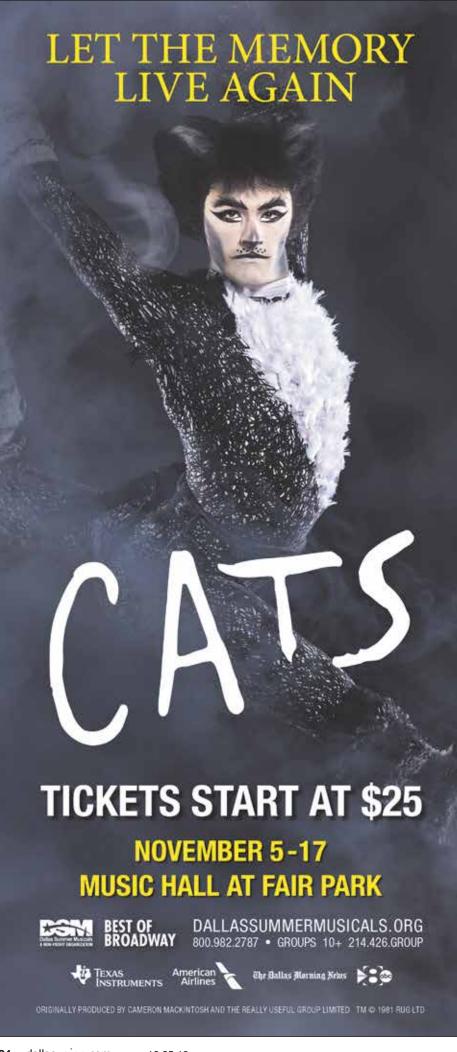
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■ FRIGHT From Previous Page

solo performances, about how he stumbled upon a rape/murder in 1965, is as scary now as when he was hiking alone late at night, lost on the vertical trails within Maui's massive dormant volcano. Haleakala in 1999. "Being murdered by strangers or plunging from a cliff in the dense midnight fog have the same result — I would never have lived to tell the story," he says. "That is why I enjoyed the Murders show the most: Because I had lived to tell the stories... and had come to enjoy that I had survived scary stories instead of being captured by my own fears in their aftermath. 'I'll never get over it' has never been my mantra."

So to commemorate Halloween week — and soon after many locals have their own frightening tornado tales — we asked a few other North Texas folks (queer and not) to share some of their personal stories of fright, from unexplained brushes with the supernatural to scary experiences fully standing in the real world. Each of these stories, they insist, are true.

The most recent thing happened to us about five months ago. We were at an intersection at night, in the right lane waiting to turn right. Our light was red, and opposing traffic had a green arrow, so we were letting them pass. However, my car suddenly started moving and turned right — like the wheel was turning, and as we were accelerating though I kept trying to apply the brakes. You could hear the engine groan and everything. Jason screamed, "Stop! What are you doing!?" No sooner had he finished that sentence when we hear a terrible crash. Right behind us is a car flying into the intersection, spinning a couple times and crashing. It was completely totaled. When we drove back that way after dinner, we saw three ambulances and what seemed like a very bad situation. We really felt an angel was looking out for us.

— John Shore

I've got two stories. First, when I was 16, I went with a friend's family to Vicksburg, Miss., to visit the Civil War battlefield. Afterward, we went to the old courthouse, which is now a museum. As you go upstairs, there's a large room of various Civil War artifacts, one of them a brown velvet hoop skirt dress. As soon as I saw it, I reacted instinctively, thinking: "Aww, there's my dress. I wonder why they don't have the matching shoes and mother's coral necklace?"... Uh, say what now?



was from Texas. They didn't know what to make of me. Another time, I was walking to work when this man comes up and asks me a question. [He didn't like my answer], and grabs me by the throat and crotch and throws me to the ground. I started yelling at him, and he ran off. When I got to work, I saw there were bloody handprints on my neck. We called the cops, and it turned out the man had beaten and raped a girl three blocks south a few minutes before he saw me.

said, "Who's the dame? What are you doing here?" I thought, "Wow, this really is like a movie ... only I could really die." I said, "I'm from Texas." They seemed puzzled. The guns, the dogs, the money, these goons — this wasn't like buying pot

in high school. I realized these people could make us disappear, and nobody would ever find us. They finally let us go. Initially I was like "ha-ha, that was an adventure," until the next morning. That's when I asked David, "Why did you take me?" He said, "You were my protection!" And I sensed he was right. I was this weird talisman — who knew who I really was? I was 20 and thought I knew everything and

And then there was when Trump got elected....

— Louise Owens





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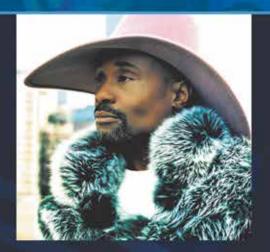


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# Friday 10.25 -

## best bets

LIFE+STYLE

#### 'Lizzie' creeps into Bath House for 40 more whacks

Imprint Theatreworks wraps up its 2019 season with Lizzie, a hard rock spin on the Lizzie Borden story. You remember her — the spinster who (allegedly) hacked up her parents with an axe. This electrifying rock musical examines the events that may have led to Borden's bloody boiling point. Watch four women front this fast-tempo piece set to a riveting rock 'n' roll score during Spooky Season.

**DEETS:** Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. ImprintTheatreworks.org.

## Friday 11.01 — **Sunday** 11.03

#### From farm to plate to flavor heaven

Local foodies prepare to taste the best of Dallas at the annual Chefs for Farmers fundraiser. This year's event features delicacies and drinks crafted from 50 Dallas chefs and restaurants over three

days, more than 40 wineries, distilleries and breweries contributing to this benefit for the folks who put food on your plate, culminating in The Main Event Sunday at Dallas Heritage Village. Chefs for Famers also added a few more delights, including a highlight of the margarita's local history, a boozy tailgate, a rosécentered soiree and biergarten.

**DEETS:** Visit ChefsForFarmers.com for complete scheduleEvent Dallas Heritage Village, 1515 Harwood St. 2:30-6 p.m.

## Friday 1 1.01

#### Celebrate Broadway's best at Fair Park gala

Dallas Summer Musical's annual gala offers theater lovers a chance to spend an evening with a few of the people who bring magic to DSM's stages. The evening's guest performers include actress Kelli O'Hara

(Tony winner and recent star of Kiss Me, Kate!), Amber Riley (of hit TV show Glee who recently starred in West End's debut of Dreamgirls) and the night's host, triple-threat Broadway icon Chita Rivera, who earned a Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement last year for her iconic dance, song and acting performances.

**DEETS:** Music Hall at Fair Park. 909 1st Ave. 8 p.m. From \$30. DallasSummerMusicals. org.







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#### calendar highlights

#### **ARTSWEEK**

#### **THEATER**

Gay History Month Play Festival. Two oneact plays - Drew Droege's Bright Colors and Bold Patterns starring Paul J. Williams and Alexandrew Recore's Cooties - feature queer tales for Gay History Month, co-produced by Uptown Players and Flexible Grey Theatre Co. Final weekend. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. UptownPlayers.org.

Ann. One-woman show by Holland Taylor about former Texas Gov. Ann Richards. Kalita Humphreys Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Nov. 10. DallasTheaterCenter.org.

Dracula. A feminist spin on the vampire story, from Michael Federico and Christie Vela. A world premiere. Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Through Nov. 3 (extended). Theatre3Dallascom

Lizzie. The Fall River spinster murdered her parents... right? A musical. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Through Nov. 9. ImprintTheatreworks.org.

A Love Offering. World premiere by local gay playwright Jonathan Norton. Directed by Tina Parker. Final weekend. Presented by Kitchen Dog Theater. Trinity River Arts Center, 2600 N. Stemmons Freeway. KitchenDogTheater.org.

Sister Act. Musical adaptation of the Whoopi Goldberg comedy movie about a woman

hiding out from bad guys in a convent. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Nov. 10. WaterTowerTheatre.org

Two by Beckett. WingSpan Theatre, which has always focused on challenging plays that address gender issues, celebrates its 22nd season with two one-act solo shows by Samuel Beckett: Footfalls (with Jennifer Kuenzer) and Not I (with artistic director Susan Sargeant). Final weekend. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. WingSpanTheatre.org.

The Wild Party. Bishop Arts Theatre Center presents the Andrew Lippa version (there is another by Michael John LaChiusa) of the famed Jazz Age poem by Joseph Moncure March about debauchery and murder. Final weekend. Bishop Arts Theatre Center, 215 S. Tyler St. BishopArtsTheatre.org.

#### **OPERA**

The Magic Flute. Mozart's quirky, colorful masterpiece about freemasonry. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Nov. 3 DallasOpera.org.

The Golden Cockerel. Rimsky-Korsakov's seldom-performed comedy. Conducted by Emmanuel Villaume; directed by Paul Curran. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Oct. 25-Nov. 2. DallasOpera.org.

#### DANCE

BodyTraffic. Presented by TITAS/Dance Unbound. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Oct. 25-26. ATTPAC.org.

#### **FINE ART**

Dior: From Paris to the World. Retrospective of 70 years of the famed French design house. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Final weekend. DMA.org.

A Sampling of Contemporary Portraiture. An exhibition of the work of five photographers producing compelling new examples of portraiture. Afterimage Gallery, 2613B Fairmount St. Through Nov. 4. AfterimageGallery.com.

#### **MONDAY 10.28**

#### 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 10.29**

#### FILM

Poltergeist. "They're heeere!" A chilling modern ghost story. Screens just in time for Halloween 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.



#### browse

For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinvurl.com/dvevents

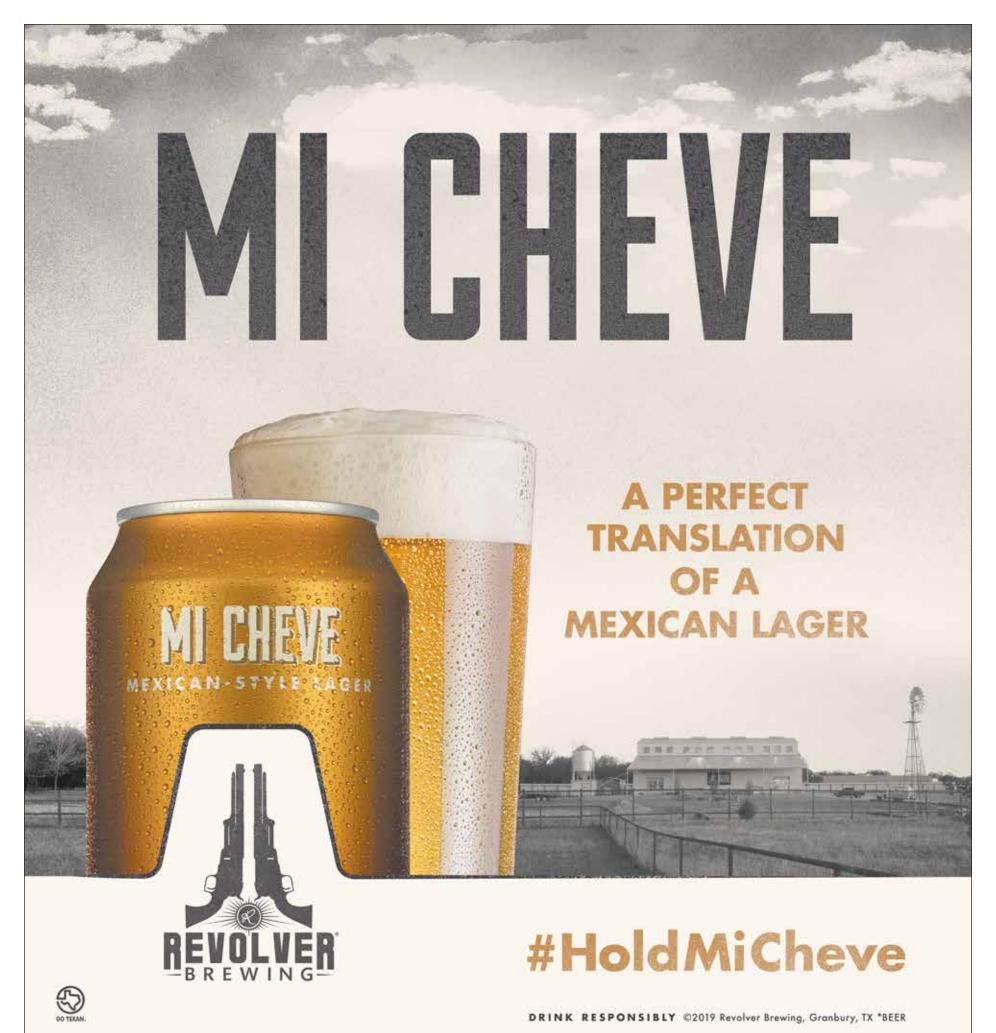
#### submit To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

#### **FRIDAY 11.01**

#### **FUNDRAISER**

DSM Gala: An Evening of the Best of Broadway. Kelli O'Hara, Chita Rivera and Amber Riley perform. Tickets available for the performance only, or for the gala dinner. Fair Park Music Hall, 909 First Ave. Nov. 1. DallasSummerMusicals.org.





10.25.19 ■ dallasvoice



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#### Cassie Nova

Greetins from Key West

Heyyyy yoooouuu guuuyyysss!!!! It's freakin' October and it finally feels like fall. It makes me so flippin' happy to go outside and not burst into flames. Plus it is getting closer to Halloween, the time when we heathens can charge our evil souls to get us through the holiday season without bloodshed. I just love sweata weatha.

My husband Jamie and I recently went on a much needed vacation to Key West. It was fabulous. Once our plane left DFW, I unplugged and did not even message any of my work peeps or showgirls. It stresses me to think about it but I know the world does not end if I'm not there to manage it. I refuse to be a micromanager and my fabulous sisters proved I had nothing to worry about. The show will always go on, with or without you. I both love and hate that.

Anyhoo... Key West had some great restaurants and some fun bars to drink at, but they still let people smoke indoors. I guess it's not a big deal there since everywhere has a patio or an open setup but I hated that. We are so spoiled here.

We did a couple of excursions on the water that were awesome. Our first one took us and 10 other people out snorkeling, kayaking and paddle boarding. I was a little disappointed in the snorkeling — we saw some beautiful fish and some big ass spiny lobsters but seeing so much dead coral broke my heart. It was still really cool. Snorkeling is one of my all-time favorite activities.

The kayaking was fun but taught me I have zero core strength. Thank god for the two-person kayak and my strong husband. Our tour guide took us in and around these cool mangrove trees that looked like they popped out of nowhere — just a bunch of mangrove trees out in the middle of the ocean.

Our tour guides/boat crew did a great job educating us on the importance of the mangrove trees and how much they help the ecosystem. My nerd side loved all that. As they led us through an opening in the dense trees, I saw out of the corner of my eye something scurry off a branch, onto my shoulder and down my back. To me it looked like a fucking tarantula - we have lots of those around Midlothian, and I have a policy of you leave me alone and I leave you alone, but this bitch was on my back. Luckily it turned out to be just a little crab. It scurried off the kayak and into the water, but not before I screamed like a bitch and embarrassed myself. Thank god I didn't flip us over - that would have really freaked me out.

By the way, our two tour guides were absolutely beautiful. They were friendly, fun and hot af, but the best part? They carried a cooler with them on their kayak, and we were never more than a few feet away from a beer. We met a newlywed couple from Indiana, and a couple celebrating their 10-year anniversary — more amazingly beautiful



people. There were a couple of red-neckish guys from New Jersey that I thought were going to be.... you know, dicks! But they were crazy-friendly, and once they found out we had been together for 16 years, they were very congratulatory. One told me of his crazy ex-wife, and that I was lucky to have found my "person."

They were all very open-minded and awesome. It made for a great day. Oh yeah, since it was my husband's birthday that day, it was free for him. So we had a great time and saved \$130. Once the newlywed girl found out it was his birthday she pulled out a water bottle filled with rum, and made Jamie chug it.

When it came time to paddle board, I passed. I was tipsy and worn out, so most of us sat on the boat and ate and drank some more. Plus I have a zero skill level when it comes to balance — I didn't want to embarrass myself further.

We ended the excursion watching the sunset. It was beautiful and a little romantic. We were buzzed and in love, and we didn't

care who saw it. It was awesome. That day will go down as one of my best days ever.

The next day, we went to Dry Tortugas National Park. It is a Civil War fort out in the middle of nowhere. We had to take a ferry for two-and-a-half hours to get there but it was worth it. The fort takes up the entire island that it sits on. It is huge and even has its own moat. We snorkeled around it and hiked all over the place, inside and out. The ferry brought about 200 people, but the place is so spread out that we didn't have to be around anybody if we didn't want to. We were there about four hours before we heading back, exhausted. It was crazy-beautiful but the ride back was rough. Huge waves and too many kids running around made the two-and-a-half hours back feel like days. I'm still glad we did it. On the plus side, I only made one kid cry.

One of the things that surprised me about Key West: There are no great beaches. Yes, they have a few beaches, but there wasn't enough sand. By the time the water reaches your knees and thighs, it becomes really

rocky and hard to maneuver. Plus the kinda farty smell of the sargassum grossed me out. Sargassum is not just a problem in Key West, it is everywhere along the east coast and down into South America. It's seaweed that washes up on shore, and as it decays it releases hydrogen sulfide gas. Most of the hotels and resorts do a great job of cleaning it up, but every once in a while you would get the whiff of farts on the sea air.

Y'all know how much I love sea turtles, but unfortunately we didn't see any while we were snorkeling. We did see a bunch at the Turtle Hospital in Marathon, Fla. We did a tour of the facility and saw all of the great work they do to treat and rehabilitate sick or injured turtles. We got to see some little-bity babies, and I about died. Totes adorbs!

Overall, Key West was a blast. I can't wait for our next adventure — possibly Dublin, Ireland? Who knows? Happy Halloween er'body!

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



In fine face at The Round-Up Saloon

#### Making the SCENE the Week of Oct. 25-31:

- 1851 Club: Halloween Party with Costume Contest after the show on Saturday.
- 515 Bar: Halloween Party at 10 p.m. on Friday. Cash prizes for Best Costumes.
- Alexandre's: Blok Party with DJ Eliz on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Vero Voz on Wednesday.
- Cedar Springs Tap House: Marsha and Friends Drag Brunch at 11 a.m. on Saturday.
- Club Changes: Miss Divine Divas' Theater of Blood at 10:30 p.m. and Halloween Costume Contest at 11:30 p.m. on Friday.
- Club Reflection: Twisted Tuesday Talent Show at 11 p.m. on Tuesday.
- Dallas Eagle: Mentor's Program Silent Auction from 6-9 p.m. on Friday. United Court of the Lone Star Empire Bar Tour/Out of Town Show from 6-7 p.m. on Friday. Dallas Diablos Cookout from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
- Havana: Celebrate Havanaween on Thursday with \$500 for Best Costume.
- JR.'s Bar & Grill: Halloween Block Party on Saturday night. Dragula Season 3 Watch Party with Bleach at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. RuPaul's Drag Race UK Watch Party with Krystal Summers or Raquel Blake at 8 p.m. on Thursday. Costume Contest Prelim at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- Magnum: Costume Contest on Saturday. Costume Contest Finale with \$1,000 in cash and prizes on Thursday.
- Marty's Live: Best-Dressed Pet Costume Contest at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- Pekers: Karaoke and Costume Contest from 9:45 p.m.-12:45 a.m. on Saturday.
- Round-Up Saloon: Haunted Halloween Lip Sync Battle with Domita Sanchez and The Saloon Girls at 10 p.m. on Thursday followed at midnight by Costume Contest with \$150 prize for best individual and \$300 prize for Best Group Costume.
- S4: Halloween Block Party on Saturday night. Costume Contest Finale at midnight on Thursday with \$1,500 in cash and prizes.
- Sue Ellen's: Halloween Block Party on Saturday night. Faron and Marisela on Sunday. The Queerdom at 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Costume Contest Prelim at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- The Rose Room: Costume Contest Prelim at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- TMC: The Mining Company: Halloween Block Party on Saturday night. Costume Contest Prelim at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- Urban Cowboy: Rocky Horror Drag Brunch from noon-3 p.m. on Sunday. \$20.
- Woody's Sports & Video Bar: 11th annual Halloween Backlot Party hosted by Jada Pinkett Fox from 7 p.m.-2 a.m. on Saturday.

Scene Photographers: Chad Mantooth and Nicholas Gonzalez (with a Z, dammit)



Still looking for the perfect costume for the Halloween Block Party on Cedar Springs or the Halloween night costume contests? Then check out Jenna Skyy's video on how to create this creepy killer clown makeup at DallasVoice.com.

## The men of Magnum Dallas

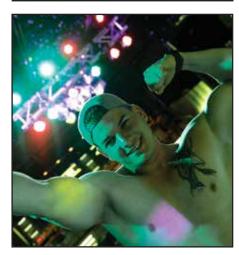


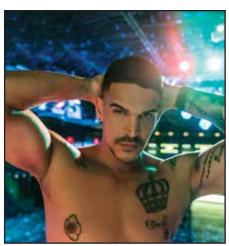


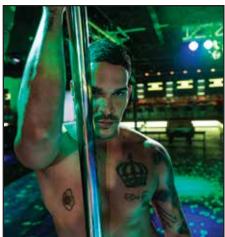














# **Celebrating the success of LifeWalk 2019**















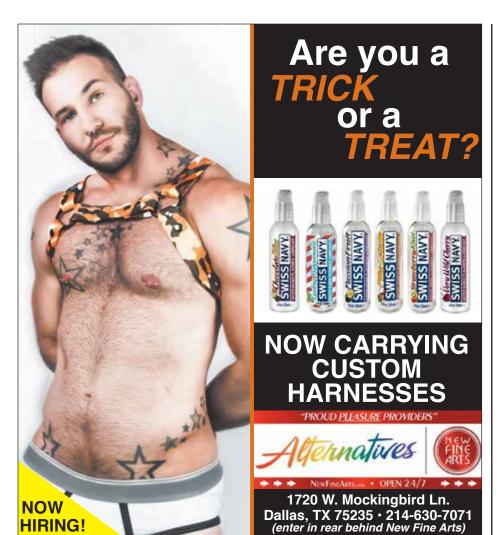
Friends out for fun on The Strip

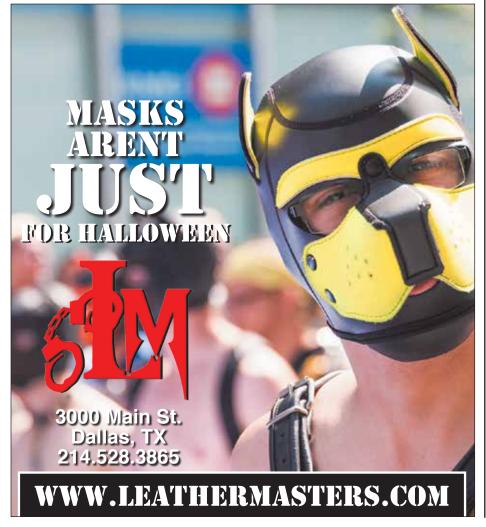


Cooking up a good time at Panda's on The Strip



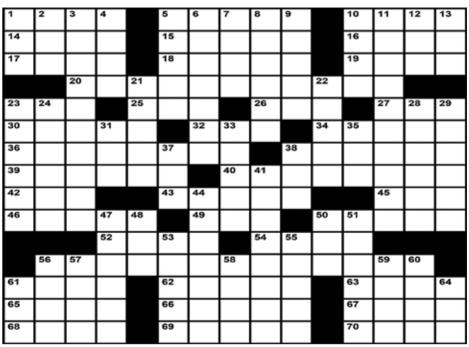






#### q-puzzle

#### **Mistress of Evil**



#### Solution on Page 28

#### Across

1 Sissy

5 Shoot off a larger

10 They may come from Uranus

14 Anti-oxidant berry

15 Model's asset

16 Request from bended knee

17 Woody valley

18 Beatles manager Brian's nickname

19 Trireme propellers

20 She plays Princess Aurora in \_Maleficent: Mistress of Evil\_

23 Threesome on a phone button

25 Same-sex vow, now

26 Lid for Barrie 27 Pacifier

30 Roll with the punches 32 You can dance with a sailor here

34 Dish in a lab

36 With 40-Across, she plays Queen Ingris in

Maleficent: Mistress of Evil

38 Like some classic movies

39 Cross-dresser's concern

40 See 36-Across 42 Sticky stuff

43 Taiwanese or Thai

45 Way out

46 Goofed up

McKellen

50 Way of the theater

52 Cabinet div.

54 Connoisseur Allen and others

49 James Whale portrayer

56 She plays the title role in Maleficent: Mistress

of Evil 61 Asian cuisine

62 Biscotti flavoring

63 Gets the bottom line

65 Erection, in slang

66 Gin partner

67 NY Met, for one

68 It may come before 69 69 "\_\_\_ at time!" (serial

polygamy motto) 70 Lairs of bears

#### Down

1 What a guy may shoot 2 Frozen dessert

3 Culprit with a Y

chromosome?

4 AZT dose

5 Geert Blanchart's kind of skating

6 High hit ball in Glenn Burke's sport

7 Talk show cohost Kelly

8 Really loves

9 Susan's \_Thelma and Louise\_partner

10 Second word of a fairy tale

11 Poles for pennants

12 On top of, in poetry

13 Airline to Oslo

21 Soda size, sometimes

22 Philip Johnson contemporary

23 Cost, in slang

24 Susie Bright, to erotica

28 Tough sledding

29 Cocteau's Peter

31 F-word start, for

Socrates?

33 Mapplethorpe's "Dark

Rose"

35 Band that recorded

"Unbelievable"

37 Comic actor DeLaria

38 Kevin Bacon in

Footloose

41 1940 Disney classic

44 Audit

47 More like Cho's

comedy

48 One of Freddie

Mercury's pair

50 \_Oklahoma!\_'s \_\_\_

Annie

51 Cuba or Aruba 53 Philosopher of Athens

55 Force out

56 Cat on \_\_\_ Tin Roof\_

57 Children's caretaker

58 Bean's team

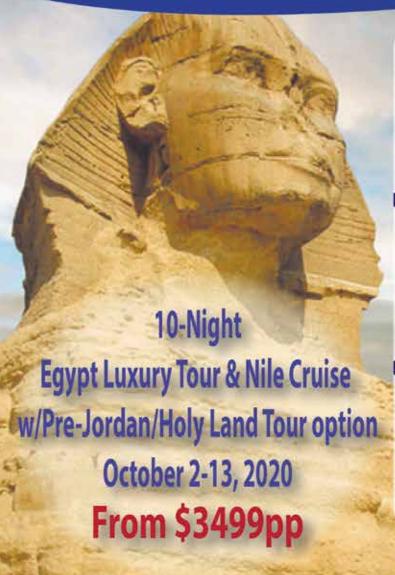
59 Spamalot\_writer Eric

60 Forbidden fruit site

61 USA alternative

64 MTF operation

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11-Night India Land Tour Abercrombie & Kent March 7-18, 2020 From \$4599pp

with a post Mumbai option



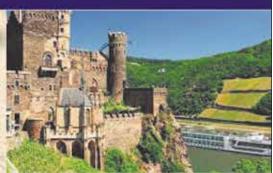
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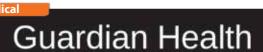
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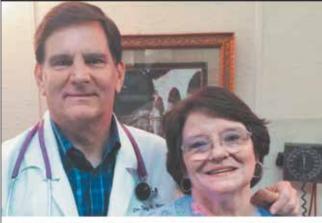
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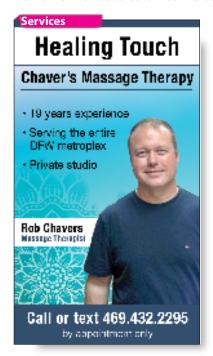


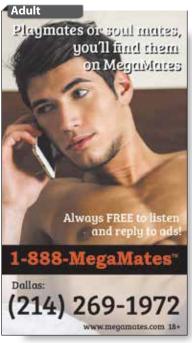
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