

dallasvoice

Dallas Pride
going virtual
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Hurray for **'Hollywood'**

Stage legend Patti LuPone conquers Tinseltown in revisionist Netflix series
by Chris Azzopardi, Page 14



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Dallas Pride will not be gathering at Fair Park this year, but is pleased to announce The Pride of Texas, a virtual celebration of a very real mission.

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www.dallaspride.org



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NOTICE OF DART PUBLIC HEARING

Dallas Streetcar Fare Change

A public hearing has been scheduled to receive comments on a proposed Fare Change for the Dallas Streetcar.

The City of Dallas (owner of the streetcar) and DART opened Dallas Streetcar service in 2015, with DART overseeing operation and maintenance of the free service. The objective of the fare change is to increase funding for continued operation and maintenance of the vehicles and improvement of the rider experience.

The proposed new fare would be \$1 per ride. Passengers would pay using a pre-purchased DART pass, DART's GoPass app, or a GoPass Tap Card. There would be no cash fare option onboard.

The 2.45 mile route features six stops between the historic Bishop Arts District and EBJ Union Station, 20-minute daily service 5:30 a.m. to midnight, and connections to DART and TRE plus Methodist Dallas Medical Center.

Based on input gathered at the hearing, the DART Board of Directors will act on these changes in late Spring 2020 with implementation occurring in Summer 2020.

Public Hearing

Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

DART Headquarters - Board Room

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Aimee Stephens, plaintiff in 1st trans civil rights case heard by SCOTUS, has died

Aimee Stephens, the transgender woman whose landmark case was the first case addressing transgender civil rights to be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court, died Tuesday, May 12,

following a lengthy battle with diabetes. Family friends announced last week that Stephens had gone into hospice care at home after her conditioned worsened.

She died at her home in metro Detroit with her wife, Donna Stephens, at her side. She was 59.

Stephens filed suit after she was fired from

her job at R.G. and G.R. Harris Funeral Homes in 2013, two weeks after she came out as transgender to her boss. Both the EEOC and the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in her favor, saying that the funeral home had violated Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. The funeral home appealed, and the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in the case last October.

A decision from the court over whether Title VII includes protections for LGBTQ people is expected at any time.

— Tammye Nash

County Judge Clay Jenkins issues statement on Gov. Abbott's flip-flop

"We intentionally modeled the public health guidelines based on the governor's recommendations, never imagining he did not want his own guidelines followed," County Judge Clay Jenkins said in an emailed statement on Wednesday, May 13, after receiving a letter from Attorney General Ken Paxton warning that Dallas County's COVID-19 restrictions exceeded those issued by Gov. Greg Abbott, and following Abbott's decision the previous week to amend his statewide executive order allowing for violators to be jailed.

"I ask the public to make decisions based on the recommendations of public health professionals: our lives depend on it. You can find rec-

ommendations from local public health experts at DallasCountyCOVID.org by downloading Dallas County COVID-19 Health Guidance for the Public," Jenkins said.

— David Taffet

Resource Center offers virtual LGBTQ competency training

Resource Center is taking its LGBTQ cultural competency training program to a new place — the virtual world.

The Center is offering two different virtual training programs in the coming week. First, on Tuesday, May 19, there will be a one-hour "LGBTQ 101" training program, conducted by the Center's Patrick Hanley and Leslie McMurray. This is generally the same training that is offered to businesses, governmental bodies and schools. The cost to take part in the training is only \$20 a person. Register at lgbtq101virtual.eventbrite.com

Then, on Thursday, May 21, the Center, in conjunction with Dallas ISD, is offering the "Out for Safe Schools" LGBTQ allyship program to DISD teachers, staff and administrators. Anyone who wants to attend the OFSS training should contact Mahoganie Gaston at MGaston@dallasisd.org. This is the final Out for Safe Schools training for this school year, but the program will resume in August.

— David Taffet

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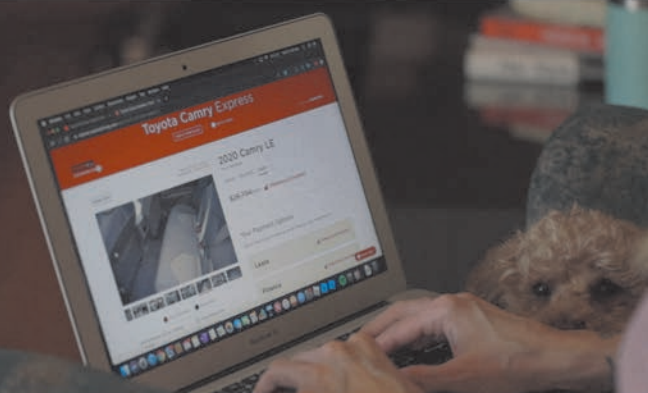
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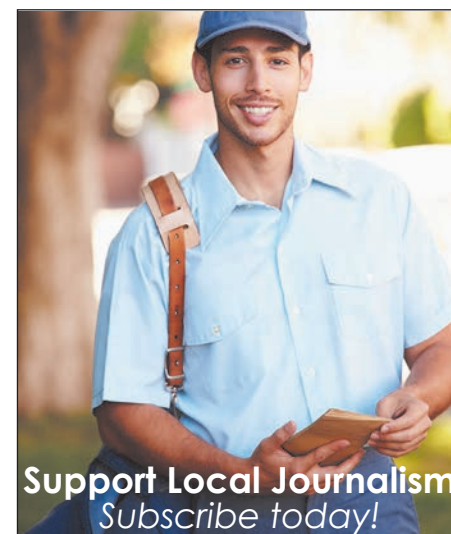
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‘Everything we do has been turned upside down’

The Turtle Creek Chorale and other arts groups navigate through the Covid-19 crisis, struggling to survive and pondering how they will reopen

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Turtle Creek Chorale Artistic Director Sean Baugh is tired of the arts not being seen as essential. During the COVID-19 crisis, the arts not only entertain, they also bring people together, provide comfort and inspire.

“The AIDS crisis didn’t wipe us out,” Baugh said. “This won’t either.”

AIDS took the lives of 200 chorale members, but it crept in more slowly and insidiously. There was time to prepare.

The COVID-19 crisis, on the other hand, came on suddenly, leaving no time to gear up.

“Everything we do has been turned upside down,” Baugh said.

His organization was lucky that its big, wildly-successful fundraising event with Idina Menzel took place in February, weeks before the shutdown. But he said Terry Loftis and The Arts Community Alliance, the arts funding organization Loftis heads, became life-savers for the chorale and other Dallas County arts organizations when they issued emergency grants earlier this month.

Loftis said TACA sent out checks to more than 50 arts organizations and will send a second round of emergency grants at the end of this month.

When he put out a call for donations, Loftis said, Texas Instruments was the first to respond, sending \$100,000. That donation was followed by one in the same amount from the McDermott Foundation. As others continue to contribute,

Loftis said, he’ll get the money out to help save the arts in Dallas.

Loftis said that while a variety of theater, dance, visual arts and music organizations received funds, both the Turtle Creek Chorale and The Women’s Chorus of Dallas serve a unique and diverse demographic and are important to TACA’s mission.

“If they were not there, we couldn’t replace them with something else,” Loftis said of the two organizations.

Before his call to Dallas Voice, Baugh was on a conference call with the artistic directors of the 10 largest gay men’s choruses around the country. Funders in other cities, he said, haven’t been as generous.

“The short-term challenge was how do we survive this so we’re around for the long-term?” Baugh said.

The Turtle Creek Chorale, as did many other choruses around the country, started by putting out a video of chorale members offering words of inspiration and singing together virtually. Well, actually not “together,” Baugh pointed out. About 60 chorale members participated by recording the same song individually.

Putting the video together was about 100 hours of work, and, Baugh pointed out, that wasn’t choral singing. That was 60 men singing solos that were stitched together.

The wonderful part of that, Baugh said, was that as he listened to the individual chorale members sing, he was surprised at some of the amazing voices. He said he’s found an exciting new crop of soloists and small ensemble singers for when the chorale gets back together and can perform on stage again.

While traditional rehearsals aren’t possible, the chorale has gotten together online. Still, singing *together* isn’t possible, since different connection speeds means there can be a delay of one or two seconds between each individual’s feed. And that just won’t blend together.

“So like restaurants and everyone else, we’re figuring out new ways to do



Sean Baugh and the Turtle Creek Chorale (Photo by Michael McGary)

Melinda Imthurn and The Women’s Chorus of Dallas (Photo courtesy of The Women’s Chorus of Dallas)



things,” Baugh said.

He expects choruses to be one of the last arts groups to get back on stage. Singers could be placed six feet apart and perform in a large outdoor space or stadium, but that wouldn’t really be choral singing in which voices in a tight-knit group blend to create one voice.

And six feet wouldn’t actually be far enough apart for safety. Just as sound projects, those droplets carrying coronavirus can project a longer distance when someone is singing.

What about singing in a mask? No.

The Women’s Chorus of Dallas Artistic Director Melinda Imthurn agreed. She said she doesn’t really see a return of full choruses until there’s a vaccine.

Imthurn said TWCD is continuing to hold rehearsals but has, of course, moved those rehearsals online. But she’s using the down time to teach skills classes and technique. She’s also teaching lessons in reading music for TWCD members who don’t know how.

“Once we come back,” she said, “we might be able to more quickly master our music” thanks to those lessons.

Certainly, Imthurn will have an even more professional group of singers.

But TWCD’s weekly meetings are

more than just business; they also provide a time for the women to get together, chat and remain the close-knit group that’s reflected in their performances.

And financially? “So far, we’re OK,” Imthurn said.

TWCD also received an emergency grant from TACA. And both choruses got city arts money meant to help keep arts groups throughout the city alive.

North Texas Giving Day was held early this year to help non-profits throughout North Texas weather the storm. Imthurn said TWCD met its goal on giving day, “and we got funding through the CARES Act.”

Both groups are hoping the Texas Commission on the Arts will come through with funding as well.

So, until the women’s chorus can return, Imthurn said, she’s most worried about retaining singers and maintaining her group’s artistic quality. Her focus: Have a plan and be smart.

Like the chorale and other choruses around the country, Imthurn is working on a virtual video.

Baugh said he’s looked at recordings of past chorale performances and is wondering how to use those. Because of licensing, he can’t just post them to You-

Tube, but he's hoping for concessions from ASCAP and BMI, the agencies that collect fees and distribute royalties to musicians.

And while most performances of choirs, orchestras and theater are recorded, "we haven't done a good job of digitizing our concerts," Baugh acknowledged.

While the chorale remains on hiatus, Baugh and Executive Director Jeremy Wayne are looking at ways to upgrade their recording skills and equipment, regretting they hadn't spent the money for better recordings in the past.

"We could reach a whole lot more people" if they had, Baugh said.

Wayne said he hopes things will be back on track in time for chorale to perform its annual Christmas concert. More than anything else, he said, that concert is what the chorale is known for. And while he's not sure that they'll be able to perform in a traditional concert hall, he's hopeful they'll come up with something creative.

While two TCC concerts have already been postponed or cancelled, there are some savings. Although they have no tickets to sell, Wayne said they're not spending money on hall rentals, sets, licensing fees, musicians or stagehands.

In addition, the Sammons Center for the Arts, where both the chorale and the women's chorus have their home bases, has stopped charging rent.

Wayne said he's trying to conserve as many resources as possible and come out of the crisis with the same team he had going in. Emergency grants and fundraisers like "Rhapsody," the chorale's 40th anniversary gala last February, will help the organization survive.

But, Wayne said, he's worried about a number of the chorale's 200 members. So they've revived the AIDS-era Turtle Cares fundraiser to help members who are struggling because of COVID-19-related layoffs.

Wayne, like Baugh and Imthurn, said their organizations will survive the shutdown and will cautiously return.

"It is the arts that represent the best in our humanity, that show us the pain we have endured and bring light to the promise of a new and better tomorrow," Wayne said.

Baugh summed up how he, his staff, his volunteers and singers and even his audience are doing through this crisis: "Psychologically, it's a real challenge." But it is a challenge they are determined to conquer. ■

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Pride, virtually

As Pride events around the world are being rescheduled and even cancelled, Dallas Pride organizers are going virtual

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In light of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, organizers today announced that Dallas' annual Pride celebration is being "reimagined" this year as a virtual event.

"With the health and safety of its community, friends, supporters and allies top of mind, the Dallas Pride Board of Directors has made the decision to move the event from a physical presence at Fair Park to a virtual celebration for 2020, with the intent of resuming in-person events in subsequent years," organizers said in an email statement.

The Miller Light Music Festival and Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade were moved last year from their traditional time and place — the weekend of the third Sunday in September in Oak Lawn — to the first weekend in June at Fair Park in an effort to cut expenses and allow room for the events to grow.

In April, Dallas Pride Executive Director Jaron Turnbow announced that, because of the COVID epidemic, Dallas' 2020 Pride events were being postponed until July 25-26. Now, Turnbow is saying, the celebration is going virtual.

"The LGBTQ community has always become more resilient in the face of uncertainty, and we are doing that today in the midst of this pandemic," Turnbow said. "Pride is not just about one event; it's about celebrating a spirit of community that no virus can destroy."

"It's an exciting prospect to reach an even bigger audience virtually and to bring our message to the living rooms of supporters across the DFW Metroplex and beyond in an inclusive way," he added.

Turnbow said organizers are "excit-

ed about the prospect of doing a virtual event," because it will allow the Dallas celebration "to reach an even larger audience and in an accessible, inclusive way."

Details about the virtual celebration are still being worked out, but organizers confirmed there will be no physical parade this year. Turnbow said the committee will announce other details as soon as possible.

Other Prides

The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc on Pride celebrations around the world, and other Pride-related events here in North Texas have not escaped unscathed. The North Texas Pride celebration, usually held in mid-June, has been moved to September, and the Dallas Arts District's Pride Block Party, also scheduled for June, has been cancelled.

Houston Pride, originally scheduled for June 27, has been postponed to a yet-to-be-determined date this fall.

Pride celebrations in New York City and in San Francisco — two of the largest Pride celebrations in the U.S. — have already been cancelled as well, and InterPride — the International Association of LGBT Pride Coordinators, which organizes the World Pride celebration every two years — said that 400 Prides worldwide have either been cancelled or postponed while announc-

ing that its Annual General Meeting and World Conference, originally set for Oct. 1-4 in Oslo as an in-person event, will instead become a virtual conference.

"We have not taken the decision lightly, and we want to thank the team at Oslo Pride, who have worked so hard in planning the AGM and World Conference and who have been pragmatic and constructive as we worked towards our decision," InterPride officials said.

Among the factors coming into play in their decision was the financial impact the epidemic has had on Pride organiza-

tions and the possibility that traveling to and from the conference could put people's health at risk.

In addition, officials said in an email announcing the decision, "whilst Norway is showing signs of recovery from COVID-19, we simply do not know what the situation or social distancing rules will be in October."



Scenes from Dallas Pride 2019.
(Arnold Wayne Jones/Dallas Voice)



Task Force holds Texas sex ed conference

The virtual event is open to anyone passionate about including accurate information for LGBTQ youth in curricula

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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The National LGBTQ Task Force, last in Dallas in January for its five-day Creating Change conference, is back in town this weekend for a one-day, on-line, LGBTQ youth-led sex education conference. The Queer Not Fear — Sex Ed Advocacy for LGBTQ+ virtual conference takes place from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, May 16. Although geared toward youth and aiming at school curricula, anyone may

that are required by law to teach abstinence-only sex education. “Most sex education curricula ignore the needs of LGBTQ youth by only discussing sexuality within the confines of heterosexual marriage,” she said.

Originally planned as a live and in-person event to have taken place at Resource Center, the conference was moved online once social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19 began. Presentations and caucuses led by people based in Texas were scheduled, and presentations and interactive breakouts will still be featured using a variety of Zoom tools. Because moving the conference online allows more people to attend, Morimoto said about half the content will focus on Texas, but the rest may be applied more generally.

In addition, it will connect people from around the country who are passionate about changing sex ed policy to include

attend.

Organizer Taissa Morimoto said Texas is among at least 30 states

giving accurate information to LGBTQ people.

Morimoto discussed how current sex education is irrelevant to LGBTQ youth and can actually be dangerous. Mentioning abstinence is the surest way to get young people to tune the instructor out, she said. It doesn’t work, and young people don’t believe it. And that teacher loses credibility for any accurate information that may be included.

Most sex ed programs leave out any contraceptive information. For gay youth, that means they don’t learn to protect themselves from exposure to HIV. So, a sex education program may actually endanger the lives of those it should be protecting.

Some programs that teach heterosexual sex as the norm cause trauma among



Taissa Morimoto

LGBT youth by teaching them or at least implying that their sexuality is wrong or abnormal. And it teaches trans kids that they don’t even exist.

Students in school with no LGBTQ curricula or gay-straight alliances are more likely to feel unsafe. Morimoto said, adding that “Schools with LGBTQ curricula experience less bullying.”

The video conference will include four

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Remembering, honoring

House of Rebirth marks the 1-year anniversary of Muhlaysia Booker's murder with Transgender Visibility Day

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Monday, May 18, will mark the one-year anniversary of the murder of Dallas trans woman Muhlaysia Booker. It will also be the first Transgender Visibility Day in Dallas, an effort spearheaded by The House of Rebirth, a program created to develop sustainable resources to enhance and protect the lives of black, trans-identified women."

Pocahontas Duvall, transgender rights activist and part of the leadership of House of Rebirth, said local activists created Trans Visibility Day to highlight the contributions transgender people make to society and the hardships and dangers they face in their everyday lives.

"We plan to celebrate our courage to move from one gender to the other and, for some of us, to remain fluid in both," Duvall said. "Our open determination to be true to ourselves encourages all of the world to be comfortable in establishing their own unique understanding of our gender identities. Because of us, the narrow confines of masculinity and femininity can be expanded in ways that suit each of our individual expressions."

"Trans and non-binary folk show the rest of the world how to be the best person possible," she continued. "We share an amazing gift. We provide clear solu-



Muhlaysia Booker, above and Pocahontas Duvall, right



tions to gender issues that have long needed answers."

Organizers chose the anniversary of the death of Booker, who Duvall described as "my great-grandbaby," not to try to take advantage of the publicity surrounding Booker and her death, but to honor her memory and the memory of other transgender women who have fallen victim to violence.

Booker's murder

Booker was one of at least 22 transgender people murdered in the U.S. in 2019. Most of the victims were black trans women, and five of those murders, including Booker's, happened in Texas.

Booker is, perhaps, the most widely known of those victims because, just a month before her death, she was attacked in the parking lot outside her apartment following a minor fender-bender accident. As a man named Edward Thomas and several other men savagely beat Booker, leaving her with a broken wrist and a concussion that required hospitalization, a large crowd of onlookers crowded around, laughing and jeering and cheering the attackers on. Someone posted video of the brutal attack on social media; the video quickly went viral,

making Muhlaysia Booker famous and focus-

ble. She was well loved in her community. She developed a huge following.

"Her homicide and a frightening string of other trans women's murders began a ground swell of concern nationally," Duvall continued. "This day is not to capitalize on her demise. It is to first honor her determination and that of all trans people to live full lives, but also to mark that moment in trans history when it suddenly mattered that their lives were at risk."

Duvall added that the goal of Transgender Visibility Day is "recognizing the contributions that members of the trans and non-binary community make to the greater good of this city in both business and the arts. We affirm they are a vital part of our social fabric. This city is responsible for ensuring our fair treatment, safety and ability to prosper, just as it is with all other citizens."

The House of Rebirth, with the help of the Silver Pride Project, created a photo installation illustrating "the courage and the progress" of transgender women. It included the images of more than 50 trans women of color and was set to be displayed on a parking lot in the 4000 block of Cedar Springs Road, directly beneath a mural completed last year honoring transgender pioneers Sylvia Rodriguez and Marsha P. Johnson. Because of restrictions put in place to stop the spread of COVID-19, that display has been postponed until a later time.

This installation is supported by the Inside Out Project, the activist arm of internationally-acclaimed artist JR, who has created large art installations around the world to call attention to social injustice and genocide. His work has been documented in a film that became a nominee for an Academy Award in 2019.

ing a bright light on the epidemic of violence against transgender people, specifically transgender women of color.

Edward Thomas was arrested and charged with assault with a deadly weapon — he allegedly used brass knuckles in the attack on Booker — but police determined he had nothing to do with her murder. Thomas went to trial in October 2019; a jury, asked by prosecutors to find him guilty of aggravated assault, instead found him guilty only of misdemeanor assault charges. He was sentenced to 300 days in jail, including time served.

Less than a month after Booker's death, on Saturday, June 1, the body of trans woman Chynal Lindsey was found in White Rock Lake, and the national attention on anti-trans violence became even sharper. Before the end of June, a man named Kendrell Lavar Lyles was arrested and charged with killing Booker along with other crimes. A second man, Ruben Alvarado, was also arrested in June and charged with Lindsey's murder.

Honoring trans women lost to violence

Booker, Duvall said, "was brutally murdered because she chose to be visi-



SEX ED

From Previous Page

presentations. Morning sessions are "Reproductive Justice" and "Sex Ed Laws and Policies," presented by the Task Force and the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States, a

national, nonprofit organization dedicated to affirming that sexuality is a natural and healthy part of life.

"Abortion Access for Young People in Texas" will be presented by Jane's Due Pro-

cess, a network of attorneys who provide representation to minors without cost.

In the afternoon, Texas Freedom Network, an organization that works to protect religious freedom and defend civil liberties by countering the activities of the Christian right, will present "Teach the Truth: Fight for Comprehensive Sex

Ed," and Equality Texas will present "The Story of You: An Interactive Session on Crafting Your Personal Story."

The conference will rotate between interactive time and presentations and between Zoom webinar and Zoom meeting.

To register for the conference, visit TheTaskForce.org.

OBITUARY



Shannon Hilgart, beloved sister, aunt, cousin, friend and mentor, died peacefully on May 8 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. A celebration of her life will be held at a future date when it is safe to travel and gather.

Shannon was born on Oct. 29, 1959, to the late Virginia Dell and Richard James Hilgart on Stewart Airforce Base in Smyrna, Tenn. After her father died when Shannon was eight years old, she moved with her family to live with her grandparents in Marietta, Okla., a place she would thereafter refer to as her roots. Her middle and high school years were spent in Hurst, Texas where she graduated from L.D. Bell High School and made lifelong friends she cherished and with whom she continued to spend time until the end of her life.

Shannon, who believed fervently that the most vulnerable in our society are worthy of respect and opportunity, graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a bachelor's degree in social work and spent her early career working on issues of poverty and mental health. But it was in the early 1990s, when she lost her cousin and a close friend to AIDS, that she began her life's work of preventing HIV/AIDS and supporting those with or at risk of HIV. Shannon started at AIDS Outreach Center in 1996 as a case manager and held positions of increasing responsibility until 2013, when she was named executive director, a position she held until her death.

Shannon loved travel and adventure, and visited most countries in Europe, Asia and South America. She spent the preponderance of her time traveling

alone in the more rural parts of a country, finding wonder and beauty in the richness of people, culture and place. Through her love of music of all genres, Shannon made many of the best friends in her life. She was a passionate, wise, generous and joyous person who leaves behind a wide and diverse group of family and friends who are better and happier for having known her.

She is survived by her sister Laura Hil-

gart; brother Jim Hilgart; nephews Sam Betsill and JJ Hilgart; niece Tricia Hilgart, and cousins, Julie, Charlie, Matthew, Emily and Poppy White.

Dan Villegas, president of the AOC Board of Advisors, said, "Shannon worked tirelessly towards AOC's mission of helping people with, or at risk for HIV, to live with dignity and respect. She loved her staff, and she loved working with clients. On behalf of the many

volunteers who have served on the AOC board, we appreciate and respect her leadership and her efforts. The best way for us to honor her legacy is for AOC to continue to be a resource, an advocate and a champion for those living with HIV in our community."

If you would like to make a memorial gift, please direct it to AIDS Outreach Center, 400 N. Beach St, Fort Worth, TX 76111.



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■ commUNITYvoices

A matter of life and death

Courts and legislatures must act to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in healthcare and everywhere

As the insurance assistance coordinator at Resource Center, the primary LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS service organization in North Texas, I work with people trying to navigate the healthcare system without insurance as well as assisting low income clients with paying for their health insurance and medication co-pays.

It's difficult and can be scary. Add a deadly virus, and it's downright terrifying.

People are losing their jobs and have limited options to find care and get medication. HIV not only makes them more vulnerable to complications from COVID-19 but more likely to face discrimination in the health care system. LGBTQ Americans have historically faced barriers to health care because of unwelcoming attitudes at the doctor's office and a lack of understanding from providers.

I know what that feels like. I came out as transgender nine years ago. Shortly after that, an LGBTQ newsletter did a feature story about me. Shortly after its publication, I was fired from my job and lost my healthcare. But I had nowhere to turn, because I live in Texas, a state without nondiscrimination protections. I had no protections federally either, because section 1557 of the ACA had not been added yet.

I quickly attempted to find private health insurance. But no one would insure me because I'm transgender. My applications for coverage were rejected. Being transgender was considered by Insurance companies to be a "pre-existing" condition.

My wife and I had to go without coverage and pay cash in emergencies. We didn't go to the doctor if we got sick; we used the local urgent care as our primary care physician.



Leslie McMurray
Accidental Activist

Discrimination can also make finding a job difficult. Texas is one of 27 states without comprehensive nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people. People can legally be denied a job because of who they are or who they love. They can be evicted for making someone uncomfortable. They can be fired if their identity is revealed.



They can be denied health care.

That's why I hope the Supreme Court does the right thing on the three LGBTQ employment discrimination cases currently under review. The court has the opportunity to affirm that all LGBTQ people should be able to work hard and support themselves and their families without fear of harassment or discrimination at work.

And state legislatures need to do their part, too. Texas should pass comprehensive nondiscrimination protections so that no one is denied work, housing or the ability to see a doctor.

Doctors often turn transgender patients away because they aren't trained in transgender health issues. The vast majority of doctors aren't bad people, but the lack of protections allow well-intentioned doctors to say they can't serve transgender people.

One of the most common questions I get at work from transgender people is whether I know a "transgender-friendly doctor." There's no reason why a doctor shouldn't treat someone who is transgender. But discrimination in health care happens regularly, especially in more conservative or rural areas of the country.

I speak on transgender health care at area medical schools and hospitals. I hope that seeing someone who is transgender can help change hearts and minds. I share the story of Tyra Hunter, a transgender woman who died because of indifference and cruelty from first responders and in the emergency room.

I feel fortunate that I was eventually able to find a job with health insurance. I'm happy to be able to help others find the limited support available to keep them healthy. We're all in this together. And now, more than ever, we must rely on each other and our communities.

We must ensure that LGBTQ people are protected from discrimination in all areas of life, including the doctor's office. All Americans should be able to access the care they need, especially during this public health crisis. It's a matter of life and death.

Leslie McMurray is the insurance assistance coordinator for the HIV/AIDS community at Resource Center in Dallas. She is also a regular columnist for Dallas Voice. Read more of her blogs at lesliemichelle44.wordpress.com.

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A quarantine comeback

Broadway icon Patti LuPone talks 'Hollywood,' her basement videos and why 'Ladies Who Lunch' will never be the same

In Ryan Murphy's Netflix miniseries *Hollywood*, the wife becomes the boss, the "black screenwriter" is simply a screenwriter, and the gay leading man is just himself. Naturally, it stars Broadway legend Patti LuPone, who, in conversations like the one we had recently, thrives on brazen authenticity.

In the seven-episode series, LuPone portrays Avis Amberg, the wife of a studio head whose work is relegated to the kitchen. But thanks to Murphy's 1940s corrective, power dynamics shift in favor of the underdogs and outsiders in this alternate reality, a fantasy depiction of Tinseltown's Golden Age reimagined as diverse, inclusive and unabashedly queer.

That LuPone, 71, portrays a grand-dame-housewife-turned-studio-head (in, of course, only the most glam fur-fringed couture) should be no surprise given how she's been commanding the stage through a variety of extravagant

personas for a half century. In 1979, as Eva Perón, she won her first Tony Award for *Evita*; her second win came in 2008, for her portrayal of Mama Rose in *Gypsy*. Those are in addition to her nominations for roles in *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street*, *War Paint*, *Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown* and *Anything Goes*. She had just started the previews for Broadway's revival of Stephen Sondheim's *Company*, throwing back martinis as Joanne, when the pandemic lockdown forced theaters to shutter.

Now quarantined in Connecticut with her husband and son, LuPone has been doling out delicious bits on social media. In one video she posted to Twitter, she channeled Norma Desmond in *Sunset Blvd.*, making a dramatic entrance from her basement steps (when Glenn Close got the role for the Broadway run of the show in 1994, LuPone said she reacted by trashing a dressing room). Other at-home videos of LuPone involve her giving aptly chaotic, hungover tours of her treasure-filled basement.

When we chat, I tell LuPone that she might actually be happy that, for once, this conversation is occurring between phone lines, not on Zoom. "You're

right," she says, roaring with laughter. "It really is the Brady Bunch."

— Chris Azzopardi

Dallas Voice: Do you have any more basement videos in the works? Patti LuPone: My problem right now is focus and structure. If I don't do something in the morning, I'm in bed till 4:30 in the afternoon. So my kid... we've come up with a couple more. We just have to get down to it. We have to get up in the morning and go, "OK, now we're gonna do the video." We have two plans. So we'll see. The problem, Chris, is it has to be spontaneous. It's the only way it's funny. The day after my birthday I was so hungover I went, half-asleep [slurring] "Let's... go... make... video... I'm re-a-dy." [Laughs]

If it weren't for COVID, you'd be on Broadway in *Company*, toasting the ladies who lunch. So I'm happy to hear you're still tossing back some liquid lunch items. Well, last night we had frozen strawberry daiquiris, but that was really the first time, because I was texting with a friend of mine, and she said, "Go have a daiquiri," and I went, "You know what? That sounds like a good idea." And we seem to have all the fixings for it! So my kid made daiquiris for my husband, himself and me. Then I had red wine, which wasn't too smart. What I'm drinking

a lot of right now is red wine. And I'm just trying ... you know it's really easy to let yourself go!

Have you completely let yourself go? No! I'm holding it together. I have to! Years ago, a friend of mine, when he was on unemployment, I said, "What are you doing, Tony?" He said I'm preparing for my comeback! So, Chris, I'm prepping my comeback!

You made me teary when you recently sang "Anyone Can Whistle" for Stephen Sondheim's virtual 90th birthday party. Did you like performing virtually? What was difficult about it was the technical aspect. My kid was filming it, and I had one AirPod in and I'm going, "I can't really hear," and then my kid said, "You're pitchy," and I was like, "What do you mean I'm pitchy!? I'm never pitchy!"

There's always the fear that, you know, you're gonna sound like shit. And Stephen's thanking everybody who partook, and I wrote him back, and I said, "The rub is that we all wish we could've done better." It's true. I'm sure everybody thought, "Damn, if only I was in costume and makeup and on the stage at the philharmonic with a full orchestra behind me."

You were singing "The Ladies Who Lunch" in *Company*, which Meryl Streep, Christine Baranski and Audra McDonald performed during that same

birthday celebration. What did you think of their version? *[Explodes into a thunderous cackle]* When it was over, I went, "I'll never be able to sing 'Ladies Who Lunch' again!"

Yeah? Because they set the bar? No. I don't think they set the bar — they trashed the number!

They set the bar for trashing the number? Yeah, exactly! That's what I think! I mean, I say that with great humor, but I'm not going to be able to sing it without thinking of them doing it. *[Laughs]* This is all joke, by the way! This is all humor!

Regarding *Hollywood*: Does it feel good to be part of a project that's beaming with hopefulness in a time when hope seems harder and harder to find? Yes, yes, yes. I hope that is translated across the board. It's really, really hard. I mean, I'm having a hard time. We all are. I'm not unique. And my problem is, I don't know who to believe anymore. I'm so confused by what everybody's saying. And you can't stick your head in the sand because any minute now we'll be heil-Hitler-ing [Trump]. So I'm just really confused. I'm lost.

So how do you keep your mind straight? By drinking strawberry daiquiris? That's the question! Because my problem has been structure, and I'm the kind of person

that goes, "OK, you have to be on the set, or you have to be at the theater — OK, great. I know what my schedule is." But without a schedule, I'm lost. I'm going, "I don't know what to do." I guess I am my work.

What's the first thing you do in the morning? I started working out remotely with my trainer. Just to do something, just to feel like something is done. Then as soon as the weather gets really nice, I'm gonna walk up our road, which is part of a mountain, and walk back down. I have shows coming up, unless they're going to be canceled, in January. I haven't done them in a while, so what I started to do, because the weather still isn't that great where I am right now, I'm listening to the shows that I have to sing in January, just to remember them. I haven't sung them in a while. Then I'll feel like I've accomplished something in the day, and it hasn't been — this is our lives! And our lives are being wasted! Not that work is the only thing, but if we can't figure out what to do in the time that we have been given, that's pathetic! It's a blessing, really!

If you were running *Hollywood* right now, what changes would you make? I would listen to the artists, I would listen to the writers. I would ignore the statistics, and I would greenlight films and television

shows that I thought were going to be beneficial for education and for parents as opposed to, "Well, that was a big hit; let's make 9,000 more of those Marvel comics."

Would you let them make another *Mamma Mia!* movie? I hate ABBA. I have always hated ABBA. I will not go see *Mamma Mia!* Because I hate ABBA. And I've hated ABBA since I was a kid, because I'm a closet rocker; when ABBA came out, I went, "Oh, you've got to be kidding." My favorite band is The Band, and so if you're a rocker and The Band is your favorite band, and ABBA comes along, there's no way. So I don't support ABBA at all.

So you haven't even seen the *Mamma Mia!* movies? No. Can't support ABBA!

Consider that pool party scene in *Hollywood*: all those naked men, penises hanging out. Is this show the gayest thing you've ever been a part of? Yeah!

And the thing that was kind of distressing to me when I was shooting it was: Why am I going home?! Why is Avis going home?!

Yeah. Why doesn't Avis get to go to the party? *[Feigns weeping]* Why couldn't she just sit there and ogle the penises? No. I go home early.

Didn't you talk to Ryan about that? Trust me, I thought about that. But no, I didn't.

That was in the script, and I went, "OK, I gotta leave the party." But I'm trying to think — is that the gayest thing? Maybe it is. I'm trying to think of anything I've done. I can't remember anything that I do and that I've done. Maybe. I don't know.

That party that Avis doesn't get to go to... have you ever gone to an industry party like that in your life? No. I mean, I've gone to pool parties with tons of Broadway dancers who were gay, but they kept their clothes on.

That seems less fun. Well, their bodies were incredible to look at, but they were all clothed. Well, *barely* clothed! Everybody had a Speedo on!

If someone decides to reimagine your life in 70 years, what parts of it would you ask that they keep factually intact, and which parts would you allow them to reimagine? All of it! I think they should keep it all factually intact! It's been a rebellious life. And it's been interesting. I hope it's not over — the rebellion part and the interesting part. No — they don't have to reimagine anything. It's been a lot of fun.

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How to dine during a pandemic

The servers at Capital Grille remained masked during our entire meal, with social distancing among diners scrupulously maintained. (Photo by Arnold Wayne Jones)

With the relaxation of rules concerning restaurants opening, we venture to the new world of eating out

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

People of all generations have their “I will always remember when” moments: When V-E Day occurred, when they heard JFK was shot, when man walked on the moon, when planes flew into skyscrapers, when one president resigned and a different president actually got elected. For many of us

today, one of those might well be “when I last ate in a restaurant seated across from a friend.”

I certainly do. It was my weekly lunch with a friend; it was mid-March; we liked the place, and I planned to review it. And for seven weeks, I had begun to wonder if I would ever get a chance to do that again.

And finally, the moratorium has ended.

As much as “when I last ate out,” I realized I would probably recall even better “when I first ventured out during a pandemic.”

It seemed appropriate that the experiment would be organized by the same friend whom I last dined with. He’s been sequestered alone in his apartment building, itself a veritable fortress against outside contact. He made a reservation at Capital Grille; would I like to join him for this toe-in-the-water testing of social-distanced dining protocols?

I hadn’t planned to explore so early, but a high-end restaurant with a long-quarantined friend seemed like the best conditions in which to baptize.

Ultimately, I’m glad I did. Not only did the ritual of dining out restore an element of sanity and familiarity to this surreality of self-isolation, it also restored my belief that we might actually be able to pull this off.

“Might” is the operative word. Our enterprise could not have been more reassuring, the staff and procedures at Capital Grille all designed to imbue confidence in the system.

The first realization that we are in a new normal was the absence of a valet — unheard of at this kind of establishment. We took it not as an inconvenience, but as a reminder that the rules are evolving. We arrived at the front door wearing facemasks ourselves; once inside, we never saw any employees who were not perpetually covered, from hostess to server to busser. They were all in good spirits. Nobody complained about anything. When another party arrived behind us, not wearing masks, we quickly shuffled to the far side of the hostess stand. (It’s guests like that, not the restaurants themselves, that concern me the most about the success of reopening.)

The dining hall had the same number of tables it has always had, but we quickly noticed something: Most had black tablecloths; those with white linens were the only one where guests were allowed to dine. Again, this in-

stilled comfort in us — we knew going in where our fellow patrons would be located. The closest table, easily six feet away, remained unoccupied for the majority of our dinner, but otherwise the place was, ummm, “full” — every permissible table blessed with happy, quiet, respectful, hungry Texans.

There were some changes to the process. We ordered cocktails, and they were delivered by the server — not as mixed-and-stirred drinks in highballs, but in individual shakers. Glassware was set down, and our waitress proceeded to shake and pour each cocktail individually. No chance airborne particles would alight into the liquid on the way from the bar. Food was likewise delivered with caution; even the bill was handled safely, and a request for doggie bags was met with containers we could fill ourselves, rather than the typical way the kitchen would wrap it up for us.

We spent the meal with our face-masks off; before getting up after dessert, however, back on they came until we reached the car. We tipped generously; they had earned it.

The meal itself was heavenly — not, perhaps, a surprise (Capital Grille has always delivered on quality; the fritto misto with peppers might be my favorite calamari anywhere), but also a salve: I have spent much of the last two weeks cooking for myself, and while I am adept in the kitchen, there’s something about pampering yourself — having food prepared that you wouldn’t make at home and without having to do the dishes — that improved my outlook tremendously.

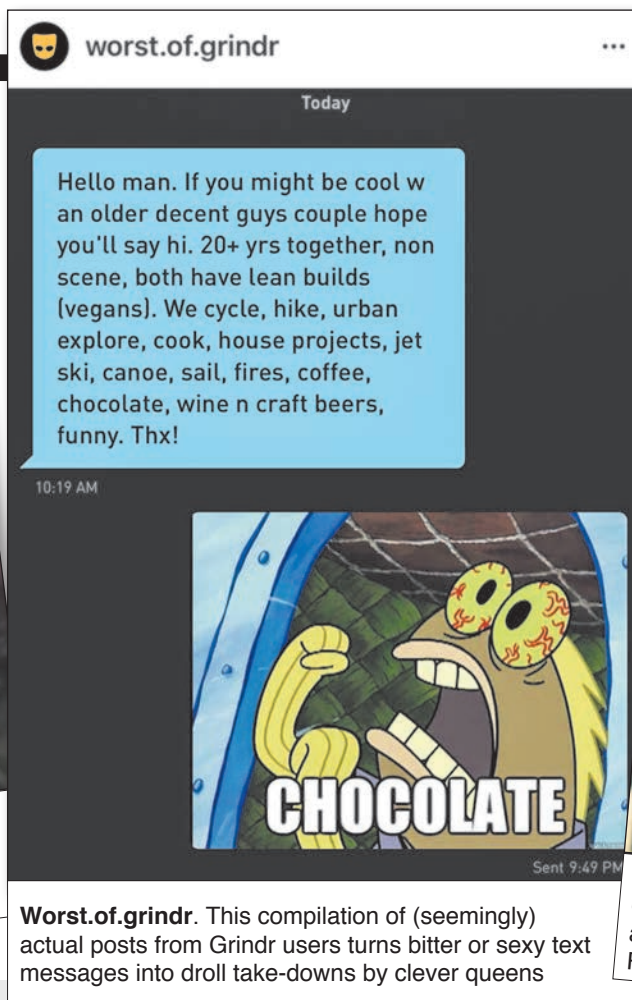
The trick, of course, will be the judicious continuation of restaurant life during a pandemic. My concern with the 25 percent rule has been whether it would be financially viable for the restaurants but also safe for the patrons. I have seen less responsible behaviors on patios since the relaxation of shelter-in-place protocols, and those might promote disastrous consequences. But knowing that it is possible to achieve some semblance of public interaction and support the industry that literally feeds us does more than just fill our bellies. It fills our souls with hope. ■

As most of us have more time at home to explore our social media, it's easy to get into familiar habits, see the same people and publications, and forget there's a wide world out there. If your Instagram feed has become

humdrum, we have some suggestions for how to spice it up — with humor, nature, eye candy, satire and Leslie Jordan (hey, he's his own category).



Thelesliejordan. The Emmy-winning actor and impish bon vivant has turned his homespun posts during lockdown into the can't-miss personal journaling of the sassy, gossipy internet.



Worst.of.grindr. This compilation of (seemingly) actual posts from Grindr users turns bitter or sexy text messages into droll take-downs by clever queens



Rick_and_the_griffopotamus. This sexy couple chronicle their life together in bedroom and travel pix, always putting their well-toned bodies in the mix. It's FOMO gone insane.



Therealtarzann. Imagine a real-life adventurer who tracks his escapades with rhinos, gators, snakes, dogs and other wildlife with exotic brio. Then add a killer smile and an enviable physique. It's naturcational and as steamy as the rainforest.



Spaceprincejulio. SNL writer and waifish comedian Julio Torres' twisted mind manages to turn the mundane into the hilarious, such as his series of videos of "hand acting" and impersonations of the elements.

Girl on girls

Jenny Block asks a favor

I need to ask you a favor. I'm asking for me, but I feel confident that a lot of other people are feeling this way too. Not just now, but in the COVID-free life of the future: Please, let me have my own feelings.

On Mother's Day, I woke up to posts and articles about how I needed to be careful about celebrating so as to not upset people who don't have kids, or who don't have moms, or who have strained relationships with their female parent.

Listen, I get it. My wife lost her mom way too early; to be honest, every holiday is hard for her. But she would never, *ever* ask someone else to bottle up *their* joy to somehow protect her from their "devastating" happiness. On Mother's Day, she showered me in gifts and a beautiful card, because my joy doesn't cancel out or belittle her sadness.

Last week, I saw a gorgeous photo of Adele looking absolutely stunning. She was beaming, and people were sending her messages of congratulations and honoring her hard work in getting fit, saying how jealous and impressed they were by her trimness and how happy she looks.

And then there were the posts and articles about how awful it is to celebrate her weight loss, because that makes people who are not thin feel bad. If we're going to be body-positive, that means celebrating *all* bodies ... including Adele's new, fabulously thin one.

It doesn't make her a better human, just like not being thin doesn't make someone wicked. But it is unfair, unrealistic and, frankly, immature not to celebrate someone's happy accomplishment because it might upset some non-specific "other" who either hasn't or doesn't want to do the same.

I support healthy at any size. Everyone should be represented. It's not acceptable to make assumptions about people based on their weight. But all of that has to go in both directions. Celebrating someone who's not thin should not make someone thin feel badly and vice versa.

I fear we've gone over the deep end with all things PC. It's OK to say "My mom is great," even if for someone else that might not be true. It's OK to say, "I'm unhappy at a certain size," even if for someone else that might not be true. It's OK to say, "This is good for me," when it might be awful for someone else. I am allowed my feelings, whether you approve of them or not.

Nobody has a right to be protected from the world. What everyone has a right to is kindness and respect. Barring that, we are on our own. If you find someone's celebration upsetting, by all means, don't read it or look at it. If Mother's Day or Christmas or any other specific day is triggering, that might be a good day to steer clear of social media.



No one can be expected to hide their light under a barrel because it reminds another of darkness. Why not *share* in their joy? Why not say, "I don't have kids, and I love seeing how happy you are." "I am healthy and happy at this weight, and I love seeing you healthy and happy at yours."

What's next? Time to get rid of birthday parties because not everyone gets one? Time to get rid of the Grammys and the Emmys and the Nobel Prizes because recognizing skill makes people who are lousy singers, lousy actors and second-rate geniuses feel bad? What are we, a nursery school class?

Women are allowed to say that men suffer from toxic masculinity. Black people are allowed to say that white people (or the cops) are racist. Jewish people are allowed to say that anti-Semitism is publicly rearing its ugly head because of our president ... once again. Those things can and are true, even though not all men are rapists, not all whites are racists, and not all non-Jews are anti-Semites.

Just because the feeling or the fact or the issue or the instance or the experience or whatever is not universal does not mean that it is not true. Someone being thin and being happy about it is not a commentary about your weight. Like my dad always says,

"It's not always about you. In fact, it's never about you."

That's the thing. We take everything so personally, and it has to stop, or we're all going to go mad. I have my feelings, you have yours, and neither gets to police how the other feels. You don't have the right to force me to protect you from my feelings. That's your gig.

We know what's right. We know what's kind and unkind to say. Adele didn't write, "Suck it, fat bitches." She said, "Thank you for the birthday love," and then she thanked our first responders and essential workers.

Kindness begets kindness. If you feel like you're not being celebrated, instead of saying, "Look at me. Look at me. My stuff is tougher than your stuff," or "Don't celebrate you. If you are able to be celebrated that that must mean I can't." That simply does not follow. Try instead to say, "Good for you!" or "That must be hard" or "You did it!" and see what happens. I bet you'll be pleasantly surprised.

So, do me a favor, will you? In fact, do all of us a favor... including yourself. Keep out of my emotions. Don't insert yourself. My joy is not about causing you pain, so don't turn it around on me. Instead, let's make a pact to celebrate one another in our own joys and choices, and let's support one another in our

own failings and losses.

This isn't about you or me. It's about us.

Send your comments or questions to GirlOnGirls@gmail.com.

this week's solution

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Thanks to the first responders and front line/essential workers



Rebecca and Dr. Mark LeDoux



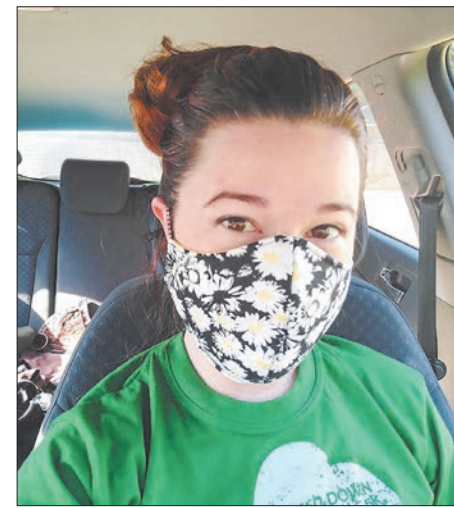
Legacy Founders Cottage nurses aides Veronica Roderiquez and Jacquelyne Green



Legacy Founders Cottage's Tracy Woodburry, Catina Allen, Ra'Nesha Dodson and Nicoshia Jones



Kyle Chapman



Jennifer McCoy, financial services



Kelsey holding facemasks



Laura, essential childcare ages 6-10



Masc Matt in a mask at Advent Health



Lisa Price, nurse



Jeudi Lee, nurse



Josh Shook, food delivery



John Vance, Postmates delivery



Kimberly Wagner, independent contractor/
delivery driver

q-puzzle

Music Royalty

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
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54	55	56					57					58	59	
60							61							62
63							64					65		
66							67					68		

Solution on Page 18

Across

- 1 It requires several G-strings
5 Start of a *South Pacific* song
9 One who often screws actors
14 Friendly opening
15 Genie portrayer Barbara
16 Cut
17 Ethnic cuisine type
18 Police incursion at Stonewall
19 Prevent, with "off"
20 Start of a quote by Little Richard (1932-2020)
23 Perfect serves from Billie Jean
24 Language suffix
25 Pancake mixture
28 Understand, to Kerouac
30 Poet Gidlow
34 Toward shelter
35 More of the quote
38 Lisa of *The Lathe of Heaven*
40 Sailor's tool?
41 More of the quote
43 Characters in the navy
44 Winter product prefix, in ads
45 Lawyers' thing
46 ___ Paolo Pasolini
48 Normandy city

- 49 Eagle's org.
50 Stand next to Cassatt
54 End of the quote
60 Suspect's defense in an Ellen Hart novel
61 "But of course!"
63 Solemn sound
64 Sch. for your first mate
65 Went head to head
66 Makes more bearable
67 Cho's *I'm the One* ___
I Want
68 Dumbo's "wings"

Down

- 1 Hermit's home
2 Arthur of the AIDS Quilt
3 Rupert Everett's ___ *Life*
4 Government sponsored pirate
5 Nuts
6 Affleck's *Chasing Amy* crush
7 Future queen of *Star Wars*
8 Dr. Jones's nickname
9 Targets of tops
10 Have an O
11 Porter's "Well, Did You ___"
12 Campbell of *The Company*
13 Threesome for Marcella Hazan
21 Rudy Galindo's milieu
22 Homophobes, e.g.
25 Kid-lit elephant
26 "You'll Never Walk ___"
27 Sees to
28 Kind of fingerprint
29 Queer spelling of an Alaskan dome
31 Loads of
32 Public spectacle
33 "Rubber Capital of the World"
36 Lesbos, e.g.
37 Meas. of speed
39 Schooner features
42 *Kinsey* title role portrayer Neeson
47 Discuss to death
48 Cut
49 Source book for *Dreamcoat*
51 Allstate rival
52 Dottie did this behind the plate in *A League of Their Own*
53 Cont. of Ibiza and Mykonos
54 Overdo it at South Beach
55 Bone in a limp wrist
56 Butch lesbian accessories
57 Carpenter's connector
58 *East of Eden* director Kazan
59 NY Met, for one
62 Meas. of a braggart?

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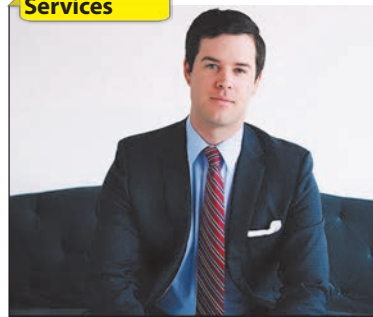
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