Building unity, building bridges

Kirk Myers focuses on helping his own community first, then on connecting with the community at large

By Tammye Nash, Page 12
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Important Facts About DOVATO
This is only a brief summary of important information about DOVATO and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about DOVATO?

If you have both human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection and Hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection, DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Resistant HBV.** Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV infection before you start treatment with DOVATO. If you have HBV-1 and hepatitis B, the HBV can become resistant to DOVATO.

| Worsening of HBV infection. If you have HBV infection and take DOVATO, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking DOVATO. A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

| Do not run out of DOVATO. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your DOVATO is all gone.

| Do not stop DOVATO without first talking to your healthcare provider.

| If you stop taking DOVATO, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your liver function and monitor your HBV infection. It may be necessary to give you a medicine to treat hepatitis B. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking DOVATO.

For more information about side effects, see “What are possible side effects of DOVATO?”

What is DOVATO?

DOVATO is a prescription medicine that is used without other HIV-1 medicines to treat human immunodeficiency virus-1 (HIV-1) infection in adults who have never received HIV-1 medicines in the past, or to replace their current HIV-1 medicines when their healthcare provider determines that they meet certain requirements. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). It is not known if DOVATO is safe and effective in children.

Who should not take DOVATO?

Do not take DOVATO if you:

- have had an allergic reaction to a medicine that contains dolutegravir or lamivudine.

- have not started taking DOVATO and do not start taking it.

- have not been told by your healthcare provider to take it.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before using DOVATO?

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.

- have kidney problems.

- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. One of the medicines in DOVATO (dolutegravir) may harm your unborn baby.

- Your healthcare provider may prescribe a different medicine than DOVATO if you are planning to become pregnant or if pregnancy is confirmed during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

- If you become pregnant, your healthcare provider may perform a pregnancy test before you start treatment with DOVATO.

- If you become pregnant, you and your healthcare provider should talk about the use of effective birth control (contraception) during treatment with DOVATO.

- You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

- One of the medicines in DOVATO (lamivudine) passes into your breastmilk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines interact with DOVATO. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with DOVATO.

- Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take DOVATO with other medicines.

What are possible side effects of DOVATO?

DOVATO can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop any of the following signs or symptoms: fever; generally ill feeling; tiredness; muscle or joint aches; blisters or sores in mouth; blisters or peeling of the skin; redness or swelling of the eyes; swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue; problems breathing.

- **Liver problems.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes during treatment with DOVATO. Liver problems, including liver failure, have also happened in people without a history of liver disease or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your liver function. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms:

  - skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark or tea-colored urine; light-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.

  - Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Too much lactic acid is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms that could be signs of lactic acidosis: feel very weak or tired; unusual (not normal) muscle pain; trouble breathing; stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy or light-headed; and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.

  - **Lactic acidosis can also lead to severe liver problems,** which can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the signs or symptoms of liver problems which are listed above under “Liver problems.”

  - You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female or very overweight (obese).

  - Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after you start taking DOVATO.

  - The most common side effects of DOVATO include:

    - headache; nausea; diarrhea; trouble sleeping; tiredness; and anxiety.

These are not all the possible side effects of DOVATO. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.
SO MUCH GOES INTO WHO I AM

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Why could DOVATO be right for you? DOVATO is proven to help control HIV with just 2 medicines in 1 pill. That means fewer medicines* in your body while taking DOVATO. It’s proven as effective as an HIV treatment with 3 or 4 medicines. Learn more about fewer medicines at DOVATO.com

DOVATO is a complete prescription regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have not received HIV-1 medicines in the past or to replace their current HIV-1 medicines when their doctor determines they meet certain requirements.

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*As compared with 3- or 4-drug regimens.

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• Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
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New to treatment? Considering a switch?
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SURPRISE, SURPRISE: Paxton says Behavioral Health Council can’t ban anti-LGBTQ discrimination

Last year on Oct. 27, the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council voted unanimously to restore protections for LGBTQ and disabled clients to the Texas social workers’ code of conduct following two weeks of widespread backlash in response to the council’s vote to remove those protections. That first vote came at the suggestion of Gov. Greg Abbott’s office.

This week, however, Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton — already under indictment and awaiting trial on securities fraud charges and now under investigation by the FBI on charges of abuse of power — issued an opinion saying the council did not have the authority to extend nondiscrimination protections to LGBTQ people.

Will Francis, executive director for the National Association of Social Workers, Texas Chapter, noted immediately after the original vote to remove protections for LGBTQ people that the change violated the national association’s code of conduct and ethics. There were also questions about the legality of the original vote since the council voted on the issue without having put it on the agenda.

In the Oct. 27 vote to reverse their earlier decision, the board also voted to ask Paxton’s office about the legality of the rule change, even though board members had previously acknowledged that Paxton would oppose explicit protections for LGBTQ people, based on his history of homophobia.

— Tammye Nash

Rowlett considers repeal of Pride proclamation

Three Rowlett city council members want to repeal Mayor Tammy Dana-Bashian’s Pride proclamation and change the law to prevent the mayor from issuing proclamations on her own.

On June 1, Dana-Bashian issued a proclamation to recognize Pride Month at the bi-monthly Rowlett City Council meeting.

After the meeting, the city lit its water tower in rainbow colors.

In a packed chamber this week, the council listened to citizens on both sides of the issue. One pastor brought a petition signed by several hundred residents.

No decisions have been made about the mayor’s ability to issue proclamations without council approval. That vote will come later in the summer.

The Pride proclamation remains in place.

— David Taffet

Texas Monthly names Jessica Gonzalez the “Bull on the Brazos”

Texas Monthly came out with its list of 10 best and 10 worst legislators. The magazine said Gonzalez was neither, but for her leadership in killing the voter suppression bill, named her “Bull on the Brazos.”

Gonzalez, who co-chaired the elections committee this session, is also co-chair of the House LGBT Caucus.

Texas Monthly wrote that “when Cain called for a vote on the elections legislation without allowing Gonzalez to offer amendments, she dressed down his decision as ‘bullshit.’”

— David Taffet

Adoptable / KODY

Meet Kody, a handsome gentleman looking for a home of his very own. He can be a little shy at first, but once he gets to know you, his playful personality really shines. He loves hard and plays hard, so he will need an adopter who can keep up. His foster mom said he’s super smart; he knows sit, down, leave it and get it. He also learned how to use the bells on the door to go outside in just one day. He’ll require a house with a large, private backyard where he can get all of his zoomies out multiple times a day. He’d do best with an active family who is looking for a dog to exercise and play with.

— David Taffet

Andrews approves non-discrimination ordinances

The Arlington City Council, on Tuesday night, June 15, approved second readings to amend an ordinance banning discrimination in housing specifically to protect LGBTQ people and to adopt a new ordinance banning discrimination in employment and public accommodations that also includes LGBTQ people. The vote was unanimous.

The ordinance banning discrimination in employment and public accommodations on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity is the city’s first ordinance addressing such discrimination against any group.

The amendment to the city’s Fair Housing Ordinance adds sexual orientation and gender identity to a list of protected classes that already included race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability and familial status.

— Tammye Nash

What’s the tea: DallasVoice.com

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— Tammye Nash

The Hidden Door returns!

The Hidden Door opened its doors again on Wednesday, June 16 on Tony Bobrow’s birthday after having been closed for more than 15 months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hidden Door President Harvey Meisner and his crew took advantage of the down time to do some re-modeling, and debuted a newly-renovated patio to an approving crowd.

— Tammye Nash

Amelia Court moves

Amelia Court, Parkland’s largest HIV clinic, has moved as of June 14 and has changed its name to ACCESS. Since Amelia Court was the street the old clinic was located on and the new clinic is no longer on Amelia Court, the clinic has a new name.

The new office is on the second floor of the new Moody Outpatient Clinic building. All phone numbers are the same and staff is the same.

— David Taffet

Adoptions will be available by appointment. Adoptions will need to submit an adoption inquiry form in order to begin the adoption process and schedule an appointment to complete the adoption.

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everybody in.

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‘The Rainbow Deluge’

Tony Perkins wants Ronna McDaniel to know her ‘Happy Pride’ tweet was a mistake

Aside from women daring to make their own reproductive decisions, there’s nothing right-wing conservatives hate more than Pride Month — or the “rainbow deluge,” as the Family Research Council’s professional hate monger Tony Perkins calls it. Honestly, Rainbow Deluge sounds like the name of a bar with a wild foam party night.

Perkins is very mad at the Republican National Committee. Is it because the Republican Party thinks that the Jan. 6 attack in D.C. was no big deal? Is it because Republicans worship Trump like a god? Is it because Republicans refuse to put country over party?

Ha. No. Of course not.

Perkins is mad at the RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel for putting out the following message on Twitter: “Happy Pride Month! The GOP is proud to have doubled our LGBTQ support over the last four years, and we will continue to grow our big tent by supporting mea-

The Pride tweet wasn’t really intended for “the Left,” nor was it intended for the GOP base, most of whom aren’t even on Twitter. (There are around 68 million users in the U.S. which means very few Americans are on Twitter in the grand scheme of things.)

McDaniel’s tweet was intended to appease groups like the Log Cabin Republicans who need something, no matter how small, to point to in order to justify their support for a party that truly, madly, deeply hates them. It’s also to provide for plausible deniability — a tiny alibi for a party going off the ideological rails, hell bent on destroying democracy with the most extreme anti-American agenda in modern history.

It really cannot be overstated how radically dangerous the Republican Party is right now. That people like Perkins think that a transgender person using the bathroom at Target is this country’s greatest challenge shows you exactly where he stands. And he’s for it: Burn down democracy and install a Christian Dominion president who will tear down the remaining laws between church and state.

You know, like the Taliban.

Also worth noting is that Trump is probably the top pick for such a role, even though he’s not really Christian, because the whole “loving God” thing is secondary to these folks, if it’s even important at all.

The scary thing is, plenty of Republicans don’t think that the party is crazy enough.

“According to a new poll by Rasmussen, GOP voters think it’s past time for their leaders to reacquaint themselves with the party’s values,” Perkins writes. “In numbers that ought to chagrin headquarters, half of all Republican voters think the party’s leaders aren’t conservative enough.”

Yikes! DO YOU HEAR THAT JOE MANCHIN? GET RID OF THE FILIBUSTER. JFC.

If anything, Republicans have been pretty clear about what they value. And it isn’t “law and order,” as it turns out. “Law and order” just means policing Black people. Right-wing conspiracy theorists completely out of touch with reality who storm the Capitol resulting in deaths? They’re just excited tourists.

It isn’t “protecting women,” unless that means protecting them from the completely made-up risk of transgender predators rather than addressing the fact that violence against women is a real problem, and if only there were, say, a Violence Against Women Act they could support that would address that.

And it isn’t “protecting life.” That just means forcing women to have babies whether they want to or not. Republicans can’t call themselves pro-life since they just stood back while over 600,000 people in this country were killed by a virus that many of them claim isn’t real.

Perkins writes of Pride Month that “the air of LGBT pride is so suffocating that people could choke.”

My advice to him? Wear a mask.

D’Anne Witkowski is a writer living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBTQ politics for over a decade. Follow her on Twitter @MamaD-Witkowski.
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Charity begins at home

Kirk Myers believes his first job is helping the Black LGBTQ community; building bridges comes after

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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Kirk Myers said that in the beginning, his work in the HIV/AIDS and LGBTQ communities was purely personal. “My advocacy started with my own HIV diagnosis and with saving my own life,” he explained. “After I was diagnosed in 1998, I started looking for safe and affirming spaces for people that look like me. There were programs out there, but programs where no one looked like me was a problem for me.”

Myers said he started out as a volunteer with AIN — known back then as AIDS Interfaith Network — and then went on to work for an organization called Renaissance III, which offered HIV/AIDS services and programs targeted for the Black community. Then in November 2005, he founded Abounding Prosperity, Inc.

Since then, Myers has also taken over as lead organizer for Dallas Southern Pride as well.

“As I became more empowered myself, I wanted to empower others,” Myers said, explaining why he went to work for Renaissance III and then founded Abounding Prosperity. He wanted to make sure that the Black HIV/AIDS community had access to the services and programs they needed. But he always wanted to work on “social justice issues and making sure things were equitable,” as well.

“The larger LGBTQ community has not always been inclusive” of LGBTQ people of color, Myers noted. But at the same, he added, the larger Black community is not always inclusive of Black LGBTQ people, either.

Myers said that for him, the first priority is affirming being Black and being LGBTQ, and that is different from just being affirming of being LGBTQ, because “being Black and gay is different; it includes all that comes with Black and all that comes with being gay.

“In our community we need to work first on educating people internally, with our families, and then we can think about working externally with other communities,” he said.

Myers used his own family as an example. “My mother was a typical Black southern woman,” he said. “She did not want a gay son. Still, I was one of the lucky ones. I did contract HIV, but I was not homeless, and I was not involved in drugs. And over time, our relationship evolved, and my mother ended up founding this organization [Abounding Prosperity] with me.”

Many other Black LGBTQ folks, however, aren’t as lucky. “Their families aren’t accepting. Then you throw in HIV on top of that, and then you throw in racism, and it can be very difficult,” he said. “We are battling racism and homophobia; Black gay people are doubly attacked.”

As an example, Myers pointed to the larger LGBTQ community’s battle over the last decade-plus to secure equal marriage rights. “Black folks had basic needs to be concerned with — housing, employment. I don’t have time to worry about not being able to be legally married if I am worried about not being accepted by my family and not being able to get a job and not having somewhere to live,” he said.

“Black gay and trans people are still dying from HIV in disproportionate numbers. Then there’s police brutality against Blacks, and homophobia even from within the larger LGBTQ community,” he continued. “With all that, how are we supposed to have time to get involved in voter registration drives, but then, I can’t be politically involved if I can’t even get registered to vote.”

So while some question the need for separate Black Pride organizations and celebrations, Myers said Black LGBTQ people need those organizations and celebrations to help them be empowered within themselves and their community. Those organizations and celebrations, he said, provide a safe place for them to be shielded against both racism and homophobia and learn to value and celebrate all of who they are.

“As lead organizer for Dallas Southern Pride, it’s not my intent to segregate the communities,” Myers continued. “I consider my work, all of what I do, to be a bridge between communities. But there is work we have to do at home, first.

“It’s like they say: Charity does start at home. And God bless the child who has his own,” Myers said. “Yes, Dallas does have an overall vibrant LGBTQ community, and that is something we should be proud of. But we also have a vibrant Black LGBTQ community. And that is something we should be proud of, too. We can and do come together as one community, but it is OK to celebrate our differences, too.”

While the last 12-plus months have been difficult to navigate, Myers said he believes that Abounding Prosperity and, now, the return of Dallas Southern Pride events like the Juneteenth Unity Weekend have rallied the Black LGBTQ community, bringing people together to find ways to extend help to those who need it.

“We have fed the community,” he said. “We have provided COVID resources and referrals. We have handed out COVID prevention kits and, for those who fell ill, COVID care kits. We kept our facilities open so people can still get their medications for HIV/AIDS. Those are things that have grown out of our own desire to live. It started as just surviving, but now, it’s not just surviving, it’s thriving.” Surviving and thriving in the face of adversity is something the Black community has been doing throughout this country’s history. In fact, Myers said, the Juneteenth celebration is an example of taking an adverse situation — slaves in Texas not learning they had been freed for two years — and turning it around and making it a cause to celebrate.

Even as the Black LGBTQ community celebrates Juneteenth, Myers said, he hasn’t lost focus on the need to build bridges between his community and the larger LGBTQ community. But how do we bridge the gap?

“It starts,” he said, “with conversations and with taking the time to reach a hand across the aisle. Our fear of our differences so often keeps us incapacitated. But we have to move past the fear and realize that a win for one of us is a win for all of us.”

Myers said that he as an individual and Abounding Prosperity and Dallas Southern Pride as organizations were glad to be able to work with city officials, including Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano, on ceremonies to raise the Dallas LGBTQ Pride flag at both Love Field and at Dallas Police headquarters. The one at the police station was especially symbolic, he said, because of the murders of Black trans women in Dallas and the issues of police brutality against Black people that have plagued the country.

That’s one example of bridging gaps. But there is more work to do. And the key word in that work, Myers said, is intersectionality.

“We have to acknowledge and accept our differences. But we also have to focus on our points of commonality,” he said. “We have to be talking about what brings us together instead of what divides us, and we have to find where we can move forward together.”
“Often times, if only indirectly, [Black LGBTQ people] are being asked to integrate themselves into the larger LGBTQ community. They ask us to assimilate, but they are not willing to cross-assimilate,” he continued. “But the thing is, I am not just gay. I am Black and gay. And because of that, I don’t give a damn how gay I am, I don’t have the same privilege as a white gay man.”

And that is also key: acknowledging and understanding privilege, and knowing how to use it for everyone’s benefit.

“White gay men have a level of access and privilege that Black gay men don’t have,” he said. “And Black gay men have a level of access that Black trans women don’t have,” adding that the same dynamic is true between white men versus white women, white women versus black women, cisgender versus transgender.

“What we have to do is acknowledge that privilege and find out how each of us can leverage the access and privilege and power that we have to the betterment of other marginalized groups,” Myers said. “We have to understand that there is enough freedom to go around. We all deserve to live and to love freely.”

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**PLAN TO PARTY:**

The Juneteenth Unity Weekend Schedule

After a year-long hiatus forced, of course, by the COVID-19 pandemic, Dallas Southern Pride is back with the Juneteenth Unity Weekend celebration. And DSP’s lead organizer, Kirk Myers, is promising it will be a weekend to remember.

“We have a whole host of events, from parties to health-related events and more,” Myers said. “We’ll be doing HIV testing for tickets, COVID vaccines for tickets. It will be amazing.”

The weekend kicked off Thursday night, June 17, with a rooftop party honoring Dallas Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano at the new Tru by Hilton Dallas Downtown Market Center. But things kick into high gear tonight when DSP “takes over the Sheraton Market Center,” the host hotel, for a welcome party from 7-10 p.m. “This is the first time to completely take over the Sheraton, our host hotel, and we have already sold out all the rooms there, and we have two overflow hotels!” Myers said.

Another first, he said, is that “they are lighting up the city in the Juneteenth colors — black, green and red,” similar to the weekend of Dallas Pride when the Dallas skyline was aglow with the rainbow colors. “This weekend, it will be lit up with the Black Pride colors. They lit it up for Pride, and they are lighting it up again for Black Pride.”

Tonight’s schedule is also crowded with a variety of parties at different venues around the city, including: the Gaylebrity Adult Prom starting at 9:45 p.m. at The Palace, 9011 John W. Carpenter Freeway, Ste. 106; Boyz Nite Out II from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at Marty’s Live, 4207 Maple Ave.; the All White Affair from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. at Dec on Dragon, 1414 Dragon St., and DSP After Dark from 2-4 a.m. at the host hotel, Sheraton Suites Market Center.

DSP is also working with the Arts District Pride Party+ events happening this weekend, and Abounding Prosperity will be offering health screenings from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, June 19, at the Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood.

Saturday afternoon is all about the Juneteenth Unity Weekend Pool Party, from 4-9 p.m., featuring none other than the award-winning and multi-platinum rapper Lil Kim. Then everyone dries off from the pool and heads over to Gilley’s Dallas, 1135 Botham Jean Blvd., for the Juneteenth Ultimate Mega Party from 10 p.m.-3 a.m. Hosted by Rick Ross, the party features performances by Kash Doll and music by DJ Lo Down Loretta Brown — aka Erykah Badu.

The weekend winds up on Sunday, starting early-early (or late-late, depending on your point of view) with the Juneteenth Unity Weekend Ball: The Emancipation Black and Gold, from 2 a.m.-6 p.m. at 179 Parkhouse (179 Parkhouse St.), hosted by GC Father Shemar Garcon. Trophies will be awarded in Virgin, Fashion, Performance, Sex Siren, Realness, Body and Face categories.

After a quick sleep break, things start up again with the Kirk Myers Signature Brunch birthday celebration at the Sheraton Suites Market Center from 1-4 p.m., with special performances by Kennedy Davenport and Tamika X.

The Distinguished Gentlemen of KKMS present Emancipation Sunday Funday, at Bar 3606 and OT Tavern, 3606 Greenville Ave., starting at 4 p.m., and the StreetDallas Juneteenth party, at Area 111, 111 Oak Lawn Ave. in the Design District, wraps up the weekend.

For details on each event and to purchase tickets, visit DallasSouthernPride.com.

— Tammye Nash
New liaison takes over

COMMUNITY

DPD Officer Megan Thomas steps in as Officer Chelsea Geist is promoted

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Dallas Police Chief Eddie Garcia named Officer Megan Thomas as new LGBT police liaison earlier this month, replacing Officer Chelsea Geist, who received a promotion to the crime response team. Geist said she had hoped to continue in her liaison position at least through Pride month but had to take the position when it opened. Her last official act as liaison was being among the officers who raised the official city Pride flag over Dallas Police headquarters.

Thomas has been on the Dallas police force since 2018. Her law enforcement experience before that included stints with a sheriff’s office in Illinois and working private security with the Miami Transit Authority.

She served in the Navy for five years under don’t ask, don’t tell. She was stationed in Key West where she wasn’t allowed to participate in city events, she said, but could offer support. City events in Key West were mostly LGBTQ events, and by “support,” she means “participated as much as possible.”

Thomas said serving in Key West under don’t ask, don’t tell was “Strange times.”

Throughout her military service, Thomas had a girlfriend who was living in an apartment off base while Thomas was paying for housing on the base. It was, she said, just another example of the inequality LGBTQ people in the military at the time faced.

Thomas was married in October 2015, just over three months after the Obergefell marriage equality decision. It was, she said, a simple wedding: “I bought a pretty dress,” and her wife wore slacks and sweater. “We went to City Hall and had a party at my parents’ house in Illinois,” she added.

While Thomas waited a few months to tie the knot after marriage became legal, a friend of hers from school was half of the second couple to marry in the state.

Before her recent liaison appointment, Thomas was stationed in Northwest precinct. “I love that station,” she said, noting that officers there aren’t rushed and have time to get to know the neighbors and the neighborhoods, although the call volume is high.

Thomas said she’s looking forward to implementing the new chief’s Safe Place program. To launch it, she’s forming some committees staffed with “allies who will help with the program.”

The idea behind the program, she explained, is for businesses to display a “Safe Place” sticker so someone who has been a victim of a crime knows that business is a safe place for them to go to call 9-1-1 and wait for help to arrive if necessary.

Often someone who is the victim of abuse will run out of the house without a phone. Or victims of a hate crime just don’t have a safe place to call police and wait. She said businesses can participate by providing a safe place for victims to get an accurate description to police “so we can help people.”

The LGBT liaison position began in Oak Lawn. Before Mica England sued DPD for refusing to hire gay and lesbian cops, when Dallas police were still raiding gay bars, Officer Earl Newsom, a beat cop who patrolled Cedar Springs Road, did something radical: He went into the LGBTQ-owned businesses and introduced himself.

Newsom endeared himself to the community as someone in the Dallas Police Department LGBTQ folks could trust. And he became such a beloved member of the community, he was named grand marshal of the Pride parade in 1987.

In 1993, Ben Click was appointed Dallas’ new police chief. When he learned of England’s lawsuit against the department soon after moving to Dallas, he officially changed hiring policies and appointed Officer Lynn Albright as the first official LGBT liaison. Albright had already been on the force, but no one — except anyone who ever met her — ever guessed she was lesbian.

When Albright retired after more than 12 years in the position, Laura Martin became liaison in 2005, serving in that position for more than 10 years. During that time, she was promoted to detective and is usually tapped to provide security for visiting dignitaries. She left the liaison position when it was moved to the Office of Community Affairs at Dallas Police Headquarters.

Officer Amber Roman and then Geist served shorter stretches as liaisons to the community.

Geist capped her time as liaison with the raising of the official Dallas Pride flag over DPD headquarters. While about 100 officers attended, Geist said, for every one who did attend, another two or three couldn’t because they were on patrol or working in a different part of the city at the time.

Thomas agreed. She said she was surprised by enthusiasm in the department for flying the flag, noting that several officers told her, “Hey Megan, I can’t be there, but that’s really cool.”

Thomas said another goal of hers as liaison is to resume departmental training classes on working with the LGBTQ community. Those classes have been going on since Albright’s early days as liaison in conjunction with Resource Center and Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance.

She is, she said, excited about her new position and about working with a chief who’s excited about working with her and our community.
House of Rebirth marks Juneteenth with art installation to highlight anti-trans violence

FROM STAFF REPORTS

House of Rebirth commemorates Juneteenth this Saturday, June 19, with a series of 6-foot-by-3-foot black-and-white images men and women who are the mothers, sisters, daughters, grandmothers, aunts, fathers, brothers, grandfathers, uncles and friends of trans women lost to violence.

The 55 images will be laid down on the parking lot beneath the Dallas Trans Mural in the parking lot in the 4000 block of Cedar Springs Road early on the morning of June 19. The installation is intended to amplify the call for an end to the brutal treatment of black trans women. There will be a rally addressing the issue of anti-transgender violence beginning at noon. After the rally, the installation will be moved to the grounds of the Cathedral of Hope, outside the Peace Chapel.

Local social justice advocate Gary Bellomy conceived of the art installation to help promote and support the work of The House of Rebirth, and he enlisted the help of internationally-acclaimed guerrilla artist JR to bring his concept to reality.

The House of Rebirth honors the history of Juneteenth, the day when — more than two years after the Emancipation Declaration was issued — slaves in Texas learned they were freed. The art installation “demonstrates how the struggle of black people is still a reality in our society,” according to Bellomy and House of Rebirth officials.

JR the Artist, through his art forum called The Inside Out Project, promotes the messages of activists worldwide with both low-cost printing and social media exposure. This installation focusing on violence against black trans women, like every other project JR works with, will be seen by Inside Out’s worldwide viewership numbering in the millions.

Thanks to the efforts of its founder, Pocahantas Duvall Crowe, House of Rebirth provides shelter for trans women in a home setting, and encourages trans women to come in off the streets to a safe place where they will be provided with basic life necessities.

Pocahantas also manages Muhlaysia’s Closet, which provides trans women with clothing to help them start new and better lives. The entire shelter was created in memory of Pocahantas’s close friend, Muhlaysia Booker, who was murdered in May of 2019.

Mieko Hick is one of the 55 people featured in the art installation.
The Arts District celebrates Pride with three days of programming

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What’s expected to be one of the largest Pride celebrations in North Texas this year takes place in the Arts District this weekend, with a schedule of events that is an exhausting 13 pages long covering three days.

What about social distancing? An event that began just a few years ago at the Dallas Museum of Art has expanded to include outdoor spaces at the Winspear Opera House, exhibitions at the Nasher, Crow and Holocaust museums, pop-up events at Klyde Warren Park and programming running the gamut from Teen Pride to Coalition for Aging LGBT.

“We’re continuing to work our way down Flora Street,” said committee member Robert Emery, adding that he’s already spoken to several organizations that are interested in adding to the mix to make next year’s event even larger.

The weekend begins Friday night, June 18, with a virtual kick-off hosted by Terry Loftis and featuring Miss Dallas Southern Pride Porsche Paris, Dezi 5 and Miss Gay USofA Kennedy Davenport. Tune in at vimeo.com/showcase/pride-party at 6:30 p.m. to watch.

Pride Party + continues both live and online from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday, including exhibits in the various museums feature LGBT artists. Use the Nasher’s tour app for the month of June that features artists on view whose LGBTQ identity influenced their work. And learn about five LGBT artists in the DMA collection with a self-guided tour available at the guest services desk.

Only five? Well, five are featured, which leaves years of upcoming programming if the museum continues to highlight just five at a time.

At the Crow Museum of Asian Art, three quilt panels from the Names Project will be on display beginning Friday and continuing through the rest of the month. Two feature Asian-Americans who died of HIV, and the third includes Dallas names. Among them is the especially moving panel Dallasite Duane Kears Kears Puryear that he made for himself before he died and which hung at Resource Center until his death in 1990, when it was sent to be included in the NAMES Project Quilt.

Use code PRIDE21 to get $2 off admission to the Holocaust Museum and get an “LGBTQ+ History and Rights Must See and Do” that details the LGBTQ historical elements of the museum’s exhibit. On line, the museum is featuring a video with Beau Chandler and Major Jimenez who were arrested for trying to obtain a marriage license in Dallas before it was legal.

Throughout the weekend are lots of performances, both live and on film.

Among the screenings is Brock Cravy’s Innocent Boy, showing at 3 p.m. on Sunday in the Horschow Auditorium at the DMA. Described as a short horror film set in Texas, it deals with a young trans boy who finds himself caught between a cowboy’s lustful rage, greed and corruption. It’s won several awards already, including “Best LGBT Short Film” at the South Texas Underground Film Festival and “Best Direction” at the Las Vegas Queer Arts Film Festival. After the film, Cravy will be on hand for a Q&A. Admission is free, but reservation required.

United Black Ellument presents the film premier of Make ’em Know It about the Kiki Ball scene in Dallas. Director Devin Hulsey and cast members will be present for a Q&A. The film runs at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

On the Sammons Park Community Stage outside the Winspear, TITAS/ Dance Unbound hosts Complexions Contemporary Ballet in-person Big Barre master class at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. TITAS artistic and executive director Charles Santos leads a panel discussion at 1:30 p.m. Complexions Ballet performs in the Winspear at 8 p.m.

At 3 p.m. on the Sammons stage, performers at 3 p.m. on Saturday include Uptown Players, Bandan Koro, Dezi 5, Arttitude resident installation artists and Kennedy Davenport.

Teen Pride is usually part of Dallas Pride. For this year, however, special Teen Pride activities move to Pride in the Arts District. Kennedy Davenport hosts and performs and welcomes Barbie Davenport, Ruby Scott, Hakeem Davenport, Devin Banks, Glam Davenport and Ariel O’Hara to the Teen Pride stage.

Organizer Amanda Robinson said admission is quite limited, and social distancing will be practiced since vaccines have only recently become available for teens.

Robinson will also lead advocacy training and teach how to create a safe space. She said the pandemic has taken a particular toll on LGBTQ teens who were not always living in a safe and loving family environment during the lockdown.

For younger attendees, the DMA has art materials and learning games. At the Flora Street entrance, create a Pride portrait with MariconX artist Jose Villalobos from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on Saturday.

Abounding Prosperity will have its HIV testing truck parked outside the DMA’s Flora Street entrance. Those who are tested will get a free ticket to Dallas Southern Pride’s Juneteenth Unity Weekend Mega Party at Gilley’s on Saturday night.

Sunday begins with virtual yoga class at 11 a.m. led by Resource Center’s Jalenzki Brown. Youth First and the DMA Teen Advisory Council invite young people to express themselves with rock painting and bracelet making. Materials provided while supplies last.

The University of Texas at Dallas Galerstein Gender Center and Crow Museum presents a virtual program centered around AAPI issues and the LGBTQIA communities from noon-2 p.m. And the Dallas Opera joins Pride in the Arts District for the first time offering Vanished, a three-part indie art film available through Dallas Opera TV. Through June 30, get a 50 percent discount on the film and a seven-day free trial of Dallas Opera TV with promo code TDO4LOVE.

Links for virtual programs not given in the article can be found in the pdf of the program available at dallasartsdistrict.org/wp-content/uploads/Schedule-of-Events-for-Pride-2021-2-1.pdf.
PrEP is a safe and effective way to prevent HIV.
A happy crossover

2021 Chevy Trailblazer RS expresses its sunny personality

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“I love the color of your car,” yells a guy in a mini-van on my way home from work. “What color is that?”

“Oasis Blue,” I reply. “That is a cool car!” I may need sunglasses to look it in the face, but the bright baby blue hue definitely expresses the 2021 Chevy Trailblazer’s sunny personality. And especially in RS trim, it’s also fun to drive.

All of this has elevated the little crossover to one of GM’s best sellers.

While the Trailblazer is Chevy’s latest subcompact crossover, it shares styling cues with its bigger mid-size Blazer sibling. Squinty driving lights over LED headlamps, black grille and black chrome trim distinguish the front. While a contrasting black roof and 18-inch wheels dominate the side view. It’s as much Volvo XC40 as baby Chevy.

Around back there’s faux carbon fiber, twin exhaust outlets and chiseled tail lamps. Logos and lettering are rendered in black. Lift the hatch to fill a roomy cargo compartment with fold-down seats.

As expected in a compact crossover, there’s a fair amount of hard plastic topping the dash and doors. But there’s also some surprising upscale details — like a thick flat-bottom, leather-wrapped steering wheel, padded dash inserts with red stitching, red accents around the air vents, and piano black trim ensconcing the touchscreen.

Cloth and neoprene seats are heated in front and should prove durable. Single-zone automatic climate control, Bose audio and power front seats with lumbar adjustment add comforts. A sunroof would make it even better.

Just because the Trailblazer is small doesn’t mean it skimps on technology. An intuitive touchscreen swipes through radio stations and conjures audio, phone, navigation and climate functions with simple icons. I’d prefer an actual tuning knob, but it’s all pretty easy to use.

Devices connect through wireless Apple CarPlay, Android Auto and 4G Wi-Fi. Charge wirelessly in the console.

Keeping everybody safe are adaptive cruise, forward collision mitigation braking, lane keep assist, blind spot warning and rear cross path detection. A rear seat alert reminds you to retrieve children.

There’s plenty of power to get it all down the road, too. Base Trailblazers have a 1.2-liter three-cylinder, but RS editions come stoked with a 1.3-liter turbocharged three-cylinder engine that delivers 155 horsepower and 174 lb.-ft. of torque. Front-drive with a continuously variable transmission is standard, but our all-wheel-drive model shifts power through a 9-speed automatic transmission that’s so much more satisfying with actual cogs. I could do without auto stop/start that pauses the engine at rest, but it contributes to 26/30-MPG city/highway.

There’s nothing complicated about the chassis, but it works well enough. An independent front and compound crank rear suspension is typical of this class. There’s a bit of clunking over rough pavement with the large wheels, but there’s nothing untoward, and it is willing to play a little in the twisties.

Hit the Sport button to sharpen steering, throttle and shift responses. Just don’t expect any more horsepower, because what you have is all you get. Fortunately, the torquey little engine tosses the Trailblazer down-road with relative enthusiasm.

If you’re going to get a Trailblazer RS, get one in a fun color like Oasis Blue. It definitely fits its happy personality, whether spinning the turbo on highways or slipping through tight city streets.

Chevrolet created a cool little crossover and is being rewarded for the effort. Base models start at $19,995, but come to $30,580 in sporty RS trim with all the luxury and safety gear.

Competitors include the Subaru Crosstrek, Toyota CH-R, Ford EcoSport, Honda HR-V, Hyundai Kona and similar Buick Encore GX.

Storm Forward!

Send comments to Casey at AutoCasey@aol.com; follow him on YouTube @AutoCasey
Local WNBA team has celebrated Pride every year since moving to Arlington

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One professional sports team in Arlington is rolling out the red carpet this month and welcoming the LGBTQ community to its games with open arms — just as they’ve done every June since moving to Dallas.

The Dallas Wings Pride game takes place at noon on Saturday, June 26, against the Washington Mystics. The WNBA game will be nationally broadcast on CBS.

Voices of Hope, the Cathedral of Hope choir conducted by the Turtle Creek Chorale’s Sean Baugh, will sing the national anthem. And according to Jordan Baccus, senior manager of group sales and community engagement for the Wings, “We are also giving back to some different organizations that … help out the LGBTQ community.”

There will be a few special additions in the arena that have not been seen before anywhere, Baccus added, saying, “I’m very excited for our fans to see this.” But she stopped short of giving any more clues about what those special additions would be.

The Wings are participating in two other Pride events this year as well — Dining with Pride and the Pride Game Speaker Series.

Dine with Pride Courtside is a virtual event the team is holding in conjunction with Human Rights Campaign on June 25 at 6:30 p.m. The event includes a panel discussion and Q&A with Wings players and coaches and HRC staff. There will be auction items and door prizes as well. Tickets are $40.

The Wings’ annual Pride Game Speaker Series takes place on Wednesday, June 23, at 6:30 p.m. and is free. Panelists include local community leaders. Anyone interested in attending can contact Baccus by phone at 817-900-3014 or by email at jbaccus@dallaswings.com.

When ordering tickets to the Wings’ Pride game on June 26, use the promo code Pride21.

Wings games take place at College Park Center, 600 S. Center St. on the University of Texas Arlington campus. From I-30, take the Center Street exit coming from either Fort Worth or Dallas and go south. Park in the garages before the arena.
**HEALTH**

**Ut Health Research Team looking for survey participants**

**Tammie Nash | Managing Editor**

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His Pride Month, for the seventh year in a row, principal investigator Dr. Irene Tami and her research team at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston are once again asking people to participate in an ongoing study aiming to identify lifestyle and risk factors for chronic conditions, including cancer, among self-identified LGBTQ individuals in Texas.

The survey in English can be accessed at [https://uthtmc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5AcIUIwMAdXsG0i](https://uthtmc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5AcIUIwMAdXsG0i).

To access the survey in Spanish, visit [https://uthtmc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aeeGtGrZKv7FU7754](https://uthtmc.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_aeeGtGrZKv7FU7754).

The survey closes July 10.

Tami explained that the project began in 2014 when she worked at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston. Each summer, she said, her team would attend the Houston Pride Festival, asking people to participate in the survey, “using paper and pen” to collect data.

At first, she said, the survey focused heavily on tobacco use among sexual minorities and marketing by tobacco companies to that same community. In subsequent years, Tami noted, they began to gather information on other health issues affecting the LGBTQ community as well.

In 2020, when COVID-19 forced the cancellation of Houston’s Pride Festival — as well as Pride celebrations around the state and the rest of the country, Tami’s team took their data collection efforts to the virtual world, asking LGBTQ media outlets and organizations around Texas to help them get the word out and reach participants across the state.

As a result, team member Jocelyn Marquez noted, “Last year, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we collected more than 250 responses from many cities across Texas.”

This year, Tami said, the team is once again using the internet to get as many LGBTQ Texans as possible to participate.

“Our findings are critical for designing and implementing tailored interventions and educational programs for preventing and controlling chronic conditions among LGBTQ populations,” Marquez said in an email asking for participants.

“Now, more than ever, it is essential that those who identify as LGBTQ are given the best resources that fit their desires and needs. You can help guide our public health systems to better suit LGBTQ+ individuals. [Participation in the survey] would help move research on LGBTQ health forward and legitimize needs.”

Tami said that the first time she and her team went to Houston Pride and collected data on tobacco use in the LGBTQ community, they found 51 percent prevalence of tobacco use in the community, compared to 14 percent in the general population. That has led, she said, to a “huge tsunami of tobacco-related conditions and cancers in the LGBTQ community.”

Based on that data already collected, Tami said, the National Institutes for Health have funded a grant that will allow her team to develop text-based smoking cessation programs created specifically for sexual minorities that will send motivational texts with “content more appealing to LGBTQ groups.”

“We worked with groups in Houston to make sure the language we are using [in the program] is right,” Tami said.

“By the end of this year or sometime next year, with data we hope to gather from the survey this year, I hope to submit for a five-year grant” to address other health issues, and to hopefully include more resources for the transgender community.
It was June 5, 1981 when the U.S. Centers for Disease Control published an article in its “Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report” describing cases of a rare lung infection called Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia in five young, white, previously healthy gay men in Los Angeles. Los Angeles immunologist Dr. Michael Gottlieb and Dr. Wayne Shandera with the CDC, along with their colleagues, reported that all five also had other unusual infections, an indication that their immune systems were not functioning properly.

That same day, on the other side of the country, a dermatologist in New York City called the CDC to report a cluster of cases of a rare and aggressive form of cancer called Kaposi’s sarcoma. These cases had also been found in gay men, and, like PCP, KS is associated with a weak immune system.

Two of the patients in Los Angeles had already died by the time the report was published, and the other three patients died soon after.

By the end of July, people were already talking about the “gay men’s pneumonia” and “the gay cancer.” By the end of the year, 337 cases of this severe immune deficiency syndrome had been reported in the U.S.; of those 130 were already dead.

This month — June 2021 — marks the 40th anniversary of those first reports of what was at first called GRID — Gay-Related Immune Deficiency — and later renamed Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome or AIDS. According to UNAIDS, there were an estimated 37.6 million people worldwide living with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. In the 40 years since those first cases in L.A. and New York were first reported, an estimated 34.7 million people worldwide have died of AIDS.

On Thursday, June 24, from 5-7:30 p.m. Central, actor Billy Porter, who publicly revealed in May that he was diagnosed with HIV 14 years ago, joins Michael Sneed, executive vice president of Global Cultural Affairs for Johnson & Johnson at Festival de Cannes to host a free special screening of the 2018 documentary 5B, an award-winning film about the work of the nurses and caregivers who, in 1983, built and opened Ward 5B, the first AIDS ward in the world, at San Francisco General Hospital, changing the way AIDS patients in the 1980s were cared for.

After the screening, Porter will sit down with nurse Alison Moëd Paolercio, RN MS, and nurse, entrepreneur, innovator and author Rebecca Love RN, MSN, FIEL, to discuss the disproportionate toll that epidemics and pandemics take on at-risk communities, the parallels between the HIV/AIDS and COVID-19 crises, and the role of nurses in driving healthcare change.

The screening, and the fireside chat following can be seen via Zoom. Register at https://jnjmeetings.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zNPkrkJ1RV6szhiV7AVzdw. Those not able to join the event can visit 5Bfilm.com to find out where to stream the movie and, after the event, view the fireside chat at https://nursing.jnj.com/5B-fireside-chat-with-billy-porter.
BOTH sides of the story

Paula Stone Williams’ memoir offers a look at gender roles in society, from one who’s been on both sides.

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As a Woman: What I Learned about Power, Sex, and the Patriarchy After I Transitioned by Paula Stone Williams; c.2021; Atria Books $27; 256 pages.

There are two sides to every story. In politics, there’s left and right; in fairy tales, it’s good or evil. Guilty or innocent in court, salty or spicy at mealtime, dog or cat among friends, heads or tails. Sometimes you choose and, at other times, like in As a Woman by Paula Stone Williams, you can see both sides.

From the time he was very small, Paul Williams thought that he “should have been born a girl.” He wasn’t bitter about it — not when he was a teen, not even as an adult. But it lingered in the background of his life.

Oh, he tried to tamp down his desires to dress in his mother’s clothes. But he could not, though he knew it would anger her. She caught him once wearing his grandmother’s cast-offs, and he never forgot her reaction. Even so, he ransacked her closet at least once a week during his adolescence, hoping his parents wouldn’t come home early.

His feelings of furtiveness were perhaps exacerbated by a family legacy of evangelical ministry. Every man he knew was a leader in their church; when he was young, it was assumed that Williams would follow them, as if there was no other option. And so, dutifully, he became a CEO in a “church planting” organization. He married a woman he genuinely loved, and they started a family.

But the urges didn’t go away. As his children grew and left the nest, Williams began to explore the possibility of letting out the woman he was inside. He confessed everything to his wife, started hormones, and asked for her wife’s silence until he made plans for a transition physically and at work. He’d been at the organization for 35 years, and he was respected, although less than he believed.

Williams was fired and humiliated. Marriage in question, children shaken, job gone, he began to assess his life. The world needed to know the truth. And so, on July 29, 2014, Paula Stone Williams officially took to her blog. Come to As a Woman looking for a memoir, and you’re going to be happy: Most of the pages here tell a tale of transitioning while immersed in a major evangelical organization, which are generally incompatible things. This is interesting, told in an unabashedly forward manner, as author Paula Stone Williams resists minimizing her male past.

Dig deeper, though, and there’s more to this book: Its look at the difference in how society as a whole regards the roles of men and women, from someone with knowledge of both, is funny and sharp-eyed, and could serve as a primer-slash-warning for newly-transitioning women.

It’s fiery; it’s sometimes the tiniest bit whiny; it’s a little repetitious, and it’s eyebrow-raising with a dash of heated argument-starter for zest.

In the end, As a Woman leaves a lot for female readers to agree with; Williams’ observations are honed, hard and honest. Men, however — particularly cis men — could take umbrage at her observations and might give this book a little bit of side-eye.
PRIDE AGENDA

A special calendar of events celebrating Pride and the DFW LGBTQ community.

- **June 18: Pride Party +**
  Virtual kickoff of Dallas Arts District's Pride Party + with Terry Loftis as Master of Ceremonies, Miss Dallas Southern Pride, Porsche Paris, Dezi 5, and Miss Southern Pride, Kennedy Davenport. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Vimeo.com/showcase/prideparty

- **June 18-20: Juneteenth Unity Weekend 2021**

- **June 18: Crystal Methyd at The Urban Cowboy**
  Drag queen Crystal Methyd, a top four contestant in the 12th season of RuPaul’s Drag Race, performs at 9 p.m. at The Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave. in Fort Worth. For more information visit Facebook.com/TheUrbanCowboySaloon.

- **June 19: Pride Party +**
  Pop-up performances on the Sammons Park Community Stage including Kennedy Davenport, Uptown Players, Bandan Koro and Dezi 5 from 3-5 p.m. Programming at the Crow Museum of Asian Art, Dallas Museum of Art and Nasher Sculpture Center. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Full schedule at DallasArtsDistrict.org/pridepartyplus.

- **June 19: Millennial Drag Show & HipHop Night**
The Urban Cowboy, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave. in Fort Worth, hosts the Millennial Drag Show and Hip Hop Night beginning at 9 p.m.

- **June 20: Pride Party +**
  Virtual and on-site programming from the Crow Museum of Asian Art, Dallas Museum of Art and Nasher Sculpture Center from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Full schedule at DallasArtsDistrict.org/pridepartyplus.

- **June 20: Teen Pride**
  Art activities, live performances, advocacy training free for ages 13-19 from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Dallas Museum of Art.

- **June 25: Human Rights Campaign Dallas**
  Fort Worth and the Dallas Wings for “Dine with Pride Courtside: A Virtual Event.” The event includes a panel discussion with Dallas Wings players and coaches and Human Rights Campaign staff, a Q&A Session, an auction and door prizes. Tickets are $40 and include access to the virtual event, a ticket to the Dallas Wings’ 2021 or 2022 Pride Game and an HRC membership or membership renewal. A link to attend will be emailed to all registrants of the week of the event. For information email zack.hasychak@hrc.org. Ticket sales end at 5 p.m. Central on Wednesday, June 23.

- **June 25: Lessons From Our Community**
  Liberty Lounge, 515 S. Jennings in Fort Worth, hosts “Lessons From Our Community: Stories About the Fight for Equality,” beginning at 5 p.m.

- **June 25: Devine Miss Diva Show**
The Devine Miss Diva Show returns to Club Changes, 2637 E. Lancaster Ave. in Fort Worth, beginning at 11 p.m.

- **June 26: Dallas Wings Pride game**
  WNBA’s Dallas Wings face the Washington Mystics at noon. During the Pride game there will be a few special additions to the arena that Wings officials say haven’t been done anywhere before. The national anthem will be sung by Voices of Hope from Cathedral of Hope. College Park Center, 600 S. Center St., Arlington. Promo code Pride21 for ticket discount. Visit Wings.WNBA.com.

- **June 26: Trinity Pride**
  A hybrid celebration will consist of a live stream of Virtual Trinity Pride Fest on Facebook Live as well as at official Trinity Pride Partner locations throughout Fort Worth at 7 p.m.

- **June 26: Pride Night Lights**
The Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave. in Fort Worth, presents “Pride Night Lights,” a neon light show celebrating Pride, beginning at 9 p.m.

- **June 27: Pride Night at FC Dallas**
  Get specially priced tickets to the annual Y’all Means All game against the New England Revolution. The LGBT Chamber recommends buying seats in sections 131 and 132 near the Supporters’ Section. Tailgate at 6 p.m. Game at 8 p.m. at Toyota Stadium, 9200 World Cup Way, Frisco. Visit FCDallas.com.

- **June 27: Wall of Food Drag Show**
The Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave. in Fort Worth, hosts the Wall of Food charity drag show, beginning at 6 p.m.

- **June 27: Liberty Lowdown Art & Craft Showcase**
  Local artists gather from noon to 5 p.m. at The Liberty Lounge, 515 S. Jennings Ave., to show their art and crafts. Admission is free.

- **June 28: Raid of the Rainbow Lounge screening**
The Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave. in Fort Worth, presents a public screening of Robert Camina’s 2012 documentary, Raid of the Rainbow Lounge, which documents the night of June 28, 2009, the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, when officers with the Fort Worth Police Department joined agents from the Texas Alcoholic Beverag Commission in raiding a newly-opened LGBTQ bar called The Rainbow Lounge in Fort Worth. The screening starts at 8 p.m.
JUNE
- June 18: Federal Club
HRC DFW Federal Club cocktails and conversation as members and guests meet virtually. DFWFederalClub.org for details.

- June 18: Name and gender change workshop
Lambda Legal discusses what the process looks like in Texas to secure state and federal identity documents. Lawyers can receive CLE credit. Meeting via Zoom. LambdaLegal.org.

- June 18: The History of Juneteenth
Lunch & Learn, a virtual presentation about the annual celebration of emancipation from slavery in the United States. Join Dr. George Keaton, Jr., Founder and Executive Director of Remembering Black Dallas and the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum for a discussion of the history of Juneteenth, its particular significance in Texas, and how the holiday has evolved over the last 150 years. DallasHolocaustMuseum.secure.force.com/ticket.

- June 18: Music in the Park
Brianne Sargent & Friends String Trio performs at 8:15 p.m. at Samuell-Grand Amphitheater, 6200 E. Grand Ave. Tickets at ShakespeareDallas.org.

- June 18-20: Juneteenth Unity Weekend 2021
Hosted by Dallas Southern Pride, Free, Sheraton Suites Market Center, 2101 N. Stemmons Freeway is the host hotel. Code DSP for $89 rate. Ultimate Mega Party at Gilley’s Dallas, 1135 S. Lamar St. on Saturday from 10 p.m.-3 a.m.

- June 18-24: Rooftop Cinema

- June 18-Sept. 5: Jurassic World: The Exhibition
You’ve seen the films. Now experience them in real life at Jurassic World: The Exhibition. Educational, immersive, interactive and most of all, awesome, the Exhibition will thrill audiences of all ages as they come face to face with these mighty and sometimes vicious creatures. Grandscape, 5752 Grandscape Blvd., The Colony.

- Through June 19: Rusty Scruby
Gay artist Rusty Scruby has a solo exhibit called Comfort at Cris Worley Fine Arts, 1845 E. Levee St., Suite 110. Open house on May 15 from noon-4 p.m. CrisWorley.com.

- June 19: Music in the Park
Bobby Sparks, Cure for Paranoia and The Grays perform at 8:15 p.m. at Samuell-Grand Amphitheater, 6200 E. Grand Ave. Tickets at ShakespeareDallas.org.

- Through June 20: Frida Kahlo: Five Works
Five works by Frida Kahlo from a private collection including four paintings and a drawing will be on display in the atrium on level 4 at the Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood St. DMA.org.

- June 21: Get Centered tour
Virtual Resource Center tour streams for free at 5 p.m. Registration required. MyResourceCenter.org.

- June 22: Inspiring Inclusion
North Texas Commission presents Inspiring Inclusion in an Evolving World. Join Wendy John, head of global diversity and inclusion at Fidelity Investments for a “less talk, more action” session on why inclusion (for all) matters. 11 a.m. via Zoom. Register at form. jotform.com/211545298862161.

Look for extended listings online at DallasVoice.com
From getting sober to staying single

Ah, sweet June. Across the northern hemisphere, June is June everywhere. Everything’s still beautiful. All the trees and foliage of high summer haven’t been rendered ragged yet. Marriages are fresh and exciting, eternally sunny. June 20 marks the summer solstice this year. Our longest day of the year always takes place this month, when the Earth’s north pole is at its maximum axial tilt toward the sun, and continuous daylight never leaves the Arctic circle.

On the day directly preceding the solstice — June 19 — arrives a holiday of slightly dimmer understanding, known as Juneteenth. As I understand, way back on New Year’s Day, 1863, when the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect; however, the “official” date of slavery’s end didn’t become written in ink in Texas until two years later on June 19, 1865, for that was how long it took word to filter down to the last remaining American slaves, located in Galveston, Texas, who were freed by a troop of mostly black Union soldiers. Thus, June 19 is nowadays embraced as Juneteenth, the still-as-of-yet “un-officiated” holiday celebrating when American slavery was no more. In sidebar, for those of you wishing to throw support behind the movement endorsing that Juneteenth be welcomed a national holiday, visit JuneteenthLegacyProject.com

Well, okey-dokey, now; let’s just get all gleamingly emancipated, eternal sunshine of this spotless honeymoon period’s, Covid’s-over/fresh-start excitement right to it, then, shall we?

Dear Howard: I got into a knock-down/drag-out fight with my new husband the other night. Like, we’re talking Code Red, secret-lab-in-Wuhan-level dramatics here, on full public display: Fred somehow escaped outside, tweakin’ dramatics here, on full public display: Code Red, secret-lab-in-Wuhan-level down/drag-out fight with my new husband, the sunshine of this spotless honeymoon period’s, Covid’s-over/fresh-start excitement right to it, then, shall we?

Dear Desiilon: I think you and Fred, like all those so blissfully unencumbered by the ravages of intellect — blissfully adrift in a sparkling spaciousness like a lunar rover ferrying rhinestones — should simply leave the Harley to the koi pond where she rests. Glue-capstone its mangled handlebar with your shattered obelisk’s permanently exposed shards of regret. Obviously, no visitor will need inquire what your secret for overnight sobriety was, and the free money your new outdoor, modern art installation saves via bypassing a stint at Betty Ford, all the subsequent relapses, money eternally owed your various dealers, etc., will more than cover a new hog for Fred-die. A solid gold one, at that, and another, grander obelisk, too — go Jasper this time, Desi, granite, even! Fuck, go all-out malachite, gurl, you sober, greenly envi-able survivor, you!

Dear Howard: I’m planning a trip abroad later this summer, the first for me and my boyfriend, together. Jim’s been all over Europe, except for Scandinavia and Russia. We’ll be in the mood for a cold climate come September. We’re both fully vaccinated. Any advice on how gay people behave differently from culture to culture? Do they? We don’t want to come across as country bumpkins.

— Dizzy Dale

Dear JJs: Last month, I skittered briefly across the surface of gay travel expectations in a post-Covid world, versus visiting a Muslim country, to which Putin’s Russia fully qualifies. Individuals the world over display spirited kindness and humanity toward visitors from other cultures, the exception being Putin’s nation of permanent poker faces, resultant from totally out-of-step governmental policies. Men in Russia, for instance, make absolutely no eye contact, whatsoever. My gaydar (which is superb) crashed batshit useless in Moscow and St. Petersburg — like reading a compass in the Bermuda Triangle. Nor do Russian gays exhibit any of the telltale aspirational displays of one-upmanship, refinement and campy polish that we, as jaded queer Americans, practically hone for stereotype; Russian gays’ haircuts aren’t hip, their clothes aren’t edgy, and their gums are useful places with lockers in which to safely store contraband.

But, if you can make a Russian man smile — make him laugh for you, not with you — your chances at getting laid will increase a hundredfold, instantly.

Dear Howard: My current girlfriend and I met four months ago at — I’m embarrassed to say — a food pantry. She was there volunteering; I was there trying to keep starvation at bay. We’ve since decided, with clear heads now, to move in together. Her Persian cat and my Peruvian parakeet will just have to work out their differences somehow.

So, here’s the real rub, though: Cindy thinks I should sell my downtown condo, as she owns a three-bedroom house with a yard. On the other hand, my take is that we should both sell, pool our real estate profits and buy a place we each truly love, where we can start fresh, two as one in equally neutral territory.

It just seems more evenly committed, right, Howard? Especially with red-hot Dallas being such a seller’s market these days, too. See, my philosophy is, if we’re going to jump into this thing, then we need to do it whole hog with raisin sauce.

And it’s not that Cindy doesn’t see where I’m coming from, but she says, “seeing as how she already owns a house plenty big enough for us to grow as a unit in, why not leave its option on the table? Well, I like my condo, too, and the unit next door to me just happens to be for sale; so, by this reasoning, why not...
consider my own place an equally rational, alternatively viable option?

At 50, and fully 15 years my senior in age, I’m beginning to wonder if Cindy is even capable still of compromise. I’m the first “long-term” girlfriend she’s ever had. Before me, the longest of the bunch managed a whopping three whole weeks!

Am I just being whiny here, Howard? Should I not press the issue of us each selling, and simply move in with Cindy? She does have a fetching house, even a glassed-in backyard greenhouse, too, that Popsicle, my parakeet, adores taking loft in. I can see why she wouldn’t want to give it up. Who would? I don’t know why my own instincts are rebelling.

— Birdie Lynne

Dear Lindy: Here’s the deal regarding the long-term viability of entering into a committed, live-in relationship with a person of 50 whose longest previously committed relationship was on par to a good Grindr trick: Ladybird, your antennae are already up, if not practically phosphorescent. Instinct, as the tired truism goes, is absolutely the only thing you can always trust — instinct and your grandmother.

Honey, a 15-year age gap is hard enough to bridge, even if Popsicle does get to trade-up from a cage in your condo to a greenhouse lush of palms with a burbling fountain, butterflies and soaring sunshine fluttering her soaring wings. It ain’t Popsicle who must reside daily alongside Cindy the Ossified. Somethin’ here just don’t feel quite right, not even remotely. Indeed, it’s a total shitshow, in fact.

This new summer, children, as we’ve discovered, all things marvelously peculiar, too, have their time and seasonal effervescence: Be it the summer solstice, Juneteenth or koi ponds featuring mangled motorcycles’ twisted follies to tattered youth, everything, ultimately, is transient, even the longest day of the year.

Big kisses, everybody, to Betsy Ross from me now, and I’ll see you all back here again, same place, on the other side July’s rockets’ red glare. Enjoy, kidz, this remainedered lovely, lipid June; summer’s a-peaked.

— Howard Lewis Russell

Have a comment or seasonally-sane question for Howard? Send it to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com
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Who is that masc man at TMC?

Kathleen making the first shots of the night

Daphne Rio shoots her shot at Round-Up Saloon

Hunter is looking for his top

Heather grabbing a drink in The Rose Room
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14 “...___ take arms
against...” (Hamlet)
15 Safari sighting
16 Wolfe or Woolf, e.g.
(abbr.)
17 With 26-Across,
Disney animated
classic
20 Cartoon seaman
21 Emma Stone in
The Help
22 NY Met, for example
25 Fence straddler
26 See 17-Across
32 Abductors of the ‘70s
33 Asked for on
bended knee
34 Big name in
stunt riding
35 I ___ Andy Warhol
36 Become rigid
39 “___ to bury Caesar...”
41 Skin decorations
43 Great Plains tribe
47 Musical with
Nellie Forbush
49 Sex, crudely
52 Star Trek character
53 Chronicle of
Poker Flat
54 Song for a double
feature with the two
movies of this puzzle?
58 “So, it’s YOU!”
59 Speed skater Ohno
60 Cabbage, to Cocteau
61 “It’s showtime!”
62 Screw up
63 Kramer, to Yale
64 Maria’s Do-___
65 Promoted to excess
66 Instrument for
a perjurer?
67 Where to find
Moby Dick

Down
1 Where Dr. C.
Torres works
2 Cube designer Rubik
3 Straddling
4 Gay horror writer
Michael
5 Looked upon
6 Disney prince
7 Tin roof pussy
of Tennessee
8 Bills stuffed in
a G-string
9 Neighbor of Minn.
10 Word after space
11 Feeling great
sexual desire
12 Moor jealous of
his partner
13 To which
18 Dallas actor Keenan
19 Untouchable head
23 Frat hazing prop
24 Shankar of sitar
26 Dick and Jane’s dog
27 Poet Gidlow
28 Armless garment
29 Cuts Leaves of Grass?
30 Brief summary
31 What comes out
in spring
35 Tone of many
Stein photos
37 Grip on a 12-incher?
38 ___ the Top
40 Like the Village
People’s man
42 Impassive
44 They’re thin at the top
45 Made an impression
46 South Pacific setting,
broadly
48 To a large degree
49 Mortify with porn,
perhaps
50 Like Steel Magnolias,
to many straight males
51 Single-master
55 “Would ___ to you?”
56 The Children’s ___
57 TV newsman Brit
61 Gershwin of
Of Thee I Sing

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