

dallasvoice

The Premier Media Source for LGBTQ Texas | February 1 | Issue 39 | FREE | Friday, January 28, 2022



The man, the music

Actor Craig Winberry talks about becoming a legend for his role in 'The Life and Music of George Michael'

By Rich Lopez, page 8

FREE PrEP ONLINE

PrEP is a once a day pill that keeps you HIV negative.



BOOK APPOINTMENT!

Our services are always free regardless of income level or insurance status

FREE PrEP | PEP | TESTING | CONDOMS | COUNSELING | EVENT CENTER

 **HELP Center**
for LGBT Health and Wellness

f @ in v | **HELP**CenterTX.org
(855) 4MY-PREP

dallasvoice.com

The Premier Media Source for LGBTQ Texas

1825 Market Center Blvd., Ste. 240, Dallas, Texas 75207 | 214-754-8710 | dallasvoice.com

This weeks issue: Friday, January 28, 2022, Volume 38, Issue 39

PUBLISHER Leo Cusimano, leo@dallasvoice.com

MANAGING EDITOR Tammye Nash, nash@dallasvoice.com

SENIOR STAFF WRITER David Taffet, taffet@dallasvoice.com

STAFF WRITER Rich Lopez, rich@dallasvoice.com

PROOF READER Philip Burton

CONTRIBUTORS Chris Azzopardi, Gary Bellomy, Jenny Block, Joey Casiano, Jesus Chairaz, Lawrence Ferber, Hardy Haberman, Scott Huffman, Lisa Keen, Mark Lowry, Cassie Nova, Josh Robbins, Howard Lewis Russell, James Russell, Terri Schlichenmeyer, Leslie McMurray, Gregg Shapiro, Mathew Shaw, Casey Williams

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR Chad Mantooth, mantooth@dallasvoice.com

MARKETPLACE MANAGER Stephen Mobley, mobley@dallasvoice.com

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE National Advertising Representative
Todd Evans, Rivendell Media Inc. 908-232-2021

ART DIRECTOR Kevin Thomas, thomas@dallasvoice.com

MULTIMEDIA Stephen Mobley, Social Media Director
Israel Luna, DVtv Video Producer, Host
Tom Roma DVtv Producer | Joseph Herrera DVtv Producer
Brad Pritchett DVtv Host | Regina Lyn DVtv Host

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Linda Depriter, distribution@dallasvoice.com

FOUNDERS Robert Moore | Don Ritz

AFFILIATIONS | MEMBERSHIPS

Associated Press - Associate Member
National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association
Certified LGBT Business Enterprise
Founding Member - North Texas LGBT Chamber
Founding Member - National LGBT Media Association



© 2021 Voice Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprint rights are available only by written consent of the publisher or managing editor. Dallas Voice is published every Friday. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1, payable in advance at Dallas Voice office. Dallas Voice may be distributed only by authorized independent distributors. No person may, without prior written permission of Voice Publishing, take more than one copy of each Dallas Voice weekly issue.

Subscriptions via First Class Mail are available: Three months (13 consecutive issues), \$65. Six months (26 consecutive issues), \$85. One year (52 consecutive issues), \$130. To subscribe call 214-754-8710 x114.

Paid advertising copy represents the claim(s) of the advertiser. Bring inappropriate claims to the attention of the publisher. Dallas Voice reserves the right to enforce its own judgments regarding the suitability of advertising copy, illustrations and/or photographs. Unsolicited manuscripts are accepted by email only. To obtain a copy of our guidelines for contributors, send a request by email to editor@dallasvoice.com.

Carole Anne Boyd, DDS, PC
Jonathan Vogel, DDS

TOGETHER WITH

P R I D E

GENERAL & COSMETIC
DENTISTRY

Over 30 years of experience,
service & results

Call today 214-521-6261!

4514 Cole Ave, | Ste 905 | DrBoyd.net



UPTOWN PHYSICIANS

GROUP

PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL CARE TO THE
NORTH TEXAS LGBT COMMUNITY FOR OVER 30 YEARS



David M. Lee, MD
Donald A. Graneto, MD
William Hays, MD, ATC, LAT

Taylor Schmidt, MD
Eric Klappholz, NP
Peter Triporo, NP

Jason Vercher, PA-C
Vanessa Bludau, NP
Ismail Boodhwani, FNP-C

BEST General Practitioner
7 Years in a Row!

BEST Medical
Group Practice

BEST HIV
Specialists



Dr. Donald Graneto named
to D Magazine's Best Doctors
in Dallas for 2017 in
Infectious Disease and Family
Medicine respectively.



Voted 2020 Readers Voice
Awards BEST Medical Group
Practice, BEST HIV Specialists
and Dr. David Lee, BEST
General Practitioner.



Peter Triporo, NP named
Top 10 in 2018 America's
Top Nurse Practitioner
Awards presented by
Point of Care Network.

AVAILABLE SERVICES

- ✓ Comprehensive HIV care*
- ✓ STI testing & treatment
- ✓ PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV)
- ✓ Comprehensive LGBT medical care
- ✓ Infectious diseases diagnosis & treatment
- ✓ General internal medicine care

*HIV Specialists certified by the American Academy of HIV Medicine

UPTOWN PHYSICIANS GROUP

2801 Lemmon Ave, #400, Dallas, TX 75204
214.303.1033 | uptownphysiciansgroup.com

Bites from our blog

InstanTEA: DallasVoice.com

Get OUT! DV's premier LGBTQ visitors guide OUT North Texas on stands now



visitors guide for 2022. This issue contains all the info needed for those visiting here and for those relocating to the area. And if you live here already, there's good stuff inside for you, as well. We hope you grab a copy and tell us what you think.

This year's cover model is Paris, Texas' one and only Shangela. From the comfort of her "Grangela's" home, the *We're Here* host talked about her own Texas pride and how she takes a bit of the Lone Star State wherever she goes. In fact, the cover of this year's issue, featuring Shangela, was debuted at Black Tie Dinner in November where Shangela was also the recipient of BTB's inaugural Vanguard Award.

In this 2022 version, we did things a little bit differently. We put a call out to area photographers for their take on North Texas and were able to feature works by Antonio Bonner, Josh Velasquez and Juan Verdeguer. Sections are curated a little bit more to highlight both the obvious attractions in DFW alongside some of the hidden gems.

Not only is this a guide to North Texas, but in some ways, it's our love letter to the area. The culture, the style, the community we have here: We are proud of them all and love showing them off.

— Rich Lopez

This week when you pick up your copy of the newest issue of Dallas Voice, be sure and keep an eye out for the new OUT North Texas



Nohemí Medina Martínez and Yulizsa Ramírez

Two arrested in murder of El Paso couple

Chihuahua police have arrested a man and a woman in the torture, dismemberment and murder of an El Paso same-sex couple. The charge is femicide.

Juarez police identified the two only as Nohemi M.M. and Tania M.H., but they were identified by local media as Nohemí Medina Martínez and Yulizsa Ramírez, a married couple from El Paso who were in Mexico visiting relatives.

Police didn't release a motive, but women's groups and LGBTQ groups have called it a hate crime.

The mutilated bodies were found in trash bags along a highway about 30 miles southeast of Juarez, according to local TV reports. Juarez is across the Rio Grande from El Paso.

The couple was murdered at a home in San Isidro, which is southeast of Juarez. Police found evidence of the murders taking place in the house but didn't release information about what that evidence is.



PrismHealth
NORTH TEXAS

PRISM HEALTH NORTH TEXAS PROVIDES FULL-SPECTRUM, PERSONALIZED HEALTHCARE FOR THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT AT PHNTX.ORG

OR CALL 214.521.5191

NOW OFFERING TELEHEALTH SERVICES

- Free STI Testing and Treatment
- Free HIV Testing with Treatment at Little to No Cost
- PrEP Prevention
- HIV Primary Care
- Transgender Primary Care
- Behavioral Healthcare
- Pharmacy
- Case Management
- Insurance and Financial Aid Assistance
- HIV Empowerment
- Health Insurance Enrollment Assistance



Oak Lawn

2801 Lemmon Ave, Suite 200

Oak Cliff

219 Sunset Ave, Suite 116-A

South Dallas

4922 Spring Ave

Worth Street

4004 Worth Street

OBITUARY



Richard A. Billingsley, former chief nursing officer at Mena Regional Health System, died Jan. 16, 2022, at his home in Fort Lauderdale, FL. He was 67.

Rick was born April 16, 1954, in Mena, Ark., to Richard A. Billingsley Sr. and Essie Mae Standridge, who owned and operated Beasley Funeral Home. A talented musician, Rick served as an organist and pianist at several local churches during his teenage years.

After graduating from Mena High School, Rick went on to have a long career in health care. He initially completed his RN training at UA Fort Smith, and he worked as a nurse at hospitals in Fort Smith, Little Rock and, during the 1980s and early 1990s, in Dallas. He worked for the Dallas County Health Department. And he volunteered with the city council campaign of Lori Palmer, who lived down the street from him on Maple Springs Boulevard.

Rick subsequently shifted to administrative and management positions primarily in the public health and hospital administration fields. Much of his later work focused on training medical staff, especially nurses,

in addition to his recent work at Mena Regional Health. He held senior positions at hospitals in Lancaster, Penn., Palm Springs, Calif., and Falls Church, Va. He held a faculty position at The George Washington University Medical Center in Washington, D.C., between 2000 and 2010, and he worked at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda between 1998 and 2000.

Rick was a strong believer in life-long learning. He received a master's degree in information science from Catholic University, a master's degree in nursing from Drexel University and a master's degree in Health Care Administration from Seton Hall University. He later earned a doctorate of nursing practice degree at the University of San Francisco, where his doctoral project was "Improving the Patient Experience by Implementing Patient-Centered Care in Community Hospitals." During his recent years in Mena, Rick also made frequent presentations to nursing students at UA Rich Mountain and served on the board of the college's Foundation.

In addition to his passion for quality health care, Rick was an accomplished cook and baker.

Rick is survived by his husband, Paul Greenberg of Fort Lauderdale, and his sister, Martha "Moppy" Billingsley of Mena.

An endowed scholarship fund to support nursing students is being established in Rick's memory at UA Rich Mountain. A memorial gathering is planned during March.

At least nine other women have been killed this month in Juarez in addition to Martinez and Ramirez.

— David Taffet

France bans conversion therapy

In a unanimous vote, the French Parliament has banned conversion therapy that seeks to change a person's gender identity or sexual orientation, a process that has been condemned as dangerous by medical associations around the world. Practicing the debunked

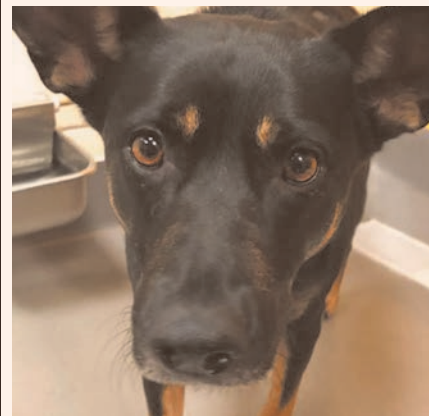
therapy in France now carries a criminal penalty of up to two years in prison and a fine of 30,000 euros.

President Emmanuel Macron signed the bill into law.

France becomes the seventh country to ban conversion therapy after Albania, Brazil, Canada, Ecuador, Germany and Malta. Conversion therapy is also banned in 20 U.S. states, Washington, D.C., and a number of cities and counties around the country.

— David Taffet

■ Adoptable / WREN



Meet **Wren**, a 5-year-old Shepherd mix who is searching for a foster home. She came to the SPCA of Texas as a stray,

so not much is known about her past. Wren is a shy, sweet girl looking for a family to show her the ropes of being a pet. She is quiet, calm and very gentle. Once she gets to know you, she loves to be petted and go for slow walks around the yard. Wren is waiting to meet you at the SPCA of Texas' Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas. To meet her, please visit www.spca.org/dogadopt.

Regular adoption fees are \$150 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months and \$75 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older. Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetHealth, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a rabies tag and a free leash.

Builders SURPLUS
Smashing High Prices!
YEE HAAA!!!
The Largest Selection of Cabinets, Doors, Vanities and Tubs in the DFW Area
Save 40% - 60%
2610 West Miller Rd • Garland • 972-926-0100
5832 E. Belknap • Haltom City • 871-831-3600
www.builderssurplustexas.com

Tired of SHAVING?
We Can Help!
Serving the LGBT Community since 2011!
Call Today for your **FREE Consultation!**
682-593-1442
htgelectrolysis.com
4245 N. Central Expy.
Suite 450, Dallas, TX
Hair Today Gone Tomorrow
Electrolysis & Med Spa

TOYOTA of IRVING
This is your place

STORE TO DOOR EXPRESS STORE

Start and finish the car buying process 100% online and we'll deliver it to you!

In this time of social distancing, we are offering new ways to bring the dealership to you.

STORE TO DOOR TEST DRIVE

www.toyotaofirving.com | 1999. W. Airport Frwy, Irving, TX 75062 | Brian Smith - 972.210.1516

VOICES

OPINIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY

Bloody stupid

It's past time to end the ban on gays donating blood

Are straight people OK? And before you answer, just let me say this: No. No, they are not.

Case in point: I just read an article about how there is a national blood supply shortage and then minutes later came across an article about Machine Gun Kelly and Megan Fox drinking each other's blood to celebrate their engagement. And apparently, Travis Barker and Kourtney Kardashian spent last year sharing sexual-innuendo-laden photos of blood vials on Instagram.

Am I saying that the blood shortage could somehow be alleviated if MGK and Fox donated instead of drank that blood? No. I mean, as far as I can tell MGK and Fox didn't drink THAT much. But, hey, donating together maybe could have been a nice gesture.

But you know who can't donate together? Pete and Chasten Buttigieg. And, no, not because they are too busy raising their baby twins (though "I'm too busy raising baby twins" is honestly a good excuse for just about anything, and, BY THE WAY, we really need paid family leave in this country).

No, the Buttigiegs can't donate blood



D'Anne Witkowski
Creep of the Week

because they're gay.

Wait? Is the ban on men who have sex with men donating blood still a thing in the U.S.?

Why, yes, it

is.

And during a blood shortage, no less.

According to CBS news, this is the first time the Red Cross has declared the low level of blood on hand a national crisis. Their statement reads, "If the nation's blood supply does not stabilize soon, life-saving blood may not be available for some patients when it is needed."

Yikes! I don't know about you, but I'm much more comforted by the idea of bleeding out and dying than I am in receiving life-sustaining blood that came from a GAY.

Sadly, that twisted view is not hyperbole for some. And so, the ban on MSM blood remains.

According to ABC News, "The Food and Drug Administration bars people who have had sex with gay or bisexual men from donating blood for three months following the most recent sexual contact because of fears of HIV in the blood supply."

Granted, the ban isn't as strict as it used to be. It went from a total ban to a year

of required abstinence. The COVID-19 pandemic ushered in the three-month version in 2020.

Anyone who isn't a homophobic AIDS-panic weirdo understands that blood testing has come a long way since the ban was first enacted in 1983. For Pete's sake, Pete Buttigieg was born in 1982! We've come a long way, baby.

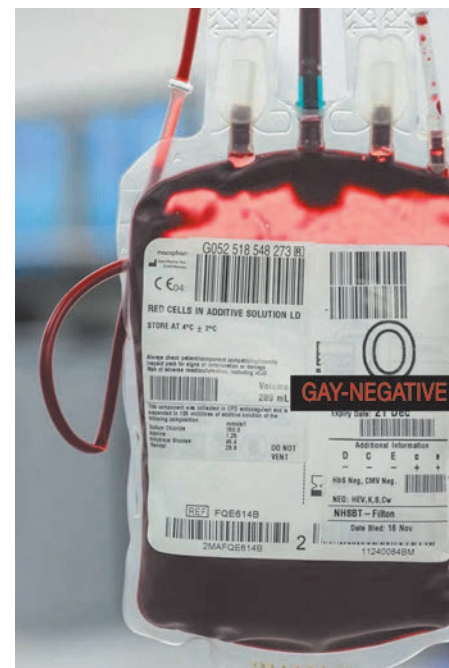
Which is why a group of 22 Democrats — including Democratic Sens. Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Cory Booker of New Jersey and Tammy Duckworth of Illinois — have written a letter to the FDA saying, "Stop being bloody stupid."

"We write to express our alarm at the nationwide shortage of blood and blood products, which has placed patient care and safety at risk," the letter, which is dated Jan. 13, begins. "We urge the Food and Drug Administration to quickly act on the best available science and update its outdated and discriminatory blood donor deferral policies for men who have sex with men."

But thankfully it's entirely within one's own control whether or not they have a catastrophic event — whether it's a car accident or a complication in the operating room — and most people will do the patriotic thing and say, "Not today, Bloodloss."

All so we can keep a policy that protects no one.

"Any policy that continues to categorically single out the LGBTQ+ community is discriminatory and wrong," the letter continues. "Given advances in blood



screening and safety technology, a time-based policy for gay and bisexual men is not scientifically sound, continues to effectively exclude an entire group of people and does not meet the urgent demands of the moment."

Unfortunately, we've seen how receptive people in the U.S. are to things that are scientifically sound, not to mention meeting urgent demands in the moment. So I'm sure this whole MSM blood ban will get fixed right quick without anybody getting hurt.

But at least the Trump Administration isn't at the helm? Maybe there is hope? I don't know. But in the mean time, I have some bespoke artisan blood vials to sell out of the back of my minivan. It's for sale only to Internet celebrities who vow to use it only for completely self-obsessed purposes. As God intended. ■

D'Anne Witkowski is a writer living in Michigan with her wife and son. She has been writing about LGBTQ+ politics for nearly two decades. Follow her on Twitter @MamaDWitkowski.



M. Angel Irvin

Insurance & Financial Services Agent

14651 Dallas Parkway
Suite 110
Dallas, TX 75254

COVERAGE FOR THE THINGS YOU CARE FOR

- Automobile insurance
- Business insurance
- Home insurance
- Life insurance
- WINNER - Best Insurance Agent - RVA 2021

Call 972-367-6200 today!

Let me help you get the most value out of your insurance coverage.



Restrictions apply. Discounts may vary. Not available in all states. See your agent for details. Insurance is underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange and other affiliated insurance companies. Visit farmers.com for a complete listing of companies. Not all insurers are authorized to provide insurance in all states. Coverage is not available in all states. Life Insurance issued by Farmers New World Life Insurance Company, 3120 139th Ave. SE, Ste. 300, Bellevue, WA 98005. *Securities offered through Farmers Financial Solutions, LLC. Member FINRA and SIPC 818.584.0200. Home office: 31051 Agoura Rd. Westlake Village, CA 91361



IMMIGRATION

Same-sex Couples and Individuals
Green Cards ♦ Fiancé Visas ♦ Citizenship Waivers ♦ Appeals ♦ Deportation Defense

OLINGER LAW, PLLC
LYNN S. OLINGER

Board Certified Immigration Law Specialist

Serving the LGBT community for 15+ years

214.396.9090

www.lsolaw.com



Welcome to Dallas Voice's
READERS VOICES AWARDS 2022!

We look forward to 2022 as the year we will move past
the pandemic and finally embark on

THE ROARING '20S

And we invite our readers to Roar into the New Year with us
by recognizing and honoring the good old days of 2021!



VOTE
Winner gets \$500!

\$100 at Cremona Bistro
2 tickets to Uptown Players!

* One winner will be selected from all votes to win

Vote Here!

dallasvoice.com/rva

dallasvoice
The Premier Media Source for LGBTQ Texas

Gotta have faith

BEYOND THE STAGE

Singer steps into big shoes for George Michael tribute

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

For a moment in time, there were random tales of folks seeing George Michael around Dallas. He lived here sometimes with his then-partner Kenny Goss. That connection to him may feel slight now, but performer Craig Winberry finds delight in the fact there is something here that ties the city and the singer together.

“His music connects globally, but having that Dallas connection will add another layer,” Winberry said by phone from Denver.

Winberry plays the singer in *The Life and Music of George Michael*, a new tribute show that comes to the Majestic Theatre on Saturday, Jan. 29.

In the show, Winberry plays Michael in his solo years, delivering many of Michael’s biggest hits in concert format while also sharing stories about the singer.

Winberry grew up a fan of Michael and was influenced by his music and MTV era videos. “He just stood out to me and had the most impact,” he said. “For me, as an artist, [Michael] sang and wrote and produced everything, but he was also really sharing himself. It was the real deal.”

Winberry said he noticed a singer sharing parts of his life through his music but also someone who wanted to have a good time. To him that’s what connected the singer to his fans.

“He was taking parts of his life and putting that into his music to share with his audiences,” he said.

The Life and Music of George Michael has been on tour throughout the country and is described as an immersive concert-style show about the singer. Winberry shares the stage with Rory Phelan, who portrays Michael in his early years, most notably in Wham! Then Winberry



Craig Winberry as George Michael
(Photo Courtesy Hannes van der Merwe)

would give edge in this audition: Michael had influenced Winberry strongly enough that Winberry would often perform Michael’s music as a club singer in New York.

“When I saw this, I thought I could be a good candidate,” Winberry said. “He influenced my vocalizations, and some people have told me I sound like him and can look like him.”

So, he stood in the audition line, submitted his tapes, and then they reached out.

For a New York actor at this time, the role is a gift.

“I had written up a show, and we were putting it up in New York, and great things were happening — until

COVID,” Winberry said. “So having this right now, it’s truly been a godsend.”

But it’s not like he can just go onstage and be a character; Winberry has to be the George Michael.

“These are big shoes to fill, and approaching the show, I really wanted to honor him,” Winberry said. “I wanted to keep true to the original tracks and really share his story through these songs.”

Winberry’s favorite song to perform is “Jesus to a Child.” The song was written in tribute to Michael’s lover, Anselmo Feleppa, who died from AIDS-complicated illness.

“It’s such an emotional song,” Winberry said.

As the tour goes on, Winberry sees that queer-audiences are coming to the show perhaps to have one more experience with the singer. But for Winberry himself, Michael’s influence is deeper than music.

“Me personally, I’m standing on his shoulders as a singer and a person. I think there is a gay audience that comes to the show that understands this. They remember his music and how it affected them in many ways,” he said.

After his death, Michael was discovered to have been quietly charitable, and part of the legacy of this show upholds that. Winberry explained that a dollar from every ticket sold goes to the New York-based charity God’s Love We Deliver, which helps those living with HIV/AIDS, cancer and other serious illnesses by preparing and delivering nutritious meals to people who are unable to provide or prepare meals for themselves.

Winberry assured that fans won’t be disappointed and that all the big hits are there. As for any surprises in the show, he said there are some tracks that may be unexpected and others where those first notes hit and the audience roars.

“People just lose it when that song comes on in the second act,” he said. “This is an opportunity for his fans to come out and have a good time. The audiences so far are always on their feet.”

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit thelifeandmusicofgm.com.

On high alert

LOCAL NEWS

After a terrorist incident at a local synagogue, LGBTQ groups are rethinking their security

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Since the recent terrorist incident at Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, religious congregations — especially Jewish synagogues — and LGBTQ organizations in North Texas and around the country have been on high alert.

Congregation Beth El Binah — both Jewish and primarily LGBTQ — has arranged police protection for its upcoming services. Additional security measures are being taken to secure the building and keep attendees safe.

The Rev. Ann Willet, pastor of Northaven Church, has received threats because she's a woman leading a congregation and because her congregation has replaced "United Methodist" on its sign with a Pride flag. Those threats have been turned over to the Dallas police. And Northaven already had police protection in place at its services, for Willet and her congregation, when the attack at Congregation Beth Israel took place on Jan. 15.

On the attack in Colleyville, FBI Director Christopher Wray was clear: "This was not some random occurrence," he said. "It was intentional; it was symbolic, and we're not going to tolerate antisemitism in this country."

But LGBT organizations receive threats regularly, and Dallas has some high-profile potential targets.

Speaking for Caven Enterprises and the bars it owns along Cedar Springs Road, Tracy Nanthavongsa said, "Security is on-going."

He said the security officers the company hires are armed, and the number of officers hired depends on the threat level. With the latest threats, the company is planning additional staff training.



LGBT Police Liaison Megan Thomas, left, The Rev. Neil Thomas, right



Without being specific, he said additional measures are in place.

Cathedral of Hope is the largest predominantly LGBTQ church in the world, and its pastor, the Rev. Neil Thomas, said he thinks a predominantly LGBTQ church like his has been preparing for years for times when tighter security is needed. The church has received threats ever since its founding, and protesters have even crossed onto church property to demonstrate.

"So we've had security concerns for quite some time," Thomas said.

He added that, like Congregation Beth Israel, he regularly participates in security training with Cathedral of Hope's staff.

Thomas believes this city is in a good position because of a good hate crimes division within the FBI office in Dallas. Even when he's received intelligence over the last few years, things have remained quiet. Possibly that's due to the work of the FBI, which doesn't make announcements about terrorist events that have been prevented.

Thomas also credits the Dallas Police Department, which has had an LGBTQ liaison officer since the early 1990s. Good relations between a congregation with a large LGBT membership and police means they're working together.

Dallas police LGBT liaison Officer Me-

gan Thomas agrees that working together is one of the best ways to remain safe, whether it's between police and churches, police and businesses or police and organizations. She said businesses are welcome to reach out to her, but it's important for organizations to know the cops on the beat, no matter where they are in the city. She said she can facilitate stores, bars, churches or private offices meeting their neighborhood police.

Officer Thomas said Zoom is one of the safest ways for groups to meet. But as organizations begin meeting in person again, retaining an online component may be part of a safety plan. A quick scan of the room is a way for in-person and at-home attendees to interact, but it can also be a way to help police identify who attended in person should an incident occur.

Camera systems are becoming an important part of security. For a church, cameras should cover three areas: the parking lot, the gathering hall and the meeting place.

Next, Officer Thomas had an interesting piece of advice: "Be as gay as you possibly can," she advised. "It's our specialty."

She said when new people attend your church or organization, be gay and friendly and outgoing. Chat up a new person. Ask them to fill out a contact

card with name, phone, email or any other information to keep in touch. Wear name tags. Then the next time that person shows up, if they're using a different name, you know something's up.

Keep doors locked, especially if it's a small group. Synagogues have been doing this for years. For services, doors may be open when large groups are entering, but during services and during business hours, doors are latched.

When leaving, don't walk to the parking lot alone — especially at night. Walk in groups and get off your phone. Pay attention to your surroundings. If you need to call someone, call before you leave the building or after you're in your locked car.

Officer Thomas said she's seen groups walking to their cars in Oak Lawn and loves when they call someone walking alone and joins that person to get them to their car safely. She said that applies to walking in your neighborhood alone as well. Know which homes have Ring doorbells. Be aware of who can see you and who you can see.

When possible, park in lighted areas and walk down streets that are more brightly lit.

This is a dangerous time. People are feeling pandemic burnout. Businesses are short-staffed, and customers can be short-tempered, highlighting the pressures we're all under.

After an incident like the one that happened at Congregation Beth Israel, many of us remain on edge.

If you're thinking there might be more you can do to protect your parishioners, customers, business associates, Officer Thomas said to contact her. She will arrange a security sweep with a SWAT coordinator who may recommend changes or teach security drills for your staff.

Officer Thomas also said that, beginning in February, she will be offering self-defense classes with trained instructors to teach you how to stun someone and get away and how to safely get out of holds. ■

To reach LGBT liaison officer Megan Thomas, email her at megan.thomas@dpd.ci.dallas.tx.us

Censorship efforts continue

A PARENTS'S POV

Fighting back against the attacks on diverse and inclusive books

Preschooler Heather is no stranger to opposition. Lesléa Newman's 1989 *Heather Has Two Mommies*, the first picture book to depict happily coupled same-sex parents and their child, has faced opprobrium from conservatives since shortly after it was published. Now, it is one of a record number of other books for children and teens, largely about people with marginalized identities, that are under attack across the country.

In 1992, Heather and Michael Willhoite's *Daddy's Roommate* (1990) were used as examples of "the militant homosexual agenda" by an Oregon group campaigning to allow anti-gay discrimination. The same year, both books were part of a proposed "Rainbow Curriculum" in New York City about respecting all types of families, but both were removed in the face of hostility.

Heather ultimately garnered a top-10 spot on the American Library Association's Most Frequently Challenged Books list for 1990-99. Most librarians supported it, though, Newman told me in a 2015 interview, and it mostly stayed on shelves.

Challenges continued, however. Heather was also among the ALA's Top 100 Most Banned/Challenged Books for the decade 2010-2019, along with more than 20 other LGBTQ-inclusive children's and young adult books (which also spoke to the growth of the genre). And this past December, leaders of Pennsylvania's Pennridge School District removed Heather from all elementary school libraries.

They also told school officials that all books about gender identity (which Heather doesn't explore) should be removed from shelves and placed in a separate area, only available to parents or guardians upon request, reported



Dana Rudolph
Contributing Columnist

WHYY.

This is only one of a rising number of efforts across the U.S. to ban or restrict children's and YA books with characters who are LGBTQ or people of color or that deal with topics like gender, race and racial justice. "We've seen a three-fold increase in the number of daily book challenges being reported to ALA compared to the same period last year," the ALA tweeted on Dec. 30, 2021.

Private individuals and groups, sometimes backed by national organizations with long ties to anti-LGBTQ activism, have made these challenges, but so have elected officials. In just two examples, Texas Republican state Rep. Matt Krause last October asked schools across the state to tell him whether they hold any of about 850 books that he is concerned "might make students feel discomfort, guilt, anguish or any other form of psychological distress because of their race or sex." And South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, also a Republican, in November asked the state superintendent of education to investigate "the presence of obscene and pornographic materials in public schools," triggered by parents in one district concerned about *Gender Queer: A Memoir*, by Maia Kobabe, which has also seen bans or challenges in at least six other states, according to a Washington Post article by Kobabe last October.

The book has the ALA's support, how-



ever; in 2020 it won the organization's Alex Award, given to books written for adults that have a "special appeal" to young adults.

Many people are fighting this wave of challenges. In December, the National Coalition Against Censorship, an alliance of more than 50 national non-profits, released a statement with other LGBTQ, civil rights, faith, literary and youth organizations, as well as major publishers, book agencies, independent bookstores, authors, teachers, librarians and others (including myself), condemning the "organized political attack on books in schools."

It explains, "Libraries offer students the opportunity to encounter books and other material that they might otherwise never see and the freedom to make their own choices about what to read. Denying young people this freedom to explore — often on the basis of a single controversial passage cited out of context — will limit not only what they can learn but who they can become."

Banning or restricting books because of their characters' identities or experiences is akin to saying that people with

those identities or experiences don't deserve a place in our communities. Diverse and inclusive books can help young people know they are not alone and guide them in navigating the situations and emotions they — or their peers — may be experiencing.

Keeping such books in schools and libraries is vital, and in some cases life-saving.

How can we help? This is a multi-pronged problem, but as a start:

- Confidentially report censorship that you see to the ALA and/or to NCAC (ala.org/challengereporting; ncac.org/report-censorship).

- Buy children's and YA books about LGBTQ and other marginalized people if your means allow or borrow them from your local library (and recommend them if they're not there). Share about them on social media and leave reviews at online booksellers.

- Participate in GLAAD's #BooksNotBans social media campaign.

- Stay tuned in to your local politics and participate in city/town and school board meetings. Vote even in purely local elections.

Let us take heart, too, from *Heather's* resilience over 30 years and multiple editions (most recently in 2015), and from the flourishing of the genre that she helped propel. LGBTQ-inclusive books for young people of all ages now include characters across the LGBTQ spectrum, and their numbers, once a trickle, have skyrocketed since about 2017.

Many have been honored for their literary merits as well as their inclusive content. Books about characters with other marginalized identities have similarly flourished despite obstacles. Opponents will, I hope, find it increasingly difficult to make compelling cases for their removal. That will in turn make it easier for all young people to feel that they belong. ■

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory, with a searchable database of 800+ LGBTQ family books, media, and more.

Dallas passes SOB ordinance

DALLAS CITY COUNCIL



Omar Narvaez

Sexually-oriented businesses will be required to close from 2-6 a.m. in the city

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Bringing Dallas' sexually-oriented business ordinance into compliance with state law has opened the discussion at Dallas City Hall over the entire

ordinance, and councilmembers voted Wednesday, Jan. 26, to limit what hours such businesses can stay open.

Employees of sexually-oriented businesses — mostly straight strip clubs and bookstores — must be 21 years old under Texas state law. But Dallas Police Chief Eddie Garcia has been pushing to have these businesses close between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. That's when most crime takes place at these businesses, Garcia said, and these businesses account for a large portion of police calls during those hours.

SOB Page 16

INCOME TAX RETURNS



RON ALLEN CPA, PC

- Former IRS Agent/ IRS Negotiations
- Individual and Business Tax Returns
- Same-Sex Marriage Issues
- QuickBooks Pro Advisor On Staff
- First Consultation Free
- Certified Public Accountant



2909 Cole Ave. Suite 119 • Dallas, TX 75204
214.954.0042
ron@ronallencpa.com • www.ronallencpa.com

rhapsody

TURTLE CREEK CHORALE'S BENEFIT GALA

also supporting BLACK THEATRE UNITED

presented by LEXUS

Featuring a private concert by Tony, Emmy, and Grammy Award winner

Audra McDonald

Meyerson
Symphony
Center

3 | 5 | 22

“
She is probably
the most talented
person on this planet!

”
New York Times

VIP and Concert
Tickets Available

Open Bar Receptions

Seated Dinner

Solo Concert by Audra McDonald

Complimentary Valet Parking

After-Party Experience with Live Band & Dessert

SPECIFIC BENEFITS DEPEND ON TICKET LEVEL

TICKETS AT RHAPSODYGALA.COM

DO IT AT



IT'S FAST IT'S EASY IT

T HOME

T'S FREE  CANHIVTEST.ORG

Blue Curaçao

TRAVEL

Your LGBTQ-friendly Caribbean fantasy beckons

ED SALVATO | Contributing Writer
ed@edsalvato.com

Curaçao is best known for the richly-colored colonial architecture in its capital city, Willemstad, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its appeal lies in its unique blend of cultures, warm and LGBTQ-friendly locals, pristine blue-green waters and white sand cove beaches, as well as its diverse cuisines and complex history.

The population of 160,000 is spread across 171 square miles of this kidney-shaped island located 40 miles from Venezuela and comprising at least 55 nationalities. Most locals speak four languages: Papiamentu (a Spanish and Portuguese-based creole language), Dutch, Spanish and English — a fluidity that empowers nimble thinking and open-mindedness.

You won't find the dispiriting poverty here that you would find elsewhere in the Caribbean, since Curaçao has a higher per capita income, a basic income in time of need and universal health care.

Same-sex marriages aren't performed locally, though they are legally recognized. Curaçao Pride (CuraçaoPride.com) takes place in the fall, which is also a great time to visit, since families with kids have gone back to school and much of the rest of the Caribbean is fretting about hurricanes.

Awe-inspiring art is found everywhere: live music, colorful murals, plein-air (and even underwater) sculptures and art galleries crammed into historic alleyways in Willemstad. Find more trip-planning information at Curaçao.com/en/.

STAY

Curaçao offers a wide variety of accommodations options from modest



Photos by Ed Salvato

AirBnBs to ultraluxury hotels and most major U.S. brands, but to maximize your local experience (without sacrificing quality), we recommend dividing a four- or five-night stay between the Bario, for its proximity to historic sites and wide variety of cuisines, and the Dream/Zoëtry complex, to wind down your experience in a luxurious beachside setting.

Local entrepreneurs — one of whom is openly gay — opened the Bario Hotel (Bariohotel.com), a chic property in an increasingly gentrifying neighborhood that is just a short walk to Willemstad. It offers unique units — some with kitchenettes — in restored and colorfully-painted historic buildings. The restaurant/lounge area boasts three local eateries. There is a pool on most nights there's a DJ or live music, but not to worry early risers; it quiets down by midnight.

The all-inclusive Dreams Resort Hotel, Spa & Casino (AMRCollection.com/en/resorts-hotels/dreams/curacao/curacao-resort-spa-casino) and Zoëtry Curaçao (AMRCollection.com/en/resorts-hotels/zoetry/curacao/cura-



cao-resort-spa) share a dreamy location in the leafy fishing community of Piscadera, a 10-minute drive from Willemstad on Curaçao's southwest-facing coast.

Think turquoise waters, glorious sunsets and not a care in the world. Make sure you have at least one meal of fresh seafood at Oceana at the edge of the bay. You'll often find groups of queer locals hanging at Crafty Iguana Brew Pub.

Zoëtry is pricier but there are far fewer families, and, while both are LGBTQ-friendly, this one is exuberantly so.

EAT/DRINK

The Willemstad area boasts myriad culinary influences and mouthwater-

ing fresh seafood and other specialties, whether at the most expensive haute-cuisine Dutch dining room or a humble beach shack. Mosa/Caña Bar & Kitchen (Mosacana.com) combines two previously separate concepts: Mosa serves international, tapas-style dishes and shared plates in a homey environment, while Caña is a Latin-inspired Caribbean bar and kitchen offering tacos, ceviche and other fresh seafood and meat dishes.

Barrio Urban Street Food (BarrioStreetFood.com) at the eponymous hotel offers a range of food styles in an outdoor market environment: upscaled street food, plant-based delights and a variety



of dishes involving the invasive but delicious lionfish.

While sightseeing downtown, carve out an hour for lunch at Marshe Bieu (TripAdvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g147278-d10687500-Reviews-Old_Market_Plaza_Bieu-Willemstad_Curaçao.html), an authentic local food hall located in the heart of Punda. It offers a wide variety of local dishes with ingredients fished, farmed or cooked up that day.

Try bonchi kòra (red bean soup) and funchi (fried polenta).

In the vibrant ex-pat popular Piet-ermaai area BijBlauw, (Bijblauw.com/restaurant?lang=en) offers sophisticated Dutch takes on local cuisine. It's pricey, and you'll mostly find other North American and European patrons, but the outdoor beachside setting is gorgeous.



Curaçao Fish Pier, top, Pride 2017 with Shary an Nivillac, above. (Photos by Diamond PR)

At the other end of the price and sophistication scale, one of the most highly recommended food experiences is Kas di Piskado Purunchi (Facebook.com/Piskafresku), an example of what locals call a fish shack — a casual indoor/outdoor restaurant perched on an inlet just outside of Willemstad on route to the airport. There's usually just one daily option comprised of fresh fried fish, served with fresh salad, fried banana and avocado and krioyo sauce.

SEE/DO

First things first, soak up the rich, complicated history (involving the slave trade) of Curaçao and its friend-

ly vibe, sparkling water views, eye-popping colors and abundant art with Step-by-Step Curaçao (StepByStepCuraçao.com/2021/08/02/island-tour), which offers a two-hour city tour on electric-powered, step-on seatless bikes with fat tires that can easily power up the occasional steep hills, all for \$30 per person. This tour covers the major sites,

including the 1888 floating Queen Emma Bridge, the sand-floored, 17th-century Mikvé Israel-Emanuel Synagogue, the architecture and plazas of Willemstad, local neighborhoods and numerous stops to ogle artwork and sample local snacks.

The best place to taste authentic Blue Curaçao liqueur is the Curaçao Liqueur Distillery at Landhuis Chobolobo (CuraçaoLiqueur.com/brand/the-curaçao-liqueur-distillery), offering a fun, fast-paced tour tracking the history of the island through this potent azure liqueur in a distinctive bumpy glass bottle. The tours include samples and the opportunity to enjoy or even mix Blue Curaçao-based cocktails.

BLUE, Next Page





EXPERIENCE YOUR FAVORITE DISNEY PRINCESS SONGS PERFORMED LIVE BY BROADWAY STARS



SUSAN EGAN



ARIELLE JACOBS



ANNELIESE VAN DER POL



SYNDEE WINTERS



ADAM J. LEVY



BENJAMIN RAUHALA

MUSIC HALL AT FAIR PARK
FEBRUARY 5, 2022

DISNEYPRINCESSCONCERT.COM

PRESENTED BY
PANDORA



© DISNEY

*CAST SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Klein Curaçao

Curaçao's flag includes two stars. One is for Klein (or little) Curaçao, an uninhabited island eight miles off the south-east coast with an abandoned lighthouse, several shipwrecks and the longest and whitest sand beach in the country. It's a two-hour catamaran tour with the expert seafarers of Blue Finn (BlueFinnCharters.com) that features an appetizing all-you-can eat lunch, cocktails, music and some narration.

GO WEST

Rent a car from your hotel to visit Westpunt, the rural, western part of the island, home to Curaçao's most beautiful beaches, a sprawling national park and plantation houses — beautiful but stark reminders of slavery. First, head to Shete Boka National Park (SheteBokaPark.org), adjacent to Christoffel Park, home of the highest peak on the island. The park covers more than six miles of the north coast of the island. It is exposed to rocky waves and features 10 small bays



Photos by Bearded Butler

where three species of sea turtles are known to lay eggs, and it includes the famous Boka Tabla cave.

A highlight of your visit will be the SEABOB Experience with Bearded Butlers Curaçao at Playa Piskadó with Andy, the incredibly handsome owner. Think of it as a handheld underwater electric jet ski enabling you to dive and swim quickly underwater for as long as you can hold your breath. No training or certification is required. It's \$90 for an hour, and Andy points out significant underwater elements including sea turtles and art placed on the sea floor!

Grab lunch at Karakter (KarakterCuraçao.com), a beachside restaurant with delicious tapas, sandwiches and fresh-caught seafood. Conclude your exploration of the west with a relaxing afternoon on the beach at Playa Kenepa Grandi located on the far west side where you'll find the vibrant, crystal-clear blue-green water and the pristine white sand beaches of your Caribbean fantasies. ■

N.Y.C.-based Ed Salvato is a freelance travel writer, instructor at NYU and the University of Texas at Austin's NYC Center and an LGBTQ marketing specialist.



Fort Worth, Grand Prairie and Plano all restrict the hours of SOBs in their jurisdictions. Plano is the most restrictive, forcing sexually-oriented businesses to close from 2 a.m. until 10 a.m.

Around the state, San Antonio and El Paso also have required closing hours, while Austin and Houston have no restrictions on hours such businesses can stay open.

The owners and managers of these sexually-oriented businesses argue that criminal incidents don't take place in the clubs themselves. And they're right: Most of the fights, hold-ups and other activity takes place in the parking lots and on nearby property. But some of those nearby properties are pawnshops, motels and gas stations that club owners say are the problem, not them.

Although the new ordinance was introduced by District 7 City Councilman Adam Bazaldua, because he chairs the Quality of Life, Arts and Culture Committee, most of the city's SOBs are within Councilman Omar Narvaez's District 6

in northwest Dallas.

Narvaez has been cautious about the ordinance and has said he worries about the businesses and the people they employ in his district. He doesn't want this to be a morals issue.

Chief Garcia has been clear on that front. This isn't a morals issue to him, either. He has said he's strictly looking at the number of police calls to these properties at those hours and that the number of calls to these businesses takes up a large portion of police and fire resources during those hours, thus decreasing response time for other calls.

His goal, Garcia said, is to reduce violent crime.

Gay bars are not considered sexually-oriented businesses. The clubs affected by the ordinance are generally known as gentlemen's clubs. But Oak Lawn bar owners worry that, although they're not included in the category of SOB today, they could be included eventually, or that there could be a push to include them. But other than after-hours events

at a few bars, LGBTQ bars already close at 2 a.m.

At the full City Council meeting this week, Narvaez said he's never seen an issue get so political. He apologized to the employees of the businesses affected for not doing enough to support them.

Narvaez said he would work with those who will lose their jobs because of the reduced hours — who are mostly women — to help them find rental assistance, job assistance and other available programs.

Narvaez ended his remarks from the horseshoe saying the ordinance was rushed through and he's not happy with it, but he'd vote for it.

Mayor Pro Tem Chad West read a letter from Dallas College Trustee Diana Flores offering job training programs at the school. He agreed with Narvaez that the ordinance was rushed.

West suggested an appeal process for businesses that have not had a crime problem. Garcia disagreed, saying the businesses should be closed to avoid any

potential problems.

Despite objections from the police chief, West made a motion to create an appeal process for businesses that meet a crime standard comparable to other businesses open 24 hours (such as a Whataburger).

The motion failed, with only three council members voting for it including West and Narvaez.

Narvaez offered a motion that the ordinance be reviewed every two years. That motion passed with 10 out of 15 votes.

The ordinance itself passed with all 15 votes.

Under the new ordinance, employees of businesses licensed as SOBs would have to be 21 years old. Any business that violates the new closing hours would have its license suspended for up to 30 days. Any business that operates during the suspension could lose its license to operate in Dallas.

In addition, anyone violating the new rules could be fined \$4,000 and could be jailed for up to a year. ■

GAY AGENDA



Hadestown, presented by Dallas Summer Musicals and featuring gay actor Levi Kreis, closes with two performances — a matinee at 1:30 p.m. and the final show at 7:30 p.m. — Sunday, Jan. 30, at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Tickets start at \$35 and are available online at DallasSummerMusicals.org. Visit DallasVoice.com to read Dallas Voice Staff Writer Rich Lopez's interview with Kreis. (Photo by T. Charles Erickson)

PLAN YOUR WEEK

The Gay Agenda is now color-coded:

- Red for community events
- Blue for arts and entertainment
- Purple for sports
- Green for nightlife
- Orange for civic events and holidays

■ Biweekly: Hope Cottage Foster Parent Information Meeting

Hope Cottage holds information meetings for those interested in becoming foster parents. The meetings are held alternately on Saturdays at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 6 p.m. For information, email Clyde Hemminger at chemminger@hopecottage.org.

JANUARY

■ Jan. 28: An Evening with Dog the Bounty Hunter

Against all odds, Duane "Dog" Chapman has turned his life around, going from ex-con to American icon. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

■ Jan. 28: Winter Solstice Fire & Ice

The Winter Solstice Fire & Ice party, powered by Betty Neal and AO and hosted by Black Barbie, will be held from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3903 Cedar Springs Road. The event features Ruby Scott Jacquet, Reign Showers, Boleggs and Glam. For tables and reservations text 214-664-5249.

■ Jan. 29: The Life and Music of George Michael

A new immersive concert-style show that chronicles the journey George Michael had with music and his fans. The show captures the performance and sound with concert-style staging and lighting while telling his story through early music hits from Wham! and his illustrious solo career. Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. at 8 p.m. TicketNetwork.com.

■ Jan. 30: Broadway and Silver Screen Drag Brunch

The Sexy Sisters Production presents the Broadway and Silver Screen Drag Brunch at Six Springs Tavern, 147 N. Plano Road in Richardson, with doors opening at noon and the show at 1 p.m., featuring Linze Serell, Toni Faye Alexander, Carmella Dubuque, Sienna Silver, Marcus David and Dahila VonHexx. There is no cover. Door prizes will be given away, and items will be auctioned off. Proceeds benefit the North Texas Pride Foundation and the Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System. [Facebook.com/Events/610783120021742/](https://www.facebook.com/Events/610783120021742/).

■ Jan. 30: Herb Alpert and Lani Hall

Herb Alpert and Lani Hall perform at the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. at 7:30 p.m. ATPAC.org.

■ Jan. 30: Benjamin Appl

The Dallas Opera presents German baritone Benjamin Appl at 2 p.m. at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

■ Through Jan. 30: Hadestown

Dallas Summer Musicals presents the musical *Hadestown* at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. DallasSummerMusicals.org.

■ Jan. 31: Drag on Tap

Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. 100, presents Drag on Tap from 9-11 p.m., featuring Sissy 2, Kylee O'Hara, Kilo Kikii and Darlin Clementine, along with DJ Athena and DJ Level.

FEBRUARY

■ Feb. 2: CSMA Wine Walk

Cedar Springs Merchant Association's First Thursday Wine Walk for February takes place from 6-9 p.m. Purchase a \$10 wine glass at the tent in front of The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road, and get a raffle ticket for the drawing at the end of the evening. StripOnCedarSprings.com.

■ Feb. 4-13: Matilda the Musical

Presented at Casa Manana, 3101 W. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. TicketMaster.com

■ Feb. 5: Disney Princess – The Concert

Disney Princess — The Concert is an 80+ city U.S. tour bringing together Broadway's Disney princesses to perform beloved Disney classics. The cast will perform more than 30 favorite Disney Princess and Frozen songs, including classics "Let It Go," "A Whole New World" and "A Dream is a Wish Your Heart Makes." Fair Park Music Hall. Tickets at Ticketmaster.com.



COLD OUTSIDE, HOT INSIDE

Betty Neal is a legend in the Dallas LGBTQ community, so you know, when a party has her name on it, it's going to be great. Betty and AO present **Winter Solstice Fire & Ice**, party and show on Friday, Jan. 28, from 9 p.m.-2 a.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3903 Cedar Springs Road. The show features Ruby Scott Jaquet, Reign Showers, Boleggs and Glam and is hosted by Black Barbie. Text 214-664-5249 for reservations.



GLAMOUR DRAG IN RICHARDSON

Nothing says glamor more than Hollywood and Broadway, right? Well, you don't have to go to Hollywood or New York City to find all the glamor when Sexy Sisters present the **"Broadway & Silver Screen Drag Brunch"** on Sunday, Jan. 30, at Six Springs Tavern, 147 N. Plano Road in Richardson. The show benefits North Texas Pride Foundation and the Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System and features an all-star lineup of Linze Serell, Toni Faye Alexander, Carmella Dubuque, Sienna Silver, Marcus David and Dahila VonHexx. There is no cover charge, but there will be door prizes and auction items. Doors open at noon and the show starts at 1 p.m.



TAP THIS

Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. 100, presents **Drag on Tap** from 9-11 p.m. Monday, Jan. 31, with Sissy 2.0, Kylee O'Hara, Kilo Kikii and Darlin Clementine, along with DJ Athena and DJ Level.



AND WE'RE WALKIN'...

It may be chilly outside, but you will warm up quickly when you walk and sip at the **Cedar Springs Merchants Association's February First Thursday Wine Walk**. Pay \$10 to get your glass at the tent outside the Round-Up, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Be sure to get your raffle ticket too so you can be in the running for the fabulous gift basket that will be given away at the end of the evening.

■ Feb. 6-April 24: Sunday Billiards League

Sundays through April, Pride Sports Dallas presents the Sunday Billiards League from 3-6 p.m. at O'Riley's Pub, 8989 Forest Lane, Unit 120. Sign up at PrideSportsDallas.com.

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

Cassie Nova

ASK A DRAG QUEEN

Dicks, turtles and anti-vaxxers — and letting it go

Hey all y'all beautiful people. Today I find myself feeling some kind of way. The past few weeks, I have had a few instances at the shows that I need to deal with — mostly for my own personal mental health. And y'all know that me writing has somehow become my therapy. I have found that just writing stuff down and putting my thoughts in order helps me. Plus, some of the feedback I get from some of you has been really helpful.

Okay, so back to these "instances" at work ...

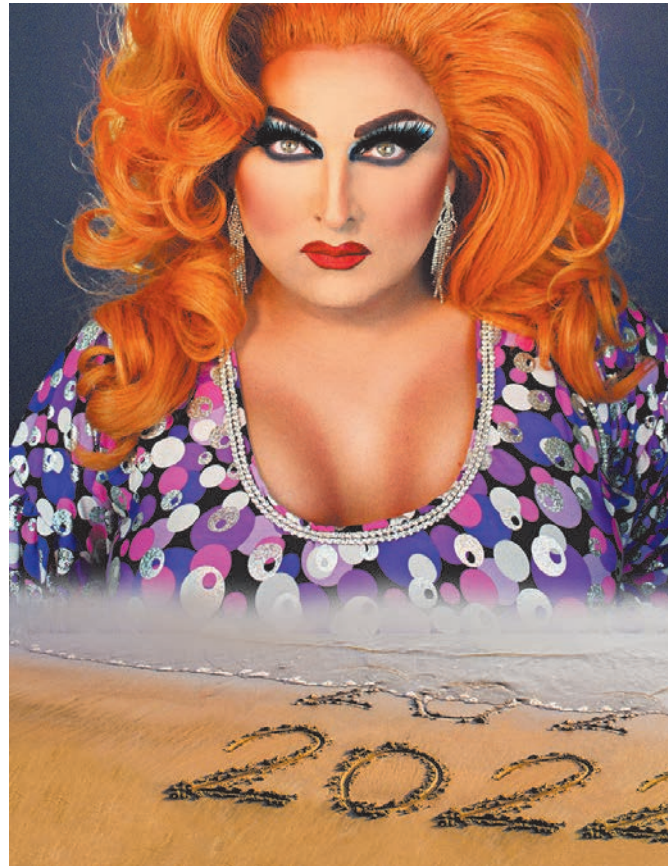
A few weeks ago, at the Monday night Freakshow at JR.'s, I had a person come to the show and sit next to the stage with his silver haired "friend" who paid for everything. No judgement; I have two sugar daddies (my husband and myself).

Now if you come to JR.'s on a show night — Monday or Tuesday — there are four tables in the light near the front of the stage. People who sit there usually want to watch the show. Well, on this particular night, while someone else was performing, I was walking around talking to folks, being the good hostess that I am, and I asked this person — let's call him Dick — and his silver haired partner if they were having fun. You know, keeping it casual. He answered, "No, now leave us alone," and waved me away.

I clutch my pearls and step away with an "OhhhKaaaaay!" in my best Leslie Jordan voice. I bring off the performer and step on stage and announce how I love seeing the backs of people's heads, referencing to the way he has made sure everyone sees that he is not watching the show with vigor. He puts both hands in the air, flipping me the double bird.

No tea; I get that not everyone likes drag and even more hate me in particular.

I go on a small rant about how big JR.'s is and how there are so many areas of the bar that you could go sit if you don't want to watch the show. There is a pool table area, the entire other side of the bar, there is even a busy intersection you can go play in. That is why I was so confused that they sat so close to the stage.



By the way, silver daddy is looking at me and lippping the words, "I am so sorry!" I just shake my head with a shrug that says, "Fuck it and fuck him."

The good people of JR.'s are ready to kick the Dick out, but, other than being a jerk, he hadn't done anything wrong. So I decide to just let it go — other than a few more comments about life being too short to be bothered by the back of someone's head. (Insert doggie style sex joke here.)

The show continued without incident, other than the normal amount of shenanigans and debauchery.

An hour after the show, I made a Facebook post venting my feelings about the situation. I actually felt better about the night, but I also had just a tinge of regret. Was I being petty? Should I even give that Dick a second thought, let alone the fact that I am writing about it and keeping the conversation going? Why can't I just let shit go?

Then, last week in the Rose Room, I am emceeing, doing my normal gig. I am wishing someone across the room a happy birthday when I notice the guy next to the stage has been repeating the same word to me, over and over: "Tur-

tle!" I ignore it for a while and try to continue my conversation with the birthday girl, and he just keeps on going: "Turtle, Turtle, Turtle!"

The guy doing this is someone I have known for many years. We are not great friends, but we say hi and make small talk when we see each other. But he just keeps on with this "Turtle, Turtle" bullshit.

I stop what I am doing and turn to him and kind of explode at him: "Why the fuck do you keep say-

ing turtle at me?" He says, "Because you have one."

I lose my freaking mind and proceed to read him for filth:

"First of all, I have a tortoise, not a turtle, and why are you yelling it at me? Is it because you want everyone here to know you know one small fact about me that isn't drag related? Are you trying to make it seem like we are better friends than we actually are? What is the purpose? To annoy, get attention, what?"

He laughs it off; I roll my eyes and continue the show.

But now I am annoyed — more at myself for the way I handled the situation than at him.

To the audience, I probably looked like a total jerk. I know a lot of people love it when a drag queen goes off on an individual, and it can be really funny if handled correctly. This wasn't funny or handled correctly. I should have just told him to chill and move on.

Don't get me started on the antivaxxer that called me dumb and said that is why I am only a drag queen. That night I handled my shit and put her in her place — next to the dumpster. Sometimes the best reads come from just letting them

speak. I didn't need to say a word, but I did. Somedays my inner Petty Patty just deserves to be heard.

Last night I had a guy call me ... You know what, fuck that. He doesn't deserve another thought.

I guess my problem is not being able to just let stuff go. I dwell on stuff like I am in a cave. It stays on my mind when it actually deserves none of my brain space.

Lately, it seems there have been so many people go mean so quickly. They are brutal. I need to not take the bait, but somewhere between my feelings and my ego lives a monster that can be summoned too easily.

Getting older is crazy. A younger Cassie Nova wouldn't give a shit if she ripped someone to shreds. I think then it was all ego and no feelings. Maybe the world has just gotten so mean that I don't want to keep adding to the negativity. I don't know, but I am going to try — I said try — to be more positive during shows and try to let shit go before it consumes me and makes me a full-on villain.

But please don't mistake my positivity for weakness. I will still read a bitch if a bitch needs readin'.

If you have any pointers on letting stuff go, hit me up and remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova

this week's solution

F	A	M	E	H	O	M	O	C	L	I	F	T		
O	D	E	R	A	V	O	N	L	E	A	S	E		
L	O	R	N	C	E	L	T	A	N	N	U	M		
K	R	I	S	T	I	N	D	A	V	I	S			
S	E	T	T	E		P	O	R	C	I	N	E		
Y	D	S	A	N	D	S	L	E	O	N	I	D		
			C	O	D	I	N	G		V	E	T	S	
			S	A	R	A	R	A	M	I	R	E	Z	
S	A	A	B		T	R	A	D	E	R				
P	I	L	L	A	R	E	N	O	S	M	D	S		
A	R	T	E	M	I	S		L	I	V	E	R	Y	
			C	Y	N	T	H	I	A	N	I	X	O	N
S	W	E	A	R		R	O	O	T		D	I	N	O
O	H	A	R	A		A	N	N	E		A	C	E	D
L	O	U	S	Y		W	E	A	R		L	O	S	S

 **browse**
For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.

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



BLACK TIE DINNER IS
NOW TAKING APPLICATIONS
FOR OUR **2022 BENEFICIARIES!**

Since 1982, Black Tie Dinner has distributed over \$27 million to our North Texas beneficiaries and our national beneficiary, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation!

Black Tie Dinner is proud to begin its 41st year in partnership with, and in support of, the North Texas LGBTQ community.

We are pleased to announce the 2022 beneficiary application and selection process is now open. We invite North Texas, LGBTQ-inclusive 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations to apply.

Applications are available online now!
For more details regarding the application, qualifications, requirements and selection process, visit:

blacktie.org/beneficiaries

The deadline for receiving completed applications is
Friday, February 18th, 2022.



www.blacktie.org

@blacktiedinner



SCENE

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



Kathy Jack shows off her Mavs Pride



Kylee at The Freakshow



Sergio and Zohar at Jersey Boys at the Music Hall in Fair Park



Beer Pong tournament at Sue Ellen's



Definitely a coffee kind of day, says Renee



Chained in love



Kelexis struttin' her stuff!

A night out at S4

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



Fun Times at TMC

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES





FIND IT ALL HERE AT

AMAZING

INTIMATE ESSENTIALS Adult DVD, Novelties, Magazines


Watch All The Movies In
Our World Famous 1200 Channel Arcade

**Home of the
World Famous
All-Day Movie Pass!**

Video Rooms - \$12 • Over 1200 Channels

11311 Harry Hines Blvd. #603
Facing Joe Field Plaza on Joe Field
972-243-2707
Sun-Thur 10am-12am
Fri & Sat 10am-2am





See & Be Scene!

Want to make you and your friends famous? We want to see your photos of your night on the town! Submit your photos (and don't forget to tell us where it was taken) to nash@dallasvoice.com for possible inclusion in an upcoming "Scene" section of Dallas Voice!

dallasvoice
The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas

MarketPlace

MarketPlace

Your calling card for LGBT Texas business
For information on advertising, call us at:
214-754-8710 ext. 110. Visit us online at:
dallasvoice.com/marketplace

dallasvoice.com

The Premier Media Source for LGBT Texas

Services



THE PAINTER

Specializing In Interior Painting

25 Years Experience

Free Estimates

Extremely Meticulous

TONY R.

972-754-1536

TonyRThePainter@netscape.com

Adult



10ml Aromas \$9.95

30ml Aromas - Large Selection!

2528 W. Walnut, Garland • 972-276-0893

Legal

COVELL PC
ESTATE PLANNING • PROBATE • BUSINESS LAW

- Wills ▪ Probate of Wills
- Powers of Attorney
- Trusts & Asset Protection
- Advanced Directives
- Business Law



Rebecca S. Covell
The attorney who's not crooked or straight

12222 Merit Drive, Suite 340
Dallas, Texas 75251

(214) 443-0300
rebecca@covellpc.com

Real Estate



Phil Hobson

Your Next Move is Key!

- Award Winning Real Estate
- Tech Savvy Marketing Plans
- Innovative approach to moving

Visit: hGroupHomes.com

Call: 214.659.3624



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
PenFed Realty Texas



Services

Jade Air
AIR CONDITIONING
& HEATING
SERVICE • SALES • INSTALLS
ALL MAJOR BRANDS
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
VISA, MC, AMX, DISC

Let Us Heat You Up!



Goodman
PROMPT
EXCEPTIONAL
SERVICE!

SERVING THE LGBT COMMUNITY FOR OVER 20 YEARS!

JadeAirDallas.com

214.522.2805

214.923.7904

Employment

DALLAS PD IS HIRING!
Our Excellence Begins With You

STARTING PAY \$61,367!

DALLASPOLICE.NET

Products

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
888-686-1233

FREE

7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available

Subject to Credit Approval

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

GENERAC



Services

Fantastic Moves



rva dallas voice READERS VOICE AWARDS 2018

VOTED BEST MOVERS 11 YEARS & COUNTING

rva dallas voice READERS VOICE AWARDS 2017

rva dallas voice READERS VOICE AWARDS 2016

rva dallas voice READERS VOICE AWARDS 2015

rva we are the BEST! READERS VOICE AWARDS 2014

rva WE'RE THE BEST! READERS VOICE AWARDS 2013

readers voice awards

readers voice awards rva.2010 dallasvoice.com

Experience Counts! 20+ Years Supporting the Community

214.349.6683

www.FantasticMoves.com

10610 Metric Drive, Suite # 175 Dallas, TX 75243

TXDMV 00521440B



PUZZLE |

And Just Like That...

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20				21					22					
23								24				25	26	27
28				29		30	31		32					
			33					34			35			
		36							37	38				
39	40					41								
42				43	44		45					46	47	48
49						50			51		52			
			53				54	55						
56	57	58					59					60		
61							62					63		
64							65					66		

Real Estate

BROWN SLOAN
ESTATE SALE ADVISORS

Bringing value to your valuables
Estate Sales • Consignments
Online Auctions • Clean Outs & More
We make it easy, call today!
214-533-0298
jamie@brown-sloan.com

Real Estate

LET'S MAKE A DEAL!
Todd Maley
www.MRealtyGroup.kw.com
toddmaley@aol.com
214-564-9598

kw Proudly Serving the LGBT Community
Keller Williams Realty

Real Estate

REAL ESTATE DONE RIGHT
DON'T MAKE A MOVE WITHOUT ME

- Buyer and Seller Specialist
- Accredited Buyer Representative
- Seller Representative Specialist
- Graduate Realtor Institute
- Relocation Specialist
- Accredited Staging Professional
- Concierge-Level Service

SCOTT CARNES
REALTOR®
GRI, ABR, SRS, ePRO, ASP
214.490.6895
scottcarnes@dpmre.com
yourhomeindallas.com

DAVE PERRY-MILLER
REAL ESTATE

LPI LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL

Solution on Page 18

Across

- 1 Shout before "I'm gonna live forever!"
- 5 ___ erectus
- 9 *From Here to Eternity* actor
- 14 River to the Baltic
- 15 Revlon rival
- 16 Rent
- 17 Sad ending for love
- 18 Stonehenge worker
- 19 Caesar's year
- 20 She plays Charlotte on *And Just Like That...*
- 23 Soft seat
- 24 Like 3 fairy tale pigs
- 28 Stat in Esera Tuaolo's sport
- 29 Extra stipulations
- 32 Brezhnev of Nuryev's land
- 33 Programmer's job
- 35 Docs for lions and tigers and bears
- 36 She plays Che on *And Just Like That...*
- 39 Sad-sounding auto?
- 41 Bear or bull
- 42 Upright shaft
- 45 Mireille of *Hanna*
- 46 ER VIPs
- 49 Diana, to the Greeks

- 51 Thomas Barrow's clothing on *Downton Abbey*

- 53 She plays Miranda on *And Just Like That...*
- 56 Word after "pinky"
- 59 Cheer for the Chicago Sky, e.g.
- 60 Pebbles's pet
- 61 Poet Frank
- 62 Vampire novelist Rice
- 63 Served perfectly, to Mauresmo
- 64 Wretchedly bad
- 65 Rupert Everett's *Ready to ___*
- 66 Bad bottom-line news

Down

- 1 Like Ani DiFranco
- 2 Had the hots for
- 3 Ought to get
- 4 Dadaist painter Max
- 5 Estate for Lorca
- 6 *Sweeney Todd* hot spot
- 7 Gelatin dish
- 8 Coming soon
- 9 Patricia Highsmith's Morgan
- 10 Mapplethorpe's cap
- 11 Magneto portrayer McKellen
- 12 Sch. of South Beach's state
- 13 Word after pro

- 21 "Coffee, ___ Me?"
- 22 Tennessee athlete, for short
- 25 Character in *No Exit*
- 26 Lead-in for wit or pick
- 27 Wood and others
- 30 Rita Mae Brown's *Pay ___*
- 31 Drum kit component
- 33 Way to go, in San Francisco
- 34 Fed. agent
- 36 It brings out the flavor in your meat
- 37 Adorer of David Archuleta?
- 38 Pine product
- 39 Place for sweaters
- 40 Earhart's domain
- 43 *Sure Feels Good Anyway* singer
- 44 Oysters ___ season
- 46 Kahlo's country
- 47 Pilotless planes
- 48 Church councils
- 50 The Scarecrow's "viscera"
- 52 Gore in a bookstore
- 54 Put an edge on
- 55 Island of Barrie's land
- 56 Tchaikovsky's fifth
- 57 First baseman of comedy
- 58 Debussy drank it

Experience where it counts!

Primary Care | HIV Specialists | Gender Affirmation | Cosmetic Procedures | Pharmacy

Concierge Medicine offered by Steven Pounders, M.D.

Direct care access 24-hours a day, seven days a week
Same or next day appointments | More consultation time

Ask about PrEP



**Erin Simms, FNP-C | D. Trew Deckard, PA-C, MHS | Steven Pounders, M.D.
Cameron Wyatt, FNP-C | Chad Nyland, D.O. | Chad Crager, FNP-C**

**Genoa
Pharmacy**
Open for new and
transferred prescriptions
214-276-8412

An award-winning medical practice with more than 30 years of experience!
Located in the heart of our community!

3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 600

Call today to schedule an appointment!

214.520.8833 | DrPounders.com