

dallasvoice

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Inside and out

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Supporters of teacher Rachel Stonecipher rallied outside the Irving ISD board meeting this week (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Students, community attend Irving ISD meeting to support embattled teacher

Former students and other community members attended an Irving ISD meeting on Monday evening, April 18, to support English teacher Rachel Stonecipher. The group of 35 supporters included Texas state Rep. Terry Meza and Resource Center's Rafael McDonnell.

Stonecipher was removed from her class early in the school year because she displayed a Safe Space sticker on her classroom door and questioned administrators when the sticker was removed. The former MacArthur H.S. teacher is now assigned to the district's disciplinary high school and expects to be terminated at the end of the school year.

McDonnell told the crowd on the steps of Irving ISD headquarters that he'd been working for more than half a decade to have the school district implement a non-discrimination policy.

Meza said she encouraged the school district to adopt a welcoming resolution for immigrant children. While Irving overwhelmingly defeated her resolution, Grand Prairie adopted an amended version that also included LGBTQ students.

During the public comment portion of the school board meeting, one student after another stood to say, "I'm here in support of Miss Stonecipher." One student said Stonecipher was a critical part of the success of students at MacArthur.

Student Elle Caldon said, "She was my writing coach. She encouraged me to try new things." Since Stonecipher's removal from the campus, Caldon said, the Gay Straight Alliance is gone, the journalism class has produced no school newspaper, and the philosophy club is defunct.

The claim against Safe Space stickers was that the stickers implied classrooms without stickers weren't safe for LGBTQ students. The principal claimed the entire campus is a safe space. But one student told the board, "One teacher made fun of my rainbow bandana. You claim we should feel safe at school. We don't."

— David Taffet

Shreveport announces Pride

ShrevePride, an organization from Shreveport, La., originally known as Shreveport Qprom, is a group that programs events across its city for LGBTQ "community members young and old to find support, social engagement and much

more." The group has announced three upcoming Pride events.

Field Gay will be held on June 4. This fun, outdoor, intramural sports event is designed to foster community and teamwork. Kick off Pride Month the ShrevePride way at A.C. Steere Park, 4009 Youree Dr, Shreveport.

Shreveport Q-Prom takes place on June 25. After two long years of global pandemic, ShrevePride's flagship event is back. The prom will be held at The Supper Club, 610 Commerce St, Shreveport. Tickets are available online at ShrevePride.com/Qprom.

And this fall, ShrevePride presents QUEST: Music & Arts Fest. The music line-up is still to be announced and tickets will go on sale before the October event. Visit ShrevePride for more information.

— David Taffet

Police ask for help in identifying bodies



Police are asking for help in identifying two bodies. The first person, pictured on the left, was found March 9 in the 6700 block of Skillman, and may be transgender or nonbinary. The second, a woman, was found April 8 in a small lake near 9699 N. Ste

Two unidentified bodies have been found in different locations in Dallas over the last week, and Dallas police are asking for the public's help in identifying them.

The first of the two was found dead March

9 in a creek near the 6700 block of Skillman Street, just east of Abrams Road. Dallas Voice has received information that this person might have frequented some of the bars in the Oak Lawn area.

Dallas Police described the individual as white male, approximately 5-feet, 11-inches tall, weight between 165-175 pounds and with reddish-brown hair. The person who wrote Dallas Voice, however, said they believed the unknown individual may have been transgender or nonbinary.

The deceased individual had a tattoo on their left inner forearm, "and was wearing a blue 'Lapis' style necklace along with a yellow and black 'Tiger Eye' style ring" on his their hand, police said.

Anyone with any information should contact Detective Boz Rojas Homicide Unit at 214-681-1786 or Boz.Rojas@dallascityhall.com.

Dallas police are also asking for the public's help in identifying a woman found Friday, April 8, at about 11:30 a.m. in a small lake near 9499

N. Stemmons Freeway, just north of Regal Row.

The incident is being investigated as an unexplained death.

The woman had three tattoos: One was a series of three cursive letters on the right side of her midsection, that appear to be FOE. A tattoo on her lower back reads "Destiny," also in cursive letters. A third tattoo, this one on the interior side of her right arm, looks like a bearded leprechaun wearing a hat.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Det. Derick Chaney with

the Dallas Police Homicide Unit by phone at 214-283-4804 or by email at derick.chaney@dallascityhall.com. Reference case number 061355-2022.

— Tammye Nash



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Obituary



Jim B. Mallory of Dallas, formerly of Cornelia, Ga., passed away on April 17, 2022, in Dallas. He was retired from the healthcare computer system industry where he had been employed by IBM, Accenture, Electronic Data Systems and

Perot Systems Corporation at multiple locations across the United States. In addition to Texas and Georgia, Jim had lived in a number of other states including California, New Mexico and North Carolina. His business years afforded him opportunities to travel to virtually all 50 states as well as European locations. By far, Jim's favorite place in the world was Paris, France. He was an active, engaged and continuously sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous for almost 40 years.

Jim was born at Fort McPherson in Atlanta, Ga., in 1954 and was brought up in Mt. Airy and Cornelia, Ga. He attended Hazel Grove Elementary School and South Habersham High School and was among the academic top 5 percent of students in the second graduating class of Habersham Central High School in 1972. He received his associates degree from University of North Georgia (Gainesville) in 1974 and his bachelor of science from the University of

Georgia in 1976. He attended graduate school at Georgia State University in 1980.

Jim first moved to Dallas in 1981 and remained here until 1983 when he began his "Journey across America," moving to and working in multiple cities and states. He moved back to Dallas in 1989 and remained here until his death.

Jim was the son of the late Jim B. Mallory of Atlanta and the late Floyce Wright Mallory of Cornelia. His maternal grandparents were the late William Luther Wright and the late Vallie Jane Patton Wright. He came from a big extended blood family with many first cousins, first cousins once removed, twice and three times removed, many of whom survive him. He also had a very large family of choice located across the United States with a concentration in Dallas.

Jim's remains will be scattered in a beautiful public park in Dallas, his adopted hometown. Jim considered himself a naturalized Texan but a true Georgian at heart and forever a DAWG.

At Jim's request, a private celebration of his life is being planned for a sunset boat excursion on the River Seine in Paris. His many visits to Paris each time culminated in a night-time trip down the Seine enjoying the lights of Paris from the open upper deck of a boat. Jim once described his greatest sense of peace as being when he was the lone passenger on the upper deck of a boat sailing down the Seine at night with the city lights flowing through a light snow.

■ Adoptable / XENOTE



Meet **Xenote**. The SPCA of Texas handles a lot more than just dogs and cats. In fact, it has cared for more than 500 different species during its years of service in North Texas. The SPCA of Texas routinely handles equine and livestock, and Xenote is one of our current residents looking for a forever home. She is an 8-year-old female standard donkey mix. She is in training for catching in pasture, but

she is already patient in standing for a farrier (a person who works on horseshoes). She is also good around children. The adopter experience level for this one is from beginner to intermediate. In terms of doing equine work, this donkey is available for adoption as a companion only. A potential adopter needs to have the space, facilities and enclosure to handle this kind of animal. The adoption fee for Xenote is \$300. 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, however the adult fee is reduced to \$25 until the end of April for the "Showers of Love" event. 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.

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Adventures in reading

Those banning books are harming children, not protecting them

I was chatting online recently with a friend from my childhood, someone I grew up with in Southern California. We were sharing memories of when, as kids, we would be waiting anxiously for the Long Beach Public Library's Bookmobile to show up so we could return borrowed books we had already read and borrow others that fed our interests. Our schools encouraged reading back then, and I'm grateful that they did. I love books still, and both Katie and I read every day.

But I don't ever recall state leaders declaring books in our library to be "obscene" or "pornographic;" those books were behind the counter in convenience stores or in your dad's nightstand.

Books are great: They take you on adventures and expose you to new ideas, cultures and history. Books super-charge your imagination. So it makes me sad to see our governor here in Texas once again interfering with what books a school library might have for students to read, especially since he seems specifically concerned over books about LGBTQ identities or experiences.

Just because a parent or two gets wound up about a particular book is no reason to remove that book. Maybe, instead, it should be celebrated! Books that generate passion are often classics.

Seems like parents who demand books be removed from the library are the same kind of people who go on a diet and then demand that restaurants remove all the desserts from their menu so no one else can eat them either.

Hey, just because you don't want your kid to read a book, shouldn't mean my kid can't! Besides, we read that which interests us. When was the last time you saw a kid read a book — other than assigned reading — that they weren't interested in?



Leslie McMurray

Accidental Activist

It's also important to note that the term "obscene" is a subjective. What might be "obscene" to you might not be obscene to me, and what I consider "obscene" might be something you think is perfectly fine. The Supreme Court said, for something to be obscene, it must be:

- Prurient in nature (exhibiting an excessive interest in sexual matters)
- Completely devoid of scientific, political, educational, or social value, and
- Violate local community standards.

I don't believe my life is any of those things, and I haven't come across a book in a school library that rises to that level.

The court also addressed the issue of pornography (a word tossed around by the governor) in 1964 by Justice Potter Stewart, to describe his threshold test for obscenity in *Jacobellis v. Ohio* and why the material at issue in the case was not obscene therefore was protected speech that could not be censored, wrote: "I shall not today attempt further to define the kinds of material I understand to be embraced within that shorthand description ['hard-core pornography'], and perhaps I could never succeed in intelligibly doing so. But I know it when I see it, and the motion picture involved in this case is not that."

Generally speaking, those books probably haven't won awards from the American Library Association.

It just gives me a creepy feeling when



state officials want to describe books that help students understand who they are — or help them understand a friend or family member or even just help them understand in general — and label those books as pornography.

My daughter loved the Harry Potter books, but she is neither a wizard nor transphobic. Following 9/11, I read books on terrorism and what leads to the kind of extremism that manifests itself in violence, but that didn't make me a terrorist. And, see, your kid reading a book about queer identities doesn't make them queer, any more than reading *Moby Dick* makes them a sea captain (or a white whale).

I think instead of limiting the variety of books and ideas available to students, we should broaden it! We should encourage kids to read more — to read whatever feeds their interest, whatever that interest is.

Then, as a parent, how about instead of fighting with the library about what books shouldn't be there, you spend that time talking to your kid about the book they just read. Have them share what they learned and discuss it with them.

Where does all of this fear come from? No book is going to turn your child gay

— or straight, for that matter. Censoring ideas isn't part of the fabric of a free society. It's quite the opposite.

Denying the racist history of America not only hides the truth, it also further delays the healing process. Trust your kids to be able to read the truth about our history and then they can work to help make things better.

I was pretty angry when I learned about the atrocities that were committed by Christopher Columbus. I was also upset with my school system that I didn't learn about the Tulsa race massacre and the meaning of Juneteenth until I moved to Texas as an adult. Neither of those historical events were taught in the California Schools.

I know parents want to preserve their children's innocence as long as possible. But kids grow up, so let's not make them grow up ashamed of their bodies and with reproductive health a mystery. Let's not brand LGBTQIA people as pornographic.

As a parent, instead of banning books and squashing ideas, I'd be pushing schools to add Critical Thinking to high school curricula. We need to teach students HOW to think, not WHAT to think. ■

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Scan to see Dimitri's story.

Housing costs are soaring

HOUSING COSTS

As DFW's population increases, housing is in short supply, but Scott Carnes has a few ideas that may give you an edge

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Think your rent is too damn high? Spiking rents are the trend around the country, but Dallas and other cities in the DFW area don't even rank in the top 10 in price hikes.

The No. 1 spot for annual percentage increase is Austin where residents are paying 40 percent more this year than last. As of December 2021, the average renter was paying \$2,290 per month for an apartment or rental property.

The rest of the Top 10 list includes New York City and three surrounding suburban areas, four cities in Florida and, at No. 10, Portland, Ore., with a 29 percent increase and average rents even higher than in Austin.

What's behind the rise in rental rates and housing prices? In Austin, Portland and Florida and cities like Dallas, it comes back to a growing population and a shortage of housing.

About 300 people move to the DFW area each day. We can assume some of those are couples and some are families. But still, there aren't 100 to 150 new housing units added each day. And that means there is a housing shortage.

Homebuilders still haven't caught up with demand since the last housing bust. And according to Zillow, Dallas has the largest shortage of new homes. Zillow reports that since the Great Recession, there's a shortage of 1.35 million new single-family homes in the 35 largest housing markets.

But are home prices too high? Fitch Ratings recently reported on the Top 20 housing markets. Houses are overvalued across the country except in three



markets — Dallas, Detroit and Las Vegas. The most overvalued markets? San Francisco and Seattle.

Scott Carnes, a real estate agent with Dave Perry Miller, agrees that current home prices in Dallas will hold their value. And areas like Preston Hollow and the Park Cities have seen the biggest jump in prices.

"People want single-family homes," he said. And that's kept something of a cap on prices in Oak Lawn, where few single family homes remain. But over the last year, condo and townhouse prices have been steadily creeping up as well.

What should purchasers know in this market?

"I warn clients they could be outbid by cash buyers," Carnes said.

He acknowledged that it doesn't always make sense. Why go with a lower bid from a cash buyer when waiting just a few weeks could mean a difference of

tens of thousands of dollars in some cases?

Another thing Carnes suggested is getting pre-approval for a mortgage. "Some lenders can do a final approval up front without knowing the house," he said. That shortens the time until closing. Otherwise the mortgage company would be waiting for the inspection and could delay closing until certain repairs are made.

Another thing Carnes said he's seen in this market is buyers making an offer for the property as is. In other words, buyers are not requiring the seller to make repairs. What makes more sense, Carnes said, is only requiring the major repairs — roof, foundation, air conditioning — and taking care of the small items yourself once you move in.

"Ask for anything safety-related," he stressed.

How much can someone expect to

have to put down? Carnes said there are still zero-down programs available, and some lenders are requiring just 3 to 5 percent down. But expect to put down 20 percent in most cases.

Up-front cash would be 1 or 2 percent earnest money — the deposit that's refundable within a certain period or applies to the down payment. Inspections begin at \$450 but are more likely to be double that amount, depending upon what needs to be inspected.

And finally, "Buyers need to be patient," Carnes advised.

Inventory is improving. We started the year 50 percent down on inventory compared to a year earlier. Supply chains are improving. People are back to work. New houses and condos are being built and steadily coming on line — but maybe not quite enough to satisfy the needs of the area's ever-growing population. ■

'An accepting place'

PROFILE

North Haven Gardens is home for general manager Cody Hoya

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

Nine years ago, Cody Hoya landed what could be his dream job. The horticulturist wasn't intending to pursue a retail career, but North Haven Gardens was a different story for him. The local favorite for area gardening enthusiasts, plant parents and the like was less of a nursery to Hoya and more of an institution with a welcoming, friendly culture.

But his appreciation of North Haven's history and environment started well before the 43-year-old began his tenure as general manager; he first joined the team as a salesperson when he was 25.

"I didn't think I wanted that, but they were hiring, and I found that it was an operation dedicated to the science of horticulture and represents how to succeed in this area," Hoya said. "That they were education and information driven really appealed to me."

Originally from the Houston area, Hoya always knew he wanted to work with plants. Come allowance day, he'd ride his bike to the nursery to buy plants. Then he received his degree in Landscape Ecology at UT Austin and went on to manage private estate gardens, such as the John Ferry Garden.

But then he felt the need for a change.

"I thought, 'My sister lives in Dallas; maybe I can go up there,'" Hoya recalled. "I literally pulled up in my U-Haul and then drove over to interview at North Haven."

He appreciated that the advisor there required that sales people be trained horticulturists. Also, he was hired.

Clearly, North Haven is more than what people may think. To start with, consider its longevity.

"It's really neat to look at how this place has grown with the city of Dallas and the history of this place in Preston



Hollow," Hoya said. "It was here before roads were paved, and we have ads that date back to 1951.

"Plus, the founder was one of the driving forces behind the Dallas Arboretum being founded. They have a plaque honoring Ralph Pinkus," he added.

The foundation and history of North Haven is something to behold. But the nursery's focus on honoring plant sciences was an added bonus for Hoya.

Still, he moved on to another job elsewhere: "I left to join ClubCorp and became the horticulturist specialist at Brookhaven Country Club," he said. "But I always said if the GM spot at North Haven ever opened, I'd definitely consider it. So when my predecessor was ready to leave, she tapped me for the job."

During his time away from the nursery, Hoya had maintained a relationship with North Haven. He taught classes, helped with merchandising and more. He had a close relationship with his predecessor, who was also his mentor, and he knew the family that owned the place. Bringing him back into the fold seemed only natural, and he was interested.

Fast forward to now, and, as general manager, he's intent on perpetuating the family-type culture the place cultivates.

"As general manager, I really want to strengthen the sense of culture and interpersonal relationships and just make it a proud place to work for," Hoya said.

"This is an incredible team with sincere camaraderie."

The last few years have been challenging for the shop and center. A tornado leveled the nursery in 2019, and it was hit again — less severely, thankfully — in 2021. Then there was a pandemic.

The bounce-back, though, has been all good.

"Retail is fully operational, and last year we broke all records. Gardening and plant interests really grew when people decided to improve their surroundings during the pandemic," he said.

They did not replace the gallery when they rebuilt after the tornado, but they did open a gift shop and are determining how to develop the back property.

"The third-generation family [members] are invested in the aesthetics of the place and have big concepts and ideas," Hoya said.

Part of the culture that Hoya appreciates is North Haven's diversity — not just in plants and flowers, but in the makeup of its staff.

"This has always been an accepting place, and there's an authenticity to it. We have people of color, trans employees and various orientations. I'm gay, and other staff members are, and we've always had this close relationship with the local queer community. And I am certainly proud of that," he said. ■

Visit North Haven Gardens at NHG.com.

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Gardening gift guide for Mother's Day

GARDENING GIFTS

Garden Media Group shares gardening gift ideas every mom will love

COURTESY OF GARDEN MEDIA GROUP

Mom deserves the best — this year and every year. So give her a gardening gift that will bring a smile to her face and make her home beautiful for months — even years — to come. Don't know what that might be? Well, here are a few ideas:

- **C-Bite Plant Support Kit from Thriving Design**

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- **ScentAmazing Gardenia from Southern Living Plant Collection**

For a multigenerational garden with something special for everyone, nothing beats an enchanting gardenia. ScentAmazing Gardenia provides reblooming fragrant white blossoms from spring through fall, with glossy evergreen foliage that lends year-round beauty. Whether it's lending bountiful blooms

to Mom's landscape or shining as a cut flower on Grandma's table, ScentAmazing Gardenia is a true beauty, thriving in USDA Zones 7a-10b. \$19.98 at PlantsByMail.com.

- **Support Baby Pollinators**

If you love pollinators as much as we do, you'll know they love native plants. But what we don't love is the stress of trying to find the right plants for the right region. Garden for Wildlife, from the National Wildlife Federation, has curated collections of native plants that support the most species of bees, birds, and butterflies — all selected by region. These beautiful blooms are proven to double the wildlife coming to your garden in just one season as well as adding variety, color and texture. \$69.95, available at multiple sites.

- **Weeding Robot**

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• **Autumn Majesty from Encore Azalea**

Bring a burst of on-trend purple to Mom's yard this spring with the vibrant Autumn Majesty Encore Azalea. Autumn Majesty produces masses of purple blooms from spring all the way through fall. Its lush, color-saturated flowers are packed with layers of petals for a ruffled appearance, while vibrant green foliage stays bright all year long. This cold-hardier Encore Azalea thrives in USDA Zone 6A and above. Autumn Majesty loves the sun; four to six hours of direct sun or filtered shade makes for exceptional blooms. From \$21.99, available at PlantsByMail.com and a garden center near you.

• **Park Seed's Flower Seed Bio Dome Collection**

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lection is an excellent choice for moms. Any gardener — beginner or seasoned pro — will love it, but it's also a fantastic gift for the whole family. This collection includes the original 60-cell Bio Dome and eight seed packets to grow some of the most robust and easy-to-grow classic garden favorites. \$69.95, available at ParkSeed.com.

• **Petite Knock Out Rose**

Star Roses & Plants' new Petite Knock Out Rose is the first-ever miniature Knock Out Rose. It has the same flowering ability, bright color and easy maintenance as The Knock Out Rose, now in a revolutionary petite size. Mom can plant it up in a decorative container for her porch or patio or in mass for a dramatic pop of bold red color in her garden. \$15-\$40, available at Knockoutroses.com/retailers.

• **Bushel and Berry Hanging Blueberry Baskets**

Give the gift of delicious summer fruit and choose one of the new low-maintenance blueberry plants from Bushel and Berry that are perfect in hanging baskets and containers. New this spring are two delicious varieties — Midnight Cascade and Sapphire Cascade — that offer rich antioxidant fruit all season long. Best

sued for zones 5-9. \$28-\$50, available at BushelAndBerry.com, NatureHills.com/midnight-cascade-blueberry; SpringHillNursery.com/product/midnight-cascade-blueberry.

• **Downsizing the watering can**

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• **Give now, enjoy for months**

Summer bulbs, such as lilies and dahlias, offer a chance to extend the Mother's Day experience. A gift of bulbs in May promises beautiful blooms to enjoy with Mom in a few months. Make planting a summer bulb garden with Mom the new spring tradition, or pot up a few summer bulbs in a glazed pot for her to watch grow. Prices vary, available at your local garden center. ■

Dr. Catalina E. Garcia

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Texas Master Gardener state conference Set

MAKING BETTER GARDENERS

Virtual event to include Leadership Workshop on May 9

PAUL SCHATTENBERG | Special Contributor
paschattenberg@ag.tamu.edu

The 2022 Texas Master Gardener State Conference will be held virtually via Zoom Tuesday and Wednesday, May 10-11, with a Leadership Workshop kicking things off on Monday, May 9. The conference will offer information on horticultural topics as well as addressing how to enhance community programming and is open to all master gardeners and to the public.

The Texas Master Gardener Program is a volunteer horticulture program supporting the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Master gardeners are members of their local communities who take an active interest in trees, shrubs, lawns, flowers and gardens and who volunteer to help others in their community learn about them.

Due to the virtual nature of the conference, each participant will need to register separately, not as a group or as a couple. All those attending will need a separate link to enter the conference. Participants will have the option to purchase general registration for the conference and access to the leadership workshop.

Register for the conference at tx.ag/TXMGConf22, and register for the Leadership Workshop at tx.ag/TXMGLead22. The deadline for registration is 5 p.m. on Monday, April 25.

The conference cost is \$65, and the Leadership Workshop is \$25.

This year's theme is "Community Connections," according to Nicky Maddams, AgriLife Extension Texas Master Gardener program assistant and conference coordinator, based in Bryan-College Station.

"The event will offer even more tools for Texas master gardeners to be even better volunteers within their respec-



Master gardeners are members of their local communities who take an active interest in trees, shrubs, lawns, flowers and gardens and who volunteer to help others in their community learn about them. (Laura McKenzie/Texas A&M Agrilife photo)

...tive communities," Maddams said. "We have a fantastic lineup of speakers ready to share many ways to further projects and education within your association."

The event will also offer sessions on various horticultural topics, including diagnosing plant problems, landscape design, demonstration gardens, color trends, vegetable gardening, invasive plants, backyard pollinators, native seed and viticulture.

"There will also be presentations related to program-wide topics, such as reaching underserved populations, building partnerships, enhancing social media presence, youth gardening and managing volunteer resources," Maddams said. "We'll also have virtual tours of diverse gardens in the U.S."

The conference offers continuing education hours for master gardeners. There will be three keynote presentations, 24 breakout sessions and five virtual tours. Additionally, a bonus session, presented by Maddams and Jayla Fry, AgriLife Extension Texas Master Gardener program coordinator, will be offered on the Volunteer Management System.

The 2022 Texas Master Gardener Virtual Conference Agenda is available online. For more information about speakers and presentations, visit txmg.org/speakers-2

Keynote speakers and topics will be:

- Jeff Raska, AgriLife Extension horticultural program coordinator for Dallas County, speaking on The Urban County Farm.

- An AgriLife Extension agent panel with Kimberly Benton, horticulture, Cherokee County; Brittnay Meyer, horticulture, Tarrant County; Kyla Moeller, family and community health, Grimes County, and Clint Perkins, agriculture and natural resources, Smith County.

- Brie Arthur, author and horticulturist, speaking on Marketing to Generation Me.

The 2022 Conference t-shirt is available from AgriLife Learn, formerly known as the AgriLife Bookstore, Maddams said, adding, "The conference is also time to celebrate the Search for Excellence Awards and our more than 7,000 Texas Master Gardener volunteers' incredible achievements in education across the state." ■

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Tips on how to purchase art for your home

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Chris Huffman, gallery manager at Maestri Gallery on Exposition Avenue near Fair Park, said many of his clients are beginning collectors. "If you like it, then get it," he said is his initial piece of advice on how to choose art.

Talk to people at galleries and find someone you trust, he added, but warns, "If a gallery is showing above your budget, you're not in the right place."



Don't buy a piece to match the color scheme, Huffman said. Because after a few years, you'll re-paint; different colors will come into fashion. The art you purchase should transcend fads in color.

As a design studio, we're not about matching art to the sofa," Huffman said. The sofa will wear out; art doesn't wear out.

Don't buy a large piece because you have a large wall, Huffman said. That eight-foot space can be taken up by two four-foot canvasses.

Ask yourself if you'll always have that eight-foot space. "Do multiples," he said.

People move, and many down-size. Buy art you will have space to exhibit for the next 15 to 25 years.

Buy pieces that are meaningful to you, Huffman said, adding that in his own collection he has works he purchased on trips to Europe, New York and Austin, as well as pieces that are important to him because they're the work of a friend.

As you're learning to trust your own instincts, find someone to work with, Huffman suggested. "Someone who will look out for your best interests," he said. By that, he means that you should look for someone with connections around the country who will look for pieces that work in your collection.

And finally Huffman said, "Buy something because you feel a connection to it." In other words, acquire art because you love it.

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Dwell with Dignity kicking off Thrift Studio season

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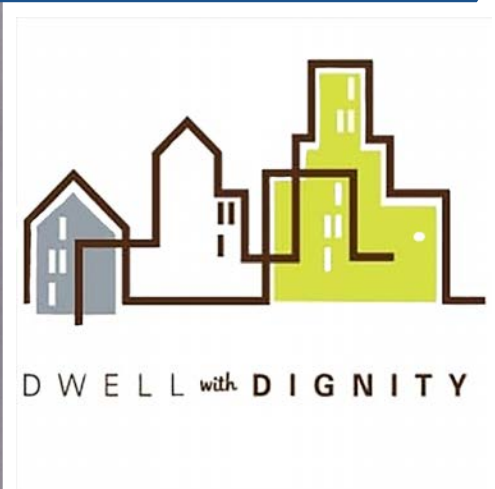
Dwell with Dignity is ready to get thrifty in May.

The nonprofit hosts its Thrift Studio Kick-off on May 5 to launch the season. The party will announce the designers who have been selected to participate in this year's Thrift Studio event this fall.

Thrift Studio is a pop-up shop selling donated furniture, housewares, accessories and high-end designer finds to the public. The concept launched in 2011 and has grown in popularity with the interior design community and with the general public looking for bargain deals on fabulous home furnishings.



Proceeds from the season and pop-up benefit Dwd's mission to change lives through design by providing livable design to those in need. The fundraiser



provides one-third of the nonprofit's operating budget. ■

The Thrift Studio 2022 Kick Off Party will be at 5 p.m. May 5 at Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery, 1403 Slocum Road. Free to attend but RSVP encouraged. ThriftStudio.com.

— Rich Lopez



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CfA holding senior conference

LGBTQ SENIORS

Coalition for Aging LGBT presents array of resources for aging

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

“We want to get passed this fear the LGBT community has on aging,” said Robert Emery, president of Coalition for Aging LGBT. “Aging is a natural part of life.”

As a way to help people in the LGBTQ community accept and enjoy the natural aging process, CfA is holding its 5th Annual Summit on LGBT Aging from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. on Saturday, April 30 at Senior Source on Harry Hines Boulevard.

CfA focuses on advocacy, lobbying and hosting social engagements. But, Emery said, if you only attend one of his organization’s events, this is the one. “This conference is about sharing resources with the 300,000 LGBT seniors in our four-county area,” he explained.

Aging for members of the LGBTQ community may look different than it does for others. A high percentage have no children or family support, for example. Yet often care for an elderly parent falls on the LGBTQ child, draining resources. As a generation that lived through the AIDS crisis, we buried our friends in their 20s and 30s and never expected to reach old age. So we made no preparations financially for aging.

Including people living with HIV, about 25 percent of LGBTQ seniors are living with a disability, a higher percent than the population in general. Marriage is still new for the LGBTQ community so even for those who planned, things changed once we could marry.

Faced with these obstacles, many members of the LGBTQ community



Robert Emery

have struggled their entire lives. But resources are available.

There are quite a few speakers and workshops fitted into the short four hours of the conference. State Rep. Jessica Gonzalez opens with a State of the State presentation. Spoiler alert: She calls last year’s marathon of special sessions grueling and has gained a national reputation as spokesperson and ringleader for Democrats who walked out and left the state to break quorum. She also got married during the first special session.

Presentors will be diverse, ranging from Resource Center CEO Cece Cox, who will present her organization’s affordable senior housing project, to a representative from the Dallas Police Department, who will teach some senior self-defense.

Dr. Julie Lindenberg will discuss transgender health. She is a nurse practitioner who currently practices at University of Texas Health Services in Houston.

Cathy Glenn, who does injury preven-

tion trauma outreach with Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital, will present two sessions. The first is Stop the Bleed, explaining what to do on the way to the emergency room. Next she’ll address balance: “Falling is not a natural part of aging,” Emery said in explaining her presentation.

Senior Source CEO Renae Perry will address the vast number of resources available through Senior Source. Emery said her organization is an incredible partner for the Coalition.

Richard Oberton will talk about the resources available to the community through Visiting Nurses Association. And the many businesses geared to the senior sector of the LGBTQ community that are members of the North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce is Chamber CEO Tony Vedda’s focus as he wraps up the conference for CfA.

Those attending can “get a ton of vital information for your well-being,” Emery said.

The conference is limited to 100 people. Once in-person registration closes out, CfA will add a virtual option to reach more people.

Emery encouraged attendees to arrive a little early to visit sponsor tables. He listed a long list of corporate sponsors and said, “Corporate sponsors are encouraged that this work is being done for LGBT seniors.” He said they not only made monetary donations but are sending volunteers.

Among non-profit sponsors, the Alzheimer’s Association will be available throughout the morning with information and resources.

Emery said there’s plenty of parking available. He said surface parking is limited, but attendees can drive up the unnamed street on the north side of the building to an enclosed garage. Volunteers will guide you in. ■

Senior Source is at 3910 Harry Hines Blvd. Register for the event at CfA.lgbt/lgbtsummit.html

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SMU holds Pride events

PRIDE ON CAMPUS

These are the first-ever large-scale Pride events on SMU's campus

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Bri Tollie is Southern Methodist University's third senator representing the Queer community. That, by itself, is a big deal. But what is perhaps an even bigger deal is the fact that the school is staging two events this year, the first-ever large-scale Pride events in the school's history.

A proposal before the Senate to add a seat to represent the Queer community was defeated for several years, even

though the school had senators representing other minority communities. Finally, in 2017, a seat for SMU's Queer community was approved.

When she was elected, Tollie's goal was to build community. She sent out a survey to find out what students wanted on campus and what their concerns were. Fifty-seven students completed and returned the survey, and Tollie said that lack of visibility and a desire for a welcoming environment came up repeatedly in their answers.

The Pride Project came together out of those survey results.

On April 23, *In Search of Belonging* opens at the Hamon Arts Library at the Meadows School for the Arts. This exhibit explores stories of LGBTQ organizing and the struggles for equality and recognition at SMU through documents from SMU's archives and

through oral histories. Included are the stories of the eight-year fight to charter the first LGBTQ student support organization, the founding of SMU's first gay fraternity and the current Mustang Pride.

In Search of Belonging remains on exhibit through May 22. But that exhibit is only the beginning.

Students also created a film featuring video from the oral histories, which will debut at 7 p.m. at Pride Visibility Day, Friday, April 29, on the main quad of the SMU campus.

Other Pride Visibility Day events include announcing the winners of two awards.

The Bill Nelson Award for Community Activism and Representation honors one of the founders of Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance and Resource Center who was the first person to run for

Dallas City Council as an out gay man. Nelson received his bachelor's and master's degrees from SMU.

According to the nomination form, "The awardee of this prize fights against inaction every day by committing to constant organization and action against oppression, bigotry, and injustice."

The second award is for faculty or staff excellence in mentorship and academic activism.

As part of Pride Day lawn games and activities will take place during the day on the lawn outside Dallas Hall. Queer-affirming businesses participating in Pride Visibility Day will be divided into three categories: food (because any successful college event offers good eats) local queer-owned businesses connecting students to the LGBTQ community in Dallas and resources to connect students with health and support avail-



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Bri Tollie

able to the LGBTQ community in Dallas.

Speakers will focus on raising awareness of leaders-in-the-making, research being done on campus and what Queer people are up to at SMU.

The evening will conclude with a festival featuring on-campus talent. Semler, who is the first openly queer artist to top the Contemporary Christian Music charts, is the festival's opening act.

The evening also will include drag, dance stand-up comedy, spoken word and more.

SMU has come a long way. In 2011, the school was named 11th most homophobic campus in the country by the Princeton Review. The school — the only one on the list that had nondiscrimination policies in place and even offered partner benefits to its gay and lesbian employees — made a decision to change its image. And now, a decade later, Campus Pride lists SMU among its 10 religious schools with LGBTQ-inclusive values.

What a difference a decade makes. ■

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Normalizing the male touch

DANCE PREMIER

Choreographer brings male duet piece to TITAS' Command Performance

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

Choreographer Norbert De La Cruz III didn't realize his commissioned piece would be a dream come true for him. On Saturday, April 23, he will present *Two Places at Once* at TITAS/DANCE UNBOUND's Command Performance Gala. The piece is among more than a dozen works being performed, but this will be his premiere performance in many ways.

"This random dream was offered to me," De La Cruz said by phone from his New York base. "I've also never made my queer dance appearance onstage, and this could be a great way to do that."

The special quality of the piece is its cast of two male dancers in a duet. While the piece explores the relationship between two men, De La Cruz says it has multiple meanings.

"[TITAS Executive Director] Charles Santos came to ask me to create a work for TITAS, but we never confirmed that it would be a queer-forward piece," De La Cruz said. "It can be read this way certainly, but I also want to give the audience the freedom to interpret what this means to them."

In some ways, De La Cruz wants to destabilize both the model of a dance duet on stage and the impressions of masculinity such a duet sometimes offers — or doesn't offer.

"I wanted this weight sharing to be equal between the dancers, with lush and supportive lifts," he said. "Whether it's romantic, brotherly or a negotiation, there's this vulnerability men don't express in public, and this normalizes the male touch."

Two Places at Once features Bruce Wood Dance's Cole Vernon and Xavier Mack of Dallas Black Dance Theater, two dancers who have never worked together before. De La Cruz credited them both with falling into the choreography with

prolific movement and basically understanding the assignment.

"These two companies brought forth great dancers to represent their own identities where we've created this dialogue of coexistence," De La Cruz said.

On Saturday, TITAS/DANCE UNBOUND will celebrate 40 years of presenting national and international acts to Dallas. The event will return to an in-person format after a two-year pandemic hiatus.

The event will also honor Santos as the 2022 winner of the Tom Adams Award of Appreciation for Dedication to TITAS and the Arts, recognizing his 20 years of service to the Dallas art community. This is the first year the honor will be bestowed upon a TITAS staff member.

"Charles Santos is a visionary leader who has brought the very best in dance to Dallas over the last 20 years," said TITAS board member and gala Co-Chair Zoé de Ropp Hart in a press release.

"Just as importantly, he has been, and continues to be, the catalyst that brings performing arts organizations together to collaborate for the benefit of the city.

"His impact on the cultural landscape of Dallas has been profound," she

added. "I am honored to call him a colleague and friend." Command Performance will feature works curated by Santos, with performances by Tiler Peck and



Choreographer Norbert De La Cruz

Dallas-native Roman Mejia of New York City Ballet, Catherine Hurlin and Corey Steams of American Ballet Theatre, Adji Cissoko and Shuaib Elhassan of Alonzo King LINES Ballet, MOMIX, Kyle Abraham, Pilobolus, Parsons Dance and the commissioned piece by De La Cruz, a traditional feature of the event.

"TITAS always commissions at least one new work for the Command Performance

for-mance Gala each year," Santos

said in an email. "I love the movement vocabulary of Norbert De La Cruz so much. It's fluid, liquid gold."

"I have been wanting to create a project with Cole Vernon for years but was waiting for the right project. Then I saw Xavier Mack dance at a gala and I knew these two amazing men needed to have a piece created for them. And it was done," Santos continued. "Norbert doesn't just walk into a studio and teach choreography. He involves the dancers in the process as artists, as humans. They are active participants in the creative process; I love this."

Santos anticipates the gala audience will be in for a treat with this unique premiere by De La Cruz.

"I feel there are too few duets for men, and this group of artists were the perfect opportunity to create a great, beautiful, gorgeous male duet. The audience is going to love it Saturday night at the premiere, and I know the new work is going to have a life after the premiere. I'm so proud and honored to have been able to make this project a reality," Santos said.

TITAS/DANCE UNBOUND's Command Performance Gala, 7 p.m. Saturday at the Winspear Opera House. Packages and tickets available at ATTPAC.org.





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Call me Mentor

PROFILE

Leslie Jordan and Cheyenne Jackson talk about what they've learned from each other on the set of 'Call Me Kat'

CHRIS AZZOPARDI | Contributing Writer

Twitter: @chrisazzopardi

Leslie Jordan and Cheyenne Jackson, co-stars in the Fox sitcom *Call Me Kat*, are in separate locations on Zoom, tenderly admiring each other. As an openly gay actor, Jackson (30 *Rock* and *All Shook Up*, his first lead role on Broadway) affectionately acknowledges that Jordan, who's also openly gay, has been a mentor to him ever since he saw him as Beverley Leslie on *Will & Grace*. Jordan, who admits he doesn't know how to respond to younger generations who praise him for paving the way for them, recognizes Jackson for being precisely the kind of actor Jordan is not.

Since January 2021, the *Call Me Kat* actors have come together weekly to make viewers laugh through a seriously unfunny and fraught time. The sitcom — which also features Mayim Bialik as Kat, and Swoosie Kurtz as Kat's mom Sheila — is now in its second season after premiering during the pandemic. As Phil, Jordan plays the gay head baker at Kat's cat café, while Jackson portrays bartender Max, Kat's former college boyfriend.

Recently, Jackson, 46, and Jordan, 66, got on Zoom to chat about shooting a sitcom during COVID, the potential for Jordan to get his first onscreen kiss and why, during one episode, he moves so effortlessly in heels.

Dallas Voice: How much joy and levity has doing this show brought you during one of the most challenging times we'll ever experience? Cheyenne Jackson: It's brought a significant amount of joy and stability and escapism. I think that's really what we are all craving right now, because the world feels off of its hinges. To be able to go to work every day with five other people whom you adore and love and are inspired by, but also just to get to do something that is just unabashedly joyful and happy — I mean, what other



Leslie Jordan, left, and Cheyenne Jackson on the set of *Call Me Kat*

show at the end of it has a curtain call? An old-timey curtain call!

It's really just been such a gift. I know people overuse that phrase, but it truly has [been], being able to be home with my kids, go to work and then be home every day in time for dinner. I've only missed, maybe, two bedtimes this whole run. And when we have a week off, I definitely start to miss everybody and can't wait to get back.

What about you, Leslie? What has the show meant to you, especially as a source of connection during a time when it's been so hard to connect with people? Leslie Jordan: We had an amazing beginning because we were going to shoot the pilot, and then the pandemic hit. We got to meet each other over Zoom. I don't think any of us really knew each other. I had worked with Cheyenne a couple times, but none of us were friendly-friendly. And all of a sudden during the pandemic, with the Zooms and getting things ready, they said, "The minute this

is over, we're going back." When people didn't even know if they were going to get jobs back, we knew what was ahead, we knew what was coming, and we just kind of bonded. And so by the time we got all of us together, we were just giddy. We just loved each other so much.

I have appreciation for the show's queer inclusivity, and I'm getting a real kick out of seeing Cheyenne playing one of the straightest men I've ever seen. He'll walk over to me, and then he'll go, "Listen, girl," after he's just been the butchest.

What's it like being a part of a show that touches on some really important LGBTQ-specific topics? Jordan: You know, I feel so protected. I don't know what it is. I just feel like I'm [in] this cocoon because, you know, writers come, they go, this one in and out. But right now we've got some writers that came from *Will & Grace* and wrote my Emmy episode [Jordan won in 2006 for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series]. So everything they write, I adore.

Listen, I've done some stinkers over the years. But every week the scripts just get better and better and better. And we're like, "Wow, they're touching on all kinds of topics." They were whispering the other day that they want to give me an onscreen kiss. I said, "Oh lord." [Laughs.] That'll be a first!

Who do you want to play that role, Leslie, is the question? Jordan: Well, we approached Rob Gronkowski, that football player. I'm making that up. We did not approach him. [Laughs.] I think he would be good, though; they should ask him. I've got such a crush on him. I don't even watch football, but I'm glued to that TV.

One of the episodes this season touches on LGBTQ aging. Leslie, how did that bit about the unique experience of aging for LGBTQ people make it onto the show? Was that your doing? Jordan: People think that as actors we have a lot of say, and maybe other actors do, but I don't particularly ... I'm the kind of actor that I think writers love because I show up and just say their words [laughs]. ... I'm very reverent. You do your job. I'll show up and bring it to life. Just give me the words. So no, I had nothing to do with that at all. They came up with it. I just loved it.

Jackson: I am of like mind with Leslie that my job is to be a conduit. I go in there, and I take what they give me and portray it. But so much of what they're writing now, I do believe they're taking from our own lives and who we are in the world. So when they give Leslie a monologue like he did in the car about [aging] as Max, I feel like crying as Cheyenne because Leslie's so brilliant, and Swoosie is so brilliant. The two of them together, I just love their dynamic.

Did you two first meet on the set of American Horror Story? Jackson: We were trying to figure this out the other day. I think it must have been.

Jordan: I think it was the day that we were shooting in a big theater, and they had Trixie Mattel. She was on *American Horror Story* very briefly. You had the actor, and then you had the actor playing the actor, and then it went all — I couldn't keep up with it. But that I think is where we met.

Jackson: But I've known who Leslie was forever and was a huge fan of *Will &*

MENTOR, Page 26



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AUTO

The 2022 BMW M4 Competition is a top-notch arrow

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer
AutoCasey@aol.com

Let me tell you about my niece: She's still in high school, but she is an archery master. Last weekend, I stood beside her as she put arrow after arrow into a far-away bullseye as if she was born to do nothing else. She is a virtuoso of the backyard target stand. I've also been with her as she shoved a Corvette down two-lane backroads with grace that belies her youth.

She'd really like the 2022 BMW M4 Competition.

Whether a bow or arrow, the M4 Competition looks ready to shoot down the road. Flared twin nostrils wear angry black slats and are flanked by quad LED headlamps. Muscular fenders and slammed roofline hunker over 19-inch wheels in front, 20-inch in the rear. A carbon fiber roof with airflow fins, rear diffuser housing quad trumpets and black spoiler improve performance, as do the M brakes with red calipers. Sharp black sill extensions add visual flitching.

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You can take your 4-Series with real wood, but the Competition trades wood for carbon fiber, stitched coverings and heated/ventilated sport seats with tri-color seatbelts. The thick, heated M steering wheel is a tool of tactile delight. Flatscreen gauges and a wide head-up display place speed, audio and navigation straight ahead. Crank your favorite music through the 16-speaker Harman Kardon audio system and connected devices via Apple CarPlay or Android Auto.

I used to despise BMW's iDrive infotainment system with its console joy-wheel and confusing menus, but the latest version is tolerable. Menus are more intuitive as the system can be controlled via dash touchscreen. Adaptive cruise control with lane tracing steering, automatic emergency braking, blind spot



warning and rear cross path detection enhance safety. Around-view cameras protect those outside, too.

If my niece ever stepped into the throttle, she'd have curls whipped into her long, straight hair. Smoother than a Boeing Dreamliner gathers speed, the M4's twin-turbo 3.0-liter inline six-cylinder engine dispenses 503 horsepower and 479 lb.-ft. of torque through an eight-speed automatic transmission — paddle shifted if you please. Clamped to the road with all-wheel-drive, 0-60 mph evaporates in 3.4 seconds. Driven more reasonably, fuel economy rates a sensible 16/22-MPG city/highway.

My niece gets help in her archery from a state-of-the-art bow, just as drivers of the M4 get their share of advancements to enhance performance. The drive mode selector lets owners configure the car for Comfort to waft down the highway or for advanced Sport settings that rattle teeth. Click into 4WD, 4WD Sport or 2WD, depending on your penchant for aggressive driving. A track-ready cooling system with air blades in the fascia enhance high-speed duration.

In the old days, I would never put my niece behind the wheel of the M4, because she'd have it doing doughnuts

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tools. Whether you're longing for long days at speed, or just long-distance touring, the M4 Competition is a formidable tool. And it comes at a cost: Base M4 Coupes start at \$72,000 but come to a lofty \$95,845 all-in.

Competitors include the Cadillac CT4 Blackwing, Mercedes-AMG C43 Coupe and Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio.

without intention. But, this car's electronics would allow her to drive to high school and home without drama. It's so calm on the open road that I almost scared myself when I stomped the throttle on the interstate and the speedometer rose in a blur of numbers.

Its two-faced personality is nearly unparalleled.

My niece is a natural ace, but she also chooses the right



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Bans are back again

MOMBIAN

'And Tango Makes Three' authors reflect on new wave of book bans



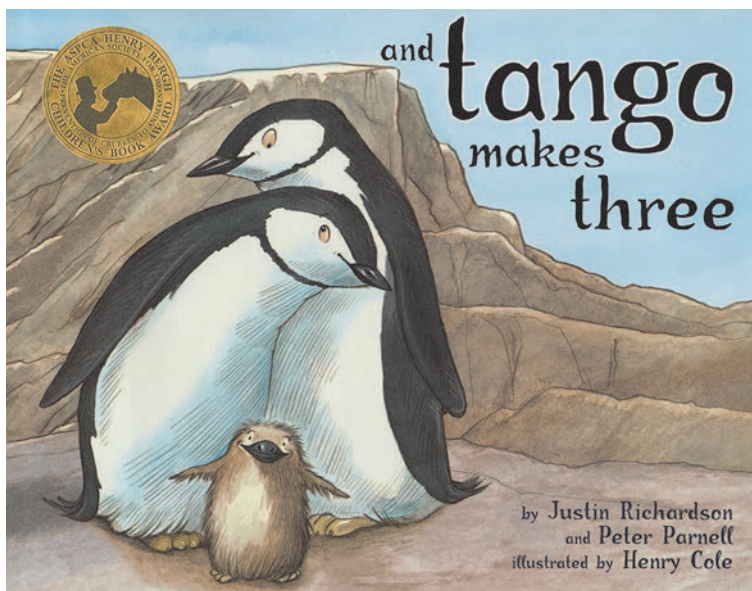
Dana Rudolph
Contributing Columnist

Justin Richardson and Peter Parnell's award-winning picture book, *And Tango Makes Three* (Simon & Schuster), based on the true story of two male penguins who hatch an egg together, has been one of the most-challenged books in the country since shortly after it was published in 2005. Yet the current surge of book bans and challenges sweeping through the U.S. is

end to it, for the most part," he said. Earlier challenges, too, were usually by an individual parent or citizen "wanting to 'protect' their own child from the book," Richardson continued. "What we see now are politicians exploiting the fears

of parents for their own political gain" and "organized attacks on intellectual freedom from members of the government."

Previously, Richardson continued, "the government was on our side. We felt confident the courts would find in



different from anything they've seen before, the authors told me in a recent interview.

"It really feels that the landscape has changed fairly dramatically," Richardson said.

Earlier challenges were mostly handled locally, he explained. A school would typically refer the complaint to the school board, then board members and school administrators would decide on a review process. "And at a certain point an attorney would step in and say, 'Hey folks, FYI, it's against the Constitution to remove this book from the school library,' and that would put an

our favor. But unfortunately what we're seeing in Texas, in Florida and more and more states is that it is legislators themselves that are launching attacks on the book and doing so in an organized way."

Parnell added that in legislating, politicians are creating "a more unified idea behind parents protecting their children" and "a kind of extreme reaction that comes out of fears that parents have and that they have now placed at the feet of teachers, of librarians, etc."

Richardson offered an analogy. He and Parnell recently took their 13-year-old daughter to the musical *The Mu-*

Man, where, he summarizes, the con man in the opening scene says, "You've got trouble; your kids have got a pool table, and that's



Peter Parnell, left and Justin Richardson, right

going to lead them to ruin. I can save you all by selling you this bill of goods."

"That," Richardson said, "is the oldest con in the book. That's what we're seeing. We're seeing politicians fomenting anxiety about books like ours and lessons that use books like ours in order to get support in the polls.

"It's a totally different animal from the kinds of challenges we had before, which, however wrong-headed they were, seemed sincere. There's no sincerity here," he said.

As for their own reaction to the bans, Richardson said, "As gay men who grew up in the '50s and '60s and '70s, we've had a lifetime to learn how to manage our feelings of stigma and shame and being attacked." Instead, he said, they focus on, "What are we going to do about this?"

They have some suggestions: "In the past, responses to challenges have been two-pronged," Richardson explained. The first prong has been letters from national organizations such as PEN America, the American Library Association's Office of Intellectual Freedom and the ACLU.

Now however, Parnell noted, such letters pointing out relevant case law, may not be enough anymore. "Now, I think it's going to go more towards the courts," he said, as those behind the bans try to challenge existing law.

The second prong has been "local organizations, like grassroots groups of parents or LGBTQIA associations" in the community where the challenge happened, Richardson said. What people respond to, he explained, "are locals, are their neighbors." For example, he said, recent walkouts in Florida schools over that state's so-called "Don't Say Gay" bill "were effective in getting a great deal of attention to the issue," even though they could not stop the bill from becoming law.



He added, "Our one hope will be that folks in communities where this is happening can find their voice and organize and protest."

Richardson advises

that authors facing challenges today work both prongs, first getting support from the national organizations because "They're experts. They've been around the block so many times they can tell you what to do."

Then, he said, "find the local folks to whom this matters in the community where the challenge has been made and support them in whatever efforts they think they can make that make sense."

For parents wondering how to explain the wave of anti-LGBTQ bans and bias to their children, Richardson — who is also a practicing psychiatrist — says much depends on the age and personality of the child, but he suggests addressing it as a family, finding a way that "becomes an opportunity to have a moment together, whether that's reading a book or an op-ed piece. You can say whatever they're doing out there in the world, they've brought the three of us or the four of us or the two of us together for these 15 minutes, and that's a win."

Sometimes, too, family reading can even be a form of public action. What Richardson called "one of the most powerful political actions" around *Tango* happened in Singapore in 2014, when the government said it would destroy every copy of *Tango* and two other LGBTQ-inclusive books. Parents who supported the books, however, "took their children to the National Library of Singapore in their pajamas" and "read our books quietly to their kids. They got it on film and it was extremely effective."

The government backed down.

"It was a beautiful thing, it was a local thing, and it was parents and kids," Richardson said. "Those are the kinds of actions that just speak volumes." ■

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 900+ LGBTQ family books, media, and more.

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MENTOR, From Page 26



Grace, and I can quote all of his stuff, and I constantly do to him. It's one of the joys of this.

Jordan: I just wish he'd butch it up a little bit sometimes when he's doing it. [Laughs.]

Jackson: One of the biggest joys of this has been to get to know Leslie on a true friend basis, because the queer experience in Hollywood is, you have to have lived it to understand it. And I'm in my mid 40s now, and you know, I've been around a while. So I love to have mentors, and I love to have queer mentors. And Leslie has stories and advice and just so much wisdom. And sometimes, if I'm stuck on a line, I will go to him and say, "How do I make this funny rhythmically?" and he'll say like, "Hit that, hit that, and then just drop that." It's just so intrinsic in him, whereas multicam is still new to me. So it's one of my favorite things, being on a show with you.

I'm sure Cheyenne is not the only person to have told you that you're a queer mentor to them. What is it like to hear that from other people in the LGBTQ community? Jordan: I mean, I don't get up in the morning and think, "The mentor has gotten up." [Laughs.] You know, when I got to Hollywood in 1992, West Hollywood was where I dropped anchor. Queers were everywhere, and I thought, "Wow." And then the crisis hit — the AIDS epidemic, which I've seen so many parallels between this pandemic and the last one.

I've been through it. I've been through a pandemic. I was on the forefront of *Project Angel Food* when it got started. I was

right there in the meetings when Project Nightlight got started. I was around, and I did my share, and I'm very proud of that. And sometimes I look back and think, "Own it." It's so hard for us. My boyfriend constantly says to me, "When someone compliments you, Leslie, you compliment them back." I'm working on that. I'm working so hard on that. Anyways, whatever. Where were we? What was the question?

Leslie, you can really work some heels. I know you've joked before that you came out of your mom's womb and immediately stepped into her heels, so is that why you are such a pro at dancing around in them on *Call Me Kat*? Jordan: [Laughs.] No, it's because I did drag when I was about 19. We would have drag parties, and I was in my hometown; you couldn't get in the bars at 17. So we'd have these drag parties up at this doctor's house — this very wealthy doctor — and we would put together drag shows, and I was Miss Baby Wipes, that was my name. The sweet and petite Miss Baby Wipes. And I could work that stage. I'd do Tina Turner numbers and stuff, when they were all doing Barbra Streisand.

Jackson: I knew that you'd be good in heels, but when we had that episode with heels the other day, and you popped them on, he was like "bum, bum, bum, bum, bum!" It was amazing. I can't do that.

Chris Azzopardi is the editorial director of Pride Source Media Group and Q Syndicate, the national LGBTQ wire service. Reach him via Twitter @chrisazzopardi.

GAY AGENDA



Subtlety is NOT a hallmark of the DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. And that is perfectly fine with us, especially since Texas these days needs a healthy dose of loud, proud LGBTQ. The Sisters will be getting loud and proud on Saturday night, April 23, when Novice Sister Vera Satile hosts her novice project, the Leather and Feather Bike Night, to raise money to pay for improvements to the playground at Dallas ISD's McShan Elementary School, including re-landscaping, providing surfacing and installing inclusive playground equipment "so children of all abilities can grow and learn on equal ground." The fun starts at 4 p.m. with an all-you-can-eat crawfish boil and will include raffles throughout the event and an auction at 7 p.m. with Wolverine MacGyver, and it all takes place at Parks Place Bar & Grill, 2121 Northwest Highway in Garland. Check out the website at DFWSisters.org for more information.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

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

■ Weekly: Frontrunners

Running club for the LGBTQ community and allies of DFW. Meet at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays and 8:30 a.m. on Saturdays at the corner of Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard in Turtle Creek Park for a one-hour walk/run on the Katy Trail.

APRIL

■ April 21-May 30: Scarborough Renaissance Festival

The annual Renaissance Festival opens Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie. \$28. SRFestival.com.

■ April 22: Federal Club mixer

Meet and mingle in the 14th floor Trail View Room with spectacular views of downtown. After the mixer, make reservations at the hotel's new brasserie restaurant Good Graces. Valet parking \$10. Marriott Uptown, 3033 Fairmont St. from 6-8 p.m. RSVP at HRC.im/dfwmixer.

■ April 22-24: LGBT+ Outdoorfest

A weekend of community and the great outdoors, LGBT+ Outdoorfest will welcome families from across the U.S. for a gathering of camping, community, outdoor workshops

and more. Rainbow Ranch, 1662 LCR 800, Groesbeck.

■ April 22: Greyson Chance

The out singer who went viral singing a piano version of "Paparazzi" is all grown up now playing his own music. 8 p.m. Trees, 2709 Elm St. TreesDallas.com.

■ April 23: DFW Sisters Leather and Feather Bike Night

Novice Sister Vera Satile's novice project is a Leather and Feather Bike Night to raise money to build a playground for McShan Elementary. Parks Place Bar & Grill, 2121 Northwest Highway, Garland at 4 p.m. Auction at 7 p.m. and raffle throughout the event.

■ April 23: TRANSform Your Closet

Many trans people face financial, emotional, and social hurdles on their transition journey, usually including access to healthcare and gender-affirming clothing. Local Transgender individuals are invited to join the PHNTX Project Connect team for a free clothing swap, HIV testing and information about Prism's healthcare services, and refreshments from 2-6 p.m. at Prism Health Worth Street Health Center, 4004 Worth Street. To participate, RSVP here: <https://tinyurl.com/mrzb8u4d>.

■ April 23: In Search of Belonging

An exhibit *In Search of Belonging*, exploring stories of LGBTQ organizing and the struggles for equality and recognition through archival documents from the SMU Archives and oral

history with current students, opens Saturday. Hamon Arts Library, 6100 Hillcrest Ave. from 1-3 p.m.

■ April 23: Federal Club luncheon

State Rep. Rafael Anchia and HRC Senior Vice President for Policy and Political Affairs JoDee Winterhof are the speakers for the spring luncheon from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Tower Club, Thanksgiving Tower, 48th Floor, 1601 Elm St.

■ Through April 23: Dry Powder

Second Thought Theatre's season opener is about the price of success and the real cost of getting the deal done. Performances at Bryant Hall, 3400 Blackburn St.

■ April 23: TITAS/Dance Unbound Gala

Command Performance, TITAS' annual gala, features TITAS-commissioned works created specifically for this gala performance plus works by some of the world's leading choreographers such as Twyla Tharp, Dwight Rhoden, Jessica Lang, Mia Michaels, Sonya Tayeh, Bridget L. Moore, and WANG Yuanyuan at 7 p.m. at Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

■ Through 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.



THE GREAT OUTDOORS

LGBTQ outdoors enthusiasts from across the country converge on the gay-owned **Rainbow Ranch** this weekend for the

LGBTQ+ Outdoorfest, three days of camping, community, workshops and much more. Workshops topics include "Intro to Hiking" with Kayley Olson and Tiara Smith, "Campfire Cooking" with Cindy Nam, "Archery 101" with Jacob Boudreaux, "Capturing Your Adventure/Video" with J.C. Rienton, "Capturing Your Adventure/Photography" with Justin Yoder, "Wilderness First Aid" with Robyn Tackitt and "Exploring Habitats and Wildlife" with Sasha Francis. Need more information? Visit LGBTOutdoors.com.



DRESSING FOR SUCCESS

Transgender people often face a host of hurdles — social, emotional and financial — in their transition journey, and the Project Connect team

at **Prism Health North Texas** offers some help in jumping some of those hurdles with the TRANSform Your Closet clothing swap event on Saturday, April 23, from 2-6 p.m. at the Worth Street Health Center, 4004 Worth St. The event include a free clothing swap, HIV testing and information about the transgender health care services Prism Health offers. RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/mrzb8u4d>.



CELEBRATING MOTHER EARTH

We've only got one Earth, and it is way past time we start treating it better. **Earthx2022** is the largest green gathering

on the Earth held around Earth Day in April each year, and this year it is being held at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin St. in Dallas, April 22-24. The event brings together environmental organizations, businesses, academic institutions, government agencies, world leaders, speakers, interactive programming and subject matter experts in a fun and engaging atmosphere for thought, exploration and experiential learning. The convention is open from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, April 22, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, April 23, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday, April 24. Tickets are free; register at EventBrite.com.

■ April 24: OX2BX Film Festival

The inaugural festival features short films that honor diversity and inclusivity that have been submitted by high school students. An award will be given in the category LGBTQ. Festival begins at 5 p.m. at the Texas Theatre, 231 Jefferson Blvd.

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

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SCENE

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



Two much-loved and longtime members of the Scarborough Renaissance Festival recently passed away. Sholo the Nubian, pictured, stood guard for many seasons at the bridge or front gate. Dennis Thatcher ran Thatcher's Leather Artistry Shoppe for more than 30 years. Both will be dearly missed.



Cute shirt...that's all.



She's fancy!



Ladies night at The Round-Up.



Working the room at Havana.



Marissa looking pensive at The Round-Up.



Dearly beloved!



About to take the stage at Havana.



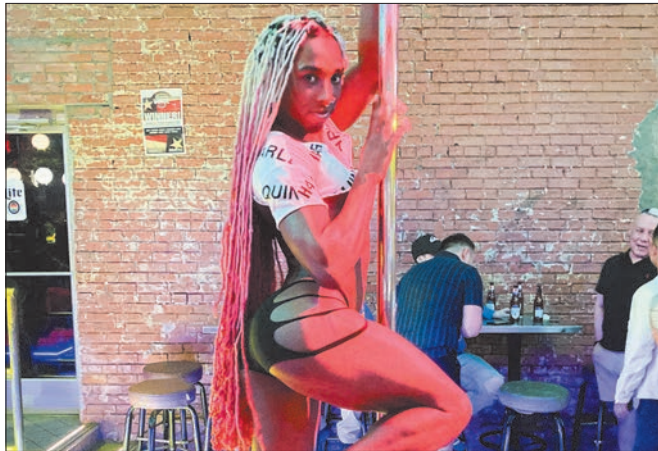
TMC brings out all the hotties!



Nayda serving looks at The Round-Up.



Boys night out at Havana.



Dancing queen at TMC.



Sing girl, sing!



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Round-Up hottie!



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Layla in the Rose Room.



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Woof!



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SCENE • Easter in the Park

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



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publishing **MAY 13** • space deadline **MAY 6**

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Employment

Conference Services Advisor

DEPARTMENT: Facilities/Hospitality
REPORTS TO: Brett Deckard, Senior Director of Facilities & Operations

Temple Emanu-El is a vibrant Reform Jewish community that strives to be a place of sacred encounter. Our Synagogue is a beautiful campus of over 50 thousand square feet of conference, reception, playgrounds, and sanctuaries. Formed in 1872, Temple Emanu-El is the largest congregation in the Southwest and is among the largest in the United States with close to 2600 member families. At Temple Emanu-El, our tent is always open. Temple Emanu-El welcomes all people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, as full participants in Temple life.

You can learn more about Temple Emanu-El at
<https://www.tedallas.org>

BASIC FUNCTIONS:

1. Set-up and break-down meeting rooms, according to Event Orders
2. Maintain the appearance of the meeting spaces
3. Assemble and arrange conference equipment
4. Must be able to push, pull and lift a variety of conference tables and other equipment weighing from 5-70 pounds, place risers into place that could weigh up to 150 pounds
5. Display good time management and follow rigid schedules or fresheners and room turns assigned by the Events Manager.
6. Must be able to work outside, year-round, to set up events in the courtyards, lawns, and playgrounds.
7. You must be able to work weekends, evenings and holidays.

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Solution on Page 34

Across

- 1 Male delivery?
 5 She played gay in *Silkwood*
 9 Has the big O
 14 Plot unit
 15 *Brothers & Sisters* matriarch
 16 Difficult position aftermath
 17 Writer Robert Louis, writer of the source novella for 29-Across
 19 Pinker, to meat-eaters
 20 Caruso or Domingo
 21 Work your fingers to the bone
 23 Coin of Versace's homeland
 24 Elevator alternative
 26 Come out on the beach
 28 Perry Mason's field
 29 Upcoming movie about Hyde
 33 Elton John's lang.
 36 Rimbaud's zip
 37 Tickles pink
 38 "___ and tigers and bears ..."
 40 Wicks, making a basket, e.g.
 43 You could get caught in it
 44 Joe who is directing 29-Across
 48 Penile boast
 50 ___ to *Watch Over Me*
 51 *I Will Survive* singer Gaynor
 54 Beethoven's "F,r ___"
 55 She plays the title role in 29-Across
 59 Old Ford model
 60 Electronic synthesizer
 61 Bea sitcom role
 62 Prop for Juliet
 63 R.E.M.'s *It's the End of the World ___ Know It*
 64 Skins
 65 *Bus Stop* playwright
 66 Drag queen ___ Pool
 67 Shooting sport
 68 Got mellow

Down

- 1 Doesn't come quickly
 2 Four duos
 3 Gladiator area
 4 Empty
 5 Anderson Cooper's network
 6 Party thrower
 7 Ending with switch
 8 Monaco VIP
 9 *Suzie Q* band, for short
 10 Kind of stimulation
 11 Noted Andy Warhol subject
 12 City hue of Oz
 13 Takes the whole bed say
 18 Shakespeare wrote a comedy of these
 22 JFK's successor
 25 Ursula Le Guin's field, with "fi"
 27 Was appropriate for
 30 Put out a feeler
 31 Years ago
 32 Essential part of cornholing?
 33 It serves Tel Aviv
 34 Cleopatra was queen of this
 35 Eating out, with "on"
 39 Victoria's Secret item
 41 Word after photo or special
 42 P on fraternity row
 44 Works for Bubba Gump
 45 Getting dirty
 46 Working in the theater
 47 Got under one's skin
 49 Ballerina's perch
 52 Fishing writer Walton
 53 Blue, to interior decorators
 55 Web info source
 56 Amount of AZT, e.g.
 57 Chick's suffix
 58 Knock off
 62 Caesar's way



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Time.



Ewing
Means Love.

