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**national** 2022  
**PRIDE**

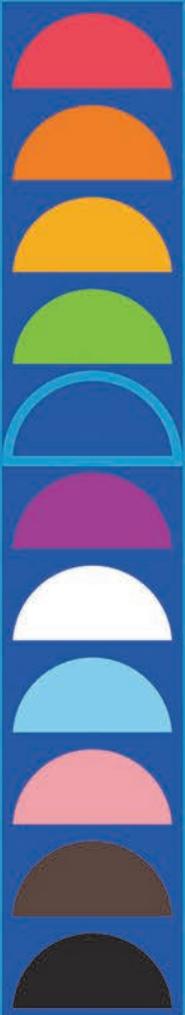
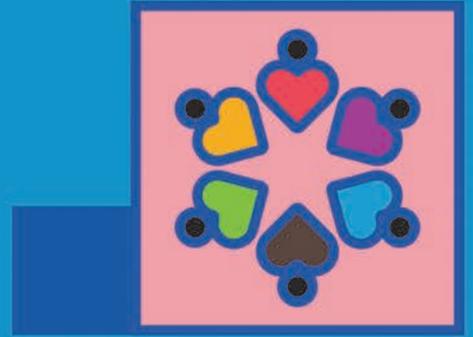


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## Coalition for Aging LGBTQ makes donation to Resource Center senior housing project

The Coalition for Aging LGBT on Wednesday, June 22, presented a check for \$20,000 to Resource Center to help fund the center's affordable housing for seniors project. Coalition Board Member and Treasurer Robert Emery, noting that this was the coalition's second \$20,000 donation to the Resource Center's senior housing project, said, "Housing has always been a prime focus for the Coalition for Aging LGBT, and we are pleased to be able to help Resource Center with their fundraising goal. Our mission is 'to improve and protect the quality of life of older LGBT adults in North Texas.' This affordable housing project fits our mission perfectly."

He added, "We hope to continue to be a good partner to Resource Center."

Pictured are, from left, Resource Center CEO Cece Cox, and coalition board members Kim Macpherson, Robert Emery, Angel Irvin and Vic Holmes.

— Tammye Nash

## Protest planned outside McKinney Pride event

A McKinney resident is encouraging LGBTQ people and their allies in North Texas to attend the McKinney Pride event being held Friday afternoon, June 24, in downtown to counteract right-wing protesters planning to attend.

The Groovy Coop, located at 109 S. Tennessee St. in McKinney, is hosting McKinney Pride from 2-6 p.m., inside the shop. The free event will

include LGBTQ-friendly vendors, special guests and prizes, along with light snacks and drinks.

The event will be held entirely inside the privately-owned business, according to a McKinney resident who notified Dallas Voice about the situation. Still, he said, people are planning to show up to protest outside the store in McKinney's downtown historic district.

According to a post in the McKinney Conservatives Facebook page, "Tammy TDubs" has asked protesters to "Please come pray and support ... in response to a McKinney Pride event hosted by Groovy Coop — making sure nothing is seen in public that is meant to be seen in private, if you know what I mean."

She invites protesters to "come and go — Pray for McKinney, Collin County, our State, our Country."

The resident who contacted Dallas Voice said, "Protesting a public event on public grounds is completely legal. However, blocking entrances to businesses by grouping and standing silently and praying to guilt patrons who are not only going into that business but also to surrounding businesses is detrimental to commerce. And it will scare away more progressive businesses from setting up shop here."

"It would be great to garner support and flood the square with a bunch of people showing support for businesses of every type," he added. "This is a damn clothing store holding an event inside. This [protest] is nothing but a bunch of Karens trying to push their weight around while claiming that they stand for equality for everybody. And there are a lot of people here who are sick of it."

— Tammye Nash

## Texas GOP swings even further to the right



The Texas GOP adopted a 40-page platform at its biennial convention in Houston the weekend of June 17 that pushes the party even further to the right. Even John Cornyn, Ted Cruz and Dan Crenshaw came under fire for not being "conservative" enough from some at the event.

In addition to pushing Trump's "Big Lie" with its declaration that Joe Biden's election as president was "illegitimate" and declaring that homosexuality as an "abnormal lifestyle" while "oppos[ing] all efforts to validate transgender identity," the party platform goes even further off the rails by calling for a referendum in 2023 on Texas seceding from the U.S.

In its section on "Homosexuality and Gender Issues," the platform declares that Texas GOP is against giving "special legal status to gay men or women" and supports people who oppose homosexuality based on faith, religion or a belief

in "traditional values." The platform also opposes the use of public funds for homosexuality, transgender or diversity and equity inclusion centers as well as for gender-affirming care but supports so-called "conversion therapy" for LGBTQ people.

The platform insists gender identity disorder is "a genuine and extremely rare mental health condition," and requires official documents to adhere to "biological gender" and allowing civil penalties and monetary compensation to "de-transitioners" who have received gender-affirming surgery, which the platform calls a form of medical malpractice.

While the Texas GOP has never been LGBTQ-friendly in any way, the anti-LGBTQ "abnormal lifestyle" rhetoric was not included in the 2020 or 2018 state party platforms.

U.S. Sen. John Cornyn was booed when he stood up to talk about gun law reforms underway in Congress and both Congressman Dan Crenshaw, a former Navy SEAL who lost an eye to a bomb on Afghanistan, and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz were confronted by far-right activist Alex Stein. Stein called Crenshaw "eyepatch McCain" (a term for the conservative Congressman apparently coined by Fox News' Tucker Carlson after Crenshaw said that U.S. aid to Ukraine was not a factor in the baby formula shortage) and a "globalist RINO," and said Crenshaw is a "traitor" who should be hung for treason because he did not buy into Trump's lies about the election being stolen.

Stein called Cruz a "globalist, a coward and a liar," and harangued the senator for going to Cancun and leaving Texans to freeze during the winter storm of 2021 and for supporting Donald Trump even after Trump insulted Cruz's wife, Heidi.

— Tammye Nash

## Right-wing agitator suspended on Twitter

Twitter accounts for right-wing agitator Kelly Neidert and for her "nonprofit" called Protect Texas Kids have both been suspended after Neidert posted over the June 17 weekend that everyone who attended Pride celebrations should be "rounded up."

Protect Texas Kids is not on the IRS list of organizations able to accept tax-exempt donations, nor is it registered with the state as a nonprofit.

Neidert, who graduated from the University of North Texas in May, labeled herself the most hated conservative student on the UNT campus after she brought in right-wing and virulently anti-trans political candidate Jeff Younger to speak to students. She also had a reputation for harassing LGBTQ students to the point that a Change.org petition was started calling on UNT officials to expel her because she had consistently "perpetuated a hostile environment by encouraging and disseminating transphobic, racist and homophobic rhetoric."

After graduating, Neidert created her "Protect Texas Kids" group and turned her focus to drag shows in the DFW area. She was reportedly the organizer behind the June 3 protest of the

### An update on your report

Thanks again for letting us know. Our investigation found this account violated the [Twitter Rules](#):



Kelly  
@kelly\_neidert

- Violating our rules against [abuse and harassment](#).

We appreciate your help in improving everyone's experience on Twitter. You can learn more about reporting abusive behavior [here](#).

"kid-friendly drag show" held at Mr. Misster that prompted state Rep. Bryan Slaton pledge to introduce legislation banning children from drag performances. Neidert was also behind the protest on June 12 outside Troy's at Texas Live where the "Disney Drag Brunch" was held.

Dallas police were called to the scene of the June 3 protest and went inside the bar at the insistence of one of the protesters who wanted officers to "conduct a welfare check" of the children inside. Neidert declared protesters had won the day because officers made those with children leave the event. However, a DPD spokesman told Dallas Voice that officers found no problems inside the bar and that when those attending chose to leave, officers escorted them out to protect them from being harassed by the protesters outside.

Officers were also called to the scene in Arlington on June 12 and made protesters move to a sidewalk across the street from the venue, but video posted to Reddit showed a small group of men blocking the sidewalk while shouting slurs, vulgarities and threats at people going into the fundraising event at Troy's. One man — wearing a black t-shirt with the image of a handgun on it and a kilt with combat boots — threatened to attack one attendee, saying he would "happily" go back to jail for assaulting them.

Protesters at the Disney Drag Brunch apparently were not aware that the sold-out event was for those 21 and up only. The same group had protested near Arlington's first Pride celebration the day before.

— Tammye Nash

## ■ Adoptable / CEDAR



Meet Cedar, an adorable little kitten who has only been in the world for three months now. He is curious and active and loves to swat at dangly toys. Cedar is an all-black domestic shorthair mix (though he has some striped shading in there) with big eyes.

He was a stray found by a Good Samaritan who brought him in to the SPCA of Texas, so he can be a little timid at first generally warms up in short order. Potential adopters can meet Cedar and some of his other feline friends by visiting the Greenville Avenue PetSmart cat adoption center. There are adoption locations in five local PetSmart stores where the kitties are waiting for a purrr-fect forever home.

There is usually a \$75 adoption fee for adult dogs and cats at SPCA of Texas. Puppies and kittens under the age of six months are \$150. Adoption fees vary for small mammals, equestrian and livestock. Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FelV test for cats four 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.

The Jan-Rees Jones Animal Care Center is currently closed to the public due to a distemper outbreak. Animals are available from foster care and at the five PetSmart cat adoption locations. Appointments are required for foster animals. Please browse available animals at [SPCA.org/FindAPet](#) and visit [SPCA.org/DogAdopt](#) to inquire about a dog or [SPCA.org/CatAdopt](#) to inquire about a cat.



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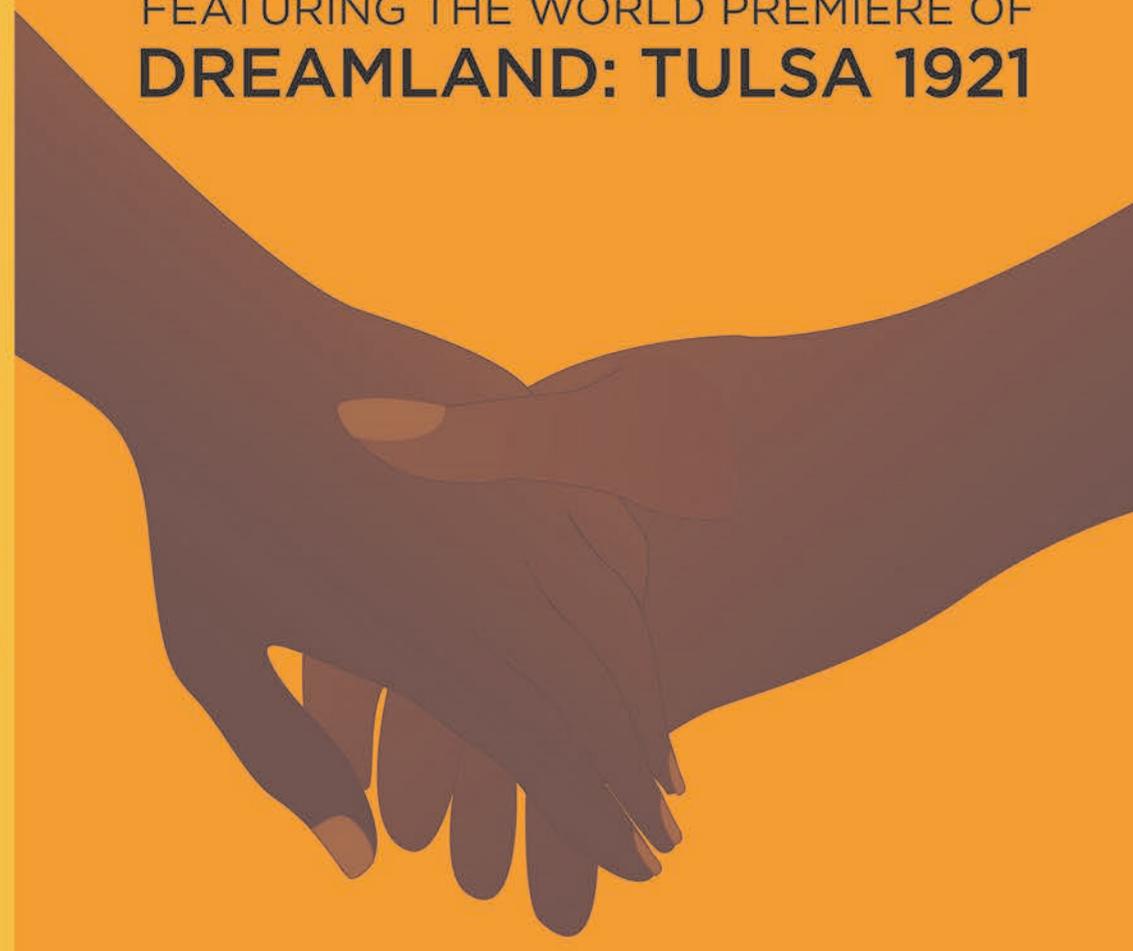
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# Speaking up

Community leaders ask Arboretum board members to address discrimination claims

Following is a letter, dated June 21, addressed to the directors sitting on the board of the Dallas Arboretum, asking that the board investigate and address charges of racism and anti-LGBTQ discrimination by some Arboretum staff members. The letter is signed by community leaders Resource Center CEO Cece Cox, Equality Texas Foundation Board Chair Steve Atkinson and Resource Center Board President Kate Newman. The letter — which originally included hyperlinks to complaints, reviews and other cited sources — is published here with the permission of those who signed it.

Dear Director of The Dallas Arboretum: We are writing as active and engaged citizens of Dallas who care about this city and its institutions. Like you, we have served on nonprofit boards, and we understand the vital importance of a director's fiduciary and governance responsibilities.

By way of introduction, we have served on city of Dallas boards and currently hold or have held leadership positions with local, state and national organizations, including Southern Methodist University, Human Rights Campaign, Equality Texas, Resource Center, SPCA of Dallas, TACA and the LGBT Law Section of the State Bar of Texas, to name a few. We are accomplished and respected advocates, leaders and allies in the Dallas business community and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ+) rights movement.

Dallas serves as an exemplar of the best that a city can be. It has a commitment to equity and inclusion and in 1995 was one of the first cities in Texas to add sexual orientation to its nondiscrimination ordinance (which already included race, gender, age, ethnic origin, nationality and other federally protected classes). Subsequently, the city ordinance and city charter were updated to also include gen-

der identity and gender expression. While this local law is certainly not unusual in the United States, its importance cannot be overstated, because our state does not protect its LGBTQ+ citizens — for example, it is legal under state law to fire someone based upon their sexual orientation and gender identity. In addition, Texas is one of five states that does not protect LGBTQ+ persons in public accommodations. Therefore, LGBTQ+ persons can be kicked out of a restaurant simply because of who they are in most cities in Texas. In contrast, Dallas's non-discrimination ordinance prohibits discrimination in public accommodations.

While Dallas is a shining example of welcoming and inclusion, that shine today is tarnished by the Dallas Arboretum, which attracted 1,025,052 visitors in 2021 and is one of the top visitor attractions in Dallas. In approximately the last seven months, two complaints have been filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the city of Dallas's Fair Housing Office by Arboretum employees who care so deeply about the organization that they have shared details of discrimination in the work environment in order to effect change. It is our understanding that at least two other complaints have been filed as well but have not been made public. Still other complaints could have been filed but for the expiration of the statute of limitations before those individuals could file. Employee reviews on job recruiting sites Glassdoor and Indeed report a racist environment, lack of diversity in management, a toxic work environment and numerous other concerns.

The discrimination claims that we are aware of include race, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender



**Cece Cox**  
Contributing Columnist

expression. They evidence a clear picture of a work culture that is the antithesis of what Dallas stands for. They indicate a failure to stamp out bias and discrimination not only internally but also in the Arboretum's outward-facing programming. While we support the Arboretum's right to respond to the allegations, the concerns raised demand a thorough investigation, response, transparent answers and accountability. We have heard none.

Dallas Park and Recreation Director John Jenkins sent a letter dated January 19, 2022, to Arboretum President and CEO Mary Brinegar, notifying her that he was aware of a Dallas Voice report that a claim had been filed with the EEOC. He referred her to the Arboretum's non-discrimination obligations under its agreement with the city, as well as applicable city ordinances.

As a board member of the Dallas Arboretum, you have a fiduciary duty to ensure that the organization not only complies with all applicable laws, but also that it is a stellar representative of the city of Dallas. Per its contractual agreement to manage the 66 acres of land owned by the city of Dallas at White Rock Lake, the Arboretum is violating both its agreement with the city as well as Dallas City Code chapter 46, by discriminating against employees.

The issues of discrimination and toxic work environment at the Arboretum have already received media coverage, including from PBS affiliate KERA, Dallas Morning News, Dallas Voice, Axios and the Lakewood Advocate. Attention will undoubtedly expand as more Dallas residents become aware of these circumstances:

The Arboretum planned a few activities in June for what is known as Pride Month in acknowledgment of the LGBTQ community. Those plans do not in any way mitigate the reality that LGBTQ+ employees have not been able to bring their full selves to work, as detailed in the ... complaints.

Our leadership on various boards and organizations has required us to face and examine unpleasant truths for the betterment of the organization, the people who serve it and those who are served. We urge you, as a director of the Dallas

Arboretum, to do the same and conduct a thorough investigation of the issues raised by current and former employees and to root out all causes of discrimination, toxicity and harm.

Specifically, we ask that you:

- Determine why and how workplace practices are in violation of Dallas City Code that prohibits discrimination, and hold those responsible accountable;
- For all staff, immediately implement mandatory and ongoing cultural competency training that addresses, at a minimum, race, color, sex, age, disability, national origin, citizenship status, genetic information, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression;
- Immediately update the employee handbook with LGBTQ+ protective policies, including: Accurate language reflecting diversity and inclusion of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression among employees; Allowing the use of pronouns on email signatures; pronoun pins and stickers; and other visual displays of support for the LGBTQ+ community; FMLA policies inclusive of LGBTQ+ individuals and families;
- Provide equitable benefits, including gender-affirming healthcare for transgender individuals.
- Provide transparent communication and reporting to the department of Park and Recreation and the taxpayers of Dallas regarding how significant cultural change will take place.

These matters cannot be swept under the rug by keeping board members in the dark, by maintaining the status quo in organizational leadership, by fear of implementing needed and necessary change in the culture or any other impediment or challenge. Your job now is to ask many questions and demand complete and thorough answers, and with those answers, effectuate institutional change, including accountability practices in the future. Your organization, the individuals affected, and the citizens of Dallas deserve no less than excellence.

Sincerely,

Cece Cox, J.D.

*CEO, Resource Center*

Steve Atkinson,

*Board Chair, Equality Texas Foundation*

Kate Newman

*Board President, Resource Center*



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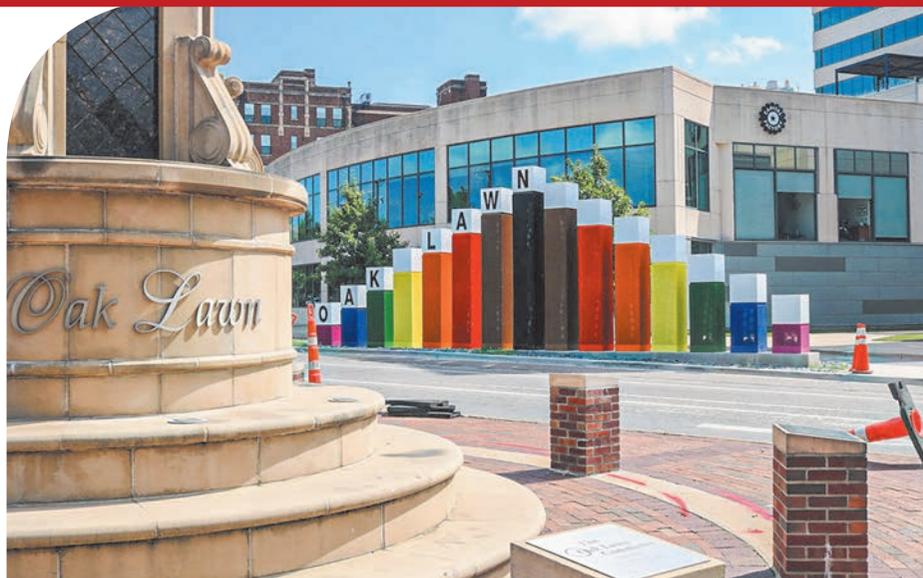
# Guess Who's back

## PRIDE

New Pride in Dallas organization aims to bring back a September Pride celebration in the Gayborhood

**TAMMYE NASH** | Managing Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

All the folks who have been clamoring for Pride to return to the gayborhood are about to get their wish: A newly-formed organization called Pride in Dallas this week announced plans for a week-long “celebration of love” in mid-September, the time frame in which Dallas



The Strip on Cedar Springs is at the heart of the Oak Lawn Gayborhood, and a new organization called Pride in Dallas, is planning to bring the city's Pride celebration back here in September. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

### North Texas Pride

The 2022 North Texas Pride Festival takes place Saturday, Sept. 17, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Saigling House, 902 E. 16th St. in Plano. This is the 11th annual Come As You Are festival, and it will feature sponsor and vendor booths, food, beverages, give-aways, donations to a partnering non-profit to be named at a later date, activities for both adults and children, bands, a DJ, dancing and more. The festival is a fundraiser supporting the vision of a permanent location that will be used by various organizations for events, meetings and educational activities, as well as a central resource center to communities north of Highway 635.

VIP tickets are available for a \$20 donation and entitle the ticketholder to time indoors in air conditioning with light refreshments, alcoholic beverages and other refreshments. The VIP room will be open from noon-4 p.m.

To volunteer, register at <https://forms.gle/n9wYixq1uKFmhPA28>.

### Texas Latino Pride

Texas Latino Pride 2022 takes place Saturday, Sept. 17, from 3-9 p.m. at Reverchon Park.

Texas Latino Pride is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that produces the largest Latinx Pride music festival in Texas and hosts, supports or sponsors a number of other LGBTQ events and community programs throughout the year.

Details for this year's event are still being finalized. For more information on details and on being a sponsor or a vendor, visit the website at [TexasLatinoPride.org](http://TexasLatinoPride.org).

celebrated Pride for 35 years — from 1984 to 2018.

The weeklong celebration will start Monday, Sept. 12, with the main event set for Sunday, Sept. 18.

Pride in Dallas, which was founded in May, is the “brainchild of several active members of the Dallas LGBTQ+ community who would like to bring Pride events back to the Dallas area commonly referred to as the Gayborhood,” noted a press release announcing the organization and its plans.

Board President James Ware said in the press release, “As a member of the Dallas queer community for nearly 40 years, I can tell you that Pride hasn't been the same since it left its home on Cedar Springs in 2018. There are many folks in our community who feel the same and would like to see Pride events in September — in our own neighborhood — like it was for three decades.”

While the organization is planning a week of full events this coming September, organizers said this inaugural event will still be “a scaled-back version” of what they have in mind for 2023.

Funding has long been an issue for the Dallas Pride committee, which each year puts on the Miller Lite Music Festival and the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade. Beyond the cost of bringing in entertainers and getting the parade down

the street, the committee had to pay for city permits, cover the rising costs of parade route barriers and extra security required by the city, and more. And those costs continued to rise steadily over the years.

That is why the committee — going back decades — worked to bring in corporate sponsors to help cover the necessary expenses, and also one of the reasons the committee chose to move the festival and parade to Fair Park.

Pride in Dallas organizers, however, intend to take a different approach: The organization is asking the community that has asked for Pride to return to the Gayborhood to help make that happen by contributing financially.

Pride in Dallas is seeking donations to cover permitting and event expenditures, including fencing, sanitation, security and entertainment. They have set up a GoFundMe page where community members and allies can donate, and participating bars in the area have pledged to match the GoFundMe donations up to \$15,500 each.

Bars that have pledged to match donations are Caven Enterprises, The Round-Up Saloon, Woody's, Lava Lounge and Cedar Springs Tap House.

Those who want to donate can visit [GoFundMe.com/f/Pride-Parade-Cedar-Springs](https://GoFundMe.com/f/Pride-Parade-Cedar-Springs).

The GoFundMe page has a stated goal of raising \$50,000. The explanation on the GoFundMe page notes: “Help us bring PRIDE back to our neighborhood streets with a full-out PRIDE celebration. Your donation continues the celebration of diversity and equality beyond a single month and gives the LGBTQ+ community the visibility we deserve by celebrating PRIDE the way we did before.”

It continues: “Pride in Dallas was established in response to the overwhelming backlash from our community who want to see Pride celebrated in the very same neighborhood they consider home. Pride in Dallas is committed to bringing our September celebration back to Oak Lawn. ...”

Pride in Dallas serves to provide celebrations of LGBTQ+ Pride in the heart of the queer Dallas community. Our mission drives us to deepen the connection LGBTQ+ individuals have to the safe spaces that have cultivated and supported Pride celebrations since their inception, and facilitate events that inspire, educate, commemorate and celebrate our diverse community.”

Also helping keep costs down is the fact that Pride in Dallas is a “100 percent volunteer-based organization” that was “formed through the overwhelming support of the local LGBTQ+ community.”

The Pride In Dallas board of directors includes, in addition to Ware, Sameer Paroo as vice president, Andrew Vargas as treasurer, Tracy Nanthavongsa as secretary, Tanner Roberts as director of operations, Donnesh Amrollah as creative director and Haley Ablon as a board member.

The organization already has a basic website in place — [PrideInDallas.org](http://PrideInDallas.org) — with a panoramic photo showing the downtown Dallas skyline at night, lit up in the rainbow Pride colors. There is also a countdown clock across the top of the homepage counting down the days, hours, minutes and even seconds until the big Pride event on Sept. 18. ■

*More information will be released in the weeks to come as plans for the Pride in Dallas celebration are finalized.*

# Hate and chaos

RELIGION



Jonathan Shelley

Stedfast Baptist, led by hate preacher Jonathan Shelley, is at the center of a lawsuit over who controls the church and whether its funds have been misused

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor  
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**S**tedfast Baptist Church — now located on Denton Highway in Watauga — is a small, “independent fundamental King James only” church known around the country for the virulently and violently anti-LGBTQ video sermons its preachers post online.

Just in recent weeks, after preacher Dillon Awes posted a video declaring LGBTQ people should be lined up against a wall and shot in the back of the head, a church member was cited for shoving a protester in the parking lot of the strip center where the church is located, and church officials reported that someone had shattered the church’s glass front door and spray-painted “faggots fight back” on the sidewalk.

But it appears, based on court documents and other sources, that the chaos surrounding Stedfast isn’t just external: There is a legal battle being waged over who actually controls the church and how donations to the church are being used.

## History of hate

Chaos, hate and attention aren’t new to Stedfast Baptist, of course. It all started almost immediately when pastor Donnie Romero was starting out in a small home on Fort Worth’s northwest side. In a video since removed from YouTube for violating the website’s terms of service, Romero in December 2014 declared, “I’m not going to let these dirty faggots in my church. They’re all pedophiles.”

Romero was reportedly ordained and then sent to North Texas by Arizona hate preacher Steven Anderson to found Stedfast. And in 2016, when a gunman murdered 49 LGBTQ people and allies celebrating Pride Month at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, both preachers responded as hatefully as expected, with Romero saying in a sermon that the Pulse victims deserved to be gunned down and that he was praying

**HATE**, Page 45



Rebecca S. Covell  
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# Wrapping up Pride Month with **more** parties

PRIDE

## Celebrating Pride at Dallas City Hall

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Councilman Omar Narvaez, who heads the Mayor's LGBT Task Force, presented leadership awards to community members and allies at a reception held on Wednesday, June 22, in the lobby of Dallas City Hall.

Narvaez had just been elected the city's new deputy mayor pro tem, and Councilwoman Carolyn King Arnold was chosen by the council to replace Chad West as mayor pro tem. Each of those positions is held for a one-year term.

West made comments welcoming the community to Dallas City Hall and thanked the majority of the city council for joining the celebration. Dallas' new city Poet Laureate Joaquin Zihuatanejo read his poem "What If." And Misty Logan, president of the city's LGBTQ employee resource group that served as host, welcomed everyone to the event.

Narvaez announced the awards, winners of which were chosen by members of the city council.

First was Betty Neal, who received the Outstanding Leadership in Civic Engagement award in recognition of her more than 40 years of service and activism.

State Rep. Jessica Gonzalez was recognized for Outstanding Leadership in Public Service. The second-term Dallas Democrat was a leader of the walkout during the first special session of the Legislature last year and was recognized by Texas Monthly as the Bull of the Brazos. She was a founder of the Texas Legislative LGBT Caucus.

For Outstanding Leadership in Arts and Culture, clothing designer Nicolas



Mayors LGBTQ Task Force chair Omar Narvaez, who was just elected deputy mayor pro tem, presented the Dallas City Pride Awards on Wednesday

Villalba was the winner. He specializes in custom bridal wear, bespoke menswear and theater and television costumes.

Craig McCartney, who has been involved in supporting various organizations, especially those in the LGBTQ community, was recognized for Outstanding Leadership in Philanthropy. And Clyde Greenhouse, owner of Kessler Baking Studio in Oak Cliff, was awarded Outstanding Leadership in Business.

The council added an award this year to recognize Dr. Ximena Lopez's fight to keep open the GENECIS program at

Children's Health. In her remarks, she dedicated the award to the kids who've been in the program and thanked her team and the attorneys who volunteered their time and won lawsuits.

For the final award, chosen by the chair of the Mayor's Task Force, Narvaez announced that not only would the award go to former Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano, but that it would also be named after him.

Medrano chaired the Task Force for most of his eight years on the Dallas City Council. He joked that Narvaez called him a bad gay when he was first elected, because "I wasn't out enough."

He said he had planned to work for everyone in his district and came from a family where being gay wasn't an issue. In fact, he said, his family "didn't blink an eye" when he came out to them.

But he chaired the Task Force, passed Family and Medical Leave for partners of city employees, added trans health-care benefits, included equality wording for sexual orientation and gender identity throughout the city's legal codes and, for fun, had the city adopt its own official Pride flag.

"I'm a good gay now," Medrano declared. ■

# Resource Center hosts inaugural Pride block party

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff writer  
rich@dallasvoice.com

**P**ride has been big this month, with a number of celebrations happening everywhere from Fair Park to downtown. This year, Resource Center joins the party with its first-ever Pride Celebration Carnival Extravaganza this Saturday, June 25. With a festive theme, the Center invites the community to continue getting its Pride on.

The event will also mark the 39th anniversary of the Center's founding in June 1983.

The event will be held outside the center's community building at 5750 Cedar Springs Road with a lineup of entertainment, booths and carnival games throughout the outdoor setting.

While the event encourages a celebratory note, the history and importance of Pride isn't lost.

"Resource Center has always served as a gathering place for our community — during the first days of the AIDS pandemic, in the aftermath of the Pulse nightclub massacre, and now as we continue to battle discrimination and anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation," said Resource Center CEO Cece Cox in a press release. "This is a time to gather again and celebrate the perseverance and strength of our beautiful rainbow families and community."

The family-friendly event will have a variety of features, many which show off the center's program offerings. The need to remind the community of its services is perpetual, according to Bill Scott, the Center's director of events and operations. Guests will find a slew of information about what Resource Center can do.

"There's always that need to show people who we are and why we do it. It's good the community knows what we can offer in case there is a time of need," Scott said by phone. "We have programs for young men and women, for trans populations, and we offer behavioral health services; and, as we grow, we can offer more services."

All the programs at RC will be intro-



Resource Center CEO Cece Cox invites the community to celebrate at the center this weekend.

duced to the community at the block party.

The event will also feature drag performances by Ginger Mann, Gennifer with a G and Rocky Tacoma. DJs Rude-Boy and Tony Dean will spin live sets, the Danielle Georgiou Dance Group will perform, and Sue Ellen's faves Kathy Corbin and Bella Estrada will play an acoustic set.

The event will also host the Resource Center mobile unit for free HIV testing, a marketplace with queer-owned and inclusive businesses, photo booths, carnival games, bounce house, a beer garden and food trucks with food and beverages available for purchase.

"This is a great way to close out the month of Pride," Scott said. "We are the LGBTQ center of North Texas and this is like our way to give back to our community." ■

*The free event runs from 3-7 p.m.*

*For more information, visit [myresource-center.org](http://myresource-center.org).*

# Trinity Pride Fest returns in person



Big Sug and Kylee O'Hara Fatale are just two of the exciting entertainers lined up for Trinity Pride Fest

## FROM STAFF REPORTS

**A**fter two years of virtual celebrations, Pride takes charge on the west side the Metroplex on Saturday, June 25, with the Trinity Pride Fest taking place from 3-10 p.m. at Magnolia Green Park, 1100 Lipscomb St. in Fort Worth.

The free and family-friendly event, presented by Frank Kent Cadillac, will include food trucks and a variety of artisan vendors in a market by Wandering Roots, live music by local queer artists and band and interactive programming for the youth in a cooling tent.

Eats and treats will include offerings from Carpenter's Café and Catering, Lucky G's Bistro, Funky Calavera, Crazy Burger, Funkytown Cheese Co., Yatai Food Truck, Compatible Delights, Sweet Land, Kona Ice and Frios Gourmet Popsicles..

The entertainment for the main stage includes DJ Aphout from 3-5 p.m., followed by Averi Burk, Creator Jewels, Yasmeen, Big Sug and, at 9 p.m., drag performances from Kylee O'Hara Fatale, Sapphire Davenport, Zimora Lee Evans, Barbie Davenport Dupree and Salem Moon.

There are several options for parking at the festival, starting with free parking available in the parking garage at 1201 Alston Ave. Some street parking will be available as marked, and, of course, ride share is always a good option.

The festival is organized by the non-profit organization Trinity Pride. The organization's mission, according to its website is to "connect, empower

and bridge the gaps within our Greater Fort Worth and LGBTQ+ communities across all generations by providing resources, education and inclusive spaces that inspire authentic self-expression."

With protesters having shown up at various events in recent weeks, and with recent shootings causing heightened alert for many, Trinity Pride this week offered reassurances for those who want to attend.

Organizers acknowledged that when it comes to protesters at Pride events, "it is never a question of if there will be protesters but when and how many." But they also stressed that Fort Worth Police Department officers will be on hand to provide security, adding that "we have been working closely with them to be prepared. We have multiple plans in place, and benefit from the festival being across the street from the police station." Organizers also urged those planning to attend not to engage with any protesters that might show up.

"These protesters are hoping to disrupt the joy and celebration of our community. Engaging with them and distracting from our 'Celebration of Love' is exactly what they want," they noted on the Trinity Pride Facebook page. Instead of letting that happen, they said, people should help make a "wall of love" — standing side by side with their backs to protesters, creating a visual barrier between the protesters and those celebrating Pride.

Organizers also promised that if the protesters "step out of line," Fort Worth officers are ready to step in and "handle the situation." ■

*For more information, visit the event page at [Facebook.com/TrinityPrideFW](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityPrideFW).*

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# Remembering 'Dreamland'

## TEACHING THROUGH MUSIC

TCC premiering work about Tulsa Race Massacre at Meyerson before Carnegie Hall appearance

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
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The Greenwood neighborhood of Tulsa was known as Black Wall Street, and the thriving business district and surrounding residential area were nationally known, according to the Tulsa Historical Society. But in 1921, participants in what's become known as the Tulsa Race Massacre destroyed the neighborhood, murdering as many as 300 residents.

The Turtle Creek Chorale has commissioned a new work — *Dreamland: Tulsa 1921*, based on the incidents of the massacre — that will premiere at the Meyerson Symphony Center on July 2 and 3. Then on July 9, the chorus will perform the work at Carnegie Hall in New York City with members of the Philadelphia Gay Men's Chorus before taking the work to Tulsa on Aug. 6.

The name *Dreamland* comes from the name of a theater in the Greenwood district that was one of the first buildings destroyed in the riot.

In its description of the event, the Tulsa Historical Society writes that on May 30, 1921, a young Black man named Dick Rowland was riding an elevator with a white woman. "The details of what followed vary from person to person," they explain.

Whatever happened, Rowland was arrested the next day. The Tulsa newspaper wrote an inflammatory account of the incident, instigating a confrontation between Black and white armed mobs. Shots were fired and the outnumbered Greenwood residents retreated to their neighborhood.

On June 1, white rioters looted and burned Greenwood in an attack that



Artistic Director Sean Baugh, standing, and guest performer Denise Lee, seated right, and members of the Turtle Creek Chorale reheard for the premiere of *Dreamland*.

lasted more than 24 hours. More than 6,000 residents of the neighborhood were rounded up and held at the Convention Hall and the Fairgrounds for up to eight days.

By June 2, 35 blocks had been burned, and as many as 300 people had been killed (there's never been an exact count of those who were killed, and Tulsa is just now looking for a mass grave). About 1,250 homes were destroyed along with churches, schools, a hospital, a library and all of the businesses along Black Wall Street.

Charges against Rowland were eventually dropped, but no one was ever prosecuted for the murderous riot.

The event was originally called the Tulsa Race Riot, which allowed insurance companies to deny claims. Today it's more likely to be referred to as the Tulsa Race Massacre to acknowledge the loss of innocent life.

Chorale Artistic Director Sean Baugh grew up in Tulsa, but even so, he said, "I never learned about the horrific Tulsa Race Massacre. It was hidden from us."

While he had heard of the event casually through conversation, it wasn't until last year when he saw HBO's *The Watchman* that prominently featured the massacre that he more fully understood its impact on generations of Black Tulsans.

"I had known the story in the far back reaches of my mind," he said. "I felt it was a story that could uniquely be told through music."

Baugh said the process of developing *Dreamland* has been educational for him and for members of the chorale, and he hope the program will educate their for their audiences, too.

Once he had the idea of turning the story of the Tulsa Race Massacre into a chorale piece, Baugh knew he needed to find a composer and librettist. So he turned to Marques Garrett, "a young Black composer well known in chorale circles."

Then Garrett brought up librettist Sandra Seaton's name. The two had never worked together before and, Baugh said, the chorale hasn't performed any of their works before. So it would be a new experience for all of them.

for all of them.

The piece they created together runs about 30 minutes and explores issues of racial equity. The rest of the concert puts the piece into the context of what's happening today, including another premiere: "Where Are the Bodies?" by Reginal Wright.

Baugh said the Chorale has "lots of guests" participating in this performance, including Denise Lee, who will also be traveling to New York for the performance there, guest conductors both in Dallas and New York and Paul Mason and Major Attaway performing with the chorale at Carnegie Hall.

Baugh said the Meyerson show will be a more visually interesting experience. He hopes audiences will come with the anticipation of being educated and that they will leave inspired and entertained.

"The program is a wide mixture of intense and beautiful story telling mixed with inspiring music," Baugh said. "It's not a dark evening. We won't leave you in a dark place."

*Dreamland* is part of an ongoing diversity and inclusion effort headed by TCC Executive Director Jeremy Wayne, who said, "We've been talking to people and asking questions: What can we do better as an organization? Are we doing auditions in right places? Are we singing in right places?"

He said the chorale joined 30 to 40 other nonprofits to form Dallas Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation.

While they have made a good start in increasing the number of Black singers and including more music by Black artists, Wayne said they have even more work to do increasing the number of Hispanic members.

"They're feeling not as included in the repertoire we're doing," he said, noting that there's not as much Hispanic chorale music available. The solution? Answering the question of "How can we get more Hispanic work written?" ■

Tickets for the Dallas concert are available at [TurtleCreekChorale.com](http://TurtleCreekChorale.com). Tickets for the New York concert are available at [CarnegieHall.org](http://CarnegieHall.org).



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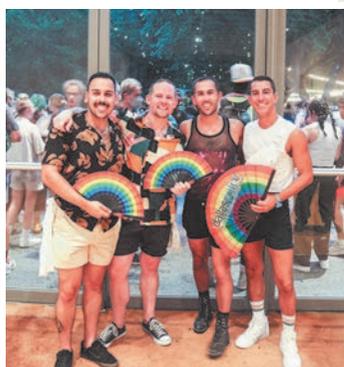
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# Faces of 2022

PRIDE

## Arts District Pride



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# Miller Lite Music Festival





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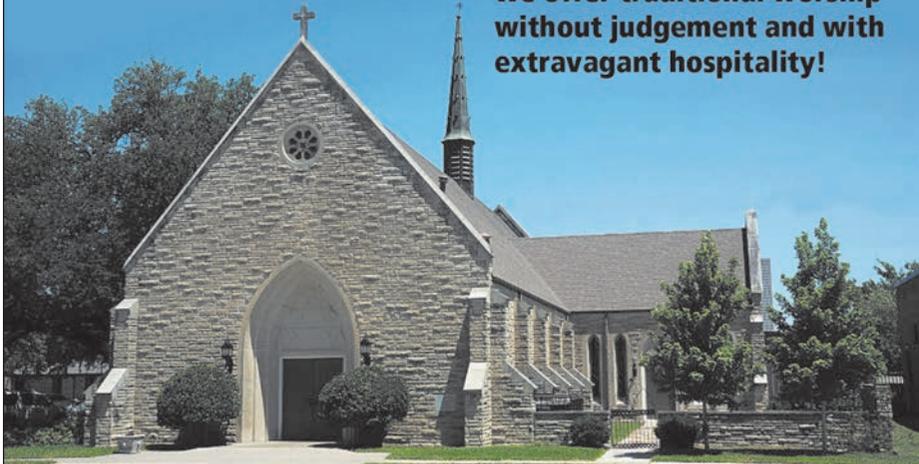
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# Small town hate

**FIGHTING DISCRIMINATION**



An inadequate septic system and large dose of homophobia closed one couple's business

**DAVID TAFFET** | Senior Staff Writer  
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**A**fter stints at companies like American Airlines, Gary Garcia was tired of corporate America, tired of the bureaucracy and the politics. He was ready to step out on his own and follow in his family's restaurant tradition.

"My family has owned restaurants in Colorado since 1960," he said, adding that any time he would take tacos he made to work, "everyone always told me to open a restaurant."

So Garcia and his husband, Chad Pritchett, looked for a location near their Wise County house. They found a new food truck yard opening, but they wanted something more permanent. Then, in nearby Aurora, they found a developer

putting together sheds built around a common seating/patio/picnic area. It was just what they were looking for.

Like the rest of the city, the restaurants in these sheds would be on a septic system. That worried Garcia, but Pritchett assured him it was normal in a small town.

So they built a 500-square-foot shed for their new business, Atomic Taco. They worked with the city to make sure they were compliant with all the relevant codes, and the building inspector assured them they were, in fact, over-compliant.

They picked up their certificate of occupancy and opened on Jan. 17, 2020.

Within two weeks the septic alarm went off. The area, Garcia said, "smelled like sewage."

So they called the city. They were assured it would be fixed. But that's when they learned the patio was built on top of the septic system.

Things were fixed, at least temporarily, and Atomic Taco began getting good traction. They were even written up in Texas Monthly.

But the septic problems continued.

“The Texas Commission of Environmental Quality came out and said [the set up] this wasn’t legal,” Garcia said. So the landlord installed sprayers — which, Garcia said, “sprayed the building, customers. They were spraying sewage.”



Gary Garcia

While this would have been unhealthy under any circumstances, it was particularly dangerous for Garcia, who had a liver transplant in 2016 (see “The Gift of Life” Dec. 22, 2017, issue of Dallas Voice).

That’s when things got ugly.

Garcia said workers at one of the other businesses began telling customers to avoid Atomic Taco, saying things like, “Don’t go over there. Two fags own the

business.”

Actually, Atomic Taco was a very family-friendly restaurant. Garcia and Pritchett have a son who’s now 6½ years old, and they started a non-profit to help children going through organ transplantation.

Then Garcia and his husband were blamed for causing trouble for having called TCEQ, which wrote up a violation. That’s when the local health inspector began harassing them, Garcia said. He said he told them if the problem was the septic system, they’d help pay to fix the system. By July, he said, it had gotten so bad that sewage was coming up from underground.

So, Garcia said, “I called a lawyer. We wanted to continue doing business here.”

Garcia again said they’d help pay for the needed septic system upgrade, and their attorney sent a letter about getting it fixed. But then things got weird with the landlord, Toni Wheeler, who was also Aurora’s city administrator at the time.

They received an email that the property was sold to someone in Aurora, Colo. — an odd coincidence in Garcia’s mind, that an Aurora, Texas, property would be sold to someone in another city with the same name.

Then Garcia and Pritchett received a letter, with a return address for a UPS store in Aurora, Colo., from Luis Martinez, the new owner, raising the monthly rent from \$400 to \$6,000. When they tried getting in touch with Martinez through the UPS store, they were told by that store didn’t have a box with that number.

When Garcia and Pritchett asked other shed owners if they also received the notice about the rent increase, the other owners said they had received it and were just going to pay the increase. But Garcia and Pritchett knew that a \$6,000-a-month rent wasn’t economically feasible; they concluded the other restaurant owners were in on what they were beginning to think was a scam.

They contacted the Southlake company listed in the letter as the new property management company, and were told the company didn’t represent anyone named Luis Martinez. Then, when they traced the UPS letter supposedly sent by Martinez back to its source, they found it had actually been sent by Wheeler.

Garcia said they contacted “Martinez”

TOWN, Page 48

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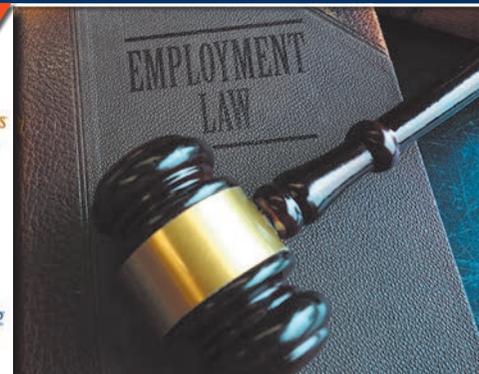
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# Becoming a youth faith ambassador

## NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

Roswell Grey is well accepted at home, school and at church and hopes to help others flourish

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**R**oswell Grey is out at home, in school and in church. The 16-year-old is trans and Mormon and was recently named a Beloved Arise youth of faith ambassador. Beloved Arise is a national organization that celebrates and empowers LGBTQ youth, particularly those who have been rejected by their faith communities.

Grey always knew he was different but didn't start learning about queerness until 2017 and didn't begin coming out until 2020 when there was no school and no activities.

"I first came out to people online and slowly started coming out to my school friends who were trans or queer in some way," he said. "My school has a big queer and trans population."

Grey attends Sherman High School in Sherman, about 65 miles north of Dallas. He said his friends are accepting, and most of the older students are accepting. The freshmen can sometimes be jerks, he said, and while most teachers call him by his preferred name, some insist on using his legal name.

"You can't get your name changed in the [school's] system unless it's legally changed," he said.

Grey explained that bathrooms are gendered, and the school rule is you have to go by assigned sex. So most of the trans students use a staff bathroom that is usually kept unlocked. That's done with a wink and a nod, he said.

Grey said another trans student saw him come out of a staff bathroom and said, "Oh, those are unlocked. Nice."

Last year, Grey said he realized younger students aren't as understanding when he was taking a freshman ASL



Roswell Grey

class. He heard them making comments about another trans student. But he explained it as immaturity: "They're just trying to fit in."

Grey lives with his mom and a 3-year-old sibling. His mom's reaction to his coming out wasn't great at first. It was, he said, mostly shock.

The family had only been living in Sherman since 2018. Grey was raised in Collinsville, a small town west of Sherman where he knew of just one out lesbian.

Grey said he's active in his church and spoke to the bishop — the church's pastor — to tell him that he was trans. The bishop, he said, "was pretty OK and accepting. He asked a couple of questions." The Mormon Church, Grey explained,

has "a lot of policies that are phrased weird so they're up to personal interpretation." So before posting on Facebook that he was nonbinary and bisexual, he said he told the bishop in case he saw it.

"I wanted to let him know my thoughts and give him a chance to ask questions," the youth said.

He said the bishop asked him how he felt about the church and what he wanted moving forward. Grey assured the bishop he loved the church.



"I love how my faith can connect me with other people," he said. "I love having a higher being that loves and accepts me and having higher purpose in life."

That purpose, Grey said, is helping others — something Grey's already doing.

At church, Grey founded Rainbow Connection, a group for Mormons who are queer or allied. And at school, he runs the gender and sexuality alliance. He became president under the worst of circumstances: The group's previous leader was kicked out of her house when she came out. She moved in with her partner but dropped out of school.

The GSA meets weekly and attracts anywhere from a dozen to 60 students. Many aren't out to their parents, but they find a safe space to be themselves at school.

In his spare time, Grey loves going hiking and camping and spending time in nature. "I'm in an outdoor adventure club," he said. "We've been kayaking, canoeing, backpacking."

To prepare for an overnight backpacking trip, group members learned what they'd need to know — like how to start a campfire and how to cook on one, how to identify native grasses and plants and what to avoid. Grey said the backpacking trip was great.

In addition, Grey has started a business called Party Princess Inc. He said it began with babysitting and became a business. He's hired to attend to children's birthday parties dressed to entertain as a character. His first gig was as a cowboy, but he is more often called upon to be the party's princess. So he always brings his face painting gear.

Does the gender of the character bother him? Not at all, he said. It's only a character he's playing. He thinks of it as cosplay.

Meanwhile, Grey is enjoying his newest role as a faith ambassador to help other young people from all faith traditions where LGBTQ+ inclusion falls short. ■

For more information about Beloved Arise, visit the organization's website at [BelovedArise.org](http://BelovedArise.org).

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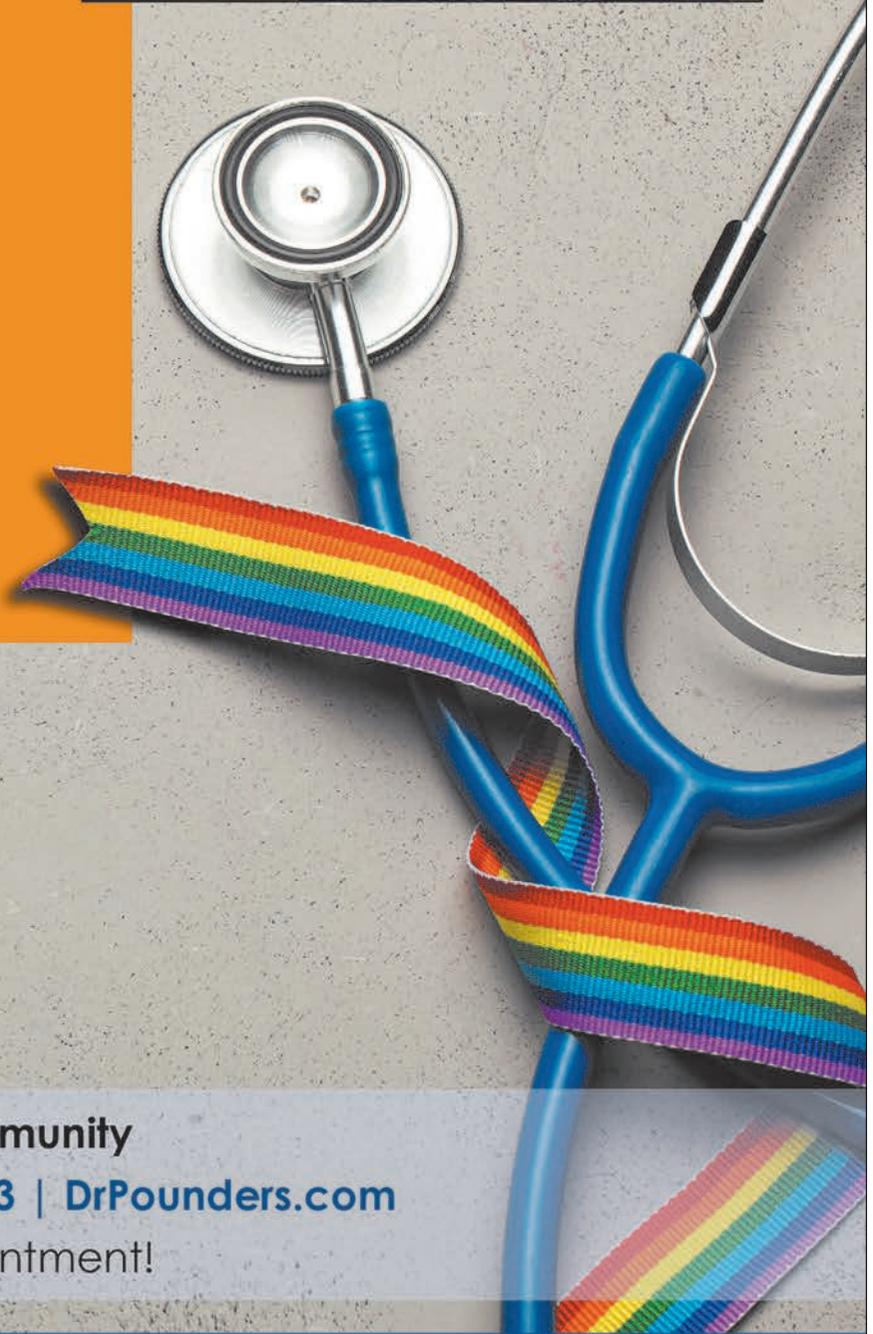
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Arthur Beecher Carles, *Venetian Gondolas* (detail), ca. 1909, oil on canvas,  
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The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government.

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# The SOUND of Pride

NEW MUSIC



Layke (Photo courtesy Quinn Tucker)

These queer artists dropped music this month for your Pride playlist

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer  
rich@dallasvoice.com

**W**ell Beyoncé had to go and drop a new song to eclipse any and everything in music right now, but even she got a little Pride in. Her new single "Break My Soul" features vocals by queer bounce artist Big Freedia.

This year's Pride has not been short

on new music offerings by LGBTQ artists. From queer legends to hometown talent, these artists are giving Pride its own soundtrack this year. Pride month may almost be over, but these tunes will keep on serving.

#### Mary Gauthier: *Dark Enough to See the Stars*

Earlier this month, this lesbian icon dropped her newest album, an emotional and heartfelt offering filled with both sadness and love, with songs that both mourn the loss of friends and celebrate the joy of new love and personal contentment. The Grammy-nominated singer dives deep with such tracks as "How Could You Be Gone" and the opening "Fall Apart World." She may not drop sick beats for Pride, but she re-



Rufus Does Judy

minds that *Pride* is also about speaking your truth unapologetically.  
*MaryGauthier.com*

### Todrick Hall: *Algorithm*

Whether Hall is recovering from his bad *Celebrity Big Brother* press or not, this June release definitely helps us to forget all that mess. Touted as Hall's trip to the '80s — even right down to the Janet Jackson Control cover art — Hall takes a break from his usual frenetic, high energy tracks to deliver his most soulful release of music. But he still keeps the irreverence with songs like "Sorry Barbie" and "Pre-Madonna." He goes full *Pride* though with "Gay Excellence," the perfect anthem for the month.

"*Algorithm* is an '80s inspired record that, while still being on brand with my most popular work, reveals a side of my voice I have never accessed in my previous music. I want this album to get back to good traditional music — no gimmicks, no smoke and mirrors, just great music, beats and rhythms," he said in a press release. "My goal is not to create a replica of '80s music but an evolution of my music infused with '80s nostalgic instrumentation."

*TodrickHall.com*

### Hayley Kiyoko: *For the Girls*

The lesbian pop singer previewed her sophomore album *Panormama* with this sexy new single and video that's a "queer parody of America's favorite dating show," riffing on *The Bachelor/Bachelorette*.

"I love being a woman, and women

have always been a massive influence on my life," Kiyoko said in a promo email. "*For The Girls* is an anthem celebrating that love, highlighting our strength, beauty and vulnerability. The music video is meant to reflect that celebration with a sense of humor and an expansive take on whose romantic story gets told. It was so much fun to direct, especially since it's a nod to one of my favorite reality shows of all time. I wanted the music video to give representation to all of us searching for love while not taking ourselves too seriously. Being surrounded by queer people of many different gender identities and making art that feels relevant to us was the greatest gift. It was a reminder of how resilient this community is and how strong and confident we feel being our authentic selves together. No matter how you identify or who you love, I hope this summer bop makes you feel sexy and empowered."

Hey, we're here for it.

She performs in Dallas Sept. 4, opening for Lauv at the Pavilion at Toyota Music Factory.

*HayleyKiyokoOfficial.com*

### Layke: *No One Can Stop Us*

Hailing from Dallas, Layke dropped this new single in early June as a preview to her forthcoming EP *Frequency* out in July. The bi/pansexual singer says she often felt like an outsider growing up in her conservative home, and now she writes bangers like this with a fabulously queer video filled with gender-diverse dancers that embrace the singer into the fold.

SOUND, Page 38

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# Secrets and lies

## MENTAL HEALTH

Amanda Esquivel didn't learn the truth about her father's death until she was an adult; now she has made it her goal to help others live their truth

**TAMMYE NASH** | Managing Editor  
nash@dallasvoice.com

**A**manda Esquivel's father died when she was six years old, leaving her and her older brother to grow up in a household she describes now as abusive and neglectful and plagued by poverty. She was about 20 years old before she found out her father was a closeted gay man who died of HIV/AIDS.

Such an experience might have turned some people against the LGBTQ community. But for Amanda Esquivel, it fostered a desire to help a community that for so long had been shrouded in deadly secrecy and shame. That is why she became a licensed professional counselor, and, she said, why she now has a group practice called Room for Change open in the Oak Lawn area.

"I want to make sure we do something big this [Pride] month to reach those that are lost, stuck or unloved because of who they are or who they love," she told Dallas Voice. "We would like to provide free mental health checkups to anyone who is struggling and open to resources."

### Learning about her father

Abraham Esquivel Sr. was 34 years old in 1991 when he died. He was, his daughter recalls, "a young man with a lot of life left in him."

She continued, "He had done hair and makeup for people for years — he and my mother worked together — and he was always very careful to make sure his hair was perfect. But then, as he got sick, he developed encephalitis — water on his brain — and they had to shave his head to drain that flu-



Abraham Esquivel and his wife, above, and Amanda Esquivel, below



id off. Seeing him like that, with all his hair shaved off, was the first indication to me that something was wrong," Amanda said that when they were children, their father's diagnosis and his sexual orientation were kept secret from them. They were both adults, she said, before they found out. They were told he died of lymphoma, and although he did have lymphoma, she said, he could have survived that if he hadn't had HIV, too."

Amanda said that neither she nor her brother were allowed to attend their father's funeral, and "he was rarely if ever mentioned" in the family after his death.

Her brother, who is four and a half years older than she is, "had more memories of our father than I did." And one of those memories involved being mugged and beaten shortly before his death, something that was hidden completely from her at the time.

"Thinking about it now, I am pretty sure that it was a gay-bashing," Amanda said. "He was much more flamboyant toward the end of his life and, I think, probably much more engaged with the [LGBTQ] community there in the Montrose area" in Houston, where the family lived.

She said that her brother took his own memories of their father and things he found out from members of the extended family, "then he was able to put two and two together and figure it out: Dad was gay, and he got HIV from his male lover. I found out, I think, when I overheard [my brother] talking to someone else. I don't remember exactly."

"There's a lot of secrecy about it all in our family, even to this day," she added. "I am in my late 30s now, and most of the people in our family still won't talk about it. I have conflicting feelings about it, I guess — about our mother's desires to protect her children, especially considering the panic and all around being gay and around having HIV, especially at that time.

"I know that fear contributed to her withholding information from us. But we were lied to, and even children don't like being lied to," she continued. "And that, I think, contributed a lot to our relationship with our mother not being very good. Even today if we question her about her father, if we go to her and ask her to share with us what she remembers about our father, she won't talk about him honestly with us. Maybe she doesn't remember accurately, or maybe she still thinks she is protecting us."

For Amanda and her brother, she said, the secrecy and the difficult years following their father's death helped bring them closer together, especially after they learned the truth. But when it comes to their relationship with their mother, Amanda said, the secrecy "was just an additional nail in the coffin."

"When people go through trauma together, often it is a bonding agent for them," she said. "growing up, we experienced a lot of abuse and negligence indirectly. Our mother didn't abuse

us herself, but she chose partners that were abusive and unavailable to us.

“We survived the death of our father; we survived the ‘fathers’ that came after him, and we survived poverty of living with a single mother. We moved a lot as kids. Back then for us, it was a new adventure. But I know now we were evicted from those places we left,” she said.

## Healing herself and helping others

Once she was old enough to set out on her own, Amanda Esquivel set her attention toward not just healing her own emotional scars but helping others do the same. It was — and still is — her way of paying homage to the father she never had a chance to really know.

She started giving back by volunteering as a counselor at a camp for youth from first grade through age 17 who had experienced the death of a parent or someone else close to them, whether illness, suicide, homicide, an accident or something else.

Being able to help those young people



work through their grief, she said, “was a pretty amazing opportunity.”

About eight years ago, Amanda opened her own counseling practice in Garland, working mainly with people dealing with substance abuse and general mental health issues. But as time passed, she said, she began to see more

and more LGBTQ clients, which made her realize the need for a practice based in the Oak Lawn Gayborhood and focusing on helping LGBTQ people.

Now the Oak Lawn office, Room for Change, is her third location. “And we can see clients online, too,” she said.

Amanda stressed that counselors at Room for Change are all “master’s level counselors licensed by the state.” But on top of that, “Many of us have gone through extra training in dealing with the LGBTQ community. We are not just relying on love and acceptance; we have the specialized training, too.” The counselors, she said, are trained to help those who are exploring and navigating their own identity, those who are trying to come out, those who have been rejected by their families of origin and so are grieving the loss of that family while working to build a new family of choice.” Amanda said she and the other Room for Change counselors understand that Texas is not a state that “embraces and loves those who fall under the Pride banner,” and so they do everything they can to make to the process of getting help as safe as possible. That means the

counselors start with a brief interview over the phone with new or potentially new clients, then make some initial recommendations based on the client’s needs and preferences. She stressed that at Room for Change, clients are not just placed with the next available counselor; they are connected with the specific counselor who has the right training and experience to help them with their specific needs.

Her goal, Amanda Esquivel said, is to make sure others aren’t forced to live with the secrecy she and her brother had to endure.

“Secrecy breeds shame. And shame is really, really hard to get out from under,” she said. “What I want to tell people is that whether you seek help from a counselor or a teacher or a friend or a pastor or parent or whomever — get the help you need. Talking about these things, embracing the things we all have in our lives that are a source of shame for whatever reason, brings it out into the light of day. And shame doesn’t do well in the light.”

For more information, visit [RoomForChange.info](http://RoomForChange.info) or call 214-385-5445.



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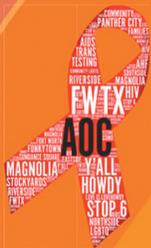
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# Monday is National HIV Testing Day

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



Local HIV organizations are trying to reverse the pandemic's downturn in testing

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**T**he number of HIV tests taking place plummeted during the pandemic, according to information provided by the drug maker Gilead Sciences, and, as the U.S. marks National HIV Testing Day on Monday, June 27, HIV/AIDS advocates are urging people to pick up the pace again and get tested.

From 2019 to 2020, the number of HIV tests performed in the U.S. dropped from 2.3 million to 1.2 million. New HIV diagnoses fell by 17 percent during that period after annual declines of just 3 percent during each of the previous three years.

In Dallas, testing declined as well, falling from 385,000 tests in 2019 to 232,624 in 2020.

Among the local organizations with testing events on Monday is the Afiya Center. Get Tested/Grab a Bite is the

organization's ninth annual community HIV testing event.

The Afiya Center works to address the needs of Black women to decrease HIV risk. They note that one in seven people living with HIV doesn't know it and recommends updating your HIV and STD status every three to six months or more frequently depending on your sexual activity.

The free HIV testing will be provided by Abounding Prosperity and Dallas County from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Glendale Park, 1515 E. Ledbetter Drive. COVID-19 vaccines and boosters will also be offered. The afternoon includes food, a DJ and more.

While Monday is National HIV Testing Day, Prism Health North Texas is hoping to reach more North Texans with after-hours STI and HIV testing at the Pride Clinic, open on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 5-8 p.m., at the organization's Worth Street Health Center, 4004 Worth St. on the Baylor campus.

Resource Center's Sexy Health HIV testing van was at the Dallas Museum of Art for the Arts District block party on June 17. To find out if the van will be offering testing near you, or to schedule an appointment for testing at Resource Center's Nelson-Tebedo Clinic, call 214-528-2336. ■

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## SOUNDS From Page 31

From YouTube: “Layke’s latest body of work is an ultra-vivid and intensely personal portrait of the strange duality of modern times. Running the gamut from emotional chaos to unbridled joy, and intimately documenting her struggles with anxiety, Layke ecstatically celebrates her place in the queer community and infectiously empowers every listener to do the same. Experimenting with an enormous range of analog electronic gear and infusing elements of classic electro-pop and transcendent ethereal textures, her delicate yet undeniably potent pieces present a powerful vision for a more open-hearted world.”

*LaykeOfficial.com*

### MIKA: “YO YO”

MIKA returns with this catchy single ahead of new music “coming soon.” He delivers some infectious dance beats along with a fun, sexy video for the song. He first performed the single at the Euro-

vision Finale in May.

“I wanted to write a song that could make you cry and dance at the same time,” MIKA said in a press release, “a song to make the world, in all its harshness, feel better, something that will always be there to comfort you. I wrote this for you, as you listen in your room, or in a club. It doesn’t matter; it’s just about you.”

Last year, MIKA’s big hit was his viral “Grace Kelly” challenge with almost 40 million views on TikTok.

*YoMIKA.com*

### Oscar and the Wolf: “Afterglow”

The openly queer Max Colombie hails from Belgium and, under this moniker, has been dropping gorgeous pop music for more than a decade now. *Afterglow*, which they dropped in mid-June, continues their stellar reputation. They mix lush beats with beautiful songwriting to

create some deep moods. “Dancing Machine” isn’t the bop you’d expect, but it’s vibe is irresistible, and then they flip the script on the melancholic “Ghost of You” and the super-sexy “Nostalgic Bitch.”

*OscarAndTheWolf.com*

### Allison Ponthier: *Shaking Hands with Elvis*

In a short time, this Dallas-area native has been making quite an impression on the indie music scene. She released her debut EP *Faking My Own Death* last August. Since then, she’s released a number of high-concept camp art videos, toured with Lord Huron and Bleachers, talked with Elton John on his podcast and was featured in *Vogue*. Ponthier returned with this second EP that has her trying on new , sounds against her usual chilled vibe, like in the introspective “Hardcore” or the quirky “Auto Pilot.” There’s nary a miss on the new EP, but a highlight is Ponthier’s catchy epic “Hollywood Forever Cemetery.”

Now based in New York, Ponthier has kept North Texas close, mostly by raising money for Dallas Hope Char-

ities through her Instagram lives and her most recent (and first) Dallas show earlier this month. She plays tonight at AT&T’s Turn Up the Love event.

*AllisonPonthier.com*

### Rufus Wainwright: *Rufus Does Judy at Capitol Studios*

Released for Judy Garland’s 100th birthday, which is pretty parallel to Pride, gay singer Wainwright dropped this all-new recording of this concert studio performance that features a duet of “Happy Days Are Here Again/Get Happy” with Broadway queen Kristin Chenoweth. The album is not only a showcase of his genuine love of Judy, but also a collection of standards by the Gershwins, Irving Berlin, Noel Coward and more.

*RufusWainwright.com*

### Other notable releases by LGBTQ+ artists:

**Lorelei K:** *Swimming Pool Eternity*. Although the North Texas-based band dropped this in March, they connected with local audiences at this year’s Dal-



Hayley Kiyoko (Photo courtesy Trevor Flores)

las Pride in Fair Park led by trans singer Dahlia Knowles.

**Orville Peck:** “Mad Hatters and Mona Lisas.” That gay masked singer strikes again with this Elton John cover for Amazon Prime Music. Released in June for Amazon’s Pride offerings, it also follows Peck’s March EP release Bronco.

**Perfume Genius:** *Ugly Season.* Released last week, Mike Hadreas continues bringing listeners on his musical journey, which has been a trippy, intellectual ride for over 10 years now.

**Dua Saleh:** “chosen.” The nonbinary Sudanese-American released this single in June that cleverly fuses R&B soul with electronic atmosphere. ■

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# Mother's Pride

ART



The Queer Birth Project  
explores childbirth and  
LGBTQ+ through art

**RICH LOPEZ** | Staff writer  
[rich@dallasvoice.com](mailto:rich@dallasvoice.com)

**T**he Nasher Sculpture Center opened Liss LaFleur's *The Queer Birth Project* in May in its Public Gallery. With four pieces — one a soundscape — the exhibition is a visual and interactive experience that is both personal and universal. A parent herself, LaFleur's exhibition is the beginning of a larger picture.

LaFleur is an associate professor of new media art and a faculty affiliate in women's and gender studies at the University of North Texas. She is also an interdisciplinary artist who incorporates queer and feminist ideologies into her art. She has exhibited at South By Southwest in Austin, TATE in London and the Czong Institute for Contemporary Art in South Korea.

She's also a new mother.

Her proposal to the Nasher reflected how the conversation around childbirth and queer parents is fairly new and how representation is crucial to normalizing the idea:

"Representation and inclusion around birth and family building plays a significant role in expanding cultural ideas, ensuring access to healthcare and building community. Yet representations of childbirth in western art and culture have long excluded the lives of lesbian women and non-conforming bodies. From DIY to IVF, scholarly and artistic attention to queer (LGBTQ+) childbirth and same-sex parenting is still relatively new, and there are unique physical, emotional, legal and psychological challenges imposed by mainstream society. The way we talk about birth and parenting can be deeply alienating, and through this work I hope to help educate, inspire, and empower a new generation."

LaFleur recently discussed the exhibition, which is on display through July 17, as well as her philosophies and approaches to the pieces and how she came to this exploration of the community with Dallas Voice.



**Dallas Voice: Let's just start at the beginning. How did you come to the subject of childbirth in the queer community?**

Liss LaFleur: I came to the subject as a queer person, living in the south, who was trying to conceive and grow my family — seeking community and support. Safety, bodily autonomy and access to reproductive healthcare are essential, and there are unique physical, emotional, legal and psychological challenges that are imposed by a mainstream heteronormative society.

**How did that intersect with your art?**

As an artist, I also came to this subject through the lens of art history and popular culture. Judy Chicago's Birth Project is still recognized today as one of the most significant representations of birth in feminist practice. Yet it reproduces universalistic and heteronormative understandings of pregnancy, childbirth and motherhood. When I started digging into the Birth Project archives, I saw a clear roadmap of re-evaluating, and re-envisioning this work focusing on queer birth specifically.

**What was your intention and/or philosophy behind the entire exhibition?**

This project is a collaboration with the sociologist Katherine Sobering who is also a professor at the University of North Texas and a queer parent as well.

The Queer Birth Project is an interdisciplinary research project that seeks to promote inclusion by sharing the birth experiences

Artist Liss LeFleur with her child.

of queer (LGBTQ+) people in the United States. The structure of this project is based on a re-envisioning of feminist artist Judy Chicago's Birth Project (1980-85) and will include a new national survey, a collection of visual artworks for exhibition and a series of publications.

**From start to finish, what was the timeline of this exhibition?**

The work in this exhibition took me about a year to create. As an artist, I am interested in utilizing technology as a radically poetic tool that allows us to reimagine our personal and collective struggles.

**Have you finished The Queer Birth Project?**

The Queer Birth Project is a five-year initiative — starting in 2022 and ending in 2027. Each exhibition will be based around a core theme or proposition from our research. This is the first installation of the Queer Birth Project; it is a proof of concept and an invitation for other people to participate and to share their stories with us for the project.

**How would you say this first chapter begins the conversation you want to have?**

As the first exhibition of The Queer Birth Project, this installation reflects on one of the central themes of our project:

**MOTHER**, Next Page

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## MOTHER, From Previous Page

queer experiences of the body and identity during and after childbirth. Each piece is informed by responses to questions about bodies and dysphoria in our ongoing digital survey. This exhibition features four interconnected artworks: a suspended fringe mobile, two neon sculptures, and an immersive soundscape.

On a national level, access and support around bodily autonomy and reproductive healthcare remain a growing concern — not just for the queer community but for everyone. Our own governor in Texas is actively working to revoke parental rights of the parents of trans kids. The U.S. is the only wealthy country in the world without a national program for paid parental leave, and BIPOC individuals are still three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes.

The climate in the state of Texas can be openly hostile to queer people, and through this work we hope to expand cultural ideas relating to birth and family building. We also hope to encourage others to participate by taking the digital survey and reaching out to us.

I'd like to go through each physical piece if that's OK. Do you mind explaining the

thought process behind the neon piece "Growing bodies/babies" depicted in Pride colors? "Growing bodies" documents the chronology of my partner's body through her pregnancy. The outlines, originally recorded using a Sharpie marker on paper in my studio, are illuminated through a series of rainbow-colored neon lines.

My partner, a butch queer person, never planned to carry our children. However, after three years of my own infertility, she decided to try and it worked.

That's quite an intimate perspective. This piece is personal to me, and while it documents our own transition into parenthood, is also recalls the flexibility and multiple ways that queer families are constantly being formed. I wanted to utilize the windows and suspend each chronologically exactly as I collected them.

There's some irony in the second neon piece about space. In some ways, the exhibition is quite minimal yet it fills the room. In turn, the space a body takes up while pregnant can be unimaginable to many. Can you talk about that idea of space and putting it in neon? "It is



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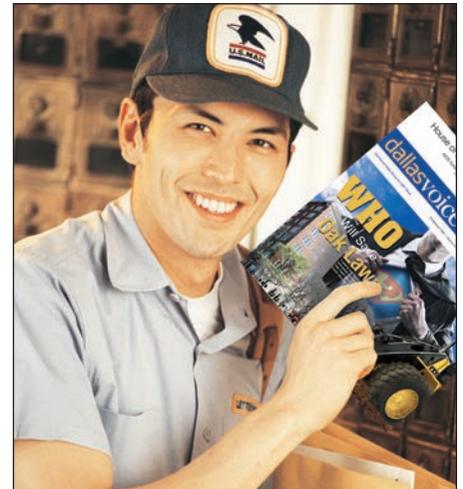
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strange to take up so much space” is a handwritten excerpt collected from one survey response to the question, “How do you feel about the size and changing shape of your body during pregnancy?” The full response was “I feel like a science experiment — it is strange to take up so much space.” Their answer prompts us to think about both the physical and physiological changes that occur with pregnancy.

Neon-electrified, gas-filled glass tubes is an extremely physical medium with no feminist history. As a second-generation glass artist, I am also part of a growing movement to use neon to address intersectional feminist issues.

**Is that the only intention behind the statement?** As queer parents, we move through spaces that are not designed for us; we develop new relationships to family, and we fight for a sense of freedom and inclusion. I really loved this phrase as a proposition, questioning space, both inside and outside of the body.

**To be sure, people interacted with the “Birth fringe (yellow)” piece during the Dallas Arts District Pride Block Party. Was that intentional? If so, how have people reacted to it in that sense that**

**lined up with your philosophy behind it?** Yes. Historically, I have installed fringe with video and made it immersive but not interactive. Whenever you make something interactive, you can’t control how people engage with it, but everyone has been respectful so far. I felt that it was important for this work to be more playful, to make the viewer want to approach it, to make all ages want to engage in the work, to be inside of it and spend time with it in a new way.

It is playfully uncomfortable. It’s a complicated thing for a lot of people to think through because of our deep conditioning around ideas of heteronormativity. But seeing others through the fringe also makes you reflect on your proximity and relationship with them/with others. My favorite interaction so far has been seeing two young people laying down on the ground together, gazing up at the highest fringe, listening to the audio.

Fringe in its own way can be queer I guess. We love it in fashion and in drag, but how do you use it here for your message? In my practice, fringe stands in as a queered, non-curtain/non-screen, soft architecture that I utilize as both a philosophy and a time-based practice. Fringe transforms, it takes up physical space, sparks joy, feels

intimate and asks people to slow down. It also references the act of “living on the fringes” of society.

For the Nasher exhibition, “Birth Fringe (yellow)” is in the shape of an oversized hanging baby mobile. This shape invites the viewer to take the perspective of an infant awash in new experiences. For many adults, language around queer birth is also in its infancy. By making the viewer feel childlike, the installation encourages them to learn and adopt new language for talking about birth and family.

Building on Judy Chicago’s Birth Project, the fringe also symbolizes a deconstruction of threads used in her large-scale needle-works.

**Have cis male parents discussed the exhibition with you?** Yes. We believe that birth can be a shared experience, so even if you did not physically carry a child, we enjoy talking about birth and family building with others. Everyone on this planet was born and has a proximity to birth. Many of the cis male parents we have talked to have become parents through surrogacy or open adoption.

**What were your thoughts about the exhibition quite literally on display for everyone even outside the building?**

When I was planning this exhibition with curators Leigh Arnold (Nasher) and Ree Willaforde (Galleri Urbane), we talked extensively about the juxtaposition of interior/ exterior space. I loved the idea of creating dimensional layers that were accessible and that changed perspective, whether standing outside of the museum at midnight or inside of the fringe at 3 in the afternoon.

The main difference between the outside (display) of the work and inside of the gallery is the audio. The digitally mediated audio, “But they can’t steal my joy,” allows the experiences of queer people to take up physical, public and institutional space. Unlike the original Birth Project, which collected intimate narratives of childbirth but did not publicly share the stories, this piece honors individual words, celebrates them in sound and fills the gallery with them. And while viewers can turn away from visual artworks to avoid their messages, the libretto serves as a sound bath, immersing the listener in inclusive language with which to understand queer birth and families.

*For more information and to listen to audio by the artist, search “Liss LaFleur” at NasherSculptureCenter.org.*

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for the 53 people who survived the massacre to die as well.

That prompted a group of outraged LGBTQ and allied activists to gather on the morning of Sunday, June 26, for protest across the street from the church, then located in a strip center on the Jacksboro Highway in the tiny enclave of Sansom Park. The protesters wanted, said organizer Karen McCrocklin, to make a peaceful response to a hateful protest. When the protest plans were announced, Romero responded that his church members carried guns and would use them to protect their church.

In January 2019, though, Romero was forced to resign as pastor after he was caught gambling, having sex with prostitutes and doing drugs. But anyone who thought the church might change directions was disappointed when Jonathan Shelley took over as pastor and continued its tradition of hate. Shelley eventually moved the church to a strip center in Hurst, and in 2021, a group called No Hate in Hurst formed to stage peaceful protests on the sidewalk across the street every time the church held a service.

Eventually, Shelley's dangerously hateful sermons and the persistent protests prompted the landlord at the site to begin eviction proceedings. The eviction was finalized in February of this year, and Stedfast moved to its current location in Watauga. When Awes posted his video sermon in late May calling for LGBTQ people to be arrested, tried and then executed by being lined up against a wall and shot in the back of the head, No Hate in Hurst was reconstituted as No Hate in Texas and the protests continued.

This time, though, protesters decided it was time to be more vocal. Instead of quietly carrying signs and drawing messages on the sidewalk in chalk, they were chanting slogans, using a bullhorn to amplify their anger at the church. And on June 12, when a group of men from the church — at least one of whom was carrying a handgun visible in a holster at his waist — came out to confront them — the shouting match turned physical: One of the church members, identified to Dallas Voice as Ryan Urbanek, shoved a protester who was standing with her back to him, arms outstretched to block his view of other protesters. Urbanek has since been cited for assault.

Since then, church members and protesters have appeared at a Watauga City Council meeting to make their cases to city officials, and church officials reported the vandalism at their meeting space.

### Behind the scenes

As messy and hectic as the situation has been publicly though, it appears that things have been just as messy for the church behind the scenes.

According to court documents obtained by Dallas Voice, Shelley and the church filed suit on Oct. 5, 2021, in a Tarrant County district court against three people — including Donnie Romero's former wife Leslye — claiming that the three had fraudulently represented themselves as the church's board of directors to take control of Stedfast's bank accounts and try to oust Shelley as pastor. In Shelley's petition, when he was installed as pastor in January 2019, he was appointed as a director along with Kevin Edelman and Ryan Urbanek. Edelman, he said, resigned from the board the following month and was replaced with Keri Shelley.

However the three defendants — Leslye Romero, Seth Bookout and Ryan Gallagher — have a different story. In their response, the three claim that they are the actual board of directors and that they fired Shelley as pastor nearly nine months ago after discovering that he had been using church funds to pay his personal expenses.

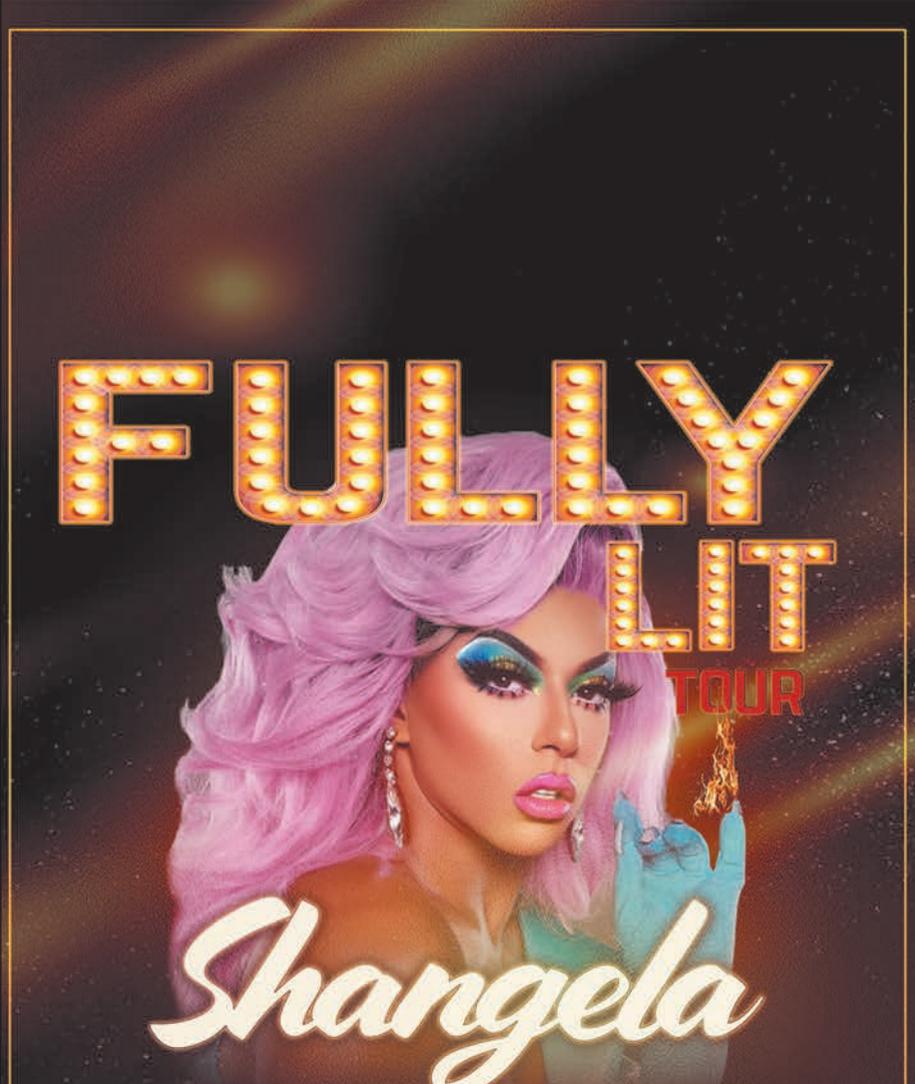
Shelley's original petition claims that Donnie Romero stepped down as both pastor and as a member of the board in January 2019, and that Leslye Romero and the then-third board member Robert Starnes also resigned at the same time, and that Bookout was excommunicated from the church in June 2019 and has since that time used social media to publish "defamatory statements" about Jonathan Shelley, Stedfast Baptist and members of the church.

Jonathan Shelley also claims that Leslye Romero, Seth Bookout and Ryan Gallagher falsely presented themselves as the members of the board of directors in September 2021 to illegally take control of the church's numerous bank accounts and denying him, Keri Shelley and Ryan Urbanek access to the funds.

**HATE**, Next Page



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## HATE, From Previous Page

The defendants, however, say that Leslye Romero and Starnes never resigned from the board, and that it wasn't until last year that Leslye Romero, concerned over Shelley's continuing and escalating hate rhetoric and the lawsuit the church faced from the landlord at its property in Hurst, decided to take action.

At that point, the defendants say, Leslye Romero asked Starnes to attend a board meeting. When he refused, Leslye Romero — as the only remaining board member — voted Starnes off the board and voted Bookout onto the board. They then asked Gallagher, who has never been a member of Stedfast but has been a member of other churches affiliated as Stedfast is, with the New Independent Fundamental Baptist Movement and had helped Stedfast in the past with certain issues, to join them as the third board member.

The defendants claim that after finally gaining access to the church's bank account records, they discovered that

Shelley was misusing church funds. The three board members then voted to fire Shelley as pastor, effective Sept. 23, 2021.

The defendants wrote in their answer to the lawsuit, "It is believed that Jonathan Shelley has diverted funds, and used church funds to pay personal expenses, household expenses and other items unrelated to the church in an amount in excess of \$180,000. Repeated attempts to obtain an accounting of church funds have always been met with delays, excuses, threats and in some cases pronouncements of excommunication from the church by Shelley. To this date, no adequate financial accounting has been made to the congregation or to the board of directors of Stedfast Baptist Church."

They say that even though he was fired by the board last September, Shelley has continued to represent himself as pastor of Stedfast Baptist, and that he filed "fraudulent documents with the Texas Secretary of State alleging to



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When church members confronted protesters outside Stedfast Baptist recently, one church member was cited after shoving a protester

replace the current members and board of directors of Stedfast Baptist Church. This is in spite of the fact that he has never held a position with the church other than pastor and as agent for service of process with the church.”

They also charge that Shelley has “been conducting sermons to the congregation, on YouTube and to the general public that Seth Bookout, Ryan Gallagher and Leslye Romero are felons, criminals, have misused funds and are engaged in other illegal conduct. Additionally, he has suggested that members of the congregation take them out, that no one would suffer a loss were they to be killed or that no one would shed tears were they to be shot.

He has additionally said that the defendants should kill themselves.”

Shelley has denied those allegations.

The defendants, who say they are concerned about the possible ramifications of the ongoing hate rhetoric coming from Shelley and Awes and others affiliated with the church, told the court they want to “wind up the corporation, resolve issues of access to funds, resolve and pay all outstanding debts and disburse the remainder of funds as appropriate under the law and at equity.”

In other words, they want to shut down the church.

Defendants have asked that the court dismiss Shelley’s lawsuit, a request the judge has so far denied. Defendants have appealed that decision.

While the dispute continues to make its way through the courts, funds in the church’s accounts are under control of the courts, a source told Dallas Voice, with only a set amount available each month to Shelley and other church officials to pay Stedfast’s monthly bills. ■

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**TOWN**, From Page 25

in October 2020 about their intent to vacate the premises due to multiple breaches of contract as well as repeated slurs from Aurora officials who referred to the couple as fags whenever they contacted the city. Four days later they learned a report had been filed against them with Child Protective Services.

When the CPS worker contacted them, she confirmed a report had been filed, but said she believed it had been filed with malicious intent.

The Department of Family Protective Services cleared the child abuse charges within a month because the report was obviously false and made with malicious intent. And the couple filed a report with the Wise County Sheriff's office.

They also filed open records requests for information on Wheeler and her supposed sale of the property as well as her connection to the CPS reports. But the city of Aurora never responded. Then, on June 1, 2021, Aurora City Hall caught on fire. Before there was even an investigation, city officials posted on social media it was an electrical fire.

On July 8, the attorney general's office ordered the city to respond to the open records request, an order with which city officials still have not complied. Garcia suggests any incriminating paperwork was probably — and suspiciously — lost in the fire.

In October 2021, Wheeler was fired from her position with the city of Aurora, and, in December, she was arrested for embezzlement. While out on bail, Wheeler moved to Colorado, Garcia said.

In February, Garcia was prevented from speaking at an Aurora city council meeting on grounds he didn't live in the city, even though he had operated a business within city limits. So, in May, Garcia and Pritchett filed a federal lawsuit against the city for violating their free speech rights as well as discriminating against them based on their sexual orientation.

The Wise County sheriff claimed there's no hate crime law in Texas. While there is, it's a penalty enhancement law, but sexual orientation is covered under the federal hate crime statute, and Garcia and Pritchett filed a federal lawsuit enumerating the ways the city had conspired against them because of their sexual orientation. During health inspec-



Chad Pritchett

tions, they noted, the inspector made repeated derogatory comments about the legally married couple.

The couple charge in their lawsuit that Wheeler, in her position as city administrator, conspired with the health inspector to shut down Atomic Taco. They say Wheeler falsified government documents in exchange for approval of other city projects. As part of the proof of discrimination the couple claims none of the other (heterosexual) vendors in the restaurant development were subject to similar inspections or treatment, violating their equal protection rights.

Garcia and Pritchett are suing the city for physical and emotional damages based on Aurora officials having violated their constitutional rights.

Garcia said he doubts Wheeler will ever be prosecuted, since no attempt has been made to extradite her from Colorado, and he was told by the D.A.'s office any arrest warrant filed would only include immediately surrounding states, which doesn't include Colorado.

In a text, Garcia asked if Wheeler would be charged with a federal hate crime for filing a false CPS report. Causing he and his husband to lose their business was one thing, he said, but attacking their young child took things to a completely different level. A false CPS report was filed for homophobic reasons, he said, and they were getting no assistance from any elected official in Wise County.

By then he received his answer from the Texas Ranger investigating the former city administrator: "There is no crime like that in Texas," he wrote. "It is a false report." ■

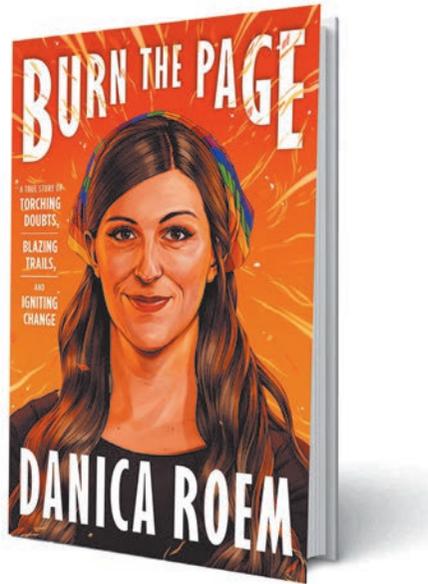
# Young and old alike

## ON THE PAGE

Danica Roem's memoir is an activist tale with heart, while Dot & Ralfie proves old age ain't for sissies

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER | Bookworm Sez  
BookwormSez@yahoo.com

***Burn the Page: A True Story of Torching Doubts, Blazing Trails, and Igniting Change* by Danica Roem; c.2022, Viking; \$27; 320 pages.**



Sometimes the smallest things make you hot under the collar. It doesn't take much: an idiot on the road, a disrespectful eye-roll, something muttered under someone's breath — and that's it; you're torched.

Sometimes, conversely, the smallest things can change your bad mood. In *Burn the Page* by Danica Roem, it was an email.

It seemed like Danica Roem was always crying. To be fair, she had good reason: She was working two jobs, and they weren't enough to pay the bills. Her car was a piece of junk; it was 2016, and her states' Republican delegates had just filed several anti-LGBTQ bills.

For a trans woman like Roem, tears were perfectly appropriate — until someone emailed her, asking why she didn't run for office herself.

Actually, why not?

So, in preparation, Roem hired a team to do "opposition research" to suss out any past behavior that her homophobic opponent might try to use against her.

Born in the fall of 1984, Roem was three years old when her father committed suicide in their back yard. Soon after, her mother's parents needed care and moved into the Roem household. This, Roem admits, was stressful all around.

Even in fifth grade, Roem knew that she wasn't a "cis-het straight kid," but

since she had no "positive representation of LGBTQ people," she stayed closeted. By 13, she knew she was trans but didn't want anybody else to know. To help hide it, she participated in sports, fell in love with baseball and heavy metal music and admired girls, albeit in ways different than did her male peers.

Eventually, she made a community for herself.

But when she began to think about maybe having a relationship, Roem soon realized that she had some work to do. She couldn't expect someone to see her for herself until she did it first.

"I had to commit to being who I was..." she said. "It was time to transition."

If you ever need proof of the concept that little things make big differences, you'll want *Burn the Page*. Same goes if you want to read a memoir that bounces with energy.

Indeed, this book is a bit like taking a small kid into a toy store: They run amok, touching and examining everything. That's not unappealing; author Danica Roem careens about, but she always lands on the heart of this book — being honest, open and authentic — which is likewise what she encourag-

YOUNG, Next Page

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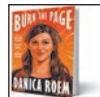
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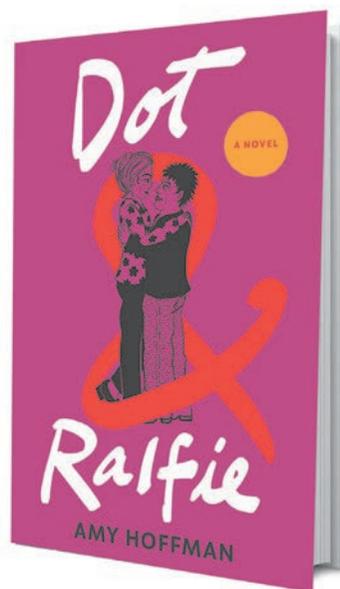
**YOUNG**, From Previous Page

es readers to do.

Her passion for this is contagious, and she sweeps readers along with her enthusiasm on other aspects of her life, whether it's heavy metal music, travel or politics. Be aware that, because of her excitement over her career and her heavy coverage of it, the latter might slam shut the eyelids of readers who are not politically-minded.

On that, this book is like no other political memoir, ever. It's fun, wildly entertaining, and it aims to mean more than just one woman's story. For readers who want a good activist tale with a smile, *Burn the Page* is on fire.

***Dot & Ralfie: A Novel*, by Amy Hoffman; c.2022, University of Wisconsin Press; \$16.95; 147 pages.**



There is one alternative to growing older. Never mind; though, it's not on your radar. You're more focused these days on not groaning when you get up each morning, and keeping your joints oiled enough to work. Years don't really mean much when you've got places to go and people to see before that alternative happens.

But in the new novel *Dot & Ralfie* by Amy Hoffman, keep one eye on that calendar ....

Neither Dot nor Ralfie could agree on how they met, except that it was back when good lesbian bars still existed, before the internet. Dot recalled, but Ralfie denied, that they met over a pool game, and Ralfie wandered away. They both

remember a cocktail party when Ralfie first took Dot home with her.

These days, though, "home" is a third-floor walk-up in a Boston neighborhood. It's been a great place, and Dot and Ralfie like the neighbors and all. But Dot's 68, and Ralfie's over 70, and three floors of steps are a problem — big problem. Especially when you've had knee surgery like Ralfie's had. Especially when you've had a teensy little heart attack and walking makes you winded, as it does Dot.

And so Dot's sister, Susan, has been pushing Dot and Ralfie to move to a senior living complex, which Ralfie refers to as Maple Grave because that's what's next, isn't it? Yeah, and Susan is so determined to have Ralfie and Dot move into senior housing that she buys a way-off-the-beaten-path Maple Grave apartment of her own, for her and her lover, Germaine.

But Germaine's not happy. She's more than a decade younger than Susan, and, besides, she'd miss her friends back in the city, just as Ralfie would miss the guys at her job at the DPW, and Dot would miss the kids at the school library where she worked. And it would be such a hassle for Dot to see the older librarian that she had a little affair with not long ago. Viola was ailing, and needed Dot's help.

Still, those stairs. What was the next step?

The meme is correct: Old Age Ain't for Sissies. But what are ya gonna do about it? You're gonna read *Dot & Ralfie*, that's what.

That's because this is an adorable book. It's funny in all the right parts, good-naturedly grumpy where it needs to be, and wonderfully, wryly sarcastic. But author Amy Hoffman also nudges her readers to think about their own futures and what each might entail. Who will care for us when we only have similarly-aged friends to rely on?

To soften the soberness of that question, Hoffman gives readers a handful of very charming characters that fuss at one another, argue, make up, scheme and fuss some more. It's a little like a lesbian Honeymooners episode, only much sweeter and better.

There aren't a lot of novels specific to lesbian seniors who want something reflective of their lives, so seek out *Dot & Ralfie*. If you're tired of the usual literature, it's the perfect alternative. ■

GIVE  OUT DAY

June 30, 2022

# Support Dallas LGBTQ nonprofits!

[giveoutday.org](http://giveoutday.org)



Houston singer Christina Wells makes her way to North Texas this weekend to celebrate Pride with the Sexy Sisters on Sunday, June 26, at Six Springs Tavern, 147 N. Plano Road in Richardson. Doors open at 2 p.m., and then the fun starts at 3 p.m., with Carmella Dubuque, Sienna Silver, Marcus David, Dahlia VonHexx, Linze Serrell, Tony Faye Alexander and Wayne Smith in the live illusion of Cher. They will be accepting cash donations at the door, and proceeds will benefit the North Texas Pride Foundation and the Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System.



## PLAN YOUR WEEK

- 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](mailto:chemminger@hopecottage.org).

### ■ Every Monday: THRIVE

Resource Center's THRIVE Monday Support Group for LGBTQ adults 50 and older meets virtually and is led by interns from the SMU counseling program. For more information on the support group and how to join, please send an email to [THRIVE@myresourcecenter.org](mailto:THRIVE@myresourcecenter.org).

### ■ 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.

## JUNE

### ■ Through June: Black Everyday: Photographs from the Carter Collection

The first presentation of its kind at the Carter,

Black Every Day: Photographs from the Carter Collection features over fifty works, from 19th-century daguerreotypes to 21st-century contemporary photographs, juxtaposed with over 100 vernacular images. Amon Carter Museum, 3501 Camp Bowie Blvd., Fort Worth. [CarterMuseum.org](http://CarterMuseum.org).

### • June 24: Priyanka

Priyanka, winner of Canada's Drag Race at 9 p.m. at Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

### ■ June 24: Gay Pride Shabbat

Congregation Beth El Binah celebrates the ancient biblical holiday of Gay Pride Shabbat with Cantor Sheri Allen as a guest at 7:30 p.m. in the Atrium of Northaven Church, 11211 Preston Road.

### ■ June 25: Resource Center Pride

Pride celebration and carnival extravaganza with food trucks, entertainment, games and more from 3-7 p.m. at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Free admission. Free parking at Cathedral of Hope.

### ■ June 25: Trinity Pride Fest 2022

Trinity Pride Fest celebrates Fort Worth's queer community from 3-10 p.m. at Magnolia Green with free parking at 1201 Alston Ave. [Facebook.com/TrinityPrideFW](https://www.facebook.com/TrinityPrideFW).

### ■ June 25: Big Pride in Lil D

Chalk & Chill at Oak Street Draft House in Denton. Chalking at 8 a.m. Patio opens at 11 a.m.

### ■ June 25: Shreveport Q-Prom

ShrevePride hosts Shreveport Q-Prom, a safe place to interact, entertain and have fun for northwest Louisiana's LGBTQ community at The Supper Club, Shreveport. Tickets at [ShrevePride.com](http://ShrevePride.com).

### ■ June 25: Panhandle Pride

Amarillo at Starlight Ranch. [PanhandlePrideInc.org](http://PanhandlePrideInc.org).

### ■ June 25: Mexico City Pride

Mexico City's LGBTQ Pride Parade returns with more than a million expected to attend. Noon.

### ■ June 25: Houston Pride

Festival at Houston City Hall, 901 Bagby St., Houston from 1-6:30 p.m. Parade steps off at 7 p.m. [HoustonPride365.org](http://HoustonPride365.org).

### ■ June 25: Pride San Antonio

Parade begins at 9 p.m. along Main Street. [PrideSanAntonio.org](http://PrideSanAntonio.org).

### ■ June 25: Erath County Pride

Erath County Pride from 5-9 p.m. at Stephenville Senior Center, 164 E. College St., Stephenville. [ErathCountyLGBTQ.org/pride](http://ErathCountyLGBTQ.org/pride).

### ■ June 25: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)

DSGA, the LGBTQA golf organization plays Irving Golf Club, 2000 E. Shady Grove Lane, Irving. First tee time 9 a.m. \$53 includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. Information at [DSGADallas.org](http://DSGADallas.org) or email [communications@dsgadallas.org](mailto:communications@dsgadallas.org). All skill levels welcome.

### ■ June 25: Dallas Wings Pride

Dallas Wings celebrates Pride in a game they always win. College Park Center, 600 S. Center St., Arlington. [Wings.WNBA.com](http://Wings.WNBA.com).

### ■ June 25: AIDS Walk South Dallas

The 11th annual AIDS Walk South Dallas steps off at 10 a.m. from the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 2922 MLK Jr. Blvd. Registration on site begins at 8 a.m. or register in advance at [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com). Info at [AIDSWalkSouthDallas.com](http://AIDSWalkSouthDallas.com).

### ■ June 25: After Party

OUT Ft. Worth Pride After Party at 9 p.m. at Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

### ■ June 25: Trans Youth Panel

Trans Youth with Outreach Denton speak at the North Branch Library, Denton. Mixer at 6:30 p.m. Panel at 7 p.m.

### ■ June 25-26: AKC Meet the Breeds

From Affenpinschers to Yorkshire Terriers, the American Kennel Club gives attendees the



**Knowing:** It is a vital element in managing one's own health and a vital element in ending the AIDS epidemic. "Knowing" is also the theme of the 2022 AIDS Walk South Dallas. AIDS Walk South Dallas was founded in 2009 to address the needs of marginalized and low-income communities and individuals impacted by HIV. This year's festivities begin at 8 a.m. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, 2922 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. There will be vendors, live entertainment and a variety of activities courtesy of the walk's community partners. Then the 5K run/walk, which begins and ends at the MLK center, steps off at 10 a.m. Visit the website at [AIDSWalkSouthDallas.com](http://AIDSWalkSouthDallas.com) for more information and to register.

## PLAN YOUR WEEK

opportunity to meet and play with a variety of different dog breeds while learning about responsible pet ownership and how to find the best breeds for their lifestyle. Dallas Convention Center. \$30. [AKC.org](http://AKC.org).

■ **June 26: Glamazon Prime Drag Brunch**  
Glamazon Prime Drag Brunch at noon at Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

■ **June 26: Sexy Sisters Productions Celebrating Pride with Christina Wells and Friends**

Carmella Dubuque, Sienna Silver, Marcus David, Dahlia VonHexx, Linze Serell, Toni Faye Alexander and Wayne Smith in the live illusion of Cher entertain to benefit North Texas Pride Foundation and The Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System. Doors open at 2 p.m. Show at 3 p.m. at Six Springs Tavern, 147 N. Plano Road, Richardson. Cash donations at the door of any amount.

■ **June 26: Strap It Up Picnic**

Food, music, local vendors, guest speakers, giveaways from 3-7 p.m. at Village Creek Park, 4750 Wilbarger St., Fort Worth.

■ **June 28: PrimeTimers**

Last Tuesday lunch at 11 a.m. at Hunky's, 3930 Cedar Springs Road.

### JULY

■ **July 2-3: Let Us March On**

The Turtle Creek Chorale presents *Let Us March On* featuring the world premiere of *Dreamland: Tulsa 1921* commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the Tulsa race massacre at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday at the Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora St. Tickets at [TurtleCreekChorale.com](http://TurtleCreekChorale.com).

■ **July 4: Independence Day**

■ **July 5: Classic Chassis Car Club meeting**  
Enjoy the cars out in the parking lots and then enjoy the food from 6-8 p.m. at Ojeda's, 4617 Maple Ave. [ClassicChassis.com](http://ClassicChassis.com).

■ **July 5: PrimeTimers**

First Tuesday lunch and games at 11:30 a.m. at Flaming Buffet, 11722 Marsh Lane.

■ **July 7: PFLAG Fort Worth**

Fort Worth Chapter of PFLAG meets the first Thursday each month by Zoom and in person at 6:45 p.m. at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth. [PFLAGFortWorth.org](http://PFLAGFortWorth.org).

■ **July 9: LifeWalk brunch**

The Summer of LifeWalk continues with a brunch at 11 a.m. at Roy G's, 4001 Cedar Springs Road.

■ **July 9: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)**

DSGA, the LGBTA golf organization, plays Twin Creeks, 501 Twin Creeks Dr., Allen. First tee time 10:03. \$79 includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. Information at [DSGADallas.org](http://DSGADallas.org) or [communications@dsgadallas.org](mailto:communications@dsgadallas.org).

■ **July 10: Tasha Kohl's Icon Show**

Tasha Kohl with Sasha Andrews, Andora TeTee, Seymour Chilton and Kelexis Davenport. Doors at 5 p.m. and show at 6 p.m. in the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

■ **Through July 10, 2022: Slip Zone: A New Look at Postwar Abstraction in the Americas and East Asia**

Featuring works from the Dallas Museum of Art's collection, Slip Zone charts the significant innovations in painting, sculpture, and performance that shaped artistic production in the Americas and East Asia in the mid-20th century. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood St. [DMA.org](http://DMA.org).

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

## GAY AGENDA

PRIDE MONTH

**SHABBOT SHALOM WITH RAINBOWS**

**Congregation Beth El**

**Binah** celebrates the ancient biblical holiday of Gay Pride Shabbat on Friday, June 24, with Cantor Sheri Allen as a guest. The service starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Atrium of Northaven Church, 11211 Preston Road.

PRIDE MONTH

**BIG PRIDE IN LI'L D**

Head north on Saturday, June

25, for a chill Pride celebration with **Chalk & Chill at Oak Street Draft House**, 308 E. Oak St. in Denton. Chalking

starts at 8 a.m., and the patio opens at 11 a.m.

PRIDE MONTH

**PROM -INADING PROUDLY**

**June 25: Shreveport Q-Prom**

You can sprinkle a little bit Louisiana flavoring on your Pride by heading over to Shreveport on Saturday,

June 25, Shreveport Q-Prom, a safe place for northwest Louisiana's LGBTQ community to interact, entertain and have fun. ShrevePride hosts at The Supper Club, 610 Commerce St. in Shreveport. Get info and tickets at [ShrevePride.com](http://ShrevePride.com).

PRIDE MONTH

**PRIDE UNDER THE STARS(LIGHT)**

Panhandle Pride hosts its

**Pride Festival 2022** on

Saturday, June 25, at the

Starlight Ranch, 1415 Sunrise

Drive in Amarillo. There will be food trucks, vendors and live music and an Elton John Tribute performed by Kenny Metcalf. The festival starts at 3 p.m., and organizers are asking for a \$5 donation at the gate. Get all the details at [PanhandlePrideInc.org](http://PanhandlePrideInc.org).

PRIDE MONTH

**PRIDE ON THE BAYOU**

Houston is famous for its night-time parade through downtown, which steps off Saturday night, June 25. But don't forget the festival at

Houston City Hall, 901 Bagby St., from 1-6:30 p.m. to get everyone in the party mood. Check [HoustonPride365.org](http://HoustonPride365.org) for details.

PRIDE MONTH

**RIVERWALK AND RAINBOWS**

Houston isn't the only Texas town with a nighttime Pride parade. San Antonio's Pride parade steps off down Main

Street at 9 p.m. Saturday, June 25. Find all the information you need at [PrideSanAntonio.org](http://PrideSanAntonio.org).

PRIDE MONTH

**CENTRAL TEXAS PROUD**

Erath County Pride happens Saturday, June 25, from 5-9 p.m. at Stephenville Senior Center, 164 E. College St. in Stephenville. Want more

details, check out [ErathCountyLGBTQ.org](http://ErathCountyLGBTQ.org)/Pride.

# Cassie Nova

## ASK A DRAG QUEEN

On being grand marshal and the power of Pride

Happy Pride month y'all! This has been such an interesting Pride. First off, I got to be one of the grand marshalls of the Pride parade this year, and it was awesome. I was actually asked to be grand marshall last year in 2021, but because of freakin' COVID it was more of a symbolic thing.

This year, I got to sit in the back of a convertible with my name on the side of the car, just like I had always imagined it in my head.

As most of you know, I only have one shade of drag — ON! I don't do half drag or a light mug. I am either all of the way in drag or not in drag at all. Parade day, I was in full, hardcore drag — big hair, fully padded, corseted and with a completely beat mug. I was grand marshall, so I had to look good.

Just FYI, it is June in Texas, and so of course it was hot as balls. Luckily, we got a little bit of a breeze every once in a while. But I actually handled the heat so much better than I thought I would. I am a complete wimp when it comes to the heat, so the fact that I didn't die was a win for me.

And once the parade actually started to move, it was easy to forget about how hot I was.

I remember back to my very first Pride parade — I think I was 19 — and meeting Valerie Lohr for the first time. She was riding in the parade as the reigning Miss Gay America. When I saw her, she was sitting in a convertible waiting for the parade to start. She was lucky that her car was sitting in the shade of the tollway bridge on Wycliff. The guy I was dating at the time loved drag and knew just about everyone, so he made sure we stopped and talked to Valerie. Then later, at the end of the parade, I got to see Valerie perform at the park. She was flawless.

That was my first taste of real Pride and what it could mean for a young gay that always felt like he was the only gay kid in the world. Seeing hundreds of us all together was one of the best moments in my life. So I did not take for granted the power of being in the Pride parade; I got to be someone's great memory of



their first Pride.

I tried to make eye contact with as many young people as possible. I would complement them on their rainbow clothing or their hair they had dyed just for the parade. The way their faces would light up when they felt seen was so cool.

Probably the best part of the day for me was seeing so many little kids waving and yelling "Happy Pride" to us. I teared up just about every time I saw that. It was just so normal to them, and the amount of love that just beamed from them was incredible.

Thank you to all of the parents that brought their kids out that day. Your kids will grow up to be so much more accepting than most. I applaud you.

Being one of the grand marshalls was probably the biggest ego boost of my life. I've been in the parade before but always on a float with other drag queens. People scream and cheer for us as we ride by, waving like there is no tomorrow, and it always feels so good.

But that ride as grand marshal — that was so special to me.

Hearing people on both sides of the parade route yelling my name was such a moment for me. Then at one point they literally started to chant: "Cassie Nova! Cassie Nova!" They were clacking fans and making the most amazing sound.

I got such a lump in my throat.

That was such an incredible moment for me to experience. I have never felt so

special.

The other thing that made that day so special to me was that I got to share it with my husband and one of my best friends. Jamie drove, and Ross kept my toes from cramping by pulling my tights. Best Pride ever!

Now, this next bit of bullshit is exactly why we need Pride.

So, I was very close to my best friend's family growing up. From 5th grade through high school graduation, I was at their house more than I was at my own. But after we graduated and I came out, we grew apart. We reconnected about 10 years ago, and we've had dinner a few times. But we have all changed so much, I just didn't feel I had a place in their conservative Christian life. No big deal — I have an amazing chosen family.

Let me be clear about one thing, I will always love that family and the way they loved me when I was a kid.

But my childhood best friend — let's call him Ike — is now a vocal Republican and a conservative Christian. Ike has lots of opinions on lots of things. Most of them are about things that do not affect him or his life in any way. Over the years I have heard, "Love the sinner not the sin," along with various Bible quotes and transphobic jokes and, most recently, "GOD HATES PRIDE!"

Okay Ike, calm your tits. I am so sick of religion being forced on me. Mostly I am sick of religion being used against me. I am so sick of it. I do not believe what you

believe. I mean, one day "God is Love" and the next God hates! Which is it?

If you are trying to recruit us, you are doing a shitty job of it. You and your kind are driving us further away. I refuse to believe in a God that hates us learning to love and accept ourselves.

So, this Pride month, love yourself a little bit more. You are awesome, and always remember that the thing that makes you different is the thing that makes you special. Embrace it. Turn the volume on that anti-US bullshit way down and blare that Pride till your speakers blow!

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

## word search solution



## this week's solution



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For a more complete Community Calendar online, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).

**submit**  
To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit [Tinyurl.com/dvevents](http://Tinyurl.com/dvevents).



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**LIVENATION.COM**

### AIDS SERVICES

#### ABOUNDING PROSPERITY

214-421-4800 | AboundingProsperity.org

#### ACCESS | PARKLAND

5151 Maple | 214-590-5647 | 214-590-0606

#### AHF DALLAS WELLNESS CENTER

7777 Forest | 972-383-1060 | HIVcare.org

#### AIN | ACCESS & INFORMATION NETWORK

2600 Stemmons | 214-943-4444 | aindallas.org

#### AOC | AIDS OUTREACH CENTER

817-335-1994 | AOC.org | Ft. Worth

#### ASD | AIDS SERVICES OF DALLAS

214-941-0523 | AIDSDallas.org | Dallas

#### CAN COMMUNITY HEALTH

817-693-1000 | cancommunityhealth.org

#### CHE | CTR FOR HEALTH EMPOWERMENT

972-432-7783 | checlinic.org | Dallas

#### GREG DOLLGENER MEMORIAL AIDS FUND

972-743-6323 | GDMAF.org | Dallas

#### HEALTH SERVICES OF NORTH TEXAS

972-424-1480 | 940-381-1501 | HealthNTx.org

#### HELP CTR FOR LGBT HEALTH WELLNESS

817-332-7722 | helpfw.org | Arlington/Ft Worth

#### LEGACY CARES

4054 McKinney | 214-520-6308 | legacycares.org

#### LEGAL HOSPICE OF TEXAS

214-521-6622 | LegalHospice.org | Dallas

#### NELSON-TEBEDO HEALTH CENTER

214-528-2336 | MyResourceCenter.org

#### N. CENTRAL TX HIV PLANNING COUNCIL

817-321-4743 | NCTHPC.com | Ft. Worth

#### PRISM HEALTH NORTH TEXAS

3900 Junius | 214-521-5191 | prismhealthntx.org

#### RESOURCE CENTER

214-521-5124 | MyResourceCenter.org

#### RESOURCE CENTER FOOD PANTRY

214-528-0144 | MyResourceCenter.org

#### TUCKER'S GIFT

214-985-7297 | TuckersGift.org

#### UT SOUTHWESTERN AIDS PREVENTION

8150 Brookriver | 469-291-2899 | Dallas

#### WHITE ROCK FRIENDS MINISTRY

214-320-0043 | WhiteRockChurch.info | Dallas

### EDUCATION

#### DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION

800-223-3273 | DARE.org

#### DALLAS PUBLIC LIBRARY

1515 Young | 214-670-1400 | dallaslibrary2.org

#### LGBT CHAMBER FOUNDATION

214-821-4528 | lgbtchambrfoundation.org

#### LGBT EMPLOYEE ASSOC. OF DALLAS

info@dallasLGBT.org | dallaslgbt.org

#### LGBTQA PROGRAM at UT ARLINGTON

817-272-2099 | UTA.edu/lgbtqa

#### NORTH TX LGBTQ EMPLOYEE RESOURCE

Group Coalition | ntcoalitioninfo@gmail.com

#### SMU WOMEN & LGBT CENTER

3140 Dyer St. | 214-768-4796 | 214-768-4792

#### SPECTRUM

214-768-4792 | people.smu.edu/spectrum

#### STUDENTS DEMAND ACTION PLANO

646-324-8250 | dallasdieindayeverytown.org

#### TRANSGENDER EDUCATION NETWORK

102 Wonder | 419-330-9124 | transtexas.org

#### UNT | PRIDE ALLIANCE

940-565-2589 | ied.unt.edu/pridealliance

### MUSIC

#### OAK LAWN SYMPHONIC BAND

469-616-0138 | oaklawnband.org

#### THE DALLAS WINDS

214-565-9463 | dallaswinds.org

#### TURTLE CREEK CHORALE

214-526-3214 x 101 | TurtleCreekChorale.com

#### WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS

214-520-7828 | twcoffice@tecd.org | TVCD.org

### POLITICAL

#### DALLAS/FORT WORTH FEDERAL CLUB

214-428-3332 | DFWFederalClub.org

#### LGBT+ REAL ESTATE ALLIANCE

972-754-0582

#### LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF DALLAS

202-420-7873 | LCRDallas.org

#### METROPLEX REPUBLICANS

facebook.com/groups/metroplexdfw/about

#### STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DALLAS

214-506-3367 | StonewallDemocratsOfDallas.org

#### TARRANT CO. STONEWALL DEMOCRATS

817-913-8743 | TarrantStonewall.org

### PRIDE

#### DALLAS PRIDE COMMITTEE

214-571-1073 | DallasPride.org

#### DALLAS SOUTHERN PRIDE

214-421-4800 | DallasSouthernPride.com

#### DENTON PRIDE FOUNDATION

936-443-3617 | DentonPride.com

#### FRISCO PRIDE

469-324-4123 | FriscoPride.com

#### NORTH TEXAS PRIDE FOUNDATION

NorthTexasPride.com | Plano

#### REAL LIVE CONNECTION - TEEN PRIDE

469-666-7325 | TeenPrideUSA.org | rlc365.org

#### TARRANT COUNTY PRIDE WEEK ASSOC.

817-921-3318 | TCGPWA.org | Fort Worth

#### TEXAS LATINO PRIDE | DALLAS

P.O. Box 192111 | TexasLatinoPride.org

#### TRANSGENDER PRIDE OF DALLAS

facebook.com/transgenderprideofdallas

### PROFESSIONAL

#### DALLAS LGBT BAR ASSOCIATION

2101 Ross | DLGBTBA.org

#### FEDERAL GLOBE

dofedglobe.com | Dallas

#### LAMBDA PRIDE TOASTMASTERS

214-957-2011 | lambdapride@freetoasthoast.us

#### LEADERSHIP LAMBDA TOASTMASTERS

214-215-3745

#### LGBT LAW SECTION OF TX STATE BAR

800-204-2222 ext. 1420 | LGBTLawTx.com

#### N. TEXAS LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

214-821-4528 | LGBTChamber.com

#### OUT & EQUAL DFW

415-694-6500 | Outandequal.org

### SERVICES

#### BLACK TIE DINNER, INC.

469-224-0436 | BlackTie.org

#### COALITION FOR AGING LGBT - DFW

972-528-8190 | CFA.lgbt

#### DALLAS GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE

214-528-0144 | info@dglgla.com | DGLA.com

#### DALLAS RED FOUNDATION

214-764-1180 | DallasRedFoundation.org

#### DALLAS TAVERN GUILD

214-571-1073 | DallasTavernGuild.org

#### DIFFA

214-748-8580 | DIFFADallas.org

#### GAY AND LESBIAN FUND FOR DALLAS

volunteers@glfd.org | glfd.org

#### HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE OF N. TEXAS

214-855-0520 | hrionline.org

#### LAMBDA LEGAL SOUTHWEST REGION

3500 Oaklawn | 214-219-8585 | lambdalegal.org

#### LGBT NATIONAL HELP CENTER

415-355-0003 | LGBTHotline.org

#### NORTH TEXAS DOULA

469-360-3810 | northtexasdoulas.com

#### OUT OF THE CLOSET

214-559-2173 | OutOfTheCloset.org | Dallas

#### PROMISE HOUSE

224 W. Page | 214-941-8578 | PromiseHouse.org

#### PURPLE FOUNDATION

PurpleFoundation.org

#### TAKE BACK OAK LAWN

facebook.com/takebackoaklawn

#### TEDDY BEAR PARTY

TeddyBearParty.org

#### TEXAS PRIDE IMPACT FUNDS

214-421-4800 | TxPIF.org

#### THE DALLAS WAY

214-942-1414 | TheDallasWay.org

### SOCIAL

#### CCCC | CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB

214-357-3759 | ClassicChassis.com

#### CHICK HAPPY HOUR

facebook.com/ChickHappyhour

#### COUPLES METRO DALLAS

CouplesMetroDallas.com

#### DALLAS BEARS | TBRU

P.O. Box 191223 | DallasBears.org | Dallas

#### DAMN | DALLAS AREA MALE NUDISTS

oaklwnuguy@hotmail.com

#### DFW FUSE

214-540-4435 | DFWFuse.com

#### DISCIPLINE CORPS

disciplinecorps.com

#### EAST TEXAS PFLAG

903-330-8901 | Tyler

#### FORT WORTH FIFTH

facebook.com/groups/131006360969130

#### GENDERBRAVE

214-540-4415 | MyResourceCenter.org

#### GOH | GRUPO ORGULLO HISPANO

214-540-4448 | MyResourceCenter.org

#### IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH

careteam@icfwa.org | ICFWA.org

#### LEATHER KNIGHTS

214-395-8460 | facebook.com/LeatherKnights

#### LVL/PWA CAMPOUT

campout@lvlpwa.com | LVL/PWA.com

#### MEN OF ALL COLORS

214-521-4765 | pulliam\_preston@yahoo.com

#### NATIONAL LEATHER ALLIANCE - DALLAS

info@nla-dallas.org | NLADallas.org

#### ONCE IN A BLUE MOON

214-662-4706 | cschepps@sbcglobal.net

#### OTBC - ONE TRUE BOOK CLUB

609-306-2238 | onetruebookclub@gmail.com

#### PEGASUS SQUARES

214-924-0263 | Pegasus-Squares.com

#### POZ DALLAS

212-242-2163 | poz.com/tag/dallas

#### PRIME TIMERS OF DALLAS/FORT WORTH

214-218-0912 | primetimersDFW@gmail.com

#### RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB

972-975-8622 | RainbowGardenClub.com

#### RAINBOW ROUNDUP

855-MY-RRFAM | info@rrup.org | rrup.org

#### SILVER PRIDE PROJECT

972-793-8352 | info@silverpride.com

#### SPECTRUM MOTORCYCLE CLUB

214-289-1179

#### STRENGTH IN NUMBERS DFW

dalmusi@yahoo.com

#### THRIVE | FOLKS 50+

214-540-4418 | MyResourceCenter.org

#### TYLER AREA GAYS

903-617-8556 | tylerareagays.com

#### UBE | UNITED BLACK ELLUMENT

214-760-9718 | UBEDallas.org

#### UNITED COURT OF THE LONE STAR EMPIRE

DallasCourt.org

#### VALOR LATINO

214-540-4430 | acarbajal@rcdallas.org

#### WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

Twitter.com/WODDallas

#### WOMEN WITH PRIDE

214-540-4471 | MyResourceCenter.org

### SPIRITUALITY

#### AGAPE MCC

817-535-5002 | AgapeMCC.com | Fort Worth

#### CATHEDRAL OF HOPE

214-351-1901 | cathedralofhope.com

#### CHURCH OF ONE LOVE

972-245-6520 | ChurchOfOneLove.org

#### CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH

817-335-3222 | Celebration-Community-Church.com

#### CELEBRATION ON THE LAKE CHURCH

903-802-0670 | COTLChurch.org | Mabank

#### CONGREGATION BETH EL BINAH

BethElBinah.org

#### CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH

214-520-9090 | CrossroadsCommunityChurch.us

#### EPISCOPAL - TRANSFIGURATION

transfiguration.net

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OUTntx.com

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the source for welcoming businesses

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

## ACCOMMODATIONS

■ Lorenzo Hotel | lorenzohotel.com  
1011 S. Akard St. | 214-273-3000

## ACCOUNTANTS – CERTIFIED PUBLIC

■ Allen, Ron, CPA | ronallengcpa.com  
2909 Cole Ave., Ste. 119 | 214-954-0042  
■ Aishman, Rick, PC | Ryanne Ahlman  
4228 N. Central Expwy, #225 | 214-520-7363  
■ Bax Terry, CPA  
accounting@jbtcpa.com | 214-434-1470

■ Taryn Tax Pro | taryntaxpro.com  
taryn@taryntaxpro.com | 214-226-5838

## ADULT

■ After Hours Video  
2528 West Walnut | Garland | 972-276-0893  
■ Alternatives of New Fine Arts  
1720 W. Mockingbird Lane | 214-630-7071  
■ Club Dallas | theclubs.com  
2616 Swiss Ave. | 214-821-1990

## AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING

■ Jade Air | Air Conditioning & Heating  
jadeairdallas.com | 214-522-2805  
■ Rescue Air | Heating and Cooling  
rescueair.com | 972-351-8307

## ANTIQUES | CONSIGNMENT

■ Antique Gallery of Mesquite  
antiquegallerymesquite.com  
3330 N. Galloway, Ste. 225 | 214-646-4583  
■ Dulce Interior Consignment Showplace  
1208 N. Riverfront Blvd. | mydulce.com  
214-219-5656

## ATTORNEYS

■ Burch, Lorie, L. | burch-law.com  
7920 Belt Line Road, Ste. 700 | 972-385-0558  
■ Covell, Rebecca S. | covellpc.com  
12222 Merit Drive, Ste. 340 | 214-443-0300  
■ Garcia, Domingo | domingogarcia.com  
1111 W. Mockingbird, Ste 1200 | 214-941-8300

## ATTORNEYS

■ Guelich, Holly B. | holly-guelich.com  
12740 Hillcrest Road, Ste. 138 | 214-522-3669  
■ O'Neil Wysocki Family Law  
owlawyers.com | 972-852-8000  
■ Olinger, Lynn S. | LSOlaw.com  
3710 Rawlins St., Ste. 1420 | 214-396-9090  
■ Seidel, Adam L. | adamseidel.com  
8150 N. Central Expwy, #1255 | 214-528-3344  
■ Van Wey, Kay | vanwaylaw.com  
12720 Hillcrest Road, Ste. 600 | 214-329-1350  
■ Wiley, Rob | robwiley.com  
2613 Thomas Ave. | 214-528-6500  
■ Womack, Jenny | WomackAdoptions.com  
5495 Beltline Road, Ste. 365 | 214-935-3310

## BEER

■ Ben E. Keith | BudLight.com

## BOOKKEEPING

■ Padgett Business Services  
padgettdallas.com | 214-272-3823

## CHIROPRACTIC DOCTORS – DC

■ Sebo, Troy, Doctor of Chiropractic  
1201 E. Main St., #240 | Allen | 214-528-1900

## CLOTHING RETAIL

■ Outlines Men's Wear | Men's Clothing Store  
3906 Cedar Springs Road | 214-528-1955  
■ Rufskin | rufskin.com

## COLLEGES | EDUCATION

■ Dallas College | dallascollege.edu  
214-378-1500

## COMIC BOOKS & COLLECTIBLES

■ Zeus Comics | zeuscomics.com  
1334 Inwood Road | 214-219-8597

## COMPUTER SUPPORT SERVICES

■ Celeratec | celeratec.com  
3824 Cedar Springs Road, #410 | 888-423-5372

## CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

■ Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau  
arlington.org/lgbtq | 800-342-4305

■ VisitDallas | visitdallas.com  
1807 Ross Ave., Ste. 450 | 800-232-5527

## COUNSELORS – LICENSED PROFESSIONAL

■ Baker, Renee, LPC | 214-607-5620  
■ Caswell, Eddie, MEd, LPC  
6500 Greenville Ave., Ste. 185 | 214-559-7077  
■ Meador, Christopher Phd, LCSW | 214-674-8806  
momentumpysychologicalservices@gmail.com  
■ Owen, Jimmy, LPC-S | jimmyowen.com  
3838 Oak Lawn, Ste. 1000 | 214-546-8852  
■ Porter, Feleshia, LPC | 214-454-8144

## CRUISES & TRAVEL PLANNERS

■ The Pauer Group, LLC - Randy Pauer  
thepaugroup.com | 972-241-2000

## DENTISTS

■ Boyd, Carole Ann, DDS, PC | drboyd.net  
4514 Cole Ave., Ste. 905 | 214-521-6261  
■ Terrell, Kevin, DDS, PC | terrelldental.com  
2603 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 100 | 214-329-1818

## ELECTROLYSIS | HAIR REMOVAL

■ Dallas Electrolysis Clinic  
electrolysisformen.com | 214-766-8939  
■ Hair & Now Electrolysis | LGBT Owned  
hairnowelectrolysis.com | 214-865-8345  
■ Hair Today Gone Tomorrow Electrolysis  
htgetelectrolysis.com | 682-593-1442

## EMERGENCY ROOM SERVICES

■ ER of texas | eroftexas.com  
3607 Oak Lawn, Ste. 100 | 469-750-1028  
■ Highland Pk Emergency | highlandparker.com  
5150 Lemmon Ave | 214-443-8131

## EYEWEAR

■ Fashion Optical | fashionopticaldallas.com  
3430 Oak Lawn Ave. | 214-526-6006  
■ Uptown Vision | uptownvisiondallas.com  
3710 Rawlins St., Ste 100 | 214-953-3937

## ESTATE SALES | CONSIGNMENT

■ Brown Sloan Estate Sales Advisors  
brown-sloan.com | 214-533-0298

## FERTILITY

■ Fertility Specialists of TX | fertilitytexas.com  
Dr. Goldstein | Dr. Skora | 214-618-2044  
■ The Fertility Consultants  
thefertilityconsultants.com | 713-827-0301

## FINANCIAL PLANNING & CONSULTANTS

■ Anderson, Sandy, CPA/PFS, 214-500-6385  
andersonandassociatesfinancial.com  
■ Sammons, Stephanie, CFP®  
sammonswealth.com | 972-440-1194  
■ Sherman, Judy S., CFBS  
2273 E. Continental, Ste. 120-A | 817-366-1119

## FLORISTS

■ All Blooming Florist | allbloomingflorist.com  
2615 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 103 | 214-238-3283

## HAIR SALON | BARBER SHOP

■ Salon Aura | salonauradallas.com  
3910 Cedar Springs Road | 214-443-0454

## HEALTH CARE SERVICES

■ AIDS Outreach Center | aoc.org  
400 N. Beach St., Ste. 100 | 817-335-1994  
■ CAN | cancommunityhealth.org  
616 Matlock Centre Circle | 817-693-1000  
■ HELP Center for LGBT Health & Wellness  
helpfw.org | 1919 8th Ave. | 817-332-7722  
■ Prism Health North Texas | phntx.org  
3900 Junius St., Ste. 300 | 214-521-5191  
■ Resource Center | myresourcecenter.org  
LGBTQ services & info. 214-521-5124

## HOSPICE

■ Visiting Nurse Association of Texas  
vnatexas.org | 800-CALL-VNA

## INSURANCE

■ Alex Long Agency | Allstate Insurance  
Allstateagencies.com/AlexLong | 972-570-7000  
■ Beseda, Scott | State Farm|ScottBeseda.com  
4411 Lemmon Ave., Ste. 203 | 214-219-6610

## INSURANCE

■ Irvin, M. Angel | Farmers Insurance  
14651 Dallas Parkway, Ste. 110 | 972-367-6200  
■ Medicare4USA | Individual & Group Health  
Medicare4USA.com | 214-989-7900  
■ Wisa Insurance | wiseinsurancegroup.com  
469-464-5740

## MATCHMAKERS

■ Fern Connections | fernconnections.com  
469-785-6136

## MEDIA

■ Affinity Magazine | affinityincmagazine.com  
844-882-8864  
■ Dallas Voice | The Premiere Media Source  
for LGBTQ Texas | dallasvoice.com  
1825 Market Center Blvd, #240 | 214-754-8710  
■ DFW Gay Live! | DFWGay.com  
Source for LGBTQ Events | 214-450-8238  
■ He Said Dallas | Must see, do, eat & more  
for gay Dallas | hesaiddallas.com  
■ Lambda Weekly | knon.org  
89.3 FM | 214-828-9500  
■ National LGBT Media Association  
nationalgaymediaassociation.com  
■ OUT North Texas | The premier LGBTQ  
Visitors Guide for North Texas | outntx.com  
1825 Market Center Blvd., #240 | 214-754-8710

## MORTGAGE & REFINANCE

■ Caliber Home Loans | Johnson, Christian  
homeloansbychristian.com | 214-763-8767  
■ Service First Mortgage | Lewis, Pearl  
pearlofmortgages.com | 214-578-0158  
■ Supreme Lending | Ramirez, Armando  
mandoramirez.supremelending.com  
214-263-5507

## MOVIES

■ Fantastic Moves | FantasticMoves.com  
10610 Metric, Ste. 175 | 214-349-6683 (MOVE)

## MUSEUMS

■ Amon Carter Museum of American Art  
cartermuseum.org | 3501 Camp Bowie Blvd.  
Fort Worth | 817-738-1933  
■ Nasher Sculpture Center  
nashersculpturecenter.org  
2001 Flora St. | 214-242-5100

## NURSERIES & GARDEN CENTERS

■ North Haven Gardens | NHG.com  
7700 Northaven Road | 214-363-5316

## PET ADOPTION & ANIMAL SHELTERS

■ SPCA of Texas | spca.org  
2400 Lone Star Drive | 214-742-7722

## PHARMACIES

■ Avita Pharmacy | avitapharmacy.com  
750 Fort Worth, Ste. H-100 | 214-943-5187

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

■ Proud Family Portraits Terry McCranie  
terrymccranie.com | 972-877-9546 | LGBT-BE

## PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS

■ LeDoux, Mark | spinedallas.com  
3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 380 | 214-888-3900  
■ North Texas Infectious Diseases Consultants  
ntidc.org | 3409 Worth, #710 | 214-823-2533  
■ MD Progressive Care | 3500 Oak Lawn  
mdprogressivecare.com | 214-521-0100  
■ Pounders, Steven M. | drpounders.com  
3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 600 | 214-520-8833  
■ Prism Health North Texas | phntx.org  
3900 Junius St., Ste. 300 | 214-521-5191  
■ Uptown Physicians Group  
uptownphysiciansgroup.com  
2801 Lemmon Ave., Ste. 400 | 214-303-1033

## PRINTING SERVICES

■ UPS Store on Lemmon | theupstore.com  
4848 Lemmon Ave. | 214-780-0877 | LGBT-BE

## REAL ESTATE

■ Atkinson, Steve | Dave Perry-Miller  
DavePerryMiller.com | 214-334-7404  
■ Carnes, Scott, GRI, ABR, SRS, EPRO, ASP  
DavePerryMiller.com | 214-490-6895

## REAL ESTATE

■ DeuPree, Joe, ABR | Scottwood Realty  
deupreej@sbcglobal.net | 214-683-7224  
■ Durstine Jr., George H. | Scottwood Realty  
georgedrealtor@gmail.com | 214-616-4030  
■ The Chris Hickman Group | Ebby Halliday  
chrishickmangroup.com | 469-569-1106  
■ Hobson, Phil, H Group | Berkshire Hathaway  
weknox.com/philhobson | 214-659-3624  
■ LaPierre, Paul, GRI | Century 21 Judge Fite  
paul@4saleindallas.com | 214-564-7741  
■ Murphy, Adam | Dave Perry-Miller  
adammurphyhomes.com | 972-795-0125  
■ Narey, Jay, ABR, ALHS | jaynarey.com  
Keller Williams | 972-468-5462  
■ Puckett, Robb | Dave Perry-Miller  
robbpuckett.com | 214-403-0098  
■ Scott, Danny Alan | Scottwood Realty  
DannyAlanScott@gmail.com | 972-588-8304  
■ Texas Pride Realty Group  
TexasPrideRealty.com | 972-246-8853  
■ Jeff Updike, Weston Pugh | Dave Perry-Miller  
updikepugh.com | 214-377-2223  
■ Williams, Rob | TX Lake & Land Realty  
Cedar Creek Lake Specialist | 214-693-5779

## RESTAURANTS

■ Cremona Italian Bistro cremonabistro.com  
2704 Worthington | 214-871-1115  
■ Mama's Daughter's Diner  
mamasdaughtersdiner.com | 214-742-8646  
■ Nerdvana Frisco | nerdvanafrisco.com  
5757 Main St., #112 | Frisco | 214-618-9732  
■ Taqueria La Ventana taquerialaventana.com  
3847 Cedar Springs Road | 972-432-5945

## ROOF CONTRACTORS

■ NorthStar Roofing | NorthstarRFG.com  
214-274-5596

## SHIPPING AND RECEIVING SERVICES

■ UPS Store on Cedar Springs & Meadow  
theupsstorelocal.com/3812  
3824 Cedar Springs, 214-520-0005  
■ UPS Store on Lemmon | theupsstore.com  
Store #5254 | 4848 Lemmon | 214-780-0877

## SIGNAGE & BANNERS

■ FASTSIGNS | fastsigns.com/12  
2629 Oak Lawn Ave. | 214-526-7446

## SURROGACY & FAMILY SERVICES

■ Simple Surrogacy | simplesurrogacy.com  
4925 Greenville, Ste. 200 | 866-417-8776

## TITLE COMPANIES

■ Independence Title | independencetitle.com  
JT Williams | 214-623-5589  
■ Republic Title of Texas | republictitle.com  
3131 Turtle Creek Blvd., #101 | 214-528-8916

## TRANSPORTATION

■ DART | dart.org | 214-979-1111

## VETERINARY SERVICES

■ Isla Veterinary Hospital | islavet.com  
14380 Marsh Lane, Ste. 110 | 972-738-1111

## VITAMINS & SUPPLEMENTS

■ Sundrops Vitamins, Nutrition | sundrops.com  
4306 N. Central Expressway | 214-521-0550

## WEDDING PLANNERS & SERVICES

■ LGBTWeddings.com  
844-899-LOVE x 501

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Joe and Jason with their boys



Look at that meat at Roy G's



Salon Aura beauties



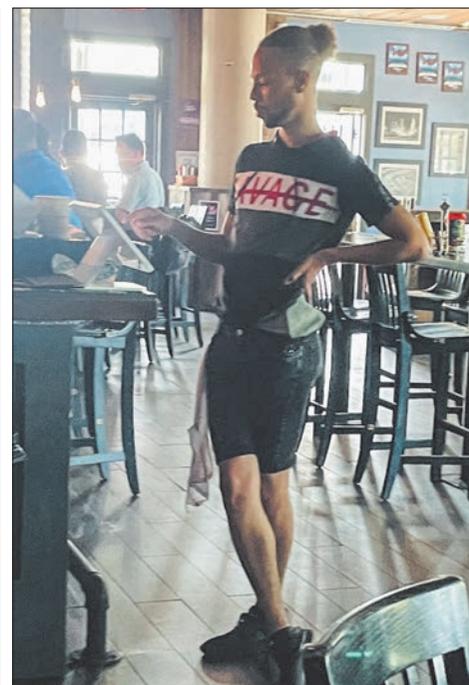
Nayda Montana shows her true colors



Raquel looking glamorous!



TMC patio vibes



Tapping it out

# WORD SEARCH

## Diversions Word Search - Stand Out: An LGBTQ+ Celebration

Find the words in the list below hiding across, backwards, up, down and diagonally in the grid. Words separated by a slash "/" are found individually in the puzzle. Words in parentheses "(") are not in the puzzle. The unused letters starting at top left and going down by row will reveal more about this special!



- |                                     |                       |                      |                  |                            |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Stand Out: / (An) LGBTQ Celebration | (Mistress/Ceremonies) | Eddie/Izzard         | Trixie/Mattel    | Marsha/Warfield            |
| Pride/Month (on)/Netflix            | (Entertainers)        | Bob (the)/Drag/Queen | Matteo/Lane      | Solomon/Georgio            |
| Historic/night (of)                 |                       | Rosie/O'Donnell      | Sam Jay          | Gina/Yashere               |
| Queer/Comedy                        |                       | Margaret Cho         | Judy/Gold        | Scott/Thompson             |
| Host: /Billy/Eichner                |                       | Tig Notaro           | Joel Kim/Booster | Mae Martin (as Buddy Cole) |
|                                     |                       | Sandra/Bernhard      | Fortune/Feimster |                            |
|                                     |                       | Wanda/Sykes          | Patti/Harrison   |                            |
|                                     |                       |                      | Guy/Branum       |                            |

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/DiversionsPuzzles> for more free puzzles and book info by Kerry Shatzer!

Solution on Page 54



DFW LGBTQ EVENTS CALENDAR

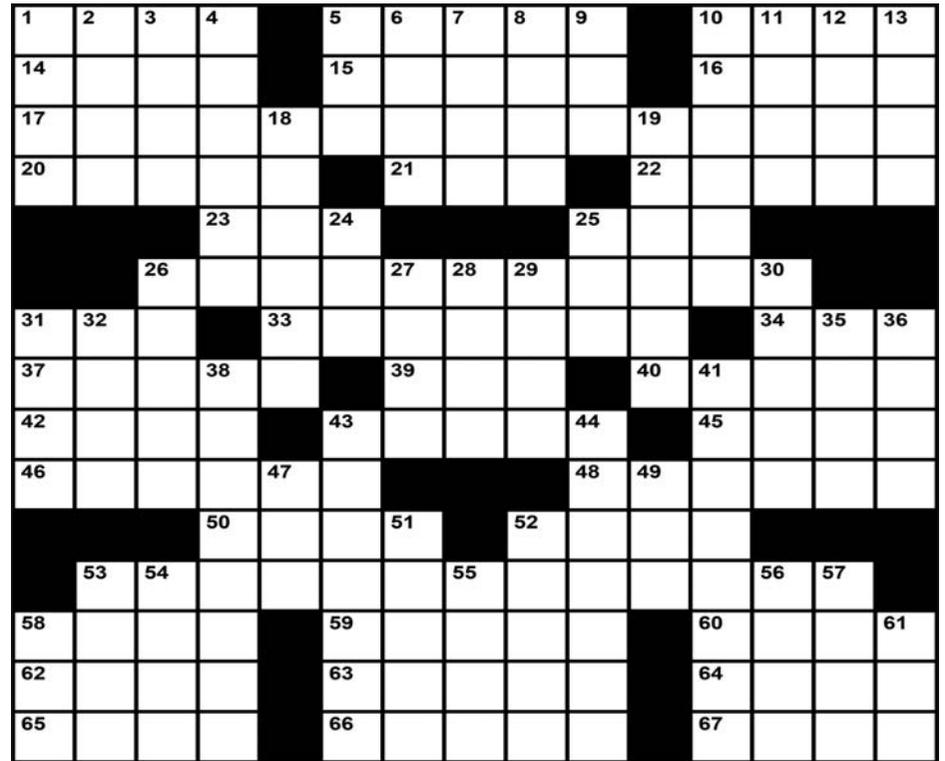
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View event calendar on [DallasVoice.com](http://DallasVoice.com) and [DFWGAYLIVE.com](http://DFWGAYLIVE.com)



# PUZZLE | Two Choices



Solution on Page 54

### Across

- 1 Buffy creator Whedon
- 5 Group of openly gay lions?
- 10 Fag \_\_\_ (women with gay friends)
- 14 Milk go-with
- 15 Like phone sex
- 16 Area east of the Urals
- 17 Choice #1, on 53-Across
- 20 Flynn role opposite Davis
- 21 Officer in the navy (abbr.)
- 22 Use a rubber
- 23 It may be tidy
- 25 Mouthful, for the bull
- 26 Start of Choice #2 on 53-Across
- 31 Chinese tea
- 33 Dance in a Cole Porter title
- 34 Tree on a shady street
- 37 Big wheels at sea
- 39 Areas for Dr. Kerry Weaver
- 40 Spock portrayer Leonard
- 42 Humorist Bombeck
- 43 End of Choice #2
- 45 Mark with a branding iron
- 46 Milk actor James
- 48 Bearse of *Married ... with Children*

50 \_\_\_ *On Down the Road*

- 52 Sourpuss
- 53 Netflix gay coming-of-age series
- 58 Mapplethorpe's *Man in Polyester \_\_\_*
- 59 Compensate
- 60 Hot stuff
- 62 Fairy tale bad guy
- 63 Send, as to a specialist
- 64 Nathan of *Modern Family*
- 65 *Fer \_\_\_!*
- 66 *The Cat in the Hat* author
- 67 " \_\_\_ of Seventeen"

### Down

- 1 Singer Feliciano
- 2 Shaft output
- 3 Minute parts, briefly
- 4 Most in need of BenGay
- 5 Homophobe Robertson
- 6 Inventive Goldberg
- 7 Club for Sheehan
- 8 Calendar boxes
- 9 Keebler cookie maker
- 10 Tracy Turnblad has a big one
- 11 On an Atlantis cruise
- 12 Pink lady liquors
- 13 *Quills* subject
- 18 They're way out
- 19 Cartoonist David
- 24 West of Hollywood

- 25 Cigarette pkg.
- 26 Hayek of *Frida*
- 27 *Firebird* composer Stravinsky
- 28 Richard Simmons, to fitness
- 29 Serpent's sound
- 30 Aden is its capital
- 31 Nick Malgieri, for one
- 32 *Cabaret's Mein \_\_\_*
- 35 Dryer batch
- 36 Vidal's Breckinridge
- 38 Hall & Oates song about a fellator?
- 41 Allie on *Weeds*
- 43 Rock and Doris, frequently
- 44 Literary mag for nags?
- 47 The Batmobile, e.g.
- 49 AAA handout
- 51 Lauded makeup maker Lauder
- 52 Dairy Queen stack
- 53 Bonneville of *Downton Abbey*
- 54 Land of Sinead O'Connor
- 55 It's a curd in the kitchen
- 56 Yellow-brick way
- 57 Carol, for example
- 58 Signal that goes either way
- 61 Supporter of Spencer-Devlin

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