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Love Story

WINS

Neighbors, friends rally after Corsicana couple's home targeted in hate crime

By David Taffet, page 8



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In This Issue June 10, 2022
Volume 39 | Issue 5

NEWS

- 09 | Proclaiming Pride gets controversial
12 | Sights, sounds & faces of MetroBall, Dallas Pride
18 | Celebrating Pride in Mexico City



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

- 14 | Common Ground Games opens new space for gaymers
20 | New streaming shows and films premiere for Pride



ON THE COVER



BITES FROM OUR BLOG.....4
VOICES.....6
PLAN YOUR WEEK.....30
CASSIE NOVA.....32
SCENE.....35
MARKETPLACE.....42



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PFLAG, 3 Texas families sue Abbott, DFPS over anti-trans investigations

The American Civil Liberties Union, Lambda Legal, and the ACLU of Texas along with the Texas-based law firm Baker Botts LLP on Wednesday, June 8, filed a new lawsuit in Texas state court on behalf of PFLAG National and three Texas families demanding the court block state investigations of PFLAG families in Texas who are supporting their transgender children with medically necessary health care.

The lawsuit names Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who issued a February directive stating that health care that is medically necessary for treating gender dysphoria should be considered a form of child abuse, based on a non-binding and discredited legal opinion issued by Attorney General Ken Paxton. The suit also names Department of Family and Protective Services Commissioner Jaime Masters and DFPS as defendants.

In announcing the lawsuit, Brian K. Bond, executive director of PFLAG National, said, "For nearly 50 years, PFLAG parents have united against government efforts to harm their LGBTQ kids. By going after trans kids and their families, Gov. Abbott has picked a fight with thousands of families in Texas and across the country who are united as members of PFLAG National.

"Loving and affirming your child and empowering them to be themselves is the highest calling of any parent, no matter your child's gender," Bond added. "If it takes a court ruling to ensure that the law protects families who lead with love in support of transgender Texans, so be it."

In an earlier lawsuit brought by the ACLU, Lambda Legal, ACLU of Texas, and Baker Botts, the Texas Supreme Court upheld part of an appeals court order preventing DFPS from investigating parents who work with medical professionals to provide their adolescent transgender children with medically necessary health care. The Supreme Court upheld a restraining order preventing DFPS from investigating the plaintiff family in that case, *Doe v. Abbott*, while the case continues through the courts. The Supreme Court, however, overturned the restraining order preventing investigations of other such families.

Since then DFPS has since started up those investigations again.

The Texas Supreme Court did emphasize that neither Paxton nor Abbott have the power or authority to direct DFPS to conduct investigations.

Adri Pérez, policy and advocacy strategist at the ACLU of Texas, said, "It is indefensible for any state leader to repeatedly attack trans Texans and weaponize the child welfare system against the loving families of transgender kids and teens. We will continue to fight against these baseless attacks on our community.

"Transgender kids deserve to have life-saving gender-affirming care in Texas, so that they might live safely grow up to be transgender adults," Pérez continued. "During this Pride Month, we must take a stand against government leaders that are hellbent on stoking fear, and trying to criminalize transgender young people and their families."

Shared resources and information can be found at txtranskids.org. If you've been contacted by DFPS or know of a family that has been contacted by DFPS, please contact the Lambda Legal Help Desk at LambdaLegal.org/legal-help-desk-form.

— Tammye Nash

Same hate, same death threats, different day



Stedfast Baptist hate-mongering pastor Dillon Awes

Stedfast Baptist Church, now located in a strip center on Denton Highway in Watauga, is back in

the headlines again this week after the so-called church's so-called pastor preached a sermon calling for every LGBTQ person in the U.S. to be executed.

As North Texas began celebrating Pride Month last weekend, Stedfast pastor Dillon Awes preached a sermon declaring "the solution for the homosexual" is to be tried for the crime of homosexuality and be convicted of murder. Citing the Book of Romans in the Bible, Awes said, LGBTQ people "should be lined up against the wall and shot in the back of the head! That's what God teaches. That's what the Bible says. You don't like it? You don't like God's Word, because that is what God says."

As shockingly vile as that is, it is actually just the latest death threat from this church and its pastors.

Stedfast first made headlines in December 2014 when its then-pastor Donnie Romero posted a video online of a sermon in which he said all LGBTQ people should be — you guessed it — put to death. "I'm not going to let these dirty faggots in my church," Romero said. "They're all pedophiles."

Romero grabbed attention again in June 2016 when he said in another sermon that the victims of the June 12, 2016, massacre at Pulse nightclub in Orlando deserved to die because they were "sodomites ... perverts and pedophiles" and "the scum of the earth," and that "the earth is a little bit better place now" because they were killed. He also prayed that the surviving victims would die.

LGBTQ folks and their allies began protesting regularly outside the church, then located on Jacksboro Highway, and eventually Romero was ousted as pastor after getting caught sleeping with prostitutes, gambling and in possession of marijuana.

Last year, Stedfast showed up in Hurst, where then-pastor Jonathan Shelley preached — in a sermon videotaped and posted to the internet — that LGBTQ people should be shot in the head. That prompted the formation of a group called No Hate in Hurst, which staged protests on the sidewalk across from Stedfast's meeting place each time the church met.

The "church" then moved to Watauga after

being evicted from its Hurst meeting place. Folks that had been associated with No Hate in Hurst were, earlier this month, calling for others to join them in reviving the regular protests in Watauga.

— Tammye Nash

Demi Lovato returns with new music and tour announcement



Demi Lovato

Demi Lovato announced their upcoming HOLY FVCK fall tour on Tuesday, June 7, named after their upcoming eighth studio album set to drop Aug. 19.

The Live Nation 32-date tour begins Aug. 30 in Brazil and will close right here in their home state. Lovato will bring their tour to 713 Music Hall in Houston on Nov. 3 and then play the Pavilion at Toyota Music Factory in Irving on Nov. 6 to wrap up the tour.

DEAD SARA will open on those Texas dates. "I'm so excited to get back on the road after four years without touring, and even longer since I've toured in South America," Lovato said in a

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press release. "We're working so hard to deliver an incredible show for all my fans, and I can't wait to see them in person to celebrate this new music."

Tickets and packages for the tour go on sale Friday at 10 a.m. at DemiLovato.com.

— Rich Lopez

Texas Republican vows to protect children from the horrors of drag shows

Texas state Rep. Bryan Slaton, the Republican who represents Texas' 2nd District in the state House, announced Monday, June 6, that he intends to file a bill in the next session of the Texas Legislature, which convenes next January, barring minors from attending drag shows. That will be his second session in office.

"Drag shows are no place for a child. I would never take my children to a drag show and I know Speaker Dade Phelan and my Republican colleagues wouldn't either," said Slaton, a Republican whose official House of Representatives website describes him as "an American businessman, pastor and politician."

In a press release announcing his intentions, Slaton said he decided to file the no kids at drag shows bill because of "several news stories



Texas state Rep. Bryan Slaton

over the weekend in which underage Texas children were subjected to inappropriate sexual content by adults."

The press release quotes Slaton as saying, "The events of this past weekend were horrifying and show a disturbing trend in which perverted adults are obsessed with sexualizing young children."

— Tammye Nash

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out of his shell but helping the behavior staff calm the nerves of new fearful dogs coming into the program. He is absolutely adored by the staff but deserves to find his own forever home, too. He is housed at the Russell E. Dealey Animal Rescue Center and requires an appointment.

Adult dogs and cats are normally a \$75 adoption fee from the 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 open for adoptions every day from noon-6 p.m. at 2400 Lone Star Drive in Dallas. Animals are available by walk-in on a first-come, first-served basis. Appointments are also available for select 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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Protecting the children

Once again, Texas Republicans are trying to scapegoat the LGBTQ community with made-up trash to deflect from their own failures

It has become obvious over the last, oh, six years or so that Texas Republicans have become masters of misdirection. Let's look at the Texas GOP track record, shall we:

In 2016, when he got called out for accepting a \$35,000 donation from Donald Trump AFTER dropping a fraud investigation into Trump University, Gov. Greg Abbott deflected attention away from that by attacking trans women and ranting about men in the women's restrooms.

At the end of 2020, when news broke that Attorney General Ken Paxton's own most trusted aides had reported him to the Department of Justice for abusing the power of his office, Paxton used state of Texas resources to file a lawsuit directly with the U.S. Supreme Court, trying to overturn lawful elections in other states and steal the presidential election for Trump.

Then last year, in 2021, when Abbott found himself under fire after the Texas power grid failed during the worst winter storm in decades, killing nearly 6,500 Texans, he led the charge against "voter fraud" and forced changes to state law to make it harder for (non-rich-white-Republican) Texans to vote.

Now state Rep. Bryan Slaton from Greenville is taking his turn.

Two weeks, nearly to the day, after the massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Slaton this week told us all that the REAL danger to children isn't guns. The REAL danger to children is drag queens. And he plans to bravely stand in the gap and protect those innocent babes by introducing legislation in the next session of the Texas Legislature to ban all children from any drag show in Texas.

It all started, it appears, on Saturday, June 4, when the Oak Lawn club Mr.



Tammye Nash
From Where I Stand

Misster hosted — before the bar opened to the public — a family-friendly drag show. Some right-winger obviously heard the dreadful news

and rounded up a gaggle of asses to rush down to the gayborhood, on the first day of Dallas Pride weekend, to protest this travesty. They gathered on the sidewalk outside the bar and protected the kids by waving religious flags, praying the rosary and shouting vulgarities at the adults — and children — arriving for the event.

Dallas police came and made the crazies ... uh, I mean ... the crusaders move across Reagan Street to the sidewalk in front of the Oak Lawn fire station. Apparently, though, they compensated by praying and yelling louder.

Police did go inside the bar to check things out when a right-wingnut demanded they perform a welfare check. The officers found the children to be in no danger — except maybe from the protesters, since officers escorted the attendees out of the club when they got ready to leave, staying between them and the shouting army of the righteous.

(Note: One right-wing media source said officers had made the children leave the event, claiming victory for the protesters. Dallas police told me specifically that was not true.)

Apparently that horrendous event was what made Rep. Slaton realize he had to act. He issued a press release announcing his intentions to file a bill, declaring, "The events of this past weekend were horrifying" Horrifying, I tell you! Why, some poor child might have seen a queen with a run in her hose or — horror of horrors! — smudged make-up! And what if one

of the queens forgot the words to the song she was lip-syncing to? How will those poor, innocent children ever recover?!

I mean, being caught in a mass shooting in your fourth-grade class surely pales in comparison to seeing a drag show, yes? Seeing your friends and teachers get shredded to the point of decapitation by 5.56-caliber rounds fired from a semi-automatic assault-style rifle and having to smear your dead friend's blood on your own face to trick the shooter into thinking you are dead too could not possibly compare to the trauma-inducing terror of watching a drag queen lip-sync a Lady Gaga song (or maybe that song from *Frozen*?).

Right?

WTF ever. According to the Gun Violence Archive, there have been 240 mass shootings in the U.S. so far this year; 33 of those have happened since the May 24



massacre in Uvalde.

There have been at least 27 shooting incidents at U.S. schools since Jan. 1, according to Education Week, which is keeping a running tally on its website at EdWeek.org.

But yeah, drag shows are the real threat.

Hey Bryan Slaton: We see you. We know what you are doing. And we are not going to let you get away with your hypocritical deflection tactics this time.

As drag queen extraordinaire Jada Essence Hall would say, "Look over there!" Only when you do it, Slaton, it ain't funny.

Tammye Nash is managing editor of Dallas Voice. The opinions expressed here are her own.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Bring Pride back to the gayborhood

To the Dallas Pride organizers:

First, thank you for all you do for our community. Please consider my feedback as just one perspective among many, but one that I hope you'll take into consideration.

I believe that a Pride parade should be disruptive; our parade is rooted in protest and visibility. I miss the days when the parade disrupted traffic on Oak Lawn and made the general public take notice of our numbers, pride and presence.

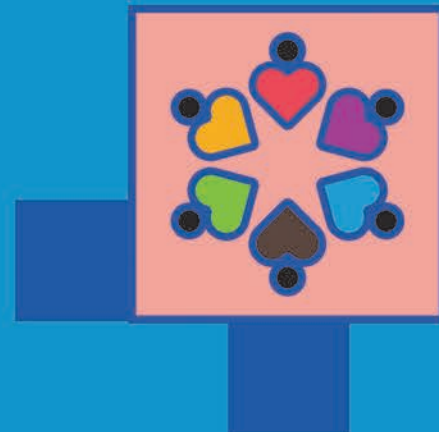
Being shoulder-to-shoulder with members of my LGBTQ+ family on Cedar Springs felt significantly more unifying and engendered more pride than driving out to Fair Park, where I feel like we're being corralled on the edge of the city so we don't offend or inconvenience the public. If Fair Park is such a great alternative, then why doesn't the Saint Patrick's Day parade follow suit?

I would much rather the parade be half the size and back on Cedar Springs. It's not the size of the parade that matters or the number of people who attend. And frankly, airing it on CW33 does nothing to further our visibility, in my opinion. If anything, it validates my concern that our parade has lost its soul while becoming overly commercialized.

I want us to spill out into the streets the same way the revelers at the Saint Patrick's Day parade do. In a city and state where gentrification is a threat and a reality, we need to claim and queer public space — now more than ever. We do that by being there in large numbers and daring to be ourselves — shirtless and as "inappropriate" as we can get away with.

I've tried it your way every year that there's been a parade at Fair Park. But this year will be my last. I won't be back until the parade is returned to the heart of the city — to OUR neighborhood.

Wesley Chin



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Hate couldn't ruin a Love Story

PRIDE

An act of anti-gay vandalism brings a community together

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Corsicana police are investigating the destruction of Pride flags on private property as a hate crime in Corsicana, and the property owners are forging ahead with their celebration with new flags and decorations.

Keith Dowler and Terry Wayne Garner decorated their home for Pride month at the first of June, then took their 8-year-old daughter on vacation. They were in Tyler where they planned to visit the zoo and a water park when they received a call from police about vandalism on their property.

So the couple returned home.

For Pride month, Dowler and Garner had flown a variety of Pride flags from their house and had lined their walk with 10 flags. When they returned home, they found the flags running along their walk torn down and burned. One of the flags had been burned on their doorstep. At press time, the perpetrator hasn't been caught.

Garner said that was a tactic to instill fear, historically used by the Ku Klux Klan to scare its victims. But the story was just beginning.

Garner and Dowler moved to Corsicana from Dallas four years ago as housing prices began to rise in the city. They had looked for a house closer to Dallas, but, Garner said, he worked on the south side of Dallas, and his commute from Corsicana is only about 35 minutes.

And since the couple were each raised in the country, they thought it would be nice to raise their daughter in the country, too.

They found a large, old house with a history they loved, that needed renovation. So they wrote the owner a letter, and she chose them over other bidders to buy the house.



Terry Garner and Keith Dowler festooned their Corsicana home, Love Story Mansion, with Pride flags to celebrate Pride Month.

Originally, the house was owned by a woman named Love who married a man named Story. So Garner and Dowler named the house after her: They call it the Love Story mansion.

Since they moved in, family members of the original owners have dropped by to see how the renovations were going and have said how happy they are that a loving family lives there.

But apparently not everyone is happy to have them there.

When the couple returned home from Tyler and found the burned flags, they also discovered other light damage, like broken flower pots on their walk.

But that wasn't the worst part of the incident: "We have an 8-year-old," Dowler said last week a day after finding the damage. "We had to sit down with her and explain hate."

But this week, Garner said, things have turned.

"How dare someone burn my flags," their daughter told her dads over the weekend. So on Monday she was delighted when a new "Love is Love" banner arrived, and they hung it on a flag-



pole together.

That was just part of the healing. Because the story you'd expect to hear out of a rural Texas city isn't the story that happened.

When the police chief visited the house, Garner asked if the chief would classify the incident as a hate crime. After a quick call to the Navarro County

district attorney, the chief said yes.

Corsicana City Councilwoman Susan Hale then offered a \$250 reward for information on the crime because, she said, hate doesn't belong in her city. Since then, other people have contributed to the fund to increase the reward to \$1,350.

Neighbors have stopped by the house since the incident, and several came with Pride flags to replace the ones that were burned.

One person who came by said he had always wanted to fly a Pride flag over his Corsicana home but was afraid something like this would happen. One woman drove up from Austin with a flag. Others brought flowers.

Another, who Garner described as "redneck," told the couple he was getting custody of his son who wears make up and asked if he could bring his child by. Comments on the articles in the local newspaper — a forum haters often take advantage of to spread their hate anonymously — were supportive.

And their daughter learned a lesson, Garner said, but it wasn't about hate: "Our family is different, but not really. We're the same because we love each other."

Proclaiming Pride gets controversial

PRIDE



County Judge Clay Jenkins and three of four commissioners at Dallas County Commissioners Court on Tuesday, June 7, with members of the LGBTQ community declaring June Pride Month in Dallas County. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Two points in county resolution spur discussion at commissioners court

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

County Commissioner Theresa Daniel wrote this year's Dallas County Commissioners Court Pride proclamation, just as she's done each year since she was first elected to the court. And this week when the resolution was presented to the commissioners, Commissioner Elba Garcia seconded the resolution declaring June Pride Month in Dallas County, just as she's done every year since Daniel's been writing it.

Then, for the first time during his term in office, Commissioner J.J. Koch — who has always voted for the Pride resolution since joining the court, unlike his predecessor, who refused even to be in the room for the reading of the document — told the people who had come to see the proclamation passed that he

would abstain from voting because of the last two provisions.

Most weeks, county commissioners court meetings begin with resolutions and proclamations. Commissioners recognize groups and organizations in their districts who achieved a milestone or provided a service, county employees who are retiring or individuals in the community who are reaching a landmark. For example, when Don Maison retired from AIDS Services Dallas, commissioners issued a proclamation honoring him.

Rarely are the proclamations controversial. One commissioner or another might have something to add or may even disagree on a point, but then each usually signs the resolution, and they all take a photo with those being honored.

But now, welcome to the post-pandemic era, when even a member of the LGBTQ community showed up to object to the last two provisions of this year's Pride Month proclamation.

The first two points in the proclamation define Pride Month as the commemoration of the June 28, 1969, rebellion at the Stonewall Inn in New York City that is seen as the beginning of the LGBTQ rights movement, and note that

PRIDE, Next Page

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here in Dallas County, LGBTQ people live in every neighborhood and are of all faiths, races, national origins, socioeconomic statuses, education levels, employment fields and political beliefs.

The next point of the proclamation details the legal struggle for equality and explains each of the cases involved through the years, starting with *One, Inc. v. Olesen*, the 1958 case that established the right to free speech for the emerging LGBTQ liberation movement. One, a gay magazine, was fighting for its right to publish and distribute.

The final noncontroversial point in this year's proclamation notes that this month is the seventh anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's *Obergefell* decision giving same-sex couples the right to marry under the constitutional guarantees of due process and equal protection.

But the final two "whereases" were arguably speculative. And that's where Koch and a member of Log Cabin Republicans, who had signed up to speak, both objected.

"In the wake of the leaked draft of the Supreme Court's intention to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the draft's provocative rhetoric is generating concern that LGBTQ+ advances and other matters based on the right to privacy could be vulnerable," Daniel wrote in her proclamation.

She says cases like *Lawrence v. Texas*, which overturned the few remaining sodomy laws across the country including here in Texas, are based on the same right to privacy as *Roe* and could also be overturned.

"The draft opinion also signals that the court is willing to disturb significant legal precedent which could have consequences beyond the immediate overturning of the decision," Daniel wrote.

The final point of the proclamation notes that attorneys warn that if the wording of the leaked abortion decision is final, it opens a Pandora's box for rolling back gains the LGBTQ community has achieved.

"As proof of the current contentious climate, the last Texas legislative session saw an unprecedented number of over

75 of anti-LGBTQ+ bills filed," Daniel wrote as part of the last point of her proclamation.

Koch objected that those two points were speculative and political. Without those final two points, he said, he would have voted for the proclamation to declare June Pride Month in Dallas County. He asked those two points be removed, and he said he was sorry Daniel insisted on including them.

Several members of the LGBTQ community spoke about the proclamation during the meeting, including one member of Log Cabin Republicans who agreed with Koch. He objected to the characterization of the current climate as contentious and said the final two points were unnecessary in a proclamation declaring June Pride Month.

Jayla Wilkerson, an attorney and a member of the trans community, pointed out that neither the Texas sodomy law nor the Texas marriage code has been repealed or updated since the SCOTUS rulings overturning them, which means that both would be immediately

applicable again were those court rulings overturned.

For that reason, she said, the contentious points of the resolution were definitely more than mere speculation.

Lambda Legal attorney Shelly Skeen spoke about Dallas being a leader in Texas for protecting LGBTQ rights. Because the state offers no protections, she said, those local protections become even more important.

Commissioner John Wiley Price reminded everyone that mostly he can't tell if someone is gay, but you can't hide race. Daniel acknowledged Price's comments and said she'd been discriminated against as a woman, something she can't hide. They acknowledged each other.

Then to try to lift the mood, Garcia acknowledged the diversity in the room and reminded everyone Pride is a celebration.

In the end, the proclamation passed with four votes for the resolution and one abstention. Everyone, except Koch, stood for a picture and wished each other happy Pride Month. ■



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Big Game

GAYMING



Husbands DR Hanson and Jamison Sacks reopened Common Ground Games in its new, larger space in April. (Rich Lopez/Dallas Voice)

Common Ground Games levels up with inclusive new space for its gaming family

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

Gamers — especially queer gamers — have a new, bigger home. In April, Common Ground Games celebrated the re-opening of its larger space for its ever-growing game-play and customer base. But for owners and husbands Jamison Sacks and DR Hanson, the growth isn't just a reflection of the shop's suc-

cess, it's a gift to the game-playing community that has found a home there — a home that had become a little crowded in the original space.

"We were running out of space to comfortably hold people and events in the store," Hanson said by phone. "We kind of plateaued in how we could serve the gaming community of Dallas. We were hosting events every night, and we had thought about expanding about a year-and-a-half after we first opened nine years ago."

A few weeks ago, that new space opened with a bigger and better Common Ground Games. But with a pandemic landing in between nailing down the larger location and the opening, it was a challenging ride.

The new space became available at the end of 2019. But just as the CGG



team was ready to move forward, Dallas shut down due to the coronavirus. So instead, Sacks and Hanson pivoted, as did most businesses.

"We spent that time putting up our website to an e-commerce site and made it so people could place orders with us," Sacks said. "DR and I were then driving around the city delivering orders."

They had to furlough staff but kept their manager who helped with the e-commerce transition. By moving to e-commerce and contactless delivery, the Common Ground team could still be present for their customer base.

The two men spent their lockdown time wisely. They took time to really think out their new space as Sacks was designing fixtures for the store. Then they bounced back in a short time, re-opening in June after the March 2020 shutdown.

"We were grateful to pause in that mo-

ment because there was no way we could move and survive during the height of the pandemic," Hanson said. "This gave us the opportunity to restructure and reformat and put time and energy into the store the way we wanted and needed to create our dream space."

The new location more than doubles the size of Common Ground Games, and it certainly has the room to fit the number of people who come in to play board games. There is a large open area of tables for game play, but Sacks and Hanson went next level with available space.

"We now have about 3,500 square feet for play space and another 4,000 square feet just for retail," Sacks said. "Each half of the store is the size of the former place."

There are four large rooms for more private gaming or events such as birthday parties or team-building events. The

GAME, Next Page

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GAME, From Previous Page

rooms are customizable as well, with collapsible walls that can create one massive space or smaller areas, depending on the needs of the party.

But the owners didn't just take their customers into consideration in designing the new space; they also thought about the staff.

"The great thing about the new space is the behind-the-scenes space for our employees," Hanson said. "We have a breakroom and a meditative room as well for employees to just unplug when they need to."

In its own way, Common Ground Games has become something transcendent of itself. What started out as a retail shop has become a gathering place for gaming fans. Not only do Magic, Warhammer and Dungeons and Dragons players have a spot to meet up, the store offers classes for new and uninitiated game players, a demo wall of games to try out for free and a calendar full of specific game nights.

Plus, being queer-owned, CGG is a safe and inclusive space for the queer



Owners DR Hanson and Jamison Sacks and their staff at Common Ground Games show off the shop's "Demo Wall." (Rich Lopez/Dallas Voice)

gaming community. Among CGG's events is a monthly LGBTQIA+ Gamers Meet-Up.

When Sacks and Hanson celebrated the reopening of CGG, the store also

joined the North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce — an important move for Sacks and the store.

"Ninety percent of the staff identify as LGBTQ, and it's important to me to

show up for the community and have that energy that attracts people to work here," he said. "It made sense to join, and they are wonderful partners."

At April's grand reopening, the store had its first ever ribbon-cutting and, according to Sacks, about 100 people were in the store at any time throughout the day. They described it as the busiest ever the store has been. They also described it as unreal.

"It was a wonderful day to celebrate our ninth year of being open and provide a space for our community who has stayed with us," Hanson said. "We're really excited for people to come and see what we look like now."

Just doors down from its original location, Common Ground Games now holds the corner spot of the strip center on Inwood Road, but more importantly, it's a bigger home for its extended family.

"Everything has happened organically for us, and we're glad to have people in the store again," Sacks said. ■

Common Ground Games is located at 1314 Inwood Road. BoardGamesDallas.com.

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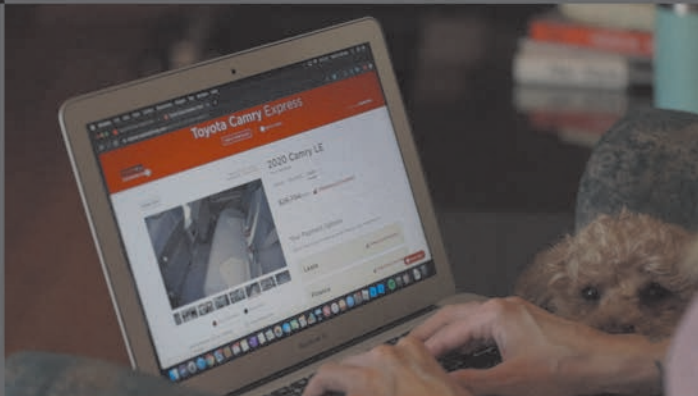


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Celebrating Pride in México City

PRIDE

While La Zona Rosa may be more well known, El Centro Historico offers many LGBTQ bars to celebrate at

JESUS CHAIREZ | Contributing writer
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MÉXICO CITY — After a two-year hiatus due to COVID, México City's 44th annual LGBTQ+ Marcha (Pride Parade) is back, taking place Saturday, June 25, with more than 1,000,000 LGBTQ people and their supporters expected to attend the extravaganza.

And with a crowd that large, the gay bars located in La Zona Rosa (The Pink Zone), the city's best-known LGBTQ entertainment district, will be crowded. But what people don't realize is that less than 2¼ miles north of La Zona Rosa is another LGBTQ entertainment district located in El Centro Historico (the Historical Central District), an area that is along the parade route to the Zocalo, the city's public square.

El Centro had gay bars — well, cantinas — long before La Zona Rosa even existed as a gay mecca. Though some cantinas that existed for some 60 years recently closed due to COVID, some larger bars in El Centra have thrived, with new gay clubs opening up in the area.

Along the parade route, just two blocks northeast of Alameda Park and one of Mexico City's main museums, Palacio de Bellas Artes (Palace of Fine Arts), is Calle Republica de Cuba where one can find several gay bars that start opening on Thursday night and continue with their gala actividades until Sunday at 3 a.m. If you don't want to take an Uber to get there, you can use the subway, El Metro, since the Bellas Artes subway stop exits onto Cuba street.



More than 1 million people are expected to participate in México City's Pride parade on June 25. (AP Photo/Marco Ugarte)

Soberbia

First on Cuba Street is Soberbia, located at República de Cuba #2, a very popular and always packed gathering place for those that like new mixes of music and strong drinks. The party there begins on Thursday night with no cover, and the crowd is evenly mixed of young men and women. TV monitors around the bar music videos and stills of iconic Mexican and American movie stars. Scantily-clad male and female dancers in cages providing entertainment.

Want to sit down at a table to enjoy the sights and talk with friends? Not at Soberbia; there are no tables, chairs or bar stools in the place. It's really all one big dance floor. There is no cover charge on Thursday nights, but on Friday and Saturday nights there is \$100 peso (\$5 USD) cover charge. Soberbia is the one the newest clubs on Calle Cuba and often has a line of people waiting to get in.

El Oeste

Next door is El Oeste (The West), at

República de Cuba No.8. Think small Round-Up Saloon here. Music is not what one would consider country Mexican music like Ranchera or Norteña music but is instead a mix of Cumbia music. There are tables and chairs here and an ample supply of peanuts and chicharrones (pork skins) for customers to snack on.

El Oeste doesn't have a huge dance floor, but the one they do have is just right for the space. It is open nights Thursdays through Saturdays with a \$50 pesos cover (\$2.50 USD).

Marrakech Salon

Down the street is the Marrakech Salon, known as El Marra, located at República de Cuba 18. Owned by the same people as Soberbia, this spot has very laid-back, mixed crowd of casually dressed and mostly young and tattooed patrons. Central to the decorations is a big mural of a gay Zapata, a hero during the 1910 Mexican Revolution. A small replica of this painting caused a scandal when exhibited in the Palacio de Bellas

Artes (See "Gay Zapata painting stirs debate," Dallas Voice, Dec. 20, 2019).

El Marra is iconic as the gay bar that brought other more established gay businesses into the neighborhood a little more than 10 years ago.

La Malagueña

Not to be missed is La Malagueña, the clothing store offering cowboy accessories — boots, belts, hats and shirts — by day that becomes a gay cowboy country bar by night. Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights from 8 p.m.-3 a.m., La Malagueña is located at Eje Central Lázaro Cárdenas 10 at República de Cuba. This is strictly a man's bar, with lots of denim, cowboy shirts and cowboy hats. The place has a \$50 pesos (\$2.50 USD) cover charge.

The bar is situated at the back of the clothing store, separated by a long cloth panel made to look like brick. Once the panel is removed, you step into a salon area that has a 1½-story-high ceiling and beautiful cement columns supporting a



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New streaming shows and films premiere for Pride

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
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Fire Island is streaming now on Hulu

You'll likely notice some rainbow-tinted Pride collections on your streaming services now and throughout the month. Heck, Paramount+ turned its mountain logo into a rainbow mountain, so you know they're serious.

Regardless, Pride is here, and you got some streaming to do.

Many services and collections will feature films and shows we're pretty familiar with throughout the LGBTQ canon. But do you really need to know about queer voices collections with shows like *Will and Grace* or *Queer Eye* at this point? Those Pride collections aren't listed here.

Instead, spend Pride month with these new premieres or specially-curated film collections that feature a variety of stories both entertaining and even educational. Documentaries, reality TV, major drama in every letter of our alphabet soup are all at the tips of your remote fingers. Of particular note, one film even has some Dallas ties.

Among its options, the Criterion Channel is featuring the documentary *The Gospel of Eureka* from 2018. Drag queen Ginger Styles, who met her future husband Jerry Gage in Dallas at the old Village Station, is part of the documentary that captures her story as a last-minute fill-in for a show in Eureka Springs.

So break out the popcorn and settle in for some laughs, tears and sass this month with these options to stream for your Pride viewing. And if you binge everything a bit too quickly, not to worry — there's even more to come after June is over. Let us know what you'll be watching.

Streaming now

Heartstopper. This breakout queer hit

premiered in April where "love meets doubt. Fear meets joy. Boy meets boy. This eight-chapter story about life, love and everything in between is based on the bestselling graphic novels from Alice Oseman." Netflix.

LGBTQ+ Favorites: "Proud, rebellious, colorful, intimate, and frank, these visions of LGBTQ+ life include beloved modern classics as well as hidden gems. From staples of the art-house canon (*Je Tu Il Elle*, *Querelle*) to highlights of the New Queer Cinema explosion (*Zero Patience*, *The Living End*) and contemporary showstoppers from emerging talents (*Pier Kids*, *Shakedown*), these films represent just a sample of the wide world of queer cinema, but they offer a taste of its breadth, creativity, and defiance in the face of adversity.

LGBTQ+ Shorts. "Stories of self-discovery, self-acceptance, and the simple but radical, often dangerous act of just existing as a queer person are on display in these empathetic and innovative shorts, which reflect the wide spectrum of experiences that make up the LGBTQ+ rainbow." Criterion Channel.

LGBTQ+ Voices. "Titles that reflect the vibrant, nuanced spectrum of queerness will be prioritized and elevated across all pages, displaying ongoing commitment to the LGBTQ+ community and overall diversity, inclusion and representation. The collection will include custom, short-form content series including *Queerness in Conversation*, *Culture Closeups*, *Serving Lewks*, and *Get Ready With Me*." HBO Max.

Queersighted: *The Musical*. "There is an assumption — or, often, a stereotype — that the musical is an inherently gay genre. The strange reality is that, in terms of characters and themes,

queer representation is historically quite scarce within the film musical, a genre that largely revolves around heterosexual romance. In this edition of *Queersighted*, host Michael Koresky and special guest Andrew Chan, editor of Criterion's online magazine, *Current*, discuss a selection of tuneful standouts — from the golden age of Hollywood to deconstructed French homage to Taiwanese experimentation — that queer the movie-musical form, whether through subtext, via thrilling subversion or by virtue of the queer auteurs behind them. Films in the collection include *The Pirate*, *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, *The Young Girls of Rochefort*, *Original Cast Album: Company* (documentary), *A Chorus Line*, *Golden Eighties* and *The Hole*. *Victor/Victoria* will stream July 1. Criterion Channel.

The Book of Queer. "Celebrate history's forgotten LGBTQ+ heroes, kings and queens — some of whom were actual kings and queens! From trans Indian warriors to gay Roman emperors, these colorful and often titillating tales give history a much needed, head-to-toe makeover." Discovery+.

Vangie: 24 Hours of Love. Vanessa Vangie Mateo looks for love among 18 suitors in this romantic reality show. WOW Presents Plus.

Firebird. "Based on a true story during the Cold War, the film follows a young soldier who embarks on a clandestine sexual affair with a charismatic fighter pilot on an Air Force Base in occupied Estonia at the height of 1970's Communist rule." Video on demand. FirebirdMovie.com.

Fire Island. "Amid a classic Fire Island week fueled by underwear parties, dance challenges, karaoke performances, and general debauchery, a gang of friends bicker and banter over potential romantic entanglements." Hulu.

House of Pride features "breathtaking musical and dance performances, hilarious comedy segments and a special voguing performance with appearances by Rani KoHENur, Hannah Rad, Keiynon Lonsdale, Madison Rose and more." Revry.

Queer as Folk, "a vibrant reimagining of the groundbreaking British series created by Russell T. Davies, exploring a diverse group of friends in New Orleans whose lives are transformed in the aftermath of a tragedy." Peacock.

Stand Out: An LGBTQ+ Celebration. Hosted by Billy Eichner, this comedy special features Tig Notaro, Wanda

Sykes, Trixie Mattel and Bob the Drag Queen among a number of other queer comedians. Netflix.

First Kill, season one. "Falling in love is tricky for teens Juliet and Caliope. One's a vampire, the other's a vampire hunter and both are ready to make their first kill." Netflix.

Coming June 15: Love, Victor, season three. "This season finds Victor going on a journey of self-discovery — not only deciding who he wants to be with but more broadly, who he wants to be. With their post-high-school plans looming, Victor and his friends are faced with a new set of problems that they must work through to make the best choices for their futures." Hulu and Disney+.

Coming June 21: Joel Kim Booster: Psychosexual. The writer and star of *Fire Island* "riffs on leaked selfies, dining at P.F. Changs, keeping secrets and why cats are better than dogs as he hits the stage in L.A." Netflix.

Post-Pride month

Coming July 22: Anything's Possible is "a modern Gen Z coming-of-age story directed by Billy Porter that follows Kelsa, a confident high school girl who is trans, as she navigates through senior year. When her classmate Khal gets a crush on her, he musters up the courage to ask her out, despite the drama he knows it could cause. What transpires is a romance that showcases the joy, tenderness, and pain of young love." Prime Video.

Coming July 29: Uncoupled. "Michael (Neil Patrick Harris) thought his life was perfect until his husband blindsided him by walking out the door after 17 years. Overnight, Michael has to confront two nightmares — losing what he thought was his soulmate and suddenly finding himself a single gay man in his mid-forties in New York City." Netflix.

Coming Aug. 5: They/Them. "Kevin Bacon plays Owen Whistler in this slasher horror film set at an LGBTQIA+ conversion camp. Several queer and trans campers join Whistler for a week of programming intended to 'help them find a new sense of freedom.' As the camp's methods become increasingly more psychologically unsettling, the campers must work together to protect themselves. When a mysterious killer starts claiming victims, things get even more dangerous." Peacock

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Still unstoppable

MUSIC



10-disc 'ABBA: Album Box Set' reminds us why the Swedish quartet was — and still is — a dance music sensation

GREGG SHAPIRO | Q-Music
GreggShapiro@aol.com

Aside from ABBA, can you think of another Swedish quartet with two female (Anni-Frid and Agnetha) and two male (Bjorn and Benny) members, a 50-year history and multiple hit singles, as well as 10-CD and 10-LP box sets? No? Neither can I.

What about a Swedish pop quartet whose music inspired a long-running Tony-nominated Broadway musical and a subsequent dreadful movie adaptation and sequel? If you answered “no” to the previous question, you’d be right.

Nevertheless, even though ABBA has been celebrated via numerous compilations, the 10-disc *ABBA: Album Box Set* (Polar/Universal) is the first of its kind domestic product. Beginning with 1973’s “Ring Ring” and concluding with the 10-song “Tracks” collection, this box set ought to be of interest to longtime

fans and newcomers (if there are any of those even left) alike.

ABBA’s queer appeal shines through, like a rainbow made of ice, amongst the 10 albums, which includes 2021’s reunion album *Voyage* (released after a 40-year recording gap).

Over the course of ABBA’s lengthy recording and performance hiatus, its popularity seemed to increase not fade for its LGBTQ fans. Featured in movies and associated soundtracks with strong queer draw such as *Muriel’s Wedding* and *The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, to name a couple, ABBA became a constant presence.

Even synth-duo Erasure, featuring gay vocalist Andy Bell, got into the act, putting out the four-song ABBA-esque EP in 1992. Diva-goddess Cher followed suit in 2018 with her ABBA album *Dancing Queen*.

While early hit songs, including “Waterloo” and “S.O.S.,” were definitely meant for getting down at the disco, it was “Dancing Queen” (yes, queen) from 1976’s *Arrival* album that earned ABBA a permanent place in rotation at gay clubs. Buoyed by a retro-disco beat and inspiring words of encouragement, “Dancing Queen” transcended gender to become a sensation (although the titular character being “only 17” might still give one pause).

Following that, ABBA made the most of the popularity of dance music on subsequent albums with tracks such as “Take A Chance On Me,” “Voulez-Vous,” “Angel Eyes,” “The Winner Takes It All,” “The Visitor,” and especially “On

and On and On” and “Lay All Your Love On Me.”

But it’s not all midnight sunshine and Volvos. English not being ABBA’s first language often works against the lyrics. There’s nothing profound being said, although there doesn’t necessarily need to be. Regardless, the simplicity tends to drag the

songs down, instead of elevating them.

Thankfully, the melodies and instrumentation go a long way in saving the material. The 1974 Eurovision champions were simply unstoppable, and remain so to this day.

All that queer jazz

Award-winning gay jazz pianist Fred Hersch says in the liner notes for his latest album *Breath by Breath* (fredhersch.com) that “string quartets are a natural musical configuration for me.” Therefore it makes sense to find Hersch teaming up with the Crosby Street String Quartet — Joyce Hammann, Laura Seaton, Lois Martin and Jody Redhage — along with bassist Drew Gress, drummer Jochen Rueckert and percussionist Rogério Boccaot for a set of songs, including the eight songs that comprise “The Sati Suite,” as well as the Robert Schumann homage, “Pastorale,” that brings everything to a close.

Philly’s own Avi Wisnia’s newest album *Catching Leaves* (aviawisnia.com) is the perfect album to listen to, no matter the season. While he certainly captured the autumn mood in a Vince Guaraldi style on the title cut, Wisnia applies his warm and jazzy vocals with the same skill to the remaining tracks. He takes an unexpectedly twangy turn on “Come

Home To,” and then performs Neil Young’s ordinarily countrified “Harvest Moon” in a jazz vocal setting (similar to what Cassandra Wilson did to the song on her *New Mood Daughter* album).

Other jazzy originals worth checking out include “You’re Wrong,” “It’s Gonna Rain Today,” “Just Another Daydream,” and “Sky Blue Sky,” while his transformation of Wilco’s “How To Fight Loneliness” is a must.

On “When My World’s In Tune,” the opening number on *Great to be Here* (New Blue Pajamas), Liam Forde wastes little time in showing off his jazz vocal chops, scatting and such. Forde makes it clear that this is going to be a fun jazz record, on “I Don’t Know” (check out the spoken riff), “Plaza Hotel” (complete with a nod to famous guest Eloise), “Mrs. Dudley” and “Gratitude Song.” Taking a more serious approach, he struts his comfy stuff on “Pajamas” and proudly displays his belter credentials on “Geraniums.”

Forde credits Michel Legrand as a major influence, but you can also hear Cole Porter and Noel Coward’s impact on him.

Speaking of Cole Porter, lesbian jazz saxophonist Nicole Glover covers Porter’s “I Concentrate On You” on her recent album *Strange Lands* (Savant). Her rendition of Billy Strayhorn’s “A Flower is a Lovable Thing” fully blossoms, and her take on Jobim’s “Dindi” comes to a leisurely boil.

As for her original compositions, “The Twilight Zone” and the title cut each lives up to its name.

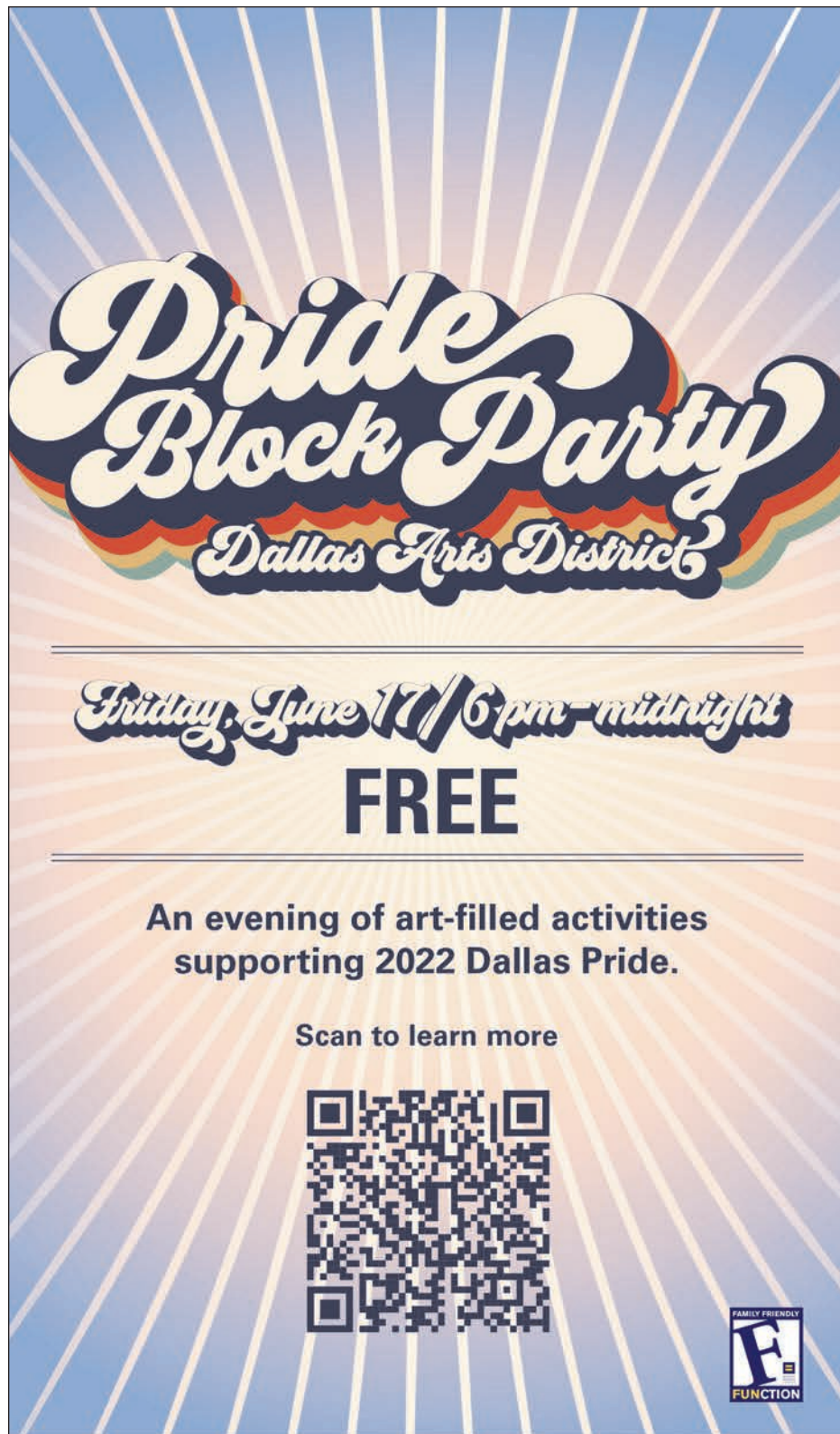
Yes, that’s Maria “Midnight at the Oasis” Muldaur joining Kim Nalley on the slinky duet of the title cut from Nalley’s *I Want A Little Boy* (kimnalley.com) album. Her cover of “Try A Little Tenderness” hits all the emotional buttons, and her reading of “Pennies From Heaven” jingles like a pocketful of change.

However, it’s her interpretation of Fred Rogers’ “Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood,” which takes the tune into adult territory, that’s the real revelation.

Lauded gay playwright/actor/songwriter David Cale collaborated with Carol Lipnik, of the “pitch-perfect four-octave” range, on a couple of songs from her new album *Goddess of Imperfection* (Mermaid Alley Music). The tunes, the theatrical story song “The Poacher” and the dreamy “A History of Kisses,” are highlights, as is the synth-driven closing track “Love.” ■



The poster is for the 2022 Trinity Pride Fest, a celebration of love held on June 25, 2022, in Fort Worth, Texas, at Magnolia Green. It features a vibrant pink background with a large yellow circle in the center containing the event details. The circle is decorated with colorful, stylized butterflies and flowers. At the top, the 'f:k' logo and 'FRANK KENT PRESENTS' are visible. At the bottom, the website 'trinitypridefw.org' is displayed in a dark blue box.



Pride Block Party

Dallas Arts District

Friday, June 17 / 6pm-midnight

FREE

An evening of art-filled activities supporting 2022 Dallas Pride.

Scan to learn more





MEXICO, From Page 18



Enjoying the luxury at Brunch



You won't find an ordinary disco ball hanging from the ceiling at Hot Room

optical illusion. Once you get inside, you will realize the place is actually one of the biggest clubs in El Centro, taking up enough space for three bars. One area is the show bar with stage, table and chairs where you can watch male dancers and drag performers. The other two bars seem like independent clubs, with different DJs and male dancers on small stages. This place is open 8 p.m.-3 a.m.

Other bars

There are too many gay bars in El Centro to name them all, for example El Tahúr at Belisario Domínguez 11-B, is a small L-shaped cantina full of older, moderate income ranchers and construction workers that has been around for at least 50 years. It has very small tables and chairs to make room for everyone, and while there is no DJ, there is a jukebox.

There is a leather and bear bar called Hot Room at República de Cuba 45. Instead of the usual mirror ball, Hot Room mirror has a mirrored penis complete with testicles.

The ONLY place open on Sunday afternoon is called Brunch at Av. Juarez 32, on the top floor of a sixth-floor building full of bars. Despite the name, there is no food served at the Brunch, just drinks, and the open space décor with no walls makes it seem more like being on the terrace of a building with great views El Centro Historic buildings. DJs are

balcony. It is a very masculine place, with maybe one or two women occasionally found in the crowd. Music is mostly cumbia played by a DJ.

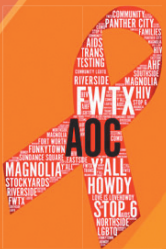
Teatro Garibaldi

One of the largest clubs in the area is Teatro Garibaldi at Eje Central Lázaro Cárdenas 43, two two blocks off República de Cuba. Cover charge here is \$100 pesos (\$5 USD). Teatro Garibaldi appears to be small when you look at it from the front door, but that is an





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MEXICO, From Page 26



If you enjoy male dancers, the bars of El Centro Historico have plenty to choose from

brought in from various parts of Mexico to spin music for their patrons from noon-11 p.m., but this one is open only on Sundays.

The Pride parade

Dallasite Juan Herrera, who comes to México City often and is coming for this year's Pride parade, said he likes the Centro Historico gay bars more than the Zone Rosa because it has better crowds and is more friendly and less pretentious.

Herrera also says he likes the México City Pride Parade more than the ones in North Texas because the México City pa-

attended ARE the parade, marching along the parade route themselves because this is truly a marcha (march) for gay Pride, liberation and, most importantly, visibility.

On Saturday, June 25, people will begin gathering at 10 a.m. at the Angel of Independence, located in La Zona Rosa on Avenida Paseo de la Reforma. The parade steps off at noon, with participants marching to El Zocalo, the main square in front of the Presidential Palace in the center of the city.

Once the speeches and entertainment at El Zocalo are over, everyone will head out to the bars, many of which will be

open early during this special day. And the bars of El Centro Historico are just a short walk away. ■

Jesus Chairez is a former Dallas resident now living in México City. He was producer and host of North Texas' first bilingual LGBT Latino radio show, Sin Fronteras, on KNON 89.3 FM from July 1993 to July 2005. Chairez is a published author in the book, *Queer*



The view from Brunch

rade is more than just a spectator event where people sit and watch floats pass by. In México City, Herrera notes, those

Brown Voices, a collection of personal narratives of Latina/o Activism. Chairez can be reached at facebook.com/JesusChairez.

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Summer's here. And so is Summers — Mystique Summers, that is. Mystique hosts the Disney Drag Brunch on Sunday, June 12, from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Troy's, inside Texas Live!, 1650 E. Randol Mill Road. In addition to Mystique, the event will feature DJ Al Farb, Candi Carroll, Shasta Montana, Kathy O'Connor and Eliza Rocks. General admission and VIP tickets are available through the event's Facebook page. The event is presented by the HELP Center for LGBT Health and Wellness and the Arlington Museum of Art, and a portion of the proceeds will go to those organizations. The brunch follows Arlington's first-ever Pride show, happening Saturday, June 11, from noon-4 p.m. at the HELP Center, 602 E. South St., with drag shows at 1 and 3 p.m. Admission to the Pride party is free.



PLAN YOUR WEEK

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

JUNE

■ Month of June

City Works Eatery & Pour House, 5288 Monahans Ave. in Fort Worth and 3680 The Star Blvd., Ste. 1300 in Frisco, are donating \$2 for each New Belgium beer sold during the month of June to the GLAAD Foundation. Beers offered include the Voodoo Ranger Imperial IPA and Voodoo Ranger Juicy Haze. Visit CityWorksRestaurant.com for details.

■ June 10: Silky N. Ganache

Silky N. Ganache from RuPaul's Drag Race Season 11 and All Stars 6 at 9 p.m. at Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

■ June 10 and 11:

SPRING by Bruce Wood Dance

BWD's newest program will feature the world premiere of When The Sky Fell Purple by Chicago-based choreographer Stephanie Martinez, the mainstage premiere of Joy Bollinger's Slip Zone Suite and Bruce Wood's The Rite of Spring. Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. BruceWoodDance.org.

■ June 10: Oak Lawn Records Reunion

7 p.m. at Trees Dallas, 2709 Elm St., featuring C.C.C.P., Microchip League, T-4-2 and Lesson Seven performing live in Dallas for the first time in decades. Tickets are \$36-\$65, available at AXS.com/events.

■ June 10: GO NOW! Presents the Music of the Moody Blues

7:30 p.m. at the Eisemann Center, 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson. Features Gordy Marshall, formerly of The Moody Blues, Mick Wilson and a group of singers and musicians. Tickets are \$32-\$46, available at EisemannCenter.com.

■ June 10 & 11: Ian Baggett at Dallas Comedy Club

7:30-9 p.m. at Dallas Comedy Club, 3036 Elm St. Tickets are \$20 at Dallas-ComedyClub.com.

■ June 11: Different Strokes Golf Association (DSGA)

DSGA, the LGBT golf organization, plays Luna Vista, 11223 Luna Rd., Dallas. First tee time 9:30 a.m. Poolside cookout to follow. \$63 includes golf, cart, range balls and prizes. Information at DSGADallas.org or communications@dsgadallas.org.

■ June 11: Longview Pride

Pride East Texas Longview's (theme, Longview Pride Reboot 2022) Pride Festival from 2-8 p.m. at Heritage Plaza in downtown Longview at the heart of Longview's Arts and Cultural District.

■ June 11: Arlington Pride

Celebrate Arlington's first-ever LGBTQ Pride event, noon-4 p.m. at the HELP Center for LGEBT Health and Wellness, 602 E. South St. The event is hosted by the Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Council and will include live music, music by DJ Al Farb, drag performances, food, drinks and games.

■ June 11: Grayson County Pride

Shop several local vendors and small businesses, enjoy entertainment and bands at the main pavilion, food trucks, water slide, Grayson County Pride merch pop-up shop, and more from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Pecan Grove Park West, 3200 Canyon Creek Drive, Sherman.

■ June 11: Pride Night Lights Rave

Pride Night Lights Rave at 10 p.m. at Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

■ June 11: Bastrop Pride

Bastrop Pride holds its first Pride in the Park, a family-friendly event at Fisherman's Park, 1200 Willow St., Bastrop, 3-7 p.m. Visit the Facebook event page for more information.

■ June 11: Texas Justice: Brandon Woodruff

Special screening at the Texas Theater in Greenville, 2712 Lee St., of a rough cut of the documentary *Texas Justice: Brandon Woodruff* and discussion about the recent 20/20 episode about the case. Dinner included. Tickets start at \$10, available at tinyurl.com/mvvpbz68n.

■ June 12: Freedom Fighters: A TCC Small Ensemble Showcase

The Turtle Creek Chorale features its small ensembles for an intimate evening of music dedicated to the idea of "freedom" and the costs surrounding the lofty goals of it. Framed by the words and ideals of Nelson Mandela, this concert will showcase the TCC Chamber Chorus, Coloratura, and TerraVox. Northaven Church, 11211 Preston Road at 6 p.m. Free tickets at TurtleCreekChorale.com.

■ June 12: Bans Off Our Bodies Women's March Fort Worth

10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Tarrant County Courthouse. Meet on the east side of the courthouse at 10, with speakers at 10:30 a.m. on the steps followed by a march and a protest. Visit BansOffFW.wereclaimpatriotism.com.

■ June 12: Disney Drag Brunch

HELP Center for LGBT Health and Wellness and Arlington Museum of Art present Disney Drag Brunch, 2:30-4:30 p.m., at Troy's at Texas Live!, 1650 E. Randol Mill Road. Hosted by RuPaul's Drag Race alum Mystique Summers



The Dallas Arts District shows its Pride with the Pride Block Party on Friday, June 17, from 6 p.m.-midnight. Dallas Museum of Art, The Nasher and the Crow Museum join Resource Center, The Dallas Way, Human Rights Campaign, VisitDallas and Uptown Players to put on a party you don't want to miss.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

with DJ Al Farb, Candi Carroll, Shasta Montana, Kathy O'Connor and Eliza Rocks. General admission and VIP tickets available through the Facebook event page. A portion of the proceeds benefit HELP and the Arlington Museum of Art.

■ Through June 12: *Oklahoma*

Dallas Summer Musicals presents *Oklahoma* at the Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

■ Through June 12: *Murillo: Picturing the Prodigal Son*

Murillo's series of six paintings illustrating the parable of the prodigal son travels to the U.S. for the first time. Meadows Museum, 5900 Bishop Blvd.

■ June 14: *The Golden Girls*

Six episodes of *The Golden Girls*, including two with Blanche's gay brother, will screen at 7 p.m. at local AMC and Cinemark theaters.

■ June 16: *Pride Happy Hour*

GALA celebrates Pride with Happy Hour at The Rooftop at Urban Rio Cantina & Grill, 1000 E. 14th St., Plano from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

■ June 16: *Dallas Southern Pride Juneteenth*

Dallas Southern Pride kicks off Juneteenth Weekend 2022 with DSP for Her/DSP for Him — Cypher from 8 p.m.-midnight

at Amplified, 10261 Technology Blvd. E. DallasSouthernPride.com.

■ June 17: *Pride Block Party*

Also known as Arts District Pride, the block party includes events at the Dallas Museum of Art, the Nasher and the Crow museums as well as participation by Resource Center, The Dallas Way, Human Rights Campaign, Visit Dallas and Uptown Players. From 6 p.m.-midnight.

■ June 17: *DSP's Juneteenth Weekend Reception*

Dallas Southern Pride hosts its Juneteenth Weekend Welcome Reception from 7-10 p.m. at Thrive, 1015 Elm St. DallasSouthernPride.com.

■ June 17: *Night Out on the Square*

Night out at the Court House on the Square in Denton from 6-9 p.m.

■ June 17: *Pride Variety Night*

Celebrate queer performers on the lawn at Union Coffee, 3705 Cedar Springs Road at 7 p.m.

■ June 17-19: *Pride Marfa*

Pride Marfa opens with the Welcome Party at Planet Marfa, followed by the Pride Marfa Block Party at the courthouse, the Dance Party at the Sentinel and Sunday Drag Brunch at El Cosmico. PrideMarfa.org.

■ June 18: *Blue Moon Dances*

Women only dances the third Saturday of the month from 7 p.m.-midnight at DanceMakers of Texas, 6125 SW 820, Suite 140, Fort Worth. BYOB. \$10.

■ June 18: *Pride Bar Crawl*

Hit some gay bars all at once like any weekend on the strip — only this time in a guided tour with proceeds benefiting the Trevor Project. 5 p.m. BlackfriarPub, 2621 McKinney Ave. \$10-\$15. CrawlWith.us.

■ June 18: *Promenade in the Park*

DIFFA picnic in Turtle Creek Park benefiting North Texas HIV/AIDS organizations from 1-4 p.m. General admission includes picnic meal and open bars. DIFFADallas.org/picnic.

■ June 18: *Landon Cider*

Landon Cider, winner of Boulet Brothers Dragula at 9 p.m. at Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

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

GAY AGENDA



PRIDE DON'T STOP!

Dallas Pride weekend kept everybody in the proud party spirit last weekend, but don't think the fun is over! They don't call it Pride "Month"

for nothing, and Texans are making the most of it. Here's some info to help you make your Pride plans for this weekend, then check our calendar listings — in print and online — to see what's coming up the rest of the month.



LONGVIEW PRIDE

Pride East Texas Longview Pride Festival is Saturday, June 11, from 2-8 p.m. at Heritage Plaza in downtown Longview, at the heart of Longview's Arts and Cultural District.



ARLINGTON PRIDE

Celebrate Arlington's first-ever LGBTQ Pride event on Saturday, June 11, from noon-4 p.m. at the HELP Center for LGEBT Health and Wellness, 602 E. South St. The event is hosted by the Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Council and will include live music, music by DJ Al Farb, drag performances, food, drinks and games. Check out the photo on Page 30 for info on the Disney Drag Brunch happening Sunday, June 12.



GRAYSON COUNTY PRIDE

Grayson County Pride happens Saturday, June 11, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Pecan Grove Park West, 3200 Canyon Creek Drive in Sherman. You can shop local vendors and small businesses and enjoy entertainment and bands at the main pavilion, food trucks, water slide, Grayson County Pride merch pop-up shop and more.



PRIDE NIGHT LIGHTS RAVE

Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth, hosts Pride Night Lights Rave at 10 p.m. on Saturday, June 11.



BASTROP PRIDE

Dallas Voice received word after press deadline that two Bastrop venues have cancelled Pride-related drag shows. This is not confirmed.

Check DallasVoice.com for details.

Cassie Nova

ASK A DRAG QUEEN

Music and movies
and stayin' weird

Happy Pride month y'all! This is such a fun and exhausting time of the year. I am lucky enough to be double booked many days this month. Daytime shows plus nighttime shows equal great sleep, when I can get it. All this running around, gig to gig, keeps me young — although some days I feel like a young 98.

Did y'all watch the latest season of *Stranger Things*? It is bloody brilliant. I love how Kate Bush's "Running Up That Hill" is on the charts again because of that show. A whole new generation is finding out how great that song is. It has always been one of my favorites.

It's funny how hearing a song during an emotional scene in a movie can bond you with that song forever. I know it's not cool to say now, but remember when *Titanic* came out and "My Heart Will Go On" was first being played? We all loved it. Well, we loved it until they played it so much on every single station that by the millionth time we heard it, it was like, kill me already! But before we all collectively started to hate it, I would literally tear up just by hearing those first few notes of that damned song.

When I was a kid, I would get obsessed with the most random soundtracks from movies. There was a movie, *Once Bitten* starring Jim Carey from the '80s. I loved it, and I bought the soundtrack. I'm embarrassed to say how much I loved that album. There is not a single song on it that ever got any radio play, but I did not care. I even tried to get a girl from our neighborhood to learn the dance Jim Carey does in the movie with his girlfriend and the vampire, The Countess. I think I thought we were going to do it in a talent show for school or something. Apparently, I have been getting ready for shows my whole life.

Do any of y'all remember *The Pirate*



Movie with Kristy McNichol and Christopher Atkins? I was OBSESSED! It was a cheesy, horrible '80s musical that I could not get enough of. I knew every word of every song from that movie. Truthfully, I even knew every word of dialogue, too.

I did not care that nobody else in my world knew or cared about that movie. I wanted other people to care about these random things I loved, but mostly just got made fun of for loving these movies and their soundtracks.

Then came *Grease 2*. I must have just started puberty when I saw that for the first time because I was in love. Michael Carrington, the British exchange student, was the most beautiful thing I had ever laid my eyes on. We had cable, and I swear they played *Grease 2* just about every single day for two years, and I watched it just about every single time. Every time Michael, aka the Cool Rider, was on screen, I tried my best to look uninterested. But in my head, I was that cartoon wolf whose tongue unrolls out of its mouth and its eyes bulge out.

Somewhere around my sophomore year of high school, I discovered *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. We saw the movie with a live cast acting it out in front of the screen. I had no idea what we

were seeing. I just remembered hearing someone say it was the gayest thing they had ever seen, so I needed to see it.

They were doing midnight showings of it at a movie theater in Mesquite, Texas, of all places. I was in awe. I immediately bought the soundtrack. I remember my mom telling me to listen to that crap with my headphones on.

I was labeled the weird kid for my obsession with these musicals. Looking back now, I realize that I was shaping myself to be a drag queen way back then. Hell, the second time I ever did drag I performed "Cool Rider" from *Grease 2*. And I still do "Sweet Transvestite" pretty regularly in the show. On special occasions, Kelexis and I will do "Girl For All Seasons" from *Grease 2*. Half the room has no idea where that song comes from, but the ones that do totally love it.

The great thing about growing up and expanding your circle of friends is how quickly you find those other weird kids that like what you liked. Now it is so easy: You post something online and quickly find out who loves the strange stuff you love. Back then, you were usually a club of one.

Once I came out, one of the first things I bonded over with other gays was our

love of *Grease 2* or *Rocky Horror*. I was not alone; there are a bunch of us random musical loving weirdos out there. So many other little gay boys were out there draggin' to the same songs I was draggin' to.

When you find that out, after feeling like you are the only one in the world, it changes you. It opens you. The thing that made you weird is the thing that makes you special.

I wish I would have known that way back when. So, stay weird, Freaks!

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

word search solution

Diversions Word Search - George Takei

S	I	M	C	G	V	O	I	C	E	E	O	R	T	S	S
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"I'm George Takei, and I'm straight... up asking you to vote."

this week's solution

B	A	B	S		E	B	B	S		A	B	B	O	T
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SCENE

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



Making a splash in Austin



Hoe down at S4



Ladies' night at S4



Sienna Silvers' Memorial Day cookout at Hidden Door



Howdy from Round-Up Saloon



Sandy serves the ladies at S4



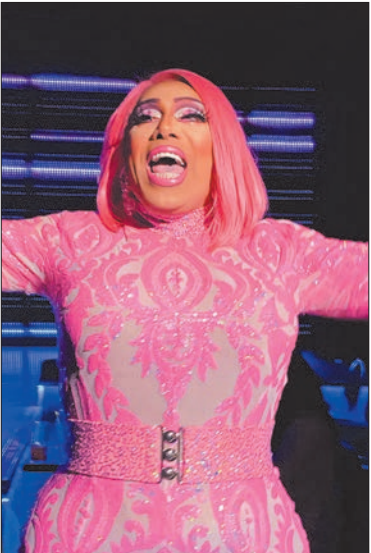
Kyle dancing at TMC



Emcee extraordinaire Cassie Nova



Is that Jlo or Sasha Andrews?



Layla belting it out!



Reba is that you?



Such a pretty smile!



Welcome to the gun show at LAVA



Someone helping Kelexis with her rent



TMC hottie



The legendary Tasha Kohl



Nayda contemplating another shot

SCENE • GayBingo

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES





SUMMER OF LIFEWALK

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Celebrating Pride



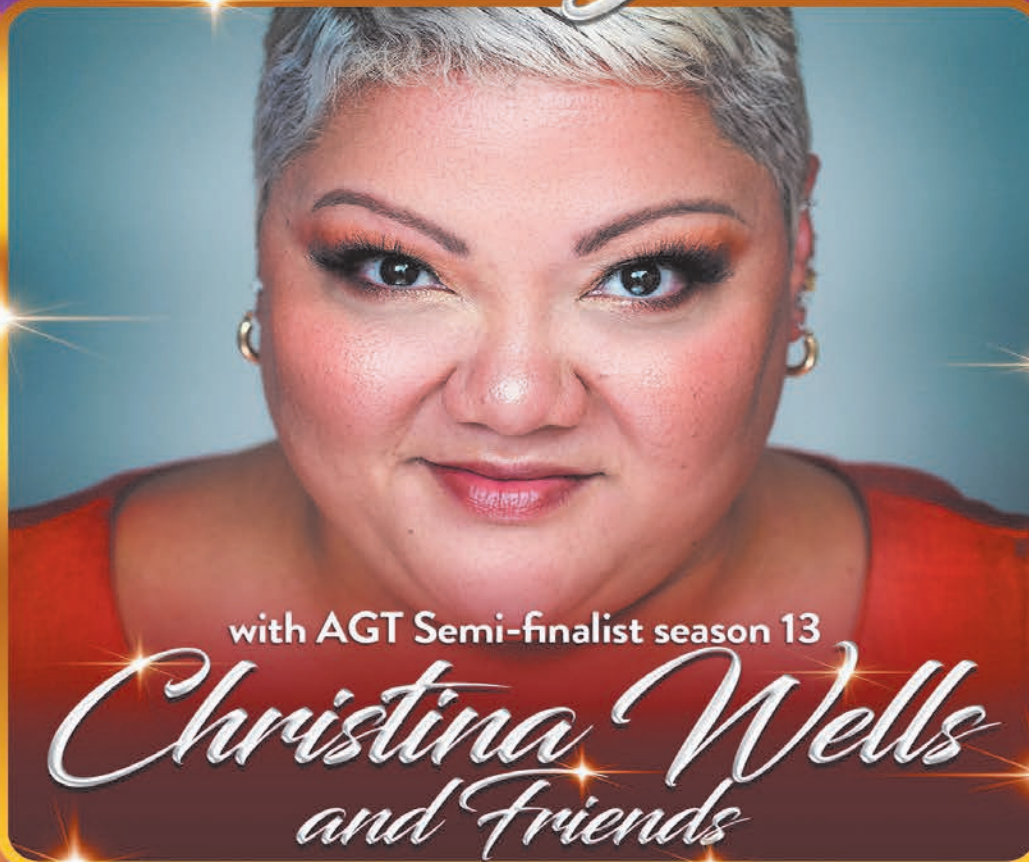
Marcus David



Carmella Dubuque



Dahlia VonHexx



with AGT Semi-finalist season 13

Christina Wells
and Friends



Linze Serell



Toni Faye Alexander



Wayne Smith
in the live Illusion of Cher



Sienna Silver

June 26, 2022

Six Springs Tavern
147 N. Plano Rd.
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Show starts at 3:00pm
Doors open at 2:00pm
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Beneficiary: North Texas Pride Foundation and The Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System

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WORD SEARCH



Diversions Word Search - George Takei

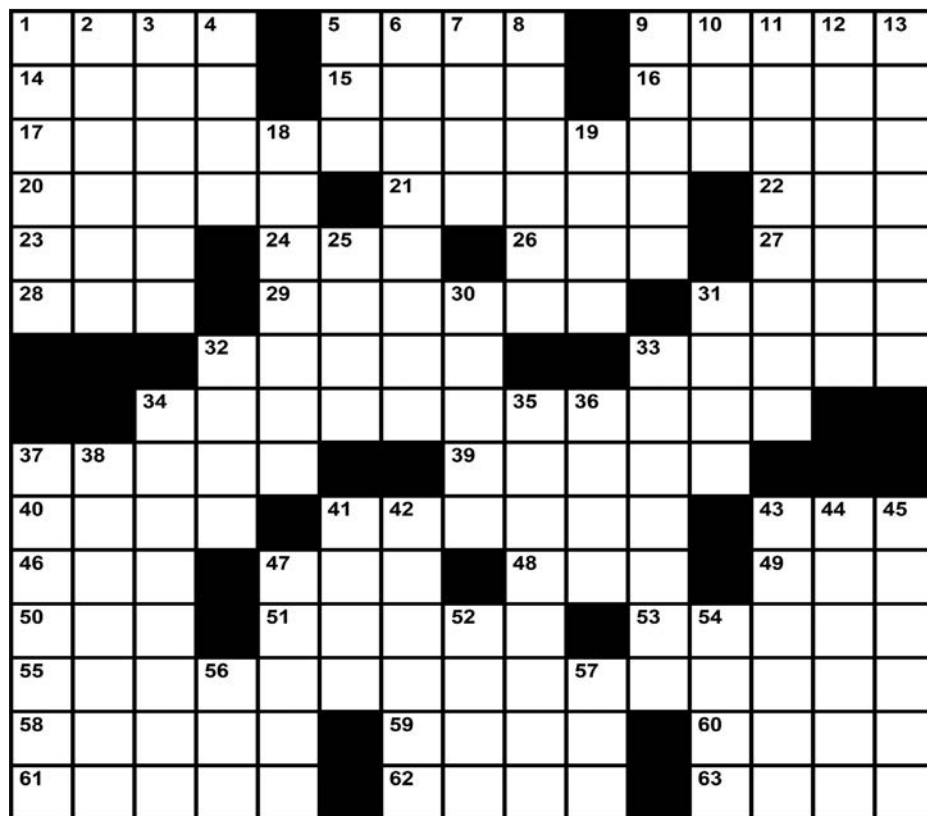
Find the words in the list below hiding across, backwards, up, down and diagonally in the grid. Words separated by a slash "/" are found individually in the puzzle. Words in parentheses "() " are not in the puzzle. The unused letters starting at top left and going down by row will reveal a quote by him!



George/Takei Author Actor/Voice (Actor) (Oh Myyy - The) Social/Edge
Hikaru/Sulu To The Stars Heroes Comic/Sands
Star Trek Oh Myyy/There Celebrity/Apprentice Second/Nexus
(TV) Series Goes The/Internet Broadway:/Allegiance (about) Percolately
Movies Lions/Tigers/(8) Bears Japanese/Internment/Camps Knowable
Sci-fi/Conventions They/Called (Us)/Enemy Many/Films/TV Shows/Games Husband/Brad/Altman
Visit <https://www.facebook.com/DiversionsPuzzles> for more free puzzles and book info by Kerry Shatzer!

Solution on Page 32

PUZZLE | Virtual Equality



Solution on Page 32

Across

- 1 Streisand, familiarly
- 5 Comes out on the beach
- 9 Monks' head
- 14 *Streetcar* director Kazan
- 15 Cut the crop
- 16 Uncastrated porkers
- 17 "Gay people do not fight for freedom to live in ____"
- 20 Lobbyist Hilary
- 21 Hair color, e.g.
- 22 Phallic fish
- 23 Boy in a Johnny Cash song
- 24 Cost-of-living stat
- 26 House seat holders, e.g.
- 27 *Love Story* composer
- 28 Heteros, on PlanetOut?
- 29 Fruit in a slot machine
- 31 Linda of *Another World*
- 32 One of the *Maneater* singers
- 33 Are able to, to Shakespeare
- 34 *Virtual Equality* author and source of this puzzle's quote (1958-2022)
- 37 Hard to penetrate
- 39 Islamic leaders
- 40 Prefix that means "queer"

41 Did an axel, say

- 43 Latin I verb
- 46 Tyler of *Lord of the Rings*
- 47 Facial application
- 48 "____ was saying ..."
- 49 Snatch
- 50 Summer for Colette
- 51 Box to Vidal
- 53 Lennox of the Eurythmics
- 55 ...but in a ____
- 58 Michael of *The Village Voice*
- 59 Got a little behind
- 60 Cut the skin off
- 61 You might shed this
- 62 What Sam twitched on *Bewitched*
- 63 Aspen vehicle

Down

- 1 Amanda of *Married with Children*
- 2 Closet-emptying cry?
- 3 Prejudice and then some
- 4 Bargain sign at Barneys
- 5 Ocean flier
- 6 Hours for hitting the sheets
- 7 Jethrene Bodine portrayer Max
- 8 Ankle injury
- 9 Borders on

- 10 Choreographer Fosse
- 11 Erotic toy store
- 12 What Joan of Arc was maid of
- 13 Author whose poems inspired *Cats*
- 18 Chelsea in Manhattan, e.g.
- 19 Storage spots
- 25 Antifur org.
- 30 Milo of Oz
- 31 Emcee's platform
- 32 Italian bear
- 33 Kind of arrest
- 34 Single stanza by Millay?
- 35 Stale mates, e.g.?
- 36 Biographies, to Baudelaire
- 37 Ethical challenge
- 38 Cut
- 41 *Pandora's Box* heroine
- 42 Light heavyweight
- 43 Heat and cool, to strengthen
- 44 Ecole teacher
- 45 Submitted to a master
- 47 Ursa ____ (nighttime bear)
- 52 Words used in setting the tempo
- 54 They may show through a wet T-shirt
- 56 Sked info
- 57 It may be Sapphic

★ ALL NUDE! • BYOB! • ALL NUDE! • ALL NUDE! • BYOB! ★

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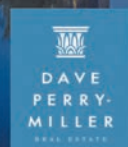
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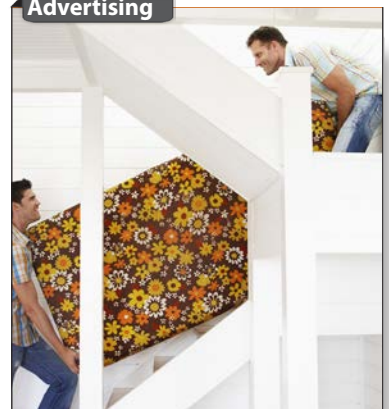
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