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as

September 23, 2022

Honor- Worthy

Olympian Gus Kenworthy to
receive the Birch Award at
Black Tie on Saturday

By Tammye Nash, page 9



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In This Issue

September 23, 2022
Volume 39 | Issue 20

NEWS

- 08 | Robert Emery receives Raymond Kuchling Award
- 09 | Olympian Gus Kenworthy appearing at Black Tie Dinner
- 16 | All Souls Episcopal meets at Theatre Arlington



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

- 10 | Pageant brings a close to Summer of LifeWalk
- 12 | Burns, Pennington co-chair Fairway to Equality
- 20 | Renewing the fight against book banning



ON THE COVER



BITES FROM OUR BLOG.....	4
VOICES.....	6
PLAN YOUR WEEK.....	26
CASSIE NOVA.....	28
SCENE.....	29
MARKETPLACE.....	34



Gus Kenworthy photo by Richard Shotwell/Invision/AP.
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Bites from our blog

WHAT'S THE TEA: DallasVoice.com

Community votes for Kirk Myers as grand marshal of first Pride in Dallas parade

Robinson comes to HRC after serving as the executive director of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund (PPAF), where she led the organization and its 18 million supporters in its efforts to



Kirk Myers, right, was chosen as grand marshal of the Pride in Dallas parade.

Kirk Myers, founder and CEO of Abounding Prosperity Inc., was chosen as grand marshal of the first Pride in Dallas Parade by a vote of the community, according to Pride in Dallas President James Ware. He is the first Black man elected grand marshal of a Pride parade in Dallas. (Nicole O'hara Munro was co-grand marshal of the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade in 2017.)

Myers has said his activism in the fight against HIV/AIDs began in 1998 with his own diagnosis as HIV-positive. He started volunteering with AIN and then went on to work for an organization called Renaissance III, which offered HIV/AIDS services and programs targeted for the Black community. He founded Abounding Prosperity Inc. in November 2005. Myers is also head of Dallas Southern Pride, the organization that puts on an LGBTQ-focused Juneteenth celebration each June and which is also the driving force behind the Dallas Black Pride weekend in the fall.

— Tammye Nash

Kelley Robinson named president of HRC

Human Rights Campaign and Human Rights Campaign Foundation announced that Kelley Robinson will become the organizations' ninth president and its first Black, queer woman leader. HRC spokesperson Elizabeth Bibi said she'd keep us posted on whether Robinson will attend this weekend's Black Tie Dinner at the Sheraton in downtown Dallas. Black Tie is one of HRC's largest fundraisers.

Her first official day as president of HRC will be Nov. 28.

ensure all people have access to healthcare as a human right.

— David Taffet

Friday marks the 24th annual Bi Visibility Day

As Bisexual Awareness Week continues, Thursday's date highlights bisexual orientation as well as all the challenges posed by biphobia and bisexual erasure. Bi Visibility Day also celebrates those organizations and institutions around the world that support visibility and equality. The Sept. 23 date was first marked in 1999.

First observed in 1999, Bi Visibility Day is the brainchild of three United States bisexual rights activists: Wendy Curry of Maine, Michael Page of Florida, and Gigi Raven Wilbur of Texas. Bi Visibility Day is also known by other names such as Bi Pride Day, International Celebrate Bisexuality Day. The festive celebrations now often take place in Bisexual Awareness Week and Bi Visibility Month.

— Rich Lopez

Dallas Southern Pride cancels Black Pride Weekend events due to concerns over monkeypox

Officials with Dallas Southern Pride announced this week that they have cancelled Black Pride Weekend events traditionally scheduled each year at the end of September/first of October due to concern over increasing monkeypox infections in Dallas County.

"Out of an abundance of caution for the health



The Roy and Jeanne Grogan Historic Plaza on the campus of Weatherford College

and safety of the wider community, as the transmission rate of monkeypox continues to rise, the Dallas Southern Pride Black Pride Weekend 2022 event planning committee, including Abounding Prosperity Inc., a health service organization, has decided to postpone its Black Pride weekend activities scheduled to take place Sept. 29-Oct. 1," officials said in a written statement. "Dallas Southern Pride plans to reconvene by hosting a holiday themed weekend of events beginning Dec. 17."

— Tammye Nash

Weatherford College administration responds to reports of planned protests

Female members of the faculty and staff at Weatherford College, west of Fort Worth, have planned a #MeToo protest for Thursday, Sept.

22, outside the school's Marjorie Black Alkek Fine Arts Center where the school's president, Todd Farmer, will be hosting local civic and social leaders — potential donors to the school — at his annual Presidential Luncheon.

Weatherford College is reportedly being sued by a former employee who says that Farmer harassed and sexually harassed her, then retaliated against her when she complained. A source said that during the time frame this harassment was allegedly taking place, Farmer was "suspected of inappropriate behavior toward female employees."

A flyer announcing the protest reads: "Join me outside the Fine Arts building at 11:20 a.m. ... to make sure we are heard! It's not about a lawsuit. It is about being marginalized and placed in a box that defines us not by our abilities but by our looks."

— Tammye Nash

■ Adoptable / BECKY



Meet **Becky**, a super sweet terrier/pit bull mix who weighs in at 41 pounds. She is just over two years old, so she still has a lot of youthful energy, and you can tell when this one is happy by the flurry of wiggles

and tail wags. Becky came to the SPCA of Texas from an animal cruelty case, so she is still a little shy at first meetings. She would also prefer to have a gal pal in the house since she hits it off with women a bit faster than men due to past experience. Given a little time this can be easily overcome, and she'll be the loving and grateful pup she was born to be. Already have a dog? Bring them by to meet her and see if there is a good fit. Available as a foster-to-adopt.

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. 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 to the public seven days a week noon-6 p.m. Appointments are required for foster animals. Browse available animals at [SPCA.org/FindAPet](https://www.spcatexas.org/FindAPet) and visit [SPCA.org/DogAdopt](https://www.spcatexas.org/DogAdopt) to inquire about a dog or [SPCA.org/CatAdopt](https://www.spcatexas.org/CatAdopt) to inquire about a cat.

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Queer History South brings together over 300 archivists, curators, researchers, students, and community enthusiasts to Dallas to network and learn about 'best practices' in LGBTQ+ history archiving.

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VOICES

OPINIONS FROM OUR PUBLISHER

Know your history, honor your history

Queer History South 2022 conference takes place in Dallas Sept. 30 - Oct. 2

The contributions of LGBTQ people toward the betterment of the world cannot be underestimated, and the world is a better place when LGBTQ people are allowed to flourish. From government and warfare to engineering and science to the humanities and the arts, LGBTQ people have been at the forefront of progress throughout time.

History books should be filled with stories of LGBTQ people exhibiting courage, intelligence, bravery, kindness and victory. But our LGBTQ history has been hidden from us — intentionally!

With so much external energy focused on erasing us, we must work even harder to secure our place in history. Any marginalized community must take responsibility to record its own story. For that reason, Dallas will host Queer History South 2022, a 13-state regional conference focused on LGBTQ history.

Archiving is activism!

Queer History South was created by Dr. Maigen Sullivan and Josh Burford in Birmingham, Ala., to share best practices in historical archiving techniques and to network with other researchers. Their first QHS conference was produced in 2019 and attracted historians from all over the country. The inaugural conference was so successful and created so much good will among the attendees, it became apparent they would have to repeat it.

Dallas won the bid to host the 2022 conference. The North Texas Planning Committee settled on a theme: "Archives for ALL, Y'all!" More than 300 scholars, university librarians, museum curators,



Leo Cusimano

From the Publisher's desk

K-12 educators, authors, graduate students and community volunteers/enthusiasts will convene in Dallas on Sept. 30 for the event.

The focus is the southern region of the U. S. One third of U.S. citizens who identify as LGBTQ live in the 13 states referred to as the South. Many of the legal advancements in LGBTQ equality have originated in the South; this is an important story to tell.

Although the focus is on the South, the conference will host attendees from all over the U.S. Anyone who shares an interest in archiving is welcome to attend. Here is a link to the conference website:

[SWAY.office.com/SGS9joL0LH-KvHS16?ref=email](https://sway.office.com/SGS9joL0LH-KvHS16?ref=email).

The Dallas Way (TheDallasWay.org) is one of four leading sponsors of this LGBT history conference, along with the Invisible Histories Project (InvisibleHistory.org), Dallas College (DallasCollege.edu) and The University of North Texas (UNT.edu).

The Friday morning keynote speaker will be Moises "Moe" V. Vela Jr., the first



Archives for ALL, Y'all!

openly gay, Hispanic senior White House advisor. He was named one of the Top 100 Hispanics in America by Hispanic Business magazine and is the co-creator and co-star of the streaming-TV series *Unicorn Hunters*.

Vela is also the author of the best-selling book, *Little Secret, Big Dreams: Pink and Brown in the White House*, an auto-biography detailing his upbringing in a Hispanic Catholic home in Texas, his coming out story and his journey to the White House.

(Watch for an interview with Moises Vela in the Sept. 30 issue of Dallas Voice.)

The Saturday morning keynote speaker will be Mandy Carter, co-founder of Southerners on New Ground, the National Black Justice Coalition and Equality North Carolina. The collection of Mandy Carter papers from 1970 through 2013 is held at Duke University Libraries.

The weekend will also include a reception hosted by Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum, which will host a reception, opening all their exhibits to conference guests and offer a rarely-seen peek into their deepest archive vaults; and a keynote panel discussing *Baker v. Wade*, the first constitutional challenge for LGBTQ equality filed in Texas.

Learning our LGBTQ history leads us to respect and appreciate our LGBTQ elders. Our current LGBTQ seniors represent the Stonewall generation, the AIDS generation that fought and died to give us the privileges and equality we enjoy today.

Discovering our LGBTQ history helps

us to appreciate the struggles and the courage of our previous generations. We learn we have much to thank them for, and we raise them up. To advocate for those who first advocated for us is our greatest honor.

Studying history can provide a road map for creating success in the future. There is no need to reinvent the wheel if smart people have succeeded with a plan in the past. Sure, we may need to tweak their former plan, but we do not need to start from scratch.

For example, the COVID pandemic was greatly shortened by using the knowledge we gained from the AIDS epidemic. And if marriage equality disappears, we will need to know what brought us to marriage equality the first time in order to restore it once again.

Fortunately for us, there are many authors and researchers, librarians and curators, educators and graduate students who are diving deeply into LGBTQ history. Many of those will gather in Dallas Sept. 30-Oct. 2 to share current research and to network with like-minded history enthusiasts. And you can reap the benefits of their work by registering for the conference yourself at [EventBrite.com/e/qhs-2022-archives-for-all-yall-conference-tickets-53453348404](https://eventbrite.com/e/qhs-2022-archives-for-all-yall-conference-tickets-53453348404). ■

Leo Cusimano is owner and publisher of Dallas Voice. He wrote this column initially for *News is Out*, a pioneering national collaborative of the leading local queer news publishers. Join the *News Is Out* newsletter at https://newsisout.com/?utm_campaign=signups&utm_source=DallasVoice.

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BLACK TIE DINNER



Robert Emery and Cece Cox were resplendent in white as grand marshals of the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, outshining the protesters who showed up

2022 BTD Kuchling Humanitarian award honors Robert Emery's involvement in Dallas' LGBTQ culture, history and life

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Robert Emery, this year's recipient of Black Tie Dinner's Raymond Kuchling Humanitarian Award, began his career of volunteerism with the Turtle Creek Chorale and along the way has worked to preserve Dallas LGBTQ history, enhance the city's cultural landscape and make North Texas a safer place for community members to age in.

Emery's entry into the community was as a member of the chorale. He joined in 1988 during the depths of the AIDS crisis. He said that while he enjoyed the meteoric rise of the chorale and its leader Tim Seelig, their success had a price.

"Being a gay men's chorus put us at the center of the [HIV/AIDS] crisis," Emery said. "There was a time we sang at a funeral every weekend."

But not being one to dwell on the negative, he quickly turned to positive events. "We traveled to Europe," he said of the chorale. "We performed at Carnegie Hall."

And, while he is no longer singing with TCC, Emery's most recent connection with the group was chairing the chorale's first *Rhapsody* fundraiser, which featured Idina Menzel performing at an event at the Statler Hotel. That event was, at the time, the 40-year-old organization's most successful.

Emery is no stranger to Black Tie Dinner, either. In 2005 and 2006, he served on its board as producer of the show. He and his committee brought in Lily Tomlin, Sharon Stone, Geena Davis and Alan Cumming.

"Stone upped our fundraising by about \$99,000," Emery estimated, recall-

ing how the actor raised so much money. During the auction, the crowd wasn't paying attention. So, declaring that "We're here to raise money," Stone then grabbed everyone's attention by auctioning off the shoes she was wearing.

But Emery had the story behind the shoes: The day before Black Tie, Stone told him she needed shoes, and she gave him the name of a specific salesman at the Neiman Marcus store in NorthPark Mall.

"He knows what I like," Stone said of the salesman.

So Emery went to Neiman's at NorthPark and found the salesman who knew Stone. The salesman pulled out a pair of Manolo Blahniks in her size, and Emery charged them to his own credit card.

But it was, "a ruse." Stone had a well-thought-out plan in place all along to put that set of shoes up for auction, grab the attention of the audience and raise some big bucks. Oh, and everyone at that year's dinner fell in love with her in the process.

At that same dinner, Lily Tomlin asked Emery what the biggest news story of the day was. Emery said he told her it was (former House Speaker) Tom DeLay's imminent arrest. That fueled Tomlin's opening line: "I will feel that I have done a good job tonight if I can put a smile on your face just half as broad as the smile on Tom DeLay's mugshot," Tomlin said to open her set. And the crowd went wild.

Emery became interested in preserving the history of Dallas' LGBTQ community when Jack Evans sent out an email after an interview at Dallas Voice on the occasion of his 50th anniversary with George Harris in 2011. "Do you think it would fly if several of our contemporaries had a dialog about the 1950s and beyond?" Evans asked in the email.

That was the beginning of The Dallas Way, a group that collects stories and artifacts to preserve the history of the community.

(Harris' reaction, by the way, was, "Oh, not another damn group.")

Emery sat on the original board for

Service, Page 22

'Living my truth'

BLACK TIE DINNER

Olympian Gus Kenworthy has gone from athlete to actor to author to activist

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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Olympic freestyle skier Gus Kenworthy — lauded by Rolling Stone Magazine as “the first action-sports star to come out” after coming out as a gay man in an October 2015 interview with ESPN — announced earlier this year that he was retiring from competitive skiing after a career of more than 10 years in the sport that has included AFP World Championship overall titles, World Cup championships and an Olympic silver medal. But that doesn't mean he's going to be taking it easy. He intends to continue his acting career and will be turning some of his focus to writing, as well.

This weekend, Kenworthy will be in Dallas to accept the Elizabeth Birch Equality Award at the 41st annual DFW Black Tie Dinner. This week, he took a few minutes to answer some questions for Dallas Voice.

— Tammye Nash

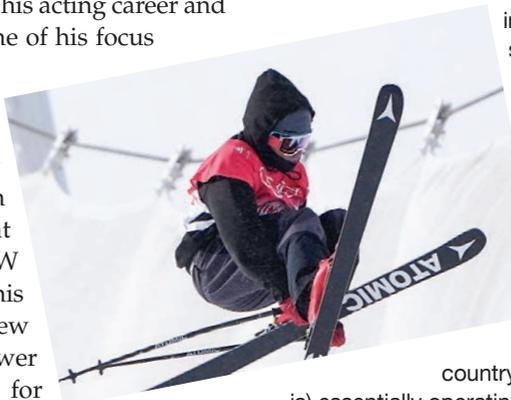
Dallas Voice: Hi Gus. Thank you for taking the time to talk to us today. Tell me what you are up to these days. What is keeping you busy right now? You announced in Beijing that you are retiring from competitive skiing; where are you planning to focus your efforts now? Gus Kenworthy: Hi! Of course, thank you! I've been enjoying the time off, although I admittedly have a hard time sitting still. I bought a new house (well, new to me) in L.A. a year-and-a-half ago and did some pretty extensive remodeling to it.

My boyfriend and I moved in the week of

Thanksgiving last year, but then I was away training and competing all December, January and February, so I had actually had very little time in the space. It's been nice to get to nest here and get the place all set up — I love interior design. Other than that, I've been taking some acting classes, auditioning and writing as much as possible. I'm currently working on writing a book that will be a compilation of funny essays about my life.

Despite the Chinese government warning that anyone speaking out about human rights abuses during the Winter Olympics in Beijing this year would face repercussions, you chose to speak out. Why did you choose to go ahead and speak up, and were you worried what might happen if you did? Honestly, it wasn't an active choice as much as it was just me never knowing when to shut up. When I believe in something and I'm passionate about it, I am someone who will let my opinion be known.

One thing I love about the Olympics is that it is truly the world's stage. It's a time when people come together from all corners of the globe and all walks of life and set



aside differences in politics, race, sexuality, socio-economic status, etc., to compete. So, in that regard, it's supposed to be this welcoming, accepting, uplifting environment. Meanwhile the host

country was (and still is) essentially operating concentration camps — detaining the Uighur population and other minorities and committing genocide, mass sterilization, forced abortion and forced assimilation against them. It's disgusting, abhorrent behavior, and I believe the [International Olympic Committee] should use its position to punish that behavior rather than, essentially, uplifting it.

What are you doing now, and what can other people do now, to get the Olympic Committee not to hold their events in countries, like China, where there are ongoing human rights abuse issues? I think that there should be established guidelines stating that a country must meet certain ethical criteria in

regard to human rights in their country in order to be eligible to partake in an Olympic Games.

Furthermore, there should be even stricter standards that need to be met for a country to get to play host. Any country in violation of those terms is also in violation of the Olympic spirit, and those countries should be penalized, not rewarded.

Taking that a step forward, given some recent events here — like the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, and what's happening now with Greg Abbott in Texas and Ron DeSantis in Florida shipping undocumented immigrants who came here seeking asylum to D.C. and to Martha's Vineyard — do you think that a decision by the Olympic Committee to avoid countries where there are human rights abuses could keep the games out of the U.S.? That's interesting; I hadn't thought about it in that context. Ultimately, I don't want to be the arbitrator on what constitutes a human rights violation. I obviously feel like the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* was absolutely horrific, and I believe we should have full autonomy over our own bodies. And I don't want to seem like I'm diminishing that; however, it pales in comparison to the situation in China, which was a gross violation of human rights.

One last question: The DFW Black Tie Dinner's Elizabeth Birch Equality Award is given to those who have “shown a dedication to advancing and improving the rights of the LGBTQ community on a national level.” What does it mean to you to be receiving this award? It's really an honor. I honestly don't know what I'm doing half the time; I'm just trying to live my truth and strive to be a good example for the community and push for inclusion and acceptance. So it feels like a pat on the back to be getting some kind of recognition for it. Thank you!



Gus Kenworthy photo by Jen Rotstein



Terry Loftis, right, and Regina Lyn Pierce

The 41st annual Black Tie Dinner

Presented by PNC Bank, on Saturday night, Sept. 24, at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel, with co-chairs Terry Loftis and Regina Lyn Pierce hosting the evening.

Highlights of the event will include the presentation of awards, including the Elizabeth Birch Equality Award to Olympic skier Gus Kenworthy; the Kuchling Humanitarian Award to local activist Robert Emery; the Dale Hanson Ally Award to local actor/singer/activist Denise Lee; the Media Award to actor Colman Domingo; the Vanguard Award to actor Rafael Silva, and the Visibility Award to actor Ryan O'Connell.

Openly-gay country singer Cameron Hawthorne will entertain.

Black Tie Dinner, founded in 1982, to date has distributed more than \$27 million to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and a slew of local nonprofits serving the LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS communities.



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Crowning moment



DRAG FOR CHARITY

Pageant brings a close to
Summer of LifeWalk

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

LifeWalk has looked a bit different this year: In lieu of the traditional 5K walk throughout Oak Lawn neighborhoods, this year's fundraiser was a series of events dubbed the Summer of LifeWalk. And for the "crowning" achievement of the summer, LifeWalk organizer and beneficiary Prism Health North Texas will host the 17th annual Miss LifeWalk Pageant Sept. 24 in the Rose Room at S4.

The pageant will conclude the 32nd annual LifeWalk, which raises money each year for Prism's mission to advance the health of North Texans through education, research, prevention, and personalized HIV care.

"The shift in format has made this a successful and rewarding LifeWalk," PHNTX Events Manager Terry Walker said in a press release. "We kicked off the Summer of LifeWalk with the

Marketpalooza and Pub Crawl on the Cedar Springs Strip, followed by brunch with Pride Vodka at Roy G's and the extremely successful seventh annual Team Clover Open hosted by long-time LifeWalk team Team Clover. Team Clover recruited 51 teams to play putt-putt and enjoy a silent auction in the name of Prism Health North Texas."

While the walk itself is not off the table for the future, this year's pivot was a new way to get people involved and reconnected with the event as well as raise donations for Prism's services.

The feedback for LifeWalk's new 2022 "look" has been positive, according to Walker.

"We'd got quite a bit of positive feedback doing this differently. It was a way to let the community know we're still raising money and awareness and help to market Prism Health North Texas," he said. "The events all worked so well."

As for the future of LifeWalk, Prism is taking it one year at a time, Walker added.

"I do get asked if the walk is coming back," he said. "All I can say is we are looking at ideas to have a moving event again and what that looks like, but we haven't decided on a direction."

Whatever it looks like, he and the Prism team would certainly like to see



Miss LifeWalk final

it, in his words, bigger, better and bolder. Prior even to COVID, the event itself had somewhat plateaued and may have even suffered from its own longevity, Walker said.

“Walks were big in the ‘90s, and some people may have been over those,” he added. “I’ve looked at other walks around the country, and they have changed. This year was a way to re-energize, re-invigorate and re-invent the event itself.”

But for now, it’s all about Miss LifeWalk, which will feature more than a pageant. The event will include recognition of the top individual fundraisers and top three fundraising teams.

To make up for lost COVID years, the annual Heart and Hands Award will be bestowed to 2020, 2021 and 2022 recipients, honoring those who have presented above and beyond dedication to LifeWalk and PHNTX. A Special LifeWalk Participant Recognition will also be awarded to one participant who has produced noteworthy fundraising results year after year.

“We look forward to closing this year’s Summer of LifeWalk with one of our favorite events, the Miss LifeWalk Pageant,” Walker mentioned. “Two years have flown by since the 16th Miss

LifeWalk, Miss Polly von Ackocker, was crowned, and we look forward to the fierce competition and wonderful performances from local drag queens competing for the title.”

Competing queens, which include previous winners, will perform their own number and give remarks on their efforts to raise funds for LifeWalk in 2022 and in future years.

The pageant will be hosted by 2012 Miss LifeWalk Heather Thomas, 2018 titleholder Bea Dazzle and LifeWalk Co-Chair Mark Thibodeau. This year’s judges include Linze Serell, Layla Larue, Lotta Pink, Eric Saldana and Part-Time Justin, host of *The Kidd Kraddick Morning Show*.

“It’s gonna be fun crowning a new Miss LifeWalk. Polly has had it for three years now,” he said. “And donations can still be made through Oct. 10 which will benefit certain services that have suffered,” the press release about the event noted.

As for what next year will look like, that is yet to be determined. But LifeWalk is intending to stick around: “What do we look like in five years? That I don’t know,” Walker said. “But we plan to keep the tradition going.” ■

Visit LifeWalk.org for more info.

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Fore!

PLAYING FOR CHARITY

Burns, Pennington co-chair 25th annual Fairway to Equality golf tournament and Calcutta

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Dee Pennington admits that she knows absolutely nothing about golf. “I don’t even know what a birdy is!” she said. But she does know how to pamper golfers. Deidra Burns knows all about golf. And between the two of them, they throw one heck of a golf tournament/party.

Fairway to Equality

- Calcutta, Caddy and Team Auction: Friday, Sept. 30, 6:30 p.m. at Sue Ellen’s, 3014 Throckmorton St. Admission is free.
- Fairway to Equality golf tournament: Saturday, Oct. 1, shotgun start at 11 a.m. at Indian Creek Golf Tournament, 1650 W. Frankford Road in Carrollton.

Burns and Pennington are, once again, co-chairs of the HRC DFW Fairway to Equality women’s golf tournament and Calcutta, now in its 25th year, happening Sept. 30-Oct. 1 and benefitting the Human Rights Campaign.

Burns explained this week that the tournament hasn’t been held since 2019



Members of the Fairway to Equality board are, standing from left, Cathi Scalise, Sarah Semington, Stacey Meyers, Camille Wallace, De’An Olson Roper, Sara Offringa, Amanda Minkler, and, seated from left, Gregory Pynes, co-chairs Deidra Burns and Dee Pennington and Clarissa Carter. Not pictured are Sue Wyll, Dan Gueths, Kelli Verla and Linda Reyes Hart. (Photo courtesy of Dee Pennington)

because of the COVID epidemic. So, Pennington, noted, “This year feels like a bit of a start-over. Everyone is still trying to recover, trying to figure out what year it is and what’s going on. But now we are getting a lot of attention. People are glad to be back.”

Burns agreed. “Everyone has been in that COVID fog, if you will, so they were a little slow in responding at first. But Dee and I teamed up to reach out to a lot of the past players and past sponsors, and people have really responded. I think if we don’t sell out, we’ll be very close to it.”

Fairway to Equality has “been around and benefitting our community for the last 25 years” as an HRC fundraiser, Pennington said. But the event in its current form evolved out of a tournament conceived by community legend Lory Masters first as a fundraiser for Oak Lawn Counseling Services, then for the Candy Marcum Institute followed by Uncommon Legacy Foundation, she explained. “HRC took over when Uncommon Legacy went away.”

Fairway to Equality has “net raised” \$958,000 for HRC over the years, and “We fully expect to surpass the \$1 mil-

lion mark this year, which will be a great way to celebrate the 25th anniversary,” Pennington said.

While other HRC groups around the country have held their own charity golf tournaments, no one has managed to outdo DFW.

“There have been a lot of cities across the HRC organization that have tried to replicate what we do here, and they always do a good job,” Burns said. “But as the people who work for HRC always say, nobody does it like Dallas! I think it is the uniqueness of our community that makes this work. We play together well, and we stick with our mission to achieve equality for all of us.” That goal, Pennington said, “was important back then when we started this tournament, and it is just as important now.”

Pennington and Burns have been involved for most of the tournament’s history.

“I still do things the old-fashioned way, counting on my fingers and all that,” Pennington said. “But then Deidra got involved, and she turned this into a really slick machine. She really took things to a new level over the past 15 years.” “Dee has all along been doing what she does best, which is getting people involved and raising lots of money,” Burns interjected. “We both came back to this a little rusty, but we work really well together. And we have a great group of people on our committee, too.”

FORE!, Page 14

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FORE! From Page 12

Burns and Pennington have been reaching out, as they said, to past competitors and past sponsors. And the response has been great, they said.

"Ky Fiser of Ky Fiser Wealth Management has been our presenting sponsor for the last five tournaments, and they are back as presenting sponsor this year," Pennington said. Burns added, "We have a lot of cash sponsors this year, too — people who are donating and not asking for anything in return."

Pennington also reached out to Kathy Jack and Kristi Holman, asking them to return to their traditional roles in emceeing the Calcutta on Friday night before the tournament on Saturday, and they agreed. "We are bringing back the old guard!" Pennington declared.

The Calcutta, the two co-chairs explained, is what really sets Fairway to Equality apart from other charity golf tournaments. "Calcutta," Pennington said, "was the first thing I ever looked up on Wikipedia," going on to explain how the event works.

The idea is that each team of four competing in the tournament is "auctioned

off," during the Calcutta. Then at the end of the day on Saturday, everyone who put their money on the team that ends up winning gets to share in the payoff. It's kind of like the 50-50 drawings that are popular at charitable events in Texas, in which individuals pay into the pot, then whoever's name is drawn splits the pot with the charity.

That, Burns said, "is the definition of a Calcutta in the golf world. But in true LGBTQ fashion, we have turned it up a notch. We have a caddy auction, and, the third thing, we have some live auctions, too."

The live auction items, Burns said, "are not the big, \$10,000 packages you would see at Black Tie Dinner, but there are some nice getaways in there and other things, like some great art. Kristi Holman, for example, is donating a trip to Tulum, Mexico. We mix it up."

The Caddy Auction is Pennington's favorite part: "We get lots of different people from around the community to volunteer as caddies; we usually have the co-chairs from Black Tie and the other fundraising arms of DFW HRC

who participate. The thing is, the caddies don't really have to caddy. Like, I am a caddy, and I don't know anything about golf. The idea is that the caddies go around with their team — bring them lunch or drinks or cooling towels, just do things to keep the golfers comfy and cool."

As part of the "old guard" returning for the 25th anniversary, Pennington said she and De'An Olson Roper are returning as a caddy team for the auction. "We're the Double Ds, and we both live up to the name!" she declared. "And [singer] Deborah Vial is coming in from Hawaii this year to be auctioned off as our celebrity caddy, and we're going to try to talk her into singing a song for us.

Burns, laughing, added, "It's a fun thing and a great way to raise money. Sometimes the caddy packages are a bit more robust, with tickets to an event or massages, etc. But I think people are using buying the personality that's there rather than the package they offer."

The Calcutta starts at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 30, at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St., and admission to the event is free.

The tournament gets underway with a shotgun start — "I don't know what that is, either," Pennington acknowledged — at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, at Indian Creek Golf Club, 1650 W. Frankford Road in Carrollton. And, like Pennington, you don't have to play or even know anything about the game to enjoy that part of the weekend, either.

"We'll have a margarita tent that Caven Enterprises is sponsoring, and the martini girls are coming back, too," Pennington said. "And we will serve everyone a beautiful meal when they finish their round of golf.

"It is a lovely day and everyone is invited to come hang out. Rent a cart and ride around. Or just hang out at the margarita tent — that's where the fun is!"

Oh, and just so you know, Burns explained: A shotgun start is where each team competing is stationed at a different hole on the golf course and everybody starts at the same time. And a birdy is when a golfer completes a hole one stroke under par.

"I'll write that down," Pennington said, "so I can forget it right after." ■

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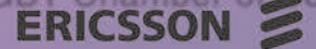
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SPIRITUAL MATTERS

All Souls Episcopal Church meets at Theatre Arlington to continue its progressive ministry

MATHEW SHAW | Contributing Writer
mathews.yb@gmail.com

Shakespeare said all the world's a stage, and for one downtown Arlington church, the stage is its pulpit. All Souls Episcopal Church has used Theatre Arlington as its place of worship for 13 years. It is one of four LGBT-affirming churches in Arlington, according to the website GayChurch.org.

The church was formerly known as St. Albans Episcopal Church, but church

members changed the name to avoid confusion with another Arlington church called St. Albans, which broke away from the Episcopal Church after it became too liberal, explained All Souls' openly gay pastor, the Rev. Kevin Johnson.

"It just became too confusing for the community to have two churches with the same name," Johnson said. "[Church members asked themselves] what name would be reflective of who we are as a gathered people of God? And they chose the name 'All Souls.'"

Theater Arlington became the church's home as the national church became more progressive, with the ordination of women and blessing of same-sex couples. The bishop of the local Episcopal diocese became more conservative as a result, and he pulled some parishes out of the denomination, explained Johnson.

"There were a group of people who said, 'We're not leaving the Episcopal Church because these are the values that are important to us.' So they basically got kicked out of their brick-and-mortar churches, and they coalesced here at Theater Arlington," Johnson explained.

"The theater's been great," he continued. "It's been really nice to share office space with people who are from different walks of life, and they've been very generous to us. It's a mutually beneficial relationship."

Parishioner Pam Hardaway explained that in 1976 the National Episcopal Church voted at its convention to ordain women. "We think when God calls someone, He calls someone," she said. "We think God is the one in charge, not us."

However, there were some bishops

who disagreed with that decision, and they declined to let women go through the ordination process in their dioceses, she continued. When the national church voted a woman as presiding bishop, a position similar to the Pope, she said that was "it" for some of the dioceses.

"It's just hard to believe there are people who look at me as a woman as less than, or a gay man or a gay woman as less than," Hardaway said. "I want to be in a denomination that respects everyone."

Hardaway, who has a theater degree, said it was her idea to move the church to a theater.

"We signed [a rental] agreement, and we came here to worship almost 13 years ago now. And we've been here ever since, and we've had a wonderful relationship with the theater," Hardaway

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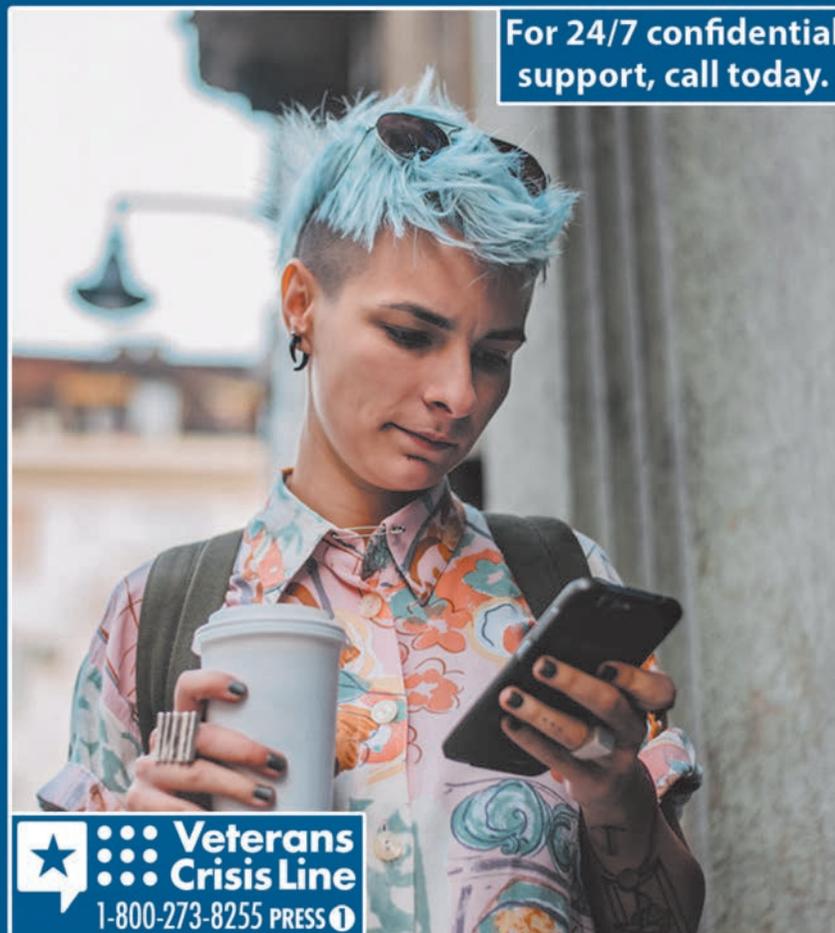


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The Rev. Kevin Johnson is pastor of All Souls Episcopal Church. (Photo by Matthew Shaw)



said.

Hardaway recalled one Sunday the theater was doing a production of "Urinetown" and next to the altar was a toilet.

Parishioner Jane Morrow Wright, who described herself as a "cradle Catholic," first heard of the church during COVID after a friend encouraged her to watch the church on Facebook. She said it was exciting to her to feel welcome in places she had not been in a long time.

"This place just keeps you on your toes, it keeps you wanting to come back," she said of All Souls.

After her husband died, Wright had continued going to her old church, but then realized she needed a change so she came to All Souls and has not once regretted making that change.

"Couldn't get better than this," Wright remarked. "I tell you." ■



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SEPT. 30 THRU OCT. 23



Renewing the fight against book *banning*

SAVING THE BOOKS

Books featuring LGBTQ youth, people of color are most often targets for those banning books

This week marks Banned Books Week, the American Library Association's annual celebration of the freedom to read. But this year feels more like a call to action than a celebration. Book bans and other attempts at censorship, largely targeting the LGBTQ and other marginalized communities, are raging across the country.

Between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31 this year, the ALA documented 681 attempts to ban or restrict a total of 1,651 unique titles — already superseding 2021's 1,597 titles and on track to pass its 729 attempts, the highest number since ALA began tracking the numbers more than 20 years ago. Additionally, more than 70 percent of the attempts in 2022 involve multiple titles; previously, the vast majority only sought to remove or restrict a single book.

LGBTQ content is among the most frequently challenged. The ALA's latest list of the Top 10 Most Challenged Books includes five books targeted for "LGBTQ+ content," including the number one book, *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe, a memoir about growing up non-binary and asexual.

Six of the Top 10 books also had protagonists of color.

"The unprecedented number of challenges we're seeing already this year reflects coordinated, national efforts to silence marginalized or historically underrepresented voices and deprive all of us — young people, in particular — of the chance to explore a world beyond the confines of personal experience," said ALA President Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada.

A similar study by PEN America, from July 2021 to June 2022, found 2,532 book bans and restrictions — 40 percent including people of color as protagonists or prominent secondary characters; 21



Dana Rudolph
 Contributing Columnist

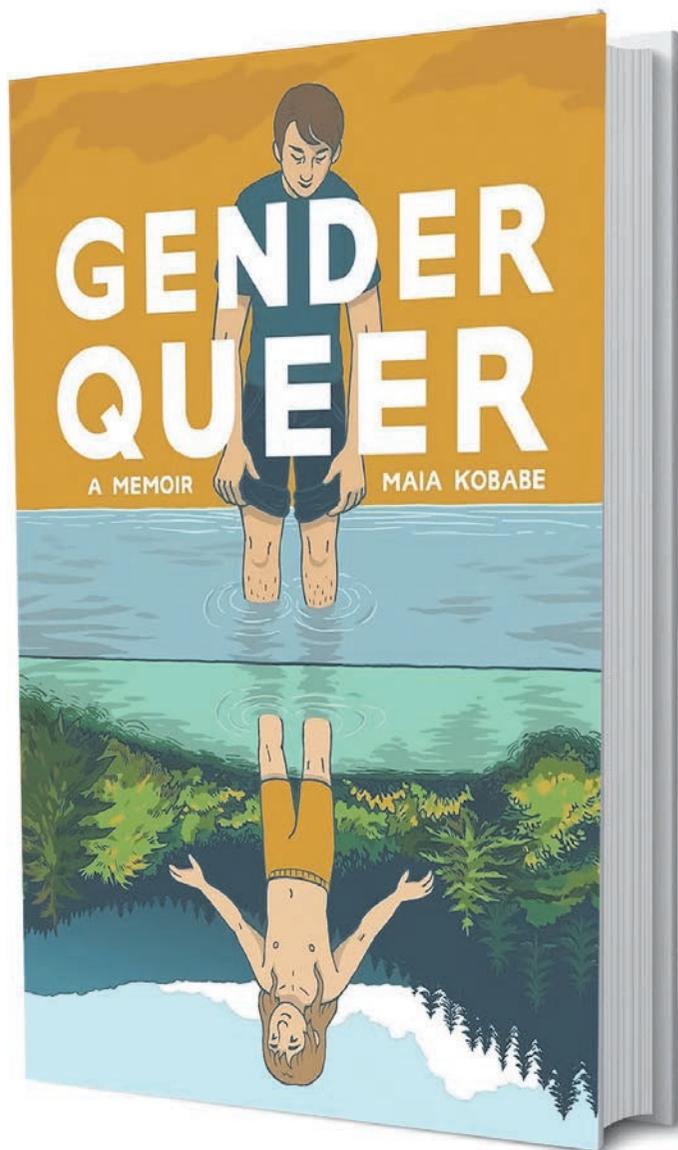
percent directly addressing race and racism; and 41 percent explicitly addressing LGBTQ themes or having LGBTQ protagonists or prominent secondary characters.

Texas had the most bans (801), followed by Florida (566) and Pennsylvania (457). But bans have occurred in a total of 32 states and 138 school districts.

These censorship efforts are taking place alongside nationwide legislative attacks on LGBTQ youth. Three bills censoring LGBTQ content in schools were signed into law in 2022 — in Florida, Alabama and South Dakota, according to HRC. More than 70 other discriminatory education bills have been introduced across the country aimed at preventing classroom discussion of LGBTQ or other marginalized people and issues. These include Florida's "Stop WOKE Act" signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis. Additionally, more than 100 bills this year have targeted transgender youth via bans on affirming health care, bathroom access, sports participation and more.

The same national conservative organizations are behind many of these legislative and book banning efforts, according to GLAAD. If we look at the books being targeted — which include picture books that simply show LGBTQ people and families in everyday situations — it's clear that the goal is not just to block young adult books like *Gender Queer* that mention sex and sexuality; it's also to censor any depiction, however innocuous, of LGBTQ lives.

This is nothing new; Lesléa Newman's 1989 picture book *Heather Has Two Mommies* has faced challenges since shortly after its publication. Cou-



pled with the broader legislative attacks against LGBTQ youth, however, today's challenges form part of an ominous threat both to First Amendment rights and to LGBTQ children, youth and families.

There are signs of hope, however. Just two examples: In Texas, the Austin City Council unanimously adopted a resolution earlier this month promoting the ALA's Freedom to Read Statement, opposing book bans and supporting the Austin Public Library's materials-selection policy. And after some community members in James-town, Mich., voted to defund the public library over LGBTQ books on its shelves, others launched a GoFundMe campaign that has raised more than \$260,000 for the library.

Students, parents, librarians and other community members are also speaking out against bans and challenges elsewhere, sometimes with success. Orga-

nizations like the ALA, ACLU, EveryLibrary, GLAAD, National Coalition Against Censorship, FReadom Fighters, Red Wine & Blue and others are also taking action and providing resources to fight censorship.

Additionally, LGBTQ-inclusive children's books continue to be published in record numbers, and people are finding innovative ways to connect children with these and other diverse books.

How can we help address and prevent book bans and other forms of censorship? Start by reporting censorship attempts to the ALA (ala.org) and/or to NCAC (ncac.org). Then visit Unite Against Book Bans (uniteagainstbookbans.org), for talking points, more suggested actions and more resources. ■

Dana Rudolph is the founder and publisher of Mombian (mombian.com), a GLAAD Media Award-winning blog and resource directory, with a searchable database of 1000+ LGBTQ family books, music, and more.



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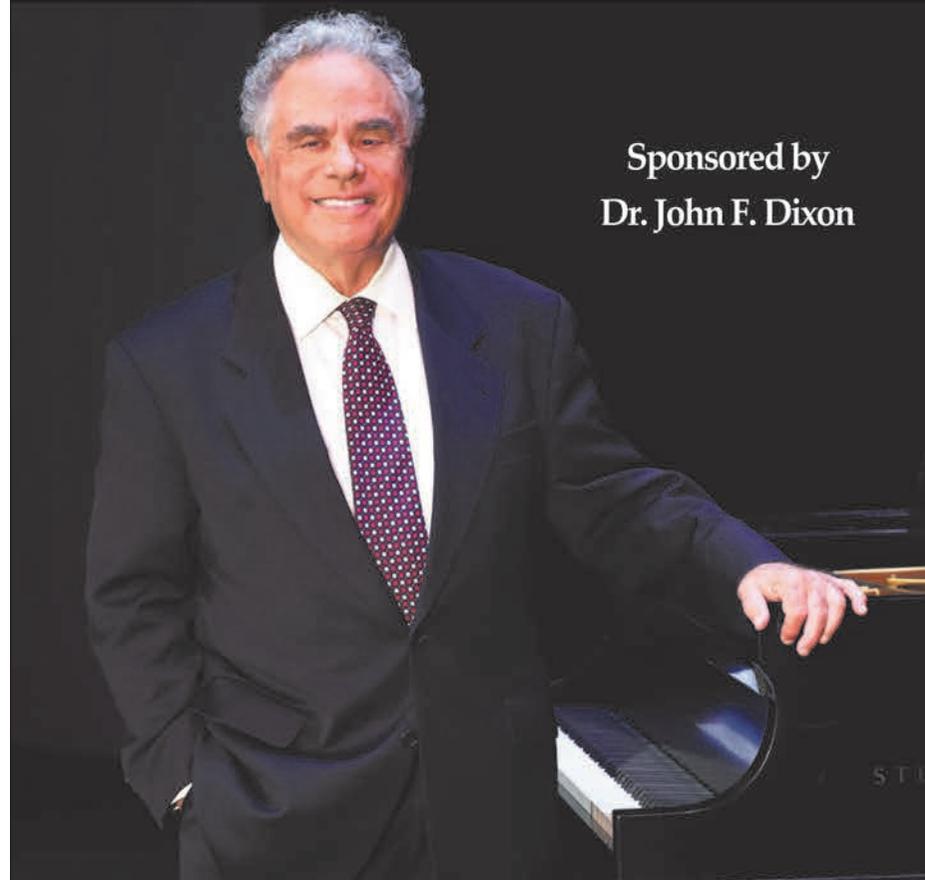
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Service, From Page 8

The Dallas Way and is currently its president. At the same time the group formed, University of North Texas announced it wanted to become the largest repository of LGBTQ history in the Southwest and that the school had recently built a large cold-storage facility to store papers and artifacts.

Among Emery's interesting contacts during the decade that he has been collecting stories and memorabilia with The Dallas Way was from a location scout and a costumer from the film *Dallas Buyer's Club*. Emery said The Dallas Way helped put together the authentic 1980s pins and t-shirts worn in the film.

Emery worked with Mark Doty and Sam Childers on text for the Texas Historical Marker that stands outside JR's Bar & Grill, at the intersection of Cedar Springs Road and Throckmorton Street. They helped shepherd the wording through Dallas County, which had to approve it before it could be sent to the Texas Historical Commission. After a year of emails back and forth, the corner of Cedar Springs and Throckmorton was declared a state historical location.

Then Emery worked with Dr. Sara Abosch of the Dallas Holocaust and Human Rights Museum to argue, as Emery put it, about what should be highlighted in the new museum's exhibit on human rights.

"Mica England was a Holocaust Museum choice," Emery said. "She represents the perfect intersection of sexuality, politics and social justice."

England, who applied to become a Dallas Police officer, was rejected because she was lesbian. She sued the city for discrimination in employment and won. Emery said her story is included in the museum because it took LGBTQ equality to the next level.

The story of Don Baker, whose law

suit in the 1980s resulted in a Dallas judge declaring the Texas sodomy law unconstitutional, is also included in the museum. The September celebration of that decision was the impetus for moving Dallas' annual Pride parade to September. The Dallas Pride events stayed in September even after an appeals court ruling reinstated the sodomy law.

Emery was named grand marshal of that parade, the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade, on its 30th anniversary. He rode in a carriage, wearing a white suit,



Robert Emery

alongside his co-grand marshal, Cece Cox.

Emery also served on the board of radio station WRR when the station was city-owned. "I've always been a fan of WRR, so joining the board was a natural," he said.

At the time, the station was spending a lot of time and money recruiting people to become "Friends of WRR." Friends donated to provide commercial-free hours of classical programming.

"I conceived the idea of using the power of the radio to run a Friends of WRR membership drive," Emery said. Instead of recruiting friends one or two at a time at house parties, the station gained a couple of hundred in a short time through the membership drive.

Another of Emery's passions is caring for the area's aging LGBTQ population. At first, he was determined to build a brick-and-mortar facility exclusively for the community. But his focus changed with the formation of Coalition for Aging LGBT, where he's a board member, after the group took a survey.

"Our LGBT seniors didn't want to be in an exclusively gay community," he said. "That was very eye-opening for me and utterly changed my focus. It changed the trajectory of my work."

The product of more than a year of site visits, questionnaires and trainings resulted in the North Texas LGBT-Friendly Senior Housing Guide.

And finally, Archives for All, Y'All, a 13-state regional conference focused on LGBTQ history, takes place at Dallas College El Centro campus on Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Emery, of course, is co-chairing the local planning committee that's bringing the conference to town.

But first, he'll be the recipient of Black Tie's Kuchling Award recognizing service to the community. ■

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So, for this very special, once-in-a-lifetime (seriously) concert, you will have a chance to join the Turtle Creek Chorale and celebrate the exciting, provocative, and fabulous music of this storied decade. To demonstrate our ongoing commitment to racial equity, this concert will feature an entire section devoted to the songs of Motown and other Black artists during this time in our lives.

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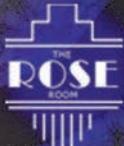
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Texas state Reps. Julie Johnson, left, and Jessica Gonzalez will be among the honorees at the North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce's 2022 Business and Community Excellence Awards taking place Friday, Sept 30, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Warwick Melrose Hotel, 3014 Oak Lawn Ave. Awards to be presented include the Business Excellence Award sponsored by Southwest Airlines, the Excellence in the Arts Award sponsored by Caven Enterprises, the ExtrAA Mile Community Service Award sponsored by American Airlines, the Supplier Diversity Champion Award sponsored by VisitDallas, the Corporate Ally Award sponsored by Dallas Wings and the Employee Group of the Year Award, sponsored by EY. For more information and tickets visit LGBTQChamber.net/BACE22.



PLAN YOUR WEEK

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

SEPTEMBER

- **Through Sept. 25: Beyond Vanilla**
National Leather Alliance's Beyond Vanilla weekend. BeyondVanilla.org.
- **Sept. 23-25: Rainbow Roundup**
Camping trip to Jellystone Park, 2301 S. Burlison Blvd, Burlison. Info at Facebook.com/rainbowroundup.
- **Sept. 23-24: Oktoberfest at ArtPark**
Celebrate Oktoberfest with a variety of beer, food and games. The event will also feature a stein-holding contest, music all day and more. ArtPark at Trinity Groves, 331 Singleton Blvd. #100 from 5 p.m.-midnight. \$10.
- **Sept. 24: Black Tie Dinner**
Sheraton Dallas Hotel. See interviews with Gus Kenworthy and Robert Emery elsewhere in this issue. BlackTie.org.
- **Sept. 24: Abilene Pride**
Parade downtown at 2 p.m. and festival at 3 p.m. at Nelson Park Festival Gardens, ES 11th and Loop 322, Abilene.
- **Sept. 24: Drag the Vote Show**
The Nuns of Texas Abbey of the Third Coming presents Drag the Vote Show and auction at Urban Cowboy, 2620 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth.

■ **Sept. 24: Dallas Reproductive Liberation March**
March in support of reproductive freedom stepping off at noon from the Main Street Garden Park, 1902 Main St. The march is inclusive of all people standing in solidarity with the cause of reproductive freedom and is a public celebration of our collective autonomy. Visit the event page on Facebook for more information.

■ **Sept. 24: DFW Sisters Blue Ball**
The DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence present The Blue Ball, hosted by Sapphire Tailor and benefitting AIDS Outreach Center, at 9 p.m. at Club Reflection, 604 S. Jennings Ave. in Fort Worth. Visit the Facebook event page for more information.

■ **Sept. 25: Miss LifeWalk**
The Summer of LifeWalk wraps up with the annual Miss LifeWalk Pageant from 6-9 p.m. in The Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. General admission tickets are \$20 in advance, available online at LifeWalk.org. Tickets at the door are \$25, and VIP tickets are available for \$30.

■ **Sept. 25: Team Metro Fall Cookout**
Team Metro hosts its final cookout of the season from 2-5 p.m. at The Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser. There will be burgers, hot dogs and brats with all the fixings, all for \$5.

■ **Through Sept. 25: Big Scary Animals**
Theatre Three presents local playwright Matt Lyle's comedy about an older white couple who move into a gay neighborhood. 2688 Laclede St., #120. Theatre3Dallas.com.

■ **Through Sept. 25: Clue**
Based on the movie which was inspired by the board game, this farce meets-murder mystery begins at a remote mansion where six guests assemble for a dinner party with murder and blackmail on the menu. Wyly Theatre, DallasTheaterCenter.org.

■ **Sept. 25-27: Rosh Hashanah**
Holiday begins at sunset on Sunday through sunset on Tuesday.

■ **Sept. 27: PrimeTimers**
Last Tuesday lunch at 11 a.m. at Hunky's, 3930 Cedar Springs Road.

■ **Sept. 27: Circles of Light Séance**
Entelechea Center, 1201 International Parkway, Ste. 200, Richardson, hosts the Circles of Light Séance from 7-8:30 p.m., with mediums Terri Groom, Speranta Cristache and Tricia Seymour.

■ **Sept. 28: Legal Planning for LGBTQ Communities**
If you or someone you know is experiencing Alzheimer's disease or dementia, it's never too early to put legal plans in place. Join the Alzheimer's Association and attorney Lorie Burch for What's Your Plan?: Legal Planning for LGBTQ Communities from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. on Zoom. You'll learn about the signs of Alzheimer's and dementia, how to approach concerns about cognitive changes and important legal and estate planning considerations for LGBTQ communities. Register at https://alz-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMKdeqorjluG93u_y6x25Ctizl8iSOSHfIS

■ **Sept. 28: Same-sex spouse grief group**
Grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex spouse or partner meets in person on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:30-8 p.m. at Union Coffee, 3705 Cedar Springs Road. For notifications, contact Richard DeKnock at tastefullyrichard@gmail.com.

■ **Sept. 28: Collective Hope Coalition members meeting**
Collective Hope Coalition, working with more than 40 community organizations to end the hopelessness that leads to suicide in the LGBTQ community, members meeting from 11-11:45 p.m. to discuss eating disorders and body image. Visit m.me/DallasHopeCharities for details or to become a member.



The 25th annual Fairway to Equality golf tournament, benefitting the DFW Human Rights Campaign, tees off at 11 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Indian Creek Golf Club, 1650 W. Frankford Road in Carrollton. But the weekend fun begins Friday night, Sept. 30, with the Fairway to Equality Calcutta, where you have a chance to bid on auction items, teams and more. The Calcutta is 6:30-10:30 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. For more information and entry fees, check out the Fairway to Equality Calcutta event page and the Fairway to Equality event page on Facebook.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

■ **Sept. 29-Oct. 1: Matteo Lane**
Queer comedian headlines the Addison Improv with five performances in three days. 4989 Beltline Road. MatteoLaneComedy.com.

■ **Sept. 30-Oct. 29: Screams**
Halloween theme park with five haunted houses, a haunted cemetery, live entertainment and more is open Friday and Saturday through October at 2511 FM 66, Waxahachie. \$42. ScreamsPark.com.

■ **Sept. 29-Nov. 30: Autumn Equinox**
A late-night adult circus scene and immersive theater experience filled with feats of danger and debauchery opens at 9 p.m. Previews begin on Sept. 20. The Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road.

■ **Sept. 30: Texas Trans Pride**
Prism Health North Texas, Artitude and Transgender Pride of Dallas celebrate the trans community of North Texas with resource information, STI and HIV testing, gender affirming items and performances by entertainers of trans experience from around Texas and featuring Kerri Colby of RuPaul's Drag Race. S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Doors open at 6 p.m., show at 7 p.m.

■ **Sept. 30: Randy Rainbow**
Emmy nominee Randy Rainbow's *The Pink Glasses Tour* comes to Texas Trust CU Theatre. Tickets at AXS.com.

■ **Sept. 30-Oct. 2: Queer History South**
QHS conference brings together archivists, historians, librarians, educators, students and community members invested in preserving and researching Southern LGBTQ history to talk best practices, network, and have a great time celebrating the rich and diverse histories of LGBTQ people in the US South. Dallas and Denton. InvisibleHistory.org/qhs.

■ **Sept. 30-Oct. 1: Fairway to Equality**
Calcutta, caddy and team auction on Friday at 6:30 p.m. at Sue Ellen's, 3014 Throckmorton St. Golf tournament on Saturday at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at Indian Creek Golf Club, 1650 W. Frankford Road, Carrollton. \$125 individual, \$500 foursome. RSVP at HRC.im/fte.

■ **Sept. 30: Business and Community Excellence Awards luncheon**
The North Texas LGBT Chamber presents business excellence awards. In addition, Reps. Julie Johnson and Jessica Gonzalez will be recognized. The luncheon takes place at the Warwick Merose Hotel, 3015 Oak Lawn Ave. Tickets at LGBTQChamber.net/BACE22.

■ **Sept. 30-Oct. 1: TITUS/DANCE UNBOUND**
The Gibney Company makes its Texas debut with TITUS/DANCE UNBOUND. The company is led by out choreographer Gina Gibney who also founded the company. The performance opens the T/DU season at Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. TITAS.org.

■ **Sept. 30-Oct. 2: Magnolia at the Modern: Loving Highsmith**
The film looks at the life of the lesbian author Patricia Highsmith, based on her diaries and notebooks and the intimate reflections of her lovers, friends, and family. Focusing on the Fort Worth-born Highsmith's quest for love and her troubled identity. The Modern, 3200 Darnell St., Fort Worth. TheModern.org.

■ **Sept. 30-Oct. 16: The Cake**
A baker has to make the tough decision of making a wedding cake for a same-sex ceremony – when the person getting married is someone close to her. Theatre Arlington, 305 W. Main St. TheatreArlington.org.

OCTOBER

■ **Oct. 1: Glow Party featuring Nina Flowers**
Nina Flowers returns to S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road, for the Glow Party, from 9 p.m.-4 a.m., for 21 and up. Early bird tickets are \$15, online at TicketFairy.com, \$20 general admission and \$25 general admission at the door.

■ **Oct. 2: Mary J. Blige**
The queen of hip-hop soul performs at Dickey's Arena, Fort Worth.

■ **Oct. 2: Vampire Court of Dallas**
Public meeting to answer questions, build public support and update members on current goings on from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Union Coffee, 3705 Cedar Springs Road.

GAY AGENDA



DRAG YOUR BUTT TO THE BALLOT BOX ...
Ever heard the expression "Vote like your life depends on it"? That has never been more true than it is right now. The upcoming midterms could set the course to take our state and our country forward into a brighter future, or they could set us on a crash course back into the bad old days. The Nuns of Texas Abbey of the Third Coming hope to press that point home with their Drag the Vote Show and Auction Saturday, Sept. 24, at Urban Cowboy Saloon, 2620 E. Lancaster in Fort Worth from 11 p.m.-2 a.m. Come on out to get registered, or if you are already registered, give the Nuns your pledge you will vote.



GO BLUE FOR A GOOD CAUSE
The DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence present The Blue Ball, hosted by Sapphire Tailor and benefitting AIDS Outreach Center, start at 9 p.m. at Club Reflection, 604 S. Jennings Ave. in Fort Worth. So break out your finest blue, get all dolled up and head on over to help AOC keep providing essentials services to the HIV/AIDS community in Tarrant County.



AND THE CROWN GOES TO ...
The Summer of LifeWalk wraps up with the Miss LifeWalk Pageant Sunday, Sept. 25, from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room inside S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Get your advance tickets online at LifeWalk.org. All proceeds benefit Prism Health North Texas and its LifeWalk partner organizations, all of whom serve the HIV/AIDS community.

■ **Oct. 4-5: Yom Kippur**
Holiday begins and ends at sunset.

■ **Oct. 4: 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.

■ **Oct. 4: Let's Do Dinner**
Coalition for Aging LGBT's dinner, the first Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. at El Fenix, 6391 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth. cfa.lgbt/

■ **Oct. 8: Pride Frisco Inaugural Block Party**
Family-friendly, food trucks, entertainment, vendors, face painting, games at Pride Frisco's inaugural Block Party from noon-4 p.m. at Grace Avenue UMC, 3521 Main St., Frisco.

Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at nash@dallasvoice.com by Monday at 5 p.m. for that week's issue. More listings online at DallasVoice.com



Cassie Nova

ASK A DRAG QUEEN

Read the fine print and wear comfy shoes

Hey y'all, hey! Last week, the husband and I went to the Twenty-One Pilots concert. They are one of my absolute favorite bands. It's kinda funny that I rarely listen to female bands or artists anymore unless I am trying to learn new music. I love and adore so many female singers, but no matter who it is, it feels like work. It's stupid, I know.

So, when I am in the car or relaxing, I tend to listen to alt-rock bands and male singers. That is why I am obsessed with Twenty-One Pilots, Manchester Orchestra, Caamp, Matt Maeson, Awol Nation, The Killers, Maneskin, Silversun Pickups and Glass Animals. There are a few girls I still listen to — like Alice Merton and Holly Humberstone.

My musical tastes have changed so much in the past 10 years. Oh, don't worry, I still love me some gay-ass music like the other gays. It's in our DNA.

I bought the tickets to the Twenty-One Pilots concert months ago. The day they went on sale — actually, it was the day before they went on sale. I got an alert

from a Twenty-One Pilots fan page saying I could use a promo code to get the tickets early, so I clicked, found seats I wanted — they were about \$150 each — and then bought them. I was so excited!

Then when I went to check my Ticketmaster app, they were not on there. I went back to the emails and receipt and realized that I used a third-party ticket buyer. My dumb ass was so anxious that I wouldn't get tickets that I was not paying attention. It said to give it a few days, and they would show up on the app. And a few days later they did!

I was so relieved! So I put the date of the concert on my calendar app and didn't really think about it again.

Then, concert time rolls around. We got ready for the concert and were feeling good. We get to the American Airlines Center, and I pull up the app; they scan it, and we go inside. That's when I finally look to see where our seats are, and my blood immediately starts to boil.

I chose and paid for tickets in section 210 — not the best seats but decent. But the app said our seats were in section 324 — in the fucking nosebleed seats, on the absolute last row, against the back wall.

I was trying not to lose my shit as we

hiked up the Mt. Everest of steep stairs. We probably looked like Batman and Robin from the old TV show scaling up the wall. Keep in mind, we are older than most of the people there — lots of tweens, teens and young hooded guys vaping.

I felt old as fuck.

We get to the seats and sit down, then I look towards the stage and have complete vertigo. It felt like I was looking straight down. I was borderline having a panic attack. I thought, there is no way I can watch the concert from here. I tried to watch the opening act — a guy named Peter McPoland, who was actually really good — but when I stared at the stage for too long, my heart would race, and I felt like I was gonna fall a million feet over the crowd and splat near the stage.

I got on my phone and found the original emails and receipts from the third-party company and realized: I didn't read the fucking fine print!

It basically said that there was no guarantee that I would get the seats I wanted, but they would do their best to get me the best seats they could. Fucking bullshit! But I take full responsibility for being so stupid as to not check to make sure I was dealing with the right company.

Still, it feels very scammy. I should have double-checked so many things, but it is what it is. I'm an idiot sometimes, and I paid the price.

Then the concert started. The first beats of "It's a Good Day" played, and the crowd lost their mind, and everyone stood up. This is another example of me feeling old. I leaned over to Jamie and said, "We paid for SEATS; shouldn't we get to sit down?" He said, "Shut up Grampa!"

Honestly, once the two boys from Twenty-One Pilots came onstage, I forgot about how shitty our seats were. We stood there, singing along with everyone else in our nosebleed section.

We were just two 50-year-old, chubby gays living our best lives, not giving a fuck that we were the more "mature" fans. But that is the great thing about music: It brings people from all walks of life together. We may have not looked like the rest of the crowd, but we had a fabulous fucking time. Their show was

amazing.

I learned a couple of very valuable lessons that day: One, always read the fine print and double check everything; two, don't wear shoes just because you think they are cute. We stood for more than two hours and hiked up about a billion weirdly-spaced stairs. I shoulda wore my slip-on Sketchers or hiking boots, ya know — something with some Dr. Scholl's inserts . . .

Oh fuck! I am old! Goddammit!

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

XOXO, Cassie Nova

word search solution



this week's solution



browse

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

submit

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

SCENE ● LGBT Chamber new member showcase

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



SCENE ● Pride in Dallas

THE PARADE ON CEDAR SPRINGS





SCENE ● North Texas Pride

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



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SCENE ● Texas Latino Pride

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WORD SEARCH

WORKING GIRLS
Trixie & Katya's
Guide to Professional Womanhood

Diversions Word Search - Trixie Mattel
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 Trixie!

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



Trixie/Mattel Brian/Michael/Firkus (Born in) Milwaukee (WI) Singer/Songwriter Internet/(&) TV Star Drag/Queen/(&) Comic	RuPaul's/(Drag) Race (7th) Season/(&) All-Stars (w/) Katya/Zamolodchikova World of/Wonder/Series UNHhhh Netflix:/I Like To/Watch	Books:/Guide to Modern/Womanhood (2020) Working/Girls (2022) (Trixie) Motel/(on) Discovery Podcast:/The Bald (and the) Beautiful	Albums: Two Birds (2017) One Stone (2018) Barbara (2020) Full/Coverage (2021) Blonde (&)/Pink (2022)
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Solution on Page 28

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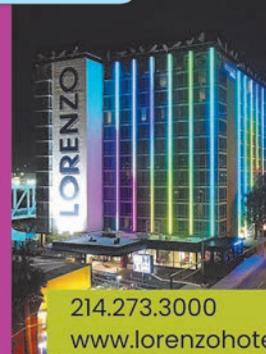


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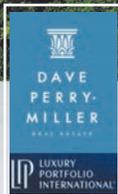
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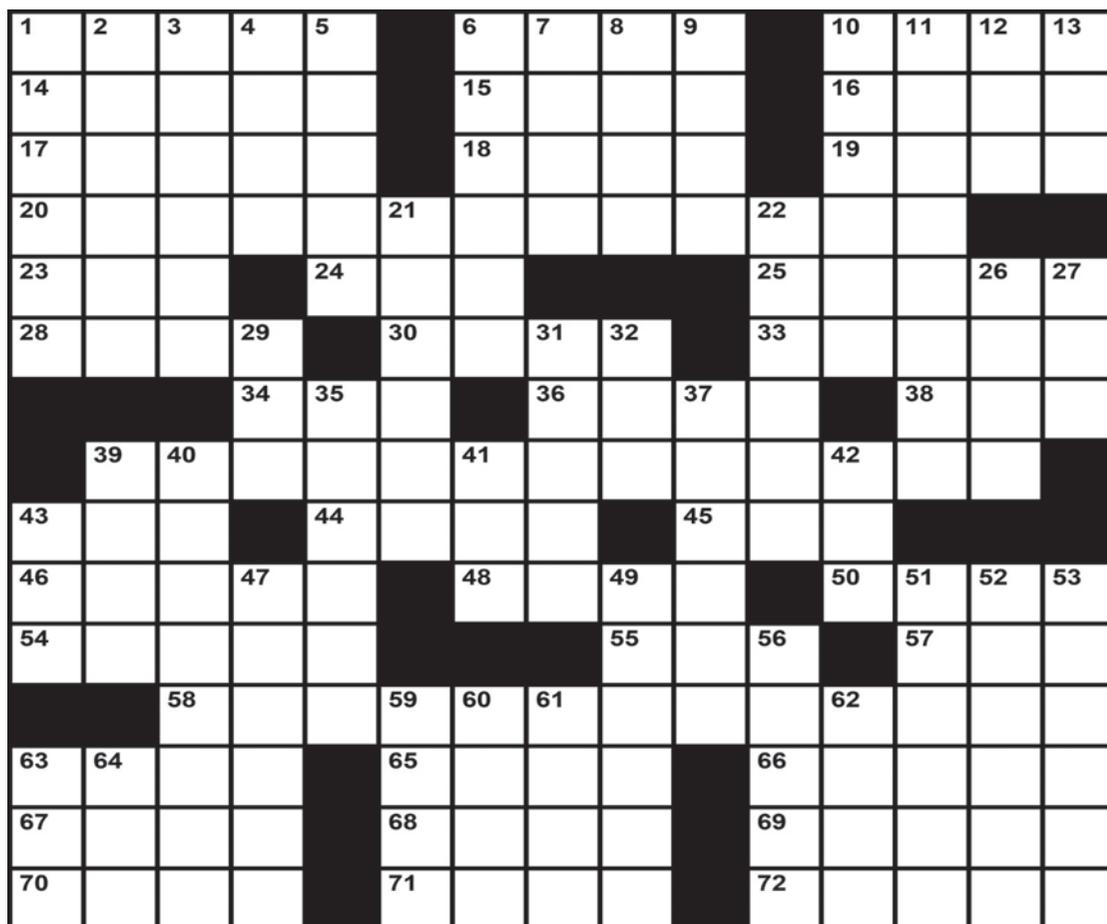
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PUZZLE |

Sulu Before an Election



Solution on Page 28

Across

- 1 Bette, who feuded with Joan
6 Highsmith title condiment
10 Cops under Hoover
14 Beethoven's "F_r ____"
15 *East of Eden* director Kazan
16 Actor Auberjonois
17 Insertion indicator
18 Tear apart
19 Synonym for Gomer's "Shazam!"
20 With 39-Across, the start of a saying by Sulu's portrayer
23 Whoop-de-____
24 Born, to Bonheur
25 Decorative work
28 Canadian oil company
30 Small swallows at Hung Jury
33 Greek triangle
34 Crime lab stuff
36 Barrie's getting on in years
38 Prepare to shoot off
39 See 20-Across
43 Solidly behind
44 He wore Superman's clothes
45 Corporate VIP
46 *Monster* star Christina
48 Taylor of *I Shot Andy Warhol*
50 Cherry variety

54 Annoy during a blow job?

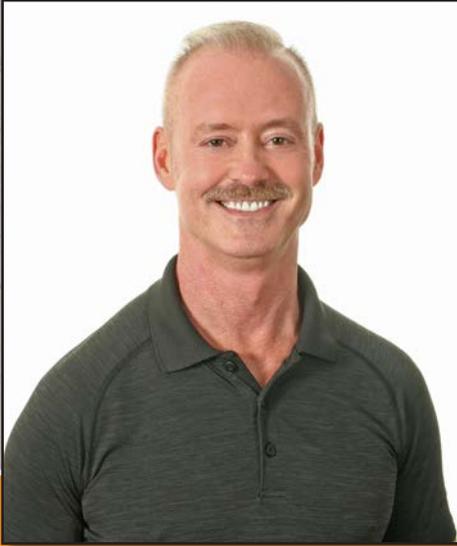
- 55 QB's misfire
57 Yokohama drama
58 With 68-Across, the continuation of the saying
63 Mostel of *The Producers*
65 Soon, to Shakespeare
66 City Porter loved in song
67 Closely confined
68 See 58-Across
69 Ready for action, for guys
70 Program with Chris Colfer
71 Auction web site
72 Boneheads

Down

- 1 Choose a singer on *American Idol*. e.g.
2 Los ____, of A-bomb fame
3 Chaste people born after Leos?
4 *Frasier's* response to a client
5 ____ Hall University
6 Filmmaker Eisenstein
7 Toward shelter
8 Navel fetish accessory?
9 "Here it is!"
10 *The German Officer's Boy* writer Harlan
11 It's a long story, in slang
12 Bambi character that

wasn't horny?

- 13 Beatty of *Roseanne*
21 Put a new label on
22 Kind of car for tots
26 "Take a crack ____"
27 Orange veggie
29 Ann Bannion's __ *Girl Out*
31 Mapplethorpe subject Smith
32 California's Big ____
35 La Femme of espionage
37 Shoestrings
39 Opera queen's delight
40 Pensive piano piece by Barber, perhaps
41 Show with C. Kattan
42 Sailor, slangily
43 Start of mature ejaculation
47 *Tru* story subject
49 Laura of *Tales of the City*
51 Accustoms
52 Become aware of
53 Hamlet's father, and more
56 Aggressive sort
59 Bargain sign at Barneys
60 Attachment often found on drawers
61 I of Lesbos
62 They move your dinghy
63 Census goal helped by gay sex (abbr.)
64 Sushi selection



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