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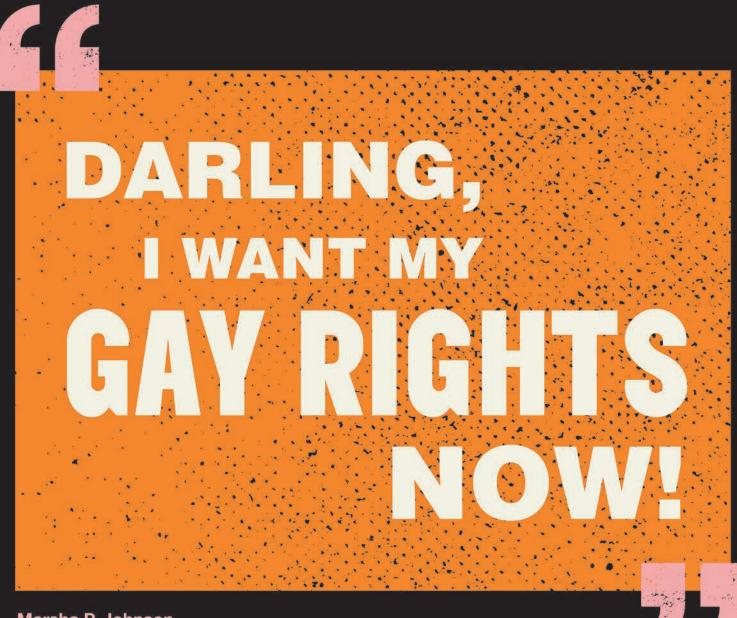
TQ Texas

GIRT GUIDE Dage 13

Toasting Resource Center

North Texas native Michael Urie will host the annual Toast to Life to help celebrate Resource Center's 40th anniversary

By Tammye Nash, page 8



Marsha P. Johnson American gay liberation activist

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WHAT'S THE TEA: DallasVoice.com



Hey Jude: A protester frustrated outside Resource Center

After Sunday morning service at neighboring Cathedral of Hope on Feb. 5, a couple of protesters appeared outside Resource Center carrying a sign that read, "Homo-sex is a threat to national security Jude 1:7."

According to an account posted by Tim Seelig, who attended Sunday's Cathedral of Hope service, when Cathedral orchestra tuba player and Turtle Creek Chorale member Jamie Rawson left the church and saw the protester, "Jamie did what he does – sat down and played his tuba. Loudly."

"Today, however, I felt disinclined to simply allow this fervid fanatic to harangue my fellow church-goers without making some sort of response, so I took my tuba out of its case, walked to a spot directly across from where the haranguer and his buddy were blaring their vitriol, and I simply proceeded to play loudly," Rawson said. The tuba playing was so loud, the protester complained he couldn't be heard despite his bullhorn.

Rawson got in the last blast.

"Once the parking lot had cleared out, I took my horn back to my car, packed it up and headed out," he wrote.

- David Taffet

LGBT Caucus members

become committee vice chairs Members of the Texas Legislature's LGBT

Caucus have been given leadership positions. Caucus founder Mary Gonzalez is vice chair

of the Appropriations Committee. Rep. Julie Johnson has been named vice

chair of the Judiciary and Civil Jurisprudence Committee.

Rep. Ann Johnson of Houston will be vice chair of two committees — General Investigating and Insurance.

-David Taffet

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Lucky's Chicken opens in Oak Lawn

Lucky's Chicken has opened its third location, this one in Oak Lawn. The restaurant opened on Tuesday, Feb. 7, in the former Einstein Bros Bagels location on Lemmon Ave. This is the restaurant chain's first of two openings this year.

Retro in its look, the diner throws back with a decor of redand-white-checkered vinyl floors, oak-slat booths, a classic shiny aluminum countertop and vintage glass pendant fixtures adorned by replicas of vintage posters, neon signs and hand-painted murals. Rich Lopez

AP Inc. marks National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Dav

Abounding Prosperity Inc. partnered with Dallas Hope Charities, Dallas County Health & Human Services, The Concilio and Parkland Health Systems and ViiV to host a community block party in honor of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day. The event took place on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the HOPE Health Center, 1705 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. The block party featured cultural performers, educational speakers, health and fitness experts, food trucks and raffle prizes. – David Taffet

Adoptable / FONZI



Meet Fonzi, a really cool guy who can't snap his fingers but can deliver a charming twinkle from those puppy dog eyes. Fonzi is a 9-and-a-half-year-old mixed breed pooch who weighs 51 pounds. He is a calm dog, but get him out in the yard and you'll discover he

has a playful side as well. Fonzi is deaf, so he will need to be trained with non-verbal commands. But he's definitely worth the extra effort. Fonzi can be visited any day between noon and 6 p.m. at the Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center.

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 to the public seven days a week, noon-6 p.m. Appointments are required for foster animals and animal housed in the Russell E. Dealey Animal Rescue Center. 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.

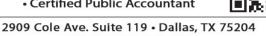
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VOICES OPINIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY Let's talk about some real evil

Right-wing hysteria over 'Unholy' Grammy performance rings hollow

S o. Gay man Sam Smith and transgender woman Kim Petras won the 2023 Grammy for Best Pop Duo this past week for their song "Unholy." Their win made history because Kim is the first trans person to win a Grammy.

In addition to making history, the two made quite the entrance, as well. They showed up on the red carpet in matching outfits — matching, at least, in that they were both dressed head-to-toe in devil red — accompanied by an entourage of gorgeous gender-bending men and women who were all also dressed in that same devil red.

Sam and Kim also performed their winning song, wearing red and bathed in an "unholy" red light, Sam even wearing his red top hat with devil horns.

And y'all... The right-wingers have lost their minds.

Marjorie Taylor Greene, that bastion of true Christian values, tweeted: "The Grammy's featured Sam Smith's demonic performance and was sponsored by Pfizer. And the Satanic Church now has an abortion clinic in NM that requires its patients to perform a satanic ritual before services. American Christians need to get to work."

Donald Trump Jr. decried the "demonic performance," claiming that Hollywood and the entertainment industry are into Satanic rituals.

And then there was Ted Cruz's take: "This...is...evil".

That last one — good ol' Ted's tweet was the one that, for me, really summed up the hypocrisy and the, yes, real evil of the Marjories and the Don Jrs and the Teds, and so on.

Some performers get up on stage wearing red clothes and a top hat with horns and sing a song about a man cheating on his wife and his mistress using him as a sugar daddy — and that is what they call "evil" and "demonic" and a "threat to Christianity."

And that is proof of why these three





Tammye Nash From Where I Stand

Sam Smith, Kim Petras and their entourage at The Grammy Awards

and those like them are the real threat to our country, our young people and even to Christianity. Songs about infidelity and singers and dancers playing dress up are NOT evil. Hell, I don't even think cheating on your spouse (Marge and Don Jr.) or using drugs (Don Jr.?) is necessarily evil. Not really OK on the whole list of Christian dos and don'ts, maybe, but not evil.

Hopping on a plane to head to sunny Cancun while leaving the rest of Texas and even your dog to suffer through the worst winter storm in decades — well, while that's not demonic, per se, it is a little closer to what I would call "evil."

But you want to know what is true evil in my book? It is pretty evil to get on social media and make fun of an 82-yearold man who was attacked and beaten with a hammer by some lunatic spurred on by hateful right-wing rhetoric and to spread hurtful lies about the facts of that attack.

It is evil to target transgender children and deny them access to life-saving healthcare and to threaten their loving families with criminal prosecution because either you think you have the right to impose your twisted religious beliefs on the rest of us or you are a politician pandering to people with twisted religious beliefs.

It is evil to tell women they have no right to control their own bodies and make their own medical and reproductive decisions.

It is evil to insist that it is your God-given right to own any and every gun ever made because "Freedom!" or to be a politician kissing the gun-lobby's ass to keep getting their money while blocking reasonable gun laws allowing people to continue dying needlessly in gun violence.

According to the Gun Violence Archives (GunViolenceArchive.org), in just the first 38 days of 2023, 4,534 people have died through gun violence. There have been 25 children under age 11 and 158 children ages 12-17 among those 4,534 dead. Another 419 children ages 0-17 have been injured. In just the first 38 days of this year, there have been six mass murders claiming 42 lives.

IN JUST THE FIRST 38 DAYS!

In 2022, the year of the Uvalde elementary school shooting, 44,305 people were killed in gun violence. There were 1,676 children ages 0-17 killed by guns in 2022, and there were 36 mass murders.

And yet, people like Marjorie Taylor Greene and Ted Cruz and Donald Trump Jr. and all the others like them deliberately stand in the way of fair and common sense laws that could help bring those numbers down because they care about money and power far more than they care about people.

That is evil. True evil.

And as far as I am concerned, these hypocrites can shove their hysteria over Sam Smith's horned top hat and red leather pants right up their hypocritical, lying asses.

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



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A toast to the team for Toast

FUNDRAISING

Buss, McMurray, Ferrell join forces for a fresh, new Toast to Life — including special guest emcee Michael Urie

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor nash@dallasvoice.com

are the 'be,'" Deborah Mc-Murray said of herself and her Toast to Life co-

chair, Michael Buss. "And you," she continued, turning to Joel Ferrell, "are the 'dazzle.""

And "bedazzle" is exactly what the trio has done for Resource Center's 2023 Toast To Life event happening Saturday, April 1, at The Empire Room in the Design District.

Not only is this the 25th annual Toast to Life, this year the event kicks off Resource Center's year-long 40th anniversary celebration. This is a big event in a big year.

Buss is in his second year as cochair, but he has been a part of Toast to Life since joining the committee in 2018, and part of Resource Center since he started volunteering there years earlier.

"Every Wednesday after work, I'd come over here and sit behind that desk out there and answer the phones," Buss recalled. "I liked knowing that I was doing something to help, and it was a great way to get involved in the community and know what was going. Buss said that he realized that if he didn't show up one day, the center's work would go on without him. He also realized that he wanted to do more, to be more involved. "A friend suggested I join the Toast to Life committee, and so I did. It was just such a fun group to work with, to learn from," Buss said, "They taught me everything I know about this world."

When he had the chance to join the

Toast to Life committee, he felt it would be a perfect fit.

"Toast to Life is a fundraiser, and I know I have the ability to raise money, to get people involved and bring in new faces," he said, adding with a grin, "I am comfortable asking people for money. I work in management for Rockefeller Capital Management, so I am asking people for money every day. Talking about money is very comfortable for me."

While this is McMurray's first year as a Toast to Life cochair, her affiliation with Resource Center goes back even further that Buss'. She started volunteering with Resource Center around 2000. "That's when I discovered how embracing and how loving and how brilliant and energetic the LGBTQ community is. I became so wrapped up and involved in the community that it just became so natural to speak as if I am part of the community."

Buss interjects: "She is part of the community' we've adopted her!"

McMurray and Buss became acquainted when they were both on Resource Center's Senior Housing Capital Campaign Committee. But when Buss stepped in to cochair Toast to Life in 2021 - the alternating two-year cochair terms were messed up by the pandemic — Mc-Murray had to decline because she had already agreed to cochair The Arts Commu-

nity Alli-

ance's Sil-

ver Cup

Luncheon

for 2022.

"But I was so glad he asked me again this year," McMurray said. "It's like Michael and I were born of the same mother; we had such an instantaneous connection and affection for each other. I admire him so much as a young professional — everything he brings to the table."

Where Buss' talent lies in bringing in money, McMurray — founder and CEO of the strategy- brand-building firm Content Pilot — brings her own special talents to the job of cochair.

"I can always get a fresh look," Mc-Murray said. "Any event, any document, any website — I can take it, look at it and say OK, this is how we can flip it on its head and make it new." McMurray said. And when she did that with Toast to Life, determined to give the beloved event new life on its 25th and Resource Center's 40th birthday, she knew just who to turn to — Joel Ferrell, the longtime associate artistic director of Dallas Theater Center.

> For Ferrell, the opportunity to help with Toast to Life was too good to pass up.

> "I'm 64 now. For my entire adult life, Resource Center has existed. I was in my 20s when it started, and I have loved this organization from a distance, revered it and wished I had money to give to it," Ferrell said. "When they asked me to help, I said Good! Now I can do

something to help." For Buss and

McMurray, the best thing about Toast to Life is that, with lower ticket prices compared to other fundraisers, it is an event for everyone. Their job —

the one they are sharing with

Ferrell this year — is to put some "new juice" into the event.

The idea, Ferrell said, is to make Toast to Life look expensive while still keeping it affordable for all. And his first idea was to bring in a special host for a special year, so he reached out to a friend, Plano native and popular actor Michael Urie, as special guest emcee for the evening. Urie was featured on the 2019 issue of OUT North Texas and will be back in North Texas this spring directing the world premiere of the play *Silver Foxes* for Uptown Players.

This year's Toast to Life will include many of the event's traditional elements. There will be music from DJ Blake Ward, plenty of fabulous food and beverages, live and silent auctions and the presentation of the LGBTQ Community Excellence Award recipient to Dr. Ximena Lopez. And it will all be wrapped around this year's "80s Icons" theme, specially chosen to honor the year of Resource Center's founding.

"Michael Urie is such an unbelievably warm and charming person, and funny as hell," Ferrell said. "But we have other surprise entertainment lined up and spread throughout the evening, with '80s entertainment from folks around this area.

"That sense of whacked out freedom we had in the '80s, that's what we want," Ferrell continued. "It's that sense of free abandon you have when the dance floor is pumping with that music we still love and listen to. It will be all of that and whew! Baby, that host!"

At the root of all of it, though, is the cause: raising money to support the programs of Resource Center. The 2022 Toast to Life brought in the highest total so far, but Buss and McMurray and their team are determined to eclipse that.

"Last year was the best Toast yet. We raised \$261,000," Buss said. "That's impressive when tickets are so affordable. But for the center's 40th year, we've set a goal of \$400,000. That's a lot, but we can do it. We will do it."

For details about the event, to purchase tickets or to become a sponsor, visit One.Bid-pal.net/ToastToLife2023/welcome.

Hitting the ground running

FUNDRAISING FUN

Black Tie Dinner is named a beneficiary in its earliest fundraising start

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer taffet@dallasvoice.com

lack Tie Dinner usually names other organizations as beneficiaries of its efforts. Now Dash for the Beads has turned the tables on the fundraising powerhouse by naming Black

Tie Dinner as one of its beneficiaries. Dash for the Beads began in 2010 as a fundraiser for Oak Cliff schools. The 5K run and a one-mile walk was founded by now-Dallas City Councilman Chad West and David Sassano and is staged in conjunction with other Mardi Gras events that take place in and around Bishop Arts. Proceeds from the Dash benefit healthy eating and exercise programs in Oak Cliff schools, and Black Tie senior Co-Chair Regina Lyn Pierce said she hopes her organization's participation will help raise even more money for the kids.

Dash for the Beads took a page out of Black Tie's playbook and turned things on its head. While being named a beneficiary, Black Tie will have to work for the money. Lyn said the best way to do that was by adding another event to the morning's roster of Dash events in Bishop Arts District on Sunday, Feb. 19. Participants can still register online for either the 5K run or one-mile walk for \$25. But this year, they can also sign up for the all new 50-yard Dash in Heels. The fee is only \$20 and Black Tie receives a

portion of each registration fee.

Bring your own heels - minimum height two inches. Lyn suggests checking resale locations if you don't have any heels already. Out of the Closet or Genesis in Oak Lawn might be good sources for extra-large drag queen pumps.

Prizes will be awarded in three categories; crossing the finish line first isn't one of them. Instead, awards go to highest heel, best-dressed individual and bestdressed group. Great themes are encouraged for groups.

Prizes include a \$500 voucher for care at Elevation Spine and Sports, \$100 gift cards to Dakota's and Sloane's Corner and foot massage gift certificates from Pure Spa and Salon.

Lyn notes that Black Tie only benefits from Dash in Heels registrations, but people can participate in more than one race. Dash in Heels follows the comple-HITTING, Page 12



Dash for the Beads was founded in 2010 as a fundraiser for Oak Cliff schools



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Dallas got talent

ON STAGE

Filled with local talent, 'The Queer Off' season six is up and running

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer rich@dallasvoice.com

his past Wednesday, Kylee O'Hara Fatale stepped back into her hosting duties at Sue Ellen's to launch of season six of her talent show, *The Queer Off.* With

16 contestants this season, the elimination-style show features locals displaying an array of talents.

In short, sure — there's drag here. But this ain't no *Drag Race*.

"Sure, there are *Drag Race*-style challenges, but this is like no other show ever," Fatale (nee Timothy Sherwood) said by phone before the season premiere. "The key word here is 'queer,' and we feature the best up-and-coming talent of queer artists."

The show continues at Sue Ellen's for a total of 12 weeks from last Wednesday.

The contest has featured drag kings and queens, dancers, singers and more of all genders and orientations practicing queer arts, as Fatale describes it.

But she also wants to establish a space that's out of the box as well. As a performer — and the current Miss Gay Texas America — drag is a big part of Fatale's career. And since she is host of *The Queer Off*, as well as its producer and owner, drag is a big part of *The Queer Off* and among its contestants.

But Fatale sees drag as something beyond the usual glitz and glam. And she wants to feature all degrees of drag in the show.

"This show establishes an originality away from most drag," she said. "I don't want *The Queer Off* to perpetuate any stereotype of drag. What makes this show so unique is that we go away from any drag that is 'supposed to be this' and showcase entertainers in new lights. It's actually amazing," she said.



Past Queer Off winners, from left, Fauxbia, Porter Bella Graves, Trisha Delish, Queer Off founder and host Kylee O'Hara Fatale, Kendrix Kyle and Salem Moon at Dallas Pride (Photo courtesy Fatale)

Most people may define drag as a cisgender man dressed as a woman. In this show, Fatale has featured trans men in drag, cis women in drag and even had some straight entertainers dress it up. When Fatale first started, she felt her drag wasn't perceived well and that she got pushback from older queens who would tell her how it "should be done." That left an impression on Fatale — one that would echo in *The Queer Off.*

"That pushed me away from the main drag scene. I was doing this differently than other queens. As I matured and even started doing pageant shows, I didn't want anyone to feel what I felt," she said. "I did this to create a platform where entertainers can be their authentic selves. If I had that same opportunity, I'd have had a different outlook then."

After prospective contestants go through the application process and are selected, the final cast is whittled down to a dozen to 16 who will compete in weekly challenges before the panel of judges. That panel includes Rocky Tacoma, Jenna Skyy and Barbie Davenport along with the occasional guest judge.

Although the contestants represent a range of talents, the tasks each week work to help each performer be more well-rounded one. Plus, the challenges vary so that contestants can all play to their strengths.

For Fatale, this is how the competition can be balanced.

"Every challenge is set up to test various abilities of performing — from public speaking to comedy, some fashion. There are dance and singing challenges. It can be an equal playing field, no matter what," she said.

Of course, the winner of *The Queer Off* gets a cash prize among other winnings, but Fatale is keeping this one a bit under wraps. Last season's winner took home \$5,000. This year — well, we'll see.

"I will say this year's prize is gonna

be a little juicier because we've had a good amount of backing on this show. I will say that one of the prizes is \$3,000 in facial services. I mean, I want that!" she exclaimed.

"Our goal is to be bigger and better every year."

Beyond the fabulous prizes, what Fatale is most proud of about *The Queer Off* is the experience it offers its contestants, which this season will reach 100 total through all its seasons. which even included an All-stars version.

"I am so proud of *The Queer Off*, but what I really love is seeing the growth and what happens to people after the experience," Fatale said. "I've seen them go on to book more shows and put their talents out there. I'm so glad that we have fans who have followed us and gotten wild about it and have stayed so dedicated to it."

Watch The Queer Off at 9 p.m. every Wednesday through May 24 at Sue Ellen's. Follow the show at @TheQueerOff.

Plano on the podium!

SPORTS

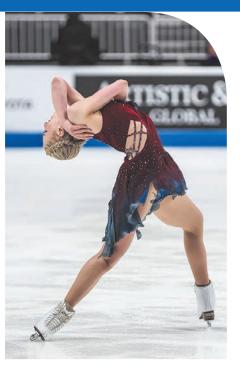
Out skater Amber Glenn nabs bronze at Nationals

COY COVINGTON | Contributing Writer Coyact@aol.com

ust two short weeks ago, on Jan. 27, Plano's own Amber Glenn wowed the crowd and wooed the judges at the 2023 U.S. National Figure Skating Championships in San Jose and skated away with the coveted bronze medal. This wasn't Glenn's first trip to the podium at Nationals: She won the U.S. Jr. title at 14

years old and captured the silver medal in a glorious performance in 2021.

But she couldn't help feeling a rush of vindication for medaling this year



Amber Glenn

after having been forced to withdraw from the 2022 championships because she tested positive for Covid 19. It is said that the theater is a cruel mistress, but the ice can be both cooler and crueler.

For the last several years, Glenn has been known for attempting — with mixed results — the most difficult triple jump in the Women's arsenal — the treacherous triple axel.

During the six minute warm-up group before the free skate on the final night of the Women's competition in San Jose, Glenn had a rough go of it attempting the triple axel again and again and failing. But when she returned to the ice to compete for the judges, there was a fight and a fire in her eyes that hadn't been there before, leaving many with little doubt that she was going for that axel.

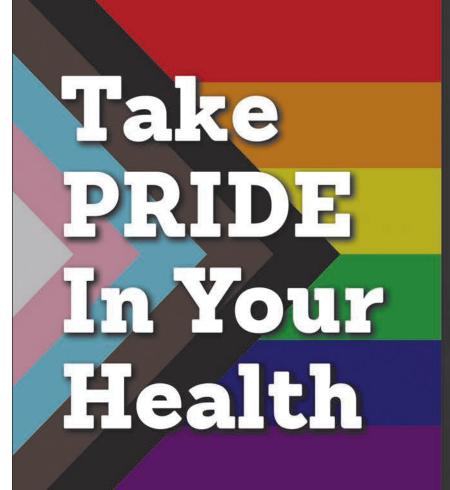
When it came time for the jump there was a would-she-or-wouldn't-she-gofor-it feeling in the audience. Of course she went for it. Although she fumbled the landing a bit, she had hit all 3.5 revolutions in the air (in about 1 second) which was critical to the score. As long as she hit those revolutions, she got the full score — minus a few style points — and, of course, got the bronze medal.

The fight that urged her to tackle that jump is ferocious. But she doesn't take herself too seriously, and she relies on her training.

"I have been nailing it in practice every day, almost so that I become a bit relaxed with it," she said. "I got out there that night and let my body do what it knows to do, and it was almost

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PLANO, Next Page



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too relaxed on the landing, causing the fumble."

But she got the points for those threeand-a-half revolutions, had a solid free skate after the opening wobble and qualified for the Four Continents Championships (being contested this week in Colorado Springs) and the World Championships happening March 22-26 in Saitama, Japan.

But there's a lot more to Glenn than ice and axels. In 2019 she came out to this reporter in this publication as bisexual/pansexual. Although neither of us expected it, the story went national and even international in the skating world.

When I caught up with Glenn last month at Nationals in San Jose we laughed about the response. "It was insane," she chuckled.

But was it good or bad insane?

"I mean, any big thing like that is going to have some good and some bad," she said. "I truly felt an overwhelming amount of support, but there are always going to be people who hate on you. I thought this was going to be my first baby steps, but it ended up, like, fully diving in, and I couldn't be more grateful.

"Skating after that for the first time, I truly felt fully comfortable and that I was finally able to be myself for the first time and not trying to pretend to be someone else," she added.

This past year has been one of major change for Glenn. She left her home town, left her home rink and said goodbye to long-time coaches and close friends to move to a new training base in Colorado Springs.

Leaving long time training mates and dear friends Ashley Cain and Timothy LeDuc (two-time U.S. champions) was especially difficult. "I miss them so much," she acknowledged. "After I knew they were going to retire (from competitive skating), I was really sad. I knew I wouldn't have them as training mates anymore, but I'd still have them as great friends. They are still going to be my forever skating parents. They are the ones who helped me find myself. I'll be forever grateful for that. "But they had a new journey to experience," Glenn continued, "and I wasn't quite ready to move on. So I decided to start my life as an adult. I was 22 going on 23, and I wanted to give skating my best shot. And the best shot I had was the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs as a resource. I can have physical therapy, and I can have all the people at U.S. Figure Skating Headquarters at my fingertips.

"It was a hard decision but one I know I'm glad I made."

Retirement? Hmph. If her body feels like she can still do it after this season, Glenn will do it. Decisions are something Amber Glenn sticks with. Since those early baby steps in 2019 coming out on the pages of the Dallas Voice, Glenn has become an LGBTQ role model for a generation of figure skaters and skating fans. At the 2021 Toyota U.S. Figure Skating Championships, she became the first out U.S. ladies' medalist.

The Four Continents Championships and World Championships *will be covered by the networks of NBC. Check local listings.* tion of the 5K run.

"We'd love to get a lot more people registered," Lyn said.

Black Tie also benefits in part from sponsorships it solicits in any of three levels — Stiletto for \$800, Heel at \$500 and the Kitten Heel for just \$200. She said they've already secured Ray Scott with State Farm as a presenting sponsor.

Lyn said Black Tie has partnered with businesses in the past, especially around Pride, and received a portion of sales or registrations. But this is the first time she remembers creating a new event to go along with an established event. In addition, this is the earliest in the year Black Tie has begun its fundraising efforts.

"We're hitting the ground running," she said. "We're hoping this becomes an annual event that will grow every year."

To register for Dash in Heels, visit RaceRoster.com/events/2023/64248/ dash-for-the-beads and use discount code BLACKTIE. For more information, visit DashForTheBeads.org. You can text to donate. Text BTD2023 to 243725.







LIKE WHAT YOU SEE? We've got more where these came from



ALWAYS FREE

Images (details): Arthur Dove (1880–1946), *The Lobster*, 1908, oil on canvas, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas, Acquisition in memory of Anne Burnett Tandy, Trustee, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, 1968–1980, 1980.29; Morton Lewis Wickes Hine (1874–1940), *Steamfitter*, 1921, gelatin silver print, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas, P1981.80.3; Stuart Davis (1892–1964), *Egg Beater No. 2*, 1928, oil on canvas, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas, 1996.9 AMON CARTER MUSEUM OF AMERICAN ART



Gifts to keep your sweetheart happy

10

VALENTINE'S DAY GIFT GUIDE

From jewelry to stickers to clothes to makeup, here are some ideas for Valentine's Day giving

JENNY BLOCK | Contributing Writer JennyEBlock@icloud.com



o. Let's talk Valentine's Day. I know; I know! It's a made-up holiday designed to compel us to spend money and has conflicting Christian, pagan and secular origin stories.

But despite its dubi-

ous roots, you have to admit: It's kind of sweet. A whole day devoted to love, whether that be romantic or platonic, is kind of nice, especially with everything not-so-nice going on in the world right now.

So, should you choose to celebrate and want to do some shopping to mark the day, here are eight gifting avenues to meander to find the perfect gift!

It might seem cliché, but you really can't go wrong with jewelry and candles when it comes to the day of love. The Kendra Scott Hudson Signet Ring (KendraScott.com/ Mens/Hudson-Signet-Ring-in-18k-Gold-Vermeil/196088025797) or the Jess Small Lock Chain Necklace (KendraScott.com/New/Shop-All-New-Arrivals/Jess-Small-Lock-Chain-Necklace/Jess-Small-Lock-Necklace) are both super sweet pieces that are equal parts classic and modern. And the Emma Israelsson mini dove necklace in gold (Emmalsraelsson.com/En/ Mini-Dove-Necklace-gold) is delicate and contemporary for someone who likes to make a statement without shouting from the rooftops.

And although there are a zillion candle options out there, there's something so intoxicating about the smell the minute you walk into a luxury hotel. That goes double for hotels in The Big Apple, which is why the **Conrad New York Downtown Signature Candle** (*TheCandleGarden.co/Candles/Conrad-New-York-Downtown-Signature-Candlemn4sa-xp6fgj55h-shx2d*) is so brilliant and so delicious with a blend of Bergamot and White Tea paired with violet, thyme, and amber.

These two ideas are just too much fun not to mention. First up, **Pipsticks** (*Pipsticks*. *com*). Those of us of a certain age will likely remember sticker collecting with an unrivaled



CONRAD NEW YORK DOWNTOWN

sense of glee. And now this company has captured exactly that feeling. They have one-offs, subscriptions and wildly fun collabs — like their most recent with, wait for it, Care Bears. Talk about '80s heaven!

Or, if pure joy of the musical variety is what you're after, then the gift to gift is multitasky's On The Go Mini Karaoke Machine (multitasky.com/ products/karaoke-kit). The minute someone lays eye on that tiny microphone, they won't be able to help themselves!

The Nobis Rae Ladies Aviator Jacket



You can give a gift that celebrates form and function with a treat from **Baggu** (*Baggu. com*). Their reusable, machine washable, ripstop nylon bags hold up to 50 pounds and fold into their own teeny pouches. And they come in every possible pattern from super modern to kitschy classics like Hello Kittv.

If you want something more on the chic side, you'll want to check out **Bandolier's super modern Billie** (Bandolierstyle.com/ products/Billie-Utility-Side-Slot-Bandolier-Black-gold) coolest leather iPhone case and wallet with a multi-pocketed, adjustable utility strap with gold details. Think Tomb Raider style for the MacGyver in your life. If you want to shop local and naughty, Alternatives (NewFineArtsAlternatives.com) has you covered with a zillion option from crops and chain collars from Kookie to harnesses by Dngeon to love rope from Nasstoys.

If you want to shop local and give the gift of fun, **Common Ground Games** (*BoardGames-Dallas.com*) has so many adventures you can gift — Winning the princess' heart in Love Letter: Princess Princess Ever After; following the journey of love from meeting to a possibly happily ever after in Fog of Love, or even adventuring in a magical land with a troupe of artisans exploring the Vale's beauty and honing your crafts in Artisans of Splendent Vale.

If the love on your list loves all things comics, **Zeus Comics** (*ZeusComics.com*) can help you to shop local and get your comic on with old favorites and new surprises as well.

For the shoe lovers in your life, how about giving in to the fave of a few Royals I won't mention with a chic pair of kicks from Vejas (Veja-Store.com) Or, if you want to stay in the Valentine's spirit, how about the sweetest pink moccasin/driver you ever saw that are as comfy as they are cute called the Felize (mgemi. com/products/the-felize-pink-lilac-naplak).

Looking for something a little more Texas? These Austin-based and -designed **Tecovas** (*Tecovas.com*) will melt any heart and come in all sorts of styles whether your love wears boots for style, for comfort, for function, or for any combination thereof!

If you're looking for a gift of the liquid variety, you can get a fabulous wine and support a member of our community with a vintage from **Remy Wines** like the 2020 Rosebud Vineyard Nebbiolo (*RemyWines.com*) from Eastern Washington with notes of chocolate powder, strawberry, orange and red apple, or the 2012 Ten-Year Beneficio Dessert Wine (*RemyWines. com*) also from Wahluke Slope AVA grapes which boasts orange, prune, dark chocolate, and holiday potpourri notes.

Ok, so the goods from **Cocktail Bomb Shop** (*CocktailBombShop.com*) aren't made of liquid, but all you have to do is add them to liquid and — viola! — you can make your love's favorite cocktails or mocktails in a snap. Equal parts delicious and chic **Yobo Soju Luxe** (*YobuSoju.com*) also makes a great gift for anyone who appreciates the finer things in a glass.

Let's talk cozy gifts. My favorite! **The Rae** Ladies Aviator Jacket from Nobis (US.Nobis. com/products/rae-ladies-aviator-jacket) is THE gift for keeping your special someone super cozy and spoiling them absolutely rotten. Wearing this jacket is like getting a smooshy hug from your favorite person.

GIFTS, Page 16

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Of course, cashmere is always a good idea too when it comes to gift giving and cozy making, which is why a knit cashmere hat (*BellemereNewYork.com/products/copy-of-cashmere-cable-beanie-runway*), scarf (*BellemereNewYork.com/products/copy-of-cable-ribbed-scarves*) and/or gloves (*Bellemere-NewYork.com/products/copy-of-touchscreencable-knit-cashmere-gloves-runway*) from **Bellemere** are all thoughtful gifts.

Or, if the apple of your eye prefers to stay inside and be cozy, the oversized, super soft **State Cashmere** fringe throw blanket (*StateCashmere.com/products/the-solidfringe-throw-blanket*) and the toasty-toe making **Marshmallow Warmies Boots** (Warmies.com/products/marshmallow-lavender-warmies-boots) would be the perfect pair of goodies to say, "I love you! Stay cozy!"

For lovers of all things beautifying, SweetNight Eye Tech Mask (SweetNight. com/products/eye-tech-mask) is a super thoughtful gift for the person who spends too much time staring at a screen. It

can be cooled or heated, and it gently massages tired and sore eyes after a long day of swiping!

Tanologist Extra Dark Self Tanning Mousse (Tanologist. com/product/extra-dark-self-tanmousse) is a great gift for anyone who wants to look sun kissed without risking their skin's health. Bonus: It dries super-fast and without that awful stickiness.

Caviar Jelly Makeup

Remover from Strip (Strip-Makeup.com/collections/ all/products/caviar-jelly) that gets skin clean and then hydrates it is a great gift for make-up wearers — and it smells so good!

If your giftee loves a good mani, a gift from **Gelly Drops** (*GellyDrops.com*) would be a fun fit. They offer semi-cured gel nail wraps. Think real polish but soft and stretchy, with all sorts of fun patterns and colors, especially for VDay. Or if traditional polish is more their cup of tea, Liberation Nails has the coolest colors for the season of love. Save 15% OFF with DTCVOICE

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photo by Jordan Fraker, featuring Tiffany Solano & Christopher Llewyn Ramirez







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PLAN YOUR WEEK - The Gay Agenda... Our LGBTQ community calendar!

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Stretch those muscles, find those knee pads and head over to Resource Center's Community Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road, for UBE Vogue Academy's "Ballroom 101" classes each Friday, from 8-10 p.m. See listings or UBEDallas.org for details. (Gero Breloer/Associated Press)

Red for community events

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

Every Wednesday: THRIVE

Resource Center's THRIVE Wednesday Support Group for LGBTQ adults 50 and older meets from 11 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at Resource Center Community Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road and is led by interns from the SMU counseling program. For more information on the support group and how to join, please send an email to THRIVE@ myresourcecenter.org.

FEBRUARY

■ Feb. 10: 'Drag Race' viewing party

Macarena and Pinche host a weekly viewing party for season 15 of *RuPaul's Drag Race* each Friday from 7-9 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Visit the Facebook event page for details.

Feb. 10: Ballroom 101

UBE Vogue Academy holds "Ballroom 101" classes each Friday, 8-10 p.m., at Resource Center's Community Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. Be sure to stretch and bring knee pads. Visit UBEDallas.org for information.

Feb. 11: Latin Dance Class

A Latin dance class for same-sex partners. No dress code, but wear clothes and shoes you can move in freely. Each ticket includes a one-hour lesson, hors d'oeuvres and appetizers and a champagne toast. The Rhythm Room Ballroom, 2714½ Greenville Ave. \$24 individual tickets. \$45 for two. Tickets at Eventbrite.com.

Feb. 11: Allen Americans Pride Night

Allen Americans ice hockey team plays the Fort Wayne Komets and holds Pride Night at Credit Union of Texas Event Center, Allen at 7:05 p.m.

Feb. 12: Rainbow Garden Club

Rainbow Garden Club's monthly meeting at 2 p.m. at Northaven Gardens, 7700 Northaven Road.

■ Through Feb. 12: 'Pretty Woman'

The musical version of the hit film comes to Bass Hall, 5225 Commerce St., Fort Worth. BassHall. com.

Through Feb. 12: LGBTQ candidate training

LGBT Victory Fund and Equality Texas brings LGBTQ Victory Institute Candidate and Campaign Training to Plano at Toyota Motors North America, 6565 Headquarters Drive, Plano. VictoryFund.org.

Feb. 12: Teddy Bear Auction

Join the Dallas Bears for the return of the annual Teddy Bear Auction. Drop off donated auction items by 2 p.m. Cocktails at 6 p.m. Auction at 7 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. CharitableEvents@dallasbears.org.

■ Feb. 13-14: LGBTQ Chambers of Commerce Day at the Capitol

Join the LGBTQ Chambers of Commerce for a day of advocacy at the capitol to make sure Texas stays open for all businesses. TexasLGBTQChambers. com/voice.

Feb. 14: Valentine's Day

FABNALBAP

Feb. 14: Empowerment Connection

Positive Voices is a group providing an opportunity for people to share personal experiences, feelings, and coping strategies to create support and build community at 3 p.m., 3939 S. Polk St., Suite 307. RSVP by sending a message to Empowerment Connection on Facebook or email Teddrick. Douglas@prismntx.org.

■ Feb. 16: Log Cabin Dallas

Log Cabin Republicans meets with happy hour at 6 p.m and a presentation at 7 p.m. at Mattito's, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave.

Feb. 18: Gaybingo Krewe

Gaybingo at 6 p.m. Play for a chance to win cash and prizes. Station 4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at myresourcecenter.org/gaybingo.

■ Through Feb. 18: 'Das Reingold'

Dallas Opera presents the story of gods and goddesses, giants and dwarves, betrayal, cheating, illicit love and murder. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. on Feb. 10, 12, 15 and 18. ATTPAC.org.

Feb. 18: Rusty Scruby

Gay artist Rusty Scruby's solo exhibition of new works opens with the artist in attendance from 5-8 p.m. Cris Worley Fine Arts, 1845 E. Levee St., Suite 110. Through March 25. CrisWorley.com.

Feb. 18-March 12: 'To Die:Go In Leaves'

Cara Mia Theatre devised this production inspired by Frida Kahlo's paintings and biography. Get tickets for the English or Spanish versions at CaraMiaTheatre.org.

Feb. 20: Presidents Day

■ Feb. 21: Classic Chassis

Classic Chassis Car Club monthly watering hole 5:30-8 p.m. at Liquid Zoo, 2506 Knight St.

Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday

■ Feb. 22: 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 a restaurant or coffee shop. For this month's location, contact Richard DeKnock at tastefullyrichard@gmail.com.

Feb. 22: Silver Pride Project

Coffee and conversation, 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Grauwyler Park Branch Library, 2146 Gilford St.

Feb. 23: Empowerment Connection outing

A day at the African American Museum, 3536 Grand Ave. at 1 p.m. RSVP to Teddrick.Douglas@prismntx.org

Feb. 24: Another Badu Birthday Bash

Erykah Badu's Another Badu Birthday Bash at 8:30 p.m. at The Factory in Deep Ellum, 2713 Canton St. Tickets at axs.com.

■ Feb. 24-26: Modern Masterpieces

Texas Ballet Theater presents pieces by Bela Bartok, Gustav Mahler and Philip Glass at the Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

Feb. 25: Eat Your Art Out

Arlington Museum of Art's biggest and most delicious fundraiser of the year helps the museum present world class exhibitions from 7-9 p.m. at Arlington Museum of Art, 201 W. Main St., Arlington. Info and tickets at ArlingtonMuseum.org.

> 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

The Allen Americans ice hockey team hosts Pride Night at Credit Union of Texas Event Center in Allen Friday night, Feb. 10. Game against the Fort Wayne Komets starts at 7:05 p.m.

Cassie Nova

ASK A DRAG QUEEN

Representation matters

Hello my lovelies. Did y'all enjoy the recent Icepocalypse? We, as Texans, can be so dramatic about a little bit of ice or snow, but that shit is dangerous! Most folks can barely drive in good conditions, so I stay the fuck away from the streets if there is even a chance of them being slick.

As a drag queen, if we don't work, then we don't make money. I remember, years ago, driving in the worst, most dangerous conditions to get to a show. Fuck safety! I got a show to do! Plus I get the worst FOMO if I don't make it to a show. What if it's packed? What if everyone makes thousands of dollars in tips? What if Henry Cavill comes to the show, and I'm not there?

Aaaahhhh!

Well, that was the old me. Now I am one of the lucky few that can take a night off and be okay. I mean, I still get FOMO all of the time, and if someone said there was a chance my Superman was gonna be there that night — well, my gay ass would put on a parka and hike to the club if I had to.

But mostly I am okay, if not thrilled, to stay home.

Last week during the bad weather, I went to the grocery store and stocked up and had no plans of coming out of my warm and cozy home until all of the ice was gone. And I didn't. And I fucking loved it.

My husband works for the post office, and, since the trucks couldn't get through, he had the days off, too. We napped, watched a bunch of random



then did it again the next day.

shit on TV,

ate

cooked

and

The only downside was our prissy dogs. They were not having it. They walked outside to potty and immediately turned their spoiled asses around and came back inside. We literally had to force them to go outside by carrying them out and putting them down in the yard where they would give a big ol' nope and run/slide back to the warmth of the living room.

Thank God for Ruggables.

By Thursday we were having a little cabin fever, so we went to the movies and saw *Knock at The Cabin*. It was a good movie based on a book by Paul Tremblay called *The Cabin at The End of The World*. The story is about a gay couple with a daughter on vacation in a cabin, way out in the woods. Four people show up with scary, homemade weapons and tell them they have to choose to sacrifice one of the three in their family or the world will end.

The movie stuck to the book very closely until the last couple of chapters. I don't want to ruin it for anyone, so that is all I will say about it.

What I will say is how nice it is to see so much gay representation in movies and on TV lately. I also love how crazy it is driving the right-wing nutjobs. Squirm bitches! Squirm!

This was our gay agenda all along: to be seen and normalized in books and film! Ahhh-haa-ha-ha!

It's so cool to see gay stories told in



such big formats without us being the butt of the joke for straight audiences. The third

episode of *The Last of Us* is exactly the kind of story I want to see more of. If you haven't watched the show, it is so much more than your run-of-the mill zombie survival drama. That episode was beautifully written and perfectly cast, and the acting was award-worthy. It had me in my feelings and I felt proud of it, like I had worked on it.

There is the most wonderful scene where the two lead characters, Frank and Bill, eat fresh strawberries for the first time in years, and this childlike giggle that Frank gave completely warmed my heart. You could watch that one episode by itself and enjoy it as its own thing, but it is a really great show. So check it out if you haven't yet.

Another incredibly-well-acted gay character was done by Brendan Fraser in *The Whale*. It is hard to watch at times but so worth it. I have not cried that hard in a movie since I don't know when. Like ugly crying.

Sure, Brenden Fraser is a straight actor playing a gay character, but that does not bother me at all. It is acting. I would love to see more gay actors on TV and film, but I don't care if they play straight or gay. I know some people are gonna be pissed about me saying that, but that is how I feel. I hope they give gay actors the same opportunities that everyone else has.

Truthfully, no matter what I say, some will always disagree. My point is, I love seeing gay stories and gay characters in mainstream media. It makes me feel included in a world with which I have always felt a disconnect.

Strangely enough, the latest book I am reading has a gay couple as the main story. The book is *Echo* by Thomas Olde Heuvelt. I only got it because I really loved his last book, *Hex*. I honestly had no idea what it was about. So, I was pleasantly surprised when I realized that the main characters were gay.

So far, I am only about a quarter of the way through, but their being gay was never an issue or even brought up as a surprise. They were introduced as a couple, and I don't think they have even said the word "gay" or "homosexual" so far.

Not gonna lie; the book is weird so

far: One of the guys is possessed by a mountain or the spirit of the mountain or something like that. I'm confused but still intrigued. I am waiting for them to have sex, and I want details, but that is just the pervy horndog in me.

I sit here trying to imagine how different my mindset would have been if I could have watched those movies and TV shows or read this book as a teenager. Representation matters, especially when it comes to the young and impressionable. We need more! You hear me Hollywood? Get on it!

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

Diversions Word Search - Karine Jean-Pierre O S T (A F F) A I R (S) U Z A N N E M W(H)(E)(L E C) T U R E R)(N) (L)(M) A D R A W R O F) E I H CA(T)(C A
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this week's solution



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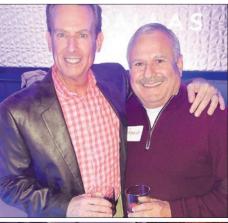






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PUZZLE | Paula on What She Does

Paula on

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