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The Premier Media Source for LGBTQ Texas

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He **voted** **HOW?**

Sen. Royce West's votes on drag restrictions show LGBTQ Texans can't take the support of even long-time allies for granted

By David Taffet, page 8



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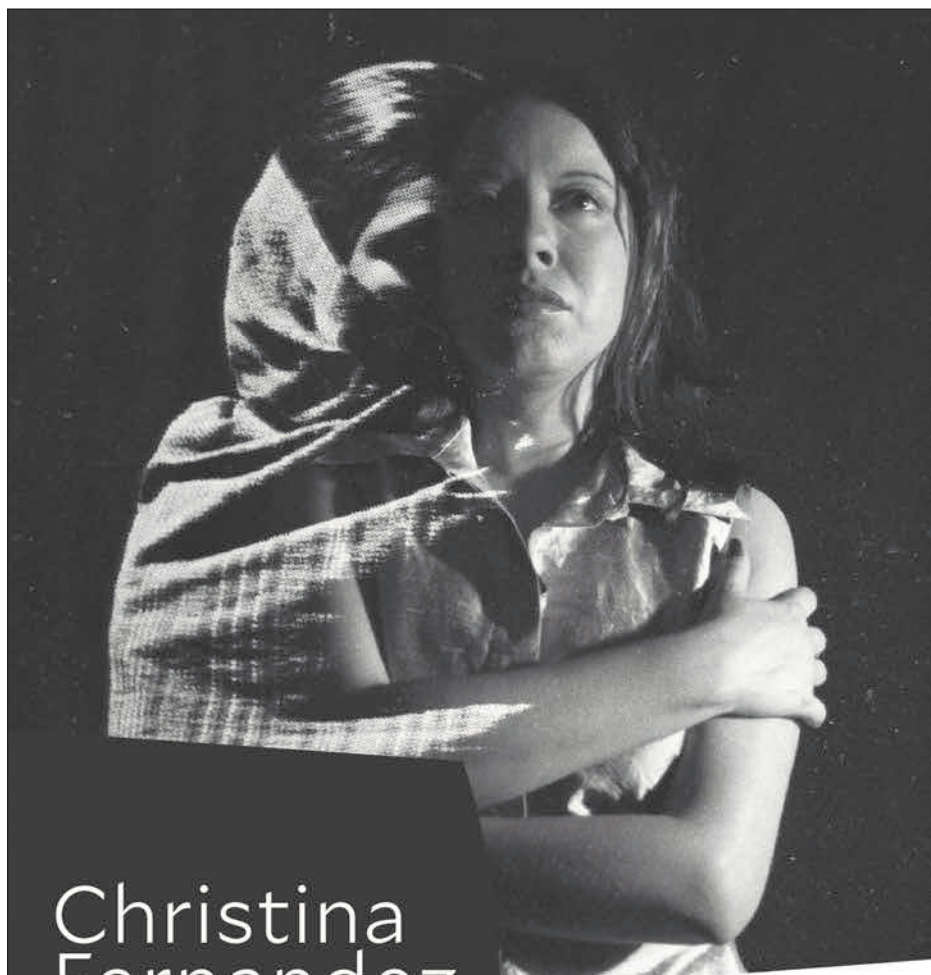


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Christina Fernandez

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Christina Fernandez (b. 1965), *Untitled Multiple Exposure #4 (Bravo)* (detail), 1999, archival pigment print, from the series *Untitled Multiple Exposures*, courtesy of the artist and Gallery Luisotti, Los Angeles, © Christina Fernandez

Christina Fernandez: Multiple Exposures is organized by UCR ARTS. The Carter's presentation is supported by the Alice L. Walton Foundation Temporary Exhibitions Endowment.



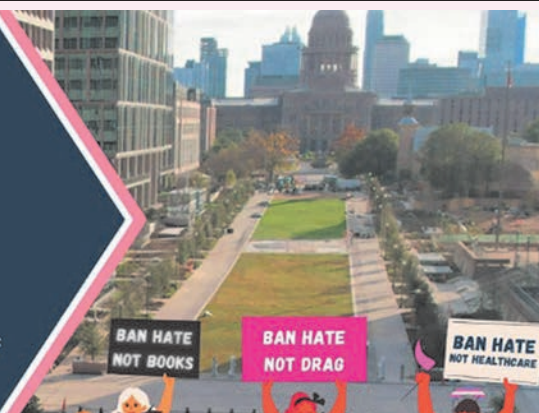
Bites from our blog

WHAT'S THE TEA: DallasVoice.com



Queer Capitol MARCH

Saturday, April 15
12:00pm
Assemble on the corner of
MLK and Congress Ave.



Queer Capitol March set for Saturday in Austin

Transgender Education Network of Texas, Equality Texas, Gordy Carmona and Sofia Sepulveda are calling on LGBTQ Texans and their allies to converge in Austin on Saturday, April 15, for the Queer Capitol March.

"The attacks on LGBTQ+ Texans at the Legislature are escalating, so we have to meet that escalation with action," organizers wrote in a post on social media.

The march starts at noon, and participants are asked to assemble for the march at the corner of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Congress Avenue (near the Bullock Museum).

The address is 1800 Congress Avenue.

Participants will then march down the Capitol Mall to the north side of the Capitol Building "where we will rally among community in opposition to the more than 140 anti-LGBTQ+ bills moving through the Legislature."

Organizers encourage those planning to participate to sign up to be captains and help recruit at least 20 others to participate.

— Tammye Nash

AP Inc. board appoints Tamara Stephney as acting CEO

Following the April 4 death of founder and CEO Kirk Myers-Hill, the board of directors of Abounding Prosperity Inc. has voted unani-

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Tamara Stephney

mously to appoint Tamara Stephney as the agency's acting CEO.

The board voted on the appointment in an emergency meeting held on the evening of Myers-Hill's death, and "the appoint-

ment went into immediate effect as part of the agency's succession plan," according to a press release.

Board Chair Michelle Myers said in a written statement, "Ms. Stephney has played a vital role in helping Mr. Myers-Hill grow the agency to what it is today. We, the board of directors, have no doubt that she is well suited to further advance the mission of Abounding Prosperity, Inc., and the legacy of Mr. Myers-Hill."

The press release announcing her appointment described Stephney as "a long-standing, committed and visible part" of the organization. She has been with AP, Inc. for 12 years and worked "side-by-side with Kirk Myers-Hill [as] chief operating officer for the past six years."

"I am truly honored and privileged to have

worked alongside Mr. Kirk Myers-Hill for the past 12 years," Stephney said in a written statement, adding, "The best way to honor his memory is to continue the work and carry his legacy forward. I will continue that work, the work to fulfill the mission of Abounding Prosperity, Inc. and the vision of Mr. Kirk Myers Hill."

— Tammye Nash

Apply to be a Dallas Pride beneficiary

LGBTQ community organizations are invited to apply to become Dallas Pride beneficiaries.

To qualify, an organization must use the majority of its funds for direct programs, services or activities that provide significant support to the North Texas LGBTQ community and have non-profit status. Dallas Pride then selects up to six organizations to receive proceeds from that year's Pride weekend.

If your organization would like to be considered for a 2023 Beneficiary, visit the Beneficiary Request for Proposal webpage at DallasPride.org.

Applications must be submitted by April 28, 2023. No applications will be accepted after that date. Organizations that have been selected will be contacted on or after May 12, 2023. Pride weekend is June 3-4.

— David Taffet

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Stand up for drag

Attacks on the drag community are attacks on everyone's freedom

I've never accidentally run into a drag queen. No drag queen has ever come for me, seeking to steal my rights or my autonomy. I have never been sexually assaulted by or threatened by or beaten up by or frightened by a drag queen.

Conservative bigots, on the other hand, are in my face day in and day out. Republicans are after my rights, my autonomy and my very existence. Straight white men and "religious" leaders have sexually assaulted, threatened and frightened me and every woman I know in one way or another.

So why is it drag needs to be obliterated or, at the very least, controlled?

The answer is simple. It doesn't. It's yet another distraction, another way to trick the masses into believing that the good guys are the bad guys and vice versa.

It's as genius as it is despicable. And it's working. The thing is, banning drag is just the tip of an enormous iceberg.

First, they came for the drag queens.

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a drag queen.

Then they came for the transgender men and women and children.

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a transgender man or woman or child.

Then they came for the young women.

And I did not speak out

Because I was not a young woman.

Then they came for me.

And there was no one left

To speak out for me.

It's a take on the poem, "First they came" by Martin Niemöller. I think about it a lot. If we don't stand together, for one another, we will be obliterated — one by one, group by group — by those who hate.

I don't do drag. I don't get to see drag



Jenny Block
Contributing Writer

as often as I'd like. And I can only count a few drag performers in my group of friends. So, why should I care about drag being banned?

Because it's not drag that's being banned; it's freedom. Period.

It's freedom of expression. Freedom to live and love however you choose. Freedom to dress how you like, worship (or not) how you like, entertain yourself and others as you like, eat how you like, care for yourself as you like.

It's about freedom, and freedom is a much more delicate structure than you might think. Once the chipping away begins, the collapse is not far behind.

We have to go to drag shows. We have to give money to drag organizations. We have to vote in EVERY election against the conservative hate.

We have to do all of those things, and then we have to do more. We have to weave freedom into everything we do. We have to make expressing ourselves a protected right.

I was recently inspired by the work my friend Jamon Deaver is doing on this front with the PR firm where he works, Cornett. They have initiated a campaign called "Work is a Drag" and added this to their employee handbook:

"How you choose to identify and express yourself is something we celebrate — it's what makes our workplace



Scarlet Envy helped Cornett launch a new drag-friendly company policy

unique. That's why our employees have the freedom to dress however they feel comfortable, including in drag. All we ask is that you keep it fierce and keep it office-appropriate. That way, when you show up to work, you show up ready to work."

"We have to do whatever the fuck we can to shift that narrative," Deaver said. "Businesses need to be using their voice. We have the power to shift these beliefs. We have to do more than donate during Pride month. We have to speak up. We should be celebrating our differences."

To mark the addition to their handbook, *RuPaul's Drag Race* alum Scarlet Envy — along with Jenna Jive, Kali Dupree and Uma Jewels — all came together to give two Cornett employees, Whit Hiler and Coleman Larkin, drag makeovers, transforming them into Witty Comments and Sweet Evening Sneeze respectively.

Neither man had ever done drag. Neither identifies as LGBTQ. Both stand as staunch allies of the community and of personal freedom.

Kelsea Ballerini recently used her voice — in this case literally — to amplify the voices of drag performers. The night she co-hosted the *Country Music Awards*, she performed her hit "If

You Go Down (I'm Goin' Down Too)" at the ceremony with *RuPaul's Drag Race* alumni Manila Luzon, Jan Sport, Kennedy Davenport and Olivia Lux. That's another great example of no longer just speaking our truth, but of yelling it until they have to listen.

It ruffled feathers. So, it worked.

It's getting scary. And we only have two choices — curl up in a ball and hide, which is tempting to be sure, or start yelling however you can.

You can yell by changing your corporate policy. You can yell by inviting those who need a platform to join you on yours. You can yell by voting, by protesting, by donating, by educating — by doing anything but keeping your mouth shut.

I hope they never come for you. If they do, I'll be here to speak for you. And I hope you'll be there to do the same for me.

They seek to divide us. Freedom is ours as long as we never stop standing together. ■

Jenny Block, author of the Lambda Literary Award-winning book Open: Love, Sex, and Life in an Open Marriage, is a freelance writer and a regular contributor to Dallas Voice. Read her Girl On Girls column on the first Friday of every month in Dallas Voice.

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Holding them accountable

ON THE LEGISLATIVE FRONT

After long-time ally Royce West votes for anti-drag bills, advocates warn LGBTQ voters not to take anything for granted

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

The Texas Senate recently passed two anti-drag bills that have now been sent to the House where they must pass before the bills could become law. Sen. Royce West, a Dallas Democrat, originally voted for both bills, but then changed his vote on one of them. He was the only Democrat to vote for either bill.

Dallas Voice contacted West's office for comment regarding his votes, but he had not responded as of deadline. Should he or his office respond later, those comments will be posted online at DallasVoice.com.

West's votes on the two measures surprised his LGBTQ constituents who have always considered him a reliable ally. And the senator heard about it directly from some of them.

During a recent meeting of the Funky East Dallas Democrats — known as the FEDDS — FEDDS member Kendall Scudder picked up his phone and called West as the rest of the group listened in. Scudder is also vice chair of the Texas Democratic Party.

"He doesn't understand the historical significance of drag to the LGBT civil rights movement," Scudder said of West. "Drag queens were the first ones to throw punches when the police attacked, so they're sacred to us."

Scudder, who was raised by lesbian moms, said West's vote was "incredibly frustrating," adding that he is disappointed in the senator's vote.

Jeff Strater, president, Texas Stonewall Democrats and a Texas Senate District 23 Democratic committeeman, this week said he is "disturbed that Sen. West was the lone Democrat to follow the right-wing Republican's playbook to attack LGBTQ+ Texans. This anti-drag bill was

a key priority of Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and the anti-drag group Protect Texas Kids. Of all the ways to protect children in Senate District 23 this is not one of them."

Since the bill West voted for would impose \$10,000 fines on drag performers and West has represented Oak Lawn since 1993, the senator was voting to impose a fine on businesses in his own district.

In Senate Bill 12, drag is referred to as a "sexually oriented performance" and restricts those performances on public property, on the premises of a commercial enterprise or in the presence of a child. The bill authorizes a civil penalty — presumably a fine — and creates a criminal offense. Someone who performs in drag and is charged under this law would have a criminal record.

While supporters of the bill claim its purpose is to protect the children, the bill is worded in such a way that drag performances would be prohibited on public property, in a private business OR in front of a minor anywhere.

The Rose Room at the Winspear performances that sold out during the pandemic took place on public property and thus would have been banned had SB 12 been in effect then. And in its current state, a number of Broadway shows that come through the Winspear and the Music Hall at Fair Park would also be banned.

Tootsie opens at the Winspear Opera House next week, and under SB 12, the lead actor could be charged for performing in drag on public property as well as in front of minors. And when Cassie Nova performs in JR.'s or any Cedar Springs bar, she would be engaging in criminal activity for performing "on the premises of a commercial enterprise." And since dressing up as a princess and reading to children would be illegal, drag queen story hour events could send performers to jail.

Based on the current wording of the bill, only the person performing dressed as the opposite gender would be in legal jeopardy. So the rest of the cast of *Tootsie* would be safe. So would be Broadway Dallas, which booked the show. And so would be the staff of the Winspear and ATPAC who presented the performance that would be equated to pornography.

But if SB 12 is signed into law, they could be next.

This year's biggest hit Broadway hit, *Some Like It Hot* is sure to send out a touring company next year. In this story — based on the 1959 classic movie of the same name starring Marilyn Monroe, Tony Curtis and Jack Lemmon — the two male leads hide from the mob by dressing as women.

It's drag. And while the film is generally ranked as one of the greatest comedies ever made, that doesn't make the musical version legal in Texas.

The other bill West voted for before changing his mind — SB 1601 — would prohibit Drag Queen Story Time. More specifically, it would prohibit libraries that "host certain events" from receiving state or other public funding.

"Public funding" was amended to "a political subdivision" to prevent Dallas from funding its own library system if it presented one of those "certain events."

Another amendment inserted the phrase "and appeals to the prurient interest in sex." Of course, that was defined by some of the most prurient minds in the Texas Senate in three categories: "appeals to a minor's interest in sex, nudity or excretion; is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable for minors, and is utterly without redeeming social value for minors."

Obviously, those who are trying to prevent libraries from presenting Drag Queen Story Time have never been to a drag queen story time. Appeal to a minor's interest in excretion? They're in princess costumes reading children's books to an enthralled audience. What children's books are about sex, nudity and excretion?

And without social value? One hundred children sitting quietly for an hour listening to stories being read is one of the best ways to interest children in reading. And interesting children in reading is the most important job of a library.

Sen. West voted for the bill on first reading, but, after the amendments, he decided to vote "nay" along with all other Democrats on third and final reading.

Kristy Noble, who chairs the Dallas Democratic Party, expressed frustration with West's vote and encouraged



Sen. Royce West



Dallas County Democratic Party Chair
Kristy Noble



Stonewall Democrats of Texas President
Jeff Strater



Texas Democratic Party Vice Chair
Kendall Scudder

LGBTQ voters to always contact their representatives about issues they care about — even if your representatives have always been allies. Never assume an ally is going to support the community on the next issue.

Let them know where you stand, she said.

Strater agreed: "It caught us by surprise that a Democrat supported this bill. Now we have learned that more than ever we need to contact legislators both Democrat and Republican on our legislative issues." ■

Happy anniversary to a legend

BEYOND THE STAGE

Bass Hall VP looks back at its 25 years of impact on Fort Worth

RICH LOPEZ | Staff writer
rich@dallasvoice.com

Whether you are in formal wear or in jeans, the classic architecture and luxe interior of Bass Performance Hall in Fort Worth make every visit feel special. From Broadway shows to contemporary concerts, the venue offers an array of performances on its mainstage, and this year marks its 25th anniversary of doing so.

Home to Cowtown's major companies — including the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra, the Fort Worth Opera, the Cliburn concerts and international piano competition and the Texas Ballet Theater — the hall celebrates its landmark year by bringing the arts to downtown Fort Worth.

On May 1, 1998, the Nancy Lee and Perry R. Bass Performance Hall opened, built entirely with private funds. The 2,042-seat hall was designed in classic European opera house form, with its 80-foot diameter Great Dome atop the Founders Concert Theater and two 48-foot-tall angels at the building's Grand Facade which are now among Fort Worth's iconic signature landmarks.

Performing Arts Fort Worth, the nonprofit owner and operator of Bass Performance Hall, celebrates 25 years of Bass Hall with public outreach this month. Last week, the first of two community events was held with a Resident Company Showcase giving visitors a sample of what the hometown has to offer. On Sunday, PAFW will host a Community Open House where guests can get a behind-the-scenes look at the Hall — including on stage.

"For 25 years, Bass Performance Hall has been a theater, a classroom and a pillar of our community," Performing Arts



Jason Wise

Fort Worth President and CEO Dione Kennedy said in a press release. "Whether you're new to the area or have been with us since the very beginning, I invite you to join us as we commemorate this great milestone not just for the Hall, but for Fort Worth."

Helping Bass Hall and PAFW continue to make a big impression for 15 of those 25 years is Jason Wise, vice president of programming and engagement management. He's the guy who shapes the Broadway season at Bass Hall and books all the concerts happening there other than the resident companies' events. Wise's position oversees many departments that help to perpetuate Bass Hall's reputation as an arts leader in Fort Worth and North Texas.

"The job goes from the time we book a show until the show leaves, and anything in between is under my umbrella duties," Wise said by phone. "But really, I have 25 other coworkers who are the stars."

Wise's team includes the programming and marketing teams, patron services (or box office), the VIP presenter club, events and rentals and house production.

"It's crazy to think I started just as the director of marketing," he said, adding that his rise to VP is indicative of the Bass/PAFW environment, a place where team members have the opportunity to grow and expand.

Having a supportive husband who knows exactly what Wise has to deal with doesn't hurt. He has been married since 2014 to Tony, who worked at the

former Dallas Summer Musicals before switching over to a private events company.

"My job is very demanding and definitely not an eight-to-five/40 hours a week thing," Wise said. "[Tony] gets it, and that makes a huge difference. He

loves Broadway, so he'll go scout shows with me. I love that we can chat about our perspectives after the show. He still gets to be part of the industry through me."

With that kind of support at home and a team that mixes well creatively, Wise can perpetuate an optimistic outlook for his own sake and for Bass. Having open discussions with colleagues can spark new ideas even when everyone is on the same page.

"That's the part I love. We all meet every two weeks and everyone has a seat at that table," he said. "Some of our best ideas can come from other departments, and that dynamic always helps us get to our end goals with a buy-in for everyone."

When he began as the marketing director, Wise said, PAFW viewed itself as a small nonprofit without a full understanding of its breadth of resources. When he compares the programming that Bass does now to its programming back then, the successes are far different and far bigger.

Now, Wise helps facilitate Bass' leadership in the area arts scene.

"It's been nice to evolve as a city and community. We continue to test the waters and not program the exact same thing over and over," he said. "On a personal level, I'm proud and happy to see how we continue to grow."

As with every arts organization, the pandemic delivered a hard hit to Bass' operations. But it also gave the team a new perspective: What would the future of the Bass look like? Not having a specific answer to that was almost the answer.

"The challenge was determining what the next thing is, but we didn't want

to get caught up chasing a rabbit down a hole," he said. "The exciting thing coming

out of the pandemic is that it allowed a lot of us to look at things with a fresh perspective. We took everything we did in 2019 and threw it out the door.

"We decided to operate on a clean slate."

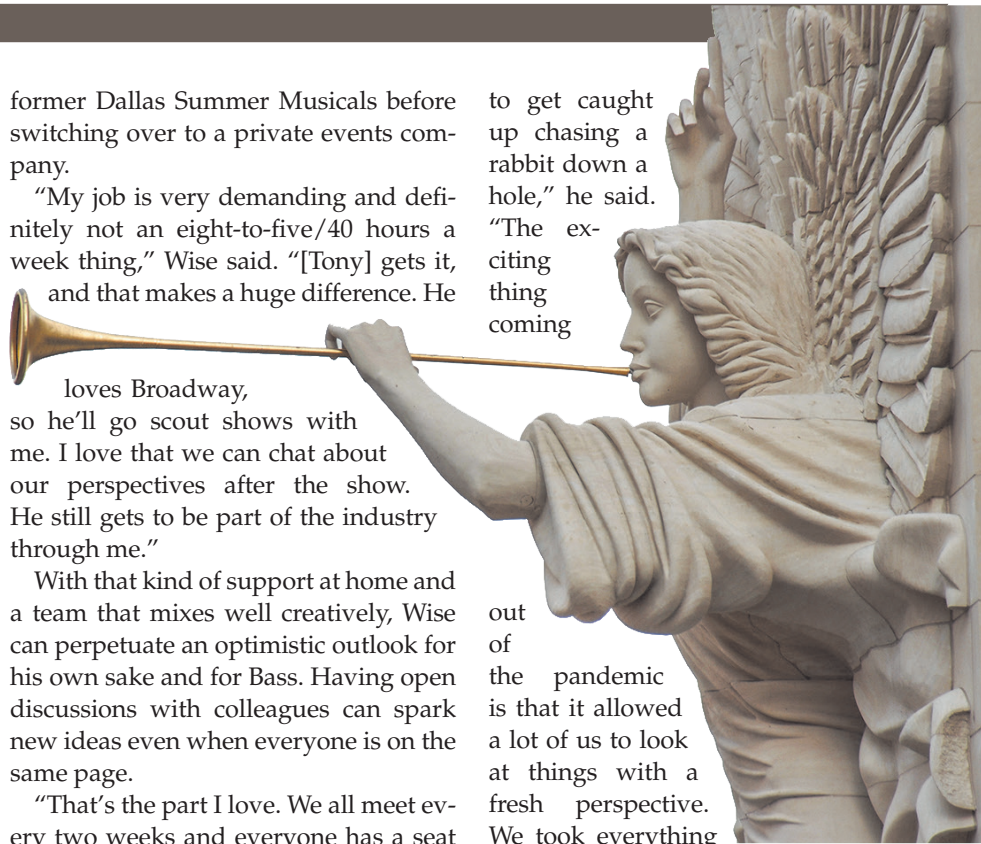
Wise said that allowed him to throw the playbooks away and expand his own horizons. "We may not know what will happen in a year, but that's the exciting part. We keep ourselves open to new ideas and what opportunities exist for us."

The 25th anniversary season launched in last fall, and noted highlights of the season so far have included *A Tribute to Peace – North Texas Welcomes Kyiv City Ballet*, a collaborative presentation with Texas Ballet Theater, and a sensory-friendly performance of Disney's *The Lion King*, a first for Bass.

The season concludes with Sunday's open house.

"We couldn't do what we do without our patrons, and we hope people who have never come by — this is their chance. We always want to remind that all our welcome here, and we hope people new and returning will come celebrate and have fun with us." ■

Community Open House, 1-5 p.m. at Bass Hall. Free but ticket reservation is required. BassHall.com/25.



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Dallas planning to regulate short-term rentals

CITY AGENDA

Party houses are rare and the STR market generates revenue and millions in business

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

A small fashion shoot and little cooking shows have been filmed at a short-term rental house in Oak Lawn owned by Jamie Schield, a former executive director of Resource Center. He said some of his regular customers are buyers who've come to Dallas to attend a market and want a safe place to park a small U-Haul.

Prospective UT Southwestern medical students often rent Schield's house to get a taste of what life's like in the neighborhood. And during opera season, singers and those auditioning for the Dallas Opera stay at his quaint rental.

"You don't want an opera singer staying in the hotel room next to yours, do you?" Schield asked.

Probably not, but the city of Dallas is debating what to do about AirBnBs and other short-term rental — STR — platforms. Some want them banned within the city. Councilman Chad West favors regulating them in some way rather than banning them.

Lisa Sievers, a Dallas Short-term Rental Association board member and STR property owner, also favors regulations. She rents a pool cabana and a garage apartment on the property where she lives.

Sievers said people rent from her because they're looking for something quiet. And her renters don't cause extra traffic, because she has plenty of off-street parking on her large property near White Rock Lake.



Lisa Sievers

Sievers said she has as many renters who live in the neighborhood as she does renters who come from out-of-town, so she knows she's doing something right.

She's had neighbors stay who were doing an extensive kitchen remodel at their own home. Others have rented from her for out-of-town guests they had no room for. And some of her out-of-town guests have been people moving to Dallas and who wanted to try out the neighborhood before buying.

During the height of the pandemic, people rented private houses to get away and have limited interaction with others rather than staying at a hotel.

Unlike the "party house on a residential street" reputation AirBnB has gotten thanks to a few bad actors, Schield said he's always sweeping the street and cleaning the yard at his property. And one clean yard encourages others to get out and clean their yards.

Schield said his biggest problem is chasing down city garbage collectors, because his is the only private house on his block.

"We all want to get rid of the bad actors," Sievers agreed.

But if some of the rules proposed by the city are adopted, 95 percent of the short-term rentals will be shut down in

the city. Or will they?

Fort Worth tried to enact a short-term rental ban, Schield said. But go to the AirBnB website, and you'll have no problem renting a room or a house in that city.

Enforcement of a ban is complicated and expensive, Sievers said.

Speaking about who belongs to her organization, Sievers said, it's very diverse, including older women and teach-



Jamie Schield

ers. The highest concentration of short-term rental units in Dallas is in Council District 14 followed by District 2 — in other words in and around Oak Lawn.

But STRs can be found throughout South Dallas to far North Dallas.

Schild said his property has turned him into an employer. He hired a student to do the yard work and help maintain and clean the house. That person now works for several other short-term rental property owners and is turning his job into his own business.

In addition, Schild said he employs an accountant and an attorney in the community, supporting other professionals' practices.

And both Schild and Sievers said they collect and pay local hotel occupancy taxes.

According to a report by the company Tourism Economics, 19.6 million Texas visitors stayed in short-term rentals in 2022. STRs accounted for \$14.3 billion in Texas in 2022 and supported 83,552 jobs. State and local governments collected \$1.2 billion in taxes.

In Dallas, an estimated 2,564 owners rent property. That generates \$2.6 million in taxes and \$340 million in local spending.

More than 90 percent of short-term rentals have no 911 or 311 calls associ-

ated with their address. And short-term rentals have no negative effect on property values. Between 2016 and 2020, the average STR appreciated in value by 40 percent.

One argument against short-term rentals is the effect on housing stock and homelessness. But less than half of 1 percent of housing units is tied up in the short-term rental market in Dallas.

The proposed Dallas ordinance to regulate short-term rentals would require owners/hosts to register with the city annually and pay a \$248 registration fee, have a HOT (hotel occupancy tax) registration number, acknowledge occupancy limits, parking requirements and noise limitations and agree to a revocation process. If not operated by the property owner, the operator would have to provide permission to host from the owner.

The new law would require an inspection, and if violations exist, the operator would be required to pay a \$144 re-inspection fee.

Here, Sievers cautioned, is where the city may be jumping into something it can't possibly monitor: Inspecting each of the city's more than 2,500 short-term rentals will require between 14 and 28 new code officers plus staff. With training and without disrupting the short-term rental market, she wasn't sure how the city could succeed.

Other requirements in the new ordinance would require minimum two-night stays and occupancy limits of three people per bedroom and would limit the number of vehicles to the number of off-street spaces available. Noise restrictions and registration numbers would have to be included in the listing ad. A contact person would have to be identified who could be called seven days a week, 24 hours a day and be available to get to the property within an hour.

Three citations would get an owner's registration revoked.

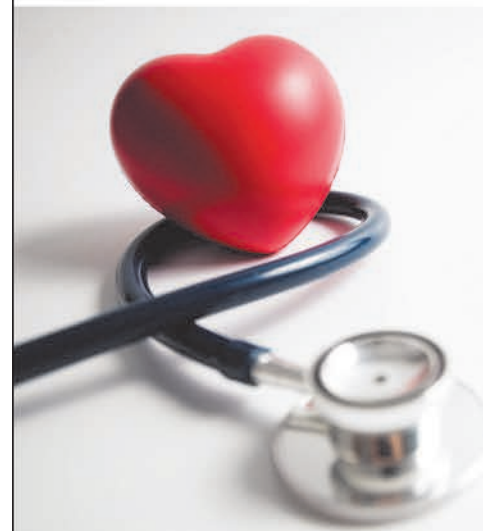
No two short-term rentals within 2,000 of each other would be approved. That's the requirement Schild and Sievers objected to most. No property within almost half a mile would cut the number of short-term rentals by quite a bit, especially in the most densely populated areas of the city.

But all this talk of regulations may become moot: While legislators talk about local control, the trend has been to strip cities of control. A bill pending in the Legislature would prevent cities from regulating short-term rentals. ■



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Timeless punk diva

SOUNDS ON VINYL

An interview with Debora Iyall as Romeo Void's 1980 live recording is finally released

GREGG SHAPIRO | Q Music
GreggShapiro@aol.com

Recorded in 1980, Romeo Void's *Live From Mabuhay Gardens, November 14, 1980* (Liberation Hall) is finally seeing the light of day in 2023 — on April 22, to be precise — as a Record Store Day release. The previously unreleased 11-track live set, on opaque blue galaxy vinyl, features songs such as "Nothing For Me," "Confrontation," "White Sweater" and "Talk Dirty To Me," that would later make their way to the San Francisco-based band's exceptional 415 Records debut *It's A Condition*.



Debora Iyall (Photo courtesy Tony Smith)

Unquestionably, it was lead singer Debora Iyall's distinctive vocals, which alternated between impassioned and indifferent (remember later singles "Never Say Never" and "A Girl in Trouble"?), that set Romeo Void apart from other bands of the era. Debora was gracious enough to make time to answer a few questions before the release of the new album.

Gregg Shapiro: Debora, I'd like to begin by asking you to confirm the story behind the band's name Romeo Void. Is it true that it's related to the shortage of eligible straight men in San Francisco in the late 1970s/early 1980s? Debora Iyall: Yes. Actually, it was kind of inspired by the cover of a local magazine — I think it was just called "San Francisco Magazine," and the headline was "Why Straight Women Can't Get Laid in San Francisco."

DIVA, Page 14

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has joined Dr. Marc Tribble at MD Progressive Care, located in the heart of the Oak Lawn community. Luis has over 12 years of medical experience. His areas of clinical interest include primary care, Diabetes treatment, HIV Treatment & Prevention (PrEP), STD treatment, and LGBT care. He is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and the American Academy of HIV Medicine. He accepts all major medical insurance plans and speaks English & Spanish.

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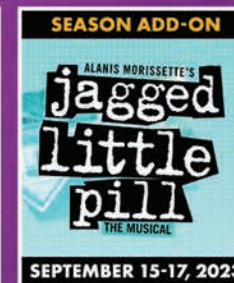
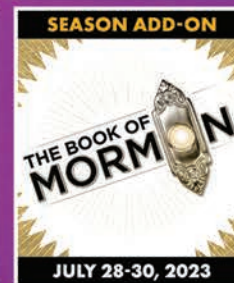
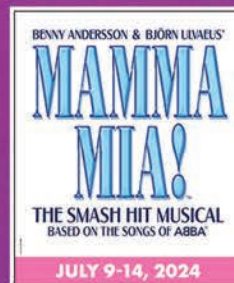
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A couple of band members and I were sitting around our kitchen table, and I had made lists of words to try to put together so we can come up with the name of the band. We didn't want anything that had a "the" in it. I wanted something kind of poetic.

Did you have an awareness that Romeo Void was getting airplay outside of San Francisco? Not until we went on tour. But we went on tour pretty quickly once we put out a record. We were on 415 Records, an independent label. ... We went to tons of college radio stations. That was where you met the greatest folks. Commercial radio was harder.

I remember hoping for a Debora Iyall sighting when Romeo Void was in Boston recording the Never Say Never EP at Ric Ocasek's Syncro Sound studio. What was that experience like for you? It was a great town to be recording in, because when you weren't needed, there were things to do right in the neighborhood. That was awesome. Plus the people around the studio were really friendly.

Sometimes some of The Cars would come by. They were like, "Oh, we're going next door for sushi, if anybody wants to join us." I think I ate sushi with a couple of The



Romeo Void (Photo courtesy Stefano Paolillo)

Cars a couple of different times.
The new, forthcoming Record Store Day LP Live From Mabuhay Gardens, November 14, 1980 is a live recording

that pre-dates the release of It's A Condition. Did you know the recording existed, was it in your possession, or did someone else have it for safe-

keeping? Terry Hammer was the sound person at the Mabuhay Gardens, which is where almost all the bands in San Francisco were playing that were playing around that time. ... Everybody played this one little club. He recorded tons of bands. At some point, it might have been in the '90s, Terry approached and said, "I've got these great recordings of Romeo Void, would you like to hear them? I'll dub you some copies." So, I had heard them a long time ago. ... It's this formative picture of Romeo Void finding our sound a little bit. What strikes me when I hear it is how lucky was I to have these musicians indulge me as a singer and writer, let me create with them and make these new things happen from nothing, from a jam. Because I had no musical training.

What does it mean to you to have these eleven songs available to Romeo Void fans? I think it's really cool that Terry Hammer kept the tapes all these years. That he was able to find an outlet like Liberation Hall. A lot of good things had to happen that weren't on us. I just agreed to it when they put it together and I'm lucky for that, too.

I've had a couple other lifetimes since Romeo Void, doing other things. It's been a lot of long years. To have our fans, who really understood Romeo Void, how it worked in their lives, to be behind that. Terry was obviously one of those people and Liberation Hall has to be those people, they put so much effort into making this happen.

After Romeo Void, you've worked for many years as a teacher. Have you encountered students who are familiar with your work in Romeo Void, and if so, how did they react to you being their instructor? I would have to say not too much. But parents of students will tell them, "You need to ask her if this is her!" Or they'll come to back-to-school night to tell me, "I listened to all your records." Or even some grandparents, because some of the students' grandparents are the ones that listened to my music.

Were you and the other members of Romeo Void aware of an LGBTQ following for the band, and if so, what did that fanbase mean to you? Oh, always! And they were some of our best friends. Our sound man Louie, who did the first recordings of us in the studio, was my roommate. Different people that we would connect with when we went to New York, who were gay, that we knew back in San Francisco. When we went to New York, they came to our shows. You just embrace and love who you're around.

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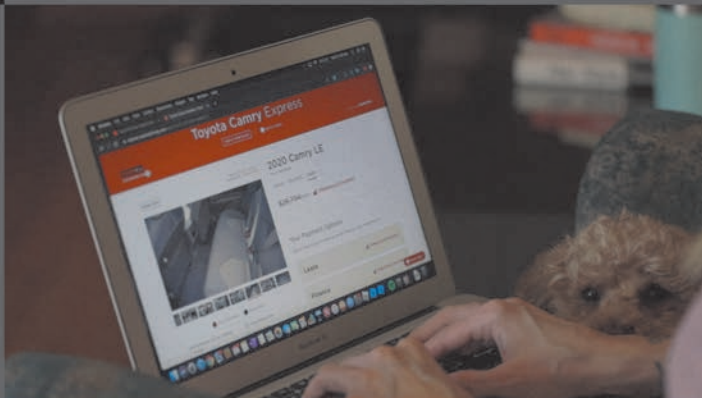


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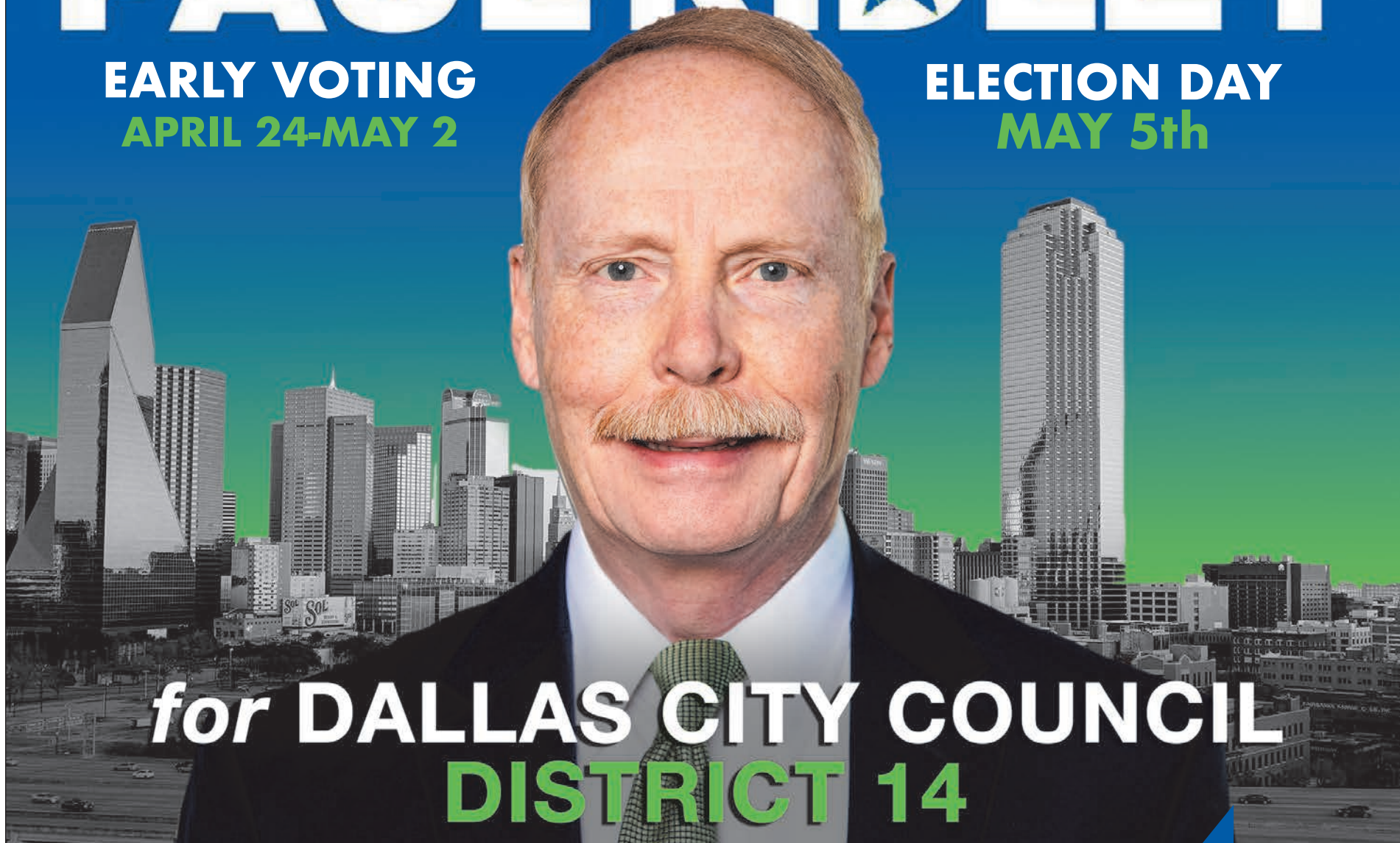
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RECOGNITION WELL DESERVED

City adds sign toppers in Los Alto neighborhood to recognize the late Latina lesbian activist

JESÚS CHAÍREZ

Courtesy of News Is Out | newsisout.com

DALLAS, TEXAS — Dallas' gay Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Omar Narvaez, who represents District 6 on the city council, unveiled ceremonial street sign toppers Friday, May 31, honoring Rosa Lopez, the lesbian Latina community activist who lost her battle with Hodgkin's lymphoma on Feb. 21, 2017.

Narvaez initiated the process of honoring Lopez with the street sign toppers in her West Dallas neighborhood of Los Altos, then the community stepped up to help, said Mary Velez, board president, of Vecinos Unidos, a non-profit Lopez established to bring affordable housing to Dallas's lower income West Dallas neighborhoods. It was, Velez said, really a big effort by the entire community to get the sign toppers approved, with many neighbors signing petitions, writing letters and speaking at city council meetings.

Narvaez called Lopez a pillar of the Los Altos neighborhood in West Dallas who brought much needed affordable housing to a community when no one else was even considering such an effort. The West Dallas that Lopez fought for was a low-income Mexican, Mexican-American and Black neighborhood that included a lead smelter plant and two concrete batch plants. The lead smelter plant allegedly poisoned many children with excessive levels of lead over the years. But now it and the concrete plants are gone thanks to the community activists who banded together to demand they be closed.

While Lopez dedicated herself to the affordable housing cause that took up much of her time she also found time to



Rosa Lopez (Dallas Voice file photo), above. Street sign topper honoring Rosa Lopez (Photo courtesy of Juan Contreras via Jesus Chairez), right.

open an ice cream shop called Sueños Sabrosos (Sweet Dreams) in the Bishop Arts District neighborhood where she lived. After spending her day at Vecinos Unidos, Lopez would head to her ice cream shop where she spent the evenings and weekends doing what she always dreamed of as a kid — owning her own ice cream shop.

People visited Sueños Sabrosos to not only enjoy some ice cream but stay awhile to talk about politics. And if a visitor came in feeling down, Lopez was there to offer comfort and words of advice.

Juan C. Conteras, a young gay Latino activist and a co-founding member of Texas Latino Pride, attended the March 31 ceremony. In a social media post afterwards he recalled how, as a young teenager, he would frequently visit Lopez at her ice cream parlor where they would engage in lively conversations and how Lopez helped him through his coming out process. Contreras also recalled how he would exchange tacos from his family's restaurant, located around the corner from the ice cream shop, for some delicious ice cream.

It was an extraordinary privilege,



Contreras said, to witness the unveiling of the street sign topper honoring Lopez, a trailblazing woman who shattered many glass ceilings. Her presence is greatly missed, he added, but her memory lives on in the hearts of those she touched.

Lopez also established Dallas' first organization for Latina lesbians: Lesbianas Latinas de Dallas. On Nov. 9, 1996, Lopez and the rest of Lesbianas Latinas de Dallas became Dallas' first LGBTQ Latino group to hold a major community dance at a prominent Dallas hotel when they hosted "La Noche de Gala — Formal Dance" at the Harvey Hotel.

Lesbianas Latinas de Dallas had an open door to Dallas's gay bilingual Latino radio show, *Sin Fronteras*, that aired Sunday evenings on community

radio station KNON 89.3 FM for many years. Lopez was a frequent guest on radio show, discussing issues and concerns facing Latina lesbians. With the Lesbianas Latinas de Dallas, she often worked together with the producer of the radio show and owner of Arte Facto, a gay Latino alternative art space in Old East Dallas, to have cultural events of poetry readings and Latina lesbian folk singers, like prominent Puerto Rican folk singer Lourdes Perez.

The Lesbianas Latinas disbanded after a couple of years, but Lopez continued volunteering her time in community endeavors.

In her final years, Lopez became a member of a new LGBTQ Latino group called LULAC 4871 — The Dallas Rainbow Council. The group that helped promote LULAC's overall national and statewide missions but with emphasis on the LGBTQ Latino community.

Lopez also participated frequently in LGBTQ Latino(a) history seminars, because she believed strongly in preserving LGBTQ Latino(a) history. LULAC 4871 — The Dallas Rainbow Council created a scholarship in Lopez's honor to help students further their education. After she passed, her hometown community in Moline, Ill., also endowed a scholarship in her honor.

According to Narvaez, this is the first time the city of Dallas has honored a female, Latina and LGBTQ woman with honorary street sign toppers.

West Dallas, the Dallas LGBTQ community and the city overall lost a one-of-a-kind leader with Rosa Lopez's death. But her memory lives on for all to see and cherish every day through the street signs toppers in West Dallas. ■

Jesús Chaírez is an activist, freelance writer and regular Dallas Voice contributor based in México City. News Is Out is a pioneering national collaborative of the leading local queer news publishers. The collaborative includes six of the leading local and queer-owned LGBTQ+ publishers across the nation. Join the News Is Out newsletter here, https://newsisout.com/sign-up-for-our-newsletter/?utm_source=DV.



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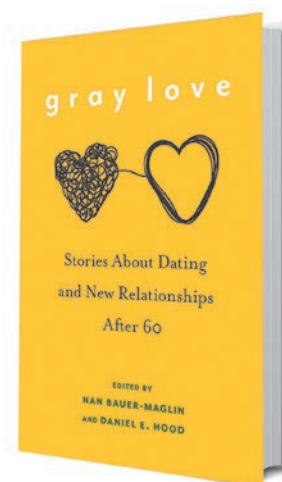
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ON THE PAGE



'Blue Hunger' offers an excitingly dangerous romance abroad while 'Gray Love' explores the pitfalls and possibilities of dating after 60

TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER | Bookworm Sez
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Blue Hunger by Viola Di Grado,
translated by Jamie Richards.
c.2023, Bloomsbury; \$27; 216 pages.



You can't stop thinking about it. It's been rolling around in your mind since it happened, and you can't stop. You replay it over and over — how it started, how it progressed, why it ended. You wonder if it'll happen again.

And in the new novel *Blue Hunger* by Viola Di Grado, you wonder if you truly want it to.

Shanghai was not her first choice to live. Sometimes, she wasn't really even sure why she came there, except that it was Ruben's dream.

For months and months, he spoke of Shanghai, showed her maps, talked of a life as a chef living in a high-rise apartment, taught her a little bit of the language.

She never fully understood why Ruben loved China, and she never thought to ask before her other half, her twin

brother, her only sibling died.

She was brushing her teeth when it happened. Now, weeks later, she was in his favorite city, a teacher of Italian languages in a Chinese culture, alone, friendless.

Then she met Xu.

It happened at the nightclub called Poxx, and she later wondered, with a thrill, if Xu had been stalking her. Xu claimed that she was a student in the Italian class, but though she was usually good with faces, she didn't remember the slender, "glorious" woman with milk-white skin and luminous eyes.

She did remember the first place she and Xu had sex. It was a hotel, but Xu liked it outside, too — in public, on sidewalks, in abandoned buildings and in crowded nightclubs. They took yellow pills together, slept together in Xu's squalid apartment; she told Xu she loved her but never got a reply except that Xu starting biting.


Xu had used her teeth all along, but she started biting harder.

Soon, she was bleeding, bruising from Xu's bites, and seeing people in the shadows. And she began to understand that Ruben wouldn't have liked Xu at all.

You know what you want. You're someone with determination. And you may want this book, but there are a few things you'll need to know first.

Reading *Blue Hunger* is like watching a Stanley Kubrick movie. It's surreal, kind of gauzy and loaded with meanings that are somewhat fuzzy until you've read a paragraph several times. And even then, you're not quite sure

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about it.

Author Viola Di Grado writes of sharp, unfinished mourning with a grief-disfracting obsession layered thickly on top, of control and submission. And, while the chapters are each brief, they feel too long but not long enough.

There are so many questions left dangling within the plot of this story, so many small bits unsaid, but also too much information of the mundane sort. You'll feel somewhat voyeuristic with this book in your hands, until you notice that the sex scenes here are humidly uber-fiery but not very detailed.

Overall, then, *Blue Hunger* is different but compelling, short enough to read twice, quickly. It's lush, dreamlike, and once started, you won't be able to stop thinking about it.

Gray Love: Stories About Dating and New Relationships After 60, edited by Nan Bauer-Maglin and Daniel E. Hood. c.2023, Rutgers University Press; \$24.95; 303 pages.

It was supposed to be a nice night out. But you drove around and around look-



ing for the restaurant, and, once you found it, you learned that you needed reservations. Practically before the evening started, you sensed that your food could be as cold as your date.

As in *Gray Love*, edited by Nan Bauer-Maglin and Daniel E. Hood, looking for love wasn't like this when you were younger. You thought you'd be happy alone.

After the divorce, the funeral, the last break-up, you didn't think a little you-time was a bad idea. And it wasn't. But love — someone to go to the movies with or dine with or snuggle with — seems more and more appealing now. Today, though, as the 42 essays in this book confirm and as you've learned, that's easier said than done.

You want a partner, someone your age, but you fear becoming a caretaker. You like doing your own thing, but hav-

ing someone around to do it with would be nice. You have company, but you are "without intimacy." Or you don't want a full-time someone, but it's scary to think about "falling off a ladder alone."

So you go online because, well, people don't meet like they used to. That's when you learn that dating sites are generally rife with people who lie about their ages, who seem clingy or who want things you can't give, "the Uncertain, the Angry... the Unattractive." And — let's be honest — the jerks.

Unlike real life circa 1973 or 1993, there's nobody to vouch for singles online.

You wonder, "What would I wear?" You learn about scams the hard way, while tales of love at way-up-there-ages are inspirational. Experimenting with same sex, different sex, different race isn't off the table, but nobody's asked — or you did, and it was wonderful and why didn't you do that before?

Love is love.

You date the wrong people; you date the right people, you're exhausted and disappointed. And sometimes, even for

a while, you're someone's "sweetie."

According to a study quoted in *Gray Love*, about 25 percent of American adults live alone. If you're one of them and open to a relationship, you need this book.

Just know that this is not a how-to manual. Editors Nan Bauer-Maglin and Daniel E. Hood don't offer advice in their introduction, and most of their storytellers didn't Ann-Landers their way into this book.

Instead, you'll read tales of dating and mating gone happily right and very, very wrong, told in ways that will make you laugh, sigh and know that you're not alone in your late-life search for love.

The mixture here is diverse and wide: If one tale makes you want to swear off dating forever, the next one offers Happily Ever After.

Be aware that a few of the tales inside *Gray Love* flirt with the explicit, and others might ruffle a feather or two. Still, it could be great to share it with a millennial or older GenZ-er. If you see this book on a bookshelf, take it out. ■

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Progress?

ON THE TRANS FRONT



White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre

Trans athletes saw 2 victories last week, but will it last?

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@mac.com

Transgender athletes saw two significant victories last week: one from the conservative U.S. Supreme Court and the other from the LGBTQ-friendly

White House of President Joe Biden. The events triggered a flood of national media attention and found lesbian tennis legend Martina Navratilova on the side of those wishing to bar transgender females from participating in female sporting events.

Neither of the two developments

changes any law at this time, but both represent powerful pushbacks against a wave of hostile legislation in many states.

The Supreme Court vote announced on April 6 temporarily stops a recently-passed ban on competition by trans athletes in West Virginia schools. The law is a variation on numerous similar laws being enacted around the country. The West Virginia law requires that public secondary schools and universities bar any student identified as male at birth from participating in a sport designated for female students.

The Supreme Court voted 7-2 in *West Virginia v. BPJ* to reject the state's request that the Supreme Court vacate a federal appeals court injunction in February that prevented the anti-transgender law from taking effect. The injunction is set to remain in place until the

appeals court rules on the constitutionality of the law.



The Alliance Defending Freedom joined the state of West Virginia in its request to vacate the Fourth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeal's injunction. Twenty-one states joined a brief supporting West Virginia's request, including Florida, Georgia, Texas and Virginia. And a group of 67 female athletes, coaches, and parents, including lesbian tennis legend Martina Navratilova, submitted a brief in support of the West Virginia law.

"At every level, we are aware that less skilled, less determined males beat higher level female athletes because of innate physical difference in the sexes," said the group's brief. "...When women and girls are asked to compete against male athletes, they are asked to ignore biological reality, the reality that defines female physical bodies."

Navratilova has long been public about her opposition to trans women competing in women's sports.

Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, the Supreme Court's most consistently anti-LGBTQ members, submitted a dissent to the majority's denial of West Virginia's request. They said the court is "likely" to take up the issue "in the near future." Specifically, they said, the issue will be whether Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 or the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause prohibit a state law "restricting participation in women's or girls' sports based on genes or physiological or anatomical characteristics."

The dissent also hinted that the majority's vote may have been based on a procedural matter: that West Virginia took 18 months before seeking to vacate the lower court injunctions.

The West Virginia law was due to go into effect in July 2021, but the ACLU and Lambda Legal filed litigation, BPJ v. West Virginia, to challenge the constitutionality of the law and prevent it from taking effect. (Subsequent to filing the lawsuit, the plaintiff in the challenge has been identified as now 12-year-old Becky Pepper-Jackson.)

Biden crafts a moderate proposal

The Biden administration's proposed rule change, from the U.S. Department of Education, cannot take effect until after a 30-day period during which the public can comment on the proposal and the Biden administration can take those comments into consideration.

The 115-page proposed rule change would amend one section of Title IX of the Education Amendments act, the federal law which prohibits discrimination "on the basis of sex" in schools that receive federal funding. The section (106.41b) says schools can have separate teams for males and females for contact sports. The Biden administration proposal seeks to add that, if a school refuses to allow a transgender student play on a team that matches their gender identity, the refusal must be based on a need to "minimize harms" and "be substantially related to the achievement of an important educational objective."

"This clarification regarding Title IX's

PROGRESS?, Next Page



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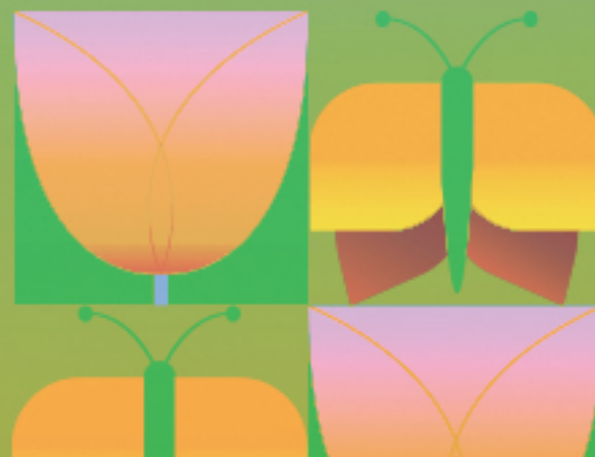
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application to sex-related eligibility criteria is particularly important as some states have adopted criteria that categorically limit transgender students' eligibility to participate on male or female athletic teams consistent with their gender identity," stated the Department of Education's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM).

DOE said it developed the proposal after getting feedback from stakeholders through a public hearing, listening sessions, and correspondence. It also stated that it referred to policies developed last year by the International Olympic Committee and the National Collegiate Athletics Association.

DOE referred to reports from these groups and others that indicate how, in schools, participation in sports serves various social, emotional, physical and cognitive development," such as learning to work as a team.

"The department finds the work of these organizations on this issue to be informative to the extent the organiza-

tions aim to balance important interests, minimize harm to students whose opportunity to participate on a male or female team consistent with their gender identity would be limited or denied, and take account of the sport, level of competition and grade or education level of students," stated the DOE proposal.

"...Youth participation in athletics is associated with many physical, emotional, academic and interpersonal benefits for students, including increased cognitive performance and creativity, improved educational and occupational skills, higher academic performance and likelihood of graduation from a four-year college, improved mental health, and improved cardiovascular and muscle fitness, as well as reduced risk of cancer and diabetes, and has the potential to help students develop traits that benefit them in school and throughout life, including teamwork, discipline, resilience, leadership, confidence, social skills, and physical fitness," stated the

DOE proposal.

Once the proposed rule change has been published in the Federal Register, interested groups and individuals have 30 days to submit comments for DOE to consider before publishing a final rule change.

In related news, openly gay White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre announced at her daily press briefing April 6 that the administration has also created a special helpline for transgender youth. With the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, a transgender person can call 988 and then the number 3 to be connected to a counselor who has been specifically trained to help LGBTQ youth.

"This has been one of the worst weeks of 2023 so far in terms of anti-LGBTQ bills becoming law in states across America," noted Jean-Pierre. She explained that four states — Idaho, Indiana, Kansas and North Dakota — enacted anti-LGBTQ bills this week. The Kansas law bans transgender kids from

school sports.

A total of 14 states currently ban health care professionals from providing gender-affirming care.

"Look, this is awful news. Let's be very clear about that," said Jean-Pierre. "LGBTQI+ kids are resilient. They are fierce. They fight back. They're not going anywhere. And we have their back. This administration has their back."

In addition to the anti-trans state laws, national news has prominently featured details about a 28-year-old shooter in Nashville who gunned down three children and three adults March 27 at a private Christian school where the shooter was once a student. Police identified the shooter as Audrey Hale and transgender. Excerpts from Hale's texts indicated he preferred to be called Aidan Hale and used male pronouns. In a text to a friend shortly before the shooting, Hale indicated he planned to commit suicide.

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



Dallas Festival of the Arts, formerly known as Turtle Creek Spring Arts Festival, will be open in Reverchon Park from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, April 15, and from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, April 16. The event features 125 local and regional painters, photographers, sculptors, metalworkers, glass artists, jewelers and more.

- 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.

APRIL

■ April 14: Arts District Changing Perspectives Block Party

A free cultural festival features Close-Act Theatre's Birdmen, a trio of large, illuminated birdlike animals that extend 23 feet high and 19 feet long with a wingspan of 13 feet that will come to life on the streets of the Dallas Arts District coming from the Netherlands. Close-Act Theatre is renowned for interactive street theatre. Food trucks, artisans and a community muralist.

■ April 14: Disco 2070

Party at the Block.com presents Disco 2070 from 9 p.m.-4 a.m. at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road, featuring DJ Dezi 5 playing disco from the past, present and future. Ages 18 and up admitted.

■ April 15: 25th Anniversary LGBT Law Section

25th anniversary celebration of the LGBT Law Section of the State Bar of Texas at the Arts District Mansion, 2101 Ross Ave.

■ April 15: Wigchella Gaybingo

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.

■ April 15: Legacy's Neon Jungle

Crozier Hall, 2218 Bryan St., Suite 105 from 7-10 p.m.

■ April 15: Drag brunch

Monthly drag brunch featuring Layla Larue at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Ebb & Flow, 7300 Lone Star Drive C 125, Plano. 18+ only. Ebbandflowtx.com.

■ April 15: HRC Spring Luncheon

HRC DFW Spring Luncheon - Equality Matters features a panel that includes state Rep. Julie Johnson, Tari Hanneman, director of the health and aging program at HRC and Leslie McMurray, transgender education and advocacy associate for Resource Center. Warwick Melrose Hotel, 3015 Oak Lawn Ave. from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Tickets at hrcdfw.org.

■ April 15-16: Dallas Festival of the Arts

Formerly known as Turtle Creek Spring Arts Festival includes an outdoor art gallery featuring 125 local and regional painters, photographers, sculptors, metalworkers, glass artists, jewelers and more from 10 a.m.-5p.m. On Saturday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at Reverchon Park, 3505 Maple Ave. DallasFestivaloftheArts.net.

■ Through April 15: Lyle Lovett

The country crooner will always be in our hearts when he covered Tammy Wynette's "Stand By Your Man." He performs three nights here in Dallas at the Majestic Theatre. AXS.com.

■ April 16: Siempre Selena

The Latino Outreach & Understanding Division (LOUD), Texas Latino Pride, and AIDS Healthcare Foundation are proud to present the 4th Annual Siempre Selena! Celebration in honor of the late Tejano music superstar, Selena Quintanilla. The event will be hosted at Havana Lounge from noon-4 p.m., Round Up Saloon from 4-9 p.m., and then moves to Lava Lounge and TMC.

■ April 16: David Sedaris

Arts and Letters Live presents David Sedaris at 7:30 p.m. at McFarlin Auditorium, 6405 Boaz St.

■ April 17-21: "Visibility: Seeing Is Believing"

The Visibility: Seeing is Believing exhibition celebrates and highlights local queer artists and designers in various fields of study. This exhibition is intended to support the SMU Women and LGBT Center's Pride programming, with a focus on the importance of visible representation. Hughes-Trigg Gallery 1911. Opening reception from 5-7 p.m. on April 17. Exhibit open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Info at smu.edu/studentaffairs/womenandlgbtcenter.

■ April 18: Gay and Lesbian Fund for Dallas

GLFD attends a Barbra tribute concert at the Dallas Aboretum at 6 p.m. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. GLFD.org.

■ April 18: Calling all young professionals

Are you looking for a way to get more involved with the Dallas area LGBTQIA+ and HIV/AIDS communities? The Young Professionals Advisory Council presents this month's Get Centered Mission Tour with wine and lite bites at 5 p.m., tour at 5:30 p.m. and YPAC informational meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. MyResourceCenter.org. Register on Eventbrite.com.

■ April 18-30: 'Tootsie'

Broadway at the Center presents the musical *Tootsie*. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. ATPAC.org.

■ April 19: Pride Happy Hour

North Texas LGBT Chamber of Commerce hosts Pride Happy Hour where LGBTQ and ally professionals can network and grow their business at 5:50 p.m. at Sky Blu Roof Top Bar on top of Tru by Hilton, 1949 N. Stemmons Freeway. Valet \$10. LGBTChamber.com.

■ April 20: Log Cabin Dallas

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

■ April 20: CBD Yoga

Mystic Moments Yoga presents CBD Yoga at The Mason at 7 p.m. 50 percent of proceeds benefit the LGBT Chamber Foundation.

■ April 20-23: 'Broadway Our Way 2023'

Uptown Players annual fundraiser revue returns. Company cast members return for a spectacle of show tunes and showcases all with a twist at the Kalita Humphreys Theater. UptownPlayers.org.

■ April 21: Caring for Our Own: LGBTQ Caregiver Conference

Presented by the Alzheimer's Association on Zoom from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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 Latino Outreach & Understanding Division, Texas Latino Pride and AIDS Healthcare Foundation host the fourth annual Siempre Selena! event honoring the late Tejano music superstar Selena Quintanilla on Sunday, April 16, starting at noon at Havana Lounge and moving to Round-Up Saloon at 4 p.m.



Cassie Nova

ASK A DRAG QUEEN

Celebrating our 20th anniversary

Hello good people. My husband and I recently celebrated our 20-year anniversary. Twenty years ago, we went to the movies, ate at Red Lobster, had our first kiss and have been together ever since. I know how lucky I am.

Everything is better when you have your own personal cheerleader, and Jamie is my biggest fan. He is my favorite person on this planet — so it works both ways.

To celebrate our 20th, we took a little vacation to Denver. We didn't make any plans other than to get there and then figure out what we wanted to do. We stayed at a very cool place called The Eddy Taproom and Hotel. It was adorable. It has been open less than a year so everything felt so new and clean.

The place is so pet friendly that we wished we had taken a few of ours. Everywhere you looked there were dogs — so many well-trained big dogs and not a kid in sight. I loved it.

Goldendoodles are so popular right now. I swear we saw at least 10 a day. It gave me some serious Goldendoodle puppy fever.

Our first evening there we went to Meow Wolf. I don't even know how to describe it, but it was awesome. It is a museum of immersive weird "art." It is the strangest, most wonderful bunch of weirdness I have ever witnessed. At times I felt I was on an alien planet — like Pandora from *Avatar* but with a more mushroomie hallucinogenic feel.

Other times I felt I was in that sketchy, debauched city from *Total Recall* — the awesome original with Schwarzenegger and that three-titted chic, not the crappy Colin Ferrell version.

Then, just when you thought you were done, you'd go through another door and find another crazy cool world. I bet you could go there every day for a month and still not see everything.

Apparently they are building a Meow Wolf in Grapevine soon. I hope it is as cool as the one in Denver.

We went to a few of the gay bars in Denver and had a lot of fun at some of them. Mind you, we went on weekdays, so we never experienced any of them at their busiest. But I don't need a crowd to



have fun. We played pool and drank at the Denver Eagle, which is similar to the one we used to have in Dallas but smaller. It was fun. One of the nights we were there, they had a group playing strip poker. Let's just say, Jamie and I both felt overdressed.

Denver Sweet had a really cool set up. Downstairs were pool tables and darts. Upstairs, on an enclosed patio, they were having a contest that was part trivia and part *Wheel of Fortune*. The place had a fun, laid back vibe.

We also went to Charlies; I love the Charlie's in Austin, so I had high hopes. But Charlies in Denver did not make a good impression.

One "cool" thing I noticed at the bars in Denver: They all serve pickle shots. Behind every bar we went to, there would be a fancy container filled with pickles, juice and Vodka. The one at the Denver Eagle was the best. You could tell someone put some love into it. It had pickles, pepperoncinis, black peppercorns and just enough Vodka to make it perfect. I am craving one right now just thinking about it!

The other bars' versions were good, but I need to try to replicate the Eagle version.

On one of the days, we got up and

just drove up into the mountains. The thing about being born and bred in and around Dallas is that all we know is flat. We can see for miles and miles, but there just ain't a lot to look at. We stopped at a Starbucks that was located inside of a Kroger. We walked out, and I just stood there in the middle of the street like an idiot, just in awe of the beauty right outside of a grocery store.

The city has the most beautiful views I have ever seen — gorgeous mountains on either side of you and a beautiful frozen lake a half mile in front of you. It was amazing, and it made you feel so small. I'm standing there having a real moment of beauty outside a freaking Kroger!

It was like some battery inside me, that I didn't even know was there, suddenly got a full charge.

One of the days we were there, we rode mountain bikes. They have a bunch of trails around the hotel in Golden, and the hotel has mountain bikes for you to use for free to check out the surrounding trails.

Luckily, these bikes were electric, so we didn't have to pedal very much. You know my lazy ass loved that.

We joyously biked along a stunning path next to a river. I was feeling like a badass but knowing I looked like Pee

-wee Herman — "Paging Mr. Herman ... Mr. Pee-wee Herman."

One of the things I wanted out of this trip was to reconnect with my husband. It is too easy to fall into a routine and let other things get in the way of your private alone time. We have both been guilty of that, so in that sense, the trip was a success.

Twenty freaking years! If I woulda got knocked up on our first date, we would have an adult child! Thank God I had my tubes tied!

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

word search solution



this week's solution

B	L	A	B	A	D	A	M	S	G	A	G	A		
R	U	L	E	C	O	N	I	C	U	S	E	S		
I	N	E	E	D	T	O	K	N	O	W	T	H	A	T
M	A	C	H	O	A	N	T	I	H	E	R	O		
I	M	A	Y	I	T	E	R							
I	H	A	V	E	D	O	N	E	S	I	S	S	Y	
C	O	D	E	I	G	O	B	E	E	T	L	E		
A	T	V	I	N	I	T	I	A	L	E	I	N		
R	E	I	G	N	S	I	D	S	B	I	N	S		
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D	R	A	G	R	A	C	E	D	O	R	I	S		
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A	S	E	A	E	N	T	E	R	A	C	H	E		
T	E	E	M	D	E	E	M	S	R	E	E	D		

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PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



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Scenes from the Rhapsody gala



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WORD SEARCH

Diversions Word Search - BenDeLaCreme

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



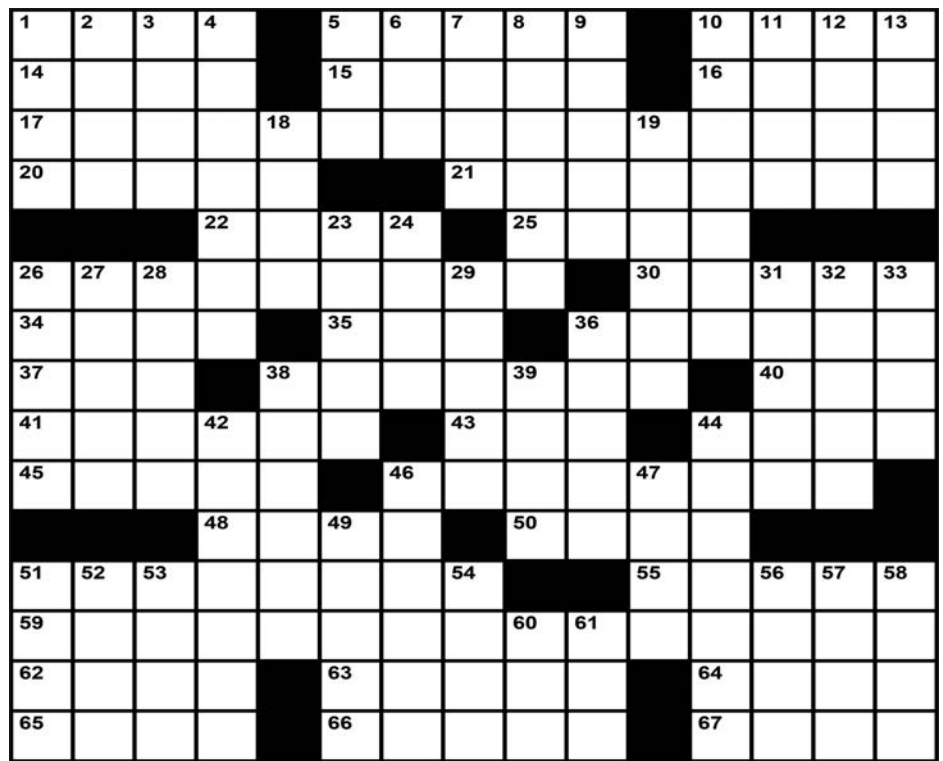
S S R M U S I C N O O M S W S S
 B R O E A R O R H I L L U Q E K
 E T E U T O U N E M N E M C S U A N
 T A N O C P G T T F S N L A E E T A
 H S D T A E I O E U S O P P J E T H
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 A L L I W A N T N A S T N T A A E N
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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

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 Benjamin/Putnam (Season 6 & All Stars (3) (To) Jesus, /Thanks Wes Hurley/Films
 (American) Drag/Queen (Voted) Miss/Congeniality (for) Everything Waxie/Moon
 Burlesque/Performer Solo/Tours:/Cosmos All I Want (for Christmas) Capitol/Hill
 Actor/Writer/Producer Terminally/Delightful (is) Attention Music (on)/Apple/Share
 (Based in) Seattle (WA) Inferno/A-Go-Go Hulu:/Holiday/Special ACLU (Drag)/Defense/Fund

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

Solution on Page 28

PUZZLE | Whale Intentioned



Solution on Page 28

Across

- 1 Use your mouth unfaithfully
- 5 Affleck's *Chasing Amy* crush
- 10 Infatuated with Mr. Right Now
- 14 *Desert of the Heart* author
- 15 Like a tutti-frutti holder
- 16 Takes advantage of
- 17 Start of a quote from Charlie in *The Whale*
- 20 The Village People's ___ Man
- 21 Balsac's Vautrin, one
- 22 Noncommittal words
- 25 Body passageway
- 26 More of the quote
- 30 Pantywaist
- 34 McKellen's *The Da Vinci* ___
- 35 Parting words, old style
- 36 VW from the land of Rilke
- 37 Off-rd. transport
- 38 B. or D. to Wong
- 40 A, as in Augsburg
- 41 Periods of queens
- 43 Puts the finger on, in a lineup
- 44 Coal holders
- 45 Fashion designer Perry

- 46 More of the quote
- 48 Untouchable head
- 50 Penetrate slowly
- 51 Dash for cross-dressers?
- 55 Frequent costar with Rock
- 59 End of the quote
- 62 Sailing the Pacific
- 63 Return key on a PC
- 64 BenGay target
- 65 Abound (with)
- 66 *Fantasia* narrator Taylor
- 67 Robert of *The Brady Bunch*

Down

- 1 Fedora feature
- 2 Deity identified with Diana
- 3 Trump portrayer Baldwin
- 4 Queen's abode
- 5 What thespians do
- 6 Toon canine Scooby-___
- 7 *Crazy Love* singer Paul
- 8 Disney mouse
- 9 *The Queen* producer Rudin
- 10 Woody of fame
- 11 Straight AIDS victim Arthur
- 12 Reverse or neutral
- 13 Concerning

- 18 Rounded top
- 19 *Night* author Elie
- 23 Some scores for Mauresmo
- 24 Boo-Boo's buddy
- 26 Words of empathy
- 27 Valet employer
- 28 Prop for "I have a headache ..."
- 29 Part of *NIMBY*
- 31 Gertrude, who could hold her beer?
- 32 Weapon of Biblical Jonathan's lover
- 33 Itches
- 36 Keep moist in the kitchen
- 38 Dildo, e.g.
- 39 Bad day for Caesar
- 42 Checked cotton fabric
- 44 Like an AC/DC white bear?
- 46 Lie a birdcage resident, perhaps
- 47 Lamarr of Hollywood
- 49 Cut, to lumberjacks
- 51 "Doggone it!"
- 52 Get out of bed
- 53 *The African Queen* author
- 54 Rock suffix
- 56 *Evita* lyricist Tim
- 57 ___ *Walked Into My Life*
- 58 Watermelon "ammo"
- 60 Skirt edge
- 61 Mr. Williams, as Doubtfire

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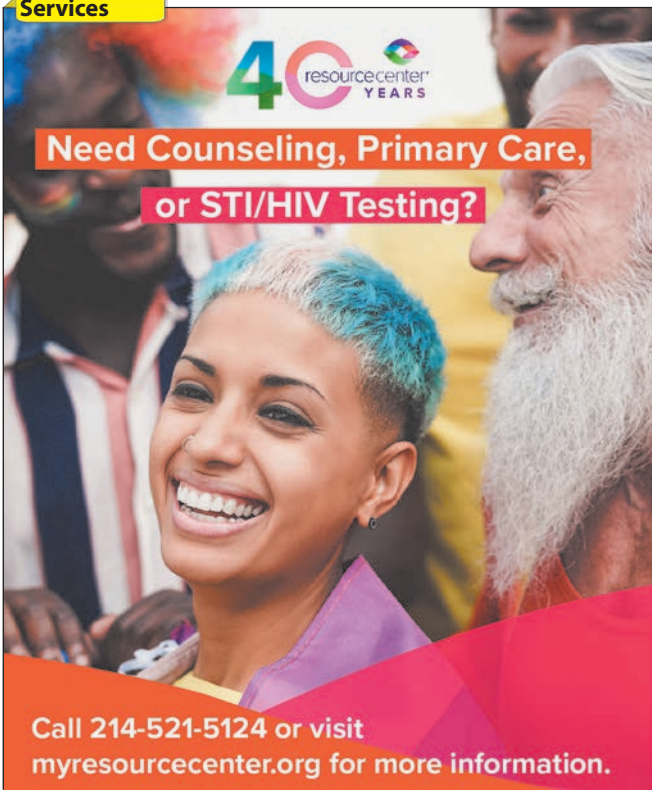
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