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ANNIVERSARY



# 2024 DALLAS WINGS HOME SCHEDULE

HOME OPENER WEEK  
**MAY 15**  
VS. SKY • 7PM

HOME OPENER WEEK  
**MAY 18**  
VS. SKY • 7PM

**JUNE 05**  
VS. ACES • 7PM

SNEAKERHEAD SHOWCASE  
**JUNE 09**  
VS. MERCURY • 3PM

THROWBACK THURSDAY  
**JUNE 13**  
VS. STORM • 6PM

JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION  
**JUNE 15**  
VS. SUN • 12PM

CAMP DAY  
**JUNE 27**  
VS. LYNX • 12PM

RED WHITE & HOOPS  
**JULY 03**  
VS. MERCURY • 7PM

RED WHITE & HOOPS  
**JULY 05**  
VS. DREAM • 6:30PM

PRIDE CELEBRATION  
**JULY 13**  
VS. SPARKS • 2:30PM

**JULY 17**  
VS. FEVER • 7PM

INSPIRING WOMEN NIGHT  
**AUGUST 16**  
VS. SUN • 8:30PM

BACK TO SCHOOL  
**AUGUST 25**  
VS. SPARKS • 3PM

**AUGUST 27**  
VS. ACES • 7PM

CELEBRATE ARLINGTON  
**AUGUST 30**  
VS. LYNX • 6:30PM

CELEBRACIÓN LATINA  
**SEPTEMBER 01**  
VS. FEVER • 3PM

**SEPTEMBER 03**  
VS. MYSTICS • 7PM

**SEPTEMBER 10**  
VS. LIBERTY • 7PM

ROCK THE PINK  
**SEPTEMBER 12**  
VS. LIBERTY • 7PM

FAN APPRECIATION  
**SEPTEMBER 13**  
VS. STORM • 6:30PM



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The Premier Media Source for LGBTQ Texas

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# Bites from our blog

## WHAT'S THE TEA: DallasVoice.com

### Cook is Texas first LGBTQ state senator

Texas now has its first openly LGBTQ state senator, thanks to Molly Cook's victory on Saturday, May 4, in a special election to fill the seat left empty when John Whitmire stepped down from the Senate after winning last year's Houston mayoral election.

Cook, a registered nurse with a master's degree in public health policy from Johns Hopkins University, has earned the seat through the end of the year with her 57 percent-to-43 percent win in Saturday's special election. She now faces Jarvis Johnson, a Democratic state representative, in a Democratic Primary runoff to see who will hold the senate seat in the 2025-2026 legislative session.

In the March Primary election, Jarvis led the pack of six candidates with 36 percent of the vote, while Cook placed a distant second with 21 percent. Early voting for the May 28 runoff starts on Monday, May 20.

Cook came out as bisexual in 2021.

— Tammye Nash

### Dallas City Council inks deal bringing women's pro soccer team to Cotton Bowl

The Dallas City Council on Wednesday, May 8, approved a plan to bring a women's professional soccer team to play at the Cotton Bowl for the next two years.

This is the second professional women's sports team to choose Dallas as their home

in less than a month. The city council earlier this month approved a plan that will have the WNBA's Dallas Wings playing in the arena at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center beginning with the 2026 season.

The new soccer team is expected to bring in thousands of fans per season and generate broadcasting revenue, according to a press release from District 1 Councilman Chad West. The team is part of a new league with seven other teams located across the country, with a scheduled expansion of six additional teams in the coming years.

The season will kick off on Friday, Aug. 16.

— Tammye Nash

### New music out now

Friday, May 3, marked the release of *Breaking The Fourth Wall*, the new EP from singer/songwriter Allison Ponthier, available now on Interscope Records. To celebrate the arrival of her third project, the Texas-born artist shared her new single, "Crash Test Dummy," along with a video recently filmed for Vevo Live Performances.

Times Square is in on the Allison Ponthier wave. The singer revealed Spotify's big-ass billboard up now in New York City promoting her new EP.

Ponthier worked with producers Tommy English, Gian Stone, and Matthew Neighbour on *Breaking The Fourth Wall*. The EP features previously released singles "Character Development," "Skin" and "Lie Detector."

— Rich Lopez

## Obituary



**Janet Lee Brubaker**, 71, died suddenly in her Dallas home on April 16. Although she had health challenges, her death was unexpected, and her family and many friends mourn this tragic event.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Vivienne and Harry Brubaker, and her sister, Jill. She is survived

by her sister Jeannie, her brother Jerry and her sister-in-law Cynthia.

It isn't easy to describe Jan. In spite of many setbacks, she had an amazing spirit and love of life. She was an avid sports fan and had been a competitive swimmer, training for the Junior Olympics in the butterfly stroke. She was exceptionally creative, had a great sense of humor and was a wonderful writer. She loved politics, music, nature and old films and was active in her community and LGBTQ causes.

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# A long-awaited wedding

## WEDDINGS

And the history behind it

STORY AND PHOTO COURTESY OF PAT STONE

**P**at Stone, one of the founders of PFLAG Dallas, and her long-time partner Donna Keys were married Saturday, May 4, at a small ceremony at their friends' home in the Cedar Creek area, surrounded by family and friends. This week, Pat reflected on their wedding and the journey that led them to it:

"As I look at that photo of Donna Keys and myself about to cut our wedding cake, I see such a happy, contented couple, so excited to finally be able to expand their 10-year devoted relationship into a legal, devoted marriage.

"We had a lovely wedding ceremony on May 4, 2024, at the home of good friends in the Cedar Creek Lake area. It was a small gathering of 16. It was such an incredible afternoon of being surrounded by such love, support and fun.

"There I am at 81 and Donna at 68 — ready for more good years ahead together.

"Before I talk more about our relationship and explain what took us so long to marry, I would like to look back at why I am so comfortable talking about it all with Dallas Voice and Tammye Nash. Today I looked through my scrapbook of clippings and saw so many supportive articles from this newspaper regarding my early work in the LGBT community. I will mention only a few.

"I was only about 49 when the Dallas Voice covered my being one of the founders of Dallas PFLAG in 1992 (Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays): 'North Texas Parents Join Battle: parents of lesbians & gays through local PFLAG chapter advocate for an end to discrimination' (8-14-92). I soon became president of the chapter and served a year on the national board.

"My time with PFLAG is a huge highlight of my life. I feel we made a difference; it is a warm legacy for me. And it



Donna Keys and Pat Stone cut their wedding cake

soon became a cause larger than seeking rights for my lesbian daughter. I truly wanted to help other families accept their LGBT loved ones.

"The Dallas Voice was also there for me when I realized I was lesbian in 1996 at age 53: 'PFLAG chief's coming out sparks concern' (11-15-1996). Yes, it did cause concerns from some in both the gay and straight community, as well as from my family and friends. My husband was devastated by the divorce that followed after 35 years of marriage.

"This was a sad and conflicted time for me. My daughter understood, but it was harder for my son who worked daily with his dad. We all got through these challenges in time.

"There was the Dallas Voice ar-

ticle 'PFLAG chapter re-elects Stone' (11-22-96). The solution was for me to serve out my fifth year as co-president with a straight dad. That worked fine. I had only planned to serve five years. I stepped down from the helpline and no longer greeted the new parents. Sad, but the early 1990s were sometimes challenging in this area.

"After leaving PFLAG, I started a support group Late Bloomers. And Dallas Voice was there: 'Late Bloomers designed to help women coming out later in life' (6-2-1997). This was such a fun and important group, and I led it for about 13 years.

"The Dallas Voice article 'Awakening: Pat Stone to discuss new memoir at Resource Center on Wednesday May 1,

2009,' referred to my new book at that time.

"So this leads to my living in the Cedar Creek Lake area, where in 2013, two good friends set me up with the love of my life, Donna Keys. She had lost her partner of 22 years to cancer about a year-and-a-half before and had recently retired as a Dallas County adult felony probation officer.

"Our first date was a little awkward since it was a blind date, but the very next day we connected beautifully at lunch at Chili's in Gun Barrel City. In fact, I still can't believe I shared with her a recent dream I'd had about a hug from a tall, broad-shouldered person. It was a special, 'unconditional love' type hug, but I could only see the person from the back and couldn't tell if they were a man or a woman. I was confused, but I told Donna that after seeing her 6-foot frame and broad shoulders, I felt that person was her. I can't believe I told her that; it could have scared her away. Thank goodness it didn't!

"Within a few months Donna asked me to marry her. I said yes, and we made plans to marry in Boston since it was not yet legal in Texas. Then we learned that if we married I would lose the Social Security benefits that I received due to my ex-husband.

"We were disappointed but continued to enjoy our 10-year relationship that seemed like a marriage. We enjoyed movies, playing Yahtzee and just being together with our family that includes my dog, Misty, Donna's little Yorkie Lily and our cat Lucy.

"Sadly, my ex-husband passed away last December. When I called the Social Security Administration to inform them of his passing, they told me I could now remarry and keep my benefits. It's more than bittersweet that his passing meant Donna and I could now marry.

"This brings me back to that wonderful photo of Donna and me cutting that wedding cake. We are so grateful that we met and have already had 10 wonderful years together. We are hoping for at least 10 more, and we will forever treasure that photo and wedding ceremony." ■

# Celebrating 40 Years of Dallas Voice: A message from our Publisher

## A LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Dear Dallas Voice Readers,

As we mark the milestone of our 40th anniversary, I find myself reflecting on the journey we've traveled together, celebrating our history while eagerly embracing the future that lies ahead. For four decades, Dallas Voice has been more than just a publication; it's been a beacon of hope, a voice for equality and a cornerstone of our vibrant LGBTQ community.

When Dallas Voice was founded 40 years ago, our community wanted to be seen, heard and valued. We demanded recognition, fought for equality and sought to create a world where every individual could live authentically and without fear of discrimination. Today, as we continue to navigate the complexities of our journey towards full acceptance and equality, Dallas Voice stands as a steadfast ally, committed to amplifying our voices and advocating for our rights.

I vividly recall the moment I first picked up a copy of Dallas Voice in 1991.



As a young activist, I devoured every word, finding inspiration, and a sense of belonging within its pages. The stories of resilience, courage and community solidarity

reso-

nated deeply with me then, just as they do now. Dallas Voice has been a catalyst for change, a source of empowerment, and a testament to the strength of our community's spirit.

Through the years, Dallas Voice has evolved and expanded, embracing new technologies and platforms to better serve our readership. From our humble beginnings as a weekly newspaper to our current status as an integrated multimedia company, we've remained dedicated to delivering comprehensive, insightful and engaging content across print, digital and social media channels. Our commitment to excellence and innovation continues to drive us forward, ensuring that Dallas Voice remains at the forefront of LGBTQ media.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, let us not forget the visionaries who paved the way for us — Robert Moore and Don Ritz — whose unwavering dedication and foresight laid the foundation for Dallas Voice's enduring legacy. I

extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the staff members, past and present, who have contributed to our publication's success over the years. Your passion, talent and hard work are truly appreciated.

To our loyal readers, I extend my deepest thanks for your continued support and patronage. Your unwavering commitment to Dallas Voice is a testament to the importance of having a voice for our beloved LGBTQ community. Together, let us continue to uplift, empower and celebrate each other as we journey towards a future of equality, acceptance and love.

In closing, I invite you to join us as we embark on the next chapter of our community's story. Pick up a copy of Dallas Voice every Friday, engage with us on social media and support the businesses that invest in our community's future. Together, we can ensure that our voices are heard, that our stories are told and that our legacy endures for generations to come.

Thank you for 40 incredible years; here's to many more!

Warm regards,

**LEO CUSIMANO**

Publisher | President

Dallas Voice | OUT North Texas





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OF BEING  
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## The last two standing....

Remembering the early days of Black Tie

**W**ith the death of Dick Weaver in November 2022, Mike Anglin and I are now the last remaining original founders of the Dallas Black Tie Dinner, created in 1982. With enormous pride, we celebrate the overwhelming success of an event that has served, united and benefitted the Dallas LGBTQ community for these past 42 years.

The weekly “dinner” planning sessions of that early era of the dinner were conducted in John Thomas’s living room near North Central Expressway. Our meetings were held every Saturday morning, regardless of weather or other circumstances. You didn’t miss the meetings; after a few minutes of sharing lives, we got down to business.

At the end of our planning sessions, John would hand out specific assignments to each committee member as we worked toward our common goal of creating a large, memorable event for the community. Expenses were kept to a minimum, the largest being the meal itself. So cofounder Ray Kuchling carefully negotiated the menus with the hosting hotels. Volunteers gave their time and expertise; each board member was required to buy tickets, and/or sell them through table captains.

John was a natural leader. He laid the groundwork for the dinner’s structure. The dinner event would be “owned and controlled” locally in Dallas. Hopefully, it would generate a net profit from ticket sales, and that profit in 1982 was donated to the Human Rights Campaign Fund in Washington, D.C. (now known as HRC).

The second dinner also generated a profit, but that year the profits were split between HRC and the Federation of AIDS-Related Organizations. In 1984, the Dallas-based Foundation for Human Understanding (now known as Resource Center) also received a share of the profits. In 1985, it was decided that a third of the ticket sales would go toward the



**William Waybourn**  
Special Contributor

costs of the event, one-third to HRC and the final third would be split with FHU, the Metropolitan Community Church, Oak Lawn Counsel-

ing Services, the Texas Human Rights Foundation and the Turtle Creek Chorale.

Thereafter, the list of local, tax-exempt beneficiaries slowly grew. These beneficiary organizations also turned to their own donors and supporters for participation, greatly increasing our ticket sales.

Never did we anticipate what the dinner would eventually become. Even during the worst of times — AIDS — it never failed to give our community an evening to dress up, step out and be reminded how much we had in common.

The first dinner had as many attendees from the nascent Turtle Creek Chorale performance as it had seated at tables. Ironically, the guest speakers were almost an afterthought, as table-hopping and visiting with friends — and later bidding in the silent auctions — were paramount. You didn’t leave to go to the restroom but to check on the latest bids.

When we traveled across the U.S., we began to notice how the reputation of the Dallas Black Tie Dinner was steadily growing and how other cities were trying to model their own fundraising dinners on the Dallas model to draw first hundreds, then thousands, to a single night of celebration and remembrance.

Since the dinners in the 1980s and ‘90s took place amidst the AIDS crisis, we all knew individuals who didn’t survive from one dinner to the next, and it was with great sadness that we recognized



William Waybourn and Mike Anglin in 1986



Dick Weaver



John Thomas



Ray Kuchling and Mike Anglin in 1983

their passing.

There was also much humor: One Saturday morning, we arrived to find John’s apartment filled with smoke. Volunteer Mike Hearn had put a brie cheese in the oven to bake while John was in the shower, unaware that it was burning.

So Mike and I are the last two surviv-

ing cofounders, and I think he and I have a unique perspective of the dinner’s many years of success. And great pride in it. There is still no equal to the Dallas dinner today.

Its ultimate success rests not on the founding board, except for its initiative to invent something new for the community and “pull it off” successfully. No, the success today relies on the legions of volunteers (and yes, committed board members) who tirelessly serve without pay or benefit of recognition.

If there is one underlying commonality among the many people involved in the dinners over the years, it is their amazing ability to work together with colleagues, all cooperating in a great undertaking to improve things for the many branches of the LGBT community. ■



## To the class of 2024

Follow your heart  
and remain stubborn

Last month, I delivered the commencement address at the University of Texas at Arlington's Lavender Graduation, a ceremony celebrating the LGBTQ and ally class of 2024. Returning to my alma mater is always an honor, but this time felt different.

In the last year, regressive legislators, led by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, have banned Diversity, Education and Inclusive initiatives at public universities like UT Arlington.

Filed and approved last spring, Texas Senate Bill 17 requires universities to close DEI offices and bans additional initiatives. As a result, LGBTQ-focused offices that provided healthcare, community-focused programming and counseling, as well as other essential programs, shuttered their official university operations by the end of last year.

The LGBTQ program I looked to for resources and community is now gone. Still, what remains and cannot be erased is the spirit of an optimistic staff and courageous students with a bright future ahead of them. As a gay Texas native who now works for a major LGBTQ advocacy organization, I couldn't ignore the gravity of this moment. I had to speak from my experience of what I gained from being defiant, proud and queer.

Stubborn, even.

So here it is; my University of Texas at Arlington's Lavender Commencement address:

Good evening, everyone. Thank you to the Intercultural Student Engagement Center for inviting me to tonight's ceremony. Also, join me and please clap for the graduating Class of 2024!

It is an honor to return to my alma mater in this capacity. My name is Jacob Reyes, and I am the news coordinator for GLAAD, the largest LGBTQ media advocacy organization advocating for inclusive stories in news and entertainment. I have previously worked for NBC 5, the



**Jacob Reyes**  
Contributing Columnist

Dallas Morning News and UTA's award-winning student newspaper, The Shorthorn.

Class of 2024: This is a celebratory moment; I promise it is. Few experiences feel like this, graduating. Let your guard down and embrace this moment.

I know this moment may be difficult, too. As a recent graduate, I get it. UTA is my second home. I studied long nights at the Central Library, met a professor whose wise words are now tattooed on my arm and, yes, I even thought I fell in love with the cutest guy once while we sat in the CAPPA courtyard.

Mostly, I spent countless hours in The Shorthorn newsroom below us. There, I was the student paper's opinion editor and life and entertainment editor where my passion lay in ensuring the student body felt represented.

I reported on the power of the Black women's vote in 2020, two alumni who are now successful artists in Dallas (and also married), the potential removal of an early voting location on campus, the 2018 senate election and a profile on an alumna who took to the art of drag to express her true gender identity.

Still, at times, my passion and decisions were questioned. As a member of a marginalized community, could I continue to report on said community? Can a queer reporter report on the university's annual drag show? Those were actual discussions I had with my colleagues,



many of whom were also my friends. That was rough and, quite honestly, troubling.

Still, I remained stubborn and, in my heart of hearts, I knew I was creating a professional and personal journey I could be proud of. Despite pushback, I moved forward, and now it's my job to ensure my community is not only represented but fairly so.

So now is the time to ask yourself, Class of 2024: What do you have to lose in being stubborn?

As graduating students, members of the LGBTQ community and allies, there is so much operating against us. Our country, our state and our public institutions are regressing at a rapid rate. Reject those regressions and hold onto your convictions. Institutions will try to silence your voices, your identity. Do not let them. Organize, speak out, write on and ensure that your voices are heard.

What we've learned from the past is that powers above us will try to silence you. It happened at Stonewall in 1969, in San Francisco in 1979 and as recently as 2020 in the fight for racial equity. Yes, it is even happening now across college campuses in the United States.

You, as students, as graduates, have

every right to freely express your beliefs and your identity without fear of pushback — especially today. Remember that.

Even tonight, after even the most recent setbacks on campus, here you are, at a Lavender Graduation, celebrating not only your successes but your community and your freedom to love and express yourself.

That is an act of defiance.

As your influence grows, remain defiant.

If your mission in life is to build community and create a better world or if it is just to simply live, do so with determination. We deserve that much. You deserve that much.

Graduates, you have come so far. You have seen so much. But there is still so much to do. So tonight, in the face of adversity, remain courageous. Embrace what it means to be stubborn. I have seen it in you. Especially these last few months. I see it and I'm hopeful. I believe in you all.

And so, Class of 2024, my message to you is this: Follow your heart and remain stubborn.

Thank you, all.

*Jacob Reyes is the news and rapid response coordinator for GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.*

# A **new** day in the United Methodist Church

## RELIGION AND LGBTQ PEOPLE

The denomination's General Convention approved language changes allowing same-sex weddings, LGBTQ clergy

**DAVID TAFFET** | Senior Staff Writer  
taffet@dallasvoice.com

**D**elegates to the United Methodist Church 2024 General Conference voted overwhelmingly last month to remove its 40-year old ban on “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” serving as clergy. Also, clergy may no longer be penalized for performing same-sex weddings.

Although lesbians and gays had officially been banned from serving as clergy, enforcement of that ban varied from diocese to diocese. Joretta Marshall, for example, was ordained in the Methodist Church in Colorado and was out as she served as dean of Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth. And a number of other gays and lesbians already serving as ministers around the country, with at least two already elevated to bishop.

In addition, a number of United Methodist Churches in Dallas County have been performing same-sex weddings for several years. But they've mostly been doing so quietly to discourage marriage equality opponents from filing charges against the “offending” pastors.

The vote came as the United Methodist Church in April held its first General Conference since before the COVID pandemic. A number of congregations have left the denomination in recent years over the issue.

To pave the way for LGBTQ ordination and same-sex marriage, at the beginning of the conference this year, delegates approved a regionalization plan that would allow different regions to adopt different rules. Under the former system, rules were adopted globally. Methodist churches in Africa have voted as a block to ban same-sex marriage and



The Rev. Rachel Griffin-Allison

LGBTQ ordination in the past.

The new system allows different regions to have different rules while respecting each other's differences.

In 2019, congregations were given the freedom to leave the denomination over matters of conscience in anticipation of rules changes at upcoming conferences.

They were allowed to keep their property, which belonged to the denomination. In Texas, 40 percent of the United Methodist churches left to join the conservative Global Methodist Church or to become independent.

But in Dallas County, only two churches left the denomination, according to

the Rev. Eric Folkerth, pastor of Kessler Park UMC. He said in West Texas, most churches left.

“The delegate who put the report on the floor to eliminate the 1972 incompatibility clause was an African-American woman from North Texas,” Folkerth said. “That was a symbol of how the North Texas Conference is ready to live together. I’m hopeful about that.”

What surprised him was how everything passed by large margins or simply passed on the consent agenda. “It was very thorough,” he said. “In two weeks, we undid the harm that took 52 years to develop.”

Folkerth said delegates made a beautiful statement about LGBTQ rights and offered an apology for the harm that was done. In his own church, he said, the new discipline was met with tears of joy. He said Sunday's service was very emotional.

Some churches aren't ready to accept LGBTQ clergy in their own congregations, and some pastors aren't comfortable performing same-sex weddings. He said that was okay — as long as churches respected each other.

“We are going to be a big church,” Folkerth said, that will allow ministers to “serve our local field mission.”

Folkerth said the atmosphere in some of the conservative churches which had left the denomination was toxic. “Conservative churches lied about what was going to happen,” he said. “The United Methodist Church will come after your beliefs and become ultra-liberal. They'll send you a gay pastor to recruit your children.”

That, of course didn't happen and is not going to happen. Little will change in most churches. Some will begin performing same-sex weddings; others that had already been performing same-sex weddings may do so more openly. And some may decide they're not ready to perform them.

For the Rev. Rachel Griffin-Allison, senior pastor of Oak Lawn United Methodist Church on the corner of Oak Lawn Avenue and Cedar Springs Road, the vote was personal.





The Rev. Eric Folkerth

Not only has she come out as a lesbian, she married her wife last September. Un-



The Rev. Ann Willet

til the conference changed the language on LGBTQ clergy and same-sex mar-

riage, she had to keep both her sexual orientation and her marital status quiet or risk losing her credentials.

Her Sunday sermon last week included what she called a long list of names of LGBTQ clergy who have served the congregation — going back as far as Gene Leggitt, a gay man who was an intern from Perkins School of Theology before the 1972 language went into the Book of Discipline.

Her reaction to the change in wording is simple: “I’m the happiest I’ve ever been,” Griffin-Allison said, describing her life before the change as being “forced into hiding in the middle of the gayborhood.”

“Locally, we have been a welcoming congregation before,” she said. “That doesn’t change.”

What does change is that she’s already seen new interest from people in the area and people who commute “looking for a safe space.”

The Rev. Ann Willet, senior pastor at Northaven UMC, described last Sunday’s worship service as joyous, with noisemakers and musical instruments.

“What it means is we can now celebrate gay weddings without fear of church charges,” Willet said. “I’ve been presiding at weddings, but I’ve had to do it secretly. And members of Northaven can now be ordained.”

While she said the church doesn’t track its members sexual orientation, Northaven has had a large number of LGBTQ congregants for years. She estimated 20 to 30 percent of the current congregation is LGBTQ.

As a form of resistance to the anti-LGBTQ wording in the Book of Discipline, the words United Methodist have been kept covered with a rainbow flag on Northaven’s large outdoor sign since the last general conference. As the flag has been regularly destroyed or stolen, the church has repeatedly replaced it.

To celebrate the change in wording that now welcomes LGBTQ members, the Pride flag will be removed from the church sign and will fly elsewhere on the property, Willet said, adding that with the new wording in place, she is once again proud to display the sign that includes the words United Methodist. ■



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# 40 years of impact

## DV ANNIVERSARY

Dallas Voice's trailblazing journey through LGBTQ history

**CAROLINE SAVOIE** | Contributing Writer  
CaroSavoWrites@gmail.com

**T**ears brimmed in Robert Moore's eyes as he talked about how far Dallas Voice has come since the co-founder of the paper "stumbled" into the publishing business in 1984. "I had no idea the impact that Dallas Voice would have on the LGBTQ+ community, other papers and Dallas as a whole," he said, taking off his glasses to wipe a tear from his cheek. "I couldn't have ever imagined."

In 1984, Moore, Don Ritz and William Marberry each invested \$250 to start Dallas Voice. Marberry was the publisher; Ritz was the editor, and Moore was the advertising director at the time of the paper's first 24-page publication on May 11, 1984.

With a background in sales, Moore realized he could help the paper take off. And that it did.

### The Critical Era: 1984-1995

In its first year on newsstands, the Voice became a member of the Gay Press Association. In its second year, Ritz and Moore bought out Marberry and moved production from Houston to Dallas. Dennis Vercher III started as the paper's editor, and Ritz and Moore founded the National Gay Newspaper Guild.

In the early '80s, buzz in the LGBTQ community started building. Dallas was becoming more welcoming, becoming a home for LGBTQ folks. Pride parades were becoming more frequent; more LGBTQ bars were opening in Oak Lawn, and in 1982, the state's sodomy law was ruled unconstitutional by federal district Judge Jerry Buchmeyer — a ruling that, sadly, was overturned on appeal.

And LGBTQ folks started holding places of leadership in the community.

Robert Emery, a founding board mem-



From left Dennis Vercher, Rex Ackerman, Don Ritz and Robert Moore

ber of the Coalition for Aging LGBT, said that on the other side of that coin of growing acceptance, Dallas' gay community was "suffocatingly stifled."

"Police were raiding bars," he said. "People were being murdered in the neighborhood when they would go from their parked car to a club. If not murdered, people were beaten up frequently."

"The police were not on our side in the early '80s. You could be fired from your job instantly, not by the proof of being gay or lesbian, but on suspicion," Emery continued. "Losing your job could lead to losing your family. And, sadly, that sometimes led to losing your life, because that's how negative the perception was."

Then came Dallas Voice. Emery said he started reading the paper on day one and never missed an issue.

"I was overwhelmed with gratitude for its existence," Emery said of the city's first LGBTQ newspaper. "I was proud of the people who created it. I was in awe of their courage to be public. And I was thrilled to get my hands on every copy and devour every word of what was happening in this secret community."

In 1988, Moore hired Tammye Nash, then 27, as a reporter. In 1989, Tim Self

started working as an ad sales rep, and David Taffet, then 35, appeared in the Voice as a freelance writer.

Emery said the 40-year history of the Voice is "the closest thing we could ever hope to get to a personal diary," noting that the paper covered both the large events and the large issues, but also the most intimate and small stories of the LGBTQ community in Dallas.

"I go to the newsstand every Friday and pick up a copy of that week's diary, that week's journal of what either happened that week or is happening next week. It gives me encouragement, entertains me and inspires me."

### The HIV/AIDS crisis

In the 1980s and '90s, the AIDS epidemic was running rampant through the United States, and Dallas' LGBTQ community was hit hard. Deb Elder, a long-time LGBTQ advocate and Voice reader, noted that the disease was referred to first as GRID, or Gay-Related Immune Deficiency syndrome.

The Dallas Voice staff was definitely not spared.

"It's very hard to watch people die at their desks," Moore said. "And I did that more than once. I watched people



Leo Cusimano

come to work sick and disheartened and knowing what was happening to them but refusing to go yet."

In 1993, Self died of AIDS. "To watch him slip away and be powerless, it was awful," Moore recalled.

In 1995, John Bode, a graphic artist at the Voice, died of AIDS. Several more staff members followed. In fact eight Voice staff members died of AIDS between 1993 and 2006.

Once, Moore said he found Vercher working on a story about a hate crime when he was struggling to work despite the effects of AIDS on his body. He told Vercher to trust his staff to handle the story. Moore remembers the words Vercher said next: "You know, they called him a faggot before they shot him. You know I hate that word. I'm going to do this story."

Vercher, who was senior editor of the Voice for 20 years, died of AIDS complications and lymphoma in September 2006.

"It was devastating," Taffet said. "You're working with this person and all of a sudden they're gone."

Taffet recalled cleaning out his Rolodex in January of 1990. He said he pulled out name after name, counting the number of people who died of AIDS. When



he got to 50, he stopped counting.

William Waybourn, who was one of the most prominent LGBTQ community leaders in Dallas in the '80s and early '90s and went on to co-found The LGBTQ Victory Fund, said the Voice documented LGBTQ history and issues extensively, especially during the AIDS crisis. He said when mainstream media sources wouldn't cover pharmaceutical developments or AIDS fundraisers, the Voice was there.

"I think that the Voice was a megaphone for the LGBTQ community to the larger straight community in Dallas," he said. "I know the media read the Voice, and they got some of their story ideas from Dallas Voice, whether it was information about a protest or information about new medications or new treatments or lawsuits."

Melissa Grove, former executive director of Legacy Cares, said when she was counseling AIDS patients in the '80s, the Voice helped her on her mission.

"They were always really generous about helping me out," she said. "The Voice helped with getting the word out that I needed to get out about my AIDS charity as well as the other AIDS charities in town. So they would always cover the fundraisers; they would always cover the events. And they would also look to us as experts and get our angle on what was going on."

Carol West, a chaplain who worked with AIDS patients and started reading the Voice in 1984, said people who had AIDS needed to know where resources were, and the Voice provided that information. She credits the Voice with bringing the community together during that difficult time, adding that the Voice was integral in her AIDS-related work.

## On the cusp of a new decade

In 1989, Taffet started writing a monthly travel column in the Voice because he had an international travel agency and traveled a lot on his own. That column ran monthly for 10 years.

That same year, Taffet said the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance helped Micah England sue the Dallas police department for discrimination after the department refused to hire her because she was a lesbian. England eventually won the case, but she never did become a DPD

officer.

Still, Taffet said, "By the time the case was resolved, we had a new police chief, Ben Click, and he held a reception for leaders of minority groups, and I was invited. As a result of that meeting, Click eventually created the LGBTQ liaison position, with Sgt. Lynn Albright named as the first official liaison. That position has been very important to me as a reporter in keeping me informed on police matters. They'll get background info for



Leo Cusimano and Terry Thompson

me because they trust me."

In 1992, Moore hired Leo Cusimano, 29, who became an ad rep for the Voice after working as a part-time graphic artist.

That year, the Dallas Morning News featured Ritz and Moore in its business section. Cusimano said calls for advertising started rolling in, and Moore tasked him with taking some of the calls. After seeing how well he handled ad sales, he asked Cusimano to come on as a full-time ad rep alongside Tim Self.

In 1994, the Voice became a member of The Associated Press wire service, meaning the AP could access AP stories and the Voice could distribute its stories to the AP.

In 1995, the city of Dallas enacted a non-discrimination policy protecting LGBTQ employees.

"There aren't that many gay companies out there now, and there especially weren't then, so gay people came here

and stayed," Taffet said. "There was something nice about coming to work and never having to worry about 'Oh, someone might find out.' Especially in the '80s and '90s. My first couple of jobs out of college, it's not that I hid being gay, but it wasn't something you'd talk about at work."

But at the Voice, he said, that dynamic was flipped on its head.

"We would be shocked to find out someone we hired was straight. There's

this role reversal, and it's nice to be in that position. It was easier to talk about your partner, what was going on in your life," he said.

## Going digital

From typewriters and Wangs to Macs and PCs, the end of the 1990s saw Dallas Voice debut online. In 1996, DallasVoice.com launched and started providing DFW's LGBTQ news online. Even though the staff had begun working on desktop computers, Taffet said he kept Vercher's typewriter for decades, a relic of days passed. He has since donated it to UNT's LGBTQ Archive.

In 1997, Daniel Kusner started working as the Voice's first life and style editor, and in 1998, as Ritz got progressively more sick with AIDS, he retired from day-to-day operations. He did retain ownership of the company with Moore, who stepped into his new role as pub-

lisher. That same year, Rex Ackerman, the Voice's original gossip queen columnist as well as a charity drag performer known as Heda Quote — who later became part-time circulation manager, died of AIDS.

Three years later, in 2001, after living his dream of moving to New York for a year, Ritz died of AIDS, and Moore became sole owner of the Voice and president of Voice Publishing Company.

During his decades-long tenure as editor, Vercher's penchant for perfection often kept the editorial team at the office late into the evening on Thursdays, the weekly deadline day. Cusimano recalled how one of those evenings, Vercher asked Nash, Taffet and Cusimano for that week's obituaries. But there were none.

"It was the first week in many, many years that Dallas Voice didn't have any obits from our community, from folks who died of complications from HIV and AIDS," Cusimano said. "The sky was lifting. It was an emotional time, and we all sat around and cried together. It's something I'll always remember."

In 2001, Nash left the Voice to return to mainstream newspapers, and Terry Thompson, Moore's then-husband, joined the paper's staff as office manager. David Webb started reporting for the Voice, as did Arnold Wayne Jones, who joined the staff as a life and style reporter and theater and dining critic.

Jones said the Voice gave him autonomy in his writing, even if then-editor Vercher gave him a run for his money where word choice was involved. "I like to write conversationally, naturally," Jones said. "I used 'gonna' and 'wanna,' and Dennis didn't always like that. But I won my fair share of grammar arguments."

Jones said over his years at the Voice, he watched more straight people start to read the paper, especially where his own pieces were concerned.

"I wrote for everyone," he said. "I was writing about gay performers and business owners, but everyone was interested in theater. Everyone wanted to know where to eat. I felt like I brought some crossover appeal, where gay and straight people were all reading the paper."

In the spring of 2004, the Voice marked



# The many faces of Dallas Voice

## Snapshots of our staff through the years

### DV ANNIVERSARY



30th anniversary staff photo



Alex Barnishin and Kris Martin



Anna Waugh



Arnold Wayne Jones



Brad Pritchett



2013 Lifewalk



Brian Kennedy



Cassie Nova



Chad Mantooth



Chris Edwards and Tyler Johns



Ben LaMasters, Tim Watson, David Jones and Leo



Bette and the Boys



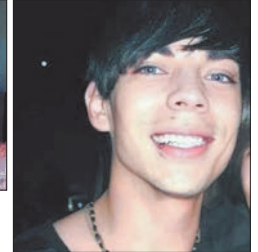
Chris Leeds



Corry Williams



Dallas Voice columnists Cassie Nova and Dr. Josh



Danté Vargas



Chris, Greg and Chance



Gary, Chico, Alex and the Boss



David Taffet



David Webb



Dennis Vercher and pal



Ed Alvarez



Jenny Block



Kelly Ryan Murphy



Erik Vasquez



Erin Moore



Greg Hoover



Howard Russell



Israel Luna and Leo



James Russell



Jesse Arnold



Jimmy Bartlett





The early years



Kelly, Alex and the Boss



Leo, Robert and Terry



Joey



Jon Lee Hart



Joseph Herrera



Joshua Baca



Leo, Jim and Pete



Veronique and Michael Stephens



Kevin Thomas



Larry the Fairy



Linda Depriter



Mark Daniel Manning



Staff lunch



Mathew Dominguez



Melissa Whitler



Michael Stephens and Kristina Walton



Nicholas Gonzalez



Philip Burton



Ramon Vega



Regina Lyn



Rich Lopez and Chance Browning



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Terry, Robert and Leo



Staff lunch



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# A personal perspective

## DV ANNIVERSARY



Jack Evans and George Harris get the first same-sex marriage license in Dallas County. (Photo by David Taffet)

Looking back at my life with  
Dallas Voice

**F**orty years ago, things were changing for the LGBTQ community in Dallas and around the country. National organizations were forming, and here, at home in Dallas, Resource Center was created; Congregation Beth El Binah was worshipping; Lambda Weekly was broadcasting, and Dallas Voice began publishing.

Of course, AIDS was just hitting the community. In 1984, a mysterious illness was attacking gay men in New York, San Francisco and even Houston, but we were sure it wouldn't travel up I-45 and hit us here in Dallas. But by the end of the year, we had experienced our first deaths caused by this mysterious illness.

Because AIDS only seemed to be attacking gay men, the response from the mainstream community was an overwhelming "I don't care." And met with that attitude, the LGBTQ community in Dallas decided we'd just have to take care of ourselves.



**David Taffet**  
Senior Staff Writer

Young gay doctors like Brady Allen stepped forward to provide medical care to the community.

The lesbian community loved and nurtured the gay men whose families abandoned them. Resource Center and Oak Lawn Community Services were created to provide counseling to those dying and support for those caring for them.

We quickly learned some of the basics like how to best distribute food to those who could no longer afford it.

New religious organizations like Congregation Beth El Binah, the LGBTQ Jewish congregation in Dallas, formed, and what is now Cathedral of Hope flourished as traditional churches excluded LGBTQ members or at most tolerated us.

Bill Nelson, remembered along with his husband Terry Tebedo for whom the Nelson Tebedo Clinic is named, was



broadcasting Lambda Weekly, one of the country's first LGBTQ radio shows. The show is still broadcast each Sunday at 1 p.m. on KNON-FM.

And Dallas Voice began documenting the LGBTQ community's triumphs and heartbreaks. While other newspapers' obituary pages were one of their biggest sources of income, Dallas Voice was printing obits free of charge to document the losses the community was experiencing each week.

The city's daily newspapers pumped out their obituary columns. We crafted each obituary with love as we remembered our friends who were now gone. The idea of charging for them was abhorrent; we were documenting LGBTQ Dallas.

But we were not only documenting the losses in the community, we were losing our co-workers. I remember being in the office when advertising director Tim Self returned from a doctor's appointment. He had been diagnosed with AIDS. Within a year, sweet, lovable Tim was dead.

Among the lasting legacies of the community building we did during the 1980s were the AIDS service agencies.

AIDS Interfaith Network organized church groups to make hospital visits and serve meals to people living with AIDS. When hospital workers refused to even enter an AIDS patient's room and instead left their meals on the floor outside the door, AIN volunteers picked up those trays and fed those patients. AIN was an early bridge between compassionate religious groups and the LGBTQ community.

When people with AIDS lost their jobs and, soon after, their homes, and when nursing homes refused to care for gay men with AIDS, the LGBTQ community again took things into our own hands. AIDS Services Dallas was formed and opened its first residence in an old house on Nash Street in Oak Lawn, the street that's now the entrance to Cathedral of Hope.

And when people living with AIDS couldn't afford food, Crossroads Market put up a shelf with a sign that simply said, "Leave a can. Take a can." And as the need outgrew one shelf, Resource Center stepped in, and the food pantry was created.

And Dallas Voice documented the community building relentlessly.

By the mid-90s, drugs began to hit the market that controlled the HIV virus. Things in the community began to

change. Organizations like Resource Center became as known for being the LGBTQ Community Center as it was for disseminating information as the AIDS Resource Center.

AIDS Arms began its pivot to providing full medical care for people living with HIV.

Instead of turning over its full roster of residents several times a year, residents at ASD began living for years rather than for just months after being diagnosed.

And on one production day, just before that week's Dallas Voice was about to go off to the printer, editor Dennis Vercher turned to me and said we forgot the obituaries. I looked through my computer and said I didn't have any. Dennis called to Tammye Nash. She thought and said she didn't have any either. And we all began crying. That was the first issue in years that we weren't reporting any deaths.

That was a turning point in reporting on the LGBTQ community. Along with reports on new medications that were keeping people with HIV living longer, we were making advances in LGBTQ rights.

A case out of Houston in which a couple was arrested in their home for "engaging in homosexual conduct" was working its way through the courts. What became *Lawrence v. Texas* made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Rather than affirming earlier support of state sodomy laws, the June 2003 decision overturned those rulings and legalized our intimate relationships.

More and more companies began offering same-sex partners benefits similar to what they offered married couples. And more and more same-sex couples began having families. States began recognizing our relationships legally, beginning with civil unions in Vermont and then full marriage equality in Massachusetts.

Over the next dozen years, one state after another legalized same-sex marriage. Some states, like Iowa, passed legislation that begin allowing same-sex couples to marry. California passed marriage equality then repealed it on a ballot initiative then repealed the repeal on another initiative. Other states, like Oklahoma began marrying same-sex couple by court order.

And in Texas, residents voted to ban marriage by adding an amendment to the state constitution, which the Supreme Court overturned in the *Obergefell*



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# Seeing red

## CHARITY IN ACTION

The DFW Sisters ready for its annual Red Dress Party benefit event

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

**T**he 1980s were a landmark decade. It was then that the queer community — furious over and fed up with how the mainstream world was ignoring AIDS — responded to the deadly epidemic with a vengeance, and proudly embracing visibility and activism — from newspapers to community centers. Perhaps no group was more proud, out, visible and active than the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

Dressed as nuns, with stark white makeup and irreverent monikers, the Sisters held their inaugural Red Dress party on May Day in 1982 at San Francisco's White Russian Hall. That tradition has, through the years, perpetuated and spread — appropriately enough — to SPI's other chapters, including the DFW Sisters.

That first Red Dress Party in San Francisco “was more of a political act against the mayor, Diane Feinstein,” explained Dallas Sister Shea Hung-Ho. “Now, we’ve all turned it into an HIV/AIDS awareness event.”

So Dallas, get your red dress couture ready. This year, the Dallas Sisters will host *Disco Inferno: Red Dress Extravaganza* on May 18 at the Dallas Eagle. The high-energy night will feature headlining DJs, a silent auction, live entertainment and more — all for a good cause.

“Our beneficiary every year is the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund. We have a great relationship with them, and this can bring attention to that organization’s services for those living with HIV/AIDS,” Sister Shea said.

The organization works with area HIV/AIDS service organizations to provide financial assistance to people living with HIV in ways that other agencies are



Sister Shea Hung-Ho, left, says the DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence are here to help

unable to do. With Red Dress, the Sisters stand — and dance — in solidarity and compassion with the HIV/AIDS community.

“We get to all come together — the Sisters, the community — to raise money, and it’s a good night for everyone,” Sister SoFonda Chickenwings said. “And we really appreciate The Dallas Eagle hosting the event for us.”

Before the previous iteration of Dallas Eagle closed during the pandemic, it was often the spot for the annual Red Dress parties. The event has also been held at TMC and The Hidden Door, this year marks a homecoming for the Sisters.

“The Eagle was so kind to welcome us back,” Sister Shea said. “We’ve done stuff there before since they’ve reopened, but this will be special.”

Sister Shea joined the house in 2019 and considers herself “fairly new” to the Sisters. Sister SoFonda also started her initiation process in 2019. The two both said they were drawn to the civic organization for a variety of reasons. Mostly though, it was the connection they saw between the Sisters and their own community.

“I would see them out and the different things they were doing,” Sister SoFonda said. “I knew Sister Lola Hangers and got interested. I had given time with professional volunteer groups but never personally, and I knew I needed to start within my community. I became fully



Sister SoFonda Chickenwings, left, thanked Dallas Eagle for hosting the 2024 Red Dress Party

professed in 2022.”

Sister Shea agreed, saying that being a Sister is about being there for the community she is a part of. She also joined by way of Sister Lola and began the year-long process to become fully professed.

The Sisters may be camp and fun, but becoming one is no joke. Sister Shea de-

scribed her process:

“The first three months, we’re required to go to all the meetings and events we can. Afterward, we move to postulancy and humble ourselves and learn from the other sisters what it means to be that,” she said. “Once we receive noviceship, we get the wimple, and we’re given a voice.”

“With our Mother’s support, we’re voted on to become elevated to fully professed status. It’s a lot of work, but it’s a lot of fun.”

Sister Shea Hung-Ho is now the Mistress of the House — or, in layman’s terms, president of the DFW chapter.

As fully professed Sisters, Sister Shea and Sister SoFonda both continue the legacy of the Red Dress party that began in 1982. “We have fun doing this and hope everyone makes it out,” Sister SoFonda said. “The more the merrier I say.”

Red Dress is about having a good time, but Sister Shea does find her own fulfillment with the party and the Sisterhood. “This isn’t just about HIV/AIDS,” she said. “There are other issues — like drug use and domestic abuse — and we are here to help those people, too.”

“We’re here to help everyone, and that’s what it means for me. Whether it’s a party or just one-on-one, the DFW Sisters will be there for the community.” ■

For Red Dress Party tickets, visit [DFW-Sisters.org/RedDress](https://DFW-Sisters.org/RedDress).



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# 'Best' intentions

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN

Denise Lee welcomes audiences to Uptown Player's cabaret 'Simply the Best'

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

**U**ptown Players is hosting a special weekend May 10-12, with two different performances. Cabaret Weekend kicks off Friday, May 10, with the dragapella group *The Kinsey Sicks* returning to the Uptown stage. On Saturday and Sunday, Denise Lee plays host in *Simply the Best – A Tribute to the*

*Greatest Artists of Our Time* featuring a cast of local faves singing iconic pop hits.

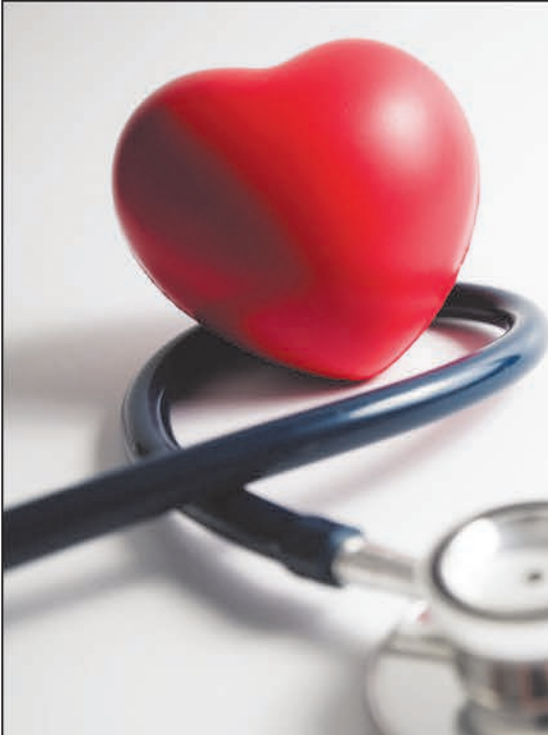
Uptown Players co-producer Jeff Rane "called me saying that they wanted to do a cabaret night, and if you know me, I'm all about cabaret," Lee said. "Then we talked about those icons of the LGBTQ community and the songs we wanted to do."


The two-act cabaret show will feature local talents Peter DiCesare, Bethany Lorentzen, Trey Tolleson and Lee Walter alongside host Denise Lee, celebrating legendary musical icons. Backed by a six-piece on-stage band under the musical direction of Gary Adler, the performances will include songs by artists who have had an impact on the LGBTQ community.

What Lee didn't want to do was




The Kinsey Sicks (Photo by Lois Tema)





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the songs that often end up on Pride soundtracks. Pick up a copy of *Now That What I Call Pride*, and that's exactly what she didn't want. She wanted to go deeper.

"We tried not to do the typical songs and go with those that aren't heard a lot but still play a role in the community," Lee said. "There are old ones, campy ones, and it's just all for fun."

Lee teased that she has her own number with one big legendary hit but offered no details. When asked to deliver more, she opted to leave most of the singing to the cast.

"'Y'all go ahead. I'm hosting,' I said. The voices on that stage are pretty amazing. Jeff had also asked me to direct, but I told him I'd rather give suggestions," she said with a laugh.

Lee has been a staple at Uptown Players as well as in the community. She was at the first *Broadway Our Way* fundraiser, the annual installment of which was just last weekend. Lee is a busy actor and singer but when it comes to Uptown, it's easy for her to say "yes."

"This is my community. I like working with organizations that do good work and that serve their communities and being that ally," she said. "If I can help with whatever I add, I am there. But it also has to be fun for me at this point. If I can't laugh, it's tough. I always laugh with Uptown."

The weekend kicks off Friday with a one-night-only performance from *The Kinsey Sicks*. The group's show *Deep Inside Tonight* is a musical newscast-run-amok where America's Favorite Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet takes over the airwaves.

Through four-part harmonies and their hot takes and parodies on current events, *The Kinsey Sicks* bring their own laughs to the audience with a show that changes with the times.

"They are ever-changing. We don't shy away from hot topics or sensitive issues. But you know, we do it with a wink and a nod," Spencer Brown, AKA Trampolina told *Dallas Voice* before their appearance at Uptown Players in 2021 for the holidays. "This way, we



Denise Lee

have fun with it, and it's in four-part harmony."

It is this approach that perhaps explains the longevity of the *The Kinsey Sicks*, which has been performing for almost a quarter-century now.

Lee appreciates the fun that Uptown Players is bringing. The company is basically giving a one-two punch of entertainment following its *Broadway Our Way* fundraiser last weekend. Lee says it's needed.

"The world is so crazy right now, so if you need a palate cleanser, come on down. It's Mother's Day weekend so bring your mom or someone else's mom," she said. "It's like a smaller version of *Broadway Our Way* but with pop tunes. Come on out and just get lost in the music." ■

For tickets, visit [UptownPlayers.org](http://UptownPlayers.org).



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# Summer camp, **safe** space

## LGBTQ YOUTH

Back for its third year, Kindom Camp is providing a much-needed safe space for LGBTQ youth

MELISSA WHITLER | Dallas Voice Fellow  
Melissa@DallasVoice.com

If you're looking for an affirming summer camp for your LGBTQ child between the ages of 12 and 17, look no further than Kindom Camp, which has expanded to include four locations this summer: Texas, Illinois, Nevada and Indiana.

Kindom was founded by Pepa Paniagua as a queer-led space to cultivate belonging and celebration. It was inspired by Cuban-American theologian

Ada María Isasi-Díaz, who introduced an alternative conception of kingdom.

"Kindom" is the full inclusion and relationship of all God's people, seeking to create a new faith community defined by radical inclusion rather than dominate religious narratives. Kindom Community is a space for people of all backgrounds and is very sensitive to those who have experienced religious trauma. Adherence to any particular faith tradition is not expected or required, making Kindom a place where all can come as they are and be met with community.

The past two summer camps led by Paniagua have been incredibly transformative and impactful, according to those who have participated. They've had campers come in from all over, spanning the whole spectrum of sexualities and genders. Campers at Kindom are able to make friends here in this safe and sacred space, where they can show



up fully, in a way they can't in their schools and communities. One counselor described it as "a radically life-changing experience," made more impactful because campers get to share the week with a cabin full of other kids exploring these same emotions and questions.

The second year of Kindom saw lots of returning of campers and a number of first timers. But counselors noted that returning campers did not clique up and were welcoming and inclusive to new kids. The connections made at camp are strong, as kids are often dealing with life



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and death issues and recognize the hurt and need in one another.

Part of the mission of Kindom is to continue the community outside of camp. One counselor has a group chat from their cabin last year that still has messages sent in it every day. These kids are still as invested and caring for the lives of one another just as they were over the summer.

Kindom also does work to support camp families in between summer sessions.

This past October, Paniagua stepped down from her position as executive director, making room for Dr. John Leedy to step into the role. Dr. Leedy first met Paniagua back in 2007, and, from his home in Austin, followed the development of Kindom online. Two years after coming out as bisexual, Dr. Leedy was invited by Paniagua to be a camp counselor.

"She told me this would be a place you would feel comfortable living your full self out loud," Dr. Leedy said. "This was my first indication that Kindom was something different, a place where people can live fully into who they are."

Dr. Leedy described his first Kindom Camp experience as "a week that was a miracle on earth." He said he experienced firsthand how meaningful this camp was both for the youth and for the adult counselors. In a state that is so actively hostile to LGBTQ people — especially trans, youth — the space created at Kindom was, in many ways, lifesaving. The staff care a lot about this work, and the campers are able to experience a truly affirming space.

One of the most notable aspects of Kindom is its commitment to radical inclusion. "We want to be able to welcome and celebrate everything these young people bring with them," explained Dr. Leedy. Their large support staff includes licensed professional counselors, as well as medical staff who are fully knowledgeable about trans adolescent health care.

For many campers, this is the first time they've been in a fully safe and affirming environment, and Kindom ensures everything is done safely and handled with the utmost care. Several attending campers are neurodivergent, so Kindom

SUMMER, Next Page

Happy


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## SUMMER From Previous Page

ensures there is a sensory room set up. Dietary needs are accommodated in every way, from sensory-aware options to any individual restrictions.

Dr. Leedy recalled that, last year, one of the campers was a young Jewish girl who was celebrating a fasting holiday for the duration of camp. She informed the staff of this on the first day of camp, and they worked with their medical team to create a plan that allowed her to practice her faith fully, stay safe and still have the summer camp experience.

The goal is to craft a space that is not just tolerant but celebratory of diversity. Campers come from diverse racial and religious backgrounds, and 51 percent of campers have received scholarships to attend.

A majority of the staff identifies as part of the LGBTQ community, which allows kids to see that it is possible to survive long enough to become a queer adult. Intersectionality is emphasized in staff training, and the camper/staff ratio is 2:1.

The second year of camp, Paniagua approached Dr. Leedy and let him know she would be stepping down at Kindom and taking a full-time position at Grace Presbytery. Dr. Leedy had since become an associate pastor at Hope Presbyterian Church in Austin, but Paniagua let him know the board of directors was considering him as her successor.

"A thousand barriers came up in my mind at that moment," Dr. Leedy said. He was married, had two kids and was working full time. But that night when he talked with his wife, she told him not to let logistics get in the way of a good idea. It didn't take long to realize this was Dr. Leedy's dream job, and he decided to give it a shot.

Thus began a season of transition. With Paniagua as the original visionary, Dr. Leedy continues her legacy and is working to build a sturdy, sustainable structure that will last. "Kindom community is growing and expanding," Dr. Leedy commented, "And my goal is to make sure the organization infrastructure is able to sustain this energy."

This summer, Kindom has expanded to support four summer camps across different states. The organization partners with the local communities and provides programming and curriculum, as well as assistance with hiring and running the first year of camp. But the ultimate goal is self-sustaining Kindom

communities that rely on local support.

"We want Kindom communities to be planted and grow up around these camp experiences," Dr. Leedy said. "We want to help create brave spaces marked by love and diversity, spaces that can thrive without us having to be there."

The Kindom Camp at Lake Tahoe, Nev., is an example of one of these growing communities. This will be their second year hosting camp at Zephyr Point, and local leadership is creating the community their campers desire. The fact that camp is being hosted there a second time is an indication that something has begun growing at Zephyr Point.

Of course, running such an organization requires a lot of outside support. Operating an LGBTQ camp in the state of Texas means being very strategic and intentional in advertising and spreading information. Safety of campers is always the first priority, so Kindom ensures that the location of the Texas camp is not publicized anywhere online. They rely heavily on word of mouth for information about the camp to reach those who need it.

Maintaining a sustainable organization also requires a lot of fundraising. Earlier this year Dr. Leedy published a letter honestly sharing about the financial state of Kindom. Meant to motivate action, the letter let the public know the organization was struggling with a lack of donations and was, thus, facing an uncertain future.

And the community responded. Within a month, more than \$11,500 had been donated, and their number of recurring monthly donators more than doubled. The work Kindom is doing resonates outside of the organization.

There are ways that everyone can help, from financial support to volunteering to just spreading the word. For those looking to support LGBTQ youth, more information can be found on at the Kindom website. And registration for this summer's camps have already opened, so those interested in attending need to act quickly before spots fill up. ■

*Registration for the July 21-26 Texas Kindom Camp closes June 30. For more information visit to [KindomCommunity.org/camp](http://KindomCommunity.org/camp).*

*This story is part of the Digital Equality Local Voices Fellowship lab. The lab initiative is made possible with support from Comcast NBC Universal.*

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Karl Struss (1886-1981), Gloria Swanson, *Something to Think About* (detail) (1920), gelatin silver print, Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth, Texas, P1983.23.1650



# A slippery trip

## ON THE PAGE

Geoffrey Mak's 'Mean Boys' may mess up your equilibrium, but in a good way

**TERRI SCHLICHENMEYER** | The Bookworm  
BookwormSez@yahoo.com

***Mean Boys: A Personal History* by Geoffrey Mak; c.2024, Bloomsbury; \$28.99; 267 pages.**

**T**his and that. It's how a pleasant conversation is fed — with give and take, back and forth, wandering casually and naturally, a bit of one subject easing into the next with no preamble. It's communication you can enjoy, like what you'll find inside *Mean Boys* by Geoffrey Mak.

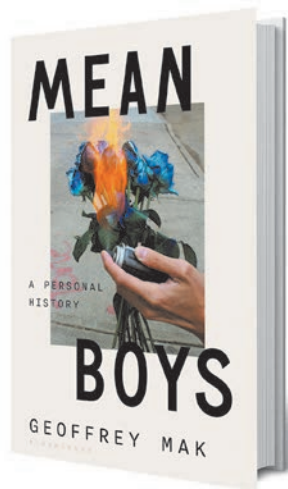
Sometimes, a conversation ends up exactly where it started. Take, for instance, Shakespeare's *King Lear*, which leads Mak to think about his life and his inability to "cull the appropriate narratives out of nonsense ... ." Part of that problem, he says, was that his living arrangements weren't consistent. He sometimes "never really knew where I was living," whether it was Berlin or California, in a studio or high-end accommodations.

The parties, the jokes, the internet consumption were as varied as the homes, and sometimes, "it didn't really matter." Sometimes, you have to accept things and just "move on."

When he was 12 years old, Mak's father left his corporate job, saying that he was "called by God" to become a minister. It created a lot of resentment for Mak — for the lack of respect his father got and because his parents were "passionately anti-gay."

He moved as far away from home as he could, and he blocked all communication with his parents for years, until he realized that, "By hating my father, I ended up hating myself, too."

And then there was club life, which, in Mak's descriptions, doesn't sound



much different in Berghain (Germany) from what it is in New York. He says he "threw myself into night life," in New York Houses, in places that gave "a skinny

Chinese kid from the suburbs ... rules I still live by," on random dance floors and in Pornceptual. Eventually this, drugs, work, politics, pandemic, basically everything and life in general led to a mental crisis, and Mak sought help.

"I don't know why I'm telling you all this," Mak says at one point. "Sometimes life was bad, and sometimes it wasn't, and sometimes it just was."

Though there are times when this book feels like having a heart-to-heart with an interesting new acquaintance, *Mean Boys* can make you squirm. For sure, it's not a beachy-read or something you'll breeze through in a weekend.

No, author Geoffrey Mak jumps from one random topic to another with enough frequency to make you pay super-close to attention to his words lest you miss something. But that won't leave you whiplashed. Instead, you're pulled into the often-dissipated melee just enough to feel almost involved with it — but with a distinct sense that you're being held at arms' length, too. That some stories have no definitive timeline or geographical stamp — making it hard to find solid ground — also adds to the slight loss of equilibrium here, like walking on slippery river rock.

Surprisingly, that's not entirely unpleasant. But readers will want to know that the ending in *Mean Boys* could leave their heads swirling with a dozen thoughts on life, belonging and death. If you like depth in your memoirs, you'll like that ... and this. ■



# Cultural comedy club

## FESTIVAL NEWS

The Kufiya Comedy Festival adds a touch of queerness to its cultural celebration

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

**F**or three days beginning Friday, May 10, the Kufiya Comedy Festival will celebrate the diverse cultures of South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and East and Southeast Asia through comedy, film and music — but mostly comedy. With this festival, organizers Alex Hanson and Marena Riyad are giving visibility to communities that may be overlooked

— and that includes LGBTQ creatives. This year, three comedians will bring a bit of rainbow to Kufiya.

“The festival uses art as a weapon of resistance against censorship and stigmatization, particularly for LGBTQ artists and performers who face discrimination both from within and outside their communities,” Hanson said. “We [the festival organizers] believe that the lack of rights, representation, and self-determination for any group affects us all. Our freedoms are intertwined.”

And what better way to fight that than through laughter.

The three days of the festival celebrate cultural diversity specifically. Friday will be dedicated to South Asia; Saturday (World Kufiya Day) showcases the MENA Region, and Sunday

highlights East/Southeast Asia.

Dallas comic KeLanna Spiller performs Friday night. She had performed a Kufiya Comedy show earlier this year and with that performance found an audience she wanted to return to.

“The crowd was so diverse, and the venue was very intimate. I enjoyed how appreciative and attentive the audience was during everyone’s set,” she said. “I thought it would be a place I’d like to perform at again, so when Marena mentioned she was producing a comedy festival, I knew I had to be a part of it.”

Tanveer Arora is embarking on a new frontier as a comedian. He had collaborated with Riyad before, so when she expressed interest in him performing, saying yes was easy.

“The theme of the festival feels so

fresh, and I’m happy about such a thing happening,” Arora said. “I love how inclusive this is, and we need more representation, not just Asian communities, but LGBTQ as well. This is a great thing.”

Arora said he’s looking forward not only to his performance but also to networking with other comedians, particularly Sureni Weerasekera. Arora may actually fanboy over the comedian. As it turns out, he’s not just a fan; he sees her as inspiration.

“She has a strong set that delivers on our culture, but she also plays the LGBTQ stuff in her comedy so well,” he said. “I’m trying to do that now with my set and material.”

Arora came out as bisexual more than a year ago. He hasn’t touched on it in his comedy much if at all, but he’s

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KeLanna Spiller



Tanveer Arora

working on changing that. For a “brown man in a turban,” he says, it’s scary.

“My comedy has been fairly clean, with mom and dad jokes. I play on those IT or terrorist stereotypes, which work on audiences,” he said. “It’s easy to sell stereotypes. It’s harder to come out as bi person to audiences waiting for 7-11 and 9/11 jokes.

“I don’t think anyone has thought about someone in a turban messing around with cocks.”

Arora can lace in humor while talking about his orientation in a conversation. But onstage, it’s a different story. He’s straddling his old material with his new, more personal jokes as well as battling audiences, profiling and his own comfort.

“I do want to bridge that gap of South Asian folks and my bisexuality while I craft my comedy in a way that’s easily palatable,” he said. “Mostly, I want people to have a good time, but I also need to be my authentic self.”

With his background, there is a distinct fear of pushback from his religious

communities, and he quite literally can’t say anything blatantly anti-religious without putting his life in danger.

But he abides by the one rule of comedy and has to trust in that: “If it’s funny, it’s funny. I can talk about Walmart or dicks, but it’s gotta be funny,” he said. “Why should I hide and be unreal to fans?”

All Arora wants is to be funny. When he relays jokes about organizing an orgy or his jealous wife when getting massaged by a man, they get solid laughs. Once he gets past the coming out hurdle, he wants his comedy to be at the forefront of who he is.

“It goes back to being authentic, but I don’t want to have to create these characters who are in tech or who are Uber drivers. I just want to be a guy who has a job, going through a divorce and who is bisexual,” he said.

And he wants to be funny too. ■

Follow Arora on Instagram at @tanveer-arora and Spiller at @kelanna\_spiller. For tickets and information, visit [KufiyaComedyTx.com](http://KufiyaComedyTx.com).

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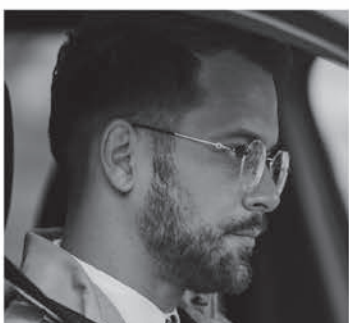




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# A pragmatic approach

## ART

Fort Worth artist Bernardo Vallarino doesn't tell viewers what to think about his work; he invites you to decide himself

**JAMES M. RUSSELL** | Contributing Writer  
James.Journo@gmail.com

**B**ernardo Vallarino doesn't feel sleazy about placing a sculpture of a gun-shaped erect penis bulging out of incredibly tight boxer briefs alongside a commission for a synagogue's 150th anniversary. In fact, there he is, on the third floor of the former location of the Arlington Museum of Art in December, looking at those works in the solo show *Hard On: Guns, God and Gold*, which includes photographs, paintings and sculptures.

Meaning and interpretation are open to discussion in his work, he stressed.

"I'm a pragmatist," Vallarino said. It's a genteel and Texas concept. He doesn't want to offend; he wants to make people think, a skill he learned while studying art at his alma mater, Texas Woman's University.

"The moment I realized I was a pragmatist is when I was forced to think in graduate school why I do the work that I do," he said. Take, for example, his experience going through his art before pursuing his master's degree in fine arts. His works then were about love. But he didn't know why he was thinking about love.

Then he realized why: Love's just a word. The action is what is important.

"I was pissed about the word 'love,'" Vallarino said. It's a strong but provocative statement, he explained, noting that "love" is a manipulative word that can be used for good or bad. But when love shines, "it's in the moments that someone does something for someone else from a point of care," he said.

Vallarino lives in Fort Worth with his husband, Curtis — who, to be clear, he loves. They are realtors, and Vallarino



Bernardo Vallarino & Ariel Dais, *El Martirio de Venus - Free to Carry*, 120x60x72in, Mixed Media, \$7200.



Bernardo Vallarino, *Indecent Exposure*, 2023, Mixed media, 24x24x30. \$8500

also serves as an adjunct professor at TWU, both jobs that he also loves.

Vallarino's works included in the December exhibit span about a decade and vary in subject. But they share the gay Colombian-American's desire to delve into the gray area between rhetoric and action, and how it can feed into cognitive dissonance. He critiques the violence we commit against each other, whether

physically, socially or metaphorically. In that frame of mind, he specifically critiques the gaps between words and actions as well.

The same could be said of religion, where many people, especially LGBTQ people, would agree between faith and practice. He has a hard time being in-your-face with his criticism of religion, tapping instead into that pragmatic description.

"I didn't want to be disrespectful. But there is a gap between theology versus practice," he said, looking at *Blind Faith* (2015), a sculpture of a fly zapper hanging over a book. It's amusing and dark. You hear the zap, and you see the zap of a religious text.

Among his most recent works is the far more sensitive commission for Emanu-El's 150th anniversary. *Kaleidoscopes of Light, Habitat of Reflection* was a "twist on a butterfly habitat with a human connection," he said. Butterflies are common in his work. In Colombia, they are symbols of transformation.

It is, of course, a critique of religion, of why people can't follow what they believe and act accordingly. "But I wanted to be mindful of the idea of 'reflection,'" he said. He has a glimmer of hope for people, even if he is pissed about how we act.

So, he adapted a sacred Jewish text translated in English to "all life is sacred and must be protected, no human is inherently more important than another, and though we may look different from one another, the infinite nature of the Divine means that we are all equally created." It is written on three mirrors covered in English, Sanskrit and Hebrew.

He's spent the past 15 years thinking about guns, perhaps the most physical representation of violence. His newest work is the result of needing a psychological reprieve from that decade and a half.

"I'm not saying they're wrong or bad, but instead I'm asking the question of what they are.

"I'm now at a point where I can change from when I was looking at





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## PRAGMATIC, From Page 30



Bernardo Vallarino, *La Plegaria, el Pensamiento y el Deseo de Paz Más Importantes* – 2016, White Ribbon, Pin, Shadow Box. \$450

problems such as people with guns,” Vallarino continued, even as his work shows some clear rage. “Now I’m looking at how they interact with us now. Now I’m saying, ‘Let’s look at the problem without reacting to it.’”

Gay artists think about penises; Vallarino’s no different. But does thinking about a penis as a gay man inform his work?

He pushes back on the idea that his sexuality, like any other artist’s, informed what is a blatantly phallic symbol. With *Indecent Exposure* from 2023, the erotic gun-dick sculpture, the viewer can choose between whether it’s amusing or grotesque, or perhaps both.

“I tried hard not to apply my sexuality and to have queerness and sexuality central to the work, but they just so happen to overlap. There’s a sort of sensuality that comes with possession of a gun. And of course it’s a phallic figure. I’m approaching the gun as a symbol also of toxic masculinity,” he said, but with a strong and amusing strong visual figure.

“We’ve become desensitized by the violence of everyday life,” Vallarino said, and he wants to end the numbness, which is why he also sees something beautiful in it. “I’m just wanting with my work to remind people, ‘don’t do this,’ and to entice people to change people’s minds.” ■



## PERSPECTIVE, From Page 17

case in 2015. A photo very similar to one taken by a Dallas Voice staff member appeared on the front pages of newspapers around the world, showing Dallas legends and longtime partners Jack Evans and George Harris getting married at the county courthouse the same day the *Obergefell* ruling was issued.

Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell was repealed and LGBTQ people were able to serve in the military. Sexual orientation and gender identity became protected categories in employment nondiscrimination after the *Dobbs* decision.

And the trans community grew. More and more people were openly transitioning. And just as more and more gay and lesbian youth began coming out at younger and younger ages, trans youth began transitioning, often with the support of their parents.

After *Obergefell*, conservative pastors

and right-wing legislators had more trouble demonizing and passing anti-gay legislation. But trans youth and those who supported them became targets. Each legislative session, lawmakers have piled on record numbers of anti-LGBTQ bills. One state copies what has been successful in other states.

And for the last 40 years, Dallas Voice has reported throughout the good times and the bad not just by listing what legislation passed or failed but by telling stories of how laws or court decisions, illnesses and breakthroughs have affected members of the LGBTQ community. And the staff of Dallas Voice plans to continue telling those stories, informing our community and doing our part in the battle for equality — in print, online and however else our evolving technology allows. ■





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Ballet Folklórico de Amalia Hernandez	Mon, Feb. 10 at 7:30 PM
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# Style and performance

## DRIVE

Redesigned 2024 Subaru Forester reaches for horizons, but pack your patience

CASEY WILLIAMS | Auto Reviewer  
AutoCasey@aol.com

**H**ave you ever been to Montana? As I found on my first visit recently, it's a big place — the kind of wide-open-horizon-to-horizon-nestling-mountains-wide-open-interstates kind of place where you just want to drive, drive and drive.

Turns out, it was the perfect place to meet the redesigned 2025 Subaru Forester.

### Handsome upscale style

Given that backdrop, the new Forester looks on the nose, with a more wind-swept face wearing squinty headlamps that run from grille to fenders. It's further distinguished by deep fender sculpting over available 19-inch wheels and tail lamps that extend across the liftgate. It's difficult to make a box look sleek, but designers did their best, and it's a more handsome vehicle for the effort.

There are two exhaust covers, but there's only one tailpipe, so contain your excitement.

No matter your aesthetic, there's a trim level with the right vibe. Drivers who just want a durable crossover with all-wheel-drive buy the Base. But those craving more progress through Premium, Sport, Limited and Touring trims.

I especially like the Sport that's enhanced by bronze accents and wipe-down faux leather seats. Touring editions conjure all the kit: Brown leather, Harman Kardon audio, digital rear-view camera, wireless phone charging, foot-activated power rear gate and heated seats all-around.



### You're not imagining it; lesbians DO drive Foresters

If you think a disproportionate number of lesbians in your gayborhood drive Subaru Foresters, you're not imagining it. Forester sales tend to skew female anyway, but combine that with a propensity for our tribe to embrace the authentic values of Subaru, and there tends to be a happy marriage.

Back in the '90s, Subaru was scouring its sales demographics and discovered a disproportionate number of lesbian customers in the Northeast. Apparently, lesbians just liked the cars — appreciating their all-weather capability and versatility for weekend adventures and finding them a durable value. So, Subaru embraced the LGBTQ community by contributing to causes that matter like HRC and PFLAG. It was one of the first automakers to offer same-sex partner benefits to employees and was a pioneer in advertising through gay newspapers.

"Subaru owners have always been our biggest source of inspiration, and there is nothing more authentic than real people sharing how their vehicle enhances their life," said Diane Anton, corporate communications manager for Subaru of America. "Subaru is also authentic in our own corporate spaces. Subaru of America, Inc. was named a 2022 Best Place to Work for LGBTQ+ Equality by the Human Rights Campaign."

Unless you go Base, passengers confront an 11.6-inch tablet-style screen. Easily connect phones wirelessly through Apple CarPlay or Android Auto. Proper

wheel-drive system. Clicking paddles to shuffle through eight pre-set gear ratios helps. Expect 25/32-MPG city/highway

Even on wide open Montana highways, I looked for straight downhill segments with plenty of space before passing. Pulling into traffic going uphill takes nerves, as may accelerating onto freeways back home where highways are as flat as a griddle. I will say, though, that once up to speed, the ride is serenely comfortable. There's very little wind noise, and only under hard acceleration do you hear more than a murmur from the engine.

It is remarkably capable too, given 8.7 inches of ground clearance and X-Mode that adjusts for terrain conditions and can even creep down steep includes. Enjoy a smoother ride and less steering

vibration over rough roads. I spent most of my time in the Touring with softer suspension but choose the Sport for a more engaging feel.

Subarus ace crash tests, but the new three-camera EyeSight system provides adaptive cruise, automatic braking and lane keep assist and can even steer around objects in an



knobs for volume and tuning are appreciated.

Dual-zone automatic climate control, power sunroof, ventilated front seats and a heated steering wheel are optional. It's probably time for Subaru to offer a digital dash, at least in Sport and Touring models. But there's no beating the clarity of big analog gauges.

### Smooth, capable and patient

Enjoy the scenery because it'll be in your view awhile. On paper, the 2.5-liter horizontally-opposed "Boxer" four-cylinder engine produces 180 horsepower and 178 lb.-ft. of torque — plenty for a crossover this size. Yet the continuously variable transmission requires patience to send power through the standard all-

emergency. Rear cross path detection, safe exit assist and blind spot warning systems are available too. It can even slow the vehicle should the driver become incapacitated.

### Happy trails

Subaru didn't have to redesign the Forester, as the nameplate posted its best-ever sales month during March. Since the automaker knows its customers well, I think people are going to be very happy with the new Forester, whether crossing wide-open Montana, taming Dallas traffic or slicing Indiana cornfields. To keep it affordable, Base models start at just \$29,695, rise through the Sport at \$34,495 and tap out with the Touring's \$39,995. ■



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# Community, love and **gays** in the church

## BEHIND THE CAMERA

'Mysterious Ways' filmmaker talks about the journey to make his movie and its impact

**JENNY BLOCK** | Contributing Writer  
jennyblock@icloud.com

Queerness and religion are strange and, oft times, dangerous bedfellows. It's a topic that even cinema tends to shy away from. But one filmmaker has decided to hit it head on, and he's done it with glorious results.

Written and directed by Paul Orem-

land, *Mysterious Ways* is a brand new LGBTQ film out of New Zealand that is ruffling some feathers — in a good way.

The film is about a media storm that threatens the marriage between a vicar, played by Richard Short, and his Samoan boyfriend, played by Nick Afoa, after the two announce that they plan to have a traditional wedding in the church.

*Mysterious Ways* was released on April 30 by Ariztical Entertainment and will be available on a number of platforms, including iTunes, VUDU and Google Play, as well as Ariztical's digital platforms and DVD.

Dallas Voice caught up with Oremland to find out more about *Mysterious Ways* and its, well, mysterious ways.



Paul Oremland



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**Dallas Voice: Did you always want to be a filmmaker?** Paul Oremland: Yeah, I mean, I started making films when I was at school, and I won't give my age away by saying it was on super eight, but yeah. And it's something that I've always loved. Both film and television have been my life.

It was quite strange though. I was brought up in a fairly strict fundamentalist religion, which actually frowned on movies. So I didn't actually see any of them until I was about 16, and I was a little screwed up about being gay and the religious thing. Ironically, the first film I ever saw in my life was *Ben Hur*, a great classic, and it blew my mind. But at the time I was very screwed up and angry at the world, and I just thought, what great medium to sort of get back at all these people who are making me feel bad. That was sort of the driving force to begin with, but then it changed.

**What inspired you to make this particular film?** It's been a real labor of love. I worked on it for a long time. It started out when marriage was becoming a possibility for gay people, and I just thought, look, it's a great area to explore. I'm not a devout Christian or anything anymore, but I've always been interested in religion because of my background. I was aware of the split in the Anglican church, so I just thought what a great subject to explore.

**What made you think you could make this idea of a film into a reality?** I think it's tough to get any film off the ground in this environment. I mean, you have to be convinced, and I was pretty convinced it was the right film for me to do. It just felt like the next film that I felt I had to make.

For some reason, the idea that you can be gay and also have faith seems to confuse and upset a lot of people. I mean, we've actually had some quite negative reactions to the film from gay people, oddly enough. ... Yet I've also seen it mean so much to so many people.

**Can you speak a little to what the negative reactions from gay people were?** I think it's because the film is not anti-religion. I understand the pain and suffering that so many rainbow people have been dealt by religion over the years. But I think it's more subversive to suggest that there can be gay Christians.

It's difficult. I grew up in a country where it was illegal. You were imprisoned. They had aversion therapy. It was a completely taboo subject at school. You were totally ostracized if you were even thought to be gay. So a film like this is incredible.

It is a wholesome film. It has a little bit of

kissing and it's definitely a film about love, but it's not sex, drugs and rock and roll.

**Do you have any advice for people who want to remain in the church but who are also gay and don't want to have to be closeted?** The film is about love triumphing [and] about family and community. For me, one of the most important things is community. Communities are really important, and a church is a community, and when it's supportive, it can be fantastic. My parents remain deeply devout and they managed to still be supportive and weirdly come round, although it remains an issue.

The other thing, the film is a biracial love story, and the character Jason is Samoan, The Pacific Islander community throughout the world, but certainly here in New Zealand, is very large, fairly conservative, deeply religious. And this is still huge taboo. I mean, it's still illegal in many of the Pacific Islands.

In America there are still many, many gay Christians who struggle with the fact that they have to find a church that accepts them. And often, and it still splits families apart. Here in New Zealand, I met a young person the other day whose family had virtually thrown him out, and I just couldn't believe it in this day and age.

**I feel more included when cheesy movies are made that include our community. Do you feel that way too?** I feel in many ways it's more subversive. It's been amazing down here. We had a little theatrical run, and we had lots of gay clergy who said, 'Look, this is our story.' And we had young gay people bringing their mom and dad. Growing up, it would have been wonderful to have something like this. It's a film that's got real heart.

**Anything else you'd like to share?** It's a struggle to get it noticed. The gay festivals didn't want to go near it. And that's been really sad, because I've also seen how it really has moved people. There are so many gay people still struggling to reconcile faith and sexuality and it doesn't need to be that way.

I've not seen another film that touches on this area. There are lots of films attacking religion, lots of films about struggling and eventually finding love and leaving your faith. But a film where one celebrates it and God blesses it in a most unexpected way, I think it's important.

There are a lot of people that it will mean a lot to. Watch it, because at the end it delivers. It delivers. The ending's really spectacular.

Watch the trailer at [Vimeo.com/852527546](http://Vimeo.com/852527546).

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**IMPACT**, From Page 13



its 20th anniversary. Nash dropped by the paper to see the Voice's new offices and say hello to her former coworkers. During that visit, Moore invited her to return as a reporter, because Vercher was getting sicker. She accepted, and started writing alongside David Webb.

"I was doing more and more of the editor's job during those years, as Dennis became more ill," Nash said.

Early in 2006, DVtv, a video component of DallasVoice.com, was added to the site to feature news and entertainment videos from around North Texas. The crew grew from three to five people when local filmmakers Israel Luna and Ryan Fyffe joined, and a rotating cast of on-air talent grew too.

"We embrace every platform we can to uplift and amplify LGBTQ voices," Cusimano said. "When it comes to technology, those in the LGBTQ community have always been first adopters."

That same year, the Voice produced its first annual Readers Voice Awards in March. This year in March, the Voice hosted its first in-person RVA ceremony with a party in The Rose Room.

After Vercher's death in the fall 2006, Nash became senior editor of the Voice. Then Kushner left the paper in the spring of 2009, and Jones was appointed lifestyles editor of the Voice. Taffet was helping write blurbs for the 120-page 25th anniversary issue of the Voice that May, and, he said, Nash offered him a job as a news writer. He accepted.

He said it took him a while to get used to writing for news instead of travel. "I hadn't written news at the time, and Tammye said she would edit me," he said. "It was a new style for me, but was I worried about it? No. I had Tammye. We're really like partners in crime."

At that point, Nash and Taffet had been working together off and on for 20 years. Now, they've been partners in paper for 35 years.

With Taffet's addition as a full-time reporter, he said Dallas Voice was in its prime. Seventeen employees walked the office halls, and the average paper was 64 pages long.

### When no one else would ...

Emery said the Voice didn't only help the LGBTQ community but Dallas as a whole. "The Dallas Voice is vitally important to the entirety of Dallas," he

said. In those earlier days, "The Dallas Morning News and Dallas Times Herald would not report on our issues, were not interested in covering anything happening in our community. And because of that, people could comfortably imagine that we didn't exist."

He said mainstream media would report on murders and crimes in the gay community, but that's where coverage stopped.

"But what we had going on at the same time was a glorious history of creating the world's largest seated LGBTQ fundraising event in the world [Black Tie Dinner], the world's largest predominantly LGBTQ church [now Cathedral of Hope], and Texas's largest AIDS fundraiser.

"So thank goodness we had Dallas Voice to share our stories."

Taffet said that even now, in some cases, if the Voice doesn't cover a story, no one else will. He said in 2009, TABC and Fort Worth police enacted a raid on a new gay bar in Fort Worth in which a couple of people were injured. He said the Voice gave extensive coverage to it, and the story went national.

"We criticized the police chief, and he told us we gave them fair coverage," Taffet said. "The head of TABC gave us an exclusive interview, admitting the bar shouldn't have been raided. So when people say we're biased, I point them to that story."

Taffet said every time the Morning News has tried to start an LGBTQ section, it's the first thing to get cut when budgets are tight.

"It's not their priority," he said. "When they do cover the community, they do a good job now, but the benefit here is that every week, you learn about someone in your community, what's happening and what you can do that week. It's all from the perspective of someone in your community."

### The Now: 2010-present day

In 2010, the current form of Dallas Voice began to take shape. Kevin Thomas, who still works at the Voice today as art director, joined the art department. In 2012, Chad Mantooth started as an ad sales rep working with Cusimano. In 2013, Moore retired as publisher and sold the company to Thompson and Cu-

**IMPACT**, Page 40



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# IMPACT

From Page 38

simano, the ad rep-turned publisher.

Four years later, Thompson retired and sold his portion of the company to Cusimano, who is still sole owner and publisher to this day.

"Both Robert and I are publishers who came up through the ranks of marketing and advertising instead of journalism, reporting or writing," Cusimano said. "So we ran the company differently."

Cusimano said when he took over the company, he realized Don Ritz set the company up to be sustainable through core principles. He said the company has never had debt, and still doesn't today.

In 2012, Nash left the Voice to work for the Cleburne Times-Review. Taffet said he suggested that the Voice hire Nash again, and Cusimano took his suggestion. And Nash returned to the Voice as managing editor in June 2014.

"Leo called me while I was at the mechanic shop in Cleburne, getting the AC fixed on my car, and he said, 'Do you think I could talk you into coming back to work here?'" Nash said. She returned to the Voice once again, and she's never left.

"Through everything, through it all, it's always been about the community, and that's what the Voice does the best, in my opinion," she said.

She said she and Vercher always valued informing the community on local events and state and national laws. They also wanted the community to be entertained, provided with travel, film, books and profiles.

"What we're doing at the Voice is putting a face on the people in our community to the rest of the world," Nash said. "Because that's the only way we can keep them from coming down here and shootin' us and robbin' us and beatin' us up. They need to know who we are, because when they know who we are, they're not gonna hate us.

"We're their children, their brothers and sisters, their cousins, their next-door neighbors, their parents."

In the 35th anniversary issue of the Voice, Cusimano said he was "very proud of the role Dallas Voice has played in increasing LGBT visibility and in driving changes for equality."

"Our reporting contributed to Omni Hotels' decision to offer domestic partner benefits to employees at the Dallas Convention Center Hotel," he wrote. We also were instrumental in helping DART and Dallas County amend their nondiscrimination policies to include transgender employees. As a result of our coverage, the Dallas Morning News agreed to begin publishing same-sex marriage announcements, and DISD approved an LGBT inclusive anti-bullying policy."

Cusimano wrote that Dallas Voice played a decisive role in building LGBTQ organizations, strengthening our community and fostering political mobilization.

In 2019, Taffet said the Voice's coverage of trans woman Muhaysia Booker's murder was a turning point for media and police coverage in the trans community. He said people started paying attention and urging police to return to unsolved murders of other trans women, of which there were plenty.

"When police were holding press conferences, they wanted the Dallas Voice there," Taffet said. "They even held up a press conference for five minutes be-



Tammye Nash

cause I was stuck in traffic. They knew we were needed to get the information out. The police relied on us to make sure

the community knew they were serious about solving the case."

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, Taffet said the droves of people dying around him was all too familiar. "News reports said they'd never seen anything like this before," he said. "I was sitting there thinking 'well I kinda have'. It was very comparable to AIDS.

"But with the pandemic, there wasn't the discrimination there was with AIDS. COVID was an equal opportunity infectious disease."

Nash said the pandemic changed everything. The number of advertisers turned thin, and the issues got smaller,

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David Taffet

even as low as 20 pages. But the paper didn't stop printing, Cusimano said: "We delivered Dallas Voice every week during the pandemic and have never missed a Friday in 40 years."

Cusimano said he and Taffet worked in the office, but everyone else worked from home. Staff got cut to the bare minimum, with Thomas, Mantooth, Nash and Linda Depriter, who worked delivery, remaining on staff. Even the office got smaller, as Cusimano cut office space in half.

"Since that call from the Morning News [way back in 1992], we've always been profitable until COVID," Cusimano said. "We bounced back the next year after making some hard decisions."

Jones was let go from the paper in 2020, when in-person events ceased to exist, which Nash said was a tough loss for the paper. In 2021, Rich Lopez returned to the Voice after he left the paper in 2012, and he became a staff writer to cover arts and entertainment. He said shows were starting to return to the stages around that time, but participants had to wear face masks to prevent COVID transmission.

Taffet said the paper got an award for keeping the community informed throughout the pandemic.

"We had to write tighter, because we had smaller issues," he said. "And we had to talk to people on the phone or on Zoom, which I felt hurt my ability to form relationships with sources. But Zoom did allow us to interview people we couldn't have before, people from all over the country."

In 2023, with hundreds of anti-LGBTQ bills up for vote nationwide, the Voice's coverage became critical once again.

"Legislation this past year has been the worst I've ever seen," Taffet said.

Nash said that politically, it's the Voice's job to keep people in the know. She said the Voice is trying its best to keep people up to date on the national and Texas legislatures to ensure that responsible, empathetic people are voted into office. ■

"The only way that can happen is if people know what's going on," she said.

Nash, now 63, said she loves working for community papers, but reporting the news for the LGBTQ community is "heartbreaking" at times: "There's a lot of joy and kumbaya and meeting so many lovely people, and we feel great about that. But then there's that Sunday morning when you wake up and find out 49 people have been shot to death in a bar in Florida by some asshole with a semi-automatic rifle," Nash said. "It really wears you down sometimes."

At 70 years old, Taffet said people have asked if he plans to retire. "People say that when you retire you get to do what you want to do," he said. "You know, I'm already doing what I want to do. I'm reporting."

Cusimano, now 61, said that he feels like publishing Dallas Voice is a step to save democracy: "Trust in national media has eroded to 28 percent, and trust in local media is still pretty high, so foundations feel like they need to funnel money into local media to save democracy," he said.

"I heard Darren Walker, the president of the Ford Foundation, say that people are leaving the town square, and what's left are polarizing voices who are getting people elected. The job of local media is to get more people to the town square, to get more people educated, to make better choices at the ballot box."

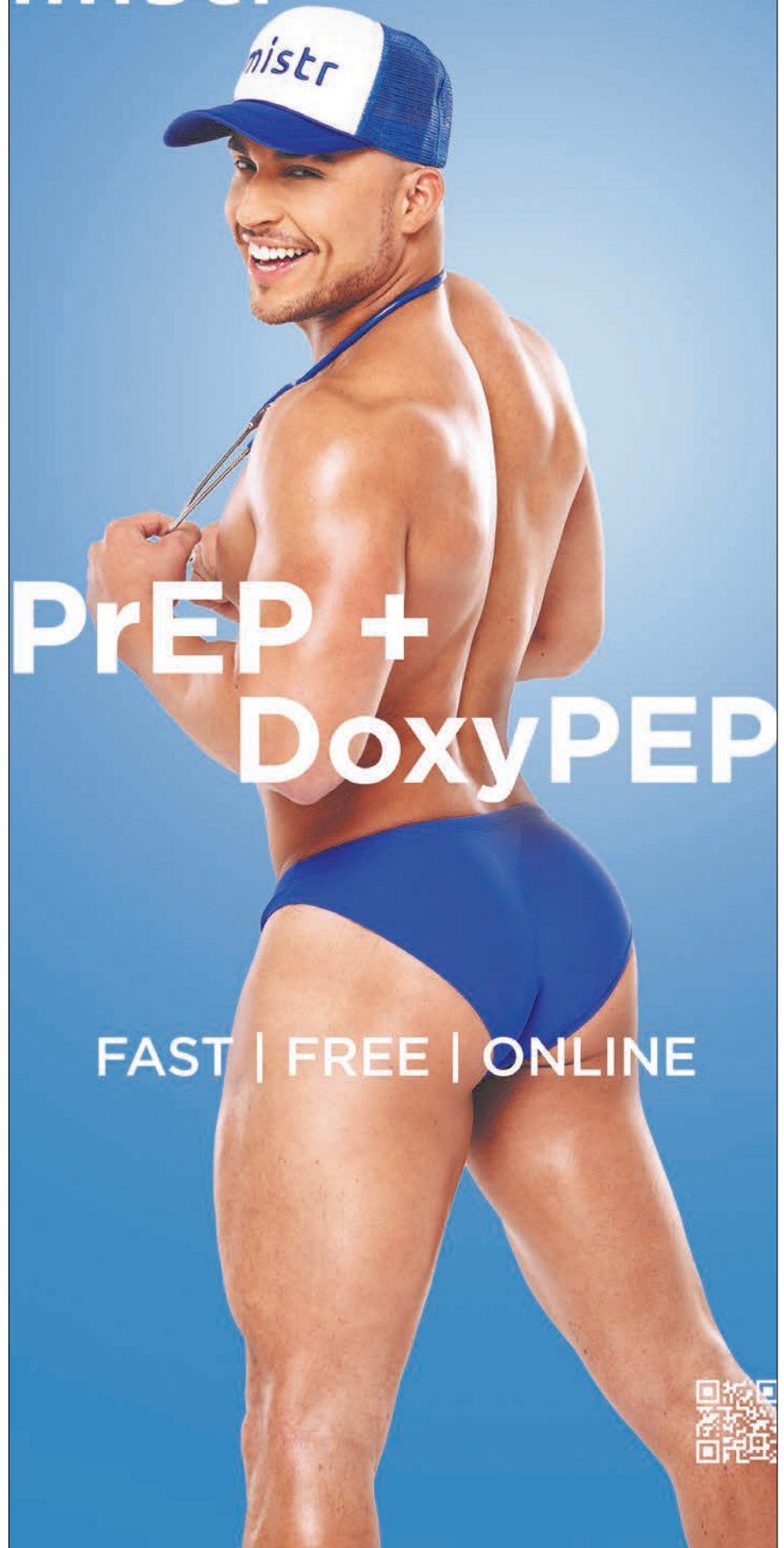
Cusimano said today, the Voice reaches thousands of people through several platforms. The website has 262,000 unique visitors per month; the weekly email blast reaches more than 20,000 opt-in subscribers; the social media accounts have 40,000 followers, and the print newspaper is in the hands of 28,000 Texans each week.

"We embrace all of these platforms to uplift and amplify LGBTQ voices," Cusimano said.

Nash said the work she does is full of passion and gratitude and duty. "Sometimes you feel like there's not going to be enough good that comes out of it to make it worthwhile, but we just keep going, because we've got to. Someone has to," she said. "Who else is going to do it?"

Still, Cusimano said, "This 40th anniversary isn't just about us. It's a reflection of the incredible resilience and courage of the LGBTQ community, whose ongoing fight for equality inspires us every day." ■

mistr





*Save the date!*  
***Saturday,***  
***May 11th***

*6pm to 9pm*

*Hosted by:*

***Cassie Nova***

*Performances by:*

***Layla Larue***

***Krystal Summers***

***and more!***

*Photo Booth by:*

***The Mug Spot***

***Signature Cocktails***

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***Yelibelly Chocolates***

***Swag Bags***

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***And Much More!***

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*Speakers:*  
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**Leo Cusimano**  
**Chad Mantooth**  
**Tammye Nash**  
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The Dallas Voice staff invites everyone to come celebrate our 40th anniversary as “the Voice of LGBTQ North Texas” on Saturday, May 11, from 6-9 p.m. Cassie Nova hosts the event which will feature performances by Layla Larue, Krystal Summers and others along with a photo booth by The Mug Spot, signature cocktails, YeliBelly Chocolates, a live auction and more. See listings for details.

- 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, send an email to THRIVE@myresourcecenter.org.

**May**

■ **May 10: ‘Deep Inside Tonight’**

Uptown Players presents *Deep Inside Tonight* featuring The Kinsey Sicks as part of its Cabaret Weekend. 8 p.m. at Kalita Humphrey’s Theater, 3636 Turtle Creek. Information and tickets are available at UptownPlayers.org.

■ **May 10: Come Out Against Cancer**

Join the American Cancer Society as it brings together members of the community to help support its mission. 7-11 p.m. at The Lorenzo Hotel, 1011 S. Akard St. Tickets available at E.GiveSmart.com/Events/AqR.

■ **May 10: ‘Pure Ecstasy – The Story of the Infamous Starck Club’**

*Pure Ecstasy – The Story of the Infamous Starck Club*, screens at 8:30 p.m. at Texas Theater, 231 Jefferson Blvd. Tickets start at \$12.50, available at TexasTheatre.com.

■ **May 10-12: Kufiya Comedy Festival**

Enjoy this three-day immersive multi-cultural festival featuring comedy, film, music, and food at the Apprentice Creative Space, 919 Morrell Ave. Event begins at 11 a.m. each day, and tickets are available at Eventbrite.com.

■ **May 11-12: ‘Simply the Best’**

Uptown Players presents *Simply the Best* as part of its Cabaret Weekend at Kalita Humphreys Theatre, 3636 Turtle Creek. Showtimes and tickets are available at UptownPlayers.org.

■ **May 11: East Texas Rainbow Market**

Join Tyler Area Gays the second Saturday of every month for the Rainbow Market. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Bergfeld Park, 1501 S. Broadway Ave. in Tyler. For more information visit TylerAreaGays.com.

■ **May 11: Dallas Voice 40th Anniversary Party**

Dallas Voice celebrates 40 years of publication with a gala party from 6-9 p.m. at The Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road. Cassie Nova hosts the event which will feature performances by Layla Larue, Krystal Summers and more. There will be a photo booth by The Mug Spot, signature cocktails, light bites, Yelibelly Chocolates, swag bags, giveaways, a live auction and much more. Admission is free.

■ **May 11: Dungeons and Dragons Meetup**

Pride Frisco hosts its Dungeons and Dragons Meetup from 3-7 p.m. in Frisco. Visit the event page on Eventny.com for more information and to register.

■ **May 11: Dallas Wings Amplifair & Mixer**

Dallas Wings’ LGBTQ+ Champions of Change hosts this mixer at Sue Ellen’s, 3014 Throckmorton St., from 3-6 p.m. Visit with local LGBTQ-serving non-profits to learn more about their programs and resources.

■ **May 11: ‘Pure Ecstasy – The Story of the Infamous Starck Club’**

*Pure Ecstasy – The Story of the Infamous Starck Club*, screens at 8:30 p.m. at the Kessler Theater, 1230 W. Davis St. Tickets start at \$12.50, available at TexasTheatre.com.

■ **May 11: Dallas Bears Cake Walk**

Dallas Bears host their annual Cake Walk at The Hidden Door, 5025 Bowser Ave. Starts with cocktails from 2-3 p.m. and the bake sale from 3-5 p.m. Email CharitableEvents@DallasBears.org or visit the Facebook event page for details.

■ **May 11: Guerilla Queer Bar**

Collin County Stonewall Democrats hosts the monthly Guerilla Queer Bar in Collin County. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Visit the Collin County Stonewall Democrats Facebook page for more information.

■ **May 11: Date Night Movie**

Discover Downtown Dallas hosts its Date Movie Series, featuring a screening of *Fools Rush In*, in Harwood Park, 408 S. Harwood St. 6 p.m. BYO picnics, blankets and lawn chairs. Admission is free.

■ **May 12: ‘Pure Ecstasy – The Story of the Infamous Starck Club’**

*Pure Ecstasy – The Story of the Infamous Starck Club*, screens at 8:30 p.m. at Texas Theater, 231 Jefferson Blvd. Tickets start at \$12.50, available at TexasTheatre.com. A party marking the 40th anniversary of the club’s opening night begins at 7 p.m. at The Kessler Theater, 1230 W. Davis St. Find more information on the Facebook event page.

■ **May 16: OASIS LGBT+ Monthly Social Support Group**

Oasis is an online, 90-minute monthly social support group for LGBT+ folks 18 and older, providing a safe, welcoming space for people to connect. To register email Oasis.Tag.Plus@gmail.com.

■ **May 16: David Slater & Veronica Williams**

Veronica Williams joins vocalist and pianist David Slater for a night of music at the Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd. Doors open at 7 p.m.; show starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets available at SammonsArtCenter.org.

■ **May 16: The DASH Academy 2024 Spring Concert**

DASH Academy presents its spring concert at The Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. Tickets are available at Events.Handbid.com.

■ **May 17: LGBTQ Mental Health Forum**

Join Pride Frisco as it hosts this in-person and online forum focusing from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Registration is free at the event page on Eventny.com.

■ **May 17: HRC DFW Social**

Join HRC DFW’s social mixer for a night of music, food and advocacy at Henry’s Majestic, 2303 Pittman St., from 6-8 p.m. Visit DFW.HRC.org for more information.

■ **May 17-19: 25th Annual Grace Project Conference**

The Grace Project Conference is held at the Westin Park Central Hotel, 12720 Merit Drive. Visit LegacyGraceProject.org for more information and to register.

■ **May 18: Pride Happy Hour and Mixer**

Fern Connections hosts a Pride-themed mixer to the Tru by Hilton Dallas Market Center, 1949 N. Stemmons Freeway. 7-10 p.m. Tickets are available at Eventbrite.com.

*Have an event coming up? Email your information to Mathew Dominguez at Mathew@DallasVoice.com by Monday at 5 p.m. for that week’s issue. Look for extended listings online at DallasVoice.com*



Let the Moor of Dundee, a legendary Scarborough musician, can be found wandering the lanes of the village every Saturday and Sunday, plus Memorial

Day Monday, through May 27 at Scarborough Renaissance Festival in Waxahachie.



# Cassie Nova

## ASK A DRAG QUEEN

TV, movies and books — oh my!

Hello my beautiful people! I'm not sure where this article is going today. So let's just see where my mind takes us.

By now you all know I watch way too much television. But I feel that I need to know a little bit about a lot of things, so I try to make sure that I have a variety of interests in a variety of shows to keep me mentally super-charged. I watch the news every day — local and national — even though, half of the time, it frustrates and depresses me.

My weakness is reality show competitions. I still watch *Survivor* religiously, even though some seasons I can't find anyone I wanna root for. But I can always find someone I want to root against! Plus, it never fails that the second I start to root for someone hard, they get eliminated — i.e., Hunter, this season.

The past two seasons of *The Amazing Race* have been some of my favorite seasons — lots of likeable couples. Last season had a deaf father with a cute son. The way they communicated with each other and cheered each other on was so uplifting. This season has an adorable gay couple, Ricky and Cesar. They are both bearded and a little thick, a little bear-ish — not your typical TV gays but a great representation of our community.

The thing I love about the show is they have not shied away from showing the two of them showing affection for each other. They have been doing great in the competition, and they have shown them kiss many times. That might not seem like a big deal to some, but just the simple act of showing the smallest kiss normalizes us to people that maybe never encounter gays.

I am sure it is upsetting so many folks, and I am SO okay with that. But for every single asshole that loses his mind over the simple act of a small kiss between two men in a committed relationship, there is a very young gay kid that sees that and feels less alone and maybe more normal.

The episode a few weeks ago showed them kiss three times — in one episode! They said, "I love you" to each other, twice. It filled my heart with such joy; I am literally sitting here now, smiling.

Of course, since I am rooting for them



they probably won't last much longer. I hope the curse of who I root for doesn't get them. Fingers crossed because I would love to see them win.

I also watch a lot of movies. If we — my husband and I — don't see the movie in the theater, I can guarantee that he won't "watch" the movie to my standards. I am a bit of a bitch when it comes to watching a movie.

If we watch a movie at home, he will be on his phone, then, when something happens and he wasn't paying attention, he will say, "Wait, what?" And I will have to rewind or explain what he missed through clenched teeth.

Or he will say, "Pause it; I haveta pee." Or worse, he will fall asleep. Yes, I know that it is not that big of a deal, and if that is my biggest annoyance, then we are doing pretty good.

But if we know one thing about me, it's that I get annoyed a lot. It is part of my charming personality.

Last week we saw the first real summer blockbuster of the year, *The Fall Guy*. I absolutely loved it. It was funnier than I thought it would be. The action was

over the top and ridiculous. Emily Blunt is one of my favorite actresses, and Ryan Gosling is, well, Ryan Gosling.

When I was a kid, my mom and I loved the series *The Fall Guy* with Lee Majors. My mom had a crush on him, and, looking back now, I think I did, too. How could you not? He was *The Six Million Dollar Man*!

Ryan Gosling has said that *The Fall Guy* is a love letter to the stunt men, past and present, and it really was. During the credits they showed many of the behind-the-scenes shots of the actual stunts from the movie. They deserve their own category at the Academy Awards. You have to be a special kind of crazy to be a stunt man.

Book-wise, I am powering through Stephen King's *Insomnia*. Y'all know I love me some King, but this one has been a struggle to get through. It's the opposite of insomnia; it is putting me to sleep. But I am a loyal, constant reader, and I will get through this.

I am excited for his new book, *You Like It Darker*, that comes out May 21. It is a collection of four short stories, novellas

— whatever you call them. One is called *Rattlesnakes* and is apparently kind of a sequel to *Cujo*. That is very interesting to me.

You know, in the book *Cujo*, they kill off the kid. It makes for a much darker read.

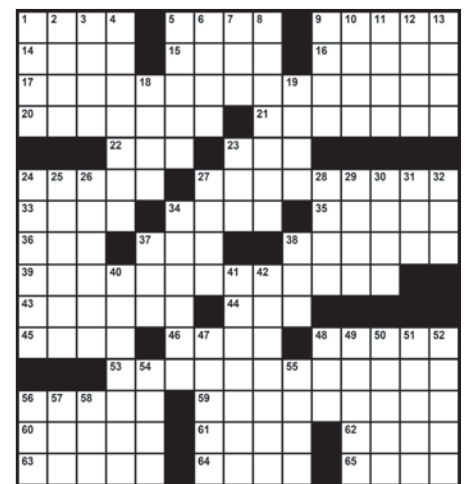
In the book *Misery*, Annie Wilks doesn't just break Paul Sheldon's ankles with a sledgehammer, that bitch cuts off his foot and cauterizes it with a blow torch. (I guess I shoulda said "spoiler alert.")

Okay, no more spoilers for now. Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova

## word search solution



## this week's solution



**browse**

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

**submit**

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





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5151 Maple | 214-590-5632

**AHF DALLAS WELLNESS CENTER**  
7777 Forest | 972-383-1060 | HIVcare.org

**ACCESS & INFORMATION NETWORK**  
2600 Stemmons | 214-943-4444 | aindallas.org

**AOC | AIDS OUTREACH CENTER**  
817-335-1994 | AOC.org | Ft. Worth

**ASD | AIDS SERVICES OF DALLAS**  
214-941-0523 | AIDSDallas.org | Dallas

**CAN COMMUNITY HEALTH**  
817-693-1000 | cancommunityhealth.org

**CHE | CTR FOR HEALTH EMPOWERMENT**  
972-432-7783 | checlinic.org | Dallas

**GREG DOLLGENER MEMORIAL AIDS FUND**  
972-743-6323 | GDMAF.org | Dallas

**HELP CTR FOR LGBT HEALTH WELLNESS**  
817-332-7722 | helpfw.org | Arlington/Ft Worth

**LEGACY CARES**  
4054 McKinney | 214-520-6308 | legacycares.org

**LEGAL HOSPICE OF TEXAS**  
214-521-6622 | LegalHospice.org | Dallas

**NELSON-TEBEDO HEALTH CENTER**  
214-528-2336 | MyResourceCenter.org

**PRISM HEALTH NORTH TEXAS**  
3900 Junius | 214-521-5191 | prismhealthntx.org

**RESOURCE CENTER**  
214-521-5124 | MyResourceCenter.org

**TUCKER'S GIFT**  
214-985-7297 | TuckersGift.org

**UT SOUTHWESTERN AIDS PREVENTION**  
8150 Brookriver | 469-291-2899 | Dallas

**WHITE ROCK FRIENDS MINISTRY**  
214-320-0043 | WhiteRockChurch.info | Dallas

### EDUCATION

**INVISIBLE HISTORIES PROJECT**  
InvisibleHistory.org

**LGBT CHAMBER FOUNDATION**  
214-821-4528 | lgbtchambrfoundation.org

**LGBT EMPLOYEE ASSOC. OF DALLAS**  
info@dallasLGBT.org | dallaslgbt.org

**LGBTQA PROGRAM at UT ARLINGTON**  
817-272-2099 | UTA.edu/lgbtqa

**NORTH TX LGBTQ EMPLOYEE RESOURCE**  
Group Coalition | ntcoalitioninfo@gmail.com

**PRIDE MUSEUM OF TEXAS**  
pridemuseumtx.org

**SMU WOMEN & LGBT CENTER**  
3140 Dyer St. | 214-768-4792

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

**STUDENTS DEMAND ACTION PLANO**  
646-324-8250 | dallasdieinadayeverytown.org

**SYNERGY WESLEY FOUNDATION**  
214-227-9527 | SynergyWesley.org

**TRANSGENDER EDUCATION NETWORK**  
419-330-9124 | transtexas.org

**UNT | PRIDE ALLIANCE**  
940-565-2589 | ied.unt.edu/pridealliance

**UNT | LGBT ARCHIVES**  
Discover.Library.UNT.edu

**UNT DENTON SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**  
940-565-2769 | texashistory.unt.edu

### MUSIC | THEATER

**DALLAS THEATER CENTER**  
214-522-8499 | oaklawnband.org

**KITCHEN DOG THEATER**  
KitchenDogTheater.org

**MBS PRODUCTIONS**  
MBSproductions.info

**OAK LAWN SYMPHONIC BAND**  
OakLawnBand.org

**THE DALLAS WINDS**  
214-565-9463 | DallasWinds.org

**THEATRE THREE**  
Theatre3Dallas.com

**TURTLE CREEK CHORALE**  
214-526-3214 x 101 | TurtleCreekChorale.com

**UPTOWN PLAYERS**  
214-219-2718 | UptownPlayers.org

**WATERTOWER THEATRE**  
972-450-6232 | WaterTowerTheatre.org

**WOMEN'S CHORUS OF DALLAS**  
214-520-7828 | twcoffice@tecd.org

### POLITICAL

**DALLAS/FORT WORTH FEDERAL CLUB**  
214-428-3332 | DFWFederalClub.org

**LOG CABIN REPUBLICANS OF DALLAS**  
202-420-7873 | LCRDallas.org

**METROPLEX REPUBLICANS**  
facebook.com/groups/metroplexdfw/about

**STONEWALL DEMOCRATS OF DALLAS**  
214-506-3367 | StonewallDemocratsofDallas.org

**TARRANT CO. STONEWALL DEMOCRATS**  
817-913-8743 | TarrantStonewall.org

### PRIDE

**ARLINGTON PRIDE**  
ArlingtonPride.org

**CARROLLTON PRIDE**  
sites.google.com/view/carrolltonpride

**DALLAS PRIDE**  
214-421-4800 | DallasPride.org

**DALLAS SOUTHERN PRIDE**  
214-421-4800 | DallasSouthernPride.com

**DENTON PRIDE FOUNDATION**  
936-443-3617 | DentonPride.com

**GRAYSON COUNTY PRIDE**  
P.O. Box 913756 | Sherman

**LONGVIEW PRIDE**  
903-658-5829 | Facebook.com/LongviewPride

**MCKINNEY PRIDE**  
PrideMcKinney@gmail.com | McKinneypride.org

**NORTH TEXAS PRIDE FOUNDATION**  
NorthTexasPride.com | Plano

**PRIDE FRISCO**  
972-665-6452 | PrideFrisco.org

**PRIDE IN DALLAS**  
hello@prideindallas.org | prideindallas.org

**REAL LIVE CONNECTION - TEEN PRIDE**  
469-666-7325 | DallasPride.org/teenpride

**TEXAS TRANS PRIDE**  
TXTransPride.org

**TEXAS LATINO PRIDE | DALLAS**  
P.O. Box 192111 | Dallas | TexasLatinoPride.org

**TRANSGENDER PRIDE OF DALLAS**  
facebook.com/transgenderprideofdallas

**TRINITY PRIDE OF FORT WORTH**  
P.O. Box 656 | Fort Worth | TrinityPrideFW.org

### PROFESSIONAL

**DALLAS LGBT BAR ASSOCIATION**  
2101 Ross | DLGBTBA.org

**LAMBDA PRIDE TOASTMASTERS**  
214-957-2011 | lambdapride@freetoasthost.us

**LEADERSHIP LAMBDA TOASTMASTERS**  
214-215-3745

**LGBT LAW SECTION OF TX STATE BAR**  
800-204-2222 ext. 1420 | LGBTLawTx.com

**LGBT+ REAL ESTATE ALLIANCE**  
972-754-0582

**NTX LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
214-821-4528 | LGBTChamber.com

**OUT & EQUAL DFW**  
415-694-6500

### SERVICES

**BEARDANCE**  
Beardance.org

**BLACK TIE DINNER, INC.**  
469-224-0436 | BlackTie.org

**COALITION FOR AGING LGBT - DFW**  
972-528-8190 | CFA.lgbt

**DIFFA DALLAS**  
214-748-8580 | DIFFADallas.org

**GAY AND LESBIAN FUND FOR DALLAS**  
3824 Cedar Springs Road, Ste. 371 Dallas GLFD.org

**LAMBDA LEGAL SOUTHCENTRAL REGION**  
3500 Oaklawn | 214-219-8585 | lambdalegal.org

**LGBT+ HOUSING INITIATIVE**  
LGBTHousingInitiative.com

**LGBT NATIONAL HELP CENTER**  
415-355-0003 | LGBTHotline.org

**OUT OF THE CLOSET**  
214-559-2173 | OutOfTheCloset.org | Dallas

**JONATHAN'S PLACE**  
224 W. Page Ave. | 214-941-8578 | JPKids.org

**PURPLE FOUNDATION**  
PurpleFoundation.org

**TAKE BACK OAK LAWN**  
facebook.com/takebackoaklawn

**TEDDY BEAR PARTY**  
TeddyBearParty.org

**TEXAS PRIDE IMPACT FUNDS**  
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**THE DALLAS WAY**  
214-942-1414 | TheDallasWay.org

**UNLEASHED LGBTQ**  
UnleashedLGBTQ.com

### SOCIAL

**CCCC | CLASSIC CHASSIS CAR CLUB**  
ClassicChassis.com

**CHICK HAPPY HOUR**  
facebook.com/ChickHappyhour

**COUPLES METRO DALLAS**  
P.O. Box 192116 | CouplesMetroDallas.com

**DALLAS BEARS | TBRU**  
P.O. Box 191223 | DallasBears.org | Dallas

**DFW FUSE**  
214-540-4435 | DFWFuse.com

**DFW SISTERS O PERPETUAL INDULGENCE**  
sistemistress@dfwsisters.org DFWSisters.org

**DISCIPLINE CORPS**  
disciplinecorps.com

**EAST TEXAS PFLAG**  
903-372-9524 | Tyler | PFLAGEastTexas.org

**FORT WORTH FIFTH**  
facebook.com/groups/131006360969130

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214-540-4415 | MyResourceCenter.org

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214-540-4433 | MyResourceCenter.org

**IMPERIAL COURT DE FORT WORTH**  
careteam@icfw.org | ICFWA.org

**LEATHER KNIGHTS**  
214-402-4105 | facebook.com/LeatherKnights

**LVL/PWA CAMPOUT**  
campout@lvpwa.com | LVL/PWA.com

**NATIONAL LEATHER ALLIANCE - DALLAS**  
tender\_mistress@nladallas.org | NLADallas.org

**OLITA - OAK LAWN SOCIAL GROUP**  
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**OTBC - ONE TRUE BOOK CLUB**  
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**PEGASUS SQUARES**  
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**POZ DALLAS**  
212-242-2163 | poz.com/tag/dallas

**PRIME TIMERS OF DALLAS/FT. WORTH**  
214-218-0912 | primetimersDFW@gmail.com

**RAINBOW GARDEN CLUB**  
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**SAPPHIQ LGBT+ women age 18+**  
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972-793-8352 | info@silverpride.com

**THRIVE | FOLKS 50+**  
214-521-5124 | MyResourceCenter.org

**TYLER AREA GAYS**  
P.O. Box 6331 | Tyler | TylerAreaGays.com

**UBE | UNITED BLACK ELLUMENT**  
214-760-9718 | UBEDallas.org

**UNITED COURT OF THE LONE STAR EMPIRE**  
DallasCourt.org

**VALOR LATINO**  
214-540-4433 | acarabajal@rcdallas.org

### SPIRITUALITY

**AGAPE MCC**  
817-535-5002 | AgapeMCC.com | Fort Worth

**CATHEDRAL OF HOPE**  
214-351-1901 | cathedralofhope.com

**CHURCH OF ONE LOVE**  
972-245-6520 | ChurchOfOneLove.org

**CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
817-335-3222 | Celebration-Community-Church.com

**CELEBRATION ON THE LAKE CHURCH**  
903-910-3184 | COTLChurch.org | Mabank

**CONGREGATION BETH EL BINAH**  
BethElBinah.org

**CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
214-520-9090 | CrossroadsCommunityChurch.us

**EPISCOPAL - ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE**  
214-352-0410 | TheDoubter.org

**FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF DALLAS**  
214-528-3990 | DallasUU.org

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
214-824-2533 | GraceUMCDallas.org

**GREENLAND HILLS METHODIST CHURCH**  
214-826-2020 | GreenlandHills.org

**HARVEST MCC**  
Denton | HarvestMCC.org

**KESSLER PARK UNITED METHODIST**  
214-942-0098 | kpumc.org

**NORTHAVEN UNITED METHODIST**  
214-363-2479 | Northaven.org

**OAK LAWN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
214-521-5197 | oaklawn@olumc.org

**ST. STEPHEN UNITED METHODIST**  
972-279-3112 | ststephenumctx.org

**TRINITY MCC**  
817-265-5454 | TrinityMCC.org | Grand Prairie

**TRINITY UNITED METHODIST**  
972-296-2155 | Duncanville | TUMCD.org

**WHITE ROCK COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
214-320-0043 | WhiteRockChurch.info

### SPORTS

**BORN SPORTS LEAGUE**  
info@bornsportsleague.com BornSportsLeague.com

**DALLAS DIABLOS**  
5300 Martel Ave., Dallas | dallasdiablos@igrugby.org

**DALLAS INDEPENDENT VOLLEYBALL**  
214-563-9717 | DIVADallas.org

**DIFFERENT STROKES GOLF ASSOCIATION**  
info@dsgadallas.org | DSGADallas.org

**FC DALLAS**  
FCDallas.com

**FRONT RUNNERS DALLAS**  
817-455-3934 | facebook.com/groups/

**LGBT OUTDOORS**  
214-430-4257 | LGBTOutdoors.com

**LOST SOULS RUGBY FOOTBALL**  
LostSoulsRFC.org

**NORTH TEXAS WOMEN'S SOFTBALL**  
817-823-1839

**OAK LAWN BOWLING ASSOCIATION**  
facebook.com/oaklawnbowlingassociation

**OAK LAWN SKI AND SCUBA CLUB**  
214-521-5342 ext. 1769

**OAK LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION**  
2807 Allen St., Ste. 385 | OLTADallas.org

**PEGASUS SLOWPITCH SOFTBALL ASSOC.**  
972-879-7900 | DallasPSSA.org

**RAINBOW ROLLERS BOWLING LEAGUE**  
817-540-0303 | rainbow\_rollers\_league@yahoo.com

**TEXAS GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION**  
214-526-1115 | TGRA.org

### SUPPORT

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS LAMBDA**  
214-444-9080 | DallasAl-Anon.org

**BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS LONE STAR**  
888-887-2447 | BBBSTX.org

**BLACK TRANSMEN INC.**  
855-446-5691 | BlackTransMen.org

**CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY NTX**  
214-345-8230

**CEDAR SPRINGS MERCHANT ASSOC.**  
thestriconcedarsprings.com

**CODEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS**  
214-868-7350 | 817-834-2119 | CoDependents.org

**DALLAS HOPE CHARITIES**  
214-301-9407 | DallasHopeCharities.org

**DFW TRANS KIDS & FAMILIES**  
972-850-8405 | dfwtkf.com

**ELEVATE NORTH TEXAS**  
214-556-5616 | elevatenx.org

**FAMILY PRIDE COALITION**  
817-881-3949

**GAY AND LESBIAN ALLIANCE OF N. TX**  
GALANorthTexas.org

**GAY LESBIAN ANGER MANG. GROUP**  
469-328-1980 | Marial33@gmail.com

**IMPULSE GROUP DALLAS**  
424-672-5567 | impulsegrp.org/dallas

**LAMBDA GROUP NICOTINE ANONYMOUS**  
214-629-7806 | NICADFW.org

**LEZ TALK DALLAS**  
815-905-2985 | LezTalkDallas.com

**LGBTQ SAVES | TEEN SUPPORT GROUP**  
LGBTQSaves.org | Fort Worth

**LGBTQ+ SUICIDE PREVENTION RESOURCE**  
899-273-8255 | 877-565-8860 | 888-234-SAGE

**ONE SAFE PLACE**  
817-916-4323 | Fort Worth | OneSafePlace.org

**PFLAG-DALLAS | FORT WORTH**  
972-849-0383 | 817-382-7353

**SAME SEX PARTNER GRIEF GROUP**  
TastefullyRichard@gmail.com

**SEX & LOVE ADDICTS ANONYMOUS**  
6525 Inwood Road | Dallas 469-609-7762

**SHARED HOUSING CENTER**  
214-821-8510 | SharedHousingCenter.weebly.com

**THE SENIOR SOURCE**  
3910 Harry Hines 214-823-5700 | TheSeniorSource.org

**TRANS EMPOWERMENT COALITION**  
TransEmpowermentCoalition.org

**TRANS KIDS & FAMILIES**  
Carrollton | 972-850-8405 | DFWTKF.com

**TRANS PRIDE INITIATIVE**  
214-449-1439 | TPride.org

**TREVOR PROJECT**  
866-488-7386 | TheTrevorProject.org



# Official LGBTQ Business Directory 2024

FROM THE PAGES OF OUT NORTH TEXAS



**OUT** north texas  
The Premier LGBTQ Visitors Guide  
2024 Business Directory  
OUTntx.com

**Julie Johnson:**  
Out in the halls  
of power

Welcome to LGBTQ North Texas  
This is your guide to what to see, where to go and what to do!

## ACCOMMODATIONS

■ **Lorenzo Hotel Dallas**, Tapestry Collection by Hilton | lorenzohotel.com | 214-273-3000

## ACCOUNTANTS - CERTIFIED PUBLIC

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

## ADULT

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

## AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING

■ **Jade Air** | Air Conditioning & Heating  
jadeairdallas.com | 214-522-2805

## ANTIQUES | CONSIGNMENT

■ **Antique Gallery** of Mesquite  
antiquegallerymesquite.com | 972-270-7700  
■ **Dulce** Interior Consignment | 214-219-5656  
1208 N. Riverfront Blvd. | mydulce.com

## ATTORNEYS

■ **Burch, Lorie, L.** | burch-law.com  
7920 Belt Line Rd, Ste. 700 | 972-385-0558  
■ **Guelich, Holly B.** | holly-guelich.com  
12740 Hillcrest Road | 214-522-3669

## ■ KBFamilyLaw.com

12222 Merit Dr., Ste. 1200 | 214-764-9888  
■ **Olinger, Lynn S.** | LSOlaw.com  
3710 Rawlins St., Ste. 1420 | 214-396-9090  
■ **Seidel, Adam L.** | adamseidel.com  
8150 N. Central Expwy. | 214-528-3344  
■ **Wiley, Rob** | robwiley.com  
2613 Thomas Ave. | 214-528-6500

## CLOTHING RETAIL

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

## COMPUTER SUPPORT SERVICES

■ **DFW MSP** | DFWMSP.com  
3626 N. Hall St., Ste. 505 | 888-423-5372

## CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAUS

■ **Visit Arlington** | arlington.org/lgbtq  
800-342-4305  
■ **Visit Dallas** | visitdallas.com  
1807 Ross Ave., Ste. 450 | 800-232-5527  
■ **Visit Irving** | IrvingTexas.com  
800-247-8464

## COUNSELORS - LICENSED PROFESSIONAL

■ **Baker, Renee, LPC** | 214-607-5620  
■ **Owen, Jimmy, LPC-S** | jimmyowen.com  
3838 Oak Lawn, Ste. 1000 | 214-546-8852  
■ **Porter, Feleshia, LPC** | 214-454-8144  
■ **Room For Change** | 214-385-5445  
3500 Oak Lane, Ste. 200 | roomforchange.info

## CRUISES & TRAVEL PLANNERS

■ **Dream Vacations** - Doug Thompson  
bigDcruises.com | 214-254-4980

## DENTISTS

■ **Vogel, Jonathan** | knoxdental.net  
4514 Cole Ave., Ste. 905 | 214-521-6261  
■ **Terrell, Kevin** | terrelldental.com  
2603 Oak Lawn Ave, Ste. 100 | 214-329-1818

## EDUCATION

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

## ELECTROLYSIS | HAIR REMOVAL

■ **Hair & Now Electrolysis**  
hairnowelectrolysis.com | 214-865-8345  
■ **Hair Today Gone Tomorrow**  
htgetelectrolysis.com | 682-593-1442

## EYEWEAR

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

## FINANCIAL PLANNING

■ **Anderson, Sandy, CPA**, 214-500-6385  
andersonandassociatesfinancial.com  
■ **Sammons, Stephanie, CFP**  
sammonswealth.com | 972-440-1194  
■ **Sherman, Judy S., CFBS**  
2273 E. Continental | 817-488-0660

## FLORISTS

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

## HAIR SALON | BARBER SHOP

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

## HEALTH CARE SERVICES

■ **AIDS Outreach Center** | aoc.org  
400 N. Beach St., Ste. 100 | 817-335-1994  
■ **AIN** | aindallas.org  
2600 N. Stemmons, Ste. 151 | 214-943-4444  
■ **CAN** | cancommunityhealth.org  
616 Matlock Centre Circle | 817-693-1000  
■ **HELP Center for LGBT Health & Wellness** helpfw.org | 817-332-7722  
■ **Planned Parenthood** of Greater Texas  
plannedparenthood.org | 800-230-7526  
■ **Prism Health** North Texas | phntx.org  
3900 Junius St., Ste. 300 | 214-521-5191  
■ **Resource Center** | 214-521-5124  
myresourcecenter.org | LGBTQ services & info.

## INSURANCE

■ **Alex Long Agency** | 972-236-6128  
Allstateagencies.com/AlexLong  
■ **Irvin, M. Angel** | Farmers Insurance  
4807 W. Lovers Lane, Ste. 303 | 972-367-6200  
■ **Medicare4USA** | Individual & Group  
Medicare4USA.com | 214-989-7900  
■ **Steven Graves Insurance**  
abchomeins.com | 972-423-0005  
■ **Wise Insurance**  
wiseinsurancegroup.com | 469-464-5740

## MATCHMAKERS

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

## MEDIA

■ **Dallas Voice** | The Premier Media Source for LGBTQ Texas | dallasvoice.com  
1825 Market Center Blvd. # 240 | 214-754-8710  
■ **He Said Dallas** | Must see, do, eat & more for gay Dallas | hesaiddallas.com  
■ **Lambda Weekly** | knon.org  
89.3 FM | 214-828-9500  
■ **Local Media Foundation**  
localmedia.org | 615-229-5181  
■ **National LGBT Media Association**  
nationalgaymediaassociation.com  
■ **News Is Out** | NewsIsOut.com  
214-754-8711 | Queer Media Collaborative  
■ **OUT North Texas** | The Premier LGBTQ Visitors Guide | 214-754-8711 | outntx.com  
1825 Market Center Blvd., Ste. 240

## MORTGAGE & REFINANCE

■ **Ramirez, Armando** | Supreme Lending  
214-263-5507 | mandoramirez.supremelending.com  
■ **Selders, Derek** | Common Sense lending  
CSLoans.com | 214-224-0987

## MOVERS

■ **Fantastic Moves** | FantasticMoves.com  
214-349-6683 (MOVE)

## MUSEUMS

■ **Amon Carter Museum** of American Art  
cartermuseum.org | Fort Worth | 817-738-1933  
■ **Nasher Sculpture Center**  
nashersculpturecenter.org | 214-242-5100

## NURSERIES & GARDEN CENTERS

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

## PET ADOPTION & ANIMAL SHELTERS

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

## PHOTOGRAPHERS

■ **Proud Family Portraits Terry Rickman** | 972-877-9546 | LGBT-BE

## PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS

■ **Bellos, Nick** | Texas Speciality Clinic  
2603 Oak Lawn Ave., Suite 101 | 469-496-2454  
■ **LeDoux, Mark** | MarkLeDouxMD.com  
3500 Oak Lawn, Ste., 380 | 214-888-3900  
■ **NTX Infectious Diseases** Consultants  
ntidc.org | 3409 Worth, Ste. 710 | 214-823-2533  
■ **MD Progressive Care** | 3500 Oak Lawn  
mdprogressivecare.com | 214-521-0100  
■ **Pounders, Steven** | drpounders.com  
3500 Oak Lawn Ave. | 214-520-8833  
■ **Uptown Physicians Group**  
uptownphysiciansgroup.com | 214-303-1033

## PRINTING SERVICES

■ **PrintBurner** | PrintBurner.com  
214-702-5135  
■ **UPS Store** | theuspstore.com | LGBT-BE  
4848 Lemmon Ave. | 214-780-0877

## PSYCHOLOGIST

■ **Johnson, Alan, PsyD** | 214-945-2727  
Eudaimonia Wellness | edmwllness.com

## REAL ESTATE

■ **Atkinson, Steve** | Dave Perry-Miller  
DavePerryMiller.com | 214-334-7404

## REAL ESTATE

■ **Carnes, Scott**, GRI, ABR, SRS, EPRO, ASP  
DavePerryMiller.com | 214-490-6895  
■ **Chris Hickman Group** | Ebby Halliday  
chrishickmangroup.com | 469-569-1106  
■ **DeuPree, Joe** | Better Homes & Gardens  
Real Estate Winans | 214-683-7224  
■ **Durstine Jr., George H.**  
Scottwood Realty | 214-616-4030  
■ **Hobson, Phil, H Group** | Berkshire  
Hathaway weknowtx.com | 214-659-3624  
■ **LaPierre, Paul, GRI**  
Century 21 Judge Fite Realtors | 214-564-7741  
■ **Narey, Jay, ABR, ALHS** | jaynarey.com  
Keller Williams Realty | 214.207.4462  
■ **Scott, Danny Alan** | Scottwood Realty  
Broker | 972-588-8304

## RECRUITING

■ **DEI Recruiting & HR Consulting**  
deirecruitingandconsulting.com | 214-432-4642

## RESTAURANTS

■ **Cremona Italian** | cremonabistro.com  
2704 Worthington | 214-871-1115  
■ **Mama's Daughter's Diner**  
mamasdaughtersdiner.com | 214-742-8646  
■ **Nerdvana Frisco** | nerdvanafrisco.com  
5757 Main St., Ste. 112 | Frisco | 214-618-9732

## ROOF CONTRACTORS

■ **NorthStar Roofing** | NorthstarRFG.com  
Roofing | Fencing | Gutters 214-274-5596

## SHIPPING AND RECEIVING SERVICES

■ **UPS Store** | theupsstore.com #5254  
4848 Lemmon | 214-780-0877 | LGBT-BE

## SIGNAGE & BANNERS

■ **FASTSIGNS Love Field** | fastsigns.com  
1555 Prudential Dr. | 214-267-0600

## SURROGACY & FAMILY SERVICES

■ **Family Solutions International**  
713-827-0301

## TITLE COMPANIES

■ **Independence Title** | JT Williams  
independencedfw.com | 214-623-5589  
■ **Republic Title** | republictitle.com  
3131 Turtle Creek Blvd. | 214-528-8916

## TRANSPORTATION

■ **DART** | dart.org | 214-979-1111

## VETERINARY SERVICES

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

## VITAMINS & SUPPLEMENTS

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

## WEDDING PLANNERS & SERVICES

■ **LGBTWeddings.com**  
844-899-LOVE x 501

## YOGURT SHOPS

■ **Monster Yogurt** - Shop & Truck  
scarytastesgood.com | 214-321-6363

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Interested in listing your business, contact us  
214.754.8711 | advertising@dallasvoice.com



# SCENE Through the Decades

PEOPLE, PLACES AND FACES



AIDS Quilt 1996



Bartenders at the Dallas Eagle



1998 Mr. Gay Texas All American at Round-Up Saloon



Bartenders at The Tin Room



Shawn and Chanel at Round-Up Saloon



Michael and Jonathan at Zippers



Reez and Daxx at BJ's NXS



Richard and Cassie at Village Station



Shegotta Mustache at The Eagle



525 S. RIVERFRONT BLVD  
DALLAS, TEXAS



# MR. DALLAS EAGLE

06/22/24

ENTER HERE



# PRIDE

June 1st

8PM-2AM



DJ AL FARB  
8PM-10PM

DJ NINA FLOWERS  
10PM-2AM



- |      |                          |          |
|------|--------------------------|----------|
| 6/2  | TRASH DISCO: PRIDE       | 5PM-10PM |
| 6/4  | GAYMER PRIDE             | 5PM-2AM  |
| 6/5  | UNDERWEAR NIGHT: PRIDE   | 5PM-2AM  |
| 6/9  | RAINBOW PARTY            | 5PM-9PM  |
| 6/14 | BEAR PRIDE               | 10PM-2AM |
| 6/16 | 80s PRIDE WITH DJ BLAINE | 5PM-10PM |
| 6/21 | RUBBER PRIDE             | 10PM-2AM |
| 6/22 | LONE STAR LEATHER PRIDE  | 10PM-2AM |
| 6/28 | PET PRIDE                | 9PM-2AM  |

# Happy

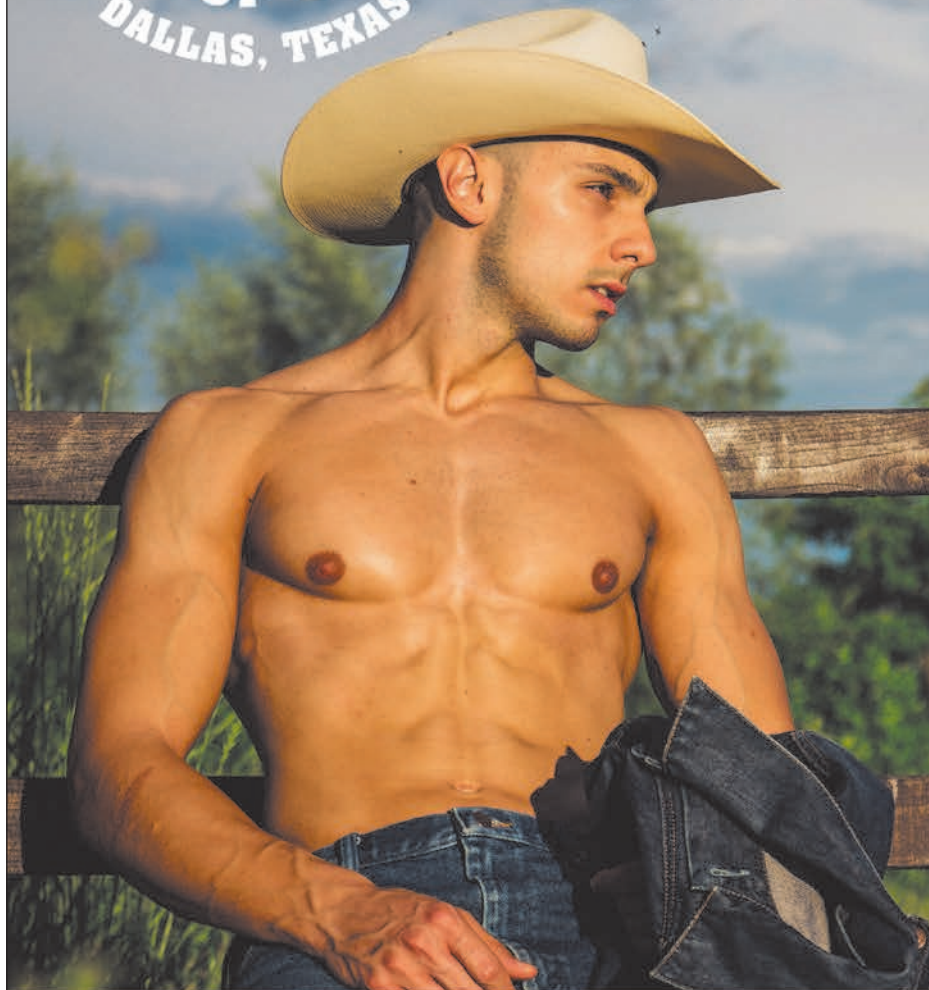
# 40

ANNIVERSARY

# dallasvoice



Celebrating 44 Years  
of Good Times with  
Good People  
SaveThe Date  
Anniversary Week  
July 6-July 12



3912 Cedar Springs Road, Dallas, Tx 75219



# Scene Through the Decades



Bears Night out at Dallas Eagle



Miss Buddies 2001



The staff of Kaliente



Rubi, Alec, Joey, Isaiah and Frank at The Tin Room



Wanda with Cassie Nova at JR's in 1997



Whitney Paige and Edna Jean Robinson



# Scene Through the Decades



Jill, Jack and Vi at Drama Room



Jinx Monsoon, Sharon Needles, Alex and Ivy Winters at Cedar Springs Tap House



Kathy Jack and friends on the strip



KC, CY and Tammy at Best Friends Club

A celebratory graphic for a 40th anniversary. The background is black with pink balloons and string lights. The text reads "Cheers To 40 YEARS" in a pink, cursive font. The number "40" is large and outlined with diamonds. Below the text are two champagne flutes. On the right, a man is shown from the waist up, wearing a red thong with "BIKE BIKE" written on the waistband. At the bottom, it says "From all of us at skivvies" with a small skivvies logo.

A colorful advertisement for Dallas Voice's 40th anniversary. The background is a bright yellow and orange gradient with radiating lines. The text is in large, bold, stylized fonts. It reads "HAPPY 40th ANNIVERSARY DALLAS VOICE!!" in blue and white. Below that, "THE GRAPEVINE BAR" is written in red and white. At the bottom, the address "2213 BUTLER ST." and phone number "214-522-8466" are listed in blue and white.



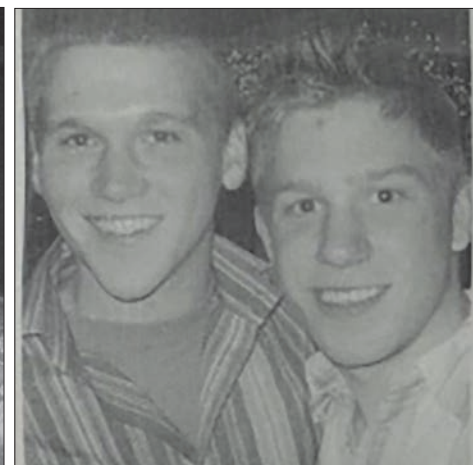
# Scene Through the Decades



Celeste Martinez and Valerie Lohr at Village Station



Dancers at BJ's NXS!



Brett and James 2004



Jay, Waleed and Marcus at BJ's NXS



Carson and Danny at Alexandre's



Maya Douglas at Buddies II



Mark at Zippers



Linda and Larry Petty at After Dark



Ladies Night at Marty's Live



Melba Moore and a Friend



Maya Douglas 1998



Lonnie, Bill and Dena at The Hideaway



Logan and Timmy at Cherries



# Scene Through the Decades



Jed at BJ's NXS



China Blue at Big Daddies



Cris and Sta at the Brick



Jonathan and Cory at Round-Up Saloon




Jamie and Rachel at Best Friends Club



Joe, Candy, Connie and the Jugs gang



Chad and BJ at Buddies II



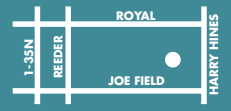
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dallasvoice.com



# BIG WINNER!

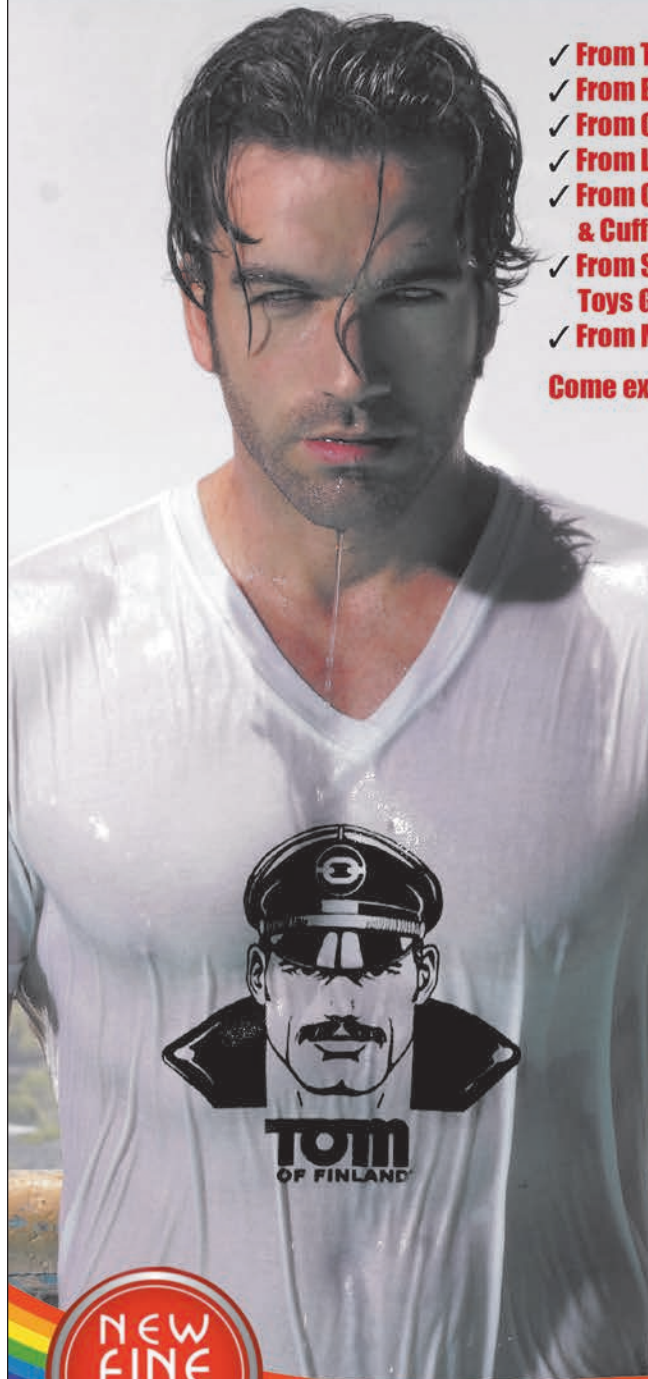
Thanks for voting us... Best Adult Shop

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- ✓ From Cock Rings to Comics
- ✓ From Lube to Leashes
- ✓ From Collars to Clamps & Cuffs
- ✓ From Silicone Vibes to Toys Galore
- ✓ From Metal Locks and More!

Come explore...



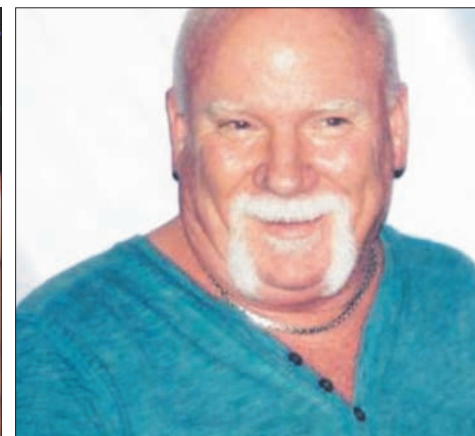
# Alternatives

1720 W. Mockingbird | 214-630-7071  
(Enter in rear behind New Fine Arts)

## Scene Through the Decades



Dancers at Station 4



David at Pub Pegasus



Edna Jean Robinson with Tikera Mockinbird



Eddie at Woody's Sports and Video Bar



Ginger Layne



Getting ready for a show



James at Big Daddies



Glenn at the Round-Up Saloon







# MarketPlace

## MarketPlace

Your calling card for LGBT Texas business  
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dallasvoice.com/marketplace

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