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LGBT leaders look to build on the momentum after historic election yields 2nd term for Obama, 1st out U.S. Senator, marriage in 3 states

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Black Tie Dinner draws 3,000, raises more than $1 million

Heartfelt stories of progress and hope at Saturday’s 31st Black Tie Dinner reminded the audience that while the LGBT community has accomplished so much, there is still more to achieve.

The sold-out event brought together about 3,000 in the community to raise money for the Human Rights Campaign and 18 local beneficiaries.

Chris Kouvelis, BTD co-chair, said Monday that more than $1 million was raised from the event. The total will be announced at the distribution party Dec. 13. He said the location of the party hasn’t been decided yet.

One of the most touching moments of the evening was when HRC President Chad Griffin mentioned 19-year-old Alice he met back in June on his first day as HRC president. The teen, who was Griffin’s guest at Black Tie on Saturday, drove two hours to the event in Little Rock, Ark., and asked him what he would do for people like her.

Alice, as the teen goes by, lives in a small town with religious parents and is afraid to tell them she is a lesbian. Griffin said he could only guarantee Alice that the organization would fight to end hate and encourage acceptance in all states.

“The only thing I had to offer was a promise. A promise that HRC will keep fighting everyday until equality reaches every single person in every single corner of this vast country,” Griffin said.

Griffin said even after the LGBT community tips the balance in favor of President Barack Obama and lesbian Senate hopeful Tammy Baldwin on Tuesday, “there will still be people like Alice out there just trying to find a welcoming place to call home.” He said HRC will continue to fight battles for young people to provide a future “they deserve to inherit.”

Chaz Bono, who received the Elizabeth Birch Equality Award, shared his coming out stories that both took place under the national spotlight, first when he came out as a lesbian and then later when he came out as trans. He said people needed to remember the T more when they think of LGBT, and he encouraged BTD to make a trans organization a beneficiary in the coming years.

Lesbian actress Meredith Baxter then addressed the audience as the keynote speaker. She highlighted the importance of her coming out three years ago on The Today Show. She said even with all her success as an actress, it wasn’t until she came out that she felt entitled to her success for being true to who she was.

“1 could never have foreseen how transforming and how rewarding that my personal and public revelation was going to be,” she said.

Baxter mentioned the compelling story of Timothy Kurek, a straight man who spent a year living as a gay man in order to find empathy for his lesbian friend. She encouraged others to continue to be visible and tell their stories in order to continue the fight for equality nationwide.

“Not one thing changed in America until we chose to be visible to come out honestly to our friends and family and co-workers,” she said. “Just to be known. Just to be ourselves.”

— Anna Waugh

DART panel delays briefing on domestic partner benefits

A proposal for Dallas Area Rapid Transit to offer domestic partner benefits was tabled this week and will be discussed in December instead.

DART’s administrative committee was slated to hear the plan Tuesday, but time ran out before members could be briefed.

DART board member Claude Williams, the committee’s vice chair who requested a presentation on DP benefits in October, said he’ll make sure it’s a priority to hear the plan when the committee meets again on Dec. 11.

DART currently allows only spouses recognized by Texas law to be covered under employees’ health insurance. The proposal would broaden the scope of eligibility to not limit it to just spouses.

Based on the prepared presentation for Tuesday’s meeting, DART’s potential plan would follow the plans of other agencies in Texas that offer DP benefits by mandating a shared household for a minimum time period, as well as requiring domestic partners to be at least 18.

The expected cost is listed as ranging from $105,000 to $210,000 annually.

Last week, Dallas County voted to offer insurance vouchers to the domestic partners of employees. Then, on Nov. 2, state Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, requested an opinion from the Texas attorney general’s office about whether domestic partner benefits are legal under Texas’ constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

— Anna Waugh
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‘A landslide for equality’

LGBT leaders look to continue the momentum after historic election yields 2nd term for Obama, 1st out U.S. senator, marriage in 3 states

FROM STAFF REPORTS

It would be difficult to overstate the significance of Tuesday, Nov. 6, for LGBT civil rights.

Democratic incumbent Barack Obama, who’s done more to advance LGBT equality than any president in U.S. history, captured a second term, defeating a Republican challenger, Mitt Romney, who sought to enshrine anti-gay discrimination into the U.S. Constitution in the form of a Federal Marriage Amendment.

U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wisconsin, who in 1996 was the first out non-incumbent elected to Congress, shattered another glass ceiling by becoming the first openly LGBT person elected to the U.S. Senate.

And despite Baldwin’s departure — she’ll be succeeded by the first openly gay person to replace an openly gay member of Congress — the number of out U.S. representatives went from four to six.

Finally, in the biggest surprise of the night, marriage equality prevailed at the ballot box for the first time in history after 32 defeats — and then for the second, third and fourth times. Popular votes in Maine, Maryland and Washington will bring the number of states with marriage equality to nine, plus the District of Columbia — while voters in Minnesota became the first to defeat a proposed constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation’s largest gay-rights group, called it a “sea change.”

“Without question that we have reached a turning point in our movement,” Griffin said in a conference call with Dallas Voice and other media outlets on Wednesday, Nov. 7. “A landslide for equality is truly what last night can be described as. Momentum is on our side on all fronts.”

But momentum by its very nature can change, and Griffin seemed wary of excessive celebration or complacency as he noted some of the challenges that remain — including a Republican-controlled U.S. House where the LGBT community lacks the votes to achieve its biggest remaining legislative priority, a fully inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

“We have to remember just how far we have to go,” Griffin said. “When we have this momentum, it is not a time when we slow down. It’s the time when we as a movement double down, and that’s exactly what we have to do in the days and weeks ahead of us.

“At the end of the day time matters,” Griffin said, noting that gay youth in the 41 states with marriage inequality are continually told they are second-class citizens. “The consequences of that are horrific and sometimes tragic, so we have to move with a sense of urgency, but we also have to be strategic.”

Those words seemed to ring especially true in Texas, which Romney won with 57 percent of the vote, which lacks any statewide LGBT employment protections or relationship recognition, and where just days prior to the election, a state senator requested an opinion from the attorney general about whether domestic partner benefits offered by local government entities are legal under the state’s 2005 marriage amendment.

Chuck Smith, who was named executive director of Equality Texas last week, pointed to the outcome in Maine — where voters rejected marriage equality just three short years ago — as a sign of hope for the Lone Star State.

“It certainly is momentum in the sense that we’re finally breaking the ice and winning,” Smith said of Tuesday’s marriage victories.

“That, in one night, takes away the opposition’s talking point of you can never win if we take you to the ballot,” he added. “I think it also demonstrates the importance of ongoing civic engagement. It demonstrates the reality that people do and can change their opinion of our relationships over time.

“That work [in Maine] paid off in that people changed their minds and people came to support and recognize the validity of our relationships, so that totally translates to work that we need to do here in Texas,” Smith said.

Highlighting a recent University of Texas/Texas Tribune poll released Oct. 31 that showed 69 percent of Texas voters support either same-sex marriage or civil unions — a record number in Texas — Smith said the organization will work to inform legislators that public opinion is changing from the 2005 poll numbers that showed 75 percent of voters were against relationship recognition in Texas, later passing a Constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

“We have to do education to show people that Texas is not the same in 2012 as it was in 2005,” Smith said. “These victories in other states, they didn’t happen without a hell of a lot of ongoing, intensive, on-the-ground work. And that’s the type of work that Equality Texas needs to be able to do. And in order to do that in a state this big, it means people are going to have to get involved with our organization and support it both with time and with money in order for us to have those conversations and make sure that lawmakers understand that in fact public opinion has moved and is increasingly on our side.”

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World AIDS Day Dallas set for Dec. 1 at Main Street Garden downtown

More than 30 sponsors and partnering organizations will participate in World AIDS Day Dallas on Dec. 1, according to the event’s steering committee. The businesses, individuals, nonprofit organizations and community groups will come together with the goal of “getting to zero” — zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths.

Community leaders and AIDS activists will speak as part of the program, which includes local musicians and entertainers. A healthy living expo will run throughout the event.

AIDS Interfaith Network is hosting the event and heading up planning. Partnership and sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information, contact AIN’s Travis Gasper at 214-500-9101 or tgasper@aidsinterfaithnetwork.org.

World AIDS Day Dallas will be from 3 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, at the Main Street Garden, 1900 Main St., in downtown Dallas.


Sponsors for the event are AIDS Interfaith Network, Avita Drugs Pharmacy, Downtown Dallas Inc., Think Haus Creative, BlueCross BlueShield of Texas, Caven Enterprises, Corner Bakery, John Altieter, Texas Instruments and The UPS Store on Cedar Springs.

Dallas to mark Transgender Day of Remembrance on Sunday, Nov. 18

Dallas’ Transgender Day of Remembrance observance will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18, at the Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road.

Throughout the world, people gather every year to pay respect to transgender and gender-variant victims who are killed by hate crimes and to call attention to the threats of violence transgender people face every day.

Dallas TDOR is sponsored by Cathedral of Hope, Transgender Education Network of Texas, HRC Dallas/Ft. Worth Steering Committee, GEAR, Trans Pride Initiative and Black Transmen Inc.

There is no charge to attend this event. For questions, contact Oliver Blumer at olblumerdc@aol.com.

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Chuck Smith, once a volunteer, named ED of Equality Texas

Longtime deputy director began as lobbyist in 2003, says he became hooked after meeting with legislator who’d been his 8th-grade teacher

ANNA WAUGH | Staff Writer
waugh@dallasvoice.com

Nine years ago, Chuck Smith began working for Equality Texas as a volunteer lobbyist focused on foster care and adoption.

Smith’s role led to a meeting with former state Rep. Carter Castel, who had been his eighth-grade social studies teacher.

Smith said the experience of coming out to a lawmaker he personally knew helped him change minds. And he was hooked.

“I wasn’t out when I was in junior high and it was on some levels coming out to a former teacher who was now a state representative, and we had extended conversations about foster care and adoption and marriage,” he said. “I left there basically hooked on the process because it was clearly evident that having that sort of face-to-face conversation with an elected official had the ability to not only to educate but over time to change hearts and minds.”

Smith, who became Equality Texas’ deputy executive director in 2005, was named the statewide LGBT advocacy organization’s new executive director last week.

Smith served as deputy executive director from 2005 until he was named interim executive director in August, when former Executive Director Dennis Coleman resigned. He’s balanced his role as deputy executive director with the executive director’s responsibilities the last few months. He was named executive director on Nov. 3.

Smith said his appointment wasn’t a surprise because of his long history with the organization — he’ll mark 10 years in March — but he’s excited to watch Equality Texas grow under his leadership.

“I’m very excited, I’m honored. I know the organization and have worked with the organization,” he said. “I’m happy with the selection and honored by their [board members’] confidence in me and look forward to diving in and moving forward and moving upward.”

Smith plans to shift Equality Texas’ focus more toward funding, fieldwork and community engagement. As such, he doesn’t plan on hiring a deputy executive director anytime soon. Instead, he’ll look to fill two positions for fundraising and field development within the next few months.

“I will be doing an analysis of looking at what our strategic goals and needs are, and it is more likely that those positions will be more related to fund development and field organizing,” he said.

Smith said the operating budget for the upcoming year is still being finalized, as well as the organization’s legislative agenda and field plans, which are “driving what the most positions will be at a staff level in order to give us the capacity to do our work.”

And he’ll balance both the executive director and deputy positions just as he has during the last few months.

“Much of what I was doing before, I will continue to do, as well as the additional work of being in more direct contact with the Board of Directors,” he said. “There’s not that much change in terms of the day-to-day responsibilities of what I have been doing for the last several months.”

Anne Wynne, chair of the Equality Texas Board of Directors, said she was pleased with Smith’s appointment and is excited to see what he will
Dr. John Carlo will replace Raeline Nobles next month as CEO of AIDS Arms, the largest non-profit AIDS agency in North Texas. Carlo previously served on the agency’s Board of Directors. He’s also served as medical director and health authority for Dallas County Health and Human Services.

Dallas County HHS Director Zach Thompson was enthusiastic in his praise for Carlo.

“He’s going to be a great asset to AIDS Arms,” Thompson said.

He said Carlo worked in his department about five years, providing leadership in several areas including the county’s response to the H1N1 virus. Thompson also credited Carlo with taking the lead in providing information and speaking before the Commissioners Court as part of a successful campaign to end the county’s ban on the distribution of condoms a few years ago.

“His passion for working with HIV/AIDS, his research background, his experience, it’s great for AIDS Arms and the county,” Thompson said.

Carlo takes over the reigns on Dec. 3. Nobles announced her retirement from the agency in June after serving in the position for 15 years. She’s stepping down after completing a capital campaign that included building and staffing the agency’s second clinic.

Carlo has served on the AIDS Arms board and Nobles said she served with him on the Ryan White Planning Council.

“I couldn’t be more pleased and anticipate the future of AIDS Arms more, than under the leadership of Dr. John Carlo,” Nobles said. “I think he’s wonderful and a perfect fit. He’ll serve the entire HIV community very well.”

Carlo has a public health background. Currently, he works for the University of Minnesota’s Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy managing a contract for the federal Homeland Security department. He serves as program director for CIDRAP’s Chemical and Biological Early Detection System, or Biowatch, a program created in 2001 after the Anthrax scare, to detect the release of pathogens into major cities by terrorists.

However, Carlo won’t have to move for his new position.

“I’m officed here,” he said. “My partner and I live in East Dallas.”

He received his medical degree from University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and completed his internship and residency at Baylor hospital in Dallas.

He was Dallas County medical director from 2006 to 2010, where he was responsible for coordinating the response to public health emergencies and disasters. For two years before that he was the county’s chief epidemiologist.

He called his current position heavily administrative and said he is looking forward to his new position, which is closer to medical care.

“I won’t be seeing patients,” he said. “But a knowledge of patient care will help them [AIDS Arms’ medical staff] do the best job they can.”

With the rising number of people living with HIV in Dallas County, Carlo sees his agency’s challenge as getting people into care.

AIDS Arms statistics show that medical care
Wynne said the search committee narrowed down the applicants for a vote from the Equality Texas and Equality Texas Foundation boards. She said the vote for Smith was unanimous, illustrating his commitment and success with the organization.

Smith will spend the next two months traveling across the state to meet donors and potential supporters to raise awareness for Equality Texas’ causes, of which a statewide Employment Non-Discrimination Act and accurate birth certificate for same-sex couples remain priorities.

The biggest changes he said people will see within the organization is more strategic planning and growth, adding more board members and engaging LGBT citizens and allies.

“IN order to be the statewide LGBT advocacy organization in a state as big as Texas, Equality Texas needs to have a greater capacity and presence than we do right now,” he said.

“We need to reflect where public opinion and where the public is moving in our state and a lot more people are supportive of what we are trying to do than what are currently directly engaged in our work. And if we can get them directly engaged in that work, then I think that will speed up the process of having elected officials having the comfort level to change public policy to eliminate discrimination.”

John Loza

Nobles did to develop the agency.

“We’re in a much stronger position than when she came on board,” Loza said. “With all the uncertainty with healthcare in general and HIV care in particular and how that care is funded, we needed someone with the experience Dr. Carlo offers.”

He cited Carlo’s background dealing with government agencies and his hands-on style of leadership.

AIDS Arms runs Peabody Clinic in South Dallas and Trinity Clinic in Oak Cliff. It operates testing, prevention and case management services, support groups and an extensive Texas prison and community re-entry program.

Carlo will oversee an annual budget of $10 million, as well as 95 employees, according to Nobles. According to IRS filings, Nobles earned $125,000 in 2010.

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SMITH, From Page 9

and case management for one person with HIV costs $2,800 annually, plus medication. One emergency room visit for someone with HIV not in care costs the county $12,000.

Carlo said the county, AIDS Arms and other local agencies are doing a good job of testing. But once someone tests positive, it’s important to “make sure we’re mobilizing and getting them into care.”

And once patients are under care, he wants to see AIDS Arms become more of a “one-stop shop.”

That’s been a goal of the agency since Trinity Clinic was planned. Rather than have clients travel to different parts of the city for a variety of services, Legal Hospice of Texas would offer its legal clinic and AIDS Interfaith Network would distribute transit passes at AIDS Arms facilities.

“There should always be opportunities for collaboration,” Carlo said. “I would love to see more partnerships. That’s going to be my role coming in.”

He called AIDS Arms’ system of revenue a complex mix of government subsidy, insurance, grants and fundraising.

“It’s an exciting time with the Affordable Care Act,” he said, referring to President Barack Obama’s signature healthcare legislation. “So much change and opportunity.”

AIDS Arms board chair John Loza said the board was looking for someone to build on what help the organization accomplish in the future.

“I hope that we keeping moving in the direction we’re headed right now, which is more equality for LGBT Texans,” she said.

Wynne said the search committee narrowed down the applicants for a vote from the Equality Texas and Equality Texas Foundation boards. She said the vote for Smith was unanimous, illustrating his commitment and success with the organization.

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to some election victories within the state on Tuesday, foremost among them the re-election of LGBT ally state Sen. Wendy Davis, D-Fort Worth, and the official election of Mary Gonzalez in El Paso’s House District 75, where she was unopposed. Gonzalez, a Democrat who identifies as pansexual, is the first openly LGBT female elected to the Texas Legislature — and the state’s first out state lawmaker since 2003.

Democrats also broke the Republican supermajority in the Texas House. The current GOP state House majority of 102-48 will become 95-55 in January.

Smith said Equality Texas plans to work with both parties — a Dallas Republican senator recently broke new ground by saying he supports three of the organization’s priority bills — to bring about change, but added that Democrats will now have a larger voice in the House.

“Eliminating any party’s supermajority makes the other party relevant, so when there was a supermajority, Republicans could pass whatever they wanted and however many Democrats were there were irrelevant,” he said.

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With Davis’ win, the state Senate makeup is expected to remain 19 Republicans and 12 Democrats, preventing a Republican tie to a two-thirds supermajority that would allow them to bring any legislation to the floor for consideration.

One setback for the LGBT community came when lesbian Houston attorney Ann Johnson lost
Dallas Voice is searching for the TOP HAT in LGBT North Texas, kicking off our annual contest for the Readers Voice Awards. This year’s theme is Top Hat, and we are asking readers to submit photos featuring HATS. The winner will be featured on the full page cover of the March 22, 2013 Reader Voice Awards edition and a $1,000 donation will be made in the winner’s name to their favorite charity. Use your imagination, and send your best Hat photos to TopHat@dallasvoice.com. Submission deadline is Friday, December 7.

Dallas Voice editors will chose the 9 TOP HAT Finalists. Finalists will be given a Top Hat professional photo shoot. A model release will be required before publication. Results will be used for promotional materials and online balloting. Readers will pick the 2013 Top Hat in Readers Voice Awards voting Jan. 4 - 31, 2013. Please include photographers name, email and cell phone, and a statement of model release if you have photographed a friend. “Top Hat” is a liberal term and all entries will be considered.
to freshman incumbent state Rep. Sarah Davis in District 134.

Johnson said she was proud of her campaign, especially because she brought up public education and healthcare, making Davis voice her stance on these issues.

"There was a great shift, I believe, that happened in this district and even Rep. Davis began to speak about trying to be independent and make these issues that we were discussing a priority," Johnson told Dallas Voice. "I think that's a credit to the support that we had and the campaign that we ran. I'm excited with what we we've been able to do and creating a new conversation for priorities in Texas."

Smith said Johnson faced "an uphill battle just given the partisan makeup" because the swing district leaned more to the right after redistricting, which Davis helped oversee. He said Johnson deserves credit for bringing attention to issues that Davis should focus on in her next term.

In Dallas County, four Democratic hopefuls lost close state House races, but the county as a whole remained blue, and lesbian Sheriff Lupe Valdez was re-elected to a third four-year term.

"I'm blessed, I'm honored and continually grateful for the progressiveness of Dallas County," Valdez told Dallas Voice after addressing the crowd at the city's most iconic gay bar, the Round-Up Saloon, where Stonewall Democrats hosted its watch party. "This has to be a very progressive county or they wouldn't keep putting in someone like me continually."

Admitting that her first term was a challenge, Valdez said she has proven herself as sheriff in the change she has brought to the department during the last four years. Among other things, during her second term, the sheriff's department became the first in Dallas County to add LGBT employment protections — which the Commissioners Court later expanded to all county employees last year.

"It's not the same department that I got when I went in there. It is totally different," Valdez said. "So, we've done a job of bringing about change. And change is never an easy thing to do. The first four years were quite a struggle but after the second term, things started to flow. We want to continue to build on the progress."

Soon after polls closed in Texas at 7 p.m., the Round-Up Saloon filled with people watching election returns with Stonewall Democrats.

By the time Obama was announced the winner soon after 10 p.m., the bar was packed with revelers.

National Stonewall Democrats Leadership Committee Co-chair Erin Moore said it was a great night. A lot of high-profile candidates won," she said, citing Baldwin's election to the Senate and new gay House members.

"The country's at a different place than many politicians think we are," she said. "This is the first time a popular vote determined we should have the right to get married."

Despite that success, Moore is not sure she wants to see a lot of other states putting equal rights on the ballot.

"I'd rather have a judicial win and declare DOMA unconstitutional and move on," she said. Ironically, the prospect of such a judicial victory may get a boost from the successful marriage votes on Tuesday, which could influence Supreme Court justices as they prepare to decide whether to take up DOMA and/or California's Proposition 8 later this month. And certainly the prospect of future pro-marriage decisions got a boost from Obama's re-election, if he appoints Supreme Court justices in his second term.

Moore said the LGBT community has made tremendous progress under Obama and will make some additional strides over the next four years.

"We gained more in the past four years than we have in the past 20," she said. "We're not letting him [Obama] off the hook, but realize we're not the only people in the room."

Stonewall President Omar Narvaez agreed with Moore on the outcome of the marriage equality resolutions.

While he was delighted that three additional states will have marriage equality and a fourth stopped an anti-gay constitutional amendment, he said elections shouldn't be the way to go.

"It's great we had four victories, but we shouldn't be voting on civil rights," he said.

In other races, Narvaez said Stonewall's endorsement record this election was mixed.

"We were nine for nine in countywide races," he said.

Of six endorsements given in federal races, the Dallas Democratic group backed three winners — Obama, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson and Congress-elect Marc Veasey.

Stonewall endorsed 15 candidates for state offices. Only the five who were running unopposed won election.

Theresa McDaniel, who was elected county commissioner for newly drawn District 1 that includes parts of Oak Lawn, will become the fourth Democrat on the Commissioners Court.

"It will be interesting to see how [Republican Mike] Cantrell acts," Narvaez said. "He'll be what John Wylie Price was for so long — the lone member of his party in the court."

Although Republicans continue to hold a large majority in the Legislature, Narvaez said that the seven seats Democrats picked up switched from the tea party.

"The destructive supermajority is over," he said. "Democrats will be part of the game."

He was also optimistic about the new Congress.

"We're sending a binder full of women to the U.S. Senate and more LGBT members than ever," he said. "That's huge."

On the local gay Republican side, Metroplex Republicans President Rob Schlein seemed bitter in defeat.

Schlein said the nation as a whole lost on Tuesday because Romney was the best person to help the economy.

He said Republicans need to do research to find out the party's important issues and stances on those issues, which he said would help evaluate what went wrong in this election cycle. He also said PACs need to focus more on educating the public about key issues at stake.

"I think Romney lost because there's a lot of uneducated people that vote," Schlein said. "And they really don't understand the way the government works, they don't understand how business works, they don't understand the relationship between taxes and an employer's ability to meet a payroll."

Despite the disappointment of Romney's loss, Metroplex Republicans Vice President Rudy Oeftering acknowledged the significance of the successful marriage votes.

"This is a turning point for equality," Oeftering wrote on Dallas Voice's website. "I can assure you my friends within the Republican Party see the writing on the wall. If nothing else, it's no longer an issue that drives majorities to the polls. Congratulations to all of you that put your sweat and toil into this issue."

EMBRACING VICTORY | Lesbian Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez hugs a supporter at the Round-Up after it became clear she'd been elected to a third four-year term. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)
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DJ FRANKIE ICE
Dancing the Schadenfreude Polka

With GOP in disarray, now’s the time to demand full LGBT equality from Congress and the White House — as soon as we take off our clogs.

After I took off my clogs and caught my breath from dancing the Schadenfreude Polka on Tuesday night, I sat down and considered what the election meant for me and my LGBT friends. It was a big night for us.

First, President Barack Obama, a president who has done more for LGBT equality than any president in history, was re-elected. Reason to celebrate enough, but add to that the election of Tammy Baldwin, the first openly lesbian Senator in history in Wisconsin, and it was an even bigger night.

Then, came the news that marriage equality passed in Maine and Maryland, and I wanted to dance again. This election was divisive and acrimonious and yet the voters of those states saw fit to assure more equality for LGBT couples. My faith in the essential fairness of Americans was somewhat restored.

Now the question is, how do we move forward from here?

While the GOP is in disarray, forming circular firing squads and dealing with the fallout of its hate-filled campaign, we LGBT citizens should go into a full-court press on Congress and the White House. Equal rights is not something we can wait for the government to give us; we must demand them.

Luckily, most of the nation agrees with us, at least when it comes to the right to marry. A recent Gallup poll found 50 percent of Americans favor same-sex marriage while only 48 percent oppose it. That’s a big change from the 1990s, when the numbers were 68 percent opposed.

The trend is clear, and those members of Congress who have finished nursing their hangovers this morning are looking toward 2014 and may well think twice about using anti-gay rhetoric in their campaigns.

It’s no secret that millions of dollars were spent trying to demonize LGBT people and anyone who supported equal rights.

Now, it looks like all that money didn’t achieve its desired effect. In fact, it may have soured a lot of voters who were overloaded with negative campaign ads on TV.

Here in Texas, we get our share of campaign rhetoric, but since we are not considered a battleground state we have no idea how relentless the campaign can be.

Last weekend, just prior to the election, I was in the battleground state of Florida. Watching TV at a restaurant in Fort Lauderdale, I counted no fewer than 30 negative TV ads in a single hour program. As I looked around I noticed no one was even watching them.

When I asked a few folks if the TV ads affected the way they would vote, I got painted expressions and shaking of heads. One woman even said she was so tired of the negative ads she never wanted to go through another election.

Luckily the old formula of “gays, guns and God” seems to have lost its magic.

Unless the Republican Party is willing to move even further to the fringes of sanity, it will drop some of the most far-right positions and begin to move toward some kind of moderation. That would be good news for LGBT Americans.

On the Democratic side, I hope there will be a move toward progressivism and away from the centrist posturing that has prevented more legislation for social justice. Democrats need to come out of the closet and reclaim the word “liberal” as a good thing.

The House and Senate need to move toward real progress and away from acquiescing to every whim of the GOP when it comes to LGBT rights. That will be what we will have to push for in the next four years.

But, the next election cycle is still years away, and until then it will be amusing to watch people like Karl Rove and Grover Norquist try to spin this stunning loss into something else. I suspect they will continue to dance to the tune played by the billionaire Super PAC donors who were not very happy Wednesday morning.

Meanwhile, where are those clogs? I think I feel another polka coming on!

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and board member for the Woodhull Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiary.blogspot.com.
I am a boyfriend, a volunteer, and an artist.
And I am living with HIV.

Let's stop HIV together.
-Christopher

Christopher (left) has lived with HIV since 2011.

www.cdc.gov/ActAgainstAIDS
A lot of choreographers are known for their style (modern, classical, experimental) or the dancers they work with, but for Stephen Petronio, musicians fuel his muse. And we’re not talking Mahler versus Tchaikovsky — Petronio makes dances that rock ‘n’ roll.

“I made a dream list of musicians I wanted to work with,” he says, and set out to do just that. The results include pieces set to the music of Laurie Anderson, Lou Reed, Nick Cave and perhaps most unexpectedly, Rufus Wainwright (for which he included two same-sex duets: Two men who move as one, constantly in touch, and two women, just broken up, who never touch).

So which comes first: The movement or the music?

“I am musically driven, but it depends,” Petronio concedes. “I love music and I think I understand rock on a cellular level, so I don’t have to think too much about it. [Interesting music choice is] a special thing I can bring to contemporary dance. I have done classical music, but I like to make movement to something contemporary of our time.”

Petronio’s company makes its Dallas debut at the Winspear on Nov. 16 — a shocking absence from the dance scene considering Petronio’s reputation and longevity.

“The bad news is, I haven’t been there [before], but the good news is, I have a new city to discover,” he says. “I’m very happy to be coming.”

Among the pieces Petronio will present is The Architecture of Loss, a piece he created nearly a decade ago but has not been able to revisit.

The piece was commissioned by the Sydney Dance Company in 2003. They asked Petronio to create a dance for them, and he agreed to meet their deadline on one condition: “I said, ‘Get me Nick Cave.’ I knew he was Australian and what an amazing person,” Petronio says. To his surprise, the company agreed.

A cult hero in the U.S., Petronio calls Cave “the Goth poet laureate of Australia. So many people had such strong ideas about Nick Cave’s music — many people get married to it — you have to fight people’s expectations. But the advantage is you have a cultural landmark.” Still, going to Cave’s home turf to create a dance for Australian audiences was “either the smartest thing I’ve ever done or the stupidest.”

It may have been the smartest. But until last year, Sydney Dance had exclusive license rights to the piece; when the license expired, Petronio jumped at the chance to tailor it for his own company.

“I love what I did — I love the music so much,” he says. “I’m a very instinctual artist and this is one of my favorite works. But my works are deeply influenced by the bodies I work with. I could never make The Architecture of Loss for another company. The subtlety and airiness would be lost. The Sydney dancers are ballet trained, so that can move their feet very fast. The beating of the feet is breathtaking to watch. To bring it back home to my dancers ups the ante.”

Indeed, fans of Petronio know his style already for its athleticism and speed; dancers have been known to move so fast they risk bumping into one another.

“The goal is to always pass your abilities in your personal language. My nature is very quick — I’m a New Yorker — and my mind was always faster than my body; one year you’re moving at 20 beats per second, then the next you’re at 28.”

Petronio, who has long been active in causes — he talks about the old days being arrested with ACT UP, and recently did an “It Gets Better” video — has embraced gay sensibilities frequently in his work, and has since the beginning. It just comes naturally, he says … though he’s better with men than with women.

“I find I understand partnering between two men better than I do between two women — with the men, I care much less about the dancers’ feelings so I push them more!” he laughs.

Having produced such provocative work for so long, you might expect Petronio has been pleased to watch the liberalization of attitudes about sexuality, even in dance. You’d be wrong.

“When I was making Middlesex Gorge, it was all about sex and aggression and control and the human body as the ultimate work of freedom. It was erotically driven when the AIDS crisis was at its peak, and I was trying to bring human sexuality to the surface — I wanted it to be part of the fabric without being about my boyfriend,” he explains. “But my husband and I just got married [in New York], and some people are pretty pissed off about it still! Have things changed? I would love to think we’ve progressed, but I’m not sure.”
Thank you for driving a friend

Classic Chassis gathers the gays for Golden Girls, its milestone 25th anniversary car reunion in Fort Worth

STEVEN LINDSEY | Contributing Writer

The Golden Girls are back! Although the only way Dorothy, Blanche, Rose and Sophia will make appearances is if someone named four old automobiles after the iconic characters. Nope, this weekend’s Golden Girls event marks a milestone 25th annual gathering of all Texas Chapters of the Classic Chassis Car Club, a predominantly LGBT organization that welcomes car lovers of all makes and models. (Straight, too.)

According to the club’s mission statement, the CCCC membership is comprised of those who know the smallest of styling details to gear-heads who perform their own restorations. Membership is open to all, even those who do not yet own a classic or special interest car. Their common bond is an interest and appreciation for autos that are special to the individual, no matter the reason.

“It’s a really cool way to meet people and network,” says Bryan Howell, vice president of the Dallas chapter — especially those who “share in a common love of cars.” Even though the club has “classic” in its name, that term is loosely construed. Even what many people would consider new cars can have a place within the group.

“There’s a 2008 Pontiac coming to the show, but Pontiac doesn’t exist any more so it’s considered unique,” Howell says.

Howell notes that even though he’s loved cars for a long time, “My passion for cars goes back to when I was 20 months old. I remember going to the car dealership with my father and buying this new car. I was heartbroken to see our old car go. My dad got a brand new 69 Pontiac Custom S Sport Coupe. We get out onto this little road outside the dealership and he punches it. It threw me into the back seat and I was immediately in love,” he recalls with a smile. “This year, in fact, I was able to buy the identical car in a convertible version. The car I first fell in love with I now have. It’s in the shop and I hope to have it ready for this weekend.”

For Howell, his love of all things automobile goes back a long way.

“My passion for cars goes back to when I was 20 months old. I remember going to the car dealership with my father and buying this new car. I was heartbroken to see our old car go. My dad got a brand new 69 Pontiac Custom S Sport Coupe. We get out onto this little road outside the dealership and he punches it. It threw me into the back seat and I was immediately in love,” he recalls with a smile. “This year, in fact, I was able to buy the identical car in a convertible version. The car I first fell in love with I now have. It’s in the shop and I hope to have it ready for this weekend.”

Howell notes that even though he’s loved cars for a long time, it wasn’t until about 10 years ago that he could start to afford decent cars. But his passion falls somewhere between hobby and obsession.

“Nothing I have is show-quality, but you can get into any of my cars and drive to L.A. Others in the club, they have cars that are museum-worthy.”

Paul J. Williams, a long-standing car enthusiast and member of CCCC, gets to combine his gearhead status and quick-witted MCing duties as well — he’ll serve as this year’s banquet and awards ceremony host.

“We’re really excited. He’s going to lend a whole new air to the thing,” Howell says of Williams.

Williams himself says he enjoys Classic Chassis because its membership has a different attitude than other car clubs.

“Straight guys, by and large, buy muscle cars and show off the engines. Gay guys buy glamour cars and go all out on presentation, often utilizing hat boxes, mannequins and/or matching luggage!” Williams says.

Indeed, accessories are key to many aspects of the weekend, particularly the Road Rallye on Friday afternoon, where participating cars take a scenic drive to collect information and articles on a scavenger hunt in search of Miss Golden Girl 2012.

And in a regulation that’s most likely unique to clubs of this variety, at least one person in each car must be in drag.

The Rallye ends with a happy hour and catered BBQ dinner at Club Reflection that is open to the public, which makes it a great first chance to learn more about the club. The group will also assemble Saturday for Concours in the Park, a car show held at Trinity Park where people can interact with the car owners, possibly even go along for a ride.

Through this weekend and other events, the group hopes to attract a new generation of enthusiasts to keep the passion alive for decades to come, even though the average age skews toward members over 40 for the most part.

“We’re not a bunch of dirty old men,” Williams assures. “Unless you smell like an old car.”

Events include a happy hour at Club Reflections, 604 Jennings St., Fort Worth, Friday, 5–7 p.m.; followed by a barbecue dinner, a car show at Trinity Park with lunch Saturday, 11 a.m.–2 p.m., and banquet/awards dinner at Esperanza’s, 2122 N. Main St., Fort Worth, Saturday, 6–9 p.m. For a complete list of activities, visit GoldenGirls2012.com.
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Little doesn’t mean weak, as these powerful compacts can attest

It’s not the size of your rocket that counts, but rather how it fits with your pocket. Properly packaged, your favorite ride can flaunt all of the right curves and deliver rapid elation. And the right subject of your desires shouldn’t always require expensive dates.

No matter who you take, or where you take him, one of these smokin’ cars should get you there with a little fun along the way.

Scion FR-S/Subaru BRZ. There have been stranger bedfellows than Toyota and Subaru, but the little rear-drive sports car they produced is a dream. Subaru’s 200hp 2.0-liter Boxer four-cylinder engine delivers up to 34-MPG. Drivers can choose between six-speed manual or automatic transmissions, the latter with rev matching, paddles and Auto Sport mode to hold gears longer. A 53:47 front:rear weight balance should enable wicked shenanigans on the track. A flowing hood, fastback roofline, LED taillamps and colors like Raven, Hot Lava and Firestorm paint a pretty picture. A driver-focused interior features 300-watts of Pioneer audio, Bluetooth, and BeSpoke that connects with iPhones for personalized connectivity to Facebook, Twitter and Internet radio.

Prices start at $24,955.

Fiat 500 Abarth. There’s a scorpion on the side of this little ribbed rider, and that’s a hint of the sting coming from its 1.4-liter MultiAir Turbo-four that delivers 160hp. An Abarth-tuned suspension, large brakes with Rosso calipers, wide tires and 17-in. alloys shod with Pirelli P-Zero tires fill its pants. Sexy visuals include twin nostrils, rear wing and Abarth logos all around. God’s leather sport seats, thick flat bottom steering wheel, Beats by Dr. Dre audio, automatic climate control and BLUE&ME hands free communications plug pleasure. Tom Tom navigation takes you there.

Feel it from $22k, including a day’s instruction from the Richard Petty Driving Experience.
Hyundai Veloster Turbo. This Korean three-door fling puts its heart in a 201hp 1.6-liter turbocharged engine, connected to six-speed transmissions. It’s also frugal at 27/38-MPG city/hwy. The sport-tuned exhaust note provides background music for fondling the heated leather seats and 7-in. touchscreen to control the 450-watt Dimension Premium Audio system with subwoofer and Pandora. Hyundai’s Blue Link connects POI searches, emergency assistance, and automatic crash notifications.

Veloster are dressed to impress, boasting unique fascias, 18-in. alloys, LED taillights, twin center exhausts and alloy pedals. The graphite black interior with blue accents sexes up the night.

Prices rise from $21,950.

Chevy Sonic RS. Pumping more juice into the world-beating Sonic is the RS’ 138hp 1.4-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine. A stiffy suspension, 17-in. wheels and four-wheel disc brakes let drivers play all night.

Dressed for fun, interiors are decked with bolstered leather and suede sport seats, aluminum pedals and motorcycle-inspired instruments with a digital speedometer your sugar daddy could read. The standard touchscreen, USB and Bluetooth connect smartphones for navigation, hands-free calling, local search via Google, live traffic updates, Pandora and Stitcher. Aggressive ground effects announce intentions.

Prices, including 10 airbags, start at $20,995.

VW Golf R. Volkswagen originated the idea of a speedy compact with the GTI and the Golf R glides one further. More sophisticated than the others in this drawer, it packs a 256hp 2.0-liter turbo engine, all-wheel-drive, six-speed manual transmission and 18-in. wheels standard. Fuel economy is rated 19/27-MPG city/hwy. LED running lamps, gloss black grille, Xenon headlamps, center twin tailpipes and flared side skirts add distinction. Dual zone automatic climate control, 300-watt Dynaudio, deep leather buckets, squared-off steering wheel and aluminum sill plates are fancy. Adaptive lights even turn Tucker-style with the steering wheel — all for a base of $33,990.

RAPTOROUS | Hyundai’s Veloster, left, shows that a hatchback can be a beast on the road; Chevrolet’s Sonic, below, are modest on the outside but boast decked-out interiors (skater boys sold separately).
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Liberal or conservative?

Your car can make a political statement — if you know how to look at it.

Casey Williams | Auto Reviewer

Now that all the politicking is over, the time for healing has begun. And that means liberals getting along with conservatives.

And we’re not talking about the election.

You don’t need an HRC sticker in the window to discover who is liberal and who is conservative — just glance down at the model of the cars they drive. You’re not likely to see many hybrids at the sports bar or muscle cars at Station 4. Sure, there’s the rare gay stud who drives a 420hp Camaro SS or the manly-man hunter who drives a Prius, but both stand out because they are rare.

We took a look at vehicles of all types to figure out who would drive what by our entirely non-scientific comparison of liberal vs. conservative rides.

Tesla Roadster vs. Chevy Corvette. The little electric cars are all over California and they’re a real quickie. Range is about all you need in an L.A. commute and they don’t pollute. Unfortunately, you’ll need a Wall Street wallet to afford the $100,000 asking price and a burly flatbed truck driver when it runs out of juice.

The Corvette, though, is sex on wheels and fast as Jeff Gordon with Tony Stewart on his rump. You can drive it from coast-to-coast, racing the standard 430hp V8 from stoplight to stoplight, and getting 26-MPG on the open road. Your woman can pack all she wants because the trunk is bigger than her brother’s closet. $49,600 buys a lot of glory.

Dodge Dart vs. Ford Focus. An Italian-American affair that resulted from the auto bail-out, the Dart (fortunately) turned out to be an Alfa Romeo in Dodge skin, which makes it a tight little number with junior Charger styling. It also sounds like a Ferrari, achieves 41-MPG hwy., or pumps 184hp. Tickets start at $15,995.

If you’re looking for the American compact not saved by Obama, the Focus is your ride (though much of the engineering and design came from Europe). Still, don’t tell fans of Big Oil — an electric version is coming soon, but a $16,200 base price pleases everyone.

Lexus ES 300h vs. Lincoln MK-S. Even when liberals go gray, they look for environmentally friendly rides. When they’re ready to move up from their Volt, the Lexus ES Hybrid achieves 40/39-MPG city/hwy. If that doesn’t make you feel like hugging a koala, select the bamboo interior trim. Save for at least $38,850.

For the religious right, Sister Bertha Better-Than-You will love her big holy roller. Collision warning with brake support system and automatic parking save her fat arse from hell … or can throttle the optional 365hp EcoBoost V6 to power out of it. She can use SYNC with MyLincoln Touch to preach at her car. Prices ascend from $42,800.

Kia Optima vs. Buick LaCrosse eAssist. Even if Kia is still on Gaywheels.com’s naughty list, the Optima is a mad-sexy sedan. Styled under ex-Audi stylist Peter Schreyer, it’s sculpture on wheels. Get it with the 274hp turbo engine to really slather your sexy on, but base four-cylinders achieve 24/35-MPG city/hwy. Plan for $22,000.

As contrarian as Newt Gingrich in drag, the beautiful Buick sedan attracts both suave gentleman and grandpa’s coffee klatch. If you don’t tell the old fart it comes standard as a “lightly electrified” hybrid, he’ll just think gas is still cheap when he enjoys 36-MPG hwy. You’ll need a tax refund of about $32,000 to pay for it.

Feliz Navi dogs!

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11.09.12 | dallasvoice 25
It’s hard getting up in the morning, and it is even harder to find an accepting friend to loan you their precious pickup to haul home that fabulous credenza for your home theater. This being Texas, big hulking full-size trucks are standard fare. But, what if you want to carry your stuff and park it too? That downtown garage too tight for Behemoth The Truck? Maybe one of these everyday pick-me-ups will satisfy your toolbox.

**Toyota Tacoma.** Since Marty McFly almost hit a Rolls-Royce in his, Toyota has offered one of the best-selling compact pickups in the U.S. Eco weenies will choose the 159hp 2.7-liter four-cylinder engine that achieves 21/25-MPG city/hwy., but manly men should opt for the 236hp 4.0-liter V6 that can tow up to 6,500 lbs. To really get your juices pumping, drive the X-Runner sport truck that comes standard with the V6 engine and six-speed manual transmission to get it from 0-60mph in under 7s and pull 9g’s during cornering like serious performance cars. A full body kit, hood scoop, and supercharger churning 304hp tell stoplight pretenders to f-off. Go full urban with Toyota’s Entune infotainment system that puts hands-free calling, streaming music, MovieTickets.com, Pandora, real-time traffic updates, and fuel prices at your fingertips. Tacoma starts at $17,525, but can cross $30k with all the tuna.

**Nissan Frontier.** Like you’re favorite mate, this pickup is all about flexibility. You can get it in extended or four-door cab configurations, long or short beds, and 4x4 or 4x2. To move luggage or an occasional sofa, the standard 152hp 2.5-liter four-cylinder plugs the hole. However, if you need more muscle, expand your horizons to the 261hp V6. The best combination may be the 2WD King Cab that achieves 17/21-MPG city/hwy. Nissan takes trucking seriously. Hill Descent Control, Hill Start Assist, and 4LO gearing take the rugged to purgatory while the PRO-4X edition with Bilstein off-road shocks, skid plates, 16-in. alloys with off-road tires treats passengers to a luxury loft of heated leather seats and red-stitched steering wheel. City dwellers may prefer the Sport package’s 18-in. alloys, dark grille, moonroof and Bluetooth.

Since before Datsun became Nissan, the Japanese automaker has captured the small pickup shelf. When I was a kid, almost everybody owned one, and they probably still do. A base price of $19,010 makes it a pretty affordable way to move about.

**Honda Ridgeline.** Ridgeline is an urban-ready pickup cocktail. Unlike other mid-size trucks, the big Honda does not have an independent frame like other trucks and has the bed smoothly integrated with the four-door, five-passenger cabin like a crossover. An independent rear suspension tames potholes and construction sites while the 250hp 3.5-liter V6, connected to fully-automatic all-wheel-drive, chugs down 15/21-MPG city/hwy. Look inside the bed to find tricks like the InBed Trunk that can hold drinks and play clothes, eight tie-downs for whatever you wish to tie down, and four cargo area lights to illuminate the whole affair. Up front, there’s a 100-watt audio system with input jack, Bluetooth, automatic climate control, available heated leather seats, and 60/40 split rear bench with under-seat storage. There’s even a heated wiper park! Whether you need a garage-friendly handyman, or wish to pull 5,000lbs. of Honda’s renowned recreational toys, the Ridgeline could be your best partner. With a base price of $29,350, and prices that cross $40k, you may need reviving salts before signing the line.
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Extremely comfortable with its orientation.
Did you ever stop to wonder what your car says about where you’re from — or more importantly, from where you’d like to be? Back in the ’50s, cars named for places were aspirational, with monickers like the Bel Air from Chevy, for those who imagined life in Hollywood; for drivers of GM’s value brand (who would presumably prefer a more tropical climate), there was the Biscayne. In truth, Bel Air and Biscayne were basically the same car with different trim. Many of today’s most popular vehicles also have names that invoke places their drivers would like to drive.

Seaside retreats like Malibu and Rio aside, most of today’s location-derived rides tend more toward cowboy country — none more so than the Ford F-Series King Ranch edition. Named for the enormous South Texas ranch, the trucks convey the drama with saddle leather seats, rock-clearing chassis, and paint colors that reflect prairie sagebrush. Take a ride and you’ll be sure you are Ted Turner, home on the range.

Ram, Toyota and GM also slap big sky names on their full-size trucks. Chrysler’s truck brand invokes the wide spaces of Laramie to give its owners command of the countryside. Toyota reaches a little further north to the Tundra while GMC hearkens to the west with Sierra; Chevy prefers Silverado. However, the bow-tie gang has also used Cheyenne, and calls its compact truck the Colorado. It pretty much has lands west of the Mississippi fenced in.

I suppose automakers want to transfer that rugged individualism to their family-friendly crossovers and SUVs. GMC owners apparently relate to the far north, as the truck maker sells the full-size Acadia crossover and Yukon SUV. Going all-in, both are available in upscale Denali packages that elevate owners to Cadillac highs.

Never one to miss feelings of luxury and leisure, Chevy sells the Tahoe. In recent years, Chrysler sold the very cool Aspen SUV, which was launched to the media with an avalanche of paper snow, but we’re all still trying to forget the Dodge Aspen car. (About the only thing that lemon rose to was the top of most-repaired clunkers list.)

If choosing by name alone, I’d prefer to drive the Nissan Murano. I love Murano glass, plenty of which I dragged home from Venice a few years ago. Does that mean the Murano is fragile? Or that it can haul a lot of vases and paperweights? Maybe the headlight lenses are made from blown silicon or the floor is crafted from Italian marble? It’s all so confusing.

If visiting, we could also see a Ford Torino, but that Italian seems more akin to conveying Starsky & Hutch and crotchety old Clint East-
Park Place Motorsports debuts

Even folks who consider themselves car enthusiasts probably pale against those who enjoy motorsports — sort of the civilian version of NASCAR, where men and women 18 to 80 race their high-performance vehicles on special-built road courses. But Oak Lawn’s Park Place dealership noticed a lot more people were showing an interest in racing.

From that reality was Park Place Motorsports born.

“There are really three levels to motorsport,” explains Alex Whitman, director of the new enterprise and himself a former racecar driver. One level involves street-legal daily-use cars modified slightly for racing; another are club racers, who buy purpose-built cars designed specifically for racing; and at the top of the chain, what Whitman calls Cup Car Clients — those with kick-ass Porsches built for speed. (Presently, the garage only services Porsches, though that will change.)

Park Place Motorsports was designed to serve those clients who want to pursue this intensive sport. The new facility, which will officially open following a gala invitation-only event on Saturday, has service techs tasked solely to work on performance cars. The concept also provides full-on support for those wishing to explore the glory that comes with racing cars like the professionals. They can even move your car to and from events and provide, essentially, a personal pit crew. “All you need to do is show up at the track with your helmet and we can do the rest,” Whitman says.

There’s a bigger market that you might imagine for such a service, but the goal is to make it even bigger.

“I’m a Dallas native, and North Texas is tailor-made for motorsport,” Whitman says. “With this, we hope to grow the motorsport culture.”

— Arnold Wayne Jones

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THREE’S A CROWD?

Who Says Three’s A Crowd?

Click Here To Find Out The Truth
2012 was a challenge for ski resorts — and not just during gay ski week. Unseasonably warm months kept the season shorter than usual in most places, and base inches where disappointing. But skiers know: Never give up. A good run is always worth the wait.

And the dump of cold weather early on the East Coast following Hurricane Sandy last month left hope that this would be a good season.

So snap on your binders and wax those skis — here’s our annual rundown on the major North American gay ski weeks for 2013.


Winter Rendezvous XXVIII, Stowe, Vt. Jan. 23–27. You can segue right from Aspen to the opposite side of the country for Winter Rendezvous in Stowe, Vt. The 29th outing includes performances by returning DJ Harrison, a Sound of Music sing-along (Stowe is the American home of the Von Trapps) and a live performance from Dina Martina. Winterrendezvous.com.


Elevation: Utah Gay Ski Week, Park City, Utah. Feb. 21–24. Park City, Utah’s Gay Ski Week (put on by the same folks as Elevation: Mammoth) gets a new look in its third official outing in the home of the Sundance Film Festival. UtahGaySki.com.

Telluride Gay Ski Week, Telluride, Colo. Feb. 22–March 3. Named the U.S.A.’s top gay ski week by Gay.com, the Mountain Village event is back with its 10th incarnation, which runs a full 10 days this year. DJ Brandon Moses, DJ Casey Alva and drag diva Nucla Waste are among the draws this time, plus Dallas’ own A-Lester, Levi Crocker. American Airlines, the official airline for Telluride Gay Ski Week, offers direct flights from DFW to Montrose, plus a discount code when booking at AAI.com/rainbow. TellurideGaySkiWeek.com.


OutBoard Gay and Lesbian Snowboard Week, Winter Park, Colo. March 19–24. This gay winter week that targets snowboarders especially is unique for always changing locations. This year it moved from Steamboat Springs to fellow Colorado destination Winter Park for its 18th year. OutBoard.org.

Once again, at least two planned ski weeks haven’t confirmed their dates as of press time. Vail Gay Ski Week, Vail, Colo. (VailGaySkiWeek.com) and Lake Tahoe WinterFest XVII Gay & Lesbian Ski Week, Lake Tahoe, Nev. (LakeTahoeWinterfest.com) have yet to confirm what will happen with them, but keep an eye out on their web site.

L+S travel

Slopes hopes

After a warm 2012, Gay Ski Weeks are poised for a comeback in 2013

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES Life+Style Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com
For queer eyes only

007 takes a fascinating gay turn in ‘Skyfall,’ a stellar entry in the Bond series

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Life+Style Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Other than the perfunctory opening credits shout-out to Ian Fleming at the top of each 007 movie, no one ever talks about the writers of a Bond film. And why would they? It’s not that the job is easy — heck, just coming up with Bond Girl names takes inspiration (Pussy Galore, anyone?), and plotting something new in a series now 50 years old ain’t child’s play — but really, who cares? It’s all about the sex, the stunts, the medium dry vodka martini — shaken, not stirred.

So let’s break that tradition: John Logan, Neil Purvis and Robert Wade wrote Skyfall, the 23rd movie incarnation of James Bond (and third with Daniel Craig in the lead), and that combination — this is the fifth effort from the Purvis-Wade team, but Logan’s Bond debut — had breathed new life into the series. No, not life: Brilliance.

Skyfall is quite possibly the greatest Bond film yet, but even more, it transcends the series to stand on its own as one of the smartest, deepest and more entertaining actor movies in years. And I blame the writers.

Of course, the action — lots of spy stuff, including parkour-style street chases, fantastical hand-to-hand combat atop moving trains, gorgeously stylized stunts inside a skyscraper and lavish gun battle ballets — continue the mythic extravagance that has made the series a $5 billion juggernaut.

But the plot — the plot! Who’d ever thought it, in a Bond film — is meaningful, unexpected and character-driven. Never before have we cared for Bond more, or thought more seriously about the moral ambiguity that comes with being M16 head M (Judi Dench), who...
sends men to certain death for political motivations. And this episode’s supervillain, a former protegé of M called Silva (Javier Bardem), is on a vendetta.

Oh, and Silva’s gay. Like really, unapologetically gay. The Bond films are notoriously heterocentric, with James a womanizer and gay characters barely hinted at. But here, not only is the bad guy an out-and-proud maniac, he has a hard-on for James. And we even learn 007 might have enjoyed a little 069 in his day … and not with women.

Of course, no one thinks such a plot would have been possible in 1965, or even 1995, but it demonstrates the changes in our culture, and how the quintessential Cold War character has grown with it.

You have to give Craig credit for pulling it off. Craig has proved an inspired choice, bringing a hard-scrabble street cred to a smooth sophisticate — a rebellious streak that seems less bemused mischievousness and more hard-earned contempt for authority. His first entry, Casino Royale, was one of the better films (Goldfinger is still the standard), but the last, Quantum of Solace, was a disaster. Skyfall almost could have been a tie-breaker, the legacy film that decided Craig’s place in the canon. Instead, it’s such a dandy piece itself, it’s more like his apotheosis. Long live Craig as Bond!

Bardem almost devolves into camp (the screenwriters, again smartly, don’t even introduce him until the first hour) but is more Gert Frobe than Christopher Walken; Dench is Dench, one of our finest actors who brings gravitas to any role.

But it’s director Sam Mendes, an Oscar winner for American Beauty, who pulls everything together, telling a cogent but exciting story. If he had failed, Skyfall could have been a serial killer; instead, he murders it.

Kylie Minogue and the ‘serious’ CD

It’s practically an unspoken rule that being gay means you have to adore Kylie Minogue. We take her seriously — but non-queers? They only know who she is when the wedding DJ plays “Locomotion.”

It’s a sad fact that Minogue’s wholesome dance act — admittedly, I’m a fan — hasn’t translated to the American masses outside of a minor hit here and there (her catalog, then, is recycled more than the stuff in your bin). The Abbey Road Sessions isn’t designed to catapult Kylie to Madonna heights, but it serves as a great gateway to another dimension of an underrated artist who has spent her career in the shimmer of a disco ball.

Let’s call this one Kylie Minogue’s “serious album.” Refined, sophisticated and intimate. She still sounds magical (though her limitations as a capable-but-unremarkable vocalist are clearer in this stripped-down undertaking) on these 16 revamped tracks, including the new “Flower.” But notably missing are the thuds and synths. In their place are orchestral sweeps, lounge vibes that sound more piano bar than nightclub, and even ventures into good ol’ big band.

“Never Too Late” takes a minimalistic piano approach, sounding nothing like the bubblegum burst of the original, while early ’90s single “Finer Feelings,” with its rising string section, sounds ready to accompany the most dramatic scene in a big-budget romance. If the gays had their way, it would.

— Chris Azzopardi

Queers, From Page 31
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Dealership of Distinction
Saturday 11.10

Cupcakes and kiddies at 2nd annual toy drive
Local fashion photographer Steven D. Hill launched his Heads with Hearts toy drive just last year, but when you have nieces and nephews as cute as his (see above), how can you stop the gift giving? Admission to the mixer, which also benefits Vogel Alcove and Kidscape Foundation, is a new, unwrapped toy ... and The Original Cupcakery will reward the first 50 attendees with a sweet treat!

DEETS: Studio Ninetytwo, 3720 Canton St., Suite 102. 7–9 p.m. TheHeadswithHearts.org/toydrive.

Thursday 11.15

D’oh! ‘MacHomer’ combines Simpsons and Shakespeare
The idea alone is genius: Perform a one-man version of The Bard’s shortest, bloodiest tragedy, MacBeth ... but assign all the voices to Simpsons characters: Homer as the Thane, Marge as his Lady, Mr. Burns as the king ... We just wish we’d thought of it. Then again, we’re glad we didn’t — otherwise, we wouldn’t get to see Rick Miller perform it at the Winspear on Thursday. What greater sound and fury could there be than Homer craving power? Sounds nuts! ... Arrghhhhh... donuts.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. $35. ATTPAC.org.
FRIDAY 11.09

THEATER


FINE ART


BROADCAST
Malibu Country. New sitcom co-starring Lily Tomlin as Reba McEntire’s pot-smoking mom. Ch. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Broadway: The American Musical. A new six-part series about musical theater. Interviewees include Bernadette Peters, Patti LuPone, Stephen Sondheim, Harvey Fierstein, Tommy Tune and many more. Tonight: Episode 5. Ch. 13 at 8 p.m.

COMMUNITY
High Tech Happy Hour comes to the newly opened gay-owned bar PhD in Oak Cliff. 1300 W. Davis St. 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Unwired Dallas. Crystal Meth Anonymous (CMA) for those wishing to quit using crystal meth meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. 7:30 p.m. Free. CrystalMeth.org

Youth First Texas groups for ages 14 to 22. 3918 Harry Hines Blvd. Fridays–Saturdays and Tuesdays–Wednesdays at 6 p.m., Thursdays at 4 p.m. YouthFirstTexas.org

Oak Lawn Group for Gays meets weekly. St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 6525 Inwood Road. 7 p.m. For more information, call 214-868-7350.

SATURDAY 11.10

THEATER

FION ART
Art Conspiracy 8. Local music, live auctions and art lovers gather for an evening of inventive art installations in the Design District with fundraising for arts related charities. 960 Dragon St., 7 p.m.–midnight. $10.

CONCERTS

COMMUNITY
Dallas FrontRunners fun run. Runners and walkers at all levels welcome. Meet on the patio of the recreation house at Sunset Bay at White Rock Lake Park. 8 a.m.

BROADCAST
Lambda Weekly. LGBT radio for North Texas on its new day and time. 89.3 KNON-FM at 11 a.m. LambdaWeekly.com

SUNDAY 11.11

WORSHIP
The ONE Church. 5427 Philip Ave. Services 6 p.m. Dallas1Church.org

Dignity Dallas sponsors Roman Catholic liturgy. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 6 p.m. 214-521-5342 ext. 1732. DignityDallas.org

MONDAY 11.12

COMMUNITY
Mindful Monday Meditation hosted by Fit for Faith. Cathedral of Hope, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. 7 p.m. CathedralOfHope.com
FASHION FORWARD | Designer Jim Duran, right, launches his new Dallas-based menswear line with a party at Dish Tuesday.

Stonewall Group of Narcotics Anonymous. Meets daily at noon and 7:30 p.m. 2438 Butler St., #108.
FUSE drop-in weekdays for gay and bi guys up to 29. Resource Center Dallas, 2701 Reagan St. Tuesdays–Fridays at 2 p.m. DFWFuse.com.

BROADCAST
RuPaul’s Drag Race: All Stars. Favorite queens return for this competition. Logo at 8 p.m.

TUESDAY 11.13
FASHION
BLKLN launch party. Gay Dallas designer launches his new menswear fashion line with a party at Dish, 4123 Cedar Spring Road. 7–9 p.m. BikinClothing.com.

BROADCAST
The New Normal. Hit show about a gay couple who hire a surrogate mother. Ch. 5 at 8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 11.14
ONLINE
The Variants. The locally produced web series The Variants, set at gay-owned Zeus Comics, has wrapped up its third season, with all videos available for review at TheVariants.com.

COMMUNITY
20th Annual Candlelight Walk on Henderson. The grown hipster enclave kicks off the holiday season with its annual evening stroll, with 14 participating retailers (Among them, Art is Art, The Pearl Cup, The Wooden House and Gypsy Wagon) open to let you shop for Christmas. Along Henderson Avenue, 6–9 p.m.

THURSDAY 11.15
THEATER
MacHomer. Rick Miller’s one-man version of MacBeth, performed as characters from The Simpsons. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 8 p.m. $35. ATTPAC.org.


CONCERTS

COMMUNITY
20th Annual Candlelight Walk on Henderson. The grown hipster enclave kicks off the holiday season with its annual evening stroll, with 14 participating retailers (Among them, Art is Art, The Pearl Cup, The Wooden House and Gypsy Wagon) open to let you shop for Christmas. Along Henderson Avenue, 6–9 p.m.

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JANE'S WORLD

SCORPIO  Oct 21-Nov 20
Several themes could be running through your life. It’s time to cut ties is a piece that many of you are dealing with. There is nothing intrinsically wrong with needing to break away from things that have outlived their relevance or their usefulness.

SAGITTARIUS  Nov 21-Dec 20
You need to look at what needs to happen next. It’s good to be able to stay focused on the future, especially now that you see that it is being created in the moment. That thought has you thinking that none of this is as bad as it looks and you are lucky to be blessed with such an incredible life.

CAPRICORN  Dec 21-Jan 20
Say hello to your inner strength! It could be a jolt of new-found faith; it could also be something in you that has awakened and given you a deeper dose of insight into why you are here. You are too blown away to put your finger on it.

AQUARIUS  Jan 21-Feb 20
You have more support than you realize. The perception that no one’s there for you depends on how you look at it. It would be unwise for you to hold that thought any longer than you have to. Open your heart to the goodness that surrounds you.

PISCES  Feb 21-Mar 20
You over dramatize pretty much everything. The tendency to slip into fantasy has you wishing for something ineffable. This makes you prone to all kinds of behavior, ranging from going off the deep end to reading way too much into things.

ARIES  Mar 21-Apr 20
You keep trying to control things that may not need to be controlled. If you feel like you’ve got to stay on top of the situation, ask yourself why, and look at what it’s getting you. Sometimes it’s safer to let go of the catch and let nature take its course.

TAURUS  Apr 21-May 20
Part of you is in love with something; another part of you wishes you could make it go away. The need to remain steady in the face of change has taught you a lot about being strong enough to handle anything.

GEMINI  May 21-Jun 20
You have no choice but to keep things on an even keel, even if it means overlooking whatever you’d rather be doing. Don’t try to solve anything too deep or waste time thinking you need to perform miracles on anyone’s behalf but your own.

CANCER  Jun 21-Jul 20
With all the best intentions, others have decided to take off for a while. The way you respond to this will make a huge difference. Don’t get too wound up about it. Staying cool and finding ways to cope involves being less obsessive about things.

LEO  Jul 21-Aug 20
Before you know it, a tidal wave of obligations will have you by the balls. When life gets like this, the best you can do is deal with it and find enough time to sleep in between whatever’s expected of you.

VIRGO  Aug 21-Sep 20
To think that you could wrap your mind around this situation is insane — give it a rest. Sometimes we get into situations that are totally foreign and unfamiliar. If you can be patient, what you can’t figure out will morph into something miraculous.

LIBRA  Sep 21-Oct 20
Don’t be too concerned with how others choose to introduce you to themselves. The old way of doing things has got you thinking that this is another time when in fact the world has changed in ways that make it hard to follow the new standard.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAY
Megan Mullally turns 54 on Monday. A two-time Emmy winner for her iconic role as Karen Walker on Will & Grace, Mullally is also a Broadway star and vocal supporter of gay causes. Although married to actor Nick Offerman, she came out as bisexual in 1999.

A SPARE KEG’S FUSE?  HEY, THAT’LL GENERATE A SPARK FOR SURE.
GREAT... JUST ONE MORE BLINKING WATCH I DON’T KNOW HOW TO SET.
WEAR THIS AND IF YOU EVER NEED ME, JUST PUNCH IN 9-1-1. IT USES GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS IN THE EARTH TO AMPLIFY IT’S WAVE.
MEANWHILE ON EARTH.
ROSE QUARTZ OPENS THE HEART SHAKRA: IT IS THE STONE OF UNIVERSAL LOVE.

YOU’RE SPEECHLESS, HUH? I KNOW, BRANDI IS THE BEST GEAR GAL IN THIS QUADRANT.
IF SHE CAN’T FIX YOUR PROBLEM, IT CAN’T BE FIXED.
LOOK, WHAT I FOUND, BETA...

WEAR THIS ROSE QUARTZ: IT WILL OPEN YOUR HEART TO LOVE.

ALMOST GOT IT.
OK, BETA, FIRE IT UP.
THANKS, BRANDI.

DID IT COME IN ANALOG?

Mmm Mmm.

YOU DON’T DISAPPROVE? I’VE GROWN UP DISAPPROVING OF THIS, YVONNE...

SHE HAN’T TOLD HER FANCE ABOUT US YET BUT SHE TOTALLY WILL AFTER WE GO AWAY TO VACATION FOR THE WEEKEND.

UNTIL THIS ALL GOES UP IN A BLAZING FIREBALL OF EPIC DISASTER, I WILL BE TOTALLY NOT TRYING TO STOP YOU.

I LIKED IT BETTER WHEN YOU DISAPPROVED. MmM MmM.

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BITTER GIRL

FAUX YOUR APPROVAL
Mark Alan Smith performs at Best Friends Club on Nov. 9 and at Alexandre’s on Nov. 10. Anton Shaw appears at Alexandre’s Nov. 14 and Spencer Weston Nov. 15. Miss Illusion Continental Plus/Elite takes place in the Rose Room on Nov. 11. JR.’s Bar & Grill holds a Kylie Minogue CD release party on Nov. 13. Free CDs while supplies last. Chris Miller Band performs at Sue Ellen’s on Nov. 9. Hunter Valentine brings its Collide and Conquertour to the Vixin Lounge on Nov. 10. Tickets available online. Barefoot Hippies appears Nov. 11. Free glowsticks at S4 on Nov. 10 for the Glow November Glow Party. Various people from the leather community will participate in an open forum at the Dallas Eagle moderated by Mark Frazier discussing their journey with the Leather Community on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. this month. Nov. 15 is the Bear of the Month contest. November dance lessons at the Round-Up Saloon with Juanita start at 8:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 8 p.m. on Wednesdays. Friday night is Gay Sing-Along with Gary Poe at Pekers.
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AIDS Arms is currently seeking a data management specialist for the STAYFree Program. This position requires a Bachelor’s degree in business administration, information technology, or other related field. Must demonstrate expertise with MS Word, Access, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and social media. A minimum of 2 years experience in performing data management activities is required. Interested candidates should forward resumes to careers@aidsarms.org.

Rockfish Mockingbird Station is hiring for qualified Hosts and Servers. Please apply weekdays between 2-4 onsite at 5331 E. Mockingbird Lane.

BJ’sNXS Club, the best dance bar in DFW, is hiring S.EXY bartenders, bar backs, bouncers and dancers! Contact us at DallasBarSearch@gmail.com, Facebook, or www.BjsNXS.com to set up an interview. Must have valid IDs, be a team player, TABC certified and possess an outstanding customer service attitude.

AIDS Arms, Inc. is seeking a Medical Assistant (MA) with clinical experience. The MA will perform specified non-nursing patient care activities to HIV/AIDS patients. Candidates must have Hepatitis B vaccination prior to hire date. Interested candidates should forward resumes to careers@aidsarms.org

AIDS Arms, Inc. is looking for an accounting and grants compliance analyst. This position assists the CFO in all aspects of the grant process and responsible for day-to-day accounting functions. A Bachelors degree in accounting is required with knowledge and experience in the principles of not-for-profit accounting and grants compliance. Interested candidates should forward resumes to careers@aidsarms.org
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Join The HRC Family Project and Rainbow Roundup for a Dallas Zoo social.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH
We will meet at 10:00 at the Lemur Lockout, the first animal exhibit right inside the gates of the Zoo. After a quick photo shoot, we will head to the children’s area for some fun.

For lunch we will meet at 11:45 at the Serengeti Grill in the Giants of the Savanna area of the Zoo.

http://www.facebook.com/events/41283462575752

IF SOMEONE IS BULLING YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE
PLEASE tell your school teachers, principle, counselors, and parents. After it is proven that the person you turned in is a bully then you will receive a $100 reward from Debra’s Bully Busters. Negative name calling and harassment about sexual orientation or anything else is harmful to all of our children. Whether they are gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or straight. We are working to raise money now. Please contact me on Facebook anytime at Debra Henry – Wear.
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