Lesbian moms take on TX National Guard

Iraq vet’s wife turned away for benefits despite Pentagon directive
Commander says unit can’t process application due to state marriage amendment

DOMA decision was a double-edged sword for gay couples seeking divorces in Texas, and experts don’t expect the state Supreme Court to provide any relief

Till death do us part?

COVER STORY, Page 6
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San Antonio council passes nondiscrimination ordinance

Despite loud and vocal opposition from Christian extremists, the San Antonio City Council on Sept. 5 passed a nondiscrimination ordinance that includes protections for LGBT citizens and veterans. The vote was eight in favor and three against.

The newly passed ordinance amends sections of the city code that cover public accommodations, fair housing, city employment, city contracts and appointments to city boards and commissions. The language in the code now includes sexual orientation and gender identity, and veteran status as protected classes. The changes will take effect immediately.

“It has been a long, hard struggle, but we are happy that truth, justice, fairness and equality have prevailed and that San Antonio has joined the 180 other cities across the country who treat their LGBT residents with dignity and respect. Now the time for healing has begun and we invite those who opposed this ordinance to meet with us in the spirit of forgiveness, reconciliation and mutual education,” said Dan Graney, co-chair of CAUSA, the coalition of LGBT groups and allies that was promoting the nondiscrimination ordinance.

Voting yes on the ordinance were Mayor Julian Castro and council members Shirley Gonzales, Rey Saldana, Diego Bernal, Ray Lopez, Ron Nirenberg, Cris Medina and Rebecca Viagran. As expected, no votes came from Elisa Chan and Carlton Soules. Ivy Taylor, who was previously undecided, also voted no.

Councilwoman Chan said she was disappointed that the ordinance was a “triumph of politics over policy, that political correctness prevailed over freedom of speech.” She made a motion to reconsider the new language. Soules, who would not even meet with his constituents over the measure, for the most part nixed the details of the ordinance with City Attorney Michael Bernard.

Councilman Rey Saldana, who was leading the effort to enact the ordinance changes, to meet with us in the spirit of forgiveness, reconciliation and mutual education,” said Dan Graney, co-chair of CAUSA, the coalition of LGBT groups and allies that was promoting the nondiscrimination ordinance. The new language read, “Nothing heron gay, or transgender citizens.

The text of the new edit read, “Nothing hereon shall be construed as directing any policy or practice regarding the use of restrooms, shower rooms, or similar facilities which have been designated for use by persons of the opposite sex.”

Opponents of the ordinance were unhappy with the language as well. Soules and Chan said the new language did not go far enough in clarifying who could use public restrooms.

Rumors swirled that the language might be changed. However, because of the Labor Day holiday, the city was not able to post a copy of the new draft in time for proper public review. So no one knew what changes, if any, would be adopted.

In the end, Councilman Rey Saldana made a “friendly amendment” that addressed the bathroom issue with the following language: “Nothing in Division 5 shall be construed as allowing any person to access any sex-segregated place for any unlawful purpose.”

On the night before the vote, at the Citizens to be Heard session, more than 700 people spoke before the City Council.

The meeting, which began at 6 p.m., did not conclude until about 1:30 a.m. the next morning. On the day of the vote, more than 1,200 people spoke prior to the item being open for council discussion and approval.

— Sam Sanchez
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A Huge Thank-You To Our Partners
Gay exes in Texas

The state Supreme Court is scheduled to hear its first LGBT-related cases in recent history, but that’s not necessarily a good thing

JOHN WRIGHT  |  Senior Editor
editor@dallasvoice.com

The Internal Revenue Service’s announcement last week that it will recognize all same-sex marriages for tax purposes was hailed as a major victory for LGBT equality.

But for same-sex couples seeking divorces in Texas, the new IRS rules may only compound their problems.

Because the state’s attorney general has sought to block the couples from dissolving the marriages they legally entered in Massachusetts, they will be required to file federal income tax returns as married — even if they’ve long since split up.

“If you don’t even know where your ex is, let alone what his life circumstances are, how are you going to do that?” said Ken Upton, Dallas-based supervising senior staff attorney at Lambda Legal, the LGBT civil rights group. “Literally, they’re trapped.”

Lambda Legal, in conjunction with the American Civil Liberties Union, filed a friend-of-the-court brief this week calling on the Texas Supreme Court to allow gay couples to divorce here, and arguing that such a narrow ruling wouldn’t run afoul of the state’s bans on same-sex marriage.

The court has set oral arguments for early November in two pending same-sex divorce cases — nearly five years after the first uncontested petition was filed in Dallas County. Republican AG Greg Abbott intervened in both cases, arguing Texas judges can’t grant divorces to same-sex couples because the state doesn’t recognize their marriages — and resulting in conflicting opinions from appeals courts in Austin and Dallas.

Upton said according to Lambda Legal’s research, it will be the first time in recent history, perhaps ever, that the Texas Supreme Court has heard a gay-rights case, and he’s concerned about the prospect of having the all-Republican body whose justices face re-election every six years weigh in on an LGBT issue.

In fact, despite Lambda Legal’s filing this week, Upton remained outspoken in questioning the couples’ attorneys’ decision to pursue the divorce cases — saying a negative ruling from the state Supreme Court would create a bad precedent that could influence other judges in Texas and beyond.

“It’s the nature of the court game that a lot of people don’t get if they’re not lawyers,” Upton said. “Every bad decision tips the scale a little on that side. It makes it harder to win in places you should have a good chance when you’re piling up losses in states where you never really had a chance. I think it’s a case that’s filed in a court I’d rather not have deciding the issue right now. There are plenty of other places where we have better chances.”

The attorneys representing the same-sex couples seeking divorces counter that the needs of their clients trump what may be perceived as best for LGBT equality.

“Our position all along has been that this is not about a movement,” said Jason Steed, a Dallas attorney who’s representing the couples pro bono on appeal. “We’ve got two couples that wanted to get divorced. I think certainly no one’s looking to hurt the movement, but that’s not the primary concern. The primary concern is that the clients are trying to move on with their lives.”

Steed’s co-counsel, James “Jody” Scheske of Austin, said he’s advised their clients not to discuss the cases with the media.

Pete Schulte of Dallas, the originating attorney in one of the divorce cases, said he was excited to learn that the Texas Supreme Court will hear them.

Schulte said the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in June striking down a portion of the Defense of Marriage Act raises issues concerning equal protection under the law for gay couples residing in states that don’t recognize their marriages — as well as questions related to the principle of full faith and credit between states.

While out-of-state same-sex marriages may not have meant much legally for Texas couples five years ago, they’re now recognized by nearly half of all states as well as the federal government — and the latter has bestowed many benefits regardless of where couples live, including joint tax filing.

“It’s not an issue that’s going to go away,” Schulte said. “Either the courts are going to have to do something or the Legislature’s going to have to do something. This issue’s only going to get worse.”

In the wake of the Supreme Court’s ruling striking down DOMA as unconstitutional, the Texas Supreme Court requested a new round of briefs from the two sides in the divorce cases to address the ruling’s impact.

In their supplemental brief, Steed and Scheske reiterated that the cases are about divorce, not marriage, so the DOMA ruling shouldn’t necessarily apply.

But they also argued that if the Texas Supreme Court opts to consider the legality of the state’s marriage bans, justices should strike them down as unconstitutional under the DOMA ruling in United States v. Windsor.

In the wake of Windsor, national LGBT advocacy groups have said they hope to return to the U.S. Supreme Court within five years with a case that will allow justices to throw out marriage bans in Texas and roughly 30 other states.

“This could be the case,” said Schulte, who’s gay and called it “my stake in the civil rights movement of our era.”

“This is the same thing people thought about Brown v. Board of Education — it doesn’t have a chance,” Schulte said. “And look what Brown did — it ended segregation. If we only did things we thought were going to make good law, I don’t think we’d have half the decisions the Supreme Court has made that have benefited civil rights through the ages.”

Upton, on the other hand, said he believes it’s unlikely the U.S. Supreme Court would take the divorce cases unless the Texas Supreme Court were to strike down the state’s marriage bans on federal constitutional grounds — a seemingly remote possibility.

But even though they disagree about the wisdom of pursuing the cases, Lambda Legal and attorneys for the couples agree that Abbott’s effort to keep them married flies in the face of reason.

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Angelo is a beautiful little boy that came from a nearby city shelter. He loves playing and getting plenty of attention. Angelo is a happy little guy who loves laps and giving kisses. He is very sweet and gentle, he has been great with other dogs and even is good with cats. This cute little guy would make a great addition to any household. Come meet this sweetheart today.

Angelo and other pets are available for adoption from Operation Kindness, 3201 Earhart Drive, Carrollton. The no-kill shelter is open six days: Monday, 3-8 p.m.; closed Tuesday; Wednesday, 3-8 p.m.; Thursday, noon-8 p.m.; Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, noon-5 p.m. The cost is $110 for cats, $135 for kittens, $150 for dogs over 1 year, and $175 for puppies. The cost includes the spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, heartworm test for dogs, leukemia and FIV test for cats, and more. Those who adopt two pets at the same time receive a $20 discount.

**Death**


Bill was a longtime employee of Frank Caven and Caven Enterprises, working in a variety of positions — including bartender, club lighting and office manager.

Bill was kind and courageous and had a wicked sense of humor. A brilliant storyteller, Bill’s tales could always elicit a laugh.

Bill was preceded in death by his father, William Blair II, and his mother, Pearl Buck Bogadis. In the last decades of his life, Bill had a Fellowship grow up about him, and he is survived by a host of friends and his brother, Jack Curtis Blair.

Bill had begun to know a new freedom and a new happiness. He has now entered the realm of the spirit and knows peace. “I know that’s right!”

**Gray Pride hosts 2nd annual gay Pride event, variety show at S4**

Resource Center Dallas’ Gray Pride program will host its second annual “Gray Pride for Gay Pride” in The Rose Room at S4 from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 13.

This year’s event will be a Gray Pride variety show produced and directed by Sean Baugh, associate director of worship at Cathedral of Hope and associate director of Turtle Creek Chorale.

The show will feature local stars Patty Breckenridge, Amy Stevensen, Jason Huff, Chris Wadley and Michael A. Smith, as well as other musicians and entertainers from TCC and COH’s music ministry. They will provide an eclectic mix of music standards and Broadway tunes, accompanied by a lounge band.

Jerry Calumn, local comedian and entertainer, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Food will be provided, and a cash bar will be available. There is no cover charge, but donations to support the Gray Pride program will be accepted.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Shelley Hamilton at shamilton@rcdallas.org or 214-540-4418.
Three decades ago, a group of Dallas activists came together to start a community center for the LGBT community. They had no idea that a year later they’d be using the center to save lives.

The center started when the Dallas Gay Alliance, now the Dallas Gay and Lesbian Alliance, rented space on Cedar Springs in 1983. It was intended to educate and serve the community, and help achieve equality.

William Waybourn, a co-founder of the center, said that same year the DGA created the Foundation for Human Understanding as an umbrella term for the effort with a name where people could give a tax-deductible donation without the word gay being mentioned.

“It’s not like it is today,” he said. “There were a lot of people in the closet. If you had AIDS or were gay, you were likely to lose your job. There were no protections.”

But when HIV/AIDS hit North Texas a year later, the educational focus shifted to activism and outreach, leading to the AIDS Resource Center in 1985 and the Nelson-Tebedo Clinic in 1988.

“We preferred that we go away,” Waybourn said. “AIDS blew the hinges off the closet door and it changed society. Not originally but eventually.”

Waybourn said local activists tried to get the city and county to provide medical treatment to AIDS patients, but there was little government support and no clinical trials. The center’s leadership created the AIDS Financial Assistance Fund and found doctors to write prescriptions for patients and nurses to administer the medication.

“The dialogue back then was controversial,” Waybourn recalled. “We were told ‘if you stay back, we’ll take care of you’ and of course that was a joke. We wanted the same services that everyone else had.”

“We had to come up with a plan, which was to deliver our own treatment, deliver our own medication and deliver our own food and funding,” he added.

The center’s humble beginnings led to a movement in Dallas that united the LGBT community, who came together to help and support their own. That support is still offered to members of the LGBT community who seek help from the center now, 30 years later.

Cece Cox, CEO of Resource Center Dallas, remembers the early days of the AIDS crisis and how the center offered life-saving support and services to patients. While the center still offers various HIV/AIDS treatments and services, its mission has expanded to cover more of the community’s needs.

Over the past year, the center examined how to grow its programs and services. Cox said youth, senior and family programs needed to expand, leading to the creation of the center’s Gray Pride program and its acquisition of Youth First Texas, now Youth First, as a program of the center. She said family programming will begin in 2014.

“We’re still here for the community, based in the community and helping the community, but the needs change,” Cox said.

Part of that change is a new rebranding effort that will be unveiled at 30th anniversary events in September, including an anniversary edition of the 5 Factor to honor five individuals with long ties to the center, an open house and a special edition of Gaybingo.

The rebranding will include a new multicolored logo for a more unified look to the center’s materials and buildings, as well as a name change to Resource Center. Cox said the rebranding is intended to help the community recognize all of the services provided by the center.

In 1998, the Foundation for Human Understanding organization was changed to Resource Center of Dallas, encompassing the center, clinic and food pantry, as well as a name change to Resource Center Dallas, but Cox said the new change to drop Dallas is to help emphasize the center’s reach to areas outside the city.

“The imprint that we have and demographics...”

New name, logo to be unveiled at anniversary events reflect expanded mission that includes Youth First, Gray Pride, family programming.

ANNA WAUGH | News Editor
waugh@dallasvoice.com

DALLAS AND BEYOND | As shown in its new logo, Resource Center has dropped ‘Dallas’ from its name to reflect its reach outside the city.
TX National Guard snubs gay spouses

Unit turns away Iraq veteran’s wife, says it won’t process applications for benefits due to amendment banning same-sex marriage

DAVID TAFFET | Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Judith Chedville served in Iraq and Kuwait with the Texas Air National Guard. After her tour of duty was complete, she left but decided last year to re-enlist and now serves in the Army National Guard.

“People who want to do that kind of service have a certain drive to do that,” says Chedville’s wife, Alicia Butler.

Butler and Chedville married in California in 2008, a month before Prop 8 passed. Earlier this year they had a baby.

When the Department of Defense began offering benefits to same-sex couples on Sept. 3, Butler went to Camp Mabry, near their house in Austin where Chedville serves, to get an ID for access to the base.

She was turned away.

Texas Military Forces, which is over the Texas National Guard, announced that despite a Pentagon directive, it won’t process applications for benefits from same-sex spouses, due to the state’s constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage. Texas Military Forces spokeswoman Laura Lopez said in an email to Dallas Voice that same-sex military spouses will still be offered benefits, but they must sign up at a federal military base.

“We fully support same-sex families enrolling for benefits at the nearest federal installation,” Lopez wrote.

Butler, an attorney who represents plaintiffs in civil cases, thinks a negotiated settlement is in everyone’s best interests. Military families in Texas are going to get the same benefits as in every other state. And Texas would avoid a court battle directly challenging the state law that contradicts federal policy — which is based on a Supreme Court ruling, she said.

Although she expects to receive federal benefits soon, the nearest federal installation to her Austin home is in San Antonio, 70 miles south, or Fort Hood, 70 miles north. Other federal facilities registering same-sex partners are at least three hours away. Butler is caring for Jordan, the couple’s 5½-month-old baby. Either she’ll have to take Jordan in the car several hours or Chedville will have to take time off.

Since Chedville’s civilian nursing job provides the family with health insurance, that wasn’t Butler’s main concern with Texas’ refusal to recognize her relationship.

“If she gets activated for state action, would Texas deny me benefits, if she lost her life serving the state?” Butler said. That action could be during a hurricane or a disaster like the West explosion when National Guard troops are normally called by the governor.

But her other concern was a more practical, everyday one. Chedville was pumping breast milk for their infant and left a piece of the pump at home. Butler ran it to the base but was denied access. So they had to meet off-base, wasting time and taking Chedville away from her job.

Without the ID card, “there are just extra hoops to jump through,” Butler said.

Lambda Legal Supervising Senior Staff Attorney Ken Upton said there’s no justification for withholding benefits from same-sex couples.

“Hopefully that’s the end of it,” she said.

And after all the fuss Texas made, that ID issued to Butler will be useless anyway. Butler will receive her benefits as the wife of a National Guard member Judith Chedville, is stationed. Butler and Chedville have a 5½-month-old daughter, Jordan.

The Department of Defense could step in and tell them to stop being silly about this,” Butler said, hoping to help military spouses apply in the future.

She said she made her appointment to submit her application at Fort Hood on Sept. 17.

“Hopefully that’s the end of it,” she said.

And after all the fuss Texas made, that ID issued at Fort Hood should gain her access to Camp Mabry, she said. Guards at the base would have no way to know which cards were issued to same-sex spouses and which ones were issued to opposite-sex spouses.

“Unless they put a pink triangle on it,” she said. Or keep lists of suspected same-sex spouses at the gate.
that we serve are beyond Dallas,” she said. “I think it’s just a more accurate representation of what we do.”

The center has been planning an expansion to a new center since it purchased a 1.75-acre site at 5714 Cedar Springs Road from Cathedral of Hope in 2008.

The new facility is expected to double the center’s current place and house the center, Nelson-Tebedo Community Clinic and the AIDS food pantry under one roof.

Last year the center hosted a demolition event to demolish the vacant strip mall on the property, which was the first major step in the center’s future home.

While leadership expected to break ground on the new center in 2014, Cox said the fundraising has only met the halfway mark of the $8.7 million capital campaign goal with $4.3 million raised. She said the center must have three-fourths of the money raised before breaking ground, which is still expected sometime in 2014.

“We hope people will want to invest in the community because of the work of the center and our 30-year history,” Cox said.

Gary Olsen, co-chair of the capital campaign, said the goal last spring during the demolition was to raise $12 million for the new facility.

Working with the architects and a consulting firm, he said the cost was lowered to $10 million and then $8.7 million by decreasing the size of the building and cutting other things to make it less expensive.

He said the plan is to still break ground sometime in 2014 and builders will allow space for possible additions to the facility in the future.

“We want to go ahead and get it built,” Olsen said.

The center will roll out the building revisions and a new vision for the capital campaign in the coming months. Olsen said with the addition of the senior and youth programs, the increased fundraising efforts will focus on where the center has come and where it’s headed in the future. Those fundraising efforts will expand to explore monetary sources outside of the LGBT community.

“We would like to have a community center,” Olsen said. “We’re focused on this concept of the community center, so we’d like the whole community to be involved, not just the LGBT community but we want any other part of the community to be a part of it, too.”

30th anniversary events

An anniversary edition of the 5 Factor on Sept. 6 will honor five people who exemplify the generosity of Dallas’ future. A community open house on Sept. 14 will celebrate the center’s anniversary in the center’s parking lot and will feature food trucks, live entertainment and more. A special edition of Gaybingo Dallas on Sept. 21 will celebrate the history of the center. For more info, visit RCDallas.org/30anniversary.

5-YEAR FIGHT | Dallas resident “J.B.” is seeking a divorce from his Massachusetts marriage to “H.B.” Their petition was originally filed in January 2009.

“IT SPEAKS VOLUMES IN THE BRIEFS,” the spokesman said.

Three years ago, at the appeals court in Dallas, Abbott’s office allowed attorneys from the right-wing Liberty Institute to do the talking when they staged a press conference following oral arguments. Jonathan Saenz, executive director of Texas Values (formerly the Liberty Institute), didn’t return a phone call seeking comment for this story.

When asked how much taxpayer money has been spent to litigate the cases, the AG’s spokesman said, “The attorneys work here anyway. If they didn’t work on these cases, they’d be working on something else.”

Dallas Voice filed a request this week under the Freedom of Information Act seeking a record of all costs incurred by the AG’s office to fight gay divorce.

Oral arguments are set for 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 5 in Austin. Each side has been allotted 25 minutes.

“I think the highest motive is probably pandering to a base,” said Chuck Smith, executive director of Equality Texas, the statewide LGBT advocacy group. “It’s a political decision based on a belief that somehow preventing people from getting a divorce is furthering restrictions on marriage. I think the gut or the gist of the case is whether or not that’s a correct statement.”

A spokesman for the AG’s office said Abbott isn’t commenting on the cases beyond briefs that have been filed.
Gray is the new black

Taking positions on LGBT topics, from the Sochi Games to Netflix series about women’s prison, isn’t always black and white these days.

When the deadline for this column loomed, I panicked. I have absolutely no clear opinions about anything this week, aside from my continued disgust about the status of LGBT civil rights around the world.

Being disgusted by something, however, doesn’t immediately translate into having something interesting to say about it. Those leaders who are supporting everything from involuntary “corrective” therapy (Russia) to “corrective” rape (South Africa) for LGBT people need to be strung up by their toes. I don’t really have a middle ground to discuss. Moral people must take a stand, regardless of their opinions about — I dunno — same-sex marriage or teaching LGBT history to school kids.

But aside from such clear assaults on our humanity, I’m currently at a loss about what to think about the issues being discussed this week.

Let’s start with the Sochi Olympics. Like I said, Russia is on my #$$# list and in some weird reverse aging process where they’re going all 1950s on LGBT rights.

Now, what do we do about the Winter Games there? After I read British actor and writer Stephen Fry’s impassioned call for a change of venue to some place mellow, like Canada, I had to agree. The scapegoating and harassment of LGBT people in Russia right now looks eerily like the early treatment of Jews around the time of the 1936 Munich Olympics. Seemed clear to me that reasonable people couldn’t possibly support the Sochi Olympics.

But then Greg Louganis, the out Olympian diver, publicly opposed such a move, or any boycott of the games, because, he argued, it would hurt the wrong people. Going to the games as planned will give LGBT athletes an opportunity to show the world what LGBT strength and dignity looks like, and keep Putin from being able to act like a martyr for antiquated social policies in Russia. Oh, well, that makes sense, too.

I guess I’m against the boycott now.

Now let’s look at the ex-ex-gays — you know, the former Exodus leaders who have publicly apologized for the all the damage they’ve done trying to make people straight. Last month I wrote in this column that I forgive these guys, even though I could understand why other people wouldn’t be so willing to. After a week, the only comment I got accused me of blaming the victim. OK, I get it. Maybe it wasn’t up to me to forgive. After all, I’ve never been to gay conversion therapy. I don’t know what it’s like to have the whole Clockwork Orange number done on my sexual psyche. I’m not quite willing to concede my right to forgive, but I can understand how this issue is more fraught than perhaps I originally suggested.

Let’s move to pop culture — because our community certainly does love its high pop (and I will stand by this assertion no matter what anyone says). If you have broadband Internet, then you have by now binge-watched Orange is the New Black, a fabulous lez-poz spin on the old prison cliché.

Not only is Orange clever, it deftly explores the myriad of human sexuality, with no one type of relationship being more healthy or “normal” than the other — of course, within the context that prison makes everything bizarre.

Here I was, appreciating our progress in this respect, thinking that GLAAD should be so happy about Orange, when this morning I read a compelling commentary on the invisibility of bisexuality in the show. Never mind that the main character is fairly obviously bisexual, no one ever calls her that. I see the problem. Damn, and I like the show so much.

Have I become wussy and uncertain in my opinions or has our community dialog become way more sophisticated?

Back in the day, it seemed like we just pushed back. That’s not enough now. We have progressed to the point where we have choices. We have strategies to formulate. Everyone has a potential media presence to consider. I’ll go out on a limb and say that it’s not me, things are more complicated now. Please cut me some slack and I promise I’ll keep trying to figure out what I think about it all.

Abby is a civil rights attorney-turned-author who has been in the LGBT rights trenches for 25-plus years. She can be reached through her website: queerquestionstraighttalk.com.
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Six Flags OVER TEXAS
Swallowing his Pride

Chubby-gay-kid-cum-sexy-author Mark Brennan Rosenberg turned his food obsession into a fitness mantra — and a memoir

When Mark Brennan Rosenberg was growing up in suburban D.C., he was a fat, nerdy, unpopular gay kid. But just look at him now: Still gay — very gay — but a hot gym rat with a popular blog about gay life in NYC, and his second book, out less than a month: Eating My Feelings: Tales of Overeating, Underperforming and Coping with My Crazy Family. In it, Rosenberg recounts in a gossipy, fabulous way growing up in a dysfunctional brood (half Jewish, half Catholic) and his progression from butterball to beefcake. He takes no prisoners in this uber-gay memoir, including himself.

Rosenberg brings those stories and his hot self to Dallas for a reading Tuesday, but before he got here, were asked him to tell us about his stylistic influences, his foul-mouthed cake. He takes no prisoners in this uber-gay memoir, including himself.

Dallas Voice: Your writing style is fun and dishy. Who are your literary influences? Rosenberg: I have really been influenced by people like David Sedaris, Chelsea Handler and Augusten Burroughs. When I read their books in the past, I realized they were no-holds barred, which is basically how I am in real life. I figured if they could get away with it, then I should be able to.

You portray yourself as a disrespectful, foul-mouthed, and vaguely racist. Were you really calling your stepmonster a bitch to her face? I don’t know why, but when I was a child, I had a worse mouth than a sailor — and not much has changed.

So as far as language goes, I’m not taking much artistic licensing in that department. My stepmother and I always exchanged harsh words. Whether or not I called her a bitch to her face, I cannot recall exactly, but knowing me, I most likely did.

Your mom is now your BFF, but she’s not always portrayed sympathetically. (Then again, neither are you.) How have members of your family reacted to their portrayals — or for that matter, finding out the sordid deets of your sex life? My family is so supportive. My mother has forever been my champion and continues to do so. Everything that I have written about is in the past so we can all look back on it with a laugh. I will tell you that during a book reading for Eating My Feelings in D.C., my father discovered that I lost my virginity to one of his clients in front of at least 10 of his colleagues. That was hilarious. I wish that had been filmed.

You say early on something like, “If you’re not gay or a teenage girl, why are you reading this book?” Is that just knowing your audience, or are you daring readers to go somewhere they shouldn’t? I do think there is something for everyone in this book. We all have issues with our body image and I believe we see in the mirror every morning is different that what others see when they look at us from the outside. I don’t know if I would go as far as saying I am stereotypical. I like what I like, and some of the things that I happen to enjoy are things that other gay men my age enjoy a great deal as well.

Your book touches on a lot of issues relevant to gay men’s experiences growing up. What changes do you see since then? This country has made great strides in accepting LGBTQ culture as a whole, which is wonderful. It is certainly different than when I was an adolescent. (Popular culture has) opened the eyes of many to see that we are all the same regardless of who we like to sleep with. However, there will always be bullying: Gay, straight, black, white, fat, skinny — it doesn’t matter. Teenagers are fucking horrible to each other and it’s a very unfortunate part of growing up. It’s one of the hardest parts of life. But hopefully kids these days understand that if they try hard to overcome the things that are said to them, they’ll realize that they will grow up and have an amazing life because of it.

And the person that called them fat, ugly or gay will most likely grow up and have shit for brains and work at a gas station.

What’s your experience with Texas? I was in Texas last year promoting my first book, Blackouts and Breakdowns. I went to Austin, Houston and Dallas and loved all three — and I met some really wonderful people along the way, whom I cannot wait to see again this time around. I really loved Dallas. Any town that has a gay bar named JR’s and a lesbian bar named Sue Ellen’s is a good place in my book.

You mention on your dust jacket that you’re single. Do you find it more or less difficult to date if your prospects read your blog or books? I’m actually no longer single. I don’t know how it happened, but I have the most wonderful, kind-hearted boyfriend an asshole like me could ever hope for. He hates giving high-fives (which is one of my favorite things behind teamwork, taking showers and Sno-Cones), but we’re working on it. When I was single, however, the blogging, articles and books certainly got in the way. People are very quick to Google you when they find out who you are and it is very easy to discover my work online. Having said that, I have found someone now who doesn’t care much about it so it works. What you see is what you get with me whether it be a book or an article — it’s 100 percent genuine Mark.
Your mom is now your BFF, but she’s not always. You portray yourself as a disrespectful, foul-mouthed, and vaguely racist. Were you written about is in the past so we don’t have to do so. Everything that I have ever been my champion and continues to do so. My mother has for-deets of your sex life?

I called her a bitch to her face, I cannot recall exactly, but knowing me, I most likely did. I was in a bar, which is basically barred, which is basically no-holds barred, which is basically realizing they were no-holds barred. If they could get away with it, how I am in real life. I figured if they find out who you are and it is very easy for them, they’ll realize that they will grow up to overcome the things that are said to them fat, ugly or gay will. And the person that called me that was not the first time. My family are your literary influ-
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Eating My Feelings

Mark Rosenberg recounts his path from fatty to fab in ‘Eating My Feelings.’

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Rosenberg: I have

Rosenberg: I have

Do you find it more or less difficult to date if your

Do you find it more or less difficult to date if your

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prospects read your blog or books?

What’s your experience

What’s your experience

I was in

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Enjoy it Here... or Take it Home!

Enjoy it Here... or Take it Home!

Two Cones

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“Gay Owned and Operated”

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Southern Texas

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

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• Wed 9/11- Wine & Cheese Pairing-RSVP!
• Thur 9/12- Live Music-Mark on Guitar-7p
• Fri 9/15- Psychic Night-7:30p
• Sat 9/14- Live Music-Yarn on Keyboard-8p

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When Jim Duran launched his inaugural menswear label, BLKLN (Black Line), last fall, the palette of his collection truly reflected its name: Blacks, whites, silvers and shades of gray in fashion-forward cuts.

“That was a more stoic collection,” Duran says of the industrial, hipster look. It was also designed for the winter.

What a difference a season makes. Duran is back with his second edition of BLKLN, and the first thing you notice is, he’s not in Kansas anymore: Like Dorothy’s arrival in Oz, BLKLN 2.0 abounds in color. But it’s still the same line.

“I was inspired by the textiles,” Duran says of the floral fabrics that form the backbone of this spring-summer collection, which he will debut at the A Loft Hotel on Sept. 12. And the textiles are exploding with color.

But, Duran insists, it’s still the same aesthetic: Interesting cuts, tailored shirts, slim, flattering lines — the kind Duran thinks can make fashionable Dallas guys (and gays) cutting-edge.

“Men want fabrics to breathe,” he says, explaining the predominance of linens, cotton jersey and cotton-silk in this collection. And the prints draw you in with their vibrancy — not so much that it seems fey or feminine, though.

“These prints are more illustrative, more impressionistic, which makes it more masculine,” says Christopher W. Cordell, BLKLN’s director of operations. There are scooped necks and arched, bare midriffs on some of the shirts, while the slacks convey a dressed-down coastal-city elegance. In total, Duran hopes to feature “15 to 20 looks” at the runway show. And though he hasn’t slept much gearing up to the event, he wouldn’t have it any other way.

“The first collection was a big feat for me,” Duran says. “Returning with another collection and turning it into a business” points to something more: a desire for longevity.
Primebar

Last year, I reviewed Primebar, noting at the time that it didn’t quite know if it wanted to be a bubba-friendly sports bar or gay-boy brunch hang: “What is Primebar?” I asked. “Ecumenical Uptown eatery? Sports bar-cum-gastropub? Meta-gay bar with cool hetero clientele? I haven’t figured it out yet. I doubt it has, either.” I suggested giving it time to work it out.

Well, a year has passed. So it was time for a drive-by tasting to see if its personality has come through.

I’m happy to say that, at brunch at least, it seems more gay than ever. The boys were out in force on a recent Sunday, and despite golf and Formula 1 racing flickering on the TVs, the blaring soundtrack was pure disco and dance-club hip-hop.

Brunch is a convenient time to check out any restaurant: Usually there’s the full menu available plus the house specialties offered only on the weekend.

That’s certainly true of Primebar’s exquisite bottomless mimosas, which run $8 for a full four hours of imbibing — do it right, and they can average about 50 cents a glass. (But proving its gay credibility, the mimosas may be bottomless, but not the clientele.) I felt comfortably at home.

The menu has also changed. The crispy calamari — which I described last year as “crisp as a corporal’s dress shirt with a flavorful lemon aioli and spicy cocktail sauce” — is different now. Those spicy sides have been replaced by an orange glaze a la Chinese restaurant, with blanched cilantro verda on the side. The flavors are nice, though the heart has been replaced by sweetness, completely altering the flavor profile. Also, since you don’t dip the calamari, it soggies up the breading slightly.

They still stack some of their burgers with patties rather than attempt single thick-cut burgers. But the kitchen seems to be trying something heartier: on the Primeburger (which comes with a slice of gouda), the patties double up, while the basic burger suffices with one big patty and vivid fresh tomatoes. Both come with thick, deeply browned fries; I prefer the crispiness of shoestring julienites, which tend to be less greasy, but these pack in taste.

The wedge salad is a refreshing culinary diversion on a summer day, and the unusual gumbo Benedict slathers on a rich shrimp ragout over toasted English muffins — still a unique take on a traditional brunch item.

The personable men’s room attendant is a welcome treat in a casual eatery, but service remains problematic: Our waitress was friendly, but had to be reminded of orders more than once. And “bottomless” is only truly bottomless when you refill the carafes as fast as we can drink them.

We’re gay men at brunch, folks — keep the liquor rolling.

BACK TO BRUNCH | Primebar has had a year to polish its style, and the classic cheeseburger, served with thick-cut fries on a brioche bun with fresh tomato, shows skill.
Uptown Players knew exactly what its third annual Pride Performing Arts Festival was going to look like. And then the unthinkable happened.

Uptown was producing three of the six shows; among those being mounted by producing partners was Pageant Play, a four-actor comedy put on by Our Productions Theatre Company (formerly Flower Mound Performing Arts Theatre). Then, soon after the lineup announcement, Ryan Roach, one of the actors in Pageant Play, suddenly passed away.

But as theaterfolk know, the show must go on! The Pride Fest will continue, sans Pageant Play — but the bigger hole will be felt in the hearts of Roach’s friends. The remaining shows (including a new production with Paul J. Williams) will be performed in the upstairs Frank’s Place space of the Kalita Humphreys, and are a mix of wacky comedies and dark dramas.

Uptown Players collaborates with other companies because of the demands of mounting even a small production. And it often looks to shows that ran in other venues to supplement its content.

“Much of our base doesn’t go to Flower Mound or the Bath House Cultural Center,” Craig Lynch, co-founder of Uptown Players, says.

The mini-revivals change as well — as Roach’s passing showed. The Time Keepers, which had a run at the Dallas Holocaust museum this spring, will arrive with a new actor in one of the lead roles, for instance.

It all started Thursday night with the cabaret by entertainers Amy and Freddy. Here’s the rundown.

- Good Boys and True (presented by Uptown Players). Hot gay playwright Roberto Aguirre-Sacasa (Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark) wrote this combustible story set in the hothouse atmosphere of a boys’ boarding school. (Sept. 6 at 8 p.m., Sept. 8 at 7:45 p.m., Sept. 12 at 7:45 p.m., Sept. 14 at 4 p.m.)

- The Time Keepers (presented by Theatre New West). The relationship between a Jew and a homosexual serving time as watch repairers in a WWII concentration camp is both disturbing and entertaining. (Sept. 7 at 2 p.m., Sept. 8 at 4 p.m., Sept. 13 at 8 p.m.)

- Dishing It Out (presented by Uptown Players). Paul J. Williams performs his one-man show set in a Southern cafeteria, in which he plays six characters. (Sept. 7 at 4 p.m., Sept. 11 at 8 p.m., Sept. 14 at 2 p.m.)

- Made in Heaven (presented by Uptown Players). Kevin Moore directs this farce about twins conjoined at the nether regions. Everything seems to be OK until one brother announces he’s gay … and wants to date. (Sept. 7 at 6 p.m., Sept. 10 at 8 p.m., Sept. 14 at 6:45 p.m.)

- Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche (presented by Uptown Players). A saucy comedy about the 1856 meeting of the secret lesbian organization the Susan B. Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein … OK, maybe not so secret. Marisa Diotalevi stars. (Sept. 7 at 8 p.m., Sept. 8 at 6 p.m., Sept. 14 at 8:30 p.m.)

- Cock (presented by Second Thought Theatre). A staged reading of the recent off-Broadway hit about a gay man who meets and falls for a woman. (Sept. 8 at 2 p.m., Sept. 9 at 8 p.m.)
Diana Sheehan sings the songs of Lorenz Hart

Diana Sheehan is one of our finest musical actresses, and she puts the emphasis on musical this week with the return of her award-winning cabaret show, where she sings lyrics written by legendary gay songwriter Lorenz Hart. The music itself is by Richard Rodgers, so not a bad duo. But Sheehan makes each number her own. That’s where the acting comes in.

**DEETS:** Amphibian Stage, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. Sept. 12–15. Thursday–Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2 p.m. $20–$25. AmphibianStageProductions.org.

‘Dysfunctional Divas’ returns

Steven Jay Crabtree scored some indie movie cred starring in the comic short *Martini: The Movie*, but he’s back on familiar territory — the Pocket Sandwich stage — for the return of his one-man tour of schizophrenia, Dysfunctional Divas, where he plays a slate of interesting women, including Martini Glass and Wonder Woman.

**DEETS:** Pocket Sandwich Theatre, 5400 E. Mockingbird Lane. Sept. 6 and 7 at 11:15 p.m. $12.

**Friday 09.06**

**TacoCon (Cerveza) rolls into West Dallas for inaugural festival**

From the folks who brought us the first-ever North Texas Taco Festival in Deep Ellum earlier this year comes another delicious celebration of the quintessential Mexican street food — only its not just South of the Border that excels at these delights. Several food trucks specializing in tacos will be on hand for this inaugural festival, which also features the craft brews of local beer-maker Four Corners Brewing. Arrive hungry.

**DEETS:** Four Corners Brewing Co., 423 Singleton Ave. 6–10 p.m. RSVP at TacoConCerveza.eventbrite.com.

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**THEATER**


**The Sound of Music.** Cheryl Denson directs the Lyric Stage production based on the original Broadway orchestrations. Irving Arts Center, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. Through Sept. 15. LyricStage.org.

**Thank You, Jeeves!** Stage West concludes its 2013 season with this classic farce, once again featuring Jim Couvalt as the harried gentleman’s gentleman. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Sept. 29. StageWest.org.


**FINE ART**

**Objects of Desire III.** The return of the exhibit of art work with lustful appeal. ilume Gallerie, 4123 Cedar Springs Road, suite 107. Sept. 6–Oct. 5. Artists’ reception Sept. 6, 6–10 p.m. ilumeGallerie.com.


**Friday 09.06**

**COMEDY**

**Dysfunctional Divas.** Steven Jay Crabtree returns with his one-man show of quirky female characters. Pocket Sandwich Theater, 5400 Mockingbird Lane. Sept 6 at 7 at 11:15 p.m. $12.

**Friday 09.07**

**FINE ARTS**

**Rusty Scruby: He Sells Seashells.** A solo exhibit of the Dallas artist’s experiments in photography.
SUNDAY 09.08

WORSHIP
Cathedral of Hope. Traditional service at the United Church of Christ congregation. 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. CathedralOfHope.com.

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

SPORTS
Dallas Pride Volleyball Tournament. This tourney, benefiting Resource Center Dallas and AIDS Arms, will feature hundreds of teams and players, as well as live music, refreshments and more. Volley Ranch, 1850 E. Beltline Road, Coppell. Gates at 9 a.m.; play at noon. $10 admission.

THEATER

COMMUNITY
Mimosas and Music: Sunday Soul Food Brunch. Every week at Havana Lounge, 4006 Cedar Springs Road. 10:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Ministry. Weekly Sunday tea-dance-and-more gay mixer with a new DJ each week. LeVu, 2505 Pacific Ave. 6 p.m. Cover 21+: $5 before 7 p.m. (free with flyer), $10 after 7 p.m.; cover 18–20: $15.

TUESDAY 09.10

THEATER

BOOK SIGNING
Eating My Feelings. Author Mark Brennan Rosenberg reads and signs his comic queer memoirs at the SMU Bookstore. 3060 Mockingbird Lane. 7 p.m. Free.

CONCERTS
Cliburn at the Bass: Vadym Kholodenko. The gold medal winner at the 14th Van Cliburn competition will play. Bass Hall, 435 Commerce St., Fort Worth. 7:30 p.m. $20–$90. Cliburn.org.

WEDNESDAY 09.11

COMMUNITY
Dallas FrontRunners fun run for runners and walkers at all levels. Meet at the statue of Robert E. Lee at Lee Park at 7 p.m. Dinner to follow. FrontrunnersDallas.org.

THURSDAY 09.12

COMMUNITY
Fort Worth Transgender. Group meets the second Thursday of each month at 908 Pennsylvania Ave. For more info, contact Nicole Taylor at 214-881-7472 or admin@fortworth-transgender.org. FortWorth.Transgender.org.

FASHION
BLKN Collection ’14. Gay Dallas menswear designer Jim Duran hosts a fashion show of his 2014 spring/summer collection. A Loft Hotel, 1033 Young St. 7-9 p.m. Free. BLKNClothing.com.

CABARET
Diana Sheehan Sings the Lyrics of Lorenz Hart. The talented chanteuse performs songs by the gay lyricist. Amphibian Stage Productions, 120 S. Main St., Fort Worth. Sept. 12–15. Thursday–Saturday at 8 p.m., Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. $20–$25. AmphibianStageProductions.org.

DINING
Grapefest. Grapevine’s 27th annual wine tasting event (the largest in the Southwest) brings beers, wine, foods and more to the downtown historic city center. Sept. 12–15. Open daily at 10 a.m. (11 a.m. Sunday). $8–$23. GrapevineTexasUSA.com/grapefest.
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ROLL CALL!
Calling all LGBT Parents and kids!

Family PRIDE Zone is a family friendly space in conjunction
with the Festival in Lee Park. Sunday, Sept. 15th from
11-6pm. The Festival in Lee Park is held with Alan Ross Texas Freedom
Parade, a Dallas Tavern Guild event.

A fenced off safe space will be created on the opposite side of
Arlington Hall from the Festival in Lee Park. Security professionals will
staff our two balloon arced entrances. Entrance fees $5 for adults and
children under 13 are free. No coolers, no alcohol and proper attire.
The Family PRIDE Zone will include food provided by Chilli’s, games,
entertainment, vendor booths and more. Sponsorships available.

For more information visit our website: dallasprideparade.com.
Questions call Leo Cusimano or Tempest Redding at 214.754.8710 x 114
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See Cruise

Solution on page 21

Across
1 Partners of bottoms
5 Vidal’s Visit to a ___ Planet
10 Words before delighted
14 Final Foursome org.?
15 Café con ___
16 Go down
17 Hudson and Day pillow activity
18 Spear of Minnesota
19 Sultry Horne
20 Tom Cruise danced in his briefs in this flick
23 Storage spot
24 Eavesdropping org.
25 Folk singer DiFranco
26 Elbow-bender
28 Excessive
30 Still in the closet, perhaps
32 Some cracks are full of it
35 They shoot up when they shoot off
37 With 46-Across, song to which Cruise danced
39 Coloratura Gluck
41 West Side Story girl
42 Decorated man, maybe
45 Born in Boulogne
46 See 37-Across
48 Breakfast on Pluto actor Stephen

Down
1 Explosive stick
2 Ovate wind instrument
3 Air an aria, avid diva
4 Fifth Avenue store
5 Puts in stitches, like Kate Clinton
6 Moore of Hair
7 Rights-defending org.
8 Tibetan capital
9 Big dictator in the land of Peter the Great
10 Spamalot writer Eric
11 They cover the knees of drag queens
12 Yves’ evening utterance
13 Ecology org.
21 Work with the hands
22 Big bang cause, briefly
23 It picks people up who eventually get off
27 QB feats
29 Home of the Bruins
31 Problem for skin
33 Gay-dog owner of South Park
34 Object to
35 “Get ___ the Church on Time”
36 By mouth
38 Russian commune
39 Bannon of ’50s lesbian pulp fiction
40 Bloom of The Producers
43 ___ Speedwagon
44 Hard woody one
46 Busy activity
47 Tell a tall tale
50 The Wizard of Oz dropout Buddy
52 No-tell motel meeting
54 Aleph follower
55 Nemesis of Tinkerbell
56 Banjoist Scruggs
57 Wilde country
58 One side of Ed Wood
59 Party in a fairy tale threesome
60 Elton’s john
61 One, to Frida
64 Ho’s instrument
65 Be social
66 Rent unit (abbr.)

49 Beat (out)
51 “Not to worry”
53 Singer of the song
59 Positive sign
62 Response to an on-line personal
63 Nick Adams character Johnny
67 Actress Skye
68 Rimbaud’s turf
69 Ditch school for the day
70 Hockey thug
71 Trojan beauty
72 Just your type?

44 Hard woody one
46 Busy activity
47 Tell a tall tale
50 The Wizard of Oz dropout Buddy
52 No-tell motel meeting
54 Aleph follower
55 Nemesis of Tinkerbell
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65 Be social
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Pride Week kicks off with Dallas Does Denim at the Round-Up Saloon on Sept. 8 with live music from Chaz Marie. The evening features a barbecue dinner, prizes and cash balloon drop. Singer, rapper and truth teller Wendy Ho has a one-night stand on Sept. 8 in The Rose Room. Some of her hits include Bitch I Stole Yo Purse, Gut, Pushin Tempon In and Yes, I Am a Ho. Miss Gay Dallas County USofA at Large and Miss Gay Dallas Metroplex USofA at Large will be crowned on Sept. 7 at Randy’s Club Cherries. Valerie Peris, Keleid Davenport, Sasha Lauren and Sebastian D. Anthony will all be on hand for the double crowning. The Needle Prick Project holds a fundraiser at Alexandre’s on Sept. 6 with music from Onyx Stereo followed by Girls Night Out with Peggy Horns. Andrea Dawson performs on Sept. 7. Then Little Chalupa ends the weekend with karaoke on Sept. 8. DJ Steve’s House Party turns the beat up to bring down the house at BJ’s NXS on Sept. 7. Sue Ellen’s hosts Burlesque on Sept. 7. Sweet Pain performs on Sept. 8 then indulge your Bad Habits on Sept. 9. Bella & Daria are in the house on Sept. 11. Dallas Bears and Leather Knights host First Friday Club Night at Dallas Eagle on Sept. 6. The United Court of the Lone Star Empire presents the Grand Duke and Duchess Show on Sept. 7 with host Rob Hickman. Mr. and Miss Charity America present Combustion: A Night of Hot Song Hits benefiting Home for the Holidays on Sept. 7 at Garrow’s on Cedar Creek Lake. Trinity River Bears meets at Club Reflection on Sept. 8 at 2:30 p.m., followed by a cookout. That evening is a PWLA benefit show. Watch the Giants vs. the Cowboys in HD at Woody’s Sports & Video Bar on Sept. 8. Cowtown Leathermen meet at Changes on Lancaster on Sept. 9. The Isis Project Showcase takes place at Eden Lounge on Sept. 6. The Isis Project’s Party Under the Stars begins at 10 p.m. on Sept. 7.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/Category/Photos.

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Will and Randy at The Brick.

D.G. at the Rose Room.

Libby and Regan at Sue Ellen’s.
John and Eddie at Alexandre’s.

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We have been together for a long time. We had a wonderful life laying around the house and eating to our hearts content. Our owner was an elderly woman who loved us very much. Well life took a big change for us several months ago our owner was sent away to live without us. With no where to go we ended up homeless. Fate had it that we were taken in by a rescue organization. We now are staying at Downtown Dog. Both me and Goldie were so depressed we would not eat we were sad, a nice lady at Downtown Dog started cooking us chicken and rice and we felt a little like home again. Now we are asking far Put Your Marriage in a Big Pond? Let everyone know !!!

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