Looking back on 2014

Year in Review:
Marriage equality dominated LGBT headlines
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1 dead after shooting in Oak Lawn

Dallas police are looking for a black male in connection with a shooting in Oak Lawn late Sunday night, Dec. 21, that left one man dead.

Floyd Robinson, 32, was pronounced dead at Parkland Memorial Hospital.

According to police reports, officers responded about 11 p.m. Sunday to a shooting call in the 2900 block of Lucas, about a block off Cedar Springs Road, near the North Dallas Tollway. They found Robinson in a breezeway at an apartment complex there, suffering from a gunshot wound.

Homicide detectives later determined that Robinson had been involved in an altercation in the 2800 block of The Mall Street, just across Hartford Street from the apartment where he was found. The investigation so far indicated that Robinson was shot during that altercation and then ran across Hartford Street to the location where he was found.

Detectives said the suspect remains unknown and that the investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information concerning this shooting call the DPD Homicide Unit at 214-671-3661.

— Tammye Nash

Anti-gay pastor arrested for accosting young man

Gaylard Williams, 59, pastor of Praise Cathedral Church of God in Seymour, Ind. known for his anti-gay sermons, was arrested recently and charged with sexual battery for allegedly groping a young man in park there.

The victim, 27, told police he was sitting in his vehicle near Cypress Lake on Friday, Dec. 12 when Williams approached his car. The younger man told police he rolled down his window to see what Williams wanted, and Williams reached in the window, grabbed his genitals and squeezed, while at the same time asking the young man to perform oral sex on him, according to WLKY.com.

According to reports by The Daily Beast, Williams kept trying to convince the young man to give him a blow job, even though the young man told him repeatedly that he “didn’t swing that way.” Williams suggested that the lake was a known cruise area and that he had come there before to find men for sex, and that the younger man wouldn’t be parked there if he weren’t looking for sex.

The younger man told police he finally got Williams to leave by telling him he had a gun and pretending to reach for a weapon. When Williams got in his car to leave, the younger man followed him long enough to write down his license plate number and report him to police.

WLKY reports that when police caught Williams, they found gay pornography in his car. He allegedly told police the videotape was “a promotional thing” that came in the mail to his office, and that he was just delivering it to a friend.

Williams was released on his own recognizance and is expected back before a judge on Feb. 9.

— David Taffet

Group aims to repeal Plano ordinance

A new group called Plano Citizens United has organized against the city of Plano “forcing this immoral lifestyle down the throats of the people of Plano” following the Plano City Council’s recent vote to add protections for LGBT people to its nondiscrimination ordinance.

A flyer was distributed door to door to warn of this “immoral” ordinance that was passed with only two days notice.

According to Plano spokesman Steve Stoller, this ordinance, like all pending city business, is posted on the city’s website the Thursday before the next council meeting.

The ordinance was passed early in December, but Plano Citizens United cries foul because it was done just before Christmas.

The group claims the ordinance violates the Constitution. It’s not clear if they meant the U.S. or Texas Constitution, but if the group does mean the Texas Constitution, the Plano ordinance does not legalize same-sex marriage.

Guest Insurance Agency, 903 18th Street, Suite 124, Plano, 75074, 972-426-2429 (9:30-5:30 weekdays)

To join the effort, call Steve Stoller at 972-755-9416 or go to PlanoEqualRights.org for details.

— David Taffet
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Martinez speaks to GALA Youth

Cathedral of Hope youth minister Yadi Martinez is the guest speaker at GALA Youth, 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at 1641 W. Hebron Parkway, Carrollton.

Martinez is executive director of Real Live Connection, a nonprofit organization with a mission to provide a safe space to educate, develop, and connect LGBTQ youth. The CoH Youth Ministry plans lock-ins, cookouts and a Six Flags Day to summer mission trips and fundraising work for community organizations.

DCDP swears in officials

Dallas County Democratic Party will hold a swearing-in ceremony and brunch at 10 a.m. New Year’s Day at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, 300 Reunion Blvd. Newly elected and re-elected officials take the oath of office followed by a reception. Tickets are $50. Link to tickets at DallasDemocrats.org.

Leadership ball at The Brick

Money Truck Elite presents the LGBT Purple Carpet Formal Leadership and Achievement Ball on Saturday, Dec. 27 at The Brick, 2525 Wycliff Ave. Call details and reservations at 972-375-8796.

The event recognizes community legends and trendsetters. Formal wear only. $20 admission. $45 VIP admission includes skip line pass, stage and table access, a VIP-only band and a bottle of champagne.

TPride film and fundraiser

Trans Pride Initiative collaborates with CineWilde for a movie screening and fundraiser at 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 26, at Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd.

CineWilde presents the 2003 anime film, Tokyo Godfathers about three homeless people — a down-on-his-luck alcoholic named Gin, a tough-talkin’ trans woman named Hana, and an embittered teenage runaway named Miyuki — who discover an abandoned newborn left in the streets of Tokyo on Christmas Eve. Together, they embark on a miraculous journey through crowded subways, a yakuza wedding, a raucous drag bar, and other unlikely haunts as they search for the child’s parents.

Before the film Trans Pride Initiative will be spinning dance tunes with specialty cocktails at the bar to raise money to set up a shelter and community center for local trans and gender-nonconforming persons.

After the film, bring a gift and join the hilariously competitive white elephant gift-giving game.

TJ is a handsome Siberian husky mix who was transferred to Operation Kindness from another shelter. TJ arrived with an injury that required treatment. Now he’s all better and ready for a new start. TJ would love an active family who is willing to spend time with this young dog. He is a beautiful work in progress and with a little time and effort he will be an awesome dog. At 1 year old, he is pretty much fully grown. TJ has a thick, plush coat that will require some grooming. TJ is a great dog but he is still young and a very rambunctious pup. We recommend a home with older children because he may be too rough for small children and toddlers. If you are ready for a BIG puppy, come meet TJ.

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Looking back: The top stories of 2014

Marriage equality is easily the biggest news story of 2014, but other LGBT topics made headlines, too.

The year started off with sad news, as officials announced in January that Lone Star Ride Fighting AIDS, the long-running two-day bike ride to raise money for AIDS service organizations in North Texas was shutting down after 13 years. That same month, we learned that Union Jack, one of the oldest continuous businesses on Oak Lawn, was closing as well.

Then came February, and Judge Orlando Garcia’s ruling declaring Texas’ ban on marriage equality is unconstitutional. And the floodgates opened.

In just 12 short months, we have gone from a country with only 18 marriage equality states to a nation with 35-going-on-36 marriage equality states, not to mention decisions by the U.S. Supreme Court that seem to indicate we are on the verge of seeing full marriage equality nationwide at any time now.

Marriage wasn’t the only LGBT topic in the news in 2014. So look back with us now, as we list our top five stories of the year.

For a month-by-month recap, visit DallasVoice.com.

1. Marriage equality sweeps the nation

Marriage equality dominated the news throughout the year, which opened with 18 marriage equality states and is ending with 35 marriage equality states — plus Washington, D.C., and St. Louis, Mo. — with Florida set to become No. 36 on Jan. 6.

Florida’s marriage equality battle began earlier in the year when county courts in the state’s liberal southern counties declared the Florida marriage ban unconstitutional. A federal court heard a case and agreed with the county courts. Pam Bondi, Florida’s thrice-married attorney general, began defending “traditional marriage.”

The federal court stayed its decision, and before the stay was set to expire on Jan. 5, 2015, Bondi asked the court to extend its stay. When the lower court refused, Bondi appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Florida is in the 11th Circuit under the jurisdiction of Justice Clarence Thomas who could have issued a stay himself. Instead, he asked the court to decide and by a vote of 7-2, decided not to issue a stay. Only Thomas and Scalia said they favored a stay.

Lambda Legal Supervising Senior Staff Attorney Ken Upton said that wasn’t surprising. He said Supreme Court justices rarely act on their own, except in the case of emergency death penalty stays. Upton also said he was not surprised Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Samuel Alito sided with the majority. Their vote reflected the expected court decision and a stay would simply delay the inevitable.

“You’d have to be pretty dense not to read the tea leaves,” Upton said.

The year began with a series of marriage equality wins in federal court including Arkansas and Oklahoma. In Texas, two couples, including Mark Phariss and Victor Holmes of Plano, sued for the right to marry. On Feb. 26, Judge Orlando Garcia in San Antonio ruled in their case declaring the Texas marriage amendment unconstitutional.

The turning point in marriage equality came in October. Five states had appealed rulings against their discriminatory marriage laws to the U.S. Supreme Court. In a surprise move, the court decided not to take any of the cases. That lifted the stay in each of those states and lifted the marriage ban in each of the states in those appeals court circuits.

When the court rejected an appeal from Virginia, the ruling affected other states in the 4th Circuit — West Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. A rejection of two 10th Circuit cases — Utah and Oklahoma — affected Wyoming, Colorado and Kansas. New Mexico was already a marriage equality state. And a rejection of Wisconsin and Indiana cases added those states to the marriage equality column. Illinois, the other state in the 7th Circuit, was already a marriage equality state.

The next day, the 9th Circuit struck down marriage bans in Idaho and Nevada. Without a Supreme Court stay, Arizona, Alaska and Montana also became marriage equality states. Four other states in that circuit already were — California, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii.

Not every state became marriage equality states quietly. Idaho and South Carolina are issuing marriage licenses while appealing their circuits’ decisions. Kansas is issuing marriage licenses, as ordered by the court, but the state is not recognizing them.

Upton said state officials understand that if it’s unconstitutional to refuse to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples, it’s equally unconstitutional to not offer the benefits that flow from the license.

“They’re going to have to pay a lot of damages,” Upton said.

In Missouri, a court ordered the state to recognize marriages performed in other states. In November, a court ruled the state’s marriage law was unconstitutional but the ruling only applied to St. Louis.

When the Supreme Court rejected the five appeals in October, the justices signaled there was no urgency in settling marriage equality nationwide and it was waiting for a difference of opinion among circuit courts. That happened in November when the 6th Circuit upheld discrimination in Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee and Kentucky.

The ruling was based on “who should decide” a state’s marriage laws and “proceeding with caution.” The decision failed to address the constitutional issues of due process, equal treatment under the law and animus in implementing marriage discrimination laws.

Two other marriage equality losses included a Puerto Rico case and a Louisiana case that Upton argued.

The Puerto Rico case based its decision on the 1971 Baker decision that involved a Minnesota male couple that wanted to marry. The Supreme Court turned down their request. The judge wrote the Supreme Court could overturn itself, but it has not.

In the Louisiana case, the judge wrote plaintiffs failed to prove that banning marriage violates due process or equal protection. Two weeks later, another judge in Louisiana overturned that state’s marriage ban in a separate case.

On Jan. 9, the 5th Circuit will hear arguments on cases from Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. Upton said Camilla Taylor, Lambda Legal’s Marriage Project director, will argue the appeal.

That same day, the Supreme Court meets to decide whether to take up any of the marriage cases that have been appealed since October — one of the 6th Circuit cases or the second Louisiana case that skipped the 5th Circuit and appealed directly to the high court.

Upton said the road to marriage equality didn’t take the path anyone thought it would.

“We thought the Supreme Court would take the first case sent to them,” he said.

He said despite the number of appeals coming from a variety of states, “nothing new is coming out of any of these cases.”

The year ends with a majority of Americans living in marriage equality states. Only 14 states still have legal marriage bans. The issue is expected to be settled in 2015.

— David Taffet
2. GOP dominates on Election Day

The 2014 elections will be remembered as a GOP wave year, when Republicans gained a historic majority in the U.S. House and gained control of the Senate. Massachusetts and Maryland, otherwise reliably Democratic states, elected Republican governors, while Texas stayed red, and not even solidly blue Dallas County escaped the GOP tsunami.

Nearly every Democrat at the top of the Texas ballot, including Democratic Sens. Wendy Davis of Fort Worth and Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio, courted the LGBT community and gave interviews to the LGBT press. And almost all were unequivocally pro-LGBT rights. But come Election Day, all those candidates were handed major defeats, none more embarrassing than Republican Attorney General Greg Abbott and Sen. Dan Patrick Davis wins over Wendy Davis and Van de Putte by wide margins in the races for governor and lieutenant governor, respectively.

In red state Texas, the real contests came in the Republican primaries where Tea Party-backed challengers ousted numerous area legislators, including Reps. Linda Harper-Brown, Diane Patrick of Arlington and Bennett Ratliff of Coppell, and Sens. John Carona of Dallas and Bob Duell. The Texas Senate’s only swing district, vacated by Wendy Davis, went to Colleyville Tea Party Republican Konni Burton.

In Dallas County Republican Susan Hawk narrowly defeated incumbent Democrat District Attorney Craig Watkins, becoming the first Republican elected countywide in a decade.

But LGBT activists did make gains locally. Dallas voters overwhelmingly voted to include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes in city employment into the Dallas city charter. And former Stonewall Democrats President Omar Narvaez was appointed to the Dallas County Schools Board and will run for a full-term in 2015.

Also in Dallas County in 2014, Sara Martinez won the Democratic primary for Justice of the Peace Precinct 5, Place 1 and faced no opponent in the general election, making her the first openly gay JP in the county.

— James Russell

3. Workplace benefits for LGBTs expand

The first local victory for LGBT activists in 2014 came in March, when the Dallas City Council passed, on a 13-2 vote, a “comprehensive statement of support” directing the city manager and staff to identify inequities including spousal recognition and benefits.

The Human Rights Campaign’s 2014 Municipal Equality Index, released in November, revealed the average score for cities in Texas is only 28 points compared to a national average of 59 points. Texas’ largest cities lead the way in LGBT protections and recognition, with Austin, Dallas and Fort Worth recognized with perfect or nearly perfect scores.
Holiday spotlight:

Viva Dallas Burlesque’s final Lakewood Theater show

Before the Lakewood Theater closes its doors, join Viva Dallas Burlesque for DC versus Marvel, an epic battle of tongue-in-cheek comic book-themed burlesque performances. Who will win the battle at the largest burlesque show in Texas? Catwoman or Storm? Spider-Man or Wonder Woman?

The show will feature local favorites like Court- ney Crave, Donna Denise, Scarlette Switches and others, as well as headliner Shan de Leers from Nashville.

Shoshana Portnoy, the show’s producer, is excited the group is going out with a bang at their final monthly show at the historic theater. “We’re saddened by the news of the closing of such a beautiful historic venue that has been our home for so long,” she said. But the group will have a new home to be announced soon.

Doors open at 8 p.m. and curtain is at 9 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 2 at Lakewood Theater, 1825 Abrams Road. $20. Tickets are available by visiting VivaDallasBurlesque.com. Must be 18 years or older to attend. Advance ticket purchase is strongly recommended.

— James Russell

### December

Dec. 26-27: Lights All Night 2014 5th anniversary Lights All Night electronic music festival featuring more than 40 DJs. Doors open at 5 p.m.–2 a.m. at Kay Bailey Hutchinson Dallas Convention Center, 650 S. Griffin.

Dec. 26: CinéWilde and Trans Pride Initiative mixer and movie Trans Pride kicks off its effort to open a community center with shelter space with CinéWilde at 8 p.m. at Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson. Enjoy live entertainment, a white elephant gift-giving game and winter cocktails before screening the 2003 anime film Tokyo Godfathers. Tickets are $10.50 but donations are encouraged. More information at Or.fo.me/1so6gjF.

### January

Jan. 2: Viva Dallas Burlesque D.C. versus Marvel The largest burlesque show in Texas hosts DC versus Marvel, an epic battle of tongue-in-cheek comic book-themed burlesque performances at 9 p.m. at Lakewood Theater, 1825 Abrams Rd which is closing. Doors open at 8 p.m. Advance ticket purchase is strongly recommended. Purchase tickets at www.VivaDallasBurlesque.com. Must be 18 years or older to attend.

Jan. 10: Transvisible: The Bamby Salcedo Story Bamby Salcedo and Dante Alencastre show their film and lead a discussion hosted by Trans Pride Initiative at 4 p.m. at Texas Theatre, 231 W. Jefferson Blvd. Tpride.org.

### New Year’s Eve Events

Dec. 31: Alexandre’s NYE Party with Andrea Dawson & Band Free champagne toast at midnight. No cover. Party hats and favors provided. 9 p.m.–close.

Dec. 31: Full Circle Tavern’s Mad Hatter Two Year New Year! Full Circle Tavern, 1319 S. Lamar Street, hosts “Mad as Hatters” for their 2nd annual New Years bash. Dress your head in its’ most interesting attire and ring in 2019 with your favorite staff, friends and folks. All inclusive dinner, cocktails, live DJ, party favors and complimentary champagne at midnight. RSVP at 214-208-3435.

Dec. 31: DJ Christopher J at the Grapevine DJ Christopher J (of super 80s band Berlin with Terri Nunn) will be spinning from 7 p.m. at the Grapevine Bar, 3902 Maple Ave. Cover is just $1 and can be purchased at the door.

Dec. 31: Round Up Saloon NYE 2014 Masquerade Ball Round Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs, presents the NYE 2014 Masquerade Ball. Tickets are $15 pre-sale and $20 at the door. Catered buffet, breakfast after midnight, cash balloon drop, champagne and party favors included. Contact 214-522-9611 for more information.

Dec. 31: Club Dallas New Years Eve Party Event begins at 11 p.m. with a champagne toast at midnight at Club Dallas, 2616 Swiss Ave.
The year also brought a number of changes to the gayborhood’s retail, bar and restaurant scene. Richard Longstaff made history when he retired and closed down Union Jack the Cedar Springs clothing store he had owned for more than 40 years. Out of the Closet opened in the space.

DAILY Juice replaced Boli in July and Shane Walker opened Flower Reign in August. After delays due to zoning problems, construction finally began on a Mexican restaurant on the long-vacant location at the corner of Cedar Springs and Reagan Street.

Neighborhood institution Good Eats lost its lease when Turtle Creek Village decided to redesign the center and concentrate on retail. Several restaurants opened on Oak Lawn Avenue this year, including Campuzano and Scotch and Sausage. Mattito’s moved to the Centrum from Uptown.

While no bars closed this year, three new ones opened: The owners of The Tin Room opened Marty’s on Maple Avenue, and late in the year, a space that stood vacant on Cedar Springs Road for almost two years opened as Liquid Zoo.

After a number of restaurants failed in the corner space in ilume, the Tap House opened and became the first bar to join the Dallas Tavern Guild in that property.

4. The changing face of Oak Lawn

In December, Out Traveler magazine named Oak Lawn the “best gayborhood in the U.S.” The brief article described Oak Lawn as “packed with nightlife and eateries, a stone’s throw from the design district and downtown … a shining star in a city soaked with money and privilege.”

But with developers gobbling up properties anywhere near downtown Dallas, Oak Lawn is losing some of its most charming buildings and much of the LGBT community seems to be moving elsewhere.

One after another, older houses, offices and apartment complexes were torn down to make room for taller, denser apartment complexes. On the list for demolition is a landmark house sitting on a lot covered in old oak trees that faces Lee Park.

Traffic has gotten worse throughout Dallas’ most densely populated zip code — Oak Lawn’s 75219. While plenty of parking is provided in parking garages in this array of new complexes, usually placed in the middle of the property with the small and expensive apartments arranged around the parking decks, no provision has been made for all of the additional traffic on Oak Lawn’s streets. Lemmon Avenue is already listed by the Texas Department of Transportation as the busiest road in the state that isn’t a state highway or interstate.
The Oak Lawn Library made news with the addition of 6,000 books, making the library’s LGBT collection one of the largest in the country.

In November, the city presented plans to spend more than $1 million in bond money to upgrade the Strip. Planners took input from the community and final plans should be released in July with contracts bid and work beginning later in the year.

David Taffet

5. Ugandan president feels the power of LGBTs

A little more than a month after Uganda’s Constitutional Court ruled that country’s Anti-Homosexuality Act is invalid because did not pass with the required quorum of the Ugandan Parliament, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni found himself facing a chilly reception here in North Texas.

Although Museveni originally declined to sign the bill into law, saying he wanted to make sure first that no one was actually born gay, he eventually signed in February 2014, after declaring that a scientific study he had commissioned had determined that no one is actually born homosexual.

In September, Museveni came to the U.S. to attend a United Nations meeting, and then decided to make a side trip to North Texas to promote tourism to and economic investment in his country. Alerted by Ugandan ex-patriots who left their home country to avoid persecution, Dallas Voice on Sept. 17 posted information about Museveni’s plan to stay at the Four Seasons Hotel in Irving, then attend a morning church service at the Irving Convention Center, followed by the meeting to promote tourism and investment in the Ugandan oil and gas industry.

The Dallas Voice blog post noted that “Several members of the Ugandan community asked members of the LGBT community to join them in protesting Museveni and the genocide he has repeatedly threatened to unleash on the gay community.”

By 9 a.m. the following morning, staff writer David Taffet’s blog post had generated enough backlash that the hotel had announced that it was canceling Museveni’s reservations. After Taffet also reported that same day that Museveni was “negotiating with the Gaylord Texan Resort and Convention Center in Grapevine” to host his stay, the Gaylord’s PR director had called Dallas Voice to that facility would be unable to accommodate Museveni or his event “because of logistics” and short notice. By 7:30 that evening, Taffet and Dallas Voice were able to report that the Irving Convention Center had canceled Museveni’s event there.

Museveni was eventually able to secure meeting space at a privately-owned facility in Allen. One Ugandan that attended that event reported that Museveni said, “I was told Dallas is full of homosexuals and lesbians. I didn’t know they were so powerful,” and added that when he got home to Uganda he would show what happens to homosexuals.

However, after he returned to Uganda, Museveni reportedly said that he was having second thoughts about his support for the Anti-Homosexuality Act because of the potential for economic repercussions against his country.

— Tammye Nash
Plano ordinance: Questions remain

We, the staff and board of Transgender Education Network of Texas are of mixed reaction in regard to news about the passage of a non-discrimination ordinance in Plano.

On the one hand, taking steps towards treating all city employees in a fair and just manner based on merits rather than preconceived ideas and prejudice is an act worthy of respect. On the other hand, implementing provisions into that same ordinance allowing nonprofits to continue practicing bigotry in providing services severely undercuts any advance possibly made. Findings from the 2010 National Transgender Discrimination Survey, as filtered for the state of Texas, demonstrate that 26 percent of transgender Texans lost a job based on their gender identity/expression, and 17 percent became homeless for the same reason.

However, the city of Plano has created a situation wherein those who most need services such as shelter and other public accommodations can be turned away, refused service and ignored or treated badly simply because of who they are.

Further findings show that in public accommodations and services:
• 47 percent were verbally harassed or disrespected in a place of public accommodation or service, including hotels, restaurants, buses, airports and government agencies.
• 23 percent were denied equal treatment by a government agency or official.

Correction and Clarification

The Transgender Education Network of Texas (TENT) is an organization dedicated to furthering the gender diversity equity in the state of Texas. We work to accomplish this through education and networking in both public and private forums. Through our efforts we strive to halt discrimination through social, legal, legislative and corporate education.

Celebrating a new beginning

Special Contributor

As the holiday season approaches, I want to wish all of the residents of the 30th Congressional District a very special Christmas and a joyous New Year. As a community, we should reflect on those things, large and small, that brought us happiness during 2014. Of course there were events that were unpleasant or that may have made us sad, but we must remember that a new year is coming, and it will bring with it time for renewal.

We must continue to work for what is just, and maintain our efforts to meet the needs of those who find themselves outside the margins of our society. We must also continue to acknowledge the efforts of those amongst us who make our society a better one.

This is the season to be thankful for all that we have received, and for all that has made us better. I am thankful for my family, my support- ers and for all of the people of the 30th Congressional District who believed in me, and who voted to return me to the House of Representa- tives.

I want all of you to know that I will continue to serve you and your inter- ests to the best of my ability. I will continue to pursue these issues and policies that are important to you, and that will improve your lives, and the lives of those who are close to you.

It is my hope that the New Year will bring lasting peace in the lives of people throughout our nation’s communities and throughout our world. We must begin to recognize and enjoy the simple blessings that life brings, and the joy that comes with serving others.

Now is a time to renew relationships that have not been as good as they might have been. It is also a time to let others know that you appreciate them, and the contributions that they make. It is a time and season for goodness and joy.

So, as we consider the close of 2014 and the coming of another year, let us promise ourselves and others that 2015 will be better than the year that has just passed. Let us wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Eddie Bernice Johnson was elected this year to her 12th term as the U.S. representative from Texas’ 30th Congressional District. She previously served in the Texas House and in the Texas Senate.
The year in entertainment
Critical rankings of the best of 2014 in film, stage, television and books

2014 YEAR IN REVIEW
SCREEN

MEN BEHAVING BROADLY | Actors get on each others' nerves in the brilliant satire 'Birdman,' left; Peter Allen tears up the dance floor with flamboyant energy in Uptown Players' stage show 'The Boy from Oz,' right.

2014 YEAR IN REVIEW
STAGE

T heater is a mysterious thing. Usually, companies decide on a season of shows more than a year out, and they have no idea what the casts will be and how the shows will fit the mood of the audience. Sometimes we're in the mood for farce, sometimes melodrama, sometimes just a campy musical. The 10 shows that make up my year-end list range from musicals (lots of 'em) to comedies to dramas, from contemporary to period pieces.

9. Once (ATTPAC Series). There were a number of good touring productions this year, some unexpectedly so (the Queen musical We Will Rock You did just that), but they saved the best for last: this intimate but impassioned chamber musical, adapted from the Oscar-winning film, was a bittersweet tonic to bombastic shows, proving a human scale works in musicals, too.

8. Hands on a Hard Body (Theatre 3). Doug Wright is a master of making stage productions of stories that don't seem designed for the stage, and a musical based on a Texas-set documentary about a contest involving touching a pickup truck is among them. But T3's theater-in-the-round setting is actually ideally suited for this examination of what desperation, desire and the downturn in the economy means to people with limited options.

7. The Fortress of Solitude (Dallas Theater Center) Ever since Kevin Moriarty took over as artistic director, the DTC has taken a firm hand in developing new works that can live beyond a month-long run at the Wyly. Some (Lyin'vides Jones, Fly By Night) have shown more promise than others (Giants). But perhaps the most intriguing is this adaptation of the modernist best seller about a friendship between unlikely young men who bond over comic books ... and perhaps more. Although still a work in progress when it debuted last spring, the ambition of the project was matched by its craft.

6. Dogfight (WaterTower Theatre). It's a night in late November 1963, just before a few newly-enlisted servicemen are about to ship overseas to a nation called Vietnam. They have no idea what's in store for them or the nation, which is also about to lose its leader to a rifle shot in Dealey Plaza), but they want to celebrate with a cruel hoax of a game: See who can bring the ugliest girl to a party. From this juvenile experiment arises a delicate relationship between one soldier (Zac Reynolds) and the unsuspecting waitress (Juliette Talley) whom he targets. Benj Pasek and Justin Paul composed the delightful music to a show with tons of heart and a message of love ... delivered, nonetheless, in a minor key.

INDEX TO THE YEAR IN REVIEW: ENTERTAINMENT: Screen • Page 14 ... Stage • Page 14 ... Actor of the Year • Page 15 ... Books • Page 17 ... Tube • Page 18
NEXT WEEK AND BEYOND: Music .... Arts/Culture/Sports .... Dining
5. The Brothers Size (Jubilee Theatre). Two African-American brothers—one the industrious and humorless owner of a mechanics’ shop (Rico Romaulus), the other recently released from lock-up and still unsure about his future (Seun Soyemi)—clash over friendships, goals and how to achieve them. Tre Garrett directed this area premiere, one of a trilogy about the black experience, with tribal rhythms and a charge of homoeroticism, and handed up 2014’s most bracing 80 minutes of theater.

4. The Boy from Oz (Uptown Players). This jukebox musical hadn’t really had a life outside of Broadway since its original stars, Hugh Jackman, left—probably since no one could handle the part of Peter Allen, the flamboyant showman who also happened to be Judy Garland’s son-in-law. Of course, none of them had Alex Organ, whose boundless energy set the stage of the Kalita on fire in a flashfire of singing and dancing, brilliantly directed by Cheryl Denson.

3. Oedipus el Rey (Dallas Theater Center). The myth of the doomed king takes on aching relevance in this razor-sharp updating. Director Kevin Moriarty moved the action into the Wyly’s cramped studio space, turning the audience into a kind of Greek chorus observing the cruel where Oedipus sets out on a tragic path. Classics often don’t play well to the contemporary ear; this, though, was pitch perfect.

2. Barbecue Apocalypse (Kitchen Dog Theater). Social-climbing suburbanites wonder about their priorities while adhering to the trapings of civility (represented by a backyard cookout) until a cataclysm (we’re never sure what) renders the world a wasteland. But that’s no reason not to still have the neighbors over. Matt Lyle’s satire struck the ideal tone in this withering dark comedy, performed by Kitchen Dog’s most reliable company members.

1. Vanya & Sonia & Masha & Spike (Uptown Players). More classicism made stinging: Christopher Durang’s Tony Award-winner turned Chekhov on its head as dysfunctional siblings gather at their remote family home and hash out the complex resentments that have denied them true happiness for decades. The cast was flawless, as was B.J. Cleveland’s beautiful direction. Quite possibly, this is the best show Uptown has ever produced.
ten drama of 2014 is this combination math class and history lesson, about the efforts of quirky (and closeted) Alan Turing (Benedict Cumberbatch) to invent the first modern computer and win World War II for the Allies in the process. Using typical British restraint, it moves and infuriates you at the same time, while unraveling a fascinating mystery.

4. Citizenfour. Who would’ve expected the most captivating political thriller of the decade would be a documentary set almost entirely inside a Hong Kong hotel room? Lesbian filmmaker Laura Poitras’ documentary about whistleblower Edward Snowden, and how gay journalist Glenn Greenwald unearthed a massive spying program invading the privacy of Americans, could be the most frightening thing you’ve ever seen.

3. Boyhood. Texas filmmaker Richard Linklater’s prosaically ambitious project — filming a movie over the course of a dozen years, as the lead character literally ages through adolescence and into manhood — could have felt gimmicky or even esoteric, but over nearly three hours, he and his cast (Ellar Coltrane, Ethan Hawke, Patricia Arquette) embody real lives changing and aging and becoming fully-formed people. Without melodrama, he encapsulates the life process brilliantly.

2. Selma. Martin Luther King Jr was just a few years shy of an assassin’s bullet when he and other freedom marchers took to the streets of Alabama in 1965 to protest civil rights for African-Americans. A moving docuseries, made perhaps all the more powerful by the current racial unrest in the U.S., director Ava DuVernay wisely avoids the use of much musical underscore (especially in the first half), allowing the images to seep in unobstructed and have their power on you.

1. Birdman. Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu’s masterful piece of legerdemain, which has the appearance of one continuous shot but which, in fact, is an elegantly filmed and edited rumination on modernity — blogger journalism, celebrity culture, theater, filmmaking, sexuality and aging — and is a brilliant satire as well as a poignant investigation into the psyche of a once-popular action star (Michael Keaton, in a role that should win him an Oscar) dealing with the need to produce something meaningful: Art, in its most basic form. Edward Norton gives a great turn as an arrogant actor, but it’s the filmmaking itself that enraptures you.

Memorable performances: Julianne Moore, Still Alice; Michael Keaton, Edward Norton and Emma Stone (and really the entire cast), Birdman; J.K. Simmons, Whiplash; Bradley Cooper, American Sniper; Jake Gyllenhaal, Nightcrawler; Albert Molina and John Lithgow, Love is Strange; Mark Ruffalo and Channing Tatum, Foxcatcher (still on the fence about Steve Carell); Ellar Coltrane, Boyhood; Ralph Fiennes (and the ensemble), The Grand Budapest Hotel; Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley, The Imitation Game; Meryl Streep, Chris Pine and Daniel Hulttlestone, Into the Woods; Tom Hardy, Locke; David Oyelowo, Selma; Bill Murray, St. Vincent; Miyavi, Unbroken; Bill Hader, The Skeleton Twins; Joaquin Phoenix, Inherent Vice; Marion Cotillard, Two Days, One Night.

The worst: My Bottom 10
10. The Lego Movie (ugly animation and annoying plot), 9 Jersey Boys (fumbling attempt at a musical by Clint Eastwood), 8, 7 and 6. Hercules, The Legend of Hercules and Pompeii (men in loin cloths were never so boring), 5. Lucy (sci-fi so bad even Sharknado seems good). 4. Transformers: Age of Extinction (it’s a Transformers movie — of course it’s dreadful … and who puts Mark Wahlberg in an action pic and leaves his shirt on?), 3. Wetlands (art film excrement … literally). 2. Edge of Tomorrow (video game aesthetics finally become the plot of feature films with disastrous effects). 1. Horns (such a terrible movie, it’s destined to be a cult classic).
S
o many books, so little time.
It’s easy to feel that way when faced with an entire bookstore full of possibilities. How do you pick? How do you know what’s good?
Start here: The Bookworm’s best of 2014. First up:

FICTION
Throughout the year, every time something bad happens, you’re reminded to hug the ones you love. Five Days Left by Julie Lawson Timmer, the story of a woman who is at the end stages of a terminal disease, and a man in another state who has fallen in love with a child he’s fostering, will actually make you want to do that. Bring tissues. That’s all I’m saying.

My list wouldn’t be complete without my annual nod to Emma Donoghue. Her novel Frog Music, a big story of murder and lust set in 1870s San Francisco, was a must-read this year. It’s a gauzy tale — in fact, it seems at times like a dream, as though the main character, Blanche Beunon has imagined the whole friendship she had with Jenny Bonnet and the reason for Jenny’s death. Bonus: it’s based (loosely) on a true event.

I almost guarantee that you won’t see The Last Time I Died by Joe Nelms on any other “best of” lists. It’s here because it was one of those books that just struck me: Christian Franco, a loser in life and love, learns that he can re-visit his childhood by being brought back from the edge of death. Early trauma left him with holes in his memory; reviving gave him answers. But he had to die again and again and you won’t be able to put this book down until you know what happens.

They say we all have a doppelganger, and Recognition by O.H. Bennett is based on that idea: On a rainy night, as a young widow heads home to pick up her son, she sees a beggar who is her late husband’s double. Many years ago, he went missing and was presumed drowned … but did he? You’ll wonder, too.

And finally, a tie: A Wanted Woman by Eric Jerome Dickey and I Am Pilgrim by Terry Hayes are both thrillers; I couldn’t decide which I liked better. Be aware that the Dickey book leans toward violence and profanity, while the Hayes book is more espionage-like. Both kept me on the edge of my seat for days.

And then there are my picks for …

NONFICTION
The Baby Boom by P.J. O’Rourke will bring back memories for anyone born between 1947 and 1964. O’Rourke recalls the usual things that Boomers will remember — playing outside ’til dark, getting that first color TV — but the real appeal comes when he finds something you’ve long-forgotten, and he expounds upon it. This book is like time-traveling to your childhood.

Lovers of the Old (or new) West will love Badluck Way by Bryce Andrews, the story of cowboys, ranch life and the end of both. It’s also a tale of conservation: Wolves were a big problem on the ranch where Andrews worked, and they cost his employer a good amount of money. But where’s the happy medium between raising cat-
tite and being a steward to the land and its wildlife? This book doesn’t have all the answers, but it’ll make you think.

I’m normally not a big fan of biographies that include “recreations,” but Death of a King by Tavis Smiley was a great exception. Here, Smiley envisions the last year of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s friendships, his dilemmas, the heartbreak he knew and caused, the work he did, and that which he might’ve wished he didn’t do. I liked this book because it’s thoughtful, and because it makes Dr. King into an ordinary man. Smiley makes King approachable.

If you’ve read other year-end lists, you’ve probably found Being Mortal by Atul Gawande there on them — and for good reason. It’s about the end-of-life, aging, and how medicine perceives both. Gawande urges readers to take charge of the end of their lives. That’s powerful stuff, in a powerful book.

Lastly, another tie: The Removers by Andrew Meredith, Smoke Gets In Your Eyes by Caitlin Doughty and The Skeleton Crew by Deborah Halber all deal with bodies. Dead ones. The Halber book is about how everyday people thing she never thought she’d have to deal with or maybe not — there’s a wicked cliffhanger.

I also liked Noggin by John Corey Whaley, a disturbingly plausible book about a young man who’s suffering a terminal illness. His only hope is to have his head cryogenically frozen, and to wait for a donor body. Can everybody in his life wait for him to return (including his closeted best friend)?

As I read Endangered by Jean Love Cush, I wasn’t sure whether it was an adult book or a teen read. It’s both: It’s the story of a young teen who gets arrested for a murder he didn’t commit, but it’s also the story of his mother, who tackles the justice system, the law, and everything she never thought she’d have to deal with on behalf of her son.

Finally, Skink No Surrender by Carl Haassen is a great way to introduce your teen to the humor of this adult author. What’s not to like, hmm?

And there you are: 15 books you just can’t miss. The best of the year. Happy reading!
— Terri Schlichenmeyer

KID-LIT

For the littlest kid, Don’t Push the Button by Bill Cotter is a near-guaranteed gigglegasm. Read the book with your favorite 3-to-6-year-old.

The post-apocalyptic H2O by Virginia Bergin struck me as unusual. The premise is that planetary dust has caused contaminated rain. Anybody who gets wet dies, including the heroine’s parents, sibling, friends and everyone she loves. Or maybe not — there’s a wicked cliffhanger.

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Doughty and liked ‘em all.

lists against online lists of unclaimed bodies. I spend their time comparing missing persons Halber book is about how everyday people thing she never thought she’d have to deal with or maybe not — there’s a wicked cliffhanger.

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dren — is practically earth-shaking, especially when its portrayed with such clear-headed respect for the LGBT community.

8. Garfunkel & Oates (IFC). The most unexpected delight of the year for me was this single-camera, low-budget comedy about two novelty folk singers (Kate Micucci, Riki Lindhome) who intersperse their actual lives with musical numbers that reveal the awkwardness of life for women in their late 20s. It’s a funnier Girls, and you don’t have to look at Adam Driver. (Garfunkel & Oates would be on the list anyway, if only for the touching song about marriage equality, performed with puppets.)

7. Gotham (Fox). Every year, there’s a series that gets the hell promoted out of it in the summer and when it debuts doesn’t live up to the hype. Gotham is the exception — a show that sustains itself with increasingly intriguing glimpses of how a pubescent Bruce Wayne was transformed by the murder of his parents into Batman. Although it focuses on the upright destined-to-be-commissioner Jim Gordon (Ben McKenzie), it’s the villains who pull your focus: The Penguin (a creepily sociopathic Robin Lord Taylor) and Fish Mooney, played with brio by Jada Pinkett Smith.

6. Fargo (FX). Billy Bob Thornton’s return to TV was a far cry from his sitcom days: This sorta-remake, sorta-sequel to the Coen Brothers crime drama. But it was Texan Allison Tolman — in a breakout role as a pregnant sheriff who’s smarter than all the men around her — that wowed us in this tale of revenge and the depths a psychopath will go.

5. Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (HBO). After his successful subbing for Jon Stewart in the anchor desk of The Daily Show in 2013, wide-eyed Brit John Oliver got his own comedy-news show on the edgy network, and proved lightning can strike twice. Oliver’s deadpan delivery in interviews frames his outraged ranting in the “can you believe the shit going on in the world?” segments. You laugh … then you cry.

4. The Normal Heart (HBO). The second of three HBO shows that consecutively made the list, this screen adaptation of Larry Kramer’s searing stage play about the early days of the AIDS crisis and the activists who kept the faith was almost difficult to watch sometimes because the pain and desperation was fully palpable.

3. True Detective (HBO). While Fargo plumbed the banality of evil, True Detective was...
more of a philosophical cop drama, as two mismatched investigators — clear-eyed Woody Harrelson and Zen-like Matthew McConaughey — get brought back together to revisit a murder that seemed to have been solved 20 years ago. But was it?

2. The Roosevelts: An Intimate History (PBS). Ken Burns’ seven-part dissection of the lives and influences of three relatives — Theodore Roosevelt, his niece Eleanor and her husband (and cousin) Franklin — was something we don’t see much anymore on broadcast television: Appointment viewing. (The last time we felt this way was probably Burns’ The Civil War in 1990.) For one week, we couldn’t wait to spend the night glued to our sets watching this compelling portrait of America in microcosm.

1. Cosmos: A Space Time Odyssey (Fox). Fundamentalists’ heads almost exploded when the network owned by Rupert Murdoch aired this 13-part science series — an updating of the late physicist Carl Sagan’s seminal 1980 series — which, lo and behold, takes it as an article of faith that the universe is far more complex and wondrous than we can fully fathom. Focusing on thinkers as well as ideas, host Neil deGrasse Tyson escorted us from one side of the cosmos and back with stirring visuals and smart (but not jargon-y) explanations of life (and light) as we know it ... so far.
Skrillex headlines major EDM show, Lights All Night

Electronic Dance Music — EDM — is about the hottest thing going these days, and folks like Skrillex, pictured, and Armin van Buren are burning up the dancefloors with their tracks. Both will be headliners at Lights All Night, which brings more than four dozen musical artists to North Texas for an off-the-hook party that will make New Year’s Eve a few days later seem like an after-thought.


Friday 12.26

Honey Pot comes out of hibernation for Midwinter Dream

It’s still winter, but the bears are coming out anyway. It’s HoneyPot’s latest furrlicious party at the Dallas Eagle, Midwinter Dream. Featuring entertainment from DJ Perry and DJ Wooly B, pictured, this post-Christmas celebration welcome cubs, wolves, grizzlies ... and anyone who likes a little meat and fur on their men.

DEETS: Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave. 9 p.m.–2 a.m. $5 suggested donation at the door. Winter white clothing encouraged!

Tuesday 12.30

Quirky trio Blue Man Group returns to Winspear

They make music, but don’t deliver a concert. They perform wordlessly, but don’t dance. They are comics who don’t utter a word. And they are blue ... and not just because of Seasonal Affective Disorder. Personally, I’ve never exactly grooved to the appeal of the Blue Man Group, a weird, mixed-media display of whimsy and light and neon-colored flesh, but this enduring act (especially Vegas and NYC) has attracted audiences for decades. They settle in for a week-long stint back at the Winspear.


Once. The Tony Award winner for best musical, based on the film, follows the hesitant romance between an Irish busker and an immigrant girl. Winspear Opera House, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 28. ATTPAC.org.

细 arts


New Year’s EXPLODES at Club Dallas!

NEW YEAR’S EVE WITH DJ RYAN TIFFIN
Wednesday, Dec. 31 at 11p.m - Champagne toast at the STROKE of midnight

FRIDAY HAPPY HOUR
Every Friday, 4pm till 8pm - A different special each week

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS OUT
Friday, January 2nd at 11p.m till dawn

TUESDAY NIGHT SPECIAL
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Every Saturday, Afterhours at 2am

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Season’s greetings, beeyotches!

Hey all my ho-ho-hos, I hope you all had a great holiday. As this year comes to a close, let’s reflect on some of the things — good and bad — that 2014 brought us.

The winter Olympics in Sochi bored the hell out of thick girls a reason to shake it, shake it. People actually watched. “All About the Bass” gave the end of the path, while states.

Same-sex marriage became legal in a bunch more states.

It was not a great year to fly on Malaysia Airlines.

The Brady Bunch are still alive and annoying. I became scared, when I kiss him. I feel really bad — like I’m being unfaithful. I don’t want to hurt him.

The real you? Thanks, Grant Beckwith.

Dear Grant, That is a great question. Way back before my persona of Cassie Nova was born, I would go out to the shows and be that loud obnoxious little queer that sat up front. I would do anything to bring attention to myself. I remember going to see Valerie Lohr’s shows at the Wave when I was a teenager and getting on my own nerves. Thank God I found drag and it let me get the attention I so desperately wanted. Since the glorious birth of the Nova, James (my alter ego) doesn’t need much extra attention.

“...using my campus ministry to spread the news of Christ’s love."

Now on to yo’ problems.

Dearest Cassie, Many people make New Year’s resolutions every Dec. 31 and then are back to their old hijinks before they get their Christmas decorations put away. Are you for or against resolutions? Thanks, Bill.

Dear Bill, Most New Year’s resolutions are total bullshit unless you truly want to make a change in your life. Don’t set yourself up for failure. Set realistic goals for yourself and go for them when you are serious about doing it, not because a date on the calendar has pressured you to lie to yourself. “I resolve not to make resolutions, but to set goals.” Cassie.

Dear Cassie, How do you know when you’ve gone from boyfriend to friend? I have been dating a guy for several months. We have so much in common and I feel like he could be my best friend. At first I was sexually attracted to him but now I feel nothing when I kiss him. I feel really bad — like I’m being untrue. I don’t want to hurt him. How do I tell him that he’s great but just not for me? My biggest problem is that he moved here three years ago from New York, for me. He doesn’t have a lot of friends here, but I do. I feel like I would be an asshole if I broke up with him during the holidays but I don’t want to lie to him. Thanks, Sleepless in Seagoville.

Dear Sleepless, Time for some real talk. You are lying to him. Every second that he thinks your relationship is more than it is is a lie. This really is a tough situation. It’s easy for me to give advice, but I can’t imagine having to tell him your feelings have changed. But the longer you wait the more resentful you both will become. If the tables were turned, would you want to know? Would it matter if it was before or after the holidays? I say rip the Band-Aid off, quick. Good luck. My heart breaks for you both, Cassie.

Dear Cassie, Is it ever really possible to date a bartender or a dancer? They get paid to flirt. How can you make a move without feeling like you’re getting played? Brian.

Dear Brian, Have you ever tried actually asking that bartender or dancer on a date? What’s the worst that can happen — they say “no?” Bartenders and dancers (and drag queens!) are people, too. If you feel you make a real connection with someone, take a chance. There are way too many lonely people in this world. But be aware: If you feel like you are being played, you probably are. Good luck, Cassie.

Dearest Cassie,

How different is a drag queen’s personality and energy on stage versus in real life (on the streets, in restaurants, at the gym, grocery shopping, etc.)? Do you feel the constant need to entertain people in your free time? Is it exhausting having to keep up a certain persona because of your stage presence? Or does it all just come naturally 24/7 as opposed to something that is turned on when the curtain opens? Are you ever nervous about letting someone in to know the real you? Thanks, Grant Beckwith.

Dearest Grant, That is a great question. Way back before my persona of Cassie Nova was born, I would go out to the shows and be that loud obnoxious little queer that sat up front. I would do anything to bring attention to myself. I remember going to see Valerie Lohr’s shows at the Wave when I was a teenager and getting on my own nerves. Thank God I found drag and it let me get the attention I so desperately wanted. Since the glorious birth of the Nova, James (my alter ego) doesn’t need much extra attention.

“...using my campus ministry to spread the news of Christ’s love.”

Thanks to Cassie’s stage time, James can just chill. (my alter ego) doesn’t need much extra attention. Thanks to Cassie’s stage time, James can just chill. It really is exhausting to be around people that always expect you to be “on.” That’s why I am very selective of my true friends. They are OK with over-the-top Cassie or boring wallflower James. For the record, my “boring” is still pretty awesome. I hope that answers it! Cassie.

So, no resolutions here, but one prediction: I predict that 2015 will be a year to remember. Let’s all work to make it a great one.

Love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO Cassie Nova.

If you have a question and want to suggest for Ask a Drag Queen — or just have some juicy gossip to share — email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.
Making the SCENE the week of Dec. 26-Jan 1:

1851 Club: All Star Drag Shows at 10 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
Alexandre’s: Kristen Majors and Matt Barron at 10 p.m. on Friday. Londee at 10 p.m. on Saturday. So Strung Out at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
The Brick: LGBT Purple Carpet Formal Leadership & Achievement Ball on Saturday. Formal wear only. $20 admission. $45 VIP admission.
Changes: Wall of Food at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
Club Cherries: Vega St. James at 9 p.m. on Saturday.
Club Reflection: Texas Gay Rodeo Association cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday.
Dallas Eagle: Leather Perspectives by NLA: Dallas from 2-5 p.m on Saturday is free for NLA members and $5 for non-members. Blue Underwear New Year’s Eve Party includes cash prizes on Wednesday.
Rainbow Lounge: Sunday Funday Show hosted by Kiana Lee and Kennedy Davenport at 11 p.m. Strip contest hosted by Kiana Lee has a $100 cash prize at 11 p.m. on Tuesday. New Year’s Eve Latino drag show with MC Veronica Reyes. $150 cash prize.
S4: New Year’s Eve with DJs ATG and Snow White on Wednesday.
Sue Ellen’s: Carri Maki & The Conspirators on Friday. Marpela on Saturday. Emy Taylor at 3 p.m. and Tyta Taylor Band at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

To view more Scene photos, go to DallasVoice.com/category/photos. Scene Photographer: Kat Heygood.
Danny, Chris and John, bartenders at JR.’s Bar & Grill, head over to Sue Ellen’s.

Stephen at the Round-Up Saloon.

Start off New Year’s with a BANG!

SATURDAY, DEC. 27th
Mask & Glow Bracelet Party
Descend in to the Underground World of Anonymous Pleasure

SATURDAY, DEC. 31st
Out with the old and in with the new!!
Come celebrate the New Year
DJ Dark Angel
Champagne Toast at Midnight
Complimentary hors d’oeuvres while they last!
Ballon drop with Prizes

MONDAY
Half Price Rooms • 8am to 8pm

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Society for companion animals need volunteers, Please contact office@societyforcompanionanimals.org

Join us for Catholic Mass for the LGBT community First Sunday of each Month Dignity Dallas Mass held at CATHEDRAL OF HOPE Interfaith Peace Chapel, Lower Level dignitydallas@hotmail.com 972-729-9572 www.dignitydallas.net

Do you wanna ride? JOIN SPECTRUM MOTORCYCLE RIDING CLUB, the largest GLBT motorcycle group in the region. Please visit: spectrum-mrc.com to learn more.*

Pegasus Squares, an LGBT Square Dance Club, meets every Sunday from 2:30pm-4:30pm at the Resource Center. Beginner lessons start in October. Contact Rob Miller at 682-238-3442 for more information or visit pegasus-squares.com.
Across
1 Figure out in your head
5 Big Peter Benchley book
9 Hung loosely
15 Otello villain
16 Body of soldiers
17 Composer Debussy
18 With 22-Across, public display about a private part
20 Astronaut Buzz
21 Shakespearean forest
22 See 18-Across
24 Strides easily
26 Circumcision, for one
27 15-Across was passed over for him
30 Coin of the land of Omar Shariff, Jr.
33 Toothpaste box letters
34 Cry before 37-Across?
37 Finish oral pleasuring
39 Yevell, who wrote 40-, 56-Across
40 With 22-Across, public display about a private part
43 Dick Button’s milieu
44 Isle of exile in Brando’s Desire
46 Highest point
47 Evite narrator
48 Hoopla
51 Keeps a breast of infant care?
53 Spelling of TV
54 It can cut leaves of grass
56 See 40-Across
60 Board that inspired James Merrill
64 Peace offering
65 Writer of 18-, 22-Across
67 Art that’s usually hung well?
68 Bannon’s Odd ___ Out
69 Morales of Jericho
70 Some Stein pieces

Solution on page 22

54 It can cut leaves of grass
56 See 40-Across
60 Board that inspired James Merrill
64 Peace offering
65 Writer of 18-, 22-Across
67 Art that’s usually hung well?
68 Bannon’s Odd ___ Out
69 Morales of Jericho
70 Some Stein pieces

Down
1 Greek meat container, perhaps
2 Cowardly Lion portrayer
3 Like sharp cheese
4 Giovannì’s Room and others
5 Moonshine holder, for Gomer
6 Gay porn type
7 Tipplers
8 Gay-dog owner of South Park
9 Reagan Court appointee
10 Puts out
11 Inspector’s gizmos in a Rupert Everett flick
12 Wise guy
13 Nurse Jackie star Falco
14 Pride places
19 Rub some oil on
23 Set straight
25 Honeydew lover
27 Blanchett of Blue Jasmine
28 Brewmaster Coors
29 Rio step
30 Ready for surgery
31 Iliad narrator
32 Wealthy, to Mauresmo
35 System that can make it seem like more inches
36 A Beautiful Mind director’s TV role
38 Ball-bearing items
41 Actress Skye
42 Encourage
43 Willa Cather character
49 How to fondle?
50 Becomes erect
52 Gets more mileage out of
54 Horny guy?
55 Former NFL player Tuaolo
56 Shot a load
57 Med. care grps.
58 Stonewall Jackson et al.
59 Staying power, in Variety
61 Rick’s old flame
62 Tennis champ Billie ___ King
63 Dry as a bone
66 One limbs spread wide
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