Remy Ma
Grammy winner on tap for Dallas Southern Pride weekend
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  Grammy winner Remy Ma performs for Dallas Southern Pride’s pool party. Photo by Willie SanJuan
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What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP. You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected. If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.
- You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:
  - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:
  - Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- Also take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- Kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems, including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- All your health problems. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- All the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- If you take certain other medicines with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.
I’m courageous, not careless.

I know who I am. And I make choices that fit my life.

TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

Learn more at truvada.com
IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP” section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a severe but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feet dizzy or light-headed, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
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- Bone problems.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5.
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.
Complaint against Northaven UMC resolved
A complaint filed by a retired pastor against Northaven United Methodist Church and the Rev. Eric Folkerth has been resolved.

The Rev. Ben Marshall, who retired in 2000, officiated at the wedding of Northaven members Mike House and Cody McMahan at the church on April 22. The Rev. Fred Durham, also retired, filed the complaint against Marshall and Folkerth, senior pastor of the church, who did not participate in the wedding.

The Methodist Church still does not recognize same-sex weddings and does not allow them in their churches. Pastors are banned from performing weddings for same-sex couples and churches are prevented from hosting weddings.

Marshall and Folkerth issued a joint statement that they are “sorry for any harm … caused to those who disagree with [their] understanding of [their] pastoral calling and covenant,” according to United Methodist News. Contacted by phone, Folkerth declined to comment on the case but said he is glad it was resolved and apologized to anyone who felt harmed by the wedding.

Northaven UMC is a Black Tie Dinner beneficiary. LGBT members serve in Northaven leadership positions and form a large portion of the congregation.

The General Conference of the Methodist Church formed the Commission on a Way Forward to work through the impasse in the church on the issues of same-sex marriage and ordination of LGBT clergy. Currently, any member of the Methodist Church may file charges against a pastor for performing a same-sex wedding, even if that person is not related to that pastor’s church.

— David Taffet

4 arrested in connection with murder of Missouri transgender teen
Four people have been arrested and charged in connection with the brutal murder of a 17-year-old transgender girl earlier this month in Texas County.

Andrew Vrba, 18, has admitted to stabbing Steinfeld in the living room at the home of 24-year-old Briana Calderas. Calderas and Isis Schauer, 19, were there at the time of the murder, and they helped Vrba burn Steinfeld’s body, according to Vrba’s statements to police. Calderas then contacted James Grigsby, 25, and recruited him to help move and hide Steinfeld’s body, according to Grigsby’s statements to police.

Vrba reportedly told police that he initially tried to poison Steinfeld, but when she didn’t drink the poisoned liquid he gave her, he instead stabbed her repeatedly in her genital area and gouged out her eyes. Vrba told police he had bragged about the murder to friends, going into gory details of how he tortured and killed her.

Vrba, Calderas and Schauer have all been charged with first-degree murder, abandonment of a corpse and armed criminal action. Grigsby has been charged with abandonment of a corpse and tampering with physical evidence, both felonies. All four are being held without bond.

So far, neither the sheriff’s office officials nor prosecutors have said anything to indicate they are treating this as an anti-transgender hate crime.

— Tammye Nash

Vandals damage Legacy of Love monument — again
Someone has stolen the “L” out of the words “Oak Lawn” affixed in stainless steel letters to the base of the Legacy of Love monument at the Oak Lawn Triangle (at Cedar Springs Road and Oak Lawn Avenue), according to information posted by Oak Lawn Committee officials on the Legacy of Love monument Facebook Page on Tuesday, Sept. 26.

Oak Lawn Committee officials said it will cost about $3,000 to have a new “L” made and attached to the monument base. They also noted that a reward is being offered for information that leads to an arrest in connection with the vandalism and theft.

— Tammye Nash

Birmingham passes nondiscrimination ordinance
On the same day Republicans were deciding whether to impeach Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore or Trump-endorsed Luther Strange will be their nominee to replace Jeff Sessions in the U.S. Senate, the city of Birmingham passed a fully inclusive nondiscrimination ordinance by a vote of 7-0.

“Today is a monumental victory for everyone who lives and works in Birmingham who are now fully protected from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations,” Alex Smith, executive director of Equality Alabama, wrote in a press release on Sept. 26.

Birmingham may have looked to Mississippi, its progressive neighbor to the west, where Jackson passed a similar ordinance last year. In Alabama, both Huntsville and Mobile have human rights commissions, and Montevallo, a university town south of Birmingham, is poised to pass LGBT nondiscrimination protections.

— David Taffet

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— David Taffet
Squares
Pegasus
LGBT square dancing group
or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext.
Suite 101; FuseConnect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call
the Treymore Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave,
the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in
every Monday evening except the last of
Frontrunners meet for a walk or run on
Dallas email pegasussquares@gmail.com;
Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info,
2:30–4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist
meets every Sunday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Saturday at 9
1:30 a.m. every Friday and Saturday night
Spectrum at 8 p.m. in Hughes-Trigg
Student Center, 3140 Dyer St.

Archie David Jackson, aka Nikki Foster, died Thursday, Sept. 21, at the age of 47. He
was born Oct. 23, 1969, and would have been
48 in just a month.
Nikki Foster, known in the LGBT
community as “The 10 Dancing Toes,”
performed all over Dallas and the surrounding
cities. He was a former Miss Ebony Texas,
Miss Black Texas and Miss Box Office, and had
earned several other titles as well through the
years. Nikki loved dancing and performing.
He is survived by his loving mother, Gladys
Jackson; his brother, Carey Jackson; and his
play sister, Betty Neal.
Funeral services will be held Tuesday, Oct. 3,
at 11 a.m., at Cornerstone Baptist Church, 1819
MLK Blvd.

SPCA of Texas presents its black tie gala, Fur Ball 2017, Saturday. See listings for details.

OCTOBER
• Oct. 1: LifeWalk
Steps off at 1 p.m. from Oak Lawn Park. For information visit LifeWalk.org.
• Oct. 2: IGLTA
International Gay and Lesbian Travel
Association includes silent auction for travel packages from 5:30-7 p.m. at Round-Up Saloon,
3912 Cedar Springs Road.
• Oct. 5-8: Dallas Southern Pride
Dallas Southern Pride presents Black Pride Weekend, Black by Popular
Demand, which will include the State Fair Classic (Gambling vs. Prairie View
A&M), the Ball/House and Pageant
Communities Conference, and parties
across the Metroplex all weekend. Visit
DallasSouthernPride.com for information.
• Oct. 5: Classic Chassis Car Club
Monthly Tire Kick and Dinner. Love of old
cars required, not ownership, to attend
at 7 p.m. at Ojeda’s, 4617 Maple Ave.
• Oct. 6: Burgers + Burgundy
DIFFA/Dallas presents a culinary evening with silent auction and sneak peek at
House of DIFFA from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at
Eyeball at the Joule, 1601 Main St. $150.
DIFFA.org.
Meet Estella, a 4-year-old, gray American pit bull mix weighing 67 pounds who is a real star here at the SPCA of Texas. She was surrendered in March after her owner could no longer care for her. She walks well on a leash and loves going on walks. She loves all humans, including children and just wants to be loved. She gets pretty excited around cats, so she’d do best in a home without them. If you have any other dogs, please bring them to meet her so you can see if they get along. Estella has been spayed and microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. #147505

Estella is waiting for you at the SPCA of Texas’ Jan Rees-Jones Animal Care Center in Dallas, 2400 Lone Star Drive, near I-30 and Hampton Road. Hours are noon-6 p.m., Sun-Wed, and noon-7 p.m. Thurs-Saturday. Regular adoption fees are $25 for all pets, excluding livestock. Fee includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, a heartworm test for dogs six months and older and a FIV/FeLV test for cats 4 months and older, initial flea/tick preventative and heartworm preventative, a microchip, 30 days of PetHealth Insurance provided by PetPlan, a free 14-day wellness exam with VCA Animal Hospitals, a free year-long subscription to Activ4Pets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.

**pet of the week / ESTELLA**

Meet Estella, a 4-year-old, gray American pit bull mix weighing 67 pounds who is a real star here at the SPCA of Texas. She was surrendered in March after her owner could no longer care for her. She walks well on a leash and loves going on walks. She loves all humans, including children and just wants to be loved. She gets pretty excited around cats, so she’d do best in a home without them. If you have any other dogs, please bring them to meet her so you can see if they get along. Estella has been spayed and microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. #147505

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The strength of family

Father Larry Ebony founded House of Ebony nearly 39 years ago. Now House of Ebony — and the whole ballroom culture — is still going strong.

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com


Doors open at 4:30 p.m. and the ball runs from 6-11 p.m.

It was 1990 when Madonna set everybody voguing on the dance floor, and that Jenny Livingston released her documentary, Paris Is Burning, bringing New York’s ballroom culture into the spotlight and showing where Madonna found the idea for her hit.

But ballroom culture existed long before Madonna, long before Jenny Livingston, long before Paris burned. Many people will tell you it started sometime in the 1960s or ’70s. But others trace the roots of ballroom culture as far back as 1869 and the secret drag balls held at Harlem’s Hamilton Lodge.

The house balls were — and still are — parties, with competitions in various categories. Contestants “walk” in categories like “best dressed,” “butch queen realness,” “vogueing,” “European runway” and more.

By the 1980s, ballroom culture was a thriving underground scene for black and Latinx LGBT people in New York. And despite its underground status, it has helped build a foundation for LGBT/queer culture and, more importantly, has provided safe space and family for generations of LGBT people.

Larry Praylow, better known as Father Larry Ebony, knows well just how important ballroom culture and its houses are. He has been involved for more than 40 years, and it is still a central part of his life.

Father Larry, who lives in North Texas now, was born and reared in Brooklyn. It was there that he founded the House of Ebony in 1978.

“Coming out of Brooklyn back then, you couldn’t be gay and not get harassed. But I did ok, because I wasn’t flaming. You couldn’t just look at me and know I was gay,” Father Larry said this week, adding that he had both a boyfriend and a girlfriend at the time.

“Then one night, I met my brother’s friend, Richard Sears, and he took me to my first ball,” he continued. “I won best dressed man and realness that night. I always used to win both those categories when I walked.”

Larry eventually joined with Sears as founding father and founding mother of The House of Ebony, “and now, it is one of the biggest houses out there,” he said.

“We have members all over the country. We’re international now, with people in London, Paris, Russia — all over.

“At one time, we had almost 2,000 members. And seven different houses have been born out of the House of Ebony — House of the Prodigies, House of Chanel, House of Overness,” he said.

“In those early days, often, we only had each other. Most of us back then couldn’t go home and say, ‘Mama, I’m gay.’ You’d get kicked out, sometimes even attacked,” Father Larry recalled. “But you always had your ballroom family, your house. I started House of Ebony because I wanted a family that would never leave me, and that’s what I got. In a lot of ways, my House of Ebony family is closer to me than my [birth] family.”

But Father Larry was more fortunate than many. He explained that he was raised in a three-story brownstone in Brooklyn, and eventually, he said, his mother handed the brownstone over to him and his Ebony family.

“My own mother moved into a retirement home so that she could give me the brownstone, so that we could keep our Ebony family together,” he said.

“There were times that we had 40, 50 kids all living there at the same time. We called it Camp David.

“I’ve lost about 200 of my kids to HIV over the years. It’s been hard sometimes. But when you don’t have anyone else, you always can turn to your ballroom family.”

Ballroom culture has changed and evolved over the years. While it remains, in essence, an “underground” scene, it has gained more mainstream popularity — thanks to Livingston’s documentary, Madonna’s song and video, and patronage by celebrities ranging from Tyler Banks to Li’l Kim, from Mariah Carey to Jennifer Lopez, Father Larry said.

“You have a lot of people these days converting over from the pageants to ballroom, and the younger ones, they’re bringing in the kiki scene now, and that’s more like it was when we first started ballroom,” he continued. “Over the years, you couldn’t just walk down the street in your affect. You had to wait for you to get to the ball to change, to transform for the night. But once you were there, you could be whoever you wanted to be for that night. You knew that when you had to leave the ballroom, you had to change back. But while you were there, you could be whatever you wanted.

Father Larry, who is a chef by trade, came to North Texas when his only remaining birth sister, a pastor, asked him to. “She lived here, and she told me, ‘Come here to Dallas. You’re all the family I have left, and I want you here.’ So I moved here.

“I was still coming from the street back then, and I was a single father. I have a [biological] son that I raised on my own. And moving [to North Texas] gave me some better opportunities. Now, I own a trucking company that’s 11 years old, and we are doing fine down here.”

The House of Ebony is doing fine back in New York again, too: “I just held my 38th anniversary ball in Gramercy Park in New York in February,” Father Larry said. “And it was huge! They had to shut down Gramercy Park because there were so many people standing in line outside just to get in!”

Even though the ballroom scene has grown and changed, Father Larry said, it hasn’t gone away. And it won’t be any time soon. “We’re still here, and we’re stronger than ever!” he declared. “And me, I am the father of all fathers. I am everybody’s father!”
Your confidence shines through.
But smoking cigarettes can dull
your look by staining your teeth and
cauing early wrinkles. Show off your
shine by living free from tobacco.
Wednesday, Oct. 4
• Pre-Pride Party at Marty’s Live
  4207 Maple Ave.
  10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 5
• Opening Reception
  Tekilas
  10945 Composite Drive
  7:30-9:30 p.m.
  Free food and drinks while supplies last

• Mr. and Miss Dallas Southern Pride
  All-Star Review Show
  Tekilas
  10945 Composite Drive
  9-11:30 p.m.
  (In the past, Dallas Southern Pride has included
  a Mr./Miss Southern Pride pageant. But this year,
  in light of the recent arson at Abounding Prosper-
  ity, the devastation caused by Hurricanes Harvey,
  Irma and Maria, and in memory of the 21 trans
  people who have been murdered this year, the
  pageant is being replaced with a special show
  featuring favorite entertainers to commemorate
  things and people lost in 2017 and show gratitude
  for what we still have. Proceeds will benefit the
  AP Inc. Fire Relief Fund and those affected by the
  hurricanes.)

Friday, Oct. 6
• State Fair Classic & Black Pride Pre-Party
  Marty’s Live
  4207 Maple Ave.
  10 p.m.-2 a.m.

• AfterHours Sun Rise Party
  Club Babylon
  11311 Harry Hines Blvd.
  11 p.m.-4 a.m.

Saturday, Oct. 7
• Dallas Southern Pride Pool Party
  featuring Grammy Award winner Remy Ma
  and Fly Young Red
  Cedar Canyon Dude Ranch
  4523 N. Houston School Road, Lancaster
  4-10 p.m.

• Octane Pride Mega Party
  Presented by Street Dallas —
  Shoncy Raspberry
  Southside Music Hall
  1135 S. Lamar St.
  10 p.m.-3 a.m.

Sunday, Oct. 8
• Pioneer Father Larry Ebony Presents
  24K Gold IV: The Green Edition
  Cedar Canyon Dude Ranch
  4523 N. Houston School Road, Lancaster
  6-11 p.m.

• UBE and DSP Presents
  The Black Pride Unity BBQ
  Tenison Park
  6600 E. Grand Ave.
  2-7 p.m.
  Free food and music

• Sunday Night Lights -
  Pride Edition Tekilas
  10945 Composite Drive 10 p.m.-4 a.m.

With up to 5,000 people expected to converge
on Dallas over the next week for the city’s annual
Black Pride celebration, one of the highlights
of the week will be the Ball/House and Pageant
Communities Conference on Leadership and
Health Disparities taking place next Friday, Oct. 6,
at Marriott Suites Market Center, 2493 N. Stem-
mons Freeway, host hotel for Dallas Southern
Pride, which hosts Dallas Black Pride in conjunc-
tion with Abounding Prosperity Inc.

The B/HAP Conference targets African-America
n and Latino men who have sex with men as
well as male-to-female transgender individuals
who are all either members, fans, supporters,
allies and/or spectators of ball/house and pageant
communities, and organizers have invited mem-
bers, patrons, spectators and allies, along with
researchers, sexual health educators, prevention
specialists, medical professionals, governmental
health officers, policy makers and elected officials
to attend.

Throughout the weekend, Abounding Prosper-
ity will provide free and confidential HIV, syphilis,
and HCV screenings to all attendees. Additionally,
resources and educational materials will be avail-
able to all attendees at the host hotel and events
throughout the weekend to facilitate awareness
of risk and resources for linkage/re-linkage to
medical care.
After three disastrous hurricanes in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico and three massive earthquakes in Mexico, Prism Health Chief Development Officer Tori Hobbs said she understands fundraising fatigue. But she hopes the community will still come out strong for this weekend’s LifeWalk.

And she doesn’t mean she hopes people contribute to LifeWalk instead of to fund-raising efforts for people impacted by the natural disasters. She means because of those efforts.

More evacuees from across the hurricane zone in Texas found shelter in Dallas than anywhere else. And evacuees with HIV that needed their medications or had special health concerns related to their HIV turned to Prism Health, formerly known as AIDS Arms, for help.

Prism Health, which stages LifeWalk, was able to see evacuee patients within a day of their initial calls. Hobbs said LifeWalk funds were instrumental in being able to care for the evacuees. And a Prism Health doctor was stationed at the Dallas Convention Center caring for their needs.

Much of Prism Health’s funding comes from grants, and grant money is restricted to very specific uses. But, Hobbs said, “LifeWalk money is very important to us [because it provides] our only unrestricted funds.”

She said that in addition to making it possible to serve people sheltering in Dallas during and after the recent storms, LifeWalk funds are vital throughout the year. One grant Prism Health received is specifically for working with homeless people who are HIV-positive, and it funds their medical examination and medication.

But, she added, “we couldn’t work with them until their housing was stabilized. LifeWalk provides funds for emergency housing.”

Getting them housed immediately through the short-term emergency housing gives clients stability while Prism Health works to hook them up with AIDS Service of Dallas or another agency that will take care of long-term housing needs.

Some new clients come to the agency hungry. Hobbs said they can’t fill out their paperwork until they have something to eat. So Prism gives them a bag of food to provide for the immediate need, paid for with LifeWalk funding. Then the client can register, and the caseworker can hook the client up with needed services like Resource Center’s food pantry.

Prism Health isn’t the only agency that benefits from LifeWalk. Ten other agencies partner in the walk.

Tre Truong is director of marketing for the Turtle Creek Chorale, one of the LifeWalk partners. He said money raised at LifeWalk benefits Turtle Cares, which helps members who need assistance, and to the chorale’s educational programs.

UT Southwestern Community Prevention and Intervention Unit is another LifeWalk partner that uses funds to run its mobile HIV testing unit.

Dogs Matter is the only organization of its kind in the country, so Knight has been talking to people in other cities about the idea and said he expects Dogs Matter to open branches in Austin and Palm Springs soon.

To become a foster owner or to seek a home for a dog while in rehab, visit DogsMatter2.org, call 214-714-8460 or stop by the Dogs Matter booth at Oak Lawn Park during LifeWalk.

LifeWalk helps fill in needs for a variety of agencies that help people with HIV

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com
TRIUMEQ is a once-a-day pill used to treat HIV-1. In some people, TRIUMEQ should not be used by itself. Take TRIUMEQ exactly as your healthcare provider tells you.

APPROVED USES
TRIUMEQ is a prescription HIV-1 (Human Immunodeficiency Virus-type 1) medicine used alone or with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS. TRIUMEQ is not for use by itself in people who have or have had resistance to abacavir, dolutegravir, or lamivudine. TRIUMEQ should not be used in children under the age of 18.

TRIUMEQ does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION
What is the most important information I should know about TRIUMEQ?

TRIUMEQ can cause serious side effects, including:

- Serious allergic reactions (hypersensitivity reaction) that can cause death have happened with TRIUMEQ and other abacavir-containing products. Your risk of this allergic reaction to abacavir is much higher if you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701. Your healthcare provider can determine with a blood test if you have this gene variation. If you get symptoms from 2 or more of the following groups while taking TRIUMEQ, call your healthcare provider right away: 1. fever; 2. rash; 3. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain; 4. generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness; 5. shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat. Your pharmacist will give you a Warning Card with a list of these symptoms. Carry this Warning Card with you at all times.

If you stop taking TRIUMEQ because of an allergic reaction, never take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir- or dolutegravir-containing medicines again. If you have an allergic reaction, dispose of any unused TRIUMEQ. Ask your pharmacist how to properly dispose of medicines. If you take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you had an allergic reaction, within hours you may get life-threatening symptoms that may include very low blood pressure or death. If you stop TRIUMEQ for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not taking abacavir or dolutegravir, tell your healthcare provider before taking it again. Taking TRIUMEQ again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before. If your healthcare provider tells you that you can take TRIUMEQ again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a healthcare provider if you need one.

- A buildup of acid in your blood (lactic acidosis). Lactic acidosis can happen in people who take TRIUMEQ. This serious medical emergency can cause death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you feel very weak or tired; have unusual muscle pain; have trouble breathing; have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy/light-headed; or have a fast/irregular heartbeat.

- Serious liver problems can happen in people who take TRIUMEQ. In some cases, these serious liver problems can lead to death. You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analogue medicines for a long time. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms:
  - yellow skin, or the white part of the eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark urine, light-colored stools; loss of appetite for several days or longer; nausea; pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area
  - Worsening of hepatitis B virus in people who have HIV-1 infection. If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B virus (HBV), your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking TRIUMEQ. A “flare-up” is when your HBV suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Worsening liver disease can be serious and may lead to death. Do not stop taking TRIUMEQ without first talking to your healthcare provider, so he or she can monitor your health.
  - Resistant hepatitis B virus. If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B, the hepatitis B virus can change (mutate) during your treatment with TRIUMEQ and become harder to treat (resistant).

- Use with interferon and ribavirin-based regimens. If you’re taking TRIUMEQ and interferon, with or without ribavirin, tell your healthcare provider about any new symptoms. Worsening of liver disease that has caused death has happened in people infected with both HIV-1 and hepatitis C who were taking antiretroviral medicines and interferon.

Who should not take TRIUMEQ?

- Do not take TRIUMEQ if you:
  - have the HLA-B*5701 gene variation
  - are allergic to abacavir, dolutegravir, or any of the ingredients in TRIUMEQ
  - take dofetilide (Tikosyn®)
  - have liver or kidney problems

What are other possible side effects of TRIUMEQ?

- People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with TRIUMEQ. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your liver function before and during treatment with TRIUMEQ.

- When you start taking HIV-1 medicines, your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after you start taking TRIUMEQ.

- Changes in body fat distribution can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicines.

- Some HIV-1 medicines, including TRIUMEQ, may increase your risk of heart attack.

The most common side effects of TRIUMEQ include: trouble sleeping, headache, tiredness

These are not all the possible side effects of TRIUMEQ. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRIUMEQ?

- Before you take TRIUMEQ, tell your healthcare provider if you:
  - have been tested and know whether or not you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701
  - have or had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection; have kidney problems; have heart problems, smoke, or have diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes; drink alcohol or take medicines that contain alcohol
  - are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRIUMEQ will harm your unborn baby
  - are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take TRIUMEQ

- You should not take TRIUMEQ if you also take:
  - abacavir (EPZICOM®, TRIZIVIR®, or ZIAGEN®)
  - lamivudine (COMBIVIR®, Diateb®SM, EPIVIR®, EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM®, or TRIZIVIR®)
  - emtricitabine (Emtriva®, Atripla®, Complera®, Striabo®, or Truvada®)

Important Safety Information continued on next page
"We’re MOVING FORWARD with TRIUMEQ."

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines (for example, antacids or laxatives; vitamins such as iron or calcium supplements; anti-seizure medicines; other medicines to treat HIV-1, hepatitis, or tuberculosis; metformin; or methadone), vitamins, and herbal supplements (for example, St. John’s wort). Some medicines interact with TRIUMEQ. Keep a list of your medicines to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRIUMEQ on the following pages.
IMPORTANT FACTS
This is only a brief summary of important information about TRIUMEQ and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRIUMEQ
TRIUMEQ® may cause serious side effects, including:

• Serious allergic reactions (hypersensitivity reaction) that can cause death have happened with TRIUMEQ and other abacavir-containing products. Your risk of this allergic reaction to abacavir is much higher if you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701. Your healthcare provider can determine with a blood test if you have this gene variation. If you get symptoms from 2 or more of the following groups while taking TRIUMEQ, call your healthcare provider right away: 1. fever; 2. rash; 3. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain; 4. generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness; 5. shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat. A list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. Carry this Warning Card with you at all times.

• If you stop taking TRIUMEQ because of an allergic reaction, never take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir- or dolutegravir-containing medicines again. If you have an allergic reaction, dispose of any unused TRIUMEQ. Ask your pharmacist how to properly dispose of medicines. If you take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, within hours you may get life-threatening symptoms that may include very low blood pressure or death. If you stop TRIUMEQ for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to TRIUMEQ, talk with your healthcare provider before taking it again. Taking TRIUMEQ again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before. If your healthcare provider tells you that you can take TRIUMEQ again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a healthcare provider if you need one.

• Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.

• Serious liver problems, which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking nucleoside analogs for a long time.

• Worsening of Hepatitis B (HBV) infection. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRIUMEQ. Do not stop taking TRIUMEQ without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

• Resistant HBV. If you have HIV-1 and HBV, the HBV can change (mutate) while you’re on TRIUMEQ and become harder to treat (resistant).

• Use with interferon and ribavirin-based regimens. Worsening of liver disease that has caused death has happened in people infected with both HIV-1 and hepatitis C virus who are taking antiretroviral medicines and are also being treated for hepatitis C with interferon with or without ribavirin. If you are taking TRIUMEQ and interferon with or without ribavirin, tell your HCP if you have any new symptoms.

BEFORE TAKING TRIUMEQ
Tell your healthcare provider if you:
• have been tested and know if you have a particular gene variation called HLA-B*5701.
• have or had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection.
• have heart problems, smoke, or have diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes.
• drink alcohol or take medicines that contain alcohol.
• are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRIUMEQ will harm your unborn baby.
• are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:
• Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRIUMEQ. Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.

MEDICINES THAT MIGHT INTERACT WITH TRIUMEQ
• antacids, laxatives, or other medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium, sucralfate (Carafate®), or buffered medicines. TRIUMEQ should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
• iron or calcium supplements taken by mouth may be taken at the same time with TRIUMEQ if taken with food. Otherwise, TRIUMEQ should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
• anti-seizure medicines: oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®), Dilantin®-125, Phenytek®, phenobarbital, carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Equetro®), Tegretol®, Tegretol®-XR, Teril®, Epitol®).
• any other medicine to treat HIV-1, medicines used to treat hepatitis virus infections (such as interferon or ribavirin), a medicine that contains metformin, methadone, ritampin (Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®), St. John’s wort (Hypericum perforatum).

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRIUMEQ
TRIUMEQ can cause serious side effects including:
• See “What is the most important information about TRIUMEQ?” section
• Changes in liver tests
• Changes in your immune system
• Changes in body fat distribution
• Some HIV-1 medicines including TRIUMEQ may increase your risk of heart attack.

The most common side effects of TRIUMEQ are: trouble sleeping, headache, and tiredness. These are not all the possible side effects of TRIUMEQ. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRIUMEQ.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRIUMEQ.
You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

ABOUT TRIUMEQ
• TRIUMEQ is a prescription HIV-1 medicine used alone or with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults. TRIUMEQ is not for use by itself in people who have or have had resistance to abacavir, dolutegravir, or lamivudine. TRIUMEQ should not be used in children under the age of 18.
• TRIUMEQ does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

DO NOT TAKE TRIUMEQ IF YOU
• have a certain type of gene variation called the HLA-B*5701 allele. Your HCP will test you for this before prescribing treatment with TRIUMEQ,
• are allergic to abacavir, dolutegravir, or any of the ingredients in TRIUMEQ. See the full Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in TRIUMEQ.
• take defibrotide (Tikosyn®). Taking TRIUMEQ and defibrotide (Tikosyn) can cause side effects that may be life-threatening.
• have liver or kidney problems.
• If you also take: abacavir (EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or ZIAGEN); lamivudine (COMBIVIR®, Dureb®), EPIVIR®, EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM, or TRIZIVIR); emtricitabine (Atripla®, Complera®, Emtriva®, Striivil®, or Truvada®).

GET MORE INFORMATION
• Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
• Go to TRIUMEQ.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved product labeling.

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dallasvoice.com
Christy Kinsler, a co-founder and the first president of Stonewall Democrats of Dallas, has died. She founded Stonewall in 1997 with a small group that had been active in the Lesbian/Gay Political Coalition.

Although most early Stonewall members were already active in politics, Kinsler told Dallas Voice at the time the structure of an organized group was needed.

Stonewall chapters began forming around the country during and after the 1996 presidential election, when President Bill Clinton signed the Defense of Marriage Act and used his signature as a campaign issue to neutralize opponent Bob Dole, who was a sponsor of the bill in the U.S. Senate.

By 1999, when the 2000 presidential campaign was underway, both Bill Bradley and Al Gore, who were campaigning for the Democratic nomination for president were courting the LGBT vote.

“We’ve hit the big time,” Kinsler told then-Dallas Voice editor Dennis Vercher. “We’ve been included in the Democratic Party for some time, but now we’re a big draw for the presidential candidates.”

Kinsler was not one to mince words and spoke strongly for LGBT causes. In 1999, speaking of Rep. Pete Sessions, she said, “He’s a yes-man for the religious right. He votes against anything involving gay issues, and he does so gleefully.”

Before Stonewall’s founding, Kinsler was co-chair, with Steve Atkinson, of the LGPC, created to fill the gap in political activism when the Dallas Gay Alliance switched its focus to the burgeoning AIDS epidemic.

When Dallas Gay Alliance was founded, it was mostly a political organization. But in the early 1980s, the AIDS crisis hit. DGA created the Foundation for Human Understanding, which included a food pantry that started at Crossroads Market and the AIDS Resource Center, which provided information to the community.

“LGPC broke off to focus on political mat-
Garcia said he’d accompany Kinsler and other Stonewall founders to Dallas Democratic Party headquarters near Fair Park where they’d work stuffing envelopes, entering data and making signs while Kinsler and others would share stories about the modern gay rights movement.

Kinsler worked for the phone company and was an active member of the Communications Workers of America, which is where she gained organizing skills.

“She was a dedicated labor activist who proved her worth along the picket lines and advocacy for workers’ rights,” Garcia said. “Union workers who trusted Christy became LGBT allies and supported our equality. She taught me about intersectionality, which I then used to help build bridges between the LGBT and Latino communities.”

He said he learned local LGBT history that has never appeared in textbooks from Kinsler.

He said he learned “how women in the LGBT community, who were ostracized from gay bars, didn’t abandon gay men during the height of the AIDS crisis. Lesbians stepped in and became caregivers to many who were dying alone. She lost her own brother to the disease.”

Kinsler’s brother, John Michael Kinsler, died in 1996 after a 10-year battle with AIDS. After caring for him through his final illness, Christy Kinsler joined the Resource Center board and the board of the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, now known as Equality Texas.

Dianne Hardy Garcia, who was executive director at LGRL when Kinsler was on the board, said, “Christy was such a tremendous asset to the LGRL board of directors. She was passionate about HIV issues, ending LGBTQ discrimination and fighting for equality for all. She had great insights into how to work with public officials on a personal level.”

“The thing I enjoyed most about Christy was her positive presence,” Hardy Garcia continued. “She was always optimistic about the possibility of making change for the better, and she did that during times where it could be tough to be so hopeful. She was always willing to lend a hand whenever she could, and she was quick to laugh at the many absurdities we faced while working in the Texas Lege. Needless to say, we laughed a lot. And Christy had the best laugh.”

Hardy Garcia said she will be “forever grateful for the tremendous contributions” Kinsler made to the LGBT community, adding, “She made Dallas, and Texas, a better place.”

“The local LGBT, Democratic and Labor movements lost a pioneer and champion today,” said Dallas City Councilman Omar Narvaez, who served as president of Stonewall for several years. “She was known to many as Mama Stonewall. I was lucky to be able to seek advice from her, to call her up anytime to chat and had the honor to be a small part of the legacy she did not know she was creating.”

Before Stonewall existed, Kinsler understood the LGBT community would have more power working from within the Democratic Party. She saw that influence the first year after the organization formed as political candidates came to her group’s meetings looking for support.

When she told Dallas Voice in 1998 that the group’s membership stood at 50 and “we’re looking to increase that, but we’re not into big numbers. That’s not a big deal,” she couldn’t have imagined that within a few years, Stonewall Dallas would grow to become the largest Democratic club in Texas.

For her dedicated work throughout the 1990s, she was rewarded by being named grand marshal of the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade in 2000.

A funeral service was held at Holy Trinity Catholic Church on Oak Lawn Avenue on Thursday, Sept. 28.
How far we’ve come; how far left to go

I first learned about racial discrimination in 1955, when I was about 6 years old and living in my hometown of Childress, Texas. One of my older brothers’ wives worked as a waitress at the bus station soda fountain. My father took me there to get a coke one Saturday morning, and I saw signs in the back of the room designating white and colored restrooms.

It piqued my interest.

My father, who was born in 1896, explained to me that white people kept their distance from colored people. I struggled to understand the term “colored,” because it reminded me of my crayons. Were colored people red, green, blue or just what?

It disappointed me later to see dark brown skin rather than something more brilliant, like orange.

I didn’t see any colored people that morning in the bus station, and it would be a while before I actually did encounter any, because Childress’ tiny African-American community lived in a hidden, run-down corner of the town. They didn’t go to cafes, grocery stores, churches, the movie theater or the city park where white people congregated.

Instead, I began finding them working in the kitchens of those cafes, in homes, at the laundry and on farms — anywhere that white people wanted cheap labor.

Childress, a town of about 5,000, had a predominantly white population. African-American children went to a separate school, situated over in their corner of the town. A handful of Hispanic children attended the white schools, but I never knew where they lived.

I don’t recall any hatred expressed in our house, but I understood there wouldn’t be any people of varied colors coming to visit — except for Bible, the older man my father hired to till the garden in the spring. Any help inside the house would be white, according to my mother’s wishes.

Everyone seemed content enough on the surface — but it was a calm that I now believe hid fear, resentment and distrust. We visited relatives in Wichita Falls, Dallas and Fort Worth, but except for being much larger than Childress, those communities seemed just as segregated to me back then.

Looking back on this time in the mid-to-late 1950s, I realize my incredible naivete. This was after all the eve of a revolution. The changes that would occur in just a few years would be astonishing. The LGBT rights movement would unfold as well.

In 1960, when I was about 11, my father, mother and I moved to Wichita Falls so my father could help with one of the family businesses. I quickly experienced culture shock, because I went to school at Sheppard Air Force Base Elementary School since our new house was on the outskirts of town, near the military base.

Suddenly, I had classmates of every description, because segregation ended in the U.S. Armed Forces long before it did in the nation at large, especially in the South. The businesses and neighborhoods around the military base reflected the military’s diversity. I embraced what I learned from my teachers and classmates.

I’m sure my growing awareness that I was “different” from most boys my age made me more accepting of other students who looked and acted differently from me. I hadn’t yet discovered the term “homosexual” in the dictionary, but I knew I had more in common with ethnic and religious minorities than I did the average white student.

A Jewish boy became my best friend in the sixth grade. (I ran into him and his wife many years later when I was a college student, and he was an airman in Wichita Falls where his father had served.)

By the time I entered high school, integration had occurred. Businesses had adopted equal opportunity policies. The Civil Rights Movement, which would grow to include the LGBT Rights Movement, was in full swing and nothing would ever be the same again.

Even Childress, along with every other small town in Texas and the rest of the South, underwent enormous demographic change: African-Americans and other minorities lived in all areas of the town. Today, there are even LGBT people living openly in the small town at the base of the Panhandle.

American society has come a long way in the past half-century. Progress is still too slow in the minds of some, but considering where we were and where we are now, there is lot to be appreciated.

In the LGBT community, as progressive as we think we are, we need to bridge divides. People of color and whites often do not embrace each other as fully as they should.

I’m not sure if I had remained in my hometown through my school years if I would hold different views than I do now, but I hope not. I still find myself struggling with some issues, such as my Southern heritage. But I know unity and acceptance are critical to our healing the divisiveness plaguing our nation still.

Let’s unite. Skin color is just skin deep. We are all the same inside.

David Webb is a veteran journalist with more than four decades of experience, including a stint as a staff reporter for Dallas Voice. In 2016, he received the Press Club of Dallas’ Legends Award, bestowed in large part for his work with Dallas Voice. He now lives on Cedar Creek Lake and writes for publications nationwide.

The father-daughter dance

My daughter, Chrissy was married Saturday, Sept. 23, to her long-time boyfriend, Ryan. It was a beautiful ceremony, as was the venue and every aspect of the event.

It was just perfect.

That’s not to say it was easy. See, I’m Chris sy’s dad, and I’m transgender.

Unless you live as or with a transgender person, it’s unlikely you have any kind of appreciation for just how gendered our world is. It’s everywhere — from ordering fried chicken and hearing the drive-through clerk say “Thank you ma’am; please pull forward to the 2nd window,” to phone conversations. It’s everywhere.

And weddings are loaded with traditions — especially ones between a man and a woman.

The issue of who would walk my daughter down the aisle was settled a long time ago during a conversation I had with Chrissy about a wedding she attended with Ryan. She told me she had fun — until the “father/
Breaking down barriers to bonding

As one of its “services,” Facebook regurgitates people’s posts as memories of previous years from time to time. In my case, it’s usually the most banal of information. Last week, though, Facebook Memories brought back around an article I found of interest on male bonding, so I reposted it.

It included a large collection of pictures depicting male friendships during the 1800s. Similar photos have been included in books written about homosexual relationships from this period. But I think, in an effort to find queer history, today’s writers might be making a bit of a stretch by including these images.

It is crucial to understand that these photos cannot always be viewed through the prism of modern-day culture. Of course, there were male couples engaging in sexual intimacy. That cannot be argued. Yet, a far greater number of men, free from the strict, present-day mentality of gay-vs-straight, engaged in behaviors and relations that were loving towards one another without really fitting the modern-day idea of “gay.”

At the time, Freud and his gang of psychological professionals had yet to begin their successful campaign to portray all male intimacy as a perversion. But once they did, religious leaders and politicians joined in the effort to annihilate any semblance of male bonding.

As a lingering result of this assault, American culture today is phobic in preventing any genuine expression of affection among men. This past Labor Day I accepted an invitation to an all-male pool party. It’s been a few years since I’ve attended such an event, but nothing’s changed. Gay men act the same as always.

It was early in the day, so the alcohol had not yet worked its magic on releasing inhibitions, and the men seemed incapable of demonstrating any degree of social interaction. Regardless of age or social bearing, they remained in their small cliques, seemingly poised to involuntarily bolt when approached by a stranger.

Men who in other venues reign supreme in the art of superficial conversation seemed autistic in a room of their peers.

Why are we so unable to let our guard down around one another? It seems there is something so broken within us, something that is somehow perpetuated throughout every generation of gay men.

We seem to get around this when we come together for fellowship, be it social or religious. Some shared common interest acts as a buffer somehow.

I don’t see lesbians or straight people being so on guard with each other, and it sometimes seems like it actually takes them being in the room with us for us, as gay men, to let down our armor. That’s somewhat pitiable.

Competiveness? Fear of rejection? Our male posturing? Perhaps some of all of these elements are at play. But this inability to engage in a group setting is deeper than any of those things.

At the turn of the last century, a very large bull’s eye was placed on the male homosexual. We became the target for America’s hatred. It was real. It was deadly. Legislation was written to lock us up. Those in the medical field recommended we be locked up. And the churches wanted us locked out. Men showing any kind of affection to each other became socially forbidden.

This was a reflection of the strictness and lack of intimacy that this country embraced in the Victorian period. Women were also subjected to a strict code of conduct. Men were expected to not demonstrate any visible sign of emotion. It was so in tune with the Christian morals American churches professed.

That attitude prevails to this day. It seems every male born in this country learns to withhold all expression of emotion and continues to adhere to this madness. We are instructed on the proper methods for demonstrating our manliness.

And when we eventually grow into the gay men we become, we are stunted.

Being gay, you become focused on these requisites and your own failure meeting them. We have been bred to isolate ourselves from our own community.

Each of us develops the capacity to become intimate on some basic level with sexual partners and a varying cadre of other gay friends. And we’ve learned to navigate in the rest of the world as openly gay men. Yet, in a room surrounded by others like ourselves, we falter.

We falter for this very reason: We keep assessing our own selves throughout our lives. Confronted with our own tribe, we use them to assess our own worth. It’s always them measured against ourselves. Are they acting in the correct manner? Are their renditions of masculinity authentic enough? Am I better at this posturing than they are? Do they find my brand of gay man a turn-on?

Can they possibly improve any of this for me?

We never figured out how to turn off this constant self-editing. As for me, I have no advice other than getting to the point to just turn it off.

The catwalk stretches on for miles. We are capable of stopping along this treadway and just letting our guard down.

Engage in superficial chatter for a moment. It’s very much an adult behavior. We are all big boys now. Those broken young children, unable to figure out how to fit in, are only ghostly entities of our past. We can never fix them. They will remain broken.

Other gay men are not enemies. Other gay men are not at our disposal to help us assess our inventory. I think we are all weary of this. Let’s try to change.

Gary Bellomy is a longtime Dallas activist working on issues of LGBT equality, HIV/AIDS services and family violence prevention. He is a war resister and a Trump resister.

09.29.17  dallasvoice 21
There’s a scene near the end of 1970s-set Battle of the Sexes in which gay fashion designer Cuthbert Collingwood “Ted” Tinling tells closeted tennis champ Billie Jean King that the times will change and, eventually, queers shall live and love openly: after all, she is one of the people changing them.

How prescient Tinling was.

Directed by the wife and husband team of Valerie Faris and Jonathan Dayton (Little Miss Sunshine) and scripted by Simon Beaufoy (The Full Monty, Slumdog Millionaire), the new film Battle of the Sexes (now playing in North Texas; see review, Page 23) revisits the earth-moving 1973 tennis match between twenty-something King (Emma Stone) and fifty-something Bobby Riggs (Steve Carell), a former men’s champ turned showboating chauvinist and hustler. It takes place as the married and deeply closeted King experiences a first lesbian love with a Los Angeles hairdresser, Marilyn Barnett (Andrea Riseborough). The match would ultimately score a major point for gender equality in the sport, while King would go on to become an out icon.

“It’s a sports movie, but frankly what got us interested in this was to tell Billie Jean’s personal story,” says Dayton. “The thing people hadn’t heard before.” Indeed, the film tackles King’s profound realization that she is other than straight, her tortured and complicated love triangle with Marilyn and husband Larry King (Austin Stowell), the endless stinkeye she received from virulently homophobic Aussie tennis rival Margaret Court (Jessica McNamee) and King’s passionate efforts to bring gender equality to society and her sport. The film actually commences with a 1970 rift between the time’s dominant male-run U.S. Lawn Tennis Association, under which women received a mere fraction of the prize money male players did at tournaments. King subsequently formed the Virginia Slims Circuit with eight other women, later dubbed the “Original 9,” and World Tennis Magazine publisher Gladys Hellman (Sarah Silverman), which became the Women’s Tennis Association (WTA) Tour by 1973.

King was involved with the film’s creation from early on — an extensive session with Beaufoy during the scripting stage, reading subsequent drafts, viewing early cuts — and weighed in throughout. “She was very involved, and it was difficult for her, because this was a really hard time in her life, and she hasn’t really revisited it,” says Dayton. “She said she hadn’t seen the match in 25 years, and the relationship with Marilyn was fraught.” Indeed, the relationship with Barnett, who was known professionally as King’s “assistant,” has been characterized by many as toxic and completely deteriorated in the subsequent years. It served as catalyst for King coming out publicly in 1981, when Burnett filed a palimony suit that claimed she was owed a Malibu home and lifetime financial support. The resulting publicity saw King lose all endorsements overnight and incur devastating legal fees. King, still married to Larry at the time, characterized Barnett as mentally unstable — a paraplegic by this time, she reportedly attempted suicide by jumping off a building — and King ultimately won the case. Today, King now lives in the Malibu home she was awarded in the palimony suit and has been in a long-term relationship with Michelle Greenblatt. She maintains a website (LBJF.com) dedicated to promoting gender equality in sports.

The match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs (44 years ago this month) was about more than tennis — it was a fight for equality.

LAWRENCE FERBER | Contributing Writer
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The match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs (44 years ago this month) was about more than tennis — it was a fight for equality.
is happily partnered with Ilana Kloss, a fellow former tennis champ and current commissioner of co-ed tennis league, WTT.

Despite the unfortunate way things turned out for the relationship and Barnett, the filmmakers focused on the sunniness of their early days together, “because it was a key moment for Billie Jean, and we wanted to celebrate her finding her authentic self and not get locked up in what happens later,” says Dayton. “We’re really telling the story of this particular time in her life. And now that it’s finished and she can watch the movie with an audience, I think it’s been an incredibly positive thing for her.”

English actress Riseborough, who previously co-starred with Stone in 2014’s Birdman (her credits also include Tom Ford’s Nocturnal Animals and Madonna’s W.E.), admits she tried to focus on the Marilyn of...
Author explores the culture of gay gang members


Being a teen ain’t easy. Being a gay teen is even harder, Vanessa Panfil knew from her work at a Columbus, Ohio, LGBTQ center for young adults. That experience showed her realities beyond what she’d lived herself as a white woman, and it sparked an interest in gang membership within the community. She already knew a handful of gay gang members; after she gained their trust, those men introduced her to a web of people who opened their world to her.

Panfil identified three distinct kinds of gangs: all-gay gangs, of which there aren’t many; heterosexual gangs, in which coming out could be dangerous; and more tolerant, easy-going “hybrid” gangs in which the mix of gay and straight could be up to half of each.

Panfil points out that most of her interview subjects were careful to stress that they were very masculine. She also notes that, despite that more than two out of three gay men fought someone else over homophobic harassment, protection was not the main reason for joining a gang; the main reasons were for perceptions of “family,” or because of deep friendship. And while there was a certain amount of crime — mostly petty theft, drug dealing and sex, although fierce violence was not unknown — many gay gangs offered encouragement, a more democratic atmosphere, job-seeking help and educational support, thus acting more as “cliques” than gangs.

Panfil’s *The Gang’s All Queer* is a bit on the academic side, and probably not on anyone’s relax-in-a-hammock-and-read list. Having said that, it’s a very interesting take on a world that never makes the headlines.

Not only did Panfil have access to a group of men who were willing to tell all, she fully used that access to understand why a gay man would turn to a group that’s stereotypically anti-gay. This leads to a bigger picture and larger questions of violence and closeting, as well as problems with being black, gay and gangsta.

Readers — even those who might struggle with the college-thesis feel of this book — will ultimately come away with a better knowledge of a world they mightn’t have realized existed before. Certainly for scholars, but also for readers interested in LGBT cultures, *The Gang’s All Queer* is a pretty safe bet.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer
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A blast from the past or a rude awakening in Trumplandia?

Born out of the Summer of Love, great sex and really great drugs, the 1968 musical Hair redefined “radical influence” for a modern world. And recreating that feel is what Kevin Moriarty, who is directing the Dallas Theater Center’s current revival, is trying to do… but nearly 50 years later.

“Hair took a pretty radical vision for how musical theater could engage [its audience],” says Moriarty, artistic director at DTC. “It talked about politics, race, sexuality and gender at a time when much mainstream entertainment was still very cautious.”

In order to capture the revolutionary qualities of a show subtitled The American Tribal Love Rock Musical, Moriarty started by breaking the rules for how the audience would see the action. Couches, barber chairs, bleachers — none of the seats that clutter the stage of the Wyly Theatre are the same. But every vantage point affords each audience member a personalized and unique experience. He wants the show to feel less formal than sitting politely forward like church or court, and he created a theater-in-the-round to force audiences out of their comfort zones and to get them to engage in the show as an experience.

“Rather than building a set that people look at, we have built a set that takes up the entire room,” Moriarty says. “The audience is in the set — immersed in a happening in the Summer of Love.”

“It is not a linear storytelling piece — it’s really about a place, time and culture and the ideas they explore with a little more depth,” explains Joel Ferrell, producer of Hair and associate artistic director at DTC. “It’s about letting yourself experience it like you would experience an abstract painting or music or modern dance.”

Hair has been a lightning rod for controversy since its debut, from the pop-music score by composer Galt McDermott and librettists Jerome Ragni and James Rado. It portrays sex, drug use, defiance of authority and anti-war activism — things not uncommon nowadays even in mainstream theater, but shocking to Broadway audiences in 1968. And in addition to bringing up uncomfortable, abstract and even taboo topics, Hair further pushed cultural boundaries and exposed — literally — the raw beauty covered up by institutions’ rigid rules regarding race and self-expression. (Hint: The actors get naked.)

“Stranger things have happened in our theater,” Ferrell jokes. “Everything we construct about ourselves is simply just construction, we are all just somewhere in between birth and decay. When the tribe becomes nude, it is strikingly beautiful. We are so much more similar than we are different.”

Instead of leaving things unsaid, everything is put out on the table in this production, picked apart and redefined.

“This is very much meant to be seen as daring in the sense of removing man-made ridiculous barriers that separate human beings,” Ferrell says. “I don’t know if a year ago or a year from now if it would have such an impact [as it has now].”

The unique and rebellious production of Hair parallels what is seen today: sit-ins, protests and an overall lack of trust in who we look to for guidance. George Orwell’s 1984 meets 1967 in a way to define what our world is today.

“2017 is shocking similar to 1967,” Moriarty says. “America today has a crisis in our institutions; there are people across the political spectrum who don’t believe our government, don’t believe what the president says, don’t believe in religious leaders. When confronted with a loss of belief in the institutions, what are we going to do? Are we going to tear them down, or are we going to create a radically new society that does not rely on the institution? This is the exact question we faced in America in 1967.”

— Emma Bittner
Well, Albee

In the 20 years since Susan Sargeant founded WingSpan Theatre Co.—with its mission to tell stories by, for and about women—probably no playwright has been more represented than Edward Albee (at least seven since 2004). Albee passed away a year ago, and so for the company’s milestone anniversary season, Sargeant has pulled out another one by the most acclaimed playwright of the 20th century: Occupant.

Written in 2001 but not produced until 2008, it’s a conversation between The Man (played by David Benn) and the American sculptor Louise Nevelson (Constance Gold Parry). WingSpan opens its production on Oct. 5 at the Bath House, with Sargeant directing. We sat down with her and Benn to discuss Albee’s place in American letters, as well as the compelling tale of survival and artistic expression.

—Arnold Wayne Jones

Dallas Voice: What was your first exposure to Edward Albee? How has your opinion of him as a playwright evolved? Susan Sargeant: The first Albee play I ever saw was The Zoo Story. I was a young woman, and I was totally knocked out by it. I had never had an experience like that before in the theater. I could not stop thinking about the play for days. As a more mature person, I am still knocked out by Albee’s plays. I wanted to celebrate Albee’s legacy and I thought there was no better way than dedicating my 20th anniversary season to the grand provocateur. WingSpan has done a lot of work by Albee, as well as another gay scribe, Tennessee Williams. What attracts you to their work? SS: The playwrights that you mentioned—and I would add Samuel Beckett, who was a great influence on Albee—started as poets. Albee certainly embodies music of language, intelligence, wit and searing insights into the human condition. I find these elements irresistible.

DB: I, too, was captivated by The Zoo Story. At the time [in the 1960s and ’70s] I had no idea [Albee] was gay, or that I was, for that matter. But something about Albee really connected with me. Now that I know his story and have admired and studied him for decades, I realize how much we had in common. His experiences as a gay man and artist making his way in the world were, and are, inspiring to me. As I’ve gotten older, my appreciation of his genius has remained. My youthful enthusiasm for the bold, in-your-face modernity of his plays has matured into a greater appreciation of his insight into the human condition, which sounds perfectly trite. Sorry. He remained a brilliant wordsmith and provocative thinker and teacher.

WingSpan — one of Albee’s last plays — is about the life of his friend, the sculptor Louise Nevelson, known for her epic, monochromatic woodcarvings. What drew you to this piece? SS: I have known about the play for quite awhile, and I was fascinated by [Nevelson] and also the construct of the play: Nevelson and Albee were friends, and the play is really a salute from one artist to another. It also provides a tremendous tour-de-force role for a female actor. This play also spoke to me as an artist and most trusted•ed

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David Taffet is one of the most trusted names in LGBT media. He has written for Dallas Voice for 27 years. This year he was awarded the Houston Press Club’s Lone Star Award for Newspaper Journalist of the Year and Newspaper Feature Story of the Year.

He grew up in Yonkers, N.Y., graduated from SUNY Albany and moved to Dallas in 1979. He’s owned several businesses, including a travel agency. His extensive world travel led to his writing a travel column for Dallas Voice that continued for 10 years followed by freelance assignments and ultimately a staff position. Since 1990, he’s been a host of Lambda Weekly, the oldest, longest running LGBT talk show in the U.S. currently airing on Sundays at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-fm.

One of those trusted writers is David Taffet…
Rhonda (Charlotte Akin) and Don (John S. Davies), older white Republican Baptists, are having an awkward dinner with their new neighbors, an interracial gay couple: Marcus (Wilbur Penn) and Clark (Chad Cline). As you might expect — and as they all no doubt did — the dessert course is served as cold as the hospitality. Clark and Rhonda seem to get along OK, but Marcus sees insults in every question, and Don spends more time with a foot in his mouth than a four-month-old. They are from separate worlds, thrown together by circumstance — Rhonda and Don moved from the backwoods of East Texas and settled unknowingly in the gayborhood. But, in the best tradition of situation comedy, such a conflict of cultures can be the source of a lot of humor.

A theme of Matt Lyle’s Cedar Springs or Big Scary Animals, which ends its run at Theatre Too this weekend, is that we all have something to learn from each other, no matter how different. Lyle is one of Dallas’ most subversively funny playwrights, mining humor from dark and unusual places (worldwide apocalypse; online dating by mad scientists). The set-up of Cedar Springs isn’t far from the second act of La Cage aux Folles, but Lyle breathes a fresh, contemporary and highly localized spin on it.

One of the deceptive twists of the play is who we end up identifying with. Rhonda and Don sound like they might be Trump voters, but at least they are trying. (“We’re the best kind of people — Christians!” Rhonda cheerily asserts.) Marcus, on the other hand — and his adopted 19-year-old daughter Sophia (Alle Mims) — don’t have the same excuses. Marcus is professorial, prickly, defensive. When Don asks if Sophia’s parents were drug-addicted criminals, Marcus all but recites Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech to him for making such stereotypical assumptions … but he doesn’t deny it. He’s like the living embodiment of David Sedaris’ short story “Glen’s Homophobia Newsletter” — a man who assumes the worst in everyone and breeds suspicion … except when he’s being a pedantic and insufferable smartypants. (He’s matched by Sophia, an activist and college student who thinks confrontation equates with conversation, accusation substitutes...
Cabaret comedian Bridget Everett breaks through

Singer-comedian-actress Bridget Everett likes to call her act “alt-cabaret,” thanks to its mix of raunchy song, storytelling and audience interaction (e.g. sitting on a face is not outside her repertoire). She’s attained cult status and a significant LGBT following in NYC thanks to performances at Joe’s Pub, while she’s reached larger audiences via tours, a Comedy Central special, albums and appearances on buddy Amy Schumer’s namesake series.

Yet 2017 has proved a true breakout year for the 45-year-old Kansas native that will take her into the pop culture stratosphere. She has garnered acclaim for her dramatic chops as a Jagermeister-swilling, toxically resentful single mother in the acclaimed dramedy Patti Cake$; co-starred with Toni Collette and Molly Shannon as a mom gone wild in Fun Mom Dinner; and stars in/co-wrote I Love You More, a new, semi-autobiographical Amazon series from Sex and the City’s Michael Patrick King and director/comedian Bobcat Goldthwait.

We phoned up Everett to talk naughty moms, thirsty gays, and the most colorful way she’s had her music described.

— Lawrence Ferber

Dallas Voice: In Patti Cake$, your character, Barb, is a failed singer who resents and spews venom at her zaftig aspiring rapper daughter, Patti. Was or is there anyone as bitter in your life? Everett: Oh, absolutely. Barb ended up being a combination of a few different women in my life. My mom was a single mother and my dad left her, so a little of her experience. Certainly my own bitterness about not getting a career going for many years.

Fun Mom Dinner just came out, too. How was that? It was a super fun experience. It’s weird that I keep playing mothers, because I don’t have any children of my own. I have a dog, Poppy, a pomeranian angel sweetheart. She’s my best girlfriend, but that’s it.

Do you know any naughty moms? Oh sure, I live in New York! What do you think happens there? When I went home to Kansas and did a show at Kansas City, all my high school girlfriends showed up in a party bus. I was like, what’s happening right now? There was a case of booze. When moms go wild, this regular sort of party girl cannot keep up.

Would you like to be a mom? Would be your dream daughter? Oh my god. I would never want to be a mother. My dream daughter would be Poppy! She’s such an angel, she loves to snuggle, she does what she’s told and she’s there for me when I need her. I don’t know it could get better than that.

What if you found out she thinks Trump is a really good president? I guess I’d have to move on and get a fresh new daughter. “I’m not having that bullshit in my house, Poppy.”

Who would be your dream duet partner? Freddie Mercury or Barry Manilow. I know Freddie’s not ever gonna happen, but Barry sort of was the soundtrack of my childhood, and his music instantly makes me feel happy and relaxed. He’s legendary. I’ve seen him in concert and cried like five times, it was so joyful.

Were you happy when he publicly came out of the closet? Yes. I’m happy when anybody gets to be who they are. That’s the best.

How often do you come across someone closeted in the industry? It’s crazy that you still do! Like, what are you doing? First of all, we need all the allies we can get, and secondly nobody gives a shit. Just come out of the closet!

You’re pals with Billy Eichner and Gayby’s Jonathan Lisecki. Who was your first gay friend? My cousin Bruce. I grew up in the 1970s and ’80s and I thought he was the coolest person in the world, and he was gay, so I came out kicking and screaming for my gay army of friends.

Have you ever been with a gay friend when they used Grindr, and what did you learn from it? Of course! It’s New York! I’ve been left behind because of Grindr more than a dozen times. When people are hungry and they’ve gotta eat, that’s the priority, and the time when your friends do what they need to do.

You were a fan of Kiki and Herb, aka Justin Vivian Bond and Kenny Mellman, and later got to actually work with both of them.

Do you have an anecdote to share about the goddess? I remember when Vivian, Viv, said to me, “You know what your music is? It’s cunt rock.” Cunt rock! I love that. Viv is a legendary person, persona, performer, trailblazer.

Here’s a deal with the devil to end on – you get a really amazing cruise gig for a week but must hang out with Guy Fieri during all of your downtime. Do you take it? Uh, I believe I don’t have availability in my calendar.
Sugar, spice and everything nice

Patti LaBelle dishes on ‘still standing’ thanks to the LGBT community … and those notorious Walmart pies

Is there a singer more real than Patti LaBelle? The 73-year-old legend of song (and shade) is a firehouse of strong-minded opinions, and in an age that has some tight-lipped “divettes,” as LaBelle calls them, refraining from saying too much, the ever-honest LaBelle is, refreshingly, that rare freewheeler who revels in being blunt AF.

In 2014, she told me she no longer considers herself a diva because “all these little heifers who can’t sing are called divas.” The word, she observed, is not “cute anymore.” Now, after our recent warm phone reunion while doing promo for her new jazz album, Bel Hommage, she who has given the gays so much, from music and pies to a bevvy of side-eye-serving GIFs, still has more to give — even her own precious pie-making time.

And by the end of our 25-minute interview we’ve covered generous ground: why she’s “still standing,” thanks to the LGBT community, President “Trumpette” and his Twitter-proposed ban on transgender people in the military, her music-biz foes (and how Aretha Franklin is not one of them) and how you “may see me as a diva and that’s a compliment to those who think it’s a compliment.”

— Chris Azzopardi
Forget your spiced latte — here are two places where pumpkins are elevated to works of art

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

For a few years now, autumn means pumpkin-spiced-everything, from caffeinated drinks to enemas (we’re assuming), and most of us are sick of such basic crap. It only muddies the reputation of the iconic gourd for which the spice (and, you know, you can make it yourself with cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ginger) draws its name.

Pumpkins hold a symbolic space in the Zeitgeist. They can be magically turned into carriages for princesses (and we all know our share of princesses). They can be carved into expressive jack-o-lanterns to scare and amaze. They form the basis of a pie that conjures memories of home and family. And in at least two locations in Dallas right now, they achieve a status of art.

Over at the Dallas Museum of Art, an exhibit by Yayoi Kusama — a visual artist almost as well known for her bouts with mental illness as she is her signature Infinity Mirror Rooms — turns the simple squash into a cosmic experience. *All the Eternal Love I Have for the Pumpkins* is Kusama’s latest installation, which reflects her own preoccupation with gourds, semi-circles, repetition and phallic imagery … and of which converge into an immersive, 45-second “visit” inside the enclosed, under-lit space that illuminates 62 delicate acrylic pumpkins, but which multiply countless times into a seemingly endless expanse.

Patrons will need to line up to enter the box two at a time, during which they will have 45 seconds to contemplate the majesty and meekness of the pumpkiverse, a meditative and magical experience. It runs through February, but go early — you won’t want to miss it.

A different kind of exhibit occupies the annual pumpkin patch at the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden. All of these pumpkins, zucchinis, acorn squashes and their genetic cousins are real vegetables… and unlike the DMA’s mere 62 that look like infinitely more, nearly 100,000 separate gourds decorate the grounds. The theme this year is as gay as it can be: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. You can walk the Yellow Brick Road, see a Cowardly Lion made of corn, a Scarecrow who is an actual scarecrow and even an Emerald City. It’s enchantingly autumnal — something every Friend of Dorothy should do at least once.

Yayoi Kusama:
*All the Eternal Love I Have for Pumpkins*, Oct. 1–Feb. 25.
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Becky would mostly write in "theater of the Occupant, that of Riggs and wife Priscilla, played by..." Apparently, Marilyn had those qualities, and earthy, but she had lightness, was incredibly grounded in the early '70s, she embodies all of that in our research and spending face time with her, although having King's personal support for the production was important to all involved and found her to be a profoundly inspirational figure. "You spend all involved and found her to be a profoundly inspirational figure. "You spend..."

To play King, Stone trained extensively in tennis for four months, gaining 15 pounds of muscle in the process, while extensively researching and spending face time with her. I felt she was incredibly grounded and earthy, but she had lightness, was ethereal and hopeful, and free-spirited. Apparently, Marilyn had those qualities, Billie Jean told me."

In constructing the film, the makers took significant artistic license with the timeline of real events, especially in regards to the relationships depicted (including that of Riggs and wife Priscilla, played by Elisabeth Shue), for emotional resonance. For the gripping climactic match, shot to evoke 1970s sports TV, pro players Kaitlyn Christian and Vince Spadea doubled for Cavell and Stone, recreating their respective characters’ playing styles (from the size, shape and weight of racquets to tennis court surfaces — everything about the game has changed since then). Christian also stood in for Stone during a recreation of King’s tense match with Court (Lauren Kline doubled for McNamee during this scene). Court, who segued from her tennis career to that of Pentecostal minister, has been actively rallying against same-sex marriage in Australia — a non-binding survey of the country’s population on whether same-sex marriage should be legal is underway and could motivate politicians to actually move ahead with legislation — and made international press recently for her proclamation that gays “want marriage because they want to destroy it” and somehow that will lead to eradication of Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Easter and Christmas to boot. (Ironic, in part, because Court’s disastrous match where Riggs trounced her four months prior to King’s was nicknamed the Mother’s Day Massacre.)

“We were a little worried that we were going too far with portraying her homophobia,” Dayton says, “but she’s been very good at making us feel comfortable that we haven’t exaggerated anything.”

One supporting character whose life absolutely reads stranger than fiction — and easily deserves his own film — is Tinling, the Original 9’s dress designer (he also designed Martina Navratilova’s 1979 Wimbledon dress), also served as a British spy during WWII, as a pro tennis player, as a tennis historian/commentator and author during his 79 years (he died in 1990). Alan Cumming plays Tinling as friend and sort of queer mentor to King, and delivers one of the most memorable, moving lines at the end. “We just scratched the surface [with him]!” Dayton says. “There were so many interesting people [within this story] and they all deserved more time, but that was part of the fun of this — to throw them all together and keep all these balls in the air as we tell this particular story.”
Friday 10.06
Burgers & Burgundy is back, and has its Eye on you
Burgers & Burgundy started when Dallas chef John Tesar served on DIFFA’s Style Council and has continued every year since. The fundraiser to combat HIV/AIDS includes talented chefs (among them this year Blaine Stanford, pictured, Janice Provost, Stephan Pyles, Brad Phillips and Sharon Van Meter. New this year is the location: The Eye outside the Joule Hotel in Downtown. It’s always a blast.
DEETS: Eye at the Joule, 1601 Main St, 6:30–9:30 p.m. $150. DIFFADallas.org.

Friday 09.28 — Sunday 10.22
Howwwddyyyy, folks! Big Tex is back at the State Fair
Who knows how long the State Fair will remain at the grounds created for it? Things are constantly changing, nothing is certain... just ask Big Tex, who burned down a few years ago. But until then, we have deep-fried foods that God never meant to be so treated, Fletcher’s Corny Dogs, the Midway and countless other reasons to come back as long as you can.

Saturday 09.30
Raise a glass at the Ultimate Cocktail Experience
One of the newer foodie events in town is also the most fun. The Ultimate Cocktail Experience gives 100 bartenders the chance to show their skills with different liquors and themes, all to raise money for children. The high-octane outdoor event returns to Kyle Warren Park this Saturday.

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calendar highlights

ARTS WEEK
THEATER
Cedar Springs or Big Scary Animals. Theatre Too, 2800 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Reviewed this week; final weekend. Theatre3Dallas.com.


Deferred Action. The new local play about DACA "Dreamers" returns, more timely than ever. Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. Sept 27–29. 7:30 p.m. CaraMiaTheatre.org.

Miller, Mississippi. A world premiere from playwright Boo Killebrew, which tracks the slowness of change in Mississippi during the Civil Rights Movement. Final weekend. Presented by the Dallas Theater Center. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. DallasTheaterCenter.org.


Deferred Action. The new local play about DACA "Dreamers" returns, more timely than ever. Latino Cultural Center, 2600 Live Oak St. Sept 27–29. 7:30 p.m. CaraMiaTheatre.org.


Ballet

Beauty and the Beast. Texas Ballet Theater presents this tale as old as time at Bass Performance Hall.

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FRIDAY 09.29
COMMUNITY
PVRIS. Led by queer-activist frontwoman Lynn Gunn, the group headlines a concert in support of the new album All We Know of Heaven, All We Need of Hell. A portion of proceeds will benefit The Ally Coalition. The Bomb Factory, 2713 Canton St. TheBomb.FactoryDallas.com.

FRIDAY 09.29
CONCERTS
PVRIS. Led by queer-activist frontwoman Lynn Gunn, the group headlines a concert in support of the new album All We Know of Heaven, All We Need of Hell. A portion of proceeds will benefit The Ally Coalition. The Bomb Factory, 2713 Canton St. TheBomb.FactoryDallas.com.

SATURDAY 09.30
EXHIBITIONS

SUNDAY 10.01
COMMUNITY
LifeWalk. The fundraiser for Prism Health is the first official gay event in the newly renamed Oak Lawn Park, 3333 Turtle Creek Blvd. Begins at 11 a.m. Lifewalk.org.

MONDAY 10.02
BALLET

FRIDAY 10.06
COMMUNITY
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Cassie Nova

Cassie gets serious about drug use

Good day, my lovelies. As I sit here, I reflect on this summer and boy, am I ready for cooler weather! We had the Pride Parade recently, and it was awesome, but bitch it was hot. The parade started about an hour late, something to do with the barricades. Where we were waiting, there was no shade at all. Thank God for my hot pink Dallas Voice Big Gay Fan. I’ve said it before and I will say it again: Extreme heat and drag are not friends. They are, in fact, bitter enemies. Plus I got a little white trash sunburn on my arms from wearing a T-shirt in drag. It was very chic.

Could we please move Pride Weekend to October — or hell, how about January? Gays drag. It was very chic.

Imagine it: a Pride parade in the cold. Who am I kidding, a Pride parade in the cool would suffice … we are still in Texas. It would be like our own Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, but with drag queens instead of giant balloons, and spiked hot chocolate instead of bottled waters and Jell-O shots. Drag queens could wear even bigger hair for warmth. The go-go boys could wear cool body suits with the ass cut out. Parade watchers could wear those awesome onesies. Everyone dressed in their finest faux furs and tacky-ass fur-lined Uggs. A bonfire could be in the middle of the park that we all picnic around. We could add those chemical things that turn the fire a rainbow of colors. It all picnic around. We could add those chemical things that turn the fire a rainbow of colors. It made me want to get clean was my husband.

He didn’t know I was doing drugs, but I knew how he felt about them. I never wanted to disappoint him, so I quit. It was the hardest thing I have ever done. If it wasn’t for him I would be dead. He saved my life without even knowing it. I didn’t tell him about any of my struggles with drugs until almost two years after I was off of them. He’s not stupid, he knew I was going through something but just made sure I felt loved during whatever it was. It was in the beginning of our relationship, so he just figured I get really moody sometimes.

Now let’s do some real talk. Don’t call it ice. It is crystal meth. Ice makes it seem like it’s some cuteie drug that won’t hurt you. Meth — even if you “just snort it” — will ruin you. You are hurting your body so much. (Did you see the mug shot last week of porn icon Matthew Rush?)

Now let’s call you what you are: You are a functioning addict … but you will be able to function like that forever. I was stubborn and never asked for help and never went to a meeting. It took me a while, but when I set my mind to do something, I do it. I just wish I had set my mind to not do drugs sooner.

It is time for you to make a change. There is a light at the end of this, but I know right now you can’t even fathom being clean. Reach out to a support group, go to a Narcotics Anonymous meeting. You have to start some-time. I think by sending me this email you must have started your journey to be clean. You can obviously get drugs very easily if it has become so routine, so you need to change that. I would tell you to delete your dealer’s phone number now, but I bet you know it by heart.

Decide today “No more.” Take some time off from work to detox yourself. You are going to sleep a lot, but then you have to motivate yourself to get back to living. You need to see an actual counselor to see what steps work for you. See a doctor and be honest with them about your drug use. I have been through this, but there is no formula that works for everyone. Nothing could have made me stop doing drugs until I decided I was ready to quit. You need to decide that it is time to stop.

I think you will be surprised by how many people are going through very similar situations. You really are not alone. Start a dialogue with a friend or family member that you trust. It is time for you to shut the door on those friends that party. You don’t need the temptation. It’s time to start taking care of yourself.

For those of you that are reading this and think less of me for doing drugs in the first place, I got nothin’ for ya. I regret a lot of things I have done, but I needed to go through some of the harder things that have happened to me to know happiness when I saw it. I found a reason to get clean and I did it. I am proud of that. If you have never dealt with addiction, congratulations — you get a gold star. I am thankful for my journey and am happy to be alive.

My real advice for you, Anonymous, is know it’s time to stop using. You are strong enough to stop. Don’t doubt that. Push through the hard times. Don’t be afraid to ask for help. Find someone that you can talk to about this, someone that can motivate you. The tiredness and depression will eventually pass if you work at it. Be patient but push yourself. You can do this! I’m always here for advice if you ever need it. Good luck my friend, and keep me posted on your progress.

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

If you have a question or comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.
Making the SCENE the week of Sept. 29–Oct. 5:

• LifeWalk: In Oak Lawn Park at 1 p.m. on Sunday.
• Alexandre's: Stephanie Sallie on Friday. Jason Huff and the Ignition on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K Marie Broadway on Tuesday. Anna Fredericka Popova on Wednesday.
• Club Changes: Turnabout 2017 at 8 p.m. on Saturday.
• Club Reflection: Crazy Casseroles - A CommUnity Supper at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Team ICFWA hosted by Jason Bernard at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
• Dallas Eagle: Mutt Mosh from 6-10 p.m. on Friday. United Court of the Lone Star Empire candidate show from 7-10 p.m. on Saturday. DJ C-Rail presents Diva Night at the Dallas Eagle at 10 p.m. on Saturday.
• JR.'s Bar & Grill: Cassie's Freak Show at 11 p.m. on Monday.
• Marty's Live: Sexcapade features Rudeboy Dallas and Nicole O'hara Munro free until 11 p.m. and $5 after on Friday.
• Randi's Alternate Route 2 to 2: Casino Game Night at 8 p.m. on Friday.
• Round-Up Saloon: IGLTA fundraiser from 5:30-7 p.m. on Monday. Get your glass for Wine Walk October in the tent out front at 6 p.m. on Wednesday.
• Sue Ellen's: Cherry Bomb on Saturday. Join Tyla for Tuesday Bluesday followed by Tuesday Tease.
• The Rose Room: Miss Wanda's Comedy Show at 11 p.m. and midnight on Thursday.
• TMC: The Mining Company: BJ's Trashy Tuesday continues.
• Urban Cowboy Saloon: TGRA candidate show at 7 p.m. on Saturday.
• Woody's Sports & Video Bar: DIVA Intermediate mixer from 5-7 p.m. on Saturday. Rams vs. Cowboys at noon on Sunday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth
Night of Stars featuring JuJubee

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Across
1 Nick Adams character Johnny
5 Hairspray list
9 Heavenly balls
13 “And giving ___, up the chimney …”
14 Moon, to fifty million Frenchmen
15 Harbor city
16 Margaret Mead ___ Me Gay
17 Alfred Douglas’ school
18 Bahrain biggie
19 Start of an edited line from the reboot of The Heathers
22 ___ Modern Family daughter
23 Curry of Rocky Horror fame
24 Suffix with suburban
25 Land of O. Wilde
26 Lodge man
29 Upright, but not erect
31 Sperm homophone?
33 Comics cry
35 I Dream of Jeannie’s Barbara, et al.
36 More of the edited line
39 Doesn’t swallow
42 On the down ___
43 Judy’s daughter Lorna
47 Pleasures oneself, with “off”
49 When repeated, campy
51 Gaza Stripper’s assn.
52 “Can’t Get It Out of My Head” band
53 “Poppycok!”
55 Patty Sheehan’s partner, to golf, perhaps
57 End of the edited line
61 Exotica director Egoyan
62 It’s for Rimbaud
63 One way to cook fruit
65 Debor’s car, maybe
66 Ziegfeld Follies costume designer
67 Mark Bingham of United Flight 93
68 Very in Vichy
69 Make a hole bigger
70 Canadian oil company

Down
1 Orange tuber
2 Like friends of a closeted person, perhaps
3 Sat for Tee Corinne
4 One-named pop singer
5 Symbol on Bernstein’s score
6 Erotic opening
7 Stallion’s sound
8 Mauresmo’s game
9 Crude cartel
10 Brooks of portraits
11 War Requiem composer Benjamin
12 Castro, in San Francisco, and others
20 Soap ingredient
21 Push forward
22 Popular fruit drink
27 Triangle side
28 Boat bottom
30 Pastoral work
32 Experts in CPR
34 Seaman’s unit of speed
37 Former NFL player Tualeo
38 Eagle, on a par four
39 Patrick of the Moby Dick miniseries
40 More like Miss Manners
41 Pink Kryptonite, for one
44 Where tops like to put it?
45 Puppeteer Wayland
46 Pull behind
48 Sport of Bend It Like Beckham
50 A League of Their ___
52 When repeated, end of a Stein quote
56 “___ Really Going Out with Him?”
58 Med. care grps.
59 Film canine
60 Bit from Michael Musto
64 Put the moves on

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Cast members of Hair, photo by Karen Almond