Queens of giving
by Brandi Amara Skyy, Page 10
SUN 12.03.2017

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**Joe Barton apologizes for nude photos of him posted online**

Conservative Texas Congressman Joe Barton, R-Ennis, is apologizing this week after naked photos of him appeared on an anonymous Twitter feed.

Barton, the 68-year-old traditional family values champion who is divorced from his second wife, Terri Barton, issued a statement today (Wednesday, Nov. 22), apologizing and explaining where the photo came from:

"While separated from my second wife, prior to the divorce, I had sexual relationships with other mature adult women. Each was consensual. Those relationships have ended. I am sorry I did not use better judgment during those days. I am sorry that I let my constituents down."

(Interesting to note that in his statement Barton stressed that he had "consensual" sexual relationships with "other mature adult women." I must want to make sure everyone knows he isn’t a pedophile like Roy Moore and all those others sexual harassers.)

Barton, who announced his re-election bid last month, told Texas Tribune Wednesday that he is considering the fate of his future political career:

"I am talking to a number of people, all of whom I have faith in and am deciding how to respond, quite frankly."

Openly gay Democrat John Duncan is running against Barton to represent Texas’ 6th District in Congress. Barton has been a steadfast foe of LGBT equality throughout his tenure in Washington, D.C., voting against ENDA, for amending the Constitution to ban marriage equality, for banning adoption by same-sex couples and more.

— Tammye Nash

**Record number of murder victims remembered on TDOR**

More than 100 people gathered at the Interfaith Peace Chapel Monday evening, Nov. 20, to commemorate 2017 Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Between reading the names and circumstances of the deaths of trans people murdered over the past year, several trans persons and family members told their stories. What the murders have in common is their brutality — stabings, multiple gun shots, decapitations, being burned alive.

Marcy Sutton, mother of Gwynnevere River Song, a trans woman murdered in Waxahachie earlier this year, said it’s not just trans persons who lose their families when they come out or transition; supportive family members also lose their families.

"I’m here because I need a family," Sutton said. As she came off the stage she was surrounded by people hugging her.

Rachael Gonzalez, who calls herself a mama bear, started the largest group of mama bears and papa bears in the U.S. She has a seven-year-old trans daughter, and she thanked the trans community gathered for the service for making her daughter’s life easier.

“My daughter’s life will be better and safer because you’re paving the way," Gonzalez said. After the ceremony at the Peace Chapel, a group headed to the Legacy of Love monument on Cedar Springs Road for a candlelight vigil and to read the names of the murdered again.

— David Taffet

**Oklahoma university must pay for anti-trans discrimination**

Rachel Tudor, who was a tenure-track assistant professor of English at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, was awarded $1,165,000 in a federal lawsuit because of discrimination based on gender identity. A jury found that the university violated Tudor’s civil rights.

Tudor was hired as a tenure-track assistant professor of English by the university in 2004 before transitioning. She was denied tenure in 2011 after some university administrators said her gender identity violated their religious beliefs. Despite her academic qualifications and recommendation for tenure, the university’s dean and interim vice president for academic affairs denied the request.

The case was released from the EEOC in December 2014 so it could proceed to trial. The verdict was delivered on Monday, Nov. 20.

Tudor was able to sue under Title VII because the Justice Department has reversed that.

The preliminary injunction means that Trump cannot force the military to kick out trans men and women currently serving, the military cannot prohibit transition-related surgery for those who are already serving and the military cannot keep trans men and women from serving in the military as the A.C.L.U. has requested. The preliminary injunction does not apply to personnel already discharged.

— Arnold Wayne Jones

**Dallas Summer Musicals Gala sets fundraising record**

A few weeks ago, we wrote about the Dallas Summer Musicals’ then-upcoming gala, which was fraught when headline Bernadette Peters had to step aside to take over for Bette Midler in the Broadway revivals of Hello, Dolly!But despite that snag, chairs Andy Smith and Paul von Wupperfeld managed to pull off an exceptional event, securing the amazing Brian Stokes Mitchell and Katharine McPhee to co-headline and breaking a record, raising in excess of half a million dollars.

— David Taffet

**Federal court blocks Trump’s military ban**

A federal court in Baltimore has agreed to the A.C.L.U.’s request to completely halt implementation of Trump’s directive banning transgender men and women from serving in the military as the A.C.L.U.’s lawsuit challenging the ban moves forward.

The preliminary injunction means that Trump cannot force the military to kick out trans men and women currently serving, the military cannot prohibit transition-related surgery for those who are already serving and the military cannot keep openly trans persons from enlisting.

In ruling that the ban likely violates the federal constitution, the court noted, “A capricious, arbitrary and unqualified tweet of new policy does not trump the methodical and systematic review by military stakeholders qualified to understand the ramifications of policy changes.”

— Tammye Nash
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 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.
TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

TRUVADA for PrEP?

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

If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.

You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP

To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:

You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of

Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.

Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches,

infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a fl u-like illness within

If you have fl u-like symptoms, you could have recently become

If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.

Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as

having fewer sex partners.

If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Bone problems, including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to

Appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area

(Not recommended for people with kidney disease.)

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

Bone problems, including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to

Other infections make it
easier for HIV to infect you.

If you are HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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
MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

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

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 while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
• If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
• See the “How To Further Reduce Your Risk” section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:
• Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP
TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine 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.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:
• Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.
• Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP
• Take 1 tablet once a day, every day, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
• Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
• Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
• Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

IMPRESSIVE 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 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.

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

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.
• Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
• 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.

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Version date: April 2017
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• Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
• Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
• Take 1 tablet once a day, every day.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:
• To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about high risk of getting HIV-1.

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help:

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

• Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.

• See the “How To Further Reduce Your Risk” section for more information.
• If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to:

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

You must get tested to make sure that you do not already:

TRUVADA FOR PrEP

• New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
• You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

• Those in the “Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP” section.
• If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to:

Common side effects:

• Bone problems.
• New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
• You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

• New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
• The basics of Mid-Century Modern
• Bradford and the art of repetition

ON THE COVER
Sable Alexander (Michael Champion and Linze Serrell (Bill Lindsey). Photo by Roy Comstock, “artist with a camera,” official photographer of ICS

Dallas Voice, Texas largest Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender media company is seeking a seasoned Advertising Sales Professional to join our team. Candidate must be goal oriented, self-starter who can build new business. Candidate will be responsible for building print and digital campaigns for companies focused on the LGBT marketplace.

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OBITUARY

Douglas Brawn Hopkins of Fort Worth died on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017, at the age of 47, surrounded by his family and friends, as well as his partner and husband of 24 years, Todd Camp.

Doug graduated from Cleburne High School in Fort Worth in 1989 and then attended Texas Christian University, where he studied sculpture and modern dance. His teachers found him to be a natural when it came to movement, and he was soon dancing regularly for a number of area arts organizations, including the Fort Worth/Dallas Ballet, Ballet Concerto, Contemporary Dance/Fort Worth, the New Arts Collective and the Irving Ballet.

When the Bruce Wood Dance Company arrived on the Fort Worth scene in 1998, Doug was one of the first male dancers hired and soon proved himself to be an indispensable part of Wood’s choreographic process. In the company’s 10-year history in Fort Worth, Doug played a pivotal role in the creation of the majority of Wood’s nearly 80 original works. He also helped pass on that knowledge to a new generation of dancers when the company was reborn in Dallas as the Bruce Wood Dance Project, especially after Wood’s death in 2014.

The company dedicated it’s Nov. 17-18 performances to him, and a tribute in the program read: “His profound impact as muse, performer, artist and coach is a treasure we will carry with us forever.”

On June 2, 1993, Doug met Todd Camp in a local nightclub, and from that point on, they were at each other’s sides until Doug departed this plane of existence last month. Together, they accomplished much.

In 1999, they were among the original co-founders of QCinema, Fort Worth’s Gay and Lesbian International Film Festival. Doug served as technical director for 14 years alongside Todd as artistic director. The festival is still going strong and just celebrated its 19th annual event.

They were both at the Rainbow Lounge in 2009 when the bar was raided by officers from the Fort Worth Police Department and the TABC, and both helped push the city to make major changes that ultimately improved the lives of LGBT people in Fort Worth and set an example for local governments across the country.

For 20 years, their annual Nightmare Before Christmas Party, held between Halloween and Christmas, was the stuff of legend, incorporating Doug’s boundless ingenuity and talents for lighting, set and sound design, decorating and more with Todd’s knack for spinning a story.

On Halloween of 2016, after 23 years together, they were legally married at Celebration Community Church. Though they didn’t travel as often as they liked, their journey together was rich, adventurous and filled with light, laughter and so much love.

Doug kept fighting until the very end. Diagnosed with HIV in his 20s, he was told that he would probably not live to see 30. But thanks to modern medicine and his love and support of his husband, his family and so many friends, he made the most of his 47 years, before ultimately losing his ongoing battle with liver cancer.

The world will not be the same without him.

He is survived by his husband, Todd; parents, Alethea and Michael; sister, Anne; brother, Roger; sister-in-law, Jonna; nephews, Thomas and Grant; and his devoted Chiwienie, Miller.

There will be a celebration of life in his honor held at 7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 30, at Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave. in Fort Worth.

8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the Treymore Building, 4038 Lemmon Ave, Suite 101; FuseConnect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalenzski@myresourcecenter.org.

LGBT square dancing group Pegasus Squares meets every Sunday from 2:30–4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4105 Junius St. For more info, email pegasusquadsquare@gmail.com.

Dallas Frontrunners meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; Leadership Lambda Toastmasters practices and develops public speaking and leadership skills from 6:30–8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; Gray Pride support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; Lambda AA meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men’s meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625. Call 214-267-0222 for details; DVtv in Spayse, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4–5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

NOVEMBER

• Nov. 28: Light Up the Park
Hot chocolate bar, desserts and carolers as the trees in the park are lit up at 7 p.m. in Oak Lawn Park, 3400 Turtle Creek Blvd.

• Nov. 29: Red Ribbon
Resource Center commemorates World AIDS Day with a cocktail-and-hors d’oeuvres reception benefitting the center’s programs, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Le Meridien Hotel, The Stoneleigh, 2927 Maple Ave. Tickets are $50 and include bites and desserts, cocktails and an auction. For tickets and information call 866-657-2437.

• Nov. 30: World AIDS Day 2017
This year’s World AIDS Day event presented by C.U.R.E. is “Because I Knew You.” The Open Heart Award presented to Dallas Voice. A reception featuring AIDS Quilt panels begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by the program at 7 p.m. At the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum, 2943 SMU Blvd.

DECEMBER

• Dec. 1: Federal Club holiday party
Entertainment by Anton Shaw & Bad Habits. Dress in favorite 80s attire or business casual. Doors open at 7 p.m. for major donors and Black Tie Dinner board members and 8 p.m. for Federal Club.
Meet John Cougar Mellencat, a friendly, 6-year-old, buff-and-white tabby domestic Shorthair mix transferred to the SPCA of Texas from The Cattery in Corpus Christi in August to evacuate from Hurricane Harvey. He is sweet, affectionate and loving and adores being petted. He’s pretty quiet, but he has a playful side, too. He has never been around dogs, but would probably be ok with a laid-back, small-medium-sized dog. He is positive for FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency Virus), a treatable but transmittable illness, so he’ll need to either be the only cat in the home or live with other FIV positive cats. John Cougar Mellencat has been neutered, tested negative for FeLV, microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. #156784

Meet John Cougar Mellencat 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-Sat. Regular adoption fees are $100 for puppies and kittens aged 0-6 months, $50 for adult dogs and cats aged 6 months or older, $25 for senior dogs or cats aged 7 years and older and $25 for VIP dogs and cats (available for adoption for 30 days or more.) 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.

Meet John Cougar Mellencat
’Tis always the season

The Miss Gay Texas State pageant system and the drag that keeps on giving

BRANDI AMARA SKYY  |  Contributing Writer
nash@dallasvoice.com

One person can make a difference, and everyone should try.”

I first found JFK’s infamous words when I was in college, in the unlikeliest of places — on a t-shirt. I bought that shirt, cut it up, and it quickly became my favorite dance shirt — and my lifelong personal mission statement.

As the holidays approach, many of us feel the yearning to give thanks for our blessings by giving back to our community. We volunteer at soup kitchens and for nonprofit organizations, serving Thanksgiving and other holiday meals. We try to do whatever we can to make a positive difference in people’s lives.

And as a community, we in the LGBT community have always risen when we’ve seen the need.

When the Pulse shooting in Orlando happened, we rallied together to raise funds for the victims’ families. We brought the Pulse cast into our own shows and did everything we could to show the world we were one united rainbow front.

When hurricanes affected our South Texas neighbors and our Puerto Rican family, all around the United States we laced up our stiletto boots and put on benefit shows and again did everything in our power to do something.

But as individuals in a marginalized group, we sometimes forget that our numbers don’t dictate our power and our ability to create change — our vision and our action do.

Frank Martinez and Butch Compton saw a need for people who didn’t have families or a place to go on Thanksgiving Day, so they took action and filled it by creating the Community Thanksgiving Dinner, now in its sixth year.

Rodd Gray, aka Patti La Plae Safe, didn’t wait for permission to do something when he saw that people living with HIV/AIDS didn’t have the means to travel back home for the holidays. He and his best friend, John Gordon, created a nonprofit called Home for the Holidays to raise the money necessary to send those people home.

And while Bill Lindsey and Michael Champion’s — aka Linze Serell and Sable Alexander — names may not be immediately recognizable, their spirit, generosity and dedication to charitable work for local LGBTQ communities can be felt statewide.

Bill and Michael have been together as a couple for 29 years, and they are the co-founders of The Miss Gay Texas State pageant system, a professional drag pageant system where, instead “of owners keeping the money, everything raised after expenses is given back to the community, to selected charities that apply to our organization” to be designated as beneficiaries, Bill said.

Bill is originally from Detroit, and he began entertaining there as Linze Serell at age 19. He started one of the first AIDS charities in Detroit when the AIDS epidemic was at its height. Michael began performing as Sable Alexander at age 30 to raise funds for various athletic charities in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. He explained, “Raising money was key to the health and well being of so
many,” adding that our community should “never give up the fight, no matter what it is — AIDS, breast cancer, medications, education, transportation or end-of-life issues.”

The two of them have been raising money together for charity since they met. For many years, starting in the early 1990s, they headed up an organization called Glitz and Glitter, full of entertainers — male and female, drag and live — who donated their time, talents and money in monthly shows to raise funds for a variety of charitable efforts.

They started The Miss Gay Texas State pageant in 2008 because they felt it was important to not only give back to the community but also “that entertainers know that you could be yourself, be competitive and still make a difference in peoples lives,” Michael explained.

In its inaugural year, the pageant system had six prelims ending with 12 contestants competing at the state contest. Three years later, they added the Miss Gay Texas State at Large division, and the first year saw eight queens compete for the new title.

Today, the pageant has grown to include 12 active prelims in Longview, Waco, Fort Worth and Dallas, with three new prelims slated to come into the system later this year.

As our pageant has grown, we have given $15,000 to three charities this year.”

From Gun Barrel City’s Humane Society, to Patti’s aforementioned Home for The Holidays, to AIDS Outreach Center of Fort Worth, to the Greg Dollgener Memorial AIDS Fund and the LGBTQ Coalition on Aging — their beneficiaries list covers the entire spectrum of our LGBTQ community, proving these two queens will continue the fight for however long it takes.

When I asked Bill for a ballpark figure of how much they have given back to the community in the 10 years of Miss Gay Texas State, the number was a staggering $55,000.

Fifty-five thousand dollars funneled back into our community — all because Bill and Michael saw a need, believed they could make a difference, and, most importantly, tried.

They tried; therefore, they did.

And in a social-political climate when most of us feel powerless under Trump’s thumb, people like Bill and Michael remind us that there is always something we can do. We just have to rise up and do it.

Bill and Michael didn’t reinvent the wheel. They used what they had, what they knew and what they loved — drag — to make a difference.

What an amazing impact they are making, year after year. And what an inspiration their story, their heart and their gift of giving are to me, to all of us. Because the truth is, we all have the same power to create change, not just during the holiday season, but all year long.

And we owe it to ourselves and to our community to try.

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Former first couple talk about the campaign, Trump and the future in Irving event

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
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Bill and Hillary Clinton spoke at the Pavillion at the Toyota Music Factory in Irving on Friday, Nov. 17, in what they described as a first-of-its-kind event. Hill Clinton explained that she and her husband had never appeared on stage together to just have a conversation as they were doing that night. They repeated the event the next night in Little Rock.

Danny Eaton, chief operating officer of Live Nation Dallas, asked questions that were submitted ahead of time. But the one topic avoided during the evening was the current sex abuse scandals involving Hollywood bigwigs and politicians.

The impression I got from the chat is that the Clintons are closer now than they’ve ever been. Bill Clinton was there for his wife when she needed him most, after her election defeat in November 2016, and they seemed to truly enjoy being together on stage. I’m not sure why that surprised me; they’ve always had a strong marriage no matter what happened. Whenever troubles have been thrown at them, they’ve grown closer.

Asked about what each would do if they could add one more goal, Bill Clinton said, “So much to do. So little time.” After thinking about it, he added, “Roll back the tide of climate change.”

In what was a recurring theme for the evening, Bill Clinton was ready to talk about his legacy, but Hillary Clinton is still busy working on hers.

When she said, “There are so many things I’d like to do, but I’d start by abolishing the Electoral College,” she got a standing ovation. She followed that with, “And then maybe run — a marathon, not an election.”

Asked if he would have served a third term if he could, Bill Clinton said his old answer was that he would have. His current answer is, “No, I’d rather have Hillary do it.”

Throughout the evening, questions came up about Donald Trump. Some of the former first couple’s answers were indirect, and at other times they directly attacked the incumbent president, At one point, though, Bill Clinton made it clear he knew Trump well: They golfed together many times, which is not surprising, because until he decided to run for office, Trump was a Democrat.

Referring to Trump’s apparent obsession with building a wall along the U.S./Mexico border, Bill Clinton said, “You can build a wall, but you can’t keep out the Internet. Weapons will get over a wall.”

A better approach, he suggested, would be to figure out how to live together.

Hillary Clinton addressed Trump’s presidency in a more general way. “Leadership counts,” she said. “What we’ve seen is setting us back. We need to shelve the pants-on-fire approach and [the] ideological prejudices.” She called the current tax reform...
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Masterpiece Cakeshop: The arguments for and against a 'religious freedom' defense

by one legal expert’s assessment, the Trump administration’s argument for allowing a baker to refuse service to a same-sex couple would lead to “anarchy.”

In a nutshell, the Department of Justice brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado — a case that will be before the court for oral arguments on Dec. 5 — argues that selling cakes is like staging parades.

DOJ points back to a decision in the 1995 Hurley v. Irish-American Gay case, in which the Supreme Court ruled that Massachusetts could not enforce its law against sexual orientation discrimination in public accommodations. The state had found the organizers of a St. Patrick’s Day parade in Boston violated state law when they refused to allow an openly gay contingent to march. The high court said enforcement of that law against the parade organizers violated the First Amendment right of the parade organizers to control the message of their event.

The DOJ equates the refusal by Jack Phillips, a Colorado baker, to sell a cake to a same-sex couple for their wedding reception to the refusal of parade organizers to allow an openly LGBT contingent in their public procession.

(Ironically, just this year, the Boston parade organizers voted to let an LGBT contingent into the parade.)

Led by a former clerk of conservative Justice Clarence Thomas — Jeffrey B. Wall — the DOJ brief contends that, “Forcing Phillips to create expression for and participate in a ceremony that violates his sincerely-held religious beliefs invades his First Amendment rights in a manner akin to the governmental intrusion in Hurley.”

It’s interesting to note that Phillips acknowledges on his shop’s website that he took “less than 30 seconds” to refuse to sell a cake to Charlie Craig and David Mullins for their wedding reception. The 28 wedding cake designs featured on his website are beautiful and demonstrate an artistry, but only two include images that reference male-female couples, and none convey anything about anyone’s religious beliefs.

Ryan Karrer, a spokesman for the ACLU, which is representing Craig and Mullins, said the couple was “turned away before they could discuss designs … as soon as [Phillips] realized the cake was for them.”

Nevertheless, Phillips’ attorneys at the Alliance Defending Freedom contend, “Phillips serves all people, but cannot convey all ideas or celebrate all events.” And DOJ contends that selling any wedding cake to the same-sex couple compels Phillips to express a message and “participate” in an event that violates his religious beliefs.

Robert Post, the Sterling Professor of Law at Yale University Law School, says that the DOJ’s logic, if extended to other businesses, “would effectively undo anti-discrimination laws generally” and lead to “anarchy.”

“Almost all our behavior carries a message,” Post said in a recent telephone press conference. “If I went around claiming I could hit you because it’s expressive — I can make anything I do expressive … [and the] country becomes un governable.”

Mary Bonauto says the DOJ is trying to “shift emphasis to the cake as opposed to the law obliging all businesses covered by the public accommodations law to serve customers.”

The Colorado law prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in public accommodations covers businesses that are open to the public and can include a wide variety of businesses — hotels, cabs, grocery stores, restaurants, doctor offices, pharmacies and day care centers.

“There is no exception for creative or beautiful products,” said Bonauto, who argued for equal protection of LGBT couples in Obergefell v. Hodges. That case led to the 2015 decision that struck down state laws that banned recognition and licensing of marriage for same-sex couples.

Like Post, Bonauto says that, “if the court accepts the petitioners’ views, then there will be barely a shred of anti-discrimination laws in place.”

Not surprisingly, attorneys for Colorado and the same-sex couple put their emphasis on different previous decisions by the Supreme Court.

Ria Tabacco Mar, counsel of record for Craig and Mullins, said in a telephone press conference for the National LGBT Bar Association, that Phillips’ religious exercise claim is “really nothing but a recycled argument like we saw in the 1960s, when the owner of a barbecue restaurant called the Piggie Park claimed that his religious beliefs meant he could not serve black diners in the same space as white customers.”

In Newman v. Piggie Park and a number of other decisions, states the ACLU’s brief, the Supreme Court has “affirmed repeatedly the government’s ability to prohibit discriminatory conduct over the freedom of expression, association and religion objections of entities ranging from law firms and labor unions to private schools and universities to membership organizations open to the public, to restaurants and newspapers. Retail bakeries should fare no differently.”

The Supreme Court’s 1968 decision in Piggie Park included a footnote that described as “patently frivolous” the restaurant owner’s claim that “his religious beliefs compel him to oppose any integration of the races whatever.”

Colorado’s brief argues that Hurley does not apply here because the parade organizers were “a private, non-commercial association,” not involved in a commercial enterprise, unlike the baker. The state law regulates a business “refusal of service,” not its freedom of expression.

“Both Phillips and the United States ask the Court to convert the doctrine [of freedom of expression] from ‘a right of self-determination in matters that touch individ-
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Both Clintons said they admire Nelson Mandela and the leadership he demonstrated throughout his life. "He cared enough that he spent 27 years in confinement and then purged his heart of hatred," Bill Clinton said of the late South African president, adding that whenever Mandela called the White House, he asked to speak to Bill and Hillary Clinton’s then-teenaged daughter Chelsea when he was done speaking to the president.

As president of South Africa, Mandela “invited those who beat and killed his friends into the government,” Bill Clinton said, quoting Mandela as having said, “They couldn’t take my mind and my heart.”

And, in another oblique swipe at Trump, Bill Clinton said, “A real leader is always looking for the good in people.”

About former FBI Director James Comey, Hillary Clinton expressed exasperation that when members of Congress asked him why he didn’t release any information about the ongoing Russia investigation, Comey told them that it was too close to the election.

“A foreign adversary attacked us, and there were no consequences,” she said, calling it a threat to America’s democracy and national security.

Then, just weeks before the election, Comey told Congress he was looking into her emails again when there was, in fact, no new information to consider. “I’m still scratching my head about that one,” Hillary Clinton said on Friday.

Referring to Trump’s comment, during his recent trip to Asia, that when he asked Russian President Putin about tampering with the U.S. election in 2016, “he said he didn’t do it,” Hillary Clinton suggested that either Trump is naïve or any other answer wouldn’t be good for the Trump brand.

She also pointed out that although Congress has passed sanctions against Russia, Trump hasn’t implemented them. “That’s a violation of his oath of office,” she declared, in what was the closest either she or her husband came to calling for Trump to be impeached.

While not referring directly to Trump, Bill Clinton said, “Every authoritarian needs an ‘enemy’ [to fight against]. The goal is to make you give up on democracy.” He said that Trump’s constant declarations of “fake news” are intended to make the public doubt the media, calling it a common tactic used by dictators around the world to solidify their power.

When Eaton asked what he would say if Trump were sitting there with them, Bill Clinton replied: “You can keep on doing what you’re doing. [You] make people look like they need a rabies shot, but it doesn’t get anyone a job or healthcare or get a kid through college.”

He advised Trump to “stop looking for enemies. Stop dividing us.”

When it was her turn to answer that question, Hillary Clinton replied, “I’d sit there and let Bill say all that,” prompting both her and her husband into laughter — one of many times during the evening they showed how much they were enjoying being together and having this conversation.

But Hillary Clinton did have another answer for the question. Seeming surprised that after almost a year in office, Trump still doesn’t seem to understand what his job is, she said, “You don’t tweet about nuclear war.”

Hillary Clinton also had some advice for the next Democratic candidate: Learn how to “get into people’s eight-second attention span and be more entertaining in addition to knowing the issues and how to do the job,” she said.

“We’ve been kind of wonky,” her husband added. “It’s hard to make that appealing.” But, he said, he thought by the next election, “people will actually want to hire someone to do the job.”

When asked if there was any silver lining to having lost the election last year, Hillary Clinton replied, “We get to see our grandchildren a lot.” Her husband agreed, adding “This grandkid thing can’t be overstated.”

Hillary Clinton has been spending her time this year encouraging young people, especially women, to run for office. But when asked about legacy, she said, “It’s too soon to think about legacy because I’m not going anywhere.”

Bill Clinton is busy with the Clinton Foundation’s new initiative to fight the opioid epidemic. In addition to encouraging women to run for office, encouraging human rights, equality and justice, Hillary Clinton said she’s worried about Congress not funding the Children’s Health Insurance Program that she authored.

What neither had to say — because it was obvious from their interactions — was how much they enjoyed supporting each other’s work.
Native land, native peoples and the irony of the latest Keystone Pipeline spill

The protesters and native tribes at Standing Rock warned us. On Nov. 16, the Dakota Access Pipeline did what all scientists, environmentalists, opponents, protesters and native peoples all knew it would do — It leaked. Where did it spill? Thirty miles west of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate tribe’s wetlands, on their Lake Traverse Indian Reservation.

Some of those wetlands drain into the reservation, and while the tribe was informed of what happened by officials (and, I’m pretty sure, were told “not to worry”), we all know how truthful companies and our government can be about our water supply.

We’ve all seen Erin Brockovich. We all know about the contaminated water crisis in Flint, Mich. And the irony of universal timing wasn’t lost on me.

This latest spill happened on a Thursday — exactly one week before Americans will gather around tables full of food and give thanks for our many blessings while celebrating our ancestors’ first meal and harvest with the Wampanoag native tribes. That was, of course, before we forcefully removed those native tribes from their lands (probably screaming the whole time about how ungrateful and unpatriotic they were) and massacring them on a trail as they walked away.

Everywhere you look today — on the news, in our Facebook feeds — there are instances of overt racism. Black men are being gunned down by the police 2.5 times more often than whites. White supremacists now march down the streets unhooded, carrying tiki torches alongside their Nazi symbols and flags.

The proof that racism still exists is all around us.

With native peoples our racism is covert, forcing the idea in our history books that native peoples were “happy” to “give” their land away to white foreign settlers called Pilgrims. Or when we ignore the fact that we are still celebrating Columbus Day — a holiday that basically glorifies a man who brutalized and enslaved thousands of indigenous people after he “discovered” America.

Hell, we even like a little bit of racism in our football. Because despite protests from native peoples since the 1960s, we still have a football teamed called THE REDSKINS. Can you imagine the uproar if we had football teams named the Brownskins, Yellowskins or Blackskins? These are but a few of the many examples and instances of how our covert racism works.

For instance how, in football, players taking a knee isn’t about whether one supports our service members or how patriotic we are, or about not being grateful for the abundance, goodness and blessings in our lives. It’s about looking beyond our Americanized bullshit and seeing the world through its natives’ eyes. It’s about not only acknowledging our past and the horrible things our ancestors did to other humans, but also taking steps today to rectify and heal the wounds we inflicted. It’s about understanding that, as Americans, we are inherently privileged despite our gender and race.

Is all American privilege the same? F-NO. But it’s still there on our passport.

So on Thursday, as I sat around the table with my small family — my wife, our dogs and Zen and Simon, and our cat Cayman who has now lost movement in her hind legs — I was humbled by my privileged. Not only because I have the perfectly imperfect family, or I have a table we can all gather around, or a home we can all rest in. But because there wasn’t a pipeline full of chemicals running underneath my home, threatening my family’s water supply.

I was extremely cognizant of those whose reality this is and that those people are still fighting for their native right to a chair at our America table.

What we do next matters. Because what our government officials (and Trump) are doing in South Dakota and now Nebraska now is repeating history. Only this time instead of small pox blankets or The Trail of Tears massacre, its steel pipes imported from Russia spilling 210,000 gallons of oil into the lands we “gifted” back to the original owners.

Hey, isn’t there a racist term for those who gift something and take it back? Oh, that’s right — Indian Giver.

It’s way past time for us, linguistically and physically, to do better and be better to our natives and their land.

Brandi Amara Skyy is a writer and drag artist and a regular contributor to Dallas Voice, DVtv and other media in print and online.
Designing for the future
Style guru Todd Oldham turns his sights on the next generation of fabulousness

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

Have you ever cut a child’s pencil in half? Todd Oldham has. And what he discovered profoundly saddened him.

“We saw in the most popular brands, when we cut them, that the lead didn’t even go through the entire pencil,” he says, perched on a large, funky ottoman on the second floor of Forty Five Ten, the tony boutique in Downtown Dallas. The message that shallow lead sent was clear: The makers were so certain about the fatally bad design, they knew nobody — certainly no kid — would ever uncover the deception. Why not, Oldham thought, improve the design, rather than give into its obsolescence? “Kids deserve so much more.”

And that, along with a genuinely curious mind and range, sweeping interests in the way we live our lives, has informed Oldham’s latest project: A line of products designed specifically for children.

“If you think designing for kids is easy — how would they know a bootcut from a capri pant? — guess again.

“You have to work 10 times harder when designing with kids in mind,” Oldham says. He follows, you might say, the Hippocratic Oath of design: “You must be exemplary and not cause harm.” And when it comes to books, games and educational products, you need to cast a wide net, “making items whether you’re a cognitive learner or a visual learner.”

Oldham speaks from the experience of having been, as we all were, a kid himself. But he channels those memories into his designs.

“When I was 7, I wanted to know what gouache was,” he says. (It’s a kind of opaque watercolor paint.) Finding that out — exploring his creative side — led directly into his career. He assumes children today have similar compulsions and need to find resources. “I love the weird kids. I love things that are visual. We’re here to demystify” the natural world.

He was inspired to do the best by his own parents — both still alive — whom he describes in ravenously loving terms.

“My parents are the coolest, smartest, most open-minded and generous people in the world,” Oldham says. “Just deeply lovely people.” His mom, in fact, is still one of his business partners; she and Oldham’s grandmother cultivated his interest in sewing at an early age and expressed support for his efforts.

His line at Forty Five Ten — called Kids Made Modern, following the title of Oldham book (one of two dozen he has written),

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Mad men made real

Learning from the defining American style of the 20th century

*Making Midcentury Modern* by Christopher Kennedy, foreword by Barclay Butera (Gibbs Smith 2017) $35; 198 pp.

You’ll never forget the feeling of key in hand. Imagine — you. A homeowner, finally, after saving, planning and a ceiling-high pile of paperwork. Starting today, you can go home (home!), shut the door, and know that it’s all yours. So how do you reflect your style in this home you love?

Begin with *Making Midcentury Modern*.

When he was a young lad, Kennedy’s parents taught him the proper ways to a well-mannered life: his mother made him write thank-you notes, and she taught him how to “make a good first impression,” while his father advised him to “live each day to the fullest.” Those lessons were learned in “simpler, more gracious times.”

Kennedy insists it’s not nostalgia that makes him love interior design from that period. Instead, he just likes the trend, and he doesn’t see it “slowing down any time soon.” In this book, he shows how you can include Midcentury Modern into your home, even if it was built last month.

You can start in the entrance. Those first impressions matter when it comes to a home, says Kennedy. Paint your front door in a Midcentury Modern color to welcome guests warmly.

On the topic of colors, Midcentury Modern isn’t shy. Orange is the “caffeine of the color wheel,” and it really pops. Think pink (Mamie Eisenhower’s favorite color), turquoise, white, red, or any shade of blue. Don’t just color walls, though: be bold with furniture, rugs, and accessories. Pillows in out-there colors are inexpensive ways to dip your toe into the design.

Know the “secret to a beautiful and easy-to-make bed” — and for guest rooms, consider twin beds. Go ahead and mix metals, bring childhood treasures out for display, and recall Mom’s kitchen or bathroom.

Butera (Gibbs Smith 2017) $35; 198 pp.

Christopher Kennedy, foreword by Barclay Butera.

**The Art & Design Issue**

The one criticism I have with this book is nearly hidden.

It’s a design flaw in a design book. Go figure.

That’s not insurmountable, though: there are photos enough to make this coffee-table book a can’t-miss full of fun. If you need your house to feel groovier no matter when it was constructed, *Making Midcentury Modern* may be key.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer
It's a design flaw in a design book. Go figure. That's not insurmountable, though: there are photos enough to make this coffee-table book a can't-miss full of fun. If you need your house to feel groovier no matter when it was constructed, *Making Midcentury Modern* may be key. — Terri Schlichenmeyer

produced over the years) — aims to, if not fill in the gap for parents, at least supplement their efforts to educate, encourage and develop children’s curiosity. And it does so in the most concrete, real-world ways.

“There are so many great things about the digital world,” Oldham says. “We can now live in our own island instead of relying on old retail models. But we have to acknowledge that the digital experience certainly isn’t as fulfilling [as the real world]. I still love those analog experiences. We see a modern kid as one who holds digital and analog sensibilities equally. We think of the digital as a matrix of creativity, when really it’s just a big pencil” — i.e., an instrument of creation, not the source… and definitely not the endpoint.

Working in publishing honed this desire to explore the physicality of things, which is essential to ambient learning (that is, taking in the world around you, not just what pops up on your smartphone).

“That’s the stuff that is so potent,” he says. “It comes from the tactile quality of every paper in our books. We try to be good-earth citizens.”

It’s such attention to detail that focuses his mission on overcoming what he calls a blight of design schools: The tendency to copy, not innovate. “Design schools teach [how to] cut out and duplicate. We want to show kids how to be inspired by something, but not copy it. It’s synergistic — opening up pathways of inspiration.”

Oldham’s line (not just clothes and books, but games and activities) “breaks down the functionality of things. It is a human experience — very tactile. We already have enough digital exposures but not enough analog ones, so we have tipped all our stuff into analog experiences.”

Certainly, one aspect of ambient learning he’s aware of countering is the current political/social climate, where the president has made it acceptable to normalize bad behavior.

“We now have permission to air hideous thoughts — I don’t know how we agreed to that; I certainly didn’t,” he sighs. “Bad behavior tends to be the most propelled in the news. I know I live in a bubble, but I just don’t know people who act that way. Thankfully we are moving in many cases into a move fruitful and accepting life for people who don’t line up like everyone else. Of course, some parts are accelerating and some are purifying.” His message seems to be: Children need to engage in meaningful and creative ways to develop their empathy and shared experience, not retreat into selfishness and anger. (Oldham says New Yorkers have long barely tolerated Donald Trump as a buffoon, someone he says “lives in a purely sycophantic world — a very sad kingdom.”)

Oldham is especially happy to bring that to Dallas, where he lived in his youth and where he first began manufacturing his clothing.

“Premiering this collection at Forty Five Ten [is very meaningful to me], not only because of my connection to Dallas, but because the person who founded Forty Five Ten, Shelley Musselman, was an extraordinary woman and very influential and helpful to my career,” he says. In fact, he names icons like Gianni Versace and Giorgio Armani as generous supporters of his early career who recommended Oldham to tastemakers, fashion editors and the like.

And generosity is a lesson we can all learn and pass along.


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Out painter Katherine Bradford enjoys a late-career renaissance with new show at The Modern

JAMES RUSSELL | Contributing Writer
james.journo@gmail.com

Katherine Bradford may not immediately have thought to describe the figure in the left corner as a misplaced Philadelphia sex worker in her painting Uphill March. The lesbian artist, whose first solo exhibition in Texas runs through Jan. 14 at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, agrees the description pitched to her was apt.

“That’s just the kind of reaction I wanted,” she says. “When I got this far, I thought, ‘I’m not going to describe it anymore because someone like you is going to bring something great to what this is.’ A misplaced Philadelphia sex worker is just the touch I needed.”

Uphill March is just one of 13 paintings — all recent works, most from 2017 — filling three galleries on the first floor of the museum. In fact, she encourages viewers to describe the characters or scenes in her paintings. But her loose interpretation does not mean her art lacks a distinctive quality.

Bradford, who is in her 70s and enjoying a career renaissance, paints motifs featuring swimmers and natural scenes with thick brush strokes. She was influenced by Marsden Hartley, the early 20th century American painter known for his colorful, abstract paintings of coastal Maine. (He was also widely rumored to have been gay.)

“I love repetition,” Bradford says. “I think the visual appeal of this to me was repeating the marks. They all belong together; you know that from your eyes. These people belong together, but I gave them a little individuality, their heads, what they’re wearing.”

The sense of togetherness and a shared experience are central to her work. In Pool, Red Rim, the featureless characters are in a swimming pool in outer space. In the case of Waterfall, an 80x136-in. acrylic on canvas, two figures in suits are floating to the end of the waterfall. But their facial expressions do not make it clear if they are fearful, unaware or content with the fact they are likely about to plunge presumably to their deaths.

Some pieces start from a simple idea or scene. Others continue past motifs, like swimmers who illustrate a larger theme blending fantasy and nature. The characters, however, are typically gender-neutral.

“I think a lot of painters wouldn’t be interested in doing that. They want to be male or female. But I like to make them look similar,” she says. “I want these to be everyman, universal more or less.”

But as some critics have pointed out, Bradford’s featureless characters still are Caucasian. She does not deny that, or shy away from acknowledging it as something of a blindspot in her work.

“I’m struggling a bit with the fact that most of the characters in my paintings are Caucasian,” she admits. “I would like to work my way out of that normative approach. I want to be able to do paintings that are inclusive.” She cites one attempt to diversify, the painting Human Pool featuring multiple characters in a swimming pool with their backs to the viewer. “I wanted it to be different people all swimming in the same water as a metaphor for humanity. I don’t know if they are diverse enough, but my world is not that diverse as far as skin color goes.”

Diversity is a trait she came to recognize in part by her late-in-life coming out.

“I’m a gay woman. That gives me agency. And in 2017 you can’t help but be aware things are changing; we’re not all going to be female or male,” she says. “It is fluid. If I could reflect that in my paintings, then all the better. It’s not going to be the subject of my paintings.”

Exhibitions like this one are not just a sign of her success but a chance for her to reflect on her work as well, and allow Bradford to communicate about her work and revisit it.

“It gives me the opportunity to dwell on how and what they communicate,” she says. “The only thing I can come up with is I’m giving you a lot of choices.”

She’s even willing to indulge in a bit of clever speculation. In the case of Ritual, a group of people is huddled together with their arms in the air as if they are celebrating. A white, air-like cylindrical tornado forms above, connecting them to a moon or planet. Next to them is a bed.

“The bed is for the Philadelphia sex worker,” Bradford deadpans.

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Sugar plums, on deck! It’s time for ‘The Nutcracker’

You can always tell when it’s holiday season in North Texas: That’s when Texas Ballet Theater stages its annual Christmas pudding, aka Tchaikovsky’s The Nutcracker. As always, Sir Ben Stevenson’s lively version of the gorgeous classic will have runs both in Fort Worth’s Bass Hall and Dallas’ Winspear. There’s no excuse not to see one and get in the yuletide mood!


Yee-haw! Tchaikovsky gets a sexy, Texas twist

You can see a traditional Nutcracker if that’s your thing, or you can laugh your Capezios off in The Beulaville Baptist Book Club Presents A Bur-Less-Q Nutcracker, Mark-Brian Sonna’s Texas-twanged send-up where a small-town church accidentally hires a busload of strippers to perform Tchaikovsky’s ballet. The hit holiday tradition moves into the larger main stage space at Addison Theatre Centre this year.

DEETS: Main stage at the Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. MBSProductions.net.

All for one! Theatre Britain bows out with ‘3 Musketeers’

Theatre Britain has been a staple of the North Texas theater scene for more than 15 years, but all good things must come to an end. So, this will be the final show by the company before its founders return to Merrie Olde England. And it is going out on a high note: one of the troupe’s traditional Christmas pantos, with cross-dressing, broad music-hall humor and bawdy jokes … but still family friendly. This year’s spoof? A world premiere adaptation of The Three Musketeers.

ARTSWEEK

THEATER

A Christmas Carol. Brad Leland (Friday Night Lights) stars as Ebenezer Scrooge this year. Wyly Theatre, 2400 Flora St. Through Dec. 28 (in previews through Nov. 28). DallasTheaterCenter.org.


BALLET


FINE ART


Yayoi Kusama: All the Eternal Love I Have for the Pumpkins. The DMA features the only Infinity Mirror Room of its kind in a North American collection, this tribute to the gourd by Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 25. DMA.org.

EXHIBITION


FRIDAY 11.24

COMMUNITY

Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

SATURDAY 11.25

COMMUNITY

FrontRunners. Gay jogging/walking group meets weekly at 9 a.m. in Oak Lawn Park at Hall Street and Turtle Creek Boulevard for a run along the Katy Trail.

MAGIC

Close Up Parlor Magic. Sleight-of-hand masters Confetti Eddie and Daryl Howard perform. Confetti Eddie Magic Parlor, 823 Exposition Ave. 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. shows. $20–$30. Visit Prekindle.com for tickets.

The North Pole goes wild when Jolly Ol’ Saint Nick announces his retirement after a millennium in Casa Manana’s new musical, ‘Santa Claus.’ (Photo courtesy Chris and Scott Morris)
TUESDAY 11.28
FILM
Midnight Cowboy. The only film rated X to win the best picture Oscar (its rating was later changed to R), it tells a kind of gay romance between two losers on the streets of New York City. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series at Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m.

THURSDAY 11.30
CABARET
Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday. Mable Peabody’s Beauty Parlor and Chain Saw Repair, 1125 E. University Drive, Denton. 9:30 p.m.

CEREMONY
C.U.R.E. World AIDS Day. The HIV nonprofit commemorates World AIDS Day with a display of the AIDS Quilt and a program that includes presentation of the Open Heart Award to Dallas Voice. George W. Bush Institute, 2943 SMU Blvd. 5:30 p.m. Search Eventbrite.com for tickets.

THEATER
Cassie Nova
Karma's a bitch, y'all

Happy fall, y'all. This is my favorite time of year. It's cool enough to make a fire in the backyard pit and drink wine till you are goofy. Seriously, that is my absolute favorite thing to do right now. There is nothing like fire, wine and a 5-30 sunset.

If you have ever been to one of my shows or know me, you know I shake. I always have. I remember being in junior high and a kid making fun of me for shaking. My sister shakes, my mother shakes, and I even remember my pawpaw vibrating a little. My doctor called it a making fun of me for shaking. My sister shakes, that would probably only help a little; I said no thanks. To be honest, I only really notice the shaking when someone else comments on it. I used to freak out thinking everyone will think I was on drugs then when I was on drugs, I didn't care what they thought. Funny how that works.

I just figure it is who I am. I can't do anything about it, so fuck it. I'm not saying I don't get self-conscious because I do, but I'm hoping that by writing about it, I can just own it. Adrenaline can really exacerbate the shaking, so usually at the beginning of the show I basically vibrate. If we open the show with a big production and then I emcee, that is when my shaking is the absolute worst. So last Saturday night, that is exactly what happened.

We opened the show with a Spice Girls production. It's super cute with actual choreography. Everyone who knows me knows I am a dancer. Not! I can hold my own, but sometimes it feels like I am doing full cardio before I have to talk on the microphone. So my adrenaline is way up. Excitement, nerves, being anxious to get the choreography right, all add fuel to my vibrating super power.

After the production, I do what I do best: Mess with some straight people. I usually single out a cute straight guy and make sure he remembers the night he went and played with the gays. I always buy them a shot so we can toast onstage. On this night, I damn near poured his shot on the floor I was shaking so badly. I knew it was very obvious I was shaking but literally shook it off. We toasted, drank our shots, and I continued the show. The crowd was incredible that night, tips were great, the energy was fabulous, and I was loving life.

Until the end of my performance. That's when a little group of straight girls held up a few dollars to tip me. She was shaking and acting like she had Parkinson's and just laughing her ass off. I got on the mike and said, "Oh my Gawd, you are so sweet to call out one of the things that I am actually embarrassed by. You must be a wonderful human being. Thank you for making sure everyone saw that I shake. Your parents must be so proud. Bitch!" Hateful and her sisters just laughed.

I then talked about how my husband loves me more than anything. I am my own vibrator. I sometimes mix a drink just by holding it. I turned and continued on with the show.

Now, don't get it twisted, I get the irony of a bitchy drag queen that basically makes fun of people for a living to get a little of what she dishes out. But when I roast someone I try to make sure they know it comes from a place of fun. If I make fun of you about something, I make fun of myself even more. I wear dresses for a living; I should never be taken seriously.

As the show progressed, I introduced Kofi from Houston. She always puts on a fun show, and last weekend was no exception. During her number, she grabbed a bottle of beer off one of the tables and poured it all over herself. She was in the moment and feeling it. The crowd went crazy as she sloshed her wet wig around. She ripped off her beer soaked hair and threw it towards the stage. It landed on the Mean Girls table and knocked over their drinks. Oh karma, I love you.

After Kofi was done performing, I asked the audience whose beer was it that Kofi "borrowed." A lady with big blonde hair said it was hers but that it was OK, she would get herself another one. She was obviously having a great time. I said, "No I will get you a beer, no problem. What were you drinking?" Before she could even answer, Miss Mock Shaker was screaming from behind me: "I need a new drink, too!" I turned to her with my finger shaking back and forth. I was doing, and said, "No, no, no!" It was a full circle moment and made my petty heart grow three sizes.

I am Cassie Nova — shaking not stirred! Now to solve a problem.

Dear Cassie, With the holidays coming up, do you have any advice on how to deal with family members that always want to argue politics or current events? I hate that I always leave my family engagements pissed off and exhausted like I have just been on trial. Thank you for all you do. Bob.

Hey Bob, First off: Alcohol and lots of it. That is a joke, the last thing I need is to be drinking around family. Then I will argue with a wall… which is usually what you are doing when talking politics with someone that has different views from you. Let’s be honest, there is nothing they can say to change your mind, and if someone is willing to listen, there probably will be no argument at all.

I have a list of topics ready for discussion way before I get to a family function — subjects that don’t go near politics, kneeling during the National Anthem, Blake Shelton or gay stuff. I ask things like, “Did you watch Stranger Things? Did you know Midlothian is getting a new Kroger and a Panda Express? Can you believe so-and-so got voted out on Survivor? Isn’t her baby adorable? Have you seen Thor?” (Be careful with that last one because I always end up commenting on Thor’s haircut and how he is still hot as balls.) Also the ever reliable, “Boy… how ‘bout this weather?”

Lighthearted and fun always beat out stressed and pissed off, so tread lightly this holiday season.

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

If you have a question of comment, email it to AskCassieNova@gmail.com.
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Making the SCENE the week of Oct. 7-13

- Alexandre's: Walter Lee on Friday, Stephanie Sallie on Saturday and Sunday, K-Marie on Tuesday, Anna Fredericka Popova on Wednesday, Chris Chism on Thursday.
- Club Changes: Wall of Food meeting at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.
- Club Reflection: Trinity River Bears meeting at 2:30 p.m. and cookout at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Texas Gay Rodeo Association game night at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- Dallas Eagle: Mutt Mosh from 6-10 p.m. on Friday. Go Elf Yourself hosted by Armani Cole and Louis Kenmar benefits the SSC Fund from 7–10 p.m. on Saturday.
- JR.'s Bar & Grill: Cassie’s Freak Show at 11 p.m. on Monday, Dreamgirls at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- Pekers: Open at 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving.
- Randi's Alternate Route 2 to 2: Imperial Court and Wall of Food show at 8 p.m. on Wednesday.
- Round-Up Saloon: Mancandy with Jeff Doll spinning the hits from the '70s, '80s and '90s at 8 p.m. on Sunday.
- Sue Ellen's: Straw Hat Society on Saturday, Kathy & Bella at 3:30 p.m. followed by Tyla Taylor on Sunday.
- The Rose Room: Miss Texas FFI and at Large Pageant starring Melissa Crawford and Kathryn York at 10:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- TMC: The Mining Company: Lip Sync in a Bag with Athena O’hara at midnight on Wednesday.
- Woody's Sports & Video Bar: Washington at Dallas Cowboys at 7:25 p.m. followed by Jada Pinkett Fox at 11 p.m. on Thursday.

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This event is funded and developed by ViIV Healthcare