Celebration Community Church’s 25th Anniversary

by Tammye Nash, Page 10
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.
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, 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 had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.

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.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.
We're open, not unprepared.

We know who we are. And we make choices that fit our lives.

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
TOprotect your health and to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection, it is important to
• You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not
• Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
• Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
• Take 1 tablet once a day, every day, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
• Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.
• 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.

**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.

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.
• Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
• Take 1 tablet once a day, every day

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP
• Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.
• Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.
Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:
• To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about
reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP
• Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.
• If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to
treat over time.
• You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
• You must be HIV-1 negative.
Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:
TRUVADA FOR PrEP (tru-VAH-dah)

GET MORE INFORMATION
•  If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.
• Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
•  This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your
healthcare provider about your medicine.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP
TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:
• Bone problems.
• 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
• 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,
abnormal heartbeat.
• Abnormal muscle and nerve function. These symptoms may include muscle or nerve pain
• Too little copper in your blood.

If you get these symptoms, see your healthcare provider:
• Skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine
• Abnormal heartbeat.
• Mammaries in your abdomen
• Anemia
• Easy bruising or bleeding

Tell your healthcare provider:
• If you take medicine to treat hepatitis B (HBV) or HIV-1.
• If you have HBV infection.
• You must get tested to make sure that you do not already
• In people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain,
• Lactic acidosis, which is a serious but rare medical emergency
• If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
• If you are breastfeeding.
• You must be HIV-1 negative.

ON THE COVER
The Rev. Carol West at Celebration Community Church. Photo by Tammye Nash. Design by Kevin Thomas
First U.S. trans murder of the year reported

The first transgender woman murdered this year was killed by her husband, according to Transgriot. Police found Christa Leigh Steele-Knudsen, 42, dead in her home on Friday, Jan. 5. Her husband, Mark Steele-Knudsen, 47, went to a police station in Adams, Mass., where he admitted killing his wife. Adams police notified North Adams police who found the body. He’s being held without bail.

Steele-Knudsen was arraigned Monday, Jan. 8.

An autopsy determined Christa died of blood loss from a stab wound, and multiple blunt force injuries to her head, according to the Berkshire Eagle. The newspaper also notes the last homicide in North Adams took place in 2013. Local newspaper reports don’t mention Christa was transgender. That information comes from other local sources who reported the information to Monica Roberts, editor of Transgriot.

— David Taffet

HIV League Scholarships are available

Four HIV League Scholarships for $7,000 each are available for full-time undergraduate students. The application deadline is Jan. 31.

• Applicants must be students living with HIV
• Applicants must be either currently or going to be enrolled as a full-time student in an institution of higher education for at least two consecutive years
• Applicants must have an unweighted GPA of 2.5
• Applicants have the option to make their name public or not if they’re awarded a scholarship

The HIV League Scholarship is the only national scholarship specifically for students living with HIV, and it exists because students living with HIV have great potential. The scholarship aims to build the leadership, knowledge and skills of its scholars, which is the truest form of investment in one’s future.

An HIV League Scholar is a promising student living with HIV as evidenced by their educational accomplishments, leadership and service. The HIV League is based in New York, but students from across the U.S. are eligible to apply.

To apply go to HIVLeague.org

— David Taffet
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Brady L. Allen, M.D.
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Dr. Marc Tribble and Dr. Donald Graneto named to D Magazine’s Best Doctors in Dallas for 2017 in Infectious Disease and Family Medicine respectively.

Dr. David Lee and Dr. Brady Allen voted Best General Practitioner and Best HIV Specialists in the 2017 Readers Voice Awards.

Uptown Physicians Group
Uptown Tower, 4144 N. Central Expressway, Suite 750,
Dallas, TX 75204 | 214-303-1033
www.UptownDocs.com
**THE GAY AGENDA**

Have an event coming up? Email your information to Managing Editor Tammye Nash at nash@dallasvoice.com or Senior Staff Writer David Taffet at taffet@dallasvoice.com by Wednesday at 5 p.m. for that week’s issue.

- **Weekly:** Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m. on 89.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. This week’s guest is writer Leslea Newman; United Black Ellum hosts discussion on HIV/AIDS in the black community (UBE Connected) at 7 p.m. every fourth Tuesday of the month at 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; Core Group Meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.; Fuse game night every Monday evening except the last of the month at 8 p.m. at the Fuse space in the 3918 Harry Hines Blvd.; FuseConnect every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalenzeski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalenzeski@myresourcecenter.org. LGBT square dancing group Pegasus Squares meets every Sunday from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 4011 Junius St. For more info, email pegasussquares@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 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; DTV in Spaye, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4–5 p.m., on the Spaye Station YouTube channel.

**JANUARY 2018**

- **Jan. 12-15:** DSGA hosts Sin City Classic Different Strokes Golf Association hosts the golf portion of the Sin City Classic in Las Vegas. The two-day tournament one-day fun round takes place at Bali Hai Golf Club. Pricing and info at SinCityClassic.org. Early registration ends Dec. 15.
- **Jan. 12:** DFW Pride Happy Hour From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at The Lake House Bar & Grill, 7510 E. Northwest Hwy. For information call 214-922-8220.
- **Jan. 13:** Celebration Church’s 25th anniversary Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave. in Fort Worth, celebrates its 25th anniversary as a church with a party in the new Rev. Carol A. West Community Center. The celebration includes dinner, dancing and a cash bar, and tickets are $50 each. For information visit Celebration-Community-Church.com or call 817-335-3222.
- **Jan. 13:** Community Yoga Class A free community yoga class will be held from 10-11 a.m. at Resource Center Community Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road. This is an all-levels class with a focus on alignment. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat. Water will be provided. RSVP at ResourceCenterYoga.eventbrite.com.
- **Jan. 17:** Candidate forum The Frisco Democratic Club will hold a candidate forum featuring candidates in the races to represent Texas’ third and 26th congressional districts, from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Conference Center at Collin College Preston Ridge Campus, 9700 Wade Blvd. in Frisco. Candidates for the 3rd Congressional District are Lorie Burch, Adam Bell, Sam Johnson and Medrick Yhap. Candidates for the 26th Congressional District are Linsley Fagan and Will Fisher.
- **Jan. 17:** TAG dinner From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Zatar Lebanese Tapas Bar, 2825 Commerce St. Tickets are $50, available at eventbrite.com.
- **Jan. 18:** Toast to Life mixer From 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Zatar Lebanese Tapas Bar, 2825 Commerce St.
- **Jan. 18:** Classic Movie Night Gray Pride monthly mixer from 6-8 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.
- **Jan. 18:** TAG dinner Tyler Area Gays meets for dinner at 7 p.m. at Roast Social Kitchen, 1125 E. 5th St., Tyler.
- **Jan. 19:** Federal Club January mixer HRC presents its monthly mixer at 6 p.m. at Woody’s Sports and Video Bar, 4011 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at eventbrite.com.
- **Jan. 19:** Little Black Dress Legal Hospice of Texas presents its FashionCITED preview party from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Goodson Acura, 4801 Lemmon Ave.
- **Jan 20:** Gay4Good Join Gay4Good at Dallas Animal Services making pet toys, dispensing treats and assisting as needed from 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Dallas Animal Services, 1818 Westmoreland Road.
- **Jan 20:** Dallas Women’s March Join State Representative Victoria Neave, lead organizer of the Dallas Women’s March, Rhetta Bowers, Chair of the Dallas Women’s March, Planned Parenthood, Dallas AFL-CIO, Texas Coalition of Black Democrats, and other partner organizations to commemorate the first anniversary of the historic Dallas Women’s March, when Dallas joined cities across the country and the world to stand up for equality, justice, and inclusion. Starts at 10 a.m. at St. Paul’s UMC, 1816 Routh St., and ends at Pike Park, 2807 Harry Hines Blvd. For information email DallasWomensMarch2018@gmail.com.
- **Jan 20:** Slumber Party Gaybingo Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at S4, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.
- **Jan 20:** Stonewall Goes Hollywood Tarrant County Stonewall Democrats holds a fundraiser, Stonewall Goes Hollywood with QCinema founder Todd Camp speaking at 7 p.m. at First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church, 1599 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth. Tickets are $50, available at tarrantstonewall.org/hollywood.
- **Jan 21:** Legos & Literacy Rainbow Roundup event at North Oak Cliff Branch Library, 302 W. 10th St.
- **Jan 22:** LGBT 50+ support group Weekly support group for LGBT people 50+ facilitated by SMU Counseling from 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.
- **Jan 23:** Senior Services Program listening session Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Adam Medrano hosts a program on the city’s senior programs from 10-11 a.m. at Catholic

**OBITUARY**

Russell Holloway, 56, of Dallas, passed away peacefully at 5:45 a.m., on Jan. 9, 2018 in Dallas after a long-fought battle with Parkinson’s disease. He was born on Sept. 2, 1961. to Albert Holloway and Queta Tyler in Garland. He met Mike Jordan, his soulmate and the love of his life, on Christmas Day 2000 in Dallas. They were inseparable from then on.

Russell was an event planner. He founded Feature Presentations LTD, and led the Dallas-based event company for 27 years. Mike worked with him in his event company. Russell and Mike were married on Sept. 7, 2014, at Strawberry Fields in Central Park in New York City.

Russell was fiercely intelligent and had an amazing sense of humor and adventure. Russell and Mike loved to travel and took many trips and cruises throughout Europe, Central America and the Caribbean. They made many close friends along the way.

Russell was survived by his devoted husband, Mike Jordan, their beloved rat terrier, Matte, as well as his mother Queta Tyler. Russell is also survived by his sisters; Lisa Stone and Linda Caster and her husband, James; his nephew, Stephen Bishop and wife, Kirsty; and nieces; Jessica Abbott and husband Aaron, Kendra Bishop and Kathleen Bishop; and three great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father, Albert Holloway, and his brother, Albert Dean Holloway.

Visitation will be held Sunday, Jan. 14, from 5-7 p.m. at Restland Family Home. Funeral service will be held on Monday, Jan 15, at Restland Memorial Chapel at 11 a.m., with Robert Emery officiating. Burial will be in the Holloway family plot at Lakeview Cemetery in Marietta, Okla. at 2:30 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Parkinson’s Voice Project.
Meet Brutus, a 2-year-old American pit bull mix weighing 56 pounds. Like his chocolate color, he’s super sweet. He loves everyone he meets and always has a goofy grin. And his personality is just as quirky: he likes licking people’s clothes, making silly snort noises and showing off his toys with his head held high. Brutus has been neutered and microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet him today and he will steal your heart. #159404

Brutus 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.

**FEBRUARY**

- **Feb. 4:** Pizza & Politics
  LGBT issues are on the agenda at the YPC of Dallas 32nd congressional district candidates forum at 12:30 p.m. at Northaven UMC, 11211 Preston Road.

- **Feb. 6:** Mid-Cities Democrats
  Gubernatorial forum and chili dinner at 6:30 p.m. at Local UAW 218, 98 W. Hurst Blvd., Hurst. $25. info@midicitiesdemocrats.com.

- **Feb. 6:** DFW LGBT Grief Support Group
  For people who have lost a same-sex spouse at 6:45 p.m. at Oak Lawn Branch Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

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Celebrating Celebration

Fort Worth church marks its 25th anniversary this weekend

TAMMYE NASH  | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

I started out in 1993 as a satellite congregation of Dallas’ White Rock Community Church, with about 11 members meeting in a room above the garage at a member’s home.

WRC Pastor Jerry Cook would preach the Sunday morning service at his church in Dallas, then head over to Fort Worth for Sunday evening services with the tiny new church.

This weekend, the more than 400-members-strong Celebration Community Church, which owns its own historic sanctuary and recently completed construction on its new community center — celebrates its 25th anniversary with a Saturday night gala and Sunday morning services. The Rev. Carol West, who in August will mark her 20th anniversary as pastor of the church and after whom the new community center is built, said this week that Celebration may have started small, but that the church is a prime example of the power of faith.

When Cook left WRC, West said, Celebration made do with two part-time pastors, an arrangement that lasted until about 1998, when both part-time preachers quit. So there the church was, five years into its existence, with about 37 members and no pastor.

But when many congregations might have called it quits, the members of Celebration Community Church stepped up and, in a show of amazing faith, rented an historic church building at 908 Pennsylvania Avenue for $2,000 a month.

“That was a huge risk,” West said this week. “That’s a lot of money for 37 people to cover, rent plus utilities and all the other costs. But they did it.”

Four months later, in August 1998, the congregation called West as their pastor, and Celebration Community Church hasn’t looked back since.

An historic church

The building Celebration rented some 20 years ago had originally been home to St. John’s Evangelical and Reform Church, another congregation that started out meeting in someone’s home. Chartered in 1882 under the direction of the Rev. F. Werning, a pioneer missionary from Waco, the church first consisted of some 12 families of German descent.

The church’s original sanctuary was built on Calhoun Street but moved to the corner of Texas and Taylor streets before settling at 908 Pennsylvania in 1915.

At first, West said, all of the church’s services were conducted in German. But then came World War II and the U.S.’s fight against Nazi Germany, and the church services switched to English.

At one point, she said, St. John’s congregation began to shrink. That’s when they merged with the First Congregational Church. But by 1998, the church was no more, and still, the church hesitated when the tiny LGBT congregation wanted to lease their facilities.

Rev West joins the team

West herself began working as a student clergymember in 1986, and was ordained in 1990. One of her first positions was as the AIDS chaplain at the Metropolitan Community Church of Dallas — now Cathedral of Hope UCC — at the height of the AIDS epidemic in North Texas.

After several years at what became the largest LGBT congregation in the country — perhaps the world — West left the ministry, choosing instead to work at local HIV/AIDS service organizations. But in the summer of 1998, she applied for the pastor’s position at Celebration.

“People told me I didn’t have a chance, that they’d never hire a woman,” she recalled. “But I applied anyway.”

And as it turned out, “people” were wrong. Not only did Celebration hire West, she led the charge in growing the church. She even helped found a satellite congregation in Mabank at Cedar Creek Lake called, aptly enough, Celebration on the Lake. That congregation has since spun off to become an independent church.

After being diagnosed last September with an aggressive form of breast cancer and beginning chemotherapy treatment in October, West has had to change her routine a little. Because the treatment depletes her immune system, she said, she has had to forgo her habit of entering the sanctuary early on Sunday mornings to greet those attending. And she can no longer stand at the church door at the end of the service to shake hands and trade hugs with congregants as they leave.

But, she notes, she has only missed “maybe three Sundays” in the pulpit since her treatments started, and she has no doubt that she will come out on top in her fight against the cancer.

The more things change

As Celebration marks its 25th anniversary, West said she is more than proud of the church that started with a giant leap of faith. “It’s an amazing group of people,” she said of her congregation. “It’s a family.”

While that has never changed, West said she has seen a lot of changes since the days she served at MCC Dallas.

“I was at MCC Dallas when the cops cruised the parking lots on Sunday mornings, writing down the license plate numbers of the cars that were there. I was there when the Klan came to the church. We had to hide, a lot,” she recalled. “People were afraid to be seen going into the church, afraid to be seen leaving. You could lose your kids back then, lose your job, lose your family.”

These days, though, “more people are bringing their families to church with them” at Celebration, West said. “We’ve had three and four generations in services here. We had a cantata here recently, and people came and brought their neighbors with them. And we have a very active group of straight allies who are members.

“These days, supposedly, [LGBT] people are welcome at more and more mainstream churches, and I know that we welcome everyone here,” she continued. “It’s a double-edged sword, I guess. I hate to see our [LGBT] churches lose our identity, but at the same time, we really do want to be — we really are — a church for all people. And I look forward to the day when all people really are welcome at all churches.”
Former Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez officially kicked off her campaign for the Democratic nomination for governor of Texas at a rally at Tyler Station in Oak Cliff on Sunday, Jan. 7.

With just two months to go before the primary, the Valdez campaign showed signs of a late start — few campaign signs, no T-shirts, buttons or other campaign paraphernalia were evident at the rally, although signs were provided to those standing behind Valdez on the podium for the sake of the TV audience.

But what the campaign lacked in swag, it made up for in excitement from a crowd that braved the cold, wet afternoon to help their candidate jump into the race.

Valdez’s sense of humor shone through as she introduced herself, joking that many people might not recognize her out of uniform. She resigned as sheriff as of Dec. 31 to run for Texas’ top office.

Democratic candidates in general are not shying away from criticizing Republicans who spent most of the legislative session pushing discriminatory legislation, and Valdez is no exception, calling the bathroom bill, the sanctuary city law and voter fraud claims “made up issues.” When Gov. Greg Abbott pushed the Texas Legislature to pass a sanctuary city bill, he singled out Valdez for criticism.

“The people who were supposed to be serving us were doing more harm than good,” she told the crowd.

But Valdez spent only a few minutes attacking Republicans, instead using most of her time to lay out her goals.

“Our children are in cramped and crowded classrooms,” she said. “Our roads and bridges need attention.” And she called healthcare a top priority for the state.

Valdez said she would “bring common sense back to government” and run “a campaign that gives hope to all.”

“I want to be the candidate that makes the difference for Texas,” she said, “and find solutions to real issues.”

In the introductory remarks, one supporter announced the formation of Vets for Valdez. Democratic Party activist Regina Montoya called Valdez “a tenacious mentor and role model,” and an “an effective and proven leader.”

“She knows how to get things done,” Montoya said.

The Rev. Eric Folketh, pastor of Northaven United Methodist Church, recalled when his wife, 303rd District Court Judge Denisse Garcia, Valdez, and five other Democratic candidates first ran for office in 2004, the swelling of the tide that turned Dallas County blue. “We’re at that time with our whole state,” Folketh said.

Before her official campaign kickoff on Sunday, Valdez was in San Angelo on Saturday for a candidate forum with the other nine people running for governor. (Since then, one of the candidates — Demetria Smith — has been declared ineligible to run in the Democratic Primary because her filing fee check bounced.)

The field of candidates now includes Andrew White, son of former governor Mark White, and Dallas businessman Jeffrey Payne, who is gay.

The ‘frontrunners’

Major media across the state have been writing that the primary is likely to be a two-person race, between Valdez and White.

Valdez has government experience that includes four successful political races. But the Dallas Morning News, in an article about the San Angelo forum that described White as “Houston businessman Andrew White” and Payne as “Dallas businessman Jeffrey Payne,” labeled White a frontrunner.

Payne campaign media director Hardy Haberman said he wonders why any credible media would label any of the candidates as frontrunners, since there’ve been no polls conducted yet.

Haberman questioned the Democrat Party’s insistence on looking for a “celebrity”...
Even the most innocuous situations can quickly turn dangerous, a Dallas man warned, after a minor traffic accident a few months ago led to a physical assault.

Colin Harper said that what should have been a simple, courteous exchange of information after a minor accident a few months ago quickly escalated into what could have turned into a deadly confrontation.

Late in the afternoon on Oct. 8, Harper, a real estate agent, said he was driving north on the Dallas North Tollway after showing a house in the southern suburbs. In his rearview mirror, he saw a black convertible speeding toward him and noticed the car’s blinker was on, indicating the driver intended to pass.

The car did pass him but came so close to Harper’s car that it clipped the driver’s side mirror on Harper’s car. So Harper exited at Lemmon Avenue, watching as the convertible slowed down and followed.

“I thought everything was fine,” Harper said, noting that the driver wasn’t “riding up on me,” and did not appear to be angry or aggressive. Harper made a right at Lemmon and pulled into the first parking lot he saw. He took out his insurance card to exchange information, then noticed, for the first time, how angry the other man looked.

Harper said that as he got out of his car and approached the other vehicle, he could smell alcohol on the other driver’s breath. He said the man later admitted that he had been drinking.

When he asked the other driver to let him take a cell phone photo of his insurance card, the man began grinding his teeth before answering, “No. You know what we’re going to do? We’re going to fix our own shit. You’re going to get in your own car and drive away.”

Harper said when he tried to take a picture of the other driver’s license plate, the man grabbed the phone out of his hand, throwing it on the ground and cracking the screen. Harper said he realized later he should have taken the picture from inside his car, with the doors locked, and that it occurred to him later to wonder what might have happened if the assailant had pulled a gun on him.

Harper said the man’s wife, who appeared much calmer than her husband, got out of the car. But her husband “got in my face and said, ‘What are you going to do, faggot?’”

When his wife suggested he get back in the car and let her handle the situation, he instead shouted for her to “Quit talking to that faggot.”

Harper said the woman was about to call his phone so that he would have her contact number when her husband got out of the car again, screaming at her that she should “know her place.”

That’s when Harper called 911. He said he reached a Highland Park emergency operator, even though he was in Dallas, because border separating the two cities is across the street from the parking lot where they had stopped.

Harper said that 911 operator explained to the other driver that if there was no officer, the two drivers should simply exchange information. She said they’d try to dispatch an officer but usually don’t do so for a minor traffic accident.

When they hung up, Harper said the other man grabbed him by the neck, broke his sunglasses and threw him to the ground. Harper called 911 again, reached the same operator and reported that the incident had escalated into assault. The officer said a car had already been dispatched.

By this time, the other driver was back in his car, and as Harper was getting up, the man warned him to get out of the way or he’d hit him. Harper said he had barely made it up when the other man brushed by him in the car.

“He was going to hit me if I hadn’t jumped,” Harper said.

Dallas police showed up in the parking lot about 20 minutes after Harper had already made it home. They took two reports — an accident and property damage report and an assault report.

Harper later learned that a few hours after his run-in with the man, the driver who had attacked him totalled his car in an accident near Stacy Road in Allen. The accident cites the cause of the wreck as “changed lanes when unsafe.”

Dallas police called Harper weeks later with an offer to pay $300 that would have covered the damage to his car. But Harper refused the deal. He wants the other man to face the consequences of his behavior.

“Next time,” Harper said in explaining his reasoning, “he could kill somebody.”

The driver will to appear in Dallas Municipal Court for arraignment on Feb. 7 on a charge of assault with contact.
I can safely say this was a year for the record books, and in some ways that we’d never expected. Given the Trump administration and the Paul Ryan-Mitch McConnell-Republican-led House and Senate, we were in danger of losing so much ground through efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

The president’s budget called for major cuts in domestic and global HIV spending. Work to end mass imprisonment and the war on drugs were set back by the appointment of Jeff Sessions as attorney general, who vowed to ramp up the full prosecution of people under criminal drug laws. No matter how minor. The threats to immigrants in the United States have created an even more hostile environment, particularly for people of color. And the list can go on and on. But the HIV community fought.

Not only did we fight, we won several key battles. HIV/AIDS organizers Jennifer Flynn, Jaron Benjamin and Paul Davis created a national, grassroots strategy of civil disobedience that mobilized thousands to demonstrate against the ACA rollback.

Positive Women’s Network, under the leadership of Naina Khanna, created toolkits and mobilized call-in days for people living with HIV to become local leaders in the fight. The Federal AIDS Policy Partnership worked tirelessly on The Hill to advocate against the regressive bills that would have left millions without health coverage.

It’s no exaggeration to say that if it were not for the HIV community stepping up, the entire country could have lost all of the protections that the Affordable Care Act put in place.

Not just defense

Not all the work that happened was fighting against losses. Many people in the community continued to pursue the fights that were important before this administration and Congress took power. Advocates in several states introduced legislation to end or severely reduce the use of HIV criminalization laws. We were most successful in California and Colorado, where we won clear victories. Advocates across the country continued to support Michael Johnson in Missouri, who won an appeal that led to a reduced conviction of 10 years and an admission by the prosecutor that the law — one of the most severe in the nation — should be repealed. Missouri advocates are currently working to develop a new bill to repeal this law.

Other activists continued to join the national movement to develop local, county and state “ending the epidemic” or “getting to zero” plans. In New York state, the first to launch a plan, there’s evidence that the strategy is working.

One of the most significant game-changers happened when CDC announced that it was adopting the science that shows people who are undetectable are also untransmittable. This change happened not just because of the incontrovertible science on this issue; the Prevention Access Campaign, which launched the U=U movement, organized for more organizations and health departments to sign on to this statement and continued to advocate for CDC leadership to do the same.

Issues brewing for 2018

But we still have some major issues developing in 2018. In addition to the outright attacks on the ACA, the tax reform bill threatens to upend the individual mandate upon which the ACA depends. This would mean that individuals could choose not to purchase insurance, removing the incentive for insurers to offer plans on the ACA marketplace to begin with, leaving fewer options for people living with HIV and making existing plans unaffordable. And people with HIV in states that did not expand Medicaid have even fewer options for coverage.

In addition there are many direct threats to existing HIV research, prevention and care. Recent reports suggest Congress is considering moving resources from the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program into opioid addiction treatment and services. Evidence-based harm reduction models and drug treatment are critical to a comprehensive strategy to prevent HIV. But debates continue over whether the focus on combatting opioid use in rural and white America would come at the detriment of resources for urban and black and Latinx communities — including resources for HIV care.

While federal spending on research through the NIH is often touted as one of the few areas of bipartisan support in Congress, HIV research funding has specifically been questioned by Republican members of Congress and may not be receiving overall increases to the NIH budget that have been appropriated in recent years. And while AIDS research funding itself remains in question, the NIH has begun its process of restructuring and setting priorities for its global AIDS research networks, which will affect the HIV research portfolio through 2027.

Facts matter

We have a lot of things happening at once that may challenge our ability to keep making gains in ending the epidemic, even as we’re beginning to see some new possibilities for success.

We ended the year with news that we may be going back to explicit or implicit gag orders on word usage, Bush-era style, including words central in HIV like “transgender” and “evidence-based.”

The Federal Communications Commission voted to end net neutrality, which means even public health news sources like TheBody.com could be blocked by internet providers because they don’t like the content that provides news and information about sexual health for people and communities living with HIV.

I’ve remained in HIV so long is not just because I’m a black gay man. It’s not just because, despite being HIV negative, HIV remains a primary issue that impacts me and my community. I have continued to do this work because I have found community in some of the bravest, smartest, strategic people I’ve ever known, despite being among those who are the most socially marginalized. The HIV community knows how to show up, despite our many differences, when we need to save people’s lives.

We remain committed to facts, to evidence, and to sharing information as resources to help people feel less alone, less afraid.

In the HIV media, we will continue to provide the news, the analysis and the opinions of the community. We don’t have a choice — lives are at stake now. But for us, they have been for a long time.

Kenyon Farrow is the senior editor of TheBody.com and TheBodyPRO.com.

Follow Kenyon on Twitter: @kenyonfarrow.

This column is a project of Plus, Positively Aware, POZ, TheBody.com and Q Syndicate, the LGBT Wire service.
Top tables

The tacos at Revolver in Deep Ellum were impressive mini-meals on the best corn tortilla in Dallas, above; the two-story Del Frisco’s at Legacy West stood out for its style as well as its steak, right. (Photos by Arnold Wayne Jones)

So while I do announce my Restaurant of the Year (at the end this time, to sustain the suspense), as well as so close runners-up and notable also-rans, what resonated mostly over the last 12-or-so months of my dining life — my Top Tables, the memorable spots I enjoyed over and over and spoke to something culinary and socially poignant — were places filled with flaws but personality; mistakes, but often in the service of outside-the-lunchbox thinking; casual boites for exceptional bites, from tacos (a lot) to something more. And areas of town that drew me back again and again.

So here it is — not a Ten Best per se (how 2015 would that be?) but a survey of what made a difference to foodies and followers, chefs and diners, boozehounds and gourmands… concluding with a summary of what I think were the top new restaurants in 2017.

Mirror, mirror…. When you have a concept that works, make it work elsewhere. I thoroughly enjoyed new iterations of Greenville Avenue Pizza Co. (GAPCo. now in Lakewood), Asian Mint (the third version, this one at Inwood Village), Public School 972 (in Addison, supplementing Uptown’s PS 214) and even Urban Taco’s redesign and hop across the parking lot at Mockingbird Station, in addition to Del Frisco’s in Uptown and Legacy West (see below).

Uptown chic. Del Frisco’s is just one of the eateries to pop up around the renewed Uptown area near the Crescent, which welcomes everything from burger joint Shake Shack to the renovated opulence of Truluck’s. But two new ones that raised the profile of the neighborhood most were the spacious seafood spot Water Grill, and the Canadian-based gastro-more-than-a-pub Moxie’s.

Going Deep. Like Uptown, Deep Ellum is undergoing a renaissance. Some do better than others (I loved Filament, but it didn’t last). On the classic American cuisine side, two newcomers — Idle Rye and Stirr — tingled our taste buds. (Look for another Deep Ellum freshman later in this list.)

Gayborhood go-tos. District 30 (aptly named for the congressional district in which it sits) and Crickles & Co. have provided a fresh taste in the wake of closings like Cedar Grove, ThaiRiffic and others. If you’re willing to drive down Oak Lawn and cross the highway, the Design District BBQ joint Ferris Wheelers, a smoked-meat Mecca whose sauces accent rather than mask great brisket and pulled pork.

The outliers. You have to drive up to Frisco if you want to enjoy Nerdvana, though a true nerd would have no problem doing so for the chance of dining on well-crafted dishes in a tech-savvy and welcoming setting, where classic video games are available for play. For gamers, it’s a full-on nerdgasm. Likewise, healthy eaters should gather at Gather, the Down-
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Every era has its landmark autos that define their time. Cars like the be-finned 1959 Cadillac are obvious, but the original Ford Mustang, DeLorean and Toyota Prius did as well. Corvettes always mark a new generation when they are introduced. Here are some vehicles we met during 2017 that are sure to be remembered.

2017 Chevy Bolt. History will remember it wasn’t Tesla that delivered the first “affordable” long-range electric car, but Chevrolet. Given a base price under $30,000 with incentives, effortless acceleration via 200 horsepower and 238 miles all-electric range are remarkable. Drive without worrying about the next plug. Heated seats front/rear, heated steering wheel, Bose audio, navigation, forward collision mitigation braking and lane keep assist are available.

2018 Honda Accord. Despite the surge of crossovers over mid-size sedans, the Accord remains the affordable benchmark of its segment. An all-new model shows how to win with a more sculptural body accented by LED headlamps, fastback proportions and a unique window line. Soft touch materials, head-up display, and 4G wi-fi trick out the interior. Choose between 192 horsepower 1.5-liter turbo-4, 252 horsepower 2.0-liter turbo-4 and 50-MPG hybrid powertrains.

2018 Dodge Challenger Demon. When history records the second coming of the muscle car, this will be its centerfold. Stoked with an 840 horsepower supercharged 6.2-liter HEMI V8, the Demon can accelerate from 0-60 mph in 2.3 seconds and toast the quarter mile in 9.65s at 140 mph. It’s so fast, the National Hot Rod Association officially banned it from sanctioned events. Performance is enhanced by diverting A/C refrigerant to the supercharger and passenger seat delete option.

2017 Buick Envision. This is less about the crossover, though it’s a very nice compact luxurious ride with heaps of style, than about its origin. See, this is the first domestically-branded vehicle to be built in China and imported to the United States. What a wild ride!

2017 YEAR IN REVIEW

AUTO

The last thing you should worry about when you head to the ER for you or your family is how you will pay for it. Put your mind at ease. What used to be the challenge of finding in-network or insurance approved no longer applies. When you head to the ER, your insurance should pay. According to the latest legislation, insurance cannot turn you away. And neither will we. We are ready for you and accept all major private insurance plans.

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States. It was followed by the Cadillac CT6 plug-in. The Envision’s assembly location is a big deal, but what matters more are features like Bose audio, wi-fi, plush leather interior and efficient powertrains.

2018 Tesla Model 3. Here’s the car that may one day school the Chevy Bolt … if Elon Musk can get his plant in gear long enough to produce them. It puts sexy electric car styling in the hands of mortals who will appreciate the $35,000 base price and at least 220 miles of electric range (up to 310 miles with fortified batteries). As with its larger siblings, the dashboard is dominated by a 15-in. tablet-like touchscreen. Navigation, wi-fi, backup camera and automatic emergency braking are standard. Add autopilot self-driving capability for $8,000.

2019 Corvette ZR1. Corvettes are both products and definitions of their eras. I was a teenager when the 1990 Corvette ZR-1 dominated magazine covers. It set the standard for supercars to come. The next ZR1, which recently debuted in Dubai, may be the last American supercar of the gasoline era. Check the digits: 755 horsepower, 6.2-liter supercharged V8 and top speed over 210 mph. A door-sized rear wing keeps it planted. Sebring Orange paint makes a statement.

Nissan IMX Concept. What will be our automotive future? Gasoline engines and batteries will compete for dominance while autonomous driving becomes normal. This concept, introduced at the Tokyo Motor Show, brings it all together in one sporty package. It’s an all-electric crossover with 370 miles range, but when the steering wheel retracts, it turns into an autonomous den of leather, wood, and flatscreen infotainment screens controlled by eye movements and hand gestures. Looking back from 2025, this will be the car that predicted the future.
town spot that delivers tasty meals with organic and balanced ingredients. It’s nice not to sacrifice flavor to eat well.

All of these places and more offered real support to the dining scene; now for the stars.

**The best**

**Del Frisco’s.** Two of my favorite dining experiences last year were at these magnificent meat castles — one that opened last summer at Legacy West in Plano, and one that started off in late 2016 right in Uptown. Chef David Holbein supervises the menu and hits a home run with the exceptional cuts of steak prepared perfectly.

**Sassetta.** Dallas has long been deprived of great choices in authentic and exceptional Italian food… or was, until places like Sprezza and Americano raised the bar. (We tend to do pizza pretty well already.) Add the welcoming Design District restaurant Sassetta to that list. Its brown butter and butternut raviolis are indulgent masterpieces of intoxicating richness, but many of the smaller plates — the crudo, the meatballs — tantalize your tastebuds as well. Oh, and they serve pizzas, too.

**Beto & Son.** The most notable addition to the Trinity Groves destination dining hub was this father-son Mexican delight, an approachable yet inventive — and dare we say fun? — take on classic Tex-Mex dishes, like stacked enchiladas, an addictive queso fundido and several “towers” (ceviche, salad) that are are wonderful to look at as they are to feast upon.

**Taquero.** Beto & Son was hardly the only West Dallas eatery to do up Mexican food right. In fact, you only need travel a few blocks down Singleton Boulevard to discover (if you keep your eye peeled) this out-of-the-way walk-up taqueria with the macho-sounding name and equally aggressive versions of tacos, as well as hearty tortas. With minimal fanfare, a spot like Taquero is what food exploration is all about. (Look for a full review soon in these pages.)

**Jose.** OK, one more stab at Texican cooking. Along Lovers Lane is Jose, a warm restaurant that nevertheless projects a knowing, hip, we-know-we-got-it-going vibe. The service is lightning fast, the food exceeds expectations and defies the prosaic descriptions on the menu. This is high-end without being highfalutin.

**Lovers Seafood & Market.** If Beto and Taquero can be neighbors, why not Jose and Lovers Seafood, the newest concept from the owners of Shinsei (which is just around the corner on Inwood). Whimsical decor and a good wine list are pluses, but it’s the recipes — from lobster tacos to IPA-battered fish & chips.

**Runners-up**

So how do you select one restaurant to be your singular standout, the one that defined the year? It wasn’t easy, especially
with four serious contenders. But I managed to narrow it down and pick a winner. First, though, the others in contention.

City Hall Bistro. Downtown's Adolphus Hotel has been undergoing renovations for years now (its French Room finally reopened after a long shuttering), but the restaurant that makes us want to come back is this one. Spacious without being cavernous, City Hall Bistro (so named because Dallas' original seat of local government once sat on this spot) is an elegant gem — not surprising for a high-end hotel — but also a friendly and unpretentious one with good prices, excellent service and a range of dishes that don't get caught up in trends or themes. At a recent brunch, neither my companion nor I (experienced diners both) had heard of shakshuka before, but their iteration of the spicy African egg dish made us squeal with glee; the steak and eggs at the same meal boasted perfect preparation and tender beef. Lunch and dinner — as well as cocktails — are just as formidable.

Revolver Taco Lounge. The other important addition to the food scene in Deep Ellum is this deft taqueria with a gourmet pedigree. The menu includes ceviches as well as a “Mexican hot dog” made from local Luscher’s Red Hots sausage, but the tacos are the stars … supernovae, really. Most run roughly twice or more what you’d pay at most taco stands; all are worth it — large, architectural, bursting with creativity. Revolver is appropriately nestled in the hipster haven of Dallas; these tacos are simply too cool for school. You won’t be able to get enough. (Look for a full review soon.)

Sachet. The top spot on my list was hard fought, and Sachet — at the northernmost end of that cultivator of magnificent eateries along Oak Lawn, the Shops of Highland Park (Aurora and Madrina wowed us here; Sachet occupies the old La Duni space) — was a strong contender. Of course it would be. The atmosphere is modern and sophisticated, but not stuffy. The dishes — many with a Mediterranean flair, though extending from Northern Spain to the Levant for inspiration — are technical triumphs imbued with an adroit polish. It’s the details here that stick out and make for a memorable meal. (Look for a full review soon.)

Restaurant of the Year Town Hearth. Finally, we hit the wall: The restaurant that, in 2017, spoke to me most as a diner, but also as a social citizen. Town Hearth could seem like just another steakhouse — a pricey (true enough) protein bomb of oysters and lamb, tomahawks and filets. Concede those criticisms. It was also the one unmissable experience. At one visit, we had to grease a palm to get a table, so buzzy was the vibe. The patrons didn’t mind waiting, because the promise met or even exceeded the delivery. You’re pampered here, amid the excitement of event dining that feels celebratory even on a random Thursday. The ambiance is as thrilling as the food. You might not go to Town Hearth often — who could afford to? — but when you do, you’re gobsmacked. What else can you ask for?
Trump book paints a dire portrait (no surprise there)


Most likely, you had an opinion when Donald Trump was sworn in as president. (I hazard to guess I have a general idea what that opinion was.) Chances are, this entire time, you’ve never wavered from your initial judgment.

And then, along comes a book like Fire and Fury.

Early in his book, author Michael Wolff says that he did “more than two hundred interviews;” he publicly states that he has tape recordings of it all. The White House admits that he had access to the Executive Mansion and journalists have corroborated his presence, so we must assume that he was there with ears open, although quotes and points made here are not always attributed to testable sources. And so, though it reads like a novel, this book is at least somewhat verifiable.

That aside, Wolff begins with a familiar trope: That many people, even those on his team, simply assumed that Trump wouldn’t win; in fact, his “tiny band of campaign warriors… were not ready to win.” Even so, Trump supposedly perceived even a loss was a win: He believed it would help increase his presence and his brand. Wolff gives readers reason to question if the win, indeed, benefited anyone.

Following the inauguration, trouble began almost immediately when Trump began focusing on things that seemed unimportant — the size of the inauguration crowds, or the weather. Wolff says that the White House staff quickly learned that Trump required flattery and aggrandizing on a constant basis, and their thoughts on “handling” him are not complimentary. Wolff reiterates those comments, and the alarm expressed by foreign diplomats over the Trump presidency; he also has some less-than-desirable things to say himself about Trump and his children — and yet, Wolff says that Trump can be a likeable guy.

Of course, Steve Bannon plays a large part in this account, and Wolff indicates that Bannon and other Trump staffers (including members of the Trump family) constantly battled. (Since the book’s release, Bannon has stepped back on the things he’s said … but stepping back is not denial, and it came after a lengthy silence.)

Much like the Trump presidency, Fire and Fury will be argued over along battle lines — it’s unlikely any minds will change. But if what Wolff has written is even 10 percent accurate, is that too much for this presidency to endure?

Overall, there’s not much inside this book that you haven’t already seen online, on social media, or in your newspaper. You’ve absorbed it already — so is Fire and Fury still worth a read?

My call: absolutely. This book seems as though it may be the cultural touchstone of the year and it may impact politics through at least 2020.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer
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THURSDAY 01.18

Neil deGrasse Tyson returns with more insights into the universe

One of the best shows on Dallas stages last year wasn’t a play or a dance or a concert, but a lecture by celebrity astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson. But more than being about formulas and physics, Tyson explores a lot of social issues, such as global warming and why politics and science don’t always work well together (or, for that matter, how much pasta you can buy at Italian grocery stores). He’s back for another class, with all-new topics. It’s entertaining, educational and kinda sexy.

DEETS: Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

FRIDAY 01.19 — SUNDAY 01.21

Movie musical ‘Daddy Long Legs’ makes local stage debut

Theater has been going crazy in recent years adapting old-school movie musicals like An American in Paris for the stage. One of the latest is Daddy Long Legs, a Cinderella story from MGM in 1955 as a vehicle for Fred Astaire. Dallas audiences don’t get Astaire, but we do come close with the talented Christopher J. Deaton (pictured with Samantha McHenry). Irving-based Lyric Stage, which this season moved to a new home at Dallas’ Majestic Theatre, presents the area premiere for one weekend only.

DEETS: The Majestic Theater, 1925 Elm St. LyricStage.org.
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calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK
THEATER

Hillary and Clinton. A woman named Hillary with a husband named Bill is running for president of the United States in this fictional work by playwright Lucas Hnath (The Christians, Red Speedo, A Doll's House Part 2). Opens Second Thought's 2018 season. Bryant Hall on the Kalita Humphreys campus, 3636 Turtle Creek Blvd. Through Feb. 3. 2TT.co.


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

SUNDAY 01.14
CONCERTS

Carly Rae Jepsen is the special guest for Katy Perry’s Witness Tour, coming to American Airlines Center on Sunday.

TUESDAY 01.16
FILM
Suddenly, Last Summer. Tennessee Williams’ potboiler, with Elizabeth Taylor, Katharine Hepburn and Monty Clift in this tale of homosexuality and cannibalism. Yeah, really. Directed by Joe Mankiewicz. 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.

WEDNESDAY 01.17
THEATER

THURSDAY 01.18
PERSONAL APPEARANCE
Neil deGrasse Tyson. The celebrity astrophysicist lectures on life, the universe and everything. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. 7:30 p.m. ATTPAC.org.

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.

this week’s solution

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Carly Rae Jepsen is the special guest for Katy Perry’s Witness Tour, coming to American Airlines Center on Sunday.
Ask Howard
How to do the wrong thing right

Dear Howard,

I’m so sick and tired of being single but especially of being pool-boy-poor on top of it. I’m 34. This year, please, I just have to catch a husband — some decent daddy type with monotone with, you remember, what’s-his-name? And you might wanna keep this following tasty little cracker in mind whilst you’re dieting down as well, my portly free bird: For every hard-won inch you can actually manage to eviscerate from your waistline, it adds another $100,000 to the annual salary your potential future daddy/husband earns; hence, either starve yourself down minimally 10 lbs. underweight or your only other desperately lazy, white-trash option, Lynette, is to pack on an orgiastic additional 100 lbs., and thus qualify for a bariatric bypass balloon. Of course, that’ll still only put you right back where you started once the tonnage melts off, ‘cause ain’t no man of any genuine affluence ever marrying some gaunt queen flaunting stretch marks and flabby, excess skin pockets, either. Last resort, girl, just open your own cupcakes/bait-&-tackle shop and refer to your penurious self as, resignedly, a simple man — who’s only just begun.

Dear Howard,

I feel like a moron asking you this: It pertains to preference for sexual positions: My longtime partner passed away just over a year ago. Hesitantly, I’m reentering the dating scene, but it’s a whole new Bizzarro World out there, and my ability to communicate behind-closed-doors is somehow either getting lost in millennial-translation ... or I’m just a totally rusted-out wreck. I can still actually recall the different differentiation, of course, between a “top” and a “bottom,” but it’s the fifty-shades-of-gray area in between that has me so flummoxed nowadays, especially whenever I hookup with someone who advertises himself as a “versatile top” but then expects me to fuck him (I, the bottom!) the very second we hit the sheets. Howard, could you please acquaint me with this new pecking order — in plain, unvarnished English — as to exactly what the delineations now mean, top to bottom, so that I don’t keep making the same online “position-preference” mistakes over and again? — Ed G.

Dear Edgy,

Will do, but time-out first, for just a moment here, to give all of my, um, less-learned followers a quick briefing on what you’re exactly asking me: “Pecking order” is a colloquial term, kids, for any hierarchal social system; or, in plain, unvarnished Gayville English, “the lucky dude who always snags the boner up his bum first versus the order of those in line who must do the boning of him.” So, with that now all cleared-up, Edge, are you sure you truthfully want me to dispense it to you “straight” here? Honestly, I don’t think you can handle the brutal, sexual-positions’ truth of this chivalry-challenged, shame-free new morals-free dating world; nonetheless, you’d better grab a handy dildo to bite down on hard, ‘cause here it sure don’t come easy.

TOP: A frustrated, closet-bottom who long ago abandoned any sour hope of getting to be fucked again himself, because either he’s reached that daddy-by-default age territory, where he’s all but required by gay law to exclusively top now anyhow; or, soon as he whips out his schlong, no one’s going to remotely ever let him bottom, regardless (or worse, both).

VERSATILE TOP: An indifferent bottom who’ll nevertheless fuck if just nobody else there in bed is willing to volunteer do the grunt work except him; recalcitrantly, he’ll give whoever stole “bottom” his gamest (albeit robotic) top shot.

VERSATILE (or VERS): A stealth bottom who’ll feign just enough magnificent bedroom sportsmanship to obligatorily top if he has to, but only if cornered into no other alternative (i.e. bottom) option; however, be forewarned, should he additionally be such an exceptionally bone-lazy bottom as to use the amended “verse,” then by all means, Edge, feel perfectly free to take his cutie-pie abbreviation literally, and culture-kill your mental atrophied numbness whilst pouting away at his gaping anus (just hell-for-leather/six-ways-from-sideways!) via reciting poetry to this devious fuckhole for the next solidly sweating, hideous hour, if not two.

VERSATILE BOTTOM: A scheming, anything-goes “farmyard” FF bottom, who always makes damned well certain, beforehand, that whomever the fuck he’s stripping naked for will, by god, top him, make no slut-hole mistake by god, top

BOTTOM: The only 100-percent totally honest queer member in this whole entire church-social congregation.

In essence, Ed, it’s not you who’s confused here; it’s just that everybody now has turned twistedly selfish in bed. The culprit is unarguably too much easy free access, 24/7, to internet porn’s every sleazy, sordid, sorry fetish imaginable; consequently, the XXX-extreme sexcapades’ ante just keeps getting upped higher and higher, to the point that everything has become pervert-warped in the bedroom, everybody’s turned shamelessly bottom, everybody requires nothing short of a foot-long erection to play with (be it plastic, latex, or real human flesh), and everything must either vibrate or come with electrodes attached or lock your junk up in ecstatically shackled agony: The sole thing that matters from your end, Edge, at all, is putting on a mighty damned good nekkid show for the other dude’s seen-it-all-done-it-all-smart-phone audience: The only crime anymore is to be boringly-vanilla in bed.

— Howard Lewis Russell

Do you (attention-seeking freaks and all) have a question — about etiquette, love, life or work — that needs a special spin from Howard? Send your problem to AskHoward@dallasvoice.com and he may answer it.
Making the SCENE the week of Jan. 12-18:

- Alexandre’s: Stephanie Sallie on Friday, Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie sings Broadway on Tuesday. Anna Fredericka Popova on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
- Cedar Springs Tap House: Geeks Who Drink on Tuesday.
- Club Reflection: The Greatest Show on Earth at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Wall of Food show at 8 p.m. on Thursday.
- Dallas Eagle: Discipline Corps club night on Friday. NLA-Dallas club night on Saturday. Line dance lessons with Yoshi from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday.
- JR.’s Bar & Grill: Dreamgirls at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- Marty’s Live: Glow Party with DJ Joe Ross on Saturday.
- Pekers: Totally Twisted Karaoke on Friday and Saturday.
- Round-Up Saloon: Lost Souls Sock Drive for Outlast Youth from 1-4 p.m. on Saturday.
- Sue Ellen’s: Ashley Bradberry on Saturday. Bella & Darla at 3:30 p.m. followed by Bad Habits on Sunday.
- The Rose Room: Icon The Show hosted by Cassie Nova at 7 p.m. on Sunday.
- Woody’s Sports & Video Bar: 2018 Divisional Playoffs. Eight teams left. Watch all day on Saturday and Sunday.
- Zippers: Monday Madness with DJ Rudeboy Dallas.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth
Krystal and a friend at S4

Roxy Brooks showing her Pride at The Rose Room

Friends out for fun on The Strip

Layla the goddess in The Rose Room

Guys' night out on The Strip
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Across
1 With 67-Across, first Disney Channel series with a gay storyline
5 Dance with a stick
10 Force that causes you to go down
14 One that plays with balls at the circus
15 Tear producer
16 ___ in the hay
17 Good judgment by a stallion?
19 Nurse Jackie nurse
20 Series that featured a raw sex scene between two Muslim men
22 Maugham’s Cakes and ___
25 Gallery objects
26 Comes out slowly
27 Raise the price of, at Barneys
29 Hairspray name
32 Phil of ‘60s folk
33 How often you have sex after bed death
35 U. degrees
38 Series that explores polyamory rebooted from a movie
41 Phallic fish
42 Orderly formations
43 La Douce part for Shirley
44 Garson of Mrs. Miniver
45 Homer, or spud, to Gomer
46 Went undercover
49 Pacific battle site, in brief
51 Nongay, briefly
52 Lena Waithe won an Emmy for writing an episode of this series
57 Date of March madness?
58 Like a big dictionary
62 Fruit source
63 Bottoms, to loafers
64 Hollywood canine
65 AIDS flick Under ___
66 It may be rough
67 See 1-Across

Down
1 Wood for Billy Bean’s bat, perhaps
2 Prefix with natal
3 Folksinger Williams
4 Rick’s old flame
5 Hamilton Burger to Perry Mason, usually
6 Not potent
7 Skimpy skirt
8 Fruit of Peter Pears?
9 Ready to go in
10 Setting for TV’s Portlandia
11 Sex-enhancing drug for a bored lover?
12 Write The Hot’l Baltimore
13 Sharon of Queer as Folk
18 Web info source
21 Marilyn’s almost normal name?
22 Got up
23 Milk, when it plays in Mexico?
24 Mermaid of Broadway fame
28 Silly goose
29 Place to become wife and wife
30 Time of decision
31 Reactions to seeing a hottie
33 Missing lubricant
34 Raison d’___
35 Place for a moving experience in the sack?
36 Singing Mann
37 Opening
39 Avant-___ (like Warhol)
40 Caesar’s way
44 Command before “Go!”
45 Collette of United States of Tara
46 Bessie of the blues
47 Frida’s father
48 “___ little silhouetto of a man...”
49 Where some may lie
50 Declining in health
53 Trail of the Tin Woodman’s tear
54 “You want the light ___ off?”
55 Eleanor’s pooch
56 Grocers who sell this have balls
59 Family-hetero school org.
60 “Yadda, yadda, yadda,” briefly
61 E. Fanning’s sister?
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IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION
This is only a summary. See complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or by calling 1-844-722-8256. This does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

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• Flatulence (gas)
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For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

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