Being You...

...is What It’s All About!

The AOC Transgender Wellness Clinic

AOC is proud to introduce its Transgender Wellness Clinic: Hormone replacement therapy for transgender adults, offering free labs and free clinic visits.

Plus receive emotional health support from a licensed professional counselor free of charge.

Open to transgender individuals regardless of HIV status.

Clinic Hotline 469-310-4500

CheckYourStatus.org
Dallas mayor pro tem pleads guilty to conspiracy

Dallas Mayor Pro Tem Dwaine Caraway pleaded guilty to conspiracy and tax evasion and resigned from the Dallas City Council Thursday morning, Aug. 9. The U.S. attorney in charge of the investigation called it a “scheme to defraud” taxpayers and the U.S. government.

Caraway asked for and received payments in connection to Dallas County Schools’ red light camera scandal that led to voters closing Dallas County Schools after the agency incurred what the U.S. attorney who investigated the case called “an intolerable level of debt.” The agency closed last week.

Up to $3.5 million in payments were made. Payments from the company selling the cameras were made from a pass-through entity. Caraway received payments through a shell company. He also set up a sham consulting company. Some of the checks were made out to cash and cashed in a liquor store.

Sentencing will take place on Dec. 14. The U.S. attorney recommended 84 months (seven years) in prison.

The U.S. attorney said the investigation is continuing but wouldn’t say if other people at Dallas County Schools were part of that investigation.

— David Taffet

Another lesbian wins primary

LGBT candidates continue doing well across the country. Tuesday, Aug. 7, Sharice Davids won a six-way primary in Kansas to become the first openly-gay candidate from that state to run for Congress. No openly-LGBT person has ever served in the Kansas Legislature either.

If Davids wins in November, she will also be the first Native American woman ever elected to Congress.

Davids called Yoder “an extremist who has tried time and time again to undermine health care access and give tax breaks for the largest corporations. He is a pawn for Donald Trump, and I will not allow him to continue to take us in the wrong direction while working families in our communities suffer.”

Six candidates competed in the primary. Davids received 37 percent of the vote. Her nearest competitor received 34 percent. The candidate with the most votes wins in that state. No runoffs are held.

— David Taffet
Dr. Steven M. Pounders is excited to announce a new Saturday PrEP clinic starting on September 8th! If you haven’t heard about PrEP, it’s a one pill a day regimen that can help stop you from contracting HIV.

The clinic will run every Saturday from 9am to 1pm, appointments are encouraged and walk-ins are welcome! Most insurances are accepted, and cash pricing will be available for those without.

Please call the office for more information.

Steven M. Pounders, M.D., P.L.L.C.
3500 Oak Lawn Ave., Ste. 600
Dallas, TX 75219
214-520-8833

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You’re Invited!

Dallas Pride Free HIV/Hep C Testing Day

We will be hosting FREE HIV and Hep C tests for Dallas Pride, Thursday, September 13. Visit our office between 10:00 a.m. and 6:45 p.m. to receive your FREE tests. You do not need to be a current patient, and no appointments are necessary. We will also be hosting PrEP talks every 30 minutes for anybody interested in HIV prevention. There will be special cash pricing available for other STI testing that can be done in office. Parking is available in the garage behind the building, accessible off of Welborn Street.
AUGUST

**Through September: Pride at the Library**
From UNT’s LGBT Archive, the library will exhibit collections from UNT’s LGBT Archive, documenting the history and culture of the LGBT community in Dallas at the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library, Dallas History & Archives (7th floor), 1515 Young St.

**Through Aug. 15: DIVA new member clinics**
Dallas Invitational Volleyball Association new member clinics for the fall season on from 7-9 p.m. on Aug. 7, 8, 9, 13, 14 and 15 at Polk Recreation Center, 6801 Roper St. Info at DIVADallas.org.

**Aug. 10: DFW Pride Happy Hour**
DFW Pride Happy Hour from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Lekka Cafe & Gifts, 17606 Preston Road.

**Aug. 10: SpiN Austin**
Emcee Mandy Quinn presents a pride-themed interactive ping pong show benefit Out Youth from 9 p.m.-midnight at SpiN Austin, 213 W. 5th St., Austin.

**Aug. 11: Landmark Dinner**
Lambda Legal’s annual fundraising dinner featuring the plaintiffs in *Marouf v. Azar* from 6-10 p.m. at The Adolphus Hotel, 1321 Commerce St. For info, contact Carla McKinzie at 214-219-8585.

**Aug. 13: Caven Employees Turnabout Show**
Cassie Nova hosts a benefit for Caven Employee Benevolent Association at 11 p.m. at JR.’s Bar & Grill, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

**Aug. 14: Resource Center tour**
Resource Center CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of the center’s community center at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to development@myresourcecenter.org.

**Aug. 14: Grief support group**
LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 6:45-8 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

**Aug. 14: School supply drive**
The Rainbow LULAC, Congregation Beth El Binah, Artitude, DMPT Adam Medrano, J.P. Sara Martinez school supply drive at 6:30 p.m. at Havana, 4000 Cedar Springs Road. Bring school supplies or cash donations.

**Aug. 17: MLK Back to School Festival**
Free school supplies, backpacks, uniforms, haircuts, medical screenings and immunizations from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at MLK Jr. Community Center, 2922 MLK Blvd. Accepting new socks, underwear and t-shirts for boys and girls of all sizes now through Aug. 16 at the community center.

**Aug. 18: Geek Chic 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.

**Aug. 18: Party on Lake Lewisville**
Party aboard the Abigail Rose from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. leaving from Pier 121 Marina, Lake Lewisville. Tickets are $49 at GALANorthTexas.org.

**Aug. 18: Team ASD car wash**
Get your car washed for $7 and SUV or truck for $10 benefiting Team ASD from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. behind the Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

**Aug. 19: Log Cabin Republicans**
Brunch in a new restaurant in Travis Walk from noon-2 p.m. at El Vecino Tex Mex, 4514 Travis St. #201.

**Aug. 21: Classic Chassis Car Club**
See, share and enjoy classic cars the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at JR.’s Bar & Grill, 3923 Cedar Springs Road.

**Aug. 21: Chorale auditions**
New members auditions for the Turtle Creek Chorale at the Sammons Center for the Arts, 3630 Harry Hines Blvd.

**Aug. 21: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas**
Stonewall Democrats monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Mattio’s, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave.

**Aug. 23: TAG meeting Social committee**
meeting at 6 p.m. at Strada Caffe, 302 E. Front St., Tyler. info@TylerAreaGays.com

**Aug. 25: Austin Pride**

**Aug. 25: Silver Pride Project**
Silver Pride Project monthly meeting group meets with LGBT youth of Job Corps at 2 p.m. at Oak Lawn Library, 4100 Cedar Springs Road.

**Aug. 25: Austin Pride**

**Aug. 26: Library book sale**
Friends of the Dallas Public Library organized the end-of-summer book sale to benefit the library’s 29 branches from 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday and 1-4 p.m. on Sunday at the Erik Jonsson Library, 1515 Young St.

**Aug. 28: Austin Pride**

**Aug. 28: Resource Center tour**
CEO Cece Cox leads a behind-the-scenes tour of Resource Center from 5-6:30 p.m. at 5750 Cedar Springs Road. RSVP to kfields@myresourcecenter.org.

**Aug. 28: Stonewall Democrats Tarrant County**
Texas Association of Business CEO Chris Wallace speaks at a monthly meeting 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 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 pegasusquares@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.; *DTV* in *Spayse*, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

**Weekly: Lambda Weekly**
1 p.m. on Sunday on 90.3 KNON-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Fink. This week’s guest is community activist Erin Moore. *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 a.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; *LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous* meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 19, Plano. 972-316-9188 for details; *Leadership Lambda Toastmasters* gay-identified Toastmasters group meets from 6:30-8 p.m. every Monday at the First Unitarian Church, 4015 Normandy Road (does not meet on Mondays that are holidays); *United Black Ellument* 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 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 pegasusquares@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.; *DTV* in *Spayse*, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

**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.**

Cassie Nova hosts Caven Employees Turnabout Show benefitting Caven Employee Benevolent Association Monday, Aug. 13, at JR.’s. See listings for details.
Meet Harley, a 10-year-old, white-and-black Anatolian shepherd/border collie mix weighing 77 pounds. Harley is a sweet, friendly boy who loves attention, and although he is a little anxious when he first meets someone new, once he gets to know you he calms down. He is a big boy that gets along great with children ages 6-10. But he’s very particular about his dog friends, so you will have to set up a meet-and-greet if you have other dogs in the home. Harley has been neutered and microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet him today. #107940

Harley, 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.

Stonewall Democrats Tarrant County fundraiser at 5:30 p.m. at Lou Lambert and James Smith’s river retreat, 4701 White Settlement Road, Fort Worth. $50.

SEPTEMBER
• Sept 9: Erev Rosh Hashanah
  Congregation Beth El Binah service begins at 7:30 p.m. at 11211 Preston Road.

• Sept 10: Rosh Hashanah
  Congregation Beth El Binah service begins at 10 a.m. follow by a catered luncheon at 11211 Preston Road.

• Sept 14-16: Purple Does Dallas Pride
  Purple Foundation presents DJ Grind at opening party Grind, DJ Ben Baker at pool party and DJ Dan Slater at tea dance Spectrum.

• Sept 15: Pride festival
  From noon-7 p.m. at Reverchon Park, 3301 Maple Ave.

• Sept 15: Rainbow Gaybingo
  Monthly fundraiser for Resource Center takes place from 6-9 p.m. at the Rose Room at 54, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. 214-540-4458. MyResourceCenter.org/gaybingo.

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The Turtle Creek Chorale is looking for new voices to participate in Radiant, the chorus’ 2018-19 season that kicks off with a Sept. 9 concert.

Artistic Director Sean Baugh said anyone interested in singing with the chorale should attend and participate in the chorale’s first open rehearsal on Aug. 21, from 7-10 p.m. at the Sammons Center, located on Oak Lawn Avenue just off Harry Hines Boulevard. He said prospective members are invited to sing along with the chorale or maybe listen for awhile, get a feel for the group and join in when they are comfortable.

At the end of the evening, Baugh said he’ll be signing people up for audition slots.

“We’ll give you a piece of music, provide you with a recording of it and ask you to learn an excerpt,” Baugh said. The excerpt is less than a minute, Baugh said, and prospective members will be asked to perform it in front of only a few people.

“The fear of not being good enough for the chorale is what keeps people away,” Baugh said.

While the chorale is always looking for great singers and has a number of members who could become professional, many members simply enjoy singing. Baugh said no experience is necessary.

“You don’t have to read music,” he said. “You don’t have to have been in a chorus before.”

Baugh said for some, the chorale did replace their experience in church choirs. Some came for the music but stayed for the camaraderie and the friendship.

“Some new members get scared off in the first month,” Baugh said. “They find the task too daunting.”

After almost four decades of multiple concerts a year, Baugh said, the chorale’s leaders know to just let the process work.

New members often think they’re never going to be able to do it, he said, and they panic that they’ll never learn all the music in time. But, “Then the concert comes along and they know it.”

Baugh noted that, to make it even easier, every new member is assigned a big buddy, a friend to guide them along through their first year.

Although the average age of chorale members had been skewing older, last year more younger members joined. In fact, last year’s audition brought the chorale its youngest member, who is 22, and its oldest member, who is 89.

Baugh said stamina is important, but then shrugged and added, “We have ways members participated in the tour, and “I know we touched lives.”

“Don’t be scared,” Baugh said about auditioning. “Singing is the most vulnerable thing you can do. People come in shaking.”

But he said he encourages people who come to audition and wants them to succeed and join the chorale. There’s not a limited number of openings, so every good voice will be accepted.

And for those of us who are tone deaf and can’t stay on pitch but want to be Turtle Creek Chorale members, Baugh said there are also lots of non-singing volunteer opportunities.
‘Valid’

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

After 22 years together, Dallas couple finally gets the U.S. government’s seal of approval for their relationship.

Cannon and RafiQ Salleh-Flowers have been together more than 22 years. For the past four-and-a-half years, they’ve been legally married. This week, the couple finally received confirmation from the U.S. government that their relationship is being recognized as valid.

“It’s a huge relief,” Cannon said on Wednesday, Aug. 8, “but we’re still just a bit gun-shy.”

He said they both keep re-reading the letter to reassure themselves that it’s permanent, adding “We’ve waited for so long.”

RafiQ’s permanent green card should arrive within the next week or so.

“No we can think of home ownership,” Cannon said. But he said he is still worried about something Donald Trump said earlier this week: “He’s going to limit naturalization for anyone who’s used any sort of government benefit, and he specifically mentioned Obamacare.”

He explained that last year the couple relied on health insurance through the Affordable Care Act, because RafiQ was eligible for that coverage with a provisional green card. So once the permanent green card arrives, they’re going to move quickly to file paperwork for naturalization.

The couple met in Singapore when Cannon managed Texas Instruments’ Singapore division. When he returned to the U.S., RafiQ accompanied him on a student visa. Over the years, RafiQ renewed his student visa several times before obtaining an entrepreneurial visa after investing in and operating a fast-food business near the Galleria.

Finally, in 2015, after the Windsor decision invalidated parts of the Defense of Marriage Act, the couple was able to legally marry. And the federal government was obliged to recognize the marriage.

Once they were married, RafiQ was able to apply for his green card, which would give him permanent residency and a path to citizenship. To support their claim of a “good faith marriage,” the men submitted a stack of documents — everything from joint tax returns and back accounts to wills, leases, and mortgages.

Despite their 22 years together and plenty of supporting documents, they received a letter in June claiming they had “not established that the marriage upon which you were granted conditional status was entered into in good faith.”

Homeland Security claimed the stack of documents the couple provided didn’t establish “shared assets, liabilities, finances and/or property.” The first item on the list of things the U.S. government wants...
Out gay man running for Texas Supreme Court

If elected, Steve Kirkland would be the first openly LGBT person on the state’s highest civil court

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Steve Kirkland said if he wins his race for the Texas Supreme Court, it would be as part of a blue wave. But would a lone Democrat on what’s now an all-Republican court make a difference? He said that if he wins, it is likely that two other Democrats running for seats on the court will too—and those three judges together would certainly make an impact.

Kirkland was in Dallas recently to attend a Democratic women’s caucus meeting at the Dallas Sheraton Hotel. He drove in from Abilene, where he was the “opening act,” as he called it, for Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Beto O’Rourke. The rally attracted 700 people in one of the reddest cities in the state, Kirkland noted.

Although O’Rourke was the main attraction at that rally, Kirkland said he was responsible for bringing in at least some of the crowd. He grew up in Abilene and still has family and friends there.

While his opponent is well-funded, Kirkland raised $25,000 the week before that rally to add to the Democrats’ coordinated campaign. Money he’s raising above the amount he’s expected to contribute is paying for his travel across the state.

If he’s raised enough by the fall, Kirkland said he’ll do some media.

Kirkland is the first out gay man to run for Texas Supreme Court and was the third openly gay judge in Texas, having been first elected in 2000. (The first was Judge Jerry Birdwell, appointed by then-Gov. Ann Richards to Dallas County’s 195th Judicial District Court in 1992. Houston Municipal Court Judge John Paul Barnich was appointed by Houston Mayor Lee Brown in 1999).

Along with gubernatorial candidate Lupe Valdez, Kirkland is one of first two openly-gay statewide candidates in Texas.

Kirkland currently serves as judge of the 334th Civil Court in Houston. From 2009-2012 he served as judge of the 215th Judicial District Court in Harris County and as a Houston Municipal Court judge from 2000-2008. In addition to his judicial duties, Kirkland teaches communication law and ethics at University of Houston.

He has been with his husband Mark for more than 30 years, and they’ve been married for three years. He credits his husband with his family’s acceptance of his sexual orientation. Noting that his husband is a baker, Kirkland said Mark “baked his way” into his mother’s heart.

Kirkland has lived in Houston since 1978, when he began attending Rice University. He started his legal career as an environmental litigator for Texaco and later became a plaintiff’s attorney, suing Ship Channel Industries for clean air. So, he said, he’s worked on both sides of that issue.

Kirkland is traveling around the state campaigning although, he said, “There’s nothing sexy about coming to hear judges” speak. So most of his stops are in conjunction with local or other statewide Democratic candidates.

He said he has a checklist of issues he touches on when he speaks, mostly criticizing Texas Republicans for their hypocrisy in saying they favor local control but then trying to take that local control away on nearly every issue.

He gave some examples of such decisions by the all-Republican state supreme court:

Laredo had a plastic bag ban in place; the Texas Supreme Court voted to take it away. Then the court limited Houston’s land use ordinance, again taking away local control.

In another Houston case, the state supreme court ruled against the right of Houston city employees who have same-sex spouses to receive equal benefits as opposite-sex couples.

Kirkland noted this will be the last year the LGBT community for more than 35 years!

presenting sponsor:

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sponsors include:

accused’s actions were led by sexual desire and so dismissed the case.

“That’s why I got pissed enough to run for the Supreme Court,” Kirkland said. “The court keeps making me mad. It impacts the lives of real people in a negative way.”

He said the current court favors “big business,” which is a source of campaign donations for many of the state supreme court justices. Kirkland said his philosophy on courts comes directly from the Texas Constitution: “Every person who has been harmed has a remedy in court.”

Kirkland noted this will be the last year “straight-party voting” will be possible in Texas. The GOP — controlled legislature eliminated it when more and more Democratic voters starting casting straight-party ballots.

The Texas Tribune tracked straight-party voting in the 10 most populous counties in Texas. In 2004, more Republicans than Democrats voted straight-party in six of those 10 counties, including the state’s most populous, Harris County. In 2016, Republicans in only three counties — Tarrant, Denton and Collin — outvoted Democrats with straight-party voting. However, across the state, about 65 percent of voters vote straight party.
Icla da Silva Foundation has had success saving children’s lives with donations from the gay community. Anessa Ibarra, local representative of the Icla da Silva Foundation, wants you to know that you can donate bone marrow and stem cells to save the lives of children with leukemia, lymphoma and sickle cell anemia.

No, the blood banks still don’t want blood from gay men. But bone marrow banks do.

Ibarra explained that finding a match is very difficult. It’s not just blood type that needs to match; very specific protein markers must match as well.

The foundation looks for people from a wide variety of ethnic groups. Certain markers are more likely to be found among people with similar ethnic backgrounds, she said.

Finding a match is so uncommon that most people who join the registry will never be matched with someone needing a transplant, and it’s very rare to find a match more than once in a lifetime.

Ibarra described two types of donations — stem cell and liquid marrow.

In what’s formally known as Peripheral Blood Stem Cell donation, blood is taken from one arm and blood-forming cells are filtered out. The blood is then returned through the other arm. The body naturally recovers what it’s lost over the next few days.

For five days before the donation, the donor takes the drug Filgrastim to increase the number of blood-forming cells. The procedure is done at a blood bank, and it takes all day. Ibarra recommends the donor bring someone with them to help them pass the day and then drive them home.

The liquid marrow procedure is done in the hospital with the donor under anesthesia. A doctor withdraws liquid marrow from the pelvic bone with a needle.

Ibarra said about 80 percent of the time, the less invasive PBSC method is used. In either case, the donor recovers within a few days. She said either procedure is often done on Thursday, and by Monday the donor is ready to go back to work.
To register, go to the organization’s website and join Be the Match. They’ll send a kit to take a swab from your mouth.

If you’re a potential match — being matched could take months or even years — you’ll be asked to confirm your commitment to donate and update your health information.

Then you’ll meet with someone for a 90-minute information session that will fully describe the two methods of donation, to answer any questions and to discuss any risks. Once you’re sure you want to proceed, you’ll sign a consent form and undergo a physical exam to see if donating would be any risk to you.

Before donating, you’ll give several blood samples in two to four appointments to confirm the match before proceeding with the donation.

To join the registry, you must be between 21 and 44 years old.

“Patients recover faster with donations from donors within that age group,” Ibarra said.

But if you’ve registered, you may remain on the registry list until age 61, when you’d be automatically removed.

Donors may not have ever had any form of cancer, Hepatitis B or C or HIV. Donors may have diabetes as long as they are not insulin-dependent, anemic and have piercings or tattoos.

And, Ibarra assured, donors from the LGBT community are very welcome to donate.

“We’ve hosted events with the LGBTQ community in New York and other cities across the country and they’ve been some of the most successful,” Ibarra said. “The community is always willing to help.”

The Icla da Silva Foundation recruits 38,000 new potential donors a year.

To join the registry, go to Join.BeTheMatch.org/DallasVoice.

VALID, From Page 9

ed to see to determine the validity of the marriage was “children as a result of your marriage.”

While Cannon has two children from a previous marriage, he has been unable to get RafiQ pregnant.

U.S. Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson’s Dallas office stepped in to help clear up the question of whether the couple was together in good faith for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, a division of the Department of Homeland Security. A representative of Johnson’s office said it seemed the Trump administration was targeting all minorities applying for permanent residency status — whether on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, race or religion.

Her office intervened on behalf of Cannon and RafiQ two other times when the U.S. State Department had approved visas for RafiQ. Visas must be picked up in the applicant’s home country, so Cannon and RafiQ traveled to Singapore to get the document. But at the airport, the Department of Homeland Security refused to allow RafiQ on the plane.

The first time, he was told his name appeared on the No-Fly List.

Cannon returned to the U.S. alone and researched the name. It took him about 15 minutes to learn that a RafiQ Salleh, who is of a different nationality and a different race, was already imprisoned in Guantanamo. Despite that, it was several months before RafiQ was allowed to use his visa and re-enter the U.S.

Johnson intervened a second time after RafiQ was detained in Singapore again after picking up a renewal to his entrepreneurial visa. Prevented from re-entering the U.S. for another three months, he was forced to run his new Dallas business long distance by phone in the middle of the night (Singapore is 13 hours ahead of Texas).

Once they were legally married, RafiQ took his husband’s last name. That seems to have fixed his No-Fly List problem. Last month the couple traveled to northern Europe and returned to the U.S. without any questions raised about RafiQ’s right to re-enter the country.

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— Dr. Terry Watson

Dr. Terry Watson at Guardian Health
7920 Elmbrok Drive Ste, 108 (Mockingbird & Harry Hines)
Call Us Today to Schedule Your Appointment
214-221-8181 • drtwatson@sbcglobal.net
Community votes choose Cazares-Thomas, Davis to lead the 35th annual parade

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
nash@dallasvoice.com

Cathedral of Hope Senior Pastor the Rev. Neil Cazares-Thomas and Dallas Bears President Wayne A. Davis were announced this week as the grand marshals of the 35th annual Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade.

The two men were chosen by an online vote of the community, from a field of six nominees, who were nominated by people in the community. The other nominees included Chris Bengston, David Hearn, Jalenzski Brown and Rebecca Covell.

Honorary grand marshals for the 2018 Pride parade are photographer Adam Bouska and his partner, Jeff Parshley, co-founders of the NOH8 Campaign.

Cazares-Thomas, who was called as senior pastor at the Cathedral in April 2015 and started his tenure there on June 3 that year, said that he believes he was elected grand marshal not just as an individual, but even more so as a representative of Cathedral of Hope and its place in the community. It is, he said, “an honoring and humbling position, and I believe it says something about the importance of faith and all spiritual pathways, and their rebirth in our community.”

Cazares-Thomas said that he has “probably marched in every Pride parade I could since I was 16 years old,” and he even set up a local Pride celebration, called Bourne Free, in the English market town of Bourne, when he lived there.

He said he believes that Pride parades and celebrations are important to the LGBT community, and that it is important for people from all walks of life — “especially those like me” from religious communities — to participate, because there are people out there who “need to see someone represented that looks like them, they need to see that there is a place in the community for them, and that successful, happy [LGBT people] come in all shapes and sizes, from all backgrounds and all walks of life.”

Cazares-Thomas noted that Davis, his co-grand marshal, also has close ties to the Metropolitan Community Churches denomination and to the history of Cathedral of Hope. “I’ve known him for many years, and I know he is a worthy recipient” of the grand marshal title, Cazares-Thomas said of Davis.

Davis, for his part, said he is excited to be sharing the grand marshal seat with his “long-time friend. … Neil is a great man, and I count him as part of my family of choice, pastor, mentor and friend. What an extra honor to share this event with him.”

Davis, saying that he is “not a celebrity or a pillar in our community,” added that he was “shocked to be nominated, and that was a huge honor in itself. I never imagined, with all the wonderful nominees, that I would be selected.

“This is one of those ‘wow’ moments in life, and it is a humbling experience and one filled with such pride,” he said.
held several positions within the organization over the years, including treasurer, vice president and secretary. Each year, Dallas Bears host the Texas Bear Round-Up, moving in 2019 back to its traditional March time after being held this year and last in June to accommodate scheduling conflicts at the host hotel, the Hyatt Regency Downtown.

Davis is also moderator and producer for TBRU, which each year allows Dallas Bears to donate thousands of dollars to nonprofit organizations in the local LGBT community.

Davis is also a member of the Worship Team for the Metropolitan Community Church denomination and has for many years help coordinate the denomination’s annual conventions and other events. He said he was honored to once again coordinate participants and volunteers at MCC’s General Conference this year in Victoria, B.C.

Davis is currently secretary/treasurer at the International LeatherSir, as well as a member of the organization’s Board of Directors. He has served as events director at the Dallas Eagle since April 2001, and said he is very proud to have been placed in sainthood by the DFW Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence as Saint B. Tim Harder.

Davis is the current vice president of the United Court of the Lone Star Empire and has been on its board for the last 10 years, serving as Emperor of Reign 32 in 2006-07. He is also secretary of International Leather Sir/boy and International Community Bootblack and has been a board member for five years. And Davis is one of the producers of the ILSB-ICBB Weekend held each year at Labor Day.

Parade details

This year’s parade steps off at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 16, following the traditional route from Wycliff Avenue down Cedar Springs Road to Turtle Creek Boulevard. This year, like last year, the parade will end at the Cedar Springs/Turtle Creek intersection, rather than turning west down Turtle Creek to end at Reverchon Park, as in years past. That’s because, beginning in 2017, the Festival in the Park, which had previously taken place in the park after the parade, was moved to the day before the parade (Saturday).

Now known as the Miller Lite Music Festival in the Park, the event will be held Saturday, Sept. 15, at Reverchon Park, with a $10 admission. The festival will include a Main Stage entertainment lineup, a Community Stage entertainment lineup, food and drink booths, vendor booths and community organization booths, along with the popular Family Pride Zone and the Teen Pride area.

The Main Stage entertainers include DJ Deanne, the cast of the Rose Room (including RuPaul’s Drag Race Season 10 top four finalist Asia O’Hara), singer Thea Austin, 2018 American Idol singer Effie Passero and American Idol Season 7 singer David Hernandez, along with the 2018 Voice of Pride winners, who have yet to be chosen. For more details visit DallasPride.org.

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Love is Love

Embracing our chosen families

Daine Grey finally found love, acceptance and support at the Queer Resource Center nestled within the City College of San Francisco. As a 22-year-old gay trans man, it made sense for him to be drawn to a warm, affirmative place — a place where it was okay to be gay, terrific to be trans and where love is love is love.

He had only come out as trans the past fall, knowing it might tip some of his family and friends over into hatred and disgust because, you know, it’s one thing to be gay ... but trans?!

And he was right: Daine’s family disowned him. But he found and cultivated his chosen family at the Queer Resource Center, where he was loved and accepted unconditionally.

As summer came, his safe place closed for the school break. I imagine the old, achy feeling of loneliness, fear and hopelessness returned and, sadly, Daine committed suicide last month.

His parents refused to claim his body and lay their son to rest; they rejected him in death as in life.

But his chosen family rallied and raised more than $22,000 to give him a proper burial, so he could rest in peace.

I understand at least some small part of the pain Daine and many other queer kids like him feel. I understand how some days it takes every effort to hold on in a world that sees you as perverted, disgusting and even an abomination.

When I was young, I was different on so many levels and across so many identities. The deepest, darkest difference — one that I was terrified to admit even to myself — was that I was a lesbian. I was gay. I was attracted to girls.

It made all of the other differences seem miniscule.

Growing up was hard. I was asked to leave home, and I moved from place to place; no one wanted a struggling, obese, red-headed, adopted, immigrant, queer little girl.

And, indeed, I did.

I discovered during that second growing up that I wanted to be a counselor. I wanted to help all those queer little kids gritting their teeth and fighting through the pain of being different and then, as grownups needing to heal and learn to how to love themselves.

I did this work in the dark days when a disease ravaged our community and was seen by many as a proof that who we were and who we loved was indeed an abomination. I did this work through my teaching and practice, patiently affirming the validity and beauty of sexual minority individuals, couples and families. And I did this work through service as a leader at both the local and national levels — steadfast and unwavering, never budging from the firm belief that the differences facing sexual minorities were magnified by societal prejudice and bias that, to this day, still has very little patience for people who are left-handed, let alone differently gendered or affectionately oriented.

And so I am setting forth a call to action: It is up to all of us to embrace our queer brothers and sisters as well as our allies, so that we survive and learn to thrive.

Stand up and be that one person who affirms all lived experiences and loves others just for who they are. Those touch points contradict the internal and external messages that scream that sexual minorities are sick and perverted.

We need our allies, our families and chosen families to stand with us. Doing so helps to combat the ubiquitous negativity, so we can love ourselves and love others and bring healing to others so that maybe — just maybe — they can decide to hang on and stay here a little longer.

Love really is the answer. Love is love is love is love.

Dr. Colleen Logan is director of the MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at Fielding Graduate University, which offers concentrations in Counseling LGBTQQIA Individuals and Couples. She lives in Dallas.
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It is a warm, windless spring day, and despite the fact he’s dapperly dressed in a dark blue serge suit, Emmanuel Villaume insists on sitting outside in the midday sun. When your native land is the cold climate of Northern Europe — the Alsatian city of Strasbourg on the French-German border — you tend not to complain about the Texas heat, but bask in its radiant warmth, protected only by the umbra of the Meyerson Symphony Center. In fact, soon after our chat, Villaume will be headed for Saint Petersburg, Russia — a city hardly known for its balmy weather, even in summer — for a conducting assignment.

Such is the typical, hectic, sometimes-not-quite-glamorous life of an internationally-in-demand conductor. (“It’s a lot of sleeping pills and water,” Villaume jokes about the exhausting travel, though he does admit to having tons of accumulated frequent flier miles.)

When appointed music director of the Dallas Opera in 2013, Villaume became the first new conductor to lead the company in nearly 20 years. His tenure has been marked by several world premiere commissions and overall acclaim for his work behind the podium. But the demands of leading — alongside the DO’s new general director Ian Derrer — any arts organization can be taxing. (When Derrer was introduced in his new position in April, Villaume noted, “It is a very difficult job in our environment today being the general director of an opera — according to some people, an impossible job.”)

It’s a challenge — a series of challenges, really — to balance artistic integrity with fiscal responsibility, classics of the canon with new works, while building the base of audiences and serving the broader community.

An axiom of running an opera company is that you have to rely on the ABCs: Aida, Boheme and Carmen. But Villaume would add to that. “I’d go to M or N,” he laughs. “There are really 10 to 20 big titles [in the canon]. But you need to produce something different, too. During Don Giovanni, I thought to myself, ‘I could do this every two years and I would not get bored with it. But if you do only that, then you are not extending the horizon of the audience or challenging the organization. It’s a matter of balance. That does not...
It’s true in modern opera, but in Mozart, another story than the words are saying. The orchestra can be telling of these lines are necessarily in a dialectical relationship. The orchestra can be telling of the plot, the vocal line, the orchestral line, and finally the staging - all of these lines are necessarily in a dialectical relationship. The orchestra can be telling another story than the words are saying. It’s true in modern opera, but in Mozart, too.

Although the music director works in planning out a season of five or so operas, Villaume himself doesn’t conduct all of them (“No…. thank god!” he sighs). It can be a huge puzzle to put together and takes a very long time.

“In the past I would discuss [with the general director] the repertoire and what matches between my personal list and what works as an organization. You consider the ‘oddballs.’ Then you bargain and trade. I would have loved to have conducted Falstaff, which we are doing next season, but my schedule and the amazing cast we have didn’t work out. So I swallowed it and said no, we will do it [I just won’t conduct]. You’re often driven by the availability of artists. You cannot program some of those masterpieces if you can’t think from the start about casting.”

In addition to guest conducting and his duties with the DO, he is also music director and chief conductor of the Prague Philharmonia. “It was very important for me to have a position in the symphony world and the operatic world, as well as in the U.S. and Europe. It’s a good balance.”

Having a foot in multiple worlds has contributed to Villaume’s appreciation for the many disciplines that make up an opera. For instance, the actual act of conducting is mysterious even to him.

“The more I conduct, the more I realize it is about mental concentration,” he says. “You conduct with your ears and your brain, not with your hands. Bringing the line from point A to point B is something you share with the musician. But it starts somewhere other than in your hand.”

That requires an understanding of the music itself… which also isn’t as cut-and-dried as the notes on a score.

“I’ve done a lot of world premieres, mostly in the symphony repertoire but also a few operas, but it’s always interesting to see the reaction of the composer. It must be scary for a composer [to see his opera performed the first time] - where is the work? In his mind? On paper? In the performance? There is no [Beethoven’s Fifth Symphony] in the abstract but only in the performance. Music is an art of interpretation, like theater. It doesn’t have one meaning.”

Villaume started out as singer himself - the original music, he says, from the first grunts of cavemen — and so he’s in tune with the importance of the vocal performance and how it interplays with the dramatic through-line. “I like that complementary line between music and drama.
Get your tickets now!

Our curated rundown of 13 unmissible cultural events you’ll wanna add to your to-do list

W
hat’s your cultural poison… er, passion? Theater, opera, dance, spoken word, comedy, art, music, film? North Texas has it all. So how do you choose? We’ve curated a baker’s dozen of events from now until this time next year, culled from across the Metroplex, highlighting the likely standouts.

None of these catch your fancy? Well, for a fuller lineup of arts seasons, read the story beginning on Page 21.

**SUMMER/AUTUMN 2018**

**Kathy Griffin Laugh Your Head Off Tour at the Winspear Opera House, Aug. 18.** Let’s get this party started! After suffering through a turbulent career ride that could have derailed her permanently, the gays’ favorite funny lady is back full force with a take-no-prisoners approach to “what does not kill me makes me funnier.” (Read our recent profile of Griffin at DallasVoice.com.) Presented by AT&T Performing Arts Center and Live Nation.

**Angels In America Part II: Perestroika at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, Sept. 28–Oct. 7.** The Tony Award-winning second half to the seminal epic play about AIDS in the time of Reagan… or is it politics in the era of AIDS? A followup to Part I which was brilliantly staged two years ago, with the same creative team intact. Presented by Uptown Players.

**A Doll’s House at the Addison Theatre Centre, Oct. 12—Nov. 4.** Ibsen has been undergoing a renaissance recently, with a local adaptation of An Enemy of the People as well as a Tony Award-winning “sequel” to A Doll’s House. But this version is the playwright’s original… though with a newly updated translation. Presented by WaterTower Theatre.

**All Bruce at the Moody Performance Hall, Nov. 7–8.** Bruce Wood Dance has continued to thrive despite its founder’s passing, with newly commissioned works at most concerts. This one, though, is all classic Wood, including his stirring and unforgettable Bolero. Presented by Bruce Wood Dance.

**Complexions Contemporary Dance at Moody Performance Hall, Nov. 9–10 (pictured).** One of the shining lights in contemporary dance, this inventive and intriguing company led by Dwight Rhoden and Desmond Richardson (who recently performed at the Command Performance Gala) returns to Dallas for a recital. Presented by TITAS.

**WINTER/SPRING 2019**

**Falsettos at the Winspear Opera House, Feb. 12–17.** Composer William Finn’s two one-act musicals — March of the Falsettos and Falsettoland — combined into a single, hilarious, poignant show about modern gay urban relationships in the era or HIV. Presented by ATTPAC.

**The Wolves at Winspear Opera House, March 6–April 14.** “You throw like a girl” might still be a playground taught, but not “you kick like a girl” … at least not in this play about a high school girls’ soccer team. A Pulitzer finalist, this fierce play puts women as athletes at the center of attention. Presented by Dallas Theater Center.

**Hamilton at Fair Park Music Hall, April 2–May 5.** “This doesn’t sound very interesting to me,” said no one … at least, not since Hamilton became the biggest thing to hit Broadway since neon lights. Lin-Manuel Miranda’s hip-hop history of the most complex Founding Father is a juggernaut. Presented by Dallas Summer Musicals.

**Raptured: A Sex Farce at the End of the World at Theatre 3, April 25–May 19.** We’ll turn out for anything Matt Lyle takes pen to … even when, as here, he’s only a co-author. But the words “farce” and “sex” are always enough to get us interested. Presented by Theatre 3.

**SUMMER 2019**

**Penny Candy at the Wyly Theatre, June 7–July 14.** Local gay playwright Jonathan Norton wrote this play — one of three specifically commissioned by the DTC as world premieres by North Texans — about life in Pleasant Grove. Presented by the Dallas Theater Center.

**The Play That Went Wrong at the Winspear Opera House, June 11–16.** One of the most acclaimed farces in a decade, this elaborate Broadway smash makes its North Texas debut. Presented by ATTPAC.

**The View UpStairs at the Kalita Humphreys Theater, June 21–July 7.** The off-Broadway musical, about the arson of a gay club in New Orleans that for decades was the largest mass-murder of gay people in history, makes its regional debut. Presented by Uptown Players.

**Hello, Dolly! at Fair Park Music Hall, July 17–28.** The recent Broadway revival starred Bette Midler and then Bernadette Peters; North Texas audiences get the treat of another Tony winner, local gal Betty Buckley. (See our review of Buckley’s latest album, Page 28). Presented by Dallas Summer Musicals.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
Season at a glance

From ‘Doll’s House’ to Dahl, the arts in North Texas

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

PLAYS AND MUSICALS
Dallas Summer Musicals and Performing Arts Fort Worth (Broadway at the Bass)

The two companies again share marketing and booking this season, with plenty of overlap.

DSM’s season starts with its holiday add-on, Elf (Nov. 27–Dec. 2), quickly followed by another season extra, the return of the irreverent musical The Book of Mormon (Jan. 29–Feb. 3). The mainstage season begins with the encore of The Phantom of the Opera (Dec 19–Jan. 6, 2019), which comes on the heels of its just-closed sequel, Love Never Dies: The Phantom Returns. Then comes the stage adaption of the animated musical Anastasia (Feb. 19–March 3). But let’s not fool ourselves: The gem of the season comes with the local debut of the megahit Hamilton, the Tony Award-winningest show of all time (April 2–May 5). Miss Saigon (May 14–26) takes over, followed quickly by the Disney stage version of Aladdin (June 6–23). Local icon Betty Buckley leads the national touring cast of the classic revival of Hello Dolly! (July 17–28) and the season ends with Fiddler on the Roof (Aug. 7–13). All performances take place at Fair Park Music Hall. Dallas-SummerMusicals.org.

Four of those shows will also make their way to Bass Hall this season, though first the current season has to close up, with Love Never Dies and School of Rock concluding within the month. PAFW ends 2018 with two add-ons: The Illusionists: Live From Broadway (Sept. 19–20), featuring eye-popping magic, and then Rodgers+Hammerstein’s Cinderella (Nov. 15–18) before beginning its season in January.

Hamilton’ arrives at Fair Park in April. Perhaps you’ve heard of it.
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ary. It kicks off with *The Book of Mormon* (Jan. 22–27), followed by *Jersey Boys* (Feb. 12–17) and *On Your Feet!* (April 10–14), both of which ended runs in Dallas this season. Then *Anastasia* (May 28–June 2) crosses the Trinity, followed by *Les Misérables* (June 25–30). *A Bronx Tale* (which in Dallas runs at the Winspear opens in after that July 23–28), and finally *Fiddler on the Roof* (Aug. 20–25) closes the season. Performances are at Bass Performance Hall. BassHall.com.

**The Broadway Series**

The Broadway Series starts with two non-subscription shows in December: *A Christmas Story* (Dec. 12–16) and *Chicago* (Dec. 18–23). Those are immediately followed by the first mainstage production. The musical based on Chazz Palminteri’s biopic *A Bronx Tale* (Dec. 26–Jan. 2, 2019). The classic, Tony-winning gay William Finn musical *Falsettos* (Feb. 12–17) takes over, followed by the only play of the season, the award-winning farce *The Play That Goes Wrong* (Aug. 20–25) closes the season. Performances are at Bass Performance Hall. BassHall.com.

**AT&T Performing Arts Center**

The Tony Award-winning regional theater starts off its season with the gayest of plays, *Steel Magnolias* (Sept. 28–Oct. 21) at the Wyly, which establishes a season ripe with female empowerment plays. That is followed by local playwright Will Power’s *Fetch Clay, Make Man*, the story of Muhammad Ali and Stepin Fetchit (Dec. 5–Jan. 13, 2019) in the Wyly’s Studio Theatre. The 2017 winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama, Lynn Nottage’s *Sweat* (Jan. 18–Feb. 10), moves the season to the Kalita. *Sweat* bested another Pulitzer finalist, *The Wolves* (March 6–April 14), which shows at the Wyly Studio. Artistic director Kevin Moriarty returns to one of his passions, Shakespeare, for *Twelfth Night* (March 29–April 28) at the Wyly. Then *Real Women Have Curves* (April 26–May 19) goes to the Kalita. The season ends with a world premiere by local gay playwright Jona-than Norton, *Penny Candy* (June 5–July 14), about life in Pleasant Grove at the Studio Theatre. As always, the holiday add-on *A Christmas Carol* is back at the Wyly (Nov. 21–Dec. 30). DallasTheater-Center.org.

**Uptown Players**

The gay-centric troupe still has two more shows in its 17th season — *Perfect Arrangement*. By Topher Payne

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*SEASONS From Page 21*
Kyle Abraham in Motion, above, comes courtesy of TITAS; opposite, the world premiere opera “Companionship” debuts at the Fort Worth Opera Festival.

The Addison company concludes its current season with *Hand to God* (see review, Page 27), but artistic director Joanie Schultz kicks off the next season with a new production of *A Doll’s House* (Oct. 12–Nov. 4), followed by the return of the holiday show *The Great Distance Home* (Nov. 23–Dec. 16) by WTT artistic associate Kelsey Leigh Ervi. *Detect: A Festival of New Work*, will run Jan. 17–20, followed by five more female-centric shows: *Guadalupe in the House* (Feb. 22–March 17); *Everything Is Wonderful* (April 19–May 12); *The Ballad of Little Jo* (June 7–30); *Unveiled: A One Woman Play* (June 12–30); and *Origin Story* (Aug. 2–25). All performances at the Addison Theatre Centre. WaterTowerTheatre.org.

**Theatre 3**

The theater’s 57th season is now underway with the double feature *Heisenberg/Actually* (through Aug. 26), followed in September with the chamber musical *Once* (Sept. 13–Oct. 7); *The Moors* (Oct. 25–Nov. 18); the holiday show *Solstice: A New Holiday Adventure* (Dec. 6–30); the musical *The Manufactured Myth of Eveline Flynn* co-written by locals Ian Ferguson and Michael Federico (Jan. 31–Feb. 24); *Foxfire* (March 14–April 7); *Raptured: A Sex Force at the End of the World*, co-written by Matt Lyle and Matt Coleman (April 25–May 19); and finally *The Armor Plays: Cinched and Strapped* (June 6–30). Theatre3Dallas.com.

**Stage West**

While WTT will begin its season with a redo of Ibsen’s *A Doll’s House*, Stage West in Fort Worth begins its 40th season (of all regional premieres) with the recent Lucas Hnath play *A Doll’s House, Part 2* (Oct. 25–Nov. 25), set 15 years later in Nora’s life. The season continued with *Everybody* (Dec. 27–Jan. 27, 2019); *Are You Now Or Have You Ever Been* (Feb. 14–March 10); *Holmes and Watson* (May 30–June 30); *Lungs* (July 25–Aug. 18) and finally the add-on musical *First... Next Page

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DATE (Sept. 12–Oct. 13), a co-production with Theatre TCU. StageWest.org.

LYRIC STAGE

The musical theater company enters its 20th season again at the Majestic Theatre in Downtown Dallas with the Disney musical Newsies (Sept. 21–23), followed by the acoustic sounds of the theater in The Majestic Unplugged (Nov. 16–18). The season picks up in 2019 with the Schmidt and Jones two-hander I Do! I Do! (Feb. 14–17) and finally Man of La Mancha (June 14–16). LyricStage.org.

BALLET AND DANCE

Texas Ballet Theater

As usual, many shows will perform both at Fort Worth’s Bass Performance Hall and Dallas’ Winspear Opera House. The season begins this month with Prokofiev’s Cinderella at the Winspear (Aug 24–26), followed next month with Rimsky-Korsakov’s Cleopatra at Bass (Sept. 28–30), accompanied by the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra. Winter, of course, brings multiple opportunities to see The Nutcracker (at the Winspear Nov. 23–Dec. 2, at Bass Dec. 8–24, plus the irreverent Nutty Nutracker Dec. 14). A program of three short ballets by various composers follow (Bass, March 1–3), and then a program of three more (Bass, March 29–31). The season concludes with Pinocchio (Winspear May 17–19, Bass May 24–26). TexasBalletTheater.org.

TITAS

TITAS jumps into its season of dance later this month with Camille A. Brown & Dancers (Aug. 24–25); then Diavolo (Sept 14–15); Stephen Petronio Company (Oct. 19–20); the Aspen Santa Fe Ballet (Oct. 26–27); Complexions Contemporary Ballet (Nov. 9–10); Dorrance Dance (Feb. 1); the Beijing Dance Theater in its Dallas debut (Feb. 8); Kyle Abraham A.I.M. in a tribute to David Bowie (March 1–2); Ezralow Dance (March 29–30); and finally Pilobolus (April 5–6). The Command Performance Gala (June. 1) is a fundraising add-on. All performances at Moody Performance Hall, except Dorrance, Beijing, Ezralow and the gala, which take place at the Winspear. ATTPAC.org.

Bruce Wood Dance

The company will be back at Moody Performance Hall with a concert of all classic Bruce Wood repertoire pieces, including his Bolero for a program called All Bruce (Nov. 16–17). BruceWoodDance.org.

This list is not, and cannot be, exhaustive. For more season information, visit the following arts organizations’ websites: KitchenDogTheater.org, STT.co, Undermain.org, WinspanTheatre.com, CircleTheatre.org, TurtleCreekChorale.com, MBSProductions.net, TheWomensChorusOfDallas.com, EisemannCenter.com, DBDT.com, DMA.org, KimbellArt.org, TheModern.org, TicketDFW.com, ATTPAC.org, BassHall.com.
The road to hell is paved with laughs in ‘Hand to God’

ARNOLD WAYNE JONES | Executive Editor
jones@dallasvoice.com

*Hand to God* resides at the intersection of Avenue Q and the Road to Calvary. In a church rec center in suburban Texas, Margery (Shannon McGann), a recent widow, tries to teach evangelical doctrine to some teens, including her son Jason (Parker Gray), with the use of Christian puppets. The pastor (Thomas Ward) has allowed Margery this distraction to get over her husband’s death, but he’s expecting some results — a show at Sunday school, perhaps … or maybe a date?

But Margery can’t think about dating right now; she’s at her wit’s end with Jason, the skimmest of milquetoasts, who hides his emotions behind his puppet Tyrone; an obnoxious kid named Tim (Garret Storms); and the bored, pink-haired Jessica (Debbie Ruegsegger), who Jason is sweet on (though she says she’s gay). These are troubled people, all of whom mask their pain behind facades of religion.

Only Jason isn’t masking his — or rather, he’s letting his fingers do the talking. Tyrone at first seems to be just a vulgar alter-ego, but as time progresses he takes on an intimidating personality. He magically repairs himself, now with real (and sharp) teeth. He dominates Jason, and knows a lot about the adults that he shouldn’t. In the words of a different church lady, could he be… Satan?!!! Who, ultimately, is pulling the strings?

*Hand to God* is an hilarious romp through the pews, frequently hitting right below the Bible Belt. It’s foul-mouthed farce that brings up theology, but is mostly concerned with the humanity of its characters.

And what characters they are. Gray has perhaps the toughest role, essentially performing two diametric parts simultaneously (Tyrone, inexplicably, sounds as if he’s from the Bronx). A scene were Tyrone has rough sex with another puppet while Jason and Jessica talk intimately about their feelings is a brilliant balancing act of what is being said versus what we’re watching. Storms, one of North Texas’ most charismatic young actors, chews up the scenery as the horny delinquent who has the hots for teacher. But the real standout performance is from McGann. Her Margery is the most complex character in the show — racked by guilt over the death of her husband, lost in her faith but unable to apply it effectively, deaf to her son’s own anger and emotional disturbances, she’s burdened by a big cross to bear. (At its heart, the play is a mother-son story.) It’s a sad, terribly funny and deep performance in a play where the laughs fall like a meteor shower.

They aren’t the only ones worth singling out; as with most theater, the devil is in the details. Director Joanie Schultz creates an immersive theater experience, reminiscent of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*; the open-seating design is a series of picnic tables and folding chairs, like a church basement bingo game. Sometimes this creates unfortunate sightlines, but the concept triumphs.

A place called ‘Hope’

In praise of Betty Buckley’s subversively political cabaret album

Betty Buckley may be one of the foremost interpreters of American showtunes, but let her know that’s her niche. Before she was one of the queens of Broadway, she was just a rock-n-roll obsessed teenager from Fort Worth who palled around with a young songwriter name T Bone Burnett. And, like all of us, middle-age did not dampen her appreciation for pop and rock music. She may have made her bones with Webber and Sondheim and Schwartz, but her soul is equally nourished by Steely Dan and Joni Mitchell and Lisa Loeb. And, sure, some Jerome Kern thrown in for good measure.

There are virtually no showtunes on her newest album, *Hope*, recorded as a live cabaret last fall at Joe’s Pub in New York City. In fact, for a disc from a 71-year-old Texas lady, *Hope* is amazingly (though subtly) subversive. Even the cover art — graffitied images that implore “resist” and “persist” — conjures a hand-painted protest poster seeking to remind listeners of our part in a broader community.

The title comes from one of the songs on the album, a new piece by Tony Award-winning theater composer Jason Robert Brown (who uses it as the lead track on his own new album, *How We React and How We Recover*), that clearly evokes the memory of Barack Obama and Bill Clinton (both of whom used the word “hope” to tremendous political effect) while contrasting that with the frightened current state of national affairs, with a structure and rhyme scheme suggesting Sondheim’s “Being Alive:” *In spite of everything ridiculous and sad / though I’m beyond belief depressed, confused and mad / Well I got dressed / I underestimated how much that would take / I didn’t break / until right now. I sing of hope and don’t know how.*

That’s merely the standout track of 15 vocals that, while not all unqualified successes, recreate the intimacy and surprise of a live, small-bore concert of storytelling music. Buckley’s vocal style is sly — at first a reedy, brittle delicacy, it morphs in a moment to a surprisingly strong soprano register. And most of the songs, even the putatively sunnier ones, seem cast in a minor key — a more expressive and melancholy tone. Buckley may take inspiration from rock, but her artistic temperament is still more jazz-cabaret.

You can never not hear her phrasing, her diction, her precision (that works against her on Mary Chapin Carpenter’s “I Feel Lucky” but serves her well on Lisa Loeb’s “Falling in Love” and JD Souther’s “Prisoner in Disguise.”)

I don’t know that the album — the sound, the sentiments, the song choices — is as much about filling the listener with hope as it is advocating for the power of keeping hope. But it does make you believe in being united to other people in wishing for the best. Even in these times, that kind of art makes a difference.

— Arnold Wayne Jones
You can’t have good high notes if you’re not motivated. If it’s just the high notes, it’s not interesting to me. There are some singer-actors who are not great actors but have charisma. You have some skilled tenors who have amazing dramatic qualities but not good voices. I would rather take someone who will use the voice he has and a real commitment to the role than someone with a beautiful voice who cannot emote dramatically."

Villaume also works closely with the stage director for each production to keep those elements in harmony. “I have always been very interested in staging myself and I like stagings that challenge the piece; and I strongly dislike staging that ignores the piece. A traditional [staging is] following the libretto words by word in a literal way, but they don’t get the gesture, the energy, the poetry, the essence to the piece. The debate should not be traditional versus modern, but how much it helps you get into the heart of the piece. And sometimes it gets there at first by seeming irreverential, but gets to the sense of it.”

Robert Falls, who directed Villaume’s Don Giovanni, is singled out for special praise. “In many ways the danger with straight theater directors doing opera is that they are so intimidated [by the form] that they do even more traditional than the most traditional versions. Robert has this theatrical technique, but also this knowledge of the music — he understands the whole package. You have to be aware, but not servile,” he says. “We also found the right proportion of being slightly edgy without shocking [the audience]. I always know when I get a proportion of people who say, ‘This was great, but a bit risqué’ and [an equal number of] others, say ‘You could have gone further.’

So does he have a favorite composer to interpret… at least one he’ll pinpoint? Not a chance.

“Oh, the desert island [playlist]?“ Villaume asks. “I don’t believe in it. I feel at home in a very large repertoire. My repertoire is getting broader and broader and my interest is getting broader and broader. I like to do contemporary music, and I love Baroque music, but I think I should leave it to the specialists. I was at first drawn to the French repertoire — I love Debussy — but I love Wagner, Strauss. It is my tropism [from growing up in Strasbourg].”

But whether French or German composers, sung in Russian or Italian and played by a diverse group of musicians, it’s the magic of creating a new world that fuels Villaume’s passion. And it’s all intertwined with his love of being an artist. “My favorite literature is poetry,” Villaume says, “and what is poetry but the music of words?”

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Graeme James
Thu, Oct. 11, 7:30 pm

with
Frederica von Stade & Dallas Street Choir
A Holiday Celebration of Hope and Unity
Sonos Handbell Ensemble
Tue, Dec. 11, 7:30 pm

The TEN Tenors
Home for the Holidays
Tue, Dec. 11, 7:30 pm

Herman’s Hermits
starring Peter Noone
Fri, Jan. 11, 7:30 pm

Bumper Jacksons
Fri, Feb. 1, 7:30 pm

Paul Taylor Dance Company
Sat, Feb. 9, 7:30 pm

Sammy Miller and
The Congregation
Thu, Feb. 21, 7:30 pm

Arlo Guthrie - Alice’s Restaurant
Back by Popular Demand
featuring Sarah Lee Guthrie
Fri, Feb. 22, 7:30 pm

Dallas in Concert: The Hologram Tour
Thu, Mar. 14, 7:30 pm

The Hunts
Darlin’ ‘Ole Darlin’
Fri, Mar. 15, 7:30 pm

The Young Irishers
St. Patrick’s Day Celebration
Sun, Mar. 17, pm

MUSIC & DANCE

FAMILY & BROADWAY SPECIALS

The Wizard of Oz
3 shows Oct. 12-13

The Boy Who Would be Captain Hook
Sat, Jan. 26, 3 pm

B – The Underwater Bubble Show
Sun, Mar. 10, 3 pm

STOMP
3 shows Mar. 22-23

Tonis and the Library Lady
Sun, Oct. 28, 5:30 pm

Page Turner Adventures
The Magnificent Circus Mystery
Sun, Nov. 18, 2:30 pm

Dragons Love Tacos and Other Stories
Sun, Jan. 20, 2:30 pm

Ssh! We Have a Plan
Sun, Mar. 31, 2:30 pm

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Mon, Oct. 22 at 7:30 pm

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Mon, Feb. 4 at 7:30 pm

Chopin in Paris
Mon, Apr. 15 at 7:30 pm

Jaston Williams – Clear to Partly Crazy
3 shows Oct. 19-20

From Broadway to Broadway in Only 50 Years
3 shows: Nov. 16-17

My Funny Valentine
4 shows Feb. 14-16

The Best of The Second City
4 shows Feb. 28-Mar. 2

The Secret Comedy of Women: Girls Only
4 shows Apr. 11-14

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**Friday 08.10 — Sunday 08.19**

Superheroes come to life at Marvel Universe Live!

OK, so let’s face it: An arena stunt show like Marvel Universe Live, with cheesy dialogue and bare-minimum plot, is targeted mostly at children. Mostly. But a huge segment of adult nerds like us enjoy muscle men in Spandex running around a stage, acting out our own superhero fantasies. Go figure? This entertaining live show for geeks of all ages continues in Dallas this weekend, then moves to Fort Worth.

**DEETS:** American Airlines Center, 2500 Victory Ave. Through Sunday. Fort Worth Convention Center, 1201 Houston St., Fort Worth, Aug. 16–19.

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**Tuesday 08.14 — Sunday 08.26**

‘School of Rock’ closes DSM season, then moves to Bass

Dewey Finn failed as a rock star, and he’s not much better as a substitute teacher at a blah prep school. But his radical rock roots excite the students, who he transforms into a unified band of guitar-shredding nerds. Adapted from Mike White’s hit film, School of Rock is a hip young musical with a score by Andrew Lloyd Webber. It plays in Dallas before moving for a week to Fort Worth.


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**Friday 08.10 — Sunday 08.26**

T3 opens its season with 2 one-act plays

Theatre 3 is back for its 57th season (!), and you get a twofer in the deal: Two one-act plays with two two-actor casts. In one, Heisenberg, an impulsive kiss on a London subway triggers a series of unforeseen events. Another, Actually, delves into the murky world of sexual ethics. Both are performed on the same night.

**DEETS:** Theatre 3, 2900 Routh St. in the Quadrangle. Theatre3Dallas.com.
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ARTS WEEK
THEATER
Hand to God. An immersive, open-seating production of the hit play about a Christian congregation and puppet ministry, and a man who speaks only through a hand puppet... although all is not what it seems. Reviewed this week. Addison Theatre Centre, 15650 Addison Road. Through Aug. 26. WaterTowerTheatre.org.


FINE ART
An Enduring Legacy: The Eugene and Margaret McDermott Collection of Impressionist and Modern Art. The recent death of Dallas arts patron Margaret McDermott, at age 106, led to a bequest of 32 works from her private collection, housed in her own home until recently, and now on display with three previously-donated works to the DMA. Dallas Museum of Art 1717 Harwood St. Through Feb. 17, 2019. DMA.org.

EXHIBITIONS

STUNT SHOW

COMMUNITY
Otter Weekend. The inaugural celebration of gay otters and their fans. Includes a Mr. Otter contest and pool party. Friday–Sunday. Search Facebook and Eventbrite for details.

FRIDAY 08.10
COMMUNITY
Panoptikon. The weekly retro disco dance party, presented by Lord Byron. Red Light, 2911 Main St. Doors 9 p.m.

SATURDAY 08.11
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.

MONDAY 08.13
CABARET
Mama’s Party. Weekly cabaret night with special guest performances. Uptown Theatre, 120 E. Main St., Grand Prairie. 7:35 p.m. $10.

TUESDAY 08.14
FILM
Written on the Wind. Former Dallas native Dorothy Malone won an Oscar for this Douglas Sirk potboiler. 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.

THEATER

THURSDAY 08.16
CABARET
Glitterbomb Denton. Weekly queer variety show with a new lineup every Thursday, now at a new locale and new time. Andy’s Bar, 122 N. Locust St., Denton. 8 p.m.
FINAL NIGHT!
Voice of Pride

Sunday, August 19th
The Rose Room
Doors open | 6:00 pm
Showtime | 7:00 pm

Front Row: (left to right)
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Girl on girls
Jenny Block on the primacy of self-care

“You have to put on your own oxygen mask first.”

I forget that sometimes. In terms of self-care, I have to remember to get enough sleep, to eat less crap, to go for a walk. But it also means in terms of being the one who is responsible for making myself feel good about myself. Sometimes, I can get to kicking myself about my career: Why aren’t I working on a new book? Why aren’t I writing for Vanity Fair? Why aren’t I doing a TEDTalk?

When I look to my partner to pump me up and tell me how great I’m doing, the result is short-lived. More often than not, it doesn’t even ring true for me because it’s not true for me. Same with how I look, including my weight. I have been a disordered eater since high school. I am only five feet tall, and gaining 10-plus pounds is like gaining 10-plus percent of my body weight. It’s a big deal to me.

My wife always tells me how great I look. But that can’t be the glue that holds me together. I have to feel great. In the end, if we’re talking about feeling good about ourselves, what rings true for us as individuals is the only thing that matters. Putting on your oxygen mask first is about feeling good about yourself so that you can be your best self for your partner.

When I’m not feeling good about my body, it’s harder for me to feel sexy. When I don’t feel sexy, I’m less likely to make my wife feel wanted. It’s a crummy cycle. I don’t feel desirable, so I don’t come on to her, so she doesn’t feel like I desire her when nothing could be further from the truth. And no amount of her telling me that I’m as sexy as ever is going to fix that. I have to fix that.

The problem with looking to someone else to validate ourselves is that it is brief, unreliable and — most importantly — outside of us. We have to be happy with ourselves. And if we’re not, we have to do the things that make us feel like we are at our best.

That could mean a lot of things. It could mean a crash diet on social media. Seeing fewer air-brushed bodies allows me to focus on reality instead of fantasy. It could mean getting back to eating better and working out. It could mean whatever helps me get back into my body and back out of my head.

It’s an easy trap to fall into, and it’s a two-fold danger. It’s no fun admitting that I’ve gotten lazy about taking care of my body; if I can blame anyone else, I’d love to. But it doesn’t do any good. Even if I can get someone else to take responsibility, it wouldn’t be real. Even if my wife tells me she’d love me at any weight and if I never want to write another word and I want to devote my time to something entirely different, she wouldn’t love me any less; that’s great, too. But that has to be my additional support, not the mainstay of my self-confidence and self-worth.

I have to love me and feel good about me. And although my wife and lots of other people can support me on that pursuit, only I can do that very hard work.

But here’s the good news: When I do it, I am the happiest, the most fun, the most productive, the kindest, most generous version of me there is. Unhappy people tend to want — subconsciously or otherwise — to make other people unhappy. Unsatified people tend to want — subconsciously or otherwise — to make other people unsatisfied. And they are good at it. Unhappiness and dissatisfaction are powerful and dangerous emotions.

I know it’s cliché, but it’s cliché for a reason: You can’t truly love someone else until you love yourself. It’s tough. Most of us grow up hating one thing or another about ourselves and long for someone to see the person we want to be or imagine ourselves to be and we cling on to that for dear life. But that’s external. And anything external is fleeting.

If you’ve never thought you were important enough to take care of yourself and be your best self, whatever that means to you, then use your partner as motivation. Because when you are your best, you can be a better partner to her and support her as she seeks to be her best self, too. If you don’t like something about yourself, change it. Don’t offload the responsibility of making you feel good about yourself onto your partner. She will fail and then she’ll feel terrible even though she was set up for a losing battle.

All too often, we blame anything and everything outside of ourselves for making us feel fat or undesirable or dumb or whatever. But the truth is, more often than not, those were already our thoughts about ourselves. We then take another’s words or actions and twist them around and say, “You think I’m fat.” “You don’t think I’m sexy.” “You don’t think I’m smart enough” when those were never the words coming from their mouths. If they are, that’s a whole other problem.

Our partners should support us. They cannot — and should not — define us. Have a question about sex, relationships or life you want Jenny to address? Email it to GirlOnGirlsJenny@gmail.com.
Making the SCENE the week of Aug. 10–16:
• Alexandre’s: Mi Diva Loca on Friday. Walter Lee on Saturday. Wayne Smith on Sunday. K-Marie on Tuesday. Carymel on Wednesday. Chris Chism on Thursday.
• Club Changes: Cowtown Leathermen meeting at 7 p.m. on Monday.
• Club Reflection: Wall of Food Show at 9 p.m. on Thursday.
• Dallas Eagle: United Court Show from 7-10 p.m. on Friday.
• Havana: Rainbow LULAC-Beth E! Binah-Attitude school supply drive at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday.
• Hidden Door: Charity Showcase with DJ Reuben Martinez and host Jada Pinkett Fox, who introduces you to six local nonprofit organizations from noon-5 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are $15.
• JR.’s Bar & Grill: Cassie Nova hosts the Caven Employee Turnabout Show benefiting the Caven Employee Benevolence Association at 11 p.m. on Monday.
• Marty’s Live: Chanel Champagne’s Happy Hour from 1-9 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.
• Round-Up Saloon: Karaoke at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Mancandy at 8 p.m. on Sunday. Boys! Boots! Boxer Briefs! at 10 p.m. on Monday. Project Funday with Sassy O’Hara on Wednesday.
• Sue Ellen’s: Le Cure on Saturday. Empire Cats from 3:30-5:30 p.m. followed by Anton Shaw Band on Sunday. Vampire Court of Dallas presents Rainbow in the Dark benefitting Outlast Youth at 6 p.m. on Sunday. Show starts at 7:30 p.m. $5.
• The Rose Room: Dominique Sanchez on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
• Woody’s Sports & Video Bar: Dallas Otter Weekend Kick-off Party from 9:30-11:30 p.m. on Friday.
• Zippers: Charlie Phresh plays retro and top 40 flash back hits on Sunday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth
Latino Pride
Photos courtesy of Juan M. Rodriguez

Enjoying the flavors of the Denton Wine Walk

Heating up the bar at The Grapevine
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Dreams do come true at Woody's

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Jeffrey strikes a pose on The Strip

Kylie O’hara at Cedar Springs Tap House

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Across
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5 Prevents from scoring, with “out”
10 They call balls
14 Barbra’s Funny Girl guy
15 Vietnam capital
16 Type of Mary pass
17 Collette of Connie and Carla
18 Straight, to PlanetOut?
19 Jazz singer Anita
20 1969 John Waters comedy starring Divine
23 ___ loss for words
25 Land whose front is a bottom?
26 Some Bible versions: abbr.
29 How some fruits are sold
31 Bones below elbows
33 1970 John Waters comedy starring Divine
39 North and South states
40 One who says, “Let us pray”
43 In the hole
44 Gets ready to shoot off
48 Plug attachment
49 Begged for it on one’s knees
51 Merry or like Mary, to Mimi
52 Art of dwarfing plants
54 Get it while you’re being serviced
56 1972 John Waters comedy starring Divine
60 Pasolini’s well
61 Dubuque denizen
62 “Here ___ go?”
64 Family diagram
65 Bewitched aunt
66 Shall We Dance star
67 R. Nureyev’s land, once
68 “Yes” in the navy
69 Febreze target

Down
1 Gay-com bridge
2 Latin I verb
3 Letters to Troye Sivan, e.g.
4 Foursome after a desertion
5 Herring varieties
6 Circles over Mary and Peter
7 Type of wedding candle
8 Saw opening about being human
9 Triangle-shaped peninsula
10 Oops!
11 A League of Their Own actress
12 Hartspryg actress Zadora
13 Underhanded
14 Get a whiff of
15 Vietnam capital
16 Type of Mary pass
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Solution on Page 33

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56 1972 John Waters comedy starring Divine
60 Pasolini’s well
61 Dubuque denizen
62 “Here ___ go?”
64 Family diagram
65 Bewitched aunt
66 Shall We Dance star
67 R. Nureyev’s land, once
68 “Yes” in the navy
69 Febreze target

Down
1 Gay-com bridge
2 Latin I verb
3 Letters to Troye Sivan, e.g.
4 Foursome after a desertion
5 Herring varieties
6 Circles over Mary and Peter
7 Type of wedding candle
8 Saw opening about being human
9 Triangle-shaped peninsula
10 Oops!
11 A League of Their Own actress
12 Hartspryg actress Zadora
13 Underhanded
14 Get a whiff of
15 Vietnam capital
16 Type of Mary pass
17 Collette of Connie and Carla
18 Straight, to PlanetOut?
19 Jazz singer Anita
20 1969 John Waters comedy starring Divine
23 ___ loss for words
25 Land whose front is a bottom?
26 Some Bible versions: abbr.
29 How some fruits are sold
31 Bones below elbows
33 1970 John Waters comedy starring Divine
39 North and South states
40 One who says, “Let us pray”
43 In the hole
44 Gets ready to shoot off
48 Plug attachment
49 Begged for it on one’s knees
51 Merry or like Mary, to Mimi
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