The Crossroads

Despite Dallas's reputation as one of the state's more conservative cities, its LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) community was among the first in Texas to organize politically and socially. In 1947, the city became home to one of the first gay bars in Texas, Club Reno, and in 1972 was the site of the first gay pride parade in Texas. In 1980, the pride parade moved from downtown to Cedar Springs Road.

The area surrounding the intersection of Throckmorton Street and Cedar Springs Road has been considered the center of the Dallas LGBTQ community since the early 1970s and is known as "The Gay Crossroads" or "The Crossroads." In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Crossroads was a magnet for the city's counterculture movements. Gays and lesbians began moving to the area, drawn to its bohemian image and picturesque architecture. More gay-owned businesses and bars followed, and by the end of the 1970s, the majority of businesses in the area catered to the LGBTQ community. With the onslaught of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s, the Crossroads became not only an entertainment district, but also a center for political activism, social services and medical testing.

As the historic heart of the LGBTQ community of Dallas, the Crossroads remains the location of the oldest gay businesses in the city and as the primary gathering point for LGBTQ political and social events, including the Alan Ross Freedom Parade. The Crossroads continues to serve the neighborhood and the city of Dallas as a symbol of social, economic and political action among the LGBTQ community.
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- ON THE COVER
  The Crossroads historical marker.
  Photo by Paul Kubek Courtesy
  The Dallas Way.
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3 injured in shooting at San Antonio gay bar

San Antonio police arrested Jose Rincon Hernandez, 44, of El Paso in relation to the shooting of two men and a woman outside San Antonio gay bar Pegasus. He is charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

Two men and a woman were hospitalized shortly after midnight on Monday, Oct. 8, when an argument at a San Antonio gay bar ended in a shooting. The three were taken to San Antonio Military Medical Center with non-life-threatening injuries, according to KSAT Channel 12, the ABC affiliate in San Antonio.

But news reports vary on exactly what happened and where leading up to the shooting.

The manager of the Pegasus bar told KSAT there was “an altercation” between two groups of people buying tacos outside the bar, with one man being called a racial slur, and as a group left the bar, someone driving away in a red Nissan fired about eight shots toward the bar. According to KSAT, police said none of the three who were injured were part of the initial confrontation.

KENS Channel 5, the CBS affiliate, has published a slightly different story, though, saying that according to police, the fight started inside the bar, and that a man and a woman left the bar, firing shots at the club as they drove away. Channel 5 also identified the vehicle as a red Nissan, and said the suspects fled south on North Main.

KENS Channel 5 reports that of the three injured in the shooting, one man was shot in the calf and the other man and the woman were both shot in the arm.

And Fox 29 is reporting that the fight started as an argument between two men standing in line to buy tacos at a food truck because one of the men couldn’t make up his mind what to order. Witnesses told police that security guards from Pegasus broke up the fight. They said one of the men walked away but then came back with a gun and “fired three shots into the air.”

The bar’s manager, identified as Mike Rodriguez, told Fox 29 that as he was trying to get people inside the bar and out of harm’s way, the man with the gun got into the red Nissan and drove around the block before coming back and opening fire a second time, wounding the three victims.

Pegasus nightclub is located in the 1400 block of North Main in San Antonio. According to the bar’s website, it is “the oldest undefeated bar still standing on The Strip,” with “top quality theme bars, a camp atmosphere with friendly staff, great music, and fun for all over 21 years of age.”

— Tammye Nash

Irving MEI score jumps

The city of Irving went from a score of 6 in 2017 to 32 in this year’s Municipal Equality Index, Human Rights Campaign’s annual rating of hundreds of U.S. cities.

Dallas, Fort Worth, San Antonio and Austin received a top score of 100. Houston, which repealed its equal rights ordinance, scored 70. Plano lost five points since last year to score 69. The difference seems to be in points awarded for similar items and removing an anti-bullying question.

During the last year, Irving added an LGBT police liaison. At the time of his appointment to the position, Irving Police Chief Jeff Spivey said it was such an obvious thing to do. He said appointing Jerry Sanderford cost the city nothing and added a number of benefits including building trust between the LGBT community in Irving and the police and helping solve crime that occurred in Irving’s LGBT community. That earned the city 10 points.

Irving also appointed an LGBTQ liaison to the city’s executive office. Again the position isn’t full time but is a way to open community between city government and the LGBT community. That earned the city five points.

Irving received another 14 points for a non-dis...
certain bills in the 2017 legislature that included the bathroom bill.

Last year, Irving received 6 points for its anti-bullying policy. That question wasn’t included in this year’s survey.

Arlington increased to a score of 48 from 44. The city added two points for additional protection in city employment, both for sexual orientation and gender identity. Five points were added for a liaison to the city council and mayor. The Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau has been actively working to increase tourism in the LGBT community and co-hosted Gay Day at Six Flags in September.

Denton went from 44 in 2017 to 52 this year after the city added an LGBT police liaison.

Other cities in the area scored poorly: Grand Prairie–27; Mesquite–17; Garland–14; McKinney–12.

HRC removed policies relating to schools because in states like Texas, the school district is its own governing body, and school districts don’t coincide with city boundaries. For example, Houston got credit for Houston ISD policies, even though half of the city is in the Cy-Fair ISD where several anti-LGBT incidents occurred that the district refused to address. Large portions of Dallas are in Richardson ISD with horrible employment policies and little protection for LGBT students, but the MEI credited Dallas for DISD.

Texas scores aren’t that bad when compared to other parts of the country. Brookhaven, N.Y. that includes Fire Island only received a 59. Anaheim, home of Disneyland, only received an 85. Liberal Berkeley scored four points lower than Dallas.

— David Taffet
Jarret Paul Duke, 29, died Oct. 5, following a brief illness. He was born Aug. 8, 1989, to Jeff and Tammi (Nichols) Duke, in Nocona, Texas. He attended Nocona high school, performing in several one-act plays there before attending Cisco Junior College, where he studied music and arts. He was drum major in the band his senior year at Cisco JC.

As an adult, Jarret was active in theater in New Mexico, and his goal was to move to Hollywood and pursue a career in acting. He was a genius musician and was able to play any instruments he picked up and he loved to sing. He had a smile you could never forget and eyes that showed you his soul. Jarret never met a stranger and was always willing to help someone in need. In fact, he left life doing just that, as an organ donor.

Jarret had worked as a bartender at Alexandre’s for six years, usually working the daytime/happy hour shift. After being attacked while walking home from work in mid-2015, he became active in the Take Back Oak Lawn movement. He had many friends and was well loved throughout the community for his wit, his smile and his sense of humor, as well as for his custom cocktail creations.

Jarret was preceded in death by grandmother, Mary Well, and his uncle, Dean Duke. He is survived by his father and step-mother, Tammi and Ikey Daniels of Graham, Texas; his other mom, Pam Campbell, and her husband, Alan, of Bowie, Texas; two brothers, Justin Duke and wife, Samantha, of Waynoka, and Jacob Rogers of Big Springs, Texas; two step-brothers, Matthew and Brandon Blevins; his chosen sister, Ashley Campbell; nephews Dalton Lee Duke and Jackson Ray Duke of Kansas; nieces Halo Gracey Duke, Mackynna Raye Reed and Novalee Rayne Reed of Waynoka; his grandparents, Paul Wells, of Montague, Texas, and Barbara Atteberry of Nocona; his very special friend, Josh Jefferson, and numerous cousins, aunts, uncles, other relatives and friends.

Visitation will be held from 6-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 12, at White’s Family Funeral Home in Bowie. Memorial services will be held at 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, at Montague Cowboy Church in Montague.

Friends are invited to attend a celebration of his life on Sunday, Oct. 13, at 2 p.m. at Alexandre’s.

As per Jarret’s wishes, his remains were cremated under the direction of White’s Family Funeral Home. Donations to help cover funeral expenses can be made through White’s Family Funeral Home.

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.

**OCTOBER**

- **Oct. 12: A Night Out with Trevor**
  Trevor Project celebrates its 20th anniversary with cocktails and canapes from 8 p.m.–midnight at The Hall on Dragon, 1500 Dragon St. $50-75.

- **Oct. 13: Federal Club fall luncheon**
  Candidates Colin Allred, Julie Johnson and Mark Phariss are the speakers at the Federal Club fall luncheon from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Tower Club, Thanksgiving Tower, 48th Floor, 1601 Elm St. Self parking in Thanksgiving Tower garage. Federal Club members free. Guests $35. Unaccompanied guests $50 advance, $55 at door.

- **Oct. 13: Red Party X: MasqueRED**
  Dallas Red Foundation presents MasqueRED with Cazwell and The Violin Guy. Masks/costumes are encouraged and all proceeds benefit local HIV/AIDS organizations. The party is from 8-11 p.m. at Fashion Industry Gallery, 1807 Ross Ave. Tickets are $45-125, available at Eventbrite.

- **Oct. 13-14: MCC’s 50th anniversary**
  Trinity MCC celebrates the 50th anniversary of Metropolitan Community Church with an intimate concert and reception with the “mother of contemporary Christian music” Marsha Stevens-Pino at 7 p.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. on Sunday at Trinity MCC 933 E. Ave. J, Grand Prairie.

- **Oct. 14: Spanke’s Toilet Paper Party**
  Spanke’s annual toilet paper party benefiting AIDS Services Dallas takes place 4-8 p.m. at 3953 Hawthorne Ave. See Amazon wish list under Spanke’s Toilet Paper Party.

- **Oct. 14: North Texas Drag Bingo**
  North Texas Drag Bingo presents “Thriller Drag Bingo” from 2-6 p.m. at Crossroads Bar, 1125 E. University Drive in Denton. Proceeds from this event benefit LGBT charitable causes. General admission is $24. VIP tickets are $35, available at NorthTexasDragBingo.com.

- **Oct. 16: 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.

- **Oct. 16: Stonewall Democrats of Dallas**
  Stonewall Democrats monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Matito’s, 3102 Oak Lawn Ave.

- **Oct. 17: Coffee Conversations**
  The North Texas GLBT Chamber of Commerce hosts its first Coffee Conversations seminar, on the topic of Mental Health in the Workplace, featuring presenter Bob Raton Jr., LPC-S, from 8:15-9:30 a.m. at the Zephyr Bakery Café, 4001 Cedar Springs Road. Admission is $10 in advance, available at the Chamber website, or $20 at the door. Chamber members get in free.

- **Oct. 17: Test drive and BBQ**
  Dallas Hope Charities receives $40 each time someone test drives a car today at Park Cities Ford and have lunch at Big Al’s Smokehouse BBQ and 10 percent of the bill goes to Dallas Hope Charities. Park Cities Ford, 3333 Inwood Road. Big Al’s Smokehouse BBQ, 3317 Inwood Road. DallasHopeCharities.org.

- **Oct. 18: Business Fair Relaunch**
  GALA presents business fair relaunch at Vnyl, Shops at Legacy, Plano. See the GALA Facebook event page for more information.

Gay rapper Cazwell, pictured, and The Violin Guy will be the featured performers at the 10th annual Red Party. Red Party X: MasqueRED, Saturday night at the Fashion Institute Gallery. See listings for details.

- **Oct. 18: The Journey: A Coming Out Workshop**
  Did you come out recently or have you been out for a while. No matter where you are on your coming out journey, you will benefit from this six-week interactive workshop open to all LGBT persons, family and friends facilitated by Rev. Robin Booth, Rev. Jane Graner and CoH member Will Fields on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Interfaith Peace Chapel, Conference Rooms A/B, 5910 Cedar Springs Road. Register at CathedralOfHope.com. ChurchCenter.com/groups/coh-care-ministry-groups/the-journey-workshop. For more info email will.fields@live.com.

- **Oct. 20: AIN’s Flashback to the 80s**
  Totally tubular 80s fundraiser benefiting the clients of AIN from 7-11 p.m. at Lofty Spaces, 816 Montgomery St. $75-5,000 at Eventbrite.com.
Meet Muneca, an 8-year-old, black-and-tan German shepherd mix weighing 51 pounds. Her name means “doll” in Spanish, and it definitely fits her. She’s a sweet, gentle girl looking for a home in which to spend her golden years. She came to the SPCA of Texas after she was rescued from cruelty, and she was in rough shape. She received lots of TLC and medical care, so now she’s happy, healthy and ready to find a forever home. She loves people, and adores being petted all over. She walks well on her leash and enjoys going for strolls; she may be an older gal, but she still has plenty of pep in her step. She’s a laidback, loving girl who will make a wonderful companion. Muneca has been spayed, microchipped and is current on all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet her today! #165793

Muneca 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. Thur-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 214-267-0222 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.; DVtv in Spayse, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4–5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.
The Dallas Way dedicates marker

Hundreds gather to unveil first official LGBT historical plaque in Texas

DAVID TAFFET | Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Mounted on a pole outside JR’s Bar & Grill — at the corner of Cedar Springs Road and Throckmorton Street that is known as The Crossroads — stands the first historical marker in Texas honoring the LGBT community.

The marker was dedicated Wednesday night Oct. 10, with hundreds crowded into JR’s for the ceremony celebrating the history of the community and the development of Cedar Springs Road into the center of the gayborhood. Even before it was unveiled, the plaque, which was covered in a rainbow of streamers, was a new landmark that everyone wanted to be photographed with.

The Dallas Way President Evilu Pridgeon opened the program by thanking community icons George Harris and Jack Evans, saying, “Because of those two guys, we’re here tonight.” she said. The plaque, she added, “memorializes this geographic area,” which is heart and soul of the Dallas LGBT community.

Pridgeon has stressed that the process of getting the marker approved and in place has been successful only because of an outpouring of support and contributions from the Dallas community.

For some of those speaking at the dedication, the historical marker is a symbol of what makes the Dallas LGBT community special.

Dallas Voice Publisher Leo Cusimano noting that “The Dallas Way secures our place in history and this marker represents our home base,” talked about working with the Dallas Convention and Visitors Bureau, now known as Visit Dallas, to promote the city to the LGBT people around the country.

“Men and women — you don’t see that across the country,” Cusimano said as he looked out over the mixed crowd. Still, he reminded his audience, “We’ve had a lot of successes, but we have a long way to go.”

ERIN Moore, Cannon Brown, Councilman Omar Narvaez and Lee Daugherty at the historical marker after the dedication on October 10. (David Taffet/Dallas Voice)

Openly-gay Dallas City Councilman Omar Narvaez recalled that his political career began there at the Crossroads after he joined Stonewall Democrats and signed up hundreds of voters while sitting at a table outside Crossroads Market.

Thats when people began to realize that they all needed each other to raise money as the government turned its back on LGBT people, she said.

Rick Barton talked about opening Hunky’s, the iconic hamburger joint on Cedar Springs, in 1984 with his brother David, who was also gay and who died of AIDS in the mid-1990s. And Alan Pierce, owner of The Round-Up Saloon, recalled The Crossroads as being “the meeting place of every LGBT leader” in the community.

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Pierce described how far the community has come, pointing to the lawsuit filed by Mica England against the city of Dallas in the early 1990s after she was refused employment with the Dallas Police Department because she was a lesbian. Now, Pierce noted, LGBT police officers were in the crowd celebrating along with gay elected officials as the marker was dedicated.

Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniel said making that sure people have equal opportunity and their rights are preserved isn’t always easy. But it was times like the marker dedication celebration that she thoroughly enjoys her job, because it’s a time when “things go right.”
Dallas’s Stonewall: Village Station raid marks a turning point in LGBTQ history

BY SAM CHILDERS
Courtesy of The Dallas Way

It was the last Wednesday of October 1979 at the Village Station, a popular gay disco that had opened at the corner Cedar Springs and Throckmorton barely four months earlier. The typical mid-week clientele danced to Donna Summer’s “Dim All the Lights” and Michael Jackson’s “Don’t Stop ‘til You Get Enough” while nursing 10-cent draft beers. Some compared notes on the “March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights” held the week before. Others contemplated checking out the Hidden Door, a new bar holding its grand opening the next night.

They didn’t know it was the twilight of an era. Just two weeks later, the Iranian hostage crisis would begin, facilitating Ronald Reagan’s election victory and a hard shift right politically. And in a matter of weeks, the nation’s first reports of a mysterious and deadly disease spreading within the gay community would change everything forever.

Ernie Dougherty was staffing the Village Station’s front door that night, on Oct. 24, and Streisand and Summer’s defiant “Enough is Enough” was thumping through the speakers as patrons formed a conga line, laughing and singing along as they bunny-hopped through the club. Then, a little before 1 a.m. on Oct. 25, several Dallas policemen arrived, ordering Dougherty to stay where he was and not to interfere. Joined by undercover cops inside, they began making arrests, eventually charging 10 men for public lewdness and a bartender with a liquor violation.

Even though the LGBT community had made progress toward equality since the Stonewall Riots in New York a decade earlier, persecution of gay people was commonly accepted in 1979. In weeks before the Village Station raid, harassment of gay men in such liberal bastions as New York, Boston and San Francisco made news. Anita Bryant, a former beauty queen and orange juice huckster-turned-evangelical-activist, was making a name for herself as the country’s No. 1 gay basher.

Two months earlier, a series of arson fires at Houston gay bars had put the community there on edge. And in Dallas, gay men — and some women — were routinely labeled “perverts” and “deviants” in local newspapers, while raids on gay bars, bathhouses and theaters were commonplace. In fact, in a 1979 Dallas Morning News article profiling the rising gay demographic in Oak Lawn, R.L. Adair, owner of Adair’s Bar & Grill on Cedar Springs, said, “They’re mentally ill. They ought to be locked up. They’ve tried to buy up every piece of property around here and turn this into a queer community.

That story helped build momentum within the gay community to push back against harassment, discrimination and antiquated laws. In November, Dallas schoolteacher Don Baker, backed by the Texas Human Rights Foundation, filed a federal class action suit challenging the state sodomy law. Club Dallas filed a federal suit against city and county law enforcement, citing harassment of its patrons in December. And as the new decade began in January, members of the Gay Political Caucus met with city officials, including Mayor Bob Folsom, who admitted that his knowledge of the gay community was “somewhat limited” and that the public “doesn’t want us to leave the homosexuals alone.”

That Thursday morning, the Village Station’s general manager, Charlie Hott, posted bond for the men arrested that could not afford it themselves, and he announced he was filing a civil case against the city of Dallas. He posted signs at the club asking for witnesses to the raid to come forward.

Within a week, Dallas attorney Mike Anglin, who chaired the Dallas Bar Association’s Goals for Dallas Committee, met with police officials and committee members, to state its strong opposition to raids on gay bars. They were assured that the police actions were not harassment, but two weeks later the Dallas Times Herald ran a story about the DPD’s vice squad and its entrapment methods. One unnamed undercover officer quoted in the story compared the harassment as “a big game hunt” and made repeated references to “queers” and “lewds.”

“It’s disgusting,” he said, “but you get such a satisfaction out of putting them in jail.” And the vice division’s captain said that the public “doesn’t want us to leave the homosexuals alone.”

Riled at the judge’s decisions, District Attorney Henry Wade dismissed the remaining six cases and reassigned them to conservative Judge Ben Ellis’s court, citing bias on Miller’s part. Outraged, Miller accused the district attorney of “forum shopping,” the practice of dismissing cases in one court and reassigning them to another to secure convictions. The Dallas Bar Association concurred. Miller initially requested, and was granted, the return of the cases to his court but relinquished them reluctantly, saying “The mere accusation of bias itself creates the possibility of a cloud hanging over whatever verdicts are reached by this trial judge in these cases.”

Wade eventually backed down and agreed to have lewdness cases assigned randomly after a formal inquiry into the forum shopping was drafted. By the end of 1980, the remaining Village Station cases were decided, mostly with guilty verdicts, although at least two of those were later dismissed.

It was a turning point for LGBTQ citizens of Dallas. Thanks to Dallas attorney Don Maison, who represented two of the defendants — in one notable trial, Bible-toting citizens were countered with disco-dancing men in the courtroom — the names and badge numbers of questionable cops were publicized. Gay citizens began appearing at city council meetings, demanding an end to harassment. And politicians began to listen.

As Maison recalled in an oral history for The Dallas Way, “The raid and its aftermath sparked a dialogue between the police department and the gay community that hadn’t existed before. It later led the police department to assign a liaison officer to the gay community. It changed the whole relationship between the community and law enforcement.”

The Village Station closed for a time in the early 1980s, but re-opened in 1987 in a larger space on Cedar Springs — that just happened to be next door to Adair’s Bar & Grill. The newly-empowered “queer community” that R.L. Adair had condemned just a few years before had arrived.

A sign at the door of the Village Station proudly proclaimed the bar to be “gay-owned and gay-operated.” (Courtesy of The Dallas Way)

10.12.18
Dallas Voice
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When Ray Don Mitchell took over as creative director last January of Screams, the Halloween "haunted park" that takes over the grounds of Scarborough Renaissance Festival every October, it was a homecoming of sorts. He was, after some 20-plus years, back where he began his career as a fright expert.

“I have come full circle,” Mitchell said, “and I am glad to be back.”

Growing up different can be challenging in even the best circumstances. For a gay boy growing up in a tiny Texas town, it can be crushing; Mitchell said he was “very fortunate to come from an intelligent family. But at the same time, I was miserable, being gay in school!” in a small town just south of Waxahachie, a town that even today has a population of less than 2,000.

Because he was so miserable, Mitchell said, he dropped out of school after 8th grade. Instead, he turned his attention full time to what he loved.

“Everything was about art and creativity,” he said. “That’s all I really cared about. But then I realized, if I wanted to make a living at it, I had to turn on the business side of my brain, too.”

Then, “about 20-some-odd years ago,” when Screams first opened, Mitchell and his best friend, Frances O’Daniel Woodruff, saw an article in the Waxahachie newspaper about the new attraction. “We loved haunted houses, so we called them up and offered our services” as makeup artists and set designers, he said.

But at the time, he said, Screams consisted of traveling “tent shows” that came in “turn-key” — in other words, the attractions came ready to go, with little to nothing for the local operators to do.

“They were intrigued by what we had to offer, but they said there wasn’t really anything we could do. Then, somebody said, ‘You know, we don’t have a kids’ area,’” and asked if we could do that. Of course, we jumped on it,” Mitchell recalled, adding, “That was our very first job in the Halloween industry.”

From there, the two branched out. They helped design the Boy Scouts’ haunted houses for charity at Six Flags Over Texas, “and then we started marketing ourselves at Halloween conventions and trade shows,” Mitchell said.

Back then, most of the conventions and trade shows were focused on the retail market that flourishes each fall. But at the same time, “haunted houses were really a growing trend,” he said. “Then the owner of Cutting Edge found us and latched onto us. That’s where we really developed our abilities and skills.”

Cutting Edge Haunted House, in Fort Worth, is now in its 27th year and is one of the most recognized haunted house attractions in the country, and Woodruff continues to work there. But when Mitchell had the chance to branch out once again, he took it.

“I came out here [to Screams] last year to teach a makeup class, and while I was here I wanted to look around. I wanted to see what the artists would be using as their canvas, their backgrounds to play off,” he said. As he walked around the grounds, he offered a few suggestions here and there, prompting the Screams management to offer him the position of creative director. And Mitchell said yes. “I decided that this would be a real opportunity not just to build on and improve on what was here, but to also create whole new environments.”

And that’s just what happened. This year, Screams is “all new and completely transformed,” according to the attraction’s public relations team.

Mitchell noted with a grin, “We’ve kicked it up a few notches. There are five haunted houses, and we’ve redesigned each one and given them all new facades. I brought back the graveyard this year, and it is epic. We’re really dressing the park up this year, giving it much more of a theme park-type feel, with pumpkins and skeletons everywhere.”

Ray Don Mitchell, pictured below with his cast of strigoi, has completely redesigned both the sets and the characters at the Screams haunted house theme park. (Tammye Nash/Dallas Voice)
Pride on the move?

Plan to move Dallas’ parade, festival out of the gayborhood sparks controversy

TAMMYE NASH | Managing Editor
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News that Dallas Tavern Guild officials plan to move the city’s annual Pride celebration back to June and out of the gayborhood sparked fierce debate on social media over the weekend.

Tavern Guild President Lonzie Hershner, owner of The Tin Room, Marty’s Live, Zippers and others, announced via a Facebook post Friday night, Oct. 5, that the move is in the works, and invited community members to attend a Tavern Guild meeting on Thursday, Nov. 1, in the Rose Room at S4 to discuss the plans and voice their opinions.

“Basically, it’s gotten down to the fact that the costs the city is forcing on us are getting out of hand,” Hershner said this week, noting that Tavern Guild members voted at a June meeting to go ahead with plans to move the Pride celebration to Fair Park, on the first weekend of June, although that likely cannot happen by next summer.

“The fact that we had a record year [in attendance] this year means if Pride keeps growing, the costs will be even more insane,” he continued, adding that the festival, held at Reverchon Park, and the parade on Cedar Springs Road have no room to grow now, which limits the potential for the future.

He also noted that city officials “can only guarantee us the use of Reverchon Park [site of the Miller Lite Music Festival] through 2019,” because they are going to be turning the park into a baseball stadium for a minor league team. Dallas Voice contacted the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department and the office of Councilman Adam Medrano, in whose district the park is located, but as of press time Thursday had not gotten verification that such plans are in the future.

“Of all the major cities, Dallas has one of the smallest Pride parades,” Hershner said. “We want to grow it into one of the largest Pride celebrations. We want Dallas to be in position to host World Pride eventually. We will never be able to do that if we keep the parade on Cedar Springs.”

Hershner said ‘Fair Park is the only thing that makes sense for our vision of Pride. Taking it to Fair Park will give us plenty of room to grow. It will give us the chance to bring in world-class entertainers to perform — someone like Lady Gaga or Pink, people we could never get to come perform on a tiny little stage in a field in the middle of a park.”

Hershner said the Tavern Guild’s five-year goal is to have the entirety of Fair Park for a full weekend, complete with a parade and a music festival and fireworks shows.

© Screams Halloween Theme Park is open from 7:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. every Friday and Saturday through Oct. 27. Single admission price is $35 at the gate and includes all five haunted houses, live entertainment and Scary-Oke. Visitors may go through the haunted houses as many times as they like. A Fast Pass is also available for $20 to cut wait times. Vendor booths and food and beverage booths are also available in the park. Discount tickets can be purchased in advance on-line at ScreamsPark.com. Screams offer I-35E at exit 399A, just outside Waxahachie. Parking is free. For more information visit ScreamsPark.com.

“I’ve been raising exotics since I was 16,” Mitchell said, adding that he still lives in his tiny hometown, in the house his mother left to him when she died last year. “They didn’t run me out,” he declared.

It was also his mother, Mitchell said, he reinforced his determination to live his life on his own terms. “I asked her once, ‘What do you want me to do when I grow up?’” he recalled. “She said, ‘I want you to be happy.’ And that’s what I am doing.”

And for Mitchell, a large part of that is possible because of his adopted son, who is now 20 years old and works with him at Screams.

“He has been in my life since he was 15, then he moved in with me last year. We went from being buddies to having a father-and-son kind of relationship. It’s a very different thing,” Mitchell said. “He’s probably the best thing that ever happened to me. He has shown me that there is a lot more to life than I ever believed there was. To care about someone more than you care about yourself — that’s something I had never experienced before.

“Life has changed a lot in the last year,” he added with a smile.

To have come full circle in his career, to be back where he began and to have the chance to create a whole new experience at Screams is a dream coming true for Mitchell.

“I love being able to create an environment that sends people to another place,” he said. “When someone comes out here, who knows what they might be going through in their life that they may need that kind of escape, that kind of fun, that special memory. I love to see themterrified when they’re going through, and then come out laughing, saying how much fun they’ve had.

“When you can create that for people, when you can give them memories they won’t ever forget — that’s something to be proud of.”

For more photos, visit DallasVoice.com
VISIBLE
THE 37TH ANNUAL BLACK TIE DINNER

NOVEMBER 3, 2018

BETO O'ROURKE
Opening Speaker

JESSI CRUICKSHANK
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Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
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Northaven United Methodist Church
Promise House
Rainbow Roundup
Resource Center
The Women’s Chorus of Dallas
Trans Kids and Families of Texas
Turtle Creek Chorale
Uptown Players

NATIONAL BENEFICIARY
The Human Rights Campaign Foundation

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING DINNER TICKETS

No Dinner tickets will be distributed prior to the event. All guests will need to check-in either Friday Evening at B4Black or on Saturday evening to collect tickets and any eligible reception passes.

Please also note that the Sheraton Hotel is currently under construction. Pay careful attention to parking and transportation guidance prior to the event to ensure a smooth experience for you and your guests.

ALL BLACK TIE DINNER WEEKEND ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE SHERATON CONFERENCE CENTER

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2ND FLOOR
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@blacktiedinner I #VisibleTogether
and more. The plan also calls for holding a block party on Friday and/or Saturday on The Strip to help bring in customers for the bars and other stores in the gayborhood.

And, because Fair Park is the site each September and October of the State Fair of Texas, moving Pride there would necessitate moving the event from its traditional “third Sunday weekend in September” date.

Hershner said that “all of our existing major sponsors are 100 percent on board with the idea. They are all very excited about it.” And, he said, efforts underway to incorporate the Pride Committee as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, under the umbrella of the Tavern Guild’s existing 501(c)(4) status, will open the door to more avenues for sponsorships and funding that will allow the event to grow even larger.

But not everyone is as enthusiastic as Hershner and other supporters. And one of those most strongly in opposition is Alan Pierce, owner of The Round-Up Saloon and former Tavern Guild president.

“This was our 35th year having the parade right there on Cedar Springs, and this was a record-breaking year,” Pierce said this week. “This is the home of the parade, the tradition of it. The whole history of our community is right there on Cedar Springs, and now we have an historical marker there stating that that is the birthplace of the LGBT community in Dallas.

“If we move the parade out of Oak Lawn, then we are losing all that. We are losing our tradition,” he said. “If we move it to Fair Park, we then have to move it out of September, and I am completely against that. There is a reason we have our parade in September, and we would lose that tradition, too.”

“Yes, the city does make it more difficult each year. Yes, the city costs us more every year,” Pierce continued. “But we have always managed to increase our sponsorships to cover the increase in costs. And we’ve had a lot of great new sponsors coming in. Andrews [Distributing Company] has been wonderful to us for a long time now. And now we have Toyota, and others, too.”

Pierce said he understands the desire to grow the parade and the surrounding celebration, but he doesn’t think Fair Park will allow for that growth, at least not as far as the parade is concerned. “I have been to Fair Park for the State Fair, and I have seen the little parade they have there each night. There’s barely room for that parade on the streets in the park. I just don’t see any way they can have a parade with 100 entries in Fair Park.”

He pointed to a suggestion by former City Councilman Ed Oakley as a way to grow the parade without moving it from Cedar Springs. He said Oakley is exploring the possibility of moving the parade’s starting point to Cedar Springs Road and Turtle Creek Boulevard, and then traveling down Cedar Springs toward Love Field.

Hershner, however, said that option is also subject to the same limits the city puts on the length and time of the parade now.

Pierce is also concerned that supporters of the move don’t actually have any details on how much it would cost to stage the celebration in Fair Park, because control of that facility is in the process of being handed over to a private corporation.

Hershner acknowledged that firm estimates are not yet available because the management change is not complete, but insisted that the costs could easily be made up in savings from not having to pay for city-mandated elements of the celebration as it exists now.

Pierce said he was not at the June meeting when Tavern Guild members voted on the plan, and he is angry that they had voted to go ahead with a plan to move the parade, rather than to study options first.

“I am just furious about it,” he said. “Without any numbers whatsoever, they just voted to proceed with it. I tried to get it modified, to at least wait and study it. But it’s a done deal as far as they are concerned.”
Peering into the abyss

H e was beaten until unrecognizable, then hung up on a fence and left to die. Twenty years ago this month. All because he was gay.

All because he was gay.

Since Matthew Shepard’s murder in Laramie, Wyo., in a hate crime that made headlines around the world, the LGBTQ community has made slow but steady progress in the struggle to win equal rights and protections.

I said equal, not special rights. Just equal, that’s all we’ve asked for.

We have been helped along the way by our allies and by landmark decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States. Without the Supreme Court, we would not have made the progress we have made.

Why did so many allies come forward to stand with us? Because we came out. We emerged from the darkness to show them we are their brothers, their sisters, their fathers, their mothers — their family. We put names and faces to what once was a stereotype, a caricature.

And perhaps they came to stand with us because they realized that what we were fighting for was right.

A little more than three years ago, in June 2015, the Supreme Court recognized the fundamental value of marriage, and they recognized that the arguments for denying us marriage equality were indefensible.

The court, in its Obergefell ruling found that real, visceral damage had been inflicted upon us for no valid reason.

But it was a 5-4 decision. Given last week’s confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court, what was the minority in Obergefell has become the majority. What was the dissent may now become the opinion of the court.

Chief Justice John Roberts was part of that minority. He sees no fundamental right to marriage equality. As a matter of fact, he spent a significant amount of space in his dissent to Obergefell detailing how, traditionally, marriage has always been between a man and a woman, and that, “for the good of children and society, sexual relations that can lead to procreation should occur only between a man and a woman committed to a lasting bond.”

While Roberts acknowledges that there could be fundamental rights that are not specifically enumerated in the Constitution that still deserve protection guaranteed by the court’s intervention. But in this case, he said, the majority opinion redefined traditional marriage, and that was a question better left to the states and legislative action.

Even more troubling were his ruminations on competing rights: “Today’s decision … creates serious questions about religious liberty. Many good and decent people oppose same-sex marriage as a tenant of faith, and their freedom to exercise religion is — unlike the right imagined by the majority — actually spelled out in the Constitution.”

Any doubt which trumps which for Justice Roberts?

Justice Samuel Alito offered different reasons for opposing marriage equality: “… states formalize and promote marriage, unlike other fulfilling human relationships, in order to encourage potential procreative conduct to take place within a lasting unit that has long been thought to provide the best atmosphere for raising children.”

Here’s a reality check for these guys who are stuck in the 1950s: Marriage is evolving. What was a traditional marriage in 1776 is not the same as marriage today. Alito and the others claiming traditional marriage is between a man and a woman because the sole reason for marriage is procreation should have been forced to write that drivel by candlelight, wearing clothes like Ben Franklin wore.

Their vision of a wife is sort of like a Pez dispenser, just pumping out those kids to make sure the marriage is “traditional.”

Give me a #f@#king break!

Most women in America couldn’t own property until sometime in the 19th century. They couldn’t even vote until we passed a damn amendment to the Constitution in 1920 — 1920 for God’s sake! Racially mixed marriages were illegal in many places until 1967.

So tell me again about “traditional” marriage?

And one other thing: As my third grade teacher, Mrs. Delgado, told us, women give birth, not men. It follows then that if procreation is the reason for marriage then there shouldn’t be any prohibition against lesbians getting married.

These old white men talk about the sanctity of marriage. Sanctity, ha! Many states, including Texas, encourage non-traditional marriage in the form of common law marriage. And some states actually encourage divorce by allowing “no fault” divorces.

There’s one more irony to me in Alito’s dissent in Obergefell: he claimed that ruling would have “a fundamental effect on this court and its ability to uphold the rule of law.” Why? Because they intend to dismantle Roe v. Wade. And that, folks, is the present rule of law.

This is the future of the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, in the rest of the country, hate crimes are on the rise; open, unvarnished bigotry and homophobia are becoming the norm. The bigots have been validated and energized by so many in government, including the president. The right-wing evangelicals have been recompensed by Trump, and they are more powerful than ever before.

The administration’s most recent gift to the haters is the new rule prohibiting unmarried diplomats’ partners from entering the country — a rule specifically targeting same-sex couples since less than 20 percent of the countries allow those couples to marry.

Remember Larry Kramer? Remember Harvey Milk? Remember the Stonewall riots? Remember Matthew Shepard? You better remember, because this is a new day — and it’s not bright.

Get a grip on reality and do something. The first step is to vote. If not for you, then for the LGBTQ children who have no voice. The struggle continues, now more than ever.
Mike and Manny Hernandez have peppered their romantic partnership with a passion for food.

When Mike Hernandez was in high school, he told his friends and family that he knew he would follow one of two career paths, but hadn’t decided between them: Either he would attend the Culinary Institute of America to become a chef, “because I knew that I really enjoyed cooking,” or he would head to Tulane University to obtain his Ph.D. and become a chemical physicist.

His friends said those choices were at odds with each other; Mike didn’t see it that way. “Everyone looked at me like I had 15 heads — nobody saw they were related. But to me, they were one and the same.” In his mind, both involved precision work dealing with formulas and using technology; one of the laboratory instruments he would use in his chemistry career was virtually identical to what chefs use to sous vide meat. Tomato, tomahto.

But he did have to choose… and Tulane won out. Mike earned his Ph.D. and quickly relocated to Ohio to work with Scott’s, the chemical company known for its fertilizers. But being stuck in the Midwest did little for his mood.

“When I moved away, I immediately began missing the flavors of New Orleans that I had become accustomed to — the cayenne, the Creole and Cajun spices,” he recalls. “My mom was from New Orleans, would ship me spices all the time. Then I had an epiphany that she was mostly paying to ship me salt.” Mike began coming up with his own recipes and blends and tinkering with flavors.

As it turned out, the job at Scott’s didn’t last all that long, and so Mike branched out into entrepreneurial enterprises. “I wanted to blow things up with lasers,” Mike says… and he’s not joking. He learned UNIX in the early days of the online boom; that led him to establishing his own companies.

“It was the perfect time, when the internet was beginning to bubble,” he says. By the time he started his last company (around 2005), he devoted the little free time he had to twerking his spice recipes, honing the flavors.

Mike eventually met his now-husband, Manny Hernandez, who shared his passion for food … and for business. So, when Mike decided to sell his last company for a nice sum in January 2017, he finally had all the free time in the world.

That didn’t last.

“Many was like, ‘What are you going to do next?’ He suggested something around my spices and grilling, but I was not sure about that — I did not know if I wanted to devote so much work to a business like I just had for 14 years.”

Manny’s idea, though, germinated; and Mike, being ever-ambitious, dove in headlong. The result: The newly-launched Casa M Spice Co., which combines their entrepreneurial spirit, love of barbecuing and enthusiasm for spices. It has been hard work… but also deeply satisfying.

The basis for the company — and the concept — has always been a spice blend that Mike named Chain Reaction, a season-all mix that works well on everything from scrambled eggs to shrimp. They probably could
have stopped there. But no, they wanted to create an entire product line.

“The evolution started with Chain Reaction, and every blend after that was built on it — a tweaking of that particular [recipe],” Mike says. And they are tailored to the proteins they enhance.

The seafood rub, called Hooked, takes Chain Reaction and adds dill, tarragon, chervil and other ingredients to create a different profile. Then there’s Free Range (for chicken, with a trace of brown sugar), Cattle Drive (for beef), Whole Hog (for pork, with brown sugar and ginger), and one they are especially proud of: Good Shepherd for lamb.

“When we looked in the market, there was almost nothing out there specifically for lamb, which I love,” Mike says. The addition of rosemary adds an earthiness that highlights the gaminess of the meat. (There are Controlled and Uncontrolled variations of each blend. “Controlled is more palatable to those who don’t like [too much heat].")

“A lot of our inspiration is adaptation,” Mike says. “You see flavors that will go well together. When you travel around the world you find flavors you love, so we took inspiration from Jamaican cuisine, we took inspiration from Indian cuisine and a lot of other places. And I think that one of the great things that makes our blends stand apart is, they aren’t one-dimensional. There’re not super-forward on any one particular ingredient. They give you an evolution of flavor that stays with you for a long time.”

And they learn from people who use their spices as well. Mike liked to make Brussels sprouts using only Chain Reaction until a neighbor who was also an earlier customer posted a picture in which she made the sprouts with Whole Hog.

“I said, I never really thought about that. But she said Brussels sprouts when they are cooked right they are sweet anyway, so I thought the ginger and sweetness of Whole Hog would add to them. She was right.”

They take great pride in their product, from start to finish. The ingredients are all non-GMO, all-natural and of exacting standards. “One of our peppers is unique to us — they cost $70/lb. So that spice is more expensive than at a grocery store, where spice blends are mostly salt. All of our blends, though, are low-sodium … less than 35 mg a serving,” Mike says. It took them months to find a packer who was as dedicated to consistency and quality as they are. And the quality shows.

“Do you know there’s at least one chef who has liked one of our blends so he is trying to reverse engineer our recipe!” Manny says. They even have a fan in Food Network Star alum Sarah Penrod, who has designed dishes around their rubs. “I enjoy it on brisket, on fajitas. I find the blends surprisingly dynamic,” she says.

Their attention to detail is something that has served them well in navigating the byzantine world of making, marketing and even labelling their products, from FDA rules about the size and content of the ingredient disclosures to copyrights concerning their logo … something of a particular point of pride for them both.

The couple had already designed a personal logo — Casa M, representing the House of Mike and Manny.

“Casa M was a house logo created for our home in Cozumel, but people said it was too busy to work on a shelf,” Manny says. “We hired [a company] to solicit logo designs, and we received 138 submissions, then we cut it down to eight and put those out on the internet and had people vote.”

The winner, which uses a chile pepper in the M and intentionally conjures a passport stamp to suggest the internationality of the couples’ efforts, was by Irish designer Alan Moore.

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An exercise I sometimes play with people is to ask them what the most exotic protein they’ve ever eaten is. Some say rattlesnake, or alligator, or venison, all of which are adequately diverse to merit a nod. (Me personally: Kangaroo.) One friend, though, said duck — a fairly safe and common choice that indicated to me a bit of provincialism on his part.
Meat market
Bishop Arts’ Macellaio specializes in cured meats for a curated dining experience. But after a visit to Macellaio (proounced ma-chell-EYE-oh), the Bishop Arts-based protein palace that opened this summer, I had an epiphany. It’s not the animal itself that gifts you the meat, but what you do with it. Duck didn’t impress me as especially outlandish when named as an off-the-beaten-path dish, but then I had a part of the bird that caught me off-guard: Duck tongue.

It sounded like it might be a gag (like chicken lips, jackalopes or progressive Republicans), or a euphemism for a weird delicacy (sweetbreads for the thymus gland, or Welsh rarebit for cheese toast). But nope, duck tongue is precisely what it sounds like: a small (4 cm), greyish-brown, curved cylinder (not unlike another anatomy part, as my inner-tween couldn’t help but notice). A bowl of perhaps 20 arrived, accompanied by an onion dip. You eat them similarly to artichoke, pulling the meat off with your teeth because of the presence of a slim bone (oops! There’s the adolescent boy in me again). And for $7, just like that, you’ve learned that even the most familiar foodstuffs can impart new discoveries or peculiar culinary experiences.

Macellaio managed to do that over and over again.

For newcomers, of course the cured meats are the raison-d’etre for a visit. Sausages are divided into spreadable, cured, cooked and fermented. You can come up with your own selection ($9.50), or ask the chef to choose five to create a specific lineup ($29). I tend to let the kitchen try to impress me with its flavor profiles, but either way, you’re certain to get something wonderful. We especially enjoyed the capi-cola (a mild, brined pork sausage) and contrasted it with the spicy-smoky power of the ‘nduja, as well as a terrine. But perhaps the most unexpectedly welcome surprise were the kebabs of stewed snails ($8).

The menu also boasts several seafood dishes, though we’ve stuck with the land-based entrees so far. And make no mistake: Macellaio is a meat market. (Interestingly, the signage barely hints that it’s a restaurant at all, saying only Cured Meats, which are available for off-site consumption.) But while I wouldn’t take a vegan within 30 yards without expecting him to suffer PTSD for years to come, there are carbs and veggies on the menu to round out your meal. A bowl of giardiniera (pickled onions, beets and cauliflower, garnished with fennel oil and parsley; $5) makes for an ideal snack while poring over the menu. Among the small plates is a white bean aligot ($12) we enjoyed, and daily house-made bread options are always worthy of exploring, though the grilled tomato-rubbed bread with sobrasada ($10) is just about unbeatable for savoriness blessed by chewy sweetness of a smear of honeycomb on top.

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Drawing Dallas

A recent transplant to Dallas, server Wilson Figueroa Torres thrives in a diverse foodie town

MARK STOKES  |  Illustrator
mark@mstokes.com

Name and age: Wilson Figueroa Torres, 30
Occupation: Hospitality Industry
Spotted at: Ross and Collette avenues.

Smolderingly sexy Wilson Figueroa Torres was born in Cartagena, Colombia, the eldest child of five children. His life in Colombia was filled with love, and he is very close with his family. His interest in art became apparent early; he began painting at 8, and in high school he won awards for his work.

At your service: After majoring in hospitality management in college, Wilson’s quest for adventure led him to begin working for the Royal Caribbean cruise line. This experience allowed him to see many places around the world. This globetrotter has travelled to 52 countries (his favorite is Italy, especially Milan). He speaks English, Spanish, Italian and French.

Family is very important to this tantalizing Taurus, and he says he would do anything for them. He is especially close to his mother, who he says his best friend.

In Colombia, he kept his sexual orientation to himself, although when his brother followed him to a gay bar and confronted him, he told him he was not upset because he was gay but that he hadn’t told him, saying “I don’t want to embarrass you, but I love you.” Now he is open with his family, and they’ve had time to accept him completely as he is.

Newcomer to Texas: Four years ago, he married and moved to Michigan, but the relationship failed. After his divorce, Wilson migrated to Dallas — a friend had suggested that the Big D might be a good place where he could begin a new life.

Eat up: His favorite food is Thai (his next travel goal is Thailand), and his favorite drink is a vodka soda.

Wilson’s interests include photography, working out, roller blading, reading and dancing. Future plans include focusing more on his photography, and more travelling the world.

Favorite quote: “To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world.”
Getting to try some of these dishes may seem like a daunting task. Macellaio is only open for dinner, with about 20 seats available at tables (where reservations can be hard to come by), but the 19-seat bar is all walk-up and serves everything you get at a table… plus quick access to the mixologists for quick refills. No complaints there — the cocktails are a draw as well. An entire category of spritzers (the now-omnipresent Aperol variation, of course, but also the delightful Pimm’s and one called Et Tu, Bruto), as well as one called the Bamboo that slaked my thirst, and a series of vermouth drinks that show some foresight into the rising vermouth trend.

Although not specifically a tapas restaurant (they serve several “large entrees” in the $30 range, including a whole branzino and a lamb sirloin), I have yet to try any of them yet; to pick a single dish to make the focus of my meal feels somewhat limiting to the trove available. Macellaio is the type of dining experience that benefits from a sampling of many smaller items, mixed and matched to customize a peripatetic palate — not just cured, but curated.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT (KID-STYLE)


Your stomach’s growling. The last time you ate was … how long ago? Three hours? Twenty minutes? Either way, you’re hungry again, and the last meal you ate is long forgotten. In Food Fight, you’ll read about other foods enjoyed in the past.

Imagine that you’re a cave kid that just got home from cave school. Like now, you’re starving and ready for an after-school snack. But chips haven’t been invented yet, and neither has ice cream or microwaves. In fact, until a million years ago, people couldn’t even control fire. No, for snacks and pretty much every meal, you would have gathered your food from bushes and rocks.

If you were a member of the upper class in Egypt, though, you might have dined well. A menu for King Merneptah then offered a feast of biscuits, “beef innards,” sheep, ducks, and fish. If you weren’t a friend of his or a member of royalty, well, it’s back to the bushes and rocks for dinner for you.

By the time the Roman Empire was in charge, things were different. Fire had been harnessed, and people knew how to enjoy food. Spices were available for families that could afford them, and meals were eaten at tables. The Romans had created tools for the kitchen, and cooking was something many enjoyed doing — even if some of the dishes created consisted of flamingo tongues or peacock brains.

If you lived during the late 1700s in America, you might have wanted to head back to those bushes. Starvation was a real possibility in the years after the Revolutionary War, but foraging was a way to survive: “common foods” then were things you could hunt or gather: oysters, squirrel, and wild pig.

And 50 years ago? Well, TV dinners, fish sticks and diet soda were all new. French cooking was something everybody wanted to learn to do. Microwaves were starting to show up in American kitchens, Tupperware was cool, and if you went to one of those new fast-food restaurants, you could get ketchup in little packets. Eat up!

Years ago, you took pride in a child who was a “good eater.” Now make her a good reader, too, by finding Food Fight!

There are lots of reasons for a young diner or future chef to love this book. It starts with a wide look at food through the ages, told in sidebars and fun-to-know information, brief bits on history and everyday life, and lots of pictures, artwork, humor, and quizzes to appeal to the kind of kid who shakes things up by having dessert first. Then, for young foodies, this book goes even further with a list of safety tips to accompany thirty recipes your kids can try and share.

For children ages 10-and-up, that’s like a multi-course meal that’s browsed at leisure and then served again later. It offers a varied menu for different kinds of readers, and it appeals to all tastes. For kids (and parents!) who love to eat, Food Fight! is yummy.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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Proceeds from Spooktacular benefit the GLBT Chamber of Commerce Foundation Scholarship Fund. Since 2011 the GLBT Chamber Foundation has granted more than $75,000 in scholarships to deserving LGBT students across Texas. Donations made to the Foundation may be tax deductible. EIN 47-2725448

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LIFE+STYLE
best bets

Friday 10.19 — Sunday 10.20

Stephen Petronio brings its innovative dance back to Dallas

Widely regard for its innovative confluence of movement, fashion, music and visuals, Stephen Petronio Company has been a leader in modern dance since 1984. A feast for the senses, the company returns to Dallas for two shows this week.

DEETS: Moody Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St. ATTPAC.org.

Saturday 10.13

An auto show live no other: The Luxury and Supercar Showcase returns

Imagine the signature of beautiful automotive engineering, the McLaren 720S, constructed entirely out of LEGO. Or a 1933 Rolls-Royce Phantom once owned by the richest woman in the world. Or Babe Ruth’s 1940 Lincoln Zephyr. Now imagine them all in one place, and you with them. Well, imagine no further. Just head over to the Four Seasons in Irving and you can see those and many, many more exhibited by 150 collectors. The show goes on, rain or shine!

DEETS: Champions Way, 4400N. MacArthur Blvd. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. $50–$100.
ParkPlace.com/supercarshowcase.

Sunday 10.14

Werq it, girls! Asia, Aquaria and more drag on into the Majestic

Season 10 may have already aired, but the contestants from RuPaul’s Drag Race are still around and looking to entertain. Detox (pictured) joins Dallas’ Asia O’Hara, winner Aquaria, Kameron Michaels, Eureka and favorites Bob the Drag Queen, Kim Chi and Violet Chachki, plus host Michelle Visage for a sickening live show called the Werq the World Tour. Oh-kur?

DEETS: Majestic Theatre, 1925 Elm St. 8 p.m. Tickemaster.com.

Satisfy your cravings...
Sample a taste with a test drive.
calendar highlights

ARTSWEEK  
THEATER  


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.


Dali: Poetics of the Small, 1929–1936. Before he was an acclaimed surrealist of monumental work, Salvador Dali was a craftsman of small, classic (and modernist) paintings. Meadows Museum of Art on the SMU campus, 5900 Bishop Blvd.

EXHIBITIONS


STATE FAIR  

HALLOWEEN


SATURDAY 10.13

AUTO SHOW  
Luxury & Supercar Showcase. Park Place Motors presents this event, which shows off some major collectors’ automobiles across decades. Champions Way, 4400 N. MacArthur Blvd., Irving. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. $50–$100. ParkPlace.com/supercarshowcase.

MONDAY 10.15

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 10.16

FILM

Young Frankenstein. Mel Brooks’ hilarious parody of monster movies. Screens as part of the Tuesday Big Movie New Classic Series, which now includes a matinee. Landmark’s Magnolia Theatre in the West Village, 3699 McKinney Ave. Screens at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 10.17  
COMMUNITY

The Queer Off!! Weekly variety show with 14 contestants, 12 weeks and one eventual winner. Sue Ellen’s, 3014 Throckmorton Road. 10 p.m.

Submit  
To submit an item for inclusion in the Community Calendar, visit Tinyurl.com/dvevents.
LGBT CRUISES & TOUR EVENTS

Aquafest

Halloween Cruise
Oct 28- Nov 4, 2018
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Cassie goes on the hunt

As many of you know, I have a huge Sulcata tortoise named Ruby, so I thought I would keep you updated on her latest adventures. For the record, Ruby is a dude. I named her Ruby before I knew what sex she was, and since I’m a drag queen and call many of my male friends “Girl!” we decided, after we saw her penis (gross) that we would just call her by her drag name. (Her legal name that she absolutely hates is Thurston Howel D’Tort De Soie.) You don’t want to upset Miss Ruby — she can be a disruptive and destructive bitch.

The Friday afternoon of Dallas Pride Weekend I was resting up for what was going to be a very long few days for me. I had a show at SMU that night before my regular gig in the Rose Room. That Saturday we did an afternoon performance at the Pride Festival, plus our regular show that night, then Sunday was the Parade with our Rose Room show later that night. I was in drag a whole bunch that weekend.

Anyhoo, on Friday I was sitting in my living room in a pair of short-shorts and a T-shirt looking 50 shades of homeless when I got a call from our neighbor. She is a teacher at the elementary school across the street from us. She said, “I think Ruby got out of your backyard.” She said that one of the other teachers just sent her a photo of a huge “turtle” walking through her yard. (For the record, Ruby is a tortoise, but most people call her a turtle and I don’t correct them.)

I went into panic mode and took off running outside to find my shelled child. I checked next door, I ran frantically up and down our street, I checked the backyard just to make sure she was missing. I told myself maybe there is another one in the neighborhood. Then I saw the wire fence that she destroyed and knew that it was Ruby. It was a regular cyclone gate that now remade me of a cartoon when Wile E. Coyote would run through a wall and there would be a perfect outline of his body. She pushed so hard on the gate that the wire bent down into a ravine but luckily she had gotten tangled in some vines before she got too far down the hill. We carried the big bitch back up the hill but we knew we couldn’t carry her the entire way back — she is very strong and every once in a while would kick. I have had a few bruises from being kicked by that devil so I told him to be careful.

I asked him if he would stay with her while I went and got a wheeled cart. I ran back to the house and grabbed some shoes and the cart. We loaded her on and pushed her big ass back up the road. The size of the group of kids at the school had tripled by the time we made it out of the woods, and when they saw that we had her they all cheered. It was adorable. I thanked the little country boy for his help and we rolled her home. Officer Nick helped me get her back in our yard and as we both stood there trying to catch our breath he asked if he could get a picture with her. “Of course,” I said, and took a pic of him lifting Ruby and smiling. I thanked him and told him how much I appreciated the help. It would have taken me hours to get her back by myself.

I proceeded to cuss Ruby like a red-headed stepchild. I wagged my finger at her a shouted how disappointed I was in her and that I was so worried. She just stared at me for a second then started to eats some grass, unbothered. I then covered the hole she made with an old piece of wood from our old porch and wired it in place. I also put a few huge ass rocks in front of it for good measure to make sure her great escape didn’t happen again.

Fast forward to the next Thursday and my husband Jamie sends me a pic of a picture of the Midlothian Mirror, our local newspaper. On the cover was the pic of Officer Nick holding Ruby in my backyard with the headline “The Turtle Whisperer.” They wrote a lovely article about how Officer Nick saved the day. It was very cool. My only issue with the article was when Nick was telling his accounts of the story he referred to me as an “older gentleman.” Ouch! That hurt me in my heart. That was the first time I have been called an older gentleman. Y’all know I live in my own reality, with youthful rose tinted glasses. Oh, well, the only way you don’t grow old is by dying so I’m trying to get to be as old as I can. Fuck it! I guess the moral is, always look your best when you are sitting at home because you never know what the day may bring you. On the upside of it, I did get a new strong wooden fence that Ruby cannot get through. Well, fingers crossed.

Remember to always love more, bitch less and be fabulous! XOXO, Cassie Nova.
Making the SCENE the week of Oct. 12–18:

- Cedar Springs Tap House: AHL Poker Night at 7 p.m. on Friday. Cedar Springs Hangover Brunch at 10 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday.
- Club Reflection: Empress Starlight AIDS Benefit at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
- Dallas Eagle: Fetish Fridays Harness Night. Discipline Corps Club Night at 10 p.m. on Friday. United Court Show at 7 p.m. on Saturday. NLA-Dallas Club Night on Saturday.
- Havana: Sun+Fun Patio Party at 3 p.m. on Sunday.
- JR.’s Bar & Grill: Cassie’s Freak Show at 11 p.m. on Monday.
- Pekers: The Miss Gay Texas State Pageant System presents Country Cruisin’, benefiting North Texas Pride, Tuckers Gift and more. Food at 4 p.m. and show at 5 p.m. on Sunday.
- Round-Up Saloon: Karaoke at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Mancandy at 8 p.m. on Sunday. The Showdown at 11 p.m. on Tuesday. Project Funway with Sassy O’hara on Wednesday.
- Sue Ellen’s: Teresa Matthews on Friday and Saturday. The Tuxedos on Friday. The Southpaw Preachers at 3 p.m. followed by The Anton Shaw Band on Sunday. The Queer Off at 10 p.m. on Sunday.
- The Rose Room: Miss Texas FFI Pageant 2018 starring Amanda Nicole with Kara Foxx Paris at 10:45 p.m. on Sunday.
- TMC: The Mining Company: Trashy Tuesdays at TMC.
- Urban Cowboy: Duel, a Drag Race competition, hosted by Tara St. Stone at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
- Woody’s Sports & Video Bar: I Love the 90s at 9 p.m. on Monday. Showtunes at 9 p.m. on Tuesday. Karaoke at 10 p.m. on Wednesday.
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**Puppet Love**

Solution on Page 26

**Across**

1 Small quantities of lube, e.g.
2 “A Boy Named Sue” singer Johnny
3 Fortune-teller’s opening
4 Famous cookie maker
5 Delany of Desperate Housewives
6 Pronto, in the OR
7 Fly catcher
8 Coldcock
9 Gay puppet pair
10 Passion that rhymes with “harder”
11 Atop
12 Pronto, in the OR
13 Fly catcher
14 Coldcock
15 Gay puppet pair
16 Passion that rhymes with “harder”
17 Jack of Flower Drum Song
18 Minnelli’s pair, on Lesbos
19 TLC specialists
20 Sci-fi role for Rene Auberjonois
21 Show agreement
22 “Puppy Love” singer Osmond
23 Mauresmo of the courts
24 “Puppy Love” singer Osmond
25 Body of soldiers
26 Site of Gay Games VI (abbr.)
27 TLC specialists
28 Sci-fi role for Rene Auberjonois
29 Moore of Striptease
30 Jackie’s designer
31 “Puppy Love” singer Osmond
32 Rock group?
33 On an Olivia cruise
34 Lesbos, for one
35 Thames college
36 Kitchen foray
37 Ingredient in highballs
38 From here to eternity
39 Friar’s affair
40 Short one
41 Homes near polar bears, perhaps
42 Planning meeting input

**Down**

1 Bounce from the Eagle?
2 To the rear, when cruising
3 Women who date men who date men
4 Bambi character that wasn’t horny?
5 Pro ___ (acting)
6 Arthur of the AIDS Quilt
7 Magi origin
8 Former New York leather bar
9 ___ fan tutte
10 Fruit fly feelers
11 Apt name for a cook
12 Title for T. Baldwin
13 Emanation from Feniger’s kitchen
14 Show agreement
15 Body of soldiers
16 Thames college
17 Ingredient in highballs
18 From here to eternity
19 Friar’s affair
20 Short one
21 Kerouac’s Big ___
22 Some like it hot
23 Wise counselor
24 Rubber for your mistakes
25 Imitate Dick Button
26 More, to a minimalist
27 Home st. of Harper Lee
28 More, to a minimalist
29 Home st. of Harper Lee
30 Jackie’s designer
31 “Puppy Love” singer Osmond
32 Rock group?
33 On an Olivia cruise
34 Lesbos, for one
35 Thames college
36 Kitchen foray
37 Ingredient in highballs
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**q-puzzle**

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GRAND OPENING

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