Eye on Austin
An overview of what’s on tap in the 86th Texas Legislature
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Record number of LGBT members of Congress sworn in

A record number of LGBT people were sworn in as members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives on Thursday, Jan. 3. Krysten Sinema, D-Ariz., became the second LGBT member of the U.S. Senate, joining Tammy Baldwin, D.-Wisc., who began her second term in the Senate on Thursday.

Eight LGBT people were sworn in as members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Four are incumbents and four are newly elected. One gay member of the House, Jared Polis, leaves office to become governor of Colorado.

The incumbents returning to office are David Cicilline, D-R.I.; Sean Patrick Mahoney, D-N.Y.; Mark Pocan, D-Wisc.; and Mark Takano, D-Calif.

The newly-elected members of the U.S. House of Representatives are Angie Craig, D-Minn.; Sharice Davids, D-Kansas; Katie Hill, D-Calif.; and Chris Pappas, D-N.H.

“A historic number of LGBTQ people will serve in the new U.S. Congress, and their influence will shape the debate on equality legislation and issues moving forward,” President and CEO of LGBTQ Victory Institute Annie Parker said. “In the U.S. Senate, those opposed to the Equality Act will now need to look two openly-LGBTQ senators in the eyes and tell them their lives are not worth protecting. In the U.S. House, Speaker Pelosi will have eight LGBTQ representatives to consult about how various health care or criminal justice reform policies uniquely affect our community. The relationships these LGBTQ lawmakers will build with their colleagues on Capitol Hill are transformative, and with an unprecedented number of women and people of color also joining the 116th Congress, equality issues will finally receive the attention they deserve.”

Next week, a record five LGBT people will be sworn in as members of the Texas House of Representatives.

Deadline dates for Dallas Pride 2019

Dallas Pride Executive Director Jaron Turnbow announced last month that the Dallas Pride celebration is being moved to June 2019 and will be held at Fair Park in the Centennial Building and on the Esplanade. The Miller Lite Music Festival will be held Saturday, June 1, with the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade on Sunday afternoon, June 2. As December came to an end, Turnbow announced that applications for the festival and the parade will go live at 8 a.m. Monday, Jan. 14, on the Dallas Pride website. He said that more detailed information on registration will be announced closer to the Jan. 14 date, and that other information — such as nominations for grand marshals — will be announced when the information becomes available.

For more information, visit DallasPride.org or email info@DallasPride.org.

Children of the Confederacy Creed plaque corrected

I was in the Texas Capitol last week to pick up my House of Representatives press pass, but I didn’t notice anything changed about the Children of the Confederacy Creed plaque until I got home.

The marker is the one state Rep. Eric Johnson has been campaigning to get removed from the wall of the Capitol since his office was moved nearby two years ago. So this session, he’s moved again — this time to the office of former Texas State Comptroller and Confederate soldier Robert Love, who was assassinated in his office. But, hey, with his seniority up to No. 38, Johnson gets a corner office now.

Meanwhile, his favorite plaque remains hanging on the wall down the hall. But the plaque seems to have been altered: Using a marker, someone has blacked out three words to correct the plaque’s grievous historical error: “not” and “nor was.”

So the offending line about the cause of the Civil War, “One of the most important of which is, that the war between the states was a rebellion, nor was its underlying cause to sustain slavery,” now reads, “One of the most important of which is, that the war between the states was a rebellion, its underlying cause to sustain slavery.”

So while he didn’t completely win, Johnson’s pet Children of the Confederacy plaque stands corrected.

I’d suggest another change, however. Since “the war between the states” wasn’t a “rebellion,” maybe we should change the name of the event on the marker. How about we call it what it really was: It wasn’t a war or rebellion and it wasn’t about slavery. Let’s just refer to it as “that period of great unpleasantness.” So much more polite.

David M. Lee, M.D. • Marc A. Tribble, M.D. • Donald A. Graneto, M.D. • Eric Klappholz, NP

Peter Triporo, NP • Jason Vercher, PA-C • Vanessa Bludau, NP

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Jan. 7: Lambda Weekly at 1 p.m. on Sunday in 89.3 KNOM-FM with David Taffet, Lerone Landis and the late Patti Pink; 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.; Core group meeting every Wednesday from 7 p.m. For more information call or e-mail Jalezski at 214-760-9718 ext. 3 or Jalezski@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 Frerounners meet for a walk or run on the Katy Trail at Oak Lawn Park, Turtle Creek and Hall Street, every Wednesday at 7:15 p.m. and every Saturday at 9 a.m.; Leadership Lambda Toastmasters practices and develops speaking and leadership skills from 6:30-8 p.m. on Tuesdays at First Unitarian Church, third floor of the Hallman Building, 4012 St. Andrews; Pride support group from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. followed by mixer every Monday at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road; Lambda AA meets at 7 a.m., noon, 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 11 p.m. and has a men’s meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturdays and meets at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday at 1575 W. Mockingbird Lane #625, Call 214-267-0222 for details; LGBT Sex Addicts Anonymous meets at 6 p.m. every Friday at 1919 Independence St., Room 18, 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 Elloment 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.; DVR in Spayse, news and entertainment discussion live streaming every Friday, 4-5 p.m., on the Spayse Station YouTube channel.

Jan. 8: Grief support group LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 7-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

Jan. 9: Wine Walk Cedar Spring Merchants Association’s monthly wine walk was postponed because of bad weather and will be held tonight from 6-9 p.m. along Cedar Springs Road. Glasses outside The Round-Up Saloon. $10.

Jan. 12: LGBT Family Building Conference Comprehensive LGBT family building conference includes two fertility physicians who are part of the LGBT community, donor egg agency, surrogacy agency, donor sperm bank, attorney specializing in surrogacy and adoption, third party reproduction psychologist, parents who have built their families through donor egg and surrogacy and adoption, as well as gestational carriers and egg donors from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at LGBT Babies, 6750 N. MacArthur Blvd., Suite 209, Irving. Register at TheDonorSolution.ipages.co.

Jan. 17: Team Metro Happy Hour Kickoff happy hour for Team Metro raising money for the Greg Dollgenger Memorial AIDS Fund from 6:30-8 p.m. at Cedar Springs Tap House, 4123 Cedar Springs Road.

Jan. 18: Little Black Dress Little Black Dress Fashion preview party benefits Legal Hospice of Texas from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Goodson Acura, 4801 Lemmon Ave.

Jan. 19: Dallas Women’s March From 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Meeting location to be announced.

Jan. 19: Halftime Gaybingo Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at redallas.org.

Jan. 19: Scarborough Faire auditions Come be a part of a theater experience like no other. Auditions for volunteer lane performers (actors and musicians) for Scarborough Renaissance Festival’s performing company — Scarborough Academy of Performing Arts (SAPA) — will be held 9 a.m.-noon and 1:30-4:30 p.m. Auditions are by appointment at SAPA@SRFestival.com.

Jan. 22: Grief support group LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 7-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

Jan. 26: Oral History Team Training The Dallas Ways holds training to conduct and transcribe oral history interviews from noon-5 p.m. RSVP or contact with questions theDallasway.nino@gmail.com. Space is limited.

Jan. 27: HRC Pin Down Equality Bowling Fundraiser Federal Club presents Pin Down Equality Bowling Tournament and Fundraiser with bowling, pizza and soft drinks, a silent auction and more from 1-3 p.m. at AMF Richardson Lanes, 2101 N. Central Expressway, Richardson.

Jan. 29: Eat for Change Support AIDS Walk South Dallas from 5-9 p.m. at Chipotle, 4330 Lemmon Ave.

Feb. 1-2: Out for Health Out for Health is a medical conference organized by students from Texas Health Science Centers across the state to address the needs of the LGBT population. Offers continuing education credits. Students $15, General $50, Healthcare professionals $120. UNT Health Science Center, Medical Education Training Building, 1000 Montgomery St., Fort Worth. Register at UNTHSC.edu/OutForHealth.

Feb. 5: Classic Chassis Car Club LGBT car enthusiasts meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ojeda’s, 4617 Maple Ave.

Feb. 9: Love Equality The Equality Texas Dallas Steering committee presents Love Equality, a night of dancing with drinks and light food, benefiting Equality Texas, will be held from 8-11 p.m. at 7 for Parties, 150 Turtle Creek Blvd. Ste. 107. Advance tickets are $50 until Dec. 31, and $75 from Jan. 1-Feb. 1, online at Secure.EveryAction.com/HZCfJuU7wUaAHfltkj1Sp2. Tickets at the door $100.

Feb. 10: Underwear Auction Team Metro underwear auction to raise money for the Greg Dollgenger Memorial AIDS Fund from 5-9 p.m. at Dallas Eagle, 5740 Maple Ave.

Feb. 12: Grief support group LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 7-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.
Meet Love, a 2½-year-old, black-and-white pit bull mix weighing 60 pounds. She's a fun-loving, active gal that loves to go on adventures, and she doesn't let the fact that she only has one eye hold her back one bit. She is extremely outgoing and never meets a stranger. She makes friends in no time and shares lots of kisses. She knows how to sit and shake on command, is already house-trained and rides well in the car. She loves to play with toys, enjoys going for walks and likes being outside. She insists that she is a lap dog, so be prepared for lots of cuddles. If you’re looking for a goofy gal to be your new best friend, she’s the one for you. Love has been spayed and microchipped and has received all age-appropriate vaccinations. Come meet her today. #161556

Love 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 ActiVePets, a rabies tag and a free leash. Call 214-742-SPCA (7722) or visit today.
An eye on Austin

At least 14 bills have been pre-filed in the 86th Texas legislature impacting the LGBT and HIV/AIDS communities.

There have been 944 bills, concurrent resolutions, joint resolutions and resolutions pre-filed in the House and the Senate for the 86th Texas Legislature, as of Thursday, Jan. 3. Of those, at least 14 are in some way related to the LGBT community or to HIV/AIDS.

And the good — if somewhat surprising — news is that none of those are bathroom bills. In fact, all of the 14 are LGBT-positive bills or resolutions introduced by allies of the community or, in one case, an LGBT elected official.

That, of course, is likely to change. Lawmakers have been able to pre-file bills for the 2019 legislative session since Nov. 12, and they can continue to file through March 8. And, despite Gov. Greg Abbott’s assurances during his debates last year with Lupe Valdez that passing a bathroom bill was not a priority on his agenda for 2019, there’s no doubt that such a bill is most definitely a priority on the agendas of the GOP right-wingers.

It’s also not very likely that any LGBT-positive measures are going to gain much traction with GOP lawmakers, who are in the majority in both houses of the Legislature. Still, just seeing those bills introduced offers at least a small ray of hope for progress to come.

There are other bills introduced so far that could certainly impact the LGBT community, including measures affecting voter registration and voter ID requirements. But those measures that have been pre-filed that directly affect the community are:

- HB 84, introduced by El Paso Democrat Joe Moody, which calls for the repeal of Section 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code, otherwise known as the sodomy law, which criminalized private consensual conduct between adults of the same gender. The U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Texas sodomy law as unconstitutional in 2003 in its ruling in Lawrence v. Texas, but the law remains on the books.
- HB 188, introduced by San Antonio Democrat Diego Bernal, which would prohibit anti-LGBT discrimination in housing.
- HB 244, introduced by Houston Democrat Jessica Farrar, which is a comprehensive law protecting LGBT people from discrimination in public accommodations, employment and more.
- HB 254, introduced by Rep. Bernal, which is, basically, the same as Farrar’s HB 244.
- HB 315, introduced by Austin Democrat Donna Howard, which would make condoms exempt from sales tax. Using condoms is one of the most effective ways of preventing transmission of HIV.
- HB 517, introduced by openly-lesbian Austin Democrat Celia Israel, which would deem conversion therapy targeting children to be “unprofessional conduct” that would make the therapist subject to disciplinary action by state regulatory agencies.
- HB 519, introduced by Houston Democrat Shawn Thierry, which would rename the section of State Highway 288 between I-610 and Genoa Road in Harris County as the Barbara Jordan Memorial Parkway. Jordan, the first black woman elected to the Texas Senate and the first black Texan elected to Congress, was acknowledged as a lesbian after her death. She died in January 1996, just a month shy of her 60th birthday, of leukemia-related pneumonia.
- HB 595, introduced by Houston Democrat Jon Rosenthal, which would increase the penalty for persons convicted of making a false report to law enforcement when the false report was prompted by bias against the victim’s “race, color, disability, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, gender, or sexual preference or by status as a peace officer or judge.”
- SB 151, introduced by Democrats José Rodríguez of El Paso, Juan Hinojosa of McAllen and John Whitmire of Houston, which would — like HB 244 and HB 254 — prohibit anti-LGBT discrimination in public accommodations, employment and more.
- SB 152, introduced by Sen. Rodriguez, which would repeal the Texas sodomy law.
- SB 153, introduced by Sen. Rodríguez, which would make statutory changes in state laws and policies to “reflect and address same-sex marriages and parenting relationships and to the removal of provisions regarding the criminality or unacceptability of homosexual conduct,” to reflect U.S. Supreme Court rulings striking down the sodomy law and establishing marriage equality.
- SB 154, introduced by Sen. Rodriguez, which would amend Health and Safety Code to allow transgender Texans to have their name and gender markers changed on “vital records and documentation,” including birth certificates.
- SJR 9, introduced by Sens. Rodriguez, Hinojosa and Whitmire, proposing a new amendment to the Texas Constitution to repeal the amendment approved by voters in 2005 banning legal recognition of same-sex marriage. The 2005 amendment — known on the ballot that year as Proposition 2 — has been null and void since June 26, 2015, which the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Obergefell v. Hodges affirmed marriage equality nationwide.
The Dallas Way will conduct oral history team training to gather more stories from the community.

DAVID TAFFET  |  Senior Staff Writer
taffet@dallasvoice.com

Finding new ways to record the history of the LGBT community in Dallas has been the goal of The Dallas Way since its inception. That effort began with finding a home for the community archives at the University of North Texas and digitizing photos and documents as well as preserving artifacts.

And through Outrageous Oral, community members have told their stories and added them to the history of the community. The Dallas Way records those pieces, making them available on YouTube. Now the group is working to expand its trove of personal stories.

The Dallas Way President De’An Roper said that last year the group began a series of roundtable discussions delving into the history of various communities within the larger LGBT community. Panels from the transgender, Latino and black communities participated, with a moderator leading the discussions.

Now, Roper said, the group will begin using a new method of collecting history that involves training a number of new volunteers. And on Jan. 26, The Dallas Way will conduct oral history team training to teach volunteers how to interview. The session will be held at Cathedral of Hope.

Nino Testa, who is a board member of The Dallas Way and involved in the training session, said University of North Texas Professor Karen Wisely and Texas Christian University Professor Rebecca Sharpless will conduct the training.

“They’ll teach best practices for taking oral histories,” he said.

He said 20 people will be trained to work in pairs to conduct the interviews. After the training, they’ll get the opportunity to practice, with 10 volunteers from Cathedral of Hope telling the story of the church.

Testa, who teaches gender studies at TCU, said his class will transcribe the interviews.
LGBT cases slated for SCOTUS conference

Military trans ban, religious bigotry on tap for Supreme Court consideration

LISA KEEN | Keen News Service
lisakeen@mac.com

GBT legal groups told the U.S. Supreme Court in the last week of 2018 that it is simply too soon for the court to become involved in litigation over President Donald Trump’s proposed ban on transgender people in the military.

The Trump administration has asked the Supreme Court to dissolve national injunctions against implementation of its proposed transgender ban. Typically, an issue reaches the Supreme Court only after being decided by a district court, then by a three-judge panel of an appeals court, and then by the full appeals court. But no appeals court has yet ruled on the injunctions against the military trans ban.

“The government’s desire for an immediate resolution of this litigation is not a reason for the extraordinary exercise of this court’s authority to review a case before the court of appeals has rendered a decision,” according a brief from the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders. The two groups are jointly representing several transgender people in two lawsuits against the proposed ban (Stockman v. Trump and Doe v. Trump).

NCLR and GLAD also note that a district court has set a trial date of July for one of the cases — Stockman v. Trump — in Los Angeles.

“The government offers no credible showing of urgency that justifies bypassing that careful and respectful consideration by the lower courts,” the brief notes.

NCLR and GLAD urged the Supreme Court to deny review of the injunction at this point and to allow the trial on the constitutionality of the proposed ban to go forward.

Lambda Legal, which is representing transgender service members in a third lawsuit — Karnoski v. Trump — also submitted a brief Dec. 24, opposing the Trump administration’s request that the Supreme Court dissolve the injunction.

All three appeals are on a list of cases to be considered by the justices in private “conference” on Jan. 11. The justices could take any of several different actions at that time, including re-scheduling the cases for a later conference. But if four justices agree to hear Trump’s appeal, the appeal will likely be slated for oral argument this spring.

The administration later “revised” the wording of Trump’s original proposed ban to require that, with few exceptions, anyone with a history of gender dysphoria be banned. It also says that transgender people without gender dysphoria can serve, but only if they dress consistent with the gender stated on their original birth certificates.

The administration later “revised” the wording of Trump’s original proposed ban to require that, with few exceptions, anyone with a history of gender dysphoria be banned. It also says that transgender people without gender dysphoria can serve, but only if they dress consistent with the gender stated on their original birth certificates.

This latter policy resembles the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy that banned openly-gay service members for many years and that was eventually repealed by Congress.

In addition to the transgender military ban cases, the Supreme Court has before it:

• Three cases testing whether Title VII of the Civil Rights Act can be used to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Those cases were scheduled for conference today (Jan. 4).

• An LGBT-related case from the Hawaii Supreme Court — Aloha Bed and Breakfast v. Cervelli — that asks whether the operator of a bed and breakfast can refuse to rent rooms to guests based on their sexual orientation by citing personal religious beliefs.

• Another religious belief-versus-human rights law case — Klein v. Oregon — in which a state court found a baker violated a state law prohibiting sexual orientation discrimination in public accommodations when she refused to bake a wedding cake for a same-sex couple. Briefs are due Jan. 25.

• And Doe v. Boyertown, which asks whether a school policy allowing transgender students to use the high school restroom and locker room consistent to their gender identity violates the constitutional rights of other students. Briefs for the case are due Jan. 22.

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ticipants as a class project. He plans for students to write a reflection paper on what they’ve read to engage the class further on the LGBT community’s history.

Many of the slots for the class are already taken, Testa said, but he’s still looking for a variety of people to become interview volunteers. And he’s not looking for one particular group: He’d like younger people interested in community history as well as people who are already active or have been part of the community’s history.

Those who don’t think they’d be comfortable interviewing can volunteer to help with transcription.

Roper said it was exciting to watch the community’s history accumulate. She’s especially anxious to build on collaborations the group has already made and wants to see more stories from women, people of color and the transgender community.

“We want to hear from voices that haven’t been heard,” she said. “We want to build the archive and be as inclusive as possible.”

The teams being trained will continue taking oral histories and making them available through UNT’s LGBT archive. In addition to transcriptions of the interviews, the voice recordings will also be available online.

Librarians at UNT will help sort and categorize the interviews to help researchers access the information. Testa said his students at TCU use the archives, as do students at UNT. And of the 6 million newspaper pages archived on the UNT Portal to Texas History, the Dallas Voice is the most accessed periodical in the collection.

In addition, once interview teams are trained, Testa said he’d like to hear from people to be interviewed. He said stories can concentrate on specific incidents or about your life as a member of the LGBT community.

“Everybody has a story,” he said.

To participate in The Dallas Way oral history team training, contact Nino Testa at thedallasway.nino@gmail.com.

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**GAY AGENDA**

- **Feb. 13:** Pride Night–Falsettos
  Pride Night at the national tour of Falsettos in collaboration with the Turtle Creek Chorale at 7:30 p.m. at Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Discounted tickets $30-60 at ATTPAC.org.

- **Feb. 16:** SAGE Table
  SAGE, the national senior LGBT organization, holds a breakfast potluck in Carrollton from 8:30-10:30 a.m. at Cosmopolitan UCC, 1200 Metrocrest Drive, Carrollton.

- **Feb. 16:** And the winner Is ... Gaybingo
  Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at rcdallas.org.

- **Feb. 17:** Teddy Bear Auction
  Dallas Bears hosts auction in memory of Spanke Studer that benefits AIDS Services of Dallas. Preview and cocktails at 6 p.m. Auction at 7 p.m. at Round-Up Saloon, 3912 Cedar Springs Road.

- **Feb. 26:** Grief support group
  LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 7-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

**MARCH**

- **March 5:** Classic Chassis Car Club
  LGBT car enthusiasts meet from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Ojeda’s, 4617 Maple Ave.

- **March 12:** Grief support group
  LGBT grief support group for people who have lost a same-sex partner from 7-8:30 p.m. at Resource Center, 5750 Cedar Springs Road.

- **March 15-17:** Blinded: Turtles Rock Out
  The Turtle Creek Chorale sings classic rock — Aerosmith, Bon Jovi, Meatloaf, Queen — on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at City Performance Hall, 2520 Flora St.

- **March 16:** House of DIFFA: Futuro
  A fashion experience that provides an exciting mix of philanthropy, theatrics and DIFFA’s legendary runway production at 6 p.m. at the Omni Hotel Dallas, 555 S. Lamar St. Tickets at DIFFADallas.org.

- **March 16:** Gaysby Gaybingo
  Gaybingo from 5-9 p.m. at the Rose Room, 3911 Cedar Springs Road. Tickets at rcdallas.org.
Scents and sensibility

Christmas may be over, but its scent lingers on.

No, I’m not talking about the bowls of pine-scented potpourri or the warm smells of baking seasonal goodies that permeate the house. I speak instead of the gifts that keep on giving: fragrances.

While sitting at the neighborhood Starbucks one recent morning, reading the New York Times (a daily ritual for me), I noticed my grande decaf had a noticeable note of Kenya AA mixed with a layer of Coco Chanel. Nothing says good morning like a perfume-infused Americano.

The culprit was a well-dressed woman who had just entered the café. Apparently, she had received a very nice bottle of Chance by Chanel and was eager to let the world know. Her over-use of the fragrance at near-weaponized levels made me wonder if anyone ever taught her the correct way to apply perfume, and if anyone ever told her how obtrusive the over-use of fragrance is to the rest of the world.

The nose is a funny organ: It has a very short memory and can be fatigued quickly. To keep our nervous systems from being overloaded, the receptors in our noses ignore odors that are persistent and focus only on new and novel ones.

This is also why people over-apply fragrances. They stop noticing their fragrance after a few minutes and re-apply, thinking it has “worn off.”

Newsflash: It hasn’t.

Most good perfumes and colognes last for many hours and do not require any re-application unless you have washed it off in a shower.

Additionally, there are lots of folks — like me — who suffer from asthma, and certain scents can trigger an immune reaction leading to wheezing and shortness of breath.

I learned all this as a child from my favorite aunt, who lived in Los Angeles. Melisa Caron was my real-life Auntie Mame, and she worked at the Brent-Air Pharmacy in Brentwood, where she sold cosmetics and gifts to just about every star in Hollywood. She presided over an extensive and exclusive stock of fragrances, and she often gave me the latest new scent as gift for Christmas and my birthday.

I think she knew I was gay long before I did, and she wanted me to be well-equipped and well-educated on the finer points of men’s cosmetics.

She taught me the proper way to use cologne or perfume: First, you never spray it directly on your skin. Doing so will result in a fragrance overdose. If you use an atomizer or spray cologne, you spray it into the air, and then you walk through the mist.

Scents work well in your hair, letting the natural heat from the body gradually disperse the scent into the air. If you apply scent directly, just a drop applied to pulse points — like behind the ear, behind the knee or in the bend of the elbow — will be enough to keep things fragrant without making you a walking biohazard.

Aunt Melissa told me to remember that just because I could no longer smell it, that didn’t mean the cologne wasn’t still working. Though she had no training in biology, she learned from experience about olfactory overload — which brings me back to the coffee shop and my Chanel-infused coffee.

Fragrances are intended to be intimate experiences. They are the best enjoyed in close contact with the wearer, not from across a room. A hint of perfume is meant to cause someone to linger in your presence, not flee from you in a coughing fit.

Everyone has experienced being trapped in an elevator with a woman who bathed in her new perfume or a man who had doused himself with a flammable level of Axe body spray. The effect is the exact opposite of what was intended, and most folks can’t wait to get away — even if it means exiting on the wrong floor.

As for me, I no longer use fragrances. I prefer the natural scent of a man to a cologne, and — much like body odor — less is better.

The lesson of this rant is simple and one that I hope will make your holiday gifts last longer and have the desired effect: Fragrances are meant as a seduction, not an announcement.

Hardy Haberman is a longtime local LGBT activist and a board member of the Woodhill Freedom Alliance. His blog is at DungeonDiar y.blogspot.com.
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F

rom country to electro, reggae to soul, newcomers to veterans, 2018 was an eclectic one for the major album releases. But we had our favorites. Here they are.

10. Jussie Smollett, *Sum of My Music*. No way *Empire* star Jussie Smollett was about to let a label — in his case, Sony — stifle his musical ambitions. So he walked. Then he independently produced a stunning soul album called *Sum of My Music*. Smollett’s buttery croon and bare-faced vulnerability are served on a smoldering bed of R&B grooves that bend contemporary urban trends in exciting and sincere ways. Same-sex love is a liberating act of defiance on the intimate organ-droned “Freedom,” the precursor to “I Know My Name,” a spirited self-determination chant and proof that going his own way was, clearly, the way to go.

9. Santigold, *I Don’t Want: The Gold Fire Sessions*. Pure, unencumbered joy on a Santigold album? Yes, she was looking out for your darkened post-Obama spirit, recording a much-needed but little-heard antidote for 2018. For it, the dancehall queen opened the blinds and let the light in on *I Don’t Want: The Gold Fire Sessions*. Deploying an intoxicating rush of reggae-tinged bliss on playful escapade “Crashing Your Party” and cosmic bop “Valley of the Dolls,” Santigold’s hallucinatory medicine goes down so easy you just might forget the sting of this last year.

8. Christine and the Queens, *Chris*. Gender constructs bend and break in the glistening queer-pop heaven of French artist Hélôïse Letissier’s *Chris*. Rich in the singer-songwriter’s sense of self, the result of her own exploration of gender and its place in society, the subversive and complex *Chris* flexes a fully formed and thriving persona, where ambition, sexuality and electric pop-funk sizzlers are well within her spectacular reach.

7. Sugarland, *Bigger*. So cut the cake, and let us eat, country artist and queer ally Jennifer Nettles sasses on Sugarland’s first album in eight years. Given the surprising sociopolitical weight of the rest of her reunion with Sugarland bandmate Kristian Bush, it makes perfect sense that the duo’s call-for-cake is a call-for-equality: “Mother” conveys the pro-LGBTQ stance of its, yes, country music creators, while the wrenchingly too-real “Tuesday’s Broken” makes a case for stronger gun laws. It ends on “Not the Only,” leading us into a new year with a needed dose of unity and light.

6. Robyn, *Honey*. This isn’t the Robyn album we
asked for. You wanted to dance more, and for that, dear queers, you have a trilogy of Body Talk bangers. Though lead single “Missing You” is the kind of Robyn song you’ll be happy to know will leave you feeling sad on the dance floor, generally, Honey doesn’t bang: the Swedish pop star’s art changed because her life changed (a breakup, a death). Thus, Robyn let Body Talk be Body Talk, and because she’s an artist she sculpted a new sound for a new era that forgoes the immediacy and lingering pop thunder of “Dancing on My Own.” Honey, then — with its ’90s-era R&B vibe and low-key house throwbacks and wonky detours (“Beach2k20” anyone?) — is its own sweet, weird and wonderful thing.

5. Pistol Annies, Interstate Gospel. Country artists Miranda Lambert, Ashley Monroe and Angaleena Presley have been here before, narrating cheeky and earnest parables of love, life and other woes set to the Americana backdrop they’ve all independently pursued. But with Interstate Gospel, their collective supergroup is fine-tuned as they breathe new life into the road-less-traveled aphorism on “Milkman” and uncover the grimmest of family traditions in “5 Acres of Turnips,” as Lambert’s lament teems with aching regret: generations of shame, in my grand-daddy’s name. Beauty ultimately triumphs, as does Pistol Annies on this, their most moving album.

4. Janelle Monae, Dirty Computer. In 2018, Janelle Monae came out and declared herself human. Her other reveal — that she identifies as pansexual — is no footnote on a year that needed all the queer visibility it could get, but her latest finds Monae shedding the metal components of her android alter ego. For Dirty Computer, she came down to earth with bold, timely and lyrically charged assertions of being black, female and queer in an America where all the above is shunned. Her remedy for Trump’s America: a vagina monologue (“Pynk”) and a restorative message for the disenfranchised (“Americans”). Dirty Computer is an artist taking full advantage of her role as an activist.

3. Mariah Carey, Caution. Living tea-drinking legend Mariah Carey came to Caution without the world’s expectations on her shoulders, resulting in her most cohesive and self-assured set since 1997’s Butterfly. On “GTFO,” she kicks off the hims and hers she does not know in a composed and blasé purr, the whole low-key affair setting the stage for the diva’s chill defiance. This is Mariah emancipated from caring. This is Mariah in a negligee on a chaise lounge sipping her hot tea (and on “A No No,” spilling some, too). This is Carey turning in one of the most experimental tracks of her enduring career, “Giving Me Life,” as elusive as ever during the song’s hypnotically eerie final stretch. This is what happens when you’re Mariah Carey on your own terms. To that I say, resoundingly: a YES YES.

2. Brandi Carlile, By the Way, I Forgive You. Veteran singer-songwriter Brandi Carlile came at us hard with the pen on By the Way, I Forgive You. Not a word was wasted, and the Grammys took notice, nominating Carlile — the most nominated female artist this year — for six awards, including album of the year, record of the year and song of the year for her soul-reviving queer anthem, “The Joke.” Notably, the set lives in the space Carlile is most comfortable: the intimacy of a theater, where her towering rough-hewn howl has room to embellish and warm instrumentation emanates like a front-row seat at a Carlile concert. Lyrically, world injustices are brought to the fore with personal urgency and dramatic flare; the album is sad and dark and heavy. But it will heal you, too.

1. Kacey Musgraves, Golden Hour. On Golden Hour, the savvy Texas girl follows her own arrow again, thank you very much, as she evokes a world so serene it’s hard to believe we’re living in it. Flowers grow and so does love. Rainbows break through the sky and so does hope. Musgraves’ Golden Hour reminds you of the here-and-now, her voice as sweet as the pretty things — and the pretty hard things (letting someone go on “Space Cowboy,” the year’s best breakup song) — she brings to life simply by reminding you they exist. That’s the point, of course: to turn an eye to the unseen, clouded by a volatile political and social state. But Musgraves’ majestic spin on simple pleasures is like returning to a place you love, where just the thought is comforting — a balm, a breather. The sound of a new day.

— Chris Azzopardi
We live in a media world now where what we think of as TV, as movies, as old and as new, have begun to blur lines. Is a remastered version of a cult 1960s TV show, newly-available on a streaming platform, any less new than the latest season of This Is Us… or the debut episode of a first-season broadcast show? All are new to you.

But with so much tube out there to be consumed — on broadcast, cable, premiere cable and digital online platforms — there’s simply too much for any single human to consume.

Which is why we have critics. Humanity is incidental, but not required.

And it’s why I limit by Tube year-end list only to shows that debuted in the U.S. within the previous 12 months (well, actually, November–October, to allow myself...
time to keep up with late additions to the bingeverse). Yeah yeah, we all already know how great *The Americans* is, but even if it had a great final season, why not give first-time shows a chance to find their audiences? There’s too many of those already. (Seriously. And the source of most new TV shows, to be totally honest, is Netflix — every other platform pales by comparison. A Netflix account and HBO Go are about all you need to get lost in the ether.)

And so, from sitcom to drama, variety to reality to documentary, miniseries to Podcasts, here are my top new shows of 2018, in ascending order.

10. *Random Acts of Flyness* (HBO). If you can figure out a way to describe what this show is, I welcome it. A hodgepodge of skits, satire, music, experimental video and who-knows-what, this late-night variety show recalled the days of Monty Python, only woke.

9. *Grown-ish* (Free Form). This cable-based spin-off from ABC’s primetime sitcom *Black-ish* follows the oldest Johnson daughter Zooey (Yara Shahidi) during her freshman year of college. Appearing on the Free Form network — the rebranded ABC Family — it could have played it safe with lame tween memes. But instead, it tackles real young-millennial issues about relationships and self-reliance with a lot of attractive and diverse cast members.

8. *Mindhunter* (Netflix). Filmmaker David Fincher has well-established bona fides as a master of the criminal mind mystery (*Se7en, Zodiac, Gone Girl*), and this 10-part series (scheduled for a second season in 2020) — which he produced and directed episodes of, is part and parcel of that skill-set. Set in 1977, it follows the incipient days of the FBI’s efforts to detect serial killers, as seen through the eyes of an enthusiastic but doubt-ridden young agent (Jonathan Groff). It’s a methodical series with a long arc, feeling like a mix of *Law & Order* and *The X Files*, with the added horror that it’s based on real people who go bump in the dark.

7. *Serial* (Podcast). Technically, this may seem like just another season of an already-lauded Podcast. But as an anthology show, I give it a pass because each season is unique. The third season of this ground-breaking series is not quite up to the level of the first — which startled everyone with a tale of a man in jail for a murder he didn’t seem to have committed — but this time, in covering a year in the life of a courthouse in the Midwest, we got a broader perspective about the nature of the justice system, and it was shocking.

6. *Wild Wild Country* (Netflix). If you’re old enough to remember the name Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, you probably have a vague sense of a cult fueled by sexual freedom and financial monkey business that took root in the American West, then collapsed and fell off the radar. But the truth of what went on is far more complex and compelling, and ultimately leaves you torn. This documentary miniseries explores the shocking background of the failed colony known as Rajneeshpuram and how great — and terrible — it was. The central figure of Sheela is one of the most fascinating figures to appear on screens in 2018.

5. *The Last O.G.* (TBS). Tracy Morgan returned to television following his near-fatal car accident with this woke and hilarious comedy from co-creator Jordan Peele (*Get Out*), about a drug dealer released from prison after 15 years trying to make his way in a world that has changed radically. It’s a funny and often meaningful sitcom that goes places many shows, especially those on basic cable, shy away from.

4. *Sharp Objects* (HBO). Amy Adams plays a reporter who left her hometown, and the twisted upbringing that haunts her still, only to return decades later to pursue a story about a missing girl. In following leads, she unearthss bizarre goings-on in the town, as well as in her own home. Adams is great, but it’s Patricia Clarkson as her manipulative mom who glues your eyes to the screen.

The new Fab Five improved upon the classic ‘Queer Eye.’

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Season’s readings!

Fiction, nonfiction and kid-lit to consume

Everybody seems to make a best-of list (even within these pages): Best movies, best place to eat, best vacation, best toe-nail clippers. So here’s mine: The Absolutely Can’t Miss, Don’t Pass Them By, Wipe Your Calendar Clean So You Can Stay Home and Read Best Books of 2018 (a totally subjective list, in no particular order).

**Fiction**

Just about every person alive grew up feeling sorry for poor little Cinderella. In *All the Ever Afters* by Danielle Teller, we see the classic story from the POV of Agnes, the evil-not-evil stepmother. This novel is an eye-opener: there are always two sides to a story, and both could be correct.
Another two-sides-to-the-tale tale is *The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein* by Kiersten White, a novel of the woman who loved Victor Frankenstein. Or did she? Without him, she’d be homeless, broke and hungry. With him, she would always fear his temper and the horrible things she was discovering about him. It’s a dark-and-stormy kind of book, perfect for anyone who wants winter chills of a different sort.

A lot of mini-stories make up *Berlin 1936* by Oliver Hilmes, translated from the German by Jefferson Chase. It’s a multi-level tale of Nazis, gypsies, homosexuals and secrets in the infancy of the Third Reich, told in a conglomerate, slice-of-life sort of way that will make you forget that it’s all fiction.

Every year, it seems, scientists claim that humans will achieve immortality within a few decades. That’s a curse in *How to Stop Time* by Matt Haig. In 1598, a man named Tom fell in love with a woman named Rose. They had a daughter and then Rose fell ill and died; Tom, however, survived because he’s an “alba.” Tom is more than 400 years old and there are two things he wants: to feel as normal as he did in 1598, and to find his daughter, who is also an alba. Romance-y? Yes. But also part sci-fi, part history, a little drama…and a whole lot of wonderful.

To round out the fiction list, there’s *Tin Man: A Novel* by Sarah Winnman. It’s also the story of Ellis, who lost his wife and his best friend, the former to a car accident and the latter to AIDS. Ellis misses Annie because she opened his world; he misses Michael because Michael pushed him to do things he would have never tried. But there were so many things Ellis never knew about Michael, until he finds Michael’s journal. Emotional, dramatic, also romantic, here’s a book that’ll make you curl up in your chair, stricken, for an hour after you’ve finished it.

**Nonfiction**

For anyone who’s ever wondered how that guy on TV does those illusion tricks, *Here is Real Magic* by Nate Staniforth is a book for you. Staniforth always wanted to be a magician but he wanted to do it big. Little coin tricks were old-school so, in this book, he goes on a journey to find out if magic is real or not. Hint: this isn’t a magic book. Read it, and you’ll be left with answers you weren’t even asking for.

You may never see *The Language of Kindness* by Christie Watson on any other best-of list … and that’s too bad. Watson is a nurse, and this is a book about being ill, care-giving, living and dying. Beware that some of the stories are a bit gruesome, but this is a lovely book for anyone alive.

And not that there’s a theme here or anything, but you’ll also want to read *Natural Causes* by Barbara Ehrenreich, a book about the things we do to avoid dying. It’s informative, funny, wry and intelligent. Hint: rant, rail, avoid sweets, eat kale, do all you want, but you’re going to die someday anyhow...

There’s a ton of surprising gratitude inside *The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row* by Anthony Ray Hardin with Lara Love Hardin. The reason is that Anthony Hardin was put on death row for a crime he didn’t commit. First surprise: it took 30 years for him to be exonerated. Second surprise: this
book holds a whole lot less anger than you’d think it would, and a whole lot of uplifting. Of all the books on this list, it’s the one you’ll never regret reading.

And finally, rounding up the Nonfiction list, there’s West Like Lightning: The Brief,Legendary Ride of the Pony Express by Jim DeFelice. History fans will love this book because DeFelice focuses on the Pony Express but doesn’t ignore other major players in the Civil War era. Readers who like tales of little-known life will love this book, too, as will anyone who loves a good eater. Bonus: it’s one of those easy to browse books that will pull you in tight.

**Kid-lit**

For any child who loves the Little House on the Prairie books, Hardscrabble by Sandra Dallas will be a winner. It’s a tale of 12-year-old Belle Martin, who moves with her family from a farm in Iowa to the prairie in Colorado in 1910, and it wasn’t easy. For your 8-to-13-year-old, though, Dallas eases through the difficulty and happiness of this historical novel.

Much as I loved the bouncy, joyful words that make up Lorraine: The Girl Who Sang the Storm Away by Ketch Secor, and as much as they made me so very happy, the cherry on this literary sundae are the illustrations by Higgins Bond. Lush, colorful, and radiant, this is the tale of a girl and her grandfather, their love of music and a mysterious spate of missing items. Your 3-to-6-year-old will like that. You’ll love the artwork.

And finally, something totally fun to read, for the kid who loves oddities: They Lost Their Heads! What Happened to Washington’s Teeth, Einstein’s Brain, and Other Famous Body Parts by Carlyn Beccia. This is a book that will inform your 10-to-14-year-old. It’s also going to give them light shivers, a few laughs, and a big dose of informative history that doesn’t feel like schooling. What better thing to have while school is out?

And there you are! Go get ‘em.

— Terri Schlichenmeyer

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**TUBE, From Page 17**

3. The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story (FX). Darren Criss of Glee proved his acting chops in this latest miniseries from Ryan Murphy. Although Gianni Versace (played effectively by Edgar Ramirez) gets title treatment, it’s the story of his murderer, Andrew Cunanan (Criss), that propels the story, fed by the homophobia of the era and how Cunanan was as much a product of his time as a sociopathic fiend.

2. Queer Eye (Netflix). The reboot of this iconic makeover show ends up being less about lifestyle and grooming, and more about the emotional connections we form in coming to terms with our own humanity… Uh, wait… are we talking about a reality TV show?! Indeed. A new cast of Fab Five — more diverse, more emotive, more introspective — change the lives of a dozen-plus clients, and if you don’t find yourself crying at least twice an episode, you might want to seek counseling.

1. The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel (Amazon Prime). It was a close call between first and second place on this list, but the scope of the writing, design and concept of this new series, from the creators of Gilmore Girls, put Mrs. Maisel over the top. Rachel Brosnahan plays a young Jewish mom and wife in late-1950s New York who finds herself divorced and unemployed, so delves into the world of standup comedy in the coffeehouses and Rathskellers of Greenwich Village. (One supporting character on the show? An up-and-coming, pre-junkie comic named Lenny Bruce.) It’s smart, laugh-filled and unique — and the series I most savored episode to episode in 2018.

Honorable mention: Pose (FX); Disenchantment (Netflix); Godless (Netflix); Barry (HBO); Killing Eve (BBC America); Nanette (Netflix); Castle Rock (Hulu); Patriot Act with Hasan Minhaj (Netflix); Lost in Space (Netflix); Bodyguard (Netflix); 2 Dope Queens (HBO).
Saturday 01.05

Monologist John Michael returns with new audience-participation play

Dallas native John Michael moved to Chicago four years ago, but he keeps returning to his hometown every year or so to workshop and incubate his new works. His 8th play as a monologist, It’s Not All about You John Michael, relies heavily on audience participation, and you can be part of it for a one-night-only premiere at the Margo Jones that promises to be a communal experience.

DEETS: Margo Jones Theater at the Magnolia Lounge inside Fair Park, 1211 First Ave. Tickets are pay-what-you-can.

Friday 01.04 — Sunday 01.27

Pulitzer finalist ‘Everybody’ running at Stage West

What happens when we die… like, all of us? According to gay playwright Branden Jacobs-Jenkins’ Everybody, it’s all a roll of the dice… or the lottery balls. This modern take on medieval morality plays is a snarky take on the nature of mortality and the afterlife, getting its regional premiere courtesy of Stage West. It was a finalist for the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Drama.


Friday 01.04 — Sunday 02.24

DMA highlights ‘forgotten’ artist Ida O’Keeffe

Georgia O’Keeffe wasn’t the only member of her family with artistic talent, but her own vanity led her to discourage her sister Ida from pursuing her talent. As a result, Ida O’Keeffe all but drifted into obscurity. Almost. The Dallas Museum of Art’s current exhibition of Ida’s surviving paintings, as well as some illustrations and other works, shows her own skill with the predominant style of the 1920s and ’30s. It runs through the end of February.

DEETS: Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 Harwood St. DMA.org.

Happy New Year!
ARTSWEEK

THEATER

A Bronx Tale. Chazz Palminteri’s one-man show about his life as a child, adapted to a full-scale musical with music by Alan Menken. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Through Sunday. ATTPAC.org.


Everybody. When all life must end, the guy “upstairs” calls them all — everybody — must learn their fate in the afterlife in this Pulitzer Prize finalist for drama, a modern, snarky comedy. Stage West, 821 W. Vickery Blvd., Fort Worth. Through Jan. 27. StageWest.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. DMA.org.


EXHIBITIONS


Shen Yun. The Chinese dance and music company returns to North Texas. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Jan. 10–27. ATTPAC.org

THURSDAY 01.10

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.

DANCE

Shen Yun. The Chinese dance and music company returns to North Texas. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Jan. 10–27. ATTPAC.org

FRIDAY 01.11

THEATER


In the Next Room; or The Vibrator Play. Sarah Ruhl’s racy comedy of manners about how women in the Victorian Era were treated for “hysteria” via sexual assault. Presented by Imprint Theatreworks. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Jan. 11–26. ImprintTheatreworks.org.

FRIDAY 01.11

BROADCAST

RuPaul’s Drag Race: All Stars. The fourth installment of returning queens competing for the crown. VH1 at 7 p.m.

MONDAY 01.07

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 01.08

FILM

A Man for All Seasons. Devout Sir Thomas More holds his tongue about his disapproval of the Church of England, but meets with a bloody end anyway in this smart but staid medieval drama, whose style contrasts to the muddier palace intrigue in such current films as Mary Queen of Scots and The Favourite. 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.

THURSDAY 01.10

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.

DANCE

Shen Yun. The Chinese dance and music company returns to North Texas. Winspear Opera House, 2403 Flora St. Jan. 10–27. ATTPAC.org

FRIDAY 01.04

COMMUNITY

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

FRIDAY 01.11

THEATER


In the Next Room; or The Vibrator Play. Sarah Ruhl’s racy comedy of manners about how women in the Victorian Era were treated for “hysteria” via sexual assault. Presented by Imprint Theatreworks. Bath House Cultural Center, 521 E. Lawther Drive. Jan. 11–26. ImprintTheatreworks.org.

this week’s solution

S CAR C A B S A R M S
T O B E E M I T E L O C O
A L A B A S P R Y A M E X
H A O M I A L D E R M A N
D O T T R I P O N T E
S A S H A F I R M T I E
E L A I N E K I R K
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I T S M A S C I W I L L
C H E A P T O Z T A O
R A C H E L M C A D A M S
C O S I D U E T A L E S
A N O D A N N E D I N E
D E N S M A T T A C T S

FRIDAY 01.04

COMMUNITY

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

In the Next Room; or The Vibrator Play
Hey ya'll. Happy New Year and stuff … and good luck with all that New Year-new me bull-shit. Most of ya’ll are still gonna be the same bitchy homos you have always been. I know I will. Who knows — maybe 2019 will be the year that we all do everything we set our minds to. I will be making only one New Year’s resolution: In 2019, I will have merch. As God is my witness, I will have Cassie Nova t-shirts, fans and other kitschy crap for sale in 2019.

There are drag queens that have been doing drag for two weeks and already have merch. I have no excuse. What if nobody wants to buy a “Jesus loves you, but I think you’re a cunt” t-shirt? My dream is to one day be at the mall, or more likely Wal-Mart, and see some rando wearing my face stretched out over dem titties or a hot guy sporting my mug between his perky little nips.

I should also have candles made, so that if someone wants to make a Cassie Nova altar in their home it would feel more authentic.

Or Cassie Nova candy — gummies shaped like my fat head with different wigs that hopefully people will say, “This tastes funny.”

Or my own line of awful greeting cards that you could give to your family when you need to come out but want help doing it. The outside could say, “Guess what Grandma!” The inside would say, “Your grandson is a cocksucker!”

You know, heart felt, classy stuff.

I am gonna be rich!

Now for the gift that keeps on giving — like herpes — let me force my advice on some unsuspecting folks.

Dear Cassie: My boyfriend and I have been together for three years. About a year ago, we decided to have an “open” relationship. However it’s pretty much turned into only him being allowed to sleep around. I don’t ask questions or expect things. Yet he asks a million questions, and when he finds out that I have, in fact, slept with someone, it turns into a huge fight. It’s gotten to the point where I don’t have sex anymore for fear of starting another fight.

I’ve tried talking to him about it hundreds of times; it just starts a fight. What should I do to liberate my sex life again? I love the guy and don’t want him out of my life. Am I being greedy? Thanks in advance — Mr. X

Dear Mr. X: No bitch, you are not being greedy; you are being stupid. So you are just gonna let him have his cake and fuck it too? What do you mean you don’t ask questions or expect things? That’s fucked up. You are basically letting him treat you like you are the side piece. You don’t have a boyfriend; you have a bully, and you are playing the victim.

Your “open” relationship is obviously not working. Relationships are supposed to be 50/50. You are setting a bad precedent by letting him step out on you, but when you do, it starts a fight. He’s being selfish, and you are letting him get away with it. I get that you love him, but sometimes love is not enough.

Do you ask him a million questions when he has trade? How innocent are you in this mess? Ya’ll need to respect each other enough to make some rules. I honestly don’t think jealous people can be in open relationships.

Good luck with your Titanic relationship because there are many icebergs ahead. PEACE!

Dearest Cassie Nova: My husband and I have been together for nine years and married for three of those years. But for the last year or so, I feel we are basically roommates with rings. We haven’t had sex in forever. My roomie with a ring is about 10 years older than I am — and I am no spring chicken! — and has little to no interest in sex or even being affectionate.

Meanwhile, a guy at work has started showing an interest in me and — OH MY GOD! — he is hawt! He said he wants to get to know me better, and I want to get to know him too. I am feeling such excitement, like I haven’t felt in years.

We haven’t done anything yet, but I feel I still need sex and fun in my life. Why should I go without if my own husband won’t give it to me? Should I just go for this new guy and see what happens, or should I just settle. I’m so conflicted. Signed — Not Dead Yet!

Dear NDY: If you are looking for permission to cheat on your husband, then go somewhere else. If you really love him — or ever did — you should respect him enough to be honest with him. I get that this new guy makes you feel all giddy like a little girl, but have you thought about the consequences of pursuing this new guy? I am not saying that you shouldn’t, but you need to ask yourself if you are really willing to change everything.

Are you happy? If the answer is no then do something about it. Are you only staying with your husband out of convenience? If he was affectionate and fucked you on the regular, would you still be into this new guy?

Demand change. Let your husband know that you need more from this relationship, and if you don’t get it, he may lose you. COMMUNICATION! Try it. It seems to me that you have already made up your mind, and you are eventually going to cheat. Who knows — maybe this guy is going to be the love of your life. But if he’s not, are you ready to lose your husband over a fling?

The grass is always greener til you get to the other side and realize you are standing on some fake-ass astro turf when all your original yard needed was a little love and maintenance to be beautiful. Good luck!

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

You can contact Cassie at AskCassieNova@gmail.com.
Making the SCENE the week of Jan. 4–10:

• 515 Bar: Cowboys Playoff Game at 7:15 p.m. on Saturday.
• Cedar Springs Tap House: AHL Poker Night at 7 p.m. on Friday.
• Club Reflection: Imperial Court Show at 6 p.m. on Sunday.
• Dallas Eagle: United Court presents “Exit to Eden” at 7 p.m. on Friday. Supafly Trash Disco with DJ Blaine from 5-9 p.m. on Sunday.
• Hard Rock Cafe: Drag Brunch presents “The 1980s,” with seating at 12:30 p.m. and show at 1 p.m. and a $5 cover benefitting Hard Rock Heals Foundation. Reservations required.
• JR.’s Bar & Grill: Dreamgirls at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
• Liquid Zoo: Doors now open everyday at 3 p.m.
• Marty’s Live: Kickback Wednesdays with hip-hop, R&B and throwbacks for the mature audience.
• Pekers: Totally Twisted Karaoke at 9:45 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
• Round-Up Saloon: Dance Party at 4 p.m. on Sunday. ManCandy at 8 p.m. on Sunday.
• Lip Sync Battle at 11 p.m. on Thursday.
• Sue Ellen’s: Tuesday Tease at 9:30 p.m. on Tuesday.
• TMC: The Mining Company: Latin Dance Contest hosted by Sasha Andrews at 11:30 p.m. on Wednesday.
• Urban Cowboy: Come sing Show Tunes with Domita Sanchez from 10 p.m.-2 a.m. on Break-a-Leg Wednesdays.
• Woody’s Sports & Video Bar: Cowboys Playoff Game at 7:15 p.m. on Saturday.
• Zipper: Erotica at 10 p.m. on Thursday.

Scene Photographers: Kat Haygood and Chad Mantooth
Friends out for fun on The Strip

Safe and warm on The Strip

Headed to S4

Exotic and owning it on The Strip
Holiday fun at Sue Ellen's

Safe and warm on The Strip

Striking a pose on The Strip

All smiles on The Strip

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Tuesday the Rabbi Saw Pink

Solution on Page 22

Across
1. The Lion King villain
2. They may be one-night
3. The Gay Caballero
4. Chicago cap word
5. Way of the East
6. Prefix for Da Vinci’s land
7. Banned pesticide
8. Top Trappists
9. The Lion King villain
10. She picked up strangers
11. “Queen of Country”
12. Kuperman in the movie
13. Jessica of Little Folkers
14. 18 Eyelid ailment
15. The Gay Caballero
16. Top Trappists
17. Like a nimble old goat
18. He played Esti
19. Paper amount
20. Banned pesticide
21. “Queen of Country”
22. Chicago cap word
23. 18 Eyelid ailment
24. Like some tricks
25. Expiration Date
26. Daughter of a
27. Like some tricks
28. Until the Rabbi Saw Pink
29. Sheet music for a song
30. Opposite of fem.
31. Prefix for Da Vinci’s land
32. Chicago cap word
33. Chicago cap word
34. Sound equipment for Queen
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63. Chicago cap word

Down
1. Fruity mixed drink
2. Napkin
3. Acronym for bears
4. Code for the Oklahoma City bombing
5. Trisha Yearwood
6. Sulu’s starship captain
7. One-tone
8. “Queen of Country”
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