

TRANSGENDER ACTIVIST
COLT KEO-MEIER P. 39

PEARLAND POLITICAL PRODIGY
MIKE FLOYD P. 43

JULY '17

OutSmart

HOUSTON'S LGBTQ MAGAZINE

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HARRIS COUNTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

KIM
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AMERICA'S
TOP GAY COP

P. 30



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Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg (c) is shown in the kitchen of her Heights home with partner Olivia Jordan and their son, Jack.

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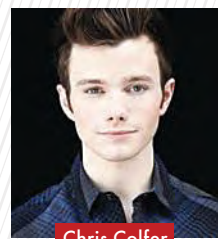
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Leslie Jordan

Emmy-winning actor and comedian Leslie Jordan previews his July 15 performance at Neon Boots.

Glee star Chris Colfer discusses his new book, *The Land of Stories 6: Worlds Collide*, before a July 22 appearance at Hogg Middle School in the Heights.



Chris Colfer

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OutSmart Media Company

Publishers of OutSmart Magazine
3406 Audubon Place • Houston, TX 77006
713.520.7237 • 713.522.3275 Fax

Subscriptions: \$30/12 Issues, \$58/24 Issues

E-mail: letters@outsmartmagazine.com

Website: www.OutSmartMagazine.com

OUTSMART is published monthly. Estimated readership in Houston and surrounding areas is 60,000. OutSmart Media Company is not responsible for claims and practices of advertisers. The opinions and views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or management of OUTSMART. Inclusion in OUTSMART does not imply sexual orientation. ©2017 by OutSmart Media Company. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without permission of the publisher is strictly prohibited. Unsolicited material is accepted. No manuscript returned without SASE.



OutSmart
24
YEARS



ON THE COVER

Harris County District Attorney KIM OGG, America's Top Gay Cop
(See page 30.)

Photo by Max Burkhalter
Art Direction by Alex Rosa



of the Democratic wave that swept Harris County in November. It's truly historic to have one of the LGBTQ community's own occupy such a high-ranking position in the conservative field of law enforcement.

Meanwhile, columnist Lou Weaver reports that County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez, also elected in November, has reinstated policies protecting transgender inmates at the nation's third-largest jail, after they were repealed by Republican former sheriff Ron Hickman.

And then there's writer Kim Hogstrom's profile of 18-year-old Mike Floyd, who was elected to the Pearland school board in May after running on a platform of support for trans rights.

Elections matter, and OUTSMART's July issue is proof positive of that.

For the cover story, I interviewed Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg, who was elected as part

If you need even more evidence as to why elections matter, check out Ryan Leach's preview of the upcoming special session—in which lawmakers will again be targeting trans Texans—or Josh Inocencio's piece about the impacts of Senate Bill 4 on queer undocumented immigrants.

These types of bigoted attacks are fueling a fresh wave of LGBTQ candidates across the state, including in the critical 2018 mid-term elections, as writer Brandon Wolf reports.

On a lighter note, this is our Galveston issue, and writer Marene Gustin recounts gay Realtor David Bowers' recent brush with reality-TV fame on the Island.

Gustin also reports on a new LGBTQ yachting club on the Gulf Coast, while Hogstrom takes a look at Houston's iconic Rainbow Lodge, which celebrates its 40th anniversary this month.

Bon voyage and bon appétit!

—John Wright

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LGBTQ Advocates Brace for Special Session

Governor Greg Abbott has asked state lawmakers to revive anti-transgender legislation.

By Ryan M. Leach

Governor Greg Abbott has called a special session of the Texas Legislature to commence July 18 and end 30 days later, saddling lawmakers with an unprecedented 20 agenda items.

Among those items are proposals to undo local nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ Texans in cities like Austin, Dallas, Fort Worth, and San Antonio, as well as the infamous “bathroom bill” targeting transgender people.

Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, who presides over the Senate, is pushing hard for the bathroom bill, but House Speaker Joe Straus has taken a firm stance against it. The relationships among legislative leaders are growing ever more complicated, and LGBTQ Texans are right in the middle of it.

“I think you can take the speaker at his word,” said State Representative Garnet Coleman (D-Houston), who has represented the Montrose neighborhood since 1992. “Speaker Straus is a thoughtful individual, and this type of legislation does not represent his values.”

It was Coleman’s savvy political maneuvering during the regular session that killed an anti-trans bathroom amendment that the Senate had tacked on to one of his bills. Coleman said he doesn’t think the chances of anti-trans bathroom legislation passing in the special session are much better.

“These laws are not business-friendly, and I think most of us understand the value of diversity in Texas,” Coleman said. “The real problem with Austin is the civil war going on within the Republican Party. The litmus test for them is to see how crazy far to the right they can go. Some are willing to do that, but other members are bothered by that. The LGBTQ community, communities of color, and issues surrounding immigration are all balls in this croquet game they are playing.”

The issue for moderate Republicans who support Straus’ position is rooted more in the fiscal argument than the human-rights one. Anti-LGBTQ legislation has cost North Carolina and other states hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenue and new jobs.

“CEOs and executives from across the nation have agreed that any type of discriminato-



All Eyes on the Capitol

Hundreds of activists converged on Austin for the Texas Equality March for Unity and Pride on June 11, calling on state lawmakers to stop targeting the LGBTQ community.

ry legislation will harm their ability to recruit new talent here in Texas,” said Senator Sylvia Garcia (D-Houston). “We already hear of conventions and companies not coming to Texas. The National Football League [NFL] has sent a warning that if a bathroom bill is enacted, they could keep Dallas out of the Super Bowl selection process.”

Last month, California banned publicly funded travel by State employees to Texas due to the passage of House Bill 3869, which gives Texas faith-based adoption and foster-care providers the ability to discriminate based on religious beliefs. This law was signed by Abbott shortly after the regular session concluded. Whether California’s ban will tamp down Republican enthusiasm for these types of laws during the special session remains to be seen.

During the regular session, which ended in May, the Senate staked out an early position by passing Senate Bill 6, their anti-trans bathroom bill similar to North Carolina’s House Bill 2.

SB 6 was sent to the House, where it languished and eventually died in a committee led by State Representative Byron Cook (R-Corsicana), one of Straus’ lieutenants. As the session drew to a close, the rhetoric between

the two chambers intensified. At one point, the House attempted to compromise by approving a watered-down bathroom amendment, but it was rejected wholesale by the Senate because it didn’t go far enough to discriminate against the trans community. Ultimately, none of the legislation relating to bathrooms and municipal human-rights ordinances made it to the governor’s desk.

A special session will give Patrick and the obsequious Senate another opportunity. However, House Speaker Straus recently reiterated his pro-LGBTQ stance in a speech he gave to the Texas Association of School Boards: “I don’t exactly know what all the issues are with bathrooms in our schools, but I’m pretty sure you can handle them and that you have been handling them.”

Of course, neither the Senate nor the House will be required to pass any legislation. The only bill required to pass under the Texas Constitution is the budget, which was finalized before the regular session ended and has since been signed by the governor. It’s possible that either chamber could gavel out and bring the special session to an early end, but that isn’t likely. The House still sees public-education finance

continued on page 16

TRIUMEQ is a once-a-day pill used to treat HIV-1. In some people, TRIUMEQ should not be used by itself. Take TRIUMEQ exactly as your healthcare provider tells you.

APPROVED USES

TRIUMEQ is a prescription HIV-1 (Human Immunodeficiency Virus-type 1) medicine used alone or with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS. TRIUMEQ is not for use by itself in people who have or have had resistance to abacavir, dolutegravir, or lamivudine. TRIUMEQ should not be used in children under the age of 18.

TRIUMEQ does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRIUMEQ?

TRIUMEQ can cause serious side effects, including:

• **Serious allergic reactions (hypersensitivity reaction)** that can cause death have happened with TRIUMEQ and other abacavir-containing products. Your risk of this allergic reaction to abacavir is much higher if you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701. Your healthcare provider can determine with a blood test if you have this gene variation. **If you get symptoms from 2 or more of the following groups while taking TRIUMEQ, call your healthcare provider right away: 1. fever; 2. rash; 3. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain; 4. generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness; 5. shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat.** Your pharmacist will give you a Warning Card with a list of these symptoms. **Carry this Warning Card with you at all times.**

If you stop taking TRIUMEQ because of an allergic reaction, never take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir- or dolutegravir-containing medicines again. If you have an allergic reaction, dispose of any unused TRIUMEQ. Ask your pharmacist how to properly dispose of medicines. If you take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **within hours** you may get **life-threatening symptoms** that may include **very low blood pressure** or **death**. If you stop TRIUMEQ for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to TRIUMEQ, talk with your healthcare provider before taking it again. Taking TRIUMEQ again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before. **If your healthcare provider tells you that you can take TRIUMEQ again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a healthcare provider if you need one.**

• **A buildup of acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take TRIUMEQ. This serious medical emergency can cause death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you** feel very weak or tired; have unusual muscle pain; have trouble breathing; have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy/light-headed; or have a fast/irregular heartbeat.

• **Serious liver problems** can happen in people who take TRIUMEQ. In some cases, these serious liver problems can lead to death. **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analogue medicines for a long time. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms:**

• yellow skin, or the white part of the eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark urine; light-colored stools; loss of appetite for several days or longer; nausea; pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area

• **Worsening of hepatitis B virus in people who have HIV-1 infection.** If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B virus (HBV), your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking TRIUMEQ. A “flare-up” is when your HBV suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Worsening liver disease can be serious and may lead to death. Do not stop taking TRIUMEQ without first talking to your healthcare provider, so he or she can monitor your health.

• **Resistant hepatitis B virus.** If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B, the hepatitis B virus can change (mutate) during your treatment with TRIUMEQ and become harder to treat (resistant).

• **Use with interferon and ribavirin-based regimens.** If you're taking TRIUMEQ and interferon, with or without ribavirin, tell your healthcare provider about any new symptoms. Worsening of liver disease that has caused death has happened in people infected with both HIV-1 and hepatitis C who were taking antiretroviral medicines and interferon.

Who should not take TRIUMEQ?

• **Do not take TRIUMEQ if you:**

- have the HLA-B*5701 gene variation
- are allergic to abacavir, dolutegravir, or any of the ingredients in TRIUMEQ
- take dofetilide (Tikosyn®)
- have liver or kidney problems

What are other possible side effects of TRIUMEQ?

- People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with TRIUMEQ. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your liver function before and during treatment with TRIUMEQ.
- When you start taking HIV-1 medicines, your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after you start taking TRIUMEQ.
- Changes in body fat distribution can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicines.
- Some HIV-1 medicines, including TRIUMEQ, may increase your risk of heart attack.

The most common side effects of TRIUMEQ include: trouble sleeping, headache, tiredness

These are not all the possible side effects of TRIUMEQ. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRIUMEQ?

• **Before you take TRIUMEQ, tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- have been tested and know whether or not you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701
- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection; have kidney problems; have heart problems, smoke, or have diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes; drink alcohol or take medicines that contain alcohol
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRIUMEQ will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take TRIUMEQ**

• **You should not take TRIUMEQ if you also take:**

- abacavir (EPZICOM®, TRIZIVIR®, or ZIAGEN®)
- lamivudine (COMBIVIR®, Dutrebis™, EPIVIR®, EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM, or TRIZIVIR)
- emtricitabine (Emtriva®, Atripla®, Complera®, Stribild®, or Truvada®)

Important Safety Information continued on next page

“We’re MOVING FORWARD with TRIUMEQ.”

Peter
Diagnosed with
HIV in 2015

Garland
Diagnosed
with HIV
in 2016

Leo
Diagnosed with
HIV in 2003

Jeannette
Diagnosed with
HIV in 2011

Jack
Diagnosed with
HIV in 2010



Real patients with HIV-1 taking TRIUMEQ as of 2014 or later. Individual results may vary.
Individuals compensated for their time by Viiv Healthcare.

• **Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines (for example, antacids or laxatives; vitamins such as iron or calcium supplements; anti-seizure medicines; other medicines to treat HIV-1, hepatitis, or tuberculosis; metformin; or methadone), vitamins, and herbal supplements (for example, St. John's wort). Some medicines interact with TRIUMEQ. **Keep a list of your medicines to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.**

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRIUMEQ on the following pages.

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IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about TRIUMEQ and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRIUMEQ

TRIUMEQ® may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Serious allergic reactions (hypersensitivity reaction)** that can cause death have happened with TRIUMEQ and other abacavir-containing products. Your risk of this allergic reaction to abacavir is much higher if you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701. Your healthcare provider can determine with a blood test if you have this gene variation. **If you get symptoms from 2 or more of the following groups while taking TRIUMEQ, call your healthcare provider right away:**
1. fever; 2. rash; 3. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain; 4. generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness; 5. shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat. A list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. **Carry this Warning Card with you at all times.**
- **If you stop taking TRIUMEQ because of an allergic reaction, never take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir- or dolutegravir-containing medicines again.** If you have an allergic reaction, dispose of any unused TRIUMEQ. Ask your pharmacist how to properly dispose of medicines. If you take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **within hours** you may get **life-threatening symptoms** that may include **very low blood pressure or death.** If you stop TRIUMEQ for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to TRIUMEQ, talk with your healthcare provider before taking it again. Taking TRIUMEQ again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before. **If your healthcare provider tells you that you can take TRIUMEQ again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a healthcare provider if you need one.**
- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms:** feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems,** which in some cases can lead to death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms:** your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools (bowel movements), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain on the right side.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking nucleoside analogues for a long time.

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRIUMEQ. Do not stop taking TRIUMEQ without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.
- **Resistant HBV.** If you have HIV-1 and HBV, the HBV can change (mutate) while you’re on TRIUMEQ and become harder to treat (resistant).
- **Use with interferon and ribavirin-based regimens.** Worsening of liver disease that has caused death has happened in people infected with both HIV-1 and hepatitis C virus who are taking antiretroviral medicines and are also being treated for hepatitis C with interferon with or without ribavirin. If you are taking TRIUMEQ and interferon with or without ribavirin, tell your HCP if you have any new symptoms.

ABOUT TRIUMEQ

- TRIUMEQ is a prescription HIV-1 medicine used alone or with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults. TRIUMEQ is not for use by itself in people who have or have had resistance to abacavir, dolutegravir, or lamivudine. TRIUMEQ should not be used in children under the age of 18.
- **TRIUMEQ does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.** You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

DO NOT TAKE TRIUMEQ IF YOU

- have a certain type of gene variation called the HLA-B*5701 allele. Your HCP will test you for this before prescribing treatment with TRIUMEQ.
- are allergic to abacavir, dolutegravir, or any of the ingredients in TRIUMEQ. See the full Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in TRIUMEQ.
- take dofetilide (Tikosyn®). Taking TRIUMEQ and dofetilide (Tikosyn) can cause side effects that may be life-threatening.
- have liver or kidney problems.
- If you also take: abacavir (EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or ZIAGEN); lamivudine (COMBIVIR®, Dutrebis™, EPVIR®, EPVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM, or TRIZIVIR); emtricitabine (Atripla®, Complera®, Emtriva®, Stribild®, or Truvada®).

BEFORE TAKING TRIUMEQ

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have been tested and know if you have a particular gene variation called HLA-B*5701.
- have or had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection.
- have heart problems, smoke, or have diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes.
- drink alcohol or take medicines that contain alcohol.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRIUMEQ will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1** because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRIUMEQ. **Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.**

IMPORTANT FACTS (cont'd)

MEDICINES THAT MIGHT INTERACT WITH TRIUMEQ

- antacids, laxatives, or other medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium, sucralfate (Carafate®), or buffered medicines. TRIUMEQ should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
- iron or calcium supplements taken by mouth may be taken at the same time with TRIUMEQ if taken with food. Otherwise, TRIUMEQ should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
- anti-seizure medicines: oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Dilantin®-125, Phenytek®), phenobarbital, carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol®-XR, Teril®, Eptitol®).
- any other medicine to treat HIV-1, medicines used to treat hepatitis virus infections (such as interferon or ribavirin), a medicine that contains metformin, methadone, rifampin (Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*).

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRIUMEQ

TRIUMEQ can cause serious side effects including:

- See "What is the most important information about TRIUMEQ?" section
- Changes in liver tests
- Changes in your immune system
- Changes in body fat distribution
- Some HIV-1 medicines including TRIUMEQ may increase your risk of heart attack.

(cont'd)

The most common side effects of TRIUMEQ are: trouble sleeping, headache, and tiredness.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRIUMEQ. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRIUMEQ.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRIUMEQ.

You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist.
- Go to TRIUMEQ.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved product labeling.

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April 2017 TRM:5MG

COMMUNITY

Photos by Dalton DeHart and Edgardo Aguilar



On June 16, the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston presented *Broadway, Boas & Boys* at MATCH. Pictured are **Jordan Weaver-Lee, Jared Boudreaux, Adam Turetsky, and Jeff Tipps.**



On June 17, The Diana Foundation presented checks to the beneficiaries. Pictured are Beneficiary Committee Chairman **Howard Huffstutler** and president **Tanner Williams**, presenting checks to The Botts Collection, Lazarus House, University of Houston LGBT Archive, and Out for Education.



On June 17, Texas United Charities held a Casino Party at Neon Boots. Pictured are **Sheila Morton, Sara Sjolander, Keith Woods, Jerry Luna-Rockwell, Barry Larson, Melissa A. Flories, Dwane Todd, and Debbie Storrs** (back row).



Lone Star Volleyball Association's end-of-the-season and Pride kick-off party. Pictured here are **Patrick Murray, Shawn Kuehn, Terence Chang, Brian Crumby, Ryan Schultheis, and Cullen Balinski.**



On June 16, Bayou City Performing Arts presented *Broadway, Boas & Boys* concert. Pictured are members of the **Gay Men's Chorus of Houston.**



Houston became the site of the first LGBTQ Pride crosswalks in Texas on June 17. The rainbow-colored crosswalks at Westheimer Road and Taft Street are expected to remain for at least two-and-a-half years, when they'll be replaced with a permanent installation after the City completes its Lower Westheimer rebuilding project. The location was chosen to honor 21-year-old Alex Hill, a gay man who was killed by a hit-and-run driver while crossing the intersection in January 2016. Design and construction of the crosswalks was paid for by Pride Houston, at a cost of \$15,000.

News continued from page 11

reform as a top priority, and the Senate wants to push through things like school vouchers.

In addition to LGBTQ allies under the capitol's pink dome like Garcia and Coleman, advocacy groups like Equality Texas will return to the capitol to fight for LGBTQ equality in the special session.

"Equality Texas will not give up in our efforts to prevent the passage and enactment of any dangerous and immoral anti-transgender bathroom bill," Equality Texas CEO Chuck Smith said. "We must mobilize the majority of Texans who support the fair and equal treatment of all Texas residents. We will need equality supporters to turn out in person at the capitol, and to make phone calls and send emails to decision makers. When we ask for help, please join us in this battle to prevent Texas from adopting a bathroom bill."

Ryan Leach is a frequent contributor to OUTSMART magazine.

COMMUNITY

Photos by Dalton DeHart and Edgardo Aguilar



On June 9, EPAH held its mid-year mixer with the Conoco Phillips, Phillips 66, and General Electric Oil & Gas Pride Groups at Eight Row Flint. Pictured are **Cindy Cuellar, Ken Ng, Bryan Davis, Janette Jeffries, Denise O'Doherty, Cynthia Corral, Michele Laprade, Mike Bodin, and Tim Jones.**



On June 10, the the Montrose Softball League Association hosted Jocks in Dresses at South Beach. Pictured is **Ms. Ivanna Purchase Dion**, a member of the Scuba Divers.



On June 19, Harris County Democratic Lawyer's Association (HCDLA) held the 2017 Clarence Darrow Award presentation at Hotel ZaZa. Pictured here are members of HCDLA board and **Steven Duble, Dinesh Singhal, and Mike Doyle.**



On June 11, **Bunnies on the Bayou** held its 2017 check presentation at the Anheuser-Busch Brewery. Pictured are check recipients and members of Bunnies on the Bayou.



On June 12, **Mayor Sylvester Turner's LGBTQ Advisory Board** hosted a Vigil for Orlando—One Year Later, at the Montrose Center.



On June 17, The Diana Foundation signed its official agreement to establish its historic archive at the University of Houston. Pictured are Diana president-elect **Dan Maxwell**, Dean of University Libraries **Lisa German**, outgoing president **Tanner Williams**, and past president **John Heinzerling.**



On June 13, supporters of immigration rights protested Senate Bill 4, Texas' ban on so-called sanctuary cities, at Houston City Hall.



On June 15, the Alley Theatre hosted ActOUT for *Freaky Friday*. Pictured are **Lauren Pelletier, Shelley Finley, Whitney Spencer, Robert McMillan, and Jeff Henningsen.**



On June 16, the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston presented *Broadway, Boas & Boys* at MATCH. Pictured are **Leo Laredo, Kenneth Clayborne, and Michael Ray Edmiston.**

Martha
Turner

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Calendar of Events

Compiled by Marene Gustin

Mistakes & Regrets

Tamarie's back and funny as ever!



BOTH PHOTOS - GEORGE HIXSON



C rushed dreams, a miserable clown, dying swans, Judy Garland covers, songs about bars, and a sex act in a van! We couldn't be describing anything but another Tamarie Cooper production, and this is another one you don't want to miss. Cooper directs and choreographs the show and is joined by pals Ronnie Blaine, Greg Dean (pictured above with Cooper), Kyle Sturdivant,

Walt Zipprian, Rebecca Randall Feit, John Dunn, Greg Cote, Sara Jo Dunstan, Abe Zapata, Xzavien Hollins, Richard Lyders-Gustafson, Rachel Rubin, Shannon Adame, Kelsey Busboom, Haley Hussey, and Katharine Pugh. The cabaret-styled show is based on some youthful experiences, which Cooper filters through her weird and wacky brain to create an evening of crazy fun. The fun runs until

August 12, Wednesdays through Saturdays at The MATCH. Oh, and that sex act in the van? Of course it goes horribly and hilariously wrong, but we don't want to spoil it for you. —**Marene Gustin**

- **Tamarie's Merry Evening of Mistakes and Regrets**
- **Now through August 12**
- **catastrophictheatre.com or matchouston.org**

📻 Radio

★ Performing Arts

🖼️ Art & Photography

🔄 Ongoing

+ Other Things

📅 Save The Date

1

Rebel, Jester, Mystic, Poet: Contemporary Persians—The Mohammed Afkhami Collection 🖼️ thru Sept. 24 Works of art by Iranian-born artists across three generations. **mfah.org**

2

Atlas, Plural, Monumental 🖼️ thru Aug. 6 Works by artist Paul Ramírez Jonas. **camh.org**



4

Happy 4th! Freedom Over Texas + Live music and fireworks at Eleanor Tinsley Park. 4-10 p.m.

5

Laughter Meditation + Don't worry, be happy! A family-friendly guided meditation. **rothkochapel.org**
Genome: Unlocking Life's Code + thru Sept. 11 Interactives, 3D models, videos, more. **thehealthmuseum.org**

6

Boomtown Brass Band ★ Kick off Summer Sounds on the Plaza at The Rothko. **rothkochapel.org**
James Ciosek: Moth to the Flame 🖼️ thru Aug. 26 Featuring his metal sculptures. **zoyatommy.com**

7

A Better Yesterday 🖼️ thru Sept. 3 A showcase of three artists and their unique vision of childhood. **camh.org**
Mary Poppins ★ thru 21 The magical musical! **crighton-theatre.com**

8

Ninth Annual Juried Exhibition 🖼️ thru Aug. 3 Presented by Archway Gallery. **archwaygallery.com**

9

Reefer Madness ★ See page 20.
Ezra Charles and the Story of Boogie Woogie ★ theGrand.com
Justice Advocacy Workshop +
 Effectively raise your voice for the voiceless. Contact: gcs.lrc@gmail.com

10

A Tribute to George Barris 📺 thru Dec. 31 In this exhibit featuring the King of Kustomizing, you can see a replica of Barris' 1966 Batmobile and more. nmfh.org

11

Pippin ★ thru 16 The musical with an all-Houston cast at Miller Outdoor Theatre. tuts.com
Homelands and Histories: Photographs by Fazal Sheikh 📺 thru Sept. 4 mfah.org

12

Suspended Memory 📺 thru 22 One of three new exhibits at the Art League this month. artleaguehouston.org

13

Simply Simone ★ thru 30
 A musical portrait of Nina Simone. ensemblehouston.com

14

Radically Open DBT Workshop +
 New assessment and treatment interventions. councilonrecovery.org
Always...Patsy Cline ★ thru Aug. 20
 The perennial favorite at Stages. stages theatre.com

15

Prince ★ The Houston Symphony celebrates Prince. houstonsymphony.org
Galveston Arts Center 📺 Three new exhibits begin with an artists' talk at 6 p.m. galvestonartscenter.org

16

Paint the Revolution 📺 thru Oct. 1
 Mexican Modernism from 1910 to 1950. mfah.org



18

The Propeller Group 📺 thru Sept. 3
 A three-member exhibit from Vietnam. blaffermuseum.org

19

Tamarie's Merry Evening of Mistakes and Regrets 📺 thru Aug. 12
 Crushed dreams, a miserable clown, dying swans, Judy Garland covers, songs about bars, and a sex act in a van! catastrophictheatre.com

20

Jacqui Sutton with the Frontier Jazz Orchestra ★ Part of the Summer Sounds on the Plaza at The Rothko Chapel. rothkochapel.org

21

The Gondoliers ★ thru 23
 By the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Houston. gilbertandsullivan.org

22

King Kong ★ See the original 1933 film outside at Main Street Square. downtownhouston.org

23

Side by Side 2017 Tour ★
 Dave Koz and Larry Graham Jr. team up to jam at the Brown Theatre. browntheatre.ticketoffices.com/Dave+Koz+and+Larry+Graham/tour

24

Edward Eberle 📺 thru Sept. 2
 An exhibition by a porcelain artist. crafthouston.org



26

In the Studio: Craft in Postwar America, 1950-1970 📺 thru Oct. 8
 Nearly 40 artworks showcasing mid-century American craft. mfah.org

27

Dead Rock Star Sing-A-Long ★ thru Aug. 12
 George Michael and Sharon Jones. recroomhix.com
In a Word ★ thru Aug. 12
 Grief and comedy collide in the story of a missing boy. mildredsumbrella.com

28

Houston Shakespeare Festival ★ thru Aug. 5
 Twelfth Night begins its run at Miller Outdoor Theatre. houstonfestivalscompany.com

29

Houston Shakespeare Festival ★ thru July 8
 Richard III begins its run at Miller Outdoor Theatre. houstonfestivalscompany.com

30

I Love the '90s ★ The party continues. Rock on. nrgpark.com



Save the Date

August 12 Cyndi Lauper ★
 Lauper is the special guest of Rod Stewart for this summer tour. livenation.com

More CALENDAR →



GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S The GONDOLIERS

the
**Gilbert
&
Sullivan**
Society of Houston

Alistair Donkin Director
Dr. Brian Runnels Conductor

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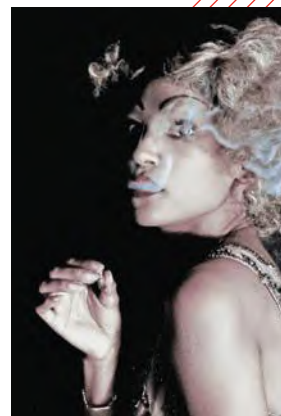
Calendar of Events

continued from previous page

Reefer Madness The Musical Thru 16

Now thru July 16

Smoke 'em if ya got 'em! This satire, based on the 1936 documentary about the evils of Mary Jane, has a book and lyrics by Kevin Murphy and Dan Studney and choreography by Luke Hamilton. It tells the tale of young Jimmy Harper, swept up in the dangerous world of drug dens where, after just one hit, he is surrounded by dancing pot leaves, car chases, and chaos. But unlike the source film—which was supposed to be serious—this show will leave you with a case of the giggles, and probably some serious munchies. And the theater has a two-night run of **Razzle Dazzle** July 21 and 22, a tribute to the genius of Bob Fosse. eadoplayhouse.com



Side by Side 2017 Tour

July 23

23

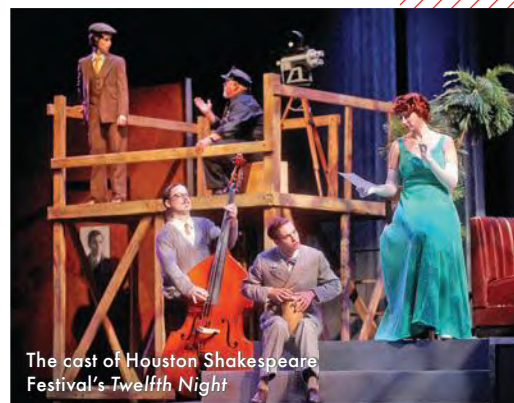
Saxophonist Dave Koz (who is openly gay) and Larry Graham Jr. team up to jam at the Brown Theatre this month. Koz, a nine-time Grammy nominee, joins Sly & The Family Stone bassist Graham Jr., for an evening of soulful, high-octane performances as they play hits from their respective catalogs. After Koz's popular Side by Side tour last year with David Sanborn, this year's pairing promises to be just as much musical fun. browntheatre.ticketoffices.com/Dave+Koz+and+Larry+Graham/tour

Houston Shakespeare Festival

July 29–August 6

28–Aug. 6

This year's plays in the park from the University of Houston are *Twelfth Night* and *Richard III*. Founded in 1975, this summer fest offers free performances of tales from the Bard at Hermann



The cast of Houston Shakespeare Festival's *Twelfth Night*

Park's Miller Outdoor Theatre. Bring a blanket and picnic basket and plan for an artistic evening. If music be the fruit of love, play on!

houstonfestivalscompany.com ■



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2017 HONOREES

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The annual Mint Julep event has celebrated the Montrose area's rich history for more than 10 years.
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Phallus Fallacy

Guns, genitalia,
and the Texas GOP.

By International Law and common knowledge of the clergy, the Texas Legislature is only allowed to meet every other year for 140 days. Any more than that and we'd be sued by National Geographic for plagiarizing their *Wild Kingdom* tee-vee show.

During the recent legislative session, people showed up to protest Senate Bill 4, which allows the State to strip funding from any city that doesn't arrest and deport their undocumented workers. (Short reminder about the money they are going to withhold: that's our money. The State of Texas doesn't have any money if we don't give it to them in the first place. Withhold, my pattootie—that's theft, plain and simple.)

Honey, when I heard that, I rolled my eyes so far back in my head that I was checking out my own ass. I do not know what our lawmakers plan to do with the money they withhold from us, but I suspect it involves beer, big tires, and long-range missiles pointed at Oklahoma.

SB4 deeply matters to Houston because our mayor, police chief, and district attorney all think the police and the courts have better things to do than randomly demand proof of citizenship from brown-skinned people. Many of these people were born here or have been here since they were toddlers. Hell, they don't even know anybody in Mexico.

So lots of protesters showed up at the capitol to protest SB4 because it seemed to them that ripping parents away from their children (or vice versa) is just rude.

And here's where Representative Matt Rinaldi (R-Irving) comes in.

I want to tell you something about Matt Rinaldi. He is a foul-mouthed little dip-dump who has to get an old woman to hold his hand to cross the street. He is so crude that the F-word ought to be embroidered on his tie, or written on loose-leaf notebook paper and stapled to his forehead (which would not only give us a warning, but also improve the scenery).

He, along with representatives Briscoe Cain



COLLAGE: BLAISE D'ISTEFANO

Improving the Scenery

Texas Representative Matt Rinaldi is "a foul-mouthed little dip-dump who has to get an old woman to hold his hand to cross the street."

(R-Deer Park) and Jonathan Stickland (R-Bedford), wear hip holsters with guns on the floor of the Texas Damn House of Representatives just in case the Lone Ranger changes sides, or some-damn thing. They have such a fetish about their guns that they're violating obscenity laws in 32 states, assorted territories, and my backyard.

So, in the middle of a debate on the House floor, Rinaldi sashays over to two Hispanic Democrats and goads them by saying he had called immigration authorities on the protesters. One of the Democrats said, "I'm gonna get you," and that's when Rinaldi just went bonkers and sneered, "I will shoot you in the head." (Of course, since this is the dignified and august Texas House of Representatives, "Shoot you in the head" is probably just cowboy-talk for "Drive friendly, ya hear?")

Rinaldi initially denied saying anything at all, but when he realized that other people heard what he said because he wasn't using his inside voice, he flipped his story to reflect that he was simply exercising "verbal self-defense."

No, I am not kidding. Texas Republicans want there to be such a thing as "verbal self-defense." What is that? A new sport where the winner is whoever can talk the meanest, the loudest, and with the most spittle-things forming at the sides of their mouth? Oh hell, I could make the Olympic

team in that sport.

By the way, the Texas Penal Code currently says that a verbal taunt ain't considered to be a provocation for diddly squat.

Honey, screw verbal self-defense. This event falls under the rules of "You started this fight, Skip-ty," as codified by the third edition of *The Texas Handbook of Getting Your Ass Whooped*.

Rinaldi is up for re-election next year, and here's the good news: his district went from Romney winning by 12 points in 2012 to Clinton winning by 8 points last year. So, while we're on the subject of ass-whooping, slap some butter on his butt because he may soon be toast.

But first, the Legislature is going into Special Session, so there's plenty more time for fightin' words as they talk about privatizing public education and doing the gawd-awful "bathroom bill" again.

Look, here's what I know for a damn fact: it's not a winkie that makes you a man, or tatas that make you a woman. It's what's in your heart and soul. Republicans have neither. It's that simple.

Susan Bankston lives in Richmond, Texas, where she writes about her hairdresser at The World's Most Dangerous Beauty Salon, Inc., at janitajeans.com.

What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
 - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
 - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
 - Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
 - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
 - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
 - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- ◆ **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.** If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- ◆ **Also take** certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ◆ **Severe liver problems**, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **Bone problems**, including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.



Have you heard about
TRUVADA for **PrEP™**?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

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 **Truvada®**
emtricitabine 200 mg / tenofovir
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for **PrEP** pre-exposure prophylaxis

(tru-VAH-dah)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the “How To Further Reduce Your Risk” section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

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

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

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

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP[™] (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP” section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

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

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



Don't Let Healthcare Costs Ruin Your Retirement

Even with Medicare, it's likely to be your largest monthly expense.

In spite of all the recent debate about our national healthcare policy, one thing is certain: regardless of whether Trumpcare or Obamacare (or something else) prevails, healthcare costs are significant, and if they aren't properly anticipated, they can derail the most well-planned retirement.

Americans are fairly intelligent consumers, but we often don't consider the possibility of needing healthcare in the future, or how much that could cost. Some of us may require long, drawn-out care throughout our golden years, while others will remain healthy and active until the end.

This isn't an area where you want to roll the dice and hope for the best. Setting up a plan that covers a less-than-ideal scenario requires some research, but it can be well worth the time you spend doing it yourself—or better yet, by working with an advisor. In no case, though, is it safe to make blind assumptions.

For instance, many people wrongly believe that Medicare will pick up most or all of their healthcare costs in retirement. In fact, Medicare Part A and Part B—also referred to as Original Medicare—will cover certain hospitalization expenses and other costs, but it can be fraught with substantial out-of-pocket expenses such as deductibles, co-payments, and coinsurance.

As an example, in 2017, Medicare Part A—which covers inpatient hospitalization—requires a deductible of \$1,316 for each benefit period. But that's not where the out-of-pocket expenses stop, particularly if you require a hospital stay of longer than 61 days. In that case, you would be required to pay a coinsurance amount of \$329 per day for days 61 through 90. And if you've used up your "lifetime reserve days," you'll face a daily coinsurance charge of \$658 per day after that.

Due to Medicare's out-of-pocket expenses, and the various scenarios that aren't covered



at all, a 2016 Fidelity survey estimated that the average retired couple aged 65 would need approximately \$260,000.

The good news is that there are several strategies for controlling excessive healthcare costs. For example, it's essential to set aside additional funds (over and above what you're saving for retirement) for out-of-pocket expenses. Meeting with a financial professional can provide you with a clearer picture of how much you should be saving based on your current age and your time frame until retirement.

You may also want to consider the purchase of long-term care (LTC) insurance. Most of these policies cover the cost of care that is received either in a nursing home or in your own home. Unlike Medicare's limited nursing-care coverage following a hospital stay, LTC plans don't require a previous hospital stay or limit you to only the most medically necessary type of care. In addition, several insurance carriers offer a spousal or partner premium discount for same-sex couples, provided that the couple applies for the policy at the same time.

If you're currently covered by Medicare Part A and Part B (or if you soon will be), you should also consider a Medicare Supplement insurance plan, often referred to as "Medigap." This type of insurance can help fill the gaps left

by Medicare when it comes to coinsurance, co-payments, and deductibles.

Finally, regardless of how long you have before retirement, ensuring that you eat right and exercise regularly can go a long way toward helping you remain healthy for the long term. Starting now with wellness and other disease-prevention activities can help you save on health-related expenses down the road.

Many studies have shown that healthcare represents the largest monthly expense for retired individuals and couples. Failing to plan for these expenses can affect not only the quality of care you'll receive, but also your overall lifestyle.

Because laws and regulations change, it's helpful to work with a financial professional to prepare for future healthcare expenses. Look for one who is both knowledgeable about protecting assets and familiar with appropriate strategies for the LGBTQ community.

Grace S. Yung, CFP, is a certified financial planner practitioner with experience in helping domestic partners plan their finances since 1994. She is a principal at Midtown Financial LLC in Houston and was recognized as a "Five-Star Wealth Manager" in the 2014 September issue of Texas Monthly. Yung can be reached at grace.yung@jpl.com.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Check out these fabulous events co-sponsored by OUTSMART and our marketing partners.



Look for **OUTSMART's 21st Annual Gayest & Greatest Readers Choice Awards** voting beginning July 1 through August 18.

July 16: Mint Julep 2017

is a one-of-a-kind Montrose Show, benefitting Legacy Community Health.
legacycommunityhealth.org/mintjulep

July 21-23: Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Houston presents *The Gondoliers*. hgns.org

SAVE THE DATE

August 3: ActOut at the Alley
 Theatre presentation of Alfred Hitchcock's *The 39 Steps*, a comedy thriller. alleytheatre.org

August 26: Kindred Spirits Dance presented by The Montrose Center. montrosecenter.org

TimeOut in Washington DC



On June 11, members of Equality Texas took OUTSMART to the Equality March for Unity and Pride in Washington DC.

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AMERICA'S
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Harris County District Attorney **KIM OGG** opens up about her journey.

By John Wright
Photo by Max Burkhalter

A

As the elected district attorney in the nation's third-largest county, Kim Ogg represents more constituents than any other openly LGBTQ law-enforcement official in the U.S.

More importantly, as Harris County's first Democratic DA in nearly four decades, Ogg has ushered in a wave of progressive reforms—from marijuana enforcement to victims' rights, and from the bail system to increasing the transparency and diversity of her office.

In doing so, Ogg has emerged as a leading figure in the national debate over criminal-justice policy, and as a rising star in "the Resistance" to the right-wing agendas of Republican state leaders and president Donald Trump.

Ogg, a 57-year-old Houston native, lives in the Heights with her partner of 32 years, Olivia Jordan, and their 18-year-old son, Jack Jordan.

With her tenure as DA approaching its six-month mark, Ogg sat down with *OUTSMART* for an exclusive interview.

John Wright: Your father, Jack Ogg, was a longtime Texas state legislator, and your late mother was well-known for her charity work. What it was like coming out to your parents?

Kim Ogg: It was traumatic. My parents were of the generation—they felt like my being gay was their responsibility, and that they were morally accountable. I had grown up in politics, and I understood that being gay was a political liability to my father and family, and so it was excruciating. Our family broke apart for some time, but we're so close that what that did was give me time to go grow up, which I did. I had been on my father's "payroll" from birth to college, but the day I got out of college I was on my own, and I've been on my own ever since. My family and I didn't see each other on anything but holidays after that for some time—almost four years.

Our family broke up, [but then] we came around. I quit being... I was a little militant. An example would be that I wore camouflage for almost a whole year. I was at war with the world. And then it turned out that to get and keep a good job, you needed to have a broader wardrobe.

Around the same time, you met Olivia while you were both students at South Texas College of Law. Was it love at first sight?

No, [the young men in] my study group asked me to bring in another girl—the cute girl from the library. They wanted to bring her in, and I said, "But you have a girl." And they said, "Yeah, but you're gay." And I said, "Well, yeah, but I thought we had this good group going." So I said, "Well, I want to interview her." So we went to lunch, and I thought she was fabulous and a great recruit, and somebody that we absolutely should have, and then it angered all my study partners who really wanted to go out with her. It was a great story, and it's all true, and none of it was my idea. It was Olivia's idea. In fact, I tried to talk her out of the "lifestyle" when she mentioned she was interested. I said, "It's really difficult, and I don't think you want to do this, not if you really want to be successful." Remember, this was 1985. Successful gay people were not out of the closet in Houston, Texas. We were all over, but we were not out of the closet. So I said, "If you want to be successful, don't do it." And then she said, "Yeah, but I want to do it with you." And I said, "Oh, that's different. That's completely different."

[Olivia] became a criminal defense lawyer, representing indigent individuals who were charged with crimes. So we were like Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy. We had opposite roles in the courtroom, but we were hyper-conscious of conflicts of interest, so we never handled a case against each other or with each other, until we went into private practice later.

Meanwhile, you went to work for a Republican district attorney in 1987. Were you out when you first joined the DA's office?

I was not out, but I was also not in the closet. I just didn't say. I didn't lie. Everyone here knew those of us who were gay, meaning the other lawyers, and we were accepted, and I would say we were well liked, but we were an anomaly. We were a tiny minority—gay people weren't even considered a minority at that time.

And you were still in the DA's office in 1991, when Paul Broussard was murdered in Montrose in a notorious antigay hate crime.

I was in the special-crimes unit during part of the time when that played out, so I had no direct access or impact on the case, but it made a big impression on me as a young lawyer. It was the first time an antigay motive came out in a big public way, and the way the district →



Sticking Together

Ogg, shown being sworn in by her father, longtime former state legislator Jack Ogg, says coming out to her parents was "excruciating," and it took four years before her family fully reconciled.



Harris County District Attorney Kim Ogg (I) met her partner of 32 years, Olivia Jordan, while they were students at South Texas College of Law. Fifteen years later, they added Jack, who'll be a freshman at the University of Houston this fall.

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AMERICA'S TOP GAY COP

continued from page 32

attorney's office handled the case was controversial. There was a lot of discussion in the office about whether the plea offer was too light or too harsh, whether motive was an appropriate thing to use in terms of punishment, whether juries would convict, and whether, if they did convict, they would give people who murdered gay victims less time or equal time. Nobody talked about, "Gee, we're worried that they'll give them more time." People were worried that they might go free. While the stabber, Jon Buice, got prison time, a lot of [Broussard's] murderers got probation. And then there was Buice's parole, and that issue has played out over the last two decades in the gay community.

Which side of the parole issue were you on?

I came down on the side of the victims. I saw the knife, I saw parts of the trial. I was a young assistant district attorney here, and I fully support the victim's family. I believe that the evidence proved it was a hate crime even before such an animal existed in the law, and I felt that Buice should have done his time. I feel that way about almost all cases involving another person's intentional death.

Equal protection for gay victims, especially those of violent crimes, has been important to me, really, since that case. I wasn't trying to affect gay rights. I was trying to affect the law, and the high-profile tragic murder of Paul Broussard, simply because he was gay and considered an easy mark by young people, was a life-changing event, professionally. And so from there, over the decades, I've just been involved with trying to ensure that the LGBT community got equal protection in criminal law. I promised to our community, when I was running, that when hate crimes occurred, and when the evidence existed, that I would prosecute them every time as hate crimes. We've filed three so far—one involving a Muslim victim and two involving African-American victims.

In 1995, you ran for district judge as a Republican, and longtime antigay activist Steve Hotze endorsed your opponent in the primary. Were you gay-baited in that race?

They didn't gay-bait me; they gay-crucified me. But they didn't do it in print. They did it through a telephone and whisper campaign, and they injected a third candidate into the race. I did not interview with Hotze, and I never answered any questions for him, so I never lied about my homosexuality. [But] the whole courthouse knew. It was funny, they didn't do an antigay mailer, but they did a whisper campaign. It was enough to force me into a primary runoff where extremists usually win, and so the more conservative candidate won.

Twenty years later, in 2016, you were gay-baited again by your Republican opponent, former district attorney Devon Anderson, and it became a major news story.

It was my lifelong fear, being called a lesbian in front of my entire hometown—4.5 million people, on television. It's like showing up with no clothes on or something—that bad dream that you have. When it finally happened, I knew it was exploitable and could benefit me, but I had to magnify that thing that I was so afraid of. And so we just sent it out to everybody—it was so freeing. It was sort of like coming out to my family. At that point, you don't have anything left to lose. You have everything to gain. I realized at that moment how much that fear—it wasn't a false fear—but it felt so good to let it go and just send it out to the world: "Devon Anderson called me a lesbian." Discrimination, no matter how you dress it up, is wrong. For Devon to have regressed to name-calling was indicative of her losing the election.

When you ran as a Republican in 1996, Republicans attacked you for having voted in Democratic primaries. When you ran as a Democrat in 2014 and 2016, you were criticized for having voted in Republican primaries. Talk about your partisan evolution.

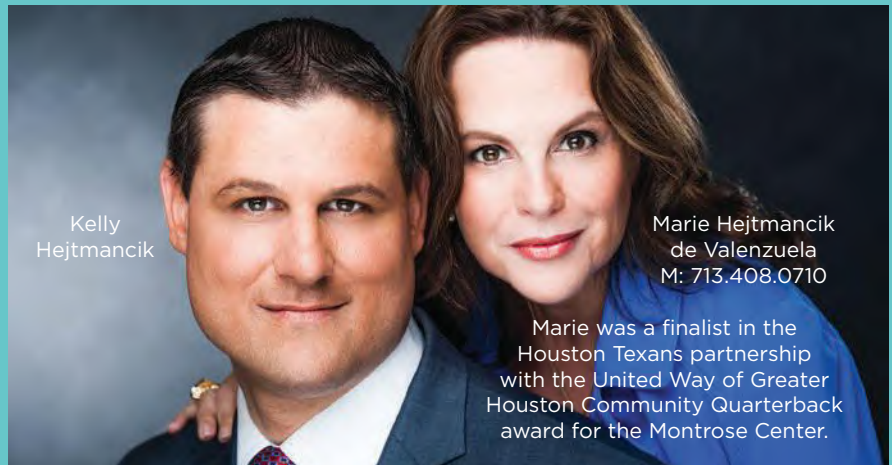
I think the criticism has been that I have been disloyal to both parties, and what I would tell you is that I grew up in the Democratic Party. I was pretty frustrated with [Democrats] in the mid-'90s, and Republicans were promising this big tent, and I thought it sounded reasonable. It didn't turn out to be true. In the second presidential campaign under George W. Bush, they really utilized gay marriage—it was used as a wedge issue nationally in 2004, and I would say that radicalized me to the Democratic perspective. I was never going to be for a party that stood for hate and that used discrimination as a platform, as a literal political platform. So, for 13 years, I've been a Democrat and stayed a Democrat, and I don't intend to ever change.

Speaking of Hotze, he's since moved on to "men in women's bathrooms." As a longtime law-enforcement official and advocate for crime victims' rights, what do you think of the argument that transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination laws lead to sexual assault?

I think it's a lie. I think it's a political red herring designed to take our eye off the ball as taxpayers. We should be concerned about property taxes, about funding our educational system, so that we have a state that has a workforce that's ready for this century. I think these types of hateful, discrimination-based laws are not what governance is about, and I believe that the people are going to have to

continued on page 69

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Marie was a finalist in the Houston Texans partnership with the United Way of Greater Houston Community Quarterback award for the Montrose Center.

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WHAT IS DESCOVY[®]?

DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older. DESCOVY is not for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. DESCOVY combines 2 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day. Because DESCOVY by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1, it must be used together with other HIV-1 medicines.

DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.

To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking DESCOVY. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about DESCOVY?

DESCOVY may cause serious side effects:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking DESCOVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

What are the other possible side effects of DESCOVY?

Serious side effects of DESCOVY may also include:

- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking DESCOVY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking DESCOVY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being

more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.

- **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- **Bone problems,** such as bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking DESCOVY?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how DESCOVY works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take DESCOVY with all of your other medicines.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if DESCOVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking DESCOVY.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about DESCOVY, including important warnings, on the following page.

Ask your healthcare provider if an HIV-1 treatment that contains DESCOVY[®] is right for you.

A black and white photograph of a young man with dark, curly hair, smiling and looking slightly to his left. He is shirtless, and the background is plain white.

LOVE

WHAT'S
INSIDE

(des-KOH-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DESCOVY

DESCOVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking DESCOVY. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older. DESCOVY is **not** for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

BEFORE TAKING DESCOVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical condition.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with DESCOVY.

HOW TO TAKE DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine that is taken with other HIV-1 medicines.
- Take DESCOVY with or without food.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about **DESCOVY** and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY

DESCOVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About DESCOVY” section.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea.

These are not all the possible side effects of DESCOVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking DESCOVY.

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Stacey's Story

Houston activist Colt Keo-Meier's new children's book is the first produced by trans men.

By Sarah Gish

Photo by Dalton DeHart

There are many ways to educate people about a misunderstood topic. When the AIDS epidemic began, public fear was rampant. Then in 1987, artist Niki de Saint Phalle published the children's book *AIDS: You Can't Catch It Holding Hands*, and a clever way to disseminate information was born.

Colt Keo-Meier says he didn't have the AIDS-education book in mind when he wrote his first children's book, *Stacey's Not A Girl*, but no doubt it will have the same effect: providing a way to discuss an issue with kids while also informing adults.

Keo-Meier, a 33-year-old trans man from Houston, is a medical student at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. With a doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Houston, he's already among the nation's leading trans health researchers.

Keo-Meier and his spouse, Becca Keo-Meier, along with four others, founded Gender Infinity (GenderInfinity.org) in 2010. The non-profit group, dedicated to connecting gender-diverse individuals and their families with resources in the South, will host its seventh annual conference at UH this fall.

Stacey's Not A Girl is dedicated to "all gender-expansive children, no matter how old they are now, and to their families." However, it is particularly geared toward trans-masculine children who were assigned female at birth and express more masculinity than what is culturally expected.

The book draws on Keo-Meier's own journey, but also his experiences with trans support groups and gender-expansive patients.



Colt Keo-Meier (l) asked his spouse, Becca Keo-Meier, to marry him with a flashcard that said, "Will you be my person?"

Gender Benders

Although there are plenty of books addressing trans issues, *Stacey's Not a Girl* is believed to be the first produced entirely by trans men. It was illustrated by Jesse Yang and designed by Nine Lam.

Keo-Meier says he wrote *Stacey's Not a Girl* for himself as a child. Raised in Beaumont with supportive parents (his father was a psychologist and his mother was an OB/GYN), he felt different from the start, not wanting to present as a girl in any way. He explored a lesbian identity, but it didn't fit. Finally, in 2006, Keo-Meier saw trans actor Scott Schofield perform a dramatization of his coming out as a lesbian, and then as a trans man. Schofield's story, which was presented at Rice University,

inspired Keo-Meier in a way he hopes Stacey's story will inspire others.

Stacey's Not A Girl begins with the main character's birth and the subsequent gender-identity misunderstandings, told in a heartfelt way. Stacey explores clothes and toys and hairstyles, and finds that separating any of those into "boy" or "girl" categories doesn't work. There are creative solutions such as altering a school uniform from a girl's jumper into more gender-neutral overalls. The parents in the story are always loving to Stacey, declaring, "You are our child, we love you very much, and we will always love you, no matter what."

Stacey attends a conference (which allows Keo-Meier to include a plug for Gender →

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STACEY'S STORY

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Infinity) where a doctor tells the family that "gender" is how you feel, or see yourself as a boy or a girl, but that many people don't feel like they fit into one gender. Stacey learns some clever names for various gender possibilities: gender smoothies (a mixture of boy and girl), gender Priuses (half boy and half girl), gender minotaurs (one gender on the top and one gender on the bottom), gender Tootsie Roll pops (one gender on the outside and another gender on the inside), and many others. After walking through fear and dealing with bullies, Stacey decides it's okay to not know one's gender, and that it's more important to "just be a kid."

Keo-Meier wants to become a doctor similar to the one in his book. As both a psychologist and a family-practice doctor, he hopes to be able to treat people of all ages—managing hormone therapy, pubertal suppression, and pre- and post-operative care.

A tireless advocate for his community, Keo-Meier currently works with individuals and families as a psychologist with expertise in gender and sexuality.

He's also a public speaker, trainer, and workshop presenter on topics such as "Development of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation" and "Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Youth in Schools."

Keo-Meier was a key figure in the fight for the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, and earlier this year he traveled to Austin to testify eloquently against Texas Senate Bill 6, the anti-trans "bathroom bill."

Colt and Becca Keo-Meier met in 2010 at UH. He says it was a comfortable relationship from the start because they allowed each other the space to be who they are. Becca was inspired to study trans relationships, and became a fierce advocate for trans rights.

Colt asked Becca to marry him with a flashcard that said, "Will you be my person?" The couple spends their downtime watching movies and hanging out with their pets, and they eventually plan to have kids.

Keo-Meier is a devout Christian who has found a church home at Houston's Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, which is quite different from the Catholic parishes he attended as a child. He says he's dedicated to serving and caring for God's trans children of all ages, and that his daily mission is keeping the community alive and safe. It's an important task, considering that the suicide rate among trans people is so high.

Keo-Meier encourages everyone to explore their gender journey and, like Stacey, find peace in the unknown if necessary.

"We're all on a journey. We're all figuring out who we are," he says.

Sarah Gish is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine.

Queer, Undocumented, Undeterred

LGBTQ immigrants call on community to help fight 'sanctuary cities' ban.

By Josh Inocencio

When Adonias Arevalo was 11, he fled El Salvador after witnessing the murder of his father. He moved to Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico before reaching the United States.

Now, with Senate Bill 4 targeting so-called "sanctuary cities" in Texas, Arevalo could face deportation back to one of the most anti-LGBTQ places in the world, where the gangs that control El Salvador target both gay and transgender people.

"The reason why SB4 is more dangerous [for queer people] is because it puts us at risk of deportation to countries where we've fled violence," said Arevalo, a Houston-based statewide organizer for United We Dream, the largest youth-led immigrant organization in the U.S.

"Plus, when people who are undocumented are put into deportation proceedings, they are in detention centers, which are places where our community is being brutalized," Arevalo added. "The conditions for trans women are deplorable. And then they are deported to a death sentence."

Arevalo's first experience in the U.S., at 13, was at a detention center where he shared facilities with adult men. "It was a very traumatizing experience," he said. "And it's no secret that undocumented immigrants are seen as a profit item for detention facilities. They can spend years in deplorable conditions while the government profits from their lives."

SB4, set to take effect September 1, allows law-enforcement officers to question the immigration status of people they legally detain—not just arrest—and punishes elected officials who don't cooperate with federal immigration agents.

In 2011, another queer undocumented immigrant, who asked to be identified as Andres Rodriguez to protect his safety, said he was

racially profiled by the Houston Police Department and was jailed for 61 days after an officer inquired about his immigration status. "I was driving around Montrose, and stopped by a police officer who asked me where I was from," said Rodriguez, who is also an organizer for United We Dream. "I told him I was from Mexico, and he said, 'Hah, I knew it!' And then I was detained and spent 45 days in the Harris County jail."

The officer accused Rodriguez of driving under the influence. After the officer asked where he was from, Rodriguez stopped answering questions.

Rodriguez passed a field-sobriety test, but the officer also demanded that he undergo a Breathalyzer test. Rodriguez refused, instead demanding a blood test.

When results from the blood test finally came back, they showed that Rodriguez wasn't intoxicated. However, upon his release from the jail, he was sent to an immigrant detention



Sí, El Puede

Adonias Arevalo dressed in drag (above) to call attention to transgender workers' rights at a May Day protest in Houston. Later in the month, Arevalo addressed the crowd through a megaphone at a rally to protest Senate Bill 4 outside the Harris County Republican Party headquarters.

center for three weeks—one of which he spent in isolation due to his sexual orientation.

"And this was all before SB4," Rodriguez said. "Now, we can only expect to see more cases like this—and at the expense of taxpayers."

Raed Gonzalez, senior attorney at the Gonzales-Olivieri immigration law firm, said SB4 will especially hurt trans people, who've also been demonized by efforts to pass a so-called "bathroom bill."

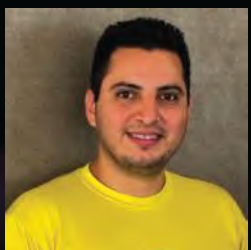
"Just imagine—if they stop you at some point and there's a discrepancy between your ID and your identity now, it will bring a lot of questions," Rodriguez said. "Officers will arrest them as they have in the past by saying 'We can't verify you.'"

Gonzalez said racial profiling is already a problem, but will only get worse under SB4. He pointed to the case of state representative Matt Rinaldi (R-Irving), who threatened to have ICE arrest SB4 protesters at the capitol →



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QUEER, UNDOCUMENTED, UNDETERRED

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in May. “He did something we’re all afraid of,” Gonzalez said. “He assumed everyone there was undocumented, and they were not. There were lots of citizens in the protest.”

Despite the dangers posed by Senate Bill 4, Arevalo and Rodriguez are undeterred. “We mobilize local populations across Texas so that they can fight SB4,” Arevalo said of United We Dream. “My role is training and engagement, reviewing policy, meeting legislators in Austin, and getting the stories of undocumented people out there.”

In addition to education and advocacy, opponents of SB4 have turned to the courts. On June 21, at the request of Mayor Sylvester Turner, the Houston City Council voted to join Texas’ other three largest cities—Austin, Dallas, and San Antonio—in a lawsuit challenging the measure.

Gonzalez said he thinks the plaintiffs have a case. “The police can ask about immigration status in a situation where you have been arrested,” he said. “If it’s a lawful stop, they will ask you about your status. But we’re telling undocumented immigrants—if they haven’t committed a crime or if they’re not under lawful detention—to not answer questions about status. Everybody has that Fifth Amendment right under the Constitution.”

Gonzalez, whose firm has long served the queer undocumented community, urged those who might be affected by the law to meet with an immigration attorney as soon as possible. He’s hosted forums at local churches to give legal advice. “Educate yourself about your options and how to get ready,” Gonzalez said. “People need to understand they have rights. An ICE deportation warrant doesn’t allow them to come into your house unless you let them. You need to know your rights in your home, in your workplace, and in your car.”

Meanwhile, Arevalo and Rodriguez are encouraging the LGBTQ community, undocumented or not, to join the fight against SB4. “We need to create conversations and spaces where the lives of black and brown queer and trans people are represented,” Arevalo said.

“I want the queer community to take action on this,” Rodriguez said. “Call your elected officials. The immigrant community has a lot of shared struggles with the gay community, in that we have both been marginalized and persecuted. An attack on one of us is an attack on all of us. Before people are immigrants, they are human beings.”

If you are a queer undocumented immigrant in Texas and have any questions about how to prepare for the enforcement of SB4, call the ACLU hotline at 1.888.507.2970.

Josh Inocencio is a frequent contributor to OUTSMART magazine.

Magic Mike

How an 18-year-old LGBTQ ally took on Pearland's establishment—and won.

By Kim Hogstrom

"If they're not willing to give us a seat at the table, we're going to make our own table." —Mike Floyd

For many in the LGBTQ community, the past year has been debilitating. We're at a loss to understand the rising demonization of our own community and other vulnerable populations, both at the state and national levels.

But for those listening closely, there's a hopeful thunder on the horizon—the sound of an army of millennials stomping their feet and marching forward. This largest-ever population of young Americans is heading our way, and they mean business.

Most millennials have no intention of tolerating inbred, garden-variety American bigotry, and one eloquent voice for this generation is recently elected Pearland ISD Board of Trustees member Mike Floyd. A Democrat, the 18-year-old Floyd graduated from Pearland's Dawson High School in May, but exhibits the polish of someone twice his age.

"There are a lot of bad things happening in our politics today," Floyd says. "I stepped up because someone has to do something. This situation has dehumanized so many in our community that we must speak. One of my objectives is to put an end to that.

"It's important to understand that most of us have grown up in an America that saw the Twin Towers fall," he adds. "[Since then], we've fought three wars—and one was launched with faulty information. We've watched the economy tank, and we've seen college tuition go up 4,000 percent since we were born. Now our healthcare is a mess, and our planet is in danger. Millennials know we must step up."

To fully grasp the significance of Floyd's victory, one must study Pearland itself. The same Houston suburb that was once marketed (unofficially) as "the whitest town in Texas" is



Political Prodigy

After meeting Kimberly Shappley and her daughter, Kai, Mike Floyd ran on a platform of support for trans equality.

now the 15th-fastest-growing city in the U.S.

Pearland's new citizens come from everywhere. Since its "whitest town" days, it has seen increases of 753 percent in its African-American population, 563 percent in its Asian population, and 287 in its Hispanic population. The former "Capital of Caucasasia" is now a tapestry of races and religions whose diversity exceeds even that of nearby Fort Bend County, which is officially known as the nation's most ethnically diverse county.

However, Pearland's government continues to be dominated by conservative old white men. Many of the city's public servants are frozen in time, and its small, reliable voter base is not much further along.

For example, the city's 91-year-old mayor, Tom Reid, managed to hold on to his seat in last month's runoff with Quentin Wiltz, a 36-year-old African-American. In another

runoff, 69-year-old Woody Owens, a former City councilmember, easily defeated 30-year-old Dalia Kasseb, Brazoria County's first Muslim candidate.

So how did Floyd, the son of a Pakistani mother and a Texas father, beat out six-year incumbent and 38-year Pearland resident Rusty DeBorde? "We worked hard and ran a good campaign," he says. "We attended more than 40 events promoting protections for transgender students and increased transparency of school-board activities. These positions resonated with the public.

"We also spent a lot of time at the grass roots, knocking on doors," he adds. "And we enlisted the support of fellow students, signing up hundreds of new voters [who then] brought out their parents. Each new student voter brought in three votes. In an election that normally results in about 2 percent turnout, we →



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hit 10. We took the election with 54 percent.”

Despite Floyd's victory, Pearland's school district presents an uphill battle for those who support equality. In March, the superintendent, John Kelly, testified in favor of the Texas Senate Bill 6, the anti-transgender bathroom bill. In May 2016, after the Obama administration issued pro-trans guidance for public schools, Kelly was appalled. “What's next, legalizing pedophilia and polygamy?” he said in a statement.

Kimberly Shappley is the mother of Kai, a 6-year-old trans girl who recently completed first grade in Pearland. Shappley continues to fight the district and the State of Texas for her daughter's right to be herself—in safety. “When school started, Kai was required to use the restroom in the nurse's office instead of the girl's bathroom,” Shappley says. “One day, Kai went to the nurse's office and the door was locked. The nurse was not there, so Kai waited and waited. Eventually she had an accident in the hallway in front of her friends. It was hard on her. It traumatized my daughter.”

How many children are affected by the position of Kelly and the school district? “I know of more than a dozen transgender children in the district. And there are many, many LGBTQ students here, too. We are absolutely not alone,” Shappley says.

“I think Mike will make a big difference,” she adds. “I know and support him, and I know for a fact that the majority of educators in Pearland do not support the cruel position of the superintendent. Sometimes, it takes only one brave person to stand up and be heard to give others the courage to do the same. That person is Mike Floyd.”

For Floyd, the issue is not about “tolerance,” a word he doesn't like. “Many inhumane practices are ushered in under the guise of tolerance,” he says. “My generation expects nothing short of acceptance. I think Senate Bill 6 is the epitome of ignorance and hate—designed to demonize and dehumanize people, designed to divide us.

“I embrace our diversity and think it's a strength. But we must get beyond the color of our skin, the religion we practice, or the bathroom we use,” he adds. “We have real, important issues to address. We're not going to allow anyone to divide us. It's exactly Pearland's diversity that makes us stronger.”

An outstanding student, Floyd was accepted at both American and Georgetown universities, two prestigious Washington DC schools. But he's chosen to enroll in the honors program at the University of Houston.

“I decided to stay because I think I can do the most good here,” he says.

Kim Hogstrom is a regular contributor to OUTSMART magazine.



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'We Have to Stand Up and Fight Back'

Trump, Texas Legislature fuel wave of LGBTQ candidates in Houston, across Texas.

By Brandon Wolf

"Ivanka Trump isn't going to save us, but LGBT-elected officials will," Victory Fund president and CEO Aisha Moodie-Mills told the crowd at a Houston fundraiser in April. Moodie-Mills was referring to reports that Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, had convinced President Trump not to sign an anti-LGBTQ "religious freedom" executive order.

Since then, the Trump administration's policies—along with the actions of Republican state leaders—have fueled a wave of potential LGBTQ candidates in the Bayou City and across Texas.

Elliot Imse, a spokesman for the Victory Fund, which supports LGBTQ candidates nationwide, said enrollment has doubled in the organization's candidate-training institutes in the wake of the November 2016 election.

Five Houstonians are among the numerous LGBTQ Texans eyeing campaigns in 2018 and 2019. Two of the Houston candidates have formally announced, and three others are strongly considering runs.

"People are fed up, and they want a better Texas," said Fran Watson, who's considering running as a Democrat in Texas Senate District 17, which covers parts of Harris, Brazoria, and Fort Bend counties. That district is currently represented by Senator Joan Huffman (R-Houston).

"Texans deserve leaders who have the everyday issues of Texans in mind, rather than focusing on who uses what bathroom," said

Watson, an attorney who serves as president of the Houston GLBT Political Caucus. Huffman voted in favor of Senate Bill 6, the anti-transgender "bathroom bill."

"There are people in the district who are hurting, and I know how to identify with these people," Watson said. "I also have the skill set to draft legislation to help them."

Angie Hayes is running as a Democrat for the Texas House District 134 seat held by Representative Sarah Davis (R-Houston). The district includes Bellaire, West University, River Oaks, the Heights,

and Oak Forest. Voters re-elected Davis, but also favored Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton in 2016.

Unlike most Republicans in Texas, Davis has been a supporter of LGBT equality and reproductive rights. However, Davis was a

House co-sponsor of Senate Bill 4, Texas' new "show me your papers" immigration law. She has also supported cuts to public education and favors allowing firearms on college campuses.

In 2012, Hayes founded the Clinic Access Support Network (CASN)—which consists of more than 100 volunteers who drive nearly 500 women to appointments at abortion clinics each year. Hayes said CASN has helped her build a network of supporters, and after Trump's victory she was approached by numerous people about running for office.

"It's my next step up—to [defeat] the people who are causing problems," Hayes said.

Jerry Simoneaux, who currently serves as an associate municipal judge in Houston, plans to run as a Democrat for the Harris County Probate Court 1 seat held by Republican Loyd Wright. Democrats swept countywide judicial races in 2016, but midterm elections historically have favored Republicans. Simoneaux hopes to see that trend change in 2018.

Simoneaux stressed that he isn't "the gay candidate," but rather a candidate who happens to be gay. Still, he believes the presence of a gay probate judge could help raise awareness about LGBT issues at the courthouse.

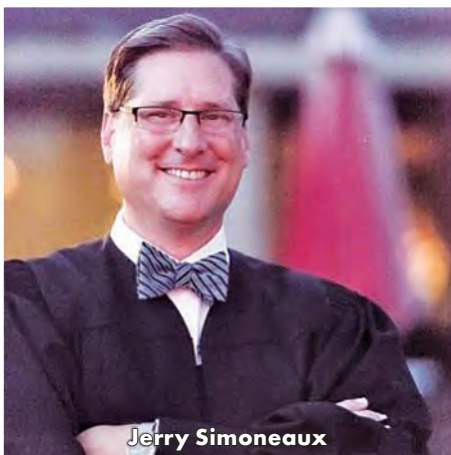
Other potential LGBTQ candidates are eyeing Houston City Council races in 2019. Ashton Woods, the founder of Black Lives Matter: Houston, said he may run for either the District K or an at-large seat. District K is →



Fran Watson



Angie Hayes



Jerry Simoneaux



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'WE HAVE TO STAND UP AND FIGHT BACK'

continued from page 46



Ashton Woods

ERIC EDWARD SCHELL

represented by Council Member Larry Green, who will be term-limited in 2019.

"We have to stand up and fight back," Woods said. "People are being left behind and treated as nonexistent. People have basic human needs—if they are missing a meal, they can't think about fighting back. We had Donald Trumps before there was a President Trump. They are in our backyards and in elected offices. We need to fight the Trumps in our backyards."

Nelvin Adriatico, who owns a Sugar Land real-estate firm, is considering a run for the District J seat held by openly gay Council

Member Mike Laster, who is also term-limited.

Adriatico has been involved with the highly successful back-to-school backpack program in District J. He said he wants to focus on education, small business, and combatting domestic violence.

"If you have a voice, it can be magnified by serving in an elected office," Adriatico said, adding that he watches the news every day and is troubled by what Trump is doing.

"I have friends who are minorities and immigrants," said Adriatico, who would be among the first openly LGBT Asian-Americans elected to public office in Texas.

"We've got to raise our voices and make a change."

Woods' and Adriatico's 2019 campaign plans remain fluid because of a case that's before the Texas Supreme Court. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit are challenging the 2015 referendum that increased City Council terms from two years to four years. If the referendum is declared invalid due to "misleading" ballot language, the court could order City Council elections in November of this year, or set a special election.

On the federal level, trans woman Danielle Pellett plans to run as a Democrat in the suburban-Dallas 32nd Congressional District

in 2018. The seat is currently held by Republican Representative Pete Sessions. The Texas Democratic Party has identified Sessions' district—along with Houston's 7th Congressional District—as a priority in mid-term elections.

Lorie Burch, an LGBT activist from Plano, is running as a Democrat in the suburban-Dallas 3rd Congressional District, where incumbent Republican Sam Johnson is retiring.

Meanwhile, Omar Narvaez was elected to the Dallas City Council in June. Narvaez, a former Houston resident, becomes Dallas' first openly LGBT City Council member in a decade.

Nationally, there are approximately 55,000 elected and appointed positions at the local, state, and federal levels. About 0.1 percent of those—550—are currently held by openly LGBT people.

According to the Victory Fund, Texas has 18 openly LGBT elected and appointed officials, nine of whom are in Harris County:

Laster, Simoneaux, city council member Robert Gallegos; district judges Steven Kirkland, Daryl Moore, and Kelli Johnson; Associate District Judge Jim Evans; and Associate Municipal Judge Phyllis Frye.

Brandon Wolf is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.



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Unlikely Haven

Rejected by his parents, gay UH student found refuge in sports.

By Austin Hodges

As halftime began, my football teammates at Anahuac High School headed to the locker room. I headed to the other side of the field where, still wearing my football uniform, I put on makeup and got ready to do high kicks and splits with the drill team.

I could feel people in the crowd turn their heads as we marched to the sound of our captain's whistle. As we got in formation and waited for the music, I was nervous, but once we started dancing, that feeling went away. It was an amazing moment.

The best faces to watch were those of the opposing players and their parents, when they realized a gay kid wearing makeup and doing splits for the halftime show was also kicking their butts on the field. I played offensive and defensive line—and I was going to kick their butts again after halftime.

My teammates and coaches never had a problem with me doing double duty. They welcomed me back to the game with support and applause. I like to think I opened some minds. I was able to show that gay people can both play sports and have, for lack of a better word, a “flamboyant” side.

Growing up gay in conservative Southeast Texas, I was embraced by my classmates and teammates in various sports. I can't say the same for my family or community. Ana-



Courageous Cat

Austin Hodges, who graduated from Anahuac High School last year, is now a gender-acceptance ambassador for the University of Houston, where he'll be a sophomore this fall. Hodges competed in multiple sports in high school, and set a school record in discus (below).

huac, in Chambers County, has a population of about 2,500. The culture stressed hardcore traditional values, and my family is Southern Baptist.

In elementary school, I was made fun of for being different. My only friends were girls, which led to more harassment. In middle school, I realized I wasn't attracted to girls. In junior high, I found sports to be an outlet, and I competed in football, basketball, and track and field. I was also the only boy on the cross-country team.

Sports gave

me something I'd never had—guy friends. Even though I knew I was gay, I was very much in the closet. Eventually, one of my coaches found out and went to his boss to say he didn't think I should be allowed to play sports with other boys. I didn't know this was going on until another coach pulled me aside to talk about it.

I was scared to death because I thought athletics was over for me, but that turned out not to be the case. Instead, the second coach told me he would make sure I could continue playing sports. This was the first time that a male figure gained my respect and trust, and this coach earned a special place in my heart.

In ninth grade, I had my first boyfriend, and my mom found a letter he wrote to me. She told my father, and when I came home from school one day, they awaited me with looks of disgust on their faces. As soon as I walked into the house, my dad started yelling at me, saying hurtful things that are too hard to type. My mom was screaming as well, saying it was my “choice” to be that way.

She grabbed my hand and said it would also be my choice to not let her burn me on the hot stove, pressing it closer and closer. My mom is a stout woman, and it took every bit of →



UNLIKELY HAVEN

continued from previous page

my strength to pull away from her so that she wouldn't burn my hand. The next weekend, when my parents left the house, I tried to overdose on pills from the medicine cabinet. I went to bed that night hoping to die in my sleep. Luckily, I didn't take enough pills to kill me. When I woke up the next morning, I decided nothing would ever bring me that low again.

I also decided it was time to come out at school. The first teacher I told was Mrs. Broomas, who taught biology. We had a sex-education quiz, and one of the questions was, "How could you prevent getting a girl pregnant while having intercourse?" My answer was, "I'm gay so I don't have to worry about that." When Mrs. Broomas got to my paper, she broke out laughing and smiled at me. She asked if she could read it to the class, and with confidence I told her she could. When she did, all the kids laughed, and they gave me hugs afterward. They told me that no matter what, they would always be my friends and support me.

After that, the whole school found out, including my athletics teammates. They all made sure I felt welcome with them. We were a family with the same goal—to win at whatever sport we were playing. In high school, I competed in football, cross-country, power lifting, golf, and track and field. Football was fun, but

cross-country had special significance. Running gave me time to think and de-stress from the pressure of people who disapproved of me being gay. My cross-country teammates and coach were incredibly supportive, and became a substitute for the family I didn't have at home. A female coach was my substitute mom, although she never knew I thought of her that way.

In track and field, discus-throwing became my favorite sport. Discus is very manly, and I was told I wasn't bulky enough for it, but I didn't let that stop me. I attended regionals every year, and during the final meet of my senior year I broke my high school's discus record that had stood for 30 years. My discus coach was a father-figure to me. He never gave up on me, and although I never told him this, I am forever grateful for his support.

After I came out, home was never home again. It was a place to sleep—where I would shut my door to be alone and avoid conflict at any cost. Every morning when the alarm went off, I was excited to go to school and join my adopted family—people who cared for me in the way a real family should. I was becoming the man I knew I could be by playing sports, even though my father said that no "faggot" athlete could be supported or successful. School was my getaway, and athletics was my family unit. Sports gave me brothers and sisters, parental figures, and many other things.

I graduated from Anahuac High School on June 3, 2016, ranked 13th out of 84 students in my class. I received the most scholarship money of anyone, including an award from Out For Education in Houston. I'm now majoring in geology at the University of Houston. In my first semester, I joined Pi Kappa Alpha, which is an athletic fraternity that has given me brothers. I also became a sexuality and gender-acceptance ambassador for the university. Although I don't have an intercollegiate athletic career, I throw discus in track-and-field clubs, and I'm part of UH's cross-country club.

I give thanks to that first coach who pulled me aside to tell me he supported me so long ago. Without him, I may not have stayed in athletics and gained the leadership skills that have gotten me to where I am. I also want to thank my other coaches, teachers, and teammates. Many of you will never know what you meant to me.

As for my parents, my mom has come to fully accept me, and my dad—well, I think he's working at it. I forgave my parents long ago for what they did. I can't hold it against them because that's how they were raised. I don't have terrible parents; I have normal ones who make mistakes.

Austin Hodges, 19, will be a sophomore this fall at the University of Houston. This article originally appeared on OutSports.com and is published here with permission.



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Sheriff Reinstates LGBTQ Policies

Gonzalez follows through on campaign promise regarding trans inmates.

By Lou Weaver

Sometime in 2013, I received a call from then-Major Deb Schmidt of the Harris County Sheriff's Office. Schmidt, who is an out lesbian, was seeking assistance with reviewing the county's policies related to LGBTQ inmates.

Prior to Schmidt's initiative, transgender inmates had not been treated with compassion at the nation's third-largest jail, including the high-profile case of trans widow Nikki Araguz, who was booked into the facility using her birth name and placed in a solitary cell for 20 days.

Then-Sheriff Adrian Garcia, a Democrat, wanted to ensure that LGBTQ inmates were treated fairly going forward, so we worked with the National Center for Transgender Equality and the Human Rights Campaign to update inmate policies. Schmidt helped assemble a team to review the existing policy, the logistics of the jail, and the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).

PREA was especially helpful, in that it is designed to keep the most vulnerable inmates safe. In jails and prisons, gay men and trans women are among those most likely to become victims of sexual assault.

But Garcia also wanted to add protections for LGBTQ employees, so his updated policies included nondiscrimination language covering sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. That policy protecting LGBTQ employees, which remains in place, was among the first of its kind in the state, and the rules for LGBTQ inmates were hailed as perhaps the

most progressive in the nation at the time.

After Garcia stepped down to run for mayor of Houston in 2014, Republican Ron Hickman was appointed to replace him. Unfortunately, Sheriff Hickman called the LGBTQ policies into question and began to roll back the advances we had made.

First, Hickman removed all evidence of LGBTQ inclusion—including a rainbow-colored flag icon—from the sheriff's office website. He also demoted Schmidt to a civil-servant position, which meant she was no longer a member of the command staff and couldn't provide feedback directly to the sheriff.

When former Houston City Council member Ed Gonzalez, a Democrat, contacted me about his campaign for Harris County sheriff in 2016, I immediately asked about LGBTQ policies. I wanted to know if he would pledge to protect all of the county inmates in his custody.

Gonzalez, a former police officer who had appeared in a TV ad supporting the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance in 2015, assured me that the LGBTQ policies would be among his priorities. And, true to his word, after defeating Hickman last November, Gonzalez formed a transition team that includes a branch focused on LGBTQ issues. I have the pleasure of sitting on that committee alongside Tammi Wallace, co-founder of the Greater Houston LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce.

Since then, Gonzalez has enacted policies that take into consideration every step of LGBTQ inmates' time at the jail—from intake and processing, to housing and commissary, to healthcare and exiting.

Under the policies, trans and intersex inmates will speak directly to a gender-classification specialist who will help them navigate certain issues. Those issues include being addressed with correct names and pronouns, regardless of the inmate's legal name; and →



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Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez appeared in an ad supporting the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance in 2015.

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SHERIFF REINSTATES LGBTQ POLICIES

continued from previous page

whether they will be searched by male or female officers. Both of these issues are incredibly important for trans folks. Another important policy is that everyone has access to anything in the commissary store, including face razors and undergarments, because the store's inventory is no longer gendered.

I'm not saying the policies are perfect, but Gonzalez has brought together a group of people who are committed to making the Harris County jail safer.

Gonzalez also promoted Schmidt to assistant chief, a higher rank than she held under Garcia. Now fourth in command at the sheriff's office, Schmidt is the first female to achieve the rank of assistant chief in Harris County.

Schmidt is once again the head of the LGBTQ liaison group at the sheriff's office, and steps are being taken to add community representatives to the liaison group. Those new group members will be a diverse array of folks representing Houston. The goal is to create a better, more open dialogue between residents of Harris County and the sheriff's office.

Lou Weaver is the transgender programs coordinator for Equality Texas, and a frequent contributor to OUTSMART magazine.

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GAYS Set Sail

LGBTQ boat-lovers launch Gulf Area Yachting Society.

By Marene Gustin

You don't have to own a multimillion-dollar yacht or even be LGBTQ to join the new Gulf Area Yachting Society, which goes by the cheeky acronym GAYS. The club is a diverse group of LGBTQ and LGBTQ-friendly folk who love all kinds of boats and watercraft.

Commodore Michael Harrison explains that the idea hit him and some friends (who were part of another boating social group) earlier this year. "We just noticed there were more and more gays on the water," Harrison says. "So we thought, let's start a fun club that transcends gender identity, sexuality, age, race, and religion. Our only requirement is that you have to love the water."

The Texas Gulf Coast has become increasingly queer-friendly, both as a tourist destination and as a home base. The area has sprouted a plethora of LGBTQ travel companies, cruise lines, Realtors, and bars. And now for the water-lovers, there's GAYS.

Many inland Texas residents have vacation homes on Galveston Island, Kemah, Clear Lake, and Seabrook. And

at many of those coastal homes you'll find boats—or at least people with access to marinas where they keep a variety of watercraft.

It's almost a right of passage for South Texans to spend time on the Gulf, soaking up sun, fishing, or just enjoying the breezes. And as boaters tend to be social folks, there are more social clubs than you can shake an oar at—including the Gulf Coast Nudist Yacht Club based in League City, for those who prefer sail-

"Our only requirement is that you love the water."

ing *au naturel*.

So Harrison and his partner, Constantine Volo, along with their friends Jerry Simoneaux, Christopher Brown, and Dee Latoilais, decided to form GAYS in March for LGBTQ boaters and allies. They held their first member party in June at the Houston Yacht Club.

"We're still pretty small, but we have one member in Mississippi who's recruiting more out-of-state members," says Harrison.

The idea is to have special sailing events where members get together and boat to yacht clubs or Red Fish Island, as well as monthly "docktail" parties. "That's where we get together on someone's boat at the dock and drink wine and cocktails," he explains.

Members have sailboats, canoes, and powerboats; all kinds of watercraft are welcome. "And if you don't own a boat, that's okay, too," Harrison adds. "People with boats are always looking for extra crew."



Boys Ahoy

Michael Harrison (l-r) Constantine Volo, Jerry Simoneaux, and Christopher Brown are among the founding members of the Gulf Area Yachting Society, or GAYS.

Harrison says sailing the couple's 36-foot French Joust sailboat is a constant pleasure. "There's nothing like being out on the water and putting the sails up," he says.

Latoilais loves the water just as much, but prefers her 38-foot Sea Ray motorboat. She and her husband have been on the water since 1987, starting with fishing boats. "I guess you could call me a free spirit and an ally," she says. "I knew Michael and Constantine from another club, and when I met them, I just fell in love. They are so much fun—they have no pretensions at all, they just are who they are."

Latoilais is looking forward to working on the board of GAYS and enjoying the social aspect of boating with fun folks. "Boat people just tend to be very open," she says. "It's all about boating and the water. If you're in love with that, then we're very accepting."

For more, visit gayareayachtingsociety.com.

Marene Gustin is a regular contributor to *OUTSMART* magazine.



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‘It Was Fun—But Also Crazy’

Gay Realtor reflects on Property Brothers’ visit to Galveston.

By Marene Gustin

Hunky twins Jonathan and Drew Scott blew into Galveston Island like a mini-hurricane with their HGTV reality show *Brother vs. Brother* last year.

A spinoff of their popular *Property Brothers* show, *Brother vs. Brother*—which concludes July 5—pits the twins against each other. They’re each given a certain amount of money (\$600,000 in this case) to buy, renovate, and decorate a home. Celebrity judges from other DIY shows decide who did it best, the winner gets bragging rights, and then the homes are sold with profits going to Rebuilding Together, a nonprofit that builds affordable housing. Sounds like fun, right?

“It was fun,” says David Bowers, a licensed attorney and Realtor with The House Company on Galveston Island. “But it was also crazy.”

It all started last June when Scott Brothers Entertainment (the production company for the brothers’ multiple DIY reality shows) contacted the Houston Film Commission, which put them in touch with Bowers. The team was looking for homes along the entire Gulf Coast for the fifth season of *Brother vs. Brother*, and Galveston was the only coastal area in Texas they looked at.

“The advance team and I looked at over 250 listings, online and in person,” Bowers says. “We narrowed it down to 26 properties, and Drew flew in and looked at them in an eight-hour span.”

The team finally chose two of Galveston’s West End canal homes, a one-story and a two-story, both on the pier-and-beam stilts that protect most West End homes from hurricane surges.

“The brothers are great, and lots of fun,” Bowers says. “But everyone on the project had an incredible work ethic. It was common for me to work weekends, and it was nothing to get texts and emails from the advance people at 11 p.m.” The production company is based in Canada and the brothers live in Las Vegas with



David Bowers (second from left) and his partner, John Nagy (third from left), with Jonathan and Drew Scott, aka the “Property Brothers.”

Best Bros

an office in Los Angeles, so time zones were irrelevant.

Bowers lives with his partner, John Nagy, in an 1899 Victorian home that survived Hurricane Ike. Bowers said Nagy didn’t mind the late hours. “He was very supportive and quite excited,” Bowers says. “In fact, he wanted to document everything and put it on Facebook, but the team is very controlling about keeping everything quiet until the season premiere.”

But there certainly was some low-key buzz about filming when it began earlier this year. Part of the challenge was the bets that the brothers make between themselves, where the loser of each episode does whatever the winner dreams up. For the Galveston episode that opened season five, Drew won and Jonathan had to ride the scary Cyclone at the Pleasure Pier. Over and over and over.

There was also a less public Galveston outing for Drew and his fiancée, Linda Phan, who are fans of ghost tours. “Someone here saw a tweet Drew posted saying he and Linda were bored on a ghost tour,” Bowers says. “And they told him that his Realtor in Galveston gave ghost tours.”

So Bowers obliged and took the couple on a tour of haunted homes in the historic Silk

Stocking District, including the famous Broadway and Ashton Villa mansions. He even took them to the haunted mansion that infamous suspected murderer Robert Durst tried to purchase while he was in prison. Apparently the couple wasn’t bored.

As for the West End canal homes that the brothers renovated and fully furnished, they were put on the market March 21 after filming had finished. Bowers says both sold within five days.

As wildly popular as the brothers’ TV shows are, Galveston could see a real-estate bump from season five of *Brother vs. Brother*. “In the first episode, they must have said how reasonable the prices in Galveston were at least six or seven times,” Bowers says. He definitely thinks the market will see a bump because of this exposure.

All in all, he says it was a wonderful experience and he thinks the twins are amazing work-oriented, fun guys.

So what was the funniest thing that happened during their time in Galveston?

“Oh, I can’t tell you that!” Bowers laughs.

Marene Gustin is a regular contributor to *OUTSMART* magazine.



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East Side Story

Gay couple converts century-old EaDo building into community theater.

By Donalevan Maines

In the Broadway musical *Sweet Charity*, a New York City sex worker hits pay-dirt with a famous Italian film star and sings about how her friends “would never believe it” if they could see her “eating fancy chow and drinking fancy wine.”

Likewise (and a little closer to home), was there ever any doubt in Friendswood that favorite son Luke Hamilton would enjoy a successful stage career? “I’ve always liked pleasing the audience,” says Hamilton, recalling how, at age five, he took a bow after scoring a goal in soccer.

Just 20 years later, New York City might have the musical *Hamilton*, but Houston has Luke Hamilton, a 2011 graduate of Clear Brook High School who is the executive director of a new theater, EaDo Playhouse, where he’s choreographing their August 11–20 production of *Sweet Charity*.

His other half, Colton Berry, is directing the show, which will follow EaDo’s production of *Reefer Madness* that plays through July 16.

EaDo Playhouse is at 2619 McKinney St. in a century-old building that has housed a scrap-metal firm, catering company, car shop, and other businesses. Last fall, Hamilton and Berry transformed the space into a theater with a thrust stage that places the audience on three sides of the playing area. “We repainted, repurposed, and renovated it,” says Hamilton.

They debuted the space in December with a production of the 1998 off-Broadway musical *A New Brain*, which was followed by *Spring Awakening*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, and *Little Shop of Horrors*, as well as the drama *A Few Good Men*.

“All we did was unlock the doors for a group to come in and do *A Few Good Men*,” explains Hamilton, “and we helped create a design of the space to transition it from a proscenium staging.”



Partners and Playmates

Luke Hamilton (l) and Colton Berry bring the 1960s Broadway musical *Sweet Charity* to the EaDo Playhouse, which occupies an industrial building they renovated at 2619 McKinney Street, in July.

The *Few Good Men* production, which donated some ticket sales to a military veterans’ group, caught the attention of Mayor Sylvester Turner and won the playhouse a proclamation from the City of Houston.

The accolade followed some backlash from last year’s sudden dissolution of a nonprofit theater group run by Berry, who cited deep financial troubles. In its last season, the group performed a number of shows at The Kaleidoscope in downtown Houston.

Hamilton shakes off that dustup. “I was still in college at Texas State University when [Berry’s] theater formed, and I came into it through many changes in the staff and management,” he says. “It was a very sticky situation, but I have been very transparent and clear with everyone that this is a volunteer, nonprofit organization. We are attracting a lot of college students and others who want to create art because of their love for the theater.

“Colton and I work very well together,” he adds. “We are loving getting to work on *Sweet Charity*, which was originally directed and choreographed by the legendary Bob Fosse. It starred his muse, Gwen Verdon, and was crafted by such a powerhouse team of creators—composer Cy Coleman, lyricist Dorothy Fields, and book writer Neil Simon.”

That 1966 stage show was based on Federico Fellini’s 1957 film *Nights of Cabiria*, and became the basis of a 1969 movie musical that starred Shirley MacLaine. Its score features the songs “Big Spender,” “If My Friends Could See Me Now,” “The Rhythm of Life,” and “I’m a Brass Band.”

Hamilton grew up in Friendswood, where he won two Tommy Tune Award nominations for choreographing his high-school productions of *Into the Woods* and *The Music Man*, along with a nod for best leading actor as Professor Harold Hill in *The Music Man*. He also won best-actor trophies as Otto Frank, Anne’s father, in *The Diary of Anne Frank* in the University Interscholastic League’s one-act play competition.

Most recently, he portrayed Tom Sawyer in a reading at the Alley Theatre of Kenneth Lin’s new adaptation of Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. He also assisted director Gregory Boyd with *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at the Alley, and helped renowned choreographer Dana Lewis with a Theatre Under the Stars production of *Oliver!* in which Berry played Noah Claypole.

Don Maines is a regular contributor to *OUTSMART* magazine.

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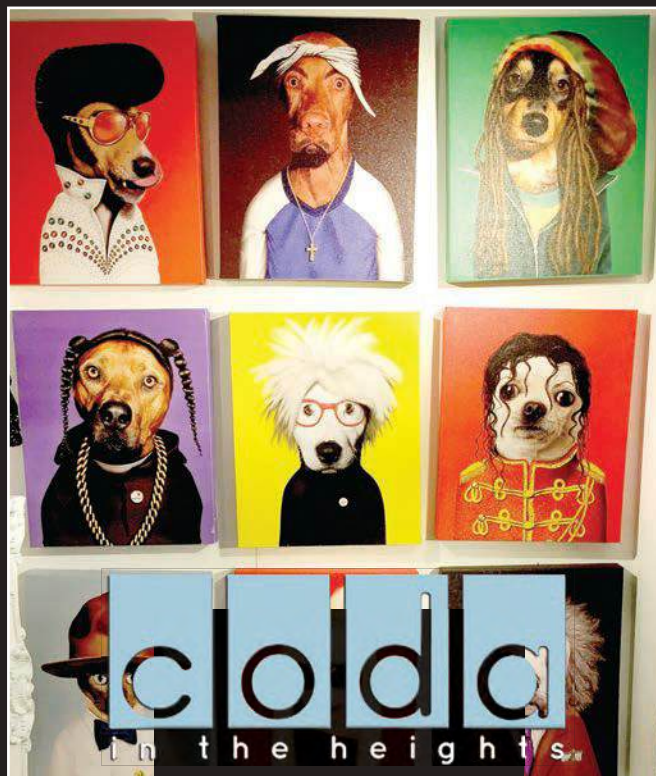
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The Art of Healing

Gay Houston artist Ben Workman, aka Jumper Maybach, tells his story in new documentary.

By Karen Derr

With his smiling face and his long, thick blond ponytail, artist Jumper Maybach has become a recognizable Houston celebrity at art and social events, at Pride, and in ads for his art gallery on 19th Street in the Houston Heights.

Now the story of Maybach's emergence on the Houston art scene is told in an 85-minute documentary that will get a special screening at Numbers on July 29, with proceeds benefiting the Montrose Center.

The Jumper Maybach Story is directed by wildlife-documentary veteran Alan De Herrera, who initially passed on the project, thinking the film might be better served by a director in the LGBTQ community. De Herrera had most recently directed a documentary narrated by Edward James Olmos about the struggle of seals in the wild and the hardships they endure. Herrera says he finally took on the project because of its focus on the struggles of a tormented gay man in conservative Texas. "I quickly realized it was more a story about survival; fighting for the right to simply be who you are without the fear of retribution or alienation," De Herrera says. "In that context, Ben's story was no different than the story of my seals and the struggles they endure." He adds that he hopes the film will continue the conversation about equal rights.



Put on a Happy Face

Ben Workman created his clown persona, Jumper Maybach (inset), to cope with the trauma of being outed and bullied at work.

Maybach, the alter ego of Ben Workman, began painting as a response to the discrimination he experienced after being outed and bullied at his work as an administrator for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. "The film has really helped me bloom as an individual, and it's been a healing process for me," Workman says. "I hope I can give people who have been bullied at work the strength to come forward and fight for their rights."

While at the VA, he was embroiled in two separate harassment and discrimination lawsuits. He prevailed in both cases, but because he still had to work with his tormentors on a daily basis, his life became unbearable. Kneeling in his living room, praying for guidance and help in his desperation, he was immediately and mysteriously compelled to paint. Even though he had never painted before, he rushed out to buy supplies and began painting works of art on canvas.

The persona of Jumper the clown was born out of a childhood interest in clown face that

his grandfather also donned from time to time. And in clown face, Jumper Maybach could do things Ben Workman could not do in his state of despair. The film's executive producer is Workman's life partner, David Sanford, an oncology doctor. "I think everyone knows about bullying, but they really don't understand the damage it does," Sanford says. "And I think Ben, as courageous as he is in telling his life story—our life story—opens that up for examination."

The film features appearances by Rev. Helen Havens, an activist who was the first female priest in the Episcopal Diocese of Texas; attorney Mary Sinderson, who represented Workman in his discrimination lawsuits; and Georgia Coffey from the VA's diversity office.

"Ben was being sexually harassed by a female," Sinderson says. "I thought it was a really good example of irrational and malicious bullying."

In addition to workplace bullying, the film sheds light on the difference between law →

THE ART OF HEALING

continued from previous page

and mere policy, which forced Workman to remain in a work environment alongside his harassers. Also appearing in the film is actor and artist Pepe Serna, who has appeared in many supporting roles, probably most notably as Tony Montana's friend Angel in *Scarface*. Besides appearing in the film, Serna helped produce it.

While *The Jumper Maybach Story* is a tale of triumph for Ben Workman and Sanford, Maybach's art has a starring role, too. Vibrant and rich, his brightly colored abstracts light up the screen. Behind-the-scenes footage of Maybach painting at his studio shows his intensity as an artist and a process that is at once an act of release and a creation of beauty. That process results in joyful works of art that have been shown and collected around the world.

The Jumper Maybach Story was an official selection for the 2016 Awareness Film Festival that spotlights filmmakers committed to making positive change. It was also selected for the 2016 San Antonio QFest and the 2017 Depth of Field International Film Festival. The film is an Impact Docs award-winner, and it was also awarded the 2016 NiFF Houston International Film Festival's prize for Best LGBTQ Film.

Karen Derr is a frequent contributor to OUTSMART magazine.

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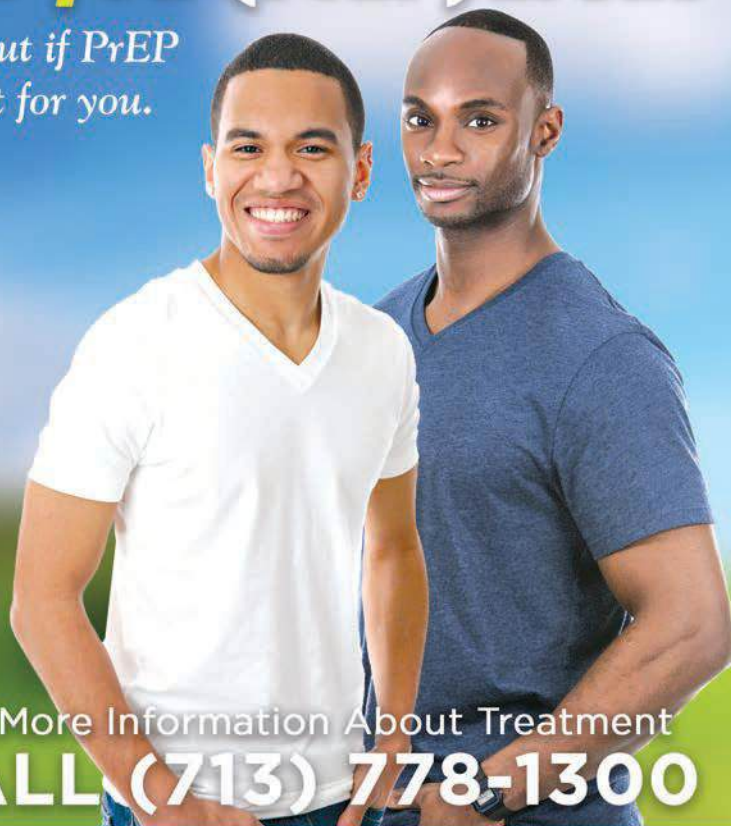
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Serial Offender

John Waters on 'Serial Mom,' the Trumps, and 'Making Trouble.'

By Lawrence Ferber

It's been a prolific springtime for John Waters. Although it's been about 13 years since the Baltimore-born, openly gay cult-movie icon unleashed a new feature film, Waters' 1994 classic *Serial Mom*—about a suburban housewife (Kathleen Turner) who murders people that offend her sensibilities—recently received a spiffy, extras-loaded Blu-ray release from Shout! Factory. In April, he popped up on FX's *Feud*, playing one of his own personal icons, B-movie showman maestro William Castle, opposite Jessica Lange's Joan Crawford. That same month, Algonquin Books released *Make Trouble*, a compact, illustrated tome based on a commencement speech Waters delivered at the Rhode Island School of Design.

Still saucy and razor-sharp witty at 71, Waters discussed his recent projects, the Trumps, his reluctance to crowd-fund a new movie, and more via telephone.

Lawrence Ferber: What makes *Serial Mom* timely today, John?

John Waters: It's up to others to say if it's special or not, but [I think it's] the very fact it keeps playing and gets a new, young audience that wasn't even born when I made it. When it came out, people thought it was [based on something] true. Maybe because [of the line] "Serial mom refused to cooperate with the making of this film," people thought it possibly was real. With the news today, it could have been true. Isn't a serial mom just one step after a trigger warning?

Can you see Melania Trump as a serial mom?

No. I see [her] more as a "Night of the Living Fashion Model Dead," or a drag queen from beyond the grave, doing all the other first ladies and trying to exploit their products, like Jackie O sunglasses. That I could imagine.

Kathleen Turner played the Catholic mother of a lesbian in the 2011 movie *The Perfect Family*, and the mother of a lesbian who becomes a transgender man in the 2015 play she also directed, *Would You Still Love Me If . . .*. What sort of role would you love to see her play today in one of your projects?

Well, she always plays strong women. She even played a transgender woman on the TV show *Friends*. I think she could play any part. She's such a major actress, especially on stage. I've seen a lot of the stuff she's done over the past 10 years on stage. I don't know [if she would fit in] the last movie I wrote. *Fruitcake* was mostly starring children, and I think that would be



pushing it, playing an 8-year-old. But she could probably pull it off!

You say in the *Serial Mom* DVD extras that you could see it rebooted as a TV series. It could be like *Dexter*.

Nowadays on TV, every single channel has true-crime [programming]. Even the ones that used to be classy now scrape the bottom of the barrel by doing Patty Hearst or [Charles] Manson over and over without one single new bit of information. Why not? *Serial Mom* parodied that before it even happened.

One of *Serial Mom*'s funniest running gags is when Turner's character tortures



Making Trouble

John Waters (seen here at the 2013 Independent Spirit Awards) thinks that with today's news, *Serial Mom* could be a true story. *Inset:* Kathleen Turner lurks in the closet in *Serial Mom*.

Mink Stole's character with a series of prank calls. Is there anyone you would like to prank call?

I wouldn't call them for a prank. I hate prank calls. I'm not sitting around thinking about making prank calls. But I guess I'd call →

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SERIAL OFFENDER

continued from previous page

Eminem, because I want to meet him and I know he doesn't want to meet me.

Some of your older films are getting re-released in new editions, like Criterion's *Female Trouble*. How about *Desperate Living*?

No, *Desperate Living* hasn't gotten it yet. That one did the worst when it came out, too, and it's the only one of my movies where I didn't get a TV deal from it. A lesbian fairy tale about mental anguish—it seemed like a hit to me.

America under Trump is a bit like *Mortville*. We're almost at the point of *Backwards Day*, and people being injected with rabies.

Have you seen that online picture of Queen Carlotta with Trump's face? Someone sent it to me the other day.

You got to play your idol William Castle in *Feud*. How was that experience, and how did it come about?

I had to keep it secret because Ryan Murphy said we couldn't tell, so I was amazed none of the extras talked, because that was filmed months ago. They just asked me. At first I said, "Well, I don't look like William Castle, and I'm not going to wear a fat suit." They said, "No, we just like it conceptually," because I had written and talked about Castle for years. So it was great fun to do it. I had never met Jessica Lange before, and I said to her, "I'm still scared of you from *Frances*," which I was, kind of. She was great, and really nice to spend the day with, but she was dressed as Joan Crawford. I hate when people say, "It was surreal." It's the most overused adjective, but this really was surreal because she's not a method actress. She didn't sit around drinking Pepsi all day, but she was lovely and funny—and looked like Joan Crawford. My William Castle costume wasn't that far off from how I usually look, so it was bizarre. But it was a lovely day—I'm glad Ryan included me.

Did you egg Jessica on to say, "Barbara, please!"?

No. The weird thing about *Feud* is, Joan wasn't that humiliated to work with William Castle in real life, because she went back and made another movie with him called *I Saw What You Did* way later. Her last movie, *Trog*, I'm glad they put that in. Last year I had a big retrospective at the British Film Institute [BFI] where I got to pick my favorite British films, and I picked *Trog*. The guy who ran the BFI actually found the actor who played *Trog* in a retirement community. He came on stage and he looked like David Lochary at 80. He had gold teeth, bleached hair, and he was so great, and

continued on page 83

Redemption Song

Leo Laredo, who left the Christian-music industry after coming out, is crowned Pride Superstar.

By Donalevan Maines

Leo Laredo is no longer just “one of the boys.” Suddenly, he’s Houston’s 2017 Pride Superstar, and he’s feeling good after several years of “deep, deep depression.”

Laredo sang a self-penned tune, “One of the Boys,” as well as Michael Bublé’s 2005 version of “Feeling Good,” in the finals of the annual *American Idol*-style competition on June 22 at Rich’s.

The victory was a return to glory for the award-winning former Christian-music artist, who left the industry rather than continuing to hide his sexual orientation from his fans. “I came out officially in 2010,” says Laredo, who grew tired of sidestepping press questions about his personal life. “I pulled my album off the shelves because I decided, ‘I can’t live a lie. I won’t pretend to be something that I’m not.’”

The 1996 graduate of Katy High School, whose full name is Emilio Laredo, grew up singing in church as the son of a pastor. His mother, the late Molly Laredo, was a sought-after Christian vocalist who Laredo describes as “the Mexican Sandi Patti.”

However, Laredo says his heart belongs in musical theater, where he hopes to debut a one-man show he’s written, called *Becoming Leo*. “Soon,” he says. “Maybe as early as this fall.”

In “One of the Boys,” a song from *Becoming Leo*, Laredo explains to his parents how playing sports, throwing punches, and picking fights is not his style. He sings:

*Knowing that I’m a li’l different
Shouldn’t frighten you at all.
Knowing that I’m a li’l different
Should make you stand and cheer
And say, “Ready, world, he’s here!”*

Laredo adds:

*Superman’s cape has never been my size;
I’m Super Queen!*



‘Super Queen’

Leo Laredo donned a floor-length, rainbow-colored cape in the Pride Superstar finals and sang his “One of the Boys,” which includes the lyric: “Superman’s cape has never been my size; I’m Super Queen!”

Laredo unveiled a floor-length, rainbow-colored cape when he performed his second entry at the finals of Pride Superstar. “I also had an aerialist on a wire, who stripped down to his rainbow skivvies.”

Some OUTSMART readers might know the song “Feeling Good” from a recording popularized by Nina Simone, but it was composed by Anthony Newley and Leslie Bricusse for the 1965 Broadway musical *The Roar of the Greasepaint—The Smell of the Crowd*.

“I sing it several times every day,” says Lar-

edo, explaining how the song helped brighten his mood during a dark time in his life.

Fleeing the Christian-music industry, the singer moved to Austin, but returned to Houston in July 2012 to care for his dying mother. “I was her caregiver; I was her ‘little sonny boy,’” he says. “I spent four-and-a-half months at her hospital bed, but otherwise I was homeless, because none of my family would let me live with them. They didn’t support my ‘lifestyle,’ a word which I hate, because going to work, coming home, and cuddling with my dogs—that’s →

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REDEMPTION SONG

continued from previous page

my 'lifestyle.'"

Following his mother's death in November 2012, Laredo says, "I went into a deep, deep depression." Part of "crawling out of that cave," he says, involved entering the 2013 Pride Superstar competition, where he placed third.

"My mother's dream for me was to be a recording artist; my dad's dream for me was to be an opera singer. And I've done both," he says. "With my music, I love lifting people's spirits."

The day after winning this year's Pride Superstar, Laredo was back at the Walgreens



Flying High

After finishing third in the Pride Superstar competition in 2013, Laredo came out on top this year. His performance included an aerialist on a wire who stripped down to his rainbow-colored underwear.

store on Bellaire Blvd. at Rice Ave., where he works as a makeup artist and beauty consultant.

"I can slay a face and beat a mug," he says. "I think of myself as 'the glam bear.'"

Donalevan Maines is a regular contributor to *OutSmart* magazine.

The Rainbow Lodge's Secret Recipe

Unique LGBT-owned restaurant marks 40 years in a challenging industry.

By Kim Hogstrom

Why does everyone think they should own a restaurant? Most people would have about as much success opening a VCR repair shop in 2017—and we all know how that would go.

Consider a recent study from restaurant-industry experts Perry Group International, which concluded that 75 percent of new American restaurants close in their first year. Seventy percent of those that make it through year one close within the next five years. Ninety percent of the establishments still operating past the five-year mark will remain in business for five more—maybe.

Despite these challenges, one LGBTQ-owned fixture in Houston celebrates its 40th anniversary this month. The Rainbow Lodge is a one-of-a-kind eatery on Ella Boulevard at East T.C. Jester in Oak Forest.

Restaurants that survive require creative thinking, sensitivity to seasons and trends, and stable decision-makers in management. Rainbow Lodge has all these, starting with the 15-year partnership of married couple Donnette Hansen and Sheila Shell.

"I think there's an intangible element in the recipe, too," Hansen says. "It's hard to describe. I think there has to be a little magic in it all."

Hansen spends more time in "the front of the house," but Shell is no less involved. She designs the ever-changing décor and is in charge of operations. Restaurant administration is often overlooked, but experts agree that it's as critical to success as good food and service.

While most restaurants are rife with debilitating staff turnover, many Rainbow Lodge employees have been a part of the team for years, if not decades. This fact speaks volumes.

"We are so blessed to have them," Hansen says. "It's absolutely a team effort here. And we simply couldn't do any of this without our friends, chef Mark Schmidt and general manager Tim Neely. We are fortunate to be sur-



Rustic Retreat
The Rainbow Lodge, situated in a 113-year-old cabin overlooking White Oak Bayou, is owned by Sheila Shell, below left, and Donnette Hansen, who were married in 2014.

rounded by so much dedicated talent."

If you think this handsome couple doesn't look old enough to be celebrating 40 years in business, you'd be correct. The Rainbow Lodge was opened in 1977 by Hansen's uncle in an awkward multi-level building on Birdsall Street in Washington Heights. In 1988, after earning a culinary degree in New York City, Donnette Hansen acquired the business.

In 2006, just as the lease on the Birdsall property came up for renewal, a rustic cabin on Ella Boulevard hit the market. Hansen leapt at the chance to buy that 113-year-old cabin with views that now transport Rainbow Lodge patrons to the feet of Mother Nature. White Oak Bayou drifts gently past its large windows. Graceful trees and natural gardens surround the space, while local wildlife entertains.

Rainbow Lodge specializes in seafood, seasonal and locally sourced produce, and regional wild game, all served with the same quality and attention to detail found in four-star restaurants, but at a better value. A *Texas Monthly* restaurant reviewer once wrote: "Just throw a dart at the menu to find something divine. You will."

During a recent lunch, we dined on a salad of whipped ricotta, homegrown heirloom tomatoes, and melon infused with honey from beehives in the lodge's garden. Our salad was followed by a batter-dipped fried quail thigh nesting in creamy white cheddar grits and finished with a bourbon-bacon cream sauce. If heaven had a flavor, this would be it.

"I love Donnette and Sheila. They are amazing," says longtime customer and friend

Terry Pierce.

Pierce and her husband attended Hansen and Shell's wedding in Napa, California, in 2014. Pierce is still swooning at the beauty of the event. "It was a magical ceremony and a tremendously happy day. My husband and I would not have chosen to be anywhere else on Earth; it was a joy to witness such a union," Pierce says.

"They each bring so much to the restaurant," she adds. "Most people don't know that Donnette is an outstanding chef with a professional culinary degree. It's rare to find creativity in keen business minds, but both Donnette and Sheila have it. It has resulted in many loyal customers."

Kim Hogstrom is a regular contributor to OUTSMART magazine.



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Peculiar Patties

A look at Houston's most creative burgers.

By Joanna O'Leary

Though best known for Tex-Mex, bar-beque, and (more recently) damn-good Vietnamese food, Houston could be a contender for Burger Capital of Texas for its overwhelming diversity.

We have everything from cheapie-but-goodie old-school burgers (that should be consumed belly-up to the bar with a beer, or even in your car) to expense-account-worthy patties laden with haute accoutrements—and plenty that falls somewhere in between. Here are our picks for unique burgers that stand out from other garden-variety options.

Frequently honored for serving Houston's "best" burgers, **Hubcap Grill** makes a mean standard burger (lettuce, tomato, cheese) and is also home to a don't-knock-it-until-you-try-it creation known as the "Stinky Monkey." With grilled bananas, a thick schmear of crunchy peanut butter, crisp bacon, and American cheese layered atop a beef patty, the Stinky Monkey boasts a unique confluence of sweet and salty flavors, as well as smooth and crunchy textures.

So popular were the burgers at **Bernie's Burger Bus** that its owners gave up the bus in favor of selling their wares (all with cute academic-themed monikers) in two brick-and-mortar locations. If you're crazy for capsaicin relish, try the "Fire Drill" burger dressed with pepper-jack cheese, spicy guacamole, piquant salsa verde, chipotle aioli, tortilla chips, and slow-roasted garlic tomatoes. A dusting of shredded lettuce only slightly cuts the spice, so pair with a milk-



Q **Queer Quarter-Pounders**
Kenny and Ziggy's "Zigalicious" (l) features a large pile of pastrami, while the "Fire Drill" burger from Bernie's Burger Bus (below) is dressed with tortilla chips.

shake for some reprieve from the heat.

Though better known for their massive deli sandwiches, matzo-ball soup, and chopped liver, **Kenny & Ziggy's** also lays claim to having spawned the "Zigalicious." In this beautiful love-child of a New York deli and a burger joint, a fluffy challah bun just barely contains a massive mound of medium-rare beef paired with an equally large pile of pastrami, all of which is crowned with melted Swiss cheese, Russian dressing, and coleslaw. It goes without saying you will need two hands (and maybe even two stomachs) to successfully tackle the "Zigalicious."

Should you find yourself, ahem, a bit worse for the wear after an evening of revelry, head to **Downhouse** for their eye-opening and tongue-tingling Kimchi burger stacked with

cabot cheddar, a sunny-side-up egg, herbal mayonnaise, bulgogi sauce, and—natch—house-made kimchi. The Kimchi burger tastes even better, by the way, when you don't have a hangover, so cheers to moderation—except when it comes to this burger, so go ahead

and request that duck egg for an extra \$2.

By vending a number of different "burger blends," **Killen's Burgers** in Pearland lets you have it your way (and right away) with regards to the patty proper. For a few extra dollars, indulge in the "Pork Belly Chuck" (an unctuous amalgam of pork belly, Nueske bacon, dry-aged brisket, and chuck) or the rich "Akaushi" with Texas-raised Wagyu beef.

At some point, Mary's little lamb apparently followed her to **Petrol Station** and met its untimely end, for this Houston institution (well known for its brews and burgers) offers "Mary's Lamb," a delicious half-and-half blend of gamey ground lamb and angus beef bedecked with feta cheese, cucumber, lettuce, chopped red onion, and a tangy yogurt dressing.

Finally, if you really want to fly your freak flag when it comes to burgers, brave the Galleria traffic and go to the underappreciated **Burger Palace**. The strong tropical and botanical notes of their whimsical "Down Under" burger, with grilled pineapple, Swiss cheese, and roasted beets, contrast wonderfully with the buttery bovine flesh and fried-egg garnish, while the "Margherita" marries pizza and burger via a combination of Kobe beef with a backdrop of buffalo mozzarella, pesto, and marinara sauce.

Joanna O'Leary is a regular contributor to *OUTSMART* magazine.



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AMERICA'S TOP GAY COP

continued from page 35

show, through their vote on a statewide basis, that that's not the kind of government we want. But right now, that's the government we've elected.

That, to me, is a perfect example of our current State leadership being blind to the needs of average Texans and focusing on an ideological red herring. Because nobody's complained to the district attorney's office about crimes against anyone in bathrooms, and if they did, we would prosecute them as ordinary crimes. But this is a manufactured issue that's intentionally divisive.

You recently said that being elected district attorney is only your second-biggest accomplishment. You said raising your son with Olivia is the biggest. How did that come about?

Olivia and I talked about having a family [for our first 15 years together], and we finally made a decision. I was 39 and she was 41, and time was running out, and even though gay people weren't really having children on a wholesale basis yet, we decided to do it. The process [back then] was much more stringent. The artificial-insemination doctors had us in and interviewed us. And then Olivia got pregnant on the first try. So we talked about it for 15 years, and she was pregnant in like two weeks. It was zero to 60. It was a shock-introduction to parenthood, and then our son was almost three

months premature. So we had this long period of discussion, a very short gestation period, and boom, welcome to parenthood. It was a lot like this job—I really wanted it for a long, long time, and I talked about it and I thought about it, and I had planning committees about it, and then the opportunity arose, and I jumped on the train that I'd been running next to all those years.

Did you do a second-parent adoption?

I wasn't able to adopt Jack until he was 12. That's because our judges in the Harris County courts, for the most part, don't do gay adoptions, even still. They're almost all Republican. I knew better than to even try. Six years ago, I chose to go to Bexar County because that was the legal advice that I got. I hired lawyers in Houston who went to Bexar County. I'm still not recorded by the Bureau of Vital Statistics as Jack's other parent. [But] we started being open and out before the birth of our son. We didn't want him to face a double standard of us not being truthful in the world about us as a family, so we have been open and out since 1999. In the courthouse setting, from 1987 until that time, people knew we were gay—it was more of a "don't ask, don't tell" atmosphere. It just wasn't openly discussed, but before we had Jack, we were openly talking about being gay, because Olivia was pregnant and we were all down there at the courthouse.

Do you think you helped advance LGBTQ equality just by being out? →



Making Her Case

Ogg, shown alongside Mayor Sylvester Turner at her inauguration, was elected as part of the Democratic wave that swept Harris County in November. She says the best way to fight back against GOP state leaders and President Donald Trump is to implement progressive policies that will make the city safer.

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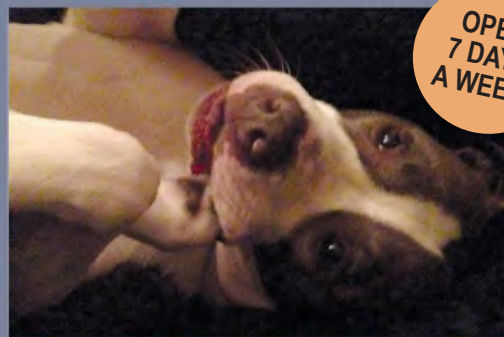
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AMERICA'S TOP GAY COP

continued from page 69

While we weren't gay activists, some of us were just credible professionals who people knew were gay, and I think that's what has helped reduce discrimination, because everybody knew somebody who was gay. We were part of the movement, but we were not Annise Parker [former Houston mayor and longtime LGBTQ activist]. We were not the brave ones, but we were doing our part in the professional sense. Because the only pictures [of gay people] that the rest of the world had in their minds were from the gay-pride parades (which is not daily or normal life for anyone, including gay people), there just wasn't a good comparative. People had to look to their own circle of friends or professionals to make a decision about whether they were going to accept us or not—openly in society. It's probably the biggest change in the world that's happened in my lifetime.

Speaking of big changes, we also have a new president. How do you view your role in "the Resistance" to Trump?

Harris County is a blue island in a red state in a red country right now. If we were in a movie, we would be the humans, and the federal government would be the machines.

I think I can make Houston safer than other cities, and I think that if I do that as a Democratic elected official, that will be a piece of evidence that's hard to argue with. That's the evidence we can hold up and say, "See, Democratic governance works. It worked better than the other guys, Brand X, and we were transparent about the whole thing."

I think this message of division and hate is very destructive in terms of public safety. It's sending out a message that some people are not worthy of protection, and so don't bother calling, because we're just going to arrest you. I think that's the message [Trump is] sending, especially to [our country's] international communities. I think those communities are turning to us for answers, and Harris County's law-enforcement community is saying, "We'll protect you. We will treat you equally. We will not actively try to participate in trying to arrest and deport you for immigration crimes." And that stance is pro-American, it is pro-public safety, and it is anti-Trump.

Do you have aspirations of running for higher office, such as for Texas attorney general?

No, I could only imagine myself spending all my life in this role. So getting used to it—understanding what the DA is, and how 700 people make up the new me—is challenging enough right now. So I would tell you I have no further aspirations for running [for higher office], not at this time and probably ever. But I have learned enough in life not to ever say never. ■

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Love at First Scent

Desiree Lopez and Victoria Flores settled on 'The One'—in more ways than one—at a Dillard's perfume counter.



A 'Family' Affair
Victoria Flores (l) and Desiree Lopez were married in Oahu alongside their "family"—friends they consider family—who flew to Hawaii wearing T-shirts saying, "Two Brides Are Better Than One."

By Henry V. Thiel

Desiree Lopez and Victoria Flores were formally introduced in 2012 by their mutual friend, Britney Hurta, at Dillard's.

"Desi," as Flores prefers to call Lopez, is a 31-year-old inventory coordinator at a plastics plant. Flores, also 31, works as a phlebotomist for a family doctor.

In 2012, Flores was working at Dillard's as a fragrance specialist while attending college. Lopez knew she had to find a way to get to know Flores better, so she went back to the store a few days later. While looking around, she heard Flores call out, "Desiree Lopez, don't you dare walk into my store and not come give me a hug."

While they chatted, Flores helped Lopez find a new perfume—Dolce & Gabbana's The One. "Only I hated the smell," Lopez recalls, laughing. "But she liked it on me, and that was all that mattered."

Lopez didn't just buy a bottle; she bought the whole set. Before she left with her purchase, they added each other as friends on

Facebook and exchanged phone numbers. "I'll always remember the text message she sent me: 'I like your hugs. They make me smile,'" Lopez says.

They started dating, and soon discovered they both wanted the same things: to fall in love, get married, have a family, and be happy. "Yet we were both pretty jaded," Lopez says. "We both honestly thought that neither of us

"We were both pretty jaded. We both honestly thought that neither of us would ever get married and settle down."

would ever get married and settle down."

So they decided to spend as much time together as possible. Based in Angleton, they took weekend trips to Austin, Galveston, San Antonio, and Houston—anywhere they could enjoy some "alone time" together. One of their favorite getaways was Surfside Beach.

"Every second with her was amazing, and

every second away from her all I could do was think about her and wanting to be with her," Lopez says.

On July 5, 2013, Lopez asked Flores to be her girlfriend. It was late at night, and they were getting ready for bed. "I told Victoria that I was falling in love with her and that I wanted her to be with me and only me," Lopez says. "I told her that I also wanted to take things to the next level, for her to move in with me, and to take a chance on love. She kissed me, and then, for the first time, told me that she loved me, too.

"Victoria later shared with me that before I asked her to be my girlfriend, she would often kiss me while I was sleeping and would whisper in my ear that she was in love with me," she adds.

The couple dated for one year and five months before Lopez finally proposed. It was on December 13, 2014 (12-13-14) while they were staying at The Retreat at Artesian Lakes in Cleveland, Texas. They were in the middle of nowhere, nestled in a cabin in the →

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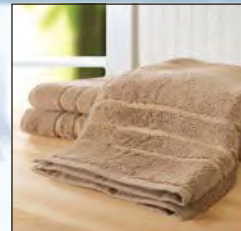


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WEDDING GUIDE

continued from previous page

woods—the same place where they'd spent their first Valentine's Day.

"But the day she asked me to marry her was the greatest," Flores says. "There was sunshine and birds, and a trail of rose petals."

Originally, the couple wanted to marry at Niagara Falls, but they eventually decided on Oahu, Hawaii. They picked a Tuesday—September 20, 2016—so the beach wouldn't be crowded.

"One thing we did during the ceremony, which was unique, was the 'first glance,'" Lopez recalls. "I had not seen Victoria at all on our wedding day. Instead of walking down the aisle, I stood in the middle of a ballroom, facing the beach, as she came into the room. I was holding my breath when a friend told me to turn around. That was when I saw my bride. She was the most beautiful bride I have ever seen. Together, we walked to the waiting limousine and rode to the ceremony on Makapuu Beach, where we walked down the aisle together as two brides."

During the ceremony, they both recited their own vows and then had a traditional Hawaiian sand ceremony, where they poured beach sand into each other's hands and mixed it together to show that they were now one—and just like the sand, could never be separated.

Two companies helped Lopez with all the details—Weddings of Hawaii, and Unforgettable Honeymoons. She said both were very LGBT-friendly and understood their hopes, wishes, and dreams.

"What made the day perfect for us was that we got to spend it with what we call 'family,'" Flores says. These friends that they also consider family flew with them to Hawaii on the same flight, wearing matching T-shirts that said "Two Brides Are Better Than One #flopezwedding 9/20/16."

After the ceremony, the brides spent the week with their wedding party on Waikiki Beach at the Hyatt Regency Resort and Spa. For their honeymoon, they spent a week on the North Shore at the Turtle Bay Resort. "Both hotels were very accommodating to us as a same-sex couple," Flores says. "Even the locals were friendly and open to us, and a waitress from the Hyatt even gave us information about gay bars in the area."

Flores and Lopez live in Angleton, where they just bought their first home. They're looking forward to expanding their family through adoption.

Henry V. Thiel is a frequent contributor to OUTSMART magazine. He loves Surfside Beach.



Putting a Ring on It

Following a flash-mob proposal in Las Vegas, John Barron-Ethridge (l) and Jason Barron-Ethridge were married on Maui's White Rock Beach in September.

Not Just Puppy Love

After meeting at a pet store, Jason and John Barron-Ethridge went from the closet to a flash-mob marriage proposal.

By Henry V. Thiel

Jason Barron met John Ethridge several years ago when he stopped at a mom-and-pop pet store to buy food and treats for his two Labrador retrievers.

Jason Barron-Ethridge is a Sugar Land firefighter and John Barron-Ethridge is a pet-store manager.

"It was love at first sight for both of us," Jason says.

Despite the setting, it wasn't just puppy love. But there was one major complication. "John and I were both in the closet when we met," Jason says. "I had dated several girls in the past, because I was confused and refused to accept who I was.

"John was the first guy I ever dated," he

adds. "I was John's first as well. John had several girlfriends, but had never actually dated either sex."

Jason says when the couple went out together in public, they agreed that if they saw family members, they would say they were either friends or coworkers. "It was hard being in the closet and dating in public," he says. "Coming out was difficult and stressful for both of us, since it seemed like we were living a lie to our friends and family. Our friends and family, however, were very caring and accepting of us—even though there were a few people who were not pleased with our relationship."

Jason says he knew John was the one after they went on a cruise to Hawaii with his family in 2013. "It was because of John that I came out," Jason says. "I had never planned on coming out. I had to come out so that I could tell everyone who I was taking with me on the family cruise trip, and why. My family treated John as if he was part of the family, even though they barely knew him at the time."

The couple had been dating for a few years

when Jason decided to propose during a trip the couple took to Las Vegas so he could run a half marathon. "John had seen the flash-mob proposal a couple of guys did in a hardware store that he thought was just amazing. So knowing how much joy it brought him, I decided I would propose the same way," Jason says.

Jason found Flash Mob Las Vegas online, and he says the company was excited to have them as its first gay couple. "The first thing they asked me to do was choose a song for them to dance to, a song for me to propose to, and a song for the celebration after he said yes," Jason says. "Typically, people were selecting 'I Want to Marry You' by Bruno Mars, but I wanted to be different."

Because John likes country singer Luke Bryan, Jason chose "Drunk on You" for the flash mob to dance to. He picked Canaan Smith's "Love You Like That" for the proposal, and "Turn Down for What," by DJ Snake and Lil Jon, for the proposal—"because I love going crazy when that song comes on the radio. Plus, I figured everyone would join us in dancing to

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WEDDING GUIDE

continued from previous page

it, which they did, as you can see in the video," John says.

"So, on November 26, 2014, in front of our family and friends, along with everyone on the Vegas strip, I proposed. John was totally shocked, and everything was perfect."

Nearly 60,000 people have watched the proposal on YouTube, which can be found at tinyurl.com/jasonjohnflashmob.

Jason and John were married in Hawaii on September 24, 2016, on Maui's White Rock Beach. James Kirkman was their officiant.

"When we began planning our wedding, gay marriage wasn't legal in Texas. We knew Texas would be one of the last states to approve it, so we began thinking of a place that was important to us," Jason explains.

The couple also knew they wouldn't be able to marry in a Methodist church, since their denomination doesn't allow same-sex weddings.

"So we decided to marry in Maui, where we had been with our whole family back in 2013," he says.

"The most special moment of the ceremony for us was when we passed our rings to our friends and family so they could each hold them and pray over them before we gave them to each other," he adds. "We also wrote our own vows and read them to each other. There wasn't a dry eye on the beach."

The grooms relied on HawaiianIslandWeddings.com to make all the arrangements. "The wedding was perfect," Jason says.

The native Houstonians reside in the home they bought in Spring before they were married.

Henry V. Thiel is a principal with The Epicurean Publicist, a boutique public-relations firm that represents chefs and restaurateurs.

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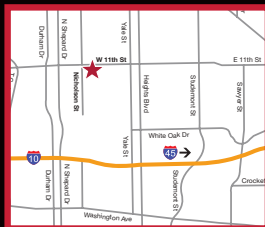


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▼ Maajid Nawaz

(British activist, author, columnist, radio host, and politician)

(*Real Time with Bill Maher*, 6/23/17, HBO)

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Does Maajid Nawaz think you have to be gay to challenge homophobia?



Kevin Hart ▶

(Parade Magazine, 6/4/17, Rebecca Carroll)

Kevin Hart welcomes accountability if his humor occasionally gets him in trouble. "I had one gay joke in my career, and it was about my son at a birthday party, and it was before things got as P.C. as they are now," he says, referring to a bit from his 2010 standup TV special *Seriously Funny*. The media blowback was swift. "I get it," Hart says. "At the end of the day, people are people, attacking is attacking."

Today he feels differently about that "joke" and the language he used to tell it. "[Obviously,] there's nothing wrong with being gay," he says.



Ⓢ A Change of Hart

Does Kevin Hart think it's wrong to be gay?

Vladimir Putin ◀

(The Putin Interviews, 6/13/17, Showtime)

Vladimir Putin: In Russia our society is liberal-minded to a great extent.

Oliver Stone: Is that true in the military as well?

No restriction.

No restriction in the military? I mean, if you're taking a shower with a man in a submarine, and you know he's gay, do they have a problem with that?

Well, I prefer not to go to the shower with him.

[Laughing] Why provoke him? But, you know, I'm a Judo master and a Sambo master as well.

And I can tell you this, that as head of the state today, I believe it's my duty to uphold traditional values and family values. But why? Because same-sex marriages will not produce any children. God has decided, and we have to care about birth rates in our country. We have to reinforce families. But that doesn't mean there should be any persecutions against anyone.

Can I just point out, even in a society where there's some malfunction, there will be many orphans, and some of those orphans could be adopted by same-sex couples.

Yes, that's possible. I cannot say our society welcomes that, and I'm quite frank about that. A child, I believe, will have more freedom once they grow up if they are brought up in a traditional family—they will have a greater choice.

◀ Meredith Monk

(composer, performer, director, vocalist, filmmaker, and choreographer)

(The Gay & Lesbian Review, July-August 2017, John R. Killacky)

John Killacky: Before [Mieke van Hoek, Monk's long-term partner, who died in 2002], you were with both men and women. Has it been complicated to identify as bisexual?

Meredith Monk: There was a time when people in the gay community were suspicious of someone identifying as bi, because there seemed to be a repressive or fearful aspect to it. That was very hard for me, because I've had meaningful relationships with both men and women. The fluidity of bi identity is important for me. As an artist, I want insight into both sides of life.

Ⓢ

Both Sides Now

Are people in the gay community suspicious of Meredith Monk's bisexuality?



Ⓢ Provoking Putin?

Would Vladimir Putin shower with a gay man?



Cover to Cover

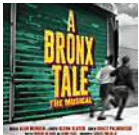
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The *Great Comet* stars Josh Groban in his Broadway debut. This “vibrant, thrillingly imagined new musical” (*The New York Times*) is “stunning and blazingly original” (*Entertainment Weekly*) and brings us inches away from Tolstoy’s young lovers as they light up Moscow in a “heaven-sent fireball” (*The New York Times*) of romance and passion. “One of the decade’s best musicals” (*Time Out New York*), *The Great Comet* has a groundbreaking score that mixes rock, pop, soul, folk, and electronic dance music with classic Broadway. Reprise Records (reprise records.com). —Suzie Lynde

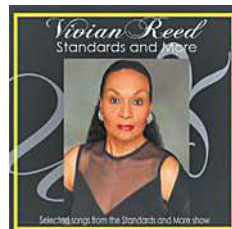
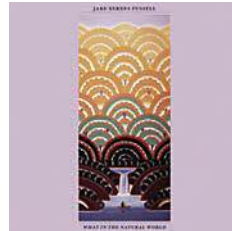
Original Broadway Cast A Bronx Tale



This streetwise musical takes you to the stoops of the Bronx in the 1960s, where a young man is caught between the father he loves and the mob boss he’d love to be. Includes a 40-page, full-color booklet with complete lyrics, production photos, and an essay by the show’s composer Alan Mencken. Ghostlight Records (sh-k-boom.com). —Troy Carrington

There is a lot to love about *What in the Natural World* (Paradise of Bachelors) by **Jake Xerxes Fussell**. To begin with, the artwork on the cover and inside the gatefold CD is by the late artist Roger Brown. The two pieces—“Hunters Hunting an Autumnal Tapestry” and “A Seasonal Change”—are not only lovely to behold, but also complementary to the music within. Fussell drenches the eight songs, ranging from traditionals to obscure covers of tunes by Duke Ellington and others (and even one original), with his Southern syrup voice. Intimate and stripped-down, yet rich and colorful, Fussell’s album gets things started with Ellington’s joyful “Jump for Joy,” in which he asks if we’ve seen “pastures groovy.” More questions follow on the traditional “Have You Ever Seen Peaches Growing on a Sweet Potato Vine?” Fussell sets Welsh poet Idris Davies’ “Bells of Rhymney” to music and brings us to tears on “Furniture Man.” “Billy Button” and “Love Bonnie” are also not to be missed.

The double-disc concert set *Story Songs* (Palmetto) by grand diva **Betty Buckley** may not be her first live album, but it’s probably her most captivating. Described by Stephen Holden of the *New York Times* as “arguably the strongest cabaret of her career,” Buckley recorded two of her cabaret shows for this package. The first disc, recorded in 2016 in Costa Mesa, California, opens with “You’ve Got to Be Taught,” a classic show tune that has never been more relevant, and Jason Robert Brown’s “Cassandra” could be a new feminist anthem. You haven’t lived until you’ve heard Buckley’s rendition of Radiohead’s “High and Dry”—it’s life-changing. Buckley’s interpretive skills have the same impact on songs by Emmylou Harris (“Prayer in Open D”) and Peter Gabriel (“Don’t Give Up”). The second disc, recorded in NYC in 2015, features songs by Joni Mitchell (“Both Sides Now”), Leonard



Cohen (“Bird on a Wire”), Sting (“Practical Arrangement”), and others, as well as stories about Elaine Stritch, Howard DaSilva, and Stephen Bruton.

Grown-up child-star and classical-crossover act **Jackie Evancho** really stepped in it when she agreed to sing the national anthem at Trump’s inauguration. She did so despite having a trans sister, Juliet. Remember, Trump is not and has never been a friend to the LGBTQ community. In the interim, Evancho offered up an array of superficial excuses. She also released a new album, the double-disc *Two Hearts* (Portrait). Evancho gets things rolling with the modern operatic “Caruso,” written by the late gay composer Lucio Dalla, and follows it with Mascagni’s “Attesa.” Evancho continues to straddle the classical and pop worlds with her renditions of Enya’s “May It Be,” the Bergmans/Hamlisch hit “The Way We Were,” and gay singer/songwriter Sam Smith’s “Writing’s on the Wall.” Further proof can be found on the second disc, which features four originals co-written by Evancho, as well as “Apocalypse,” co-written by Jillette Johnson.

We can probably all agree that diva-in-her-own-right **Deborah Cox** (remember “Nobody’s Supposed to Be Here”?), a former label-mate of the late Whitney Houston, deserves better than the lead role in the heinous and tacky UK-bred “musical” version of *The Bodyguard*, right? After all, she could have just recorded a Whitney tribute album, such as her new *I Will Always Love You* (Broadway) disc, and saved herself the humiliation (and potential career devastation). Cox’s reading of “I’m Every Woman” (complete with the “Chaka Khan” calls and giggle) is respectful and respectable. She capably belts out “I Have Nothing” and “I Will Always Love You.” Cox’s take on “I Wanna Dance with Somebody” is passable, but the wrong-headed version of “The Greatest Love of All” is far from the greatest. Those two songs, and a couple of others included here, →

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GROOVEOUT

continued from page 80

were not featured in the movie, but jammed into the musical for some preposterous reason. Cox would be wise to be careful, or we may not always love her.

Over the years, classical musicians have gathered together to record their interpretations of songs by Queen, Bjork, and Joy Division. Christopher O'Riley has recorded outstanding albums of the songs of Radiohead and Elliott Smith. On **Vitamin String Quartet Performs Kanye West** (Vitamin), VSQ applies violin, viola, and cello to a dozen of West's best-known tunes, including "Gold Digger," "Jesus Walks," "New Slaves," "Stronger," "Flashing Lights," and "Touch the Sky."

After more than 40 years, **Vivian Reed** is still probably best known for her Tony-nominated performance in the Broadway musical *Bubbling Brown Sugar*. The title of Reed's new album **Standards and More** (vivianreed.com) tells you all you need to know. Reed has a knack for pairing up songs, as you can hear in her renditions of "My Funny Valentine/In a Sentimental Mood" and "Take the A Train/Sweet Georgia Brown." She also has the ability to make familiar modern show tunes such as "Believe in Yourself" and "Losing My Mind" her own.

Gregg Shapiro is a regular contributor to *OUTSMART* magazine.

SERIAL OFFENDER

continued from page 62

nobody had ever seen what he actually looked like since he was in a monkey suit [in the movie]. He talked about how he was a wrestler, and that's how he got the part. He said, "Joan was very nice, she always sent me Christmas cards." Also, I did the commentary for the British DVD of *Mommie Dearest* last year—and William Castle and *Trog* all came together.

Do you have any thoughts on Feud co-star Susan Sarandon, with her "Bernie Bro" politics and anti-Hillary stance?

Well, I wasn't for Bernie Sanders because I feel even Cuba doesn't want to be socialist anymore, so why should we? But Susan has always been vocally political, so good. I like her politics better than being for Trump. I was a Hillary supporter. I had no problem with Hillary and I'm sorry she didn't win.

Susan hated Hillary! She hated her!

But I bet she doesn't hate her *that* much. I think she would hate Trump more. You can ask her that. She certainly has very strong opinions about politics. These are the people that should vote twice.

In a February interview for *The Guardian*, you said you are averse to crowd-funding

continued on page 89



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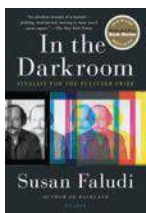




'Death Goes Overboard'

A predictable—but not predictable—noir novel.

In the Darkroom Susan Faludi



The author set out to investigate someone she scarcely knew—her father. When the feminist writer learned that her 76-year-old father had undergone sex reassignment surgery, the investigation turned

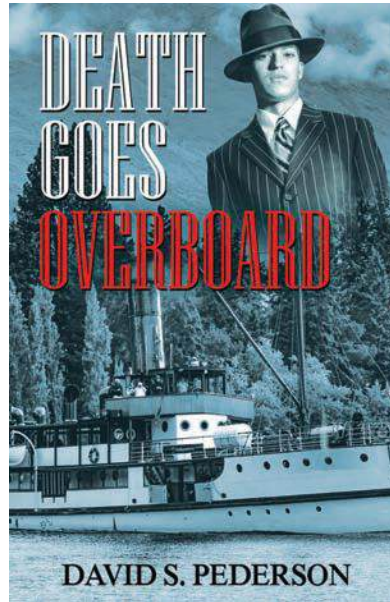
personal and urgent. How was this new parent connected to the the silent, explosive, and violent father she had known? Her struggle to come to grips with her father's reinvented self takes her across borders—historical, political, religious, sexual—to bring her face to face with the question, "Is identity something you 'choose,' or is it the very thing you can't escape?" Now in paperback from Picador (picadorusa.com). —*Suzie Lynde*

The Tower of Antilles Achy Obejas



The Cubans in this collection of stories are haunted by an island: the island they fled, the island they've created, the island they were taken to or forced from, the island they long for, the island they return to, and the

island that can never be home again. One of the ten stories in the book is "Supermán," in which several story lines emerge about a 1950s Havana sex-show superstar who disappeared as soon as the revolution triumphed. Akashic Books (akashicbooks.com). —*Troy Carrington*



Death Goes Overboard

by David S. Pederson
2017
Bold Strokes Books
(boldstrokesbooks.com)
237 pages
\$18.95



Author David S. Pederson

Can you float me a loan? It's a common question if your friends know you're flush with cash. Can I hold a ten for a minute? Can you spot me five? Sure, you probably could, but will it be hard to collect on that debt—or, as in the new noir mystery *Death Goes Overboard* by David S. Pederson, will you be paid back swimmingly?

The weekend was all set. Detective Heath Barrington had everything planned down to the last detail: he and police officer Alan Keyes were heading to a cabin in Northern Wisconsin, just the two of them, under the guise of a "fishing trip." It was 1947, after all, and discretion was absolutely necessary for two professional gay men. But the getaway would be a great chance to see where their new relationship was going.

Still, despite their caution, rumors could come from anywhere, which was why Barrington was worried when his boss called him in early one day. Fortunately, the chief didn't want to quiz Barrington on his love life; he wanted

to send the detective on a special assignment. Unfortunately, that meant his romantic weekend "fishing trip" would have to wait.

Milwaukee law enforcement had been following Gregor Slavinsky ever since the small-time hood got out of prison, assuming that he'd screw up eventually. And that's exactly what happened: word on the street was that Slavinsky recently borrowed \$25,000 from Benny Ballentine, a bigger crook and the guy the department really wanted to nab. Both were booked on a Lake Michigan excursion, and something was afoot. The chief needed Barrington to find out more.

Barrington boarded a small luxury boat for the weekend tour with a few fellow travelers—two known hoodlums, a henchman, plus a man and his elderly aunt. He thought he'd have no trouble keeping an eye on everyone, especially since the boat's steward was also an undercover cop. But when

a scuffle, a splash, and a missing crook proved otherwise, Barrington knew his assignment had suddenly changed.

Slavinsky was nobody's favorite guy, but who among the handful of possible suspects had the most reason to kill him?

Every cliché ever packed in a noir novel—every single one—seems to be in *Death Goes Overboard*. You've got mobsters, a fedora-wearing detective in a pinstriped suit, seemingly prim matrons, and man-hungry blondes eager for marriage. It's like an old black-and-white movie in book form—but curiously, you probably won't mind.

You won't mind because author David S. Pederson has packed a lot of *else* in this novel. You don't normally find a poetry-writing mobster with a soft side in a noir mystery, for instance, but he's here. And then there's the sweetly chaste, budding romance between two men: again, not so unusual, except that one of them is considering something drastic in order to hide his secret—a side-plot that's historically accurate, and one that fits.

So this novel is both predictable and not, making it a nice diversion for a weekend or vacation. If that's the kind of book you enjoy, then *Death Goes Overboard* will make you buoyant.

Terri Schlichenmeyer has been reading since she was three years old, and she lives on a hill in Wisconsin with two dogs and 11,000 books.

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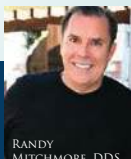


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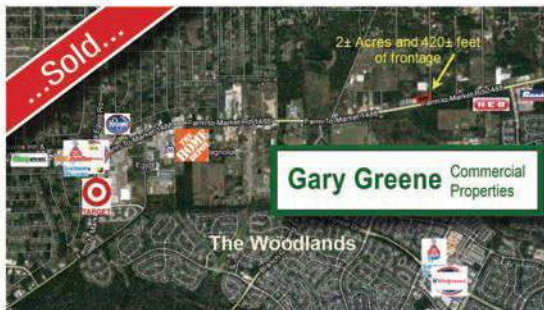
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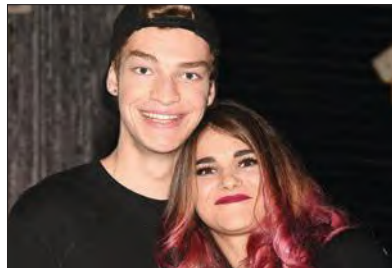
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SERIAL OFFENDER

continued from page 83

a movie despite the fact you haven't been able to get one made since 2004's *A Dirty Shame*. Have you reconsidered crowd-funding since then?

I'm not going to be that much of a hypocrite and say, "Help me get some money." I own three homes! I can sell my houses and make a movie if I want to. What am I gonna say? "I've never made a movie, can you work for nothing?" That's ridiculous.

It's basically like letting your audience decide if they want you to make a film, or acting like their own National Endowment for the Arts. I suspect you would get funded in a heartbeat.

I think I could have done that in the early days. I think I'm not going to beg for money. If I have to do that, I don't need to make a movie. First of all, my books are doing great. By writing books I get to tell even more stories. Every part of my career—whether it's my spoken-word shows, movies, or books—it's all the same to me. I'm just telling you a story. I jump from one to another. Whichever one is going to happen, I'll be there.

Would you ever give someone permission to do *Flamingos Forever*, the *Pink Flamingos* sequel that you wrote but never filmed?

[And let] someone else direct that script? Sure. It'll never get made because it would get an NC-17 and it would be expensive, because it has a lot of special effects and they all want stars to play everything. I tried to get that movie made for a long time—too long. I doubt that's going to happen, someone coming along to make a John Waters movie. I don't know.

How do you feel about same-sex marriage?

Of course I'm for it. Why anybody would be threatened by [two people] loving each other is amazing to me. I personally don't want to do it, because there's gay divorce and gay alimony.

What do you feel it takes to be subversive today?

"Subversive" is coming up with a new way to surprise young people. I think that is youth's duty, and my book *Making Trouble* gives you all the advice on how to do that. You've got to get on the inside now and screw it up in a beautiful way. Basically, *Making Trouble* is the perfect book to give to someone graduating, but they don't have to have gone to school. They could be [getting out] on parole, getting out of a bad marriage, or just deciding to change their life. "Graduating" just means you're going on to something new and good, and the book encourages you to take big risks and have a next chapter in your life, no matter where you are in it.

Lawrence Ferber is a frequent contributor to OUTSMART magazine.

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SIGNOUT

continued from page 96

time for renewal of those romantic bonds. If you are having problems, they will come to the surface so you can address what is wrong. You are wanting to respond differently to relationships than you have in the past. And you are willing to let go of old, negative behavior patterns. Work remains busy with lots of options for improvement. It can be easy to hide out at work and avoid the problems with our relationships. You will certainly want more intimacy and reassurances from your partner (business or personal) as we come to the end of the month.

AQUARIUS (January 20–February 18). This month, you are more aware of your personal and business routines. With this knowledge, you can make improvements in these parts of your life. Interactions with coworkers could be more testy than usual. If you can find a way to clear the air, people won't be able to hold on to resentments and hurts so easily. This is a super month to work on any kind of health regimen. By midmonth, you are shifting your focus to your partnerships. You will have to pay more

attention to that part of your life. You could get of town for a fun adventure or stay home and spice up your life! If you don't pay attention, the anger shows up. And finally, you are feeling more creative this month and will need an outlet for that.

PISCES (February 19–March 20). Although your career and your future path still remains your primary focus, you are ready for some fun and play this month. You are more creative, and will look for ways to express that. People are more open to you. This can help if you are single and looking for a new relationship, or if you are looking for a better job! By midmonth, you are ready to get back to your routines. The latter half of the month is better for any type of personal improvements, from exercise to getting rid of bad habits. You may not be as tolerant of your coworkers by the end of the month. Don't let situations build up so much that you become explosive. Communication skills do improve after the 25th.

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Houston

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Houston's most iconic and largest LGBT dance club, with multiple levels featuring a video/show bar and a private VIP lounge. Originally built to be the Studio 54 of the South, Rich's boasts world-renowned DJs and entertainers. No cover before 10:30 p.m. 2401 San Jacinto • 281.846.6685 • richsnightclub.com.

THE RIPCORD

This well-kept, multi-roomed leather bar for men and their friends boasts a busy patio, especially on the weekends. The Black Hawk Leather shop is located inside the club, providing BDSM essentials. 715 Fairview Ave. • 713.521.2792.

RUDYARD'S

The eclectic British pub is known for its craft beers as well as for the burgers. Most weekends you'll find up-and-coming local bands rocking the house. 2010 Waugh Dr. • rudyardspub.com • 713.521.0521.

SOUTH BEACH

This mega-dance club is a frequent winner of OutSmart's Gayest and Greatest awards, with DJ Eddie E spinning on Fri., and DJ Joe Ross playing pop & dance

music videos on Sat. No cover before 11pm. 810 Pacific St. • sobehouston.com • 713.529.SOBÉ.

TC'S SHOWBAR

With the longest daily happy hours in Montrose (8am-10pm), it's no wonder this neighborhood watering hole is so popular. Owner Tim Pugh says TC's has built quite a reputation as the perfect spot to celebrate special occasions. Other big draws are the drag shows Wednesday-Sunday and Karaoke Monday & Wednesday. 817 Fairview • 713.526.2625 • tcshowbar.com.

TONY'S CORNER POCKET

This comfortable club located close to downtown has one of the friendliest bar staffs in town, both inside & outside at its patio bar. The raised stage where local charities perform also features an amateur dance contest each Thurs., Fri., & Sat. at 11pm. Opens daily at noon. 817 W. Dallas • 713.571.7870 • tonyscornerpocketbar.com.

VIVIANA'S

This club, in a new location, appeals to fans of Latino music and drag alike. 4624 Dacoma • 713.681.4104.

Beaumont

ORLEANS STREET PUB AND PATIO

The place to hang for food, fun, and booze in a newly renovated pub, in good weather or bad. Open every night from 7pm-2am. 650 Orleans • 409.835.4243.

Bryan/College Station

HALO VIDEO BAR

The only LGBT dance club in Bryan/College station, this sleek spot is open Thurs.-Sat. Smack in the middle of Aggieland, "our venue is always packed with the hotties," the owners promise. 121 North Main • 979.823.6174 • halobcs.com.

Galveston

23RD ST. STATION

A new face on the Island bar scene is here. The bar features a neighborhood-bar feel with octane. Drink specials daily and the weekend is filled with pulsing music, hot dancers, drag shows, and a Sunday Tea Dance. 1706 23rd St. • 409.621.1808.

ROBERT'S LAFITTE

A neighborhood bar, the Island institution attracts a colorful crowd of regulars and travelers. The private patio includes a swimming pool. On Sat. and Sun. nights, the Ladies of Lafitte show takes the stage. 2501 Avenue Q (at 25th) • 409.765.9092.

Spring

RANCH HILL SALOON

With its two pool tables, 52-inch plasma televisions, and large dance floor, this popular northside spot also offers DJs Thursday-Saturday. 247041 I-45N Suite 103 • 281.298.9035 • ranchhill.com.

THE ROOM BAR AND LOUNGE

One of only two LGBT hangouts in North Houston/Spring, this bar and video lounge has a laidback atmosphere where everyone is welcome and everyone is friendly to each other. The Room Bar and Lounge offers something for everyone, including daily drink specials, karaoke, free pool, drag shows, and live DJs several nights a week. 4915 FM 2920 • roombarspring.com • 281.907.6866. ■

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Full Moon Fever

Take advantage of the 9th's Full Moon and start new projects you've been itching to begin.

July is a busy month for all of us, with the first week and the last two weeks having more of an edge to them. This can help to give us some extra motivation to get things done. Our next Mercury retrograde is coming up in August, and its effects will be strongest from August 6 through September 9. Get your new projects started before that time. • The Full Moon on the 9th is a powerful one. Emotions can be on edge, and we may have to see things we would rather avoid. The New Moon on the 23rd is the perfect time to focus on yourself!

ARIES (March 21–April 19). The first half of the month is an especially busy and active time for you. You begin the month focusing on home and family life. You may want to invite friends to your house for the Fourth of July! You may also want to do some remodeling, or you may even be looking to relocate. You will feel pulled in many different directions this month. Remember to satisfy yourself first. In the last half of the month, you are ready for some fun and play. This is an especially good time to be with your children or to engage in childlike play.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20). Communication is a big topic for you this month. You are addressing the day-to-day routines and activities in your life. You are more direct, and your impatience is likely to show. Finances are more on your mind after the first week, and you'll be looking at your investments and budgets. By the latter half of the month, you are shifting your interest to your home and family. Old family issues are likely to resurface, and you will have to take a leadership role to get things back in order. Many of you can feel the winds of change around you. Uranus, the planet of reinvention, will enter your sign in May 2018. Some early signs of your urge to reinvent (such as feeling bored and trapped) will begin at the end of December this year. Start looking for new interests so you can stay on top of this wave of energy.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21). Relationships will become the major theme this month, with some decisions being made around that issue at the end of the month. You are looking to renew the partnerships you have, improve your existing ones, or totally start over. Finances are the other theme you are focused on this month. You will want to spend money, particularly in the first half of the month. This can be a good time to invest—if

you plan ahead and don't act on impulse. By the end of the month, you will want some order in your daily life. Your patience with some folks will be wearing thin.

CANCER (June 22–July 22). Happy Birthday to the Crabs and Moon Kids! This is your personal yearly cycle when you're examining choices you made last year, and looking at setting new goals and directions for this coming year. With Mars

DAVID EDUARDO FLORES PEREZ



help burn off this extra Mars energy. Don't overschedule yourself, which can be very easy to do. Money matters take over your brain toward the end of the month, and you will be working on getting that part of your life in order.

LEO (July 23–August 22). As the month begins, you are in a time of personal retreat while you connect with your spirit guides. You are physically more sensitive to your environment and other people, so you're choosing your company carefully this month. This is a good period for a spiritual retreat or a vacation. By the middle of the month, you are ready to get on with your life. Mars, planet of action, enters your sign on the 20th and will remain there through September. This will give you greater courage and less patience. Friends and community organizations can be very supportive, and they can also be a good place to look for a romantic partner if you are hungry.

VIRGO (August 23–September 22). Your public and social life continues to be busy and at the center of most of your activities. Getting involved in community groups or business organizations is an especially positive way to use your energy this month. You can easily take on a leadership position. Your voice carries a lot of weight this month. This is also a great time to find new friends who have the same mindset as you. As the month comes to a close, you are beginning a retreat phase. This can be a better time for contemplation, writing, spiritual pursuits, or just disconnecting from all the noise. You are still

busy, so you will just have to make better choices about how you use your time.

LIBRA (September 23–October 23). With the planets making their way through your career and social sectors, these next few months are certainly going to be busy for you. The first half of July is an excellent time for you to take a leadership role in your career or in your community. You are involved in clearing out the old and starting from a pristine place. This is also an excellent time to start your own business. Your relationship needs some refreshing! You are looking to step out of the old way you have experienced relationships in the past, and you are taking more of a leading role. This active phase continues through the end of August. Do what you like—and you don't have to be nice!

SCORPIO (October 24–November 21). Scorpions are a bit more laid back and feeling a bit nostalgic as the month begins. This is a good time to go back to the old neighborhood or attend a class reunion. Overall, you are feeling a strong need to give voice to your opinions. You may want to teach or attend a class. Your writing and communication skills are favored in the first half of July. By midmonth, it is time to step into a leadership position so you can be heard. The latter half of the month is better for promoting yourself or your career. You are seeking some recognition for the work you do, so make sure you find people who love and support you and your projects!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22–December 21). As the month begins, you are more introspective. You are looking for real connections with the people around you. Your conversations need to have substance, and not just fill space. You are back to reworking your career path this month, and July and August are great for making some definite plans. By midmonth you are ready for a break in the action, and that's a better time to get away from your routines, possibly travel, or just get away from those who depend on you. More and more, you find you can only do the things that give you energy, rather than doing things just to fulfill obligations. Follow your heart.

CAPRICORN (December 22–January 19). Relationships are in the spotlight this month. If you are single, this is a super month to get out there! If you are happily involved, you will want some

continued on page 93



LEGACY
COMMUNITY HEALTH

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The chance to end the spread of HIV in our lifetime is here.

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Photos by Dalton DeHart
and Edgardo Aguilar

OUT IN HOUSTON



On May 23, the Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce hosted "Understanding LGBT Business Enterprise Certification at New York Life. Pictured are **Jeff Henningsen, Sam McClure, Gary Wood, Tammi Wallace, Dave Feldman, and David Perry.**



On May 23, Legacy Community Health hosted "Cocktails & Conversations" at the home of **Richard Holt and Dr. Mark McMasters.** Picture are McMasters, CEO **Katy Caldwell**, Holt, chief development officer **Chree Boydston**, and capital campaign co-chair **Tripp Carter.**



On June 1, Avenue 360 hosted Art for Hope 2017 at Spire Nightclub. Pictured are **Paul Pettie, Adrian Perez, Ashlee Elmore, Nicola Parente, Tiffany Halik, Justin Garcia, Ian Ramirez, and Joe Fuentes.**



On June 2, the Montrose Center held a VIP reception benefitting its senior housing project, "There's No Place Like Home," at the home of Tommy O'Neill and Brent Whitely. Pictured are **Kim Gustavsson, Abigail Zsiga, Thomas DelPopolo-Foré, Sammy Bosco, Todd Foré, and Charles**



On June 3, the Montrose Center hosted a launch party for its senior housing project, "There's No Place Like Home," at the Buffalo Soldiers Museum. Pictured are **Brent Whiteley, Tommy O'Neill, Sister Helen Holy, and Noah Millsap.**



On June 8, the Victory Fund Houston hosted its June Happy Hour at Harold's in the Heights. Pictured are **Meg Schlaff, Gerard O'Brien, Emily Hammell, Christopher Downing, Jani Lopez, Kandice Webber, and Tammi Wallace.**



On June 10, the Brighter Future Foundation hosted its Timeless History Gala at the JW Marriott Downtown. Pictured are **Ty Burns, Tamira Augustine, Ernie Manouse, Cristina Martinez, Jason Gallegos, Karen Morry, Kirk John Barilleaux Jr., and Yolanda Davis.**



On June 14, activist **Ray Hill** hosted a 40th reunion for participants in the 1977 protest of Anita Bryant, at Eagle Houston. Pictured are some of those who participated in the protest.



On June 15, Lambda Legal Houston hosted Equality's Night Out at the Magnolia Hotel. Pictured are **Beau Miller, Chris Watt, Kathy Silver, Corey Devine, Travis Torrance, Annise Parker, Mike Henning, Jeff Watters, and Alan York.**



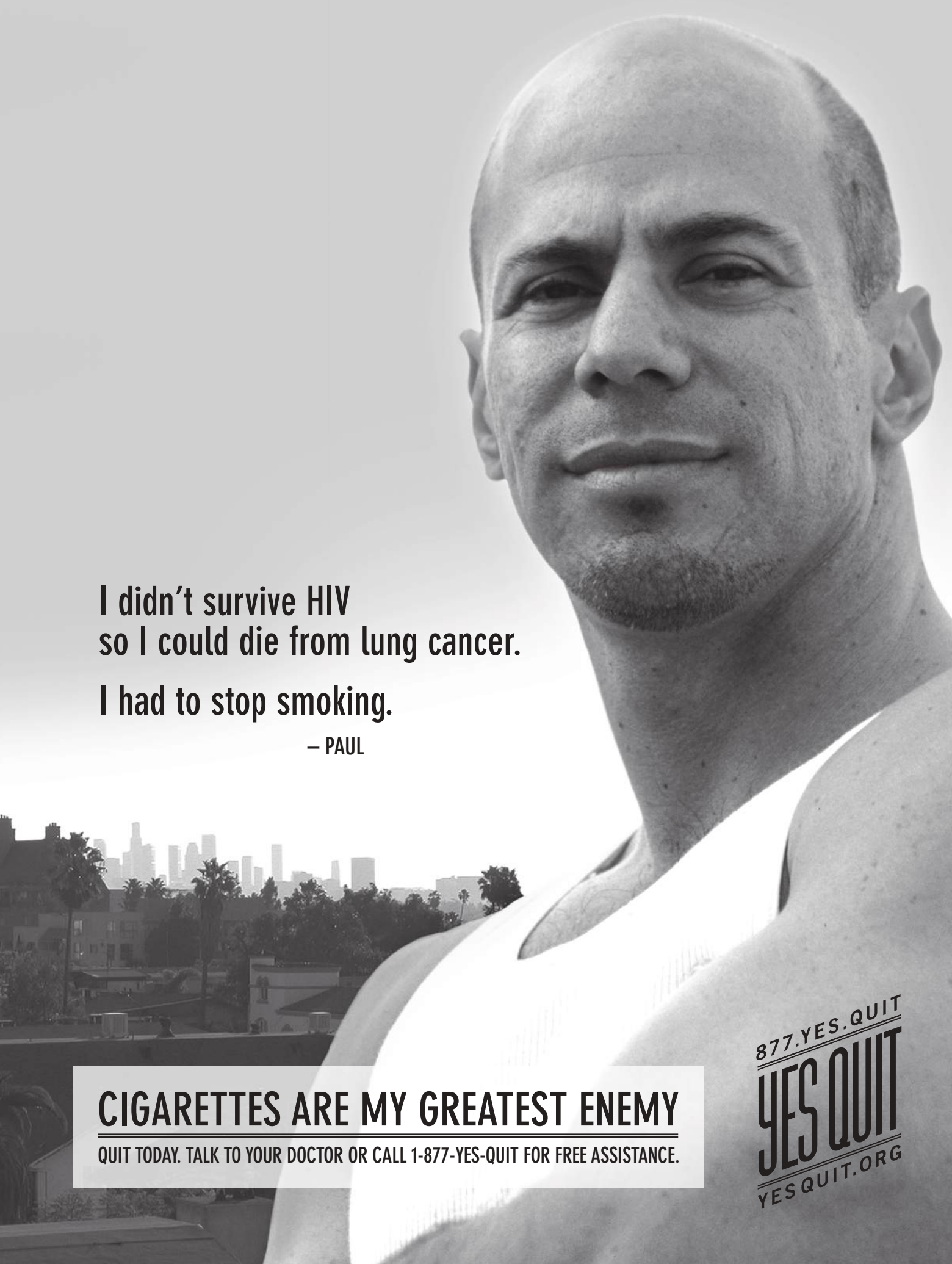
On June 19, the Harris County Democratic Lawyers Association hosted its Clarence Darrow Award Presentation at Hotel Zaza. Pictured are **Steven Duble, Dinesh Singhal, and Mike Doyle.**



On June 18, Lesbians Over Age 50 hosted its 30th anniversary party at the Montrose Center. Pictured are **Scottie Scott, Arden Eversmeyer, Leslie Bonnie, Deborah Bradford, Brenda Kruger, Lavita Marks, Mary Sorenson, Judy Woods, Roxanne Cherico, and Margaret Thibodeaux.**



On June 16, the T.R.U.T.H. Project presented "Feel My Pride" at the Midtown Arts & Theatre Center. Pictured are **Joshua Phillips, Hameedah Majeed, C'Dion Fields, Marcus Pittman, Nick Muckleroy, Robert Ross, Kenneth Polk, and (front center) Charlotte Roberts.**



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