YO SOY TU HERMANO

By Brant Bingamon

A LONG ACTIVIST
LEGACY SURVIVES
ON AUSTIN’S FAST-
CHANGING EASTSIDE

PAGE 16

HOLDING ON TO
EL BARRIO

PLUS:
DRAWING AUSTIN BEFORE IT DISAPPEARS P.24
THANKSGIVING DINNER P.32
FUCKEMOS DRUMMER SEAN POWELL GOES HOLLYWOOD P.38
Brant Bingham spent the summer chronicling Black Lives Matter and anti-police brutality protests Downtown. In this week’s cover story, he casts his eye back to an earlier era of political protest: the Seventies’ flourishing of the Chicano civil rights movement and founding of the Brown Berets Austin. That history may be nearly 50 years behind us now, but much of it feels familiar today – the persistence of police violence, gentrification, and the passionate resolve of organizers.

While next week technically marks our Thanksgiving issue – look for that on stands a day early – we get a jumpstart this week with roundup of where you can find pickup and delivery holiday meals, grocery relief, and volunteer opportunities; your best bets for carbo-loading around town; and even a zero-waste way to wrap leftovers.

Of course, preplanning Thanksgiving this year comes with an extra layer of complication. We’re not just juggling oven temps and counter space demands; we’re weighing the spiritual needs of togetherness versus the real health risks of gathering outside our home pod. You don’t need me to tell you how bad the numbers are or how risky behavior has skyrocketed the COVID-19 caseload nationwide. Instead, I’d like to encourage you to let yourself off the hook.

Have you been stressing over how you could possibly pull off the perfect Thanksgiving during a pandemic? You can’t, so let it go. Embrace the unconventional. I’m usually elbow-deep up a turkey butt on Thanksgiving and happily playing host to a houseful of friends. This year, it’ll be just a handful of us enjoying sides and pies in my best friend’s backyard. I’ve heard of other people coordinating their cooking for a shared feast over Zoom, or ticking the fellowship box by volunteering somewhere together instead, or forgoing the whole thing altogether for a stay-in-your-PJs day off to just decompress. Every one of these is a better option than stressing out, and vastly preferable to hosting anybody in your home who hasn’t been taking COVID-19 as seriously as you.

Whatever you end up doing, take care of yourself, take care of your people, try to take it easy, and try to put some kindness out in the world in any way you can.

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WHAT MAKES A TARANTINO BADASS

Dear Editor,

In his review of the new Mel Gibson vehicle Fatman, the esteemed critic Richard Whittaker asserts his genre savviness by referencing spaghetti Westerns in general and the “Franco Nero Django” in particular. Fair enough, if any cinematic “bloodfest” recalls such films for him. However, just a few lines earlier, Whittaker asserts that co-star Walton Goggins is “making up for never playing a badass in a Tarantino flick.” A very odd statement indeed, as Goggins had an extensive role as a sadistic villain in Tarantino’s own Django film, no less (he was the guy who nearly cut off the Foxx family jewels, you might recall). I suggest that Mr. Whittaker might brush up on his so-called areas of expertise, or perhaps simply clarify what his definition of “a badass in a Tarantino flick” is. Or just look at IMDb.

Philip Fagan

Screens Editor Richard Whittaker responds:

Neither Candyland’s resident bully Billy Crash nor the inept but ultimately redeemed Sheriff Mannix in The Hateful Eight would pass anyone’s muster as badasses. They are both racist weasels, and it’s not hard to imagine full-bore Tarantino protagonists putting either in their place.

AN ERROR

Dear Mr. Whittaker,

I thank you for writing and publishing this article which I consider very comprehensive and well analyzed from Tal Michael’s documentary film Bukra Fil Mish-Mish. However, I would like to draw your attention to an error that has been made and which may now be copied and published without verification: It is me, Didier Frenkel, and not my brother Daniel who worked for 25 years to ensure the preservation and restoration of all films, drawings, cellulos, and so many documents left by my father and uncles. It is still me who devoted all these years and enormous personal efforts to document, then make known and recognize their talent and their history, first in Egypt and in the world. I am not looking for any particular merit or honor, but it would be unfair if this unintentional error were to spread to the point of erasing my part in all the work undertaken to achieve the present results.

Yours sincerely,
Didier Frenkel

DON’T FORGET ROSANKY

Dear Editor,

While I appreciate Austin’s desire for sustainable energy, I am beginning to strongly lament the city government’s go-for-broke approach. Here in rural Rosanky in southern Bastrop County, we are threatened with Austin’s desire at an expense for our treasured farmland and wildlife. RWE Renewables is asking for big tax breaks for their proposed Big Star Solar plant south of our community. It will bulldoze 2,000 acres of post oaks, pines, and native scrub so that 500,000 solar panels can be planted in their place. RWE is in negotiations with Austin Energy to sell the power to them, a quick high-line ride to the city’s electrical grid. Do your readers know they are getting their “green energy” for the sake of our green spaces? Would they like to take a tour of the back roads that will be forever changed if this project comes to fruition? There’s a growing grassroots movement here in Rosanky that is rising in opposition to this project and the others that are coming this way. We don’t much care to be the dumping ground for Austin’s unwanted infrastructure.

Thank you,
Erik McCowan

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DON’T BE FOOLED – UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE IS A GOOD THING

It’s a common talking point in some political circles to refer to the quest for government-provided universal health coverage as “socialized medicine.” This rhetorical scare tactic is designed to conjure up images of communism and restrictions of freedoms. Yet this doesn’t hold up to scrutiny considering how many European democracies have forms of universal health care. These countries understand what some Americans seem slow to grasp – that taking care of people is what governments are supposed to do.

Our founders understood this well enough to include “promoting the general welfare” as one of the main functions of government in the preamble of our Constitution. Far from being a cunning socialist plot, ensuring that people who are sick, suffering, or dying can see a doctor is a good thing.

A hospitalized patient I saw recently provides an excellent example of the potential benefit universal access to care can provide. For privacy reasons, let’s call him John Smith. John is a kind gentleman, and a caring husband, and father to a 15-year-old daughter. He suffers from high blood pressure and uncontrolled diabetes. Like nearly 1 in 10 Americans (9.2% in 2019), he is uninsured. As a result, his medical conditions have taken a huge toll on his quality of life. His diabetes has gotten so bad that the resulting foot ulcers forced doctors to amputate half of each of his feet. He used to work in maintenance, construction, and any other job he could find to keep his family afloat. He tried to return to work after the amputations, but his physical limitations caused him to become unemployable.

Without health insurance or a job, he struggled to manage his medical conditions, leading eventually to full kidney failure. His wife left her job to take over as the rock of the family. John relies on her to drive him to doctor appointments and dialysis three times a week, which Medicare now partly subsidizes. However, the other medical bills continue to pile up.

John’s situation demonstrates how disease not only hurts individuals, but their families, communities, and the economy, as well. Things should have never gotten this bad! Had John been able to access consistent medical care through universal insurance coverage, his diabetes could have been managed before it progressed to such a detrimental state.

This insight supports the underlying rationale for universal health coverage. Economically, taxpayers are now paying far more for John’s dialysis and hospitalizations than they would have paid for his care at an earlier stage of his disease. John and his wife would still be in the workforce and contributing back to the economy. In the long term, there are clear economic benefits to universal health coverage.

The humanitarian argument is perhaps the most convincing. Our value shouldn’t depend on our level of income or employment status. Rather, human life is sacred and has an intrinsic value of its own. In a country as well off as ours, it is morally inexcusable to allow people to suffer and die needlessly. Access to health care is a fundamental human right. Human rights and promotion of the general welfare are the domain of government.

Those who use the phrase “socialized medicine” to stir up fears of rationing care ignore the reality that, in a country where one of the leading causes of personal bankruptcy is medical costs, our care is already rationed. While the fine details will need to be sorted out, universal access to health care is a good thing overall.

Drew Sanderson is a medical student in the Long School of Medicine at UT Health San Antonio. As a medical student, he has a particular interest in health care reform and addressing issues of health care inaccessibility. Through his writing he hopes to contribute to the dialogue about health care reform occurring throughout the country from the medical trainee perspective.

The Chronicle welcomes submissions of opinion pieces on any topic from the community. Find guidelines and tips at austinchronicle.com/contact/opinion.
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Too Late to Turn Back Now?

The long, slow slog to a new I-35 could still change direction

Our most unloved neighbor, I-35, is back in the headlines; now is your chance to express your views on the path of least resistance taken by the state’s $8 billion plan to rebuild the highway within the Austin city limits. The Texas Department of Transportation is currently conducting the “public scoping” phase of the federally required studies for what it calls the Capital Express Central project. That’s the most difficult and expensive ($5 billion) segment between Hwy. 290 E. and Hwy. 290 W/ Ben White Blvd., which will remove the upper decks between MLK and Airport, depress the mainlanes through Downtown, and add two “managed” (but not tolled!) lanes to shave a few minutes off travel time for carpoolers and transit users. Because of COVID-19, the scoping is all online at capxcentral.mobility35openhouse.com, and you have until Dec. 12 to submit comments, to which TxDOT is obligated to respond eventually, perhaps to your satisfaction.

I may be projecting here; some of y’all are likely eager to see years of massive and costly roadwork to make I-35, for a few years, a somewhat more efficient car sewer running right through the middle of town. It is true that TxDOT has made some modest adjustments to its past approaches to design and to collaboration with cities and the public. The alternatives on offer do not appear to require a bunch of new right-of-way, although we’re still several years away from knowing that for sure. Nor do they yet foreclose opportunities to do something useful with the space above the Downtown mainlanes – the “cut and cap” or “cap and stitch” scenarios that are championed by most local stakeholders.

PURPOSE AND NEED

As someone who designed public involvement efforts for projects like this, I think TxDOT has done an OK job with its virtual continued on p.10
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**THURSDAY 11/19**

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

Storytelling and educational activities to learn more about Native American culture. 5-6pm. Online. Free. www.austintexas.gov.

**LBJ HIGH THANKSGIVING MEAL**

See p. 15. 5-7pm. LBJ High School, 7309 Lazy Creek Dr. Free. www.lbjchs.austintx.org.

**PPE DISTRIBUTION**


**DISTRICT 4 REIMAGING PUBLIC SAFETY**

Learn about Austin's ongoing police reforms. 5:30-7:30pm. Online. www.austintexas.gov.

**FRIDAY 11/20**

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

See Thursday.

**HOMELESSNESS IN AUSTIN**


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**OPERATION TURKEY**

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**SATURDAY 11/21**

**EMERGENCY RELIEF FOOD DISTRIBUTION**


**THANKSGIVING DRIVE-THROUGH DINNER**


**PAN AM REC CENTER THANKSGIVING DINNER**

See p. 15. 10am-2pm. A.B. Cantu/ Pan American Recreation Center, 2100 E. Third. www.austintexas.gov.

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**CARVERMUSEUMPLANNING COMMUNITY MEETING**

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**SUNDAY 11/22**

**MISSION POSSIBLE THANKSGIVING**


**BETHANY UMC THANKSGIVING MEAL**


**MONDAY 11/23**

**EMERGENCY RELIEF FOOD DISTRIBUTION**


**MOBILE LOAVES AND FISHES PRE-THANKSGIVING MEAL**


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**I-35 Capital Express and Stitch**

We’ve been writing about the I-35 Capital Express Central project for quite a while now, and indeed, you’re going to be hearing about it for a good while to come, because it’s a massive deal: expanding and rebuiding I-35 through the heart of the city, all the way from Koenig Lane to Ben White – one of the busiest sections of highway in the nation and a road with a lot of baggage locally as a literal and symbolic racial dividing line. And both sides of that legacy got extra attention this week.

As Mike Clark-Madison details in “Austin at Large,” at left, the Texas Department of Transportation has opened a monthlong virtual open house to gather public feedback, a required step in the National Environmental Policy Act process. TxDOT offers three alternatives but they’re all similar in most respects: adding two HOV lanes in each direction, removing the upper deck from Airport Boulevard to MLK and putting the main lanes underground, rebuilding the bridge over Town Lake, and “potentially accommodating a deck plaza in the downtown area funded by others.” That emphasis is mine, and that’s where the “Cap and Stitch” movement comes in. A webinar hosted Wednesday morning by Urban Land Institute Austin focused on the “I-35 Cap & Stitch program,” an effort to make that deck plaza a reality; capping the tunneled lanes of the interstate with surface-level amenities that can stitch the two sides of town back together again with an “urban boulevard” that incorporates public spaces and transit.

Kirk Watson (ex-mayor, ex-state senator, now head of the University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs) talked about I-35’s history as a racial dividing line in the city, a “screaming monument to racism” as well as “just a bad road,” built in 1962 for a much smaller city. Linda Guerrero (longtime Parks board chair, Downtown commissioner) traced the divide back to the city’s infamous 1928 master plan, which did “everything it could” to move the Black and Hispanic population into East Austin, with “total disregard for human life and existence” – followed by decades of the KKK, and of UT keeping minorities out and expanding eastward, creating “the non-stop threat of displacement” that continues to this day.

A ULI study panel, working with the Downtown Austin Alliance, prepared a report on the corridor’s potential earlier this year, and the groups want to follow up with an action plan: getting TxDOT to commit to a roadway that at least leaves the urban boulevard options open, and meanwhile finding the funding to build it out, perhaps by creating a tax increment financing district. But “the state is going to have to build the highway in such a way that the local community can do the stitching together,” said one speaker.

It’s not a new idea: The project website features a link to an I-35 Downtown Stakeholder Working Group report from 2014, which makes very much the same recommendations, with a foreword by the group’s honorary chair, Kirk Watson.

Send gossip, dirt, innuendo, rumors, and other useful grist to nbarbaro@austinchronicle.com.
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austinchronicle.com NOVEMBER 20, 2020 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE
A New Day in Court
D.A.-elect Garza taps reform advocates for his team

BY AUSTIN SANDERS

Travis County District Attorney-elect José Garza announced Wed., Nov. 18 that Trudy Strassburger, managing director of the Justice Collaborative, will serve as the top deputy in his office. Strassburger has spent her career in public defense and in crafting policy to reform the criminal justice system, and her hire sends a clear message to the Austin establishment that Garza remains committed to bringing a new vision to the top law enforcement office in the county.

Strassburger started her legal career in Philadelphia in 2002 before moving on in 2007 to the Bronx Defenders, an iconic nonprofit that has pioneered transforming the legal system for marginalized groups since its founding in 1997. More recently and locally, Strassburger advocated for the creation of the new public defenders’ office in Travis County – a cause that led to some clashes with former colleagues at the Capital Area Private Defender Service, where she served as deputy director. In 2017, Strassburger helped lead the materiality review of cases potentially tainted by the now-shuttered DNA crime lab run by the Austin Police Department.

Now, she prepares to take on her first job as a prosecutor, under the leadership of fellow first-time prosecutor Garza. To help the duo prepare for the daunting task of taking the reins of a 200-person law firm – while fundamentally changing the way it prosecutes cases – Garza also announced an eight-person transition team, chaired by Texas Civil Rights Project President Mimi Marziani, that will help the D.A.-elect engage with community groups, craft policy changes, and conduct personnel searches.

Despite her bitter primary battle with, and landslide loss to, Garza earlier this year, Travis County’s outgoing D.A. Margaret Moore has already met with her successor multiple times and is said to be helping ensure a smooth transition. Courthouse observers are closely watching how much turnover the D.A.’s Office will experience; it was a given that Moore’s first assistant Mindy Montford would not continue on, but it’s not yet confirmed how much of the current executive team will remain in place. One position to watch will be director of the Civil Rights Unit, the only executive who reports directly to the D.A. instead of the first assistant. Currently, the position is occupied by Dexter Gilford, who was brought in by Moore and is well respected in the community.

Garza told the Chronicle that he and the transition team will spend the next six weeks preparing to implement as many of the reforms he campaigned on as possible, and to handle some of the tough cases that will be waiting for him, as soon as possible. “With respect to the reforms we have talked about for 18 months, we will be working every day to ensure they are ready to implement on day one. I am also working to be as prepared as I can be to fight for justice for all of the families, survivors, and victims who depend on the D.A. to deliver them justice.”

The transition team includes experts in several areas of reform – signaling to the public that Garza is reaching out to leading advocates for change locally and across the country. It includes Greta Gordy Gardner, who founded Ujima Inc.; the National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community; Anita Gupta, a staff attorney with the Immigrant Legal Resource Center; and longtime Travis County defense attorney Jackie Wood, who is helping Garza learn the ins and outs of the courthouse world. The team also includes non-attorneys, such as social worker Randi Chavez with Texas Defender Service, who coordinates defendant mitigation – investigating

AMID COVID-19 SPREAD, AISD BENCHMARKS ITS FUTURE

As Texas enters a new wave of COVID-19 infections and Austin hospitals take in patients from overwhelmed areas as far away as El Paso, Austin ISD’s Board of Trustees met in person behind Plexiglas dividers to decide the district’s future priorities. This week, the first AISD school closed its campus in response to COVID-19 – and that could be followed by more closures and limitations soon if Austin enters Stage 4 of our local risk-based guidelines.

Austin High School, which closed for three days this week out of an “abundance of caution,” recorded seven new COVID-19 cases last week, out of 54 new AISD cases, Superintendent Dr. Stephanie Elizalde said at Monday’s board meeting. Although there was no evidence of spread within the school building, she said, over 300 people at Austin High were ordered to quarantine last week. At press time, she planned to reopen Austin High today, Thursday, Nov. 19, although the state permits a slightly longer shutdown.

However, the bulk of the board meeting was devoted to negotiations over the district scorecard – a compilation of specific metrics against which the board of trustees grades the performance of the superintendent and the district. Although multiple amendments were proposed, the only one that passed was a new formatting change moving three pre-existing metrics to a new section specifically about student well-being. But the revised scorecard as presented by staff contains more than 30 changes to the district’s top performance measures from last year, focusing on using data from state tests, retaining teachers and students, and emphasizing career readiness over advanced academics.

One area with substantially different metrics on this year’s scorecard is special education. Trustee Arati Singh put forward and then withdrew an amendment about assessing special ed students with non-STAAR tests. However, Elizalde was concerned with the potential of decreased rigor without STAAR testing (a dismal 26% of special ed students meet STAAR standards) and the difficulty of implementing a one-size-fits-all special education measure. Metrics about dyslexia evaluations and reading performance from 2020-21’s scorecard were dropped and replaced with the STAAR metric and one for special education discipline disparities.

Singh was the only vote against the final scorecard, because of the 3-1 failure of her proposed amendment to include a metric on direct-to-college enrollment for Black and Hispanic students, an area where she said Austin is well below the state average. Four metrics related to Black and Hispanic students in advanced academic programs were cut from the previous scorecard, and two were added about increasing dual-credit enrollment and industry certifications. Singh’s amendment was strongly criticized by District 1 Trustee LaTisha Anderson, who said she was concerned about devaluing students who don’t want to attend college and who choose to pursue careers instead. Elizalde also reiterated a message she delivered throughout the night: Just because it’s not on the scorecard doesn’t mean we don’t care.

– Clara Ence Morse
a person’s personal and family history to better understand the circumstances that may have led to a crime.

One of the early goals of the new D.A. and his team will be to eliminate the reflexive use of cash bail that has become a focus of criminal justice reform efforts. Reducing the Travis County jail population, which typically hovers around 2,000 people, was an important part of Garza’s campaign platform and has taken on increased urgency in light of surging COVID-19 cases. But as powerful as the D.A. is, the office cannot unilaterally end cash bail, a decision that rests with individual judges who determine if defendants should remain in custody. Those judges tend to defer to the will of prosecutors, though, and Garza intends for his to request that only defendants who pose a public safety threat remain behind bars.

Cash bail disproportionately harms lower-income defendants who are unable to buy their way out of jail; their pretrial confinement can lead to lost jobs, strained family bonds, and overcrowded jails. Beyond that, experts believe those released from jail before trial are better able to prepare for their day in court and less likely to accept unfair plea deals. In 2016, researchers at Princeton, Harvard, and Stanford studying the effects of cash bail found that released defendants are 15.6% less likely to be convicted at trial and 12% less likely to plead guilty.

The thought of poor, usually Black and Latinx defendants enjoying pretrial release at rates close to those for affluent white people accused of crimes leads many conservatives to clutch their pearls. Garza’s new D.A.’s Office does not intend to request personal recognizance bonds for every defendant, but rather to review each case and assess its unique circumstances to understand if pretrial release could pose a threat to the public.

That individual perspective is key to how Garza and Strassburger want to approach changing the criminal justice system from within to create more equitable outcomes for all participants. “If we think of the criminal justice system as an assembly line,” Strassburger told us, “we’ve lost. Every person comes into this system with their own story, whether they’re accused of a crime or [the] victim of a crime. We have to figure out what made a person commit a crime to make sure it doesn’t happen again.”

That’s the goal Garza and Strassburger hope to achieve: a criminal system that delivers true justice more often than it hands out punishments too often confused with justice. From Marziani’s perspective, Austinites interested in justice reform should see the new players and their views as encouraging. “To make a safer community and to restore trust in the D.A.,” Marziani told us, “you need someone like José [who] is going to listen to communities. You need someone like Trudy who is thoughtful about all of the pressures coming to bear on someone when they are accused of a crime. And you need a transition team composed of diverse voices with broad perspectives. We have all of that, and I’m confident we’ll succeed in transforming the justice system in Travis County.”

The Transition Team

Mimi Marziani, chair of the transition team and president of the Texas Civil Rights Project
Gretta Gordy Gardner, deputy director and co-founder of Ujima Inc.; the National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community; and a former sexual assault prosecutor in the Baltimore City State’s Attorney’s Office
Randi Chavez, MSW, mitigation director at the Texas Defender Service
Anita Gupta, staff attorney with the Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Dana Mulhauer, founding chief of the Conviction and Incarceration Review Unit at the St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney’s Office; former prosecutor with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice
Ranjana Natarajan, director of the Civil Rights Clinic at the UT School of Law; former attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California
Jackie Wood, defense lawyer in Travis County; former Travis County assistant district attorney
Darwin Hamilton, co-chair of the Grassroots Leadership Board of Directors; executive committee member of the Austin-Travis County Reentry Roundtable; co-chair of the Reentry Advocacy Project

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Meals on Wheels Central Texas – delivering more than a meal!
As nursing homes reopen to visitors, will they stay safe?

BY MARGARET NICKLAS

Residents of nursing homes have gained new pathways to reunite with family and friends after months of painful separation. The federal Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), which regulates nursing homes, issued new guidance in September that loosened restrictions put in place this March in response to COVID-19. Residents may now have in-person visits with loved ones when certain conditions are met. Also in September, Texas Health and Human Services Commission established a process for designated “essential caregivers” to visit and provide hands-on care to loved ones, and set guidelines for other types of visits.

One newly designated caregiver is Cissy Sanders, who the Chronicle reported on in July and whose mother lives at Riverside Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Austin. In October, Sanders was able to be with her mom for the first time in many months: “It’s just so much better than having to communicate through a window.”

In October, Cissy Sanders was able to be with her mom for the first time in many months: “It’s just so much better than having to communicate through a window.”

In particular, keeps up with the pace of visitation,” she said. Riverside follows CMS standards for testing of staff and essential caregivers, according to Brooke Ladner, spokesperson for Regency Integrated Health Services, which operates Riverside. But Sanders worries that may not be enough. “There’s so much room for error and so much room for the virus to get back into the building,” she said. Some nursing homes do go beyond CMS requirements; for instance, local provider Caraday Healthcare tests all staff and essential caregivers at least every two weeks, according to company spokesperson CC Andrews.

Local leaders have not focused on increased risks to nursing homes in their warnings that Austin is on the brink of a communitywide surge. On Tuesday, Interim Health Authority Dr. Mark Escott’s message to the Commissioners Court was stark. While Travis County is doing far better than places like El Paso, which he called a “catastrophe,” we could find ourselves in a similar “nightmare scenario” if we don’t act now, he said. “We’ve got to work hard to avoid that,” he said.

Dozens of new COVID-19 cases have occurred at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities in recent weeks, among both residents and staff. Encouragingly, however, Escott told Council at last week’s work session that there were no known COVID-19 cases associated with new visitation policies at nursing homes. “There are strict protocols in place for those visitations, and we’re pleased that we have not seen any cases associated with that,” he said. APH Director Stephanie Hayden noted that the department is providing additional protective equipment to these facilities, including cloth masks staff can reuse at home.

But many do worry that visitation, especially over winter holidays, could spell greater risks to nursing home residents. State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Patty Ducayet discussed the topic recently in a Facebook Live event. State rules allow residents to leave facilities and visit loved ones over the holidays, but they must quarantine for 14 days upon returning if they are gone overnight or are exposed to someone who is suspected of having or has COVID-19, Ducayet said.

Importantly, facilities are obligated to explain all procedures to residents before they leave, so they can make informed choices. Generally, residents would be safer to avoid gatherings completely, but if they go, very small outdoor events are safer and all guests should wear masks. Gatherings should not include those who are ill or may be ill with COVID-19. “Nothing is more important than protecting the health of residents,” Ducayet added.
THANKSGIVING MEALS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As we head into Thanksgiving week, we’ve gathered a list of organizations distributing holiday dinners and emergency grocery relief for Austinites in need between now and turkey day. Some T-Day events, like H-E-B’s Feast of Sharing, have been canceled due to COVID-19 precautions, while others have modified their operations for drive-through or walk-up distribution. And if you’re in the position to volunteer, many of these orgs need help with setup, cleanup, and in some cases meal delivery, which we’ve also noted. – Kat McNevin and Beth Sullivan

Central Texas Food Bank conducts an emergency relief food distribution in April

Givens Thanksgiving Dinner & Food Giveaway
Bags of groceries will be distributed via walk-ups. Thu., Nov. 19, 11am-3pm. Givens Park, 3811 E. 12th. www.austintexas.gov.

Emergency Relief Food Distribution Central Texas Food Bank’s events are primarily designed as drive-throughs, but you’re also able to receive groceries via walk-up if you don’t have a vehicle. Additionally, at Monday’s distribution, Austin ISD will be providing meal packs for kids, which include meals for seven days, to cover the holiday break, Travis County Expo Center (7311 Decker): Thu., Nov. 19, 9am-noon; Del Valle High School (5201 Ross Rd., Del Valle): Sat., Nov. 21, 9am-noon; Toney Burger Activity Center (3200 Jones): Mon., Nov. 23, 9am-noon. www.centraltexascfoodbank.org.

LBJ High School Thanksgiving Meal and Harvest Basket Meals to take home will be distributed via a drive-through at the bus loop, Thu., Nov. 19, 6-8pm. LBJ Early College High School, 7309 Lazy Creek Dr. www.lbjechsaustinisd.org.

Hands for Hope El Buen Samaritano’s annual event aims to provide holiday meals to 1,750 families. Make a contribution online or sign up to volunteer on distribution day, Sat., Nov. 21. El Buen Samaritano, 7000 Woodhouse, 512/474-4448. www.elbuesam.org.

Thanksgiving Drive-Through Dinner The Dove Springs Recreation Advisory Board will distribute food baskets including turkey, pie, and trimmings while supplies last, Sat., Nov. 21, 9-11am. Dove Springs Recreation Center, 5801 Ainez. www.austintexas.gov/dovesprings.

A.B. Cantu/Pan American Recreation Center Thanksgiving Dinner 300 meal boxes will be distributed through a non-contact drive-through (vehicles only, no walk-ups accepted). Vehicles may line up beginning at 9:30am at the corner of Fourth and Robert t. Martinez Jr. streets, Sat., Nov. 21, 10am-2pm. A.B. Cantu/Pan American Rec Center, 2100 E. Third. www.austintexas.gov.

Mobile Leaves & Fishes Pre-Thanksgiving Meal This year’s meal will be distributed outside in-to-go containers to be consumed off-site. Haircuts and flu shots also offered, Mon., Nov. 23, 5-30pm. First Baptist Church of Austin, 901 Trinity. www.mlf.org.

Mission Possible Thanksgiving Lend a hand to those experiencing homelessness this year by donating to Mission Possible’s Great Thanksgiving Banquet fund. Donations of $6 cover the cost of one meal, and $10 can provide a sleeping bag. Donation deadline: Sat., Nov. 21. Banquet (7-35 & Seventh): Sun., Nov. 22, 10am. www.mpaustin.org/give.

Bethany United Methodist Church Thanksgiving Meals Delivery At least 80 volunteers are needed to help deliver meals to families. Volunteers will pick up meals curbside at Bethany UMC and then drop them off for a contactless delivery. Sun., Nov. 22, 12:30-3pm. Bethany United Methodist Church, 10010 Anderson Mill. www.bethany-umc.org/thanksgiving-meals.

Operation Turkey Register online to help cook, package, and deliver food to those in need. The goal is to prepare 75,000 meals this year, so every hand helps. Request a meal online by Nov. 20 (expected delivery 10am-6pm). Meal prep: Wed., Nov. 25; meal delivery: Thur., Nov. 26. Citywide. www.operationturkey.com/locations/austin.

Feast of Giving Both meals and boxes of canned goods will be distributed via drive-through. Volunteer opportunities are also available. Thu., Nov. 26, 11am-3pm. St. Louis Catholic Church, 7801 Burnet Rd., 512/454-0384. www.st-louis.org.

Principe de Paz Thanksgiving Meal Meals will be distributed in to-go containers via drive-through and walk-ups, Thu., Nov. 26, 11am-1pm. Principe de Paz, 1204 Payton Gin. Free. www.pdpauzin.org.

Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center Thanksgiving Meal Meals will be served outside. Volunteer opportunities available to help with setup and cleanup, Thu., Nov. 26, 11am-1pm. Sunrise Homeless Navigation Center, 4430 Menchaca Rd. www.sunriseaustin.org/homelessness.

Find more Thanksgiving events at austinchronicle.com/thanksgiving.

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HOLDING ON TO EL BARRIO
A long activist legacy survives on the fast-changing Eastside

BY BRANT BINGAMON

It's a bright afternoon on Indigenous Peoples Day, and Bertha Rendón Delgado is interviewing her elders in the shade of a pecan tree in Chicano Park. The interviewees arrive single or in small groups, and Delgado motions them to a folding chair. Her videographer signals his readiness. She asks questions. “What is your earliest memory of Chicano Park?” “What does Chicano Park mean to you?” “What is your biggest fear of what might happen to this place?”

The oral history project is a small piece of Delgado’s work as the chair of the planning team for the park, the formal name of which is Edward Rendón Sr. Metro Park at Festival Beach. It honors Delgado’s grandfather, part of a generation of Mexican American Aunites who claimed this crescent of lakefront land as their own. Those who have followed have struggled to hold it ever since.

Delgado is one of them. With her large sunglasses and long flowing hair, she’s more fashionable than the average community organizer. But she fits the profile well in other respects, particularly her inability to sit still. In recent years, she’s tried to stop the closure of the area’s schools with Save East Austin Schools PAC, struggled to preserve the Eastside’s many murals as CEO of Arte Texas, and mounted protests for Mike Ramos, Javier Ambler, and Vanessa Guillen. She began her work for the community in 2012, when she was elected president of the East Town Lake Neighborhood Association.

“I remember when they all voted me in, it was at my grandfather’s table,” Delgado said. “And I was honored because I had all of these elders – my grandfather, my mother, former [Travis County] Commissioner Marcos de Leon, Paul [Hernandez], Frances Martinez. When I got sworn in, they were like, ‘This is your first assignment: You’re going to go save the parque.’”

Hernandez, the venerable Eastside activist who recently passed away at the age of 74, was Delgado’s godfather and mentor. He was of special importance to her that day. “I remember Paul being like, ‘You are going to get up there and you're going to do great. You can speak for us. You're going to be the first Chicana out of our concilio to really take the torch.’”

THE BROWN BERETS
Lately, the memory of Hernandez has been Delgado’s constant companion. In the Seventies and Eighties, Hernandez led the Austin Brown Berets, a group of Eastside residents in their early 20s who embraced a militant radical philosophy. These were the sons and daughters of working-class laborers, poor people, many of them migrant workers, the victims of racism all their lives. They shocked those on the other side of I-35 with their khaki uniforms and berets, reminiscent of Che Guevara, and their open challenge to white supremacy.

Hernandez is often credited with starting the group, but its founder was Gilbert Rivera. Like most of his peers, Rivera grew up in the Fifties in East Austin on a dirt road with no streetlights, where septic tanks and outhouses served the neighborhood homes. He attended schools that were over 95% Mexican American, where students weren’t allowed to speak their first language, Spanish.

“If you were heard speaking Spanish they would report you to the teacher,” Rivera said. “The teacher would then either punish you or they would send you to the principal’s office, where he or she would also punish you.” Rivera was paddled so hard on one occasion that his backside was covered with bluish welts. He didn’t speak at all in school for two years thereafter. “Those were the beginning embers of activism,” he said. “Even as a young kid you could see that there were issues going on.”

After graduating from high school, Rivera became friends with many of the Mexican American Youth Organization, an activist group on the UT campus. “We began to hear about Black and brown kids being abused by the Austin Police Department,” he said. “We were definitely being targeted. One night I happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time and got severely beaten.”

Rivera had attended a fundraiser for MAYO in January 1973 at a nightclub in North Austin. As the night wound down, police surrounded the club. When he walked outdoors, two officers grabbed Rivera and held his arms. A third pulled his head back and broke his nose with a nightstick. A small riot erupted; a dozen young Mexican Americans were thrown into the police vehicles. After arriving at the police station, Rivera was beaten unconscious and dragged to a cell. When he revived he was beaten again for spitting blood in an officer’s face.

The brutality Rivera suffered that night was common on the Eastside. Police beatings of Black and brown citizens had been part of Austin’s culture for decades and increased as young people became politically restive in the Sixties. “We were being beaten, our families were getting killed, we saw friends being sent to prison for 50 years for having two or three joints in their pocket,” Rivera said.

After his release from jail, Rivera attended a community meeting at St. Julia Catholic Church organized by Father Joe Znotas, a priest beloved by the Mexican American community. Znotas was a proponent of liberation theology, which preached support for the poor and liberation for the oppressed.

“Out of that we began to organize what ultimately became the Brown Berets,” Rivera said. “And the Brown Berets came about to serve and protect the community. We started with four white people. Then we recruited more people, people from the university started coming in, people were coming forward from the neighborhood, and many of them were still in high school.” Hernandez and Susana Almanza were two of these early recruits.

After the raid on the MAYO fundraiser, Rivera had been charged with resisting arrest, assaulting a police officer, public intoxication, and other offenses. Eleven more defendants faced charges as well. After winning his case and threatening a civil rights lawsuit, Rivera cut a deal with city officials to drop the charges on the remaining defendants.

Rivera then found himself a special target of Austin police. His wife, Jane, takes up the story: “After the settlement agreement, every time Gilbert would leave the house to go see a friend, go to the grocery store, especially if it was in the evening, he’d be stopped by the police. And they’d be harassing him, trying to get him to get into a fight. And he knew what was going on. So he refused to fight, he just took whatever they doted out. But whenever he’d get home he’d tell his dad about it. And his dad said, ‘Mijo, you have got to get out of town – they’re going to kill you. If you don’t leave, they’re going to kill you.’”

Rivera believed his father. He made plans to travel to Seattle to pursue his education. “I had recruited Paul less than a year after the Brown Berets started,” Rivera said. “And when I was leaving town he told me, ‘You’re leaving us without a leader.’ And I told him, ‘You know what? You’re gonna be the new leader.’”

EL CENTRO CHICANO
Like Rivera, Hernandez couldn’t accept the racism he’d grown up with. “Of course he was very charismatic. Very intelligent,” said Zeke Romo, a journalist who began covering the Brown Berets in 1973 for the Eastside newspaper The Echo. “I mean, he was a visionary. He thought years ahead of time on what was coming to the Eastside, what was going to happen.”

When Romo began covering him, Hernandez was 27 years old and knew the route his life would take. He’d been inspired by the barrio’s participation in a strike in the late Sixties against Economy Furniture, a company that exploited Mexican American workers. He’d been mentored by Znotas, who introduced Hernandez to Rules for Radicals by Saul Alinsky and A Theology of Liberation by Gustavo Gutiérrez Merino.

These books gave Hernandez the practical and philosophical underpinnings for the protests he would soon mount. They were like nothing he’d read before. “We had to do
“[Paul Hernandez] was a visionary. He thought years ahead of time on what was coming to the Eastside, what was going to happen.”
ZEKE ROMO

“The best-known photo of Paul Hernandez is from a protest against the Austin Aqua Festival boat races in 1978. Hernandez is standing in the grass of Chicano Park, in the center of the frame, his arms held back by a pair of police, his thin torso thrust against the fabric of his leisure suit, his legs bent as he seems to sink down. Two more police

Paul Hernandez (l) in 1983
PICA-37572. AUSTIN HISTORY CENTER, AUSTIN PUBLIC LIBRARY. COURTESY OF SUSANA ALMANZA.

our own teaching,” Rivera said. “We had to start our own schools, if you will. We read Marx, we read Martin Luther King, we read the Constitution, we read the writings of Jefferson. We read as much as we could and absorbed as much as we could.”

In the spirit of communal learning, the Brown Berets rented a small house on San Marcos Street, just east of the highway, and named it El Centro Chicano. From there, they coordinated protests against police brutality; demonstrations to bring street lighting, sidewalks, and health clinics to the barrio; and campaigns to get the first Mexican Americans elected to local offices.

In the midst of the work, children from nearby schools began to drop by after class. El Centro Chicano became a de facto afterschool program. “Young kids from the neighborhood, who were basically latch-key kids, started coming and hanging around the headquarters,” Rivera remembers. “And we said, ‘What are we going to do with all of these kids?’ And we had a friend in the Black Panthers, who were here in Austin at the time, and they had a center where they did child care, they had food for the kids, they helped them with their schooling and so forth. So we sort of followed their lead and did many of the same things.”

When the children’s parents came looking for their kids and found El Centro Chicano, they began to volunteer. The Brown Berets coordinated help for them as well. “They became social workers,” Delgado said.

“They were able to help people with Social Security services, where food banks were, Medicaid, food stamps. I mean, they became even like attorneys. Legal assistance.”

Delgado remembers the community’s young organizers – who were referred to as “thugs” across the highway – as an active presence at Metz Elementary when she attended the school in the Eighties. “I would tell my abuela and abuelo, ‘Paul was at school today.’ And they would be like, ‘He’s there to talk with the principal and make changes.’

Hernandez and other leaders arranged for Cesar Chavez to speak to the schoolchildren. “They made that happen,” Delgado said. “As Cesar Chavez was marching across the states for justice, for migrant workers, better wages, they coordinated for him to stay here at Martin Junior High. My grandmother made 200 tacos to feed the workers. I mean, I look back at that and I’m like, ‘Oh my god! We are so blessed and we don’t even know the jewels that we have!’

“He thought years ahead of time on what was coming to the Eastside, what was going to happen.”

[Paul Hernandez] was a visionary. He thought years ahead of time on what was coming to the Eastside, what was going to happen.

ZEKE ROMO

NEW DAY FOR AMERICA

Lloyd Doggett
WORKING FOR CHANGE.

With a new President, we have taken a big step in protecting our democracy and assuring more responsive government.

Continued Republican control of the Senate will make significant change difficult. I welcome your advice as we set federal priorities. Mail this checklist with your name and email to 300 East 8th St, Austin, TX 78701 or complete at doggett.house.gov/survey. Feel free to supplement with your further comments.

Rep. Doggett, my top three priorities are:
1. Expanding and protecting access to health care for all
2. Enacting broad pandemic relief
3. Reforming campaign finance, gerrymandering, voting rights
4. Approving George Floyd Justice in Policing Act
5. Enacting universal background checks, gun safety measures
6. Investing in transportation and infrastructure
7. Lowering prescription drug costs & ensuring any COVID-19 vaccine is free and accessible to all
8. Making our tax system fairer & closing corporate loopholes
9. Passing comprehensive immigration reform
10. Addressing the climate crisis
11. Other:

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CHICANO PARK continued from p.17

...to his left and right, one a uniformed cop, the other an undercover, gripping a nightstick. Behind Hernandez’s shoulder is Znotas in his black clerical suit, his lips pressed together, a hand on his chest holding him back. Hernandez’s face is pointed down; he seems to grit his teeth or smile.

In those days, Chicano Park was still known to the rest of Austin as Festival Beach, and Aqua Fest – now defunct, but back then a major civic celebration spearheaded mostly by white Westside socialites – sponsored nationally televised speedboat races on Town Lake. The races drew tens of thousands of white spectators who used the neighborhood as a parking lot. In a documentary titled Boats in the Barrio, Hernandez described the community’s objections to the races: “Noise, pollution, traffic, thousands of tourists invading a residential area and leaving trash behind, the roar of the motors of the boats – those are the obvious reasons we oppose it. They don’t give a damn about our property, our houses, our neighborhood and they have the protection of the police.”

Hernandez had a deeper reason for wanting the races to end, however. He believed they drove down the value of the lakefront land and caused people to move away, facilitating the displacement that in later years would lead to gentrification. “The developers’ interest is this is prime land,” he told interviewer Barbara Enlow. “So what you do is, you force people out, buy the property, keep it, and don’t encourage any more homebuilding. And at some point, everybody’s going to move out. And at that point you develop it.”

Eastside citizens had asked the City Council to move the boat races for years. When it again refused in 1978, the Brown Berets mounted a peaceful protest adapted from the teachings of Saul Alinsky. The group maneuvered old, beat-up cars onto the only road leading to Festival Beach and stalled them, backing up traffic. Other protesters shut down I-35. The police responded by breaking up the protest, pulling demonstrators into the street where they brutally arrested them. Susana Almanza remembers the beating the police gave to Hernandez. “He was hit over the head with the billy club over and over and knocked down to the ground. And they were still beating him. We were all screaming, some of us were crying, because it was so brutal.” After the negative publicity generated by the protest, the City Council finally ended the races.

Five years later, Hernandez was again beaten by police, when the Ku Klux Klan marched down Congress Avenue in February of 1983. The Brown Berets, the Black Citizens Task Force, and others had filled the old council chambers to plead that the permit for the event be denied, to no avail. On the day of the march, 400 law enforcement officers surrounded 70 Klan members, protecting them from a chanting crowd throwing rocks, bottles, and sticks.

As the Klan finished the march and retreated to their cars, Hernandez, his then-girlfriend Adela Mancias, and their colleague María Limón found themselves hemmed against the side of a building by a row of 40-50 police. Footage captured from a rooftop and available in a video entitled “The Day the Klan Marched” shows a sudden jostling between Hernandez and an APD officer. Immediately, a dozen police close in a semicircle around him, Mancias, and Limón. Officers begin swinging their clubs. Mancias and Limón are hit in the head and go down. Hernandez tries to shield himself but a policeman standing in the back row winds up, surges forward, and strikes him in full stride across the top of his head. As he goes down, six other officers club him.

“When I got up, about eight officers were holding him down, beating him on the ground,” Mancias told reporters that day. “They were continuing to beat him; he was handcuffed on the ground and they were continuing to beat him. They were Austin police officers. They did not have their nametags on, not one of them.”

The policemen gave Hernandez a severe concussion. They broke his wrist and several of his ribs, and opened a gash on his head that required eight stitches. Margaret Moore, who was then the Travis County attorney, prosecuted Hernandez for resisting arrest. After his conviction by an all-white jury, she pronounced herself very satisfied, saying, “People must be held accountable for what they do.”

BUILDING A MACHINE

The Brown Berets never had more than 20 members at any given time. As the Eighties progressed, the group fractured, and members spread out to work on their own interests. Rivera organized against Ronald Reagan’s wars in El Salvador and Nicaragua with CAMILA, Chicanos Against Military Intervention in Latin America. Almanza traveled the state helping activists from other Brown Beret chapters and later assembled the environmental justice group People Organized in Defense of the Earth and Her Resources (PODER). Hernandez began building a political machine on the Eastside, organizing neighborhood associations, getting out the vote.

While neighborhood associations were common and already politically powerful in other parts of town, East Austinites had historically stayed out of those local debates. Hernandez understood the power that lay untapped; with organized neighborhood groups, the Eastside could get sidewalks and streetlights, stop homes from being bulldozed, and shut down the Holly Power Plant that polluted the barrio.

Hernandez and his best friend Marcos de Leon set up meetings with respected citizens across the Eastside. The associations they created – East Town Lake, Barrio Unido, Pedernales, Govalle, and Buena Vista – were grouped under an umbrella organization called El Concilio.

One goal of El Concilio was to win elections. The Brown Berets had helped leaders like Richard Moya, Gonzalo Barrientos, and John Treviño, who weren’t from the Eastside, become the first Latinos to win elections in Central Texas. But over time, they came to believe that these pioneers weren’t pushing hard enough for change. They began sponsoring their own candidates for local offices.

Hernandez also used El Concilio to improve Eastside housing. He placed members of the group into an organization called the East Austin Chicano Economic Development Corporation, which successfully pressured lenders to end the historic redlining of the barrio and built some of the first income-restricted housing on the Eastside in decades – a string of homes along Oak Springs Drive, a five-minute walk from Gilbert Rivera’s boyhood home.

Zeke Romo occasionally drives past the homes and is pleased to see them still standing. He remembers Hernandez as much more than a young radical. “Sometimes people think of him as just being part of the boat races and Brown Berets,” Romo said. “But he was also into economic development and empowerment of the community. That was a big dream of his, affordable housing and empowerment, building wealth.”

El Concilio finally began to succeed in electoral politics in 1990, when de Leon won the race for Travis County commissioner, the seat formerly held by Richard Moya. Hernandez was bending the world to his will. “He was creating alliances, he was building empires,” Delgado said. “He was growing so fast, and he was doing what he had set out to do for our barrio.”

PAUL’S STROKE

In August of 1993 Hernandez and his girlfriend, Leslie, took a vacation to the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. Hernandez never spoke publicly about what happened there, but before he died he wrote the story down and shared it with Bertha Delgado.
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“And we’d carry him to the car and put him in his wheelchair. And I was like, I know one day he’s not going to be here so this is our job, this is our obligation. He would be like, ‘Sorry mija, I’m heavy.’
“‘It’s okay, it’s okay, I got you.’

ACCEPTING THE GIFTS
Paul Hernandez’s memorial was held at Chicano Park. Bertha Delgado spoke about the event: “Raúl Valdez came out with an acoustic guitar, played music. He talked a little bit about Paul. And Susana Almanza came, PODER did an Indigenous blessing. Leslie Hernandez, his wife, came and spoke. It was just beautiful. We had over 200 people here. And we registered voters, we fed the families, we had beautiful shrines and photos … everything was perfect. Just the way he would have wanted it.”

In the weeks since the memorial, Delgado has spent a lot of time at the park. She and her team, Arte Texas, have just finished the restoration of the Chicano Park Mural on the cinder block walls of Martin Pool. Ramon Maldonado painted the original mural in 1982 as a teenager, without a permit, and now he and his team have brightened and enlarged it. This time, instead of being threatened with jail, Maldonado is being paid by the city for his work.

The mural has many new elements, but none more vital than the portrait of Hernandez in his brown beret. Maldonado and Mando “Taner” Martinez came out the day they heard of Hernandez’s death, chose an empty space on the wall, and began painting. “It was the perfect spot for Paul,” Delgado said. “It’s right here on the land, the sacred land that he fought for.”

Chicano Park is one of the few places on the Eastside that hasn’t been touched by the gentrification of the last two decades. In the neighborhood around the park, dozens of old bungalows have been replaced by large, cold townhouses. Susana Almanza and her environmental justice group, PODER, have defeated multinational oil companies and other giant industries over the years. Still, she sees gentrification as the biggest challenge the Eastside has ever faced.

“That’s the number one thing, is just trying to stay,” Almanza said. “Trying to sustain ourselves and our neighborhood. Trying to stop the displacement.”
"To Almanza, Gilbert and Jane Rivera, and the remaining Brown Berets, what is happening on the Eastside is a slow-motion tragedy. “The fabric of this neighborhood is like a quilt,” Gilbert said. “And every piece of that quilt is a neighbor you know, a relative, a friend, a school, or whatever. And for the last 20, 25 years or more, that quilt has been torn apart thread by thread and thrown away. So what we have now is the remnants of once-great neighborhoods.”

Almanza believes that the displacement could be stopped. In 2018, PODER proposed a six-point plan to address it. Among the measures were guaranteeing a right to stay for residents and a right to return for those who have left; establishing a low-income housing trust fund; and using publicly owned land as sites for affordable housing.

Almanza’s plan has gone nowhere. “It’s because of who’s running the show,” she said. “The Real Estate Council [of Austin], the Chamber of Commerce, the wealthy people, that 1% or less than 1% that are running the show. They want Austin to look a certain way, and money is all that counts, humanity doesn’t. It comes second.”

Gilbert and Jane Rivera agree. “Paul always said – and always stood by it until the day he passed away – that the experience that we’re having today and that we’ve been having since the Seventies is premeditated,” Gilbert said.

Jane elaborated: “And that is what Delgado grew up with. All these things that we were fighting against as adults, she grew up seeing and having to survive as a child. And now she’s the one who is fighting to save what’s left of our neighborhood. And I believe it’s much harder for her generation than ours, because so many have been removed.”

These lifelong activists cherish Delgado; they believe she will carry the struggle forward when they are no longer able to. But as a girl, Delgado didn’t want to be that person. She didn’t even want to stay on the Eastside – she dreamed of working in Manhattan. Then, as she moved into her 30s, she realized she had a different destiny.

“It was like, in my blood. And I didn’t understand it,” she said. “But Paul made me understand it. And he told me that you have to accept the gifts.
“And you want to do everything he had set out to do. You want to accomplish it for him. For the people, yes, for sure, because we were always there to serve and protect the people. But he had strategies, he had ideas, he had operations, and he wanted to implement those things, because he started them. And it took me a long time to understand that – I had to learn the life of Paul.”
Serving the Qmmunity, One Sweet Treat at a Time

The word can mean a bundle of sticks, or be hurled as a derogatory slur, or be merrily shouted by a group of drunk queerios at each other when they’re getting lit at Cheer Ups and everyone’s ready for another round.

For Brooks Naylor and Parker Breaux, there are three reasons they decided to play with that word for their online bakery, Faguette Bakery, where they donate the funds generated by monthly bake sales to local Austin LGBTQIA nonprofits.

“One, because it’s funny,” Naylor says.

Breaux follows up with reason two: “Because last year we were at Costco and I put a baguette on Brooks’ head and said, ‘Look, it’s a baguette on a faguette.’”

But the third reason gets to the heart of Faguette Bakery: to provide care for the Austin queer community by combining Naylor’s love for baking and Breaux’s communications savvy, “It kind of gives you an idea of who we are – proud to be gay as hell – but the bakery’s name is just for us. It’s just for queers,” Naylor says.

Their Instagram – @faguettebakery, which is worth checking out for Breaux’s fun captions and their bio: “baking sweets and taking money from straight people” – posts charming pictures of all the goodies available for order. The recipes are culled from multiple sources; Naylor says some are self-created, others pulled from cookbooks, and the rest are Frankenstein’s monsters made from multiple recipes pieced together. From them, Naylor creates a three-treat menu for the month that he practices until perfect. The two’s personal favorites from previous menus include the Chewy Chocolate Chip cookies on September’s menu and the Kentucky Derby Bars on August’s menu. “I ate so many of [the bars], in fact,” Breaux recounts, “that we were unable to complete our last order, and I had to run to the store to buy an extra stick of butter at the last second, much to Brooks’ dismay.”

As demand has increased, they’ve had to narrow their order window; there’s also the stress from taking on this labor of love on top of their full-time jobs. “We had to make a delivery zone as well, because people from other towns began submitting orders, Breaux says, “For the first bake sale, I was driving all the way up to Leander and Cedar Park to deliver treats.”

But there was delight in how rapid and plentiful the orders were coming in, especially when it came to being able to give the nonprofits their donations. Naylor says it was a huge reward to have organizations like ala and Out Youth “respond so quickly and so positively after receiving a large amount of money from a bakery called ‘Faguette.’”

After their early success, the pair is considering scaling up the operation: maybe renting out a commercial kitchen space at least once a month to avoid a tricky home oven, or offering custom or event orders. Naylor says their goals are basically “building out some sort of system to take care of that on, while still keeping the charitable mindset to the local queer community,” with Breaux tackling a wishful plan to learn to bake “at some point.”

Faguette Bakery’s name is important because it, like the word it comes from, is for queer people only. “I think people should know that anyone they place an order with us, they are giving to the Austin queer community,” Naylor says. “If you’re queer, you’re giving back to your community. If you’re straight, we are happily taking your money and giving it to people in need of your funds.”

– James Scott
**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST**
*Online, Thursday-Sunday, 7:30pm*

Austin Shakespeare presents Oscar Wilde’s classic comedy via Zoom. “From the first moments of the play to the final revelation, Wilde’s characters make me smile,” says director Ann Ciccolella. “Earnest is his masterpiece of comic situations, and having Fran Dorn return to Austin Shakespeare as Lady Bracknell brings a whole level of joy to our experience.”

See more arts events on p.26.

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**POO POO PLATTER’S EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY**
*Online, 9-11pm*

The Ladies of the OutHaus celebrate eight years of bringing you their signature alternative drag by giving back to Austin’s haven for all kinds of weirdness and queerness, Elsiyum. Featuring performances by Bulimianne Rhapsody, Louisiana Purchase, Arcie Cola, CupCake, Kitty Biuck, Summer Clearance, Sylvia Hatchet, and a very special guest – you!

See more LGBTQIA events on p.23.

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**CHRISTELLE BOFALE, VONNE, KENDRA SELLS**
*Online, 7-8:30pm*

On virtual platform Baby TV, the trio realigns with Illinois poet and songwriter Kara Jackson. Get ready with Bofale’s follow-up to debut Swim Team, the longing “Miles,” and Vonne’s new piano meditation “Elders?” on Bandcamp. A newly solo Sells experiments with “All in Your Head” on Quiet Year Records. Show proceeds split among artists, Baby’s All Right staff, and local director Funmi Ogunro.

See more music recommendations on p.46.

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**AUSTRIN POLISH FILM FESTIVAL**
*Through Dec. 31*

This year, APFF has taken most of the screenings to the virtual realm, offering two months of Polish features and documentaries online, as well as three films co-presented with Austin Jewish Film Festival and a few screenings at Galaxy Highland.

More movie recommendations and reviews on p.39.

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**PLANES, TRAINS AND AUTOMOBILES**
*Blue Starlite Mueller II, 7:15pm*

Director John Hughes takes a break from teen angst to try some adult angst. This 1987 cross-country romp follows an odd couple played by Steve Martin and John Candy as they use the titular methods of travel and hopefully don’t kill each other along the way.

More movie recommendations and reviews on p.39.

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**NJUNE: I HOPE YOU’RE HAPPY**

Omaha-born multidisciplinary Austinite Adrian Armstrong (Njune) remains hopeful in his pursuit of happiness. While technically a “rap” album, I Hope You’re Happy blends influences, textures, and lyrical imagery into a reconstructive and jazzy extended play that’s movable, even fluid.

See more music recommendations on p.46.

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**THUNDERCLOUD SUBS TURKEY Trot**
*Virtual*

The 30th edition of Austin’s favorite T-Day tradition is going virtual this time, but it’s no less fun! Participate where you are, with the whole family, and log your times online to compete for prizes. Proceeds benefit Caritas of Austin, which supports Austinites experiencing homelessness.

See more community events on p.30.

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**For FAQs about submitting a listing, contact info, deadlines, and an online submission form, go to austinchronicle.com/submit.**
AUSTIN’S ANNUAL VIGIL honoring Trans Day of Remembrance returns this Friday, Nov. 20. The Transgender Education Network of Texas has partnered with a collective of BIPOC trans-led Texas orgs – the Mahogany Project, Black Trans Advocacy Coalition, Black Trans Leadership of Austin, and Save Our Sisters United – to co-host this year’s virtual ceremony. Naomi Wilson, co-founder of newly formed Black Trans Leadership of Austin, says Friday’s event will follow TDOR tradition by honoring the people we’ve lost this year to anti-trans violence while also celebrating our trans and gender nonconforming community; however, unlike previous years, Wilson says the ceremony will focus especially on amplifying how folks can get involved in these organizations beyond TDOR, as we pass a grim milestone – 33 trans and GNC people, mostly trans women of color, have been killed in the U.S. this year, making 2020 the deadliest year since the data has been tracked. “A lot of people come on TDOR to be with the trans community, and then they leave us for an entire year,” says Wilson. “I believe that if we had provided a safe place and community support for every trans person that has been murdered, they wouldn’t have been in that situation in the first place.” Which is why Wilson helped co-found BTLA earlier this summer – along with Tabitha Hamilton and Lais Milburn – in an effort to connect Austin’s trans and GNC community to social services and support. In fact, Friday’s TDOR event will double as BTLA’s official rollout. “Tabitha Hamilton

Poo Poo Platter

Eighth Anniversary

The Ladies of the OutHaus celebrate eight years of bringing you their signature alternative drag by giving back to Austin’s haven for all kinds of weirdness and queerness, Elysiun. Featuring performances by Bulimianne Rhapsody, Louisianna Purchase, Arcie Cola, CupCake, Kitty Buick, Summer Clearance, Sylvia Hachat, and one very special guest. Fri., Nov. 20, 9-11pm. Online. $10 suggested donation. www.twitch.tv/poopooatx.

For all Qmmunity listings see austinchronicle.com/qmmunity and send yer queer’ed events to qmmunity@austinchronicle.com.

JOTERÍAS A spectacular evening of drag by Indigenous performers from near and far. Thu., Nov. 19, 8-9pm. Online. $10 suggested cover. www.twitch.tv/papijiyn.

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL DRAG FESTIVAL Catch a slate of drag artists from around the world across four nights of performances streamed live. Fri.-Sat., Nov. 20-21 & 27-28, 8-10pm. Online. $7-20. www.fb.com/internationaldrag.

C.R.A.A.Z.Y. Free, outdoor screening, but you’ll have to reserve a spot in advance. Sat., Nov. 21, 5:30pm. The Little Gay Shop, 828 Airport. Reservation required.

THE ASIAN TEA Asian/Pacific Islander qmmunity members share their experiences living at the intersections of their identities. Sat., Nov. 21, 5:30pm. Online. Free. www.fb.com/groups/austinqueeraisians.

BROWN SOUTH Queerlesque and curvageousness coming hot from Fat Bottom Cabaret. Sat., Nov. 21, 7-8:30pm. Online. $5-20. www.fb.com/fatbottomcabaretatx.

“DO YOU WANT A REVOLUTION?” ZINE RELEASE PARTY Interfaces, Austin’s rad community org amplifying marginalized artists, is releasing its first-ever zine, and you’re invited to celebrate! Mon., Nov. 23, 7pm. Online. Registration required. www.abinterfaces.com.

TAP IN SERIES Sharon Bridgforth, a foundational member of aligo, shares her journey in finding her artistic voice and living and working as a full-time artist for more than 20 years. Tue., Nov. 24, 6-7:30pm. Online. Free (registration required). www.aligo.org.

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Queer Art Fair

The Little Gay Shop is getting a jump-start on holigay shopping with local qmmunity makers and crafters slinging ceramics, art, vintage items, and more at this outdoor market. Plus, view and shop a gallery of 20-plus local and national queer artists – works will be displayed online, too. Sun., Nov. 22, noon-5pm. The Little Gay Shop, 828 Airport. Free to attend. www.thelittlegayshop.com.
Loosely Literally Translating

Drew Liverman is drawing attention to a disappearing Austin by drawing Austin before it disappears. His current series, “Premember,” now on view through the Northern-Southern gallery website, is a weekly installment of an ever-changing city.

“He’s going to places that are still here, to drink them in,” says Northern-Southern’s owner Phillip Niemeyer. “Like the way you look at your grandmother or someone you love when you know the time limit is there.”

Liverman’s drawings pack a pictorial punch. Their small scale, sheet-sized density, and immediacy can feel more like the product of a one-hour photo than crayon and marker.

“Estrada’s” emits a honed casualness with its depiction of an East Seventh Street dry-cleaning business that’s been family-owned and -operated since 1960. A deli-mustard yellow facade and Moorish arches seem more akin to Alhambra than East Austin. It’s an old-school building with presence, and Liverman’s rendering in the present builds on the not-too-distant past. Drew tells me he is drawn to the aesthetics of imperfection and impermanence. The Japanese call it “wabi-sabi” – no, not the latest sushi bar to open on East Sixth, but a universal notion found in the work of many artists Liverman admires, from the French post-impressionist Jean-Édouard Vuillard to the African American quilter Rosie Lee Tompkins.

Liverman and I had a chance to talk about these influences, as well as loosely literally translating city still lifes still in this city’s life.

**Austin Chronicle:** How did you come up with the idea behind this series?

**Drew Liverman:** A lot of businesses were struggling before COVID, and now it’s even harder for them. The places I’ve been cataloging have taken on a more human, vulnerable quality. Before it was just like, “There’s the carpet shop” or “the weird used car place,” but then they came alive in the repetition of my quick commute. I live and work on the Eastside.

**AC:** Why these particular businesses?

**DL:** I actually haven’t been inside a lot of these places. I don’t know the owners. It’s more like a stranger you pass on the street that you see all the time. The appeal is their autonomy – they each have their own quirky personal thing going on, which you don’t see in new construction. A lot of the trendy mixed-use spaces, like on East Sixth, are so monolithic in their design.

**AC:** Did you approach Northern-Southern or vice versa?

**DL:** Phillip proposed the idea. A lot of his shows have been focusing on the East Austin community, so it was a good fit. He’s been amazing about doing all of these projects during this time. I had actually already started the series. I was tired of drawing the inside of my house and my family. I needed to turn to the outside world. There are less than 20 pieces, which he’s been uploading roughly once a week. The show will go on until the end of the year.

**AC:** Do you have a favorite drawing?

**DL:** The City General Store, which is on Seventh near [the] H-E-B. That one has the full breadth of materials I’ve been using. The amount of history that place has – the store has a patina which works well as a still life. I liked loosely literally translating it.

**AC:** Tell me about your materials.

**DL:** I really like ink. Occasionally ink out of the bottle with a brush, but specifically India ink markers because of the immediacy for spur-of-the-moment, plein-air-type drawings. It translates really closely to what I’d want out of a paintbrush working at that size. There’s almost a watercolor quality. And there’s no cleanup. I’ve also been using collage materials, which began with my 3-year-old daughter during quarantine. She could care less at this point, but I’ve continued on.
AC: How has being a dad changed you as an artist?
DL: There was more wayward worrying before having her. I've gotten away from some of my hang-ups – what I should be doing with my career – now that there are more pressing issues. I'm also more resourceful with my time and more focused at the studio.
AC: Who are your greatest influences?
DL: I really like the post-impressionist artists for their strange, surreal nuance of very familiar domestic interiors – historical heavyweights like Vuillard and [Pierre] Bonnard. And also Rosie Lee Tomkins: She recently had a retrospective which I saw online, and I was blown away. I've always liked work with that kind of materiality – her quilts and patterning, the loose geometry.
AC: What is the future of art in Austin?
DL: I go back and forth on this. The way things are developing, money's coming in and art is going out. But you can still define your space and make a splash pretty easily here. In a lot of big cities with major art markets, there's more pressure for an artist to be commercially successful or to have a certain mindset. At least in Austin, the pace still feels human.

“Premember” is on view at the Northern-Southern website, www.northern-southern.com.
Local comedian Laura de la Fuente prepares her new show for CBS in shuttered venue

Laura de la Fuente, the comedian known locally for her work with all-Latinx improv troupe Prima Doñas and all-queer sketch troupe Martini Ranch and especially for her solo show Liz Behan: One Woman at Dusk at ColdTowne, is the inaugural performer for Ground Floor Theatre’s new artist-in-residence program. And, because sometimes good things come in pairs, she’s also been chosen to be featured in the 2021 ViacomCBS Showcase, that network’s annual tele-event highlighting diverse talent.

“Perhaps it is not much of an overstatement to say that the Ground Floor program continues to be a beacon for Austin’s theatre community,” says slate member and Ground Floor’s co-artistic director Laura Tiven. “Absolutely!” says Neff-Tiven. “As long as we have the space and it continues to be helpful for the resident artists, we plan to continue this program forever.”

And Laura de la Fuente, relentless fomenter of comedy in so many forms, is eager to start it all off on the right foot. “I will do my best to be as funny as possible,” she says, deadpan. But you can totally infer a wink.

**THEATRE OPENING**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST**

*Austin Shakespeare* presents Oscar Wilde’s classic comedy via Zoom.

“From the first moments of the play to the final revelation, Wilde’s characters make me smile,” says director Ann Ciccolella. “Earnest is his masterpiece of comic situations, and having Fran Dorn return to Austin Shakespeare as Lady Bracknell brings a whole level of joy to our experiences.” Also starring Amani Dorn, Matthew Graham Wagner, Tamil Periasamy, Toby Minor, Michelle Jackson, Robert Deike, and Khalil Sykes. Nov. 19-22.

**FUTURX 2020: ENTRA AL LABERINTO**

Citizens of Austin! Gather virtually in an interactive online laberinto where audiences can wander from Zoom room to Zoom room to experience Loteria fortune telling, life coaching sessions, burlesque performances, magic rituals, divine trivs, DJ sessions, late night ride shares, and more from artists whose Latinidad is queer, trans, feminist, Afro-Latinx, and Indigenous.

**CLOSING**

**ONIONG**

**THE SOCIAL DISTANCING FESTIVAL**

This is an online community, as playwright and unstoppable force of creative nature Nick Green informs us, and it’s been activated to celebrate and showcase the work of the many artists around the world who have been affected by the need for social distancing that has come about due to the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). It’s not Austin-based, this virtual and ongoing festival of all kinds of performance arts, but damned if there aren’t a few talented Austinites among the eclectic (and ever-growing) mix. www.socialdistancingfestival.com.
WE’VE GONE PSYCHEDELIC.

It may be the grooviest exhibition you’ve seen in a while: *Expanding Abstraction: Pushing the Boundaries of Painting in the Americas, 1958–1983*. Full of big, bold, mind-altering art.

Advance timed-entry reservations now required. Details at [blantonmuseum.org](http://blantonmuseum.org).


Image: Alice Baber, *Lavender High (detail)*, 1968, oil on canvas, 75 1/2 x 75 1/2 in., Blanton Museum of Art, The University of Texas at Austin, Michener Acquisition Fund, 1969
**CLASSICAL MUSIC**

**AUSTIN GUITAR QUARTET: LOOKING UP**

Presented in partnership with The Contemporary Austin, the Austin Guitar Quartet performs solos, duos, and quartets bringing the sculptures of Laguna Gloria to life. Part livestream, part curated tour, this show will be just what you need to, briefly, transcend the pandemic. Thu., Nov. 19, 7pm. Donations accepted. www.austinclassicalguitar.org.

**AUSTIN BAROQUE ORCHESTRA & CHORUS:**

**LAMENTACIÓN Y ESPERANZA**

This glorious concert was recorded at Mission Concepcion in San Antonio, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and one of the most appropriate venues in the U.S. for repertoire like this: a collection of Spanish, Portuguese, Mexican, and Peruvian choral works with texts relating to lament and loss, hope and light. Note: The concert debuts this Saturday and will be available through December. Sat., Nov. 21, 7:30pm. Donations accepted. www.austinbaroqueorchestra.org.

**CHORUS AUSTIN:**

**STRONGER, UNITED**

Ryan Heller presents a virtual concert of new and previously recorded pieces from Chorus Austin’s Chamber Ensemble, featuring selections (a mix of spirituals, pop, folk songs, and more) by Alberto Grau, Rosephanye Powell, Carlos Cordero, and Dr. Roland Carter. Through Nov. 21. Free. www.chorusaustin.org.

**VISUAL ARTS EVENTS**

**SUFFRAGE NOW! WHAT’S NEXT?**

In this talk, a moderator and three photographers from the Ney Museum’s “Suffrage Now!” exhibition will explore questions like Well, what now? What work needs to be done? The answer will come through the photographer’s lens – and this consideration will come to you via Zoom. Thu., Nov. 19, 7pm. Free. www.elisabetneymuseum.org.

**THE BLANTON MUSEUM:**

**CURATED CONVERSATIONS**

This series explores and connects with the Blanton staff, streaming live each Tuesday. The museum’s collections are vast, as is the knowledge of these professionals. Click on over, we suggest, to enjoy a bit of both. Tuesdays, 5-6pm. www.blantonmuseum.org.

**IF THESE WALLS COULD TALK: FINALE CELEBRATION**

This special performance features the leading tenor of the legend, Robert E. Lee, thought to have been seen in the 19th century haunting the NHCM, and will see the premiere of the long-awaited film *The House That Slaves Built.* Thu., Nov. 19, 6:30pm. Neill-Cochran House Museum, 2310 San Gabriel. $20-30.

**DANCE**

**JENNIFER SHERBURN: ELSEWHERE**

Jennifer Sherburn, the award-winning director of modern dance series 11:11, presents a voyeuristic dance experience, a self-guided tour of living installations that “transmute the concepts of stage, audience, and performance to acknowledge the barriers keeping us apart – while permitting a glimpse at what may be happening inside their confines.” Note: Bring a mask and prepare for proper distancing. Through Nov. 22. Thu.-Sun., 6:30, 7:15, and 8pm. Rogue House Ranch, 3506 Ragan, 512/200-1239. $20. www.jennifersherburn.com/elsewhere.

**TAPESTRY DANCE COMPANY:**

**LOOKING FORWARD/ LOOKING BACK – NEW PERSPECTIVES**

This series is a video tribute to Tapestry’s history, legacy and future, in which alumni dancers returned to the company as choreographers and created new works for Tapestry’s current company – dance artists from Australia, Colorado, Pennsylvania, Mexico, and Texas. It’s “an exciting and thought-provoking tap dance series that premieres works of some of the company’s brightest stars: the tap headliners who started their professional career with Tapestry!” Note: Each episode will be livestreamed on Sunday evenings. Nov. 22-Jan. 3, Sundays, 7:30pm. Donations accepted. www.tapestry.org.

**OPENING**

**DIMENSION GALLERY:**

**BURDEN OF RESPECTABILITY**

Dimension Gallery’s front window features the final installment of Part I in their Rising Action series, with new works by Dawn Okoro. “Okoro’s beautiful and inclusive perspective incorporates the comfort of an Vietnamese fashion. Okoro’s exhibition personifies the weight placed on Black individuals through the subservive nature of respectability politics – illustrated here by paintings, videos, garments, and jewelry that explore and examine traditional and compositional techniques used in fashion marketing. Dimension Gallery, 979 Springdale #99. www.dimensionsgallery.org.

**MARThA’S CONTEMPORARY:**

**FERAL**

Payton McGowen’s first solo exhibition with the gallery features nine new acrylic on canvas paintings that explore the idea of returning to nature. Opening reception: Fri., Nov. 20, noon-9pm. 4115 Guadalupe. www.instagram.com/marthascontemporary.

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Big Medium presents (a new)

AUSTIN
STUDIO
TOUR

November 14 – 22, 2020

A free, Virtual + Outdoor celebration of Austin artists that introduces the public to creative ways to safely experience art

AUSTINSTUDIOTOUR.ORG
COMMUNITY

ONLINE ART WORKSHOPS WITH THE CATHEDRAL
Support local artists and learn a new skill with these virtual art courses, which include supply kits available for pickup or delivery. www.thechathedralarts.com/pages/workshops.

HOMELESSNESS IN AUSTIN VIRTUAL PANELS - National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, the city hosts a series of conversations about local efforts to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring. Broadcast live on AT&T; prior panel recordings are online. Final panel: Fri., Nov. 20, noon. www.austintexas.gov/homelessness-get-involved.

A CHRISTMAS AFFAIR 2020: FELICIDAD The Junior League of Austin’s online event marketplace offers a host of holiday-themed happenings and goods from small businesses. Funds raised go to JLAs signature programs, such as Coats for Kids, along with more than 30 local nonprofits. Through Sun., Nov. 22. Online. $15+. www.achristmasaffair.com.


ELECTION 2020: REPRESENTATION? Part of YWCAs monthly dialogue series on issues of racism and discrimination, its a place to respectfully discuss election results and the work still to be done. Fri., Nov. 20, noon-1:30pm. Online. www.ywcaaustin.org.

Austin Empty Bowl Virtual Concert Benefits Central Texas Food Bank and Meals on Wheels Central Texas, featuring BettySo, left Plankenhorn, and many more. Fri., Nov. 20, 5-7pm. Online. $10+. www.austineemptybowl.org.


Love Where You Live Day In honor of Keep Austin Beautiful’s 35th anniversary, you’re invited to show some love right where you are. Pick up some litter, mow your yard, weed a garden bed, or rake some leaves; its up to you! Give 35 minutes to help celebrate 35 years, and submit/share your photo to be entered in a prize drawing. Sat., Nov. 21, 9-11am. www.keepaustinbeautiful.org.


Virtual DIY: Make a Succulent Wreath Articulture’s succulent wreath class is a favorite every year. (Hint: hint: the holidays are right around the corner, and these wreaths make a perfect gift.) Materials provided via pickup or delivery. Sat., Nov. 21, 11am-12:30pm. $140+. www.articulturedesigns.com.

Interpreting Local, State, and National Election Results Join Common Ground for Texans for an online panel discussion about the recent election. Sat., Nov. 21, 2-4pm. Online via Zoom. Free. www.cftx.org.

Rags to Wags Gala Austin Humane Society presents an unforgettable evening filled with surprises as the animals take over to bring you this unique event. Visit the online auction to bid on unique items like a Kitten Kuddle Party or Puppy Party House, and upgrade to VIP to get a party-in-a-box kit and kick your virtual gala experience up a notch. Sat., Nov. 21, 6:30-9pm. www.ahs nostalg.org.

Chisholm Trail Day Tour a portion of the original trail with a storytelling guide, see trick-roping and beer-brewing, and enjoy music by noted cowboy balladeer Jesse White. Sun., Nov. 22, 10-10pm. Pioneer Farms, 10621 Pioneer Farms Dr. www.pioneerfarms.org.

Black Lives Matter Survivor Peer Support Group Led by the SAFE Alliance, one of Austin’s nonprofits working to end sexual violence, abuse, and harassment. Email for details. Last Wednesdays, 5:30-7pm. Online. d Harris@safeaustin.org, www.safeaustin.org.

Day Trips

The Ellis County Courthouse in Waxahachie is one of the most ornate 19th-century public buildings in Texas. Among its most unusual features are the faces carved into the stone trim above the entrances. In the late 1800s, Waxahachie was one of the 10 richest cities in the state. Cotton was king and powered two railroads, three banks, and four cotton gins. The county needed a courthouse that reflected its success. J. Riely Gordon designed 18 county courthouses in Texas, but the 1895 Ellis County building was his masterpiece. The nine-story brick building features an impressive interior. Some of the ornamentation is 21 stone faces that are unaltered by time and weather. The Young Roberts Company was the lead contractor on the project. When Mable spurned Harry’s attentions, he used her likeness for some of the more grotesque faces.

The Ellis County Courthouse is at 101 W. Main in downtown Waxahachie. If the courthouse is open when you visit, take a look at the exquisite woodwork inside.

The 30th edition of Austin’s favorite T-Day tradition is going virtual this time, but its no less fun! Participate where you are, with the whole family, and log your times online to compete for prizes. There’s also a raffle to win a brand-new Honda Accord, and all proceeds from the event benefit Caritas of Austin, which supports Austinites experiencing homelessness.

To date, the Trot has raised over $4 million for the nonprofit. Thu., Nov. 26. Virtual. $25. www.thundercloud.com/runner.

The Home Teams

VERDE VAN Beep, beep! The Verde Van, Austin FC’s merch shop on wheels, is on the move. Spot it and get your hands on the new team’s kit, and enjoy food and drink specials with a backdrop of music from King Louie and Orlando Garcia. See where else the van will be appearing on Austin FC’s social media channels. Sat., Nov. 21, 4-10pm. Hotel Vegas, 1502 E. Sixth. www.austinfnc.com.


Recreation & fitness

Dance the Deck An outdoor cardio fitness class that’s so much fun, you won’t even know you’re working out. Sat., Nov. 21, 11am-noon. Top of parking garage across from Ballet Austin, 501 W. Third. $20. www.balletaustin.org.


Yoga in the Dark Light some candles and prepare to invoke intentions. This beginner-friendly yoga class with Sarah Beames is themed around Polop Vah’s 1971 album, In den Garten Phantasen. Wed., Nov. 25, 6:30pm, Free, but donations encouraged. www.austinfilmschool.org/play-at-home.

Kids

Urban Air Adventure Park Grand Opening Did you know you can skydive indoors? Urban Air’s newest location is now open, providing full-service family entertainment with a variety of attractions for all ages and fitness levels. Get all the safety precautions details online to prep for family fun. Sat., Nov. 21, 10am-10pm. Urban Air Adventure Park, 3944 RR 620 S., Bldg 5, Bee Cave. www.fb.com/urbanairbeeacve.


Venardos Circus A Broadway-style, animal-free circus production with aerialists, acrobats, juggling, balancing, comedy, magic, and music, viewed in socially distanced pods of up to four guests each. There are two chances to livestream the event on Thanksgiving Day, at 11am and 6pm. Nov. 25-Dec. 6. Buck’s Backyard, 1750 FM 1626 S., Buda. www.venardoscircus.com/events.

Holiday Bazaars

Austin Creative Reuse ACR is stocked with donations of reusable items, but you don’t even have to be there to take advantage of their earth-friendly stock. Shop online for gifts, holiday wrapping, craft supplies and notions, and even fun mystery packs. Their fall fundraiser offers unique art pieces through the Reuse Gallery through Nov. 30. Austin Creative Reuse, 2005 Wheless. www.shopacr.org.

Bloody Bazaar Blood Over Texas’ online holiday market is the spot to find all kinds of evil wares for fans of goth and horror. All the vendors are local and include many of the sellers from past Horror for the Holidays events. Nov. 21-Dec. 24. www.bloodyoverex.com.


Queer Art Fair The Little Gay Shop is getting a jump-start on holiday shopping with local community makers and crafters slingling ceramics, art, vintage items, and more at this outdoor market. Sun., Nov. 22, noon-5pm. The Little Gay Shop, 828 Airport Blvd. Free to attend. www.thelittlegayshop.com.
Austin FC introduced their jersey this week; see the reveal at www.austinfc.com/uniformforaustin. The Verde Van, a 1983 Chevy Barth RV that’s now the club’s mobile retail shop, is on a multiday tour to various locations around town, ending at Hotel Vegas, 1502 E. Sixth, from 6pm to midnight this Saturday, Nov. 21. Make a reservation online (if they’re not sold out), and get your jersey personalized right there at the onboard heat press.

The MLS playoffs get underway this Friday, Nov. 20, with the Eastern Conference play-in round, followed by conference quarterfinals pretty much all day Sat.-Sun., Nov. 21-22, and a triple-header Tuesday evening, Nov. 24, on ESPN. See the full schedule with this column online... As for next year, MLS President Mark Abbott told Soccer America this week that the league is “targeting to start our season in early March as usual.”

The U.S. men featured a strong showing from the youth corps in their first games in months, a 6-2 romp over Panama, following a frustrating 0-0 draw at Wales. The roster was very young and made up of entirely of players based in Europe— including 11 kids not old enough to buy beer in the U.S. — playing at clubs in England, Spain, Belgium, Germany, France, Portugal, and Holland. Debutants Nicholas Gioacchini and Sebastian Soto each scored two goals against Panama; Gio Reyna buried a lovely free kick; Yunus Musah, Uly Llanez, Timothy Weah, Richard Ledezma, and Sergio Dest all impressed; these are names you’re going to see in the U.S. lineup for a lot of years... Reyna’s family became the first ever in which the mother, father, and son all played for U.S. national teams. Austin FC Sporting Director Claudio Reyna was a fixture for the U.S. from 1994 to 2006; Danielle Egan Reyna played six times in 1993.

HOLIDAY LIGHTS
HOLIDAY LIGHTS IN GEORGETOWN’S HISTORIC TOWN SQUARE For the official lighting ceremony, the city will share a video on social media featuring a countdown, lighting, and music for home viewing, Nov. 23-Jan. 2, 6-9pm. Historic Town Square, E. Seventh, Georgetown. Free. visit.georgetown.org.

MOZART’S 2020 COVID-CAUTIONARY CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW See the beautiful light show by the lake by reservation only. It’s expected to sell out quickly, so plan ahead! Hourly, 6pm-12mid through Jan. 6, except Thanksgiving & Christmas Day. Mozart’s Coffee Roasters, 3825 Lake Austin Blvd., 512/477-2900. $10 per table for one-hour show. www.mozartscoffee.com.

THANKSGIVING
AUSTIN EMPTY BOWL PROJECT The silent auction includes everything from bowls for you and your dog to restaurant gift certificates. For every $25 donated, an empty bowl will be added to food boxes distributed by the Central Texas Food Bank or Meals on Wheels Central Texas. Through Nov. 22. www.austineemptybowl.org.

BUDA TURKEY TROT Benefiting Hays County Food Bank, this 5K run/walk through Buda marks the start of a new family and community tradition to celebrate Thanksgiving. A virtual option is also available if you’d like to participate from afar. Thu., Nov. 26, 9am. Sunfield Lazy River Amenity Center, 6910 Sunfield Pkwy., Buda, $20-35. www.budaturkeytrot.com.

CENTRAL TEXAS FOOD BANK GIVING OPPORTUNITIES The holidays will be tougher for everyone this year. The food bank has put together a list of 10 ways to make a difference to someone in need. Check out the list online and help CTBF fight hunger. Ongoing. www.centraltexasfoodbank.org.

FRIENDSGIVING Mix and mingle while you learn about nonprofits and ways to benefit your health and wellness. Live music begins at 1pm. Sat., Nov. 21, 11:30am-1:30pm. Treaty Oak Distilling, 16604 Fitzhugh Rd., Dripping Springs. $25. www.swoovy.com/events.

HANDS FOR HOPE El Buen’s annual meal distribution event aims to provide holiday meals to 1,750 families. Make a contribution online or sign up to volunteer on distribution day. Donate now; distribution day is Sat., Nov. 21. El Buen Samaritano, 7000 Woodhue. www.elbuen.org.

INTERFAITH DAY OF THANKS Interfaith Action of Central Texas’ 36th annual Day of Thanks is virtual, family-friendly, and open to all, centered on the theme “Love Has No Distance.” Sun., Nov. 22, 3pm. www.interfaithtexas.org/dot36.

MISSION POSSIBLE THANKSGIVING Lend a hand to those experiencing homelessness this year by donating to Mission Possible’s Great Thanksgiving Banquet fund. Donate $6 to cover the cost of one meal; $10 can provide a sleeping bag, Donate by Sat., Nov. 21. Select “I want to support Thanksgiving Banquet” on the donation page. www.mpaustin.org/give.

OPERATION TURKEY For only $25, you can help Operation Turkey feed 10 people in need this Thanksgiving. The goal is to serve 75,000 this year. www.operationturkey.com/donate.

WE ARE BLOOD THANKSGIVING MALL DRIVES Blood donors are especially needed during the holiday season. Sign up to donate and get in some holiday shopping at the same time with drives at Barton Creek Square, Lakeline Mall, and the Arboretum. Tue.-Wed., Nov. 24-25 & Fri.-Sat., Nov. 27-28. www.weareblood.org/donate-blood/make-an-appointment.

OUT OF TOWN

LOUISIANA TRAIL OF LIGHTS The holiday season kicks off with Christmas in the Park in Natchitoches and continues through the fireworks on New Year’s Eve around eastern Louisiana. Nov. 21-Dec. 31. www.holidaytrailoflights.com.

PARADE OF LIGHTS REIMAGINED The largest illuminated holiday parade in North Texas adapts to the pandemic by going virtual, then showcasing the signature floats downtown for better social distancing. Float showcase: Mon-Tue., Nov. 23-24, 6-8pm; virtual broadcast: Sun., Nov. 22, 7pm. Ft. Worth. www.fb.com/paradeoflightsfw.
Thanksgiving Feasts for Pickup or Delivery

And a couple of dine-in options for lagniappe

BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

So – you’re pretty much staying home this year and not packing your residence with a bunch of too-close-for-comfort relatives or friends? We understand. Oh boy, do we totally understand! But, still, you want to be all-Americanly lavish about this particular holiday and treat your limited number of guests (and your own hardworking, pandemic-wearied self) to something special? Then here’s a fine parcel of suggestions for your culinary pleasure. (And even two compelling venture-out-into-the-restaurant-world opportunities, should you be so inclined.) In any case, your Austin Chronicle food team hopes you have a safe and stuffed-to-the-gills Thanksgiving, citizen – and watch out for those ‘ronas!

ANDIAMO ITALIANO RISTORANTE

What sounds good this Thanksgiving? Freshly house-made pumpkin ravioli? Butternut squash soup? Roasted red potatoes and asparagus? How about each of those palate-pleasers and a loaf of Andiamo bread, all of which they say will feed up to 10 hungry Austinites ($55)? Or elevate your feast to $100 and it comes with wine, too: a three-course Thanksgiving To-Go option, with herbs roasted turkey breast, potatoes au gratin, Easy Tiger stuffing, roasted carrots and Brussels sprouts, cranberry jam, kale salad, and house gravy. And a Thanksgiving Leftover Bundle ($30) to help you turn those turkey-and-sides remains into a snakastic follow-up with Easy sourdough, house mustard, dill pickles, manchego cheese, romaine lettuce, and sliced tomatoes. Available for free delivery (Nov. 21-29) or pickups at the Linc or South Lamar location.

CONTIGO

This ranch-inspired place won’t cook anyone’s goose, but they’ll cook you a perfect turkey with an array of mouthwatering sides (enough for eight people, $255), or you can get just the 14-pound roasted turkey itself ($75), or just the sides ($180). Oh go full à la carte on all that chef Andrew Wiseheart’s prepared, choosing among the savory goodness of pumpkin chocolate muffins, kumquat & pepper marmalade, garlic & cream mashed potatoes, and more. 2027 Anchor, 512/614-2260. www.contigoaustin.com.

CRU

In addition to very limited dine-in reservations, this popular food and wine bar (at the Domain and Downtown) is offering a three-course Thanksgiving To-Go option, with butternut squash bisque and Caesar salad, roast turkey breast with all the fixin’s, and pumpkin cheesecake or apple-pecan bread pudding for dessert. ($80 serves two; $150 serves four.) Of course, if you did dine in, you’d be welcomed with a glass of Angry Orchard Rosé Cider; we had to mention that, because cider’s always a good thing. Domain: 11410 Century Oaks Terrace #104, 512/339-9463. Downtown: 238 W. Second #13, 512/472-9463. www.cruwinebar.com.

EASY TIGER

The Tiger’s helping you take it easy this turkey day, with a Grazing Platter ($95) that features three cheeses from Antennelli’s, a variety of salumi (prosciutto, salami, and summer sausage), spiced candied walnuts, fruit, and whipped butter and seasonal jam to accompany the array of sliced Easy Tiger bread that comes with. And a Complete Thanksgiving Feast ($175) with smoked herb-roasted turkey breast, potatoes au gratin, Easy Tiger stuffing, roasted carrots and Brussels sprouts, cranberry jam, kale salad, and house gravy. And a Thanksgiving Leftover Bundle ($30) to help you turn those turkey-and-sides remains into a snakastic follow-up with Easy sourdough, house mustard, dill pickles, manchego cheese, romaine lettuce, and sliced tomatoes. Available for free delivery (Nov. 21-29) or pickups at the Linc or South Lamar location.

EMMER & RYE

There’s no question of this feast’s excellence – it’s more a matter of how much you want. Because the meal kit for two ($150) includes a choice of one main course with sides and dessert, and the kit for four ($250) includes a choice of two mains and commensurate sides and desserts. And those mains? A whole Terra Purezza chicken roast, glazed Yonder Way Farm ham, smoked lion’s mane mushroom, and prime rib. Cooked the way only Kevin Fink and company can. And the sides? Holy succulent goodness, they’re so amazing we can’t even. Pickup will be Wed., Nov. 25. 512/366-5530. www.emmerandrye.com.

HOOVER’S

Preorders at this epicenter of down-home Southern-inflected goodness end on Fri., Nov. 20, so do move fast if you want to enjoy Hoover Alexander’s renditions of holiday classics. They’ve got a full menu of holiday options available, but also that new Family Six-Pack ($119.17) featuring roast turkey or ham steak with cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, candied yams, cranberry sauce, plus sweet potato biscuits and cornbread muffins. Note: They’ll cook the Six-Pack at Hoover’s on Manor (2002 Manor Rd.), but you can pick it up on Nov. 25-26 at Sterling Event Center, 6134 Hwy. 290 E., 512/479-5006. www.hooverscooking.com.

HUCKLEBERRY

Davis Turner, co-owner and seafood-centric chef of this culinary powerhouse of a food truck near the imminent Austin FC stadium, is offering the eatery’s first Thanksgiving feast to their lucky city. The holiday special features “Envy” turkey cooked with Circle Brewing Co.’s own Envy Amber, chorizo dressing, pimento cheese mashed potatoes, horchata bread pudding(!), and more. Pickups will be available on Wed., Nov. 25, 11am-3pm. 2340 W. Braker, 512/900-5818. www.huckleberrytx.com.

LAUNDERETTE

Wanna be sated by what chefs Rene Ortiz and Laura Sawicki have prepared for this nonniest of holidays? Good idea, citizen, as Launderette’s got a bone-in turkey breast meal ($150) and a beef tenderloin meal ($180), and both of those come with plenty of herbed stuffing, ginger cranberry sauce, and honey butter pull-apart rolls. There are other sides you can order separately, too, like delicata squash and Gruyère scalloped potatoes, and more, and three special desserts, too – but we can’t think beyond the homemade rosemary ice cream that’ll make this feast perfect for remembrance. Preorder by Mon., Nov. 23. 2115 Holly, 512/382-1599. www.launderetteaustin.com.

CONTINUED ON P.34
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THANKSGIVING CONTINUED FROM P. 32

MICKLETHWAIT CRAFT MEATS
If you already know how good these guys are with the brisket and sausage and other meats, then you’re probably also addicted to their jalapeño cheese grits. Which is why we’re stoked to tell you that Micklethwait’s offering complete family meals – with a whole turkey ($105) or a whole brisket ($160), and each including delicious sides – or you can order the meats by themselves. And there’s special holiday sides and desserts, too. (Did we say jalapeño cheese grits yet?) Pickup will be on Nov. 23–25. 1309 Rosewood, 512/791-5961. www.craftmeatsaustin.com.

OLAMAIE Chef Michael Fojtasek’s renditions of classic sides like broccoli and cheese casserole and cornbread sage stuffing are the bodacious basics of this Everything but the Turkey Dinner that feeds six ($150), but the secret weapons are those famous flaky buttermilk biscuits – and biscuit-dough cinnamon rolls for the next morning. Or, you know, you can order just a half-dozen biscuits with a variety of tasty spreads. Pickup Wed., Nov. 25, 8am–6pm. 1610 San Antonio St., 512/474-2796. www.olamaieaustin.com.

OLD THOUSAND The savvy tastemongers of Dope Chinese cuisine want to make your palate grateful with a Lucky Family Meal for Four ($88) that comes with two egg rolls, hot & sour soup, green beans, Xian Mian noodles, General Tso’s chicken, Mongolian beef, and cabbage pickles. Note: Currently available only at the 11th Street location. Vegetarian option is also available. (Also note: The actual General Tso, if he were still alive? Would likely weep tears of joy to be associated with food this good.) 1000 E. 11th, 737/222-6637. www.oldthousandatx.com.

SAWYER & CO. This Louisiana-inspired dîner’s got a Cajun turkey with your name on it, friend. A Cajun fried turkey breast with cornbread dressing, cranberry-orange relish, mashed potatoes, green beans, and dinner rolls – enough to serve four hungry people ($80) – and, yes, if you’re traditional and kind, you’ll want to order one of the available holiday pies, too. Pumpkin? Dutch apple? Buttermilk chess? Chocolate bourbon pecan? This is America, so you get to decide. And choose pickup or delivery, too. 4827 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/531-9033. www.sawyerandco.co.

TLV Here’s a Middle Eastern Thanksgiving meal you’ll not soon forget. TLV’s popular purveyors of Israeli street food are cooking up a feast with kabocha squash hummus, roast sweet potatoes, grilled Brussels sprouts, green lentil salad, and more, surrounding the main course of turkey shawarma (or vegetarian option of stuffed collard greens) and a dessert of tahini ice cream with chocolate chips and candied pumpkin. Available for two ($100) or four ($175). Pickup will be Wed., Nov. 25. In Fareground, 111 Congress, 512/608-4041. www.tlv-austin.com.

THREE DINE-IN OPS

ARLO GREY On Thanksgiving Day, this Kristen Kish-helmed destination for fine dining in Downtown’s Line hotel is offering an à la carte menu with all the traditional trimmings, including confit turkey presse with broccoli and brioche stuffing, herbed vinaigrette Yukon golds, and more. The featured dessert’s a Texas pecan-and-caramel tart with pumpkin ice cream, brown butter, and cinnamon chantilly – and if that isn’t Lone Star fancy, then we don’t know what is. 111 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/478-2991. www.thelinehotel.com.

HOPFIELDS OK, this is Friendsgiving, actually. Or, to be precise, it’s a Friendsgiving-versary day party for the popular eatery’s ninth anniversary, with socially distanced outdoor games and chef James Flowers dishing up a fine mess of sides (savory bread pudding, Brussels sprouts with shrooms and maple gastrique, and more) as well as turkey potpies with poutine curry gravy, turkey sausage on a stick, and brown butter pecan bars for dessert. Note 1: Some of the beers on tap this day will be up to 5 years old (because birthday!). Note 2: Most of the party will be on the venue’s extended back patio for maximum safety. Sat., Nov. 21, 11am–5pm. After 5pm, dinner specials commence until they’re all sold out. 3110 Guadalupe, 512/537-0467. www.hopfieldsaustin.com.

VEGAN THANKSGIVING

COUNTER CULTURE Sue Davis’ Eastside bastion of savory succulence offers two vegan meals-for-one ($20 each), one of which is also gluten-free, to supercharge your holiday dining pleasure in plant-based style. Featuring seitan loaf, mashed potatoes, glazed ginger sweet potatoes, cauliflower gratin, cranberry applesauce, gluten-free gravy, and more. Note: No turkeys – no animals at all, of course – were involved in bringing you this delicious meal. (Well, except for some excellent human chefs, yes.) Order by Sat., Nov. 21, for pickup on Wed., Nov. 25, noon-7pm. 2337 E. Cesar Chavez, 512/524-1540. www.countercultureaustin.com.

OLAMAIE Chef Michael Fojtasek’s renditions of classic sides like broccoli and cheese casserole and cornbread sage stuffing are the bodacious basics of this Everything but the Turkey Dinner that feeds six ($150), but the secret weapons are those famous flaky buttermilk biscuits – and biscuit-dough cinnamon rolls for the next morning. Or, you know, you can order just a half-dozen biscuits with a variety of tasty spreads. Pickup Wed., Nov. 25, 8am–6pm. 1610 San Antonio St., 512/474-2796. www.olamaieaustin.com.

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IT'S SO HARD... TO SAY GOODBYE

Brick Oven will be closing its doors for good on November 30th, so please come see us soon. Thanks for 40 amazing years.

Pick us up at HEB, Spec's, Whole Foods, Total Wine, and many more.

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Holiday Treats to Soothe Your Soul

Shop local, fill your belly with delicious carbs  **BY JESSI CAPE**

The holidays will certainly look a little different this year, but one surefire way to soothe the soul is by indulging in locally made carb-y goodness – and spreading that love around. If you’re an anxiety baker with plans to churn out dozens of cookies, loaves, pastas, or pies, please consider sharing with friends and neighbors who find themselves stuck in hard times. But if you’re able, spend those hard-earned dollars around town. We’ve rounded up a few favorites for you and the fam to enjoy, whether enjoying a celebration of thankfulness at home with the quar-crew or showing up with a treat for a safe and socially distanced meal with an extended group of loved ones. No matter how you do it, please wear that mask and try to focus on the gratitude.

**LUA BRAZIL**
**www.luabrazil.com**

At the center of the comfort food Venn diagram is cheese bread, and this spot specializes in exactly that: Pão de queijo (Brazilian cheese bread) is naturally gluten- and grain-free. These fluffy, golf-ball-sized delights are a perfect snack while you’re waiting for the main course. For Thanksgiving, they’re offering a special with 60 frozen pieces for $40, with free delivery, available through their website.

**LOTUS CHINESE**
**www.lotuschineseatx.com**

If you prefer your carbs with a savory filling and want to shake up a traditional Thanksgiving menu, order a few dozen of the handmade dumplings at this family-owned spot at the Domain NORTHSIDE. They’ve got a special on the frozen to-go dumplings (chicken, pork, and vegan sweet potato) and jarred sauces (soy garlic, chile oil, sweet-and-sour, or habanero Dragon sauce): two bags (24 dumplings) and two sauces for $25.

**ELDORADO CAFE**
**www.eldoradocafe.com**

You’re probably addicted to at least one of their crazy-good Mexican-inspired dishes, but did you know Eldorado has added cinnamon-sugar buttermilk mini-donuts to the menu? Co-owner Joel Fried created JB Rodeo Donuts as an ode to Jon Bonnell, who slung meatiest and Mexican-inspired dishes, but did you know Eldorado has added cinnamon-sugar buttermilk mini-donuts to the menu? Co-owner Joel Fried created JB Rodeo Donuts as an ode to Jon Bonnell, who slung their cumbia for decades, and now they’re on the breakfast menu to help spread happiness this season.

**THE SCONERY**
**www.instagram.com/thesconeryatx**

SCONES aren’t just for Brits, y’all. Casey Warnick developed her recipe to “reinvent the humble scone and show people that this treat, when done right, is incredible.” They’re somewhere between a biscuit and a muffin, shaped like a pie slice, and available in both sweet and savory flavors: blueberry muffin with streusel topping, the OG Strawberry, Heath Bar with chocolate drizzle, chocolate chunk, Cinnascone, Funfetti with a wild candy topping, and our favorite, the poblan pepper jack. Submit your order through DM on Instagram.

**THE SOURDOUGH PROJECT**
**www.sourdoughproject.org**

Jennifer Holmer El-Azzi and her husband, Danny, started as a farmers’ market favorite, and now their crackers are available at retail spots around town. Made with Texas heirloom wheat stone-milled by Barton Springs Mill, organic extra virgin olive oil, sea salt, and locally sourced spices, the dough is cold fermented for days, which gives the crackers a flaky, tangy, slightly cheesy flavor while remaining dairy-free. And the uniquely shaped crackers are hand-cut and baked in six flavors: classic sea salt, everything, sun-dried tomato, beet and thyme, za’atar, and whole wheat – with all spices sourced locally from Southern Style Spices in Manor.

**HANDMADE BY HARRIET**
**caitcjackson@gmail.com**

Caitlyn Jackson knows a thing or 10 million about baking, and lucky for everyone, she began selling her goods during the start of pandemic furloughs. The entirely handmade menu (which stays largely the same each week but features specials) boasts delicious breads like ½- or 1-kilo loaves of sourdough boule with all sorts of seasoned options, Parker House rolls, focaccia, and English muffins. She also makes cookies by the dozen (chocolate chip and gingersnap molasses) and other delights like whipped butter, vegetarian lasagna for two, and pappardelle pasta. Pickup and delivery available; orders due by Thursdays at 8pm via email.

**VIVIAN’S BOULANGERIE**
**www.viviansaustin.com**

It’s difficult to summarize the glory of Kendall Melton’s indulgent French-inspired pastries, but here goes: Using high-quality butter, pure cane sugar, imported salt, sustainable chocolates from Cacao Barry, local produce, eggs, and herbs, the beautiful menu features wonderful treats like pain au chocolat, spinach artichoke dip croissant, brown sugar shortbread, sweet potato and marshmallow tiger claw, and mashed potato kolache, among a bazillion more. Vivian’s also donates a percentage of monthly proceeds to Austin animal rescues, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Black Lives Matter movement. Place your order through their web store; available through local delivery and pickup from their secret kitchen.

**Be Mindful of Food Storage**

Food storage is a big part of cooking, and during the extended holiday season, it’s worth considering zero- and reduced-waste options for packing up leftovers or wrapping edible treats to deliver to friends. From reducing single-use plastics like sandwich baggies with beeswax wraps to reusing those cornichon or olive jars, it all makes a difference. Just in time, Zip Top – an Austin-based, women-owned brand that offers 100% platinum silicone, plastic-free containers that stand up, stay open, and zip shut (as in, NO LIDS) – is officially available for purchase at all H-E-B locations. They’re also microwave- and freezer-safe and available in several shapes, sizes, and colors. [www.ziptop.com](http://www.ziptop.com)

Consider following Austin-based social media pages dedicated to zero waste for ideas on all sorts of products and different recipes and projects for modernizing your kitchen function. Zero Waste Glory (@zerowasteglory) has great tips, and the Refill Nomads (@refillnomads) offer a mobile “refill revolution” for many types of household products. They announced this week that their van, usually parked at Thicket Food Park, was involved in a car accident, but their brick-and-mortar is still open in San Marcos. And one of my faves, Michelle Keffer of @thezerowastejourney, is a great resource for all things zero waste – with bonus recipes and tips for creative food use. With more time at home, it’s the perfect opportunity to save some money and make the earth – and your family – a little healthier.
FOOD NEWS BUFFET
BY WAYNE ALAN BRENNER

OK, bad news first, who’s closed permanently now? That nigh-on legendary location of Counter Cafe (on North Lamar, right across from BookPeople) is shuttered and out; but two other locations remain (at 603 W. 29th and 1914 E. Sixth) to serve up classic diner breakfasts all day long. Also, longtime pizza-and-pasta purveyors Brick Oven are being pushed out of their Arboretum space, their last remaining location, to make way for an expanding H-E-B. Not everything can be blamed on That Damn Virus (TM), after all.

Kristen Kish of Arlo Grey in the Line hotel has joined with S.Pellegrino (yes, that sparkling mineral water company with the iconic bottles) to produce a series of Friendsgiving videos – Our Food, Our Stories – in which the acclaimed chef will be cooking her friends’ and family’s holiday recipes with her own personal twist. There’ll be a dedicated Amazon storefront, so viewers can shop through the entire recipe collection and cook along with Kish at home. There will also be three chances for viewers to win a 30-minute consultation with Kish, a $500 Amazon gift card, a 10-piece set of All-Clad Stainless Steel cookware, and a signed copy of Kristen Kish Cooking: Recipes and Techniques: A Cookbook. Oh, and an array of S.Pellegrino products, too. You can enter (through Nov. 29) by sharing an important Thanksgiving recipe, memory, or tradition via Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter – and tagging S.Pellegrino – and hashtagging #ourfoodourstories #sweepstakes.

Jam Sanitchat of Tha’ Fresh fame has opened a new Eastside joint (at 1512 Holly) called Gati, a place that’s “a coffee shop in the morning and coconut-milk-based ice cream by day and night.” It’s a coffee shop with breakfast options, too – empanadas, quiches, pastries, and so on – in addition to Sanitchat’s astonishing array of ice cream flavors. Astonishing. Well, there are 16 rotating house-made ice creams, to be precise, and among them are Golden Milk (made with palm sugar), Lavender Caramel, Purple Sweet Potato, Thai Basil, Tamarind Candy, and – oh, we’ll just stop there. You get the idea and are probably halfway out the door by now.

Violet Crown Spirits – the intrepid alchemists who distill Emerald, the Lone Star State’s first (and highly lauded) absinthe – have finally released their Wildflower Trio, a fine package that features all three of their botanical liqueurs in 200 mL bottles: Jasmine, Elderflower, and Midnight Marigold. This is a perfect way to sample Violet Crown’s heady wares, to enjoy the fresh and floral facets of Texas terroir, but we should post a warning here: That Jasmine, in particular, with its bold notes of green tea, black tea, and honey? Just a sip or two, and it’ll hook even purporting abstainers – srslty, just ask Brenner’s wife.

As if Austin’s Bao’d Up wasn’t already the relentless bobo tea champion of this town, the Chinese comfort-food powerhouse has released its new, expanded Bubble House line of drinks at three of their four locations. And, in a more holiday-specific move, they’re now offering family packs of delicious turkey-and-potato bao for your most convenient Thanksgiving feasting.

Speaking of Asian cuisine, let’s note that Shanghai Chinese Restaurant at 6718 Middle Fiskville Road has instituted contactless ordering for its dine-in service, so if you’re actually venturing out these days, this’ll be a somewhat safer way to do it – and they’ll be open on Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas day, of course.

And, Moontower Cider Co. at 1916 Tillery? The apple-forward brewery’s opened a coffee bar on those ciderific premises, now offering cold brew and espresso drinks on Fridays and Saturdays, 8am-3pm, making sure you’ll be well caffeinated by the time the taproom opens for quaffing of a different sort. You know, in the midst of everything else that’s going on, the idea that there’s more coffee and more cider to be enjoyed in this town? It makes a plague-beleaguered citizen smile. Much like the news that Dear Diary Coffeehouse, that beloved vegan stronghold of java and art near 12th & Chicon, has started roasting its own beans. Damn, Litsa and Josh, way to go!

Now bon appetit, and y’all watch out for those ‘ronas.

FOOD EVENTS

HOPFIELDS: FREE SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM You know, parents, that you want to eat at Hopfields anyway, right? Now you can get lunch there … and your kiddos (ages 12 and younger) can get their lunch gratis. It’s a middle-of-the-school-day special that features, for the kiddos, choice of a main item with one or two sides and a juice box, plus (studious bonus, here!) school supplies like notepads, No. 2 pencils, crayons, colored pencils, calculators, and glue sticks available on request. Let your spawn work and nom on PB&J or grilled cheese or buttered noodles on the extended patio while you tuck into something more grown-up-ly delicious. Mon.-Fri., 11am-4pm, until Thanksgiving break. Hopfields, 3110 Guadalupe, 512/537-0467, www.hopfieldsaustin.com.

WHITE TRUFFLE FESTIVAL We know truffles are a thing, and much sought-after thing, so we’d be remiss if we didn’t tell you that it’s Italian Cucina has their fifth annual white truffle celebration going on. You know how good the food is, right? And that it’ll be accompanied by Brunotto wines? Yes – and you can get fresh urban white truffles on top, too – on top of the tagliatelle with parmesan cream sauce and the sautéed lamb chop, if not on top of the wine. See website for reservations. Through Nov. 22. It’s Italian Cucina, 2500 S. Lamar #110, 512/482-8655. Prices vary. www.itsitaliancucina.com.

TASTE OF TEXAS AUCTION This distinctive fundraiser is the first of its kind for the Texas Food & Wine Alliance, and they’re going all out with a plethora of sumptuous packages tailored for wine lovers, cocktail fans, and foodies. For instance? Oh, gift cards for some of Austin’s favorite watering holes. Barbecue packages from the likes of Franklin Barbecue and La Barbecue and Leroy & Lewis and Micklethwait. A summertime retreat for 6-10 people at Dripping Springs’ breathtaking Cactus Moon Lodge. And, as they say, much, much more! So even if you have no minions or henchmen to do your bidding, citizen, you can do your own bidding right here. Through Nov. 22. Going once, going twice … www.texasfoodandwinealliance.org.

LUCK REUNION X ASSEMBLY X REMY COURTAULT: PRIME CUTS FAMILY MEAL in which Luck Reunion’s food-meets-music cook-along series returns for a special event complete with shopping lists and preordered food and cocktail kits, with Austin-based chefs Kristen Kish and Alex Munoz (of Arlo Grey) and Philip Speer (of Assembly and Comedor) guiding you through the preparation of a traditional holiday family meal. This’ll do your November right: masa tamales with pork, pinto beans, and rice; a couple of pitch-perfect cocktails; and the music – live performances by that psychedelic soul songstress Nicole Atkins from New Jersey, and New Orleans’ own Tank & the Bangas. Note: Donations raised here will be made to the Luck Family Foundation, directly benefiting the Central Texas Food Bank.

REBEL CHEESE X WILLIAM CHRIS VINEYARDS Yes, those local makers of extraordinary vegan cheese have teamed up with the oenophiliac savants of William Chris to present a virtual tasting that you’ll be talking about long after the pandemic’s passed by. It includes a cheese board with four house-made cheeses (enough for two people), jam pairings, and other accouterments – and two bottles of wine chosen to pair with those cheeses. And Rebel Cheese owners Kirsten Maltland and Fred Zwar will tell you about the cheese, and the winery’s Tony Offill will tell you about the wine, and your palate and your belly will be like, “Yeehaw, it’s so good to be in Texas!” Fri., Nov. 20, 7pm. $95.

DOVE SPRINGS RECREATION: TURKEY BASKET DISTRIBUTION COVID-19 has put the kibosh on the annual in-person event. So, you can fill holiday tables for our neighbors in need and help our community have a happy and healthy holiday season.

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This year, we are stronger together.
Austin Dives, Hollywood Highs

How Fuckemos drummer Sean Powell inspired Riz Ahmed’s character in Sound of Metal  BY KEVIN CURTIN

With early acclaim rolling in for music drama Sound of Metal – currently holding a 95% fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes and more than a few film critics forecasting a Best Actor Oscar nomination for Riz Ahmed – Austin music fans will be fascinated to know that Sean Powell, drummer for infamous sludge punks Fuckemos, served as a character study for the film’s lead.

“Sean’s a big part of this movie – his heart and soul are all over the film,” co-writer and director Darius Marder revealed in an interview with the Chronicle earlier this month. “He worked with Riz early on and he became kind of a spirit animal for the Sound of Metal.”

The film – in theatres Friday, before landing on Amazon Prime December 4 – tells the psychologically punishing story of a drummer named Ruben who abruptly loses his hearing while on tour and lands in a halfway house for deaf addicts in recovery. It’s a powerful first-person narrative carried by an unforgettable performance from Ahmed, who learned both drumming and American Sign Language for the role. Via a chance introduction to Powell, the Nightcrawler actor was also able to study the soul of a real-life character who shares a lot of DNA with Ruben.

“Riz showed up at the house of a girl I know, who’d bought a painting from me,” recalled Powell, via phone from Los Angeles where he’s been living since the start of the year. “I guess he was hanging out with her and asked who made the painting and she said ‘Oh my friend Sean – he’s a crazy, sober drummer.’ Riz told her he’s playing a sober drummer who goes deaf so she gave him my number. He called me the next day and came over to my house.”

Ahmed and Powell went on to spend a lot of time together leading up to the filming of Sound of Metal. Sometimes Riz would encourage the ex-Austinite to tell stories and record him. Being studied didn’t bother Powell, but he concedes he is freaked out by the immersive depths of the Londoner’s acting. “He can actually become someone else,” he said. “And it’s scary.”

Powell met Marder the day after he met Ahmed. “The first time Darius and I saw each other, we were brothers,” he exclaimed. “I remember he said ‘You are the fuckin’ guy that I’m looking for!’ and I didn’t know what he was talking about.”

What the filmmaker meant is that he’d found both the human equivalent of the character he’d been visualizing for years, and a mother lode of firsthand druggie punk drummer experience. A formative moment in that creative friendship occurred when Ahmed, Marder, and the director’s brother, composer and co-writer Abraham, all met up to play music with Powell in New York City, where he lived at the time. A cell phone video Powell took that day shows them leaning into a heavy primal jam. Marder initially wanted Powell to give Ahmed drum lessons. “I told him I can’t do that,” Powell said. “I play a very specific style that’s sloppy and complex – it’s a one-trick pony thing.”

Ahmed would take more technical drum lessons from veteran session and touring drummer Guy Licata, but Powell could still teach him about being a drummer. “When Riz first sat down on the drums, I showed him a basic Phil Rudd-style four-on-the-floor beat and he did the first time. To me, he was already a drummer. So I just showed him body movements as far as power drumming is concerned – just being expressive, really thrashing the drums.”

Powell’s influence didn’t stop at the drum kit. Where punk and metal-adjacent movies often contain eye-roll-eliciting wardrobe, in his Rudimentary Peni and Gism shirts Ruben actually looks like an underground musician. Powell, who had long been something of a low-key fashion icon in Austin punk and – more recently – part of a surprising Gucci campaign, had significant influence over the way the protagonist ended up looking. “Pretty much all of what Riz is wearing in the film is Sean’s clothing,” Marder reported.

Then there are the tattoos, of which Powell is covered in face-to-foot. For Ahmed’s movie ink, the onetime Chumps drummer connected Marder and co. with his friend Rita Salt, who did the actor’s non-permanent tattoos. “They gave him a couple that I have – one of them is a toilet,” laughed Powell. “During that time, Riz was sending me ideas for absurd and funny tattoos. One day he sent me a text that just said ‘Homer Simpson fucking a donut.’ I was like ‘Yes! If I could do it all over again, I would have that tattooed on my chest.’”

It’s Ruben’s internal life where Powell had the deepest impact. Marder uses the term “character true north” to describe how Powell informed Ahmed’s portrayal. “In many ways, that’s because of what Sean’s been through in his life as a musician with substances.”

In the film, Ruben’s addiction exists as an underlying demon. It’s not discussed in much specificity other than that he’s been clean for four years and he has a sponsor. Still, the concern that life-changing hearing loss will trigger a relapse maintains profound suspense throughout the story.

“That one goes pretty deep for me,” Powell sighed, when asked about his own past addiction issues. “One of the first guys I met in Austin ... I don’t want to say his name, but he was the dude – an elder punk who played in shitloads of cool bands, sweetest guy in the world. I remember we jammed together and he was trying to teach me how to play ‘Iron Fist’ by Motörhead while he was basically unconscious, leaning on his Marshall full-stack. I didn’t know at the time that he was on heroin, but when I found out, of course I wanted to follow in his footsteps and I did.

“First time I got sober was in 1999 and I stayed sober for two years. Then I did the Fosbury flop and relapsed and got high for the next five years. Then I got sober for the last time – hopefully – on March 27, 2007,” he continued. “It’s a thing that went hand in hand in music ... for me. If you’re a musician, you’re in a bar every day surrounded by people saying ‘hey you want a toot’ or whatever. It’s super common. Then there’s the other side of it, the people who go through it and come out of it and get sober – change their life.”

Surprisingly, in spite of his pivotal influence on Ahmed’s performance, and even though his current punk quartet Surfboat appears in the film, Powell hasn’t actually seen Sound of Metal yet. He admitted he’s a little nervous to watch it. Partially it’s because he doesn’t love glimpsing himself on film, but more so, the topic of a sober drummer going deaf kind of terrifies him. For him, the best thing that came out of his self-described role of “dork-consultant” on the film is an enduring friendship with Marder. Powell lauded him as “a great guy, a powerhouse. ... I want to be like him when I grow up.”

See p.41 for our review of Sound of Metal, and head to austinchronicle.com for our interview with director Darius Marder, “In a Silent Way,” Screens, Nov. 6.
The Deadly Cost of Corruption

Collective sifts through the ashes of the nightclub fire that became a national scandal

By Josh Kupec

Insidious political corruption may be ubiquitous in modern society, but it has been around since the earliest civilizations. Ancient Egyptians had to customarily grease the wheels, and everyone’s favorite Babylonian, Hammurabi, included a few choice codes on the subject. But it really wasn’t until the Sixties brought about the idea of questioning authority that these sinister forces at play were brought to light. Ever since Woodward and Bernstein exposed corruption in the highest levels of the U.S. government, journalists have increasingly uncovered abuses of trust, greed, and the exploitation of the weak. Which brings us to Romanian filmmaker Alexander Nanau’s latest documentary, Collective, which reveals a jaw-dropping investigation into the deplorable malfeasance of health care in his native country. If you overlaid the plot of every post-Watergate conspiracy film together, you would still be miles away from the systemic corruption unveiled here.

The first domino to fall is a 2015 fire that broke out in a Bucharest club named Colectiv, killing 64 people and injuring over 100. Initially, protests revolved around the club not having the proper safety permits, but as time went on, something else started happening. An inordinate number of the wounded patients were dying in the hospitals, even as the media were told that the government was “managing the situation impeccably.” One newspaper, Sports Gazette (yes, a sports daily), began to look deeper into the cause of these deaths. Editor Catalin Tolontan and his team of journalists discovered that the disinfectants used by the hospitals had been diluted at least 10 times more than normal, exposing the patients to some of the most drug-resistant pyogenic bacteria in Europe. The head of the company supplying these biocides had exclusive contracts with all the hospitals, was funneling money offshore, and, during the investigation, conveniently died in a violent car crash before he could testify. The minister of health resigned, replaced by a reformer, Vlad Voiculescu, who promises transparency. In one of his first meetings with his cabinet, he actually says, “The first thing we need to do to gain trust is stop lying.”

Tolontan and company keep digging deeper, uncovering more and more corruption as they follow the money trails and whistleblowers begin to reach out to them, burdened by guilt from what they’ve seen. And it is horrific. More than 12,000 completely avoidable deaths a year, maggots festering on burn victims, inaccurate blood transfusions, hospital managers having fake invoices paid out, untold millions of euros siphoned out of the health care system to line the pockets of politicians, bureaucrats, and mobsters. Just when you think they have surely reached the end, the path keeps branching outward and upward. It is corruption entrenched in a system so rotten, it takes your breath away. At one point, Voiculescu admits to a group of reporters that in the current state of the hospitals, five burn victims would be four too many, overtaking the system.

What makes Nanau’s film utterly compelling is the unfettered access he had to both the Sports Gazette journalists and to Minister of Health Voiculescu. There are no interviews or talking heads here: Everything unfolds as it is happening. From the reporters nonchalantly dropping their cellphones on the floor before entering a meeting room, to Voiculescu stammering his way through making amends to the Colectiv club survivors, Collective is a riveting examination of the systemized graft of the urban political machine. At one point, appearing on a TV program, Tolontan is asked what his goal is in exposing all these horrors, the subtext being that he is just causing people more misery. His response is the essence of the film’s theme: “There is no final goal in journalism. All I’m trying is to give people more knowledge about the powers that shape our lives.”

Collective is now available as a virtual cinema release.

VIOLET CROWN, AFS CINEMA
concludes with a promise for a brighter future: Buolamwini presenting her findings on facial recognition during a White House summit on Computer Science for All (featuring political fan favorite Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez). Buolamwini expresses optimism that the system can be changed and improved, demonstrating that companies like IBM took her research and fixed their software’s algorithm so it doesn’t have trouble detecting any kind of face regardless of gender or skin tone. Coded Bias is not interested in wallowing in despair for the future, like many tech-infused documentaries like to do. Kantayya wants to inform and inspire change. New tech is not inherently evil or totally lost in its bias, and because it is code it can ultimately be improved upon and changed rapidly, unlike humanity. For subjects like Buolamwini, science fiction brought her hope and comfort, and Kantayya wants to infect others with those same aspirations.

Coded Bias is available now as a virtual cinema release.

★★★★

– Jenny Nuff
AFS CINEMA

HILLBILLY ELEGY
D: Ron Howard; with Gabriel Basso, Amy Adams, Glenn Close, Owen Asztalos, Haley Bennett, Freida Pinto, Sunny Mabrey. (R, 116 min.)
Can we all just admit, right off the bat, that Ron Howard’s latest slice of middle-American misery porn is a Lifetime movie with a bigger budget and a higher-profile-than-usual cast?
It’s adapted from J.D. Vance’s bestselling but widely disparaged autobiography, and its depiction of a white, Southern working class that just needs to grab hold of its bootstraps and pull, pull, pull. Liberal readers saw it as a glimpse into what they were getting wrong about the Rust Belt (because the left loves nothing more than a good dose of self-justification). The right touted it for validating its viewpoint about self-reliance: After all, Vance had gone from crappy jobs in small-town Ohio to becoming a venture capitalist. After all, Vance had gone from crappy jobs in small-town Ohio to becoming a venture capitalist. It’s a glossy, cleaned-up, monolithically white version of the heartland. Literally the only Black person in the first half-hour is a cop who intercedes while Beth is beating seven shades of J.D. in some stranger’s house. (Oddly, most authority figures are Black, which is astounding considering how Vance’s book pigeonholed avoided racism as a problem in the South.)
As for releasing this defanged apologia for the working whites that clog up every “What do Trump voters think?” cable news vox pop segment right now, that’s just misguided. But the utter cluelessness of the script, the reliance upon trite wisdom about family, the stupefying oversimplification of it all, make Hillbilly Elegy as artificial as the near-meat in the fried bologna sandwich that J.D.’s sister serves him as a good old taste of home.

★★

– Richard Whittaker
EVO CINEMAS BELTERRA, HIGHLAND

JIU JITSU
D: Dimitri Logothetis; with Nicolas Cage, Frank Grillo, Tony Jaa, Juju Chan, Alain Moussi, Rick Yune, Marie Avgeropoulos. (NR, 102 min.)
Less a Nic Cage movie than a movie with an extended cameo by Nic Cage in a “finely crafted” paper hat(!), this Greek/Cypriot co-production mixes mediocre martial artistry with a sci-fi spin and ends up a puzzlement to both genres. Quoth the Cage: “You look puzzled. Are you puzzled? Because I’m puzzled.” Yeah Nic, right there with you, wherever you are.
Part Kickboxer (star Moussi was the driving force behind the rebooting of that particular franchise) by way of The Bourne Identity and a dash of Predator, the story opens with amnesiac super soldier Jake Barnes (Moussi) evading someone or something to splash-land in the Andaman Sea off the coast of Myanmar. He’s quickly picked up by a fisherman, then passed on to a U.S. Army Base where Intelligence Officer Myra (Avgeropoulos) struggles to figure out who this badass is and who he may be working for. After a mishmash of confusing exposition regarding a meteor that appeared overhead, the films kicks into high gear with the sudden appearance of Ong Bak superstar Jaa, as mysterious muay thai master Kueng. The pair busts out of the U.S. base and hits the jungle, where they meet up with a quartet of equally pugilistic super soldiers who definitely don’t have amnesia because they know all about the still-foggy Jake and his mission in life. Turns out that meteor carries Brax, an alien who cruises by earth every six years to challenge the planet’s greatest warrior, i.e., Jake. Fisticuffs-fu ensues, but Jiu Jitsu’s weakest link may be its lousy fight choreography, which is shot wide and low with stunt doubles who seem like they could really use a good nap.
The humanoid Brax is about as threatening as Space Ghost’s Adult Swim-era antagonist, Brak, but with fewer one-liners, and the whole intergalactic dust-up ends up being about as memorable as that one fight. Another is the institutional barriers that face the poor is the least of its sins: If your way of depicting white working-class blues, that’s absurd, like Vance calling his upper-crust girl friend so she can explain how to use cutlery at a fancy dinner. If that seems like a clumsy snorty gag about bourgeois dining habits, you just don’t understand the problems. It’s a film that just doesn’t get it. Like the sequence in one of an interminable series of cookouts (does no one use their kitchen in Kentucky?): The conversation about recommending rehabs feels like a transplanted Hollywood party. And, yes, the “three kinds of Terminator” speech that is highlighted in the trailer and clearly feature in any misguided “For Your Consideration” sizzle rolls is as bad and inauthentic in context as out.

★★★

– Marc Savlov
D: Alexandre O. Philippe. (NR, 104 min.)
Leap of Faith: William Friedkin on the Exorcist
The documentarian puts aside the visual depth it’s not simply a lecture: Philippe absorbs the work of Errol Morris and his Interrotron technique, letting the complexities of Friedkin be explored as he explains his work. (If only he had shown this same kind of skill with his first, highly flawed examination of a filmmaker, the flimsy The People vs. George Lucas.) The insight into the intellect of the man who made The Exorcist, an exacting film filled with vagaries, is as edifying as any details about editing room arguments over diegetic sound.

★★★★

– Richard Whittaker

LUXOR
D: Zeina Durra; with Andrea Riseborough, Michael Landes, Shereen Reda, Karim Saleh, Salima Ikram. (NR, 84 min.)
An English woman arrives in Egypt. You can tell she’s English, not simply by her accent but because the first four words out of her mouth are “thank you,” twice. This is a return, a visit to old haunts — or rather, literally ancient ones. She is visiting Luxor, the ancient Egyptian city seen by outsiders as a tourist destination — and, it must be said, by the residents, who live with antiquity. That sense of history is what has brought her
back, as she reunites with an old flame.

Both live with death in very different ways. Hana (Riseborough) is a doctor with a humanitarian crisis organization, taking a break after an assignment in Yemen. She has seen horrors, but the script never needs to explain them to the audience. Instead, she carries a textured, layered fragility. Hers is the strength of broken bones that have healed well but not necessarily straight. Sultan (Saleh) works on the other side of the veil of mortality. He is an archaeologist, one of the many who make their living in the dust and tombs in the ancient temple complexes. It’s been years since they were lovers, but neither has set all of those emotions aside.

There’s an extraordinary immediacy to Luxor, born of director Durr’s unromantic but loving view of the environment. Escaping lazy tropes of crammed souks and the Sphinx’s missing nose, this is Egypt as a confluence of nations over time. Multiple languages are spoken, but never subtitled or translated. Obscure, tiny tombs have as much modern life as a sleepy local restaurant. There is a care for past, as ancient artifacts are dug up with love and guests mourn the potential refurbishment of a venerable but faded hotel.

Luxor brings out yet another quietly inward-facing performance from Riseborough. Hana is the focus from the first moment in this quiet, delicate romance, but she is deliberately inscrutable. Riseborough transmits how the shattered Hana craves the giggly silliness of her link with Sultan without having to rely on dialogue about the traumas of war-zone life. There’s something breathtaking in how easily Riseborough and the equally understated Saleh fall into the ways of old lovers, leaning in, nearly touching, each gingerly dodging hurting the other while knowing there are years of pain and loss somewhere in there. It feels so real, so immediate, and semi-improvised are years of pain and loss somewhere in there. It starts as a rat-a-tat screwball comedy of intentions and ambitions, everyone is trapped, everyone has dirty hands, everyone has its interplay with power, its insiders and outsiders. Everyone has dirty hands, everyone has ambitions and ambitions, everyone is trapped, and money and power will win out.

The issues crystallize over cocktails in San Simeon, Hearst’s rambling castle that became the inspiration for Kane’s Xanadu. Plutocrats and starlets discuss the upcoming 1934 election, when Republicans became convinced that California was about to become a communist hotbed and that Germany’s descent into fascism was just a temporary blip (any of this sound familiar?). It’s unclear whether this scene was in those long-gestating earlier drafts, but they would not have had the resonance they do right now. Swap Upton Sinclair for Bernie Sanders, Hitler for Trump, Louis B. Mayer for any executive furloughing staff and cutting salaries because of the economy, and the dialogue would hit like a hammer on the Sunday morning politics shows.

Of course, Fincher never has to make this explicit. His lure is the appeal of a story from the Golden Age of cinema, and in its re-creation of the look and feel of a 1940s film. It’s more than simply shooting in black and white. It’s an assignation in Yemen. She has seen horrors, but the actual political engagement of the stu-

- Richard Whittaker

Avis S. Lamar

MANK

D: David Fincher; with Gary Oldman, Amanda Seyfried, Tom Burke, Charles Dance, Tuppence Middleton, Lily Collins, Leven Rambin, Tom Pelphrey, Artis Howard, Toby Leonard Moore, Joseph Cross, Jamie McShane. (R, 131 min.)

“Who was that again?”

“Just a writer.”

It starts as a rat-a-tat screwball comedy of the kind no one writes any more. Naturalism is overrated in Mank, a very different look at the creation of Citizen Kane. Obviously, something new had to be found to be said about Orson Welles’ constant fights with the studio even after they gave him free rein to create the era-defining movie that eventually hamstrung the studio career of radio’s golden boy. So David Fincher (working from a heavily reworked script originally drafted by and still credited to his father, Jack) looks elsewhere on the back lot for his latest iteration of the contentious creation of a masterpiece.

It’s 1940; enter, from stage left, Herman J. Mankiewicz, the former international correspondent-turned-Algonquin Round Table survivor-turned-Hollywood script doctor known more generally as “Mank.” On crutches after a car wreck, he’s holed up in a house in Victorville, hired to turn the vague idea of Kane into something like a script. “Write what you know,” he is instructed, an edict that will turn out to be both prescient and catastrophic.

The gist of the story is what we’ve seen before, in documentaries like The Battle Over Citizen Kane and dramas such as RKO 281: that Mank (Oldman, sozzled and jaundiced) and Welles (The Souvenir’s Burke, catching more of the filmmaker’s bloviating fury than most depictions) make a thinly veiled biopic of newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst (Dance, all reserved fury). The script posits a flirtation between Mank and Marion Davies (Seyfried), Hearst’s lover and the supposed inspiration for Kane’s mistress/second wife, Susan. Their zinger-filled exchanges are purely platonic – Mank would never stray from “poor Sara” (Middleton), as everyone calls her – but they’re kindred spirits, filled exchanges are purely platonic – Mank

- Richard Whittaker

Avis S. Lamar

SOUND OF METAL

D: Darius Marder; with Riz Ahmed, Olivia Cooke, Paul Raci, Lauren Ridloff, Mathieu Amalric. (NR, 130 min., subtitled)

If you know a musician, you’ve probably joked with them more than once about a whistling in your ears or made “What? WHAT?” responses. But that’s gallows humor, to ward off the ultimate loss, as close to living in limbo as imaginable.

In unconventional rock drama Sound of Metal, Ruben (Ahmed) and Lou (Cooke) make up Blackgammon - one of those kinds of noise duos that you catch in some basement club on a seven-band lineup, the kind where you’re glad that not every act is like that because you don’t think your ears could handle it. But imagine being in that band, night after night, blaring as loud as you can, revving off that volume, and then all you get is silence. That’s what happens to Ruben, whose hearing is just giving out. This isn’t mild tinnitus. The doctor he sees explains that this is sudden, catastrophic, inexplicable, and he will probably lose the last shreds of his interaction with the world of sound in days, maybe weeks.

But this isn’t the age-old story of a musician going on one last self-destructive bender before his muse collapses. When Lou checks him into a rehab attached to a school for the deaf, terrified he’ll turn back to his old heroin crutch, Ruben
SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BY KAT McNEVINS

VIRTUAL SCREENINGS

AFS CINEMA The quality programming you've come to expect is available virtually, www.austinfilm.org/afs-cinema.

ALAMO ON DEMAND Alamo Drafthouse-curated picks.

VIOLET CROWN Thearthome cinema you're known for offering virtual tickets. Purchase virtual tickets at benefittheatre.austin.com.

SPACES

FROZEN II (2019) D: Chris Buck and Jennifer Lee; with the voices of Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel, Josh Gad. (PG, 104 min.) Bring a card to purchase candy, soda, and drinks from the village's concession stand. (*) @Community First! Village, Fri., Nov. 20, 6:30pm.

WHITE CHRISTMAS (1954) D: Michael Curtiz; with Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen. (NR, 120 min.) Come early and in costume for live music at 6:30 before the outdoor screening.
@Georgetown Palace Theatre, Fri., Nov. 20, 7:15pm.

C.R.A.Z.Y. (2005) D: Jean-Marc Vallée; with Michel Côté, Marc-André Grondin, Danielle Proulx. (NR, 129 min., subtitled) Film Query Presents. Zac, a young French Canadian gay man living in Quebec, wrestles with his sexuality amid his conservative upbringing in the Sixties and Seventies. This is Michel Côté's film, which is finally getting the attention it deserves. (*) @Community First! Village, Sat., Nov. 21, 4:30pm.

FEATURED SCREENINGS

EASTERN SCREENINGS

SPECIAL EVENTS AT ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE Alamo Drafthouse has truly too many fun screenings going on to list individually in this small space. There's Elf and Love Actually with party favors, chances to dress up in honor of Grease and Knives Out, and more coming up. So if you're in the mood to enhance your theater-going experience, check them all online.
@Alamo S. Lamar, Alamo Slaughter Lane, Alamo Lakeline.

THE CABIN IN THE WOODS (2012) D: Drew Goddard; with Kristen Connolly, Chris Hemsworth, Anna Hutchison. (R, 105 min.) What better way is there to see this one in the woods with lots of spooky fog? (*) @Blue Starlite Mueller II, Thu., Nov. 19; Sat., Nov. 21; Wed., Nov. 25, 9-11pm.

THE DRIVE-IN COMEDY Tour Blue Starlite teamed up with a long-running national series that pulls local comedians from all over the country to bring you live comedy at the drive-in. @Blue Starlite Round Rock, Sat., Nov. 21, 4pm.

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (1975) (R, 95 min.) Drag at the Drive-in. Christine King, Olive Cox, Maveen Haven, and Nadine Hughes perform in the special Drag Diva Showcase prior to the 7:30pm screening. @Doc's Drive In, Sat., Nov. 21, 6pm.

THE SYMBOL ($) INDICATES FULL-LENGTH REVIEWS AVAILABLE ONLINE: AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/FILM

FESTIVALS

AUSTIN JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL AJFF was scheduled to end Nov. 13, but it's been extended another week, so you still have time to catch the films, some of them for free!

AUSTIN POLISH FILM FESTIVAL This year, APFF has taken most of the screenings to the virtual realm, offering two months of Polish features and documentaries online, as well as three films co-presented with Austin Jewish Film Festival and a few screenings at Galaxy Highland. Through Dec. 31. www.austinpolishfilm.com.

CAPITAL CITY BLACK FILM FESTIVAL The theme this year is “Breakthrough: Unleash Your Power,” with a focus on exploring the impacts of racism on Black mental health. There’s a wide range of passes available, from bronze to VIP and even a free sampler option. VIP is the way to go, getting you access to all the spotlight films and 20 screening blocks, plus industry panels, filmmaker Q&As, a T-shirt, and exclusive treats from sponsors. Festival runs Dec. 4-6; passes available now. www.capcitybff.com.

OTHER WORLDS FILM FESTIVAL The lineup has been announced, and badges are now available. Quantities will be limited, so register today and keep an eye out for individual tickets going on sale two weeks prior to the fest. The Pulsar badge gets you access to most all of the films and the closing night trivia party, but the Superpulsar badge is the prime pass; access to all films, events, and parties, plus a poster, a goodie bag, and more. Festival runs Dec. 1-6; badges available now. www.otherworldsfilmfestival.com.

OFFSCREEN

ATX TV FEST DISCUSSION: THE RIGHT STUFF ATX TV Fest presents a star-studded conversation about the National Geographic original series for Disney+, which centers on the incredible story of the early days of the U.S. space program.

AUSTIN SCHOOL OF FILM HOLIDAY BOX Show your support of the Austin film scene with this box packed with merch: a retro-style ringer T and tote, a polka-dot bandanna for you or your pup, stickers, and more fun goodies. It's a perfect gift for yourself or any film fan in your life, and proceeds support Austin School of Film's programs and the thousands they serve each year. Preorder by Nov. 7; ships Dec. www.austinfilmschool.org.

AUSTIN SCHOOL OF FILM WINTER WORKSHOPS Several fun virtual workshops with holiday themes are coming up via ASOF's Play at Home program. Most have supply kits and require advance registration. DIY VHS Basics: Nov. 28 (register by Nov. 27); Intro to Brush Pen Lettering & Cards: Register by Nov. 20 for Intro to Brush Pen Lettering & Cards; Register by Nov. 20 for Intro to Brush Pen Lettering & Card. (29, noon-2pm): register by Nov. 20 for DIY VHS Basics: Nov. 28, noon-2pm); register by Nov. 20 for DIY VHS Basics: Nov. 28, noon-2pm); register by Nov. 20 for DIY VHS Basics: Nov. 28, noon-2pm); register by Nov. 20 for DIY VHS Basics: Nov. 28, noon-2pm); register by Nov. 20 for DIY VHS Basics: Nov. 28, noon-2pm).

MUSIC AND THE MOVIES Austin Jewish Film Festival presents a free Q&A with award-winning composers and musicians Ishaq Adar and Christopher Gubisch, who'll be discussing what goes into filming a soundtrack and how music affects the experience of movie-watching. Sun., Nov. 22, 2pm. www.austinfilm.org.

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SUBMISSION INFORMATION: The Austin Chronicle is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. The deadline for the Dec. 4 issue is Monday, Nov. 23. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Send submissions to the Chronicle, PO Box 4189, Austin, TX 78765; fax, 512/458-6910; or email. Contact Kat McNeivins (Special Screenings): specialscreenings@austinfilm.com.

MORE REVIEWS AVAILABLE ONLINE: AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM/FILM

NEWS | COVER STORY | ARTS & CULTURE | FOOD | SCREENS | MUSIC

42 THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE NOVEMBER 20, 2020 austinchronicle.com
In 1998, “The Men of KUT” – Jay Trachtenberg, John Aielli, Larry Monroe, and Paul Ray – graced the cover of the Chronicle after having been professionally groomed and outfitted. Sly smiles reveal the glee of deejays who did not actually wear suits and ties to their day job. The cover package called them pillars of the University of Texas frequency, which had just begun internet broadcasts and spun off music frequency KUTX in 2013.

The retirement of Trachtenberg, announced last week, marks the end of a foundational era at the proudly noncommercial station. Aielli stepped down earlier this year after suffering a stroke (the Eklektikos eclectic is doing just fine at home), Blue Monday voice Monroe passed in 2014, and Austin lost Twine Time standard Ray in 2016.

Trachtenberg still hosts Sunday Morning Jazz on the station, 7-10am, but now “The Women of KUTX” dominate most days. Taylor Wallace-Riegel took over for Aielli, while Susan Castle and Laurie Gallardo fill out weekdays before Jody Denberg mans rush hour. Also 21st century, Andrew Brown’s electronic spotlight on Soundfinder promotes to Wednesdays at 8pm, while Aaron “Fresh” Knight of hip-hop show The Breaks breaks his own hours, Mondays at 8pm and Saturday mornings.

Arriving in Austin for graduate school in 1978, Trachtenberg dropped off a demo tape at KUT the very next day. With no space at the campus station, he instead launched his trademark Jazz Etc. on KAZI. In the meantime, he connected with Chronicle founders at The Daily Texan and has written here since our first year, 1981.

KUT didn’t come calling until 1985, when he hauled two armfuls of Miles Davis LPs through the snow to air from midnight to 5am, a slot he sustained for the next decade. He eventually landed on the noon-2pm spot Mon.-Thu., as the calming voice of musical wisdom. Fellow on-air KUTX host Jeff McCord, who wrote a moving tribute to his friend on the station’s website, prompted Trachtenberg to recall one particular studio interview with Jesse Colin Young, who strummed his song “Get Together,” as in, “Come on, people now/ Smile on your brother.”

“This was a huge influence on us,” he said. “He is a legend.”

R.I.P. HONKY-TONK LEGEND JOHNNY BUSH

“Whiskey River take my mind.”

Those words, which kick off every Willie Nelson show, originated with heartache aficionado Johnny Bush. The Texas Country Music Hall of Famer, 85, died Oct. 16 in San Antonio. Born John Bush Shinn III in Houston, the aspiring artist moved to the Alamo City as a teen, where an announcer at the Texas Star Inn dubbed him Johnny Bush.

Before launching solo, Bush drummed with the Mission City Playboys and played with lifelong friend Nelson in Ray Price’s band, the Cherokee Cowboys. He charted renditions of Nelson’s “What a Way to Live” and Marty Robbins’ “You Gave Me a Mountain” before the 1972 success of his “Whiskey River.” Chronicle writer Jim Caligiuri profiled the singer for the release of his 2007 autobiography:

“Lyrical, he perfected blending the here and now of everyday occurrences with fiddle, pedal steel, and that shuffle beat at the heart of Texas honky-tonk. Glimpsed through the prism of his songs, Bush lived what he wrote (which may explain his current fourth marriage), so the emotions were plain and to the bone. The cherry on top was his remarkable voice.”

In the Seventies, the “Country Caruso” developed vocal problems, limiting his famed range. Eventually, doctors diagnosed the rare disorder spasmodic dysphonia, and after treatment, he continued to perform. Bush crooned on “Say It Simply” by locals Mike & the Moonpies earlier this year.

“Johnny has been a huge influence on us and the music we make,” wrote the group on social media. “He is a legend.”

RICK CARNEY STEPS DOWN AS MUSIC COMMISSION CHAIR

The Nov. 2 meeting of the Austin Music Commission, sparsely attended due to the election, proved Chair Rick Carney’s last. The group will vote on a new chair next month.

In 2016, the punk rock singer/guitarist with no previous civic experience joined the AMC when a rep seat opened up in District 2.

Carney steps down due to responsibilities at School of Rock. As national manager of music education with the nationwide franchise, he’s scrambled to get lessons rolling virtually for students across the country. No longer the even-keeled meeting moderator, Carney responded to a poll about the many efforts lodged at local music in four years.

Biggest Success?

Carney mentions creation of the $12 million Creative Space Bond and Live Music Fund, both in the works for distribution.

For pandemic response, he cites the Austin Music Disaster Relief Fund:

“That was unprecedented. The city never had a program that gave money directly to musicians. We’re very proud of that, even though we know that it was just a drop in the bucket.”

Biggest Shortfall?

The long-sought Agent of Change principle, which would protect music venues from noise disputes with developers.

“Has to be codified to have some teeth,” he said.

CodeNEXT was the point where it fell off the table. That’s always been a frustration of mine. We’ve talked about it from the first day I came on the commission, not long after the mayor’s omnibus study. Now, it’s even more important.”

Biggest Challenges Ahead?

Preserving Austin venues from COVID-19-induced shutter.

“As the clock ticks, the need is greater and greater. We have to start moving to try to keep as many venues afloat as possible. The thought of an Austin with half as many venues is just not acceptable to me, having lived and played music here since the mid-Eighties. There’s a huge responsibility to repair and restore the musical culture the city has.”

CROSSTALK

SXSW 2021

SXSW ONLINE OPENED REGISTRATION for the 2021 event, prompting virtual music showcases and more for March 16-20. Last month, musicians booked for this year’s canceled fest received invitations to apply. Applications aren’t open to the public. The email clarified: “It is simply not possible to showcase the 1,800-2,000 artists we typically have... With that in mind, we will be looking for especially compelling stories and reasons for an artist to command one of these limited opportunities,” www.sxsw.com.

TAX INCENTIVES for commercial landlords could help the vulnerable sectors of Austin music venues, restaurants, bars, and childcare centers as targeted last month in the SAVES Resolution. Under the proposal, landlords would receive property tax reimbursements, new leases must extend for at least a year, despite plans to vote last week, city staff requested more time to refine the program, pushing a vote to Dec. 3.
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an unnecessary expansion for a Convention Center that loses, roughly, $1 million per major event
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Somewhere in time and space exists Arginor. Grand but rough, the realm bustles with strapping warriors, malevolent sorcerers, strange cults, dangerous women, and elder gods of fragile sanity. Created by Wimberley singer/blacksmith Jason Tarpey essentially as tribute to Robert E. Howard/ Michael Moorcock’s sword and sorcery and H.P Lovecraft’s existential horror oeuvre, tales of Arginor have been told in print and through music thanks to Tarpey’s bands Iron Age, whose seminal 2009 album The Sleeping Eye first shone a light on this dark world, and Eternal Champion.

Ravening Iron continues a narrative begun on debut LP The Armor of Ire, this time with its creator’s accompanying novel The Godblade, which picks up from his story “Vengeance of the Insane God” in the anthology Swords of Steel. Within that outlandish conceptual framework, its galloping rhythms and swooping melodies could tip into kitsch, but they never whiff of it. Thank the group’s restraint, a term not usually associated with epic power metal.

Guitarists Blake Ibanez (Power Trip) and John Powers stick close to the riffs and melodies, adding filigree only when necessary, and drummer/producer Arthur Rizk keeps the beat like a metronome, regardless of time signature. Tarpey’s midrange rasp avoids excess of any kind, giving his most fantastical flights of lyrical fancy an earthy tone that grounds them. An expertise in Arginorian mythology or even a basic grounding in warrior fantasy isn’t required for the axe-wielding “Wolves of the Earth” and doom-laden “Skullseeker” to get the blood pumping, or for “Banners of Arhail” to close the album on a triumphant note.

Eternal Champion’s ambitious multimedia reach remains rewarding, but Ravening Iron nevertheless boils down to the central question for any concept album: Does it hold up without the central conceit? As surely as a map of Arginor hangs in Jason Tarpey’s man cave, yes.

— Michael Toland
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Austin businesses have faced reduced capacity, limited hours, and other difficult challenges during the pandemic, but many are open and need your support more than ever. As readers, you can support your favorite local business by purchasing a month’s worth of advertising in The Austin Chronicle – the gift that keeps on giving.

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Tell us which local businesses you love the most and why. The five businesses with the most mentions will each win a FREE FOUR WEEK “ADOPT-AN-AD” CAMPAIGN in The Austin Chronicle.
**THURSDAY 11/19**

- **Brass Tap Domain** Rapha Austin Band (6:00)
- **Cheatham St.** Landon Bullard, Gus Clark (8:30)
- **Emerald Point Bar & Grill** The Jericho Machine (6:00)
- **The Far Out** Honey Maid, Matzenoh (7:00)
- **Geraldine’s** Birds Bubbles & Blues w/ Jo James (8:00)
- **Grassee Hall** Sam Raw & The Fabulous Stumminghorses (6:00)
- **Hays City Store** Chris Ross (6:00)
- **Hill Country Galleria** Vista Brewing Live on the Lawn w/ Gus Miller (8:00)
- **Lone Star Court** Drew Moreland (acoustic) (7:00)
- **Maverick’s Dance Hall** Sam Riggs, Husey Brother Band (9:00)
- **Parker Jazz Club** Parker Jazz Club House Band (8:00)
- **Sagebrush Luteca** Je Texas (10:00p), Ben Ballinger (8:00), Beth Lee (7:00)
- **Speakeasy** The Weak Knights (8:00)
- **St. Elmo Brewing Co.** Grassy Thursdays (7:00)
- **The White Horse** David Touchton (11:30), Jordan Young (9:00)

**FRIDAY 11/20**

- **ACL Live** The Lounge Series w/ Jackie Venson (album release), Blackliss (7:30)
- **Antone’s** Mike Flanigin album release w/ Sue Foley & Chris Layton (10:00, 7:00)
- **Backyard Amphitheater** Granger Smith, the Powell Brothers (7:00)
- **Bass Concert Hall** Texas Mixtape w/ Graham Reynolds feat. Brahm Temple’s Electra (7:00)
- **Brass Tap Domain** Evan Ogden (6:00)
- **The Brass Tap** Kenon Gibs Band (9:00)
- **Cheatham St.** Tyler McCollum (8:00)
- **Desert Door** David Touchton (5:30)
- **Emerald Point Bar & Grill** JB & Dusty Due (9:00), Tyler Cannon (8:00)
- **Empire Control Room** Vincent Antoine, Lisa Falconer (7:00)
- **The Far Out** Jarekus Singleton (7:00)
- **Geraldine’s** Lost Souvenirs (10:00)
- **Grassee Hall** Bear McConnell (acoustic), Ashley Ray (7:00)
- **The Happy Cow** Ghost Dance Band (8:30)
- **Hill Country Galleria** Vista Brewing Live on the Lawn w/ Buffalo Nichols (5:00)
- **Hole in the Wall** On the patio w/ parchment Slav, Kathryn Legendre, Brian Brumusses (8:00)
- **Lone Star Court** Jeff Jacobs Band (7:30)
- **Lucy’s Fried Chicken South** Sarah Sharp, Harrison Feley & Oliver Stoke (8:00)
- **Mala Vida** Luis Engh (8:00)
- **Neighborhood’s** The Merles (6:00)
- **Parker Jazz Club** Parker Jazz Club House Band (10:00, 8:00)
- **Rock House Bar** Southtown (8:00)
- **Sagebrush Jordan Matthew Young (1:00), Stahan & the Good Neighbors (9:00), Memo Watson (7:00)
- **Sahara Lounge** Brazilian Soul, Executive Steel Band, Fiedling (7:00)
- **Vista Brewing** Driftwood Nights w/ Christopher Cady Messaham (6:00)
- **Vulpacat Co.** Ammirani, Driz, CVOX (8:00)
- **The White Horse** Michael Dart (11:30), Aron McConnell (9:00)
- **Wild West** Cory Morrow (8:00)

**SATURDAY 11/21**

- **Antone’s** Eric Tesmer, Sam Houston & Bik Odyssey (9:00)
- **Backyard Amphitheater** Granger Smith, the Powell Brothers (7:00)
- **The Brass Tap** Bear McConnell (8:00)
- **Central Market North** Jon Keleman (3:00)
- **Emerald Point Bar & Grill** JB & Dusty Due (9:00), Tyler Cannon (8:00)
- **Empire Control Room** Vincent Antoine, Lisa Falconer (7:00)
- **The Far Out** Jarekus Singleton (7:00)
- **Geraldine’s** Lost Souvenirs (10:00)
- **Grassee Hall** Bear McConnell (acoustic), Ashley Ray (7:00)
- **The Happy Cow** Ghost Dance Band (8:30)
- **Hill Country Galleria** Vista Brewing Live on the Lawn w/ Buffalo Nichols (5:00)
- **Hole in the Wall** On the patio w/ parchment Slav, Kathryn Legendre, Brian Brumusses (8:00)
- **Lone Star Court** Jeff Jacobs Band (7:30)
- **Lucy’s Fried Chicken South** Sarah Sharp, Harrison Feley & Oliver Stoke (8:00)
- **Mala Vida** Luis Engh (8:00)
- **Neighborhood’s** The Merles (6:00)
- **Parker Jazz Club** Parker Jazz Club House Band (10:00, 8:00)
- **Rock House Bar** Southtown (8:00)
- **Sagebrush Jordan Matthew Young (1:00), Stahan & the Good Neighbors (9:00), Memo Watson (7:00)
- **Sahara Lounge** Brazilian Soul, Executive Steel Band, Fiedling (7:00)
- **Vista Brewing** Driftwood Nights w/ Christopher Cady Messaham (6:00)
- **Vulpacat Co.** Ammirani, Driz, CVOX (8:00)

**SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:** MUSIC LISTINGS DEADLINE IS MONDAY, 9AM, FOR THAT WEEK’S ISSUE. PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY, PLEASE INDICATE ROADSHOWS AND RESIDENCIES. SENDS NAME, ADDRESS, PHONE NUMBER, ACTS, AND START TIMES TO CLUBS@AUSTINCHRONICLE.COM

- **Wednesday 11/14**
  - **The Far Out** Magic Rockets of Texas, Dinner With Matt Greshem (7:00)
  - **Grassee Hall** Song swap w/ the Reed Brothers, K Phillips & Nate Rodriguez (8:00)
  - **Hays City Store** Jeff & the Jumblones (7:00)
  - **Hotel Vegas** Comfort Mood w/ DJ Mad Whiz (jazz) (5:00)
  - **Sagebrush** The Golden Roses (11:00), Armandillo Road (9:00), Robert Allan Capdeville (7:00)
  - **Sam’s Town Point** Riki Thursday w/ Paul Kilmerester (7:00)
  - **Speakeasy** Island Mind (7:00)
  - **The White Horse** Devon Jones (11:30), Devin Jake (8:00)

**WEDNESDAY 11/25**

- **Coliseum** Ramon Ayala’s S Us Brasos del Norte, Los Huracanes del Norte, Conjunto Azabache, Los Rios del Norte, Revancha Nortena (8:00)
- **Coupland Dancehall** Jake Perndon (7:30)
- **The Far Out** The Last Waltz Resisted (7:00)
- **Hays City Store** Wade Brown (acoustic trio), Ben Danaher (8:00)
- **Guero’s** Texas Radio Live w/ Oscar Oceana (7:00)
- **Hays City Store** Chuck Shaw (8:00)
- **Mala Vida** Martin Castillo, Los Tres de la Palma (9:00)
- **Sagebrush** Candler Wilkinson (10:00), Lorre Selig (8:00)
- **Sahara Lounge** YSB 2021 presents Live of Fire, Iron Under, Lost Cat Magnets, Ethan Smith (7:00)
- **Speakeasy** Rodney Urtfford (7:00)
- **Vulcan Gas Co.** Lucho Lush (9:00)
- **The White Horse** Pearl Snap Plays (9:00)

**CHECK OUT THE FULL LIST AT austinchronicle.com/events/music**
Dear Luv Doc,

My girlfriend likes me much better when I’m drunk. Now, don’t get me wrong. She apparently loves me very, very much; she says so MANY times a day. It is so amazing. We’ve been together over four years. I don’t know how I lucked into such an amazing relationship. And I love her so much – times, like, infinity. However, she, being the wonderfully very frank and truthful person she is, acknowledges that I am significantly more entertaining when I’m drunk. I don’t think I’m in danger of becoming an alcoholic, in wanting to please her, and getting drunk most evenings. But what do you think?

– Guy in Jonestown

What do I think? I think you need to take a look at my liver. It bears a striking resemblance to Sylvester Stallone’s face at the end of Rocky – the original one, not that rah-rah Ivan Drago bullshit. Now, I know that the uplifting message of the original film is that even though Rocky loses the fight, he’s really a winner because he’s able to go 15 rounds with heavyweight champion Apollo Creed. Pride, however, doesn’t do much for a jacked up face or a detached retina, and while the good Lord in her infinite wisdom had the foresight to give us two retinas, she only gave us one liver. I am here to tell you that your liver can take a pretty serious beating, but if you fuck around and keep getting back in that ring, it probably won’t make it past Rocky III. “Eye of the Tiger” might be able to save you from Mr. T, but it won’t save you from liver failure.

That said – and only because I have an embarrassing wealth of experience in this area – I can confirm that yes, in general, people are more entertaining when they’re drunk. All you need to do is hop on YouTube for a few minutes if you don’t believe me. Plus, you get bonus points if you’re shit-faced with an Oklahoma/South Alabama/Michigan accent. Your girlfriend might take objection, but I have a few hundred hours of hearted TikToks featuring unintelligible people doing crazy shit with fireworks, propane, heavy equipment, bass boats, livestock, and irate grandparents that convincingly prove my point. Alcohol is always good for a laugh or two and occasionally a tragic, sobering, unnecessary death. But hey, that’s the price people pay to keep themselves entertained in otherwise uninspiring circumstances. Literally no one would live in Russia without vodka – just like no one would live in South Alabama without “ass coal bear.” I can only imagine Jonestown – aka “Lago Sans Vista” – has its disappointments and deficiencies, but the people really make the place, don’t they? Especially if the place you’re actually referring to is a revegetated hamlet in northern Guyana.

Anyway, my point is that even if alcohol actually does sharpen the rapier of your wit, I’m not convinced that all that hilarity will have been worth it in the long run. While alcohol may offer the advantage of lowering our inhibitions and making us less self-conscious, it also has the disadvantage of making us slower and stupider – I mean, other than when we’re piloting a rocket-powered bass boat that’s going Mach Jesus. Then it only makes us stupider. The good news is that with some mindful practice and perhaps a little therapy, you can learn to become less self-conscious and more uninhibited and, dare I say, even entertaining without being drunk. I can’t help you with the stupidity part other than to say that they’re doing some amazing things with edibles these days, so …

Mr. Smarty Pants Knows

John Philip Sousa’s favorite meal was spaghetti and meatballs. He called the dish “pelotas à la Portuguese.”

Leeches have 32 brains.

Castoreum is a liquid extracted from the castor sac of a beaver. Although it was used as a medicine in the olden days, it was not a laxative. In the mid-18th century, oil from Ricinus communis seeds was discovered to produce a laxative effect and it became known as the castor oil plant.

Maria Izquierdo (1902-1955) was the first Mexican woman to have her artwork exhibited in the U.S. The exhibit took place in 1930 at the Art Center in New York.

Most copies of the Beatles’ album Yesterday and Today with the “butcher cover” art were dumped in a landfill in Needham, Mass.

Above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or email mrpants@austinchronicle.com.
COMPUTER/TECHNICAL

ENGINEERING/TECHNOLOGY

ArizCloud Technology Inc., a leading Internet of Things (IoT) company, has engineering and sales positions open. A Senior Product Manager/Marketing Manager has multiple open positions at ArizCloud Technology Inc., 110 W. Broadway #200, Phoenix, AZ 85003. Mail resume to HR Manager, 485 Almeda, Suite # 100, Los Gatos, CA 95032

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

KLA Corporation currently has openings in our Austin, Texas location for: Cybersecurity Analysts (Job# 1145.3816) to develop and implement software applications. Implement QA standards and procedures. Implement and maintain software solutions fully aligned with corporate/department policies. To apply, please reference Job# above when mailing resume to: L1, Visa Inc., MS: 11-17, SW 500 Metro Center Blvd., Foster City, CA 94404.

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS

VISA Technology & Operations (Job# 1145.3862) Work on development of software applications, create and maintain secure software solutions, troubleshoot/resolve issues, and assist with establishing and working closely with Infrastructure teams.

GENERAL

MEDICAL

The Austin Chronicle classifieds are for very experienced grooms. Must be able to do quality scissor groom and able to groom large dogs, 60-150 lbs. All phones please. Call 512-323-5745. Call between 11:00am-3:00pm.

PROFESSIONAL

BUSINESS

Adobe Inc. is accepting resumes for the following position in several locations: Market Analyst (Applications (SaaS) - Ecommerce Development) to provide mobile security strategies and development of software applications. Mail resume to: Xerox Inc., Job# 1145.2805 to design, develop, maintain and support software applications in Xerox’s Visio Operating Systems and Certificates domain. Work closely with the customer, currently has multiple open positions in Austin, TX (various levels). To apply, please reference Job# above when mailing resume to: LJ, Visa Inc., MS: 11-17, SW 500 Metro Center Blvd., Foster City, CA 94404.

TECHNOLOGY

Facebook, Inc. cur- rently has multiple open positions in Austin, TX: Business Analyst (Applications Engineering) to develop an automated testing platform to enable continuous delivery of the platform components. Write automation, develop new automation suite, and automate test cases. Mail resume to: LJ, Visa Inc., MS: 11-17, SW 500 Metro Center Blvd., Foster City, CA 94404.
An application has been made for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Off-Premise Permit for 7-Eleven Beverage Company Inc. Madhu(llin, Texas Corporations, d/b/a 7-Eleven Convenience Store #4114A, located at 1800 E. Slaughter Ln., Austin, Travis County, TX. 78747.

Said application made to the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Code. 7-Eleven Beverage Company Inc. officers: Arthur Rubinstein - President, Rankin Gasaway - Director/VP - Secretary, David Seltzer – VP/ Treasurer, Robert Schwerin – Director/VP, Scott Hintz - Director, David C. Smokley - VP, Alicia Howell - VP/Controller, Brian Smith - VP/Controller, John Colson - VP/Controller, Travis County, Texas

Application has been made for a Mixed Beverage Permit with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission d/b/a Hill Country Liquor LLC at 3318 Harmon Avenue, Austin, Travis Co., TX 78756.  Manager: Sharouq Shahzad - Manager, Vice President of Hill Country Liquor LLC at 3318 Harmon Avenue, Austin, Travis County, TX 78756.

Application has been made with The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Wine and Beer Retailer's Permit by Erish Enterprises, Inc DBA Texas Mart at 2803 S. 1st St., Austin, Travis County, TX 78704.  Manager and Members of Said Limited Liability Company are Brian D. Gordon, Manager/Member and Omar Palacios, Member.

Application has been made with The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit with a Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit and Food and Beverage Certificate by DELICIOUS BEVERAGES HOLDINGS LLC D/B/A TRUDY’S SOUTH STAR located at 8820 BURNET ROAD, SUITE 600, AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TX 78758.  MANAGER OF SAID LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY IS SAM KAUFMAN and DANIEL SMITH.

DELICIOUS BEVERAGES HOLDINGS LLC D/B/A SOUTH CONGRESS CAFE located at 1600 S CONGRESS AVE., AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TX 78704. MANAGER OF SAID LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY IS SAM KAUFMAN and DANIEL SMITH.

Application has been made with The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit with a Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit and Food and Beverage Certificate by QUESO DELICIOUS BEVERAGES HOLDINGS LLC D/B/A TRUDY’S NORTHERN STAR located at 8200 BURNET ROAD, SUITE 600, AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TX 78758. MANAGER OF SAID LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY IS SAM KAUFMAN and DANIEL SMITH.

Application has been made with The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit with a Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit and Food and Beverage Certificate by QUESO DELICIOUS BEVERAGES HOLDINGS LLC D/B/A TRUDY’S TRADING POST located at 601 Little Texas Lane “C”, Austin, Travis County, TX 78745. MANAGERS OF SAID LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ARE SAM KAUFMAN and DANIEL SMITH.

Application has been made with The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit with a Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit and Food and Beverage Certificate by QUESO DELICIOUS BEVERAGES HOLDINGS LLC D/B/A TRUDY’S SOUTH STAR located at 901 SOUTHWICK ROAD, SUITE 400, AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TX 78745. MANAGERS OF SAID LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ARE SAM KAUFMAN and DANIEL SMITH.

Application has been made with The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for a Mixed Beverage Permit with a Mixed Beverage Late Hours Permit and Food and Beverage Certificate by QUESO DELICIOUS BEVERAGES HOLDINGS LLC D/B/A TRUDY’S TRADING POST located at 601 Little Texas Lane “C”, Austin, Travis County, TX 78745. MANAGERS OF SAID LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY ARE SAM KAUFMAN and DANIEL SMITH.

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APPLICATION FOR DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP AND ISSUANCE OF HEIRSHIP DECREE

The State of Texas

To the Unknown Heirs of EDWARD HULL, Deceased

Citation by Publication

TO THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF EDWARD HULL, DECEASED,

CAUSE NO. C-1-PB-20-002022,

IN PROBATE COURT NUMBER 1,

TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

TO THE UNKNOWN HEIRS OF EDWARD HULL, DECEASED

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IN PROBATE COURT NUMBER 1,

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
Store A - Self Storage. In accordance with Texas Property Code, Chapter 59, notices of public auction must be held online at Lockerox.com or a newspaper. Units will be sold to the highest bidder online at Lockerox.com at 12:00 p.m. on said day, Tuesday, November 20, 2020. A $100 cash deposit is required. Seller reserves the right to withdraw any unit or not accept any bid on any unit prior to the auction held online at Lockerox.com. All units are for storage units.

NOTICE OF AUCTION
Pflugerville TX 78680: Ivan Jones, Jennifer Vasquez, Daisy Cano, Thomas Smith, Albert Delcon, Abamila Villameen, Laravis Blundell, Josephine Rangel, Joe S. Ford, Brodie Barkdale Curb &Sales Representative of the Estate of Betty Frances Schackin, numbered 25033-083-034-CP 4, in the County Court at Law No. 4, Travis County, Texas. On October 30, 2020, Blake Tolleit, Austin Auction, 535 Beach Rd, Austin, TX 78730 qualified as Independent Administrator with Will Annexed for the Estate of Mary Neill Wall without notice, to levy a public auction to sell the following real property and personal property situate, on or about, in the tract or tracts described as follows:

NOTICE OF AUCTION
Pflugerville TX 78680: Thomas Smith, Albert Delcon, Abamila Villameen, Laravis Blundell, Josephine Rangel, Joe S. Ford, Brodie Barkdale Curb &Sales Representative of the Estate of Betty Frances Schackin, numbered 25033-083-034-CP 4, in the County Court at Law No. 4, Travis County, Texas. On October 30, 2020, Blake Tolleit, Austin Auction, 535 Beach Rd, Austin, TX 78730 qualified as Independent Administrator with Will Annexed for the Estate of Mary Neill Wall without notice, to levy a public auction to sell the following real property and personal property situate, on or about, in the tract or tracts described as follows:

NOTICE OF SALE
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SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): To convey the spirit of the forthcoming week, consider Malidoma Patrice Somé: “Once you lose that sense of wonder at being alive, your life is in decline. It is the machine world upon the spiritual world. He says there is ‘an indigenous person within each of us’ that longs to cultivate the awe and understanding enjoyed by indigenous peoples: a reverence for nature, a vital relationship with ancestors, and a receptivity to learn from the intelligence of animals. How’s your inner Indigenous person doing? The coming weeks will be an excellent time to enhance your ability to commune with and nurture that vital source.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Any legal actions you take are more likely to be successful if you initiate them between now and the solstice than if you’d begun them at other times. The same is true for any contracts you sign or agreements you make. You have a better chance to thrive than you would at other times. Other activities with more kismet than usual during the coming weeks: efforts to cultivate synergy and symbiosis; attempts to turn power struggles into more cooperative ventures; a push to foster greater equality in hierarchical situations; and ethical moves to get to the other side of a precipice, you should definitely consider following them. Be on the alert for such lucky opportunities in the coming weeks.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Sagittarian statesman Winston Churchill said that he was always ready to learn – even though there were times when he didn’t enjoy being taught. That might be a useful motto for you to adopt in the coming months. By my estimates, 2021 could turn out to bring a rather spectacular learning spurt – and a key boost to your lifelong education. If you choose to take advantage of the cosmic potentials, you could make dramatic enhancements to your knowledge and skill set. As Churchill’s message suggests, not all of your new repertoire will come easily and pleasantly. But I bet that at least 80% of it will. Start planning!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): In accordance with upcoming astrological indicators, I’ve got some good advice for you courtesy of your fellow Capricorn David Bowie. You’ll be well-served to keep it in mind between now and January 1, 2021. “Go a little bit out of your depth,” counseled Bowie. “And when you don’t feel that your feet are quite touching the bottom, you’re just about in the right place to do something exciting.” For extra inspiration, I’ll add another prompt from the creator of Ziggy Stardust: “Once you lose that sense of wonder at being alive, you’re pretty much on the way out.” In that spirit, my dear Capricorn, please take measures to expand your sense of wonder during the next six weeks. Make sure you’re on your way in.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Most of us aren’t brilliant virtuosos like, say, Leonardo da Vinci or Nobel Prize-winning scientist Marie Curie. On the other hand, each one of us has a singular amalgam of potentials that is unique in the history of the world – an exceptional flair or an idiosyncratic mastery or a distinctive blend of talents. In my astrological opinion, you Aquarians will have unprecedented opportunities to develop and open this golden and glorious aspect of yourself in 2021. And now is a good time to begin making plans. I encourage you to launch your yearly Festival of Becoming by writing down a plan for your creative self to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to warn you that its completion might come from activist and author Helen Keller: “I long to accomplish great and noble tasks, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble.”

PIECES (Feb. 19-March 20): In 1969, humans flew a spaceship to the moon and landed on it for the first time. In 1970, the state of Alabama finally made it legal for interracial couples to get married. That’s a dramatic example of how we can cure feelings of boredom or powerlessness. “I’m important enough to raise a Big Mess!” may be the subconscious battle cry I’ll urge you to study wisely and diligently avoid fostering NFD in the coming weeks. In my astrological opinion, you will have a blessed series of interesting experiences if and only if you shed any attraction you might have to histrionic craziness.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Psychologists have identified a quality they call NFD: “need for drama.” Those who possess it may be inclined to seek or even instigate turmoil out of a quest for excitement. After all, bringing a dose of chaos into one’s life can cure feelings of boredom or powerlessness. “I’m important enough to raise a Big Mess!” may be the subconscious battle cry I’ll urge you to study wisely and diligently avoid fostering NFD in the coming weeks. In my astrological opinion, you will have a blessed series of interesting experiences if and only if you shed any attraction you might have to histrionic craziness.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): “Give up the notion that you must be sure of what you are doing,” wrote philosopher Baruch Spinoza. “Instead, surrender to what is real within you, for that alone is sure.” Spinoza’s thoughts will be a great meditation for you in the coming weeks. If you go chasing phantom hopes, longing for absolute certainty and iron confidence, you’ll waste your energy. But if you identify what is most genuine and true and essential about you, and you rely on it to guide you, you can’t possibly fail.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A little bad taste like a nice splash of paprika,” said Librarian-fan writer Diana Wandland. “We all need a splash of bad taste,” she continued. “It’s hearty, it’s healthy, it’s physical. I think we could use more of it. Having no taste is what I’m against.” I understand that her perspective might be hard to sell to you refined Librans. But I think it’s good advice right now. Whatever’s lacking in your world, whatever might be off-kilter, can be cued by a dash of good, funky earthiness. Dare to be a bit messy and unruly.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Back in 1974, poet Allen Ginsberg and his “spirit wife,” Aries poet Anne Waldman, were roommates at the newly established Naropa University in Boulder, Colo. The school’s founder asked these two luminaries to create a poetics program, and thus was born the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics. Waldman described its ruling principle to be the “outider” tradition, with a mandate to explore all that was iconoclastic, freethinking, and irreverent. The goal of teachers and students alike was to avoid safe and predictable work so as to commune with wild spiritual powers, “keep the energies dancing,” and court eternal surprise. I think that would be a healthy approach for you to flirt with during the next few weeks.
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