



The Gab

Let's Gab About Dallas

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THANKSGIVING • MEET BRYAN & JAY • GAL PAL OF THE MONTH



BRYAN AND JAY

A Heartwarming Story

OF LOVE, COMMUNITY AND FAMILY

INTRODUCTION

Bryan and Jay's love story is a testament to serendipity, community, and the enduring power of love. Born and raised in East Texas, Jay and Bryan's paths converged in the vibrant community of Oak Cliff in Dallas..

BRYAN'S EARLY DAYS

Bryan's journey took him from the Midwest to Oak Lawn in Dallas during the transformative 1980s and 1990s, a period marked by both the joys and hardships of the LGBTQ community. Bryan volunteered with the "Buddy Program," offering his support to individuals living with HIV. It was a profound time and experience that left a lasting impact on his heart.

His professional life took off when he helmed the Production Department for Auto Trader Magazines, where he published magazines across several states. Later, he moved to Oak Cliff, attracted by its picturesque landscapes, historic homes, and the diverse, welcoming community that made it truly special.

Bryan became an active member of the neighborhood, contributing to the Neighborhood Association, Old Oak Cliff Conservation League, and Oak Cliff Society of Fine Art. In the early 2000s, he embarked



on a journey to discover his Italian heritage, leading to his obtaining Italian citizenship and forming deep connections with his Italian family. Inspired by the Italian vineyards, Bryan founded Zerbina Wines, importing wine from Italy to share with the Dallas community. His wines found a home in some of the city's most esteemed restaurants and cultural institutions, like the Dallas Symphony Orchestra.

INSPIRATION AND FATE

In 2010, while having dinner at Tillman's Roadhouse, Bryan and Jay's paths crossed. Seated at adjoining tables on their first-and-only dates with other people, they sensed an undeniable connection. The following day, they connected and began a journey of love and partnership that has since spanned 14 years.

They built a beautiful life together in Oak Cliff, complete with two beloved cats and a home they designed

and built themselves. Their small neighborhood of 15 homes, where 12 have been completed, has become a tight-knit enclave. Gathering with their neighbors on the front porch or in the cul-de-sac with their dogs is a cherished part of their life.

THE ENCHANTING PRESENT: BRYAN AND JAY

Jay, a gardening enthusiast, created a stunning landscape around their home, embracing Dallas's extreme weather conditions. His gardening passion and design skills have brought joy to their lives and become a centerpiece of their home.

Jay's career journey led him into Corporate America, where he's been with ADP for nearly 28 years, currently working as a Project Manager. Outside of work, his heart belongs to gardening and landscape design, which he generously shares with friends.

Bryan and Jay's love story is interwoven with their love for Oak Cliff, their community, and their shared passions. It's a testament to the power of connection and the beauty that can emerge from unexpected meetings and shared dreams. Their hearts have truly found their home in Oak Cliff, a place where they intend to stay and live in their forever home! 

