



# The Gab

Let's Gab About Dallas

February 2024



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BOOK REVIEW • MEET KERRY BUELL • GAL PAL OF THE MONTH





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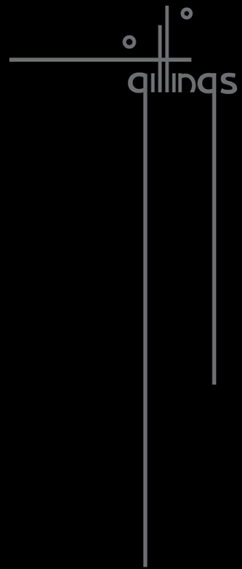
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# KERRY BUELL

## *A Family-Oriented LGBTQ*

### ADVOCATE IN TARRANT COUNTY

#### INTRODUCTION

Kerry Buell is not just a resident of Tarrant County; he is a passionate advocate for his community, a family-oriented individual, and a proud member of the LGBTQ community. Raised in the vibrant county near Fort Worth, Kerry's life story is woven with threads of love, acceptance, and a deep connection to his roots. Family lies at the core of Kerry's identity. He is a man who cherishes his family bonds; particularly with his parents, who have been pillars of support throughout his journey. What sets Kerry apart is the unyielding support he receives from his family, especially in embracing his LGBTQ identity. In a world where acceptance can be hard to come by, Kerry's story reflects the power of familial love and understanding.

#### THE JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES

Kerry's educational journey began at Smithville Elementary School, where he laid the foundation for his academic endeavors. As he progressed through his formative years, he became a proud graduate of North Richland Hills High School, a testament to his commitment to education and personal growth.

Currently engaged in Residential Leasing Services with a focus on marketing and leasing, Kerry has found his professional niche in Tarrant County. His role not only allows him to contribute to the local economy but also enables him to engage with the community on a meaningful level.



#### A LIFE OF ADVOCACY

One of Kerry's most notable passions is dog rescue. His heart is open to all animals in need; as seen in his failed foster dog, Chloe, a two year old rescue. Kerry's compassion extends far beyond his human connections, however, showcasing his commitment to making a positive impact on all lives, whether furry and four legged or not.

#### HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Tarrant County holds a special place in Kerry's heart, providing him with a sense of belonging and acceptance as a gay man. Fort Worth, in particular, stands out for its remarkable inclusiveness, consistently earning a 100 percent inclusiveness ranking




for many years now. The welcoming atmosphere of Tarrant County has allowed Kerry to live and thrive authentically.

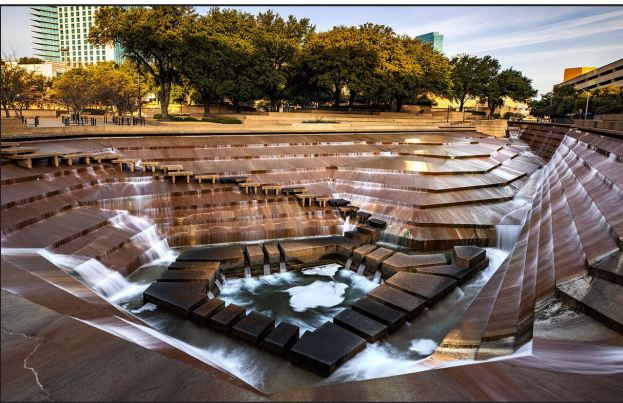
The green spaces and walking trails in Tarrant County have become a source of solace and recreation for Kerry. He appreciates the cultural richness of the arts district in Fort Worth, where creativity and expression flourish. These elements contribute to the vibrant tapestry of Kerry’s life, enriching his experiences and shaping his perspective.

When it comes to culinary delights, Kerry has a few favorite spots that hold a special place in his heart. Kincaid’s Hamburgers, Truck Yard Bar, and Olivia Italian in Keller are among his favorite go-to eateries, reflecting his diverse palate and appreciation for the local culinary scene.

The family-friendly ambiance of Tarrant County is a key factor that Kerry values greatly. The presence of major corporations, such as American Airlines Corporate, further adds to the county’s appeal to him. These corporations not only contribute to the local economy as a whole, but also reflect the dynamic and thriving nature that makes Tarrant County unique.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Kerry’s story is one of resilience, love, and advocacy. As a family-oriented LGBTQ man, he has found not only acceptance, but he actively contributes to creating a more inclusive community. With its diverse offerings and accepting environment, Tarrant County has become the canvas on which Kerry paints his life, and his story is an inspiring testament to the power of love, understanding, and community engagement. 







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# THE STATEN ISLAND FAIRY

## *The Forgotten Boy from the Forgotten Borough*

### BOOK REVIEW

#### INTRODUCTION

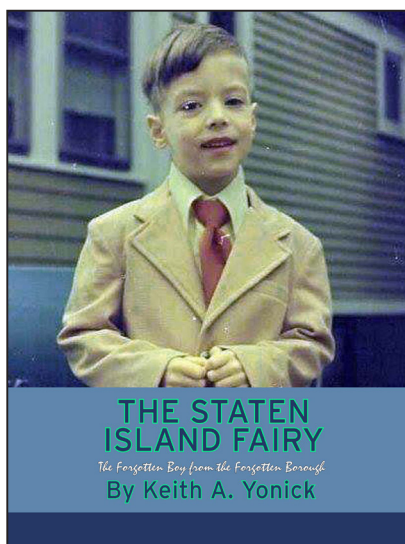
"The Staten Island Fairy: The Forgotten Boy from The Forgotten Borough" is a captivating coming-of-age story that traces the life journey of Keith Yonick, a young boy raised in the close-knit community of Staten Island until the age of thirteen. The narrative unfolds against the backdrop of a charming neighborhood where Keith encounters many wonderful townsfolk and experiences a childhood relatively free from the harsh realities of bullying.

#### DEEP FAMILY ROOTS

At the heart of the tale is Keith's family background, particularly his father's roots as part of a well-respected, fifth-generation Staten Island blue-collar family. This familial foundation provides Keith with a strong sense of community, pride, and resilience. The Staten Island chapters of his life paint a vivid picture of a boy surrounded by a supportive environment, fostering his growth and nurturing his character.

#### NEW CHALLENGES

However, life takes an unexpected turn when Keith's family decides to uproot and move to rural Texas. The transition from the tight-



knit streets of Staten Island to the vast expanse of Texas presents Keith with numerous challenges. The story takes an even darker turn when Keith becomes the victim of a violent assault; a traumatic incident that left a lasting impact on his physical and emotional well-being. The use of a rope around his neck during the assault left Keith with persistent thyroid issues throughout his life, a haunting reminder of the many hardships he has faced.


As the narrative unfolds in Texas, it becomes clear that Keith's resilience and determination are not easily shaken. Despite the adversity



he encounters, he draws strength from his upbringing and the values instilled in him by his family. One remarkable aspect of Keith's character is his ability to turn adversity into opportunity. Despite facing many significant challenges, Keith fully embraces the philosophy of making lemonade out of lemons. This resilience is exemplified in his later years as he becomes a vocal advocate against bullying in the Dallas community, transforming his own experiences into a platform for change and speaking out as a volunteer against anti-bullying initiatives.

"The Staten Island Fairy" not only provides readers with a compelling narrative of a young boy's journey through different landscapes and challenges, but

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, "The Staten Island Fairy" is a poignant and inspiring tale that manifests themes of community, family, resilience, and the fight against bullying. Keith Yonick's story serves as a reminder that even in the face of adversity, individuals can emerge stronger, using their experiences to make a positive impact on the world around them. The book is not just a narrative; it's a call to action against bullying and a celebration of the indomitable human spirit. 



also serves as a poignant commentary on the profound impact of resilience, community, and the sometimes difficult choices we make in the face of adversity. Keith Yonick's story is a testament to the human spirit's ability to rise above challenging circumstances and create real and positive change in the world.

The book encourages readers to reflect on their own experiences, drawing inspiration from Keith's journey, and prompting contemplation on the importance of community support, the strength found in one's roots, and the power of turning life's challenges into opportunities for growth and advocacy.







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# LAVENDER DARCANGELO

## *Our Gal Pal of the Month*

**OUT HERE ON MY OWN - WITH FAMILY!**

### INTRODUCTION

Lavender Darcangelo's journey on America's Got Talent was not only a testament to her incredible talent, but also a reflection of the family support she receives from her adoptive parents, Wil and Jamie. Lavender's story is one of love, acceptance, and the power of chosen families. Wil and Jamie, a couple with hearts as expansive as their love for Lavender, welcomed her into their lives with open arms. Lavender's adoption marked the beginning of a transformative chapter for all of them.

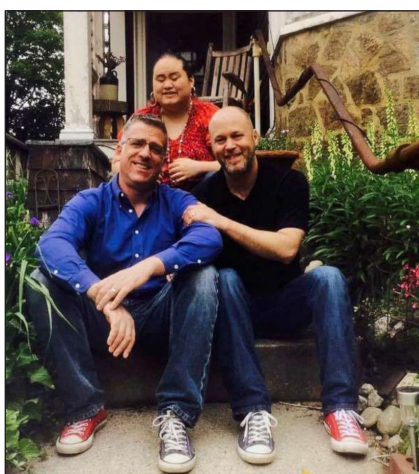
### THE POWER OF LOVE

The Darcangelo family is bound not by blood but by a deep connection; embracing the challenges and joys of Lavender's journey of self-discovery.

As Lavender took the stage on America's Got Talent, her parents, Wil and Jamie, were there in the audience, cheering her on with pride. Their presence added a layer of emotional resonance to Lavender's performances, as her journey was not just about individual triumph, but also about the collective strength of a family that has chosen one another.

In interviews and behind-the-scenes footage, Wil and Jamie shared their experiences of navigating the complexities of parenting a child who was exploring her identity. Their unconditional love and support has provided Lavender with the foundation she needed to pursue

her dreams fearlessly. Wil, a talented musician in his own right, has often collaborated with Lavender on her musical endeavors, fostering a shared passion for the arts within their family.



The Darcangelo family has become an inspiration not only for their story of adoption, but also for their commitment to fostering an environment of acceptance and understanding. Lavender, in turn, acknowledges the profound impact her parents have had on her life, crediting them for creating a space in which she could thrive and embrace her true self.

### "THERE'S HOPE OUT THERE"

As Lavender progressed through the competition, the America's Got Talent audience was introduced




not just to a remarkable singer, but to a family whose bond transcends traditional definitions. Wil and Jamie became beacons of parental support and advocates for LGBTQ inclusion, challenging societal norms and stereotypes.

In the finale, although Lavender was among the first six contestants out of eleven finalists to be eliminated, Lavender realized a goal of a doing something she loves passionately — sharing her amazing gift of singing. On Sept. 28th, 2023, the day after the finale episode aired, Lavender took to Facebook: “Everybody, please don’t be disappointed that I got eliminated. I have already won in my own way, because doors are opening for me...I am also feeling like the universe is protecting me from taking on more than I can handle, because I cannot handle the pressures of a neurotypical artist in the professional world.”

Of “America’s Got Talent,” Lavender’s father Wil said, “The experience is not about the winner. This experience is about elevating talent in a world that might not have been seen otherwise. There isn’t always a home in the world for these acts.” Of the winner, dog trainer Adrian Stoica and his border collie, Hurricane, for whom she autographed a piece of confetti, Lavender shared: “Adrian Stoica and Hurricane deserved the win! I’m so happy for them, they are one of my most favorite acts!”

Ultimately, no one lost in that final episode. As the cameras panned the crowd to a tearful and joyous Wil and Jamie, their faces illuminated with pride and love, the victory of making it to the finale was not just Lavender’s; it was a triumph for the entire Darcangelo family. Their story became a beacon of hope for families navigating similar journeys, showcasing the transformative power of love, acceptance and the celebration of individual beauty and identity.

## CONCLUSION

In the aftermath of America’s Got Talent, Lavender, Wil, and Jamie continue to use their platform to advocate for adoption awareness and LGBTQ rights. Their collective impact extends far beyond the stage; leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of viewers who witnessed a family united by love, breaking barriers, and inspiring positive change. 





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