

insidepride

PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON

WINTER 2001

PRIDE COMMITTEE UNVEILS 2001 LOGO

by Troy Christensen

WITH A NEW YEAR COMES A NEW LOGO for Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 2001. Local graphic artist Diane Jolley designed the visual interpretation of this year's theme, 'Embrace Diversity.'

Jolley was selected as the 2001 logo designer after a review of several outstanding portfolios at PCOH's October 17 general meeting, and she presented various interpretations of the theme for a vote at the Committee's November 21 general meeting. Jolley had also been selected to design the Pride 2000 logo a year ago.



At the logo unveiling party. Merchandise co-ordinators, Christian

In Jolley's design, the idea of embracing diversity is represented by the iconic image of two arms embracing the entire logo. The playfulness of the embrace is enhanced by Jolley's trademark whimsical lettering and the idea of diversity is emphasized in the color contrast between black and bright green and pink. The logo is a perfect square, facilitating its use in a variety of merchandise and media.

As in past years, one-, two- and full-color versions of the logo will be used on Pride 2001 merchandise, as well as in publications including the PCOH web site, the InsidePride newsletter, the Pride Guide, posters and advertisements. However, different merchandise items this year will feature one of two variations on the pink, green and black logo. In this year of 'diversity,' don't be surprised if you see other color combinations elsewhere!

Pride Houston sponsors and other friends of Pride were treated to a sneak peek at 2001 merchandise at a logo unveiling party held at the Art League of Houston on Thursday, January 18. The gallery provided the perfect backdrop for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community's newest artwork.

Logo designer Jolley studied Commercial Advertising at Boise State College and Communications Graphics at



Artist Diane Jolley unveil the 2001 logo at the Art League of Houston on January 18. Photo by Dalton De Hart.

for clients ranging from small businesses to international companies, including Moody Gardens, The Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, St. Luke's Hospital, Racial Survey Inc., Van Ommeren Ceteco, Trendmaker Homes, Tenneco and Harold's Menswear.

The 2001 logo is available to sponsors and the



At the logo unveiling party, Merchandise co-coordinators, Christian Sanders and Billie Sanders, present a plaque to Ian Leffler in appreciation of Basic Brothers' efforts in helping the Pride Committee sell merchandise in 2000. Plaques were also presented to Black Hawk Leather, Lobo Bookstore & Café, and the Walgreen's stores on Montrose and West Gray. Photo by Dalton De Hart.

newsletter, the Pride Guide, posters and advertisements. However, different merchandise items this year will feature one of two variations on the pink, green and black logo. In this year of 'diversity,' don't be surprised if you see other color combinations elsewhere!

Pride Houston sponsors and other friends of Pride were treated to a sneak peek at 2001 merchandise at a logo unveiling party held at the Art League of Houston on Thursday, January 18. The gallery provided the perfect backdrop for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community's newest artwork.

Logo designer Jolley studied Commercial Advertising at Boise State College and Communications Graphics at Idaho State University. She has been the owner of Jolley Design Studio, a graphic design company, for 24 years. The company produces logos, identity packages, brochures, catalogs, web sites and CD and book covers



Artist Diane Jolley unveil the 2001 logo at the Art League of Houston on January 18. Photo by Dalton De Hart.

for clients ranging from small businesses to international companies, including Moody Gardens, The Houston Arboretum and Nature Center, St. Luke's Hospital, Racal Survey Inc., Van Ommeren Ceteco, Trendmaker Homes, Tenneco and Harold's Menswear.

The 2001 logo is available to sponsors and the media. To get the logo in an electronic format, call the PrideLine at 713-529-6979 or e-mail the Pride Committee at info@pridehouston.org. ✧

JOIN US AND VOLUNTEER FOR PRIDE 2001

by Cindy Archer

ARE YOU THE KIND OF PERSON who loves to get involved, have fun, and make a difference in the community? Well, you don't have to wait until June to volunteer for Pride 2001! The Pride Committee of Houston's members meet year-round to work and play, and we're always looking for new volunteers.

You already know that much of our work centers around the fabulous Nighttime Pride Parade, which takes place this year on Saturday, June 23. Our volunteers work on every aspect of the parade, from helping with setup and entry check-in to carrying banners for our Grand Marshals. Our volunteer Parade Marshals are stationed along the route, keeping things running smoothly and getting a fabulous view. A strong volunteer presence helps the Houston Police with the crowds and shows the entire community our commitment to a safe and memorable event.

This year sees the addition of an event not seen in Houston for several years: a Pride Festival, to be held at nearby Garden in the Heights the day after the parade. The festival will feature entertainment and vendor booths

and will need to be staffed by energetic volunteers. We'll need help in many areas, including selling and collecting tickets, securing the area during the event and cleaning up afterward.

Outside of the June Pride celebration, our volunteer opportunities include such diverse activities as mailouts, selling merchandise, and record-keeping. We keep the community informed of Pride happenings with the InsidePride newsletter, which we mail out four times a year. We also mail out various materials throughout the year announcing important dates and events. We sell official Pride merchandise in local clubs and other venues; volunteers who staff our sales table can make new friends while helping to raise funds for the Parade. And to make sure our records are up-to-date and our office stays manageable, we hold periodic work sessions. Volunteers can lend a hand as we make regular updates to our mailing list, media guide and events calendar.

To get involved, call the PrideLine at 713-529-6979, or send e-mail to info@pridehouston.org. It's never too soon to lend a hand, and June is closer than you think. Please join us, and help make 2001 the best year ever for Houston Pride! ✧

¡ABRAZA DIVERSIDAD!

por Manuel Gutiérrez

SE A SELECCIONADO EL TEMA para el desfile pride 2001. "¡Abraza Diversidad!" Fue elegido en la junta internacional de pride que se llevo a cabo en Atlanta en Octubre. En realidad es nuestro orgullo, siendo que le idea nacio aquí en Houston.

Nosotros en el Comité Pride de Houston tenemos organizado todos los festejos que se llevarán a cabo el año 2001. Incluso, este año tendremos por primera vez un festival el 24 de Junio, 2001 que seguirá el desfile sabado 23 de Junio, 2001.

Se está siendo la búsqueda para los maestros de ceremonias 2001. Personas que han hecho mucho para la comunidad han sido nominados. Para votar, envía el papelita de voto en página 4 antes del 15 de Febrero, 2001.

Si hay ideas para demostrar mas nuestro orgullo, favor de compartirlas con nosotros. Nosotros en el Comité Pride de Houston queremos compartir nuestro orgullo con todos.

Preguntas, quejas, o ideas pueden ser dirigidas a: Pride Committee of Houston, P.O. Box 66071, Houston, TX 77266-6071, 713-529-6979, info@pridehouston.org. ✧



Pride Committee of Houston, Inc.

Mission Statement

The Pride Committee of Houston, Inc., is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization whose purpose is to coordinate and promote events that celebrate the diversity, unity, and history of the lesbian and gay community. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, gender, transgender, or bisexual identification, nor do we discriminate against the physically challenged or those who are differently abled.

We are here to commemorate, educate, and celebrate our pride and create a path toward a positive future for all humanity, not excluding any aspect of who we are as a people.

Board of Directors

Jack Valinski	Executive Director
Paul Radous	Celebration 2001 Co-Chair
Lynn Sixkiller	Celebration 2001 Co-Chair
Troy Christensen	Secretary/Marketing & Publications
Nick Brines	Fundraising
Brian Kever	Banner District

Celebration Committee

Paul Radous	Co-Chair
Lynn Sixkiller	Co-Chair
Roy Hendrick	Secretary
Mark Leger	Treasurer
Jamie Wenner	AstroWorld
Richard Alvarado	Events
Jim Halloran	Events
Jeffery Neaves	Festival
P. J. Sanzone	Festival
Mike Vega	Festival
Joseph Weinman	Festival
Mark Willis	InterPride Region 3
Ryan Rice	Media
Joseph Wiese	Media
Billie Hogan	Merchandise
Christian Sanders	Merchandise
Russell Ben Williams	Newsletter
Jim Shurnsky	Parade Facilities Management
Paul Damin	Parade Float
Lee Wright	Parade Float
Manny Gutiérrez	Parade Logistics
Bill Burford	Parade Production
John Taylor	Parade Production
Bob Farquarson	Pride Guide
Ken Donnelly	Publications
Cindy Archer	Volunteers
Jeff James	Volunteers
Raul Chavez	Web Site
Brian Sadler	Web Site

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

IN A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE OP-ED SECTION of The New York Times entitled "For Gays, Tolerance is a Prime-Time Fantasy," Richard Goldstein says that even though gay and lesbian and even some transgender characters are regularly appearing on TV as accepted people and open-mindedness has spread into prime-time and major network entertainment, it seems that when it comes to real life, the American people are not so accepting.

So what is happening? We have moved from the periphery of the American consciousness to become the center of the story on shows like "Will and Grace" and "Queer as Folk." Middle America will watch these shows, even making them big hits, but they haven't changed minds about GLBT people or our demand for equal rights. In fact, it is very possible that candy-coated, Hollywood- or Disney-style treatments of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender lives cloud the issue. It is very possible that middle America thinks we already have all of the basic rights—rights like not being fired simply because of who we are or not being turned away when we try to visit our loved ones in the hospital.

Still, we have made some great strides in the past few years. We are more visible. More and more major corporations are not only extending benefits, but are actually seeking us out for employment. In our own community, we have built some great institutions. For example, we finally have a Community Center here in Houston.

But all these gains did not just happen, and they weren't the result of showing fictional characters on TV sitcoms. Change comes when GLBT people come out to talk about our struggles, our triumphs, our fears and our dreams—our real lives. Change occurs every time a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person comes out, but we still have a long way to go in letting middle America know who we are.

How does Pride fit into this picture? Pride is a personal feeling and it empowers us to take our next step forward in making change for our community. How can we change the world if we don't feel good about ourselves?

That is why all of us on the Board of Directors, the Celebration Committee and the corps of volunteers work hard all year to put together a great Pride celebration that makes us proud. And every year we try to do a little more and do it a little better.

The nighttime Parade, our signature event, has grown from about 30,000 spectators in 1996 to over 150,000 spectators in 2000. But the number of spectators is just one exciting aspect. The floats and the marching units sponsored by our wonderfully diverse community, along with the huge disco ball, all come together to make the Parade a festive event. The excitement surrounding the Parade helps us to reach more and more people via radio, TV, newspapers and the web. Every year I go around to as many units as I can right before the Parade and ask each of the participants to have a good time and to smile as they proceed down Westheimer. If there are people watching two blocks away, who may still not be out, we'll let them know that we are a community, we are together, at least for the night, and we are fabulous.

That person watching two blocks away might venture to the sidelines next year. And the following year, that person may be in the Parade after joining an organization to make a difference in our community, as everyone who is part of a group is making a difference. All of us together, more than GLBT characters on TV shows, will make the difference in the minds of middle America.

Jack Valinski

LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

HAPPY NEW YEAR from your Pride 2001 Celebration Committee Co-Chairs!

We're happy to report that much progress has been made since the publication of the last newsletter.

Since our annual Celebration Committee Retreat in October, where all of the new and returning Committee Coordinators and Officers met to discuss last year's events and to plan this year's, our Coordinators have been meeting their

wearing Pride T-shirts and other merchandise is a great way to support our organization.

We are excited about our Publications Committee, which will be producing our most comprehensive, professional Pride Guide to date. Lead Coordinator Ken Donnelly has been pouring a great deal of effort into this endeavor, and the community is certain to get an incredible result that will compare favorably with Pride publications in other cities.

Jeffery Neaves	Festival
P. J. Sanzone	Festival
Mike Vega	Festival
Joseph Weinman	Festival
Mark Willis	InterPride Region 3
Ryan Rice	Media
Joseph Wiese	Media
Billie Hogan	Merchandise
Christian Sanders	Merchandise
Russell Ben Williams	Newsletter
Jim Shumsky	Parade Facilities Management
Paul Damin	Parade Float
Lee Wright	Parade Float
Manny Gutierrez	Parade Logistics
Bill Burford	Parade Production
John Taylor	Parade Production
Bob Farquarson	Pride Guide
Ken Donnelly	Publications
Cindy Archer	Volunteers
Jeff James	Volunteers
Raul Chavez	Web Site
Brian Sadler	Web Site

Legal Counsel

Debra Hunt
Moore and Hunt, Attorneys

Contact Information

PrideLine 713-529-6979
Fax 713-529-6929

Pride Committee of Houston, Inc.
PO Box 66071
Houston, Texas 77266-6071

E-mail info@pridehouston.org
Web www.pridehouston.org

Meetings

Board of Directors and general meetings are held the first and third Tuesdays of each month, respectively. All meetings are held at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center (1475 W. Gray) and begin at 7 p.m. All meetings are open to the public.

Submissions

We encourage you to submit articles or photographs for possible inclusion in *insidepride*. Submitted materials may be edited and cannot be returned without prior arrangement.

InterPride The Pride Committee of Houston, Inc., is a member of the International Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Pride Coordinators (InterPride).

insidepride Vol. 16 No. 1, Winter 2001. Copyright 2001 Pride Committee of Houston, Inc. All rights reserved. Published quarterly. No part of this newspaper may be reproduced in any manner without permission of the Pride Committee of Houston, Inc. The Pride Committee of Houston logo is a service mark of the Pride Committee of Houston, Inc. Published by the Pride Committee of Houston, Inc., PO Box 66071, Houston, Texas 77266-6071.

still have a long way to go in letting middle America know who we are.

LETTER FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

HAPPY NEW YEAR from your Pride 2001 Celebration Committee Co-Chairs!

We're happy to report that much progress has been made since the publication of the last newsletter.

Since our annual Celebration Committee Retreat in October, where all of the new and returning Committee Coordinators and Officers met to discuss last year's events and to plan this year's, our Coordinators have been meeting their goals weeks ahead of previous years' schedules.

The Festival Committee, charged with the unique challenge of putting on a first-time event, is meeting this challenge under the leadership of Coordinator Jeffery Neaves. We are working on the entertainment line-up, and as always, your input is appreciated. Please forward your ideas to the Committee at our e-mail address.

Be on the lookout for merchandise sporting the fabulous Pride 2001 logo designed by Diane Jolley. Purchasing and

wearing Pride T-shirts and other merchandise is a great way to support our organization.

We are excited about our Publications Committee, which will be producing our most comprehensive, professional Pride Guide to date. Lead Coordinator Ken Donnelly has been pouring a great deal of effort into this endeavor, and the community is certain to get an incredible result that will compare favorably with Pride publications in other cities.

Other significant developments include exciting new possibilities in media coverage, a better-than-ever weekend at AstroWorld and WaterWorld, more extensive coverage on our web site, a more focused float construction effort, and memorable year-round events.

Thanks to all of the members of the Pride Celebration Committee and to those in our community who offer their support. We are in for one incredible year!

Paul Radous & Lynn Sixkiller

PRIDE OPEN HOUSE FEBRUARY 17

PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON will hold annual poll voting for the 2001 Pride Parade Grand Marshals at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center (803 Hawthorne) on Saturday, February 17. This year we're making the day an open house so that we can show you the many ways you can get involved with Pride.

Grand Marshal voting will take place 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Go to page 4 for all the details on nominees and voting procedures. After the polls close, come back at 5 p.m. for our Pride Volunteer Social. We'll be thanking our past volunteers and meeting new ones, all in a relaxed and fun setting with drinks and light snacks.

Pride 2001 will offer more opportunities than ever for you to show your pride while helping to make a difference. Members of the PCOH Celebration Committee and Board will be on hand at the social to discuss the coming year's activities and to answer any questions you may have about volunteering.

As an added bonus, you'll have the opportunity to be the first on your block to purchase Pride 2001 merchandise all day.

Come by to see some old friends, or to make some new ones!

**For more information, please call the PrideLine at 713-529-6979
or send e-mail to info@pridehouston.org.**

PCOH CELEBRATION COMMITTEE GEARS UP FOR 2001 PROJECTS AND EVENTS



Pride Celebration Committee and Board members at the Logo Unveiling Party on January 18. Back row, from left: Cindy Archer, Lynn Sixkiller, Paul Radous, Nick Brines and Mark Leger. Front row (standing), from left: Russell Ben Williams, Ken Donnelly, Troy Christensen, Brian Keever, Jamie Wenner, Mark Willis, Jack Valinski, Jim Shumsky, Billie Hogan, Manny Gutiérrez, P. J. Sanzone and Bill Burford. Kneeling, from left: Jeffery Neaves, Joseph Wiese, Christian Sanders, Ryan Rice, Jim Halloran and Richard Alvarado. Photo by Dalton De Hart.

PRIDE FESTIVAL RETURNS TO HOUSTON

by Jeffery Neaves

THE PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON is pleased to announce the return of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Festival in 2001. This year the festival will be held 1-7 p.m. on Sunday, June 24, at Garden in the Heights (3926 Feagan).

Scheduled attractions will include two stages of music, speakers, comedians and other performers. A pride market featuring local organizations and businesses and multiple food and drink vendors will also be on site. Tickets will go on sale in May, with a discount for early purchases.

We would like to have your input—if there are any performers, speakers or acts you would like to see at the 2001 Houston Pride Festival, please send us their name

Southwest. However, now our local stories will be combined with stories from around the country on such topics as "Transgender in America," "Racism in the GLBT Community" and "Being Queer in Middle America." We are also teaming up with the Pride Committees from San Francisco, New York, Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles to create a combined national version of the magazine for sale in bookstores around the country and online.

Don't worry about our new national status—you will still be able to pick up your free copy of the magazine at all your favorite local places. We also plan to distribute free copies in Dallas, San Antonio, Austin, Waco, Beaumont, Corpus Christi, and New Orleans. We want everyone to come on down to Houston and see why this

is the premier nighttime Pride Parade in the country and why we need a whole month to celebrate!

So look for the new *Pride.01* magazine around town starting the last week in May. Pick it up while you can, because with this new format you'll want a copy for your coffee table.

GQ, *Vanity Fair*, *Time*, *Life*—look out! *Pride.01* is coming to town! ✧

PRIDE WEB SITE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

by Ken Donnelly

THE WEB IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING AND EVOLVING. It seems that the web is one of our most vivid reminders that "Change is constant." However, another old adage says that "Change is good." With that in mind, we are changing the entire Pride web site.

because the selected outlet will also produce a weekly events guide in their publication. This guide will serve as the main source of information to the community about the numerous Pride events held throughout the month of June.

Secondly, we are reviewing proposals for a radio sponsor. This outlet is important in creating awareness not only to the GLBT community, but also to a more diverse public. Through public service announcements, on-air mentions and attendance at key events, a radio sponsor not only helps the Pride Committee of Houston reach more individuals, but it also creates awareness of the GLBT community in a mainstream format.

Lastly, we are reviewing television sponsorship opportunities. This is a new avenue for the Pride Committee of Houston and one that we feel will greatly enhance events throughout the month of June and may enable our Parade to be broadcast live throughout the country. This is an exciting venture because it will show Houston's commitment to Pride and will show a city that is truly embracing diversity.

Without the aforementioned sponsorships it would be financially impossible for the Pride Committee of Houston to reach such a diverse population and spread our message. We appreciate last year's media sponsors, which included 104 KRBE, *The Texas Triangle*, *OutSmart*, The Greater Houston Convention and Visitor's Bureau and *Hero* magazine.

For more information about becoming a sponsor, contact Ryan Rice by phone at 713-284-8412 or by e-mail at armstrongrice@aol.com. ✧

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIDE 2001

by Nick Brines

THE PRIDE COMMITTEE could not produce the numerous events, publications and activities that make up Houston's annual gay and lesbian Pride celebrations if it were not for the important support of our corporate

by Jeffery Neaves

THE PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON is pleased to announce the return of the Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Festival in 2001. This year the festival will be held 1-7 p.m. on Sunday, June 24, at Garden in the Heights (3926 Feagan).

Scheduled attractions will include two stages of music, speakers, comedians and other performers. A pride market featuring local organizations and businesses and multiple food and drink vendors will also be on site. Tickets will go on sale in May, with a discount for early purchases.

We would like to have your input—if there are any performers, speakers or acts you would like to see at the 2001 Houston Pride Festival, please send us their name and contact information.

Any businesses or organizations interested in participating as vendors in the 2001 Houston Pride Festival and any performer or artist interested in being part of the Festival entertainment should send an application request to Pride Committee of Houston, P.O. Box 66071, Houston, Texas 77266-6071. Please include your name, address, telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address. You can also request applications or information by calling the PrideLine at 713-529-6979 or e-mailing info@pridehouston.org.

MOVE OVER GQ — HERE COMES THE NEW PRIDE.01 MAGAZINE!

by Ken Donnelly

LAST YEAR'S PRIDE GUIDE marked a new beginning for the Pride Committee as we launched our first magazine-format publication. Over 25,000 copies of this full-color annual were distributed throughout Houston. The magazine featured stories about the people, places, events and issues that make Pride a celebration of our lives and our community. It also served as a handy guide to all the community resources available in Houston and beyond.

Hot on the heels of last year's success comes an all-new, expanded magazine called *Pride.01*. For this publication we are working with a new national publisher to create a magazine that goes beyond just the local news and brings in the broader perspective of our national community. We will still cover the local faces and places that make our Pride Celebration the largest in the

conference table.
GQ, Vanity Fair, Time, Life—look out! *Pride.01* is coming to town! ✧

PRIDE WEB SITE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION

by Ken Donnelly

THE WEB IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING AND EVOLVING. It seems that the web is one of our most vivid reminders that "Change is constant." However, another old adage says that "Change is good." With that in mind, we are changing the entire Pride web site.

Starting with a blank slate, we have worked on designing a new Pride web site that will act as a portal page for Pride. The goal is to make information usable and accessible to everyone, within no more than two clicks from the home page. This new portal home page will feature all the news and information found in our current web site, but organized with your needs in mind. It will also have some new features, such as an online newsletter and a new Community Resource Center that will provide you with a one-stop shop of the items you need the most. In future updates, we will work on interactive user interfaces that will allow you to search for what you need, update event calendars, complete forms and applications and even purchase merchandise online.

The Pride Committee of Houston's web site is evolving and growing to meet the needs of the community, just like our Parade and events. We welcome your feedback and encourage you to take a look at our site sometime and watch for the launch of the new site. We think you will enjoy the change. ✧

MEDIA MINUTE

by Ryan Rice

AS THE MONTH OF JUNE rapidly approaches, our relationship with local media is beginning to build. Currently we are reviewing proposals for sponsorship by local media in three formats.

The first is print sponsorship. When reviewing print sponsorship proposals we look to see which media outlet will best represent the Pride Committee of Houston and increase awareness of our events and our overall message of embracing diversity. This awareness is achieved through ads in the publication as well as editorial content and feature stories related to our events, such as a feature on the Grand Marshals. This sponsorship is key

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIDE 2001

by Nick Brines

THE PRIDE COMMITTEE could not produce the numerous events, publications and activities that make up Houston's annual gay and lesbian Pride celebrations if it were not for the important support of our corporate sponsors. Numerous marketing opportunities are available to businesses that want exposure to a large, diverse and loyal audience of enthusiastic consumers.

In addition to providing the necessary financial support to make the Pride celebration happen, the involvement of these businesses also shows their commitment to community diversity and, more specifically, to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender consumers.

A variety of marketing benefits are available to sponsors that want to maximize their exposure during the Pride season. Advertising opportunities exist through the variety of publications produced by the Pride Committee of Houston. Each publication is professionally produced and distributed to a targeted audience. The 2001 Pride Guide will be a full-color, glossy magazine distributed nationwide to maximize a sponsor's audience.

In addition, over 3,000 inside-pride newsletters are mailed each quarter, allowing a sponsor to specifically target Houston's GLBT community. The Pride web site also has opportunities for sponsors to increase their exposure.

Logo placement opportunities are abundant with the numerous high-profile events held throughout June. Businesses can increase their exposure through banner and logo placements at various media events; the Pride Kick-off Party, AstroWorld's Pride day, along the parade route and throughout the Pride Festival site.

Sponsors are also given excellent exposure through prominent unit placement in the popular nighttime Pride Parade, display space at the Pride Festival and Pride Day at AstroWorld and through announcements in press releases and media kits. In addition to all of these opportunities for exposure, the Pride Committee can work with any sponsor to create other unique events or programs on a case-by-case basis that fit within the scope of the business and that will help add to the mission of the Pride celebration.

Any business that is interested in joining the Pride Committee of Houston as a 2001 sponsor should contact Nick Brines through the PrideLine at 713-529-6979 or by e-mail at info@pridehouston.org.

2001 PRIDE PARADE GRAND MARSHALS – VOTE TODAY!

by Troy Christensen

PRIDE PARADE GRAND MARSHAL POSITIONS are among the highest honors bestowed by Houston's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. We on the Pride Committee are very proud that the selection of these individuals, who will preside over the annual nighttime Pride Parade on Saturday, June 23, is done by many, many people across our community in a very open voting process. To add your vote, you must be a resident of Harris County or its surrounding counties. Other eligible counties are Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Liberty, Montgomery and Waller.

Send the ballot below to PCOH by Thursday, February 15, 2001. Check one name or organization per category and print and sign your name on the ballot. All votes are confidential and the signature portion of your ballot will be removed before it goes into the ballot box.

Include with your ballot proof of residency in Harris County or its surrounding counties. This could be a copy of your driver's license or state identification or a copy of a utility bill. License and account numbers can be obscured, but your name and address must be readable.

Mail your ballot and proof of residency to:

Grand Marshal Vote, Pride Committee of Houston, P. O. Box 66071, Houston, Texas 77266-6071 or fax them to 713-529-6929. Ballots not received by February 15 or received without proof of residency will not be valid.

In addition to its publication below, the 2001 Grand Marshal ballot is also available on the Pride Committee's web site, www.pridehouston.org, and it has been made available to local community publications for wider distribution.

On Saturday, February 17, the Pride Committee will hold poll voting for the Grand Marshal positions at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center (803 Hawthorne) between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. To vote at the Community Center, you cannot have voted by mail-in ballot and you must bring proof of residency in Harris County or its surrounding counties.

Vote tabulation will be conducted by members of the PCOH Board of Directors. Winners will be determined by a plurality of the vote, with any ties resolved by members of the Board. The 2001 Pride Parade Grand Marshals will be announced at a special press event to be held on Thursday, March 8. ✕

2001 GAY & LESBIAN PRIDE PARADE GRAND MARSHAL BALLOT

- ▼ Check one name per category
- ▼ Include proof of residency in Harris or surrounding counties
(copy of Texas Driver's License/ID or utility bill)
- ▼ Print and sign your name (for verification purposes only)
- ▼ Mail to: Grand Marshal Vote

THE 2001 GRAND MARSHAL BALLOT IS AVAILABLE ON THE PCOH WEB SITE

www.pridehouston.org

GRAND MARSHAL NOMINEES

THE PRIDE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED THE NOMINEES for the Grand Marshals of the 2001 Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade at its general meeting on Tuesday, January 16.

Nominees for the position of male Grand Marshal are Kevin Davidson, Ray Hill, Mitchell Katine, Ralph Lasher and Rusty Mueller a/k/a Crystal Rae Lee Love. Female Grand Marshal nominees are Janine Brunjes and Dalia Stokes. Blake and Gordon Weisser were nominated as a couple for Honorary Grand Marshal. Groups nominated for Honorary Grand Marshal - Organization are Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston, Greater Houston Area American Red Cross HIV/AIDS Education & Services and PFLAG Houston.

The male and female Grand Marshals are self-identified gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender men and women who are honored for their community leadership. They are individuals who have excelled in their activities and achievements and they serve as role models for all of us. Honorary Grand Marshals are self-identified heterosexual, non-transgender individuals who have shown outstanding dedication to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender causes or to our community. Groups honored as Honorary Grand Marshal - Organization support the Houston gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, significantly contributing to its positive image or outlook, and have been in existence for over two years.

Letters of nomination for these Grand Marshal positions were sent to the Pride Committee in December and January and a committee of former Grand Marshals met on Monday, January 15, to review each nomination. According to PCOH rules, the review committee is charged with assuring that each nominee meets the qualifications outlined above, through a simple majority vote. This year's review committee included Bob Bouton, Jim Carper and Brian Kever. Parade Production co-coordinator Bill Burford acted as the committee chair. Qualifications for each nominee, as detailed in the letters of nomination, are listed on the following pages.

MALE GRAND MARSHAL

KEVIN DAVIDSON

(nominated by Roger Barrera and Patrick McKee)

Kevin does not know what it is like to be uninvolved or

2001 GAY & LESBIAN PRIDE PARADE GRAND MARSHAL BALLOT

- ▼ Check one name per category
- ▼ Include proof of residency in Harris or surrounding counties
(copy of Texas Driver's License/ID or utility bill)
- ▼ Print and sign your name (for verification purposes only)
- ▼ Mail to: **Grand Marshal Vote
Pride Committee of Houston
P. O. Box 66071
Houston, TX 77266-6071**
- or fax to: **713-529-6929**
- ▼ Ballot must be received by February 15, 2001

MALE GRAND MARSHAL

☐ Kevin Davidson
☐ Ray Hill
☐ Mitchell Katine
☐ Ralph Lasher
☐ Rusty Mueller-
a/k/a Crystal Rae Lee Love

FEMALE GRAND MARSHAL

☐ Janine Brunjes
☐ Dalia Stokes

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

☐ Blake and Gordon Weisser

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL - ORGANIZATION

☐ Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston
☐ Greater Houston Area American Red Cross
☐ HIV/AIDS Education and Services
☐ PFLAG Houston

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Letters of nomination for these Grand Marshal positions were sent to the Pride Committee in December and January and a committee of former Grand Marshals met on Monday, January 15, to review each nomination. According to PCOH rules, the review committee is charged with assuring that each nominee meets the qualifications outlined above, through a simple majority vote. This year's review committee included Bob Bouton, Jim Carper and Brian Kever. Parade Production co-coordinator Bill Burford acted as the committee chair. Qualifications for each nominee, as detailed in the letters of nomination, are listed on the following pages.

MALE GRAND MARSHAL

KEVIN DAVIDSON

(nominated by Roger Barrera and Patrick McKee)

Kevin does not know what it is like to be uninvolved or dispassionate or to say "no" when asked to help in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. He is one of the cornerstones of the community in business, educational, social, political and humanitarian activities.

Kevin's greatest personal and professional satisfaction has come from his service to our community's youth through his involvement with the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) He has been President for seven years and was a founding Board Trustee in 1992. Under his leadership H.A.T.C.H. has consistently provided the sexual minority youth of the greater Houston area the support, respect and guidance needed to become proud, healthy individuals.

In 1998, Kevin was a founding Board member of the PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Scholarship Foundation, which has raised \$125,000 in funds to provide GLBT youth with educational scholarships. He is currently Secretary/Treasurer and a member of the Review and Selection Committee for youth recipients.

Kevin is the Administrator for the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, maintaining databases, communicating Chamber events, assisting with membership services and providing Board and Committee support.

Kevin is a past three-year Chair of the Board, five-year Board member and PAC Treasurer of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. He has received the Barbara Ciganero Volunteer Award and the Dennis Spencer Award and Lifetime Membership for contributions in the fight for civil rights for all. He is active in the Democratic Party as a Resolutions Committee Chair, a State Convention Delegate and an Alternate Precinct Judge. Kevin has been the Election Committee Chair of the Executive and Professional Association of Houston (EPAH) for six years.

As owner of The Resume Company since 1984, Kevin assists clients from all levels of professions in preparing for their next career position. He has also been an Adjunct Instructor in technical writing and computer software for Houston Community College.

Kevin moved to Houston from Ohio in 1979 where he attended the Miami University in Oxford. He is in a loving three-year relationship with Eric Barnes.



RAY HILL

(nominated by Jone Devlin)

Ray has displayed a tireless devotion and commitment to all levels of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community since 1958. As one of the first out members of the gay-rights movement in Houston, Ray has continually put himself at the forefront (and thus in the line of fire) for our issues, even when doing so cost him personally and professionally.

As our movement gained momentum and became more high-tech and well financed, Ray refused to sell out to those assimilationists who sought to redefine who we were and what we stood for. While Ray has consistently maintained that he will (and does) fight for the rights of anyone in the community, his forte has always been ensuring fair and equal treatment for the least of the least of us.

While many things in the GLBT community have changed since 1958, Ray's unwavering adherence to the work of ensuring equal rights for all GLBT people is not one of them.

Even in this new millennium, Ray is as powerful, dynamic and necessary to our progress as a community as he was 40+ years ago.



MITCHELL KATINE

(nominated by Brandon Wolf)

Mitchell is the Houston legal counsel representing two men challenging the Texas Homosexual Conduct Statute (21.06), cooperating with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. He has also represented an HIV+ man who was fired after company employees voted to have him removed from his job because of his HIV status.

Mitchell provides free legal assistance and seminars to gay, lesbian, transgender and HIV+ people in Houston with legal problems. He regularly speaks at the Texas Department of Health, the City of Houston Health Department and local HIV organizations on HIV legal issues free of charge. He has taught "HIV and the Law" as an Adjunct Professor at South Texas College of Law since 1994. Mitchell also appeared with Houston AIDS activist Brian Bradley on the "Rolanda" national TV talk show as a legal expert on HIV employment discrimination.

Gov. Ann Richards appointed Mitchell to the Texas Real Estate Commission and he served as an openly gay Commissioner between 1993 and 1999. Mitchell was Founding Chair of the State Bar of Texas section on gay, lesbian, bisexual,



Between 1987 and 1994 Ralph was Executive Director of the Montrose Clinic, overseeing its growth from a small agency with an annual income of \$300,000 to one of the country's premier STD/HIV service organizations, with an annual income in excess of \$1.5 million. During his tenure, funds were raised for the Clinic's building on Westheimer and many new programs were developed. Through Ralph's efforts, the Clinic was the first GLBT community agency to become a member of the Texas Gulf Coast United Way.

Ralph was one of the founding members of the HIV Services Organization and served on the HIV Alliance and its successor, the Ryan White Planning Council. He was a member of the first Board of Directors of the PWA Coalition Houston and was one of the first Houstonians approved by the Centers for Disease Control as an HIV educator, HIV counselor and trainer for HIV counselors.

Ralph was Executive Director of the Kolbe Project, a Franciscan ministry to the GLBT/HIV community, from 1994 until 1997. He helped the ministry build a stable financial foundation and relocate to its present location in the Heights. He also co-founded Crossroads, a support group for GLBT people who have been called to serve God in a full-time ministry.

Ralph, who is 72, is a determined advocate of and an activist for civil rights for all people and for legal recognition of same-gender relationships. He is uncompromising in what he believes and has been known to be stubborn, but he is always willing to admit when he is wrong or has made a mistake.

RUSTY MUELLER A/K/A CRYSTAL RAE LEE LOVE

(nominated by Bob Bouton)

Rusty has been involved in the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community through charitable work and organizations for many years. He has been a member of the Colt 45's for the past five years and a member of its Executive Board for the past four. He is a past Chairman of its AIDS Trouble Fund and currently serves as the organization's Treasurer. Rusty is a past recipient of the Colts' B. J. Summors Memorial Entertainer of the Year Award.

In Rusty's guise as Crystal Rae Lee Love, she is Empress 11 of the Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star. Crystal has been a member of the Court for nine years and has been on its Board of Directors for the past three years. Crystal has received many awards and accolades from across the nation in her capacity as a Court member, including being named to the International Court Council as Heir 19 to Jose I, founder of the Court system. The Court Council meets 3-4 times each year to help determine policy for over 65 Courts in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Crystal won the 1997 Miss Gay Pride Houston contest and is affectionately known as the Empress who will never step down (even when we push).

Rusty/Crystal is a member of the Lean On Me Foundation and a Board member of the Montrose Clinic. He has also been a past Co-Chairman of Soiree Aubergine, which was at one time the largest contributor to Omega House.

In addition to these activities, Rusty/Crystal holds honorary and associate positions with many of the leather organizations around our community and is well respected by many in the Houston GLBT community. She has helped raise thousands of dollars for various community concerns, including the Colt 45's

has also represented an HIV+ man who was fired after company employees voted to have him removed from his job because of his HIV status.

Mitchell provides free legal assistance and seminars to gay, lesbian, transgender and HIV+ people in Houston with legal problems. He regularly speaks at the Texas Department of Health, the City of Houston Health Department and local HIV organizations on HIV legal issues free of charge. He has taught "HIV and the Law" as an Adjunct Professor at South Texas College of Law since 1994. Mitchell also appeared with Houston AIDS activist Brian Bradley on the "Rolanda" national TV talk show as a legal expert on HIV employment discrimination.

Gov. Ann Richards appointed Mitchell to the Texas Real Estate Commission and he served as an openly gay Commissioner between 1993 and 1999. Mitchell was Founding Chair of the State Bar of Texas section on gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and HIV legal issues—the first such section of any State Bar in the U.S.

Mitchell is the legal counsel for the Montrose Clinic, Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church and the River Oaks Health Association ("Help House"). He has served on the Boards of several local GLBT and HIV service organizations, including AIDS Foundation Houston, Texas Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby, Milam House and the Bar Association for Human Rights of Greater Houston.

Mitchell received the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award from South Texas College of Law students in 1999 for teaching "HIV and the Law" and the Outstanding Citizenship Award from KTRK-TV Channel 13 for providing free HIV legal services. He received the Humanitarian Award at the Sixth Annual Houston Conference on AIDS in America, as well as the State Bar of Texas' highest individual award for legal services to the poor in 1996.

Mitchell is certainly deserving of our community's highest honor. He is a role model, a hard-working and dedicated activist and an all-around nice guy.

RALPH LASHER

(nominated by J. Dwayne Johnson)

Ralph has been an out-of-the-closet gay man ever since he moved to Houston in 1968. His 45-year committed relationship with Harry Gibson, which ended with Harry's death on July 28, 2000, serves as a role model for many people.

Ordained as a Episcopal priest in 1953, he resigned in 1959 rather than lie about his sexuality and try to hide his relationship with Harry. He volunteered his services as clergy at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church from 1987 until 1997, when he became a compensated member. At Resurrection, Ralph has helped reconcile hundreds of men and women with spirituality through classes on scripture and sexuality. He has written articles on the subject for local and national publications.



the Court for nine years and has been on its Board of Directors for the past three years. Crystal has received many awards and accolades from across the nation in her capacity as a Court member, including being named to the International Court Council as Heir 19 to Jose I, founder of the Court system. The Court Council meets 3-4 times each year to help determine policy for over 65 Courts in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Crystal won the 1997 Miss Gay Pride Houston contest and is affectionately known as the Empress who will never step down (even when we push).

Rusty/Crystal is a member of the Lean On Me Foundation and a Board member of the Montrose Clinic. He has also been a past Co-Chairman of Soiree Aubergine, which was at one time the largest contributor to Omega House.

In addition to these activities, Rusty/Crystal holds honorary and associate positions with many of the leather organizations around our community and is well respected by many in the Houston GLBT community. She has helped raise thousands of dollars for various community concerns, including the Colt 45's AIDS Trouble Fund and Stone Soup Fund, PWA Holiday Charities, the Bering-Omega Community Services Center, the Montrose Clinic's Women's Program, Steven's House and the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

FEMALE GRAND MARSHAL

JANINE BRUNJES

(nominated by Tori Williams)

Janine is the founder of the Houston chapter of An Uncommon Legacy Foundation and a co-founder of the Houston Black Tie Dinner. She is currently the President of the Hollyfield Foundation. Janine became the Co-chair of the National Board of Directors for An Uncommon Legacy Foundation in 1998. During 1993 and 1994 she served on the Board of Governors for the Human Rights Campaign Fund and was instrumental in rebuilding the Fund's Black Tie Dinner. She was a board member, table captain chair and dinner chair in the years 1993-1996.

She co-chaired the Houston Federal Club and is a former Vice Chair for AIDS Foundation Houston.

Janine is a registered nurse with a graduate degree in gerontology. In 1998 Janine received the female community activist award from the Texas Human Rights Foundation. She is dedicated to the strength, viability and vitality of the lesbian community, an important ally in the fight against AIDS and the Jacqueline Kennedy of the Houston gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community!



DALIA STOKES

(nominated by Brandon Wolf)

Dalia founded River Oaks Democratic Women in April 1997. Known by its acronym ROADWomen, the group is an all-volunteer organization open to women and men in and outside River Oaks dedicated to working on the local level on behalf of Democrats and Democratic ideals. ROADWomen supports advancing equality for all, especially gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. It was one of the few organizations to host a harassed lesbian couple from Gonzales, Texas, and to raise money to assist in their relocation out-of-state for their safety and that of their young daughter. ROADWomen focused attention on the failure of the Texas legislature to pass the James Byrd Jr. hate-crimes bill at its annual banquet in September 2000, where the families of James Byrd Jr. and Matthew Shepard were honored. Under Dalia's leadership, ROADWomen has grown to approximately 400 members.

Dalia served as Co-Chair of the Human Rights Campaign 2000 Houston Gala and she will co-chair the 2001 Gala.

As a Democratic judicial candidate in 1996 and 1998, Dalia was proud to receive the endorsement of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus each time.

Licensed in 1981, Dalia has practiced law since 1983 with the firm of Bayless & Stokes. In her practice Dalia has sought to advance the rights of GLBT people whenever possible within her area of expertise. As Program Chair of the Probate Trusts and Estates section of the Houston Bar Association in the early 90's, Dalia developed the first presentation ever given on the use of then-experimental viatical settlements in estate planning. In the mid-80's, Dalia was the lead counsel for a man with AIDS who was wrongfully prevented from receiving his inheritance from his lover, who had previously died of AIDS. The case was one of the first of its kind in the country and received front-page coverage in the *Houston Post*.

Dalia is native to West University Place and is a third-generation Texan. She and her partner, Bobbie Bayless, are celebrating their 25th year together. Dalia is the proud mother of one child, Lelia, who lives in Minnesota with her husband and 15-month-old daughter.

Dalia is a very special member of our community and would make a wonderful Grand Marshal. She's a role model, a hard-working and dedicated activist and an important player in Houston's political world.

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

BLAKE AND GORDON WEISSER

(nominated by Sue Null)



HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL - ORGANIZATION

GAY & LESBIAN SWITCHBOARD HOUSTON

(nominated by Andrew Eversole)

The mission of the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston (GLSH) is to provide information, nonjudgmental support, crisis intervention and referral services for Houston's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender population. GLSH exists solely for this community

and is staffed by volunteers who are selected first and foremost for their sensitivity to the community and the unique issues it faces, including isolation and depression from being closeted, the coming-out process, relationship issues, problems that arise at school, family reactions and religious concerns. Other hotline volunteers may be trained to include gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues, but Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston specializes in them.

Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston recently joined Montrose Counseling Center, expanding the hotline to a 24-hour operation. Services have been expanded to providing emergency shelter and advocacy services to crime survivors who may need someone to accompany them to a hospital for medical attention or assistance in filing a police report. The partnership is a natural fit with Montrose Counseling Center's mental health resources and its good standing within Houston's medical community.

GLSH is one way Montrose Counseling Center reaches the community in the areas of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted disease prevention and education, suicide prevention, chemical dependency treatment, case management, general psychotherapy and medical referrals. Montrose Counseling Center provides culturally affirming, quality and affordable outpatient mental health, chemical dependency and case management services, education and research primarily for and about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people; people living with HIV disease; and their significant others.

GREATER HOUSTON AREA AMERICAN RED CROSS HIV/AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES

(nominated by George Wilmoth Jr.)

The Greater Houston Area Chapter of the American Red Cross (GHAC) has been an active player in Houston's HIV/AIDS arena since 1986. The largest provider of HIV education to be recognized by the Centers for Disease Control, they provide education to youth, workplaces and the African-American and Hispanic communities, as well as within the Texas Department of Corrections.

The uniqueness of the GHAC is that it chose not to limit its involvement to education. One of the country's only chapters to provide direct services



**American
Red Cross**

HIV/AIDS

Pride Ce
row, fro
(standin
Wenner,
Bill Burf
Holloran

PRI

R

by Jeff

THE PR
the ret
2001.
Sunday
Feagar
Sc
music,
pride m
multiple
go on s
W
perform
2001 H

was one of the first of its kind in the country and received front-page coverage in the *Houston Post*.

Dalia is native to West University Place and is a third-generation Texan. She and her partner, Bobbie Bayless, are celebrating their 25th year together. Dalia is the proud mother of one child, Lelia, who lives in Minnesota with her husband and 15-month-old daughter.

Dalia is a very special member of our community and would make a wonderful Grand Marshal. She's a role model, a hard-working and dedicated activist and an important player in Houston's political world.

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

• BLAKE AND GORDON WEISSER

(nominated by Sue Null)

Blake and Gordon Weisser are 10-year members of PFLAG Houston who have worked for better understanding of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people with unbelievable amounts of time, consistent dedication, dogged determination and tireless energy. As a retired couple, they threw themselves with incredible gusto into ensuring long-term support for GLBT people and their families, making PFLAG visible and establishing connections to the larger community, both gay and straight.



Blake is a five-year PFLAG Board member and has served as H.A.T.C.H. liaison and as Youth Advocate. Gordon has been Treasurer for the past three years, and is also Treasurer of the PFLAG/H.A.T.C.H. Youth Scholarship Foundation.

Blake and Gordon have sponsored the southwest mid-month support group for the past 3½ years. Blake facilitates the group, mentors heartbroken parents and answers the PFLAG hotline.

Blake has networked extensively with HISD administrators and counselors to help them become better informed on GLBT issues. She and Gordon worked in all four of PFLAG's Healing the Hurt conferences for educators.

They have marched and lobbied in Austin three times. They also lobbied for ENDA with "Moms and Dads Go to Washington" in 1996. Blake and Gordon regularly participate in the Houston Pride Parades.

Blake and Gordon have attended national PFLAG conferences, witnessed for GLBT rights at the Episcopal National Convention and taken Soulforce training. They have represented PFLAG at local church, civic, political and gay/lesbian group functions. On one occasion, Blake bravely told Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, "You didn't vote for my child."

In undertaking all three of PFLAG's missions of support, education and advocacy, Blake and Gordon Weisser have made an inestimable contribution to equal rights and social justice for the sexual minority community.

GREATER HOUSTON AREA AMERICAN RED CROSS HIV/AIDS EDUCATION & SERVICES

(nominated by George Wilmoth Jr.)

The Greater Houston Area Chapter of the American Red Cross (GHAC) has been an active player in Houston's HIV/AIDS arena since 1986. The largest provider of HIV education to be recognized by the Centers for Disease Control, they provide education to youth, workplaces and the African-American and Hispanic communities, as well as within the Texas Department of Corrections.

The uniqueness of the GHAC is that it chose not to limit its involvement to education. One of the country's only chapters to provide direct services, GHAC has been a longtime provider of transportation to the HIV+ community. Funding from the Ryan White Planning Council, private donations and the Red Cross itself enables thousands of HIV+ Houstonians to access medical and social service appointments. Infected women and children—the majority of the client base at Houston clinics and food pantries who might otherwise go without access are able to navigate our vast city thanks to GHAC. The care and giving do not end there. GHAC offers the "Welcome Home Trip," the only program of its kind in the country. Through private donations and without funding by any government agency, the GHAC makes it possible for individuals living in Houston who are in the final stages of AIDS to return home to finish their time with family. Working with doctors and case-managers, GHAC provides transportation for those who need to return home and are financially unable to do so. Always looking for funds to keep this program alive, the three-person department works tirelessly serving the community.

The Red Cross is known for its humanitarian mission of disaster relief, nursing and international intervention. While these services are commendable, we must recognize GHAC's HIV/AIDS Education & Services as the epitome of humanitarian relief. Like the Red Cross nurse on the battlefield, they fight to comfort the sick and wounded in the war on AIDS. Thank you Lynne, Michael and Ana for being on that battlefield everyday.

PFLAG HOUSTON

(nominated by Jim Null)

For over 20 years, the Houston chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays has provided an always-reliable source of love and support for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community and their families and friends.

Its three missions of support, advocacy and education are implemented in many different ways. Support is provided by such activities as monthly educa-



**American
Red Cross**

**HIV/AIDS
Education**



tional meetings, two monthly small-group sharing sessions, a telephone Help Line, a large lending library of books and videos and scholarship assistance (in conjunction with H.A.T.C.H.). Advocacy is provided by lobbying for GLBT rights at the local, state and national levels by PFLAG members.

In the last two years, PFLAG members have met with both the editorial board of the *Houston Chronicle* and the station manager of KPRC-TV Channel 2. Education is provided by an active Speaker's Bureau and the bi-annual Healing the Hurt Conferences for educators.

Some activities contribute to all three missions. One example is the Billboard Campaign 2000. Since March, billboards with the messages "Safe Schools," "Hate Hurts" and "Unconditional Love" have been placed in strategic locations around the Houston area. Financial support has come from PFLAG members and friends, the Houston GLBT community, various corporations and foundations and numerous fundraising events. One nine-year-old girl saw one of the billboards and sent in \$5; she thought we would "do good things with it."

At its core, PFLAG is about love—unconditional love. Support, advocacy and education arise from this most fundamental concern. As we love our own GLBT children and friends, we extend this love to the wider community and receive it back with a generous return.

It is in this spirit that we feel that PFLAG Houston would be a worthy recipient of the honor of being the Honorary Grand Marshal - Organization in the Pride Parade.

RAZZLE DAZZLE DALLAS TO HOST NEXT REGIONAL PRIDE CONFERENCE

by Mark Willis

THE PRIDE MOVEMENT is about sharing our strength and knowledge with our brothers and sisters, helping each other as a community. We hold our annual Pride celebrations not only to commemorate the beginning of our equal rights movement in 1969, but to provide visibility for those still coming to terms with their sexuality and gender identity. Showing the pride that we have in our community, in our activities and our identity, we not only provide a welcome for new members in that community, we show the world at large that we are not the demons that our harshest critics make us out to be.

As we are the flagship Pride event for an entire section of the continent, we have a responsibility for helping smaller GLBT communities start and maintain Pride celebrations in their cities and towns. As part of that responsibility, Houston is a driving force in InterPride, an international organization that promotes the growth of Pride celebrations around the world. InterPride has divided the world into 20 regions, of which six comprise the United States. Our region is made up of the states of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Some regions have as many as five major cities within a short drive of each other, whereas we have 637,511 square miles of land stretching from the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf of Mexico with only three cities of over a million people.

To help Pride organizers in smaller cities and towns, we are organizing the second annual Regional Pride Conference, to be held March 9-11 in Dallas, Texas. We are for-

PRIDE IN OUR PAST:

HOUSTON GRAND MARSHALS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

by Troy Christensen

Houston's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community has had the tradition of honoring individuals as Grand Marshals ever since the city's first annual Pride Parade in 1979. While information for the early and mid 80's is spotty, the list is a "who's who" of community leaders past and present, as well as vital community organizations and treasured allies. If you have any information about Grand Marshals selected during the years missing from this list, please contact the Pride Committee so our community's history can be recorded.

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2000 | Grand Marshals: Richard Wiederholt and Tori Williams
Honorary: Don Sinclair
Organization: People with AIDS Coalition |
| 1999 | Grand Marshals: Sean Carter and Nancy Ford
Organization: Colt 45's |
| 1998 | Grand Marshals: Bob Bouton and Jackie Doval
Honorary: Barbara Winston
Organization: Texas Gay Rodeo Association |
| 1997 | Grand Marshals: Deborah Bell and Jimmy Carper
Organization: Krewe of Olympus |
| 1996 | Grand Marshals: Bill Havard and Jeanette Vaughn
Honorary: Jack Abercia
Organization: Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star |
| 1995 | Grand Marshals: Suzanne Anderson and Don Gill
Honorary: Arnella Harrison
Organization: H.A.T.C.H. |
| 1994 | Grand Marshals: Jay Allen and Cicely Wynne
Honorary: Claire Koepsel
Organization: Q-Patrol |
| 1993 | Grand Marshals: Brian Bradley and Carolyn Mobley
Honorary: Adan Rios, M.D.
Organization: PFLAG |

provide visibility for those still coming to terms with their sexuality and gender identity. Showing the pride that we have in our community, in our activities and our identity, we not only provide a welcome for new members in that community, we show the world at large that we are not the demons that our harshest critics make us out to be.

As we are the flagship Pride event for an entire section of the continent, we have a responsibility for helping smaller GLBT communities start and maintain Pride celebrations in their cities and towns. As part of that responsibility, Houston is a driving force in InterPride, an international organization that promotes the growth of Pride celebrations around the world. InterPride has divided the world into 20 regions, of which six comprise the United States. Our region is made up of the states of Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. Some regions have as many as five major cities within a short drive of each other, whereas we have 637,511 square miles of land stretching from the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf of Mexico with only three cities of over a million people.

To help Pride organizers in smaller cities and towns, we are organizing the second annual Regional Pride Conference, to be held March 9-11 in Dallas, Texas. We are fortunate to have Razzle Dazzle Dallas host this year's conference. Holding it in Dallas will make the conference more accessible for organizations in Oklahoma and Kansas and encourage their attendance. We have created an open attendance policy, inviting organizations that are not strictly Pride committees, but other groups that hold annual events within the GLBT community. We believe that this will increase the flow of ideas, benefiting both the Pride organizations and the others that join us. For more information, visit www.razzledazzledallas.org and click on the Conference link. While you are there, take the time to learn about this wonderful organization, and what they contribute to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Last year at our conference in Houston, we attracted Pride organizations from as far as Wichita and Denver, as well as guests from our neighboring regions. As InterPride's membership becomes more international, and the annual world conference will be held outside of North America more often, the regional conferences will become a more important source of information and networking over the next couple of years. I hope that Houston will continue in its leadership role in the future, and by starting this process now, we are laying a good foundation for years to come. ✧

**GET YOUR 2001 PRIDE PARADE
AND EVENT APPLICATIONS ONLINE
AT
WWW.PRIDEHOUSTON.ORG**

You can also have applications mailed or emailed to you.
Call the PrideLine at 713-529-6979 or e-mail info@pridehouston.org

- 1996 Grand Marshals: Bill Havard and Jeanette Vaughn
Honorary: Jack Abercia
Organization: Royal, Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star
- 1995 Grand Marshals: Suzanne Anderson and Don Gill
Honorary: Arnella Harrison
Organization: H.A.T.C.H.
- 1994 Grand Marshals: Jay Allen and Cicely Wynne
Honorary: Claire Koepsel
Organization: Q-Patrol
- 1993 Grand Marshals: Brian Bradley and Carolyn Mobley
Honorary: Adan Rios, M.D.
Organization: PFLAG
- 1992 Grand Marshals: Sheri Cohen Darbonne and Brian Keever
Honorary: Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston
- 1991 Grand Marshals: Gene Harrington, Jack Jackson and Linda Morales
Honorary: Katy Caldwell and Lady Victoria Lust
- 1990 Grand Marshals: Walter Carter and Annise Parker
Honorary: Debra Danburg and Craig Washington
- 1989 Grand Marshals: Charles Armstrong and Bettie Naylor
- 1988 Grand Marshals: Bruce Cook and Eleanor Munger
Honorary: Sharon Kowalski and Harvey Milk
- 1987 Grand Marshals: Persons Living with AIDS
- 1984 Grand Marshals: Pokey Anderson and Rick Grossman
- 1981 Grand Marshals: Ray Hill and Rita Wanstrom
- 1980 Honorary: Jim Farmer and Ruth Ravas
- 1979 Grand Marshal: Thelma Hansel

EMBRACE
Diversity



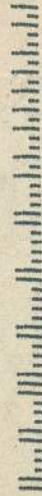
PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON
P.O. BOX 66071
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77266-6071
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOUSTON TX
PERMIT NO. 6739

112854 2/3/01 338 B W00A

HOUSTON TX 77006-3225

77006-3225



PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON
P.O. BOX 66071
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77266-6071

- ☐ I want a **FREE** subscription to insidepride
- ☐ You're sending my copy to the wrong address
- ☐ I'm getting too many copies

- ☐ I want to volunteer for Pride 2001
- ☐ I want to advertise in insidepride
- ☐ I want Pride 2001 sponsorship information

PLEASE PRINT ADDRESS BELOW:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

WORK PHONE: _____

ALTERNATE # (PAGER, CELL, ETC.): _____


E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

WINTER 2001



PROFIT ORG.
POSTAGE
PAID
HOUSTON TX
MIT NO. 6739

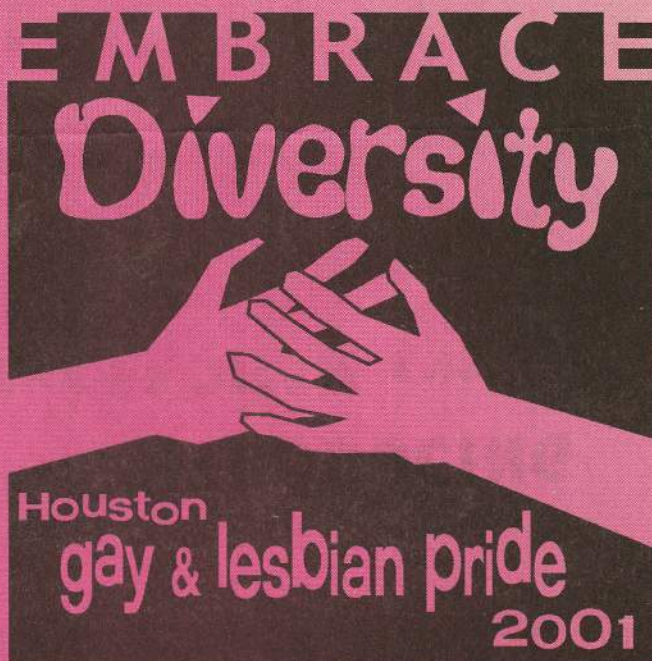
PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON
P.O. BOX 66071
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77266-6071



2001 GRAND MARSHAL BALLOT INSIDE

insidepride

**INTRODUCING
THE SLOGAN AND LOGO**



FOR 2001's SEASON OF PRIDE

WINTER 2001



PRIDE COMMITTEE OF HOUSTON www.pridehouston.org