

PRIDE.01

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF HOUSTON

GAY & LESBIAN PRIDE 2001

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Liberation.



Welcome to Pride 2001!

Dear Friends in Pride:

On behalf of Houston's Board of Directors, Celebration Committee and volunteers, I would like to welcome everybody to Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 2001. The Pride Committee of Houston works year-round to produce the events that take place in June, organizing our nationally known nighttime Pride Parade and creating our new Pride Festival. We also produce an extensive community resource guide, a Web site, a quarterly newsletter, a media guide and this *Pride.01* magazine to keep our community informed and educated throughout the year.

Our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community is made up of all types, and this diversity is its strength. So this year we not only chose the theme "Embrace Diversity," we suggested the theme to InterPride, the international Pride organization, and it was adopted as the theme for Pride around the world in 2001.

Please make an effort to come out and participate in the many Pride events — educational seminars, festivals, motion pictures, stage productions, parties and, of course, Houston's wonderful Parade. Many organizations are rolling out the red carpet to let the community know what they are about. Our community is only as strong as the people who are out there trying to make a difference for everyone. I challenge you all to get involved, join an organization and make a change! It will make you and our community stronger.

Yours in Pride and Diversity,
Jack Valinski
Executive Director, Pride Committee of Houston



Welcome to Houston!



GREETINGS:

As Mayor of the City of Houston, I am please to extend my congratulations and best wishes to the Pride Committee of Houston for publishing *Pride.01* magazine.

Houston has historically offered an array of activities, organizations and services that are reflective of its diverse ethnic and cultural makeup. The strengths of this great city are in the men and women who make up our diversity and cultural richness. Equality for all regardless of race, religion, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation constitutes one of my core personal beliefs.

Houston is a richly diverse and exciting community offering a large number of business and social opportunities. As the nation's fourth largest city, our economy is robust, our downtown is thriving, and our parks and neighborhoods are thriving. Houston is made stronger by the vigorous interaction of all people working together for the mutual benefit of the community.

Best wishes for much success, and I look forward to your continued support of our city.

Sincerely,
Lee P. Brown
Mayor, City of Houston



DEAR GLBT COMMUNITY:

Thank you for allowing me to serve our community and all of Houston for another year on the Houston City Council.

We have come a long way from the dark days of the 1986 employment referendum and the early, overwhelming days of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. We can celebrate this week because so many of us devoted so many hours to organizations and organizing for change.

Thank you for saving lives and moving us closer to equal rights.

We can celebrate out in the open because more and more of us find the courage to come out to our families and co-workers.

Thank you for changing attitudes and making yourselves happier human beings.

Houston promotes itself as one of the most diverse cities in the world. We've got a talented, diverse workforce; a multicultural population; and traditions and festivities of many cultures. Pride Week is part of that wonderful mix.

Embrace Diversity, hug it, absorb it, savor it.
It's the spice of 21st Century life.

Happy Pride Week!
Annise D. Parker
Houston City Council Member

Welcome to Texas!

DEAR PRIDE COMMITTEE AND FRIENDS:

It is my pleasure to congratulate the Pride Committee of Houston on our annual celebration. This time-honored event has as its theme "Embrace Diversity," which is also the international Pride 2001 theme. By adopting the international theme, our community in Houston identifies itself with the movement worldwide for gay, lesbian, and transgender rights.

As you know, I have for many years been dedicated to our community service through efforts both political and social. Being committed to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights is a mission that can be reflected not only in my legislative work, but also in my participation and membership in many neighborhood, state and national groups. Pride also reflects the commitment to diversity, unity and understanding that is needed to ensure that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights are moved to the forefront of American society.

Sincerely,
Debra Danburg
Texas State Representative, District 137



DEAR FRIENDS:

On behalf of the constituents of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I am pleased to welcome everyone to the City of Houston for the 2001 Pride Celebration.

With each passing year, American people become more receptive to diversity and more open to those who are different from themselves. Indeed, our nation is at last realizing that gays and lesbians must no longer be "strangers among friends," as the civil rights pioneer David Mixner once noted. Rather, we must recognize all Americans for what they are: our colleagues and neighbors, daughters and sons, sisters and brothers, friends and partners.

This June, recognizing the joys and sorrows that the gay and lesbian movement has witnessed and the work that remains to be done, we observe Gay and Lesbian Pride Month by "Embracing Diversity" and celebrating the progress we have made in creating a society more inclusive and accepting of gays and lesbians. And so, as a strong supporter of equal rights for all Americans, I pledge to continue to do all I can to eliminate discrimination based on sexual orientation, and foster compassion and understanding, working not simply to tolerate our differences, but to celebrate and "embrace" them. Again, I extend my best wishes to all for a wonderful 2001 Pride Celebration, and hope that in this new millennium we will continue to break down the walls of fear and prejudice and work to build a better bridge to understanding.

Sincerely,
Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress, 18th Congressional District





Houston — You'll think the world of this city

More than 160 years ago, two New York brothers decided to make their fortunes in Texas. Land speculators Augustus and John Allen navigated up Buffalo Bayou from Galveston Bay and deemed this the perfect spot for a thriving new land venture. Houston was born.

Today, the Bayou City represents all that is typically Texas, and much, much more. Since its founding in 1836, Houston has grown to house 1.8 million people and to encompass a patch of land more than half the size of Rhode Island — 617 square miles. Houstonians speak more than 90 languages, creating an exciting, diverse environment where people live, work and visit.

The sights are remarkable; each area of the city offers something different — especially Houston's downtown area, which has undergone an astonishing renaissance. Bayou Place, an entertainment complex, offers the multi-screen Angelika Film Center & Cafe, several excellent restaurants, including a Hard Rock Café, a live-music venue and Slick Willie's. Additional restaurants are sprouting up as people discover that downtown is a great place to visit.

And they're not just visiting — developers are watching loft apart-

ments lease and sell at a premium. The historic Rice Hotel, the one-time meeting place for Houston's power structure, has been renovated into luxury apartments, complete with restaurants, a day spa and a grocery.

The Astros' new downtown home, Enron Field, has been a hot ticket for baseball fans since opening in March 2000. Such progress goes hand-in-hand with historic preservation. Sam Houston Park, across the street from the recently renovated Art Deco-style City Hall building, showcases historic homes. Just a few minutes from downtown, the historic Heights neighborhood boasts beautiful Victorian-era homes and is great for antiques.

Just south of downtown, the world's first domed stadium, the Reliant Astrodome at Reliant Park, is an architectural and engineering marvel. The Dome, the brainchild of former Houston Judge Roy Hofheinz, opened in 1965 as the new home of the Houston Astros (then the Colt 45s). Now it is home to the annual Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo — the world's largest rodeo. Next to the Dome, a state-of-the-art football stadium that will house Houston's new NFL team, the Texans, is under construction, scheduled for completion in 2002.

The Dome is also neighbor to one of the city's largest attractions — Six

Flags AstroWorld and WaterWorld. The theme parks draw millions of visitors annually. But AstroWorld and WaterWorld share the spotlight with several other major attractions. Splashtown is the biggest water park in Texas, and it offers hours of water fun in the summer months. At Space Center Houston, visitors can explore the past, present and future of manned space flight, land the space shuttle, or touch a moon rock.

The Houston Zoological Gardens is found in scenic Hermann Park. The centrally located park offers a golf course, two beautiful and different gardens, the Japanese Gardens and the Houston Garden Center, and free outdoor performances at Miller Outdoor Theatre.

The Museum District, within walking distance of Hermann Park, gives visitors a taste of Houston's impressive cultural scene. The city is home to more than 500 cultural, visual and performing arts organizations, including The Museum of Fine Arts, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, The Children's Museum of Houston, the Menil Collection and the Contemporary Arts Museum. Other additions include the Holocaust Museum Houston and the Museum of Health & Medical Science.

For the performing arts, Houston is one of only a handful of cities that

sustains every major performing art with resident troupes — Houston Grand Opera, Houston Symphony, Houston Ballet and the Alley Theater.

If shopping is more your speed, the Bayou City has gained a reputation as one of the world's greatest retail centers. Its most well-known site is The Galleria, a collection of hotels, restaurants and shops centered around a giant indoor ice-skating rink.

Houston offers the world's largest medical center — The Texas Medical Center. Medicine is a growing economic force here, employing more than 50,000 people and comprising 42 institutions. The Bayou City is taking its place among the world's biotechnology leaders with more than 120 thriving biomedical firms.

Houston's economy is strong, so it should come as no surprise that we are the proud home of more than a dozen Fortune 500 companies, including Continental Airlines and Compaq Computer Corp.

Whether visitors are jetting into town for business, pleasure or a combination of both, Houston has what it takes to keep them coming back for more.

RESOURCES:

AIRPORTS

- Bush Intercontinental Airport
- Hobby Airport

ATTRACTIONS

- Battleship Texas
- Beer Can House
- Flower Man's House
- George Ranch Historical Park
- Houston Ship Channel Tour
- Kemah Boardwalk
- Lone Star Flight Museum
- Moody Gardens (Galveston)
- NASA/Space Center Houston
- San Jacinto Monument
- Six Flags AstroWorld and WaterWorld
- Splashtown

CRUISE LINES

- Carnival Cruise Lines
- Norwegian Cruise Lines
- Premier Cruise Lines

EVENTS

- Art Car Parade
- Bayou City Arts Festival
- BMC Tour of Houston
- Enron Earth Day Festival
- Galleryfurniture.com Bowl
- Houston Pride Parade & Festival
- International Festival
- Livestock Show & Rodeo
- Mardi Gras
- Methodist Health Houston
- New Year's Eve Houston
- St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Texaco Grand Prix

GALLERIES

- The Antiquarium
- Community Artists' Collective
- Hanson Galleries
- Harris Gallery
- Nolan-Rankin Galleries at Chelsea Market
- TLC Shoppe, Inc.

GARDENS & ZOOS

- Armand Bayou Nature Center
- Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens
- Forbidden Gardens
- Houston Arboretum & Nature Center
- The Houston Zoological Gardens
- Mercer Arboretum and Botanic Gardens
- Sam Houston Heritage Park

LESBIAN & GAY BARS

- 611 Hyde Park
- Brazos River Bottom
- Briar Patch
- Bricks II
- Chances/In Between/New Barn
- Cousin's
- Club Rainbow
- Decades
- E/J's
- Guava Lamp
- Incognito

FUN FACTS

- The first word ever heard on Earth from the moon was the name of this city, when, on July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong called, "Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed."
- Houston has been the primary location for numerous made-for-television movies and major films. The following movies were filmed in Houston: ARMAGEDDON; RUSHMORE; EVENING STAR; TIN CUP; POWDER; APOLLO 13; JASON'S LYRIC; THE CHASE; CULTIVATING CHARLIE; REALITY BITES; SIDEKICKS; ROBOCOP II; FULL MOON IN BLUE WATER; TERMS OF ENDEARMENT.
- Houstonians spend about \$1 billion each year on their electricity bills for their air-conditioners, giving the Bayou City the unofficial nickname "Air Conditioning Capital of the World."
- Former President Lyndon B. Johnson lived at 435 Hawthorne in the Montrose area of Houston. He taught at San Jacinto High School.
- Ninety primary languages other than English are spoken in the homes of Houston Independent School District students.
- Television news anchor Dan Rather grew up at 1432 Prince Street in the Heights area of Houston.
- The Port of Houston is the second largest major port in the United States in total tonnage and ranks first in foreign waterborne commerce.
- The first major black-owned record label in the country, Duke-Peacock Records, was formed in Houston around 1948.
- Houston's first electric elevator was built in the Kiam Building at 302 Main Street in 1893. Clothier Ed Kiam threw a huge grand opening party and 17,000 people lined up to ride the new lift.
- In 1939, Glen McCarthy, known as the "King of the Wildcatters," opened his Shamrock Hotel. It cost \$21 million and was painted in 63 shades of green. The liquor was free, Hollywood stars were imported by train at McCarthy's expense, and 50,000 Houstonians turned out to gawk. The event turned into a brawl that was later immortalized in the best-selling novel GIANT by Edna Ferber and later in the film starring James Dean.
- The Reliant Astrodome is the first domed stadium in the world. Constructed in 1965, the dome also prompted the invention of Astroturf.

THE BAYOU CITY REPRESENTS ALL THAT IS TYPICALLY TEXAS, AND MUCH, MUCH MORE.

- Inergy
- JR's
- Mary's
- Montrose Mining Company
- Nsomnia
- Outpost
- Pacific Street
- Paradise
- Rascals
- Rich's
- Ripcord
- Toyz
- Venture-N-Houston

MUSEUMS

- American Cowboy Museum on Taylor-Stevenson Ranch
- American Funeral Service Museum
- Art Car Museum
- Byzantine Fresco Chapel Museum
- C.G. Jung Educational Center
- Children's Museum of Houston
- Contemporary Arts Museum
- Holocaust Museum
- Houston Fire Museum
- Houston Museum of Natural Science
- Lawndale Art Center
- The Menil Collection
- Museum of Fine Arts
- Museum of Health & Science
- Museum of Printing History
- National Museum of Funeral History
- Ocean Star Offshore Energy Center
- Orange Show
- Project Row Houses
- Rice University Art Gallery
- Rothko Chapel
- Shrine of the Black Madonna Center
- Texas Seaport Museum

PERFORMING ARTS

- Aerial Theatre
- Alley Theatre
- Arena Theatre
- Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion
- Da Camera Society
- Ensemble Theatre
- Express Theatre

- Houston Ballet
- Houston Grand Opera
- Houston Symphony
- Society for the Performing Arts
- Masquerade Theatre
- Miller Outdoor Theatre
- Stages Repertory Theatre
- Theatre Under the Stars
- Talento Bilingue De Houston
- Theater Lab Houston
- University of Houston's Moores School of Music
- Wortham Theatre

SHOPPING

- Centre at Post Oak
- The Galleria
- Greenspoint Mall
- Highland Village
- Katy Mills (Katy)
- Memorial City Mall
- Old Town Spring
- River Oaks Shopping Center
- Sharpstown Mall
- Town and Country Mall
- Uptown Park
- The Village Arcade
- Willowbrook Mall
- Woodlands Mall

SPORTS TEAMS & VENUES

- Reliant Astrodome
- Compaq Center
- Enron Field
- Gulf Greyhound Park
- Houston Aeros (Hockey)
- Houston Astros (Baseball)
- Houston Comets (Women's Basketball)
- Houston Rockets (Men's Basketball)
- Sam Houston Race Park
- Houston Texans Football (in 2002)

UNIVERSITIES

- Baylor Medical
- Houston Baptist University
- Houston Community College
- Rice University
- South Texas College of Law

- Texas Southern University
- University of Houston
- University of St. Thomas
- University of Texas-Houston Health Science Center

Planning a trip or just want to find out more about Houston? Visit Houston Visitors Bureau online at www.houston-guide.com, or give them a call at (800) 4-HOUSTON. These resources will provide you with a world of information on Houston and its many attractions. □

WHAT'S NEW

With the new year comes some exciting developments for Houston, according to the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau.

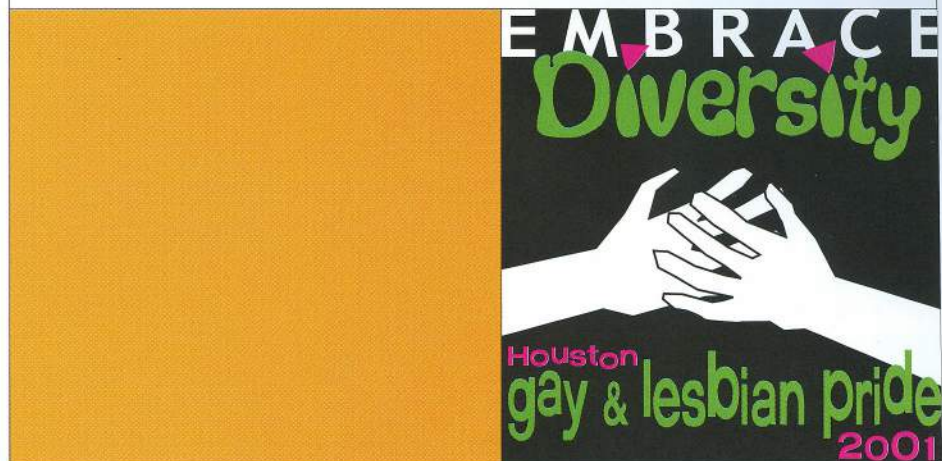
Construction is well under way on some major projects that are certain to appeal to visitors:

In downtown Houston, the Hobby Center for the Performing Arts is taking shape. This new \$85 million performing arts complex will house a 2,650-seat hall, a 500-seat proscenium theater, a restaurant and ample rehearsal spaces for a performing arts school.

The city's new home for its NFL team, the Houston Texans, is also under construction in Reliant Park, formerly known as the Astrodome. With its retractable roof, Reliant Stadium will seat 69,500 fans and will also be home to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The stadium is set to open in August 2002 when the Texans will host the Miami Dolphins in their first home preseason contest. The city will also host the 2004 Super Bowl.

City officials are hoping to break ground this summer on two more significant projects: a new downtown arena for the Houston Rockets and Comets and a new 1,200-room convention center hotel.

Also scheduled for a 2001 downtown groundbreaking is a five-acre entertainment, dining and meeting complex along Buffalo Bayou. The \$21 million facility will feature a 500,000-gallon public aquarium, a seafood restaurant, a ballroom, a casual café, dancing fountains, a gas-powered train and a 90-foot Ferris wheel.



Embrace Diversity: Behind Pride 2001's Theme and Logo

This Pride season, Houston joins all of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities across the globe as we "Embrace Diversity."

Each year at the InterPride Conference, Pride coordinators from all over the world come together to choose a theme that conveys an important message we all want to send to the larger community. We on the Pride Committee were very excited that "Embrace Diversity," one of the themes proposed by the Houston group, was selected from many choices as the international theme for 2001.

InterPride delegates said that "Embrace Diversity" is particularly appropriate as a theme for a Pride movement that is increasingly international and inclusive of many different communities.

It was also readily translatable into all of the languages represented at the conference — Pride coordinators from more than 50 cities on five continents attended.

Here in Houston we have had a logo to visually convey the Pride theme ever since the first annual Parade in 1979. Each year, artists are asked to submit their portfolios. The committee chooses one to create the

logo. For 2001, we selected Diane Jolley, who also designed the 2000 Pride logo.

In Diane'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 Diane'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.

Diane 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 for clients ranging from small businesses to international companies.

Her clients have included 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. □



An Open Letter

Hi!

Know who this is? No? I'm right next to you. Still don't know? I am your son, your daughter, your mother, your father, your brother, your sister. I am your best friend, your neighbor, your co-worker, your teammate and the stranger who just walked by you. I am a GLBT person. Of course you don't remember me. I am as similar and different as everyone else is. Unless I come out to you, you'll probably never know that I am queer. Is that why you fear me? Do I remind you of yourself, or do I remind you of what you want to be but are afraid to become?

You know, I think you fear me because you really don't know yourself or me. It is so much easier to place a pre-defined label on me. That is probably why you gasp when I kiss my partner in public, or laugh at me when I dress uniquely, or belittle me when I have different mannerisms than you. I don't fit the assigned label, and that forces you to deal with me one-on-one. It also makes you face your prejudices.

Yes, you are pre-judging me. Does that make you feel ashamed? If you could hear yourself talk about what is right, you would be. You take interpretations of books, call them holy, and then use them to spread words of hatred and violence. You argue for laws to protect families, children and society from me.

Who are you protecting them from? Everything you blame on me is what you hate about yourself but cannot face. Maybe that's why you don't recognize me.

All you see is yourself. You say that you speak the truth about me. Do you really want the truth? It's going to shock you!

The first shocker: We didn't choose to be this way. We simply are. Do you think you could just wake up one morning and choose to be a person other than yourself? Be honest. I can't explain why or how I fall in love with someone, but neither can you. We simply love whom we love.

Want to know the next shocker? There is no "agenda." We just want to live happy, fulfilled lives with full and equal rights for everyone, not "special" rights. The right to be treated like a real person, with hopes, dreams, aspirations, faults and failures, the right to be ourselves, no matter how we express our personality, the right to live and to love — If that's an agenda, it should be everyone's!

So, by now you shouldn't be shocked when I say that you are wrong about every other preconceived notion and prejudice you have about me. How could you possibly know me when you didn't even recognize me standing next to you? Until you can see me, you will never know me.

To be honest though, it's not all your fault. I often hide from you and conform so well that sometimes a stereotype or a label is all you have left for me. But, I try so hard to fit in out of fear of being rejected, ridiculed or maybe even killed!

Remember my brothers and sisters whom you beat and kicked, breaking their bodies and their spirits? I remember that, and it makes it even more difficult to muster the courage to just be myself. It's ironic. You would grow out of your prejudices if you could replace the labels with real people, but I conform to those labels to fit in. Seems like we both lose.

How about we make a deal? I will be myself and let you see the real me. You do the same. We can revel in our differences, and maybe even learn to love each other. I know that it will take effort from both of us.

Change can be scary and facing our own real selves is not an easy thing to do. But, as Chaucer said, "Amor Vincit Omnia." Love conquers all things!



Pride 2000's Volunteers of the Year

Cynthia Fabiola Hernandez and Russell Ben Williams



Our honored Volunteers of the Year for Lesbian & Gay Pride 2000 are Cynthia Fabiola Hernandez and Russell Ben Williams.

CYNTHIA FABIOLA HERNANDEZ

Cynthia is an unstoppable, energetic volunteer with an infectious enthusiasm for helping out. If you are anywhere near her, chances are she will have you doing something for the Pride Committee.

Last year, she brought along all of her friends to help out. The day of the Parade, she recruited even more people. Her secret to getting people to volunteer? "Well, to be perfectly honest, first I work on their sense of civic duty; I ask them how they think change will occur if they don't get involved," she says.

Once she has them listening, she tells them how much fun it's going to be. "I tell them about my own experiences helping Pride, and it gets others excited, so they want to help, too."

Asked why she likes to volunteer for the Pride Committee, Cynthia says, "That's easy — making a difference. I get to use my talents toward making a difference in our community."

She looks forward to her new role this year as our first Community Outreach Representative to the Hispanic community. We look forward to all the great work she is going to do and her unique way of embracing diversity by breaking down barriers and bringing people together.

RUSSELL BEN WILLIAMS

On the other side of the spectrum is the introspective Russell Ben Williams. Russell prefers to do the important but behind-the-scenes technical work of producing the quarterly *Inside Pride* newsletter. When the last newsletter designer left the position, Russell assumed the mantle without reservation. The light at the Pride office was often seen burning late into the night and on weekends as Russell worked with Publications Director Troy Christensen to edit, cut, paste, format, re-edit, cajole content out of committee members, edit again and proof, proof, proof.

Why does Russell volunteer for such an important, yet low-profile, position? "I am protecting the community from typos!," Russell says. "No, actually it's because I enjoy doing it. I take pride in producing the newsletter for the community and for myself."

He also says it's because of the support and appreciation that he receives from the Committee. Russell had been doing such a good job behind the scenes, we thought it was about time he was brought into the limelight. This year, look for him as our new official newsletter editor, set on bringing even more diversity and community involvement to the publication in the future.

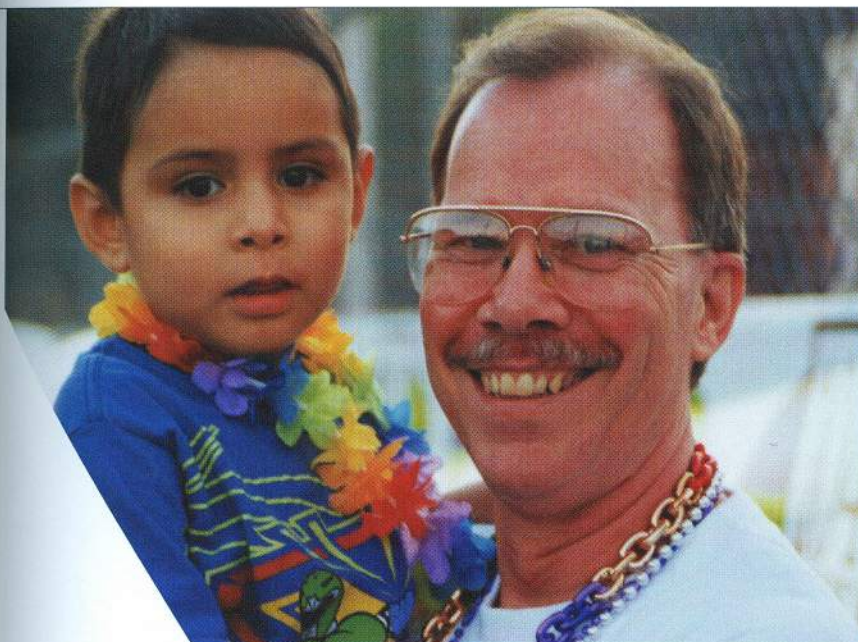
To Cynthia, Russell and the many others who volunteer a few minutes or countless hours of their time each year, the Pride Committee says, "Thank you so very much! Without you, the show does not go on!"

WANT TO VOLUNTEER?

You, too, can make a difference and contribute to the community no matter what your talents. There is as much diversity in the type of volunteer opportunities available as there are people in our community. Our volunteers of the year dedicated many, many hours to Pride 2000, but even the smallest effort helps Pride continue to be the vehicle for our community to celebrate its diversity and solidarity.

To learn more about volunteering, go to www.pridehouston.org, email info@pridehouston.org, call the PrideLine at (713) 529-6979 or write us at Pride Committee of Houston, Inc., P.O. Box 66071, Houston, TX 77266-6071. Of course, don't be shy if you see us out and about. Come on over. We'll be happy to let you join the fun! □





The Pride Festival — It's Back!

After a five-year hiatus, the Pride Festival is making a return to the long list of Pride events. Why was the festival absent for so long? The major reason was the switch to the nighttime parade format in 1997. Running a nighttime parade required more resources than were available for both a parade and a festival. Also, the committee wanted to focus on growing the Parade and proving its value.

Now that the Parade has become the largest Pride event in the Southwest (attendance last year exceeded 150,000), and more volunteers have taken the call to action and service, the Pride Committee thought it was time to fill the void in our community involvement and outreach activities.

After last year's Parade, the board determined it was time to bring the Festival back to Houston in a new format and on a new day. Unlike the Parade, a Festival gives you the opportunity to experience the local GLBT culture, rather than watch it ride by on a float. You can speak with representatives of local clubs and groups, purchase merchandise from local retailers and enjoy food from local restaurants, all while being entertained, encouraged, amused and informed by local and national speak-

ers and artists. In short, the Festival allows personal community interaction that the Parade simply cannot provide. After all, to be a community, you have to communicate. Besides, why should all the fun end on Saturday?

Look for the all new Pride Festival to return to Houston on Sunday, June 24, 1-7 p.m., at Garden in the Heights, 3926 Feagan. Spend a quiet, lazy afternoon meeting others in our community and sharing your Pride in our uniqueness.

However, if you still need a little coaxing to come, then perhaps this list of things to do at the Festival might entice you:

THINGS TO DO AT A PRIDE FESTIVAL

- Recover from the night before by basking in the sun on a lazy Sunday afternoon in June with "family."
- Win prizes and receive free sample products.
- Voice your opinion at a political forum, and show everyone that you are not afraid to speak in public.
- Meet other members of the community while you participate in a plethora of activities.

- Receive vital information and find out about the community resources and organizations available to you — all in one place.

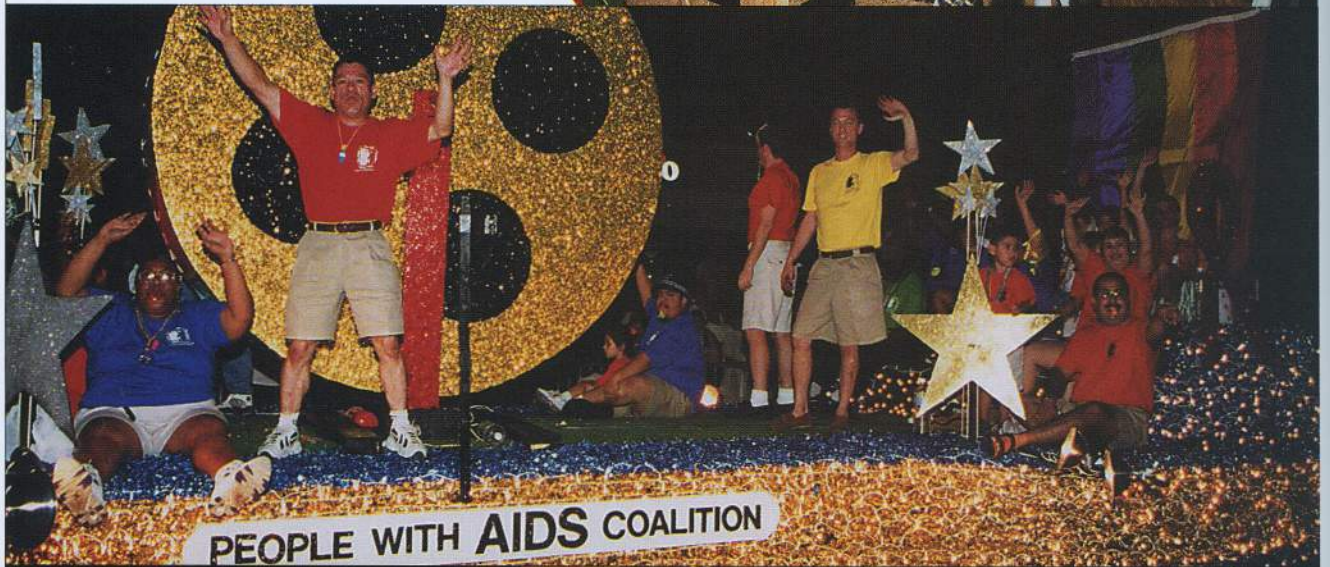
- Enjoy motivational and empowering messages from our community leaders.

- Listen to GLBT-powered music while relaxing with a cold beverage and old (and possibly some new) friends.

- Shop the Festival Marketplace for unique and interesting items you never thought you needed but have to have, like that all-organic vegetarian cookbook for lesbian investment bankers, or that refrigerator magnet with a nude picture of Bea Arthur and Woody Allen.

- Relax before you have to return to the work-a-day world on Monday morning.

For more information on the Festival and our other Pride 2001 events, check out the weekly events calendar in the Texas Triangle or visit our Web site at www.pridehouston.org. You can also contact us on the PrideLine at (713) 529-6979 or email us at info@pridehouston.org. □



Pride Parade 2000





The Pride Committee of Houston's Pride 2001 Events Calendar

Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride 2001 will be the city's longest Pride celebration ever. It starts with the Pride Kick-off Party on Friday, June 1, and climaxes with the return of the Pride Festival on Sunday, June 24. Here is a list of some of the events that the Pride Committee sponsors in June.

However, for a complete list of the educational, cultural and social events taking place during Pride 2001, check out the Pride Committee's Web site: www.pridehouston.org, and your weekly edition of the *Texas Triangle* throughout the month of June.

You can also call the PrideLine at (713) 529-6979.

We hope you attend some events and participate in the celebration.



PRIDE KICK-OFF PARTY: FRIDAY, JUNE 1

Start off Pride 2001 and a very busy Pride weekend with a free buffet, a cash bar and entertainment.

Meet the Pride Parade Grand Marshals, the Pride Committee, and other members of the community from 7-11 p.m. See www.pridehouston.org for location.

PRIDE DAY IN THE PARK: SATURDAY, JUNE 2 AND SUNDAY, JUNE 3

Spend a day or two at Six Flags and show your pride. Your \$30 Pride Committee ticket covers admission to AstroWorld on Saturday, including a free barbecue buffet in our private picnic area, free admission to Rich's on Saturday night and a free pass to WaterWorld on Sunday (or any other day throughout the season).

The headline entertainers for Pride Day are the Village People! What a way to start a month-long Pride Celebration!

Tickets are available at Basic Brothers or by mail from the Pride Committee of Houston, P. O. Box 66071, Houston, Texas 77266-6071. Check out our Web site,



www.pridehouston.org, and the *Texas Triangle* for more information and retail outlets. A special room rate will be available at the Radisson Hotel Astrodome, 8686 Kirby. Call (800) 333-3333 and ask for the "Pride 2001 event" rate.

PRIDE PARTICIPANT MANDATORY MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 12

All groups participating in the Pride Parade and the Pride Festival are required to attend this meeting, except for those located outside a 50-mile radius of the city.

The meeting is also the deadline for all entries submitting a parade entry application with a late fee: 7 p.m., Parade Meeting; 8 p.m., Festival Meeting, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray.

PARADE/FESTIVAL VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION: TUESDAY, JUNE 19

Pulling off the annual nighttime Pride Parade and the Pride Festival wouldn't





be possible without the help of dozens of volunteer Parade marshals and festival staff.

Individuals who would like to volunteer are requested to attend this meeting to prepare for the Big Weekend of Pride: 7 p.m., Parade Marshals Orientation; 8 p.m., Festival Staff Orientation, Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1475 W. Gray.

**2001 PRIDE PARADE:
SATURDAY, JUNE 23**

Embrace Diversity with more than 150,000 of your friends and family at Houston's annual nighttime Parade, the largest Pride Parade in the Southwest and one of the largest parades in Houston.

The awesome 8 1/2-foot disco ball returns to light up the night and add flair to our already colorful, float-filled celebration of Pride: 8:45-11 p.m., Westheimer, from Woodhead to Whitney.

PRIDE FESTIVAL: SUNDAY, JUNE 24

This year witnesses the return of the Pride Festival after a long five-year hiatus. Come experience the local GLBT culture first-hand. Speak with club representatives, shop the vendor bazaar, enjoy the artists and entertainers, and be energized by motivational speeches. Most of all, participate and meet other members of our "family" on a lazy Sunday afternoon: 1-7 p.m., Garden in the Heights, 3926 Feagan. □



Pride Parade 2001: America's Original Nighttime Parade

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2001, 8:45-11 p.m., Westheimer, from Woodhead to Whitney

PARADE TIPS

- **Drink Plenty of Water and Dress Lightly** — Houston in June is hot, even at night, so don't end your fun by dehydrating. Drink a lot of water and wear light clothing. Don't worry, there will be plenty of Port-o-Potties!
- **Get There Early** — The best spots always go way before the festivities begin, especially near the judges' stand and at the corner of Montrose and Westheimer. Don't wait until the last minute to get there!
- **Walk, Take Public Transport, Car Pool** — Parking can be scarce in the area on Parade night, and departing traffic can be heavy. Make it easy on yourself and others, and leave the car at home.

- **Respect the Neighbors** — Please help keep Montrose unique, friendly and beautiful. Please don't park on lawns, block driveways or disturb the neighbors. Also, show your respect by using a trash can.

- **Keep the Pets at Home** — We know your pet has Pride, too, but a crowd of 150,000 might scare the Pride right out of Fluffy!

- **Don't Worry, Be Happy** — Have a great time, but if there is a problem, please let a volunteer Parade Marshal know. They will take care of it!

- **Invite Everyone** — Pride celebrates our diversity, and the Parade just isn't the same without it. We have special areas by the judges' stand reserved specifically for the physically challenged. Just don't try to take over emcee Maria Todd's job while you are up there.

- **Play It Safe** — Ensure your safety by exercising time-honored personal safety tips: Walk in groups on well-lit streets; keep valuables to a minimum; have your keys ready to open your car or home; stand back from car drivers asking directions; and most important, call 911 if there is trouble. Don't ruin your celebration by becoming a victim of crime.

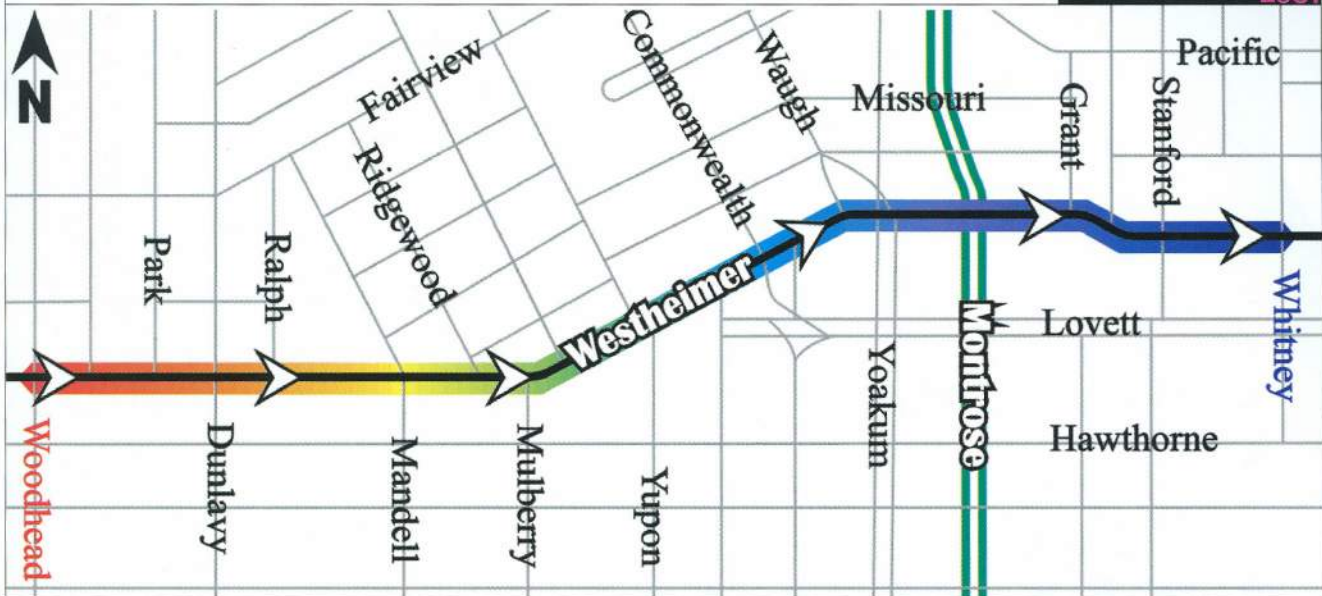
Are you coming in from out of town? Call the Holiday Inn Select at Greenway Plaza at (713) 523-8448 or the Radisson Hotel Astrodome Convention Center (800) 333-3333 for a flat \$74 per-night room rate for up to four people. Ask for the "Pride 2001 Parade" rate.

If you have any questions about the Pride Parade or other Pride events, check out the weekly events calendar in *The Texas Triangle*, or visit our Web site at www.pridehouston.org. You can also reach us on the PrideLine at (713) 529-6979 or by email at info@pridehouston.org. □





Parade Route Map





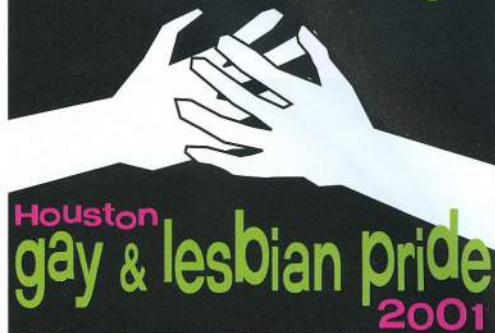


BE A PART OF THE SOUTHWEST'S LARGEST PRIDE PARADE!





EMBRACE Diversity



Pride 2001 Merchandise

"Take pride, Take joy"...are you still wearing that old Pride thing from last year? PLEASE! You can't be seen wearing last year's gear! You need to show how you "Embrace Diversity" with this year's new line of Pride 2001 merchandise.

Each year the Pride Committee designs clothing and commemorative merchandise to dress you, your partner, and your family and friends in the colors and theme of the Pride season.

This year's international Pride celebration theme of "Embrace Diversity" is a message of acceptance and tolerance that you will be proud to wear all year long!

Check out our new "Embrace Diversity" T-shirts, boxer shorts and accessories emblazoned with this year's immaculate logo and inspiring theme.

Run to the nearest retail outlet (see list), or a friendly PCOH volunteer at a bar or community event during the months of May and June. Solve your fashion dilemma and be fabulous once again!

PRIDE 2001 "EMBRACE DIVERSITY" MERCHANDISE

- "Embrace Diversity" T-shirts in black or white; sizes small to XXXXL; \$12
- "Embrace Diversity" baseball caps; one size fits all; \$15
- "Embrace Diversity" boxer shorts; sizes small to XXL; \$12
- "Embrace Diversity" commemorative logo pin; \$4

Look for Pride merchandise at these fine retail outlets:

Basic Brothers, 1232 Westheimer, (713) 522-1626

Black Hawk Leather, 2923 Main, (713) 520-6224

Leather Forever, 711 Fairview, (713) 526-6575

Walgreen Pharmacy, 3317 Montrose, (713) 520-8000

Walgreen Pharmacy, 1919 W. Gray, (713) 526-2161

Check out our Web site at www.pridehouston.org for more retailers and for updates on the latest merchandise available. □

It Takes a Village (People): Go to Pride Day in the Park at Six Flags' AstroWorld



Last year's new format for "Pride Day in the Park" was a great success. Ravens poured in about the private picnic area, the fantastic private show at the Showcase Theater, the free admission to Rich's to see the show's headliner, Tamara of Funky Green Dogs, again, and the free admission to WaterWorld to wind down on Sunday.

Compliments were even given to the group wristbands that let "those in the know" easily identify other family members, creating the feeling that it truly was our Pride Day at the Park.

Why mess with success? Because we want to make it even better! Six Flags' AstroWorld/WaterWorld, Rich's, and the Pride Committee are once again teaming up to bring you another full weekend of Pride.

This year, the fun at Six Flags' AstroWorld will begin on Saturday, June 2. In addition to the regular rides, carnival games and entertainment, the Pride Committee of Houston will host a special barbecue buffet lunch in a private picnic area.

Our Pride guests can relax (or recover), meet other members of our community, join in a quick volleyball game, or just get out of the heat in the comfort of an air-conditioned hall with an ice cream sandwich.

Tickets must be purchased through the Pride Committee or one of its retail partners before June 1 for access to this area.

We are especially excited to announce that Six Flags has signed none other than the Village People as the headline entertainment for what is



sure to be a fun-filled evening! Yes, your favorite policeman, construction worker, leatherman, cowboy and Indian will be leading the crowd in old favorites such as In the Navy, Go West, and, of course, the perennial crowd-pleaser YMCA. You won't want to miss this show!

However, if it doesn't provide enough dancing and excitement for you, use your ticket stub to get into Rich's for free that night!

To cap off this full weekend of events, all participants will be given a pass for free admission to join us at Six Flags' WaterWorld on Sunday, June 3. Enjoy the cool water slides and poolside parties as you close out the weekend.

You can purchase a ticket through the Pride Committee of Houston for a discounted price of only \$30 per

person. (Tickets the day of the event will be \$35 and will not include lunch.) This is an incredible value for a package that would regularly cost more than \$71.

You can purchase these special Pride Day in the Park admission tickets through our Web site at: www.pridehouston.org or through our Pride retail partner: Basic Brothers 1232 Westheimer, (713) 522-1626.

Call the PrideLine at (713) 529-6979 for more information.

If you are going to be joining us that weekend from out of town, check out the Radisson Hotel Astrodome Convention Center for a flat \$55 per-night room rate for up to four people. Be sure to ask for the special "Pride 2001 event" rate.

Call (800) 333-3333 for more information or to make reservations. □



Meet the Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade 2001 Grand Marshals

There are many dignitaries that participate in the Parade, but the Grand Marshals hold a special place in our history and in our hearts. Being a Grand Marshal requires more than just being a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person. These individuals and organizations exemplify service, leadership and dedication to our community. They have excelled in their activities and achievements, and they serve as role models for all of us. This year's Male and Female Grand Marshals, Mitchell Katine and Dalia Stokes, are no exceptions to that history of leadership.

In very much the same way, our Honorary Grand Marshals, Blake and Gordon Weisser, are more than just a GLBT-friendly heterosexual couple. They are wonderful, loving parents who have reached beyond their

immediate family to champion gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender causes in their larger "family."

This year's Honorary Grand Marshal-Organization, PFLAG Houston, shows that when people come together in the name of love and understanding, they can make a more significant contribution to the GLBT community and touch more lives in a positive way than they could alone.

So if you see one of our Grand Marshals on Parade day, stop and say, "Thanks!" Let them know that we appreciate all their hard work today and everyday.

MALE GRAND MARSHAL: MITCHELL KATINE

Mitchell is a Houston-based lawyer. In cooperation with Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, he is



representing two men who are challenging the Texas Homosexual Conduct Statute (21.06). 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 offers free legal assistance and seminars to GLBT and HIV+ people in Houston. He regularly volunteers his time to speak at the Texas Department of Health, the City of Houston Health Department and local HIV organizations on HIV legal issues.

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 ROLANDA, a 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 GLBT and HIV legal issues — the first such section of any state bar organization in the United States.

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," said Brandon Wolf, who nominated Mitchell for the Grand Marshal honor. "He is a role model, a hard-working and dedicated activist and an all-around nice guy."

**FEMALE GRAND MARSHAL:
DALIA STOKES**

Dalia founded River Oaks Democratic Women in April 1997. Known as ROADWomen, the group is an all-volunteer organization open to women and men in and outside River Oaks, dedicated to working at a 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 groups in Texas to host a harassed lesbian couple from Gonzales 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 into a group of approximately 400 members.

Dalia served as co-chair of the Human Rights Campaign Houston Gala in 2000 and 2001. 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. She 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 '90s, Dalia developed the first presentation ever given on the use of then-experimental viatical settlements in estate planning.

In the mid-'80s, Dalia was the lead counsel for a man with AIDS who was wrongfully prevented from receiving an 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 role model, a hard-working and dedicated activist and a significant player in Houston's politi-

cal world. Our community can be very proud to have her serving us as Grand Marshal.

HONORARY GRAND MARSHALS: BLAKE AND GORDON WEISSER

Blake and Gordon Weisser are 10-year members of PFLAG Houston (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). They have spent extraordinary amounts of time and offered consistent dedication, dogged determination and tireless energy in working for better understanding of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

As a retired couple, they have thrown 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 three-and-one-half years. Blake participates at all levels, facilitating the group, mentoring heartbroken parents and answering the PFLAG hotline.

Blake has worked 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 the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) with "Moms and Dads Go to Washington" in 1996.

Blake and Gordon regularly participate in the Houston Pride Parades. The couple has attended national PFLAG conferences, witnessed for GLBT rights at the Episcopal National Convention and received 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 Hutchinson, "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.

For their untiring and selfless devotion to our community, the Pride Committee is pleased to call them our Honorary Grand Marshals for the Pride 2001 Parade.

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL- ORGANIZATION: PFLAG HOUSTON

For more than 20 years, the Houston chapter of PFLAG has provided an always-reliable source of love and support for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities and their families and friends. Its three missions of support, advocacy and education are implemented in many different ways.

Support is provided by activities, including monthly educational meetings, two monthly small-group sharing

sessions, a telephone Help Line, a large lending library of books and videos and scholarship assistance.

PFLAG members provide advocacy by lobbying for GLBT rights at the local, state and national levels. 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 biannual Healing the Hurt Conferences for educators.

Some activities contribute to all three missions. One example is the Billboard Campaign 2000. Since March 2000, 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 fund-raising events. A 9-year-old girl saw one of the billboards and sent in \$5; she thought PFLAG 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," PFLAG members say, "we extend this love to the wider community and receive it back with a generous return."

As a community, we return PFLAG's love by proudly naming the group as the Honorary Grand Marshal Organization of the 2001 Houston Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade. □

Pride Committee of Houston



The Pride Committee of Houston is an energetic group of committed volunteers who meet year-round to develop, coordinate, promote and organize the annual Pride events for our community.

The result of this hard work is a month-long celebration of diversity that brings our entire local, national and international communities together as one. It is the Pride Committee's goal to create a means whereby gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons can celebrate and commemorate our past, while creating new paths toward a positive future for all humanity.

To those who show up to one of the many events in the largest Pride Celebration in the Southwest and/or join the 150,000 or so revelers at the nation's original nighttime Pride Parade, all this might look easy to do. After all, we have all year to plan and organize. Nothing could be further from the truth.

It looks easy because these many dedicated volunteers work so hard to make sure that everything is right and that everyone, from the most die-hard activists to the still-questioning individuals, can be themselves and share the strength of our diverse and growing community together.

So let's meet these dedicated men and women who have committed their time and energy to ensuring that each and every year, our Pride shines through and our voices are heard as one in celebration of being ourselves no matter what.

MEET THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS JACK VALINSKI: EXEC. DIRECTOR

As executive director of the Pride Committee of Houston, Jack directs the board, which means working one-on-one with all the board members and coordinators of the Celebration Committee. Jack also has the important job of keeping the organization legal and running.

While it's not as glamorous as being in front of a crowd or on a float, Jack works quietly behind the scenes to make sure that PCOH stays in compliance with all the 501(c)(3) rules and regulations, remains financially solvent and remains faithful to its mission statement.

As if keeping the ship on course is not enough, Jack also helps out with anything and everything from the newsletters to the Pride Guide, and from mail-outs to the varied Pride events. And, of course, let's not forget supervising the nighttime Parade — a huge job.

Jack has devoted his life to Pride and community radio since he moved here from Northeastern Pennsylvania in 1982, the same day Kathy Whitmire was elected mayor. In his own words, he became a "born-again Texan" that day! Ever since moving to Montrose, Jack has been producing shows such as *LESBIAN AND GAY VOICES* on KPFT when he is not busy with the Pride Committee.

Jack was instrumental in making the organization a year-round committee, and was co-founder of its reformation into a nonprofit organization, the current Pride Committee of Houston, in the early '90s. Jack is also responsible for starting the PCOH newsletter, the extensive community database, the comprehensive lesbian and gay community resource guide and the Media Guide. In 1993, Jack brought the InterPride World conference to Houston. Most recently, he presided over the InterPride 2000 Region 3 conference and the Media Training Conference.

But Jack's most famous contribution to Pride has been chairing the Night Parade Task Force. Under Jack's leadership, the Task Force adopted a nighttime parade format, the first in the Northern Hemisphere. Because of the move to nighttime, the Pride Parade has turned into an enormous event here in Houston, with more than 150,000 people attending!

NICK BRINES: FUND-RAISING DIRECTOR

This is Nick's sixth year as a member of the Pride Committee of Houston. He currently serves on the Board of Directors overseeing all fund raising, including corporate sponsorships, grant writing and the individual donor campaign. Nick coordinated the popular "Pumped Up On Art" fund-raising gala in 1996 and 1997 when he first joined PCOH. During that time he became involved in negotiating corporate sponsor contracts, which led to his current position on the board of directors.



Board of Directors, from top, left to right:
Jack Valinski; Nick Brines; Troy Christensen;
Brian Keever; Paul Radous; Lynn Sixkiller



He also assists as a mentor to numerous committees and new PCOH members. Nick joined the Pride Committee after years of watching the Pride Parade throughout his "coming-out" in college.

"The parade had such a significant impact on my learning about the gay community and the resources available in Houston," he says. "After the parade in 1995, I asked my friends how everyone just happened to come together the last weekend of June year after year. When nobody could answer the question, I decided the parade couldn't just magically happen by itself. I felt that I had gotten so much from the parade that I should give something back. After attending one Pride Committee meeting I was hooked, and I have been volunteering ever since."

Nick is especially fond of this year's theme of "Embrace Diversity."

"I truly believe that Houston's Pride events are a great way to showcase the diversity of Houston's gay and lesbian community," he says.

"I also believe that we must be visible throughout the city [of Houston] and state of Texas. With so many negative and misunderstood stereotypes about gays and lesbians, we owe it to ourselves to take time to celebrate.

"Even more, we owe it to our youth, who may not have positive role models to provide them with information about and images of our community through any medium possible."

TROY CHRISTENSEN: PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR

Troy is the marketing and publications director of the Pride Committee of

Houston, as well as the secretary of its board of directors.

Troy publicizes the year-round activities, events and the mission of the Pride Committee, and he advises several Celebration Committee coordinators in managing our Pride's wide-ranging marketing and publications campaign. Elements of this campaign include the quarterly *InsidePride* newsletter, the annual Pride magazine, the PCOH Web site, media relations, advertising and placement of the Committee's corporate logo and the Pride 2001 logo. Troy joined the Pride Committee in 1997 to help produce that year's Pride magazine. This is his second year on the board of directors.

Troy has been active in gay and lesbian political and service organizations for more than 11 years. He joined the Gay/Lesbian Students' Association at the University of Houston in early 1990 and has volunteered for other organizations, such as the direct-action political group Queer Nation and the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Houston.

Coming to Houston in Fall 1989 to attend UH was an exciting move for Troy, whose Nebraska hometown is much more politically and culturally homogenous. The Pride 2001 theme, "Embrace Diversity," has been a personal guide for him throughout his activist career.

On the Pride Committee, Troy has worked to ensure that PCOH publications act as open forums for people to express their opinions on important issues facing our community, and for organizations from all parts of the community to provide their news and announcements to everyone.

BRIAN KEEVER:

BANNER DISTRICT DIRECTOR

Brian Keever has been the director for the Banner District for the past two years. As director, Brian oversees the installation of the banners along lower Westheimer for the lesbian and gay Pride celebrations throughout the months of May and June.

One of Brian's duties in maintaining the district is to act in a public relations role before the Houston City Council and Reliant Energy/HL&P to gain approvals for banner display and location and for potential expansions to the banner district area. Our Pride festivities would be less colorful without Brian's work.

In 1992, Brian was the Grand Marshal of the Pride Parade. He has also been on the board in one capacity or another since 1982.

His community involvement doesn't stop with just PCOH. He has been the president and charter member of the National Leather Association in Houston and currently serves as its treasurer.

He was on the board of the Montrose Activity Center for more than four years and was a former officer of the statewide Lesbian/Gay Democrats of Texas. Brian was crowned Empress Ten of the Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star of Houston in 1994.

He also serves on the executive committee of the Harris County Democratic Party.

Brian is looking to help others to "Embrace Diversity," right here in his own neighborhood by expanding the scope of the banner district in 2001. Look for new and exciting projects, such as a memorial flagpole, ◇



Celebration Committee, from top, left to right: Richard Alvarado; Cindy Archer; Bill Burford; Raul Chavez; Paul Damin; Ken Donnelly; Bob Farquharson; Manny Gutierrez; Jim Halloran; Roy Hendrick; Billie Hogan; Jeff James; Mark Leger; Jeffery Neaves; Ryan Rice; Brian Sadler; Jim Shumsky; John Taylor; Joe Weinman; Joseph Wiese; Jamie Wenner; Mark Willis; Lee Wright.

which will help Pride fly high in the culturally, economically and socially diverse neighborhood that is the Montrose.

In Brian's own words, he says he's going to promote the numerous, wonderful benefits of embracing diversity so that "everyone will feel good about our neighborhood: small-town, Montrose, USA!"

PAUL RADOUS:

CELEBRATION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Paul is this year's male co-chair for the Celebration Committee. After just one year as the Celebration Committee's treasurer, he decided to take on even more responsibility as one of the leaders of that committee.

Along with Lynn, his female co-chair counterpart, Paul is responsible for help-

ing all the various subcommittees work toward the common goal of producing the best Pride celebration in the Southwest. Considering that the 25 various coordinators are all moving in often-divergent paths, this is no easy task.

Even before joining the Pride Committee, Paul was out in the forefront in the fight for GLBT rights. He was the co-president of the American Civil Liberties Union chapter at Trinity University in San Antonio, as well as the co-president of the university's Gay and Lesbian Interest Group. Paul has also been a member of the Human Rights Campaign since 1996.

Paul was happy to see that Houston's 2001 Pride theme, "Embrace Diversity," was chosen as this year's international theme as well, since he believes that we each are challenged to examine our own attitudes toward those who are different and discover how we may be victimizing others.

Paul says that everyone in this year of "Embracing Diversity" should get out of their comfort zones and meet people in unfamiliar environments. He says that we must also allow others to see us for who we are and give them a chance to face their prejudices and pre-conceived notions; we must put a face on what it means to be gay.

"I do not expect any of them will be carrying the banner this year for PFLAG," he says, "but I know that they now have a human face they must consider when speaking about GLBT issues."

LYNN SIXKILLER:

CELEBRATION COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

Lynn is this year's female co-chair for the Celebration Committee. Like her male counterpart, Paul, she is responsible for orchestrating 25 different coor-

dinators on the committee in producing the biggest Pride celebration of the year — a month-long extravaganza of Pride events. When she is not sharing the responsibilities of running the monthly meeting, organizing the yearly retreat or forecasting the subcommittee budgets, Lynn is taking a personal role in mentoring the new event coordinators, having been one herself just last year. This is only Lynn's second year with the Pride Committee, but after helping out with the Celebration Committee, she wanted to become more involved.

Last year, Lynn eagerly filled an unexpected vacancy on the committee as an events coordinator. Though she took over the reins at a late hour, she helped coordinate a record-breaking 90 events for Pride 2000. For Lynn, "Embracing Diversity" means feeling openness toward all and deliberately moving toward inclusion. It is celebrating the simple fact that we, as people, are all diverse. Lynn says diversity should not only be recognized but embraced for the wonderful gifts it brings to life.

"We should be proud of our diversity. Without it, the world would be a dreary place, and our 'rainbow' would be colorless and lifeless."

For Lynn, it is important to embrace the diversity within us as well and share it with others. If you would like a place to share your diversity, Lynn can put you to work right now!

WHAT DOES "EMBRACE DIVERSITY" MEAN TO MEMBERS OF THE CELEBRATION COMMITTEE?

Richard N. Alvarado, Events Coordinator: "To me it means that everyone can come together and function together as a group without any prejudices."

Cindy Archer, Volunteer Coordinator: "Recognizing and appreciating the differences in one another that enrich all our lives — to embrace diversity is to conquer fear!"

Bill Burford, Parade Production Coordinator: "Embracing diversity means opening your heart and mind to all."

"RC" Chavez, Webmaster: "Embracing diversity is the ability to keep an open mind, love thy neighbor, keep peace with those around you and relieve yourself of your mortal inhibitions. It is the philosophy of freeing your mind and celebrating individuality."

Paul Damin, Float Coordinator: "Freedom."

Ken Donnelly, Pride Magazine Editor: "Embracing diversity means accepting who you are, completely and without pre-qualifications. Then, in the same way, accepting others for who they are, realizing that we are all the same, and we are all different, all at the same time."

Bob Farquharson, Pride Magazine Assistant Editor: "Embracing diversity is accepting, welcoming, enjoying and learning from the many and varied elements of humankind. Experiencing the diversity of others enriches our own lives."

Manny Gutierrez, Parade Logistics Coordinator: "This means that we should accept each other for who we are!"

Jim Halloran, Events Coordinator: "To me it means to embrace who we are as a people regardless of color or creed. We all have our own biological families, but we are all one big family that is striving for a common goal."

Roy Hendrick, Committee Secretary: "To embrace diversity means that we learn to treasure those things about us that make us unique. To celebrate our differences as much as we celebrate our pride as a community."

Billie Hogan, Merchandise Coordinator: "To not merely tolerate, but to completely accept and welcome the unique and the different."

Jeff James, Volunteer Coordinator: "Embrace diversity to me means to celebrate our lives and those things that make us who we are."

Mark Leger, Committee Treasurer: "Embracing diversity means celebrating our differences while remembering the things we have in common."

Jeffery Neaves, Festival Coordinator: "It means being inclusive and recognizing

the value of the wide variety of backgrounds, cultures and characteristics that make up the whole."

Ryan Rice, Media Coordinator: "To be open and accepting to others' differences."

Brian Sadler, Webmaster: "It means to embrace the fact that our differences are what help us to grow."

Jim Shumsky, Parade Facilities Management Coordinator: "In order to embrace diversity one has to realize that it takes all walks of life to make up a human race, and our gay community. We need to take time to realize that no matter what we look like, how much money we make, where we live or who we choose to sleep with, we are all in this big race called life together."

John Taylor, Parade Production Coordinator: "You can embrace diversity by not pigeon-holing people into one community or another. We belong to many communities and share the knowledge and experiences of the people who came before us."

Joe Weinman, Festival Coordinator: "Embracing diversity means to unite people from different backgrounds and find common ground where we can all live in harmony."

Joseph Wiese, Media Coordinator: "It means to have an unconditional acceptance of all people."

Jamie Wenner, Six Flags' AstroWorld Coordinator: "To understand and respect everyone's place in life!"

Mark Willis, InterPride Regional Director: "Embracing diversity is not just tolerance or acceptance, but making the diversity of people a part of yourself. It means going beyond our GLBT community to bring in all, with a message of hope and optimism, regardless of gender, race, religious faith, political beliefs, national origin or physical challenge."

Lee Wright, Float Coordinator: "As Booker T. Washington said, 'In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress.'" □

The 2001 Community Resource Guide

The Pride Committee of Houston is proud to maintain an extensive listing of all the various resources available to our GLBT community. Whether you are looking for new friends, a helping hand, answers to your questions, spiritual enlightenment, or just a place to be entertained, the Community Resource Guide is your primary source of information!

ACCOMMODATIONS

The Lovett Inn is a gay-owned and operated B & B located in the heart of Houston's Montrose district, only a short walk from popular bars and restaurants in the neighborhood. For 12 years, the Lovett Inn has proudly served the GLBT community. (713) 522-5224, (713) 528-6708(fax)
Email:lovettinn@aol.com
Web:www.lovettinn.com
501 Lovett Blvd., Houston, TX 77006

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Alley Theatre

The theatre, located in the Houston Theater District, was the recipient of the 1996 Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theater. The Alley produces a diverse mix of classics, musical theater and new work. (713) 228-9341, (713) 222-6542(fax)
Web:www.alleytheatre.com
615 Texas St., Houston, TX 77002

DiverseWorks

This group is an artist-run contemporary art center dedicated to presenting new visual, literary and performing art. Throughout the year, DiverseWorks presents a series of gay and lesbian performances and films. (713) 223-8346, (713) 223-4608(fax)
Email:info@diverseworks.org
Web:www.diverseworks.org
1117 East Freeway, Houston, TX 77002

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

DiverseWorks — Anything Might Happen by Travis Mader, OutSmart, September 2000 (abridged reprint by permission)

Anything goes at DiverseWorks — one never knows quite what to expect when visiting. Where else can you be assured a front-row seat at the crossroads of the latest in performance art? Where else can you expect to witness the genius of the latest generation of alternative performers? Where else can you pay five dollars and expect to be harassed by the artists onstage? What other art space has always been a place to work out issues of homophobia and identity, the differences within the gay community itself?

Why, it's Houston's self-anointed "Mecca of all things alternative," DiverseWorks. DiverseWorks tackles a broad range of GLBT issues, "whether it is ageism, lesbian women and gay men coming together, issues around people of color, discussions of AIDS on a lot of levels within the gay community or issues of gay youth, especially with groups like H.A.T.C.H.," says Michael Peranteau, a former executive director.

Confronting issues and stimulating dialogue within the community has always been part of DiverseWorks' plan. In fact, those underlying values form the core of the organization's mission statement, which declares: "DiverseWorks is a place where the process of creating art is valued and where artists can test new ideas in the public arena."

As such, DiverseWorks sees itself as an instrument of change, often raising as many issues, be they local, national or international, as it covers with its programming.

Although DiverseWorks has gained a reputation as being a very queer place, managing and performance director Loris Bradley emphasizes that the diversity suggested by the organization's name includes all genders, races and creeds.

When Bradley joined DiverseWorks, most of the organization's queer programming was scheduled for the months of May and June, the traditional time of year for queer visibility and Pride celebrations, but Bradley thought it was time for a change.

"Those months were so crammed with gay and lesbian events," he says, "that we decided to spread our gay and lesbian programming over the entire year."

Probably the most visible of DiverseWorks' efforts in the queer community has been its active involvement with gay and lesbian youth. From early involvement with displaced queer youth in HIPY (Houston Institute for the Protection of Youth) to ongoing collaborations with H.A.T.C.H., DiverseWorks works tirelessly to promote the positive growth of young queers, both as individuals and as artists.

Throughout the years, DiverseWorks has sponsored or spawned many works and collaborations between the artists and queer youth. Collaborations such as the multimedia performance School's OUT: The Naming Project, which toured the United States and overseas, have brought art to life.

According to Bradley, these ongoing collaborations help continue creating new generations of young, queer artists emboldened with raw energy and infectious spirits. DiverseWorks acts as a cauldron of diversity for artists.

"We challenge conventional notions of identity," says Bradley. "Is it relevant to see work outside our immediate identity? Why should gay men see lesbian shows? Why should lesbians see transgender shows? We tend to segment ourselves off from each other, but everyone has more than one identity."

In a time where issues are often black and white, DiverseWorks sees the value of the shades of gray in-between, presenting work that challenges and stimulates and brings about some change. That's something the queer community — and all of Houston's communities — can value.

Houston Grand Opera

HGO brings large, diverse audiences together for exciting, live opera in a financially responsible way. HGO is defined by the excellence of its work; provides a memorable experience; is artistically and administratively imaginative, balanced and responsible; and makes an impact locally, regionally and beyond. The opera is held at the Wortham Theater Center in downtown Houston. (713) 546-0256, (713) 228-4355(fax)
Email:kvaughn@houstongrandopera.org
Web:www.houstongrandopera.org
510 Preston St, Ste. 500, Houston, TX 77002

Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

MFA is one of the country's leading art institutions, with approximately 1,095,000 visitors and a total of 1.5 million participants in its programs annually. The museum includes the Glassell School of Art and the Junior School, the Cullen Sculpture Garden, the Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens and Rienzi.

Admission to the museum is \$5 for adults, \$2.50 for youths 6-18, students and seniors, and free for children 5 and under. Museum hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 5 to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 12:15 to 6 p.m. Museum is located at 1001 Bissonnet. (713) 639-7300, (713) 639-7398(fax)
Email:hirsch@mfa.org
Web:www.mfa.org
P.O. Box 6826, Houston, TX 77265

Rich's Houston

For more than 17 years, Rich's Houston has taken the desire for fun and rejoicing very seriously. Rich's has led the way for Houston's gay nightlife with exclusive, high-profile entertainment and stellar resident DJs. The staff and management's main goal is to serve the gay community openly and

generously. While providing the GLBT community a place to cut loose, the award-winning club also supports and works with many organizations that raise funds for those in the deepest need.

(713) 759-9606, (713) 759-9611(fax)
Email: promo@richs-houston.com
Web: www.richs-houston.com
2401 San Jacinto St., Houston, TX 77002

The Dyke Show

It's comedy. It's music. It's open mic. It's a great way to meet women. It's The Dyke Show, hosted by award-winning comedian and "What a World, What a World" columnist Nancy Ford. Show is every Thursday from 9 p.m. - midnight.
(713) 521-5822, (713) 521-5830(fax)
Web: www.nancyford.com
1100 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77006

Theater New West

Theater New West is a progressive theater producing gay and lesbian work.
(713) 394-0464
Email: joeleewatts@aol.com
436 Hawthorne St., Apt. 2,
Houston, TX 77006

COLLEGE

Gay, Lesbian or Bisexual Alliance at UH (GLOBAL)

GLOBAL is a social, political and support group for the gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual community and its allies at the University of Houston. The group strives to educate and inform the UH community on gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues. Dues are \$5 per semester. Meetings are Thursdays at 6 p.m. at the Graduate School of Social Work, Room 220.
(713) 743-5180
Email: global@bayou.uh.edu
Web: www.uh.edu/~global
4800 Calhoun Rd., Houston, TX 77004

GLBT Aggies

GLBT Aggies serves the Texas A&M queer community in three ways: by providing quality educational programs; by providing an open and affirming social environment; and by providing a means of support to those struggling with sexual orientation or gender identity.
Dues are \$10 per year.
Meetings are Thursdays at 6:45 p.m.
(979) 847-0321
Email: glbta@stuorg.tamu.edu
Web: glbta.tamu.edu
Department of Student Activities
College Station, TX 77843

S.E.A. Change

S.E.A. Change supports education and advocates for gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people. S.E.A. is associated with the Graduate School of Social Work at University of Houston. Dues are \$10 a year.
Email: jlolab@aol.com
Graduate School of Social Work, University of Houston, Houston, TX 77204

CORPORATE

Chase Bank PRIDE Team

PRIDE stands for People Recognizing Individual Differences Equally and is the bank's networking group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and supportive employees. PRIDE supports the inclusion of all Chase bankers, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identification, as valued employees of the bank. PRIDE encourages an environment of equality that celebrates the individuality and diversity of everyone. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m.
(713) 655-5423
P.O. Box 2558, Houston, TX 77252

Compaq Plus

This is the official group sponsored by Compaq Computer Corp. for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender employees.
(281) 518-0187
Email: jennifer.meklenburg@compaq.com
Web: www.compaq.com
20555 State Highway 249,
Houston, TX 77070

HEALTH, AIDS AND GENERAL SUPPORT GROUPS

AIDS Foundation Houston

AFH's mission is to create a positive social impact through the innovative management of HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases. The AFH supports the following services: the AIDS Hotline and AIDS Talk outreach; education resources programs; Stone Soup Food Assistance Program; Beecher-Wilson Apartments; rental and utility assistance; information and referrals; Spirit Wellness Center; Project A Friendly Haven; Camp Hope and Hug; the Houston AIDS Walk; Project LifeRoad and many other projects.
(713) 524-AIDS, (713) 623-4029(fax)
Email: afh@aidshelp.org
Web: www.aidshelp.org
3202 Wesleyan St., Houston, TX 77027

AIDS Housing Coalition Houston

The coalition provides transitional housing, mentorship, phone crisis intervention and household items to people living with

HIV/AIDS, cancer and other terminal illnesses. AHCH is an all-volunteer organization seeking public donations and volunteers to operate rental hall activities for charitable purpose. Meetings are Saturdays at 12 p.m.
(713) 521-1613, (713) 521-1613(fax)
Email: ahch@wt.net, Web: web.wt.net/~ahch
202 Tuam St., Houston, TX 77006

AIDS Mastery Workshop

This is a weekend-long workshop that provides a safe and nurturing place for people to explore the emotional, psychological and spiritual issues that limit our ability to grow and live passionately. Workshop fees are calculated on a sliding scale.
(713) 529-0037; TTD, (713) 526-6285,
(713) 526-4367(fax)
Email: mcc@neosoft.com
Web: www.neosoft.com/~mcc/
701 Richmond Ave., Houston, TX 77006

American Red Cross (Houston Chapter)

The HIV/AIDS Education and Services Department of the Greater Houston Area Chapter of the American Red Cross provides services and education to a large population of 18 Texas counties. Our HIV/AIDS education programs consist of instructor-level certification courses available to the public. Our culturally specific programs focus on the HIV/AIDS education needs of the African American and Hispanic communities. Our youth and HIV/AIDS Peer Education programs are being successfully utilized in area school districts. The HIV/AIDS Workplace Program addresses the education needs of employers and employees. Our Regional Network makes HIV/AIDS education available to the states of Texas and Arkansas. Our Welcome Home trip makes it possible for dozens of people who are in the final stages of AIDS to travel "home" to be with supportive family.
(713) 526-8300, (713) 313-1702(fax)
Email: mrugger@ghac.org
Web: www.houstonredcross.org
P.O. Box 397, Houston, TX 77001

Amigos Volunteers in Education and Services (AVES)

AVES is a nonprofit agency that provides HIV/AIDS prevention and intervention services to affected individuals who are residents of the Houston area and surrounding rural areas. Prevention services include education about HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, tuberculosis and women's issues as well as HIV testing. Intervention services include case management, professional counseling, support groups, emergency

food vouchers, financial assistance, dental health education and services, legal services, recreational and wellness workshops, a hotline and treatment advocacy services. Our services are offered to gays, lesbians, heterosexual men and women, children and adolescents. Although our emphasis is on the Latino community, we serve all individuals in need of care. New to the agency is the AVES United Clinic, which provides free primary health care and obstetrical and gynecological services for people with HIV/AIDS. Clinic hours are Monday-Wednesday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (713) 626-2837, (713) 626-2848(fax)
Email: aves@neosoft.com
Web: aves-health.org
4126 Southwest Freeway, Ste.1310, Houston, TX 77027

AssistHers Care Team Program

AssistHers volunteers provide non-medical, in-home support to lesbians with chronic or debilitating illness. Meetings are the second Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m. (713) 521-4628
Email: assisthers@hotmail.com
Web: www.assisthers.org
P.O. Box 541095, Houston, TX 77254

Austin Latino/a Lesbian and Gay Organization (ALLGO)

ALLGO validates and affirms the lives of Latino/Latina lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgenders. The group seeks to empower the Latin GLBT community through political, educational, cultural, health and social programming and services. ALLGO recognizes that its struggle is linked to the struggle of all oppressed people and that it must lead the struggle against all forms of discrimination and oppression. Membership dues are \$20 annually. (512) 472-2001, (512) 472-6301(fax)
Email: allgoinc@aol.com
1715 E 6th Street, Ste.112, Austin, TX 78702

Bayou City Boys Club, Inc.

The BCBC is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to raising funds for local HIV/AIDS education, research and patient care. BCBC produces several fund raisers each year, including the annual "Jungle Lust" party, which is now in its ninth year. The group meets quarterly. (713) 880-8980, (713) 520-6935(fax)
Email: matthewkrol@aol.com
Web: www.bayoucityboysclub.org
P.O. Box 131284, Houston, TX 77219

Bering Care Center

The Bering Care Center is an adult day care center for people who are living with

HIV/AIDS. The center provides nursing care, hot nutritious meals, physical therapy, educational programs, nutritional counseling, transportation and the opportunity for healthy social interaction for persons who should not or cannot be left alone due to their health status. The mission is to provide a supportive environment that ensures that clients' emotional and social needs are met. (713) 520-7070 ext.141, (713) 520-7854(fax)
P.O. Box 540517, Houston, TX 77254

Bering Dental Clinic

The Bering Dental Clinic provides free quality dental care for persons with HIV/AIDS from all over Texas. Because of the depressed immune system, tooth infections, ulcers, lesions and other oral manifestations of HIV require specialized care and treatment. Bering Dental Clinic offers emergency, restorative and preventive care, Chemo and surgical therapy of oral Kaposi's Sarcoma lesions, dentures and diagnosis and treatment of other oral pathology. Patients must have documentation of HIV status and proof of income level, residency and identity. Clinic hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. The clinic is located at 1427 Hawthorne. (713) 524-7933, (713) 524-7995(fax)
Web: www.bering.org
P.O. Box 540517, Houston, TX 77254

Bering Memorial UMC — Bering Support Network

The Support Network holds weekly support groups for grief, divorce, survivors of sexual abuse, wellness communities, people with HIV and caregivers. It also provides individual and group counseling, and offers assistance to people with HIV/AIDS as well as their family members, friends and caregivers regardless of beliefs or religious affiliations. Program offerings include Bering Spiritual Support Group; For Mature Audiences Only; gayDAR (Dream, Affirm, Restore); Gay Men Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse; Grief Therapy Groups; Grief Support Group; Lunch Bunch Gang; and the Texas Regional GLBT Health Summit. (713) 526-1017, (713) 520-6866(fax)
Email: christine@clearsail.net
Web: www.beringumc.org
1440 Harold, Houston, TX 77006

Bering Omega Community Service

Bering Omega Community Service provides volunteers to visit those who are homebound with HIV/AIDS to relieve the isolation that accompanies prolonged illness. The program is designed to relieve a caregiver from their regular duties so

that they can have a chance to shop, attend church, schedule doctor visits or just take a break. (713) 529-6071, (713) 529-3626(fax)
Email: billk@bering.org
Web: www.bering.org
P.O. Box 540517, Houston, TX 77254

Body Positive Wellness Center

The BPWC, a program of the Montrose Clinic, offers services to persons affected by HIV/AIDS and other debilitating diseases. BPWC provides supervised resistance weight training, nutritional assessment and counseling, massage, therapy, chiropractic services, education and peer counseling. Services are provided on a sliding scale or free. Center hours are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (713) 524-2374, (713) 524-2374(fax)
Email: bodypos@hern.org
Web: www.bodypositivehouston.org
3400 Montrose, Ste.610, Houston, TX 77006

Center for AIDS: Hope & Remembrance Project

The Center for AIDS is the HIV/AIDS treatment information center for this part of this country. The CFA's walk-in storefront information center is centrally located and provides the latest treatment information in a user-friendly setting with general and specific information, Internet access and a treatment-knowledgeable staff. The CFA publishes a free quarterly treatment newsletter, Research Initiative/Treatment Action (RITA), and the RITA weekly newsletter, a treatment newsletter for physicians and researchers. The center is located at 1407 Hawthorne. (713) 527-8219, (713) 521-3679(fax)
Email: rita@centerforaids.org
Web: www.centerforaids.org
P.O. Box 66306, Houston, TX 77266

Colt 45's, Inc.

Colt 45's assist persons with AIDS by providing financial support for persons with temporary immediate financial needs. The organization's support includes fresh produce and meat at AFH Stone Soup as well as payment of rent, utilities and eyeglasses for persons with AIDS. Dues are \$5 a month. Meetings are the second Monday of the month at 8 p.m. at the Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos. (713) 526-6077
Web: www.colt45s.org
P.O. Box 66804, Houston, TX 77266

Gary Brewton, MD

Doctor Brewton's office provides primary care and general internal medicine services for adults, as well as advice and treatment

for people with AIDS/HIV.
(713) 529-9224, (713) 529-9311(fax)
Email: dr.breston@garybrewton.com
Web: www.garybrewton.com
1745 W. Alabama, Houston, TX 77098

Harris County Hospital District

The Harris County Hospital District provides health care services to any resident of Harris County who requests care. The district's two general hospitals, Ben Taub and LBJ hospitals, have 24-hour-a-day emergency care and a full array of hospital care. There are 11 primary medicine health care centers and one HIV/AIDS facility, the Thomas Street Clinic. The District Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 9 a.m. (713) 746-4393, (713) 746-6490(fax)
Email: dinah_massie@hchd.tmc.edu
Web: www.tmc.edu/hchd/
P.O. Box 66769, Houston, TX 77266

Hollyfield Foundation

While acting as a custodian of its National Historic Register buildings, the foundation fosters and protects individual rights and freedoms by providing direct and indirect funding to qualifying organizations that work to prevent discrimination; secure equal rights for gays and lesbians; and assist in HIV/AIDS education, care and treatment. The Foundation is at 2700 Albany. (713) 523-6900, (713) 520-6300(fax)
Email: hollyfdn@aol.com
Web: www.hollyfield.org
P.O. Box 66722, Houston, TX 77266

Houston Buyers Club

This club provides vital nutritional supplements and nutritional information to people living with chronic illnesses, specifically HIV/AIDS, at no profit. Houston Buyers does, however, maintain an open-door policy for the public. Hours are Monday - Friday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (713) 520-5288, (713) 521-7419(fax)
Email: hbc@neosoft.com
Web: www.houstonbuyersclub.com
P.O. Box 131594, Houston, TX 77219

Houston Dept. of Health and Human Services

The DHHS provides case management; counseling; testing and partner notification; early intervention; STD and HIV health education and risk reduction; minority initiatives; public information; AIDS surveillance; and HIV seroprevalence. Information is available in English and Spanish 24 hours a day. (713) 794-9092, (713) 798-0830(fax)
8000 N Stadium Dr., F.I.15,
Houston, TX 77054

Houston Regional HIV/AIDS Resource Group

The Resource Group administers state and federal grant funds to provide direct client services to people infected/affected by HIV Disease in 28 counties of Southeast Texas. (713) 526-1016, (713) 526-2369(fax)
Email: mspringer@hivresourcegroup.org
Web: www.hivresourcegroup.org
500 Lovett Blvd., Ste.100,
Houston, TX 77006

Interfaith Care Partners

Interfaith Care Partners is a nonprofit organization that provides care and supportive services to people with HIV/AIDS, their families, friends and health care providers. Congregational-based teams of volunteers (Care Teams) are trained by staff to meet the spiritual, social, physical and emotional needs of people touched by HIV/AIDS. Care Team volunteers view themselves as friends and extended family who can be counted on to help people in their homes. All services are provided free of charge. (713) 682-5995, (713) 682-0639(fax)
Email: info@interfaithcarepartners.org
Web: www.interfaithcarepartners.org
701 N. Post Oak Rd., Ste.330,
Houston, TX 77024

Jewish Family Services

JFS is a United Way agency in southwest Houston that offers counseling, information, referrals, psychiatric evaluation and treatment and educational workshops. The professional staff is sensitive to gay and lesbian issues as well as to HIV/AIDS concerns. Services are available to individuals, couples, families and caregivers. Fees are based on the ability to pay. JFS is located at 4131 S. Braeswood Blvd. Center hours are Mondays, 8:30 a.m. - 9 p.m., and Tuesdays - Fridays, 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (713) 667-9336, (713) 667-3619(fax)
Email: jfs@jfshouston.org
Web: www.jfshouston.org
P.O. Box 20548, Houston, TX 77225

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: Creating an Opportunity...

Founded in 1913, Jewish Family Services is the oldest Jewish social-service agency in Houston, providing counseling, elderly health care management, Russian resettlement and community programming services.

JFS has always sought to offer expertise and experience to assist in solving a variety of problems that affected the community. However, until recently, one segment of that community, GLBT persons, were neglected.

Being a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender person in the Jewish community

has always been difficult. The strong traditions and family ties inherent in Judaism made virtual outcasts of GLBT people. Families would often be torn apart on the issue. On top of this divisiveness, we add the differences between conservative and reform Judaism.

Conservatives, like conservatives in all religious groups, denigrate GLBT people as sinners, marginalizing or driving them from the community. Reform congregations, which, due to their local autonomy, struggled with how open they should be to gays and lesbians. Some reform rabbis have even gone as far as marrying GLBT couples, making reform Judaism the first major religion to marry us.

Yet other rabbis don't even realize it's a problem because of the virtual anonymity of a Jewish GLBT person. To make matters worse, according to Toby Newman, a clinical social worker at JFS, "some still feel the need to hide their Jewishness out in the GLBT community."

A change began this past year when the JFS sponsored a conference called "Gay in the Jewish Community: An Opportunity for Healing."

Since then, as Mary Jean Weston, executive director for JFS, explains, "There has been an new level of openness. This has been long overdue."


The conference featured a speech from Houston City Councilmember, Annise Parker, who urged listeners "to recognize their own worth, their own strength" as GLBT people. "We have to know that we are good, worthy and productive people," she said.

Parker also called for participants to keep coming out and to reconnect with their families and with their spiritual roots. She was followed by a panel of Jewish GLBT people and their families, who shared their personal experiences.

Becky Proler, who is an active member of her congregation's board, said that the conference allowed her to "come out, as well as show our Jewishness. I have found that there is room at the table for me."

Richard Elbein, president of the gay and lesbian Congregation Mishpach Alizim stated, "Ten years ago we could not do this!"

He says that his mitzvah is to continue to speak with members and leaders of the Jewish community. He hopes that through this process, more people will feel safe about coming out, and they will know that they have "a place at the table."

JFS is now continuing to expand its reach to the various facets of the GLBT community. Plans are for programs on sensitivity training to youth groups through H.A.T.C.H. a Jewish Parents Outreach 

through PFLAG, more conferences and special events, such as the special book fair held last November with the authors of *THE WEDDING*, a book about a gay couple's Jewish wedding ceremony.

As Newman explained, programming such activities helps both sides to open their eyes and embrace diversity.

"It helps to show that JFS is there to help," he said.

Milam House

Milam House is a transitional residence that provides housing for HIV+ homeless males. Our goal is to assist the residents in meeting their basic human needs of shelter, food and hygiene.

Milam House provides a safety net of assistance when needed. Center hours are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(713) 520-9248, (713) 526-0563(fax)
Email: tboundreaux@pwach.org
Web: www.milamhouseinfo.org
4100 Milam St., Houston, TX 77006

Miles D. Glaspy, LMSW-ACP

Dr. Glaspy provides counseling and psychotherapy. By appointment only.
(713) 529-1913, (713) 529-5178(fax)
1973 W Gray St., Ste.20, Houston, TX 77019

The Montrose Clinic

The Montrose Clinic is a community-based agency and Houston's largest anonymous HIV testing site. The clinic was founded in 1981 to serve people in the Houston area by providing low- or no-cost health, social, educational and research services.

The clinic provides extensive services to those living with HIV, such as access to primary health care, experimental HIV therapies, deaf and hard-of-hearing services, education and disease prevention.
(713) 830-3000, (713) 830-3023(fax)
Email: tfoster@montroseclinic.org
Web: www.montroseclinic.org
215 Westheimer, Houston, TX 77266

Montrose Counseling Center

The Montrose Counseling Center provides quality, affordable mental health and substance abuse treatment services to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their partners in metropolitan Houston and the surrounding area. It provides research and education to the community and to other mental health professionals.

(713) 529-0037, TTD 526-6285,
(713) 526-4367(fax)
Email: mcc@neosoft.com
Web: www.neosoft.com/~mcc/
701 Richmond Ave., Houston, TX 77006

Montrose Counseling Center — Chemical Dependency Program

The Chemical Dependency Program provides licensed outpatient-intensive and aftercare programs, especially for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

(713) 529-0037, TTD 526-6285,
(713) 526-4367(fax)
Email: mcc@neosoft.com
Web: www.neosoft.com/~mcc/
701 Richmond Ave., Houston, TX 77006

Montrose Counseling Center — HIV/AIDS Program

The HIV/AIDS program provides a full range of counseling and support for those affected by AIDS. The professional staff has been specially trained, and referral information for other community resources is available. The project also performs individual case management.

(713) 529-0037, TTD 526-6285,
(713) 526-4367(fax)
Email: mcc@neosoft.com
Web: www.neosoft.com/~mcc/
701 Richmond Ave., Houston, TX 77006

People with AIDS Coalition Houston

The PWA Coalition is an organization of and for people living with HIV and provides psychosocial support through assistance programs and referrals. Programs include New Beginnings Household Restart (provides free furniture and other household items to indigent PWAs); Case Management; Volunteer Program at Thomas Street Clinic; Milam House (a transitional living facility for HIV+ men); Drop In Child Care at Thomas Street Clinic; Direct Emergency Assistance; Project LEAP; and Project Open Door (for HIV+ and homeless persons). PWAs hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The board of directors meets on the first Friday of the month at 7 p.m.
(713) 522-5428, (713) 522-2674
Email: info@pwach.org
3400 Montrose Blvd., Ste.207,
Houston, TX 77006

Planned Parenthood

Planned Parenthood offers affordable and confidential reproductive health care, including HIV counseling and testing; screening and treatment for STDs; breast exams; mammograms; pap smears; birth control; abortions; vasectomies and tubal ligation.

We also offer counseling for gay and lesbian relationships, adolescent sexuality, sexual abuse and harassment, parent/teen relationships, healthy sexuality and sexual function. All services are confidential. Center is open Monday through Saturday, with

evening appointments available.
(800) 230-PLAN, (713) 522-9047(fax)
Email: pphset@pphouston.org
Web: www.pphouston.org
3601 Fannin St., Houston, TX 77004

Program for Wellness Restoration (POWER)

Headquartered in Houston, PoWeR provides seminars in English and Spanish around the country about proper nutrition, exercise and therapies for HIV/AIDS wasting and other side effects.

(713) 520-6630, (713) 526-5883(fax)
Email: powerx@aol.com
Web: www.medibolics.com
P.O. Box 980741, Houston, TX 77098

Project L.E.A.P.

Project L.E.A.P., a program of the People With AIDS Coalition, is a six-month, 100-hour training class for people interested in advocating for funding and services for those with HIV/AIDS. More information about the program can be found at the P.W.A. Coalition at 3400 Montrose, Ste.106
(713) 522-5428, (713) 522-2674(fax)
Web: info@pwach.org
3400 Montrose Blvd., Ste.207,
Houston, TX 77006

Ryan White Planning Council

Works to improve the quality of life and advocates for those affected by HIV/AIDS by taking a leadership role in the planning and assessment of HIV resources. The RWPC also produces and publishes the Blue Book, an HIV resource guide for Houston and the surrounding area.
(713) 572-3724, (713) 572-3740(fax)
Email: feedback_rwpc@co.harris.tx.us
Web: www.rwpc.org
2223 West Loop South, Ste.240,
Houston, TX 77027

Steven's House

In this HIV/AIDS transitional living center, the residents' physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs are addressed while their dignity is preserved. Steven's House accepts both men and women. Services are free.
(713) 522-5757, (713) 522-1910(fax)
P.O. Box 131303, Houston, TX 77219-1303

Veteran's Administration Hospital AIDS Unit

This unit provides a full range of outpatient and inpatient medical care to HIV+ eligible veterans. HIV testing, CD4 lymphocyte and viral load testing, pharmacy and social services are provided. All approved treatments are available. Ambulatory care service also includes a nurse F/U clinic and

a treatment room for outpatient procedures. Research protocols and expanded access programs are available to those patients meeting eligibility criteria. Infectious disease specialists who hold joint appointments at the Baylor College of Medicine staff the outpatient clinic. Our research program includes protocols from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). (713) 795-1414, (713) 794-7358(fax)
Email: katharinebreaux@med.va.gov
2002 Holcombe Blvd.,
Houston, TX 77030

MEDIA

AFTER HOURS

AFTER HOURS is a late-night radio variety show providing a permanent voice for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community with its varied co-hosts. Features include a "News and Views" segment and GLBT artists provide music throughout the show. AFTER HOURS is on the air Saturdays from 12 a.m. - 3 a.m. on KPFT 90.1 FM.
(713) 526-5738, (713) 526-5750(fax)
Email: afterhourskpft@hotmail.com
419 Lovett, Houston, TX 77006

Bayou Book

Published by Angle Media, the *Bayou Book* is Houston's alternative business directory, serving Houston's GLBT and supportive community. Joining established Angle Media publications — the *Lone Star Directory* in Austin and the *Lambda Pages* in Dallas — the *Bayou Book* had its debut spring of 2000.

It offers Houston's businesses and organizations an alternative with an emphasis on serving its clients and its community. The *Bayou Book* is available wherever *The Texas Triangle* is distributed.
(713) 521-5822, (713) 521-5830(fax);
Email: info@bayoubook.com
Web: www.bayoubook.com
315 W. Alabama St., Ste.101,
Houston, TX 77006

Forbes Report Networks Texas

The *Forbes Report Networks* contain listings for more than 10,000 organizations. Editions include Greater Houston/Gulf Coast, Metroplex/Dallas and Fort Worth, Hill Country/Austin and San Antonio. Listings provide profiles of each organization, numbers of members, contact information, meeting information and purposes and benefits.
(713) 551-9900, (713) 283-9976(fax)
Email: elroy@forbes-directory.com
Web: www.forbes-directory.com
P.O. Box 35817, Houston, TX 77235

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)

GLAAD is a national organization dedicated to promoting fair, accurate and inclusive representation of individuals and events in all media as a means of combating homophobia and discrimination based on sexual orientation.
(323) 658-6775, (323) 658-6776(fax)
Email: glaad@glaad.org
Web: www.glaad.org
8455 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048

Houston Activist Network

HAN-Net is an email network linking together Houston's gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender/HIV community. Members post messages to a central server, and the messages go immediately and directly to all other members. At the beginning of each year, HAN-Net members propose community goals for the upcoming year and then rank the goals by means of an online poll. Membership to the network is free. A holiday mixer is held each year in December.
(713) 932-6947
Email: brandon_wolf@email.msn.com
Web: www.gay-houston.com/han
8245 Kingsbrook Rd., Apt.237,
Houston, TX 77024

The Houston Voice

The Voice is a free weekly publication that covers Houston and national news of importance to gays and lesbians, along with opinions and interviews with celebrities, politicians and entertainers. *The Houston Voice* is Houston's leading weekly gay and lesbian newspaper. Coverage includes local, regional, national and global news. The publication regularly features articles on health, nutrition, arts and entertainment, community events and human interests. It is distributed for free to more than 325 locations in Houston every Friday. *The Voice's* office hours are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
(713) 529-8490
Email: feedback@houstonvoice.com
Web: www.houstonvoice.com
500 Lovett Blvd., Ste.200,
Houston, TX 77006

KPFT 90.1 FM

KPFT 90.1 FM is a community-based, public radio station dedicated to peace through cultural diversity. Gay and lesbian issues and music are a regular part of its programming service. Free training is provided to help volunteers cover gay and lesbian issues. A program guide is available for \$35 per year.
(713) 526-4000, (713) 526-5750(fax)
Web: www.kpft.org
419 Lovett Blvd., Houston, TX 77006

LESBIAN AND GAY VOICES

LGV airs 8 - 10 p.m. Mondays on KPFT 90.1 FM. The show features news, interviews with local and national figures, features on local community organizations, reviews and commentary. A program guide is available for \$35 per year.
(713) 526-4000, (713) 529-6929(fax)
Email: info@pridehouston.org
Web: www.pridehouston.org
419 Lovett Blvd., Houston, TX 77006

OutSmart Magazine

OutSmart is Houston's gay and lesbian magazine. *OutSmart* provides positive information to gay men and lesbians and their associates to enhance and improve the quality of their lives. *OutSmart's* goal is to build a bridge of communications and understanding between cultural and social communities, creating a healthier community for us all.
(713) 520-7237, (713) 522-3275(fax)
Email: letters@outsmartmagazine.com
Web: www.outsmartmagazine.com
3406 Audubon Place,
Houston, TX 77006

The Texas Triangle

The Triangle is published each Friday, and is available at more than 150 locations throughout Houston and Galveston, as well as in all major Texas cities and worldwide. *The Texas Triangle* is proud to publish the Pride Committee of Houston's official Pride Events Guide, a comprehensive guide to Houston's diverse and dynamic Pride events held annually throughout the month of June.
(713) 521-5822, (713) 521-5830(fax)
Email: TxTriangle@aol.com
Web: www.txtriangle.com
315 W. Alabama St., Ste.101,
Houston, TX 77006

POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS

ACLU of Texas

ACLU is our nation's guardian of liberty, working daily in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to all people in this country by the Constitution and laws of the United States. Dues are \$35 annually.
(713) 942-8146, (713) 942-8146(fax)
Email: action@aclu-houston.org
Web: www.aclu-houston.org
P.O. Box 132047, Houston, TX 77219

Harris County Democratic Party

HCDP seeks to inspire and motivate people who share our values to give their time, resources and votes to build a better Texas for all our families and children in the 21st

Century. Our core values include opportunity for all, ensuring the American Dream for all, family and community and freedom and fairness for all Texans.

(713) 739-7785, (713) 739-7786(fax)

Email: sues@neosoft.com

Web: www.hcdp.com

2404 La Branch St.,

Houston, TX 77004

Honorable City Council Member Annise Parker

Annise Parker is the City Councilmember for At-Large Position One. She is the first openly gay or lesbian person elected to Houston City Council.

(713) 247-2014, (713) 247-3519(fax)

Email: aparker@cnl.ci.houston.tx.us

Web: www.ci.houston.tx.us/citygovt/council/1/

P.O. Box 1562, Houston, TX 77251

Honorable State Rep. Debra Danburg

For more than 20 years, Rep. Danburg has represented the GLBT community of District 137 with honor and pride.

(713) 520-8068, (713) 520-8692(fax)

Email: debra@votedanburg.org

Web: www.debradanburg.com

P.O. Box 66602, Houston, TX 77266

Honorable United States Congressperson Sheila Jackson Lee

Congressperson Sheila Jackson Lee serves constituents of the 18th Congressional District, which includes the Heights, Montrose, Neartown, Third Ward, Sunnyside MLK, Fifth Ward, Fourth Ward and parts of the Hwy 290 and near-Memorial areas.

(713) 655-0050, (713) 655-1612(fax)

Email: tx18@mail.house.gov

1919 Smith, Ste.1180, Houston, TX 77002

Houston Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus

The Caucus is a bipartisan membership organization and political action committee that researches and supports candidates for public office who are supportive of the gay and lesbian community. The caucus educates the community about the importance of being politically involved and voting, and encourages gays and lesbians to vote for candidates who are supportive of our community. Membership dues are \$30 per year. Meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Blvd.

(713) 521-1000

P.O. Box 66664, Houston, TX 77266

League of Women Voters Houston

The league is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and

active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership dues are \$50 per year.

(713) 784-2923, (713) 784-2984(fax)

Email: lwv@neosoft.com

Web: www.neosoft.com/lwv

2650 Fountain View, Ste.328,

Houston, TX 77057

Log Cabin Republicans Houston

The Log Cabin Republicans is a national organization devoted to advancing the GLBT community within the Republican Party. Log Cabin's Houston Chapter has been very active in supporting candidates, electing percent chairs and participating in the local party. Dues are \$70 per year. Meetings are on the fourth Monday of the month at Renata's, 2006 Lexington. A social starts at 6:30 p.m., and the general meeting begins at 7 p.m.

(713) 222-0880, (713) 222-7020(fax)

Web: houston.logcabin.org

P.O. Box 131104, Houston, TX 77219

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

Since its inception in 1973, NGLTF has been working to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against GLBT people at the local, state and national levels. The annual Creating Change Conference is the largest GLBT conference in the world. As part of its State and Local Organization Program, NGLTF began and continues to staff and fund the Federation of Statewide Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Advocacy Organizations and also maintains a staff of field organizers to respond to local needs nationwide. Membership fees are \$35.

(202) 332-6483, (202) 332-0207(fax)

Email: [nglftf@nglftf.org](mailto:ngltf@nglftf.org)

Web: www.nglftf.org

1700 Kalorama Rd. NW,

Washington, D.C. 20009

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Houston

This Houston field chapter, as part of the Federation of Statewide Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Advocacy Organizations program of the NGLTF, works closely with the national organization to eliminate prejudice, violence and injustice against GLBT people in both Houston and across the nation. The annual Creating Change Conference is the largest GLBT conference in the world. Membership dues are \$35 annually. Informal dinner gatherings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the West Gray Cafe, 415 West Gray between Montrose and Taft.

(713) 861-8238, (713) 861-8208(fax)

Email: cbbagby@msn.com

Web: msnhompages.talkcity.com/volunteers/clarenceb

P.O. Box 941, Houston, TX 77001

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC)

OLOC is a political and educational organization formed to combat ageism in our own and the larger community. Membership is \$20 annually for age 60 and over, and \$25 for those under 60.

(713) 802-2989

Email: chardenea@worldnet.att.net

Web: www.oloc.org

P.O. Box 980422, Houston, TX 77098

Progressive Voters in Action

PVA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan grassroots campaign that exists to organize a community of progressive voters in Houston, Texas, and turn them out to vote. We support candidates who believe in lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights; racial and economic justice; gender equality; and reproductive freedom, as well as ballot measures that uphold these issues.

(713) 521-7161

2700 Albany St., Ste.205,

Houston, TX 77006

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Hubbard Financial Services

HFS provides representation before the IRS, tax return preparation and bookkeeping for small businesses and nonprofit organizations. Office hours are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at 2615 Montrose.

(713) 522-9000, (713) 526-6588(fax)

Email: khubbard@hubbardfinancial.com

2615 Montrose, Houston, TX 77006

Moore and Hunt, Attorneys

Connie Moore and Debra E. Hunt have been serving the Houston community since 1987. The firm focuses on matters involving family law litigation, personal document drafting, estate planning, probate litigation, contract negotiations and disputes, corporation and small business formation and real estate matters.

(713) 522-4282, (713) 522-9604

Web: www.mooreandhunt.com

3608 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006

Stonewall Lawyers Association of Houston

A bar association for attorneys and others interested in legal needs and issues of the GLBT community. SLA puts on seminars on a monthly basis for community legal education credit. Dues are \$60 a year for attorneys, less for non-attorneys.

(713) 222-0880, (713) 222-7020(fax)
 Web: www.stonewall-lawyers.org
 P.O. Box 66502, Houston, TX 77266

RELIGIOUS / SPIRITUAL

Community Gospel Church

Community's billboards and ads say, "Jesus is Alive... Experience His Love at Community Gospel Church." It invites you to be a part of their alive and vibrant church. While its main focus is to minister to the GLBT community, the congregation is rich in diversity. Worship services are Christ-centered and Holy Ghost-led. Join them in worshipping the Lord in song, hearing the Word preached in power and experiencing the love of Jesus. Services are Sundays at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. at 4305 Lillian St. (713) 880-9235, (713) 880-2245(fax)
 Email: cgospel@communitygospel.org
 Web: www.communitygospel.org
 P.O. Box 66502, Houston, TX 77266

Covenant Church Liberal Ecumenical Baptist

Covenant Church affirms the sanctity, dignity and equality of human beings and the value of life in the universe. They welcome persons of all racial and ethnic heritages, sexual orientations and faith perspectives to their Christian community. Covenant stands for each individual's right to worship God and to respond to God's call to ministry in her or his own understanding of God's all-encompassing love. Worship services are Sundays at 9:30 a.m. Education is at 11 a.m. (713) 668-8830, (713) 668-8839(fax)
 Email: cov@neosoft.com
 4949 Caroline, Houston, TX 77004

Crossroads Congregational Church

Crossroads Congregational is a non-denominational church that teaches and preaches the word of God. Crossroads is a church where all God's people are welcome to join in the praise and worship of Jesus Christ the Lord. Services are Sundays at 11 a.m. (713) 726-LOVE, (281) 590-9077(fax)
 Email: crossroads-church-houston@yahoo.com
 Web: www.geocities.com/crossroads_church_houston
 18724 Fire Fly, Porter, TX 77365

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston

First Unitarian is a church that welcomes and affirms gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people, and even includes sexual minorities as ministers and leaders. The church also offers various social and support activities. Services are

Sundays at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.
 (713) 526-5200, (713) 526-3037(fax)
 Email: church@firstuu.org
 Web: www.firstuu.org
 5200 Fannin St., Houston, TX 77004

Houston Faerie Circle

The circle is an unstructured group of queer men and their friends that meets to explore spirituality from a distinctly gay and nontraditional point of view. Everyone is welcome to join, even if you do not identify as a faerie. The Faerie Circle holds the view that you should develop your own spiritual path and cherish your sexuality. Members host several invitation-only lunar and seasonal events throughout the year.
 (713) 533-0150
 Email: jcorry@gayguides.com
 Web: www.gayguides.com/houstonfaeries
 3508 Stanford St., Houston TX 77006

Integrity-Houston

Integrity-Houston is open to lesbian and gay Episcopalians and their friends, and offers worship and fellowship in a comfortable setting. Integrity also works within the Episcopal Church for change. Special worship services are on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Autry House, 6265 S. Main.
 (713) 528-6771
 P.O. Box 66008, Houston, TX 77266

Kolbe Project

Founded in 1989, Kolbe Project offers unconditional love and acceptance in the spirit of Saint Francis of Assisi to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender men and women of all religious faiths or none. A variety of social, educational and spiritual programs are provided, including a ministry to people with HIV/AIDS and their families and other caregivers who offer peace and reconciliation to those alienated from family, church and society. Meetings are Mondays at 7:30 p.m. and Fridays at 10 a.m. (713) 861-1800, (713) 861-7212(fax)
 Email: info@kolbeproject.org
 Web: www.kolbeproject.org
 1030 Heights Blvd., Houston, TX 77008

Lesbian/Gay (LGBT) Unitarian Universalists

LGBT Unitarians is a social/support group for GLBT people and their friends, and a long-time activity of the Rainbow Church Committee of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Houston. The group and the church welcome and affirm gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgender people. It also includes sexual minority people as ministers and church and denominational leaders. A brochure on "Lesbian/Gay Unitarian Universalists (LGUU)" is available

through the church office. The group holds a potluck social on the fourth Friday of the month (third Friday in November and December) at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room. (713) 526-5200, (713) 526-3037(fax)
 Email: church@firstuu.org
 Web: www.firstuu.org
 5200 Fannin, Houston, TX 77004

Lutherans Concerned

Lutherans Concerned is an organization of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and non-gay Christians who stand as a community of faith, modeling the gospel within the church and within the GLBT community. Lutherans Concerned seeks to employ the Gospel's principles of inclusiveness and justice, celebrating God's gifts of sexuality and diversity. Annual dues are \$50. Business meetings are held quarterly at Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh Dr. (281) 463-7891
 Email: vschill@stic.lib.tx.us
 Web: www.neosoft.com/~gcl/default.html
 16307 Royal Mile, Houston, TX 77084

Maranatha Fellowship MCC

Maranatha Fellowship is a Cell Group Church with an emphasis on small groups that meet weekly in the homes of its members. They believe that the Holy Spirit has given every believer spiritual gifts that are to be exercised in the life of the church. Maranatha is evangelical and charismatic in its style of worship, and has a primary outreach to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. All are welcome. Services are Sundays at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. at the Central Congregational Church at 1311 Holman.
 (713) 528-6756, (713) 528-6447(fax)
 Email: maranatha@ev1.net
 P.O. Box 667032, Houston, TX 77266

Montrose Clergy Association

The Montrose Clergy Association is a broad-based association of clergy members within or supportive of the GLBT community. The association meets bimonthly to discuss what is happening within their local congregations as well as to plan how better to reach the GLBT community with the love of God.
 (713) 880-9235, (713) 880-2245(fax)
 4305 Lillian St., Houston, TX 77007

Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church

Resurrection MCC is an inclusive Christian Church with a primary outreach to Houston's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community since 1972. Many small groups meet at the church or in members' homes.

homes in and around Houston, Galveston and Beaumont for prayer, study, fellowship and ministry to each others. Most groups are open to all adults, while some have special interests such as female or male couples, the leather community, mothers and those interested in becoming mothers and Spanish speakers. Worship services are Sundays at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Sunday school education for children and youth is held on Sundays at 10 a.m.
 (713) 861-9149, (713) 861-2520(fax)
 Email: mccr@neosoft.com
 Web: www.mccr-hou.com
 2025 W. 11th St., Houston, TX 77008

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

Demonstrating God's Unconditional Love at Resurrection MCC

Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, formerly known as Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, acquired a new name and a new facility in 2000. Both of these steps were taken to assist the church to fulfill its mission statement which is: "We believe that God has called Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church to demonstrate God's unconditional love to all people through Christian action."

The \$2.35 million facility has 40,000 square feet on 9.1 acres of land, located at the corner of W. T.C. Jester and W. 11th.

Resurrection's first service was held on July 16, 2000, with more than 1,400 people in attendance. The new facility provides about three times the seating capacity of the former building on Decatur Street. An adjoining building has a full-sized gymnasium, which is used for large meetings, a kitchen and more than a dozen smaller meeting rooms. Both buildings are being made available to community and neighborhood groups for meetings and events.

Resurrection MCC's primary outreach and ministry has always been to persons who are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender, yet it also welcomes persons who are heterosexual. Ministry is provided to about 2,500 members and friends of the church. Small groups called HOME ("Homes Open For Ministry and Encouragement") GROUPS meet throughout the Houston and Beaumont metropolitan areas for prayer, support, study, encouragement and ministry.

Resurrection MCC's theme for 2001, announced in January by Pastor Dwayne Johnson, is "Reclaiming Positive Faith."

The first stage in this ministry was a weekend program in January led by the Rev. Dr. Rembert Truluck called "Reclaiming Scriptures For a Positive Faith." Dr. Truluck is the author of Steps To Recovery From Bible Abuse and has a Web site, www.truluck.com,

which can be reached through a link on the church's site, www.resurrectionmcc.org.

This program will continue in cooperation with other churches throughout 2001 on the first Tuesday of each month. The second stage, called "ReVision," involved the entire congregation. In April and May, Resurrection evaluated where the congregation was "now" and where it believes "God wants it to be," and will be developing a three-year plan for closing the gap. Stage three was the addition of a third Sunday worship service for children and youth. Stage four was a 40-day Lenten Intensive for "Spiritual Leadership for Positive Faith" conducted by Pastor Johnson.

In 2001, Resurrection MCC will reach out in partnership with other community organizations to minister and serve several segments of the community, including monolingual Hispanics, persons living with HIV/AIDS who wish to continue working and/or return to the workplace, persons having children or wishing to have children, and those seeking Christian-focused education and counseling for physical, emotional and spiritual wellness.

Resurrection MCC is a very diverse and inclusive congregation. It is a chartered church of the worldwide Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches founded in 1968 by the Rev. Elder Troy Perry.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

St. Stephen's is called to seek and serve Christ in all persons and circumstances. Empowered by God's love, St. Stephen's celebrates and nurtures personal faith and life through prayer, worship, study and service. They honor the dignity and needs of every person, embrace diversity, and seek to grow as faithful stewards of the resources God has given to each of us, as they proclaim the gospel by word and example. Services are Sundays at 7:45 a.m., 8:55 a.m., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., at the facility on Alabama at Woodhead.

(713) 528-6665, (713) 528-4179(fax);
 Email: admn@neosoft.com;
 Web: www.ststephenshouston.org;
 1805 W. Alabama St., Houston, TX 77098

SOCIAL/EDUCATIONAL

BiNet Houston

BiNet is a social support group for bisexuals and bi-friendly people. They provide a friendly, supportive environment for people who are questioning their sexuality, people who know their orientation and people who want to know more. BiNet also runs a Bi-Line at (713) 467-4380 and co-hosts AFTER HOURS at midnight every first Saturday of the month on KPFT 90.1 FM. Weekly socials are held on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Oscars Creamery, 1201-C Westheimer.

(713) 467-4380

Email: BiHouse@flash.net

Web: www.flashnet.net/~bihouse/
 P.O. Box 667041, Houston, 77266

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

Breaking Down Walls at BiNet USA

After 12 years of varied, often unfocused activities, there was serious debate whether BiNet USA was going to continue to exist.

However, after a wildly successful annual meeting in Austin this past year, BiNet took a major step forward with a national reorganization. The result was a reinvigorated national social justice organization for bisexuals that focuses on the one role that all other organizations are not fulfilling: a national voice in the United States for the rights, visibility, needs and concerns of bisexual people and their allies. The response to the reorganization has been nothing but positive as bisexuals respond to the organization's new, better-focused mission with more financial support.

BiNet's fund-raising campaign, Project 387, looks to create an annual budget of \$150,000 to support a full-time national staff and to provide funding to grassroots efforts. The number 387 comes from the number of people needed to donate fixed monthly contributions to BiNet USA, with many being as low as \$3 per week.

"If you look at the significant accomplishments we have achieved as volunteers on less than \$20,000 a year, imagine what we could do with a paid staff and the resources to act fully on our vision!" explains Gigi Raven Wilbur, director on the BiNet USA Interim Steering Committee and President of the local Houston chapter.

It is in the local chapters where BiNet USA hopes to provide the greatest impact toward creating the world in which we all want to live. According to the *BISexual RESOURCE GUIDE*, there are currently 1,200 bisexual organizations worldwide, the majority being in the United States. Unfortunately, even with these numbers, bisexuality remains an almost invisible orientation. "Less than 10 years ago, most gay and lesbian organizations were not bi-inclusive," explains Wilbur. "You were perceived as either straight or gay, depending upon who you happened to be in love with. No one considers that that person may be bisexual."

To become visible, BiNet has often formed alliances with both queer-identified and non-queer organizations, both nationally and locally, in an effort to reach out to the invisible bisexuals in the local community.

As former National Coordinator Kris Roehling noted, "Every time BiNet USA has been quoted in a newspaper, the local bisexual organizations get inquiries from people who want to join the community."

The local organizations also provide safe and secure places for social and moral support for bisexuals and education for the local community.

"It's all about dispelling the myths about bisexuals," states Wilbur. What are the myths? "That all bisexuals are promiscuous is a common one," he says. "Another common one is that we are confused about our sexuality and are not out of the closet yet."

However, there are several more prevailing myths about bisexuals that stem from misconceptions about what it means to be bisexual. Bisexuals have been accused of being unable to commit to their partners and to the GLBT civil rights movement since they are perceived to be fence-sitting for the sake of retaining heterosexual privileges. Bisexuals have also been accused of spreading AIDS into the heterosexual community.

"People don't believe that bisexuality really exists. We often get pressure to shut up and blend in," says Wilbur. "Besides, why do we need titles like bisexual, homosexual and heterosexual anyway? Human sexuality is far too complex to fit into one title."

Wilbur points out that from the time we are young, Western society polarizes the sexes and socializes them differently. "When a baby is born people ask 'is it a boy or a girl?' Society loves dichotomy."

BiNet's biggest achievement is still its ability to create a secure, loving environment in which people can meet and discuss bisexuality. "We are a very diverse group. We are more than just male and female. We have intersexual and transsexual members as well," points out Wilbur. In a spirit of true diversity, everyone is welcome to the meetings. BiNet USA is like a family. Problems are discussed, points of view are examined, and despite the differences, everyone gets along in a spirit of community.

Community Awareness for Transgender Support

CATS is a peer-led resource and information group that endeavors to advance the quality of life for all those whose physical makeup or emotional, sexual or self expression does not fit current cultural stereotypes. We perform grassroots education, activism and advocacy in the areas of civic, legal and social dignity. We also provide immediate support and compassion for transgender individuals and their friends, families and employers, while attempting to practice the principles of selflessness, honesty and compassion in all areas of involvement. Meetings are on the first Friday of the month.

(409) 762-2243

Email: tghelp@yahoo.com

Web: www.geocities.com/tghelp
P.O. Box 62, Galveston, TX 77553

Crisis Hotline

The hotline provides 24-7 crisis intervention telephone counseling. Callers can receive crisis counseling, as well as specific information about and referrals for a wide range of topics, including suicide, AIDS and mental health issues. In addition to crisis counseling, the hotline also operates the Spanish Hotline, the Teenline, the TeenLink Houston Web site

www.teenlinkhouston.org,

and the AIDS Foundation Hotline.

(713)-HOT-LINE, (713) 527-0435(fax)

Email: info@crisishotline.org

Web: www.crisishotline.org

P.O. Box 130866, Houston, TX 77219

DIFFA/Houston

The Houston chapter of the Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS is the largest source of private dollars for AIDS care in the greater Houston area. Since its inception in 1987, DIFFA/Houston has granted more than \$2,600,000 to local organizations for HIV/AIDS care, research, treatment and preventive education. Volunteers create special events and help allocate funds raised.

(713) 552-9445, (713) 793-1645(fax)

Email: diffahouston@prodigy.net

P.O. Box 131605, Houston, TX 77219

Elliott H. Matthews Foundation, Inc.

The Matthews Foundation provides services to people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS and to organizations fostering civil rights without regard to sexual orientation. The foundation distributed nearly \$100,000 in 1998. The foundation does not have a regular grant cycle and responds only to written requests for funds from qualifying 501(c)(3) organizations.

Email: baggott-swaim@msn.com;

1415 Louisiana St., Ste.2220,
Houston, TX 77002

Executive and Professional Association of Houston

EPAH is established to provide a nonpolitical forum for discussion of business and community affairs, to foster social and business relationships among the membership and support educational/charitable causes. Membership dues \$150 per year. Dinner meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month.

(281) 587-6066

Email: info@epah.org

Web: www.epah.org

P.O. Box 130227, Houston, TX 77019

Gay and Lesbian Switchboard Houston

The Switchboard is a clearinghouse of info about the gay and lesbian community,

including a calendar of events; AIDS/STD information; telephone counseling and active listening; crisis/suicide intervention; and referrals for bars, restaurants, hotels, community merchants, as well as medical, legal, and mental health professionals.

(713) 529-3211, (713) 526-4367(fax)

Email: voluntr@neosoft.com

Web: www.gayswitchboardhouston.org

701 Richmond Ave., Houston, TX 77006

Gay Men's Chorus of Houston

Established in 1979 as the Montrose Singers, GMCH is a 60-member men's choral ensemble. The chorus sings to achieve excellence in men's choral music and to provide a nurturing environment for its members and a source of pride, unity and support to the diverse GLBT communities. Dues are \$10 monthly. Rehearsals are every Thursdays at 7 p.m., from September to June, at the Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh.

(713) 521-7464

Email: info@gmch.org

Web: www.gmch.org

P.O. Box 541004, Houston, TX 77254

Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce

The chamber fosters and promotes the economic development and vitality of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and supportive heterosexual businesses and organizations in the greater Houston area. GHGLCC facilitates the exchange of ideas, resources, information and networking opportunities, and hosts Empower, a community expo held each October at the George R. Brown Convention Center. Chamber membership is \$125 per year for an individual, \$200 per year for a business, and \$1,000 per year for a corporation. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at The Warwick, 5701 Main.

(713) 523-7576, (713) 669-0452(fax)

Email: info@ghglcc.org

Web: www.ghglcc.org

P.O. Box 66129, Houston, TX 77266

Gulf Coast Archives Museum

The museum is a collection of both personal and organizational items and memorabilia, which are displayed in an archives and museum setting. The collection serves the Gulf coast area gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. In addition to the collection, the museum also provides some hands-on and educational material, and an archival section for research. Membership is \$25. Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Hollyfield Foundation, 2700 Albany

(713) 227-5973

Email: info@gcam.org

Web: www.gcam.org
P.O. Box 130192, Houston, TX 77219

Hate Crimes Hotline

The hotline reports hate incident statistics to appropriate agencies based on calls from victims or witnesses of bias-motivated incidents such as verbal or physical assault, property damage or discrimination.
(713) 529-3211, (713) 526-4367(fax)
Email: volunteer@neosoft.com
Web: www.gayswitchboardhouston.org
701 Richmond Ave., Houston, TX 77006

Helping Transgenders Anonymous (HTGA)

HTGA is a discussion group for transgender individuals and their spouses/partners. HTGA provides a safe place where people can gather and discuss their daily lives and how to deal with the trials and tribulations that transgender people encounter daily. All transgender people and their partners are welcome. Meetings are Tuesdays at 7 p.m. (713) 524-0439
Email: brenda@brendat.com
Web: www.brendat.com/hcda.htm
239A Westheimer, Houston, TX 77006

Houston Area Bears

Houston Area Bears is a social group for bears and their admirers. There is a monthly business meeting and a social from 10 p.m. - 2 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month at Mary's. Full membership is \$24 a year; associated membership is \$12 a year. (713) 867-9123
Email: hab@rainbowprod.com
Web: www.houstonareabears.com
P.O. Box 66443, Houston, TX 77266

Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals

H.A.T.C.H. provides a safe, secure environment where gay and lesbian teens can socialize with their peers, find support and develop a more positive outlook on their sexuality. H.A.T.C.H. is open to gays and lesbians, age 13-20. Meetings are held Fridays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 6 p.m. (713) 942-7002
Email: info@hatchyouth.org
Web: www.hatchyouth.org
P.O. Box 667053, Houston, TX 77266

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

H.A.T.C.H. — The Organization You Wish You Had Growing Up

Houston is fortunate to have its own unique organization that focuses on providing a safe environment for GLBT and questioning youth to discuss issues of sexuality with caring mentors. This, in turn, increases their self-esteem so that they can better deal with the

challenges they face in our society. (Most of us had to cope alone in our early youth.)

The organization is H.A.T.C.H. — the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals. H.A.T.C.H. deals with the realities of teens who are at risk of academic failure because of unhelpful home and school environments, and who suffer from peer harassment and other problems which, when ignored, will compound with the "regular" difficulties of adolescence.

In 2001, H.A.T.C.H. is repeating its successful list of events. This includes its annual same-sex Prom Night for youth, the Art for H.A.T.C.H. exhibit to empower youth through the pride of selected gay and lesbian artists, participation in the Pride Parade and various "house parties" to raise funds toward continued support of youth educational programs.

The youth programs include weekly meetings on Friday and Sunday where professionally trained adults provide peer support and help with esteem-building activities. There are educational and motivational speakers, social and recreational opportunities, small-group discussions and HIV/STD information. H.A.T.C.H. also provides youth with an opportunity to become involved in community service.

Programs are developed and administered by a full-time director, with assistance from an active board and many volunteer committee members. The H.A.T.C.H. director, Carol Petrucci, was among a select group of individuals asked by the Surgeon General of the United States to make recommendations for responsible sexual behavior.

As a chartered non-profit 501(c)(3) Texas corporation, H.A.T.C.H. relies on donations from individuals and groups. It has been honored to be a recipient of donations from Bering Church; Black Tie; Bunnies on the Bayou; EPAH; First United Universalist Church; Grey Party; Halloween Magic; Hollyfield Foundation; John Steven Kellet Foundation; Krewe of Olympus; LOAF; Elliott A. Matthews Foundation; Rainbow Wranglers; Texas Invitational Bowling Tournament; Uncommon Legacy Foundation; Vilven Design Group; and countless individuals in our generous community.

To receive information about programs and services, make an individual or organizational contribution or volunteer to serve in its worthwhile work, please call the H.A.T.C.H. line at (713) 942-7002 or email info@hatchyouth.org.

Houston Area Women's Center

The Women's Center provides shelter, counseling and support services to survivors

of domestic violence and sexual assault. Two 24-7 hotlines provide crisis counseling. The Rape Crisis Program provides individual and group counseling and accompaniment to area hospitals and courtrooms for both female and male sexual assault survivors. The Family Violence Program provides individual and group counseling, an emergency shelter, advocacy and accompaniment to area hospitals for both female and male domestic violence survivors. The center provides services to heterosexual, lesbian, gay and bisexual survivors of violence. Services are provided only to survivors. Volunteer orientation is held every fourth Monday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. (713) 528-2121

Web: www.hawc.org
1010 Waugh Dr., Houston, TX 77019

Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents, Inc.

Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents is a social and support group for lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender parents, their partners and kids and parent wannabes. HGLP has three events every month: a support group for parents with free childcare; a family activity; and a newsletter mail out. They also sponsor a group for youth in the sixth through 12th grades who have lesbian or gay parents. Dues are \$25 a year. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month from 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Grace Lutheran Church, 2515 Waugh. (713) 284-4939
Email: hglp@juno.com
Web: members.aol.com/hglparents/HGLPHomePage.html
10400 S. Post Oak Rd., Ste.E-PMB#263, Houston, TX 77035

Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center

The center serves as the central resource for the GLBT community. The center provides community information and publications and a schedule of social and educational programming. Regular programs includes dinner at the center, family movie night, Hawthorne Men's Club, lesbian film night, What Women Do workshops and women's game night. Eight organizations maintain offices at the center. In addition, the center rents space for private functions like birthday parties and commitment ceremonies. Center memberships start at \$30. The center is open Monday - Friday from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. and Saturdays from noon - 4 p.m. The center is located at 803 Hawthorne on the corner of Stanford. Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m. (713) 524-3818, (713) 524-2022(fax)

Email: hlccc@hotmail.com
 Web: www.hglcc.org
 P.O. Box 2304, Houston, TX 77252

Houston Outdoor Group

HOG is a social group for gay men, lesbians and gay-friendly people who enjoy the outdoors. Activities are organized by HOG members individually and are listed in the monthly newsletter. Events may include camping trips, monthly potluck socials or just a day trip to a local attraction. Whether indoors or out, fun is had by all. If interested, give them a call and come to one of their socials as a guest. Fees are \$20 per year to receive the HOG monthly activity newsletter. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. (713)-KAM-POUT (713) 526-7688
 Web: www.actwin.com/chiltern/igloo.html
 P.O. Box 980893, Houston, TX 77098

Houston Pride Band

The Pride band encourages everyone to "Get your instruments out of the closet!" The award-winning Houston Pride Band provides musical entertainment for the lesbian and gay community. Musicians of all skill levels and instrumentation are welcome. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at the Dignity Center, 1307 Yale Street (between 13th and 14th streets) (713) 527-0931, (713) 522-9604(fax)
 Email: houstxband@aol.com
 Web: www.houstonprideband.org
 P.O. Box 300788, Houston, TX 77230

Houston Women's Festival

The festival is a celebration of music, art, crafts and community that draws people from throughout the state and beyond. In 2001, the festival will be held from 1 p.m. to midnight on Saturday, October 27, at Garden in the Heights, 3926 Feagan. The festival is open to all and includes a full day of excellent music, a multimedia art show and a community marketplace of vendors. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. The Athena Art Project, a non-profit organization that supports the artistic endeavors of women, produces the festival.
 (713) 861-3316
 Email: hwfestival@earthlink.net
 Web: www.hwfestival.org
 P.O. Box 70102, Houston, TX 77270

John Steven Kellett Foundation

The foundation annually funds, through other non-profit 501(c)(3) organizations serving greater Houston, a small number of worthy causes related to gaining equal rights for, and the elimination of bias

against GLBT people. Grant applications may be made only by invitation of the foundation board, based on their knowledge of the activities and purpose of community organizations.

Email: Kellett@aol.com
 P.O. Box 66574, Houston, TX 77266

Just For Us

Just For Us is a social group for Sixth-through 12th-graders with gay or lesbian parents. The group provides a place where they can be themselves with others who understand. Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents sponsor the group. Dues are \$7 per year per family.
 (713) 284-4939
 Email: hglp@juno.com
 Web: www.hglp.org
 10400 S. Post Oak Rd., Ste.E-PMB#263, Houston, TX 77035

Krewe of Olympus-Texas, Inc.

Founded in New Orleans in 1970, the Krewe continues the Mardi Gras traditions in Houston as the Krewe of Olympus-Texas, Inc. The Krewe celebrates Mardi Gras each year by producing an invitation-only, black-tie Mardi Gras Gala in a tableau format. Additionally, the Krewe raises money for designated charitable organizations. Dues are \$140 per year. Meetings are held four times per year.
 (713) 729-9662, (713) 729-9662(fax)
 Email: krewe@mardigrastexas.com
 Web: mardigrastexas.com
 P.O. Box 920794, Houston, TX 77292

L & R Lewis Cloverdale Foundation, Inc.

L&R Lewis is a general charitable foundation that distributes funds to 501(c)(3) organizations that work for gay and lesbian health issues. The foundation has no regular granting cycles and responds to written requests for funds from qualified organizations.
 Email: baggott-swaim@msn.com
 1415 Louisiana St., Ste.2220, Houston, TX 77002

Lambda Legal Defense

Lambda Legal Defense is a national organization committed to achieving the full recognition of the civil rights of lesbians, gay men and people with HIV/AIDS through impact litigation, education and public policy work. Lambda has offices in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Atlanta. Membership is \$40 per year.
 (212) 809-8585, (212) 809-0055(fax)
 Email: lambdalegal@lambdalegal.org
 Web: www.lambdalegal.org
 120 Wall St., Ste.1500, New York, NY 10005

Lambda Rollerskating Club

Lambda Rollerskating Club is a Houston-based roller-skating and blading club for gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people and their friends. The club skates on Tuesday nights from 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. at the Tradewinds Rink, 5006 W 34th (off 290). Admission is \$4 including free skate rental.
 (713) 410-7215
 Email: info@lambdaroll.org
 Web: www.lambdaroll.org
 305 Avondale St., Apt.F, Houston, TX 77006

Lesbians Over Age 50

LOAFERS is a social networking and support group for lesbians 50 years of age and older. Membership dues are \$14 a year. Meetings are held the third Sunday of the month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 (713) 869-1482, (713) 802-2989(fax)
 Email: chardenea@worldnet.att.net
 P.O. Box 980601, Houston, TX 77098

Lone Star Nudist Group

Lone Star Nudist is a diverse group of Houston-area men who enjoy sharing nude experiences. A nude social is hosted at least once a month. Membership dues are \$24 a year and helping to co-host one function.
 (713) 686-8539
 Web: members.xoom.com/LoneStarMen
 P.O. Box 66621, Houston, TX 77266

Misfits of Houston

Misfits is a social organization that supports the gay and lesbian community by doing fund-raisers, outreach and brother/sisterhood. It's open to anyone, regardless of race, sex or religious background. Dues are \$10 per month. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month.
 Email: houstonmisfits@aol.com
 Web: www.misfitshouston.org
 304 East 28th St., Houston, TX 77008

Miss Camp America Foundation

Miss Camp America performs charitable activities that provide relief to individuals affected by HIV/AIDS and, through fund raising, provides financial support to local non-profit HIV/AIDS service provider organizations on a volunteer basis. MCA has proudly contributed \$395,500 in financial grants thus far. The group's most significant fund-raiser, The Miss Camp America Pageant, is a spoof on the Miss America Pageant. This event is complete with talent, swimsuit, and evening-gown presentations; cast production numbers; and some of the most creative and extravagant evening gowns ever seen on stage. Membership dues are \$150. Meetings are held on the

second Monday of the month at 7 p.m.
(713) 940-STAR, (713) 666-2232(fax)
Web: www.mcaf.org
P.O. Box 742, Bellaire, TX 77402

Montrose Counseling Center Men's Network

The Men's Network allows gay and bisexual men to come together in a safe and supportive environment to learn and share issues that affect them. Donations are voluntary. Network meetings are held the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond.
(713) 529-0037, (713) 526-4367(fax)
Email: mcc@neosoft.com
Web: www.neosoft.com/~mcc/
701 Richmond Ave., Houston, TX 77006

Montrose Counseling Center Women's Network

The Women's Network provides the lesbian community with high-quality, affordable mental health services. Counselors are conscious of, sensitive to and informed about the psychology and social experience of women in general, and of lesbians community in particular. Counseling is available by appointment. Meetings are held the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.
(713) 529-0037, (713) 526-4367(fax)
Email: mcc@neosoft.com
Web: www.neosoft.com/~mcc/
701 Richmond Ave., Houston, TX 77006

Names Project Houston

The major functions of the NAMES Project, Houston, are community education, promoting the AIDS Memorial Quilt displays and outreach programs. The chapter has become increasingly proactive in schools, colleges and corporations. Donations as suggested and welcomed. Workshops are held on Saturdays and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose, C-140.
(713) 52-NAMES, (713) 526-1859(fax)
Email: nphinfo@namesproject.org
Web: www.namesproject.org
P.O. Box 66595, Houston, TX 77266

National Leather Association Houston

The National Leather Association is a pansexual social, service and educational organization in its eighth year. Educational meetings covering the many aspects of the leather/SMBD lifestyle are held monthly. Fund raising for the organization's local charities occurs throughout the year. The major benefit of the year is the Annual Toy Drive for Kids with HIV/AIDS, held during the holiday season. The major fundraiser of the year is Spring Iniquity,

an anniversary run held in April. Annual dues are \$30 for local membership, and \$30 for national membership. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.
(713) 520-5126
Web: www.nlah.com
P.O. Box 66553, Houston, TX 77266

Out Together

Out Together is a support group where individuals and couples can share their thoughts, experiences and knowledge about mixed orientation marriages, in which one spouse identifies as gay, lesbian or bisexual. Meetings are held on the first Sunday and third Thursday of each month.
Email: bobtx54@aol.com
8849 Braesmont, #210, Houston, TX 77096

Parents, Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays

PFLAG's mission includes community education, advocacy and support. PFLAG hosts support groups for sexual minorities and their parents, families and friends. It has a help line; a speakers bureau; educational programs; advocacy projects for equal rights; a monthly newsletter; a lending library; and an email list. Membership is \$25 for individuals; \$40 for couples and families. Meetings are on the first Sunday of the month from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas.
(713) 467-3524
Email: pflagwww@insync.net
Web: www.pflaghouston.org
P.O. Box 66834, Houston, TX 77266

Pride Committee of Houston

The Pride Committee sponsors Houston's Gay & Lesbian Pride. PCOH produces the annual Pride Parade and other events; maintains the Banner District on lower Westheimer; the community's best mailing list; the community resource guide; a Web site; and publishes the quarterly INSIDEPRIDE newsletter and annual PRIDE.01 magazine. The board meets on the first Tuesday of each month, and the general committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center, 1425 W Gray.
(713) 529-6979, (713) 529-6929(fax)
Email: info@pridehouston.org
Web: www.pridehouston.org
P.O. Box 66071, Houston, TX 77266

Prime Timers — Houston

Prime Timers is a social club for 40+ gay men and those who like them. A single membership is \$25, and two memberships are \$40.
(713) 867-3903

Email: primetimer_houston@yahoo.com
Web: www.primetimer.org/houston
P.O. Box 980612, Houston, TX 77098

Q-Patrol, Inc.

The Q-Patrol is dedicated to protection from and education about hate crimes based on actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. Q-Patrol operates a citizens-on-patrol program in the Montrose area on Friday and Saturday nights. No special skills or abilities are necessary, only a desire to help other people. Q-Patrol is affiliated with the Houston Police Department's Citizens-on-Patrol program.
(713) 528-7233, (713) 451-6550(fax)
Email: qpatrolinc@aol.com
P.O. Box 66362, Houston, TX 77266

Rainbow Amateur Radio Association

RARA is a national association of gay men and lesbians with an interest in amateur radio and/or short wave listening. There are more than 100 members from several states and Europe. The association has regularly scheduled weekly amateur contacts, local and national meetings and a monthly newsletter. Membership is \$15 per year.
(214) 522-1458; Email: rara@en.com
Web: www.rara.org
P.O. Box 35343, Dallas, TX 75235

Razzle-Dazzle Dallas

Razzle-Dazzle is a Dallas-based AIDS charity whose aim is to raise and distribute money to AIDS service organizations and provide direct financial assistance to persons affected by AIDS. Money is raised through the annual Razzle-Dazzle Dallas event in June. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month.
(214) 520-7336
Email: circuitboy@dellnet.com, jazz12@prodigy.net
Web: www.razzledazzledallas.org
2429 Reagan St., Ste.211, Dallas, TX 75219

S.I.S.T.E.R.S of Houston

S.I.S.T.E.R.S. stands for Sharing Inner Strength Through Encouragement & Realistic Support, which is also the mission of this social organization for African American lesbians. The group shares the stories, challenges and problems unique to African American lesbians in a safe space with total confidentiality. Meetings are held on second Sunday of the month, general business from 5 - 6 p.m., guest speakers from 6 - 8 p.m. at Resurrection MCC, 2025 W. 11th St. @ T.C. Jester.
(713) 801-0027, (713) 697-7156(fax)
Email: sistersofhouston@yahoo.com
Web: www.sistersofhouston.org
P.O. Box 3312, Houston, TX 77253

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:**S.I.S.T.E.R.S. Are Doing It For Themselves**

February 10, 2001 marked a milestone for S.I.S.T.E.R.S. as they celebrated seven years of "Sharing Inner Strength Through Encouragement and Realistic Support" within the African American lesbian community.

However, the group's most important achievement this past year was its continued fulfillment of its mission of addressing the special issues that affect African American lesbians. Most of these topics, while unpleasant to discuss, are vital to the physical and mental well-being of so many in this segment of the community.

"Being a lesbian in the black community is seen as being a 'negative' role model," explains Adriane Bowie, vice president of S.I.S.T.E.R.S. "As a result, there is a lot of self-hatred. We are supposed to love not only each other, but the black man, for the sake of the community."

Domestic violence has been of particular concern because of this issue of self-hatred. Bowie explains that a lot of African American lesbians tend to want to fix people, becoming co-dependent in the process.

"We find ourselves attracted to people who need fixing instead of healthy relationships. The result is often verbal or physical abuse," she says.

This past year the group has also dealt with the twin threats of racism and sexism. Bowie says, "The GLBT movement looks overwhelmingly white. People in the black community view homosexuality as a rich white boy/girl disease, something Western European, not African."

This makes African American lesbians stay in the closet within the black community. To make matters worse, she points out that they have a culture where women are seen as subservient to men.

For African Americans, sexism is a cultural issue. African American women are often pressured into having kids to expand the race. They are also kept out of leadership roles. Oftentimes, African American lesbians will couple with white females to assimilate into mainstream GLBT culture, giving up their own culture in the process.

"The theory is that if you don't assimilate, you are not successful," states Bowie.

That is why S.I.S.T.E.R.S., while open to all, focuses on the unique problems that face their particular segment of the community. In this way, they can relate to other lesbians like themselves and start breaking down the barriers, misconceptions, stereotypes and cultural restrictions that hold them down.

"Our organization wants to help heal the hurt. We want to reach out and teach our community that you do not need to

assimilate to be accepted, but rather you need to be who you are," says Bowie.

In the upcoming year, look for S.I.S.T.E.R.S. to move toward more community outreach. Plans are to co-sponsor workshops with other lesbian organizations in Houston and develop a national network of S.I.S.T.E.R.S. chapters and conferences aimed at educating, providing role models and utilizing the talents and skills that we each bring to our communities.

Bowie explains, "We want to continue to build bridges to others. If we are ever to embrace diversity, then it will be the GLBT community that leads the way for the rest of society."

Southern Country Houston

Southern Country is a lesbian and gay dance organization for people interested in country and western music and who would like to learn couples' dances, line dances or barn dances. SoCo also promotes pride and unity and puts on dance exhibitions and charity events to benefit service organizations in the Houston area. Free dance lessons are provided for men and women. Dances are on Wednesdays from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the New Barn. (713) 681-4631, (713) 893-3134(fax)
Email: ConCares@aol.com
Web: www.iaglcwdc.org/socoho
P.O. Box 1502, Houston, TX 77252

Texas Association for Transsexual Support

TATS is a support group for transsexuals in all stages of the spectrum, both female-to-male and male-to-female. TATS provides a social environment that serves as a social network, as well as information and education from both literature and from members' personal experience and knowledge. Pre-screening is required. Membership is \$18 a year. Meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month at 3 p.m. and the fourth Saturday of the month at 7 p.m. (281) 437-2975
Email: tats@genderweb.org
Web: www.genderweb.org/ntats
P.O. Box 142, Bellaire, TX 77402

Texas Gay Rodeo Association

TGRA produces an annual rodeo, promotes the Western lifestyle and participates in fund-raising for communities across Texas. Membership is \$60 per year. (713) 932-1333, (713) 932-1333(fax)
Email: dgdptx@netzero.net
Web: www.tgra.org
P.O. Box 130585, Houston, TX 77219

Texas Gay Veterans of Houston

The Texas Gay Veterans of Houston visit gay veterans in the VA hospital and deliver

gifts to those veterans from other groups in Houston who are unable to get into the hospital. Membership dues are \$25. Call the community center for contact info.

Texas Human Rights Foundation

The foundation is a statewide gay and lesbian non-profit law firm that fights discrimination based upon sexual orientation or HIV status through impact litigation, public education and legal assistance. Court victories include the striking down of Texas' sodomy statute by the Third Court of Appeals and opening access to gay and lesbian groups at Texas A&M and Texas Tech universities. THRF operates a free statewide legal hotline for legal questions related to sexual orientation or HIV status and free referrals to local attorneys. Offices are located at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne. (713) 522-0636, 800-828-6417, (713) 647-0128 (fax)
Email: donnakdavis@att.net
Web: www.thrf.org
P.O. Box 667157, Houston, TX 77266

Texas Medical Center Lambda

The TMC Lambda group was founded in 1993 as an inter-institutional organization for students, staff and faculty of the Texas Medical Center in Houston. Its goal is to foster and promote communication, support and visibility among GLBT individuals at the various Medical Center institutions. Meetings are once a month. (713) 861-0153
Email: tmclambda@hotmail.com
Web: www.library.tmc.edu/lambda
1129 W. Gardner, Houston, TX 77009

SPORTS/FITNESS**FrontRunners Houston**

FrontRunners was organized in 1984 to promote beginning, recreational and competitive running. It provides support to men and women interested in running as a means of fitness and developing friendships. All club runs are noncompetitive and informal. Swimming or hot-tubbing, and then dinner at a local restaurant follow each Thursday run. Runs are organized on Sundays at 8 a.m. and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at the Tennis Center at Memorial Park. (713) 522-8021
Email: larathon@neosoft.com
Web: www.neosoft.com/~larathon/houfr.htm
3327 West Lamar, Houston, TX 77019

Good Sports

Good Sports is a sports group for college football and basketball fans. (713) 523-9000

Email: writerncaa@aol.com
P.O. Box 667070, Houston, TX 77266

Houston Montrose Athletic Association

The HMAA promotes and encourages long-distance running, track and field, and other running activities in an environment where the members of the GLBT community could freely express themselves without hiding their sexual preference. HMAA organizes the Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride 5k fun run/walk each June and the HMAA Cross Country Classic each fall. Meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month at 2 p.m.

(713) 874-1686

Email: balmond@ev1.net

Web: www.geocities.com/houstonpride5k/index.html

P.O. Box 667364, Houston, TX 77266

Houston Wednesday Nite Mixer

The Wednesday Nite Mixer is a mixed bowling league with a Fall/Winter session from September to April and a Summer session from May to August. League dues are \$12. League play is on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. at Palace Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd.

(713) 522-9612

Email: wiccado@aol.com

Web: www.texasinvite.com

P.O. Box 66856, Houston, TX 77266

I Luv Luci Thursday Duos

Thursday Duos is a mixed bowling league alternating scratch and handicap with four 12-week sessions during the year. League dues are \$12. League play is on Thursdays from 9:30 - 10:30 p.m. and rotates between Palace Lanes and Dynamic Lanes.

(713) 522-9612, (713) 228-7814(fax)

Email: wiccado@aol.com

Web: www.texasinvite.com

P.O. Box 540272, Houston, TX 77254

Inner Loop Alternative

Inner Loop is a mixed bowling league with a fall/winter session from September to April and a summer session from May to August. League dues are \$10. League play is on Sundays at 7 p.m. at Palace Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd.

(713) 522-9612, (713) 228-7814

Email: wiccado@aol.com

Web: www.texasinvite.com

4002 Caroline St., Houston, TX 77004

Monday Night Women's Bowling League

This is a women-only bowling league with a fall/winter session from September to April and a summer session from May to August. League membership is \$12. League play takes place on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at the Dynamic Lanes, 6121 Tarniff.

(281) 437-6218, (713) 228-7814(fax)

Email: wiccado@aol.com

Web: www.texasinvite.com

P.O. Box 66856, Houston, TX 77266

Montrose Monday Men's League

This is a men-only bowling league with a fall/winter session from September to April and a summer session from May to August. League membership is \$12. League play takes place on Mondays at 9 p.m. at the Palace Lanes, 4191 Bellaire Blvd.

(713) 522-9612, (713) 228-7814(fax)

Email: wiccado@aol.com

Web: www.texasinvite.com

P.O. Box 66856, Houston, TX 77266

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT:

Having a Ball with Houston Gay and Lesbian Bowlers

The International Gay Bowlers Organization is one of the largest gay and lesbian sports organizations in the world with more than 13,000 members, including the 350 members of Houston's five leagues — the Montrose Monday Men's League, Inner Loop League, Wednesday Mixers League, Monday Night Women's League and the I Luv Luci Duos.

In November 2000 the Houston Gay and Lesbian Bowlers made a presentation to the IGBO in a bid to host this November's international tournament in Houston. After the votes were tallied, it was clear that Houston had bowled them over. Playing host to the IGBO Mid-Year 2001 Tournament is a great honor for Houston, as it now joins the ranks of other tournament cities, such as Honolulu, Minneapolis and Auckland, New Zealand.

The Mid-Year 2001 committee, headed

by Don Burken, Gardy Harvey and Tom O'Dell, has been hard at work since that win in November, organizing the weekend-long contest that is to draw more than 600 competitors from all over the United States and Canada, and as far away as Australia and New Zealand. They have long since lined up accommodations, the DoubleTree at Post Oak, and the venues, Dynamic Lanes and Palace Lanes. Of course, no tournament would be complete without some sight-seeing, so several excursions have also been planned. Out-of-towners will be treated to everything from Space Center Houston to the local GLBT bars and clubs.

So come have a ball with the Houston Gay and Lesbian Bowlers and watch some of the best GLBT bowlers around battle it out for the top prize. Better yet, polish that ball, buff up those shoes, get that fabulous bowling shirt out of the closet, and join one of the five Houston bowling leagues. Be a part of an international organization and have a ball. The IGBO Mid-Year Tournament is coming to Houston November 8-11.

Texas Invitational Tournament

The Texas Invitational Tournament is an IGBO-associated bowling tournament over the July 4 weekend that raises \$8,000 for local charities. No-tap bowling is played the third Saturday of each month at Palace Lanes. Tournament fees are \$65.

(713) 522-9612, (713) 228-7814(fax)

Email: wiccado@aol.com

Web: www.texasinvite.org

P.O. Box 66856, Houston, TX 77266

Houston Area Motorcycle Society

HAMS is a group interested in riding motorcycles. A social is held once a month, in addition to a monthly planned ride and spontaneous rides every weekend. The members of the club are gay men, lesbians, or gay-friendly heterosexuals. All makes of motorcycles are accepted into the club. Membership is \$30 per year. See the bulletin board site on the Web for ride information.

(713) 862-6722, (281) 596-4309 (fax)

Email: info@hamsclub.org

Web: www.hamsclub.org

P.O. Box 131636, Houston, TX 77219 □