

OutInform

your guide to the 2011 houston lgbt pride celebration

Meet LOGO's Jonathan Lovitz

Learn about his new show *Setup Squad*, and his journey as an "accidental advocate." Page 7

Get All the Info on the Festival and Parade

Look at the center fold to get the 2011 Festival Map, Parade Lineup and more!

X Mom's Views on Gay Marriage in 2011

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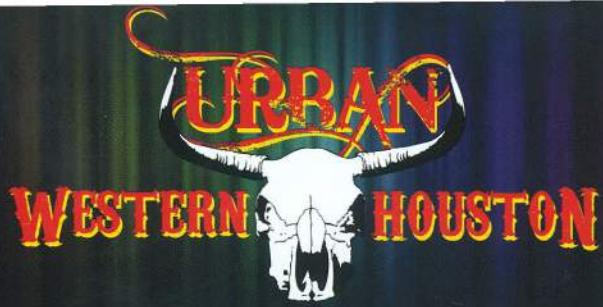
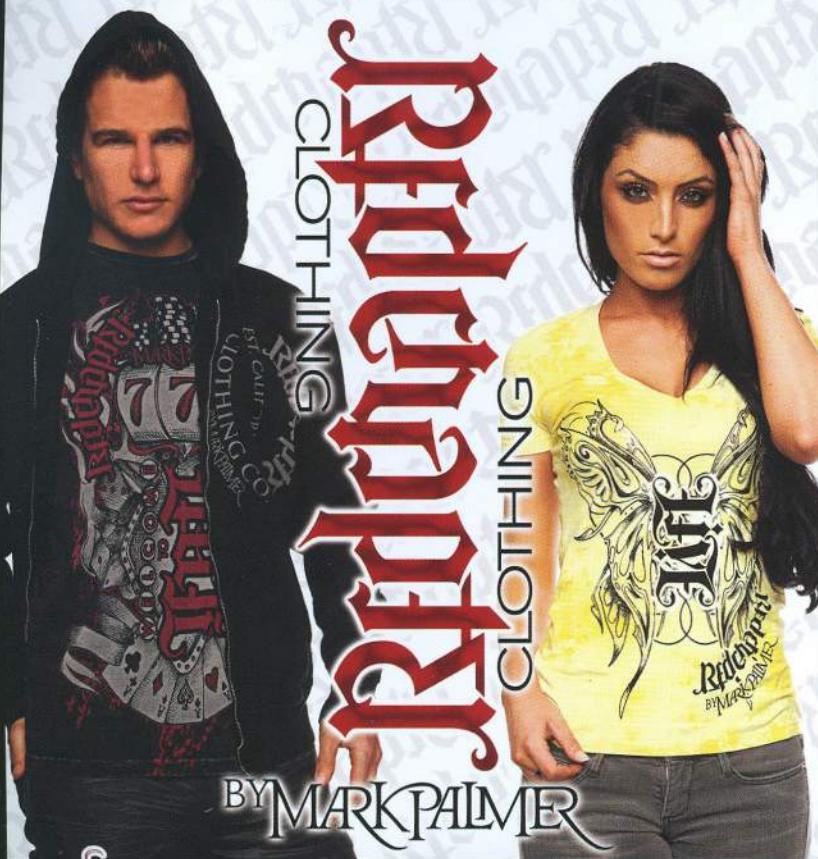
X It Gets Better ... But How?

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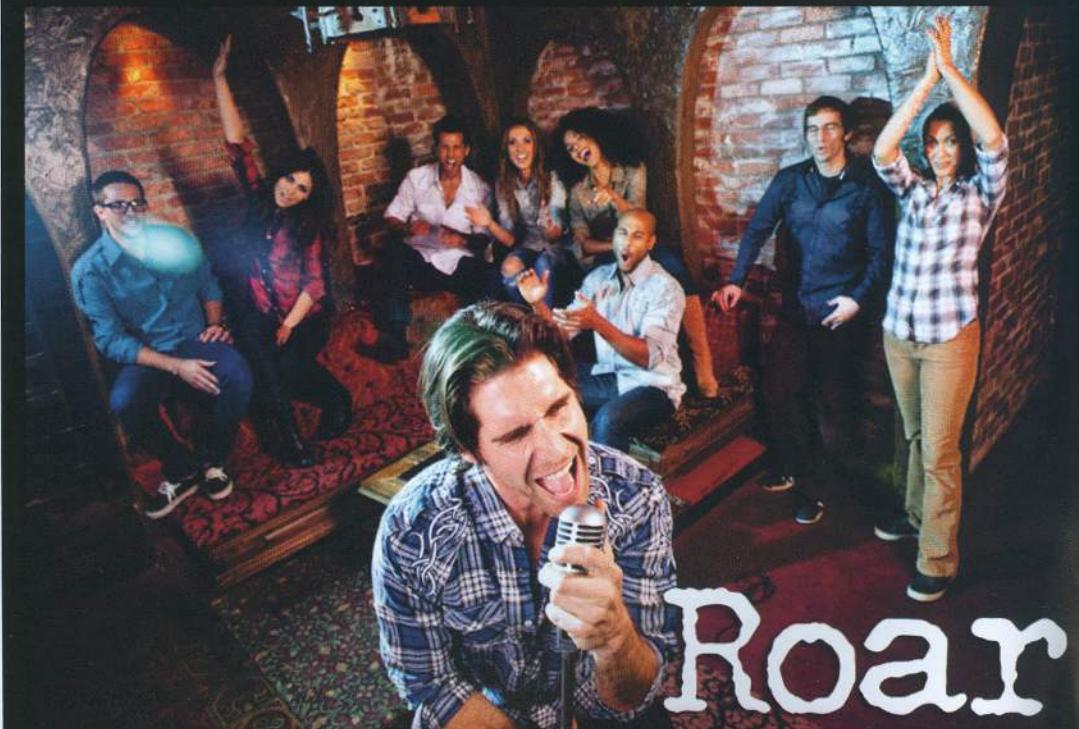
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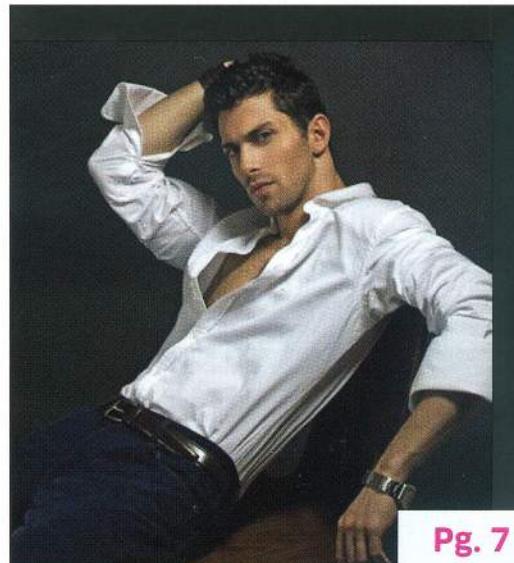
June 2011

Jessica Arent, CEO of Promesa, LLC and mother to a gay son, gives her views on the state of marriage in 2011. Get up-to-date on gay marriage in the United States, and see how Jessica's son impassions her to help strive for marriage equality across the country.

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Jonathan D. Lovitz, 2011 Celebrity Grand Marshal in the Houston LGBT Pride Celebration, tells all in this exclusive profile. Find out how this accidental advocate became a national icon.



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Last year, we all experienced the "It Gets Better" campaign. But does it? If so, when? Beau Heyen explores how exactly we can make it better for LGBT youth, rather than just talk about how it can get better.



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The Pride Houston Grand Marshals represent positive changes and impacts for the LGBT community. This year is no different: Tammi Wallace, Bryan Hlavinka, Judy and Duane Roland, and the GLBT Community Center have tirelessly worked to make the lives of everyone they touch better.

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WELCOME TO PRIDE HOUSTON

A Letter from the President and CEO



Frankie Quijano is President of the Board and CEO of Pride Houston, Inc. Pride is a registered 501(c)3 organization commissioned with enriching the lives of the Houston LGBT community.



Every day I hear the questions, "Why Pride?" and "What purpose do Pride Events serve today in modern society?"

The answers will vary depending on who you ask. For me, it is because it is one of few organizations that fight for equality on a grass-roots, non-political avenue. Unlike many other organizations, Pride Houston does not lobby Congress on legislative agendas or endorse candidates. It does not exist to fight for equality on the legislative level, but works each day to fight for equality on the street level by educating society on issues that are important to all LGBT individuals.

Despite all the triumphs the LGBT community has made around the world since Stonewall, we still have individuals in this world hoping and praying for an opportunity to attend a Pride event in their own town or country. So why celebrate Pride? Because we can!

However, Pride's purpose goes beyond the ability to openly express individuality in public streets. Do you remember all the emotions that came up for you when you were coming out? I do. It was truly one of the scariest, yet most exciting, times in my life. As society evolves, I have seen people coming out at a younger and younger age. These young individuals are facing the same challenges and obstacles that you and I have all been through, but at an age far younger than

when many of us experienced them. One of our goals is to assist young people by making sure resources are available.

Each year Pride Houston produces the largest LGBT gathering in the Southern United States. And for many, this event is the first opportunity for young individuals to witness firsthand a new family that is there to support and accept them as a lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender individual. This type of outreach goes a long way in the development of an individual who has gone his or her entire life living under the umbrella of rejection. The Houston LGBT Pride Celebration is a cultural celebration where everyone, regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, or sexual orientation, can feel at home.

Our team of volunteers has been working diligently all year to produce this amazing event. Pride Houston has also created the Seven Days of Pride Houston, with a fabulous event each night starting on Saturday, June 18, 2011, up until the Houston LGBT Pride Celebration on Saturday, June 25, 2011. That said, on behalf of the committee Chairs, committee Members, volunteers, the Board of Directors, and Pride Houston, I wish to welcome you all to the 33rd Annual Houston LGBT Pride Celebration, presented by Bud Light.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frankie Quijano".

Frankie Quijano
President and CEO

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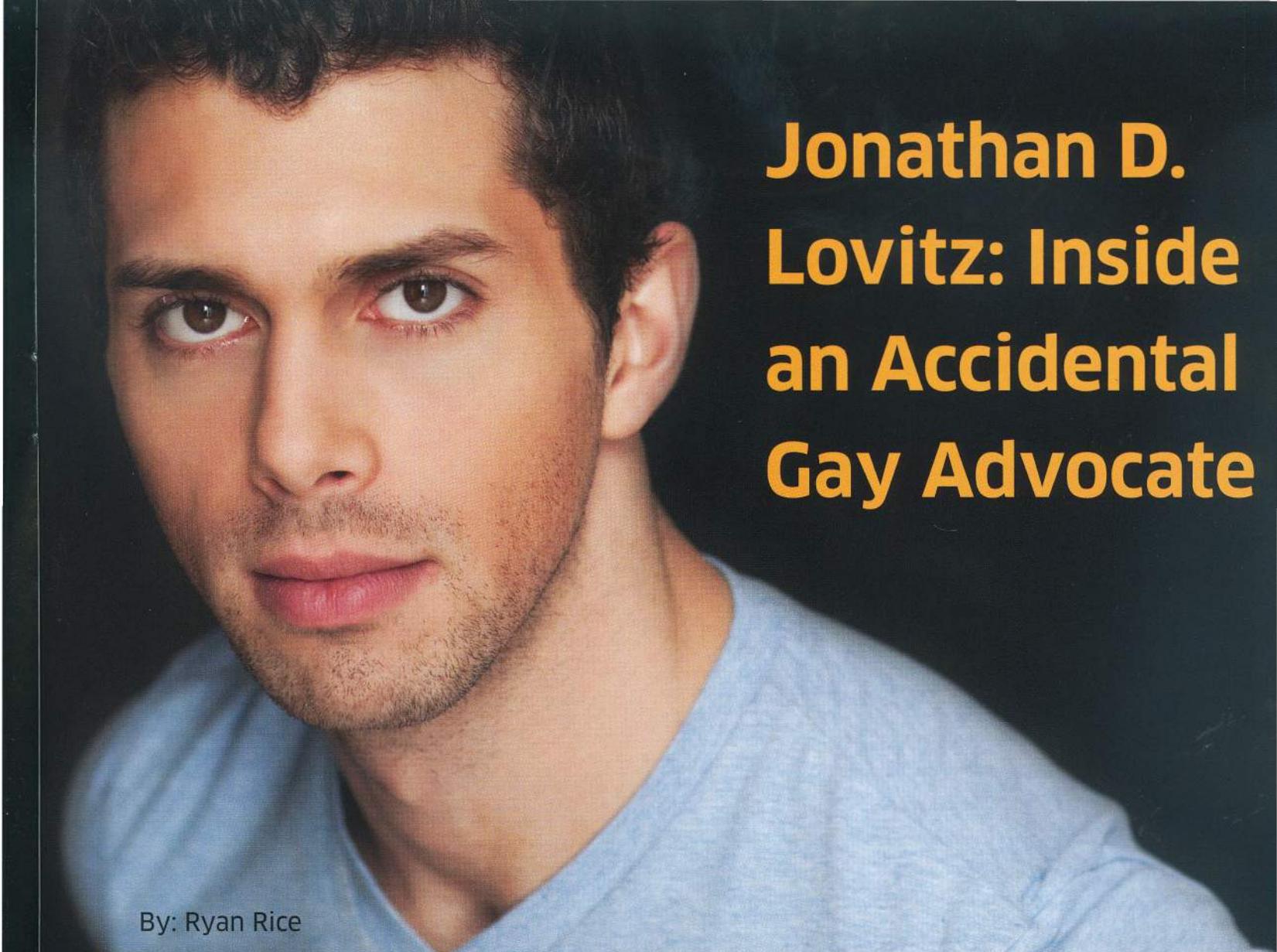
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Jonathan D. Lovitz: Inside an Accidental Gay Advocate

By: Ryan Rice

Every June, throughout the nation, LGBT citizens participate in the celebration of our diversity, our uniqueness, and our pride in who we have become and who we want to be. It is a time of reflection and remembrance, but most importantly a time to show the world our collective power as a population, all the while educating the nation on the needs, concerns, and issues facing LGBT citizens throughout the country. As the 4th biggest city in the U.S. and the largest major metropolitan city with an openly gay mayor, Houston's annual Pride Celebration has grown immensely over the more than 30 years since the first event was held, and now attracts more than 300,000 supporters and spectators annually. Last year marked the first time a national celebrity joined the celebration,

and this year we are honored to have LOGO TV star and "Accidental Activist" Jonathan D. Lovitz serve as the 2011 Celebrity Grand Marshal. Many may recognize the handsome actor from his current show, *Setup Squad*, which is currently running on LOGO. But the actor and model has also captured national headlines by voicing his inability to be impartial on a jury because of being treated like a second-class citizen in the eyes of the law. This small act of courage has thrust Jonathan into the spotlight, accidentally turning him into an activist for LGBT rights and a champion for equality. This is a role he doesn't take lightly and one that he intends to continue, using his celebrity platform to promote issues important to him while advancing LGBT causes.

When watching Lovitz on *Setup Squad*, you immediately get a sense of his humor and, most of all, his compassion for those looking for love. He doles out his helpful advice with sincerity and spunk, and you can see that he truly wants to help each of his clients find love, but most of all to love themselves. He helps his clients get to the bottom of their dating dilemmas by thrusting them into a real-life situation, stating, "I can't fix the train tracks until I see the train wreck."

He is not trying to embarrass or make clients uncomfortable; he is trying to empower each to channel their inner courage and embrace their uniqueness.

"I can't be the little gay in her pocket all the time," he relays to his co-workers. "She's gotta find out that she can be a strong, independent woman like she knows that she can, but she's just got to practice."

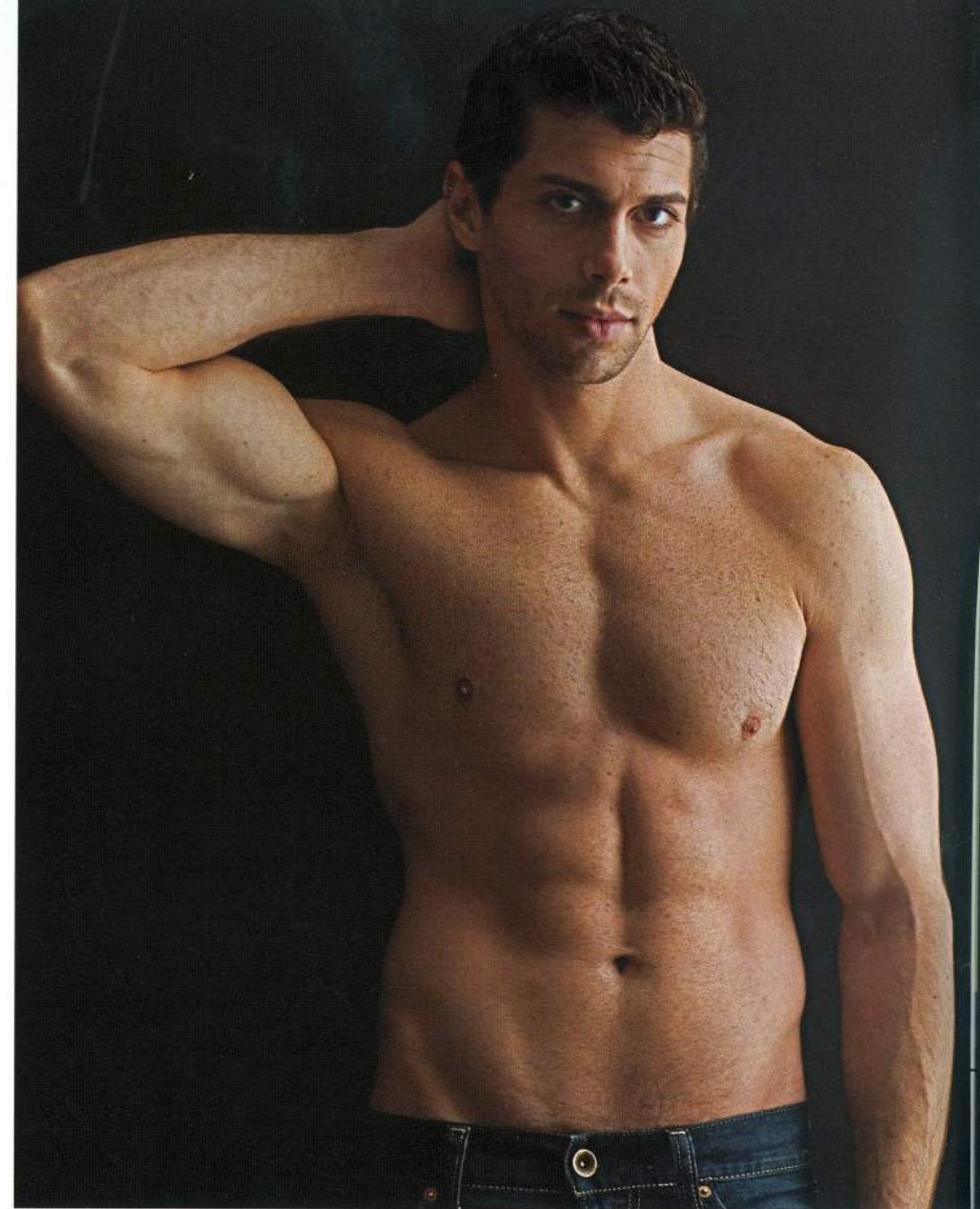
It's this type of advice that makes his show funny, while also driving home the message that self-acceptance and love is the first step to loving and being loved by others.

"I try to instill in my clients and everyone else I meet in my life that confidence stems from loving yourself," says Lovitz. "Like the fabulous RuPaul says, 'If you can't love yourself, how in the hell are you going to love somebody else?' Amen! Happiness and positivity is a choice. I much prefer a life lived in brilliant Technicolor than in black-and-white."

Jonathan's positive attitude and passion for making a difference are what led to him being chosen as the 2011 Celebrity Grand Marshal. I had a chance to talk with the busy actor as he began gearing up for this month's Pride Celebration, taking a little time to get to know Jonathan, to learn more about what Pride means to him and find out about his hopes for the future.

Ryan Rice: What does Pride mean to you?

Jonathan D. Lovitz: Community. Period. Pride always feels like one giant high-five shared among thousands. It's one of the most special events of the year and has the power to reveal to any skeptics the positive nature of the gay community — that we are here to stay and are proud to share our community with you. Pride is the ultimate celebration of the countless varieties that makes us such a vibrant community. So many of us grow up feeling so alone, like we're the only gay in the village. Pride is a chance for us to be surrounded by so many people enjoying life, family, sexuality, art, music,



and the privilege of being part of something that both sets us apart from the crowd and brings us together as family.

RR: What does diversity and acceptance mean to you?

JDL: I remember being so moved the first time I ever saw the national AIDS quilt and being struck by how incredibly different every square was and how together they made this beautiful monument of love and sympathy. That's the essence of our community. We're a patchwork of personalities, and I wish more of the people who try to lump us together as one singular community could see the enormous

variety of people that make up the LGBT community and that the one thing that unites us above all else is love. I'm so proud to be on television and traveling the country showing people that we're not just some bizarre fringe society, but that we're your friends, neighbors, and families and we can love one another as people — not just as 'gay' people.

RR: Why do you think it is important for the LGBT community to celebrate Pride?

JDL: Pride is a time for us all to get together and surround ourselves with everyone else who has shared our struggle but who we may have never met because our lives are so different.



We're not a community that can be as neatly lumped together as those defined by their gender or skin color. For one week every year, the doctor, lawyer, go-go boy, and ballet dancer are complete equals, celebrating and understanding how far we've come and how we have to stick together to create a better future.

RR: What makes you the most proud about being gay?

JDL: I'm most proud to be part of a community that puts love first and foremost! Members of the gay community are some of the most self-aware, complete, and proud people I've ever known. This is no easy life that's been

thrust upon us, but having such a beautiful community that is so welcoming of so many under its brightly rainbow-colored umbrella makes me so proud.

RR: What made you stand up that day in the courtroom and proclaim your inability to serve as an impartial juror?

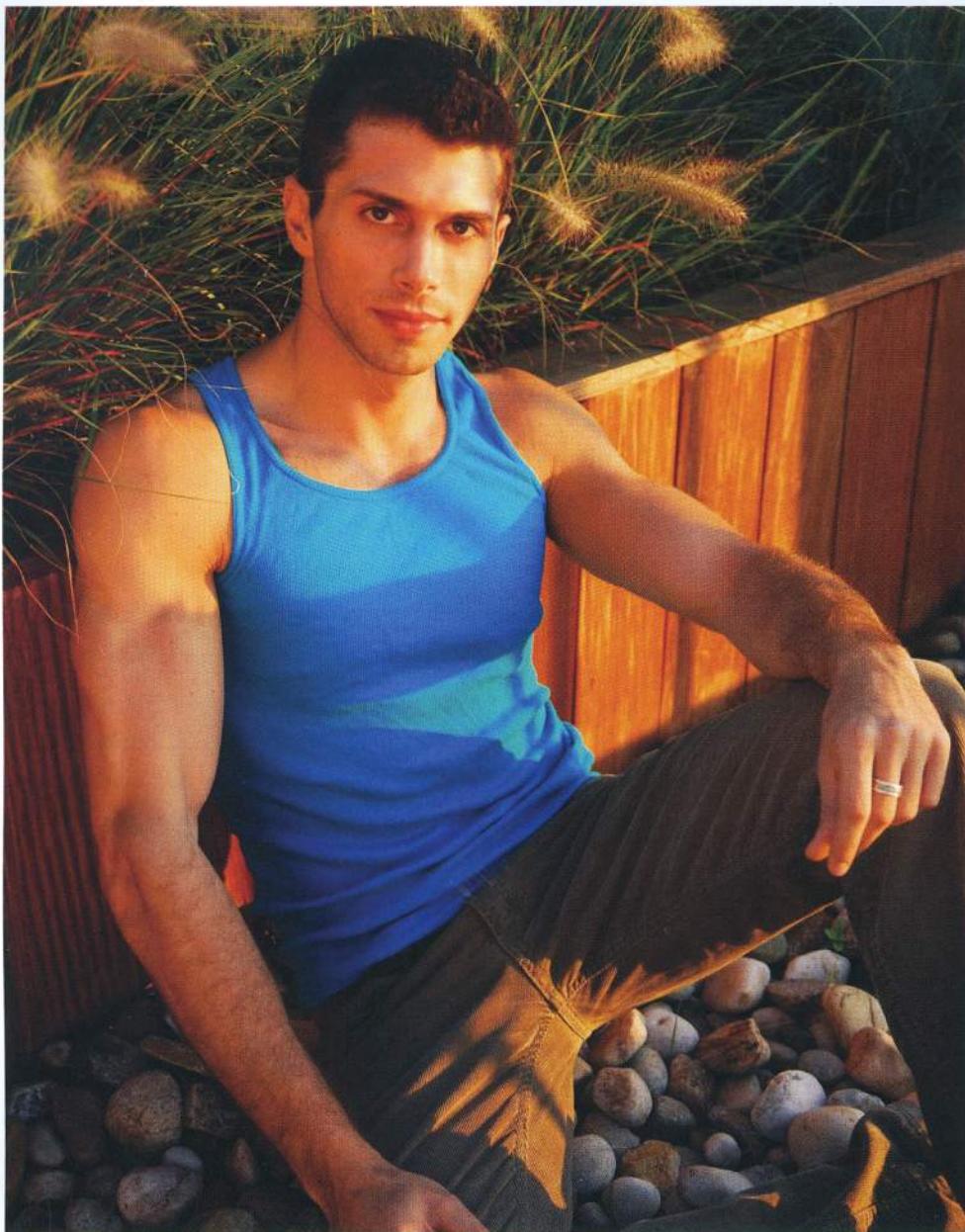
JDL: When you arrive at the courthouse, you have to sit through this Hallmark-meets-Department of Homeland Security video about how lucky you are to be a juror and how honored you should feel to be a free American in the best legal system in the world. I was so onboard with being a juror until I saw that.

It occurred to me that I'm expected to pay 100% of my taxes and give 100% of myself, when I only receive 67% of the laws in return. When I was summoned to the juror questioning room with 30 other strangers, we were told the generalities of the case. After that we were asked who, based upon what we heard, would harbor reservations or lack impartiality. That's when I made the statement that has changed my life. This was the ultimate example of going with your gut. I never set out to be an activist. Like I said on MSNBC, I'm just a young gay man who saw some inequality in the state and nation and said what was in my heart when I was asked by the judge for total candor. I sat for two full days of juror questioning, and when it was my turn, I simply answered, "I can't possibly be an impartial judge of a citizen when I am considered a second-class one in the eyes of this justice system."

RR: Why do you think it was important for you to literally stand up for what you believe in?

JDL: We can't sit around waiting for someone else to speak up for an injustice that affects all of us. If your heart feels so strongly about something, let it out!

Some might say that a courtroom isn't the ideal setting for making a fuss, but to them I say: There's no such thing as a wrong place to speak out for equality. I don't think I was aware of just how essential it is for each of us to speak up, and to do so now. What has really touched me are the notes from small-town America. Gay men and women who live lives of quiet desperation, believing that they are so completely alone where they live and that no one has their back until they hear or read stories like mine. Also, people in other countries where gay rights are so far ahead of the U.S. and how they can't believe that such a superpower is in the dark ages when it comes to human rights.



Their comments have meant so much to me. I just hope that the feedback I received is also being emailed to our leaders so they can see how desperately the people want change.

RR: What was the reaction from the gay and straight communities?

JDL: The best thing that has come of this whole situation is that people are talking about the issue. It's so easy to get a room full of like-minded, gay-friendly people to agree that something should be done. However, it's those

on the other side, the ones that either know

nothing about it or are so set in their ways that our lifestyle and our love is wrong, that are now talking about the basic humanity behind the issue that matters. As long as there is a dialogue the issue can't be ignored.

In the actual jury room, there were a mix of responses from applauding and high-fives to snickers and eye-rolls. I was so proud to have shared my feelings with that jury room. When we were ultimately excused, people stopped me in the hallway to learn more about how unequal LGBT citizens really are. It's amazing how few people realize so much inequality exists.

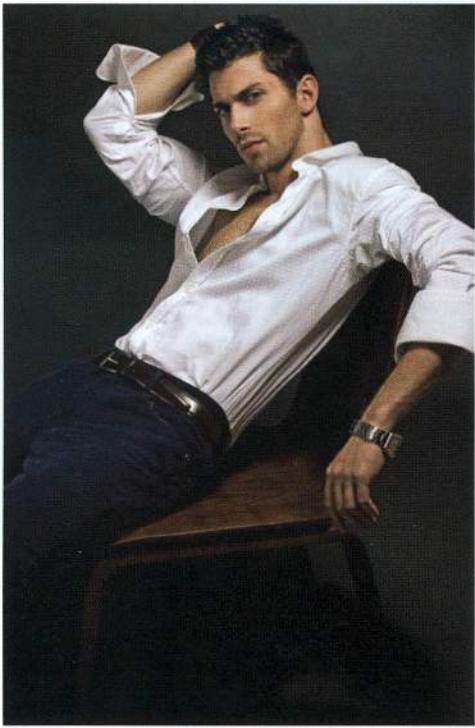
RR: How has this "event" changed your life?

JDL: That day started out like any other: coffee, gym, and Facebook. The last thing I expected to do that day was to become, as OUT Magazine has dubbed me, an 'Accidental Advocate.' As a political junkie, I was so excited to serve as a juror for the first time and be a part of the system at work. I thought this would be a fun chance to see *Law and Order* in action rather than on my couch with take-out food. I had no idea that within a week my life would change and I'd add 'gay rights advocate' to my list of career titles. I've said from the first minute this happened that we have our civic responsibilities and we should never look to get out of them, but that it's up to us to say how we feel when asked, and we don't have to do it quietly. Hopefully, I was able to get one person in the courtroom to think differently. I am glad to see a big future ahead of me as both an entertainer and an advocate for our community.

RR: How do you feel the perception of being "gay" has changed in your lifetime?

JDL: As one of my favorite musicals, *La Cage Aux Folles*, says, 'the best of times is now!' And it really is. Every year we edge closer and closer to equality. The more time I spend working with organizations that fight for national change, like Freedom to Marry or GLAAD, I realize that it's the small, local victories that change the hearts and minds and make changes to national policy possible. I am so grateful to be part of the new crop of highly visible, 'out' performers on television, showing America that we're just the same as everyone you know and that the myths and misconceptions spread by our parents' generation can be smashed by a little compassion and understanding.

RR: Do you think we will see equality in our



lifetime?

JDL: It's no longer a matter of 'if', but 'when.' I am so excited that my nieces and nephews will grow up in an age where sexuality isn't a dirty word used to marginalize a group of people any more than we've seen racism and sexism fade over the decades. We may be a minority, but we are quite the vocal minority and the gay community won't rest until we're as equal as our neighbors. It's up to each of us to keep our elected officials accountable to the community that elected them and remember that pride rallies and celebrity endorsements don't bring change — votes do! It's in our power to bring about equality in our lifetime, and I KNOW we will make it happen!

RR: I love your new show, Set Up Squad! What made want to help singles out of their comfort zone to discover love or the potential?

JDL: Having been in the trenches myself and experienced how difficult finding love can be in the gay community, I was so thrilled when offered the chance to join the team and help singles who need a little help with their 'game' to find the man/woman of their dreams.

As you know, *Setup Squad* follows an incredible dating agency in New York City called Wings Inc. Our boss, Renee, is the "Charlie" to four very fierce angels who get sent out to fix New York's very undatable (gay, straight, male, female, and everything in between). What's great about our show versus other dating/makeover shows is that we actually get to the root of your issues — we don't just give you the new outfit and say, "Look, you're pretty! Go date now." All it takes is a little tweaking in the confidence department and anyone can be on the path to love!

RR: What lead you to appear on the show?

JDL: I feel like I've been playing this role my entire life. When Renee was looking to expand her business and hire a team of wingmen to help her clients, I knew I'd be a perfect fit. We were introduced and hit it off so wonderfully. Who wouldn't love working for a yentah like Renee? I'm the perfect mix of your friendly younger brother and tough-love drill sergeant. I know what it takes to get you to the top of your dating game and bring your inner sexy back. Working for LOGO has been such a dream — and I hope it's only the beginning of my career on TV and film.

RR: How has the show impacted your life and the lives of those around you?

JDL: The show has changed my life in every conceivable way, and all for the best. I feel like the luckiest guy in the world that I am living my dream of entertaining while also helping people. How awesome is it that I get to help people find love and also get to be a role model and advocate for the gay community? I am truly blessed to be asked to travel the country and speak at Pride events, colleges, and LGBT centers about issues ranging from fighting for equality to the presence of 'out' stars on TV and

film. My friends and family are so incredibly supportive, and nothing means more than being stopped on the street by a total stranger who says, "Thanks for doing something for our community." That's the best kind of stardom.

RR: Do people come up to you in public and ask for help or assistance?

JDL: All the time — and I love it! Now that *Setup Squad* is all over the airwaves and online, I receive so many incredible notes from fans saying how the show gives them hope and courage to come out and actually pursue relationships. I try to post as many of those to my Facebook and Twitter pages to let people know how much those messages mean to me and with the hope that others will read them and feel inspired to follow their heart.

RR: You are the go-to-guy for confidence on the show, how do you personally maintain confidence?

JDL: I love being the official confidence booster and go-to-guy for the positive approach. Most of my clients have all the skills they need, but are so wrapped-up in a shell of insecurity that keeps them from being their best, truest self. Once I chip that away, nothing stands in their way.

RR: What's next on the horizon for you?

JDL: I feel like every day of this journey on TV and on stage is such a blessing and I never want to take a moment of it for granted. I hope and pray that there is a lot more performing on the horizon but I am also embracing my newfound role as advocate and spokesperson for the causes that mean the most to me. I want to be one of those actors who uses the gift of being in the public eye to help as many people as possible. I hope this is only the beginning!



State of Marriage in 2011 Love, Mom

By: Jessica Arent

The summer of 1967 is best known for the Summer of Love, but what you may not know is that this movement of peace, harmony and free love opened the floodgates for the Gay Community to come out, and live in like-minded communities. This marked the birth of 'The Castro District.'

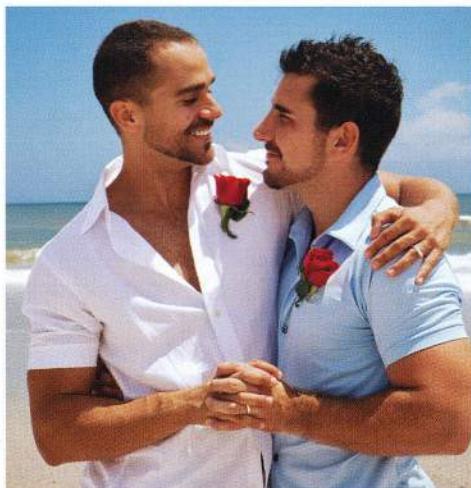
In 1973, Harvey Milk, probably the most infamous resident of the neighborhood to date, opened a camera store, and began political involvement as a gay activist. Milk, an American politician who became the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California, when he won a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, a chair he occupied for only 11 months, On November 27, 1978, Milk and Mayor George Moscone were assassinated by Dan White, another city supervisor who had recently resigned but wanted his job back. Milk's election was made possible by and was a key component of a shift in San Francisco politics. This was the year I turned 10, and I began to understand what being gay meant. Born and raised in the heart of San Francisco, The Castro was on my back

doorstep, and never before this had I thought anything wrong with two men, or two women holding hands and kissing openly on the street. In fact, I viewed the same partnership as normal.

Today the topics of same-sex unions are near and dear to my heart for an entirely new reason. My son is gay. I believe in and champion for the right to live your life in genuine authenticity of who you are, and recognize that if I don't advocate for this right, my child will not have the same amazing, breathtaking moments full of real love, and

unconditional love that his sister or brother have. Something we, of the straight persuasion take for granted, is hard earned for the LGBT community, and lacks assurances and security, even today. I am selfish in this endeavor, as I champion for the rights of my child and the possibility of one day having my dining table populated by happily married children and grandchildren.

For the past decade in particular the topic of same-sex marriage has been a hot button for the politics of the United States, creating competitive legislation, legal recourse, and ballot initiatives. The heated debates continue to flame the passionate cries of both sides of the campaign, spurning on religious groups and dissecting them for the side of the equation they stand on. The strife of the ages continues to rage on, as expected among the religious leaders of the world, let's face it, some arguments will never end, and just as the debate of who is holier, or what land belongs to whom, so too will the argument continue on the right to marry your partner.



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This past February saw a monumental, if not historical, moment, when President Obama directed the Justice Department to cease defending the Defense of Marriage Act. In 1996, DOMA, Defense of Marriage Act, barred Federal recognition of the same-sex marriage. President Obama's position and declaration in February challenged the act as unconstitutional. While the legality of the unions as they apply state to state, are championed and revoked, the President's decision seemed to only garner mild opposition and backlash from the Republicans seeking his succession in 2012. These Republicans made plans to intervene, seeking that Congress be made party to the suit.

Supporters of the same-sex union argue that marriage is an expression of love and commitment and view anything less as a lack of credibility or value in society. The weight of the matter seems to hinge not just on legality of the union, but on the basic rights this country offers the married couple. Thus, fundamental life events, such as loss of one's partner to death, for example, do not entitle the survivor to any

benefits. The other end of the argument will contend that the right to marry cheapens or undermines the institution of marriage. I personally fail to see the lack of significance in my healthy, loving marriage should my child marry his eventual same-sex partner!

In March 2010, Washington, D.C. became the sixth state in the U.S. to recognize legal same-sex marriages. The other five states to date, Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Hawaii, and Vermont, also issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Interesting to note, the home state to the first recognized gay mecca, California, ruled in 2008 that a law prohibiting gay marriage was unconstitutional. In a referendum that November, ballot measure "Proposition 8" passed restoring the ban. Proposition 8 withstood a challenge in the state Supreme Court, which upheld the ban while allowing the marriages performed before taking effect to stand. A federal judge, in August 2010, found it unconstitutional, and again the ban ceased to have effect on Aug. 18, 2010.

In 2009, Maine approved a bill allowing gay marriage, while voters rejected the bill at the polls in November, in December the New York State Senate voted down a proposal to legalize same-sex marriage, following a year of lobbying by gay rights organizations. These same organizations banked close to \$1 million into New York legislative races in effort to leverage the numbers in support of the measure.

In July 2010, the Defense of Marriage Act was ruled unconstitutional by a federal judge in Massachusetts, who found that gay and lesbian couples deserve the same federal benefits as heterosexual couples.

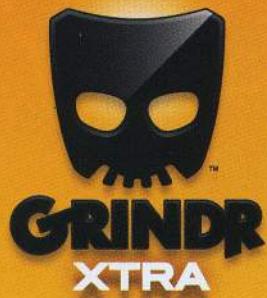
2011 is and continues to be a historical year. Marriage equality and the fundamental

rights of the community labeled as "LGBT" is the final frontier in civil rights and equality and comes with it the marked change in the general consensus about that which we deem socially acceptable and what the future generations of this community stands to gain in full acceptance in a world far better prepared to exhibit human compassion and acceptance.

Though the United States has a long way to go with regard to the legalities of the unions, we stand with pride on the threshold of a mass movement and change so extraordinary, that to comprehend and understand the full impact of this powerful change occurring will only begin to present itself with time and the passing generations.

When I look at my son, I am filled with a pride that runs so very deep that there are no words to expound. It is because he is real; he is genuine and knows who he is at a very fundamental core, whereas so many of my own peers, are still searching, both gay and straight. He is strong and he is passionate about life, and his love of life is contagious. I am filled with pride for his ability to be a leader, and stand up for his rights, and I will never relent in the pursuit of his right to live his life just as I do. I will help him plan his dream wedding some day to a very lucky man, I will champion for the generations at the holiday tables in the years to come and it is my dream that his friends and those like him find 'home' in my house where they might not find it elsewhere for whatever reason. Chase's capacity for love, forgiveness and tolerance to those who do not understand him is testament that we are all created equal and none so different from another, and as such, living in full equality should not be such an issue; it is not a privilege — it is A RIGHT.

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HEALTHCARE SERVICES AT THE NEW CLINIC

- Primary Care
- STD Screening & Treatment
- Psychiatry & Counseling
- Dental Services
- Nutrition Counseling
- Pediatrics
- LGBT Specialty Care
- Frost Eye Clinic
- HIV Specialty Care
- Social Services
- HIV Testing & Prevention
- Body Positive Wellness
- Family Planning
- On-site Pharmacy

Houston, Meet your 2011 LGBT Pride Celebration Grand Marshals

By: Ryan Rice



Tammi Wallace
Female Grand Marshal



Judy & Duane Roland
Honorary Grand Marshals



Bryan Hlavinka
Male Grand Marshal



"Your Queer Home in Houston"

**GLBT Community Center
Organization Grand Marshal**

Perhaps one of the biggest honors of the entire Pride Celebration is that of being chosen Grand Marshal. Houston's Pride Grand Marshals are the public emissaries of all things Pride. They represent the passionate and diverse mix of individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the LGBT community throughout the year and are far more than just ceremonial residents. They are leaders, advocates, activists and, most importantly, heroes. They are heroes to every person that has ever felt the sting of discrimination or sadness of wanting to "belong" or fit in somewhere. They are role models to LGBT youth who long for someone positive to emulate. Each Grand Marshal stands out for their individual contributions, but collectively they represent the love, diversity and compassion that make the LGBT community special to many of us.

Serving as Male Grand Marshal is Bryan Hlavinka, a native Houstonian who has been actively involved in the Houston LGBT scene since 1997, when he became involved in the Bayou City Boys Club. Bryan has been integral in the formation of the Houston World

AIDS Day Committee and has been advocating for the Center for AIDS since 2008, currently serving as chairman of the organization's board of directors. For more than two years Bryan has been co-hosting the KPFT radio show *Queer Voices*, leading him to be named "Favorite Radio Personality" for 2010 by OutSmart Magazine. After serving on the finance committee for Mayor Annise Parker's election campaign, Hlavinka was asked to join the national Campaign Board of the Victory Fund in 2010 and was elected Southern Caucus Chair in 2011. Bryan currently oversees the progress of its initiatives in 11 states.

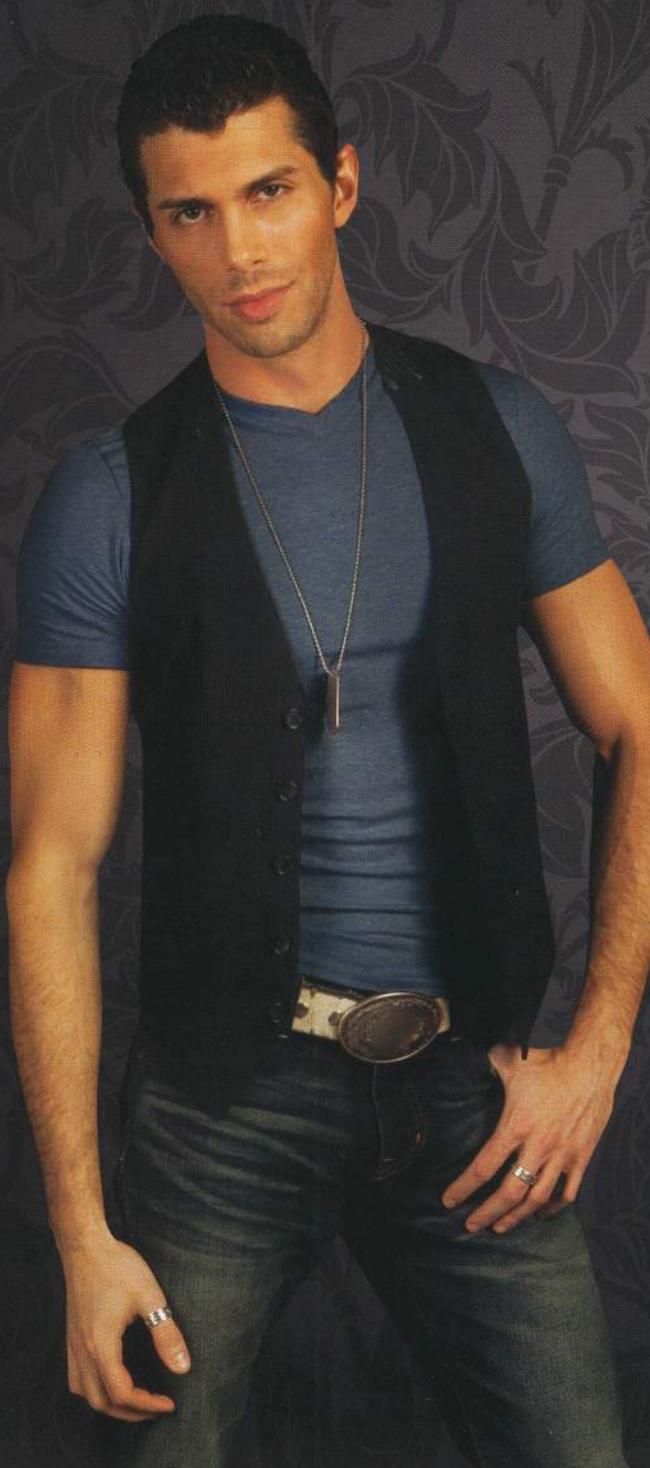
Serving as Female Grand Marshal is Tammi Wallace, who has been a proud Houstonian for more than 25 years, living in Montrose with her partner Mercedes. An advocate since coming out, Tammi led the project "Equality Knocks" in 2004, and in 2005, she became a founding member and the executive director for the Houston Equal Rights Alliance. During her tenure as HERA's executive director, Tammi focused on building key relationships with groups like Equality Texas, Houston GLBT Political

Caucus, Human Rights Campaign, Houston Transgender Unity Committee and many more. She has also served two terms on the board for the Houston GLBT Political Caucus, including roles as vice president and chair of the Marketing & Public Relations Committee, and has served on the Equality Texas Catalyst Committee to assist the organization with strategic planning. She is a board member for the Hollyfield Foundation and recently served as the Chief of Staff for Texas State Representative Ellen Cohen.

Serving as Honorary Grand Marshals for 2011 are Judy and Duane Roland, proud parents of three sons, five grandchildren and six great grandchildren. These high school sweethearts truly embody this year's theme **LIVE. LOVE. BE.** After 65 years of living in the Midwest, they moved to Houston in 2005 to be closer to their gay sons — Brian and Eric. The devoted parents started attending PFLAG meetings to show their support for their sons, their partners and the LGBT community. Both actively represent PFLAG at events throughout the city and have participated in many marriage ceremonies, rallies, candlelight vigils and other



PRIDE HOUSTON



your guide to the
2011 houston lgbt
pride celebration

**OPENING
CEREMONIES**

JONES PLAZA
JUNE 18, 5:30 TO 7 P.M.

**DIVAS OF
DIVERSITY**

THE HOUSTON CLUB
JUNE 19, 7:30 P.M.

COCKTAIL SOCIAL

SURPRISE VENUE
JUNE 21, 8 TO 10 P.M.

DINE WITH PRIDE

CHELSEA GRILL
JUNE 22, ALL DAY!

PRIDE SUPERSTAR

METEOR LOUNGE
JUNE 23, 10 P.M. TO 2 A.M.

ROCK THE RUNWAY

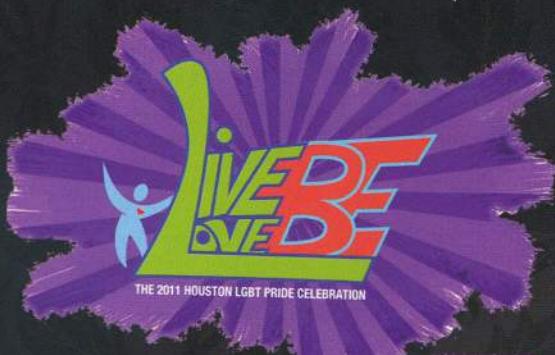
SOUTHBEACH NIGHTCLUB
JUNE 24, 9 P.M.

**2011 LGBT PRIDE
FESTIVAL**

WESTHEIMER DR.
JUNE 25, 1 TO 7 P.M.

**2011 LGBT PRIDE
PARADE**

WESTHEIMER DR.
JUNE 25, 8:15 TO 11 P.M.



www.houstonpride.org

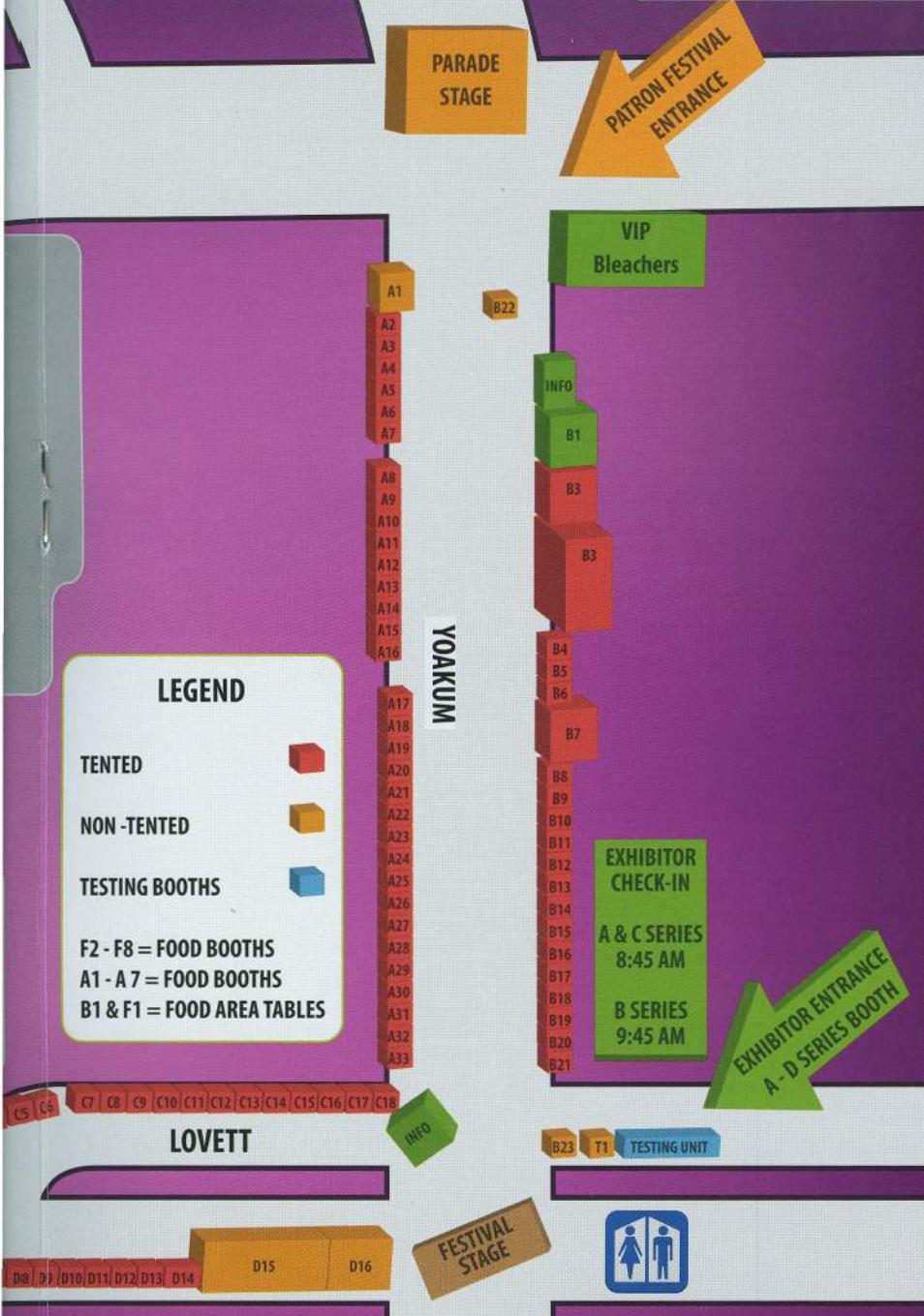
Organization

Cocobongos
 Pride San Antonio Inc.
 Bering Memorial United Methodist Church
 Renewal by Andersen
 Organizing for America - Texas
 Nationwide Insurance
 Gay Lesbian Ypages
 Green Mountain Energy Company
 Recycle 4U
 UCC ONA Churches of Greater Houston
 Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund
 Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church
 My Gay Houston
 Houston Museum of Natural Science
 Hangar 23 Brand
 Houston Outdoor group
 Grace Assembly Church
 Strongest Link
 Phoenicia Food
 Republic Tequila
 HEB
 Cumulus Radio
 Orion's Water Ice
 Magnolia Sliders
 Grand Draping and Lighting
 B's Roasted Corn
 IKAL 1150
 Healing Out Loud
 Elitecare 24 Hour Emergency Center
 American Laser Skincare
 AARP Texas
 GLSEN Houston
 (Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network)
 Out & Equal Houston
 KREWE OF OLYMPUS, TEXAS-INC.
 Fort Bend LGBT Political Caucus
 ERSICSS
 Covenant Church
 AIDS Foundation Houston
 The Dow Chemical Company
 United Airlines
 OutSmart Magazine
 Momentum Audi
 Houston ARCH
 Legacy Community Health Services

Booth

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Baylor College of Medicine	B6
Walgreens	B7
Bering Omega Community Services	B8
American Cancer Society	B9
Human Rights Campaign	C1
Independent Adoption Center	C12
Texas Freedom Network	C13
Houston GLBT Political Caucus	C14
Houston Community College	C15
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH	C16
Human Rights Campaign	C2
Silverleaf Resorts	C7
Cornerstone Fellowship Church	C8
Bayou City Performing Arts	D1
Frito Lay	D10
Best Buy Stores - PRIDE Houston	D11
Houston Gaymers	D13
Pride Houston	D14
Houston Dynamo	D15
Lesbian Health Initiative of Houston	D2
Ryan White Planning Council	D3
The Pet Patrol	D4
Texas Gay-Straight Alliance Network	D5
European Body Art	D6
Passion Parties by Dustinie	D8
Silver Eagle Distributors	E1, B23
Stars & Spikes Jewelry	E10
Montrose Counseling Center	E12
Katine & Nechman LLP	E13
Sierra Club	E14
Amnesty International, Group 23	E15
Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty	E16
New Dynasty Dept Store	E17
E. Bailey Moore State Farm Insurance	E18
Kreations A Family Affair	E5
2 Celtic Lassies	E6
Eric Dick for Houston	E7
Toes N Things	E8
Nichiren Buddhist Sangha of Texas/	E9
Myoken-ji Temple	
Texas Snow Storm	F2
JK	F3
Silverleaf Resorts	F3
Glacier Girls Shaved Ice	F7
Lee's Fine Foods	F8

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KetelOne®
 VODKA



2011 PRIDE PARADE STARTS AT 8:15 P.M.

Pride Houston has been said to be "one of the Top 10 events to attend in Houston for 2011" by the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau. 2011 marks the 33rd anniversary of the Pride Houston LGBT Celebration.

The LGBT Pride Parade was the first Pride Parade in the United States to be held at night. In 2011, this historic event will be held on Saturday, June 25, beginning at 8:15 p.m. along Westheimer in the Montrose District. According to public estimates, the Parade draws over 150,000 spectators, making it the second largest parade in Houston, and the largest gathering of LGBT individuals in the southern United States. Don't miss your chance to see Jonathan D. Lovitz, and the rest of our Grand Marshals in the parade!

The LGBT Pride Parade features a Pre-Parade show that starts at 7 p.m. along Westheimer at Waugh. The show will feature entertainment to kick off the parade. The Pre-Parade Show is free to attend.



PARADE ENTRIES

American Cancer Society
Asians and Friends – Houston
Avondale Association
BP Pride
Baylor College of Medicine
HVTN-505
Bayou City Boys Club, Inc
Bayou City Performing Arts
Bering Memorial United
Methodist Church
Bering Omega Community
Services
Best Buy Stores - Houston
BP Pride
Bud Light
Bunnies on the Bayou, Inc.
Carnes Dancing Queen Bus
Classic Chassis Car Club
Houston
Charles Armstrong Investments
Cloud 9 Express
Community Gospel Church
Congressman Al Green
Congresswoman Sheila Jackson
Lee
Covenant Church, an Ecumenical
Liberal Baptist Congregation

Cumulus Radio
Dagos tattoos
David Robinson for City Council
Diageo – Ketel One, Smirnoff,
Ciroc, Rokk Vodkas
EliteCare 24 Hour Emergency
Center
Ellen Cohen for City Council
Eric Dick for Houston
F-Bar
Guava Lamp / Vue Nightclub
Gay Lesbian Ypages
Gay and Lesbian Latin
Organization
GLBT Pagan Pride
GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight
Education Network) Houston
Grace Assembly Church
Grace Lutheran Church
Grady Castleberry for Harris
County Constable Pct 1
Grand Marnier
Houston Chronicle, 29 – 95
Harris County Democratic Party
Harris County Green Party
HATCH

Houston Department of Health &
Human Services
Houston Fire Department
Houston Humane Society
Houston Police Department
Houston Pride Band
Houston PRIDE Chapter for J P
Morgan Chase Bank
Houston Unitarian Universalist
Network
Human Rights Campaign
IKEA Houston
Independent Adoption Center
Integrity Houston
Jenifer Rene Pool Campaign
Jenni's Noodle House
Katine & Nechman LLP
KIAH-TV, CW39
KPFT Radio 90.1 FM
Krewe of Olympus, Texas – Inc
Lambda Center Houston
Legacy Community Health
Services
Lesbians Over Age Fifty
LGBT Employees At NASA
Lone Star College System

MD Anderson Cancer Center
Macy's South Central Region
Meteor, South Beach, Jr's,
Mining Company,
Montrose Counseling Center
Montrose Motorcycle
Riding Club
New Covenant More Light
Noel Furniture
PFLAG Houston
Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast
Pride EMS LLC
Resurrection Metropolitan
Community Church
SEAShell Employee Network
(Shell Oil Company)
Soka Gakkai International
TGRA Houston Chapter
The Diana Foundation
The Houston Transgender Unity
Committee
Tony's Corner Pocket
United Airlines
University of Houston LGBT
Resource Center
Wells Fargo

demonstrations, all with the goal of celebrating diversity and helping to educate others about LGBT rights and equality.

And last, but certainly not least, the Houston GLBT Community Center is serving as this year's Community Organization Grand Marshal. Since opening their doors in 1996, the Center has served as a home base for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their allies in the Houston metropolitan area and throughout southeast Texas. Founded by a group of dedicated activists, the Center serves the community by providing programs and activities in the areas of art and culture; collaborations with community organizations; education and public policy; support groups/ leadership development; and information resources. The Center provides numerous programs that serve a variety of needs in the community, while also providing meeting and office space for additional community organizations. Located in Houston's Old Sixth Ward Historic District, the Center is a safe haven for all that enter and, for some, may be the only place where they can truly be themselves.

I was very excited to sit down and talk with the 2011 Pride Grand Marshals. I have to say that I have never felt more proud of who I



Male Grand Marshal Bryan Hlavinka co-hosting an interview on Queer Voices. Don't miss it Monday evenings at 9 p.m. on KPFT 90.1 FM.

am and the community I am a part of. These are amazing individuals who quietly work behind the scenes to make life easier for me, and the countless generations of gay Houstonians to follow. They don't seek credit; they seek equality and justice for all. They spend their nights and weekends educating and supporting others through countless events and activities while many of us go about our daily lives unaware of their commitment to making our city a better place for all who reside here, no matter what. Here is what these heroes have to say about Pride and about Houston's LGBT community.

Ryan Rice: What does the word "Pride" mean to each of you?

Lesa Jackson and Carolyn Anderson, GLBT Community Center: Pride, to me, means celebrating equality for all. Pride is giving recognition to the total community ... gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered and gives us that opportunity to show our pride in our city, in our community and in ourselves.

Tammi Wallace: Pride means celebrating how far we have come in terms of a movement for full equality and seeing and embracing the vision for what lies ahead for us as a community. And, that we will need to work towards that vision until we reach that day where we are no longer treated like second-class citizens in every aspect of our lives — family, careers, and community.

Bryan Hlavinka: It's a celebration but it's also the one time of the year that all segments of our community can come together and celebrate it in mass. It's a coming together and unity.

Judy and Duane Roland: We are very proud to be a part of this community and to celebrate Pride with the LGBT community and our two



Honorary Grand Marshals Judy and Duane Roland, parents to two gay sons and grandparents to a lesbian granddaughter are active in Houston's LGBT community.

gay sons, and our lesbian granddaughter who will be coming to the parade this year for the first time. She has never had the opportunity to do anything like this. We are from a small town and she still lives there, so this is a whole new world to her and I think she is just going to be thrilled. We are so happy and proud that we can be a part of that with her.

Tim Brookover, GLBT Community Center: The ability to be ourselves and celebrate as ourselves as a family of LGBT people, and our allies. That means different things to different people. To some it means wearing a suit, a dress or barely anything, to some it's a party, to some it's a celebration of years of hard work and dedication to fighting for equality, but it is the one time of the year when we all gather to celebrate the ability to be who we truly are.

RR: What is your favorite thing about Houston's GLBT Community?

JR: The diversity and the passion of all involved.



The Hollyfield Foundation

HUMAN RIGHTS • AIDS ADVOCACY

The Hollyfield Foundation congratulates **Tammi Wallace** on being selected as a **Grand Marshal** of the 2011 Houston Pride Parade. Her tireless, selfless efforts promoting equality for Houston's GLBT community have earned her this recognition, and The Hollyfield Foundation is honored to have her on its Board of Directors.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The Hollyfield Foundation fosters and protects individual rights and freedoms by providing direct and indirect funding to qualifying 501(c)3 organizations that work to prevent discrimination, educate and secure equal rights for sexual minorities and assist in health care issues for the community.

Letters of intent for the fall grant cycle are available at www.hollyfield.org and are due by August 31.

713/523-6900 | www.hollyfield.org

CA: From my perspective, being involved in Houston's GLBT community, I see this community as more understanding and accepting than other segments of our population, reaching out to you with open arms, where others will turn you away. While we still face exclusions in life, our LGBT community is inclusive of all who want to be a part of it.

TB: I think we have some tremendous diversity in our community. The diversity is in the incredible range of organizations and services that address many needs and many causes, as well as in ages, cultures and socioeconomic statuses. There is still much work to do in those areas, we're not a perfect community, we're an American community and our city is better than it used to be and will hopefully continue to be a better place for all who want to call it home.

BH: I like the variety, or rainbow of organizations, that serve every need. I like most how our community comes together in times of

strife. When there is something coming against our community or opposing us, our community comes together in a big way. Whether we were faced with the AIDS crisis, the 1991 murder of Paul Broussard or voicing our opinion on the right to marry after Prop 8 was passed in California, we always come together to rally for justice and equality for all. Most recently, we came together to help elect the first openly gay mayor in a major metropolitan city in the U.S. I love when people say "Houston? A lesbian mayor? Really?" I always say "YES" with a big smile.

TW: The LGBT community in Houston is much like the larger community in Houston. And I LOVE this city! It's full of people with can-do attitudes who give back in an effort to make it a better community. Take for example some of the incredible organizations doing great work in our community such as the Lesbian Health Initiative, AssistHers, the Hollyfield Foundation, of which I am honored to serve as a board member, Houston GLBT Political

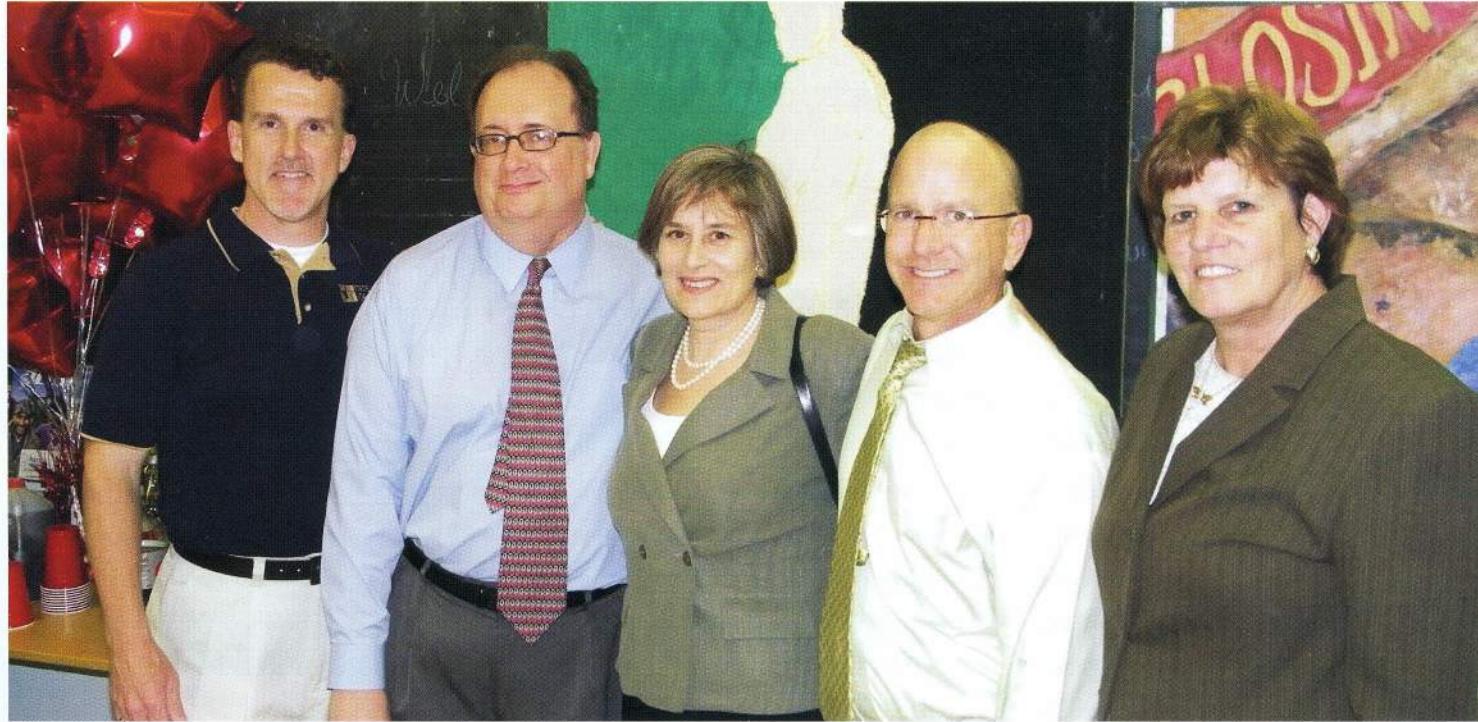
Caucus, Houston GLBT Community Center ... the list goes on and on. Because in Houston, we dig in and make things happen, support those who need help, and find a way to make it better ... that's the Houston LGBT community.

RR: What does diversity mean to you?

BH: It means the world. I think it's the goal that our community should strive for but I don't think we are there. I think we have a ways to go. Not only in terms of racism within our community, but also what I call "transphobia." There seems to be a separation of the LGB from the T. I know this because I have done my research and gotten to know and understand the trans community and get their perspective and I have seen the discrimination. I have even heard from my friends about the discrimination. I know it's out there and we need to make it a goal to embrace our community in its entirety.

TB: From the Center's perspective, diversity is the coming together of all types of people from

For the Center Fifteenth Anniversary Gala Open House on March 15, 2011, the crowd included (from left): Center treasurer Burton Bagby-Grose, current Center president Tim Brookover, Super Neighborhood 22 president Jane Cahill West, Judge Steve Kirkland, and Houston City Council Member Sue Lovell.



all walks of life and sharing life experiences and supporting one another. I agree with Bryan's response as well and would add that I think one of the biggest issues facing our community, like much of America, is the socioeconomic issue. This is not a topic we like to talk about as gay people and the media doesn't like for us to talk about it, but we are not all white, gay men who earn dual six-figure incomes and have no kids, cute dogs, a giant SUVs and a house in the Hamptons. That certainly addresses some in our community, God bless them, but that's not a representation of our community and there is a lot of poverty, unemployment, underemployment and it is a difficult problem to address. It something we need to talk about and start helping each other.

TW: Diversity is all that is and can be when we think about the individuality that exists in our world — whether gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, height, weight, cultures ... seriously the list goes on and on and on. Diversity is all of the collective aspects of our individuality and uniqueness of who we are as people.

RR: What advice would you give to young people discovering their identity?

TW: Be true to who you are and remember that you ultimately are the only person that is responsible for your happiness. I think we all spend a good deal of time early on and especially in the LGBT community, trying to live our lives so that other people are happy with us. It is in that moment of truth when you realize that you alone have the responsibility to insure your own happiness that we can really embrace who we are and as our Parade theme this year states **Live. Love. Be.** Live life to the fullest. Love from a place of true acceptance and authenticity. And be who you are ... without hesitations or reservations. Life is short.

JR: Always be true to who you are and those that love you will be there to support you.

BH: There is nothing wrong with you. Be who you are going to be and don't try to change. The campaign **It Gets Better** is true. You will get through it. Be yourself and be gay — it's okay!

LJ: There is always help. Always someone there to support you. You are never alone.



Female Grand Marshal Tammi Wallace working a press event as Chief of Staff for Ellen Cohen on Houston's City Council.

TB: You don't have to be more than you are because you are great the way you are. You are enough.

RR: Who would you like to thank or recognize for helping you to **LIVE. LOVE. BE.**?

JR: Our two sons. They have taught us so much. We have always been accepting people but I think we have learned so much from being involved in their lives. As parents you are not exposed to many of the situations facing the community and you don't understand. You have to learn it. I feel like our sons and this community has opened our eyes to so much and I only hope that we can give back half as much to the GLBT community as it has given to us.

BH: I would like to thank my partner, David Theisen. He is why I am here today. He makes me a better man. He focuses me where I would not be focused and has taught me to pick my battles and focus on the big picture.

TB: My spouse Albert Mata, who is very supportive in a different fashion. He fusses and protests and gives me guff but in the end he is always supportive and being with him has made me a much better person. In the community there are so many important heroes such as Ray Hill. Specifically in the transgendered community there have been many people that have helped open my eyes and educate me about our community like Brenda Thomas, Phyllis Fry, Sarah Rook, Lilly Roddy, Randy Williams and Melanie and Peggy Rudd.

LJ: I would like to thank Matthew Gypson and Tim Brookover for helping me get involved. I would like to thank my aunt, Betty Miller, for her encouragement and motivation throughout my life. Though she is gone now, she will always be with me. I would like to thank my daughters Dominic and Natalie. No matter what has happened in my life, they have always supported me. I would also like to thank my love, Ms. Carolyn Anderson, because she is by my side no matter what. She is my second half. I am happy to say April 28, 2012, we are planning to have our own Union Ceremony.

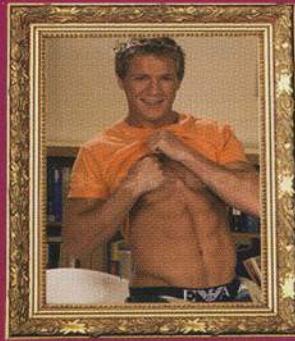
On behalf of LGBT people everywhere I would like to thank each of the 2011 Pride Celebration Grand Marshals. May their dedication and leadership serve as an example of the power we all possess to help others and work toward accepting and loving each person we meet, regardless of who they may be. Let's remember to join together as a community to celebrate our Pride and, most importantly, let's all remember to **LIVE. LOVE. BE.!**

**SATURDAY,
JUNE 25TH 2011**

**THE OFFICIAL
PRIDE HOUSTON
GAY (GLBT)
PRIDE PARADE
AFTER PARTY**

South Beach is a very proud sponsor of the
Houston LGBT Pride Celebration & home of the
Official Pride Parade After Party

DJ RILEY (Chicago) will be playing all the current Pop, Top 40 & Dance Videos from opening and into the extended after hours of 5am. DJ Riley is well known for his very own produced one-of-a kind videos.

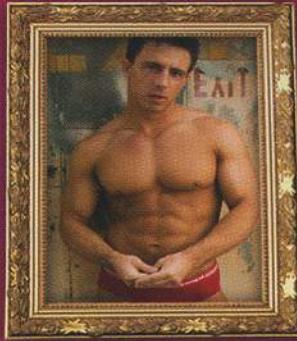


**BUCKSHOT
EXCLUSIVE**

Adult Video Stars:

Gavin Waters & Reese Rideout

appear live at 1:00am followed by an autograph party & photo shoot. Meet the boys after the show and receive a free autograph or have your photo taken with them for a \$5 donation to a local nonprofit organization.



**2009 MAN OF
THE YEAR**

LIVE SHOW AT 1:00AM

\$15 in advance / \$20 at the door. Available at South Beach, JR's Bar & Grill, Meteor, Male Uwear and Hollywood Super Center.

18+ to party / 21+ to drink

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Move Over YouTube. It's Time to Make it Better

By: Beau Heyen

Glee's outspoken and outrageously-dressed Kurt Hummel. Talk show host and Cover Girl Ellen DeGeneres. Modern Family's happy gay couple Mitchell and Cameron. Cher's bold son Chaz Bono.

Positive gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender role models are more prevalent than they were ten years ago. Beyond the creations of media and entertainment outlets, recent surges in openly gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied people have stepped up to share their story of hope and survival to a new generation of young people ready to open the door and take their first step out into a brave new world.

Leading the way, the "It Gets Better" Project has provided an outlet for more than 10,000 videos from celebrities, organizations,

activists, politicians and media personalities, including President Barack Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Adam Lambert, Anne Hathaway, Colin Farrell, Joel Madden, Ke\$ha, Sarah Silverman, Tim Gunn, Ellen DeGeneres, Suze Orman, the staffs of the Gap, Google, Facebook, Pixar, the Broadway community, and many more. Supporting grassroots organizations and projects dedicated to helping LGBT youth find a hopeful future; the "It Gets Better" Project raised more than \$100,000 between September and December 2010.

The Trevor Project, one benefactor of the It Gets Better Project, provides a nationwide, 24/7 crisis intervention lifeline to LGBT youth who contemplate suicide. Through the It Gets Better Project outreach, The Trevor Project's call load has increased 50% since September.

Another benefactor of the "It Gets Better" Project, GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, is a national education organization working to ensure safe schools for all students, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. GLSEN works to protect students by advancing comprehensive and effective safe schools law and policies; empower principals to make their schools safe places to learn; and build the skills of educators to teach respect for all people.

Closer to home, after Amy and David Truong of Houston lost their son, Asher Brown, eight months ago to bullying-related suicide. The couple, along with Equality Texas and several legislators, became strong advocates for the passing of anti-bullying and public health legislation.

"It was a promise I made to Asher the day that he died before his little body left this house," Amy Truong stated in a recent Equality Texas email.

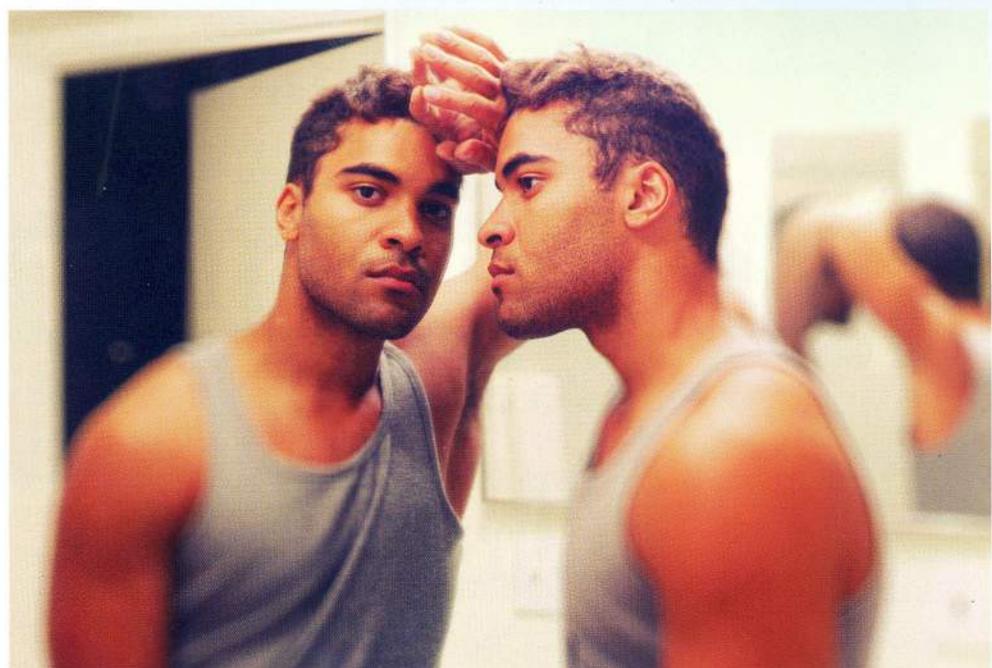
"I told him that I would never stop fighting until we did something to change this," David said, "We'll never let this happen to any other family."

State advocacy group Equality Texas has made anti-bullying legislation its top priority for this past legislative session.

Executive Director Dennis Coleman stated, "Our 2010 Equality Poll showed overwhelming public support for legislation to address the problem of bullying in schools. We were determined to focus all our efforts to provide school administrators, teachers and parents with tools to create a safe learning environment for every student."

The effort paid off with the passing of a new law that will establish a redefined bullying definition that includes bullying through electronic means and integrates awareness, prevention, identification, and resolution of and intervention in bullying into the health curriculum. Furthermore, the new law will require local school districts to adopt and implement a bullying policy that recognizes minimum guidelines such as prohibition of bullying, providing counseling options, and establishes procedures for reporting an incidence of bullying.

Following the anti-bullying victory, public health legislation passed to provide a list of best practice-based early mental health intervention and suicide prevention programs for implementation in public elementary, junior high, middle, and high schools within the general education setting, from which each



LGBT youth of color, growing up in poverty or in rural areas are much more likely to be bullied, which is a factor in the growing teen suicide rates.

school district may select from the list a program or programs appropriate for implementation in the district.

It may seem like all the work is done, but is it?

- LGBT teens are still bullied two to three times as much as straight teens.
- LGBT teens are still 4 times as likely to attempt suicide than straight peers.
- LGBT youth of color, or those growing up in poverty or rural areas, face extra challenges through social circumstances and increased stereotyping and prejudice.

The time has come to put away the webcam, and step away from the obligatory Facebook status update dedicated to end bullying. The time has come to stop the talk and start making things better for our future generations.

The "Make It Better" Project, also connected to The Trevor Project and GLSEN, is dedicated to providing tools and resources for LGBT youth to make their schools a safer

place. Through empowering young people, the "Make It Better" Project is taking things one step further.

The project's founders state, "We aren't waiting until high school is over for our lives to get better ... We are taking action now! Join us!"

The question remains, what happens after a young person graduates? We may put a stop to school bullies, but what happens next for LGBT young adults.

Every year a new group of LGBT young adults enter the "real world" with little or no support or preparation. Aging out of programs, unable to "blend in" with traditional work cultures, LGBT young adults enter a world free from school bullies, but also free of opportunity.

Organizations like GLSEN, The Trevor Project and Houston's own HATCH are working to build important life skills for LGBT young adults,

Houston,
Your Show of Support for F Bar
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F BAR presents

ABSOLUT PRIDE

in conjunction with Houston's LGBT PRIDE CELEBRATION June 18th - 25th

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JUNE 11-25

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SOCIAL HAPPY HOUR Specials Tuesday-Saturday
One Half OFF All Liquor until 9pm and
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Our WELL Vodka is
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Every Day for Two Weeks
to celebrate Houston's
2011 LGBT PRIDE

HAPPY PRIDE HOUSTON ! from F BAR!!

The Team behind the success of Houston's newest and most
popular LGBT venue, F BAR, salutes **PRIDE HOUSTON 2011**.

In only three short months F BAR has monetarily sponsored charitable, social and sport groups
and/or provided complimentary space, staffing and innumerable amenities to assist their
worthy causes. F Bar has assisted them in raising tens of thousands of dollars and immeasurable
community awareness. Over \$10,000 in donations and sponsorship dollars have been given in
support by F BAR in that same period.

Fundraising and social events have been held for the following organizations since February
2011; AIDS Foundation Houston, Bayou City Performing Arts, Bering Omega, GLBT Community
Center, Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (HATCH), Kindred Spirits Foundation, LIVE
Consortium, Lone Star Volleyball Association, Montrose Softball League, North American Gay
Volleyball Association, Out & Equal, The Osito Foundation and The SAFE Spot.

It is F BAR's commitment to continue to give back to the community who has embraced
a vision of an elegant environment, quality service and non-discriminating welcome to all.

"Have you noticed, even our competitors are raving about us?"

Thank You Houston!

IRWIN PALCHICK
President / CEO

ALEC D'STORM
General Manager

ALEX DRISCOLL
Assistant Manager

RANDALL JOBE
Director of Events /
Public Relations

TYE BLUE
Entertainment Director

AIKE JAMAL
Art Director



LGBT youth with "highly rejecting" families are 8 times more likely to attempt suicide.

Are you ready to make things better? Getting involved is easy.

Advocate for Policy and Legislation

Organizations like Equality Texas, Human Rights Campaign and National Gay & Lesbian Task Force provide updates and

advocacy opportunities that are easy as picking up the phone, sending an email or signing an online petition.

Become a Mentor

HATCH, a Montrose Counseling Center program, is dedicated to empowering gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and questioning youth and their allies, ages 13-20, to become positive contributors to society by providing a safe social environment. Volunteers become role models, providing peer support and educational and community outreach opportunities.

Train Educators

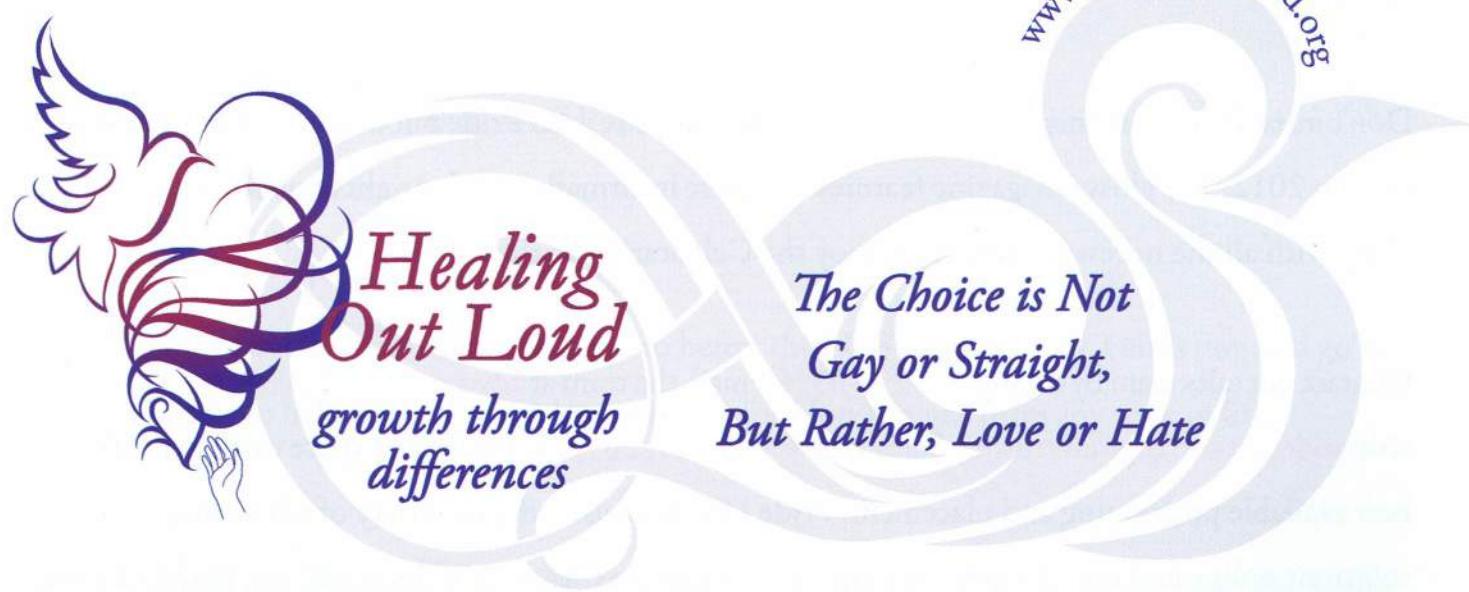
Newly established, Houston Chapter of The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network provides volunteers opportunities to train local educators, administrators, and school board members on creating safe space for students of all ages.

Volunteer

Houston has several organizations that provide resources and support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied people. Through performing arts organizations that bring social justice to the stage to political organizations that help elect LGBT and allied politicians, volunteers can help pave the way for social change.

Live Without Apology

The easiest way to make lasting change is to help individuals see that being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender is one aspect of your life, and not the sole definition. Not to say that one needs to wear a giant rainbow, but by being honest about relationships, living situations and past experiences can help a future ally gain a glimpse of the other side of being gay.



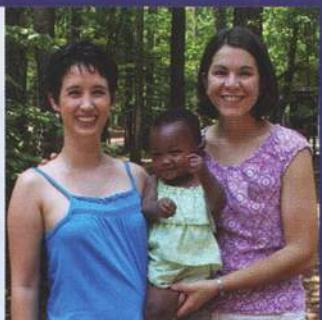
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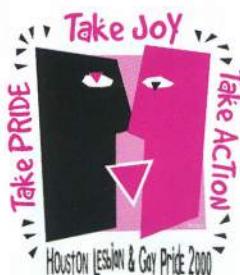
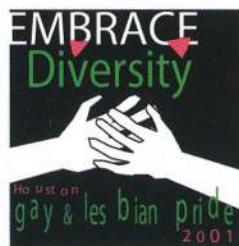
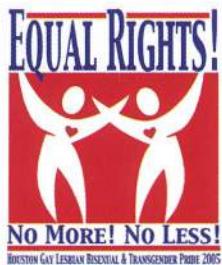
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Houston's LGBT History. A Visit to the Past.



Each June since 1979, Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Houstonians and their allies have celebrated Gay Pride. In late June, the streets of Montrose are filled with those ready to celebrate who they are and the community they are a part of while rainbow colored flags proudly soar on every street corner. But in an age where two men kissing is commonplace on network TV and we live in a city — the fourth largest in the nation — that has a lesbian mayor, how many of us really know the history and struggle that led us to celebrate and recognize Pride?

Each pride celebration in the country can be traced back to one singular set of events that occurred in New York City — the Stonewall Riots that began in June of 1969. America in the 50s and 60s was not supportive of LGBT citizens and most individuals had nowhere to turn. The Stonewall Inn in Manhattan's Greenwich Village was one of only a select few establishments in the nation that accepted — and even welcomed — openly gay patrons. It became a haven for those considered outcasts and second-class gay

citizens, a place where they could come and truly be themselves. Police raids on such establishments to rid them of anyone deemed "immoral" were commonplace in the decades following WWII and LGBT patrons had collectively grown weary of being outsiders.



The New York Police Department arrived unannounced at the Inn on the early morning of June 28, 1969 to shut it down and dismantle the entire bar. They began arranging for arrests and the closing of the bar and were met with resistance. What began as one or two hundred angry bar patrons protesting the police's use of force exponentially grew into an entire community rioting against the police department and the systematic marginalization of LGBT citizens everywhere. For two nights, rioters took to the

streets to voice their protests and out of this spontaneous rebellion, the entire LGBT rights movement was born.

Before Stonewall, life was one of hiding for a gay person, and after — drastically less so. People felt they deserved the right to be who they were and in June of 1970, the first official pride parade was held in New York City to commemorate the anniversary of the Stonewall riots and the infamous rebellion that sparked an entire community into action. Within a few years, there were LGBT community organizations in most major cities throughout the country. This led to the formation of The Montrose Gaze, the first gay community center in Houston, which opened its doors in 1972. In 1975, legendary gay activist and leader Ray Hill announced in a press conference that there would no longer be a "quiet celebration" of the Stonewall anniversary in Houston, paving the way for the city's first gay pride parade the following year.

The first parade was actually an informal march in downtown Houston

unified diversified electrified

HOUSTON LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE 1998

attracting around 400 people. While these early celebrations, organized by gay community trailblazers like Ray Hill, Phyllis Randolph Frye, Dr. Richard O'Brien, Gary Van Ooteghem, Reverend Jeri Harvey and others, were small by today's standards, their impact remains immense. In 1978, the same year Harvey Milk was assassinated, Houston had their first Gay Pride Week, held in the Astro Arena and attracting more than 3,000 people. A community began to form and essential community-based service organizations such as the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard and Montrose Counseling Center were established to meet the growing needs of the LGBT community. The first Official Houston Pride Parade was held in Montrose the following year.

During the 1980's the gay community was hit hard by the AIDS crisis facing the world. In 1981, the Montrose Clinic opened to help combat the growing HIV/AIDS crisis and LGBT citizens continued in their fight for equality. Texas became the 26th state to legalize consensual sex between two same-sex adults, which was quickly struck down by a federal court. Gay sex was again considered criminal behavior. Gay rights leaders still pushed for equality for LGBT citizens and achieved a milestone victory when Houston's City Council, lead by Councilman Anthony Hall with the support of Mayor Kathy Whitmore, passed an ordinance to prohibit discrimination in city employment based on sexual orientation. The following year, a voter referendum to repeal the ordinance passed with an overwhelming 82%. In the face of adversity, gay activists trudged ahead. All the

while, however, the parade was growing. LGBT individuals were using this event as a way to come together and form one voice every year.

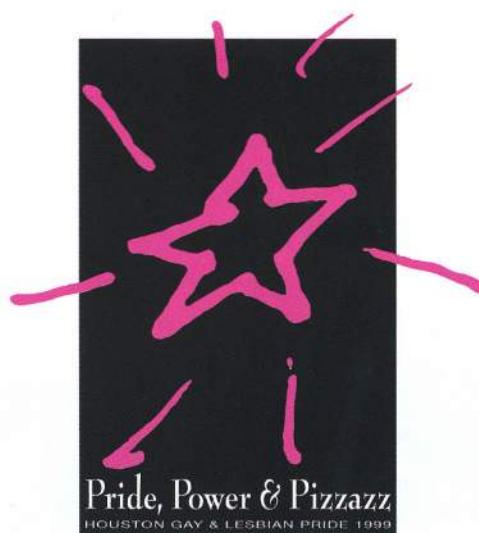
The early 90's were a dark time for Houston's LGBT residents. On July 4th, 1991, Paul Broussard, a banker from Texas A&M was murdered by ten teenagers who drove to the Montrose area with the sole intention of beating up someone who was gay. They savagely murdered him on the streets in the Montrose area and four months later Phillip W. Smith was shot and killed outside the popular club Heaven. These senseless murders caused a public outcry for the HPD to intervene and disrupt the pattern of anti-gay violence. That same year, the Q-Patrol was formed to help protect and watch over the community.

In 1992, the Pride Parade gained 501(c)3 status and officially became known as the PRIDE Committee of Houston, Inc. The parade and the weeklong set of associated events and celebrations grew in scale, as the Houston Pride event became the nation's first nighttime parade in 1997. By 1999, more

than 100,000 LGBT Houstonians and their supporters were gathered at Montrose and Westheimer to celebrate their unity and in 1998, Annise Parker made history as the first openly gay or lesbian elected official in the city of Houston.

By 2003 things were drastically changing for LGBT Houstonians. The Texas Supreme Court ruled Chapter 21, Sec. 21.06 of the Texas Penal Code, that legally prohibited same sex intercourse, was unconstitutional. The public rejoiced that they were finally "legally gay" — which became an unofficial motto of that year's Houston Pride Parade, which was held just two days after the ruling. Even though Texas voters passed a Constitutional Amendment to ban gay marriage in 2005, the LGBT community has grown larger and stronger in the last decade, learning from trailblazers of the early movement to push through adversity and pursue change. In 2010, Houston became the largest city with an openly gay mayor.

The Houston Pride Parade of today has grown into a massive event that includes more than 200,000 spectators, celebrity Grand Marshals, month-long festivities, more than 100 floats, and brings an entire community of people from all walks of life together as one. Pride is a time where everyone who identifies with or supports the lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered community can celebrate their unity, their collective experiences, their history, and their future. The only way to appreciate where we are and prepare ourselves for where we need to be is to understand where we have come from. This year, as you watch or participate in the Pride festivities, take a moment and reflect on the deep history that enables us to celebrate and **LIVE. LOVE. BE.**



pridehouston.org

Meet The Pride Production Team

By: Courtenay Siegfried

Every year these dedicated volunteers spend hundreds of hours planning the Annual Houston LGBT Pride Celebration

For more than 30 years, Pride Houston has worked at the heart of the local community to increase awareness and equality through annual charity events, aid for support and counseling networks and the annual Houston Celebration. In 2011, the Pride Houston Production Committee and hundreds of dedicated volunteers took this mission even further to encourage the city to "live, love and be." This year, the Houston LGBT Pride Celebration has expanded from one day to seven days of festivities and increased programs available to the community.

Paul Allen (Volunteer Director)



Paul Allen first joined the Pride team as a member of the Volunteer Committee for the 2009 Pride Houston

festivals and parade. The experience of meeting new people dedicated to the same cause led him to deepen his devotion to Pride Houston as the Volunteer Director. Paul and his Co-Director, Wendy Chopin, strive to recruit and engage volunteers to support Pride Houston's programs and to build a sense of community and a place to belong.

Straight From Paul's Mouth

"Though June is our busiest month, Pride

Houston is a 365-day-a-year organization. Volunteering for Pride Houston is a fun way to meet people and feel like you are making a difference for the LGBT community."

Aaron Parrish (Festival Chair)



As the 2011 Festival Chair, Aaron Parish has committed countless hours to recruiting volunteers, bringing in vendors and preparing

logistics for one of the largest Pride events in the nation. He previously served as Chair of the Special Events Committee.

Straight From Aaron's Mouth

"We truly have something for everyone. Festival patrons can bring the kids to the Interactive Family Zone, learn about local nonprofits, dance at the Bud Light music stage, receive FREE HIV testing and more — all while celebrating who they are, which is what Pride is all about."

Jason Gallegos (Parade Chair)



In only his second year as a Pride volunteer, Jason Gallegos has turned his passion for celebrating the com-

munity into a leadership position as this year's Parade Chair. Jason is responsible for ensuring that all parade logistics are taken care of before, during and after the main event.

Straight From Jason's Mouth

"As much fun as people have watching the parade, I also hope that we recognize and celebrate the businesses that support the community."

Chris Atwood (Marketing Director)



Newly returned to Houston in 2009, a night out dancing with friends peaked Chris Atwood's interest in Pride

Houston's mission to celebrate and promote the diversity of the local LGBT community. Utilizing his experience as a web designer, developer and marketer, Chris initially served as the organization's Marketing Coordinator. Currently, he is the Marketing Director.

Straight From Chris' Mouth

"Pride represents a day where everybody can be themselves, whether they're gay, lesbian, bi or transgender. Even in Houston, not everybody has that opportunity. And I love having a part in creating a day where anybody can celebrate their individuality, even if just for a day."

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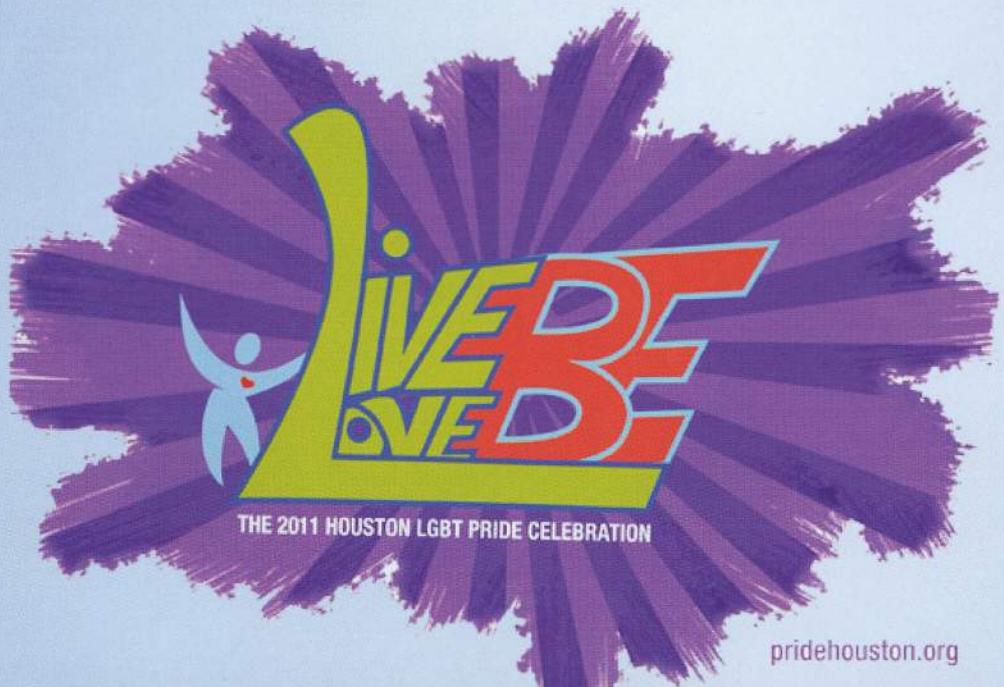
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