

OUT

INFORM

Annual Issue, Vol 5
June 2015



Official Houston Pride Guide®
of the Houston LGBT Pride Celebration® and Houston Pride Week®



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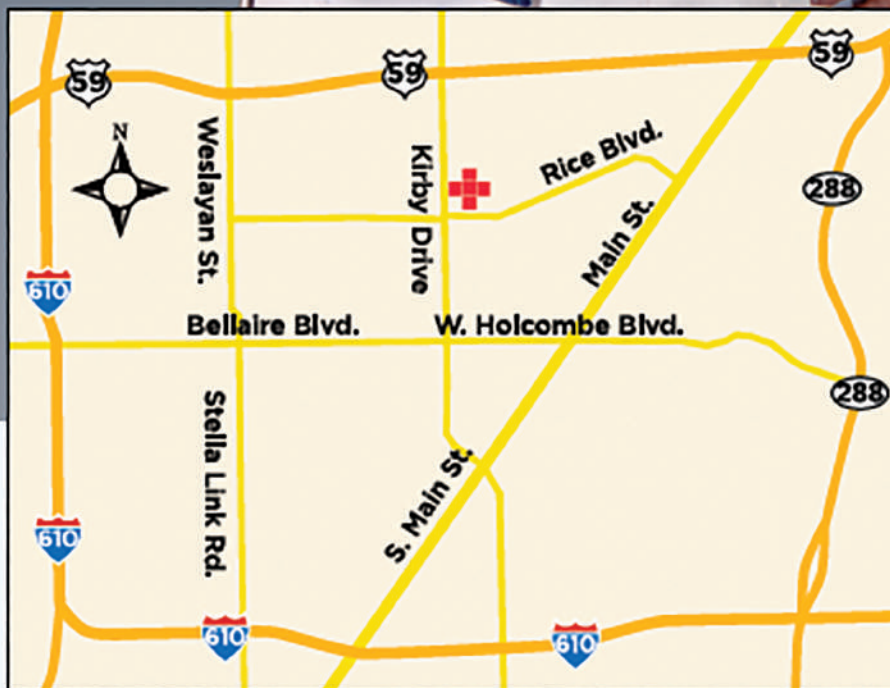
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FRIDAY, JUNE 26TH



WONDERLAND

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VERDE**

MILAN,
ITALY

LOCAL SUPPORT: DJ Chris Zane

GUEST PERFORMER: Bianca Del Rio



From just outside Milan, Italy, Danny is one of the most sought after Djs and remixers on the International and U.S scene. He has remixed the biggest pop stars of our time including Cher, Mariah Carey, Cyndi Lauper, Lady Gaga, and Avicii, just to name a few.

Bianca Del Rio's quick-witted comedy, and unique ability to make audiences cry from laughter keeps everyone beckoning for more. Bianca was the popular Season 6 WINNER of RuPaul's Drag Race. Don't miss this hilarious queen. It will be an unforgettable show!

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OUT

INFORM

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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.

LETTER

from the PRESIDENT

This has been a groundbreaking year for Pride Houston® and the LGBT Community, which makes this Pride season particularly special.

As of this writing same-sex marriage equality is in the hands of the Supreme Court of the United States, with an imminent ruling in June 2015 on one of the greatest civil rights issues of our generation. Last fall the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO), not without its own challenges, was passed and recently enacted to provide protection against discrimination in the workplace as well as other areas. And of course, The Houston LGBT Pride Celebration® moved from its previous location along Westheimer Road in Montrose to Downtown Houston this year.

Montrose will always be the heart of the local LGBT community, but the soul of the parade still remains with the more than 425,000 people who come together to celebrate the fourth largest Pride in America. Our expansion allows for even more participation from the growing and diverse Greater Houston population. Already this year will boast more organizations and entries than ever before. The LGBT community stretches far and wide and all the way up to City Hall.

Amidst the change it's easy to forget why we still hold The Houston LGBT Pride Celebration®. Pride events continue to offer a safe place to come together and "be ourselves" —a privilege that is still not available in some families, communities and countries where LGBT people continue to live in fear. We are also proud to still be able to keep the festival free to everyone thanks to our sponsorships and contributions from the community.

Barriers have been broken but many more still remain. That's why Pride Houston continues to support local LGBT organizations whose work impacts the lives of thousands of Houstonians. Through fundraising at Pride events, we were able to distribute over \$28,000 dollars last year and hope to raise even more this year. For us, Pride is year-round and never over.

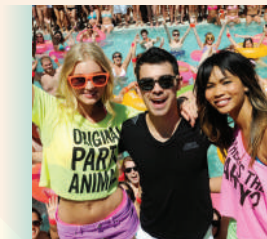
Our theme this year—chosen by popular vote—is 'HEROES' and we can't think of a better way to celebrate all the heroes of pride who have gotten us to this pivotal moment. That includes all of this year's Grand Marshals who have done extraordinary work to improve our community.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank all the teams of dedicated volunteers who have been working diligently all year to produce this amazing event. They are our heroes this week. If you see a Pride volunteer be sure to thank them for their efforts.

We hope you enjoy all the new amenities and benefits of our new location. On behalf of the Committee Chairs, Committee Members, Volunteers, the Board of Directors and Pride Houston®, I wish to welcome you all to the 37th Houston LGBT Pride Celebration®, presented by Bud Light

Frankie Quijano
CEO & President of the Board
Pride Houston, Inc.

Houston Pride Week®



JUNE 21

Salvation Pool Party
HI Houston
1:00pm



JUNE 26

Wonderland Houston® 2015 |
DJ Danny Verde
South Beach Houston
9:00pm



JUNE 22

Dine with Pride
Gratifi Kitchen and Bar
10:00am



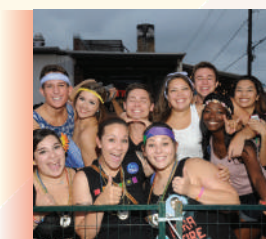
JUNE 27

Houston Pride Festival
Houston City Hall
12:00pm



JUNE 23

Pride Superstar®
Competition | FINALE
South Beach Houston
9:30pm



JUNE 27

Houston Pride Parade
Houston Downtown
8:30pm



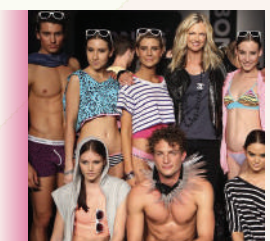
JUNE 24

Eden: A Pride Girl Party
Pearl Bar
8:00pm



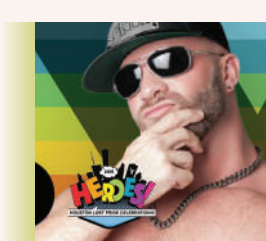
JUNE 27

Official Pride Houston®
After Party
South Beach Houston
10:00pm



JUNE 25

Rock the Runway
Audi Central Houston
8:00pm



JUNE 28

Heroes Tea Dance |
DJ Shane Stiel
F Bar Houston
5:00pm



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ADDITIONAL



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**Tuesday June 25TH
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All Ages welcome. Must be 21+ to drink with valid ID



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TAKING BACK MY FUTURE

by Fortunata Kasege

An HIV-positive mother on delivering
her second HIV-negative child.



I WANT THOSE 1,000 WOMEN AND GIRLS TO READ THIS AND KNOW THAT DESPITE TODAY'S BAD NEWS, THEY ARE ESSENTIAL TO CREATING [...] A WORLD WHERE NO CHILD HAS AIDS.

If you would have told me when I was diagnosed with HIV that I would one day be the mother of two daughters and that they would be completely HIV free, I couldn't even have imagined it. Now I can't imagine a life without them.

I was only 22 when I received the news: I was a young woman living with HIV. Despite all the progress in the years in between, this is a story that is tragically still far too common. Globally, young women ages 15 to 24 account for 22 percent of new HIV infections, and suffer from infection rates twice as high as young men. For mothers and mothers-to-be there is nothing more deadly: HIV is the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age.

During both my pregnancies, I took my medicine as prescribed, and never missed a dose. I knew that if I did my part, the treatment would do its part, and my children would be born HIV-negative.

This Mother's Day more than 1,000 young women and adolescent girls will become newly infected with HIV and their stories will be forever rewritten. But living with HIV does not mean living a life without hope, health, love, and family. My life, my story, and most importantly my two beautiful daughters are proof of that. This is why I share it every chance I get, and why I became an ambassador for the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

This is not just my fight; this is a global fight to achieve an AIDS-free future. I want those 1,000 women and girls to read this and know that despite today's bad news, they are essential to creating that future and to creating a world where no child has AIDS.

HIV can take so much from a person. It can steal people's hope for the future, for health, and for family.

Looking back on my own life, I thought this disease would take those things from me as well. There are many things that HIV did take from me in these past 18 years, and many more it has taken from millions of women like me. But with the incredible progress in treatment and the work of organizations like the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF), there are also many things that I have taken back, one at a time. And I want to show the girls, women, and mothers of the world that they can take back their lives from HIV too.

One of these things is my desire to extend my family, and to have a sibling for my lovely daughter Florida. Last Mother's Day I was on my way to realizing this dream, pregnant with my second daughter. This Mother's Day I am so proud to say that I delivered a healthy eight pound three ounce baby girl. And she is HIV-free just like her older sister Florida! I am enjoying every second of being a mother again.

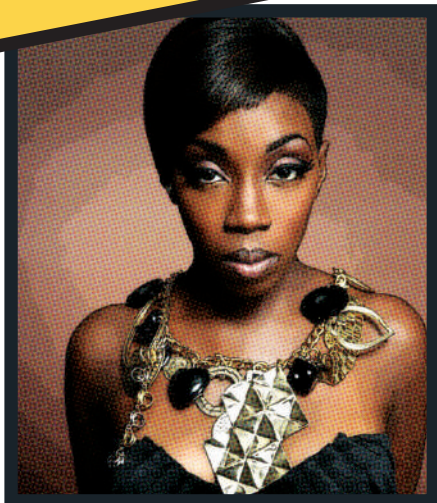
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FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT



ESTELLE

Music lovers are probably most familiar with the West London singer and rapper thanks to worldwide hit “American Boy,” which paired her with Kanye West. It earned the duo a Grammy. But she’s been plenty busy since that 2008 breakout, thank you very much. Fourth studio album “True Romance” was released earlier this year and warmly received by critics. She voices Garnet in the animated series “Steven Universe,” which has earned her a whole new legion of fans. This year, she enjoyed a boost thanks to a role on the smash TV series “Empire.” Estelle teamed up with openly gay heartthrob Jussie Smollett for the song “Conqueror,” which became the show’s highest-charting song on iTunes. The uplifting track is also quickly, and appropriately, becoming a Pride anthem.

JESSICA SUTTA

Cats, as the saying goes, have nine lives. And that’s true for Jessica Sutta. The singer and dancer was captain of the Miami Heat cheerleading squad before purring through a slew of pop hits as part of the Pussycat Dolls. Admit it—at least one of their songs is still on your iPhone. Sutta left the group in 2010 and quickly established herself as a solo dance diva. She scored big hits on Billboard’s dance chart with singles “Show Me,” “Lights Out” and Paul Van Dyk’s “White Lies.” Sutta has also scored chart-toppers alongside Dave Aude, including “Make it Last” and this year’s “I’m Gonna Get You.” Current track “Let it be Love” is racing up the charts and destined to fill dance floors. A solo album, “Feline Resurrection,” is due soon.



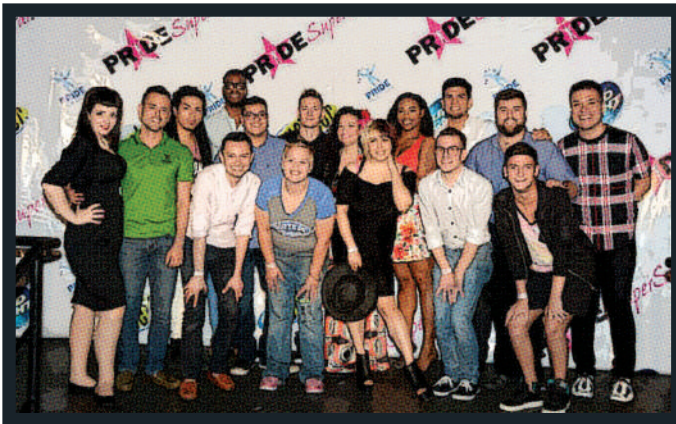
BIGFREEDIA

Get ready to bounce, y’all. New Orleans’ Queen Diva is one of the breakout stars of the past few years. And she’s been preparing for it a long time. The gender-bending performer began as a local NOLA act more than a decade ago, rising through the ranks and shaking that ass at every opportunity. Soon enough, people were paying attention. Freedia set the Guinness World Record for the Most People Twerking Simultaneously long before Miley Cyrus and Julian Serrano turned it into a career move. Fuse reality show “Big Freedia: Queen of Bounce” took the diva to a whole new level. She teamed up with RuPaul for the twerkalicious “Peanut Butter.” And an inspirational memoir, “God Save the Queen Diva,” is due in July. All hail!



GINGER MINJ

Many “RuPaul’s Drag Race” fans were shocked when Florida’s Ginger Minj wasn’t crowned America’s next drag superstar. But who needs a title to truly soar? (Ask “losers” Adore Delano or Jennifer Hudson.) The Minj is one of the most well-rounded queens to emerge from “Drag Race.” She sings, acts, dances and has a knack for camp and comedy. Her turn as Edith Massey in a John Waters challenge was a Season 7 highlight. And new single and video “Ooh La La” is poised to keep her flame burning bright.



PRIDE SUPERSTAR

The annual singing competition is now in its ninth year. And this season’s crop of singers are the most diverse yet. They run the gamut from Broadway to pop, camp to country, Latin to soul. “Drag Race” star Alyssa Edwards guest judges and performs –9:30 p.m. June 16 at Meteor Lounge (2306 Genesee). And the finale unfolds with lots of surprises –9:30 p.m. June 23 at South Beach (810 Pacific). The winner gets \$1,000, studio time at the legendary Sugar Hill Recording Studios and spotlights in the Pride parade and festival.

HOUSTON LGBT PRIDE CELEBRATION[®]

FESTIVAL

FESTIVAL STARTS AT 12PM
ENDS A 7PM



 Bud Light Stage



 Barefoot Stage



 First Aid

 Restrooms

 Non-Tented

 Tented

 Misting Station



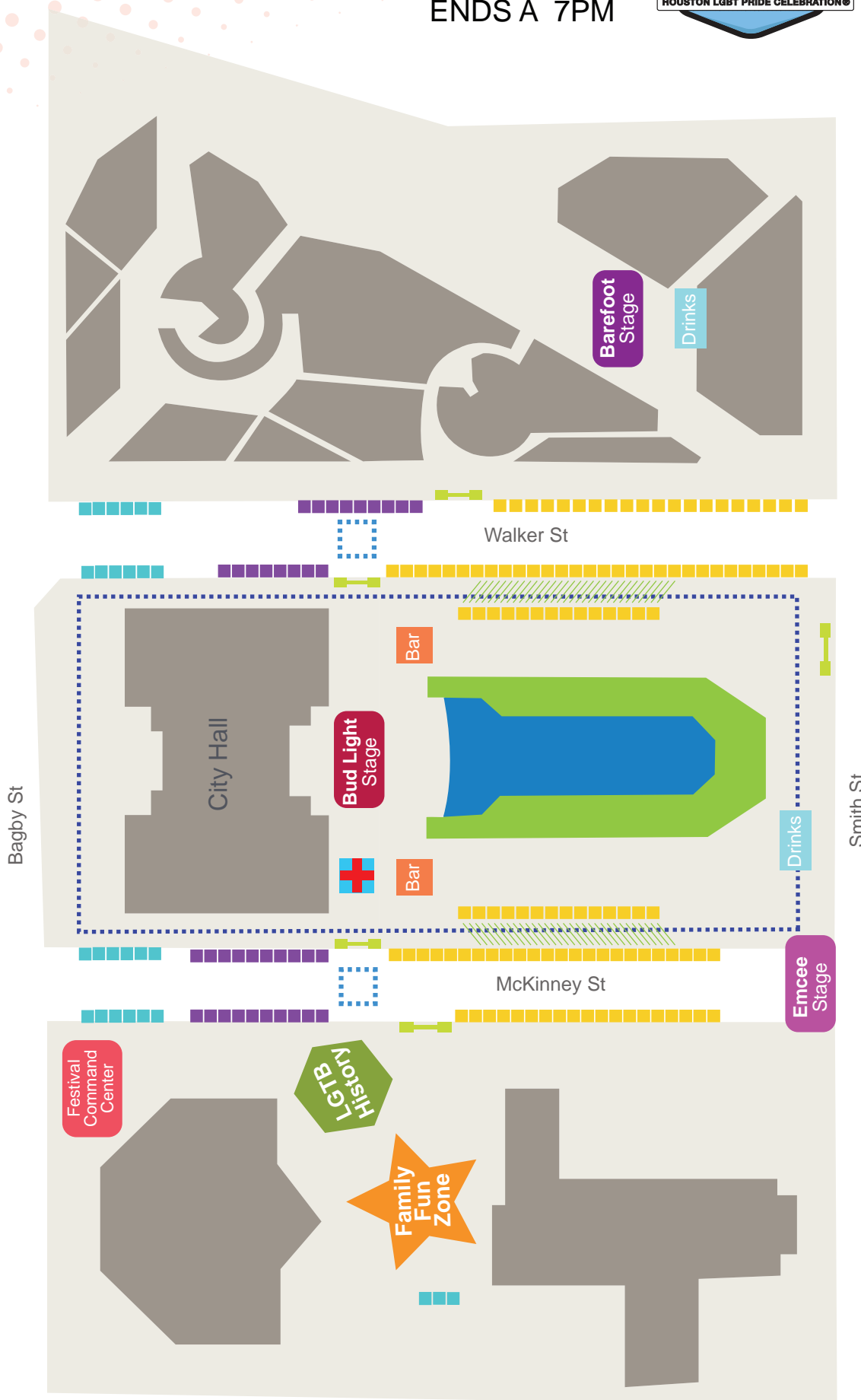
 Family Fun Zone



 LGBT History



 Entrance



PRESENTED BY





FESTIVAL

AARP	Just Chill Out Shaved Ice
Aneros	Katz MGM Group
AngieBees DeepSouth Hot Spot	Kintech Houston
AssistHers	LatherMeUp
Athena's Home Novelties	Legacy Community Health Services
Barefoot Wine	Lesbian Health Initiative of Houston
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church	Lowell's Lens Photography
Bering Omega Community Services	Mankind Project, South Central Area
Bodybrite	Menchies Frozen Yogurt
Bold Strokes Books	Momsie's Snoballs' and More
Capital One, National Association	Montrose Softball League Association
CARisMA WASH	Mythik Events & Promotions LLC dba Space City Comic Con
Citizens for Animal Protection	Nefarieous faces
Club Houston	NuYu Aesthetics Medical Spa
Corridor Rescue Inc.	Oregon Trail Jerky
Dignity Houston	Out & Allied @ JSC: LGBT Employees At NASA
Elitecare 24 Hour Emergency Center	Pet Paradise Resort
Equality Texas Foundation	Pinot's Palette
FABULOUSLY COOL	R.P.I. Marketing
Fairy Effects II, Inc.	RE/MAX Central
FAMILY STAR SUNGLASSES	Reach Clothing
Flag Me Down	Revolution Studio
Freedom to Indulge	Sosa Sudios
FrontRunners Houston	Storm Tight Windows
Gables Residential	Strongest Link
Genetically Correct	Taco Me Crazy Food Truck
Green Mountain Energy Company	Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty
Gulfgate Dodge Chrysler Jeep	Texas Freedom Network
HEN LAYING EGG	Texasbeerbus
Hippo Ice	The Gay District
Houston Dynamo and Houston Dash	The Montrose Center
Houston Freethought Oasis	The Pop Culture Company
Houston Gaymers	The Walk for Mental Health Awareness - Houston
Houston Museum of Natural Science	Thrivent Financial
Houston Pride Band	UCC Open and Affirming Churches
Human Rights Campaign	United Airlines
Humanists of Houston	University of Houston LGBT Resource Center & Alumni
I and Love and You Pet Care	Network
Independent Adoption Center	Zipcar



HOUSTON LGBT PRIDE CELEBRATION® THE PARADE



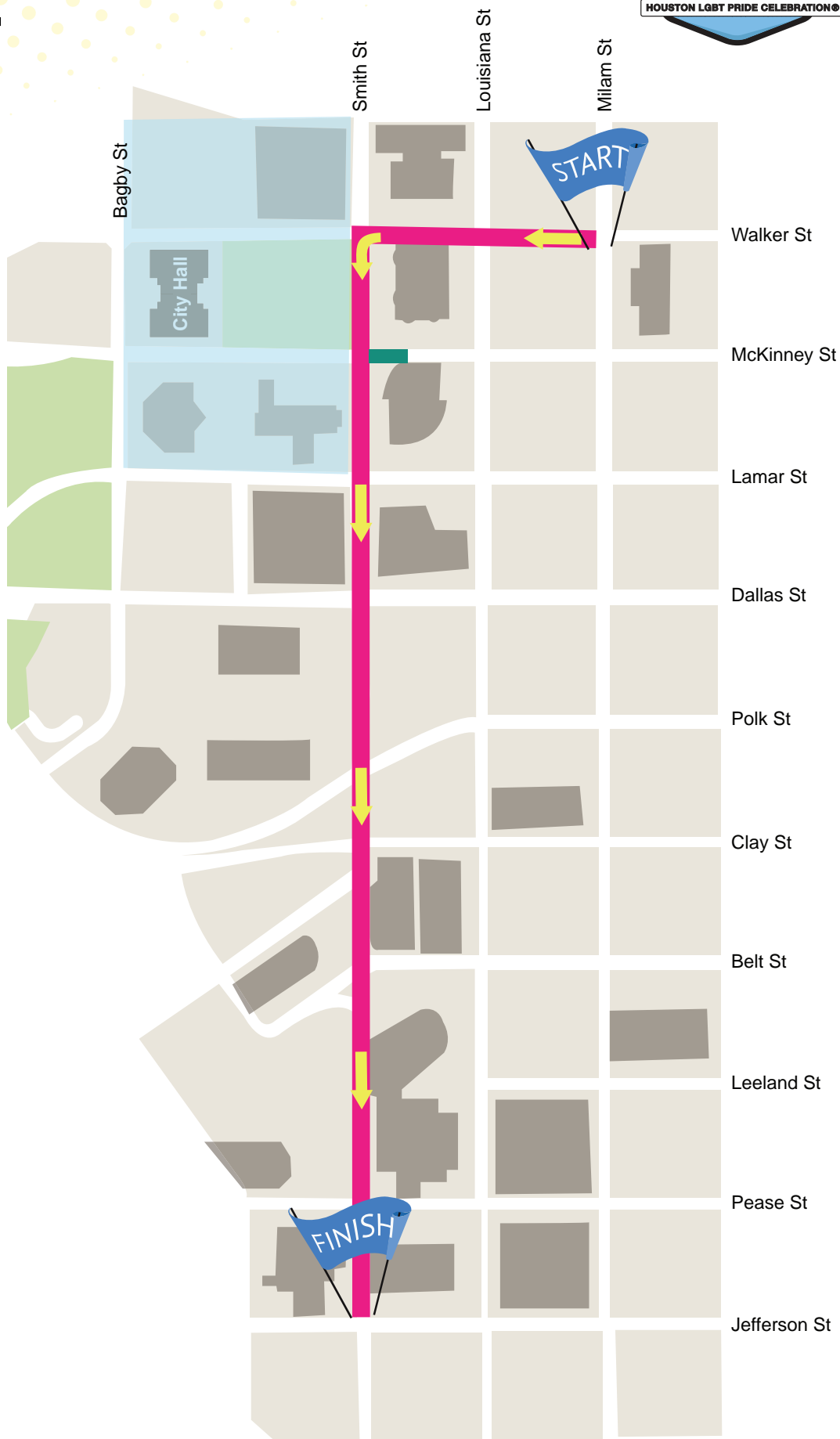
 Houston PRIDE Festival

 Starting Point 8.30PM

 Finish Line 11PM

 Parade Route

 Friends of Pride VIP



PRESENTED BY





PARADE

ACLU of Texas	Houston girls of Leather
AIDS Foundation Houston	Houston Humane Society
Asian and Friends Houston	Houston Pride Band
Barefoot Wine	Human Rights Campaign
Bayou City Performing Arts	Humanists of Houston
Bayou city pups	Independent Adoption Center
BBVA Compass	Integrity Houston
Ben's Beans	Keshet Houston
Bering Memorial United Methodist Church	Krewe of Olympus-Texas
Bering Omega Community Services	Kroger
Body Affirming Surgeries/Dr. Angela Sturm	Legacy Community Health Services
BP Pride	Little Dipper
British Consulate General Houston	Living Mosaic : Montrose Church
Bud Light	Lone Star Cab Company
Bunnies on the Bayou 36	Lone Star College LGBTQ Student Clubs
CARisMA WASH	Mankind Project, South Central Area
Cathedral of Hope Houston	Marty McVey Campaign for Houston Mayor
Charles Armstrong Investments - SOBE	Microsoft
Chipotle Mexican Grill	Montrose Softball League Association
Chris Bell for Mayor	National Leather Association - Houston
Chris Brown for Houston City Controller	Organizacion Latin@ de Trans de Texas
Citizens for Animal Protection	Organized Kollaboration on Restaurant Affairs
Club 2020 Houston	Out & Allied @ JSC: LGBT Employees At NASA
Comcast	Pearl Lounge
Congressman Al Green	PFLAG HOUSTON
Constable Alan Rosen	Pinot's Palette
Council Member David W. Robinson	Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast
Council Member Mike Laster	Progressive insurance
Covenant Church, an ecumenical liberal Baptist congregation	Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church
Crystal Night Club	Rice University
DEFINE body & mind	SEAShell Employee Network (Shell Oil Company)
Dick Law Firm	Spay-Neuter Assistance Program, Inc.
DODGE US CAR CLUB	St. Hope Foundation
Elitecare 24 Hour Emergency Center	Steve Costello for Mayor
Elsik High School GSA	Sylvester Turner for Mayor Campaign
Equality Texas Foundation	Tacos A Go-Go
Fencewood Stables/Houston Pony Play	The Dow Chemical Company - GLAD Network
First UU Church Houston- Houston UU Network	The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Houston
Friends For Life No Kill Animal Shelter	The Houston Transgender Unity Committee
Fundacion Latinoamericana De Accion Social, Inc.	The Lambda Center
GLBT PaganPride	The Montrose Center
Gulfgate Dodge Chrysler Jeep	The Pop Culture Company
Harris County Democratic Party	The Room Bar and Lounge
Houston Bears	The Walk for Mental Health Awareness - Houston
Houston City Council Member ellen cohen	United Airlines
Houston Community College	University of Houston LGBT Resource Center & Alumni Network
Houston Department of Health & Human Services	Whole Foods Market
Houston Gaymers	

Saturday, June 27th

OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY OF THE HOUSTON LGBT PRIDE CELEBRATION



RuPaul's
DRAG RACE

**Mrs
Kasha
Davis**

DJ WESS

Town Danceboutique - Washington DC

#1 GAY PRIDE PARADE AFTER PARTY



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21+ to drink

South Beach

Doors- 9PM
After Hours 'til 5AM

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Britt Kornman

Ryan Levy

Anna Eastman

Deborah Duncan



Q&A

Grand Marshals 2015

Britt Kornman

Female GM



1 What does it mean to you being named Grand Marshal of the Houston LGBT Pride Celebration?

Just being nominated for an award that Mayor Annise Parker, Marion Coleman and Phyllis Frye once won is truly an honor to me. Winning was something completely unexpected and I'm proud to represent in a year where the nominees were so strong and have done so much for the community. Our city is better for the work that Fran Watson and EXcalibur Augie do and I'd be remiss to not thank and recognize them both.

2 What do you think makes Houston's LGBT Community so unique?

We're the 4th largest city in the country, the top rated city in the country by Forbes, and the most diverse city in the country ...and our community is representative of all of those qualities. The people that live and thrive here are responsible for making Houston what it is.

3 What sparked your fire to begin the work that you have done for the LGBT Community?

I think it all started for me when I made the decision to leave the United States Air Force Academy mid-way through my freshman year. Attending USAFA and becoming a pilot had been my dream and I thrived there my freshman year. I was on the Dean's List, the Military Honors List, and was playing D1 basketball in the middle of Don't Ask Don't Tell and the election of George W Bush. I was also quickly coming to terms with who I was, and that as a woman, and a gay woman, my view of what military life would be like was nothing but a fairytale. I was given the option to leave because of a pretty severe basketball related shoulder injury and decided to take it. It was the hardest decision I've ever made, but all I could think of was that hopefully, some other kid, smart as hell and wanting to serve their country, wouldn't have to make the same decision I did.

4 Who are your role models and why?

My Texas roots run deep so the only answer I can give is the woman who first made me proud to be a Texan, Ann Richards. I can only hope that we'll have someone as brilliant, giving, and courageous as she at the helm of our state sometime soon.

5 This year marks the 45th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. What are your thoughts on where we've come to where we are today?

We have come a long way, but still have so much to do. We stand on the shoulders of giants who have done work for decades to get us to where we are today and we can never forget who/what got us here.

6 What challenges face the LGBT community moving forward locally and nationally?

Violence against the transgender community, bullying in schools, the resurgence of HIV/AIDS, underemployment/unemployment, the exportation of hate abroad, LGBT youth homelessness-these issues are all too prevalent in our community. They remind me of how much vital work we still have to do to impact the lived experience of our LGBT brothers and sisters. We can't leave any member of the community behind and our work does not stop with marriage.

7 With the LGBT community being more accepted in today's society why do you think Pride is still relevant?

Pride gives us, as a community, the opportunity to celebrate our history and all that allowed us to get to where we are today.

8 What is your favorite part about Houston Pride Week or the Houston LGBT Pride Celebration and why?

Every year, Pride brings new memories and stories with friends. I think my favorite though was the first year I walked with HRC in the pride parade. To be there, and be in the parade...you feel like you're part of something bigger than yourself and there's an excitement and energy around it that's contagious.

9 What advice would you give someone who wants to find a way to contribute to the LGBT community in some way?

Everyone has something to give, whether it be their time, talent or treasure ...and we need all three to continue to push our movement forward. No contribution is insignificant and there are so many great organizations that do invaluable work both locally and nationally. The key is to just get involved!

10 Coming out is always a tough decision. What advice would you give the youth of today on coming out?

It's never easy, but there is light at the end of the tunnel and a great community waiting for you on the other side. There are also great resources and groups out there to support you in the process so don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it.

11 What is the one (1) thing that you'd like readers to know about you that's not in your biography? Do you have a quirk?

My wife and I have a huge passion for travel and have been to 12 countries over 5 continents in the last 4 years together and it is something that has truly shaped both of us. Travel is fun but more importantly it teaches you to appreciate people from all walks of life and find joy outside your comfort zone. I have a goal of visiting one country for every year that I've been alive and have seen 27 so far, so only a few behind!

Also, Pride Houston has a campaign called My First Pride. If you could tell me about your first pride that we could include in OutInForm I would appreciate it

About her first pride story including:

1.City, State

Houston, TX

2.Year (estimated)

2003

3.The size of the crowd

I have no idea but I just remember the streets for miles being closed off and crowds and people everywhere.

4.Why they went

I had just graduated from college and moved to Paris a month prior.

5.How it felt when they go there

It was amazing to see so many people out and celebrating themselves and their community.

6.Describe their full experience that day/weekend

The parade was huge. I remember just being surrounded by masses of people who were celebrating with friends and the thousands of people around them. The energy was almost overwhelming.

7.How much fun they had

I still wasn't out at work or to my family at the time so it was incredible to be around that many people who were proud to be who they were. It made me happy to know I was part of such a large community and I felt supported in the road ahead.

Celebrate us all

Diversity at Deloitte is not about erasing differences — it's about benefiting from them. In our work for clients, we strive to turn complexity into opportunity. Within our own walls, it is no different. Every person brings an individual portfolio of strengths based on where they come from in life.

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we are proud to celebrate
PRIDE HOUSTON
with you

**HOUSTON LOCATION
OPENING SOON**

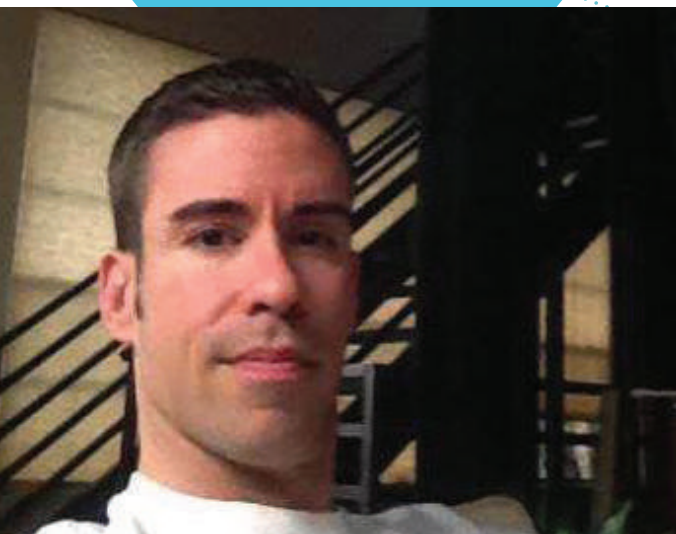
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Ryan Levy

Male GM



1 What does it mean to you being named Grand Marshal of the Houston LGBT Pride Celebration?

Being chosen by my peers to represent the LGBT community in Houston's first ever downtown Pride celebration is a huge honor. The theme of the parade this year is Heroes, and I plan to ride in the parade with my heroes, my husband Ian and my parents, who have been hugely influential in our community's quest for equality over the past decade.

2 What do you think makes Houston's LGBT Community so unique?

Houston is one of the most diverse cities in the world. Our community is made up of every ethnicity, belief system, socio-economic background, and gender identity. That diversity is what makes us so strong as a community.

3 What sparked your fire to begin the work that you have done for the LGBT Community?

I believe that the struggle for LGBT equality is the civil rights movement of my lifetime. It would be impossible for me to sit on the sidelines and watch as others worked tirelessly for my rights. As soon as I came out I began volunteering.

4 Who are your role models and why?

I was raised in right-wing, conservative suburbia. Specifically, Tom DeLay's congressional district. Despite my surroundings, my grandmother had been a trailblazer for women's rights and progressive causes. She had a profound effect on the development of my personal values.

5 Being an ally to the LGBT movement can take great courage. Can you tell me about a time where you were faced with adversity for supporting the cause?

6 With the LGBT community being more accepted in today's society why do you think Pride is still relevant?

Unfortunately, marriage equality gets all the media coverage, but there is already amazing work happening in our community on a local, national, and international scale. These aren't the "next" issues, they are the right now issues. I have volunteered for over 15 years with hundreds of other volunteers at the Human Rights Campaign to work on many social issues that will still be critical after marriage equality. Like HRC, I too envision a world where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are ensured equality and embraced

as full members of society at home, at work, and in every community. What this means is that even after marriage, we have to continue to strive to bring safety to LGBT people in schools by stopping bullying, in the workplace by passing an inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act, in communities by helping LGBT people in poverty, and globally where LGBT people are facing extreme violence and hatred.

7 What is your favorite part about Houston Pride Week or the Houston LGBT Pride Celebration and why?

8 What advice would you give someone who wants to find a way to contribute to the LGBT community in some way?

Pride is a chance for us to invite all Houstonians to celebrate the LGBT community's contributions to the city's culture, prosperity, and beauty. It transcends acceptance. That is what I love about Pride.

9 What is the one (1) thing that you'd like readers to know about you that's not in your biography?

Do you have a quirk?

Show up. Go to a meeting. Make phone calls for a LGBT Caucus endorsed candidate. Attend a phone bank. Block walk for a Victory Fund endorsed LGBT candidate. Work the polls. Volunteer at an HRC event or show up to an HRC letter writing campaign. Volunteer at the Montrose Center. Fundraise for Legacy. Volunteer for Bering Omega. Donate clothing to Montrose Grace Place. Participate in HRC Day of Service on MLK Day every January. Attend an Equality Texas or HRC Lobby Day. Walk the neighborhood and pick up litter. Serve on a Pride Parade committee. There are endless opportunities. The need for volunteers is real.

10 Coming out is always a tough decision. What advice would you give the youth of today on coming out?

Be honest and truthful to yourself. People will respect you for being yourself.

11 What is the one (1) thing that you'd like readers to know about you that's not in your biography? Do you have a quirk?

I'm a serious Foodie and I want anyone visiting my hometown of Houston to know that we have one of the most diverse and dynamic gourmet and artisanal food scenes in the country. I started cooking at a very young age. I can remember at the age of 11 rushing home to watch Chef Martin Yan cook on "Wok With Yan". It was my favorite show. Then I would try to cook what I learned that day in my parents kitchen. When I met my husband Ian in 1996, I learned that he also loved to cook. We would cook together for friends, creating new recipes and improvising on the fly. It is one of our favorite things to do together. When I was in law school, Ian and I became known around school for throwing fabulous dinner parties, and I used to cook for my mock trial team. After law school, Ian applied to Le Cordon Bleu in France to take his culinary skills to the next level. I wanted to go as well, but my application featured no formal restaurant experience. I was the only non-vocational chef accepted in my class at Le Cordon Bleu. When we returned from France, I began practicing law and helping Ian with a catering company on the weekends. Eventually we opened a restaurant together and I was lawyering by day and running the restaurant by night. In 2005, we sold the restaurant and moved to California to begin studying to become sommeliers and winemakers. What I discovered was that the same skills that made me a great chef: the ability to understand aromas, flavors, and ingredients, translated directly into winemaking. It was a natural progression.

12 .You are the FIRST Grand Marshal to be part of the move to downtown Houston. How does this make you feel?

Pride is a celebration of the diversity of our city. As I said earlier, it is a chance for us to invite all Houstonians to celebrate the LGBT community's contributions to the city's culture, prosperity, and beauty. I am proud to serve as a host to a celebration for everyone in the heart of our great city.

Also, Pride Houston has a campaign called My First Pride. If you could tell me about your first pride that we could include in OutInForm I would appreciate it

About their first pride story including:

1.City, State

Houston, TX

2.Year (estimated)

1996

3.The size of the crowd

Not sure but it seemed immense

4.Why they went

I had recently come out and I wanted to see what Pride was all about.

5.How it felt when they go there

It was amazing to see so many different kinds of people come together to celebrate equality.

6.Describe their full experience that day/weekend

The most moving moment for me was seeing the PFLAG group march with signs that said things like 'I love my gay son.' In 1996, that was still a rare thing to see.

7.How much fun they had

It was a day of affirmation and joy.

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Anna Eastman

Ally GM

Q&A



I am incredibly excited to be among the first group of Grand Marshals as the Pride Celebration moves downtown. I love our city. While I love Montrose and spend a good deal of time there, I think moving the celebration and parade into the city's business district says so much about Houston. I've been in Houston for seventeen years. I did not want to move here and am continually surprised by this city. Brad and I have chosen to make our home and to raise our kids.

1 What does it mean to you being named Grand Marshal of the Houston LGBT Pride Celebration?

After having been nominated twice previously among an amazing set of community leaders, I was ecstatic to have been named Ally Grand Marshal this year. My advocacy comes naturally to me. One of my favorite verses comes from the Quaker song, Simple Gifts, 'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down where we ought to be, And when we find ourselves in a the place just right, 'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.' I simply believe every person should have the space, the right to find that place. Being named Grand Marshal gives me hope that my work is having that effect.

2 What do you think makes Houston's LGBT Community so unique?

I think the diversity of the community is what makes it so unique. When I moved to Houston seventeen years ago, my kids started preschool with children of same sex couples. Even in the midst of the fight for HERO, there is a vibrant trans community, our high schools have GSA's, we have progressive non-discrimination policies in our school systems, we have successful LGBT leaders throughout our city and we have resources for those who are struggling in their journeys. I remember a friend from New York being surprised by the number of religiously affiliated floats in the LGBT Pride Parade. To me this is just another example of how our every day Houston is much more open than some would like to believe.

3 What sparked your fire to begin the work that you have done for the LGBT Community?

In the late nineties, I became aware that several people I loved had been living their lives in secret for years. It broke my heart. I was disheartened that they had not found a path of acceptance early on. When I became a parent, I wanted to make sure I lived in a world where my kids could discover themselves in safe, supportive environments. A place where they didn't have to hide from me, from others or most importantly from themselves. The rest was just a natural progression from that wish. I've come to believe we all should be less concerned about the mainstream's fear of being uncomfortable because of their own misunderstanding, and that in turn, those of us in leadership positions should have a greater sense of urgency about creating safe spaces for all, where the most vulnerable and misunderstood have equal opportunity to thrive.

4 Who are your role models and why?

Gosh, there are so many. My parents of course. My mom for her work ethic and high expectations of us. My dad for his constant ability to forgive. My husband for his smarts and humor. My kids each for their curiosity, drive, humor and kindness towards others. I really look to everyday people who are honest about the struggle that life is and don't look for the easy way out, but can also find joy in life.

5 This year marks the 45th anniversary of the Stonewall riots. What are your thoughts on where we've come to where we are today?

As a parent, I see my kids growing up in a different world. Of course they live in urban Houston, attend HISD schools and have Brad and I as their parents, but I am constantly amazed by their and their friends' openness to difference. Folks often say "kids these days!" in a pejorative manner, but these kids are on the horizon of a different and more open world. I don't think it's time to ease out of an advocacy mode, especially in light of the opposition to HERO last spring. But I do think we have hope that those voices will soon be a mere whimper. Today's protest is welcome in our institutions and public spaces. A few years ago, we had a sitting trustee mail out an anti-LGBT flyer as part of his campaign. Students, parents and even district employees came to the board's public meeting and expressed their disappointment and displeasure over the incident. It was painful, but it was also progress, because it was tolerated, if not welcomed.

6 What challenges face the LGBT community moving forward locally and nationally?

Clearly we have more ground to cover. The fight to prevent a our local Equal Rights Ordinance was shocking. I felt like I was in another era listening to the protesters outside of City Hall chambers. Marriage Equality will hopefully be a reality but the time The Houston LGBT Pride Celebration takes place.

7 With the LGBT community being more accepted in today's society why do you think Pride is still relevant?

I read a great Dan Savage piece about Pride recently. Really about what Pride means for straight guys and how important it was for the LGBT community to have this space to be recognized by a society who for so long had done everything to pretend they didn't exist. I really liked that notion. I also just think celebrating is incredibly important.

8 What is your favorite part about Houston Pride Week or the Houston LGBT Pride Celebration and why?

I love the parade. I love the energy and diversity of the participants and the crowds.

9 What advice would you give someone who wants to find a way to contribute to the LGBT community in some way?

Don't hold back or underestimate your potential contribution. For a long time, I would apologize for not being able to fully understand because this wasn't "my walk." And then I was on a panel for families with transgender kids and a wise woman, Deb Murphy, told me to stop that kind of talk. That without my advocacy we wouldn't have made the progress we've made. Don't underestimate the power of simply standing up for others in a conversation where folks are throwing around off color jokes. Find an organization, one of my favorites is "Out for Education," and participate in their events. If you're drawn to contribute, you might make a difference in someone else's life who you didn't even know needed your support.

10 Coming out is always a tough decision. What advice would you give the youth of today on coming out?

I think it's important to find a network of support that you can trust first, hopefully that network includes your parents, but if not would include another adult. If you find yourself in an unsupportive environment, seek out the many resources available to today's youth.

11 What is the one (1) thing that you'd like readers to know about you that's not in your biography? Do you have a quirk?

I love baking - bread, pizza, pies, cakes and I have Benjamin Button's disease.

Also, Pride Houston has a campaign called My First Pride. If you could tell me about your first pride that we could include in OutInForm I would appreciate it

About her first pride story including:

1.City, State

Houston, TX

2.Year (estimated)

2008

3.The size of the crowd

Huge

4.Why they went

I was volunteering for the Obama campaign and we went to register voters.

5.How it felt when they go there

HOT!

6.Describe their full experience that day/weekend

Great to be a part of the lively crowd. I felt energized by the crowd and hopeful for the future.

7.How much fun they had

I had a blast.



By becoming a Celebration Underwriter you can support the hundreds of organizations offering LGBT-related resources to promote their cause, recruit volunteers and raise awareness around issues facing the community.

Pride Houston relies on funding from corporate sponsorships, grants, entry fees and the [Friends of Pride program](#) in order to ensure accessibility to organizations in our community. Without assistance, the entry fees for the parade and festival would rise to high for nonprofits and other participants.

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Deborah Duncan

Honorary GM

Host/Senior Producer, Great Day Houston

When you look at how Deborah Duncan grew up, it is no surprise that she ended up in the communication business. Raised in a military family, her early years were spent in Taiwan and Japan. As her family constantly moved around, young Deborah attended five different elementary schools. At each school, determined to learn everything about her "new friends," Deborah honed her interviewing skills. She completed grade school in San Antonio where her father retired. Deborah then enrolled at the University of Texas in Austin and earned a degree in Radio-Television-Film.

After a couple of years in radio, Deborah made the switch to television as a reporter at the CBS station in Austin and then became an anchor at the ABC station. She later moved to Dallas, where she started a talk show called "Good Morning Texas" at WFAA-TV, the sister station of KHOU-TV. Deborah and her co-host were eventually asked to anchor the morning news.

After three years, Deborah moved to New York City to co-host a talk show for Lifetime Television called "Our Home." Although she loved New York City, her heart was still in Texas. When ABC executives approached Deborah about doing a talk show for possible national syndication, they wanted her to do the show out of New York or Los Angeles. Eventually, they agreed that it could start in Houston. When she finished her contract with ABC, Deborah decided it was time to return to her roots in the business, and that was news.

In December 2002, Deborah joined KHOU-TV Channel 11 as an anchor on 11 News This Morning. After six years at the news desk, she returned to the talk show format as host of Great Day Houston. The show, produced locally by KHOU-TV, airs weekdays at 9:00 a.m. on Channel 11.

Deborah Duncan is the recipient of many local and national awards for television excellence, including four Emmy Awards, three AWRT Star Awards, two Gracie Allen Awards and a Telly Award, amongst other honors. Her achievements on the air, however, are transcended by her commitment and dedication to community service. Deborah is passionate about many causes and chairs numerous community events. In addition, she serves on the National Board of Directors for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) and is a Board Member for the Palmer Drug Abuse Program (PDAP).



greatday
Houston



Often times, I was the only African American in school, so growing up I felt like the odd girl out and the use of the "N" word meant I would never fit in. In high school, I formed a circle of friends who were all birds of a feather who flocked together, meaning we all felt like misfits! Two of those friends are Gay and I remember thinking how awful it must be to have to keep that a secret. The stage was set for me to give this cause a voice just as my parents had done during the Civil Rights movement decades before.

HIV/AIDS

Early in my career, I covered this strange disease that did not even have an official name. We were struggling to learn what HIV AIDS really was, but the lesson I learned first was how cruel people could be. Being Gay was already a struggle in our society, but being blamed for a deadly disease was ludicrous, yet it happened.

I saw families abandon sick loved ones. As a reporter in Austin, I made it my mission to show people, not as AIDS victims, but as human beings!

I would hold their hand during interviews. I would hug them when they cried. Viewers were shocked and would ask, "Aren't you afraid you'll get AIDS?" I took the opportunity to educate them and remind them that, it was a human disease, not a Gay disease. Soon, statistics caught up with us and people began to realize that this disease can affect anyone.

LGBT

On a "Debra Duncan" show several years ago, we spent the whole hour talking about the definitions of LGBT. I wanted to put a face to the titles. Chaz Bono was one of our guest. By the end of the show, several people were surprised at how "normal" the guests appeared to be! This is a case where coming out of the closet actually helped to change some minds.

BIOLOGY vs CHOICE

Another show we did was called, "Living A Lie". When people were insisting that Gay was nothing but a choice, we had a guest who spoke of how painful it was to be in a heterosexual marriage, when it was not their true self. Eventhough they tried to appease society, in the end, you have to honor your personal truth.

SUPREME COURT

I also covered the repeal of the Sodomy Law, from the originating case in Houston, to the Supreme Court Decision to strike it down. I think eyes were opened when people really looked at how prejudicial this case was!

MAINSTREAM

And last but not least, we continue to cover events that may be of interest in the Gay community but we present them as part of the overall happenings in our town. And several openly Gay members of our community are routinely featured in our segments covering topics that everyone can share in. Point being, LGBT is not a separate community but rather, part of our community, just like everyone else.

Deb

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FINANCIAL PLANNING: **BIG** CHANGES FOR GAY CLIENTS



The ruling also allows the Obama administration to take executive action to broaden benefits to same-gender couples in states where gay marriage isn't recognized; as of early July, the federal government was already expanding spousal benefits to cover gay and lesbian married employees.

Among the planning issues affected by the high court ruling are:

- * Transferring property to a spouse during a client's lifetime without owing federal gift tax.
- * Inheriting property from a spouse without paying federal estate tax.
- * Filing federal taxes jointly.
- * Receiving a spouse's Social Security benefits.
- * Receiving pension survivorship benefits.
- * Receiving spousal benefits without owing taxes on the benefit value.

When New York residents Mark Strong and Craig Partin married in New York last October, their marriage wasn't recognized by the federal government. So the duo took extra planning steps to make sure either spouse could afford the estate tax on what he would inherit from the other.

"We each took out a tremendous amount of life insurance, compared to what we might otherwise have, so that the survivor wouldn't be burdened by the need to pay estate tax," Strong says. They pay \$300 monthly for coverage.

Now the couple is considering letting those policies lapse. They stopped needing them in June when the U.S. Supreme Court changed the couple's financial and legal status by striking down a central feature of the Defense of Marriage Act. The ruling represents a major change for financial planners and their clients who are in - or are considering - same-sex marriages.

"The federal benefits mean that there's more reason for gay people to get married now. Some people had been holding out on getting married, waiting for federal recognition," says James Tissot, Strong and Partin's planner and the owner of Prism Planning in New York.

Same-sex couples now get the same federally derived legal and financial benefits that heterosexual married couples receive. So in states where same-sex marriage is legal, advisors should revisit married same-sex clients' plans with a particular eye toward federal issues - including those pertaining to Social Security and veterans' benefits, taxes and housing.

PATCHWORK OF RULES

Yet the court's ruling does not mandate same-sex marriage nationwide. Nor did the decision force states that don't allow such marriages to recognize those that were legal in other states; That portion of the law was not heard by the court.

As a result, there is substantial confusion as to who will be considered married under the revised law. In determining whether a same-sex couple is married, current laws and regulations might point to either federal rules, or the law of the state where the couple lives, or the law of the state where they were married.

What does this mean for planners? In the 13 states that currently permit and recognize gay marriages, client couples almost certainly will



now enjoy the benefits that both the state and federal governments confer on married partners. Until now, these clients benefited only from state laws recognizing their marriages.

But in states that do not recognize same-gender marriages, client couples could find themselves married from a federal point of view, but single as far as the state is concerned.

"You could end up with federal benefits, but no state benefits if your state doesn't recognize gay marriage," says Debra Neiman, principal at Neiman & Associates Financial Services in Arlington, Mass. Couples in that situation might, for instance, have to pay state estate tax - but not federal - when one spouse dies.

Another example: If Strong and Partin take steps to or buy property in a state that doesn't recognize their marriage, their financial situation becomes less clear. At the very least, the survivor could owe state estate tax on the inheritance when one of them dies.

The situation can grow more confusing for people who marry in a state that allows same-sex marriages but live in one that does not. Think of the awkward situations for people who marry in New Hampshire, which requires one year of residency to divorce, but who move to New Jersey, where they cannot dissolve their marriage because the state doesn't recognize that their marriage exists.

FOCUS ON REDUNDANCY

Unless same-gender marriage is recognized by all states, Tissot, Neiman and other planners who specialize in working with same-sex couples recommend a redundant approach, in case clients are forced to defend their rights in unfriendly jurisdictions.

In addition to marrying, same-gender clients should also consider signing a domestic partnership agreement, in case the couple moves to a state that recognizes domestic partnerships, but not same-gender marriage, Tissot says.

Advisors also recommend that each couple create a will to lower the chance that a relative might legally demand a share of property. Couples should ensure that real estate titles stipulate joint ownership, with the right of survivorship. That's particularly important if a couple lives in a state that recognizes the marriage, but buys or inherits property in a state that does not.

One spouse's right to visit or make medical decisions for the other might be safe in right-to-marry states, but may not protect a client who has a heart attack while visiting Florida, for example, which doesn't recognize same-sex marriage.

Rules about health care proxies are made at the state level, says Stuart Armstrong, a planner and accredited domestic partner advisor at Centinel Financial Group in Needham Heights, Mass. In that situation, a health care proxy would help.

"A layering of documentation, especially when you're in a hostile environment, carries weight," Tissot says. "If I have a will and another piece of paper and they both say the same thing, it's hard to refute that. It's hard for someone to say that you were coerced. There is definite intent and contractual agreement."

STICKY CONVERSATIONS

Advisors who work with same-sex couples offer another caution, which may sound familiar to heterosexual planners (and clients): Just because the high-court ruling offers married couples a financial payoff doesn't mean same-sex clients should rush to the altar.

"It's important for people to be thoughtful about making decisions and not rush into marriage," Armstrong says. "I have a number of clients who have the ability to get married in Massachusetts, but have chosen not to. Sometimes the issue is a wealth difference between the two partners [and] the wealthier partner often doesn't want to combine finances too closely."

Other relevant issues exist. A couple could have children from previous relationships who will inherit property. A family may want to avoid listing step-parent assets on student financial aid applications. One member may need single status to adopt in a country or state that is hostile to gay parents. Or a client might not want to open his or her finances to discussion with a partner.

"I'm in the position of seeing lots of couples before they actually get married, which isn't usual in the straight world," Tissot says. "I'm not a marriage counselor, but I do try to take care that they not get into contracts that they shouldn't. My services are for clients' wellbeing, not just for allocating money."

By Ingrid Case



By A. Madhani

GAYBORHOODS

fade with growing acceptance of LGBT



HOW TO PRESERVE SOME OF THE CULTURALLY IMPORTANT SPACES THAT HAVE BEEN AT THE CENTER OF THE GAY RIGHTS MOVEMENT?

CHICAGO — At one of the oldest gay taverns in the city's Boystown neighborhood, the regulars were sharing a laugh over what they had seen the night before at their watering hole: a gaggle of straight women.

"It was like they were at a gay museum," joked James Davies, 61, who has been a regular at Little Jim's for most of the 39 years it's been in business. "They came to see if we fossilized."

Call it a sign of progress, or as University of British Columbia sociologist Amin Ghaziani describes it, the "de-gaying" or "straightening" of America's historically gay enclaves.

In the midst of 20 straight wins in federal courts for same-sex marriage and polling that demonstrates Americans' growing acceptance of LGBT people, scholars and demographers say there are signs that the draw of the so-called gayborhood is fading away.

Understanding the extent of the gay and lesbian migration from gayborhoods with precision is difficult, since the U.S. Census Bureau doesn't ask all individuals about their sexuality. But the bureau does collect data on same-sex couple households, providing the best, albeit incomplete, account of the USA's LGBT population.

By that measure, the number of gay men who live in gay enclaves nationwide has declined 8.1% while the number of lesbians has dropped 13.6% over the last decade, Ghaziani notes in his new book, *There Goes the Gayborhood?*

On its face, the changing demographics would suggest progress, a sign that fewer gays and lesbians see the need to envelop themselves in friendly enclaves. But the shift also presents gay communities with a quandary: how to preserve some of the culturally important spaces that have been at the center of the gay rights movement over the last 50 years.

"We have to ask the question, 'What will happen to these safe spaces in safer times?'" Ghaziani says.

MORE STROLLERS, FEWER SEX SHOPS

The slow transformation that has caught the eyes of Ghaziani and other sociologists and demographers is on full display here in Boystown and in gay enclaves around the USA.

In Seattle, the historically gay-friendly Capitol Hill neighborhood saw same-sex households dive by 23% from 2000 to 2012, while such households were on the rise in nearly every other neighborhood in the city as well as surrounding suburbs.

Some of the most rapid dispersal of gays and lesbians is occurring in medium-size cities such as Tacoma, Wash., and

Spring Valley, Nev., according to a 2012 study by the University of Washington's Amy Spring.

Here in Chicago, Boystown and its adjacent neighborhood account for about 12% of the city's self-identified same-sex households, according to Census figures. It's the highest concentration in Chicago, but Ghaziani says other neighborhoods in the city and suburbs are catching up.

Boystown still has a monument of rainbow pride pylons and plaques honoring gay and lesbian pioneers along Halsted Street, the main thoroughfare bisecting the neighborhood that includes the nation's largest LGBT community center, a bathhouse and plenty of gay bars and clubs.



And Boystown, which proudly claims itself as the nation's first municipally recognized gay neighborhood, soon will open one of the USA's first affordable housing developments meant to benefit the needs of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender seniors.

But Halsted Street these days is filled with more strollers pushed by straight couples who are drawn to the neighborhood's proximity to the lakefront and an elementary school that is regarded as one of the best in the city's public school system.

In a sign of changing tastes, Ghaziani notes that many of the sex shops that dotted the neighborhood's landscape have closed and been replaced by nail salons. Many of the straight residents he interviewed for his book, Ghaziani says, didn't even think of Boystown as a gay neighborhood.

The bars, long a center of gay life in gayborhoods, are changing, too.

Spin, a neighborhood landmark that featured a huge dance floor and amateur drag night, recently closed and was replaced by a whiskey bar. The nightclub is just one of several of the city's big gay nightclubs to bite the dust in recent years, notes Jim Bissonnette, a bartender at Boystown's Little Jim's and longtime neighborhood resident.

THE INTERNET ALSO HAS DIMINISHED THE DRAW OF THE GAYBORHOOD.

"The younger generation wants their bars shiny," Bissonnette says as he stands behind the bar at the dimly lit tavern that draws an older clientele.

The Internet also has diminished the draw of the gayborhood. For a younger generation, chat rooms, dating web sites or apps like Grindr that help gay men set up casual encounters increasingly are seen as more comfortable spaces to meet other men, observes Mark Thomas, who has owned several businesses in the community over the years.

PRICED OUT

Perhaps an even greater factor influencing the changing face of Boystown and gay enclaves throughout the country has been gentrification.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the neighborhood was plagued by gangs and crime. That meant the real estate was cheap and landlords — desperate for tenants — were less likely to discriminate against the gay men who gravitated to the neighborhood.

In Boystown, as it did in gay enclaves such as New York's West Village and San Francisco's Castro District, the LGBT influx led to revitalization in the housing stock, an influx of new business and ultimately the gentrification of a once less than desirable community.

But in time, some of the gay population in Boystown — particularly those who didn't buy real estate when it was cheap — were priced out as the neighborhood rebounded and rents soared.



"Just what none of us wanted to see happen has happened," Thomas says. "The real estate went through the roof, the people who live here became wealthier and the baby buggies became more predominant. And what that did is force a lot of the gay population to other neighborhoods in the city and elsewhere."

The nearby Chicago suburb of Berwyn has sought to take advantage of rising prices and growing acceptance.



In an ongoing marketing campaign, the town of about 57,000 about eight miles from downtown has touted its relatively inexpensive housing. It also boasts of having one of the highest concentrations of same-sex households in the state and is among the state leaders in issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples since Illinois legalized gay marriage.

Berwyn also has sent emissaries to Gay Pride and other events in Boystown to make the case to gays and lesbians to consider moving to the blue-collar suburb.

"People just want to live a good comfortable life," said Amy Crowther, an official at the non-profit Berwyn Development Corp. "They want places to go, things to do and they want a good home, and Berwyn has that. There's an openness here. We're not homogeneous."

"PEOPLE JUST
WANT TO
LIVE A GOOD
COMFORTABLE
LIFE,"
SAID AMY
CROWTHER,

END OF AN ERA?

For some gay and lesbians, the gayborhood is simply no longer as relevant as it once was.

Michael Rogers, 46, says when he moved to Washington, D.C., from western Pennsylvania nearly 20 years ago, his heart was set on living in Dupont Circle, the major gay enclave in the nation's capital.

But when he moved to Portland, Ore., last year, he says finding a neighborhood with a big LGBT population was a low priority.

"Twenty years from now, I'm not sure if gay neighborhoods as we know them now will exist," he says.

Lanae Erickson Hatalsky, an analyst at the Washington group Third Way who tracks public opinion on the LGBT community, says she and her spouse have their own simple litmus test as they've begun shopping around D.C. for their first home.

First, can they walk around the neighborhood holding hands without facing uncomfortable stares or catcall? Secondly, if they had a child, would he or she be the only kid at the local school or playground to have two moms?

"I think the older generation of LGBT people had to very much create a community for themselves that was protected and accepting and that's just not how the Millennial generation of LGBT people feel," she says. "I think we feel that we can be friends with whoever we want no matter their sexual orientation and that we can pretty much go wherever we want."

Jaime Zurheide, 38, who has lived in and around Chicago with her partner, says she never saw gay neighborhoods as much of a draw. In 2011, Zurheide, a doctoral student, and her partner bought a house in Berwyn, the suburb that is marketing to gays and lesbians.

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Zurheide says she appreciates her town's effort to be welcoming. But ultimately her decision of where to move was based on the mundane calculations of commuting time and affordability.

She adds that her generation, particularly those living in and around urban areas, has a luxury that older gay and lesbians didn't have.

"I have lived here (in Chicagoland) for 10 years and it's not an issue that I have really ever had to think about," she says. "For an older generation, there was more having to fight for things. I don't feel like I have had to fight to be accepted."





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