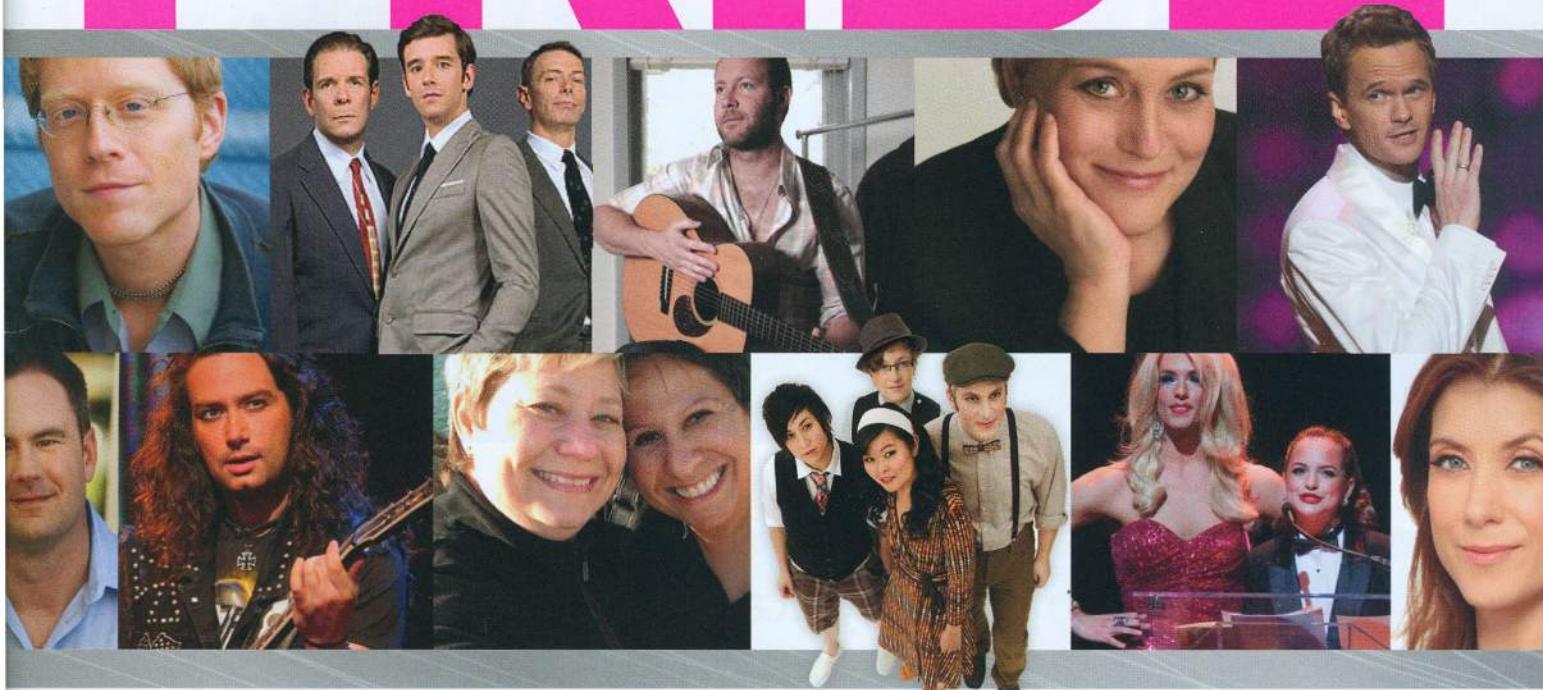


Houston's LGBT Magazine
OutSmartMagazine.com

OutSmart

JUNE 2011

PRIDE



It's what's inside!

DIVAS OF DIVERSITY CHAI FELDBLUM WALKING FOR MARRIAGE MEN OF MATTACHINE LHI
PRIDE COVERAGE THE TONY'S CONSTANTINE MATT ALBER GLBT CENTER ANTHONY RAPP

Pride by Day & Night

OUTSMART's annual guide to all things prideful

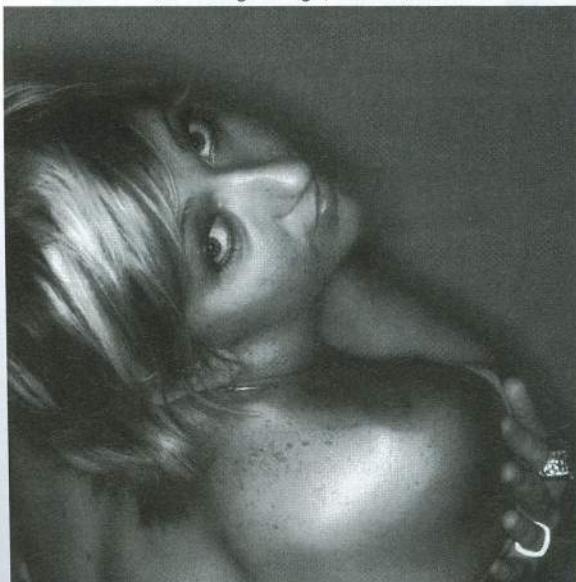
Compiled by Nancy Ford

W hip out those Blackberries and iPhones: there's major social planning to do.

As it has in previous years, the Gulf Coast's LGBT community has pulled out all the stops to make our corner of the world the world's the best and brightest corner, when it comes to showing our collective gay pride. This month, LGBTs and all who love them are treated to a hefty array of events running the gay gamut from art exhibits to drag shows to women rockers to comedy to theater, all sure to please even the most persnickety Pride reveler.

Please make special note that those events highlighted with an * indicate that OUTSMART is a proud sponsor. Don't forget to stop by and say hello!

A much-healthier Ginger Leigh returns to Anderson Fair. (See Ginger Leigh, June 3.)



Former finalist, vocalist **Freddy Cauley**, hosts **Pride SuperStar**. (See **Pride SuperStar**, June 2.)

JUNE 1

Patrice Pike, acoustic folk rocker. 6 p.m. McGonigel's Mucky Duck, 2425 Norfolk St. • mcgonigels.com.

Houston GLBT Political Caucus

meets to vote on the second round of bylaws amendments. 7 p.m. Havens Center, 1827 W. Alabama St. • thecaucus.org.

Houston Pride Band rehearsal. All brass, woodwind, and percussion players of all skill levels welcome. 7:30 p.m. Bethel UCC, 1107 Shepherd Dr. • 713/315-2525 • houstonprideband.org.

Mary Gauthier and Carrie Rodriguez, folk singers/songwriters, perform, featuring Tania Elizabeth on fiddle. 7:30 p.m. McGonigel's

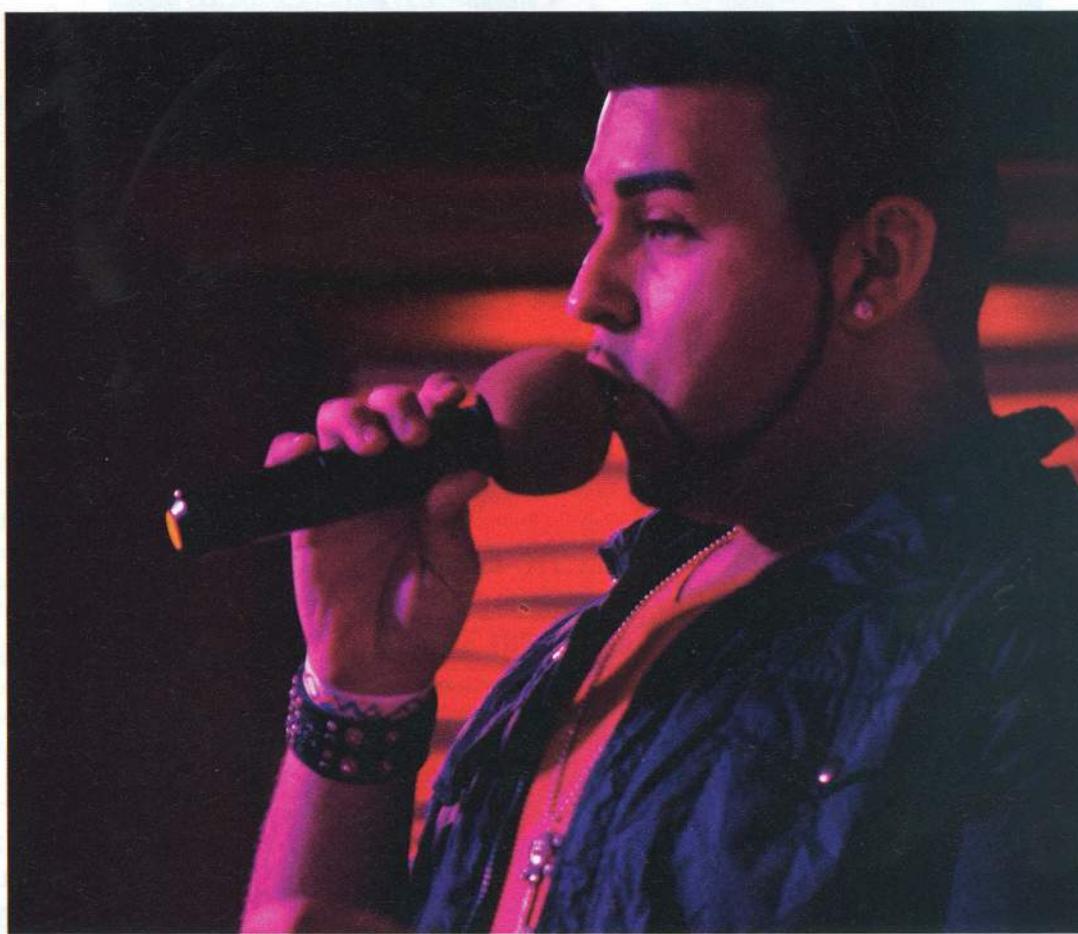
Mucky Duck, 2425 Norfolk St. • mcgonigels.com.

JUNE 2

Pygmalion. George Bernard Shaw's masterpiece is the featured show for this month's ActOUT, Alley Theatre's complimentary pre-curtain social group for gay and lesbian theater fans and their friends who purchase a ticket to the play online. Use promo code ActOUT. 6 p.m. 615 Texas Ave. • alleytheatre.org • 713/220-5700.

Southern Country, a country and western dance troupe, offers free dance lessons. 8:30 p.m. Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos St. • southerncountryhouston.com.

Pride SuperStar. Local vocalists →



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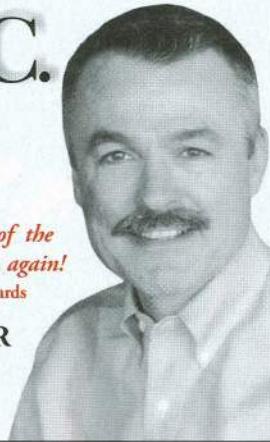
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Pride by Day & Night

continued from previous page

compete for cash, prizes, and recording contracts. Freddie Cauley hosts. 10 p.m. Meteor, 2306 Genesee St. • pridehouston.org.

***Rock of Ages OUT@TUTS.** Enjoy a cabaret-style, post-show event at Artista Restaurant for TUTS' LGBT friends. Hobby Center for Performing Arts, 800 Bagby St. • tutsonline.com • 713/558-8887. (See page 72 for more information.)

JUNE 3

Art Heals, Kermit Eisenhut's summer art school for individuals living with HIV and cancer-related conditions. (Fridays through August). Houston GLBT Community Center, 1900 Kane St. Register: kermitart.com.

Unfinished Lives: Reviving the Memories of LGBTQ Hate Crimes Victims, Part 1.

Openly gay Dr. Stephen V. Sprinkle of Fort Worth's Brite Divinity School discusses stories of those who lost their lives to hate-based violence. Includes dinner. 6:30 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W. 11 St. • resurrectionmcc.org • 713/861-9149.

Ginger Leigh. The critically acclaimed folk rocker and frequent Houston Women's Festival emcee returns to the stage after her successful battle with breast cancer. 9 p.m. Anderson Fair, 2007 Grant St. • andersonfair.com • 832/212-4057.

JUNE 4

Heartbeat of Equality Gala, Human Rights Campaign Houston's black-tie dinner/dance event, features HRC director of diversity Cuc Vu, comedian Scott Nevins of TruTV's *The Smoking Gun Presents*, and headliner Kate Walsh, star of ABC's *Private Practice*. 6 p.m. Hilton Americas, 1600 Lamar St. • hrchoustongala@gmail.com.

Lesbian Health Initiative Houston's

Rainbow Health Fair for lesbians, offering mammograms, Pap appointments, and extensive blood screenings by appointment, body/skin scans, and more. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Legacy Community Health Services, 215 Westheimer Rd. To schedule a mammogram, blood screening, or Pap test, call 713/426-3356 or e-mail info@lhihouston.org. (See page 46 for more information.)

JUNE 5

Lesbians Over Age Fifty Ice Cream Social.

LOAF celebrates 23 years in the Pride Parade with its annual offering of homemade, hand-cranked ice cream with five to six flavors including vanilla, straw-

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JUNE 7
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Girlyma
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berry, and banana, as well as exotic and unexpected flavors, complete with toppings and accompanying cakes, cookies, and more. Lesbians age 50+ and their partners welcomed. 2 p.m. Abercrombie Retreats' Tin Roof Hide Out, 3784 Pine Acres Dr., Conroe • loafhouston.org • 281/467-2578.

Sliders Throwdown. Enjoy food, entertainment, and a silent auction while raising funds for HATCH Prom 2011. 2 p.m. EJ's, 2517 Ralph St. • hatchyouth.org.

Other Loves: Celebrating Queer Artists focuses on the lives and problems of queer artists, and celebrates their work. Presented by Voices Breaking Boundaries. Includes a post-show discussion with the artists. 6 p.m. Houston Institute for Culture, 708-C Telephone Rd. • vbbarts.org.

JUNE 6

Cruising the Bible: A Queer Journey Through Scripture.

7 p.m. Adults only. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W. 11 St. • resurrectionmcc.org • 713/861-9149.

JUNE 7

Girlyman, the quirky folk-pop-bluegrass quartet that sometimes opens for Indigo Girls (although not at this show). 7:30 p.m. McGonigel's Mucky Duck, 2425 Norfolk St. • mcgonigels.com.



Girlyman hits Houston.
(See June 7.)

JUNE 8

Patrice Pike. (See June 1.)

Houston Pride Band rehearsal. (See June 1.)

JUNE 9

SPRY Potluck. LGBT seniors 60 years and older are invited to bring their favorite dish and enjoy fellowship together. 4 p.m. GLBT Cultural Center, 401 Branard, Room 101 • spryhouston.org.

Pride SuperStar. Local vocalists compete for cash, prizes, and recording contract. Freddie Cauley hosts. 10 p.m. Meteor, 2306 Genesee St. • pridehouston.org.

JUNE 10

Unfinished Lives: Reviving the Memories of LGBTQ Hate Crimes Victims, Part 2.

Openly gay Dr. Stephen V. Sprinkle of Fort Worth's Brite Divinity School discusses lessons learned by the communities affected by their deaths, as well as by those who strive to address and resist such violence. Includes dinner. 6:30 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W. 11 St. • resurrectionmcc.org • 713/861-9149.

19th Annual HATCH Prom. The youth of HATCH and their supporters go "Over the Rainbow" to celebrate LGBT students' annual rite of spring on their own terms. Costumes, tuxes, and gowns are encouraged, but not required. Youth ages 13–20 get in free; \$25 for adults. 7 p.m. GLBT Cultural Center, 401 Branard St., 1st Floor • 713/529-3590 • hatchyouth.org.

*Sordid Lives with

Galveston Stonewall Democrats.

Island ETC's (east-end theatre company) production of Del Shores' Southern comedy, followed by a cocktail party with the cast and Houston artist Will Brooks. Island ETC, 2317 Mechanic St. • islandetc.org • 409/762-3556. (See page 77 for more information.)

Art Heals. (See June 3.)

JUNE 11

Galveston Gay Beach

Party offers music, volleyball, horseshoes, drinking, sunning, swimming, and mixing and mingling with



ANDREW MACPHERSON/ABC

Kate Walsh, star of ABC's *Private Practice*, is the special guest at Human Rights Campaign Houston's Heartbeat of Equality Gala. (See June 4.)

the cast and crew of *LezBeProud.com*, a local online reality show. 11 a.m. Gay Beach, east of Beachtown.

Centro Grupo Latino, Spanish-language support group facilitated by Chris Escalante for individuals affected by HIV/AIDS. 4 p.m. (monthly, second Saturday). Houston GLBT Community Center, 1900 Kane St. • houstonlbtcommunitycenter.org • 713/524-3818.

***Americana**, Houston Pride Band's annual pride concert, features the works of American composers, including John Philip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever" and Aaron Copland's "The Promise of Living." 7:30 p.m. Hobby Center's Zilkha Hall, 800 Bagby St. • 713/315-2525 • houstonprideband.org.

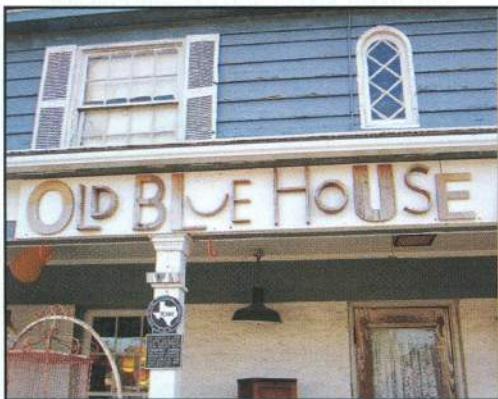
***Join Misty Valdez** for the final stop of the 23rd annual AIDS Benefit Tour with special guests Miss Kofi, Trencenia St. James, Symphony Oz, and Crystal Towers. Benefits ACCT of Galveston. 9 p.m. Stars Beach Club, 3200 Seawall Blvd., Galveston • starsbeachclub.com • 409/497-4113. →



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Pride by Day & Night

continued from previous page

Tara and Kara Dion Birthday Bash

features drag entertainment and drink specials. 11 p.m. 3rd Coast Downtown, 2416 Postoffice St., Galveston • 3rdcoastdowntown.com.

JUNE 12

Climb the Gangway champagne brunch and silent auction. Sailing attire encouraged. Noon. Benefits Galveston AIDS Foundation. San Luis Resort, 5310 Seawall Blvd., Galveston • 409/763-2437.

JUNE 13

Cruising the Bible: A Queer Journey Through Scripture. (See June 6.)

JUNE 15

Patrice Pike. (See June 1.)

Houston Pride Band rehearsal. (See June 1.)

JUNE 16

SPRY Movie Afternoon. LGBT seniors 60 years and older are invited to enjoy a screening of Del Shores' *Sordid Lives*. 4 p.m. GLBT Cultural Center, 401 Brannard, Room 101 • spryhouston.com.

The Art of Pride features works by resident artist Randall Jobe, with entertainment by DJ Tad Dvorak, F Bar's Dreamgirls and other special guests. 6 p.m. Benefits AIDS Foundation Houston. Betz Gallery, 1208 W. Gray St. • betzgallery.com • 713/576-6954.

Pride Superstar. (See June 9.)

The Temperamentals. Theatre New West presents the southwest premiere of Jon Marans' play about the Mattachine Society, the U.S.'s first gay-rights organization. 8 p.m. Benefits Houston GLBT Community Center. Dowling Music, 2615 Southwest Frwy. • theatrenewwest.com • 713/522-2204. (See page 55 for more information.)

JUNE 17

Unfinished Lives: Reviving the Memories of LGBTQ Hate Crimes Victims, Part 3. Openly gay Dr. Stephen V. Sprinkle of Fort Worth's Brite Divinity School discusses strategies for mobilization and activism in personal, faith, and shared communities. Includes dinner. 6:30 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W. 11 St. • resurrectionmcc.org • 713/861-9149.

Art Heals. (See June 3.)

The Temperamentals. (See June 16.)

JUNE 18

Dave Koz. The openly gay saxophonist brings his Hello Tomorrow Tour 2011 to



GREG ALLEN

Six-time Grammy-nominated saxophonist Dave Koz performs in Houston. (See June 18.)

House of Blues Houston. 6 p.m. 1204 Caroline St. • houseofblues.com.

SIN Houston. Girl Jam and Miss Managed Productions present a lesbian dance party with special guests Whitney, Romi, and Rose from Showtime's *The Real L Word*, plus dancers Sara Bettencourt and Brass Ovaries, DJ Lezlee, DJ BJ Loray, and more. 9 p.m. \$15+. Stereo Live, 6400 Richmond Ave. Register by June 11 for a chance to win a limousine ride and dinner with *The Real L Word* cast members, and tickets to the party. sinhouston.eventbrite.com.

***Pride Houston's Pride Week Opening Ceremonies** include ribbon cutting, local entertainment, and surprise guest appear-

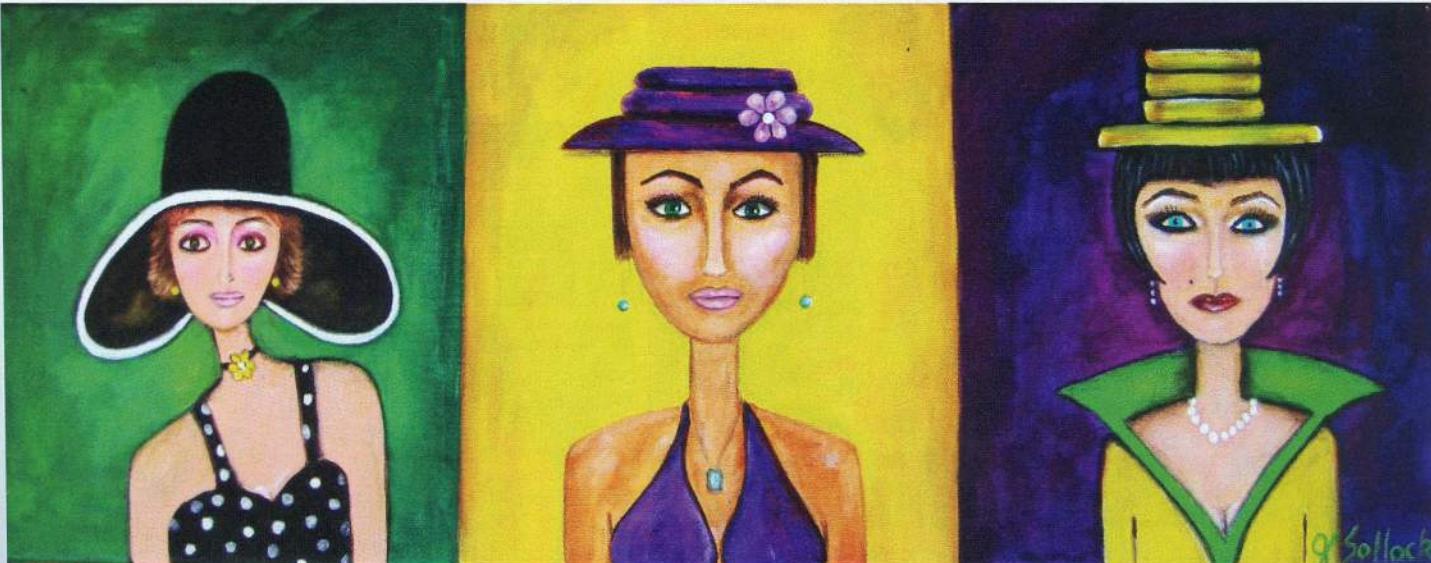
ances. 5:30 p.m. Jones Plaza, 615 Louisiana St. • pridehouston.org.

Houston GLBT Political Caucus' 36th Anniversary Spring Fling features cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, door prizes, dancing, and more. Benefits HGLBTPC. 7 p.m. Historic Magnolia Ballroom, 715 Franklin St. • hglbtpc.org.

***Anything Goes!** Bayou City Performing Arts' Gay Men's Chorus of Houston and special guests, including finalists of Pride SuperStar, perform in a comedy/cabaret concert. 7:30 p.m. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. • bayoucityperformingarts.org.

The Temperamentals. (See June 16.)

Artist Kermit Eisenhut brings his summer-long art school to Houston's GLBT Community Center. The art pictured below was painted by a student who participated in the program. (See Art Heals, June 3.)



Matt Alber, the Grammy Award-winning artist with the classical chamber ensemble Chanticleer, performs in concert. 10 p.m. Hard Rock Cafe Houston, 502 Texas Ave. Benefits Pride Houston and Bayou City Performing Arts. hardrock.com. (See page 63 for more information.)

Customer Turn-About Drag Show offers a special prize to whomever raises the most money. 11 p.m. Benefits Galveston AIDS Foundation. 3rd Coast Downtown, 2416 Postoffice St., Galveston • 3rdcoastdowntowntown.com.

JUNE 19

Divas of Diversity. Four female comedians bring Hollywood to Houston with a comedy concert, as well as a red carpet welcome and reception for VIPs. 7:30 p.m. Houston Club, 811 Rusk St. • divasofdiversity.com. (See page 99 for more information.)

Gay And Lesbian Latino Organization (GALLO)

(GALLO) kicks off Latin@ Gay Orgullo Week with Mr. and Mrs. GALLO, a friendly non-drag competition to crown a self-identified male and female to represent GALLO. 9 p.m. Meteor Lounge, 2306 Genesee St. • houstongallo.org.

JUNE 20

Cruising the Bible: A Queer Journey Through Scripture. (See June 6.)

GALLO presents Miss GALLO, a Latin@ Queen of Queens competition. 9 p.m. South Beach, 810 Pacific St. • houstongallo.org.

JUNE 21

***Gay And Lesbian Latino Organization (GALLO)** presents Wine and Dine features Trio Facinacion. 6 p.m. El Tiempo Restaurant, 1308 Montrose Blvd. • houstongallo.org. →

Pride by Day & Night

continued from page 93

Over the Rainbow, a special Drag Live Pride presentation starring the F Bar Dreamgirls, hosted by Tye Blue. 10 p.m. F Bar, 202 Tuam St. • fbarhouston.com • 713/661-7600.

JUNE 22

Dining Out with Pride donates a third of diners' food bill total to Pride Houston. Chelsea Grill, 4621 Montrose Blvd. • pridehouston.org • 713/942-9857

Patrice Pike. (See June 1.)

Gay And Lesbian Latino Organization (GALLO) presents Sharing the Legacy with Latina lesbian activist Linda Morales, who discusses her challenge of Texas's Sodomy Law, which helped lead to the Supreme Court ruling sodomy laws unconstitutional in *Lawrence v. Texas*. 7 p.m. Rice University, Humanities Building, Room 117 • houstongallo.org.

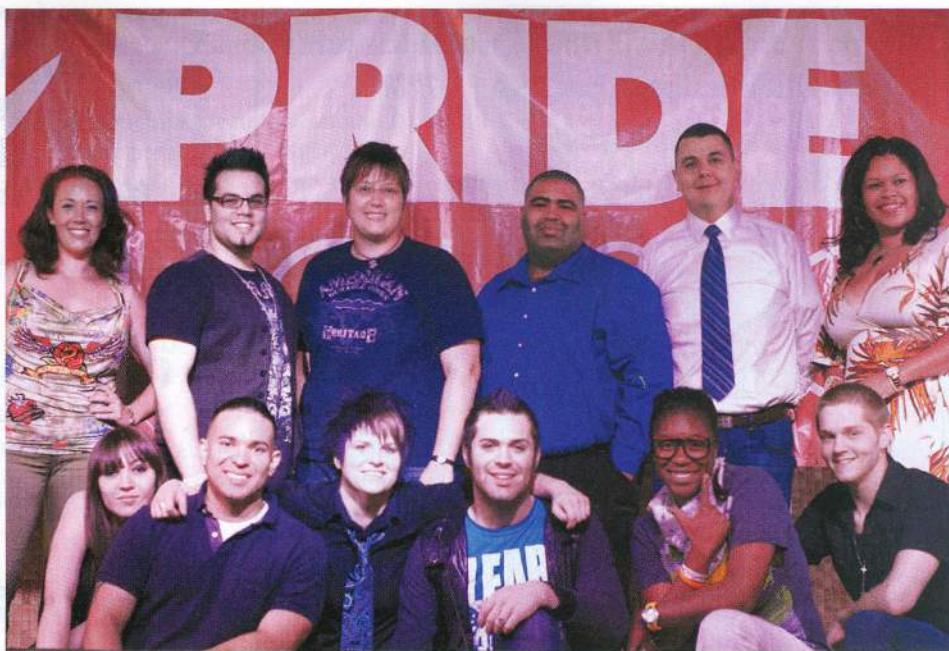
Houston Pride Band rehearsal. (See June 1.)

Pride Fuego! DJ Cubanita spins Prideful dance music with a Latin beat. 9 p.m. F Bar, 202 Tuam St. • fbarhouston.com • 713/661-7600.

JUNE 23

Gay And Lesbian Latino Organization (GALLO) presents Healthy Orgullo, a health fair with free testing and information from Walgreens Pharmacy's mobile unit, the Latino HIV Taskforce, and Legacy Community Health Services. 6 p.m. Club Crystal, 6680 SW Frwy. • houstongallo.org.

Pride SuperStar Finals. Local vocalists compete for cash, prizes and recording con-



The group of fine singers gets smaller as the Pride SuperStar vocal competition progresses. (See Pride SuperStar, June 2.)

tract. Freddie Cauley hosts. 10 p.m. Meteor, 2306 Genesee St. • pridehouston.org.

Jock for Jocks Fundraiser and Art Show coincides with the grand finale of Tye Blue's Rising Star competition. Benefits Osito Foundation and Montrose Softball League. 10 p.m. F Bar, 202 Tuam St. • fbarhouston.com • 713/661-7600.

JUNE 24

Art Heals. (See June 3.)

Gay And Lesbian Latino Organization (GALLO) presents Noche de GALA, a black-tie benefit featuring Mariachi Origen y Tradicion, Aviso, and DJ Alex. 8 p.m. Carpenter's Union Hall 551, 2600 Hamilton St. • houstongallo.org.

Rooftop Rendezvous at EVO. Houston's all-new girl bar rocks Midtown with Victoria Love, Sarah Golden, Angela McKutchon, Paige Lewis, and DJ Melle Mel. 4 p.m. 2707 Milam St. • evo-lounge.com.

***Rainbow on the Green**, a free outdoor Pride concert, features Anthony Rapp, Tye Blue, Brittni Jackson, Sara Jackson, Miss Money, and F Bar's Dreamgirls. 8 p.m. Discovery Green Anheuser-Busch Stage, 1500 McKinney St. • mygayhouston.com. (See page 101 for more information.)

Rock the Runway, Pride Houston's annual fashion show, with clothing provided by Duo. Enjoy emcee Toddicus, 104 KRBE-FM host Special K, vocalist Dorothy →

The Houston Pride Band gets patriotic for Pride. (See June 1.)



Pride by Day & Night

continued from page 95

Bishop ("The Diva of the High C's"), and surprises from Jagermeister. 8 p.m. Guava Lamp, 570 Waugh Dr. • pridehouston.org.

Pride Month performance of *The Temperamentals*. (See June 16.)

All Dolled Up & Ready for Show, the GLBT 2011 Pride Show, benefits PWA Holiday Charities. 8:30 p.m. Tony's Corner Pocket's, 817 W. Dallas St. • pwaholidaycharities.org.

***Rainbow on the Green Official After-Party** features DJ Ross. F Bar, 202 Tuam St. • fbarhouston.com • 713/661-7600.

Foam Party. Play in 5,000 cubic feet of foam in Montrose's legendary dance club. South Beach, 810 Pacific St. • southbeachthenightclub.com • 713/529-7623.

Pride Weekend Kick-off Headquarters offers complimentary happy-hour food to accompany the cocktails and people-watching. JR's, 808 Pacific St. • 713/521-2519.

DJ Barry Browder from Fort Lauderdale rocks the house, with a half-dozen hot boys rotating through the showers every 30 minutes. Meteor, 2306 Genesee St. • meteorlounge.com.

Montrose's Legendary Cruise Bar for the "man's man" offers free post-Pride peanuts. Montrose Mining Company, 805 Pacific St. • 713/529-7488.

JUNE 25

***Houston LGBT Pride Festival** offers exhibitors, artists, music, performers, stages, and fun. Located in Montrose in the 1100 block of Westheimer Rd. 1 p.m. pridehouston.org.

Houston LGBT Pride Parade rolls east down Westheimer Road from Dunlavy Street to Crocker Street, featuring some of Houston's most visible charitable organizations, businesses, and political leaders. 8:15 p.m. pridehouston.org.

After-Parade Dance



Dr. Stephen J. Sprinkle examines hate crimes in a month-long dinner series at RMCC. (See *Unfinished Lives*, June 3.)

Party for partiers 21 years old and up. 8 p.m. F Bar, 202 Tuam St. • fbarhouston.com • 713/661-7600.

Amuse Bouche Entertainment and DJ Mav Music present Good Music Saturdays each week, spinning rap, reggae, R&B, new and old school, hip-hop, and house music. This week is a special Pride celebration. 10 p.m. Pagoda Lounge, 4705 Inker.

Cap off a Full Day's Worth of Pride with Fort Lauderdale VJ Barry Browder. JR's, 808 Pacific St. • 713/521-2519.

DJ Joe Ross rocks the house, with a half-dozen hot boys rotating through the showers every 30 minutes. Meteor, 2306 Genesee St. • meteorlounge.com.

Montrose's Legendary Cruise Bar. (See June 24.)

Official Pride Houston-Sanctioned, Post-Pride Parade Party. DJ Riley from Chicago. \$15+. South Beach, 810 Pacific St. • southbeachthenightclub.com • 713/529-7623.

JUNE 26

GALLO's Rainbow Party, benefiting GALLO and the Rainbow Pages Foundation. 9 p.m. Meteor Lounge, 2306 Genesee St. • houstongallo.org.

JUNE 27

Rapid HIV Testing and Free Syphilis Testing in observance of National HIV Testing Day. Legacy Community Health Services, 215 Westheimer Rd. (9 a.m.-6:30 p.m.) and Legacy Community Health Services, 5602 Lyons Ave (9 a.m.-5 p.m.). No appointment necessary. 713/830-3000.

Cruising the Bible: A Queer Journey Through Scripture. (See June 6.)

JUNE 28

The Temperamentals. (See June 16.)

JUNE 29

Patrice Pike. (See June 1.)

Houston Pride Band rehearsal. (See June 1.)

The Temperamentals. (See June 16.) ■

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Rapp Sheet

The 'Rent' star moves in for Houston Pride. OUTSMART gives you the 411 on one of musical theater's most enduring actors

by Steven Foster • Photo by Phil Bray

Name: Anthony Deane Rapp.

Born: October 26, 1971.

Birthplace: Chicago, Illinois.

Occupation: Actor, singer, author.

First Film: '80s classic *Adventures in Babysitting* as Daryl Coopersmith, the sex-crazed teenager brought along for the ride.

Affleck-nection #1: The Jew-in-School melodrama *School Ties* (which also starred Affleck buddy Matt Damon).

Affleck-nection #2: Richard Linklater's seminal, star-studded Texas stoner must-see *Dazed & Confused*, as a member of the nerd triumvirate. Rapp's character was one of the few who avoided Affleck's paddle-wielding bully.

Best Known For: Playing Mark in *Rent*, the revolutionary retelling of *La Boheme*, set in AIDS-ravaged New York City. Rapp portrayed the character on Broadway and in the film which was, in a strange bit of career roundabout, directed by *Babysitting* director Chris Columbus.

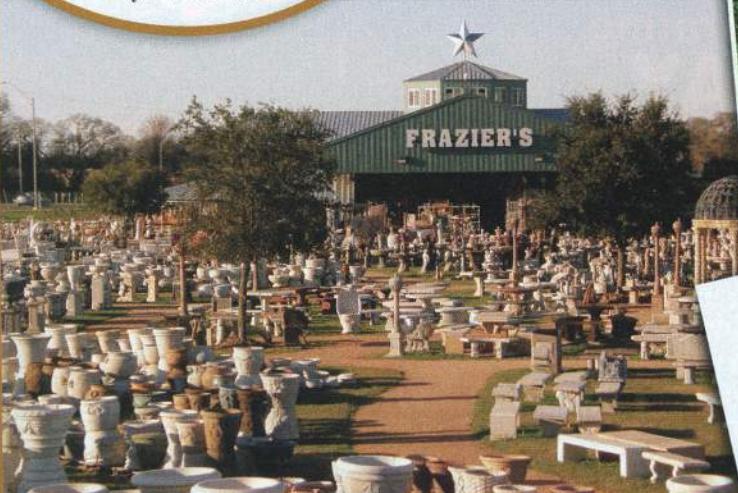
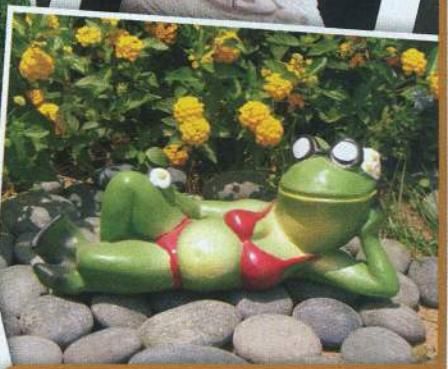
Last Seen: With Joan Rivers and Emily Bergl at The Laurie Beechman Theatre in *A Toast to Tennessee*, a collage honoring playwright Tennessee Williams and the centennial of his birth.

Future Tense: In Houston at the Rainbow on the Green, the free concert on June 24 at 8 p.m. celebrating Gay Pride Month. ■



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2011 Male Pride Marshal

Bryan Hlavinka, a 'Queer Voice' keeping the community informed

by Brandon Wolf

There were three big flags," smiles Bryan Hlavinka. "I didn't date girls, I was in the high school marching band, and I loved being in school plays . . . but I still didn't accept that I was gay."

Now in his late 30s, Hlavinka can laugh as he reflects back on life in high school. He has become so comfortable with his sexual orientation that he has been honored for his community activism by Houston's LGBT community, and was elected to serve as the Male Grand Marshal for the 2011 Pride Parade.

A Native Texan

Bryan Hlavinka was born in 1974 in Freeport, Texas, where his father worked for Dow Chemical Company. He and his brother grew up in Brazoria, and in high school he took as many honors classes as possible. "I wanted to be a chemical engineer, so I knew I had to stand out in order to get into college." And along the way, he played the trombone in the school's marching band and was a cast member in school plays.

"I fell in love with the theater," he says, "and I was also very competitive. I entered projects in local science fairs. I once conducted a fermentation project that produced an all-natural insecticide based on oil."

Upon graduation from his "redneck" high school, his hard work and diligence paid off and he was accepted at both the University of Texas and Texas A&M University.

His mother convinced him to choose A&M. "I think she thought A&M would make me a man," he says with a smile. "For an engineering career, it was indeed the better choice—I had more chances to network and the courses were more in-depth."

After college, Hlavinka went to work for a chemical oilfield manufacturer in Sugarland. He's remained in the oil industry throughout his adult life and is currently a consultant for a firm in the Greenspoint area.

"I specialize in floating production, storage, and offloading," he says. "I work with oil tankers that have been converted into offshore oil refining plants. I love being able



COURTESY JACK OPATRNY

Bryan Hlavinka, co-host of the long-running KPFT radio show *Queer Voices*, is the 2011 Male Pride Marshal.

to travel—recently I've been to Malaysia, Singapore, and Japan."

Coming Out in 'Closet Station'

During his senior year in high school,

Hlavinka says his mother asked him if he was gay. "We had gone to the Kettle Restaurant in Lake Jackson for dinner. I told her 'no,' because I wasn't even out to myself yet. →

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Male Pride Marshal continued from previous page

"I was gay when I was in kindergarten," Hlavinka admits, "but I kept thinking the right girl would come along and I'd get married. However, I felt very isolated, and I finally realized there wasn't a 'right girl.'"

"So I finally went to Club 202, the only gay bar in College Station," he recalls. "I had thought I was the only gay person at A&M. Boy, was I wrong! There was a sea of gay men at A&M. We nicknamed the town 'Closet Station.'"

During the rest of his stay at A&M, Hlavinka spent every weekend visiting gay bars in larger cities. "I alternated between Austin, Houston, and Dallas," he says, "and got to know a lot of wonderful people."

The Activist Emerges

Hlavinka finally decided to make Houston his permanent home several years ago. After coming out of the closet, he became more outgoing. Today he serves on the board of the Center for AIDS and on the national board of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, whose mission is to increase the number of openly-LGBT leaders at all levels of government.

But it is in his role as a co-host of KPFT's weekly *Queer Voices* show that he is best known in Houston's LGBT community. "Three years ago I was invited to the show to talk about the Jungle Party, a fundraiser staged by the Bayou City Boys Club." That visit, and his love of theater, led him to become a regular co-host on the radio show.

Queer Voices is one of two weekly KPFT news programs that highlight Houston's LGBT community. Hlavinka works with host Jack Valinski to put together stories for the show. "I'm always looking for stories, but now people have begun calling me out of the blue."

The shows are planned weeks in advance, but if a big story comes along, it is pushed to the front. "We were able to get news out quickly about the recent Texas HIV/AIDS Coalition Town Hall—and also about Proposition 8 rallies. The most exciting show was the night Annise Parker visited us and announced her candidacy for mayor of Houston," Hlavinka says.

He later worked on the finance committee for the Parker campaign. "Because of my involvement, I was invited into the VIP area the night of the victory party. When news came that Annise had won, she reached over and squeezed the hand of her partner, Kathy Hubbard. I burst into tears—it was a vision come true that night."

Working with the Victory Fund has brought Hlavinka into contact with many other high-visibility gay personalities. "We had a sold-out audience come to hear Daniel Hernandez, the intern who helped save Rep. Gabrielle Gifford's life after she was wounded in Tucson by a rampaging gunman during an outdoor event."

Recently the Victory Fund hosted a party for Fort Worth councilmember Joel Burns, whose impassioned anti-bullying plea during a city council meeting went viral across the Internet. "I knew him from a phone interview on *Queer Voices* after the Fort Worth Rainbow Lounge raid, but finally I got to meet him in person."

Hlavinka feels that marriage equality is the most important LGBT issue today, but he also has concerns about bullying and HIV prevention. "We need legislation that places emphasis on protecting gay students. We need to go after the bullies and protect the victims."

Hlavinka remembers hearing about AIDS while in the first grade, and thinking that he would one day die from it. "If I'd been born 10 years earlier, I wouldn't be here today," he says. "I worry about today's apathetic attitude toward safe sex. There could be a drug-resistant strain of the virus that will yet emerge. The younger generation has little knowledge of what the 1980s and 1990s were like."

Romance and Marriage

The most important person in Hlavinka's life is his partner of six years, David Theisen. "He helps keep me focused and grounded. He gives me a home base. I call him 'my Kathy Hubbard.'"

Hlavinka says that he met Theisen at Meteor Bar. "I was staring at him and couldn't believe how good-looking he was." Two months later he saw Theisen again, this time at South Beach, and summoned up the courage to introduce himself.

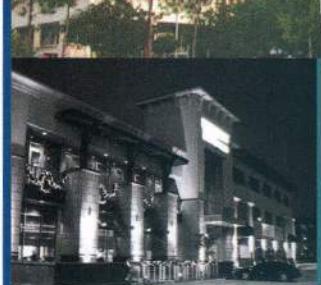
"We want to get married," Hlavinka says. "Texas will always be our home, and we want to get married in our home state. It's what we're fighting for—it's about equal rights." He is optimistic about the issue and believes marriage equality will come to Texas within the current decade.

Hlavinka will ride in the Male Marshal's convertible at the 2011 Pride Parade, and though his partner is a very private person, he will join Hlavinka on the back of the car. Hlavinka says that the night he was named Male Marshal was "a surreal blur. It's the highest honor in our community, and it's inspired me to do even more."

Brandon Wolf is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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2011 Female Pride Marshal

*From devout to out,
Tammi Wallace's life has been passionate*

by Brandon Wolf

Tammi Wallace was in her late 20s, when she first sat on a street curb along lower Westheimer and watched the Pride parade go by. "I was in tears," she remembers. "It meant so much to me to see the celebration of gay pride. I finally realized that this is where I'd always belonged."

This June, when she leads the parade as the 2011 Female Pride Marshal, she will be hoping that this parade is just as important to many other people as her first parade was for her.

"It was a huge honor just to be nominated. I'm so full of gratitude to have been chosen as a marshal. But I don't think it will really hit me until I'm riding down Westheimer. And this year, I'll probably be crying again."

Growing Up in Memphis

Wallace was born in Memphis during the socially turbulent year of 1968, just six months after Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated in her hometown. She grew up in the Memphis suburb of Southaven, Mississippi. When she turned eight, Wallace's parents divorced, and her mother went to work to support Tammi and her younger sister. A latchkey kid, she yearned for stability and security.

"My mother was not religious, but my grandmother was a devout Pentecostal. Her church became my 'home.' The church was extremely strict. Women couldn't wear pants or makeup, and we couldn't cut our hair. We weren't supposed to listen to secular music or go to movies or watch TV. Males and females were not allowed to swim together." It was a difficult situ-

ation for Wallace, especially since her mother and sister weren't interested in the church.

Wallace was "an athletic tomboy" in her Pentecostal high school, passionate about life, and naturally gifted with leadership skills. She played softball and basketball, and was the captain of the volleyball team.

A Crushing Blow

Wallace next chose a Pentecostal college in Houston that her Memphis church paid

for after the money she'd saved for college went to her mother, who had lost her job and the family was penniless. Wallace found a part-time job in the credit department of Finger Furniture. "Employers liked Bible school kids, because we were always dependable."

Wallace loved the school, her job, and her friends. Then one day, totally unexpectedly, she was called into the school president's office and falsely accused of having a lesbian relationship with another female student. →



Tammi Wallace (l) with the love of her life, Mercedes Leal, during a sentimental trip home to Memphis in 2009.

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Female Pride Marshal continued from previous page

"My whole world was shattered," Wallace remembers. "While the president was deciding what to do, I was on my knees praying every day." Despite her prayers, she was expelled from the school.

She drove home to Memphis, sobbing the whole way. "I wondered how God could let this happen to me. I had done everything right; I'd dedicated my life to God, and I had planned to be a missionary's wife."

Back in Memphis, her mother encouraged her to go back to Houston and work full-time. "She told me if it didn't work out, I could always come home."

Finding Her Own Life

So Wallace moved into an apartment near Hobby Airport with two other women. Finger Furniture was delighted to have her working full-time.

Over the next two years, she tried to reconcile herself with her religion. "But I was angry and hurt, and I drifted away and never found a reason to come back, to this or any other religion."

She became close friends with a former student of the Pentecostal college. "She convinced me to cut my hair, and taught me how to use makeup. When I showed up for work with my new look, everyone was stunned."

Wallace gave heterosexuality one last chance and started dating men. "The efforts were a failure," she says, rolling her eyes.

A job change found her working for a mortgage company. "One of the other employees there was gay, but closeted. She shared her secret with me, and eventually I found out about Inklings, a lesbian bookstore in Montrose."

Her first visit to Inklings was filled with anxiety. "I could barely get out of my car," she says. "Once inside, I couldn't look anyone in the eye."

She finally accepted an invitation from her workmate and checked out The Ranch, a popular lesbian club at the time. "Nancy Ford was entertaining that night," she remembers. "I love that woman! Watching her show finally pulled me out of the closet."

Meanwhile, Wallace had been seeing a therapist and attending a local community college. By 1996, she felt ready for a relationship. "That relationship lasted 12 years," she says, "but we grew apart."

Finding Her Place in the Community

Once out of the closet, Wallace began what would become a decade and a half of service to her community, all the while attending the University of Houston part-

time and earning a business degree.

She joined the Houston GLBT Caucus, and began working on local campaigns. She has been involved with Progressive Voters in Action (PVA), the Lesbian & Gay Rights Lobby of Texas (LGRL), the Houston Equal Rights Alliance (HERA), Equality Knocks (on doors), and Equality Texas.

She walked blocks for candidates, passed out voter registration cards at the Pride Parades, took part in exit polling, and helped build an impressive voter ID database.

Eventually, she joined the Caucus board and was particularly impressed with Ellen Cohen, who was running in 2006 to unseat Martha Wong, a politician very unpopular with the gay community.

Cohen was equally impressed with Wallace and hired her as district director of her campaign. After being elected to the Texas House of Representatives, Cohen retained Wallace to do constituent work.

Wallace ran Cohen's successful 2008 campaign and eventually was appointed Cohen's chief of staff. During the anti-Democratic 2010 midterm elections, Cohen lost her seat by 725 votes.

Cohen had served on the House Education Committee in Austin, and Wallace had become very passionate about education from that exposure. She is now the Chief Growth Officer at KIPP, a charter school system for at-risk students in low-income areas. "Ninety percent of our students graduate, and many go on to college," says Wallace.

A fan of the late Eleanor Roosevelt, Wallace lives her life based on a Roosevelt quote: "Do one thing every day that scares you."

Falling in Love on a Ferris Wheel

In May 2009, Wallace met her current partner, Mercedes Leal, at a Young Women in Government function. They enjoyed each other's company and continued to see each other.

One night Leal suggested they drive to Kemah for dinner. "We rode the Ferris wheel, and when it stopped at the top, I looked over at Mercedes, summoned up all my courage, and told her I was in love with her." They've been partners ever since, and now wait for marriage equality to come to Texas.

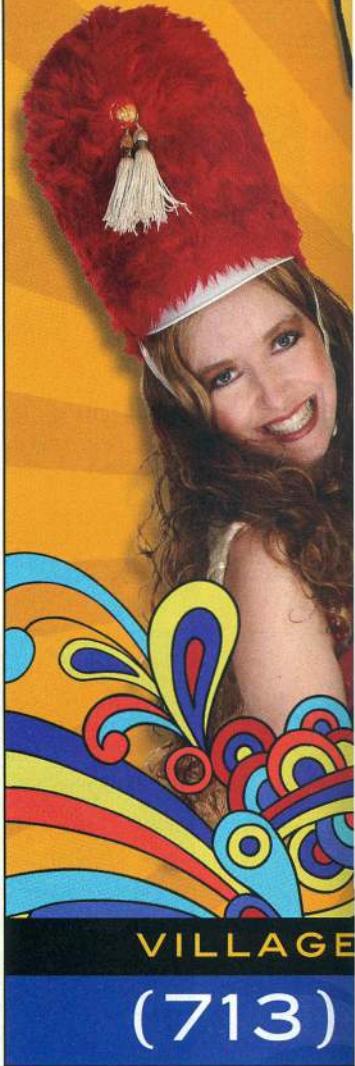
"She makes me laugh. She has the most beautiful smile in the world. And as a breast cancer survivor, she cherishes life," says Wallace. "She reminds me what is important."

Brandon Wolf is a frequent contributor to Out-Smart magazine.

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2011 Honorary Pride Marshals

*Duane and Judy Roland
are honored for their community efforts*

by Brandon Wolf

Photo by Dalton DeHart

Duane and Judy Roland are this year's Honorary Pride Marshals, an annual tribute bestowed on heterosexual allies of Houston's LGBT community.

The Rolands have three sons, and the youngest two are gay. Duane and Judy both grew up in Richmond, Indiana, a city due east of Indianapolis, near the Ohio border, where they lived until 2005. They first met and began dating in high school when Judy was a junior and Duane was a sophomore.

After high school, Judy attended college for a year, then worked for three years at Purina Mills. In the meantime, Duane worked as a draftsman before enlisting in the Army, where he was a water supply specialist stationed in Frankfurt, Germany.

After two years in Germany, Duane was on leave in Richmond in 1959 when he proposed to Judy. "He proposed and then told me he would have to return to Germany," Judy remembers. She later joined him in Frankfurt, where they rented the first floor of a German family's home. There, in 1960, the first of their three sons, Brett, was born.

After completing his tour, while Judy worked as a secretary, Duane enrolled in college and earned a degree in civil engineering. He found work in the aircraft manufacturing industry after graduation, just as the Vietnam war was beginning to build.

Duane was asked to solve a major problem that the F4 Phantom Jets were experiencing. The planes flew low to drop bombs, and the bombs were exploding too quickly—sometimes taking the F4 down in flames. Duane's team developed a bomb with fins that contained small parachutes and a fuse that took five seconds to detonate the bomb, thus giving pilots the needed window to escape the bomb's fury.

During the years at the aircraft factory, Judy and Duane had two more sons, Brian and Eric. Judy was a full-time stay-at-home mom while the boys grew up →



Duane and Judy Roland, 2011 Honorary Pride Marshals, are shown at Legacy Community Health Services' Pathway to Our Legacy Kickoff Party, May 17, 2011.

Honorary Pride Marshals continued from previous page

and went through high school. "There was a lot of driving to and from athletic competitions," Judy remembers.

In the early 1970s, Duane joined a local construction company as a project manager, working on the building of schools and factories. By 1983, he had an engineer's license and started his own business, Whitewater Construction. "It was a design-and-build company," Duane says.

Judy managed the office. "I never had to worry about anything," Duane says with a smile.

While the Rolands launched their new construction company, their eldest son, Brett, married and began a family. Brett lives in Richmond, Indiana, with his wife, Cathy, and their six children. He is president of a construction company, and Cathy works as an ob/gyn nurse practitioner.

Coming Out Times Two

Youngest son Eric was 18 and a college sophomore when he came out to his parents. "I kept getting little hints," says Judy. "Finally I asked him if he was gay, and he said yes. I can't say I was surprised. I just accepted it."

Mothers, it seems, just have a way of knowing if their children are gay. Or do they? "Five years later, [our middle son] Brian came out," says Judy. "It was a total shock. Duane and I had no idea. Brian had hidden it well."

"The hardest thing for me is realizing how Eric and Brian had to struggle alone with the issue for so long," says Judy. The Rolands dealt with the issue alone, too. "There were no support groups for gays or their parents in Richmond, Indiana." Finally, Judy found another mother whose son was gay and they confided in each other regularly.

Brian moved to Houston to work for Continental Airlines, where he designs aircraft interiors. Eric moved to Houston in the early 1990s, working first as a bartender at Missouri Street Station (now Riva's), then next joining the writing staff at *OutSmart*. In 1998 he joined Legacy Community Health Services and is today their Senior Director of Marketing and Communications.

Supporting Houston's Gay Community

When the Rolands sold their business in 2000, Brian and Eric convinced their parents that Houston was where they should spend their retirement. After the move to Houston, the Rolands attended their first PFLAG meeting. "It was very emotional," says Judy. "We had never sat in a group of people before and said our names and that

we were the parents of two gay sons. I wish we could have had this kind of support years ago."

Duane and Judy soon found themselves becoming more and more involved in PFLAG. Duane is now a member of the PFLAG board and serves as chairman of the membership committee. Judy is a volunteer with the PFLAG Help Line, working a two-week shift every three months. "We're here for anyone who needs to talk," she says.

Duane notes that PFLAG has a smaller membership than it had years ago. "Maybe that means we've been doing our job well, and there isn't as much need for us," he says.

"However, we still see parents needing support coming to meetings," Judy says, "and also gay youth who are afraid to come out to their parents. We are careful not to give advice—we mostly just listen and then share our own stories."

But Duane says he does offer one piece of advice to gay youth who are planning to come out to parents who might reject them: "Make sure you have a place to go before you tell them."

The Rolands are also involved in the PFLAG booth at Houston's annual International Festival. They provide brochures and are available to chat with festival-goers who want more information about PFLAG and Houston's LGBT community.

One of the family's most memorable evenings was the night Annise Parker was elected mayor of Houston. "We had eaten at The Grove to celebrate Duane's birthday," Judy remembers. "Then we went across the street to the Parker victory party. Our sons were in tears. It was very emotional."

Riding Down Lower Westheimer

Duane, Judy, and their two gay sons are no strangers to the annual Houston Pride Parade. Judy has ridden on an *OutSmart* float, and both she and Duane have marched with the PFLAG contingent. Eric helped build that same *OutSmart* float, and Brian has been in charge of the Continental float. "He built it in our driveway," Judy says.

This year's parade will be the most special yet for the Rolands, as they ride in a convertible down Westheimer as Houston's 2011 Honorary Marshals. It is doubly special to them, as Brian will soon be moving to Chicago as a result of the recent Continental-United merger.

After 52 years of marriage, the Rolands have three sons, six grandchildren, and a lifetime of special memories. "We were high school sweethearts," says Judy. "[Now] we feel happy and complete."

Brandon Wolf is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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2011 Organization Pride Marshal

*Houston's GLBT Community Center
proudly celebrates its 15th anniversary*

by Brandon Wolf • Photo by Maria Heg/MECA



It takes a village: (standing, from left) Burton Bagby-Grose (Center treasurer) with daughter, Rosalee Bagby-Grose; Tim Brookover (Center president); Albert Mata (Center volunteer); Josephine Tittsworth (Texas Transgender Nondiscrimination Summit, a partner organization with the Center); Carolyn Anderson (Center volunteer); Lesa Jackson (Center secretary); Kristian Salinas (QFest, a partner organization with the Center); John Doan (Center volunteer); (seated, from left) Warren Ellis (Unhinged Productions, a partner organization with the Center); Joe Angel Babb (Unhinged Productions); Victor Contreras (Houston Area Community Services, a partner organization with the Center and the Latino HIV Task Force); and Koomah.

She's a stylish and decidedly queer diva—with big hair, miniskirt, boots, and a wasp waist. One wonders for a moment if she's an unknown runaway from *Yellow Submarine*. Big on attitude, she carries a silver tray with a cupcake that reads 15. Her name is Crystal, and she's the official graphic icon created by Houston artist Randall Jobe to celebrate the 15th (crystal) anniversary of the Houston GLBT Community Center.

"March 22, 1996, is the official date of the founding of the Center," says Tim Brookover, current president. "That was

the date the papers were filed with the state and the IRS. We are celebrating the 15th anniversary all year long." Part of that celebration is the Center's role as the 2011 Organization Pride Marshal for the Parade. "The Center is very honored to have been chosen by the community for this tribute," says Brookover.

Third Time's the Charm

"The Community Center is at least the third effort by Houston's GLBT community to create a center," Brookover explains. "There was an attempt in the late 1970s,

and another in the late 1980s. Both, ironically, were called the Montrose Activity Center, but were not related in any way.

"Neither one lasted long," says Brookover. "It was the same thing all organizations struggle with—lack of money, volunteers, and interest."

In 1996, a group of concerned activists began to meet at the Montrose branch of the Houston Public Library to once again attempt to form a community center. By March of that year, they formed a legal entity named the Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center. According to →

Organization Pride Marshal continued from previous page

official public documents filed with the county and the state, those activists included Walt Duffey, Brian J. Tognotti, Shawn Webb, Dewayne Ross, Russ Jenkins, and Burton Bagby-Grose.

The Center found its first home at 803 Hawthorne Avenue, a charming Montrose historic structure, in March 1998. In early 2003, it relocated to a second-floor suite in the 3400 Montrose Building. During that same year, the name and mission statement were changed to include bisexual and transgender people.

An Historic Move

Then in October 2010, the Center moved to the historic Dow School at 1900 Kane in the Old Sixth Ward Historic District. The move puts the Center close to the revitalized Washington Avenue area, and is convenient to multiple METRO lines as well as the new Washington Wave Jitney and the Range-Extended Electric Vehicle (REV) Eco-Shuttle.

The Dow School is listed in both the National Register and the City of Houston's Register of Historic Places. The school served neighborhood children for 80 years between 1912 and 1992, and was one of the first schools in the Houston area to integrate children of different races and cultures.

By 1993, the school was in dire need of renovation, and the Dow School Renovation Project was created around the same time that the Multicultural Education and Counseling through the Arts (MECA) group moved into the building. With the assistance of the Old Sixth Ward Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone (TIRZ) and the City of Houston, MECA was able to purchase the building in early 2004, and began the process of restoring this historic landmark.

Now a renter in the Dow School, the Houston GLBT Community Center's space includes a sitting area, a meeting area with conference table, and an office area. A large rack for flyers displays myriad publicity and informational materials from Houston's GLBT organizations and other groups who are supportive of the community.



Crystal, the 15th Anniversary Diva: the Houston GLBT Community Center commissioned artist Randall W. Jobe, who donated his talent, to create Crystal for the Center's 15th anniversary.

Large blackboards allow publicity space for organizations and events. Posters and flyers are taped to the walls. The Center has a warm, cozy, inviting atmosphere. Giant windows on one side of the space look out on the beautiful grounds of the Dow School.

The Center's Mission

The Community Center exists "to empower, educate, and nurture individuals of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities, generating a sense of community by providing for their social, emotional, and physical well being." Programs are either organized by the Center or by other individuals or groups who want to offer them through the Center.

Additionally, the Center sponsors a Schools Program, which raises scholarship money for local LGBT youth. The Scholarship Fund is named after John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner, the two Houston gay men whose Supreme Court challenge in 2003 nullified all sodomy laws in the United States.

"We keep in touch with officers of the local Gay-Straight Alliances at area schools," Brookover explains. "We award the scholarship each year on the anniversary of the Lawrence & Garner vs. Texas decision, June 27. The First Saturday Queer Bingo at the Center raises funds for the scholarship."

Brookover estimates that over a hundred different programs have been offered through the Center over the last decade and a half, and over 150 different groups have used the Center's meeting space.

Some of the currently popular Center programs include the HIV Support Group, Center Seniors and Friends Potluck, Community Leaders Networking Group, and the Center Energy Exercise Class. Houston artist Kermit Eisenhut offers free weekly art classes from May through August for people living with HIV/AIDS and cancer-related conditions. A full list of Center programs is available on the Center's website at houstonlgbtcommunitycenter.org.

The Center offers affordable meeting space to a large number of Houston organizations. The diverse list includes Team Houston, the Houston Human Rights Campaign (HRC), and the Aaron Scheerhoorn Foundation for Change.

The Center Triangle Society is a means for supporting the efforts of the Center, which is funded through private donations, rental fees, and fundraising events. An all-volunteer staff runs the operations of the Center. "We're always looking for more volunteers!" says Brookover. →



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Organization Pride Marshal continued from page 117

The Realities of an LGBT Community Center

"Houston and Dallas have the last two surviving community centers in Texas," says Brookover. "Centers in Austin, San Antonio, Waco, El Paso, and Lubbock are now gone."

"I'm often asked 'why' questions," Brookover says. "Why isn't the center bigger? Why isn't it prettier? Why isn't it open with regular hours throughout the week? Why isn't there a paid staff?"

"When people compare Houston's center with those in Chicago, New York, Dallas, or San Francisco, the Houston center fades in their shadows," he continues. "The main reason some cities have impressive centers is that they already had centers operating when the AIDS crisis hit. And the groups that sprang up to respond to AIDS attached themselves to the community centers."

"As the AIDS groups grew, the centers grew with them. Then other community health organizations became part of the community centers, and the growth also helped the growth of the centers. But in Houston, we had no operational community center, and so the health-related groups sprang up independently. Today, these health organizations are the most financially stable organizations in Houston."

The last 15 years, however, have proven that Houston's LGBT community needs a center—and that's why the hard-working volunteers at the Houston GLBT Community Center continue their work to maintain momentum. Readers interested in volunteering should call 713/524-3818.

The Center's Goals

- serve as an affordable, accessible facility in which to hold meetings and events
- enable organizations to form, grow, and thrive
- be a clearinghouse of information on community organizations and services
- provide office space to organizations and businesses
- offer a place for socializing in a positive environment
- host informational and educational discussions on relevant issues
- offer a venue for the arts and cultural expression
- promote diversity, dialogue, and collaboration among different aspects of the community.

Brandon Wolf is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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Jason Warner, Mayor Annise Parker, deMarco DeCiccio, and S.A.F.E. board members at The S.A.F.E. Spot grand opening, May 6.



John Ross Palmer, Jeremy Cloud, Monica Hurley, and Ryan Lindsay at "Up," collector appreciation show, at John Palmer Art, April 23.



Jenifer Rene Pool, Mitch Sellers (scholarship winner), Rose Bowen, and Jess Hammons during the Unity Banquet 2011 at Sheraton Brookhollow, April 20.



Linda Enger, Fiona Dawson, and Jordan Mills during the PFLAG 2011 Spring Fling at the Alley Theatre, April 29.



Clergy and other participants after the installation ceremony for senior pastor Reverend Harry Francis Knox II at Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, May 1.



Michael Flynn, Richard Maier, and Jaymes Alexander during the Bayou City Boys Club Jungle 19 kickoff and underwriters' party, April 17.



Gay and Lesbian Latin Organization (GALLO) members with mariachis during Latin Night at Meteor, May 1.



Judge Barbara Hartle, Jeff Gee, and Cynthia Gee at Herbert W. Gee municipal courthouse naming, May 1.



Jenny Minneman, Marilyn Abercrombie, Arden Eversmeyer, poet Mary Margaret Carlisle, and Linus Lerner after the BCPA/BCWC "Songs of the Poets" concert, May 14.



Colton Berry, Brad Scarborough, Kay Taylor, Rebekah Dahl, and Luke Wrobel at the Music Box Theater's "Opening the Box," May 12.

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Going Commando WITH **JOHN BARROWMAN**

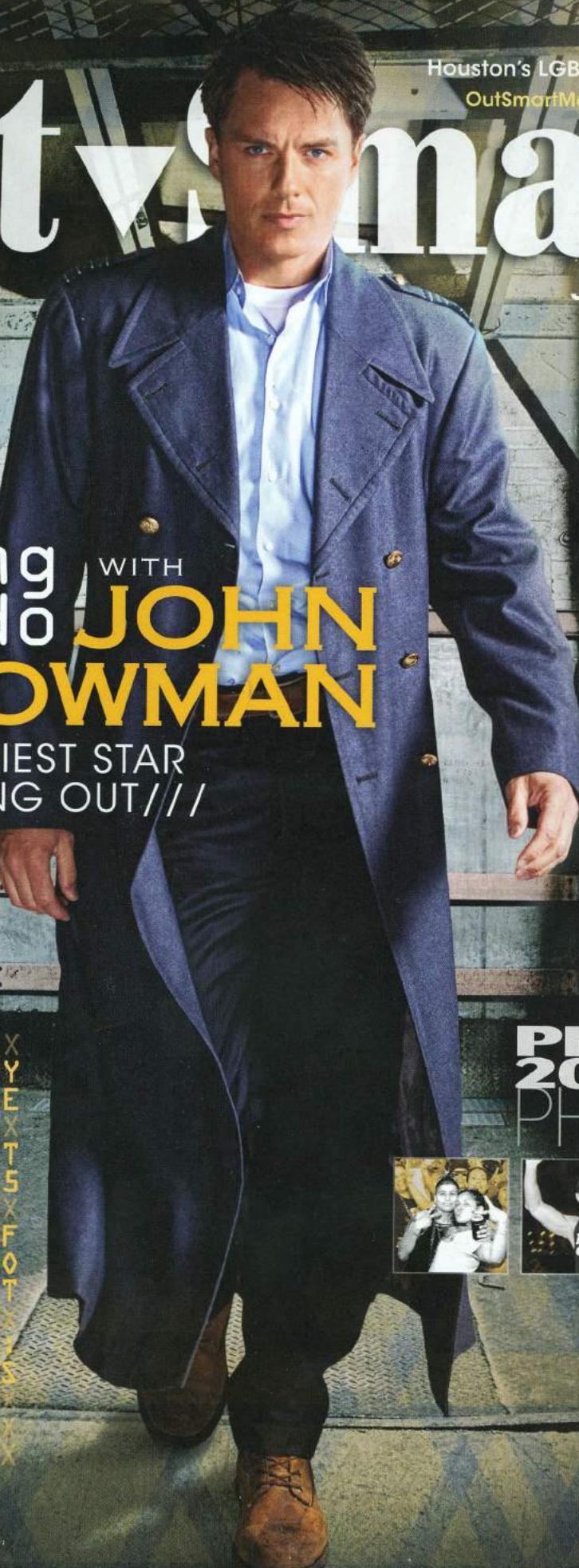
///SCI-FI'S SEXIEST STAR
LETS IT ALL HANG OUT///

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XXXXXX URBAN COWBOY
XXXXXX HITS THE STAGE
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GLBTQ FILM FEST
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PRIDE 2011 PHOTOS

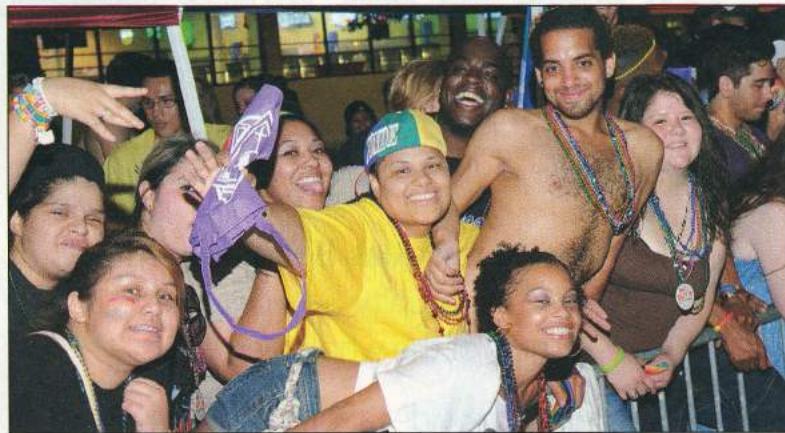


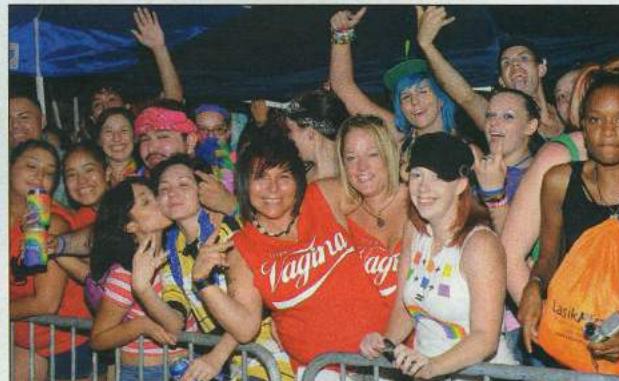
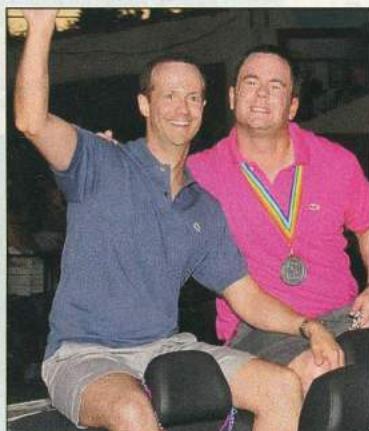
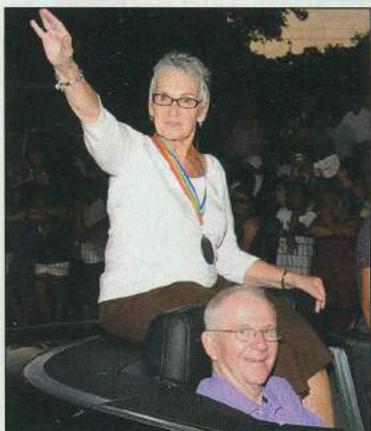
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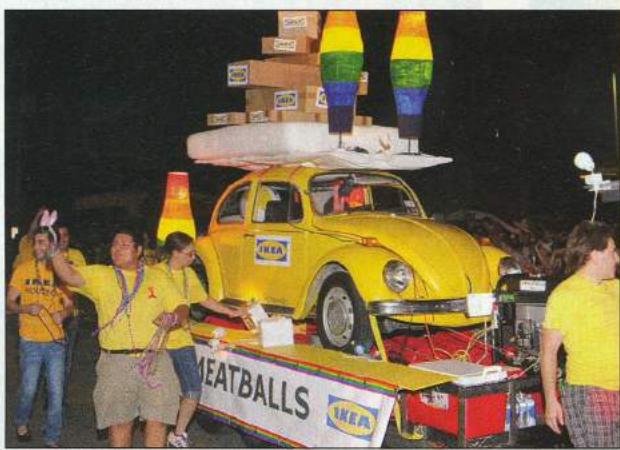


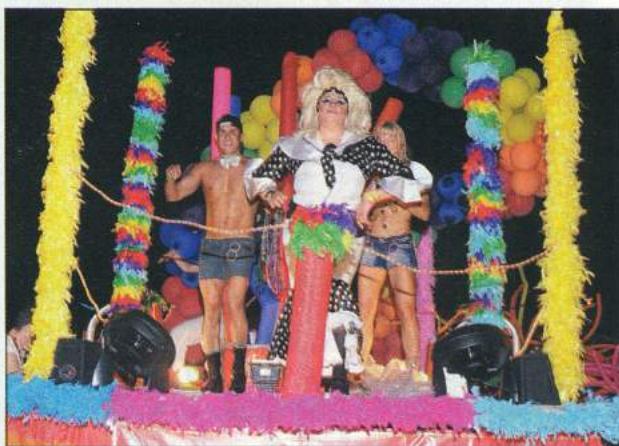
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Photos by Dalton Detart









OUT IN HOUSTON



Liz James, Elizabeth Winston Jones, Marshella Abrams, and Ann Pinchak at the Lesbian Health Initiative Spring Health Fair, June 4.



David & Amy Truong, Dennis Coleman, J Grant Caplan, Mayor Annise Parker, Col. Terrel Preston, and Rob Scamardo at the Gill Foundation grant matching event presented by Equality Texas, May 22.



Tammi Wallace, Judy Roland, Frankie Quijano, Mayor Annise Parker, Tim Brookover, Duane Roland, and Brian Hlavinka at the PRIDE Houston 2011 official kickoff and ribbon-cutting, June 18.



AIDS Foundation Houston representatives and check recipients at the AIDS Walk Houston check presentation party at Meteor, July 19.



Marion Coleman, Ann Pinchak, Tricia Lynn, and Frank Staggs at the Kindred Spirits 2011 kickoff and awards presentation, June 12.



William Haworth, Ken Kitchen, Matt Alber, and Sam Estep after Alber's concert at Hard Rock Café Houston, June 18.



HATCH and Bering Omega representatives receiving checks during Capital One Bank's check presentation at the Rainbow on the Green VIP reception, June 10.

lines a few years ago.

"It's weird because the administration knew it was the right thing to bring forward, but they were concerned about conservatives ranting and raving, so they put it in the regulations so it would get people used to it and then they could move it over [to become an official policy]," she said. "Any time it becomes a public issue, it can draw a lot of opposition, but it really didn't."

If the board approves the policy change in August, Fallon said the union will publish the information in its annual handouts to teachers.

Trustee Larry Marshall sees the change as a positive move for the district.

"This should send a message that when you're in an HISD school, you're on our turf," he said, "and on our turf, everyone is treated with dignity and respect."

Penny Up for the Pet Patrol: Unique Pet Group Needs Your Help

IT'S BEEN A TOUGH SUMMER for animal nonprofits across the city, with donations drying up almost as much as the drought-cracked ground. But there's one organiza-

tion in need that fills a unique role for both people and pets. They don't rescue strays or hold adoptions.

Instead, they help people in need keep their pets.

"I humbly offer my most heartfelt appreciation, as does my dog. Over the last year you have been most helpful in the kindest and least obtrusive manner possible. Each month when I give my buddy her heartworm preventative, I give a silent thank you to those who support you and make what you do possible. Your help is a life's blessing. Thank you."

This was a note from one of the Pet Patrol's clients, an elderly gay man with AIDS and heart disease. He enclosed a photo of him and his dog, and signed both their names.

Founded in 1986, the Pet Patrol was the first organization in the United States that helped people with HIV/AIDS take care of their companion pets. By 1992, the Pet Patrol was serving more than 400 people and their 800 pets. Since 2005, the organization has opened its doors to those with other significant chronic or life-threatening illnesses. Still, some 60 percent of clients are either people living with HIV/AIDS or members of the LGBT community.

"Sometimes even our best friends drop out of the picture when people are sick, particularly when they are sick for such a long time. Often, their pets are their only companions. What we do is so simple, but it improves their quality of life every day," says founder Tori Williams about why pets are important to those in need.

The organization helps by delivering pet food and supplies, taking pets on vet trips, and putting them in foster care when owners are hospitalized. The Pet Patrol provides basic veterinary care, heartworm- and flea-prevention medication, pet food, spay/neuter services, and more so that people who need their pets the most can enjoy them without the added burden of worrying about the cost. But all of this means the organization spends roughly \$400 per pet per year. They currently have around 100 clients, but due to limited funds and volunteers, there's a waiting list for services. That's where you can help.

Pennies for Pets is a fundraiser for the Pet Patrol where teams of friends compete to see who can raise the most spare change for the organization. Join a team or organize your own, and bring your piggy bank, rolled coins, or change purse to the popular gay country bar Brazos River Bottom on Sunday, August 28, between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.

"Like most nonprofits, we were in desperate straits a year ago," says Williams. "A friend of mine came over one day with a jar of pennies and said 'I can't give a lot, but here.' And that's how the idea started."

Because this is the first event of its kind, Williams isn't sure how much they'll raise. She just hopes it's a lot. *continued on page 12*

Newly Recreated Mary's Mural Vandalized



The paint was barely dry on artist Cody Ledvina's painstaking recreation of the iconic Mary's Mural. In the mysterious dark of Montrose on Friday morning, June 24, a vandal took silver paint and a bigoted brush to the crotches of all of the characters populating the painting. Bulging Levis, black leather pants, and skin-tight Wranglers were each brandished with a big fat X. The most prominent "woman" in the painting was given odd approval with a check mark. Which goes to show that the misguided Matisse isn't only a jerk, he's an idiot, as it's widely believed the woman in the blue dress is probably the portrait of a drag queen, given the subject matter of the work. Unless it's some odd anti-penis pro-transgender agenda and, if so, back to art school, buddy.

Not one to cry over spilled paint, Ledvina immediately went to work scouring off the censoring symbols, feverishly repainting the vandalized



waists of all the characters involved. Everyone at the parade would have been able to marvel at the mural, now returned to its former glory—that is, if a big truck hadn't parked in front of it during the festivities. Ledvina's mural is a collaboration with The Joanna, a Montrose art collective involved in recreating the Mary's mural in time for the Pride Parade, and can be seen until the new owners make public their plans for the legendary gay bar's old bones.

—Steven Foster