

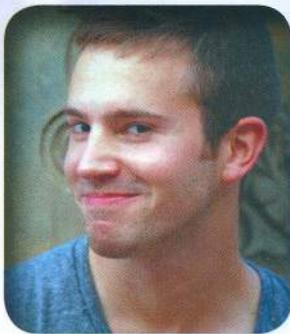
# OutSmart

Houston's LGBT Magazine  
OutSmartMagazine.com

JUNE 2012



## pride 2012



### YOUR GUIDE TO PRIDE

77 Ways to Celebrate

#### TAKE GEORGE TAKEI

From 'Sulu' to 'Holograms'

#### BIG DADDY

Dan Bucatinsky's fabulous fatherhood

#### DISCOVER THELMA HOUSTON

Bringing the Rainbow to the Green

2012

# Celebrity Pride Marshal

*Madison Hildebrand*

by Brandon Wolf • Photo by Isabella Vosmikova/Bravo

**“**I've never been to Houston," Madison Hildebrand, Houston's 2012 Celebrity Pride Marshal, admits in a recent interview with *OutSmart*. Asked what he expects to find here, he offers: "Open space, thunderstorms, beautiful women, big hair?"

He inquires about Houston's weather in late June. Told that it will be *hot*, he remarks, "Well, I guess I won't have to bring many clothes."

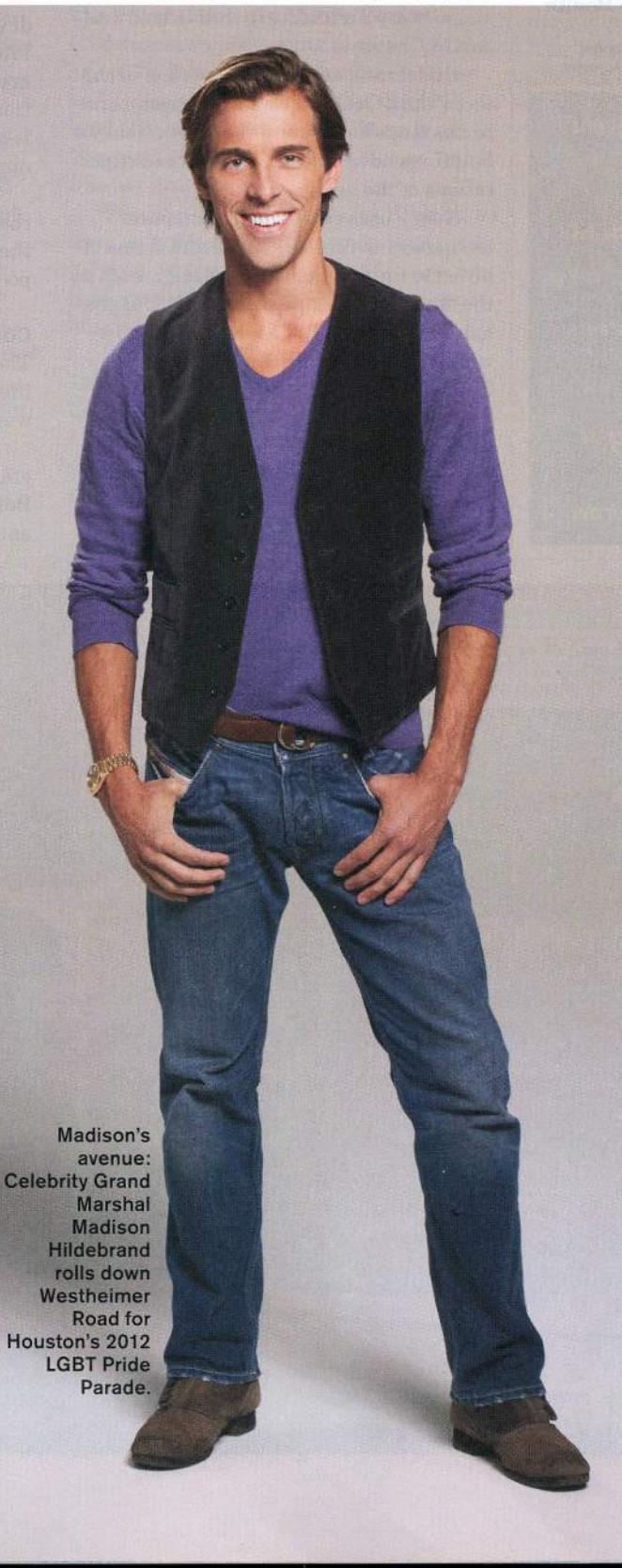
Indeed, the less clothing he's wearing during the Pride Parade, the happier gay men along the route will be. At 31 years of age, Hildebrand seems to have it all—he's a self-made millionaire, a television star, a published author, a former *Playgirl* cover boy, and probably the most desired gay bachelor in the country.

By 2005, Hildebrand was already known as Malibu's most successful real-estate agent. After the first season of Bravo's *Million Dollar Listing*, he was invited to join the cast. The television hit, a reality show that follows the ins and outs of selling multi-million-dollar homes in Malibu, California, begins its fifth season this month.

#### Familiar with Texas

As a young boy, Hildebrand moved a lot due to his father's job. The middle of three boys, he was a good student, made good grades, and had a good relationship with his parents.

Among the cities he lived in were Austin and Plano, Texas. He was five years old when the family began a two-year stay in Austin. He remembers the city as "beautiful," and he was fond of Lake Travis. He lived in



**Madison's  
avenue:**  
Celebrity Grand  
Marshal  
Madison  
Hildebrand  
rolls down  
Westheimer  
Road for  
Houston's 2012  
LGBT Pride  
Parade.

Plano from the eighth grade through the tenth grade.

Hildebrand describes his parents as "outgoing, very social, and extremely energetic." It's no surprise that this description pretty well sums up his personality, too.

In high school, Hildebrand was both academic and athletic. He was a member of the swimming, tennis, and wrestling teams. In the tenth grade, he was a Golden Gloves boxer. "I was full of pent-up energy," he says.

#### Moving to Malibu

Hildebrand graduated from high school in New Canaan, Connecticut, and chose Pepperdine University in Malibu, California, to pursue a bachelor's degree. "I loved the perfect weather in Malibu, and Pepperdine offered a degree program in advertising, which was unusual. Most colleges only offer degrees in marketing or public relations."

After graduation from Pepperdine in 2003, Hildebrand joined the Coldwell Banker real-estate firm and has skyrocketed in Malibu's fiercely competitive housing market by selling over \$120 million in property before reaching the age of 30.

Despite his phenomenal success, Hildebrand says that selling his first house was his proudest moment. "Along with the money came freedom," he remembers.

#### In Love with Architecture

Hildebrand had a passion for architecture from an early age. Whenever his family moved, he would fly with his father to check out the →



**Voted Best Male Insurance Agent**

-OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards, 2009 - 2011

**Now offering life insurance  
to those living with Cancer or HIV**



**Voted One of the  
Most Valuable Volunteers**

-OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards, 2011

**713-688-8669**

DavidL2490@aol.com

[www.farmersagent.com/dlorms](http://www.farmersagent.com/dlorms)

## Celebrity Pride Marshal

*continued from previous page*

available homes.

Currently, Hildebrand lives in a house facing the beach. He describes it as "beach-shack Bohemian."

But his concept of a dream house would be to build on Paradise Cove, the 21-mile Malibu coastline with lots of beautiful beaches on the Pacific Coast Highway. "I'd landscape a two-acre area and build single-story architecture that is bold and earthy," he says.

Hildebrand admires the work of architect Frank Gehry, a Canadian transplant to Los Angeles. Around the globe, Gehry's buildings have transformed human expectations of the designed space.

Gehry uses cutting-edge computer technology to realize shapes and forms of hitherto unimaginable complexity, such as the startling irregularities of his Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain, and the whimsical Dancing House in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Hildebrand is also a fan of Los Angeles-based architect Richard Landry, who has built huge, award-winning "Ultimate Home" residences throughout the world, using both contemporary and classical

designs. Most notably, Landry designed the castle-like home in which pop singer Michael Jackson died.

From a historical perspective, Hildebrand appreciates the work of the late Dan Saxon Palmer, who designed Modernist tract homes in Palm Springs with his architectural partner William Krisel. Their designs provided the building blocks for Southern California's suburban housing boom in the 1950s.

Living in New Canaan, Hildebrand developed a love for the work of architect Philip Johnson. Numerous Johnson houses are located in the area, including the iconic Glass House. Hildebrand says he is pleased to know that Houston also has numerous Johnson structures.

Philosophically, Hildebrand believes that architectural beauty is in the eye of the beholder. He also feels that it is only people who can make a house a home.

### Coming Out in the Public Eye

The biggest challenge Hildebrand faced in life was resolving his sexuality. His career was easier in comparison.

"I knew that I could proceed and that effort would get me to my goal," he says. But it took a lot of exploration, reading, and therapy to finally recognize and

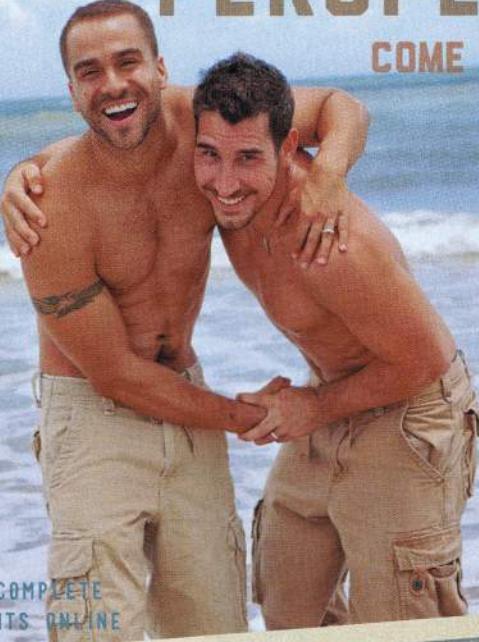
IT'S  
ISLAND  
time



SCAN FOR A COMPLETE  
LIST OF EVENTS ONLINE

# PERSPECTIVE

COME AND GET IT.



JUST 50 MINUTES FROM HOUSTON, YET A WORLD AWAY IN SPIRIT.  
[WWW.GALVESTON.COM](http://WWW.GALVESTON.COM) / 1.888.GAL.ISLE

  
**GALVESTON**  
ISLAND

accept that he is gay. And while he was dealing with this, the Bravo cameras were rolling.

The first year he was on *Million Dollar Listing*, during its second season, the focus was entirely on his real-estate skills. By season three, the subject of his sexuality was making its way into the episodes. Moving past the line of being straight, he described himself as "polyamorous."

The gay press immediately took Hildebrand to task, accusing him of coping out for not using the word "bisexual." He fired back that he was the one who would define his sexuality, not the gay media.

But becoming involved in the "No on Proposition 8" campaign, California's antigay marriage referendum in 2008, had a profound effect on Hildebrand and brought him to the point of tears. He had explored sexuality from both sides, and now he was finally content with his identity as a gay man.

"The amount of e-mails I received was incredible," Hildebrand recalls. "I was very touched by the support I was given, and it helped reinforce that I had made the right decision."

Being successful and famous didn't make Hildebrand immune to heartbreak. He was hurt when his last relationship

failed, but he gained wisdom from it. His advice to others who are facing deep emotional pain: "Realize that nothing lasts forever, not even this. Ride out your feelings. Learn not to make the same mistakes again."

Regarding his current status, Hildebrand says, "Technically, I'm single. But recently I've met someone who I think is special." He says the most important quality in a partner is trust.

#### The Private Side of a Public Person

Hildebrand stopped going to church at the age of 13. But he does follow the "mai pen rai" philosophy that is popular in Thailand. The phrase translates literally as "it's nothing," but in practice means "bend like bamboo in the wind, and move on."

The greatest role models for Hildebrand have been his maternal grandparents. "They have been married for 65 years, and they are still in love," he says with a sense of marvel.

Being a television star is enjoyable to Hildebrand because his fans are kind and loving. "People want to hug me," he says. "I love people and it's easy for me to interact with them. If they can relate to me, and really connect, I can get to know them fast."

Hildebrand gives his time and money to

a wide variety of causes. But children and education are the two that he feels most passionately about. "Ignorance is the cause of most of the world's problems, so well-educated societies are important."

Being a celebrity affords Hildebrand countless opportunities to help others. On his 30th birthday, he hosted a Feather and Leather Fantasy Ball. "The guests were asked to bring toys, and we filled up a bedroom with nearly 1,000 gifts for children."

As a gay man, Hildebrand says that the most important community issue in 2012 is "the T in GLBT." "They are still emerging, and deserve our support."

Looking back on 31 years of living, Hildebrand feels that the signature quality of his personality is spontaneity. "I'm very open-minded and enjoy having a good time. Ultimately, it's my inner voice that guides me."

Hildebrand says that the best thing about his fast pace and colorful life is that it isn't boring. This was especially apparent to him recently, while attending a large public event. "There I was—with Chaz Bono seated on one side and Monica Lewinsky on the other."

*Brandon Wolf also writes about the other Pride marshals in this issue of OutSmart magazine.*

## SKIN Renaissance LASER CENTER

Non-Surgical Alternatives for Younger & Healthier Looking Skin

# Happy Pride!

Octavio  
Barrios, MD  
Medical Director



Christopher  
Wright  
Manager,  
Laser Tech

Dr. Barrios is a member of the  
American Academy of Aesthetic Medicine &  
American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery

Call for your FREE Consultation  
713.942.SKIN (7546)  
106 Westheimer at Bagby

Wrinkles • Rosacea • Facial Sagging  
Acne • Face & Leg Veins  
Laser Hair Removal  
Botox® • Restylane® • Sculptra®  
Juvéderm® • Radiesse®

Best Cosmetic Skin Care Center  
Readers' Choice Award 6 Yrs in a row!  
Thank You OutSmart Readers!

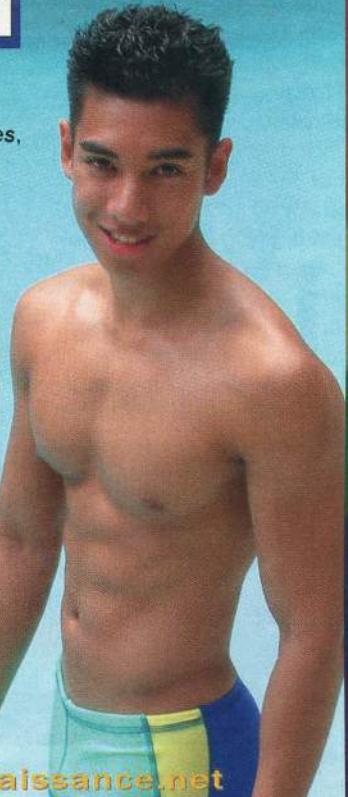
We use FDA approved dermal  
fillers to take years, even decades,  
off your appearance;  
giving a natural, pleasant,  
and well rested look.

- Non-Surgical
- Immediate long lasting results
- Affordable



Dr. Barrios added volume to patient's  
cheeks & chin to reverse signs of aging.

[www.skinrenaissance.net](http://www.skinrenaissance.net)



# 2012 Female Pride Marshal

Jenifer Rene Pool

by Brandon Wolf • Photo by Dalton DeHart

Jenifer Rene Pool is Houston's 2012 Female Pride Marshal. She was born on October 1, 1948. "I was a New Year's Eve baby," she says with a sly grin. At the time of her birth, Pool was named "Ted." But today she describes herself as "a proud transgender woman."

## School Days

Pool was born and raised in Beaumont, Texas, the third of four children born to a farming couple. She attended Beaumont public schools and graduated from the high school there.

As a child, she had to wear glasses with especially thick lenses. "School was a nightmare," she recalls. "I was small and slight, and was bullied mercilessly. Classmates would grab my glasses and throw them to one another, while I tried in vain to retrieve them."

Fortunately, Pool was a natural-born runner. Both of her parents had been track-and-field champions. By the eighth grade, she was a member of the football team, because she could run fast.

The summer of her ninth grade, Pool underwent a major metamorphosis. "I got contact lens and grew nine inches." When she returned to school for the new year, no one recognized her.

Although Pool was the only male in the Home Economics class, that anomaly didn't attract much attention until an assignment was given to prepare a "family budget." She included contraception as a line item and provoked a noticeable stir.

Pool began to show her political instincts early on. In the ninth grade, she was vice-president of the student body of her middle school. During her senior year she ran for class president and lost by one vote.



A good student with a high grade-point average, Pool volunteered to be a teaching assistant for geometry and advanced math. At her high school commencement ceremony, she delivered the keynote address.

## The Challenge of Gender Identity

Although Pool lived on a farm, her father

was working in the construction field by the time she was born. He had been drafted into World War II and sent to Corpus Christi to help build the naval base there. Because he was familiar with farm equipment, he was put to work with road-construction equipment.

After the war, Pool's father went to work for his brother who had started a construction company. Her father was the general superintendent for roadway projects.

Pool started tagging along with her father at a very young age. "Until the day he died in 1979, he always kept a picture of the two of us on his desk," she says. "In the photo, I'm following along behind my father, proudly carrying toolboxes."

But Pool was already hiding a secret—she was convinced that she was a girl trapped in a boy's body. "I got my first real inkling at age nine," she recalls. "When I was alone in the house, I started playing with my mother's lipstick and her shoes. It felt right for me."

Built-in shelving and the box spring of her bed provided two hiding places for her small collection of female apparel. "I used to take out the trash, and whenever my sister would throw away underwear or other worn-out clothes, I'd sneak them back inside."

At the age of 12, Pool faced the first resistance that would later become commonplace. "I came home and saw all the clothes hidden in the box spring laid out on my bed. My mother came into my bedroom and closed the door."

Pool promised her mother that she would never dress in female clothing again. "But what I was really promising was never to get caught again," she remembers. →



**Pebble Isle Collection**

## AT LAST. OUTDOOR FURNITURE INSIDE THE LOOP.

Now Available at Our  
Houston Showroom

- DESIGN SERVICES AVAILABLE
- Custom Exterior Shutters & Shades
- Made to Order Interior Shutters, Shades, Blinds & Drapes
- Free In Home Consultation: [www.frogathome.com/windows](http://www.frogathome.com/windows)



## The Frog At Home

2427 Westheimer, Houston • 713.840.0844 • [www.frogathome.com](http://www.frogathome.com)



Galveston Island • 2701 Broadway at 27th St. • 409.762.3764



Furnishings Window Fashions Rugs Accessories Art

**Female Pride Marshal** continued from previous page

### Life Begins to Unravel

After high school, Pool enrolled at nearby McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana, studying business administration with minors in finance and pre-law. She was president of her fraternity, and earned an All-American designation in track and field.

During college, she married for the first time and became the father of a baby boy. But the marriage fell apart, and her wife disappeared with the son. Pool has no idea where either person is today.

Pool continued to live in Beaumont and work for her father. She also earned a real-estate license, selling houses on weekends.

Weekend nights were often spent at The Copa bar in Beaumont. "I always had a date," Pool says. "The Copa was the 'in' place for straights to go to. I remember *TWT* [This Week in Texas magazine] and The Fabulous Five drag troupe."

In 1975, after Pool had a major falling out with her father, she started her own home-building company. By 1979 she had constructed more than 60 custom homes. But it was a time of high inflation and high interest rates. Her business evaporated, and she moved to Houston.

Life in Houston was a succession of

# Mint Julep 2012

Sunday, July 15  
Doors open @ 2PM  
Show @ 3PM

**RICH'S**  
2401 San Jacinto St.  
Houston, TX 77002

PROUD SPONSOR  
**OutSmart**  
HOUSTON'S GLBT MAGAZINE

Special Guest:  
Comedian Vickie Shaw

Honoring:  
Robert Harwood, & Keith Nappier  
Sonna Alton & AKA Shy Anne

All proceeds benefit

**Legacy**

Community Health Services  
[legacycommunityhealth.org](http://legacycommunityhealth.org)

jobs—construction project management, interior space build-outs, and savings and loan management. She also married a second time in 1983, and had another son. That marriage dissolved into divorce as well.

By 1994, Pool's life was "a train wreck." "I had gone to a doctor for a physical, and was told I had a life-threatening heart disease," she says. "I was given three to five years to live."

#### Sorting It All Out

Back in 1973, Pool had made a trip to New Orleans with a female friend who was a psychotherapist. They ended up at the Gunga Din Bar, which advertised "All Our Girls Are Boys."

Her friend invited the lead entertainer, Candy Cane, to their table, and asked her about her life. "Candy told me the story of my own life," says Pool.

Shortly after, Pool returned alone to Gunga Din. The minute she walked through the door, Cane saw her and said over the microphone, "We knew you'd be back!"

After the show had concluded, Cane and several other entertainers came to Pool's table, surrounding her and welcoming her into their "family." It was Pool's defining moment—"Finally, everything felt

right, and I realized I was exactly where I belonged."

But knowledge of her identity still didn't prompt Pool to make any dramatic changes in her life. She did buy her first wig—a blond pageboy—at Foley's. "I've still got it," she says with a smile.

Pool also began shopping for clothes. She would tell the clerks she was buying something for her wife. Soon she realized the clerks knew what was really going on, and were glad to help. Their knowing question was, "Is she about your size?"

The diagnosis of a heart condition in 1994 finally pushed Pool to take action. "I flew to the Cayman Islands for 10 days," she says. "Lying on the beach, I contemplated my life. And then the moment of clarity came. I had to stop living a lie."

The lie stopped before she even returned home. Pool bought a two-piece bathing suit and wore it to the beach during the rest of her stay.

Returning home, Pool implemented lifestyle changes that reversed the health prognosis. She also gravitated into Houston's transgender community, joined support groups, and learned how to become the woman she had always known herself to be.

#### Making a Difference

Pool was soon on a pathway to community

involvement. After serving on the Houston GLBT Political Caucus board, she went on to become the organization's first transgender president. Pool is now a regular member of KPFT's *Queer Voices* radio show.

In 2006, Pool began a five-year lobbying effort with the Houston Independent School District, pressing them to revise their employment policy and student conduct code to protect LGBTs from discrimination. Refusing to give up, she finally convinced the HISD board in August 2011.

Last year, Pool ran for Houston City Council At-Large Position 2. Although she didn't win the election, she's glad she tried. "I learned a lot about the technical side of campaigning—and now I'm comfortable speaking out publicly about issues." At the 2012 Houston Transgender Unity Banquet, Mayor Annise Parker commended Pool for her election bid, saying: "Jenifer was the only person running in that race who really knew how the city runs. She had a command of the facts, and she knew what she was doing."

Reflecting back on her life, Pool says, "It's been wonderful. How many people get to live two lives in one lifetime? My advice to anyone is to love your life and live it powerfully."

*Brandon Wolf is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine.*

**spectacles**  
ON MONTROSE

- Distinctive Eyewear
- Comprehensive Eye Exams
- Contact Lenses

**BEST PLACE TO BUY EYEWEAR**  
OutSmart Reader's Choice  
Award 2011

4317 montrose blvd  
713.529.3937  
[www.WearUsOut.com](http://www.WearUsOut.com)

**WEAR US OUT**  
**WITH PRIDE**

# 2012 Male Pride Marshal

**Nick Brines**

by Brandon Wolf • Photo by Dalton DeHart

**N**ick Brines, Houston's 2012 Male Pride Marshal, reminisces, "I've known the last four Houston mayors, a score of Houston council members, and the CEOs of Houston's most powerful companies." It's been an exciting ride for a boy who still remembers the days when he was regularly swatted in the face by cow tails during milking hours.

"I was a farm boy," he says. "I milked cows, pitched hay, drove tractors, and was a member of Future Farmers of America."

Born in Wisconsin in 1970, Brines grew up in an atmosphere of civic responsibility and activism. His father was president of the Lion's Club, and organized the annual Fourth of July Parade.

Living on a dairy farm meant milking cows at 5:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. every day. However, by high school, Brines was on the track and basketball teams, and served as editor of the yearbook. "If I was busy and involved, I could escape those cows," he laughs.

#### **The Big City Beckons**

But Brines felt like "a fish out of water." He longed to live in a big city, not do manual labor, and mix with people of accomplishment.

Visits to his eye doctor provided him with his only chance to temporarily escape to that world. So when it came time to attend college, he chose to leave his small hometown in Wisconsin and study to be an optometrist.

"The University of Houston offered a degree program," Brines says. "Houston was a big city, didn't have snow, and was

far removed from Wisconsin."

Brines lasted two years in the UH optometry program. Spending a semester with a human cadaver provoked a re-thinking of his education. "I was handling it until I realized she was still wearing nail polish," he remembers.

He entered his junior year as a psychology major.



After graduation from college, Brines continued on at UH, as an employee. During his 12 years there, he progressed from admissions counseling to organizing orientation weekends and visiting high schools.

The UH alumni office soon recognized his social skills and hired him. While he quickly rose through the ranks of their fundraising department, "I did get rather tired of red and white," he says with a smile.

In 2000, Brines joined the staff of the American Heart Association where he was responsible for raising millions of dollars each year. By the time he left in 2007, he was vice president of corporate relations.

After departing from the American Heart Association, Brines took over as full-time manager of a business venture he had entered into with his partner at the time. They set up a salon, located at 3425 South Shepherd Drive, above the Issues Magazine Store.

Their Azur Salon grew exponentially, until it took over a whole floor. In 2011, Azur West was opened as a second salon, in the West Avenue Urban Center located at Westheimer and Kirby. The upscale complex

includes commercial and residential units, and a variety of new restaurants.

#### **The Process of Coming Out**

Brines is a long way from milking cows as he sits in his office at Azur West, reflecting on his life for *OutSmart*. It's obvious he is indispensable. Every 10 minutes, there is a knock at the office door and a head peers →

rediscover  
intimate dining  
with partners and friends

17  
RESTAURANT

17FOOD.COM  
1117 Prairie Street  
Houston, TX 77002  
832-200-8816  
visit [www.17food.com](http://www.17food.com)

ALDENHOUSTON

ALDEN Houston THE SAM BAR

17

@ ALDENHOUSTON

1117 Prairie Street  
For reservations call 832-200-8816  
visit [www.17food.com](http://www.17food.com)

ALDEN Houston THE SAM BAR

17

**Male Pride Marshal** continued from previous page

in shilly. An apology is offered for interrupting him, followed by an explanation of why he is needed immediately. With calm dispatch, he finds solutions and returns his attention to the interview.

"I knew I was different in high school, but didn't attach the word 'gay' to myself yet," Brines recollects. "I was aware of AIDS from television news, and I thought that everyone who was gay had AIDS."

His best friend in high school also doubled as his dating partner now and then. "As it turns out, she is a lesbian," Brines reveals.

In his freshman year at UH, Brines had another female friend who eventually introduced him to the first openly gay man he had ever met. "He was a DJ," says Brines. "I found him intriguing. I'd never known anyone who was comfortable with his sexual orientation being public knowledge."

Brines went through a slow process of coming out. But by his sophomore year, he knew where Houston's gay bars were. "I never missed a Thursday night Trash Disco at Rich's," he says.

**The Activist Emerges**

"My first Pride Parade was 1989," Brines recalls. "I was so happy, seeing all those

## You waited for great deals. Here they are...

### Happy Pride Month!

**Sprint**   
Certified Business Dealer

#### Android power in a compact.

There are more than good looks to this 3G smartphone. Powered by Android 2.3 (Gingerbread), it has a slide-out full QWERTY keyboard for easy texting and a full 3.2 megapixel camera for taking pics viewable on the 3" touchscreen. And it's GPS capable. Only from Sprint.



**Kyocera Milano**

**\$29.99**

After a \$50 mail-in rebate via a reward card, with a new-line activation (or an eligible upgrade) on an Everything Plan with data, a Premium Data add-on and a two-year Agreement.

Hurry, offers ends 6/30/12. See store for details.

**Come to our office or let us come to yours!**  
**We offer small business and employee discounts.**

Call us and find out for yourself why so many have chosen Premier Wireless to handle their wireless account for years! Premier Wireless is gay owned and has been part of our community for over 17 years!

**We appreciate your business!**

#### It's the EVO, only QWERTY-er.

With a gorgeous 3.6" touchscreen and a slide-out full QWERTY keyboard, it's a 4G Android-powered machine. It has a 5.0 megapixel camera and offers a world-class web-browsing experience, with bandwidth and quality that rival netbooks.

**HTC EVO Shift™ 4G**

**\$49.99**

After a \$50 mail-in rebate via a reward card, with a new-line activation (or an eligible upgrade) on an Everything Plan with data, a Premium Data add-on and a two-year Agreement.



#### Experience 4G EVO in a tablet.

It's time to get that tablet you wanted. With an eReader, HD media player and rich web browser in one device, this tablet is powered by Android 2.3 (Gingerbread) and boasts dual cameras, a beautiful 7" touchscreen and blazing 4G speeds.

**HTC EVO View**

**4G™**

Now priced at

**\$199.99**

Requires a new-line activation on a Tablet plan and a two-year Agreement.



See back for details.

**Freedom Rings**  
**Premier**  
**WIRELESS**

**Best Place to Buy Cellular Phones-OutSmart Gayest & Greatest 1996-2011**

**Houston's Only Gay Owned Sprint Store!**

**Call (281) 575-8500**

**Sprint**  
Phone  
Repair  
Center



41711\_46\_AC

people just like me coming out to celebrate."

By 1992, Brines had become a part of the Planned Parenthood activist crew. "We used to link arms and surround the Fannin Street facility, protecting women patients who were being hassled upon arrival by anti-choice demonstrators." That summer, he was part of the pro-choice demonstrations at the Republican National Convention, which was held in Houston.

In 1994, Brines responded to a Houston Pride Committee ad in *The Texas Triangle*. For the next three years, he organized "Pumped Up on Art"—a glittery auction of celebrity high-heel shoes autographed by their owners. "We had shoes from Cher, RuPaul, and Gloria Estefan—to name just a few."

In 1998, Brines took over the role of managing corporate sponsorships. He helped bring to reality the giant disco ball and later the rainbow chandelier that hung over the intersection of Montrose and Westheimer.

"I had to keep coming up with something different to keep the media interested," he says. That included acquiring Chase Bank's five-story-tall Art Deco lobby downtown for the Pride Month kickoff—and bringing in The Lady Chablis, of *Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil* fame, as a celebrity guest.

From 2004 to 2007, Brines shouldered the responsibility of being president of the Houston Pride Committee. "Every year, I'd

swear it was my last year," he says. "But the day after the parade, I was so pumped up, I'd choose to stay on for yet another year." In 2008 and 2009, he began to slowly pass the torch, serving as a consultant to the Pride Committee Board.

#### Memories of Parades Past

Brines says that the most exciting moment during his 15 years with the Houston Pride Committee was in June 1997. "Watching the first nighttime parade pull onto Westheimer was incredible," he remembers.

Seeing the evolution of the Pride headquarters has also been a source of inspiration for Brines. "When I started, we met in private homes," he recalls. "Then we rented space at the Community Center on Hawthorne, and later moved to a location on California Street [where Legacy Community Health Services now stands]. Finally, our move to the Montrose Counseling Center building was the fulfillment of over a decade of dreams."

But even someone as professionally polished as Brines has their moments of embarrassment. "Years ago, I sent a rather sarcastic e-mail to one of the Pride volunteers, about the corporate account he was assigned to. Seconds after I hit 'Send,' my face began to heat up and turn bright red. I had mistakenly addressed the e-mail to the

corporate contact!" He learned quickly what "damage control" means—and how it's done.

Brines says he is "honored" to be the 2012 Houston Male Pride Marshal. The most important aspect of the honor is the chance to encourage members of the community to become activists. "Find an opportunity to be involved," he says. "Get active and be passionate. There is nothing better that a person can give to their community than their time."

Looking back, Brines remembers that before each year's parade started, he would walk out into the middle of Westheimer and take it all in. "No one else was allowed on the street, but as an organizer I was able to. In that moment, I realized that all the work of the past 364 days was worth it!"

After years of coordinating the marshal vehicles, this year Brines will be in one of the convertibles as it slowly rolls down Westheimer. He plans to bring his 10-year-old niece along with him, to share the excitement of the evening.

Our 2012 male marshal says that the most important thing in life is fun. "It's the one over-arching element of my life—being with people I want to be with, doing the things I want to be doing."

*Brandon Wolf is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine.*

## Do you need Spiritual Support?

**Bering Support Network (BSN) serves the GLBT and HIV Communities by providing support in a number of ways:**

- Pastoral Counseling for individuals (non-therapy)
- HIV Support Groups
  - Lunch Bunch - Each Tuesday 11am (HIV+ only)
  - Spiritual Support Group - Each Wednesday 6:30pm (for those infected with and affected by HIV)
- Grief Groups - Scheduled 3-4 times per year
- Loss of Relationship Groups - Scheduled 3-4 times per year
- Various workshops relating to GLBT and HIV issues - meeting throughout the year

**For more information please contact:**

**Jerry Goree, Director, Bering Support Network**  
**713-526-1017 or via email: [jerryg@beringumc.org](mailto:jerryg@beringumc.org)**

# 2012 Honorary Pride Marshal

*Ellen Cohen*

by Brandon Wolf • Photo by Dalton DeHart

**“**I remember Houston's first Gay Pride Parade,” says Houston city council member Ellen Cohen. “There was no way I could have imagined that one day I'd be riding at the head of that parade as a marshal.”

A longtime friend and supporter of Houston's LGBT community, Cohen worked hard to defeat antigay referendums in both 1985 and 2001. This year, she is the 2012 Honorary Pride Marshal, a designation bestowed upon a non-LGBT ally of the community.

#### An Athletic Girl

Cohen was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. “So many people talk about dysfunctional families,” she says, “but my sister and I grew up in a functional family.”

Cohen says her parents appreciated her natural athletic abilities and gave her great support. She loved to ride her bike, take part in field games, and play basketball.

“When I was young, girls played half-court basketball,” Cohen remembers. “It was thought that running the length of a full court could damage female reproductive organs.” She can't seem to suppress a look of disdain at such a notion.

Cohen's parents were strong people, and helped her develop a strong inner core and sense of self. She also learned early on to value people on their individual merits. “My parents never defined people by differences,” says Cohen. “They didn't use terms like ‘the black family at the end of the block.’”



At the age of 14, Cohen spent her summer at a unique co-ed camp in Ontario, Canada, that offered a wide variety of physical activities. “My father was concerned,” she says. “He was sure I'd fall in love with a Canadian and move to Canada.”

Her father's fears turned out to be prophetic. Cohen met her future husband, Lyon, at the camp. “It was love at first sight,” she says. “I saw him lifting a wooden canoe from a rack and putting it into the lake.” At age 20, she married him and moved to Montreal. They had two children, Marcie and Eric, both born in Canada.

#### No Stranger to Adversity

In her mid-20s, Cohen was diagnosed with breast cancer. “It was very unusual for this disease to strike a girl as young as I was,” she says. The diagnosis came in the days before radiation and chemotherapy. “There were only two choices,” says Cohen, “radical mastectomy or death.”

After recovering from the surgery, she started a program called “Reach to Recovery.” The program is still in operation, run by the American Cancer Society. Volunteers are breast-cancer survivors who give newly diagnosed patients an opportunity to express their feelings and ask questions. The program helps build emotional grounding and enables patients to make informed decisions.

In 1977, the Cohens decided to move and chose Houston as their destination. “It was a fortunate coincidence,” says Cohen, because shortly after arriving in the city, her husband

was diagnosed with a tumor on his spinal cord. “The initial prognosis was that he had three years, at best, to live,” Cohen recalls. But with access to Houston's state-of-the-art medical center, her husband lived for more than 30 additional years.

#### A Lifetime of Service

Cohen eventually found work as the executive director of the Houston regional office of the American Jewish Committee. AJC is an advocacy organization that focuses on building bridges of understanding, advancing the security of Americans →

# Texas Renaissance Festival

Create the royal commitment ceremony fit for a King or Queen.

Select from five themed ceremony venues:

- On-site staff
- Private reception locations
- From intimate parties to lavish celebrations
- Packages include admission to the Texas Renaissance Festival
- Enjoy our 55-acre village
- Explore the lush landscaped grounds with a variety of gardens
- Close out your special day with a Royal Fireworks display

The Texas Renaissance Festival offers guests the authentic sights, sounds, tastes and beauty of the 16th century for eight magically-themed weekends October 6 through November 25, 2012.

800-458-3435 [texrenfest.com](http://texrenfest.com)

## Honorary Pride Marshal continued from previous page

and the democratic world, combating anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry, supporting Israel's quest for peace and security, advocating for energy independence, and strengthening Jewish life.

Cohen is particularly proud of the black/Jewish dialogues she helped to build. "I worked with some amazing people, including Kirbyjon Caldwell and Bill Lawson."

In June 1984, the Houston City Council passed a measure barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in city employment. The vote prompted a backlash among religious conservatives, who advanced a referendum to repeal the law.

Cohen and the American Jewish Committee worked against the repeal. However, the referendum was approved by a devastating margin of 80 to 20 percent in January 1985. The defeat caused many political figures to distance themselves from the gay community, but Cohen continued to advocate for LGBT equality.

In 1990, Cohen joined the Houston Women's Center as president and CEO. The Center is dedicated to eliminating domestic and sexual violence. She oversaw a \$6.2 million budget and a 120-person staff.

In 1998, Mayor Lee Brown issued

## Come Live & Walk with Us In Oaks of Inwood

Best Kept **Family** Secret in Houston!



Minutes from Midtown Area | Large Custom Homes just off T.C. Jester

2-story brick homes now on the market with 2,600 to 3,400 sq.ft.  
4 & 5 bedrooms. Priced between \$169,900 & \$245,000.

[www.inwoodpride.com](http://www.inwoodpride.com)



Contact **Bob Beszborn**  
(pictured far right, with Michael & Hooch)  
**281.650.2726 | yourblvd.com**

**TUTS** Theatre Under The Stars

St. Luke's Hospital System  
Season Sponsor

## ONE BIG THRILL! THE **BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE ★ IN TEXAS**

JUNE 5-17 • HOBBY CENTER



**OUT@TUTS**  
THURSDAY, JUNE 7

After the performance, mingle with the cast and listen to fabulous cabaret music with your GLBT friends at Artista. Enjoy complimentary hors d'oeuvre and Happy Hour drink specials.



CALL TODAY FOR BEST SEATS! TICKETS START AT ONLY \$24!

**TUTS.COM 713.558.TUTS**

GROUPS CALL 713.558.8888 OR VISIT [TUTS.COM/GROUPS](http://TUTS.COM/GROUPS)

UNITED AIRLINES • HOUSTON CHRONICLE • THE HUMPHREYS FOUNDATION

PG13

an executive order protecting LGBT city employees from employment discrimination. Council member Rob Todd led efforts to fight the order in court, arguing that the 1985 referendum made it inappropriate for the mayor to institute the protections without voter approval. After three years of defending the policy in court, the City won.

But the victory was short-lived. Perpetual nemesis of the Houston LGBT community Dave Wilson mounted a "family values" campaign for an amendment to the City Charter, prohibiting the City of Houston from providing domestic partner benefits. Cohen stood with the gay community, against the amendment. Nevertheless, in November 2001, voters approved the amendment 51 to 49 percent.

#### A Legislative Career Cut Short

In 2005, Cohen was encouraged to run for the Texas House of Representatives. In 2006, she defeated opponent Martha Wong. The victory was especially meaningful to Houston's gay community, because Wong had previously ousted longtime state representative Debra Danburg, an ardent ally of the community during her 22-year legislative career.

Cohen says her greatest accomplishment as a Texas legislator was the passage of a \$3 billion cancer research bill in 2007.

The bill created the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas, whose mission is to undertake "groundbreaking" cancer research.

After serving two terms in the Texas legislature, Cohen lost her seat to challenger Sarah Davis by 725 votes in 2010. Her legislative career was ended by the anti-Obama backlash inspired by the right-wing Tea Party, which swept Republicans into office across the nation.

In November 2011, Cohen won the Houston City Council District C seat, where she is now serving her first term. She will be up for reelection in November 2013.

#### Houston's 'Can Do' Attitude

Council Member Cohen's corner office in the City Hall Annex has two floor-to-ceiling glass walls that provide a stunning view of City Hall and the surrounding area. She says that recently she was asked what Houston would be like in 20 years. Cohen responded that anything is possible in Houston. Looking across the street, she nods toward City Hall and asks, "Twenty years ago, who would have ever thought that Houston would have a lesbian mayor?

"Houston has always been a city of visionaries," Cohen remarks. "There is a 'can do' attitude in this city. Anyone can land here and be successful—through hard work

and honesty. You don't have to have been born into 'the right family.'"

Cohen notes that Houston is now among the top 25 destinations in the United States. Looking ahead, she predicts the expansion of Houston's role as a port city and as an educational hub. "In the next 20 years, it's possible that we may add another 4 million citizens. That would bring us very close to being the largest city in the country."

Cohen says that her life has been "spectacular." She feels very blessed to have had a wonderful 40-year marriage, two wonderful children, and to have survived cancer.

In addition, Cohen is grateful that her mother has already lived to the age of 97. Asked how her mother is doing, she answers, "Well, pretty good, I guess. The last time I called she didn't have time to talk—she was on her way out the door, headed for the gym."

Looking ahead to Houston's Gay Pride events, she says that she especially enjoys the History Tent that has now become an annual institution. And as she reflects on the national gay community, Cohen feels confident that gay marriage will eventually be a reality.

*Brandon Wolf is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine.*

# CATHEDRAL OF HOPE HOUSTON

*a place to belong...no kidding!*

**Sundays at 11:00 a.m.**  
4606 Mangum Road • Houston, TX 77092  
[www.coohouston.com](http://www.coohouston.com)



**No matter who you are  
or where you are on  
life's journey, you are  
welcome here!**

**Join us for the 2012  
Interfaith Pride Service**  
**Thursday, June 28th**  
**7:15 p.m.**  
Commemorating the 43rd  
Anniversary of the Stonewall  
Riots, the defining event that  
marked the start of the  
gay rights movement.



**SUMMER  
in our  
CITY**  
landscaping + design, inc.™ **Aj's**  
713.957.0449 | [www.ajslandscaping.com](http://www.ajslandscaping.com)

# THE To-Do LIST

CELEBRATE JUNE WITH A BIG GAY SLEATE OF PRIDEFUL EVENTS AND PARTIES

Compiled by Nancy Ford

**W**hat do you want? Music? Got lots of it. Drag? You came to the right place. Sports? Check. Culture? No problem.

June in Houston is, without question, the prime time and city to be in Texas when it comes to events, parties, and gay gatherings of all stripes. Galveston provides its fair share of fun, too.

Each year, *OutSmart* is proud to provide the definitive, most comprehensive guide to all things celebrating Pride to remind you exactly where you need to be, and when. Think of us as a Queer Siri.

But it's not just about the parties. Houston also provides opportunities throughout Pride month to nurture the LGBT community's physical, mental, and spiritual health . . . and so much more.

So grab a dozen of your closest friends, hang those rainbow beads around your neck, and celebrate!

## JUNE 1

### Fourth-year anniversary of

**Crocker Bar.** Celebrate with your first well or call drink on the house. 2312 Crocker St. • 713/529-3355.

### Come Out and Play Kickoff and Cabaret.

Kindred Spirits Foundation and ERICSS's Empress 25 Marcia Mink Anne Gill kicks off KSF's 2nd Annual Softball Tournament, and Jim Benton of Houston provides hors d'oeuvres. 7 p.m. George Your Country Sports Bar, 617 Fairview Ave. • kindredspiritshouston.org.

## JUNE 2

### Inspiring Health in LGBT

**Women.** Lesbian Health Initiative Houston presents its Summer Health Fair for lesbians, offering mammograms, Pap examinations, extensive blood screenings by appointment, and much more. Just in time for summer, body/skin scans, provided by M.D. Anderson Melanoma and Skin Clinic, are also available. Dr. Mary Alice Cowan Ob/Gyn, Attorney Kristen Capps, Maria Boydston, as well as representatives from Ameri-

can Cancer Society, Legacy Community Health Services, Montrose Clinic, San Jose Clinic, AssistHers, United Way, the Alzheimer's Association, and other local organizations provide life-saving and life-improving information.

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](mailto:info@lhihouston.org).

**Assert Yourself:** Personal Boundaries and Effective Confrontation. Take pride in developing identity while understanding the dynamics of passive, assertive, and aggressive personalities and how to effectively deal with them. Facilitated by Denise O'Dougherty, LPC, LMFT, LCDC, RN. 10 a.m. Leisure Learning Annex, 2990 Richmond Ave. • 713/524-9525.

**Drag Queen Bingo,** hosted by Tanya Hyde, offers cash prizes and more. 2:30 p.m. Benefits Houston GLBT Community Center. El Real Tex-Mex, 1201 Westheimer Rd. • [houstonlgbtcommunitycenter.org](http://houstonlgbtcommunitycenter.org).

### Ice Cream Social.

LOAF (Lesbians Over Age Fifty) celebrates senior lesbian pride with sweet, cold treats. Bethel Church UCC, 1107 Shepherd Dr. • [loaf.org](http://loaf.org).

### Some Like It Hot.

The crossdressing classic with Marilyn Monroe, 1959. Billy Wilder directs. Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St. • [discoverygreen.com](http://discoverygreen.com) • 713/400-7336.

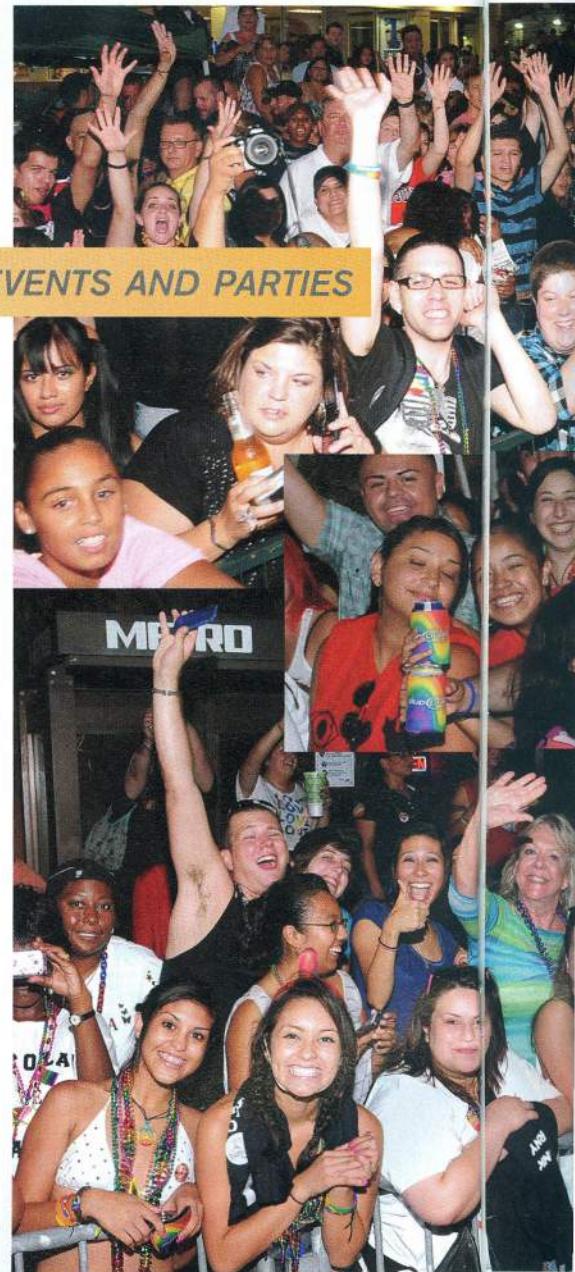
### Girl in a Coma's Exits & All the Rest,

the notorious San Antonio-based trio's fourth album, won a 2012 Independent Music Award for Best Alternative Rock Album. Catch them, along with Snoop Dogg, Willie Nelson, and other music royalty at Free Press Summer Fest. June 2–3. Eleanor Tinsley Park, 500 Allen Pkwy. • [freepresssummerfest.com](http://freepresssummerfest.com).

## JUNE 3

### Blood Drive,

with Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center mobile unit. It's still illegal for gay men to donate blood, but lesbi-



ans can roll up their sleeves to save lives. 8 a.m. St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 Main St. • [stpaulshouston.org](http://stpaulshouston.org).

### Montrose Softball League.

Co-ed softball teams play. 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Houston Sportsplex, 12631 South Main St. • [montrosesoftballleague.com](http://montrosesoftballleague.com).

### Community Pot Luck and Fair-Trade Chocolate Challenge.

Enter a dish using fair-trade chocolate, and share your recipe. Bonus points are given for delicacies special to city or region of origin. 12:15 p.m., St. Paul's UMC, 5501 Main St.



stpaulshouston.org •  
713/528-0527.

**Testify!** Soul music, soul food, and soul drag with Ty Blue; cuisine catered by Chelsea Grill. Noon. Vue, 526 Waugh Dr.

**Pride in the Pews.** The Houston chapter of PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) and a panel of clergy and lay leaders discuss what they and their movements are doing to promote inclusion of LGBT people in their congregational life and through public witness to the community at large. 2 p.m.

St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 Main St. • pflag houston.org.

**That '70s Show.** Colt 45's celebrates its 36th anniversary with a drag show. Benefits Colt 45's AIDS TroubleFund. 7 p.m. Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos St. • colt45s.org.

**Montrose Softball League.** Co-ed softball teams play. 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Houston Sportsplex, 12631 South Main St. • montrosesoftball league.com.

**JUNE 5**  
**Some Like It Hot.** The cross-dressing classic with Marilyn Monroe. 1959. Billy Wilder directs. Alamo Drafthouse at Majestic Metro, 911 Preston St. • marketsquarepark.com.

**Positive Brothers United**, an HIV support group for men of color. June 5 and each Tuesday, 7 p.m. GLBT Cultural Center, 401 Branard St. • positivebrothersunited.org • 713/454-7548.

**Wilson Phillips.** The '70s girl pop trio, featuring the extremely LGBT-supportive Carnie Wilson. 7 p.m. The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St., Galveston • thegrand.com • 409/765-1894.

**JUNE 6**  
**The F Factor: The Ultimate Vocal Competition!** continues. Local celebrities Ernie Manouse, Maria Todd, and Kai Hicks choose the vocal teams and are judged by audience reaction. Winners receive cash prizes, recording studio time, and other incentives. 10 p.m. F Bar Houston, 202 Tuam St. • fbarhouston.com.

**JUNE 7**  
**Kicking Up Their Heels and Other Body Parts.** Theatre Under the Stars' gay patrons enjoy OUT@TUTS, a cabaret-style event at Artista Restaurant following the performance of *The* →

## The To-Do List

continued from page 59

**Best Little Whorehouse in Texas.** Hobby Center for Performing Arts, 800 Bagby St. • tut.com • 713/558-8887.

**Out Later.** Support for Gay Fathers and men who come out later, focusing on life issues of parenting, divorce, family, dating, relationships, and other issues. June 7, and each Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W. 11th St. • outlater@resurrectionmcc.org.

**Pride Superstar**, the sixth annual vocal competition, judged by Blake Hayes, Joey Guerra, Benjamin Pheonix, and Tianna Hall. Winners receive cash prizes, recording studio time, a cruise, and more. 10 p.m. South Beach, 810 Pacific St. • pridehouston.org.

### JUNE 8

**I Can Do Anything!** Film shorts by, about, and for kids, with the Girls Rock! Camp All-Star Band. 7 p.m. Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St. • aurorapictureshow.org • 713/868-2101.

**Joyful Noise.** Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton star in the comedy about a small-town choir out to win a national competition despite overwhelming odds. Todd Graff directs. 2012. Houston District D Council Member Wanda Adams hosts. 8 p.m. Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park, 100 Concert Dr. • milleroutdoortheatre.com • 281/373-3386.

**Women's Music House Concerts** presents singer/songwriters Kiya Heartwood from Wishing Chair and Austin favorite Nancy Scott. Reservations only: sandilg61@aol.com • 281/444-7669.

## The Year of the Dragon Ball.

The 20th Annual HATCH Prom for youth and supportive adults. 7 p.m. GLBT Cultural Center, 401 Branard St. • hatchyouth.org • 713/529-0037.

### JUNE 9

**Kindred Softball.** Following a rainout of their March tournament, the women of Kindred Spirits have rescheduled their Second Annual Softball Tournament. Mixed teams are currently registering to compete for trophies. Hot dogs and cool drinks, commemora-

commonly found in women (breast, colon, lung, skin, and gynecological cancers), and more. 9:30 a.m. Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold St. • assisthers.org.

## Girl Jam Pre-Pride Party.

Alex Dame, Paige Lewis, and Jesse Roach DJ Melle Mell provide entertainment, plus games, prizes, and a scooter raffle, with Jimmy's Burgers and the Pink Taco Truck providing food. The Usual Pub • theusualpub.com • 281/501-1478.

**2nd Annual Galveston Gay Beach Weekend**, a day at the beach with music, volleyball, horseshoes, drinking, sunning, swimming, mixing, and mingling. June 9–10. Gay Beach in Galveston.

### Tara and Kara Dion Birth-

**day Bash.** 11 p.m. 3rd Coast Downtown, 2416 Postoffice St., Galveston.

### JUNE 10

## Montrose Softball League.

Co-ed softball teams play. 8:30 a.m. Houston Sportsplex, 12631 South Main St. •



Girl in a Coma (Phanie Diaz, Nina Diaz, and Jenn Alva) do it with Snoop Dogg, Willie Nelson, and others. (See June 2.)

tive Kindred Spirits T-shirts, and other prizes available. Memorial Park. Benefits AssistHers and LHI-Houston. kindredspiritshouston.org • 832/419-0165.

**AssistHers** meets on the second Saturday of each month for breakfast, committee meetings, door prizes, and a featured speaker. This month, Maria Montes-Boydston from the American Cancer Society discusses cancer facts for lesbian and bisexual women, specifically, the cancers most

## Grand Marshals on the Rocks

honors Houston LGBT Pride Parade 2012 Grand Marshals Nicolas Brines, Jenifer Pool, and Ellen Cohen. 6 p.m. \$25. Benefits Pride Houston. Hudson Lounge, 2506 Robinhood St. (See pages 45, 49, and 53.)

## Until the Fat Lady Sings.

Houston Pride Band's annual summer concert plays universally recognizable and timeless classics, directed by Skip Martin. 7:30 p.m. houstonprideband.org.

montrosesoftballleague.com.

### AIDS Coalition of Coastal Texas (ACCT)

Champagne Brunch. San Luis Hotel on Galveston Island located at 5222 Seawall Boulevard, Galveston. Benefits ACCT. 409/763-2437.

### Mr., Miss, and Ms. Gay Pride Houston 2012 Pageant.

7 p.m. Brazos River Bottom, 2400 Brazos St. • brbtx.com.

### JUNE 13

## The F Factor: The Ultimate

## The To-Do List

continued from page 61

Vocal Competition! continues. 10 p.m. F Bar Houston, 202 Tuam St. • fbarhouston.com. (See June 6.)

### JUNE 14

**Pride Superstar** vocal competition continues. 10 p.m. South Beach, 810 Pacific St. • pridehouston.org. (See June 7.)

**Red Hot Patriot: the Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins**, written by Margaret and Allison Engel. June 14–July 1. Main Street Theatre—Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd. • mainstreettheater.com • 713/524-6706. (See page 126.)

### JUNE 15

**2nd Annual Transgender and Gender-Variant Youth Conference** aims to create and celebrate possibilities for transgender and gender variant young people, helping local families connect with needed resources, and educating professionals about working with this unique population. June 15–16. Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W. 11th St. Registration: CCP@adaptcounseling.com • 713/961-0651.

**Houston Pride Band.** (See June 9, "Until the Fat Lady Sings.")



DALTON DEHART

### JUNE 16

**I'm Beautiful Damn It.** Gay Men's Chorus of Houston's tribute to Bette Midler. Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St. • bayoucityperformingarts.org.

### 16th Annual Houston Billiard Open

includes a raffle and silent auction. June 16–17, 11 a.m. Benefits Colt 45's AIDS TroubleFund. Slick Willie's Family Pool Hall, 1200 Westheimer Rd. • iblouston.com • 713/594-2610.

### JUNE 17

#### Montrose Softball League

Postseason Tournament. Co-ed softball teams play. Houston Sportsplex, 12631 South Main St. • montrosesoftballleague.com.

#### Salvation

, a Pride pool party. Cabanas and bottle service available. Noon. \$25. Benefits Pride Houston. Roak, 3320

Kirby Dr. • pridehouston.org.

### JUNE 18

**Dine with Pride.** A percentage of the bill benefits Pride Houston. Canopy, 3939 Montrose Blvd. • pridehouston.org.

### JUNE 19

**Rock the Runway.** A fashion show features underwear and swimwear, plus giveaways from designers. 9 p.m. South Beach, 810 Pacific St. • pridehouston.org.

**Drag Live! And Proud!** **The Dreamgirls**, featuring iconic songs of the Pride experience. Ty Blue hosts. 10 p.m. F Bar Houston, 202 Tuam St. • fbarhouston.com.

### JUNE 20

**The Queen Extravaganza**, the official Queen tribute show. House of Blues Houston, 1204 Caroline St. • houseofblues.com.

**Pride Night** at Dynamo Stadium.

Houston Dynamo vs. Toronto FC in a soccer match. 7 p.m. Benefits Pride Houston. BBVA Compass Stadium, 2200 Texas Ave. • pridehouston.org • 713/276-7541.

**The F Factor: The Ultimate Vocal Competition!** concludes with vocal teams competing with a live band. 10 p.m. F Bar Houston, 202 Tuam St. • fbarhouston.com. (See June 6.)

**Hope Is Never Silent: Queer Art Across Texas**, a moveable juried exhibition giving voice to queer art expanding the range and depth of knowledge about contemporary queer culture. June 20–July 7. Houston GLBT Community Center, 1900 Kane St. • hopeisneversilent.blogspot.com. →



Raja, winner of season 3's *RuPaul's Drag Race*, comes to Houston. (See June 24.)

MATHU ANDERSEN

# We're so excited, we can't even think straight!

Pride Festival and Parade, June 23, 2012.



1111 S. Shepherd on the Curve  
Complimentary valet • 713.522.7654 • [tilas.com](http://tilas.com)

## NATIONAL HIV TESTING DAY JUNE 27, 2012

# SPEAK OUT BE PROUD LIVE NOW

FREE RAPID HIV TEST & FREE SYPHILIS TEST

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 2012

9:00AM TO 6:30PM @ 1415 CALIFORNIA, 77006

Testing Info Line (832)548-5084

Legacy

Community Health Services

[legacycommunityhealth.org](http://legacycommunityhealth.org)

Legacy Montrose Clinic  
1415 California  
Houston, Texas 77006  
(713)830-3000

## The To-Do List

continued from previous page

### JUNE 21

**An Art Show and Sale.** Art and pottery, raffle, food, and live entertainment. 6 p.m. Benefits HIV/AIDS causes. F Bar Houston, 202 Tuam St. • [fbarhouston.com](http://fbarhouston.com).

**Pride Superstar** singing competition concludes. 10 p.m. South Beach, 810 Pacific St. • [pridehouston.org](http://pridehouston.org). (See June 7.)

### JUNE 22

**Let the Music Play:** The Awesome Sounds of Pride. PWA Holiday Charities' annual Pride show. 8:30 p.m. Benefits PWA Holiday Charities. Tony's Corner Pocket, 817 W. Dallas St. • [pwaholidaycharities.org](http://pwaholidaycharities.org).

**Rainbow on the Green.** Disco star Thelma Houston and local entertainers kick off Pride Weekend. 8 p.m. Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St. • [discoverygreen.com](http://discoverygreen.com). (See page 35.)

**Bayou Beau Show and Tell**, a fashion show of male models wearing locally designed undergarments. 9 p.m. F Bar Houston, 202 Tuam St. • [fbarhouston.com](http://fbarhouston.com).

**Wonderland Houston**, a Pride dance party features DJ Michael Tank, Cirque aerialists, and Jenna Drey. Benefits Bunnies on the Bayou. 9 p.m. Bayou Music Center, 520 Texas Ave. • [pridehouston.org](http://pridehouston.org). (See page 65.)

**William Belli and Jason Carter** from *RuPaul's Drag Race*. 11 p.m. Guava Lamp, 570 Waugh Dr. • [guavalamphouston.com](http://guavalamphouston.com) • 713/524-3359.

### JUNE 23

**Dirty Dancing.** Hometown hero Patrick Swayze's signature film. 1987. Emile Ardolino directs. 8 p.m. Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St. • [discoverygreen.com](http://discoverygreen.com) • 713/400-7336.

**Houston LGBT Pride Festival 2012** features more than 200

exhibitors plus Houston Dynamo's Family Fun Zone, the Walgreens Health & Wellness Pavilion, the Houston LGBT History Exhibit and performers from Pride Superstar. 1 p.m. Yoakum Street at Westheimer Rd. • [pridehouston.org](http://pridehouston.org).

### Pride After-Party Extravaganza

featuring DJ Tad Dvorak and a surprise guest at midnight. 7 p.m. F Bar Houston, 202 Tuam St. • [fbarhouston.com](http://fbarhouston.com).

### Live Out Proud! Houston LGBT Pride Parade 2012

features more than 125 parade entries and is considered the largest LGBT event in the Southwest United States. 8:15 p.m. Proceeds east on Westheimer Rd. between Dunlavy St. and Montrose Blvd. • [pridehouston.org](http://pridehouston.org).

### JUNE 24

**Montrose Softball League** postseason tournament. Co-ed softball teams play. Houston Sportsplex, 12631 South Main St. • [montrosesoftballleague.com](http://montrosesoftballleague.com).

**Raja**, a winner from *RuPaul's Drag Race*, headlines the weekly Legendary Ladies drag show. 10 p.m. F Bar Houston, 202 Tuam St. • [fbarhouston.com](http://fbarhouston.com).

### JUNE 27

**Australia's Thunder from Down Under**, male dance troupe. House of Blues Houston, 1204 Caroline St. • [houseofblues.com](http://houseofblues.com).

### JUNE 29

**Ginger Leigh**. The Austin-based singer/songwriter plays one of Texas's most highly acclaimed listening rooms. 8 p.m. Anderson Fair, 2700 Grant St. • [andersonfair.com](http://andersonfair.com).

### The Poets: A Play in Two Acts.

World premiere of Eleazar "Ricky" Catter's tale of a bullied, suicidal poet. June 29–July 8. Frenetic Theatre, 5102 Navigation Blvd. • 832/865-3413. ■

## GO ASK ALICE

*A Pride circuit party*

This year, Houston scores a coup on the Pride circuit scene with its first-ever Pride Wonderland party, held June 22 from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the downtown Bayou City Music Center. The theme is quite literal, as guests are invited to step into virtual *Alice in Wonderland* scenes such as "The Caterpillar's Lair," "The Queen's Throne," and "The Mad Hatter's Tea Room." Tim Burton has nothing on this party. The levitating shoes of Tweedledee and Tweedledum will be filled by veteran aerial acrobats Francois Gravel and Michael Lanphear.

DJ Michael Tank, who worked as a Houston DJ from 1998 to 2005 and won *OutSmart's* "Best DJ" award three years in a row, returns once again to mix at Houston's most promising new engagement. "I have some good friends I'm looking forward to seeing," he says.

He has recently mixed songs by artists such as Kelly Price and Veronica, and has remixed *Glee's* "Bills, Bills, Bills." He has performed at White Parties, Pride after-parties, and Mardi Gras events from Buenos Aires and P-Town to San Francisco. "I have a few things up my sleeve, but I'm keeping them top-secret," he says.

Proceeds from Pride Wonderland benefit Bunnies on the Bayou, which just celebrated its 33rd anniversary. "Bunnies on the Bayou is very excited to have been selected by Pride Houston to be the beneficiary for Wonderland," says Jack Berger, president of Bunnies. "We have been able to provide funding for some amazing nonprofit beneficiaries from the events we stage, and the connection with Pride will help us to do even more in the coming months," Berger adds.

If Wonderland performs well, Houston could become the newest addition to the national Pride circuit party scene. For a city with only one large-scale gay club, that could mean handsome tidings. And even more handsome tourists.

—David Goldberg



**DJ Michael Tank**

**SHOP WHILE YOU CELEBRATE**

1222 Westheimer  
Houston, TX 77006  
(713) 528-4565

**Erotic cabaret boutique**  
[www.eroticcabaret.com](http://www.eroticcabaret.com)

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

**GET DIRTY!** Join our league.



30th Year League Anniversary

Celebration & All Star Game, June 10th.  
Starting at 3pm • Memorial Park, Field #1

After Party FREE to Everyone  
Former & Current League Members Re-unite and Celebrate!

To Join the League or for  
Party Details Visit:  
[www.hwssoftball.com](http://www.hwssoftball.com)



GLBT CRUISES & TOUR EVENTS

**aquafest** family at sea!

Alaska - Transatlantic - Egypt - Mediterranean

2013 NOW AVAILABLE

[www.AquafestCruises.com](http://www.AquafestCruises.com)

**(800) 592-9058**

Happy Pride Month  
from your  
family at sea!

**November 10-17, 2012**  
**Post Halloween Cruise**

Miami, Phillipsburg/St. Maarten, St. Thomas,  
US Virgin Islands, Nassau, Miami

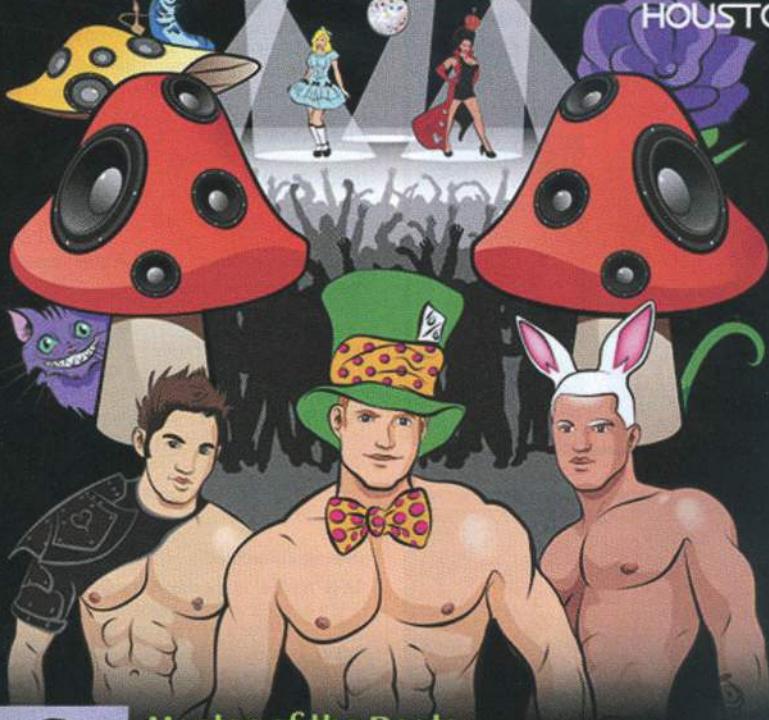


on the  
**Norwegian EPIC**  
from \$724 pp

Pride Houston presents ...

# WONDERLAND

HOUSTON



## Master of the Beats

DJ Michael Tank



## Performances By

Cirque Aerialists  
& Special Guest Artists



BAYOU  
MUSIC  
CENTER

FRIDAY  
**JUNE 22**



BUY  
TICKETS  
AT [LIVENATION.com](http://LIVENATION.com)

[info@wonderlandhouston.com](mailto:info@wonderlandhouston.com) • [wonderlandhouston.com](http://wonderlandhouston.com) • [facebook.com/wonderlandhouston](http://facebook.com/wonderlandhouston)  
An official event of the Houston LGBT Pride Celebration benefitting Pride Outreach programs



Did you know...  
that **1 in 3** are **without health insurance** in **Harris County** and that thousands of those are **LGBT**?

Lesbian Health Initiative of Houston, Inc. eliminates barriers to healthcare for LGBT women and trans-men.

To learn more, visit us at: [www.LHIhouston.org](http://www.LHIhouston.org)  
Or follow us on Facebook at: LHI - Houston

Ivins's prophetic words are still applicable to the 99 Percent, more than a decade before protesters erected that first tent on public property: "One function of the income gap is that the people at the top of the heap have a hard time even seeing those at the bottom. They practically need a telescope. The pharaohs of ancient Egypt probably didn't waste a lot of time thinking about the people who built their pyramids, either."

Remembering these jewels and many other Ivinisms, Main Street Theater presents *Red Hot Patriot: the Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins*, written by Margaret and Allison Engel and starring Sara Gaston, through July 1. Main Street Theater—Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd. • [mainstreettheater.com](http://mainstreettheater.com) • 713/524-6706. —Nancy Ford

Louisiana St. • [sphouston.org](http://sphouston.org) • 713/227-4SPA.  
**The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas.** The Lone Star musical. June 5–17. Theatre Under the Stars. Hobby Center for Performing Arts, 800 Bagby St. • [tuts.com](http://tuts.com) • 713/558-8887. (See page 103.)

**Romeo and Juliet.** Sergei Prokofiev and Shakespeare's drama of teen love with music and dance. June 7–17. Houston Ballet. Wortham Center's Brown Theater, 501 Texas Ave. • [houstonballet.org](http://houstonballet.org) • 713/227-2787.

**Chubby Checker.** Twist again with him. June 9. Miller Outdoor Theatre, Hermann Park, 100 Concert Dr. • [milleroutdoortheatre.com](http://milleroutdoortheatre.com) • 281/373-3386.

**Heroes for Holden's 2nd Annual All-Star Benefit Concert** features Tracy Byrd and other performers. June 10. Benefits abused child Holden Gothic. Pasadena Convention Center, 7902 Fairmont Pkwy. • [heroesforholden.org](http://heroesforholden.org).

**Person Lecture Series for Interfaith Understanding** presents activist/filmmaker Rev. Steven D. Martin. June 10, 6 p.m. St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 5501 Main St. • [stpaulshouston.org](http://stpaulshouston.org).

**Red Hot Patriot: The Kick-Ass Wit of Molly Ivins.** June 14–July 1. Main St. Theatre—Chelsea Market, 4617 Montrose Blvd. • [mainstreettheater.com](http://mainstreettheater.com) • 713/524-6706.

**Badu-izms: A Tribute to Erykah.** June 15–17. Freneticore Fearless Dance Theater, 5102 Navigation Blvd. • [baduizms.eventbrite.com](http://baduizms.eventbrite.com).

**Summer Symphony Nights.** June 15–23. Houston Symphony. Miller Outdoor Theatre in Hermann Park, 100 Concert Dr. • [houstonsymphony.org](http://houstonsymphony.org) • 713/224-7575.

**Camping with Gasoline.** Jaston Williams's solo southern comedy. June 16. The Grand 1894 Opera House, 2020 Postoffice St., Galveston • [thegrand.com](http://thegrand.com) • 409/765-1894.

**Cocaine & Ethel Merman** by L. Robert Westeen. June 22–23. Obsidian Art Space, 3522 White Oak Dr. • [obsidianartspace.org](http://obsidianartspace.org).

**Brandy Holmes**, presented by HopeWerks. June 25–26. Hope Stone. Cullen Theater, 500 Texas Ave. • [hopestoneinc.org](http://hopestoneinc.org) • 713/526-1907.

**Puscifer.** The electro-rock performance troupe. June 27. Bayou Music Center, 520 Texas Ave. • [puscifer.com](http://puscifer.com).

**Sanctified.** Javon Johnson's gospel musical comedy. June