

MEET THE 2014  
PRIDE MARSHALS

ALLY EXTRAORDINAIRE  
AN INTERVIEW WITH WHOOPY

'SOUTHERN BAPTIST SISSIES'  
WITH LESLIE JORDAN

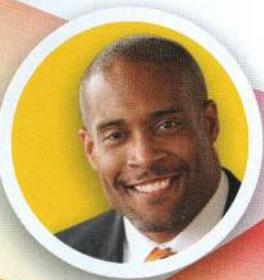
# OutSmart

JUNE 2014

Houston's LGBT Magazine  
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**OutSmart**

**PRIDE  
IN OUR  
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**ABOUT THE COVER**

**WHOOPY GOLDBERG**

Also: Ellen Page (orange bubble), Leslie Jordan (purple), Eddie Robinson (yellow), Sarah Walters and Fernando Aramburo (blue), JD Doyle (green), Christina Gorczynski (red)

Design: Terry Klumpp

Photo of Goldberg: Donna Svennevik/ABC

# Houston Pride Week

*It's going to be better than ever*

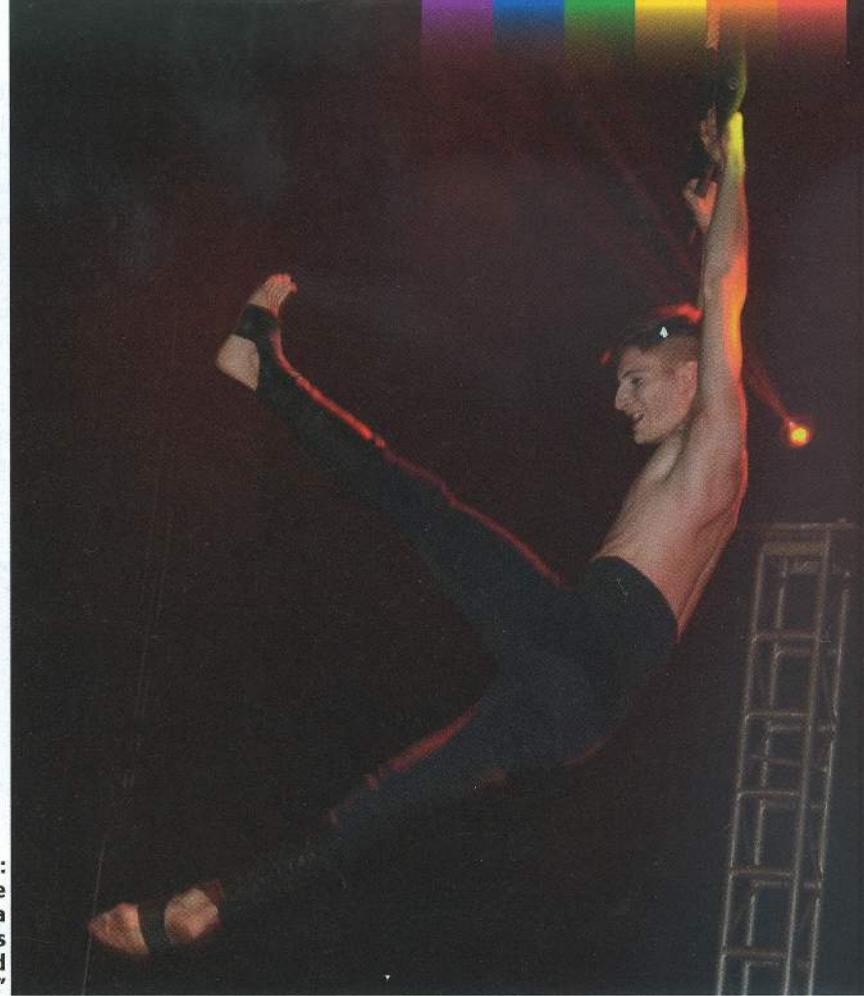
by Barrett White

Photo by Dalton DeHart

**H**ouston is gearing up for a Pride Week celebration that promises to be bigger and better than ever. From June 20 through June 29, the city is going to be alive with thousands of voices celebrating the past year's dramatic progress with LGBT civil rights.

To kick off the festivities on the evening of Friday, June 20, Pride Houston hosts "Eden: A Girl Party" at Pearl →

**Flying high:**  
a trapeze artist at a previous "Wonderland Houston."



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Bar, a celebration of LGBT women. Proceeds from the \$5 cover charge benefit a women-focused nonprofit group. Though this is a female-oriented celebration, folks from across the gender spectrum are invited out to Pearl Bar to celebrate the strong women of Houston's LGBT community.

Another highlight of this 10-day celebration is "Pride Unleashed" (a leather and fetish party) on June 21, from 9 p.m. until midnight. Attendees are encour-

aged to wear their finest "gear" to the event at XL Houston—but as the Pride Houston website suggests, "Keep it classy, everyone!"

June in Houston is notorious for humid and *hot* afternoons, so why not show your pride *and* cool off at a pool party with like-minded individuals? Step on over to HI-Houston: The Morty Rich Hostel on June 22 for "Salvation: A Pride Pool Party," complete with open bar and the invitation to "wash away your sins of the past and ones yet to come!" A portion of the \$25 cover goes toward keeping the Pride Festival free to the public.

After having a ball at Salvation, clear your Tuesday social calendar and head to South Beach on June 24 for the annual "Rock the Runway" evening, where Houston's hottest models showcase the newest summer trends in "underwear, swimwear, and everything to wear on top." Admission is free and open to the public, with lots of free giveaways, as always.

Kicking off Pride Week's final weekend is Houston's only LGBT circuit party, "Wonderland Houston," on Friday, June 27, at a new venue. This 18+ party at South Beach (which sports brand-new sound and lighting systems) transports partygoers with confetti, lasers, fog, and even snow. All proceeds from this event go to Bunnies on the Bayou, the preeminent annual Easter event benefitting Houston's LGBT organizations.

Wonderland is followed by the iconic Pride Festival and Parade on Saturday, June 28, and the final Pride event is "Rapture: A Pride Foam Party" at South Beach on Sunday, June 29.

The Saturday Pride Festival involves 200 vendors and exhibitors, and a crowd of 65,000 along Westheimer at Commonwealth and Yoakum. Come out and see the Walgreens Health & Wellness Pavilion, the Houston Dynamo Family Fun Zone, the Houston LGBT History Exhibit, and a cast of musical performers including past and present Pride Superstar contestants. Admission to the festival is free, but donations are accepted at the information booths located at the festival entrances.

The 2014 Pride Parade begins on Saturday, June 28, at 8:15 p.m. along Westheimer, between Dunlavy and Montrose Blvd. The parade features about 100 organizations and businesses supporting the LGBT community, and is Houston's second-largest annual parade. There is a parade pre-show starting at 7:30 at Westheimer and Waugh.

"The teams of volunteers have been working hard for over a year and a half to produce the fourth-largest Pride celebration in the U.S., and we hope to beat 2013's estimated attendance of 400,000," Frankie Quijano, president and CEO of Pride Houston, says. "[We're] having a live broadcast of the parade on public access channels for those who are unable to come to the parade due to the heat or because they haven't come out yet."

Keep in mind, Houston—these are just a few of the Pride Week events, so go to OUTSMART's complete Pride calendar on page 53 of this issue!

Visit [pridehouston.org/event/pride-week](http://pridehouston.org/event/pride-week) for more information on official events, as well as a Houston travel guide for out-of-towners planning to visit during Pride Week. ■

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**June 5**

**ALLEY THEATRE ACTOUT**

See this Tony Award 2013 winner for Best Play—*Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike*, and enjoy a fabulous pre-performance mixer with music, socializing, complimentary cocktails, and appetizers. Tickets available for purchase online. Alley Theatre. [alleytheater.org](http://alleytheater.org)

**PRIDE SUPERSTAR:  
ROUND FIVE**

Round five of the LGBT sing-off at South Beach. Free and open to the public.

**June 6**

**PRIDE IN THE PARK**

It's LGBT night at the Dynamo soccer game. Come out and root for the home team.

**A VERY HATCHY PROM:  
HATCH PROM 2014**

Every year the Hatch youth come up with their own theme for their annual prom, and 2014's concept should lend itself to everything from the surreal and fabulous to the outrageous. At The Montrose Center. [hatchyouth.org](http://hatchyouth.org)

**June 7**

**LESBIAN HEALTH INITIATIVE  
SPRING HEALTH FAIR**

Offers no-cost screenings, including PAP tests/well-person exams, mammograms, blood screenings, and heart and vascular risk assessments. Legacy Community Health Services. [lhi.org](http://lhi.org)

**TAKE PRIDE IN YOUR TRUE COLORS**

An '80s celebration at 7 p.m. [creativelife.org](http://creativelife.org)

**June 7 & 8**

**SOMETHING INSIDE SO STRONG**

A concert by the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. See [bayoucityperformingarts.org](http://bayoucityperformingarts.org) for ticket information.

**June 11**

**'UNBREAKABLE THREADS'**

Free screening of a film about same-sex couples raising children at The Montrose Center, 401 Branard.

**June 12**

**PRIDE SUPERSTAR: ROUND SIX**

Round six of the LGBT sing-off at South Beach. Free and open to the public.

**June 13**

**THE HERITAGE GALA**

A black-tie event to raise funds for an LGBT museum at the Rice Hotel's Crystal Ballroom. [pridehouston.org](http://pridehouston.org)

**June 19**

**ARTFUL THURSDAY: 'FOSSE'**

Join author of *Fosse* Sam Wasson for a crash course on Bob Fosse's demons, angels, failures, and more. 6:30 p.m. [mfah.org/calendar/artful-thursday-fosse/9551](http://mfah.org/calendar/artful-thursday-fosse/9551)

**PRIDE SUPERSTAR:  
ROUND SEVEN**

Round seven of the LGBT sing-off at South Beach. Free and open to the public. →

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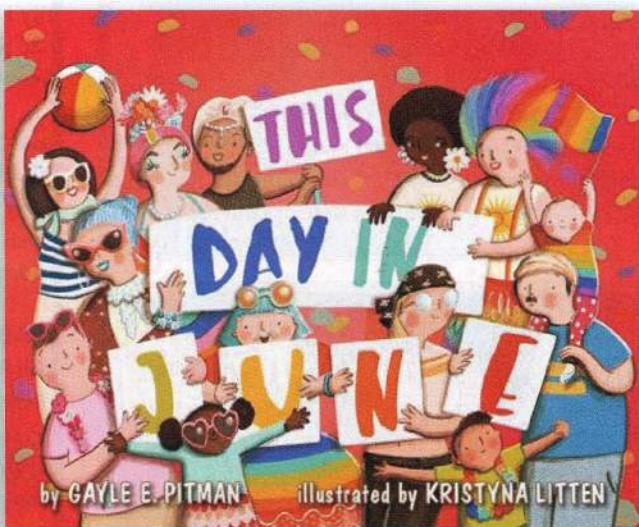
[LegacyCommunityHealth.org](http://LegacyCommunityHealth.org)

A Children's Book  
Celebrates LGBT Pride Month Parades across the Country

**T**his Day in June, written by psychology professor Gayle E. Pitman and illustrated by Kristyna Litten, is a brightly colored 32-page children's book complete with an appendix full of facts about LGBT history and culture, as well as a "Note to Parents and Caregivers" with information on how to talk to children about sexual orientation and gender identity in age-appropriate ways.

"This Day in June adds a bright spot for diversity on any bookshelf, and will help bring the true colors and beautiful experience of LGBT pride to life for school-age children and their families," says Ellen Kahn, director of the Human Rights Campaign Family Project.

*This Day in June* was released through the American Psychological Association and major distributors on May 5, in advance



*This Day in June*  
Magination Press ([apa.org/pubs/magination](http://apa.org/pubs/magination))  
Recommended for ages 4-8  
Full-color illustrations; 32 pages  
Hardcover \$16.95, paperback \$9.95

of LGBT Pride Month in June. This commemorative month is meant to recognize the impact the LGBT community has had in recent decades locally and nationally, and to advocate work for equal rights. Pride Month is traditionally celebrated with parties, parades, workshops, and concerts across the country.

Author Gayle Pitman, PhD, is a professor of psychology and women's studies at Sacramento City College. Her teaching and writing focuses on gender and sexual orientation, and she has worked extensively with the LGBT community. Kristyna Litten, who created the book's beautiful and fun color drawings, studied illustration at Edinburgh College of Art in the U.K.

—Barrett White

# Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen

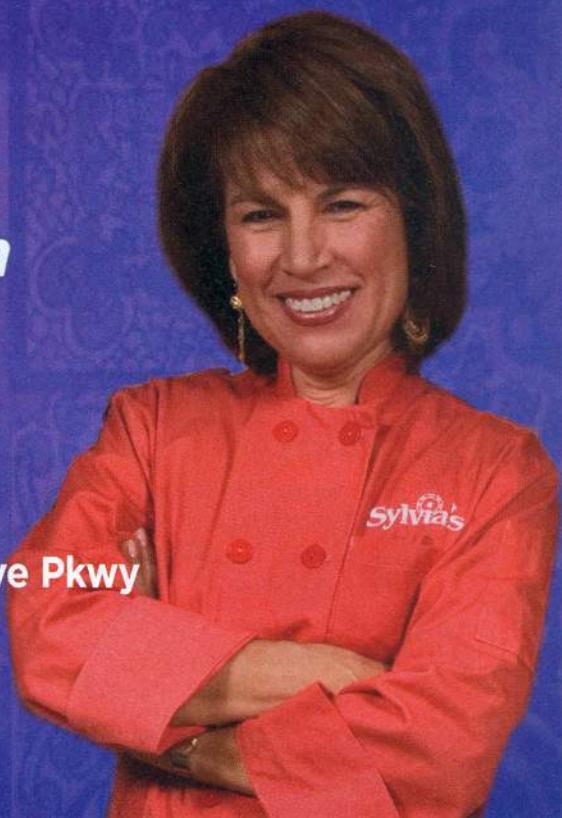
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## It's Pride Month!

continued from page 54

### OUT@TUTS: 'THE LITTLE MERMAID'

See the magical undersea world of Ariel and party with the OUT crowd.

**June 20**

### 'LAWRENCE V. TEXAS' ANNIVERSARY

Join Lambda Legal and the legal community for this celebration. Info: Carla McKinzie at 214.219.8585 or cmckinzie@lambdalegal.org.

### REVIVALS: 'ALL THAT JAZZ'

This screening showcases a recent 4K digital restoration, introduced by the author of *Fosse* and film historian Sam Wasson. 7 p.m. [mfah.org/films/all-that-jazz](http://mfah.org/films/all-that-jazz)

### EDEN: A PRIDE GIRL PARTY

This second annual event celebrates the women of the LGBT community. It's fun, free and open to guys as well. [pridehouston.org](http://pridehouston.org)

### FOURTH ANNUAL RAINBOW ON THE GREEN

This event is presented by Legacy Community Health Services. Discovery Green, 7:30 p.m. More info on page 61 and at [discoverygreen.com](http://discoverygreen.com).

**June 21**

### PRIDE UNLEASHED

Party at Club XL and get your leather and fetish funk on. Another free Pride event. [pridehouston.org](http://pridehouston.org)

### BEAUMONT PRIDE PARADE & FESTIVAL

Members of the LGBT community take to the streets for Beaumont Pride, the area's first gay pride event. Parade at 11 a.m., festival noon–10 p.m. [facebook.com/beaumontpride](http://facebook.com/beaumontpride)

**June 22**

### SALVATION: A PRIDE POOL PARTY

Soak up the sun at the pool at The Morty Rich Hostel starting at 1 p.m. A \$25 donation benefits the festival.

### HOUSTON PRIDE BAND'S ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

This event at F Bar from 4 to 7 p.m. benefits this nonprofit LGBT performance group. [houstonprideband.org](http://houstonprideband.org)

**June 23**

### DINE WITH PRIDE

Grab lunch or dinner at Graffiti Kitchen + Bar, and a percentage of the proceeds on this day benefits Pride Houston. Patio is dog friendly; they have a special dog menu, too!

**June 24**

### ANNUAL INTERFAITH PRIDE SERVICE

Brings together people from diverse religious traditions at Grace Lutheran Church. [beinggrace.org](http://beinggrace.org)

### ROCK THE RUNWAY

The Pride fashion show at South Beach starts at 8 p.m. Wear your finest frocks and drink up.

**June 25**

### PRIDE HOUSTON HAPPY HOUR

Bring the gang and celebrate at Crocker Bar from 5 to 8 p.m. →

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## It's Pride Month!

continued from page 56

### June 26

#### PRIDE SUPERSTAR FINALE

It's the final round of the eight-week LGBT singing competition held at South Beach. Free and open to all.

### June 26-28

#### FREE HIV TESTING

Legacy Community Health Services provides free HIV testing in conjunction with National HIV Testing Day and Pride Week, 3-7 p.m., at Walgreen's, 3317 Montrose Blvd. [eventsatlegacy.blogspot.com](http://eventsatlegacy.blogspot.com)

#### FADE TO BLACK

Houston's first play festival to showcase the new works of African-American playwrights returns for its second year. The plays of ten finalists from around the U.S. are produced before a live audience. On the last day of the festival, a grand-prize-winning playwright (chosen by audience votes) is announced. Three of the shows have gay themes. 8 p.m. nightly. Obsidian Art Space, [obsidianartspace.org](http://obsidianartspace.org).

### June 27

#### WONDERLAND HOUSTON

Follow the white rabbit to the new venue for this party that goes beyond any tea party you've ever been to. Proceeds benefit Bunnies on the Bayou. [pridehouston.org](http://pridehouston.org)

### June 28

#### THE 36TH HOUSTON LGBT PRIDE FESTIVAL AND PRIDE PARADE

This is it, the big event! Come join more than 400,000 to celebrate who we are. The festival starts at 1 p.m. along Montrose Blvd. Come early and stake out a spot. Grand marshals this year are Christina Gorczynski, J.D. Doyle, and Sarah and Fernando Aramburo.

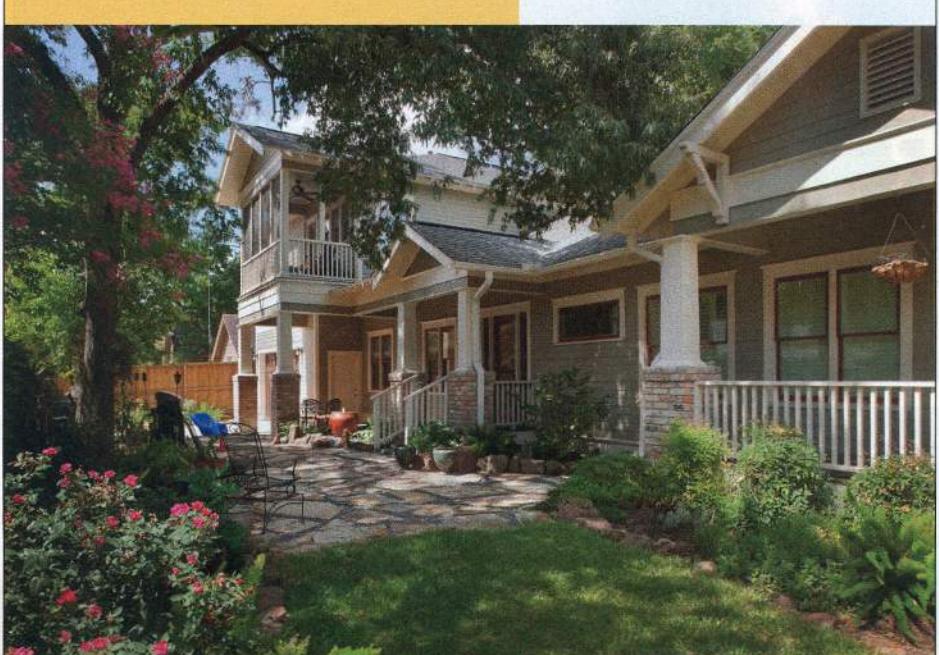
#### OFFICIAL PRIDE AFTER-PARTY

The party doesn't end until the wee hours of the next day at South Beach. You know you'll be there, because everyone else will. [sobehouston.com](http://sobehouston.com)

### June 29

#### RAPTURE: A PRIDE FOAM PARTY

It's one last Pride party at South Beach. The official end to Pride Month can get a little sudsy, but it's the best way to party until next year. [sobehouston.com](http://sobehouston.com)



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# Rainbow on the Green

The downtown party event returns with exquisite talent

by Barrett White

**H**ouston's fourth annual LGBT concert event "Rainbow on the Green" returns to Discovery Green for a citywide celebration with an electrifying dance party to begin Pride Week on Friday, June 20.

"This is our fourth year continuing to grow," Discovery Green president Barry Mandel says. "[It's a] great way to kick off Pride Week in Houston."

This preeminent downtown Pride celebration features Chad Pitt of Mix 96.5 as the emcee, and performances by Derrick Barry, known for his Britney Spears impersonations and appearances on *America's Got Talent*; Michelle Chamuel, *The Voice* contestant and season-four runner-up; and the singer-songwriter, billboard-topper, and *American Idol* season-six runner-up, Blake Lewis. →



Blake Lewis



Derrick Barry as Britney Spears

## PRIDE BINGO \$10 FOR TEN GAMES

Friday, June 20

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Derrick Barry got his start when he was in the audience at *The Tonight Show* and Jay Leno picked him out of the crowd while Britney Spears was on the show promoting her album *In the Zone*. It was only the second time Barry had dressed as Britney, and he cites that night as one of the most exciting moments of his career. Since then, Barry has been impersonating Britney Spears internationally, following Spears's tour. He is currently developing his career as an actor, comedian, singer, dancer, and female

impersonator. "He was hugely popular last time he appeared for Rainbow on the Green, and based [on] demand, we're bringing him back," Mandel says. "He's just great fun to watch."

Michelle Chamuel will also command the Rainbow on the Green stage on June 20. Known for her music steeped in melodic cores and strong emotion, the self-proclaimed introvert and former frontwoman for the Michigan electronic-rock band Ella Riot is currently the lady of the hour who placed second on season four of NBC's *The Voice*. Her infectious pop-anthem "Go Down Singing" was released last year, to major acclaim.



**Michelle Chamuel**

Blake Lewis, *American Idol* runner-up and philanthropist, is known not only for his skills as a singer and songwriter, but also as a talented beat-boxer. Throughout *American Idol*'s sixth season, he wowed judges with his renditions of songs by everyone from The Supremes to The Cure, John Lennon, and even Bon Jovi. His vocal prowess is obvious, and has taken him past *Idol* with an increasingly lucrative career that has included guest appearances on *The Today Show*, *Live!*, and *The View*. Lewis has also released an album titled *A.D.D. (Audio Day Dream)* to critical acclaim. Just for fun, aside from his career as a performer, Lewis—who is clearly eye candy—was fifth on the list of the 10 sexiest *Idol* contestants, and also listed in *People Magazine's* list of "Hottest Bachelors of 2007."

Beneath the nighttime expanse of twinkling skyscrapers and cool summer breezes, Rainbow on the Green showcases LGBT and ally talent for a like-minded audience, culminating in a citywide dance party like no other. In only its fourth year of existence, Rainbow has brought to the stage performers such as Thelma Houston, Crystal Waters, and Chris Cox for unforgettable nights in downtown's Convention District. "You don't get a more beautiful, fun outdoor event celebrating Pride than Rainbow on the Green," Mandel says.

**What:** Rainbow on the Green

**When:** Friday, June 20, 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney

**Details:** Free admission. Blankets, lawn chairs, and picnics are welcome and encouraged. Party foul: no glass containers or alcohol—beer and wine are available for purchase at the event.

Share your "Rainbow" experience with the hashtags #DGRainbow and #discoverygreen. Rainbow on the Green is made possible by Land Rover Houston Central and Legacy Community Health Services.

For more information, log on to [discoverygreen.com/rainbow](http://discoverygreen.com/rainbow). ■

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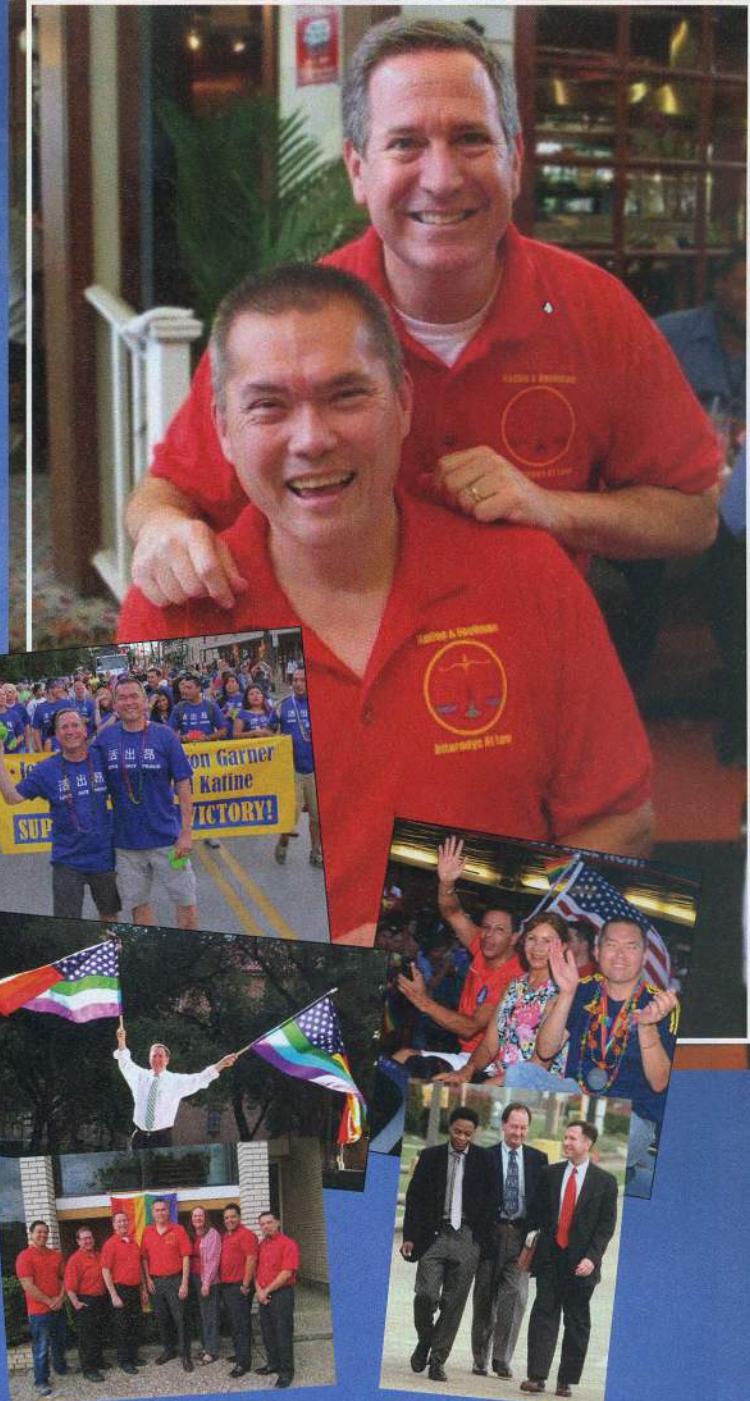
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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- 2nd Tuesday of Every Month: Free consultations (appointment only) at our office for anyone whose life is affected by HIV
- June 17, 2014, 9 to 12pm: HIV and the Law Update, Montrose Center, 401 Branard, free ([www.lawkn.com](http://www.lawkn.com) for more info)

**June 19, 2014, 6 to 9pm: Katine & Nechman Open House Celebrating Houston's Pride and Diversity (free food, drink)**



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### Mitchell Katine

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- Local Counsel for John Lawrence and Tyron Garner in their landmark Supreme Court case
- Commissioner, Texas Real Estate Commission
- Past Chair, Sexual Orientation Gender Identification Issues Section, Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston
- Texas Monthly "Super Lawyer"
- Houston Conference on AIDS in America Humanitarian Award
- Stonewall Law Award for Excellence in Advocacy
- Human Rights Campaign's John Walzel Political Equality Award
- State Bar of Texas Judge Norman Black Award and Frank J. Scurlock Award
- ABC Channel 13 Community Service Award for Outstanding Citizenship
- Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Outstanding Civil Rights Attorney
- Houston GLBT Political Caucus's Judge Jon Paul Barnich Award

- H Magazine Top Attorney
- Houstonia Magazine Top Lawyers in Houston
- Outsmart Magazine Gayest and Greatest Attorney
- Houston Chronicle Local Hero
- AIDS Foundation Houston Shelby Hodge Award
- South Texas College of Law Outstanding Alumni Award
- Male Grand Marshal of the 2001 Houston LGBT Pride Celebration

### John A. Nechman

- Adj. Professor, South Texas College of Law and U. of Houston Law Center
- Past Chair, Immigration Equality, National LGBT Law Association, TX State Bar Sexual Orientation Gender Identification Issues Section, Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston
- Texas Monthly "Super Lawyer Rising Star"
- Stonewall Law Award for Excellence in Advocacy
- Human Rights Campaign's John Walzel Political Equality Award
- State Bar of Texas Judge Norman Black Award
- Outsmart Magazine Statue of Liberty Award
- Houston GLBT Political Caucus's Judge Jon Paul Barnich Award
- Houstonia Magazine Top Lawyers in Houston
- Male Grand Marshal of the 2013 Houston LGBT Pride Celebration

# A Life in Politics Since Birth

2014 Female Pride Marshal Christina Gorczynski was born to lead

by Brandon Wolf

**C**hristina Gorczynski was born on October 24, 1979, ten days before her father, Dale Gorczynski, won his first elective office as a Houston city council member. He was the first person to hold the newly created District H seat.

Now 35 years old, she is no longer "Council Member Gorczynski's daughter." Her father, a Harris County justice of the peace, smiles when people ask him, "Are you Christina Gorczynski's dad?" A born leader with instincts honed by decades of exposure to politics, she is Houston's 2014 Female Pride Marshal.

## Learning to Share Her Father with the World

Gorczynski grew up in the Heights, along with her younger brother, John, who was born in 1981. Her mother, Cynthia, was once a missionary nun, but later left the convent and eventually married Dale Gorczynski.

"I learned early that I had to share my father with the world," Gorczynski remembers. "People would show up at the front door to talk to him. When we went to Albritton's Cafeteria to eat, it was like a revolving door of people wanting to talk to him."

As early as age three, Gorczynski sat in the visitors section of the City Council chamber. As she grew older, she found the Council meetings exciting and enjoyed watching the political maneuvering. "But I often had my nose stuck in a book—reading about women like Clara Barton and Eleanor Roosevelt."

As a little girl, she was a convenient foil for her father. Sometimes he would walk over to her as she was playing on the lawn, bringing a visitor he had been talking with on the front porch. He would invite the visitor to sit with him on the lawn near Christina as they continued their conversation. "People don't talk about certain things in front of a young girl," Gorczynski laughs.

**She did go to lesbian bars even though she wasn't out. "One of them was appropriately named The Closet," she laughs.**



**Part of the political process: Christina Gorczynski spent many hours in the Houston City Council chamber as a young girl in the 1980s.**

Gorczynski learned early that she and her brother had to behave well in public. "I knew that it might affect my father's career if I didn't."

But they were both encouraged to speak up at home about their viewpoints and feelings. "Our parents didn't tell us how to think."

Her father's career brought her into direct contact with women like Council Member Eleanor Tinsley and Mayor Kathy Whitmire. Gorczynski remembers Tinsley as being poised, intelligent, and self-aware. "I grew up seeing that women can be powerful and that they can be leaders."

When Houston voters approved term limits and her father was no longer eligible for re-election, he

entered a Harris County justice of the peace race and won. His wife was appointed to serve out the remainder of his term. "I held the Bible when she was sworn in," Gorczynski remembers. "It was so empowering for me to see that women can be part of the political process."

## School Days

Gorczynski attended Oak Forest Elementary, and then began →

## A Life in Politics Since Birth

continued from previous page

attending Catholic schools. At St. Agnes, a Dominican college-preparatory school, she recalls that "They had a vigorous academic program, and I was surrounded by great female role models."

She was elected president of her junior and senior classes, and served on the student council. "I was chosen to organize the 1998 senior prom—I sure learned how to work with budgets!"

Gorcynski also learned how to work with controversies. An out lesbian couple at the school asked to attend the prom as a couple. She successfully made it possible for them to attend. "It was a very progressive school—never underestimate nuns," she laughs.

### Living Away from Houston

Pondering college, Gorczynski had questions about her identity, and reasoned that a neutral environment away from Houston would aid her journey of self-discovery. She chose Beloit College in Beloit, Wisconsin, an educational institution recognized for curricular innovation and engagement with the world outside the campus.

Beloit's student body of 1,250 is diverse, with students from nearly every state and 40 nations. Gorczynski majored in women's studies and thrived in that environment, especially liking classes focused on topics such as "women and gender" and "critical identity" (the intersection of an individual's many identities—race, gender, economic status, sexual orientation, career, etc.).

She made good grades, and in her senior year won the Herstory Award, Beloit's highest honor from the women's studies program. Ten years later she returned to the campus to receive the Young Alumni Award.

Degree in hand, Gorczynski continued forging her own identity and moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to work for the luxurious La Posada de Santa Fe Resort, managing the spa and gift shop.

A staff of 50 employees reported to her. She assisted with a \$500,000 building renovation, redesigned menus and brochures, and conducted seasonal marketing campaigns. She was awarded second-place statewide honors for specialized services management.

### Coming Out

Coming out was a gradual process for Gorczynski. She knew at a young age



A Houston City Council campaign photo from the early 1980s. LEFT TO RIGHT: Christina, father Dale, mother Cynthia, and brother John.

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that she was attracted to other women, and didn't feel the same way about men that her friends did. She had crushes and best friends, but didn't have it all sorted out.

Unlike other lesbians her age, Gorczynski had the additional issue of her family's political name to factor in. "I knew my parents would be okay," she says. "But I worried that somehow I might impact my father's career."

In college, she did go to lesbian bars even though she wasn't out. "One of them was appropriately named The Closet," she laughs. She credits her brother, John, with whom she is especially close, for helping her. "He knew I was conflicted and depressed, and he finally dragged me out of my closet."

#### **A Four-Year Blur of Academics and Politics**

Gorczynski returned to Houston in 2005 after a seven-year absence. She set her sights higher than ever—enrolling at the University of Houston in both the Master of Business Administration and the Juris Doctor programs. "It was 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.," she says. "It was a blur." While at U of H, she served as president of OutLaw, the LGBT law students' organization.

In 2009, she was awarded an MBA business degree and a JD law degree. She is a licensed attorney with the State Bar of Texas and a certified mediator.

Despite the rigorous academic schedule, Gorczynski began her entry into LGBT politics. Tammi Wallace, campaign manager for Ellen Cohen, successfully enlisted her to help out in the closing weeks of the 2006 campaign.

Gorczynski also joined local efforts by the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund, which works to elect LGBT candidates nationwide. Despite her political background, Gorczynski was mesmerized the first time she saw Tammy Baldwin, the U.S. representative from Wisconsin, at a fundraising event.

Gorczynski kept busy during her years at U of H, serving as a grant research assistant in the mayor's office, a law clerk intern, secretary of the HERA Board, aide to Council Member Sue Lovell, a public interest law fellow, and coordinator of permanent folk art at The Orange Show. In 2009, she coordinated the Houston GLBT Political Caucus's get-out-the-vote efforts for Annise Parker's mayoral run.

#### **Revitalizing the League of Women Voters**

2009 also brought Gorczynski's biggest professional challenge when she became executive director of the Houston League of Women Voters, a 90-year-old non-partisan organization. "I was a third-wave feminist, →

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## A Life in Politics Since Birth

continued from previous page

hired by second-wave feminists, to run a first-wave feminist organization."

Under her leadership, the League introduced new strategies for involving younger generations. Gorczynski initiated a new gala entitled "Rising Stars." She employed online tools such as Facebook, Twitter, and PayPal.

Gorczynski also facilitated a harmonious environment for a new and more diverse, multi-generational board of directors. By October of 2012, she was ready to move on, leaving behind a re-invigorated League.

### Making History in Wisconsin

The Victory Fund took good advantage of her availability by inviting her to Wisconsin for



COURTESY CHRISTINA GORCZYNSKI

the final days of Tammy Baldwin's U.S. Senate run. She was met at Milwaukee's airport by Ali Lozano from the Victory Fund. "Unknown to me, Ali had been tasked to recruit me for their board," says Gorczynski.

In Milwaukee, Gorczynski coordinated a group of young volunteers. Filling a rented van, they headed into the inner city. "Those days were so inspiring," she says. "These young people are true believers. They want to change the world."

On election eve, she and Lozano drove to Madison for the victory rally. "We debated if Tammy would use the L-word. She said yes and I said no. Ali won."

The next day, Gorczynski headed back to Houston, and had a layover in Chicago. Waiting for takeoff, the pilot announced a short delay. Gorczynski looked out her window and saw Air Force One lifting off, flying the president and Mrs. Obama back to Washington after their Chicago victory party.

A month later, Gorczynski and Lozano saw each other again at a Victory Fund conference, and connected romantically. They kept up a long-distance relationship for nine months.

Lozano then moved to Houston, and the two now share a Heights apartment. In August 2014, they will travel to Maine to be married in an intimate outdoor wedding. "It will just be Ali and me and the officiant." The couple plans to have a Houston celebration party in 2015.

### Testing Her Wings and Taking Flight

In March 2013, Gorczynski established her own consulting firm. She had experience as an organizational consultant, but wanted a recognizable brand. The firm is called First Person. "We are the first people you can call when you want to grow your organization. We create a plan, lead the organization to growth, and turn it back over for you to sustain."

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geese. As they fly in formation, one goose leads, and the rest follow. When the lead grows tired, another goose takes over. The geese in the back adjust the pace. If a goose goes down, others follow to help it.

"I pick my clients carefully," Gorczynski says. "I'm not there to organize chaos. I'm there to help an organized group achieve growth. If they can't produce the last six months of board-meeting minutes, bylaws, and a balance sheet, we don't negotiate a contract."

### Creating Change and Becoming a Pride Marshal

In 2013, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force asked Gorczynski to co-chair last winter's Creating Change Conference in Houston. "It was 20 hours a week for a year," says Gorczynski. "It was my passion project."

The conference unfolded like clockwork, beginning January 29, 2014. Four thousand participants registered—the downtown Hilton Americas hotel's biggest conference ever. →

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**A Life in Politics Since Birth**

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Gorcynski (c) with Bryan Hlavinka (l) and Lou Weaver at the 2014 Creating Change Conference in Houston. All three were on the co-chair team.

On the evening of April 17, Gorczynski learned that she was selected to be the 2014 Houston Female Pride Marshal. "It felt wonderful that my work has been appreciated. This position gives me great opportunities to talk about my favorite causes. It's huge!"

Gorcynski loves the Houston Pride event's 2014 Carnivale theme. Asked if she will dress accordingly, she laughs and says, "When else in my life will I ever have the chance to wear a samba outfit?"

#### Entering the Arena

Gorcynski's experience and credentials have prompted her to consider a run for elected office. Having been raised in a political family, she understands the realities of political life. "I would maintain a healthy work/life balance—setting boundaries between public life and private life."

She is also a realist about the dangers of public life. When her father did not support the 1985 antigay referendum in Houston, Gorczynski remembers the death threats. "That was scary for a six-year-old girl. The Houston Police Department provided security for our family until the referendum was over."

Undaunted, Gorczynski plans to pursue her dream. She is a gifted leader and a proven organizer. She has passion for changing the world, and she wants to make a difference.

Her inspiration comes from two of her father's favorite quotations: "If not me, then who?" and "The world belongs to those who show up." Christina Gorczynski is ready to show up and be the one who enters the arena.

*Brandon Wolf also writes about the male grand marshal and the ally grand marshal in this issue of OUTSMART magazine.*

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# A Passion for LGBT History

JD Doyle, 2014 Male Pride Marshal, has given us back ourselves

by Brandon Wolf

Photo by Troy Christensen

**W**hen JD Doyle was in the first grade, attending a small country school in Ohio, he asked his teacher, "Which eye do you use to wink at a girl, and which eye do you use to wink at a boy?" His teacher didn't know, so they asked the principal. The principal said, "Whatever is natural."

It was an early expression of Doyle's gay identity, and in this case, things went smoothly. But he would soon learn that whatever was natural to a gay man wasn't acceptable to mainstream society. It took him another quarter of a century of soul-searching to sort it all out.

The rest is history—quite literally. Today, Doyle is widely known in Houston and beyond as an important LGBT historian. He is regularly sought as a subject-matter expert on queer music. His list of accomplishments is diverse, lengthy, and ever-expanding. This year he is—quite appropriately—a person *making* history. The community has chosen him as their 2014 Houston Male Pride Marshal.

## Growing Up in the Midwest

Doyle was born and raised in Salem, Ohio, where his father worked in manufacturing and his mother was a homemaker.

They met in Belgium during World War II.

Doyle is the older of two boys.

Doyle's early years were spent in a rural area outside of Salem, with no playmates his age. "I had to learn to amuse myself," he says. The family eventually moved into the city when he was nine.

**Though not involved in sports at school, he organized a French club. "It was me and 20 girls," he says with a smile.**

Thanks to the post-war baby boom, Salem was a small town with a big school. Doyle's graduating class had over 300 students. Although he was not involved in sports or music, he did organize a French club. "It was me and 20 girls," he says with a smile.

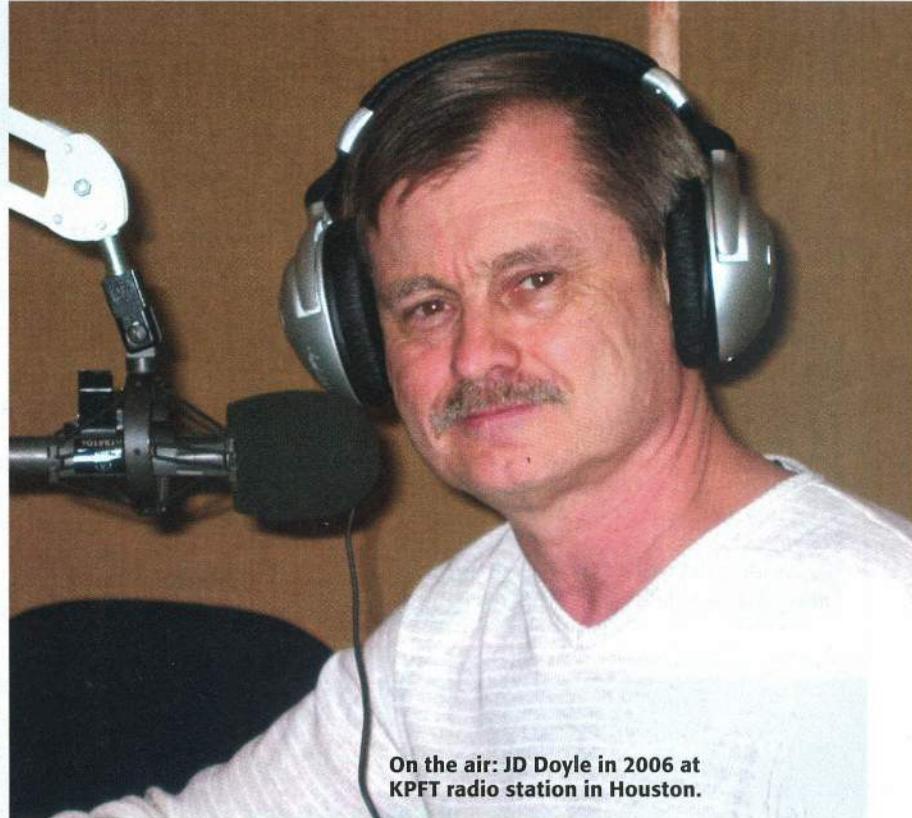
Doyle was an average student,

until he discovered chemistry. He was fascinated with the subject because of a teacher who made it interesting. He studied

hard, and began taking all of his classes seriously. When he sat for the National Merit Scholarships test, he scored 98 out of 100.

## A Passion for Music

Doyle purchased his first record in 1961—*The Peppermint Twist* by Joey Dee & The Starliters. A regular at



On the air: JD Doyle in 2006 at KPFT radio station in Houston.

the local record shop, he asked the manager to save the outdated Top of the Charts lists for him.

Doyle was soon buying "girl group" records featuring such artists as The Ronettes, The Crystals, The Shirelles, and Martha Reeves and the Vandellas. He also liked the pretty boys—Ricky Nelson and Bobby Vee, the surfer sound of The Beach Boys, and the British invasion by The Beatles and The Dave Clark Five.

Doyle's musical taste also showed refinement—Lena Horne's sultry "Stormy Weather" and the jazz of Billie Holiday. In 1964 he purchased his first Barbra Streisand album. Ironically, his first exposure to a gay musician wasn't positive. "I thought Liberace was rather creepy," Doyle admits. →

## A Passion for LGBT History

continued from previous page

He took dance lessons and found dates for school dances, but says his heart wasn't in it. He already had crushes on male schoolmates, including his best friend.

### College Days, Chemical Engineering, and Coming Out

In 1965, Doyle enrolled in nearby Youngstown University to study chemical engineering—a long and rigorous five-year program. During summer breaks, he worked with survey crews and did odd jobs like painting guard rails.

In 1970, his superior scholastic record landed him a job with Eastman Kodak in Rochester, New York, as a chemical engineer. He was tasked with such projects as effectively piping chemicals and ensuring the safety of the gigantic chemical storage vats.

But by 1978, Doyle no longer wanted to contend with the bitter New York winters. He moved southward to Norfolk, Virginia, and found work as a plant engineer.

Coming out was not easy. He thought about homosexuality, and pondered it



Performing even then:  
JD Doyle, circa 1952, doing a  
Charlie Chaplin impression.



BOTH COURTESY JD DOYLE

while reading *Blueboy* and *The Advocate*. He was fascinated by Sgt. Leonard Matlovich, who had to fight to keep his job after coming out in 1975 while serving in the Air Force. But Doyle remained closeted.

### The 1979 March on Washington

Doyle became involved with a Norfolk gay group that met at the local Unitarian church. There were about 40 members—the sum total of Norfolk's gay activists. The group published a monthly newspaper, *Our Own Community Press*. Doyle worked on the paper and soon became editor.

The love of his life: Doyle and his soul-mate, Jeff Pierce, during Christmas 1995.

He decided to attend the 1979 March on Washington so he could take photos and write about the event. What he saw changed his life. "It was incredibly empowering—so many gay people in one place at one time, calling out for their rights," he says.

Eventually, Doyle was laid off from

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his Norfolk job. He sold his townhouse and took a cross-country trip through the South, visiting and evaluating several cities in order to find a new residence. He wanted a city with moderate winters and an organized gay community.

Doyle spent time in Houston, living at the Lovett Inn, visiting the bars, and getting to know people and the city. Eventually, Houston became his choice for a new home.

### Settling into Houston

Doyle began living in Houston in 1981. He joined the gay bowling league, shared a tiny apartment on Garrott Street, and bartended at EJ's.

He then moved into 1400 Richmond, the gay mecca of 1980s Montrose, and lived there four years. He found a job in the inventory control department at the Design Center and worked there until 1986.

Doyle's next job was answering phones at a Houston IRS office. "It was high pressure. When one call ended, the next call was immediately routed to us." His customer skills became obvious, and he was promoted to split his time between correspondence and phones.

In 1987, Doyle moved to a Galleria-area condo while continuing to advance at the IRS job. In 2000, he was the natural choice for a newly created "tax advocate" position. He continued this work until his retirement in 2010.

### Music and Radio

During the 1980s, Doyle continued to expand his '60s girl-group collection. (He believes gay men like these groups because the artists were stylish and they often sang about emotional vulnerability.) Doyle ended up selling most of those records in the 1990s and began collecting only queer music. He networked with queer artists and built a reputation as an expert in the field.

Doyle often called Jimmy Carper on KPFT's *After Hours* in the late 1990s, asking him to play queer music. Jack Valinski took notice and invited Doyle to appear on *Lesbian & Gay Voices* once a month, with a one-hour *Queer Music Heritage (QMH)* segment. *QMH* is now in its 14th year on the air.

Doyle has also been one of several co-hosts of *Voices* since 2000. Additionally, he provides the queer music that *Voices* plays between segments.

In 2001, Doyle partnered with *This Way Out*—a popular radio magazine—to co-produce a seven-minute segment entitled *Audiofile*. This segment showcased three recent CDs by LGBT artists, and was broadcast for nine years.

In 2010, Doyle began producing *OutRadio*, a monthly Internet show that features emerging queer artists. The show is now in its fifth year. →



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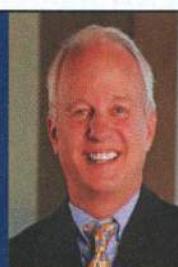
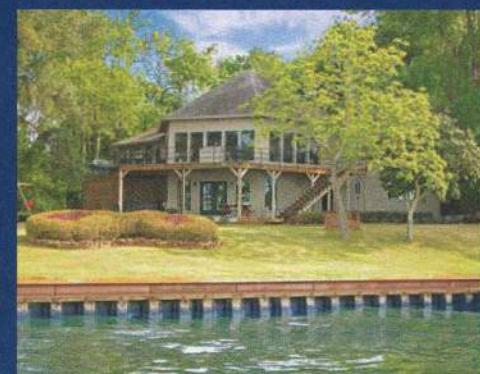


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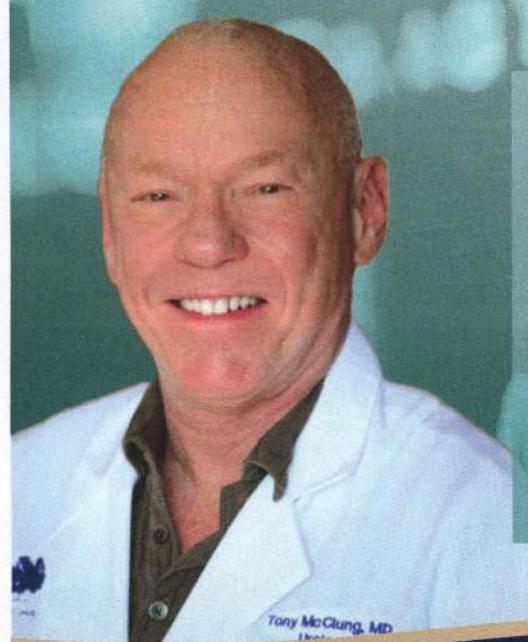
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## A Passion for LGBT History

continued from previous page

### Sharing His Treasures

With the rise of the Internet, Doyle created the Queer Music Heritage website ([queermusicheritage.com](http://queermusicheritage.com)) in 2001, and it has grown to more than 2,000 pages. He continually adds new sections (such as drag music, women's music, and gay musicals) as interest is shown.

In 2011, Doyle authored an online *Queer Music History 101* course that spans queer music from 1926 through 1985. With the rise of college LGBT studies programs, it has been used as a ready-made course that Doyle offers free to schools and individuals.

In 2012, Doyle launched the Houston LGBT History website at [houstonlgbthistory.org](http://houstonlgbthistory.org). It includes photos and audio files of important Houston rallies and events; rare 1970s photos of Houston's gay bars; Houston Pride celebration logos, themes, marshals, and guides for each year since the first celebration in 1979; and much more.

In 2013, Doyle produced a benefit CD for the Houston Transgender Foundation Building Fund. Entitled *House Blend*, it features transgender artists.

In 2014, he rolled out the Texas Obituary Project, with scans of more than 5,000 death notices from Texas LGBT publications. Michael Hallock in Dallas sent Doyle an e-mail recently: "I went to the site and could not stop reading. The notices and photos triggered so many memories of people. They will now be remembered for eternity. You are a hero and have given a tremendous gift to all of us who have memories of our friends, long gone."

In 2014, Doyle also launched *The Banner Project: An Exhibition of Houston LGBT History*. Twenty-seven vinyl banner panels, 30 x 65 inches each, feature important points in Houston's LGBT history. The project debuted at the 2014 Creating Change Conference in Houston. It serves as a "pop-up museum" available for galas and other events, and its companion website is at [houstonlgbthistory.org/banner1.html](http://houstonlgbthistory.org/banner1.html).

### Love and Loss

In 1983, Doyle met his first partner, Kim Spradling, at 1400 Richmond. They lived together for a year and a half, and Spradling died of AIDS in 1991.

In 1987 Doyle met his second partner, Wesley Gregson, at the Montrose Mining Company. Nine months later, Gregson died of AIDS at age 29.

In 1995, Doyle met his third partner, Jeff Pierce, in a dance class that the Brazos River Bottom bar offered, using the Rainbow Rangers as teachers. Doyle was a founding member of the dance club and the assistant instructor.



BANNER PROJECT - TREVOR EADE-HILL; DOYLE/HILL - COURTESY JD DOYLE

**Banner years (from top): the Houston Banner Project, which Doyle actively participated in, debuts at 2014 Creating Change Conference. Doyle (l) and pioneer activist Ray Hill in front of the Banner Project.**

Doyle and Pierce were lovers for the next 12 years. In the third year of their relationship, they exchanged rings. Pierce worked in a shoe store, but wanted to be a teacher. He attended the University of Houston until he earned his degree, and began teaching third graders. His beloved career lasted less than

a year; after being diagnosed with cancer, he lost his battle with the disease in 2007.

"You don't get over it," Doyle says, "you just get through it." Even today, it is difficult for Doyle to speak about Pierce. "He was my soul mate. We were so perfectly suited for each other."

### Retiring to The Woodlands

In November 2007, an illegal crystal-meth lab in one of the units at Doyle's condo complex exploded. While Doyle's condo suffered only minor smoke damage and his LGBT music collection remained intact, the traumatic episode prompted Doyle to buy a home in The Woodlands in 2008.

Now retired, Doyle says he can "do what I want, when I want." He appears well on his way to becoming a full-time historian for Houston's

LGBT community.

Doyle shares his house with a pet schnoodle, a schnauzer/poodle mix named Parker. In one room of the house are 30 stuffed toys. Doyle can tell Parker which of the 30 toys to find and bring to him—and Parker gets it right every time.

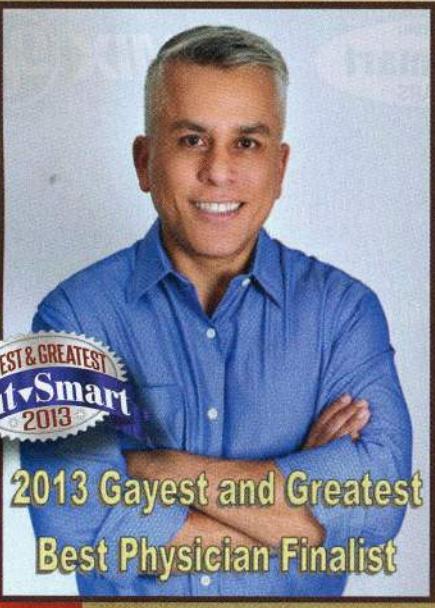
### Community Recognition

Doyle is the recipient of numerous awards for his work, especially with LGBT music. But he considers the sweetest recognition to be his 2014 Houston Male Pride Marshal honor. After the announcement party, he drove to see Pierce's parents. "We see each other almost every week," Doyle says. "His mother and I drive to a Mexican restaurant, have a margarita on the patio, and then pick up a take-home order."

Doyle has asked his best friend, Scott Wyatt, who lives in Norfolk, to share the spot next to him on the back of the convertible that will bring him down Westheimer during the 2014 Pride Parade.

Reflecting on his life, Doyle feels blessed. Reflecting on his many history projects, he says: "It's my gift back to the Texas gay community. I am grateful to be gay and a member of the gay community, and it's been a very interesting life—one that my radio and history work have much enriched, well beyond what I could have imagined. So to give back what I can in my work is very satisfying."

*Brandon Wolf also writes about the female and ally grand marshals in this issue of OUTSMART magazine.*



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# A Straight Couple Embraces LGBT Equality

*Sarah Walters and Fernando Aramburo, 2014 Community Ally Pride Marshals, wish for a more accepting world that is fully inclusive*

by Brandon Wolf

**S**arah Walters and Fernando Aramburo were hesitant to accept when asked if they could be nominated for the 2014 Community Ally Pride Marshals. They are a young married heterosexual couple, with all "the right stuff"—movie-star good looks, athletic bodies, charming personalities, successful business ventures, and relevant lives. But neither one is keen on self-promotion. Even their Facebook accounts have minimal postings about themselves.

They finally accepted the nomination when assured that if they won, their two children could ride with them in the parade down Westheimer. "When they are older, we want them to see pictures of themselves riding in Houston's 2014 Pride Parade." They also welcome the chance to shift the spotlight to Bering Omega Community Services, in which they have been involved for the last six years.

They are the embodiment of a progressive's dream: young people who see only one human race of equals, and whose idea of mattering in the world is helping others less fortunate than themselves.

"Everyone deserves respect," Aramburo says passionately. Lack of respect for diversity baffles him.

## Sarah's World of Dance

Walters was born in Tampa, Florida, in 1976. Her father was a semi-professional baseball



**Hope for the future:** Sarah Walters and Fernando Aramburo at Art for Hope 2013, a benefit for Bering Omega. The couple became involved in 2008 and founded the Young Professionals Board.

player who opted for college instead of the major leagues, and went to work in the oil industry. Her mother, a native of Panama, was a homemaker.

As the oldest child, Sarah became a "second mom" to her younger brother and two sisters. Her father often worked on oil ships, away for long periods of time. Inevitably, she became the "go-to girl" for her siblings.

The family moved to Houston when she was five, and settled in Deer Park. Her earliest memories include being involved in dance—tap, jazz, and ballet. Reflecting back, Walters says she had no sense of identity except as a dancer. As a young adult, she had to broaden her scope.

She remembers her dance practice lasting at least three hours a day. "It was a constant striving for perfection that can never truly be attained. I grew up constantly seeing myself in a mirror."

Coming up on the sixth grade, she told her mother she wanted to drop dance, take up gymnastics, and become a cheerleader. Her mother's only condition was that she would have to stick with the choice for the whole school year.

Walters did become a cheerleader, but soon ached to be back in the world of dance. She felt lonely as her dance friends talked about what was happening in their worlds. By the seventh grade, she was back in dance to stay.

She became a contract dancer in her early teens, working everything from lodges to parades. Her parents moved back to Florida when she was 16, but she chose to stay in Houston and continue her dance career. →

**"My sister is a lesbian. I wanted to change things so that gay kids could grow up without the complications she faced."**

## Straight Couple Embraces Equality

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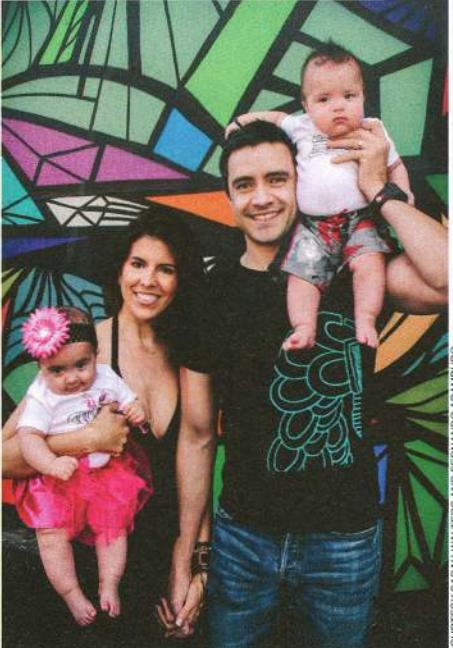
At 19, she bought her childhood ballet studio, which she ran with her best friend for three years. Eventually they realized they were missing out on auditions and performing, so they reluctantly let the studio go. There was local work, touring work, and cruise-ship troupes. The cruise ships were special fun, she says, with their Las Vegas costuming and dance routines.

Knee surgery eventually cut the dance career short, and Walters went to work as a buyer for an upscale jewelry store in the Rice Village shopping center.

### Can You Hear the Drums, Fernando?

Does the famous ABBA song make Aramburo smile? "Definitely!" he says. But although his wife was named after the Hall & Oates classic *Sarah Smile*, Aramburo's name came from a relative.

Aramburo was born in London in 1976. His father was from Colombia and his mother from Guatemala. His father worked in the oil and gas industry while his mother was a homemaker and educator. "She taught my younger sister and me every day!"



didn't practice corporal punishment, and instilled a respect for others and proactive social interaction in their children.

Following high school, Aramburo attended the University of Texas, earning a finance degree in just three years. He paid for his final two years of college by selling religious and educational books door to door, as part of a national sales team.

"My adult life has been entrepreneurial in nature," Aramburo says. "I joined a friend of mine who had a product that could remove scratches from media—CDs, DVDs, game CDs, etc. We had a project we wanted to do with this product that needed investors, and I found them."

One of the first investors he found was Randy Yost, who became his best friend and mentor. Aramburo worked for Yost for a number of years, installing flooring and creating intricate designs that incorporated wood, stone, and metals.

Aramburo has also been a real-estate agent for the past 10 years. Fifteen years ago he bought a house next to Yost's residence, and they built a deck in their backyards that connected the two houses. "He's family," says Aramburo.

Yost is gay, and Aramburo has a lot of gay friends. "People always thought Fernando was gay," his wife sighs. But Aramburo smiles and notes the advantages that come

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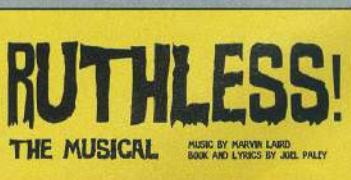
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with embracing diversity—"gay men often have a lot of attractive female friends." That often left him with a great dating pool to pick from, with little or no male competition.

### The Perfect Couple's Not-So-Perfect First Date

Destiny seemed to have something in store for Walsh and Aramburo. They were both



**Facing facts: an Instagram message from Fernando and Sarah—WE ARE FACING AIDS so THEY DON'T HAVE TO!**

first-born children in 1976, to fathers who worked in oil and gas. Their mothers were both from Latin America. They were both five years old when their families moved to Houston.

But the first night they met in the mid 2000s, destiny seemed to have deserted them. "We met on Myspace," says Walters, "and agreed to meet at Sammy's Blues Bar at 2016 Main, on my regular night there, Thursday night."

There was a torrential downpour that night, and Walters' best friend refused to venture out, leaving her solo. At first sight, she thought Aramburo seemed smaller than the men she usually dated. And when his buddy wanted to leave after an hour, Aramburo had to drive him home. Walters was not impressed. "There are taxis," she says.

But Aramburo returned, as promised. Finally alone, the two discovered that the magic of romance was quickly setting in. They danced for hours and closed down the bar. Since that night, they have had eyes for no one else.

### Marriage Not on the Agenda

The two continued to date, and Walters eventually moved into Aramburo's house. But they had no interest in marriage. "We both had seen failed marriages up close," Walters says. They just weren't impressed by the institution.

"We knew we wanted to have children," Walters says. "We started living super- →

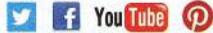


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## Straight Couple Embraces Equality

*continued from previous page*

health-conscious lives—the right nutrition, proper exercise, and adequate sleep.” When the time came to start trying, the first attempt was apparently a bull’s-eye because Walters began feeling morning sickness shortly thereafter. They visited a doctor because she was worried she might have some rare illness—and that they should once again wait to start a family.

The doctor told them she was pregnant and asked if they were “on drugs.” Mis-taking his question about fertility drugs, Walters was confused and scared. Neither of them used recreational drugs, so she assumed that something had gone horribly wrong with the embryos.

The physician then announced that they would probably have triplets. Walters was relieved, but her thoughts soon turned to logistics—three babies at once! One of the embryos did not develop, but Walters did give birth to a boy and a girl, Fernando and Seraphina, on July 26, 2012.

After the twins became part of their lives, the thought of marriage became more appealing to them. On December 28, 2012, they invited their close friends to their house for a “Winter Wonderland” party. The decks twinkled with romantic white mini-lights and flickering candles. Halfway through the party, to their guests’ astonishment, they announced that the party was actually their wedding. They exchanged vows while holding their twins.

Walters and Aramburo now own and operate two spas—Dolce Vita and Body Envy—located in one of Houston’s best-kept secrets—the charming, hidden-away Artigiana Center on Shepherd, just north of Westheimer.

“It’s like another world in there,” says Walters. Dolce Vita is a favorite of many high-profile Houstonians who like the intimacy and privacy of the spa. Body Envy specializes in laser hair removal procedures.

## Seeking a Life of Relevance

After Walters and Aramburo began dating, they enjoyed attending social events and fundraisers together. One night they attended a fundraiser sponsored by AIDS Foundation Houston. Friends introduced them around, and soon the couple became interested in Bering Omega Community Services. Shane McCardell, who at the time was the Bering Omega board president, convinced Fernando to join the board in 2007.

“My sister is a lesbian,” says Walters. “I wanted to change things so that gay kids



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could grow up without the complications she faced. Also, I lost a male dance friend in the 1980s to AIDS, so I was concerned about the disease." Bering Omega resonated with them.

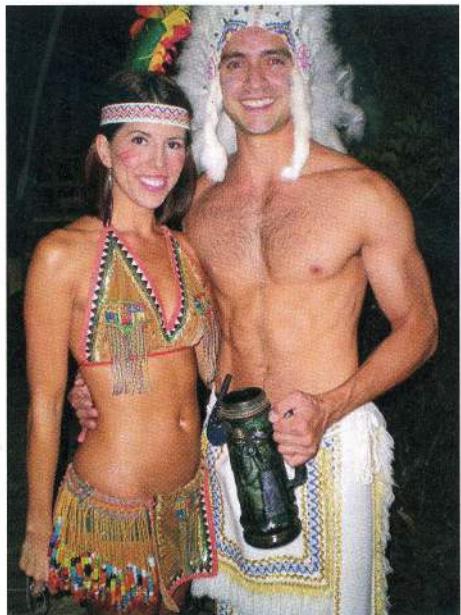
The couple was especially touched by Omega House, a hospice that provides a warm, loving atmosphere where terminally ill patients can die with dignity. The couple also liked the day-care center for people living with AIDS who had no caregivers.

Aramburo served for six years on the Bering Omega board, until he was term-limited in 2013. While on the board, he and Walters helped create the Young Professionals Board, introducing a new generation of activists to the charity. Walters served as a member of that board, then secretary, and is now the chairperson.

Together, they have helped the Bering Omega AIDS Walk Team win first place nearly every year. They have chaired and hosted countless galas, events, fundraisers, and parties to gain support for Bering Omega. Their colorful events are favorites of local cultural media such as the CultureMap website.

### Halloween Madness

Their biggest fundraising event is the annual Halloween party for Bering Omega. They



**Nothing scary about this: Sarah Walters and Fernando Aramburo host their annual Halloween fundraiser for Bering Omega.**

charge \$15 admission, and a costume is mandatory. The first year, some partygoers not in costume were turned away, but the next year they were back in costume.

The party spills over from their house to Yost's house via the outdoor deck. The

first year, 200 people showed up. Last Halloween, a record 500 attended. The couple is careful to visit with their neighbors beforehand, informing them of the party and the cause, and inviting them to come. No one has ever complained.

The costumes are always amusing and outrageous—such as the *Alien* baby exploding from someone's chest. Asked about other memorable costumes, they mention an Adam and Eve couple. "He was wearing little more than a few fig leaves," they laugh. "He was very popular that night."

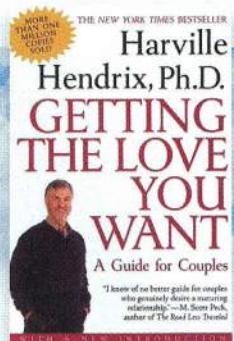
### Ready for Carnivale

The couple was surprised and excited at being named the Community Ally Marshals for 2014 last month. They are also fascinated with the Pride celebration's "Carnivale" theme.

Will they dress for the occasion? "My friends are all telling us to get samba outfits," Walters says. Then with a smile, she adds, "Everyone that knows us knows that we love to dress up!"

*Brandon Wolf also writes about the male and female grand marshals in this issue of OUTSMART magazine.*

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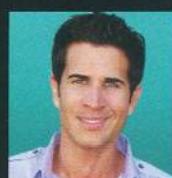
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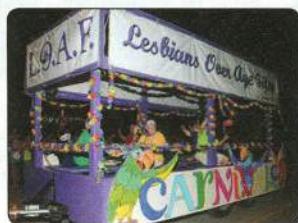


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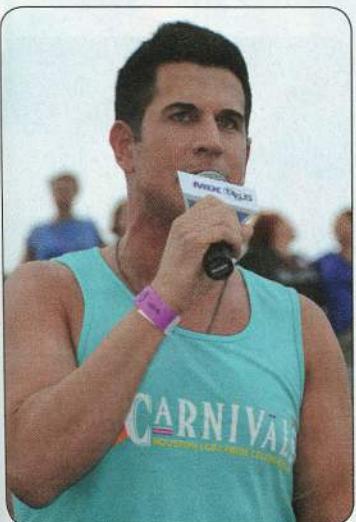
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