

LET'S GET ACQUAINTED

AN ENCOUNTER WITH HISTORIC LESBIAN
BARS OF HOUSTON



BY GABY HURTADO-RAM

Houston is queer. This I always knew growing up, but when I thought of Montrose and Pride, gay boys tended to take up the picture. When I recently moved back, I wanted to know more of the queer history, especially the stories of women and gender non-conforming people.

As there are so few lesbian bars left today, I became interested in those from Houston's past. I like to imagine what they might have been like, the purposes they served, the yearnings that created them, and the people who went there. I found an incredible wealth of information online in the JD Doyle Archives (see end of book for more info). This included bar ads, LGBTQ publications (local, Texan, and national), and research gathered by JD Doyle from friends and community members.

Bars and clubs served as vital meeting places for queers who may have otherwise been isolated. And the South has always had its own flavor of queer hospitality. From 1975-2013, *This Week In Texas* was a weekly printed booklet sharing news, events, "cruise camera" photos, starscopes, and notably: a guide and map to the gay bars and businesses in major Texas cities. In that spirit I am compiling this incomplete list of historic lesbian bars in Houston from the 1960s-2000s. The pages following the map serve as present-day engagements with the archive through collage, drawing, and writing.

For me, this zine is the beginning of meeting queer Houston again for the first time...so let's get acquainted.

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12 AM cruisey bar
1 AM boobie rock
2 AM closing time



An evening inside Just Marion and Lynn's, a longtime historic lesbian bar open from 1973-1987.

girls guide

Listed here is an (incomplete) sampling of women's bars in Houston, Texas from the 1960s to the 2000s.

GAY HOT LINES
Texas Gay Task Force — Box 2036, Universal City, TX 78148
Austin — (512)-477-6699
Bryan/College Station — Gay Student Services, P.O. Box 8109, zip 77844 — (713)-846-2469
Dallas — (214)-748-6790
East Texas — (214)-748-2989
Houston — (713)-228-1505
San Antonio — (512)-733-7300

DALLAS BATHS
Club Dallas — 2616 Swiss — 821-1990
DALLAS BOOKSTORES
Cerberus — 378 S. Industrial — 742-0609
Lobo Bookshop — 3917 Cedar Springs — 522-1132
DALLAS ADULT MOVIE THEATRES
Kit Kat — 1226 N. Industrial — 744-9287
DALLAS CHURCH
Metro Community — 2791 Reagan — 526-6221
DALLAS CLOTHING

- 1 **ROCKY'S** — 3416 W Dallas — 1965-68, 1975-76, 1980-83
- 2 **ROARING SIXTIES** — 2305 S Shepherd — 1966-1975
- 3 **CLUB L'AMOUR** — 227 Westheimer — 1968-1974, 1980
- 4 **JUST MARION & LYNN'S** — 817 Fairview — 1973-1984
- 5 **JUST MARION & LYNN'S** — 903 Richmond — 1984-1987
- 6 **LAMP POST** — 2417 Times Blvd — 1975-1978 (?)
- 7 **EVE'S** — 5102 Airline — circa 1977
- 8 **DUFFY'S DISCO** — 3207 Montrose — 1977-1978
- 9 **OUR PLACE** — 1419 Richmond — circa 1977-80?
- 10 **MS.TAKE II** — 2047 Marshall — 1978-78?
- 11 **CHIVAS TAKE II** — 2047 Marshall — circa 1980
- 12 **TWINS** — 535 Westheimer — 1981-1982
- 13 **TWINS** — 2053 Wirt Road — 1982-1985
- 14 **KINDRED SPIRITS** — 5425 Buffalo Speedway — 1981-1984
- 15 **KINDRED SPIRITS** — 4902 Richmond — 1984-1989
- 16 **BACCHUS** — 523 Lovett — 1982-1990
- 17 **DEON'S*** — Griggs and Cullen — circa 1982/1983
- 18 **CRYSTAL'S** — 911 W Drew — 1987
- 19 **BACCHUS II** — 2715 Waughcrest — 1990-1996
- 20 **PLAZA 9200** — 9200 Buffalo Speedway — 1991-1998
- 21 **CHANCES** — 1100 Westheimer — 1994-2010
- 22 **MELA'S TEJANO COUNTRY** — 1016 W 19th — 1996-1998
- 23 **MELA'S TEJANO COUNTRY** — 302 Tuam — 1998-2005
- 24 **CLUB RAINBOW** — 1417 Westheimer — 2000-2007
- 25 **THE USUAL** — 5519 Allen — 2008-2014

*Deon's was a Black lesbian after hours club. One could imagine women went here after Catch One, a short-lived but popular Black gay club (1982-84), closed for the night. The two clubs were just over a mile apart, off of Old Spanish Trail.

DALLAS ORGANIZATIONS
Political Caucus - Box 22333 zip 75222 - 521-1441
DALLAS PHARMACY
Preston Center Pharmacy - 6006A Beckshire - 368-1366
DALLAS PHOTOGRAPHER
Robert (TWT) - 4415 Dickason - 522-4265
DALLAS PICTURE FRAMES
Coddington - 3921 Cedar Springs - 528-7241
DALLAS TRAVEL AGENCY
Terrace Travel - 710 Westminster Bldg - 357-0821

EL PASO
Pet Shop - 800 E. San Antonio - 532-9721
FORT WORTH BOUTIQUE
All That Jazz - 259 Bailey - 335-0232
FORT WORTH CHURCH
Agape MCC - 3024 Forrest Ave - 429-5875
FORT WORTH LOUNGES
Aub's - 1308 St. Louis - 927-9220
Bailey St. Warehouse - 259 Bailey - 335-0232
Daddy Jack's - 5115 Wellview - 927-9175
In-Between - 704 Carroll - 335-0692
Little Lou Lou's - 5420 Jacksboro Hwy - 624-0460
651 Club - 551 S. Jennings - 332-0745
The Other Place - 2308 W. 7th - 335-0586
Tender Trap - 1816 E. Lancaster - 335-0031
FORT WORTH RESTAURANTS
Aub's - 1308 St. Louis - 927-9220
Daddy Jack's - 5115 Wellview - 927-9175
GALVESTON BATHS
Kon Tiki - 220 23rd Street - 763-9786
GALVESTON LOUNGES
Kon Tiki - 214 23rd Street - 763-9031
GALVESTON ORGANIZATIONS
Galveston Gay Society - 762-4947
HOUSTON ADULT BOOKSTORES
After Dark - 3409 Travis - 521-9857
Carter's Warehouse - 1201 Richmond - 528-8950
Diner's News - 204 Westheimer - 528-8950
Gaslight - 3519 Bellair - 665-9595
Mr. Peepers 1 - 5200 Telephone Rd - 649-9130
Mr. Peepers 2 - 4330 Richmond - 691-9378
Mr. Peepers 3 - 5406 Airline Dr - 691-9378
Mr. Peepers Glory Hole - 2906 Fannin - 528-9111
Studz News - 1132 W. Alabama - 528-9111
HOUSTON ADULT MOVIE THEATRES
French Quarter - 3201 Louisiana - 527-0782
Mini-Park - 2907 S. Main - 528-9881
HOUSTON ADVERTISING AGENCIES
Bullet Enterprises - 3400 Montrose - 528-8081
R.G. Sauter - 6327 Ashcroft - 777-4121
TWT Graphics - 1110 Lovett - 527-9111
HOUSTON BATHS
Club Houston - 2205 Fannin - 655-4998
Midtowne Spa - 3100 Fannin - 522-7379
HOUSTON CHURCHES
MCCR - 1214 Joe Annie - 594-8234
HOUSTON CLOTHING
Clothes Circuit - 900 Lovett - 7-0553

Eagle Leathers at Mary's
Maple Ranch Wear at Levi's
Union Jack - 4025 Westheimer - 622-3100
HOUSTON DISTRIBUTORS
Bullet - Box 3613, zip 77001 - 526-8081
HOUSTON FLOWERS/PLANTS
G/ other Flowers - 2030 W. Alabama - 523-2828
HOUSTON HAIR SALON
Mara I - 906 Westheimer - 523-7764
HOUSTON JEWELRY BOUTIQUE
ETC - at the Old Plantation
HOUSTON LAUNDRY & DRY CLEANING
Single Services - 1621 Westheimer - 524-9560
HOUSTON LOUNGES
The Barn - 710 Pacific - 528-9427
Briar Patch - 2294 Holcombe - 665-9678
Countryside - 1322 Westheimer - 527-9071
Depository Two - 401 McGowan - 524-7532
Detour - 1504 Westheimer - 528-9552
Exile - 1011 Bell - 659-0453
Galleon - 2303 Richmond - 529-2026
H-Lite Ranch - 6800 S. Main - 528-8730
Inside/Outside - 1318 Westheimer - 528-8049
Levi's - 2400 Brazos - 528-8637
Locker - 1732 Westheimer - 528-8444
Mary's - 1022 Westheimer - 528-8851
Midnite Sun - 534 Westheimer - 526-7519
Now or Never - 439 W.M. Houston - 448-4466
Old Plantation - 2020 Kipling - 522-2353
Pink Elephant - 1218 Leeland - 659-0040
Red Carpet In - 905 Woodrow - 528-9982
Silver Bullet Saloon - 1005 California - 528-9653
Typhoon Tessa's - 109 Tuam - 526-6331
Uncle Char - 805 Pacific - 529-7488
Venture - 2923 S. Main - 528-6397
MALE MODELING STUDIO
HG - 3801 W. Alabama - 526-2633
HOUSTON OPTICAL BOUTIQUE
Specs of Houston - 4709 Richmond - 626-1161
HOUSTON ORGANIZATIONS
Episcopal/Integrity - 523-2025 or 526-0410
Gay Political Caucus - 815 Hawthorne - 526-2668
Montrose Activities Center - 526-2668
HOUSTON PET CENTERS
A&A Pet Center - 1638 Westheimer - 527-0067
LeBranch - 2045 W. Alabama - 526-2010
Pet Shop & Bird Clinic - 1010 Tuam - 659-3760
HOUSTON PHOTOGRAPHERS
Brian (TWT) - 1110 Lovett - 527-9111
Glynda - 524-0072 or 528-1653
HOUSTON RESTAURANT
Auntie Mame's - 2278 W. Holcombe - 661-6970
HOUSTON TRAVEL AGENCY
Tangerine Travel - 2304 Westheimer - 528-9548
HOUSTON WOMEN'S CLUB
Levi's - 5102 Airline Drive - 691-9448
HOUSTON WOMEN'S CLUB
Misty Blue Lounges - 415 N. Jackson - 337-9637

P.S. dates are very approximate, and probably with some errors... dates assumed from ads and other sources, such as the "Queer Businesses" map by Bryan and Riedel (see closing page).

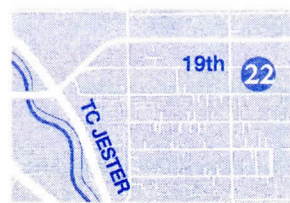
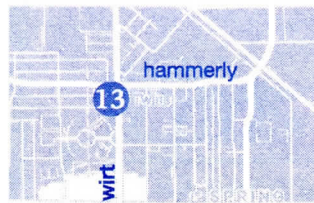
next:
EL PASO

Fort Worth's Country/Western Bar

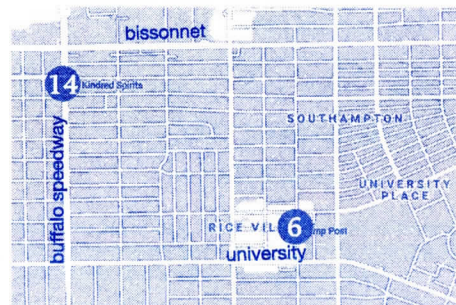
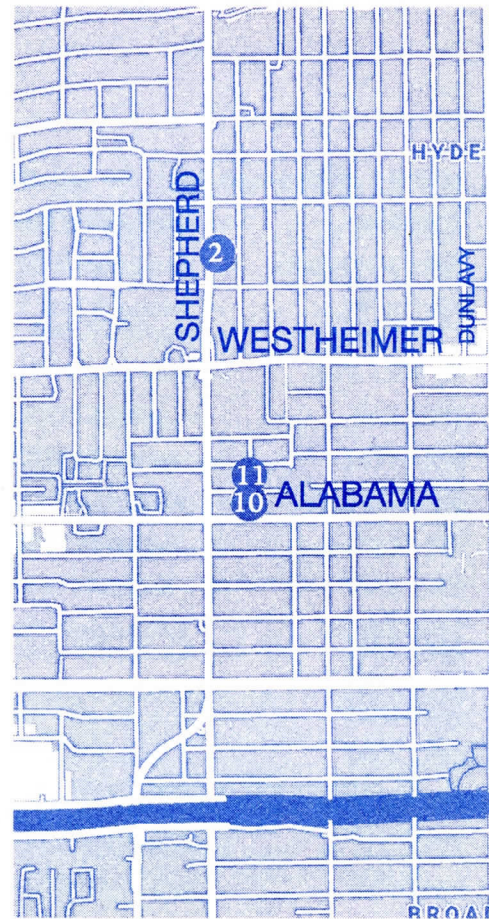
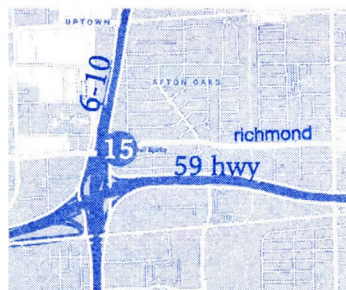
651 CLUB

651 South Jennings
332-0745

Open 12pm - 2am Mon - Fri
2pm - 2am Sat & Sun
HAPPY HOUR
Mon - Fri 12pm - 7pm



scan code for an
online version of
the map



Quiet Bar

She attributes the increase partially to the design of the club. "If women want to sit and talk, we have an area for them. If they want to play pool, they can do that too. And if they want music, they can turn the music loud in another area."

"HOUSTON'S FINEST WOMEN'S BAR"

—featuring upstairs patio deck and quiet bar—



535 WESTHEIMER
520-0244



soft lights soft eyes

look around then decide
soft music hard sigh

meanwhile, on the patio
doing what we
said we didn't like

gentle hands, misty gaze
parking lot
goodbyes for days

silence sweet
trusting rough


alternative to
the "boys stuff"



Announcing the opening
of a women's alternative...
a new women's bar.

Ample lighted parking... Nightly
Security... Music... Lights...
Atmosphere... Dancing...

WOMAN'S BAR

THE OTHER PLACE

BEER-WINE-SETUPS-
 POOL-DANCING
 Open Daily 4 to 12 -- Sunday 7 to 12
165 South 4th -- 835-9659
BEAUMONT, TEXAS

HOUSTON "COMETS" LOSE TO ATLANTA'S "LORELIE LADIES"

As you all know, Houston recently played host to softball teams from all over the United States, Canada and Mexico. The Invitational Tournament was played in Memorial Park Stadiums one and two on July 10th, 11th and 12th. The Regional Tournament was played on July 17th, 18th and 19th by teams from all the major cities in Texas.

I did not get to see all the games as I had wished to, but then again if we all had the time we wanted, to do the things we wanted, life would really be a bowl of cherries.

However, I did get to see the local teams. The "Comets" play the Atlanta, Georgia "Lorelie Ladies" in the final game of the Invitational. The Comets played one of the finest games I have had the pleasure to witness. Even though they lost to the "Lorelie Ladies" 4 - 1. All our hearts were rooting for them and our throats were sore from shouting.

The Roaring 60's Club had the pleasure to present again, a case of pink champagne to the Lorelie Ladies to help them celebrate their victory. This is the third year the "Lorelie Ladies" have won the Invitational.

For those of you who are not aware of it, the Roaring 60's Club presents a case of champagne to the winning team every year.

If any of our home teams ever won the tournament, I think the least we could do is give them a Ticker Tape Parade down Westheimer Street. (Homo Heights) as it has been not so lovingly referred to.

This little note is being written on the patio under the cottage of the "Bear's Den" on the beautiful serene, tranquil Trinity River. We are located halfway between Liberty and Livingston, Texas.

"Poppa Bear" (Rita) is leisurely mowing the lawn, 50' x 100', while yours truly, "Mamma Bear" (Ricci) is relaxing with a cool one in one hand and a pen in the other.

What a glorious way to spend a well earned, well deserved day off. Wish all our customers and readers of the Nuntius were here to enjoy all this.

I had not meant to deviate from the original subject, but nostalgia got the best of me.

Well, I'd better put my pen and my empty can down and say so long for now from the "Bear's Den."

Lovingly,

"Mamma Bear"

Editors Note: Thanks "Mamma", had some of the girls that had promised to cover this annual affair we would have had scores and pictures. With a little cooperation from the girls we can let readers elsewhere know that "gay girls" in Houston are active in many things. If you have a story or know anything of interest to let the outside circle know. Let us hear from you!

your hostesses
Ricci & Rita

ROARING 60'S CLUB
 PRIVATE
POOL - DANCING - MIXED DRINKS
 (memberships available)
 Open Tuesday through Sunday 5pm - 2am
 (Closed Mondays)
2305 S. SHEPHERD 528 9430

IF YOU HAVE ANY STORIES,
 ADDITIONS, CORRECTIONS,
 COMMENTS ON THIS ZINE &
 QUEER HISTORY IN HOUSTON... SEND A NOTE →
 gabyhurtadoramos@gmail.com

closing time//sources

All archival image and text material are originally sourced from the **JD Doyle Archives**, an amazing site of information on queer history in Houston, Texas, and beyond. The Bars and the Publications sections were my most frequently visited, along with the (super helpful) search engine.



You can access the archive via www.HoustonLGBTHistory.org
 (QR code above)

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Via the JD Doyle Archives, I accessed links to other sources that were also helpful in researching:

Riedel, Brian, "Cruising Grounds: Seeking Sex and Claiming Place in Houston, 1960-1980," *Southern Spaces*,
<https://southernspaces.org/2020/cruising-grounds-seeking-sex-and-claiming-place-houston-1960-1980/>, December 18, 2020.

Queer Businesses in Houston, Texas, 1941-2015. Dataset by Brian Riedel, 2015. ArcGIS map by Stephanie Bryan and Brian Riedel, 2020. <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/Style/index.html?appid=d1bdd6b82ef24353a2cfef876e059c0b> (link also found in "Cruising Grounds" article)

More on Riedel's mapping research: Binkovitz, Leah, "Mapping Montrose," Rice Urban Edge Blog, <https://kinder.rice.edu/2017/03/09/mapping-montroses-gay-history>

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I imagine this to be an ongoing project.... stay tuned for what's next.

Sign up for my newsletter: www.gabyhurtado.com/contact
 Map of the listed lesbian bars from this zine: <https://bit.ly/3wuv9AE>

About the Artist

Gaby Hurtado-Ramos is a visual artist, printmaker, and illustrator based in Houston, Texas. Her prints and drawings engage in queer joy, pleasure, and history. In conjunction with her art practice, she has collaborated with immigrant justice organizations and other grassroots movements to make illustrations and educational materials. Currently Hurtado-Ramos works as an arts educator teaching workshops and classes at HSPVA, the Printing Museum, and Art League Houston. When she's not drawing or staring at a screen she would like to be at a queer soccer meet-up (that will start up again, one day...interested queers, drop a line!)

gabyhurtado.com
@gabyartista on instagram



November 2021
Risograph-printed by the artist
at The Printing Museum in Houston, Texas