

Dignity

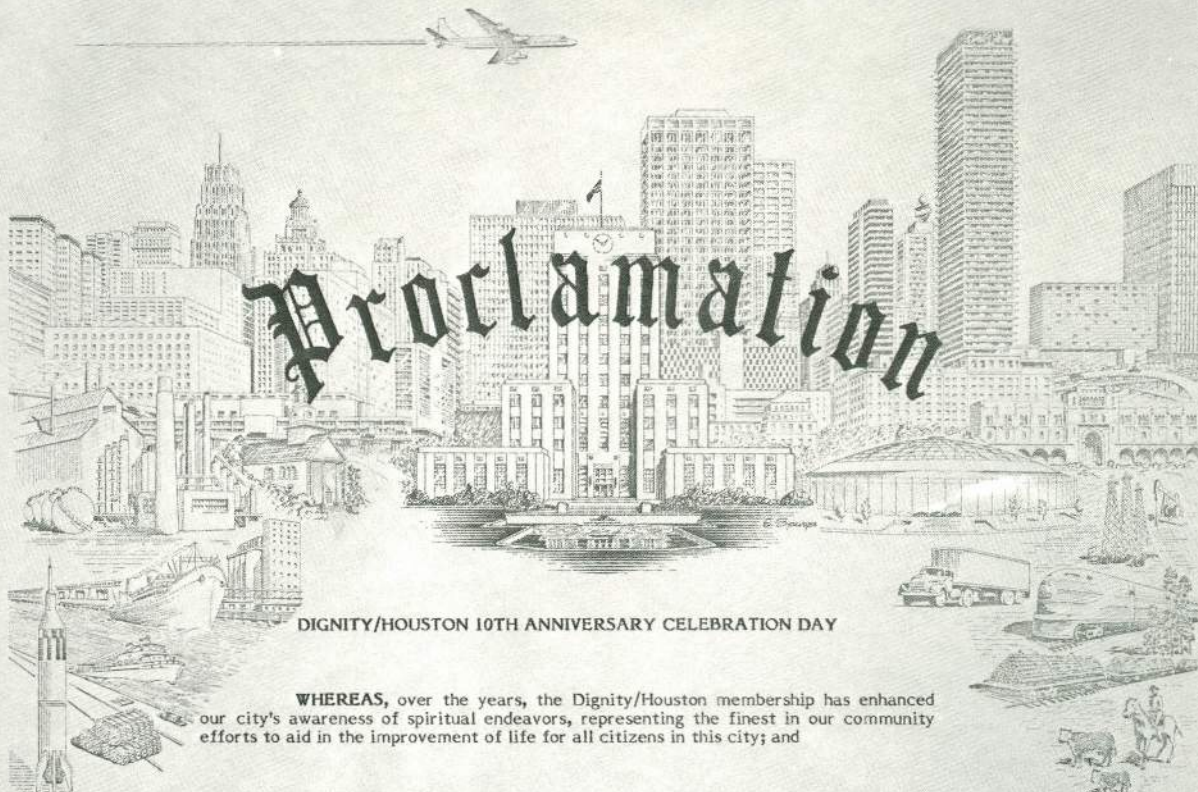
HOUSTON

CELEBRATING A DECADE OF MINISTRY

"An Evening with Rita Mae Brown"

Friday June 22, 1984

Houston Center Club



DIGNITY/HOUSTON 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DAY

WHEREAS, over the years, the Dignity/Houston membership has enhanced our city's awareness of spiritual endeavors, representing the finest in our community efforts to aid in the improvement of life for all citizens in this city; and

WHEREAS, the unique commitment to the citizens and spirit of cooperation exhibited by the Dignity/Houston membership, has created a motivational force in public activities which will remain positive in our community in forthcoming years; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Houston are urged to join in congratulating the Dignity/Houston membership for their dedicated service to the community during the celebration of their 10th Anniversary with the knowledge that their continued success will serve as an outstanding and uplifting inspiration to our city and its citizenry:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Kathryn J. Whitmire, Mayor of the City of Houston, do hereby proclaim Friday, June 22, 1984, as

DIGNITY/HOUSTON 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DAY

in Houston, Texas.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Houston to be affixed this 1st day of June, 1984, A.D.

Kathryn J. Whitmire
Mayor of the City of Houston

Dignity

HOUSTON

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BIOGRAPHY OF FATHER MARK BARRON, O.P.

Excerpted from the homily written and presented on the occasion of his funeral mass by the Very Reverend Gerard R. Joubert, O.P., who on that day tearfully recalled that it was his privilege to celebrate Fr. Barron's first mass (upon ordination) and his last mass.

He arrived in Springfield, Kentucky on August 15, 1931 from Chicago. Fr. Mark Barron was then 20 and a half years old. He passed through the Novitiate year in the company of 46 novices at St. Rose Priory. This was a venerable priory even in 1931. It was the original, the very first establishment of the Dominicans who came from Europe. He spent his first year in the Order at the very roots of the American Dominican Life. It is relevant to recall this beginning of a new life, and these religious vows, for we are witnesses today to fifty years of promises kept and vows fulfilled.

After making his vows he took a train to Chicago where for three years he was a student of Philosophy in the suburb of River Forest. He then went to Columbus, Ohio for his first year of Theology. On August 16, 1935 he made his Solemn Vows. After spending a year in Ohio he went on to Washington for the remainder of his training and study of Theology.

Fr. Mark was ordained at St. Dominic's Church in Washington on June 16, 1938. He was proud to have been called to the priesthood and knew well the awesome privilege and joy of the priestly ministry. He was a man of prayer and had a deep devotion to the Holy Mass.

Fr. Barron never ceased being a student and he always lived on schedule. He had a memory like an elephant. He could give

you the chapter and verse of almost any scripture quotation. He was like a good Baptist in that.

Fr. Mark's graduate degree was in Literature from Notre Dame. His teaching experience was in about every subject under the sun: Philosophy, Theology, Literature, Art and History. He loved to teach and he was good at it. He hated to correct exam papers. That for him was a total waste of time. So, everybody got a B. He taught in Chicago, Kenosha, Madison and Houston and always with distinction. He was a grammatical purist.

During the last 15 years or so of his life, Fr. Mark regarded the gay community as his very special, his dear and privileged apostolate. He understood. He read the signals. He knew the hurt, he felt the anger. He was God-sent into the lives of more persons than we will ever know. As John the XXIII opened the windows of the Church to let in some fresh air and to welcome the world, Fr. Mark opened the doors of the Church to welcome the Montrose area. He drew an abundance of gladness of mind and heart from the warmth of the love which he received.

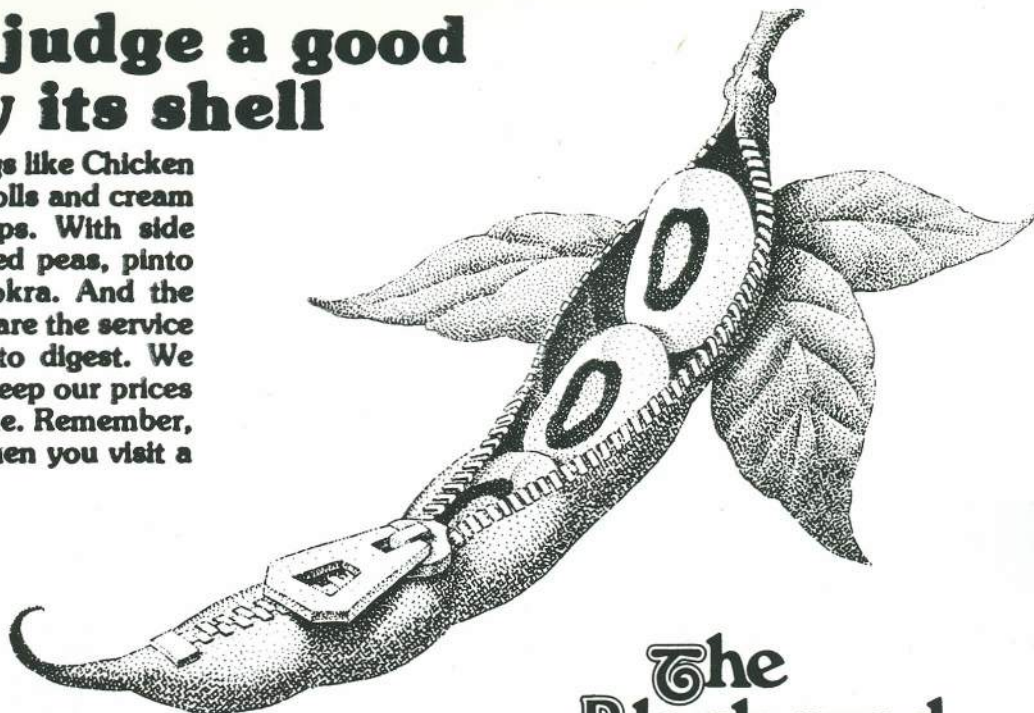
The members of the gay community have other heavenly patrons, but with Father going on to heaven we have gained another to intercede for us. We have lost a friend on earth but we've gained a friend in heaven. For this reason we humbly and affectionately dedicate our Tenth Anniversary Celebration to Father Mark and are thankful in our hearts for his loving guidance which has helped to bring us all together for this celebration this evening.

Edited by Stan Ford

You can't judge a good pea by its shell

You've got to get inside for things like Chicken Fried Steak with steaming hot rolls and cream gravy, country fried Pork Chops. With side orders of garden-fresh black-eyed peas, pinto beans, green beans and fried okra. And the only things better than the food are the service and the prices. Both are easy to digest. We want you to come back, so we keep our prices medium and our service well-done. Remember, bring along a hearty appetite when you visit a Black-Eyed Pea Restaurant.

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hous'ov. kol'man

n. 1. A woman-owned business specializing in quality graphics and printing. 2. A large red brick house in the heart of Montrose. – *adj.* Having many and varied features. – *v.* Producing design, illustration, camera work, printing and bindery. – *adv.* 1. To increase the client's business manifold. 2. To satisfy the client.

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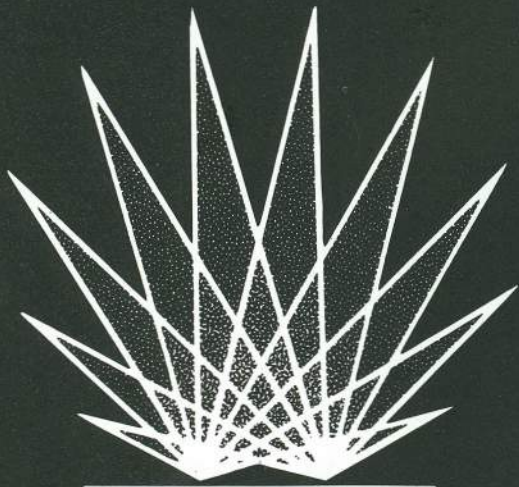
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RITA MAE BROWN

Yes, three of her novels have been on the **New York Times** Best Seller List.

Yes, she was nominated for an Emmy in 1982 as well as winning a Writers Guild Award the same year for Best Variety Show.

Yes, she recently finished a teleplay for an NBC mini-series called "The Long Hot Summer."

Yes, she is now in the process of turning her recent novel **Southern Discomfort** which is set in Montgomery, Alabama into a screenplay.

Yes, she has plans for her next novel which will be set in Civil War Times.

And, she helped start the first Student Homophile League at Columbia University which was the first gay group on any campus in this country.

And, she was present and involved in a peacekeeping capacity at the Stonewall Riot in 1969 which is the historical event we are recalling during this Unity and More in '84 celebration.

And, reaching further back, she cut her teeth on the beginnings of the Civil Rights and Anti-War movements.

So, now residing on a farm near Charlottesville, Virginia with five cats, two dogs, three horses plus several ducks, geese, foxes, turtles, squirrels etc.

She lectures widely on college campuses when she can, and is here with us this evening to help celebrate a decade of ministry.

Dignity is proud to bring to Houston for our celebration the talented writer who signs herself ... **Rita Mae**

LOLA'S

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TW
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The following passage from the novel Rubyfruit Jungle is told by the main character, Molly Bolt. Molly's father, Carl, is consoling Ep, whose wife has just died.

. . . Ep and Carl were in the living room and Carl was holding Ep. He had both arms around him and every now and then he'd smooth down Ep's hair or put his cheek next to his head. Ep was crying. . . . A couple times I could hear Carl telling Ep he had to hang on, that's all anybody can do is hang on. I was afraid they were going to get up and see me so I hurried back to my room. I'd never seen men hold each other. I thought the only things they were allowed to do was shake hands or fight. But if Carl was holding Ep maybe it wasn't against the rules. Since I wasn't sure, I thought I'd keep it to myself and never tell. I was glad they could touch each other. Maybe all men did that after everyone went to bed so no one would know the toughness was for show. Or maybe they only did it when someone died. I wasn't sure at all and it bothered me.

The next morning the sky was black with thunderclouds, and we had to spend the whole day in the house. The rain poured down. . . . After the storm the sky stayed dark but across the horizon was a brilliant rainbow. We all stared in silence for a long time, then went back inside. Ep stayed on the porch to look at the rainbow. Leroy [Ep's son] bet me I couldn't find a pot of gold at the end, and I told him that was a stupid bet because the rainbow was enough.

"The name that means
Texas"



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A HISTORY OF DIGNITY/HOUSTON 1974-1984



Beginnings:

Because whatever archives which may have existed are no longer available to us, the early times prior to chartering are rather sketchy. In 1972/73, a group of gays started meeting after the 11:00 Mass each Sunday at Holy Rosary Church. They settled on the name, "Dignity," but were later obliged to cease using the name as they were not a part of National Dignity which had started up in California about that time. The group, not affiliated with Episcopal/Integrity, is still in existence at this time and is known as Interact/Houston, Inc. From within this group, a segment, not wanting to be strictly a political caucus, then petitioned National Dignity to become an active Houston Chapter of Dignity.

1974:

The first meeting of the Chapter was held **June 6, 1974**, with **Dennis Powers** as President, (the term of office was 6 months in those days), and **Fr. Mark Barron, O.P.**, as Chaplain. The June-July issue of the Dignity National Newsletter (Vol. V, No. 6-7) listed **Dignity/Houston** as a chapter-information, but by the August issue (Vol. V, No. 8) we were shown as an active chapter, numbered among the 21 then existing and the 5 in-information. The first **Dignity/Houston Newsletter** was published in November of that year with **Fr. Alcuin Greenburg** as Editor. On **December 19, 1974** elections were held and we acquired our first woman President, **Kera** by name. Meetings were then being held at St. Anne's every other Thursday, 8:00 PM to 9:30 PM, with **Fr. John Robbins, CSB.**, as sponsor of the meeting site. **Fr. Mark Barron** had resigned as Chaplain due to health reasons, however we were blessed with having three priests to handle the counseling.

1975:

Mike Nelson assumed the duties of Treasurer in February and in March, the first retreat was held, with a great deal of success. Dignity was beginning to attract new people and the average attendance at the meetings was 24. In April, the first 'covered dish' social was held at **Mary Helen Pritchett's**, a good friend of **Bobby Mayhugh** and **Jon Bancroft**. The next month **Bob Heer** hosted another having joined the community in April. May brought elections and **Art Martin** became President and **Sterling Miller** took over the duties of Secretary and Editor of the **Newsletter**. In June, **Bobby Mayhugh** took over **Sterling's** duties since **Sterling** was moving to Washington, D.C. In July, we held our first 'barefoot in the park' picnic in Memorial Park. That month also saw us trying out our first advertising in **TWT** which helped familiarize the gay community with our existence and meeting place. In August, **Frank Silver**, a newly ordained Deacon at St. Anne's, was named liaison between Dignity and the parish. Later that month **Art Martin** and **Don Kelly** of Beaumont attended the Second Biennial Convention of Dignity/National in Boston. **Fr. Robbins**, then was transferred to Rochester, N.Y. and the Chaplain duties were assumed by **Fr. Jim Gould, S.J. On**

November 16, 1975, **Dignity/Houston** joined with all other chapters, nationwide, to celebrate the National Day of Reconciliation being observed during the meeting of the National Council of Catholic Bishops. Mass that Sunday afternoon was celebrated by **Fr. Jim Gould**. Guests included members of MCCR and Episcopal Integrity. We continued our celebrations that month with a great pre-Thanksgiving dinner on the 22nd with over 40 in attendance, our biggest turnout to date. In December, the **Newsletter** was improved and at our last meeting of the year, **Fr. Jim**, our Chaplain, prepared a moving and beautiful celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. **Art Martin** resigned as President, due to business interests.

1976:

In January, it was election time again. Elected were **Mike Nelson**, Chairperson; **Bill Brown**, Co-Chairperson; **Ray Terry**, Treasurer; **Bobby Mayhugh**, Secretary. That month a series of three lectures on Transactional Analysis were chaired by **Travis Peterson** and **Ann Barnett**. **Fr. Jim** left Houston on a new assignment. In February, **Mike Nelson** took a leave of absence to work with the then-forming Montrose Activity Center, so **Bill Brown** took over the chair. In March, we started to get our act together again and formed several committees to stimulate our growth. **Bill Brown** headed the Liturgy group, **Bob Heer** the Social Activities group, **Mike Nelson** the Social Action group and **Bobby Mayhugh** the Newsletter group. We continued to meet in homes. All these events had a very cohesive effect on the membership and all worked long and hard for the survival of **Dignity/Houston**.

1977:

During the early months of 1977, **Dignity/Houston** finally got off the ground in many ways. In January we were invited and accepted the invitation to meet at Holy Rosary Church where the original Dignity group started. Meeting dates were changed to the first and third Thursdays of the month and the meeting structure was changed to allow for having Mass first, then follow that with the meeting in the old Vestry. **Fr. Mark Barron** took on responsibility for our religious discussion topics. In April, **Bobby Mayhugh** resigned as Secretary due to the demands on his time settling in to the new house with Jon. **Bob Heer** stepped in as Secretary, temporarily. **Jim Hale** became Editor of the **Newsletter** at that time, also. At that point our mailing was to about 40 persons. May brought elections again with **Ray Terry**, Chairperson; **Bill Hirsch**, Co-Chairperson/Treasurer; **Bob Heer**, Secretary. In June, we had a retreat at Bolivar and had our first fund raiser in the form of a garage sale on lower Avondale. By July, our paid membership had grown from 13 to 25 and we felt we were in hog heaven. In August, **Bill Hirsch** resigned due to a new job commitment. The Co-Chair position was eliminated and **Fred Murray** became Treasurer. **Fr. Roberto Flores, OFM**, became our new Chaplain. Over the Labor Day weekend, the Third Biennial National Convention was held in Chicago and was attended by **Fr. Roberto** and

Charles Elstner. **Dignity/Houston** appears for the first time in the Houston Organization section of **TWT**. The September **Newsletter** was mailed to all Dignity Chapters, in addition to the local membership. In October we had Mass and our first house blessing at **Bobby** and **Jon's** new home. Another retreat took place at Bolivar. A Membership Committee was established with **Bobby Mayhugh** and **Charles Elstner** as members, as well as a Constitution and By-Laws Committee with Jay Jennings and **Fr. Mark Barron**. Also that month we had our first Region VII conference in Dallas. **Ray Terry** and **Fred Murray** were our delegates and six other members also attended the conference. **Fr. Pat Hoffman** was elected Region Director and **David Payne** was elected Secretary/Treasurer. They both were from Dignity/Lubbock and would serve a two year term. Our third annual Thanksgiving dinner was held at **Dennis Smyth's** later that month. To round out the year we joined with the Lambda Group, Lutherans Concerned, Integrity/Houston and Episcopal Integrity for an ecumenical Christmas party and dance held at Channing Hall, First Unitarian Church.

1978:

The results of a survey made late in 1977 were made known. About 40% answering first heard of Dignity through friends with gay publications being the next source. About half made their first contact with Dignity by phone and almost ¾ths attended their first meeting alone. The most popular functions were Masses and Rap Sessions. Religious topics were first choice for the Rap Sessions and many indicated interest in group counselling sessions. In February, we hosted the second Region VII conference at which the main topic for discussion was the draft of the National Constitution and By-Laws. In March, **Ray Terry** resigned due to a new business venture and **Bob Heer** took over the Chairperson slot. We had a membership drive that month with the added incentive of a pledge by an anonymous donor to match the first ten \$15.00 membership dues if they joined by **July 1, 1978**. At that time we had 24 members and we did get the 10 new members and the donation. May brought elections with **Bob Heer**, Chairperson; **Phil Dyer**, Secretary; **Fred Murray**, Treasurer. **Charles Elstner** was appointed to head the Social Action Committee. June brought the 3rd Region VII Conference, this time in Dallas. It was held in conjunction with a meeting of Texas Gay Task Force V, at which **Harvey Milk** and Guy Amador were speakers. Five **Dignity/Houston** members participated. During Gay Pride Week, later that month **Fr. Mark Barron** represented Dignity in a Memorial Service held in the chapel at University of Houston Central Campus. We also got around to printing some brochures for **Dignity/Houston**, many of which were passed out from our table at Town Meeting I held at the Astroarena. The July **Newsletter** took on a new look with the heading designed by **Frank Burgess**, our resident artist. Our mailout at that time was about 80. We also approved our very first set of By-Laws and Constitution. During August and September, our ranks continued to grow necessitating finding a new location in which to meet, due to our size. Through the good office of **Fr. Mark Barron** we moved to the Rice Catholic Student Center, on Bolsover, the director of which was **Fr. Gary Adams**, a recently ordained Dominican Priest. In November, in conjunction with the National Day of Prayer, we held an agape with the theme of unity and thanksgiving with some of the other gay religious organizations. We were also privileged to have **Abbot**

Edwin of St. Pius X Abbey with us to celebrate Mass during the month. The 4th Region VII conference was held in Lubbock on 17-19. Our box score for the year included 29 liturgies, 24 general meetings, 9 rap sessions, 2 guest speakers, 8 covered dish socials, 2 picnics and 12 other social events, not to mention 3 garage sales, a penitential service and a retreat.

1979:

In January, we started to get an increased number of inquiries due to an informational ad in **Up Front**, a local weekly newspaper serving the gay community. A project was also started to make contact with parish priests. In February, we hosted the Dignity, Inc. Winter Executive Council. The meetings and reception were held at the Ramada Inn-Greenway Plaza. The conference was a great success. We mailed out about 150 invitations to all Pastors and Religious in the Diocese, however the response was practically nil. We did, however, gain **Fr. Pat Meister** as a Chaplain. In March, we started some Consciousness Raising groups. We also became a member of the local Gay Rights Coordinating Council. Our membership by then was 62. April brought the Region VII Conference, this time held in San Antonio with **George Wetzel**, **Bobby Mayhugh** and **Bob Heer** as our Chapter's voting delegates. We also had a return visit from **Abbot Edwin** who celebrated Mass with us. May brought election time again and the current officers were reelected for a second term. In June, we increased our **Newsletter** mailout to 225, to include all Chapters since this was our fifth anniversary issue. Our regular mailings at that time were about 125 copies. To celebrate our birthday, we had our first anniversary dinner at the Ramada Inn-Greenway Plaza and the event featured a 'roast' of **Fr. Mark Barron**. On **July 1, 1979**, we had our first entry in the annual Gay Pride Parade, consisting of a car-top construction with a religious theme. Among other activities that month were a Tiara glass party, a garage sale and a bike tour through Montrose. In August, we continued our spiritual education series with lectures by **Fr. Pat Meister** on 'The History of Worship'. The Region VII Conference was held in Dallas and two new chapters were chartered, Dignity Dallas Outreach and Dignity/Palo Alto, bringing our Regional total to 10 chapters. In early September, the third Dignity, Inc. Convention was held in San Diego. We were represented by **Fr. Roberto** and **John McCaffrey**. Local Activities that month included a home Mass at **Sal Ragusa's**, a skating party at the Galleria, a picnic in Memorial Park (another one of those 'barefoot in the park' parties), a theatre party at M.A.C. to see "Women Behind Bars" and Gay Day at Astroworld. **Fr. Mark** continued our Spiritual Education Series in October. In November, we started Disco Night at the Copa each Friday evening. We had our annual pre-Thanksgiving Mass and agape. The Region Conference was held in Lubbock at which we had election of officers for the coming two years. **Fr. Pat Hoffman** was reelected Region Director and **Jim Leatherwood** was elected Secretary/Treasurer. In December, some of us trekked to Galveston to take in Dickens' Night on The Strand before which we had a wine and cheese social at George Wetzel's home there. We also had our traditional Advent Penitential Service and a pre-Christmas covered dish supper. Also of note was the fact that our t-shirts were put on sale that month with a design by **Frank Burgess**.

1980:

January brought our first 'Gourmet Dinner' catered by **Norman Salvato** and **Jay Jennings**. **Fr. Pat Meister** had the first annual Shrimp Festival for us at his rectory in Freeport and we ended the month with an ecumenical Prayer Service for Christian Unity. In February, the regular column 'Good News' was started in our **Newsletter** written by **Ray S.** In March, we hosted the Region Conference at the Newman Center near the University of Houston Central Campus. **Fr. Gary**, **Ray S.** and **Sr. Ginger** were the principal convenors of the workshops. To end the month we had a Seder Supper at the Student Center. After Easter, in April, we had a skating party in Bellaire, a garage sale and a police program on security. May brought Chapter election time. Elected were **Sheila Green**, Chairperson; **Bill Jones**, Secretary; **Jack Drapela**, Treasurer. Other activities were going on the Historical Homes Tour in Galveston with the traditional wine and cheese at **George's** and another garage sale. The Region Spring Conference was held in Austin in June with 15 of us attending. Later that month we participated in Gay Pride Week activities during the National Day of Remembrance and the Gay Pride Parade where we had a hand-carried float designed by **Randy Ruhlman**. In August, Dignity/Dallas hosted a Region Retreat convened by **Fr. Francis Thompson, OFM**, we had our first commitment Service between **Jack** and **Tom**, we sponsored the world premier of "Cleopatra", a play by **Max Pearson**, starring **Norman Salvato**, at the Inside/Outside. Another series of consciousness raising groups were formed in September. In October, we joined with our Lutheran friends to have a penitential service to commemorate the 450th anniversary of the founding of the Lutheran Church. The Fall Region Conference was held in Lubbock and **Fr. John McNeill, S.J.**, was the principal speaker. We also instituted a chapter survey to get a better understanding of what was expected from Dignity by the members. In December, we again had our annual Advent Penitential Service to round out the year's activities.

1981:

January brought our annual Christian Unity Service with MCCR, Lutherans Concerned, Church of Christian Faith and the Montrose Church of Christ joining us. In February, we instituted the First Sunday of the month mass to replace the first Thursday Mass. This was done as a result of many requests for a weekend service. To celebrate St. Patrick's Day we held our covered dish at the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, operated by the Magnificat Houses. **George Wetzel** started our lending library that month, also. In April, we had our Lenten Penitential Service and in May we bade goodbye to **Fr. Gary**, who was leaving on a new assignment. In June, our new officers took over: **Bob Heer** as Chairperson; **Bobby Mayhugh** as Secretary; **Dale Wahl** as Treasurer. We celebrated our seventh anniversary with a covered dish supper at the Student Center. Later in the month the Region Conference was held in San Antonio. Our Chapter was represented by **Sheila Green**, **Bobby Mayhugh** and **Bob Heer**. In August, **Camilla Kelly** took over as the Newsletter Editor duties and **David Decker** volunteered to do the printing, using our new logo. New Region officers were also elected that month, **Peter Laverly** as Region Director and **Jim Leatherwood** as Secretary/Treasurer. Both were members of Dignity/Lubbock.

Labor Day weekend, in September, the fifth Dignity, Inc. Convention was held in Philadelphia. We were represented by **George Wetzel**, **David Decker** and **Gabriel Clark**. Our new banner was initiated at that convention. The same weekend the Texas Gay Conference VIII was held here at the First Unitarian Church. Several of our members attended and we had an information booth in the lobby. The principal speakers were **Patricia Nell Warren** and **Jack Nichols**. In October, **Sal Ragusa** started a mini-series on the Gospel According to St. John and we had our first ecumenical picnic near the Wortham fountain with Episcopal Integrity and Montrose Church of Christ participating. November brought a one-day Region Business Conference, held in Austin. **David Decker**, **Bobby Mayhugh** and **Bob Heer** were our delegates. In December, we had our annual Penitential Service to end our year's activities again.

1982:

On New Year's Day we started off the year with an open house at **Hopie** and **Kelly's** with members of T-BAG (Texas Bay Area Gays). Our regular meetings were changed from Thursdays to Saturdays due to the student scheduling at the Center. Masses were held the first and third Saturdays. We had District 79 Representative, **Debra Danburg**, as a speaker during the month and on the 30th we had the annual Christian Unity Service. February brought our first annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. In March, we hosted the Region VII Spring Conference, again using the Newman Center at University of Houston. Later we were cosponsor of a lecture by **The Rev. Dr. Norman Pittinger** at Autry House. We had our annual Penitential Service before Easter and we had election of officers with **David Decker** as Chairperson, **Bobby Mayhugh** as Secretary and **Bob Heer** as Treasurer. Also elected to the Board were **Paul Herzog**, **Bob Palmer** and **Chip Kerrigan**.

1983

The St. Stephen's committee was formally established as a source of emergency funds in time of need by chapter members. Officers elected were **Stan Ford**, president with **Chip Kerrigan** as treasurer and **Bob Palmer** as secretary. We purchased an electronic organ to foster increased musical participation during our liturgies. **Thad Paulhamus** serves as our regular organist. The new board established goal setting procedures and quarterly budget planning inspired by **Mike Kaney**. The same **Mike Kaney** structured a budget and created a finance committee with great flair and energy. We entered the first ecumenical float in the Gay Pride Parade with Aytz Chaim, Lutherans Concerned, MCCR and the Presbyterian Task Force. Twelve members participated in a listening skills workshop entitled Compassion Ministry. The media committee organized a "MASS APPEAL" in the Montrose Voice spurring a substantial growth in membership and attendance at the weekly mass. 1983 ended with 101 paid, active members and an average attendance of 75 at the weekly liturgy.

1984

A "MASS APPEAL" ad campaign followed up by a "PUB CRAWL" put **Dignity/Houston** posters in all the places

highly visible to the gay community. We participate monthly with food contributions to the MCCR Deacon's pantry. We established a dialogue with the chaplains of the Texas Medical Center for the development of a support ministry to AIDS patients, which will include volunteer training. Theological and practical education provided to twelve extraordinary ministers enables them to assist at the Eucharist and bring communion to the sick. Our interest in the Compassion Ministry series grew into another workshop on Interpersonal Relationships facilitated by Family Life Services with **Fr. Ron Boggio, O.Carm.** and **Maureen Bacchi** giving instruction to over 30 participants. We negotiated for a professional float for the Gay Pride Parade celebrating our Tenth Anniversary Mardi Gras style complete with doubloons. Our membership has grown to around 150 paid, active members. This growth and activity with its focus on goals and fiscal planning is culminated in this Tenth Anniversary. A new logo was deve-

loped by **Randy Ruhlman** and is visible on this program, on **Dignity/Houston** T-shirts and the newsletter. A special "Reading" was prepared by **J.G.** chronicalling the origins of the new logo, the authentic source of the sacred colors Raspberry and Teal, as well as the source for the Tenth Anniversary Celebration.

No single source can begin to list or include all of the names and activities which have helped to bring **Dignity/Houston** to celebrate its Tenth Anniversary of Ministry. To all of those sung and unsung hero(ines) who were part of that organization, we sincerely thank you and warmly invite you to join with our celebration.

And to the all the rest of you we offer an invitation to join with us in our next decade of ministry.

Shalom,

Jim Hale/Bob Heer/Kelly Martino
Stan Ford/George Wetzel

WHEN They Came for the Jews,
I said nothing

When They Came for the Gays,
I said nothing

And when they came for me,
there was no one left to say anything.

— **ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST**
IN NAZI GERMANY

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Peter Laverty, Director
James Leatherwood, Administrator

RUBYFRUIT CONCENTRATE AND OTHER PRODUCTS

by Rita Mae Brown

That section of the Post, not,
terribly truly not, for men, but
for women only

Those sacred shared secrets of the
ladies room, known only to women
perennially paired in twos

The random pain of women, given to
booze, my lonely Aunt Rita (too), porch
rocking, seen bourbon sipping through the
vined screens

My neighbor Aunt Clara, whose
mustache chafed us with her frequent
busses, great and warm, fruitless woman,
the unspoken terrible sterile need for
children clearly seen,

Old Lady Brown, cookie baker by
profession, abettor of scheming children,
and loveable pest to other mothers, her
aged spaniel, Bruce, who nearly always
pissed on strangers, to our silent
(sometimes) glee and unsuppressed mirth,
his breadth surely exceeded by his girth,

Old molds may break, but, women who
were women, endure, the love carries on.

**Best Wishes to DIGNITY/HOUSTON on
your Tenth Anniversary**

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GAY PRIDE WEEK HISTORY

This Page Compliments of a Friend.

Edited by Jack Valinski

Statement of Purpose

Houston Gay Pride Week, Inc. was founded in 1979 by a small group of Houston gay activists to coordinate a formal program and celebrate each year for the gay community of Houston.

HGPW, with the idea of National Gay Pride, through its many cultural athletic and educational events, seeks to "increase understanding of social, racial and sexual minorities, and to encourage acceptance of and tolerance of alternative lifestyles so that, together, the citizens of the City of Houston, the State of Texas and the United States of America may work in the spirit of peaceful cooperation to build a better society."

Background of Gay Pride Week Celebrations

"One of the more volatile and emotional social movements in the nation's history emerged on a summer night 15 years ago at a ramshackle bar in New York City's Greenwich Village."¹

The Police assumed that this would be a routine raid; never before had their constant harassment caused any reaction from what the police considered to be a lot of limp wristed sissy's, unable to stand up for themselves. So on Friday June 27, 1969, Deputy Police Inspector Pine and seven other officers set out to close the small, dimly lit, "mafia" owned gay bar for allegedly selling liquor without a license.

No one suspected what would happen when they raided the Stonewall Inn.

The patrons that were released and the crowd outside grew to over 400 people within minutes. Bottle and rock throwing led to burning of the Stonewall Inn, with the police inside (no one was injured). A riot followed in nearby Sheridan Square and there were more disturbances the following nights.²

"A minority shrouded in mystery, fear, self-deprecation and widespread loathing decided it had enough. This was the Lexington of the gay rights movement, a gathering of forces and the beginning of a tumultuous march."³

The facts surrounding what became known as the Stonewall riots have always been a bit elusive and the media accounts printed at the time reflected blatantly biased opinion and were notably lacking in detail. However, the authors cited above tell the story that is most widely known. The results of that night in New York City can be seen today as the national gay and lesbian community grows in both influence and stature in our society.

In 1970, a noted gay activist from Los Angeles named Morris Kight was responsible for "Remember Stonewall" vigil that became a yearly event around the country.

In 1975, the first gay and lesbian march in Texas was held in Dallas as part of the Stonewall remembrance. Community activists in Houston held a widely attended

news conference that summer which announced, among other events the formation of a political action coalition that has become the Gay Political Caucus of Houston.

In 1976, an estimated 200 people held a march in downtown Houston to commemorate the Stonewall riots, which was sponsored by the fledgling Gay Activists of the University of Houston.

Singer and former beauty queen Anita Bryant's appearance as featured entertainer for the Texas Bar Association convention in 1977 brought an estimated 6000 angry gay women and men down Houston's streets in protest. The heavily publicized march, headed by such notables as gay publisher David Goodstein and The Rev. Troy Perry of the Metropolitan Community Church, was in vivid reaction to Ms. Bryant's active anti-gay statements and work to successfully overturn the gay rights ordinance then in effect in Miami, Dade County, Florida. A few weeks later, Houston's gay community held its first Gay Pride Rally in Cherryhurst Park to celebrate what had become a national holiday for lesbians and gay men.

Over 4500 community activists met at the Astroarena in 1978 for Town Meeting I, the first organizational gathering in Houston that included gay men and women from every aspect of Houston society. Former state legislator and vice-presidential nominee Frances "Sissy" Farenthold was the keynote speaker; the meeting was chaired by Virginia Apuzzo, a leading gay activist who is now the executive director of the National Gay Task Force in New York. Many of Houston's gay services, including the Montrose Counseling Center and the Montrose Clinic, were formulated and organized at this historic meeting. The first full week of events commemorating our pride in being free gay and lesbian Americans was held in this year.

Since 1979, the gay community of Houston has celebrated Gay Pride Week with a full schedule of events spanning 11 days in late June. More than 67 gay and lesbian-related organizations sponsor a variety of events for the entire community, ranging from juried art shows to athletic events and everything in between.

The final days of the Gay Pride Week find the traditional Parade through the heart of Montrose, and the traditional community celebration sponsored by the Gay Political Caucus.

This year's Gay Pride Week theme is "Unity and More in '84." Adopted nationally, it reflects the tireless and united efforts of all gay communities in the United States, to build a national, social and political gay force that cannot and will not ever again be denied.

¹ Ledwell, Tony. "Stonewall opened gay activist age." Associated Press 1979

² Marotta, Toby. "The Politics of Homosexuality." Houghton Mifflin Co. 1981

³ Ledwell.

DIGNITY/HOUSTON OFFICERS

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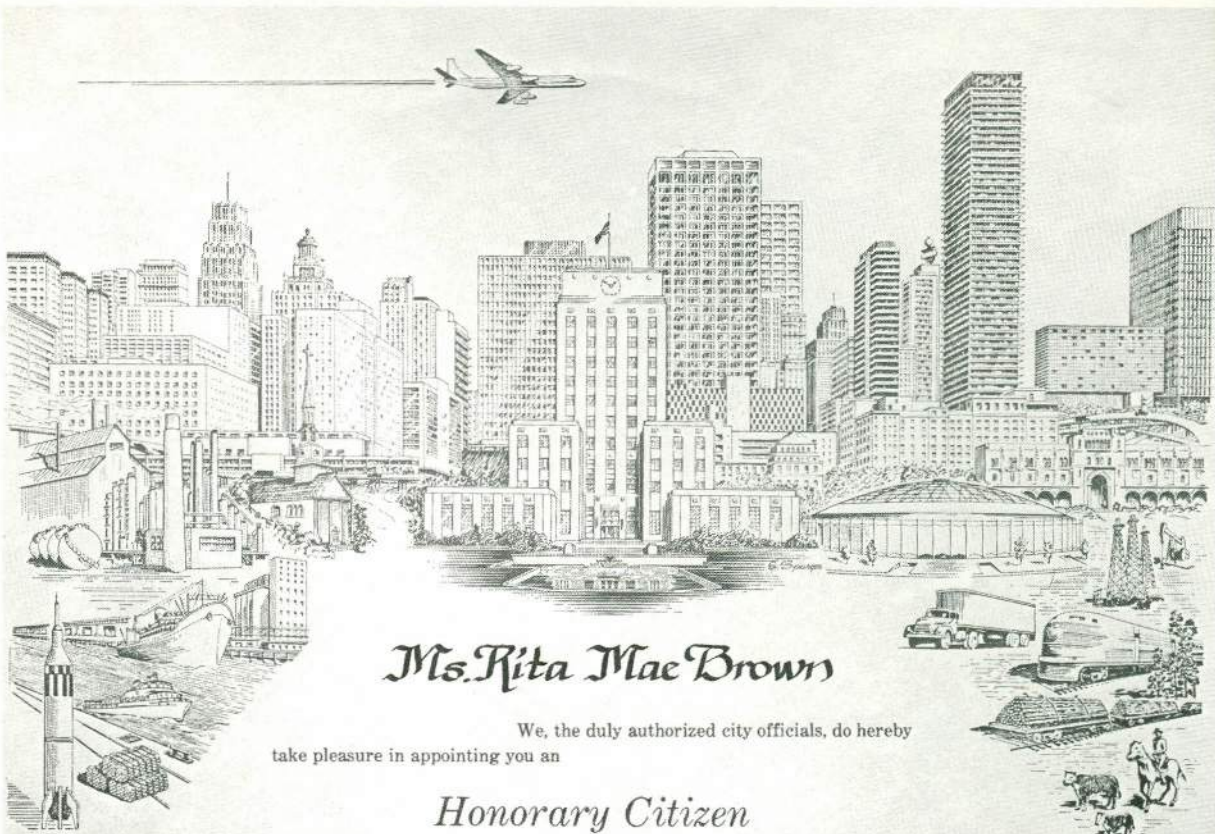
COME A LONG

WAY TOGETHER

713/780-1057

6100 Richmond, Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77057

—Travis L. Peterson, MSW, CSW-ACP
PSYCHOTHERAPIST



Ms. Rita Mae Brown

We, the duly authorized city officials, do hereby
take pleasure in appointing you an

Honorary Citizen

of the City of Houston, Texas, in recognition of the outstanding success you have
achieved in your worthy vocation and in appreciation of the valuable contribu-
tion you have made, and are making, through unselfish public service for the
benefit and welfare of mankind.

Furthermore, as a token of high esteem, we have selected you to serve as a

Goodwill Ambassador

of our City with full power and authority to inform others of the genuine hos-
pitality and friendly atmosphere which prevails in Houston and of the many
advantages and unlimited opportunities that our great City has to offer.

In testimony whereof, witness our signatures and the official seal of the
City of Houston affixed hereto this the 22nd day of June
19 64 A.D.

Robert W. Whitmore
Mayor

Larry M. Kaskela

Ernest L. McHenry, Jr.

Jim Quinn

Rodney Ellis

Frank C. McFarlane

John S. Goodner

Christine Hartung

Del M. Doszynski

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