



October

THE WAND

Vol. 13, No. 10

Womynspace Activities / Networking Directory

Inside:

*Chastity Bono will Speak at
November 15 LiB Meeting
Inklings Book Corner
Texas Lesbian Conference 1997,
Houston
How I Spent my Hiatus*

Business Profile: Caroline Burum



**TOOPEES
COFFEES**

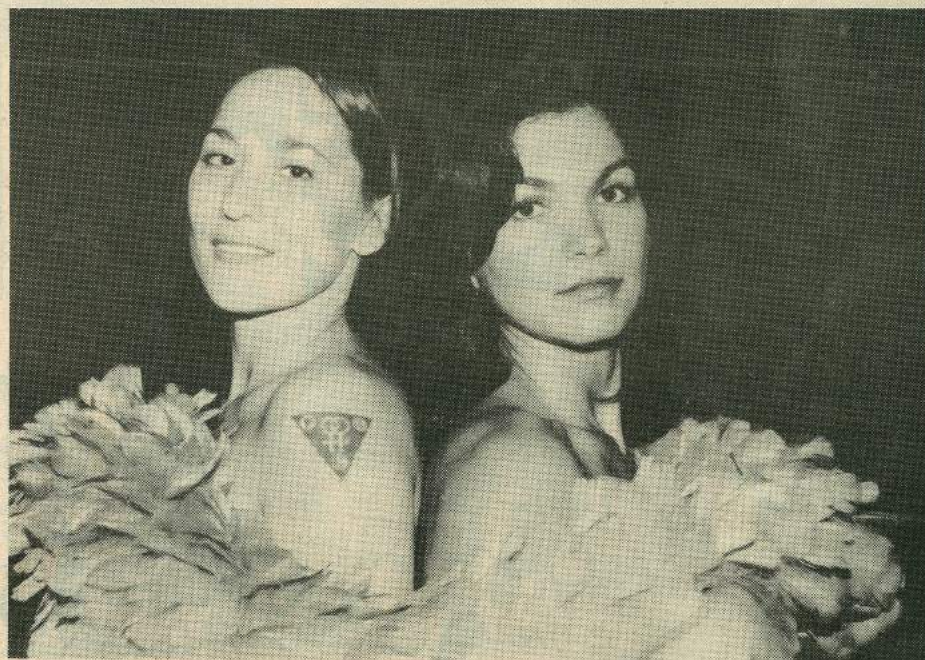
Caroline Burum, owner of Toopees Coffee Company, has been in the restaurant business since she was fourteen. For the three years preceding her venture into the cafe business, she sold coffee and restaurant equipment. Last June marked the second anniversary of Toopees, a favorite institution in the Montrose, especially in the lesbian community.

Caroline says that the cafe started out as a fantasy. She wanted the place to be comfortable, to have a free feeling about it. What she had in mind was the atmosphere of a living room. She started the business with a friend she'd played softball with for a couple

The Group (Theatre Workshop) Announces *Dos Lesbos* Opening

*Play: Dos Lesbos
Wednesdays &
Thursdays
8:00 p. m.
thru Nov. 7*

*Lovett Inn
Reservations
suggested
522-2204*



The Group (Theatre Workshop) announces opening night for their upcoming production of *Dos Lesbos*. *Dos Lesbos*, a two character comedy review by Terry Baum, ran for two years in San Francisco and was nominated for both the Bay Area Theater Critics' Playwrights and Cable Car Theater awards. Tony award winning director Kate McDermott says that *Dos Lesbos* uses many entertainment forms and delivers "homophobia" a charming and effective jab in the ribs, while being full of humor and candid fury.

Dos Lesbos opens Wednesday, October 2nd and runs each Wednesday and Thursday from October 3rd through November 7th, at the Lovett Inn, 501 Lovett Boulevard. Tickets are \$15.00 and all performances begin at 8:00 PM. The Group's production features Kim Sevier and Sue Ulu. Come early and view works of art by local lesbian artists. Seating is limited and reservations are recommended. Call 522-2204.

Creating Families

Billboards Deliver Positive

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Caroline says that the cafe started out as a fantasy. She wanted the place to be comfortable, to have a free feeling about it. What she had in mind was the atmosphere of a living room. She started the business with a friend she'd played softball with for a couple of years. They called each other "P" for partner. Although they considered several names for the business (Daily Grind and Les Beans among them), Toopees --for the "two P's" eventually won out. *continued on page 5*

Lesbians in Business (LiB) Celebrates 5th Anniversary

On Saturday, November 16, 1996, LiB's fifth anniversary will be celebrated with an Open House Party at 239 Westheimer (Suzanne Anderson Properties) from 4:00 p.m to 7:00 p.m. Light snacks and refreshments will be served. The celebration includes a roast of past board members and sharing favorite stories about LiB. MONETARY DONATIONS WELCOME!

In 1991, Stephanie Scott came to Suzanne Anderson with the idea of creating an organization for lesbians to network and support one another; this organization would be an alternative to 12-step groups and the bars. The five founding members: Stephanie Scott, Suzanne Anderson, Judith Meyer, Peggy Testa and Cicely Winn had lunch every Saturday for a couple of months. They combined their personal mailing lists and phone lists and made flyers to get the word out.

continued on page 5

opening night for their upcoming production of *Dos Lesbos*. *Dos Lesbos*, a two character comedy review by Terry Baum, ran for two years in San Francisco and was nominated for both the Bay Area Theater Critics' Playwrights and Cable Car Theater awards. Tony award winning director Kate McDermott says that *Dos Lesbos* uses many entertainment forms and delivers "homophobia" a charming and effective jab in the ribs, while being full of humor and candid fury.

Creating Families



Medical, Legal, Financial, and Other Practical Information You'll Want To Know About Adoption and Donor Insemination

The law firm of Moore & Hunt is sponsoring an all-day seminar called **Creating Families** on Saturday, October 19, 1996. The seminar will feature professionals from a variety of fields speaking on the topic of building families through adoption and artificial insemination.

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Billboards Deliver Positive Messages About Gays

HOUSTON - Heterosexual supporters of gay and lesbians are hoping to spread their message during rush hour traffic. Billboards around the city will feature the statements "Someone you know and love is gay" and "Millions can't share in the American Dream. Just because they're gay." The eight week advertising campaign is sponsored by the local chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).

"It is an important time for straight people to show support for gay loved ones," said PFLAG co-president Norma Graves. "One in four families has a member who is gay or lesbian. We hope that the billboards will encourage people to look beyond the myths and stereotypes and seek out accurate information about this issue."

PFLAG Billboard Campaign
See inside for billboard locations

**MILLIONS
CAN'T SHARE IN THE
AMERICAN DREAM.**

JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE GAY.

Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



Dykes To Watch Out For by Alison Bechdel



Billboards Deliver Positive Messages About Gays

"I want the same rights for my gay son and lesbian daughter that my straight son enjoys," Graves said. "I love my kids, and I'll do what it takes to make sure they have the same rights as I do."

Houston. Specify your donation is for the billboard campaign. Mail donations to P.O. Box 53796, Houston, Tx 77052-3796. PFLAG meets on the first Sunday of

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Billboards Deliver Positive — Messages About Gays

PFLAG has raised over \$41,000 for the project from individual and corporate donations. At the September meeting, Lesbians in Business (LiB) passed the hat and raised \$527 for the billboard campaign. Friday's unveiling of ten billboards on October 11, will coincide with National Coming Out Day which encourages gay and lesbian people to be open with family members, co-workers and friends. Over a million people will see the boards daily.

Designed by a group called Gay & Lesbian Families of America, the campaign debuted in San Diego during the Republican Convention. When PFLAG's Houston chapter learned about the effort in August, they felt an urgent need to bring the campaign here before the November election.

"This effort is important because the rhetoric against gay people is always intensified during the election season," stated PFLAG media director Kyle Young. "Gay people are scapegoats for all that ails the nation. Some candidates promote the idea that being pro-family requires our country to be against gay Americans." The billboard project illustrates what families are all about, Young said.

"I want the same rights for my gay son and lesbian daughter that my straight son enjoys," Graves said. "I love my kids, and I'll do what it takes to educate others about how wonderful they are. If that's not pro-family, I don't know what is."

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) promotes the health and well-being of gay persons, their families and friends through support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and secure civil rights. Founded in 1981, PFLAG is now organized in 400 communities throughout the United States, with 65,000 household members. The Houston chapter was recently named 1996 PFLAG Chapter of the Year. For information, call 867-9020, eMail pflaghoutx@aol.com.

PFLAG is still accepting donations. Make your checks payable to PFLAG



Houston. Specify your donation is for the billboard campaign. Mail donations to P.O.Box 53796, Houston, Tx 77052-3796. PFLAG meets on the first Sunday of the month at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 2:00pm, 345 Piney Point Road.

PFLAG Billboard Locations

- 1-45N (inbound) S/O 1-10**
230,600 viewers per day
- S.W. Frwy (inbound) east of Westpark**
141,400 viewers per day
- I-45N (inbound) N/O Tidwell**
138,200 viewers per day
- S.W. Frwy (inbound) E/O Newcastle**
129,900 viewers per day
- Katy Frwy (inbound) @ Bunker Hill**
124,800 viewers per day
- Gulf Frwy (inbound) N/O Munger**
122,000 viewers per day
- 290 (inbound) N/O Dacoma**
119,900 viewers per day
- East Frwy (outbound) E/O Lathrop**
77,000 viewers per day
- Eastex Frwy (inbound) S/O Loop 610**
80,000 viewers per day
- Westheimer (outbound) E/I Gessner**
35,000 viewers per day

1,198,800 people will see the campaign daily

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Weekly Events

SUNDAYS

Bering Memorial United Methodist Church - A Reconciling Congregation, 1440 Harold St. Sunday school 9:15am, Sunday Worship 10:50am.

Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection, 1919 Decatur 861-9149. Holy Eucharist Service at 8:30am (45 min); Choir Rehearsal 9:30am; Traditional Service 10:45am (Signed for hearing impaired and nursery available)

The Women's Group - The Women's Group meets at the **First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore at 10:45am** on the third floor. For more info, call Iris 529-8571.

Dignity 11am-2pm Coffee, snacks and conversation 5:30pm Holy Eucharist Worship, 1307 Yale. See Jul 8.
Houston Tennis Club (HTC), Memorial Park Tennis Center, meets from 9am to noon. HTC is a lesbian gay tennis club with members of all levels of play - beginner to advanced. For more info, call Bobby Riggins at 868-5039.

Rainbow Riders: A Bicycling Club for Womyn. Bicycle rides every Sunday morning. Easy, long, off road rides. All womyn are welcome regardless of ability and experience. FYI Cookie Davenport at 869-1686. eMail: guusje@aol.com

Montrose Flag Football, 1:00pm at Memorial Park. For more info, call 526-7271.

MONDAYS

HeartSong Women's Chorus rehearses at 7pm on the third floor of the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore. New and former members welcome. For info, call 947-1488.

Women's Roller Hockey 6-8pm at Trade Winds Roller Rink, 5006 West 34th at 290. All skill levels welcome. Bring your skates, a stick, pads & a helmet. \$8 per person. For info, call Trade Winds at 682-5312 or Houston Inline Association at 863-1107.

Monday Nite Women's Bowling League reports Legal Insanity is in first while Maybe, Maybe Not is in second. Nine is Fine is third and Walking Wounded is 4th. For info, call Pat 437-6218 or Marla at 862-3630.

TUESDAYS

Women's Clarity Group - A New Way 7pm to 9pm. 5906 Dolores #201, 784-6511. Facilitated by Linda Bedre.

CODA Support Group (CoDependency) at 7:00pm

THURSDAYS

Lesbian & Gay Voices, 9-11pm 90.1FM KPFT Womyn's music, reviews of gay and lesbian cultural events, new s from This Way Out.

FRIDAYS

CODA Support Group (CoDependency) at 7:00pm MCCR, 1919 Decatur, 861-9149 See entry for July 2.

Lesbian Avengers is a front line political activity dedicated to issues vital to lesbian survival and visibility. Join us in keeping the streets safe for good dykes everywhere. 7pm at Toopees, 1830 W. Alabama. Page Kristi at 760-5262 for info.

SATURDAYS

Dignity serving Houston's community of Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual Catholics and friends - 7:30pm Traditional Worship 1307 Yale Ste. H in the Heights. Call for events, schedule, movie night 880-2872.

Community Calendar October

15 TUESDAY

Gay and Lesbian Pride Week 1997 meets the first and third Tuesday at 7:00pm at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center at 1475 West Gray. For info, call 529-6979, eMail: info@pridehouston.org
<http://www.pridehouston.org/~pridehou>.

16 WEDNESDAY

Women with Life Challenging Illnesses meets on the third Wednesday of the month, 7:00-8:30pm. For info, call Marion at 667-8735 or Leila at 728-1914.

OutVote general meeting third Wednesdays. 7:00 pm 2700 Albany, Suite 304. FYI 713-521-1000.

Roundtable: The Houston Philosophy Forum moots 7pm on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, Cafe Express, 1422 W. Gray at Waugh. Topic: What have been the costs of being gay/lesbian/bisexual/transsexual in your life? Are we, as a group more prone to engage in substance abuse, to contract breast cancer or HIV, consider suicide or to be estranged from our families? How well do our community organizations address our special needs. Roundtable is open to anyone interested in civilized and lively discussion on the topics of the day. For further information call Jackie 779-8620 or Beth 728-5590.

17 THURSDAY

NOW fights for Lesbian Rights and all women's rights. 7-10pm. Conference Room of Suzanne Anderson Properties, 239 Westheimer, FYI 665-8NOW.

21 MONDAY

Cancer Support Group meets every other Monday at the Montrose Counseling Center 6:30-8:00pm. For info, call Virginia at 681-1309.

22 TUESDAY

23 WEDNESDAY

Women's Network-Achieving Intimacy - The Women's Network meets on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7-9pm at the Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, Room 15. For info, call 529-0037. A donation of \$3-\$5 per meeting is requested.

24 THURSDAY

HOG (Houston Outdoor Group) is a social group for gay men and lesbians who enjoy the outdoors. The general meeting is held the 4th Thursday of every month, 7-9pm, at the Assistance Fund Bldg, 1116 Jackson Blvd, one block north of Fairview, west of Montrose. For info, call the Hogline K-A-M-P-O-U-T.

25 FRIDAY

Gay & Lesbian Unitarians meets every fourth Friday night at 7:00pm in the Fireside Room of the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 5200 Fannin at Southmore. Bring apotluck dish to share. 529-7329.

26 SATURDAY

Houston Outdoor Group (HOG) Breakfast at Toupees on W. Alabama, 9am. Call Dennis for details at 529-2691 or just show up.

27 SUNDAY

The Women's Group Meets at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin in the Sojourner Truth room, third floor at 10:45am. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

28 MONDAY

29 TUESDAY

Houston Outdoor Group (HOG) Newsletter Mailout. Cal Don at 522-7809.

30 WEDNESDAY

31 THURSDAY

NOVEMBER

1 FRIDAY

Houston Outdoor Group (HOG) Pre-camp meeting at Toupees, 7pm for Rainbow Ranch Camping Trip on Nov. 8-10. Camping is \$7 per person per night. For info call Barb at 864-0082.

Retake Richmond - March on Richmond to protest (verbally and symbolically) the sexual objectification of women in bars and on billboards along the Richmond strip. Meet at 7:00pm at the southeast corner of Richmond and Chimney Rock. We are all aware of the

Women's Roller Hockey 6-8pm at Trade Winds Roller Rink, 5006 West 34th at 290. All skill levels welcome. Bring your skates, a stick, pads & a helmet. \$8 per person. For info, call Trade Winds at 682-5312 or Houston Inline Association at 863-1107.

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CODA Support Group (CoDependency) at 7:00pm MCCR, 1919 Decatur, 861-9149.

Southern Country Country Western Dance lessons at The Ranch, 9200 Buffalo Speedway, 8:00pm.

WEDNESDAYS

HIV Resource Network Meeting at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold. 6:45pm Potluck; 7:30pm group meetings: family groups, women's group, caregivers group, mixed HIV groups and HIV+ only groups.

Lambda Rollerskating Club Skate Night each Wednesday at Starlite Skating Rink, 8075 Cook Road at Beechnut, 575-7655, 8:30-10:30p.m. \$5 admission, \$6 if you rent their skates. Take I59 South, exit and turn right on Beechnut. Stay on Beechnut past the Sam Houston Parkway and turn right on Cook Road. For more info, call Keith at 933-5818.

Women's Clinic at the Montrose Clinic. Visits include complete exam by gynecologist, lab work, medication & referral if needed. \$40, but no one will be turned away. Appointment only: 520-2000.

MCCR Jubilation Mixed Ensemble 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal or Bible Study at 7:30pm, 1919 Decatur.

Get your instruments out of the closet! The Houston Pride Band has formed to provide musical entertainment for the lesbian and gay community. We are actively seeking musicians of all skill levels and instrumentation. Rehearsals are held at Dignity Houston, 1307 Yale on Wednesday nights from 7:00 to 9:00pm. Contact Russell Williams for further details at 524-0218 or send E-mail HousTxBand@aol.com.

THURSDAYS

20 Something meets each Thursday. Call 315-6786 for info.

Nancy Ford at Ms. Bs performing music and comedy at 8:30pm, 9200 Buffalo Speedway.

Express, 1422 W. Gray at Waugh. Topic: What have been the costs of being gay/lesbian/bisexual/transsexual in your life? Are we, as a group more prone to engage in substance abuse, to contract breast cancer or HIV, consider suicide or to be estranged from our families? How well do our community organizations address our special needs. Roundtable is open to anyone interested in civilized and lively discussion on the topics of the day. For further information call Jackie 779-8620 or Beth 728-5590.

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18 FRIDAY

LiB (Lesbians in Business), a woman's empowerment group, Networking 6:30-7:00pm. **Rhythm is Gonna Get You!** Jackie Doval, Mina Garcia, Liz Mendez and Gloria Silva present a crash course on Latino music and dance. Program/ speakers begins at 7:00pm. For info, call 529-0077. LiB meets at Innova Bldg one block south of Richmond between Wesleyan and Buffalo Speedway (on Cummins between Portsmouth and Norfolk). \$3 members/ \$5 non-members.

19 SATURDAY

Creating Families: Medical, Legal, Financial, and Other Practical Information You'll Want To Know About Adoption and Donor Insemination

The law firm of Moore & Hunt is sponsoring an all-day seminar called Creating Families on Saturday, October 19, 1996. The seminar will feature professionals from a variety of fields speaking on the topic of building families through adoption and artificial insemination. Cost for this all-day event is \$35.00, with lunch provided. Pre-registration required. For more info, see front page or call Natalie at 522-4282 ext. 10.

20 SUNDAY

The Women's Group - Meets at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin in a room on the third floor at 10:45am. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents Just For Us, social and support group for youth in 6th through 12th grades who have gay or lesbian parents. 6:00-7:00pm. Call 980-7995.

Lesbians Over Age Fifty (LOAF) meets the third Sunday of each month, from 2:00 to 4:00pm at the Houston Mission Church. The mailing address is POB 98601 Houston, TX 77098. For info, call 661-1482.

Manout. Call Don at 522-7809.

30 WEDNESDAY

31 THURSDAY

NOVEMBER

1 FRIDAY

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Retake Richmond - March on Richmond to protest (verbally and symbolically) the sexual objectification of women in bars and on billboards along the Richmond strip. Meet at 7:00pm at the southeast corner of Richmond and Chimney Rock. We are all aware of the link between negative and derogatory portrayals of women and violence waged against them. The organizers of this march are students at the Graduate School of Social Work on the University of Houston main campus. We are trying to raise awareness among the people who frequent the Richmond strip, the club owners, and those that simply drive by. Bring banners, signs, instruments. For info, call Lisa at 523-1835.

2 SATURDAY

Houston Black Tie Dinner 8-10pm, First City Bank Lobby. \$150 benefitting Allan G. Calkin Fund (LGRL), Assistance Fund, Bering Community Service Foundation, Body Positive Houston, Lesbian Health Initiative, Montrose Clinic, Montrose Counseling Center, Names Project Houston, The Omega House, Pflag Houston, People with AIDS Coalition Houston, Texas Human Rights Foundation and the Victory Fund. For info, call 524-5123.

3 SUNDAY

P-FLAG Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays general meeting - 2pm St. Francis Episcopal Church, 345 Piney Point Road, 867-9020.

4 MONDAY

1997 Houston Texas Lesbian Conference Planning Meeting, June through August - 7pm at Suzanne Anderson Properties, 239 Westheimer. For info page Torrie Justus at 916-8110.

5 TUESDAY

Lesbian Health Initiative meets at 7:00pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the Montrose Counseling Center. For info, call 681-1309.

Gay and Lesbian Pride Committee executive meeting meets the first Tuesday at 7:00pm at the Metropolitan Multi-Service Center at 1475 West Gray. For info, call 529-6979, eMail:info@pridehouston.org <http://www.pridehouston.org/~pridehou>.

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Calendar Continued

6 WEDNESDAY

Roundtable: The Houston Philosophy Forum moots 7pm on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month, Cafe Express, 1422 West Gray. Roundtable is open to anyone interested in civilized and lively discussion on the topics of the day. For further information call Jackie 779-8620 or Beth 728-5590.

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus general meeting first Wednesdays at 7:30pm, 2700 Albany 304. For info, call 521-1000.

Gay Lesbian Hispanics Unidos (GLHU) regular monthly meeting, 7:30pm. Metropolitan Multi Service Center, 1475 West Gray. 270-GLHU.

7 THURSDAY

Lesbian & Gay Voices 90.1 KPFT FM 9-11pm

8 FRIDAY

9 SATURDAY

Toupees Coffee & Co - Acoustic Folk Rock Country Lesli Wood first Saturdays. 52-AROMA

12 Step Women's Support Group for addictions, grief work, healing and empowerment, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. on the 2nd Saturday of each month for women

15 FRIDAY

LiB (Lesbians in Business), a woman's empowerment group, Networking 6:30-7:00pm. Special Guest Speaker Chastity Bono, spokeswoman for the Human Rights Campaign. Program/ speakers begins at 7:00pm. For info, call 529-0077. LiB meets at Innova Bldg one block south of Richmond between Wesleyan and Buffalo Speedway (on Cummins between Portsmouth and Norfolk). The meeting is regularly \$3 members/ \$5 non-members. For Chastity Bono's appearance at LiB, tickets will be sold in advance.

16 SATURDAY

Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents Thanksgiving Potluck. For info, call 284-4939.

LiB (Lesbians in Business) 5th Anniversary Party, 4:00pm to 7:00pm - an Open House party at 239 Westheimer (Suzanne Anderson Properties).

Refreshments, favorite LiB stories and a roast of past board members. For info, call 529-0077. See article.

17 SUNDAY

African American Lesbian Gay Alliance meets 3rd Sundays of the month. Call 864-2242, PO Box 130818, Houston 77219

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AND ASSOCIATES**

Joyce M. Gayles, PHD.

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10 SUNDAY

The Women's Group - The Women's Group meets at the First Unitarian Church, 5200 Fannin on the third floor at 10:45am. Call Iris at 529-8571 for info.

Sisters (for African-American women, meets every second Sunday) Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond 5-8 pm. 777-2999

11 MONDAY

Texas Medical Center LAMBDA Network meeting, 5pm second Monday each month. RAS W-204 (School of Public Health Bldg). We welcome all TMC Lesbian, Gay and Bi- friendly students, staff and faculty. For info, call 523-5539 or sph1319@utsph.sph.uth.tmc.edu

Cancer Support Group meets every other Monday at the Montrose Counseling Center 6:30-8:00pm. For info, call Virginia at 681-1309.

Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Dinner/Speaker Meeting, \$20 per person fee. RSVP to GHGLCC Voice Mail 523-7576.

12 TUESDAY

Houston Gay and Lesbian Parents - a support group for the parents on the second Tuesday of the month and also a monthly family activity, MCCR, 1919 Decatur, 980-7995.

13 WEDNESDAY

Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus board meeting second Wednesdays at 7:30pm. 521-1000.

Women's Network - The Women's Network meets on 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7-9pm at the Montrose Counseling Center, 701 Richmond, Room 15. For info, call 529-0037. A donation of \$3-\$5 per meeting is requested.

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Deep Sea Fishing Club Forming (name yet to be chosen)

P.O. Box 66450, Houston, TX 77266

A Gay & Lesbian deep sea fishing club is now being formed. If interested in helping to start the club or to be on our free mailing list, contact John at (713) 523-6381. Our first outing will be an all day trip out of Galveston and will include transportation, lunch and beer. The cost will be around \$120 per person with a limit of 12 people. This trip is being organized by the 611 Hyde Park Pub, located at 611 Hyde Park in Montrose, and the sign up sheet for those interested is next to the front door. This trip is open to anyone and more info can be obtained by calling 526-7070. Ask for Dennis.

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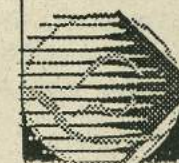
Patricia Anne O'Kane
ATTORNEY AT LAW

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HOUSTON ▼ 77002
Not Certified by TX Bd. of Legal Specialization

J.M. GAYLES AND ASSOCIATES

Joyce M. Gayles, PH.D.
Clinical Psychologist

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Creating Families

Medical, Legal, Financial, and Other Practical Information You'll Want To Know About Adoption and Donor Insemination *continued from page 1*

Houston-based therapist Sherry M. Wilson, MSW-LMSW-ACP, will begin the day with how to prepare psychologically and emotionally for having children. Snow Wu, from the Great Wall of China Adoption Agency, will lend insight into dealing with adoption agencies. Dr. William Schindler, a leading practitioner in artificial insemination, will cover the actual medical process of getting pregnant through insemination. Julie LaRue, LUTCF, of the Acacia Group, will provide information of financial planning for adoptive families.

The afternoon session will feature attorneys Connie Moore and Debra E. Hunt leading discussions on the legal process of donor insemination and adoptions. They will explore topics such as legal planning for pregnancy, delivery, and post-birth situations, the rights of birth parents versus adoptive parents, and the specific court procedures required for adoptions in Texas. The day wraps up with a panel discussion consisting of people who have already been through the process of building a family through adoption. An informational "how to" source book will be provided, and each speaker will be available to answer questions at the end of each segment. Cost for this all-day event is \$35.00, with lunch provided in-house. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required. For more information, please call Natalie Williams at 713-522-4282 ext. 10.

Lesbians in Business Celebrates 5th Anniversary

continued from page 1

The first meeting was also publicized on Breakthrough on KPFT 90.1FM. LiB held its first meeting in October 1991 upstairs at Inklings Bookshop. Pokey Anderson and Annise Parker, co-owners of Inklings Bookshop made a presentation on how they started their bookshop to a packed house of 32-33 women.

LiB needed a larger meeting space and met at a church off of Waugh before settling at the Innova Building. Two women were added to the Steering Committee and bylaws were written. The founding members tried very hard not to be classist. The annual membership fee was originally \$10 and they had the idea of charging \$3 per monthly meeting, which would be a total of \$46 a year, instead of asking to women to pay \$45 or \$50 up front. The first election was held in March 1992. Stephanie Scott was the first president; three of the founding members were officers the first year. In 1993, LiB was the host organization for the Texas Lesbian Conference. LiB meeting night was held at the conference in the hotel. The meeting opened with a performance by the Women's Action Coalition drum core, followed by LiB's traditional stand-up-and-introduce-yourself. There was much deliberation over the decision to have introductions with that large a group, but it turned out to be a tremendously empowering experience. The keynote speakers were Del Martin and Phyllis Lyons, co-authors of **lesbian/woman**.

LiB has produced other special events, including speakers Linda Villarosa, editor of **Essence** magazine, JoAnn Loulan, June Jordan, Ann Northman, and Mimi

integrate their working lives / business endeavors into the lesbian community.

When Pokey Anderson, co-owner of Inklings Bookshop, has participated on a panel presenting Houston's lesbian history, she has said how difficult it was in the seventies to gather together a "critical mass of lesbians". They would plan events and try to get the word out and the same modest sized group would show up. There have been other organizations over the years: Hazelwitch, which has produced many concerts and speakers over the years; Womynspace, whose leadership played a large role in organizing the first Texas Lesbian Conference in Houston; the Women's Group at the Unitarian Church which has met once a week for over 25 years; the Women's Network at the Montrose Counseling Center and many others. LiB carved out a niche for itself. For five years LiB has consistently congregated a "critical mass of lesbians" on a monthly basis who focus primarily on a lesbian agenda. Join us celebrating LiB's 5th Anniversary on November 16.

Sue Cox

LiB meets on the third Friday of each month at the Innova Building.

INNOVA BLDG		Richmond	Edloe Timmons
		Portsmouth	
		Norfolk	
Weslayan	Cummins	Southwest	

consisting of people who have already been through the process of building a family through adoption. An informational "how to" source book will be provided, and each speaker will be available to answer questions at the end of each segment. Cost for this all-day event is \$35.00, with lunch provided in-house. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required. For more information, please call Natalie Williams at 713-522-4282 ext. 10.

Chasity Bono will be Speaker at November 15 LiB Meeting

Chastity Bono, Spokeswoman 1996 for the National Coming Out Project for the Human Rights Campaign, will be our special guest speaker at the November LiB meeting. Chastity is a writer for the Advocate, singer, musician, and composer. She is the out lesbian daughter of Sonny Bono, Republican congressman from California and Cher, an Oscar-winning movie star. Chastity will speak about her personal struggle in coming out and her work as Spokeswoman for the National Coming Out Project, in an ongoing effort to urge gay men and lesbian to be open about their sexual orientation and dispel myths about our lives. She envisions an America where lesbian and gay people are ensured of their basic equal rights -- and can be open, honest and safe at home, work and in the community. For more info, call the LiB line at 529-0077 or Suzanne Anderson, Program Committee Chair at 529-8484 or Diane Portilla at 552-1448.

Action Coalition drum core, followed by LiB's traditional stand-up-and-introduce-yourself. There was much deliberation over the decision to have introductions with that large a group, but it turned out to be a tremendously empowering experience. The keynote speakers were Del Martin and Phyllis Lyons, co-authors of **lesbian/woman**.

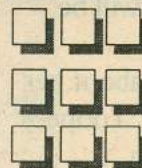
LiB has produced other special events, including speakers Linda Villarosa, editor of *Essence* magazine, JoAnn Loulan, June Jordan, Ann Northrup and Minnie Bruce Pratt/ Leslie Feinberg. Particularly well received was *Breast Cancer Prevention Day*, sponsored by LiB, Lesbian Health Initiative and the Montrose Counseling Center. Through this event, lesbians received a breast exam and a mammogram for \$5.00 and were able to talk with lesbian nurses and physicians. On an ongoing basis, LiB provides a forum for lesbians to network and

INNOVA BLDG		Richmond	Edloe
		Portsmouth	
		Norfolk	Timmons
Weslayan		Cummins	
		Southwest	
		Freeway	

Lesbians in Business is organized to provide opportunities for lesbians to meet in order that we might know each other, patronize our businesses, and share information, skills and opportunities to our benefit. LiB welcomes lesbians of all abilities, interests, races, educational backgrounds, areas of employment, and those seeking additional or new employment opportunities. Meetings are 3rd Fridays at the Innova Building in the Greenway Plaza (see map) on the first floor. The meeting is \$3 for members and \$5 for non-members. The annual membership fee is \$15; everyone renews membership in January. LiB's general meeting begins with Networking at 6:30p.m. with drinks and snacks provided. At 7:00p.m., LiB's ritual 'passing the microphone' begins. When a woman receives the mike, she has the option to introduce herself and her work to the group. Through this ritual each woman learns what others have to offer and with whom she may wish to connect after the program. Announcements and a speaker follow. The October topic is "Rhythm is Gonna Get You", a panel presentation on latino dance and music. In November, LiB presents special guest speaker, Chastity Bono; tickets will be sold in advance for this meeting. There is no meeting or monthly newsletter in December. LiB sponsors a holiday party in December and a New Year's Eve Gala. For more information, call the LiB line at 529-0077.



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Inklings Book Corner

Ellen DeGeneres seems to be on the lips of every lesbian in Houston right now. Well ... unfortunately, it's "Ellen" the show, not Ellen herself. Will she really come out on mainstream tv ... well, will her character named "Ellen" really come out? I admit, I tried pushing the Fast Forward button on my remote, trying to see the next episode a week early. It doesn't work ... patience is in order. While you're waiting, you can pick up Ellen ... well, just her book. My Point ... and I Do Have One is comic muses blended with semi-autobiographical non-revelations (now in paperback, \$6.50*).

The best mystery I've read recently is Ellen Hart's new one, Robber's Wine (Seal Press, \$21.95*). This is the seventh in her series featuring amateur Minneapolis detective Jane Lawless. Hart has always written solid, complex plots, and her characters have a lot of psychological depth. But this time, our lesbian hero gets a girlfriend (gasp)! Many of us lead a lesbian lifestyle for years on end without benefit of a girlfriend to practice our hard-won lifestyle on; this has been the case for Jane Lawless until now. A number of us who read Ellen Hart have been urging the author to flesh out the lesbian aspect; this book heads in the right direction. My favorite character, though, was a gay waiter who defends Jane when the bad guy calls her a "faggot." I want this guy to go with me everywhere! If you want to check out an earlier Jane Lawless, try Hallowed Murder (\$4.99) or Lammy winner A Small Sacrifice (\$5.99).

Another new mystery is Liberty Square (\$21.95*, Berkeley), the long-awaited Katherine Forrest release. Lesbian detective Kate Delafield goes to Washington for a reunion with her military colleagues from Vietnam, and ends up searching for a killer among her pals. This is more complex and more interesting than her other recent books,

Business Profile: Caroline Burum

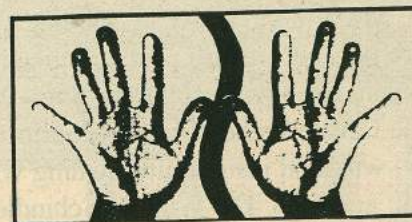
Owner of Toopees Coffee & CO

continued from page 1 The current site of Toopees was not their first choice (that was a property at Dunlavy and Allen Parkway whose owners turned them down because they were gay). Instead, they ended up at the former site of the Ballpark Bookstore, an adult bookstore. In an interim period of three weeks, the cafe site also housed a convenience store that installed the blue awning that still shades the building. The property was much larger than what the partners had in mind, but the business has grown to fill the space. Caroline is currently in the process of buying her partner out.

Training for the operation of Toopees turned out to be an on-the-job learning experience, one that led Caroline to find out in a hurry how to deal with staff, taxes, the IRS, landlords, and street people. While she envisioned a mellow, slow-paced establishment, she found out that her customers wanted a full-service restaurant. She never had cooked before, so when a carrot cake was wanted, she provided a recipe and saw how it went over. Running Toopees is a passion of hers, and Caroline gets up willingly at 4:30 each morning to begin the work day.

In her view, the regular customers make the place. Each month, they furnish the art of the walls, play live music, and draw in crayon on the brown paper-covered tables. The staff remains in the background, just a part of it. After the first two months of operation, Sara Hickman played a benefit at Toopees. The event received a lot of press and served as an introduction to many who hadn't know the cafe existed. The concert earned a thousand dollars for a women in

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The first wave of customers each morning consists of the commuters who drop by for coffee and a scone. Toopees sees their arrivals and departures for a period of three hours each weekday. After 9:30, their customers tend to be students, teachers and writers. At night, the mood is social, and the clientele appears much more relaxed. The weekend sees broad changes throughout the day. Breakfast draws a huge straight crowd, yet more recently, gay men have started to

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waiter who defends Jane when the bad guy calls her a "faggot." I want this guy to go with me everywhere! If you want to check out an earlier Jane Lawless, try Hallowed Murder (\$4.99) or Lammy winner A Small Sacrifice (\$5.99).

Another new mystery is Liberty Square (\$21.95*, Berkeley), the long-awaited Katherine Forrest release. Lesbian detective Kate Delafield goes to Washington for a reunion with her military colleagues from Vietnam, and ends up searching for a killer among her pals. This is more complex and more interesting than her other recent books, so perhaps her move to a new publisher has been a good one. My favorite previous Delafield mystery is Beverly Malibu, which gives a great background on the blacklisting of the 1950's. A new book recommended to corporate women is How to Succeed in Business Without a Penis: Secrets and Strategies for the Working Woman, by Karen Salmansohn (\$21). This is filled with practical, empowering advice and delivered with an irreverent sense of humor.

Windswept, by Magdalena Zschokke (\$10.95, New Victoria) is a well-crafted novel by a woman who knows her sailing and also writes well. Three women meet the challenge of isolation and the tests of strength that come with weeks spent on the open ocean in an all-women crew.

And, just for fun, check out The History of Lesbian Hair, and Other Tales of a Bent Life in a Straight World, by Mary Dugger (\$10, Doubleday). This is an unrelentingly hilarious view of the modern world. A great gift!

Contributed by:

*Pokey Anderson
and Dorothy Holland,
Inklings Bookshop*

*** Note:**

The first three titles are 15% off at Inklings.

gets up willingly at 11:00 each morning to begin the work day.

In her view, the regular customers make the place. Each month, they furnish the art of the walls, play live music, and draw in crayon on the brown paper-covered tables. The staff remains in the background, just a part of it. After the first two months of operation, Sara Hickman played a benefit at Toopees. The event received a lot of press and served as an introduction to many who hadn't know the cafe existed. The concert earned a thousand dollars for a women in need of a hysterectomy.

Caroline will be applying for a small business loan in order to upgrade the kitchen, an enormous room she describes as "a shell of a kitchen." Their central cooking unit began as a number of camp stoves lined up in a row. Four burners, they found out, were enough to serve the breakfast crowd.

Last August, Toopees hosted a singles party advertised in the *Houston Press* as a get-together for single lesbians only. The National Organization of Women (NOW) and the Human Rights Campaign have also sponsored special events at Toopees. A cyberspace station is currently in the works (Toopees had had its own site on the web for some time), so patrons will be able to access the Internet.

What Caroline enjoys most about her work is the staff and her customers. Toopees is a safe for young and older women. Women can come in by themselves. Poets, artists, and musicians frequent Toopees as well. There is live music every weekend.

While heterosexuals and diverse people of all ages patronize Toopees, it is important to Caroline that it stays in the community. She compares Toopees to a village, and she wants it to remain local.

The first wave of customers each morning consists of the commuters who drop by for coffee and a scone. Toopees sees their arrivals and departures for a period of three hours each weekday. After 9:30, their customers tend to be students, teachers and writers. At night, the mood is social, and the clientele appears much more relaxed. The weekend sees broad changes throughout the day. Breakfast draws a huge straight crowd, yet more recently, gay men have started to be a part of the scene.

Toopees also serves as a natural point for meeting places. LiB (Lesbians in Business) committee meetings often end up there, and the Lesbian Avengers attracted thirty people at their first meeting. The Women's Action Coalition (WAC) used to meet there, and on Friday mornings, a group of people working on masters degrees in social work congregate.

In her spare time, Caroline enjoys soccer and cycling. Not only did she ride in the MS-150 this year, but she also completed her first marathon, the Houston-Tenneco race held in January. She finds time to spend co-parenting her niece, Sophie, who just turned six, and for making stained-glass windows.

Toopees provides catered food for weddings, holiday parties, office parties and meetings, and art openings. A cart is available for pastry, cappuccino, and espresso service. They are located at 1830 W. Alabama.

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	Saturday	7 a.m. to 12:30 a.m.
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Denise Wenner

The WAND is a monthly publication of Womynspace, a 100% volunteer organization.

Opinions expressed in articles printed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of the WAND or the Womynspace organization as a whole.

Submissions to the calendar: Groups may send us notice of their regular meetings and special events by the 15th of the month for next month's issue. We are glad to network with other groups that work for social change and share a feminist perspective.

Submissions of articles, poetry and cover art should have positive, coalition building content. Articles may be submitted on IBM 3.5" diskettes, ASCII or WordPerfect format. Please use 3" columns for typed submissions. Sign and include a phone number.

WAND Layout is scheduled around the 20th of the month. Check the calendar for date or call 664-9215.

We need community support to ensure the WAND is a comprehensive networking directory for the women's community. WAND distribution is 2,000 copies.

Advertising Rates for the WAND

Call 728-3637 for information.

Approximate Size	1 month	3 months
Business Card	\$25	\$67.50
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Texas Lesbian Conference '97 Houston, May 16-18

Renaissance Houston Hotel

Remember the Texas Lesbian Conference that we had in Houston in 1993? Well, get ready - it's going to happen again, but this one will be even better - because we will be celebrating a decade of empowerment! We are planning on speakers, entertainment and workshops that will knock your socks off! We are starting to gear up for this event and need your input and help. For



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How I Spent My Hiatus

I called our editor in July to tell her that I would be unable to do much on the Wand because my STP (Sweetie Pie) was having surgery on August 2 for a hernia. The surgeon had told her that she would be off work for three weeks and I could see the "Honey Do" list growing every day.

August 2 came and the surgery was done to everyone's satisfaction. She had to spend a couple of nights in the Hospital but was released on her own recognizance on Sunday. I took her home and started lining up the appointments-Monday the surgeon, Thursday the surgeon, etc.

She was having such pain that by Wednesday, we were back in the hospital at the ER. It seems that she picked this time to pass her second kidney stone of the summer. This one was so large that it had to be removed surgically.

August 9 came and her second surgery was done again to everyone's satisfaction. Another two days in the hospital and she was sent home to recuperate, again. I'm now adding Urologist appointments and lab visits to the "to Do List".

As part of the pre-op tests for her first surgery, the lab had done an EKG. To our surprise there was an abnormal hump that the surgeon wanted us to follow-up on. Now we have added the cardiologist to the list and more lab work including an echo cardiogram and thallium stress test (which takes place at 6 AM).

Her wounds are healing and the sky is again rosie until September 15 rolls around. It's a football Sunday so I've planned to crash in front of the TV for the day, when a little voice screams out full volume "I'M HAVING ANOTHER KIDNEY STONE ATTACK."

Back we go to the ER, where they shoot her full of pain medicine then send us home. I add the urologist back to the list. He wants her to have an ultrasound of the plumbing but tells her that it is definite that she has chronic kidney stone disease. He sent her a diet to follow is supposed to reduce the formation of the specific kinds of stones she makes. We wonder why lamb quarters and beets are high on the list when she never eats this stuff. I would have understood ice cream or pizza, but dandelion greens?

The results of the cardiac tests came back completely normal. We breathed a big sigh of relief. The rest of the urologist tests are scheduled for October 9 so

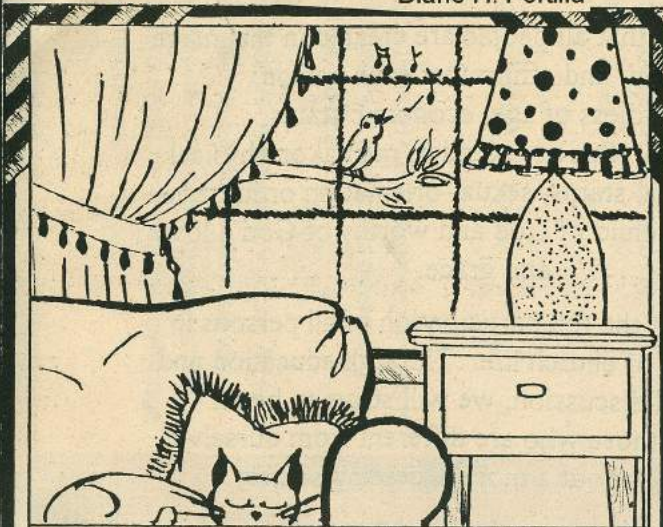
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Remember the Texas Lesbian Conference that we had in Houston in 1993? Well, get ready - it's going to happen again, but this one will be even better - because we will be celebrating a decade of empowerment! We are planning on speakers, entertainment and workshops that will knock your socks off! We are starting to gear up for this event and need your input and help. For information about the Conference, call our recorded TLC voice mail message at (713) 867-3934, and if you'd like to volunteer for one of our committees, just leave your name and phone number and we'll be back in touch with you.

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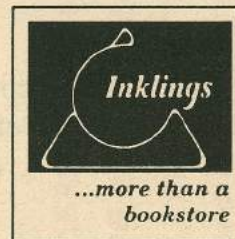
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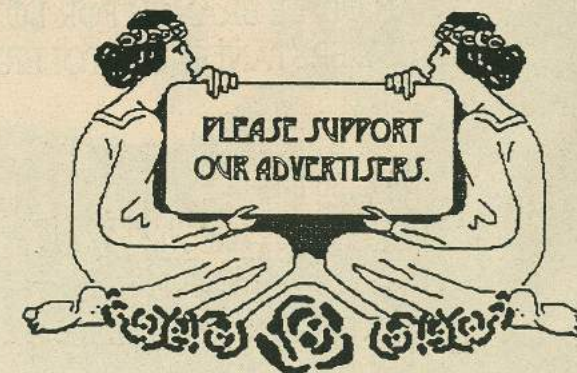
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Back we go to the ER, where they shoot her full of pain medicine then send us home. I add the urologist back to the list. He wants her to have an ultrasound of the plumbing but tells her that it is definite that she has chronic kidney stone disease. He sent her a diet to follow is supposed to reduce the formation of the specific kinds of stones she makes. We wonder why lamb quarters and beets are high on the list when she never eats this stuff. I would have understood ice cream or pizza, but dandelion greens?

The results of the cardiac tests came back completely normal. We breathed a big sigh of relief. The rest of the urologist tests are scheduled for October 9 so we think it may be finally getting over. STP is feeling better at last.

So I called our editor to tell her I was ready to rock and roll again. The moral of this story is STP has health insurance and I do not. The bills have been over \$30,000 of which she only makes a small co-pay.

In January I had a small lump biopsied at M.D. Anderson. We were in and out of the hospital in less than six hours. My bill was \$7,500 and I am responsible for all of it. We can't keep waiting for national HealthCare. Put your political clout behind candidates who will help make a difference instead of dragging on the status quo.--BK



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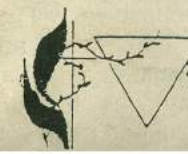
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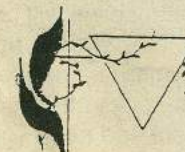


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2404 Montrose Blvd. 529-5330



BERING MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

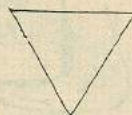
A RECONCILING CONGREGATION



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
FLAME & CROSS REPRESENTING
THE HOLY SPIRIT



AN OLIVE BRANCH FOR LOVE,
UNDERSTANDING & TOLERANCE



COMMUNITY TRIANGLE

RECONCILING CONGREGATION STATEMENT

We proclaim that all people are created in the image
of God, and affirm that each person,
regardless of age, economic status,
faith history, ethnicity, gender, mental or physical
ability, marital status, sexual-orientation or lifestyle,
is a beloved child of God and worthy of God's love
and grace.

We support the full participation of all persons in
every phase of church life. Through education and
informal discussion, we will strive to better
understand those who are different from ourselves
to bring about a more accepting society.

We recognize ourselves to be a reconciling
congregation within our conference and choose to
officially associate ourselves with the reconciling
congregation movement as a sign of hope and
through this association to foster the spirit of
reconciliation and a movement toward inclusiveness.

1440 Harold St. @ Mulberry Located in the Heart of Montrose
Houston, Texas 77006 (713) 526-1017