

Power In Motion
Power In Motion
Power In Motion
TLC 2000

2000

Texas Lesbian Conference

May 19 – 21, 2000

Renaissance Houston Hotel

Program

Welcome to Houston, Texas and the 2000 Texas Lesbian Conference!

May 19, 2000

Welcome to the 13th Annual Lesbian Conference in Houston, Texas!

This conference has been held each year since 1988, beginning in Dallas, Texas. Texas has been the only state to provide an annual conference for lesbians. The Conference is hosted annually in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and Austin. TLC offers an opportunity for lesbians from Texas, the United States and around the World to meet, network, learn and be entertained. The TLC2000 steering Committee, composed of all volunteers, has worked for almost a year to create this weekend for the community.

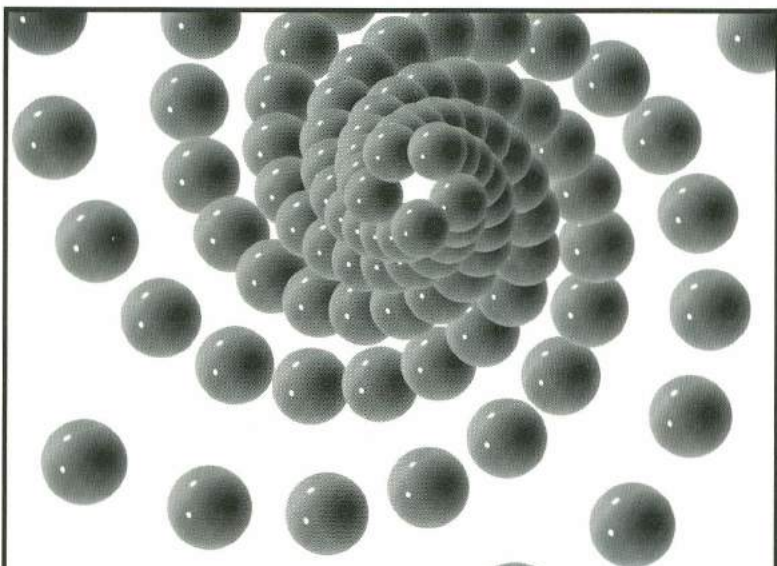
We thank each and everyone of your for your support of this conference.

Come and experience "POWER IN MOTION" at the TLC 2000.

Madelyn McNeil
Co-Chair

Christy Burchette
Co-Chair

Texas Lesbian Conference 2000 - Houston, Texas



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The Herstory of the Texas Lesbian Conference, Inc.

The Texas Lesbian Conference is the only statewide annual conference held in the United States. Educating and empowering Texas lesbians are the primary purposes of the conference. Begun in 1988 by a small group of Dallas women, the conference is celebrating its 16th birthday this year!

Conferences are planned each year by local grass roots committees, rotating among Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and Austin. While the conference develops a unique flavor each year, there are some consistencies as well. Each year workshops by talented lesbians from across the state are offered. While the first year offered 10 workshops, current conferences offer as many as 25 – 30 choices!

In addition, speakers known nationally or in Texas stimulate the participants with provocative ideas. Representing various areas of interest, including political, social, psychological, philosophical, health and humor, past keynote presenters have been Colonel Margarethe Cammermeyer, Deb Price, Sonia Hohnson, J.E.B., Gloria Anzaldua, Antoinette Azolakov, Leticia Gomez, Joan Nestle, Ivy Young, Del Martin, Phyllis Lyon, Sabrina Sojourner, Emma Perez, Laurie Eiserloh, Susie Bright, Nancy Lee Jose, Akasha Hull, Marga Gomez, Linda Villarosa, Harryette Ehrherdt, Marg Plumb and Rita Shimmin.

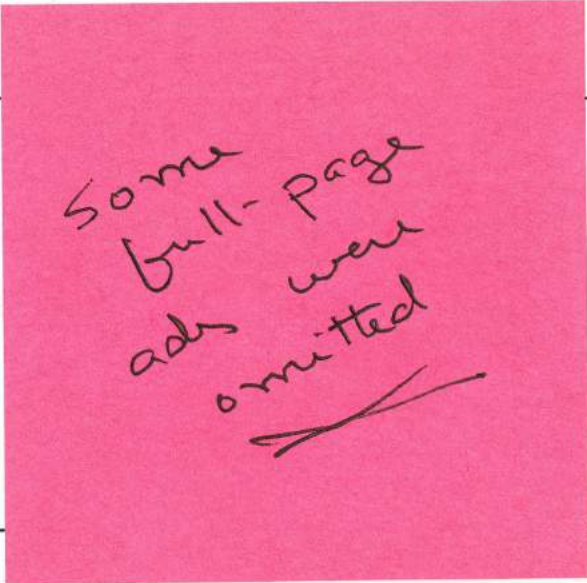
Additionally, a dance has been a consistent feature of the conference since its inception. Saturday night entertainers were added at the Dallas 1992 conference, which have included Kate Clinton, Marga Gomez and Suzanne Westenhoffer.

Until 1993, the conference was loosely organized. Each year "seed money" (if there was any) was passed from one local planning committee to the next. Information about conference planning was infrequently given from one group to the next. To minimize the need to start over each year, and help insure the continuation of the conference, the TLC incorporated after the 1993 conference. A statewide board was formed and non-profit 501(c)3 status was obtained soon after. The TLC, Inc. board provides each year's planning committee with mailing lists, non-profit status and expertise from past conference planning. In addition, they provide seed money loans to help with startup costs for each conference. (continued on p. 7)

The Herstory of the Texas Lesbian Conference, Inc. (Continued)

As in past conferences, this year's TLC promises to be exciting and includes some innovations. Over 15 fun and exciting workshops will be offered this year! A diverse group of keynote speakers including Urvashi Vaid, Alison Bechdel and Ntosake Shange will highlight this year's theme "*Power in Motion*". Marga Gomez will be the Saturday night featured entertainer, the dance which follows promises to be night filled with music and friends.

Thanks for being here this year. We hope you enjoy the conference, and as a participant, you are now part of the thousands of lesbians who ARE the conference's exciting herstory!!



Some
full-page
ads were
omitted


LESBIAN HEALTH OUTREACH PROJECT

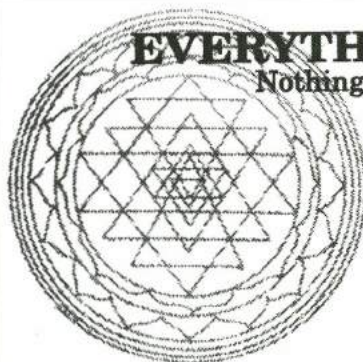
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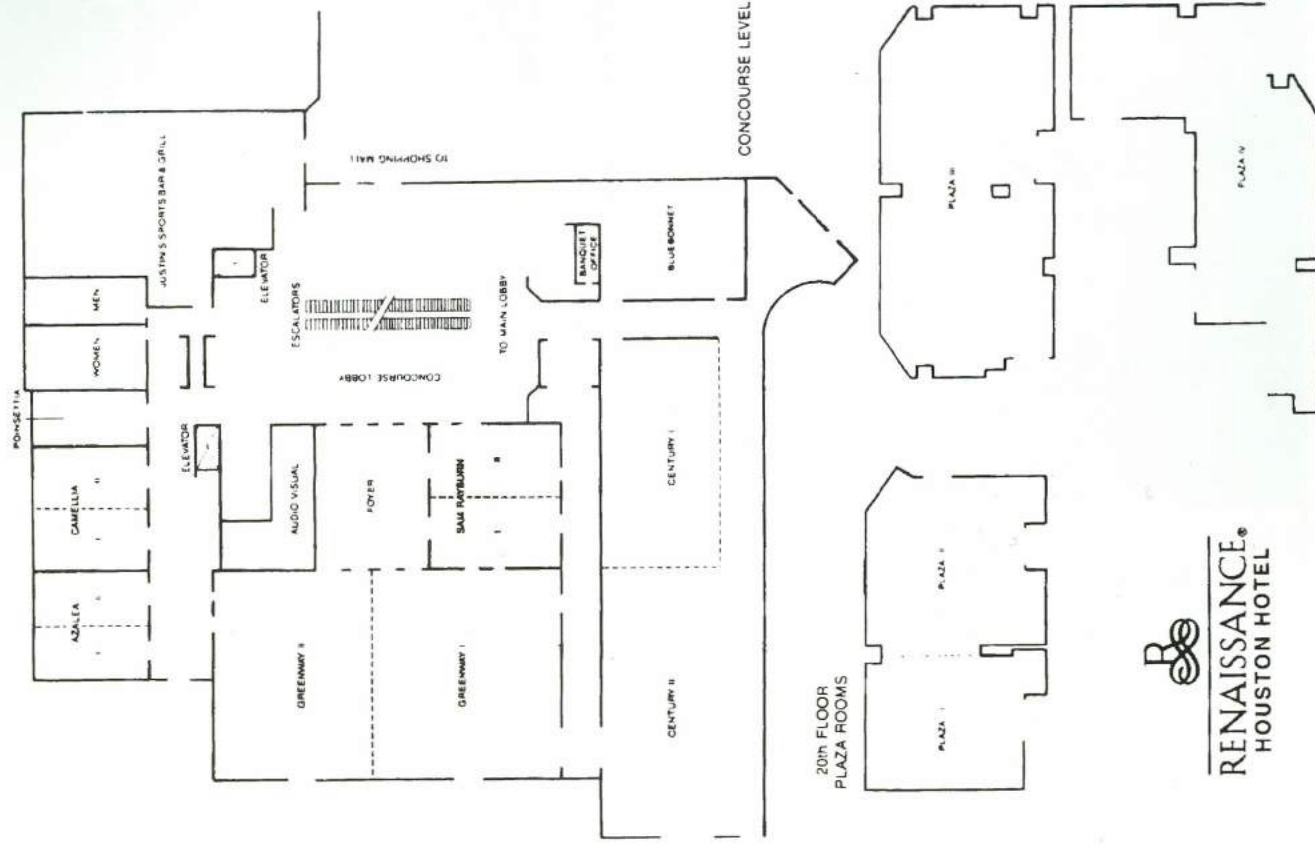


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Hotel Floorplan



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Board of Directors of the Texas Lesbian Conference, Inc.

The TLC, Inc. Board of Directors are women who are dedicated to ensuring that the conference continues into the future. The Board is composed of two women from each of the host cities: Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio, and six At-Large positions, with three dedicated to women of color, and three to women who live in areas other than the host cities.

Each of the host city's representatives must have been involved in the planning of their city's conference. This experience is crucial to the next conference because it is a sharing of information. Although this requirement is not mandatory for the At-Large representatives, it is the hope of the Board that these women will take an active role in developing future conferences.

The following women are working hard to ensure the future of your TLC:

Austin:	Susan West Vacancy
Dallas:	Vacancy Vacancy
Houston:	Kay Hejny – Treasurer Cynthia Mills – Board Meeting Implementer Alma Aquirre – Representative
San Antonio:	Debbie Beneindes – Representative Dulce Beneindes – WOC
At-Large (Women of Color):	1. Cynthia Mills – 2000 2. Dulce Beneindes – 2001
At-Large (Geographic Locations):	1. RoxAnne Jupe – 2003 2. Vacancy 3. Vacancy

Openings:

- Two representatives from San Antonio
- Two representatives from Dallas
- One representative from Austin
- One At-Large (Women of Color)
- Two At-Large (Geographic Location)

At-Large positions are filled by a self-nomination process at the current conference. If you are interested in any of the At-Large positions, please contact any TLC, Inc. Board Member. There will be a conference Board Meeting on Saturday, May 20th. The room will be announced!

The TLC '2000 is sponsored in part by grants from:

The John Steven Kellett Foundation is a grant making private foundation established in 1992, based in Houston. The Foundation was created to make funding available to 510(c)3 organizations which work to end violence and discrimination, provide education in these areas, and/or seek to develop public policy in areas where such policy is lacking or inadequate.

Astrea National Lesbian Action Foundation is the first nationwide lesbian foundation. Begun in 1977 by a multi-racial, multi-cultural group of feminist activists, Astrea seeks to empower ALL women and girls through financial and organizational support. In recognition of the contributions and needs of lesbians, Astrea became the National Lesbian Action Foundation in 1990. Grant making programs fund projects which embrace diversity and inclusivity and are actively working to eliminate all forms of oppression and other factors that affect lesbians in the U.S.

The TLC 2000 steering committee is most grateful for the support given by these foundations.



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Special Thanks to LiB

The 2000 Texas Lesbian Conference is delighted that LiB is co-sponsoring the opening night keynote of the conference. We would like to give thanks for all the support that LiB has provided.

LiB's purpose is to empower lesbians to lead proud, positive and integrated lives in the workplace and larger world. This will be accomplished primarily through providing a forum to address workplace issues and also by:

- Increasing lesbian visibility including charitable service-orientated work;
- Generating a positive view of lesbians in the world beyond our community;
- Supporting each other in our successes;
- Integrating our personal and public lives.

LiB welcomes lesbians of all abilities, interests, races, educational backgrounds, and areas of employment, and those seeking additional or new employment opportunities. For more information, call the LiBline at (713) 529-0077.

*Mark Your Calendar Now for LiB's 2000 New Year's Eve Party and Dance
At the Houston Renaissance Hotel!*

2000 TLC Schedule

Friday, May 19, 2000

4:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Registration	Concourse
6:30 pm	LiB Meeting	Century BR
7:30 pm	Keynote – Urvashi Vaid	Century I & II

Saturday, May 20, 2000

7:00 am – 3:00 pm	Registration	Concourse
8:00 am – 9:00 pm	Vendors	Bluebonnet, Concourse
8:00 am – 9:00 pm	Silent Auction	TBA
9:00 am – 10:30am	Workshops – Session A Healthcare, Healing, and Humor Overcoming the Power Struggle in Relationships What Lesbians Do Flirting 101 for Lesbians	Room Azelea I Azelea II Camelia I Camelia II
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	Workshops – Session B Lesbian Mothers' Panel How to Get a Lesbian Novel Published Lesbians & Allies, & Universities, Oh My! Selling Your Home – A Step By Step Guide The Erotic Self: Discovering Our Power	Room Azelea I Azelea II Camelia I Camelia II TBA
12:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Lunch with Alison Bechdel	Century I & II
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Workshops – Session C The Power and Pride of Home Ownership How to Make it Happen Holistic Therapy and Massage for All Risk-Smisk: How to Get Lesbians to Get The Healthcare They Need Do You Insult Your Friends with Your Birthday Cards?	Room Camelia II Azelea I Azelea II Camelia I
4:00 pm	TLC State Board Meeting	TBA
8:00 pm	Featured Entertainer – Marga Gomez	Century I & II
10:00 pm	Dance	Century I & II

2000 TLC Schedule (Continued)

Sunday, May 21, 2000

8:00 am – 8:45 am	Spiritual Services	TBA
9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Vendors	Bluebonnet & Concourse
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Workshops – Session D Lesbians Raising Children 50 Ways to Have A Lover The Good Old Days	Room Azelea I Azelea II Camelia I
10:45 – 12:30 pm	Brunch with Ntozake Shange	Century I & II



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Urvashi Vaid

Urvashi Vaid is an attorney and community organizer whose work in the gay and lesbian movement spans more than 20 years. Since 1997, she has been the Director of the Policy Institute of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF Policy Institute), a think tank based in New York City. The Policy Institute is a think tank dedicated to research, policy analysis, strategy development and coalition building to advance the equality of GLBT people.

Vaid is a writer and lecturer whose columns regularly appear in *The Advocate*, the national gay and lesbian newsmagazine. She is author of a book analyzing the politics and dynamics of the

gay rights movement, titled *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay & Lesbian Liberation*. *Virtual Equality* received the American Library Association's 1996 Gay Book Award, and was a finalist for the 1996 National Lambda Literary Awards.

From 1993-1997, Vaid worked as a writer and consultant on a wide variety of GLBT and feminist projects. From 1986-1992, Vaid worked at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) in Washington, serving first as the group's Public Information Director and then for 3 1/2 years as its Executive Director. From 1983-1986, Vaid was staff attorney for the National Prison Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), litigating federal class action lawsuits to challenge unconstitutional prison conditions. She co-founded the Project's ongoing work to support inmates with HIV and AIDS.

Vaid serves on the Advisory Boards of the White House Project and the Women's Leadership Fund. The White House Project is a public awareness campaign committed to changing the cultural climate in the country to allow the election of a woman president over the next ten years. The Women's Leadership Fund promotes women's leadership through public education. Vaid also serves on a number of grassroots boards and committees.

Among the awards Vaid has received are the Lambda Legal Defense & Education Fund Liberty Award, the Asian American Defense and Education Fund's Civil Rights Award and a variety of citations from grassroots organizations around the country. She was awarded the Rockefeller Residential Fellowship from the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in 1997-1998, the rainbow Foundation Leadership Award in 1996, and the Stonewall Award in 1991. In 1994, *Time* magazine named her to its list of "Fifty Leaders For The Future." In 1998 and in 1995, *A. Magazine*, a national Asian monthly, named her one of 25 most important Asian American leaders.

Urvashi Vaid was born in New Delhi, India, and grew up in Potsdam, New York. She is a graduate of Vassar College (1979) and Northeastern University School of Law (1983). Her life partner is comedian Kate Clinton.

Alison Bechdel



Author of the comic strip "Dykes to Watch Out For". Her comic strip has become a cultural institution for lesbians and discerning non-lesbians all over the planet. Bechdel grew up in rural Pennsylvania, and after graduating from Oberlin College, moved to New York City. It was there that "Dykes to Watch Out For" began in 1983 as a regular feature in the feminist monthly *Womenews*. She started self-syndicating the comic strip in 1985, and it now runs in over 65 lesbian/gay, feminist publications in North America. Eight collections of her cartoons have earned her the Lambda Literary Award for

humor and the Lambda Literary Award for biography/autobiography. Her upcoming collection *Post-Dykes to Watch Out For*, will be published by Firebrand in the spring of 2000.

Alison's presentation includes an hour long slide show which chronicles her development as a cartoonist, from her early childhood drawings (which were exclusively men) to the nearly all-girl universe she illustrates now.



Ntosake Shange

Ntozake Shange was born in Trenton, New Jersey to a physician father and social worker mother. Later they moved to St. Louis where they counted Miles Davis, Ike and Tina Turner, and Dizzy Gillespie among their friends, as well as W.E.B. DuBois, who would often put Ntozake to bed. As a child, in a family that strongly believed in the importance of their cultural heritage, Ntozake learned to appreciate the arts, from jazz to poetry, sculpture to theater, all of which she incorporates into her written works. As a result of Brown vs. the Board of Education, Ntozake's teenage years were a turbulent time, as she was among the first to integrate the schools of St. Louis. Ms. Shange went on to earn degrees in American Studies from Barnard College (B.A.) and the University of Southern California (M.A.). After graduating from USC, she taught at California State College, Sonoma, and Mills College during the day, and wrote and

performed her poetry at various women's spaces and bohemian cafes at night. It was through these performances that her first plays began to take shape.

Ntozake Shange burst onto the New York literary scene in 1976 with her innovative, and widely acclaimed choreo-poem *for colored girls who have considered suicide/when the rainbow is enuf*. After receiving rave reviews and an Obie Award off-Broadway, *for colored girls...* enjoyed a lengthy stint on Broadway, where it received a Tony nomination. She hasn't slowed down since. She is the author of *Three Pieces*, a collection of three theater pieces which won a *Los Angeles Times* Book Award for poetry, three other volumes of poetry, and the novels *Sassafrass*, *Cypress & Indigo* and *Betsey Brown*.

Ms. Shange, a committed educator, has taught courses in the literature of people of color, feminist aesthetics, and writing and performance art at Rice University, Villanova, and the Maryland Institute of Art. She continues to produce theater pieces, particularly with The Crossroads Theater Group, in Newark, New Jersey; she does poetry readings, guest lectures, and is currently working on a project for HBO about the history of jazz; she has been the Taos Heavyweight Poetry Champion of the World for three years running. Her novel *Liliane* is the result of seven years of work and firmly established Ntozake Shange as a major African American woman writer.



Marga Gomez

A backstage baby who grew up to make a name for herself in the worlds of theater and stand-up comedy, Marga Gomez is now adding film and television to her credits. She was born in Harlem to a Cuban comedian and a Puerto Rican dancer who performed together in the variety shows of Manhattan's legendary Latino theaters. By the time she could walk and talk her parents were writing her into the act, a break that would become her two most critically acclaimed theatrical monologues, **MEMORY TRICKS** and **A LINE AROUND THE BLOCK**.

As her stand-up career took off, Marga's ambitions turned to more dramatic forms of expression. The richness of her childhood memories coupled with the fascinating cultural lessons from her immigrant parents and their rocky pursuit of stardom on Manhattan's Latino entertainment circuit, compelled Marga to jump head first into the solo performance boon that was beginning to fill theaters from coast to coast. In April of 1991 Marga's first full-length theatrical monologue, **MEMORY TRICKS**, was workshopped in a six week sold-out run at The Marsh Performance Space in San Francisco.

Since then **MEMORY TRICKS** has been presented at numerous theaters, universities and prestigious national and international festivals in Chicago, Louisville, Montreal, London, Edinburgh and Amsterdam. The Chicago Sun Times described **MEMORY TRICKS** as "wise and moving beyond all expectations...Gomez's depiction of her mother is nothing short of phenomenal." The London Evening News gave **MEMORY TRICKS** five out of five stars calling it "brilliant" and "dazzling".

Marga's second theatrical monologue, **MARGA GOMEZ IS PRETTY WITTY & GAY**, was also written in 1991. It previewed at the Tennessee Williams Theater in Key West, Florida

Marga Gomez (continued)

and opened at Josie's Cabaret in San Francisco to four weeks of packed houses. **MARGA GOMEZ IS PRETTY WITTY & GAY** has traveled all over the country (including the 1993 Whitney Museum Biennial) and internationally. In February, 1998 it was presented on the main stage of UC Santa Cruz to a wildly enthusiastic sold-out house.

Marga currently resides in Los Angeles where she landed a role in Barry Levinson's, **SPHERE**, starring Dustin Hoffman and Sharon Stone. Her credits also include a guest starring role on **TRACEY TAKES ON...**, for HBO, and a reporter in **BATMAN FOREVER**. But her dream is to play the first lesbian character on **BAYWATCH**.

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Room – Azelea I

Healthcare, Healing, and Humor

Presenter: Lois Kemp, RN, MA, CHT

This interactive workshop will focus on holistic health, supportive, and change-oriented issues specific to the lesbian community. The presenter is a healthcare specialist, humorist, and hypnotherapist with 36 years of experience in the healing arts.

Room – Azelea II

Overcoming the Power Struggle in Relationships

Presenter: Denise O'Doherty, LPC, LMFT, MSN

We will learn to recognize, communicate, and overcome the power struggles inherent in all relationships. The presenter is a Certified Imago Relationship Therapist who has been in private practice seeing lesbian couples for 18 years.

Room – Camelia I

What Lesbians Do

Presenters: Deborah Bell and Maria Minicucci, PhD

The discussion workshop will identify how we discover our desire and experience the best of our sexual lives. Both presenters bring years of experience in addressing the intersection of health and sexuality for lesbians.

Room – Camelia II

Flirting 101 for Lesbians

Presenter: Joyce Gayles, PhD

This interactive workshop will provide clues for successful flirting and dating. The presenter is a clinical psychologist and success coach. She is the author of *The Dating Dance: A Guide for Women Dating Women*.

Room – Azelea I

Lesbian Mothers' Panel

Presenters: HGLP Mothers

A panel of mothers of children ranging from babies to adults will discuss issues unique to lesbian mothers and their children. HGLP is a social and support group for lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender, parents, their partners, and parent wannabes.

Room – Azelea II

How to Get a Lesbian Novel Published

Presenters: Kaye Davis, Kelly Smith, & Lila Epson

The panel discussion will focus on accessing the publishing networks for lesbian novels. The presenters are authors, editors, and publishers of books pertaining to the lesbian community.

Room – Camelia I

Lesbians & Allies, & Universities, Oh My!

Presenter: Ragan Chastain

This interactive workshop will feature finding a safe place and allies in college life as well as diversity training for college faculty and staff to decrease homophobia. The presenter is the host and executive producer of *Outloud*, a talk radio show on GLBT issues on 91.7 FM, KVRX.

Room – Camelia II

Selling Your Home – A Step By Step Guide for Home Owners

Presenters: Cookie Davenport & Debbie Kotzur

This panel discussion will include 2 realtors, a mortgage loan officer, and an attorney familiar with cohabitation laws and property ownership laws concerning same sex relationships. Questions will be welcome throughout the discussion and suitable handouts will be available to assist in the selling of your home.

Room – TBA

The Erotic Self: Discovering Our Power

Presenter: Maria Minicucci, PhD

The purpose of this interactive workshop is to elucidate the knowledge that our sexuality is our source of personal power. Methods of how to attain our power through our sexuality will be identified. The presenter is a psychologist in the Houston Community and is currently writing, *Woman to Woman: The Erotic Revolution*.

Room – Azelea I***Holistic Therapy and Massage for All******Presenter: Sandra Lugo-Camacho, BA, RMT***

The workshop will be a learn and share format to contribute to and exchange community awareness regarding holistic therapeutic touch/massage. The presenter has been sharing her knowledge and experiences in the holistic (spirit) and therapeutic touch (massage therapy) since 1991.

Room – Azelea II***Risk-Smisk: How To Get Lesbians to Get the Healthcare They Need******Presenter: Deborah Bell***

The workshop will address specific health needs of lesbians and how to access the healthcare industry. The presenter is a community activist, writer and consultant. Formerly with the Lesbian Health Education Project, she has presented programs on lesbian health for over two and half years addressing the intersection of health and sexuality. She is certified by the American Cancer Society in breast health education, self-breast examination, and early detection. She disseminates information on health and other issues via the Email Newsletter she moderates, The Feminist Online Network (aka FEMNET) - those interested in joining should go to: <http://www.egroups.com/subscribe/FEMNET>

Room – Camelia I***Do You Insult Your Friends With Your Birthday Cards?******Presenter: E. L. "Scottie" Scott***

The presenter, as well as friends, will present a panel discussion related to sensitive issues for older lesbians. The members of OLOC (Old Lesbians Organizing for Change) have a wealth of experience to share about aging in our community.

Room – Camelia II***The Power and Pride of Home Ownership – How to Make it Happen******Presenters: Cookie Davenport and Debbie Kotzur***

The panel discussion including the specialists available for the "selling your home" workshop will provide information pertinent to same sex couples who plan to buy a home. The areas addressed will include: deciding what you want, knowing what you can afford, looking for the right home for you, making an offer, obtaining financing, and closing the deal.

Room – Azelea I*Lesbians Raising Children**Presenters: Houston Area Family Ties Association*

Parents of biological, adopted, and foster children will discuss lesbian parenting issues including legal protection, child custody, and co-parenting agreements. Childcare is offered during the workshop and the Saturday evening entertainment by the group to encourage more lesbians with children to attend.

Room – Azelea II*50 Ways to Have a Lover**Presenter: Joyce Gayles, PhD*

The differences between friendship, dating, sexual relating, and relationships will be identified. We will learn how to communicate needs and desires more directly. The presenter is a clinical psychologist with TransformationWorks in Houston.

Room – Camelia I*The Good Old Days**Presenter: Arden Eversmeyer*

This panel discussion lead by a longtime community activist will focus on our history as lesbians. We will learn how it was in the “good old days”, how it is now, and the welfare needs of our older lesbians.

Room – TBA*Women and Taxes**Presenter: Kathy Hubbard*

The presenter, founder of Hubbard Financial Services, will provide a brief overview of the newest laws and trends with the IRS. A question and answer session will follow regarding issues as taxpayers and as women. Planning for maximum legal tax savings related to domestic partnerships, adoption, self-employment taxes, retirement accounts, as well as other tax concerns will be addressed. Please come with your questions!



LHI welcomes the 2000 Texas Lesbian Conference

Power in Motion!!

The Lesbian Health Initiative of Houston, Inc. (LHI) is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 1992 to promote health and well being in the lesbian community. Women of varied ages, backgrounds, and ethnicities donate their time, energies, and talents. LHI's activities are funded by grants and donations from community organizations and individuals. Please consider a donation of your time, talent, or funds to assist LHI in continuing its mission.

The Mission of the Lesbian Health Initiative is to identify, address, educate, serve and empower the Houston lesbian community in all its diversity, on issues of health and well being.

Michele Mortensen

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Core Planning Committee

Helen Bailey, M. DIV., MA, LPC/LMFT

Registration, is a marriage and family therapist working for a local agency in Houston. She had been active in AssistHers and worked for one of the hospices in Houston. In her spare time she fills pulpits, preaching in the area. Helen is also in charge of the silent auction and works on the registration committee. She will lead the spirituality service on Sunday morning.

Christy Burchette

Co-Facilitator, is currently pursuing her Master's in Education and is teaching 2nd grade. She also teaches Sociology at the Art Institute of Houston. Christy co-chaired the conference in 1997 and has been involved in the community for many years. She volunteers with AssistHers and recently went to Washington DC to participate in the Millennium March on Washington. She lives with her partner, Sherrie, and spends her free time in the garden.

Sherrie Davis

Secretary/Facilities, teaches elementary special education. Sherrie enjoys repairing things and working with her hands. She loans this great talent to AssistHers by helping women in need with projects they are unable to do. Sherrie recently married her partner of two years, Christy. They both share a love for traveling, gardening and their pets.

Jill Burtchaell

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Janis Collins

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Core Planning Committee (continued)

Kay Hejny

Treasurer, initial TLC experience was in 1989 when she attended the first conference in Houston as a vendor, and her two-year-old daughter ran around making friends with all the women. Then in 1993, while her partner attended organizational meetings, Kay worked behind the scenes [at home] typing, making copies, and doing telephone work while caring for her now six-year-old daughter. Kay was also a vendor that year and responsible for the table decorations in the main dining room of the conference. In 1997, Kay was pressed into service as the Treasurer for the "Decade of Lesbian Empowerment" conference. The highlight of that conference was shaking the hand of Col. Margarette Cammermeyer. At that time, Kay also joined the State Board and began a 4-year commitment, dedicated to seeing that TLC continue to be a viable and financially successful conference for all lesbians in the years to come. In 1998, Kay became the State Board Treasurer. At this time, she serves as both state and local treasurer for TLC.

During all of this, Kay graduated from the University of St. Thomas with a Masters in Liberal Arts. She began teaching Art History at Houston Community College a year later while starting her own bookkeeping business, *Good with numbers!* She now keeps records for some 25 clients, and teaches evening classes at HCC in Art Appreciation, Art History Survey I and II. However, she feels her largest accomplishment to date is the beautiful 12 year-old young lady who calls her mom.

Rebecca Kimmel

Program Guide, is a native Houstonian, although she has lived in other states. She has a BS in Chemical Engineering, a MS in Computer Science, and a Certificate in Biomedical Engineering. Her first experience with TLC was in 1993 as a volunteer behind the scenes. She is a member of LiB, active in AssistHers, and is a member of the Lesbian Health Initiative, Inc. Board of Directors. She enjoys being involved as a volunteer within the women's community.

Bonita Kirk

Childcare

Bette A. Kling

Speakers/Entertainment

Core Planning Committee (continued)

Madelyn McNeil

Co-Chairperson, has been active in the Lesbian Community since 1993 when she participated as Marketing Coordinator for the Texas Lesbian Conference. She spent four years on the Board of Lesbians In Business, holding positions of Program Chair, Vice President and President. She brought in numerous speakers including June Jordan, JoAnne Loulan and Linda Villarosa. She organized the first Lesbian Health Fair in the community and is also currently a Board Member of Lesbian Health Initiative, Inc.

Cynthia Mills

Registration, is a native of Louisiana and has been a resident of Houston for 26 years. She has a BS degree in Education, MA degree in Clinical Psychology, and an endorsement in Vocational/Academic Counseling. She is a past Vice-President of "Sisters" of Houston, and a member of LiB. She enjoys vocal music and traveling. She is committed to community activism and women's causes.

Lenna Morris

Registration, works at Academy Sports and Outdoors as the Computer Operations Manager. She has done volunteer work for Crisis Hot Line and worked on the AIDS care team sponsored by New Warriors and Woman Within of Houston. She met her partner Helen Bailey at the TLC conference in Houston in 1997.

Judy Olin

Workshop, I describe myself as a late bloomer. At age 56 I am still discovering my world, and five TLC conferences plus the 1993 March On Washington have helped me find my way. During my "Donna Reed" phase I was married for 25 years and mothered four great kids who are now four great adults. At age 40 I finished college (finally) as a registered nurse and embarked on a journey of self-discovery with the help of 12-step recovery and Alanon. TLC, LOAF, Lambda, and MCC gave me peace and comfort to become an out and proud Lesbian. I am pleased to be able to give some back to TLC by serving on the TLC 2000 board. I will return to Washington DC with one of my daughters to participate in the Millenium March, as I strongly feel we must be seen and heard until we are all truly free.

Core Planning Committee (continued)

Nakia Roberson

Publicity

E.L. "Scottie" Scott

Workshop, is a native Houstonian, retired Health & Physical Educator, Volleyball & Tennis Coach. Lesbian since playing Fast Pitch Softball in the East End about age 14. Member of the workshop committee and others as needed. Education: Sam Houston State, B.S., & M.Ed. Retired for 10 years and doing volunteering, holding office in numerous lesbian organizations such as Loafers, Inc., LHI, AssistHers, and OLOC. I'm helping out to try to remind younger lesbians how hard we had it trying to have a profession and a loving relationship (mine 35+ yrs.) in the OLD days and hope that this conference will be a wonderful and enjoyable experience for all who attend.

Susan Turell

LIB Board Liaison, has been an activist involved in local and statewide feminist and lesbian causes for over 15 years. In addition to all her volunteer efforts, Susan is an assistant professor at the University of Houston Clear Lake where she teaches Women's Studies and Psychology, and in her spare time has a private practice in feminist psychotherapy. She has served as the State TLC treasurer.

Lucy Watson

Although a resident in the Montrose area just less than a year, Lucy is active in a number of community organizations. These include being the secretary for Lesbian Health Initiative; Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, TLC, and the Women's Group. She defines herself as a feminist/lesbian activist and recently attended the Feminist Majority's Expo 2000 Conference in Baltimore, MD. According to her friends, Lucy's volunteer activities keep her busier than when she was employed. Lucy is a college graduate and now retired RN, and the mother of one daughter.

Thank You Volunteers

The Texas Lesbian Conference is possible because of the tremendous work done by volunteers. The dedication of the volunteers can be seen in their willingness to lose sleep, give up time with their families, and attend meetings too numerous to count! It is the dedication of the volunteers that has made the annual Texas Lesbian Conference a success. As you come together from across the state to celebrate "Power in Motion", please take the time to thank the individuals who made it possible. The Texas Lesbian Conference Steering Committee would like to thank the following volunteers, and those whose names were accidentally omitted, for their dedication and hard work:

Helen Bailey
Christy Burchette
Jill Burtchaell
Janis Collins
Anna Davis
Sherrie Davis
Staci Harris
Kay Hejny
Michelle Howard
Rebecca Kimmel
Bonita Kirk
Bette A. Kling
Telise Leger
Madelyn McNeil

Cynthia Mills
Detria Mitchell
Lori Moore
Kimberly Moreaux
Lenna Morris
Judy Olin
Bridgette Portier
Nakia (Nikki) Roberson
E.L. "Scottie" Scott
Maria Soriano
Susan Turell
Paula Warner
Lucy Watson
Faye Safavi

Vendor List

Please support our vendors by visiting their booths in the Bluebonnet Room and Concourse during the conference!

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Roberta Walters

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Finally, everything is negotiable!

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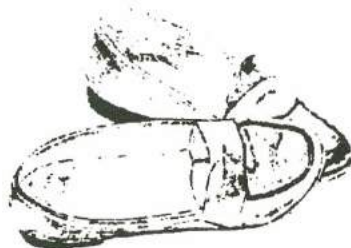
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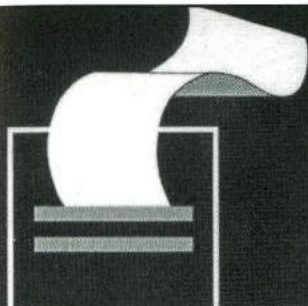
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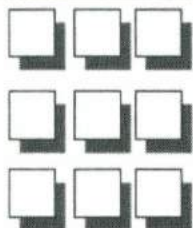
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1999 Best Female Real Estate Agent -OutSmart Mag.

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Event draws 150 lesbians to Houston

by KAY DAYUS

The 13th annual Texas Lesbian Conference, held May 19-21 in Houston, was "awesome," said Christy Burchette, co-chairwoman for the event. And judging from those attending the conference, organizers got the diversity they were looking for.

Ages ranged from the teens to retired lesbians, and every age between. The event also attracted a cross section of cultures, something organizers were hoping to attract.

"I think our choice of speakers and entertainers helped us achieve the diversity," Burchette said.

Even though the event is non-profit, the committee made a little money to sock away until the next time Houston plays host to the TLC in 2004, organizers said.

This year's TLC drew 150 lesbians from around Texas and the region, said Burchette.

"We had anticipated about that many registrants. But just a couple of weeks before, we were way down on registration and we were worrying about it," she said.

In the last two weeks, organizers breathed a sigh of relief as another 50 women registered.

"The speakers were incredible. We had nothing but compliments and nothing negative about the conference," Burchette said.

Janina Rafalska agreed.



TERRY SULLIVAN

Longtime activist and author Urvashi Vaid delivered a 'powerful' opening speech at the Texas Lesbian Conference May 19 and met with community members the next day at the Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center.

"It was my first TLC," she said. "It was great. I liked the workshops and the entertainment. I would go again."

Workshops ranged from the more serious

issues of home ownership, lesbian health issues and parenting to the more lighthearted issues of dating, holistic therapy and massage.

Psychologist Maria Minicucci's big circle of women in the "erotic self" session revealed much about themselves and seemed to enjoy doing so. Guided gently by Minicucci, they talked freely about issues very relevant not only to lesbians but to women in general.

Vaid, who heads the policy institute at the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, delivered a "powerful and inspiring" kick-off speech to the conference, Burchette said.

Alison Bechdel, author of the cartoon strip "Dykes to Watch Out For," elicited much laughter from the laid back luncheon crowd on May 20 by drolly narrating a slide show of how her cartoon characters have evolved over the years.

Saturday night's entertainer, Latina comedian Marga Gomez, was a big hit. She burst onstage in a bright pink shirt, black jacket and pants, and a big, pink cowboy hat with Brooklyn emblazoned across the front. During her hour or so stint, so had the audience of more than 200 in stitches.

Houston resident Ntosake Shange closed out the conference with readings from her literary works. Next year's conference will be in San Antonio. For more information, e-mail to smwest@Texas.net.

Health departments meet to discuss gay issues

by LAURA BROWN

Health department officials from big cities around the country, including Houston, met last week in Boston for the first time to discuss the health needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered citizens.

"What we want is to normalize the delivery

some to need mental health services to cope with depression, substance abuse or higher suicide rates.

Studies have shown that lesbians and transgendered people are less likely to have health insurance, Auerbach said, while gays may also fear coming out to their health providers.

Lesbians may be at increased risk for breast

brought gay and lesbian leaders into the department, and also normalized the discussion of sexual orientation."

Auerbach said meeting participants discussed ways to build from that understanding to offer other programs targeted toward gay men and lesbians.

Ideas included specific outreach to let this

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

Texas Lesbian Conference ** May 19 - 21, 2000 ** Houston, Texas

Theme for 2000 TLC Conference: "Power in Motion"

Houston is pleased to host the 2000 Texas Lesbian Conference. The TLC will be held at the Houston Renaissance Hotel. The weekend will offer some terrific speakers and entertainers including: Urvashi Vaidi, Alison Bechdal, Marga Gomez, and Ntozake Shange. We will be scheduling over 30 workshops on a wide range of exciting and informative topics and we are expecting to greet approximately 200 attendees. The presenters will be from the local community and throughout the state. Check out our website for details: www.2meg.com/TLC2000

If you are interested in developing or presenting a workshop for this year's conference, the TLC Workshop Committee would like to hear from you. We are accepting workshop proposals including, but not limited to, the topics related to the following areas of our lives as lesbians:

Humor	Health/Wellness	Sexuality/Erotica	Legal/Financial
Dating	Feminism	Arts/Cultural	Religion/Spirituality
Literature	Personal Development	Parenting	Historical
Relationships	Business/Career	Political	Lifestyle/Homelife
Fitness	Synchronicity	Life Stages	Communication
Ethnicity	Activism	Media	

Please submit your workshop proposal to be received no later than March 15, 2000 to the following:

ATTN: TLC Workshop Committee, C/O TLC, P. O. Box 66012, Houston, TX 77266
e-mail: judyo1@hotmail.com Fax: 713-681-5681

DETACH THE FORM BELOW AND ATTACH TO YOUR PROPOSAL:

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone #s: () _____ Daytime () _____ Evening _____
Title of Workshop: _____

NOTE: In order to provide equal opportunity for all submissions, the workshops will be selected by a blind review process. Please **DO NOT** put your name on the actual proposal! Include only the workshop title!

CHECKLIST FOR PROPOSAL SUBMISSION:

_____ 150 - 200 word synopsis of your workshop proposal (including title)
 _____ Brief description of your experience related to this topic (on a separate piece of paper)
 _____ Format of workshop (circle one): **Interactive** **Lecture** **Discussion** **Panel**
 Other: _____
 _____ Requested size limit on attendance: _____
 _____ Estimated amount of time needed: 1) 1 - 1.5 hours 2) Other: _____
 _____ Specific requirements: _____

2000 Texas Lesbian Conference
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- ☐ Home Hospitality*
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- ☐ Scholarships
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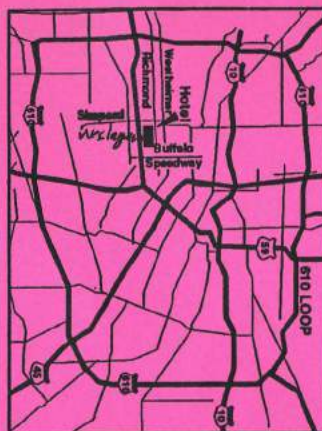
I am interested in volunteering:

- ☐ I will work at TLC 2000
- ☐ I will accept women seeking housing.
- ☐ I will sponsor a woman's registration.

If you have any special needs not listed above,
please list and contact us by April 10, 2000. We
will do our best to accommodate.



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Keynote Speakers:

Urvashi Vaid: Former Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and author of "Virtual Equality: the Mainstreaming of Gays and Lesbians", will deliver the conference's opening address. Vaid was recently named by *Time* as one of the nation's 50 most promising leaders under the age of 40.

Alison Bechdal: The creator of the cartoon strip "Dykes to Watch Out For." Her comic strip has become a cultural institution for lesbians and discerning non-lesbians all over the planet. Alison's presentation includes an hour-long slide show which chronicles her development as a cartoonist, from her early childhood drawings (which were exclusively men) to the nearly all-girl universe she illustrates now.

Ntozake Shange: African-American Poet Ntozake Shange's work, "*For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf*", became a best-selling book and then won critical acclaim in a television version for PBS. Her play was nominated for a Tony, Grammy, Obie, and Emmy awards. To hear Ms. Shange present a dramatic reading from one of her works such as "The Love Space Demands: A Continuing Saga", is a powerful and moving experience, which will not be forgotten.

Saturday Night Entertainment:

Marga Gomez, Comedian/Actress:

Billed as an exotic comedian, Gomez has opened for the likes of k.d. lang and Linda Ronstadt. Her film credits include "Sphere" with Dustin Hoffman and Sharon Stone, and "Batman Forever."

Schedule:

Friday, May 19

4:00 - 7:00p Registration
7:30 - 9:00p Keynote/Urvashi Vaid

Saturday, May 20

8:00a - 4:00p Registration
7:30a - 9:00p Vendors
9:00a - 3:30p Workshops (3 sessions of 5)
12:30 - 1:45p Lunch with Alison Bechdal
3:00p - 5:00p Caucus Meeting/TLC Board Meeting
8:00p - 9:00p Featured Entertainer/Dance

Sunday, May 21

8:00 a - 8:45 a Spiritual Services/Vendors
9:00 a - 10:30p Workshops (1 session of 3)
10:45 - 11:30a Brunch with Ntozake Shange

Workshops

TLC will offer a wide variety of interesting and informative workshops relative to our lesbians lives! Topics such as family, legal, financial, spirituality, business, politics and relationships will be presented.

Hotel Information (Must Mention TLC 2000)

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6 Greenway Plaza East
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(413) 629-1200

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REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip Code _____

Home Telephone _____

A limited number of scholarships are available. Registration includes admittance to all speakers, workshops, Saturday lunch and Sunday brunch. There are separate charges for Saturday night entertainment and T-shirts. Friday night LIB meeting and Friday night entertainment will be free to all TLC registrants.

FEES

Regular Registration:

\$65 if postmarked by April 10, 2000 _____
\$85 if postmarked after April 10, 2000 _____

One Day Passes:

Saturday

\$40 if postmarked by April 10, 2000 _____
\$55 if postmarked after April 10, 2000 _____

Sunday

\$25 if postmarked by April 10, 2000 _____
\$35 if postmarked after April 10, 2000 _____

Saturday Night Entertainment

\$15 if postmarked by April 10, 2000 _____
with conference registration
\$20 if postmarked after April 10, 2000 _____
without conference registration
\$23 without conference registration _____

T-Shirts

Medium	# _____	@ \$12.00 each _____
Large	# _____	@ \$12.00 each _____
X-Large	# _____	@ \$12.00 each _____
XX Large	# _____	@ \$15.00 each _____
XXX-Large	# _____	@ \$15.00 each _____
		Total _____

Make checks payable to TLC 2000. Must be over 18 to attend the conference. TLC 2000 is a women-only event.