

"BODY COUNTS"
AN AIDS MEMOIR

BUNNIES ON THE BAYOU
CELEBRATES 35 YEARS

"THE GENDER BOOK"
A 101 PRIMER

Houston's LGBT Magazine
OutSmartMagazine.com

OutSmart

APRIL 2014

COMMUNITY
HOME GUIDE
(P.79)

I THINK
MY LOVE OF
THEATER
CAME FROM
BEING AN
OUTCAST.

—Don Jeanes, Super Bowl Sensation

IT GETS BETTER

The Anti-bullying Project Comes to Houston

OUR 20TH ANNIVERSARY
"THROWBACK TWENTY" ISSUE

APRIL SPECIAL PROMOTION

FREE TEETH WHITENING FOR LIFE*

FLOSS

* WITH SEMI-ANNUAL CLEANING, EXAM AND X-RAYS (\$350 VALUE)



In-network pricing

Full-service general & cosmetic dentistry

Elite Provider of  **invisalign** &  **invisalign teen**

Kids Love FLOSS, too!

Don't forget to FLOSS!



Best Female Dentist:
Dr. Dianna Wilde

flossdental.com



Dianna Wilde, DDS
Practice Owner



Justin Crockett, D.D.S.
Practice Owner



Justin Ramsey D.D.S.
Practice Owner

Midtown • 514-A Elgin • 713.942.0101

The Heights • 107 Yale St., Suite 300 • 832.900.2071

URBAN LIVING

DOLORES PLACE



From the \$580's

Galleria

Free-Standing • Large Balcony

ISABELLA PLACE



From the \$430's

Museum District

Free-Standing • Gated Community

CAROLINE COURT



\$539,900

Museum District

Free-Standing • Roof Terrace

SHADY CREEK



From the \$410's

Shady Acres

Free-Standing • Hardwoods

MADELINE



From the \$440's

Shady Acres

Free-Standing • Gated Community

RIVIERA AT RICE MILITARY



From the \$500's

Rice Military

Free-Standing • Roof Terrace



www.urban.living TREC Broker #476135



www.UrbanLiving.com



5023 Washington Avenue



713-868-7226



OUT FOR
EDUCATION

PRESENTS

POP art

CELEBRATING 16 YEARS OF INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF HOUSTON'S LGBT YOUTH

Cocktails & Silent Auction, HONORING MIKE HOLLOMAN & TIM SURRATT

Honorary Co-chairs: TREVOR & STEFAN EADE-HILL



ESPERSON GALLERY

WALKER @ TRAVIS STREET, DOWNTOWN

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

7PM TO 10PM

Thanks to our Underwriters

Andy Warhol: LINDA & CHARLIE ELDER

Roy Lichtenstein: KING & SPALDING
PRIDE HOUSTON
TOM FRICKE

Robert Rauschenberg: ESPERSON GALLERY
HOUSTON DJ COMPANY
BRYAN COTTON PROPERTIES
TODD AMDOR & MATTHEW STONE

For ticket info, please visit:

OUTFOREEDUCATION.ORG

Tickets: \$95
@ OUTFOREEDUCATION.ORG

Special Thanks to:

CELEBRATING
OutSmart
20 YEARS



CITY OF HOUSTON

Annise D. Parker

Mayor

P.O. Box 1562
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

Telephone – Dial 311
www.houstontx.gov

April 1, 2014

Greetings,

As Mayor of Houston, I extend a special congratulations to the editors and staff of **OutSmart Magazine** on their 20th anniversary.

Prior to taking office, I wrote a column for **OutSmart Magazine** called *Inside Out* at *City Hall*, which appeared in 94 issues over eight years.

OutSmart Magazine writes rich and informative articles about the LGBT community which highlight the vital role that the LGBT community has in helping improve Houston. **OutSmart Magazine** shows continued support to culturally strengthen our city.

Please accept my best wishes on this special occasion. We are proud to have **OutSmart Magazine** in our community.

Sincerely,

Annise D. Parker
Mayor



Council Members: Brenda Stardig Jerry Davis Ellen R. Cohen Dwight A. Boykins Dave Martin Richard Nguyen Oliver Pennington Edward Gonzalez
Robert Gallegos Mike Laster Larry V. Green Stephen C. Costello David W. Robinson Michael Kubosh C.O. "Brad" Bradford
Jack Christie

Controller: Ronald C. Green



Bunnies
on the
Bayou
HOUSTON, TEXAS

KEEPING THE BEAT

Sponsored by: **BUD LIGHT**

Easter Sunday
April 20, 2014
1-6 pm

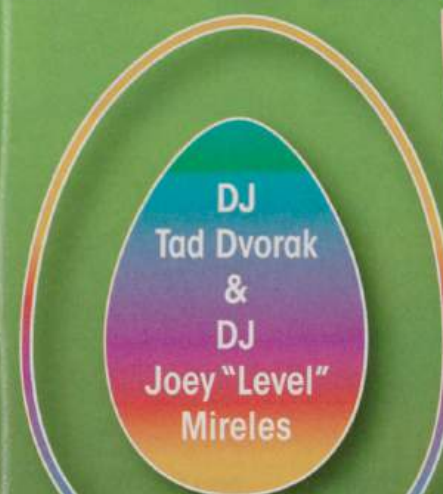
Wortham Center - Fish Plaza
500 Texas Avenue
Houston, Texas 77002

Beneficiaries:

AIDS Foundation Houston
AIDS Housing Coalition Houston
AssistHers
Bayou City Performing Arts
Bering Omega - Omega House and Dental Clinic
LHI - Lesbian Health Initiative
M.E.N. Inc

Montrose Center - Holiday Baskets
Montrose Grace Place
Pet Patrol
PFLAG HATCH
PRIDE - Houston
SNAP - Spay, Neuter Assistance Program
Thomas Street Patients Services Corp

FOR 35 YEARS



Additional
Sponsors:

AVIP
ANTHONY VINTAGE PROPERTIES

AVITA
DRUGS
Pharmacy
Solutions

Ketel One
VODKA

PROUD SPONSOR
CELEBRATING
OutSmart
20 YEARS
SUPPORTING HOUSTON'S LGBT COMMUNITY

Tickets:

General Admission \$30 (Advance Purchase)
\$40 at the Gate
\$125 VIP Pass

For Online Ticket Sales and Additional Information go to
www.bunniesonthebayou.org

Tickets Available at the following locations before April 20:

Adam and Eve • 1111 Westheimer	Crocker Bar • 2312 Crocker St	Eclipse Sunless • 415 Westheimer	Guava Lamp • 570 Waugh	Hollywood Super Center • 2409 Grant
--------------------------------	-------------------------------	----------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------------



PERFORMANCE ART.



INTRODUCING THE MINI JOHN COOPER WORKS PACEMAN

Combining a sophisticated new take on iconic MINI style with go-kart handling and standard ALL4 all-wheel drive, the new MINI John Cooper Works Paceman is a fitting tribute to a racing legend. One time behind the wheel is all it will take for you to know that **RACING IS IN OUR BLOOD.**



MOMENTUM MINI

10000 SOUTHWEST FWY
HOUSTON, TX 770774
800-557-5374

MOMENTUMMINI.COM

All-wheel drive available on MINI Cooper S Paceman ALL4 or MINI John Cooper Works Paceman ALL4.
© 2013 MINI USA, a division of BMW of North America, LLC. The MINI name, model names and logo are registered trademarks.

APR. 2014 FEATURES
VOLUME 21 • NUMBER 3

OutSmart



35



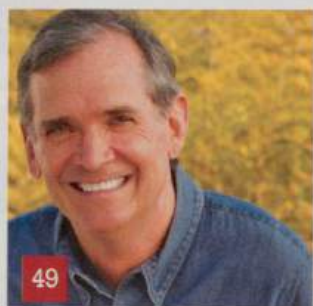
59



65



55



49



40

33

IT GETS BETTER
The anti-bullying campaign comes to the Houston stage

35

SUPER BOWL 'PUPPY LOVE' ACTOR
Don Jeanes talks bullying

37

NO MORE WEREWOLVES
Andy Neilson is living proof that 'it gets better'

39

FINDING ACCEPTANCE
Christopher Henry now has friends and confidence

40

THROWBACK 20
OutSmart highlights some of our favorite celebrity interviews from the past

47

OLD AGE ISN'T FOR SISSIES
Or is it?

49

BODY COUNTS
Recollections from a time when everybody counted

55

TOILING IN THE THIRTIES
'By the Way, Meet Vera Stark'

59

'THE GENDER BOOK'
Explaining gender so that all can understand

65

M-POWERING COMMUNITY
HIV rates among young African-American MSMs

75

'COCK' ENTERS HOUSTON
The new play makes its regional debut

79

HOUSTON'S HOT REAL ESTATE
Favorite up-and-coming neighborhoods

93

BUNNIES' 35TH
Bunnies on the Bayou celebrates its 35th

97

SYLVIA'S DINING
Sylvia Casares opens yet another eatery!

99

OKRA CHARITY
The Original OKRA Saloon gives proceeds to charity

101

GIVE A SMILE!
New book shines a light on domestic violence

103

FOTOFEST 2014
The 'Platform for Art and Ideas' focuses on the Middle East



ABOUT THE COVER

DON JEANES
The actor in this year's Budweiser Super Bowl commercial
Design: Terry Klumpp
Photo: courtesy Don Jeanes

SPRING EVENT

ENJOY 20% OFF THRU MAY 4

SPECIAL ORDER UPHOLSTERY:

SELECT FROM 200+ UPHOLSTERY STYLES AND 350+ FABRICS AND LEATHERS.
ALL EARTH-FRIENDLY, MADE IN AMERICA AND DELIVERED QUICKLY.

ALSO INCLUDES ALL:

TABLES & STORAGE | RUGS | LIGHTING | WALL ART | ACCESSORIES | BED LINENS



Because they are specially priced, Love programs and Stock Options Plus are not included.

Mitchell Gold
+ Bob Williams
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF COMFORT

25

Highland Village 74091 Westheimer Road / Houston, TX 77027 / 832.397.5130 / www.mgbwhome.com



Sweet, huh? Progressive...the latest. It's 2014 and **YOU** deserve the most up to date, progressive help in Real Estate. The most **current** advice, the **latest** in technology, the **best** customer service, and yes...a free ride in the other latest thing, too! Call me—put me to work for you!

Keller Williams is giving away \$50,000! HAVE A SMARTPHONE?

This is the coolest real estate app out today! Just download and plug in my code. It will show you all the homes around you that are for sale and the details. In fact...if you are in front of a home for sale...that will be the first one shown! Here is the link: <http://app.kw.com/KWZSR83>.



RICHARD HILL
Keller Williams Metropolitan
713.863.9494
Richard@RichardHill.com



Once you install the app it will ask for my code. Please put this in: KWZSR83. Thanks! Have fun!

kw LUXURY HOMES INTERNATIONAL
KELLER WILLIAMS® REALTY

*To enter without downloading the app see official rules. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. A PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. LEGAL RESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES (50) 18 YEARS AND OLDER. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Sweepstakes ends 5/31/14. For official rules, alternate method of entry, prize descriptions and odds disclosure visit <http://bit.ly/1gWVj>. Sponsor: Keller Williams Realty, Inc. 1221 South Moque Expressway, Suite 400 Austin, TX 78748

COMING UP IN OUTSMART

SPECIAL ADVERTISING & MARKETING OPPORTUNITIES

MAY 2014

Special Travel Issue
Home Interior & Home Design

JUNE 2014

Special OutSmart
Guide to All Things PRIDE

JULY 2014

Galveston Island Issue
Pride in Pictures

OutSmart

For advertising information, contact your sales representative or call 713/520-7237 ext. 10
www.OutSmartMagazine.com

APR. 2014
DEPARTMENTS

OutSmart

NEWS & COMMENT

20 › NEWS & COMMUNITY

24 › LEFTOUT

What's better than Republicans?

26 › MONEYSMART

Insuring our four-legged family members

30 › TIMEOUT

OutSmart's readers and recommendations

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

106 › QUEER QUOTES

Ellen DeGeneres, Wanda Sykes, Margaret Cho, Greg Berlanti, Bea Arthur, Janis Ian, Rose Troche, Bruce Vilanch, and Boy George

108 › DVDS

I Am Divine, *Campaign of Hate*, *The Year of Living Dangerously*, and *The World According to Garp*

110 › GROOVEOUT

Donna Summer, Avicii, Grouplove, Austra, Cyndi Lauper, Billy Porter, and George Michael

112 › READOUT

Why Europe Is Lesbian and Gay Friendly, *QU33R*, and *The City of Palaces*

OUT & ABOUT

116 CALENDAR 132 SIGNOUT

122 OUTTHERE 134 SCENEOUT

130 BAR/CLUB GUIDE

ADVERTISERS INDEX

126 Classified Marketplace

128 Advertisers Index



**ONLINE
EXCLUSIVES**

OutSmartMagazine.com



Jay Menchaca (l)
and Terry Jones

■ *Olive and the Bitter Herbs*, a Charles Busch comedy, plays April 11–May 10 at Houston's Theatre Suburbia. OutSmart talks to Jay Menchaca, who plays bitter queen Trey Chamblay, and Terry Jones, who plays his long-suffering partner, Robert.

EXPANDED GALLERIES

- Victory Fund Champagne Brunch
- "Bringin' in the Green" at The Montrose Center
- OUT at TUTS with *The Wizard of Oz*
- AIDS Walk 2014, and many more galleries



ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS *Enjoy*.
CALL US FOR WINE, SPIRITS AND GOURMET CATERING!



(888)526-8787

TEXAS SUPERSTORES™ WITH CATERING:
DOWNTOWN: 2410 SMITH STREET • WESLAYAN:
3902 BISSONNET • SPECSCATERING.COM

Cheers to Savings!

SPEC'S®
WINES • SPIRITS • FINER FOODS



Because Custom means something



JUSTINGORDONHOMES.COM



JG
HOMES

713.670.4848

call us today to start designing
your custom home



All are welcome at St. Paul's

Celebrate New Life

Easter Worship April 20 at 8, 9:30, and 11 a.m.
5501 Main at Binz/Bissonnet in Museum District
www.stpaulshouston.org • 713-528-0527

Attend + Worship + Study + Reflect

Rev. Tommy Williams, Senior Minister
Dr. Paolo Bordignon, Director of Music and Organist

NOW PUBLISHING IN OUR 21ST YEAR!

OutSmart
Houston's gay, lesbian, bi, and trans magazine

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief Greg Jeu
Associate Publisher Tom Fricke

Creative Director/Entertainment Editor
Blase DiStefano
Assistant Editor Megan E. Smith
Graphic Artist Terry Klumpp

Contributing Writers
Rich Arenschieldt, Susan Bankston,
Kit van Cleave, Angel Curtis, Karen Derr,
Steven Foster, David Goldberg, Marene
Gustin, James T. Hurst, Suzie Lynde,
Donalevan Maines, David-Elijah Nahmod,
Neil Ellis Orts, Lilly Roddy, Terri Schlichen-
meyer, Gregg Shapiro, Janice Stensrude,
Brandon Wolf, Grace S. Yung

Photographers/Illustrators
Dalton DeHart, Yvonne Feece, Mark Hiebert,
David Eduardo Flores Perez

Account Executives
Jack Berger, P.C. Douglas, Joanna Jackson

Web Editor Ann Walton Sieber

Interns Jed Ocot, Barrett White

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Media - 212.242.6863

**OutSmart
Media Company**

Publishers of OutSmart Magazine
3406 Audubon Place • Houston, TX 77006
713/520-7237 • 713/522-3275 Fax

Subscriptions: \$30/12 Issues, \$58/24 Issues

E-mail: letters@outsmartmagazine.com
Website: www.OutSmartMagazine.com

OUTSMART is published monthly. Estimated readership in Houston and surrounding areas is 60,000. OutSmart Media Company is not responsible for claims and practices of advertisers. The opinions and views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or management of OutSmart. Inclusion in OutSmart does not imply sexual orientation. ©2014 by OutSmart Media Company. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without permission of the publisher is strictly prohibited. Unsolicited material is accepted. No manuscript returned without SASE.

VERIFIED
AUDIT CIRCULATION

IF YOUR DREAM OF OWNING A HOME
HAS NOT COME TRUE IN THE PAST
Come See Me – "Amazing Kim"



Call me for all your Real Estate needs!
IT CAN BE DONE!

REALM
Real Estate Professionals

Cell: 832.549.0282 • Email: Kim@AmazingKim.com
Good Credit, No Credit, Even Bad Credit - Welcome
FHA loan 3.5% Conventional loan 5% VA 0% down

BPG Home Warranty NORTH STAR TITLE

A-M-A-Z-I-N-G KIM



Declaration Title

BANK OF TEXAS
MORTGAGE

iscential
trusted advice • peace of mind

Nationwide
On Your Side



Throwback Twenty

OUTSMART celebrates its 20th anniversary

Welcome to OUTSMART's "Throwback Twenty" issue commemorating our 20th year in publishing. An anniversary is an opportunity to pause and reflect on where we've been, and to acknowledge those who supported us along the way.

According to Chinese astrology, 1994 was the year of the Wood Dog, and those born under this sign are known for humanitarianism, justice, and equality. Occupying the 11th position in the Chinese Zodiac, the Dog is said to symbolize character traits such as loyalty, compatibility, and kindness. Dogs, they say, "frequently offer kind words and useful advice, too." Who knew that 1994 would be the perfect year to begin publishing a new LGBT magazine for Houston?

For many of us, the early '90s was a very difficult time as the AIDS epidemic was devastating our community. It seemed

as though we woke up every morning in a state of anxiety caused by the loss of another friend. Caring for our ill friends became a daily activity. In September of 1992, my long-time partner Joey died from the disease. Since our relationship did not have legal standing, his family decided that if I wanted to stay in "our" house I would have to buy it from them. It was time to move on.

A few months later, I received a letter from their attorney. "Perhaps you can use your experience to help others," he wrote. With that serendipitous suggestion, and the motivation I gained from attending the 1993 "March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation" with friends, the seed was planted. A group of my friends, coworkers, and family members joined together during this exciting time and we began publishing OUTSMART magazine just a short time later.

The first issue of OUTSMART rolled off the

presses in February of 1994 with gay-affirming couple Rod and Bob Jackson-Paris on the cover. Unfortunately, their relationship did not last, but OUTSMART continued onward through some rather intense "dog days" of publishing. Twenty years later, who could have guessed how far gay rights would have come, or that marriage equality laws would be spreading so quickly across the country?

Over the years, many talented writers and editors, photographers, artists, and ad reps have helped create the pages of OUTSMART. Our current staff, along with some of our contributing writers, are pictured below—along with a few 20-year-old throwback photos of their younger selves.

OUTSMART is grateful for the past 20 years of steadfast support from the community and our advertisers. We look forward to serving you for many years to come.

Greg Jeu, Publisher



Greg Jeu



Lilly Roddy



Dalton DeHart



Susan Bankston



James Hurst



Ann Walton Sieber



Blase DiStefano



Megan Smith



David Goldberg



Rich Arenshiledt



Jack Berger



Marene Gustin



Brandon Wolf



Grace Yung



Tom Fricke



Joanna Jackson



Jed Ocot



Karen Derr



David-Elijah Nahmod



Barrett White



PC Douglas



Neil Ellis Orts



Don Maines



Nathan Estrada



Caleb Smith



John Nagy



Gregg Shapiro



Lawrence Ferber



Nathan Ammons



Terri Schlichenmeyer

604 W. Alabama
Houston, TX 77006
 (tel) 713.520.1484
 (alt) 713.520.1044
 (fax) 713.520.0161
AcadianBakers.com



the Acadian Bakers





“When I was young and dreams were new, I dreamed of OutSmart, didn't you?”

—Sandra Bubbert, Owner

You “Young Pups” are only 20 – I’ve been here 35 years!

Serving the Community for over 35 years.



What is STRIBILD?

STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. It combines 4 medicines into 1 pill to be taken once a day with food. STRIBILD is a complete single-tablet regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS. To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses you must keep taking STRIBILD. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

- **Take a medicine that contains:** alfuzosin, dihydroergotamine, ergotamine, methylethergonovine, cisapride, lovastatin, simvastatin, pimozide, sildenafil when used for lung problems (Revatio®), triazolam, oral midazolam, rifampin or the herb St. John's wort.
- **For a list of brand names for these medicines,** please see the Brief Summary on the following pages.
- **Take any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection,** or the medicine adefovir (Hepsera®).

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do regular blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with STRIBILD. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking STRIBILD.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start any new medicines while taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.
- **If you take hormone-based birth control** (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc).
- **If you take antacids.** Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk. Also, some medicines in STRIBILD can pass into breast milk, and it is not known if this can harm the baby.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of full Prescribing Information with **important warnings** on the following pages.



STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.

I started my personal revolution

Talk to your healthcare provider about starting treatment.

STRIBILD is a complete HIV-1 treatment in **1 pill**, once a day.

Ask if it's right for you.

STRIBILD®

elvitegravir 150mg/ cobicistat 150mg/ emtricitabine 200mg/ tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Patient Information

STRIBILD® (STRY-bild)

(elvitegravir 150 mg/cobicistat 150 mg/emtricitabine 200 mg/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg) tablets

Brief summary of full Prescribing Information. For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information, including Patient Information.

What is STRIBILD?

- **STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before.** STRIBILD is a complete regimen and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.
- **STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** You must stay on continuous HIV-1 therapy to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.
- **Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.** Do not share or reuse needles, injection equipment, or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them. Do not have sex without protection. Always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.

What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

1. **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feel very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

2. **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
- dark "tea-colored" urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.

3. **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A "flare-up" is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.

- Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone

- Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider
- If you stop taking STRIBILD, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIBILD

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take a medicine that contains:

- adefovir (Hepsera®)
- alfuzosin hydrochloride (Uroxatral®)
- cisapride (Propulsid®, Propulsid Quicksolv®)
- ergot-containing medicines, including: dihydroergotamine mesylate (D.H.E. 45®, Migranal®), ergotamine tartrate (Cafegot®, Migergot®, Ergostat®, Medihaler Ergotamine®, Wigraine®, Wigrettes®), and methylergonovine maleate (Ergotrate®, Methergine®)
- lovastatin (Advicor®, Altoprev®, Mevacor®)
- oral midazolam
- pimozone (Orap®)
- rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®)
- sildenafil (Revatio®), when used for treating lung problems
- simvastatin (Simcor®, Vytorin®, Zocor®)
- triazolam (Halcion®)
- the herb St. John's wort

Do not take STRIBILD if you also take any other HIV-1 medicines, including:

- Other medicines that contain tenofovir (Atripla®, Complera®, Viread®, Truvada®)
- Other medicines that contain emtricitabine, lamivudine, or ritonavir (Atripla®, Combivir®, Complera®, Emtriva®, Epivir® or Epivir-HBV®, Epzicom®, Kaletra®, Norvir®, Trizivir®, Truvada®)

STRIBILD is not for use in people who are less than 18 years old.

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

- **See "What is the most important information I should know about STRIBILD?"**
- **New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before you start and while you are taking STRIBILD. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking STRIBILD if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take STRIBILD. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the middle of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The exact cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system** (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome) can happen when you start taking HIV-1 medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having any new symptoms after starting your HIV-1 medicine.

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

- These are not all the possible side effects of STRIBILD. For more information, ask your healthcare provider.
- Call your healthcare provider for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

Tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including:

- If you have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis B infection
- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if STRIBILD can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking STRIBILD.
 - There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. The purpose of this registry is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk with your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- If you are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you take STRIBILD.
 - You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.
 - Two of the medicines in STRIBILD can pass to your baby in your breast milk. It is not known if the other medicines in STRIBILD can pass into your breast milk.
 - Talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements:

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
 - Hormone-based birth control (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc)
 - Antacid medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
 - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
 - amiodarone (Cordarone®, Pacerone®)
 - atorvastatin (Lipitor®, Caduet®)
 - bepridil hydrochloride (Vasacor®, Bepadin®)
 - bosentan (Tracleer®)
 - buspirone
 - carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®)
 - clarithromycin (Biaxin®, Prevpac®)
 - clonazepam (Klonopin®)
 - clorazepate (Gen-xene®, Tranxene®)
 - colchicine (Colcrys®)
 - medicines that contain dexamethasone
 - diazepam (Valium®)

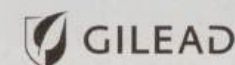
- digoxin (Lanoxin®)
- disopyramide (Norpace®)
- estazolam
- ethosuximide (Zarontin®)
- flecainide (Tambocor®)
- flurazepam
- fluticasone (Flovent®, Flonase®, Flovent® Diskus®, Flovent® HFA, Veramyst®)
- itraconazole (Sporanox®)
- ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
- lidocaine (Xylocaine®)
- mexiletine
- oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®)
- perphenazine
- phenobarbital (Luminal®)
- phenytoin (Dilantin®, Phenytek®)
- propafenone (Rythmol®)
- quinidine (Neudexta®)
- rifabutin (Mycobutin®)
- rifapentine (Priftin®)
- risperidone (Risperdal®, Risperdal Consta®)
- salmeterol (Serevent®) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Advair HFA®)
- sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®) or vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
- tadalafil (Adcirca®), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
- telithromycin (Ketek®)
- thioridazine
- voriconazole (Vfend®)
- warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
- zolpidem (Ambien®, Edlular®, Intermezzo®, Zolpimist®)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking STRIBILD without first talking with your healthcare provider.

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

This Brief Summary summarizes the most important information about STRIBILD. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can also ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about STRIBILD that is written for health professionals, or call 1-800-445-3235 or go to www.STRIBILD.com.

Issued: October 2013



COMPLERA, EMTRIVA, GILEAD, the GILEAD Logo, GSI, HEPSERA, STRIBILD, the STRIBILD Logo, TRUVADA, and VIREAD are trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc., or its related companies. ATRIPLA is a trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb & Gilead Sciences, LLC. All other marks referenced herein are the property of their respective owners.

20 Years of Hate Speech:

How Evangelical Pastor Scott Lively Fueled Uganda's New Antigay Law

by David-Elijah Nahmod
Additional reporting by Megan Smith

On March 10, *Mother Jones* magazine reporter Mariah Blake wrote a comprehensive piece on the actions of Scott Lively, an American pastor with a long history of inflaming antigay hate. Lively, Blake reports, has been visiting Uganda since 2002, making speeches specifically designed to stir up antigay sentiments. Many activists credit Lively as one of the main inspirations for Uganda's harsh law enacted earlier this year that "punishes same-sex intimacy with penalties that can include life in prison," according to a 2014 report on Lively released by the Human Rights Campaign.

Originally from Massachusetts, Lively was an alcoholic, drug addict, and a drifter, before he "found God" and embraced evangelical Protestantism in 1986, the HRC report stated. Although claiming to have a gay brother and sister, Lively has been preaching his hatred for the LGBT community nonstop since the early 1990s. He has called being gay "a personality disorder," among other horrendous things. "I have a brother and sister that went into homosexuality," Lively said during a visit to Uganda in 2009. "I had another sister that wasn't able to enter into marriage until she was in her 40s because of the pain of the family life that we had. I know about these things personally."



Protesters at 2014 demonstrations at the Ugandan diplomatic mission in London.

Lively, who embarked on a 50-city tour of the former Soviet Union from 2006 until 2007, is also a strong supporter of antigay Russian president Vladimir Putin, according to the HRC report. The evangelical pastor rejoiced following the recent passage of Russia's anti-LGBT "gay propaganda" law, even taking personal credit for the legislation's initial proposal. "By taking these steps in the face of intense criticism and hostility by some Western governments and NGOs, the Russians have demonstrated the high value that they place on their children and the natural family model of society," Lively said in an interview with *The Wash-*

ington Blade. "We believe that God will bless the Russian people for their faith and courage."

Perhaps one of Lively's most outlandish and disturbing claims is that gays are the inventors of Nazism and the guiding force behind many Nazi atrocities, a concept he details in his book *The Pink Swastika*, published in 1995. The book has been widely condemned for being false. In fact, LGBT people were targeted by the Third Reich along with Jews.

Blake's story at the *Mother Jones* website includes disturbing videos in →

Community

Photos by Dalton DeHart



Rob Arcos, Sally Huffer, Jay Mays, "Smitty" Smith, and Meredith Treadway at Sundance Cinemas for the 2014 Oscar Watch Party benefiting The Montrose Center on March 2.



Edgar Medina, Britt Kornmann, John Anger, Deney Stygstra, John Gaspari, Lynn Schwartzburg, Michael Rubio, Carol Wyatt, and Trevor Eade-Hill at HRC 2014 Pre-Gala Kickoff Party at Native Citizen on March 18.



Chris Arasin, Tom McGlynn, Wes Laverne, and Chris "Sparky" Cooper at LUEY 2014 in Houston on March 6-9, the Houston Council of Clubs.



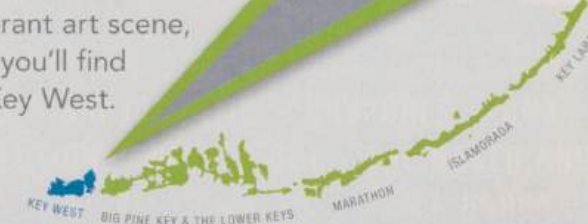
Pick up a few things in town.

The Florida Keys
Key West

Close To Perfect - Far From Normal

With fine dining, live music, a vibrant art scene, and endless outdoor adventures, you'll find everything you're looking for in Key West.

fla-keys.com/gaykeywest
305.294.4603



Island House
Award-winning clothing-optional resort for men. Luxurious rooms. Poolside café and bar. Gym, sauna, steamroom, Jacuzzis. Poolside massage pavilion.
800-890-6284 or 305-294-6284
islandhousekeywest.com



New Orleans House
The only all male guesthouse on Duval Street. Part of the Bourbon Street Pub Complex. Stay where you play!
888-293-9893 or 305-293-9800
neworleanshousekw.com



The Reach, A Waldorf Astoria Resort
Escape to a refined haven, and experience gentle breezes of the Atlantic Ocean, gracefully silhouetted by breathtaking Key West sunsets.
888-318-4316 or 305-296-5000
reachresort.com

which Lively speaks of "predatory" gays who prey on children in order to "recruit" them. According to Lively, these kids then end up "identifying as homosexual."

In another video posted at motherjones.com, Lively lists the "causes of homosexuality." He claims that the primary "cause" is sexual abuse, which he called "an evil game of tag." According to Lively, he has "never known a lesbian who wasn't molested as a child," and that lesbians were molesting other women. Lively has attempted to spread these same beliefs to Latvia, Hungary, Moldova, and many other countries, according to the HRC report.

Lively made speeches like these in Uganda to ordinary citizens and to members of parliaments, presenting himself as an expert on the topic of LGBT issues. Blake's story included a

video in which a young Ugandan man, referring to Lively as "a man of God," said that he had never heard of the gay movement prior to Lively's talks. "We need to attack the gay movement with force," he said. "Dr. Scott told us that these people have all the resources they need, so it's easy for them to spread their evil."

Last month, Ugandan president Yoweri Museveni signed the country's antigay law that prescribes a seven-year jail term for funding or "sponsoring" homosexuality. Although Lively says that it's "insulting" to claim that he is responsible for the passage of this law, many observers believe that the situation in Uganda would not have become so dire if Lively had not stirred up so much antigay sentiment. "It's a very insulting argument, that somehow an American evangelical pastor is so powerful that I've overwhelmed the intelligence of an entire government and turned them out to do my will," Lively said. "The Ugandans knew what they wanted to hear."

Lively is currently facing a lawsuit brought by the Center for Constitutional Rights on behalf of the LGBT rights organization, Sexual Minorities Uganda, and will have to stand trial for crimes against humanity, according to the HRC report. However, no trial date has been set and the next pretrial conference is not scheduled until 2015—clearing the way for Lively to continue his work until then.

Harry Belafonte, the Grammy-winning singer/actor, and Dr. Mathilde Krim, a co-founder of the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AMFAR), have issued a joint statement calling upon the U.S. to "re-examine our relationship with all countries receiving foreign aid and restructure our relationship with those that criminalize homosexuality."

Belafonte and Krim expressed concern that "this cancerous bigotry will spread to other countries wishing to scapegoat an easily targeted minority." ■

LGBT Organizations Rally Support for Nondiscrimination Ordinance in Houston

A citywide LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination ordinance will be introduced and debated by the Houston city council in the next few months, according to Equality Texas.

If passed, the ordinance would protect all Houstonians—regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, sex, gender identity, gender expression, religion, sexual orientation, disability, marital and family status, or veteran's status—from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

San Antonio's city council approved a similar ordinance in September 2013. Following this vote, Houston Mayor Annise Parker expressed interest in see-

ing Houston do the same. "It is absolutely something we should do, and the majority of council members have publicly stated they are in support of a nondiscrimination ordinance," Parker said. "But this is an issue that requires all of council to be engaged and agree it is time to move it forward. When it happens, we will do that."

In partnership with Texans Together, Equality Texas is asking any individual who supports fairness for all Houstonians to sign their online petition calling on city council to pass the nondiscrimination ordinance. The organization also encourages supporters to spread the word about the ordinance to their family members, friends, church members, civic clubs, and social clubs.

Additionally, the Houston Stonewall Young Democrats are reaching out to business owners and leaders supportive of the ordinance with a petition of their own. "Passing a citywide ordinance that protects all Houstonians makes our city a better place to live in, do business in, and improves our standing on the international stage," the Houston Stonewall Young Democrats said on their website. "To convince our elected officials that passing an ordinance is the right thing to do, we need businesses and business leaders to stand with us."

To sign the petition, go to the hotlink at OutSmartMagazine.com or visit texanstogether.org. —Megan Smith ■

Community

Photos by Dalton DeHart



Lue Dillard, Tim Fischer, Alisha Jackson, and Kelly Young at AIDS Foundation Houston's AIDS Walk 2014 on March 9.



Senior Pastor Rev. J. Ernest "Ernie" Turney, Larry Leutwyler, Jill Seale, Jerry Goree, and Oscar Naves at the "Oodles of Noodles" fundraiser for Bering Support Network Fundraiser at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church on March 8.



Olivia Jordan, Judge Alice Oliver-Parrott, and Kim Ogg at the Kim Ogg for DA Women's Rally on February 21.



Front row: Don Gill, Tori Williams, and Isabel Ferry. Back row: Ben Jones and Bill Henry at Krewe of Olympus Charity Distribution Party on March 23.

JACK WHITE
VAMPIRE WEEKEND
ZEDD
MS. LAURYN HILL
ABOVE & BEYOND
WU-TANG CLAN
EDWARD SHARPE AND THE MAGNETIC ZEROS
DWIGHT YOAKAM
CHILDISH GAMBINO
DEFTONES

2014 FPSF

MAY 31 & JUNE 1, 2014 × HOUSTON TEXAS × ELEANOR TINSLEY PARK × FPSF.COM
CAGE THE ELEPHANT × THE KILLS × DIE ANTWOORD × BIG GIGANTIC × CHVRCHES × DMX ×
THE 1975 × TUNE-YARDS × LAIDBACK LUKE × REBELUTION × WASHED OUT × THE NAKED AND
FAMOUS × ADVENTURE CLUB × FLOSSTRADAMUS × DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS × LORD HURON ×
YING YANG TWINS × SKY FERREIRA × J. RODDY WALSTON & THE BUSINESS × FIRST AID KIT ×
MARIACHI EL BRONX × PAPER DIAMOND × KING KHAN & THE SHRINES × FLATBUSH ZOMBIES × THE
OH HELLOS × SHAKEY GRAVES × WILDCAT! WILDCAT! × POOLSIDE × ROBERT DELONG ×
THE ORWELLS × ANAMANAGUCHI × DREW HOLCOMB & THE NEIGHBORS × THE CHAIN GANG OF 1974
× WILLIAM FITZSIMMONS × DESTRUCTION UNIT × WHITE SEA × UH HUH HER × JANA HUNTER × THE
TONTONS × SYD ARTHUR × LIZZO × BENJAMIN BOOKER × BAGHEERA × WILD MOCCASINS × ISHI ×
FEATHERS × A FISTFUL OF SOUL × YUNG SLUTTY × EAGLE CLAW × VENOMOUS MAXIMUS × WILD
PARTY × CARNIVAL TALK × DRIVER FRIENDLY × BLSHS × THE CALDWELL × PLEASURE 2 × CHILDREN
OF POP × LOS SKARNALES × NEW YORK CITY QUEENS × DE'WAYNE JACKSON × MAKE × ANOTHER
RUN × GRACIE CHAVEZ × PINKISH BLACK × DEAD ROSES × GRAND OLD GRIZZLY × ILL LIAD

by
Susan
Bankston

What's Better than Republicans?

Fire ants?

Iike you, I am celebrating the Twinkl'n' 20th anniversary of OUTSMART magazine.

When the publisher suggested that I might write something involving the number 20, I started pondering. Twenty is a big number. A "Top 10" list is hard enough, but 20? I don't know 20 of anything.

But after thinking about it for a minute, I had myself one of those light-bulb moments. Twenty isn't hard to do when you make it easy: Top 20 Ways that Fire Ants Are Better than Republicans.

If you're from around here, you know fire ants. They are so named because if they bite you, two days later you have a canker on your leg the size of Beaumont that burns like fire.



I have heard that the burn will stop if you dance nekkid in church while the Rotary Club watches. I don't know if that's true or not, but . . . oh hell, it's not true. I do, indeed, know that for a fact. You'll thank me one day for telling you that.

Fire ants spread faster than a six-legged jackrabbit and have even been known to bite cute little puppies, grandmothers, and Rainbow Brite. Fire ants are a malicious bunch. I'm pretty sure that in their spare time they are enriching uranium and invading Crimea.

But no matter what, even that grandmother thing, they are not as contemptible as Republicans.

So here goes . . .

Top 20 Ways that Fire Ants Are Better than Republicans:

1. Fire ants seldom make racist or anti-gay remarks, but when they do, it never, ever involves misspelled signs.
2. A fire-ant sting hurts women the same exact amount that it hurts men—none of this 82 percent stinging level crap.
3. Most fire ants do not have their own radio talk show.
4. Even fire ants believe in evolution.
5. Among fire ants, "The Queen" is a good thing.
6. Fire ants are happy even if they haven't starved all the other ants and taken their homes.
7. Fire ants just bite you. They do not bite you and then make you get baptized.
8. Contrary to their name, fire ants do not need to open-carry firearms.
9. Fire ants never claim that rattlesnakes are emboldened by Obama's weakness.
10. Fire ants do not hold a May runoff election to select their craziest ant in all of the ant kingdom to run for lieutenant governor of Texas.
11. Fire ants don't seem to care what I do with my uterus.

"Fire ants don't seem to care what I do with my uterus."

12. When one fire-ant colony attacks another fire-ant colony, they always double-check the credibility of their evidence, and rarely make the black guy lie to the United Ant Nation about it.
13. Three words: No Rush-ant Limbaugh.
14. Fire ants embrace communal ownership of the means of production and reject the inherent oppression of capitalist patriarchy.
- We think.
15. Fire-ant bites go away after a few weeks.
16. Fire ants won't bite you and then call you a terrorist sympathizer for scratching.
17. There are no fire-ant TV evangelists.
18. There are no \$10,000-a-plate fire-ant fundraisers.
19. Fire ants haven't produced any great thinkers either, but you don't notice because they can't write or talk.
20. The one way fire ants are exactly like Republicans: they all think with one tiny little brain.

Susan Bankston lives in Richmond, Texas, where she writes about her hairdresser at The World's Most Dangerous Beauty Salon, Inc., at juanitajeans.com.





by
Grace S.
Yung, CFP

All in the Family

Insuring our four-legged family members

For anyone who has ever loved a pet—regardless of whether he or she walked, crawled, flew, or swam—it goes without saying that in most cases, your furry, feathered, or finned companion was without a doubt part of the family.

In the LGBT community, pets take on an especially important meaning, as in many instances, individuals and couples do not have children. So, additional love and affection is placed on our beloved pets—and for that reason, we want to ensure that our pets are well taken care of should they require a trip to the vet, as well as when or if we are no longer there to care for them.

Adding Up the Tab of Being a Pet Parent

Depending on the type of pet (or pets) you have, the cost of having them can certainly add up. Just like having children, the cost of feeding and keeping a roof over their heads can be expensive—starting with the initial price of adoption.

Over time, the cost of food, spaying/neutering, health care, and boarding can certainly add an extra category to your household budget. Yet, for most in the LGBT community, it is a cost that is more than worthwhile—and, the good news is that some of the higher costs like health care are now being eased through options such as pet insurance policies.

What Is Pet Insurance?

There are several different types of pet insurance policies on the market today. The most basic policies will pay for some or all of the veterinary costs

that are related to illnesses and accidents incurred by a covered pet. Other pet insurance policies will even pay out a benefit if your pet dies, is lost, or is stolen.

How Pet Insurance Works

Similar to health insurance for humans, most pet medical insurance policies will pay benefits that are a percentage of the veterinary expenses incurred, once a stated deductible has been met.

In the past, most pet insurance policies did not offer benefits for preventive care such as vaccinations or elective procedures such as neutering. Today, however, as these types of policies have



become more mainstream, more comprehensive benefit options are being offered. Some policies will even provide benefits for prescription drugs, dental care, and alternative treatment such as acupuncture.

Choosing the Right Pet Insurance Policy

When deciding on the type of pet insurance to purchase, it is important to consider that there are two primary types of policies that are available on the market today. These are lifetime and non-lifetime.

The non-lifetime type of policy will cover most of the health conditions that are suffered by a pet during the course of a given year. However, upon policy renewal, if a particular condition has had a claim filed, it may be excluded from coverage going forward. Therefore, should that condition incur further expense, it is likely that the pet owner will be required to pay for the treatment out-of-pocket.

A lifetime policy, on the other hand, will not exclude coverage for chronic conditions—even if previous claims have been

filed. These policies, however, could have other types of limits. For example, they may exclude coverage for pre-existing conditions. Therefore, it is important to read any policy carefully before committing to a plan.

Ensuring that Your Pet Is Okay, Even if You Aren't Here

Those in the LGBT community who truly love their pets have also been more apt to set up pet trusts in order to ensure that their pets are taken care of should they become incapable of doing so in the future.

Pet trusts are legally sanctioned arrangements that will provide for both the care and the maintenance of your pet or pets in the event of your disability or death. Through a pet trust, you can entrust an individual (who is known as a trustee) to utilize the funds in the trust

for the care of your pet(s). If or when the time comes for the trust to take effect, the trustee will make payments to a named caregiver.

In setting up a pet trust, the name and address of the following participants will be required: trustee, successor trustee, caregiver, and successor caregiver.

In addition, in order to ensure the best possible care, you should identify your pet in detail, as well as describe his or her care and standard of living in detail. This information should include nutritional needs—including any special diet that they may require—as well as any regular exercise they are accustomed to, and other specific details regarding →



TAKE A RIDE

Experience PrideFest in Denver, June 21 and 22. Connect with friends new and old, enjoy live music and join the parade. While you're here, rent a B-cycle and explore The Mile High City's many unique neighborhoods featuring chef-owned restaurants, boutique shopping, and outdoor activities. And don't miss this summer's world-class exhibitions like *Chihuly* at the Denver Botanic Gardens and *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Plan your pride getaway today at VISITDENVER.COM/GLET



SHOW YOUR PRIDE



PRIDEfest
DENVER
June 21 & 22, 2014



Maine-ly SANDWICHES

- NEW ENGLAND Style FRIED CLAMS
Shepherd Location Only
- FRESHEST Deli Meats
IN A UNIQUELY
Maine Way



HOUSTON'S
only **AUTHENTIC**
MAINE
Lobster Roll!

 MainelySandwiches.com 

3310 S. Shepherd Drive • Opens at 11 AM 10745 NORTH FREEWAY • Opens at 11 AM
713.942.2150 281.820.8920

CATERING FOR 10 TO 500!

Lobster Rolls made fresh at your meeting/event!

MoneySmart continued from page 26

their habits and needs.

You should also include specific direction regarding your pet's burial or cremation for when that time comes, as well as a named beneficiary who will receive any remaining trust funds that were not used by the pet trust should there be any money left over.

Taking the Next Step

Pet trusts can offer peace of mind to pet owners in that their beloved pets will be taken care of for the long term. Likewise, today's pet insurance policies are now offering many customizable options in terms of coverage levels and deductibles—so it is easier to fit these plans into most pet owners' budgets.

It is important to note that the enforcement of pet trusts can differ from state to state, so it is best to set up these vehicles—as well as any other type of pet insurance and related entity—through a professional who is well versed in these matters.

Personal finance-related questions may be e-mailed to grace.yung@lpl.com.

Grace S. Yung, CFP, is a certified financial planner practitioner with experience in helping domestic partners plan their finances since 1994. She is a principal at Midtown Financial LLC in Houston.

Joffe Custom LASIK

**ONE OF THE MOST
EXPERIENCED
LASIK DOCTORS
IN TEXAS**

DR. KEVIN MERKLEY

*In association with The University of
Texas Medical Branch*

**Over 25,000 successful
procedures performed!**

Joffe MediCenter: \$495 Custom LASIK | *Act by Apr 30th*

Some restrictions apply

Treating nearsightedness,
farsightedness & astigmatism

Joffe Lifetime of Care Policy to stand
behind every patient's treatment

Custom LASIK up to 40%
below the national average

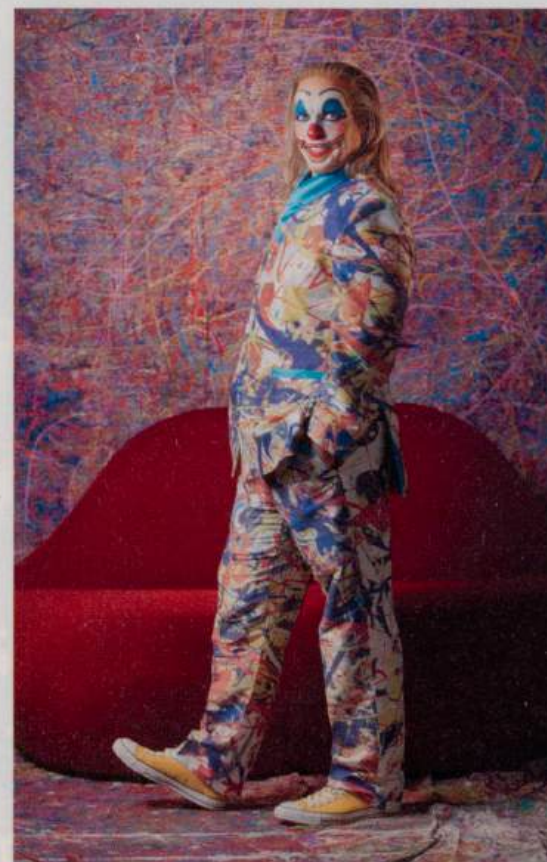
Experienced & Caring Team of Healthcare Professionals

Schedule your Free Custom LASIK exam today!

CALL 866-685-6994 OR VISIT WWW.JOFFE.COM



Taffy Galaxy "Whew", 20" X 24" Mixed Media 2013



Jumper Maybach,® Performance Artist, Painter and Human Rights Activist



www.facebook.com/jumper.maybachllc



www.twitter.com/jumpermaybach

Do you own a "Jumper Maybach"® yet?

Jumper Maybach® Fine Art

info@jumpermaybach.com

www.jumpermaybach.com

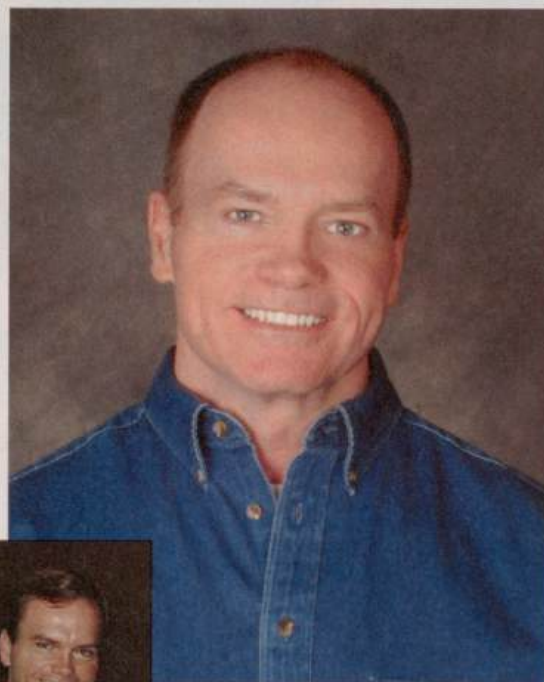
Jumper Maybach



Opening soon at
238 West 19th Street, Suite C
Houston, Texas 77008

Gallery Hours:
Tues-Sat 10am-7:00pm, Sun 1pm-5pm
Gallery: (832) 523.4249

The Rob Schmerler INSURANCE AGENCY



Rob Schmerler
Voted Best Male Insurance Agent
11 Years in a Row
—OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards

We offer individual and group health insurance through several fine companies to meet your specific needs.

One-stop shopping for a full range of products including auto, home, renters and life. All kinds of commercial and a whole lot more.

Great rates! Full Service!
Call for a quote today!

(713) 661-7700

6575 W Loop S, Ste 185 • Bellaire, Texas 77401
SchmerlerAgency.com



FARMERS



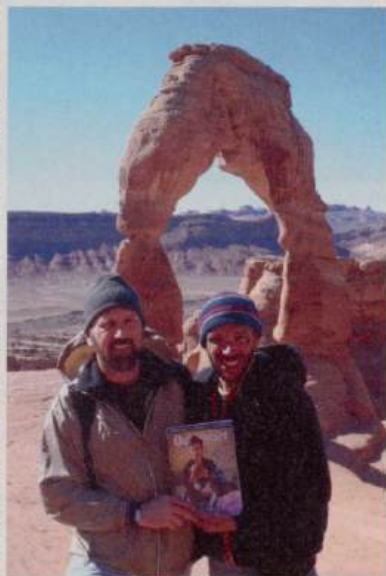
Facebook.com/SchmerlerAgency

**TIME
OUT**

with
OutSmart
Special Promotions and Advertising

Show Us Your OUTSMART

GOING OUT OF TOWN?
Take OutSMART along. Snap a high-res pic of yourself and OS and send it to us. Send images to LETTERS@OUTSMARTMAGAZINE.COM.



Raymond Inkel and Robert Herman with OutSMART at Utah's Delicate Arch in Arches National Park.



Actors Barek Reep and Gabe Gibson with director Rickie Eatherly in Asheville, N.C. OutSMART was used as a prop in the play *No Such Thing* written by Douglas Hill about one friend outing another in print.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Check out these fabulous events
co-sponsored by OutSMART
and our marketing partners.



April 5 & 6: Bayou City Women's Chorus, "Divas" benefitting the Bayou City Performing Arts.
INFO: bayoucityperformingarts.org

April 17: Pride Houston 2014 Kick Off Party and Grand Marshal Announcement. INFO: pridehouston.org

April 20: Bunnies on the Bayou 35
INFO: bunniesonthebayou.org

April 29–May 3: It Gets Better, The Musical plus Multiple Events
A moving performance of song and story to transform painful histories of bullying, harassment, and discrimination into a celebration of courage and a campaign

for social justice (see page 68 for details). INFO: spahouston.org/igb

SAVE THE DATE
May 8: Out@TUTS Night presents *Evita*. Join us the first Thursday performance of each show. After the performance, mingle with the cast and listen to fabulous cabaret music with your LGBT friends.
INFO: tuts.com/out

May 9: Curtis Braly performs at Neon Boots Dancehall and Saloon.
INFO: neonbootsclub.com

Be social! Connect with us!

Twitter.com/outsmarthouston
Facebook.com/outsmartmagazine
Instagram: @outsmartmagazine



RESPECTFUL AND
FACEBOOK: HCCCOLEMAN
INSTAGRAM: HCCCOLEMANCOLLEGE
TWITTER: HCC_COLEMAN
#GOGETIT
AT ALL TIMES

WORKING TODAY FOR WHAT I WILL BE TOMORROW

Achieving my dream isn't going to be easy. I know I have to work long hours and maybe miss a family dinner or two. But in the end, it'll all be worth it. I know I have a bright future ahead of me in the healthcare industry.

Whether it's your dream to become a nurse or a dental hygienist, HCC Coleman College for Health Sciences will help you achieve it. Start your future today by visiting pride.colemanconnection.org



Go get it.
It's yours.



FRI JUNE 27TH
9 P M - 3 A M



WONDERLANDTM

H O U S T O N

**A WINTER WONDERLAND?
I'M MAD! YOU'RE MAD!**

TICKETS AVAILABLE: WONDERLANDHOUSTON.COM

MASTER OF SOUND
DJ BRANDON MOSES

'It Gets Better'

The anti-bullying campaign comes to the Houston stage

by Donalevan Maines

Houston, we have a bullying problem.

Help is on the way.

Beginning on April 28, a cast of performers from the *it gets better* tour of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles (GMCLA) headlines a weeklong series of events that addresses bullying and the broader issues of tolerance and diversity, says Karen A. Watassek, director of public relations for Houston's Society for the Performing Arts (SPA).

"It all leads up to a performance of *it gets better*," explains Watassek.

The Jones Hall performance on May 2 is presented by SPA in partnership with Legacy Community Health Services and Bayou City Performing Arts (BCPA). BCPA performers appear in the show with six GMCLA members who tour with music and video production elements that are woven into local content.

GMCLA created the show based on the "It Gets Better" campaign against bullying that was launched in September 2010 by columnist Dan Savage and his husband, Terry Miller.

The Internet-based project came in response to a rash of suicides that included Asher Brown, a gay 13-year-old in eighth grade at Hamilton Middle School in the Cy-Fair Independent School District. Brown's parents said he shot himself in the head after being "bullied to death" for being gay.

In fact, says Watassek, "Bullying is the most-often-cited contributor to the extraordinary rise of violence and suicide among LGBT, black, Latino, and physically challenged people."

"This cutting-edge tour brings out the best of the human spirit and dares to transform communities across the country, one week at a time," explains outreach material at gmcla.org.

On April 29, the Better Now Forum is presented at the Holocaust Museum Houston. During a panel discussion moderated by Ernie Manouse, a team of experts delves into

the issues of bullying specific to Houston. Among the panelists is Deb Murphy, youth services specialist at Montrose Counseling Center.

More than a hundred guests are expected, so reservations to the free event are highly recommended.

"Hopefully, from the discussion, people will come up with solutions," says Watassek.

On April 30, GMCLA company members present an educators' professional development workshop, "The Art of Teaching Equality," at Texas Southern University. Asking educators "How do you support students at risk of being bullied or of bullying others?" the chorus members engage participants in an exploration of how the performing arts can serve as an antidote for intolerance in the classroom. In addition, participants learn practical methods for using *It Gets Better* Project videos in the classroom.

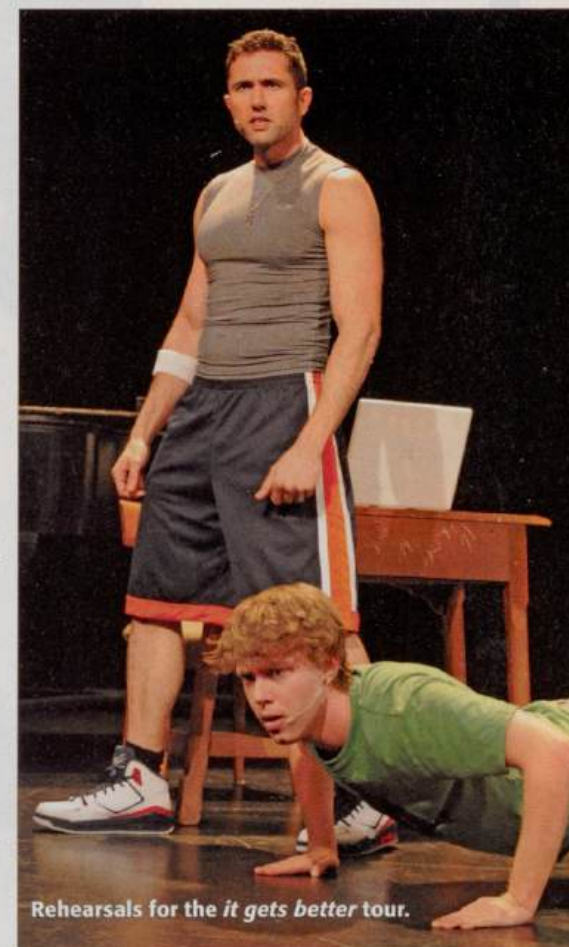
Houstonians can catch the GMCLA cast singing their favorite pop hits and classic standards on April 30 at a Karaoke

Cabaret at Guava Lamp. It's also an opportunity to

socialize along with the BCPA chorale on the night before their final dress rehearsals.

On May 1, members of the company present a multimedia history of the *It Gets Better* Project at the University of Houston. The informal discussion covers various aspects of developing and presenting the live stage production. The artists reflect on their own stories of bullying and suggest steps to create a safe and supportive climate for all youth and young adults.

It gets better is a program that combines the power of song and story to transform painful histories of bullying, harassment, and discrimination into a celebration of courage.



Rehearsals for the *it gets better* tour.

Out songwriter Sacha Sacket, who was bullied as a child, penned three songs in the show, which also features Charlie Chaplin's "Smile," the power anthem "What Doesn't Kill You (Stronger)," and the iconic "At Seventeen" by Janis Ian, who came out in 1993 and married Patricia Snyder 11 years ago.

Among other hits on the show's song list are "If I Could Turn Back Time" and "Beautiful," along with "Over the Rainbow" and the hymn "It Is Well with My Soul."

Sacket is a featured performer in the show along with GMCLA members Jason Currie, Tyler Houston, Todd Macofsky, Mario Mosley, and Joshua Skidmore.

After the show, the audience is invited to join the cast for an expanded talk-back on stage with company members and representatives of local groups to discuss what can be done in the Houston area to improve the climate for LGBT students.

BCPA is using the performance and the Los Angeles choir's residency in Houston as an opportunity to focus on outreach and →

BAYOU CITY
Smiles

Cosmetic & General Dentistry

Uncompromising
Excellence in Dentistry

Full Service Dentistry

- Ask about our
FREE Whitening—for Life!
- Invisalign & Aligner Therapy.
- Veneers & Smile Makeover.
- Your Dentist is Certified
in Oral Conscious Sedation.
- In House Financing.
- Most Insurance Accepted.
- Snap-On Smile provider.
- Underarmor Sports
Guard provider.

Dr. Marcus
de Guzman

Dr. Cynthia
Corral

WWW.BAYOUCITYSMILES.COM

4000 Washington Ave, Suite 201 • Houston, Texas 77007 • (713) 518-1411



Voted One of the Top Dentists
By OutSmart Readers



YOUR FAMILY DENTISTS

Located in the INTEGRITY BANK Plaza,
Washington Ave. @ Leverkusen St.

urban Resort

Coming Soon - Galveston

'It Gets Better' continued from previous page

education going forward in its coming seasons. "As we celebrate our 35th anniversary, this joint venture is the perfect addition to our season," says Mel Montanez, the group's office and outreach manager. "It continues our mission of advancing tolerance and inclusiveness through artistic expression. We are very excited to join our brothers in song from GMCLA as we address the important issue of bullying through this performance."

"We want to make it better now," says Chree Boydston, chief development officer for Legacy Community Health Services. "The topic of bullying is very important to us. It's real, and it exists. Health care and performing arts are two very powerful entities, so we had to be a part of this inspirational message. We will be on-site at all of the events."

PARTIAL EVENT SCHEDULE

See full schedule at spahouston.org/igb

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

7-8:30 p.m.

"Better Now Forum" – panel discussion with moderator Ernie Manouse
Holocaust Museum Houston,
5401 Caroline St.

Reservations recommended, contact Mary Lee Webeck at 713.942.8000, ext. 123, or mwebeck@hnh.org.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

4:30-6 p.m.

"The Art of Teaching Equality" – educators' professional development workshop presented by GMCLA members.

Texas Southern University
To participate, contact Jessica Neito at 713.632.8112 or jessica@spahouston.org.
9:30-11 p.m.

"Karaoke Cabaret" at Guava Lamp
570 Waugh Dr.

For more info, contact Allison Lott at 713.632.8108 or allison@spahouston.org.

THURSDAY, MAY 1

2:30-3:30 p.m.

"It Gets Better Project" multimedia presentation
U of H, LGBT Resource Center
To participate, contact Joe Angel Babb at 713.632.8102 or joeangel@spahouston.org.

FRIDAY, MAY 2

8 p.m.

It gets better concert, in partnership with Bayou City Performing Arts and Legacy Community Health Services.
Musicians of The Los Angeles Gay Men's Chorus and Houston's Bayou City Performing Arts. Audience talk-back session after the show, on stage with company members and representatives from Houston groups.
Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana St.
Tickets: spahouston.org.

Donalevan Maines also writes about By the Way, Meet Vera Stark in this issue of *OUT-SMART* magazine.

Super Bowl 'Puppy Love' Actor

Don Jeanes talks bullying

by Donalevan Maines

Watching—through happy tears—the Budweiser Super Bowl commercial "Puppy Love," who knew the buff cowboy was bullied as an elementary school kid in Humble? "I remember walking down the hall, reading *Where the Red Fern Grows* or *Bridge to Terabithia*, and a kid slapping the book out of my hand, saying, 'Quit reading, you dork!'"

"I was a dork," says Don Jeanes, 33, who has been an LGBT ally since making friends with gay men after leaving Texas in his 20s.

"Then in seventh grade, my mom let me play football, and everything changed," he says. "When you're on a team, it's kind of hard to get picked on."

"I started to gradually get cool."

Now his career is red hot as the star of two popular Budweiser Super Bowl commercials.

Jeanes learned something akin to the loneliness of gay youth when he was seven, his parents divorced, and he moved with his mother and older brother from a ranch in Moscow, Texas, to the comparative metropolis of Humble.

"Being the new kid, from my perspective, I was ostracized," says Jeanes. "I only had one good friend. We were the country kids, the hillbilly kids, and I had a little bit of the loner thing going on."

"I took theater, because a lot of kids told me it would be an easy 'A,'" he explains. "I thought I could sleep through it."

Instead, his teacher, R. Scott Allen, who's now the principal at the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA), inspired him to act.



Behind the scenes: actor Don Jeanes on the set of Budweiser's "Puppy Love" Super Bowl commercial. Photo at far right of page is Jeanes in his "dork" days.

"I think my love of theater came from being an outcast," says Jeanes.

Dividing his time between high school sports and theater was a challenge, Jeanes says. "When I had rehearsal, I would tell the football players I was going to work out. But they kind of knew."

After graduating from Humble High School in 1999, Jeanes earned a marketing degree at Texas State University in San Marcos, then worked for a year in business-to-business sales in downtown Houston.

"My buddy was having a great →



"Don't let bullies get you down. I was where you are once and, instead of listening to them and taking their degrading words to heart, I used their words as motivation to get better—to get better at sports, to get stronger, to learn martial arts, to read books on winning arguments, and even better than arguing, books on persuasion so I wouldn't have to argue anymore. These improvements not only stopped me from getting bullied, they helped me to succeed in every other aspect of life. When you let someone take up space in your head—good or bad—they win. So don't let bullies win. Now, I'm not saying go get in a fight and get hurt. If someone is physically hurting you or degrading you, then tell an adult and first get that situation resolved. But after you've separated yourself from that environment, don't carry it with you. And if you let it affect you at all, then let it help you to become the best person you can be. You'll look back years from now and those bullies will still be the sad, uninvolved people they were, but you will have achieved things beyond your wildest dreams. I'm so excited for your future and I'm so excited to hear about the incredible, amazing things you'll do." —Don Jeanes



PROUDLY SUPPORTING THE GLBT COMMUNITY SINCE 1983



DR. M. SANDRA SCURREIA

281-661-5901
6565 WEST LOOP SOUTH
SUITE 300
BELLAIRE, TEXAS 77401

FAMILY MEDICINE

- GENERAL FAMILY MEDICINE
- WOMEN'S HEALTH
- OVER 30 YEARS IN PRACTICE
- FOCUS ON PREVENTATIVE HEALTH & WELLNESS

SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED BY
MDVIP
PERSONALIZED HEALTHCARE

Medicare & most managed
care plans accepted

Board certified
family practice

Membership
fee required

DR. JULIET FARMER

Therapeutic Optometrist

Boutique
EYE CARE



WINNER Best Female Eye Doctor
—OutSmart Reader's Choice 2013

2502 Woodhead • Houston, Texas 77019 • 713-528-2010
www.boutiqueeyecare.com



Super Bowl 'Puppy Love' Actor continued from previous page

time in New York, acting and bartending, so I moved up there. I couldn't resist," he says.

"A busboy I frequently worked with was gay, and he showed me that he was a great soul," says Jeanes. "Now, my gay friends are some of my best friends. They are free of inhibitions and they know exactly who they are, and I respect that."

The past five years, Jeanes says, he's auditioned practically every day in Hollywood. On his second callback for the first Budweiser commercial in 2013, they asked him to wear a cowboy hat and boots.

However, when Jeanes didn't hear back before he came home for Christmas holidays, he thought he didn't get the job. Feeling dejected, he says, "I decided to stop acting. I told everybody 'I'm coming home in February.'"

But arriving back in Hollywood, Jeanes was met with the news that he booked the job. Even then, he says, "I thought, 'Hey Don, this will be my swan song. Take the money and run.'"

But Jeanes kept acting, starring again in this year's Budweiser commercial, which has attracted about 50 million views on YouTube, and 200,000 Facebook "Likes."

"I've been working nonstop," says Jeanes.

Donalevan Maines also writes about By the Way, Meet Vera Stark in this issue of OutSmart magazine.

No More Werewolves

Andy Neilson is living proof that 'it gets better'

by Donalevan Maines

Sugar Land Middle School is a "no-hate" zone, say the signs that welcomed 26-year-old Andy Neilson back to his old campus last month.

"It's a big difference from 13 or 14 years ago," says Neilson, who was ostracized and bullied there after coming out at age 12. "The reaction was pretty terrible," he remembers. "It gets better? I didn't hear that."

Instead, he says, "People would poke me from behind and ask me if I liked it. The adults didn't do anything about it. 'Once, a kid started shouting Scriptures at me. I shouted back, 'Oh, f-k off.' I got detention for that."

A movie buff, Neilson remembers seeing heartthrob Michael Schoeffling as Jake Ryan, sentenced to detention in *Sixteen Candles*. "That's when I realized I was full-blown gay," he says. "I think that was the case with a lot of people."

Not that Neilson had much doubt. "I had always felt it. But it didn't occur to me until I was 12," he explains. "That was the age other people were going out and finding young love. I thought maybe, for some delusional reason, if I came out, it would happen to me."

Perhaps most unnerving to his classmates was that Neilson didn't "look or act gay."

His revelation didn't result in other guys coming out, although in retrospect, Neilson says, a friend in eighth grade gave him a "hint" by describing one actor as better-looking than one Neilson had a crush on.

"It didn't occur to me that anyone else would have the gall to say they were gay," says Neilson. "I thought I was the only one. I felt absolutely by myself."

He stayed in a classroom during lunch while everybody else went to the cafeteria. His math teacher, says Neilson, "would come in sometimes, and she was a very sweet person." On one occasion, he recalls, "I was in a very bad state, very humiliated, and she gave me this sympathetic, concerned look, and it is something that has stayed with me. It just proves how important it is to know that a teacher cares. Imagine how much better it

would have been if I had been able to talk to a teacher about what was going on. There are voices out there that advocate entirely against that, which is tragic.

"During this period, I wrote a desperate note to Betty DeGeneres [mother of Ellen DeGeneres], and she wrote back to me—it was through her column at PlanetOut. That was the first time I heard 'it gets better.'"

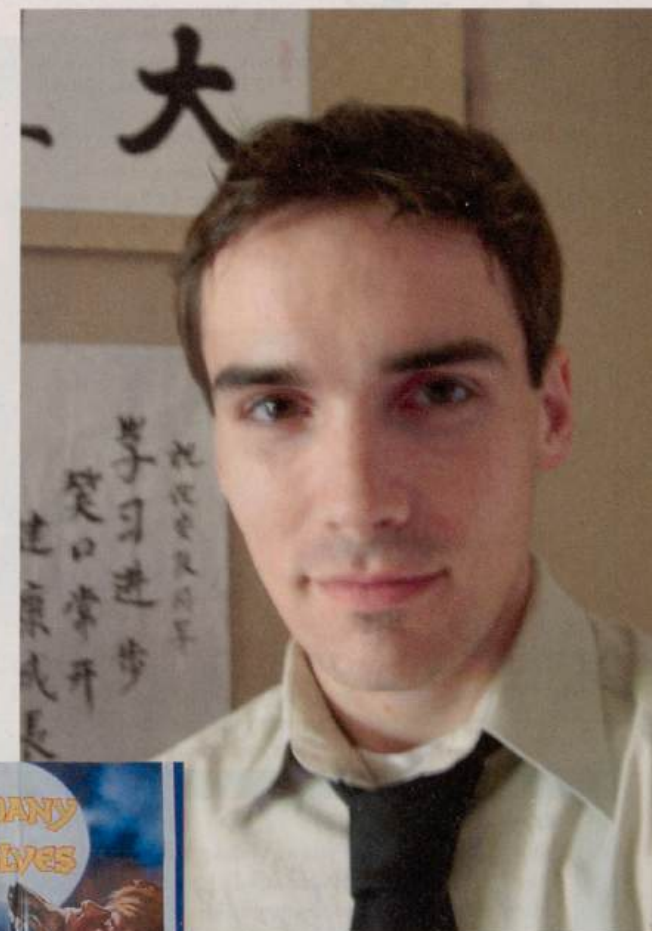


At age 26, Neilson has now been out more than half of his life.

"I've never had a boyfriend," he says.

After high school, Neilson went to the University of Texas and studied filmmaking. "I wanted to be the next Jane Campion," he says. Campion wrote and directed *The Piano* (1993), which starred Holly Hunter and Anna Paquin, with a haunting score by Michael Nyman.

"I've always felt a connection with women characters in movies," he says. "It's the women who have inspired me, and Holly Hunter in *The Piano* was like my soul mate. We were both outsiders. We both have dark features. We both felt isolated." →



In Andy Neilson's own words: "I didn't think I'd find any pictures of me during that time because I didn't allow many, and looking at this picture [left] after all these years is a little disturbing. I look ridiculous, and clearly unhappy. But, on an interesting note, I have to point out the significance of the poster. *The Company of Wolves* is a Neil Jordan film, and a surrealist metaphor for puberty and how terrifying it can be. Nobody comes out unscathed, and I related to that. I guess being gay was like being a werewolf, and you can see that in my face. The other pic shows me as I am now. And no werewolves, but beautiful Chinese ideograms offering words of encouragement. It really does get better."

Lucia & Michael Cordúa

Ask You To
Save the Date

10.11.14

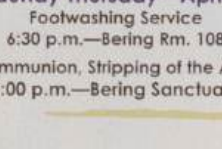
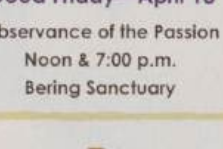
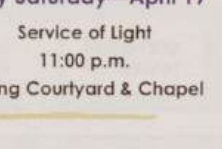
SING FOR HOPE

Celebrating 20 Years

PROUD SPONSOR
CELEBRATING
OutSmart
20 YEARS
SUPPORTING HOUSTON'S LGBT COMMUNITY

Bering Omega
Community Services

Holy Week & Easter

		
Palm/Passion Sunday—April 13 Morning Communion 8:30 a.m.—Bering Chapel Worship, Communion, & Palm Procession 10:50 a.m.—Bering Sanctuary		
		
Maundy Thursday—April 17 Footwashing Service 6:30 p.m.—Bering Rm. 108 Communion, Stripping of the Altar 7:00 p.m.—Bering Sanctuary		
		
Good Friday—April 18 Observance of the Passion Noon & 7:00 p.m. Bering Sanctuary		
		
Holy Saturday—April 19 Service of Light 11:00 p.m. Bering Courtyard & Chapel		



Easter April 20

Sunrise Service
7:00 a.m.—Java Java Café—911 W 11th Street

Service of Worship with Holy Communion
10:50 a.m.—Bering Sanctuary

Children's Easter Egg Hunt
9:45 a.m.—Bering Courtyard

BERING MEMORIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
1440 Harold Street • Houston, Texas 77006 • 713.526.1017 • www.beringumc.org

No More Werewolves continued from previous page

"UT was fine," says Neilson. "I felt at home, but I was so busy. All of my film projects were about outsiders and stuff related to that."

While he enjoyed making films, he says, "I actually fell in love with my Chinese classes." He spent two semesters studying in China and hopes someday to open a Chinese-language program at a school. "I've found a lot of happiness in studying other languages and would love to share that passion with young people."

Returning to live in Sugar Land, Neilson works at an arts education nonprofit group in Houston while saving money to pursue further studies.

It was his job that took him back to Sugar Land Middle School in March. "I was so terrified," he says. "It was my first time back in 13 years. I was almost sweating. The first thing that triggered me was the smell. I'd completely forgotten the smell. But it brought back all of the abuse I'd felt."

However, to his surprise, Neilson saw signs identifying the school as a "no-hate" zone. "They were all over the place," he says. "I can't tell you how peaceful that made me feel. It was therapeutic."

Donalevan Maines also writes about PJ Raval in this issue of OUTSMART magazine.

Finding Acceptance

Once a bullied teen, Christopher Henry now has the friends and confidence he wanted

by Donalevan Maines

Christopher Henry has the most amazing parents. He came out to them when he was only 10—and they were fine with it. When he was old enough to date, they let him have a boyfriend. Growing up in Katy, when his assistant principal "wasn't supportive" of him, Henry says, "My mother wouldn't take that as an answer."

It gets better.

Henry liked playing volleyball, so in 2009 his parents found him a gay league in Houston, drove him to practice every week, and attended all of his games.

That was a turning point in his confidence, after enduring the hostility of fellow students in middle school and his first two years of high school. "Eating by myself, not having many friends, feeling ostracized when other people were hanging out at the mall," he says.

Other players in the Lone Star Volleyball Association "would thank my parents and tell them it was really marvelous how they supported me," says Henry. "I became more accepting of myself, and as I exuded more confidence, I was more accepted by others."

In his senior year at Cinco Ranch High School, Henry was editor of the yearbook and the school newspaper. Fellow students nominated him for the homecoming court.

Now 20, Henry graduates in May with a degree in public relations after just three years at Texas State University in San Marcos.

This summer, he backpacks through Europe. It's his graduation gift from supportive parents Christopher Sr. and Christina.

Henry was a sixth-grader at a Catholic school in New York when he came out to his parents. "People always called me gay," he explains, "but I was so young, I didn't know what it was about. I looked it up and told my parents, and they were completely accepting of me."

"I didn't understand the stigma attached to it, but my parents told me it would be okay. They were so amazing and comforting."

In college, Henry has found friends "who love me for me."



Now and then: currently a smiling soon-to-be college graduate, Christopher Henry felt ostracized for being gay during his middle-school years.

They told me that later in life, there would be people who love me for me."

That summer, before Henry entered sixth grade, he and his parents moved to Katy. "There was no stigma for me, Texas versus New York," he says. "Only later did I realize that Texas has such conservative public policies."

In middle school, says Henry, his mother, "who was really invested in my life and my education," made sure that his assistant principal and his counselor—both of whom were women—did their jobs. He still remembers their words of assurance: "You have

three mothers now."

High school was "difficult," Henry says. "I had my first boyfriend in 10th grade, but I was out and he wasn't, so we had to have our relationship in secrecy. We were not able to talk about it outside of my house," says Henry. "When it ended after five months, I wasn't able to tell my friends how it felt."

Henry "only applied to colleges that were liberal in nature," and he found a "fabulous" fit. "I made friends very early," he says. "Texas State is very liberal. There are three different organizations on campus that focus

completely on the LGBT community and how to help handle certain situations."

In college, Henry has found friends "who love me for me," which is what his parents promised him would happen. "Being gay is not something that people define me as," he says.

Next fall, Henry says, "I'll go back to New York and hopefully work in the PR and communications industry. I love learning about people and their lives. That might come from wanting to make friends and be accepted when I was younger."

Never a star volleyball player, Henry says he still likes to play, even though he's not that good.

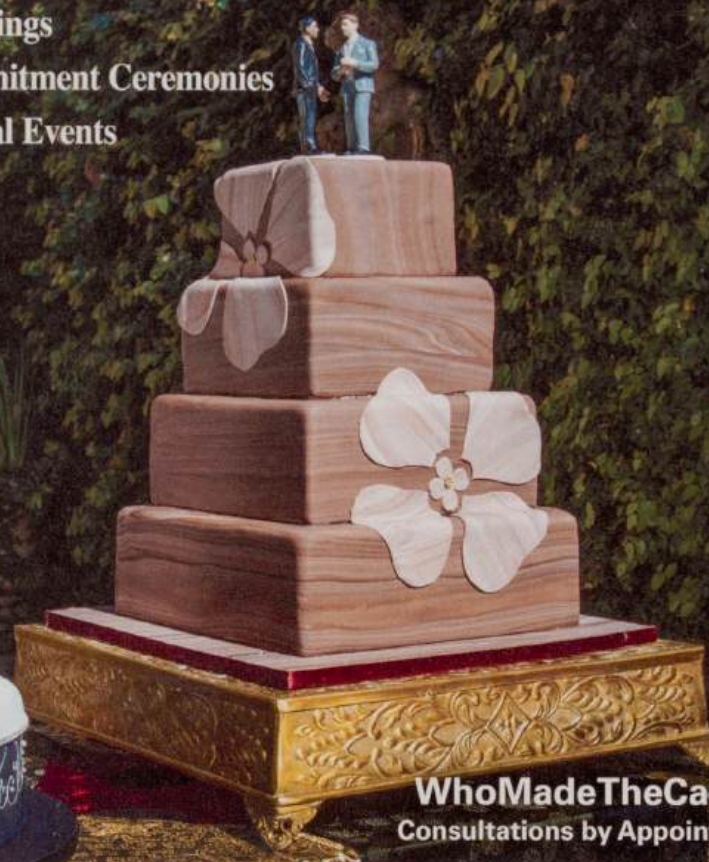
"I still keep kneepads in my closet," he says.

Donalevan Maines also writes about By the Way, Meet Vera Stark in this issue of OUTSMART magazine.

"Who Made the Cake!"
exquisite cakes by Nadine Moon

713.528.4719

- Weddings
- Commitment Ceremonies
- Special Events



WhoMadeTheCake.com
Consultations by Appointment Only

Throwback

#tb20

OUTSMART highlights some of our favorite celebrity interviews from the past two decades...

20

Here's what they said



Lily Tomlin

September 2007
by Blase DiStefano

OUTSMART: In 1999 you played a lesbian in *Tea with Mussolini*. What was it like working with those wonderful women?

Lily Tomlin: Here you've got Cher, Maggie Smith, Judi Dench, and Joan Plowright. As a teenager I was mad for Maggie. We were on location in these old villas. It wasn't like the stage where they have people assisting them. So when we first got to Florence, I would be running around trying to get teacups so I could serve them. And I would even save their cigarette butts. Joan and Maggie were there first, and Judi came about two weeks later, and then we were all together, and Maggie would say, "Darling, don't you want Judi's cigarette butt?"

Cher was there for only about a month. [Most of] her scenes were shot in one city. They arranged it that way so she wouldn't have to be there for three months. But Cher is so outrageous. At one point, she turns to me all of a sudden and says, "Doesn't Maggie just scare the shit out of you?"

Joan Rivers

July 2009
By Blase DiStefano

OUTSMART: On to gay marriage... I must say I was appalled to learn you're against it.

Joan Rivers: I don't wanna give gifts. All my friends are gay. It'll put me in the poor house. Nonono-nono. I'm very vocal about it. And my friends would expect good gifts. If all my friends got married, do you know how much that would set me back? God. And then they'll have children. I'll have to buy those little stinkers gifts. It goes on. Then they get a second home. And then the divorce. And which one are you going to stay with? It's a nightmare.

Do you remember how you became aware of your gay following?

They were always there from the beginning, God bless 'em, because I started

in Greenwich Village. And they were the smartest and the brightest and the ones who were willing to go out and listen to somebody before everybody else gets you. And they were always there—and still are. Whenever I walk out... if I walk out [at my Houston show], and there are 12 gay men in the front row, I'm home free.

You know we love you...

And it's so mutual, darling.

George Takei

June 2012

by Neil Ellis Orts

OUTSMART: Since you've started talking about your life as a gay man to the press, has that changed your fan base or brought out a different crowd to the conventions?

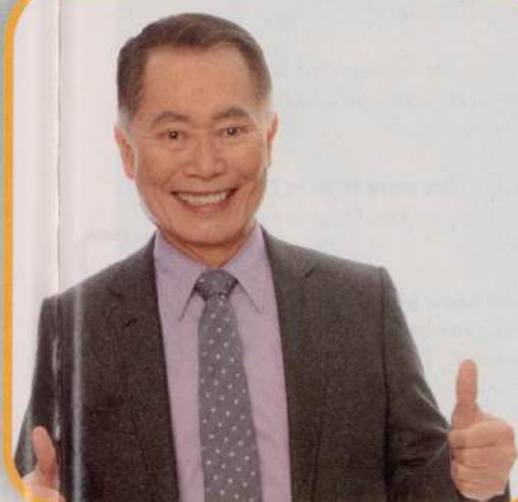
George Takei: I think a lot of a gay fan base was already there, so they just felt more comfortable discussing LGBT-related issues at conventions, but yes, I do think that has expanded my fan base. Certainly with my Facebook and my Tweets. I aim it at not just *Star Trek* fans but the geek community. They're out now as proudly geek. And I deal with social issues, so issues-oriented people have connected, as well as humor-oriented people and animal-oriented people, so I've been



increasing the support base, but the general core base is the sci-fi, geek community.

I read your autobiography, *To the Stars*, and when I came to the chapter about the [World War II] loyalty questionnaire, the title of the musical, *Allegiance*, made sense to me. So I'm guessing the plot hinges on this questionnaire and Question 28?

That's right. That one question, but with two



Laverne Cox

January 2014
by David Goldberg

OUTSMART: Does it matter that Sophia is played by an actual trans person?

Laverne Cox: The fact that they wanted to hire someone who is actually trans for the role [in *Orange Is the New Black*] is really fantastic. Trans actors should be able to work in the business. It's made such a difference for the viewers to see a trans person in their homes. It think it worked out pretty well. The world hasn't ended because a trans person is playing a trans person. It's quite the opposite.

If you could go back at any point in your path, would you give yourself any advice? Would you change anything?

I wouldn't change a thing, and that's real. I try not to frame anything I do as a mistake. I try to frame it as a lesson. If I would give my younger self some advice, I'd say, "Don't be so hard on yourself. You are lovely and smart and beautiful, and don't say those things about yourself, because they're not true." I internalized the voices of my bullies and took them on as my own voice. Everything has happened to get me to this place. *Non, je ne regrette rien*, as Edith Piaf would say.

I can't think of a black trans woman who has had this kind of platform, so I'm going to say what I get to say for as long as people let me say it. And then I'm going to keep saying it. In reality, I've been saying it for years, and only now are people noticing.

Cyndi Lauper

December 1997
by Blase DiStefano

OUTSMART: There was one song that was especially beautiful. You sang about people who you've lost.

Cyndi Lauper: "Say a Prayer."

It really got to me, 'cause I've had a lot of friends...

Henry Rollins

February 2010
Henry Rollins
by Steven Foster

OUTSMART: You know your muscled, buff figure propelled you into the eyes of gay men.

I mean, here was this really handsome guy who, unlike most rockers of the day, was built like a brick shithouse. When did you first realize that gay guys started looking at you... how can I say this... differently?

Henry Rollins: Actually when I was about 16. I worked in Washington DC—it's a very gay town. I had men hitting on me all through high school at different jobs I had. It never bothered me. I know how men are—we are always looking to get something going. It was never a big deal. Through the music tours, there were men who hit on me, sent letters, etc., but it was never a thing for me. Homosexuality is not the kind of thing that bothers me.

Your stance on gay rights caused a lot of speculation on your own sexuality. I get it that pundits and some of the public would speculate, but did you ever get any flack from your own world? Musicians? Artists? Did any of your friends ask, "Henry, is there something you want to tell us?"

Not really. I think in the mid '90s some guy "outed" me at some club in New York. That lead to some questions, but I have always been "straight," and it was never much of an issue. If I were gay, I would have said so. Someone's sexuality is really not an issue to me. Too bad it seems to be so threatening to so many with the "God hates fags" thing and all the rest.

Leslie Jordan

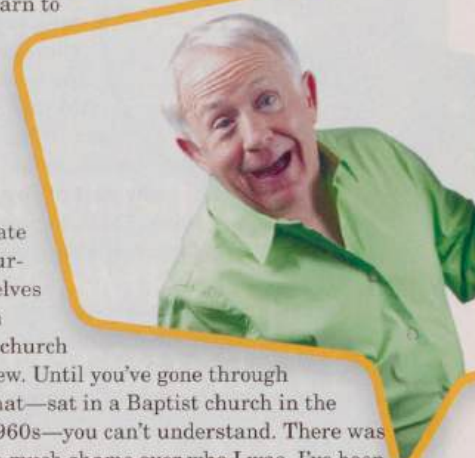
October 2013
by A.J. Mistretta

OUTSMART: You grew up in the South, in the Bible Belt. How did that influence you?

Leslie Jordan: There's a line that my friend Del Shores [creator of *Sordid Lives*] uses that's so poignant: we learn to

hate ourselves in a church

pew. Until you've gone through that—sat in a Baptist church in the 1960s—you can't understand. There was so much shame over who I was. I've been baptized 14 times because I just didn't think it ever took. I started drinking and doing drugs when I was 14 because that was



my way of dealing with being gay—it was a lot easier when I was loaded. When I finally got sober at 42, I was riddled with internal homophobia. What it finally took was me getting rid of all that I learned growing up.

What role are you most proud of?

Probably my involvement with *Will & Grace* [for which Jordan won an Emmy]. I just think that show was so important. I've always thought there were two ways to combat homophobia. One was to be funny. I've always used that even as a kid who got bullied. And the other way is to put a face to what people fear. Many Americans allowed gay characters into their homes for the first time with *Will & Grace*. Today, I really believe the tide has turned on gay rights. But we have to keep it going. I tell kids all the time, it's so important that you vote. When I finally got sober at 42, I had never registered to vote, and I'm not proud of that. I was in the bars seven nights a week. Who could get to a voting booth? I couldn't even get out of my bedroom. I was a mess, honey.

Wanda Sykes

April 2012
by Steven Foster

OutSmart: So you've got a new tour coming up. Excited?

Wanda Sykes: Very! Very. You know, it all started with standup for me, so that's my first love, and I still get a kick out of it. Just being there live, with the audience. It's still the hardest thing, but it gives me the most joy.



That's a beautiful sentiment. But let's cut through the crap. Did you miss it that much, or did any part of you think, "Shit, I've got two college tuitions to pay for soon?"

Exactly. You're right. That's it. You know, I don't know if you can tell by baby teeth, but they look a little jacked up to me, so there might be a big dentist bill ahead of me, too.

Kathy Griffin

October 2009
by Blase DiStefano

Christian groups and individuals heavily criticized Griffin for her Emmy acceptance speech in 2008, where she said, "A lot of people come up here and thank Jesus for this award. I want you to know that no one had less to do with this award than Jesus. He didn't help me a bit. . . . So all I can say is 'Suck it, Jesus. This award is my god now.'"

OutSmart: When I interviewed you again in 2005 you said you were a complete militant atheist, and that got OutSmart on CNN. Kathy Griffin: Ooooooh!

So is there something you can tell me that could get us national coverage again?



Let's make up something that's really revealing. Let's say that I reveal in my new book that I'm lovers with Kate Gosselin from *Jon & Kate Plus 8*. Because I think the lesbians will

like that as well as the boy gays. It's very topical. And then you guys can break that story.

Part of the problem is that this interview isn't going to run until October.

Okay, so we have to try to anticipate who I can be in an affair with in October. Whoo! Are there any Kardashians left? We could say I'm banging one of the Kardashians. . . . Oh, we could also say that I'm sleeping with Bruce Jenner and that I think he's actually had more face work than I have. So that's got to be better for him than his Olympic gold medal.

Shirley McLaine

June 2005
by Blase DiStefano

OutSmart: About 20 or 25 years ago *The Advocate* asked how you would feel if you were in a lesbian relationship, and you said, "Gee, I don't have any objection to it, except that I don't have the time to have but one good f--k a week with a man."
Shirley McLaine: That's right. [Laughs]

Would I be correct in assuming that you've been a lesbian in a past life and a gay man and a bisexual and a transgender?

Oh, yes. I think we've all had so many lifetimes that we're bound to have traipsed the

sexual landscape, the gender landscape. And maybe these people that are so homophobic had really bad experiences before, or maybe a man is homophobic because he was a woman who was trampled upon before. That's why we have got to start looking at this whole idea of how much energy is left in our soul memory that is dictating how we feel today.

Fran Drescher

November 2012
by Blase DiStefano

Fran Drescher was married to Peter Marc Jacobson. He came out, and they are now best friends.

OutSmart: You were born in Queens, right?

Fran Drescher: Yes, I was born in Queens.

Did you know any queens growing up in Queens?

[Laughs] You know, I probably wouldn't know if I did, so I'm going to say no. Does Peter count, because he was my high school sweetheart? [Both laugh] I was doomed from the beginning—I remember when I was very young, I had a crush on [now openly gay] Johnny Mathis. [Both laugh] So, you know, the handwriting was on the wall.



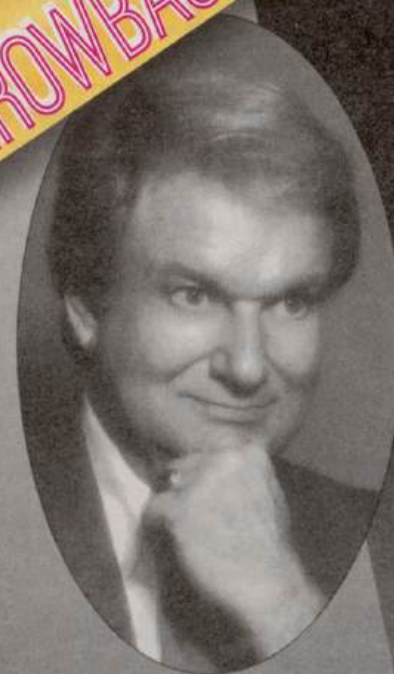
Steve Grand

August 2013
by Gregg Shapiro

OutSmart: For a lot of LGBT folks, "All-American Boy" is instantly relatable because everyone has had the experience of being attracted to or falling in love with someone straight or unattainable. How personal is that experience for you?

Steve Grand: We've all been there, and I mean gay, straight, bi—whoever you are. We've all fallen for someone that we can't have, but it especially rings true in the specific story for LGBT people. It is the story of my life since I was 13. I was always crushing on the straight guy. I think it's always been there because I grew up in a place where gay people weren't visible. I was always crushing on my best friends. I think that's the case, probably, for a lot of us. The song isn't about anyone specific. It's the accumulation of experiences. . . . I think all of that was influenced by everything I've been through, growing up and having this happen to me over and over again.

THROWBACK 20



TONY CARROLL
LMSW-ACP

PSYCHOTHERAPY

1006 MISSOURI
HOUSTON
TEXAS 77006

(713) 527-0000

PSYCHOTHERAPY
FOR
INDIVIDUALS
& COUPLES

The Gentle Art of Caring



BRUCE W. SMITH
D.D.S.

GENERAL DENTISTRY

1006 MISSOURI
HOUSTON
TEXAS 77006

(713) 529-4364

PREVENTATIVE,
COSMETIC &
RESTORATIVE
CARE FOR ADULTS

What kind of advice would you offer in that situation?

[Laughs] Hold on and don't make yourself f--king crazy. It's tough, but it's going to happen. It's a part of life. Unless you're in a world that's exclusively gay, which I think few of us are, it's going to happen. I think there's a great power in being able to express it. I needed to get the song off my chest, because I feel like that's how I reconciled how I felt. I think it has helped people. I've read their messages saying "Thank you for telling my story," and then they tell me what happened to them with their guys. I try to play therapist. [Laughs] As a songwriter and performer, you get to play a lot of different roles that I'm in various stages of being ready for.

Bishop Gene Robinson

by Neil Ellis Orts
September 2013

OUTSMART: So it sounds like the best way to help our oppressed LGBT brothers and sisters in Africa is to be sure they have clean water and medicine, and meet their basic needs.

Bishop Gene Robinson: And not to be reticent to let them know that some of the people who are helping them are gay Christians. The fact of the matter is that the reason we are where we are in America right now is that so many of us have come out. Now that people know us, they are unwilling to believe the awful things that have traditionally been said about us. So that needs to be replicated on a worldwide scale so that people come to know us, are in relationship with us, and then they come to know that some of us are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. And just as it has changed everything in America, I think it will change the world.

David Sedaris

October 2008
by Lawrence Ferber

OUTSMART: I love the story about the straight cab driver who kept pressuring you to discuss your sex life and hook up with lesbians.

David Sedaris: It's my belief that all men know that cab driver. I was in Toronto and I went to a barber shop and I got my hair cut, and the guy, who was Italian, asked me where I live, and I said I live in France, and he said, "Do you get a lot of pussy in France? Do you get a lot of French pussy?" Does that ever happen to you? It'll be a barber or a cab driver and part of me is like, Can't you tell I'm gay?

I think you should get into cabs wearing a bib that instead of a picture of a lobster

has a picture of a penis.
[Laughs] That's a good one.

You have homes in London and France, where same-sex civil unions exist. Have you been keeping an eye on the gay marriage struggle here in the USA?

I guess it's one of those things where when people oppose it, I don't understand what they're talking about. I watched this Chris Rock concert, and he was talking about how people say gay marriage threatens the sanctity of straight marriage but Michael Jackson



got married. There are shows like *I Want to Marry a Millionaire*. How sacred can it be? It's just something I don't understand the opposition to. I don't understand how, if two lesbians want to exchange bad poetry on a mountain-top, that would threaten the marriage of the people who grew up next door to me in North Carolina. I don't get it.

Chely Wright

October 2010
by Nancy Ford

OutSmart: You had a lot to lose [by coming out].

Chely Wright: I had a lot to lose. I had social ridicule that I just thought I couldn't handle. I had family ridicule. Cultural ridicule. I didn't want to lose my job. You know, people sometimes forget that singing is how I eat. That's how I pay for my electricity. It's not my hobby. It's not model planes in the park on the weekends. This is how I make my living. And so I reached my tipping point when I had a gun in my mouth.



Absolutely chilling. And it happens every day.

It happens every day, and that's the crisis. So my balance sheet tipped over on itself. I found myself on my knees praying to God, but praying a different prayer. My prayer had always been, "Help me navigate these waters and keep my secret and find a way to make it all work and have my career and my secret and my partner." It was always that prayer.

When I reached my tipping point, and my prayer was, "Give me a moment's peace," I didn't care anymore about the property and the real estate and the financial portfolio I had acquired. I am telling you, had somebody said, "I will give you peace, and empty your bank account," I would have said "Take it." In fact, that's exactly what I did.

Cheyenne Jackson

June 2010
by David Goldberg

OUTSMART: You recently recorded "Blessing," which benefits The Trevor Project and the Hetrick-Martin Institute. Could you tell us more about those charities and why you choose to support them?

Cheyenne Jackson: I became an ambassador for HMI last year after going to an event and being moved to take some action. I contacted them and subsequently spent some time touring the facility and the Harvey Milk High School, meeting the kids and the staff who work there—*inspiring* doesn't even begin to cover it. They are a haven for the young GLBT community who have nowhere to go—some homeless, some kicked out of their homes because their parents found out they are gay. I highly recommend reaching out to them and see what you can do to help. It will change your life. I've done some work with the Trevor Project in the past and, again, what these folks do for GLBT youth is astonishing. The testimonials from the workers of the 24-hour suicide prevention line will break your heart and open your mind.

For more Throwback 20 interviews from our past two decades, visit us at OUTSMARTMAGAZINE.COM

1994
was a very good year.
Congratulations OutSmart
We're celebrating our
20th Anniversary too!



PREMIER WIRELESS

Premier Wireless, consistently voted Best Cell Phone Provider by OUTSMART readers, is proud to be the community's oldest gay-owned choice for wireless communications since 1994.



Lea Bogle, owner of Premier Wireless, with OUTSMART publisher Greg Jeu

Proud to be one of OutSmart's first advertisers since 1994!

Premier Wireless

12220 Murphy Road • Stafford, TX 77477

281.575.8500



Premier Wireless is an Authorized Sprint Dealer & Service Center as well as a Sprint Authorized Business Dealer.



ALLEY THEATRE



A SCIENCE FICTION COMEDY
COMMUNICATING DOORS

BY ALAN AYCKBOURN
DIRECTED BY GREGORY BOYD

APRIL 4 THROUGH APRIL 27, 2014
ADULT LANGUAGE. SEXUAL SITUATIONS.

ActOUT Pre-Show Mixer
Thursday, April 17
Starts at 6 p.m.

Enjoy complimentary appetizers, cocktails, door prizes and music by DJ Mike Bell. This event is FREE with purchase of a ticket to the April 17 performance of **Communicating Doors**. To purchase \$26 tickets to this performance use the Promo Code **ActOUT**.

THE CULLEN TRUST
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
Premiere Sponsor

THE HUMPHREYS
FOUNDATION
Premiere Sponsor



Lead Sponsor



Lead Sponsor



Supporting Sponsor



Supporting Sponsor

ALLEYTHEATRE.ORG
713.220.5700

UNITED
Official Airline of Alley Theatre

COMING OUT OF OUR SHELL

Easter Worship

Sunday, April 20
9:00 & 11:00 am

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Seder & Foot Washing
Thursday, April 17
7:00 - 8:00 pm

Good Friday Service
Friday, April 18
7:00 - 8:00 pm

42nd Anniversary

Golf Tournament
Saturday, April 26
Hermann Park Golf Course
7:00 am

Anniversary Worship
Sunday, April 27
9:00 & 11:00 am

Resurrection
Metropolitan Community Church

Sunday Worship 9 & 11 am • Spanish & Deaf Interpretation 11 am
Children, Youth & Teen Program 11 am • Nursery Available/Handicap Accessible
2025 West 11th St, Houston 77008 • www.ResurrectionMCC.org • 713-861-9149

Old Age Isn't for Sissies

Or is it?

by Donalevan Maines

Even people who aren't gay will tell you that old age isn't for sissies. PJ Raval's documentary feature *Before You Know It* looks at how equipped LGBT seniors are to thrive in a youth-obsessed culture. These are people who weathered persecution and pain while paving the way for today's freedoms.

Robert Mainor of Galveston says that "sissy" is what people called gay boys when he was growing up in Houston. Now in his 70s, Mainor is one of three trailblazers featured in *Before You Know It*, a tribute to the estimated 2.4 million LGBT Americans over the age of 55. The movie shines a light on LGBT seniors and their struggle with discrimination, neglect, and exclusion from their own community.

Mainor is the owner of Robert's Lafitte, the Galveston bar he calls "the oldest gay bar in the state of Texas, with the longest-running drag show, ever."

Raval, an out Austin filmmaker, discovered the title for the film when Mainor said, "You never think about getting older when you're younger. Before you know it, it creeps up on you and you're there already."

Last October, Raval attended a screening of *Before You Know It* at The Brandon in Houston to benefit a Kickstarter campaign that raised \$50,000 in 30 days. "The amount is what I need to host a community screening series and theatrical tour for the film," says Raval. "I would love to bring the film back to Houston."

October's event opened to a packed house, with attendees from the LGBT and arts community as well as budding young independent filmmakers wanting to meet Raval, who walked the red carpet at the 2009 Academy Awards when *Milk* won two Oscars—Best Actor for Sean Penn as gay rights activist and San Francisco politician Harvey Milk, and Best Original Screenplay for Dustin Lance Black. Raval won that trip to the Oscars as cinematographer for *Trouble the Water*, which was nominated for Best Documentary Feature, about two Hurricane Katrina survivors.

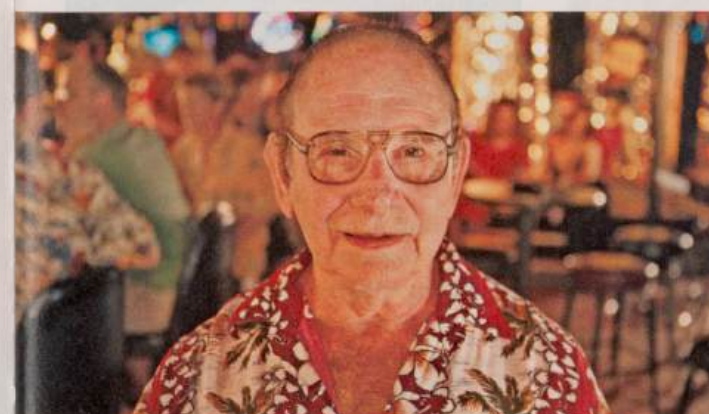
Raval, who is in his mid-30s, grew up in Clovis, California. "It was a really small town in the central valley, an area nobody really thinks of when they think about California," he says. "It definitely had its challenges, being Asian-American and also gay, but there was something

nice about it. You make these friends, you know, because you feel like no one understands you, so that binds people together."

When Raval, who completed his Master of Fine Arts degree from the film school at the University of Texas in 2003, got the idea of making a documentary about LGBT seniors, he knew he wanted a geographic cross-sec-



Texas's own: out Austin filmmaker PJ Raval is shining a light on LGBT seniors with his documentary feature *Before You Know It*.



Galveston's own: Robert Mainor (above) is one of three older men featured in *Before You Know It*, a documentary film by PJ Raval.

tion of people. "If you say gay anything, you think San Francisco or Miami—some mainstream gay culture," he explains.

Raval began by filming "Dennis," a man in his 70s who's living a closeted life in rural Niceville, Florida. Still grieving the death of his beloved wife, Dennis also hides his passion for dressing in women's clothes. "I started out buying [ladies'] underwear," he says.

One day, while surfing the Internet, Dennis decides to travel to Portland, Oregon, and check out an LGBT retirement community. There, he will reveal himself as "Dee" to a blind date.

In Harlem, Raval met with Ty →

Jim Benton of Houston LLC

Catering and Event Planning

2811 Eastman Street • Houston, TX 77009

www.jimbentonhouston.com • 713-802-2860

Please Visit Us Online At Facebook.com/JimBentonofHoustonLLC



Dynamic Event Design Signature Cuisine
Detailed Logistic & Management
Corporate Delivery Full Service Catering

Old Age Isn't for Sissies

continued from previous page

Martin, an outreach manager for Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE), "who supposedly was going to introduce me to a potential subject." However, Raval was so taken by Martin and his romance with an older man that Martin became the second subject of *Before You Know It*.

Next, Raval turned to Galveston. "I'd never been there," he says. "I had just driven close to it."

"If you show up in Galveston," says Raval, "within a few hours, somebody will send you to Robert's Lafitte."

In Mainor, Raval found a born storyteller who had lived through the gay civil rights movement.

Raval says he relied on "a lot of luck and a lot of intuition" to find the film's three subjects.

In addition to inspiring the film's title, Mainor provides it with a coda when he says, "Always think positive. Enjoy every day because after it's over, you can't relive it."

For more information about *Before You Know It*, including how to host a screening, visit beforeyouknowitfilm.com.

Donalevan Maines also writes about the play *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark* in this issue of *OUTSMART* magazine.



LAWN SERVICES of Houston

Lawn and Garden
Restoration • Maintenance • Design
Iron and Wood Fencing
Patios • Decks • Retaining Walls
Pottery • Holiday Lighting



We Install Indoor/Outdoor
Holiday Lighting & Decor

713.502.5589

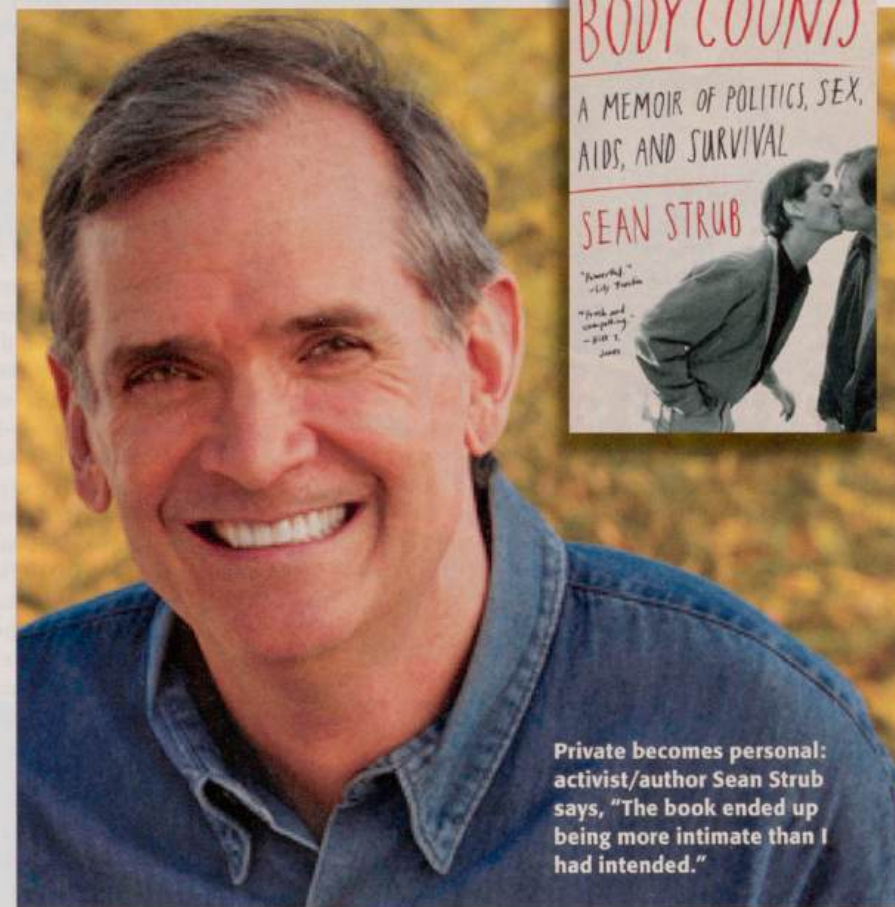
LAWNSERVICESOFHOUSTON.COM

Body Counts: A Memoir

Recollections from a time when everybody counted

by Rich Arenschieldt

Photo by Greg Gorman



Private becomes personal: activist/author Sean Strub says, "The book ended up being more intimate than I had intended."

This past year has had a notable number of LGBT-oriented "retrospectives," chief among them, David France's brutally tearful film *How to Survive a Plague*, and now, activist/author Sean Strub's literary companion work, *Body Counts: A Memoir of Politics, Sex, AIDS and Survival*. Each focuses on the decades that helped to shape the worldview of gays in America. *How to Survive a Plague* chronicles the genesis of a national movement, and Strub's book tells the story of an activist who helped foment it.

Many will know Strub from his long tenure as the firebrand publisher of *POZ Magazine* (currently celebrating its 20th anniversary, along with *OUTSMART*). However, Strub's multifaceted career has encompassed politics, historic preservation, non-profit management, and criminal justice work.

Strub grew up in rural Iowa and was educated in Washington DC and New York City. He and his partner have made their home in rural Pennsylvania (complete with dogs, a henhouse, and various other waterfowl) in the metropolis of Milford—population 1,021. Strub's life has indeed taken a decidedly bucolic turn.

"No one thought we would live long enough to witness any substantive institutional change."

This pastoral setting has provided a much-needed opportunity for retrospection; his own life has *finally* caught up with him. "I was initially hesitant about writing this book," Strub says. "About five years ago I was talking to someone, trying to convey what those years were like. This well-informed person just couldn't comprehend the immensity of what had occurred—what those who had survived endured. I was lamenting that our history was being lost and that there were only a few people alive with firsthand experience of what had taken place. Frustrated at our conversation, I blurted out, 'Somebody has to be the memory!' I suddenly realized that I was part of that collective consciousness."

Strub's literary style is fiercely unapologetic, casting himself and those within his sphere in an unflinching light. He writes in a manner that is conversational but imbued

with an urgency of purpose. "The book ended up being more intimate than I had intended," Strub says.

Strub's political career began with an appointment as a page in the Iowa State House, where, as a high school student, he began to discern the interpersonal dynamics of political power.

He simultaneously attended Georgetown

University, interned for a senator, and worked as an elevator operator in the U.S. Capitol building. All of these activities gave Strub access to Washington's political elite, some of whom were closeted homosexuals. "I've had a lifelong fascination with politics. I quickly learned that the closer you were to elected officials, the more exciting life was. That proximity also provided validation of my own self-worth at a time when I was (admittedly) more ambitious than purposeful." Although his studies suffered, Strub regrets nothing. "Working in the Capitol building garnered me an education that was far more interesting and valuable than any I would have received at a university." →

Adam & Eve

GET YOUR
TICKETS TO



Bunnies
on the
Bayou
HOUSTON, TEXAS

**PARTY WITH THE
BUNNIES IN STORE**

APRIL 19TH

FROM 1PM-6PM

1111 WESTHEIMER RD. HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006 (713)521-ADAM
ADAMEVETEXAS.COM

Body Counts: A Memoir

continued from previous page

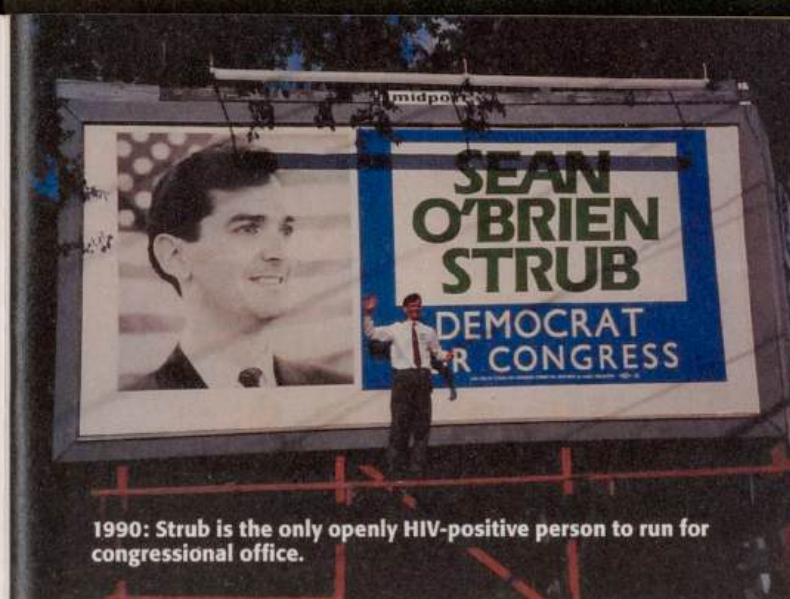
Eventually, Strub found Washington's closeted climate too restrictive, and in the late '70s he moved to New York City to attend Columbia—just as HIV was manifesting itself in gay men. "I came out just seven years after Stonewall, and, like many men, for me personal liberation was synonymous with sexual freedom—what had previously been denied to us was now readily available via bars and bathhouses. It was a redaction of oppression." Throughout *Body Counts*, Strub discusses the frequency of his sexual activity with complete candor.

With Reagan's landslide reelection in 1984, the national response to HIV was nonexistent. "As gay men, we expected nothing from the federal government. We knew how the establishment viewed us. Besides, no one thought we would live long enough to witness any substantive institutional change. As a result, the community developed an internally focused 'do-it-yourself' approach to address its needs."

The activism paradigm quickly shifted when the first treatment for HIV became available. "The same week AZT was approved, ACT-UP was created, which, in its simplest form was a concentrated distillation of a widespread pervasive anger and frustration. Suddenly we became externally focused, targeting institutions of power, media, government, regulatory agencies, and the pharmaceutical industry. Our collective indignation was fueled by the fact that (at that time) our gender and skin color gave us automatic privilege. We, as educated, prosperous white men, were shocked at experiencing blatant, systemic discrimination."

Strub was running a successful for-profit enterprise while simultaneously raising funds to support gay organizations, something he discusses at length. "Encountering people with power and influence always represented opportunity to me. If I could utilize them to advance social justice or gay rights issues, I would do so." Strub details meeting political, literary, and artistic giants, convincing each of them to support his nonprofit work in some way. "Being an entrepreneur and an activist was not always enviable. I had rejected the idea that those two endeavors were mutually exclusive, believing that you could accomplish good while doing well. Often, conflict arose between business decisions I had to make and goals I needed to achieve for activism; key players in that arena sometimes mistrusted my motives."

Strub chronicles his most controversial and riskiest endeavor, the creation of *POZ Magazine*, something birthed at great personal and financial cost. (Strub viaticated his life insurance and sold his house to raise the needed capital.) When the inaugural is-



sue came out, Strub, weakened by his efforts to bring the magazine to life, was ill with pneumonia. "No one thought that I was making a good business decision—what kind of market would there be for a readership consisting solely of terminally ill men?"

From the onset, the magazine eschewed conventional wisdom in every respect—journalistically, scientifically, artistically, and sexually. "In 1994, what the public hated about HIV was that it involved gay men gathering in these ghettos we had created (bathhouses, bars, and sex clubs) to f---. This

while gleefully creating controversy within the HIV-positive community itself.

Strub published pieces on taboo subjects, including the still-famous 1999 article, *Both Sides Now* by Stephen Genden (in which he rationalizes infecting his partner). "We wrote about sex in a way that enraged people—we debunked conventional wisdom." He recalls two famous columns—one addressing the rarity of female-to-male HIV transmission, and the other exposing the futility of the much-touted Bush-era "President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief"

explosion of sexual freedom (and the community it created) defined us. Unfortunately, it also created a pathogenically perfect transmission route into the heart of our existence." The magazine embraced this as 'sex-positive,' seeking to expose the public to those living with HIV,

(PEPFAR), the policy that committed \$15 billion of HIV medication to Africa. "POZ stated that those funds would be better spent creating a basic healthcare infrastructure. In fact, the reason for PEPFAR was that some countries were going to circumvent existing patent protections (which they legally could do) by declaring AIDS a national emergency, enabling them to produce cheaper versions of the drugs for their citizens. The pharmaceutical industry was terrified that this would establish a precedent, threatening their monopoly on the manufacture of medications for HIV and a host of other treatments."

Though the magazine was assailed by the media, industry, government, and patients themselves, it continued, indomitable. "I knew that this magazine would be crucial to people with HIV. At the time, I thought, 'If I'm going to die of this disease, I'm going to leave a legacy of which I'm proud.' In actuality, the energy created by publishing the magazine probably saved Strub's life."

Body Counts is now part of the canon of literature examining the gay epidemiological diaspora, something Strub fears may recur in the new millennium. "As the result of current treatments, someone diagnosed today has the option to keep →

There's A Better Way To Cool Off

Just call Village Plumbing and Home Services!
We'll send an air conditioning service and installation technician to cool you down, whenever you need us.



PLUMBING • COOLING • HEATING
APPLIANCE REPAIR • INSULATION

713-REPAIRS
VILLAGEPLUMBING.COM

The Cleanest Techs In Town!



3 STARS VISAS AND PASSPORTS

- Traveling soon and need a passport and/or visa to get to your destination? Expedited Services Available.
- Let 3 Stars Visas and Passports deal with the long lines and government officials.
- 3 Stars Visas can assist you with obtaining a visa to anywhere in the world that a visa is required for travel.
- Translation, Notarization and Legalization Services Available.

7880 San Felipe St, #203 Houston, TX 77063 • 832.251.1200 Office • 855.277.1808 Toll Free
www.3starsvisas.com • 3Stars@3starsvisas.com

WE ARE HERE TO GET YOU THERE!

Add a **SPLASH** of **COLOR** to your tank this Spring



**AQUARIUM
WORLD**

www.AquariumWorld.net

13157 Northwest Freeway @ Hollister • 713.329.9989

Body Counts: A Memoir

continued from previous page

their status a secret—something that was impossible to do while having purple lesions on your face. In a way, people are now *more* isolated than they were decades ago. The response to HIV infection is radically different and intensely more judgmental than in the past. As activists, how we combat this is challenging.”

Strub's peers have appreciated his efforts in *Body Counts*. “As a group of passionate individuals, we are, by nature, contentious. That said, others appreciate the honesty with which I discuss intimate details of our lives and circumstances. The book transcends our individual egos, as well as the arguments and skirmishes we endured. During that 20-year period, the purest, most selfless kind of love exhibited itself *constantly*. Though this is my story, my memoir, it's the product of numerous shared experiences.”

We are in a “look back” moment with regard to what happened, and recent works such as *Dallas Buyers Club*, *How to Survive a Plague*, and *Body Counts* illuminate how we responded to others and how we should be prepared to respond as new challenges confront us.

Rich Arenschioldt is a frequent contributor to *OUTSMART* magazine.

Serving our Community in a Safe & Caring Environment.

Psychotherapy, Career Counseling,
Individual, & Relationship
Counseling

**DENIS “WOODJA”
FLANIGAN, PH. D.**
Licensed psychologist

Voted Best Psychologist

2011-2013 *OutSmart*
Readers' Choice Awards

Specializing in
individuals, couples, &
family relational issues
to regain your direction,
sense of meaning, and
your happiness.

HELPING YOU REACH YOUR FULL POTENTIAL!

2600 Southwest Fwy., Suite 409 Houston, TX 77098
www.Houston-Psychologist.com | 713-589-9804

For mental health news, and information, you can follow me at
www.facebook.com/Flanigan.psychotherapy



Octavio Barrios, MD

Adult Primary Care

www.doctorbarrios.com



2013 Gayest and Greatest
Best Physician Finalist

Avg. Contact Time
With Dr. Barrios
32 Minutes!

Board Certified
American Board of
Family Medicine

By Appointment
Same Day Available
For Acute Illness

Most
Insurances
Accepted

Pasadena
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday:
Horizon Family Healthcare
7106 Spencer Highway
281-542-9400

Houston - Montrose
Wednesday, Friday, Saturday:
Skin Renaissance Laser Center
517 West Gray St.
713-942-7546

JOIN US FOR THE FESTIVE
GAY WEEKEND ORLANDO!

JOHNNY CHISHOLM PRESENTS
ORLANDO, FLORIDA 2014
JUNE 5TH - JUNE 9TH

**ONE
MIGHTY
WEEKEND**

THURSDAY, JUNE 5TH

IGNITE @ HOUSE OF BLUES 9PM-2AM

DJ WAYNE G.

DJ ROLAND BELMARES

NEW EVENT

FRIDAY, JUNE 6TH

REUNION POOL PARTY @ BVP NOON UNTIL

DJ SHANE STIEL

MAGIC JOURNEYS @ ARABIAN NIGHTS MIDNIGHT UNTIL

DJ ALAIN JACKINSKY

DJ GUSTAVO SCORPIO

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH

REUNION POOL PARTY @ BVP NOON UNTIL

DJ LYDIA SANZ

MAGIC JOURNEYS @ ARABIAN NIGHTS 11PM UNTIL

ROSABEL

DJ ABEL AND DJ RALPHI ROSARIO

SUNDAY, JUNE 8TH

REUNION POOL PARTY @ BVP NOON UNTIL

DJ PHIL B.

MAGIC JOURNEYS @ ARABIAN NIGHTS 11PM UNTIL

DJ DANI TORO

DJ JOE GAUTHREAUX

BOOK YOUR ROOM TODAY
AT THE OFFICIAL HOST HOTEL
THE BUENA VISTA PALACE
AN OFFICIAL WALT DISNEY WORLD® HOTEL



ROOMS START
AT ONLY
\$169
A NIGHT



DOWNLOAD THE FREE OMW APP! MORE INFO / BUY WEEKEND PASSES / BOOK YOUR ROOM

ONEMIGHTYWEEKEND.COM



 CHATEAU POLONEZ

HOSTING ONE EVENT A DAY, CATERING TO YOUR EVERY NEED...
...because your day deserves a place just for you.

281.655.5656 CALL US NOW TO RESERVE YOUR DAY! Info@ChateauPolonez.com www.ChateauPolonez.com 12612 Malcomson Rd., Houston TX 77070



Toiling in the Thirties

Ensemble Theatre presents 'By the Way, Meet Vera Stark'

by Donalevan Maines

Lupita Nyong'o, meet Vera Stark. In the "imaginary history" play currently at the Ensemble Theatre, Vera is a composite of forgotten black actresses who paved the way for today's stars by toiling as maids and slaves in Hollywood movies in the 1930s. Yes, Nyong'o played a slave in her Oscar-winning performance this year, but as Vera would point out, "She's a slave with lines, honey."

By the Way, Meet Vera Stark concerns Vera's tangled relationship with Gloria Mitchell, a Hollywood starlet. In a story that spans 70 years, the audience learns how their true identities are more than skin deep.

"It's suggested that Gloria and Vera were lesbian lovers, and that it was a torrid affair that ended badly after Vera was nominated for an Academy Award," says Herb Forrester, a filmmaker, musician, and entrepreneur from Oakland, who leads an Act II colloquium that examines what happened to Vera Stark.

Another panelist, a "slightly masculine"



Jo Anne Davis-Jones served as dramaturg for Ensemble Theatre's production of *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark*.

lesbian journalist/poet/activist, scoffs at that idea. "As a black lesbian, I want nothing more than to claim Vera," says the character, Afua Assata Ejubo. "But, yo, can Vera not exist without a relationship to Gloria? . . . F--k Gloria Mitchell!"

Jo Anne Davis-Jones, who served as dramaturg for the Ensemble's production, says the character of Afua Assata Ejubo provides an important perspective to the play. "Afua brings passion and raw grittiness to the intellectual discussion," explains Davis-Jones. "She's very outspoken in her opinions on Vera Stark and her contributions to the movie industry for African-American women. She embraces Vera's courage to take chances, describing her as real and radical."

Lynn Nottage wrote *Vera Stark* as a follow-up to her Pulitzer Prize-winning *Ruined*,



Michelle Elaine (l) stars in the title role in Ensemble Theatre's production of *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark*. Elizabeth Marshall Black (inset) is Gloria Mitchell.



which Obsidian Art Space produced last month. An April 21, 2011, article in the *New York Times* revealed that the play

was inspired by Houston native Theresa Harris and her role as Barbara Stanwyck's maid, Chico, in *Baby Face* (1933).

"I was struck by how different it was from so many of the other representations of African-American →

"It's suggested that Gloria and Vera were lesbian lovers."

GLORIA'S RESTAURANTS



Come try our Award Winning
SUNDAY BRUNCH 11am-3pm!



COME FALL IN LOVE WITH US!



GLORIA'S HOUSTON

2616 LOUISIANA ST.
SUITE 101 • HOUSTON, TX
OPEN SUN-THU: 11AM-10PM
AND FRI-SAT: 11AM-2AM

WWW.GLORIASRESTAURANTS.COM



VETERINARY CARE IN YOUR HOME

Examinations • Phone & Email Consultations
Annual Wellness Needs • Laboratory Testing
Ultrasound • Injury & Illness Care • Minor
Emergency Care • Pharmacy Needs • Rescue
Animal Services • International Pet Travel Services

832.767.8693

REDUCED STRESS, NO WAITING



"I provide the most convenient
high quality veterinary care
available. House calls are
my specialty."

Dayna G. Baxter, DVM
dbaxter.dvm@gmail.com
www.hampshiremobilevet.com

THE EYE GALLERY

BARTON PERREIRA



EYEGALLERYHOUSTON.COM

1806 WESTHEIMER RD. 713.523.1279
2542 AMHERST ST. 832.831.7253

Toiling in the Thirties

continued from page 55

women that I had seen from that period," said Nottage.

Harris later played a slave girl, Zette, to Bette Davis in *Jezebel* (1938) and Marlene Dietrich's maid, Clementine, in *The Flame of New Orleans* (1941).

In the play's first act, Vera lands the role of Gloria's slave/maid, Tilly, in an antebellum Southern epic called *The Belle of New Orleans* ("Magnolias and petticoats, cotton and slaves").

"It's a gross misrepresentation of history," says Herb, arguing that the movie "paints a portrait of a romantic and idealized world, where the slave woman Tilly doesn't long for freedom, but merely to please her dying mistress."

Calling Vera's movies "a blight on our culture," another character taunts Vera, "Why are we still playing slaves? Shucks, it was hard enough getting free the first damn time."

"It's easy to point fingers today," an agitated Vera says in a 1973 talk show depicted in Act II. "But, honey, should I not have taken that role and cleaned toilets and made beds in someone's home instead?!"

Michelle Elaine, who plays Vera at the Ensemble, says, "Emotionally, sometimes I get sad thinking about how Vera could act circles around Gloria, but Vera is limited in the parts she can get."

Michelle was R.C., a protective lesbian, in *Bug* at Theatre Southwest in 2010. "Butch" is the word we used in rehearsals," she says. "Her physicality is what I wanted to capture, and I focused on her being a really good friend to Agnes, who was being brain-washed."

Appearing as Gloria at the Ensemble is Elizabeth Marshall Black, who played the title role in Celebration Theatre's *The Beebo Brinker Chronicles* in 2012. "She was out in the gay and lesbian community, where she was a well-known figure," says Black, describing the Greenwich Village setting of Ann Bannon's popular pulp-fiction series.

Outside of the bars, though, Beebo Brinker "was never allowed to be herself. She still had to pass as a man, so she wouldn't get beaten up. I had sympathy and empathy for her."

"Any time you're not allowed to reach your full potential," Black concludes, "there is a tragic element to it."

What: *By the Way, Meet Vera Stark*

When: through April 13

Where: Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main St.

Tickets/info: ensemblehouston.com, boxoffice@ensemblehouston.com, or 713.520.0055.

Donalevan Maines also writes about the GMCLA it gets better tour in this issue of OUTSMART magazine.

A Conversation with BETTE MIDLER ONE NIGHT ONLY



TUESDAY, APRIL 29
7:00 PM
WORTHAM CENTER

TICKETS
832.487.7041
BrilliantLectures.org

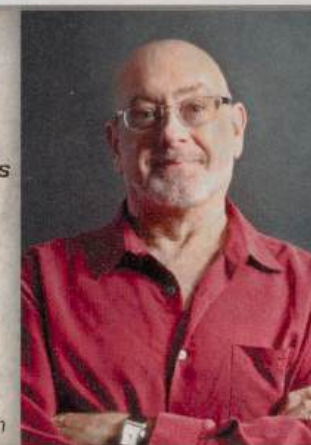
BRILLIANT LECTURE SERIES
TENENBAUM & CO.
CLASSIC JEWELER

Brilliant Congratulates OutSmart for its 20th anniversary!

Ken McLeod, LCSW, ACSW
Licensed Clinical Social Worker



Thanks to OutSmart Readers
for voting me a Top Male Therapist
for 2011-2013! I feel very honored.



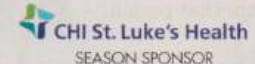
5909 West Loop South, Suite 480
Bellaire, Texas 77401
713.628.1776 ► kenscounseling@aol.com

Check me out on: Therapick.com or PsychologyToday.com





2014/15 SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW!



SEASON SPONSOR



SEPTEMBER 16 - 28, 2014



DECEMBER 5 - 28, 2014



FEBRUARY 10 - 22, 2015



MARCH 17 - 29, 2015



MAY 5 - 17, 2015



MAY 26 - JUNE 7, 2015

TUTS.COM

713.558.TUTS

UNITED

Congratulations!

Proud supporter of OutSmart since the premier issue in 1994.




Connie Moore
Second-parent Adoptions
Donor Insemination & Surrogacy
Collaborative Family Law

Debra E. Hunt
Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney
Advanced Estate Planning
Probate & Trust Litigation

Moore & Hunt
ATTORNEYS

Appointments in Houston and Galveston
mooreandhunt.com • 713-522-4282



dessert gallery
bakery & cafe
DESSERTS • LUNCH • CATERING

Our Layers Run Deep in the Heart of the LGBT Community!

Thank you OutSmart Readers' for naming us
GAYEST & GREATEST DESSERTS
for 16 years-in-a-row! We love you!
- 1997 thru 2013 OutSmart Reader's Choice

KIRBY LOCATION 3600 Kirby Dr., Ste. D
Ph. 713.522.9999

★ Order online today!
www.dessertgallery.com






'The GENDER Book'

Exploring gender in a way even your grandmother can understand

by Megan Smith

Sometimes, if something needs to be done—and done well—you have to do it yourself. That's the approach that Mel Reiff Hill, Jay Mays, and Robin Mack took when they decided to create and self-publish *the GENDER book*, a 90-page "Gender 101" guide that discusses everything from gender identity and presentation to pronouns to the transgender umbrella.

"I have said that most of us identify with 'genderqueer,' that in-between area," Mays says. "To be more specific, we're drag kings, butches, and on the transmasculine spectrum. That means we were all assigned female at birth, and we now find ourselves in different levels of masculine expression and identity."

After recognizing the need for more education surrounding gender and gender variance and realizing that no such introductory book existed, they combined their talents and unique experiences to produce one themselves. Mays co-authored and edited, Hill (who is a former art teacher) co-authored and drew all illustrations and infographics throughout the book, and Mack covered community relations. But the book is not solely a product of the minds of these three creators, Mays says. Over 200 people were surveyed for the book, countless interviews were conducted, conversations about each page were held with community members, and additional input from poet Boston Bostian inspired the book's main character.

"Six suicides of young queer kids who'd been bullied were the main reason I said enough is enough."



Class in session: *the GENDER book* explores gender in a way that's fun, creative, and easy to understand.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: *the GENDER Book* creators Jay Mays, Mel Reiff Hill, and Robin Mack.

In addition to grants from the Houston Arts Alliance and The Idea Fund, *the GENDER book* ran an extremely successful indiegogo campaign, raising over \$32,500 from 751 funders and receiving about 1,000 book orders from people in 27 different countries.

Mays and the fellow creators hope the book will become part of a larger movement occurring across the world to treat humans with dignity, regardless of gender variance. "It's not about surgery," Mays says. "It's about respect."

I had the pleasure of speaking with Mays, who also serves as the Community Volunteer Specialist at The Montrose Center, about *the GENDER book's* goals, community-building components, and how to approach difficult conversations about gender.



Megan Smith:
How did you originally team up with Mel Reiff Hill?

Jay Mays: I met Mel at a

drag king workshop in 2006. We performed together in the Gendernyn, a Houston-based drag king troupe known for its super-fluidity. Then Mel became my wonderful taco-making housemate in 2010. We were living in →

You're special. Your pharmacy should be special too.

YOUR FULL SERVICE SPECIALTY PHARMACY!



- Free Delivery
- Copay Assistance
- Refill Reminders & Auto Refill Programs
- Accepting Medicaid, Medicare & Most Private Insurance
- Locally Owned & Operated

STEP 1

Call
Avita
pharmacy
today!

STEP 2

Speak
with an
Avita
Patient
Advocate

STEP 3

Receive
your
medications
when & where
you need them

AUSTIN DALLAS
512.691.9081 214.943.5187
HOUSTON SAN ANTONIO
713.489.4362 210.231.0383

AvitaPharmacy.com

24hr. Hotline: 1.888.AVITARX



LOTUS PET SITTING HOUSTON

Courtney@lotuspetsittinghouston.com

Pet Sitting • Dog Walking • Pet Exercise • Playtime/Dog Park

lotuspetsittinghouston.com • 713.542.0465



'The GENDER Book'

continued from previous page

this big gray house in Houston together as friends with dogs, ferrets, and community members trying to find our way.

Tell me a little more about Boston Bostian and his involvement with the book.

Boston is an extremely talented poet who was subletting at our big gray house. We call him a founding creator, and he inspired the book's main character. We worked together on the *GENDER book(let)*, our first very awesome zine-sized publication. He's since moved on to other projects like genderpedia.net and Define: Transition. He is an avid supporter of this project and any project that supports gender justice.

You've said the book was created because you and your friends saw a need for more education relating to gender. I'm sure you all had different experiences, but what was the defining moment for you where you said, "Something needs to be done about this"?

Along with Mel Reiff Hill, Robin Mack, and Boston Bostian, I had talks in the living room about the LGBT teen suicides in the news. Mel ranted about their boyfriend having to pay to educate his therapist, and we all just wondered why there wasn't a better, easier resource for gender-diverse folks. Then we looked around and saw who was in the room: writers, artists, editors, fundraisers, and community leaders. We could write that book we were talking about. So we did. It was just a fun project at first—doodles on the porch. We had no idea it would go this far.

Six suicides of young queer kids who'd been bullied were the main reason I said enough is enough. [Seeing only] two gender markers on the census was another reason. How was anything going to get done if we couldn't be on the same page about it with a common language? And for me personally, [the thing that made it] worth me using hours of my life to make this education primer labor of love was that I wanted to work on a project that would keep me and my friends engaged in art that called us to live bigger lives and use our privilege to give access to others. Not because they didn't have voices—we knew many people did—but because there needed to be a way to show the stories that would save people's lives and, in turn, that would keep my soul going.

In general, why should an "average Joe" care about gender?

Most of us have a gender. It is one of the earliest parts of our personal identities. When we're born, we are assigned a sex. I think it might give the average Joe some wiggle room

to breathe when he knows his gender isn't 100 percent inherited. For a lot of folks, if the answer is yes when asked, "Do you identify as the sex you were assigned at birth?," then those folks are cisgender. "Cis" equals "same side." "Trans" equals "across." So often, your average Joe doesn't experience any variance because it's the water he's swimming in. Similar to misogyny, the gender binary breaks it down to [the point where] there are only males and females. Boys and girls. Men and women. Mars and Venus, etc. When the average Joe meets a transgender person, or an intersex person, Joe can make a choice to be an ally to a person who might have a different experience of walking through the world. I think most people want to be honoring and say the right things and be educated. We all want to create space for everyone to be themselves, and sometimes an average Joe might be afraid or not know where to go to access resources [that can bridge] these educational gaps.

You did countless interviews and surveyed over 200 people as research for the book. In what format did you complete the surveys, and can you describe specific interviews that really impacted you during the process? (Of course they're all unique!)

We wanted people's truths about their lives, so we put out a call to create an open-ended six-question survey where participants could describe what communities they come from, how they expressed their gender, what they came up against, and where they saw the need for education. We used the social media web to huddle in as many as we could from around the world. At first, our community outreach coordinator, Robin Mack, recorded a few interviews, and one of those was with an African-American trans woman who lives in the Chicago area. After a very lengthy 401-level conversation, Robin asked her what should go in this [basic 101 primer]. She said, "If I have to explain myself and who I am one more time, I will not want to leave my house." Also, "To my community: if you want to get to know and support me, you can't just support the trans part of me. You have to support all of me, which starts with my race." She had a lot to say, but those pieces stick with me.

And then there was a young transgender woman from small-town Texas that we interviewed right when she got to San Francisco. Robin and I were there for leadership training, and when we met, she said, "I really hope that you do make a book, and not just some medical book, but one that is as colorful as my life can be when I am being whatever gender expression I want to be. I hope that it's one I can give my aunt or grandmother in small-town Texas, and she will know that not only will I be okay, but I am living a great life." →



Join us
for
brunch

every
Saturday
and
Sunday

Every
Thursday

DJ Joe Ross
spinning
\$3 frozen cosmos
and
\$3 cocktails
all night

Vietnamese home-cooking
in a modern setting

1201 Westheimer #b | Montrose
713-524-5664 duarestaurant.com

Eye to Eye In the Heights

Quality Eye Care • Contact Lenses • Fabulous Frames

Voted Best
Eye Doctor

OutSmart
Readers
2007-2012

Lisa T. Woo, O.D.
Kathy Hoang, O.D.

(Therapeutic Optometrists, Optometric Glaucoma Specialists)

432 West 19th St
Mon., Tue., Thur., Fri. 9a - 6p
Sat. 9a - 2p • Wed. & Sun. closed

713/864-8822

EyeHeights.com



All of us at Eye to Eye would like to congratulate OutSmart
for an outstanding 20 years! Here's to another 20!
Thank you, Lisa Woo, O.D.

Anxious, depressed, stressed, compulsive, or distracted?



MEN OFTEN TALK ABOUT:

- Being competent in some areas while struggling with others
- Being tough on the outside but hurting inside
- Shutting down
- Needing to belong, but feeling separate
- Hurt, pain, loneliness
- Feeling unappreciated, inadequate, or misunderstood
- Difficult with understanding or expressing their emotions
- Sexual and relationship concerns

Thank You!

"I am deeply honored by your votes and constantly strive to deserve your confidence".



OUTSMART READERS' BEST THERAPIST 2003-2013

Tony Carroll, LCSW

Psychotherapy and Counseling

houston
Therapist.com

1006 Missouri St. Houston, TX 77006

713-527-0000

www.HoustonTherapist.com

The GENDER Book

continued from previous page

I really like the approach the book takes. It's not angry, belittling, or shaming for people who may still be processing all of this information or have a very low knowledge level of gender. Was that important for you when writing the book?

Absolutely! There's ignorance everywhere, and that's okay unless you choose to stay uninformed. When we started, there were no other resources that were short, colorful 101s for all to grasp new takeaways from and leave old, outdated education behind. HRC had a pamphlet, but it was really texty, and we wanted to use colors and illustration and real voices of real people to show how exploratory gender can be. I wanted to mix *My Gender Workbook* by the inimitable Kate Bornstein with something like *My Grandma Has AIDS*. In 1990, when most of my uncles and friends of the family were taken from us, there weren't a lot of books to read as a 12-year-old about the subject. Later, a book called *My Grandma Has AIDS* rolled across my desk, and that was a guiding light for creating something simple about a very dense subject.

You pose the question to readers of the book, "What are your earliest memories of your gender?" What are yours?

Well, I'm from the South, so there were a lot of cues from my grannies about what a little person assigned female at birth should be doing—smiling, playing Barbies, tap dancing, dieting. All of my Barbies had short hair, were sexually active, and had intensely intricate personal narratives. Another memory that pops into my head is when I was about seven, I wanted to sing a Led Zepelin song that my dad and I sang together in the school talent show. His confidence in his own David Bowie-inspired masculinity (earring, eyeliner on special occasions) told me I'd be alright dressing like Robert Plant at school with a shadow moustache, dancing like a maniac.

I've heard the argument from many people, including fellow members of the queer community, that gender-neutral pronouns such as "ze/hir" are "taking things too far" or "unnecessary." Have you had similar experiences, and what is your response to situations like that?

We've all been conditioned in a society deeply rooted in the gender binary, where there are no exceptions to the two checkboxes: M and F. Just like the rest of nature, some humans don't fall so sweetly into either of those categories. Language is a really powerful tool for self-determination, and obviously it can be used as a weapon. I've had friends leave organizations because their peers would try to

talk them out of their pronouns, feeling like they were being helpful telling them they were grammatically incorrect. It really is a matter of respect. If someone doesn't want to be called "he," it's incredibly disrespectful to continually force that upon someone. It's the same lack of acceptance that leads to high rates of health and economic disparities and violence against gender-nonconforming people.

Honoring someone's pronouns and preferred name is one of the simplest ways to demonstrate your ally-ship. It shows the other person, "Hey, I see you and I hear you and I freaking respect your right to self-identify! I will call you what you want to be called and stand shoulder to shoulder with you in whatever ways you're comfortable. Now let's get some ice cream."

Overall, what is your main goal to accomplish with the *GENDER* book? Has that goal changed since the beginning of the project?

Originally, it was to create something that we could give to our families and community members who wanted to be supportive of gender minorities. This was before Facebook had 56 gender options. The world is changing quickly, and language is bending to accommodate more possibilities. The [latest edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual] replaced the diagnosis of "gender identity disorder" with "gender dysphoria."

The book includes a tear-out booklet in the back to give to others. Where and to whom do you recommend readers give their booklets?

The booklet was our very first piece that we gave away everywhere—to young people, to folks in prison, to friends, family, people you see regularly. It's kind of a "hey, this is for you to share and spread the word!"

What kind of response have you gotten to the book so far?

We've gotten many, many generous cheers, thank-yous, and life-changing stories since we've launched the e-book for donation. Not everyone will agree with every bit of the way the book was put together. And when we had doubts, we erred on the side of inclusion. We changed things around based on community feedback. We had a long process of dialoguing about each page with the communities represented. The problem is that often these communities themselves have very different truths around terminology. Ultimately, we had to make some choices that not everyone can agree with 100 percent, but hopefully everyone can read without cringing. To help broaden our perspective, we enlisted everyone we could find to co-author with us through short, fun surveys. You can find their responses all throughout the book. That lets us show multiple opinions without

having to say "this is right" and "this is wrong." It's more about sharing the individual's truths as best we can.

The e-version of the book is now available for download at thegenderbook.com. When is the hard-copy book expected to arrive, how can our readers purchase a copy, and how much will each copy cost?

The book is oh-so-reasonably priced at \$30, and wholesale pricing is available. Copies of the book will be in our hands in late April. Hardbacks are currently available in three places:

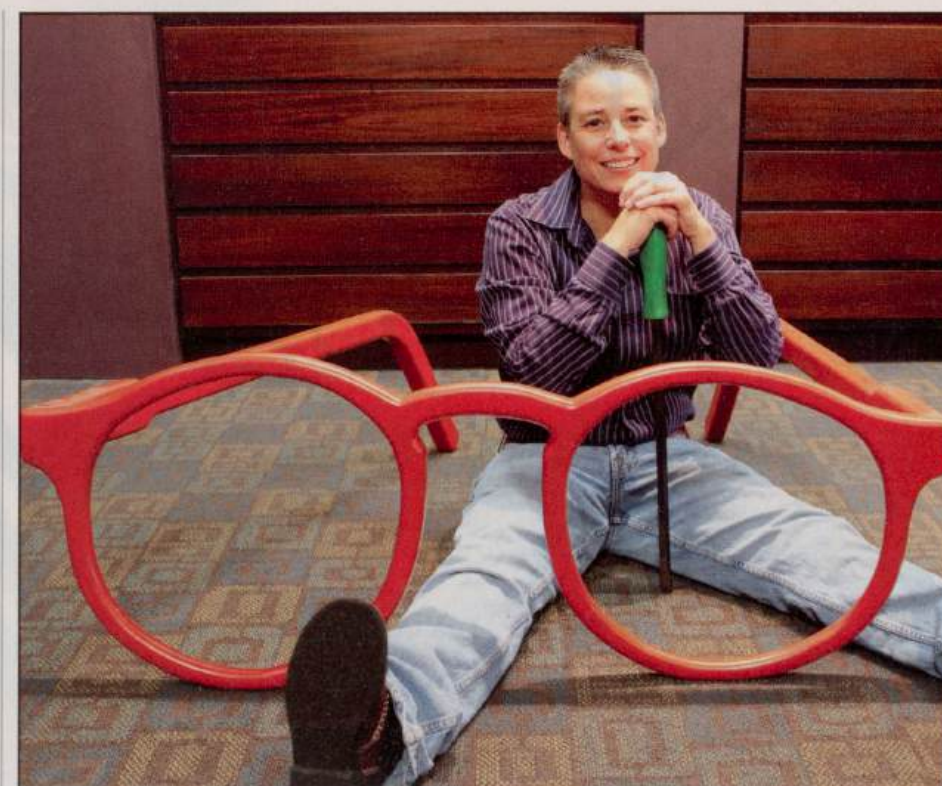
- 1) For pre-order on our website, thegenderbook.com.
- 2) At one of our bicoastal book launches—the Houston-area launch will be hosted by the lovely folks at the Lawndale Art Center [4902 Main St.] on May 15 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. All Houston-area donors can pick up their copies there—or come and get your copy without paying for shipping!
- 3) Books will also be available for sale in the Antena space at the Blaffer Art Museum at the University of Houston on May 6 from 6 to 9 p.m. So many LGBT students are doing phenomenal work at the University of Houston, and several of us are featuring our text-based projects at the Blaffer that night.

The GENDER book is proud to give back 50 percent of its proceeds to the community and would love to extend its Book Scholarship program to any community organization that's interested in retaining a desk copy. Please e-mail robin@thegenderbook.com for an application.

Do you have any plans for a "Part Two" or a continuation of this project? If not, what's next on your plate?

Well, if Routledge [the world's leading academic publisher in the Humanities and Social Sciences] would like us to consider a Part Two, then that may be in the cards. We're getting started with trainings, and we have some pretty huge goals. We're headed to the Philadelphia Trans Health Conference to connect with others who also want to ease the burden of trans* folks having to educate their health professionals. [EDITOR'S NOTE: the asterisk following "trans" is used metaphorically to capture all the identities—from drag queen to genderqueer—that fall outside traditional notions of gender.] We want to lessen suicide rates by showing gender-nonconforming youth and adults they're not alone. We want one less teen sleeping on the street when they come out. We want to train people to skillfully manage these 101 conversations so that we can open up space for more interesting and personal dialogues. To me, that's how communities get built.

And we'll happily go on *Ellen* if she'll have us! ■



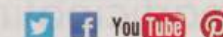
SONJA "SQUEAK" RIFFE, OPTICIAN/LAB TECHNICIAN

SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES' EYEWEAR NEEDS
SINCE 1989

3939 MONTROSE BLVD.
HOUSTON, TX 77006

713-622-4411

EYEELEGANCE.COM



Eye Elegance
FINE EYEWEAR

What's the Occasion?
CREATIVE CAKERY

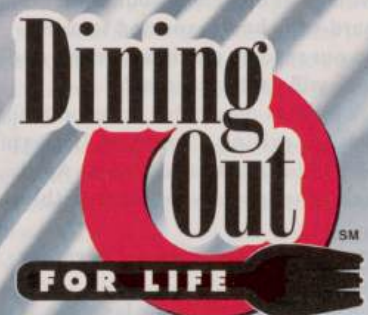
Deliciously Celebrating Houston's Diversity with PRIDE!

Jerald Jason Aguilar
832.273.1840 - BOOK NOW FOR HOLIDAY EVENTS

Handmade from Scratch

- Anniversaries
- Birthdays
- Holidays
- Weddings
- Quinceaneras
- Special Events

DINE OUT ONE DAY FIGHT AIDS



Dine Out, Fight AIDS

Thursday, April 24th 2014

Participating Restaurants (as of 3/25/14)

Américas (River Oaks) – 2040 W Gray St
Baby Barnaby's – 602 Fairview St
Barnaby's Café – 604 Fairview
Barnaby's Café – 1701 S Shepherd
Barnaby's Café – 414 West Gray
Barnaby's Café – 5750 Woodway
Bombay Pizza Co. – 914 Main St #105
Bombay Pizza Co. – 636 Highway 6 #100, Sugar Land
Brasserie 19 – 1962 W Gray St
Brio's Tuscan Grille – 3029 Kirby
Canopy – 3939 Montrose Blvd

Coppa Ristorante – 5555 Washington Ave
Coppa Osteria – 5210 Morningside
Ibiza – 2450 Louisiana St #200
Niko Niko's Greek & American Café – 2520 Montrose
Niko Niko's Greek & American Café – 301 Milam
Shade – 250 W 19th St
Sparrow Bar and Cookshop – 3701 Travis St
Tacos A-Go-Go – 3704 Main St
Tacos A-Go-Go – 2912 White Oak Dr
Tila's Restaurant & Bar – 1111 S Shepherd Dr

more to come!

For more information and an up-to-date
list of participating restaurants, go to

AIDSHelp.org/DiningOutForLife

Chair
Monica Pope



AIDSHelp.org



mPowering Community

Houston organizations combat growing HIV rates among
young African-American MSMs while building community

by Megan Smith

It's tough being a teenager. You're no longer a child, not yet an adult, and just starting to find your place in the world. Jason Black's teenage years presented even more of a struggle. Newly out of the closet, he was just beginning to navigate his way through life as a young, gay, African-American man. With no close gay friends, ties to the larger gay community, or comprehensive sex education in his schooling, safe sex and knowing the risks of HIV were nowhere on Black's radar. "So you're trying to navigate and learn all of that alone," he says. "I had been having sex for two or three years by the time I even learned that HIV was an issue or that it should be a concern to me as a man and as a black, gay man. And you really don't have that option to be exploratory because when you look at a community of people where the infection rates are as high as they are, you really don't have that flexibility, because the pool of people you're going to be having sex with has a lot of [HIV] positives."

Infection rates for young African-American MSMs (men who have sex with men) are in fact high—and increasing. Between 2002 and 2011, the number of young African-American MSM (age 13 to 24) diagnosed with HIV in Harris County increased by 189 percent. In 2011, young MSMs accounted for 16.8 percent of all new HIV diagnoses in Harris County and, of

"I had been having sex for two or three years by the time I even learned that HIV was an issue."



Group members at the mSociety's "The Talk," a free event for friends and family to come together to discuss "issues that affect us all."

these diagnoses, 60.5 percent were African-American men, according to the 2013 Houston Area Integrated Epidemiologic Profile for HIV/AIDS Prevention and Care Services Planning. "The epidemic really has shifted to communities of color," says Joe Fuentes, chief executive officer of Houston Area Community Services (HACS), a local full-service Federally Qualified Healthcare Center that originally formed in 1998 as an HIV/AIDS service organization to assist communities of color.

Health-care disparities, lower income and educational attainment, and higher rates of unemployment and incarceration are among the numerous factors that attribute to these high rates, Fuentes says. The increasing popularity of unprotected sex and the disconnect between the AIDS crisis of the 1980s and the virus today also contribute to these numbers, adds Kevin Anderson, community outreach and

education coordinator for AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH). "A lot of young MSM individuals don't know about that side of HIV," Anderson says. "So now, to know people who are HIV-positive and to see them living healthy, and to not hear of many complaints, I think what happens is that young MSMs just think 'Oh, I'll be fine. I'll just take a pill. There are things that I can do.'"

One of the most prominent factors—lack of knowledge surrounding sex—starts at home, Black says. "In our culture and in our families as people of color, African American or Latino, we are very focused around religion and →



THE BIRD & THE BEAR
Bistro's AMERICAN BISTRO
Sunday Brunch
Bottomless Mimosas \$12
Live Music 11:30 AM-2:30 PM



2810 Westheimer
713-528-2473
thebirdandthebearbistro.com

mPowering Community

continued from previous page

religious belief systems," he says. "And this culture of stigma [comes out of those beliefs]. We have been taught culturally not to have conversations about sex openly. It's a very secretive thing and it's a very private thing. You don't have open dialogue about that, and so I think that unconsciously transpires into our personal lives when we're having conversations with our sex partners or even as a community. I think we all know each other is having sex, but we don't have a conversation about what type of sex we're having or what we're doing when we're having sex, and I think all of that contributes to the decisions we make around HIV. So surely if I can't have a conversation with you about just having sex, I'm not going to talk about whether that is protected or unprotected sex. Oftentimes, I think that dialogue doesn't happen, so we're not able to learn from each other."

As an adult, Black now works to combat that same lack of knowledge, stigma, and lack of community he experienced as a teenager through his work as manager of public health services and head of the mSociety at Legacy Community Health Services. A program of Legacy, the mSociety is an organization composed of African-American gay and bisexual men and transgender persons between the ages of 18 and 29 who are "dedicated to uplifting and empowering



Jason Black now works to combat that same lack of knowledge, stigma, and lack of community he experienced as a teenager through his work as manager of public health services and head of the mSociety at Legacy Community Health Services.

one another through personal and professional development, while also providing HIV/AIDS prevention, outreach, education, and awareness." The mSociety seeks to create a safe space for members to have these traditionally taboo conversations around sex while building lasting community. And while the program focuses on HIV-negative men, a few positive men are members as well, Black says. "We work to empower them in a holistic approach, not only focusing on HIV stuff, but overall, empowering them as a community."

This local society is part of the national mPowerment movement, formed nearly two decades ago at the University of California. Although the original intent of the movement was to build community among gay white men in rural areas, it was adapted around 10 years ago to meet the needs and cultural differences of African-American gay and bisexual men, Black says.

Each month, the mSociety presents a full calendar of educational, social, and community-building events such as "Real, Relevant, Raw Conversations," which feature facilitated dialogues about dating and sex. Previous outreach events have included movie nights, barbecues in the park, a crawfish boil, panel discussions, and "Be Like Bey," confidence-building dance classes named after the queen bee herself, Beyoncé Knowles. "They're all fun events, but we incorporate HIV testing or HIV messaging into them," Black says. "They're also spaces

continued on page 71

CRIMINAL DEFENSE & PROBATE

Attorney
Clyde Williams
& ASSOCIATES

Board Certified By State Bar Of Texas

Voted One of the Best Attorneys - 2011, 2012 & 2013 OutSmart Readers' Choice

713.236.0064 • chlaw@earthlink.net

CONGRATULATIONS OUTSMART

Two Incredible Decades
Serving the Community for
OutSmart and Us!

Voted Best Attorney
2007-2013 -OutSmart Readers' Survey

CALL US!

KATINE & NECHMAN L.L.P.
1834 SOUTHMORE BLVD.
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77004
TELEPHONE: 713-808-1000
WWW.LAWKN.COM
Info@lawkn.com

- Adoption
- Immigration
- Employment Law
- HIV Discrimination
- Criminal Law
- Real Estate, HOA, and Relationship Issues
- Estate Planning Documents

MIDTOWN VETERINARY HOSPITAL
Your Neighborhood Pet Care Solution

GAYEST & GREATEST
OutSmart
2013

"Our Mission is to deepen the bonds between people and their pets by providing personalized, compassionate care. We are a full-service veterinary hospital offering high-quality services for your pet."

Midtown
Veterinary Hospital

1434 W. Alabama St. • Houston, TX 77006
(713)528-4900 main • (888)504-9006 fax
www.MidtownVetHospital.com

Lakewood Alarm

24 HOUR MONITORING
713-568-3181 • 888-305-0490

- Security
- Fire
- Medical
- Video
- GPS
- Audio
- Theater
- Structured Wiring
- Automation
- More!

info@lakewoodalarm.com • www.lakewoodalarm.com

Montrose
Center

outpatient
evenings
immediate intake
LGBT & HIV+

30 years of
experience

relapse
prevention

substance
abuse
treatment

WAYOUT
recovery program

713.529.0037 www.montrosecenter.org



it gets better Public Residency Events

Better Now Houston Forum

Tuesday, April 29, 7 – 8:30pm

The Holocaust Museum Houston

FREE EVENT

A town hall style meeting with a panel of experts in the fields of education, government, social services, religion and psychology focused on describing the current state of affairs for youth and families and efforts to curb bullying and discrimination. Moderated by Ernie Manouse.

Piano Cabaret

Wednesday, April 30, 9:30pm

Guava Lamp

FREE EVENT

Catch the Gay Men's Chorus of LA singing their favorite pop hits and classic standards. Relax and socialize along with Bayou City Performing Arts Chorale the night before the final dress rehearsals.

Performance Prelude

featuring Bayou City Performing Arts Chorale

Friday, May 2, 7:15pm

Jones Hall- Piano Level

FREE with ticket purchase

Experience the voices of the Bayou City Performing Arts Chorale singing contemporary music hits, before the live production of *it gets better*. Free with ticket purchase.

Arts Talk Q&A with the Gay Men's Chorus of LA

Friday, May 2

Jones Hall

FREE with ticket purchase

Join us for a post-performance discussion with company members.

For more information on *it gets better* residency events, visit spahouston.org/igb



it gets better

In partnership with Legacy Community Health Services, Bayou City Performing Arts and The Montrose Center

Performance: 8pm | Friday, May 2, 2014

Jones Hall

it gets better is a moving musical theatre performance that utilizes the power of song and story to transform painful histories of bullying, harassment and discrimination into a celebration of courage and a campaign for social justice in Houston. The program features a touring cast who will be joined by Houston's own Bayou City Performing Arts (BCPA). Bullying is the most often cited contributor to the extraordinary rise of violence and suicide among LGBT, Black, Latino and physically-challenged people. Through a performance created under the direction of the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, SPA and its collaborative partners Legacy Community Health Services, Bayou City Performing Arts and The Montrose Center will have an opportunity to address bullying on a local level through the performing arts.

it gets better produced by Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles. AT&T is a co-producing partner.



For tickets visit spahouston.org or call 713.227.4772

Legacy

Community Health Services

Legacy Community Health Services has long been a safe place for the LGBT community to come for all their health care needs.

Legacy is proud to partner with SPA in bringing the *it gets better* campaign to Houston. As part of our commitment to our roots, our physicians and staff provide support for LGBT community members of all ages as they struggle to overcome bullying in all its forms and be accepted and respected for who they are.

Legacy also offers a variety of programs and services developed specifically for the LGBT Community. Programs like mSociety, which uplifts and empowers young African-American gay men through personal and professional development, and our involvement with programs like the Transgender Center, which works with transgender teens as they strive to be accepted by family and friends, make Legacy Houston's premier provider for LGBT health care. Our flagship Montrose Campus, located in the heart of a historically gay-friendly neighborhood, offers the following:

CLINICAL SERVICES

- Adult Primary Care
- Pediatrics
- OB/GYN & Maternity
- Behavioral Health Services
- Dental Care
- Vision Services
- Vaccination & Immunization
- HIV/STD Screening & Treatment

PROGRAMS & EDUCATION

- Project CORRE
- Next Step
- Positive Options
- Patient Navigation

For more information, visit legacycommunityhealth.org.

Coming out,
navigating
relationships
or letting go of
internalized
homophobia?



**TONY
AUCOIN** LCSW,
LCDC
PSYCHOTHERAPY
SERVICES
832.594.2928
TONYAUCOINLCSW.COM

QUALITY DENTISTRY ONE PATIENT AT A TIME!



Cory Logan, D.D.S.
General & Cosmetic Dentistry
713.942.8598
www.CoryLoganDDS.com
530 Waugh Dr. | Houston TX 77019

mPowering Community

continued from page 66

to have conversations that these community members have probably never had before, or wouldn't be able to have otherwise. When we are able to have conversations and reconcile around our spirituality and our sexuality, I think that helps people to make better decisions sexually."

The mSociety is about more than just the now—the organization also offers the Emerging Leaders Fellowship, a six-week program that helps shape the next generation of African-American LGBT community leaders. After a selective interview process, chosen participants are mentored and trained in leadership and public speaking. Toward the end of the program, the men also research and complete a project that, upon completion, is presented to prominent leaders within the community. By the time they graduate from this fellowship, participants have made a name for themselves within the movement, made lasting connections with other community figures, and proved they are trustworthy and reliable when it comes to future opportunities involving advocacy and employment.

A game room, computer lab, lounge area, and mini fitness center are available at the mSociety's permanent space located at 1116 Jackson Blvd. The space is open Monday through Friday at various hours for community use, and anyone interested in joining the mSociety or volunteering is encouraged to drop by. Volunteers do not have to fall within mSociety's age or racial demographic to be eligible.

Legacy is pleased with the impact the mSociety has made and continues to make on the community. The health center is also excited to announce that they will be working with the University of California over the next three years to create an additional adaptation of the mPowerment movement that will focus specifically on HIV-positive African-American gay and bisexual men, Black says.

The mSociety, HACS, and AFH all offer free HIV testing for folks who are unsure of their status. Testing isn't just confined within the walls of these organizations, either—all three will meet clients in the space they feel safest, be it in their private homes, at a shopping center, or even outside of bars and clubs. "We'll make it accessible to them because there's still that fear of being seen or someone knowing," Anderson says.

Legacy, HACS, and AFH also offer numerous services to newly and already diagnosed HIV-positive gay, bisexual, and MSM clients—from homeless youth to sex industry workers to professionals—so that they are able to receive proper care in the most comfortable setting possible. "We serve the whole gamut here at HACS," Fuentes says. "We →

WE ARE THE CONSTANT IN CHANGE

Since 1981, Legacy Community Health Services has been a constant presence in the lives of LGBT Houstonians. We were there at the beginning of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, providing testing and linking clients to care. We are still here now, offering comprehensive medical care. For more than 30 years, Legacy has been a source of comfort for those who traditionally face barriers to care.

We are, now and always, constantly here for you.

Adult Primary Care
HIV/AIDS Testing & Prevention
Ryan White Health Care Services
STD Screening & Treatment
Transgender Specialty Care
Women's Services
Body Positive Wellness
Nutritional Counseling

Dental Care
Frost Eye Clinic
Behavioral Health Services
Vaccination & Immunization
Pediatrics
The Assistance Fund
On-site Pharmacy



Legacy
Community Health Services

1415 California St., Houston, TX 77006
832-730-4434

LegacyCommunityHealth.org

Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen

One of "Ten Great Mexican
Restaurants Across the U.S."
-USA Today

Woodway at Voss
Westheimer at S. Dairy Ashford

www.SylviasEnchiladaKitchen.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY Daniel Malachowski

Thank you for
"Showing us
your OutSmart"
all these years.



License # 3842



Earthman
Funeral Directors

Since 1889

Funerals
Cremations
Advanced Planning

Dignity
MEMORIAL

earthmanbellaire.com
(713)667-6505

ruggles green



OutSmart 2013
Voted BEST
Vegetarian Restaurant

Proud to Support the LGBT Community

GREEN WITH PRIDE

CITYCENTRE 801 Town & Country Houston, TX 77024
RIVER OAKS 2311 W Alabama Houston, TX 77098
COMING SOON Ruggles Green Heights & Town Center in Sugarland

ENTER TO WIN a \$100 Gift Card
rugglesgreen.com/pride

Facebook Twitter YouTube

mPowering Community

continued from previous page

use a very generic name, so people don't usually associate us as an LGBT organization or an HIV/AIDS organization. We do have a lot of people who don't identify as [LGBT] even though they're having MSM sex. We treat individuals who come in as they identify. Even though they may disclose some of this behavior, we never [label them] as A, B, C, or D."

And although AFH does not provide in-house medical treatment, they do help navigate their clients to their first and second appointments, rather than simply referring them to other health centers and then cutting ties. The organization will even provide clients with transportation if necessary. "We do this work because we care," Anderson says. "[We do this] so they know our hearts are just as invested in seeing that they walk through the steps [to get care], so we walk through those steps with them."

More information:

mSociety: 832.730.4422

Legacy Community Health Services:
legacycommunityhealth.org

AIDS Foundation Houston: aidshelp.org

Houston Area Community Services:
hacstx.org.



\$5 MARGARITAS

TILA'S HAPPY HOUR

1/2 PRICE APPETIZERS

TUES-FRIDAY 4-7 PM

TILAS
RESTAURANTE & BAR

1111 S. Shepherd on the Curve • Complimentary valet • 713.522.7654 • tilas.com

THE LGBT IMMIGRATION EXPERTS YOU'VE GOT QUESTIONS, WE'VE GOT ANSWERS!

Can I apply for my partner's green card now?

Yes.

The Supreme Court struck down DOMA in June 2013, thus affording LGBT families the same immigration rights as heterosexual families.

I am undocumented, my partner is a U.S. Citizen. Can we apply?

Yes.

If you were admitted into the United States, and later accrued unlawful presence, or worked unlawfully for example, your U.S. citizen spouse can petition for your green card. If you entered the States without inspection then your same-sex spouse or fiancé/e can still petition for your green card, but you will need to have an inadmissibility waiver approved before you will be eligible for your green card. You will need to consult with Attorney Kinsella in order determine if this route is the best choice for your particular situation.

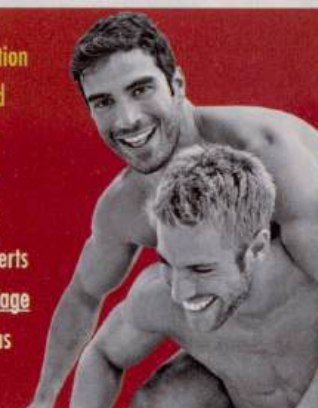
What if I don't live in a state with marriage equality, can I still apply for a green card?

Yes.

You do not need to be a resident to marry in the states that permit same-sex marriage. If you reside in a state that does not permit same-sex marriage you are still entitled to the federal immigration benefits granted through marriage.

- Do you need specific information about how to apply for your partner's green card?
- Did you receive a request for evidence from US Immigration?
- Did you or a loved one enter the U.S. legally and later overstay?

Attorney Kinsella is a seasoned immigration attorney who is licensed to advise on and assist with all U.S. Immigration matters nationwide. For a no nonsense, in-depth legal consultation call the Law Offices of Caro Kinsella now! Our immigration experts have processed over 100 same-sex marriage petition cases nationwide since DOMA was ruled unconstitutional last June.



LAW OFFICES OF CARO KINSELLA
Providing trustworthy immigration law services

CK
LAW USA

954.304.2243
www.cklawusa.com

CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE CONSULTATION

*FREE TELEPHONE CONSULTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE PETITION CASES ONLY.

SHOWER SYSTEMS • TOTO TOILETS • KITCHEN FIXTURES • BATHROOM FIXTURES
• WATER HEATERS • TANKLESS WATER HEATERS • PLUMBING PARTS & PIPES

U-PLUMB-IT
1424 MONTROSE 77019
713.942.2277

GO GREEN AND FLUSH WITH PRIDE!
CONSERVE WATER AND SAVE MONEY
WITH TOTO AQUA DUAL FLUSH TOILET




SANTEO

WE WELCOME DRIPS

TANKLESS
GAS WATER HEATERS

NORITZ
ALWAYS HOT



SOHO

- RVCA
- AG
- Joe's Jeans
- NIXON Watches
- Hurley

SOHO Heights
1043 Studewood (Next to Ruggles Green) **713.868.8910**
11A-7P TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY • SUNDAY 12P-5P

RELAX HOUSTON MASSAGE THERAPY

SPECIALIZING IN

- DEEP TISSUE
- SWEDISH MASSAGE
- THAI MASSAGE
- SCIATIC NERVE



Voted One of the Best
Male Massage THERAPISTS

Call or Text
832.322.9509

FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/RELAX-HOUSTON-MASSAGE

HOUSTON/GALVESTON



gayribbean CRUISES

Gayribbean Halloween Cruise

It's going to be a FRIGHTFULLY good time!

October 26-November 2, 2014

Galveston to Cozumel, Grand Cayman & Falmouth
on the NAVIGATOR OF THE SEAS®

Join our GLBT group for a week of...

- Awesome Parties • Fabulous Shows
- Great Entertainment
- Gayribbean Halloween Costume Bash

Nobody does Halloween like Gayribbean Cruises!
The Navigator is Bigger, Better and more WOW
than any other ship sailing out of Texas.

www.GayribbeanCruises.com

CALL TODAY!

877-560-8318



*All cruises are subject to availability and rules and restrictions apply. Gayribbean Cruises on board event are private events for Gayribbean Passengers only. Gayribbean Cruises are not all-gay cruises. Call for complete details.



'Cock' Enters Houston

The new play by Mike Bartlett makes its regional debut

by Barrett White

What does a title mean to you? As a consumer of immersive live theater, you arrange a date night on some balmy evening with your main squeeze and make your way to a venue in Houston's expansive theater community. You purchase your tickets to an Olivier Award-winning London and New York City hit play entitled ... *Cock*.

I'm sorry?

Many readers might assume that the play's gay subject matter and daring title means they're in for a raunchy, campy show filled with innuendo and nudity. In reality, *Cock* is, at its heart, an honest, candid story of two gay men who take a break from one another, and during this break, one of them finds the woman of his dreams.

The *New York Times* decided to avoid controversy by coyly referring to the 2012 U.S. premiere as "The Cockfight Play," an appropriate pseudonym when considering the production's staging: only four actors, no props, no scenery, and lots of verbal stage combat presented on a small, intimate stage with the audience on all four sides—not unlike a cockfighting ring. The play runs on emotion and dialogue in such a way that you won't miss the familiar presence of stage dressings.

The anchor of the story is John, who has taken a break from M, and unexpectedly found new love with W. Playwright Mike Bartlett's decision to name two of the charac-

"John's focus is on the imminent choice he knows he must make, despite his deep-rooted feelings for both."

ters M and W (as in Man and Woman) draws you deeper into John's focus on the imminent choice he knows he must make, despite his deep-rooted feelings for both.

With short, powerful lines of dialogue and smart movement, the minimalist play takes you on a 90-minute nonstop trip through various ordeals, culminating in an exquisite masterpiece of a dinner party. None too late, enter F, identified by the initial as M's Father (or as in "Facilitator," as he initiates the powerful conversation at dinner). Ironically enough,

it is the one character with a distinguished name who is experiencing an identity crisis. According to comments posted on the Goodreads website, the artistry of Bartlett's playwriting goes deeper than what you might initially notice. "I thought M, W, F somehow stood for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday."

But as we come to know, this is not the case, "Looking back, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday may not have been that far off if we equate what each character represents [in] a lifespan ... Monday could stand for the

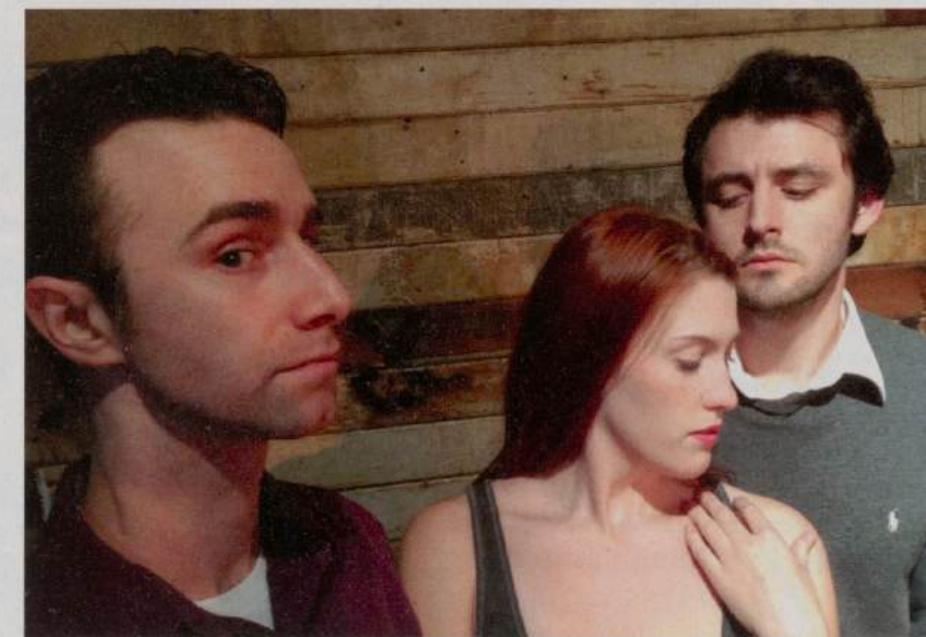
beginning; Wednesday would be halfway, a hump; and Friday, more seasoned, experienced, and near the end of life."

Whether Bartlett meant for this to happen or not, his writing prowess is clear.

Cock never seems to disappoint. While one might expect a forceful, brow-beating father interested in preserving traditional values by pushing John to choose W, we are pleasantly surprised to see a father who wants what is best for his son, and for his son to be happy.

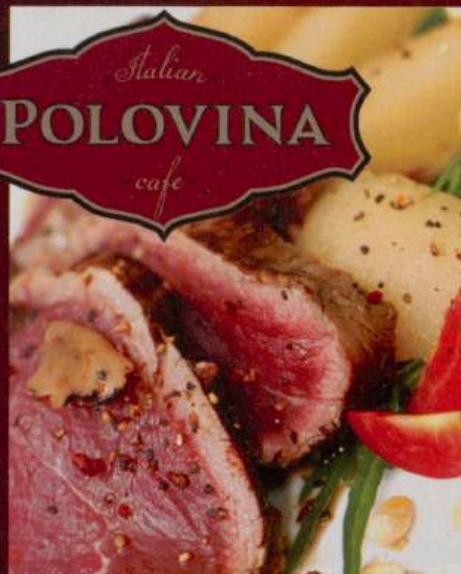
"It was not hard to say yes to directing this show," says director Mark Adams.

Adams was drawn to the show based on his love for great acting and vividly written scripts with poignant, intelligent humor. *Cock* features characters and →



The good bi guy: John (Dain Geist, left) has to decide between W (Haley Hussey, center) and M (Bobby Haworth) in Theater LaB Houston's production of *Cock*.

Italian POLOVINA café



You set the mood. We'll make the food.

Whether it's a celebration with co-workers, a night out for the family, or a new romance between you and one of our brick oven pizzas, Polovina is the right place for any occasion for casual Italian food in Houston.

dine in • patio dining • lunch specials • take out • catering • weekend brunch • happy hour

Polovina Italian Café (formerly Raia's) – Casual Italian on Washington Avenue
PolovinaItalianCafe.com — 4500 Washington Avenue, Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77007 — 713.861.1042

B | F | G
& ASSOCIATES

High Quality
Compassionate Care

Voted One of the Best Psychiatrists
- OutSmart 2011-2013 Readers' Choice



Barry F. Gritz, M.D.
Psychiatrist
Diplomate of the American Board
of Psychiatry and Neurology

Christine Wysong,
RN, PMHNP, BC
Nurse Practitioner
Board Certified

- Saturday Hours
- Male or Female Providers Available
- Centrally Located Office
- Appointments Readily Available

Access to Providers via Cell Phone 24/7
713/869-7400
230 Westcott, Suite 210, Houston, Texas 77007

Don't let yourself
get bogged down with **taxes**,
Leave your troubles at my door!!

Gary M. Gritz
CPA

- 20 Years Experience
- Personal & Business Tax Returns
- Monthly & Quarterly Payroll Tax Returns
- Arbitration with IRS
- Local & State Government Filing
- Preparation of Financial Statements to third parties
- Assist in various General Ledger packages, like Quick Books, etc.
- **My office or yours!**
- Proud member of EPAH

Memorial Park Area
230 Westcott, Suite 210
713.784.3030
garymgritzpc.com
ggyankss@aol.com



Find us
on Facebook

'Cock' Enters Houston

continued from page 75

plots that are new to live theater. It is so cleverly crafted that the audience will not know how the show ends until it does.

"It's a brilliant plot," Adams says.

The original production at London's Royal Court Theatre won the 2010 Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement, along with rave reviews and a long run that included several extensions. The United States premiere in May 2012 received similar acclaim, leading to sold-out audiences for the duration of its New York run.

Often called "unconventional," "compelling," and "sophisticated," the script provides no written stage direction, leaving Adams and his quartet to command the stage with their own interpretations. Daring "bare-bones" dialogue makes for a visceral experience, both for the audience and the actors.

Vibrant theater at its best.

What: *Cock* regional premiere in Houston, a co-production of Theater LaB Houston and Obsidian Art Space.

When: April 16–May 11

Where: Obsidian Art Space, 3522 White Oak Blvd.

Tickets/info: Obsidian Art Space (obsidianartspace.org) or Theater LaB Houston (theaterlabhouston.com).

ISSON TRUNK SHOW
april 25-27 • noon–6 pm

spectacles
ON MONTROSE

4317 montrose blvd • 713.529.3937

www.WearUsOut.com

Evan Mapes OD

Optometric Glaucoma Specialist

AFFORDABLE FITNESS

Feeling good about yourself
and how you look is the key.
We can help you get there
with a program just for you.
Call Today!

JOIN NOW!
\$18⁰⁰ per month

Sale Ends
April 30th, 2014!
Tour club for details.

HOUSTON GYM
1501 Durham
713.880.9191
www.houstongym.com



CONGRATULATIONS
TO OUR FRIENDS AT OUTSMART

for 20 Years of covering the stories that
shape our LGBT Community from F Bar,
now entering our 4th year of fabulousity.

Come get gorgeous

202 TUAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006 // FBARHOUSTON.COM

CONCIERGE TRAVEL
www.conciergetravel.cc
Contact us toll free: 877.775.9616



WE ARE YOUR BOOKING HEADQUARTERS FOR

RSVP **Atlantis** **Brand g**

*Dates subject to change. Certain restrictions apply.

AFRICA

adventure awaits
November 22 – December 3
2015

starting at \$6,500*
per person

*Flights not included
call for additional details and options

BRAND G VACATIONS

Alaska Friends & Family Cruise - <i>Celebrity Solstice</i>	July 11 - 18, 2014
Rhine Riverboat Cruise	WAITLIST ONLY Aug 11 - 20, 2014
Legendary Danube Riverboat Cruise	WAITLIST ONLY Aug 16 - 25, 2014
Myanmar Riverboat Cruise	WAITLIST ONLY Nov 7 - 18, 2015

RSVP VACATIONS

Amsterdam Pride River Cruise - <i>Avalon Affinity</i>	July 23 - Aug 1, 2014
---	-----------------------

ATLANTIS EVENTS

Club Atlantis Cancun	Apr 26 - May 3, 2014
Grand Baltic Cruise - <i>Holland America Eurodam</i>	Jul 20 - 27, 2014
Grand Mediterranean Cruise - <i>Celebrity Equinox</i>	Aug 2 - 12, 2014
LA to Mexico Cruise - <i>Golden Princess</i>	Oct 5 - 13, 2014
Club Atlantis Vallarta	Oct 25 - Nov 1, 2014
Caribbean Cruise - <i>Celebrity Silhouette</i>	Feb 1 - 8, 2015



CHICAGO TITLE

Now Serving You with Two Locations!

Inner Loop

Office: 713-418-7000
3700 Buffalo Speedway, Suite 400
Houston, TX 77098



From Left Marc Archuleta, Jamie Dominguez, Chris Cazares, Debbie Diza, Noel Phillips, Melissa Hull and Tyler Ramsey
not pictured Dee Dawson and Josie Hungerford

Marketing Team

Serving Inner Loop
and Memorial



Business Development Team
From Left Erin Parker, Terry Pasternak, Kristen Hale,
Laura Locastro Ogburn and Derrick Geitner

Memorial

Office: 713-465-1663
9805 Katy Freeway, Suite 250
Houston, TX 77024



From Left Deborah McLean, Monica Balderas, Bob Collier,
Norma Munive Prime, Mary Chapman Cantu,
Kathleen Cullen, Threcia Guillen

Houston's Hot Real Estate

Realtors reveal their favorite up-and-coming neighborhoods

by Karen Derr



Next big thing: With home prices rising in the Heights and Montrose, could EaDo and Eastwood be the hot-spots of tomorrow?

In light of Houston's low inventory of homes for sale and rising home prices, especially in inner-loop neighborhoods like the Heights and Montrose, Realtors are turning to lesser-known areas to satisfy their buyers. The Houston Association of Realtors reported in March that the local market was experiencing its lowest-ever inventory of homes for sale. With just 2.6 months of inventory, Houston is definitely a seller's market. Quality homes in tried-and-true neighborhoods get multiple offers, sometimes within hours of listing on the Multiple Listing Service. It is not uncommon for the winning bid to come in well above list price, pricing some buyers out of the market. Buyers are often asked to commit in advance to pay more than the property may appraise for and make up the difference with an additional down payment.

This has sent Realtors and investors scrambling to target the neighborhoods most likely to be the hot-spots of tomorrow. One such area is just east of downtown Houston—or EaDo, as it has been called in recent years—as well as the historic neighborhood of Eastwood. When polling Realtors specializing in the inner loop, EaDo came up again and again as Houston's next hot neighborhood. With new construction in EaDo and the lovely historic homes in Eastwood, the area has something for everyone. Mike Copenhagen with Remax Metro says, "I have been showing east of Downtown, or EaDo and Eastwood, quite a bit. The location is close to downtown, and with the new Harrisburg light-rail line about to open, development of restaurants and shopping can't be too far behind."

continued on next page

Spring is here. Come walk your dog with us!



Oaks of Inwood

Best Kept **Family** Secret in Houston!

Minutes from Midtown | Large Custom Homes just off TC Jester

3830 Elmcrest Dr.

Oaks of Inwood custom brick with 2-story entry, large block paneled living room. Master suite down with walk-in closet and double sinks in bath. 4 beds, 3.5 baths. \$227,900



Contact **Bob Beszborn**

BOULEVARD
REALTY

281.650.2726 • yourblvd.com

Real Estate

continued from page 79

Jeremy Fain with Greenwood King, himself an EaDo resident, agrees. "I've had a great time introducing people to East Downtown," he says. "Most of the new construction is three- or four-story townhomes which include high-end finishes, appliances, and detailing. Some properties, like mine, even include a rooftop terrace overlooking the flawless downtown skyline, which is perfect for taking in late-night fireworks shows erupting from Minute Maid Park."

Fain believes property values will continue to rise over the next few years due to the BBVA Compass Stadium, the completion of light rail, and the recently opened Watershed Market, which provides fresh locally grown produce and goods along a promenade of 200 newly installed trees. He confides, "I encounter people purchasing these properties solely as investments, before the word gets out about this rapidly growing area and prices start to skyrocket."

Along with EaDo, Debbie Levine says her clients are also opting for Sawyer Heights and Cottage Grove. These neighborhoods, which are adjacent to the Heights, offer mostly new construction on smaller lots. The top producer with Greenwood King says, "They're affordable and still in close proximity to all of the amenities that the inner loop has to offer. In addition, many buyers feel like they are getting in at a good entry point. They are banking that these areas will see the growth and appreciation that the Heights and Montrose have seen over the years."

For newer construction, Andy Weber with John Daugherty Realtors likes Shady Acres and the neighborhoods west of the

continued on page 82

GALVESTON!

ONE OF THE TOP 20 HOME PORTS IN THE WORLD



1428 23rd • Galveston

Circa 1913, Four bedroom two story house with (2) two bedroom apartments, Parquet floors in living, dining & den and two fireplaces. Zoned Retail...\$449,500



David Bowers, REALTOR



The House Company

409/763-2800

David@DavidBowers.com

- 2009-2010 President Galveston Historical Foundation
- 2010 President of Galveston Association of Realtors
- 2011 GAR Realtor of The Year
- 2013 Galveston Daily News Reader's Choice Award

Thank you Galveston for voting me:

"BEST REALTOR IN GALVESTON" -OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards 2013

E&G AMISH FURNITURE

"Family Owned, American Made, Built for a Lifetime"



100%
REAL WOOD
No Laminates
No Limitations



www.egamishfurniture.com

WED-SAT: 10AM-6PM • SUN: NOON-5PM

SUGAR LAND
3616 HWY. 6 SUGAR LAND
281.277.0485
NEXT TO LUBY'S

FRIENDSWOOD
18980 GULF FWY.
281.286.9911
IN FRONT OF BAYBROOK MALL

Joshua's Native Plants & Garden Antiques

Tues - Sun 10-6

502 W. 18th St. • Houston, TX 77008

(two blocks east of N. Shepherd - in the Heights)

713-862-7444 • www.joshuasnativeplants.com

• HUGE selection of native, rare and old-fashioned plants

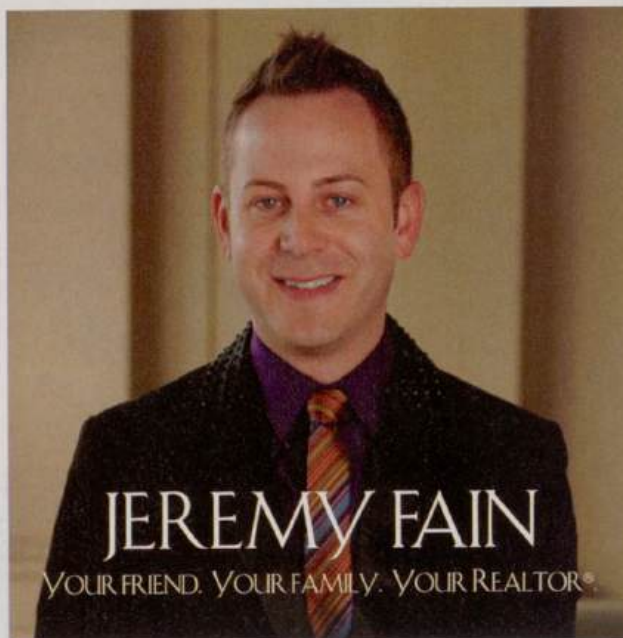
• TONS of one-of-a-kind architectural and garden relics

• HUNDREDS of urns, pots, fountains and recycled tumbled glass



BEST GARDEN SUPPLY/NURSERY

GREENWOOD KING PROPERTIES



1616 S. Voss Rd., Ste. 900 • Houston, TX 77057 • 713.677.4337
jfair@greenwoodking.com

Real Estate continued from page 80

Heights. He says they appeal to buyers who like the Heights. "These areas also offer eateries and bars that are similar to Montrose and the Heights," explains Weber. The Shady Acres area is home to the popular Cedar Creek restaurant, Hub Cap, Crisp, The Corkscrew, and many more.

For more traditional homes, Tim Anthony with Anthony Upton Properties also heads west of the Heights to Timbergrove and just north of the loop to Garden Oaks. A longtime Montrose resident himself, he says, "With the low inventory and increasing list prices in Montrose and Heights, I am finding that my buyers are pleased when I begin to show them listings in Timbergrove and Garden Oaks." With original homes from the 1930s to 1960s, these neighborhoods appeal to buyers looking for mature landscaping and lots of trees. Prices are only slightly below prices in the Heights and Montrose, but buyers generally get more square footage and a larger lot for their money.

If 1920s and '30s bungalows are your style, Realtor Alan Frieze recommends Lindale Park on the near-north side of downtown. He says, "The neighborhood continues to strengthen, and the bungalows offer the same character. Many are yet to be updated, so my buyers that are looking for a project find it interesting." Lindale Park is a good choice, much like Eastwood, for historic charm, proximity to new rail lines, and an active homeowners association.

Of course, for mid-century modern homes nicely updated or ready to be transformed, Oak Forest is a popular community. But with new homebuilders snapping them up for their spacious

continued on page 84



ANUP
ANTHONY UPTON PROPERTIES

Tim Anthony
832.722.6901
tim@timanthony.com

Calvin Upton
832-541-6274
calvin@calvinupton.com

www.anthonuyptonproperties.com

713-528-0050



Pamela Efferson
PAMELA EFFERSON
PROPERTIES

kw. metropolitan
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

Direct (713) 822-8555
Pamela@SellingHomesInHouston.com
www.SellingHomesInHouston.com

Your Inner Loop Specialist

- Professional, reliable, knowledgeable
- Proven results, raving client testimonials
- Verifiable, extraordinary customer service
- Serving Houston's Inner Loop and close-in neighborhoods

Pamela's commitment to providing extraordinary customer service, implementing innovative marketing strategies, utilizing industry specific technology and leveraging strong negotiating skills has ensured her repeated recognition as a top-producing Realtor (Houston Association of Realtors). As your real estate professional she can answer your questions about the home selling and buying process. If you or someone you know is considering making a move, give Pamela a call at 713.822.8555 or email anytime to Pamela@SellingHomesInHouston.com.



The Palms at Cove View
3506 Cove View Blvd
Starting at \$62,500



1507 Ball
3/1.5/1 1,548 sf
\$149,500



1121 Market
3/2.5/2 2,984sf
\$225,900



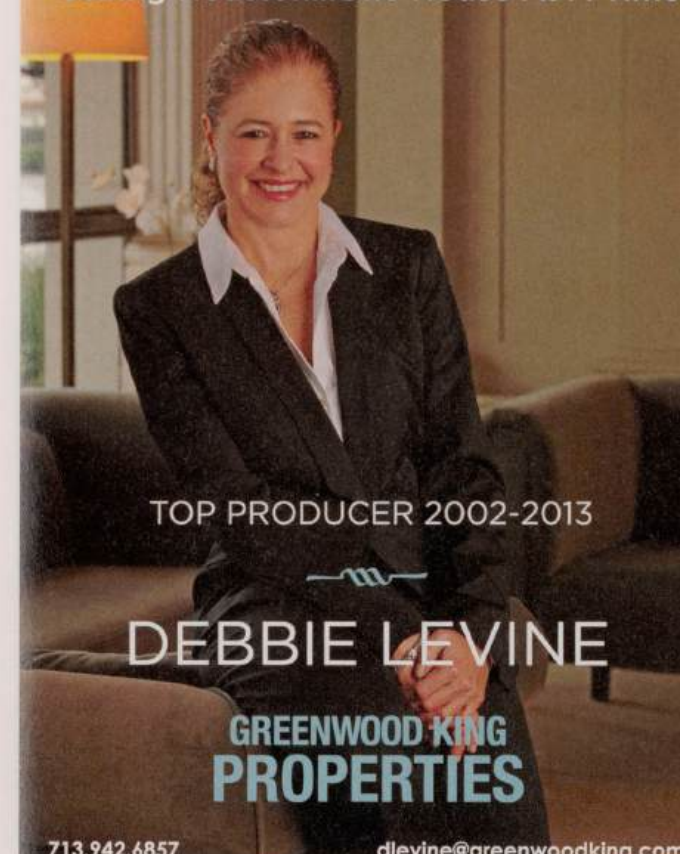
714 17th St
Two Units: 925sf each
\$139,000



Joe Tramonte Realty
TramonteRealty.com
(409) 765-9837

Own A Piece Of The Island. Own Peace Of Mind.

Selling Houston...One House At A Time



TOP PRODUCER 2002-2013

DEBBIE LEVINE
GREENWOOD KING
PROPERTIES

713.942.6857

dlevine@greenwoodking.com

THROW BACK 20

**I'VE BEEN DOING
MY HOMEWORK!**

Properties Sold January through May 2000



Nobody in the world sells more real estate than RE/MAX

RE/MAX
METRO



Mike Copenhaver
2626 Richmond Ave. • Houston, TX 77098
713.928.4963
www.mikecopenhaver.com

Call for my
SPECIAL REPORT:
5 Powerful Buying
Strategies

Tom Schwenk

Realtor®, ECO Broker, SRS

Ph: 713-857-2309

TO BUY, SELL OR LEASE, GALVESTON
TALK TO TOM!



What's Your Real Estate Style...

Urban Chic

415 22nd St
\$220,000 2/2 #51935854



Historic Townhouse

1724 Ave L
\$329,000 3/2.5 #18730162



Landed Gentry

1316 Ball St
\$429,500 3/4 #428441



TomsGalvestonRealEstate.com

Real Estate continued from page 82

lots, competition is fierce. Shepherd Park Plaza is a good alternative. The neighborhood offers lovely updated homes on 8,000 sq. ft. or larger lots priced in the \$300,000s. An 8,000 sq. ft. lot is a rarity in the Heights or Montrose, and Shepherd Park Plaza is only five minutes outside the loop.

If you're working in the Galleria or driving to the I-10 Energy Corridor, solid neighborhoods with mid-century-era homes and new construction options can be found by going just a little farther west. Pat Walker reports she has sold four homes recently in Mangum Manor. The longtime Oak Forest-area Realtor with Keller Williams Metropolitan describes it as "a small, deed-restricted neighborhood, surrounded by Oak Forest. The prices are quickly rising. There are four new constructions going on right now on Poinciana Drive. The other 'best-kept-secret neighborhood,' I think, is Shepherd Park Terrace. It was developed by the same builder as Shepherd Park Plaza, but is just north of Pinemont. A buyer can get a lot of house for the money." List prices are generally in the \$200,000s. Both of these neighborhoods are about 10 minutes away from Heights shopping and dining, but nearby Oak Forest has its own restaurant scene with loyal fans.

So if your Realtor has convinced you to look outside the loop to get more value, you won't have to go far. Many real-estate professionals are reintroducing would-be inner-loop buyers to Spring Branch. Alan Frieze, who is also with Keller Williams Metropolitan, says his buyers can justify buying a more expensive home than they had originally planned if

continued on page 86

**NO ONE LIKES MOVING...
BUT I CAN HELP MAKE SURE
THE "ENTIRE" FAMILY IS HAPPY!**



**WHETHER YOU ARE BUYING
OR SELLING CALL ME...**



RAYMOND GARCIA

713.885.3239
Se habla español
har.com/RaymondAGarcia

"Raymond Garcia was always willing to show another property, find out the information that was missing from the listing or help me work out the details needed on all my real estate needs. Never had a better Realtor!" — Bill Eason

DAVID LORMS



**FARMERS
INSURANCE**
Hablamos Español

AWARD WINNING INSURANCE SPECIALIST
FORMER CLAIMS PROFESSIONAL
BEST SELLING AUTHOR

**OutSmart
2013**

**Voted the BEST
Male Insurance Agent**

OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards
2009-2011, 2013

Congratulations
OutSmart
on 20 FABULOUS years!

**Now offering life insurance to those
living with Cancer or HIV**

713-688-8669

www.lormisinsuranceservices.com



AJ's landscaping + design, inc.
713.957.0449 www.ajslandscaping.com
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS + CONTRACTORS

DO BUSINESS WITH PEOPLE YOU LIKE



KAREN DERR

VOTED BEST
REALTOR

**OutSmart
2013**

KARENDERR.COM
DIRECT | 713.875.7050

Proud to be one of OutSmart's first advertisers since 1994!



Grand Victorian mansion on 3 acres with Colorado River frontage, all just 1-1/2 hours from Houston, less than an hour to Austin. Exquisite details like high ceilings, heart of pine woodwork, grand foyer, four fireplaces. 5-7 bedrooms, 4-1/2 baths PLUS two guest apartments. Vintage carriage house. Beautiful river views. \$1,300,000.

**Make the most
of this Seller's Market!**

Just because homes are selling quickly, doesn't mean you can't get more money with professional help. Karen Derr is a Certified Home Marketing Specialist with over 20+ years experience.

**Hit the market strategically priced
and staged for the most money!**

"Karen loaned me furniture and helped me de-clutter my home to get it sold for top dollar."

—Heights seller

"Receiving multiple offers was stressful.

Karen helped me choose the offer that would close quickly and net me the most."

—Retiree moving to be near daughter

**BOULEVARD
REALTY**

713.862.1600 HOUSTON & GALVESTON YOURBLVD.COM

Welcome Home



WADE KNIGHT
Realtor® Associate
713-582-0264
www.wadeknight.com
wknight@marthaturner.com

Martha
Turner
Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Real Estate continued from page 84

able to get into desirable Spring Branch I.S.D., which serves close-in neighborhoods like Spring Valley. Prices for homes in Spring Valley and the surrounding new-construction developments are on par with the Heights and Montrose, but you may miss the urban vibe. Frieze explains the trade-off in choosing a neighborhood with desirable public schools: "These are families faced with decisions on schools, and they figure that they would rather buy more home while rates are low, instead of paying for private school down the road."

Raymond Garcia with the Reyna Realty Group agrees that Spring Branch is a great close-in choice for buyers priced out of the Heights and Montrose. He says, "With an estimated 48 homes sold since the beginning of 2014, people looking for a home with character, generous square footage, and a good-size yard are looking no further than Spring Branch."

It's apparent that Realtors and buyers are open to considering up-and-coming neighborhoods as alternatives to high-priced real estate inside the loop. However, one should keep in mind that as prices show no signs of coming down in the Heights and Montrose, today's prices just might look like steals later this year. ■

Karen Derr is a Houston-area Realtor and the founder of Karen Derr Realty, now Boulevard Realty. She writes and speaks about home and small-business topics. She can be reached at karen@karenderr.com.

Real Estate continued on page 89

YOUR Community Lender



Rates are extremely low and now is the best time to buy your new home or refinance your existing one.

- Jumbo
- Refinance
- First Time Buyers
- Investment Loans
- In house processing, underwriting and decisions

Cody Grizzoffi
BRANCH MANAGER

Call 832-541-1103

cody.grizzoffi@academymortgage.com
www.codygrizzoffi.com

ACADEMY
MORTGAGE CORPORATION

601 Sawyer St, Suite 660, Houston, TX 77007

LO NMLS #293460 | TX OFFICE #366638 | CORP NMLS #3113

Stay In-The-Loop With

ANDY WEBER

Resident of Montrose since 1983

Consistent TOP Producer,
John Daugherty, Realtors

If you wish to be
In-The-Loop,
whether selling, buying, or just
looking around,

Voted One of the Best Realtors
in Houston 2 years in a row
— OutSmart Readers' Choice 2012/2013



CALL ANDY NOW!

713.724.4306

CELL

713.561.6653

DIRECT

andyw@johndaugherty.com

JOHNDAUGHERTY.COM

520 Post Oak Blvd., Houston, TX 77027 713.626.3930

JOHN DAUGHERTY REALTORS

TOP PRODUCER RICHARD RAY

713.416.3931 CELL
713.351.4674 DIRECT
713.351.4774 FAX
RichardRay@johndaugherty.com

JOHNDAUGHERTY.COM
520 Post Oak Blvd., Houston, TX 77027 713.626.3930

JOHN DAUGHERTY REALTORS
Established 1967

Lynette Lew

Residential & Commercial REALTOR®
Accredited Luxury Home Specialist



I take pride in my profession...
RESULTS MATTER!

Buying, selling or leasing...
please remember me
for all your real estate needs!

**Better
Homes
and Gardens
REAL ESTATE**

**GARY
GREENE**

713.582.2202

www.LynetteLew.com

Lynette@LynetteLew.com

©2012 Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate LLC. "Better Homes and Gardens" is a registered trademark of International Franchise Association. Real Estate is a service. Equal Opportunity Lender. Equal Housing Opportunity. Each franchise is independently owned and operated. If your property is currently listed with a real estate broker, please disregard. It is not our intention to solicit the offerings of other real estate brokers.

930 West 24th Street- \$1,095,000



STEVE CIAPI

SteveCiapi@coldwellbanker.com
www.HAR.com/StevenCiapi
713.392.2830

**COLDWELL
BANKER**
UNITED, REALTORS

911 West 25th Street - Starting at \$429,000



New Construction
by
Archeterra Homes



TERRE COFFMAN

terrec@coldwellbanker.com
www.terrecoffman.com
713.443.6783

**COLDWELL
BANKER**
UNITED, REALTORS



ALLEN FRIEZE
832.419.9969

metropolitan
Keller Williams Realty

House feel more like a Sauna?

CALL NOW for an A/C System Checkup!

Tejas Air inc.
A/C - Heating Service & Sales

American Standard
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Coleman
Heating & Air Conditioning

www.tejasair.com
832.287.6117
tejasair@sbcglobal.net TACLA00010C

Light Bulbs Unlimited
1203 Westheimer, Houston, TX. 77006

If we Ain't Got It, We'll Get It!

LIGHT BULBS UNLIMITED

Tel: 713.521.0330 • Fax: 713.521.2090
www.LightBulbsUnlimitedUSA.com

- LED Light Bulbs
- Fluorescent Lighting
- Low-Voltage Light Bulbs
- Neon Lights and Tubing
- Club and Black Lighting
- Colored Party Bulbs
- Photography Bulbs
- Specialty Bulbs
- Medical Bulbs
- Boat Lighting
- LED & Incandescent Rope Lighting

Gold Star Design & Construction

WE PUT EVERYTHING IN EVERY PROJECT!

- Kitchen & Bathroom Remodeling
- Room Additions • Home Repair
- Complete Interior Remodeling
- Custom Cabinets

FREE CONSULTATIONS
FREE ESTIMATES

Office 281-206-7274 Owner Cell 281-832-5163
Showroom/Cabinet Shop **10815 Warwana, Suite 302 Houston 77043**
goldstardesignandconstruction.com

TexasT Home Inspection, LLC
TREC #20745

At TexasT Home Inspection we provide peace of mind by offering:

- State of TX Licensed and Insured Inspector
- Comprehensive Inspections
- Easy to Read Reports
- Knowledge that your investment is safe
- Availability 7 days a week

Tina Parker • 832.588.2698
texasathomeinspection@netzero.net

ANDY'S ALL-STAR PEST CONTROL
713-732-7742

Complete Pest Control Service
6 Month Warranty - on Standard Pest Control

This is Termite Swarming Season
Call us to Protect your Investment

Call Andy
for a free quote

Andy Sassie - Owner
TPCL# 13558

TRIFECTA LOCK
UNLOCKING & LOCK CHANGES
FOR AUTO, HOMES, BUSINESSES
AUTO KEYS MADE

24/7 Fast and Friendly Service

844-TRI-LOCK
TRIFECTALOCK.COM

SAVE THIS NUMBER IN YOUR CELL PHONE NOW!

Emerging Real-Estate Trends in Top LGBT Cities

by Jeff Hammerberg

The Urban Land Institute and PricewaterhouseCoopers recently co-published the 35th annual edition of *Emerging Trends in Real Estate*. This publication provides an outlook on annual market trends that is widely read by real-estate professionals. The analysis for 2014 includes information about the top markets in the United States, thus provoking the question, "Of these top markets, which ones are LGBT-friendly?" The answer (not that surprising) is that all of the top



No place like home: Houston was ranked as the second-best market in the nation by this year's edition of *Emerging Trends in Real Estate*.

markets—especially those with revitalized downtowns—were also very LGBT-friendly, including two of the most gay-friendly metropolises in the world—San Francisco and New York.

The number-one top market on this publication's list is San Francisco, which is top ranked for a second year in a row. San Francisco earned this position because it is rich with potential for home building and an easy place to make money selling and buying real estate. It is also a city that is open to new development. San Francisco is a city where there is a lot of capital available for new projects and there is little "financial prejudice" against gays. In 2014, this number-one LGBT-friendly place in America is predicted to thrive as well as it did in 2013, partially because the

continued on next page

CHIP MAXEY
PROPERTIES
Extraordinary Expectations & Maxeymum Results

Real Estate is not complicated. It's simple – It's all about YOU!

SOLD

CHIP MAXEY
REALTOR®
713.213.4692
chipmaxey@kw.com
ChipMaxeyProperties.com

kw | metropolitan
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

EQUAL HOUSING LENDER
EACH OFFICE IS INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED.

Which Pat Walker Sold Your House?

"The Older We Get, The Better We Get! Congratulations OutSmart for 20 Great Years!"
pw

KELLER WILLIAMS
713-412-6682
www.har.com/PartriciaWalker

She's Still At It!



Call me now for
all of your real
estate needs!

Tim Surratt
713.320.5881
timsurratt@yahoo.com

**GREENWOOD KING
PROPERTIES**
Houston, TX

Real Estate continued from page 84

economy is supposed to experience an increased employment rate of 2 percent this year and an increase in individual personal income of 5.5 percent. This helps residents offset the high cost of living downtown. San Francisco is also unusual because it does not have a burnt-out city core.

Thanks partly to a caring and wealthy LGBT influence, the downtown areas of San Francisco are revitalized to the extent that 36 percent of new residents to the city are moving into the metro downtown. *Emerging Real Estate Trends* recommends San Francisco as being the number-one "solid buy" for investors in the United States, with great neighborhoods, beautiful hotels, and gorgeous parks.

The second top market on the list is Houston. Houston has a huge arts community that is very friendly to LGBT individuals and also young people. Houston is particularly suited for investment in new buildings. It is also described as a city with long-term above-average economic growth with expansion predicted in the health, energy, and distribution industries.

San Jose, California, was third on the list with a profile for growth very similar to its neighboring big city of San Francisco. Jobs in the area of technology are likely to expand in this well-known center for technical innovation.

New York was fourth on the list and rates high when it comes to business and professional employment growth, surpassing many other large metro areas in terms of having a highly productive, well-paid and also well-educated workforce. Of course, New York is well known for being an LGBT-friendly haven. *Emerging Trends* predicts that in 2014 the apartment and hotel markets will be very hot in the Big Apple.

Dallas/Fort Worth, Seattle, Austin, Miami, and Boston were next on *Emerging Trends'* list of top markets in the United States, and it is also interesting to note that all of these cities—but especially Seattle, Austin, and Miami—also rank as excellent places for gays and lesbians to settle down in as well.

Author Jeff Hammerberg is the founding CEO of *GayRealEstate.com*. For more information visit gayrealestate.com.

UPPER KIRBY

Architecturally inspiring! Extraordinary home radiates warm Modern allure & sophistication.



3203 Bammel Lane, Houston 77098 • 3338 sqft, 3bed, 3.5 bath, Pool, 7500 sqft lot
MLS # 57002148 Presented for \$875,000

The high-impact design, with walls large enough to accommodate a 10'x10' canvas, is a low-maintenance residence with soaring interiors, large areas of glass that allow rooms to be filled with natural light and three private outdoor spaces. Every room is designed to take advantage of the natural light and spectacular views of nature. The north facing front door insures the home is constantly filled with natural light but never exposed to the HOT western sun.

Pamela Efferson
713.822.8555
Pamela@SellingHomesInHouston.com
www.SellingHomesInHouston.com



**PAMELA EFFERSON
PROPERTIES**

kw metropolitan
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY



metro
remodeling systems

Complete Interior Remodels
Custom Outdoor Living Spaces

www.MetroRemodelingSystems.com

8825 Solon Rd. Suite E8 | Houston
832.688.9256 Office | 832.633.6309 Cell




Fabulous Fragrance

Ahhh. Wake up and smell the Jasmine,
Rosemary and Gardenia.
Also Almond Verbena, Banana Shrub,
Sweet Olive and more.

BuchanansPlants.com

Sweet scents
for your
garden.



Open 7 days, 9-6
611 East 11th St. • 713-861-5702

*In the mortgage industry, a
plea for trust means nothing;
accountability and reputation
mean everything.*

**It's different when
you work with the best.**

Robert M. Spiegel
Residential Mortgage Loan Originator #198315
spiegel@rsmc.net



2121 Sage Road
Suite 140
Houston, TX 77056
713-961-5363
rmspiegel.com



REPUBLIC
STATE MORTGAGE
NMLS 62411

COMMIT TO LOVING EVERYTHING GOD MADE

G I G M
NOT MAN MADE

MANUEL LARA

MANUELLARADESIGNS.COM

(GIGM - GAY IS GOD MADE NOT MAN MADE)



Pools by James

Weekly Cleaning Service
\$20 OFF Filter Cleaning Service

"We're Still Here" 30+ years of experience.
James Vratil • gaypoolman@yahoo.com

Call James Today! 713.822.2531

Make Mine Chocolate!

A week after Easter, the candy will be forgotten.
Sadly, so will the rabbit.

This Easter remember: A rabbit is not a toy.
If you're not ready to give him ten years of your life, you're not ready to give him as a pet.
www.makeminechocolate.org

Bunny Buddies of Houston
www.bunnybuddies.org



Theater LaB Houston & Obsidian Art Space

LET THE COCKFIGHT BEGIN!



TWO GAY MEN ONE STRAIGHT WOMAN

COCK

By MIKE BARTLETT • April 16–May 11

www.theaterlabhouston.com

3522 White Oak Drive – in the Heights
Tickets call 713.868.7516

Heights Dermatology & Aesthetic Center

We now offer the **HydraFacial Treatment!**

Mohs Micrographic Surgery

General Dermatology	Complexion Enrichment
Skin Cancer Detection	Laser Hair Removal
Skin Cancer Surgery	BOTOX/Wrinkle Fillers
Cosmetic Dermatology	Leg & Face Veins
Cosmetic Laser Surgery	Chemical Peels
Mole Removal	Acne

Dr. Alpesh Desai
Dr. Tejas Desai

Board Certified Dermatologist

Phone: 713-864-2659

Fax: 713-864-5577

2120 Ashland @ West 22nd
Houston, Texas 77008

{ save a life this saturday }

Every year, thousands of animals in our city are put to death for circumstances beyond their control like homelessness, abandonment and neglect. It's time to come to the aid of the innocent. And you, Houston, are our best defense.

Friends of BARC is a non-profit group supporting the City of Houston's Bureau of Animal Regulation and Care. Our volunteers attend to special needs cases at the city's animal shelter, educate the public about the importance of spaying and neutering, and hold regular adoption events. To date, we've saved hundreds of innocent lives. With your help, we can save even more. Volunteer. Donate. Adopt. Become a Friend of BARC today.



FRIENDS OF
BARC

BECOME A FRIEND. SAVE A LIFE.

Adoption event every Saturday from 12pm to 4pm at BARC
320 Carr Street – 59 North, Collingsworth exit

This message brought to you by the American Advertising Federation Houston and this generous publication.

WWW.FRIENDSOFBARC.ORG | 713-522-7778

Cocktails and Contributions

Bunnies on the Bayou celebrates its 35th anniversary

by David Goldberg

On April 20, the benevolent Bunnies on the Bayou celebrates 35 years of charitable bashes at the Wortham Center's Fish Plaza.

The annual Easter Sunday blowout began as a backyard gathering with good intentions and has evolved into a Houston staple with long lines and even longer checks. But the main Bunnies principle is timeless: party hard and raise money for the community. OUTSMART spoke with some of the group's most notable members about its history and the future of the Bunnies.

DOWN TO BUSINESS

TOM SIMS (president, 2001–2002): From day one, this organization is always focused on putting the money collected at the door directly back into the community—to support them. That was our mission statement from the beginning when we set up Bunnies

on the Bayou, Inc., when we became a 501(c)(3) charity, and it's still the mission statement today. That's what I'm most proud of.

JAY PRESSLEY (president, 2008): All of the money that we raise stays local. That's a thing that I always bring up. The money stays here locally. All the money collected that day at the event is automatically given to charity. It can't go to anything else.

ROGER BARRERA (president, 2013–2014): Last year, we raised over \$110,000 and supported 16 different charities.

CHRISTIAN ROGERS (president,

2007): The best part about the organization is that this is an all-volunteer group. Not one person is compensated for the time they put in, and they definitely don't get the recognition that a lot of them deserve.



Over the years, the Bunnies on the Bayou event has changed gradually, like the addition of VIP Hospitality Tents that groups of friends (like this one) or businesses can purchase at the party. The mission of raising money for local beneficiaries has not changed.

EASTER MEMORIES

JACK BERGER (president, 2010–2013):

There's nothing better than being the person who signs the giant check, providing that kind of moment. The [beneficiaries] really don't know if they're going to get \$1,000 or \$10,000. Just seeing the expressions of the beneficiaries on the day that they get their checks makes it all worthwhile.

JAY PRESSLEY: One of my most vivid memories is standing out in the rain on Easter Sunday in 2004 holding up poster-board signs saying: EVENT CANCELLED DUE TO THE WEATHER. I caught the flu from standing out in the rain, just trying to make sure everyone knew what was going on. Even though it was pouring down rain, we still had people driving by Fish Plaza, rolling down the window, saying, "Is the event cancelled?" It was literally pouring sideways.

ROGER BARRERA: You can imagine the frustration on the day of the event, with everyone running around like chickens without their heads. Every year I say the same thing: Why am I doing this at 7 a.m.? When we

present the check, and when you see the smiles on everybody's faces, you realize why you are working so hard.

TOM SIMS: My favorite moment was when we had the Bonnet Contest. One guest showed up with a sombrero that he decorated to look like a yard. He had put fake grass and a fake picket fence up, and he bought five different chicks, all in the colors of the rainbow flag. He raised them from when they were born to when they hatched, and walked around with that hat with the chicks in it. It was alive!

THE MANY BREEDS OF BUNNY

JOHN COX (host, 2008–present): We've created a much more diverse audience than we had in the earlier years. Our demographic can't be pinned down to one particular group. We cross all the generations, from the early 20s to the later years. →



Helena's Wax & Day Spa
Authentic Brazilian Wax



Get Waxed at Helena's Day Spa

25% OFF Any Procedure
When you mention
this OutSmart Ad

5721 WINSOME LANE
(Between Chimney Rock & Fountain View)
713.954.5400

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
www.helenaswax.com

Daniel R. Garza, M.D.

MEDICATION MANAGEMENT PSYCHOTHERAPY

Specializing in:
Depression
Bipolar
Anxiety
ADHD Disorders

Voted #1 Psychiatrist
OutSmart Readers' Choice 2012

281.610.8190
2323 S. Shepherd Dr., Suite 805

Limited evening & weekend appointments available.

Se Habla Español 

Cocktails and Contributions continued from previous page

JACK BERGER: It's definitely a cross section. We've made an effort to not just be a young gay men's kind of party. And we want the women to feel like they are involved. Our beneficiaries come from across the board. Hopefully our attendees are not just LGBT, but allies and straight friends who want to party for the cause.

TOM SIMS: The demographic has totally changed from when I was involved as a host. Our guests were the majority of people that did not frequent the bars on a weekly basis. These were predominately professional people that had nothing better to do on an Easter Sunday, because they did not have families to spend time with.

VINCE FLICKINGER (president, 2009–2010): We've seen it shift to where people who are friends of our community are starting to attend. We sometimes have grandmothers who happen to walk by an event and ask what it is. In the past we were very careful about our wording, but now we just tell them, and they pay and leave after experiencing a bit of shock and awe, but having had a wonderful time.



ADAPTING AND EVOLVING

TOM SIMS: When I started, we collected food for Stone Soup, and that was the admission into the event. We didn't collect money at all. But the party was exactly the same [as it is now]. It wasn't until we became a 501(c)(3) that we had to change the rules. Before I joined, back in the first days, it was a backyard party, and then it escalated and grew into what it is today. It was small scale. We only had two bars set up. That was it. Many people who attend the party now didn't live through the true HIV era. This was before medications were even involved. When someone was diagnosed with HIV, they were shunned, and there was no alternative but to hope that it didn't take them out. They had to hope that their medications wouldn't take them out. There was much better cohesion of support in the community. We looked out for each other. We tried to take care of each other. We tried to support each other.

VINCE FLICKINGER: The year I joined, the 26th, was when Bunnies rebranded itself. After 25 years, it was time for a little bit of a change. We came up with our new logo and decided to lead the party [in new directions]. It was very interesting to see the mix of the old and the new really working together to enhance the party. Our goal

was to be more economical. Over the last six years, we've started to see the amount of money we've raised grow considerably. It's all because we broke traditions of what we had done in the past.

JOHN COX: It's really grown into a much more professional organization. We've engaged more with organizations and corporations to help us fund the events. We recently had Bud Light, Ketel One, and Jägermeister as corporate sponsors. We've gone beyond our immediate community in the Montrose.

CHRISTIAN ROGERS: There's going to be times of challenge and times of celebration, but at the end of the day, this is a group of volunteers wanting to make the best event possible. It creates long-lasting friendships and relationships that I will have for the rest of my life. You don't think you'll get it all done, but it all comes together; you'll have great friendships, and great success that comes out of it. The future of the organization is limitless. It keeps getting bigger and better every single year. It's great to see.

To learn more about the Bunnies and this year's beneficiaries, to volunteer, or to buy discounted tickets for the 35th Bunnies on the Bayou party, visit bunniesonthebayou.org.

David Goldberg is a regular contributor to OUTSMART magazine.



T H A N K S
for honoring me as one of the
Best Therapists for 2010,
2011, 2012 and 2013

Robert Snellgrove, lcsw
Counselor | Psychotherapist

4617 Montrose Suite C206
Houston, Texas 77006
713.522.7014 www.robertsnellgrove.com



Archway Gallery

Voted Best Art Gallery of 2013

Presents

Fikry Botros
photography

On View April 5 - May 2

2305 Dunlavy, Houston, TX 77006
713.522.2409
www.archwaygallery.com

Ray Ban Oakley Maui Jim

The Sunglass Shoppe

What makes us different?
We like to think it's the service.
But the truth is, we're independent. We bring the selection you want - when you want it. And we know what we're talking about when it comes to sunglasses!

Houston Galleria 713.993.9933
Memorial City Mall 713.467.2141
Willowbrook Mall 281.955.2560

15% off with this ad. Expires 5/30/14
Some brands excluded.

Tom Ford Prada Michael Kors

Versace Tory Burch Kate Spade Salt Gucci Tiffany Oliver Peoples Persol

TUTS UNDERGROUND

MURDER BALLAD

APRIL 17 - 27

TICKETS START AT \$24!

TUTSUNDERGROUND.COM 713.558.TUTS

TUTS' Leading Ladies Berg & Andyrophy IKEA The Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation OutSmart UNITED



Pizzeria
SOLARIO

Fresh NEAPOLITAN Unique

"If you're a pizza purist, PIZZERIA SOLARIO is your temple."

3333 Wesleyan • 77027 • 713-892-8100
WWW.PIZZERIASOLARIO.COM

"Houston's Best Seafood"

HoustonPress - CitySearch

"Stellar oysters and gumbo!"

- Robb Walsh, Houston Press

"awesome shrimp and oyster gumbo...
some of the best we've tasted"

- Gourmet

"riveting Remoulade... an oyster sandwich
I look forward to eating for years"

- Alison Cook, Houston Chronicle

Thank You
OutSmart Readers!

GAYEST & GREATEST
OutSmart
2013
Winner Best Seafood



DANTON'S

GULF COAST SEAFOOD KITCHEN
4611 Montrose between Richmond & Bissonnet | 713-807-8889
DANTONSSEAFOOD.COM

Sylvia's Hat Trick

Houston's Enchilada Queen, Sylvia Casares, is about to open yet another eatery!

by Marene Gustin

Known as Houston's Enchilada Queen, Sylvia Casares has two very popular Tex-Mex restaurants on the west side of town, a food truck, and now she's about to open a third brick-and-mortar eatery. "I promise to stop at three!" she says. "Otherwise I will need therapy."

The new restaurant will be at 1140 Eldridge Parkway, in the Energy Corridor. Casares says she has some customers already in the area, and she does food deliveries there. "I wasn't looking for another location," she says, "but the landlord and the location are great, so I just jumped at it." The space has housed two previous restaurants, including a Sharky's American Grill, but Casares thinks her experience and large customer base will make the new Sylvia's successful.

After graduating from University of Texas-Austin with a degree in home economics, the Brownsville native worked for 10 years with Uncle Ben's food corporation as a food scientist and did a stint in restaurant sales before opening her first hole-in-the-wall eatery in 1998. It was so popular that in 2001 she moved into the current Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen at 12637 Westheimer Road, a 6,000 sq. ft. space that seats 200. Casares parlayed her popular menu into a cookbook, a DVD on tamale making, Tex-Mex cooking classes, a second Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen on Woodway Drive, and finally the No Borders food truck.

Fans are crazy for her 18 varieties of enchiladas, the freshly fried tortilla chips she serves, and her specialty—sauces. She makes her signature gravy from real dried chiles, not powder, and it takes 12 hours. Her delicious chile con queso simmers for five hours on the stovetop.



Mouthwatering: Sylvia's Mex-Mex Enchiladas (pictured) feature savory specialty sauces that are to die for. With 18 varieties of enchiladas, grilled fajitas, and appetizers, there's something for everyone.

But she serves up more than just enchiladas, which is why she's calling the new restaurant just Sylvia's "so people don't think that's all we have," she says.

In fact, lately she's been upping the ante on her fajitas. After tinkering with the meats and grilling methods, she now thinks they're as good as her enchiladas. She loves a kitchen challenge, and she's very excited about opening the new restaurant, which will have a mesquite grill for the fajitas.

The 5,000 sq. ft. space will look a lot like the Woodway location, she says, but will also display some of the antique tea sets that fill the Westheimer location. A waiter once brought her a tea set back from Mexico, and before long everyone was giving them to her. She now has hundreds of them, from tiny, doll-like ceramic sets to large hand-painted functional ones. When we spoke in March for this article, she was shopping antique stores in The Heights for furniture she could use in the new restaurant to showcase her tea sets.

Casares expects to be spending a lot of

time at the new location when it opens, at least until everything is up and running.

Managing three restaurants and a food truck sounds like a lot of work, but Casares says she has learned to delegate since her tragic incident in 2012 when she suffered a gunshot wound in an altercation with her ex-boyfriend. "I found really good people to help manage the restaurants during my recovery," she says. "I →



Viva la Sylvia: Sylvia's new Eldridge Parkway location promises to be just as vibrant as the locations on Westheimer and Woodway.



LAURENZO'S
PRIME RIB

FEATURING

PRIME RIB AU JUS
SAT. & SUN. BRUNCH
GIFT CARDS
CATERING

4412 WASHINGTON, HOUSTON, TX 77007
713.880.5111

LAURENZOS.NET

CHARIVARI "The Home Of European
and Continental Cuisine"

Lunch M-F 11-2pm | Dinner M-S 5-11pm



BCA

JOHANN SCHUSTER
RECOGNIZED AS A 2013
BEST CHEF IN AMERICA



2521 BAGBY AT MCGOWEN
713.521.7231 • www.charivarirest.com

BEIRUT

Fine Lebanese Cuisine

OPENING SOON



Washington Corridor's
Only Authentic Lebanese
and Mediterranean Restaurant

• Hookah Lounge •

• Second Floor Patio Dining Available •

4105 Washington Ave. at Jackson Hill St.
www.BeirutRestaurantTX.com

MIDTOWN BAR & GRILL



OPEN 24 HOURS
BREAKFAST / LUNCH / DINNER
Anytime • Everyday

FULL BAR
New Skyline Party Room
NOW AVAILABLE
415 W. Gray @ Taft • 713.528.2887

Sylvia's Hat Trick continued from previous page

don't have to do everything myself."

Two years later she is back and better than ever, happy, and ready to expand her Tex-Mex empire. Viva la Sylvia!

Marene Gustin is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

Try Hosting a Tamalada Party

Gather your friends and family to help

by Sylvia Casares

Tamale making is a labor-intensive project. The best way to make tamales is with a group of family and friends, grandmas and grandkids, too.

BE PREPARED

First is the filling, be it pork, beef, chicken, venison, spinach, cheese, black beans, or refried beans. It should already be cooked, shredded, and cooled.

Gather all the ingredients, dry and wet measuring cups, a very large bowl to mix the masa, tamale steamer, and lots of 3-inch plastic spackling tools to spread the masa, which you can buy in any paint store.

Next, trim corn husks to a uniformed size, about 6 inches wide by 7 inches long, tapering to a triangular shape, and soak in warm water. Mix all the dry ingredients thoroughly first, making sure you do not have pockets of ingredients. This process will save time and energy when you knead the dough.

In a large pot over low heat, add lard, chicken broth, water, and chili sauce. Make sure the liquids do not get too hot, or you will burn yourself when you add them to the dry ingredients. Mix the liquid into the dry ingredients slowly. This is a roll-up-your-sleeves time, so just dig in.

After the dough has been kneaded, select one person to portion out the dough and to roll it into small balls, slightly smaller than a golf ball. This is another way to control the size of the tamale.

GATHER FAMILY AND/OR FRIENDS

Now is the time for all hands on deck. Turn up the music, grab a beverage of your choice, and start an assembly line.

Do not spread dough from the point, start about 4 inches from the point, so you can fold this part up. Spread out the balls of dough with the spatula. Dip the spatula in water to keep the dough from sticking to it. Add the filling, and fold in thirds, then tuck the end under, and turn seam side down.

Stack the tamales in a wagon-wheel design inside the tamale steamer. Don't pack them in too tightly because you want the steam to roll around and through the stack. Remember, you are only cooking the dough, because the filling has already been cooked. Steam for 90 minutes.

For the last 17 years, Sylvia Casares has owned and been the executive chef of Sylvia's Enchilada Kitchen. She manages a kitchen staff of 30 and a front-of-house staff of 30.

Casares' expertise is in recipe development, which requires a combination of cuisine knowledge, cooking knowledge, and a passion for excellence. "Making people really happy with my food is where I derive joy and personal satisfaction," she says. She later branched into conducting cooking classes.

Sign up for one of the bi-monthly cooking classes at weventbrite.com/o/sylvia-casares-2689793672. ■



Cheers to Charity!

The Original OKRA Saloon gives all proceeds back to the community

by Megan Smith

Want to stay for one more round? Well, it is for charity.

Nestled in northern downtown Houston at 924 Congress Ave., the Original OKRA Charity Saloon welcomes passers-by with its glass doors trimmed in bright red—a bold statement of color against its otherwise brick exterior. Upon entering, guests are pleasantly surprised by the spaciousness of the bar. The walls are lined with table seating, an elongated oval bar sits center, a chalkboard menu features paninis and other small bites, and a massive overhead glass skylight enhances the openness of the space.

But the bar's most important feature is its red, white, and blue voting booth. Each month, OKRA selects four charities to feature in this booth. For each drink an OKRA guest purchases, they receive one ticket. The guest can then enter the voting booth and place their ticket in the ballot box of one of the four charities. At the end of the month, the charity that achieves the most votes receives 100 percent of the saloon's profits.

Behind OKRA (Organized Kollaboration on Restaurant Affairs) are some of Houston's most distinguished restaurant, coffee shop, and bar owners, including Bobby Heugel (Anvil, Hay Merchant, Underbelly, Blacksmith), Scott Repass (Antidote Coffee, Black Hole Coffee, Poison Girl Bar, Little Dipper Bar), Paul Petronella (Paulie's), and many more. After successfully collaborating to negotiate with the city over issues pertaining to parking and local businesses, the OKRA team decided to continue to channel their



The A-Team: the collaboration of owners behind OKRA.

a space just to get together with friends, and there's such a huge, long-running American tradition of bars being meeting spaces for community building."

When looking for the perfect space, the OKRA team chose a location that reflects that same rich sense of history. "It's been a bar since 1882," Norman says. "It was originally opened as the Original Casino Saloon.

It's your civic duty: buy a drink, get a ticket, and step behind the red curtain to cast your vote for one of OKRA's four monthly charities.



shared viewpoints into a larger project—a charity bar. "It feels like an all-star team of restaurant, bar, and coffee shop owners in Houston," says Ceci Norman, OKRA's administrative director. "They are all really good at opening a space, giving it a feel, and having a consistent amount of people come in."

When asked why the founding team chose a bar setting for their advocacy, Norman responds, "There's the general mind-set of bars being community spaces. There are so many opportunities to use a bar as a space just to get together with friends, and there's such a huge, long-running American tradition of bars being meeting spaces for community building."

They realized that it had been a bar for that long, and they just wanted to continue [that tradition]."

Since opening in December 2012, the bar has given over \$260,000 in donations to its winning charities. Although many question why the bar doesn't divide its proceeds evenly each month among the four charities, Norman and the OKRA team say they want to keep the donations substantial. In August 2013, Norman says, OKRA was able to give the U.S. Veterans Initiative-Houston Chapter \$35,000—enough for the chapter to hire a chef that now trains veterans. This hire wouldn't have been possible if the bar had only donated a fourth of that amount, Norman explains. "When we've given charities their checks, they've never really expected to have the amounts that we've given," she says. "It's just really nice to be able to give a charity something substantial. And I've learned so much about the really cool, good things people are doing in Houston." →

Rudyard's Pub

Houston, TX

DELICIOUS BURGERS • SUCCULENT PULLED PORK TACOS
 FABULOUS FISH & CHIPS • AN ARRAY OF CRAFT BEERS

2010 WAUGH | 713.521.0521 | 11:30AM-2AM EVERYDAY | WWW.RUDYARDSPUB.COM

Cafe Brussels


Houston's Only Authentic BELGIAN BISTRO
 Featuring all of your favorite Café Montrose dishes & Houston's largest selection of Belgian beers on tap!

OPEN FOR LUNCH
 Mon-Sat 11am-2pm
 SUNDAY BRUNCH: 11am-3pm

Catherine Duwez (Original Café Montrose Owner) ▶
 Mitchell Alexander Photography - 713.882.8081

Dinner: Mon-Sat | 5:30pm-10pm

FREE Parking in Back Lot | LESS THAN 10 MINUTES FROM: Montrose | Midtown | Museum District | Historic Heights
 1718 Houston Ave. at Crockett • 713.222.6996 • CafeBrusselsHouston.com

Boys totally Noodle.

Jenni knows how to make your egg roll and your veggies rock

GAYEST & GREATEST OutSmart 2013
 Best Gay Friendly- Houston Press
 Best Float Pride Parade Houston 2011
 Best Costume Pride Parade Houston 2012

Best Restaurant for Cheap Eats

IT'S ALL GOOD IN THE NOODLEHOOD!
NOODLESRULE.COM

facebook.com/noodlesrule | @noodlesrule

Jenni's NOODLE HOUSE

SHEPHERD/ MONTROSE
 3111 S. SHEPHERD @ ALABAMA
 (713) 523- 7600

UPTOWN/ GALLERIA
 2027 POST OAK @ WESTHEIMER
 (713) 621-4200

IN THE HEIGHTS
 602 EAST 20TH ST. @ OXFORD
 (713) 862-3344

Cheers to Charity!

continued from previous page

OKRA has been very pleased with the positive response the bar has gotten from the community, Norman says. Over 100 charities have applied to be featured so far. Each month's charity selection process takes about a week, she says, and OKRA team members try to make their final choices as diverse as possible. Several charities that have done extensive work for the LGBT community, including Legacy Community Health Services and The Montrose Center, have been among the bar's featured charities. "We like to keep it broad," Norman says. And if your favorite charity doesn't win in their specific month, OKRA hosts a second-chance tournament each December.

April's charities include Houston's chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, Bike Houston, the Monarch Institute, and the Feral Feline Retreat. "[It's about] fostering a mentality where if you take care of what's around you, it'll help everybody grow," Norman says. "We're just spilling tolerance and building safe spaces for anybody who wants to go and foster positive community."

Charities interested in being considered for OKRA can fill out an application online at friedokra.org, or e-mail info@friedokra.org for more information.

Give Back a Smile

New book about smiles shines a light on domestic violence

by Karen Derr

Montrose dentist Dr. Randy Mitchmore has written a book titled *The Gift of a Life Smile*, published last month by Advantage. He wrote the book as a guide to achieving dental health, especially for those who may have had less-than-pleasant experiences with dentists in the past. While it is a compelling read for those seeking information about the latest in dental procedures, the account of Dr. Mitchmore's own journey is the real page-turner.

Unflinchingly, he tells the very personal story of his boyhood with an abusive brother, his failed marriage in a small east-Texas town, and his ultimate success with his state-of-the-art dental practice in the heart of Montrose.

Mitchmore was born here in Houston, as he says, "inside the loop before there was a loop." Raised in a lower-middle-class family, his father made a living supplying condom machines in bars and gas stations. His father's job was only one of the churchgoing family's "little secrets."

A large part of the book is dedicated to the stories of his patients whose lives have been transformed by cosmetic dentistry. One

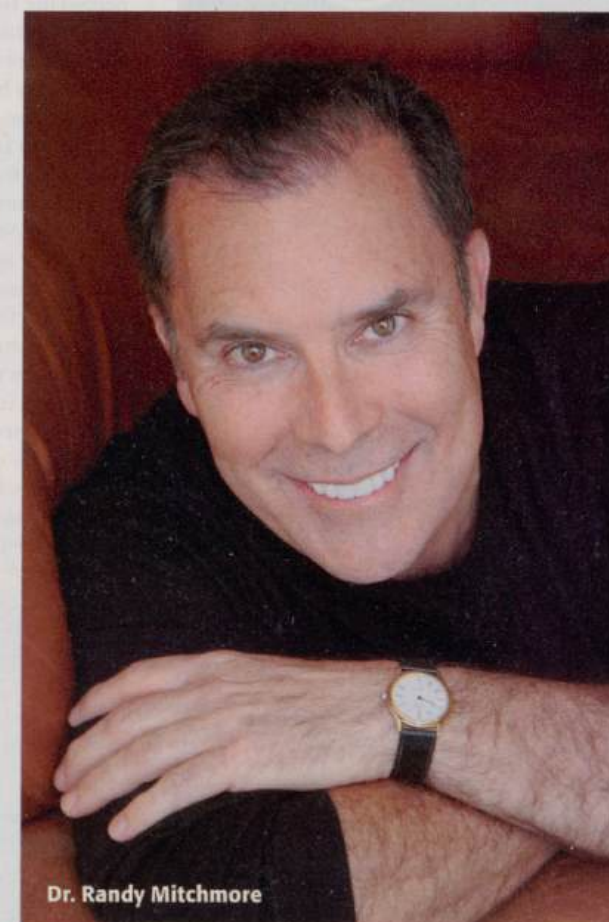
patient, Norma, became very ill due to the poor condition of her mouth. The book tells of the steps Dr. Mitchmore took to cure her gum disease, correct her bite, and restore her smile through implants and porcelain veneers. Not only did Norma's headaches, muscle problems, and bad posture improve, but her face actu-

ally gained vertical length. According to Mitchmore, "In effect, she'd gotten a dental facelift." The dentist's office walls are lined with large photos of patients like Norma who have had their smiles restored or enhanced with his advanced dental techniques. He often removes old fillings and caps to replace them with modern porcelain ones. In his book, he

touches on the issues with metal fillings, but is quick to say not all metal

fillings need to be replaced or pose a problem with mercury.

Dr. Mitchmore touts *The Gift of a Life Smile* as a guide to a whiter smile and inner happiness. That's quite a tall order to fill, but Mitchmore is passionate about the importance of a beautiful smile. "The work that I do is truly transformational. So many people have been abused by their dentist. It's been a painful experience or a demeaning experience," says Mitchmore. He prides himself on being different. "I've been a perpetual



Dr. Randy Mitchmore



Dr. Randy Mitchmore touts *The Gift of a Life Smile* as a guide to a whiter smile and inner happiness.

student. I'm a master dentist and a master implant dentist. There are dramatic things we can do with no drilling and no shots." He goes on to share, "I'm a geeky dentist, and I love the tech part of it."

Dr. Mitchmore is also certified in I.V. sedation. He explains that it is the safest, most reliable way to do sedation. He says most patients would be surprised to learn that cosmetic dentistry is not a board-certified specialty. "Any dentist with a weekend course can call themselves a cosmetic dentist. That's the scary part. I've done a tremendous amount of training to be called a master dentist." He is also a member of American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry. →

FREE DELIVERY
 minimum \$12.00 - tipping is appreciated



AUNTIE CHANG'S
DUMPLING HOUSE
 Chinese Restaurant
 Since 1990

2621 Shepherd #290 • Houston, Tx 77098
 P: 713.524.8410 F: 713.524.4134

Lunch Specials
 7 days a week until 4 pm

★★★★★
 Thank You for Voting Us One of Houston's
 BEST Chinese Restaurants & Lunch Spots
 ★★★★★

ORDER ONLINE AT
WWW.AUNTIECHANGS.COM



TWO FRONT-ROW SEATS.

The sporty, two-seater MINI Coupe with active rear spoiler that raises at 50 MPH for increased downforce. Get the best seats in the house. Starting at just \$21,450.*



MOMENTUM MINI

10000 SOUTHWEST FWY
HOUSTON, TX 770774
800-557-5374

MOMENTUMMINI.COM

*MSRP does not include destination and handling charge of \$795 and excludes license, registration, taxes, options and labor to install. Certain features may be optional. Actual price determined by your authorized MINI dealer. Visit your authorized MINI dealer for important details. © 2014 MINI USA, a division of BMW of North America, LLC. The MINI name, model names and logo are registered trademarks.

Give Back a Smile continued from previous page

The Gift of a Life Smile includes the 10 most common mistakes people make when choosing a dentist. At the top of the list is neglecting to ask questions about the dentist's training, and not looking at photos showing previous work.

Besides his passion for dentistry and making less-than-perfect smiles beautiful, Mitchmore is passionate about his volunteer work with the Give Back a Smile Foundation. The national organization works with American Academy of Cosmetic Dentists volunteers across the U.S. to give smiles back to women and men who have suffered damage to their teeth from domestic violence. Mitchmore's own sister committed suicide as a result of an abusive husband, so it is a very important cause for him.

Survivors who are helped by the organization have often let their dental problems go untreated. "Dental is different from other injuries; bones and bruises will often heal without treatment. A broken tooth never will," Dr. Mitchmore explains. Often the violent spouse has control of the finances, or shame has kept the victim from seeking treatment. As Mitchmore points out in the book, the smile is a person's most basic communication and is universally recognized across all cultures. When a person

stops smiling because of broken or discolored teeth, they lose an important link with those around them, thus alienating victims of violence even further.

Mitchmore says domestic violence is often a family's dirty little secret. Having started college intending to become a minister and then losing his first dental practice after being outed in a conservative small-town community, Mitchmore sees parallels with the secrecy surrounding violence in the home and the secrecy many gays experience before coming out, especially in the past. "They are embarrassed about it, they don't want to talk about it, and other people really don't want to hear about it." He goes on to say, "Domestic violence is rampant in the United States, and it crosses all social and economic boundaries."

Dr. Mitchmore appears at a book-signing event on May 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Tradition Bank, 5020 Montrose. The Uno de Mayo Celebration will feature a silent auction fundraiser for the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry Charitable Foundation's "Give Back a Smile" program. Food and wine will be served and donations accepted to benefit the foundation. The book *The Gift of a Life Smile* is available at Amazon and through various other booksellers.

Karen Derr is a Houston-area Realtor and the founder of Boulevard Realty. She writes and speaks about home and small-business topics.

Do you have the look?



One of the Best Places to Buy Eyewear
One of the Best Eye Doctors (Dr. Christine Tyler, OD)
— 2013 OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards

Eye Contact

2055 Westheimer Rd. @ Shepherd
713-520-6600 | www.eyeccontact.com

Eye Health and Vision Exams, Contact Lens Fittings

Huge Selection of Designer Glasses

Many Vision Plans and Health Plans accepted

Independent, privately owned

Serving Central Houston for more than 17 years

FotoFest 2014

Houston's 'Platform for Art and Ideas' focuses on the Middle East

by Barrett White



Every two years, Houston hosts the international FotoFest, one of the world's preeminent photo festivals. In anticipation of the spring event, FotoFest chooses a theme for the exhibits. Previous themes have included water, violence, and technology, and this year's FotoFest is focusing its attention on the Arab world with the theme "View from Inside: Contemporary Arab Video, Photography and Mixed Media Art."

Commenting on the need for fresh images of daily life in the Middle East, FotoFest co-founder and artistic director Wendy Watriss stated, "Even in magazines like *The New Yorker*, you rarely see a straight human interest story that goes beyond the headlines."

Among the LGBTQ artists participating in the 2014 FotoFest is Kirsten Rice and photographer George Awde. In addition, Mariette Pathy Allen is known worldwide for her exhibits on transgender people and their lives.

George Awde: His Passing Cover
O'Kane Gallery at University
of Houston-Downtown (1 Main St.)
Through April 17

George Awde: *His Passing Cover* explores the Arab male coming-of-age experience, and "emphasizes the Arab male body to explore traditional ideas of masculinity and notions of family." That brief gallery description does not do justice to the striking images captured by Lebanese-American George Awde during his travels in Lebanon.

Exhibited internationally, Awde's artwork candidly depicts deep pathos, be it through physical pain or the yearning of an absent subject. The ability to evoke feeling even when no physical body is present is something Awde excels at.

Often poetic reflections on community, Awde's photography is sublime. He has had many role models and mentors, and his work puts an emphasis on details such as →

His Passing Cover explores masculinity and the passage into adulthood for Syrian men in Lebanon. George Awde's exhibit can be seen at the O'Kane Gallery at University of Houston-Downtown.

shadowing and light to create his visions of intimacy.

"I think this 'emotional' sense emerges from a place of intimacy between myself and the people and places I photograph," Awde says. "Sometimes I get overwhelmed—I'm juggling a lot of projects that are really exciting to me."

Awde is not only a photographer, but also an educator who majored in painting at the Massachusetts College of Art. He went on to receive a Master of Fine Arts degree in photography from Yale University in 2009.

Continental Drift

Atelier Jacquinet (913 McKee St.)
Through April 27

Hailing from Houston, Los Angeles, and Cape Town, South Africa, Kirsten Rice curates this exhibit that showcases the work of 20 photographers who all resided in Houston before dispersing around the world. Rice also presents a few of her own photographs as part of the exhibit.

With images that contrast bold colors with tender moments of love, life, and sexuality, her work conveys a sense of freedom and whimsy. Influenced by the work of Garry Winogrand, Robert Mapplethorpe, Cathy Opie, Andreas Gursky and others, Rice's photographs seem effortless. In reality, keeping a camera at the ready and being prepared to capture art is a constant challenge.

"There are so many things that we overlook during our busy lives. When I take my camera out, it is all about the freedom of the moment," Rice explains that a spontaneous shot is often better than the ones she had originally planned. "I was exploring [a small Cape Town beach] because I was interested in mountains, colored shacks, and beach culture. As I was taking pictures of the shacks, these three boys started showing off for me by each flipping off the edge of the barrier. I loved this image because it combined the aesthetic beauty of the mountains and colored shacks with the energy and movement of the boys."

Outside of street and landscape art, Rice focuses on gender and sexuality. "I use it as a tool for understanding my own



Kirsten Rice's photo-ready hand catches a spontaneous moment on the South Africa shore in vivid splashes of color. *Continental Drift* is being exhibited at Atelier Jacquinet.



Mariette Pathy Allen captures the transgender community in gorgeous, guarded tones. Here, two transgender women pose for Allen at a venue in Cuba. *Discoveries of the Meeting Place* can be found at One Allen Center and Two Allen Center.

identity and its relationship with society and culture. I question the norms that have been laid upon me and affect the representation of self. I also use my photography to observe all of these relationships as well as the reactions/interactions that occur when the norm has been disturbed."

Some of Rice's favorite images are Robert Mapplethorpe's "Thomas," a stunning

exploration of gender, race, and sexuality.

Rice also has a recent video project to her credit. "In my latest video piece, I address the relationship between clothing and self-expression; how clothing can be an outward expression of identity and the perceived identity projected by others in response. I approached a number of individuals and asked them what they would have me wear

if they had the opportunity to dress me for the day. In the video, I recreated the outfits and included quotes of their descriptions and reasoning. 'A red dress. It is cute.' 'Leather. Lots of leather, and bondage. It is hot.' 'Nothing. No explanation needed.' The piece demonstrated how clothing is gendered, how it is a reflection of personal taste, and how it is sexualized. I intend to continue to propagate a discourse on modern masculinity and femininity, social expectations, and cultural norms that contribute to gender-based inequality and repression. Art has been my outlet for calling attention to issues that many face every day."

Discoveries of the Meeting Place

One Allen Center (500 Dallas St.)
and Two Allen Center (1200 Smith St.)
Through April 27

As many LGBTQ people are aware, fluidity of gender is nothing out of the ordinary. But for those not affiliated with our community, confusion about gender issues often leads to intolerance. Enter Mariette Pathy Allen, known worldwide for her work highlighting and supporting the transgender community. Allen's work is showcased in FotoFest's exhibit *Discoveries of the Meeting Place*, which highlights 11 international artists who were selected from FotoFest's acclaimed International Portfolio Review for Artists. Alongside *Discoveries* is the release of Allen's book, *TransCuba*, which is a bilingual photo-driven hardback with an introduction by Allen Frame, an essay by Wendy Watriss, and a preface by Mariela Castro Espin, Raul Castro's daughter.

Allen's connection to the transgender community as a photographer, writer, advocate, ally, and friend makes an important statement about the need to respect a culture that is oftentimes misunderstood by mainstream cisgender society. Allen seeks to propel the transgender community into the light while educating society and bringing about the "de-freakification of gender-variant people," as she puts it. Although her work highlights the lives of transgender people in the United States and Cuba, she has travelled the globe and supported transgender communities in Mexico and French Polynesia, with Myanmar and Thailand on the horizon. Allen's work presses you to open your mind as you experience the candid, sometimes strained, yet beautiful moments in these people's lives.

Discoveries of the Meeting Place is a part of this year's FotoFest for the duration of the festival.

For more information on these and other free exhibits, visit fotofest.org.

Advantage
BMW Midtown
Authorized
Center



THE ADVANTAGE IS CLEAR



ADVANTAGE BMW
MIDTOWN

1305 Gray St.. (San Jacinto @ Gray)
Houston, TX 77002
713.289.1200
AdvantageBMWHouston.com

Special lease and financing available through BMW Financial Services.

giacomò's
cibo e vino

**mangia poco,
bene, e speso!**

[eat, little,
well, and
often!]

Serving All Day Times - Sat 11:30am-10pm • Sunday 5-9pm

713.522.1934 | 3215 Westheimer (between Kirby & River Oaks Blvd.) | giacomosciboevino.com



If we had known OutSmart was going to make such a big issue about their 20th Anniversary, we would have bought a larger ad.



1111 S. Shepherd on the Curve • Complimentary valet • 713.522.7654 • tilas.com

be Sexy...be Fabulous



Guava Lamp
video lounging at its finest

570 Waugh Dr. @ Allen Pkwy. / 713.524.3359
www.guavalamphouston.com

happy hour everyday 4 - 8pm

Rose Troche

(director, *Go Fish* and *The L Word*)
(*The Advocate*, 11.24.98)

If you're gay and you sleep with someone of the opposite sex, does that make you straight? I've done it, and I don't consider myself straight at all.



Margaret Cho

(*Entertainment Weekly*, 7.9.99,
Paul Wontorek)

I've slept with women, but I don't think I'm gay or straight. I think I'm just slutty.



Janis Ian

(*The Advocate*, 10.15.96)

I have nothing intrinsically against dresses—some of my best friends wear them. I've just never enjoyed the feeling of air rushing up past my ankles into my nether regions without a pair of lips attached at the other end.



Boy George

(*People*, 9.19.94, Mary Huzinec)

Citing insufficient evidence, British magistrates on August 30 [1994] threw out a paternity suit against singer Boy George [then 33 years old]. Last September [1993] an unnamed California woman, seeking financial support for her 8-year-old son, sued the lead singer of the 1980s group Culture Club.

The singer, whose real name is George O'Dowd, is openly gay and said he could be the father only in the event of a "virgin birth."



Bruce Vilanch

(*Lavender*, 8.10.01, Michael Dahl)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bruce Vilanch was appearing on TV on Hollywood Squares at this time. Vilanch admits that one of his favorite hosting jobs is the Gay Erotic Film Awards—you know, adult cinema. "I enjoy it for so many reasons," he says, grinning evilly. "I once had a young porn star come up to me afterwards—Zach or Chad or Jason—and tell me, 'I love you! I watch you on TV every night.' And I said, 'Really? What a coincidence.'"



VILANCH - COURTESY LOL COMEDY INC./SHOWTIME; IAN - PETER CUNNINGHAM

Bea Arthur

(*Out*, 8.01, Michael Musto)

Michael Musto: Do you know a lot of gay people in show business?

Bea Arthur: Isn't that a rhetorical question?



Wanda Sykes

(comedian/actress)

(*NewNowNext Vote*, 9.10.12, Logo TV)

I'm a black, gay woman. I think the only way for the GOP to hate me more is if I sent them a video of me rolling around on a pile of welfare checks.



Throwback Twenty Queer Quotes

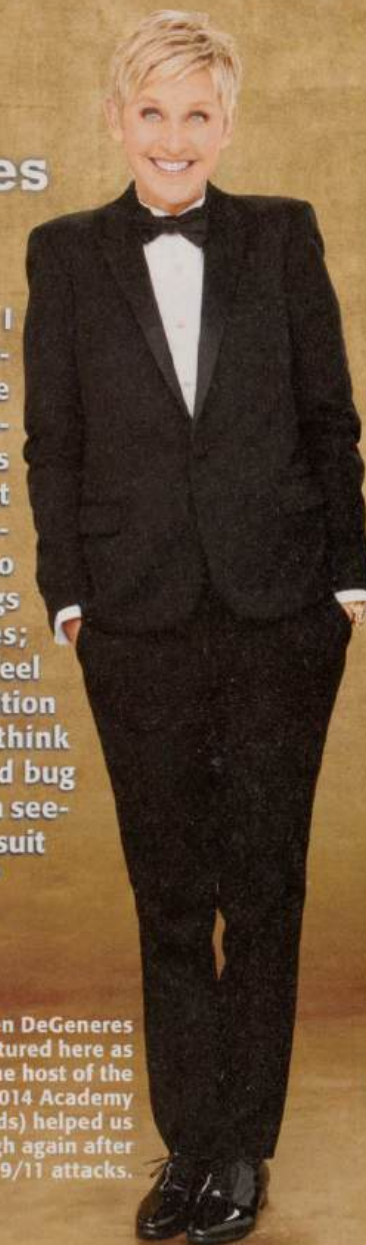
Compiled by
Blase DiStefano

Ellen DeGeneres

(*The 53rd Emmy Awards*, 11.4.01, CBS)

Hosting the Emmys, shortly after the 9/11 attacks:

On a personal level, I felt that it was important for me to be here tonight because, number one, our leaders have asked us to get back to our jobs; number two, there is no number two, but things are funnier in threes; and number three, I feel I'm in a unique position as host, because—think about it—what would bug the Taliban more than seeing a gay woman in a suit surrounded by Jews?



Ellen DeGeneres (pictured here as the host of the 2014 Academy Awards) helped us laugh again after the 9/11 attacks.

Greg Berlanti

(director of *Broken Hearts Club*, creator of TV's *Brothers & Sisters*)
(*Entertainment Weekly*, 10.00)

We're here, we're queer, we're funnier, with better haircuts.





by
Megan
Smith

DVD Shorts

Campaign of Hate: Russia and Gay Propaganda

Activist and political columnist Michael Lucas returns to his native Russia with co-director Scott Stern to expose the truth about the persecution of the LGBT community. Russian antigay sentiment and legislation have led to violent attacks against the community—an everyday occurrence that seems to be getting worse. Breaking Glass Pictures (bgpics.com). —Jed Ocot

The Year of Living Dangerously

Linda Hunt earned raves and an Academy Award for her portrayal of Billy Kwan, Guy Hamilton's (Mel Gibson) male translator and guide. The drama is set in Indonesia during the revolution in 1965. Gibson plays an Australian journalist covering all the chaos. Sigourney Weaver also stars as a British embassy officer. Warner Archive Collection (warnerarchive.com). —J.O.

The World According to Garp

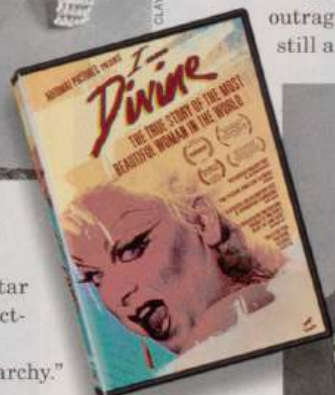
Robin Williams proves he is more than just a comedian with his performance as T.S. Garp, a man who is just trying to navigate through his complicated life. Glenn Close stars as Garp's mother, who writes a successful book and uses that money to open up a center for abused women and transsexuals. John Lithgow, who plays a transsexual ex-football player, was nominated for an Oscar (as was Close). Warner Archive Collection (warnerarchive.com). —J.O.

'I Am Divine'

The man behind the makeup



CLAY GEEBLES



Divine literally ate dog poop to fulfill Waters's vision. Thousands flocked to see the 1972 underground classic out of curiosity, disgust, and amazement. The scene was meant to shock, and it did its job. People could not take their eyes off Divine—he was here to stay. "Divine was dangerous—part outlaw, part serial killer," drag performer Jackie Beat says in the film. "She was simultaneously sexy and monstrous. Is she going to screw me or eat me?"

Wishing to expand beyond Waters's campy low-budget movies, Divine traveled to New York and starred as a prison matron in Tom Eyan's play "Women Behind Bars." He also developed a musical career performing in discos during the 1980s. He achieved mainstream success in 1988 with the release of Waters's *Hairspray*, in which he played a very different type of character—1960s housewife Edna Turnblad, alongside Ricki Lake.

But underneath the makeup and Divine's outrageous film and stage personality, he was still a man of shy demeanor. Divine also faced



A divine duo: Harris Glenn Milstead (Divine, r) with his dear friend, filmmaker John Waters.

His head half shaved to make room for more makeup, drag movie star Divine wasn't focused on perfecting realism—he was too busy taking drag "to the level of anarchy." Divine started a revolution.

Directed by Jeffrey Schwarz (Vito), *I Am Divine* paints a biographical portrait of Divine, aka Harris Glenn Milstead. An overweight and bullied teenager, Divine's once-estranged mother details how her son was labeled by his doctor as "more feminine than masculine." His high school girlfriend describes Divine's love of pretty things and need for perfection during their relationship. She even accompanied Divine to his first party dressed in drag—as a very passable Elizabeth Taylor.

It wasn't until he teamed up with filmmaker John Waters (who was 17 at the time and lived six houses down) that things truly turned around for Divine. The two just clicked. From then on, Divine was Waters's muse and nonsexual soul mate. With the help of makeup artist Van Smith, the character "Divine" was created. His head was shaved halfway back to allow for eyebrows with a larger-than-life arch and outlandish eye makeup.

Whatever Waters would ask, Divine would do—and I mean anything. In one of the pair's earlier films, *Pink Flamingos*,

the struggle between being pigeonholed as a female drag star and the desire to additionally play men's roles. *Hairspray*'s success, however, brought the opportunity for Divine to play a role—as a man—on the TV show *Married... With Children*, an opportunity that he was very excited about. But one of his main vices, his love for food, prevented him from reaching this new chapter in his life. Because of his weight, Divine suffered a massive heart attack in March of 1988, just days before he was scheduled to start filming for the TV show. He was 42.

I Am Divine pieces together detailed research and colorful interviews with clips of on-set movie footage, club performances, and daily life to create a full picture of the artist that was Divine. "Divine stood for all outsiders," Waters says. "He stood for anybody who didn't fit in, that exaggerated what everybody hated, and turned it into a style and won."

I Am Divine is available from Wolfe Video (wolfevideo.com). ■

SALT.



TSO
TEXAS STATE OPTICAL

Unique Eyewear | Extraordinary Eyecare

Kevin Katz OD MS
515 22nd St • Galveston • TX
409.763.6300
www.tsogalveston.com

Your Medical Approach
to Weight Loss

Dr. B-fit

Weight Loss Clinic

- PERSONALIZED
- COMPREHENSIVE
- DOCTOR SUPERVISED

OCTAVIO BARRIOS, MD

MEMBER OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY
OF BARIATRIC
PHYSICIANS



NOW
OPEN

517 WEST GRAY ST. • HOUSTON, TX 77019
713.942.7546

CROSSROADS House of Blues



FEATURING
CLASSIC AMERICAN DISHES
CREATED BY CELEBRITY CHEF
AARON SANCHEZ

LUNCH, DINNER AND HAPPY HOUR DAILY

HOUSE OF BLUES HOUSTON | 1204 CAROLINE STREET
888.40.BLUES | HOUSEOFBLUES.COM/HOUSTON

Savor the Taste Indulge in the Sin

FOUNDATION
ROOM



RSVP FOR DINNER NOW
TUESDAY-SATURDAY | 6PM

1204 CAROLINE STREET | HOUSTON, TX 77002
CALL 832.667.7797 FOR RESERVATIONS



by
Gregg
Shapiro

Does Disco Still Suck?

Not if you don't call it disco

GrooveOut Shorts

Cyndi Lauper
She's So Unusual (30th Anniversary)



This two-disc deluxe edition re-release of Lauper's debut album features the original album in its entirety as well

as rare demos, live concert recordings, and remixes of "Girls Just Want to Have Fun" and "Time After Time." Among all the extra goodies for die-hard fans is a reusable sticker set, which includes vinyl cutouts of Lauper's inventive outfits and accessories. Legacy Recordings (legacyrecordings.com). —Jed Ocat

Billy Porter
Billy's Back on Broadway



On his first solo album in almost a decade, Porter returns with 10 classics made famous on the Great White Way.

He duets with Cyndi Lauper on "Happy Days/Get Happy." Porter also tackles "Don't Rain on My Parade," "Everything's Coming Up Roses," and "Luck Be a Lady." April 15 from Concord Records (concordmusicgroup.com). —J.O.

George Michael
Symphonica



Recorded during Michael's 2011–12 "Symphonica" tour, his first album in seven years features live renditions of

signature classics such as "A Different Corner," "Praying for Time," and "One More Try." It also includes a cover of Terence Trent D'Arby's "Let Her Down Easy." Island Records (islandrecords.co.uk). —J.O.



If you call disco "EDM" (aka electronic dance music), you make it safe for straight people—as well as their gay friends who have been dancing to it for years. But there are traces of disco everywhere, and also a renewed interest in disco pioneer Giorgio Moroder, who was rediscovered by EDM gods Daft Punk and embraced by their legion of fans.

However, as the homophobia-laced Disco Demolition in Chicago approached its 34th anniversary, the three-day Wavefront Music Festival—featuring Diplo, Timo Maas, Holy Ghost, and Frankie Knuckles—staked its claim in the Windy City, while electronic music fests were held around the globe.

The aforementioned mastermind Moroder (along with his muse, the late Donna Summer) was the driving force behind disco during its heyday. The Donna Summer remix disc *Love to Love You Donna* (Verve) is less an homage to the original disco diva than it is an excuse for those cursed remixers to get their grubby paws on her classic material and leave what they think is their imprint on it. Because "remix" means something different than it did in the

1970s when it was applied to extended 12" single versions of Donna Summer tracks, only a few of the 13 revisited cuts are worth listening and dancing to. Not surprisingly, one worthy remix is the Director's Cut Signature Mix of "Hot Stuff" by Frankie Knuckles (a gay DJ who has been around since the birth of disco) and Eric Kupper, as well as the Hot Chip Dub Edit of "Sunset People," the Gigamesh Remix of "Bad Girls," and the Afrojack Remix of "I Feel Love."

On his full-length debut *True* (Island), Avicii (aka Tim Bergling) is this year's David Guetta—but so much better, if you will. Like Guetta, Avicii employs guest vocalists, but what he does with them is far more compelling. Opener "Wake Me Up" finds modern soul singer Aloe Blacc in a country bar, complete with acoustic guitar and electronic beats; disco for the NASCAR set. The country/club theme continues on "Hey Brother," featuring vocals by Dan Tyminski (of Alison Krauss and O Brother, Where Art Thou? fame) and the addictive "Addicted to You," sung by southwestern songbird Audra Mae. Avicii breaks up the mountain-top momentum with hardcore dance-floor workouts such as "Dear Boy," the ballroom blitz of "Shame on Me," Adam Lambert's stand-up performance on "Lay Me Down," and the twisted retro

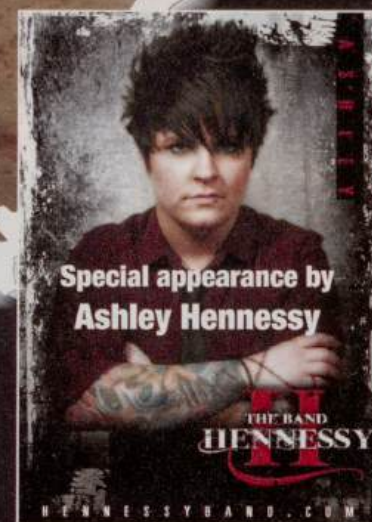
soul screamer "Liar Liar."

Kaleidoscopic pop band Grouplove begins its second disc *Spreading Rumours* (Atlantic) with the exuberant "I'm with You," a song that not only summons Philip Glass but also has a kick-ass dance beat, perfect for hippies and hipsters alike. "Borderlines & Aliens" arrives on a funk-rock flotation device, and "Ways to Go" goes a long way in promoting the electro-funk cause. "Shark Attack" has teeth, "Sit Still" makes it impossible to sit—still or otherwise—and "Raspberry" is tart and tangy. [EDITOR'S NOTE: Grouplove performs at House of Blues (houseofblues.com/houston) on April 7.]

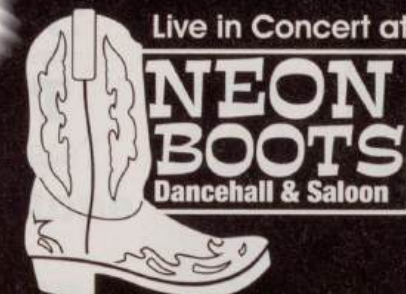
They're dancing in Canada if *Olympia* (Domino), the second album by Austra, is any indication. The mixed-gender sextet has created an irresistible triumph, merging beauty and the beats. The spooky crackling that opens "What We Done?" becomes a plaintive love call when the vocals begin. "Forgive Me" increases the beats, and "Painful Like" adds a funky bass line that is sure to go right to your hips and spine. "Home" takes the classic disco diva approach—Katie Stelmanis's dramatic vocals draw you in, and then the beats and bass assume control, taking the listener home and back.

For the complete article, including works by Fitz & The Tantrums and Ultra Naté, log on to OUTSMARTMAGAZINE.COM.

Gregg Shapiro is a regular contributor to *OUTSMART* magazine.



Special appearance by
Ashley Hennessy



www.neonbootsclub.com
11410 Hempstead Hwy • Houston

CURTIS BRALY

#LiveLaughLove

Live at Neon Boots Dancehall & Saloon
May 9, 2014

Enter the Raffle to Win a \$1200 Cruise!
Backstage Passes Also Available!

Tickets available on
Eventbrite



braly.eventbrite.com

[/curtisbralymusic](https://www.facebook.com/curtisbralymusic)
[@curtisbraly](https://twitter.com/curtisbraly)

Presented By



PROUD SPONSOR
CELEBRATING
OutSmart
20 YEARS
SUPPORTING HOUSTON'S LGBT COMMUNITY





by
Kit van
Cleave

The Future of Gay Rights in the U.S.

'Why Europe Is Lesbian and Gay Friendly (And Why America Never Will Be)'

ReadOut Shorts

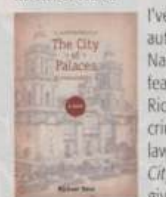
QU33R

Edited by Rob Kirby



All-new comics from 33 various contributors ranging from Andy Hartzell to Tyler Cohen fill out this 241-page collection. Justin Hall, editor of the 2012 book *No Straight Lines: Four Decades of Queer Comics*, writes the foreword. This collection picks up where Hall's book left off, combining new talent with familiar faces of the LGBT comic world. Northwest Press (northwestpress.com). —Jed Ocat

The City of Palaces



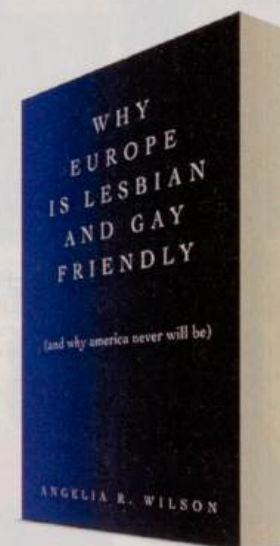
I've always loved author Michael Nava's crime stories featuring Henry Rios, a gay Latino criminal defense lawyer. With *The City of Palaces*, Nava gives us something altogether different and extraordinary—he has departed into the realm of books that will be literary classics. Set in Mexico before the revolution, we are immediately swept into a world of broad contrasts: the teaching of the church set against the reality of people's behavior, the wealthy Spanish-lineage citizens against the Yaquis, the righteous few against the expedient many. The characters are so real and the story so compelling that I came perilously close to missing the deadline for this review. I simply did not want to finish the book, leave the setting, and end my relationship with the characters. Lethe Press (lethepress.com). —Angel Curtis

"As a Texan lesbian academic living and working in the United Kingdom for more than 20 years I am often asked by other Americans why European countries are so much more accepting of their lesbian and gay citizens," writes Angelia R. Wilson as a first line from her new book.

"European scholars also direct the other version of this question at me—Why are Americans so against the extension of rights to lesbian and gay citizens?" she continues, in *Why Europe Is Lesbian and Gay Friendly (and Why America Never Will Be)*, a monograph on this thorny problem. In the face of continuing right-wing homophobia here, is there really no hope for tolerance and support?

Wilson, Senior Lecturer in Politics at University of Manchester, England, has truly cast her research net wide in attempting to find the center of the question. It's particularly appropriate for this election cycle, given that Europe was dominated for 1,500 years by a monopoly church, followed by centuries of warfare over which Christianity would dominate, Catholic or Protestant, to see religious leaders still fighting human rights. Are the Europeans more or less religious than Americans? Are the evangelicals in U.S. Bible-based Protestant churches making the most of a divisive issue (gay civil rights) only to satisfy their base and increase votes? What other threads are included in European tolerance?

Wilson's work is admirably packed with references, statistics, polls, and theories, and a discussion of many threads that



Why Europe Is Lesbian and Gay Friendly (and Why America Never Will Be)
by Angelia R. Wilson
2014 • State University of New York Press (sunypress.com)
206 pages • \$24.95 • Paperback

affect whether or not a state is "friendly" toward gay citizens. Economics, religion, politics, et al, are linked. So I'll attempt a brief overview. However, I would encourage those interested in her title's thesis to thoroughly read the book for themselves.

From Jeffrey Weeks's book *The World We Have Won*, Wilson outlines four key answers:

- After Stonewall in 1969, "the gay movement has made a significant impact on the cultures, politics, and policies of the Western world."
- European politicians or policy makers took risks by questioning traditional notions of equality, justice, or rights to reframe the debate and develop a redefinition more inclusive of LGBT citizens. Thus, a few European countries began to set the bar for nondiscrimination and inclusivity.

- Construction of the European Union (EU) created a "a unique political terrain for introducing social change."
- A shift came in social attitudes toward gay men and lesbians, as literature showing "more respondents attribute homosexuality to nature, rather than nurture."

After centuries of battling among themselves for control, France, England, Italy, Spain, and others began to work to shape the EU, and formulate laws to protect the rights of all citizens. The right to travel, to have health care, to share an economy, and other concerns were an attempt to overcome cultural and traditional attitudes, and develop more tolerance and diversity. Obviously, this would mean protecting minorities and women in all matters involving rights and equality.

"Care" became a priority hoped for by those leading the EU. It's this attitude; Wilson points out, which America does not share. The recent attempt to provide universal health care in the U.S. has become embroiled in a "do or die" fight by both political parties.

Through the centuries, "care" was seen as a responsibility of the family, volunteers, charities, and religious institutions. In a high-tech 21st century, with a booming population and people living longer, these entities can't appropriately deal with health issues. In addition, laws questioning the "rights" of abortion, shortages of food and water, and dealing →



Angelia R. Wilson

GONZALEZ OLIVIERI LLC
IMMIGRATION LAW FIRM, HOUSTON, TEXAS

We take **pride** in making all your immigration matters our priority.

Same-sex visa petitions

"I Champion for Justice"
—Raed Gonzalez, JD, LLM

Raed Gonzalez, JD, LLM

Super Lawyers
Raed Gonzalez, JD, LLM

HOUSTON'S TOP LAWYERS

10.0
Superb
Top Attorney

gonzalezolivierillc.com evitaladeportacion.com

713-481-3040 Hablamos Español

2200 Southwest Fwy, Ste. 550, Houston, TX., 77098

BEST CHIROPRACTOR
OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards 2013
"Thank you for your vote of confidence."

Chiropractic Care
Soft Tissue Injuries
Myofascial Release
Sports Injuries
Auto Accidents
Rehabilitation
Work-Related Injuries
Personal Injuries

Kenneth W. Lester D.C.

NOW SEEING PATIENTS AT OUR NEW LOCATION

KIRBY HEALTH & WELLNESS
www.KennethLesterDC.com

1603 Shepherd Drive
Between Eigel St & Inker St
Houston, TX 77019
713.526.5252

Beltone
Helping the world hear better

"Family" Owned & Operated Locally!

Looking for the best in hearing care?
Look to Beltone

Only Beltone offers the exclusive **BelCare™** program, your assurance of the very best in hearing care.

BelCare is our ongoing commitment to customer satisfaction, providing you with benefits such as:

- ✓ Most Advanced Digital Hearing Aids Available
- ✓ Free Lifetime Instrument Care
- ✓ Free Annual Hearing Evaluations
- ✓ Satisfaction Guaranteed

And, our **1500 locations nationwide** serve you no matter where you live or travel!

Call 832.426.2982
10 Convenient Greater Houston Area Locations

Beltone
Helping the world hear better
www.beltone.com

Rivas Italian Restaurant
1117 Missouri St.
(1 Block West of Montrose)
(713) 529-3450

Voted BEST Italian Restaurant in Houston
—2013 OutSmart Reader's Choice Awards



DR Angela Sturm

WANT FULL, KISSABLE LIPS?

BEFORE

AFTER

Surgical Procedures

- Rhinoplasty (Nose surgery)
- Revision Rhinoplasty
- Septal Perforation
- Facelift
- Browlift
- Blepharoplasty (Eyelid Surgery)
- Face and Neck Liposuction
- Cheek Lifts / Implants
- Otoplasty (Ear Pinning)
- Hair Transplant

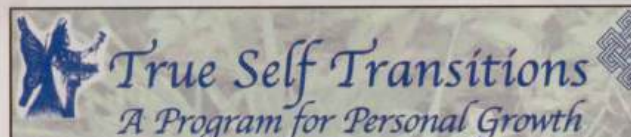
You can have natural-looking lips for as little as \$350! Mention this Outsmart ad and receive another 10% off!

Best Female Cosmetic Surgeon

OutSmart 2013

Facial Plastic Surgery Associates
6655 Travis, Ste. 950 • 713.526.5665

DrAngelaSturm.com



True Self Transitions
A Program for Personal Growth

Counseling for

- Individuals
- Couples
- Families
- Groups

Enod Gray, LCSW, CSAT
3100 Edloe, Suite 290 | Houston, Texas 77027
www.trueselftransitions.com
enod@trueselftransitions.com
713.781.7272

Specializing in sex & love addiction, relationships, trauma & family of origin issues.



Thanks for voting me
One of the Best Therapists
OutSmart Readers' Choice - 2008/2013

ReadOut continued from page 112

with STDs and HIV/AIDS have complicated citizens' demand for more "care." (A question of values no one ever seems to ask: "Should human health be a for-profit product?")

Wilson points out that in America a "market economy" turns almost everything into a commodity. She writes that G. Esping-Andersen's *Three Worlds of Welfare Capitalism* "... takes three factors into account: ideological differences of policymaking styles, political structures, and patterns of class formation." When welfare is affected by commodification and "divergent abilities to purchase these goods, the response of the state is to decommodify welfare, enabling citizens to acquire basic needs from market forces."

Also impacting the issue is the value of strong labor movements in promoting equality, integration, and social participation; as they are destroyed or limited, the state intervenes to ensure the welfare of all citizens.

In a nation like the U.S., currently being pushed to the right by billions of dollars aiming to reduce government solutions (even when citizens favor them), who or what is to ensure all citizens are "cared for" in terms of civil rights, needs, and health?

Finally, Wilson raises the question of the pressures posed in all these various threads by religious leaders. Certainly in the case of LGBT citizens, fundamentalists are demanding gays be put back in the closet. Meanwhile, the public doesn't agree and favors a widening of gay rights. But if the society at large is "non-caring," this is unlikely, as shown by the complacency of congressional leaders about income inequality. Gay issues get pushed back by much larger issues involving the whole society.

Finally, Wilson points out that P. Norris and R. Inglehart, in *Sacred and Secular: Religion and Politics Worldwide*, state that anxiety seems to create a demand for more religion. They suggest that where economic insecurity exists (e.g., loss of job, no job, low pay) there is high religiosity. "High levels of economic insecurity are experienced by many sectors of U.S. society, despite American affluence, due to the cultural emphasis on the values of personal responsibility, individual achievement, and mistrust of big government," they state. This can limit the role of public services and the welfare state in basic matters covering all the working population. Thus, when socioeconomic insecurity is high, then religiosity is also high and "the poor are almost twice as religious as the rich."

This book is a must-read for anyone willing to delve into the many ideas needed to change attitudes toward gays in America, and other concepts that can limit all U.S. citizens in a variety of ways.

Highly recommended.

Kit van Cleave is a freelance writer living in Montrose. She has published in local, national, and international media.

Last wishes
In Home Pet Hospice & Euthanasia

Voted One of the BEST Female Veterinarians

GAYEST & GREATEST OutSmart 2013

Say Goodbye in the comfort of Home...

- In-home consultation
- Hospice Care
- Euthanasia
- Clay Paw Memorial Keepsake
- Grief Support

Dr. Christie Cornelius
1302 Waugh Dr.
Houston, TX. 77019
Ph: 713.452.0474
Fx: 281.605.5241

Daytime After-Hours & Holiday Appointments Available
drcornelius@petslastwishes.com

Find us on facebook





TECH AUTO MAINTENANCE
713-863-8244

20 years of Experience Serving the River Oaks, Montrose, Memorial Heights & Heights Areas

24 HOUR TOWING
713-462-9945

ASE National Institute for AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE EXCELLENCE

- State-of-the-Art Automotive Repair Facility
- Mechanics Specialize in Both Import & Domestic Vehicles
- Quality, Reliable and Professional Service at Competitive Rates
- Centrally Located with Immediate Access to I-10 and Memorial Dr/Allen Parkway
- Guaranteed Parts & Services

Monday - Friday 7am - 6pm



SKIN Renaissance LASER CENTER

Best Cosmetic Skin Care Center
8 Years in a row!
Thank You OutSmart Readers!

Dermal fillers can take years off, even decades, giving a natural, pleasant, and well rested look.

Dr. Barrios added volume to patient's upper & lower cheeks and chin to reverse the signs of aging

- Non-Surgical
- Immediate lasting results
- Affordable

Before After

Wrinkles • Rosacea • Facial Sagging
Acne (active & scars) • Face & Leg Veins
Laser Hair Removal

Botox® • Restylane® • Radiesse®
Belotero® • Sculptra®

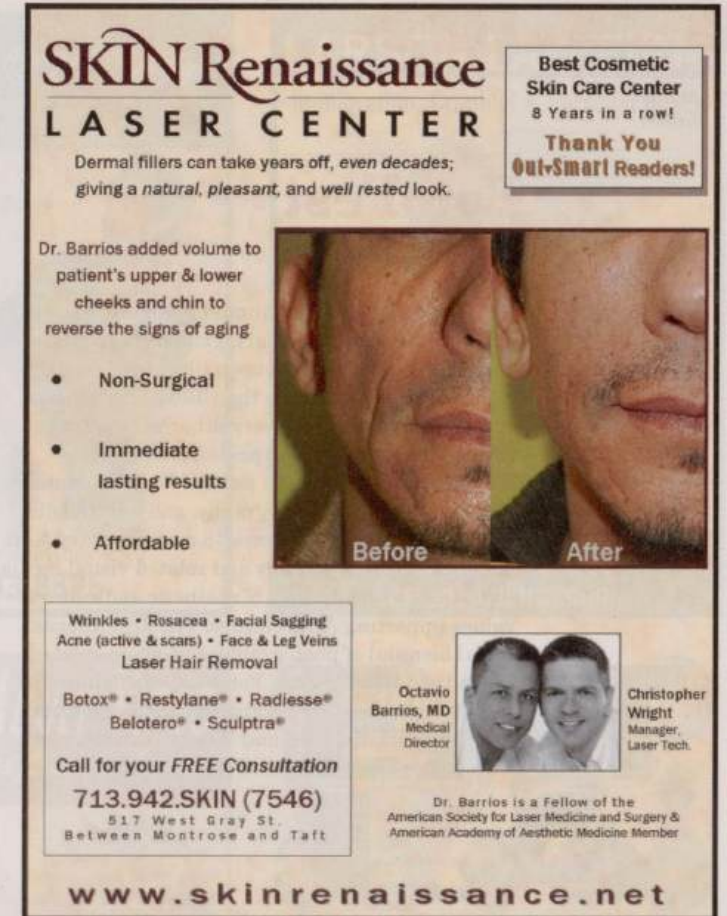
Call for your FREE Consultation
713.942.SKIN (7546)
517 West Gray St.
Between Montrose and Taft

Octavio Barrios, MD
Medical Director

Christopher Wright
Manager, Laser Tech.

Dr. Barrios is a Fellow of the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery & American Academy of Aesthetic Medicine Member

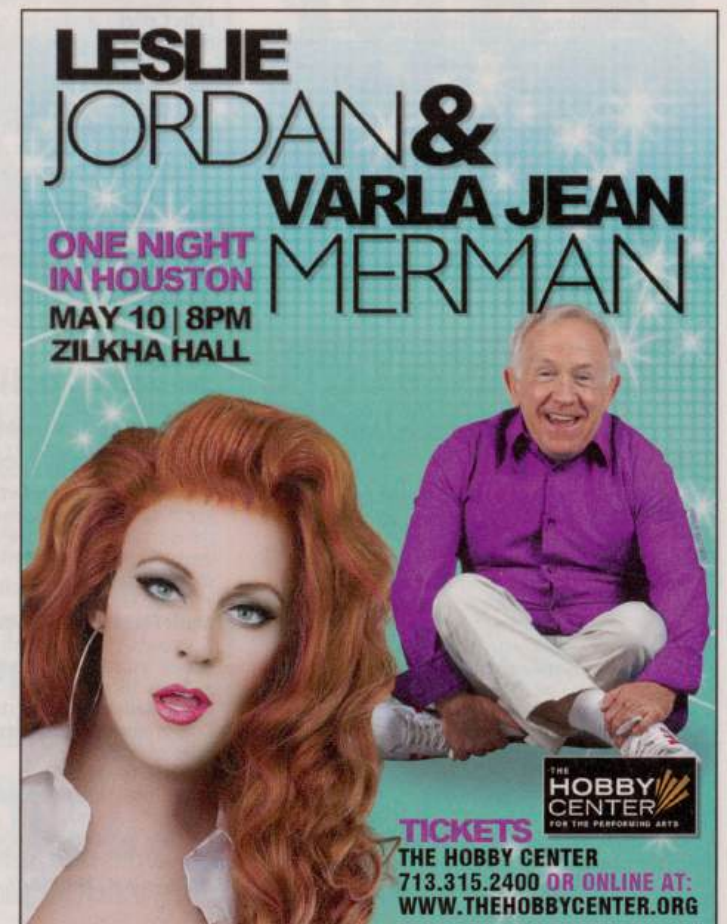
www.skinrenaissance.net



LESLIE JORDAN & VARLA JEAN MERMAN

ONE NIGHT IN HOUSTON
MAY 10 | 8PM
ZILKHA HALL

TICKETS
THE HOBBY CENTER
713.315.2400 OR ONLINE AT:
WWW.THEHOBBYCENTER.ORG



Calendar of Events

Compiled by
Marene
Gustin

FotoFest

2014 Biennial

It's time for the 15th annual FotoFest Biennial and that means art, glorious art, will be sprouting all over town like bluebonnets in spring (there are more than 100 participating spaces this year). This every-other-year event celebrates photography and photo-related art.

This time around, the festival features contemporary Arab video, photography, and multimedia art. The Biennial showcases 48 contemporary Arab artists using photography and related visual media to address a broad range of aesthetic and cultural values impacting Arab culture. The first international biennial of photography and photo-related art in the United States, FotoFest was founded in 1983 by documentary photographers and journalists Frederick Baldwin and Wendy Watriss, and European gallery director Petra Benteler.



Nomi, a transgender woman in Cuba, was photographed by Mariette Pathy Allen. For more on Allen and two queer photographers exhibiting at FotoFest, see page 103.

FotoFest also sponsors a year-round educational program with traveling photography shows, international exchange programs, and publications. Check out the various exhibits associated with FotoFest, listed under Art & Photography, on the opposite page.

Visit fotofest.org for exhibits and spaces. —Marene Gustin

APRIL

CINEMA

• THROUGH MAY 15

Aurora Picture Show Filmmaking Camps. Registration is now open for these popular filmmaking camps for kids that will be held in June, July, and August. See aurorapictureshow.org to register.

• APRIL 13

2014 MTV Movie Awards. Conan O'Brien hosts the annual MTV ceremony honoring the best films from last year. Grab some popcorn and turn on the TV at 8 p.m. for more Hollywood honors.

RADIO

Queer Voices. Features, news, music, interviews, reviews, and commentary. Monday nights, 9–11pm. KPFT 90.1 FM • kpft.org • 713/526-4000.

PERFORMING ARTS

• THROUGH APRIL 11

Always Plus One Day. Fresh Arts presents this multimedia exhibition by Houston-based artist Melinda Laszczynski. See spacetaker.org for details.

• THROUGH APRIL 18

Happy Days. Not the TV show, this play by Samuel Beckett is a gem of American theater. Produced by The Catastrophic Theatre: catastrophictheatre.com.

• THROUGH APRIL 19

Time Stands Still. Main Street Theater's production by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Dinner with Friends* is about a wounded photojournalist. See mainstreettheater.com for details.

• THROUGH APRIL 26

Alice in Wonderland: Unscripted. An adults-only show from ComedySportz, this version of Alice's adventures can take a wild turn based on audience participation and crazy suggestions. Visit comedysportzhouston.com to learn more.

• APRIL 4–27

Communicating Doors. Alan Ayckbourn's science-

fiction comedy is at the Alley Theatre this month. ActOut evening is April 17. See alleytheatre.org for details.

Felix Cartel. Canadian favorite performs at Lumen nightclub on Kirby. See felixcartel.com.

• APRIL 7–19

Yefim Bronfman returns to Houston to lend both depth and brilliance to *Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 4*. Music Director Designate **Andrés Orozco-Estrada** then brings out the exuberant woodwind melodies and carefree waltzes of *Dvorak Symphony No. 8*. See houstonstheatre.org for details.

• APRIL 10–13

Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet. Conductor Laureate Hans Graf leads the Houston Symphony in a powerful all-Russian program. See houstonstheatre.org for details.

• APRIL 11 & 12

Prodigal Dad. Steven Fales returns to perform the final chapter in his acclaimed *Mormon Boy Trilogy*. See theaterlab-houston.com.

• APRIL 11–19

Little Shop of Horrors. This rock musical is a classic deal-with-the-devil tale with a horrifically horticultural twist. Presented by the Rice Theatre Program & The Rice Players at Hamman Hall. 713.348.PLAY or arts.rice.edu.

• APRIL 11–MAY 3

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change. In a theatrical age of mammoth spectacles and brooding musical dramas, this is a rollicking throwback to a nearly extinct theatrical genre: the musical comedy revue. See themusicboxtheater.com for details.

• APRIL 12

Music Fest at Willow Waterhole Conservation Reserve. Hang out at one of Houston's signature parks for an all-day musical festival. See wwgc.org for details.

• APRIL 16

Lily & Madeleine. This acclaimed sister act hits the Mucky Duck to promote their album debut. See mcgonigels.com for ticket information.

• APRIL 16–MAY 11

Cock. Theater LaB Houston & Obsidian Art Space present this

regional premiere by Mike Barlett. For tickets to this comedy, call 713.868.7516.

• APRIL 17–27

Murder Ballad is the sizzling and explosive musical of a love triangle gone wrong. Presented by TUTS Underground. Details at tutsunderground.com or 713.558.8887.

• APRIL 19–MAY 17

James and the Giant Peach. Main Street Theater's production of the classic children's tale is bound to entertain kids of all ages. See mainstreettheater.com for details.

• APRIL 22

Houston Symphony Concert at Discovery Green. Houston Symphony Concertmaster Frank Huang performs as soloist and leads the orchestra in composer Astor Piazzolla's tango-inspired *Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* and Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings*. See houstonstheatre.org for details.

• APRIL 23

Jason & deMarco. Catch their inspiring musical tour in Spring, Texas, at the Unity Circle of Light. See unitycircleoflight.com for details.

• APRIL 24

Houston Symphony Salute to Educators. This concert features the winner from the Houston Symphony League Concerto Competition in the first half and a performance of one of the best-known orchestral masterworks in the second half, with the Houston Symphony performing side-by-side one of our partnering youth orchestras. See houstonstheatre.org for details.

• APRIL 25

Dominic Walsh Dance Theater Film and Performance. The premiere of a DWDT film at Asia Society Texas Center is followed by a live performance. See asiasociety.org/texas for details.

• APRIL 24–27

Houston Improv Festival 2014. Some of Houston's

most talented improvisers join forces with improv troupes from Austin, Chicago, L.A., and NYC. Midtown Art Center. Details at houstonimprovfestival.com.

• APRIL 25–27

Chris Botti. With his uniquely expressive sound and soaring musical imagination, this superstar is heading back to Houston to perform some of his favorite tunes along with music from his newest CD *Impressions*. See houstonstheatre.org for details.

• APRIL 26

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre. Houston debut of 24-year-old French pianist Lise de la Salle. See spahouston.org for details.

• APRIL 29

A Conversation with Bette Midler is presented by Brilliant Lecture Series at the Wortham Center. Tickets: 832.487.7041 or brilliantlectures.org.

• COMING UP: MAY 2

Late Style NOW: Adams, Andriessen, Reich. Trailblazing new music ensemble returns for Da Camera's season finale. See dacamera.com.

• COMING UP: MAY 9

A Baroque Wedding Feast. The Grammy-nominated early music ensemble Ars Lyrica Houston wraps up its 10th anniversary Discoveries season with a program of springtime favorites from Bach, Pachelbel, and Telemann. Visit arslyricahouston.org for details.

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

• THROUGH APRIL 12

FotoFest 2014 Biennial. Lawndale Art Center is hosting four exhibits for FotoFest 2014. See lawndaleartcenter.org for details.

Box 13 ArtSpace Exhibits. Five new exhibits at Box 13 ArtSpace feature several artists working in a variety of media. Check out box13artspace.com for details.

• THROUGH APRIL 15

The Ground on Which I Stand. Part of FotoFest, this exhibit at Rice Media Center is subtitled *A Photo Essay & Oral Histories from Tamina, A Freedmen's Town*.

• THROUGH APRIL 17

George Awde: His Passing Cover. In conjunction with the 2014 FotoFest Biennial, O'Kane Gallery at the University of Houston-Downtown presents photos by George Awde. See uhd.edu for details.

• THROUGH APRIL 18

How I See It: Houston Architecture. A juried exhibit of pictures from local high schoolers at the Architecture Center Houston. See aiahouston.org for details.

• THROUGH APRIL 25

Mi Amor me ha dado recuerdos para ti/My Love has given me memories for you. MECA hosts this art exhibition showcasing the work of Deliah Montoya. See meca-houston.org for details.

• THROUGH APRIL 26

FotoFest at McMurtrey Gallery. Two beautiful exhibits celebrate the citywide FotoFest this month. See mcmurtreygallery.com for details.

Two Exhibits at Nicole Longnecker Gallery for FotoFest. *Constructed Lore*, featuring Casey Arguelles and Mimi Kato, and *Meditations*, featuring Cara Barer, are on view. See longneckergallery.com.

• THROUGH APRIL 27

The Evolution of Neglect: Scenes of Ruin and Ruins from The Menil Collection. A selection of photographs from The Menil Collection curated by the Teen Council from the Contemporary Arts Museum. See camh.org for details.

• THROUGH APRIL 30

Joseph Havel: Endless. A new site-specific installation made of books cast in bronze at Contemporary Art Museum Houston. See camh.org for details.

• THROUGH MAY 11

Spectra: Work by Adrian Esparza. Houston Center for Contemporary Craft (HCCC) presents this site-specific installation by El Paso native Adrian Esparza. See more at craftthouston.org.

Dark Light: The Micaceous Ceramics of Christine Nofchissey McHorse. Also at HCCC, an exhibit by one of the most innovative contemporary forces in Native American pottery.

Georges Braque: A Retrospective. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston showcases the paintings of Braque. This is the last and only U.S. stop for this retrospective. See mfah.org.

Lee Bontecou: Drawn Worlds is the first retrospective exhibition of the drawings of this American artist. Check out menil.org for more information.

• THROUGH MAY 26

John Singer Sargent: The Watercolors. The Museum of

Mario Salazar
MASTER HAIR CUTTER AND STYLIST
10+ YEARS EXPERIENCE

Toni & Guy Trained
Montrose/River Oaks Based

By Appointment Only
832.443.8625

EXECUTIVE ADULT VIDEO
Superstore

One of the Best Places to Buy Erotic Playthings
OutSmart Gayest & Greatest 2013

15% OFF Anything with this ad

- Magazines
- Gifts
- Fleshjacks
- Huge selection of Lubricants & Lotions

14002 Northwest Fwy. (Hwy 290)
(exit Tidwell / between Tidwell & Fairbanks N. Houston)
713.462.5152 • executivexxxvideo.com

We'd like you to meet our 60,000 readers...

Over **89%** of OutSmart readers tell us they GO OUT OF THEIR WAY to SUPPORT OutSmart advertisers.

OutSmart
Houston's gay, lesbian, bi, and trans magazine

For advertising information, call 713/520-7237.

LARSON LAW FIRM
Immigration, Criminal & Personal Injury

ATTORNEYS
JOAN LARSON: Ex-Immigration Officer
KEITH LARSON: Ex-Harris County Prosecutor

713.688.8472
LarsonLawFirm.com

EAT LAM MEX

La Mexicana RESTAURANT

1018 Fairview Street @ Montrose
713.521.0963
www.lamexicanarestaurant.com

nixCuts
hair salon

OutSmart Readers' Choice Award 2007-2013
Voted Best Hairstylist
Appointments & Walk Ins OK!

515 Westheimer **713 524-7858**
www.hairsalonhouston.com
Mon. - Fri. 10am - 7pm | Sat. 10am - 5pm | Sun. Closed



DOES YOUR MONEY WORK AS HARD AS YOU DO?

You will spend upwards of 45 years working to support your lifestyle, provide for your family, and set aside money for retirement. Doesn't it make sense to make sure your money is working as hard as you are? I offer thoughtful and unbiased investment guidance designed to help you realize your financial objectives. Call today for more information or to schedule a consultation.



WINNER
Best Financial Advisor

Wallstreet Texas

WALLSTREET TEXAS

Richard Dickson, CFP®, MBA - Vice President

5120 Woodway #9000 - Houston, TX 77056

(281) 953-2050

rick.dickson@wallstreettexas.com www.wallstreettexas.com

Gordon E. Crofoot MD Donald Harvey, PA-C Internal Medicine & HIV



Houston's leading
LGBT healthcare providers

VOTED "GAYEST & GREATEST"
PHYSICIAN BY OUTSMART
2009-2013



3701 KIRBY DR | 713.526.0005 | CROFOOTMD.COM

When detail matters!



Best Eye Doctor

Congratulations-
20 Years of "Great Vision!"

as voted by OutSmart
Readers 2013

State-of-the-Art Medical Eye Care

Stewart Zuckerbrod, MD
Ophthalmology

Now Affiliated with

Exams for glasses/contacts
Cataract Surgery
LASIK Surgery
Comprehensive Ophthalmology



Established 1971

HOUSTON EYE ASSOCIATES

5420 Dashwood, Suite 101, Houston, TX 77081 | www.HoustonEye.com

NEW LOCATION 8619 W. Broadway, Suite 101, Pearland, TX 77584

713.668.9118 832.553.EYES (3937)

NEW YORK HAND TOSSED • CHICAGO DEEP DISH • ULTRA THIN
GLUTEN FREE • WHOLE WHEAT • VEGAN • VEGETARIAN



PIZZA + BEER + WINE
DELIVERED

**AUTHENTIC
NEW YORK
& CHICAGO
PIZZA**

You gotta problem with that?

DELIVERY OR CARRY-OUT

PIZZALVINO.COM OR 713.526.1000

544 WAUGH DRIVE @ D'AMICO | NEXT TO GUAVA LAMP

Calendar continued from page 117

Fine Arts, Houston is the third and final venue for this wonderful exhibit. Check out mlah.org for more information.

Beyond Craft: Decorative Arts from the Leatrice S. and Melvin B. Eagle Collection. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston showcases an exhibition that looks at the major figures and aesthetic movements in contemporary craft and beyond, from the mid-1960s to the early 1990s. See mlah.org.

• **THROUGH JUNE 1**

Magritte: The Mystery of the Ordinary 1926-1938 is the first major museum exhibition to focus exclusively on the breakthrough surrealist years of René Magritte. See menil.org for more information.

• **THROUGH JULY 6**

In the Midst of Things: Fred Baldwin and Wendy Watriss. The Menil Collection presents an exhibition highlighting Watriss and Baldwin's long and distinguished careers as photographers, journalists, and co-founders of FotoFest. See menil.org for more information.

• **THROUGH JULY 13**

Memories of a Voyage: The Late Work of René Magritte. More than just his paintings, this exhibition includes rarely seen preparatory drawings, gouaches (an increasingly important medium to Magritte during his late period), and sculptures, such as two painted bottles (only 25 of which are known to exist). At The Menil Collection, menil.org.

• **THROUGH AUGUST 31**

Picturing Moral Courage: The Rescuers. Photos and extraordinary stories of survivors of the Holocaust and genocides. At the Holocaust Museum Houston. See hmh.org.

• **THROUGH SEPTEMBER 7**

Texas Masters Series: Sandie Zilker. Houston Center for Contemporary Craft presents a solo exhibition by Houston metalsmith and educator Sandie Zilker. See craftthouston.org for more.

• **APRIL 4-MAY 25**

Topsoil. Houston Center for Contemporary presents an exhibition of work by three artists who harvest their creative sustenance from the mathematics, science, and aesthetics of the planet's waters and terrains. See craftthouston.org/exhibition/topsoil for details.

• **APRIL 5-MAY 2**

Voyages (of the mind, and otherwise). Archway Gallery presents this exhibition featuring photographs by Fikry Botros as part of the citywide FotoFest Biennial. See archwaygallery.com for details.

• **APRIL 8-MAY 30**

Post Persuasion. Fresh Arts presents this art exhibition of print and video advertisements created by George Reynolds. See fresharts.org for details.

• **APRIL 24-27**

Photo Independent Art Fair. See artsnewswire.net for more information.

AND OTHER FUN THINGS

• **THROUGH APRIL 22**

Coats for Cubs. Donate used fur coats and trimmings at Buffalo Exchange clothier to benefit injured and orphaned wildlife.

• **APRIL 2**

National Walking Day. Grab your sneakers and hit the road in support of the American Heart Association.

• **APRIL 5 & 6**

Annual Texas Wine & Art Festival. Head on up to Old Town Spring for this yearly event featuring Texas wines, craft beers, food, fashion, and arts and crafts. Admission is free, but there is a \$30 ticket that includes wine tastings. See txwineandart.com.

• **APRIL 11-13**

Spring Iniquity XXIII. The National Leather Association-Houston celebrates 25 years with this blowout at the Ripcord and Tony's Corner Pocket. Expect kinky games, the den of iniquity, chili cookoff contest, and more. See nlahouston.org for details.

• **APRIL 26**

Out to Work: A GLBT Career Fair. The Iota Chapter of Delta Phi Upsilon Fraternity, Inc., the first national fraternity for gay/bi/progressive men, is hosting a career fair that is open to the public, featuring local GLBT-friendly job opportunities. Contact Michael Webb at 281.728.7911 or info@iotaPhiUpsilon.org for more information.

• **COMING UP: MAY 1**

An Intimate Evening with Rita Moreno. Houston Arts Alliance's annual fundraiser features film and TV star Rita Moreno. See houstonartsalliance.com for ticket information.

The Waggoners Foundation Speaker Series' 31st →

©2013 Porsche Cars North America, Inc. Porsche recommends seat belt usage and observance of all traffic laws at all times.



Always remember, what happens in the corners, stays in the corners.

The new Porsche Cayman.

Porsche of West Houston

11890 Katy Freeway

Houston, TX 77079

(281) 249-4700

www.houston.porschedealer.com

Porsche recommends Mobil 1



PORSCHE

EMPOWERMENT CLASS

FOR SELF ESTEEM AND
SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS
(How to Love Someone
Without Losing You!)

Personal Boundaries & Effective Communication

April 5, 2014 • 10am-12noon
June 7, 2014 • 10am-12noon

**BEST MENTAL
HEALTH THERAPIST**
OutSmart Readers' Choice
Awards 2004-2013
Houston Press 2009

TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES:
CALL 713-529-4414 OR VISIT WWW.LLU.COM
DENISE O'DOHERTY LPC, LMFT, LCDC, RN
3730 KIRBY DR., STE. 910 • HOUSTON, 77098
RELATIONSHIPTHERAPISTRN.COM



EXCELLENCE
PERFORMANCE
CONFIDENCE

LIFESMILES

by
RANDY MITCHMORE, DDS

Is a Less Than
IDEAL SMILE
Holding You Back?

Regain Your Confidence with a LifeSmile from Dr. Randy Mitchmore. Continuously voted one of Houston's Best Dentists since 2003.

No Guilt-Trips, No Judging
Just Compassion and Great Results!

Call or visit (mention this AD)
www.LifeSmiles.us
Book your smile evaluation today!

Lifesmiles by Dr. Randy Mitchmore

713.592.9300

1722 W ALABAMA STREET - HOUSTON, TX 77098



Please join
OutReach United
and Honorary Co-Chairs Trevor & Stefan Eade-Hill for
OUTREACH
goes
Vegas

April 12th 2014, 6-9:30pm

Jaguar Land Rover Houston Central • 7025 Old Katy Rd.
Gaming Tables, Open Bar, Silent Auction....and More!



Sponsored By



Event Beneficiaries



Rat Pack Attire Black Tie Optional • General Admission & VIP Tickets available
Buy tickets online at www.OutreachUnited.org

Calendar

continued from page 119

Annual Spring Luncheon. Special guest actor Mathew Perry talks about alcoholism and addiction at this lunch benefiting the Council on Alcohol and Drugs Houston. See council-houston.org for details.

• **COMING UP: MAY 3 & 4**

2014 Houston Pond Tour. Twenty backyard ponds and water gardens are open to the public for the annual tour. Get information at houstonpondsociety.org.

ONGOING

For information on these groups, visit OutSmartMagazine.com

- AssistHers
- Center HIV Support Group
- Coming Out Support Group
- Depression Bipolar Support Group
- Dignity Houston (LGBT Catholics and friends)
- Discovery Green Flea by Night
- Domestic Violence/Relationship Wellness Group
- EMBody: Introduction to Yoga
- EMBody: Mindfulness, Well-Being, Stress Reduction
- Fathers First (gay dads)
- First Saturday Arts Market
- First Saturday Queer Bingo
- Free Legal Consultations for PWAs
- Gay Men's Survivors of Sexual Assault Support
- Gulf Pride for Youth
- HATCH's Transgender Support Group and Speak Out for Youth
- HATCH Youth Group
- Helping TransGenders Anonymous (support group)
- HIV Support Group BSSG
- HIV Support Group Lunch Brunch
- HIV Testing (Houston Area Community Services)
- HIV Testing (Legacy Community Health Services)
- HIV Testing (Planned Parenthood)
- HIV Testing (Thomas Street Clinic)
- Houston Pride Band
- LGBT HIV+ Support Group
- LOAF (Lesbians Over Age Fifty) Meet and Greet
- Log Cabin Republicans
- Long-Term Survivor's Group for HIV+ Gay Men
- National Leather Association-Houston
- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Houston
- Queer Book Club
- Ryan White Planning Council
- Share with PFLAG Houston
- Share with the Clear Lake satellite of PFLAG Houston
- Southern Country (free dance lessons)
- SPRY (LGBT persons age 60 and older)
- Triple D: Dykes, Dinner, and Discussion
- WHAM! Whole Health Action Management
- The Women's Group
- Women's Survivors of Sexual Assault Support
- Zumba (exercise class)

GLBT CRUISES & TOUR EVENTS

aquafest

a division of CruiseCenter



(800) 592-9058

www.AquafestCruises.com

Concerned About Losing Your Hair?

We provide men confidence in their appearance by offering state of the art hair loss solutions.

- Non-Surgical Derma-Graft
- Customized Human Hair Wigs
- Hair Loss Prevention: "Stop Hair Loss in its Tracks"
- FUE Hair Transplantation



Let Us Help You Look As Good As You Feel By Retaining Or Recreating Your Natural Look!

Call to Schedule Your Free Scalp Evaluation, Receive Your Free Report on "The 3 Ways to Replace Your Hair" and a bottle of specially formulated Hair Loss shampoo.

Apollo

IMAGE ENHANCEMENT CENTER

4950 Bissonnet St. Suite 120
Bellaire, TX 77401
(713) 669-0031
www.ApolloImage.Net

1/2 PRICE ROOMS
Tuesdays 4pm-11:45pm

1/2 PRICE LOCKERS
Wednesdays 4pm-11:45pm

SUNDAY BUFFETS
at 1:00pm

always open • steam • sauna • whirlpool • huge outdoor pool & patio
private dressing rooms • lockers • full gym • guest memberships available • 18+ only

THE CLUB HOUSTON
Good. Clean. Fun.

2205 Fannin Street • Houston • (713) 659-4998 • www.theclubs.com

professional
therapeutic
massage & bodywork

ryan
R.M.T., N.M.T., II Reiki T

sports
swedish
deep tissue
neuromuscular
reiki

Voted one of
Houston's best
massage therapists.
2009, 2010, 2011
and 2012
-outsmart magazine

713 269 7926
ryanmassageworks.com



JON LOHMAN
Evening/Weekend/Off-site
appointments available

LEGAL TROUBLES OR QUESTIONS?

PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL & RESPONSIBLE
LEGAL GUIDANCE TO THE LGBT COMMUNITY.

- General Practice/Family Law
- Mediation
- Wills, Trusts, Estates, Probate
- Guardianships
- Power of Attorney/Durable Power of Attorney
- Living Will/Advance Directive
- Civil/Criminal Representation
- Prenuptial/Cohabitation Agreements

FREE
30-minute
initial
consultation



LOHMAN LAW FIRM PLLC • 5322 W. Bellfort, Ste. 111 • Houston, TX 77035
Office: 713/714-4601 • Email: jpl@lohmanfirm.com

Photos by
Dalton DeHart

MYSTERY AND
FANTASY MARDI GRAS
PARTY 2014 - LIMELIGHT

February 23



AIDS WALK 2014 -
AIDS FOUNDATION
HOUSTON

March 9



BRINGIN' IN THE GREEN 2014
- THE MONTROSE CENTER

March 14



HERITAGE GALA

HONORING THE LEGACY

PRIDE HOUSTON

June 13, 2014

You are invited to Pride Houston's inaugural black tie event...
All proceeds will fund an endowment for a new LGBT museum in Houston.

The evening will include:

- Open bar for the entire Gala*
- Seated full course dinner
- Special guest hosts and speakers
- Entertainment by DJ/Artists
- Silent Auction
- VIP Pre-Reception

Crystal Ball Room - Rice Hotel
Dress code: Black Tie & Fabulous

For more information, visit:
www.pridehouston.org

Tickets now available!
Individual Ticket: \$125

VIP Ticket: \$225

Individual and corporate
tables available

#keepitlocal



* All ages are welcome to attend, but guests
must be 21 or older to consume alcohol.

PROUD SPONSOR
CELEBRATING
OutSmart
20 YEARS
SUPPORTING HOUSTON'S LGBT COMMUNITY

Photos by
Dalton DeHart

VICTORY FUND - 2014
CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH -
HILTON AMERICAS

March 16



MONTROSE
SOFTBALL LEAGUE
OPENING DAY 2014

March 23



GLBT CRUISES & TOUR EVENTS

aquafest

Award Winning Largest & Best GLBT Private Group Event!

13th Annual

2014
HalloweenCruise

from
\$599pp

aquafest
assisthers.org
proud supporter of the
Montrose Softball League

13th Annual

2014 Halloween Cruise

October 25 - November 1, 2014

Sail roundtrip from Houston, TX
on the Norwegian Jewel

Ports of Call: Houston, TX - Cozumel, Mexico
Belize City, Trujillo, Honduras

\$1,000 in Costume Cash Prizes
All Star Entertainment

Private Group Event Includes:

- \$1,000 Costume Prize
- Top GLBT Entertainment
- Private Gay Disco with
DJ Michael Kessler
- Group Dining
- Optional Beach Party
- Nightly Shows and Gatherings
& much, much more...

AQUAFEST EVENTS ARE PRIVATE FOR
AQUAFEST BOOKED GUESTS ONLY!



CALL TODAY: (800) 592-9058
www.AquafestCruises.com

OutSmart Marketplace

ACCOMMODATIONS

Fully Furnished Corporate Apartments
A NICE TOUCH, RELAXATION
OF BODY AND MIND BY
LEE
Centrally Located; 7 Days,
Evenings, Out Calls Welcome
832.978.7017
www.LEmerson.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WEST HEIGHTS HOUSE
GLBT SHELTER-AHCH, Inc.**
Seeks donations of canned goods
and/or rummage sale items.
Tax deductible. 501(c)3 non profit org.
Established in 1994.
www.ahchinc.webs.com
713.864.1795

PFLAG SUPPORT
EDUCATION
ADVOCACY
*Where
Everyone is
Welcome!*
Helpline 713-46P-FLAG
www.pflaghouston.org

CHURCHES

LIVING MOSAIC
SUNDAY MORNING
Coffee Connection 10:00 am
Worship Celebration 11:00 am
WEDNESDAY NIGHT
Community Meal 6:30 pm
Spiritual Formation Class 7:00 pm
A Place for Everyone
4920 CULLEN BLVD. 77004 • 832.604.0686

CLEANING/MAID SERVICE

**Dexter's
5 Star Service**
Doing the chores you hate to do
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Cleaning • Bartending
Designated Driver
House/Pet Sitting or Just ask!
Bob Samora 832/252-1961
creative • professional
reliable • detailed • flexible

COMPUTER SERVICES

**Computer
Problems?**
Call For In-Home Help
Troubleshooting
Tune-ups • Tutorials
PC HomeTech
832.496.9246
Local • Fast • Affordable

MASSAGE & BODYWORK

Reward Yourself
A NICE TOUCH, RELAXATION
OF BODY AND MIND BY
LEE
Centrally Located; 7 Days,
Evenings, Out Calls Welcome
832.978.7017

**LUIGI
RMT**
SWEDISH MASSAGE
DEEP TISSUE
NICE TOUCH
THE BEST MASSAGE
IN HOUSTON
• GALLERIA AREA •
In & Out Calls Welcome
281.804.8027

BEST MALE MASSAGE THERAPIST 2013

*Thanks for
your support!*
TOM ZEPPELIN, LMT
713.542.0426
ZEPPELINMASSAGE.COM

Thai Massage BY THAI BOY [LMT]

Tim • 832.652.1206
Houston, TX 77019
www.timmassage.com

MASSAGE & BODYWORK

**RELAX
HOUSTON**
MASSAGE THERAPY
CALL OR TEXT
832-322-9509
Open 7 days a Week
VISA MasterCard DISCOVER

MossMassage.com
• Sports
• Deep Tissue
• Relaxation
Ron
281.853.5665

THE BEST Thai Massage

YOYO • 713-825-5649
Now in
Houston

**NOW HIRING
MALE MASSAGE THERAPISTS**
Established spa has full and part-time
positions available for licensed male
massage therapists. Full and part-time
positions available. Flexible hours and
a great work environment. Call Barry at
Awesome Massage & Spa to schedule
an interview. 626/367-8321.

MASSAGE & BODYWORK

**Awesome
Massage & Spa**
FIVE STAR REVIEWS
on GOOGLE & YELP
BARRY, LMT
626.367.8321
Thai, Swedish, Deep Tissue and
Hot Stone Massages, Table Shower,
Body Scrub, Detoxing, & More!

ROBERT RMT
[713] 824-6230
www.sites.google.com/site/robertmt

POOL SERVICES
**Reflection
Pools & Spas**
713-559-1100
Beautiful Pools at
Affordable Prices
www.reflection
poolsandspas.com

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

GALVESTON PROPERTIES
1428 23rd
Circa 1913, Mediterranean-style.
4 bdrm, with 2 apartments.
Zoned Retail. \$449,500
1905 Broadway
Circa 1904, Six sets of pocket
doors, 2 fireplaces,
Zoned Commercial \$339,500.
1002 Sealy
Circa 1900, old corner store
now a very successful
vacation rental. \$165,000.
David Bowers, Realtor
409-763-2800
david@davidbowers.com

**RELOCATION/MOVING?
FREE INFORMATION**
The Nation's Top Gay Realtors Offer a
FREE Relocation Kit + Free Buyers Rep-
resentation! Buying, Selling, Relocating?
Choose Your Agent On-line at:
www.GAYREALESTATE.com
No Cost or Obligation.
1-888-420-MOVE (6683)

SERVICES

**THE
TAN MAN**
MOBILE AIRBRUSH TANNING
• NO STREAKING
• NO ORANGE TONE
• 100% NATURAL APPEARING
• SPECIAL GROUP RATES
• WE COME TO YOU
Call for appointment.
713.294.4804

LEARN TO SURF
C-SICK SURFING Galveston. 2 hour
lessons \$50. Soft Top Surfboards provided.
We offer S.U.P. Lessons. Located at 43rd
and Seawall Blvd. • 409-770-9455 /Text
409-370-6714. Email: csick49@yahoo.com •
www.c-sicksurfing.com

MARKETPLACE AD RATES
Deadline: April 15, 2014 for the May 2014 Issue. For rates/info, call 713/520-7237 ext. 10.

SERVICES

Specializing in Men's Body Waxing
Full or partial body wax - 75% less painful than
regular wax procedures. Guyzilians (male
Brazilians) and other body grooming services
offered. Guaranteed privacy and discretion. By
appointment only. Call 713/600-1027. Visit my
website at thewaxmaster.com.

HARDLINE
ALL MALE LIVE CHAT
**60
FREE
MINS**
ALL ACCESS FREE TRIAL!
713.590.9090
other cities 1.877.510.3344
1.900.285.5757/25/100min hardlinechat.com
TAYA:CHAT NORTH AMERICAN
CALL 1866 292 8293 GENDER-FREE

NEED A PIED-À-TERRE?

When business or pleasure brings you
to Houston for a month or more,
why not make L'Emerson your address?



Boutique Apartments
L'Emerson
HOUSTON
Furnished Corporate Lodging
• All the amenities of home.
• Ideally situated in the
Montrose-Midtown area.
• Much more affordable than
a downtown hotel room.
Tom Fricke, Proprietor

210 Emerson Street • Houston, Texas 77006
www.LEmerson.net

SQUIRT.org
Hot 'n horny hookups.
**LAPTOP
OR
MOBILE
WE'RE
VERSATILE**
Join
for FREE
Get 5 Days
Unlimited
access

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

TO HELP PET OWNERS WITH HEALTH CHALLENGES
KEEP THEIR COMPANION PETS



WWW.THEPETPATROL.ORG
281.733.7696
PETPATROLPARTNERS@SBCGLOBAL.NET

pet patrol
A PEOPLE PET PARTNERSHIP

OutSmart Advertisers

Get your business listed here. Call 713/520-7237 ext 10 for details.

ACCOMMODATIONS

L'Emerson Corporate Lodging
Lemerson.net

ACCOUNTANTS/BOOKKEEPERS/ CPAS

Gary M. Gritz, CPA
3310 Katy Fwy, Ste 310 713/784-3030

ADULT

Adam & Eve Stores
1111 Westheimer 713/521-2326
25701 I-45 North 281/298-0069
17531 Hwy 249 281/469-0619

Executive Adult Video Superstore & Theater
14002 NW Fwy 713/462-5152
Squirt.com
squirt.com

ADVERTISING

OutSmart Magazine
3406 Audubon 713/520-7237

AIR CONDITIONING/HEATING

Newport Air
newportair.net 281/808-8630
Tejas Air
832/287-6117

ALARM/SECURITY SERVICES

Lakewood Alarm
LakewoodAlarm.com 713/568-3181

APARTMENTS/LEASING/LOCATORS

The Shavelson
6800 Shavelson 281/660-1382

ARTISTS/ART GALLERIES/MUSEUMS

Archway Gallery
2305 Dunlavy 713/522-2409
Jumper Maybach Fine Art
jumpermaybach.com 713/703-1350

ASTROLOGER

Lilly Roddy Astrology
713/529-5842

ATTORNEYS/LEGAL SERVICES

Gonzalez Olivieri LLC
gonzalezolivieri.com 713/481-3040
Jon Lohman
5322 W. Bellfort, Ste. 111 713/714-4601
Katine & Nechman LLP
1111 N Loop W, Suite 180 713/808-1000
Law Office of Angélique Montes
amonteslaw.com 832/378-7781
Law Offices of Caro Kinsella
ckinsella.com 954/304-2243
Moore and Hunt Attorneys at Law
mooreandhunt.com 713/522-4282
Clyde Williams, Attorney
713/236-0064

AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS

Tech Auto Maintenance
37 Waugh 713/863-8244

AUTOMOTIVE SALES

Advantage BMW/Midtown
2101 San Jacinto @ Gray 713/289-1200
Knapp Chevrolet
815 Houston Ave 713/446-6691
Momentum Mini
10000 SW Fwy 800/557-5574
Porsche of West Houston
11890 Katy Fwy Houston.PorscheDealer.com

BAKERIES/CUSTOM CAKES

Acadian Bakers
604 W. Alabama 713/520-1484
What's the Occasion? Creative Cakery
WhatsTheOccasionCakery.com 832/273-1840
Who Made The Cake
WhomadeTheCake.com 713/528-4719

CARPET CLEANING

Carpet Touch
CarpetTouch.com 281/962-4000

CATERING SERVICES

Chateau Polonez Event Venue
Chateaupolonez.com 281/655-5656

Jim Benton of Houston Catering
2811 Eastman 713/802-2860

CHURCHES/SPIRITUAL CENTERS

Bering Memorial United Methodist
1440 Harold 713/526-1017
Living Mosaic Church
4920 Cullen 832/659-0686
Resurrection MCC
2025 W 11th 713/861-9149
St Paul's United Methodist Church
5501 Main 713/528-0527

CLEANING SERVICES

Elite Home Clean Up
elitehomecleanup.com 713/239-0241
Perfection Plus
713/664-9911

CLOTHING

SOHO Heights
1043 Studewood 713/868-8910

COMMUNITY/NONPROFIT

Bayou City Performing Arts
BayouCityPerformingArts.org
Bering Support Network
713-526-1017, ext. 20

Brilliant Lecture Series
BrilliantLectures.org 713/528-4719
Bunnies On The Bayou
BunniesOnTheBayou.org

Houston Pride Band
HoustonPrideBand.org

Pride Houston
PrideHouston.org

COMPUTERS/INTERNET/IT SERVICES

Computer Wiz
3017 Durham, Ste 110 713/979-4500
Copy.com
1201-F Westheimer 713/528-1201

DAY SPAS

Helena's Wax & Day Spa
5721 Winsome Lane 713/954-5400

DRUGS/PHARMACY

AvitaPharmacy.com
713/489-4362

EDUCATION/TRAINING

HCC Coleman College
ColemanConnection.org
HCC Interior Design
Central.HCCS.edu/iDesign

ENTERTAINMENT/NIGHT LIFE

Alley Theatre
AlleyTheatre.org 713/220-5700
Bayou City Concert Musicals
BayouCityConcertMusicals.org

Bayou City Bar & Grill
2409 Grant BayouCityBar.com

Eagle Houston
213 Milam 713/236-8777

F*Bar
202 Tuam FBARHouston.com

Galveston.com
888/GAL-ISLE

George Country Sports Bar
617 Fairview 713/528-8102

Grand 1894 Opera House
TheGrand.com 800/821-1894

Guava Lamp
570 Waugh 713/524-3359

Hobby Center
TheHobbyCenter.org 713/315-2400

Houston Grand Opera
HoustonGrandOpera.org/out 713/228-6737

JR's/Santa Fe
808 Pacific 713/521-2519

Meteor
2306 Genesee 713/521-0123

Montrose Mining Company
805 Pacific 713/529-7488

Neon Boots
11410 Hempstead Hwy neonbootsclub.com
Obsidian Art Space
3522 White Oak Dr obsidianartspace.org

One Mighty Weekend
Orlando 2014 OneMightyWeekend.com
Ranch Hill Saloon
24704 I-45 N/Spring 281/298-9035

Rudyard's
2810 Waugh 713/521-0521

Society for the Performing Arts
SPAHouston.org 713/227-4772
South Beach
810 Pacific 713/529-7623

Theater LaB Houston
theaterlabhouston.com 713/868-7516

Theatre Under the Stars
2025 W 11th 713/558-TUTS

3rd Coast Downtown
2416 Postoffice, Galveston 409/765-6911

Tony's Corner Pocket
817 W Dallas 832/722-7658

FINANCIAL PLANNING/BANKS

Richard Dickson/Wallstreet Texas
5120 Woodway, Ste 9000 281/953-2050
Midtown Financial/Grace Yung
3355 Alabama, Ste 230 713/355-9833

FITNESS CLUBS/PERSONAL TRAINERS

Anytime Fitness
1102 Yale 713/869-3222
Club Houston
2205 Fannin 713/659-4998

Fit Athletic Club
FitHouston.com 713/STAYFIT

Houston Gym
1501 Durham 713/880-9191

FLORISTS

Glenwood Weber
GlenwoodWeberDesign.com 713/360-6281

FOOD & SPIRITS

BJ Hooker's Vodka
facebook.com/bjhookersvodka

Bud Light
Budlight.com

Ketel One Vodka
Facebook.com/ketelone

Spec's
specsonline.com 888/526-8787

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Earthman Funeral Directors
EarthmanBellaire.com 713/667-6505
Pat H. Foley & Co. Funeral Home
1200 W 34th 713/869-6261

GARDEN/NURSERY SUPPLY

Buchanan's Native Plants
611 E 11th 713/861-5702
Joshua's Native Plants & Garden Antiques
504 W. 18th 713/862-7444

HAIR RESTORATION

Apollo Image Enhancement Center
4950 Bellaire 713/669-0031

HAIR/NAIL/MAKE-UP SALONS

Green Apple Salon
719 West Gray 713/520-0500

NU-Cuts Hair Salon
515 Westheimer 713/524-7858

Mario Salazar
facebook.com/mariosalazar.thehairlab
832/443-8625

HEARING AIDS/SERVICES

Beltone Audiology/Hearing Aids
1509 W. 18th, Ste B 832/426-2982

HEALTH CARE-CHIROPRACTIC

Kirby Health & Wellness/Kenneth W. Lester, D.C.
1603 Shepherd 713/526-5252

HEALTH CARE-COUNSELING/THERAPY

Tony Carroll, LMSW-ACP
1006 Missouri 713/527-0000

D. "Woodja" Flanigan, MS, LPA
2600 SW Fwy, Ste 409 713/589-9804

Enod Gray, LCSW, CSAT-S, CGP
3100 Edloe, Ste 290 713/781-7272

Dr. Daniel Garza, MD
2323 Shepherd, Set 805 281/610-8190

Dr. Barry F. Gritz, MD
230 Westcott, Ste 210 713/869-7400

Ken McLeod, LCSW, ACSW
5909 W Loop S, Ste 480 713/628-1776

Montrose Counseling Center
401 Branard 713/529-0037

Denise O'Doherty, LPC, LMFT, LCDC, RN
3730 Kirby, Ste 910 713/524-9525

Robert Snellgrove, LMSW-ACP
4617 Montrose, Ste C206 713/522-7014

Christine Wysong
230 Westcott, Ste 210 713/869-7400

HEALTH CARE-DENTISTS

Bayou City Smiles/Marcus de Guzman, DDS
4000 Washington 713/518-1411

Bristles/Shirley H. Parikh, DDS
701 Shepherd, Ste 102 281/506-0539

FLOSS, Justin Crockett, DDS;
Justin Ramsey, DDS
107 Yale, Ste 300 832/900-2071

FLOSS, Dianna Wilde, DDS
514 Elgin, Ste A 713/942-0101

Cory Logan, DDS
530 Waugh 713/942-8598

LifeSmiles by Randy Mitchmore, DDS
1722 W. Alabama 713/592-9300

Bruce W. Smith, DDS
1006 Missouri 713/529-4364

HEALTH CARE-OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

Houston Eye Associates
Stewart Zuckerbrod, MD
5420 Dashwood, Ste 101 713/668-9118

Joffe Medi-Center
5420 W Loop S 866/685-6994

HEALTH CARE-OPTOMETRISTS

Boutique Eye Care
2502 Woodhead 713/528-2010

Eye Contact
2055 Westheimer 713/520-6600

Eye Elegance
3939 Montrose Blvd. 713/622-4411

Eye Gallery
1806B Westheimer 713/523-1279

2542 Amherst 832/831-7253

Eye to Eye
432 W 19th 713/864-8822

Kevin Katz OD./Texas State Optical
www.TSOGalveston.com 409/763-6300

Spectacles on Montrose
4317 Montrose, Ste. 2 713/529-3937

HEALTH CARE-PHYSICIANS

Octavio Barrios, MD
507 West Gray 713/942-7546

7106 Spencer Highway 281/542-9400

Gordon Crofoot, MD
Donnie Harvey, MPAS, PA-C
3701 Kirby, Ste 1230 713/526-0005

McClung Clinic/Tony S. McClung, MD
1213 Hermann, Ste 520 713/528-3444

M. Sandra Scurria, MD
6565 West Loop South, Ste 300 281/661-5901

HEALTH CARE-PLASTIC SURGERY

Facial Plastic Surgery Associates
6655 Travis, Ste 900 713/526-5665

HEALTH CARE-PODIATRISTS

Your Total Foot Care Specialist/Jim Jacobs, DPM
KatyFootCare.com 281/395-3338

HEALTH CARE-SERVICES/PRODUCTS

Houston Area Community Services/HACS
2150 W 18th St 713/426-0027

Legacy Community Health Services
215 Westheimer 713/830-3000

Ryan White Planning Council
RWPHouston.org 713/572-3784

Total Nutrition
2625 Louisiana, Ste D 713/942-9779

174 Yale, Ste 200 713/880-3688

HEALTH CARE-SKIN CARE

Heights Dermatology & Aesthetic Center/
Alpesh Desai, MD
2120 Ashland 713/864-2650

Skin Renaissance Laser/Octavio Barrios, MD
507 West Gray 713/942-7546

HEALTH-HOME HEALTH CARE

Patient Caregivers
3405 Edloe, Ste. 210 713/227-3448

HEALTH CARE-UROLOGISTS

McClung Clinic/Tony S. McClung, MD
1213 Hermann, Ste 520 713/528-3444

HOME FURNISHINGS/ACCESSORIES

Coda in the Heights
355 W. 19th 713/864-4411

Eclectic Home
345 W. 19th 713/869-1414

E&G Amish
Egamishfurniture.com 281/277-0485

Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams
4091 Westheimer 832/397-5130

HOME/REMODELING/CONSTRUCTION

Gold Star Design & Construction
goldstardesignandconstruction.com 281/832-5163

Justin Gordon Homes
JustinGordonHomes.com 713/670-4848

Metro Remodeling Systems
MetroRemodelingSystems.com 832/688-9256

INSURANCE AGENCIES/AGENTS

David Lorms/Farmers
E TC Jester @ Loop 610 713/688-8669

Rob Schmerler Insurance Agency/Farmers/
Rob Schmerler
6575 W Loop S, Ste 185 713/661-7700

Patrick Torma/State Farm
3329 Telephone, Ste B 832/649-4311

JEWELERS

I.W. Marks Jewelers
3841 Bellaire 713/668-5000

Past Era Antique Jewelry
3433 West Alabama 713/621-3433

Silverlust
1338-C Westheimer 713/520-5440

LANDSCAPING/LAWN

A.J.'s Landscaping & Design, Inc.
AJsLandscaping.com 713/957-0449

Lawn Services of Houston
LawnServicesofHouston.com 713/502-5589

Glenwood Weber
GlenwoodWeberDesign.com 713/360-6281

LOCKSMITHS

Trifecta Lock
trifectalock.com 844/TRI-LOCK

MASSAGE THERAPISTS

Alan Davidson, RMT/Essential Touch
713/942-0923

Ryan Fugate, RMT
RyanMassageWorks.com 713/269-7926

Joel Leal, RMT
713/397-8808

Massage Heights
MassageHeights.com/houston

Relax Houston/Massage by Armando
832/322-9509

PASSPORT/VISA SERVICES

3 Stars Visas and Passports
3starsvisas.com 832/251-1200

PEST CONTROL SERVICES

Andy's All Star Pest Control
713/732-7742

PET SERVICES & SUPPLIES

Aquarium World
13157 Northwest Fwy 713/329-9989

Hampshire Mobile Vet
Hampshiremobilevet.com 832/767-8693

Last Wishes/Animal Hospice
1302 Waugh 713/452-0474

Lotus Pet Sitting
lotuspetsittinghouston.com 713/542-0465

West Alabama Animal Clinic
2030 W. Alabama 713/528-081

BAYOU CITY GRILL
MONTROSE'S #1 PARTY BAR
 TUES-SAT, 4P-2A, SUN 1P-2A, BAYOUCITYBAR.COM, 2409 GRANT

★ GEORGE ★
Your Country Sports Bar
HOURS: Mon-Sat 7am-2am
 Sunday 12pm-2am
www.GeorgesCountrySportsBar.com
617 Fairview • Houston, Texas • 713.528.8102

Saturdays & Wednesday
 Largest Gay Pool Tournament at 8pm

Mondays Open Pool Tables
Sundays \$1.00 Well Vodka 6pm-9-Ball

South Beach
WEEKLY SUNDAY PATIO BEACH PARTY
DOLLAR DRINKS NO COVER
4PM - 10PM
21+ ONLY
 810 PACIFIC STREET | 713.529.SOBIE | SOBIEHOUSTON.COM

There's always something going on at:
TONY'S CORNER POCKET
 Nightly Specials - Call for Details
 Cold Beverages & Hot Guys!
 817 W. Dallas • 713/571-7870
 Ample Secure Parking

RANCH HILL SALOON
 HOME OF THE COLDEST BEER & THE WARMEST WELCOME
 JOIN US FOR
DJs Every Thursday-Saturday
 Texans Football Sundays
 Voted One of the Best Places to 2-Step & One of the Best Bars - 2012-2013 OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards
OPEN DAILY 1PM-2AM ranchhill.com 281-298-9035

F BAR
MOST SUPPORTIVE OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY
 boutique clubbing
 facebook.com/comegetgorgaeous
 202 TUAM | 21+ | 713.522.FBAR | www.FBARHOUSTON.com
 Winner of over 50 AWARDS to date, including BEST GAY BAR and BEST DRAG BAR!

Bar & Club Guide

Houston

13 ENTERTAINMENT

Formerly In-N-Out, this comfortable club located in the northern Heights is a convenient alternate to inner-Montrose haunts. Patrons journey past the comfy seating and romantic lighting to find a spacious patio where they sometimes fire up the barbecue grill. 1537 N. Shepherd • 713/426-1313.

BAYOU CITY BAR & GRILL

DJ Wild and DJ CJ provide tunes for this lively, down-home bar in the heart of Montrose known for its cheap drinks, Wednesday's steak night, and Thursday's 25¢ wings during happy hour. 2409 Grant St. • bayoucitybar.com.

BLUR

This multi-level dance club features an expansive patio upstairs lounge and balconies that overlook the Pacific St. traffic. Ladies enjoy Wet and Wild Wednesdays, 18-year-olds are welcome on Thurs., resident DJ Lorenzo spins Wed.-Sat. nights, DJ Pollo spins Karumba Latin night on Sun. Happy hour 8-10pm; free cover before 11pm. 710 Pacific St. • blurbar.com.

CLUB 2020

Located downtown near the Toyota Center, this urban club features Clubbers Friday with male and female dancers. Its 6,400 square feet also offers theater-sized viewing screens and VIP rooms. 2020 Leeland • 713/227-9667 • club2020houston.com.

CLUB CRYSTAL

If you miss the now-closed Inergy, you'll find many of its former staff, management, and décor at this two-room Latin/hip-hop club. Sunday evening drag shows rule the roost. 6680 Southwest Frwy, next to Colorado • 713-278-2582 • crystalclub.com.

CROCKER BAR

Resident DJ Johnny spins on Fri. and Sat. nights at this comfortably remodeled Montrose nightspot that also offers karaoke on Tuesdays and Thursdays and extended happy-hour prices throughout the week. 2312 Crocker • 713/529-3355.

THE EAGLE

Houston's newest dance club for masculine men is full of private nooks and crannies for dancing and cruising. Resident DJs JD Arnold and DJ Rudy man the turntables. Fri. and Sat., 9pm-afterhours; Sun., 6pm-afterhours. 213 Milam St. • eaglehouston.com • 713/236-8777.

EJ'S

Located on the western front of Montrose, EJ's retains the charm of a colorful, local hangout. Frequent shows, including community benefits, pack the stage. The upstairs martini bar offers a quiet retreat. 2517 Ralph • 713/527-9071 • ejbar.com.

F BAR

Award-winning DJs spin nightly at this "boutique nightclub" that offers elegance without arrogance and features a stage, dance floor, VIP area, glass-encased quiet bar, and attractive patio. Tues. and Sun. drag shows feature frequent special guests. 202 Tuam St. • fbarhouston.com • 713/522-3227.

GEORGE

Regulars rule at this comfortable neighborhood sports bar, just like most other neighborhood sports bars in town. But George's occasional benefit drag show makes it a wonderful, campy alternative. Sports Saturdays start at 3pm with dart and pool tournaments; Steak Night is Sun., 3-7pm. 617 Fairview • 713/528-8102.

BEHIND THE BAR
WHO: Stephen Livingston
WHERE: F*Bar
WHAT'S UP: Starting their fourth **F** **fabulous year,**
F*Bar continues to offer a great **calendar fea-**
aturing the Dreamgirls & Legends **on Tuesday**
evenings, and award-winning DJs Joe Ross on Fri-
days and Sundays and Tad Dvorak on Saturdays.
And it's perfect patio weather!

GUAVA LAMP

This trendy and friendly video and cruise bar gets busy during happy hour and stays busy 'til closing. Karaoke on Wed. and Sun., sometimes offering prizes, always packs the place. 570 Waugh Dr. • 713/524-3359 • guavalamphouston.com.

JR'S BAR & GRILL

With house emcee Kofi, OutSmart's Gayest and Greatest reigning drag champion, this Montrose standard offers drag and strip shows throughout the week, karaoke Thurs. and Sun., plus pool tables, male dancers, and award-winning cocktails. 808 Pacific St. • jrbarandgrill.com • 713/521-0123.

METEOR

The men of Manwatch and Muscles in Action rinse down in the "Meteor Shower" stall in this posh but comfy lounge on the downtown edge of Montrose, accompanied by DJ Chris on Fri. and award-winning DJ Eddie E on Sat. Open Thurs.-Sat. 2306 Genesee St. • meteorhouston.com • 713/521-0123.

MICHAEL'S OUTPOST

Jerry Atwood, Clay Howell, Neil Massey, Steve Wheaton, and Roger Woest take turns at the keys at this comfortable neighborhood piano bar. 1419 Richmond Ave. • 713/520-8446.

MONTROSE MINING COMPANY

Studly male dancers bump and grind every night at this leather/denim spot, offering Montrose's lowest vodka drinks with Trash Disco Sundays. The two-tier back patio bar provides a perch for viewing the Pacific Street scenery. 805 Pacific St. • theminehouston.com • 713/529-7488.

NEON BOOTS DANCEHALL & SALOON

Houston's only LGBT country & western dancehall is located at the Historic Esquire Ballroom and is open Thursday-Sunday. 11410 Hempstead Hwy • neonbootsclub.com • 713/677-0828.

PEARL LOUNGE

This LGBT-friendly lounge is open under "familiar" management in the Washington corridor. Daily highlights range from open mic night to steak night to appearances by DJ Kittie and DJ Ben Phoenix from KRBE. Drink specials and more. 4216 Washington.

THE RIPCORD

This well-kept, multi-roomed leather bar for men and their friends boasts a busy patio, especially on the weekends. The Black Hawk Leather shop is located inside the club, providing BDSM essentials. 715 Fairview Ave. • 713/521-2792 • theripcord.com.

RUDYARD'S

The eclectic British pub is known for its craft beers as well as for the burgers. Most weekends you'll find up-and-coming local bands rocking the house. 2010 Waugh Dr. • rudyardspub.com • 713/521-0521.

THE 611

This neighborhood club is a popular spot with pool sharks. On Fri. and Sat., the 611 dishes up buffet dinners. Features include a garden-style patio. 611 Hyde Park • 713/526-7070.

SOUTH BEACH

This mega-dance club is a frequent winner of OutSmart's Gayest and Greatest awards, with DJ Eddie E spinning on Fri., and DJ Joe Ross playing pop & dance music videos on Sat. No cover before 11pm. 810 Pacific St. • sobehouston.com • 713/529-SOBE.

TC'S SHOWBAR

New owners Tim and Corey have revamped the deep-Montrose neighborhood bar, erasing any hint of its former occupant, Cousin's. Numerous flat-screen televisions and day-long drink specials highlight the updated décor. 817 Fairview • 713/526-2625 • tcshowbar.com.

TONY'S CORNER POCKET

This comfortable club located close to downtown has one of the friendliest bar staffs in town, both inside & outside at its patio bar. The raised stage where local charities perform also features an amateur dance contest each Thurs., Fri., & Sat. at 11pm. Opens daily at noon. 817 W. Dallas • 713/571-7870 • tonyscornerpocketbar.com.

VIVIANA'S

This club, in a new location, appeals to fans of Latino music and drag alike. 4624 Dacoma • 713/681-4104.

Beaumont

ORLEANS STREET PUB AND PATIO

The place to hang for food, fun, and booze in a newly renovated pub, in good weather or bad. Open every night from 7pm-2am. 650 Orleans • 409/835-4243.

Bryan/College Station

HALO VIDEO BAR

The only LGBT dance club in Bryan/College station, this sleek spot is open Thurs.-Sat. Smack in the middle of Aggieland, "our venue is always packed with the hotties," the owners promise. 121 North Main • 979/823-6174 • halobcs.com.

Galveston

3RD COAST DOWNTOWN

Just because its owners moved the club from its longtime Seawall location, it doesn't mean it's not still one of the most popular spots for Galveston's LGBTs. Its new "urban chic" look maintains its tropical flair. 2416 Postoffice St. • 409/765-6911.

PINK DOLPHIN

A familiar name returns to Galveston's roster of gay bars, with new owner Tom Long. The friendly, neighborhood BYOB spot offers affordable setups and an off-the-Seawall, downtown-based island escape. 1706 Tremont St. • 409/621-1808.

ROBERT'S LAFITTE

A neighborhood bar, the island institution attracts a colorful crowd of regulars and travelers. The private patio includes a swimming pool. On Sat. and Sun. nights, the Ladies of Lafitte show takes the stage. 2501 Avenue Q (at 25th) • 409/765-9092.

STARS BEACH CLUB

The island's newest entry into its ever-growing roster of gay bars is energized by visually stunning touches of light throughout. DJ Joe Rios spins for the spacious club, which also offers ample outdoor seating. 3102 Seawall Blvd. • 409/497-4113 • starsbeachclub.com.

Spring

RANCH HILL SALOON

With its two pool tables, 52-inch plasma televisions, and large dance floor, this popular northside spot also offers DJs Thursday-Saturday. 247041 I-45N Suite 103 • 281/298-9035 • ranchhill.com.

THE ROOM

Northside LGBTs relax on couches and enjoy multiple television screens, pool tables, & an ample dance floor where famed local DJs Triple-S and Dylan Barnes rotate to provide the music on Retro Fridays, New Mix Saturdays, & Trash Disco Sundays. Open daily. 4915 FM 2920 #148 • theroombar.net. ■

Thank You for voting me your
 Favorite Community Photographer!
Here's looking at you, kids.



Recent event photos on
 the website:

Montrose Softball League

TGRA

HRC Gala

GMCH & Bayou City Women's Chorus

Out @ TUTS Night at the Hobby Center

Act OUT/Alley Theatre

Black Tie Dinner

Houston Pride Band

Pride Parade

And more!

www.DaltonDeHart.com

Need a professional photographer for your special event? Call Dalton at (713) 622-2202.

Gimmie OSM!

You can pick up the print version of OutSmart magazine the first week of each month at any one of our 350 distribution partners. Below are just a few.

OutSmart

MONTROSE
 Rudyard's
 2010 Waugh • 77006
 Re/MAX Cityview
 2908 Baldwin St. • 77006

HEIGHTS
 Total Nutrition
 174 Yale • 77007

UPPER KIRBY
 Clayton Boone
 State Farm Ins.
 2027 S. Shepherd Dr.,
 Ste. B • 77019
 Giacomo's
 3215 Westheimer • 77098

WEST
 Maine-ly Sandwich
 10745 N. Frwy. • 77037

CLEAR LAKE
 Spec's
 1033 West Bay Area Blvd.,
 • 77550

GALVESTON
 Mosquito Cafe
 628 14th Street • 77550

OutSmart
 If you know of a location that would like to distribute OutSmart or don't know where to pick one up, send us an email to: Tom@OutSmartMagazine.com.



by
Lilly
Roddy

April Is Going to Be a Tense Month

Several planets line up to form a 'cosmic cross' in the sky

This "cosmic cross" tends to push people to the edge, and sometimes it forces decision-making. There are several days in April that will feel especially intense. With the lunar eclipse on the 15th, the 14th through the 16th could bring a lot of new information to light. Conditions can change quickly, and you need to be ready to respond. The cosmic cross will produce another strong surge from the 19th through the 23rd. We haven't seen the planets line up like this in a while, and it is very likely that we will see some global changes taking place. The solar eclipse on the 29th will continue to raise anxiety levels. • The intensity of this planetary alignment remains strong through the first week of May. As a side note, the big storms we are seeing in the northern part of the country continue right along with this cosmic cross.

Taurus (April 20–May 20). You continue your long-term planning process. You've been working on your boundaries, so you're doing a much better job of saying no. Relationships with coworkers and those in your immediate circle continue to be tense, especially from the 14th to the 16th and again from the 21st to the 23rd. Normally, you are the peacekeeper here. Just be sure that this is really your responsibility. After the 23rd, you communicate much more clearly and feel much more stable. Make sure that you take time for some rest and retreat this month.

Gemini (May 21–June 21). The first half of the month should be a busy time for the Gemini's social lives. If you are socially minded, this is a great time to get involved with a community organization and become connected with a cause. In your professional lives, you are cleaning up and restructuring your work environment. On the 10th and the 11th, you are more sensitive than usual, so keep the drama to a minimum. This is an especially good time to restart some kind of exercise program. By the end of the month, you need some time to yourself.

Cancer (June 22–July 22). Like those born in the other cardinal signs (Aries, Libra, and Capricorn), this is a high-powered month for you. This is a very innovative time in your life when you're really feeling driven to step out and express yourself more authentically than you have in the past. Remain centered to avoid being pulled in many different directions at once. This is a time of action for you, so just accept your fears and move forward. The intensity eases up somewhat during May.

Leo (July 23–August 22). Leos are really working to make their foundations more stable during April. You are carefully considering your plans in detail before taking any action. You are much more socially active this month, so be careful that you don't overload yourself, especially around mid month. Toward the end of the month, your focus shifts to your career and work. At the end of April and the beginning of May, you are going to be making some decisions about your work and the direction it's taking.

Virgo (August 23–September 22). You are paying a lot of attention to your financial situation this month. You are continuing to work on getting your financial affairs in order and freeing yourself from past debts or financial mishaps. You are especially motivated this month to work on that so you can really set yourself free. Friends, groups, and business associates are especially beneficial to you this month. Relationship energies are a bit tense from the 10th through the 12th. You or your partner just need some time for yourselves.

Libra (September 23–October 23). With Mars continuing to visit your sign this month, you are certainly more direct and authentic in your actions and your speech. With the "cosmic cross" lining up during April, you have to be careful that you don't overload your schedule by trying to make everyone happy. You are very busy at work, and that's likely to continue for the next couple of months. Relationships can seem very demanding, so you just have to be clearer about your boundaries. Be sure to get out and do some exercise so this "Mars effect" can have some release.

Scorpio (October 24–November 21). With Saturn continuing to make a strong impact in your sign, you are busy completing some of the projects you've been working on. You are concerned with the best possible use of your personal resources—time, love, money, and talent. You are not going to allow other people to waste those resources. You continue to reorganize at work and update some existing systems, so things seem hectic during the middle of the month. Personal relationships are more the focus as we get to the end of the month, when there's a better sense of stability. New adventures open up with the New Moon on April 29.



Aries (March 21–April 19). Happy birthday to the Rams and Ewes! This is an especially busy birthday month. You could easily feel pulled in several directions at once this month. You may feel trapped by your circumstances and be forced to make some decisions during April. Relationship energies continue to be tense if you're not getting to the core of your problems. This is also a great time to renew your relationship bonds. Work and career opportunities continue to expand. Take your time, and don't jump the gun.

Sagittarius (November 22–December 21). You are in a more playful mood this month, despite the tensions that are going on. It's a creative time for you, and you're in the mood for some sort of adventure. That desire could even be projected onto your children. You are reconsidering your membership in social organizations. Make sure you take some time to yourself from the 10th through the 12th. Your motivation to change your health and diet regimen gets stronger as we get to the end of the month.

Capricorn (December 22–January 19). There is a lot of focus this month on your career. You are either cleaning up and reorganizing your work situation, or you're considering starting your own business. This is a major time of overhauling the career area of your life. Your family is demanding a

lot of your time this month, so don't be afraid to say what you feel. You are not feeling like making sacrifices. Your partners are much more supportive, and that will certainly help.

Aquarius (January 20–February 18). You're in a very creative mood this month, and you're able to communicate new ideas equally well. You are feeling very energetic, taking on lots of small projects around your home throughout April. You are also taking on some new challenges and leadership roles at work this month. You feel a lot more stable about that as we get to the end of the month. This is a time for you to make decisions and move forward.

Pisces (February 18–March 20). You are really focused on getting yourself financially free. You could really be capitalizing on some of your special and unique talents. This can be a good time for you to consider doing something more on your own. Be sure and take some time for yourself from the 10th through the 12th. Otherwise, your lack of patience will be obvious to others. By the end of the month you are feeling a bit more stable. Be ready to move forward with your plans as we enter May.

Read Lilly Roddy's 2014 forecast at OutSmartMagazine.com. For more astro-insight, log on to lillyrodgy.com.



OUT IN HOUSTON



Brian Flores and **Sharon Lord** at the Diana Foundation's Mardi Gras Party on February 28 at the home of John Danielson and Brian Flores.



Richard Holt, Texas State Rep. **Celia Israel**, and U.S. Rep. **Mark Takano** at Victory Fund 2014 Champagne Brunch at the Hilton Americas on March 16.



Ryan Leach, **Robin Brown**, Senator **Wendy Davis**, and **Jennifer Bajorek** at Pints and Pride for Wendy on February 20 at Saint Arnold's Brewery.



Steven Scarborough, **Michael Crowder**, **Jennie Rebecca Stephenson**, **Chris Johnson**, and **Manta Fairbanks** at Fresh Arts 2014 Gala - "The Space Ball" at Silver Street Studios on March 7.



Eric Liston, **Meleah Jones**, **Lee Yawitz**, **Ann Robinson**, and **JD Doyle** at Montrose Center's Bringin' In the Green 2014 on March 14.



Chad Michaels, **Dessie Love-Blake**, **Dina Jacobs**, **Kara Dion**, and **Ty Frazier** at the Chad Michaels as Cher event at Guava Lamp on March 23.



Ruben Galvan, **Kelly Young**, **George Lancaster**, Council member **Mike Laster**, and Houston Dynamo cheerleader **Anna** at AIDS Walk 2014 for AIDS Foundation Houston on March 9.



Mayor **Annise D. Parker** and First Lady **Kathy Hubbard** celebrating their recent marriage with family and friends at a reception held on March 23 at the Corinthian Downtown Houston.



MSL Commissioner **Henry Gonzalez**, **Mike Harwell**, **Lisa Scarborough**, and **Ray Olachia** at Montrose Softball League's 2014 Opening Day on March 23.



Daryl & Tim, **Michael Salinas** (the best costume winner), Mystery & Fantasy President **Scott Miller**, and **Ken Simons** at the 2014 Mystery and Fantasy Mardi Gras Party on February 22.

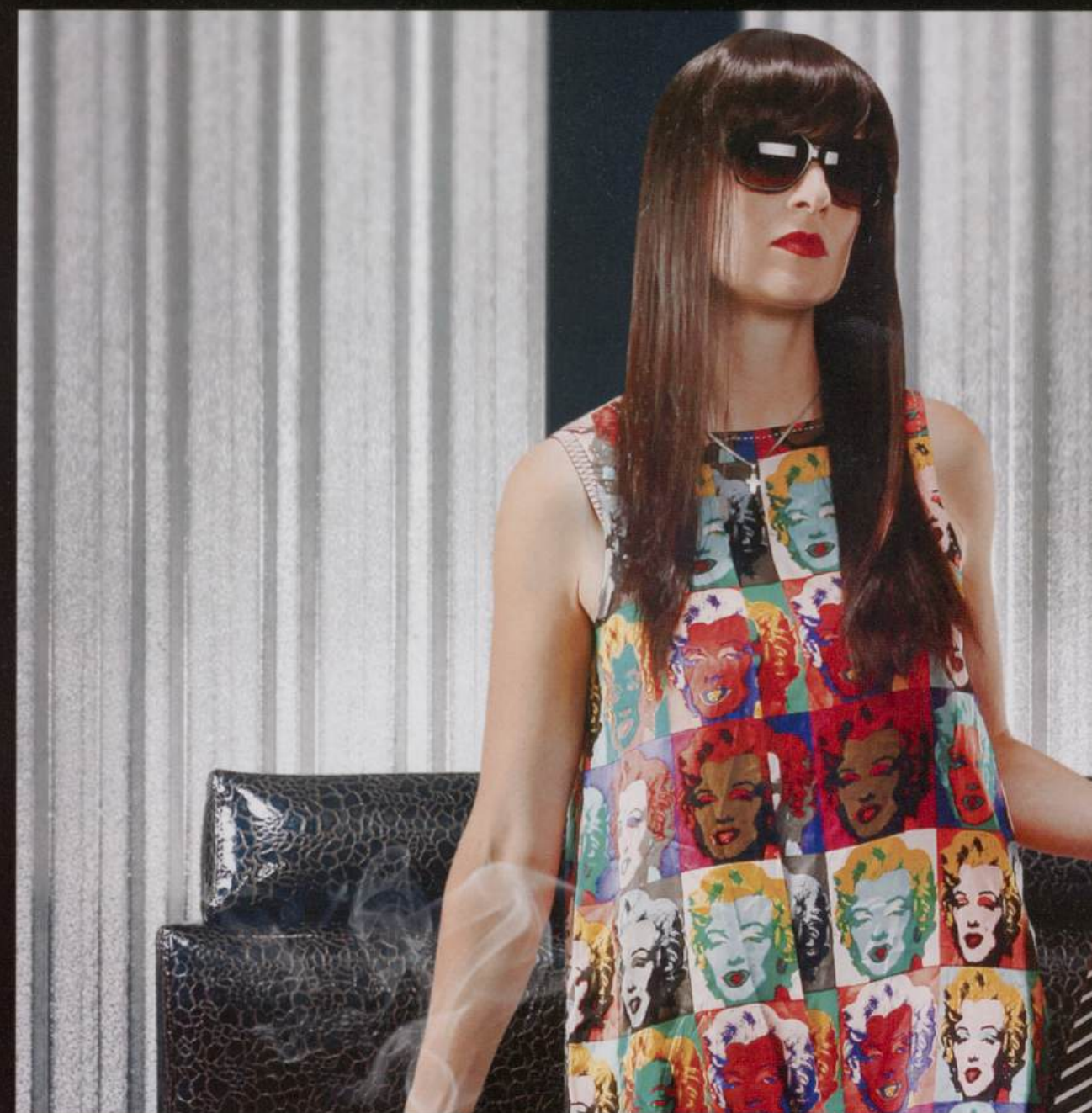


Kourtney Paige Van Wales, **Bill Bridges** (50-year member), and **Rodrigo Zuniga** at the Diana Foundation's 61st Annual Awards Banquet - "Cirque Du Dianas" on March 22.



Models from the Andrew Christian Fashion Show on February 22 at South Beach.

THE EYE GALLERY SEMI ANNUAL SAMPLE SALE MARCH 24 - APRIL 19



EYEGALLERYHOUSTON.COM

1806 WESTHEIMER RD.

713.523.1279

2542 AMHERST ST.

832.831.7253

THE ART OF DENTISTRY

in all its forms...

SERVICE | PREVENTION | AESTHETIC

**Congratulations
OutSmart on 20 Years!**

We are proud to have been with you since the first issue!



BRUCE W. SMITH DDS

Cosmetic, Reconstructive & Preventive
Dentistry For Adults Since 1981

1006 Missouri Street • Houston, Texas 77006

713.529.4364

BruceSmithDDS.com