

DEC. 2016

HOUSTON'S LGBT MAGAZINE

OutSmart

OutSmartMagazine.com

ILLUMINATED *Holidays*

Discovery Green's
Enchanted Promenade by TILT

**THE YEAR
IN REVIEW**

Dalton DeHart's
Photo Essay

**HAUTEST
HOT CHOCOLATES**

A Curated
Cocoa Crawl

WE BELIEVE THAT FAMILIES,
LIKE BABIES, COME IN ALL
SHAPES AND SIZES.



aspire[™]
FERTILITY

We create families.

We're changing the way fertility services are provided.
To everyone.

Contact us to learn more:
713.425.3003 | aspirefertility.com

*Our common purpose is to achieve the highest bar in experience,
science, and medicine—no exceptions.*

WEST SIDE VILLAS

From the \$540's | Spring Branch East
westsidevillas.com



ELGIN CITY VIEWS

From the \$450's | Midtown
elgincityviews.com



\$649,000

Montrose

StanfordStreetLanding.com



From the \$930's

Montrose

SkylineOnIndiana.com



From the \$420's

Spring Branch East

MayfairAtClarkson.com



From the \$430's

Sawyer Heights

BinghamStreetGrove.com



From the \$470's

Rice Military

ReinermanLanding.com



From the \$460's

Rice Military

WashingtonHeightsVillas.com



From the \$390's

Shady Acres

West24thManor.com



From the \$440's

Museum District

ViewsOnChenevert.com



713-868-7226

5023 Washington Avenue

www.UrbanLiving.com





OutSmart
GAYEST & GREATEST
2016

Voted Best Realtor 2014-2016
 OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards 2013-2016

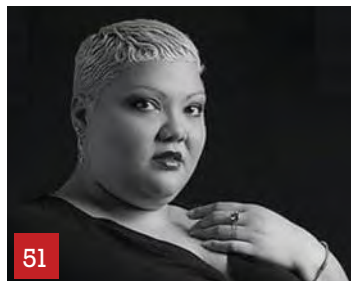
JEREMY FAIN
 Accredited Luxury Home Specialist

Your Friend • Your Family
YOUR REALTOR


GREENWOOD KING PROPERTIES
 LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL
jfain@greenwoodking.com
 713.677.4337

DEC.2016 FEATURES VOLUME 23 • NUMBER 11

OutSmart



51



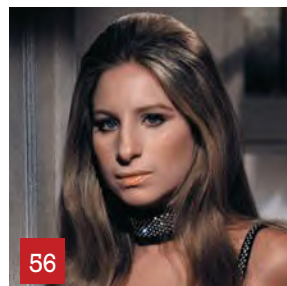
35



61



40



56



45

35
ABOLISH ELECTORAL COLLEGE?
 Undemocratic process?

40
BLACK LIVES MATTER
 ... this year and every year

42
2016 YEAR IN REVIEW
 A mixed year for our community

49
CONTEMPORARY CLASSIC
 'The Nutcracker'

51
HARK, AN ANGEL SINGS!
 Pride Superstar winner Christina Wells

53
BREAK OUT THE HOLIDAY GARLAND
 24th annual Judy Garland Christmas party

56
'TIS THE SEASON TO GIVE
 2016 OutSmart Holiday Gift Guide

61
SWEET AND 'DIRTY'
 John Swapshire in 'Dirty Dancing'

63
A CURATED COCOA CRAWL
 Houston's hottest hot chocolates

65
CUISINE WITH A CAUSE
 Galveston Restaurant Week brings awareness

67
A DRAG MYSTERY
 An interview with queer-music historian JD Doyle

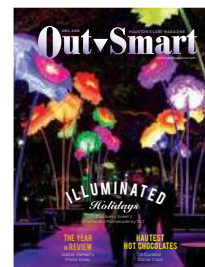
69
SURVIVAL GUIDE
 David France's new book expands on his 2012 doc

77
ENDING HIV/AIDS
 A community commitment

78
WEDDING GUIDE
 Native Texans Conrad Fertitta and Gary Barnes exchange vows in the piney woods of Navasota. Also, set the mood for love with the perfect wedding décor and gifts

101
DISCOVER THE 'ENCHANTED'
 Two new art exhibits light up Discovery Green

COVER STORY



ON THE COVER

'ENCHANTED PROMENADE'
 AT DISCOVERY GREEN
 (SEE PAGE 101.)

Photo: Katya Homer

Design: Alexandre Rosa

A CONDOM ISN'T 100% ...

IT'S TIME TO TALK PrEP.



KNOW YOUR OPTIONS.

A CONDOM ISN'T 100% EFFECTIVE

A CONDOM ISN'T ALWAYS USED

A CONDOM ISN'T ALWAYS AVAILABLE

A CONDOM ISN'T YOUR ONLY OPTION



GORDON E. CROFOOT, MD
MAGGIE WHITE, FNP-BC

VOTED "GAYEST & GREATEST" PHYSICIAN BY OUTSMART 2009–2015

HIV PREVENTION & TREATMENT
TALK TO US. **713.526.0005**

TRADE YOUR CAMERA FOR CASH!

TEXAS' BEST SELECTION OF NEW & USED CAMERAS

Canon Nikon SONY and all major brands



LENSES



LIGHTING



Online @ hcehouston.com

5900 Richmond Ave. (at Fountainview) Houston, TX 77057

Store Hours: Mon-Fri: 10am-7pm; Sat: 10am-6pm

713-789-6901 1-800-CAMERA-5

**DEC.2016
DEPARTMENTS**

OutSmart

NEWS & COMMENT

- 11 > NEWS & COMMUNITY**
- 25 > LEFTOUT**
An overdose of woe
- 26 > MONEYSMART**
What if your biggest financial asset disappeared?
- 30 > TIMEOUT**
OutSMART's readers and recommendations

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

- 86 > QUEER QUOTES**
Jack Falahee, Anna Kendrick, Bex Taylor-Klaus, Billy Eichner, and *Duck Dynasty*
- 88 > DVD**
Girls Lost, *Fire Song*, and *Florence Foster Jenkins*
- 90 > MOVIES**
Loving
- 92 > GROOVEOUT**
Lady Gaga, Pentatonix, Leonard Cohen, Neil Sedaka, Jeff Beck, Barry Gibb, Heart, and more
- 94 > READOUT**
Marilyn Forever and *Montrose Texas: The Untold Story*

OUT & ABOUT

- 18 CALENDAR** **108 BAR/CLUB GUIDE**
- 96 OUTTHERE** **110 SIGNOUT**
- 102 BUSINESS NEWS** **112 SCENEOUT**

ADVERTISERS INDEX

- 104 Advertisers Index
- 106 Classified Marketplace



**ONLINE
EXCLUSIVES**

OutSmartMagazine.com



EXPANDED GALLERIES

- Halloween Magic 2016
- LAMBDA NextGen at Pearl Bar
- Out at TUTS: *How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying*
- Bering Community Services and HACS: "Sing for Hope"
- TUTS' *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* Cast and Crew Party at Artista

WEB EXCLUSIVE

Treatment as
Prevention:
Marking
World AIDS Day



Our Houston is fearless.

Learn more about Christin, Emma and Megan and
find your Houston at MyGayHouston.com/discover

My Gay
HOUSTON

Location: OKRA Charity Saloon, Downtown. Photo Credit: Spencer Harrison.

CUTTING *edge* CLOSETS

CLOSETS | PANTRIES | HOME OFFICES | WALL BEDS | GARAGES | AND MORE



Schedule your **FREE** in-home Design Consultation Today!

Call 281.351.2210

- Proudly Serving Houston For 18 Years
- Lifetime Warranty
- Professional Installation & Spotless Clean Up
- Local independent manufacturer



CuttingEdgeClosets.com



30% off SALE**
PLUS
FREE Jewelry Drawer

with a minimum \$1000 purchase.
Sale ends December 1, 2016

**For November 2016 quotes only

NOW PUBLISHING IN OUR 23RD 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

Associate Creative Director

Kelsey Gledhill

Graphic Artist Alexandre Rosa

Contributing Writers

Rich Arenschieldt, Susan Bankston, Troy Carrington, Bradley Donalson, Lawrence Ferber, Steven Foster, David Goldberg, Marene Gustin, Josh Inocencio, Ryan Leach, Januari Leo, Suzie Lynde, Donalevan Maines, Joanna O'Leary, Lilly Roddy, Terri Schlichenmeyer, Gregg Shapiro, Janice Stensrude, Henry V. Thiel, Megan Wadding, Josh Watkins, Barrett White, Brandon Wolf, John Wright, Grace S. Yung

Photographers/Illustrators

Edgardo Aguilar, Dalton DeHart, Theresa DiMenno, Yvonne Feece, Mark Hiebert, David Eduardo Flores Perez

Marketing Manager Kelsey Gledhill

Account Executives

Jack Berger, PC Douglas, Joanna Jackson

Web Editor Megan E. Smith

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. ©2016 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.



DR. JULIET FARMER
Therapeutic Optometrist

Boutique
EYE CARE



Voted Best Female Eye Doctor
– OutSmart Readers' Choice 2016

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



THE EYE GALLERY



PROUD TO BE VOTED OUTSMART'S THE BEST PLACE TO BUY EYEWEAR



EYEGALLERYHOUSTON.COM

1806 WESTHEIMER RD.-RIVER OAKS

2542 AMHERST ST.-RICE VILLAGE

1700 POST OAK BLVD.(NEXT TO WHOLE FOODS)

POST OAK LOCATION NOW OPEN SUNDAYS!

713.523.1279

832.831.7253

713.622.7470

THE HONORABLE

BRIAN SIMS

Pennsylvania State Representative
Keynote Speaker

RD **RED
DINNER**

04.08.17

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
reserve your seat at

REDDINNER.ORG

Children of Same-Sex Parents Fare Just as Well as Peers, According to Study

By Megan Wadding

New research shows that children adopted by same-sex parents fare just as well as their peers raised by heterosexual parents.

The long-term study, conducted by University of Kentucky assistant professor of psychology Rachel H. Farr, was published in October in the *Developmental Psychology* journal. It followed children of same-sex couples over a long period of time, and focused on numerous aspects of childhood development and family life.

According to Farr, this longitudinal study compared outcomes for children, parents, couples, and the overall family system among nearly 100 adoptive families with lesbian, gay, and heterosexual parents at two different time points. The first data collection was done when the children were preschool age, and a follow-up set of data was collected approximately five years later, when those same children were in middle school. All participating parents adopted their children as infants.

The study assessed the welfare of the



children based on reports from both the parents and teachers of the children. The parents also completed self-assessments about their own well-being.

“At both time points, child outcomes were assessed via parent- and teacher-reported behavior problems, while parent outcomes were assessed via self-reports of parenting stress levels,” said Farr. “Couple and family outcomes were evaluated by parent reports of couple adjustment and overall family functioning.”

The study found that parental stress lev-

els—and not familial structure—were the biggest influence on a child’s well-being and likelihood of developing behavioral issues. It showed that parents with lower stress levels tended to raise children with fewer behavioral problems, regardless of the parents’ sexual orientation. Children raised by same-sex couples fared just as well as children raised by heterosexual couples.

Farr first began the study when she was a graduate student at the University of Virginia, and the first wave of data was collected between 2007 and 2009. Beyond her numerous personal and professional connections to both adoption and LGBTQ issues, she wanted to conduct the study because she hopes to contribute facts and science to the public debate about same-sex adoptions and parenting.

“Given that lesbian and gay parenting continues to be a controversial issue in our country, and in many places around the world, I have been interested in [addressing the] questions raised in these debates with

continued on page 16

COMMUNITY

Photos by Dalton DeHart and Edgardo Aguilar



On November 10, **TUTS** held its *Rocky Horror Picture Show* cast and crew party at Artista.



The **OUT@TUTS** performance of *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* was held on October 27. Pictured are the show’s cast and crew.



On October 29, Guava Lamp hosted a Halloween fundraiser and check presentation for Homeless Gay Kids-Houston. Pictured are **Kelly Hejtmancik**, **Marie Hejtmancik**, **Jeff Hoffman**, **Ben Pickell**, and **Daisy Pena**.

TRIUMEQ is a once-a-day pill used to treat HIV-1. In some people, TRIUMEQ should not be used by itself. Take TRIUMEQ exactly as your healthcare provider tells you.

APPROVED USES

TRIUMEQ is a prescription HIV-1 (Human Immunodeficiency Virus-type 1) medicine used alone or with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS. TRIUMEQ is not for use by itself in people who have or have had resistance to abacavir, dolutegravir, or lamivudine. TRIUMEQ should not be used in children under the age of 18.

TRIUMEQ does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

TRIUMEQ can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Serious allergic reactions (hypersensitivity reaction)** that can cause death have happened with TRIUMEQ and other abacavir-containing products. Your risk of this allergic reaction to abacavir is much higher if you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701. Your healthcare provider can determine with a blood test if you have this gene variation. **If you get symptoms from 2 or more of the following groups while taking TRIUMEQ, call your healthcare provider right away: 1. fever; 2. rash; 3. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain; 4. generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness; 5. shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat.** Your pharmacist will give you a Warning Card with a list of these symptoms. **Carry this Warning Card with you at all times.**

If you stop taking TRIUMEQ because of an allergic reaction, never take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir- or dolutegravir-containing medicines again. If you take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **within hours** you may get **life-threatening symptoms** that may include **very low blood pressure** or **death**. If you stop TRIUMEQ for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to TRIUMEQ, talk with your healthcare provider before taking it again. Taking TRIUMEQ again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before. **If your healthcare provider tells you that you can take TRIUMEQ again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a healthcare provider if you need one.**

- **A buildup of acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take TRIUMEQ. This serious medical emergency can cause death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you** feel very weak or tired; have unusual muscle pain; have trouble breathing; have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy/light-headed; or have a fast/irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems** can happen in people who take TRIUMEQ. In some cases, these serious liver problems can lead to death. **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analogue medicines for a long time. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms:**
 - yellow skin, or the white part of the eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark urine; light-colored stools; loss of appetite for several days or longer; nausea; pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area
- **Worsening of hepatitis B virus in people who have HIV-1 infection.** If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B virus (HBV), your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking TRIUMEQ. A “flare-up” is when your HBV suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Worsening liver disease can be serious and may lead to death. Do not stop taking TRIUMEQ without first talking to your healthcare provider, so he or she can monitor your health.
- **Resistant hepatitis B virus.** If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B, the hepatitis B virus can change (mutate) during your treatment with TRIUMEQ and become harder to treat (resistant).

- **Use with interferon and ribavirin-based regimens.** If you're taking TRIUMEQ and interferon, with or without ribavirin, tell your healthcare provider about any new symptoms. Worsening of liver disease that has caused death has happened in people infected with both HIV-1 and hepatitis C who were taking antiretroviral medicines and interferon.

Who should not take TRIUMEQ?

- **Do not take TRIUMEQ if you:**
 - have the HLA-B*5701 gene variation
 - are allergic to abacavir, dolutegravir, or any of the ingredients in TRIUMEQ
 - take dofetilide (Tikosyn®)
 - have liver or kidney problems

What are other possible side effects of TRIUMEQ?

- People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with TRIUMEQ. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your liver function before and during treatment with TRIUMEQ.
- 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 new symptoms after you start taking TRIUMEQ.
- Changes in body fat can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicines.
- Some HIV-1 medicines, including TRIUMEQ, may increase your risk of heart attack.

The most common side effects of TRIUMEQ include: trouble sleeping, headache, tiredness

These are not all the possible side effects of TRIUMEQ. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRIUMEQ?

- **Before you take TRIUMEQ, tell your healthcare provider if you:**
 - have been tested and know whether or not you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701
 - have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection; have kidney problems; have heart problems, smoke, or have diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes; drink alcohol or take medicines that contain alcohol
 - are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRIUMEQ will harm your unborn baby
 - are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take TRIUMEQ**
- **You should not take TRIUMEQ if you also take:**
 - abacavir (EPZICOM®, TRIZIVIR®, or ZIAGEN®)
 - lamivudine (COMBIVIR®, Dutrebis™, EPVIR®, EPVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM, or TRIZIVIR)
 - emtricitabine (Emtriva®, Atripla®, Complera®, Stribild®, or Truvada®)

Important Safety Information continued on next page

“We’re MOVING FORWARD with TRIUMEQ.”

Peter

Diagnosed with
HIV in 2015

Garland

Diagnosed
with HIV
in 2016

Leopold

Diagnosed with
HIV in 2003

Jeannette

Diagnosed with
HIV in 2011

Jack

Diagnosed with
HIV in 2010



Real patients with HIV-1 taking TRIUMEQ as of 2014
or later. Individual results may vary.
Individuals compensated for their time by Viiv Healthcare.

• **Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements (for example, antacids or laxatives; vitamins such as iron or calcium supplements; anti-seizure medicines; other medicines to treat HIV-1, hepatitis, or tuberculosis; metformin; methadone; or St. John's wort). Some medicines interact with TRIUMEQ. **Keep a list of your medicines to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.**

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 Important Facts about TRIUMEQ on the following pages.

Ask your doctor about

 **Triumeq®**
abacavir 600 mg/dolutegravir 50 mg/
lamivudine 300 mg tablets

learn more at triumeq.com

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about TRIUMEQ and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRIUMEQ

TRIUMEQ® may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Serious allergic reactions (hypersensitivity reaction)** that can cause death have happened with TRIUMEQ and other abacavir-containing products. Your risk of this allergic reaction to abacavir is much higher if you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701. Your healthcare provider can determine with a blood test if you have this gene variation. **If you get symptoms from 2 or more of the following groups while taking TRIUMEQ, call your healthcare provider right away: 1. fever; 2. rash; 3. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain; 4. generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness; 5. shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat.** A list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. **Carry this Warning Card with you at all times.**
- **If you stop taking TRIUMEQ because of an allergic reaction, never take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir- or dolutegravir-containing medicines again.** If you take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **within hours** you may get **life-threatening symptoms** that may include **very low blood pressure** or **death**. If you stop TRIUMEQ for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to TRIUMEQ, talk with your healthcare provider before taking it again. Taking TRIUMEQ again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before. **If your healthcare provider tells you that you can take TRIUMEQ again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a healthcare provider if you need one.**
- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms:** feeling very weak or tired, unusual 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**, which in some cases can lead to death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms:** your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools (bowel movements), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain on the right side.

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

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRIUMEQ. Do not stop taking TRIUMEQ without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.
- **Resistant HBV.** If you have HIV-1 and HBV, the HBV can change (mutate) while you’re on TRIUMEQ and become harder to treat (resistant).
- **Use with interferon and ribavirin-based regimens.** Worsening of liver disease that has caused death has happened in people infected with both HIV-1 and hepatitis C virus who are taking antiretroviral medicines and are also being treated for hepatitis C with interferon with or without ribavirin. If you are taking TRIUMEQ and interferon with or without ribavirin, tell your HCP if you have any new symptoms.

ABOUT TRIUMEQ

- TRIUMEQ is a prescription HIV-1 medicine used alone or with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults. TRIUMEQ is not for use by itself in people who have or have had resistance to abacavir, dolutegravir, or lamivudine. TRIUMEQ should not be used in children under the age of 18.
- **TRIUMEQ does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.** You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

DO NOT TAKE TRIUMEQ IF YOU

- have a certain type of gene variation called the HLA-B*5701 allele. Your HCP will test you for this before prescribing treatment with TRIUMEQ.
- are allergic to abacavir, dolutegravir, or any of the ingredients in TRIUMEQ. See the full Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in TRIUMEQ.
- take dofetilide (Tikosyn®). Taking TRIUMEQ and dofetilide (Tikosyn) can cause side effects that may be life-threatening.
- have liver or kidney problems.
- If you also take: abacavir (EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or ZIAGEN); lamivudine (COMBIVIR®, Dutrebis™, EPIVIR®, EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM, or TRIZIVIR); emtricitabine (Atripla®, Complera®, Emtriva®, Stribild®, or Truvada®) abacavir (EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or ZIAGEN)

BEFORE TAKING TRIUMEQ

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have been tested and know if you have a particular gene variation called HLA-B*5701.
- have or had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection.
- have heart problems, smoke, or have diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes.
- drink alcohol or take medicines that contain alcohol.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRIUMEQ will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1** because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRIUMEQ. **Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider**

IMPORTANT FACTS (cont'd)

MEDICINES THAT MIGHT INTERACT WITH TRIUMEQ

- antacids, laxatives, or other medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium, sucralfate (Carafate®), or buffered medicines. TRIUMEQ should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
- iron or calcium supplements taken by mouth may be taken at the same time with TRIUMEQ if taken with food. Otherwise, TRIUMEQ should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines
- anti-seizure medicines: oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Dilantin®-125, Phenytek®), phenobarbital, carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol®-XR, Teril®, Eptol®)
- any other medicine to treat HIV-1, medicines used to treat hepatitis virus infections (such as interferon or ribavirin), a medicine that contains metformin, methadone, rifampin (Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRIUMEQ

TRIUMEQ can cause serious side effects including:

- See "What is the most important information about TRIUMEQ?" section
- Changes in liver tests.
- Changes in your immune system
- Changes in body fat
- Some HIV-1 medicines including TRIUMEQ may increase your risk of heart attack.

(cont'd)

The most common side effects of TRIUMEQ are: trouble sleeping, headache, and tiredness

These are not all the possible side effects of TRIUMEQ. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRIUMEQ.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRIUMEQ.

You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist
- Go to TRIUMEQ.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved product labeling

COMBIVIR, EPIVIR, EPZICOM, TIVICAY, TRIUMEQ, TRIZIVIR, and ZIAGEN are registered trademarks of the ViiV Healthcare group of companies.

EPIVIR-HBV is a registered trademark of the GSK group of companies.

The other brands listed are trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of the ViiV Healthcare group of companies. The makers of these brands are not affiliated with and do not endorse the ViiV Healthcare group of companies or its products.

©2016, the ViiV Healthcare group of companies. All rights reserved.

April 2016 TRM:4MG

THE HOLIDAYS CAN BE A LONELY TIME. We are here to listen.

THE SAGE NATIONAL LGBT ELDER HOTLINE

operated by the
GLBT National Help Center

NO MATTER WHERE THEY LIVE, LGBT elders now have a place to call when they need peer counseling, information and local resources.



LGBT VOLUNTEERS

are trained to speak with LGBT older people about relationship concerns, bullying, workplace issues, HIV/AIDS, anxiety, safer-sex information and more!

Learn about volunteering at sageusa.org/hotline.

CALL TOLL-FREE

1-888-234-SAGE

HOURS

Mon-Fri: 4pm-Midnight ET

Sat: Noon-5pm ET

Se habla Español.

Free and confidential.

 sage



continued from page 11

research,” said Farr. “As sexual-minority parents increasingly adopt children, longitudinal research about child development, parenting, and family relationships is crucial for informing such debates. Empirical evidence can help to move public debate forward and inform policy, practice, and law.”

Farr said she was not at all surprised by the findings, for several reasons.

According to Farr, her results align with the more than 30 years of childhood-development research in the context of lesbian- and gay-parent families.

Her study is ongoing, so more findings will continue to be released. The next wave of data is scheduled to be collected when the children reach adolescence.

“At the heart of the matter are the many thousands of children in our country who are currently awaiting placement in permanent adoptive families. There is no empirical evidence indicating that [lesbian and gay] prospective adoptive parents should be categorically barred or limited from adopting on

the basis of sexual orientation,” Farr said. “All prospective adoptive parents should be rigorously screened before adopting children, regardless of sexual orientation. Given that children do well with lesbian and gay parents, and that lesbian and gay adults make well-qualified parents, adoption and child-welfare agencies would do well to reach out to this particular population of prospective adoptive parents.”

‘San Antonio Four’ Exonerated in Child Rape Case

By Emanuella Grinberg, CNN

They spent nearly 15 years in prison for a crime so unspeakable that they simply became known as the “San Antonio Four.”

Elizabeth Ramirez, Kristie Mayhugh, Cassandra Rivera, and Anna Vasquez were convicted in the late 1990s of gang-raping two little girls who were Ramirez’s nieces.

They had recently come out as lesbians,

and prosecutors at the time used their sexuality as a motive. The women refused plea deals and took the rare step of testifying in their defense to say they had done no wrong.

After years of fighting to clear their names, the state’s highest court exonerated them on November 23, saying they had achieved the “Herculean” task of proving their innocence. The ruling overturns their convictions, prevents further prosecutions, and paves the way for the women to potentially seek millions of dollars in compensation from the State.

“Those defendants have won the right to proclaim to the citizens of Texas that they did not commit a crime. That they are innocent. That they deserve to be exonerated,” Texas Court of Appeals judge David Newell wrote in the majority opinion.

The Bexar County District Attorney’s Office, which prosecuted the case, welcomed the decision.

“It has been a long legal process for these women, and our office has worked with the defense to ensure justice was done in this case. With today’s announcement, we believe the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals’ decision did that,” District Attorney Nico LaHood said in a

continued on page 99

COMMUNITY

Photos by Dalton DeHart and Edgardo Aguilar

On November 12, **PMT Productions** held its performance of *The Wild Party* at the HUB Studio. Pictured are the show’s cast and crew.



On November 13, OutReach United held its check presentation at the home of **Gary Wood** and **Bryan Johnson**. Pictured are **Adrian Lee Leyva, Bryan Cotton, Wood, Johnson, Dalton DeHart, Bob Briddick, Tim Stokes, Desmond Bertrand, Justin Pitts, Ann Robison, and Sallie Wyatt-Woodell**.



Kindred Spirits held its check presentation on November 6 at the Montrose Center. Pictured are board members **Marion Coleman, Tricia Lynn, Renee Tappe, Trudy Denny, Jessica Frinsco, Betty Tonnessen, Judy Woods, Marshella Abrams, Margaret Thibodeaux, Sallie Woodell, beneficiaries Danielle Sampey (Lazarus House), Nikki Thompson (Pet Patrol), Ann Robison (SPRY Women’s Program), and Lynn Swartzenberg (AssistHers)**.



Set his heart racing.

Looks that thrill with the performance to match: the all-new C-Class Coupe harmonizes ultra sleek design with sensible sportiness in a vehicle far ahead of its class. A dream combination.

#TogetherWeDream

Mercedes-Benz
The best or nothing.

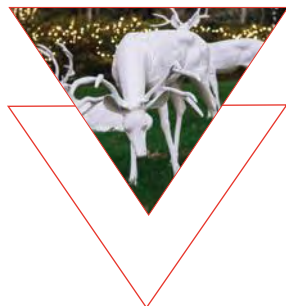


Christmas Village at Bayou Bend

*Fourteen acres
of holiday fun.*



BOTH PHOTOS - COLLIN KELLY



Discover an immersive Christmas experience at beautiful Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens. This year's Christmas Village is more exciting than ever. Get in the holiday spirit with carolers, Santa, a faux-snowball play area, holiday treats, art-making activities and—on eight nights—a live reindeer! In the heart of River Oaks, this holiday wonderland also offers guests festive music, games, tours, and more.

Total fun for the whole family during the season. Meet Jingles, a live reindeer who visits from December 16 through 23; kids can also go on a special scavenger hunt every day of the Christmas Village to spot eight reindeer statues who have run away from Santa's sleigh. The stained-glass Spiegel tent houses seasonal music, holiday treats, and photos with Santa, all while the delight-

ful, handcrafted model train bustles around the Spiegel-tent's sparkling Christmas tree, complete with faux snow. Or, just stroll the verdant grounds and take in all the Christmas lights. This is one of the city's finest holiday treats for young and old. —Marene Gustin

**Christmas Village
at Bayou Bend**
December 10–January 1
mfah.org/a/christmas-village-at-bayou-bend

🔊 Radio ★ Performing Arts 📺 Art & Photography 🔄 Ongoing + Other Things 📅 Save The Date

1

World AIDS Day + AIDS Foundation Houston hosts its annual luncheon. aidshelp.org
Go Yell It on the Mountain! ★ thru 23 obsidiantheater.org (See page 21.)

2

Very Merry Pops ★ Symphony and Santa. houstonSymphony.org
Community Memorial Tree & Holiday Food Drive + thru 31 Bring a canned good for \$2 off admission at the Funeral Museum. nmfh.org

3

HIV & Aging Holiday Party + Annual event for those over 50 living with HIV. agingcoalition.org

4

Three Dimensional Stretch 📺 thru Jan. 5 The Bally's ceramic, glass, and multi-media works. archwaygallery.com

6

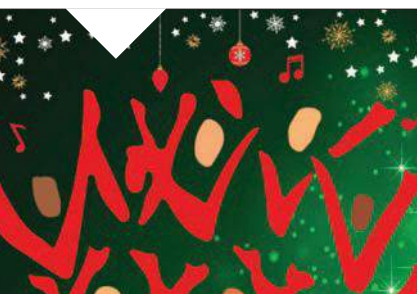
Into the Woods ★ thru 18 The Sondheim musical about what really happened after "happily ever after." tuts.com

7

Christmas Village at Bayou Bend + thru Jan. 1 Fourteen acres of holiday fun for the whole family. mfah.org/a/christmas-village-at-bayou-bend (See above.)

8

Collective + Hope ★ Hope Stone Dance takes the stage at the Hobby Center. hopestoneinc.org



9 Winter Wonderettes ★ & 10 The girls are back with holiday songs. islandetc.org	10 The Nutcracker Afternoon Tea + Teatime fare of food, and get photo with Nutcracker dancers. thegrand.com Santa Train ★ See Santa at the Galveston Railroad Museum. galveston.com/holidaymagic	11 Journey to Sirius 📺 thru 15 A survey of works by George Smith. uhd.edu	12 Festival of Lights & Ice Land Sculptures at Moody Gardens + thru Jan. 8 It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas . . . galveston.com/holidaymagic
13 Degas: A New Vision 📺 thru Jan. 16 The work of Hilaire-Germain-Edgar Degas. mfah.org	14 The First Noel ★ thru 30 A heartwarming musical for the holidays. ensemblehouston.com Picasso: The Line 📺 thru Jan. 8 A collection of the artist's line drawings. menil.org	15 Aurora Holiday Party & Raffle + Party, bid, drink and be entertained! aurorapictureshow.org Two Exhibits 📺 thru Jan. 2 Highlighting early Texas history. mfah.org	16 The Honky Tonk Angels Holiday Special ★ thru 31 Heavenly fun plus holiday music! stagetheatre.com Cirque Joyeux Noel Dinner Show + thru 25 Holiday show at Moody Gardens. galveston.com/holidaymagic
17 Jerry Jeff Walker ★ Hear the Texas Troubadour, one night only. thegrand.com Day for Night ★ & 18 A major music fest by Houston Free Press. dayfornight.io	18 Santa Hustle 5K and Half-Marathon + Grab a hat and work off those holiday calories. galveston.com/holidaymagic Loretta Lynn ★ & 18 The Queen of Country Music. thegrand.com	19 Taking Flight: The Butterfly Project 📺 thru 31 Handmade butterflies crafted by children around the world create hope. At Holocaust Museum Houston. hmh.org	20 Much Ado about Nothing ★ thru 24 One of Shakespeare's best comedies. 4thwalltheatreco.com (See page 21.)
		23 The Ghosts of Christmas Eve ★ How can you not go to a holiday concert by the Trans-Siberian Orchestra? trans-siberian.com	24 HAPPY HANUKKAH!
25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 HAPPY KWANZAA!	27 Bittersweet Harvest: The Bracero Program 1942-1964 ★ thru May 14 The exhibit showcases the bracero program, the largest guest-worker program in U.S. history. hmh.org	
29 Dwight Yoakam ★ Performs at Houston's theater-in-the-round. arenahouston.com	30 Jesse Lott Exhibit 📺 This exhibit opens the new Fifth Ward art space Mystic Lyon. fresharts.org	31 Walking Tours + Architecture Center Houston and AIA Houston's Buffalo Bayou walking tour. aiahouston.org	January 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

More CALENDAR →

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY GIFT FOR
THE WHOLE FAMILY

Theatre Under The Stars Presents

21ST INTO THE Woods

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
STEPHEN SONDHEIM

BOOK BY
JAMES LAPINE

Directed & Choreographed By
ROBERT LONGBOTTOM
Tony® Award Nominee

Assistant Director &
Associate Choreographer
KAREN SIEBER

Musical Director
CHARLIE ALTERMAN

Lighting Designer
KEN BILLINGTON
Tony® Award Winner

Sound Designer
PETER FITZGERALD

Scenic Designer
KEVIN DEPINET

Costume Designer
ANN HOULD-WARD
Tony® Award Winner

Hair, Makeup & Prosthetic Designer
JEFF KNAGGS

Starring
EMILY SKINNER
Tony® Award Nominee
as The Witch

NOW MORE *Magical* THAN EVER BEFORE

ONLY 16 PERFORMANCES!

December 6 - 18, 2016

A Lavish New Production:

Original Costume Design... in an all new Scenic Environment

Ann Hould-Ward, the award winning costume designer of the Original Broadway production of Into The Woods, will revisit the woods as she approaches the material for the first time in nearly 30 years for the TUTS production. Using a large collection of the actual costumes from the 1987 Broadway run, Hould-Ward and team will undergo an extensive refurbishment process to restore the garments to their original conditions, while adding a large amount of new costuming to this production.

Hould-Ward is known and loved by Houstonians for her work in the creation of the original costume designs for Disney's Beauty and the Beast here at Theatre Under The Stars in 1993 before the show became an international phenomenon on Broadway and beyond.



Design Sketches by Ann Hould-Ward

Acclaimed Designer Kevin Depinet has imagined a completely new vision for our Into The Woods at Theatre Under The Stars.



Scenic Design renderings by Kevin Depinet

PRODUCTION SPONSORS:
accenture Locke Lord

OFFICIAL HEALTHCARE PARTNER:
Children's Memorial Hermann Hospital

OFFICIAL PARTNERS:
UNITED 360 ULTRA TV

 **TUTS.COM**
713.558.TUTS

Into the Woods is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

Calendar of Events

continued from page 19

Go Yell It on the Mountain!

December 1-23

1-23

The Second New Greater Lesser Mt. Zion Bethel Church has been around for 75 years, but now a nearby mega-church wants to build the Heavenly Palace Bowling Lanes on top of the venerable sanctuary. Oh no! What can save the New Greater Lesser Mt Zion Bethel Church? Only a splashy Christmas pageant that brings in the entire city to rally behind them can save the day. But then the church asks an outside theater director to mount the musical. Culture and characters clash, tension rises, hilarity ensues, and through it all there is wonderful holiday music. This original holiday fun, produced by Obsidian Theater, is the brainchild of artistic director Tom Stell and directed by Rozie Curtis. Go Yell It on the Mountain! might just become one of Houston's classic holiday traditions.

obsidiantheater.org

Much Ado about Nothing

December 1-24

1-24

For the upcoming holiday season, 4th Wall Theatre Company (formerly Stark Naked Theatre Company) brings love and laughter to Houston audiences with Shakespeare's beloved romantic comedy *Much Ado About Nothing*. Widely considered to be one of Shakespeare's best comedies, *Much Ado* is a delightfully hilarious and witty tale of love, friendship, and intrigue. Appropriate for all ages, this not-to-be-missed holiday treat runs through Christmas Eve.

4thwalltheatreco.com



Holidays at The Grand

December 2-19

2-19

Three especially "grand" productions coming up at The Grand: *A Christmas Carol* (December 2 & 3), Jerry Jeff Walker (Dec. 17), and Loretta Lynn, Queen of Country Music (December 18 & 19.) And for a special grand family treat, don't forget to get tickets for *The Nutcracker* (December 10 & 11) performed by the City Ballet of Houston. For a real treat for the little ones, take them on the 10th and enjoy The Nutcracker Afternoon Tea, where they can nibble on finger sandwiches and cookies, sip punch, and get their pictures taken with *Nutcracker* dancers.

African Children's Choir

December 17 & 18

17 & 18

You must hear these voices sing gospel! The African Children's Choir melts the hearts of audiences with their smiles, beautiful voices, and lively African songs and dances. The program features well-loved children's songs, traditional spirituals, and gospel favorites. Concerts are free and open to all.

africanchildrenschoir.com



YOUR
COMMUNITY
LENDER

832.541.1103

Experience. Knowledge. Dedication.
Everything you need is right here
to **purchase** your new home or
refinance your existing.



BEST MORTGAGE
COMPANY



LO NMLS #293460

TX Office #366638 | Corp NMLS #3113



CODY GRIZZOFFI
MANAGER/NMLS#293460

601 Sawyer St, Suite 660, Houston, TX 77007

Lawyers You Know, A Firm You Can Trust

KATINE & NECHMAN L.L.P.
Attorneys at Law



MITCHELL KATINE
LGBT Pride Grand
Marshal, 2001

JOHN NECHMAN
LGBT Pride Grand
Marshal, 2013

ASHLEY SCOTT
Family Law
Attorney

LGBT REAL ESTATE

Assist with buying & selling property, homeowner association disputes, joint ownership agreements, break-up and divorce property division, landlord-tenant issues, litigation, and estate planning.

Real Estate Disputes • Homeowner Association Law • Immigration
Criminal Law • Family Law • Adoptions • Insurance and Disability Claims
HIV/LGBT Law • Estate Documents • Employment Law

Katine & Nechman | 1834 Southmore Blvd. | Houston, TX 77004
713-808-1000 | info@lawkn.com | www.lawkn.com

What is TRUVADA for PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis)?

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine that can be used for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection when used together with safer sex practices. This use is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This includes HIV-negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex, and male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV-1. 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 TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must continue using safer sex practices.** Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
 - Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
 - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
 - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
 - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
 - Have fewer sex partners.
 - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
 - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- ◆ **Serious liver problems.** Your liver may become large and tender, and you may develop fat in your liver. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area 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 TRUVADA 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 take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking TRUVADA, they will need to watch you closely for several months to monitor your health. TRUVADA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.

If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you also take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- ◆ **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking TRUVADA or medicines like TRUVADA.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
Pregnancy Registry: A pregnancy registry collects information about your health and the health of your baby. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take medicines to prevent HIV-1 during pregnancy. For more information about the registry and how it works, talk to your healthcare provider.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. The medicines in TRUVADA can pass to your baby in breast milk. If you become HIV-1 positive, HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA for PrEP, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (HARVONI).

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 Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.



Have you heard about
TRUVADA for PrEP™?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

visit **start.truvada.com**

 **Truvada**® 
200 mg emtricitabine • tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-1 negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **Tell your healthcare provider if you have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **See the "How to Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.**

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

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

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine used with safer sex practices for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk:

- HIV-1 negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex.
- Male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

To help determine your risk, talk openly with your doctor about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.
- Changes in body fat.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you become HIV-1 positive because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- You **must** practice safer sex by using condoms and you **must** stay HIV-1 negative.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
- Have fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV-1 infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



Got an Overdose of Woe?

At least there's good news locally.

The Republican Party is now running on Bud Lite and rage. There is no longer any actual thinking involved—and Honey, I have neither the time nor the crayons to explain it to them.

As you probably suspect, the November election gave me an overdose of woe. I don't think I have felt this bad since Elvis died.

I have decided that not all Trump supporters are racist, homophobic, or misogynistic. But still, at some point they had to decide that having a raving racist, homophobic misogynist is not a deal-breaker.

Yeah, I am mad enough to chew nails and spit rivets—or eat fire and spit smoke, depending on what day it is. I will attend the Two Million TaTa March on Washington-DeeCee in January, where I will be baffled at the counter-protestors waving a Confederate flag and hollering at me, "Get over it. You lost."

What? Have they actually listened to themselves saying that? Put down that damn flag, you fool, before I use it to part your hair.

As of press time in mid-November, the *Name That Cabinet* reality show at-home edition indicates that the leading contender for Attorney General is Jefferson Beauregard Sessions, a man named after a Civil War general and the president of the Confederacy. Attorney Damn General. You know, the protector of civil rights, not civil wars. As Alabama's contribution to the Build-a-Wall movement, Sessions was turned down for a federal judgeship during the Reagan administration for making blatant racist statements while prosecuting African Americans in Alabama. Holy damn cow, y'all.

If you plan on celebrating this holiday season for no other reason at all, do it for spite. Remind your Republican family members that Donald Trump is going to open a casino with their Social Security money and buy hair products with their healthcare money.

And that's not even the worst part. You wanna know the worst part? No taco trucks on every corner.



NOAH GRAVICH

We Can't Impeach the Second One from the Left Because of the One on the Far Right

From left: Melania Trump, Donald Trump, Paul Ryan, and Mike Pence.

Trump won with his "that woman shouldn't be allowed to run for president" argument, which you may remember has been very effective for 140 years.

This election was like if your friends were deciding on what to do for dinner, and three of them vote "pizza" while two others vote "kill and eat you." Even if pizza wins, it's still a big problem. We can get rid of Donald Trump by impeaching him, but we're still stuck with the damn fools who voted for him. I guess we can herd them into all those re-education camps Obama built but never used. On the upside, it appears those folks are pretty easy to herd.

On second thought, here's why we should not impeach Trump: Mike Pence. The next four years would be a never-ending homophobic scavenger hunt. Mike Pence does not like you. Personally. It's personal. I'm pretty certain he has your name written down somewhere, with a big red X beside it.

On the local side, we have better news. You live in a safe blue county in a frightfully red state.

Damn, y'all—all of our OUTSMART-endorsed Harris County judges, plus district attorney Kim Ogg, got elected. So that means I can drive around Houston shooting out stubborn traffic lights with my 12-gauge shotgun and not even get a call from the grand jury. (No? Really? I thought I could do that now. Well hell, I *should* be able to do that.)

I hope your holiday season is warm, wonderful, and filled with glitter. If you're thinking about getting me something, please remember that my favorite color is shiny.

And remember: Republicans are the reason we have to have warning labels on everything.

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



How Would Your Life Change . . .

if your biggest financial asset disappeared?

If someone asked you to name your most valuable financial asset, how would you respond? Is it the balance in your 401(k)? No. Your home? Not likely, especially after the economic recession. How about your future Social Security retirement benefits? No again.

For many people, their most valuable financial asset is their ability to earn an income. This is because without a regular stream of cash coming in, you won't likely be able to continue funding your 401(k) plan, make your monthly mortgage payments, or even continue to build work credits for your Social Security retirement income.

Will You Become Disabled During Your Lifetime?

Although most of us think that disability is something that will only happen to "someone else," the reality is that even young and healthy individuals can become disabled in an instant. Accidents and chronic illnesses occur more frequently than many people realize.

According to the Social Security Administration, the likelihood of a 20-year-old becoming disabled before he or she retires is one in four. And based on statistics from the Council for Disability Awareness, 90 percent of wage earners rated their "ability to earn an income" as being either valuable or very valuable in helping them to achieve long-term financial security.

Don't Rely on Social Security

Unfortunately, while many people assume they will be covered by Social Security for disability income "just in case," these benefits can actually be extremely difficult to qualify for. This is because Social Security has a very strict definition of disability, and it uses both medical



and non-medical criteria in order to determine whether you qualify. According to the Social Security Administration itself, proving that your medical condition is in fact a disability is typically the hardest part of a Social Security disability claim.

Based on Social Security's parameters, in order to be considered disabled, you must have "an impairment, either medical, psychological, or psychiatric in nature that keeps you from being able to do substantial gainful activity."

But it doesn't stop there. In addition, your impairment must have prevented you from doing substantial gainful activities for at least 12 months, or be expected to prevent you from doing so for at least 12 months, or result in death. You will also need to have a certain number of Social Security "work credits" (based on your age) in order to qualify.

Because Social Security's definition of disability is so strict, those who receive these benefits are typically only among the most severely impaired. Plus, going through all of the red tape in trying to obtain Social Security disability benefits could realistically take months, or even years.

If you do meet the criteria for Social Security disability benefits, there are several steps that you'll need to follow in order to apply.

First, you will need to fully complete an application. (The online application can be found on Social Security's website at <https://secure.ssa.gov/iClaim/dib>.)

There is a fairly long list of things that the Social Security Administration will want information on, so it can help if you have all of your information gathered before you begin the application process. This information includes:

- Birth and citizenship;
- Marriage (and divorce);
- Name(s) and birth date(s) of any children who 1) became disabled prior to age 22; 2) are under age 18 and are unmarried; and/or 3) are age 18 to 19 and are still attending secondary school full time;
- U.S. military service;
- Employer details for the current year, as well as the prior two years (not self-employment);
- Self-employment details for the current year and the prior two years;
- Bank information for direct deposit;
- Contact information of someone that Social Security may contact who knows about your medical condition(s) and can assist you with your claim;
- List of your medical condition(s);
- Information about doctors, healthcare professionals, hospitals, and clinics;
- Information about other medical records →

Enjoy the season.



Wishing you all the joy and peace of the holidays.

[wellsfargo.com](https://www.wellsfargo.com)

© 2016 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved.
Member FDIC. (3471101_19533)

Together we'll go far



2017

A Super Year !

Why Not Celebrate...

The New Year...
Superbowl 51
Mardi Gras

ANYTHING !

Our Ideas are Fresh...
Our Clients are Spoiled!

2811 Eastman .
Houston . Texas . 77009
www.jimbentonhouston.com


Jim Benton of Houston LLC
Catering and Event Planning

713-802-2860

MONEYSMART

continued from page 26

that may be available from vocational rehabilitation services, workers' compensation, public welfare, prison or jail, an attorney or lawyer, or some other place;

- Job history;
- Education and training.

You can refer to the Checklist for Online Adult Disability Application by visiting <https://www.ssa.gov/hlp/radr/10/ovw001-checklist.pdf>. The best time to apply for these benefits is as soon as you become disabled. This is because even though the Social Security Administration estimates that the initial application process will last from 90 to 120 days, it often takes closer to six or eight months.

Assuming that you qualify for Social Security disability benefits, you are required to receive your payments electronically. This can be set up so that your benefits are directly deposited into your account at a bank or other financial institution.

If you have been collecting Social Security disability benefits for 24 months, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Parts A and B at the beginning of the 25th month following the month in which you first started receiving your disability benefits. You can also apply for a Medicare prescription drug plan (Medicare Part D) via a private insurance company if you want prescription drug insurance.

Depending on your specific condition, if you are under age 65, you may also be able to qualify for Medicare hospitalization (Part A) and certain other healthcare benefits such as doctor visits (Part B)—even if you are not collecting Social Security disability benefits. For example, those who have permanent kidney failure that requires dialysis or kidney replacement will qualify for Medicare Part A if they have accumulated enough work credits. The spouse and/or child of a qualified worker may also be entitled to such Medicare benefits.

Even though there is a lot of information available on the Social Security Administration's website, it can be helpful to consult with a Social Security expert as you move through the disability application process. A Social Security expert can answer any questions that you may have regarding the disability application procedure. A certified financial planner should be able to help you find a qualified individual to work with.

Disability Coverage through Your Employer

Some people will be covered for either a short-term or long-term disability through their employer. Certainly, one of the biggest advantages to having this type of coverage is that the premiums are usually lower than those of an individual policy. In addition, if you have a health issue that may prevent you from qualify-

ing for a policy of your own, you are still likely to be accepted for group coverage.

Unfortunately, once you leave your employer, it is unlikely that you will be able to take this coverage with you—and, depending on your age and current health condition, obtaining individual coverage later in life can be somewhat costly.

It is also important to note that disability insurance is not the same thing as workers' compensation coverage. Workers' compensation (or workers' comp) benefits are provided to you when you get hurt at work. Disability insurance benefits can cover you regardless of where an injury or illness occurs.

Shopping for Personal Disability Income Protection

When you apply for disability insurance, most companies will require that you complete an application for coverage. Just like with other types of insurance, the underwriters at the insurance carrier will want to know more about you personally, as well as your health condition and history. You may be required to take a complete physical exam and/or provide a blood sample. This will give the insurance company a much better idea of the risk that they will be taking on.

What to Look for in a Policy

When shopping for an individual disability insurance plan, there are several key factors to keep in mind, such as:

- **Waiting Period** - Disability insurance will typically require you to wait a certain number of days after your disability begins before income benefits begin to pay out. This is similar to a deductible in other types of insurance. A disability insurance policy's waiting period may range from 90 days to one year. The longer your waiting period, the lower your premium will usually be.
- **Length of Benefits** - At the time you apply for coverage, you will also choose a length of time for your disability income benefits to last. This period may be as short as just one or two years, or until you reach age 65.
- **Amount of Benefits** - The benefit amount will also be a primary component of a disability insurance policy. You will usually be asked to choose a certain percentage of your income. You can also opt to have your benefit amount increase over time, in order to help keep pace with inflation.

Triggering the Disability Benefits

In order to start receiving benefits from an individual disability insurance policy, you will typically need to meet the definition of either partial or total disability. This will be defined in your policy.

While there may be some differences from one insurance carrier to another, most insurers will define total disability in two different phases. For example, in the beginning of your

disability, you may be considered as totally disabled if you are unable to perform the duties of your specific occupation. However, after a certain time period has elapsed, such as two years, you may only be considered as totally disabled if you are unable to perform the basic functions of any job that you are qualified for, based on your past training, experience, and education.

Disability Income and Taxes

If you should start receiving disability insurance benefits, it is also important to know how they might be taxed. The taxation on disability income can differ, based on how the premiums were paid in.

For instance, if you paid all of the premiums out of your own pocket with after-tax income, then your disability income benefits will not be taxable. Alternatively, if you are part of a group disability plan and your employer paid all of the premiums, then your benefit will be taxed. (If you split the cost of the disability coverage with your employer, then the corresponding percentage that you paid will not be taxed, but the portion that your employer paid will be.)

The Bottom Line

Although most people don't think about it from this perspective, your ability to earn an income throughout your lifetime can essentially be your biggest asset. This is because without an income, you won't likely be able to accumulate any other assets.

Even if you have a disability insurance plan through your employer, it may not be enough. Plus, if you leave your job, you may or may not be able to take your disability coverage with you. In addition, if you already have an adverse health issue, it could preclude you from obtaining an individual disability insurance policy to replace the one you left behind.

As with other types of insurance, the best time to shop for disability coverage is before you need it. Working with a professional who can help you determine your specific needs as they pertain to your overall financial situation can provide you with coverage that fits your requirements. It can also help ensure that you don't end up with too much disability insurance—and higher premiums.

This article is for general information only, and not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

Personal finance-related questions may be emailed 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 and was recognized as a "Five-Star Wealth Manager" in the 2014 September issue of Texas Monthly.



“Houston Fertility Specialists was truly invested in helping us begin our family.”

—Terumi and Yalonda Stiner*

*ACTUAL PATIENTS | PHOTO: TARYN MELGOZA PHOTOGRAPHY

Wow, what a beautiful family!
We're here to help you **start yours.**

Call today. 713-512-7900.



**HOUSTON
FERTILITY
SPECIALISTS**

Texas Medical Center | Katy | Sugar Land
Clear Lake | Kingwood | CyFair

www.fertilityspecialists.net



New Year's Resolution: Buy the House in Galveston!



1301 Market Street \$1,350,000



4502 Avenue N 1/2 \$675,000



2516 Avenue O 1/2 \$345,000



614 16th Street \$219,000



3524 Avenue O \$349,000



1815 Sealy Street \$525,000



609 16th Street \$245,000 Emerald Penthouse #1408 \$1,100,000



TALK TO
TOM!

Tom Schwenk, Realtor

713.857.2309
tomsgalvestonrealestate.com



TIMEOUT

with **OutSmart**

Special Promotions and Advertising

Show Us Your OUTSMART



③ **TimeOut in Missouri**
Kevin T. Henry took OUTSMART to the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri.

GOING OUT OF TOWN?

Take OUTSMART along. Snap a high-res pic of yourself with the magazine and send it to us. Send to: Letters@OUTSMARTMAGAZINE.COM.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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



December 1: World AIDS Day

December 3: HIV and Aging Coalition 2016 Holiday Party. Montrose Center. No RSVP required. INFO: montrosecenter.org

December 3: Houston Pride Band presents Yule Tide Ride concert at MatchHouston. INFO: houstonprideband.org

December 4: Bayou City Performing Arts presents Ring! A holiday concert. INFO: bcpahouston.com

December 8: Out@TUTS Night presents Into the Woods. 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 at Artista Restaurant. INFO: tuts.com/out

December 9: Out for Education presents Couture for a Cause at Studio A. Salon. INFO: outforeducation.org

SAVE THE DATE

January 20: Rainbow on Ice at Discovery Green. A holiday celebration of ice skating with the LGBT community. INFO: discoverygreen.com

Be social! Connect with us!

Twitter: @outsmarthouston

Facebook.com /outsmartmagazine

Instagram: @outsmartmagazine



LGBT CRUISES & TOUR EVENTS

aquafest

MC,
Miss Conception



Oct 21 - 28, 2017 from \$699

Norwegian Cruise Line - Norwegian Pearl

16th Annual - 7 Nights HALLOWEEN CRUISE

Roundtrip from NEW ORLEANS sailing to Cozumel, Roatan, Harvest Caye, Costa Maya

Private Group Event Includes:

- \$1,000 in Costume Prizes
- Group Dining
- Private Gay Disco with DJ Michael Kessler
- Nightly Shows & Gatherings & much, much more...
- Top LGBT Entertainment
- Optional Beach Party

Leslie Jordan

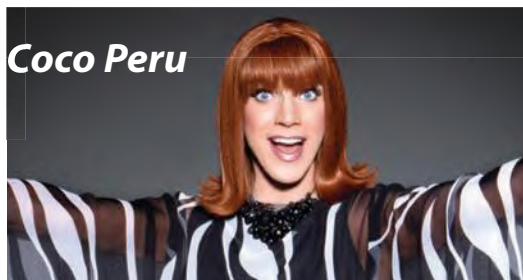


Stateroom Type

Aquafest Rate

2-Bedroom Family Suite with Balcony (SC)	\$1,849.00
Mini-Suite with Balcony (MB)	\$1,299.00
Mid-Ship Balcony Stateroom (BA)	\$1,129.00
Balcony Stateroom (BB)	\$1,079.00
Balcony Stateroom (BC)	\$1,049.00
Forward Oceanview Porthole Stateroom (OG)	\$799.00
Mid - Ship Oceanview Stateroom (OF)	\$799.00
Mid-Ship Inside Stateroom (IC)	\$699.00

Coco Peru



FREE Beverage Package for 2 & FREE Prepaid Gratuities for 2

Deposit: \$500 per cabin due at the time of booking.

Final Payment: Due on July 10, 2017



Join our post cruise New Orleans Hotel Stay for the official Halloween Parade & Parties Held on October 28th in New Orleans! Ask For details!!!

Port charges, taxes and fees are \$393.14 per person additional based on double occupancy and Single taxes are higher. Pricing is subject to change without notice. All Fees, taxes, and any surcharges imposed by the cruise line are subject to change without notice. Charges vary for single, triples, and quads. Ask for details. ** Rates not held in allotment and pricing subject to change. Complete cancellation policies and optional travel insurance will be offered at time of booking.

(800) 592-9058 - AquafestCruises.com

YOU MATTER AND SO DOES YOUR HEALTH

That's why starting and staying on HIV-1 treatment is so important.

What is DESCOVY?

DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older. DESCOVY is not for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. DESCOVY combines 2 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day. Because DESCOVY by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1, it must be used together with other HIV-1 medicines.

DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.

To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking DESCOVY. 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 DESCOVY?

DESCOVY may cause serious side effects:

- **Buildup 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 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 and fatty. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turning yellow (jaundice); dark "tea-colored" urine; light-colored bowel movements (stools); loss of appetite; nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking DESCOVY for a long time. In some cases, lactic acidosis and serious liver problems have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking DESCOVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

What are the other possible side effects of DESCOVY?

Serious side effects of DESCOVY may also include:

- **Changes in body fat**, which 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 DESCOVY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking DESCOVY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems**, such as bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

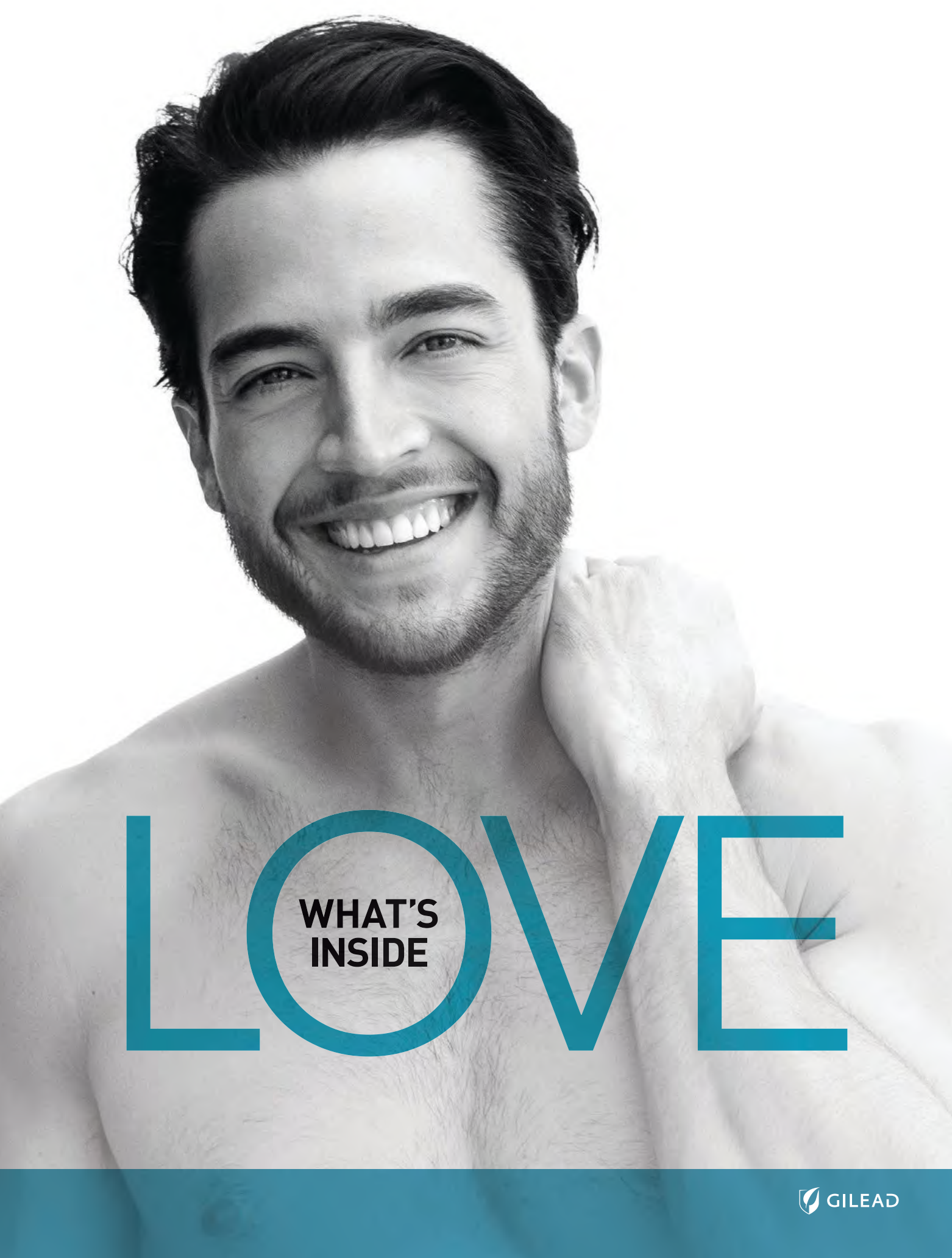
What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking DESCOVY?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take**, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how DESCOVY works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take DESCOVY with all of your other medicines.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if DESCOVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking DESCOVY.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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 Important Facts about DESCOVY, including important warnings, on the following page.

Ask your healthcare provider if an HIV-1 treatment that contains DESCOVY[®] is right for you.



LOVE

WHAT'S
INSIDE

(des-KOH-vee)

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DESCOVY

DESCOVY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: feeling very weak or tired, unusual 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.
- **Severe liver problems**, which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark “tea-colored” urine; loss of appetite; light-colored bowel movements (stools); nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** DESCOVY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking DESCOVY. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

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

ABOUT DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a prescription medicine that is used together with other HIV-1 medicines to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older. DESCOVY is **not** for use to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- **DESCOVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

HOW TO TAKE DESCOVY

- DESCOVY is a one pill, once a day HIV-1 medicine that is taken with other HIV-1 medicines.
- Take DESCOVY with or without food.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY® and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY

DESCOVY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About DESCOVY” section.
- Changes in body fat.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.

The most common side effect of DESCOVY is nausea.

These are not all the possible side effects of DESCOVY. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking DESCOVY.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with DESCOVY.

BEFORE TAKING DESCOVY

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical condition.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with DESCOVY.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCOVY. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to DESCOVY.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit DESCOVY.com for program information.

Clinton's Loss Puts Spotlight on Abolishing the Electoral College

It's not just the Clinton loss—the Electoral College has made presidential elections an undemocratic process in a variety of ways.

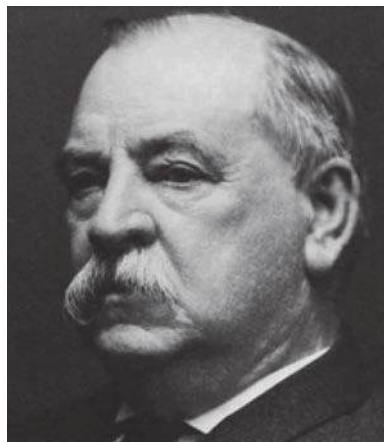
By Brandon Wolf

Twice in the last 16 years, the LGBTQ community has lost the chance to put a strong ally in the White House due to the bizarre American system of electing presidents known as the Electoral College. In 2000, Al Gore won the popular vote, but was denied the presidency because of his Electoral College vote total. And now, in 2016, it's déjà vu as Donald Trump heads to the White House even though Hillary Clinton got over two million more votes.

Clinton lost Michigan by 11,612 votes, Pennsylvania by 68,236, and Wisconsin by 27,257—for a total of 107,105. If her margin of support had been distributed differently in terms of geography, she could have won the Electoral College. Instead, .09 percent of the total voters decided who our next president would be.

The founding fathers—living in a totally different political culture 229 years ago—had valid reasons for their design of the Electoral College. Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, the two major architects of the system, envisioned a process with high ideals. But within 15 years, both men were extremely disheartened at what the system had become, and Hamilton introduced an amendment to overhaul it.

There are numerous problems caused by the Electoral College, but there are also solutions. America needs to abolish it and move to electing presidents by a direct vote of the people.



Ⓢ The Fantastic Four

Left to right: Samuel Tilden, Al Gore, and Hillary Clinton all won the popular vote, but were denied the presidency because of the antiquated Electoral College system.

Understanding the Electoral College

To understand the Electoral College's problems, one must comprehend how and why our country ended up with this system. To do that, we look back to the original 13 British colonies that later became the United States—New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

British settlement started in America in 1607. The settlers were British subjects, and each colony was run by a royal governor who was appointed by the king. A colonial assembly in each colony advised and assisted the governor. The assemblies were comprised of men chosen by popular vote, from within districts.

The colonists elected their representatives by means of lively town-hall gatherings. They wanted “noble men”—those with worthy

character, intellect, the ability to contemplate complex issues, and the gift of communicating clearly. Generally, these town-hall elections allowed “the cream to rise to the top.”

Most colonial men owned land, but few could afford books, newspapers, travel, or correspondence by horseback. Those who could were more knowledgeable and were admired by those who weren't.

Each colony of British citizens was independently self-governed, and concerned mostly with its own issues. The British king at first ignored the early colonies, but by 1680, they were growing rapidly in population and wealth. The king found them to be a good source of tax revenue. He also limited their foreign commercial interactions.

When this royal exploitation became unbearable, a series of tax protests broke out beginning in 1760. By 1770, the colonies had →

UNIQUE
BUILDERS & DEVELOPMENT INC.

Commitment to Excellence

FROM CONCEPT TO COMPLETION

Complete Home Renovations | Kitchen & Bath Remodel
Room Additions | New Construction
Roofing, Decks & More

Call today to
schedule your **FREE**
consultation!

713.263.8138 | www.UBTexas.com

Licensed & Fully Insured 2 Year Written Warranty

FLOOR COVERINGS
international

- Carpet
- Hardwood
- Laminates
- Porcelain
- Luxury Vinyl
- Eco-friendly
- Options:
- Bamboo & Wool

Inspiration at your feet, Flooring for your life!

*We bring
the Showroom
to You!*

832.305.5204

Call Us for a **FREE** in-home consultation.
houstonheights.floorcoveringsinternational.com

CLINTON'S LOSS/ELECTORAL COLLEGE

continued from previous page

slowly begun to form a shadow government.

In 1774, the First Continental Congress convened, with delegates chosen from the 13 colonial assemblies. They discussed a tax revolt now known as the Boston Tea Party, as well as the possibility of war.

The American Revolutionary War broke out in 1775. In July 1776, the Second Continental Congress met and drafted the Declaration of Independence. The new nation was called the United States of America, and it boasted a population of 2,400,000. The war ended in 1783.

By 1787, there was a desire to create an original American constitution, so a Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia. One of the convention's committees was tasked with developing a method to elect a national president.

The Electoral College Is Born

Hamilton and Monroe were the driving forces behind the presidential election process. Several ideas were considered: having the new U.S. Congress choose, having the state legislatures choose, or having a direct popular vote.

The first two ideas failed because they would make presidents beholden to the congressional members or state legislatures that elected them. The idea of a popular vote failed because it was feared every state would vote for a "favorite son" and the largest state would always decide the winner.

The southern states were concerned that slavery would be abolished by the new nation. Since that would have had a huge impact on the southern economy, every effort was made to assure those states that they would not be overpowered by the northern states.

What emerged was an indirect election of a president through a "college" of electors. Each state would be allocated a total of electors equal to their number of senators and representatives. These electors would then cast their votes for a president.

The convention had already designed the new U.S. Congress. A bi-cameral body would combine a Senate that gave each state equal power and a House of Representatives that would give each state power in relation to their respective populations.

The Senate would be elected by the respective state legislatures. The House would be elected by popular vote. The number of representatives a state received would be based on a census taken every 10 years.

In deference to the South, which had a large population of slaves who were considered mere property, the convention allowed for each slave to count as "three-fifths of a person" in the census.

The Constitution left the manner of choosing the electors and counting their votes to the

individual state legislatures. The designers had no idea how enormously flawed this part of the design would become.

The electors would meet and cast two votes each. One vote had to be for a man outside their state. This was done to weed out the favorite sons.

The man receiving at least one more than half of the electoral votes would become president. The runner-up would become vice-president. An electoral tie would be broken by the House of Representatives, but with each state allowed only one vote in the balloting.

It was an elaborate design, but a clever one considering the history of the small colonial districts with active local participation, the economic realities of the day, and the need to persuade 13 formerly autonomous states to work together.

Hamilton and Monroe's greatest miscalculation was believing that the spirit of district participation would continue as the norm. They envisioned deliberate, thoughtful local meetings where the finest men would be chosen as electors.

The Noble Dream Unravels Quickly

The design worked for exactly three presidential elections—1788, 1792, and 1796. Political parties had quickly sprung up, based on ideologies. The parties had the financial means to communicate between districts and create slates. Winning control of state legislatures, they put into place practices that benefited certain parties, such as winner-take-all allocation of a state's electoral votes.

The states, given the power to decide how the electors would be chosen, utilized a variety of methods. Many of them abandoned the concept of districts, and used party appointments instead.

In 1800, Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr received the same number of electoral votes. The tie was resolved by the House of Representatives, but only after 36 rounds of balloting and some very unseemly political dealings to sway the vote.

Madison and Hamilton felt the elections they witnessed violated the spirit in which the Constitution had been written, and advocated for a constitutional amendment stipulating electors be chosen by district popular vote.

Hamilton introduced an amendment in 1802. It was used as the basis for the 12th Amendment, but the district requirement was gutted. The 12th Amendment was ratified in 1804. It merely changed the casting of ballots to one for president and one for vice-president.

The Evolution of the College

By 1804, states were showing a definite trend toward the winner-take-all approach in awarding electoral votes to a candidate, and by 1836 this was the universal practice. Using the power given the states to set their own rules, →



CENTRAL HOUSTON CADILLAC IS PROUD TO CELEBRATE GAY PRIDE MONTH WITH OUR LGBTQ COMMUNITY



Get the Central Houston Cadillac Advantage Plan

- COMPLIMENTARY LOANER CARS
- FREE OIL CHANGES
- FREE TIRE ROTATION & FLUID TOP-OFF
- FREE CAR WASH FOR LIFE

Ask for Tony McClelland



Central Houston Cadillac
2520 Main Street
Houston, TX 77002
CentralHoustonCadillac.com

Sales
832.369.8318
Mon-Fri 8am-7:30pm
Sat 9am-6pm

Service
832.369.8288
Mon-Fri 7:30am-6pm
Sat 8:30am-4pm

Kimberly D. Moss FAMILY LAWYER



Specializing in Family Law
in the greater Houston community.

Divorce • Guardianships • Estate Planning • Probate

Call (713) 574-8626
to schedule your initial consultation.

MOSSLAWHOUSTON.COM





**BEST PERSONAL
TRAINER**

2006 | 2010 | 2011 | 2015 | 2016

WHETHER YOU ARE TRYING
TO LOSE WEIGHT, BUILD MUSCLE
OR JUST MAINTAIN YOUR
CURRENT LEVEL OF FITNESS.

DWAYNE IS RIGHT FOR YOU!

DCOOKSONFITNESS.COM
dwayne@dcooksonfitness.com
281.960.6301

Nutrition Guidance
Toning & Definition
Muscle Gains
Weight Loss
Balance &
Coordination



The one that moves you!



Alexander Song

REALTOR®

832-533-5308

alex@mralexsong.com

www.har.com/alexsong



SOUTHWEST
KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY

CLINTON'S LOSS/ELECTORAL COLLEGE

continued from previous page

political parties hijacked Hamilton and Monroe's noble plan.

Since the Civil War, all states have chosen their presidential electors for the Electoral College by popular vote. This process has been normalized to the point that in most states a candidate's name appears, but it only represents a pre-determined slate of electors for that candidate. That slate is most often appointed by a political party, and electors serve as robots.

In 1913, the 17th Amendment mandated the election of U.S. senators by popular vote. And in 1961, the 23rd Amendment enfranchised the District of Columbia. Otherwise, the Electoral College still functions as it was first designed.

Debating the Electoral College

The most common argument for the College is that it prevents an urban-centric victory. However, 2015 population figures show the 50 largest cities make up only 15 percent of the nation's population, while the top 100 cities make up only 19 percent.

There are many common arguments against the College, including the following:

- *It awards the presidency to a candidate who does not win the popular vote:* The one-person-one-vote principle is quite simply violated. A 2011 computer simulation proved that a candidate with just 22 percent of the nationwide popular vote could win an election by winning a list of 39 specific states by a margin of just one vote. It's improbable, but the fact it is possible shows the weakness of the current system. The United States is the only country that elects an executive president via an Electoral College, and the only one in which a candidate can become president without winning the most popular votes.
- *There is an exclusive focus on large swing states:* Political campaigns focus on a few swing states. Four out of five voters in national elections are ignored by the candidates.
- *It discourages turnout and participation:* Except in closely fought swing states, voter turnout is largely irrelevant in states with entrenched political party domination. In contrast, a popular vote would give campaigns and parties a strong incentive to increase turnout, because every vote would count in determining a winner.
- *It obscures disenfranchisement within states:* The Electoral College reduces elections to a mere count of electors, and obscures voting problems within many disenfranchised communities.
- *It disenfranchises U.S. territories:* Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam cannot vote because the Constitution allows only states to participate.
- *It favors less-populous states:* The College

gives undue power to voters in small states. A California voter has one-fourth the power of a Wyoming voter.

• *It disadvantages third parties:* The winner-take-all system greatly decreases the national power of minor parties that have formed for ideological reasons.

• *It is not straightforward:* The College is extremely complex and has the potential to override the people's will at many points.

The Permanent Solution—Amending the Constitution

Amending the Constitution is a two-part process. First, an amendment must pass both houses of Congress by a two-thirds vote—or it can be proposed by a constitutional convention called by two-thirds of the state legislatures.

The proposed amendment must then be ratified by three-fourths of the state legislatures. The Congress may, at its discretion, limit the length of time for the state ratification to be completed.

The failed Equal Rights Amendment of 1972 was given a seven-year ratification time limit, followed by an extension of three years.

Over the last 150 years, various efforts have attempted to abolish the College. A 1934 amendment failed in the Senate by two votes. A 1970 amendment failed in the Senate by about a dozen votes. In 1979, the Senate killed yet another amendment 51–48.

Texas representative Gene Green introduced joint resolutions to abolish the College in 2004, 2005, 2007, and 2009. Representative Jesse Jackson Jr. also introduced a bill to abolish the College, several years in a row. Most recently, on November 15, 2016, Senator Barbara Boxer filed an amendment to abolish the College.

A Temporary Bypass Gains Momentum

The National Popular Vote bill is currently gaining support. It would guarantee the presidency to the candidate winning the popular vote. The plan is to enact the bill in enough states to equal 270 electoral votes.

The bill has been approved by 11 state legislatures. It mandates the state's electors to vote for the popular-vote winner if that candidate does not win the Electoral College. The Constitution allows states to determine their means of choosing electors and casting votes, so the concept is constitutionally sound.

The compact would not take effect until enough states to equal 270 electoral votes have enacted the bill. Once active, the compact would have the same effect as abolishing the Electoral College. The U.S. would have a direct-vote system by default, because winning the popular vote would be the only path to victory for candidates.

The advisory board of the effort includes Republicans and Democrats. In 2014, Newt Gingrich signed a letter of endorsement.

Both parties share equally in the benefits of

this proposed system. Close elections in battleground states can currently swing in favor of either Democrats or Republicans. In 2004, John Kerry nearly won the electoral vote but not the popular vote. In 2012, it appeared that Mitt Romney might also.

Moving to a direct vote would most likely encourage more participation in non-battleground states—more Democrats in Texas, and more Republicans in California and New York. The new president-elect proved this point when he told *60 Minutes* in mid-November that he would have campaigned in New York and California under a direct-vote system.

What You Can Do to Help

Abolishing the College should become a national campaign issue just like freedom of choice, gun control, foreign affairs, and the economy.

The next big U.S. election is the 2018 midterms. The party not in power usually wins new congressional and state legislative seats. Candidates for office should be screened for their support of abolishing the College. If the midterms increase support, both the National Popular Vote bill and congressional amendments should be introduced and passed.

The 11 states that have enacted the popular-vote bill all voted for Hillary Clinton in 2016. If the other states supporting her enacted it, the electoral total would rise to 232, leaving only 38 more electoral votes needed for the compact to go into effect. The enacted bills could just as easily be undone by new state legislatures, so the bypass is still not the permanent solution.

Lane Lewis, a member of Houston's LGBTQ community and the chair of the Harris County Democratic Party, responded to an OUTSMART request for his thoughts. "Whether discussing the Electoral College, voting rights, or anything related to a representative democracy, we must always look to ensure that elections accurately reflect the will of the people. Arguably, things like the Electoral College, gerrymandering, voter ID laws, etc., too often interfere with the will of the many."

On a post-election Bill Maher show, former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder told Maher that the Electoral College needs to be abolished. Maher commented: "That is some heavy lifting." Holder replied: "Then let's lift heavy!"

Extensive information about the National Popular Vote bill is available at nationalpopularvote.com. The online version of this story at OUTSMARTMagazine.com includes graphics that further explain this effort.

Disclaimer: The vote totals referred to in the article are based on election results as of November 17, 2016.

Brandon Wolf is a regular contributor to OUTSMART magazine.



MEZLAN.
HANDCRAFTED FOOTWEAR
& ACCESSORIES

Mention
OutSmart
& Receive a
FREE Gift!

HOUSTON GALLERIA • 1ST LEVEL • NEXT TO PRADA • 281.940.3260 • WWW.MEZLAN.COM



Do you
have the
LOOK?

★ ★ ★
**OutSmart
GAYEST
& GREATEST
2016**
★ ★ ★

One of the **BEST**
Places to Buy Eyewear
ONE OF THE BEST
EYE DOCTORS
(Dr Christine Tyler, OD)

2013–2016 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 18 years

Black Lives Matter

... this year and every year.

By Josh Inocencio

A little over three years ago, the Black Lives Matter movement erupted with a hashtag and protests all over the United States shortly after George Zimmerman's acquittal for shooting Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Florida. In the wake of Michael Brown's death in Ferguson, Missouri, the movement's use of demonstrations crystallized as Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi continued to rally followers on social media and in the streets to protest police brutality and the killing of unarmed black men across the nation. From this national movement emerged state and city chapters, including in Texas.

"The Black Lives Matter Houston chapter actually started as Black Lives Matter Texas," says Ashton P. Woods, one of the chief organizers for the Houston chapter. "Then we changed the name to Black Lives Matter Houston because we were based here."

While Woods is committed to the Houston chapter, he is also involved with events that the national movement organizes all across the country. He even had a hand in planning several "disruptions" during the presidential primaries. "My role in the chapter, versus the national movement and the organization, has evolved over time," says Woods. "I've been an activist with the national movement for a while—including helping to organize the disruption of Bernie Sanders in Phoenix."

The Houston chapter maintains the egalitarian leadership style of the national movement, and Woods—an openly gay and HIV-positive black activist—has led his group through a particularly tempestuous year rife with the national tragedies in Orlando and Dallas. "Following the Orlando massacre and the deaths of Philando Castile, Alton Sterling, and the Dallas [police officers], people started coming forward with a little more courage and saying, 'Hey, how can I help?'"



Standing in Solidarity

Ashton P. Woods, a chief organizer of Black Lives Matter Houston, attributes his ability to bring communities together to his intersectional identities as a cisgender, black, atheist, HIV-positive man.

Woods' intersectional identities have allowed him to bring more people together in the wake of these tragic events. "I'm not just fighting for black lives—I'm also an LGBT activist and an HIV activist. They're all converging in a way I didn't expect," Woods says. "I'm a cisgender black man who happens to be gay, atheist, HIV-positive, and pro-black. Those are marginalized groups."

In contrast to, say, the civil-rights movement in the 1960s, Black Lives Matter has proactively embraced its queer and transgender members. In fact, two of the national movement's three founders (all of whom are women) openly identify as queer, according to Woods. The movement does not merely affirm the black LGBT community, but also organizes events and messaging to address issues affecting LGBT people of color.

"Black Lives Matter Houston had the first Houston event for Orlando that Sunday at Hermann Park. I organized it by myself. Tons of people showed up," remembers Woods. "That Orlando shooting showed how people, regardless of who they are, tend to erase people of color—black and Latino people, to be specific.

The Orlando shooting created a narrative where we could speak for ourselves."

Indeed, the Orlando shooting emerged as an opportunity for LGBT people of color to control the narrative about how they are represented—not only in the media, but also in the LGBT community as a whole.

In addition to organizing events, the Houston chapter has partnered with the Montrose Center. "We're at about a 50-percent alliance with them," says Woods. "They've made it clear that if we need the space and it's available, we can use it. They want to be more proactive with communities of color."

The Dallas sniper shooting, which occurred less than a month after Orlando, also inspired a significant response from Black Lives Matter Houston. Alongside the mourning and demonstrations of solidarity, Woods also wanted to seize the narrative before conservative media outlets demonized Black Lives Matter for influencing the sniper's actions. "I was front and center on that. I'm really close to the person who organized the Dallas protest," says Woods. "What makes people think that we would stop protesting for the

rights of people of color, and specifically black people, because some rogue person did something violent? Violence from an individual should not silence people [who are] demanding their rights.”

As far as local government institutions, Woods and the Houston chapter have faced some resistance to implementing their policy priorities, especially with the Houston Police Department and the Harris County Sheriff’s Office. “I was on Mayor Turner’s campaign staff. That gave me the ability to have a relationship with the mayor’s office, which connects me to the Houston Police chief,” says Woods. But unfortunately, even though he is now a part of the mayor’s LGBT Task Force, the most Woods can do is suggest policies and ideas.

“On a committee, all you can do is make recommendations. We need to get past the point of making a recommendation and getting to the point of action—substantial action. I don’t see it yet,” Woods says. “I really want HPD to be transparent, and more regulated with their body cameras. We all know they have to keep certain things covert. As far as my [calls for] transparency, I think it goes deeper than just the police. And how do you change the law-enforcement agencies? You vote them out.”

Independently from the local Black Lives Matter chapter (which did not endorse specific candidates), Woods has high hopes for several incoming Harris County politicians, including district attorney-elect Kim Ogg. He is less enthused about sheriff-elect Ed Gonzalez, but believes he will be better than the outgoing Ron Hickman. “Ed Gonzalez is cool, but he has a problematic history as a city councilman,” says Woods. “He’ll be better than Ron Hickman. But I don’t know if he’ll be a continuation of Adrian Garcia or be his own person.”

But regardless of how receptive the Houston and Harris County police are to Black Lives Matter’s vision, Woods and his fellow organizers will remain busy as activists in Houston. “We’re actually educating people. The political engagement I’ve done as an individual, you’ll see more influence with that. You might see us out there registering people to vote; you might see us out there HIV-testing,” Woods says. “And we will be out there trying to educate people, particularly on stigmatization. In the black community, there is a lack of understanding about the trans community and HIV. Informed people can do better. Now there’s a choice. The important part is about giving a choice.”

As far as the national movement’s demonstrations and disruptions with the incoming president, Woods chuckles and says, “Look for more! Expect more—you’ll be surprised.”

Josh Inocêncio is a playwright and freelance writer. A Houston-area native, he earned a master’s degree in theater studies at Florida State University and produced his first play, Purple Eyes, before returning to Texas last year.

give them what they really want: total control of everything.

music. From vinyl to digital files, take it to the next level with a performance audio system. Experience music like you have never heard it before—indoor, outdoor, or anywhere around the home.

We provide a higher level of performance, make it beautiful, and make it work seamlessly with your home. We simplify complex systems and make them integrate into designer environments. Make it your home. Interior designers welcome.

media. Movies come alive with a private theater. Design a dedicated space for cinema quality film or build a family area with game room. From projectors to movie server streaming, enhance your viewing experience.

control. Take total control. Access media and music, shades, comfort, security, weather, cameras, and more via a button, custom schedules, or even remotely. We make it all work together.

iconic.systems
exclusive dealers of the best.
Two Houston area showrooms.

music . media . control
1707 waugh dr. www.iconic.systems 713.933.0606

Visit the newest lifestyle boutique at 1707 Waugh Dr. to experience performance features, in designer styles, using the best control systems with other fine audio / video products.



Dalton DeHart's 2016 YEAR in REVIEW

we enthusiastically welcomed Kim Ogg as Harris County's first openly gay district attorney, as well as a plethora of LGBT and ally officials and judges. Our community continued to support and enrich the city's flourishing arts scene by applauding performances of ActOUT at the Alley, OUT@TUTS, OUT at the Ensemble, OUTSMART Night at Stages Repertory Theatre, and the BCPA Chorale. We admired architecture, design, and preview performances during the Theater District's downtown open-house event, and we celebrated Houston Grand Opera's launch of their new "Overture" group for LGBT opera-lovers. Many of us also celebrated Houston's thriving LGBT presence during Discovery Green's Rainbow on ICE and Rainbow on the Green.

The gay dollar was stronger than ever this year. Not only was the Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce reestablished, but our community and allies took charitable giving to a whole new level. Following the heart-wrenching

Pulse nightclub shooting, we came together to support the Orlando victims and their families. LGBT trailblazer Tony Carroll—who we lost unexpectedly late last year—was memorialized with the opening of Tony's Place, a drop-in center for Montrose's homeless LGBT youth. Furthermore, between AIDS Walk Houston, Bunnies on the Bayou, The Diana Awards, the Houston Transgender Unity Banquet, Mint Julep, and OutReach United's Coming Out Party (whew, just to name a few!), LGBT organizations exceeded fundraising expectations.

While 2016 tested our strength, resilience, and pride at every turn, we can rejoice that, through it all, we're still here, still strong, and more importantly, ready to move onward and upward together. —Dalton DeHart

Wow, what a mixed year it's been for our community! On the political front, we inaugurated a new mayor, Sylvester Turner, who strengthened his support for our community by forming the city's first-ever LGBTQ Task Force. The Houston GLBT Political Caucus had a historic year, electing Fran Watson as the first African-American woman to lead the South's oldest civil-rights organization dedicated solely to LGBT equality. And in spite of last month's disappointing presidential race,

🕒 December 10
**OUT@TUTS Presents
A Christmas Story**

🕒 December 31
**Pride Houston's "Lumiere
Nouveau: A New Year's
Masquerade"**



**DECEMBER
2015**



December 1
**World
AIDS Day
Luncheon**



December 5
**HIV and Aging
Coalition
Christmas
Party**



**JANUARY
2016**

January 30
**Mystery
and Fantasy
Mardi Gras
"Animal
Kingdom"
Party**



🕒 January 16
**E.R.S.I.C.S.S.
Coronation**

🕒 January 22
**Discovery Green
Presents
"Rainbow on ICE"**



January 16
**Bunnies on the
Bayou Presents
"Snow Bunnies"**





February 11
Luey 43
Houston



FEBRUARY



February 28
AssistHers
Decadent
Desserts &
Dancing



February 11
ActOUT
Performance of
All The Way



February 17
Out & Equal
and My Gay
Houston
Social



February 20 **OutReach United Vegas Night**



March 11-13
Montrose Softball
League Association
Lone Star Classic
Tournament



MARCH



March 3
Out at the
Rodeo's Rodeo
Roundup



March 18
The Montrose Center's
"Bringin' in the Green"



March 27
Bunnies on
the Bayou 37



March 19
The 63rd Annual
Diana Awards



March 31
TransVisible
Project Launch

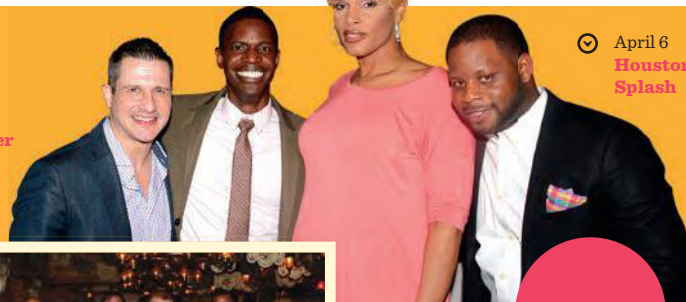


March 6
AIDS Walk
Houston





④ April 14
OutSmart Magazine April Cover Party



⑤ April 6
Houston Splash



⑥ April 28
AIDS Foundation Houston's Dining Out for Life

APRIL



⑦ April 7
Lambda Legal Mix and Mingle

⑧ April 17
The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund Houston Champagne Brunch



⑨ May 14
Houston Grand Opera Overture Launch Party

⑩ May 5 **OUT@TUTS Performance of A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder**

⑪ May 8
Montrose Softball League Association Games

MAY



May 21
HRC Houston Gala

⑫ May 14 **Harris County Democratic Party Living Legends Brunch**



JUNE

June 15
City of Houston Vigil
for Orlando



June 25
Houston LGBT
Pride Festival
and Parade

June 15
OutSmart
Magazine June
Cover Party



June 4 Timeless History Gala Benefitting GCAM



June 11 Rainbow on the Green



June 2 Art for Hope
Benefitting Bering Omega



July 19
Meet and Greet with Mayor Turner's
LGBTQ Task Force



July 17
Montrose
Softball
League
Association:
Divers
Drag Bingo

JULY



July 26
Lambda NextGen Archway
Gallery Happy Hour

July 17
Mint Julep Fundraiser for
Legacy Community Health



July 20-25
QFest Houston



July 9
PFLAG Houston Fundraiser
Featuring Randy Roberts Potts



🕒 August 27
**Houston Gaymers
Drag Show**

🕒 August 20
**"Let Your Superhero Out" Field
Day Benefitting Lazarus House**



August 31
**The Diana Foundation Country
Dinner Weekend Kick-Off Party**



🕒 August 16
**EPAH Dinner
Meeting and
Elections**



August 8
**White Linen
Night in the
Heights**

AUGUST

🕒 August 20
P.R.I.D.E. Portraits Launch



September 18
Bunnies in Heat



🕒 September 24
The Gay 10K

🕒 September 25
**Houston GLBT
Political Caucus
Equality Award
Brunch**

SEPTEMBER



🕒 September 13
**Greater Houston LGBT Chamber
of Commerce VIP Reception**

🕒 September 20
**HRC Houston Kick-Off
for the 20th Annual Gala**

🕒 September 17
**Houston Transgender
Unity Banquet**



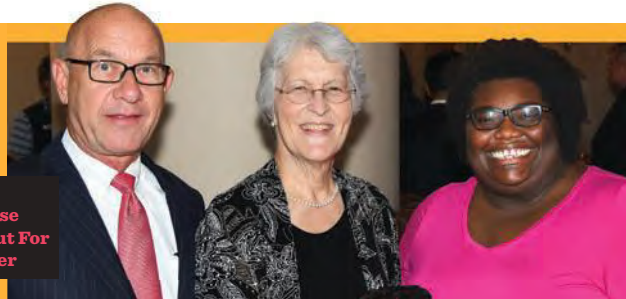
September 15
**HCDP "The Great Society
Dinner" VIP Meet and Greet
with Luci Baines Johnson**



OCTOBER



October 13
The Montrose
Center's "Out For
Good" Dinner



October 19
OutSmart's 20th
Annual Gayest &
Greatest Awards

October 22
Halloween Magic
Presents RandPaul's
Drag Race



October 16
LIVE Consortium's
"This Is How We
Brunch" Fundraiser



October 22
Fantasy Ball

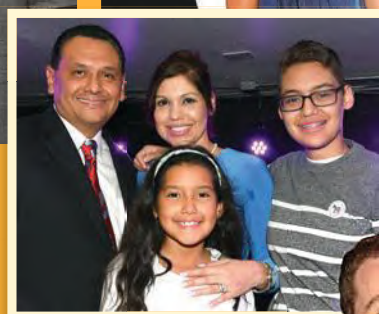


November 10
TUTS Performance
of *The Rocky Horror
Picture Show*

NOVEMBER



November 5
Avenue 360 Health & Wellness
Presents Sing for Hope



November 8
Ed Gonzalez
Election
Victory Party

November 8
Houston GLBT
Political
Caucus
Election
Watch Party



November 12
OutReach United
Check Presentation



November 8
Kim Ogg
Election
Victory
Party



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM DRIPPING SPRINGS

TEXAS VODKA AND GIN



WONDERLAND FIZZ

Muddle in a shaker: 2 sprigs rosemary,
1 tbsp sugar, juice of 1/2 lemon.

Add 2oz Dripping Springs Vodka,
rind of juiced lemon,
1 fresh egg white to shaker.

Dry shake (without ice) vigorously to
froth. Add ice and shake to chill. Strain
into a rocks glass over ice.



**NOW OPEN
FOR TOURS**
WWW.DRIPPINGSPRINGSVODKA.COM



THE ONLY AMERICAN
VODKA TO WIN THE
VODKA PURITY
TROPHY AT IWSC

DISTILLED AND BOTTLED BY SAN LUIS SPIRITS IN DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX. VODKA 80 PROOF.

A Contemporary Take on a Classic

Stanton Welch's new version of 'The Nutcracker' debuts.

By Donalevan Maines

Photos by Amitava Sarkar

Does anyone feel, I dunno, *anxious* lately? The world seems less beautiful? Hope feels so distant? You took Liza's advice and went to the cabaret, but even that wasn't enough to shake off the doldrums.

Ah, but have you tried the ballet?

On November 25, Houston Ballet artistic director Stanton Welch unveiled the world premiere of his new production of *The Nutcracker*, which will play through December 27 at the Wortham Theater Center. "The story of *The Nutcracker* is one of joy and hope, and it is a delightful tale of a young girl's journey," says Welch, who drew his inspiration for the ballet from the 1816 story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* (German: *Nussknacker und Mausekönig*) by E.T.A. Hoffmann. "I was intrigued by Clara's transformation throughout the story—becoming older, wiser, and more sophisticated by the end of the ballet. I was also interested in exploring how the story of *The Nutcracker* can work on several different levels, for both adults and children."

Since last summer, more than 30 people toiled around the clock in Houston Ballet's costume shop, crafting more than a thousand yards of net into tutus, skirts, and petticoats. Their handiwork created six different looks for Clara, whom we first see when she enters her parents' parlor and is awestruck by an elegantly decorated Christmas tree, transcendent in its beauty. The audience follows Clara as she dances with a magician, Drosselmeyer, and a stern, wooden nutcracker that will transform into a prince.

But don't let me spoil the story, which is told through dance and composer Pyotr Tchaikovsky's abundantly rich score. Enough of empty words and political rhetoric that have consumed us for months on end! "This is a brand-new production with the same storyline and music you know and love, only bigger, brighter, and grander," explains Welch. "It is unique to Houston Ballet, and has its own special twists. The production reflects where Houston Ballet is as a company at the present moment."



Houston's Nutcracker

Houston Ballet dancers prepare for Stanton Welch's much-anticipated production of a beloved holiday favorite.

For example, the new version created a myriad of roles for Houston Ballet Academy students to perform. Welch's new production utilizes students from all levels of the Academy, with local students portraying children at the holiday party in the stately home of Dr. Stahlbaum and his family, as well as soldiers, costumed animal characters, and others. "We have a very strong company right now," says Welch, "and I definitely wanted to showcase them in our new production. I was not interested in completely reinventing the wheel with a new scenario for *The Nutcracker*. I simply wanted to find new ways to bring *The Nutcracker's* joy and excitement alive."

While *The Nutcracker* is always considered the highlight of Houston Ballet's annual season and a spectacular holiday gift to Houstonians, this year promises to be extra-special. "Our [new] version is not just Houston Ballet's

Nutcracker, it is *Houston's Nutcracker*, and it is going to bring all of Houston together," says Christian Brown, who is the ballet company's director of marketing and public relations.

Audiences can especially look forward to seeing a massive Christmas tree in Act I, and Act II is set amongst an array of clouds. The sets and costumes were created by acclaimed British designer Tim Goodchild, who outfitted 45 mortal characters and 237 fantasy characters with more than 280 individual costumes. Artisans in New York City, Chicago, and London spent two years helping bring Goodchild's designs to life.

Houstonians should pay close attention to scenic details in Act I, as many of Act II's magical and fantastical elements are grounded in Clara's reality from the first act. For example, the flowers from Clara's wallpaper become the waltzing flowers, the stuffed animals →

Ken McLeod, LCSW, ACSW

Licensed Clinical Social Worker



Thanks to OutSmart Readers
for voting me a **TOP MALE THERAPIST**
for the sixth consecutive year!
I feel very honored.

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

Check me out on: PsychologyToday.com



A CONTEMPORARY TAKE ON A CLASSIC

continued from previous page

become members of the court, and her dollhouse mimics the scenic design of Act II, which is set in a beautiful "Land of Sweets" where the Sugar Plum Fairy rules.

Spectacle is just one element of *The Nutcracker* that lures a wide-ranging audience each year, and enhances the excitement of people-watching during intermissions. "Think of it like the Super Bowl," says Brown. "A lot of people who do not watch football will tune in to watch the Super Bowl, because it is a fun and exciting event that brings communities together. *The Nutcracker* is the same way, because even those who do not regularly attend shows within the performing arts will come to see this performance. *The Nutcracker* is a feel-good production that gets people excited about the holidays; it's perfect for a family outing and even a date night."

Meanwhile, Houston Ballet performs year-round with a varied repertoire for devotees of ballet.

"The LGBT community is extremely passionate and supportive of the performing arts," explains Brown. "We can always count on this community for support."

Donalevan Maines is a regular contributor to OUTSMART magazine.

discover what you

LOVE

We LOVE irresistible products. From smiling skin care to colorful cosmetics, Mary Kay offers products women love, and I can help you find your new favorites!

Contact me to discover more.

Glenita Shelvin Lampkin

832-535-1880 • www.marykay.com/glenita



MARY KAY

When detail matters!



Best Eye Doctor
as voted by
OutSmart Readers 2016

State-of-the-Art Medical Eye Care



Stewart Zuckerbrod, MD
Ophthalmology

Exams for glasses
Cataract Surgery

Comprehensive Ophthalmology

Now Affiliated with



HOUSTON EYE ASSOCIATES

5420 Dashwood, Suite 101, Houston, Tx 77081 | www.HoustonEye.com

NEW ADDITIONAL LOCATION ► 10907 Memorial Hermann Dr., Suite 150, Pearland, TX 77584

713.668.9118 832.553.EYES (3937)

GALVESTON!

One of the Top 10 Ports Of the World



Happy Holidays!
from
My Home
To Yours!



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
- 2013-14 *Galveston Daily News* Reader's Choice Award

Thank you Galveston for voting me **"BEST REALTOR IN GALVESTON!"**

-OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards 2012-2015

Hark, an Angel Sings!

Pride Superstar winner Christina Wells makes her musical theater debut in 'The Honky Tonk Angels Holiday Spectacular.'

By Donalevan Maines

It wasn't God who made honky tonk angels, as the late Kitty Wells sang, but Christina Edwards Wells teases that her mom's prayers convinced the Lord to bring her daughter home from Las Vegas, Nevada.

"Coming back to Pasadena in 2014 has brought me so many opportunities," says Wells, who parlayed last summer's Pride Superstar win into her professional musical theater debut in *The Honky Tonk Angels Holiday Spectacular*, through December 31 at Stages Repertory Theatre.

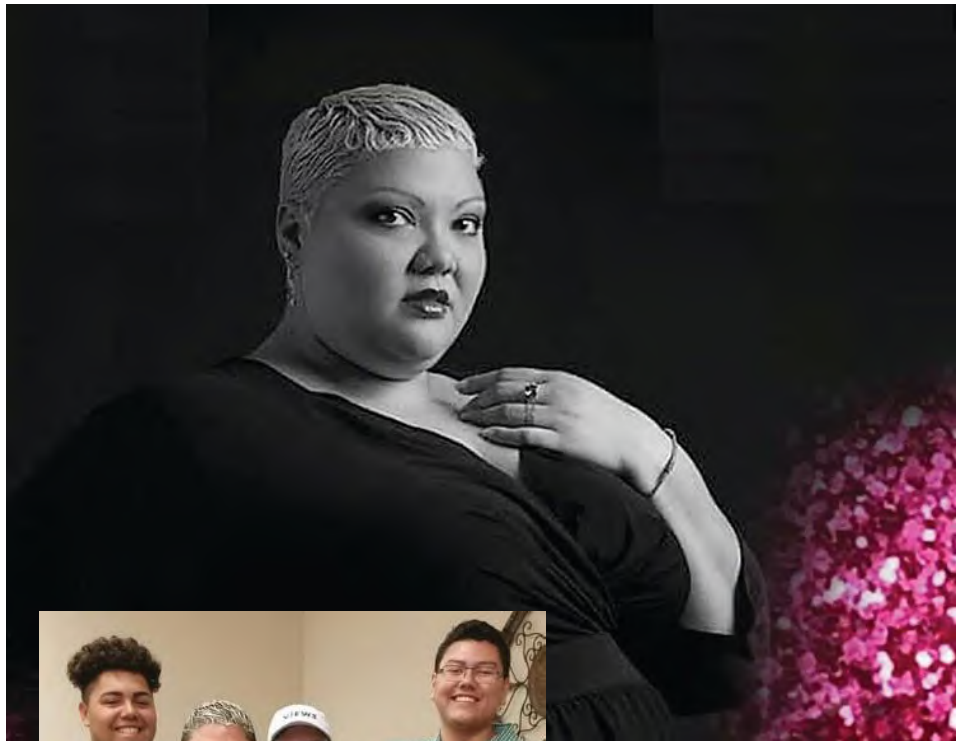
"I play Charilee Chess, a gospel-singing, psychic manicurist who becomes a honky tonk angel," says Wells. "She will read your palm while doing your nails."

The production, which opened November 11, is the regional premiere of Stages founder Ted Swindley's holiday-themed follow-up to his 2015 jukebox musical, *The Honky Tonk Angels*.

"*Honky Tonk Angels* makes audiences laugh until they cry," crowed a newspaper critic from the *Tulsa World* in Oklahoma, while the *Asheville Citizen-Times* newspaper in North Carolina cautioned, "You'll have to step on your toes to keep them from tappin'."

Chelsea Ryan McCurdy, Kelley Peters, and Holland Vavra starred in last year's production of *The Honky Tonk Angels* that Mitchell Greco directed and choreographed at Stages. Then they performed it at Miller Outdoor Theatre in September, playing wide-eyed dreamers who meet on a bus bound for Nashville, Tennessee.

A six-piece band (piano, bass, drums, pedal steel guitar, fiddle, and lead/rhythm guitar) accompanied the trio on country-and-western classics such as "Stand by Your Man," "Coal Miner's Daughter," "9 to 5," "Delta Dawn," and "Harper Valley PTA."



Beginning the Holidays on a High Note

Christina Wells' favorite part of the musical is performing a Motown Christmas medley.

INSET: Wells (front left) with partner Tanya Calder (front right) and family.

Peters (as Darlene) and Vavra (as Sue Ellen) are back in *The Honky Tonk Angels Holiday Spectacular*, but the "mysterious absence" of McCurdy's character, Angela, provides the opening for Wells as Charilee.

Vavra was on the spot in terms of helping "discover" Wells when the Stages favorite helped judge a preliminary night in the Pride Superstar marathon talent showcase at Me-teor.

Vavra returned with McCurdy to see Wells best three other finalists (Leo King, Morena Roas, and Mel Rose) and win the season 10 crown by singing "I Am Changing" from the Broadway musical *Dreamgirls*.

"The song resonates with me deeply," says Wells, who is 40. "The past few years, I have focused on the concept of me personally changing, maturing, and growing. I'm not a finished product, like a butterfly, but I am coming out of

my cocoon."

She adds, "I came out of the closet when I was 28. It took me a long time to be honest and come to grips with who I am. I had my kids, I was married, and then separated. It was all part and parcel. Whether you're a teenager or an adult, [when you tell your] family, you ask them to respect what you're doing."

As a teenager, recalls Wells, "I sang at everything. I sang every Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey song known to man."

She says her "epic moment" at Pasadena High School came in 1994, her senior year, when she sang "I Will Always Love You" at the annual coed Emerald Pageant.

"It's a big beauty pageant for seniors only," she explains. "I had sung in it in prior years, but my senior year I was both a contestant *and* the entertainment; I sang while the judges were doing their scores. I didn't place, but I was →

HARK, AN ANGEL SINGS!

continued from previous page

happy to get to strut down the runway, and to get to sing. It is a cool memory.”

Following her marriage, Wells became a licensed vocational nurse, first working in Ohio before moving to The Silver State and studying at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas to become a registered nurse.

In Las Vegas, she met her partner of six years, Tanya Caldera, who hails from that other Pasadena in California. They became a family of five, with Caldera’s son, Jay, now 17, joining the singer’s two sons, Ethan, now 18, and Ty, who turned 15 in November.

In May 2014, Wells learned that her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, so the women and their sons moved to Pasadena, Texas, to help care for her.

“I always tease my mother about how she talked to God [to come up with] a way to bring me and the kids home,” says Wells. “At first, the biggest question was what would be the best treatment for her, but she ended up having chemotherapy, radiation, and surgery—all three. The whole family rallied together, and she is now in remission. I have helped so many patients—having gone through it with them opened up so many windows and doors in my mind. That gave me more to worry about [with my mother]. It hit so close to home.”

Finally able to exhale in the summer of 2015, Wells told a fellow nurse at Clear Lake Regional Medical Center about how she wanted to start singing again. The colleague told her about tryouts for the musical *Hairspray* at Art Park Players in Deer Park. Wells was cast as Motormouth Maybelle, the sassy owner of a Baltimore record shop who hosts “Negro Day” on “The Corny Collins Show,” and sings “Big, Blonde and Beautiful.” (Jennifer Hudson claims that role in this month’s *Hairspray Live!* on NBC, opposite Harvey Fierstein, Sean Hayes, Rosie O’Donnell, Paul Vogt, Billy Eichner, Garrett Clayton, Derek Hough, Kristin Chenoweth, Martin Short, Ariana Grande, and newcomer Maddie Baillio as Tracy Turnblad.)

This year, Wells returned to Art Park Players to perform in the ensemble of the Mel Brooks musical *The Producers*. One of her characters in that Tony Award-winning show was Shirley, a lesbian electrician.

Wells says her favorite part of *The Honky Tonk Angels Holiday Spectacular* is performing a Motown Christmas medley.

The show also combines Yuletide classics (including “Silent Night,” “Blue Christmas,” and “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town”) with the comedic “Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer” and Nashville staples like “Coat of Many Colors” by Dolly Parton and “Burning Love” by Dennis Linde.

Donalevan Maines is a regular contributor to *OutSmart* magazine.



ST. HOPE FOUNDATION
“Your Patient Centered Health Care Home”

MEDICAL | RESEARCH | DENTAL | PHARMACY | VISION

Are you (PrEP)ared?

Find out if PrEP is right for you.



For More Information About Treatment
CALL (713) 778-1300
WWW.OFFERINGHOPE.ORG



LAST WISHES
COMPASSIONATE END-OF-LIFE PET CARE



Find us on  **facebook**

Daytime After-Hours & Holiday Appointments Available



Dr. Christie Cornelius
1111 West Loop S. Houston, TX 77027
Ph: 713.452.0474 | info@lastwishes.com
www.lastwishes.com



- In-home consultation
- Hospice Care
- Euthanasia
- Clay Paw Memorial Keepsake
- Grief Support
- Pain Management
- Acupuncture
- Laser Therapy

Break Out the Holiday Garland!

Johnny Trlica hosts his 24th annual Judy Garland Christmas party.

By Donalevan Maines

Johnny Trlica makes the Yuletide gay by throwing a boozy Christmas party each year that honors the late Judy Garland. He will host the 24th annual affair at 8 p.m., Saturday, December 17, at his Montrose apartment.

As always, the “main event” is a showing of *The Judy Garland Christmas Special*, an hour-long program (complete with vintage commercials) that was first seen in 1963 as part of Judy’s regular TV variety series on CBS.

“Judy was a once-in-a-lifetime entertainer,” says Trlica, an apartment-leasing specialist who enjoys educating friends and co-workers about the talented, tortured singer’s pivotal role in gay history. “Young people today need to know our history, and how Judy’s death was the spark that ignited Stonewall and the gay-rights movement.”

This year, he tells guests, “For a little fun, come dressed as your fave Judy character. That might be a role she played in a film or on TV, or a character from one of her films—think scarecrows, tin men, and lions, oh my!—or someone from her personal life, such as maybe Liza with a Z.”

Gay icon Liza Minnelli, Garland’s daughter who was a teenager when the TV show was taped in Hollywood, performs in the Christmas special. She is partnered with handsome Tracy Everitt as her “beau.”

“That was funny,” says Everitt, a former Broadway hooper (*Bye Bye Birdie*, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*) who’s now 74 and a ballroom-dance teacher in Hoboken, New Jersey. He might not have been Liza’s beau off-screen, but he played one on TV.

“Our relationship is perfectly expressed in the dance we did,” Everitt tells OUTSMART, referring to a tame but playful rendition of “Steam Heat.” Everitt choreographed their TV dance segment without having seen Bob Fosse’s original *steamy* version from *The Pajama Game* on Broadway in 1954.



The “main event” of Johnny Trlica’s (inset) party is a showing of the 1963 *Judy Garland Christmas Special* complete with vintage commercials.

Liza and Everitt became friends in New York City while studying acting at the HB Studio in Greenwich Village. “She liked my dancing, and told her mother,” he says.

Judy hired Everitt to dance on *The Judy Garland Show*. “We only had one week to prepare the Christmas special—really three days,” he says.

Trlica spends more time than that preparing a feast of down-home eats for his annual Judy tribute. “The first one was kind of a whim,” he explains. After finding a VHS tape of the Christmas special, he decided it would be fun to invite a few friends over to watch it.

“We ate and drank, of course. Then after most everyone was there, I popped in the cassette and we all watched it. After Judy’s show, we also watched a tape of *The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet* and a funny old episode of *The Red Skelton Show*. The small gathering got a kick out of watching TV from a simpler time.”

The next year, Trlica invited a few more people to his second viewing party, and the event continued to grow each year.

“The revelers enjoyed watching an obviously intoxicated Judy stumble around, miss words, and nearly run into a fireplace,” says Trlica, who has been a fan of Judy’s since childhood, when he watched her as Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz* each year on TV. “At times, I’ve felt uneasy and bad about us gathering around to mock a woman of such enormous talent, but

who was so troubled. Now I like using the event just as my way of showing everyone how much I love them, and to encourage a little discussion of the importance of Judy in gay history.”

Judy was only 47 when she died from an accidental overdose of barbiturates in 1969. A crowd estimated at 20,000 filed through the funeral home in New York City where she lay in state, and 1,500 mourners stood outside during Judy’s funeral service on June 27, 1969. Both of those crowds included many of her gay fans who had heeded the siren call of her voice while also empathizing with her lifelong battle with drugs, alcohol, and depression. Some of those gay fans were still drinking at the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village, when a routine police raid in the wee hours of June 28 sparked a violent reaction that turned into about six days of rioting that spilled out onto Christopher Park and the surrounding streets.

“Gay people were used to being repressed,” explains Trlica, “but after Judy’s funeral service, they were not in the mood—not on this day. And so they fought back.”

When contacted by OUTSMART, Everitt was surprised to learn that Judy’s death helped set off the Stonewall Riots and the ensuing gay-rights movement. “But I understand,” he concedes, recalling the pre-Stonewall gay oppression that he witnessed. “I understand, because as a little boy [in show business], I was the →



gayribbean CRUISES

Gayribbean Halloween Cruise

LIBERTY OF THE SEAS
Oct. 29 – Nov. 5th, 2017
 Galveston to Roatan,
 Costa Maya & Cozumel

Our Biggest Event of the YEAR!
 Shows, Parties & Halloween Costume Party
 Starring **Tasha Kohl** and many more

Memorial Day Alaska Cruise
 Celebrity Solstice
 May 26th – Jun. 2nd, 2017
 Round-trip from Seattle

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.

BREAK OUT THE HOLIDAY GARLAND!

continued from previous page

only heterosexual kid among all these gays, whose world I loved. I saw how they were treated, how they had to hide. They felt that Judy had suffered. She had a hypnotic ability to show passion and emotion."

The premise of *The Judy Garland Christmas Special* has Judy inviting viewers (and the live studio audience) to join her family and friends on a set that suggests the opulent, sunken living room of her ranch-style home on Rockingham Avenue in the Brentwood section of Los Angeles. "It was extremely well-produced—a very expensive show," says Everitt.

Judy kicks off the special by singing "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" to Lorna Luft and Joey Luft, her children by late producer Sid Luft (*A Star Is Born*). "Next year, all our troubles will be miles away," sings Judy, before informing the audience that "Liza's out skating with her beau, but she'll be in later." (Just two years later, in 1965, Liza debuted on Broadway in *Flora the Red Menace*, becoming, at age 19, the youngest performer to win the Tony Award for Best Performance by a Leading Actress in a Musical.)

Once Judy's family is assembled on the set, other guests arrive, including singer Jack Jones, Judy's accompanist/composer/arranger Mel Torme, six Santa Clauses who dance the Charleston, and some Christmas carolers.

In 1974, Torme would write a scandalous tell-all, *The Other Side of the Rainbow with Judy Garland on the Dawn Patrol*, revealing drama behind the scenes of Judy's variety series. "It's a traitorous book," says Everitt, whose photograph appears in the 1974 hard-cover and 1991 paperback editions. "I despised it. He was not an author, so he had to tell everything under the rug in order to get published."

Among the show's sponsors are the cold medication Contac, with its "tiny time pills," and Pall Mall cigarettes. (The federal government eventually banned TV advertising of all cancer sticks in 1971.) Another commercial on the Christmas special answers the question, "What's a mother to do?" to get her kids to meet their daily vitamin requirements.

Everitt adds, "That show has brought much pleasure to many people ever since it was broadcast, and I am gratified that I had a part. As a time-capsule [of the] era in which it was created, as well as a psychological study of all who were involved in making it, it interests me as well, occasionally."

Trlica says that in 1976, he went to the Galleria and found a picture of an adult Judy that had a sketch of the Oz characters in the background. "It was my first piece of Garland memorabilia, and I still own it, along with dozens more Oz collectibles."

Donalevan Maines is a regular contributor to *OutSmart* magazine.



DENISE O'DOHERTY

LPC, LMFT, LCDC, RN

Individual, Couples, Family & Group Therapy

Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist,
 Licensed Clinical Dependency Counselor,
 Relationships, Addiction, Gender Issues

RelationshipTherapistRN.com 3730 Kirby Dr, Suite 910 • 713-524-9525

BEST MENTAL HEALTH THERAPIST
 OutSmart Reader's Choice Awards 2004-2016



Where All The Cool Dogs Go To Play!

Choose the Best Doggie Daycare in Montrose Voted by
 OutSmart Magazine... it's the place doggies want to be seen!

**Private Boarding • Doggie Daycare
 Grooming • Pet Products**

ALL PRODUCTS AT MOLLY'S MUTT HOUSE ARE MADE IN THE USA!

**STOP IN TODAY AND GET
 15% OFF**
 One Bag of Freeze Dried
 or Raw Stella & Chewys!

One coupon per family. Cannot be combined with any other discounts.

**SAVE WITH
 MOLLY'S MUTT HOUSE
 LIVED, LEARNED
 & EARNED
 65+ DISCOUNT
 10% OFF
 PRODUCTS & SERVICES**
 Coupon for customers

MOLLY'S MUTT HOUSE
 MAKING IT MAGAZINE LITTLE SINCE 2004

Visit www.MuttHouse.com
 3410 North Shepherd • 713.426.6888 • 2755 Vossdale • 281.501.9062 • 3407 Montrose Blvd • 832.581.2453

Offer Expires January 15, 2017



Stewart Title - Heights



Parker Witt
Branch Manager
Escrow Officer

Michael Caballero
Escrow Officer

OFFICE: 713.401.1850

CONVENIENT
HEIGHTS LOCATION
720 W. 11th Street
Suite 200

Contact us to see how
a reliable ally can help
increase your business and
improve your transactions.

stewart title

Come **FEEL** the LOVE ...

at **Silverlust** this **Holiday Season!**



Unique Jewelry since 1984

Silverlust
www.silverlustonline.com
1338-C Westheimer
713-520-5440

Naughty or Nice Sale ★ December 12-24

FLEX SPENDING ACCOUNTS ACCEPTED
— GIFT CERTIFICATES —



spectacles
ON MONTROSE

DISTINCTIVE EYEWEAR • CONTACT LENSES • EYE EXAMS

Evan Mapes OD
Optometric Glaucoma Specialist

4317 montrose blvd • 713.529.3937
www.WearUsOut.com

'Tis the Season to Give

2016 OUTSMART Holiday Gift Guide.

By Kelsey Gledhill

May your days be merry and even brighter with these fun and original gift ideas for the holiday season. Whether you are desperately last-minute shopping or looking for the final piece to complete your loved one's wish list, OUTSMART has wrapped our best gift ideas into one helpful guide. Happy shopping!

Let All the Children Boogie: A Tribute to David Bowie →

This all-ages album featuring 20 exclusive tracks dedicated to the music and artistry of David Bowie is the perfect way to introduce today's kids to the legendary rock icon. Proceeds benefit the It Gets Better Project and its mission to communicate to LGBT youth around the world that their lives can get better, and to create and inspire the changes needed to make it happen.

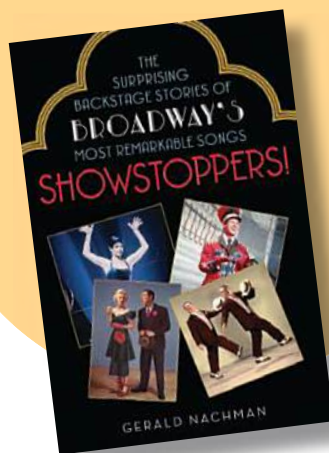
letallthechildrenboogie.com



✓ Showstoppers!: The Surprising Backstage Stories of Broadway's Most Remarkable Songs

Musical-theater fans will go crazy for *Showstoppers!* This infectious book by Gerald Nachman raises the curtain on over 75 of Broadway's best and most memorable numbers, including "All That Jazz" from *Chicago*, "Climb Ev'ry Mountain" from *The Sound of Music*, "Defying Gravity" from *Wicked*, and oh so many more. Nachman gives insight into why they were so effective, how they were created, and why they still resonate with audiences across the world.

ipgbook.com \$19.99



↓ Spec's Holiday Gift Baskets

Spec's holds the key to great gift-giving this holiday season with their ready-made and create-your-own baskets. Take your pick from a huge selection of hard-to-find spirits, world-class wines, craft beers, gourmet goodies, and much more.

specsonline.com



Spec's Wine Club

Wine, sealed, and delivered! Give the gift that can be opened more than once—a Spec's Wine Club membership. Savory new wines are handpicked by Spec's experts and delivered straight to the doorstep. Cheers to making spirits bright!

specswineclub.com

Starting at \$27.95

Dripping Springs Vodka

Smooth. Lush. Balanced. Whether it's a martini, a Moscow Mule, or something in between, nothing beats the soft, delicious finish of Dripping Springs vodka and gin. Grab a few minis for stocking stuffers, or a bottle for your special someone. Bottoms up!

drippingspringsvodka.com



Barbra ↗

Overflowing with photos, stories, and behind-the-scenes shots from photojournalists Steve Schapiro and Lawrence Schiller,

Barbra is a must-have for any Streisand fan. All the best movies from Babs' first

Hollywood decade are here, including *Funny Girl*, *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*, *The Way We Were*, *The Owl and the Pussycat*, *Up the Sandbox*, *Funny Lady*, and *A Star Is Born*. From Taschen Books (taschen.com). amazon.com \$69.99



Babs for the Holidays

This book from Taschen includes a slew of photos from Streisand's films, including (from top left) *Funny Girl*, *On a Clear Day*, and *The Owl and the Pussycat*. Right: Mom with her son, Jason Gould, who came out to his parents at the age of 21.

Globe winners Kevin Spacey and Robin Wright as the only political couple more frightening than Karl Rove and Dick Cheney.

For gay eyes (and others): LGBT films and film festivals, as well as television shows, continue to be a source of inspiration for all who see them.

• Created by gay filmmaker Andrew Haigh (Weekend and 45 Years), the short-lived but loved San Francisco-set HBO series

Looking (HBO Home Entertainment), starring Jonathan Groff, Frankie J. Alvarez, Russell Tovey, Daniel Franzese, Lauren Weedman, Raul Castillo, and Scott Bakula, ended after only two seasons. A 2016 movie reunited the characters for a final farewell. The complete series and movie have been gathered together in a five-disc set.

• **The Dresser** (Starz) – A remake of the lauded 1985 film, based on Ronald Harwood's play, this



version stars Sir Anthony Hopkins as a temperamental actor, and out actor Sir Ian McKellan as the actor's closeted gay dresser.

• **Kamikaze '89** (Film Movement) – The late gay filmmaker Rainer Werner Fassbinder stars as police lieutenant Jansen in Wolf Gremm's 1982 film adaptation of Per Wahlöö's 1964 novel *Murder on the 31st Floor*.

• **Holding the Man** (Strand Releasing) – Based on the memoir by Timothy Conigrave, and starring Guy Pearce, Geoffrey Rush, and Anthony LaPaglia, Neil Armfield's film follows the 15-year relationship of two gay men.

For the artistically inclined: Art and artists have a long history of being interesting subjects for movies.

• **Hockney** (Film Movement) – Randall Wright's David Hockney doc follows the artist from the height of his British pop-art scene success to his later struggles during the early AIDS era.

• **Peggy Guggenheim: Art Adict** (Music Box Films/Submarine Deluxe) – From Lisa Immordino Vreeland (*Diana Vreeland: The Eye Has to Travel*) comes this celebration of the heiress who became "a central figure in the modern art movement."

• **Francophonie** (Music Box Films) – Combining documentary with drama, Alexander Sokurov (*Russian Ark*) offers viewers his own "personal exploration of the profound cultural legacy" of the Nazi occupation of France during World War II.

For those who like to laugh: Comedy comes in all shapes and sizes, and laughter is the great equalizer.

• **Neighbors 2: Sorority Rising** (Universal) – If an often-shirtless Zac Efron is your idea of entertainment, then this sequel to the outrageous 2014 comedy will make a perfect gift for that special someone.

• **Joshy** (Lionsgate) – Don't you just love Thomas Middleditch on *Silicon Valley*? If so, then you should see him as the titular Joshy, dealing with the aftermath of his canceled wedding engagement.

For those celebrating the Festival of Lights: Two Israeli titles for the eight nights of Hanukkah.

• **Wedding Doll** (Strand Releas-

ing) – Hagit, a toilet-paper factory employee with an active imagination, falls in love with the boss' son. What could possibly go wrong?

• **Princess** (Breaking Glass) – Tali Shalom Ezer's film focuses on the relationship between Adar and her stepfather, and what happens when she introduces Alan, a boy who could be her twin, into the picture.

For documentary devotees: Documentaries continue to amass a growing following.

• **Tab Hunter Confidential** (Film-Rise/Automat) – Filmmaker Jeffrey Schwarz (*I Am Divine*, *Vito*, and *Wrangler: Anatomy of an Icon*) turns his lens on 1950s Hollywood heartthrob Tab Hunter, a movie and music sensation of the era (and beyond) who led a secret gay life before coming out.

• **The Homestretch** (Kartemquin) – Anne de Mare and Kristen Kelly's doc introduces viewers to three homeless teens, including lesbian Kacey, who navigate the system as well as the cold winter streets of Chicago.

• **No Home Movie** (Icarus Films) – The late lesbian filmmaker Chantal Akerman's personal final film examines her relationship with her Holocaust-survivor mother, Natalia.

For viewing from the edge of your seat: If you need a little more exhilaration in your life.

• Featuring out actor Kristian Nairn as the beloved giant Hodor, **Game of Thrones: The Complete Sixth Season** (HBO Home Entertainment) allows you to keep your favorite characters close by as they hurl "inexorably towards their uncertain individual fates."

• **Star Trek Beyond** (Paramount) contains the final performance of the late actor Anton Yelchin as Chekhov on the *USS Enterprise*, alongside out actor Zachary Quinto as Mr. Spock and Chris Pine as Captain Kirk, as they encounter ruthless new enemy Krall. ■



The Gift of Movies

By Gregg Shapiro

Who doesn't love movies? The DVD and Blu-ray titles that follow cover a broad range of subjects and genres. Popcorn and Milk Duds sold separately.

For the politically minded: The 2016 presidential election may be just a memory by the time you read this, but politics aren't.

• **Confirmation** (HBO Home Entertainment) – Kerry Washington was nominated for an Emmy Award for her portrayal of Anita Hill, the former colleague of judge Clarence Thomas who testified against him for sexual harassment during his nomination hearings.

• **House of Cards** (Sony Pictures Home Entertainment) – The complete fourth season (chapters 40 through 52) of the popular Netflix series stars Golden



YOUR GIFT-GIVING

CUSTOM GIFT BASKETS

A gift basket is only as good as the gifts it holds! And nobody has the huge selection of goodies like Spec's! Create your own or we have ready-made baskets to grab and go!



RIEDEL VINUM SINGLE MALT WHISKEY GLASSES

Set of 2
This glass was crafted with the help of master distillers to maximize the sipping pleasures of top-quality malt whiskeys.

\$39.88



RIEDEL "O" CHAMPAGNE GLASSES

Set of 2
The perfect holiday gift, these casual, yet elegant stemless glasses are designed to bring out the best in your bubbly!

\$19.94



LET'S CELEBRATE HOLIDAY MOSCATO

750ml
This pleasantly sweet wine offers fruity notes and a fragrant aroma—the perfect complement to fresh fruit and desserts!

\$11.96

Don't forget a Spec's gift card!



Same-Day Delivery  instacart

HEADQUARTERS!



SPECSPARTYTRAYS.COM



BEEF TENDERLOIN serves 12-15

Garlic and herb-roasted beef tenderloin with caramelized onions, roasted red peppers, cornichons, horseradish mayo and mini Kaiser rolls. **\$109**



GOURMET SLIDERS serves 15-20

Features an assortment of roast beef and cheddar, turkey and brie, ham and manchego, and grilled vegetables with feta and pesto. **\$69**



FREE CROWN ROYAL PECAN PIE

WITH \$100 PARTY TRAY PURCHASE

Valid at Smith Street store only. Mention this offer when you order. Expires 12/24/16.

GLEN MORAY 12YR SINGLE MALT SCOTCH

80°/750ml

Smooth, warming and rounded with a good, firm body. Perfect for holiday unwinding or unwrapping!

\$29.96 w/key*



THE ORIGINAL WHISKEY BALL

Set of 2

A must-have for any bartender, these clever ice molds keep cocktails cold without watering down their flavor!

\$14.89



MINI BOTTLES GIFT BASKET

The gift of spirited variety in one festive presentation! Features 12 popular liquors nestled in a colorful basket.

\$19.90

SPEC'S®

WINES · SPIRITS · FINER FOODS

LOCATIONS ACROSS THE AREA
SPECSONLINE.COM
CHEERS TO SAVINGS!

Prices include 5% savings for cash, check or debit and are good through 12/31/16. Store selections vary. Photos for illustration only. Prices subject to change.

*Save w/ your FREE Spec's Key!



**Maybe you
can afford
leather
after all.**

E. Bailey Moore Jr., Agent
State Farm Agent
1635 Richmond Ave
Houston, TX 77006
Bus: 713-522-6511

**Get pre-qualified for a car loan
that could save you hundreds.***

Let State Farm Bank® run the
numbers to see if our great
rates might help you upgrade your
new car options.

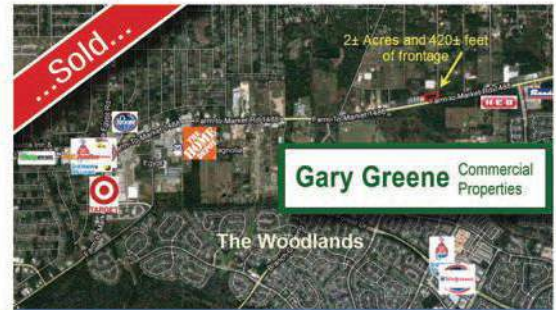
GET TO A BETTER STATE.®
CALL ME TODAY FOR MORE
INFORMATION.



*Hypothetical savings example over life of loan based on reduced interest rate.
Actual savings amount will vary depending on your individual circumstances.
1303066 10/13 State Farm Bank, F.S.B., Bloomington, IL

Buying, Selling and Investments

Available for all your Commercial and Residential Real Estate Needs



Lynette Lew • 713.582.2202

Residential and Commercial Realtor
Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Gary Greene
Gary Greene Commercial Properties

Lynette@LynetteLew.com | www.LynetteLew.com



- 20+ Years Experience
- Monthly & Quarterly Payroll Tax Returns
- Local & State Government Filing
- Arbitration with IRS

- Preparation of Financial Statements to third parties
- General Ledger packages—Quick Books, etc.
- My office or yours!
- Proud member of EPAH



VOTED
Best Accounting and
Bookkeeping Service

Gary M. Gritz, CPA

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

Specializing in Personal & Business Accounting Services

Call (713) 784-3030

230 Westcott, Suite 210 • Houston, Texas 77019
WWW.GARYMGRITZPC.COM • GGYANKSSS@AOL.COM

B | F | G
& ASSOCIATES

**High Quality
Compassionate Care**

Voted One of the Best Psychiatrists
— OutSmart 2011-2016 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

Sweet and 'Dirty'

'Dirty Dancing' set to debut at Smart Financial Center at Sugar Land.

By Donalevan Maines

A whole new world awakens for naïve teenager Frances "Baby" Houseman when she sees the grinding hip moves of John Swapshire and friends "kicking it" in *Dirty Dancing—The Classic Story On Stage*.

"She looks at us, and it's like, 'Oh my gosh, where'd they learn to do that?'" says the out dancer, whose first professional tour will help christen the Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land, January 20–22, 2017.

Sweet!

The \$84 million, state-of-the-art venue will boast back-to-back performances by Jerry Seinfeld at its January 14 grand-opening celebration, with *Dirty Dancing* hot on its heels as the center's first theatrical performance.

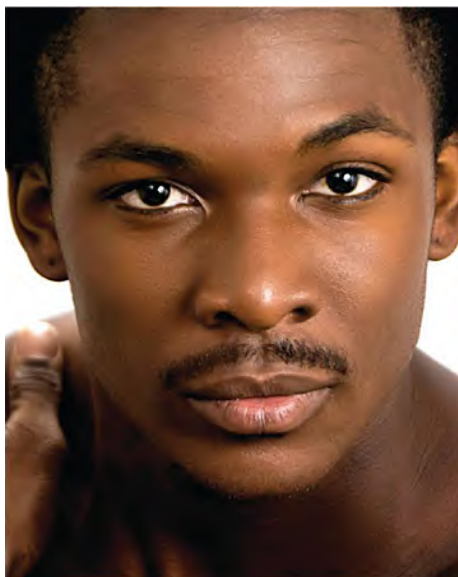
"Oh, wow," says Swapshire. "I feel like Houston is going to love this being one of the first shows there. The timing is just perfect, especially with the [presidential] election and everything that's been going on."

He describes the musical as a balm for the weary, and its North American tour a victory march for optimists.

The show is set in the summer of 1963, against the backdrop of the civil-rights movement. "There is actually a moment when we all stop and listen to Dr. Martin Luther King's speech," says Swapshire. "To me, it's really personal, being an African American. I feel connected. [Comparing 1963 with today], things have changed, but they haven't changed that much, and the show is a reminder not to go back there."

Swapshire was born and raised in St. Louis, where both he and his mother, soprano Ginger James, graduated from Central Visual and Performing Arts High School. "Performing arts was a natural thing in our family," he says. "My brother, five years older than me, played the saxophone. I was the dancer in the house."

Swapshire's mother introduced him to



Time of His Life:

John Swapshire takes on two different roles—gliding seamlessly across the dance floor, and grinding and grooving. **BELOW:** Swapshire (far right) with (l-r) Gary Lynch, Christopher Tierney, Bronwyn Reed, Jordan Edwin André, and Julz Tucker.

the 1987 coming-of-age movie *Dirty Dancing*, which starred the late Patrick Swayze of Houston as bad-boy rebel Johnny Castle, and newcomer Jennifer Grey as Baby. "I instantly fell in love with it," he says. "It actually was a big deal for me," especially its depiction of blacks and whites "kicking it" together in the working-class staff quarters of Kellerman's, a fictional resort in the Catskill Mountains of southeastern New York.

While earning a bachelor of fine arts in dance at the University of Missouri-Kansas

City, Swapshire got to travel a lot during his five seasons with Wylliams/Henry Contemporary Dance Company, which is hailed for expressing important social issues, provoking thought, and speaking to the human spirit.

This year, the Valentine's Day baby graduated from college three months after turning 23. A week later, he says, "I got the phone call that I landed this gig. The great thing is that I am an ensemble dancer, so I am onstage a lot. I have two different roles. My upstairs character is in ballroom scenes where everyone dresses elegantly. Then downstairs is where we do the grinding, lusty, fiery dancing."

This production's ballroom scenes, however, are more inclusive than the movie's depiction of snobby, upper-class Jewish patrons and upwardly mobile staff, with Jack Weston (as owner Max Kellerman) saying, "This is your waiter, Robbie Gold, Yale Medical School."

In the stage production, says Swapshire, "There is a lot of diversity upstairs, too."

You mean integrated dancing, in the family foxtrot?

"Yes," says Swapshire. "At Kellerman's, I believe it would have been appropriate. People could have been ceding the style of dancing to kind of bring both worlds together, cross-blending cultures [through] the arts to build a beautiful, diverse world."

In a "perfect world," Swapshire says he has two dream roles. "I would like to play a male witch in the musical *Wicked*, cross-blending gender and color and all that, and in the future a role I plan to do is Scar in *The Lion King*."

Dirty Dancing won the Academy Award for Best Original Song for "(I've Had) The Time of My Life," and its best-selling soundtrack →





Alfa Romeo FIAT of Clear Lake

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM
OUR FAMILY TO YOURS!



**WE HAVE A GREAT
SELECTION INCLUDING
CLASSICA, LUSSO
AND ABARTH**



2017 FIAT 124 SPIDER

1-888-784-6717 • 15695 Gulf Freeway
www.clearlakefiat.com
www.alfaromeoclearlake.com

MONTROSE CHINESE RESTAURANT

Better Food For A Better Life!



Grub Hub - Montrose Chinese Restaurant
Eat24 - Montrose Chinese Restaurant
MontroseChineseRestaurant.com
MontroseChinese.com

HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 11AM - 9:45PM | SATURDAY - SUNDAY 11:30AM - 9:45PM
FREE DELIVERY: Downtown, Heights, Montrose, Medical Center • \$15 Minimum all day for free delivery • Call to check the delivery location

1952 Montrose Blvd. # B | 713.529.5288 | 713.529.4887

Clairvoyant Tarot Readings By L.A.

Here is what one client has to say:

"As a professional forecaster myself, I can attest to L.A. Brown's remarkable ability to "see" the future. She's as insightful as she is delightful, whether she's amazing my party guests or giving me a personal reading, L.A. is spot-on with her predictions...and she goes out a lot farther than my 10-day forecast!" — **Frank Billingsley**



To schedule your reading
Call (832) 856-2188
www.ReadingsbyLA.com

Readings • Romantic Relationships • Business • Past Lives • Mediumship • Life Coaching • Party Entertainment

Check out your monthly general reading on YouTube/Readings by L.A.

SWEET AND 'DIRTY'

continued from previous page

included Swayze singing "She's Like the Wind."

Swapsire loves the mambo that's performed by the stars of both the movie and the stage show, as well as the raunchy medley of "Do You Love Me" (The Contours) and "Love Man" (Otis Redding) that introduces Baby to dirty dancing. But he also has a soft spot in his heart for a samba that is celebrated with conga drums.

"It calls home to me," he says.

Serving as next month's home to this production, the Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land is a part of the most diverse city in the most diverse county in the nation, with census statistics indicating that Fort Bend County's population is practically equal parts white, black, Hispanic, and Asian.

Sugar Land was once a thriving company town, home to the giant Imperial Sugar refinery that closed in 2003. The town's record growth in the 1980s and 1990s was carefully planned, resulting in safe, first-class recreational facilities and exemplary schools.

For further information about the venue that will host *Dirty Dancing—The Classic Story On Stage* and additional events, visit smartfinancialcentre.net.

Donalevan Maines is a regular contributor to OUTSMART magazine.



Looking for signs of
goodness and light
in Houston this season?
Share your discoveries...

FOLLOW: [/stpaulshouston](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulshouston)

TAG: [#goodnessandlight](https://www.instagram.com/goodnessandlight)



ST. PAUL'S
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
HOUSTON

A Curated Cocoa Crawl

HTX's hottest hot chocolates, just in time for the holidays.

By Joanna O'Leary

As the holidays approach and it has finally cooled down, a sweet, warm libation can be a wonderful reward for braving the crowded shopping centers playing *The Nutcracker Suite* on department-store Muzak for the *n*th time.

Options abound in H-town, and thanks to Houston's diverse restaurant scene, an otherwise plain old hot-chocolate crawl can easily turn into an international experience. Here are our picks for a delicious cocoa itinerary with Indian, Italian, Greek, Mexican, as well as American inflections.

Your first stop is The Chocolate Bar for a steaming cup of their signature hot chocolate made with whole milk and European chocolate shavings. As an homage to Serendipity's famous oxymoronic creation, The Chocolate Bar also offers their own version of frozen hot chocolate blended with ice and topped with chocolate sprinkles. Even with all this liquid decadence, it's hard to resist their plethora of solid chocolate goodies that are also available. So go ahead and treat yourself by using your cup of cocoa to wash down a slice of Aunt Etta's chocolate cake or Bayou City Mud Pie.

A nice complement to The Chocolate Bar's milder, milky hot chocolate is their neighbor Fellini's darker, slightly bitter brew whose thick, sweet dregs creep up the side of your teacup. Pick up one of their biscotti to dip in your cocoa for a lovely, crunchy contrast to the silky chocolate.

Then continue in the Mediterranean swing of things in Montrose by checking out the coffee bar at Niko Niko's Greek & American Café, where the regular hot chocolate is made with steamed milk and crowned with whipped cream. Even more enticing is the "Aphrodite's Dream," a hot-chocolate blend of

white and dark chocolate laced with almond. Just around the corner at Blacksmith on Westheimer, a frothy mug of hot cocoa in the morning will (almost) distract you from the delectable breakfast and lunch specials such as the scratch biscuits with crème fraîche and marmalade, or the Vietnamese steak and eggs with pâté. (*Almost* being the key word—that croissant has your name on it.)

A beacon of relaxation in the oft-harried River Oaks Shopping Center, luxury chocolatier Araya sets up a hot-chocolate service in the colder months with tableside jars of cinnamon plus miniature marshmallows for garnishes. However, we suggest purchasing some of Araya's house-made artisan marshmallows in flavors like pumpkin spice, cookies and cream, peppermint, and toasted coconut.

After escaping the retail jungle, head to the Heights. One of the more recent innovations at the ever-evolving Heights bistro Urban Eats is a South-Asian inspired spice hot chocolate made with Callebaut Dark Chocolate and Ghirardelli Cocoa, livened with a symphony of spices including cardamom, cinnamon, clove, star anise, black pepper, green fennel, and ginger.

Those not keen on navigating holiday

shopping with a to-go cup of cocoa should go to Hugo's for a more formal hot-chocolate experience. Their lengthy dessert menu includes the Churros Rellenos con Dulce de Leche—perhaps Spanish for "deep-fried chocolate goodness"? It should be, because Hugo's flaky, sweet churros stuffed with dulce de leche and served with a cup of Mexican hot chocolate and a scoop of chocolate ice cream is the stuff I imagine they serve in heaven.

Finally, the Galleria area's Cacao & Cardamom Chocolatier boasts perhaps the most sophisticated hot-chocolate options. Patrons are invited to first choose a serving style—sipping chocolate, dense "European," traditional American, Mexican, Mochaccino, Cappuccino, frozen, or hot chocolate blended with ice and gelato. Then they select their favorite type of chocolate—Colombian (85 percent cocoa), Venezuelan (72 percent cocoa), or Madagascar Gianduja (64 percent cocoa), and finally a base (whole milk, macadamia milk, or water). We did the stats for you: that comes to more than 400 combinations. You're welcome.

Joanna O'Leary is a freelance food and travel writer based in Houston. Her exploits are chronicled on brideyoleary.com.



Ho! Ho! Cocoa!

Drink up and warm up with exotic hot chocolates you're sure to froth over.

QUALITY DENTISTRY

ONE PATIENT AT A TIME!



ONE OF THE BEST DENTISTS
OutSmart Readers' Choice
Awards 2006 – 2016

VOTED AS ONE OF HOUSTON'S
TOP DENTISTS
2004 – 2014
— H Texas Magazine



Cory Logan, D.D.S.

General & Cosmetic Dentistry

713.942.8598

www.CoryLoganDDS.com

530 Waugh Dr. | Houston TX 77019

Happy Holidays

Joe Tramonte Realty

(409) 765-9837 TramonteRealty.com



Diamond Beach

10327 San Luis Pass
3/2 1,235sf \$499,000



5128 Avenue P 1/2
4/2/2 2,834sf \$247,500



1412 Postoffice St
5/2/1 1,648sf \$379,900



Cedar Lawn

21 Cedar Lawn Drive N
3/2.5/2 2,781sf \$369,500



7646 Chantilly Circle
3/2.5/2 2,704sf \$357,000



3415 Avenue K
4/2.5/2 2,388sf \$168,900

TECH AUTO

MAINTENANCE

713-863-8244

- 20+Years Experience in Houston
- State-of-the-Art Auto Repair Facility
- Mechanics Specializing in Both Domestic Import Vehicles
- Quality, Reliable and Professional Service at Competitive Rates
- Guaranteed Parts & Services
- Hours: Monday-Friday 7am-6pm
- 24/7 Towing Direct to Tech Auto
Call 281/859-0994

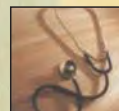


**VOTED BEST
AUTO MECHANICS**
by OutSmart Readers
2013-2016



BOBBY HARTING, OWNER

37 Waugh Drive • Houston, TX 77007
TechAutoMaintenance.com



OCTAVIO BARRIOS, M.D.

ADULT PRIMARY CARE

www.doctorbarrios.com



OCTAVIO BARRIOS, MD

BOARD CERTIFIED
AMERICAN BOARD
OF FAMILY MEDICINE

BY APPOINTMENT
SAME DAY AVAILABLE
FOR ACUTE ILLNESS

**Ask us about
PrEP Today!**

HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

**MOST INSURANCES
ACCEPTED**



LUCIA MANGLE ARNOLD,
MPAS, PA-C



BEST PHYSICIAN
2013-2016
FINALIST

Renaissance Family Clinic

517 West Gray St. • 713.942.7546

Cuisine with a Cause

Galveston Restaurant Week brings attention and awareness.

By Barrett White

Historically known as the Queen City of the Gulf, Galveston tells a rich story in shipping, trade, and commerce. Like many other destination cities, what better way for Galveston to convey its savory heritage than through a delicious meal? The sixth annual Galveston Restaurant Week kicks off on January 7 and continues for two weeks, so come aboard for the island's tastiest prix-fixe lunch and dinner services.

January is typically the slowest month of the year for this sub-tropical getaway, so it's the perfect time to take advantage of the thinned tourist crowds and discounted meals. Plus, participation in Galveston Restaurant Week is easy. There are no tickets to buy—simply dine out at a participating restaurant and choose their three-course dinners or two-course breakfasts or brunches. Each participating restaurant's prix-fixe menu will showcase its best signature dishes for ultimate crowd-pleasing at a reasonable price.

Galveston Restaurant Week is sponsored by Galveston Island

Brewing, a family-owned brewery and local favorite. Their brews can be found in 35 popular restaurants in Galveston. While in

town for Restaurant Week, be sure to stop by the family-friendly brewery to check out their tap wall containing a variety of 12 beer styles from around the world. The Galveston Island Brewing tap wall is open seven days a week.

Although Galveston is best known for its award-winning Gulf Coast seafood, many other menu options can be found. Explore Seawall Boulevard and The Strand for fare ranging from big names like Landry's and Bubba Gump to local hotspots like the promi-

Take advantage of the thinned tourist crowds and discounted meals.

nent family-owned duo Gaido's and Nick's, as well as Yaga's, Gypsy Joynt, and many others. Throughout the Restaurant Week festivities, participating restaurants will be vying for your votes to earn Galveston Restaurant Week's Restaurant of the Year award. Voting is already open and will close on January 19, with the award presentation scheduled for January 20—leaving two days in Restaurant Week for last-minute diners to sample the prix-fixe menu of the winning eatery.

In addition to filling up on the island's award-winning seafood, you'll also be dining for a cause. Galveston Restaurant Week is proudly partnered with Access Care of Coastal Texas (ACCT), and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to ACCT to support their work in providing weekly warm meals to clients struggling with HIV/AIDS and other health issues.

Access Care of Coastal Texas was founded in 1985 to provide unparalleled HIV/AIDS care for those in the Texas Gulf Coast area. Services include counseling, free testing, preventative education, housing assistance, financial education, and much more.



GALVESTON ISLAND CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Meals and Deals!

Get a taste of delicious island fare from a variety of big-name and local-favorite restaurants during Galveston Restaurant Week.

For many clients, the meals that ACCT provides may be the only balanced nutrition they receive. This is not the first time Galveston Restaurant Week has paired with ACCT—the Restaurant Week's support last year ensured that all ACCT clients received warm, nutritious meals throughout 2016. Now *that's* cuisine with a cause.

Though reservations are not mandatory, they are encouraged in order to ensure you'll find a spot at your favorite restaurant.

Galveston Restaurant Week asks that you follow and use #celebratedelicious on social media, and vote for your favorite restaurant on their website homepage. For a full list of eateries participating in Galveston Restaurant Week, go to galveston.com/galvrw.

To find out about other exciting attractions on the island, go to galveston.com.

What: The Sixth Annual Galveston Restaurant Week

When: January 7–22, 2017

Where: Galveston, Texas

Details: galveston.com/restaurantweek

Barrett White is a frequent contributor to OUTSMART magazine.

GLORIA'S

RESTAURANTS



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



WINNER
BEST BRUNCH

OutSmart
**GAYEST
& GREATEST
2016**

COME FALL IN LOVE WITH US!

FINALIST
BEST MEXICAN

GLORIA'S HOUSTON

2616 LOUISIANA ST.

SUITE 101 • HOUSTON, TX

OPEN SUN-THU: 11AM-10PM

AND FRI-SAT: 11AM-2AM

WWW.GLORIASCUISINE.COM

FAST. FREE. CONFIDENTIAL.
FREE HIV TESTING | RESULTS IN MINUTES!

Monday - Thursday: 9am-6pm | Friday: 8am-5pm
NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY!

HACS
HOUSTON AREA COMMUNITY SERVICES
2150 West 18th St. (2nd FL), Houston, TX 77008
832-384-1406 | www.hacstx.org

Serving our Community in a Safe & Caring Environment.

Psychotherapy, Career Counseling,
Individual, & Relationship
Counseling

**DENIS "WOODJA"
FLANIGAN, PH. D.**

Licensed psychologist



Voted
BEST
PSYCHOLOGIST

2011-2016 OutSmart
Readers' Choice Awards

Advanced clinical experience in BDSM/Kink, polyamory,
open relationships, infidelity, and pagan spirituality in an
accepting and non-judgmental environment.

HELPING YOU REACH YOUR FULL POTENTIAL!

2211 Norfolk St., Suite 206, 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

A Drag Mystery

An interview with queer-music historian JD Doyle.

By Gregg Shapiro

In the pantheon of newly released CD and LP music reissues, *Love Is a Drag* (Modern Harmonic), originally issued on Lace Records in 1962, stands alone. Too serious and too high-quality to be dismissed as a novelty item, *Love Is a Drag* contained the following text on the album cover: “For Adult Listeners Only—Sultry Stylings by a Most Unusual Vocalist.” Why? Because the album’s 12 pop standards such as “Lover Man,” “He’s Funny That Way,” “My Man,” “The Man I Love,” and “Mad about the Boy”—songs traditionally sung by a woman to a man—were all performed by an unidentified *male* vocalist. Additionally, the album cover featured two men, one smoking in the foreground and the other slightly out of focus in the background, in what one might assume is a gay bar.

In 2012, 50 years after the release of the album, the unraveling of that musical mystery began when queer music historian JD Doyle was contacted by the album’s producer. Doyle, who maintains the LGBT history website jddoylearchives.org, had the honor of writing the liner notes for the *Love Is a Drag* reissue. I spoke with Doyle about the album before the reissue hit the shelves on Record Store Day in November 2016.

Gregg Shapiro: JD, when did you first come across the 1962 LP *Love Is a Drag*?

JD Doyle: I’ve been aggressively collecting music by LGBT artists since the 1990s, so some time back then.

How did you acquire it?

I’m sure in a used-record store. I have thousands of albums, and do not try to remember when or where I get them.

Had you been aware of its existence before finding a copy of it?

I am sure of it.



For the Love of Music

Queer-music historian JD Doyle has made it his life’s mission to deliver gay-specific music of all genres to Houston’s LGBT community.

Do you think that there could possibly be more titles like this out there somewhere?

If you mean more albums done with that approach, no, not from that time. This LP was released in 1962, and the next one with that approach—*Mad About the Boy* on Camp Records—came out in 1965. [Then] Zebedy Colt’s *I’ll Sing for You* [came out] in 1969. None were distributed widely or sold well.

What is involved in your process of record-hunting for your Queer Music Heritage website?

I have been a record collector for decades, long before the radio show. As for my process, lots of fanatical and aggressive research, [initially accomplished by visiting] used-record stores and [studying] record-sale publications. Whenever I traveled, I sought out the record stores of the

different cities. A pilgrimage was always part of my vacations. Later, this was made easier by the Internet—especially on eBay.

What were the criteria for artists or albums to make the cut for Queer Music Heritage?

Almost all is music by LGBT artists, with an emphasis on that which is lyrically gay. If one song on an LP or CD has “out” lyrics, you could be sure that would be the one I played. My position was that I did not hear music that was directed to me as a gay person until I was 30, so once I got to be in a position to have my own radio show, I changed that. Straight artists can make the cut only if the song was lyrically about gay topics such as same-sex marriage, gay Boy Scouts, whatever. And while I loved the gay divas—Streisand, Midler, Garland, Minnelli, etc.—they did not make it. →



World Q Travel

**THIS HOLIDAY SEASON
GIVE THE GIFT OF TRAVEL!**

- Cruises
- Vacation Packages
- Luxury Travel & Customized Itineraries
- Honeymoons & Destination Weddings
- LGBT Specialized Cruise & Resort Itineraries

936.828.4294
info@WorldQTravel.com
www.WorldQTravel.com

Daniel R. Garza, MD

**Medication
Management
Psychotherapy**

Specializing in:
Depression • Bipolar
Anxiety • ADHD Disorders

**BEST
PSYCHIATRIST**

OutSmart Readers' Choice 2008–2016

281.610.8190

3131 Eastside St. • Suite 415
Limited Evening Appointments Available
Ψ Se Habla Español Ψ
DRGarzaMD.com

A DRAG MYSTERY

continued from previous page

Ultimately, you were able to solve the long-standing mystery surrounding *Love Is a Drag*, as you wrote in the liner notes for the reissue.

The 1962 album was released with the singer not identified, and with the intriguing premise of a man singing standard love songs to another man. Of course I wondered about that for many years, while occasionally playing tracks on my radio show. A key is that I set up my music website as a resource, because history needs to be accessible, not just played on the radio and gone. So all my shows are archived, and search engines can find them. When I received the email from the album's producer, Murray Garrett, I was stunned. It was like a Holy Grail knocking on your door. I immediately wrote him back requesting a phone interview, and I was delighted to be able to capture the story. He essentially had been looking back at his life and wanted to reveal [Gene Howard as] the album's mystery singer to someone—and he found me.

What is your opinion of the song selections on *Love Is a Drag*?

I happen to love the standards, and many of the songs I had already conscripted into my personal favorites list, changing the pronouns in my head like gay people have had to do most of their lives in order to have the music “speak to them.” My special favorites were the “man songs,” like “The Man I Love,” “My Man,” “Can’t Help Lovin’ that Man.” The well-known standards [occupy] most on the album. [Two] possible exceptions are “Bill” and “Jim,” [which don’t] work as well for me.

Are there other songs that you think would have been a good fit for the album?

Ones that come to mind are “Am I Blue,” “Someone to Watch Over Me,” and “We Kiss in a Shadow.”

If there’s one place where the album plays it safe, it’s on “Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered,” where vocalist Gene Howard sings a tamer version of the song. For instance, he doesn’t sing the original Lorenz Hart lyrics such as “I’ll sing to him/Each spring to him/And worship the trousers that cling to him.” Can you please say something about that?

Good catch. [Laughs] Yes, I love the original lyrics. Maybe the trousers part was a bit racier than they wanted to approach. Or maybe they just wanted a shorter version. The two “male” versions I have to compare it to are both five-minute songs, where this one is only three.

What’s your opinion of Howard’s singing abilities?

Gene Howard was an excellent singer with Big

Band credentials—a very good choice for that project.

As you mentioned, you were able to interview the producer, Murray Garrett. What do you remember most about that interview?

My favorite story is the one he told me concerning Liberace. Garrett and Howard were well-known for photographing album covers, and [a photo shoot] for Liberace was scheduled. When he came over to the studio—bringing his own candelabra—Garrett put the *Love Is a Drag* album on the phonograph without saying a word about it, just [letting it play] in the background during the photo shoot. When they were finished, Liberace went back into the dressing room, changed back into his street clothes, picked up his candelabra, and very quietly walked over to the turntable, picked up the record and said, “Ta, ta.” And he walked out with the record. Many times after that, Liberace told Garrett, “You know, you produced my favorite album.”

In the liner notes for the CD reissue of *Love Is a Drag*, you write that not only was Gene Howard not gay, but the models on the album cover were also straight. Where did that leave *Love Is a Drag* in terms of your Queer Music Heritage criteria?

While no one involved with the LP was gay, the intent of the album was for it to be perceived as gay. And as it was done in such good taste, that is perfectly fine with me. As a listener, it was a treat for me to hear songs I loved done “man-to-man.”

The story behind *Love Is a Drag* has a cinematic quality to it. If a movie were made about *Love Is a Drag*, who would you like to see cast as Gene?

That’s certainly a question I had not thought of. [Laughs] If you want someone well-known, I might suggest Harry Connick Jr. Most of Gene Howard’s success was in the 1940s, so he still would have been a recognized name in 1962. I think he should be portrayed by an already-respected singer today, not an unknown.

What current LGBT artists are you listening to and excited about these days?

I am so consumed by the work on my history websites that I have limited my attention to just a few artists whom I have become friends with, such as Tom Goss, Tret Fure, Pansy Division, and a handful of others. [However,] one act that caught my attention this week is The Heaters. While I do not know if the members of this female band are lesbian, I love their ‘60s “girl group” sound, and one track on their CD is stellar. The song “Sandy” keeps repeating the refrain “this boy wants to be a girl.” How can you resist that? [Laughs]

Gregg Shapiro is a regular contributor to OUTSMART magazine.

Survival Guide

David France's new book expands on his 2012 doc.

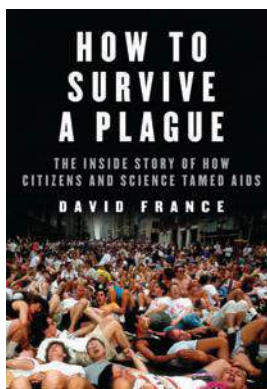
By Lawrence Ferber

David France's Oscar-nominated 2012 documentary *How to Survive a Plague* brought to light how AIDS activists, through the ACT UP and TAG coalitions, helped push medical breakthroughs forward by becoming part of the process. Constructed from hundreds of hours of incredible archival video footage via a technique now known as “archival vérité,” that powerful documentary helped reignite interest in this terrible yet profoundly important chapter in LGBT history.

Four years later, France—a journalist who covered the AIDS beat since its early days for publications like the *New York Native*, *NY Magazine*, and *Newsweek*—has just completed his expansive, intimate, dramatic, and elegantly penned book of the same name.

Released on November 29, *How to Survive a Plague: The Inside Story of How Citizens and Science Tamed AIDS* traces HIV from its mysterious emergence in New York to the game-changing and lifesaving 1990s protease-inhibitor breakthrough (as well as more recent developments covered in the epilogue). It's a gripping, engrossing read—the most essential text of its kind to date—that tells the stories of key players in the epidemic, from the scientists to the activists and allies, politicians, celebrities (including Rock Hudson, for one), and, of course, the afflicted.

To a degree, the book corrects some of the mistakes found in the late Randy Shilts' 1987



KEN SCHLES

Dugas, aka Patient Zero, who was recently exonerated as the “villain” who brought AIDS to North America.

“My first impulse for going back to this story was [that] Randy had accomplished a sort of historical misdirection,” France admits. “He presented AIDS as a San Francisco story, and although San Francisco has a story about AIDS, the story of the community’s response—and literally the epicenter of the global epidemic for 10 or 11 of those 15 years of plague—was New York. Shilts also made mistakes of judgment. He was sex-negative—his reporting carried a lot of shame, I think. And



AIDS Activism in the U.S.

David France's (inset) new book *How to Survive a Plague*, inspired by his Oscar-nominated 2012 documentary of the same name, details an extremely pivotal moment in the history of American civil rights. It covers HIV from its emergence in New York to the grassroots movement of activists who called upon the scientific-research community to help develop the drugs that turned HIV into a manageable disease.

account of the early AIDS years, *And the Band Played On*—most notably, the account of Gaetan

then there was the enormous error of Patient Zero. I should also point out *Band's* last chapter ends in 1985, so he missed many things happening on the ground that were going to produce something. And because HIV took him away in 1994, he missed the historical long view and ability to look back 15 years later and assess what happened, what it meant, and what his legacy will be.”

The NYC-based France says that he actually attempted to get a book going prior to the documentary's production, but found the publishing world disinterested because of the recession-era economy and, more importantly, the perception that the tale of AIDS had already been told. “I said, ‘It hasn't been told—it's been wrong in certain ways, and nobody has ever told the story about what was accomplished and what the legacy of AIDS activism was,’” he recalls. →



Tim Foteh



HATEM FOTEH INSURANCE AGENCY

12603 Southwest FWY Ste 565
Stafford, TX 77477
281.565.4800

ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE NEEDS, INCLUDING:
Home, Auto, Life, Business, Renters, Landlord & Vacant, Flood and so much more.

www.facebook.com/fotehfarmersinsuranceagency



Jessica
Flores-Loya

SURVIVAL GUIDE

continued from previous page

In researching his initial book proposal, France revisited archival videos of ACT UP meetings and demonstrations—many of which he attended—to place himself back in that era. But after it became clear that the book was going nowhere, he ultimately realized that “I could do something with [the videos], because nobody can ever stop a fool from making a documentary on a credit card.”

The enthusiastic 2012 reception to that *Plague* documentary, and David Weissman’s San Francisco-centric *We Were Here*, proved that audiences did in fact hunger for these personal stories and AIDS history, and that a dearth of information and personal accounts about those first, critical years in fact existed.

After finally being green-lit for the book, France commenced a whole new wave of research. He was fortunate to gain access to a trove of material from which he could not only reconstruct the lives of key individuals, but also recreate dialogue word-for-word. The book provides especially detailed accounts of Dr. Joseph Sonnabend (one of NYC’s first physicians to focus on the strange and deadly opportunistic infections) and HIV-positive singer Michael Callen (who co-authored an early safer-sex advice pamphlet before HIV was even confirmed as the plague’s culprit). Today, New York has an LGBT community health center named after Callen and lesbian activist and poet Audre Lorde.

“Starting in 1981, they were smart enough to tape-record everything,” he explains. “They knew something remarkable was happening, and that history might attempt to discredit what was really happening on the ground [by creating] an artificial narrative. [We have the tape] where Sonnabend sits down with one of his patients and says, ‘There are people who are going to pervert this for their own means and rewrite this history—we need to keep a record for it ourselves.’ Conversations between Callen and his family are on tape. It was incredible for me to discover I could tell these stories with the same kind of archival vérité veracity, going back to the first minutes of the plague.”

While France regards the documentary and book as separate works of scholarship (thanks to their differences in scope and the individuals featured), there is still some cross-over. Longtime HIV survivor Peter Staley—who France grew to know during the documentary and its reception, and who has since become a robust activist, educator, and PrEP treatment-as-prevention advocate—is heavily featured, as is legendary firebrand Larry Kramer, who co-founded Gay Men’s Health Crisis and scribed the scathing autobiographical play *The Normal Heart* in the wake of his GMHC ouster. France notes that he doesn’t let Kramer off easy in the book, characterizing

PILATES BY LESLIE

ENHANCE CONFIDENCE

IMPROVE PHYSIQUE

FEEL MORE DESIRABLE

CONTACT US
FOR A FREE
CONSULTATION!

281.546.0040

CERTIFIED PILATES INSTRUCTOR AND PERSONAL TRAINER



IN THE MORTGAGE INDUSTRY,
A PLEA FOR TRUST MEANS
NOTHING. **ACCOUNTABILITY
AND REPUTATION MEAN
EVERYTHING.**

ROBERT M. SPIEGEL
RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE
LOAN ORIGINATOR #198315
SPIEGEL@RSMC.NET
713-961-5363
RMSPIEGEL.COM



REPUBLIC

STATE MORTGAGE

NMLS 62411

2121 SAGE ROAD

SUITE 140

HOUSTON, TX 77056

him as “an essential pain in the ass.”

“I don’t think he wants to be let off easy,” France elaborates. “I think Larry deserves to be treated seriously by history. Not romantically, not angrily, but taken at face value. What he accomplished moves forward the entire AIDS narrative from the first day. If anyone wants to take the experiences and accomplishments of the AIDS movement and [apply] them in another field, they’re going to need to know how Larry Kramer did what he did.”

One of the book’s major players is Dr. Robert Gallo, who was engaged in a bitter feud with Dr. Luc Montagnier of the French Pasteur Institute. That dispute over which one of them actually discovered HIV led to tragic decisions, chaos, and delays in testing advancements. (The feud also figured into Shilts’ *And the Band Played On* and its 1993 HBO film adaptation.) France has been interviewing Gallo since the ’80s—and as recently as this year—and credits him as a great science mind, despite the ugly skirmishes. “He was the person who first suspected a retrovirus, and discovered retroviruses,” France says. “He made every advancement in the HIV discovery process *except* for the discovery of HIV itself. I believe it drove him nuts that somebody could come in and stumble on the virus the way Luc did. He’s still upset he didn’t get the Nobel Prize.”

Research material for some of *Plague’s* other prominent subjects proved more elusive, however—to wit, a series of diaries kept by outspoken “Kaposi’s Sarcoma Poster Boy” and Sister of Perpetual Indulgence Bobbi Campbell, whose conservative family had all but one volume incinerated following his death in 1984. “That really broke my heart,” France admits. From that one surviving diary, which ended up in the possession of a nurse, France was able to build some scenes. “The brother who had them destroyed is no longer alive, and I spoke with his widow and I asked, ‘Do you realize what his family took from the historical record?’ It did frustrate me remembering back then that our stories were considered so unimportant.”

One of the most important and revealing accounts committed to the book, however, was France’s own. While he had started out writing a strict history, “the more I wrote, the more I was realizing I wanted to interpret what was happening, and wanted people to know I was making interpretations,” he says. Although it proved to be a painful process that even caused France to consider stopping, his determination to bring back that era—and give a voice to the disenfranchised LGBT community that existed prior to the founding of groups like ACT UP—motivated him to keep going.

“It’s just shocking,” France reflects, “and I would think especially for younger LGBT people who [assume we have always had a] connection to civic life in America. We had no connection to civic life then.” France studied many polls that revealed Americans’ →



T H A N K S
for honoring me as one of the
Best Therapists
for 2010–2016

Robert Snellgrove, lcsw
Counselor | Psychotherapist

4617 Montrose Suite C206
Houston, Texas 77006
713.522.7014 www.robertsnellgrove.com



does your vet make house calls?
713.987.3237
open days,
evenings and weekends.
www.southbysouthvets.com



it's all we do.

DON'T BE BUGGIN'



Have A Happy Holiday!



13157 Northwest Freeway @ Hollister • 713.329.9989
WWW.AQUARIUMWORLD.NET



Community HepC Clinic

**We Have
FibroScan 502**
An Non-Invasive Way To Test Your Liver

BE FREE OF HEP C

Our clinic is open to anyone who has reason to believe they have been exposed to Hepatitis C. These services are provided irrespective of an individual's ability to pay. We work with all insurance companies, non-profit foundations, as well as indigent patients.

Who should be tested:

- Infection with HIV
- A history of illicit injection drug use or intranasal cocaine use (even once)
- Chronic Hemodialysis
- Children born to HCV-infected mothers
- Current sexual partners with HCV infection
- Elevated ALT
- Received blood/organs before 1992
- Needle stick or mucosal exposure to blood
- Received clotting factors made before 1987

communityhepcclinic.com • (832) 831-7770

7700 Main Street Suite 400 • Houston, Texas 77030 (Located in the Texas Medical Center)



Download Our App

BEPREPARED

Questions About Starting PrEP? Call us or ask your doctor to send us your RX

Services Include

- Free Local Confidential Delivery
- Refill Reminders
- ADAP Program
- Copay Assistance
- Pharmaceutical Patient Assistance
- Competitive Cash Prices

**We Accept Over 350
Insurance Plans**

6 HOUSTON AREA LOCATIONS

Texas Medical Center • Museum District
Sharpstown • The Woodlands • Katy
Sugar Land • Baytown • Galveston

**South
Side**

(713) 660-8888 | www.ssr.x.com



Follow Our Blog
southsidehealthcare.org



changing attitudes about gay people during that 15-year period. "That change in attitude I credit to AIDS activists, whose first [challenge] was to convince people that they deserved to live. There was humanity to gay people, and once they started getting traction on that, they could begin dialogues."

Interestingly, November 29 was also the release date of a memoir by longtime HIV survivor and NAMES Project AIDS Quilt founder Cleve Jones, *When We Rise*, which chronicles the Harvey Milk protégé's firsthand experi-

ences before and after the plague era. France, for one, is happy about that coincidence, and hopes there are more such tomes to come.

"We should all be telling stories," he emphasizes. "There has not been a way to teach the history of the AIDS epidemic in college. We need books for people to carry these stories forward. That's what I'm hoping people will start to produce, so our history can go on the same shelf as all those other dark and triumphal histories that make up the American past."

Freelance contributor Lawrence Ferber is co-writer of the award-winning 2010 gay rom-com Bear City and author of its 2013 novelization.

Rising Above

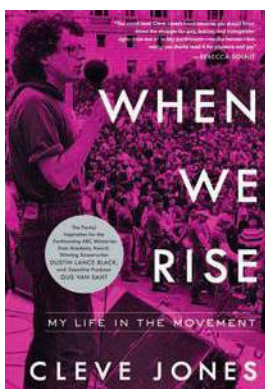
Cleve Jones recounts a lifetime of activism in his new memoir.

By **Lawrence Ferber**

Activist Cleve Jones has lived an extraordinary life, filled with world-changing friends and LGBT icons from Harvey Milk to Dustin Lance Black. Jones founded the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt (the story of which is recounted in the documentaries *Common Threads* and Showtime's *The Last One*) and co-founded the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. As portrayed by Emile Hirsch in the Gus Van Sant-directed *MILK*, Jones literally picked up Milk's bullhorn after his murder and carried on the San Francisco martyr's fight for equality and social justice by working with a wide array of entities and causes, including the labor union UNITE HERE.

Jones revisits many of these incredible moments and people—from Harvey Milk to Sean Penn—in his new memoir, *When We Rise* (Hachette; \$27). The book also served as partial inspiration for the upcoming ABC miniseries of the same name that charts the modern LGBT rights movement. The screenplay was written by Dustin Lance Black, and Guy Pearce co-stars as Jones.

Alternately funny, heartwarming, revealing, tragic, and inspiring, the fast-moving book chronicles Jones' coming out in an era when American society was barely aware of (and usually hostile to) homosexuality. Jones goes



Cleve Jones

on to recount his extensive youthful travels; sexual and romantic exploits during the free-loving '70s; the horrific first wave of AIDS that consumed friends and lovers (some of whom figure into David France's must-read AIDS history *How to Survive a*

Plague, also released on November 29); Jones' own positive diagnosis and struggles with the virus; the making of *MILK*; amusing celebrity encounters in Hollywood; helping marriage equality happen; his present life in San Francisco's Castro district; and his thoughts on the changing face of the city as the real-estate crisis displaces entire communities and longtime institutions.

Filmmaker Rob Reiner (a co-founder of the American Foundation for Equal Rights, which was instrumental in the successful marriage equality campaign) helped plant the seed for *Rise* by encouraging Jones to write a book about his extraordinary life. Jones did just that, largely during late-night sessions at Dustin Lance Black's dining-room table. I spoke with Jones via telephone to ask him about the book, his activism, and what we can do to ensure that progress keeps heading in the right direction.

Lawrence Ferber: This is your second book, the first being 2000's *Stitching a Revolution*. How did your writing →

No Drama ... Just Results



DEBBIE LEVINE

TOP PRODUCER 2002-2015



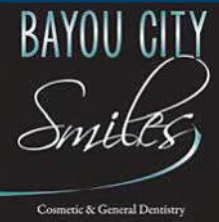
Voted **BEST FEMALE
REAL ESTATE AGENT**
4 years in a row.

Outsmart Readers Choice
2013-2016

**GREENWOOD KING
PROPERTIES**

dlevine@greenwoodking.com

713.942.6857



BAYOU CITY Smiles
Cosmetic & General Dentistry

Uncompromising Excellence in Dentistry



Dr. Marcus de Guzman
Dr. Cynthia Corral

Full Service Dentistry

- FREE Whitening—for Life!
- Premier Provider of Invisalign
- Veneers, Implants, Esthetic Fillings & Smile Makeover
- Your Dentist is Certified in Oral Conscious Sedation
- In House Financing
- Most Insurance Accepted
- Underarmor Sports Guard provider.

WWW.BAYOUCITYSMILES.COM
Arts District @ Sawyer Yards 2313 Edwards St., Ste 150
Houston, Texas 77007 • (713) 518-1411



Voted one of the Top Dentists by OutSmart Readers
Dr. Cynthia Corral Voted Best Female Dentist by OutSmart Readers

YOUR FAMILY DENTISTS
www.bayoucitysmiles.com



FINE LIVING GROUP
WEST HOUSTON REAL ESTATE



Jenny Schneider
832.247.1402
Cynthia Berry
713.705.3047
April Maestri
832.264.5419

FINELIVINGGROUP.COM



M. Sandra Scurria, MD
Same/next day on-time appointments



Winner Best Female Physician

- General family medicine
- Women's health
- Over 30 years in practice
- 24/7 telephone access
- Board certified family practice
- * Membership fee required

281-661-5901
6565 West Loop South at Bellaire Blvd., Suite 300



SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED BY
MDVIP
PERSONALIZED HEALTHCARE



RISING ABOVE

continued from previous page

process differ, and how do they compare?

Cleve Jones: *Stitching* was written with a neighbor of mine at the time, Jeff Dawson. I wasn't real proud of it, I have to say. It's a good book—I'm not ashamed of it at all, and it wouldn't have happened without Jeff—but I was still frail and fragile, recovering from many years of illness. He did long, long interviews with me that were recorded, transcribed, and I crossed out what I didn't want included. But I've always thought I wanted to do another book and write it myself, in my voice. Also, that earlier book had almost no sex in it! Sex is a part of my life, and there was nothing sexy about *Stitching*. So when Rob Reiner gave me that nudge, I thought, If I'm going to do it, I'll do it myself.

Was *When We Rise* easy or difficult to write, once you got started? You certainly had a lot of extraordinary material to work with, and the book is filled with so many recognizable names and events.

Well, I'm a storyteller. My mom used to tell me, "You sure can talk," and other people have suggested that talking might be my only legally marketable skill. I know I have these great stories because of luck. I met the most amazing people through my life's journey, and I've witnessed the most amazing things. I didn't write this as a history book, and it's not even really an autobiography. It's a collection of memories from various times in our history, and I hope it conveys what it was like. Admittedly, I thought *Rise* was going to be different than it turned out. I [initially] wanted to tell the stories from my youth, before AIDS came. I wanted younger generations to hear about what it was like growing up in a time when being gay was illegal—when we were lobotomized and sent to prison simply because we were homosexual.

What can you say about ABC's upcoming *When We Rise* miniseries?

I am not supposed to talk about it yet. You can probably guess that it's not based solely on my book or life. There are stories from my book included in the miniseries, and it's using my title, of course.

Getting back to sex, you do share how carefree that was before AIDS, and the role it served on a deeper level. At a certain point in the book, you stop talking about your sexual experiences. Did the sex actually stop during that time?

It didn't stop, but everything changed—the innocence of it. Maybe it seems odd to use the word "innocence" about people in bathhouses, but there was an innocence to it. What I was trying to convey was, I really remember my 40th birthday. I went to bed the night before when I was 39, and the next day when I woke up, I was 80.

I wanted to show how dramatically everything changed—from this romantic adventure where anything was possible and our bodies were strong and beautiful, to this different reality. The sexuality that had been so much a part of our solidarity, bonding, enthusiasm, and energy was profoundly altered in a tragic and brutal way.

We have just finished a genuinely terrifying election cycle that might have laid the groundwork for LGBT rights to be pulled back. How close are we to Briggs Initiative-style bills popping up again?

Well, this was also part of my motivation to share these stories—to remind folks that nothing is permanent. What Trump unleashed upon us is not just going away. There's a tendency—particularly among young people—to think that once you achieve a goal, the fight is done and you have that forever and ever. That's not how life works. Everything can be taken away in the blink of an eye. I met someone who had a real impact on my youth, Christopher Isherwood, who told me these wonderful stories about [pre-Nazi] Berlin, and how a lot of LGBT people thought they were free during the Weimar Republic. Then we saw what happened. People need to always be vigilant and ready to fight.

Let's talk about a couple of current issues and battles that LGBT activists are

taking on. What do you think about Gays Against Guns?

That has not taken root [in San Francisco] yet. I'm sure glad they're doing it, and we should all be supporting those efforts. The statistics on gun violence rarely include the horrific suicides, and suicide remains a huge issue for our community. We lose a huge number of people to suicide every year, and suicide by gun is the most lethal way to attempt it. I know people who had second thoughts after taking the pills or walking out on a bridge or pulling the razor out, and they survived. But I don't know anyone who survived a bullet to the brain. If we could reduce the availability of firearms, I think we would reduce the number of people we lose each year to suicide.

For a couple of years now, you've been a vocal advocate for access to PrEP and medications that keep HIV viral loads undetectable, resulting in a much lower risk of transmitting HIV to others.

If the rallying cry for my generation was "Silence Equals Death," the rallying cry now must be "Treatment Equals Prevention." The science is pretty crystal-clear on this. People like me, who are HIV-positive but successfully treated and have an undetectable viral load, cannot transmit the virus. People who are negative and engage in high-risk behavior can prevent HIV infection if they are on PrEP. What people need

to do is push their local and state government to make these meds available. The cost will come down eventually, but our larger war against the pharma industry's greed should not dissuade people from pushing for access to these drugs now. In San Francisco, we're taking a lot of bold steps to break down two main barriers: cost and stigma. Unfortunately, that stigma has really been exacerbated by the disinformation campaign waged by the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, and the shaming of young people. I hate this. They're subjected to a lot of shame and blame, and I hear it coming from even some of my own friends. When people asked me about my status, I used to say, "Yes, I was infected a long time ago, before we knew anything about it." Today, I just say, "I'm positive." I feel like I was using that previous explanation as a way to distance myself from the younger people who are getting infected right now, but that's wrong. We need to tell them how beautiful they are and how much their lives matter. We love them, and we need to listen to them instead of yelling.

Finally, is there any boldface name or icon you haven't yet met, but really want to?

Yes! I would die to have lunch with Bette Midler!

Freelance contributor Lawrence Ferber is co-writer of the award-winning 2010 gay rom-com Bear City and author of its 2013 novelization.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP

Saturday, December 24, 7 pm

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Sunday, December 25, 11 am

KWANZAA

Wednesday, December 28, 7 pm

NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, January 1, 11 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

*Thanks for your vote
"OutSmart" Readers!*



Karen Derr
Broker
713.875.7050
karen@karenderr.com



2309 Elmen St • Montrose

\$769,000 • 3 bedrooms, 4.5 baths • 2760 sqft

This wonderful Montrose home with pool is a rare find at this price. Some original wood floors, large kitchen, formal dining, two masters up. Pool with water feature for a tranquil backyard setting so close to River Oaks shopping.

HOUSTON • AUSTIN

1135 Heights Boulevard
Houston, TX 77008
KarenDerr.com • 713.875.7050



BEST CHIROPRACTOR OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards 2016

"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



RECRUITMENT DAY

DECEMBER 18TH 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

HOUSTON SPORTSPLEX

12631 MAIN ST HOUSTON, TX 77035



FOR UPDATES, VISIT WWW.MONTROSESOFTBALLLEAGUE.COM

Ending HIV/AIDS

A community commitment.

By Januari Leo

Houston has the highest number of new HIV/AIDS cases in the state of Texas, yet there is no collective sense of urgency to combat the disease. One out of every 200 Houston residents, according to the Houston Health Department, reports living with HIV—a reality with incalculable social, financial, and public-health consequences. Although we have the medical and scientific knowledge to end the epidemic, political and healthcare leaders aren't paying attention to social factors that perpetuate the disease in the Houston area.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Ford Foundation and AIDS United, Houston's HIV leaders have developed a citywide roadmap—the first in Texas—that offers more than 30 recommendations to end the epidemic. The ambitious goal is to decrease new HIV cases by half—from roughly 1,200 per year to 600—over five years.

“Roadmap for Ending the HIV Epidemic in Houston” outlines five core areas that need to be addressed in order to achieve this goal. Those include (1) prevention of HIV in the first place, (2) access to care for those living with it, (3) addressing social factors that exacerbate it, (4) enacting criminal-justice reforms to slow it, and (5) rethinking public policies and funding to manage it. The approach is intersectional and multidisciplinary. “We must draw on solutions and engagement from the medical, policy, faith-based, criminal justice, and education communities. Relegating responsibility to just healthcare providers has never and will never be effective,” says Venita Ray, Legacy Community Health's public affairs specialist who led the creation of the plan.

Similar to other citywide plans in the U.S. aimed at combating HIV/AIDS, the plan focuses heavily on prevention and treatment while emphasizing key populations: men who have sex with men (MSM, all ethnicities and ages), heterosexual African Americans, and transgender individuals. Recommendations include expanding routine HIV testing and expanding the market for Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), the daily pill that has over a 90-percent chance of protecting people from the virus. In addition, because Houston is incredibly



The Beginning of the End

Legacy Community Health has outlined five core areas that need to be addressed in order to end HIV/AIDS in Houston.

diverse and home to large African-American, Latino, and LGBTQ populations, healthcare providers must emphasize cultural sensitivity. “People will not walk through the door to access care if they do not feel welcome,” says Ray.

Keeping people living with HIV/AIDS in care and virally suppressed is key. Holistic management can stop it from spreading. For this reason, it is important to expand access to care for those with HIV/AIDS by utilizing women-centered care models, streamlining protocols, training more healthcare workers on the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, and offering mental-health and substance-abuse treatment. The federal Ryan White program provides a comprehensive system of care that includes primary medical care and essential support services for the uninsured or underinsured living with HIV, and the Houston Ryan White Planning Council has officially endorsed the plan. “The work we do together with the END HIV Houston Campaign is meant to break down the barriers preventing many people from receiving the benefits of these advances, in an effort to stop needless deaths and halt the progression [and transmission] of HIV/AIDS,” says Steven Vargas, chairperson of Houston's planning council.

Along with prevention and treatment, interested parties must focus on the social determinants of health that prevent people from seeking treatment and acquiring an adequate level of health literacy. Particularly pronounced in Houston are the issues of poverty, racism, violence, stigma, homophobia, and transphobia. A “health is wealth” initiative,

anti-stigma campaigns, and increased faith-based involvement would aid in combating the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Due to high rates of HIV among incarcerated individuals, there is a need for programs targeting this population before and after they transition back into society. Community organizations should partner with the correctional system to create drop-in centers that would provide HIV care, primary care, and mental-health services for those just released. “We as a community must make it [easier for incarcerated individuals] to obtain identification cards, temporary housing, and a 30-day supply of HIV medication as they transition back into society” says Ray.

Finally, public policy at the local and state levels appears indifferent to eradicating HIV. “The City of Houston and Harris County should emulate other major cities, including San Francisco and Atlanta, in allocating funds for programs aimed at prevention. Private entities should also contribute toward these programs,” says Ray. At the statewide level, strengthening Medicaid would reduce the cost of care—a well-documented problem in a state with the highest rate of uninsured in the nation.

This report provides solutions—most of them practical, and a few aspirational. It is the job of Houston's stakeholders to decide which solutions are feasible to implement, and to then take action. This is the beginning of the end of HIV in Houston.

Januari Leo is the director of public affairs for Legacy Community Health.

Sweethearts at Last

Native Texans Conrad Fertitta and Gary Barnes exchange vows in the piney woods of Navasota.



Be Mine
Longtime partners Gary Barnes (l) and Conrad Fertitta were married February 14, 2016, at Grizzly Pines Campground in Navasota, Texas.

By Henry V. Thiel

Photos by Connor Thompson, JCT Photography

Conrad Fertitta vividly remembers the evening he met his husband, Gary Barnes, back in 1977. “I had been out of my last relationship for about a year and a half, and was enjoying being single. On Friday, October 18, 1977, I went out partying with some longtime friends, and I was still in a partying mood when I left them to go to another friend’s home to meet some of their new friends. That is where I was introduced to Gary.

“He was very shy and a bit reserved,” laughs Fertitta. “Being in the partying mood, I flirted with him, and was a little forward with my advances. When he asked if I had a place where we could talk, so we could get to know each other a little better, I said ‘Absolutely!’

Off we went to my condo, [where] Barnes ended up staying overnight. He has been an integral part of my life ever since—but it took me a while to figure that out,” confesses Fertitta.

“We spent the weekend together, running errands and stuff, because I am always on the go doing something or another,” adds Fertitta. “Since I was not searching for a husband—that was unheard of in the ’70s—I never expected to

hear from him again.”

But he did. For the next three months, there were constant phone calls, unexpected visits, and love letters from Barnes. “He was always there for me when I needed him and wanted him. I wasn’t used to being courted, as I loved being single,” he protests. By the time Christmas rolled around, Fertitta had invited Barnes to his annual holiday party.

“I will never forget the moment Gary ar-

“Having the blessings from both sides of our families made our commitment to each other stronger.”

rived at the party,” recalls Fertitta. “He was so handsome in his brown leisure suit, and he gave me my very first music box, which now resides in our bedroom. It was then and there that I knew Gary was something special in my life—and I wasn’t even looking!

“About a month later, I asked Gary to move in with me,” says Fertitta.

“In the early ’80s, while chatting with my mother, I told her about my sexuality, and [at

first] she didn’t make a comment,” states Fertitta. “I became a bit anxious and said, ‘Well?’ Her response was, ‘Well, what? I’ve known you were gay since you were a small child. I’ll always love you unconditionally. You are my son.’

“The acceptance from my father and Gary’s mom was also unconditional,” adds Fertitta. “Having the blessings from both sides of our families made our commitment to each other stronger.

“That was fortunate for both of us, as so many families reject their children when they fall in love with a person of the same sex,” says Fertitta.

“We celebrated our 25th anniversary in 2003 at our home with 95 guests,” shares Fertitta. “My parents gave us their silver-etched 25th-anniversary glasses as a present. They had always considered us a married couple, even though we weren’t.”

While they often talked about marriage and their desire to be married, they figured it wouldn’t happen in their lifetime. Even though many of their friends were getting married in other states, they decided not to. But it didn’t stop Fertitta from trying. →

FOUNTAINS & STATUARY



OutSmart
GAYEST
& GREATEST
2016

Finalist BEST GARDENING/NURSERY SUPPLY



NEW!
Pebble Pots
Handcrafted in Bali

OPEN 7 DAYS

- Disappearing Fountains
- Glazed Urns
- Fountains
- Birdbaths
- Decorative Precast Rock Waterfalls
- Fiberglass Garden Ponds
- Bowls
- Tables & Benches
- Pumps & Tubing
- Planters
- Pedestals
- Flower Pots
- Fountain Tops
- Religious Statues
- Concrete Animals, Fish, Birds & Reptiles
- Talavera Style Mexican Pottery
- Various Sized Stepping Stones

ASK ABOUT

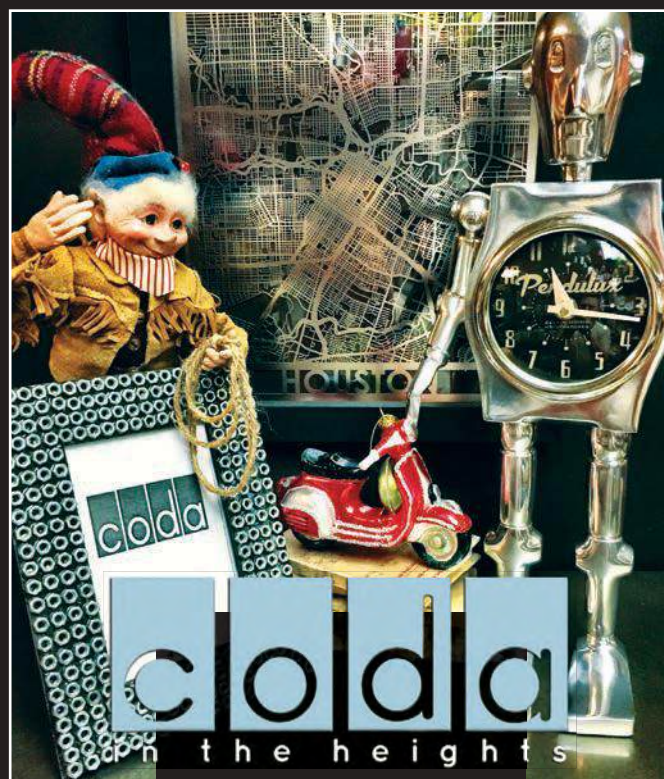
Metal Carports
Gazebos & Yard
Buildings

AARP



713.957.3672

Just Outside the 610 Loop in Houston!
11804 Hempstead Rd., Houston, TX 77092
fountainsandstatuary@yahoo.com
www.FountainsAndStatuary.com



Gifts & Home Décor

355 W. 19th St • Houston, TX, 77008 • 713.864.4411

Tues – Sat: 10am-6pm | Sun: 1-5pm | Closed Mondays

WEDDING GUIDE

continued from previous page

"I proposed to Gary on a 2014 Gayibbean Cruise in the ship's chapel on the 12th deck," Fertitta proudly states. But Barnes' response was to turn on his heels and walk away. "Gary thought I was kidding and stuffed it off," says Fertitta, obviously disappointed.

When the Supreme Court announced its marriage-equality decision on June 26, 2015, Fertitta decided it was time to finalize and legalize their marriage.

"We were invited to Navasota, Texas, to witness the marriage of Daniel Dickson and Justin McKnight on January 2, 2016, at the Grizzly Pines Campground," shares Fertitta. "I was so moved by this joyous celebration that I looked at Gary and said, 'Will you marry me next month on Valentine's Day?'"

Barnes said yes, and they were married on February 14, 2016, at the Grizzly Pines Campground, with Kenneth Ingram serving as the officiant and Connor Thompson, one of the campground's owners, providing the photography.

"Our best men were close friends Jim Schwab and Rigo Rosales, who are also co-owners of Grizzly Pines. Both enthusiastically accepted the honor of being our best men," says Fertitta with great pride in his voice.

"My 'stand-in wife' of 34 years, Gloria Proctor, and Kim Spreen were our ring bear-



Love Is in the Air

Conrad Fertitta (l) and Gary Barnes tie the knot under a handmade wedding arch constructed with natural greenery from the campground by Fertitta's "stand-in wife" of 34 years, Gloria Proctor (center).

ers," adds Fertitta. "Gloria and Martha Manuel decorated our wedding arch with natural greenery from the campground, and Daniel Dickson, a bakery chef with *Edible Elegance*, created a one-of-a-kind Italian-cream wedding cake. Longtime friend Jon Shafer made a gracious toast that truly captured the moment.

"We chose to get married at Grizzly Pines Campground because it's a family of close

friends where one can meet and make new friends in a very beautiful and tranquil setting," states Fertitta. It's perfect for a weekend or a week, to get away from hectic city life.

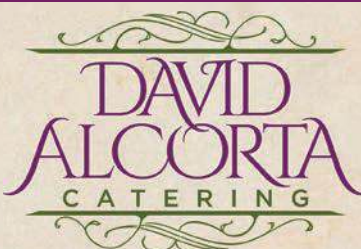
"Even though I felt like we were married for the past 30-plus years, marriage was not acceptable for same-sex couples during our entire lives together," adds Fertitta. "I wanted our union-of-marriage ceremony to be legal and fun, so we asked all our guests to wear red and black (our colors), and we gave each guest a set of heart-shaped beads.

"For our walk up the aisle to the altar, we played *Chapel of Love*, and *Unchained Melody* when we exchanged vows, and *Finally* for our walk down the aisle as two married men," shares Fertitta.

"One of the guests noticed that when we were exchanging our vows, two cardinals flew out from the arch where we were standing. We knew that was a sign of love and acceptance from our deceased parents," states Fertitta.

The couple decided to honeymoon—before their wedding—aboard the 2015 Gayibbean Halloween Cruise out of Galveston, for two reasons: a Gayibbean Cruise was where Fertitta first proposed to his future husband, and they also love the tropical Caribbean breezes during that time of year.

Henry V. Thiel is a principal with The Epicurean Publicist. Henry loves Bears.



DAVID ALCORTA
CATERING

**CATERING
CAKES
EVENTS**

832.439.0224

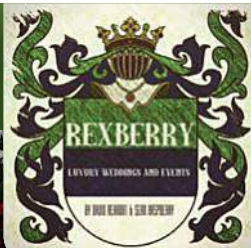




Finalist
BEST
CATERING FIRM

LET US MAKE YOUR EVENT SPECIAL!

davidalcorta.net
david@davidalcorta.net



REXBERRY
LUXURY WEDDINGS & EVENTS

"Rexberry Luxury Weddings and Events is a full-service company featuring a one-of-a-kind 'Bespoke Wedding' for every client. Our goal is to make you feel like a guest at your own party."

REXBERRY
LUXURY WEDDINGS & EVENTS

9317 B Katy Fwy. Houston, TX 77022
 832.799.1449 / 832.788.1843
 Tuesday-Saturday • 9am-5pm



**GRAY & ASSOCIATES
EVENTS**

HOUSTON'S
BEST
Wedding Planner







 /grayeventshou

You're not just clients...
...you're family.



(713) 931-9168
www.number1eventplanner.com

JOSEPH WEST PHOTOGRAPHY



GEORGE STREET PHOTO & VIDEO



SEBASTIAN AGUILAR

Perfect Touches

Clockwise from far left: grooms James and Justin at their joyous wedding celebration planned by A Day to Remember; the Astorian, complete with modern chic wedding décor and design by A Day to Remember; brides Sarah and Carrie exchange elegant engagement rings from Zadok Jewelers; and "Mr. & Mr." kissing-fish decorations from Coda in the Heights.

Set the Mood for Love

... with the perfect wedding décor and gifts.

By Henry V. Thiel

“We know that today’s celebration becomes tomorrow’s lasting memory. If you think wedding design and décor is just about centerpieces, backdrops, ceiling treatment, and china, we need to talk.”

This need-to-talk line has both humor and gravitas when delivered by Day to Remember’s Claudia G. De Velasco. You can tell De Velasco means business by her dual job title: “Lead event planner and creator of memories.” Indeed, there’s no other occasion where memories are a more serious a business than the marriage ceremony.

“The tiny details of the couples’ personal lives are woven throughout the events and the décor [of every] wedding. That’s what people will remember and cherish.

“For most of our same-sex couples,” De Velasco continues, “marriage was not something they imagined would ever be a possibility. So we want to focus on making their wedding-planning experience a beautiful and memorable journey!”

“When hiring us as their wedding planner, our couples have the peace of mind of knowing that we will be there for them, guiding them through uncharted territory. Our job is to ensure that each vendor selected by our

couples has been fully vetted, to avoid any unpleasant experiences.

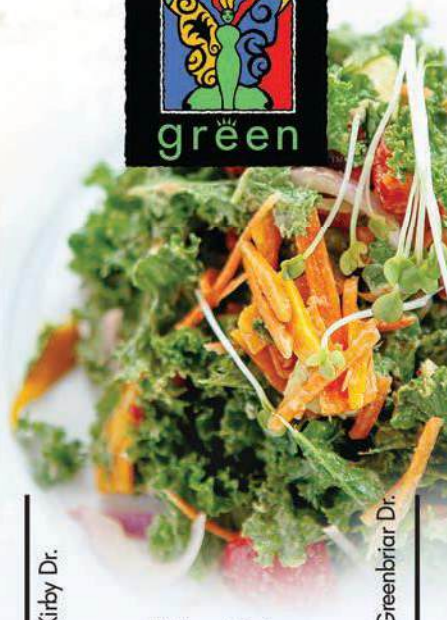
“In January of 2015, two very lovely ladies, Stephanie and Theresa, reached out to me to help them plan their commitment celebration,” shares De Velasco. “Since both ladies were employed by Chevron, a company that already recognized same-sex marriages, they just wanted to celebrate their love with their family and closest friends. During the entire planning process, we joked about how their marriage might be legal by the time their wedding date came around. Lo and behold, on June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court passed marriage equality! The timing couldn’t have been more perfect—just days before Houston Pride Weekend! It just so happened that we were meeting the ladies at the florist when we heard the news. I received a phone call from the *Houston Chronicle*, asking to interview me in regards to the new ruling. When they found out I was actually with two brides planning their wedding, [they sent] a reporter and →



Oh Kale YEAH! WE'RE BACK!



ruggles green



Kirby Dr.

Greenbriar Dr.

West Alabama



NEW LOCATION
Gables Residential Midrise

**RUGGLES GREEN
RIVER OAKS**
NOW OPEN!

2305 West Alabama
Houston, TX 77098
713.533.0777

rugglesgreen.com/riveroaks

**THE
IVY
LEAGUE**
of
Menswear

*Your Look,
Your Design, Your Way*

Custom Shirts,
Custom Suits, Business
& Casual Wear, Gifts,
and Accessories



Finalist
**BEST
MEN'S
CLOTHING
STORE**

130 Vintage Park Blvd. • 832.559.3535
TheIvyLeagueMensShop.com

Bradley David
— entertainment



WEDDINGS • SOCIAL • CORPORATE

DJ • PHOTO LOUNGE • LIGHTING • STEP & REPEAT & RED CARPET

713.487.6067 | BradleyDavidEntertainment.com
720 Rusk St., Suite 124, Houston, TX 77002

Capturing your engagements,
weddings, and anniversaries.



832.876.1053
YvonneFeece.com



Yvonne Feece Photography

**Why would you buy a cake
from someone who doesn't
want to sell you one?**



**Don't give your money to
a business that does not
support diversity.**

Whether you're looking for the
butcher, the baker, or the candlestick
maker, **OutSMART** can help you find
equality-minded businesses that
appreciate you and provide vital
community support.

**Read OutSMART,
so you can have your
cake and equality, too.**

OutSmart

For advertising and subscription
information, call 713/520-7237.

www.OutSmartMagazine.com

OutSmart Advertising = More Business & Equality

WEDDING GUIDE

continued from page 81

photographer to meet Stephanie and Theresa. The next day, Channel 2 news did an on-camera interview. Needless to say, [they were the first same-sex couple married] at The Astorian and featured in the A-list wedding magazines!”

Chic accessories aren't just limited to event-planning companies, either. At Coda in the Heights, owner Frank Yunc carries an eclectic collection of home décor and gift items, from fun and funky wall décor to serving and entertaining items like paper napkins.

“Our ‘Mr. & Mr.’ and ‘Mrs. & Mrs.’ hand towels are big sellers,” adds Yunc.

And as Gilad Zadok, owner of Zadok Jewelers, explains, “What makes our gifting services unique and different from others is that we are a local, family-owned business. Our family legacy and expertise as master jewelers goes back seven generations, and we have been in the same location in Houston for 40 years. We pride ourselves on providing a no-pressure experience in a warm and friendly atmosphere—[along with] the utmost in customer service and attention to detail. We represent many world-renowned luxury brands not found anywhere else in Houston—and often, nowhere else in the U.S.

“Customers appreciate our passion for →

HOLIDAY TRUNK SHOW

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

A SWISS WATCH AFFAIR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

FIVE GOLDEN RINGS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23

Zadok
MASTER JEWELERS

1749 Post Oak Blvd, Houston | 713.960.8950 Zadok.com



Bennos
Galveston's Premier Caterer
Never Runs Out of Food –
That's Our Motto and We're Sticking To It!

Whether it's in Galveston or a location off of the island, we cater any kind of function – from weddings and corporate events to birthday parties and fish fries. We do it all!

On-Site Management • All Order Customized
Flexible Menus • All Linens, Place Settings
& Service Utensils Provided

112 28th St. • Galveston, TX 77550
409.762.3666
BennosOfGalveston.com

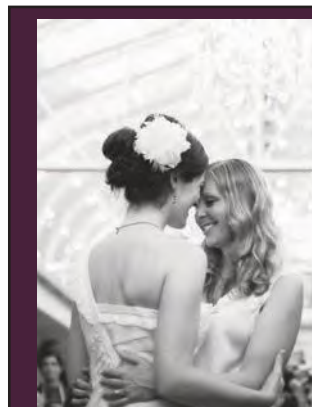


Image by: Mustard Seed Photo

POP UP WEDDING HOUSTON

Your luxury ceremony dream come true.

Have the ceremony you've always imagined and let us take care of the essentials. All you need to do is show up for your I Do's.

What You Get
Private consultation
Legally officiated ceremony
Designer look
Elegant style
Small celebration
Photo shoot
Flowers
Music
Cake
Choice customizations



Finalist
BEST WEDDING PLANNER



Yvette Valdenegro
Senior Consultant

832.816.4475
yvette@popupweddinghouston.com
www.popupweddinghouston.com





ESCAPE TO THE LAKE GETAWAY.

With warm days and cool nights, now is the perfect time to get away to lakeside relaxation. Enjoy beautiful mornings on our 18-hole championship golf course, tranquil treatments at the Spa, and delicious dishes at an array of amazing restaurants. Fall in love with the lake at La Torretta!

PACKAGE INCLUDES*

- 25% off a la carte services at The Spa
- 25% off rounds of golf
- Welcome beverage for two
- Breakfast for two at Restaurant 157
- Guaranteed 1pm late check-out
- Suite Accommodations

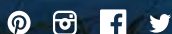
Visit www.latorrettalakeresort.com
or call 936.448.4400 to book your stay!



La Torretta
LAKE RESORT & SPA

A TEXAS RETREAT

600 LA TORRETTA BOULEVARD
MONTGOMERY, TX 77356



**Based on availability. Discounts cannot be combined with other offers/promotions. See website for details.*

WEDDING GUIDE

continued from previous page

providing them with the highest quality, value, and service," adds Zadok. "[We offer] loose certified diamonds, custom hand-crafted jewelry, watch service, and jewelry repair. Our showroom features an extensive selection of diamond engagement and wedding rings, designer jewelry, over 25 of the finest Swiss watch brands, fine crystal, gifts, and accessories.

"We understand that engagement and wedding rings are the most precious and sentimental jewelry that a couple shares, whose meaning and symbolism go far beyond material value. Whereas many jewelers might try to avoid making one-of-a-kind custom jewelry for their clients, we welcome and encourage it. After all, hand-crafted jewelry is the ultimate expression of love.

"The most popular gifts couples give each other are watches or a piece of fine jewelry," Zadok says. "Some couples also gift pieces to be worn the day of the wedding, such as cufflinks and earrings. One of our designers, Heather B. Moore, creates custom cufflinks and other custom jewelry that can be engraved with a sentimental message, such as the wedding date, each partner's name, or even a special image.

"One of our favorite clients, Sarah Arrendondo, came to us looking for engagement and wedding rings for her girlfriend, Carrie Moore," shares Zadok. "She chose a set that she knew Carrie would love, and planned to present them to her on a trip to Lake Tahoe. Carrie told me later that when they arrived at Lake Tahoe, Sarah suggested they go on a hike at sunset. On a plateau, near the top of a hill, they stopped to enjoy the amazing view of the sun setting over the lake. To her surprise, Sarah sweetly knelt down, poured her heart out, handed her the beautiful Zadok rings she had brought from Houston, and proposed. Of course, Carrie said yes."

Coda in the Heights

355 W 19th St.
713.864.4411
codaintheheights.com

A Day to Remember

926 Yale St.
713.862.1751
daytoremember.net

Zadok Jewelers

1749 Post Oak Blvd.
713.960.8950
zadok.com

Henry V. Thiel is a principal with The Epicurean Publicist, a boutique public relations company representing chefs and restaurateurs. He can't wait to say "I Do!"





CREATING MEMORIES...ONE WEDDING AT A TIME

National Award-Winning Planning Firm

LUXURY WEDDING & EVENT PLANNING + COORDINATION
EVENT CONCEPTUALIZATION & DESIGN
DESTINATION WEDDING & EVENT PLANNERS
COUTURE STATIONERY DESIGN

CONSULTATIONS
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

713.862.1751
INFO@DAYTOREMEMBER.NET
WWW.DAYTOREMEMBER.NET



Photo Credit: Serendipity Photography (left), Joseph West Photography (right)

RSVP VACATIONS

Caribbean Cruise - *Holland America Koningsdam*
Alaskan Summer Cruise - *Eurodam*
Danube Explorer Cruise - *Budapest to Bucharest, Emerald Star*

Feb 5 - 12, 2017 *SOLD OUT*
Aug 5 - 12, 2017 *NEW*
Oct 12 - 19, 2017 *NEW*

BRAND G VACATIONS

Golden Myanmar River Cruise - *R.V. Irrawaddy Explorer*
Amazon Discovery Expedition - *Amazon Discovery*
Amazon Expedition II - *Amazon Discovery*
Legendary Danube River Cruise - *Amadeus Silver*
Jewels of Vietnam & Cambodia - *Mekong Navigator*
Jewels of Vietnam & Cambodia - *Mekong Navigator*

Jan 30 - Feb 10, 2017
Apr 7 - 19, 2017
May 1 - 13, 2017
Aug 11 - 20, 2017 *NEW*
Aug 31 - Sep 12, 2017 *NEW*
Oct 20 - Nov 1, 2017

ATLANTIS EVENTS

Allure 25th Anniversary Cruise - *Royal Caribbean Allure of the Seas*
Rio Carnival to Buenos Aires - *Oceania Regatta*
Barcelona to Venice - *Celebrity Constellation*
Amsterdam to Barcelona - *Celebrity Silhouette*
Club Atlantis Cancun

Jan 22 - 29, 2017
Feb 22 - Mar 7, 2017 *NEW*
Jul 4 - 13, 2017 *NEW*
Sep 4 - 14, 2017 *NEW*
Apr 29 - May 6, 2017 *NEW*

***Dates subject to change. Certain restrictions apply.*



www.conciergetravel.cc

Contact us toll free: 877.775.9616

THANK YOU *OutSmart readers for voting us*

- ★ Best LGBT Cruise or Tour Company
- ★ Best Local Travel Agency
- Finalist Best Travel Website



AFRICAN SAFARI

November 18 - 26, 2017
starting at \$7,295 per person

THE EYE GALLERY



PROUD TO BE VOTED OUTSMART'S THE BEST PLACE TO BUY EYEWEAR



EYEGALLERYHOUSTON.COM

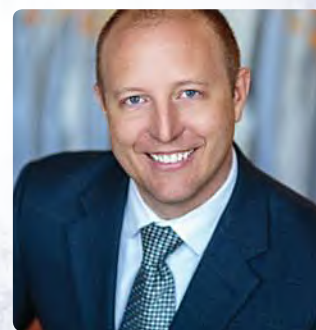
1806 WESTHEIMER RD. - RIVER OAKS
2542 AMHERST ST. - RICE VILLAGE
1700 POST OAK BLVD. (NEXT TO WHOLE
FOODS) POST OAK LOCATION NOW OPEN SUNDAYS!

713.523.1279
832.831.7253
713.622.7470

THE RIGHT BROKER MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE



JOE ROSS
713.301.4444
Joe@WoodwayProperty.com



Darren Morris
281.788.2402
Darren@WoodwayProperty.com



We offer premier opportunities for both buyers and sellers. Our relationships give us knowledge that you need to know. We offer a variety of solutions based on your timeline and need.

2500 ET C Jester Blvd. • Suite 130 • Houston, TX 77008



woodwayproperty.com

Since 1978



COUNSELING

DEPRESSION • ANXIETY • SEXUALITY • GENDER IDENTITY • ADDICTION
GRIEF & LOSS • COUPLES & MARRIAGE • PARENTING • CAREER GOALS
COMING OUT • CHRONIC ILLNESS • DIVORCE • STRESS • SELF-ESTEEM
SUICIDE • SOCIAL
INTERNALIZED HOMOPHOBIA • SEXUAL ASSAULT • RELIGIOUS ABUSE
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE • EATING DISORDER • BIPOLAR DISORDER
PERSONALITY DISORDER • FAMILY

Because **life** happens.

FAVORITE LOCAL
LGBT COMMUNITY
ORGANIZATION

THANK YOU
HOUSTON!

OutSmart
GAYEST
& GREATEST
2016

 the
Montrose
Center

401 BRANARD STREET | HOUSTON, TEXAS 77006 | MONTROSECENTER.ORG 713.529.0037

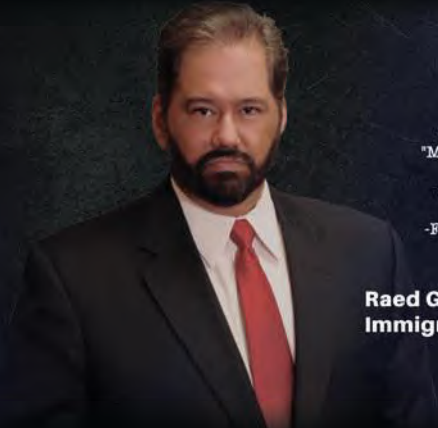
AFFORDABLE SLIDING SCALE. INSURANCE ACCEPTED, INCLUDING MEDICARE & MEDICAID



 Same sex
visa petitions

**WE TAKE PRIDE IN MAKING ALL YOUR
IMMIGRATION MATTERS OUR PRIORITY**

All immigration cases including courts appeals, bonds, business visas, investors

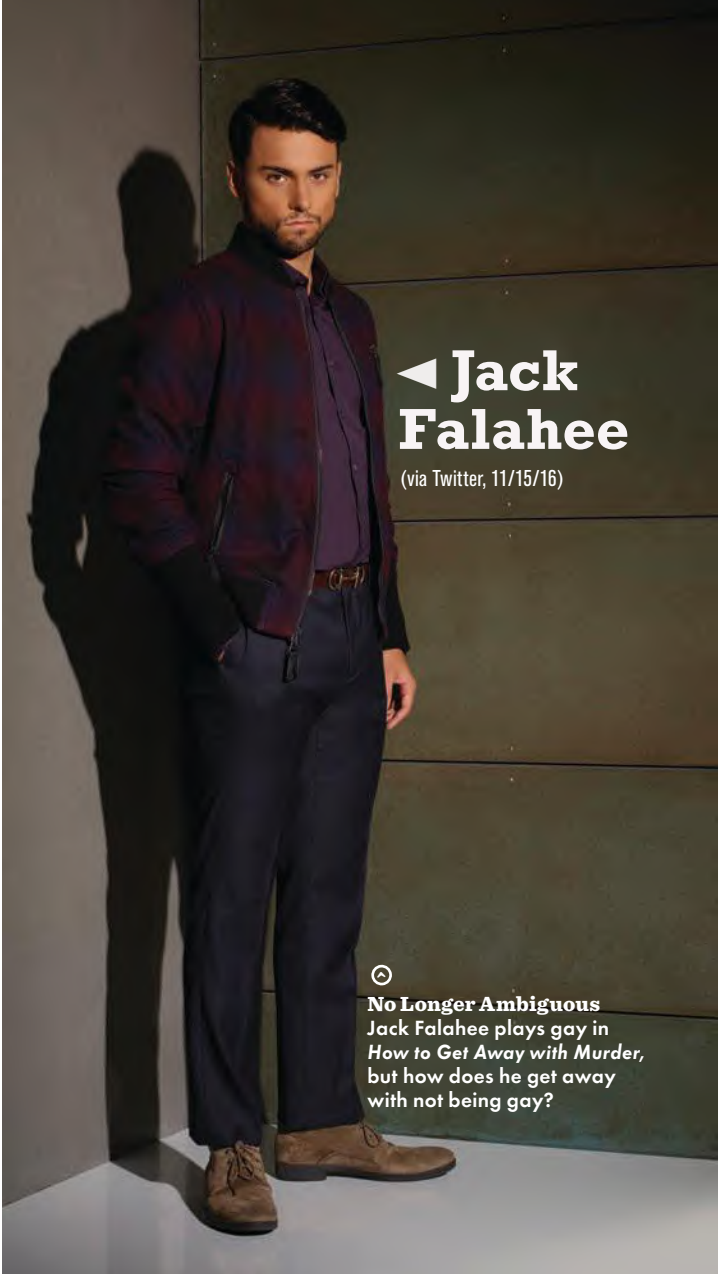


 GONZALEZ OLIVIERI LLC
IMMIGRATION LAW FIRM, HOUSTON, TEXAS

"Mr. Gonzalez filed and USCIS
approved our visa,
the first gay visa petition
in Texas."
-Fred Smith and Isaias Rivas

**Raed Gonzalez, JD LLM
Immigration Attorney**

GonzalezOlivieriLLC.com 713-481-3040 EvitaLaDeportacion.com
Hablamos Español



◀ **Jack
Falahee**
(via Twitter, 11/15/16)

🕒
No Longer Ambiguous
Jack Falahee plays gay in
How to Get Away with Murder,
but how does he get away
with not being gay?

I spent election night with a few of my close friends, glued to the television. My friends drank more heavily as the night progressed while I ate more and more ice cream, having chosen the worst possible week to take a break from booze. By the end of the night a friend of mine, who is gay, was sitting on the floor under a table crying. Exhausted by a campaign fueled by bigotry and hate, he couldn't face the reality of the next four years. He had every right to be afraid. We now have a VP who believes in conversion therapy, that homosexuality is a choice, and that marriage equality will lead to societal collapse. We have a VP who doesn't believe that my friend should have the same rights as me, and that's scary. . . . I, too, was horrified by the results that night and left the viewing party dejected and angry, but unlike my friend, I would be okay.

While I'm not gay, on HTGAWM [*How to Get Away with Murder*] I play a character who's in an interracial relationship with an HIV-positive man. However, in the past I've declined to discuss my own sexuality in an attempt to try and dismantle the closet. Opponents to my ambiguous answers to questions surrounding my sexuality argued the importance of visibility. Ultimately, I think that my stance has been unhelpful in the fight for equality. I feel that I've sacrificed my ability to support the community for a more theoretical discussion about sexuality. Now more than ever, I want to offer my support to the community as an ally.

▼ Anna Kendrick

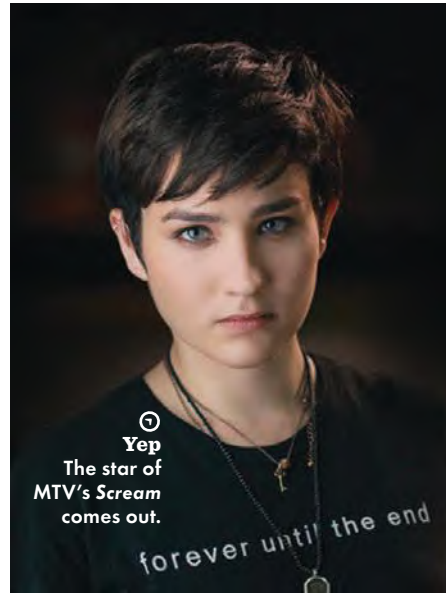
(The Advocate, Dec 2016/Jan 2017, Brandon Voss)

Brandon Voss: In response to a fan who believed he could become your bestie, you once tweeted, "If you are a gay dude, that shit is probably true."

Anna Kendrick: I don't even notice it, but then I'll think about my 10 closest friends right now, male and female, and honestly, they're all gay. Gay people have just always been in my life. I remember my parents having to tell me as a kid that there were people, like some people in our church, who objected to homosexuality. I was like, "Wait, so they're idiots, right?"



◎ **Besties**
What does Anna Kendrick (seen here in ABC's *Stand Up to Cancer*) think of people who object to homosexuality?



◎ **Yep**
The star of MTV's *Scream* comes out.

◀ Bex Taylor-Klaus

(via Twitter, 11/16/16)

hello my name is bex and yes the rumors are true I am v gay

Then on Twitter's live-streaming video platform YouNow, when asked if she was scared to come out because of the election outcome:

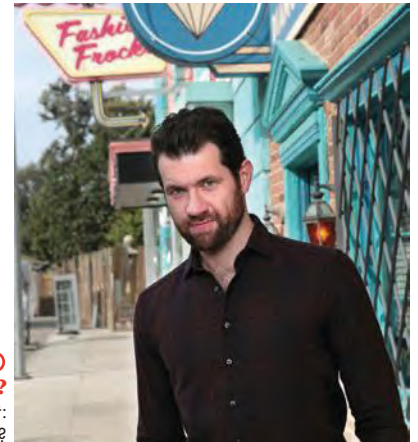
"Terrified, absolutely terrified. Part of why I'm coming out is because there's so much hate and fear in and around the LGBT community right now and it's important for us not to halt progress out of fear. Yes, it's a scary time, but we need to stand up and say, even if you are afraid, I'm not afraid, or even if I am afraid, I'm strong. I am who I am and you can't take that away from me."

Billy Eichner ▶

(Entertainment Weekly, 11/25/16, Ray Rahman)

Ray Rahman: What's the first R-rated movie you ever saw?

Billy Eichner: *Flashdance*. I loved it—I bought the soundtrack and was obsessed with "What a Feeling." I memorized the whole album. It was probably also the first vinyl album I owned. I went all in! I think it informed a lot of my work—and maybe my sexual preference.



◎ **R-rated?**

Billy Eichner, of truTV's *Billy on the Street*: what might have informed his sexual preference?



◎ **The Unwise Men**

President-elect Donald Trump (c) poses with what looks like the cast of *Duck Dynasty*; however, closer inspection makes us think this is his new White House Cabinet.

◀ 'Duck Dynasty'

(via Twitter, 11/17/16)

Re: the cancellation of A&E's white-trash reality series.

B. Miller: **Never watched even 5 seconds of Duck Dynasty. And I still feel like I've seen too much.**
Brad Jones: **Duck Dynasty is ending? Well I guess something went right in 2016.**
Wendell Odom: **Duck Dynasty is ending. America's IQ goes up 10 points automatically. Quack that, you homophobic f--kers.**
The Frustrated Fan: **Duck Dynasty is trending, so of course my first thought was "Which one of them just got named to Trump's transition team?"**

GirlsReallyRule-Grr: **Duck Dynasty now set to end, cause-you know, America can watch it in real time now in the White House.**
Scruffy: **'Duck Dynasty' is going off the air? It'll be fine, I'm sure they're all getting White House positions.**
Shauna: **BREAKING: Duck Dynasty canceled. Trump's about to take office and viewers only have time for one ignorant, racist reality show at a time.**
Brandon Bird: **"Duck Dynasty Cancelled." And now the Cabinet is filled.**



'Girls Lost'

Exploring gender identity, sexuality, and love.

Fire Song



This debut feature by LGBT native filmmaker Adam Garnet Jones is the first Canadian narrative feature film to deal with the First Nations

community and two-spirited people. A thoughtful character study, the film focuses on a young gay Anishinaabe man who is at a crossroads, forced to choose between the challenges of life on a homophobic First Nation reservation and his closeknit family, a secret boyfriend, and the possibilities offered by the outside world. Wolfe Video (wolfevideo.com). —Troy Carrington

Florence Foster Jenkins



Oscar-winner Meryl Streep stars as a New York socialite who dreams of becoming a great opera singer. While the

voice she hears in her head is beautiful, to everyone else it is hilariously awful. Her husband and biggest fan (Hugh Grant) is determined to protect her from the truth. But when Florence stages a concert at Carnegie Hall, he faces his greatest challenge in trying to make sure her performance hits all the right notes. *Florence* also stars Simon Helberg as her closeted pianist.

—Suzie Lynde



Girls Will Be Boys

Clockwise from top: Alexander Gustavsson, Vilgot Ostwald Vesterlund, and Emrik Öhlander in *Girls Lost*, available from Wolfe Video on December 13.

Alexandra-Therese Keining's new Swedish film *Girls Lost* follows three best friends as they explore gender identity, sexuality, and love during the transitional time between childhood and adulthood.

Kim (Tuva Jagell/Emrik Öhlander), Momo (Louise Nyvall/Alexander Gustavsson), and Bella (Wilma Holmén/Vilgot Ostwald Vesterlund) are the closest of friends. They bike to school together, they have the same classes, and they hang out together after the last bell rings. They are always at each other's side. Because of this, the boys in their school bully them by calling them ugly, lesbians, and worse. One day after school, Bella is looking through packages of seeds she ordered and finds one she didn't purchase. The girls decide to plant this mysterious seed to see what will grow. Later that night, the girls come back to Bella's greenhouse to find the plant already fully grown. They wonder aloud if the plant is magic, and

after realizing the flower smells like vanilla, the girls decide to squeeze the juice from the buds to taste it. Shortly thereafter, the girls magically transform into boys.

Thrilled by their new bodies, the three go to the park to see how they are received by some of their classmates hanging out there. They quickly notice that not only are they no longer harassed, but as boys they are warmly welcomed and invited to join in on their soccer match. For a moment, it feels like Kim, Momo, and Bella are just regular kids.

At the end of the night, the girls promise each other that they will not drink from the plant alone. However, this promise becomes increasingly difficult for Kim to keep as she remembers how comfortable and happy she felt as a boy. As this begins creating a rift in her relationship with Momo and Bella, Kim has to decide which is more important to her: being true to herself or to her friends.

In an interview, writer and

director Keining said, "In *Girls Lost*, fairy tale and imagination are mixed in a realistic depiction of what it's like to grow up today, seen from a girl's perspective. I wanted to examine the limits of self and the body, and show that the phenomena of identity and gender are in perpetual motion—something that is constantly changing and negotiable. I wanted to portray gender as a fluid notion, not an absolute, and explore ideas about how gender influences how we move through the world and how we are treated by others."

Based on the award-winning novel *Pojkarna* by Jessica Schiefuerm, *Girls Lost* is a compelling coming-of-age story that both explores and questions gender identity and sexuality in a new and fantastic way.

Girls Lost will be available December 13 on DVD and VOD through Wolfe Video (wolfevideo.com).

B. Root is a frequent contributor to *OUTSMART* magazine.

KITCHEN & BATHROOM SHOWROOM



Rock 'n Roll In The Shower

Shower Out Loud with the
Moxie Showerhead + Bluetooth Speaker.
Sound advice from Village!

\$135 Including Installation!



Now available in our showroom!

5403 Kirby Drive • Houston
Monday through Friday 9 - 5
Saturday 9 - 4

Proud to be woman-owned!

713-REPAIRS
VILLAGEPLUMBING.COM

Monica Ryan RMP122 TACLB34739E

I can help you explore
Medicare Advantage plans.

Justina Chen

Licensed Sales
Representative

10333 Harwin Dr. #537
Houston, TX 77036

713-826-7048, TTY 711

UHCMedicareSolutions.com



CRIMINAL DEFENSE

Attorney Clyde Williams & ASSOCIATES

Board Certified By State Bar Of Texas

Voted One of the Best Attorneys 2011-2016
OutSmart Readers' Choice

713.236.0064 • chwlaw@earthlink.net



We're answering the call ...with no 'hang-ups!'

- Depression / Suicide / Crisis Intervention
- Domestic Violence Help & Shelter
- Sexual Assault & Hate Crimes Support
- Addiction Support & Treatment
- Community Events & Visitor Information
- GLBT-affirming Resources
- HIV & STD Info

24-Hour HelpLine 713.529-3211

A service of the
MONTROSE COUNSELING CENTER

A service of the
Montrose Counseling Center

SKIN Renaissance LASER CENTER



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

Botox® • Restylane® • Radiesse®
Belotero® • Sculptra®

Wrinkles • Rosacea • Facial Sagging
Acne (active & scars) • Face & Leg Veins
Laser Hair Removal

Call for your FREE Consultation
713.942.SKIN (7546)

517 West Gray St. • Between Montrose and Taft

www.SkinRenaissance.net

Dr. Octavio Barrios, MD is a Fellow of the American Society for Laser Medicine and Surgery & American Academy of Aesthetic Medicine Member.



VOTED ONE OF THE BEST

Dr. Octavio Barrios

Best Physician 2005-2016

Skin Renaissance

Best Skin Care Center 2005-2016

Dr. B-fit

Weight Loss Clinic

Your Medical Approach to Weight Loss

PERSONALIZED | COMPREHENSIVE | DOCTOR SUPERVISED



OCTAVIO
BARRIOS, MD



LUCIA MANGLE
ARNOLD, MPAS, PA-C

CALL TODAY!
713.942.7546



MEMBER OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
BARIATRIC PHYSICIANS

MOVIES

'Loving'

Forging the way for marriage equality.



Gray Area

Ruth Negga (l)
as Mildred and
Joel Edgerton as
Richard in Jeff
Nichols' *Loving*.



BEN PROTHIN/FOCUS FEATURES

Those familiar with civil-rights history know that the fight for marriage equality began almost 50 years before the U.S. Supreme Court ruling on same-sex marriage. In 1967, a mixed-race couple living in rural Virginia made history when their case, *Loving v. Virginia*, challenged that commonwealth's Racial Integrity Act and, with the aid of the American Civil Liberties Union, they triumphed.

However, the tale of the Lovings started nearly a decade earlier, and writer/director Jeff Nichols' *Loving* (Focus Features) lovingly brings their story to the big screen. It's hard to imagine how out of step 1958 Virginia was with the nation's evolving views on racial equality. In spite of the movie's scenes of white and African-American friends and neighbors meeting regularly to drag-race their souped-up cars, or working together on construction sites, there were still lines that could not be crossed.

When Richard Loving (Joel Edgerton, of *Kinky Boots* fame) asks his pregnant girlfriend Mildred (Ruth Negga) to marry him, little do they realize what they are setting in motion. Because it was illegal for them to marry in Virginia, the couple drives to Washington DC, accompanied by Mildred's father, Theoliver (Christopher Mann), to be married by a justice of the peace. Back in Virginia, asleep in their bed in Mildred's parents' house, they are arrested and taken to jail by Sheriff Brooks (Marton Csokas). The next day, when Richard is released on bail, he is not permitted by law to arrange for Mildred's release and she must stay behind bars for a few more days.

Soon there are lawyers involved, and a court date, and a sentence that involves a choice between prison time and leaving Vir-

ginia, never to return together, for 25 years. The couple moves to the more forward-thinking Washington DC, but they briefly return to Virginia, risking arrest, so that Richard's midwife mother, Lola (Sharon Blackwood), can deliver the first of the Lovings' three children.

Back in DC and staying with Laura (Andre Ward-Hammond) and her husband, an increasingly despondent Mildred puts her foot down and insists they return to Virginia after one of their children is hit by a car (although he is not badly injured). Before they leave, Laura suggests that Mildred write a letter to attorney general Robert Kennedy regarding putting into action "all this talk about civil rights." Mildred's letter makes its way to ACLU attorney Bernie Cohen (Nick Kroll), who offers to take their case at no expense to the Lovings.

What follows is the ongoing series of court appearances and hearings. The Lovings make an effort to lead a normal life; bricklayer Richard goes to work while Mildred raises the kids and takes care of the house. As a couple, strong-silent-type Richard and gentle-but-determined Mildred rarely raise their voices or argue with each other. It's Mildred who grows more accustomed to the attention, including a story in *Life* magazine, while Richard struggles with it. When victory is theirs at last, they meet it with the same dignity they maintained throughout the ordeal.

Nichols deserves credit for giving this important and historical event the feature-film attention that it deserves. He applies a subtlety to *Loving* that may be attributed to both the time in which the story is set and to the director's Southern roots. Credit is also due to Edgerton and Negga, whose nuanced performances are sure to be remembered during awards season. ■

By Gregg Shapiro





Sunlight Dental — Group —

Dr. Vince B. Nguyen and Associates

FAMILY, COSMETIC, AND IMPLANT DENTISTRY



- Complete Care for Adult and Kids
- 0% Interest Payment Plans
- Insurance Friendly, In-Network Prices
- Se Habla Español
- Sedation Dentistry
- Open Saturdays

SMILE PROUDLY WITH US!
SERVING PEARLAND & SURROUNDING AREAS

1816 Pearland Pkwy., #190 • Pearland, TX 77581

832-243-1740

SunlightDentalGroup.com • M-F 8am-6pm / Sat 9am-3pm



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 5 years in a row**
- OutSmart Readers' Choice 2012-2016



CALL ANDY NOW!

713.724.4306

CELL

713.561.6653

DIRECT

andyw@ johndaugherty.com

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

LEADING ESTATES
OF THE GULF

LANDING
REAL ESTATE
COMPANY

LUXURY REAL ESTATE.COM

LUXURY
POURCELY

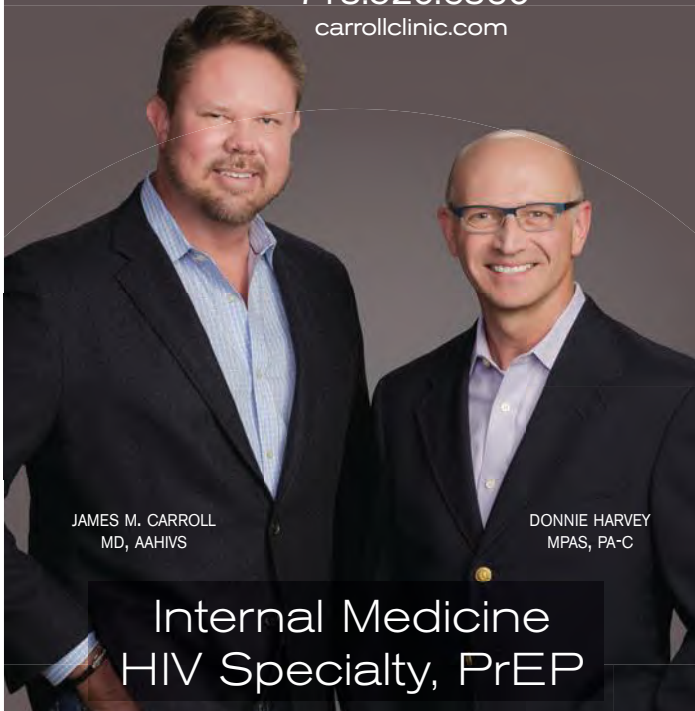
REGENTS

MAY FAIR
OFFICE.COM

JOHN
DAUGHERTY
REALTORS

**The
CarrollClinic**
4101 GREENBRIAR, SUITE 208, HOUSTON, TX

713.520.6360
carrollclinic.com



JAMES M. CARROLL
MD, AAHIVS

DONNIE HARVEY
MPAS, PA-C

Internal Medicine
HIV Specialty, PrEP

TRANQUILITY POOLS



WHETHER YOU WANT

SOMETHING SIMPLE OR EXOTIC

We have the talent and experience
to achieve your design and budget!



New Construction

Plaster, Tile, Coping & Deck Replacement
Water Features, Outdoor Kitchens, Pergolas. Complete renovation.

Houston, Texas 713.447.9201 | tranquilitypoolco1983@gmail.com



Senior Moments

Leonard Cohen, Neil Sedaka, Jeff Beck, Barry Gibb, and more.

Pentatonix A Pentatonix Christmas



This is the third holiday album from the Grammy Award-winning and multi-platinum recording group Pentatonix. The album features a combination of holiday classics, modern and seasonal favorites, as well as two brand-new holiday tracks that were written and arranged by the group. Two of the band's members, Scott Hoying and Mitch Grassi, are openly gay, and the group vocally supports the LGBT community. RCA Records (rcarecords.com). —Troy Carrington

Lady Gaga Joanne

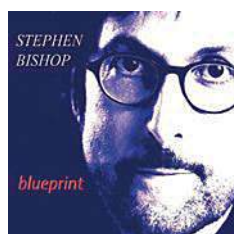
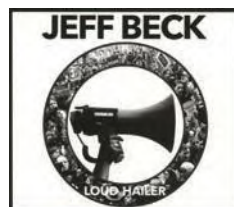
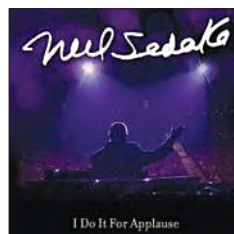


For her fifth album, *Joanne*, Lady Gaga has yet again raised the creative bar. In some ways,

her newest work embarks on a soul-searching journey in which she learns things about herself, her expression of pain, and how to survive the basic challenges of life. This is a crystalizing moment for Gaga, as evidenced by her more stripped-down approach to the craft of songwriting—an authenticity that is at the core of *Joanne*. Interscope Records (interscope.com). —Suzie Lynde

The most senior of the seniors in this column, the late Leonard Cohen was the true definition of something (and someone) who got better with age. *You Want It Darker* (Columbia), produced by Cohen's son Adam, is nothing less than a religious experience, opening with the title cut in which the Congregation Baar Hashomayim Synagogue Choir sings "Hineni Hineni/I'm ready, my Lord." (*Hineni* translates from Hebrew as "Here I am.") There is water turning into wine in "Treaty," an angel and a devil in "On the Level," and turning the other cheek and grace in "It Seemed the Better Way." There is also a timeless love song ("If I Didn't Have Your Love") and useful advice on "Steer Your Way" (featuring Alison Kraus and Dana Glover on backing vocals). Cohen's death ranks among the most devastating losses of 2016, a year in which music lovers have already mourned the passing of David Bowie, Prince, Leon Russell, Sharon Jones, Glenn Frey, and others.

Neil Sedaka started his songwriting and recording career a few years before Cohen, making his name as one of the songwriters housed in New York City's legendary Brill Building. Like Cohen, Sedaka also achieved massive success by having his songs recorded by others. Interestingly, Sedaka's greatest professional triumph occurred during what could be considered a second-stage resurgence. After experiencing acclaim overseas, Sedaka was signed to Elton John's Rocket Records label, resulting in the 1975 album *Sedaka's Back*. The album included the comeback single "Laughter in the Rain," as well as the Captain & Tennille hit "Love Will Keep Us Together." So began Sedaka's return to the limelight. More than 40 years later, Sedaka is back, again, with the uneven *I Do It for the Applause* (neilsedaka.com). Ill-fitting dentures aside, Sedaka accompanies himself on a dozen songs recorded between 2010 and 2015. Tunes such as the title cut,



"Tonight We Gotta Call It a Day," "Distant Memories," and the uplifting "Nothing Is Impossible" show that he can still write and sing decently. But some of the songs disappoint, including the cliché-packed "Just Call Me," "I Hit the Jackpot," and "Phantom in a Song." "Super Hottie," the unintentionally gayest song Sedaka has ever written (in the voice of a "woman"), which includes the line "your Speedos are showing your desire," tells you all you need to know.

One can only imagine what would have happened if Sedaka had done what rock-guitar god Jeff Beck did on his new album *Loud Hailer* (Atco). By teaming up with two young musicians, Rosie Bones and Carmen Vandenberg (of the band Bones), Beck freshens up his vintage sound for this decade of the new century. Still metal-loud and as bluesy as all get out, the youthful female energy provided by Bones and Vandenberg nevertheless has a lively effect on Beck. The best examples can be found on "Live in the Dark," "Scared for the Children," "Right Now," "Shrine," and "The Ballad of the Jersey Wives."

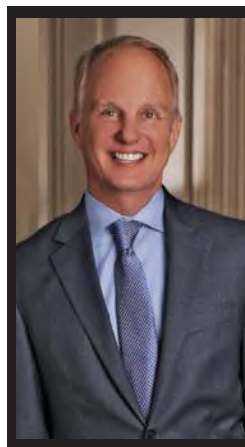
Barry Gibb, the last surviving Gibb brother (or Bee Gee, if you prefer) has released *In the Now* (Columbia), his first solo album in many years. A musical collaborator throughout most of his career, Gibb worked closely with sons Stephen and Ashley on the album's 12 tracks. The album mostly alternates between pleasant numbers that wouldn't have been out of place on a Bee Gees album, including "Star Crossed Lovers," "Meaning of the Word," "Shadows," and the title track. Songs in which Gibb attempts to unleash his inner rocker, including "Grand Illusion," "Diamonds," and "Blowin' a Fuse," are embarrassing misfires. Gibb brings the disc to a close with the country-tinged heart-breaker "End of the Rainbow," dedicated to his late brothers Robin, Maurice, and Andy.

Heart's *Beautiful Broken* (Concord) finds the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

inductees (and sisters) Ann and Nancy Wilson re-imagining hand-selected deep album cuts as well as performing three new tunes. Among the new selections is the Ne-Yo tune "Two" featuring Nancy on vocal duty. Other standouts include the aptly titled "Sweet Darlin'" and "Heaven," as well as "City Burning" and "One Word."

Like the aforementioned Cohen and Sedaka, Stephen Bishop has had success both as a songwriter for others and a performer of his own songs. His debut album *Careless*, released 40 years ago, contained his hit single "On and On," as well as his renditions of songs that would be covered by artists such as Phoebe Snow ("Never Letting Go"), Barbra Streisand ("One More Night"), and Art Garfunkel ("The Same Old Tears on a New Background"), to name a few. Therefore, it's interesting that he should open *Blueprint* (General Records), his first studio album in two years, with a cover tune. Of course, it's not just any song. It's the wonderful "Everyone's Gone to the Moon," and Bishop does a lovely rendition. The other cover song, "It Might Be You," is a remake of his 1982 hit (written by Alan & Marilyn Bergman) from the movie *Tootsie*. Among the recommended original numbers are "Holy Mother" (co-written with Eric Clapton), "Before Nightfall," and "Blue Window."

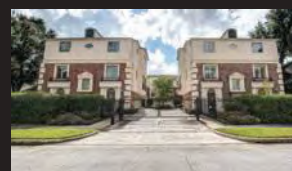
Gregg Shapiro is a regular contributor to OUTSMART magazine.



Call me **NOW** for all
of your real estate
needs!

TIM SURRATT

713.320.5881
timsurratt@yahoo.com



2143 HAROLD/SALE MLS# 38512301
LEASE MLS# 77499216

GREENWOOD KING
PROPERTIES




Finalist
BEST
PIZZA





**Hand-crafted pasta and wood fired
neapolitan style pizzas.
- Pure & simple**

**3333 Wesleyan • 77027
713-892-8100
WWW.PIZZERIASOLARIO.COM**

**THURSDAYS
10PM - 2AM
RAGS TO RICH'S TALENT SEARCH**






**HOSTED BY KARA DION, DESSIE LOVE-BLAKE
& LEO KING. DJ UKEMI SPINS.**

**SATURDAY
DEC. 10
10PM - 2AM**



**FEATURING
INTERNATIONAL
DJ CHRIS COX**

**FRIDAYS • 10PM - 2AM
FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE
WITH NEW AFTER-HOURS**





**FEATURING 2016 GAYEST & GREATEST
FEMALE DJ ATHENZ, DJ JOHNNY VIBE
& DJ JOE ROSS**

SPECIAL DECEMBER APPEARANCES



**VICTORIA
PORKCHOP
PARKER**



**COURTNEY
ACT**



**LATRICE
ROYALE**



**VICKY
VOX**

**NEW
YEAR'S
EVE**

**DJ JOE ROSS • CASH BALLOON DROP
COMPLIMENTARY CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT**



**2401 SAN JACINTO • HOUSTON, TX
WWW.RICHSNIGHTCLUB.COM**



'Marilyn Forever'

Musings on an American icon by the stars of yesterday and today.

Montrose Texas: The Untold Story Lonnie Bammann



Don't know anything about street kids, and specifically Montrose street kids in the '80s? Montrose Texas is one troubled street kid's story that certainly feels real—and scary. Neglected and abused as a child, and being

told he was “no good,” “retarded,” “worthless,” and “abnormal,” Lonnie hit the streets of Montrose at about the age of 13 and grew up *real* fast. His fellow “abnormal” friends, including some LGBT kids (Lonnie is straight), became a family that looked out for each other since those in authority didn't. “Those of us who were thrown into the war on the streets to die, or the very few who survived, received . . . only harsh judgment, ridicule, and seclusion,” he says, “no longer fitting into the society which created us.” Though the book could have benefited from better editing and proofing, it is a harrowing and moving story. Available at amazon.com.

—Troy Carrington



🕒 **Marilyn Forever**
by Boze Hadleigh
2016
Taylor Trade
(rowman.com/taylortrade)
154 pages
\$14.95

People will talk—and that can be both a good and a bad thing. Gossip is often mean, and its shelf life is usually longer than we'd like. On the other hand, a bit of scandalous chatter—as in the new book *Marilyn Forever* by Boze Hadleigh—can be great. After all, as long as people are talking about you, they'll remember you.

Through the years, plenty of people have had plenty to say about Marilyn Monroe, both during her career and after her death. Anne Baxter said she “got fed up” with studio bosses fussing over Monroe and ignoring “those of us who could actually act.” Elizabeth Taylor had nothing good to say about Monroe, whose rumored affair with another woman reportedly scandalized Taylor.

And yet, some saw deep into Monroe's soul, and they loved her for it. Shirley MaLaîne remembers Monroe as being an intelligent woman, despite the persona that Monroe cultivated; Jerry Orbach remembers Monroe's

“heart,” and shares the story of what she did for soldiers in Korea. Likewise, Shari Lewis tells of Monroe's brave stand, in pre-civil-rights America, on behalf of Ella Fitzgerald.

Michael Jackson said that just thinking about Monroe “makes you want to cry.”

Just before Monroe died, she was said to have been excited about being a new homeowner. She was in perhaps the best shape she'd been in for years and was ready for a resurgence of her career, so her death made no sense. Did she make a mistake with champagne and drugs, or was it something more sinister? No one knows, but at least one Hollywood star muses about the roles Monroe might have had in her later years, had she lived. “Fortunately, there's certainly a lot left to dream about her,” says Hugh Hefner.

Everyone knows that names hurt just as much as

sticks and stones, despite that old playground chant. So how affected was Marilyn Monroe by the things others said about her? In *Marilyn Forever*, you'll see.

Through his collection of quotes and thoughts on Monroe, author Hadleigh (who is openly gay) offers a portrait of the star through the eyes of people who knew her and worked with her. As readers might expect, there's quite a bit of nastiness here; the claws come out and the snarls fairly drip from many quotes. Monroe, it has been said, was naturally quite hurt by such comments.

But Hadleigh doesn't let those things drive this book. There's love here, and it's striking: stories of a makeup artist who, years later, couldn't bear to discuss his friendship with Monroe. “He-man” types are reduced to tears, and quite a few stars speak with sympathy about a woman they greatly admired.

That gives this book a good balance and offers further insights about an actress who's been gone for (can you believe it?) more than five decades. Time flies when you're a fan, so it's good that *Marilyn Forever* is a book you won't stop talking about.

Terri Schlichenmeyer has been reading since she was three years old, and she lives on a hill in Wisconsin with two dogs and 11,000 books.

MIDTOWN VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Your Neighborhood Pet Care Solution



OutSmart
**GAYEST
& GREATEST**
2016

“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

Welcome to Laurenzo's Restaurant

“Serving good
'ol home-style
cooking from
the other side
of our family's
heritage.”

Domenic Laurenzo
Executive Chef & Co-Owner

Come see why **cooking from scratch**
simply tastes better!

Laurenzo's
RESTAURANT

(713) 880-5111
laurenzos.net

4412 Washington Ave, Houston, TX 77007

Part of the El Tiempo
Cantina family



Winter Retreat!



AJ's

landscaping + design, inc.™

713.957.0449 www.ajslandscaping.com

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS + CONTRACTORS

**WADE
KNIGHT**

Realtor® Associate

713-582-0264

www.wadeknight.com

wknight@marthaturner.com

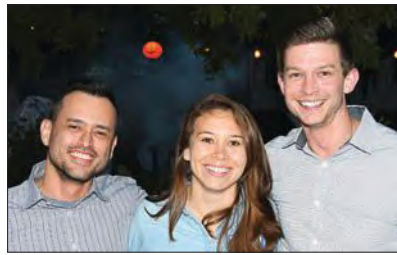
Martha
Turner

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

OUT THERE

Photos by Dalton DeHart
and Edgardo Aguilar

See more at
OutSmart-
Magazine.com



**LAMBDA
NextGen
at Pearl Bar**
October 25, 2016



**"How to Succeed
in Business
Without Really
Trying" Out at
TUTS sponsored
by OutSMART**
October 27, 2016



Make Your Photos or Art

COME TO LIFE!

713.528.1201
1201-F Westheimer
Houston TX 77006
www.copydotcom.com

copy!com
COPY CENTER/COMPUTERS/INTERNET BAR

CANVAS PRINTS | COLOR POSTERS | GREETING CARDS | MUCH MORE



LEGACY
COMMUNITY HEALTH

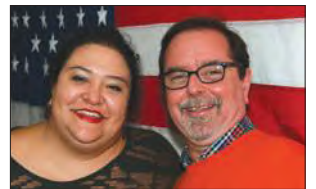
Remaining HIV-negative is a positive.

YOUR BODY. YOUR HEALTH. YOUR CHOICES. YOUR LIFE.

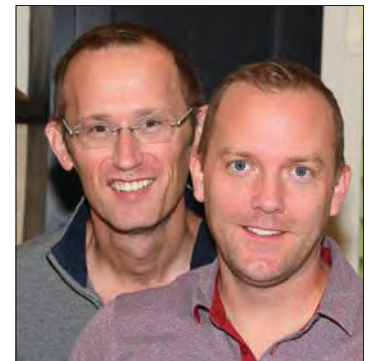
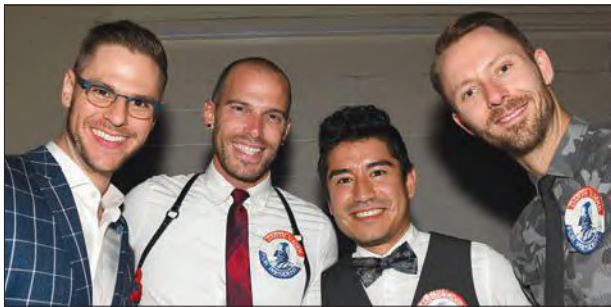
The chance to end the spread of HIV in our lifetime is here. The choice to take action is yours. PrEP is an FDA-approved medication that, when taken once daily, significantly reduces the risk of contracting HIV from a positive sexual partner. It's your life. Own it.

OUT THERE

Photos by Dalton DeHart
and Edgardo Aguilar



**Halloween
Magic 2016**
Oct. 22 & 23, 2016



**Outreach United
Check Presentation**
November 11, 2016

statement. “I pray [for] peace and a new beginning for them.”

An Attack on Their Sexuality

The allegations in 1994 rocked San Antonio and made national headlines, becoming the subject of the documentary *Southwest of Salem*. In an era when more gays and lesbians were coming out and mainstreaming, many saw the allegations as an indictment of the women’s sexuality, especially as the case against them began to unravel.

“I think the only reason that the investigation was seriously pursued was because these four women had recently come out as gay,” attorney Mike Ware told CNN’s Jean Casarez in April.

The case stemmed from allegations from Ramirez’s nieces, ages seven and nine. They stayed with their aunt for a few days in the summer of 1994 while their mother was on vacation. During their stay, Mayhugh, Vasquez and Rivera visited Ramirez’s apartment at various points.

When they returned home, they told their grandmother the women pinned them down and sexually assaulted them on two occasions. Their accounts varied in subsequent statements to police and the examining doctor, and in trial testimony, on several points—from the weapon used to subdue them to when the incidents took place, the Supreme Court opinion noted.

Such inconsistencies were “easy to set aside,” Newell wrote, given testimony from the state’s medical expert, Dr. Nancy Kellogg, that said the girls had vaginal injuries that could only come from “painful trauma” caused by penetration with a foreign object.

The convictions began to unravel several years ago when one of Ramirez’s two nieces, now in her 20s, stepped forward to say she had lied. Members of her family coached her, she told authorities, to make up a story because of their anger toward Ramirez’s sexuality. Her father, in particular, coerced them so he could gain leverage in a custody battle, she said.

Soon after, Kellogg recanted her testimony based on new science that showed her findings regarding the girls’ injuries were medically inaccurate.

With the new evidence, Ware and the Innocence Project of Texas filed for post-conviction relief to have the verdicts overturned.

A Story ‘No Rational Juror’ Would Believe

A Bexar County District Court allowed Mayhugh, Rivera, and Ramirez to be released from prison in 2013 while the court considered their request. Vasquez had just been released on parole.

The motion worked its way through the Texas courts. After a two-day hearing, during

which the niece and the doctor retracted their initial claims, a judge recommended in February 2016 that the convictions be vacated. But it declined to fully exonerate them without a full recantation from the second niece.

The Court of Appeals sided with the lower court’s ruling that “more likely than not” the jury would not have convicted the women had they heard about the new scientific evidence. It also relied heavily on the niece who came forward, saying that her recantation, coupled with the lack of reliable forensic evidence, would lead

“no rational juror” to find any of the defendants guilty.

The Innocence Project of Texas celebrated the news in a Facebook post that includes a recent picture of the women and their lawyer.

“Plenty to be thankful for this Thanksgiving season, including the full exoneration of Anna Vasquez, Elizabeth Ramirez, Cassandra Rivera, and Kristie Mayhugh, also known as the San Antonio 4!”

CNN’s Jean Casarez contributed to this report.

Gay Rights Supporters Win U.N. Victory to Keep U.N. LGBT Expert

By Edith M. Lederer, AP

Supporters of gay rights won a victory at the United Nations recently when an African attempt to suspend the first U.N. independent expert charged with investigating violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity failed.

African nations had urged the General Assembly’s human-rights committee to delay implementation of a resolution adopted by the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva to determine “the legal basis” for the expert’s mandate. They also sought to suspend the expert, Vitit Muntarbhorn of Thailand, who was appointed on September 30 and has started his work.

Latin American and Caribbean nations, who supported the appointment of the expert, introduced an amendment to get rid of the paragraph in the African-backed resolution calling for a delay in implementing the Human Rights Council resolution and suspension of the expert’s activities.

That amendment was adopted by a vote of 84–77 with 12 abstentions by the assembly’s human-rights committee—a move that was welcomed by LGBT supporters.

The amended resolution, taking note of the Human Rights Council’s report without any reference to suspending the expert, was then approved by a vote of 94–3 with 80 abstentions.

It now goes to the 193-member General Assembly for a final vote next month, when the Africans could again try to seek a delay. But the result is likely to be very similar to the original vote.

The vote on the amendment—and the 23–18 vote with six abstentions in the Human Rights Council that established the LGBT expert—reflect deep international divisions on gay rights.

The U.N. has worked to improve the rights of the LGBT community in recent

years, but has repeatedly run into opposition from some member states—especially from countries in the Middle East and Africa as well as China and Russia.

According to a U.N. human-rights report last year, at least 76 countries retain laws used to criminalize and harass people on the basis of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, including laws criminalizing consensual same-sex relationships among adults.

Botswana’s U.N. Ambassador Charles Ntwaagae, who sponsored the resolution seeking the delay, reiterated Africa’s alarm that the Geneva-based Human Rights Council is delving into national matters and attempting to focus on people “on the grounds of their sexual interests and behaviors” while ignoring intolerance and discrimination on other grounds including color, race, sex, or religion.

U.S. deputy ambassador Sarah Mendelson countered that the council has approved numerous resolutions on violence and discrimination against minorities and others. She warned before the vote on the amendment that having the General Assembly re-open a Human Rights Council mandate for the first time could undermine its ability to function.

Gay-rights groups campaigned hard against the African resolution.

A statement endorsed by 850 organizations from 157 countries around the world highlighted the need for all countries to respect the authority of the Human Rights Council and to vote in favor of the independent expert.

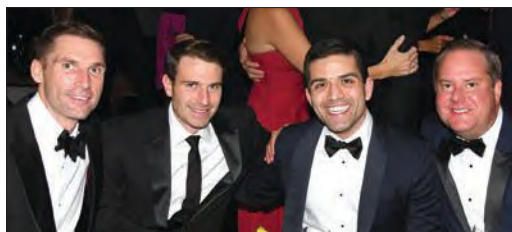
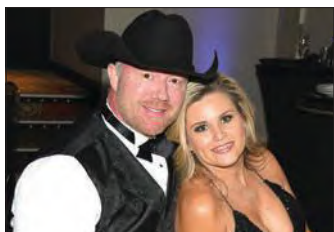
Jessica Stern, executive director of the U.S.-based gay-rights group OutRight Action International, said the vote confirmed that countries believe in the council. “A lot can be accomplished when forces join hands,” she added. ■

OUT THERE

Photos by Dalton DeHart
and Edgardo Aguilar



**Sing for Hope
Bering Community
Services & HACS**
November 11, 2016



**"Rocky Horror
Picture Show"
TUTS - Cast & Crew
Party at Artista**
November 10, 2016



**Fantasy Ball
2016 at Rich's**
October 10, 2016

The Green's All Aglow

Two new art exhibits light up Discovery Green.

By Megan Smith

Photo by Katya Horner

Discovery Green has been transformed into an illuminated winter wonderland this holiday season with two inspiring new art installations—*Enchanted Promenade* and *Firmament*.

Designed by the French art and design collective TILT, *Enchanted Promenade* (featured on this issue's cover) features large, vibrant peony blossoms that stretch 19 feet into the air and line the park's impressive Brown Promenade. These towering flowers are enlivened through LED lighting and—as night grows nearer—embody deep shades of red, scattering warm light on visitors below.

This exhibition—which runs until mid-February 2017—marks TILT's first presentation in the United States. The studio aims to provide unexpected and enchanting experiences by altering scale and engaging with the environment in unique ways. "This surprising winter light installation along The Brown Foundation Promenade of Discovery Green invites the passers-by to immerse themselves in a stunningly beautiful and memorable spectacle, and creates a dreamlike and surreal world blended by poetry and the joy of living," says Francois Fouilhe, artistic director of TILT.

After a stroll on the promenade, guests are invited to kick back, relax, and enjoy the sensory-engaging experience of *Firmament*—



Discover the 'Enchanted'

Designed by the French art and design collective TILT, *Enchanted Promenade* features large, vibrant peony blossoms that stretch 19 feet into the air.

a 52-foot wide canopy composed of thousands of LED lights, suspended from a 42-foot tall tower topped with a sizeable, glowing LED ball. Created by acclaimed Burning Man artist Christopher Schardt, this exhibit will be on display until January 8, 2017. "I created *Firmament* for the Burning Man Festival in 2015 and was overwhelmed by the number of people who crowded underneath it for hours," says Schardt. "Discovery Green will be its first installation in an urban setting, and I look forward to seeing how visitors engage with *Firmament* during its six-week exhibition."

This is the third year that the Discovery Green Conservancy's Public Art Committee—chaired by Judy Nyquist—has selected original and inspiring art for Houston's premier urban park, furthering their commitment to connecting the community through art. "*Enchanted Promenade* and *Firmament* create magical sensory experiences through their use of pulsating lighting elements during the winter season that will surely have park-goers returning for more," says Nyquist. "These projects, and future Discovery Green public-art ventures, [ensure that] Houstonians will always encounter dynamic, vibrant, and enchanting experiences in one of Houston's most celebrated and unique gathering spaces."

"Discovery Green is thrilled to continue presenting amazing, free public artworks," adds Barry Mandel, president of Discovery Green Conservancy. "Both *Firmament* and *Enchanted Promenade* provide new ways for visitors to experience an enlivening of the park with beautiful, interactive, and thought-provoking public art."

Visitors are encouraged to share their artistic experiences on social media using #DiscoveryGreenArt. For more information, visit discoverygreen.com. ■

SIGNOUT

continued from page 110

13 through January 13. This holiday period is an especially introspective one for you. Make sure you take some time to rest during the holidays, as it will be a busy time. The New Moon on the 29th should give you some energy to get back to your routines.

AQUARIUS (January 20–February 18). With Mars (planet of action and "let's do it now") moving through your sign in the first half of the month, you have lots of energy to get things done. You are taking charge and not waiting for someone to

give you permission. This can stimulate energies to renew your relationship, or to be out on the hunt. Friendships and community organizations can be very helpful to you, and you'll want to take a leadership position so you can participate. You might be moving on from friends and groups that don't serve a purpose in your life. As we get near the end of the month, you are ready for a break in the action. It's time to rest and retreat until your birthday next year.

PISCES (February 19–March 20). Career focus is very strong as the month begins. You have been in this career mode for the whole year, but it's been stronger since the end of November. If

you have plans that you want to put into play, you need to get them started before December 13, or you will have to wait until January 13 to get started on them. After the 19th, Mars (planet of action and confidence) visits your sign for the next 38 days. It may be best to focus on the tasks that need finishing rather than start anything new. You may not sleep as well with Mars around. Exercise can help burn off some of this excess energy. This is a good holiday time for you—as long as you are doing what you want!

Read Lilly Roddy's 2016 forecast at OUTSMARTMAGAZINE.com. For more astro-insight, log on to lillyroddy.com.

EMERGENT PATHWAYS PSYCHOTHERAPY



Kaden J. Stanley, Psy.D.
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

3303 Louisiana St. Suite 260
emergpsych.com | 346.701.1300
ks@emergpsych.com

BUSINESS NEWS

Gary Gritz, CPA, Outlines 2017 Tax Filing Updates on New Tax Code

Tax season is approaching, and it's not too soon for individuals, organizations and companies to take note of upcoming tax deadlines and changes to the Internal Revenue Service tax code. The changes came out for various reasons, from the increasing cases of tax fraud to the 2015 same-sex marriage ruling. Here are five things you should keep in mind for the upcoming tax season:

1. **Tax filing deadlines.** The first filing deadline for individual taxpayers is April 17, and the extended deadline is October 16, 2017. C-corporations (Form 1120) that follow the calendar year have until September 15, but corporations under a different fiscal year will need to check with the IRS for their filing deadlines. S-corporations (Form 1120-S) on a calendar year will continue to file by March 15, with an extension allowed to September 15, 2017.

2. **Employer deadlines.** The Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act, enacted in 2015, includes a requirement that employers will now have one filing deadline of January 31 for all federal and Social Security Administration W-2s, with only one 30-day extension being allowed. Companies filing Form 1099-Misc and reporting amounts in Box 7: Nonemployee Compensation, will need to meet the new filing deadline, but those without amounts in Box 7 can follow the previous February 28 deadline for paper filings or March 31 for electronic filings.

3. **Early filers may get their returns later.** Taxpayers who like to file early may have to wait a little longer to get their tax returns. The PATH Act delays government returns for filers claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit or the Additional Child Tax Credit until at least February 15.

4. **Same-sex couples.** Married same-sex couples have been required to file their federal

returns as married filing jointly since 2013, even if they lived in states that did not recognize gay marriage. However, many states with state income taxes that don't recognize same-sex marriages still require same-sex couples to file as 'single' or 'head of household'. Couples who work and live in Texas don't need to worry about this, but readers in other states and couples who live and work in separate states should consult their state tax office to see if they need to change their filing status.

5. **Health-care coverage penalty.** All Americans are required to maintain essential health-care coverage or pay a penalty. In 2017 that amount will rise to the higher of 2.5 percent of your household income or \$695 for each adult, or \$347.50 for each child under 18.

There are many other changes, and the IRS has detailed them in one of its annual publications, which can be downloaded from bit.ly/2f4Ycqr as a PDF or as an article at bit.ly/2eUpBXi

For more information contact Gary Gritz, CPA 230 Westcott, Ste 210, or call 713.784.3030.

Houston Fertility Specialists Welcomes Dr. Yanett Anaya

Houston native Dr. Yanett Anaya is the newest member of the skilled team of doctors at Houston Fertility Specialists—one of the longest-running infertility practices in the U.S.

Dr. Anaya earned her medical degree from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio and returned home to complete her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Baylor College of Medicine. What's more, she is board-certified in obstetrics and gynecology and is a Fellow of The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). Dr. Anaya is both proud and excited to provide fertility services to Houston's growing LGBT community. Her special clinical interests include infertility, assisted reproduction, fertility preservation, polycystic ovarian

continued on page 107

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

GLBT CRUISES & TOUR EVENTS

aquafest

a division of CruiseCenter

...family at sea!

(800) 592-9058

www.AquafestCruises.com

danilo Novoa, lcsw

Counselor • Psychotherapist

most insurance plans accepted

EMDR • CBT • Pain Management
Mindfulness Based CT • PTSD
Bipolar Disorders • Depression • Anxiety
Body Image • Bilingual

4318 Stanford St. • Houston, TX 77006
713.992.5010
iwantcounseling.com

nix cuts
hair salon

Barber Service Available

515 Westheimer 713.524.7858
www.HairSalonHouston.com
Mon. - Fri. 10am - 7pm | Sat. 10am - 5pm | Sun. Closed



Get the iPhone 7
For only \$27.09/mo



Buy 1 Galaxy S7
Get a VR headset free



Buy 1 LG Stylo 2
Get up to 10 free



Buy 1 Galaxy J3
Get up to 10 free

**Unlimited
Freedom
\$20/line**

When you activate 5 lines with AutoPay

Premier Wireless, Sprint Authorized Retailer
Houston's only gay-owned cell phone store

(832) 781-1981 12220 Murphy Rd

Some restrictions apply. Credit approval required. See Premier for complete details. Hurry, these offers end soon!

ACCOMMODATIONS/HOTELS

The Carter Houston	
4 Chelsea Blvd.....	832/688-4547
Elan Heights	
ElanHeights.com.....	713/861-2700
Elan Memorial Park	
ElanMemorialPark.com.....	877/514-4863
L'Emerson Corporate Lodging	
Lemerson.net.....	

ACCOUNTANTS/BOOKKEEPERS/ CPAS

Gary Gritz, CPA	
230 Westcott, Ste 210	713/784-3030

ADULT

Discount Video	
730 Hwy. 6 South.....	281/679-1797

ADVERTISING

OutSmart Magazine	
3406 Audubon	713/520-7237

AIR CONDITIONING/HEATING

Newport Air	
newportair.net	281/808-8630

ARCHITECTS

Morningside Architects	
MorningsideArchitects.com.....	713/529-2630

ASTROLOGER

Lilly Roddy Astrology	
.....	713/529-5842

ATTORNEYS/LEGAL SERVICES

Gonzalez Olivieri LLC	
gonzalezolivierillc.com.....	713/481-3040
Katine & Nechman LLP	
1834 Southmore.....	713/808-1001
Law Office of Robert Hohenberger	
2500 Wilcrest, Ste 300	713/680-9454
Law office of Kimberly D. Moss	
Mosslawhouston.com.....	713/574-8626
Moore and Hunt Attorneys at Law	
MooreandHunt.com.....	713/522-4282
Clyde Williams, Attorney	
.....	713/236-0064

AUTOMOTIVE REPAIRS

Clear Lake Body Shop	
495 Coryell St, League City.....	832/535-2087
Tech Auto Maintenance	
37 Waugh.....	713/863-8244

AUTOMOTIVE SALES

Beck & Masten Buick/GMC	
12820 Gulf Fwy.....	888/690-4291
Clear Lake Fiat	
15695 Gulf Freeway.....	281/617-4923
Central Houston Cadillac	
2520 Main St.....	832/981-7590
Central Houston Nissan	
2901 S. Loop W. FWY.....	713/349-6146

BAKERIES/CUSTOM CAKES

Acadian Bakers	
604 W. Alabama.....	713/520-1484
David Alcorta Catering	
davidalcorta.net.....	832/439-0224
Dessert Gallery	
DessertGallery.com.....	713-522-9999

CATERING SERVICES

Catering by Benno	
BennosOfGalveston.com.....	409/762-3666
David Alcorta Catering	
davidalcorta.net.....	832/439-0224
Jim Benton of Houston Catering	
2811 Eastman	713/802-2860

CHURCHES/SPIRITUAL CENTERS

Living Mosaic Church	
401 Branard St.....	832/971-0364
Resurrection MCC	
2025 W 11th.....	713/861-9149
St Paul's United Methodist Church	
5501 Main	713/528-0527

CLEANING SERVICES

Perfection Plus	
.....	713/664-9911

CLOTHING/FASHION

The Ivy League of Menswear	
ThelvyLeagueMensShop.com	832/559-3535
Mezlan Shoes	
www.mezlan.com.....	281/940-3260

COMMUNITY/NONPROFIT

Bering Support Network	
.....	713-526-1017, ext.20
Diana Foundation	
TheDianaFoundation.org	
Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce	
HoustonLGBTChamber.com.....	832-510-3002
Humanists of Houston	
humanistsofhouston.org.....	901/609-4464
Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI)	
401 Branard	lhihouston.org
Lesbians Over Fifty (L.O.A.F.)	
.....	www.loafhouston.org
MyGayHouston.com	
MyGayHouston.com/discover	
OutReach United	
OutReachUnited.org.....	832/294-2944
Pet Patrol	
ThePetPatrol.org	
Ryan White Planning Council	
rwpcHouston.org	713-572-3724

COMPUTERS/INTERNET/IT SERVICES

Copy.com	
1201-F Westheimer.....	713/528-1201

EDUCATION/TRAINING

Houston Community College	
.....	hccs.edu/diversity

ENTERTAINMENT/NIGHT LIFE

Bayou City Bar & Grill	
2409 Grant St.....	BayouCityBar.com
Bayou City Concert Musicals	
BayouCityConcertMusicals.org.....	713/465-6484
Bradley David Entertainment	
BradleyDavidEntertainment.com.....	713/487-6076
Daniel Bauer's Beyond Belief	
DanielBauer.us	
F*Bar	
202 Tuam.....	FBARHouston.com
George Country Sports Bar	
617 Fairview	713/528-8102
Houston Eagle	
611 Hyde Park.....	HoustonEagle.com
JR's/Santa Fe	
808 Pacific.....	713/521-2519
Lake Charles	
Visitlakecharles.org/greattimes...800/456-7952	
La Torretta Lake Resort & Spa	
600 La Torretta Blvd.....	LaTorrettalakeresort.com
Miller Outdoor Theater	
6000 Herman Park.....	Milleroutdoortheatre.com
Pearl Bar	
4216 Washington Ave.....	pearlhouston.com
RadioPride.FM	
.....	RadioPride.FM
Rich's Houston	
2401 San Jacinto	RichsNightClub.com
Rudyard's	
2010 Waugh	713/521-0521
Smart Financial Centre/Sugar Land	
18111 Lexington Blvd.....	smartfinancialcentre.net
South Beach	
810 Pacific	713/529-7623
Stages Theatre	
StagesTheatre.com.....	713-527-0123
Theatre Southwest	
theatresouthwest.org.....	713/661-9505
Theatre Under the Stars	
TUTS.com.....	713/558-TUTS
Tony's Corner Pocket	
817 W Dallas	832/722-7658

FERTILITY/GYNECOLOGY

Aspire Fertility	
AspireFertility.com.....	713/425-3003
Houston Fertility Specialists	
www.fertilityspecialists.net.....	713/512-7900
Houston IVF	
houstonivf.net.....	713/561-3439
FINANCIAL PLANNING/BANKS	
Domingo Barrios, MS/Prudential	
1233 West Loop South.....	832/325-6885
Grace Yung/Midtown Financial	
3355 Alabama, Ste 180.....	713/355-9833
Wells Fargo Bank	
.....	www.WellsFargo.com

FITNESS CLUBS/PERSONAL TRAINERS

Club Houston	
2205 Fannin	713/659-4998
D Cookson Fitness	
Dwayne Cookson.....	281/960 6301
Fit Athletic Club	
FitHouston.com.....	713/STAYFIT
Fitness by Leslie	
Mcneely100@gmail.com.....	281/546-0040
Houston Gym	
1501 Durham	713/880-9191
Lifestyles Fitness	
Justus Christianson	832-287-6784
The Gym	
1950 W. Gray St.....	713/527-8000

FLOORING / CARPETING

Floor Coverings International	
HoustonHeights.FloorCoveringsInternational.com	
.....	832/305-5204
Wells and Son LLC Floorcare	
WellsAndSonFloorCare.com	713/204-8698

FOOD/SPECIALTY & SPIRITS

Dripping Springs Vodka & Gin	
.....	drippingspringsvodka.com
Spec's	
specsonline.com	888/526-8787

HAIR/NAIL/MAKE-UP SALONS

Green Apple	
719 W. Gray St	713/521-0500
NU-Cuts Hair Salon	
515 Westheimer	713/524-7858

HEALTH CARE-EMERGENCY CENTERS

Elite Care 24 Hour Emergency Center	
2500 Rice Blv.....	EliteCareEmergency.com

HEALTH CARE-CHIROPRACTIC

Kirby Health & Wellness/Kenneth W. Lester, D.C.	
1603 Shepherd	713/526-5252

HEALTH CARE-COUNSELING/THERAPY

D. "Woodja" Flanigan, MS, LPA	
2600 SW Fwy, Ste 409	713/589-9804
Dr. Daniel Garza, MD	
2323 Shepherd, Set 805	281/610-8190
Denise O'Doherty,LPC,LMFT,LCDC,RN	
3730 Kirby Dr., Ste. 910	713/524-8525
Dr. Barry F. Gritz, MD	
230 Westcott, Ste 210	713/869-7400
Emergent Pathways	
emergencepsych.com.....	346/701-1300
Ken McLeod, LCSW, ACSW	
5909 W Loop S, Ste 480	713/628-1776
The Montrose Center	
401 Branard	713/529-0037
Danilo Novoa, LCSW	
IWantCounseling.com.....	713/992-5010
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

Samuel A. Carrell, DDS/Bruce W. Smith, DDS	
1006 Missouri	713/529-4364

Bayou City Smiles/Marcus de Guzman, DDS	
2313 Edwards St., Ste. 150	713/518-1411
Bayou City Smiles/ Cynthia Corral, DDS	
2313 Edwards St., Ste 150	713/518-1411
Cory Logan, DDS	
530 Waugh.....	713/942-8598
Polish Dentistry, Dianna Wilde, DDS	
514 Elgin, Ste A.....	713/942-0101
LifeSmiles by Randy Mitchmore, DDS	
1722 W. Alabama.....	713/592-9300
Bruce W. Smith, DDS/Bruce Smith, DDS	
1006 Missouri	713/529-4364
Sunlight Dental Group	
SunlightDentalGroup.com	832-243-1740

HEALTH CARE-OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

Houston Eye Associates/Stewart Zuckerbrod, MD	
5420 Dashwood, Ste 101	713/668-9118

HEALTH CARE-OPTOMETRISTS

Boutique Eye Care	
2502 Woodhead	713/528-2010
Eye Contact	
2055 Westheimer	713/520-6600
Eye Gallery	
1806B Westheimer	713/523-1279
2542 Amherst.....	832/831-7253
1700 Post Oak Blvd, Ste 110	713/622-7470
Spectacles on Montrose	
4317 Montrose, Ste. 2	713/529-3937

HEALTH CARE/PHARMACIES

South Side Pharmacy	
ssrx.com	713/660-8888

HEALTH CARE-PHYSICIANS

Octavio Barrios, MD	
507 West Gray.....	713/942-7546
7106 Spencer Highway	281/542-9400
Carroll Clinic/James M. Carroll MD, AAHIVS	
Donnie Harvey, MPAS, PA-C	
4101 Greenbriar, Ste 208.....	713/520-6360
Gordon Crofoot, MD	
Maggie White, FNP-BC	
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	
Signature Care Emergency Center	
.....	ERcare24.com

HEALTH CARE-PLASTIC SURGERY

Camille G. Cash M.D.	
Camillecashmd.com.....	713/571-0600

HEALTH CARE-SERVICES

Community Hep C Clinic	
CommunityHepCClinic.com.....	832/831-7770
Houston Area Community Services/HACS	
2150 W 18th St.	713/426-0027
Legacy Community Health Services	
215 Westheimer	713/830-3000
Research Access Network	
4101 Greenbriar Dr #200.....	713/526-7736
Ryan White Planning Council	
RWPCHouston.org.....	713/572-3784
St. Hope Foundation	
OfferingHope.org.....	713/778-1300

HEALTH CARE-SKIN CARE

Heights Dermatology/Alpesh Desai, MD	
2120 Ashland	713/864-2650
Skin Renaissance Laser/Octavio Barrios, MD	
507 West Gray.....	713/942-7546

HEALTH CARE-UROLOGISTS

McClung Clinic/Tony S. McClung, MD	
1213 Hermann, Ste 520	713/528-3444

HEALTH CARE-WEIGHT LOSS CLINICS

Dr. B-Fit/ Octavio Barrios, MD	
517 West Gray	713/942-7546

HOME FURNISHINGS/ACCESSORIES

Cantoni	
9889 Westheimer	cantoni.com

Coda
355 W 19th St. 713/864-4411

Fountains and Statuary
11804 Hempstead Rd 713/957-3672

Iconic Systems Home Audio Store
1707 Waugh Dr 713/933-0606

Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams
4091 Westheimer 832/397-5130

HOME REMODELING/RENOVATIONS

Unique Builders
uniquebuilderstexas.com 713/263-8138

INSURANCE AGENCIES/AGENTS

E. Bailey Moore
1635 Richmond Ave 713/522-6511

Hatem Foteh Insurance Agency
Farmers Insurance
12603 S.W. Fwy., Ste. 565 281/565-4800

Kathy Huynh Agency
5151 Katy Freeway 713/893-3914

JEWELERS

Loggins Jewelers
14015 Southwest Fwy 281/242-2900

Silverlust
1338-C Westheimer 713/520-5440

Zadok
Zadok.com 713/960-8950

LANDSCAPING/GARDENING

A.J.'s Landscaping & Design, Inc.
AJsLandscaping.com 713/957-0449

MASSAGE THERAPISTS

Ryan Fugate, RMT
RyanMassageWorks.com 713/269-7926

Joel Leal, RMT
..... 713/397-8808

River Oaks Advanced Bodyworks
3330 Audley St 281/753-1875

Stan's Hands
1617 Westheimer Rd #17 832/526-6520

PEST CONTROL SERVICES

Andy's All Star Pest Control
..... 713/732-7742

PET SERVICES & SUPPLIES

Aquarium World
13157 Northwest Fwy 713/329-9989

Last Wishes
www.lastwishes.com 713/452-0474

Midtown Veterinary Hospital
MidtownVetHospital.com 713-528-4900

Molly's Mutthouse
3407 Montrose 832/581-2453

3410 N. Shepherd 713/426-6888

2755 Vossdale 281/501-9062

South By South Vets
Southbysouthvets.com 713/987-3237

Spay-Neuter Assistance Program
Snaps.org 713/862-3863

West Alabama Animal Clinic
2030 W. Alabama 713/528-0818

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Dalton DeHart Photography
DaltonDehart.com 713/622-2202

Yvonne Feece Photography
yvonnefeece.com 832/876-1053

PHOTOGRAPHY

Houston Camera Exchange
5900 Richmond Ave 713/789-6901

PLUMBING

U-Plumb-It Plumbing Supply
1424 Montrose 713-942-2277

Village Plumbing & Appliance
5403 Kirby 713/224-DRIP(3747)

POOL & POOL SERVICES

Tranquility Pools
..... 713/447-9201

PRINTING/COPY CENTERS

Copy.com
1201-F Westheimer 713/528-1201

PSYCHIC READERS

Readings by LA
readingbyLA.com 832/856-2188

REAL ESTATE-MORTGAGE/TITLE

Academy Mortgage/Cody Grizzoffi
601 Sawyer Street, Ste 660 832/541-1103

Bob Beszborn/Boulevard Realty
2121 Sage Road, Ste 140 713/961-5363

Stewart Title/Michael Caballero
603 W. 11th 713/401-1850

REAL ESTATE-REALTORS

David B. Atkins/Heritage Texas
1177 West Loop S #1200 713/582-5111

Bob Beszborn/Boulevard Realty
1545 Heights 281/650-2726

David Bowers/The House Company/Galveston
David@DavidBowers.com 409/763-2800

Carlo Chiochio/Martha Turner
..... 713/898-3434

Melanie Combs/Boulevard Realty
yourblvd.com 713/862-1600

Karen Derr/Karen Derr Realty
karenderr.com 713/875-7050

Jeremy Fain/Greenwood King Properties
..... 713/677-4337

Debbie Levine/Greenwood King Properties
..... 713/942-6857

Lynette Lew/Better Homes and Gardens
LynetteLew.com 713/582-2202

Vinod Ramani/Urban Living Realtors
5023 Washington 713/868-7226

Realty World Uptown
710 N. Post Oak, Ste 311 713/936-0779

Alexander Song/Keller Williams Southwest
har.com/alexsong 832/533-5308

Tom Schwenk/The House Company
TheHouseCompany.com 713-857-2309

Tim Surratt/Greenwood King
..... 713/320-5881

VJ Tramonte/Joe Tramonte Realty
1802 Broadway/Galveston 409/765-9837

Andy Weber/John Daugherty Realtors
520 Post Oak 713/724-4306

RESTAURANTS/COFFEE/WINE BARS

1308 Annex
322 Westheimer 713/807-8101

1308 Cantina
1308 Montrose 281/807-8996

Acadian Bakers
604 W. Alabama 713/520-1484

Baba Yega
2607 Grant Street 713/522-0042

Benno's On The Beach
1200 Seawall Blvd 409/762-4621

2521 University Blvd 713/520-8888

Dessert Gallery
DessertGallery.com 713-522-9999

Giacomo's
3215 Westheimer 713/522-1934

Ginger & Fork
gingerandforkrestaurant.com 713/861-8883

Gloria's
2616 Louisiana 713/880-5111

Laurenzo's Restaurant
4412 Washington 713/880-5111

Rudyard's
2010 Waugh 713/521-0521

Ruggles River Oaks
2305 West Alabama 713/533-0777

TELEPHONES/CELL/WIRELESS

Premier Wireless
12220 Murphy 281/575-8500

TRAVEL/TRAVEL AGENCIES

Aquafest
Aquafestcruises.com 800/592-9058

Concierge Travel, Inc
4920 Mimosa 713/661-2117

Gayibbean Cruises
GayibbeanCruises.com 877/560-8318

World Q Travel
WorldQTravel.com 936/828-4294

WEDDING SERVICES - BAKERS

Acadian Bakers
604 W. Alabama 713/520-1484

David Alcorta Catering
davidalcorta.net 832/439-0224

Dessert Gallery
DessertGallery.com 713-522-9999

WEDDING SERVICES - CATERERS

Catering by Benno
Benno'sOfGalveston.com 409/762-3666

David Alcorta Catering
davidalcorta.net 832/439-0224

Jim Benton of Houston Catering
2811 Eastman 713/802-2860

WEDDING SERVICES - CLOTHIERS

The Ivy League of Menswear
TheIvyLeagueMensShop.com 832/559-3535

WEDDING SERVICES-PHOTOGRAPHERS

Dalton DeHart Photography
DaltonDehart.com 713/622-2202

Yvonne Feece Photography
yvonnefeece.com 832/876-1053

WEDDING SERVICES - PLANNERS

A Day To Remember
www.daytoremember.net 713/862-1751

Gray & Associates Events
Number1EventPlanner.com 713/931-9168

Rexberry Luxury Weddings & Events
9317 B Katy Fwy 832/799-1449

..... 832/788-1843

WEDDING SERVICES - SERVICES

BeforeYouAsk.com
BeforeYouAsk.com 832/221-1414

Bradley David Entertainment
BradleyDavidEntertainment.com 713/487-6076

Pop Up Wedding Houston
PopUpWeddingHouston.com 832/816-4475

WEDDING SERVICES - VENUES

La Torretta Lake Resort & Spa
600 La Torretta LaTorrettaLakeResort.com

Marriott Houston North
255 N. Sam Houston Pkwy East 281/875-4000

Moody Mansion, Galveston
2618 Broadway 409/762-7668

**Thank You
for supporting
OutSmart
advertisers!**

Want to have your business
listed here? Call 713/520-7237
for advertising rates.

**Why give your
money to a
business that
does not support
diversity?**

Whether you're
looking for the
butcher, the baker,
or the candlestick
maker, OutSMART can
help you find
equality-minded
businesses that
appreciate you
and provide vital
community support.

**Read OutSMART, so you can have
your cake and equality, too.**

OutSmart



For advertising and subscription
information, call 713/520-7237.

www.OutSmartMagazine.com

OutSmart Marketplace

ACCOMMODATIONS

Fully Furnished Corporate Apartments



www.LEmerson.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOUSTON PRIDE RIDERS

A new LGBT motorcycle riding group is being put together for those in the Houston area who like to get out and ride! I'd love to have group rides/social gatherings every month, possible fund raiser rides for the community, etc.. All motorcycle types welcome - From Harley's to Hayabusa's, crotch rockets and cruisers - all are welcome. All rider experiences welcome!

Please contact jasonmwilson@sbcbglobal.net or look for Houston Pride Riders on Facebook

CHURCHES

FIND LIVE

SUNDAY MORNING
9:00 AM: Connection Group
Bible Study
10:00 AM: Worship Celebration

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
7:00 PM: Connection Group
Bible Study

401 Brandard - Houston 77006
832.971.0254
a place for everyone | livingmosaic.cc

COMPUTER SERVICES

Plain Talk

Real help.

PC HomeTech
In-Home
Computer Services

832.496.9246

www.pchometech.com

CLEANING SERVICES

Family Owned and Operated Since 1998

Wells & Son

If your carpet Smells, call Doctor Wells!

Someone's keeping a
Dirty Secret!

Call Judy @ 713.204.8698
Call Robert @ 713.201.0861
WellsAndSonFloorCare.com

**Carpet Cleaning
& Floor Care**
Specialists

CLEANING SERVICES

DEXTER'S

FIVE STAR SERVICE

Doing the chores
you hate to do!

**HOME & OFFICE
CLEANING**

DESIGNATED
DRIVER SERVICE

**HOUSE
& PET
SITTING**

BOB SAMORA
832.252.1961

FOR RENT

**MONTROSE
OFFICE SPACE**

Perfect for
Psychotherapist, Personal
Coach, etc. Utilities,
Phone, Voicemail
included. 24 hour, 7 day
access. \$700/mo.
(713) 817- 4507
AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY

FOR SALE

GALVESTON PROPERTIES

1825 25th • Galveston
Two story, circa 1899 Victorian with
separate shop/guest house....\$374,500

1518 25th • Galveston
Raised 1 1/2 story, circa 1923
Craftsman-style with garage
apartment...\$364,500

1819 Sealy • Galveston
Victorian on a lovely street...\$310,000

1715 Market Street • Galveston
Circa 1885. 6 bedrooms...\$284,500

David Bowers, Realtor
409-763-2800

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

MASSAGE & BODYWORK

Your "ahhh" moment.
Delivered!



713-240-9598

Ken Claude, LMT

OUTCALL MASSAGE
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Voted
Houston's
Best Male
Massage
Therapist
2016

Thanks
for Your
Support!

Tom Zeppelin, LMT

713.542.0426
ZeppelinMassage.com

SERVICES

HC3 Wellness

HC3 Wellness is a state of the art center which promotes internal cleansing and detoxification through regimens of "Colon Hydrotherapy" and "Ionic Foot Detox." Located in the heart of the Medical Center. 713.667.8600.
www.hc3wellness.com

**A Sure Cure For
Stress: Reiki!**



David
Reiki
Master &
Teacher

houstonreiki.com
713-240-5508

SERVICES



409.420.6231 • skydivegalveston.com



HAVE YOU BEEN
MANSCAPED
LATELY?

The Wax Master
Specializing in Men's Body Waxing
713.600.1027

HARDLINE

ALL MALE LIVE CHAT

ALL ACCESS
FREE TRIAL!

713.590.9090
OTHER CITIES 1.877.510.3344

HARDLINECHAT.COM

DOWNLOAD NOW

APP

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

**MARKETPLACE
ADVERTISING RATES**

Deadline:
Dec. 15 for the Jan. Issue.
For rates/information
call 713/520-7237 ext. 10.

syndrome, endometriosis, premature ovarian failure, and minimally invasive surgery. In her spare time, Dr. Anaya enjoys reading, traveling, and being with her family. She is also fluent in Spanish.

Dr. Anaya is currently accepting new patients at their Fannin and Katy locations. Visit fertilityspecialists.net or call 713.512.7900 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Merlin Cavallin, CPA, Holds Grand Opening

Merlin Cavallin, CPA, P.C., an XpressCPA firm, celebrated its grand opening on December 1. Cavallin, a native Houstonian, returns to the city following a stay in Virginia, where he founded XpressCPA four years ago. With this new venture, Cavallin plans to dedicate many of his services to the LGBT community—including free tax advice for married couples filing jointly and how common-law marriage affects tax returns. “The community has given me so much, and I could not wait to return and give back,” says Cavallin. “I knew that I would have the opportunity to make the biggest impact right here at home in Houston.”

The firm is nationally recognized for specializing in QuickBooks services, tax preparation for both individuals and businesses, and consulting services. Cavallin will also offer free monthly “Business 101” workshops for small businesses and entrepreneurs starting in January 2017. “There is a special twinkle in an entrepreneur’s eyes that makes me light up,” Cavallin explains. “They’re the people for whom I founded this firm.”

Prior to his move to Virginia, Cavallin was involved with numerous LGBT community organizations, including Bunnies on the Bayou, Legacy Community Health, Bering Omega, Pride Houston, EPAH, and the Diana Foundation. “Most importantly, my goal is to make a difference!” Cavallin says. For more information, call 281.833.3302. ■

ryan
r.m.t., n.m.t., II reiki t.

professional
Therapeutic
massage



Voted Houstons best
massage therapist,
2009, 2010, 2011,
2012, 2014, 2015 & 2016!
—outsmart magazine

713 269 7926
ryanmassageworks.com



IDEAL FOR SUMMER INTERNS

When business or pleasure brings you
to Houston for a month or more,
why not make L'Emerson your address?



- 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

Right now is the perfect opportunity

- * TO BE PROUD OF WHO YOU ARE
- * TO BE COMPASSIONATE TO YOURSELF AND OTHERS
- * TO SHOW GRATITUDE TO THOSE YOU LOVE AND TRULY APPRECIATE



Voted BEST ASTROLOGER
by OutSmart Readers

LILLY RODDY



ASTROLOGER

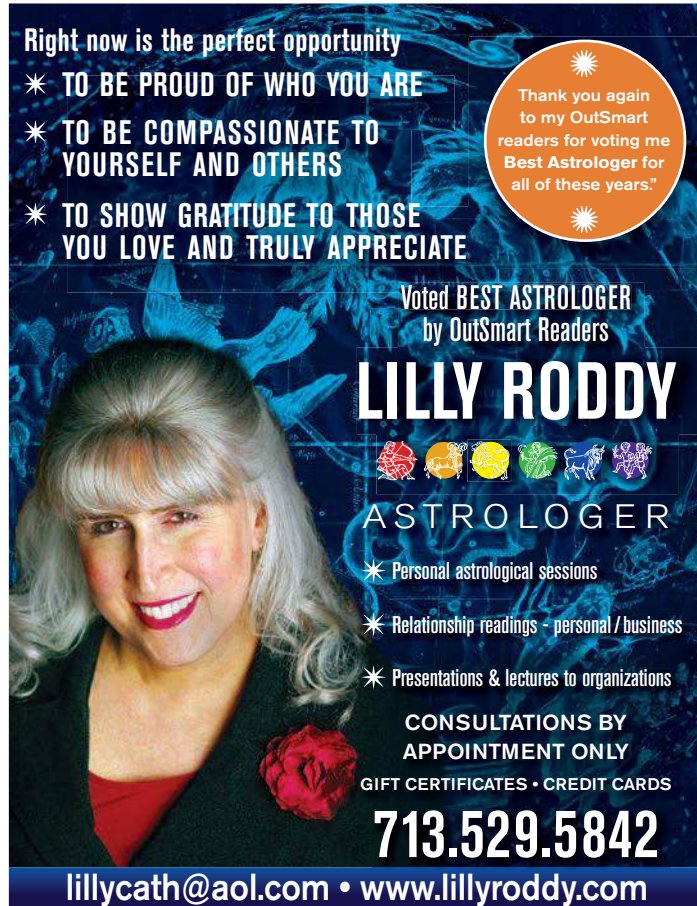
- * Personal astrological sessions
- * Relationship readings - personal / business
- * Presentations & lectures to organizations

CONSULTATIONS BY
APPOINTMENT ONLY

GIFT CERTIFICATES • CREDIT CARDS

713.529.5842

lillicath@aol.com • www.lillyroddy.com



#1 PARTY BAR IN MONTROSE

BAR & GRILL

BAYOU CITY

PROUDLY SERVING THE **LGBT COMMUNITY** SINCE 2009

BAYOUCITYBAR.COM

MON-SAT 7AM-2AM
SUN 11AM-2AM

KITCHEN OPEN
FOR LUNCH AND DINNER

2409 GRANT ST.

★ GEORGE ★

Your Country Sports Bar

HOURS: Mon-Sat 7am-2am
Sunday 12pm-2am

GAME TIME SPECIAL
ICED BUCKET
ANY 5 DOMESTIC BEERS*

\$10

*ONLY SERVED TO A PARTY OF 2 OR MORE

617 Fairview • Houston, Texas • 713.528.8102

EAGLE HOUSTON

MON - FRI 4P - 2A | SAT & SUN NOON - 2A

611 HYDE PARK, HOUSTON TX, 77006

HOUSTONEAGLE.COM

OutSmart GAYEST & GREATEST 2016

VOTED HOUSTON'S FAVORITE GAY BAR!

If you want to drink, that's your business.
If you want to stop, that's ours.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Hundreds of meetings a week in your area.
Call (713) 686-6300 or visit www.aahouston.org
For general information visit: www.aa.org

FRIDAYS 10-2

DISCO ASYLUM

AWARD WINNING
BILLBOARD REPORTING DJ
JIMMY SKINNER

STRICTLY 21 | NO COVER

SPONSORED BY
SMIRNOFF WELL VODKA
ALL NIGHT

BAR & CLUB GUIDE

Houston

13 ENTERTAINMENT

This comfortable club located in the 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

This always-fun party bar opens daily (7am-2am Mon.-Sat., 11am-2am Sun.), serving fantastic food (11am-9pm) daily. Fifty-cent wing specials on Tuesday and Thursday pack the house. "Let Us Entertain You" with our Sunday drag performances. Party promotions nightly. 2409 Grant St. • 713.522.2867 • bayoucitybar.com.

BLUR

This multi-level dance club features a patio upstairs lounge and balconies that overlook Pacific St. Ladies enjoy Wet and Wild Wed., 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, 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 • crystaltheclub.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.

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. Sports Saturdays and Sundays start at 3pm with dart and pool tournaments. 617 Fairview • 713.528.8102.

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.

HOUSTON EAGLE

Part of the Eagle worldwide family, originating in 1970, this neighborhood watering spot is the place to cruise and dance and was recently voted Houston's Favorite Gay Bar. Featuring DJs on the weekends and the birthplace of the hit remix team Dirty Disco. Multiple patios. Featuring a 29-degree pour and 12 beers on tap. The inside leather shop is open the same hours as the bar. M-F 4 pm-2am, Sat. & Sun. noon-2am. 611 Hyde Park Blvd. • houstoneagle.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. • jrsbarandgrill.com • 713.521.2519.



*Where Everyone
is Welcome!*

Helpline: 713-46P-FLAG
www.pflaghouston.org

SUPPORT • EDUCATION • ADVOCACY



Behind the Bar

WHO:

Andy Neary

WHERE:

Tony's Corner Pocket
817 W. Dallas
tonyscornerpocket.com • 713.571.7870

WHAT'S UP: Tony's Corner Pocket is your friendly neighborhood bar with the best view in town, featuring downtown Houston's skyline, friendly staff, and reasonable drink prices. Tony's is known for its Amateur Strip Contest hosted by Miss An' Marie Gill Thursday-Saturday. Wednesdays feature Ducky during *What the Duck Show*, and Regina Dane is featured during Sunday night's strip contest with happy hour prices all day and night. Stop by for details about holiday parties and events coming up soon.



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.

NEON BOOTS DANCEHALL & SALOON

Houston's only LGBT country dancehall is located in the historic Esquire Ballroom and opens Wednesday-Sunday. The new outside patio and stage are open. Wednesday features Steak Night and Bingo. Free dance classes on Thursdays and Karaoke. Saturday night the dance floor fills with the best C&W... check their website for all specials, events and times. 11410 Hempstead Hwy • neonbootsclub.com • 713.677.0828.

PEARL BAR

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 • pearlhouston.com.

RICH'S HOUSTON

Houston's most iconic and largest LGBT dance club, with multiple levels featuring a video/show bar and a private VIP lounge. Originally built to be the Studio 54 of the South, Rich's boasts world-renowned DJs and entertainers. No cover before 10:30 p.m. 2401 San Jacinto • 281.846.6685 • richsnightclub.com.

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.

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.

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.SOBEL.

TC'S SHOWBAR

With the longest daily happy hours in Montrose (8am-10pm), it's no wonder this neighborhood watering hole is so popular. Owner Tim Pugh says TC's has built quite a reputation as the perfect spot to celebrate special occasions. Other big draws are the drag shows Wednesday-Sunday and karaoke Monday & Wednesday. 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

23RD ST. STATION

A new face on the Island bar scene is here. The bar features a neighborhood-bar feel with octane. Drink specials daily and the weekend is filled with pulsing music, hot dancers, drag shows, and a Sunday Tea Dance. 1706 23rd 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.

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 BAR AND LOUNGE

One of only two LGBT hangouts in North Houston/Spring, this bar and video lounge has a laidback atmosphere where everyone is welcome and everyone is friendly to each other. The Room Bar and Lounge offers something for everyone, including daily drink specials, karaoke, free pool, drag shows, and live DJs several nights a week. 4915 FM 2920 • roombarspring.com • 281.907.6866. ■

- A HOUSTON TRADITION SINCE 1978 -

Rudyard's Pub

THOUSANDS OF BANDS
MILLIONS OF BEERS

DELICIOUS BURGERS • SUCCULENT PULLED PORK TACOS
FABULOUS FISH & CHIPS • AN ARRAY OF CRAFT BEERS

2010 Waugh | 713.821.0821 | 11:30am-2am Everyday | www.rudyardspub.com

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Houston's largest New Year's Eve Party.
Massive confetti and balloon drop at midnight.
12AM champagne toast.
Come celebrate the new year with friends.

South Beach

810 PACIFIC STREET | 713.529.SOBEL | FACEBOOK.COM/SOBELHOUSTON

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

THANK YOU HOUSTON FOR 10 YEARS!
There's always something going on at:

TONY'S CORNER POCKET

817 W. Dallas • 713/571-7870
Houston's Hottest Male Amateur Strip Contest Headquarters!

Nightly Specials - Call for Details
Cold Beverages & Hot Guys!

DJ BLACKOUT

NEW YEARS EVE PARTY

December 31st

Friday Happy Hour Special
Half Price Rooms
from 4pm to 7:45pm

1/2 PRICE ROOMS Tuesdays 4pm-11:45pm
1/2 PRICE LOCKERS Wednesdays 4pm-11:45pm

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.

A PRIVATE MEN'S CLUB
2205 Fannin Street • Houston • (713)659-4998 • www.theclubs.com



Mercury

... goes retrograde again.

Our old friend Mercury retrograde shows up this month from December 13 until January 13, 2017. Travel plans for the December holidays may not go as smoothly, so plan ahead and have a Plan B ready. The Mercury retrograde will make the holidays more nostalgic for most of us, so we may enjoy it more! • The positive days for December are the 1st, 3rd, 6th, 9th, 12th, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, and 30th, while the not-so-positive days are the 10th, 13th, 18th, 19th, and 20th. • We have a Full Moon on the 22nd in Gemini, and that could bring some news that may surprise us. We could be feeling very negative at that time. Don't overthink things. The New Moon in Capricorn (along with Uranus going direct on the same day) will make us more enthusiastic about the future. • The sun starts the month in Sagittarius and enters Capricorn (the Winter Solstice) on the 21st. Mercury begins in Sagittarius but quickly enters Capricorn on the 2nd, and remains in Capricorn for the entire month. Venus is transiting through Capricorn as the month begins, but quickly enters Aquarius on the 7th. Mars is in Aquarius and eventually enters Pisces on the 19th. Jupiter remains in Libra, Saturn continues through Sagittarius, Uranus flies through Aries, Neptune swims through Pisces, and Pluto hammers away at Capricorn.

ARIES (March 21–April 19). Despite the fact that you are very busy, you are taking some time to enjoy the holidays. You are in a very social mood and are welcoming people into your life. Friendships are especially important to you this month. Some friendships may be tested, while other friends will show their loyalty and stick by you. Mercury retrograde is affecting your career sector, and will remain strong through mid-January. You will want to pay more attention to the details there. Toward midmonth, you are more focused on work. It will be easy to over-schedule yourself. Enjoy your holidays—it gets busier for you after the 29th.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20). December is a month of adjustments as you examine your deeper connections to the special people in your life. Some of these connections are emotionally based, while others are about financial investments. You are making sure everyone is on the same page. You are paying more attention to your health, your body, and your personal space. You are reacting more openly and not holding things in as much. You are ready to take some action to become more successful with your work or career, and you should get that done before

December 13 or you will have to wait until January 13. Toward the end of the month, you begin to take a more laid-back approach. The holidays should be pleasant for you!

GEMINI (May 21–June 21). With your ruler, Mercury, going retrograde December 13 through January 13, get your holiday projects started early. Overall, you are working on your boundaries, cleaning out closets, and getting clear about the priorities and relationships in your life. You need new goals in your close relationships to stimulate a more intimate and emotional connection. Toward the end of the month, you are focusing more on your financial future. This is a great month for you to go back and visit the old homestead for the holidays. You are looking for some adventure, especially after the 19th. After the holidays, career issues take over your focus.

CANCER (June 22–July 22). You continue to remain focused on improving both your work environment and your health. Even with all of the holiday feasting, you are keeping a close watch on what you eat while trying to stick to your exercise program. And with Mercury retrograde, this is a great month to get your workplace cleaned up and organized. You could be getting new computers and office equipment. Relationships are a big focus this month. You are working on your boundaries and learning how to speak up sooner. With Mercury retrograde, old partners from past relationships may be contacting you. If you are single, this could be the time to take another dip in the pool. Make the holidays work for you!

LEO (July 23–August 22). As the month opens, you are feeling more playful and even flirtatious. This can be a great month to renew those relationship bonds. You are more short-tempered through the first half of the month, and not afraid to say what you think. You are also continuing to work on improving your health through big changes in your diet and exercise programs. Your workplace is also going through some repurposing, both in your office space and your job description. The holidays should be good for you this year. Be sure to find your own inner child this holiday season and treat her to the love and appreciation you really desire.

VIRGO (August 23–September 22). You are continuing to focus your energy on creating a safer home, a better emotional state, and more financial security. For some, this is about making home repairs or even moving. Family may feel burdensome during the holidays, so you will want to limit yourself to small, intimate gatherings. You are questioning your career path, how fast you are progressing, and how to improve what is working. This makes even Virgos work on their efficiency. By midmonth, you are ready to sit back and enjoy the holidays—even though you should try to stay on a good exercise and eating program. Your relationship will need some attention after the 19th. Be proactive and do some differ-

ent things with your partner for the holidays. You will be ready to come back to your routines after January 13.

LIBRA (September 23–October 23). With Jupiter, planet of travel, education, and positive expectations moving through your sign, you are feeling more confident about the future. This is a very good time for improving your existing relationship, or looking for possible connections if you are single. You are busy, but you've been making good use of your time and prioritizing the things that are important to you. And you have been learning how to say "no" more easily. With Mercury retrograde during the holidays, you will most likely want to reconnect and recreate the holidays of your past. Don't hold back! The New Moon on the 29th helps to ground you and get you back on track.

SCORPIO (October 24–November 21). Money and personal resources continue to dominate your realm as the month begins. This is a time of conservative investing or eliminating unnecessary expenses. Family energies have been somewhat unsettled over the last month, but that should ease up after the 19th. As the holidays approach, you are working on your agenda for 2017. This can be a good time to teach classes, take some classes, or write that book you are always talking about. You are more interested in exercise and health after midmonth. Enjoy the holiday festivities and feasts—you can just walk an extra mile in the mornings!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22–December 21).



Happy Birthday to the Centaurs! This completes your personal yearly cycle when you have the opportunity to look back at your accomplishments and create some new adventures for the next year. With Mercury retrograde in the mid-

dle of this cycle, you will want to wait until after January 13 to put any of your new undertakings into play. Family drama could be a bit stronger than usual during your holidays. Since you are getting clearer about what you will and will not tolerate, people will be getting your messages more distinctly. Keep your holiday plans flexible, and keep an exit plan handy in case you need it.

CAPRICORN (December 22–January 19). As the month begins, you are being a bit reserved with your energy. Normally, this is a time of rest and retreat until your birthday rolls around and you get a burst of energy after December 21. Be sure and enjoy this rest period, since 2017 promises to be especially busy with potential career opportunities and maybe even a relocation. Mercury is retrograde in your sign from December

continued on page 101

**USE IT
— OR —
LOSE IT!**

**Make sure you utilize
remaining insurance
benefits before you lose
them at end of year.**

713.942.0101
www.polishDENTISTRY.com

FLOSS Midtown is NOW...
POLISH
DENTISTRY

DIANNA WILDE, DDS
Owner
Treating Midtown
For Over 7 Years!



One of the Best
Female Dentists
2016

Same Great Staff, Same Great Service & Same Great Location,
we've just polish'd up our name a little.

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

EXCELLENCE
PERFORMANCE
CONFIDENCE

LIFESMILES
by
RANDY MITCHMORE, DDS

**A Randy Smile Can Be So
APPEALING**

Continuously Voted One of Houston's Best
Dentists since 2003.

No Guilt-Trips, No Judging

Just Compassion and Great Results That'll
Have You Flashing That "Randy Smile" and
pearly whites in No Time!

Call Today and Mention "Outsmart" to
Receive a Very Special Offer on a
Comprehensive Dental Evaluation.



713.592.9300

1722 W ALABAMA STREET - HOUSTON, TX 77098



OUT IN HOUSTON



Models and board members at **Out for Education's** kickoff party for Couture for a Cause on November 16 at Skyhouse Houston.



Lambda NextGen held its October happy hour on October 25 at Pearl Bar. Pictured are **Matthew Donovan, Lindsey Scheinthal,** and **Brennen Williams.**



On October 27, the Prudential LGBT Financial Experience Tour held a panel discussion at the Four Seasons Hotel. Pictured are **Phaon Spurlock, Ernest Owens, Laurel Gravesen, Ryan Levy, TJ Holmes, Dorinda Walker,** and **Carl J. Holland.**



Pride Houston held its volunteer event on October 21 at the Montrose Center. Pictured are **A.J. Mistretta, Michele Wood, PJ De Jesus, Sivashan Krappa Gurusiddappa, Ronny Adriansyah, Benjamin Ramirez,** and **Anthony Ramirez.**



On November 1, HRC president **Chad Griffin** visited the HRC phone-banking center in Houston. Pictured are **Michael Travis, Lou Weaver, Griffin, Stephen Abrams Harrison,** and **Melissa Vivanco.**



The Diana Foundation held its November soiree happy-hour social on November 2 at F Bar. Pictured are **Juan Rodriguez, Julio Montano, Sharon Lord, John Heinzerling, Tanner Williams, Jose McDonald,** and **Tom Seymour.**



On November 2, the Houston GLBT Political Caucus held its general meeting with special guest HISD superintendent **Richard A. Carranza.** Pictured are **Brandon Mack, Jon Humphries, Alexis Melvin, Carranza, Fran Watson, Frances Valdez,** and **Jack Valinski.**



LHI held its Fall 2016 Health Fair on November 5 at HACCS. Pictured are **Regina Panelo, Aurora Harris, Urvi Mehta, Kristin Perez, Natalie Jackson, Gloria Goodwin,** and **Betty Spears.**



Avenue 360 formerly Bering Omega & Houston Area Community Services (HACS) held its Sing For Hope event on Nov. 5. Pictured are **Dr. Mark Nichols, Sarah Aramburo, Fernando Aramburo, Camille Zamora, Paul Pettie, Sandy Stacy, Troy Brooks, Ashley P. Turner,** and **Joe Fuentes.**



On November 8, **Kim Ogg** held her election watch party and victory celebration at Ritual. Pictured are **Marie Hejtmancik, Ogg,** and **Kelly Hejtmancik.**



Kindred Spirits held its check presentation and partnership recognition on November 6 at the Montrose Center. Pictured are **Marion Coleman** and **Ann Robison.**



E.R.S.I.C.S.S. held its Houston candidate announcement event on November 16 at JR's. Pictured are **Susan Hayes, Angela Mercy, Taylor Brooks, boy Cubby Christopher, Chris "Sushi" Valk, DD DeMarco, Domenic Cusano,** and **Monica Paredes.**

MOMENTUM

Volkswagen of Jersey Village

**WE HAVE THE
LARGEST INVENTORY
OF VWS IN THE AREA!**

**Sign & Drive on
All-New Car Models.
Zero Due at Signing.**



We have fastest, lowest financing rates around to speed your buying process so you can go have FUN!

Conveniently located on the NW Freeway going towards Austin exit West Road, we are just ahead on the feeder road.



JOE DOMINGUEZ

877-205-0150

19550 NORTHWEST FREEWAY | HOUSTON, TX. 77065

www.JerseyVillageVW.com

29° 43' 32" N 95° 13' 21" W

THE CARTER

MONTROSE

NOW LEASING

SOPHISTICATED TOWNHOMES,
PENTHOUSES, ONE, TWO, AND
THREE BEDROOM APARTMENTS

AMENITIES

- 24 HOUR CONCIERGE
- VALET SERVICE
- PRIVATE RESIDENT BAR
- 19TH LEVEL PENTHOUSE LOUNGE
- PANORAMIC VIEWS OF DOWNTOWN HOUSTON AND THE GALLERIA
- CUSTOM FINISHES IN EVERY RESIDENCE

WALKING DISTANCE TO:

- BEAUTIFUL MONTROSE NEIGHBORHOOD
- MUSEUM DISTRICT
- UNIVERSITY PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD

4 Chelsea Blvd, Houston | Texas 77006
thecarterhouston.com | 832.688.4547

Todd Waite as Crumpet
Photo by Jann Whaley

The Santaland diaries

By **David Sedaris**
Adapted for the stage by **Joe Mantello**
Directed by **David Cromer**

NOW THROUGH DEC. 31

**Buy Your
Tickets Today!**

ALLEY THEATRE

alleytheatre.org
713.220.5700

UNITED
Official Airline of Alley Theatre

ARE YOU READY FOR PrEP?

PrEP 101

PrEP Basics

PrEP stands for
Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis

The word “prophylaxis” means to prevent or control the spread of an infection or disease



PrEP can help prevent you from getting HIV if you are exposed to the virus

PrEP is an HIV prevention option that works by taking

one pill every day



How Does It Work?



Some of the same medicines prescribed for the treatment of HIV can also be prescribed for its prevention

In several studies of PrEP, the risk of getting HIV infection was much lower — up to 92% lower — for those who took the medicines consistently than for those who didn't take the pill



WITHOUT MEDICINE



When taken every day, PrEP can provide a high level of protection against HIV, and is even more effective when it is combined with condoms and other prevention tools



People who use PrEP must take the medicine every day and return to their health care provider every 3 months for follow-up and prescription refills



**One pill.
Once a day.**



**Once a day.
PrEP now.**



HOUSTON HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Supported by funding from Gilead Sciences, Inc.



This ad was supported by the Centers
for Disease Control and Prevention,
Cooperative Agreement #U62PS005050.

HOUSTONHEALTH.ORG





BEST DENTIST

DON'T WAIT

INSURANCE & FLEX DOLLARS
EXPIRE DECEMBER 31ST

SCHEDULE NOW WHILE
APPOINTMENTS ARE STILL AVAILABLE

NOW ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS



Dr. Carrell



Dr. Smith

SCHEDULE YOUR VISIT SOON!

BRUCE W. SMITH, DDS
SAMUEL A. CARRELL, DDS

Cosmetic, Reconstructive and Preventive Dentistry for Adults since 1981



1006 Missouri Street Houston, TX 77006
713.529.4364 | BruceSmithDDS.com