

— KENNEDY LOFTIN'S LASTING LEGACY —

CELEBRATING HIS IMPACT AT THE MONTROSE CENTER AND BEYOND Pg.24

JULY '24

HOUSTON'S LGBTQ MAGAZINE

OutSmart

PRIDE 2024
IN PHOTOS

by Dalton DeHart
and crew
Pg.54

Terry (l) and Jamie
Fuller-Waymire
poolside
at Galveston's
Hotel Lucine

QUEER IN GALVESTON

FEATURING

HISTORIC CHARM

DAVID BOWERS'
PASSION FOR
PRESERVATION Pg.42

RAINBOW RAYS

TERRY AND JAMIE FULLER-
WAYMIRE'S VISION FOR
PRIDE GALVESTON Pg.34

HEALTH ADVOCATE

TRAVIS NEWMAN'S
WORK AT ACCT EMPOWERS
THOSE LIVING WITH HIV Pg.40



PAUL F. FORTES MD

PLASTIC SURGERY



Leader in Plastic Surgery

Chest Masculinization

Breast Augmentation

Gender Affirmation

Facial Rejuvenation

Facial Feminization

Mommy Makeover

Eyelid Surgery

Gynecomastia

Liposuction

Rhinoplasty

www.FortesMD.com | 713.766.6025

**"I LOVED
MY DENTIST
SO MUCH,
I MARRIED HIM!"**



**Voted Best
Dentists!**

—
**JACQUELYN
CLEMMER**
Favorite
Female Dental
Hygienist

MONTROSE DDS

GENERAL & COSMETIC DENTISTRY

620 West Alabama | Houston, TX 77006
713.529.4364 | MONTROSEDDS.COM

IN-OFFICE FINANCING AVAILABLE!



**SAMUEL A.
CARRELL, DDS**



**AUSTIN T.
FAULK, DDS**



24 A MONTROSE CENTER MILESTONE

Kennedy Loftin, the Center's chief development officer, is stepping down

40 BREAKING HIV STIGMA

Travis Newman helps Access Care of Coastal Texas empower clients living with HIV

48 PRESERVING BEAUTY IN DEATH

Galveston mortician Dale Carter's career inspired an award-winning documentary

34 COVER STORY PRIDE GALVESTON

Terry and Jamie Fuller-Waymire have another round of Pride events planned for the Island next month

42 ISLAND PRESERVATION LUMINARY

Realtor David Bowers is honored for his community involvement

53 GILBERT & SULLIVAN COMES TO UH

Wes Landry takes the lead in a timeless feel-good musical this month

36 HERO OF HISTORY

Cameron Dunbar weaves the Island's past and present into a diverse tapestry at the Galveston Historical Foundation

44 A GALVESTON BEACHFRONT OASIS

The Hotel Lucine welcomes all with its chic casual vibe

66 WIGGING OUT

Dynasty Banks-Couleé sizzles with her spicy onstage personality



Thriving

HIVcare.org



Healthcare Centers

Binz

1200 Binz St, Ste 1040
(713) 524-8700

Fannin

7400 Fannin St, Ste 118
(713) 799-8994



Houston International Origami & Art Festival

Saturday, Aug 3 (10AM - 6PM) **Sunday, Aug 4** (Noon - 5PM)



Dragon & Lion Dance / Kung - Fu Demo / FREE Workshops
Life - size Origami Dragon & Art Exhibition
Live music performances • Hourly Raffles gifts giveaway

FREE Admissions • FREE Parking

@ PlazAmerica 7500 Bellaire Blvd. Houston, TX 77036



FUNDED IN PART BY
THE CITY OF HOUSTON
THROUGH HOUSTON ARTS ALLIANCE



OutSmart
HOUSTON'S LGBTQ MAGAZINE

JULY 2024

DEPARTMENTS

NEWS & COMMENT

16 MONEY SMART

There are a few important issues to consider as you plan ahead to protect your assets and your loved ones

28 COMMUNITY

A new origami festival comes to Houston's PlazAmericas next month;

Local queer disability activist Ashley McFaul was recognized as Maybelline's 2023 Face for Disability Pride (pg. 32)

OUT & ABOUT

12 CALENDAR

21 SCENE OUT

54 OUT THERE

60 WEDDING GUIDE

63 BAR GUIDE

64 SIGN OUT



ON the COVER

QUEER IN GALVESTON

Terry (I) and Jamie Fuller-Waymire poolside at Galveston's Hotel Lucine

Photography by Alex Rosa for OutSmart magazine



RestoPros
GREATER HEIGHTS

**24 Hour Emergency
& Restoration Services**

Water | Fire | Smoke | Mold

www.restoprosgreaterheights.com
281-694-7699

UNCOMPROMISING EXCELLENCE IN DENTISTRY

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AND MAKING
HOUSTON SMILE SINCE 2009!

BAYOU CITY
Smiles

Cosmetic & General Dentistry



Dr. Ruby Charania

Dr. Marcus de Guzman

Gayest and Greatest '23
Voted Best Male Dentist

Dr. Cynthia Corral

Gayest and Greatest '23
Voted Best Female Dentist

Dr. Robert Hines

FREE Whitening- for Life!

Veneers, Implants, Esthetic Fillings & Smile Makeover | In House Financing
Your Dentist is Certified in Oral Conscious Sedation | Most Insurance Accepted



Favorite Dental
Hygienist
CHRISZELDA,
KATE and TU

OUR SECOND LOCATION AT MONTROSE COLLECTIVE IS NOW OPEN!

BAYOU CITY SMILES
Cosmetic & General Dentistry
713.518.1411

Arts District @ Sawyer Yards
2313 Edwards St., Ste. 150
Houston, TX 77007

Montrose Collective
888 Westheimer Rd. Ste., 212
Houston, TX 77006

BAYOUCITYSMILES.COM



EASY TO ENJOY IN
 **H-TOWN**

IF YOU DRINK, DON'T DRIVE.

DECIDE TO RIDE

Anheuser-Busch | madd | Uber



ENJOY RESPONSIBLY
 ©2024 Anheuser-Busch, Bud Light® Beer, St. Louis MO FCB

NOW PUBLISHING IN OUR 31TH YEAR!

OutSmart
 Houston's LGBTQ Magazine

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief Greg Jeu

Creative Director Alex Rosa

Copy Editors Howard Maple, Janice Stensrude

Contributing Writers

Olivia Flores Alvarez, Rich Arenschioldt, Susan Bankston, Connor Behrens, Jenny Block, Sam Byrd, David Clarke, Blase DiStefano, Andrew Edmonson, Ste7en Foster, Alys Garcia Carrera, Martin Giron, Lillian Hoang, DL Groover, Marene Gustin, Kim Hogstrom, James Hurst, Lisa Keen, Ryan M. Leach, Zachary McKenzie, John Nechman, David Odyssey, Joanna O'Leary, Lilly Roddy, Gregg Shapiro, Janice Stensrude, Grace S. Yung, Brandon Wolf

Photographers/Illustrators

Edgardo Aguilar, John-Paul Arreaga, Victor Contreras, Dalton DeHart, Yvonne Feece, Frank Hernandez, Alex Rosa

Operations Manager Michael Gurnas

Sales and Marketing Dept.

Local Advertising Reps 713.520.7237
 Dennis Beedon, Tom Fricke, Chris Lew, Gene Mikulenska

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: \$36/12 Issues, \$58/24 Issues

E-mail: editor@outsmartmagazine.com

Website: 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. ©2024 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.

Financial support provided by



OutSmart Foundation
 for LGBTQ News and Media
 a 501(c)(3) public charity nonprofit

Support local LGBTQ independent media

Make your tax-deductible donation at
outsmartmagazine.com/outsmart-foundation
OutSmartFoundation.org

CHAPULTEPEC LUPITA

MEXICAN RESTAURANT & BAR

WHERE EVERYONE IS BEAUTIFUL

Home Of The Best
 Margaritas in Houston!

813 Richmond Ave
 Houston, TX 77006
 713-522-2365



OPEN
24
 HOURS





mistr

- ✓ **FREE** virtual doctor visit.
- ✓ **FREE** at-home testing kit.
- ✓ **FREE** labs.
- ✓ **FREE** monthly PrEP prescription.
- ✓ All these services are offered virtually and mailed to you discretely **FREE**.

www.hey mistr.com/allies

ALLIES
in hope

*FORMERLY AIDS FOUNDATION HOUSTON



OutSmart is celebrating the resilience and achievements of Houston's LGBTQ community in this July issue, alongside our annual summer focus on Galveston.

We extend our heartfelt best wishes to Kennedy Loftin as he steps away from the Montrose Center. Under his leadership, the Center significantly boosted its budget and spearheaded impactful programs, including the Law Harrington Senior Living Center. Loftin shares highlights of his many accomplishments with writer Brandon Wolf.

Our Houston arts and culture feature this month spotlights origami master Te Jui Fu, who spoke with *OutSmart* about his upcoming Origami Festival on August 3 at Plazamercas.

We're excited to present our Queer in Galveston cover, featuring the ever-cool husbands Terry and Jamie Fuller-Waymire, exclusively photographed poolside at the super chic beachfront boutique Hotel Lucine. You

can read more about this stunning spot in our travel story inside. The Fuller-Waymires, the masterminds behind the annual Pride Galveston events, will be heating things up on the Island from August 30 to September 1.

We also spotlight the Galveston Historical Foundation's Cameron Dunbar, Travis Newman at Access Care of Coastal Texas, and Realtor David Bowers, who has been a longtime advocate for preserving Galveston's historic homes. And our Galveston writer Lucio Nieto speaks with Chachie Pedraza Van Wales, a vibrant LGBTQ charity fundraiser and fixture of Island nightlife.

Our travel feature explores Hotel Lucine and its rooftop bar on Seawall Blvd. Owners Dave and Keath Jacoby and Robert Marcus speak with writer Zachary McKenzie about their hotel's commitment to inclusivity and community spirit.

Brandon Wolf also interviews Dale Carter, a longtime Galveston mortician who views his

work as a sacred trust that can preserve the dignity of each deceased person. His career and eccentric life was the subject of the award-winning Robert Weiss film *Song of the Cicada*.

Our disability awareness coverage focuses on Ashley McFaul, the self-described "Hippie goth witch" who advocates for increased disability awareness and LGBTQ representation. Writer Imani Lewis speaks with McFaul, who was recognized as Maybelline's 2023 Face for Disability Pride.

OutSmart remains dedicated to showcasing diverse voices shaping our LGBTQ community. Thank you for being part of our journey.

Stay cool,

Greg Jeu
Publisher



OutSmart Foundation
for LGBTQ News and Media

Your Support Transforms LGBTQ Stories into Change

Why are we asking you to donate to the OutSmart Foundation?

Your support empowers the LGBTQ community through essential journalism, helping OutSmart Media thrive in a rapidly evolving media landscape. Your tax-deductible contribution expands our newsroom, compensates dedicated journalists, and invests in the latest media technology. It also funds internships for future writers committed to social justice.

By supporting the OutSmart Foundation, you invest in a platform that amplifies underrepresented voices and promotes equality through storytelling. You help produce journalism that confronts prejudice and embraces diversity.

Thank you for supporting independent LGBTQ media in Houston. Your contribution helps our platform thrive, amplifying diverse voices and stories.

Donate by texting **OUTSMART** to 53-555 or use your phone's camera to scan the QR code here.



Stay Safe, Stay Healthy

**Get tested and vaccinated
for mpox today. Protect yourself
and your loved ones. Visit your
local health clinic now.**

Get tested if you:

- Have unprotected sex
- Have multiple sex partners
- Have anonymous sex partners
- Were recently diagnosed with any other sexually-transmitted infections such as HIV, gonorrhea or chlamydia.

832-393-4220
HoustonHealth.org



HOUSTON HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

QUEER THINGS to DO



For a weekly roundup of LGBTQ happenings, visit OutSmartMagazine.com

COMMUNITY

July 21

LE CIRQUE DU MINT JULEP

Legacy Community Health and Quest Diagnostics present Mint Julep: A Glitter and Glam Carnival. This free event will benefit Legacy's HIV/AIDS programs and services.

tinyurl.com/ms42v6rc



STAGE

July 6

DIXIE LONGATE, TUPPERWARE LADY

Catch up with everyone's favorite Tupperware Lady in her first-ever stand-up show. Hear about everything from Loretta Lynn to alien abductions! tinyurl.com/cz2ze45w



STAGE

July 6

SARAH McLACHLIN IN CONCERT

The Canadian singer-songwriter brings her "Fumbling Towards Ecstasy" 30th-anniversary tour to Smart Financial Centre, with special guest Feist. tinyurl.com/bds5mvje

COMMUNITY

July 6

GLOW UP YOGA

The T.R.U.T.H. Project hosts a wellness space focused on the minds and spirits of Queer folx of color and allies.

tinyurl.com/24mw8yex



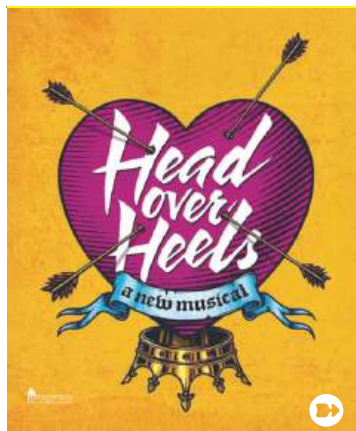
COMMUNITY

July 10

YVIE ODDLY - ALL ABOUT YVIE

Brazos Bookstore welcomes Yvie Oddly and Michael Bach for an in-store book signing. Attendees will receive a signed copy of *All About Yvie*, an intimate memoir of Yvie's life and career.

tinyurl.com/3w99hj7z



STAGE

July 19

HEAD OVER HEELS

Island ETC presents the Go-Go's musical *Head Over Heels*, featuring music from the iconic '80s girl group. Through August 17.

tinyurl.com/yk4j8ma6

STAGE

July 19

AGATHA CHRISTIE'S AND THEN THERE WERE NONE

Experience the tension and drama live onstage as Agatha Christie's classic novel comes to life in a chic cliffside house. Through August 25. tinyurl.com/y3rkebj3

COMMUNITY

July 20

TRANS LEGAL AID CLINIC

Volunteer attorneys with the Trans Legal Aid Clinic will assist in getting your name and/or gender marker updated on your identifying documents.

tinyurl.com/29jezurh

MORE QUEER THINGS TO DO →

OutSmart
Houston's LGBTQ Magazine

YOUR DAILY LGBTQ NEWS SOURCE

Scan the codes with your phone to follow OutSmart on social!



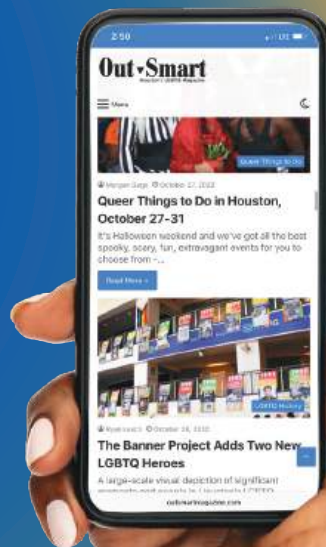
@OUTSMARTHOUSTON



@OUTSMARTMAGAZINE



@OUTSMARTMAGAZINE



QUEENSBURY
THEATRE

THE WIZARD OF OZ

PROUD SPONSOR
OutSmart
HOUSTON'S LGBTQ MAGAZINE

JULY 12 - 28




TICKETS & INFO.

12777 QUEENSBURY LN.
HOUSTON, TX 77024
713.467.4497

JOIN US AFTER THE SHOW ON THURSDAY,
JULY 18 FOR A PRIDE CELEBRATION!

FRIENDS OF DOROTHY

PRIDE NIGHT

ENJOY DRINKS, LITE BITES, BEN CHAVEZ
ON THE KEYS, PERFORMANCES BY THE
BROADS OF THE BROAD'S WAY, & A
SAM & DAVY POP-UP SHOP!
FREE TO THE PUBLIC.

LIONS, TIGERS, & "BEARS." OH MY!

SPONSORED BY ERICK SANDLIN ART & OUTSMART MAGAZINE

QUEENSBURYTHEATRE.ORG

QUEER THINGS to DO SAVE the DATES

STAGE

August 1

PRIDE NIGHT AT MAIN STREET THEATER

Main Street Theater hosts Pride Night, a pre-show Happy Hour before the August 1 performance of *The Woman in Black*.

tinyurl.com/bfwajrva



COMMUNITY

August 3-4

HOUSTON INTERNATIONAL ORIGAMI & ART FESTIVAL

Celebrate the art of origami. See a life-size origami dragon, learn a new skill with free workshops, and enjoy live music performances. tinyurl.com/3ud4kk7b

STAGE

August 8

ALLEY THEATRE'S ACTOUT FOR AGATHA CHRISTIE

Don't miss the Alley's thrilling adaptation of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*. ActOUT reception before the Aug. 8 show featuring complimentary cocktails, light bites, and door prizes. tinyurl.com/mryeahn8



STAGE

August 24

RUPAUL'S DRAG RACE ALL-STARS LIVE

The Werk Room hosts the high kicks and low splits of *RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars Season 9*, live on stage.

tinyurl.com/4kvrhmm5



Submit your events at calendar@outsmartmagazine.com

DO IT



ANYWHERE, ANYTIME

**Getting tested for HIV is
quick, easy, and FREE.**

Find a location near you OR request an at-home test kit at
LegacyCommunityHealth.org/GetTested.

Plus, learn which HIV prevention and treatment options work for you.



Planning for the Unforeseen

Protect your assets and your loved ones with a few key strategies.



No matter how much we plan and prepare, there may be something that we didn't think about or that we missed. Some of these things can be critical and cause unintended consequences in our lives when unexpected changes happen. An illness or sudden death of a loved one may cause financial challenges. This makes it crucial to be prepared.

Things to Consider

Financial emergencies can happen to anyone at any time. It is a good idea for both parties in a relationship to be aware of the financial status of the household at all times. This is especially important for the person who doesn't routinely handle the finances. Here are some things to look out for:

Auto Pays – Any bills that are automatically paid must be reviewed on a regular basis, especially if something untoward happens to the person who mainly runs the household finances. Otherwise, it could have devastating consequences. For example, in 2022, a widow in Kentucky was forced to file for bankruptcy following her husband's sudden death to save her home after his bank account was frozen, stopping mortgage payments and triggering foreclosure. The woman was unaware that the automatic payments on the mortgage had stopped until she received a letter stating that the home would be auctioned off, even though her finances were otherwise very healthy.

For the LGBTQ community, this can be especially important. Consider a same-sex couple where one partner handles all the finances. If something happens to that partner, the other partner might face similar issues, especially if they are not married.

Proper Asset Titling – The way assets are titled can make a big difference in what happens to them upon the passing of a loved one. A strategy often left unexecuted involves titling, particularly when one spouse is ill or in hos-



pice and not expected to live much longer. The initial knee-jerk reaction is to move assets out of the ailing person's name and into the healthy partner's individual name so that they will have access to funds later during the estate settlement process. While this makes sense for a portion of the assets that need to be liquid for day-to-day operations, if there is a situation where there is a joint account with highly appreciated holdings, one may consider moving those securities into the ailing spouse's single name. This is because in a joint account, when one person passes away only half of the account will receive a step-up in basis, whereas in an individually named account, the entire account will receive a step-up in basis. This would be beneficial to the surviving spouse later, as it is a tax-efficient strategy.

For LGBTQ couples, proper asset titling is even more critical due to varying recognition of

relationships. Ensuring assets are correctly titled can prevent legal challenges and help in a smoother transition of assets.

Income Replacement – Making sure that life insurance and/or other income-replacement strategies are in place is essential so survivors don't have to change their lives if income drops. This is particularly important for surviving retirees who may lose a deceased spouse's pension and Social Security benefits. Relying only on life insurance through your employer can result in lost coverage when you leave your job or retire. Therefore, having an individual life insurance policy that is privately owned is recommended. It would be a good idea to look into this sooner rather than later, as the cost of insurance increases due to age and health. →

Daniel R. Garza, MD

Medication Management Psychotherapy

Specializing in:
Depression · Bipolar
Anxiety · ADHD Disorders



**BEST MALE
PSYCHIATRIST**
OutSmart Readers'
Choice 2008-2023

281.610.8190

3131 Eastside St. • Suite 415

Limited Evening Appointments Available

Ψ Se Habla Español Ψ

DRGarzaMD.com

BOTOX LIKE PRODUCT
\$9.70 UNIT/NEW PATIENTS

XEOMIN - DAXXIFY
VERSA - BELOTERO
JUVEDERM - RADIESSE
BELLAFILL - RHA

TREATMENTS

~HORMONE REPLACEMENT ~MICRONEEDLING
~THERAPY/LOW T ~COLLAGEN PIN
~HYDROFACIALS ~PRF/PRP
~MICRODERM FACIALS ~RF SKIN TIGHTENING
~CHEMICAL PEELS ~PLASMAPEN
~MEDICALLY MANAGED WEIGHT LOSS ~PDO THREADS

bey·utiful
anti-aging studio

314 E. 13TH ST. HOUSTON, TX 77008

(713) 547-5656

WWW.BEYOUTIFULANTIAGING.COM

BEYOUTIFULANTIAGINGSTUDIO

BEYOUTIFULANTIAGING



KAY McCUNIS
MASTER INJECTOR

VOTED TOP 10 AESTHETIC NURSE

2015 - 2024

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



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

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



Helping
everyone
find their place
in the world.

713-253-8609

@ DavidSellsHouston.RE

david@bayoucitypropertygroup.com

DAVID BATAGOWER
BROKER ASSOCIATE
COMPASS

This is vital for LGBTQ individuals. Having an individual life insurance policy can help ensure that the surviving partner is financially secure, regardless of potential legal hurdles.

Communication – Spouses should also be aware of where important documents like insurance policies and loan paperwork are kept, as well as contact information for key advisors. And let's not forget passwords. With the increasing number of accounts and services that are managed online, ensuring that your partner has access to these accounts is crucial.

Clear communication is paramount for LGBTQ individuals. In some cases, families of origin may not be supportive, making it even more critical that partners have access to all necessary information and documents to avoid complications.

Starting the Planning Process

Do you have a plan to protect yourself and loved ones from financial challenges in case of the unexpected? If not, a financial-planning professional can walk you through various scenarios and create strategies based on your particular objectives.

For LGBTQ individuals and couples, finding

“FINANCIAL EMERGENCIES CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE AT ANY TIME. BOTH PARTIES IN A RELATIONSHIP SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE FINANCIAL STATUS OF THE HOUSEHOLD AT ALL TIMES. THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE PERSON WHO DOESN'T ROUTINELY HANDLE THE FINANCES.”

a financial planner who is also knowledgeable about the unique challenges faced by the community can be particularly beneficial. Organizations like the National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC), the Financial Planning Association (FPA) and the CFP® Board can help connect you with LGBTQ-friendly financial planners.

Hoping for the best while planning for the

worst is a prudent approach to financial stability and peace of mind. By considering the unique challenges that can arise, especially within the LGBTQ community, and taking proactive steps to address them, you can help protect yourself and your loved ones from unforeseen financial difficulties. Whether it's through proper asset titling, income replacement strategies, or ensuring clear communication and documentation, careful planning can make a significant difference in navigating life's unexpected challenges.

Grace S. Yung, CFP®, is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER practitioner with experience in helping LGBTQ individuals, domestic partners, and families plan and manage their finances since 1994. She is the managing director at Midtown Financial Group, LLC, in Houston. Yung can be reached at grace.yung@lpl.com. Visit letsmakeaplan.org or midtownfng.com/lgbtqplus.10.htm. The opinions voiced in this article are for general information only and are not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.



THRILLED TO WELCOME BACK TO THE ISLAND!

**BILLBOARD #1 RECORDING ARTISTS,
3-TIME EMMY AWARD WINNERS &
2022 TEXAS COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF
FAME INDUCTEES**



**THE TEXAS
TENORS**

15TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR

GET TICKETS!
THEGRAND.COM | 409.765.1894



**Venture Out This Summer
With a New Vehicle!**

Save on a New or Used HFCU Auto Loan!



< Scan to Apply for Your Auto Loan Today!

Credit Union membership is required before utilizing any product and/or service by establishing a savings account with \$5. If you live, work, worship or attend schools in Houston you may qualify for membership. Loans subject to credit approval. Other terms and conditions may apply. Apply online at houstonfcu.org or call us at 281-243-0500. HFCU is an Equal Credit Opportunity Lender.

HFCU Houston Federal Credit Union **HoustonFCU.org**

HEALTH CARE REIMAGINED

Exceptional Care Team

Free Rapid HIV, Hep C, and Syphilis Testing

Daily Oral or Long-Acting Injectable HIV Prevention & Treatment Options

Same- and Next-Day Appointments Available



James Carroll, MD



Maggie White, FNP

**WALK IN OR CALL
(713) 814-3730
TO SCHEDULE**



**THANK YOU
OUTSMART READERS!**

Best Men's Health Clinic

Best Women's Health Clinic

Best Female Nurse Practitioner – Maggie White, FNP



Scan to Learn About
All of Legacy's HIV
Testing, Prevention,
and Treatment
Services



WellnessBarByLegacy.org
120 Westheimer Road, Ste F
Houston, TX 77006

Galveston ISLAND



2327 Avenue M
5/2 2,964sf \$575,000

NEW PRICE



3605 Avenue R
5/3.5/2 3,400sf \$795,000



1128 Postoffice Street
4/4/2 2,971sf \$895,000

JUST LISTED



5124 Ave O 1/2 Rear
1/1 735sf \$249,000

JUST LISTED



2528 Ursuline
3/2/2 1,848sf \$544,900

JUST LISTED



COVERAGE TO LIVE THE LIFE YOU WANT



- Automobile insurance
- Business or Commercial
- Call to see if you can save

Lane Lewis

Your Local Agent
2200 North Loop W Ste 136
Houston, TX 77018
LLewis@FarmersAgent.com

Call 713.688.8669 today!
For Home, Auto, Life and Business.



Restrictions apply. Discounts may vary. Not available in all states. See your agent for details. Insurance is underwritten by Farmers Insurance Exchange and other affiliated insurance companies. Visit farmers.com for a complete listing of companies. Not all insurers are authorized to provide insurance in all states. Coverage is not available in all states.

BKBY BOOKKEEPING & BEYOND LLC

YOUR BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SUPPORT TEAM

BKBY is a team of experienced bookkeepers. We provide full-charge bookkeeping services to small businesses, sole-proprietors, and individuals. Our combined years of experience and genuine desire to be of service, makes our team the perfect fit for small businesses that are seeking an outsourced solution for their bookkeeping needs.



"BKBY is so much more than a bookkeeping service."
—Deborah B.

"BKBY has handled all of our financial management for over five years."
—Dr. Penchas

"BKBY went above and beyond... as I have never seen a company do for a customer."
—The BL Family

"BKBY has saved me from an accounting nightmare!"
—Whitney K.

"BKBY provides top notch services."
—Will P.

"BKBY keeps everything running smoothly."
—Hollie M.

CALL TODAY! 832-234-2542 | info@bkby.org | www.bkby.org | 99 Detering St., Ste 106, Houston, TX 77007

SCENE OUT

Photos by
DALTON DEHART AND CREW



The Houston Bar Association LGBTQ Committee hosted the 4th Annual Pride Mixer at Pearl Bar Side Peace on June 12, 2024. Pictured are **Benny Agosto Jr, Judge Steven Kirkland, Chase Jones, and Deborah Lawson.**



On June 12, 2024, Sugar Land Space Cowboys Pride Night with the Greater Houston LGBT Chamber was held at Constellation Field. Pictured are **Tasha Kendrick-Palmer, Wayne Lopes, Rica Kendrick-Palmer, Daniel Mata, and Amanda Rose.**



Kennedy Loftin's retirement party from the Montrose Center was held at the home of Charles Caliva and Kim Gustavsson on June 13, 2024. Pictured are **Laci Loftin Nichols, Janis Loftin, Morris Nichols, Kennedy Loftin, and Marshall Loftin Sr.**



On June 15, 2024, the swearing-in ceremony for Fran Watson as judge for Probate Court 5 took place at the Harris County Family Law Center. Pictured are **Judge Fran Watson, Harris County probate judges, and supporters.**



On June 15, 2024, Houston Dash's Pride Night was held at Shell Energy Stadium. Pictured are **Andrea Simonton, Nikki Darby, Vitor Burk, Lori Hood, and Lauryn McClung.**



On June 19, 2024, A Juneteenth Summit hosted by Pride Houston 365 was held at Grace Place. Pictured are **Tiffany Scales, Ke'lan Johnson, Atlantis Narcisse, Jacques Bourgeois, Kendra Walker, Eryon McCary, and PK McCary.**



The Diana Foundation presented checks to beneficiaries Avenue 360 and OUT for Education at China Garden on June 19, 2024. Pictured are **Brent Braveman, Derrick Owens, Sandy Stacy, Rae Sanchez, Howard M. Huffstutler III, Michael Leibbert, and Tanner Williams.**



On June 20, 2024, Katy Pride held its one-year birthday celebration at the Boardwalk. Pictured are Katy Pride board members: **Lindsey Drummond, Heather Patriacca Tolleson, Barbara Baldaro, Anne Russey, Kristina Shackelford, Lucy Garcia, Miyaka Ramos, Amanda Rose, and Travis Lairso.**



Gretchen Kasper-Hoffman's retirement from Tanglewood Middle School was celebrated at Phoenix on June 21, 2024. Pictured are **Gretchen Kasper-Hoffman** and colleagues and friends.



Pride Brunch 2024 benefiting the Montrose Center was held at Heights Social on June 23, 2024. Pictured are **Jared Staples, T.J. Parker, Bryce Newberry, Pat Cavlin, and Derrick Shore.**



In June 28, 2024, The Bagneris: A soiree featuring the Violet Awards was held at Tribeca. Pictured (back row, left to right): **Diamond Stylz, Jovaun Hicks, Brandon Mack, Amari Walker, Everett Payne, Lauren Ashley Simmons, John Niklos, II;** (front row, left to right) **Larry Bagneris, Jr., Harrison Guy, and Lillian H. Alexander.**



Rainbow on the Green was held at Discovery Green on June 28, 2024. Pictured are **Barry Mandel, Kathryn Lott, and Derrick Shore.**

“MY WHY IS *Us.*”



OUR WHY IS *you.* FALL CLASSES BEGIN MONDAY, AUGUST 26.

     LoneStar.edu/HoustonNorth

 LONE STAR COLLEGE HOUSTON NORTH

SKIN Renaissance LASER CENTER



PERSONALIZED | COMPREHENSIVE | DOCTOR SUPERVISED

OCTAVIO BARRIOS, MD LUCIA MANGLE, MPAS, PA-C

**Botox • Restylane
Radiesse • Sculptra**



Before After

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
- Wrinkles • Rosacea • Facial Sagging
- Face Acne (active & scars)
- Face & Leg Veins • Laser Hair Removal

• Platelet-Rich Plasma (PRP) Treatments for ED
• PDO Facial Thread Lifts

 **VOTED ONE OF THE BEST**
Dr. Octavio Barrios
Best Physician 2005-2023
Skin Renaissance
Best Skin Care Center 2005-2023

Call for your FREE Consultation
713.942.SKIN (7546)
517 West Gray St. • Between Montrose and Taft

SCHWARTZ IMMIGRATION LAW PLLC

EXPERIENCE MATTERS!

Ana Maria Schwartz She/Her/Hers
Attorney at Law
Schwartz Immigration Law, PLLC

Principal Office:
2417 Dunlavy St.
Houston, TX 77006
(713) 337-5270

Austin Office:
106 E. 6th St., Suite 900-123
Austin, TX 78701
(512) 322-5270

 **2023 READERS' CHOICE AWARDS**
OutSmart
GAYEST & GREATEST
WINNER
Best Female Immigration Attorney

Automobile Accidents • Motorcycle Accidents • Trucking Accidents
Workplace Injuries • Wrongful Death • Construction Litigation

KIRKPATRICK LAW

**ERIC KIRKPATRICK: HOUSTON'S
LEADING PERSONAL INJURY
LAWYER REPRESENTING
THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY
FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS.**

Contact us for a Free Consultation.

KIRKPATRICKLAW.COM

3100 Timmons Lane, Suite 401
Houston, TX 77027 • (713) 893-0305

Kennedy Loftin Retires from the Montrose Center

The esteemed fundraiser and advocate has made a lasting impact on Houston's LGBTQ community.

By BRANDON WOLF

Kennedy Loftin, one of the most successful and compassionate fundraisers for Houston's LGBTQ community, has stepped down from his position as chief development officer for the Montrose Center, where he has served for the past eight years.

The Center empowers the community to live healthier, more fulfilling lives.

Loftin was recently diagnosed with a life-threatening illness and is now focusing on his medical treatments. He is also spending time with his partner, Charlie, and their Corgi, Taro. They are planning to travel throughout the summer and fall during the two-week windows in his treatments.

“A Dream Job”

Loftin began his career at the Montrose Center in October 2015. He quickly accepted their offer to become their first chief development officer and expand the Center's funding.

His twin sister, Leah Loftin Halpern, remembers that her brother thought this was “a dream job” that would allow him to use all of his professional gifts. “He is a pioneer and a visionary leader, especially in the nonprofit world. He can manage all the details for an event. He knows how to make the impossible happen. For him, it's not a show. He really cares about the people he is raising money to help,” she says.

Under his leadership, the Center's budget has grown every year, allowing it to serve more and more LGBTQ Houstonians.

Career Highlights

Loftin increased private philanthropy 586% in his eight years at the Center, from an annual average of \$300,000 to a sustainable \$2 million.

Loftin also headed a partnership with Lady Gaga's Born This Way Foundation. The Center received a substantial seed-funding grant that helped launch the Center's Youth Housing Diversion Program, which keeps the most vulnerable LGBTQ youth out of the dangers inher-



Visionary Leadership

Kennedy Loftin transformed fundraising efforts at the Montrose Center.

ent in the shelter system by helping place them directly into apartments and independent living. Since 2017, the program has assisted more than 400 youth.

As part of this program, Loftin conceived an annual fundraising event with Joakim “Kim” Gustavsson and his husband, Charles Caliva. The hugely successful “Empowering Our Future” event—high-camp, costumed, and themed—has been held for the past eight years, raising more than \$1,750,000.

In 2017, Loftin organized the LGBTQ+ Hurricane Harvey Disaster Relief Fund, the largest LGBTQ natural-disaster relief fund on record at the time. The initiative raised \$3.5 million in just three months and led the Center into disaster response and recovery efforts that continue to the present day.

Tori Williams, a leader in the lesbian community, remembers that shortly after Loftin

began working at the Center, he invited her to lunch. “I was amazed at his enthusiasm, energy, dreams, and hopes,” she reports. “But I thought he might burn out in a few weeks.” Instead, when she met him in the hallway at the Center a couple of years later, his energy level was just as high. “He had been out the night before, and it was early in the morning, and I could hardly believe someone could be that fresh and healthy. He's amazing.”

Meleah Jones, the Center's director of development, reflects: “When Kennedy joined the Montrose Center's development team, we were very small. Kennedy built our team and our processes into the robust department we are today. As our fundraising ability grew each year, so did our capacity to expand services for Houston's local LGBTQ+ communities. Kennedy

envisioned, launched, and mentored many small nonprofits. His dedication, talent, and charm have attracted thousands of new supporters to the Center."

Enduring Legacies

Loftin's skills and focus enabled the building of the Law Harrington Senior Living Center, the nation's largest LGBTQ-affirming senior center. He successfully completed a \$27.5 million campaign, and the center now has 130+ seniors in housing from two historic Houston communities facing gentrification: the LGBTQ seniors of Montrose and the African American seniors of the Third Ward.

Deborah Moncrief Bell says, "I was having to live with family or rent rooms in other people's homes prior to being one of the first residents to move into Law Harrington. As a senior on a limited income, I had few options. Having my own apartment has boosted my quality of life. The SPRY (Seniors Preparing for Rainbow Years) program activities—such as bingo, exercise, music nights, and poetry readings—enhance our community. The food assistance programs help stretch limited dollars. Kennedy has often joined residents here for many of our fun activities—always with camera in hand to document."

Loftin's vision and mentorship also helped many smaller nonprofits get their start through the Center's John Steven Kellett Nonprofit Incubator. He created the Incubator to assist under-resourced nonprofits with fundraising support, physical office and event space, media and public-relations support, and 501(c)(3) status. Success stories include Brazoria County Pride, The Normal Anomaly, Positive Living Houston, and the Trans Masculine Alliance Houston.

Ian L. Haddock, executive director of The Normal Anomaly Initiative, Inc., comments: "I met Kennedy through the Nonprofit Incubator at The Montrose Center. This program gave a chance to organizations small and large to be nurtured under the tutelage of the Center, and for many years it was almost exclusively run by Kennedy. We would spend many days on the phone with him listening to my dreams. So many crises were averted through his keen strategy and deep compassion. The Nonprofit Incubator has made our organization the entity that it has become, and a great deal of its success is because of our friend and hero Kennedy Loftin."

Deep Roots in Texas

Loftin's family on his father's side is a multi-generational family of Texans, with

ancestors settling in Texas in the mid-1800s. They originally came from England to America in the mid-1600s.

Marshall Kennedy Loftin Jr. was born in 1981 and grew up in the Houston area. His twin sister, Leah Loftin Halpern, is four minutes younger than him. They learned about the dignity of hard work from their grandfather, who owned an East Texas farm. Their father was a certified public accountant, and their mother was a homemaker.

Halpern says of her brother, "He has been the same since day one. Kennedy would always

be making friends everywhere he went. He was magical and charismatic. When he walks into a room, the molecules shift. He makes people feel like they are the most important person in the room."

Halpern remembers that Loftin had a huge imagination. "He was always building forts and fantastical worlds. He built lots of structures with LEGOs. He had such a strong sense of self; he knew what he wanted and had strong opinions."

As a young boy, Loftin worked on his grandfather's farm—bailing hay and managing cows and horses even in the hottest Texas weather.

Loftin's name was recently passed down to his youngest sister Laci's son, who was given the name Wyatt Kennedy.

A Popular Student

In school, Loftin's exceptional leadership abilities emerged. In middle school, as president of the student council, he was so focused that he re-wrote the council's constitution and bylaws.

Loftin was class president in high school and also involved in speech and debate. With a great sense of rhythm, he was the head drummer in the marching band. At graduation, he gave the salutatorian address.

Loftin chose the University of St. Thomas for college. During his time there, he was president of the student government and became the first out gay president in the school's history. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in international studies, with a focus on nonprofit development, while successfully completing the school's honors program and graduating *summa cum laude*. He began his career →

**"HE IS A PIONEER AND
A VISIONARY LEADER,
ESPECIALLY IN THE
NONPROFIT WORLD.
HE KNOWS HOW TO MAKE
THE IMPOSSIBLE HAPPEN.
FOR HIM, IT'S NOT A SHOW.
HE REALLY CARES ABOUT
THE PEOPLE HE IS RAISING
MONEY TO HELP."**

**—Leah Loftin Halpern,
Loftin's twin sister**



Kennedy Loftin's retirement party

working with development for the City of Houston. Loftin is also a graduate of Rice University's Leadership Institute for Nonprofit Executives.

Best Buddies International

Eventually, Loftin was invited to serve as the director of special events for Miami-based Best Buddies International, an organization that serves individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). The IDD community includes, but is not limited to, people with Down syndrome, autism, Fragile X, Williams syndrome, and other undiagnosed disabilities.

This position gave him the opportunity to liaise with celebrities, sports stars, reality-TV stars—along with the Shriver and Kennedy families—to develop unforgettable fundraising events.

At the age of 27, he became the youngest executive director to lead a state office (Texas) in Best Buddies' history.

Interfaith Ministries

In 2008, Loftin was invited to become the chief development officer at Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston. The organization is an inclusive connector of people, faith communities, and resources that works to sustain healthy and respectful lives for vulnerable populations and to promote interfaith relations and volunteerism.

During his years at the organization, he grew its annual campaign by 30% and increased the donor base by 63%. Loftin was the fundraising lead for a "Many Faiths Building Together" campaign that secured \$15 million to build the Meals on Wheels building on Elgin Street and the Interfaith Conference Center on Main Street.

Susan Boggio, who worked with Loftin at Interfaith Ministries, says: "I first met Kennedy while getting ready to plan an important fundraising event. He made such a positive impression on me, as he was beaming and joyful, with the biggest smile on his face. Interfaith Ministries sponsors Meals on Wheels (and Animeals) for home-bound seniors and their pets. They also help refugee families settle in our area and take on the tough topics of interfaith dialogue and cooperation. During my conversations with Kennedy he was a sponge for new ideas, and always warm and gracious, as he remains so to this day. He is always thinking of others first, and gives you space to be yourself.

"I find Kennedy to be the unique type of person who really listens when he interacts with you and wants to always make you feel relaxed and respected. He has such a universal love of folks in need, and is enthusiastic to make the world a better place for all. There is no one who can ever replace Kennedy, and he leaves his compassionate mark everywhere he goes. I have



Kennedy Loftin

"KENNEDY IS NOT ONLY THE REASON MANY PEOPLE, ME INCLUDED, BECAME INVOLVED WITH THE MONTROSE CENTER, BUT ALSO WHY WE STAYED INVOLVED. HIS PASSION, KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMMUNITY AND ITS NEEDS, AND VISION AS TO WHAT COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED HAVE ALWAYS BEEN INSPIRING."

—Ed Holmstrom,
Montrose Center donor

never found him to be disagreeable or negative, but always hopeful and optimistic about the future. He makes friends instantly and others are drawn to him for his warmth and caring."

A Community Educator

Loftin has been a much-sought-after development educator and leader in the industry, with guest teaching at Rice University, the Glasscock School Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, and the University of Houston.

He has been a judge for Mayor Sylvester Turner's History Makers Awards program and was a presenter at the 2018 Leadership Houston Diversity Day. He was also selected to present "When Disaster Strikes: Urgent Needs for LGBTQ Communities" at the 2018 LGBT Funders Conference in New Orleans.

Loftin has also been active in numerous local LGBTQ organizations, including the Executive and Professional Association of Houston, the City of Houston Mayor's LGBT Advisory Board, the LGBT Community Center, the Houston LGBTQ+ Political Caucus, and the Texas Pride Impact Funds Houston/SE Texas Regional Leadership Council. In 2001, he founded the Texas Queer Collegiate Alliance.

He has also been a board member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals. He was the recipient of the 2011 Chamberlain Scholarship and Member of the Year award that same year. He is a graduate of Leadership Houston's Class XXVII and the 2010 United Way Mentoring for Emerging Nonprofit Leaders Project, as well as recipient of the 2020 Outstanding Fundraising Executive Award by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Greater Houston Chapter. Then, in 2023, he was given the Diana Foundation's Community Achievement Award at their 70th Annual Diana Awards presentation.

"A Splendid Torch"

Avery Belyeu, the current CEO of the Center, pays tribute to Loftin: "For many years, Kennedy served as the face of the Montrose Center, and through his tireless efforts, he elevated the Center's profile, increased our funding year after year, and helped ensure the success of our first major capital project in two decades—the building of the Law Harrington Senior Living Center. He will forever be a part of our legacy and we are humbled by the tremendous time, knowledge, and love he has given to the Center."

Ed Holmstrom, who is in the major donors group for the Center, often worked closely with Loftin, and says: "Kennedy is not only the reason many people, me included, became involved with the Montrose Center, but also why we *stayed* involved. His passion, knowledge of the community and its needs, and vision as to what could be accomplished have always been inspiring. I personally have learned so much from Kennedy, and his legacy at the Center is going to live on for decades to come."

Tina Burgos, a board member at the Center, reports that “Kennedy and I have collaborated over the years to build up the development of the board and its committees. He is always so easily accessible. He gives the best tours of the Center and the Law Harrington facility. Kennedy is an ‘old soul,’ a powerhouse, and a great narrator of the Center’s past and present. In retirement, I hope I will get the chance to dance with him at Numbers disco and to ride a roller coaster together.”



Kennedy Loftin and Leah Loftin Halpern, Loftin's twin sister

Gustavsson and Caliva have worked with Loftin for years on fundraising events. Gustavsson believes that a quote from George Bernard Shaw’s play *Man and Superman* has been more fully embodied by Loftin than anyone he has ever met:

“This is the true joy in life, being used for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one. Being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clod of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy. I am of the opinion that my life belongs to the whole community and as long as I live, it is my privilege to do for it what I can. I want to be thoroughly used up when I die, for the harder I work, the more I live. I rejoice in life for its own sake. Life is no brief candle to me. It is a sort of splendid torch which I have gotten hold of for the moment, and I want to make it burn as brightly as possible before handing it on to future generations.”

ST. HOPE FOUNDATION
"Your Patient-Centered Health Care Home"

GET PrEPARED!

Find out if PrEP is right for you by scheduling your appointment today!

Medical | Research | Dental | Pharmacy | Vision

BENEFITS OF CHOOSING ST. HOPE FOUNDATION AS YOUR PrEP PROVIDER ARE:

- LOW COST, SAME-DAY SERVICE
- BOARD-CERTIFIED EXPERTS
- TELE-HEALTH FOLLOW UP
- FREE PHARMACY HOME DELIVERY

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TREATMENT, CALL US:
281-779-8705
www.offeringhope.org

YOUR DAILY LGBTQ NEWS SOURCE!

NATIONAL NEWS
LOCAL FEATURES
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT
LIFESTYLE
EVENTS & CALENDAR

OutSmartMagazine.com f t i

Folding Paper, Shaping Culture

Te Jui (Kyle) Fu brings Houston its first origami festival.

By BRANDON WOLF



For years, Te Jui (Kyle) Fu, a master of origami—the art of folding paper—has dreamed of an origami festival in Houston. Now, with a grant from the Houston

Arts Alliance, the city's first origami festival is a reality and will be held on August 3 at the Plazamericas. All events will be free and open to the public.

Fu is accustomed to breaking new ground. As an artist, he has an impressive portfolio of artwork in many different media. And as a gay man, he has worked hard for LGBTQ equality over the last four decades.

Festival Events

The festival will include free workshops where guests can create their own origami pieces. In his workshops, Fu keeps the atmosphere light and the tasks easy. “You don’t give a child a 150-fold piece to start out with,” he says. When he helps people of all ages create a simple origami piece, he loves to see the smiles on their faces.

Other features of the festival are a kung fu performance and a dragon and lion dance. Since 2024 is the Year of the Dragon, Fu will be creating a 6-foot-high origami dragon. He feels it is important for people to learn about and appreciate both their own and other cultures.

Fu hopes that the festival will serve as a way to create awareness of the art, so that some day Houston will have an origami museum.

Origami's History

Origami is believed to have come from Japan, where it was used for religious ceremonies and formal functions. As paper became more available, the art spread across Asia and Europe, with each culture adding their own touches.

Although it is commonly thought that origami is created from one piece of paper, multiple parts can be created and then attached together.

Today, folding is part of the fashion industry. It is also used in aerospace, especially in satellites that have parts that are folded for transport and then unfolded in space.



Fu's origami animal creations

Computer programs exist that artists can use to create an origami folding pattern, but Fu declines to use the programs and does all his folding by hand. "I try and try and try until I get it right," he says. He has worked with origami for so long that he is known as "the million-folds origami master."

A Multicultural Upbringing

Fu was born in London in 1961. His parents wanted him to have a 100% Chinese education, so they returned to their native Taiwan. Today he is bilingual, speaking English and Mandarin Chinese.

At the age of 16, Fu moved with his family to Baltimore. Then in 1999, the family moved to Houston. His parents liked the thriving Chinese community here, and they wanted to get away from snow.

Fu spent two years at the Maryland Institute College of Art and then struck out on his own as an artist. His parents told him to do whatever he felt called to do, and to be good at whatever he chose. "I was a crazy child with what might have seemed to be unrealistic dreams. I don't think they realized at first that I could make money as an artist," he says.

Fu's sister Kate is the one who has supported his artistic career "one thousand percent" for the past several decades. That career started when he created cover art for paperback fantasy books in the 1980s. Over the last four decades, his artwork has been exhibited at more than 25 professional galleries and art festivals. Themes of his exhibits span a diverse range of topics, including human trafficking, origami fashion, the Rio Carnivale, the environment, and synchronized existential extremism

art.

Diverse Origami Art

Fu has raised origami art to new heights—literally. Next year, the city of Dublin, California, will unveil an 18-foot-tall sheet-metal horse that artist Kevin Box of Austin cast in bronze. The design for the horse was made from paper by Fu. He looks forward to attending the ceremony.

Box also created two smaller bronze horses 15 years ago, also based on Fu's origami designs that continue to tour the country, being exhibited at botanic gardens. Nearly 8 million people have seen the horse duo. One of the horses was entered in the Bayou City Art Festival and won Best of Show.

Over the past 19 years, Fu has earned more than a million dollars from origami sculptures. One of his clients, Houston philanthropist Dr. Carolyn Farb, commissioned him to make an installation in her home of 500 blue origami cranes.

Fu's creations include life-size origamis of a dragon, a goat, a tiger, a horse, rabbits, pigs, dalmatians, rats, monkeys, and chickens. He also has created a life-size origami of famed dancer Josephine Baker and an Ironman for a local movie theater lobby.

Fu has held origami workshops in museums, comic conventions, libraries, art festivals, schools, summer camps, and senior housing facilities. One of his workshops at the Holocaust Museum Houston focused on origami butterflies to help advance the museum's goal of creating one million butterflies to memorialize the children lost in Nazi concentration camps.

Theatrical Interests

Fu expanded his artistic creativity into filmmaking, taking on a variety of roles in the TV, film, and live-theater fields. He is a producer,

actor, host, screen writer, casting director, and choreographer. He also works with fundraising, promotion and marketing, poster creation, and advertising. He can create storyboards for TV, film, and graphic novels.

He has a full résumé ranging over the past 40 years. Among the films he has worked on are two John Waters films—*Hairspray* and *Cry Baby*. He appeared in the film *Pearl Harbor* in a supporting role.

Fu has brought home awards three times from Houston's WorldFest independent film festival. He won bronze for the original screenplay for *Zombietopia: How I Met my Zombie Boyfriend* in the comedy/musical category. His documentary film, *Foldtastic*, which he produced and starred in, won silver for best short documentary. His first short thriller, *Face It!*, took home a silver award.

Out and Proud

Fu came out as a gay man while in college in Baltimore in the early 1980s. He became a volunteer and helped organize that city's Gay Pride Day events.

In 1987, Fu joined the second March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. "There were a lot of us out there, and I didn't feel so alone," he says.

That was also the first major showing of the AIDS Quilt, which was laid out near the Washington Monument on the Mall. "People were visiting it, even into the night," he recalls.

Although he has always been HIV-negative, he has still involved himself in the response to the disease. In the mid-1990s, he attended a conference in Denver and brought back information he knew people wanted. He has always been outspoken in his support of people living with AIDS.

Fu lost many friends and lovers, and during the worst years of the pandemic, he knew that just waking up every day would be a challenge.

Over the years, Fu has attended LGBTQ Pride parades in Baltimore; Washington, DC; New York City; and Houston. While attending the New York parade, he visited the historic Stonewall Inn.

No Regrets

Reflecting on his life up to this point, Fu says he has no regrets about any of the choices he has made. He does not worry about failing or

making a big mistake.

When he was young, Fu recalls simply wanting to live happily. But then he began to realize it wasn't quite so simple. He had to decide if he was willing to pay the price for the sort of happiness that something like a new car might bring.

Today, he wants to devote his energies to helping young and upcoming artists, and to base his own artwork on his environmental philosophy.

Fu offers guidance to new artists about how to survive and have a meaningful career. He wants the next generation of LGBTQ and artistic kids to realize the importance of being artists.

Thinking back to the days when he was attending so many funerals, Fu is now focused on the importance of supporting the work of artists and LGBTQ activists. "Others sacrificed to give us the chance to be free to be whoever we want to be," he says.

Becoming an artist wasn't an easy decision for Fu, even though he is highly skilled at drawing, folding paper, and painting. He has come to realize that, for him, being an artist includes

being a philosopher, inventor, trendsetter, cultural preservationist, human-rights advocate, and environmental activist.

"Art is one of the most important ways to communicate to the world. Art can influence and change peoples' views and ideas," he says. "One single sheet of paper can become an important document that can change a nation. Or it can become a folded origami crane that symbolizes peace and hope into the future, as

we are still living with endless challenges daily."

WHEN: Saturday, August 3, 10 a.m.

to 6 p.m., and Sunday, August 4
(noon to 5 p.m.)

WHERE: Plazamercas,
7500 Bellaire Boulevard

MORE INFO: htxorigamifest.com
(all events are free and open to the public)



Dalton DeHart

PHOTOGRAPHIC FOUNDATION



PRESERVING YEARS OF HOUSTON LGBTQ HISTORY!

Help us fund the digitalization and cataloging of
more than a million community photos by making a donation.

Info@DaltonDeHart.com | P.O. Box 22641 | Houston, TX 77277

www.DaltonDeHart.com

montrose EYE CARE

Paul Lovero, OD
(he/him)

Nancy Lo, OD
(she/her)

Voted Best Male Eye Doctor

Voted Best Female Eye Doctor

Newest Technology
neuroclens
Relief is in 59th

Montrose Eye Care
520 Waugh Dr.
Houston, TX 77019
713.300.1477
montroseeyecarehtx.com

Voted Best Place to Buy Eyewear

GAYEST & GREATEST
WINNER

GAYEST & GREATEST
WINNER

GAYEST & GREATEST
WINNER

GAYEST & GREATEST
WINNER

REDISCOVER YOUR JOY AND RECONNECT WITH LIFE

**Sex and Relationship
Coaching and Counseling
for Individuals and Couples**

**Specializing in The LGBTQIA+
Community Senior Adult Sexual
and Relationship Counseling**

- Individuals & Couples Coaching
 - Clinical Hypnotherapy
 - Workshops and Retreats
 - Party Lab-Group
informational coaching

REACH OUT TODAY!

If you're seeking ways to make your life more fun, fulfilling, and sexually exciting, give me a call. The consultation is free and completely confidential. This could be the first step down the path to a new life adventure!



**Jim Benton, A.B.S.
Certified Sexologist**

Contact us today!

(281) 504-7721

jim@everybodyneedssomebody.me



**Everybody Needs
Somebody**

everybodyneedssomebody.me

PRIMARY CARE QUALITY CARE FOR EVERY STAGE OF LIFE

HARRISHEALTH

WE LIVE THIS



**FLOOR COVERINGS
international**

Proudly LGBT owned and staffed.

2050 North Loop West #120
Houston, TX 77018

(832) 280-6646



PHOTOGRAPHY BY IMANI LEWIS FOR OUTSMART

Intersectional Visibility

From TikTok to YouTube, Houston native **Ashley McFaul** champions disability and queer rights online.

By **IMANI LEWIS**

Ashley McFaul's (pronouns: they/them/she/her) main goal for their social media presence is representation and disability awareness. As a self-described disabled, polyamorous lesbian and "Hippie goth witch" (Instagram bio), McFaul has created an impressive and important social-media presence that brings an intersectional perspective of what it's like to live with a disability while also navigating multiple queer identities.

When McFaul discovered that they were chosen to be featured in their hometown's queer magazine for July's Disability Pride Month, they felt embraced by Houston's queer community.

"I never imagined that I would be featured in *Outsmart* as an important member of the disabled and queer communities. I'm honored

to be the person chosen to represent the queer and disabled community in Houston! It gets overwhelming sometimes to think about the trajectory of my life. I never dreamed that I would feel this amount of love and recognition from my city for just being unapologetically me."

With over 157k followers on TikTok, and an ever-growing presence on YouTube, McFaul doesn't seem to have hit a career plateau yet. They are basking in the recognition gained from being Maybelline's 2023 Face for Disability Pride. Feeling grateful for that opportunity, Ashley remarks, "I was very proud to be last year's Maybelline Disabled Featured Creator. The opportunity was incredible for my platform, and it was inspiring to see a company stick their necks out for the disabled community, especially since they are one of the very few companies to represent us."

Ashley's main goal in life is to expand disability awareness. They are achieving this by making content that represents people living with arthrogryposis multiplex congenita (or AMC), a condition affecting the joints and causing contractures. McFaul's arm and hand joints are affected, so their feet must be used to create all of their content.

The future is bright for this Houston native. They are focusing on growing their brand through their YouTube channel and hope to share more about their life through other media as well. "Right now, I'm trying to focus more on my YouTube channel, and growing that. I want the content to be focused more on makeup tutorials and reviews, blogs, vlogs, and showing my overall lifestyle living with AMC. In the past we have been approached to do a reality show

have been approached to do a reality show with my family, but nothing has happened yet. That is a possibility I would love to explore further!”

McFaul is passionate about using their social-media platforms to educate on the intersectionalities and nuances within their multiple identities. All of those identities are intertwined and embedded within their content.

“I feel like my queerness is just as much a part of me as my disability is. No matter what I am posting, my identities are inherently going to be a part of my content. A lot of people are very interested in the dynamics of my relationships, with me being a polyamorous lesbian and my partner Amber being a pansexual married to Chad. We get a lot of people who are interested in our lives, and I would love to continue diving into the intersectionalities of our queer and interabled relationship through my YouTube vlogs!”

McFaul feels such gratitude for the opportunity to be a positive representation for the disabled community. “I forget that I am a form of representation for disability on social media.” McFaul is always pleased to



hear how often their content inspires children with disabilities. “That’s what I want to show with my content—that having a disability does not take away from your life at all.”

When working on content and attending queer events, McFaul stresses the importance of COVID consciousness. Living in a country that does not prioritize the voices and concerns

of the disabled community, McFaul speaks about the alienation felt when people refuse to mask. “I feel like people have forgotten how serious COVID is. I have an auto-immune disease, and so does my partner Amber, so it’s important for us to pay attention to what events we are going to. Masking isn’t just about COVID, and it’s not only about helping ourselves. It’s important to understand that it’s not just about the individual. It’s about the community as a whole, and when everyone can feel safe, then the community thrives.”

Ashley McFaul has a message for the queer and polyamorous community: “Being disabled does not make you less attractive or less sexual. It doesn’t make you ‘less than’! In fact, you are *more* unique and gain a unique perspective of the world. The queer community must know that what is disabled community is queer community, and vice versa. A lot of the Pride events are not as accessible as they should be. If there was more of a disabled voice in the queer community, it would bring together the queer and disabled communities.”

Keep up with Ashley McFaul on Instagram @ashleymcfaul55 and on TikTok at @ashleymcfaul.

**20400 I-45 N.
SPRING, TX 77373
FREDHAASSTOYOTA.COM**

**VOTED BEST
IMPORT AUTO
DEALERSHIP**

**2023 READERS'
OutSmart
GAYEST & GREATEST
WINNER
CHOICE AWARDS**

**HOUSTON'S
#1 TOYOTA
DEALER**

19 YEARS IN A ROW*

CLAIM BASED ON TOTAL RETAIL SALES VOLUME PER
GST 2003-2022 FOR FRED HAAS TOYOTA WORLD.

**FAST,
FRIENDLY,
Easy**

**JUST MINUTES FROM
DOWNTOWN!**

832.764.8913

**THANK YOU
FOR VOTING US AS OUTSMART'S**

**BEST IMPORT
DEALERSHIP
3 YEARS IN A ROW**

BASED ON OUTSMART PUBLICATION'S VOTERS: BEST AUTO DEALERSHIP (2019) AND BEST IMPORT AUTO DEALERSHIP (2020-2022)

**BEST AUTO
DEALERSHIP**

THE IMPACT OF PRIDE GALVESTON

Terry and Jamie Fuller-Waymire's ongoing mission to foster love and inclusivity on the Island.

By CONNOR BEHRENS



Sizzle and Pride
Terry (l) and Jamie Fuller-Waymire
at the Hotel Lucine

When Terry and Jamie Fuller-Waymire moved to Galveston in 2013, they made it their mission to create spaces and experiences for LGBTQ Islanders. Fast-forward more than ten years, and the couple's Pride Galveston event is now a staple in the community.

"We always wanted a chance to create an event where everyone felt proud to be themselves," Terry and Jamie explain. "We want to be a light for people in the community. At the end of the day, everyone in the community deserves to feel loved and accepted. We want everyone to have fun."

Terry and Jamie Fuller-Waymire have been together for 14 years, and married for 7 years. The duo first met in 2009 through mutual friends, and their relationship took off after just a few weeks of getting to know each other. Jamie runs Gulf Coast Air Balancing in League City, a professional HVAC firm. Terry operates his own cleaning business, Terry's Cleaning Service, in Galveston. Both sit on the board for Pride Galveston, with Jamie as CEO and Terry as COO.

Pride Galveston began in 2017 as Pride Galveston Beach Bash & Block Party, when Terry and Jamie decided a Pride festival would be a cool idea since the Island had been lacking an event designed for the community. Their block party has since expanded into a three-day celebra-

tion, and the duo say they have been grateful for the support.

"People here in Galveston are a little bit more accepting, so it's been great to get that kind of support from the community over the last few years," they say. "The Island is a tight-knit community, so Pride Galveston has been able to grow each year due to everyone's growth and appreciation."

The two aren't stopping with Pride Galveston, however. Terry and Jamie recently held their first Galveston Pup Weekend this May, with hopes of continuing it every year.

"We had a great attendance for the event that included pups from all over the United States, Canada, and beyond. We also crowned our very first Pup of Galveston. The weekend event included a meet-and-greet night at Island Time Beach Bar, followed by our First Pup of Galveston crowning at Robert's Lafitte and a drag show later that night during the neon party. We also had a pool party with live DJs at Robert's Lafitte."

The two also run the Miss Island Goddess event each March, which is held at Island Time Beach Bar. Future plans include a Mr. Title of some sort, as well as a youth event. They believe the LGBTQ community is drawn to Galveston because the island is very laid-back tourist destination.

"The beach life is great!" they note. "There are so many things to do on the Island like

ISLAND FAVORITES: TERRY AND JAMIE FULLER-WAYMIRE

Best-kept secret in town?

Definitely Bambú, with its awesome staff and great food. The locals definitely know about this place on 23rd Street, but most tourists do not.

Favorite spot for a cocktail or mocktail?

Robert's Lafitte. You can hang out inside or by the pool if the weather is nice. It's our go-to spot. Best place for a crafted fancy cocktail is a place called Daquiri Time Out, which is a mixology bar downtown.

Your go-to spot for self care?

World Gym Texas City. While it's off the Island, it is the largest gym in the US that features amenities like tanning, red-light therapy, massage chairs, an actual massage parlor, as well as different services that include hot-rock treatments.

Best place to celebrate a birthday?

Nick's Kitchen & Beach Bar!

Favorite place to go dancing?

Island Time Beach Bar on Fridays and Saturdays. There's great music, nice atmosphere, and good drinks.

Favorite local business to support?

The Galveston Island Humane Society, because we love animals and they can always use the help. Additionally, ACCT is great because they provide great support and do so much for the local community.

the Strand, Moody Gardens, Pleasure Pier, and, of course, the beaches. There are also many great restaurants to choose from when dining on the Island, too. This area really attracts everyone."

Yvonne QueenTutt, who assists Terry and Jamie with Pride Galveston, comments that the two have made it their mission to create spaces where LGBTQ folks can feel safe and free of judgment.

"Terry and Jamie work so hard for the community," she adds. "I appreciate them bringing me onboard to help them make Pride Galveston the best it can be. They are very sweet, loving people, and they do a lot for our community. I really respect them and I really love working with them."

As for the future, they plan to continue fostering events that are inclusive and bring together people from all walks of life.

"We just want to spread joy and love. Our events are geared towards making sure people feel appreciated and accepted for who they are. We are so grateful for each other and the fact that we have the chance to host these kinds of events for the community."

What : Pride Galveston

When: August 30, 31, and September 1

Where: Various local venues

Info: PrideGalveston.com

"WE ALWAYS WANTED A CHANCE TO CREATE AN EVENT WHERE EVERYONE FELT PROUD TO BE THEMSELVES. WE WANT TO BE A LIGHT FOR PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY. AT THE END OF THE DAY, EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY DESERVES TO FEEL LOVED AND ACCEPTED. WE WANT EVERYONE TO HAVE FUN."

—Terry and Jamie Fuller-Waymire

Galveston's Heritage Guardian

Cameron Dunbar weaves the Island's past and present into a diverse cultural tapestry.

By CONNOR BEHRENS



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALEX ROSA

Since 1871, members of the Galveston Historical Foundation (GHF) have upheld and preserved the Island's rich history for future generations to enjoy.

Cameron Dunbar is the newest staff addition who is helping GHF fulfill that mission.

"The Island has always felt like a refuge for me, a place where I felt comfortable to be myself," he says. "The goal of our foundation

has always been preservation, keeping Galveston's opulent history intact and available for tomorrow's islanders and visitors."

Originally the Galveston Historical Society, GHF resulted from a 1954 merger of two organizations into a nonprofit entity devoted to historic preservation and history in Galveston County. Over the last 60 years, the Foundation has expanded its mission to encompass community redevelopment, historic-preservation advocacy, maritime preservation, coastal resiliency, and stewardship of historic properties.

According to chief executive officer Dwayne Jones, GHF embraces a broader vision of history and architecture that encompasses advancements in environmental and natural sciences and their intersection with historic buildings and coastal life. That broader vision also includes history as an engaging story of individual lives and experiences on Galveston Island from the 19th century to the present day.

For Dunbar, his role as director of retail services includes buying and developing merchandise for GHF's retail locations, along with providing satellite retail locations during events. Prior to working at GHF, Dunbar lived in one of the historic properties under GHF's stewardship. It's there that his fascination with the Island's history truly came alive.

"Few know that there is a private apartment above what was once the carriage house

ISLAND FAVORITES: CAMERON DUNBAR

Favorite brunch spot?

Sunflower Bakery and Café. The challah French toast is to die for!

Best-kept secret in town?

Not so secret, but people need to go to Groovy Grind Coffee in Hendley Green Park.

Favorite spot for a cocktail or mocktail?

I love grabbing a drink at Hotel Lucine.

Your go-to spot for self care?

The beach! Nothing is more therapeutic than a morning in my hammock under Murdoch's.

Best place to celebrate a birthday?

Sound Bar. Karaoke fun all night!

Favorite place to go dancing?

Island Time Beach Bar, after the drag show.

Best place to satisfy a sweet tooth?

La King's. Best sweets on the Island.

Favorite place to work out?

I love Lasker Pool.

Favorite local business to support?

Island ETC theater.

at Ashton Villa,” he says. “Ten years ago, this apartment became my first home with my partner, Justin. We lived there for four years and I quickly got to know GHF staff and fell in love with Galveston’s booming history. When a job opening appeared, I applied and haven’t looked back. I graduated from the University of Houston with a degree in acting and directing. While I never would have imagined working for a historic-preservation nonprofit, my training as a director has come in handy. Most of what a director does for any play is research, trying to figure out what story the playwright is trying to tell and how best to present that story. It’s the same with Galveston’s history. The story is just factual and features real humans.”

For Dunbar, whose childhood was steeped in evangelical Texas suburbia, Galveston always felt like an escape to him—a community with vibrant offerings and rich entertainment. It’s those qualities that he says attract many tourists to the Island

“Maybe it’s the freedom of the open Gulf, the laid-back Island time that everyone seems to run on, or maybe it’s the lively, unfaltering queer community that has staked its claim on this coastal vacation hotspot and dared on-lookers to tell them otherwise,” he says. “We’re here, we’re queer, and this Island is ours. Visi-

“THE GOAL OF OUR FOUNDATION HAS ALWAYS BEEN PRESERVATION, KEEPING GALVESTON’S OPULENT HISTORY INTACT AND AVAILABLE FOR TOMORROW’S ISLANDERS AND VISITORS.”

—Cameron Dunbar

tors, beware!” I started acting at Island ETC theater in the spring of 2013, and after meeting my long-time partner in a production of *The Rocky Horror Show*, I decided to stake my claim and make the Island my home.”

Dunbar says the open arms of the community keep him here, and it’s this sense of pride that locals feel about the Island that keeps him on the sandbar.

“I feel most locals share this sense of pride,” he says. “Working with the Galveston Historical Foundation has opened my eyes to this beauty: this living, breathing, thriving

island that has endured hurricanes, fires, wars, pandemics, and ice storms. And yet, it still endures. I serve on the board of the Third Coast Pridefest, and our goal was to bring back a family-friendly Pride parade to the Island. In our current political climate, you can understand how that might be a scary undertaking. Last October, when our dreams became reality and our rainbow parade marched down Strand Street, past the endless Victorian architecture and history, the Island community opened its arms and cheered us on with wide smiles and open minds. That’s been one of the happiest moments of my life.”

As Dunbar helps shepherd GHF into the next generation, the islander is hoping that the organization can remain intact for future generations to come.

“My biggest hope is that the Foundation outlasts us,” he says. “The goal has always been preservation—keeping Galveston’s opulent history intact and available for tomorrow’s islanders and visitors. The biggest part of that, as a nonprofit, is community involvement. Keeping the community involved and engaged in the importance of preserving that history is paramount.”

➔ For more information, go to galvestonhistory.org





"THERE WERE MOMENTS
IN CHACHIE'S LIFE WHERE
SHE CONTEMPLATED
ENDING HER LIFE. WHEN
I ASKED WHAT CHANGED
HER MIND, SHE SAID,
'I WAS THINKING ABOUT
OTHER PEOPLE.'"

— Chachie Pedraza Van Wales

Queen of the Gulf

Chachie Pedraza Van Wales shines in Galveston's LGBTQ scene.

By LUCIO NIETO

Photo by GRANDSON STUDIOS



For over a decade, Chachie Pedraza Van Wales, “The Mother of the Island,” has been sprinkling her magic all over the Gulf coast. As the former show director

for the first gay bar in the great state of Texas, *Robert’s Lafitte*, Chachie has become an Island household name. Originally from Houston, this true-to-the-South Texas *Mother* has blossomed with her own rare beauty, much like that of the bluebonnet.

I met Chachie in 2022 during a scorching summer while moving a mutual friend of ours into his new place. The first impression I had of Chachie, without hesitation, was “this person is incredibly magnetic.” Chachie’s sweetness cut the swelter of the summer sun with a simple smile and textured laugh.

It’s easy to pick out Chachie from the rest of the crowd. She can be found, when not performing on stage in drag, inside local venues supporting other performance artists of all kinds within theater, music and, of course, drag. Chachie is the Drag Mother to 11 children under the Pedraza umbrella.

While I have recently become her drag kid, it took nearly a year before I accepted her invitation to join her family. Throughout the year leading up to my acceptance, we discussed my persona, mission, and of course, my drag name. Although the drag birth certificate will not say Pedraza, the essence of the family name will carry on through their legacy of love for others.

Chachie and I worked together side-by-side at *Lafitte’s* during my six-month residency, headlining as the Live Singer every week. Thanks to Matty Mattress giving me the opportunity to sing, Chachie and I developed a deeper bond as she hosted Drag-Me-To-Bingo on the Thursday night following my set. By the last month of my residency, Chachie and I combined forces to create a unique weekly event, building

off of our chemistry for the stage to entertain the crowd from drag to music to bingo. This ultimately would spark an ongoing relationship full of respect, support, and love.

Chachie has this incredible gift of making the people of our Island feel safe. “Hello?” she answers on her phone while hanging out in my room listening to Schubert’s *Ave Maria*. Chachie tells me it’s my drag brother, Skeeter, on the phone.

“It’s going to be okay. You’re fine. Take a deep breath. Let it go,” Chachie encourages him. This is one of those gifts she has that provides a sense of safety. Her voice is soothing and her words are the medicine. Once she’s able to calm my drag brother down, we get back to our conversation.

She picks up her phone after *Ave Maria* ends and selects Italian Classical from her playlist. Within moments, my phone begins to ring. It’s my Island creative comrade, Izzy.

“It’s for you, Chachie,” I tell her.

My door is always open for Chachie—literally. We could be walking downtown on The Strand and from across the street someone will yell, “Chachie!” then barrel over to catapult into her arms for a hug. So often I see new faces who encounter her, although she says she’s known them for years. Perhaps this is what happens when you’ve got a community such as Galveston to thrive in. If it weren’t for the ones who initially opened their arms to receive Chachie, we wouldn’t have Chachie to receive us.

As a true community member of the Island, Chachie bolsters advocacy for the people at-large. During her reign as Ms. Sweetheart alongside her Mr. Sweetheart, Matty Mattress, the two supported nearly 200 children at *Shriners Children’s Hospital* with donated Easter gift baskets. As with the many other crown titles she holds, Chachie makes the time to support local fundraising events year-round for ACCT (Access Care of Coastal Texas), an Island foundation deeply connected to her heart. This is a shining example of the star she is at heart. As many can relate, life can be

challenging at times. There were moments in Chachie’s life, before winning titles and headlining shows, where she contemplated ending her life. When I asked Chachie what changed her mind, she said, “I was thinking about other people.”

“You’re done,” she says, wiping the massage lotion from her hands.

“Thank you, Mother,” I replied in kind.

Chachie has taught me how to pass along the gift of touch.

“Now you can rub your mom’s feet and help her out,” Chachie adds.

My Drag Mother is undoubtedly helping me heal the relationship I have with my birth mom so I can become a better son to the first, and most important, queen in my life. Whether you’ve known Chachie for five years or five minutes, you know she exudes the energy of healing simply by existing.

This summer, Chachie will surely become a tourist favorite. When the four pairs of fishnets come off after serving the looks in drag, she shifts into serving delicious margaritas, tacos, and cantina specialties downtown in Galveston’s Historic District on The Strand at *Breuchacho’s* on the patio. On occasion, she also supports a downtown Strand staple, *Stuttgart Tavern*, with friend and bartender Shannan.

Perhaps you’ll be visiting the Island and want something fun and fabulous to do during your stay? Good news. Chachie is slated to perform throughout the summer months at *Robert’s Lafitte*, and at *Island Time Beach Bar & Grill* on select weekend days and nights for nightly drag and daytime brunches. Throughout the week, Chachie will be serving downtown at *Breuchacho’s*. The magic of Chachie can only be described through feelings. *Mother* wants you to know: “You are Loved. You got this. If you need a reminder, just ask my son. He’s *Finna Getchoo*.”



Keep up with Chachie Pedraza Van Wales on Facebook at tinyurl.com/Chachie-Pedraza-Van-Wales

Breaking HIV Stigma

Travis Newman helps Access Care of Coastal Texas empower clients living with HIV.

By CONNOR BEHRENS

Having lived with HIV for 20 years, Travis Newman knew he wanted to give back to the community by doing all he could to help fight the stigma against people who are HIV-positive. So when the chance to get involved with Access Care of Coastal Texas (ACCT) presented itself, Newman jumped at the opportunity.

“I always told myself that if an opportunity to work at ACCT as a staff member ever arose, I would take it,” he says. “That opportunity happened in June of 2023, and I’m now celebrating my one-year anniversary with ACCT.”

ACCT is an organization dedicated to helping people living with HIV thrive. The organization began as a grassroots organization in response to the AIDS crisis of the 1980s. ACCT helps those living with HIV in Galveston, Brazoria, and Matagorda Counties by assisting with housing, transportation, nutrition, behavioral health, and more. Their programs include rent, mortgage, and utility assistance; weekly client lunches and monthly food-pantry access; transportation to medical appointments; connection with behavioral health supports; harm reduction and testing; and pharmacy assistance.

In his role as director of nutrition, events, and volunteers, Newman manages a variety of programs within ACCT, including coordinating a weekly client luncheon, overseeing the agency’s food pantry, and implementing nutrition and wellness programming for clients. Newman’s introduction to ACCT began in 2010 when he started volunteering to help with the client luncheon.

There is such a stigma against



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALEX ROSA FOR OUTSMART

people living with HIV/AIDS, and Newman believes everyone deserves love and respect. “As a person who has been living and thriving with HIV for 20 years, I have seen many improvements in treatment, improving the quality of life for those living with HIV. Unfortunately, there is still a stigma associated with HIV and that can only be ended with education. Most importantly, getting the message out about U = U (Undetectable = Untransmittable) is absolutely key in fighting the stigma that those living with HIV face. Even though someone is living with HIV, if they are in treatment and maintain an undetectable viral load, they are unable to transmit the virus. The availability of PrEP has also helped with the stigma, and I feel that anyone who is sexually active should consider it.”

ACCT’s outreach program-

ISLAND FAVORITES: TRAVIS NEWMAN

Favorite brunch spot?

BLVD Seafood

Best-kept secret in town?

Hotel Lucine’s rooftop

Favorite spot for a cocktail or mocktail?

Daiquiri Time Out (DTO)

Your go-to spot for self care?

Bonjour Nails for a mani-pedi

Best place to celebrate a birthday?

Rudy & Paco’s

Best place to satisfy a sweet tooth?

Patty Cakes

Favorite place to catch a drag show?

Island Time Beach Bar, and Robert’s Lafitte (I can’t choose a favorite)

Favorite local business to support?

Sound Bar

ming focuses on prevention through regular testing as well as PrEP education and making better and more informed decisions when it comes to your own sexual health, Newman says.

“For those testing positive for HIV, the goal is to get access to treatment to reach and maintain an undetectable viral load as quickly as possible. Each of ACCT’s programs supports this goal. Our housing program aids in keeping clients housed. Not having reliable housing is a huge barrier to medication compliance, which is essential to maintaining an undetectable viral load. Insurance and copay assistance help cover the cost of medical treatment to ensure that the cost isn’t a barrier to continued medical treatment and regular

labs. Transportation assistance provides transportation to HIV-related medical appointments.”

“It’s also important for the public to know that ACCT provides holistic services to people living with HIV,” adds Laura Kicklighter, ACCT’s director of ethics and chief development officer. “The support we provide goes beyond connection to medical care, and encompasses related social determinants of health like housing, wellness, and community connections. It’s important that we ensure ethical and respectful client interactions, community outreach, and creating and cultivating a more robust philanthropy plan to include grants and individual supporters in the local community and beyond.”



The Wall of Remembrance Project, initiated by longtime Galveston residents Estelle and Arthur Alpert, whose son died of AIDS

As he continues his time with the organization one of Newman’s goals is to transition their food pantry into a client-choice model.

“Clients would have the ability to choose from the products on hand rather than each being given the same items,” he says. “This will allow each client to choose the items that they will use while also reducing waste. In addition, I would like to continue to add more client programming, including exercise, educational, and art classes. I look forward to giving ACCT and its clients as many years as I can offer.”

➔ For more information, go to accttexas.org

COOLER in the SUMMER • WARMER in the WINTER

LIVE in GALVESTON

NEAR
by the
BEACH!

CLOSE to
HOUSTON

HISTORIC
HOMES



1015 12th Street,
Galveston, Texas
\$339,500

Circa 1907 raised Galveston cottage with 2 bedrooms, one bath and full kitchen on the main floor. Much historical detail with tall ceilings, tall baseboards, picture rails and toe-molding, Delightful game room, bar, utility/laundry & bath with shower and one car garage on the ground floor. The property is well located to the beach and UTMB.



Better
Homes
and Gardens
REAL ESTATE
GARY
GREENE

David Bowers, Realtor®

409/763-2800

David@DavidBowers.com

Sally B. Wallace Preservation Award for Green Revival
(solar panels on my 1899 Victorian home)

Thank you for voting me Best Realtor® in Galveston -OutSmart Readers' Choice 2013-2023

GLORIA'S®

L A T I N C U I S I N E



Winner Best Central/
South American Restaurant
& One of the Best
Brunches & Margaritas



SALVADORAN & TEX-MEX FAVORITES

HAPPY HOUR MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY FROM 3PM TO 6PM

Midtown Houston | Friendswood | Katy | The Woodlands

GLORIASCUISINE.COM

A Galveston Luminary

Realtor **David Bowers** is honored for his 35-year legacy of community involvement and historical preservation.

By CONNOR BEHRENS

David Bowers has lived in Galveston for 35 years. During that time, the renowned Realtor has become a staple in the island community, and he's now been named "Realtor of the Month" by the Galveston Association of Realtors.

The Galveston Association of Realtors polls its membership to recognize outstanding members who contribute to the local community. Bowers says this recognition means a lot, and it is a testament to his love for Galveston.

"From the history to the architecture, Galveston has it all," he says. "The beaches, fishing, sailing, and all the ghost stories attract lots of tourists. There is a vibrant art community, and it is all very close together! History is alive every day in Galveston. It's a beautiful place."

Bowers, who has been in the real-estate industry since his second year of law school, moved to Galveston in the '80s and was quickly taken with the beach town.

"I was in the title-insurance industry and in 1989 moved to Galveston to live in an old house in a neighborhood of old houses—specifically, lots of 19th-century houses," he says. "I had bought an 1899 Victorian on 25th Street in 1984 and was being drawn to a very fascinating community steeped in history and 19th-century architecture. My existing job at that time in Houston did not exist in Galveston. There were not

a lot of Realtors in Galveston that liked old houses, and I thought it was a wonderful opportunity to sell the 'old house' enthusiasm to other people that shared my same thought process."

Bowers says the most rewarding part of being a Realtor is the ability to help people find their dream home. It's the fixer-up houses, however, that are his favorite listings.

"I recently sold the famed 'Mardi Gras House.' This 1899 Victorian was owned by the estate of Robert Mainor, the past owner of Lafitte's, the oldest gay bar in Texas. It was in very rough shape and needed everything. My cup of tea! It had been a neighborhood eyesore, but its potential and location were awesome. In the worst real-estate market since 1989 (and in the first spring market where there was no spring market), I was able to sell this property within a month of listing it. Great people bought it and it is going to look very nice when renovated!"

"When you're working and living in an area as rich as Galveston, you find yourself immersed in the history and the legacy of the area," Bowers says. "I sold one particular house twice on Market Street," he recalls. "Built in 1859, it was hit by a cannonball in the January 1863 Battle of Galveston. I have sold a house on Postoffice Street three times, and it, too, had been hit in the same battle. I dug up a cannonball at another listing on Postoffice when my Realtor sign kept hitting something in the ground. That cannonball now sits on my bed stand."

The community is what has made Galveston a destination spot for more than 100 years, Bowers

says, and it makes his job all the more satisfying.

"Recently at 23rd Street Station, I was at a fundraiser for an LGBTQ+ youth group for a local Methodist Church. I bought a nude painting at a silent auction. Two days later, while at the local recycling center, a gentleman came up to me to tell me he had seen on Facebook that I had bought the painting and that he had posed for

that painting. Stories like this add to the appeal of the island."

For anyone thinking about buying a piece of property on the island or in the Galveston County area, Bowers says almost all buyers are willing to negotiate. If you find the right home, you should go for it.

"Buy it and negotiate the price," he says. "I have seen some savvy Realtors write offers with a seller's contribution going to buy down the interest rate of the buyer's loan. Research those condo fees and check the financial well-being of the homeowners association. Lots of vacation rentals are coming on the market, and those types of sellers are eager."

Bowers sees a bright, exciting future for the home market in Galveston, and he believes the island will only continue to evolve as a hotspot for food, entertainment, history, and relaxation.

"There is a lot of infill building on empty lots in the Galveston midtown area," he says. "City services seem much better than they were 30 years ago. Ball High is now a great school again. The port is much more vibrant than 30 years ago. More jobs make home ownership more prevalent. I think prices will come down. Large second homes can be too expensive to maintain but, like I tell people, five years after buying your second home you will become a permanent resident. It happened to me!"

ISLAND FAVORITES: DAVID BOWER

Favorite brunch spot?

The Grand Galvez on Sundays, but that is a big commitment. During the week, I like Nick's, which is part of Gaido's at 39th and Seawall.

Best hidden secret in town?

Garden Thai at 216 23rd Street

Your go-to spot for self care?

Grand Galvez

Best place to celebrate a birthday?

For my 70th, I skydived on the West Beach at 11 Mile Road. Galveston Parachute is the only place on the whole Gulf coast that will drop you on the beach. Otherwise, the best Italian food is at Trattoria La Vigna.

Best place to satisfy a sweet tooth?

Hey Mikey's Ice Cream at 2120 Postoffice

Favorite place to work out?

I'm a walker. I walk the beach early in the morning between 16th and 45th Streets.

Favorite local business to support?

I like supporting specific bartenders! Jaclyn at Alibi on Tuesdays, Louie and Rex at Lafitte's and Pier Club and, of course, Cowboy Tom at Lafitte's.

 For more info, visit tinyurl.com/David-Bowers



"FROM THE HISTORY TO THE ARCHITECTURE, GALVESTON HAS IT ALL. THE BEACHES, FISHING, SAILING, AND ALL THE GHOST STORIES ATTRACT LOTS OF TOURISTS, AND THERE IS A VIBRANT ART COMMUNITY! HISTORY IS ALIVE EVERY DAY IN GALVESTON."

—David Bowers

The Best Little Beach House in Texas

Galveston's **Hotel Lucine** is a beachfront oasis that welcomes all with its chic casual vibe.

by ZACHARY MCKENZIE



PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHANNA ANDRUCHOVICI



notch accommodations, incredibly appetizing food, choice bar offerings, picture-perfect rooftop sunset views, and more. Designed with an emphasis on unique design elements and cozy communal spaces, Lucine is a fully

A beachfront home away from home awaits travelers and locals alike on Galveston Island. Hotel Lucine is the chic new boutique hotel that features top-

inclusive hotel, bringing a touch of class to your Galveston getaway.

OutSmart got an inside look at the hotel from owners Dave Jacoby, a Galveston-based finance and hospitality development professional who has also served as president of the board of the Galveston Historical Foundation; Keath Jacoby, a Galveston native and marketing and branding executive who helped launch Vision Galveston; and Robert Marcus, a real-estate and hotel operations, development, and finance professional.

Perched along Seawall Blvd. just 30 yards from the beach, Lucine offers a picturesque, upscale 61-room oasis. "If you look at the

existing hotels in Galveston, there's a lot of corporate chain hotels, and then you have a handful of historic hotels. There wasn't really anything that seemed a little more modern and progressive," says Dave Jacoby. "This building is from the 1960s, so I wouldn't call it 'shiny and new' by any means. We love the location, the bones of this property, and the history of the space."

Guests of the hotel are transported into a warm, homey space upon entry. "We wanted this place to feel like a version of someone's beach house that shows itself in a lot of different ways, including the nomenclature of the spaces," he explains.

The layout features The Den, which is perfect for enjoying bites, beverages, and laid-back conversation, while The Fancy, an “American fine-ish dining establishment,” serves as the formal living and dining space. Rounding out the hotel is a full-service rooftop bar with live entertainment and events, the pool (which can be heated in the cooler months) and patio, and a rentable space for business meetings, private dining, and more.

“We’re not a franchise hotel or a huge resort. We’re able to offer an intimate space that other places can’t,” says Marcus. “We’re also offering experiences that other hotels are not. We’ve got our Sunset & Sounds on the rooftop that features live artists, for example. There’s a lot of culture

that we’re bringing to Lucine, and we’re trying to also integrate that into the fabric of Galveston.”

Previous *OutSmart* cover star Chef Daya Myers-Hurt is a key figure at the hotel who continues to make waves in the Galveston culinary scene. She serves as sous chef at The Fancy, delighting hotel guests with delicious light bites (don’t skip the crab toast), hardy entrees, and scrumptious desserts.

The chef is emblematic of the inclusive and diverse environment found at the hotel. Opening their doors to people from all walks of life was a no-brainer for Hotel Lucine’s owners. “Galveston has always been a little more progressive than much of Texas. It has always had a flourishing LGBTQ community,” Dave Jacoby notes. “We’ve got the oldest gay bar in Texas, Robert’s Lafitte, and

ISLAND FAVORITES: KEATH JACOBY

Favorite brunch spot?

Besides Hotel Lucine, Leeland House

Best-kept secret in town?

Sandy’s Country Store. Total dive, but I love it.

Your go-to spot for self care?

Therapeutic Health Works or Billy Davis

Favorite place to go dancing?

Mardi Gras (2nd weekends), the 25th Street Median Party, and 23rd Street Station

Best place to satisfy a sweet tooth?

La Kings. Their malt balls are to die for.

Favorite place to work out?

Urban Fitness

Favorite local business to support?

Corduroy Coffee

we want to make sure that the hotel is seen as a place that is for everyone. It was intended to be for the whole community.”

Keath Jacoby, whose passion for the design and community aspect of the hotel is palpable, shares her allyship proudly, saying, “Galveston has always been a safe haven for folks from various walks of life, and we didn’t want Lucine to feel any different. We wanted to honor that inclusivity and create a space where all are welcome, no matter who you are, who you love, or what you’re wearing—as long as you’re wearing something!”

Their love for their community goes hand in hand with the partners’ love of their town. “Galveston gets overlooked a lot,” says Marcus, “but there’s a huge historic district, we have great museums, and there is an →



PHOTOGRAPHY BY DIMA VEL YUSH



PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALEX ROSA

A sampling of menu items at The Fancy

Hotel Lucine co-owners Dave Jacoby, Keath Jacoby, and Robert Marcus



Cocktail time on the rooftop bar



PHOTOGRAPHY BY DIMA VELUYSH

"WE WANTED TO CREATE SOMETHING THAT WASN'T A BIG CORPORATE HOTEL, BUT ALSO NOT A RELIC OF THE 1800s."

incredible art scene, music, beaches, fishing, and more."

The Hotel Lucine awaits, beckoning guests from near and far to come for a meal or an overnight stay, meet someone at the bar and strike up a conversation, and enjoy a unique Galveston experience.

"There's a lot that happens in Galveston in arts and culture and music. If you're from Houston, you might think, 'Galveston isn't

my favorite beach and it's far away," Dave Jacoby says, "but almost all of the people that come to our hotel don't even go to the beach. They stay at the hotel, hang out at the pool, and stick around for dinner, drinks, and music. If you want more of a cultural experience, Hotel Lucine has that in a way that other hotels don't."



For more info, visit hotellucine.com

WE ARE FAMILY

The dedicated team at Hotel Lucine is essential to its smooth operation and upholding its values. The LGBTQ-identifying staff members bring a unique flair, contributing to the hotel's vibrant atmosphere. Their presence reflects the inclusive vision that the co-owners aspired to create, making Hotel Lucine a welcoming haven for all.



Anne Spence
she/her
Night Auditor
Houston, TX



Dayatra Myers-Hurt
she/her
Sous Chef
Amarillo, TX



Mitchell Stilwell
he/him
Front Office Manager
Friendswood, TX

A 360° picture is
worth a billion words

Scan this QR code to step
inside, then come tour.



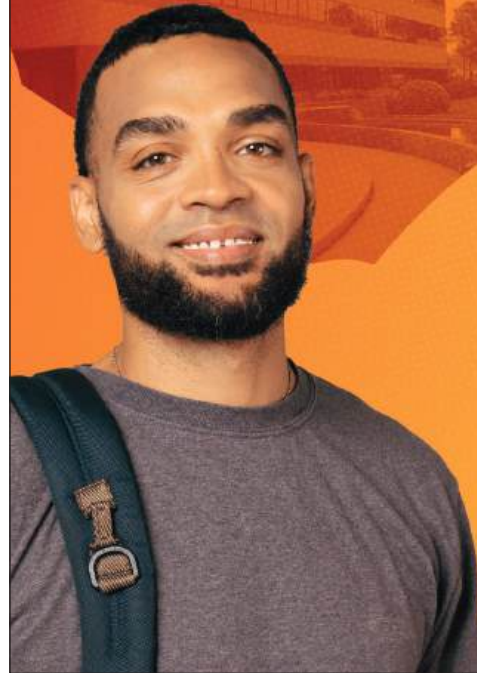
MOODY MANSION GALVESTON

Open 10am-5pm tours daily at 2618 Broadway

SUPPORTED BY HOTEL
MOTEL TAX DOLLARS

moodymansion.org • (409) 762-7668

**GREAT
CAREERS
START HERE**



HCC
Real World
Education

#SUMMERVIBES #FINDYOURGALVESTON



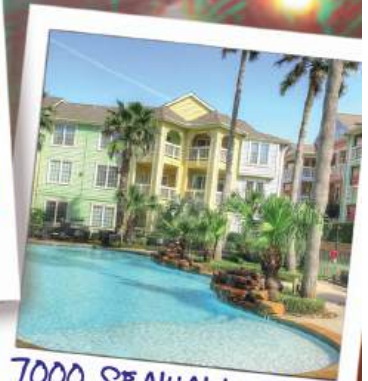
3800 AVE S
3 / 2 / \$424,000



1102 36TH STREET
3 / 3.5 / \$759,000



4725 AVE P V/2
2 / 1 / \$319,000



7000 SEAWALL BLVD
1 / 1 / \$319,000



Tom Schwenk
Owner & Broker
409-888-6178



#ISLANDEVENTS
OkraFest - Aug 10
Shrimp Festival - Sept 27 & 28
Oktoberfest - Oct 25 & 26

talktotgre.com



COLDWELL BANKER | TGRE

713-857-2309

©2024 Coldwell Banker. All Rights Reserved. Coldwell Banker and the Coldwell Banker logos are trademarks of Coldwell Banker Real Estate LLC. The Coldwell Banker® System is comprised of company owned offices which are owned by a subsidiary of Realogy Brokerage Group LLC and franchised offices which are independently owned and operated. The Coldwell Banker System fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act.



Dale Carter

COURTESY "SONG OF THE CICADA"

Galveston's Dale Carter has embalmed thousands of bodies during his 40-year career as a mortician. Yet he has never once felt it was "just a job." To him, each body has been a sacred trust that families have given him to prepare their loved ones for their funerals.

Carter had so fascinated two filmmakers that they spent ten years creating an award-winning feature documentary about his eccentric life, titled *Song of the Cicada*. At 5 feet 5 inches, his stance is reminiscent of Truman Capote—but thankfully without Capote's signature whine.

A Lifelong Texan

Born in 1959, Carter has lived in Texas all his life. His father was a machinist for Texas Instruments and his mother was a homemaker who raised him and his younger sister.

Carter grew up in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Elementary school was a challenge for him because he was dyslexic. "Words were just a montage of letters to me," he remembers. Other students teased and bullied him, calling him "retarded."

He was placed in a special-education

Preserving Beauty in Death

Gay Galveston mortician Dale Carter inspired the award-winning documentary *Song of the Cicada*.

By BRANDON WOLF

classroom for two years. Finally, he was taken to a doctor who gave him an IQ test, on which he achieved a very high score. He was put back into the regular classroom, but his self-esteem had already taken a big hit. However, the experience left him with a desire to be protective of others who are outsiders. "Cher has always been an outsider," he says with a knowing smile.

An Early Epiphany

Carter's fascination with embalming came at an early age. His great-grandmother was on the

verge of death, and he was taken to the hospital to say goodbye. Up to this time, Carter had been shielded from the reality of human mortality. "I thought only animals died," he admits. "People will talk about sex, but not about death. We live in a death-denying society."

After his great-grandmother passed, the family went to the funeral home for the viewing. To see her body, Carter's mother had to lift him up. He was astonished to see how beautiful she was. "I wanted to know what they had done to make her so beauti-

ful again. It was a profound mystery to me,” Carter says.

Growing Up Gay

Carter says he never really came out of the closet, because “I was never in. Everyone else but me seemed to know I was gay.” That led to his being bullied.

“But one day in high school, a boy named Leonard stood between me and a bully,” Carter remembers. “I really liked being protected by a masculine figure.” He and Leonard became lovers, and their relationship lasted for the next 18 years.

“I could have gotten killed,” Carter says of his hometown of Mansfield. “I had to live a lie. I became a chameleon.” He dated girls, but never felt attracted to them.

In school he liked classes in art, literature, and science. He had a great sense of creativity and a vivid imagination. “I lived in a fantasy world,” he says. Country music was played at home, but Carter preferred classical music. His favorite childhood cartoon was Bugs Bunny impersonating the legendary conductor Leopold Stokowski.

Carter also began a lifetime of collecting beautiful things. “I love inanimate objects, because I know they won’t hurt me.”

After graduating in 1977, Carter worked in various jobs—as a grocery store sacker, a house sitter, and a chauffeur. Finally, his mother insisted he take a job at a bomb factory that was owned by one of her friends. He stayed on for a couple years, but hated the work and confided in a co-worker how unhappy he was.

Carter’s friend told him to go home and tell his mother that he wanted to go to mortuary school. His mother didn’t allow him to do so, telling him that embalmers were “weird people—not at all normal.”

But Carter promised to make good grades and make the family proud, and his mother eventually gave her blessing. He was finally able to embrace the wisdom of famed psychiatrist Carl Jung: “Be who you were meant to be, not just a shadow of your family.”

“I learned not to be an apple when I was really a peach,” he says.

Following the Dream

In 1984, Carter enrolled at the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service. To him, it was “freedom, the forbidden country,” and he felt right at home, relaxed and excited. Among the topics he studied were anatomy, microbiology, law, funeral history, embalming, and restorative art. While attending school, he boarded in a local mortuary where he found part-time work.

Over the next 10 years, Carter worked in various funeral homes, learning from

those who had been in the business for decades. Eventually, he ended up in the Dallas area.

“My employers thought I took too long. But I said I worked as fast as I could while still doing it right. I gave the families’ loved ones the respect they deserved, and left families with beautiful memories.”

In 1993, Carter was asked to embalm 20 of the people who died during the Branch Davidian siege in Waco, Texas.

From 1995 to 2000, Carter worked for the Southwestern Medical School, preparing bodies that had been donated to science. These bodies must be carefully cared for so they will last throughout the school term.

Moving to Galveston

When the new millennium was ushered in, Carter was in Savannah, Georgia. He celebrated with Jerry Spence, the hairdresser who played himself in the film *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

Carter then decided he wanted to live in a beautiful Southern city on the water. His options were Savannah, New Orleans, and Galveston. The most economical was Galveston.

He bought a Victorian house, built in 1895, which was just seven blocks from the beach. Over the next two decades, he worked at funeral homes in Houston and Galveston. Today, he works full-time in Houston and part-time in Galveston.

Carter has seen it all—people who have died from illnesses, accidents, and murders. The

largest person he has ever embalmed was 517 pounds, and the smallest was a stillborn baby.

He even embalmed a transgender individual who had not been able to undergo sexual reassignment surgery, but wanted to be placed in the casket dressed as a woman.

Carter has worked through two pandemics: AIDS and COVID. “AIDS was worse. The panic and the prejudice were horrible,” he says. He was one of the few embalmers at the time who would work with AIDS victims. “I took an oath to serve humankind, so I used common sense and precautions. I saw so many beautiful young men.”

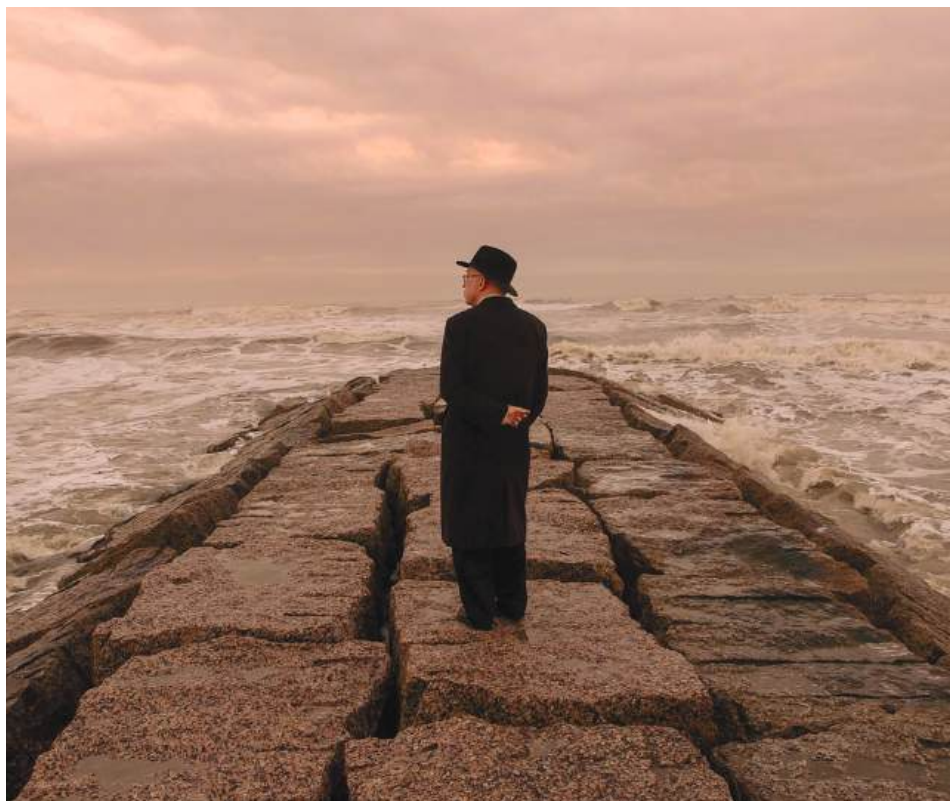
Of course, COVID caused a notable uptick in the funeral business. “So many people dying, especially in nursing homes and prisons.”

The Silver Screen

Carter loves parties, especially those held on Halloween. In 2010, he was invited to a Witch-es Ball given by a man who owned a metaphysical shop. He went as himself, wearing a cape and a monocle. Carter feels that “one’s gift to themselves is dressing well.”

At the party, he met Robert Weiss, a filmmaker and art teacher. Because they both worked with the human anatomy, Carter thought Weiss might make a good embalmer and invited him as a potential student to watch him embalm. Weiss was horrified, but his life was profoundly changed.

Over the next ten years, Weiss and his cousin Aaron filmed Carter at work. They wanted to pull back the curtain to show the life of a →





GONZALEZ OLIVIERI LLC

IMMIGRATION LAW FIRM, HOUSTON, TEXAS

SERVING THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

- Same Sex Visa Petitions
- Residency
- Naturalization
- Immigration Courts
- Circuit Courts Representation
- U.S. Supreme Court Representation
- And Now Accidents with Attorney Carlos Leon!

- RAED GONZALEZ, JD LLM

Best
Immigration
Attorney



f i t v
GonzalezOlivieriLLC.com
EvitaLaDeportacion.com

(713) 481-3040
9920 Gulf Freeway, Suite 100,
Houston, TX. 77034

EXPERT PLUMBING SERVICES FOR YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS

Metro Plumbing
is Here to Help!



VETERAN OWNED
RMP 42046



BEST
PLUMBING
COMPANY

RESIDENTIAL
AND COMMERCIAL
PLUMBING & BACKFLOW

CALL US TODAY!
346.955.4939
Metroplumbing.us

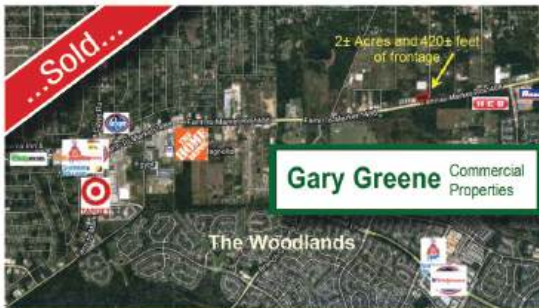


Victor Lopez

Rocky Hollub

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

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.LillyRoddyShow.com





Cicada's premiere at the 2022 Austin Film Festival

mortician, and Carter's charm and eccentricity convinced them to go beyond his occupation to document his personal life.

In 2022, after Weiss had edited over 150 hours of footage, the film was premiered at the Austin Film Festival, the largest festival in the country, with the title *Song of the Cicada*. The film played to a packed theater and won the festival's Audience Award.

Carter says he wanted to see the film for the first time along with the audience members, so he waited for the premiere to view it. His reaction: "Wow, this is not boring!" The film has now screened at over 21 festivals and won awards at six of them.

The film's original title did not appeal to Carter, so he suggested *Song of the Cicada*. "I wanted to have a title like Tennessee Williams would have thought up. I felt that my life had been reborn much like a cicada, which is dormant for 17 years before emerging," he explains.

Weiss has a talent agent working to sell the film to a streaming service. It's a beautiful film—touching, moving, and thought-provoking. There is nothing that makes audiences flinch. The filmmakers have managed to present a difficult topic with style and grace.

Dual Tragedies

In 2010, Carter bought the historic Caroline Gilbert Hinchee house in Beaumont. The house suffered from many years of neglect, but Carter slowly brought it back to its original beauty and planned to retire there.

In 2016, the house was completely vandalized. All the windows, doors, and other structural elements were stolen. Because the house was under restoration, insurance companies

would not offer a policy. Carter eventually sold the now-gutted mansion.

In 2018, Carter's Galveston home fell victim to a fire. Fortunately, that house was insured and Carter has worked for years to bring it back to its original luster. But for over a year, he had no running water or power in the house. However, Carter gently refuses to be considered a victim. "I am a survivor," he says.

A Life Filled with Beauty

Carter's Galveston home is brimming with dazzling and unique possessions, including a working pipe organ. He quotes Mae West: "Too much of a good thing can be wonderful." From the back door, he looks after two neighborhood cats, Kitty One and Kitty Two.

As for his own eventual death, Carter is not worried. "There is no way out of it, so I just accept it. It comes for everyone. I think my summer electric bills are scarier than death.

"To make people beautiful, one must have a vision," he says. "When loved ones die, people turn to the 'shadow people' to take care of them. It's about identity, really. If one has a strong identity, they will be a strong person. That's how I deal with the things that I do on a daily basis."

When dealing with grieving families, Carter says it is much like being a dance partner who follows. "The family will give you the lead."

Positive Influences

Carter enjoys the world of fantasy. "You don't have to be a millionaire to be happy," he says. "The mind is its own world. And you get from life what you put into it."

"I have strong willpower, and I surround myself with positive people and philosophies," he adds. One of those people is his friend Donna Stevenson, who has attended several Halloween parties with him.

"Dale has dedicated his life to our local families' future memories of the beauty of their beloved ones that have passed," Stevenson says. "He is a fascinating character who is obsessed with all kinds of ancient historical beauty—in ancient Egypt, ancient architecture, and historic Galveston. He owns a historic home that is filled with cherished collections of historical treasures. It shows the depth of his concentration on the beauty in life that his interests in beauty are so varied and widespread."

For more information, visit songofthecicada.com



Matt Trietsch

COUNSELING & PSYCHOTHERAPY

- trauma, shame, grief & loss
- depression, anxiety, mood disorders
- life transitions, spirituality
- conflict, communication
- career, relationships
- sexuality, coming out
- EMDR & CBT trained
- online & in person
- free consultations



512.591.8510
5900 Memorial Drive
 Houston TX 77007
Matt Trietsch, MA, LPC Associate, NCC
 supervised by Jeanene Smith, LPC-S



matt-trietsch.com




Casual Elegance – Come As You Are!

Whether you're celebrating a special occasion or simply enjoying a leisurely afternoon, we are sure McHUGHTEA will become your favorite tearoom. We've got Sunday brunch, space for parties, tea inspired treats and more! We can't wait to meet you - visit soon!

Save the Date

- March - Irish Tea
- May - Mother's Day
- June - PRIDE
- July 4 - No Tax on Tea

McHUGHTEA
 TEA ROOM & GIFTS

5305 Bissonnet, Bellaire, TX 77401
713.218.6300 | mchughtea.com

PLAN WISELY. YOU WON'T GET A DO-OVER.

A successful retirement in the future can often depend on having a solid plan now. If your money isn't working as hard as you are, it may be time to act—there are no do-overs in retirement planning. Now is the time to consider developing a strategy that can help you work toward your financial goals. I specialize in providing comprehensive, objective financial guidance with the goal of maximizing every remaining moment of the retirement countdown.

Call today to learn more or to schedule a consultation.



Rick Dickson, CFP®, MBA
Galene Financial
520 Post Oak Blvd Ste 780
Houston, TX 77027
(713) 489-4322 Office
(713) 489-3679 Fax
rdickson@galenefinancial.com
www.galenefinancial.com

**GALENE
FINANCIAL**



Voted Best
Financial
Planner/Advisor

Securities and advisory services offered through UPI Financial Member FINRA/SIPC



New Construction, Renovations,
Weekly Maintenance & Repairs



**WHETHER YOU WANT
SOMETHING SIMPLE OR EXOTIC**

We have the talent and experience
to achieve your design and budget!

VENTURE
POOL COMPANY

Family Owned & Operated since 1999

713.462.0762 | venturepoolco.com



OCTAVIO BARRIOS, MD LUCIA MANGLE, MPAS, PA-C

RENAISSANCE FAMILY CLINIC

ADULT PRIMARY CARE
MOST INSURANCES ACCEPTED!

517 West Gray St. • 713.942.7546
www.doctorbarrios.com

By appointment!
Same day available
for acute illness



Ask us about PrEP Today!

- HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
- Doxy-PEP
- ADHD Treatment
- Testosterone Hormone Replacement Therapy

Best Physician Finalist Octavio Barrios, 2013-2023

Pet Emergencies Happen...

Contact us to get
your **FREE VIP card**

[/VERGI247](https://www.facebook.com/VERGI247)
[/VERGI247](https://www.instagram.com/VERGI247)



Best Pet
Emergency Center

**That's Why You Can
Always Count On Us!**

- Certified Doctors and Staff
- Advanced Training in Emergency Medicine
- Critical and Urgent Care
- State-of-the-Art Equipment
- On-Site Surgical Center
- In-House Lab & Pharmacy
- Board Certified in Internal Medicine



**24 HOUR EMERGENCY &
CRITICAL CARE HOSPITAL**
WE SAVE LIVES!

Call the **VERGI Pet Emergency Hotline** at (713) 932-9589
Veterinary Emergency Room Group on I-10 @ Campbell Road

8921 Katy Freeway • Houston, Texas 77024

For helpful tips & other emergency information visit www.VERGI247.com



Heavens to Murgatroyd

Wes Landry takes the lead in Gilbert & Sullivan's *Ruddigore*.

By SAM BYRD



It's the feel-good story of the summer: a band of ne'er-do-wells burns a coven of witches at the stake, which then leads to the creation of a family curse that in

turn causes criminal mischief, haunting, and mayhem. Or as the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Houston describes it, *Ruddigore* is characterized as "Jane Austen meets Young Frankenstein." It will play at the University of Houston's Cullen Performance Hall this month.

Taking the lead in this summer's production is openly gay actor Wes Landry, who will portray the dual roles of Sir Ruthven Murgatroyd and Robin Oakapple.

"This is my first performance with Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Houston, and I am excited and terrified for a couple of reasons," he says. "Robin at first presents as a very shy British nobleman, but we come to learn over the course of the show that he has some rather dark secrets that he's been hiding. He's faked his death to avoid having to deal with a curse that was put on his family. And so he's tried to live a quiet life in the village, and he's about to be rudely thrown into a life that he thought he had left."

For anyone familiar with Gilbert & Sullivan's work, they have a penchant for patter songs. Think of "I Am the Very Model of a Modern Major-General" from their 1879 hit *The Pirates of Penzance*.

"It's a daunting role because Gilbert & Sullivan are usually known for a lot of patter songs, so these songs have a dictionary's worth of words that you have to get through at rapid-fire speed," he adds. "It's sort of like once the train jumps the track, you can't get back on it. So it requires a lot of really painstaking work and rehearsal to get it right so that you can hit your marks every time. There's no room for error."

Always the consummate professional, the musician is hard at work memorizing, rehearsing, and perfecting those lyrics. After all, performing arts and music have been his main way to earn a paycheck in the Houston arts



COURTESY

scene—something he first tried in high school.

"I would have to credit my first high school acting teacher. I took an acting class just on a whim to fulfill an elective," he recalls, "and she saw something in me and convinced me to audition for the play we were doing, *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*. I had never really sung outside of my bedroom, and somehow I landed the role of Schroeder, and it set me on a course to do every musical that my high school did."

Landry eventually majored in music at the University of Nebraska-Omaha, where he found a love of opera and classical music, and then earned a master's degree in vocal performance at the University of Houston.

When he's not busy entertaining the masses on stage or working as the director of music at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in the Heights, he has quite the interesting side

hobby: narrating audiobooks.

"It's been a fun thing that I can do from my house on my own time," he remarks. "The pandemic forced all of us to sort of re-think how we did things, what we liked and didn't like, and what we wanted to spend our time on. I've set up a little voice studio in the closet of my storage room, and I've got a couple of gay romantic-fiction novels that I've narrated that anyone can find on Audible."

What: Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Houston's *Ruddigore*

When: Saturdays, July 20 and 27 at 7 p.m.; Sundays, July 21 and 28, at 2:30 p.m.

Where: Cullen Performance Hall, University of Houston, 4300 University Dr.

INFO: gilbertandsullivan.org





**HOUSTON'S NEW FACES
OF PRIDE 2024 FESTIVAL
JUNE 22, 2024**

Thousands dressed up in their best Pride gear and braved the Houston summer heat to celebrate Houston's New Faces of Pride's inaugural festival and parade. This year's theme, Rainbow Revolution, was all about celebrating progress, embracing change, and igniting a spirit of unity. Representatives from local and national LGBTQ nonprofit organizations, vendors, professional and amateur sports leagues, and corporate sponsors filled the festival grounds with colorful tents and smiling faces.



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

- 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

Gary M. Gritz, CPA
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
Specializing in Personal & Business Accounting Services

Call (713) 784-3030

2211 Norfolk, Ste 375 • Houston, Texas 77098
 WWW.GARYMGRITZPC.COM • GGYANKSSS@AOL.COM

2023 READERS' Choice Awards
OutSmart
GAYEST & GREATEST
CHOICE AWARDS
VOTED
One of the Best Accounting and Bookkeeping Service

FOUNTAINS & STATUARY





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

713.957.3672
 Just Outside the 610 Loop in Houston!
 11804 Hempstead Rd., Houston, TX 77092
 fountainsandstatuary@yahoo.com
www.FountainsAndStatuary.com

AARP

2023 READERS' Choice Awards
OutSmart
GAYEST & GREATEST
CHOICE AWARDS
Finalist BEST GARDENING/ NURSERY SUPPLY

VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER AMERICAN EXPRESS

Make Your Photos or Art

COME TO LIFE!

copy.com
 COPY CENTER/COMPUTERS/INTERNET BAR

4230 Richmond | Houston, TX 77006
 713.528.1201 | www.copydotcom.com

CANVAS PRINTS | COLOR POSTERS
 GREETING CARDS | MUCH MORE

2023 READERS' Choice Awards
OutSmart
GAYEST & GREATEST
WINNER
CHOICE AWARDS

THE EYE GALLERY

SUMMER SUNGLASS SALE
 25% OFF ALL IN-STOCK SUNGLASSES

EYEGALLERYHOUSTON.COM
 1806 WESTHEIMER RD. - RIVER OAKS
 1700 POST OAK BLVD. - POST OAK (NEXT TO WHOLE FOODS)

713.523.1279
 713.622.7470





PRIDE HOUSTON 365's 2024 PARADE JUNE 29, 2024

Pride Houston 365 hosted the 46th Annual Official Houston LGBTQ Pride Parade in downtown Houston, featuring a distinguished lineup of grand marshals: Kevin Dapree Anderson, Joelle Bayaa-Uzuri Espeut, Odyssey Oakengrove, Lesley Briones, Sara

Fernandez, C. Patrick McIlvain, and Olivia Julianna. The parade included corporate diversity groups, faith-based organizations, supportive businesses, and political figures, all celebrating and advocating for the LGBTQ community.

ARROW ACRES

10136 Highway 69 South
Warren, TX 77664
409-219-5883
ArrowAcres.com



Nestled on eight acres on the outskirts of The Big Thicket National Preserve just two hours northeast of Houston. **Arrow Acres Tiny House Retreat & Venue** offers visitors a quaint, hassle-free glamping getaway. Whether you're a weekender looking for a reprieve from the daily grind, or seeking an intimate venue for your next event, we look forward to hosting you at Arrow Acres.



Voted one of the Best Female Eye Doctor
Outsmart Readers' Choice Awards 2023



DR. JULIET FARMER
THERAPEUTIC
OPTOMETRIST

Boutique
EYE CARE

1806 A. Westheimer Rd.
Houston, TX 77098
713.528.2010

Schedule online at
BOUTIQUEEYECARE.COM



QUALITY DENTISTRY ONE PATIENT AT A TIME!



ONE OF THE BEST DENTISTS
OutSmart Readers' Choice
Awards 2006 – 2021

VOTED AS ONE OF HOUSTON'S
TOP DENTISTS
2004 – 2020
— H Texas Magazine



Cory Logan, D.D.S.
General & Cosmetic Dentistry

713.942.8598

www.CoryLoganDDS.com
530 Waugh Dr. | Houston TX 77019



deborah lawson

Attorney at Law p.l.l.c.

THANKS FOR VOTING FOR ME . . .

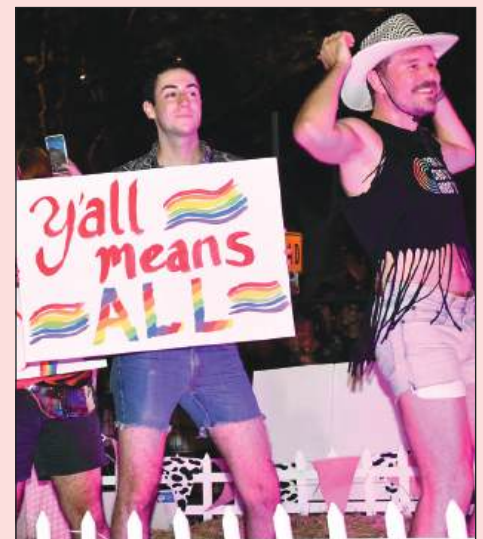
P.O. Box 940082
Houston, TX 77094

713.478.2618
deborah@lawsonlegal.net

Live your legacy. In real time. No apologies. No regrets.



Best Family
Attorney
Best Probate
Attorney



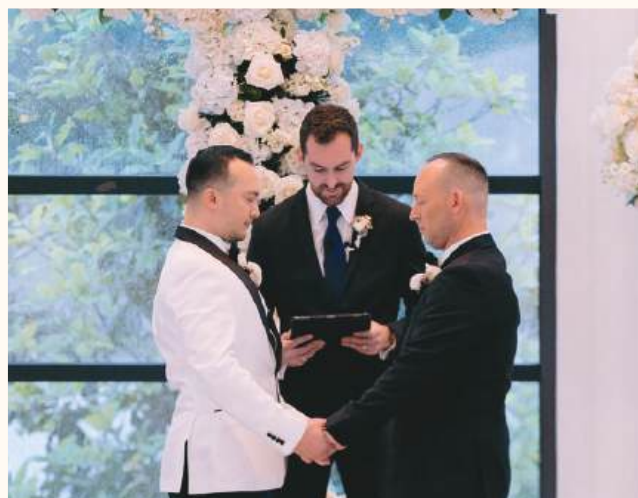
PRIDE HOUSTON 365's 2024 FESTIVAL JUNE 29, 2024

Thousands of Houstonians gathered for Pride Houston 365's Pride festival at Houston City Hall. Muffy Vanderbilt hosted the main stage, featuring headliner K. Michelle and performers like Davis Archuleta, Brooke Eden, and Kayla G. The festival boasted vendors, local and national organizations, LGBTQ social and support groups, professional and amateur sports teams, and more, creating a vibrant downtown Houston celebration.

WEDDING GUIDE



Dustin (l) and Keith Harwell



Wonderland Wedding

Dustin and Keith Harwell's big day was full of special touches.

By DAVID CLARKE | Photos by ALWAYS US STUDIOS



Eagle Houston and the conversation instantly flowed easily between them.

"When I first saw Dustin, I noticed his great smile. He had a little country twang in his accent, and he was pretty charming," says Keith. "I couldn't stop looking at him throughout the night."

"Keith was well-dressed. You can tell a lot about a man when he's well-dressed," adds Dustin.

After that chance meeting, Dustin made the first move by asking Keith out on a date and letting him decide the location. "One of my favorite places is Federal American Grill," Keith says. "They have this awesome drink called the Socialite. It's gin-based with cucumber, and it is a really refreshing drink."

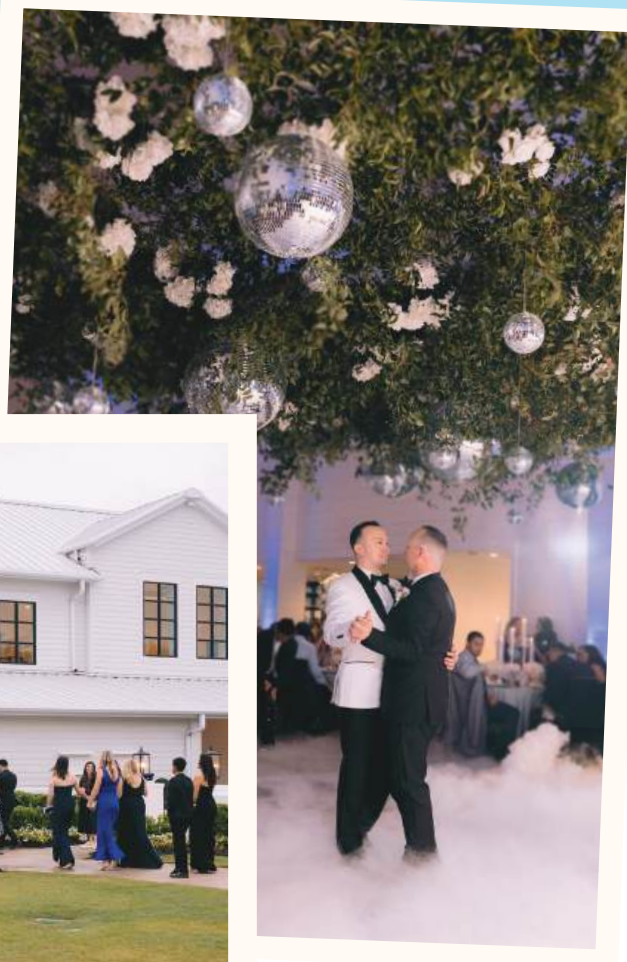
On that date, they both enjoyed Socialites and the restaurant's signature crab cake. "We were there around 6:00, although he was five minutes late—I will never forget that," remembers Dustin. "And we closed the place down. We were the last couple standing in that bar."

That first date spawned many more dates. "I would say I knew Dustin was the one when we were constantly moving forward with

wanting to get to know each other and see each other more often," states Keith. "When some people date, it can be one-sided. But this one has had forward momentum since the beginning."

"I knew Keith was the one because I can sometimes be a little bit more hyped on energy, maybe a little bit OCD sometimes," admits Dustin. "He balanced my energy, always made time for me, and that was important. That showed me the partner and husband he would be for the future."

As a couple, Dustin and Keith have a tradition of visiting Destin, Florida, around Labor Day. On one of these vacations, Dustin shocked his best friend when he told her that



he was thinking of proposing to Keith. “I literally got back from our Labor Day trip and planned the entire engagement with flowers and the ring,” Dustin recalls. He reserved space at Federal American Grill, invited 30 guests, planned a menu that featured the Socialite cocktail, and had Keith convinced he was simply throwing a professional networking event.

“I did not get the idea that he would be proposing until we arrived in front of the restaurant,” reveals Keith. “Every time we go there, there’s always parking. This time there wasn’t. Then, I saw one of my good friends walking in, looking all nice and dressed up. That’s when I started thinking, ‘This person normally does not dress up.’” Then, seeing the photographer and all the family and friends when they entered the restaurant, he says, “My nerves shot up. I just thought, ‘I think this is something else.’”

“He knew at that point what was going on,” admits Dustin. “But he was ecstatic and a little bit surprised, too, even though he knew.”

Dustin and Keith got married on April 20, 2024, at Boxwood Manor. “They have a beautiful reception hall separate from the chapel, and each of us got our own cottages to get ready with our individual wedding party,” explains Dustin. “From the first moment we saw that venue, I said, ‘This is the one.’”

“It was unanimous, right off the bat,” Keith adds.

The couple’s wedding exceeded their expectations, thanks to the rock stars who helped them pull off the event. “Our photographer, David Truong, who did our engagement, introduced us to our wedding coordinator, who is now a personal friend of ours. She is amazing as a person, but also as a coordinator,” says Dustin. “We walked into that reception hall and tears crept up really quickly because it was like we were in this dream wonderland.”

Their wedding coordinator was Karissa Neville of Karissa Joy Weddings & Events. “She only does so many weddings a year,” Dustin notes. “She does that because she wants to make sure she fine-tunes everything for her clients and doesn’t let anything slip. She truly did that for us.”

With the help of Karissa, their wedding day featured many personal touches, including their nephew riding down the aisle in a white toy Mercedes G-Wagon. It also featured their two Australian shepherds, Tucker and Cooper, as part of the ceremony.

“I think something unique that we brought to the reception was our love for the Houston Astros. That’s what we’ve connected with through our entire relationship,” Dustin mentions. “One of our cakes was in the shape of Minute Maid Park. On the scoreboard, it said

4-20 for our wedding date, and on the actual teletron was one of our engagement photos with our custom jerseys.”

The couple also offers praise for their wedding officiant Luke Oaks of Officially Oaks, Mychelle Bang of Blush Floral Company, and Houston’s own Miss Gay America Dessie Love-Blake, who performed a Taylor Swift medley and a P!nk medley, complete with backup dancers, during the reception.

Additional reception entertainment was provided by Doppelganger, one of Houston’s premier wedding bands. In full transparency, Dustin admitted that one of the co-owners of Doppelganger is his father—who, when given the opportunity to get out of performing at their wedding, enthusiastically declined that idea, saying “Absolutely not. I want to work. I want to play until my heart’s content.”

Likewise, Keith’s cousin, Tracy Perez, shared her vocal talents at the reception as well. The Tracy Perez band also performed and included Keith’s nephews, Desi and Matthew, on trumpet and saxophone. “They have played at a few gay weddings that I know of, and they’re amazing,” says Keith. “They’re definitely a hidden gem in Houston.”

WANT TO TELL YOUR STORY?
Email us at letters@outsmartmagazine.com

SEEING CLIENTS
IN-PERSON
OR THROUGH HIPAA
COMPLIANT
CONFERENCING
SESSIONS

Denis "Woodja"
Flanigan, Ph. D.
Licensed psychologist

Psychotherapy, Career Counseling
denisflanigan@houston-psychologist.com

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

Voted
BEST MALE MENTAL
HEALTH THERAPIST
2011 - 2022 OutSmart Readers' Choice Awards



HELPING YOU REACH YOUR FULL POTENTIAL!

2211 Norfolk St., Suite 206, Houston, TX 77098 | 713-589-9804

www.Houston-Psychologist.com

18+
ONLY

OPEN
24/7

RED, WHITE & BANG!
AN AMERICAN SALUNA
★★★★★★★★★★★★★
DAILY SPECIALS.
MON-FRI | \$15 LOCKERS (8 A.M. - 3:45 P.M.)
TUESDAY | 1/2 OFF ROOMS (4 P.M. - 11:45 P.M.)
WEDNESDAY | 1/2 OFF LOCKERS (4 P.M. - 11:45 P.M.)
FRIDAY | HALF PRICE ROOMS (4 P.M. - 7:45 P.M.)
HAPPY HOUR
2205 FANNIN STREET, HOUSTON, TX. 77002 • (713) 659-4998 • THECLUBS.COM
THE CLUB HOUSTON
A PRIVATE MEN'S CLUB GOOD. CLEAN. FUN.
STEAM | SAUNA | WHIRLPOOL | LOCKERS | HUGE OUTDOOR POOL & PATIO | PRIVATE DRESSING ROOMS

What goes
UP,



must come
DOWN.



Stray bullets
CAN KILL.

If you hear celebratory gunfire:

- Call 911
- Notify Crime Stoppers Anonymously at **713-222-TIPS**

OFFICE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEY
HARRIS COUNTY, TX



KIM OGG

HARRISCOUNTYDA.COM

➔ OutSmart's Bar Guide is now on your phone!
Scan here to check out our directory of LGBTQ bars and clubs in and around Houston, including your favorites in Galveston, Huntsville, Spring, and College Station. Whether you're a local or a visitor, we've got you covered with this updated guide to the best LGBTQ-friendly spaces.



HOUSTON'S #1 DANCE CLUB

South Beach
HOUSTON

810 PACIFIC ST | (713) 529-SOBE

\$2.75 WELL VODKA ALL DAY & NIGHT

JR's Bar & Grill
HOUSTON

SUNDAY FUNDAY PATIO PARTY
HAPPY HOUR UNTIL 10 PM

JOE ROSS
5pm-10pm

808 PACIFIC ST. HOUSTON, TX 77006

PRICES MAY VARY ON HOLIDAYS, SPECIAL EVENTS, AND HOLIDAY WEEKENDS

WWW.JRSBARANDGRILL.COM

Our HOUSTON
★★★★★

Our COMMUNITY
★★★★★

Our BAR
★★★★★

JR's Bar & Grill
HOUSTON

804 & 808 PACIFIC ST
713-521-2519

NEVER A COVER

WWW.JRSBARANDGRILLHOUSTON

A HOUSTON NOSHERIE

SALT & SUGAR

EPICUREAN DELICATESSEN + GOURMAND PATISSERIE

EATSALTANDSUGAR.COM

There's always something going on at **TONY'S CORNER POCKET!**

TONY'S CORNER POCKET

Houston's Hottest **Male Amateur Strip Contest** Headquarters!

817 W. Dallas
713.571.7870

Voted the Best Place to Watch Male Dancers Tues. and Thurs. - Sunday Nights

Nightly Specials - Call for Details
Cold Beverages & Hot Guys!

RICH'S
HOUSTON

ReBar evolved into Rich's Houston, a vibe restaurant, lounge & boutique day / night life experience.

Foster Me.

Rescued Pets Movement, Inc. (RPM) is a Houston-based nonprofit providing a second chance for thousands of homeless dogs and cats through rehabilitation and transport to forever homes in communities throughout the country that have a need for adoptable pets.

You can help by becoming a temporary foster home partner.

Rescued Pets Movement

Visit www.RescuedPetsMovement.org/Foster-Us

By LILLY RODDY

Major Planetary Movements

An energetic summer lies ahead, under Cancer's guidance.



This is going to be a busy and hot summer with lots of planetary activity to keep us awake! Mercury will be going retrograde at the end of the month. Plan ahead and get your projects started before then. Time to focus on projects that we need to accomplish this year.

Good days to get things done are the 2nd, 5th, 8th, 10th, 11th, 18th, and the 25th. More intense days are the 3rd, 12th, 15th, 20th, and

the 21st (which is a doozy of a day). The 20th and 21st could have lots of demands that split our focus.

The New Moon in Cancer on the 5th helps us to determine what makes us comfortable. The Full Moon in Capricorn on the 21st will only add extra energy to that high-powered day!

The sun travels through Cancer as the month begins and enters Leo on the morning of the 22nd. Mercury will be going retrograde in Virgo, the sign of details, at the end of the month.

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19)

Home and family are the main interests this month. You will want to make your home a more comfortable place, and you may be considering moving or remodeling. The notion of the ideal family is being emphasized. You may feel drawn to connect with family members. This is a very good month to pay attention to your finances. You will feel motivated to improve your resources through investments or asking for a raise. This can also be a time when you are spending money on necessities. You are needing more retreat and quiet time in your life. Your day-to-day life is very busy and will be even busier after the 21st. You will need to make sure you balance your responsibilities with taking care of yourself. At the end of the month, you will want to connect more with your children and have some fun!

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20)

Your busy and active month continues through the 21st. This is a very good month for starting new projects, taking better care of yourself, sharing more time with your partner, and pushing past your comfort zone. There continues to be major shifts in your career and its direction. You may be feeling a sense of completion and rethinking your options. You may feel a need to go in a different direction. You are also working on how to improve your self-worth and sense of personal value. You may be doing this through continuing education or focusing on an interest that really connects to your passion. Home and family take a strong spotlight at the end of the month, along with Mercury going retrograde there! You may want to rethink where you are living and how close you are to your family. You will be ready to make a decision in September.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

Jupiter—planet of expansion, travel, and education—has entered your sign for the next year. This is a 12-year cycle and often represents a time of growth. This can be an excellent time for career moves and continuing education. Finances are a big topic as the month begins. You may be looking at investing and creating a budget, with a focus on getting rid of debt. You are continuing to review your career direction, even if you

are the stay-at-home-parent. You are expecting others to take on their responsibilities and not dump them on you. Near the end of the month, your ruler, Mercury, goes retrograde. Make sure you have all your projects started before that time. Your energy levels will be higher at the end of the month. Find some positive outlets for this extra boost of energy! This may be a better time for health and exercise programs, and this energy may express itself as a shorter temper.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Happy Birthday to you Moon Kids! This is your personal yearly cycle of review and renew as you look back and look forward. This is the best month to put your focus on yourself and your needs. You tend to always worry about others and want to help them manage their emotions, even if they don't ask for help. You are in a creative time that is good for writing, teaching, and expanding your presence on social media. This is a good time to connect with friends and expand your social presence. You may also feel more "group oriented" and want to make your community a better place. In the latter part of the month, you are paying much more attention to your finances and resources. You are wanting to free yourself of debt and monetary obligations. You are more orderly at the end of the month.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

As the month opens, you are in a time of rest and retreat. You are more sensitive to your environment and may want to avoid demanding people or hectic places. This is a very good month to explore your spirituality and open yourself up to connect with the universe. You are more interested in the bigger picture of why we are here and what our true purpose is. Career and social obligations remain strong through this period, even with your need to retreat. This is not a very patient month for you. You may need to find a positive way to release the extra tension you are feeling through exercise or meditation. You are more vocal with your opinions. The 20th through the 23rd could be a very intense time. You are much more direct during this time, and you may want to keep that time period open so you can be more flexible.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

There is a lot of positive energy in your career sector. You may be looking for a raise, a promotion, and attracting extra attention to what you do. This aspect helps to magnetize your personality and draws people to you. You are also needing more time to yourself, and this can generate some tension as you try to make the best decisions about how to use your time. You are also feeling that you want to connect with your friends and colleagues, but at your own pace. With the extra boost of Mercury, your ruler, going retrograde at the end of the month, you need to set your plans into action now. At the end of the month, you can take a step back and make sure that what you are doing is working. Toward the end of the month, you will need more rest and relaxation. Pace yourself!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Career activity and social obligations are very strong this month. This is a very good time to take a leadership role at work or in your role as a parent. It's your time to be in charge! You continue to work on reducing your debt through the beginning of next year. This is a very good year for travel, working with international businesses, and expanding your presence on social media. You will initially be doing this for a creative outlet and possible financial rewards later. As this is a social month, you are connecting with friends and people of similar interests. As Mercury will be going retrograde in your sign at the end of the month, you will be hearing from people from your past. Activity levels slow down at the end of the month.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

This is a busy time for you. You are in a creative mode that's good for writing or podcasting. This is also a better time to take classes or be the teacher. Relationships may be challenging, and you may feel that you need something to refresh the partnership. For difficult partnerships, this can be a time to draw a line in the sand. For positive relationships, this is a great time for renewal and setting new

goals to achieve. For you single folk, this is a much better month for meeting new people! You are more direct and don't want to waste your time. Your temper continues to be shorter than usual. You are still working to improve your health through major changes. In the latter part of the month, your career sector begins to take the spotlight. Mercury will be retrograde in your career sector and you will be rethinking your goals.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov.22-Dec.21)

You are busy with relationships, travel, and opening up your world to new adventures and new friends. Your partnership sector is very busy this month. If you are single, this is a great time to meet new people. If you are involved, this is a better time for all partnerships and a great time for renewals! Home and family responsibilities are still demanding your time and attention; you have taken the lead and are getting the job done. Normally, you are very flexible and adaptable, but you are putting up better boundaries during this time so others don't take advantage of you, even accidentally. This can also be a time of home remodeling, downsizing, or even relocating. You are wanting to make your home and emotional base more solid and dependable. Mercury goes retrograde in your career sector. This is the time to go back and take care of things you missed!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Relationships are the main topic this month. This is a great time to renew those bonds and create more special times for your partner and your relationship. If you are single, this is a better time to connect with others who may be potential new partners. You are reviewing how you use your time this month. You want to have more control of your daily activities. You are doing this so that you can make the most of your day and not waste time waiting. This is a great time to improve your office surroundings, equipment, or make your home office more of a real office. You have more views about what will make things work better, and you are not shy about expressing them. You are wanting more personal time to play and escape your stresses. This is a good time to connect with your children or just be more playful yourself!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Life continues to change with Pluto, the planet of personal transformation, having entered your sign early this year. It represents a release of toxic past events and stepping onto the next level. This is having the strongest impact on those of you born in the earliest days of the sign. On a more personal level, you are paying more attention to your health and how your work routines impact your body and well-being. This is a great time to improve your work environment and

make your workspace feel more homey and comfy! And even in your home, you are looking to make improvements and rid yourself of perennial problems. Family can be quite edgy and volatile. Tempers are short and everyone can want to have their own way. That tension eases after the 23rd. The weekend of the 20th through 23rd can be a very tense time. Keep your plans flexible on that weekend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20)

Home and family are big topics this month. This can be a great time for family reunions, moving, or doing more traveling. You are wanting more wide-open spaces in your life, lighter colors, and more windows! You are in a more creative and playful time. This can be a great time to be with your kids or for you to be more kid-like. You have been very serious since the beginning of the year, focusing on what needs to be done, stepping up and taking charge, and setting better personal standards and boundaries. At a deeper level, you are reviewing your views of spirituality and religiosity. You may be shifting belief systems or finding a lot of holes in your current system. You eliminate some activities that take up your time but don't give you much in return. You are very direct about that and how you feel about it. You get back into your routines by the end of the month.

➡ For more info, visit lillyroddysshow.com.

COMPASS



Golf course home with a long view, Smithville Texas \$725,000



Historic building in Bastrop TX, currently a residential loft above a lovely wine bar. \$1,400,000



Thinking about a change?

Karen Derr,
Broker Associate
713-875-7050
KarenDerr.com



The Powerhouse Diva

Dynasty Banks-Couleé sizzles with her spicy onstage personality.

By SAM BYRD



Dynasty Banks-Couleé knows about drag royalty because she comes from it. Her drag mother is Bambi Banks-Couleé, who is the daughter of *RuPaul's Drag Race All-Stars* winner Shea Couleé. That family line extends even further—Banks-Couleé has three younger drag sisters and two aunts that she adores and gets to spend time with when she visits Chicago. Get to know more about this glamazon below.

Pronouns? She/Her

Inner Avatar? My inner avatar is Gene Belcher from *Bob's Burgers*.

Hometown? Houston

Drag birthday? July 1

Are you going to have a hot-girl summer?
Dynasty is a hot girl year-round.

What got you interested in drag? *RuPaul's Drag Race*, coupled with the curiosity of what I would look like in full glam.

Describe your performing persona.
Dynasty is a performance powerhouse. She's high energy and with a touch of glamour.

What's on your bucket list? Many things are on my bucket list—like visiting every continent or flying in a private jet—but skydiving is at the top.

Most memorable moment as a performer?
Performing with Charlie XCX onstage during her concert.

Most embarrassing moment onstage?
Falling out of a chair while performing group choreography.

What's your ultimate goal as a performer?
To reach and inspire as many people as possible through the art of drag.

Thoughts about legislation restricting drag performances?
There are far too many real issues that our government can focus time, energy, and resources on, rather than trying to police art

and entertainment—and our bodies, for that matter.

What are your favorite hangout spots?
I love hanging out at The Room Bar or with my friends at any local drag show.

What would people be surprised to know about you?
That I am a really good cook.

Who is your celebrity crush?
I am in love with Manu Rios!

Favorite drag character from media?
I love Jorgeous because she's so goofy and never takes life too seriously.

Where and when do you normally perform?
I normally perform at Michael's Outpost on Mondays and Thursdays. I also perform at Ripcord and many other places in the Greater Houston area, and I perform in Chicago annually during Pride Month.

What's your life's mantra?
If they don't pay your bills, you pay them bitches no mind!

What do you want the world to know about the LGBTQ community?
I want people to know that the LGBTQ+ community is made up of millions of individuals who all have a story to tell. We are not defined by the people we love.

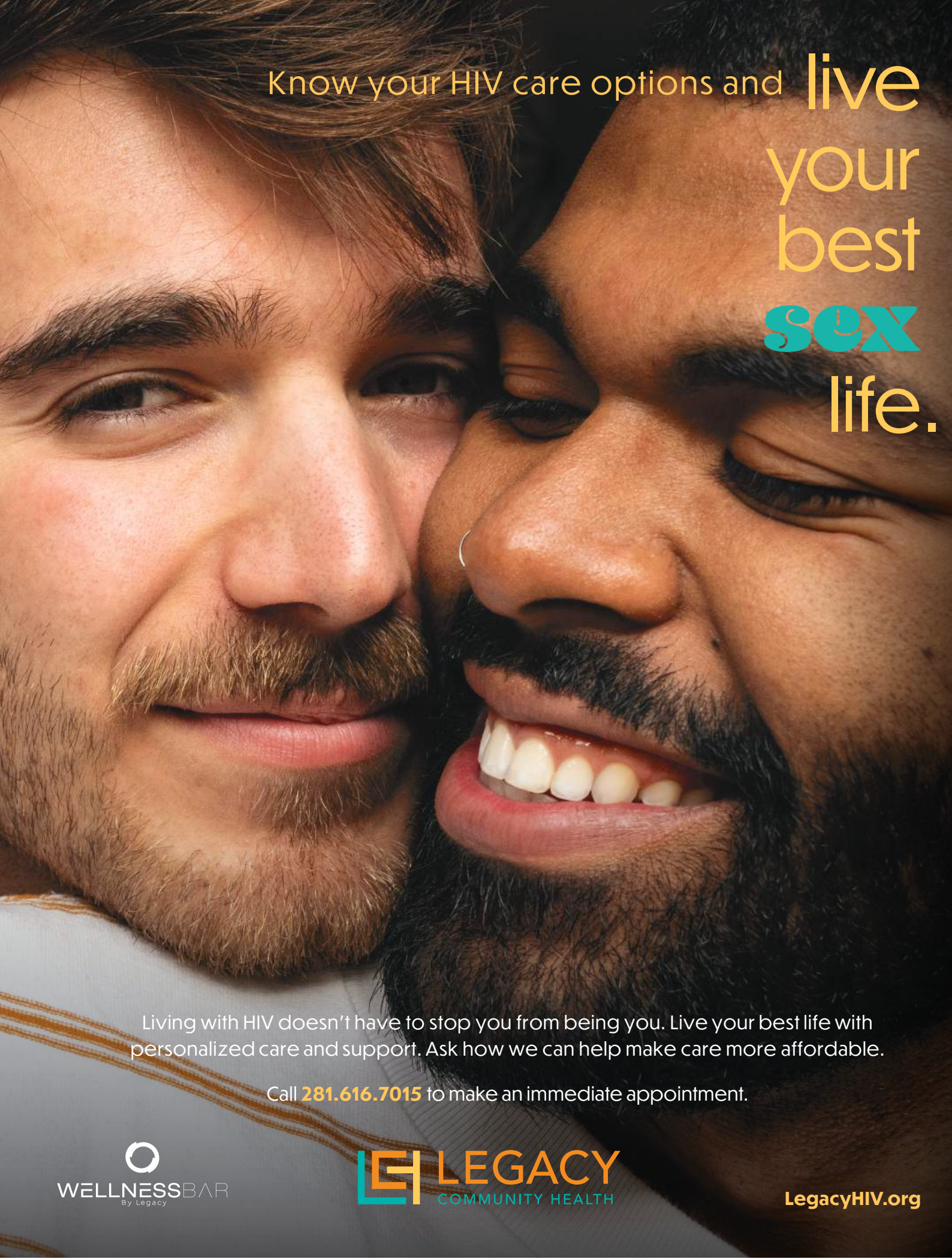
Have you ever had a defining moment in your life?
I think a culmination of smaller moments throughout our lives that may seem insignificant come together to really shape us over time.

What else might be worth mentioning?

Dynasty is a self-made queen. From costumes to hair, performance tracks, and original music, I have a hand in creating everything I do. That is why drag is so special to me. It allows me to mix all of my creative outlets into one.

Find Dynasty @Dynastybanks on all social-media platforms



A close-up photograph of two men with beards and mustaches. The man on the left is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The man on the right is smiling broadly, showing his teeth, and has his eyes closed. They are leaning their heads against each other in a warm embrace. The background is dark and out of focus.

Know your HIV care options and **live**
your
best
sex
life.

Living with HIV doesn't have to stop you from being you. Live your best life with personalized care and support. Ask how we can help make care more affordable.

Call **281.616.7015** to make an immediate appointment.



LegacyHIV.org



THE EYE GALLERY

SUMMER SUNGLASS SALE

25% OFF ALL IN-STOCK SUNGLASSES

EYEGALLERYHOUSTON.COM

1806 WESTHEIMER RD - RIVER OAKS

1700 POST OAK BLVD - POST OAK (NEXT TO WHOLE FOODS)

713.523.1279

713.622.7470