

# GHGLCC NEWS

## the impact network

SEPTEMBER, 1997

VOL 2, ISSUE 9



GREATER HOUSTON  
GAY & LESBIAN  
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#### Annual Membership Dues

Individual \$100.00

Business \$175.00

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For membership information call

**713.523.7576**

1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178  
Houston, Texas 77006



**Dayna Steele**

## DAYNA STEELE

**Houston's Queen of Talk  
and Outspoken Supporter  
of Our Community  
to Address Chamber at  
September Meeting**

Monday, September 8, 6pm  
Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main St.

Dayna Steele has reigned for years as "Houston's First Lady of Radio" because of her knack for conducting highly entertaining and revealing interviews, her insider's track on the local and national music scene and her commitment to broadcast excellence. A native Houstonian, Dayna's radio career began in 1982 at KLOL. She was featured as one of the top female disc jockeys in the country on the FMQB "Women of Rock" CD in 1995 and was nominated as "Radio Air Personality of the Year" in 1996 by Billboard Magazine. Dayna was the only woman nominated. In 1996, Dayna moved to FM 97.1, a new talk radio station, to host

97 TALK from 10 a.m. to noon daily.

Dayna is an outspoken supporter of gay and lesbian rights, a view which traditional talk radio hosts and listeners are unaccustomed to. In an interview in the June 1997 issue of *OutSmart* magazine, Dayna stated, "I just don't understand people who are frightened of homosexuality... until you can explain to me where it makes sense, then I'm going to continue these issues [of concern to gay and lesbians] on the air and try to educate people that this [homophobia] is just stupidity and ignorance." Dayna's recent guests have included members of the Greater Houston Gay &

**STEELE** continued on page 4

**RSVP is required by September 5 at 713-523-7576. PLEASE NOTE:** If you fail to RSVP for the dinner meeting, members will incur an additional \$5 charge when you sign in. It's extremely important for us to coordinate our number of participants with the hotel. Please be responsible and make the RSVP call! The cost for the dinner meeting is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members or guests. Valet parking at the Warwick is \$3 if you mention you're attending the GHGLCC meeting. Free parking is available in the "self-parking" lot for Warwick on Fannin.

The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce was formed to foster and promote the economic development and vitality of gay, lesbian and supportive businesses and professional organizations in the greater Houston area. The Chamber facilitates the exchange of ideas, resources, information and networking opportunities with its members. By providing opportunities for the personal, professional and social growth of its members, the Chamber promotes a positive image of the diversity of gay and lesbian citizens and further strengthens our position in society. Membership in this organization in no way infers sexual orientation, preference, or gender identity.



# Committee Reports

## Newsletter

Chaired by Marion E. Coleman, this committee's primary focus is to inform the general membership and its guests of upcoming events within our organization. Please contact Marion at the House of Coleman (713-523-2521) for more information or if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. Please remember: The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and Chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber board meeting (3rd Monday of each month), no exceptions.

## Internet

Connect to the Chamber Web Page on the World Wide Web, courtesy of John Freeman at Echo Communications and Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics. The URL address is <http://www.GHGLCC.org>. Contact Dan DiDonato (Preferred Graphics) for information regarding the Web Site.

## Resource Guide/Directory

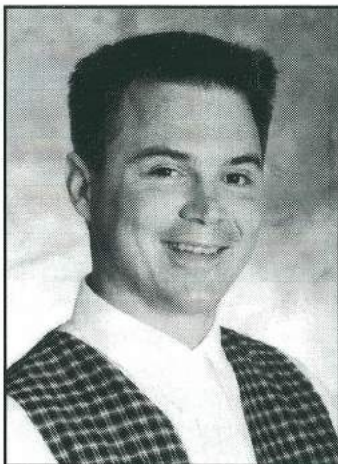
Chaired by J.C. Michelak (Houston Voice), this committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Community in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact J.C. at the Houston Voice at 713-529-8490.

## Public Relations

This revived committee is chaired by Houston Voice Editor J.C. Michalek. Call J.C. at the Houston Voice at 713-529-8490 for more information on how you can help out on this committee.

## Community Affairs

The Community Affairs Committee is chaired by Cheryl Conner and consists of three subcommittees: Community Partnership, Gay Pride Parade, and Business Expo (chaired by Anita Renteria). Please call Cheryl at 713-432-0705 if you're interested. The next committee meeting time and location are to be announced.



## President's Message

by Coy Tow

Today it's OK to be GAY!

What an exciting time for Houston's gay and lesbian community as we experience record attendance at the Pride Parade, dramatic doors being opened as leading organizations and businesses adopt non-discrimination policies and domestic partnership benefits, and GHGLCC leading the community towards Empower '97, which promises to be a true celebration on National Coming Out Day, October 11, at the George R. Brown Convention Center.

The gay & lesbian community of Houston is positioned to set the pace into the future by emphasizing the role of business, economic power, and consumer loyalty in our effort to achieve equality in every facet of community. Only by working together in a community-wide effort will we truly achieve the positive results and experience the changes in social, economic, and political policy.

Empower '97 is the opportunity to truly give the gift of empowerment to a community hungry for acceptance and deserving of a celebration for the great progress that has been made. Hope you will help wherever possible!

What I want most from my GHGLCC in 1997 is...

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To achieve this, I suggest...

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I'm willing to work on the appropriate committee to achieve this goal:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_





## Vice President's Message

by Sandra Wilkins

### **EMPOWER '97....IT'S COMING!**

Mark your calendar - Saturday, October 11

#### **THE CHALLENGE:**

Do your part! Reserve a booth today. Call everyone you know and encourage their attendance on Saturday, October 11 for this event.

#### **THE REWARD:**

Pride in your personal contribution toward making this important GHGLCC event a huge success.

#### **THE CHALLENGE:**

Convince a friend, associate or colleague to join GHGLCC & take a booth at Empower '97.

#### **THE REWARD:**

A FREE business card ad in our GHGLCC Newsletter for one year!

#### **ANY QUESTIONS?**

Call me and we'll talk...Sandra Wilkins, (713) 526-4471.

# ghglcc

It does a business good.

## Committee Reports

### **Membership**

The committee has refocused its efforts on the bottom line: bringing in new members! To this end, each committee member is being challenged to bring in three new members in the next three months. But we'll accept new members from anyone else, too!

And don't forget our membership renewal incentive program. Ask Scott (713-840-4816) or Patrick (713-668-6069) to tell you about it!

Networking Breakfasts will continue to be held monthly (the next breakfast to be held at Fox Diner at 905 Taft, Tuesday, September 16, at 7:30 a.m.); and existing programs are presently being reviewed and enhanced.

We could always use your help at programs and functions, not to mention as committee members. Please let us know of your interest.



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# Member Profile

## LEA BOGLE - Premier Paging and Wireless, Inc.

Lea Bogle has been a member of the community for over 15 years. She became a member of the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, because she believes "it's the strength in community and the outness of the individuals that change the views of the straight community and make it safe for others to come out." She wants to be part of those positive changes, and wants to teach her daughter the value of people regardless of differences or likenesses.

Lea is a member of LiB, (Lesbians in Business) and has many hobbies. She told us she loves taking care of her 10-year-old daughter Nikki as well as cooking, reading and bike-riding with her significant other and best friend Shiela Rose.

When asked whom the person she would most like to emulate, she said Hillary Clinton because of her heads up with adversity attitude and her incredible strength.

Lea's goals are to expand her business and open a second location closer to town, where she can have a strong outside sales force. Lea wants to grow her business and create a whole wireless system to fill *your* needs, not filling the mold like the other guys.

Lea's motto on life is "Embrace life, be flexible and accept each person for their talents and goodness."

When we asked Lea for a final thought, she said she would like to see the community pull together, and that anyone who is a member of the Chamber to bring a guest each and every month. If only 25% of those guests join, we would grow to a force to be reckoned with. She thinks the Chamber would be more beneficial to everyone and be a single resource for buying and selling products to and from people we know. It would create opportunity to grow our businesses and friendships within the community.

**STEELE** continued from page 1

Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, the organizers of the 1997 First Annual Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, two lesbian parents who discussed gay families on the program, and gay comedians Kevin Maye and Scott Kennedy.

Dayna's presentation to the Chamber will focus on the power of talk radio as a medium for gay and lesbian issues. She will also discuss how talk radio can be used to market and promote gay and lesbian businesses in our city. She is looking forward to exchanging ideas and answering our Chamber members' questions about her stance on gay and lesbian rights and her commitment to supporting our community.

We anticipate a great attendance for this lively and informative presentation by Houston's Queen of Talk! So remember to call your RSVP early, and no later than Friday, September 5 to the GHGLCC hotline, (713)523-7576.

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Houston Buyers Club is a program of the Michael Mosely Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

## OFFICE SPACE SUBLEASE

We have a private office 11' x 13' for lease on the ground floor of a very nice office building on the West Loop near Bellaire Blvd. This has a separate entrance, separate suite number, excellent customer parking, very nice image for a small business. \$250/month. Please call Rob Schmerler at (713) 661-7700.

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# Join Us!

Join us as a Chamber Member! Join us on the Membership Committee! Join us by helping out at a chamber dinner meeting (check-in, introducing guests, etc.)! Simply put...Join us!

Many times, guests are not asked to join. Often, members are unsure how to participate. This happens with many organizations--but it will not happen with our Chamber! Please feel free to ask any Chamber board member, committee chairperson, or membership committee member for assistance.

Applications are available upon request, or at Basic Brothers, House of Coleman, The Houston Voice, and other member-businesses. We can make this chamber grow with your help. Call Patrick (713-668-6069) or Scott (713-840-4816) to join or with your questions.

The next membership committee meeting will be Wednesday, September 24, at Star Pizza (Shepherd/59), at 11:30 am. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Newsletter Notes!

The newsletter committee is now accepting articles from members. If you'd like to write an article describing your business and how it can be valuable to other members and businesses, please do so and send it to either Marion E. Coleman at House of Coleman (713) 523-2521 or to Victor Perea at CreADtive Unlimited® (713) 526-5190.

We also want your input! If you have a location where you would like to see this newsletter distributed, or if you own a business and you would like for us to leave you some for your customers, please call us with your suggestions.

## The Chamber Networking Breakfast

Tuesday, SEPTEMBER 16 at 7:30 am

Fox Diner • 905 Taft

Invite and/or Bring Non-Member Guests.

Be prepared to describe a good referral for your business.

Bring any business problem or Chamber issue on your mind to the breakfast.

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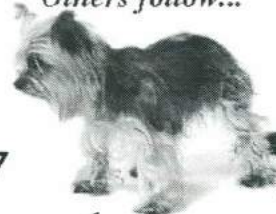
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# S E P T E M B E R

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Monthly Meeting Wyndham Warwick-6pm	9	10 Special Interest Steering Committee to meet Sept 10, 1997 at 811 Westheimer at 6 pm.	11	12	13
14 FINAL AD DEADLINE for Empower '97	15 Board Meeting Lovett Inn-6pm	16 Networking Breakfast 7:30 a.m. Fox Diner-905 Taft Call 713-668-6069 for information	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Membership Committee Meeting-11:30 am Jalapeños Restaurant on Kirby near Westheimer	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## NEXT MONTH EMPOWER '97 • October 11 at the George R. Brown Convention Center

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# EMPOWER

ninety-seven

97/97

MCMXCVII

**October 11 is Fast Approaching.**

**Empower '97 is Free to the Public and is**

**Featuring the Outrageous**

**JUDY TENUTA**

**D**ue to a HUGE spike in calls to the hotline beginning the weekend after the deadline of August 15, the EMPOWER '97 committee has decided to extend the booth sales deadline to Wednesday, September 10. Completed forms and payment in full must be received at the Chamber address by that date. If you still have not sent in your booth reservation, please do so now! We must have full participation by the Chamber for this event to be as successful as we all know it can be. We also have ad space available for the program in full-, half- and quarter-page increments—due to demand, we may be adding business card ads as well. Consider complimenting your booth with a display ad for maximum impact! (All exhibitors will receive line ad visibility.)

**O**ctober 11 is fast approaching. The event is free to the public, features entertainment headlined by the outrageous Judy

Tenuta, and will be promoted on MIX 96.5 KHM radio. The *Houston Press* will have one of their same-sex single mixers at EMPOWER '97, and will advertise it for us. Our own ad campaign is starting to run in *OutSmart* magazine, the *Houston Voice*, and the *Texas Triangle*. We will extend the booth date in these ads and follow them with ads targeted at getting the community at the event.

Finally, if you know someone who would be interested in the expo but has not been contacted, please “empower” yourself to pick up the phone and let them know about this fabulous opportunity for marketing their business, service, or company. Consider yourself a committee member and do your part to bring others on board. If you'd like to volunteer for the committee in any form or fashion, please call the EMPOWER '97 hotline at 713-462-1354.

...



# Coming Next Month

## Rep. DEBRA DANBURG to speak at the Chamber's October Monthly Meeting



Debra is a native Houstonian. She attended Lee High School located in the southwestern part of her legislative district and received her bachelor's degree in sociology with honors and her law degree from the University of Houston. She has served as state representative for Legislative District 137 since 1981. District 137

encompasses the Heights, Montrose, the Museum District, Greenway Plaza and Gulfton.

Debra currently serves as the chair of the House Committee on Elections and a member of the powerful State Affairs and Calendars committees. She also serves on the Joint Interim committees on Appropriations, Criminal Jurisprudence, Environmental Affairs, Business and Industry, and Cultural and Historical Resources.

Rep. Danburg has received many awards and honors for her hard work. She has been recognized for excellence in service by numerous local, state and national organizations including; Common Cause, Planned

Parenthood, Texas Human Rights Campaign Fund, Houston Area Women's Center, Texas Council on Family Violence, Sierra Club, Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas, Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, Houston Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, Texas Municipal League, and the Federation of Houston Professional Women. She was also named "Best Legislator" by *Houston City* magazine. In October of 1997 she will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas.

In 1994 she served as faculty in residence for the New Leadership Program at the Center for the American Woman in Politics at Rutgers University. In 1993 she was named Alumna of the Year by the College of Social Sciences of the University of Houston. Since 1992 she has been a mayoral appointment to the Houston Municipal Arts Commission and serves on the board of the Blaffer Gallery. She was also recently appointed to the board of the Cultural Arts Council (CACHH).

Rep. Danburg is one of the most prolific and successful state representatives in authoring and passing legislation. During the course of her career, Rep. Danburg has authored and passed bills covering a wide range of topics including crime, women's rights, gay and lesbian rights, civic/community issues, the arts, consumer protection, the environment, health care, elections and ethics, and higher education.

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# We'll see you at Empower '97



# New Special Interest Committee being Formed to Initiate and Plan Events

The Chamber Board has formed a Special Interest Steering Committee. This committee would initiate, formulate, and plan events throughout the year relating to "special interests" of our membership!

We envision the purpose of this committee as a way to sponsor and promote events, for example, business seminars, business networking events, social gatherings, discussion groups, or possibly even town meetings. These functions will have a common thread or "Key Interest" topic -- most likely, but not necessarily related to business. They will be offered to the GHGLCC membership with the goal of increasing member participation/interest and increasing membership as more community businesses within the Montrose area develop an interest in the different agendas.

## Members Seeking Your Services...

### Caterer/Entertainer

Suzanne Anderson Properties is now accepting bids for a Caterer and an Entertainer for a December 11 function.

If you are interested, please call 713-529-8484.

### Catering for the December Chamber Meeting

The Program Committee is accepting proposals and bids for catering the December meeting. Please contact Tony Carroll at 713-522-3045.

*This announcement area is offered at no charge to members wishing to seek the services of other members. The deadline to submit a listing is the third Monday of the month for the following month's newsletter. Call Victor Perea at 713-526-5190 to list your announcement.*

Some ideas presented already include: "Effectively Promoting Your Business," "Connecting to the Internet," Luncheon Gatherings, Computer Seminars, Breakfasts (already), "Business Ethics/Strategies," plus many more.

We want your input! Please join us for our first meeting on Wednesday, September 10 at 6 pm at 811 Westheimer, Suite 203! Preliminary discussion will include the committee's purpose and structure, ideas for seminars/presentations/functions, and future goals of the committee relating to the Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce.

Please stop by! Contact Special Interest Committee coordinator, Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics (713) 528-7654 if you have any questions, or would like further details.



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**A New Marketing Resource Guide is  
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# Ribbon Cutting Open House

## Head to the New Pharmacy - Stat!

Kansa City-based STATSCRIPT Pharmacy opened their second Houston location last month at 3407 Montrose at Hawthorne, next to superchains Einstein Bagels and Starbucks Coffee. They are a charter member of our Chamber. Founded on the premise that individuals taking certain drugs deserve personalized service and detailed information from specialized pharmacies like Bill Southward and Larry Harrison in the daily integration of complete HIV-related drug therapies. Although most any type of prescription drug (not only HIV-related) may be filled at STATSCRIPT, you can bet charcoal and lighter fluid won't be found on aisle 17 because, well, there are no aisles or multiple-retail merchandising. Which, frankly, is a nice change from the take-a-number-have-a-seat-we'll-get-to-ya-when-we-feel-like-it "drug-department" store. We hope to see you on Thursday, September 11 from 6 - 8 pm for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and another great networking opportunity in our Chamber!

STATSCRIPT Pharmacy was born 11 years ago in Kansas City when the only HIV/AIDS-treating doctor in the city at that time realized there was something missing. Not only did his patients struggle to find a pharmacy that carried the only AIDS drug at that time (AZT) but they often received poor embarrassing service at those pharmacies. Furthermore, many patients had questions regarding the drug they were on which the local pharmacies could not answer.

It was then the doctor decided his patients needed and deserved a convenient pharmacy, so STATSCRIPT was born in a small section of his office. There they could be assured of confidential professional services and receive counseling on their medication. Receiving counseling on one drug might seem simple, but consider that almost 11 years later a HIV+ patient may be taking anywhere from 8-21 prescriptions a month. Now you see the importance of specialized and individualized counseling to help integrate these complex therapies into someone's life.


Soon the word spread about STATSCRIPT Pharmacy's caring and compassionate services to the growing

**STATSCRIPT** continued on page 11

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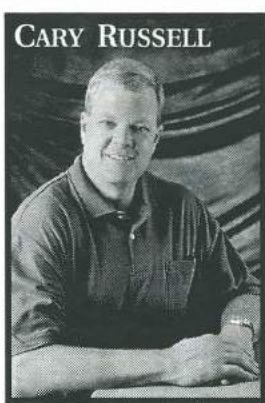
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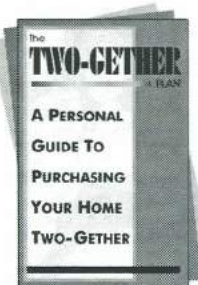
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SEE OUR BOOTH AT EMPOWER '97



# Member Articles

## Recycling Toner/Ink Makes Sense

by Sheila Greene

If you had the chance to save money and the environment at the same time, would you do it? Well, that is what my company, 3R Cartridge Recycling, can do for you or your company. I am in the business of recycling ink cartridges. I take the empty toner or ink jet cartridge that you were going to throw in the trash and recondition, refill and recycle it. Using a remanufactured toner cartridge costs approximately 30% to 50% less than comparable "original" cartridges. Over 110 million pounds of black toner cartridges are saved from our landfills annually by people choosing to recycle.

Most of my business has been recycling of the toner cartridges and ink jet cartridges which are found in laser printers, copiers and fax machines. The toner cartridge is opened, examined for internal wear or damage, and internal parts are thoroughly cleaned. Worn or damaged parts are replaced with high quality components and toners which give excellent print quality and quantity. The ink jet cartridges are filled by a machine which pressure-fills them in the same manner they are filled by

the manufacturer. All cartridges are print-tested and have a 100% guarantee. A recycling program begins with two cartridges; one empty and another filled with toner or ink. Call my office and I will be there to pick up the empty one. A completely refurbished cartridge will be in your hands within a week.

*Over 110 million pounds of black toner cartridges are saved from our landfills annually by people choosing to recycle.*

I have been in this business for two years and have found that many companies are increasingly eager to do whatever they can to reduce the amount of waste that is sent to our landfills. Recycling printer cartridges can be the beginning of a more comprehensive workplace recycling program. Please take a minute to look around your office and see what items are being "trashed." Maybe some of that can be turned into extra cash. It can also be an added

benefit to be able to tell clients or customers that you are doing your part to make this a "greener, cleaner" place to live. As a member of the GHGLCC, I look forward to meeting and working with many of you. So call me, Sheila Green, at 281-331-1071 to get your home or office started in a recycling program.

As a member of the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce you are welcomed to submit an article describing your business. If you are interested in submitting an article for publication in this newsletter, please call Marion E. Coleman at the House of Coleman 713-523-2521 or Victor Perea at CreADrive Unlimited® 713-526-5190. A submission of an article does not guarantee placement in this newsletter as articles are placed when space allows and are placed at no charge as a benefit to members by the GHGLCC.

**STATSCRIPT** continued from page 8

HIV/AIDS patient population and their doctors. They were and are still looking for people who fully understand their disease and who know their true needs just beyond handing them a bottle. Soon the company found itself expanding to other locations and cities. That growth continues. In the last year the company has doubled in size to meet the demand for community-based HIV/AIDS specialized pharmacy services. They currently have 16 locations and by the end of the year will have 20 locations nationwide.

## Do You Have a Web Page?

Then you need to have it listed on the GHGLCC website!  
Call Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics  
at (713) 528-7654 for details on  
getting your website listed.

**Best of all, it's free to  
members of the GHGLCC!**



# Announcements

## Notes From the Board

The board of directors is always available to listen to your ideas, suggestions, or concerns about our growing organization. If you would like to address the board at a board meeting, call the hotline at (713) 523-7576 and ask to be put on the agenda to speak at a board meeting held the 3rd Monday of each month.

The board is currently looking for members interested in becoming more involved in our Chamber. If you are interested in participating, or you know of anyone who is, please contact President Coy Tow at Uniglobe First Choice Travel at 713-667-0580. Positions available include committee chairs, committee members, and/or any other assistance a member would be willing to provide to the Chamber.

## Newsletter Advertising

Here we *grow!* Our newsletter has increased to 12 pages thanks to member advertising and article contributions. Remember, this is *your* newsletter so if you have a submission you'd like included, contact the newsletter committee.

A one-month business card-size ad is only \$30. If you reserve between 3-6 months the monthly rate is only \$25, and if you reserve space for 7-12 months your monthly rate is only \$20. Call Marion E. Coleman at the House of Coleman at 713-523-2521, or Victor Perea at CreADtive Unlimited® at 713-526-5190.

## Welcome New Members!

**Peter Poit**

**Grant Martin**

**Tim Kent**

Jaguar Couriers of Texas, Inc.

**Bob Lawson**

AIDS Foundation Houston, Inc.

**Francisco Sanchez**

Carrerio Miranda, Inc.

**Michael Romydy**

Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection

# GHGLCC

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Houston, Texas 77006

Address Correction Requested



# GHGLCC NEWS

## the impact network

OCTOBER, 1997

VOL 2, ISSUE 10



GREATER HOUSTON  
GAY & LESBIAN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Coy Tow

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Tony Carroll

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Ken Council

Helene Rouse

#### Ethics and Legal

Dale Englefield

Debra Hunt

#### Annual Membership Dues

Individual \$100.00

Business \$175.00

Corporation \$500.00

For membership information call

**713.523.7576**

1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178  
Houston, Texas 77006

# Rep. Debra Danburg

## Speaks to the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce at the October Dinner Meeting

Monday, October 6, 6pm

Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main St.

Debra is a native Houstonian. She attended Lee High School, located in the southwestern part of her legislative district and received her bachelor's degree in sociology with honors and her law degree from the University of Houston, graduating with honors. Debra also received her law degree from the University of Houston, and since 1981 has served as State Representative for Legislative District 137. (District 137 encompasses the Heights, Montrose, the Museum



**Debra Danburg**

District, Greenway Plaza and Gulfton.)

Debra currently serves as the chair of the House Committee on Elections and is a member of the powerful State Affairs and Calendars committees. She also serves on the Joint Interim committees on Appropriations, Criminal Jurisprudence, Environmental Affairs, Business and Industry, and Cultural and Historical Resources.

Rep. Danburg has received many

**DANBURG** continued on page 11

**RSVP is required by October 5 at 713-523-7576. PLEASE NOTE:** If you fail to RSVP for the dinner meeting, members will incur an additional \$5 charge when you sign in. It's extremely important for us to coordinate our number of participants with the hotel. Please be responsible and make the RSVP call! The cost for the dinner meeting is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members or guests. Valet parking at the Warwick is \$3 if you mention you're attending the GHGLCC meeting. Free parking is available in the "self-parking" lot for Warwick on Fannin.

The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce was formed to foster and promote the economic development and vitality of gay, lesbian and supportive businesses and professional organizations in the greater Houston area. The Chamber facilitates the exchange of ideas, resources, information and networking opportunities with its members. By providing opportunities for the personal, professional and social growth of its members, the Chamber promotes a positive image of the diversity of gay and lesbian citizens and further strengthens our position in society. Membership in this organization in no way infers sexual orientation, preference, or gender identity.



# Committee Reports

## Newsletter

Chaired by Marion E. Coleman, this committee's primary focus is to inform the general membership and its guests of upcoming events within our organization. Please contact Marion at the House of Coleman (713-523-2521) for more information or if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. Please remember: The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and Chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber board meeting (3rd Monday of each month), no exceptions.

## Internet

Our domain hosting is now registered at NeoSoft, one of the largest internet providers within the Houston/New Orleans areas. Please view our site at <http://www.GHGLCC.org> and watch us grow! Want your site linked on the Chamber's Business Directory? We only ask that you provide a reciprocal link to the Chamber's Web Page! Fair enough? Please email our webmaster, Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics at [info@GHGLCC.org](mailto:info@GHGLCC.org) with all the details (i.e. URL's, mane, contact numbers, etc. or for further information (landlink is 713-528-7654.

## Resource Guide/Directory

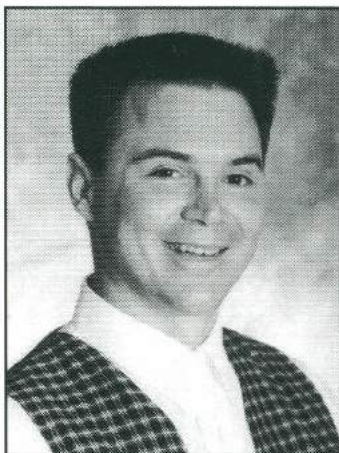
Chaired by J.C. Michelak (Houston Voice), this committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Community in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact J.C. at the Houston Voice at 713-529-8490.

## Public Relations

This revived committee is chaired by Houston Voice Editor J.C. Michalek. Call J.C. at the Houston Voice at 713-529-8490 for more information on how you can help out on this committee.

## Community Affairs

The Community Affairs Committee is chaired by Cheryl Conner and consists of three sub-committees: Community Partnership, Gay Pride Parade, and Business Expo (chaired by Anita Renteria). Please call Cheryl at 713-432-0705 if you're interested. The next committee meeting time and location are to be announced.



# President's Message

by Coy Tow

It is already fall and soon another year will have passed like a breath of air, so quickly that it almost goes unnoticed at times. We rarely stop to ponder all that happens each day of our lives, yet when we do analyze the time that passes, we wonder if our place and presence really make a difference. Is what we hold so dear and important really going

to matter in the grand scheme of things?

All of us set out each day to make a contribution to our world, whether it be in our work environment, church, community service, clubs and organizations, or among our friends and family. When do we stop to realize the progress, to celebrate our growth and accomplishments, and to reestablish our goals and vision for the future? The wise make time to reflect often on the path left behind, and to anticipate and plan for the road ahead.

The Chamber is at that point in our young life where we must look closely at our past success and shortcomings. We must take into careful consideration our mission and carefully analyze whether we are on the road to delivering what we set out to accomplish or identify obstacles that might be in the road so that we may remove them and continue toward our goals. We are at a critical time in the life of our Chamber where all of us collectively as members must unite to assure long-term success!

I have personally been very rewarded by watching this organization and many of its members develop and grow in the past two years. We have managed to position ourselves in a manner that we can truly begin to represent the gay and lesbian organizations, groups and factions with a united spirit of true community. We seek to promote the diversity, talent, economic and social dynamics that truly make Houston's gay and lesbian community unique across the globe.

We are the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce; we are made up of gay, lesbian and straight individuals, of businesses, corpora-

**PRESIDENT** continued on page 11

What I want most from my GHGLCC in 1997 is...

To achieve this, I suggest...

I'm willing to work on the appropriate committee to

achieve this goal:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_





## Vice President's Message

by Sandra Wilkins

In October the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce celebrates its second annual meeting. How perfect that on October 11 our Chamber will host EMPOWER '97, at the George R. Brown Convention Center. This event is the result of GHGLCC's rapid growth and the

important position we occupy in the gay community. Who would have imagined that in two short years our organization could boast so many remarkable achievements, culminating with EMPOWER '97?

We've grown from seven people with a good idea, to an organization with over 200 of Houston's best and brightest gays and lesbians. We've spawned and supported employee groups in some of Houston's most powerful corporations, including Shell Oil, Texas Commerce Bank, Amoco, Exxon, DuPont and Southwestern Bell. GHGLCC has been recognized and applauded by national and local politicians like Sheila Jackson-Lee, Chris Bell and Debra Danburg. We've had mainstream media mega-star Dayna Steele address our group and proudly tout Empower '97 on her daily talk radio program on 97.1FM. Soon, The Houston Chronicle will do a feature article about us in its business section.

Look at the names of the gay-friendly businesses and global corporations that are participating in EMPOWER '97: Microsoft, American Express, Shell Oil, Merrill Lynch, The Alley Theatre, Houston Grand Opera, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, Talk 97 FM, Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories, The Houston Press, Mix 96 FM, The Laff Stop.

These accomplishments should make each member very proud.

I hope as each day brings us closer to Saturday, October 11, each of you will take these considerations to heart and make a personal effort to support EMPOWER '97. If you don't have a booth, do an ad. If you don't do either, then volunteer your time that day to help with the many tasks required of us as hosts. Make it your personal responsibility to invite at least 10 people to join in that day's celebration of Houston's gay and lesbian community. The success of this event will be measured by the number of people who attend. This can be a major stepping stone for our continued growth, power and recognition. Please do your part.

Finally, this event would never have happened without the tireless, Herculean efforts of our co-chairs, Anita Renteria and Debbie Phinney. GHGLCC owes these two remarkable women a debt of gratitude beyond measure.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS FOR **Empower '97**

**For Advertising Space**  
contact Marion E. Coleman at 713-523-2521

**To Volunteer for the Day**  
contact Sandra Wilkins at 713-526-4471

## Committee Reports

### Membership

Stephanie McGhee and Scott Garrison have been working on a membership directory. Target completion date is mid October. You asked for it...our committee delivers!

Attendance at our networking breakfasts has grown steadily. September's event at the Fox Diner was a well attended (double-digits) and well received. Our thanks to Fox Diner (Chamber members) for opening their doors early for us.

We have been happily welcoming many new members! Several of our new affiliates have chosen to join in conjunction with buying a booth at Empower '97. Frankly, my dear, we don't care why you join...we just care that you do!

And the membership committee is always wanting something...We want you as a Chamber member. We want you to renew your membership. We want you on our committee. But we also want to know what you want!

Please call either Patrick at 713-668-6069 or Scott at 713-840-4816 with any ideas. This month's meeting will be Wednesday, October 22, at 11:30am at Chuy's Restaurant, Westheimer, just west of Kirby.



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# STATSCRIPT Pharmacy Ribbon Cutting A Huge Success

An absolute throng of well wishers gathered September 11 for the grand opening and ribbon cutting for STATSCRIPT's newest location at 3407 Montrose. Those enjoying great food, drink and camaraderie included STATSCRIPT's Perry Anderson, corporate president; Charles Bice, pharmacy coordinator, from Kansas City; Annise Parker, City Council candidate; Coy Tow, GHGLCC president; and a host of others.

Congratulations to Bill Southward, R.Ph. on his new location.



◀ Charles Bice, Bill Southward and Perry Anderson



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# Home Equity Borrowing for Small Businesses—Not Just Swimming Pools!

by Debra Danburg

State Representative--House District 137

Do you realize that Texas is the only state in the entire nation where homeowners can use the equity to buy a swimming pool but not start a small business? This is ridiculous! I'm no economist, but I feel very confident saying that small businesses contribute more to the economy than swimming pools.

Right now in Texas, laws almost as old as the Alamo limit equity borrowing to home improvements or paying taxes. To me, this just doesn't make sense. The equity in my home belongs to me and no one else. And, I should have the right to use it to start a new business, to finance a college education--or any way I please.

I have spent 14 years of hard work to change 150 years of government over-reaching "protectionism." In what many observers are calling the most significant property rights issue in years, we have passed legislation placing home equity reform on the statewide ballot in November. We will have the opportunity to unlock the equity in our homes by voting in favor of Proposition 8, the home equity constitutional amendment.

While polls indicate that an overwhelming majority of Texans support home equity reform, constitutional amendment elections in Texas are typically plagued with low voter turnout. When less than 15% of registered voters cast out ballots, anything can happen. That's why it's important for the small business community to actively support Proposition 8.

Small businesses are the biggest source of economic growth in Texas. According to State Comptroller John Sharp, more than \$375 million in additional borrowing power would flow to businesses as a result of home equity reform.

Home equity reform is particularly important for

small business owners, so much that:

- The 1996 Governor's Conference on Small Business made the issue its top priority for the past legislative session.
- The Texas Association of Businesses and Chambers of Commerce, The Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce and the Texas Association of African American Chambers of Commerce, and the Texas Economic Development Council have all endorsed it. Hopefully, this organization will, as well.
- A recent national survey conducted by the University of Michigan found that use of home equity borrowing for small business jumped from 7% to 28% over the past decade.

In addition, Texas is the only state that includes business property in its homestead restrictions, which prohibits small business from borrowing against their business premises. In any other state, a business's property would serve as another source of capital, but not in Texas. This unnecessary, outdated restriction is yet another reason small-business owners support Proposition 8 and home equity reform.

Passage of Proposition 8 will mean more availability of business capital, lower interest rates on collateralized consumer borrowing, the ability to write off interest and lower taxes paid to the IRS, and the ability for Texans to manage our own financial decisions, without this "big government" restriction.

Texans don't want someone else telling us what to do with our money. It's our equity, and we should decide how to use it. Texans should pass Proposition 8 on November 4, so that people can use home equity borrowing for small business or a college education, not just swimming pools.



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# Special Interest Group

## Steering Committee

Special "thanks" for all participants in our first committee meeting held on September 10! We had a very quick and productive meeting where we more specifically defined our mission. It is as follows. The Special Interest Group Steering Committee promotes and facilitates activities and topics which allow the flow of information to our membership, the gay and lesbian community, and all supporting individuals and businesses.

Our committee is formed to assist our members to make events, discussion groups and/or meetings happen! Examples may include business seminars, business networking events, social gatherings, discussion groups, or possibly "town meetings." Each function will have a com-

mon thread or "key interest" topic-- most likely, but necessarily related to business.

If you have an idea or interest to meet with "people of the same profession," or know of someone who would like to present information or would like to assist with developing an event, please contact our committee.

We want to start dispersing information! We are beginning to post events in a database and on the calendar. This information will be published to our membership, chamber committees and/or community.

Please call me at 713-528-7654 any time of the day for further information or to present new or alternative ideas.

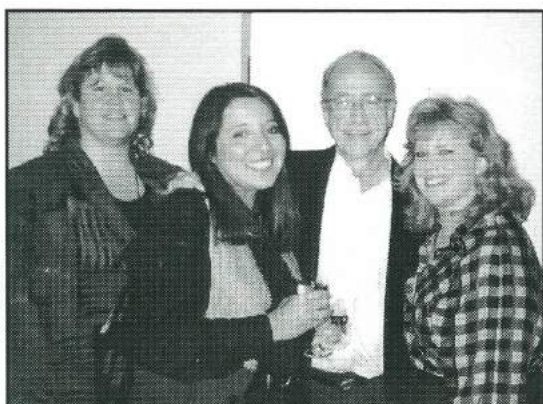
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## Member Sightings

Dayna Steele, Houston's Queen of Talk, was the featured speaker at our September dinner meeting, an avid supporter of the gay and lesbian community. Dayna will also do interviews at EMPOWER '97 on Saturday, October 11th. Listen to her show Monday-Friday, 10am/noon on KRTK-FM 97.1. Check our advertising on 97 Talk...it's very affordable. Call 713-626-9785 for more information. Dayna is seen here with Vice President, Sandra Wilkins.



▲ Stephanie Scott and Shirley Pettis.



▶ Lea Bogle, Anita Renteria, Richard Wiederholt and Debbie Phinney.



▶ Kim Arlington and Scott Garrison



▲ Welcome GHGLCC new members Julie and George Froming, owners of IMAGE CLEANERS, writing their check for membership and a booth at EMPOWER '97. Visit their booth at EMPOWER '97, and take all your clothes to their new location at 3407 Montrose for quality dry cleaning! Support those who support our community.



# Get Social

by Cary Russell

The networking breakfast recently held at the Fox Diner was a great success. A special thank you goes out to Tom Williams, owner, for opening up in the early a.m. just for us.

If you have not taken advantage of the networking breakfast, you should do so at the next breakfast to be held on October 21st at 7:30 a.m. at LePeep on Shepherd.

Plan on being at Coy Tow's Uniglobe Travel October 18 for a Business Mixer. Last year Coy put on quite a show, so don't miss out this year.

Mark your calendar for October 25, Saturday 7:30 pm to be at the home of yours truly, Cary Russell and Rufus Sharpe as we open up our home to Chamber members, my previous customers, present customers, future customers, in-laws, out-laws, neighbors, friends, relatives and even ex's.

Check the calendar for upcoming events, we will be including many different items of interest in the months to come. If you have information on any event you would like to be included in this article and on the calendar, please give me a call at 713-777-8773 or fax me at 713-777-8774. You can also reach me by email at [gaybroker@aol.com](mailto:gaybroker@aol.com).

We will be planning many events in the very near future, many of which will include but not limited to the following: Camping Trip, Casino Trip, Cards and Board Game Night, Bowling Night, Golfing, Fishing Trip, Beach Trip, Hunting Trip, Ski Trip, Restaurant Excursions, Movie Night, Theater Night, Opera Night and More!

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact me and I will be more than happy to include your idea, event, suggestion or social news in this column and on the calendar.

Just a bit of trivia before I go. If the White House were for sale, what would it be worth? The home is 42,840 square feet and is on 18 acres of prime property in the heart of a commercial area and would likely be valued at \$64 million. It has 132 rooms, 32 bathrooms and a finished basement. The original cost of the home was \$232,372 in the late 1700's. A buyer would need an annual income of \$26 million to afford the \$600,000 monthly payment. T.T.F.N.



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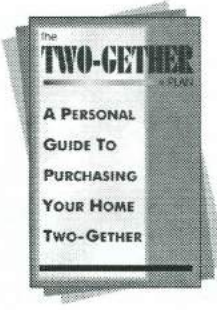
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**October 11th  
10 am - 6 pm**

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# **Empower '97 Ready to Go October 11**

*by Anita Renteria*

Debbie and I can't tell you how excited we are about EMPOWER '97. We have gotten an incredible response from companies like Shell Oil (sponsor), Texas Commerce Bank, American Express Financial, and even Microsoft. The program cover, designed by artist Kermit Eisenhut, is beautiful and is featured on posters in over 75 locations advertising the event. Radio promotion begins two weeks prior, and print ads continue through October 11. This week, I'd like to share with you the exciting line-up of entertainment for the day. In addition to the entertainment, informative seminars on topics such as relationships and finance and home buying will take place throughout the day—all free with your donation to Stone Soup Pantry!

**VERY IMPORTANT!!!** You **MUST** attend the event to qualify for Judy Tenuta admission. Upon registration, attendees will receive a "bingo" card—collect 25 stamps from exhibitors, and the card is redeemable for admission to Judy Tenuta! **SEATING WILL BE LIMITED!!! COME EARLY TO ENSURE YOUR ADMISSION!!**

**See you there!!!**

*Anita Renteria & Debbie Phinney  
Co-chairs*

## **Schedule of Workshops**

### **SCHEDULE FOR ROOM #1**

**11 AM: FINDING LOVE & KEEPING IT ALIVE #1:** A Gay Male Couples Forum How do I find the right one and make it last? Gay male couples, of different ages and from many walks of life, will tell the story of how they met, the dating process and how they make their relationship work in the rough and tumble 1990's. Questions from the audience will follow the panel presentation. (PRESENTED BY THE MONTROSE COUNSELING CENTER)

**12 NOON: FINDING LOVE & KEEPING IT ALIVE #2:** A Lesbian Couples Forum How do you find the right person? And once you find her, how do you keep the relationship healthy and happy? A diverse panel of lesbian couples will share their own stories of meeting, dating, and making a life together, followed by questions and answers. (PRESENTED BY THE MONTROSE COUNSELING CENTER)

**1 PM: TWO-GETHER: BUYING A HOME:** One of the city's top real estate brokers will share some of his ideas on home buying for the Gay/Lesbian couple. Cary Russell has put together a very helpful brochure on home buying entitled: "Two-Gether: Buying a Home". Also on the program is a mortgage broker and financial planner to answer your home buying questions. (PRESENTED BY CARY RUSSELL OF PRUDENTIAL PROPERTIES)

**2 PM: TRAVEL & PLAY THE GAY WAY!** What are the Gay and Lesbian travel options in 1998? Thinking about going the Gay Games, Gay Cruises, Gay Mardi Gras, or Circuit Parties? Don't miss this fun filled session of leisure ideas! (PRESENTED BY COYTOW & UNIGLOBE FIRST CHOICE TRAVEL)

**3 PM: 7 MAIN REASONS PEOPLE FAIL FINANCIALLY** What am I doing wrong in my financial planning? What am I doing right? Will I ever be able to retire financially secure? What kind of investments are best for me? How do I find a really good financial planner? Get answers to these and your own personal financial planning and investment questions from two of this city's top certified financial planners (according to Worth Magazine). (PRESENTED BY BILL GREEN, CFP, CPA OF GREEN/WHITE ADVISORS)

**4 PM: SINGLE AND READY TO LOVE - WHERE IS THE RIGHT ONE?** Loving should be fun, easy, satisfying and secure. A major part is in finding the right partner. Do you wonder why you fall in love with people who are wrong for you; aren't attracted to the ones who are attracted to you; worry that loving is too hard? Houston psychotherapist, Tony Carroll has helped hundreds of lesbian and gay people have the wonderful experience of living and loving happily. He is noted for presenting information clearly in a warm, light hearted, common sense fashion. (PRESENTED BY TONY CARROLL, LMSW-ACP, PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATES)





# Empower '97

Ge  
Con

## It's Fun...and It's Final

### Schedule of Workshops

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### Schedule of Workshops

#### Schedule for Room #2:

##### 11 AM: FINANCIAL STRATEGIES FOR GAY MEN AND LESBIANS

This presentation is designed to give a general overview of financial planning techniques and the specific issues that pertain to gay men and lesbians. It will include such issues as cash flow planning, protection planning, investments, retirement planning and estate planning. (PRESENTED BY ERICA LYN FRENCH OF AMERICAN EXPRESS FINANCIAL ADVISORS)

**12 NOON: INVESTING IN YOUR HEALTH** Achieve your dreams and a balanced lifestyle. Using magnetic and infrared technology, these all natural products aid in quality sleep, increased energy and reduced stress. Used by pro-sports teams, Olympic athletes and doctors. (PRESENTED BY DR. NORRI J. COLLIER, CHIROPRACTOR)

**1 PM: DEPRESSION IN OUR COMMUNITY** Dr. Kimberly Arlinghaus, Associate Chief of Psychiatry at Houston VA Medical Center, will discuss the incidence of depression in gay men and women. Her talk will focus on the signs and symptoms of depression, its different causes and forms, life stresses that give rise to depression, and treatment for depression. (PRESENTED BY DR. KIMBERLY ARLINGHAUS)

**2 PM: CREATING FAMILIES - NEW TRENDS IN GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY LAW** Discussion of how the Texas Family Code can be used by same-sex couples to create families and facilitate the sharing of parenting rights and responsibilities. Specific items that will be discussed include: Contested and Uncontested Custody, Adoptions, Managing Conservatorships, and Donor Insemination. (PRESENTED BY CONNIE MOORE OF MOORE & HUNT, ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW)

**3 PM: LESBIAN/GAY/BICUSPID ISSUES DENTAL HOME CARE STRATEGIES (that will save you money!)** To floss or not to floss, that is the question! Can HIV be transmitted by kissing? What is the latest information on personal dental care---what works and what doesn't? New cosmetic procedures that can transform your smile---polished pearls or modest molars. Are filling containing mercury dangerous? These items and more plus all your dental questions answered. (PRESENTED BY BRUCE W. SMITH, D.D.S.)

**4 PM: SO YOU WANT TO "PLAY THE MARKET"....** For the last few years all people have heard is how strong the U.S. financial markets have been. This workshop will discuss risk and reward, prudent investment strategies, and basic concepts of investing and financial planning. We will also discuss the concepts of "gay-friendly" investing. (PRESENTED BY SCOTT GARRISON OF MERRILL, LYNCH)



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## Schedule of Workshops

Schedule for Room #2:

### 11 AM: FINANCIAL STRATEGIES FOR GAY MEN AND LESBIANS

This presentation is designed to give a general overview of financial planning techniques and the specific issues that pertain to gay men and lesbians. It will include such issues as cash flow planning, protection planning, investments, retirement planning and estate planning. (PRESENTED BY ERICA LYN FRENCH OF AMERICAN EXPRESS FINANCIAL ADVISORS)

**12 NOON: INVESTING IN YOUR HEALTH** Achieve your dreams and a balanced lifestyle. Using magnetic and infrared technology, these all natural products aid in quality sleep, increased energy and reduced stress. Used by pro-sports teams, Olympic athletes and doctors. (PRESENTED BY DR. NORRI J. COLLIER, CHIROPRACTOR)

**1 PM: DEPRESSION IN OUR COMMUNITY** Dr. Kimberly Arlinghaus, Associate Chief of Psychiatry at Houston VA Medical Center, will discuss the incidence of depression in gay men and women. Her talk will focus on the signs and symptoms of depression, its different causes and forms, life stresses that give rise to depression, and treatment for depression. (PRESENTED BY DR. KIMBERLY ARLINGHAUS)

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## Tentative Schedule

- 10:00** EMPOWER opening procession with Houston Pride Band
- 10:20** Welcome to EMPOWER '97 by Cow Tow, GHGLCC president
- 10:30** Second Community Partnership meeting; all organizations welcome
- 12:00** New October! Lesbian rock band
- 12:30** Fashion Show; organized by Basic Brothers
- 1:00** Dayna Steele, from 97 Talk Radio interviews New York's Dan Baker, co-author of *Cracking the Corporate Closet*; Dr. Kimberly Arlinghaus, MD, psychiatrist, on coming out as a professional; Rick Schroder, Shell Oil, on SeaShell, the gay and lesbian employee group; and Suzanne Anderson, on being an out lesbian business owner.
- During breaks between interviews, string trio Shades of Gray will perform.*
- 3:00** Vicki Shaw, comedienne extraordinaire
- 3:30** Music Express-Karaoke, musical group and D.J.
- 4:30** Hightailers; Gulf coast rock and blues-swamp boogie!!
- 6:00** Trade Show exhibits close
- 6:30** Gay Comedy Jam (Kevin Maye and Scott Kennedy), Nancy Ford, and **JUDY TENUTA!!**

**VERY IMPORTANT!!!: You MUST attend the event to qualify for Judy Tenuta admission. Upon registration, attendees will receive a "bingo" card - collect 25 stamps from exhibitors, and the card is redeemable for admission to Judy Tenuta! SEATING WILL BE LIMITED!!! COME EARLY TO ENSURE YOUR ADMISSION!!**



**PRESIDENT** continued from page 2

tions, and organizations who share our mission. We are committed to a day that Houston will be known throughout the world as a progressive gay and lesbian community that works as a cohesive unit for the benefit of the community at large. A community empowered by the very thought that each day is a day worth making a difference for the common good!

I am certainly aware that within the gay and lesbian community of Houston, there are so many outstanding organizations or causes that demand each of our time and money. My feeling is that no greater mission will help our community accomplish the recognition and respect than unity. If every member would simply participate in one committee and work toward the common mission, we will see dramatic results in the next year.

We are about to elect new board members to lead this organization in this great task, and we need to carefully consider each person's commitment and ability to do what it takes to deliver results that will benefit each of us as members and in turn our community at large. We will soon be appointing new chairs to lead the committees and asking for volunteers to fill each so that we can have the strength of numbers as we move into 1998. I hope that you will personally consider making the Chamber a priority in your commitments for the New Year!

We all have the opportunity to affect the community around us at EMPOWER '97 on October 11, 1997. We all need to be present in whatever capacity possible to assure the success of the event. We all can use this day as a true celebration of our accomplishments this year and a beginning of the incredible Chamber that each of us is building. Take time to call your friends, send out letters or cards, make announcements at your clubs and organizational meetings, Empower '97 is the beginning of Houston's coming-out story!

**DANBURG** continued from page 1

awards and honors for her hard work. She has been recognized for excellence in service by numerous local, state and national organizations including: Common Cause, Planned Parenthood, Texas Human Rights Campaign Fund, Houston Area Women's Center, Texas Council on Family Violence, Sierra Club, Combined Law Enforcement Association of Texas, Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus, Houston Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, Texas Municipal League, and the Federation of Houston Professional Women. She was also named "Best Legislator" by *Houston City* magazine. In October of 1997 she will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas.

Rep. Danburg is one of the most prolific and successful state representatives in authoring and passing legislation. During the course of her career, Rep. Danburg has authored and passed bills covering a wide range of topics including crime, women's rights, gay and lesbian rights, civic/community issues, the arts, consumer protection, the environment, health care, elections and ethics, and higher education.

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ATTORNEY AT LAW  
MEDIATOR

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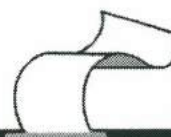
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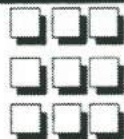
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# Announcements

## Notes From the Board

The board of directors is always available to listen to your ideas, suggestions, or concerns about our growing organization. If you would like to address the board at a board meeting, call the hotline at (713) 523-7576 and ask to be put on the agenda to speak at a board meeting held the 3rd Monday of each month.

The board is currently looking for members interested in becoming more involved in our Chamber. If you are interested in participating, or you know of anyone who is, please contact President Coy Tow at Uniglobe First Choice Travel at 713-667-0580. Positions available include committee chairs, committee members, and/or any other assistance a member would be willing to provide to the Chamber.

## Newsletter Advertising

Here we *grow*! Our newsletter has increased to 12 pages, thanks to member advertising and article contributions. Remember, this is *your* newsletter, so if you have a submission you'd like included, contact the newsletter committee.

A one-month business card-size ad is only \$30. If you reserve between 3-6 months, the monthly rate is only \$25, and if you reserve space for 7-12 months, your monthly rate is only \$20. Call Marion E. Coleman at the House of Coleman at 713-523-2521, or Victor Perea at CreADtive Unlimited® at 713-526-5190.

## Welcome New Members!

Jason Bothe ..... Intertex Massage & Personal  
Randy Bratsven ..... Therapeutic Massage & Personal  
Richard Collins ..... Internet Ad Agency  
Trudy Denny ..... Mary Kay  
Kyle Fair ..... Adult Video Megaplexxx  
Susan Fair ..... LHI  
Roger Howard ..... River Oaks Antique Center  
Jackie Ingersoll ..... Protheses Hair Service  
L.A. Jackson ..... Classic Dental LPC  
Erika Lawson ..... Shades of Grey  
Gabriel Tran ..... Gabriel Tran Photography  
Daylee Snell, D.C. .... Chiropractor  
Q. VanBenschoten ..... Stages Repertory Theatre  
Nelson Vergel ..... Program for Wellness Restoration  
Richard Wiederholt ..... Body Positive Houston

# GHGLCC

1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178  
Houston, Texas 77006

Address Correction Requested



# GHGLCC NEWS

## the impact network

NOVEMBER, 1997

VOL 2, ISSUE 11



GREATER HOUSTON  
GAY & LESBIAN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### Board of Directors

#### President

Coy Tow

#### Vice President

Sandra B. Wilkins, M.A.

#### Treasurer

Bill Green, CPA, CFP

#### Secretary

Laura Hudman

Suzanne Anderson

Tony Carroll

Marion E. Coleman

Cheryl Conner

Dan DiDonato

Joyce Gayles

Patrick McKee

#### Administrator

Kevin Davidson

#### Membership Co-Chairs

Scott Garrison

Patrick McKee

#### Communications

Dan DiDonato

#### Community Affairs

Cheryl Conner

#### Finance

Bill Green, CPA, CFP

#### Program

Joyce Gayles

Tony Carroll

#### Social

Ken Council

Helene Rouse

#### Ethics and Legal

Dale Englefield

Debra Hunt

#### Annual Membership Dues

Individual \$100.00

Business \$175.00

Corporation \$500.00

For membership information call

**713.523.7576**

1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178  
Houston, Texas 77006

# PFLAG

## HOUSTON

### Speaks to the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce at the November Dinner Meeting

Monday, November 3, 6pm

Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main St.

Dan and Susan Upchurch, current co-presidents of PFLAG Houston will present a lively discussion about the national organization and how PFLAG Houston is fulfilling its mission within our city.

Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), an international organization, works to create a society that is respectful of the diversity of human beings, educates the public about homosexuality, and fosters understanding of gay men, lesbians, and their families.

Their Mission: Support, Education, and Advocacy.

Supporting Families: PFLAG works to keep families in loving relationships by helping them understand and support their gay, lesbian and bisexual members.

Educating the Public: PFLAG seeks to dispel the myths and misinformation about homosexuality by working with educators, community groups and the general public.

*PFLAG continued on page 11*

**RSVP is required by November 2 at 713-523-7576. PLEASE NOTE:** If you fail to RSVP for the dinner meeting, members will incur an additional \$5 charge when you sign in. It's extremely important for us to coordinate our number of participants with the hotel. Please be responsible and make the RSVP call! The cost for the dinner meeting is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members or guests. Valet parking at the Warwick is \$3 if you mention you're attending the GHGLCC meeting. Free parking is available in the "self-parking" lot for Warwick on Fannin.

The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce was formed to foster and promote the economic development and vitality of gay, lesbian and supportive businesses and professional organizations in the greater Houston area. The Chamber facilitates the exchange of ideas, resources, information and networking opportunities with its members. By providing opportunities for the personal, professional and social growth of its members, the Chamber promotes a positive image of the diversity of gay and lesbian citizens and further strengthens our position in society. Membership in this organization in no way infers sexual orientation, preference, or gender identity.



# Committee Reports

## Newsletter

Chaired by Marion E. Coleman, this committee's primary focus is to inform the general membership and its guests of upcoming events within our organization. Please contact Marion at the House of Coleman (713-523-2521) for more information or if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. Please remember: The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and Chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber board meeting (3rd Monday of each month), no exceptions.

## Internet

Our domain hosting is now registered at NeoSoft, one of the largest internet providers within the Houston/New Orleans areas. Please view our site at <http://www.GHGLCC.org> and watch us grow! Want your site linked on the Chamber's Business Directory? We only ask that you provide a reciprocal link to the Chamber's Web Page! Fair enough? Please email our webmaster, Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics at [info@GHGLCC.org](mailto:info@GHGLCC.org) with all the details (i.e. URL's, name, contact numbers, etc. or for further information landlink is 713-528-7654.

## Resource Guide/Directory

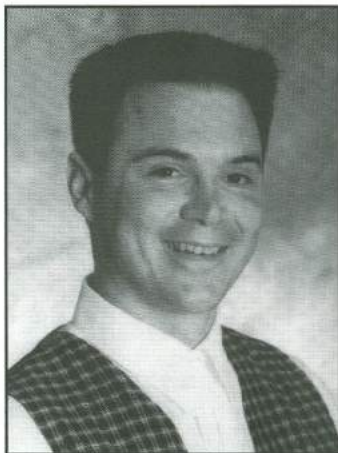
Chaired by J.C. Michelak (Houston Voice), this committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Community in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact J.C. at the Houston Voice at 713-529-8490.

## Public Relations

This revived committee is chaired by Houston Voice Editor J.C. Michalek. Call J.C. at the Houston Voice at 713-529-8490 for more information on how you can help out on this committee.

## Community Affairs

The Community Affairs Committee is chaired by Cheryl Conner and consists of three sub-committees: Community Partnership, Gay Pride Parade, and Business Expo (chaired by Anita Renteria). Please call Cheryl at 713-432-0705 if you're interested. The next committee meeting time and location are to be announced.



# President's Message

by Coy Tow

What a celebration EMPOWER '97 turned out to be! The media continues to print rave reviews that include how professional and well-organized the event was. The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce was showcased in a manner where all the advertising and public relations defined our organization as one of dedication to community and economic power!

When Debbie Phinney and Anita Renteria volunteered to co-chair Empower '97 last November with a proposal and a huge amount of enthusiasm, the board quickly and unanimously added their names to the project and then sat back to see what transpired. None of us, including Anita and Debbie, understood the magnitude of this project or the public relations challenge that stood in the way. The incredible duo co-chairs went about their work and began to rally the support of sponsors and vendors in spite of much reluctance on the part of many who had experienced other failed events in the past.

for the past several months Debbie and Anita endured many nights without sleep, phone calls from many people with many opinions and questions, and continued to conquer obstacle after obstacle. I remember just before the first major payments to the George Brown Convention Center were due, many people were beginning to doubt if this incredibly immense project would even be possible. Anita and Debbie were searching for support and assistance from all of us, and only a few were actually lending the needed assistance. The moment of truth was at hand where we as a Chamber had to decide if we have what it takes to rise to the occasion and lead against the odds.

I am proud to say that this Chamber and this community came together to provide the city of Houston an opportunity to experience an event that not only highlighted the businesses but also many of the outstanding service organizations. This was Houston's coming out party, and already people throughout the community are talking about being involved with Empower '98. Anita and Debbie have positioned the Chamber as a major community leader and we can never repay them for their inspirational dedication. Thank you, ladies, from all of us!

We are certainly positioned well to make incredible progress in 1998 as we continue to build membership, increase benefits, improve participation, and reach out and promote Houston to the world. Please carefully consider your personal contributions and become involved in the dynamic committees that make the organization great. I hope to see all of you at the November meeting so that we can elect four new board members from an incredibly talented list of nominees.





## Vice President's Message

by Sandra Wilkins

October 11th was quite a day in the history of GHGLCC. No doubt all of our heads and hearts are swelled with pride at the huge success of

EMPOWER '97. On a very nasty, rainy day 1,500 to 2,000 folks attended the expo, netting over 1500 pounds of food for AFH's Stone Soup Pantry, and lots of happy gay and gay-supportive people visiting the exhibitor's booths. I've never seen so many cheerful, upbeat souls in one place at one time to champion the economic power of the gay community. The vendors were happy; the entertainers were happy; the organizers were happy; the participants were happy.

As Curt Morrison said in the *Houston Voice*, "...the infamous fiasco of both Spectrums..." has been put to rest. What GHGLCC accomplished with Empower '97 has set a precedent for excellence for future years.

It also raised the profile and highlighted the influence our Chamber has, not only in our gay and lesbian community, but across the city and country as well. Additionally, we gained some fine new members to GHGLCC, bringing fresh ideas and a spirited dedication to our growth.

As we approach our annual meeting on Monday night, November 3, we should realize the importance of electing new members to the board of Directors. Our future growth and success will depend on the quality, dedication and energy the new members will bring to the existing board. It is vitally important for all members to attend this meeting, and make conscientious choices as they vote for their new board members.

So, call in your RSVP, bring guests, say thank you to Anita and Debbie for their Empower '97 achievement, and vote to make GHGLCC stronger than ever!

## Committee Reports

### Membership

Stephanie McGhee and Scott Garrison have been working on a membership directory. Target completion date is mid October. You asked for it...our committee delivers!

Attendance at our networking breakfasts has grown steadily. September's event at the Fox Diner was a well attended (double-digits) and well received. Our thanks to Fox Diner (Chamber members) for opening their doors early for us.

We have been happily welcoming many new members! Several of our new affiliates have chosen to join in conjunction with buying a booth at Empower '97. Frankly, my dear, we don't care why you join...we just care that you do!

And the membership committee is always wanting something...We want you as a Chamber member. We want you to renew your membership. We want you on our committee. But we also want to know what you want!

Please call either Patrick at 713-668-6069 or Scott at 713-840-4816 with any ideas. This month's meeting will be Wednesday, October 22, at 11:30am at Chuy's Restaurant, Westheimer, just west of Kirby.

What I want most from my GHGLCC in 1997 is...

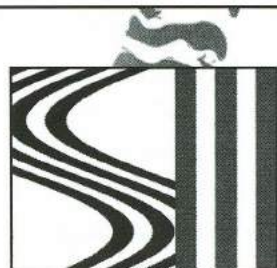
To achieve this, I suggest...

I'm willing to work on the appropriate committee to achieve this goal:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax ( ) \_\_\_\_\_



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# Bill Green Listed in *WORTH* Magazine's One of the Nation's Top 250 Financial Advisors

Who's the best person to help you manage your money? *WORTH* magazine tells you with its October issue, revealing the country's top 25 financial planners. Chamber member and Treasurer William L. Green, CPA, CFP is included on that list.

In a largely unregulated business, each advisor was subject to an intense review process. *WORTH's* criteria for excellence met steep tests: thorough background and credit checks, persona and client references, data on education, job history and credentials, method of compensations (the list favors fee-only), samples of contracts with clients, and original credit reports on each nominee. The bottom line question: Would you recommend this advisor to your parents?

In 1994, *WORTH* published the first list of the country's top 60 financial advisors, when there were less than 100,000 people calling themselves financial planners. In 1996, the list was updated and broadened to 200. The

advisory field has more than tripled since 1994, to over 300,000. *WORTH* editors revisited the advisors selected from last year, accepted several hundred new nominations for review, and expanded geographical coverage so readers can select a planner near to them.

Bill Green was included in the list both last year and again this year. His firm, Green/White Advisors, is located at 1225 N. Loop W., Suite 1030. His telephone number is 713-869-1144, extension 11. Beside his involvement in the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Bill is on the Board of Directors of the Montrose Counseling Center, and is a member of EPAH. "I'm very pleased to be on the list of top planners once again. I love this business. It's a lot of fun for me working with clients of all type and financial goals. And, it's kind of nice for members of our community to have this type of professional recognition."

## Gay Press Emerges as Fastest Growing Ad Market

Advertising spending in the gay press reached \$100.2 million this year, a 35.9% increase over 1996, according to the fourth annual Mulryan/Nash Gay Press Report, a national study of ad spending and editorial content in the 138 gay-targeted print publications across the U.S.

"According to our calculations, the gay press has once more emerged as the fastest growing print/ad market in the U.S.," stated Dave Mulryan, partner of Mylryan/Nash. "For the past three consecutive years, gay-press ad revenues have grown faster than those, in both mainstream press and other niche markets." In comparison, he noted, ad revenues in mainstream newspapers grew just 12.9% over 1996, as reported by the Newspaper Association of America, and ad spending in mainstream magazines grew 11.2% according to

the Publisher's Information Bureau. Meanwhile, as revenues in the Hispanic press grew 11% according to Hispanic Business News and advertising directed at African Americans grew an estimated 2.1% according to Target Market News (no print-only breakdown was available).

Meanwhile, mainstream advertisers continued to show a strong commitment to the gay press. Among the big-name, first-time advertisers in 1997 were the generally-conservative Aetna Retirement Services, American Express Financial Services, and IBM. HBO and the Sundance Channel also appeared for the first time, as did the airlines United and Continental. And in the fashion category Perry Ellis, Joe Boxer, Prada and Dolce & Gabbana all placed ads.

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# Empower '97

## NEWSLETTER BULLETIN

After tons of work and lots of anticipation, EMPOWER '97 finally arrived. Saturday, October 11 was a tremendous day for the GHGLCC and the gay and lesbian community in Houston. Crowd attendance is estimated at 1,500 despite the pouring rain. Counting the exhibitors (100 companies at 137 booths), volunteers from various organizations, and entertainers, at least 2,000 people enjoyed the event.

The AFH informed us by phone last week that we raised 1,500 lbs of food for Stone Soup Pantry, plus almost \$200.00 in cash donations (which will buy twice that in food). All feedback has been very positive from vendors and attendees. Most of the comments are about the excellent organization of EMPOWER '97 and the professionalism and appearance of the show. Vendors have reported new business in the form of sales at the expo and new clients for future business, as well as great leads.

We were proud of a lot that day, but especially of the care most exhibitors took in decorating and presenting their booths. We looked GOOD!! We were also proud of the attendees who came out despite the rain, and who spent such quality time going to each booth and talk-

ing with each vendor. Even the George R. Brown and the GES Exhibition company staff were impressed, and they see a lot of shows.

There were a couple of disappointments—notably, KHMIX Mix 96.5 did not provide any of the on-air promotion we were promised in exchange for their media sponsorship. They received a lot of publicity from our advertising, but did not meet their obligations to us, and so were asked to pay for their booth or leave the show. They chose to leave. Their loss!

The evening comedy performance was terrific. Each performer was hilarious, but the headliner, Judy Tenuta, blew the crowd away! Judy performed for almost an hour and a half and had the crowd rolling in the aisles the whole time.

If you missed EMPOWER '97, you missed more than a business expo. The feeling of goodwill and pride and energy in the GRB that day was phenomenal. It was a fantastic day for the GHGLCC, the community, and for business!

If you are interested in participating in EMPOWER '98, please contact us at the EMPOWER hotline, 713-462-1354.

## See you at Empower '98



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# A Letter of Thanks

October 13, 1997

Mr. Coy Tow, President-Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce  
1109 Hyde Park, #178, Houston, TX 77006

Dear Mr. Tow:

On behalf of AIDS Foundation Houston (AFH) and our food assistance program, Stone Soup I would like to extend a heart-felt thanks to you and the entire Chamber for your generous support. Through Empower '97, we collected over 1,000 pounds of food and \$187.00 (that will purchase over \$375.00 of food) for our clients.

I would also like to extend a special thanks to Debbie Phinney and Anita Renteria for the tremendous job they did in organizing Empower '97. They should be commended for all the hard work and dedication that went into making Empower '97 the success that is was.

Stone Soup has a very simple and clear mission: to provide supplemental food, household supplies and toiletries to low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS. Stone Soup served over 1,000 clients last year and expects to see a minimum of a 10% increase in that number for 1997. In Houston, one in 90 people is said to be infected with HIV. People living with HIV/AIDS often face the loss of jobs, discrimination and rejection from family and friends. They find themselves frequently without resources for housing, transportation, food, utilities, health care and companionship. With your tremendous support, AFH can continue to respond to the needs of people living with AIDS/HIV.

Sincerely,  
Sara Speer Selber  
Executive Director

## Member Profiles

### Cary Russell - Prudential Premier Properties



*by Mark Greinert*

Cary Russell has been a member of the community for all his life. He became a member of the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce because he likes to network and socialize with gay business people.

Cary is also a member of Houston Association of Realtors

and the Texas Association of Realtors. He has a BBA in finance.

Cary has many hobbies which include his children, yardwork, and of course his significant other and his children. When asked whom the person he would most like to emulate, he said his dad. Cary's goals are "to be the best father I can be to my kids." Cary's motto on life is "DO IT NOW!" When we asked Cary for a final thought, he said "Sell like hell and we'll all do well."

### Denise Rindhage - Neptune Pool Cleaning Service

*by Mark Greinert*

Denise Rindhage has been a member of the community for over 14 years. She became a member of the Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce because she likes to provide affordable, quality service to the community. She wants to have a successful business and have a family.

Denise has many, many hobbies. She tells us that she loves taking care of stray animals, watching movies, and

cooking.

When asked whom the person she would most like to emulate, she said her "better self."

Denise was a member of the United States Marine Corps for four years and employed with pool service companies for seven years.

Denise's motto on life is one that we all embrace, "To thine own self be true." When we asked Denise for a final thought, she said "To keep it simple, one day at a time."



# Get Social

by Cary Russell

Here's what we've got planned!

A camping trip is planned for November 15 and 16 at Wolf Creek Park in Coldsprings, Texas. Contact Cary Russell for more information at 713-777-8773.

Suzanne Anderson Properties is having her Christmas Party on December 11 from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm.

We're having a gay night at the opera featuring "Billy Budd" on February 16, 1998. Details to be announced in this column soon!

Check the calendar for upcoming events—we will be including many different items of interest in the months to come. If you have information on any event you would like to be included in this article and on the calendar, please give me a call at 713-777-8773 or fax me at 713-777-8774. You can also reach me by email at [gaybroker@aol.com](mailto:gaybroker@aol.com).

We will be planning many events in the very near future, many of which will include but not limited to the following: Camping Trip, Casino Trip, Cards and Board Game Night, Bowling Night, Golfing, Fishing Trip, Beach Trip, Hunting Trip, Ski Trip, Restaurant Excursions, Movie Night, Theater Night, Opera Night and more!

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact me and I will be more than happy to include your idea, event, suggestion or social news in this column and on the calendar.

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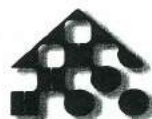
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# November Board Elections



This year, we have nine outstanding candidates running for the Board. Out of the nine candidates, you have the opportunity to vote for four.

We urge you to come to the next general meeting to hear from each of the candidates. Or, if you are unable to attend, please refer to your newsletter to read what the candidates have to say about why they are seeking leadership roles in the Chamber. Then simply send in your absentee ballot. (Kevin Davidson, Chamber Administrator included an absentee ballot in the annual packets mailed in early October.) Before voting, feel free to call any of the candidates to follow up with your questions you may have.

The Nominating Committee feels that this is a critical time for the Chamber, we need to continue our outreach to the corporate community. In the coming year we also need to continue to increase our diversity and our membership.



## Richard Bielec

I am a vice president at Texas Commerce Bank/Chase and manage the Vault Services Division. I have 18 years experience in the financial industry. During that time, I have chaired or served on numerous committees and boards, both within our corporation and in the community. I am currently the chair of Texas Commerce Bank's gay and lesbian employee networking group, the P.R.I.D.E. Team, and am on the bank's statewide Diversity Committee. I also am on the Bank's United Way steering committee and the logistics committee for next spring's citywide S.E.A.R.C.H. fund-raiser, Change Houston. I possess excellent, proven organizational and analytical skills. The GHGLCC has come a long way in a very short period of time. I want to continue that pace and help the GHGLCC and each of its members be the best that they can be.



## Scott Garrison

Working as a financial consultant has given me insight into the corporate world, along with the ability to run my own business. These concepts are what I will add to the Chamber's board, along with enthusiasm, creativity, candor, oversight, and vision. Our board needs business leaders who have worked hard, and will continue to help the Chamber grow to meet its members' needs. With your support, I would like to take our achievements to the next level. Financial Adviser, Prudential Securities, licensed and practicing in financial services for over eight years, certified financial manager, candidate for certified financial planner, bowler-Montrose Monday Night League, and treasurer of EPAH.



## Debra E. Hunt

Debra E. Hunt is a partner at Moore & Hunt, a lesbian/feminist law firm based in Houston. Debra's practice concentrates on issues important to the gay and lesbian community, including personal and estate planning, relationship dissolution disputes, real estate and contract problems, and legal matters affecting business organizations. She has assisted many for-profit and not-for-profit organizations in the Houston area with organizational and operational issues.



## Patrick McKee

As a founding board member who has participated in the Chamber's growth since its birth in the summer of 1995, I feel it is important to have a continuing role and voice in the Chamber's future. As a financial and investment professional for over 20 years in Houston, a volunteer for AIDS Foundation Houston for over 10 years, and the treasurer of HGLPC for three years, I have gained experience that I can contribute to this organization. The past year serving as Membership Committee co-chair, I have learned to listen to what members expect from the Chamber. I feel that as we grow the Chamber to be more inclusive and community-conscious, I can continue to be an effective voice on the board.



## Jan Pasternak

After receiving a message that Marion Coleman had called, I knew I was in trouble...I would be asked to do something worthwhile! Well, I was right.

I am running for the board and believe I can contribute experience, knowledge and humor to the meetings. My credentials are pretty simple. I have owned my own business, pack 'n send for over 15 years. It was the first of its kind in Houston. It is a packing, crating and shipping company that specializes in artwork, computers, glassware and furniture. Pack 'n send has done it all, everything from packing a skeleton I named Fred, to a prototype electric chair, to crating an \$850,000 piece of art. Pack 'n send has also packed or crated an airplane from an amusement park, belleek china, a drum set sent to Guadalajara, a pecan pie sent to President Reagan, and so

on and so on.

I have been a board member for two other professional organizations and was in charge of a fundraiser which brought Linda Ellerbee to town and raised several thousand dollars to help women return to college. If elected, I will become actively involved in the meetings and focus on increasing membership and generating business for our members. I would be honored to represent you, the members. Thank you in advance for your vote of confidence.





## Rick Schroder

Rick Schroder is a relative newcomer to the Houston area, having transferred here with Shell Oil Company in March 1994. Since coming out in the workplace in the fall of 1994, Rick has been very active in understanding workplace issues involving sexual orientation and has published two articles in *OutSmart* magazine on the topic.

Rick is one of the founders of SeaShell (Support, Equality and Awareness at Shell), the gay and lesbian employee group for Shell Oil Company. He's been actively involved in the growth of that organization, supporting changes to Shell's non-discrimination policy to include sexual orientation; promoting growth of SeaShell's membership; and supporting Shell's efforts to extend domestic partner benefits for eligible employees.

Rick became a charter member of the GHGLCC in January, 1996. He joined with the objective of exploring opportunities for Shell to support our community and businesses.

As a board member of the GHGLCC, Rick's goals are to pursue opportunities for promoting community partnering between Houston's corporations and the gay community, and exploring and developing opportunities to leverage the broad diversity of our community to enhance our economic growth and vitality.



## Richard Wiederholt

Richard Wiederholt, owner of Basic Brothers, has been an active member of the Houston gay and lesbian community for the past 15 years. He was a charter member of the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and has participated in many chamber committees this year including program, membership, Empower '97 and communications.

Wiederholt is also an HIV/AIDS activist in Houston. He is president of PoWeR (Program for Wellness Restoration), vice president for fundraising of Body Positive Wellness Center, vice president of the Houston HIV Forum and a charter board member of the Houston HIV Resource Group.

Diversifying the Chamber, working with corporate gay employees and increasing membership are high priorities for Wiederholt. He believes there needs to be a stronger relationship between small businesses and corporation in the Houston gay and lesbian community. He is currently heading a Corporate Membership Committee, and he is interested in developing a Mentorship Program designed for both small businesses and corporate employees.

Before owning Basic Brothers, Wiederholt spent 25 years and an educator. He was Chair of the Educational Leadership Department at the University of Houston-Clear Lake, elementary curriculum coordinator in the Alvin School District and was a junior high and high school principal in Missouri and Iowa before moving to Texas in 1978.



## Carla Valenzuela

My name is Carla Valenzuela of Sonríe Enterprises, and I am running for an open position of the GHGLCC Board of Directors. My company markets a dental plan to individuals and businesses with membership open to domestic partners and extended family members. I am a 15-year resident of Houston and a University of Texas graduate. As a board member of the GHGLCC, I hope to accomplish some of the following goals: promote the annual business exposition locally, statewide and nationally; reach out to the gay-friendly community outside Loop 610 for new membership; contribute to efforts that identify and support the needs of newly established businesses that are members of the Chamber.

I joined GHGLCC to gain information and training for new business owners, in a supportive environment. I would like to contribute my efforts toward offering the same support to other such businesses. Carla is a board member of Advocates for Planned Parenthood of Houston, and is a conference committee member of the Hispanic Women in Leadership. Her past affiliations included 15 years fundraising, conference and event planning, lobbying and public speaking for various political campaigns, professional and nonprofit organizations and has served as an officer and volunteer with many of the same organizations.



## Stewart L. Zuckerbrod, M.D.

I have been a member of the GHGLCC since its inception and am very excited about the growth of the organization in just a few short years. As a business person, I wear two hats. I am an ophthalmologist and I have a side business selling custom-designed jewelry and hand-made glass objects. Both businesses have benefited from my association with the Chamber, and in turn I have been able to give business back to other Chamber members. As a Board member, I will work to increase involvement of our arts organizations and other non-profit groups with the Chamber. I also advocate support for the Gay and Lesbian Community Center, direct involvement with the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, and other business organizations representing the community at large.

**Remember!**  
**If you can't make the meeting...**  
**Be sure to vote absentee.**



# N O V E M B E R

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

						1
2	3 Monthly Meeting Wyndham Warwick-6pm	4  Election Day	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Membership Committee 11:30 am Star Pizza 59 and Shepherd  Veterans Day	12 Community Partnership 7:00 pm Milam House 4100 Milam	13	14	15 Camping Trip November 15 and 16 at Wolf Creek Park in Coldsprings, Texas. Contact Cary Russell for more information at 713-77-8773.
16 Camping Trip November 15 and 16 at Wolf Creek Park in Coldsprings, Texas. Contact Cary Russell for more information at 713-77-8773.	17 Board Meeting Lovett Inn-6pm	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27  Thanksgiving	28	29

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# Newsletter Notes!

The newsletter committee is now accepting articles from members. If you'd like to write an article describing your business and how it can be valuable to other members and businesses, please do so and send it to either Marion E. Coleman at House of Coleman (713) 523-2521 or to Victor Perea at CreADtive Unlimited® (713) 526-5190.

We also want your input! If you have a location where you would like to see this newsletter distributed, or if you own a business and you would like for us to leave you some for your customers, please call us with your suggestions.



Advocating for Equal Rights: PFLAG works to broaden the base of support for equal human and civil rights by mobilizing millions of non-gay family members from all political, economic and social sectors of society.

## PFLAG in Houston

The Houston Chapter of PFLAG was founded in 1981, one of the 20 original chapters of the organization that now includes 400 chapters across the U.S. and in 11 countries. At the beginning of 1992, PFLAG Houston set goals of growing in membership and achieving a visible presence in the community. The chapter now counts 300 members, welcomes 120 to the monthly meetings, and has recently instituted "mid-month" meetings to accommodate members who can't attend the regular sessions.

Over the last five years, PFLAG Houston has become a widely recognized resource - highly valued by the gay community, respected by professionals, quoted by the media. We have achieved national recognition for our initiatives in education and advocacy - but we are proudest of the lifeline we offer to families.

Our members include parents, and siblings, employers, educators, clergy, gay men and lesbian, people from all walks of life who may be in search of support or willing to offer it.

## Do You Have a Web Page?

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# Announcements

## Notes From the Board

The board of directors is always available to listen to your ideas, suggestions, or concerns about our growing organization. If you would like to address the board at a board meeting, call the hotline at (713) 523-7576 and ask to be put on the agenda to speak at a board meeting held the 3rd Monday of each month.

The board is currently looking for members interested in becoming more involved in our Chamber. If you are interested in participating, or you know of anyone who is, please contact President Coy Tow at Uniglobe First Choice Travel at 713-667-0580. Positions available include committee chairs, committee members, and/or any other assistance a member would be willing to provide to the Chamber.

## Newsletter Advertising

Here we *grow*! Our newsletter has increased to 12 pages, thanks to member advertising and article contributions. Remember, this is *your* newsletter, so if you have a submission you'd like included, contact the newsletter committee.

A one-month business card-size ad is only \$30. If you reserve between 3-6 months, the monthly rate is only \$25, and if you reserve space for 7-12 months, your monthly rate is only \$20. Call Marion E. Coleman at the House of Coleman at 713-523-2521, or Victor Perea at CreADtive Unlimited® at 713-526-5190.

## Welcome New Members!

**Madeleine Manning** .....Grace Lutheran Church

**Daryl Hickman** .....Outrage, Inc.

**Jon Gossett** .....Houston Grand Opera

**Viki Gotting** .....Milam House

**Harry Livesay** .....  
.....Bering Community Services Foundation

**People with AIDS Coalition-Houston**

**Randy Mitchmore, D.D.S.** .....LifeSmiles

**Donald Browning** .....Browning, Donald M., REALTOR

**Trey Yates** .....Law Offices of Sam M. (Trey) Yates, III

**Gary Van Ooteghem** .....Van Ooteghem, Gary

# GHGLCC

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*Address Correction Requested*



# GHGLCC NEWS

## the impact network

DECEMBER, 1997

VOL 2, ISSUE 12

**Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce  
presents**

## A Holiday Dinner Buffet



**Tickets Just \$10**  
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**Monday, December 1, 6pm - 9pm**

Wyndham Warwick Hotel, 5701 Main St.

**HOLIDAY PARTY - NETWORKING - BUFFET SUPPER - STROLLING SINGERS**

*Only \$10 per person which will include a buffet dinner, cash bar, and holiday entertainment. Plus the Chamb will recognize outstanding contributions by Chamber members and community organizations. RSVP to the Chamber voice mail at 713-523-7576 or send  
RSVP to: 1109 Hyde Park, Suite 178, Houston, TX 77006.*

The December 1st Chamber meeting at the Wyndham Warwick will provide lots of time for networking with Chamber members and guests.

The entertainment for the evening will feature the Madrigal Singers for Houston's High School for the Visual and Performing Arts.

The Houston Independent School district created the internationally renowned High School for the Performing and Visual Arts to fill the special need of young people who are both gifted artists and scholastic high-achievers.

HSPVA is the first school in the Southwest to combine an outstanding academic program with intensive, highly specialized professional training for students who are talented in music, dance, theater, and the visual arts. The advanced wide-ranging curriculum is unique in correlating the arts with academics, rather than treating them as isolated disciplines. Since its opening in 1971, the school has been a model for Magnet schools throughout the U.S. and abroad.

In its 25 years of existence, HSPVA has pro-

**HSPVA continued on page 11**

**RSVP is required by December 1 at 713-523-7576. PLEASE NOTE:** If you fail to RSVP for the dinner meeting, members will incur an additional \$5 charge when you sign in. It's extremely important for us to coordinate our number of participants with the hotel. Please be responsible and make the RSVP call! The cost for the dinner meeting is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members or guests. Valet parking at the Warwick is \$3 if you mention you're attending the GHGLCC meeting. Free parking is available in the "self-parking" lot for Warwick on Fannin.

The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce was formed to foster and promote the economic development and vitality of gay, lesbian and supportive businesses and professional organizations in the greater Houston area. The Chamber facilitates the exchange of ideas, resources, information and networking opportunities with its members. By providing opportunities for the personal, professional and social growth of its members, the Chamber promotes a positive image of the diversity of gay and lesbian citizens and further strengthens our position in society. Membership in this organization in no way infers sexual orientation, preference, or gender identity.



GREATER HOUSTON  
GAY & LESBIAN  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### Board of Directors

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Coy Tow

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Sandra B. Wilkins, M.A.

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Bill Green, CPA, CFP

#### Secretary

Laura Hudman

Suzanne Anderson

Tony Carroll

Marion E. Coleman

Cheryl Conner

Dan DiDonato

Joyce Gayles

Patrick McKee

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Kevin Davidson

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Scott Garrison

Patrick McKee

#### Communications

Dan DiDonato

#### Community Affairs

Cheryl Conner

#### Finance

Bill Green, CPA, CFP

#### Program

Joyce Gayles

Tony Carroll

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Ken Council

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# Committee Reports

## Newsletter

Chaired by Marion E. Coleman, this committee's primary focus is to inform the general membership and its guests of upcoming events within our organization. Please contact Marion at the House of Coleman (713-523-2521) for more information or if you have any questions, concerns, or comments. Please remember: The deadline for committee reports, newsletter articles, and Chamber announcements is the night of the Chamber board meeting (3rd Monday of each month), no exceptions.

## Internet

Our domain hosting is now registered at NeoSoft, one of the largest internet providers within the Houston/New Orleans areas. Please view our site at <http://www.GHGLCC.org> and watch us grow! Want your site linked on the Chamber's Business Directory? We only ask that you provide a reciprocal link to the Chamber's Web Page! Fair enough? Please email our webmaster, Dan DiDonato at Preferred Graphics at [info@GHGLCC.org](mailto:info@GHGLCC.org) with all the details (i.e. URL's, name, contact numbers, etc. or for further information landlink is 713-528-7654.

## Resource Guide/Directory

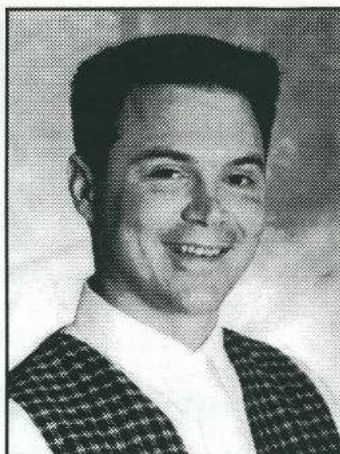
Chaired by J.C. Michelak (Houston Voice), this committee's primary responsibility is to produce a professional Marketing Brochure for the Gay and Lesbian Community in Houston and around the nation. If you are interested in advertising in the marketing brochure, please contact J.C. at the Houston Voice at 713-529-8490.

## Public Relations

This revived committee is chaired by Houston Voice Editor J.C. Michalek. Call J.C. at the Houston Voice at 713-529-8490 for more information on how you can help out on this committee.

## Community Affairs

The Community Affairs Committee is chaired by Cheryl Conner and consists of three sub-committees: Community Partnership, Gay Pride Parade, and Business Expo (chaired by Anita Renteria). Please call Cheryl at 713-432-0705 if you're interested. The next committee meeting time and location are to be announced.



# President's Message

by Coy Tow

## What a Year!

The Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce continues to thrive as we wrap up our second year of incredible success. The Chamber enters year three with a power-house of leadership and fabulous community support!

Congratulations to the newly elected board members and a very special thank you to all who attended the annual meeting to show your support to the outstanding slate of nominees. I am very thankful for the founding board members who have just finished their 2-year terms. Sandra Wilkins has always continued to drive the Chamber, often behind the scenes as she attended to so many details. Suzanne Anderson brought to the board a community insight that very few people offer and always reminded us to consider everyone in the community as we made decisions. Cheryl Conner was a crucial part of our beginning when we did not have a paid administrator as she set up our initial database and membership records. Patrick McKee was the one board member who would always call me and ask if he could help when extra work needed to be accomplished. I am proud to call all of you friends and I look forward to working with each of you on future Chamber committees.

We all are sorry to see Joyce Gayles resign from the board as she takes on additional professional responsibilities and we extend to her our best wishes! We are thankful that she plans to continue to be an active Chamber member.

On this Thanksgiving my list of gifts to be thankful for is filled with the names of the many who continue to make the Chamber thrive. With integrity, professionalism and an unmatched dedication we continue to build an organization of which we can all be proud.

Thank you for making my two years as president one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. I am confident in the new leadership and look forward to even greater success in 1998! Please come out for the holiday party on December 3, 1997, as we have much to celebrate!

## Do You Have a Web Page?

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## Vice President's Message

by Sandra Wilkins

The time has come for the founding parents of the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce to step aside and usher in the second generation of leadership. I am so pleased to hand over the Vice President's responsibilities to Richard Wiederholt, who along with the other new officers,

Anita Renteria, Bill Green and Dan DiDonato have contributed so much to our Chamber's growth and recognition.

My warmest congratulations to all the new board members and officers, and sincere best wishes for continued success.

My association with GHGLCC has been one of my life's most rewarding experiences. From the evening that seven of us sat down and decided to make this organization a reality, until the outstanding success of Empower '97, every minute of time I've spent on Chamber activities has brought me much pleasure and satisfaction.

Since the earliest days in our history, when I would produce a one-page newsletter on neon colored paper, until today when our newsletter is the best in the country, we have marched steadily toward our goals and mission, achieving remarkable success. What an enormous sense of pride I enjoy in having played a part in this progress.

I was recently talking with friends about our Chamber, and was asked what was the most important thing to me about my membership. Without doubt, it is the many new personal and professional friends I've made these past two and a half years. My partner Kim Arlinghaus and I have expanded our social circle to include wonderful new friends. We have benefited in our business lives by knowing first-rate professionals, met through GHGLCC, who now handle our banking, financial planning, medical and legal needs. My travel company has added new, savvy travelers to its client base. We are proud to have made our contributions to GHGLCC and feel richly blessed by the rewards we've reaped from our membership in this fine organization.

No doubt, 1998 will be another banner year for us. The new board and officers are dedicated to moving forward at a rapid clip to make GHGLCC the model gay and lesbian business organization in the country. I am looking forward to our continued success with high hopes and great anticipation.

My sincere thanks to our current board and officers, and to the membership at large for giving me this opportunity to serve. Happy holidays, and best wishes to all for a fantastic 1998.

What I want most from my GHGLCC in 1998 is...

To achieve this, I suggest...

I'm willing to work on the appropriate committee to achieve this goal:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## Committee Reports

### Membership Committee

Our numbers have increased significantly in 1997, and our committee has you to thank. Spurred on by a stream of new businesses and individuals joining the Chamber on the heels of Empower '97, we would like to keep the momentum going.

Additionally, we now have the corporations coming to us to become members! Several major companies have recognized not only the power of the "gay dollar," but also the strength of the community as embodied by our Chamber.

December's meeting will be at Baba Yega's restaurant, Wednesday, December 3, at 11:30 am. This will be our kick-off and strategy meeting to gear up for 1998. Your ideas will be welcome, and your attendance is encouraged.



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**Date**

**Thursday, December 11**

**Time**

**6:30 to 9:00 pm**

**Place**

**239 Westheimer**

**Entertainment**

**Sugar Plum Fairies**

**(Puppets Pizzaz)**

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# Get Social

by Cary Russell

The November 15th and 16th camping trip to Wolf Creek Park was a success and quite a bit of fun. It was cold but perfect camping



Chamber members brave some cold weather on The Social Committee's recent camping trip. another trip is being planned for April or May 1998

weather. Thanks to Bill Green and Gary, Dan DiDonato, Mitch Rainey, John Lagman, Greg Philpott, Rufus Sharpe and yours truly for sticking to the camping plan even though the weather at first was pretty bad. It cleared off about the time we got there and we had a full moon, bright stars with crisp and cool weather and beautiful sunrise the next morning.

We plan another springtime camping trip around April or May 1998.

Mark your calendars for December 11, 1997, Thursday, from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm for a Christmas Party at Suzanne Anderson Properties, 239 Westheimer.

Also, the next Networking Breakfast is going to be held December 9, 1997, Tuesday, 7:30 am at LePeep on Shepherd.

We are planning a Casino Trip to Louisiana for the end of January 1998. Details are being worked as a joint venture between the Chamber and Charles Armstrong Investments. Watch for details in upcoming newsletters and separate announcements.

Gay Night at the Opera will be February 6, 1998, featuring "Billy Budd." For more information, contact Regis Donaghey at 713-862-3650.



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# D E C E M B E R

sunday

monday

tuesday

wednesday

thursday

friday

saturday

	1 Monthly Meeting Wyndham Warwick-6pm	2	3 Chamber Membership Baba Yega's Resturant 11:30 am	4	5	6
7	8	9 Networking Breakfast 7:30 a.m. LaPeep	10	11 Christmas Party Suzanne Anderson Properties 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Board Meeting Lovett Inn-6pm	22	23	24 Hanukkah	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

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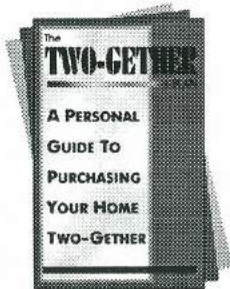
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# Newsletter Notes!

The newsletter committee is now accepting articles from members. If you'd like to write an article describing your business and how it can be valuable to other members and businesses, please do so and send it to either Marion E. Coleman at House of Coleman (713) 523-2521 or to Victor Perea at CreADtive Unlimited® (713) 526-5190.

We also want your input! If you have a location where you would like to see this newsletter distributed, or if you own a business and you would like for us to leave you some for your customers, please call us with your suggestions.



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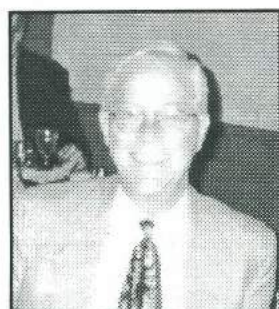
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**Richard Wiederholt**

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**Bill Green**

*Secretary*



**Dan DiDonato**

*Treasurer*

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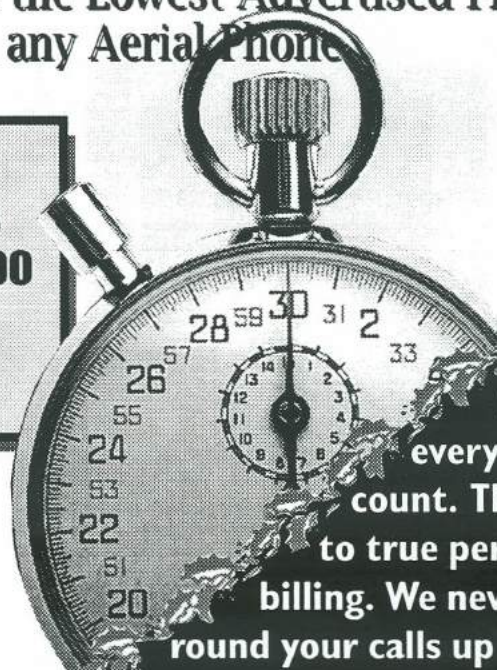
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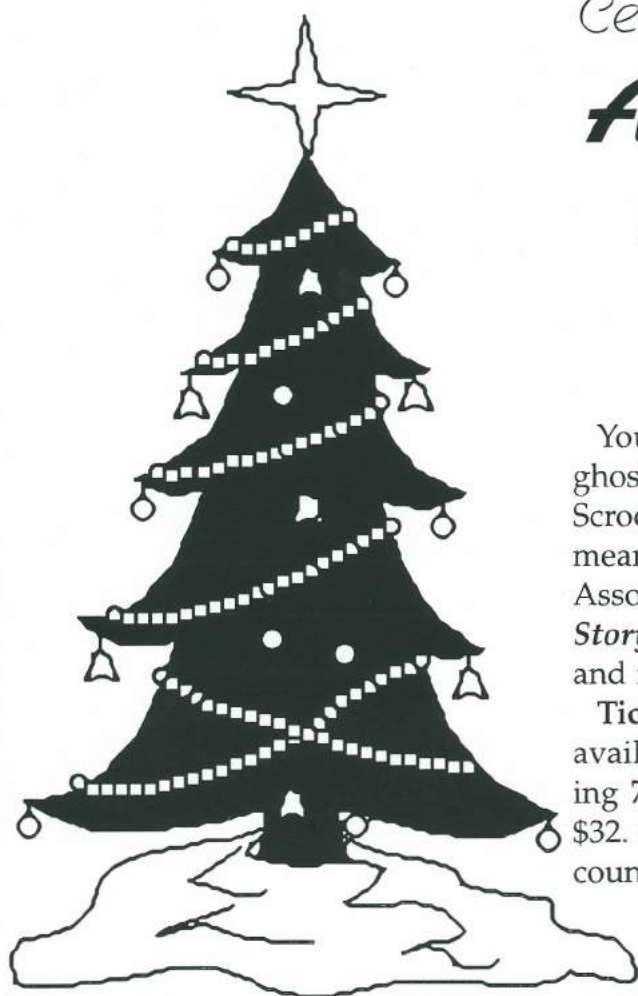


*Celebrate the Holidays with the Alley's*

# ***A Christmas Carol,***

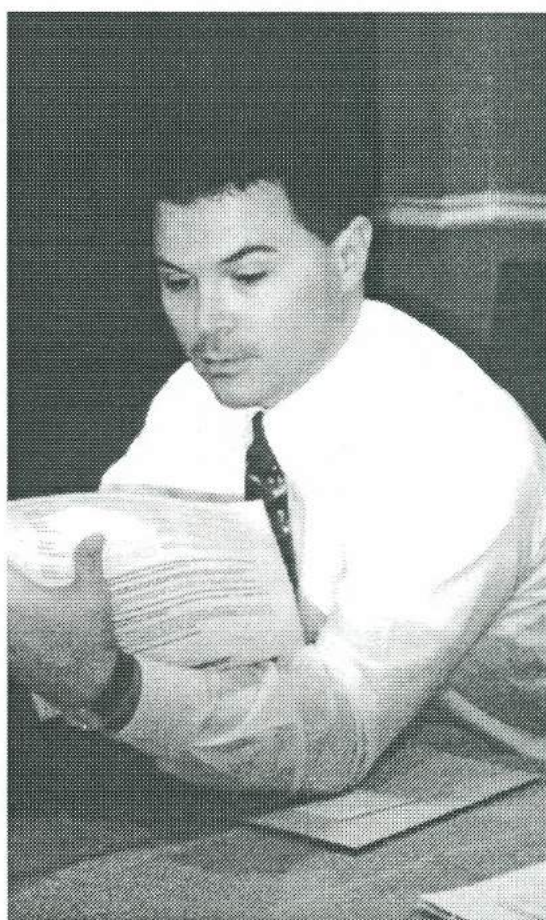
## ***A Ghost Story of Christmas***

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**Ticket Information:** Single tickets range from \$31-\$46 and are available at the Alley Theatre Box Office, 615 Texas Ave., or by calling 713/228-8421. Single tickets to preview performance are \$18-\$32. Groups of 10 persons or more can purchase tickets at a discounted rate by calling 713/228-9341, ext. 350.







Guest Catherine Carpenter, PLFLAG member Blake Weissner, Kim Arlinghaus and guest Lin Wilkins



April Guest Speaker Dan Baker with Sandra Wilkins, Bruce Smith, Tony Carroll and Kim Arlinghaus



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duced more presidential scholars and more presidential teachers in the presidential arts recognition program than any other school in the country. It also consistently ranks in the top among Houston schools in performance on academic achievement tests. Among the many prestigious honors HSPVA has received are the Rockefeller Award for Excellence in the Arts (1983) and the Governor's Award for Exemplary Performance (1991).

Perhaps the best measure of HSPVA's success is the long list of its graduates' accomplishments. Many have launched successful careers with major opera companies, symphony orchestras and other ensembles, as classical and popular recording artists, and in leading dance companies. Others have earned acclaim on Broadway, on television and in the movies. Still others have had their work displayed in the nation's most eminent galleries and museums. Soloists and ensembles from HSPVA have performed at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and on tour in England, Scotland, France, Norway, and Taiwan.

*"HSPVA has added luster to the image of Houston as a city where the arts flourish, and I highly commend all of those who have had a part in making it such an outstanding school."*

Bob Lanier, Mayor, City of Houston

*"HSPVA is one of the 100 best reasons for living in Houston!"*  
Texas Monthly Magazine

*"The arts remain one of our state's most diverse and exciting assets, and HSPVA has been an important contributor to excellence in art education and performance."*

Ann W. Richards, Former Governor, State of Texas

## Committee Reports

### Internet Committee Report

Members may now submit information via the CGHGLCC internet web site. Log on to [www.GHGLCC.org](http://www.GHGLCC.org) to submit:

- A Business Listing for the Alphabetical and By Category Listing of your Business,
- A Membership application to the chamber, and
- Your Monthly Dinner Reservation.

If you have any concerns or comments, please contact Internet Chair Don DiDonato at 713.528.7654. Watch the web site for new changes! We change it daily!

## Special Interest Group Steering Committee Report

The next SIG Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for 11:00 am at Baba Yega's on December 1. We will review the schedule for the remainder of this year, and also discuss possible functions for the first part of 1998! Please attend if interested. We are planning a couple of luncheons and/or breakfasts for the end of 1997. The next Breakfast is scheduled for December 9 at LePeep's Shepherd location. Topic to be announced, but guaranteed to be interesting.

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# Announcements

## Notes From the Board

The board of directors is always available to listen to your ideas, suggestions, or concerns about our growing organization. If you would like to address the board at a board meeting, call the hotline at 713-523-7576 and ask to be put on the agenda to speak at a board meeting held the 3rd Monday of each month.

The board is currently looking for members interested in becoming more involved in our Chamber. If you are interested in participating, or you know of anyone who is, please contact President Coy Tow at Uniglobe First Choice Travel at 713-667-0580. Positions available include committee chairs, committee members, and/or any other assistance a member would be willing to provide to the Chamber.

## Newsletter Advertising

Here we *grow!* Our newsletter has increased to 12 pages, thanks to member advertising and article contributions. Remember, this is *your* newsletter, so if you have a submission you'd like included, contact the newsletter committee.

A one-month business card-size ad is only \$30. If you reserve between 3-6 months, the monthly rate is only \$25, and if you reserve space for 7-12 months, your monthly rate is only \$20. Call Marion E. Coleman at the House of Coleman at 713-523-2521, or Victor Perea at CreADtive Unlimited® at 713-526-5190.

## Welcome New Members!

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Scor Hedrick	....Executive Professional Association of Houston
George Froming	.....Image Cleaners
Randy Mitchmore D.D.S.	.....LifeSmiles
Jack Naderhoff	.....Jack Naderhoff
Kevin Pittman	.....Acker-Blum & Associates, Realtor
Lee Ingalls	.....Team Houston
Tonya Grant	.....Momentum Mortgage
Keith Russell	.....Momentum Mortgage
Grace Yung	.....Paine Webber
Gary Gibson	.....Retro Gallery
David Greenhall	...RSVP Creative Catering/The Wealthy Chef
Montrose Clinic	.....Montrose Clinic

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