

Empower *'98*

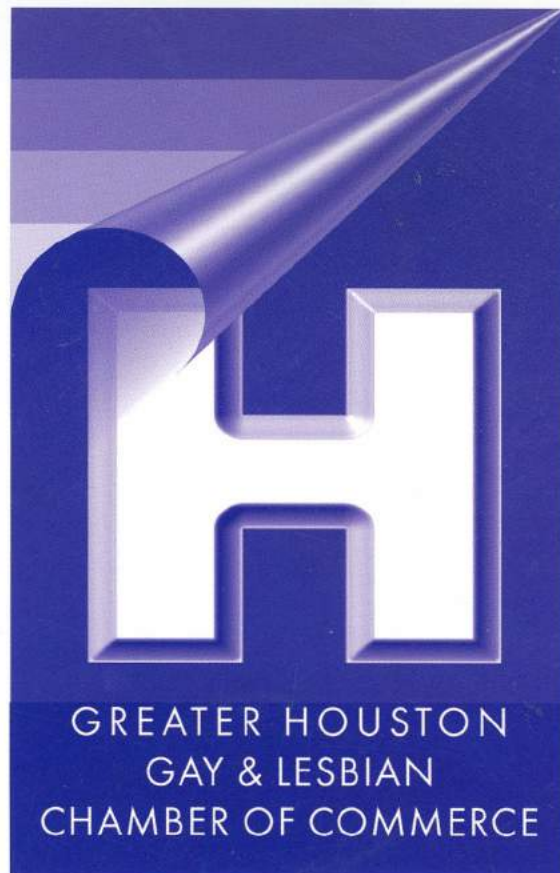


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Debra J. Phinney

A Message from the Coordinator of EMPOWER '98

Welcome to Empower '98, the proven event to reach the loyal and lucrative gay and lesbian market. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of this year's sponsors for their support - Chase Bank, Computer Factory, Houston Voice, OutSmart Magazine, Shell Oil and TV Montrose. Without these companies EMPOWER would not exist.

I also want to extend my sincere appreciation to the following individuals for their unselfish efforts in making EMPOWER the wonderful success that it is.

Marion E. Coleman, Kevin Davidson, Laura Farley, Martha "Kasi" Greathouse, Candace Kaye, Coy Tow, and Blaine Whitford.

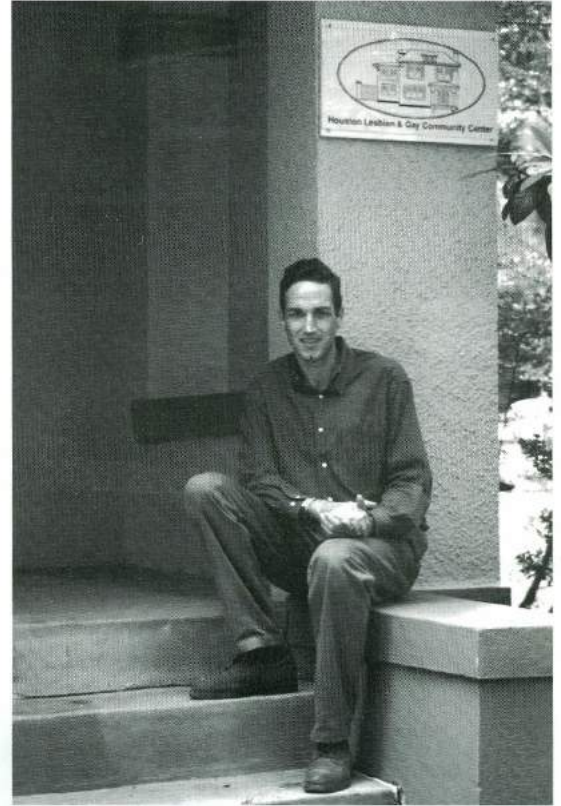
Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center

803 Hawthorne
Houston, TX 77006

Welcome to the 2nd Annual Empower Exposition and congratulations to the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce on another successful event. The Center is located at 803 Hawthorne (intersection with Stanford) in the heart of Montrose. Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, the Greater Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, Q-Patrol, the Pride Committee of Houston, H.A.T.C.H. (Houston Area Coalition of Teen Homosexuals) and THRF (Texas Human Rights Foundation) are based at the Center and several organizations hold their meetings at the facility. We invite you to take advantage of the Center and all that it offers.

Learn More About The Center And How To Support Our Efforts:

- Visit the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center booth at Empower.
- Make a tax-deductible cash or in-kind contribution
- Visit the Center during drop-in hours of 6 - 9 P.M. Monday through Friday and 12 - 4 P.M. Saturday and obtain information on the community
- Volunteer at the Center. Assistance is needed in a variety of areas including fundraising, public relations, building staffing and programming
- Hold a meeting or event at the Center
- Attend the **Grand Opening Celebration on Sunday, November 8, 2 - 6 P.M.** A short presentation at 3 P.M. will feature community leaders



Participate in the Activities Sponsored by the Center.

- Curtains Up! - join your friends and community for five wonderful evenings of theater at five different venues by purchasing a subscription series
- Center Cinema - A double video screening held at 7 P.M. on the first Friday and third Saturday of each month
- HIV Testing - The Montrose Clinic sponsors free testing and counseling at the Center on the first Wednesday of the month from 6 - 9 P.M.
- Art Exhibition Series - The work of Claude Pollard is being featured as the first artist in a series of presentations featuring work by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered artists. The exhibit can be viewed during drop-in hours
- Personal Defense Training Class - To help reduce the risk of becoming a victim of a hate crime, consider attending this four week class which will be held Saturdays from 10 A.M. to Noon on November 14, 21 and December 5 and 19

For more information on the Center call 713-524-3818 or e-mail at hlgcc@neosoft.com.

Sincerely,

Carl Riedl
President

Welcome to EMPOWER 98!

We are so pleased to have you at this, our signature event. The mission statement of our organization is:

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.



Anita Renteria
GHGLCC President

This event is exactly why we exist. We as gays, lesbians and supportive friends, families and coworkers are coming together today to exercise our power in the economy of the City of Houston and in America. In this country, if you have economic power you have clout, and we as a community must realize the power we have. It is ours to wield and in doing so, we can demand that we are represented as all citizens of this country should be-free to have our constitutional right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Take a look around you today.. Really look at the businesses that have committed to EMPOWER '98 because they are interested in doing business with you. Understand that you have a choice, and by spending your dollars with supportive businesses, you strengthen all of us as an economic force. Understand that they have a choice, too, and they have chosen to be here today because they know it's good business. That's the kind of commerce that moves all of us forward.

Consider joining our Chamber if you are not a member already. Visit the Chamber booth and talk to one of our members, or ask any of the member businesses about us. You do not have to be a business owner—our membership consists of professionals from all industries and from large and small companies. You will benefit in ways you may not even realize by joining us—by networking, socializing or profiting. I am proud every time I stand before the Chamber and look at the amazing talent, leadership and heart of our members, of our community.

Enjoy yourselves today. Tell your friends what we have accomplished, and what we are going to continue to accomplish as a Chamber- and as a community. The future is waiting to be made—join us as we make it!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anita F. Renteria".

Anita Renteria



PO Box 667053
Houston, Texas 77266-7053
713.942.7002

To Empower '98 Participants:

It is an honor to be associated with businesses and other organizations that are supportive of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community in the Houston area.

The Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals (H.A.T.C.H.) provides safe social environments for homosexual youth, offers role models and peer support, and sponsors educational and community outreach opportunities to empower homosexual youth to become positive contributors to society.

We have just employed our first full-time paid Program Director, to manage the ongoing programs and special events, outreach to educational institutions and community organizations, resource development and referral, and administrative services.

Also, we have established a scholarship program in cooperation with Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) for providing educational funding for gay and lesbian youth. Your participation can be in direct funding or through the endowment fund.

A special thanks to the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce for their continued support and generosity with the silent auction next to our booth.

Please see our booth for additional information on how you can support our efforts, through funding and volunteering, to empower gay and lesbian youth to become contributing members of our society.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin L. Davidson".

Kevin L. Davidson, President
On behalf of the Board, Co-Directors, Facilitators and Youth



Debra Danburg

Chair
Committee on Elections
State Affairs



November 7, 1998

Dear Attendees,

Welcome to EMPOWER '98 and the George R. Brown Convention Center.

Please join me in congratulating and thanking the Greater Houston Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and all the businesses, both gay and gay-friendly, represented here today for their sponsorship of this event benefiting Houston's Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

By highlighting gay and gay-friendly businesses, this expo demonstrates that businesses are continuing to recognize the importance and strength of the gay and lesbian dollar in our economy. I appreciate the opportunity to patronize and support businesses that promote gay rights.

As a State Representative I have introduced and supported a great deal of legislation promoting gay rights, as well as human rights in general. Exhibiting over 100 gay and gay-friendly businesses here today indicates that we, as a community, are moving in the right direction.

Enjoy your day,

A handwritten signature of Debra Danburg in cursive script.

Debra Danburg
State Representative

House of Representatives

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AIDS Foundation Houston

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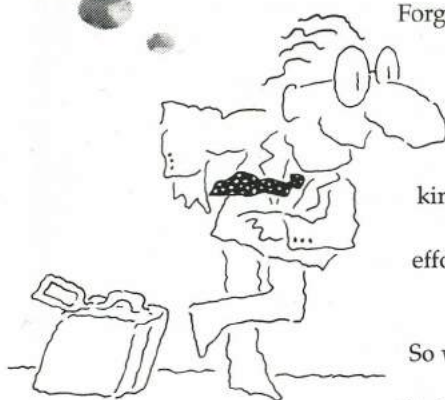
Urbana Salutes *Empower* '98

Join us for our new
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Sunday Brunch..

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& Poinsettias, 11-3.



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EMPOWER '98 Exhibitors

AIDS Foundation of Houston

Ken Kelly
Booth 118

Alley Theater

Dennis Draser
Booth 703

American Express Financial Services

Erica French
Booth 204

Suzanne Anderson Properties, Inc.

Suzanne Anderson
Booth 315, 414

Bank United

Michael Lehman
Booth 621

Basic Brothers

Richard Widerholt
Booth 319

Bering Community Service Foundation

Harry Livesay
Booth 112

Chase Bank

Richard Bielec
Booth 301

Computer Exchange

Ryan Herbst
Booth 413

Computer Factory

Anita Renteria
Booth 423

Karen Derr & Associates

Realty
Karen Derr
Booth 701

Earthman

Kimberly Short
Booth 708

ErgoCom, Inc.

David Peavy
Booth 704

Kermit Eisenhower Artist

Booth 620

Florida Keys & Key West

Steve Smith
Booth 607

Fund for Animals

Sean Hawkins
Booth 625

Gay & Lesbian Yellow Pages

Laura Villagran
Booth 519, 618

GHGLCC

Booth 401

Green/White Advisors

Bill Green
Booth 318

HATCH

Kevin Davidson
Booth 119, 218

Home Works Apartment

Locators
Jason McLawchlin
Booth 611

House of Coleman, Inc.

Marion E. Coleman
Booth 525, 624

Houston Buyers Club

Fred Walters
Booth 420

Houston Cellular

Carrie
Booth 407

Houston Lesbian & Gay

Community Center
Carl Riedle
Booth 114, 116

Houston Public Library

Booth 309

Houston Voice

Mike Fleming
Booth 601

Swilley Hudson Realtors

Richard Hill
Booth 619, 718

Human Rights Campaign

Bryan Vezey
Booth 120

Image Cleaners/GJL

Investments, Inc.
George Froming
Booth 404

Jove

Carl Weber
Booth 605

Kolby Project

Thomas Nitschke
Booth 110

LiB

Booth 122

Life Smiles

Randy Mitchmore, D.D.S.
Booth 508

Lovett Inn

Tom Fricke
Booth 505

Mary Kay Cosmetics

Trudy E. Denny
Booth 523

MCCR - Metropolitan

Community Church of the
Resurrection
Nichole Gant
Sidney Japour
Booth 108

Monika Fashions

Ashok Goel
Booth 214

Moore & Hunt

Debra E. Hunt
Booth 622

Mortgage Associates

Douglas Hord
John E. Frels
Booth 415

Outsmart Magazine

Greg Jeu
Booth 201

PFLAG

Booth 212

Premier Paging & Wireless

Lea Bogle
Booth 419

Pride Committee

Booth 210

Prudential Texas Properties

Debbi Cure
Booth 325, 424

RSVP Creative Catering

Booth 710

Reconciling in Christ

Churches (Grace Lutheran
Church)
Madeleine Manning
Booth 304

Riches

Stacy Tate
Booth 712

River Oaks Antiques Center

Booth 321

Riverstone

Sidney Cunningham
Booth 307

Ron's American Limousine

Ron Delaney
Booth 205

Norma Saenz Hair Designs, Inc. at Salons of Post Oak

Norrna Saenz
Booth 615

G. Scott Sawyer, M.D., P.A.

Booth 609

Schmerler Insurance

Rob Schmerler
Booth 506

Charles Schwab & Co.

Mark Scott
Booth 313

Shell Oil Company

Susie Ginsberg
Booth 501

Sheraton Brookhollow

Jackie Moreno
Booth 504

Southampton Medical Group

Julia Kovacks
Booth 510

Southwestern Bell

Booth 706

Texas Triangle

Chris Peck
Booth 410

This Week in Texas

Steve Nally
Booth 604

Tiburon Systems

Daryl Hickman
Booth 412

TV Montrose

Steve Baker
Booth 101

Uniglobe First Choice Travel

Coy Tow
Booth 405

Clyde Williams

Booth 613

Yates, Lidell & Yates

Trey Yates
Booth 512

EMPOWER '98 Entertainment



MARGARET STONE

A Houston based singer/song-writer whose addictive melodies, fine guitar work and powerfully graceful voice will enthrall audiences and keep old and new fans coming back again and again.



GIRLS WITH GUITARS

Ferryn Martin and
Kelly Wallin

This acoustic duo continues to captivate their growing audiences with striking vocal harmonies, compelling acoustic guitar work, and imaginatively original lyrics and music.

"Girls With Guitars offers finely crafted music, combining poignant harmonies and skillful guitar playing. Their songwriting reveals their sensitivity, their love of life and their hope for the future."

- Shirley Knight

Producer, Houston Women's Festival

SPECIAL GUEST

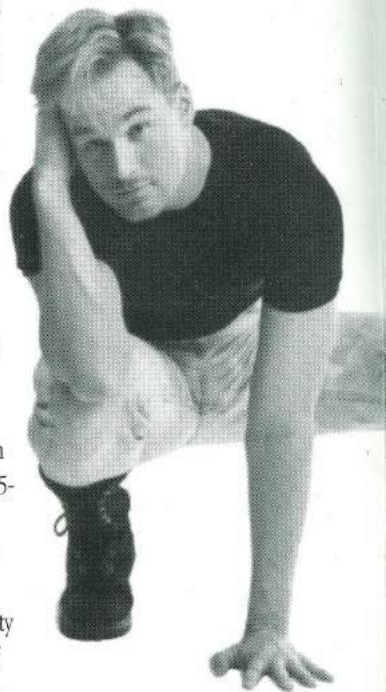
MARIA TODD

Co-host of The Morning Show on 104 KRBE and Announcer for The Championship Houston Comets.



CHRISTIAN ANDREASON

Christian Andreason writes, produces and arranges all of his music for his independent record label, "Wonderboy Records." He has written well over 300 songs and his music could be best described as a cross of Contemporary Hit Radio Pop, Adult Contemporary Ballads, Dance and because of the strong inspirational nuances found in his lyrics, the Christian music market. However, Christian Andreason considers himself a spiritual "Pop" recording artist. His goal is to self promote his music until he feels the right record deal comes along. Currently, Christian is promoting his newly released EP/Single "Remember Me."



Karen Whitley and Kim Naddeo

STEREO JANE

"Fresh, invigorating rock."

- Tony DeMars, General Manager, 90.5 KSHU,
Sam Houston State University

"Catchy! Upbeat! Rockin' guitar! Awesome harmony! This is simply a band you'll enjoy listening to."

- Christy Jones, Music Critic, *Music News*, Houston, Texas

NANCY FORD (circa 1957)



Nancy Ford has presented her unique brand of musical and comedic commentary since first appearing at Houston's legendary Kindred Spirits in 1981. In 1983 Nancy self-produced a 5-city comedy tour for the "March on Washington." She was the sole Texas representative at the Stonewall 25 Cultural Festival, held in New York City in 1994. Now serving as Bureau Chief for the *Texas Triangle*, Nancy continues her comedic quest for equal rights for all, in print as well as on stage.

EMPOWER '98 Schedule

- 10:00** **Welcome to EMPOWER '98**
Anita Renteria, President GHGLCC
- 10:15** **Carl Reidl**
President Houston Lesbian & Gay Community Center
- 10:30** **Basic Brothers Fashion Show – Emcee Nancy Ford**
- 11:30** **Margaret Stone**
- 12:00** **Maria Todd from 104 KRBE**
- 12:10** **Christian Andreason**
- 12:45** **Councilwoman Annise Parker to present**
EMPOWER Day Proclamation from
Mayor Lee P. Brown
- 1:15** **Girls With Guitars**
- 2:15** **Basic Brothers Fashion Show**
- 3:15** **State Representative Debra Danburg**
- 3:45** **Door Prize Announcements**
- 4:00** **Stereo Jane**
- Additional Entertainment to be announced.**

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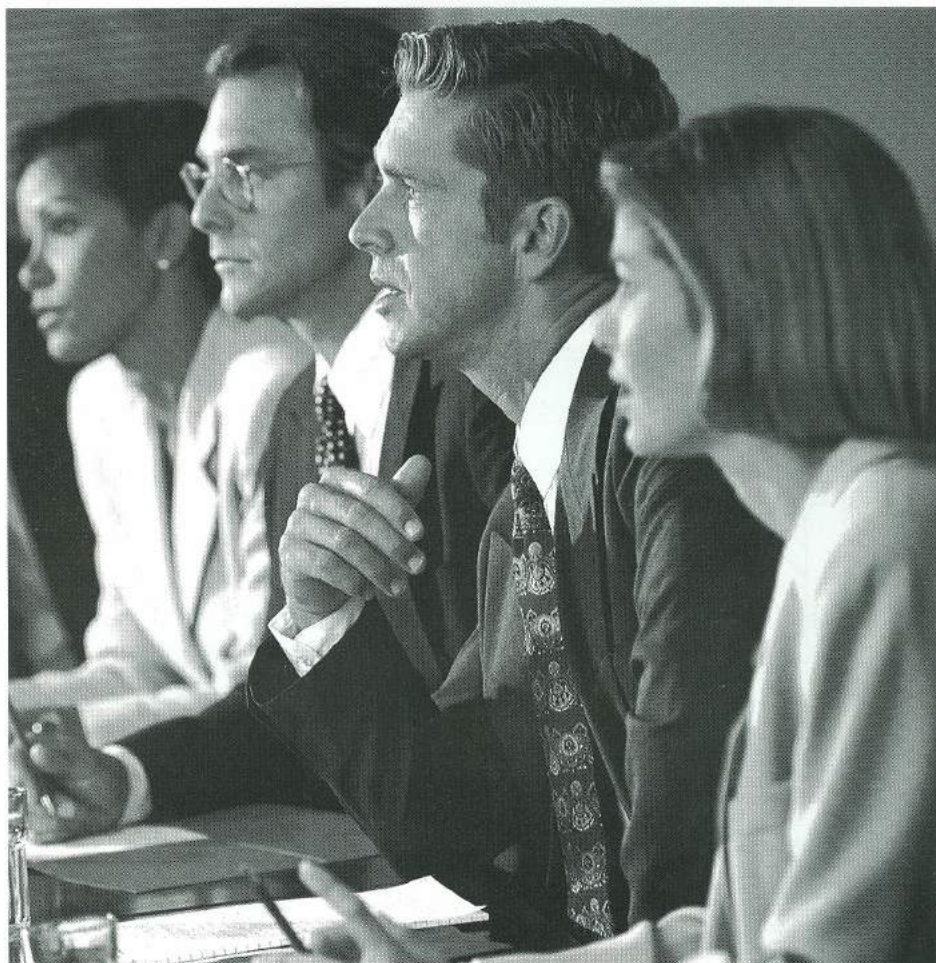
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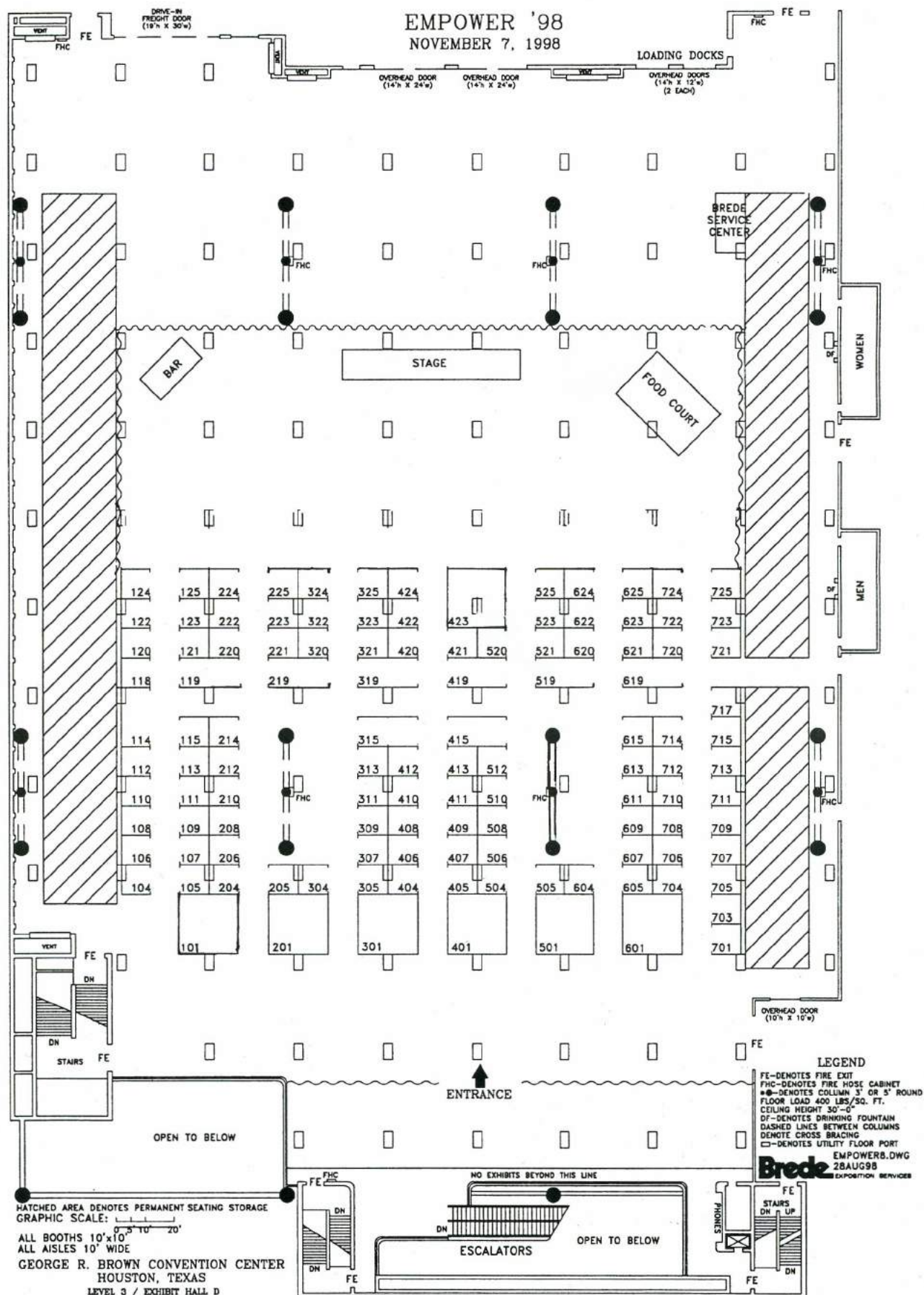


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EMPOWER '98 Floor Plan



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SINGING INTO THE MAINSTREAM

Lesbian
artist finds
jazzy
success

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Lesbian artist finds jazzy success. The Houston Voice reports on the success of a local jazz artist who has found a niche in the mainstream market. The article discusses her unique sound and the challenges she has faced in the industry.

INSIDE: Family issues, community news, and more.



Community Action Stories

Music, Theatre,
Nightlife &
Entertainment

HOUSTON VOICE

One Community! One Voice!

SEPTEMBER 11, 1998 • WWW.HOUSTONVOICE.COM • ISSUE 993

City schools fail to protect gays

Report card urges action; local activists
say shaky dialogue exists with schools

REPORT CARD
Houston's school district is getting the report card in the form of a report card from the community. The report card is a call to action for the school district to improve its policies and practices regarding the protection of gay and lesbian students.



Houston's
Changing
Scene

HOUSTON VOICE

One Community! One Voice!

SEPTEMBER 18, 1998 • WWW.HOUSTONVOICE.COM • ISSUE 994

Growing old together

Retirement
communities
under
development
for older gays

REPORT CARD
Houston's school district is getting the report card in the form of a report card from the community. The report card is a call to action for the school district to improve its policies and practices regarding the protection of gay and lesbian students.



Frances slams AIDS shelter

Donations needed to
reopen emergency
shelter for
HIV-positive men

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