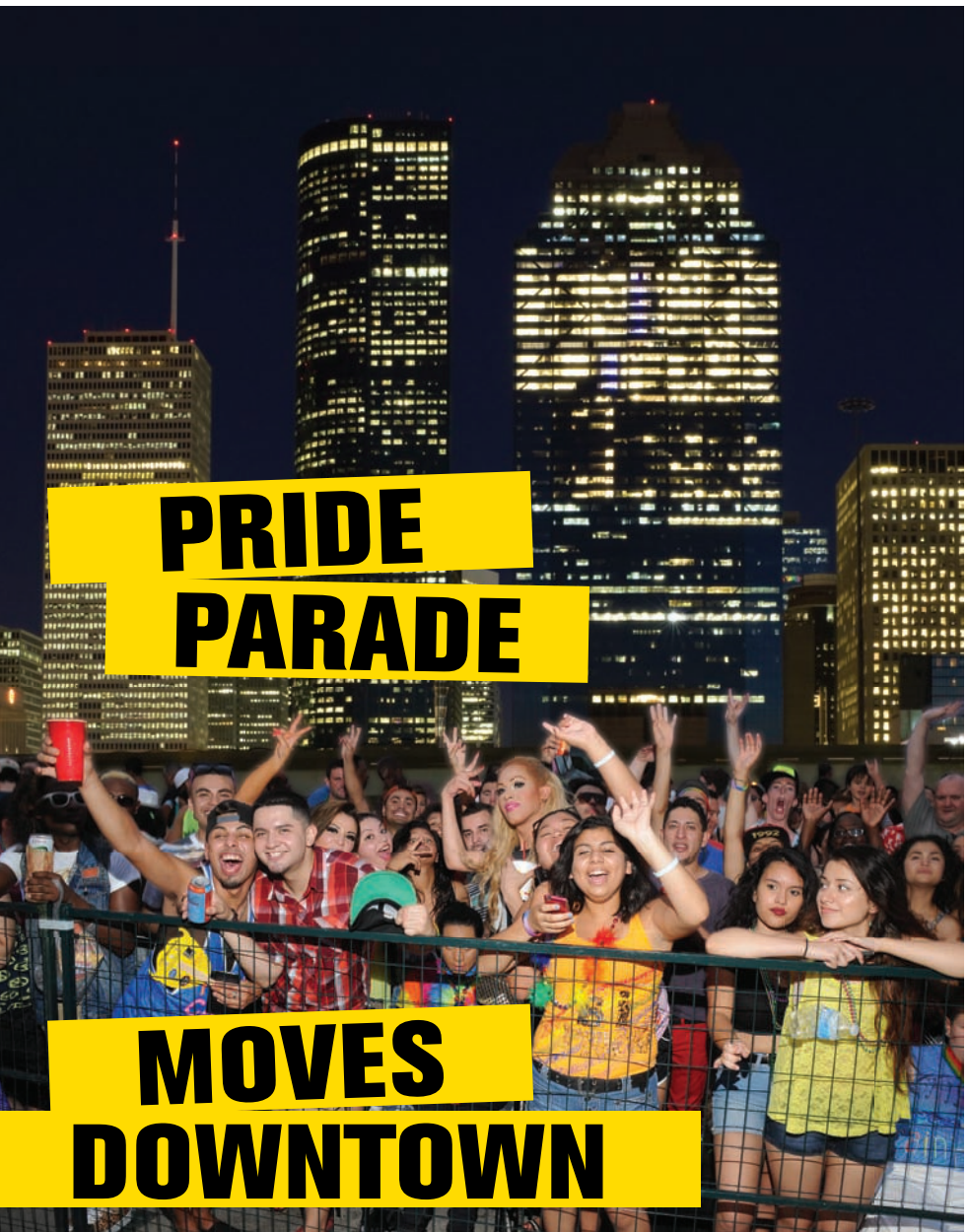
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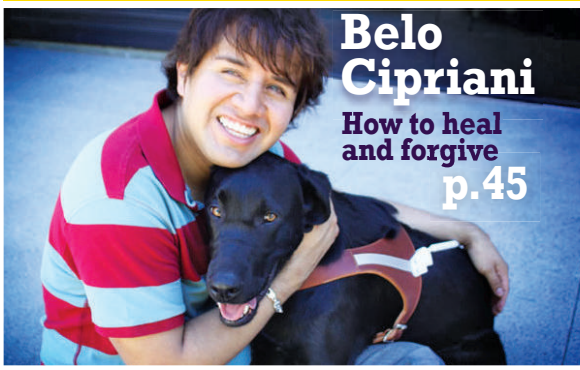
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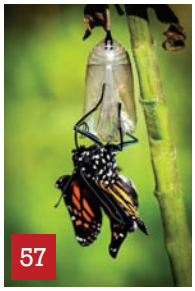












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- OutSmart talks to Jaston Williams (l), who stars in his one-man show, *Maid Marian in a Stolen Car*.

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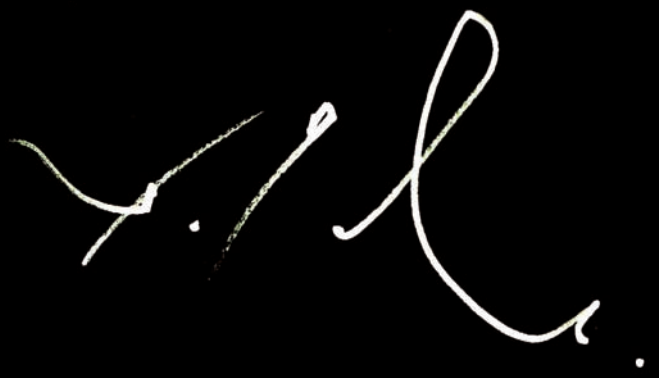
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Beyond Marriage, Other LGBT-rights Challenges Loom

by David Crary, AP

Even as they celebrate epic victories in the push for marriage equality, U.S. gay-rights activists acknowledge that other difficult issues remain on their agenda. There's the persistent high rate of HIV infections, the struggles to expand transgender rights, and the striking fact that even in some states allowing same-sex marriage, people can lose their job for being gay.

For many activists, the top priority after marriage is federal legislation that would outlaw a broad range of discrimination against lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender people. There's no such federal law now, and more than half the states do not ban discrimination by employers or public accommodations based on sexual orientation.

"There's absolutely no good reason—if you can get married—why you should be denied a hotel room or a job," said Fred Sainz, a vice president of the Human Rights Campaign. "There will be a fair number of states where you can get married, and be fired the same day for having gotten married."

Anti-LGBT discrimination is among several issues likely to gain more attention following the Supreme Court's October 6 decision to turn away appeals by five states seeking to preserve their bans on same-sex marriage. The number of gay-marriage states—previously 19—is expected to nearly double soon, and continue growing toward what many Americans now assume is inevitable expansion to all 50 states.

As a whole, the LGBT population is elated by the expansion of gay marriage. Yet according to a 2013 Pew Research Center survey, about 40 percent of LGBT adults aren't interested in getting married, compared to 24 percent of the general public. And nearly 40 percent of the LGBT respondents said the marriage issue had drawn too much attention away from other concerns.

A look at some of the challenges that remain:

HIV/AIDS

While marriage developments have kindled joy in the gay community, news regarding HIV and AIDS is sobering.

According to the latest data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, gay and bisexual men, who represent about 2 percent of the U.S. population, accounted for 62 percent of new HIV infections. Each year, about 50,000 new infections are tallied.

A CDC report last month said only about half of gay and bisexual men diagnosed with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, received continuing treatment for the virus.

Many AIDS activists and health professionals hope the infection rate can be slashed through wider use of Truvada, a drug that has proven effective in protecting uninfected men who engage in gay sex. The CDC has endorsed the preventive use of Truvada; so have many big-city health departments.

Progress has been slow, says Scott Schoettes, HIV Project director for the LGBT-rights group Lambda Legal. He said some healthcare providers refuse to prescribe Truvada even when a patient requests it.

"It's a misplaced perception that anyone who wants it must be promiscuous and taking risks that they shouldn't be taking," Schoettes said.

New York City's health department is working to overcome such attitudes by sending staff into clinics and doctors' offices to promote the preventive option among providers who up until now have been uninterested.

Another problem is lack of awareness. A recent survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that only about one-fourth of gay men knew of Truvada's preventive potential.

New York's health department is trying to combat that with an outreach program using social media, including gay dating apps. "That's where the risk is happening," said Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, the department's assistant commissioner for HIV/AIDS control and prevention.

A few vocal critics—notably the Los Angeles-based AIDS Healthcare Foundation—argue that preventive use of Truvada is misguided. In an ad campaign launched in August, the foundation says many gay men fail to adhere to Truvada's once-a-day regimen and described government promotion of the drug as "a public health disaster in the making."

continued on page 14

Community

Photos by Dalton DeHart



The Houston GLBT Political Caucus held its 6th annual Equality Brunch at The Bird and The Bear restaurant on September 28. Pictured are some of the brunch's equality award winners: **Noel Freeman**, **Kristen Capps**, Council Member **Ellen Cohen**, and **Mark Eggleston**.



Koomah (pictured in black) receives a check from the **Misfits Houston** group at the Misfits Ball 16 held at Kryptonite on October 12. The group raised $7,040 for the Hatch youth program.



Suzie Ford Walker, **Ann Robison**, **Paul Petronella**, and **Jody Stevens** attend The Depressed Cake Shop's pop-up benefit for The Montrose Center held on September 28.



C. Patrick McIlvain (l) stands with **Erika Rodriguez** (r) as **Mayor Annise Parker** presents an award to Bayou City Veterinary Hospital at the 4th annual Walk for Mental Health Awareness held at Spotts Park on October 11.

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NONDISCRIMINATION

For all their advances, activists remain deeply frustrated by the lack of federal legislation barring discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

A long-sought bill called the Employment Non-Discrimination Act finally passed the Senate last November, with 10 Republicans joining majority Democrats in a 64–32 vote. But Republican leaders in the House of Representatives have not taken up the measure.

Democratic Rep. Jared Polis has been trying to orchestrate a "discharge petition" that would force the bill to the floor for a vote. It would need the backing of nearly 20 Republicans as well as solid Democratic backing.

"We should have a federal statute," said Polis, who is gay. "You shouldn't be able to be fired based on who you love."

Gay-rights groups are looking ahead to the next session of Congress. Sainz, of the Human Rights Campaign, said there will be an aggressive push for a comprehensive LGBT civil rights bill that would seek anti-bias protections even beyond the workplace—in realms such as housing and access to credit.

In past years, broad Republican support for such a bill would have seemed impossible, but Sainz foresees a new era.

"The constant expansion of the marriage map changes the reality for Republicans," he said. "With every passing day, those who oppose LGBT equality increasingly look like dinosaurs."

Outside of Congress, activists will keep pressing for state and local anti-bias laws. Only 21 states have employment nondiscrimination laws that cover sexual orientation; 18 also cover gender identity.

TRANSGENDER RIGHTS

Transgender-rights activists view their own array of causes in a good-news, bad-news context.

There's relief over some recent legal victories for people who lost jobs because they were transgender. And there's encouragement over the positive portrayals of transgender characters on TV shows such as *Orange Is the New Black* and *Transparent*.

"There's definitely more visibility than ever, and that's wonderful," said Masen Davis, executive director of the California-based Transgender Law Center. "But a minority of Americans know a transgender person, and that makes us somewhat vulnerable."

Davis said negative stereotypes are still widespread, and violence persists—notably attacks on black and Hispanic transgender women. Another problem, he said, is that many transgender people have difficulty getting needed healthcare.

Among the groups expanding work on transgender issues is the National Center for Lesbian Rights. It has represented many transgender students who felt their rights were infringed at school, and is promoting transgender-inclusive policies for student athletes.

Shannon Minter, the center's legal director, said the "breathtaking progress" on marriage equality shouldn't weaken the broader drive for LGBT rights.

"Every day, LGBT people are fired from their jobs, kicked out of families, and stigmatized in their communities," Minter said. "Our future work must assure that every LGBT person, no matter who they are or where they live, enjoys equality, dignity, and justice." ■

Community Photo by Dalton DeHart



Mayor Annise Parker stands center, surrounded by Houston City Council members and Human Rights Campaign representatives at HRC's Political Round Table Forum concerning the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance held at Stages on October 14.

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by Susan Bankston

How to Celebrate Thanksgiving . . .

with your Republican family



What are those crunchy things in the sweet potatoes?

We are entering the holiday season, that festive time of year when you are forced to play nice with the people who caused you to leave home in the first place.

At my house, we get to look forward to spending a day with Uncle Buzz and his third wife, the unpetite and rarely charming Bessie Lynn. She has a Newt Gingrich tattoo on her upper arm, and Newt smiles when she flexes her muscles. We think she may have been married to Newt once, but we're afraid to ask, since Bessie Lynn is kinda sensitive about her ex-husbands. We think she may have eaten one of them, but we're afraid to ask about that, too.

There's also cousin Lila Sue, who is a new provisional member of the Belles of Heaven Republican Women's Club. She cusses a lot less now, but she still drinks, so I dunno how this provisional thing is going to work out.

Lila Sue is fond of bringing a dish that looks like the pieces of banana might be doing something nasty with the pineapple rings while being held captive by green Jell-O. The whipped cream she places around the edges does not help with the whole image of innocent Jell-O she might be trying to achieve.

Then there's always that one guy who wasn't present at any of the previous family events. Everybody thinks he's somebody else's new husband, but he's really secretly filming the documentary *Dysfunctional Southern Families*. A year later, you discover that Lila Sue's Jell-O dish is the talk of the town at the Sundance Film Festival, and the documentary's preview poster features a large photograph of you pointing and snickering at the whipped cream around the edges.

I mean, I'm certain that has happened to someone else besides me, right?

I've prepared myself for holiday dinners this year by coming up with a list of things to stimulate conversation among the Republican relatives around the dinner table. Please feel free to use as many of these as you need to really hack off your family and be the star of the Sundance Film Festival next year.

Top Ten Progressive Things You Can Say to Hack Off Your Republican Relatives at the Holiday Dinner Table

10. "If the green beans seem a little crispy, it's because I roasted them over the open fire at a bra-burning rally." (If you're a male, you get extra points for confusion value.)

9. "Did anyone else notice that Obama took the words 'under God' out of 'Take Me Out to the Ballgame'?"

8. "I know yoga, and I'm not afraid to use it." (Especially memorable if you're madly waving a fork around at the time.)

7. "You know this squash was picked by an undocumented worker that we brought here to vote Democratic. While on drugs. With Ebola. While having an abortion. Enjoy!"

6. "Is this turkey Halal?"

5. "Just so you know, I'm taking a swig of vodka every time Uncle Wilber refers to President Obama as a space alien intent on killing all white Christians, and there is only so much vodka in the world before I stick a candle in his ear and a feather in his butt and turn him into a damn centerpiece." (It helps if you already have a throw-down candle.)

4. "The crunchy things in the sweet potatoes are brought to you by the National Rifle Association."

3. "Brother, let me say that I'm really sorry my Prius pried the front bumper off your Hummer."

2. Jump on the table and in your best Ethel Merman voice, sing, "I'm gay, gay, gay!" Even if you're not, not, not.

1. Say nothing. Just wear your "Voting-Machine Hackers for Hillary 2016" T-shirt, and smile knowingly all day.

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

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by Grace S. Yung, CFP

Social Security . . .

and same-sex married couples

When it comes to retirement, one of the primary sources of income in our "golden years" has long been Social Security. In fact, when many financial advisors refer to the "3-legged stool" of retirement income, Social Security is one of those legs, with employer pension income and personal savings making up the other two.

Even though we've heard a lot lately about the uncertainty of future Social Security benefits, the truth is that this program is likely to still be in place long into the future—but it may have to face some changes along the way.

One of the biggest changes that Social Security has faced recently, though, has nothing to do with proposals to halt cost-of-living increases or alter the full-retirement age. As of June 2013, the doors to Social Security spousal and survivor's benefits were opened to many married couples in the LGBT community following the 2013 Supreme Court ruling that struck down part of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act. And because Social Security is a federal program, these spousal benefits are available even in states like Texas that do not recognize same-sex marriage licenses from other states.



Social Security's Many Benefits

While many people may think of Social Security as providing only income benefits to retired workers, this program actually offers much more. For instance, income is also available to those who qualify for disability benefits and survivor's benefits, as well as a one-time lump-sum death benefit.

The spouse of a qualified worker can also receive Social Security retirement benefits, even if he or she never worked outside of the home. Spousal benefits can be received if that spouse is at least 62 years of age and the worker spouse is either eligible for, or is already receiving, Social Security retirement or disability benefits. Typically, if that spouse starts receiving his or her Social Security spousal benefits at their full retirement age, then their benefit can be equal to half of the worker spouse's full retirement benefit amount.

Ex-spouses can also claim Social Security benefits based on a former spouse's work record, provided that certain criteria have been met. First, the marriage must have lasted for at least 10 years. In addition, the working spouse must be eligible for Social Security benefits (although they do not have to be receiving them, or even have filed), and the person claiming the benefits cannot be re-married.

In many cases, those in the LGBT community were married to an opposite-sex partner in the past. If this is the case, and if the necessary criteria are all met, it may be possible to claim benefits based on a past marriage.

In situations where an individual who is now married to a same-sex partner is applying for an ex-spouse's benefits based on that former opposite-sex spouse's work history, it will be important to consult with Social Security in order to determine if a current same-sex marriage will disqualify the individual for benefits, or if they will still be allowed.

Survivor's benefits are another key area in which Social Security benefits are paid. A widow or widower of a deceased qualifying worker can receive reduced benefits as early as age 60, or full benefits at their full retirement age or older.

In some circumstances, a survivor may even be able to obtain benefits as early as age 50. And even if a widow or widower remarries after age 60, he or she may continue receiving their survivor's benefits from Social Security.

Maximizing Your Social Security Retirement Benefits Dollars

As you approach retirement, there are some strategies you can use to maximize the amount that you receive from Social Security. In using these techniques, you can potentially enhance your benefits exponentially.

Delaying the Receipt of Benefits

One way to increase the amount of your Social Security benefit is to simply →

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delay the date when you start receiving them. Even though individuals can begin receiving Social Security retirement benefits as early as age 62, benefits are reduced by taking them early—and the amount will remain lower even after you reach your full retirement age.

Alternatively, you can also opt to continue working past your full-retirement age. If you do, there are actually two ways to increase your future Social Security benefits. First, each year that you work will add another year of earnings to your Social Security work record. In addition, your future benefit amount will also increase automatically by a certain percentage from the time that you reach your full retirement age until you either start receiving benefits or you reach age 70. (While you don't have to start taking benefits at age 70, the annual benefit increases will stop at this age).

For people who were born in 1943 or later, benefits will increase by 8 percent each year that they delay taking their benefits beyond their full retirement age. What this means is that if your full retirement age is 66, and you delay taking your Social Security retirement benefits until you are age 70, you could increase your monthly benefit amount by a total of 32 percent.

File and Suspend Strategy

There is another benefit-maximization strategy for married couples referred to as file and suspend. Couples can use this technique by having the higher-earning spouse establish their benefit amount by applying for benefits at any time after reaching full retirement age. Then, rather than receiving their benefits, the person will immediately "suspend" the receipt of their benefits until some point in the future.

At the same time, the lower-earning spouse will apply for his or her Social Security spousal benefits that are based on the higher earner's working record. The lower-earning spouse can immediately start receiving half of the higher earner's benefit amount. Then, when the higher-earning spouse turns 70, they can begin taking their own retirement benefits, which will then be higher due to the delayed retirement credits that they earned by waiting to receive them.

The Bottom Line on Social Security

Following the 2013 changes to the Defense of Marriage Act, the Social Security Administration has stated that it is now processing some retirement, surviving spouse, and lump-sum death payment claims for same-sex couples, and the program is encouraging individuals to apply for benefits—even if they are not sure whether or not they are eligible.

When planning for retirement income, Social Security will likely always play a primary role. So, it is important to have a good understanding of how this income can fit into your overall income plan, as well as how you can maximize this government benefit.

There are a variety of strategies that can be developed, depending on each individual or couple's needs. Because of the vast array of tax, financial, and other issues that are involved, it is always best to work with a professional who is well-versed in planning—especially as it relates to the LGBT community.

Content in this material is for general information only and not intended to provide specific advice or recommendations for any individual.

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

Grace S. Yung, CFP, is a certified financial planner practitioner with experience in helping domestic partners plan their finances since 1994. She is a principal at Midtown Financial LLC in Houston and was recognized as a "Five-Star Wealth Manager" in the 2014 September issue of Texas Monthly.



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Deb Murphy's Call to Service

One woman's journey from an industrial chemist to LGBTQ youth advocate

by Brandon Wolf

Photos by Dalton DeHart



From chemist to gay youth advocate: Deb Murphy changed careers, and in the process built a powerfully successful haven for LGBTQ teens who seek information, insight, and acceptance.

Deb Murphy was born in 1955 and grew up in south Florida. She recalls being bullied in school, but maintained a circle of friends who liked to play sports and go to the beach. Still she often felt alone. "Having company and being with your own kind are two very different things," she says. Looking back on her solitary teen years with her characteristic optimism, she muses that if things had been better, "I might not have studied as hard." Academics was the best escape she had from loneliness.

After high school, Murphy enrolled in the chemistry program at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, where she was told she could not live in the women's dorm because she was gay. The decision was later reversed, but she had already found an apartment where she didn't have to hassle with acceptance. She quickly became friends with a neighboring gay male couple. "We never worried about security," she says wryly. "A tough-looking biker lived there, too, and no one wanted to mess with him."

Those entering the program are given only one rule to follow—you can't hurt others and you can't hurt yourself.

Murphy worked her way through college, taking six years to get her degree. Boca Raton is home to many rich and elite, so once she established herself as dependable and energetic, Murphy was often hired to house-sit in some of the city's most beautiful homes. She also worked the concession stand at the local polo grounds, along with stints as a waitress, a bartender, and a taxi driver.

Finding Her Real Passion

Out of college, Murphy worked for the next 20 years as a chemist. Work in a chemical plant was "brutal for men," she says, "so you can imagine what it was like for a woman." Jobs for a hardworking professional chemist paid well, but her heart just wasn't in it. She left the male-dominated world of test tubes and took "a radical sabbatical."

Just as she had done in Boca Raton, she applied her multiple talents to a multitude of short-term and part-time jobs. "For a while, I contracted with condominium associations and painted unit numbers on their curbs," she says. She also did technical writing for construction firms and spent five years as the first paid staff member for the Houston Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

By 2002, Murphy had become a freelance writer and was asked to write a story for OutSmart about a gay youth program then called HATCH (Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals). The program that began in 1987 had gone through some unstable times, but had survived and was meeting regularly at Montrose's Grace Lutheran Church.

Murphy liked what she saw while researching the article. When a paid facilitator position opened up, she applied and was hired. The group met at the church, but the organization officed at The Montrose Counseling Center at 701 Richmond (later renamed The Montrose Center and relocated to 401 Branard). Within a →

Deb Murphy's Call to Service

continued from previous page

short time, the youth group was absorbed into the counseling center.

For Murphy, this was great news. "We now had an infrastructure and access to United Way funds. I was able to focus totally on running the program. I saw what the organization was at the time, and saw what it could be. Volunteers can only do so much, but a paid staff can grow an organization."

In Hatch Youth, Murphy had finally found her true passion. The teenage clients loved her, and management was pleased with the results they were seeing.

Raising Hatchlings

Helping kids isn't rocket science to Murphy. She has built a program based on common sense and runs it straight from the heart. Those entering the program are given only one rule to follow—you can't hurt others and you can't hurt yourself.

Murphy lets teenagers be teenagers. She guides, not pushes. Each "Hatchling" is unique and special to her, and she respects their individuality; she runs on their timetable.

Some teens come to their first meeting and within an hour are comfortable; others spend the first few weeks saying little more than their names. Some come once and are never seen again; some may return every week for years, while others may drop out for a year and then return. Murphy puts no pressure on these young people to fit into a certain pattern or formula.

Becoming a Hatchling

Anyone from 13 to 20 years of age is eligible to join the program. Meetings are held Tuesdays 5–9 p.m., Fridays 7–10 p.m., and Sundays 6–9 p.m. A transgender youth support group meets on Tuesdays.

The first hour is a social time for teens to meet and get to know each other. The second hour is a special program—a film, a speaker, or a presentation. During the third hour, participants form small groups, where they can talk with others about their feelings.

When a new youth walks into the Hatch Youth area for the first time, a steering committee member welcomes them, introduces them to others, and makes sure they aren't left to fend for themselves. But if a visitor just wants to sit and watch, they are free to do that too.

The one thing Murphy wants each young person to feel is that they are in a safe place, where they can be themselves. The gender expression of each person is respected, free of any social or societal expectations.

Murphy welcomes unscheduled drop-ins by teens who want to just talk. Her office hours, she says, are "from the time I get there until the time I leave."



Gay and great: Deb Murphy (c), with Ann Robison and Chris Robertson, receives Montrose Counseling Center's Employee of the Year award in 2010.

Murphy feels that Hatch Youth provides three things LGBT teens need—community where they have a sense of belonging, a place where they can grow into true and authentic people, and the knowledge that they are beautiful at their core. Sometimes, Murphy says, someone who has seen her playing Monopoly with a group of Hatch young people will ask, "How does Monopoly help these kids?" She explains that this is one of the ways that she builds bonds with teens before they will trust her to help them.

What do LGBT youth in 2014 find interesting? Murphy says that their favorite speakers are the women from LOAF (Lesbians Over Age Fifty), who tell them what gay life was like decades ago. The most requested movie on movie night is *Rent*. "I think they know every line of every song in *Rent*," she says. The phantasmagorical *Moulin Rouge* is the second-most requested film.

An Impressive History of Success

"There has never been a scandal, no teen has ever been hurt, and we have a zero percent suicide rate," says Murphy about the 27 years of Hatch Youth's existence.

In 2010, 13-year-old Asher Brown, an eighth-grade student in metropolitan Houston's Cy-Fair ISD, committed suicide. Asher was not a participant in



Royalty: the 2008 HATCH Prom court, flanked by adult leaders Deb Murphy (far left) and Jascalyn Tatum (far right).

the Hatch Youth program, but because of Murphy's work with LGBT teens, she was the media's go-to expert. The common question addressed to her was: Why is there such an epidemic of LGBT teen suicides? "I told them it wasn't an epidemic of suicides, it was just an epidemic of finally reporting them," remembers Murphy.

Suicides are driven by two factors, Murphy explains: when a teen is sure they don't belong and when they believe the world would be better off if they were dead. Bullying can convince them that both of those things are true, and the Hatch Youth program is there to help them understand that neither is true.

In the early days of the program, Murphy says, LGBT youngsters often had to find creative ways to attend the meetings secretly. Today, she says, there are "cupcake moms" who drive their children to the meetings, and the average age of a Hatchling has dropped to about 15.

The most poignant words of praise for Murphy's work come from former Hatchlings. LaKeia Spady, now a student at the University of Houston Downtown, remembers that she sought out Hatch Youth after moving to Houston to attend school. "I was really nervous when I first walked in, but everyone was so nice. I'd never felt that kind of acceptance before," she says. Spady served on the annual Hatch Prom committee and was nominated by Murphy for a national LGBT activist award. She won and was flown to Washington DC to accept it.

Spady says that Hatch made a real difference for her. "I made friends that I will have for a long time. I learned how to understand myself better. I got to know a lot about other people in the larger Houston LGBT community, and I built a support network of concerned, caring people."

Brian M. Carlson, now 30 years old, was 14 when he joined Hatch Youth. He remembers noticing real improvements in the program when Murphy was hired. Carlson was out when he began high school, but he felt isolated. "I got along better with Hatch Youth during those days. At school, there was nothing for LGBT kids. Even the sex education classes had only heterosexual information."

Carlson had no interest in his high school prom, but looked forward to the Hatch prom. "It was so much fun to get all dressed up for an evening." He says that Hatch helped him become comfortable with his sexuality, to make lasting friendships that he still has, and to become involved in the larger community. He was a member of the local HRC steering committee and learned firsthand what it takes to run an organization. He and his partner were married in New York two years ago. "We were married in the gazebo in Niagara Falls State Park," he remembers.

One of Hatch's most compelling stories →

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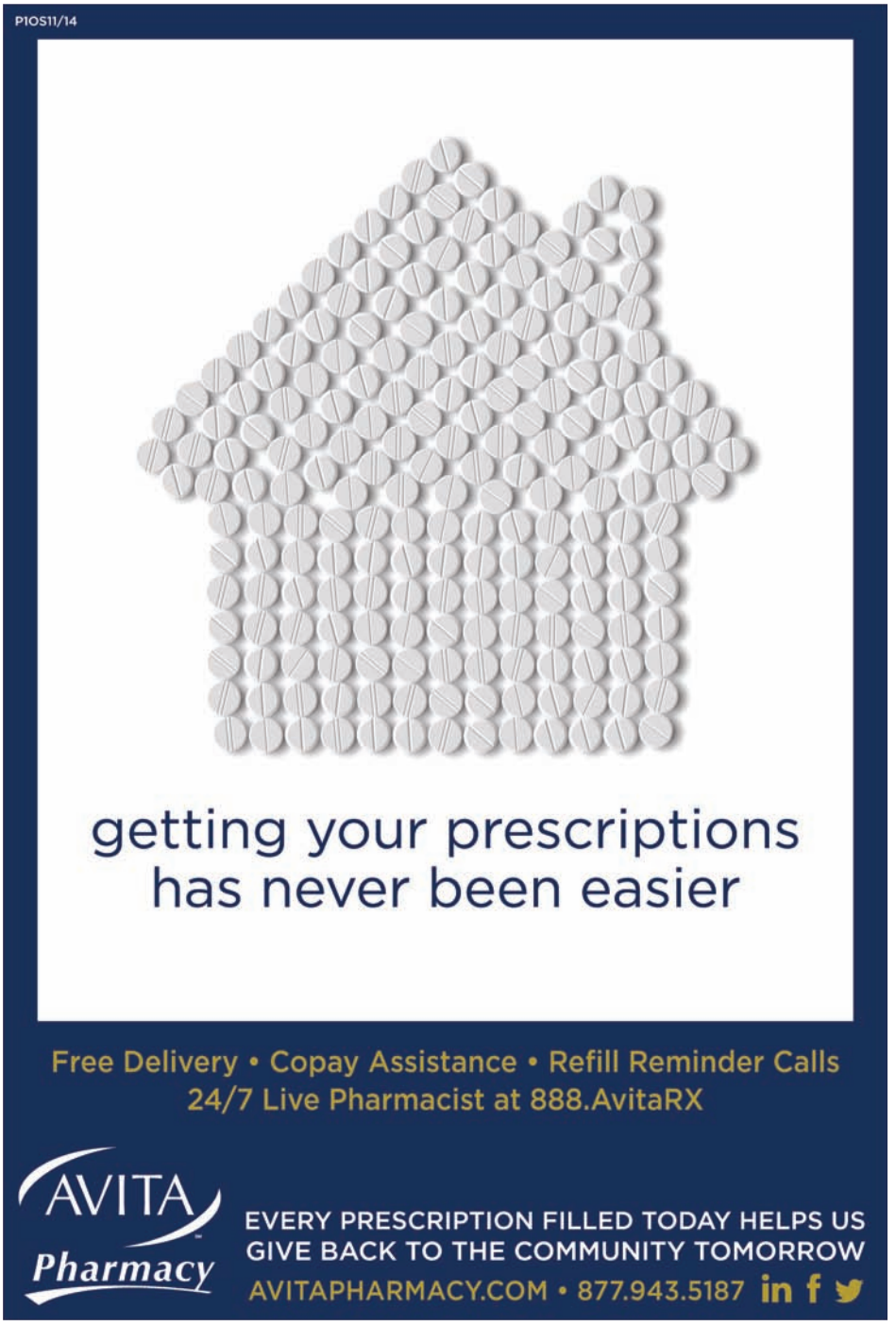
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Deb Murphy's Call to Service

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is Jeffry Faircloth, who grew up in a home with strong Pentecostal values. Pentecostals believe that homosexuality is a sin and that it dooms people to an eternity in hell. Faircloth felt trapped in his situation and lived with a fear that if anyone found out he was gay, his church would perform what is essentially a public exorcism of the demon that was driving him into homosexuality. His first chance to find another point of view came when he met a girl with a lesbian mom at a driver's education school.

The girl sensed Faircloth's conflict and told him about Hatch. "I got the number for the Hatch switchboard, but our home phone kept track of all calls in and out. So I walked to a pay phone at a Shell station. My hands were trembling as I tried to insert the coins. Based on the teachings I'd had, I was about to doom my soul for eternity."

The first meeting, for Faircloth, was "like The Twilight Zone." He'd never seen a gay teenage couple holding hands. The small-group sharing hour was a lifesaver for him. He was finally able to speak about all the conflicting feelings that raced around inside his head and heart.

"I wasn't sure what to make of Deb at first," Faircloth admits, "but I got to know her through personal conversations and saw that she had a lot of empathy. I saw someone gay and older who was successful. She became a great role model. Deb has a heart for kids that is so big, I can't really describe it."

Faircloth had to work through a lot of theological issues to come to peace with his sexuality. "I finally realized there was a big gap between what I'd been told about homosexuals and what gay people were really like." But his father remained adamantly opposed to anything gay. One night, shortly after Hurricane Katrina, his father came into his room and collected everything gay—books, memorabilia, gifts from his lover—and threw it all in the dumpster. When his father returned home the next morning after working his graveyard shift, his son was gone. Faircloth took temporary shelter with Hatch friends while he found part-time work as a teller, enrolled in school, and soon found his own apartment.

Faircloth is now the co-president of Houston PFLAG. For many Hatchlings, PFLAG has become the next logical step when they age out at 20. Like Hatch Youth, PFLAG gives them a social anchor, provides important information through their regular presentations, and offers small sharing groups.

Murphy believes that every teen who walks through the Hatch Youth door has something to offer. She says it may take a while, but "if you watch close, sooner or later

you'll always be able to catch a kid doing something good."

Temporarily Sidelined

These days, Deb Murphy has more time to reflect on her life than she'd prefer. Several months ago, after a routine medical procedure, blood clots unexplainably started racing toward her legs and feet. Physicians stabilized her condition, but not before they were forced to amputate her left leg below the knee and a significant portion of her right foot.

Talking to Murphy in the rehabilitation hospital, where she is currently in recovery, one can't help but be inspired by her reaction to her situation. "I often read my Gratitude Diary," she says. "For years, before I go to sleep at night, I write down things I'm grateful for. Those things help me keep the present in perspective."

Murphy is also thankful that the blood clots went all the way to her feet instead of stopping farther up her legs, which could have meant even more extensive amputation. Despite the positive outlook, she is no stranger to tears. "I have no memory of the first month after the onset of the clots," she says. Her voice chokes as she adds, "I'm thankful for that. I think the memories would be difficult."

Brittany Burch, a program coordinator at The Montrose Center and Murphy's direct supervisor, says that Murphy "brings a passion to finding broader experiences and skills for the youth to help make them better prepared to face the world after they age out of Hatch." Murphy's temporary absence has given Burch the opportunity "to know the youth better," but she is nonetheless eager for Murphy's return, as are all the Hatch young people who have come to depend on her compassion, wisdom, and support. "Hatch isn't Hatch without Deb at the helm," says Burch. "My motto since she's been out has been 'WWDD—What Would Deb Do?' We're all ready for her return."

Still ahead for Murphy are surgeries to fit her with prosthetics. Alterations to her car and her house will accommodate her altered body, and she is far enough into her recovery to be impatiently looking forward to a return to work.

"I like the words of Frederick Douglass," Deb Murphy says as she reflects on her last 12 years as head of Hatch Youth: "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."

OutSmart has created a GiveForward fundraising campaign to help Deb Murphy with her medical expenses and retrofitting her home. To donate, please visit giveforward.com/deb-murphy-fundraiser.

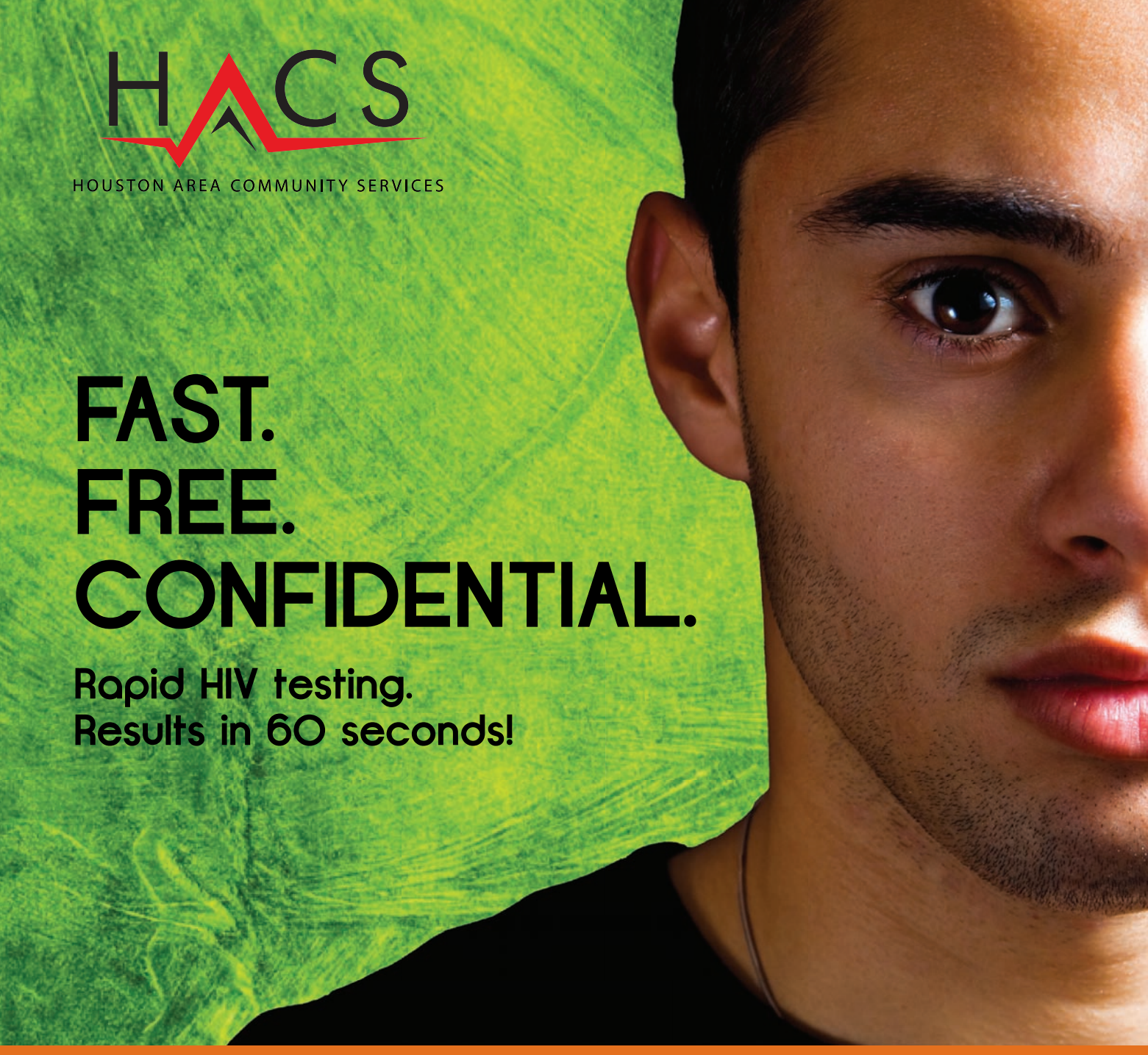
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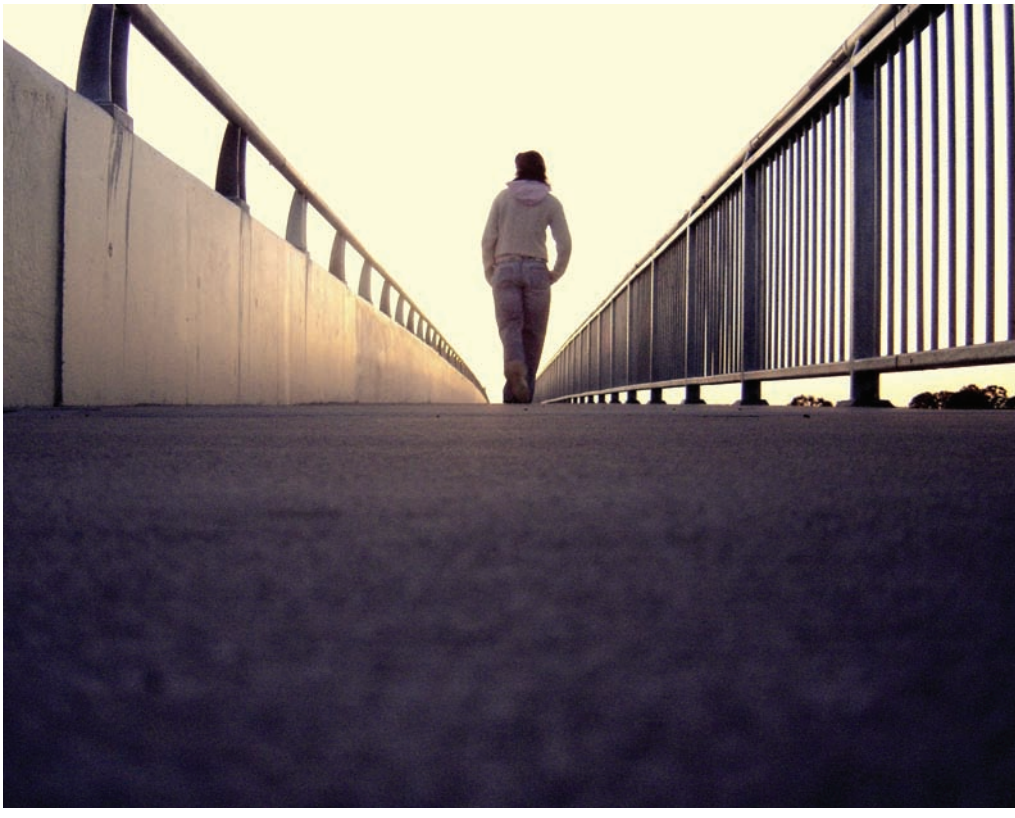
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Coming Home

Innovative local programs are helping Houston's homeless LGBTQ youth

by Megan Smith



Hope on the horizon: Houston was selected as one of two cities to participate in a new initiative to help curb staggering LGBTQ youth homelessness rates. LGBTQ youth now account for around 40 percent of the nation's homeless youth population.

Thanks to numerous favorable court rulings, nearly 60 percent of Americans now live in a state where marriage equality is legal. While happy couples rejoice that their commitments to one another are finally legally recognized in their home states, a glaring statistic still haunts the LGBTQ community: nationally, LGBTQ youth compose around 40 percent of the homeless youth population.

One in four youth under the age of 18 find themselves homeless after coming out to their family, according to the *American Journal of Public Health*. At the local level, HATCH Youth reports that there are estimated to be 800 to 1,200 homeless LGBTQ youth, with approximately 300 on the streets of Houston each night.

"Certainly, marriage equality is important," says Kristopher Sharp, an intern for One Voice Texas, a collaborative of public, private, and nonprofit organizations that focuses on policy and implementation projects surrounding health and human-service needs. "It [focuses attention on] equality and the fact that we're treated as second-class citizens. But it takes away the focus on where it really should be. Almost half of the homeless youth population is LGBT, and that should be more pertinent because there are young people who are struggling to meet their basic needs and they're not going to be able to get ahead. If you can't meet your basic needs, how are you supposed to be stable enough to even get married?"

"We have to focus on changing the narrative around homelessness."

But an exciting new initiative out of Houston may drastically curb those striking statistics locally—and, with some success, may become a model for the nation. Houston was one of two cities (along with Cincinnati) to be chosen by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to participate in the initiative—dubbed "NEST"—which garners participation from numerous organizations from various fields to help prevent LGBTQ youth homelessness. NEST is not an acronym, explains Dr. Katherine Barillas, director of child welfare policy for One Voice Texas, but rather is supposed to describe "a safe place for somebody to rest, either temporarily or permanently—that's their home or place where they can grow up, and then be able to go out on their own."

NEST is ambitious, to say the least, and has numerous subcommittees to tackle all aspects of the LGBTQ youth homelessness problem—from advocacy for these youth within the foster-care system to educating schools and families about LGBTQ issues to providing stable housing conditions.

But the first step, Barillas says, is to properly define and understand "youth" and "homelessness." For the purposes →

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Coming Home *continued from previous page*

of NEST, youth is defined as ages 14 to 24—a bit older than the average person might think. However, Barillas explains, "Even if it's a youth who's 21 years old, they don't always fit into the adult homeless population—sometimes developmentally, and also [because of] their needs and their vulnerability as a population."

Barillas notes that "youth homelessness" means more than living under a bridge with no other options. "Youth don't tend to be under the bridges where we find homeless adults," she adds. "It can be couch-surfing or congregating with other youth in hotels or abandoned houses."

One Voice Texas is most involved with policy work surrounding the advocacy and housing aspects of NEST, Barillas explains. "There is next to nothing currently being done in the Children's Protective Services system to create a safe and supportive environment for LGBT youth," she says. Within the system, if an LGBTQ youth is experiencing harassment, one of the main ways staff will try to abate the issue is to isolate the LGBTQ individual, Barillas explains. "Those staff may have every good intention of protecting that young person, but that now makes the youth feel like they did something wrong, and it keeps them from interacting with others," she says.

The organization also hopes to help create more transitional and permanent housing solutions for these youth. When serving the adult homeless population, Barillas explains, housing is a top priority, so that a stable living situation exists before any problems that may require social services are addressed. With youth, however, this model hasn't traditionally been used, she says, and youth tend to be overly reprimanded for their mistakes—mistakes that should already be anticipated. "You may have problems, but let's first get you the security of having a roof over your head and then solve the other problems from there," Barillas says. "Realize they're going to make mistakes, but help solve the issues without punishing them severely for their mistakes."

"We have to focus on changing the narrative around homelessness," Sharp adds. "It's because of a set of circumstances that have led to these people being homeless. No one is just automatically homeless. So you have to look at it holistically and address all the issues—not just people not having homes, but what led them to be homeless. You can't just put people in housing and then

Keeping Families Together

Local organization helps prevent homelessness by teaching acceptance

When Tom Chappell's adult son came out to him as a gay man 16 years ago, he had no idea it would lead him to joining the fight against LGBTQ youth homelessness. Chappell accepted his son, joined PFLAG, and is still a member to this day. His son's partner of 13 years, David, was not so lucky—after coming out, he was disowned by his parents and was on his own. "So I became a voyeur of the situation of what homelessness can be and what parental projection can be like," Chappell says.

After witnessing David's story and learning more about the LGBTQ youth homelessness problem at PFLAG meetings, Chappell wanted to get involved, but initially could not find any organizations dealing with the issue, he says. "I finally realized that if something was going to happen, I needed to do something about it," Chappell says.

With the help of other PFLAG members and passionate friends, he formed the Association for Family and Community Integrity, Inc. (AFCI), an organization dedicated to preventing LGBTQ youth homelessness by advocating on their behalf within the family system and in the greater community. Chappell now serves as a board member of the organization.

AFCI, which is heavily involved with the education subcommittee of the NEST initiative, has developed a free class for parents of LGBTQ children of any age that has been offered through Leisure Learning for the past year. The class, titled "What If Your Child Is Gay?," covers topics such as the coming-out experience, the science of sexual orientation, the consequences of rejection, and how to maintain a healthy relationship with your child. Its goal, Chappell says, is to help parents make sense of the family dynamics that occur when their child comes out as LGBTQ. "You really need to understand your child," he says. "Because children are now coming out as being gay at 13, 14 years old, and parents are not ready for this. Parents need somebody to talk to, and they're not ready to go to PFLAG."

The organization is also in the process of developing three additional courses that will complement the first, Chappell says. They also hope to build a drop-in center for homeless youth in the next couple of years, followed by an LGBTQ-only shelter. *–Megan Smith*

suddenly expect them to have everything figured out, because they'll just do the exact same thing that led them to being homeless. I think NEST is good at looking at how we can be inclusive of all people and address all the issues all together so people don't end up [homeless] yet again."

And for those who criticize the initiative for focusing solely on LGBTQ youth, Barillas responds, "So much of this, if changed, is going to affect homeless youth across the board, and we need to start where we can have the highest impact."

Providing homeless LGBTQ youth with stable, healthy relationships can be just as important as offering them shelter, says Lura Groen, board member of Montrose Grace Place and pastor of Grace Lutheran Church. Montrose Grace Place, which is a secular nonprofit founded by and run out of Grace Lutheran Church, aims to help homeless LGBTQ youth in the area by opening its doors every Thursday night from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. for a free family-style dinner. There, these youth are able to interact with volunteers—who commit to at least a year with the organization—on a weekly basis. "I think the biggest thing that we provide is safety and acceptance," Groen says. "The really hard reality is that these youth are finding ways to get their physical needs met in ways that we wish they wouldn't have to, but they are. There is no way that they can get the psychological and social needs met on their own—of having safe, accepting adults who are not rejecting them nor taking advantage of them, being present for them, and what that kind of trusting, loving relationship looks like."

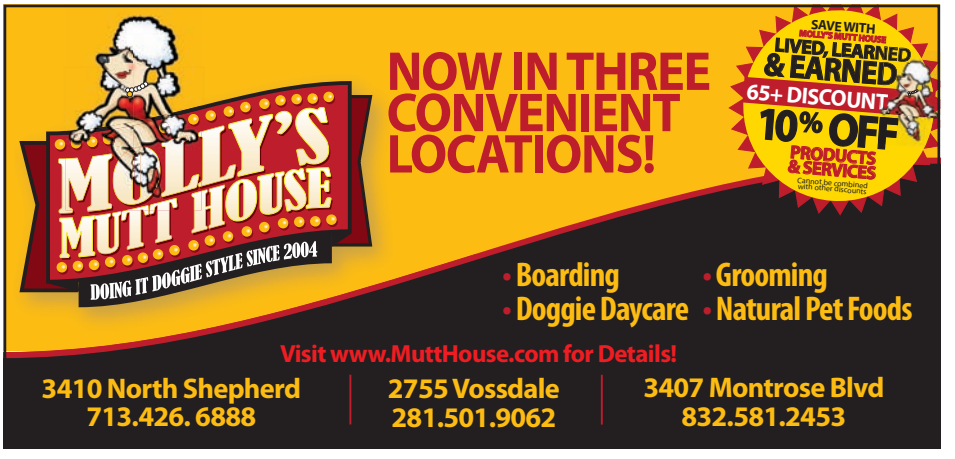
"To me, when you are in vulnerable situations, it's always good to know there is someone you can come to and that you're going to see that person weekly," Montrose Grace Place board president Fran Watson adds. "You are struggling throughout the week, but you can come on Thursday nights, and you can get not only a hot meal and supplies [for] the week, but you'll have relationships with people you can talk to."

Following dinner, the youth who choose to stay are invited to participate in a creative activity—such as writing, painting, drag, or yoga—and to visit the organization's "clothing closet" for clothes, hygiene products, and more. Montrose Grace Place is always in need of volunteers to plan and carry out these creative activities, Groen says, and explains that these volunteers only have to make a one-time commitment instead of agreeing to a full year of service like the group's direct volunteers. The night ends with a peer support group in which the youth can discuss the happenings of their weeks—good or bad—and ask for feedback from their peers if they so desire.

With November marking Homeless Youth

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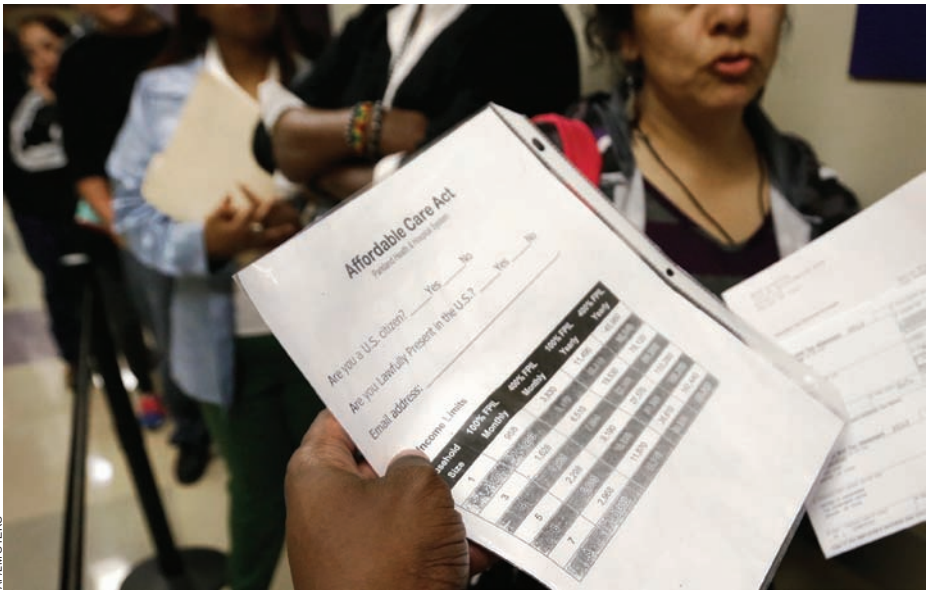
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Healthcare in Transition

Are Health Insurance Marketplace plans better for Ryan White clients?

by Morénike Giwa Onaiwu



AP/LM OTERO

Weighing your options: the Affordable Care Act has changed the face of HIV care in Texas, evoking mixed reactions from the state's HIV-positive population—especially those who are accustomed to receiving care through the Ryan White program.

Five weeks after young AIDS activist Ryan White died of AIDS-related causes in 1990, the historic HIV/AIDS program named in his honor was enacted. More than 20 years after his death, the Ryan White Program continues to be a lifeline for more than half a million low-income HIV-positive Americans.

Here in Texas, where we have approximately 73,000 individuals living with HIV, nearly 60,000 clients access Ryan White services annually. Services range from medication assistance programs to primary medical care, transportation, food banks, mental health, legal services, and more. These services are offered by a vast network of providers, many of whom are well established in their communities and have been caring for adults, infants, and children with HIV for a number of years.

However, the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has changed the way HIV care works for HIV-positive Texans—particularly those who are accustomed to receiving care through the Ryan White program. This is happening quickly throughout our state, and there are very mixed emotions about these changes in the HIV community.

Laura is a small woman with a big presence. Like many people living with HIV in her native Houston, she is a person of color. A widowed mother, Laura works part-time and attends college full-time. She was able to obtain healthcare coverage through the federal ACA Marketplace website. But then as Laura began to work with her case manager to transition into coverage, she grew concerned. "Ryan White helps pay my premiums," Laura says, referring to the recent allocation of Ryan White dollars to assist with paying clinets' insurance premiums and co-pays. Laura fears that this burden on Ryan White funds is not sustainable. "I worry about the future," she says. "I went back to school to make things better for my daughter, but I must have access to healthcare in order to provide a better life for us."

In Texas we have approximately 73,000 individuals living with HIV.

Willie, another Ryan White client, is more optimistic about Ryan White patients transitioning into Health Insurance Marketplace plans. In addition to HIV, Willie has other health conditions that require treatment.

With his prior coverage, his insurance premiums (before the enactment of the ACA) totaled more than $1,800 per month. Willie now has a health insurance plan through the Marketplace, and his premium dropped to under $200. Both Willie and Laura receive medical care at Legacy Community Health Services.

Reports of such tremendous financial savings among those who have enrolled in the Marketplace are astonishing. But the cost to the Texas Ryan White AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), which provides lifesaving antiretroviral medication to over 13,000 low-income HIV-positive Texans each year, is exorbitantly higher. Another disturbing fact is that at least 65 percent of people receiving ADAP meet the criteria for our state's nonexistent Medicaid expansion.

There is more involved in quality HIV treatment than medication, and Ryan White funding allows for the provision of a number of supportive and wraparound services that are critical for optimal health and viral suppression.

Ryan White services still fill a number of crucial gaps that exist—even with the expanded benefits provided by the ACA. State HIV advocates are well aware that there is ambivalence in the community regarding Ryan White and the ACA. To address this, organizations such as the Ryan White Planning Council exist to share resources, answer questions, and dispel misconceptions.

In Houston, a health insurance enrollment study is currently being conducted with consumers about their experiences with the Health Insurance Marketplace. The state has also launched an insurance assistance pilot program for HIV-positive consumers. Hopefully, through this information, processes can be improved in order to better address the needs of HIV-positive Texans as they transition to the Marketplace.

Emphasizing that HIV is still a serious public health issue, many are embracing the changes brought about by the ACA. The Houston Ryan White Planning →

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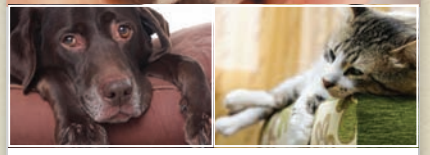
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Healthcare in Transition

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Council, for example, asserts that the ACA is an historic opportunity for all Americans, including people living with HIV/AIDS and those receiving services through the Ryan White Program, to increase their access to affordable, quality healthcare. Many Ryan White clients will gain access to health insurance or see their current health insurance improve as a result of the ACA.

Others are less optimistic, but have opted to reserve their judgment until more time has passed. They realize the importance of community involvement and the need for increased transparency during these initial years of implementing the ACA.

While the verdict is still out on ACA as a whole, the Ryan White program's active role in increasing access to the ACA, and increasing awareness of its provisions, is a tribute not only to its continuing importance in these first few uncertain ACA years, but is also a tribute to its powerful legacy.

Morénike Giwa Onaiwu is a passionate Houston and national advocate and activist for the HIV/AIDS community. She is a past chair of the Houston Ryan White Planning Council, and currently sits on the Comprehensive Planning committee. She has a master's degree in special education with an emphasis in autism and developmental delays.








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Up, Up, and to Downtown We Go!

The Houston LGBT community responds to Pride's decision to move downtown

by Megan Smith



Pride reimagined: our rendition of what the 2015 Houston LGBT Pride celebration will look like in its new downtown location.

Define "Pride." If you're in the "young professional" age bracket, you may think of Pride as a time to celebrate with your LGBT friends and allies, to have a drink (or two or three), and, at the end of the night, to come home carrying your own weight in beads. For the slightly older crowd, Pride might be defined as a time to remember our history and those we've lost during the fight for equality, and to live openly and authentically without fear. But for Houstonians of any age, one thing usually comes to mind: standing along Westheimer in late June, in the heart of Montrose, for the Houston Pride parade and festival.

This coming year, things will be different. On October 1, Pride Houston, Inc., announced that, beginning in 2015, the Houston Pride Celebration will be moved from Montrose—where it has been held for the past 36 years—to downtown. Additionally, the celebration will be held on June 20, 2015, a week earlier than the date traditionally chosen to correspond with the anniversary of the 1969 Stonewall Riots. This decision was made at Pride Houston's September board meeting with a 7–1 vote in favor of the move, the organization says.

The proposed downtown parade route will begin on Walker at Milam and continue down Smith Street to Andrews. The festival blueprint includes the reflecting pool in front of City Hall, Tranquility Park, and the downtown library pavilion.

"I would hate to see this be a wedge issue. I hope that both sides can work together."

The change of date will not conflict with any of the city's other planned events, including its Juneteenth celebrations, says Susan Christian, the mayor's director of special events for the City of Houston. "I'm respectful of what [the Pride Houston] board has presented us with," she says. "We have processed and are continuing to process what their plans are, and there is appropriate space downtown, and the calendar is available to accommodate this move." When asked about her personal thoughts on the move, Christian adds, "I love the event in Montrose—the roots are there. But the event has grown tremendously, as has that neighborhood. From a development standpoint, Montrose has changed. Coming from someone, on a personal and professional level, who has supported that parade and what it stands for, I don't envy that decision that the Pride board had to make. We host many events of magnitude downtown, and the infrastructure can absolutely support the parade."

The annual Rainbow on the Green event will not be negatively affected either, according to Barry Mandel, Discovery Green president and park director. It will continue to be held in the downtown park on the Friday of the weekend before Pride.

Pride Houston has cited numerous reasons for their decision—which they say was made with the help of "a community task force comprised of volunteers from top-tier consulting firms." They point out that downtown presents improved parking opportunities, the chance to expand the festival with additional stages to showcase diversity, a larger family area, improved safety, and most prominently, more space.

The celebration has seen exponential growth over the past decade, the organization says, with attendance numbers reaching 425,000. "Growth also means new challenges in dealing with expansion, safety, and attendee satisfaction," Frankie Quijano, Pride Houston president and CEO, says. "A downtown location is better suited to the safety needs of the growing Pride parade and festival. The experience of the attendees and volunteers will be improved by less-crowded sidewalks, roads, and parking opportunities."

This is not the first time Pride Houston has attempted to move the celebration. In 2007, the organization proposed similar changes, but plans were ultimately squashed following public outcry. This time around, community leaders are criticizing the lack of transparency in Pride's decision, stating that they were not asked their opinion until after the decision was made. "The Houston Pride Committee made a bad decision in a bad way," longtime LGBT community activist Ray Hill says. "Though they say all one needs do is volunteer to be a part of decision-making, the 120-plus volunteers needed for this year's event never met to make decisions. All decisions are made in closed meetings by the board."

"As a founder of Pride Houston, and serving many responsibilities of the organization for 25 years, I understand →





Up, Up, and to Downtown We Go!

continued from previous page

that all community organizations have to look at serving their community better and remaining relevant," Jack Valinski, who is no longer associated with the organization, adds. "However, the present leaders of the Pride Houston board did not reach out to the community they are supposed to serve. All [that the board] wants to hear are the good things."

So, OUTSMART asked the community. We reached out to other prominent LGBT leaders around the city for their opinions—both in favor of and against the move.

We received many responses, and several of those kept coming back to the idea of how Pride is defined, the evolution of that definition, and what that looks like in terms of location and the broader LGBT rights movement. "The Pride movement is about its people, not its location," Quijano says. "The original purpose of Pride in the 1960s was to break down barriers and show the broader community that the LGBT people refuse to be ignored. The move downtown will help break additional barriers to inclusion and integration. This move will allow us to better showcase the evolution of the LGBT community to all of Houston."

"The community is really a victim of its own success, which I, for one, celebrate," says Nick Brines, a former Pride Houston president and board member. "For example, we no longer feel like we have to live in a gay neighborhood or go exclusively to gay restaurants, bars, or shops in order to be accepted. To me, a Pride parade should not be defined by a single street. By moving the celebration downtown, it shows that this celebration is for the entire greater-Houston area, not just a single neighborhood."

"After reviewing the data available, out of approximately 3,000 donors, attendees, and/or participants, voters, and volunteers in 2014, 2.5 percent reside within the Montrose parade area," says Javier Ramirez, executive vice president for Pride Houston. "Many of the loudest opponents to the move to downtown do not themselves live within the Montrose parade area."

"Montrose has been and always will be the epicenter of the GLBTQ community," Jose Apodaca, director of operations for Charles Armstrong Investments, says. "No matter what statistics people throw out on the gay-to-straight ratio, there's no dispute that the GLBTQ community is most concentrated in Montrose and makes Montrose its networking and/or party neighborhood. Therefore, it's only natural—for the past 20-plus years—that the community has insisted on keeping it in Montrose."

"By taking our festivities beyond Montrose to downtown, we make a powerful statement that we are staking our claim as

legitimate citizens of the broader Houston community," says Carol Wyatt, who previously served as both president and a volunteer of Pride Houston. "I see this as the next stage in our journey towards full acceptance and recognition, and that is a good thing."

"It's important to remember that Pride isn't about any one event or parade, it's about our coming together as a community to recognize our accomplishments and working together to achieve many more," says A.J. Mistretta, editor of mygayhouston.com. "With so much opportunity right in front of us, this is no time to be divided."

"On the one hand, I really do appreciate the history that Montrose brings to the parade," says Council Member Ellen Cohen, whose district includes Montrose. "There's a great deal of passion there. At the same time, I think the fact that it's grown the way it has is a real tribute to the LGBT community."

"Opponents of the move are baffled at the arguments that LGBT Houstonians need to 'leave the ghetto,' claim 'legitimacy,' and turn *our* parade into a magnet for tourists," says John Nechman, Houston attorney and founder of People Opposed to Moving Pride Out of Montrose (POMPOM). "Pride is a celebration of *our* history and who *we* are, and our epicenter is, and for the foreseeable future will continue to be, Montrose. Yes, we live all over this massive metropolis, but Montrose is still where our collective soul resides. Our foundations and our spirits are here, not on five concrete blocks in the soulless canyons of a downtown that for most of our lives rejected, neglected, and arrested us."

Some respondents focused on the problems presented by the growth of the celebration, as well as the potential (or lack thereof) for a better festival in the new downtown location. "The festival and parade has grown every year and will continue to grow as the LGBT community garners more friends and allies," says Ryan Levy, a longtime resident of Houston and a past organizer, participant, marcher, and booth host in the parade and festival. "Our cause, our fight for equality and acceptance, is now city-wide. It has outgrown its current location and cannot progress without a change of venue. I am also excited to see the parade return to the original location in downtown where Houstonians protested antigay crusader Anita Bryant. I can think of no more fitting honor for the brave protesters that stood up for equality downtown in 1977."

"In Montrose, the festival was on hot concrete streets with limited space and little to no shading—and certainly no place to sit and enjoy performances on a stage," Brines says. "A festival lends itself to allowing community organizations to interact with the public, so they can encourage community involvement. By moving downtown, we can have a proper festival in a giant park with grass, trees, →



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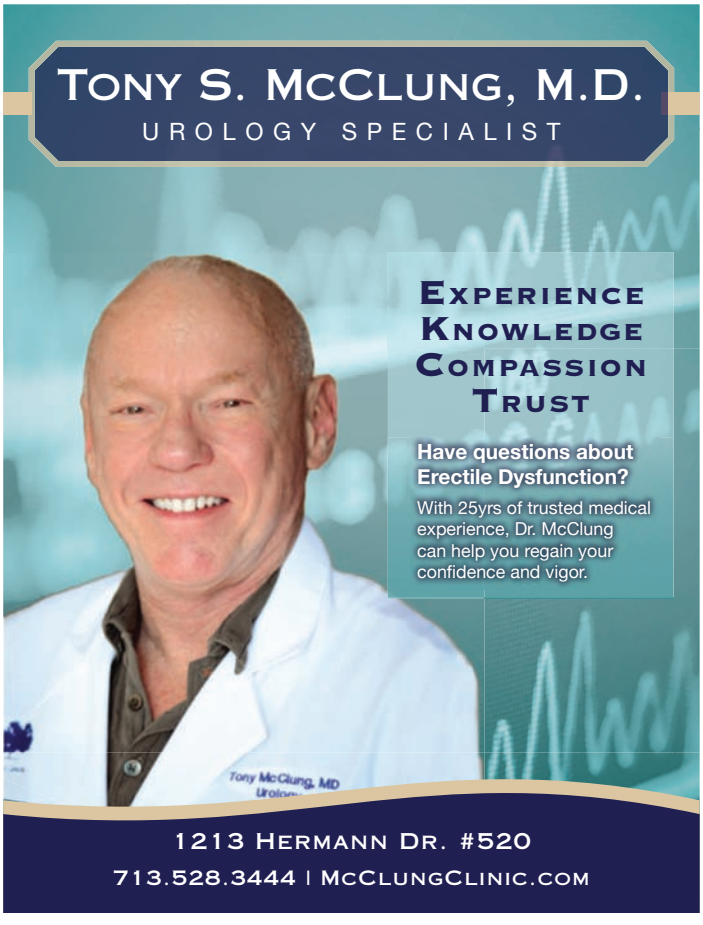
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more space to expand the festival's offerings, and much better parking."

"The decision to move feels rushed and not well thought through," says Mike Craig, planning and operations director for Out & Equal Houston. "This isn't simply a transplant operation—there are very real risks to any major change like this and, frankly, I don't have much confidence that Pride Houston, Inc., has the organizational capability to pull it off. Other downtown festivals and parades have a mixed record of success—the International Festival has folded, the Thanksgiving Day Parade is on life-support, and the new kid on the block—the BeerFest—may not survive its financial troubles."

"This should excite every LGBT organization, because a robust and well-attended festival is your best opportunity to tell your story to the masses—to let them know what you offer, and to solicit support—in a way that a 15-second pass-by as a parade entry could never provide," Wyatt says.

Others we asked raised a different point altogether: is worrying about the location of the Pride celebration the most effective use of the community's time? "Let's stay engaged," Craig says. "It's been out of the news for the last few months, but in January we will learn whether or not the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance will be on the ballot in 2015. Parades, festivals, and parties are well-deserved markers of the arc of the LGBTQ equality movement—but don't we also want to make sure that everyone is protected from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations after the revelry is over?"

"Our community has the resources and the ability to influence the November 2014 election to our favor, finally winning true equality throughout Texas," says Tony Carroll, an openly gay Houston business owner and community leader. "On the other hand, we can become distracted, divided, and disgruntled while arguing over the location of the Pride parade. I prefer drawing on our history of success by putting aside our differences, uniting, and directing our unequaled energy, creativity, activism, volunteerism, and incomparable drive for equality toward a huge win once and for all."

"I would hate to see this be a wedge issue," says Council Member Cohen. "I hope that both sides can work together and recognize the history of the Montrose, but at the same time, give the larger Houston community an opportunity to share in the festivities."

No matter which side of the debate you're on, OutSmart encourages you to keep the conversation going. We're a diverse community with diverse opinions—and that's what makes us so great. Let your voices be heard by commenting at OutSmartMagazine.com. ■



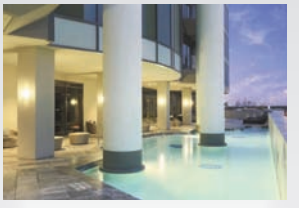
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Prague & Danube River Cruise - *AMADEUS Elegant*		Aug 4 - 13, 2015
Panama Canal Adventure Cruise	BRAND NEW	Dec 2 - 11, 2015

ATLANTIS EVENTS

Silhouette Caribbean Cruise - *Celebrity Silhouette*		Feb 1 - 8, 2015
Auckland to Sydney Mardi Gras Cruise - *Holland America Oosterdam*		Feb 24 - Mar 8, 2015
Singapore to Hong Kong - *Celebrity Millennium*		Mar 29 - Apr 9, 2015
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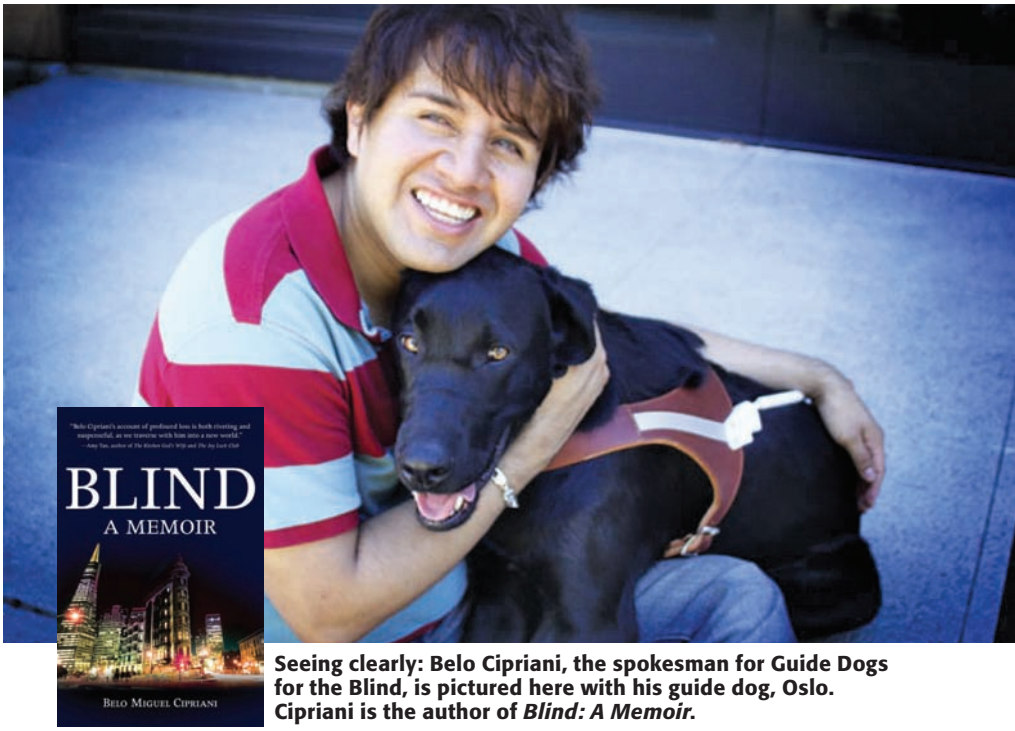
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Belo Cipriani

Teaching how to heal and how to forgive

by David-Elijah Nahmod



Seeing clearly: Belo Cipriani, the spokesman for Guide Dogs for the Blind, is pictured here with his guide dog, Oslo. Cipriani is the author of *Blind: A Memoir*.

When Belo Cipriani was 26 years old, he was viciously attacked in The Castro, San Francisco's famous "gayborhood." It wasn't a gay-bashing, though, because Cipriani's attackers were gay. They were once his closest friends. The unimaginable beating he endured, in which he was repeatedly kicked in the head and directly in his eyes, left him totally blind.

Why they attacked him remains unclear, but it appears these former friends were offended that Cipriani was no longer associating with them.

Now, seven years later, Cipriani is at peace with what happened to him, and has accepted his life as an openly gay blind man. He's a published author, a teacher, and so much more. He spoke to OutSmart about his extraordinary journey.

David-Elijah Namod: Where are you from?
Belo Cipriani: I was born in Guatemala City to Brazilian parents. At three months of age, my parents left Guatemala for jobs with the Red Cross in Mexico. After living in Mexico for four years, my parents decided to relocate to San Jose, California.

"If a magical cure [for blindness] appeared tomorrow, I would not take it."

Can you share your coming-out story?
I came out to my family as a teen, and they were very accepting. My mom attended a few PFLAG meetings and took me to the local gay center. She allowed me to date, have boyfriends, and let my gay friends hang out at our home. I feel like I became closer to my four sisters after I came out. If anything, coming out at 16 was the best thing for me. I no longer had to pretend or act—I was embraced fully for who I was.

What exactly happened the night of your attack?
At 26, I was assaulted by a group of gay men in San Francisco's Castro District. These guys were at one point my best friends growing up. They were a group of gay boys I met when I first came out in San Jose. We were like brothers, but had drifted over time. When I stumbled upon them in the city that night, I was happy to see them. They greeted me with insults and instantly jumped me.

Was there any chance that your sight might have been saved?
Although I had many eye surgeries, they all failed, and I was left blind. The initial shock lasted a few days. Then, I became seriously depressed. It took a few months for me to work through my depression, but eventually I was rehabilitated. I credit my family for my recovery—in particular my mom. She moved into my condo and didn't just help me learn to be blind, she helped me heal emotionally. She never told me it would be okay. She told me that blindness would be hard but not impossible to manage. She also said that blindness would bring people into my life that I otherwise would never have met. She was right!

Do you still hope for your sight to be restored?
My cause of blindness is retinal damage, and currently there is no medical way to fix it. If a magical cure appeared tomorrow, I would not take it. I have accepted my blindness just as I have accepted getting older. I am very happy being a →

Anxious, depressed, stressed, compulsive, or distracted?



MEN OFTEN TALK ABOUT:

Being competent in some areas while struggling with others

Being tough on the outside but hurting inside

Shutting down

Needing to belong, but feeling separate

Hurt, pain, loneliness

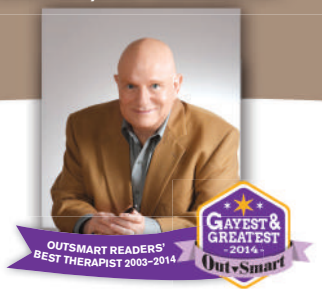
Feeling unappreciated, inadequate, or misunderstood

Difficulty with understanding or expressing their emotions

Sexual and relationship concerns

Thank You!

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



Tony Carroll, LCSW

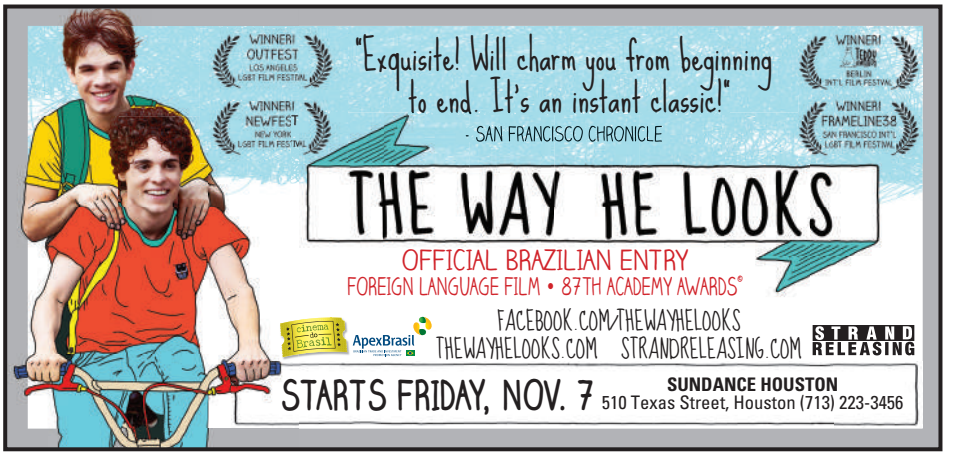
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Belo Cipriani continued from page 45

blind man, and I think it serves as a filter. The quality of men I date and new friends I meet has definitely improved since I lost my sight. I no longer have flaky or selfish friends. All the people in my life are kindhearted.

You've since told your story in the book *Blind: A Memoir*. Can you talk about that?
After being rehabilitated, learning Braille, adaptive technology, and receiving my first guide dog, I went to graduate school for my writing degree. I was tired of the inaccurate portrayals of the blind in books and movies, and wanted to do something about it. I think writing became a sort of therapy for me. I think one of the attributes of my positive attitude is that I pour all my feelings, both good and bad, onto the page. When I finished my memoir, I began to feel free. On the day my book was published, I forgave my attackers.

The book has made several high-school and college reading lists. It also landed me a guest lectureship at Yale and my current appointment as Writer-in-Residence at Holy Names University in Oakland, California. My next book will be a novel, and it's about dreams.

I'm a full-time writer, but I also make time for other projects I am passionate about. I do stand-up comedy and blog for business publications. I also train Capoeira and am the highest belted Capoeira player in the U.S.A.

Has the loss of your sight affected your ability to date and find boyfriends?
When I was sighted, I was the hunter—the one who always made the first move. As a blind person, that has changed. Dating is not easier or harder, just different. I don't do online dating, and tend to rely on meeting men at social events. My ex-boyfriend is a model; I met him at the supermarket. He began to help me get my groceries, and I didn't realize he was not a clerk until a clerk offered us assistance. He admitted to just being a patron, and we both broke into bashful laughs. At the cash register he asked for my phone number.

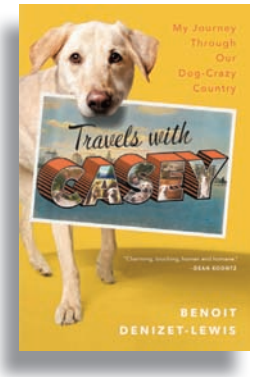
And now you work with Guide Dogs for the Blind?
I am their spokesman, and featured in their new documentary. The short film tells my story and explains all of the different services the agency offers to blind people at no charge. Guide Dogs for the Blind is the largest guide-dog school in the country, yet they receive no government funding.

We don't hear much about blind people, or disabled people of any kind, in the LGBT community. Can you address that?
What many people forget is that disabled individuals make up the largest minority group in the country. They come in all sizes, even from the LGBT community. I feel that disabled people are not always included in gay movies or advertisements. In fact, many people are not aware that there is a big number of disabled gay men and lesbians.

OutSmart readers may contact Belo Cipriani through his website at belocipriani.com—and also find out more about the blind LGBT community at Blind Pride International (blindlgbtpride.org).

Speaking of Dogs

'Travels with Casey' chronicles a journey across the U.S. to find out about America's relationship with dogs

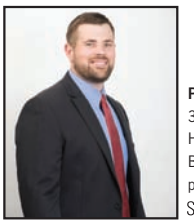


Openly gay author Benoit Denizet-Lewis and his nine-year-old Labrador-mix, Casey, travel 13,000 miles across America in an RV. They spend time with homeless dog owners, celebrity dog lovers, dog rescuers, K9 cops, dog-wielding hitchhikers, dog trainers (including Cesar Millan), show dog contestants, a man who lives with wolf-dogs, and Denizet-Lewis's former middle-school English teacher who now works as a "dog masseur." The incredible cast of characters includes many gay people.

At the start of the journey, Denizet-Lewis finds himself wondering how much Casey (who can be moody) actually likes him. He isn't sure his dog wants to spend four months with him in an RV, a feeling that is only cemented when Casey takes weeks to get comfortable in his new home on wheels. (Things get so bad that Denizet-Lewis even visits a therapist who helps humans with their "dog issues.") By the end of their adventure, though, man and dog manage to work things out—and Casey teaches Denizet-Lewis surprising lessons about himself. Simon & Schuster (simonandschuster.com). *—Troy Carrington*

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World AIDS Day

Events begin November 30

World AIDS Day Service
Sunday worship services highlight the AIDS Memorial Quilt and include a time to honor the lives lost and those affected by HIV and AIDS. Sunday, November 30, 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. in the sanctuary of Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W. 11th Street, resurrectionmcc.org.

Advent Study on HIV/AIDS
During Advent (November 30–December 24), Bering Memorial United Methodist Church includes an emphasis on HIV/AIDS. Sunday services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:50 a.m. address how HIV is impacted by stigma, poverty, incarceration, and gender-based violence. Sundays, November 30–December 21, Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold, beringumc.org.

Observance and Tree of Remembrance
Harris Health System hosts its annual observance of World AIDS Day at Thomas Street Health Center. The event's traditional "Tree of Remembrance" allows visitors to place ornaments in memory of loved ones lost to the disease. Additionally, the public is invited to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Thomas Street Health Center, the nation's first free-standing HIV/AIDS facility that has served patients through the years with compassion, dedication, and expertise. December 1, begins at 10 a.m. at 2015 Thomas Street.

World AIDS Day Luncheon
The 2014 World AIDS Day Luncheon co-chairs, Dominique Sachse and David Chaumette, as well as the honorary chair, Travis Torrence, invite you to Houston's annual luncheon in remembrance of those we have lost and in honor of those who continue working to end new infections. Senator Rodney Ellis will be honored with the Shelby Hodge Vision Award. December 1, Westin Galleria Ballroom. Details: aidshelp.org/WorldAIDSDay.

Every Life a Light: Candlelight Prayer Service
A simple, open prayer service in a contemplative style to honor those we have lost and those who are affected by HIV and AIDS. This prayer service is a free event and is open to persons of all spiritual paths. December 1, noon–1 p.m. in the sanctuary of Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W. 11th Street, resurrectionmcc.org.

AIDS Memorial Quilt Display
A personal, meditative space with the AIDS Memorial Quilt is provided on December 1, from 1:00–6:30 p.m., in the sanctuary of Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 W. 11th Street, resurrectionmcc.org.

Candlelight Observance
Legacy, the Montrose Center, and the City of Houston hold a candlelight observance on December 1 at 5:30 p.m., starting at Legacy Community Health Services, 1415 California Street, and walking around the block.

Film Screening
This free screening of HBO's *The Normal Heart*, written by Larry Kramer and directed by Ryan Murphy, is presented by the Montrose Center and co-sponsored by Legacy Community Health Services and the City of Houston. December 1, 7 p.m., the Montrose Center, 401 Branard.

'The Last One: Unfolding the AIDS Memorial Quilt'



Gone, but not forgotten: in *The Last One*, NAMES Project Founder Cleve Jones tells the story of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, the lives it honors, and the continuing impact it's had since its beginnings.

Cleve Jones, the founder of the NAMES Project Foundation, has spent nearly 30 years sewing together a quilt. With over 48,000 panels, he yearns to finish it. But this is no ordinary quilt. Each handmade panel represents a life lost to AIDS—an individual with a unique personality and story. The quilt will not be finished until AIDS is eradicated once and for all.

The Last One tells the story of the AIDS Memorial Quilt from conception to its current travels across the nation. The quilt, which is housed by the NAMES Project Foundation, was conceived at the height of the '80s and '90s AIDS epidemic as "a weapon against not only the disease but the cruelty and bigotry that the disease exposed," Jones says. But more than that, it symbolizes passing family love down through generations and "not throwing anything away, that everything is useful," he says.

Through archival footage, interviews with individuals who have dedicated their lives to the quilt, and personal testimony from those affected by HIV, *The Last One* explores the politics and stigma associated with HIV and AIDS. Even though gay men represent only 15 percent of the world's HIV transmissions, the historical perception that HIV/AIDS is a "gay disease" has had a lasting effect on how the virus is treated and talked about. When such homophobia is at play, it not only negatively affects those who are LGBT-identified and HIV positive, but erases visibility for communities that are heavily impacted by HIV, such as the African-American community and women.

The Last One is a reminder that the fight against HIV and AIDS is far from over, as infection rates continue to steadily increase each year. And until that fight is over, the AIDS Memorial Quilt will always have a missing piece—the final panel that reads "The Last One."

The Last One airs on December 1 at 7:30 p.m. (CST) on Showtime (sho.com). ***–Megan Smith***

What is STRIBILD?

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

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

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects:

- **Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual (not normal) muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold especially in your arms and legs, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and fatty (steatosis). Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored bowel movements (stools), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and stop taking STRIBILD, your hepatitis may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health. STRIBILD is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take STRIBILD?

Do not take STRIBILD if you:

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

What are the other possible side effects of STRIBILD?

Serious side effects of STRIBILD may also include:

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

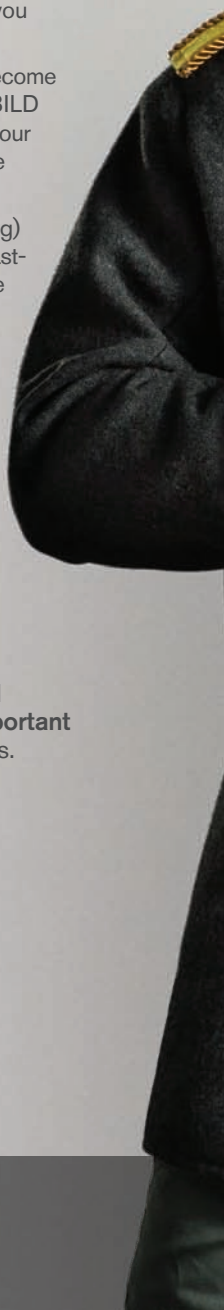
The most common side effects of STRIBILD include nausea and diarrhea. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or don't go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

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

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

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




STRIBILD is a prescription medicine used as a complete single-tablet regimen to treat HIV-1 in adults who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before. STRIBILD does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.
I started my personal revolution
Talk to your healthcare provider about starting treatment.
STRIBILD is a complete HIV-1 treatment in 1 pill, once a day.
Ask if it's right for you.
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Patient Information

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

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

What is STRIBILD?

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

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

STRIBILD can cause serious side effects, including:

1. **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take STRIBILD or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. Lactic acidosis is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**
   - feel very weak or tired
   - have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
   - have trouble breathing
   - have stomach pain with nausea or vomiting
   - feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
   - feel dizzy or lightheaded
   - have a fast or irregular heartbeat
2. **Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take STRIBILD. In some cases, these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis). **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**
   - your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice)
   - dark "tea-colored" urine
   - light-colored bowel movements (stools)
   - loss of appetite for several days or longer
   - nausea
   - stomach pain

   You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking STRIBILD for a long time.
3. **Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and take STRIBILD, your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking STRIBILD. A "flare-up" is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before.
   - Do not run out of STRIBILD. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your STRIBILD is all gone
   - Do not stop taking STRIBILD without first talking to your healthcare provider
   - If you stop taking STRIBILD, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do blood tests regularly for several months to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking STRIBILD

Who should not take STRIBILD?

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

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

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

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

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

What are the possible side effects of STRIBILD?

STRIBILD may cause the following serious side effects:

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

The most common side effects of STRIBILD include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea

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

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

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking STRIBILD?

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

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

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

- STRIBILD may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how STRIBILD works.
- Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you take any of the following medicines:
  - Hormone-based birth control (pills, patches, rings, shots, etc)
  - Antacid medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or after you take STRIBILD
  - Medicines to treat depression, organ transplant rejection, or high blood pressure
  - amiodarone (Cordarone®, Pacerone®)
  - atorvastatin (Lipitor®, Caduet®)
  - bepridil hydrochloride (Vascor®, Bepadin®)
  - bosentan (Tracleer®)
  - buspirone
  - carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®)
  - clarithromycin (Biaxin®, Prevpac®)
  - clonazepam (Klonopin®)
  - clorazepate (Gen-xene®, Tranxene®)
  - colchicine (Colcrys®)
  - medicines that contain dexamethasone
  - diazepam (Valium®)
  - digoxin (Lanoxin®)
  - disopyramide (Norpace®)
  - estazolam
  - ethosuximide (Zarontin®)
  - flecainide (Tambocor®)
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  - ketoconazole (Nizoral®)
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  - risperidone (Risperdal®, Risperdal Consta®)
  - salmeterol (Serevent®) or salmeterol when taken in combination with fluticasone (Advair Diskus®, Advair HFA®)
  - sildenafil (Viagra®), tadalafil (Cialis®) or vardenafil (Levitra®, Staxyn®), for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED). If you get dizzy or faint (low blood pressure), have vision changes or have an erection that last longer than 4 hours, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.
  - tadalafil (Adcirca®), for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension
  - telithromycin (Ketek®)
  - thioridazine
  - voriconazole (Vfend®)
  - warfarin (Coumadin®, Jantoven®)
  - zolpidem (Ambien®, Edlular®, Intermezzo®, Zolpimist®)

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

Keep STRIBILD and all medicines out of reach of children.

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

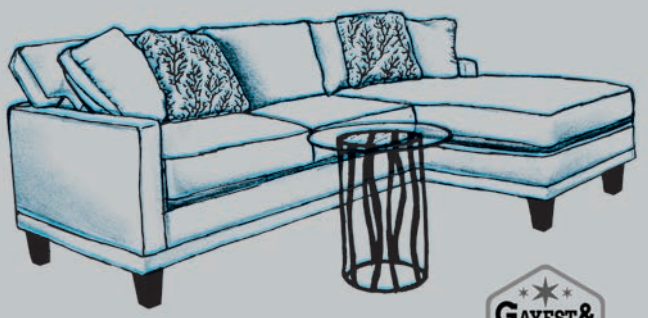
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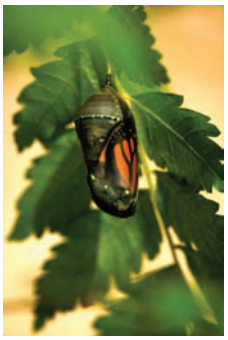
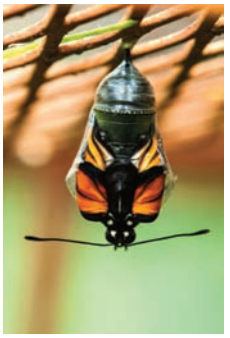
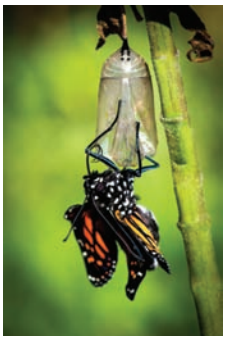
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A Butterfly's Life

'Delicate Balance: Metamorphosis of the Monarch Butterfly' exhibit is on display in Houston

by Karen Derr

Photos by Theresa DiMenno


"Delicate Balance": these are only four of the photographs in a series documenting the monarch butterfly's lifecycle, which goes from egg to caterpillar to butterfly to flight. The photographs are on view at the Houston Museum of Natural Science.

Nature photographer Theresa DiMenno's series of photographs *Delicate Balance: Metamorphosis of the Monarch Butterfly* is on display now through December 1 at the Cockrell Butterfly Center at the Houston Museum of Natural Science. "The photographs include the monarch from eggs to small caterpillars to large caterpillars confronting each other for space on the milkweed leaf to chrysalis, and butterflies with their wings drying," explains DiMenno, who completed the documentary series just this year by capturing monarch butterflies mating.

DiMenno began photographing monarchs in 2009 when she noticed caterpillars voraciously eating milkweed plants that had come up voluntarily in her Spring Valley backyard. Since then, she has photographed every stage of the monarch's life; however, she presents images that are more art than scientific illustration.

"Everything that I photographed [for this series] is here in my backyard—really in a small area of my backyard," she explains. And this isn't the first time she's found subject matter for her photographs close to home. A previous series of photos titled *My Lover's Garden* depicts her husband's plants by utilizing filtered light to give an abstract feel to the photos.

In 2013, DiMenno started actually recording data on the caterpillars, chrysalis, and eclosing (or emerging) butterflies in her backyard. At that time she counted 10 chrysalis, and one was starting to eclose. "We had this freeze where it got down to 29 degrees," DiMenno recalls. "I called the Cockrell Butterfly Center, and I got Nancy Greig, their head entomologist. She was very helpful and confirmed the monarch would indeed die if it was left out. I decided to bring it inside our house. I didn't want to mess with nature too much, but I just couldn't leave the rest outside, so I brought them inside too."

"The monarch would indeed die [in the 29-degree weather] if it was left out. I decided to bring it inside our house."

DiMenno tells of how all 10 butterflies eclosed in the room she provided for them, and how she hand-fed them orange juice. She eventually took each one outside and set it free. "I wanted them to be fully realized butterflies flying around outdoors, even if it was just for a day."

DiMenno goes on to explain, "[Houston has both] migratory monarchs and resident monarchs, and they're being studied to see if their DNA is different." Milkweed is the only plant that caterpillars eat.

"I want to share the metamorphosis [through my photos]. It's just amazing to watch. I have waited hours, sometimes, for the butterfly to emerge and its wings to dry. And I want to bring awareness about their challenges with habitat," DiMenno says. "So my goal is to have the show travel in the different cities along the migratory path of the monarch, from Canada through Texas and Mexico. It's just an astonishing phenomenon."

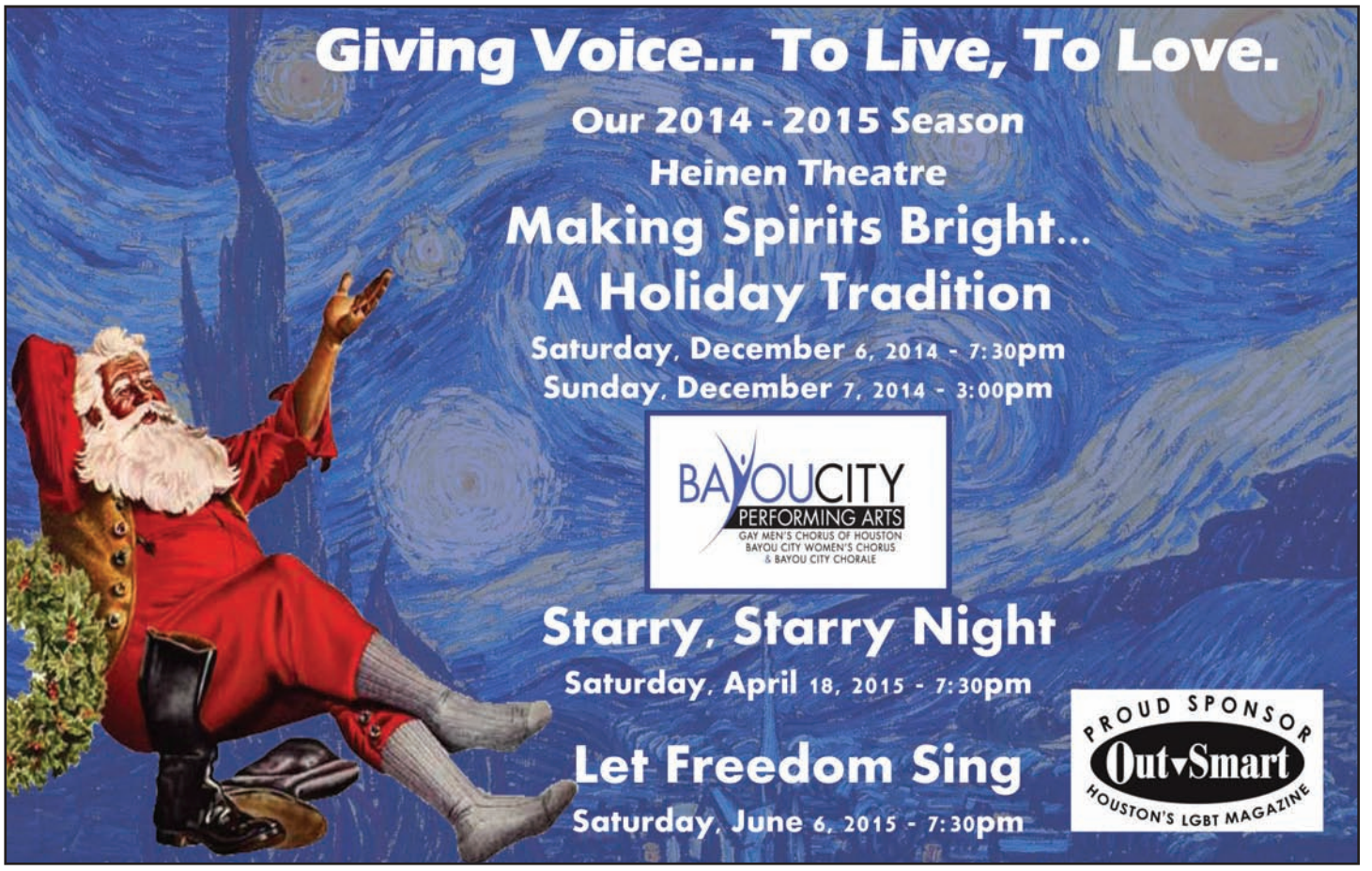
The loss of habitat for the monarch butterfly is due largely to the use of pesticides here in the United States, as well as logging operations in Mexico. DiMenno hopes to encourage others to provide milkweed plants for habitat or allow native milkweed plants to grow wild. You can buy the plants at Wabash Feed Store on Washington Avenue, at Buchanan's Native Plants in the Heights, or at the gift shop at the Cockrell Butterfly Center. It is crucial that the plants are pesticide free.

For more information on the plight of the monarch butterfly, DiMenno recommends the website monarchwatch.org. The organization also has a program to provide free milkweed plants to schools and nonprofits.

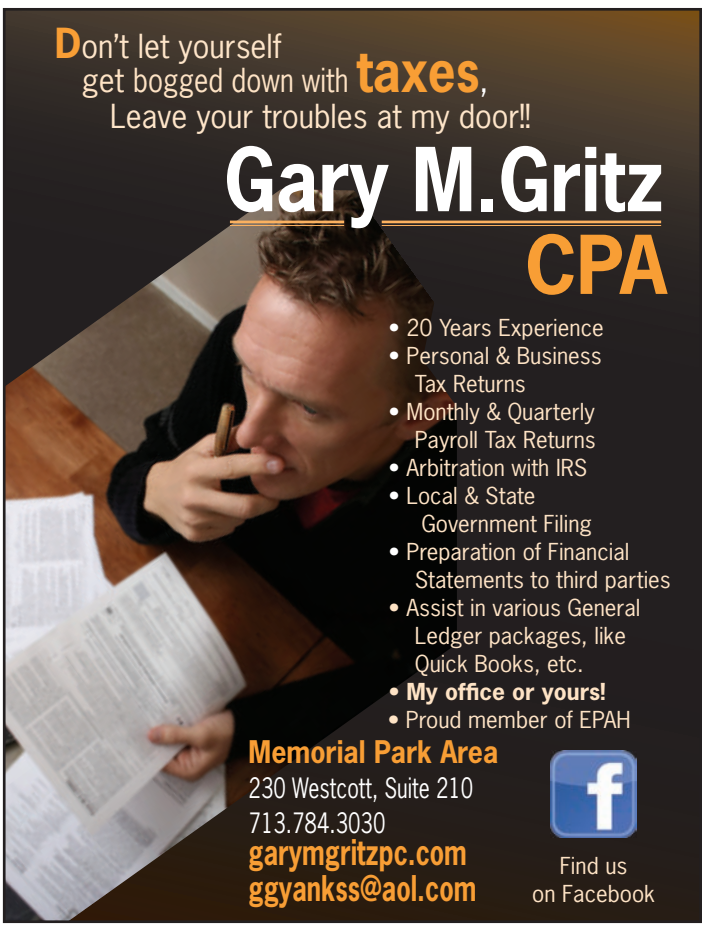
If you think you've seen Theresa DiMenno's work before, you probably have. She's worked for many publications since the 1980s, especially photographing musicians and bands. She's also been a photographer for OutSmart and has volunteered for projects like the AIDS Memorial Quilt and many others. Her nature photographs are also displayed in the patient rooms and hallways of Methodist Hospital.

While her photographs of people are stunning, nature photography seems to be her true calling. You can view more of her work, including many of the butterfly series photos, at her website, tdimenno.com.

Karen Derr is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine and a broker associate at Boulevard Realty.


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Transgender Day of Remembrance

Houston remembers those lost to anti-trans hatred

by Megan Smith

Photo by Dalton DeHart



Paying tribute: (l–r) Jay Mays, Edie Christian, Cristan Williams, Lou Weaver, Angela Pisecco, Robin Mack, and Isabel Ferry attend the 2013 Houston Transgender Day of Remembrance. This year's event is to be held November 22 at UH's A.D. Bruce Religion Center.

"It's really scary that just having the courage to leave your home [can mean] you might be a target for violence—you might not make it back," transgender activist and *Orange Is the New Black* actress Laverne Cox says during an interview with Logo before the debut of *The T Word*, her new documentary about the lives of transgender youth. "But that is the reality for far too many trans people around the world."

On November 22, Houston marks the Transgender Day of Remembrance—a day set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice—at the A.D. Bruce Religion Center, a campus space provided by the University of Houston's LGBT Resource Center. The event is organized and presented by the Houston Transgender Unity Committee, a subcommittee of the Transgender Foundation of America.

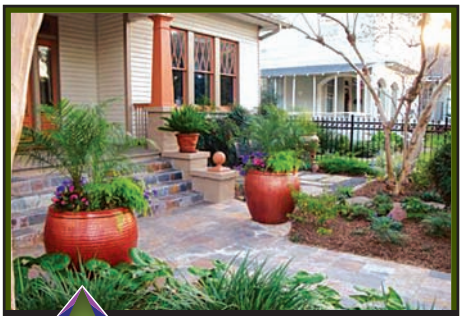
In 2013, 72 percent of anti-LGBTQ homicides were transgender women, according to statistics provided by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. Transgender people of color are particularly overrepresented in these homicide rates. "The Transgender Day of Remembrance is important in that it raises awareness that violence against trans people is still very real," Monyque Starr, president of the Houston-based Transgender Foundation of America, says. "In light of so many successes in the political and legal worlds, people often forget that in the 'real' world, trans-hate still exists."

The Houston event kicks off with a reception and social gathering at 7 p.m., with refreshments provided by HRC Houston. The event's program follows at 8 p.m. with opening remarks, a choir performance, and scheduled speakers. Names, locations, and a short description of each trans-hate murder from the last year is then read. "This part can be a bit heavy, as we go through the entire list of names worldwide, and recount how they were killed," Starr says.

This year, Starr adds, the names of those killed due to trans-hate are also to be tweeted out on their brand-new Twitter account (@DORHouston) as they are read aloud so that "people who may not be able to physically attend [can] still be part of the event and community."

Those interested in volunteering for the event should contact Starr at president@tfahouston.com. Donations are also accepted at donate.tfahouston.com. Find event updates for the Houston Transgender Day of Remembrance at tgdor.org.

What: Houston Transgender Day of Remembrance
When: November 22, reception at 7 p.m., memorial program at 8 p.m.
Where: A.D. Bruce Religion Center, 3800 Cullen Blvd. (Entrance 13, parking lot 13A)
Details: tgdor.org. ■

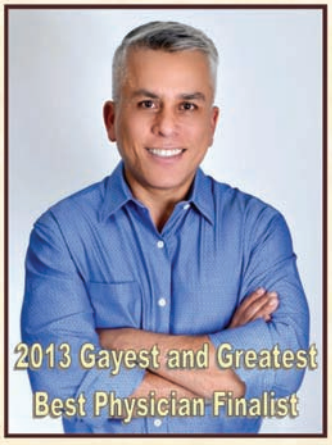

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The Neighborly Thing to Do

Bringing Houston together, one tee at a time

by Donalevan Maines



NICK ESQUER

That's what friends are for: Houstonians Joey Garza (l) and Jaime Loera show off a couple of the shirts in their Joey & Jaime line of tees.

Joey Garza and Jaime Loera are friends, not lovers, but they still make beautiful music—er, *T-shirts*—together. Garza has a boyfriend who loves hanging out with Loera, while Loera says that if any of his suitors don't like his friendship with Garza, "Then it's 'bye!"

The pair have been BFFs since meeting at Texas A&M University in Kingsville. "He was my first gay friend," says Loera. "The first gay person I knew was Joey."

Last January, the Kingsville transplants launched their small apparel business, Joey & Jaime, decorating T-shirts and with images of the Astrodome and a bridge over Buffalo Bayou.

Seven years ago, Garza moved to Houston, where his grandmother was treated for ovarian cancer at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Her condition helped inspire Garza, who had studied biology, to pursue graduate studies at the University of Houston College of Pharmacy.

His family has a long-standing affection for the city. "My grandpa was a huge fan of the Astros, so every year we would take a trip from Kingsville to watch them play in the Astrodome," he says. "Moving here brought back such fond memories."

Loera, who followed a year later, agrees. "One of my best memories is going to Astroworld. It was fun!" However, he concedes, "One of my worst memories was being stuck in traffic. I didn't like that."

"Our company's slogan is 'Bringing Houston together one tee at a time,'" adds Garza, who feels that being small-town boys who moved to the Big City makes him and Loera especially appreciative of Houston.

Houston is "the fourth-largest city in the United States, but it's really a bunch of little neighborhoods."

"It's the fourth-largest city in the United States, but it's really a bunch of little neighborhoods," says Loera, who filled one design, called H-Town, with tributes to Montrose, Hyde Park, and the Heights, as well as Afton Oaks, Bellaire, Buffalo Bayou, EaDo, Fifth Ward, Galleria, Medical Center, Memorial Park, Meyerland, Midtown, Museum District, Rice Military, Rice Village, River Oaks, Sawyer, Third Ward, and Washington Avenue neighborhoods.

"We designed that shirt in the shape of an H with various Houston neighborhoods held together by the epicenter of our booming city, the downtown skyline," explains Loera. "Whether you're wearing 'H-Town' in our city or New York City, your love for Houston will definitely be evident.

"Houston-inspired tees was the business we felt would be the best because we are both passionate about Houston and T-shirts," he adds. The duo hopes to "give back" to their adopted hometown by "doing something entrepreneurial and creative," says Loera.

"Our logo came about because I love ampersands and the idea of connections," he adds. "The logo is clean and subtle, with two J's surrounding the ampersand."

Loera was a high-school art teacher who had never heard of Adobe Illustrator before he and Garza researched the computer program and designed their first T-shirt, on a computer screen, with the aid of YouTube video instructions.

Squarespace.com taught them how to build their own website, joeyandjaime.com, where a calendar tells fans about the markets or festivals where they will be selling their apparel. The Joey & Jaime line is also available at Space Montrose, 1706 Westheimer, and The Tinderbox, 3622 Main St., Ste. B.

Wearing their products also attracts business, says Loera. "We both have been stopped and asked where we got our shirts—but the best part is when we say, 'We make them!'"

Garza, who now works as a pharmacist, adds, "So far, we're doing really well. Someday we might venture into having our own shop [that might also feature] other Houston artists and designs, and maybe even get into art and jewelry."

Donalevan Maines also writes about Mass Appeal *in this issue of* OutSmart *magazine.*

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Charming Prince

Bret Shuford brings his one-man cabaret show to Houston for one night only

by Donalevan Maines

Photo by DC Anderson



Fantasy and reality: catch native Houstonian Bret Shuford's cabaret show at Ovations on November 25.

Dreams really do come true in *Charming: A Tale of an American Prince*, a one-man cabaret show that out Broadway performer Bret Shuford, a Houston native, created about choosing joy while embracing reality. "It has a lot of Disney music you would expect a prince to sing," he says, "but there's also a song by Prince, the artist." In addition, Shuford sings music by Rascal Flatts, Stephen Sondheim, Richard Rodgers, Elton John, and contemporary Broadway favorites Jason Robert Brown (*The Bridges of Madison County*) and Steven Lutvak (*A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder*), among others.

When Shuford booked *Charming* this month in Orlando, Florida, home of Disney World, he figured that as long as he was in the neighborhood, why not add a Houston show at Ovations? "It's the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, so I'll stay and get to be with my family at Thanksgiving," he says.

"Once upon a time, far, far away, in a magical kingdom called Texas."

Shuford, who lives in Manhattan's East Village, visited Houston last month to be best man at his twin brother's wedding. "My brothers picked sports: basketball, football, soccer, hunting—all the things that Texas boys do," says Shuford. "I liked to sing and dance, and I loved doing musicals." Growing up in Beaumont, through graduation from West Orange Stark High School in 1997, Shuford says, "I was in shows at all of the community theaters. If it was within a 30-mile radius, I was in it."

He also studied at Chris Wilson's Studio for Actors that was in Bellaire, which is where a teacher pointed him to Wagner College in New York City.

Shuford stuck around Broadway after college, debuting in *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, then taking roles in *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Little Mermaid*. He also toured in *South Pacific* and *The Sound of Music*, and played a Rothschild broker in the movie *The Wolf of Wall Street*.

Last year, he was accepted into the Eugene O'Neill Center Cabaret Conference, where Donna McKechnie (a Tony Award winner as Cassie in *A Chorus Line*) and others inspired Shuford to create *Charming*. "All we did for 11 days was wake up, eat, sing, eat, sing, eat, watch people sing, drink, and sing," he says.

Charming begins with Shuford telling the audience, "Once upon a time, far, far away, in a magical kingdom called Texas."

"It's about a young, idealistic prince who goes on a journey," he explains. "It's about finding your own kingdom."

The show bowed last November in New York, where Shuford performed it again in August at Don't Tell Mama. Other cities on his dance card this fall include Los Angeles and Laguna Beach, California.

As for Shuford's personal journey, he found his prince in the form of Stephen Hanna, whom he married in 2011. In 2008, Hanna was Broadway's first Older Billy in *Billy Elliot the Musical*. He's featured in a pas de deux during the song "Lonely Town" in the current Broadway revival of *On the Town*.

What: *Charming: A Tale of an American Prince*
When: 8 p.m., Tuesday, November 25
Where: Ovations, 2536 Times Blvd.
Details: 713.522.9801 or e-mail charming reservations@gmail.com.

Donalevan Maines also writes about Mass Appeal *in this issue of* OutSmart *magazine.*


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Gays in the Seminary

'Mass Appeal' is being revived in Houston

by Donalevan Maines

In *Mass Appeal*, Father Tim questions Roman Catholic seminary student Mark's virginity by asking, "Have you ever seen 'Paree'?" When there is silence, the priest follows with, "And if you have seen 'Paree,' were they 'Parisiettes' or Parisians?"

After a long pause, Mark replies, "Both."

Father Tim is shocked. He asks, "Really?"

The audience was probably just as shocked when the two-hander by Bill C. Davis, now playing at A.D. Players in Houston, premiered April 22, 1980, at the Manhattan Theatre Club. Was that sound the clutching of pearls?

Adding to that original audience's dismay was the casting of handsome matinee idol Eric Roberts as conflicted seminarian Mark Dolson. The future Oscar nominee had just turned 24 and still had a few years in the spotlight of Hollywood hunks before falling into the shadow of his sister Julia.

Now through November 16, *Mass Appeal* is being revived in Houston at A.D. Players, a Christian theater company whose artists insist on telling stories, and not using their stage as a pulpit for preaching.

Keeping with the original script, the playbill states, "The action takes places in Father Tim Farley's office and in St. Francis Church. It is autumn."

The theater's decision not to identify what year the play takes place leaves open the door for audiences to consider the play's current significance for the LGBT community, especially among gay men.

What prompts Father Tim to ask Mark about his sexual history is Mark's "vehement defense" of two fellow seminary students, Frank and Alfred, whom the bishop thinks "hang out too much together." Father Tim explains, "The bishop is so paranoid about this Frank and Alfred business, he wishes all the altar boys were girls."

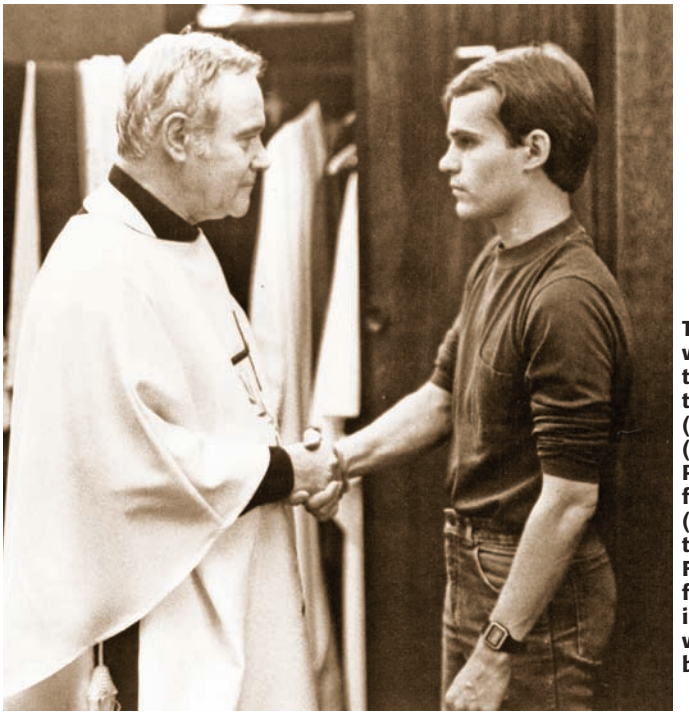
The bishop thinks Frank and Alfred "hang out too much together."

It's as if gay men, rather than pedophiles, are the root of child sexual abuse involving priests. But don't get me started. That battle rages on, from reports that gay men are being weeded out of seminaries to an Associated Press report in mid-October that the Vatican's remarkable overture of "welcoming homosexuals" has been watered down to the colder "providing for homosexual persons."

It's probably impossible for an LGBT audience to divorce itself from the personal implications of Mark's plight in *Mass Appeal*, but the play, at heart, is just as much about Father Tim's struggle against complacency. It seems he's gotten a little too comfortable at his parish and finds himself telling folks what they want to hear instead of what might nourish them.

Mass Appeal has been the biggest hit in the career of Davis, who more recently wrote about Catholicism in a play about gay marriage, called *Avow*.

The author adapted *Mass Appeal* into a 1984 film that starred Jack Lemmon as Father Tim and Zeljko Ivanek as Mark. Ivanek went on to come out, and he recently appeared in off-Broadway in a play, *Slowgirl*, penned by his partner, Greg Pierce, a nephew of out actor David Hyde Pierce. Greg Pierce also teamed with *Cabaret*'s John Kander (following the death of Kander's lyricist Fred Ebb) to create *The Landing*, a musical that starred his famous uncle.



UNIVERSAL CITY STUDIOS

The play *Mass Appeal* went from small theaters (in the '70s) to off-Broadway (1980) to Broadway (1981) to film (1984). Pictured from the film is Mark Dolson (Zeljko Ivanek, r) thanking Father Farley (Jack Lemmon) for trying to keep him in the seminary from which he is about to be booted.

Milo O'Shea was nominated for a Tony Award as Father Tim after the play transferred to Broadway, with Michael O'Keefe (future husband of Bonnie Raitt) as Mark. The show's director, Geraldine Fitzgerald, also scored a nomination.

When O'Shea died last year, the *Los Angeles Times* reported, "He made his Broadway debut opposite Eli Wallach in the 1968 play *Staircase*, said to be the American theater's first effort to depict gay men in a serious way."

Out actor Rupert Everett played Mark when *Mass Appeal* debuted in London.

What: *Mass Appeal*
When: Through November 16
Where: A.D. Players Theater, 2710 West Alabama
Info: adplayers.org, 713.526.2721.

Donalevan Maines also writes about Joey & Jaime in this issue of OutSmart *magazine.*





Phil Dunphy

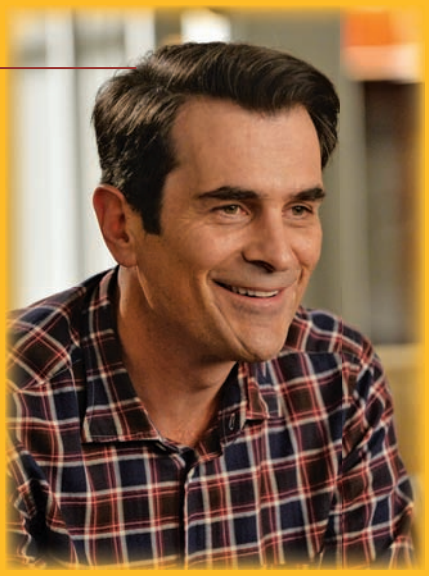
(*Modern Family*, 10/22/14, ABC)

Phil Dunphy (Ty Burrell), a real-estate agent, is representing his male next-door neighbor, who is moving out of the house. Phil's wife, Claire (Julie Bowen), is thrilled because they now have the rare opportunity to choose their own neighbors.

Phil: I'm still looking out for my client's best interest, of course.

Claire: Wink, wink.

Phil: I'm kind of in a delicate spot, stuck between my wife and the guy next door, but I'm pretty sure I can satisfy 'em both simultaneously.



Blake Shelton

(*Entertainment Weekly*, 10/10/14, Kyle Anderson)

Kyle Anderson: You and Adam Levine have so much chemistry on *The Voice*. When are you two going to go ahead and just make it official?

Blake Shelton: Gay marriage is now becoming legal everywhere, but I don't think being married to multiple partners is legal yet. [Shelton is married to country music singer Miranda Lambert.] But when that can happen, we're gonna have it made.



Queer Quotes

Compiled by Blase DiStefano

Lisa Kudrow



Brainy: Dr. Fiona Wallice (Lisa Kudrow) skypes with her assistant Jerome Sokoloff (Dan Bucatinsky) on Showtime's *Web Therapy*. Bucatinsky and his husband, Don Roos, co-direct the show, and are close friends with Kudrow. But what does she think of them as gay men?

(*Between the Lines*, 10/22/14, Chris Azzopardi)

Chris Azzopardi: [S]o much of your career has been gay adjacent. You did *Happy Endings*. You turned Meryl Streep into a gay conversion therapist for *Web Therapy*. And then, of course, there's *The Comeback*. Are you as immersed in the gay community as your career would lead us to believe?

Lisa Kudrow: Yes and no. The people I work with are gay. I don't know who I'm going to offend by leaving them out, but I need to say that I think gay men are superior beings in my mind. I do believe that.

I would love to hear why.

It's all so tricky. I studied biology and the brains are anatomically different. They just are. There's a stronger connection with the corpus callosum [in gay men]. The two sides of the brain communicate better than a straight man's, and I think that has to be really important. They're not women—they're still men—and women also have thicker corpus callosums, so I think it's the combination of those qualities that makes them like a superhuman to me.

Editor's note: Web Therapy *airs on Wednesdays at 10 p.m. (central) on Showtime (sho.com).* The Comeback *premieres Monday, November 9, at 9 p.m. (central) on HBO (hbo.com).*



Make it legal: Are Blake Shelton (l) and Adam Levine going to tie the knot?

BURRELL - ERIC MCCANDLESS; KUDROW - COURTESY SHOWTIME; PAGE - ERIC CHARBONNEAU/INVISION FOR 20TH CENTURY FOX/AP IMAGES; SHELTON/LEVINE - TRAE PATTON/NBC (COLLAGE - BLASE DISTEFANO)

Ellen Page

(*BuzzFeed*, 10/21/14, Kate Arthur)

In *Freeheld*, Julianne Moore plays a New Jersey detective dying of lung cancer who seeks to leave her pension to her partner, played by Ellen Page. In one scene, the couple applies for a civil union, and the production needed a building that could pass for a town hall.



Initially, the location scout was told that Salesian High School, a private, all-boys Catholic school in New Rochelle, New York, was available for the afternoon the scene was to be filmed. But then higher-up school administrators said no. . . .

When BuzzFeed News contacted John Flaherty [the school's principal] by e-mail about the school's reasoning in not wanting a movie with LGBT content to film there, he wrote: "All are welcomed at Salesian High School. Our School chooses to embrace the social issues such as hunger, homelessness, poverty, and helping the less fortunate."

When asked in a follow-up email for more specifics, Flaherty responded, "I will let my initial statement stand for itself."

Page tweeted the below in response to the Salesian High School administration's decision not to allow *Freeheld* to film there:





by Megan Smith

'Lady Valor: The Kristin Beck Story'

A former Navy SEAL's newest battle—living openly as her authentic, transgender self



JESSE MCCLUNG; HERZOG & CO. FOR CNN

New territory: former Navy SEAL Kristin Beck has served 13 deployments and suffered numerous injuries during her time in the service. Now, she navigates a new journey that equally tests her strength—living in the public eye as an openly transgender woman.



Kristin Beck has braved unimaginable situations. She's a decorated retired Navy SEAL who served 13 deployments—most of which were voluntary—in numerous countries. Now, she braves a new journey into the unknown—living openly as a transgender woman.

In 2013, Beck came out publicly during an exclusive interview on *Anderson Cooper 360*. Since then, she's been inundated with e-mails of support, including some from transgender viewers sharing similar stories. She also receives a massive amount of hate mail, she says, which sometimes hurts worse than the numerous injuries she acquired during her time in the service. *Lady Valor: The Kristin Beck Story*, directed by Sandrine Orabona and Mark Herzog, takes viewers along for the ride (literally) as Beck travels the country in her RV motor home to visit family, attend speaking engagements, and to further her self-discovery.



Her feelings of being different started at a young age, Beck explains in the film. She would fake being sick in order to stay home from school to paint her fingernails and dress up in her sisters' clothes—her own personal "vacation," she says.

Intimate interviews with Beck's father, brother, and youngest sister at their family home in small-town New York reveal varying levels of understanding and support for Beck's transition. While her youngest sister is very supportive, even helping Beck manage her e-mails and calendar, her brother and father seem to be having a more difficult time with the change. However, their support is apparent, despite things like Beck's father misgendering her by using incorrect pronouns throughout most of the film. "We're brothers, and I never saw a girl in him," Beck's brother says. "She's the same, just dresses different."

Beck's mother and two other sisters declined to be a part of the film. As Beck says, her mother sees her transgender identity as "just a phase." We also learn that Beck is divorced, and has little contact with her ex-wife and two children—something that deeply saddens her.

Her service family, however, has—for the most part—stood behind her. As one of her Navy SEAL friends says, "Once a SEAL, always a SEAL. That sister is my brother."

But Beck is nothing but understanding when it comes to those who cannot quite grasp her transition. She's still figuring out what it means to be transgender as well, she says. For her, hearing others say, "I don't understand it, but I support you," is a great start.

In *Lady Valor*, Beck exemplifies courage and authenticity—giving new meaning to the American values for which she fought so valiantly during her time in the service: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Available November 11 from Wolfe Video (wolfevideo.com) and CNN Films. ■

DVD Shorts

***My Straight Son* (*Azul y no tan rosa*)**



Director Miguel Ferrari flipped the classic story of a gay child trying to win a straight parent's approval in this Spanish-language tale of a gay father trying to reconnect with his unaccepting straight son. TLA Releasing (tlavideo.com). *–Troy Carrington*

Heterosexual Jill



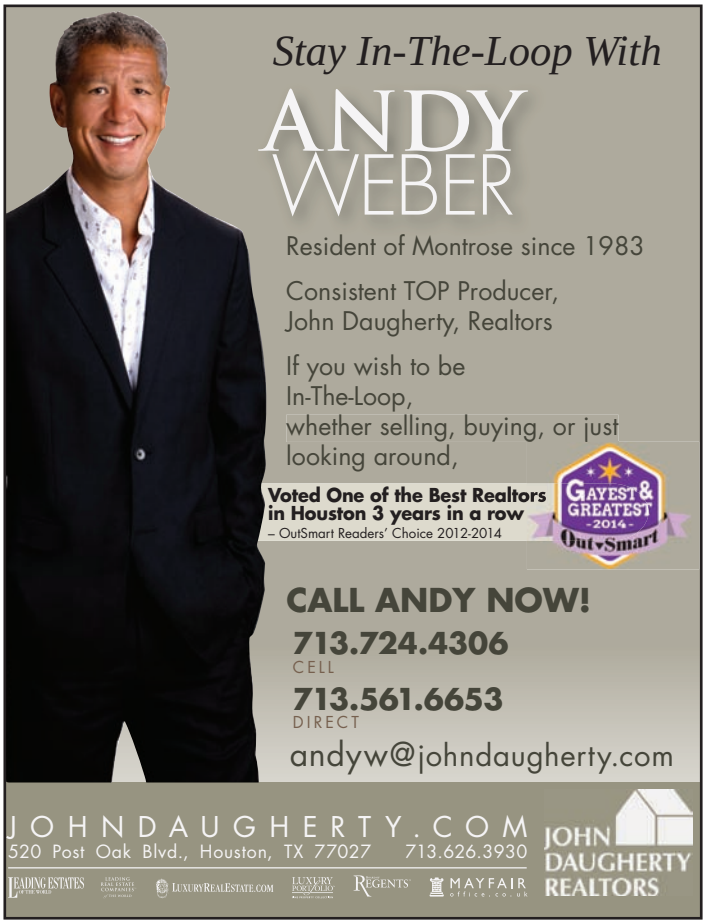
Unable to make progress with her ex-lesbian conversion path, a neurotic Jill (Jen McPherson) tracks down her ex-girlfriend Jamie (Michelle Ehlen) to prove to herself that she is no longer attracted to her. Ariztical Entertainment (ariztical.com). *–Suzie Lynde*

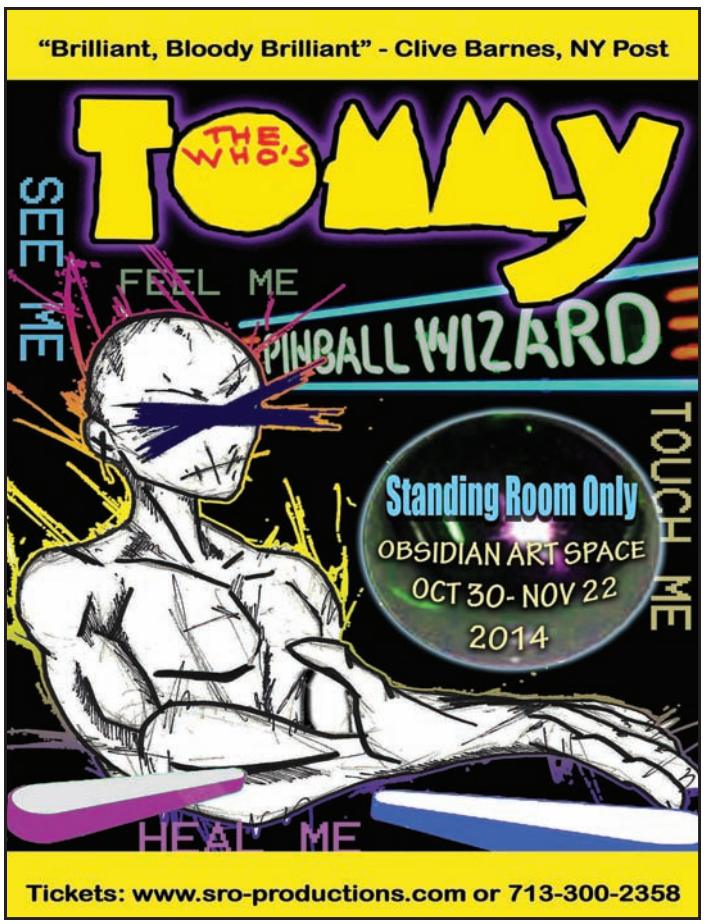
White Frog

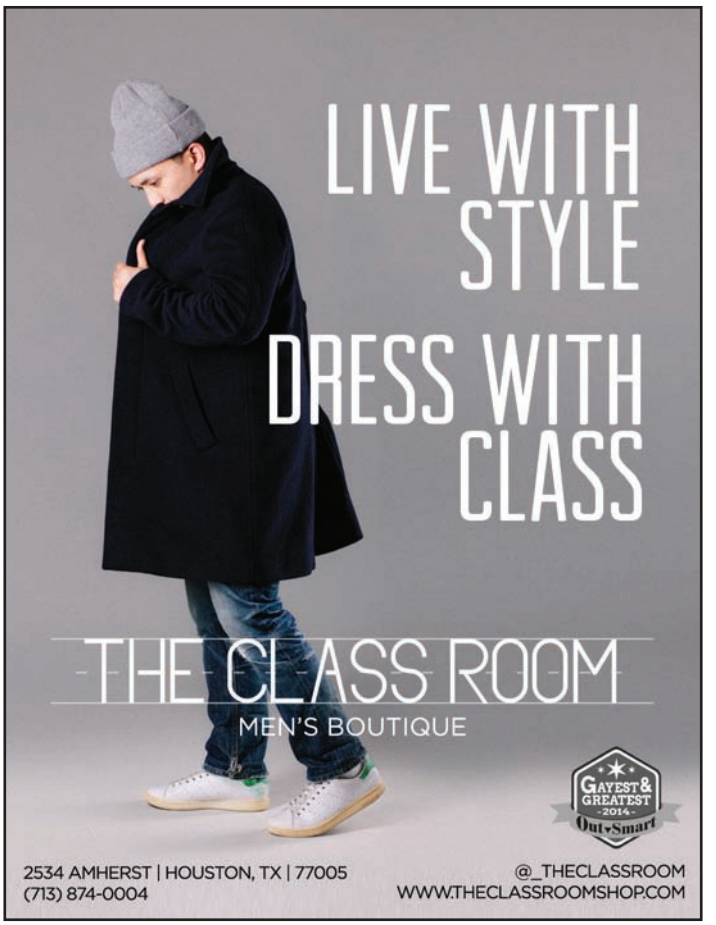


Nick (Booboo Stewart), a neglected high school student who is struggling with Asperger's Syndrome, finds his life in disarray when his older closeted brother, Chaz (Harry Shum Jr.), whom he idolizes, dies in a tragic accident. The conservative parents are played by Joan Chen and BD Wong. Wolfe Video (wolfevideo.com). *–Troy Carrington* ■


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by Gregg Shapiro

Reinterpretations

Audra McDonald, Tony Bennett & Lady Gaga, Minnie Driver, and more









The Flaming Lips scorch our ears and fry our brains on *With a Little Help from My Fwends* (Warner Brothers). After adjusting the color for Pink Floyd (see 2009's *The Dark Side of the Moon*), the band turns its attention to the Fab Four with its visceral reinvention of *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. Joined by a stellar assortment of "fwends" (including Tegan and Sara, My Morning Jacket and J. Mascis, Miley Cyrus and Moby, Julianna Barwick and Phantogram, Grace Potter and Foxygen, to mention a few), The Flaming Lips take the psychedelic groundwork laid by The Beatles and launch it into the stratosphere. Cover versions of songs (especially those as classic as these), and in particular renditions that diverge in the ways that these do, are meant to give the listener a fresh perspective on something familiar. Kudos to The Flaming Lips for doing just that and leaving their imprint at the same time.

On *Map to the Treasure: Reimagining Laura Nyro* (Masterworks), pianist Billy Childs gathers a remarkable array of artists to pay tribute to the late singer/songwriter Laura Nyro. Produced by Larry Klein, the album opens fittingly with the native New Yorker's "New York Tendaberry," featuring opera diva Renée Fleming and cellist Yo-Yo Ma. Fleming is the perfect choice for this song that shows off Nyro's extraordinary range. Lisa Fischer (featured in the Oscar-winning doc *Twenty Feet from Stardom*) strikes gold on the title track, Ledisi gets listeners high on "Stoned Soul Picnic," and Shawn Colvin and Chris Botti turn the usually jubilant "Save the Country" into a mournful call to action.

Not quite as inspired a pairing as *A Wonderful World*, Tony Bennett's dazzling 2002 collaboration with k.d. lang, *Cheek to Cheek* (Streamline/Columbia/Interscope) by Bennett and Lady Gaga still has its charms and is more enjoyable than Barbra Streisand's latest duets release (see below). At this point in time, Bennett's voice is almost shot (he's 88, after all), although it is far better than Sinatra's late-in-life vocal capabilities. Not surprisingly, the star here is Gaga. Hearing her perform standards such as "Lush Life," "I Can't Give You Anything but Love," "Firefly," and "But Beautiful," confirms that she's a gifted vocalist (more Christina than Britney), and will surely make more than a few listeners hope that there will be more of the same down the line.

Better known as an actress on TV and in film, Minnie Driver has released three albums in 10 years, the third and latest being *Ask Me to Dance* (Zoe), the best of the lot. The 10 tunes Driver selected to cover shine a light on her good musical taste, beginning with Elliott Smith's "Waltz #2 (XO)." She puts the brakes on The Cure's "Close to Me" and Stevie Wonder's "Master Blaster (Jammin')," finding something new to say with the tunes. Her rendition of Crowded House's "Better Be Home Soon" makes an already-pretty song even prettier, while the mood of Paul Weller's "Wild Wood" is changed considerably. Also noteworthy are Driver's stunning piano/vocal reading of Neil Young's "Tell Me Why" and the guitar and fiddle arrangement on John Prine's "Speed of the Sound of Loneliness."

Actress and singer Audra McDonald won a Tony Award for her portrayal of jazz legend Billie Holiday in *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill*. Recorded before a live audience in May 2014 at the Circle in the Square Theater in New York, the double disc *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar & Grill: Original Broadway Cast Recording* (PS Classics) takes cast recordings to a new and distinctive level. A musical legend in her own right, singer/songwriter Annie Ross ("Twisted") pays homage to Holiday on *To Lady with Love* (Red Anchor), on which she is backed by guitarists Bucky Pizzarelli and John Pizzarelli. →

GrooveOut Shorts

Jennifer Knapp
Set Me Free



Knapp is a former Christian music star who is now an out lesbian. She remains a committed Christian, although it's a difficult task to reconcile these two worlds. *Set Me Free* focuses on how we interact with one another, how we affect others, and how other people, places, or life events affect us, shaping us into who we are and how we hope to be heard and understood. "Much of this record centers around intimate conversations between two people," explains Knapp. "Each song is a moment of some pivotal point of declaration or need for understanding from one person or one idea to another." Righteous Babe Records (righteousbabe.com). ***–Suzie Lynde***

Rachael Sage
Blue Roses



This album is a collection of songs about the impact any single person can have upon the destiny of another. Sage has spent most of the last two years trying to channel evidence of compassion into her creative output. "These are incredibly confusing, chaotic times," she says, "and the older I get, the more vital it seems to me to document unabashed, wholehearted empathy wherever and however I can as an artist." There's also a duet with folk icon Judy Collins. Available November 4 from MPress Records (mpressrecords.com). ***–S.L.***

More GrooveOut Shorts at OutSmartMagazine.com.

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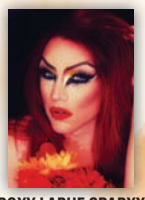
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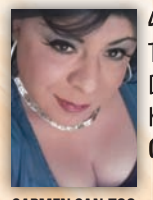

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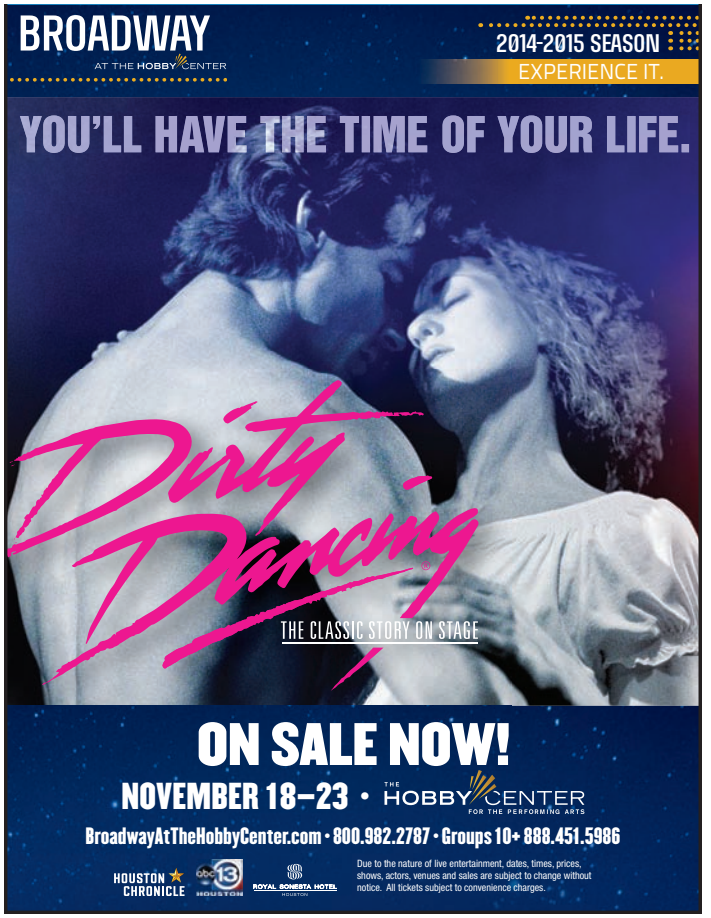

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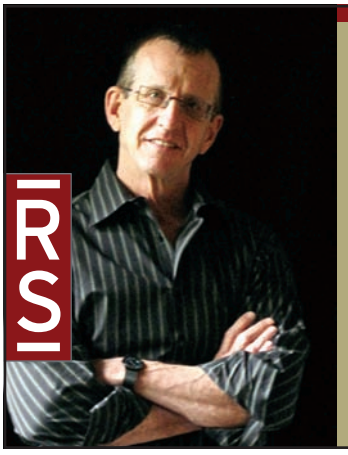
GrooveOut *continued from page 70*

Holiday isn't the only chanteuse being celebrated by others. Eartha Kitt gets the tribute treatment from René Marie on *I Wanna Be Evil* (Motema). Subtitled *With Love to Eartha Kitt*, the disc contains Marie's interpretations of "C'Est Ci Bon," "Peel Me a Grape," "My Heart Belongs to Daddy," and of course, "Santa Baby," among others. On *Save Your Love for Me* (Felton Entertainment), Cynthia Felton "sings the Nancy Wilson classics," including "Guess Who I Saw Today," "Never Will I Marry," "I Wish You Love," and the title tune, to name a few.

Chris Smither is having a good year. A recently released retrospective provides an opportunity for a new generation of music lovers to experience the underrated singer/songwriter's work. The variety of artists featured on the compilation *Link of Chain: A Songwriters Tribute to Chris Smither* (Signature Sounds)—including queer performers such as Mary Gauthier and Patty Larkin, as well as Bonnie Raitt, Loudon Wainwright III, and Josh Ritter—may also play a role in bringing his work to a larger audience.

For the complete article, including music by Barbra Streisand and Bryan Adams, among others, log on to OutSmartMagazine.com.

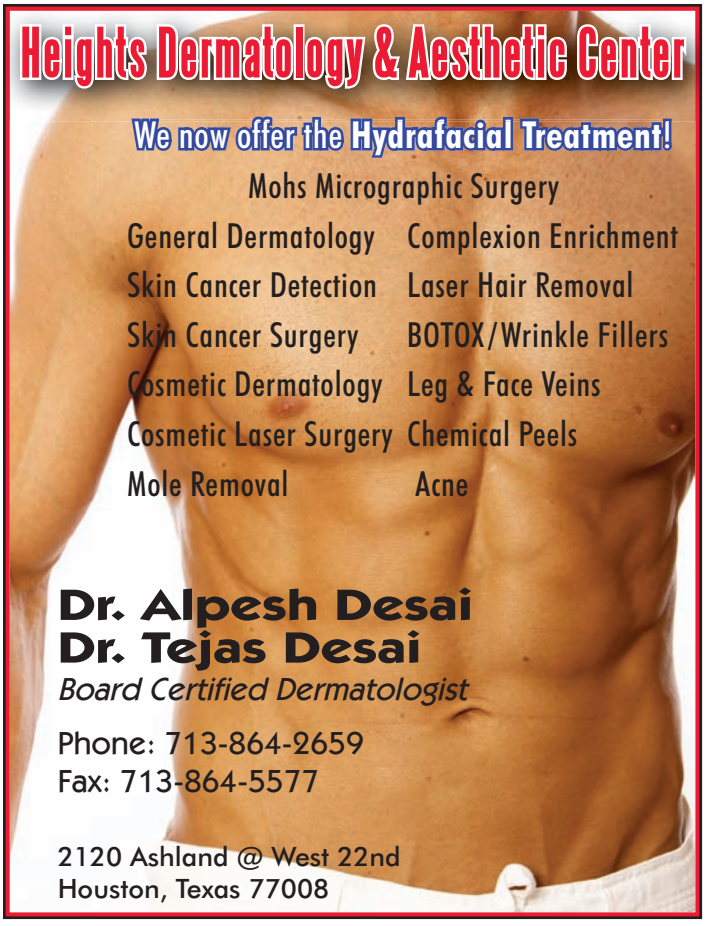
Gregg Shapiro is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.



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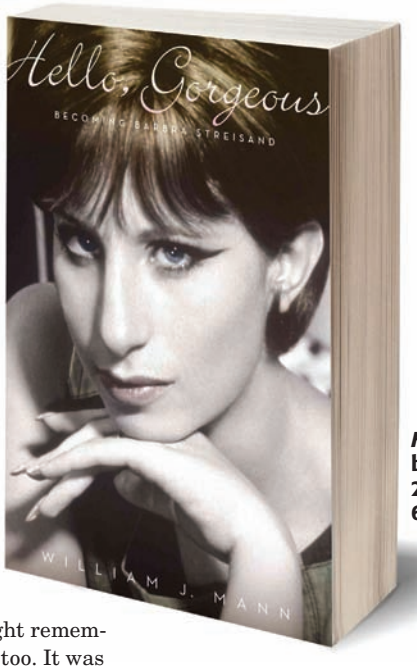




by
Kit van
Cleave

Without Question, a Diva

A bio of the gorgeous Barbra Streisand by William J. Mann



Hello, Gorgeous: Becoming Barbra Streisand
by William J. Mann
2013 • Houghton Mifflin Harcourt
608 pages • $16.95 • Paperback

You might remember it, too. It was the 2013 Academy Awards; the theme was music in the movies. Several iconic singers were introduced, such as Dame Shirley Bassey of *Goldfinger* fame. While her big voice didn't quite have some of the fluidity Bassey has been known for, she certainly could rip off that memorable theme song ("GoldFINGAHHH").

Then George Clooney introduced the "memorial" section of the show, in which actors and other cinema leaders who have died are remembered. The last photo was of Marvin Hamlisch, the prodigious pianist, composer (e.g., *Chorus Line*, *Sophie's Choice*), and songwriter. Suddenly, with no introduction, Hamlisch's friend and collaborator, Barbra Streisand, came onstage and began singing "The Way We Were."

It was a stunning revelation. First of all, she didn't *need* an introduction; everyone in "the business" knew who she was, and has known since she became a star on Broadway in *Funny Girl* five decades ago. Secondly, she looked fabulous—not for a woman of 72, just fabulous. Then came the real shock: that voice, as clear and pure as if Streisand had never aged a moment from the first time we all heard her. It was all there—the immaculate diction, tessitura, clarity of note, "slice" of tone (which needs no amplification in the theater), breath control, musicianship, passion, and engaged storytelling.

A Streisand renaissance is occurring, yet she's been a star for so long that many people may have thought she's not working any more. Who is this creature of such profound gifts, who can seemingly do it all—act, sing, direct, produce, write both words and music?

She's a member of the EGOT club for winners of the big four awards—Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, Tony—often given more than one of each. She is the epitome of the American self-made woman so far up in the success stratosphere she hardly seems human. She recently charmed Jimmy Fallon on *The Tonight Show*, in her first appearance there in 50 years. (Alluding to the singer's reputation for being difficult, Fallon asked her, "What have you done with Barbra Streisand?" noting she was being so cooperative and friendly.)

Her new album, *Partners*, is at the top of the music charts. *Entertainment Weekly* reports, "This is Streisand's 10th time atop the *Billboard 200* since 'People' was released in 1964 . . . she holds the record for No. 1 albums by a woman . . ." and has sold more albums than Elvis.

But what is most remarkable about Streisand is how self-contained she was in her teens, and how concentrated she has always been on what Sondheim has called "The Art of Making Art." She was 19 when she stood before The Abominable Showman David Merrick (whose *Hello, Dolly!* was →

ReadOut Shorts

Tell Me Again How a Crush Should Feel
Sara Farizan



High school junior Leila is balancing the discoveries of coming of age, the demands of coming out, and the drama of love triangles. As an Iranian American, she's different enough: if word got out that she liked girls, life would be twice as hard. Algonquin Young Readers (algonquinyoungreaders.com). ***–Suzie Lynde***

The Prince's Boy
Paul Bailey



We meet Dinu—40 years after his arrival in Paris—when he is in London and beginning to write his memoir while looking back on this time of his life with a sense of exploration and rediscovery. Dinu remembers Razvan, the adopted child of a man of refinement—a prince's boy—whose stories of literary figures and artists entranced him, and with whom a deep and transcendent love would transpire. Bloomsbury (bloomsbury.com). ***–Troy Carrington***

More ReadOut Shorts at OutSmartMagazine.com.



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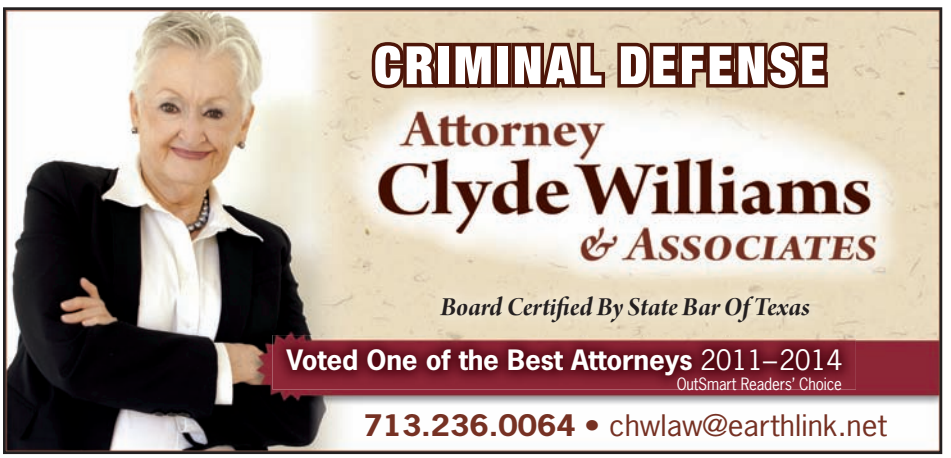
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ReadOut *continued from page 74*

playing Broadway at the time), choreographer Jerome Robbins, and Arthur Laurents (who wrote the books for *Gypsy* and *West Side Story)*, and explained to them and Fanny Brice's son-in-law Ray Stark how *she* was the only woman who could play Brice in a new musical for the New York stage. It probably made sense to Streisand; she had been working steadily in theater and supper-clubs since she was 16, after graduating early from high school.

William J. Mann's *Hello, Gorgeous* details the self-creation of this much-loved yet controversial artist, from childhood through the end of *Funny Girl*'s Broadway run. Mann also outlines better than any other biography how gay men helped form Streisand's early image, taught her the great American musical theater tunes, talked fashion, and supported her ambitions. She gained confidence, an image, and musical broadening from their friendship with her.

The first was Terry Leong, who helped her prepare an audition for *The Insect Comedy*. Leong had studied at the Fashion Institute and wanted to be a designer for the theater. As Streisand was broke and got no help from her family, he introduced her to thrift shops lining Third Avenue, from which she began to design her own style. Leong, fascinated with her, told her he was gay and began designing her "look."

Barré Dennen (note the *accent aigu*), whom everyone called Barry, was, as Mann writes, "a rich kid—a 'Beverly Hills brat,'" who lived in an "exquisite apartment" in Greenwich Village. Barré and Barbra were cast in *The Insect Comedy* together, and bonded.

When Streisand decided to audition for *The Sound of Music*, she met Peter Daniels, an English pianist accompanying the auditions. He would become her principal accompanist for years, including during *Funny Girl* and on subsequent tours (Peter Matz handled the honors on her early albums).

Dennen, meanwhile, was teaching Streisand about the great singers (Édith Piaf, Billie Holiday, Peggy Lee, et al.) and composers (Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Cole Porter) of the early 20th century whose works are included in The Great American Songbook, a compilation of romantic songs. This music would shape Streisand's early recordings, then extend throughout her film career.

What drew these new friends together? They were all dazzled by her singing, and determined to help shape her first ventures into show business. Dennen told her about a talent contest at The Lion, a gay bar down the block from his apartment. The team prepared her for her first singing gig, dressed by Leong in a feathered boudoir jacket and layered skirt in lavender. "The place was packed; the talent shows were popular with

the gay crowd of regulars," Mann recalls. The lovely, well-known local singer Dawn Hampton was also competing.

But when Streisand started singing, the room quieted down. "Maybe the gay men in attendance had been rooting for the homely girl over the pretty one, the underdog over the luminary. . . . The room had exploded into cheers for her, and she won the contest." She would continue to win week after week, until the club owner moved on to another contest to break her hold on The Lion.

During this period, another friend of Dennen arrived from Los Angeles—Bob Schulenberg, who would complete Barbra's fashion statement. Mann describes his design: "He painstakingly glued false eyelashes to Barbra's lids, extending them around the sides of her face the way Claudette Colbert and Katharine Hepburn had popularized in the 1930s." He also began to teach her the rules of etiquette she had never learned at home, and helped her prepare for an audition at the Bon Soir, "the closest the Village came to a posh supper club." It was there that Streisand was first adopted by other artists in show business, many of whom talked her up to producers, directors, and other performers. She was on her way to heights even she would not have expected. (Or would she?)

When, in her early 20s, with a *Time* cover and a hit Broadway show behind her, she went to L.A. to film *Funny Girl*, Streisand was no longer the skinny kid with acne and a gangly punk presentation. Hollywood found, to its amazement, that Streisand was possessed of luminous skin the camera loved, a beautiful body (especially breasts), and she was sexy (see "Love with All the Trimmings" from her film *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever*). She was also intellectually brilliant and determined to forge her own way, make her own art.

Though some of Streisand's early friends later felt rebuffed by her, this is common when those who first see an artist's potential find their friend moving up into circles they will not. In any case, that's between Streisand and them. She grew up poor, with her father deceased and her mother dismissive of any effort. Clearly, she learned early on that the one person she could rely on to meet her goals was herself. Yet there is no doubt that without these four gay men, who contributed their creativity to her own, she would have had a less spectacular rise, and less fun along the way.

NOTE: If readers doubt Streisand is sexy, "Love with All The Trimmings" can be seen on youtube.com. William Mann also recommends both Streisand's own website and barbraarchive.com for more information.

Kit van Cleave is a freelance writer living in Montrose. She has published in local, national, and international media.



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by Marene Gustin

Bistro Menil

A work of art in Montrose



Eating art: the Greek Style Lamb Chops could be framed, but we'd rather feast on this tasteful cuisine.

"Art" can be a whimsical painting by René Magritte. But it can also be a delicate salad of shaved zucchini and Parmesan dressed with lemon and extra-virgin olive oil, and generously topped with crunchy pancetta.

And now the world-famous Menil Collection has both.

Bistro Menil opened last month to hungry museumgoers, neighbors, and foodies from across the city who were anxious to try the hotly anticipated new eatery by chef/owner Greg Martin. And they weren't disappointed.

Italian architect Renzo Piano designed The Menil in the 1980s, and at the time, one of the 1920s cottages on the park-like grounds was designated to be a café, but it never opened.

The new bistro is housed in a new building, part of the recent expansion and enhancement of the grounds along West Alabama Street. The building mirrors the elegant and modern lines of the main building, with plenty of light and clean space and just a few touches—like the natural-wood bar—that pay homage to the tree-lined setting.

The reclaimed-wood ceiling, as well as other wood accents in the mostly white space, were made by Martin's husband and co-owner Paul Garcia, a college professor.

"Am I lucky or what?" asks Martin. "Paul did the tables, the cabinetry, and the blackboards. I could not have done this without him."

They met 15 years ago and have been a couple for the last six years. This past St. Patrick's Day they married, and now live in Midtown with two border collies and a sheltie.

Martin, who had a long career with the Schiller Del Grande Restaurant Group, hadn't really planned to open his own place, but Garcia started talking about having an eatery that served growlers and wine on tap a few years ago. When The Menil put out a proposal for a café, Martin and Garcia decided to go for it.

Food artist: Greg Martin, who graced an OutSmart cover in the 1990s, is the chef at Bistro Menil in Houston.



"We had a very good business plan that helped us win the bid," Martin says. "After that, Paul and I traveled to New York and Europe and ate at every museum restaurant we could find. The Menil visitors are a very sophisticated and worldly crowd, so the menu had to be refined but still accessible. It's my take on some European dishes." A few local staples are thrown in, like the cocoa nib steak, which is a nod to a classic entrée from his former boss, chef Robert Del Grande.

The bistro serves from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sundays. The restaurant offers lunch, dinner, and light bites in the afternoon, and plans are under way for a weekend brunch. "We'll also have picnic baskets soon, so you can stop by and grab one and a growler of craft beer and dine outside on the lawn under the trees," adds Martin.

There's an impressive wine list—by the bottle and on tap—sourced from sustainable vineyards.

There are many standouts on the well-focused menu, among them the eggplant "fries" with anchovy aioli and black olive tapenade to dip them in, a dish Martin discovered in Spain. There is a wonderful Quiche Lorraine based on a dish he found in Paris that took him years to replicate. The key, he says, is using puff pastry for the crust.

Even a simple salad becomes a work of art here. The Menil Salad is just mixed greens with grape tomatoes and French radishes, but it is brightened by vinaigrette with just a hint of walnut oil. →

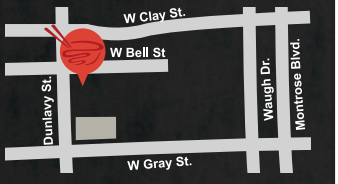
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DineOut *continued from page 78*

Hungrier diners can choose from paninos, pizzas, and flat breads, or go straight for the entrées that come with two sides (do make one the non-dairy Bistro potatoes). The chicken Ballotine is stuffed and rests on a wild mushroom duxelle, while the grilled quail may be some of the best in the city, glazed with a Pomegranate molasses.

You can drop by anytime for $1 espressos, or visit in the afternoon for happy-hour prices on beer and wine. "We call it 'Ceci n'est pas un happy hour,'" Martin says, "after my favorite painting in the museum, René Magritte's *Ceci n'est pas une pipe*." Which translates to "This is not a pipe," although it is, in fact, a painting of a pipe.

It's all whimsy and elegance and just plain delight at Bistro Menil—and opening-day crowds prove that it could become another jewel in the crown of Houston's dining scene. "I was shocked at the crowds," Martin says. "But people love The Menil, and I think they really want to like us."

Looks like they already do.

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Marene Gustin is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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Calendar of Events

Compiled by Marene Gustin


Mary Gauthier

Mary at Mucky

Out singer/songwriter Mary Gauthier comes to Houston

Folk and alt country singer/songwriter Mary Gauthier hits Houston for a two-night gig at The Mucky Duck, November 20 and 21.

If you don't know Gauthier's music, you need to. Check out "Drag Queens in Limousines" on YouTube. Her music is lyrical, haunting, and deeply personal. An adopted child, teen runaway, former chef, and addict, Gauthier sold her restaurant to finance her second album and hasn't looked back since then. Her album sales are huge, and she's won a ton of awards, including "Best Country Artist of the Year" at the Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards. Her songs have been featured on several TV shows and recorded by major artists like Tim McGraw and Blake Shelton.

She's on tour now with her seventh album, *Trouble & Love*, featuring eight songs about love lost. A review by *The Telegraph* has this to say about the opening track: "'When a Woman Goes Cold' is the cold-eyed itinerary of the breakdown of her relationship with her female lover, recalled in painful, intimate detail. Her mournful voice puts you right in with the emotional wreckage, as she sings: 'You're no longer her concern/Scorched earth cannot burn.'"

Yeah, we've all been there. But even if you're in a happy relationship now, go and see this incredible artist—her talent will blow you away. See mcgonigels.com for details. *–Marene Gustin*

NOVEMBER

CINEMA

• November 3
Conversations with the Director. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, hosts this film featuring legendary British actor Michael York and Museum director Gary Tinterow. The discussion is followed by a screening of the new digital restoration of the 1972 film *Cabaret*. See mfah.org for ticket information.
• November 9
***Zinda Bhaag* (*Run for Your Life*)** is a Pakistani film that kicks off this season's Voices Breaking Boundaries. See vbbarts.org for details.

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PERFORMING ARTS

Marie Antoinette is a joint production of Stages Repertory Theatre and the University of Houston School of Theatre and Dance. See stagestheatre.com for details.
• Through November 15
The Pillowman. A funny yet disturbing tale about fact and fiction at Theatre Southwest. See theatresouthwest.org for tickets.
• November 8
Musiqa's Major Concert Series. A free concert at Market Square kicks off Musiqa's season. For details see musiqahouston.org.
Cecile McLorin Salvant. Da Camera brings Salvant to Houston. See dacamera.com for ticket info.
• November 8 & 9
Farewell to Arms. Houston Chamber Choir's season premiere pays tribute to the war to end all wars. See houstonchamberchoir.org for tickets and times.
• November 13–16
Beethoven's Fifth. The Houston Symphony kicks off a three-year cycle of all nine Beethoven symphonies. Visit houstonsymphony.org for details.
• November 14–22
The Servant of Two Masters. Rice University Theatre Program presents Carlo Goldoni's 18th-century slapstick play. See arts.rice.edu for details.
• November 20 & 21
Mary Gauthier
See article above about this out singer/songwriter.

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

• Through November 23
Yusuke Asai: New Installation. Rice University Art Gallery is commissioning this Japanese artist to create a new installation in conjunction with The Menil Collection's exhibition *Experiments with Truth: Gandhi and Images of Nonviolence*. See ricegallery.org for details.
• Through November 26
Larry Bell: Three Decades of Art. Nicole Longnecker Gallery features selected works of contemporary artist Larry Bell. Visit longneckergallery.com for details.
Line to Circle. Rusty Scruby's newest exhibition at the McMurtry Gallery, mcmurtreygallery.com.
• Through November 28
Tracing Towers. Houston Arts Alliance exhibit with artist Jonathan Clark at the Alliance Gallery. See houstonartsalliance.com for details.
• Through November 30
Right Here, Right Now: Houston. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston showcases artists living in the city and celebrates our region's vibrant creative community. For more info, visit camh.org.
• Through December 4
Visual Feasts. Shirl Riccetti's energetic watercolors and acrylics reflect her travels and surroundings at Archway Gallery, archwaygallery.com.
• Through December 6
Acclaimed Exhibition on the Urban Playground. Traveling exhibit hits Blaffer Arts Museum, blafferartmuseum.org.
Buildering: Misbehaving the City. Fresh from its successful debut at the Contemporary Arts Center Cincinnati, this group show exploring the unsanctioned use of architecture and the urban environment is sure to be a big hit in the Bayou City. Visit blafferartmuseum.org for details.
• Through December 19
In Residence: Work by 2013 Resident Artists, an exhibition of work created by the eight artists who began their residencies at Houston Center for Contemporary Craft in 2013. See crafthouston.org.
• Through December 24
CraftTexas 2014. Houston Center for Contemporary Craft presents this eighth in a series of biennial juried exhibitions showcasing the best in Texas-made contemporary craft. See crafthouston.org for details.
• Through January 4, 2015
Dario Robleto: The Boundary of Life Is Quietly Crossed examines the psychological and emotional ramifications of crossing unknown boundaries whether in space, the sea, or through exploring the human body by linking two remarkable undertakings in the 1960s: the space race and development of the artificial heart. The Menil Collection, menil.org.
Robert Hodge: Destroy and Rebuild. The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston is pleased to present work by this Houston-based artist. Visit camh.org for details.
• Through January 10, 2015
New Mural. Lawndale Art Center has a new mural up by Otabenga Jones & Associates as part of a yearlong commitment to health education. See lawndaleartcenter.org for details.
• Through January 25, 2015
Fangs, Feathers and Fins: Sacred Creatures in Ancient American Art. Spanning nearly 5,000 years, this exhibition explores how peoples of the ancient Americas viewed themselves and the world around them. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, mfah.org.

INFO NEEDED FOR YOUR EVENT LISTING: a few lines of info about your event; date/time; cost; location/address; organization name; and phone number.
E-mail info to: calendar@outsmartmagazine.com. ***Mail info to:*** OutSmart Magazine, 3406 Audubon Place, Houston, TX 77006. ***Fax info to:*** 713.522.3275.
NO LISTINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE—5 P.M., MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10.

• Through January 31, 2015
Day of the Dead Rock Stars: The Great Gig In The Sky. This exhibit memorializes deceased recording artists from rock, country, jazz, and blues in honor of Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. See cactusmusictx.com for details.
• Through February 1, 2015
Experiments with Truth: Gandhi and Images of Nonviolence. Organized by Menil director Josef Helfenstein in consultation with the noted Indian artist Amar Kanwar, the exhibition is the first to trace the resonance of the ethic of nonviolence in the visual arts throughout the centuries and around the world. The Menil Collection, menil.org.
Monet and the Seine: Impressions of a River chronicles the Impressionist painter's attachment to the Seine by tracing his life along the river. Museum of Fine Arts Houston, mfah.org.
• Through March 1, 2015
Round 41: Process and Action: An Exploration of Ideas. Process and Action features installations by an interdisciplinary group of eight artists, including Rabéa Ballin, Julia Brown, Vanessa Diaz, Akua Holt, Rosine Kouamen, and Monica Villareal at Project Row Houses, projectrowhouses.org.
• Through March 22, 2015
Shark! Get out of the water! Now! The Houston Museum of Natural Science presents this exhibit on all things shark-y. Visit hmns.org for details.

AND OTHER THINGS

• Through January 16, 2015
Women in Architecture. An exhibition and events recognizing female architects. See aiahouston.org for details.
• November 4
Quatuor Mosaïques. The most prominent period-instrument quartet performing today makes its first Houston appearance. See dacamera.com for ticket information.
International Songwriting Competition 2014. The deadline to enter the ISC is coming up fast. Check out songwriting-competition.com for entry details.
• November 5
Joshua Bell. Society for the Performing Arts presents violinist Joshua Bell. Visit spahouston.org for tickets.
• November 6–9
Lone Star Rally. It's the biggest biker event in the country and it's happening in Galveston. Check out lonestarrally.com for all the details.
• November 7
Fashion Fête Art of the Runway. Upcoming fundraiser for DiverseWorks. See diverseworks.org for ticket information.
• November 10
Coastal Resiliency Panel. The AIA Houston Urban Design Committee and the Houston Galveston Area Council host a panel discussion and community dialogue on coastal resiliency. See aiahouston.org for details.
• November 13
Houston in Concert Against Hate. A dinner and concert celebrating the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Featuring Lou Gossett Jr. Purchase tickets at adl.org/houstoninconcert.
• November 16
TUTS Vine & Dine Charity Wine Dinner. Enjoy fine dining, wine pairings, and performances from Theatre Under the Stars artists. To purchase tickets, visit tuts.com/winedinner.
• November 17
Susan G. Komen Houston Golf Tournament. Check out koenhouston.org and tee-up for a good cause.
• November 18–21
5th Annual Fashion Houston. See top designers from around the world and our own backyard (Chole Dao and Jonathan Blake). Visit fashionhouston.net for the details.
• November 19–23
62nd Annual Theta Charity Antiques Show. Antiques fill the George R. Brown Convention Center! See thetacharityantiquesshow.com for details.

HOLIDAY EVENTS!

• November 1 & 2 and 8 & 9
Southern Living Home for the Holidays Showcase. See a fabulous West U home decorated for the holidays. It all benefits Operation FINALLY HOME, a nonprofit that provides mortgage-free homes for wounded and disabled veterans. For tour information, see stoneacorn.com.
• November 1–December 31
Holiday Can Food Drive. Get $2 off admission to the National Museum of Funeral History with a donation of a non-perishable food item. Visit nmfh.org for details.
• November 8–16
Veterans Appreciation Week. Special tours and events honoring veterans, at the National Museum of Funeral History, nmfh.org. →

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Calendar *continued from previous page*

• November 13–16
34th Annual Nutcracker Market. The mother of all holiday shopping and a benefit for the Houston Ballet Foundation, this is a city tradition. Go early and shop 'til you drop. See houstonballet.org for details.
• November 16–December 14
Madeline's Christmas. Main Street Theater presents this charming children's holiday classic tale. See mainstreettheater.com for ticket information.
• November 15
The Galleria Tree Lighting officially kicks off the holiday season in the Galleria and Uptown Park area. Visit simon.com/mall/the-galleria for all events.
• November 15, 2014–January 4, 2015
Winter Wonderland at Moody Gardens. Visit the island for Santa sightings, Moody's Festival of Lights, ice skating, snow tubing, and the new Ice Land exhibit with two million pounds of carved ice sculptures. For details, visit moodychristmasshow.com.
• November 21–23
WHAM. Fresh Arts presents the 9th annual Winter Holiday Arts Market. Great place to shop for one-of-a-kind holiday gifts. See winterholidayartmarket.com for more.
• December 5–7
Dickens on The Strand. A can't-miss holiday stroll through Victorian England, or Galveston Island's version of it. See dickensonthestrand.org for details.
• November 28–December 28
The Nutcracker. Houston Ballet's perennial holiday classic. See houstonballet.org for details.

SAVE THE DATE

• December 6
Jupiter String Quartet at Rice University. See chamber musichouston.org for details.
Claudia Acuna. Da Camera brings the Chilean songstress to Houston. One night only. See dacamera.com for ticket information.

ONGOING

For information on these groups, visit OutSmartMagazine.com
• **AssistHers**
• **Center HIV Support Group**
• **Coming Out Support Group**
• **Depression Bipolar Support Group**
• **Dignity Houston** (LGBT Catholics and friends)
• **Discovery Green Flea by Night**
• **Domestic Violence/Relationship Wellness Group**
• **EMBody: Introduction to Yoga**
• **EMBody: Mindfulness, Well-Being, Stress Reduction**
• **Fathers First** (gay dads)
• **First Saturday Arts Market**
• **First Saturday Queer Bingo**
• **Free Legal Consultations for PWAs**
• **Gay Men's Survivors of Sexual Assault Support**
• **Gulf Pride for Youth**
• **HATCH's Transgender Support Group and Speak Out for Youth**
• **HATCH Youth Group**
• **Helping TransGenders Anonymous** (support group)
• **HIV Support Group BSSG**
• **HIV Support Group Lunch Brunch**
• **HIV Testing** (Houston Area Community Services)
• **HIV Testing** (Legacy Community Health Services)
• **HIV Testing** (Planned Parenthood)
• **HIV Testing** (Thomas Street Clinic)
• **Houston Pride Band**
• **LGBT HIV+ Support Group**
• **LOAF** (Lesbians Over Age Fifty) **Meet and Greet**
• **Log Cabin Republicans**
• **Long-Term Survivor's Group for HIV+ Gay Men**
• **National Leather Association–Houston**
• **Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) Houston**
• **Queer Book Club**
• **Ryan White Planning Council**
• **Share with PFLAG Houston**
• **Share with the Clear Lake satellite of PFLAG Houston**
• **Southern Country** (free dance lessons)
• **SPRY** (LGBT persons age 60 and older)
• **Triple D: Dykes, Dinner, and Discussion**
• **WHAM! Whole Health Action Management**
• **The Women's Group**
• **Women's Survivors of Sexual Assault Support**
• **Zumba** (exercise class) ■

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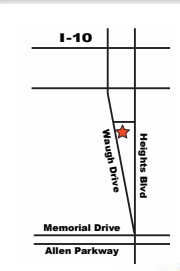
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GLBT Political Caucus - 6th Annual Equality Brunch - The Bird & The Bear

September 28











See more at OutSmartMagazine.com

Out for Good - A celebration of National Coming Out Day - The Montrose Center - Crystal Ballroom

October 10









Outreach United - Houston Coming Out Party at Jaguar Land Rover Houston Central

October 11



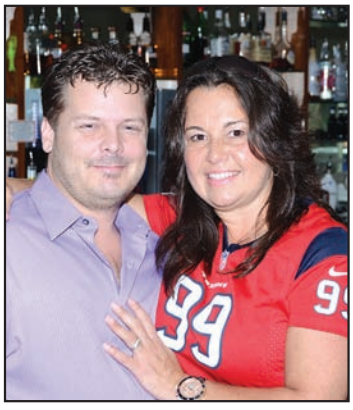







AssistHers - Decadent Dancing 2014 at Meteor

October 11









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Coming Home

continued from page 33

Awareness Month, Groen says one of the best ways for the public to engage with the cause is to try and change the way we look and think about homelessness. "When our homeless youth are on the street, they are trying to look scary—and that's because they're petrified," she says. "So for people who have homes, when you see a teenager on the street who has a big attitude on, have the compassion to see that that's their self-protection. Their attitude is not there because they're actually going to hurt you, it's there because they're afraid of being hurt *by* you."

Within the LGBTQ community, she adds, there is the unfortunate misconception that it's okay to pick these youth up at bars. "Someone who is homeless and in need of our care cannot consent to sexual encounters even if they're 18 or older," Groen says. "That's a way that our community is failing these youth. Because I'm not sure that everybody realizes that to our youth, that's sex work, and that's harmful and abusive. [These homeless youth are] going home with people in order to have a place to sleep, and I don't think the people that are taking them home realize that's not a consensual encounter, that's an encounter based out of need."

Montrose Grace Place is also very honored to be included in the NEST initiative. "We are ecstatic that NEST is existing," Groen says. "And we're glad to be invited to the meetings and to share the experience of what we've seen of youth homelessness in Houston. And if, in 2020, there's no more need for Montrose Grace Place and we have to shut our doors, that will be a cause for rejoicing."

Get Involved in the Fight Against LGBTQ Youth Homelessness

NEST: If you or your organization would like to get involved with the NEST initiative, e-mail nest@montrosecenter.org.

One Voice Texas: For more information on One Voice Texas, or to donate to the organization, visit onevoicetexas.org.

Association for Family and Community Integrity: For more information on AFCI or to volunteer with the organization, visit glbthomeless.org. You can also sign up for AFCI's newsletter by e-mailing newsletter @glbthomeless.org.

Montrose Grace Place: Montrose Grace Place is currently accepting donations, as well as applications for direct volunteers, volunteers to do creative activities with the youth, and volunteer groups to prepare and serve their Thursday night dinners. For more information or to get involved, visit montrosegraceplace.blogspot.com. ■

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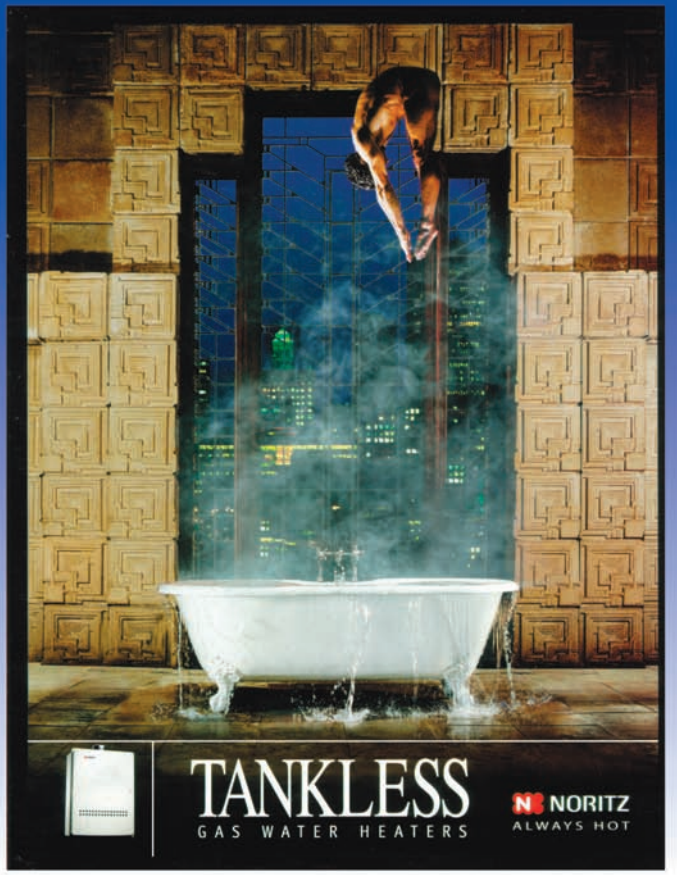
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Bar & Club Guide

Houston

13 ENTERTAINMENT
Formerly In-N-Out, this comfortable club located in the northern Heights is a convenient alternate to inner-Montrose haunts. Patrons journey past the comfy seating and romantic lighting to find a spacious patio where they sometimes fire up the barbecue grill. 1537 N. Shepherd • 713.426.1313.

BAYOU CITY BAR & GRILL
Right in the heart Montrose, this cozy bar is the new home for the famous Breakfast Club (which dates back to 1986), opens at 7am, and continues throughout the day with a full kitchen and menu along with late-night dancing! Known for Drag Bingo on Tues., Steak Night on Wed., and Wing Night Thurs. DJs nightly. 7 days a week (Mon.–Sat., 7a–2a; Sun., noon–2a). 2409 Grant St. • bayoucitybar.com.

BLUR
This multi-level dance club features an expansive patio upstairs lounge and balconies that overlook the Pacific St. traffic. Ladies enjoy Wet and Wild Wednesdays, 18-year-olds are welcome on Thurs., resident DJ Lorenzo spins Wed.–Sat. nights, DJ Pollo spins Karumba Latin night on Sun. Happy hour 8–10pm; free cover before 11pm. 710 Pacific St. • blurbar.com.

CLUB 2020
Located downtown near the Toyota Center, this urban club features Clubbers Friday with male and female dancers. Its 6,400 square feet also offers theater-sized viewing screens and VIP rooms. 2020 Leeland • 713.227.9667 • club2020houston.com.

CLUB CRYSTAL
If you miss the now-closed Inergy, you'll find many of its former staff, management, and décor at this two-room Latin/hip-hop club. Sunday evening drag shows rule the roost. 6680 Southwest Frwy, next to Colorado • 713.278.2582 • crystaltheclub.com.

CROCKER BAR
Resident DJ Johnny spins on Fri. and Sat. nights at this comfortably remodeled Montrose nightspot that also offers karaoke on Tuesdays and Thursdays and extended happy-hour prices throughout the week. 2312 Crocker • 713.529.3355.

THE EAGLE
The Eagle has landed at its new location in the heart of Montrose, and it looks great. Sexy bartenders, lots of outdoor deck space, and even a gift shop to check out. Mon.–Sat., 4pm–2am; Sun, noon–2am. 611 Hyde Park • eagle houston.com.

F BAR
Award-winning DJs spin nightly at this "boutique nightclub" that offers elegance without arrogance and features a stage, dance floor, VIP area, glass-encased quiet bar, and attractive patio. Tues. and Sun. drag shows feature frequent special guests. 202 Tuam St. • fbarhouston.com • 713.522.3227.

GEORGE
Regulars rule at this comfortable neighborhood sports bar, just like most other neighborhood sports bars in town. But George's occasional benefit drag show makes it a wonderful, campy alternative. Sports Saturdays start at 3pm with dart and pool tournaments; Steak Night is Sun., 3–7pm. 617 Fairview • 713.528.8102.

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BEHIND THE BAR

WHO: Andrew De La Rosa and Enrique Sanchez

WHERE: Crocker Bar • 2312 Crocker • 713.529.3355

WHAT'S UP: Crocker Bar continues to crush Sunday Funday with huge crowds on the biggest deck in Montrose. Tone Deaf Karaoke with award-winning host Marty Adamson on Tuesday and Thursday evenings are very popular, and you can always find a party without pretension here.

GUAVA LAMP

This trendy and friendly video and cruise bar gets busy during happy hour and stays busy 'til closing. Karaoke on Wed. and Sun., sometimes offering prizes, always packs the place. 570 Waugh Dr. • 713.524.3359 • guavalamphouston.com.

JR'S BAR & GRILL

With house emcee Kofi, *OutSmart*'s Gayest and Greatest reigning drag champion, this Montrose standard offers drag and strip shows throughout the week, karaoke Thurs. and Sun., plus pool tables, male dancers, and award-winning cocktails. 808 Pacific St. • jrsbarandgrill.com • 713.521.2519.

METEOR

The men of Manwatch and Muscles in Action rinse down in the "Meteor Shower" stall in this posh but comfy lounge on the downtown edge of Montrose, accompanied by DJ Chris on Friday and award-winning DJ Eddie E on Saturday. Open Thurs.–Sat. 2306 Genesee St. • meteorhouston.com • 713.521.0123.

MICHAEL'S OUTPOST

Jerry Atwood, Clay Howell, Neil Massey, Steve Wheaton, and Roger Woest take turns at the keys at this comfortable neighborhood piano bar. 1419 Richmond Ave. • 713.520.8446.

MONTROSE MINING COMPANY

Studly male dancers bump and grind every night at this leather/denim spot, offering Montrose's lowest vodka drinks with Trash Disco Sundays. The two-tier back patio bar provides a perch for viewing the Pacific Street scenery. 805 Pacific St. • theminehouston.com • 713.529.7488.

NEON BOOTS DANCEHALL & SALOON

Houston's only LGBT country dancehall is located in the historic Esquire Ballroom and opens Wednesday–Sunday. The new outside patio and stage are open. Wednesday features Steak Night and Bingo. Free dance classes on Thursdays and Karaoke. Saturday night the dance floor fills with the best C&W . . . check their website for all specials, events and times. 11410 Hempstead Hwy • neonbootsclub.com • 713.677.0828.

PEARL LOUNGE

This LGBT-friendly lounge is open under "familiar" management in the Washington corridor. Daily highlights range from open mic night to steak night to appearances by DJ Kittie and DJ Ben Phoenix from KRBE. Drink specials and more. 4216 Washington.

THE RIPCORD

This well-kept, multi-roomed leather bar for men and their friends boasts a busy patio, especially on the weekends. The Black Hawk Leather shop is located inside the club, providing BDSM essentials. 715 Fairview Ave. • 713.521.2792 • theripcord.com.

RUDYARD'S

The eclectic British pub is known for its craft beers as well as for the burgers. Most weekends you'll find up-and-coming local bands rocking the house. 2010 Waugh Dr. • rudyardspub.com • 713.521.0521.

SOUTH BEACH

This mega-dance club is a frequent winner of *OutSmart*'s Gayest and Greatest awards, with DJ Eddie E spinning on Fri., and DJ Joe Ross playing pop & dance music videos on Sat. No cover before 11pm. 810 Pacific St. • sobehouston.com • 713.529.SOBE.

TC'S SHOWBAR

New owners Tim and Corey have revamped the deep-Montrose neighborhood bar, erasing any hint of its former occupant, Cousin's. Numerous flat-screen televisions and day-long drink specials highlight the updated décor. 817 Fairview • 713/526-2625 • tcshowbar.com.

TONY'S CORNER POCKET

This comfortable club located close to downtown has one of the friendliest bar staffs in town, both inside & outside at its patio bar. The raised stage where local charities perform also features an amateur dance contest each Thurs., Fri., & Sat. at 11pm. Opens daily at noon. 817 W. Dallas • 713.571.7870 • tonyscornerpocketbar.com.

VIVIANA'S

This club, in a new location, appeals to fans of Latino music and drag alike. 4624 Dacoma • 713.681.4104.

Beaumont

ORLEANS STREET PUB AND PATIO

The place to hang for food, fun, and booze in a newly renovated pub, in good weather or bad. Open every night from 7pm–2am. 650 Orleans • 409.835.4243.

Bryan/College Station

HALO VIDEO BAR

The only LGBT dance club in Bryan/College station, this sleek spot is open Thurs.–Sat. Smack in the middle of Aggieland, "our venue is always packed with the hotties," the owners promise. 121 North Main • 979.823.6174 • halobcs.com.

Galveston

3RD COAST DOWNTOWN

Just because its owners moved the club from its longtime Seawall location, it doesn't mean it's not still one of the most popular spots for Galveston's LGBTs. Its new "urban chic" look maintains its tropical flair. 2416 Postoffice St. • 409.765.6911.

PINK DOLPHIN

A familiar name returns to Galveston's roster of gay bars, with new owner Tom Long. The friendly, neighborhood BYOB spot offers affordable setups and an off-the-Seawall, downtown-based island escape. 1706 Tremont St. • 409.621.1808.

ROBERT'S LAFITTE

A neighborhood bar, the Island institution attracts a colorful crowd of regulars and travelers. The private patio includes a swimming pool. On Sat. and Sun. nights, the Ladies of Lafitte show takes the stage. 2501 Avenue Q (at 25th) • 409.765.9092.

SPLASH BAR GALVESTON

Galveston's newly opened and only gay bar on the beach is making a huge splash on the island. Now under new ownership, the new club's Happy Hour and entertainment line-up sizzles with Hot Fridays and Saturdays featuring its "Splash Divas" drag shows, amateur strip contests, and the areas hottest DJs spinning your favorite tunes. Sunday's Tea Dance features Happy Hour from noon 'til 8pm, and you can count on lively entertainment every weekday. 3102 Seawall Blvd. • 409.974.4176 • splashbargalveston.com.

Spring

RANCH HILL SALOON

With its two pool tables, 52-inch plasma televisions, and large dance floor, this popular northside spot also offers DJs Thursday–Saturday. 247041 I-45N Suite 103 • 281.298.9035 • ranchhill.com.

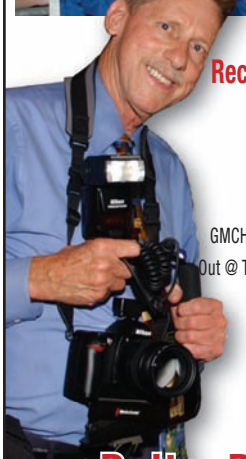
THE ROOM

Northside LGBTs relax on couches and enjoy multiple television screens, pool tables, & an ample dance floor where famed local DJs Triple-S and Dylan Barnes rotate to provide the music on Retro Fridays, New Mix Saturdays, & Trash Disco Sundays. Open daily. 4915 FM 2920 #148 • theroombar.net. ■

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Here's looking at you, kids.





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by Lilly Roddy

Initial Surge in Energy . . .

then tension . . . then retreat

As the month begins, we all feel a surge in the amount of energy we have. Our next Mercury retrograde won't be until mid January. 2014 will be the first year in a long time that we haven't had Mercury retrograde during one of the major holidays in November and December. • We'll experience the most tension around the middle of the month, although there will also be plenty around Thanksgiving. Be sure to build in some retreat time at the end of the month—we will all need it. • Neptune, planet of expansive consciousness, goes direct this month. This will help with expanding our compassionate side. Neptune will be in the same position that it was in when the United States began to deal with slavery and human rights prior to the Civil War. • The sun begins the month in Scorpio and enters Sagittarius on the 22nd. Mercury speeds through Libra, Scorpio, and Sagittarius this month. Venus starts the month in Scorpio but enters Sagittarius on the 16th. Mars is pushing forward in Capricorn all month. Jupiter remains in Leo, Saturn in Scorpio, Uranus in Aries, Neptune in Pisces, and Pluto in Capricorn.

ARIES (March 21–April 19). November is a busy month for you, and your career sector is very active. This can be a good time to strike out on your own or take on a new project at your existing workplace. You will not be especially patient, and finding a good outlet for your extra energy would be helpful. There is some tension with relationships, but you'll lighten up some by the end of the month. Get your projects completed!

TAURUS (April 20–May 20). Relationships are still holding sway over you, especially in the first half of the month. This has been a time of reevaluating how you actually construct your relationships, and you are now ready to act on that. This is a good time to renew or begin a relationship, either personally or professionally. You'll be feeling nostalgic this holiday season. Be sure and give yourself some family time—you will really enjoy it.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21). The Twins are finally coming out of their slow time. There is a lot of activity in your workplace with all of the changes and improvements that are happening. Communications improve a great deal. Relationships take the stage by mid month—a good time to renew what you have or look for something new! You are still somewhat unclear about your career direction, but that improves next year.

CANCER (June 22–July 22). With Mars (planet of action and confrontation) in your relationship sector this month, any relationship problems you encounter (or that you've been avoiding) will be met head-on—especially from the 9th to the 15th. If you are single, this is a good time to put yourself out there! You will be a bit defensive this whole month, but it will help to just focus on your work and health routines.

LEO (July 23–August 22). For the most part, this has been a really good year for the Leos. Although you were feeling sluggish last month, you are back on track in November. You are especially energetic from the middle of the month on. This can be a great time to market yourself or your ideas, since people are just more open to you. Whether you are in a partnership or not, Jupiter will help mitigate any problems. Pay more attention to your health this month.

VIRGO (August 23–Sepetmber 22). You are still in an organizing mode this month, but you'll shift your focus from getting your daily activities revamped to getting your home more "homey." Overall, you are looking at some future planning for your career and possibly for your retirement. This urge to make plans only gets stronger through the end of the year. Make sure that you have an exit strategy around Thanksgiving. You will want to be around peaceful people during this holiday season. Do what's best for you!

LIBRA (September 23–October 23). You have been focusing on your finances, and now you are more than ready to put your plan into action. This could be a really busy holiday season. Family activities are very important, but tempers may be short. This is a great month for networking in your business. Friends can be especially helpful. Relationships are a bit edgy around the middle of the month. Don't let problems build.



ILLUSTRATION: DAVID EDUARDO FLORES PEREZ

SCORPIO (October 24–November 21). Happy Birthday to the Scorpios! This is your personal yearly cycle of looking at what you accomplished last year and setting new goals for the coming year. This will be especially important since you have been taking a very long-term look at where you're going—a time for major decision-making about career, life, and love. There are plenty of extra opportunities career-wise this year, so take advantage of that!

SAGITTARIUS (November 22–December 21). You are a bit more laid-back and extra-sensitive during the first half of the month. Be choosy about the people you let become close to you! Your creative energies are still very strong. By mid month, you are ready for your demanding public, and it's a much better time for career and relationships. Watch your impulsive spending this month.

CAPRICORN (December 22–January 19). With Mars, planet of action, in your sign throughout November, you are ready to act, start new projects, and defend yourself from real or imagined attacks. This can be a great time for starting an exercise program since you won't be sleeping much this month. Relationships are also tense, so be careful what you say. This is also a great month to make use of civic groups or business organizations. By mid month, you are ready for a break before your birthday cycle in December.

AQUARIUS (January 20–February 18). You continue to work hard on your career. You are setting new boundaries and not overreaching as you usually do. Relationship energies are favorable for you this month as well. If you are involved, this is just a good time to be with your partner. If you are single, it's a very good time to be looking! Groups and social/business organizations are more important to you by the end of the month.

PISCES (February 19–March 20). You have been in a bit of a laid-back mode. You are busy at work, but you would rather be on vacation. You are more active at mid month. As your career focus takes over, you begin to push for more of a leadership role. Friends are very important to you this month, and they're ready to help you. It will be best for you to spend the holidays in a quiet and peaceful environment since you'll be extra-sensitive during that time. Choose your holiday dinner company wisely!

Read Lilly Roddy's 2014 forecast at OutSmartMagazine.com. For more astro-insight, log on to lillyroddy.com.



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OUT IN HOUSTON

Photos by Dalton DeHart



Riva's staff and performers at the Stone Soup Revival 4th annual Food for the Holidays drive held at Riva's Italian Restaurant on September 28.



This year's Rising Star Class smiles at the League of Women Voters' Women's Equality Day Commemoration and Rising Star Class of 2014-2015 Presentation held on October 2.



Robert Wittliff, **Mary Hanks**, **Fabian Valencia**, and **Angel Ponce** (front) at the White Cane Safety Day celebration held at the Houston Public Library downtown on October 24.



Speakers and event chairs at the Montrose Center's "Out for Good" dinner and celebration of National Coming Out Day held at the Rice Hotel on October 9.



Kevin Anderson, **Gary Wood**, **Tasha Kohl**, and **Chad Mercer** strike a pose at OutReach United's Houston Coming Out Party held at Jaguar Land Rover Houston on October 11.



Bering Omega Community Services held its "Sing for Hope" concert on October 11. Pictured are some of the concert's performers with models from Neal Hamil.



The Sisters of Avalon (in belly dancers' outfits) are surrounded by (from left) **Susan Ashworth**, **Lynn Schwartzenburg**, **Tara Dion** (c), and **Sol Lara** at AssistHers' Decadent Dancing event held at METEOR on October 12.



Robert Ross, **Tina Berry**, **Barb Szucs**, **Bob Szucs**, **Shelley Finley**, and **James V. Thomas** enjoy The Alley Theatre's ActOUT performance of *Dracula*, on October 16.



Michael Shultz, **Joseph Reinholtz**, **Lulu Fang**, **Amy Lin**, **John Ross Palmer**, **Sue Donaldson**, and **Ryan Lindsay** attend "An Evening of Escapism," hosted by John Palmer Art on October 18.



Members of the **Houston Pride Band** and emcee **Nancy Ford** (far right) at their "Houston Pride Bares It All" concert held at Resurrection MCC on October 25.

Rainbow on ice

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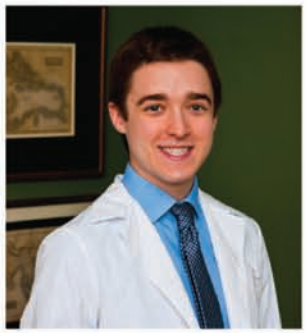
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