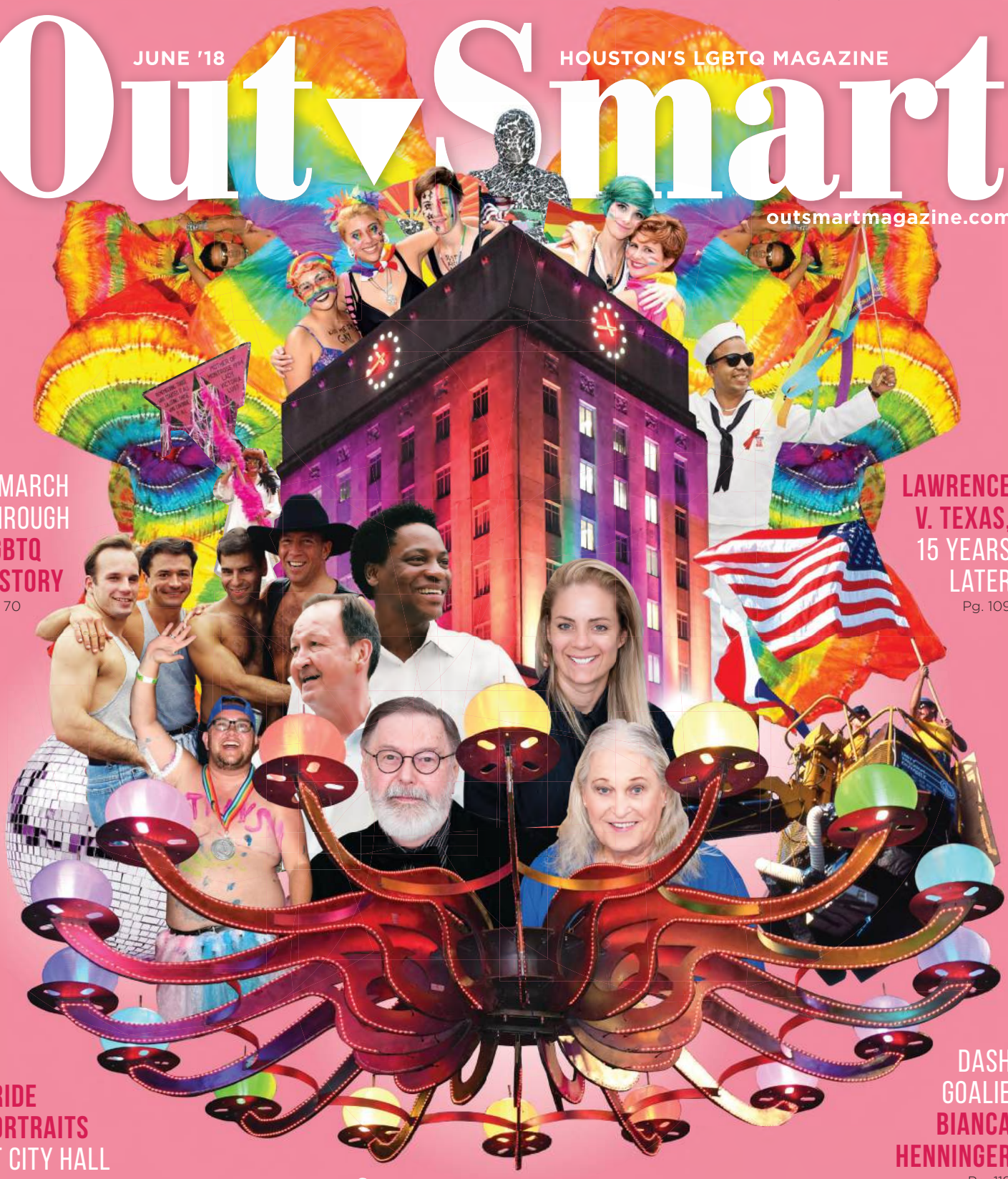
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JUNE '18

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A next step for adults with HIV who have been undetectable* for at least six months.

*Undetectable means keeping the amount of HIV in the blood at very low levels (less than 50 copies per mL).

What is JULUCA?

JULUCA is a prescription medicine that is used without other antiretroviral medicines to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 (HIV-1) infection in adults to replace their current anti-HIV-1 medicines when their healthcare provider determines that they meet certain requirements. HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

It is not known if JULUCA is safe and effective in children.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

Do not take JULUCA if you:

- have ever had an allergic reaction to a medicine that contains dolutegravir or rilpivirine.
- are taking any of the following medicines: dofetilide; carbamazepine; oxcarbazepine; phenobarbital; phenytoin; rifampin; rifapentine; proton pump inhibitors (including esomeprazole, lansoprazole, omeprazole, pantoprazole sodium, rabeprazole); St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*); or more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate.

What are the possible side effects of JULUCA?

JULUCA **can cause serious side effects including:**

- **Severe skin rash and allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with JULUCA. **Stop taking JULUCA and get medical help right away if you develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms:** fever; generally ill feeling; tiredness; muscle or joint aches; blisters or sores in mouth; blisters or peeling of the skin; redness or swelling of the eyes; swelling of the mouth, face, lips or tongue; problems breathing.
- **Liver problems.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus who have certain liver function test changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with JULUCA. Liver problems, including liver failure, have also happened in people without history of liver disease or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver function. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:** your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark or "tea-colored" urine; light-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away or get medical help if you have any of the following symptoms:** feeling sad or hopeless; feeling anxious or restless; have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.
- **The most common side effects of JULUCA include:** diarrhea and headache.

These are not all the possible side effects of JULUCA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking JULUCA.

Before you take JULUCA, tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have ever had a severe skin rash or an allergic reaction to medicines that contain dolutegravir or rilpivirine.
- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
- have ever had a mental health problem.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if JULUCA will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take JULUCA.** You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby. It is not known if JULUCA can pass to your baby in your breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines interact with JULUCA. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

- You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that interact with JULUCA.
- Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider can tell you if it is safe to take JULUCA with other medicines.

Important Safety Information continued on next page.

Please see Important Facts about JULUCA on the following page.

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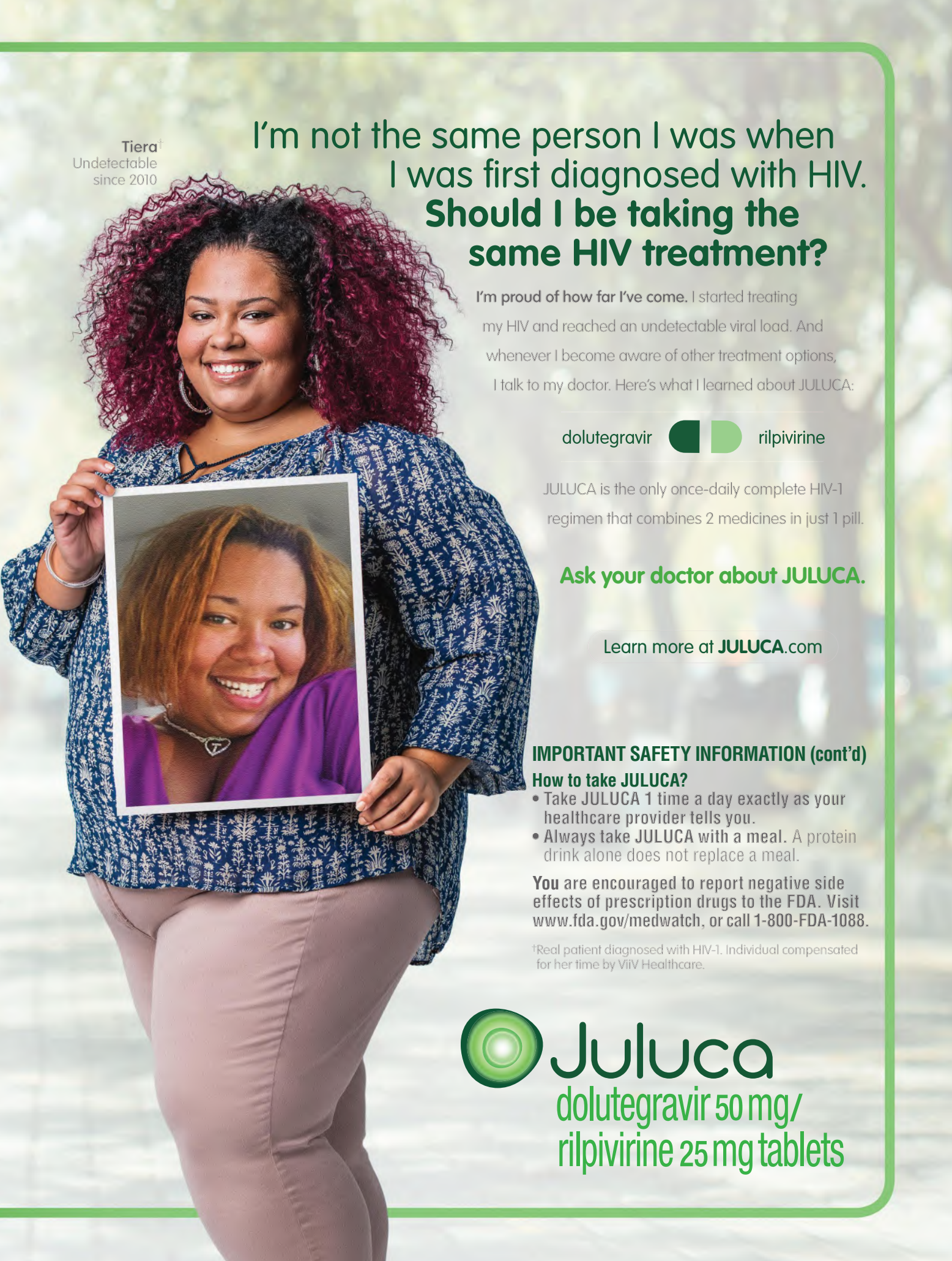
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I'm not the same person I was when I was first diagnosed with HIV. **Should I be taking the same HIV treatment?**

I'm proud of how far I've come. I started treating my HIV and reached an undetectable viral load. And whenever I become aware of other treatment options, I talk to my doctor. Here's what I learned about JULUCA:

dolutegravir + rilpivirine

JULUCA is the only once-daily complete HIV-1 regimen that combines 2 medicines in just 1 pill.

Ask your doctor about JULUCA.

Learn more at **JULUCA**.com

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION (cont'd)

How to take JULUCA?

- Take JULUCA 1 time a day exactly as your healthcare provider tells you.
- Always take JULUCA with a meal. A protein drink alone does not replace a meal.

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.

†Real patient diagnosed with HIV-1. Individual compensated for her time by ViiV Healthcare.

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IMPORTANT FACTS

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

ABOUT JULUCA

- JULUCA is a prescription medicine that is used without other antiretroviral medicines to treat Human Immunodeficiency Virus-1 (HIV-1) infection in adults to replace their current anti-HIV-1 medicines when their healthcare provider determines that they meet certain requirements.
- HIV-1 is the virus that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).
- It is not known if JULUCA is safe and effective in children.

HOW TO TAKE JULUCA

- **Take JULUCA 1 time a day exactly as your healthcare provider tells you.**
- **Always take JULUCA with a meal.** A protein drink alone does not replace a meal.

DO NOT TAKE JULUCA IF YOU

- have ever had an allergic reaction to a medicine that contains dolutegravir or rilpivirine.
- are taking any of the following medicines: dofetilide; carbamazepine; oxcarbazepine; phenobarbital; phenytoin; rifampin; rifapentine; proton pump inhibitors (including esomeprazole, lansoprazole, omeprazole, pantoprazole sodium, rabeprazole); St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*); or more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate.

BEFORE TAKING JULUCA

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have ever had a severe skin rash or an allergic reaction to medicines that contain dolutegravir or rilpivirine.
- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection.
- have ever had a mental health problem.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if JULUCA will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take JULUCA.** You should not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby. It is not known if JULUCA can pass to your baby in 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:

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

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF JULUCA

JULUCA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Severe skin rash and allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop a rash with JULUCA. **Stop taking JULUCA and get medical help right away if you develop a rash with any of the following signs or symptoms:** fever; generally ill feeling; tiredness; muscle or joint aches; blisters or sores in mouth; blisters or peeling of the skin; redness or swelling of the eyes; swelling of the mouth, face, lips, or tongue; problems breathing.
- **Liver problems.** People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus who have certain liver function test changes may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with JULUCA. Liver problems, including liver failure, have also happened in people without history of liver disease or other risk factors. Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your liver function. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you develop any of the following signs or symptoms of liver problems:** your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark or "tea-colored" urine; light-colored stools (bowel movements); nausea or vomiting; loss of appetite; pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away or get medical help if you have any of the following symptoms:** feeling sad or hopeless; feeling anxious or restless; have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.

The most common side effects of JULUCA include:
diarrhea and headache.

These are not all the possible side effects of JULUCA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking JULUCA. You may report side effects to FDA at www.fda.gov/medwatch, or at 1-800-FDA-1088.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about JULUCA. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
- Go to JULUCA.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved labeling.

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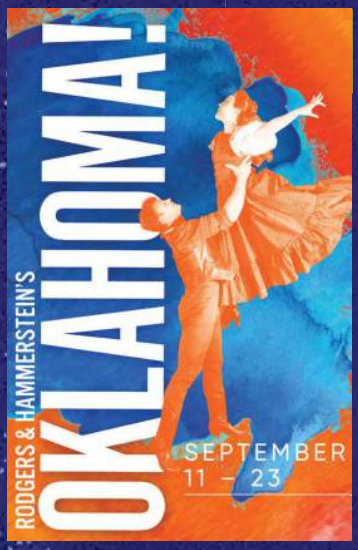
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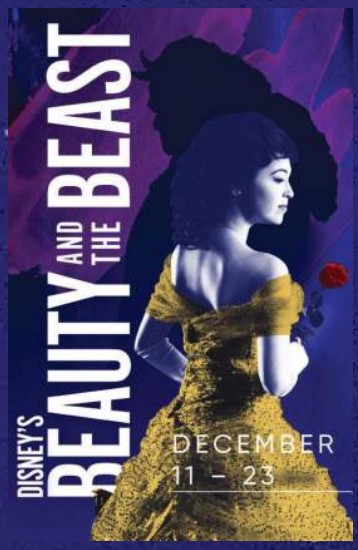
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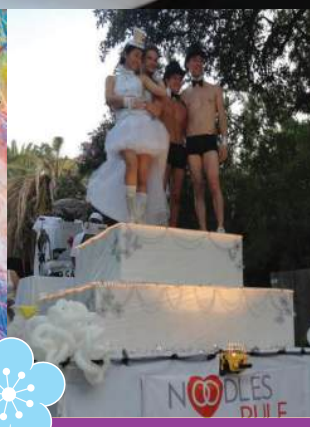
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At 212 pages, this is OUTSMART's largest issue ever. We'd like to think it is also one of our best.

Fresh off the magazine's own 25th anniversary in April, it is time to celebrate 40 years of Houston Pride.

In his comprehensive history of the Houston celebration, writer Brandon Wolf notes that 40 years ago this month, LGBTQ activists gathered for Town Meeting I, which gave rise to many of the organizations and institutions that have since shaped the local movement—including, one year later, the parade and festival.

Wolf has also compiled the definitive list (which was no small task) of previous grand marshals. This year, Pride Houston will honor these past marshals instead of electing new ones. However, a committee of those past marshals has also selected three honorary ones for the 2018 parade—Bob Briddick, Julie Mabry, and Josephine Tittsworth—whom we profile in this issue.

When Houston Pride began in 1979, it was the only annual parade event in the state. This year, there will be a record 28 Pride celebrations in cities across Texas, from Amarillo to Beaumont, writer Lourdes Zavaleta reports. But even if you decide to remain in Houston, there will be plenty to do—our annual calendar of local Pride-themed events lists 34 in June.

We also focus in on several of these events, including the Houston Dash's Pride Night at BBVA Compass Stadium, and the T.R.U.T.H. Project's "Feel My Pride Too!" celebration featuring LGBTQ artists of color. And we introduce a new column, "Unapologetically Trans," by Houston activist Monica Roberts, who reflects on the meaning of Pride as a black trans woman.

Elsewhere, columnist John Nechman notes that in addition to the 40th anniversary of Pride, June marks the 15th anniversary of *Lawrence v. Texas*, the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in the Houston case that struck down sodomy laws in Texas and throughout the nation.

Indeed, it is amazing how far, and how fast, the movement has come. When activists were planning Town Meeting I, Harris County officials attempted to prevent the gathering after being pressured by religious leaders who called homosexuality "a sin and contrary to all natural law and decency."

Today, we have an openly gay Democratic nominee for Texas governor. And this month, in addition to again being lit in rainbow colors, Houston City Hall will house a Pride Portraits exhibit featuring same-sex couples.

As we reflect on this progress, we should also consider how fragile it is, especially given today's political climate. Moreover, we should remember the words of straight ally Frances "Sissy" Farenthold at Town Meeting I: "No one is free unless we are all free. We cannot open the door to some minorities while denying access to others."

Happy Pride!

—John Wright



ON THE COVER

FABULOUS AT 40
Houston Pride's Ruby Anniversary

Photos by Dalton DeHart, Blase DiStefano, Fred Paez, and Eric E. Schell
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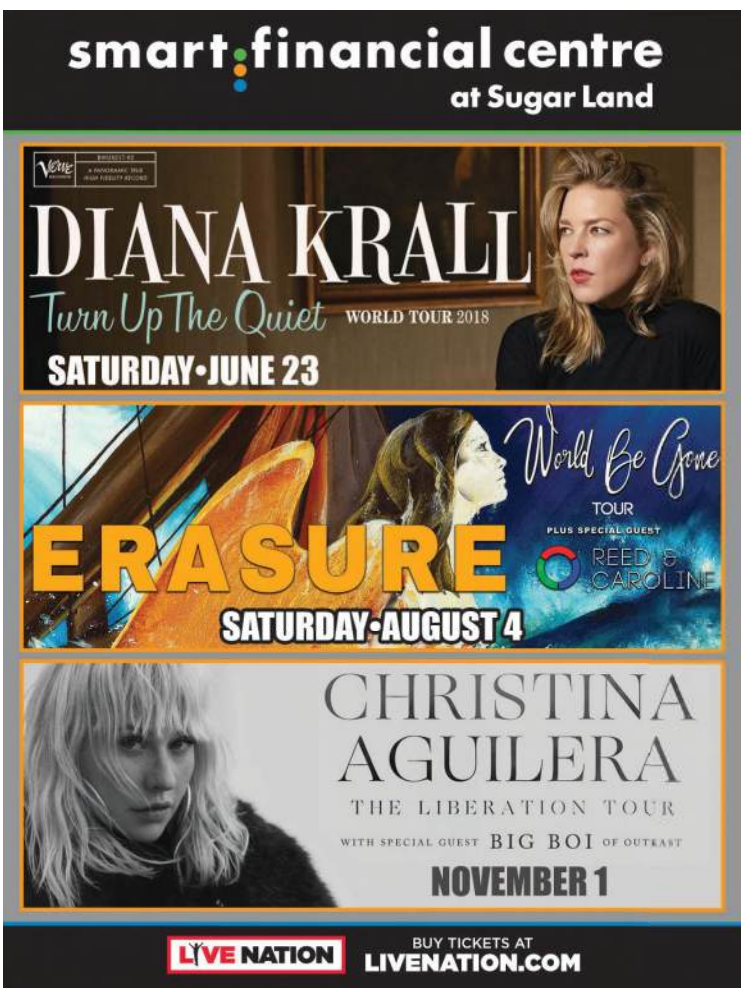
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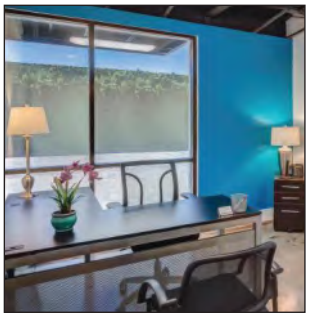
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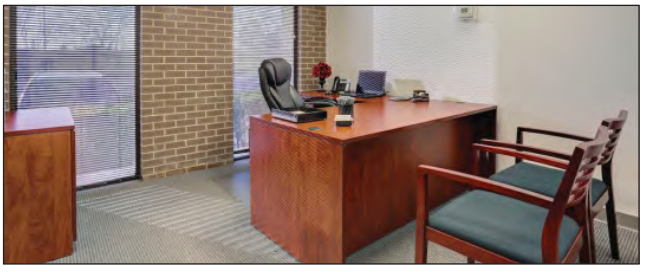
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Valdez Braces for Anti-Gay Attacks

'There's no telling how low Greg Abbott will stoop,' she says.

From staff reports

Former Dallas County sheriff Lupe Valdez defeated Houston businessman Andrew White in a Democratic runoff May 22, becoming the first openly LGBTQ major-party nominee for Texas governor in the state's history.

If Valdez defeats Republican governor Greg Abbott in November, she will be the first openly gay person elected governor in the U.S.

Houston's Annise Parker, who became the first LGBTQ person elected mayor of a major U.S. city in 2009 and now serves as CEO of the LGBTQ Victory Fund, said Valdez's victory was "the latest in a series of groundbreaking wins for LGBTQ candidates in the state."

"While bigoted state legislators in Austin continue to divide the state and target our community, Texans are voting for LGBTQ candidates because we are authentic, values-driven leaders who deliver on promises," Parker said. "That is why Lupe won, and we will work hard to expose Governor Abbott's cynical politics of divisiveness and showcase Lupe's positive agenda for Texans over the next five months."

No Democrat has won a statewide race in Texas since 1994, but Valdez told OutSmart she sees a path to victory.

"While the current governor spends his days working to help his special-interest donors, I will focus every day on what matters to the everyday Texan," Valdez said. "I will also work to reach new voters that have yet to be engaged in the political process. The coalition is out there in Texas, and we will build it."

Valdez also said she's prepared for the likelihood of anti-gay attacks.

"There's no telling how low Greg Abbott will stoop, but I have not, and will not, hide who I am," she said. "I won't be distracted by any of the shameless attacks he'll throw. I'm focused on talking to everyday Texans about improving their lives."

In addition to victories by Valdez and other LGBTQ candidates, several hardline conservatives were defeated in Republican primary runoffs for the Texas Legislature, losing to opponents backed by a moderate GOP group that opposes anti-transgender "bathroom bills."

"The results in these runoffs and in the March primaries clearly demonstrate that Republican voters want constructive and pragmatic leadership for our fast-growing state," said outgoing House speaker Joe Straus, a Republican who is credited with killing the bathroom bills in last year's legislative session.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Sheriff in Town
Democratic gubernatorial nominee Lupe Valdez makes her way to the podium for her victory speech, during an election-watch party in Dallas on May 22.

Valdez was among four openly LGBTQ candidates in Texas who won their runoffs, while three were defeated. As a result, 31 of the record 52 openly LGBTQ candidates in the state this year will now be on the ballot in November. In addition, two have already won their races.

Gina Ortiz Jones is poised to become the first openly LGBTQ Texan elected to Congress, after winning a runoff for the Democratic nomination in the 23rd Congressional District—a swing district that many analysts predict will turn blue in 2018. Ortiz Jones easily defeated Rick Treviño in the runoff, and will face incumbent Republican congressman Will Hurd in November.

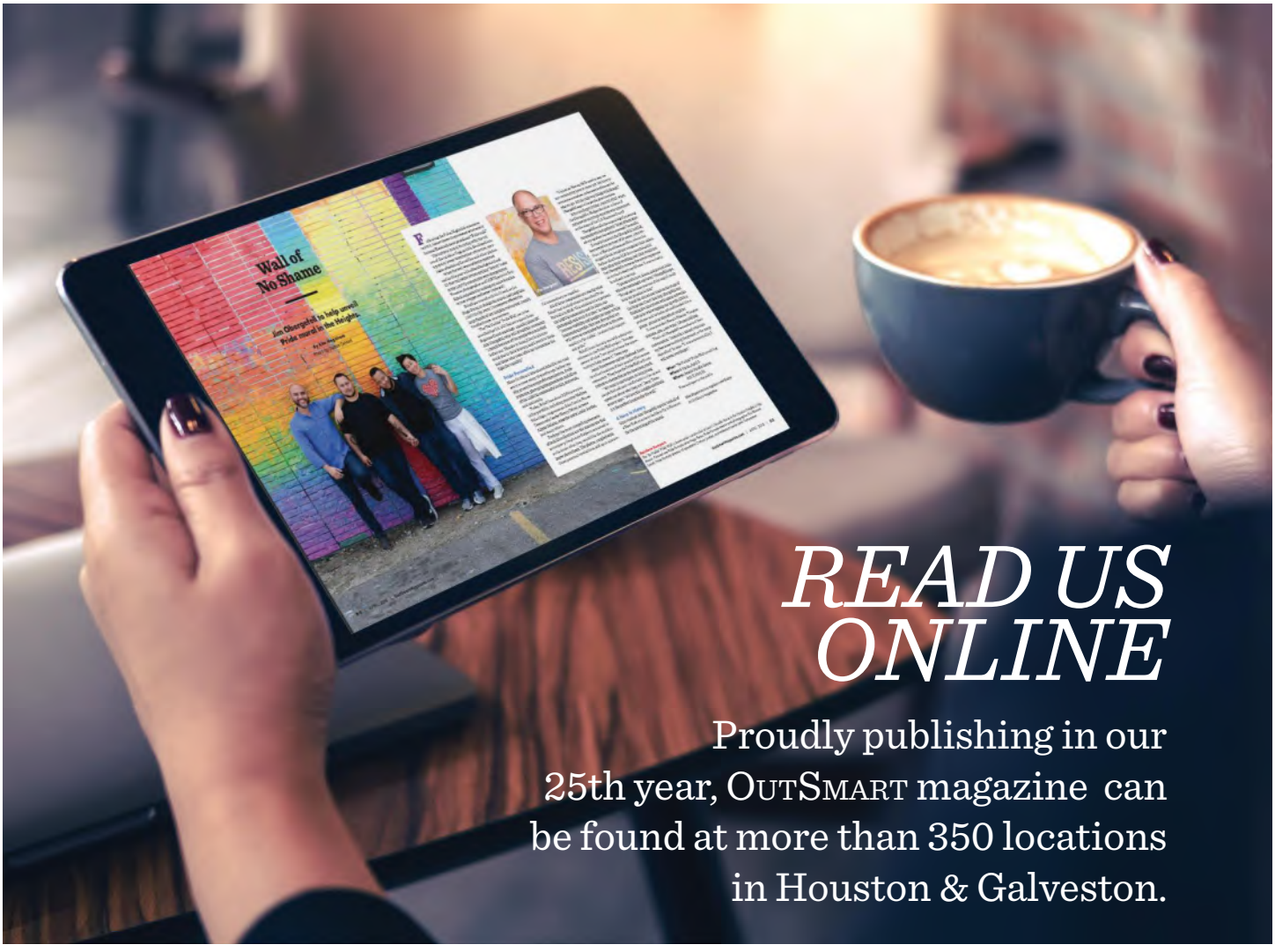
"I expect some folks in the Republican Party to make an issue about my sexuality," Ortiz Jones told OutSmart. "That probably says more about them than it does about me, though. I've got a long record of public service and putting my country above everything else. I look forward to serving my district, and that is what I will continue to talk about."

Meanwhile, Lorie Burch captured the Democratic nomination in the 3rd Congressional District. She will face Republican Van Taylor in November. And Eric Holguin won the Democratic runoff in the 27th Congressional District, where he'll face Republican Michael Cloud.

"This election is about two visions of our community and our country—one vision keeps us down a path of division and alienation; the other sees the very best of who we are through inclusion, collaboration, and equality," Burch told OutSmart.

In one disappointing result from May 22, beloved Houston activist Fran Watson lost the Democratic runoff in Texas Senate District 17.

"As a first-time candidate, I can look back and say that I have no regrets," Watson said. "You haven't seen the last of me. We have a lot of work to do, and I will continue to be a part of it."



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Houston Adds Trans Health Benefits

Coverage for City employees includes hormone therapy, gender-confirmation surgery.

By Lourdes Zavaleta

Despite the repeal of the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO) in 2015, City officials are doubling down on their support for transgender equality.

Communications director Alan Bernstein confirmed to OutSmart that the City is now offering comprehensive trans-inclusive health benefits to municipal employees. Bernstein said the City added the benefits effective May 1, 2017, to comply with nondiscrimination provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Lou Weaver, transgender programs coordinator at Equality Texas and a former co-chair of Mayor Sylvester Turner's LGBTQ Advisory Board, called the addition of trans healthcare benefits for City employees a "huge win in Houston and in Texas."



Alan Bernstein

"As far as City employees go, no one's health is being excluded," Weaver said. "This is a message that shows that the City of Houston is going to do everything that it can to take care of its trans employees. Whether these employees are current or future, they now know that the City sees them."

Austin and Dallas are the only other Texas cities that offer comprehensive trans-inclusive health benefits to employees, according to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

HERO, which prohibited discrimination based on gender identity and expression, in addition to more than a dozen other characteristics, was approved by City Council in 2014. However, anti-LGBTQ groups used misleading anti-trans attack ads to convince voters to repeal the ordinance in November 2015.

Dave Welch, executive director of the Houston Area Pastor Council, which led the effort to repeal HERO, did not respond to phone messages from OutSmart about the City's trans health benefits.

Weaver said it is likely that some of the City's 23,000 employees are trans.

The coverage would dramatically lower out-of-pocket expenses for employees who want to transition—a process that can cost up to $50,000 for counseling sessions, hormone therapy, and gender-confirmation surgery, according to the Trans Road Map online guide. City officials will provide details about the benefits when medical providers or trans employees inquire, Bernstein said.

In 2001, San Francisco became the first city to offer health-insurance plans that covered medically necessary treatment for trans employees. The cost of covering the health needs of these employees proved to be relatively inexpensive compared to the other health needs of City workers.

According to a study conducted by UCLA's Williams Institute, two-thirds of private employers reported no cost increases associated with adding trans-inclusive health coverage. The other one-third reported an increase of one percent or less in total costs.

"Many trans people face a struggle finding trans-inclusive health care," said Cathryn Oakley, HRC's state legislative director and senior counsel. "Most people get their health insurance through their employers. All of these employees deserve to access medically necessary treatments without facing discrimination."

In 2016, under the Obama administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) adopted a rule stating that Section 1557 of the ACA prohibits anti-trans discrimination.

Eight states, led by Texas, joined religiously affiliated healthcare providers in filing a lawsuit challenging the rule. U.S. District Court judge Lee Rosenthal, of the Southern District of Texas, temporarily halted enforcement of the protections for trans patients in December 2016.

In response to Rosenthal's ruling, the Trump administration said it planned to modify the Section 1557 rule, but had not initiated any changes as of May 2018.



Cathryn Oakley

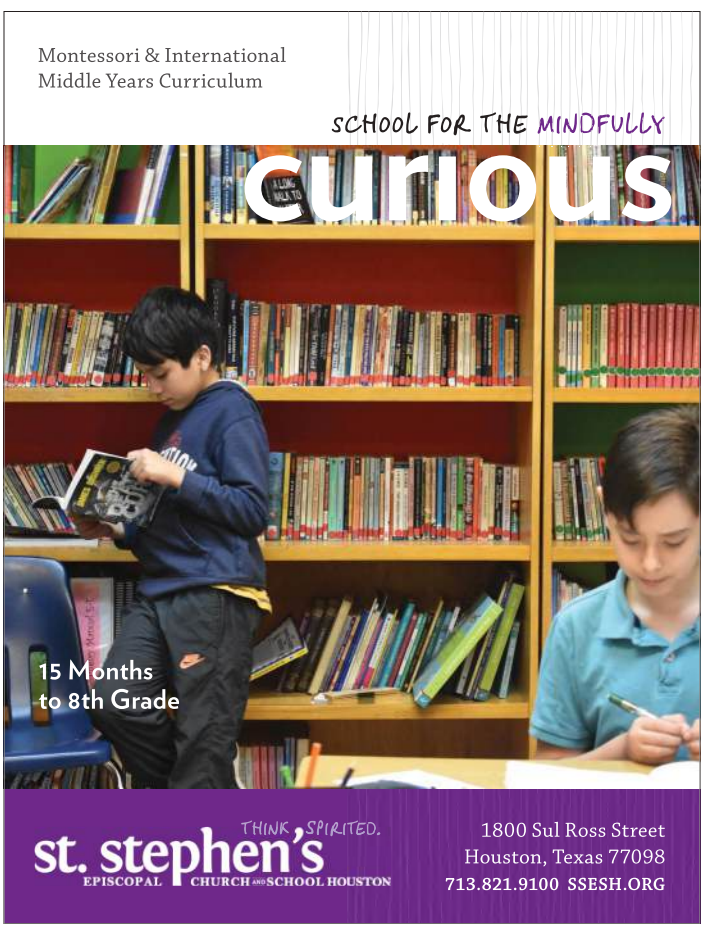
"If there is ever a pushback on the anti-discrimination portion of ACA, I hope that the City of Houston doesn't see transgender health benefits as no longer necessary because they are not recognized by law," Oakley says. "Transgender-inclusive health benefits are absolutely medically necessary."

For six years, HRC has compiled the Municipal Equality Index (MEI), which grades cities on LGBTQ inclusion based on their laws, policies, and services.

"The MEI is a to-do list," Oakley says. "Cities that do not receive a perfect score can look at the index to see what they can do better."

On the 2017 MEI, Houston received a score of 75 points out of 100. Oakley said the city lost six points because it did not provide information to HRC about trans-inclusive healthcare benefits. However, HRC hopes to revisit the trans healthcare category with the City prior to releasing its 2018 MEI, she said.

Lourdes Zavaleta is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.



Community

continued from page 37

Photos by Dalton DeHart and Edgardo Aguilar



On April 25, AIDS Foundation Houston hosted Dining Out For Life at various locations. Pictured are **Rolando Maldonado**, **Eliel Ramirez**, **Jessica Rossman**, **Travis Torrence**, **Kelly Young**, **Jennifer Caswell**, and **Nathan Reedy**.



On April 25, Pride Houston hosted a Kickoff Party at Pearl Bar. Pictured are **Lo Roberts**, **Glynda McGinnis**, **Dalton DeHart**, **Dustin Sheffield**, and **Jeremy Fain**.



On April 27, the **Gay Men's Chorus of Houston**. presented "Family Jewels." Pictured are director **Kenneth Clayborne** and members of the chorus.



On May 5, Carl Han hosted Love Party 2018: The Love Must Go On, benefitting the HATCH Youth Prom, at Rich's. Pictured are **Carl Han** and performers.



On April 25, the Greater Houston LGBT Chamber held a ribbon cutting at Lifesmiles by Randy Mitchmore. Pictured are **Dr. Randy Mitchmore**, staff and members of the chamber.



On May 9, the Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce hosted Brewing Up Business and a ribbon-cutting at **SignatureCare**. Pictured are SignatureCare staff and members of the chamber.



From May 2–6, Houston Splash 2018 hosted the annual black LGBTQ Pride celebration at the Hilton Post Oak Hotel. Pictured are **Barry Barnes**, **Mike Webb**, **Donald Perkins**, **John Humphries**, **Jason Black**, **Jeffrey Campbell**, and **Remmington Belford**.

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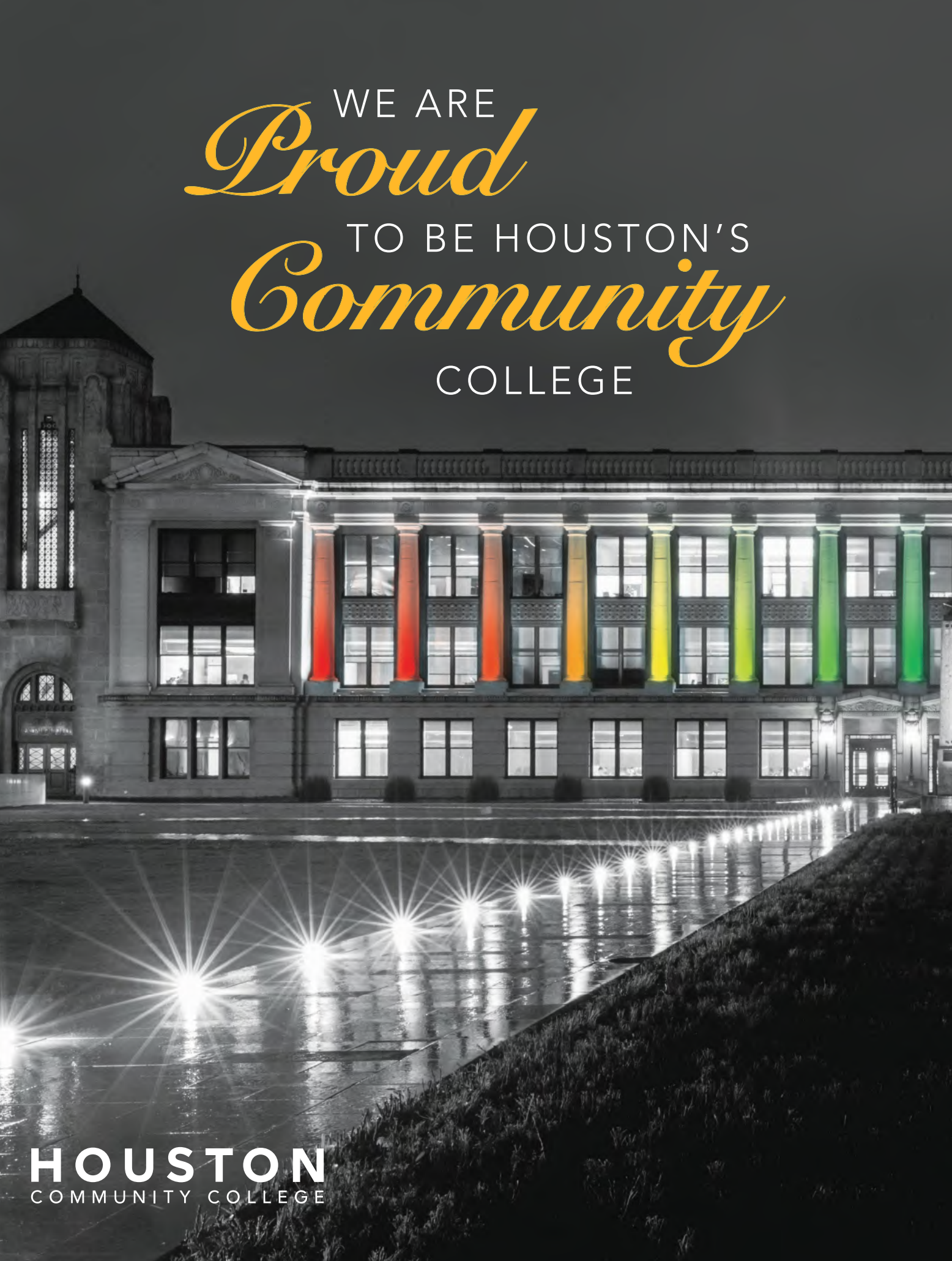
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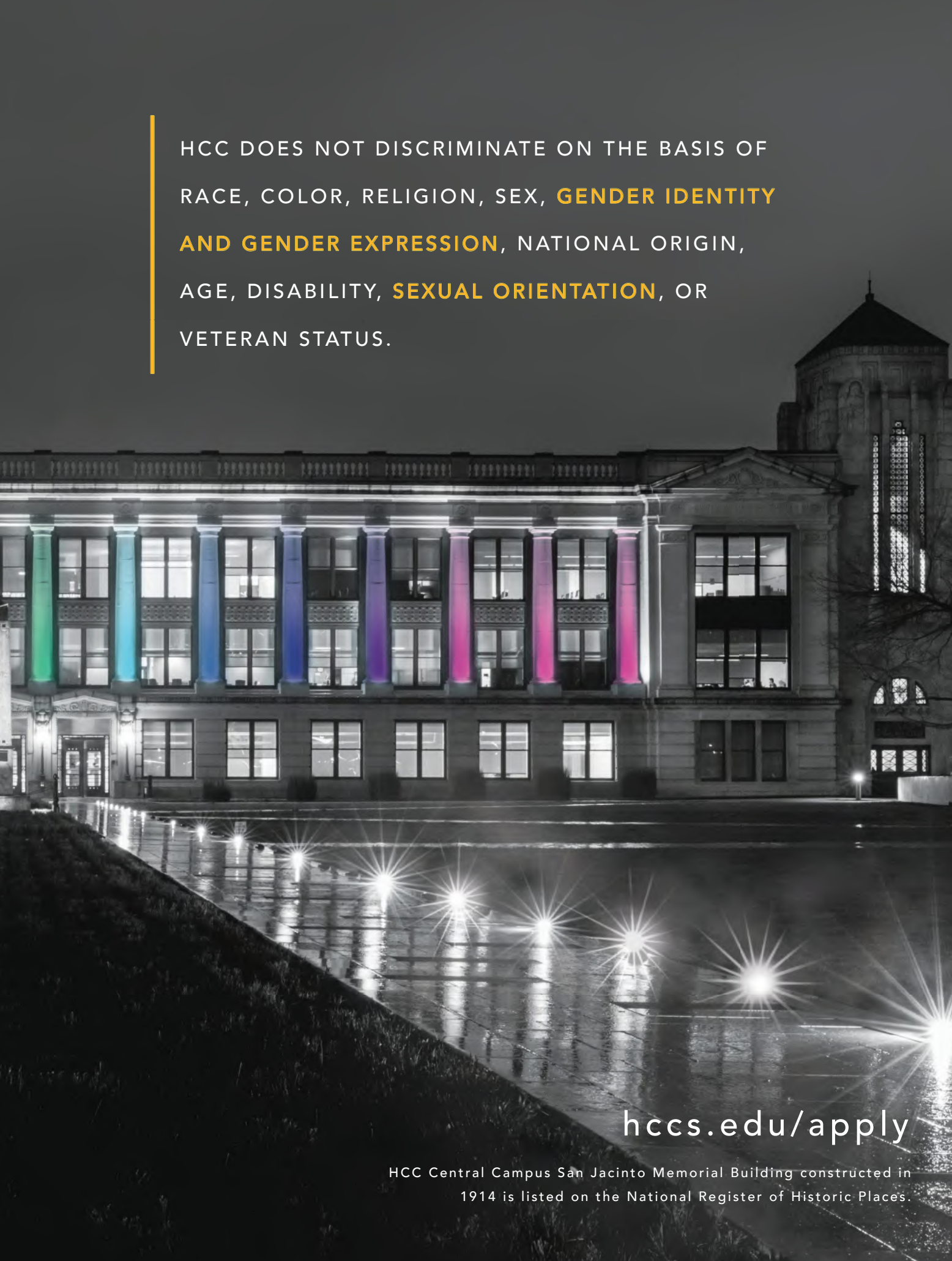
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Calendar of Events

Compiled by Marene Gustin

6/18



'The Cake'

To bake or not to bake.



Bekah Brunstetter's (NBC's *This Is Us*) timely play *The Cake* comes to the Alley Theatre for Pride month, and it is a must-see. It's both funny and topical. • Jen, now a big-city girl, returns to her North Carolina hometown to plan her wedding. She asks Della, her deceased mother's best friend and a heck of a baker, to make the wedding cake, but unfortunately for the very religious Della, the cake is for two brides. Brunstetter based the story on the real-life legal battle over a baker refusing to make a wedding cake for a same-sex couple, and her own life. She is also from a rural, religious North Carolina town, and when she returns home she finds it hard to blend her Southern Baptist upbringing with her Los Angeles lifestyle. A very entertaining play that should challenge some people and at least open a dialogue. • Thursday, June 21, join ActOUT at a special Pride pre-curtain event for this play. To buy ActOUT tickets, required for this event, purchase online or call the box office at 713.220.5700, then enter the number 1. ***—Marene Gustin***

The Cake
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- **alleytheatre.org**

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1

The Sound of Music ★ SPA presents the beloved musical at Jones Hall. **spahouston.org**
Float & Flick + Sip and splash at Hotel Derek's poolside movie. **hotelderek.com**

2

Eye on Houston: High School Documentary Photography *thru 24* Student photographs. **mfah.org**

3

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom ★ *last day* A play about the blues. **ensemblehouston.com**

4

Trauma-Sensitive Yoga + *thru July 5* Yoga for adult women who have suffered trauma. **207.322.2153**

5

Ambiente Amor *thru Aug 24* An exhibition by Felix Lopez. **clarkeassoc.com**

6

Literally Short Film Festival ★ *thru 10* Short films from Israel. **literallyshort.com**

7

The Graduate ★ *last day* Are you trying to seduce me, Mrs. Robinson? **dirtdogstheatre.com**

8

Play ★ *last day* Houston Ballet's mixed rep. **houstonballet.org**

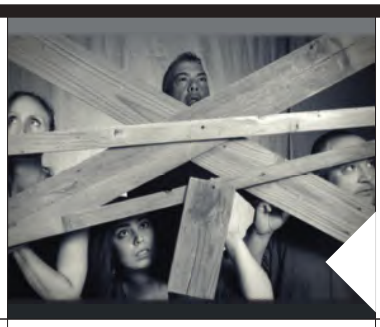
For ongoing events, visit outsmartmagazine.com

9

Michelangelo and the Vatican *thru 10* Masterworks from the Museo e Real Bosco di Capodimonte. **mfah.org**

10

Bucky Miller: Two Raccoons *thru Mar 31, 2019* Part of the Art on the Lawn series. **camh.org**



12

Love Me, Love Me Not *thru 23* A solo exhibition by Karin Broker **mcclaingallery.com**

The Birds ★ *thru 30* Unsettling look at relationships in the face of societal collapse. **theatresuburbia.org**

13

Guys & Dolls ★ *thru 24* Rocking musical about gangsters and gamblers. **tuts.com**

14

Barnstorm Dance Fest ★ *thru 23* Two weeks of contemporary dance. **matchhouston.org**

15

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban ★ *thru 17* In concert with the Houston Symphony. **houstonsymphony.org**

16

Period of Adjustment ★ *last day* A play about sex, TV, and war, at Theatre Southwest. **tswhouston.org**

17

Happy Father's Day!



19

Lambda Nextgen Houston Happy Hour ✚ Happy Hour for young LGBTQ professionals at Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams. **lambdanextgen.com**

20

The Great American Trailer Park Musical ★ *thru July 22* A stripper on the run hides in a trailer park. **stagestheatre.com**

21

The Cake ★ *thru July 1* A very relevant and buttery play. **alleytheatre.org**

22

The Courage to Cure ✚ 2018 Caregivers Conference. **800.272.3900**

Mary Poppins Jr. ★ *and 23* A musical version, in Galveston. **islandetc.org**

23

Houston Pride Festival & Parade ✚ **pridehouston.org**

'I'm Not Lying!' ★ Jaston Williams' funny stories. **thegrand.com**

Swan Lake ★ *thru July 1* Houston Ballet's classic. **houstonballet.org**

24

Brit Floyd ★ World's greatest Pink Floyd tribute band. **smartfinancialcentre.net**

25

Career and Recovery Resources' 22nd Annual Barrier Breaker Award Luncheon ✚ Harris County judge Ed and his wife, Gwen, are recognized. **careerandrecovery.org**

26

Peacock in the Desert: The Royal Arts of Jodhpur, India *thru Aug 19* The history of India's extraordinarily vibrant culture through some 250 objects. **mfah.org**



28

Carry Liebowitz: Museum Show *thru Aug 26* Works of texts. **camh.org**

29

Biorythym: Music & The Body ★ *thru July 31* Make music with your body. **thehealthmuseum.org**

30

Chicago and REO Speed Wagon ★ Can't Fight This Feeling, classics in concert. **concerts1.livenation.com**

Save the Date

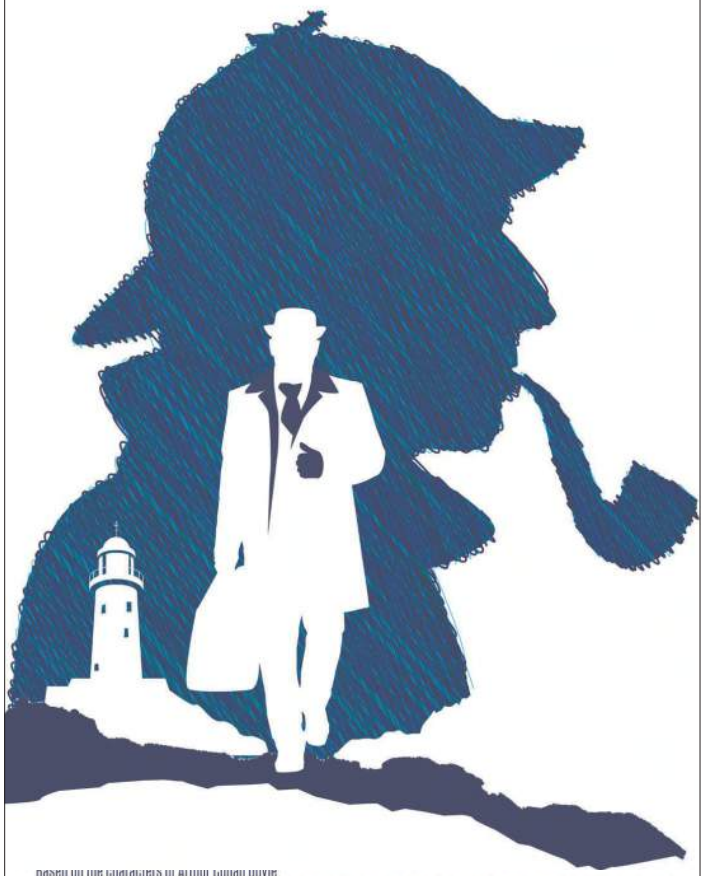
July 15

Culture Club and The B-52s They'll tumble 4 ya. Boy George and Culture Club are joined by The B-52's and Tom Bailey of the Thompson Twins. **smartfinancialcentre.net**

More Calendar →



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Calendar of Events

continued from previous page

Period of Adjustment

Thru June 16

Thru 16

Theatre Southwest presents Tennessee Williams' *Period of Adjustment*, a still timely serious comedy about early 1960s television culture and human sexuality. It's about the reunion of war buddies and their on-the-rocks marriages. Ralph and Dorthea have been separated less than 24 hours after a six-year lackluster marriage; George and Isabel have been married only 48 hours, yet have not spoken a civil word to one another. In a biography, Williams said he wrote the play in a rush of activity partly induced by drugs. Although a brilliant playwright, the gay Williams had drug and drinking issues all of his life.

tswhouston.org

Guys & Dolls

June 12–24

12–24

Luck be a lady tonight! And you'll be lucky to snag a ticket to this re-imagined Latin-themed version of the gangster-and-molls (and a few good women, too) musical based on short stories of Damon Runyon. This Tony Award-winning Best Musical features music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows.

tuts.com

Fade to Black

June 21–23

21–23

A play festival celebrating the short works of African-American playwrights, this is the sixth annual festival. Held at MATCH, tickets are $25. The 22nd annual festival features a playwright talkback, and closing festivities are the following night. Plays include those by Houston playwrights Yunina Barbour-Payne, Maya Critchlow, and Eric C. Jones, plus other playwrights from around the country.

fadetoblackfest.com

I'm Not Lying!

June 23

23

I'm Not Lying! is the hilarious, sometimes-true story of Jaston Williams of *Greater Tuna* fame. Learn how he got the Secret Service to follow him into a gay bar, why he once dressed as a chicken to attend a party at Dennis Hopper's home, and much more. See our profile of Williams on page 179.

thegrand.com ■



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IRIS RODRIGUEZ

For over 2 decades, Iris has been on the front lines as a decorated firefighter, a soldier in the U.S. Army Reserves, and an advocate for many women's and LGBTQ organizations.

For more information on where Iris likes to hang out, check out **www.mygayhouston/discover**

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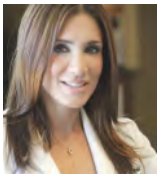
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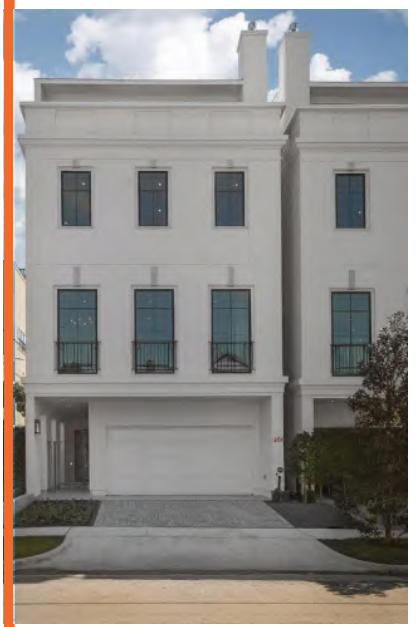
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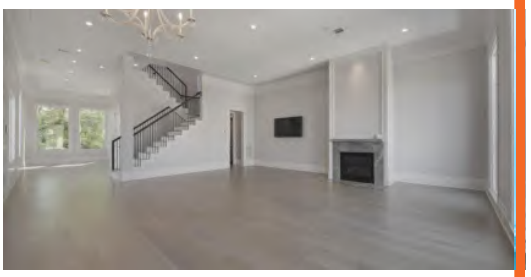
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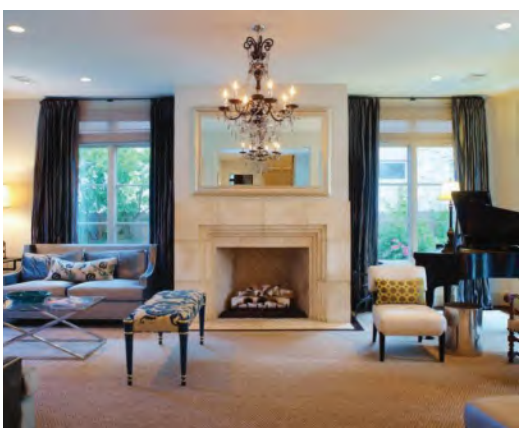
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By Susan Bankston

Gullible Greg Gets Punked by Putin

Plus: Michael Cohen's other shell companies.



ORIGINAL PHOTO - SCREEN GRAB; COLLAGE - BLASE DISTEFANO

I'm fixin' to tell you an absolutely honest-to-gosh true story. You can look it up on the Google machine, ask Siri, or call the OnStar guy, and they will all tell you it's true, because it is.

Two years ago, right here in this magazine, I told you about Jade Helm 15. It was an Army training exercise that was to be held on rural land in Bastrop, Texas, population 6,000. It involved 60 troops, two Humvees, and a helicopter. Trainings like this one were held all over the country.

On the Army training map, Texas was designated "hostile territory" (which I suspect is true every damn day, at least in the biblical sense). In this case, the label was more likely meant to train Army troops how to respond when they end up in hostile territory. But the Tea Party guys didn't see it that way. They saw the Army map as an insult to Texas—and it probably was, but I'm not taking sides on that issue.

The Tea Partiers went hair-on-fire berserk. They were convinced that this was a ploy for Barack Obama to overtake Texas and herd all the Republicans into concentration camps that had been built in abandoned Walmarts, and—oh yes, it gets better—they were to be taken to these camps through secret underground tunnels that connect Walmarts all over the country.

The "secret underground tunnels" part really pisses me off. I spend half my damn life sitting in traffic in 100-degree heat, so if there are nice cool tunnels we could be using that are being kept secret, I'm gonna hurt somebody.

So then a very nice Army lieutenant colonel came to Bastrop to hold an open meeting to answer any questions the public had about this training exercise. He had to promise not to snicker or put on a tin-foil hat when the Tea Partiers got to asking about the abandoned Walmarts.

A bunch of old white guys showed up at this meeting from all over the country, and for two solid hours they yelled at him to get off their lawn. Honey, they were loud enough to embarrass thunder, and mad enough to eat nails and spit corkscrews.

Now, here's where governor Greg Abbott comes in. The next day, Abbott announced he'd told the all-volunteer Texas State Guard, which is under his leadership, to "monitor the exercise." And just for double-dog security, Abbott directed that "I expect to receive regular updates on the progress and safety of the Operation." (Like Abbott would know what progress is.)

This would be funny if it didn't make me want to pound my head on concrete.

Ever since that day, I have tried to get Abbott appointed to the president's cabinet as the Secretary of Suck. Or maybe Ambassador to the Bermuda Triangle.

Slap me nekkid and sell my clothes, but do not try to convince me that it's smart to send volunteers to "monitor" the U.S. Army for eight weeks.

Okay, now comes the funny part. It has been revealed that the whole Jade Helm fear campaign was orchestrated by the Russians. The Tea Partiers and Abbott were pawns being used by the Russians to see if they could turn Americans against each other. It was a test run for the more recent Russian fake-news campaigns now in the headlines.

Abbott let the Russians know that Texas ain't the brightest light on the Christmas tree.

So the next time you see our governor, point, giggle, and ask, "How's tricks, Dopey?" in Russian.

Speaking of Dopey, while our president enjoys himself a Subpoeña Colada, his lawyer has been soaking up money like a $50 sponge.

Admit it: going from Obama to Trump is like going from an iPhone to two soup cans and some string cheese.

When word came out that Trump's personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, was taking bribes (pay to play, payola, or kickbacks) at a place he named Essential Consulting, LLC, I got to wondering how many other LLCs he has. I mean, the ones we don't know about yet . . .

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- White Russians, LLC
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- What's In Your Wallet?, LLC

Happy Pride, y'all! And save some glitter for the Fourth of July!

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

In adults with HIV on ART who have diarrhea not caused by an infection



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What is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine that helps relieve symptoms of diarrhea not caused by an infection (noninfectious) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Important Safety Information

Mytesi is not approved to treat infectious diarrhea (diarrhea caused by bacteria, a virus, or a parasite). Before starting you on Mytesi, your healthcare provider will first be sure that you do not have infectious diarrhea. Otherwise, there is a risk you would not receive the right medicine and your infection could get worse. In clinical studies, the most common side effects that occurred more often than with placebo were upper respiratory tract (sinus, nose, and throat) infection (5.7%), bronchitis (3.9%), cough (3.5%), flatulence (3.1%), and increased bilirubin (3.1%).

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IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION

This is only a summary. See complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or by calling 1-844-722-8256. This does not take the place of talking with your doctor about your medical condition or treatment.

What Is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

Do Not Take Mytesi if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

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.

Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:

Pregnant or Planning to Become Pregnant?

- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
- There are no studies in pregnant women taking Mytesi
- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

A Nursing Mother?

- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
- If you are nursing, you should tell your doctor before starting Mytesi
- Your doctor will help you to decide whether to stop nursing or to stop taking Mytesi

Under 18 or Over 65 Years of Age?

- Mytesi has not been studied in children under 18 years of age
- Mytesi studies did not include many people over the age of 65. So it is not clear if this age group will respond differently. Talk to your doctor to find out if Mytesi is right for you

What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi With Other Medicines?

If you are taking any prescription or over-the-counter medicine, herbal supplements, or vitamins, tell your doctor before starting Mytesi.

What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

For more information, please see the full Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com or speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.

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By Grace S. Yung, CFP

How Much Do You Need to Retire?

It's never too early to begin planning.



The ideal retirement may look different for each person, but it typically has a common thread: the desire for ample income to cover living expenses, as well as travel, entertainment, and unexpected costs.

It's possible that you have seen advertisements that refer to reaching your retirement "number." But the reality is, there is no specific amount that is right for everyone.

In retirement, your income matters more than your net worth. Your assets need to produce a consistent income stream to meet your living expenses.

In the past, many retirees relied on the "three-legged stool" of income sources: a defined-benefit pension, Social Security, and personal savings/investments.

However, many employers have replaced defined-benefit pension plans with defined-contribution plans. The most popular of these is the 401(k). Even though your money grows tax-deferred in a 401(k), it is up to you—rather than your employer—to make sure you have enough income down the road.

If you have accumulated enough "credits," you can collect Social Security as early as age 62. But Social Security was never meant to fully fund a person's retirement. On average, these benefits replace roughly 40 percent of a worker's pre-retirement earnings.

As a result of these factors, more retirees are relying heavily on the third leg of the retirement-income stool: personal savings and investments. This requires you to strike a balance between how much you take out and how much stays invested so it can continue to grow each year.

In the past, a "safe" withdrawal rate was considered 4 percent. Now, due to both market volatility and historically low interest rates, it can be difficult to determine what rate of withdrawal is "safe."

Additionally, while having a reliable income in retirement is important, it is actually only half the battle. Several other factors can also impact whether you will be able to continue purchasing the goods and services you need. They include inflation, order of returns, emergency expenses, and longevity.

Over the last 100 years, the inflation rate has averaged just over 3 percent per year. Inflation can make a big difference in how much you will be able to purchase with the same amount of income down the road. As an example, using an inflation rate of just 3.22 percent, your income would need to double in order to purchase the same items in 20 years.

When it comes to the order of returns, your average return can be overshadowed by when those positive and negative returns are attained. For example, if two investors started out with $100,000 each in their portfolios, they could have drastically different outcomes—even with the same "average" return over time.

Throughout your life, there have probably been times when you needed to either dip into your savings or emergency fund, or worse, put unanticipated expenses on credit. During your working years, it can be easier to pay off these emergency expenses. But when you retire and are living on a set income, unexpected financial needs can be much more difficult to overcome if you don't have a plan in place.

And believe it or not, while living a nice long life certainly sounds appealing, longevity can be one of the biggest financial hardships you can face in retirement. This is because all of those extra years will subject you to all of the other risks for a longer period of time.

If you don't yet have a retirement-income plan in place, it's never too early to begin planning. Waiting too long to plan can result in some unexpected—and usually undesirable—results. Working with a financial professional who is not only well-versed in creating retirement plans, but also highly knowledgeable in issues that affect the LGBTQ community, can better assure you that your specific needs, as well as those of your spouse or partner, will be considered.

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 September 2017 issue of Texas Monthly. *Yung can be reached at grace.yung@lpl.com.*

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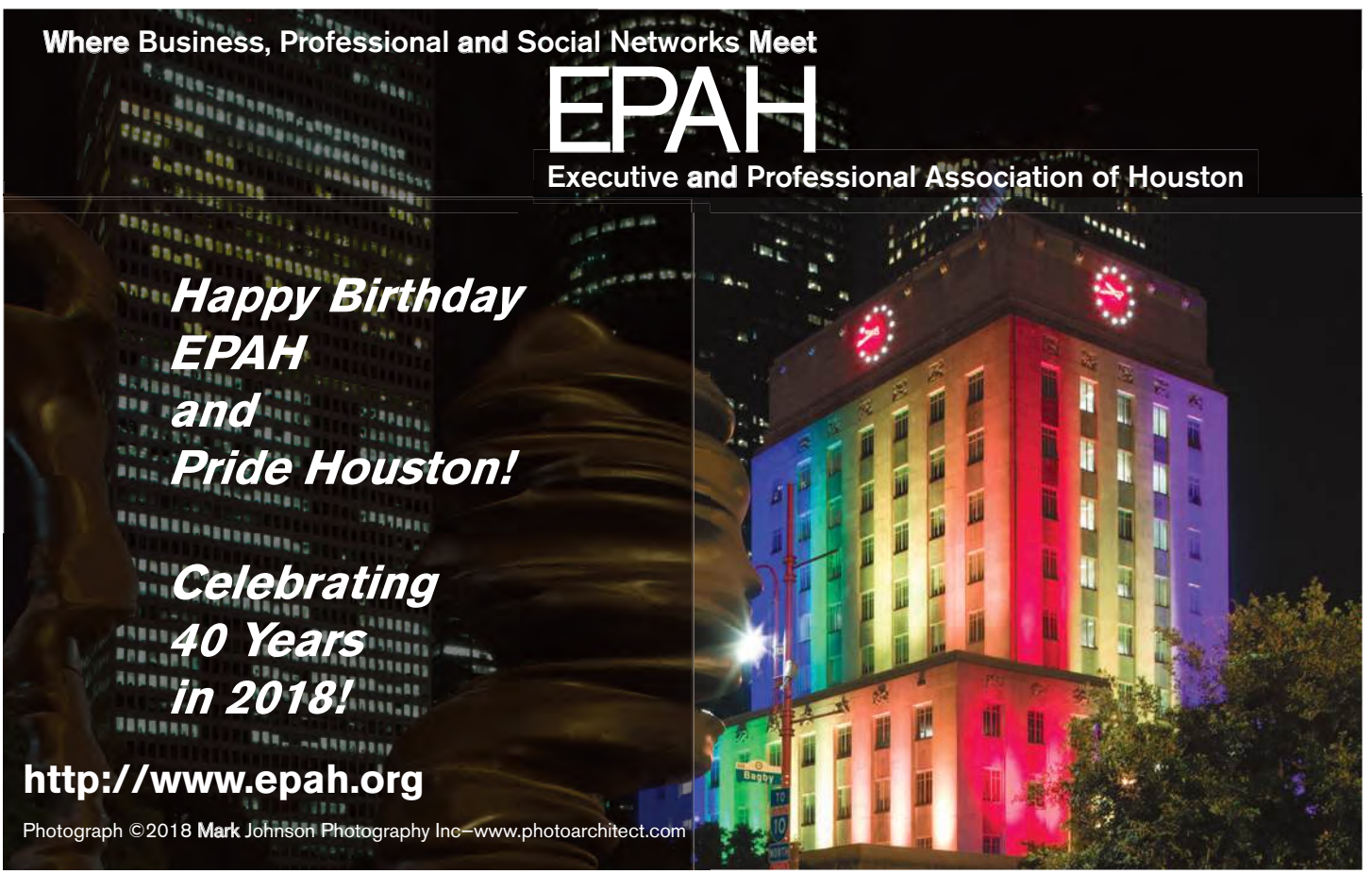
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By Monica Roberts

Joining the Parade

As a black trans activist, I've gone from ambivalence to appreciation for Houston Pride.



DALTON DEHART

Pride, Prejudice and Progress
An entry in the 2017 Houston Pride parade supporting transgender and immigrant rights.

During last year's Houston Pride—only the second one that I had participated in—I received the honor of carrying a transgender-pride flag at the front of the parade.

While marching through the streets of downtown, I wore a trans-themed shirt that said in Spanish, "My existence is resistance."

It's taken me some time to move from outright ambivalence about Houston's Pride celebration to the point of being able to appreciate it.

Next year will mark 25 years since the day in April of 1994 when I started my public transition to the unapologetic black trans woman you see now. And this month marks 20 years since I stepped on a Washington DC-bound flight to participate in the first of two GenderPac Transgender Lobby Days.

As an activist, I have not only witnessed history, but have also made it. What I observed during the '90s was anti-trans hostility, both in Texas and nationally, that soured me on this community and its Pride celebrations, to the point of ambivalence.

As I became "woke" about LGBTQ history, my ambivalence only increased. Why should I feel pride in a community that, when I first encountered it in the mid-'90s, was gleefully throwing trans people under the human-rights bus at all levels of government, while dismissively shouting "Wait your turn"? Why should I feel pride in a community that, as James Baldwin admonished in his last *Village Voice* interview in 1986, was no more ready to accept black people than society as a whole?

But after perusing that same LGBTQ history and seeing stories about Marsha P. Johnson, Lucy Anderson Hicks, the 1965 Dewey's Lunch Counter Sit-In in Philadelphia, and other LGBTQ trailblazers, my ambivalence about Pride celebrations began to break down.

The reason we have this celebration in Houston is that on June 28, 1969, black trans woman Marsha P. Johnson threw the shot glass that kicked off the Stonewall Rebellion in New York City—that defining civil-rights uprising that we celebrate each June as the start of the TBLGQ-rights movement.

I've also learned and observed over time that many Texans have played a major role in shaping that movement. Ray Hill was one of the "Big Five" leaders. The plaintiffs and attorneys in *Lawrence v. Texas* were Houstonians. Phyllis Frye, who helped finish in August 1980 what Toni Mayes started in the early 1970s by getting the Houston City Council to repeal an odious anti-crossdressing ordinance, is considered the godmother of the modern trans-rights movement.

Houston was the host city for the series of six International Conferences for Transgender Law and Employment Policy, which Frye started in 1992 to lay the foundation for our modern trans-rights movement.

From 1988 until 2000, before Southern Comfort took that title, the largest trans convention in the nation was the San Antonio-based Texas "T" Party organized by Cynthia Phillips and her wife, the late Linda Phillips.

That spirit of Texas trailblazers continues to this day.

Carter Brown started the Dallas-based Black Trans Advocacy Conference in 2012. This gathering for trans-masculine people has grown exponentially to become a weeklong black trans reunion, with attendees from across the U.S, as well as African-diaspora trans people from Panama, Venezuela, Jamaica, and Brazil.

In 2009, Josephine Tittsworth founded the Texas Transgender Nondiscrimination Summit (TTNS), which will host its 10th anniversary in July on the campus of the University of Houston, where the summit first began. TTNS focuses on enacting trans-friendly nondiscrimination policies at colleges and (increasingly) in local school districts.

Houston's Colt Keo-Meier started the Gender Infinity Conference, which takes place in October and focuses on trans youth and the parents and allies who love and support them.

There's also Ana Andrea Molina, who in three short years has built the Houston-based Organización Latina de Trans en Texas into a nationally and internationally recognized entity with chapters in Dallas and Austin—in addition to Casa Anandrea, Houston's only shelter for trans and gender-nonconforming individuals.

It was also a trans Texan by the name of

continued on page 137


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June 21: ActOut at the Alley Theatre presents *The Cake*. Pre-curtain event at 6 p.m. show at 7:30 p.m. alleytheatre.org/actout

June 22: Rainbow on the Green is a free citywide celebration and dance party under the stars at Houston's own downtown Discovery Green park. discoverygreen.com/rainbow

June 23: Pride Houston Festival & Parade Celebration Festival to be held around City Hall, Hermann Square, and Tranquility Park, noon–7, and the parade begins at the intersection of Milam and Walker streets at 8:30 p.m. pridehouston.org

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A BRIEF HISTORY of HOUSTON PRIDE

Parade began in 1979, but foundation was laid in years before.

By Brandon Wolf
Photo by ***ev1pro.com***

When people look back on the gay-rights movement of the 1970s, they tend to think in terms of New York City and San Francisco. But Houston was just as active in the last half of that turbulent decade. Houston's first official Pride parade rolled down Lower Westheimer in 1979, but it was preceded by important events in 1976, 1977, and 1978 that all set the stage. In 1976, the University of Houston's Gay Activist Alliance organized a Pride event to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion in New York City. Although it is sometimes dismissed as "just a march," fliers and other promotional pieces clearly identified it as a parade. There were no marching bands, floats, or banners, and most of the participants had been recruited during the previous year by pioneering Houston activist Ray Hill.

Rainbow Road
Bridges over Houston's Southwest Freeway are shown lit in rainbow colors for Pride Month in a drone photograph.

On Sunday, June 26, 1976, a crowd of about 60 gathered in the parking lot of the Exile, a gay bar at 1011 Bell Street. At 1 p.m., the group walked a half-block west on Bell before rounding the corner at Simpson's Diner and proceeding on to Main Street. One of the participants was Annise Parker, a young lesbian activist who would one day become mayor.

As the marchers progressed, onlookers who joined in from the sidewalks began to swell their ranks to as many as 400. The march was brief and the numbers were few by today's standards, but with each step taken, participants left their footprints on the history, culture, and politics of Houston.

Although a Pride parade planned for 1977 was cancelled due to a lack of funds, fate had an ace up her sleeve: Anita Bryant, fresh from her anti-gay "Save Our Children" campaign in Dade County, Florida, was coming to Houston to perform downtown at the State Bar of Texas banquet. Hill and others quickly organized a candlelight protest. Participants wearing black armbands with inverted pink triangles gathered for a rally in the parking lot of the Depository II bar on McGowen, and then headed downtown. The Houston Police Department had prepared for 300 people, but more than 4,000 joined the protest. They marched around the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the site of the banquet, and then to a rally in the plaza of the Houston Library.

As each wave of protesters arrived at the Hyatt, the volume swelled with such intensity that it was audible in the hotel's banquet room. Houston's gay community had made its voice heard. A few weeks later, with a newfound sense of purpose and solidarity, the community staged its first Gay Pride Rally in Cherryhurst Park.



One year later, the Houston Gay Political Caucus hosted its first Houston Gay Pride Week, with a full schedule of political and social events. The main event was Town Meeting I on June 25 in the Astro Arena, a vast exhibit hall adjacent to the Astrodome. →



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The keynote speaker was former Texas state representative Frances Tarlton "Sissy" Farenthold, who declared: "We are none of us free unless we all are free. We cannot open the door to some minorities while denying access to others." More than 4,500 people attended Town Meeting I, which, according to the *Houston Chronicle*, was "the first such politically oriented homosexual meeting in the United States." The stated purpose was to address the concerns of Houston's gay community as outlined in 13 propositions. The resolutions resulted in the creation of many organizations, including the Montrose Counseling Center, the Montrose Activity Center, the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard, the Hispanic Caucus, and the Montrose Sports Association.

Also that year, two legendary bars opened—the Brazos River Bottom and the Montrose Mining Company. And on Easter Sunday, a small pool party was hosted by friends at a local apartment complex—a festive social event that would eventually become Bunnies on the Bayou.

By 1979, Houston had a cohesive LGBTQ community with a public face and a political agenda, so an annual June celebration during Pride Month was both needed and desired.

Since then, Houston's Pride parade has grown to become the fourth-largest in the country (and the 15th-largest in the world) with an estimated attendance of 700,000 in 2017. Below is a year-by-year recap of Houston's Pride celebrations, including the theme for each one.





1979

United We Stand

Houston's first official Pride parade was held on Sunday, July 1, 1979. Its theme of "United We Stand" reflected the solidarity of Houston's emerging gay community.

The Parade Committee chose Thelma Hansel, aka "Disco Grandma," as grand marshal. Hansel was known in the community for her love of drag shows at The Old Plantation bar, which she often attended with her gay son.

The parade was led by a group of male and female motorcyclists, gunning their unmuffled engines. Mary's Bar had a jaw-dropping professional float with huge tropical-flower blooms, and baton-twirling men delighted the crowd with their skills. Harry Britt, the San Francisco supervisor who replaced Harvey Milk following his assassination, waved from a Gay Political Caucus convertible, and a large bus advertised the upcoming National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

Houston's 1979 parade, which was covered by Houston newspapers and TV stations, traveled a 30-block route along Westheimer from Shepherd to Bagby. According to the *Houston Voice*, an estimated 10 to 12 thousand people lined Westheimer, and a rally followed at Spotts Park with 5,000 people enjoying music, speeches, dancing, and fireworks. Among the speakers was Houston city controller Kathy Whitmire, whom the LGBTQ community had helped elect.

1980

Proud to Be

With the establishment of Pride parades came another tradition—police raids on gay bars in the weeks leading up to the June events. A 1980 raid at Mary's resulted in 61 arrests. Days later, many of those who had been arrested were proudly sporting "Mary's Fairies Out of Jail" T-shirts.



Several Houston city officials rode in convertibles in the 1980 parade, with an estimated 20,000 people lining the streets. The Mary's grand-prize float depicted an HPD officer beating a helpless gay person, and many wore black armbands in memory of Fred Paez, who had been killed the night before the parade by an off-duty officer. Several billboard ads were purchased to advertise Pride Week; vandals pulled one sign to the ground and scrawled "Die Fags! Eat Me!" on another. The 1980 Pride events cost $24,000, which was paid for with donations and the sale of ads in the Pride Guide.

On August 12, thanks to the efforts of transgender pioneer Phyllis Randolph Frye, the Houston City Council repealed a long-standing City ordinance that criminalized cross-dressing. →

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1981

We the People

With AIDS just beginning to appear in the community, the Montrose Clinic's parade entries advised people to "Clean Up Your Act." Meanwhile, Mary's Bar rented a festooned elephant, and the Gay and Lesbian Atheists rode in a vintage fire engine proclaiming "No Hellfire for Us!" The Different Drum bar had the winning entry with a breathtakingly long float featuring men in military uniforms and the message, "We Too Died for America." It was preceded by a large contingent of men carrying flags. The Spotts Park rally became a post-parade staple that drew an increasing number of public officials. The rally also included an annual Fred Paez Memorial Concert.



1982

A Part of . . . Not Apart From

Pride Week continued to grow, with a larger budget, more parade entries, and bigger crowds. But Houston's brutal summer sun continued to beat down on the events, even with a delayed 5:30 p.m. start time that did little to alleviate the heat. Mayor Kathy Whitmire brought the crowd to its feet when she appeared at the Pride Week Rally. Thousands chanted, "Two, four, six, eight, being gay is really great! Three, five, seven, nine, lesbianism's mighty fine!" The festive mood, however, was offset by a sense of dread as AIDS continued to spread through the community. AIDS Foundation Houston was formed, and the nation's first safe-sex guide was published in Houston. JR's opened at 808 Pacific, as well as the Ripcord at 715 Fairview.

1983

Unity through Diversity

The Montrose Mining Company outdid its construction-vehicle float entries of the previous two years with a huge cherry-picker that hoisted flag-waving men high over the parade crowd, with dry-ice clouds enveloping them at regular intervals. The parade had 52 units and lasted 90 minutes. The organizing committee moved the post-parade rally to the Summit basketball arena and hired Tina Turner to entertain. The event cost $56,000 and broke even with $37,000 in ticket proceeds and the remainder from other sources.



Remember: In 1983, the Montrose Mining Company entry reached to the sky.

1984

Unity and More in '84

Just prior to the 1984 parade, 58 Ku Klux Klan members from Pasadena held a 16-minute march through Montrose. HPD outnumbered them with 600 riot-equipped officers. The KKK march cost taxpayers $80,000 and drew only 2,000 spectators. In early June, City Council member Anthony Hall introduced a City Charter amendment to prohibit discrimination against gay and lesbian city employees. The amendment passed 10 days later amid vocal protests from opponents, who then obtained enough signatures to force a referendum that defeated the amendment in January 1985. Mayor Kathy Whitmire delivered the first City Proclamation declaring Gay Pride Week, and the June 24 parade was the largest and most lavish yet with 54 entries.

1985

Alive with Pride

The parade reversed course in 1985, running east to west along Westheimer from Bagby to Waughcrest, where it turned north toward Memorial Drive and the Spotts Park rally site.

The months leading up to the City Charter referendum in January 1985 saw unprecedented public homophobia. The opposition was led by former mayor Louie Welch, the Moral Majority, the Committee for Public Awareness, Steven Hotze's Campaign for Houston, the Ku Klux Klan, the Harris County Republican Party, and prominent members of Houston's African-American religious community. Goodner said his Committee for Public Awareness was prepared to spend up to $400,000. →



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Both Gay Political Caucus and City of Houston officials received death threats, and police guards were posted at the homes of the pro-amendment council members. The amendments were repealed in the January 19 referendum by a whopping 82 percent of voters. Welch entered the mayoral race with a "Straight Slate" of candidates for City Council, who sought to unseat council members who had voted for the amendments. While anti-gay comments were common in the Welch campaign, it was a gaffe on October 24 that doomed his mayoral bid. Thinking that his microphone was off, Welch said that one solution to AIDS would be to "shoot the queers." By the next morning, people in Montrose were wearing T-shirts showing a target and the words "Louie, Don't Shoot!" Welch and his "Straight Slate" were defeated in the November election.

1986

Liberty in Our Grasp

The 1986 Parade Committee faced internal disagreement over Pride merchandise. One group wanted "Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade" on shirts, caps, and other items, while another group did not. A rainbow was also used for the first time in a Pride logo. When the decision was made to put the words on Pride merchandise, resignations followed.

The parade was one of the briefest in history, lasting only 40 minutes, and the crowd was among the smallest. In August, activist Eleanor Munger opened Omega House at 616 Branard, giving destitute gay men in the last stages of AIDS a home-like atmosphere in which to die.

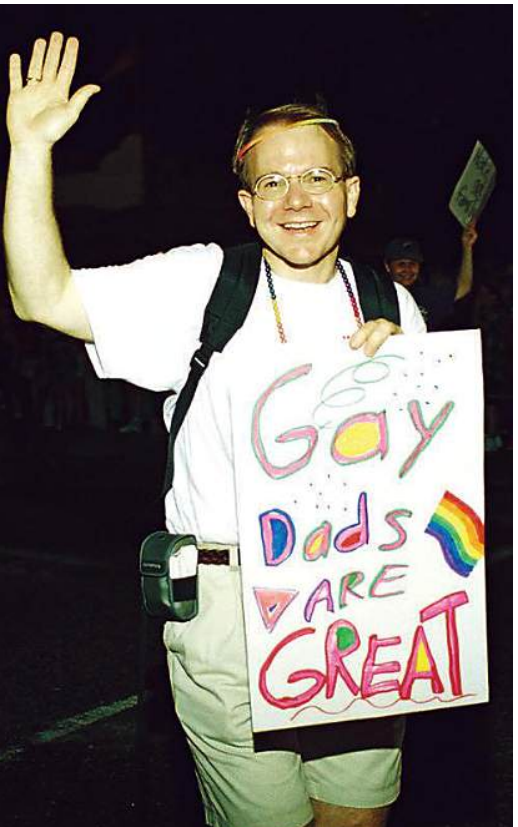


1987

Come Out and Celebrate Pride

The 1987 parade was dampened by the frightening statistic that Houston had 1,200 cases of AIDS—the fourth-highest number in the nation. Pride Week began as usual with police raids on gay bars. On three consecutive nights, officers raided Michael's, Chutes, and the JOE Club, arresting patrons, staff, and male dancers. Gay Political Caucus leadership held a press conference, announcing their intention to meet with Mayor Whitmire and the police chief, and declaring that Houston's gay community would not be silenced by intimidation.

The parade became the Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade, adding "lesbian" for the first time. A resolution passed to alternate "gay" and "lesbian" as the lead word each year, but a resolution to move the parade to cooler evening hours was defeated. Arguments against a nighttime parade included security issues, as well as members of the Pride Band being unable to read their music. Parade organizers banned all motorized units, asking businesses and organizations to give the money to AIDS service organizations instead.



1988

Rightfully Proud

For the first time, "Houston Lesbian and Gay Pride" was used, with "lesbian" as the lead word.

The committee discussed limiting drag participation in the parade, due to media attention on a roller-skating "pink fairy" the year before. After heated discussion, the resolution failed. The honorary grand marshals were slain San Francisco supervisor Harvey Milk (represented at the parade by San Francisco supervisor Harry Britt), and Sharon Kowalski (represented by an empty wheelchair), the young lesbian whose family separated her from her lover, Karen Thompson, after she was profoundly disabled in a 1983 auto accident.

Also in 1988, Pokey Anderson and Annise Parker opened Inklings Bookstore, specializing in lesbian books and resources. And the massive NAMES Project AIDS Memorial quilt was displayed in Houston for the first time.



1989

Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride

The 1989 parade, which celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, was Houston's largest parade yet, with 60 entries. There were 14 major floats, two dozen marching units, two dozen vehicle entries, and walking contingents. The Lone Star Band of Houston and the Oak Lawn Band of Dallas combined as one marching unit. The one-hour parade was broadcast live on KPFT-FM. An airplane sponsored by Mother's Bar flew overhead trailing a streamer that read "Gay & Proud." →



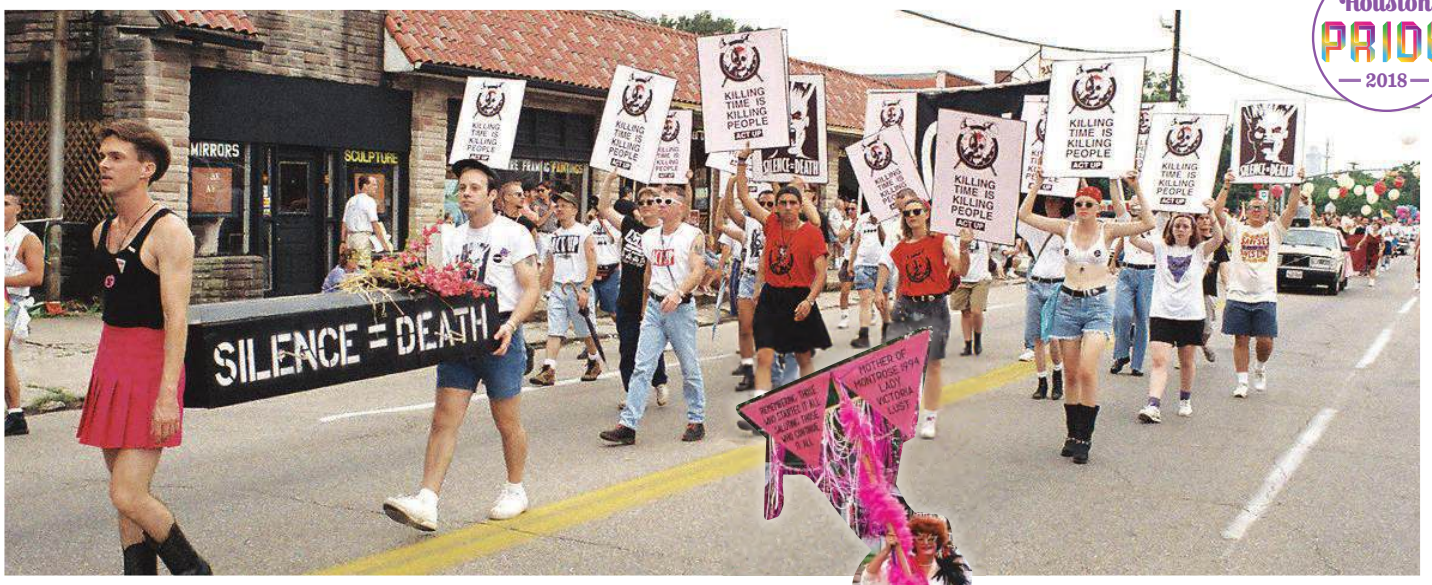
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1990

Look to the Future

The Pride Committee encouraged the community to look back on the gains that had been made, and look forward to the challenges ahead. For the first time, corporate sponsors such as Budweiser were among the 75 parade entries. The honorary grand marshals, congressman Craig Washington and Texas state representative Debra Danburg, were evidence of the growing political strength of Houston's gay community.

For a second time, the parade course was reversed, moving east to west up Westheimer from Whitney to Dunlavy, then heading north on Dunlavy to West Gray, where a rally was held on the grounds of the West Gray multi-service center. The goal was to increase attendance at the rally. Quentin Crisp was flown to Houston from his native London to appear at the Pride awards banquet. A Star Nite Concert featured singer Thelma Houston, Whitney's mother.

1991

Take Pride

Pride Week's official poster featured the faces of the community—individuals, couples, single parents, seniors, and the diversity of the rainbow. The parade drew a large crowd, despite being held under storm-threatening skies. The final float made its way to the end of the route before the rain began to fall, giving rise to the notion that "it never rains on our parade." Just days after Pride, tragedy struck the community when 27-year-old gay banker Paul Broussard was stabbed to death in Montrose by 10 youths from The Woodlands. In response, the community-watch group Q-Patrol was formed to patrol the area and report suspicious activity to police. Under increasing pressure from the gay community, HPD launched "Operation Vice Versa," in which officers, posing as homosexuals, found themselves the target of homophobic violence. Five undercover officers were attacked by being sprayed with mace and bludgeoned with a baseball bat and a tree branch. Jack Valinski, Carol Clark, and Brian Keever co-founded the Pride Committee of Houston so that Pride could become a year-round project, separate from the Caucus. Thirty entries were submitted in the annual Pride logo competition. Lesbians in Business was formed, and the Krewe of Olympus, founded in New Orleans in 1970, moved to Houston.

1992

Pride = Power

The newly formed Pride Committee, year-round working to manage Gay and Lesbian Pride Week, incorporated as a nonprofit. As one of its first acts, the board established the Founder's Award, which it presented to Larry Bagneris, "father of the Houston Pride parade." The parade featured more than 80 units, including a group of Texas A&M University students. Glittery pink triangles with ribbon streamers adorned poles along the route. The first Houston Transgender Unity Banquet was held, and the Lesbian Health Initiative was formed.

1993

Out & Proud

Five City officials attended either the parade or other Pride events, but mayor Bob Lanier did not accept an invitation to join them. Among the 100 units in the parade, taking part for the first time were the Houston NAMES Project and Houston's ACT-UP chapter. The Houston chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) was honored as the first organization to be named grand marshal.

The Spotts Park rally featured fireworks, but suffered from low turnout. Because of rain the day before, the City canceled the rally's permit for a sound stage.



1994: HouStonewall 25

This parade celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion. The date was moved to June 12 to allow Houstonians to attend the Gay Games IV and the NYC Stonewall 25 celebrations on successive weekends later in the month. Parade attendance included large numbers of non-LGBTQ participants and spectators. The parade had become a neighborhood event in Montrose, as well as a Pride event for the entire city. OutSmart magazine published its first issue, with the Hollyfield Foundation and the Houston Area Bears also being formed. →

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1995

Silence to Celebration

The Houston City Council approved the hanging of pink-triangle banners along both sides of Westheimer throughout Montrose. A resolution was once again presented to the committee to move the parade to the evening starting in 1996. The resolution failed, but a task force was formed to investigate the possibility, headed by activist Lee Harrington.

1996

Pride Knows No Borders

Candace Gingrich, the outspoken lesbian half-sister of then-House speaker Newt Gingrich, was featured at the head of the parade and given a Founder's Award. The appearance thrust a national spotlight on Houston's parade and added the city's voice to growing national demands for an end to civilly sanctioned discrimination.

Transgender Houstonians made their presence known with a huge banner that read "Transgender and Proud—and We Vote." Rain fell up until 20 minutes before the parade, but once again stopped in time for the entries to move down Westheimer.

Meanwhile, the Pride Committee approved Harrington's proposal for moving the parade to the evening in 1997.



1997

Glowing with Pride

At last, Houston's summer heat was foiled and the parade lit up the night. A jubilant crowd of 70,000 took in 100 entries—with over half of the floats illuminated.

Leana Colmenares won the logo contest with a beautiful androgynous figure with a red heart, floating in a starry sky. Colmenares said she created the logo in memory of Bill Whiting, the gay man who raised her and the late partner of her former stepfather. The Pride Committee fell in love with Colmenares' design, nicknamed "Pat," which continues to be used and is featured in this year's 40th-anniversary logo. Over at Mary's Bar, resident window-artist Scott Swoveland created another icon—the now-famous "Mary's Mural" that graced the exterior east wall of the bar for years. He completed it in time for Pride Week. In November, Annise Parker won her first term on the Houston City Council.



1998

Unified, Diversified, Electrified

Grace Lutheran Church's float fell victim to arson the night before the parade, which in 1998 took two hours to wend its way down Westheimer. Also in 1998, mayor Lee Brown made good on his promise to reverse the results of the 1985 anti-gay referendum through an executive order. In national news, Matthew Shepard was murdered near Laramie, Wyoming, in a notorious anti-gay hate crime.

1999

Pride, Power and Pizzazz

A crowd of 100,000 watched the intersection of Westheimer and Montrose Blvd. glow with light reflected off a disco ball measuring eight-and-a-half feet across. The suspended mirror ball was made possible with funding from Jim "Mattress Mac" McIngvale, who rode in the parade on a float with diva Martha Wash. Houston Stonewall Young Democrats formed, the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum of GLBT History, Inc. (GCAM) was founded, and the first Houston Transgender Day of Remembrance was held on the steps of City Hall.

2000

Take Pride, Take Joy, Take Action

Voting for parade grand marshals was opened to the community through in-person voting days and mail-in ballots. The parade route was extended from Woodhead to Whitney, as the event had grown significantly.

Lee Brown became the first Houston mayor to appear in the parade, and his wife (who rarely made public appearances) rode next to him in a convertible. The crowd was estimated at 100,000. S.T.A.G. (Some Transgenders Are Guys) formed, and Vermont became the first state to legalize civil unions for same-gender couples.

2001

Embrace Diversity

A contingent of openly gay and lesbian HPD officers marched for the first time, and a record 520 people participated in the selection of grand marshals. Houstonians for Family Values (led by anti-gay activist Dave Wilson) launched a campaign to amend the City Charter to prohibit Houston from adopting any pro-LGBTQ statutes, policies, or amendments. In November, voters repealed Brown's pro-LGBTQ executive order by a margin of 52 percent to 48 percent. →



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2002

Pride Worldwide

Houston's openly LGBTQ firefighters appeared for the first time in the parade. ICOH-The Space City Empire was founded, and Pride spread to Austin, which held its first parade.

2003

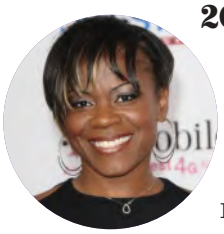
Silver Celebration

On June 26, two days before the Pride parade, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Lawrence v. Texas*, striking down anti-gay sodomy laws nationwide. Houston-area plaintiffs John Lawrence and Tyron Garner were honored with the Pride Committee President's Award and placed near the front of the 25th-anniversary parade, which featured 125 entries. Spectators were wild with excitement as the men passed by. Sprinkled through the crowd were people wearing T-shirts that read "Legally Gay." The Pride Committee also decided to hang what they believed to be the world's largest chandelier at the intersection of Montrose and Westheimer. Weighing 1,000 pounds and measuring 20 feet across, the chandelier was originally part of the State of Texas Sesquicentennial celebration in Austin prior to being redesigned with rainbow-colored lights. In November, Annise Parker won the first of what would be three terms as City controller. In an interview, she predicted the parade would eventually have to move downtown if it continued to expand.

2004

Pride as Big as Texas

Houston mayor Bill White surprised the parade crowd by walking the route rather than riding in a convertible. Meanwhile, legendary lesbian couple Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon became the first same-sex couple legally married in the U.S., thanks to San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom. The legality of their marriage would be challenged over the next few years, culminating in California's Proposition 8 battle. Massachusetts became the first state in the nation to legalize same-sex marriage.



2005

Equal Rights! No More! No Less!

The Pride Committee legally changed its branding to Pride Houston. Houston Comets basketball star Sheryl Swoopes came out as gay. In November, Texans passed Proposition 2, a State constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

2006

Say It Out Loud!

Parade attendance was estimated at 200,000, signalling that the event had become a Houston summertime favorite. Nationally, *Brokeback Mountain* earned three Oscars and set box-office records. *Transamerica* was also nominated for an Oscar.

2007

Lone Star Pride

Longtime Pride Houston organizer Jack Valinski resigned as the organization's executive director amid internal conflict, but was overwhelmingly elected male grand marshal. Members of Asians and Friends dressed as Chinese-food take-out containers, complete with chopsticks, delighting parade-goers with their marching contingent.

A proposal was presented to the community to move the parade downtown in September 2008, for security reasons as well as the additional shade provided by the tall buildings. Many in the community reacted negatively, and an organization called POM-POM (People Opposed to Moving the Parade Out of Montrose) was formed.

2008

30 Years: We Are Family

Following the unsuccessful push to move Pride downtown and hold it in September, the parade stayed in Montrose in June for its 30th anniversary. Pride Houston waived the afternoon festival's entrance fee, and attendance jumped from 5,000 to over 50,000.

Proposition 8, an amendment banning same-sex marriage, was passed into law in California, inspiring the NOH8 campaign, a social project featuring celebrities who support marriage equality. →

HAPPY PRIDE 2018



COMING SOON!

LOVE'S MAGICAL HEART

A Collection of Poetry Written by
Sandra Jean Bubbert

And you thought I was just a humble little Baker….I am!

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2009

Out 4 Justice

The 2009 parade theme played off the growing popularity of superhero movies, inspiring creative parade floats and marching units. Annise Parker became mayor of Houston, the first openly LGBTQ person elected to lead a major U.S. city. And the University of Houston became the first college in Texas to offer a program in LGBTQ studies.

Nationally, President Obama signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Obama also posthumously awarded the Medal of Freedom to Harvey Milk.



2010

Pride Not Prejudice

Annise Parker rode down Westheimer in the parade for the first time as mayor, with first lady Kathy Hubbard seated next to her and security agents surrounding their convertible. The roar from the crowd was deafening as they traveled past the reviewing stand. According to estimates, the Pride parade had officially become Houston's second-largest, behind the annual Rodeo parade. In November, Phyllis Frye was appointed by Parker as the first openly transgender judge in the nation. In December, President Obama signed the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," the military's longstanding ban on open service.

2011

Live, Love, Be

Cody Ledvina, a member of the Joana Art Collective, led a volunteer staff that reproduced Mary's Mural on the east wall of what is now Blacksmith Coffee Shop, just in time for the Pride Parade. The mural was vandalized and repaired before finally being painted over within a few months.

In July, the Montrose Remembrance Garden was dedicated with a public ceremony, honoring all LGBTQ Houstonians who have died from violence.

2012

Live Out Proud

Houston City Hall was lit with rainbow colors for the first time, during Pride Week. JD Doyle launched HoustonLGBTHistory.org, the most comprehensive digitized collection of the city's LGBTQ history. Nationally, President Obama endorsed same-sex marriage: "It is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same-sex couples should be able to get married."



2013

Pride Unleashed

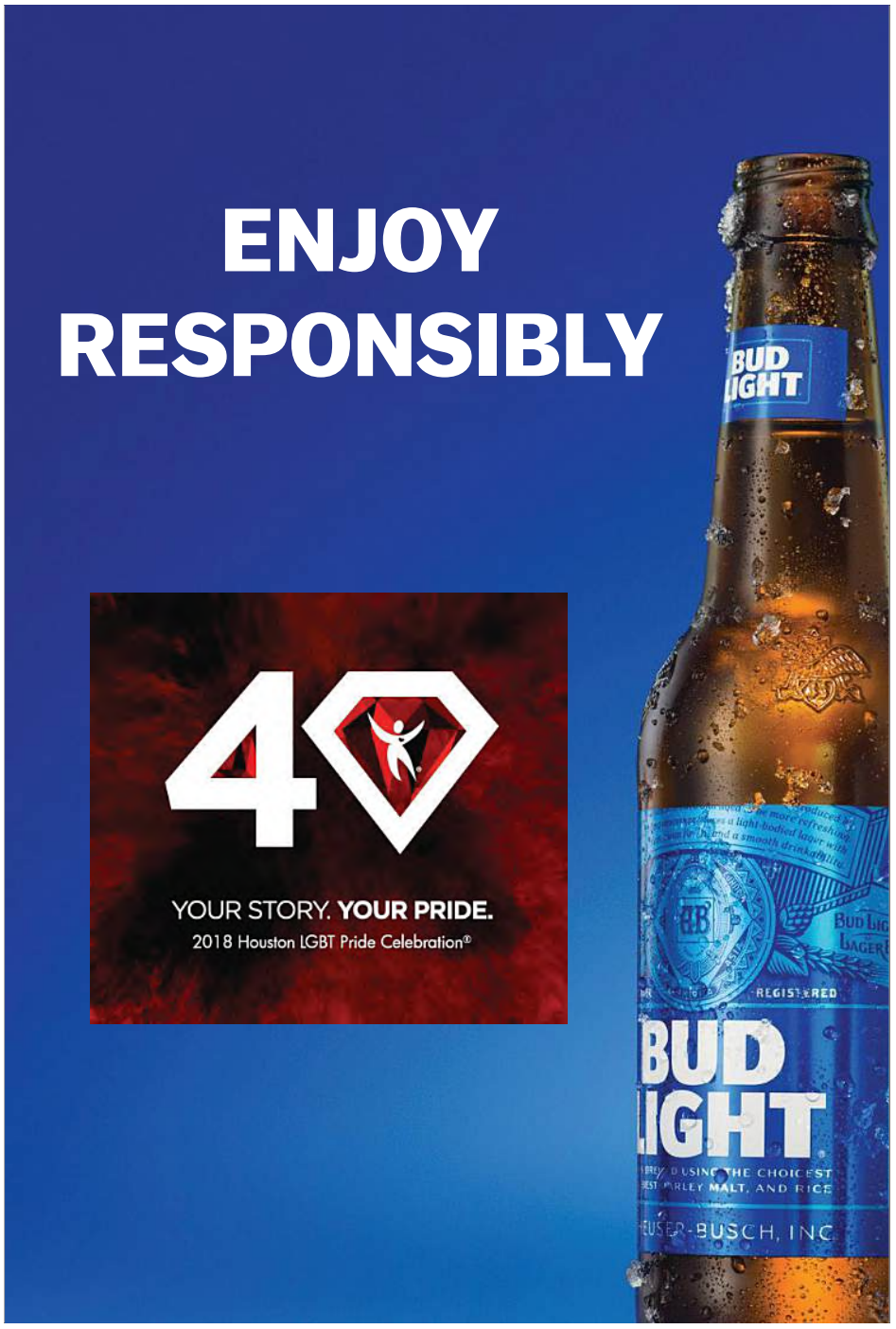
The Pride parade took place three days after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Section 3 of the federal Defense of Marriage Act in *United States v. Windsor*, ruling that legally married same-sex couples are entitled to federal benefits. The high court also overturns California's Proposition 8, making marriage equality a reality in that state.

In November, a memorial marker for transgender victims of violence was placed in the Montrose Remembrance Garden, to emphasize that transgender women are murder victims more often than any other LGBTQ group. In December, Mayor Parker extended benefits to the same-sex spouses of City employees, citing the high court's *United States v. Windsor* ruling.

2014

Carnivale

The community was largely unaware that this would be the last Pride parade in Montrose. Pride Houston had begun negotiations with the City to move the event downtown in 2015, without seeking community input. The Botts Archive of LGBT History, a local treasure-trove of Pride memorabilia, is acquired by The University of Houston's Special Collections archive. A new LGBT History Research Collection would be created at the university the following year. In May, the Houston City Council passed the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance (HERO), protecting LGBTQ people and other minorities from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations. →





A Brief History of Houston Pride

2015: HEROES!

The parade was held downtown for the first time. Although the move from Montrose was controversial, the event drew a record crowd of more than 200,000. The route followed parts of the same streets that protesters used during the 1977 Anita Bryant protest march.

The 2015 parade was perhaps the most jubilant in the history of the event. One day before, the Supreme Court made marriage equality the law of the land, in *Obergefell v. Hodges*. Despite initial pushback by county clerk Stan Stanart, Harris County was soon issuing same-gender marriage licenses and couples were getting married downtown at the county courthouse.

The theme for the parade played on the HERO non-discrimination ordinance passed in 2014. However, by November 2015, anti-LGBTQ forces forced a referendum on HERO, and voters overturned it by a margin of 63 percent to 37 percent.



2016: Houston Proud

In June, President Obama announced the designation of the first national monument to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) rights in New York City. The Stonewall National Monument encompasses Christopher Park, the Stonewall Inn, and the surrounding streets and sidewalks where the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion occurred. .

Also in June, secretary of defense Ash Carter announced that the Pentagon was lifting a ban on transgender people serving openly in the U.S. military.

The Mary's Mural was recreated by the original artist, digitized, and hung like wallpaper in the new Phoenix Room of the Houston Eagle bar. The room is dedicated to Houston's LGBTQ history and contains many memories of Houston's Pride celebrations.

Continued on 146 →

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of our community
and of our city,
a hero rose. That
hero is Julie Mabry."
—Toni Mascione

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

Pearl Power

Lesbian-bar owner **Julie Mabry** honored for Harvey relief efforts.

By Jenny Block
Photo by Eric Edward Schell

Sometimes a bar isn't just a bar. Sometimes it's a badge of honor, a sign of strength, a center for a community. Houston's Pearl Bar is one of those places. And the reason is simple: owner Julie Mabry.

When she debuted Pearl Bar in 2014, Mabry did more than open a watering hole; she opened doors, both figurative and literal. This year, Mabry's hard work is being recognized in grand style—she will serve as honorary grand marshal of Houston's Pride parade.

"Julie was chosen as an honorary grand marshal for our 40th anniversary due to her service to our community, and especially her open arms to our community (as well as others) during Hurricane Harvey," Pride Houston secretary Jeremy Fain says. "The compassion that she showed others during a time of dire need, even when she could have been tending to her own, was beyond sympathetic. It was heroic."

Memorial Villages police officer Toni Mascione agreed. Mascione and her wife lost everything in the storm, which flooded their home while she was on duty. But Mascione quickly got back on her feet, thanks in large part to Mabry's charitable efforts.

"Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say, 'This is my community, and it's my responsibility to make it better,'" Mascione says. "In the darkest hour of our community and of our city, a hero rose. That hero is Julie Mabry. I am a better person for knowing her, and Houston is blessed to have her."

The 44-year-old Mabry says she grew up as a tomboy who loved the outdoors.

"I lived in Albuquerque, Tucson, and San Antonio, where the weather was always beautiful," Mabry says, adding that her first job was delivering newspapers at age 12. "I've always had a business state of mind, which meant that even at a young age, my work was a priority. I opened my first checking account at age 12, and bought my own bicycle via layaway that would cost $800 in today's money.

"My sister is also gay," she adds. "When I was 16 years old, we would go out to clubs or Olmos Park, which is an LGBTQ gathering place in San Antonio. I would always be intrigued by how comfortable we both became when we were in the presence of other 'gays.' It was a high I felt every time I was surrounded by my own type of people. Lesbian bars were more common in the '90s, and opening a lesbian bar was my obsession for 24 years. And then I found Pearl."

Opening a successful bar—let alone a lesbian club—is no easy task for anyone. But Mabry faced an additional challenge. Before Pearl, she spent about two and a half years working with another lesbian bar called The Usual. "[I was] drinking alcohol, making bad decisions, and yearning to make my dream come true."

So there was only one thing for her to do. "I quit drinking alcohol nine months before [Pearl Bar] opened," Mabry explains. "My past mistakes proved to me that I could not drink alcohol and be successful owning a bar. I spent half my life [going out to bars and] observing what lesbians drank, what made them feel sexy, and what made them mad. I hosted lesbian events in Houston for many years, and I knew Houston needed a lesbian club. I have always believed in myself when it came to opening a lesbian bar where I had full control."

Mabry says Pearl has become precisely what she had always envisioned. As for the future, Mabry dreams of Pearl becoming its own compound of sorts. In pursuit of that, she continues to up the ante by bringing in more entertainment from all across the country.

"Seeing the money we as a community have raised under the title 'lesbian' is amazing. One of my mentors is Charles Armstrong, and one thing I respected about him was what he did for his community. I would have to say giving back to the community is something I learned while working for him. I will continue to do so, just as he has."

Mabry says that Pearl wasn't just something she wanted. It was something that Houston needed. "The world is changing, and so are lesbians. Houston has always had the luxury of a lesbian bar, but there are very few left in the entire United States. Los Angeles doesn't have a lesbian bar. San Francisco doesn't have a lesbian bar. Houston has a lesbian bar."

Jenny Block is a regular contributor to OutSmart *magazine.*

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"Originally, I asked people to just bring a covered dish on Thanksgiving. But when thirteen people showed up once with candied yams, I decided to be more specific."
—Bob Briddick

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

Living to Fight

A partner's death from AIDS launched **Bob Briddick**'s three decades of activism.

By Brandon Wolf
Photo by Eric Edward Schell

During the height of the AIDS crisis, Bob Briddick recalls attending as many as five funerals in one week.

"I lost my partner in 1987," Briddick says. "Bobby got sick, and in two weeks he was dead."

A short time later, Briddick was asked to join the board of The Assistance Fund, an organization founded to help pay health-insurance premiums for people with HIV/AIDS, many of whom had lost their jobs.

Since then, Briddick has served in various roles with numerous organizations, including president of the Diana Foundation, king for the Krewe of Olympus, and secretary for OutReach United.

For his three decades of activism, Pride Houston selected Briddick as an honorary grand marshal for its 2018 parade.

"He is a true champion of the community," says Pride Houston secretary Jeremy Fain. "His accomplishments and accolades are too many to count."

After graduating from North Texas State College, Briddick taught high-school English in his hometown of Dallas before moving to Houston in 1974 to manage an interior-design supplier's showroom. He remained in the interior-design industry until his retirement last year.

After joining the The Assistance Fund in the late 1980s, he stayed on until the organization merged into Legacy Health Services in 2005.

"I'm very proud that we had over a million-dollar surplus when the merger occurred," he says.

Ken Malone, a former executive director of The Assistance Fund, says he quickly learned how adept Briddick was at fundraising after the two met when they were both on the board in 1999.

"I knew virtually nothing, but he was a great tutor and demonstrated his personal commitment to making people's lives better," Malone says. "He showed me how to make a difference and be true to my internal compass. He is a true treasure."

Briddick currently serves as secretary for OutReach United, which was started a decade ago after activist Gary Wood hosted a successful National Coming Out Day party. The annual Houston Coming Out Party evolved into OutReach United, which has raised over $400,000 for LGBTQ organizations.

"Bob has extraordinary generosity," says Wood, a co-founder of the Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce. "I have always been amazed at his willingness to give, and his desire to help make a difference in the lives of others. Bob is someone I can turn to for perspective and advice. He has always proven infallible in the wisdom he has shared with me. I am very fortunate in my life to call him a friend."

In 1999, Briddick was elected King Olympus XXX, and in 2005 he served as president of the Diana Foundation. In 2013, at its 60th-anniversary celebration, the Diana Foundation bestowed its coveted Golden Bow Award on Briddick .

An active member of the Executive & Professional Association of Houston, the Mystic Society of Isis & Osiris, and the Gourmettes cooking club, Briddick also volunteers with the Montrose Center's SPRY Diner (which serves three free lunches a week to LGBTQ seniors) and as a Museum of Fine Arts docent at the historic Bayou Bend and Rienzi house-museums.

For the last 37 years, Briddick has organized two annual holiday dinners at his home for LGBTQ people who have no family to celebrate with—a covered-dish gathering on Thanksgiving, and an open house on Christmas. The dinners typically draw about 60 people who can find warmth and acceptance on those special days.

"Originally, I asked people to just bring a covered dish on Thanksgiving," he says. "But when thirteen people showed up once with candied yams, I decided to be more specific."

In addition to his activism, Briddick is something of an art collector and creator. In the 1980s, he developed a fascination with Mexican retablos and Spanish santos artwork. The resulting collection of religious art displayed throughout his Montrose townhome caught the eye of Houston's Heritage Society, which hosted an exhibition in 2016. "It's a bit strange for someone who isn't at all religious," Briddick says. "But I appreciate the artistry of the pieces."

Briddick also creates and sells two- and three-dimensional collages. "I started making them when my late partner asked me to create birthday cards for him rather than buying something at a card shop," he says, adding that he creates these scenes of everyday life (as well as some homoerotic scenarios) for enjoyment rather than for profit.

Reflecting on his decades of LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS activism in Houston, the 80-year-old Briddick says he was a fighter from the very beginning.

"I was a premature baby when I was born [two months early], and for a month I had to fight to live," Briddick says. "I guess that sense of drive has stayed me with all my life."

Brandon Wolf is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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"I wore women's clothing under my service gear whenever possible. I would paint my toenails, put on my uniform, and go to work."

—Josephine Tittsworth

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

Trans Formative

Josephine Tittsworth has been an unsung hero of the Houston LGBTQ movement.

By Kim Hogstrom
Photo by Eric Edward Schell

Josephine Tittsworth says her hometown of Pasadena didn't exactly provide an affirming environment in which to blossom.

"Every bad thing you've heard about Pasadena was true," says Tittsworth, who was born in 1950. "It was packed with white Christian bigots. There was a Ku Klux Klan storefront in open sight on Red Bluff Road. It took me a long time to recover from that exposure. I have recovered, but it took a lot of work to overcome it."

When Tittsworth finally recovered, she did so in grand fashion—becoming a pioneering transgender activist in Houston.

In the early 1980s, long before she realized she was transgender, Tittsworth helped launch the first Texas chapter of The Society for the Second Self, or TRI-ESS, a national group that offers support to heterosexual cross-dressers and their families. Thirty years later, in 2009, she founded the Texas Transgender Nondiscrimination Summit.

At 68, Tittsworth remains a tireless activist who speaks at colleges, businesses, and organizations in addition to lobbying on behalf of trans equality in Austin and Washington DC.

On June 23, Tittsworth will serve as honorary grand marshal of the Houston Pride parade.

"When our nominating committee met to decide on Pride marshals this year, I didn't even finish my sentence when I submitted Josephine for consideration," says Pride Houston secretary Jeremy Fain. "The committee was enthusiastically in support. She has done so much good for the LGBTQ community. She's never sought attention for it, but she's certainly earned the recognition."

After enlisting at age 22, Tittsworth served for four years in the Coast Guard. During her successful military career, she was granted top security clearance, rose to the rank of petty officer second class, and was awarded the Good Conduct Medal.

"The thing is, I wore women's clothing under my service gear whenever possible," Tittsworth says. "I would paint my toenails, put on my uniform, and go to work.

"Today, my Good Conduct Medal means a lot to me," she adds. "I call it my 'never-got-caught' medal. I got out of the service without ever getting caught."

In 1977, Tittsworth went to work for IBM wearing suits and ties to her office each day, with female clothing underneath.

But by 1981 she was drowning in desperation, so she contacted the editor at *Playboy* magazine. She explained her situation and asked if there were others like her—anywhere—to whom she could speak. *Playboy* put her in touch with Carol Beecroft, founder of TRI-ESS.

Beecroft shared the names and contact numbers of people in Houston, and Tittsworth wasted no time inviting them to gather at a local hotel.

"TRI-ESS, and the friends I made in it, saved my life," Tittsworth says. "I was so lost by then that I mean that literally: they saved my life."

In 2000, *MSNBC Investigates* aired a documentary called *The Secret Wardrobe*, chronicling Tittsworth and her challenges as a crossdresser. Tittworth's only sibling, a sister to whom she was not out, stumbled onto the show.

"There were many days of painful conversations after that," Tittsworth recalls. "My sister felt betrayed and abandoned, as she always viewed me as her protector. We worked through it, and today we are loving, supportive siblings."

That same year, Tittsworth entered psychotherapy. In the safety of her therapist's office, and buttressed by his support, she fully realized her gender identity. "Finally, the puzzle pieces started to fall together," she says, basking in relief at the memory.

Shortly thereafter, she began her two-year transition. Today, she says she is "100 percent female, inside and out" and has no regrets.

After retiring from IBM in 1999, Tittsworth enrolled at the University of Houston-Clear Lake to seek a degree in social work. But she quickly realized that she faced discrimination on campus that was negatively impacting her education.

A natural organizer, Tittsworth began to lobby administrators to add trans protections to the school's nondiscrimination policy. In 2006, she succeeded. Later, while studying for her master's degree at UH's main campus, Tittsworth accomplished the same thing. And in 2014, UH's Student Government Association passed the Josephine Tittsworth Act that further ensures the safety of trans students on campus.

"A lot of people do not realize what Josephine's impact has been," says fellow trans activist Monica Roberts. "She has received so many accolades, there is no way to list them all."

Roberts says that when Tittsworth founded the Texas Transgender Nondiscrimination Summit and served as its first executive director, only three universities in Texas had trans-inclusive nondiscrimination policies.

"Thanks to Josephine, there are now 38 universities and five Texas school districts on the list, and more are being added," Roberts says. "Josephine deserves the credit."

Kim Hogstrom is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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Parade of Heroes

Pride Houston honors past grand marshals to mark 40th anniversary.

By Brandon Wolf
Photos via JD Doyle/HoustonLGBTHistory.org


Thelma Hansel

To mark its 40th anniversary, Pride Houston will honor all previous parade grand marshals at this year's parade, rather than having the community elect new ones.

"The first grand marshal was Thelma Hansel (Disco Grandma), and I was the person who chose her because the community needed an accepting parent symbol leading the parade," says Ray Hill, a member of the first Pride organizing committee in 1979. "The next year, it was Jim 'Fannie' Farmer of [the former] Mary's bar, who on his own asked Ruth Ravis to join him. I was grand marshal in 1981, but after being chosen, we discussed adding Rita Wanstrom to the grand-marshal convertible."

By the fourth year, it had become an accepted practice for Houston's Pride parade to have one male and one female grand marshal. Each year, members of the Pride organizing committee made nominations and selected the marshals. In the early 1990s, community members were encouraged to cast ballots only after attending a required number of monthly Pride meetings.

In 2000, the selection process was opened up more widely, with in-person voting days and mail-in ballots. A few years later, Internet voting was added. Eventually, the voting moved entirely online and is now open to everyone.

In addition to the male and female marshals, honorary marshals have often been selected or elected to pay tribute to non-LGBTQ people who are important to the community. That "honorary" title evolved into the current "ally" grand marshal category. From 1992 through 2011, an "organization marshal" was also elected, then discontinued.

For several years beginning in 2010, a "celebrity marshal" from the entertainment world was selected by Pride's executive director as a marketing draw, but that practice was also discontinued.

In 2017, three "honorary" marshals were chosen by a panel of former marshals to pay tribute to deserving but generally unrecognized individuals. That category will continue this year, in addition to the recognition of all previous grand marshals.

Twice in the last 40 years, a group of people was chosen to serve as grand marshals. In 1986, all people living with AIDS were the grand marshals, and in 2003, all marshals from the first 25 years of the parade were honored.

Also in 2003, Pride Houston introduced the marshal "medals" that were presented to previous marshals at a special kickoff ceremony. Today, the medals continue to represent one of the Houston LGBTQ community's highest honors.

Pride Houston has a perfect record of gender parity over the last 40 years, and has honored two transgender women and one trans man as grand marshals.

However, racial parity has been surprisingly absent for a city that prides itself on being the nation's most diverse metropolitan area. With the exception of four Hispanics, two African-Americans, and two Asians, all of Houston's grand marshals have been white.

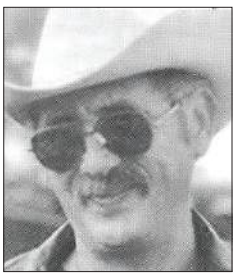
Lo Roberts, who recently became the first black female executive director of Pride Houston, says she has taken note of the disparity.

"This year is a bit different as we celebrate 40 years and honor our past, but [moving forward] we must continue to be proactive in our effort of inclusion," Roberts says. "Every year in October, we open it up to the public to nominate [people who] have shaped our community as a whole. A wise man once said, 'Be the change you want to see in the world.' I urge our community to do just that. If you see someone making strides within our community, bring it to the forefront. Let the world know, because we can't move forward without making a little noise."

A photo gallery of Houston's Pride parade grand marshals

1976 – **No Grand Marshal**

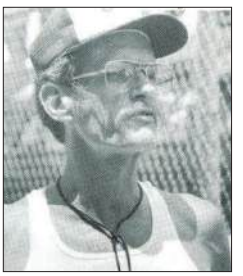

1979 Grand Marshal
Thelma Hansel


1980 Male Grand Marshal
Jim Farmer


1980 Female Grand Marshal
Ruth Ravis


1981 Male Grand Marshal
Ray Hill


1981 Female Grand Marshal
Rita Wanstrom

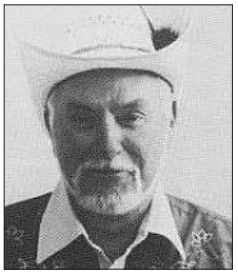

1982 Male Grand Marshal
Andy Mills →

Parade of Heroes

continued from previous page



1982 Female Grand Marshal
Marion Coleman



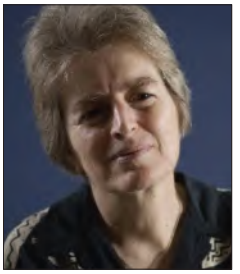
1983 Male Grand Marshal
Walter Strickler



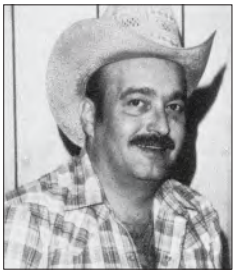
1983 Female Grand Marshal
Marion Pantzer



1984 Male Grand Marshal
Rick Grossman



1984 Female Grand Marshal
Pokey Anderson



1985 Male Grand Marshal
Terry Clark



1985 Female Grand Marshal
Freda Jerrell



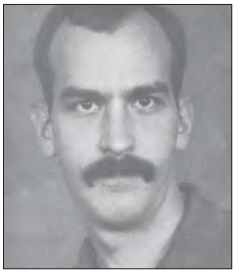
1986 Male Grand Marshal
Tony Bicocchi



1986 Female Grand Marshal
Dee Lamb



1987 Grand Marshals
Persons Living with AIDS



1988 Male Grand Marshal
Bruce Cook



1988 Female Grand Marshal
Eleanor Munger



1989 Male Grand Marshal
Charles Armstrong



1989 Female Grand Marshal
Bettie Naylor



1990 Male Grand Marshal
Walter Carter



1990 Female Grand Marshal
Annise Parker



1991 Male Grand Marshal
Gene Harrington



1991 Male Grand Marshal
Jack Jackson



1991 Female Grand Marshal
Linda Morales



1992 Male Grand Marshal
Brian Keever



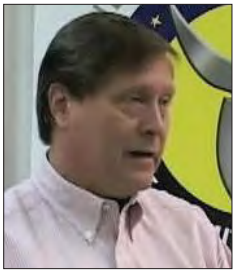
1992 Female Grand Marshal
Sheri Cohen Darbonne



1993 Male Grand Marshal
Brian Bradley



1993 Female Grand Marshal
Rev. Carolyn J. Mobley



1994 Male Grand Marshal
Jay Allen



1994 Female Grand Marshal
Cicely Wynne



1995 Male Grand Marshal
Don Gill



1995 Female Grand Marshal
Suzanne Anderson



1996 Male Grand Marshal
Bill Havard



1996 Female Grand Marshal
Jeanette Vaughn



1997 Male Grand Marshal
Jimmy Carper



1997 Female Grand Marshal
Deborah Bell



1998 Male Grand Marshal
Bob Bouton



1998 Female Grand Marshal
Jackie Doval



1999 Male Grand Marshal
Sean Carter



1999 Female Grand Marshal
Nancy Ford



2000 Male Grand Marshal
Richard Wiederholt



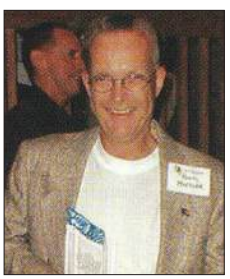
2000 Female Grand Marshal
Tori Williams



2001 Male Grand Marshal
Mitchell Katine



2001 Female Grand Marshal
Dalia Stokes



2002 Male Grand Marshal
Rusty Mueller
(Crystal Rae Lee Love)



2002 Female Grand Marshal
Mela Contreras



2003 25th-Anniversary Grand Marshals
All previous Grand Marshals



2004 Male Grand Marshal
Jerry Simoneaux



2004 Female Grand Marshal
Sonna Alton



2005 Male Grand Marshal
Weldon Hickey →

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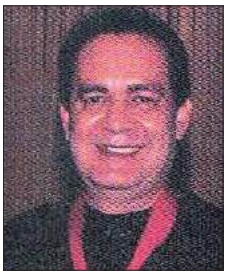


Parade of Heroes

continued from previous page



2005 Female Grand Marshal
Deb Murphy



2006 Male Grand Marshal
Ray Ramirez



2006 Female Grand Marshal
Phyllis Frye



2007 Male Grand Marshal
Jack Valinski



2007 Female Grand Marshal
Maria Gonzalez



2008 Male Grand Marshal
Dalton DeHart



2008 Female Grand Marshal
Kelly McCann



2009 Male Grand Marshal
James Knapp



2009 Female Grand Marshal
Fiona Dawson



2010 Male Grand Marshal
Gary Wood



2010 Female Grand Marshal
Carol Wyatt



2011 Male Grand Marshal
Bryan Hlavinka



2011 Female Grand Marshal
Tammi Wallace



2012 Male Grand Marshal
Nicolas Brines



2012 Female Grand Marshal
Jenifer Pool



2013 Male Grand Marshal
John Nechman



2013 Female Grand Marshal
Robin Brown



2014 Male Grand Marshal
JD Doyle



2014 Female Grand Marshal
Cynthia Gorczynski



2015 Male Grand Marshal
Ryan Levy



2015 Female Grand Marshal
Britt Kornmann



2016 Male Grand Marshal
Brad Odom-Harris



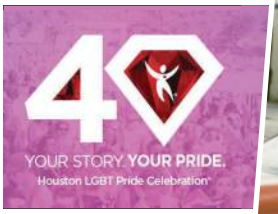
2016 Female Grand Marshal
Fran Watson



2017 Male Grand Marshal
Lou Weaver



2017 Female Grand Marshal
Sallie Wyatt-Woodell



2018 40th-Anniversary Grand Marshals
All previous Grand Marshals



Additional Grand Marshals *(not pictured)*

1988
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Sharon Kowalski
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Harvey Milk

1990
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Craig Washington
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Debra Danburg

1991
Female Grand Marshal:
Linda Morales
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Lady Victoria Lust
(Marvin Davis)
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Katy Caldwell

1992
Organization Grand Marshal:
Gay & Lesbian Switchboard

1993
Organization Grand Marshal:
Parents and Friends of
Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Adan Rios

1994
Organization Grand Marshal:
Q-Patrol
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Clair Koepsel

1995
Organization Grand Marshal:
HATCH youth program
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Annella Harrison

1996
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Jack Abercia

1997
Organization Grand Marshal:
Krewe of Olympus

1998
Organization Grand Marshal:
Texas Gay Rodeo Association
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Barbara Winston

1999
Organization Grand Marshal:
Colt 45's

2000
Organization Grand Marshal:
People with AIDS Coalition
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Rev. Don Sinclair

2001
Organization Grand Marshal:
Parents and Friends of
Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG)
Honorary Grand Marshals:
Blake and Gordon Weisser

2002
Organization Grand Marshal:
Gay & Lesbian Switchboard
Honorary Grand Marshals:
Jane and Irv Smith

2003
25th-anniversary
grand marshals:
all previous grand marshals

2004
Organization Grand Marshal:
Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby
Honorary Grand Marshals:
Sue and Jim Null

2005
Organization Grand Marshal:
Bayou City Boys Club
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Dennis and Evelyn Shave

2006
Organization Grand Marshal:
Bunnies on the Bayou
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Marilyn Meeker-Williams

2007
Organization Grand Marshal:
Imperial Court of Houston
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Garnet Coleman

2008
Organization Grand Marshal:
AIDS Foundation Houston
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Julie Eberly

2009
Honorary Grand Marshals:
Linda and Mike Bratsen

2010
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Ann Robison
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Mayor Annise Parker
Celebrity Grand Marshal:
Andy Cohen

2011
Organization Grand Marshal:
GLBT Community Center
Honorary Grand Marshals:
Duane and Judy Roland
Celebrity Grand Marshal:
Jonathan Lovitz

2012
Ally Grand Marshal:
Ellen Cohen
Celebrity Grand Marshal:
Madison Hildebrand

2013
Ally Grand Marshal:
Januari Leo
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Frank Billingsley
Celebrity Grand Marshals:
Jaymes Vaughan
and James Davis

2014
Ally Grand Marshals:
Sara Walters and
Fernando Aramburo
Celebrity Grand Marshal:
Mondo Guerra

2015
Ally Grand Marshal:
Anna Eastman
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Deborah Duncan

2016
Ally Grand Marshal:
Dena Gray
Honorary Grand Marshal:
Imran Yousuf

2017
Ally Grand Marshal:
Aimee Broadhurst
Honorary Grand Marshals:
Tony Carroll,
Arden Eversmeyer,
and Marion Coleman

2018
Honorary Grand Marshals:
Bob Briddick, Julie Mabry,
and Josephine Tittsworth

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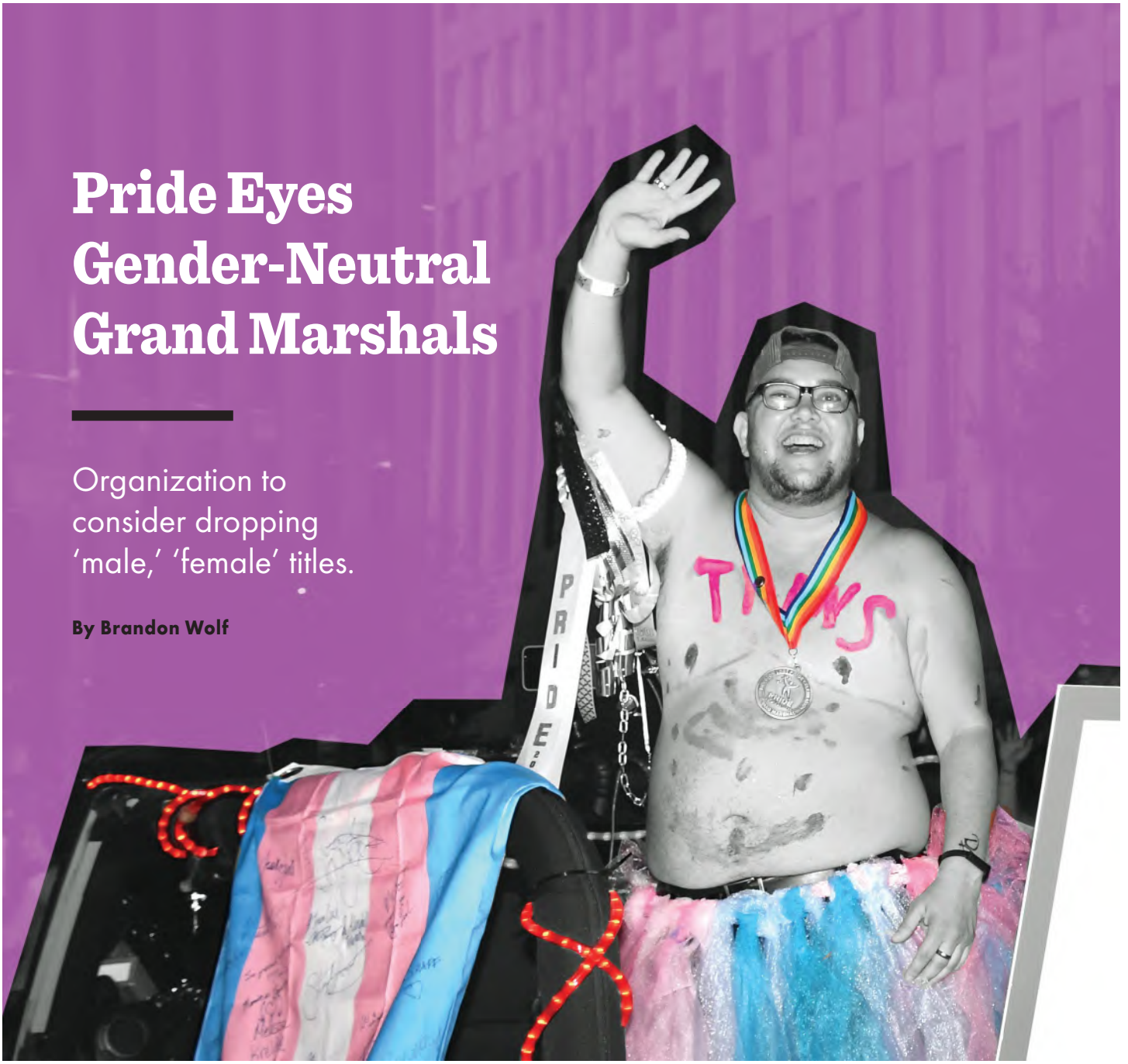
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Pride Eyes Gender-Neutral Grand Marshals

Organization to consider dropping 'male,' 'female' titles.

By Brandon Wolf



Bygone Binary
Lou Weaver, who became the first transgender person to serve as male grand marshal of the Houston Pride parade in 2017, says the custom of having male and female marshals is "starting to be outdated."

Pride Houston leaders are discussing the possibility of eliminating the "male" and "female" categories for parade grand marshals and adopting more gender- neutral selection criteria.

Jeremy Fain, chair of Pride Houston's grand-marshal committee, says the organization is seeking input from the community about the possible change.

If the categories are updated, two or three grand marshals would continue to be chosen each year by community vote, but on a gender-neutral basis. The change would not be retroactive, meaning past grand marshals would retain their titles.

Lou Weaver, who became the first transgender man to serve as male grand marshal of the Houston parade in 2017, is among those who support the change.

"We already see a lot of folks who do not identify with male or female, so sticking with grand-marshal titles on the gender binary is starting to be outdated," Weaver says. "I look forward to a time when we have two or more Pride grand marshals who are ranked on their merits and commitment to the community, without the deciding factor being [their] gender identity."

Houston's Pride grand marshals have reflected gender parity since the second parade in 1980. At the time, LGBTQ organizations and events often had male and female co-chairs. →

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Pride Eyes Gender-Neutral . . .

continued from previous page


Weaver
Eric Edward Schell

For organizations, the co-chair concept gradually gave way to having one executive director.

Today, most major LGBTQ organizations strive to maintain gender and racial parity, and to be inclusive of trans and gender-nonconforming people.

Pride Houston, however, has continued to use the male and female grand-marshal categories. In previous years, there have been discussions around trans inclusion, which led to Pride Houston allowing nominees to seek titles that match their gender identities.

According to a review by OutSmart, Pride organizations in most other major U.S. cities use gender-neutral grand-marshal categories. Those cities include Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Los Angeles, Miami, Minneapolis, New York, San Francisco, and St. Petersburg.

"We like to have a diverse selection of our grand marshals," says Dave Cook, executive director of Miami Beach Gay Pride. "It does not matter what gender they are—or are not."

Jamie Fergerson, executive director of the Atlanta Pride Committee, says his group has had "zero pushback" since switching to gender-neutral grand-marshal titles.

"Maybe some worried when it was first implemented, but only good things have come from opening up the selection," he says.

Pioneering Houston activist Ray Hill, who was involved with the first Pride parade committees, acknowledges that it may be time for a change.

"In the world I grew up in, gender was not as fluid as it is now," Hill says. "I trust the Pride Committee to come up with a formula."

Phyllis Frye, the first trans woman to be elected female grand marshal in 2006, says she would also support a change to gender-neutral grand marshals, as long as gender parity is somehow preserved.

"It has been interesting to watch this gender-neutral movement," Frye says. "I confess that in the late 1970s, I proposed a pronoun change from he-him-his and she-her-hers to te-ter-tis, but there was no really "out" community back then, nor was there social media. If Pride Houston decides to do away with the gender designation, I shall not resist. However, if the result is the end of gender parity, I will raise a stink."

Pride Houston welcomes comments from the community on the subject. The organization can be reached at 713-529-6979 or PrideHouston.org/contact.

Brandon Wolf is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.



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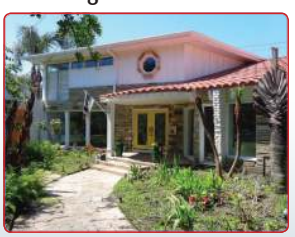
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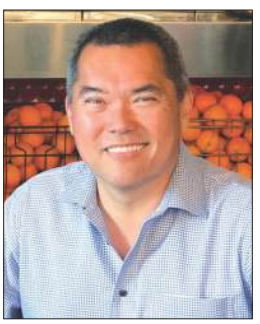
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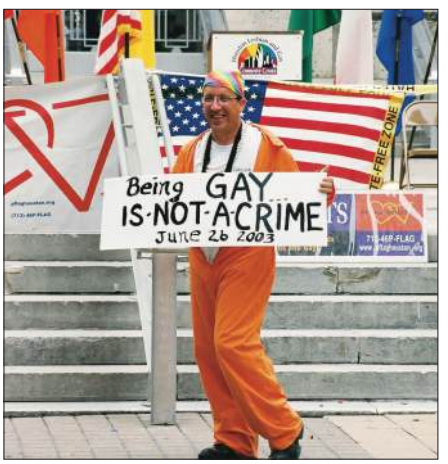
15 Years of 'Lawrence v. Texas'

Why June 26 should be National Pride Day.

By John A. Nechman







Legally Gay
Plaintiffs Tyron Garner (l) and John Lawrence, above, along with the demonstrator at left, appeared at a rally outside Houston City Hall to celebrate the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas*. Columnist John A. Nechmann, far left, is the law partner of Mitchell Katine, who represented Garner and Lawrence.

Supreme Court wonks like myself often think of June 26 as National Pride Day. On June 26, 2013, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Windsor v. U.S.*, struck down as unconstitutional the federal Defense of Marriage Act's interpretation of "marriage" and "spouse" as applying only to opposite-sex unions. On June 26, 2015, the court held in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that all states must lawfully recognize and perform marriages of same-sex couples.

But neither of these monumental rulings would have happened without the grandest Supreme Court decision of all, *Lawrence v. Texas*, decided on June 26, 2003.

I was fortunate to have had a special view of the *Lawrence* case. My dear friend of 20 years and law partner, Mitchell Katine, was legal counsel to the defendants, John Lawrence and Tyron Garner. I was recruited to be Lawrence's "bodyguard" during the oral arguments in Washington DC, and Katine and I had seats in the front row directly beneath one of our heroes, justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. We watched in awe as Lambda Legal attorney Paul Smith provided one of the most dazzling and compelling oral arguments ever witnessed in that monumental building. And we tried to pretend we weren't from Texas when then-Harris County district attorney Chuck Rosenthal, appropriately on crutches, provided one of the worst arguments.

I became friends with both Lawrence and Garner, who for several years spoke every semester to the Sexual Orientation/Gender Identification Law class that I teach at South Texas College of Law Houston—among the few public speeches that Lawrence ever made. On several occasions, I was shocked to hear him tell my class that although he and Garner were arrested for purportedly engaging in intercourse, they were actually just sitting in his living room drinking beer. (At the time, I thought maybe he'd been drinking too much beer before speaking to my class.)

Professor Dale Carpenter's definitive book on the *Lawrence* case, *Flagrant Conduct*, also reveals the seismic news that shortly before his death in 2011, Lawrence disclosed to Carpenter that he and Garner were in fact not engaged in sex. Rather, their arrests were almost surely the product of the law-enforcement officers' flagrant homophobia (hence the title of the book). I love knowing that Lawrence shared this detail with my students long before the book came out, as well as the future movies that will surely be made about this incredible case.

Nearly every attorney who represented LGBTQ people in the years before *Lawrence* can recall judges, government attorneys, police, and other adjudicating officials premising decisions and orders—minor and major—on the "criminal" nature of the lives of our clients. Adoptions and child visitations were denied, and arrests were upheld. There were no bonds (or they were substantially higher) for ridiculously minor offenses and →



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15 Years of 'Lawrence v. Texas'

continued from previous page

arrests made during raids on places where we congregated. Judgments were often granted in favor of prejudiced employers. In my early career, I represented many clients fleeing nations that persecuted LGBTQ people. It was always a challenge to argue for my clients seeking asylum in the U.S. that they could be arrested in their countries for being gay or lesbian, when 14 U.S. states (including Texas) had similar laws.

Texas Penal Code Statute 21.06 still makes it a Class C misdemeanor if someone "engages in deviate sexual intercourse"—basically defined to be any anal or oral sex, including with an object—"with another individual of the same sex." Notice my use of the present tense in the last sentence. To this day—despite *Lawrence*—the Texas sodomy statute remains on the books. And I am aware of arrests that have been made under the statute since *Lawrence*. The cases were subsequently dismissed, but the continued existence of this law is staggering proof that the demons of prejudice persist in Texas.

But let there be no question—*Lawrence* powerfully blew open the doors that have allowed America to move closer than ever to true equality for LGBTQ Americans.

June 26, 2003, was a Thursday. Katine invited me and several attorney friends to his office to await the decision. It seemed like every TV camera in town was pointed at him sitting behind his desk when his phone rang. He was expecting the call would be from one of the Lambda Legal attorneys, but it was from his mother in Florida. She excitedly said, "Congratulations, son, you won!" She had seen the news on TV before any of us. Katine immediately called John Lawrence to share the news. Attorney Roger Donley had one of those new ultra-mod phones that could receive written messages, and he was reading us the decision as it came in. Within seconds, constitutional specialist Gerry Birnberg shouted excitedly, "We got everything!" We were all in tears as we listened to the immortal words of justice Anthony Kennedy: "As the Constitution endures, persons in every generation can invoke its principles in their own search for greater freedom." I still can't get through the class that I teach every semester about the *Lawrence* decision without tearing up.

If ever a day deserved to be designated as National Pride Day, it's June 26.

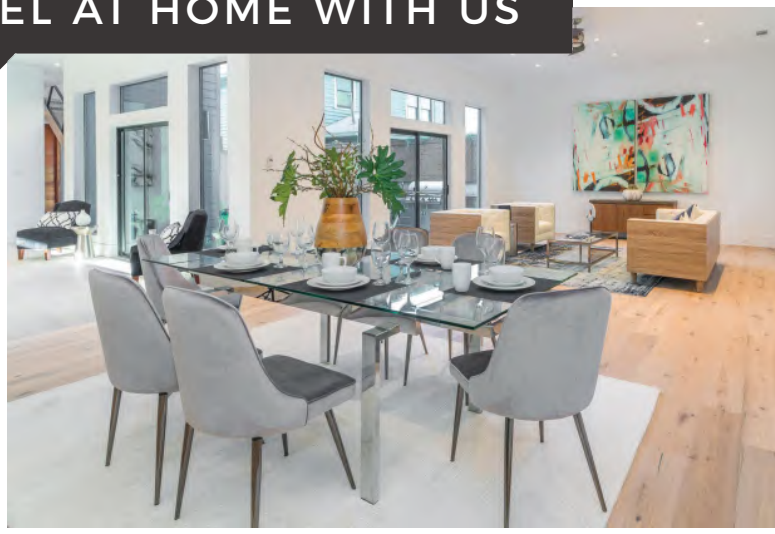
John Nechman is an attorney and partner at the Houston law firm Katine & Nechman L.L.P. and an adjunct professor at South Texas College of Law Houston and the University of Houston Law Center. He has written on numerous food, law, and immigration-related topics for OutSmart and other local and national publications.

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'Love Is Love'

Mayor Turner welcomes Pride Portraits exhibit to City Hall for second year.

By Kim Hogstrom
Photo by Eric Edward Schell

In honor of Pride Month, nine photo portraits of Houston LGBTQ couples will be on display June 8–25 in the historic Art Deco lobby of Houston City Hall.

Mayor Sylvester Turner told OutSmart in a statement that he is "thrilled" to host an exhibit from Pride Portraits, a Houston-based nonprofit, for a second consecutive year.

"The exhibit will give visitors an opportunity to see that love is love, and that ours is a city that embraces diversity and inclusion," Turner said.

"When I created the Mayor's LGBTQ Advisory Board [in 2016], I said our support is never-ending. In Houston, we embrace love and inclusion. The art exhibit will go a long way to showcase positive images and strengthen relationships across communities."

The photographs are the work of Eric Edward Schell.

"Last year's portraits were of LGBTQ individuals, and were so well received that we asked if we could do it again, but with couples this time," Schell says.

Schell's Pride Portraits are dedicated to representing the LGBTQ community and its allies, one photograph and one story at a time. The portraits include statements from the subjects, describing their reasons for "being visible."

Schell says he firmly believes that by helping LGBTQ people to be seen, heard, and understood by the broader population, Pride Portraits is promoting the humanization of a group that often suffers prejudice, discrimination, and worse.

In the two years since launching Pride Portraits, Schell has amassed a collection featuring more than 3,000 LGBTQ people and allies. While some are celebrities, most are everyday people.

Schell says this year's exhibit includes couples representing all nationalities, backgrounds, ages, and challenges.

"Some have children, which highlights the fact that LGBTQ issues affect entire families," he says. "Some of the subjects are married, some are not, but they are all deeply dedicated to their partners. The more our community is visible, the more we will make things change."

Jeremy Fain, secretary for Pride Houston and a former member of the LGBTQ Advisory Board, was among those who worked on the first Pride Portraits exhibit in 2017—which marked the first time a queer-specific project had been displayed in such a manner.

"Originally, the portraits were supposed to be hung in the tunnel in the basement that leads from City Hall to the annex across the street," Fain says. "The photos are so striking that we asked to place them in the more visible [City Hall lobby] location. The City accommodated our request."

"Eric's talent amazes me," Fain adds. "In a short time, he has created a stunning collection that's having a real positive impact. I am sure his movement will continue to grow and influence the American conversation on the national level."



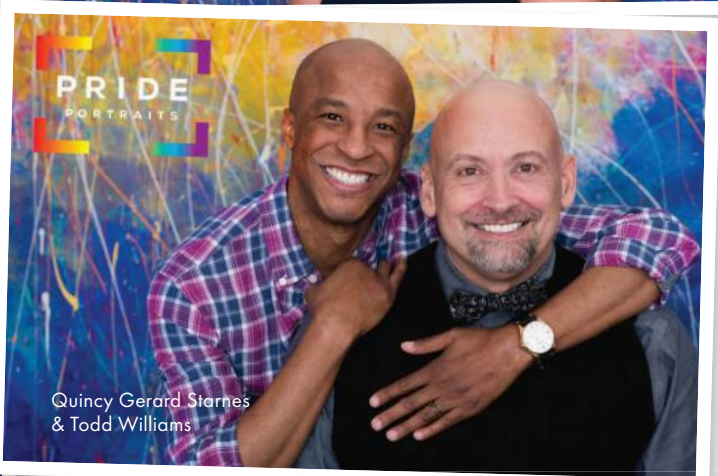
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Emmett Schelling
& Andrea Nicolette Segovia



Reymundo Ocañas &
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Andrea Segovia, who identifies as bisexual, and her transgender male partner, Emmitt Schilling, are among the couples who will be featured in this year's exhibit.

"I love this city," says Segovia, who grew up in San Antonio and moved to Houston six years ago. "It is so diverse and welcoming. We both want to honor Houston's dedication to inclusion."

The exhibit will also feature local LGBTQ activists Brad Pritchett and Noel Freeman, who remain caught up in a four-year legal battle to preserve benefits for the same-sex spouses of Houston municipal employees. Freeman is a 14-year City employee who has been married to Pritchett for the last eight years.

After former mayor Annise Parker extended benefits to the same-sex spouses of City employees in 2013, anti-LGBTQ activists sued the city. Last year, the Texas Supreme Court threw out a lower court's decision saying that same-sex spouses are entitled to the benefits, and ordered a trial court to reconsider the case.

Freeman and Pritchett, represented by Lambda Legal, are one of three same-sex couples that responded to the Texas Supreme Court's decision by filing a lawsuit in federal court seeking to preserve the benefits.

"The *Obergefell* ruling—the U.S. Supreme Court case ruling that made marriage equality federal law—makes it clear that we are within our rights," Pritchett says. "The Texas Supreme Court decided to deny our benefits anyway; they completely ignored the *Obergefell* ruling."

Kim Hogstrom is a regular contributor to OutSmart *magazine.*

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Texas-Size Pride

A record 28 LGBTQ celebrations are planned across the state in 2018.

By Lourdes Zavaleta

Queer people who live in small towns shouldn't have to leave to celebrate LGBTQ Pride, according to Jason Rocha.

Rocha is the organizer of Texas' newest LGBTQ Pride celebration, planned for September 8 in The Woodlands.

"We want to be heard in our own communities, and we want to be accepted," says Rocha, a business developer who identifies as queer. "More towns should set aside time to recognize LGBTQ people. [We shouldn't] have to leave town to feel safe about who we're holding hands with, even if it is just for a day."

The Woodlands Pride, at Town Green Park, will be among 28 LGBTQ Pride celebrations across Texas this year, according to a review by OutSmart.

"In recent years we've seen the number of new Prides in Texas rise by about one per year," says Chuck Smith, CEO of Equality Texas. "It's exciting to see that more communities believe that it is safe, necessary, and welcoming to do so."

Last year, 971 Pride celebrations were held across the globe, according to the worldwide organization InterPride. That is the highest number in the 36 years that InterPride has tracked these events—a 22.6 percent increase from the 750 Pride celebrations in 2016.

"Some countries celebrate Pride to remember what we fought for, what we won, and what there is still left to do," says Paul Huddleston, InterPride's Region 3 director. "Other countries have Pride because they are still fighting for basic rights that we have in the U.S. Some Pride [events] even have to operate in secrecy because LGBTQ people are still being persecuted and criminalized."

While LGBTQ Americans generally enjoy greater protections, there is still some resistance to U.S. Pride events.

Last June, after the Temple Public Library in Killeen, Texas, put up an LGBTQ display, a right-wing religious group called Concerned Christian Citizens attacked the library for "promoting the LGBTQ lifestyle." The controversy prompted the library to revise its rules, and it remained unclear whether LGBTQ displays will be allowed going forward.

Earlier this year, city leaders in Starkville, Mississippi, denied an LGBTQ group's request for a permit to hold a Pride parade. The organizers filed a federal lawsuit, saying the city was violating their constitutional rights to free expression and equal protection. The city later reversed the denial, and on March 24, over 2,500 attended Starkville Pride.

Even when they don't face a backlash, small-town Pride celebrations often suffer from a lack of funding.

Beaumont Pride staged its first celebration in 2014, but could not host the event in 2017 →



We Are Everywhere
Beaumont's LGBTQ Pride celebration, shown above in 2017, began in 2014, and is set for June 9 this year. Organizers of The Woodlands Pride, below, have obtained a permit for their event at Town Green Park on September 8.



The Woodlands Pride
The board of directors of The Woodlands Pride (clockwise from far left) Jason Rocha, Ryan Elkins, Bill Yauch, Sean O'Neil, Theresa Rose, and Jennifer Majors Baca are shown planning for their city's first Pride celebration.

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Texas-Size Pride

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due to financial difficulties. PFLAG Beaumont stepped in to host an Equality Fest, which has been renamed the Beaumont Pride Fest.

But PFLAG Beaumont has also struggled to make ends meet. The group's budget in 2017 was only about $600, and relied heavily on donations from local businesses and entertainers, says Jacqueline Hays, the organization's president.

"We had almost no budget last year," Hays says. "Before many of our events, organizers were looking up the cost of small things like trash bags and balloons, just to make sure that we could afford them."

Historically, Pride celebrations in Texas have been confined to large cities like Houston, Austin, Dallas, and San Antonio. But in recent years, LGBTQ people in more conservative areas—from Eagle Pass to Longview—have organized marches, rallies, festivals, and picnics.

Equality Texas' Smith, who attended Eagle Pass' first "Love Without Borders" Pride celebration in 2017, describes the event as emotional and encouraging. He says people who grew up in the border town of about 28,000 returned home just to attend the festival.

"[Well-established Pride events] in larger cities are still wonderful, but they can lead people to question whether they have become too corporate or too influenced by sponsors," Smith says. "I think the best a city can do is to accurately reflect the uniqueness of their community while celebrating Pride. There are LGBTQ people all over the State of Texas, and it is important to acknowledge that."

Rocha says The Woodlands Pride will feature booths, local vendors, a DJ, and a space for children at one of the city's public parks, because the town is family-oriented.

"We're not going to make The Woodlands something that it's not," Rocha says. "I'm from the area, I know my city's values, and I support them for the most part. I don't want to uproot these values, but I do want to be a part of them."

Rocha, who has lived in The Woodlands since 2010, says he was sitting on a bench with his partner at Town Green Park when he decided that The Woodlands should have its own Pride. Town Green Park hosts events every weekend, but until now there was no event specifically for the LGBTQ community.

"It was about booking that park, because Pride is no different than any other celebration held there," Rocha says. "The Woodlands may get a bad name for its conservative values, but I know that we have many supporters. Woodlands Pride is going to show us who they are."

For more information about attending or volunteering at The Woodlands Pride, visit facebook.com/TheWoodlandsPride or contact the group at volunteer@thewoodlandstxpride.org.

Below is a list of this year's LGBTQ Pride celebrations in Texas, compiled by OutSmart:

- South Padre: April 26–29
- Tyler: May 20
- Abilene: May 26
- El Paso: May 27–June 3
- Austin (QueerBomb): June 2
- Corpus Christi: June 8
- Galveston: June 8–10
- Beaumont: June 9
- Longview: June 9
- Plano: June 9
- Andrews: June 15
- Dallas (QueerBomb): June 16
- Houston: June 23
- McAllen: June 23
- Amarillo: June 24
- San Angelo: June 24–30
- San Antonio: June 30
- Denton: June 30
- College Station: July (TBD)
- Austin: August 11
- Lubbock: August 25
- San Marcos: September 8
- The Woodlands: September 9
- Dallas: September 15
- Wichita Falls: September 28–30
- Fort Worth: October 6
- Eagle Pass: October 12
- Waco: October 13

Lourdes Zavaleta is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.



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Moving the BALL FORWARD

Houston Dash hosts Pride Night, as goalkeeper comes out publicly.

By Jenny Block
Photos by ISI Photos

Houston Dash goalkeeper Bianca Henninger says she doesn't think she has officially come out to the world publicly—until now.

Although Henninger has never tried to hide her sexual orientation, she says she likes to keep her personal life private.

But Henninger says she agreed to an interview with OutSmart in hopes that coming out as a professional athlete will help other LGBTQ people, especially youth.

"I'm comfortable with who I am, so I don't have a problem saying it. I just didn't feel like it was necessary," Henninger says. "At the end of the day, though, you never know who you specifically are going to connect with. Maybe you'll run into someone at a game or an appearance or in passing who, for whatever reason, is struggling with it and hasn't connected with someone who is out, and it'll make their process easier.

"People are here for you, and there is, without a single doubt in my mind, a place for you in this world—no matter what," Henninger adds. "I feel like what's going on in the world right now [sends the wrong message] to a lot of people, especially kids, that it's not OK to be who they are. That's how you lose people in this world, when they stop being who they are."

Henninger, a 27-year-old native of Los Gatos, California, who is in her fifth season with the Dash, becomes one of two openly LGBTQ players on the team, along with 31-year-old defender Janine van Wyk.

As out athletes, Henninger and van Wyk are helping to conquer what is often referred to as the last frontier for LGBTQ rights, professional sports.

While several women's pro soccer and women's pro basketball teams include openly LGBTQ players, only one active male player in any of the four major men's sports, the NBA's Jason Collins, has come out as gay.

Both Henninger and van Wyk say it helps to know that the Dash, Houston's National Women's Soccer League franchise launched in 2014, fully supports them.

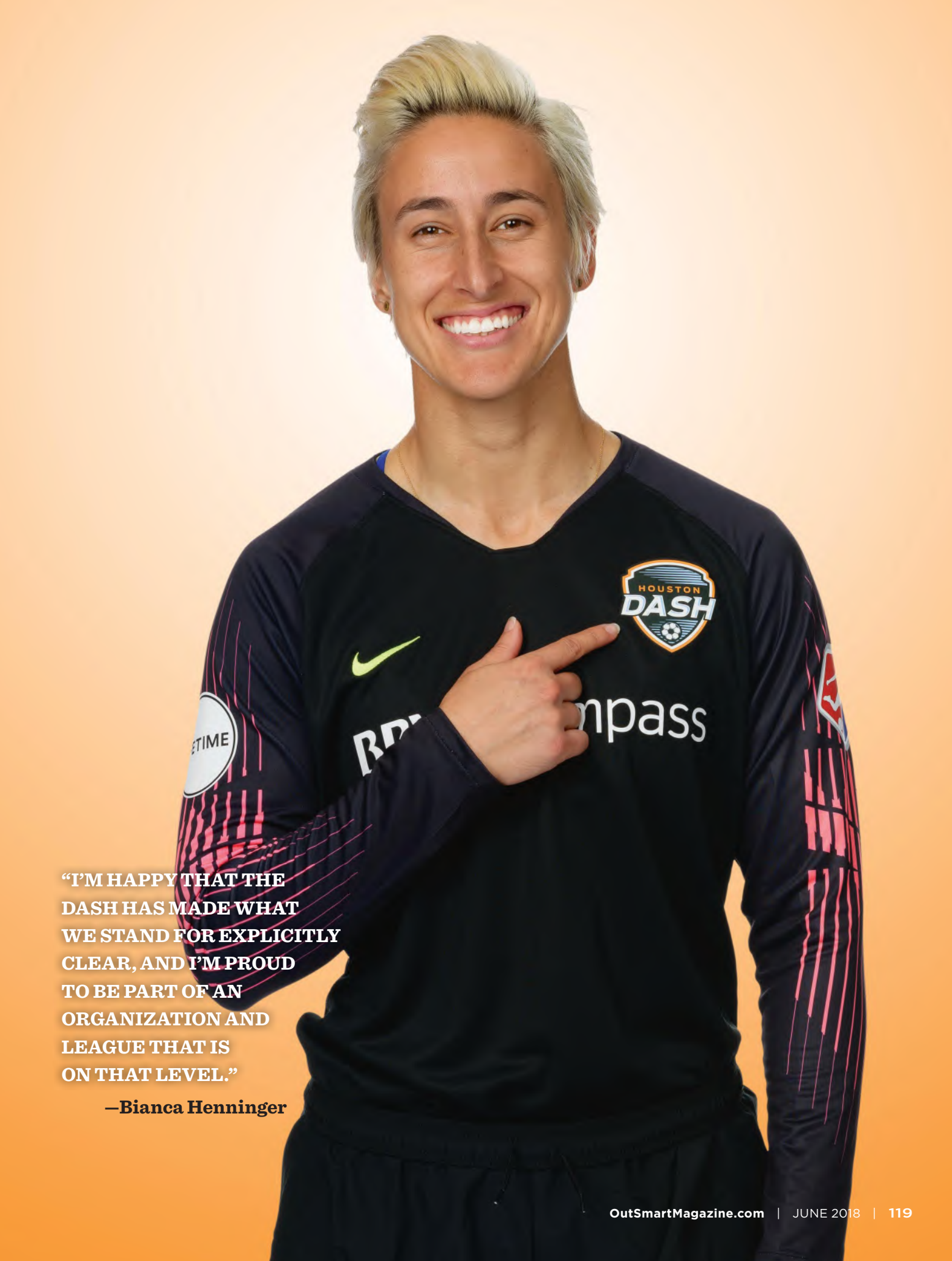
"You can come to a Dash game and be totally comfortable with being yourself," Henninger says. "I'm happy that the Dash has made what we stand for explicitly clear, and I'm proud to be part of an organization and league that is on that level."

On June 22, the Dash will host an LGBTQ Pride Night. The team also held a Pride Night in 2017, but this year marks the first time the team has partnered with Pride Houston.

The Dash are also the only major pro sports team in Houston that currently hosts a Pride Night. While the Astros hosted one in 2010, the current World Series champions have not hosted a Pride event since then.

"We are strengthening our relationships with organizations like Pride Houston to get the message out that we are excited about the support shown to the team by the LGBT community," says David Brady, executive vice president and chief marketing officer for the Houston Dynamo and Houston Dash. "The Houston Dash have been very popular with the LGBT community since the team launched, and they have shown us and our players great support."

In fact, Henninger and van Wyk aren't the first openly LGBTQ players in the Dash's →



"I'M HAPPY THAT THE DASH HAS MADE WHAT WE STAND FOR EXPLICITLY CLEAR, AND I'M PROUD TO BE PART OF AN ORGANIZATION AND LEAGUE THAT IS ON THAT LEVEL."

—Bianca Henninger

Moving the Ball Forward

continued from previous page







Out on the Field
Dash players Bianca Henninger, above left, and Janine van Wyk, above right and below left, are helping to conquer what is often referred to as the last frontier of LGBTQ rights, professional sports.



Janine van Wyk

five-year history. Ella Masar and Erin McLeod made headlines when they were married in 2015 while they were both still members of the Dash.

"We're proud to be a part of that community all year-round, and this game is a great opportunity to celebrate that relationship and put a spotlight on it," Brady adds. "I hope this is an opportunity for someone who has never tried the Dash game experience to come out with a group of friends or their family and get to know the team and players."

According to OutSports.com, eight of the nine teams in the National Women's Soccer League will host LGBTQ Pride Nights this year.

"Every demonstration of acceptance in sports helps someone accept themselves for who they are," OutSports' co-founder Cyd Zeigler tells OutSmart. "These kinds of events were unthinkable 20 years ago. Now they are mainstream. Their widespread presence in sports today shows how much the sports world has changed.

"All of these events are about wrapping the giant arms of sports around the people who are still struggling with who they are—or that dad who may still not accept his gay son—and telling them they have a place in our society's most powerful cultural institution: sports," Zeigler adds. "To really show how incredibly inclusive the world of American sports has become, we need more and more athletes to come out. Hopefully, the explosion of these Pride Nights helps more people do just that."

What: Houston Dash LGBTQ Pride Night
When: 7:30 p.m. on June 22
Where: BBVA Compass Stadium, 2200 Texas St.
Tickets: houstondynamo.com/houstondash/pride

Jenny Block is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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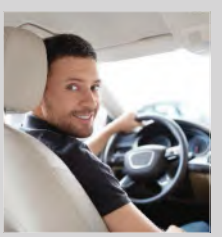
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Speaking His T.R.U.T.H.

Sampson headlines Pride event featuring artists of color.

By Don Maines

The truth heals, says entertainer Sampson, whose "no BS" comedic testimony will spark "Feel My Pride Too!" in Houston on June 15.

The internationally known comedian, whose full name is Sampson McCormick, will perform a 45-minute set (alongside nine local artists) at an LGBTQ Pride Month event hosted by the T.R.U.T.H. Project, which stands for Telling Real Unapologetic Truth Through Healing.

Sampson tells OutSmart he "got to see some of everything" while growing up in Washington DC.

"We were never taught that white people hated us," he says. "The people aren't the ones who profit from that rhetoric; politicians do. Sure, I believe that racism and homophobia exist; it's not a fairy tale, and I will call out injustice, but I am open-minded. I believe that we need to drop the politically correct pretenses and get back to talking to each other and laughing together about what is going on. When you laugh, you breathe, your guards drop, and we can really have conversations about things that otherwise would be uncomfortable."

For almost 20 years, Sampson says, he's developed a cult-like following, "literally working the smallest of stages in coffee shops, STD clinics, gas stations, and apartment kitchens." But he's also hosted an online talk show that endeared him to viewers, starred in an off-Broadway show, and became the first African-American, openly LGBTQ male comic to headline at his home town's historic Howard Theater. Sampson plans to record his fourth stand-up comedy act later this year.

In a 2012 video on his website, SampsonComedy.com, Sampson riffed about how he hoped President Obama's second term would be "black as shit."

"I want to see Michelle Obama come out of the White House with her hair in curlers and a bathrobe on, okay?" he said. "I want to see that grandmama with a switch, whipping ass in their front yard, okay?"

Sampson tells OutSmart he was "highly disappointed" that, in her husband's second term as president, Michelle Obama kept getting her hair pressed and eating baked chicken. But that was still better than the new administration. "I didn't fear going to sleep at night," he says. →



Humor and Healing
Comedian Sampson McCormick believes laughter is key to overcoming racial divisions. "When you laugh, you breathe, your guards drop, and we can really have conversations about things that otherwise would be uncomfortable," he says.





Speaking His T.R.U.T.H.

continued from previous page

"I wasn't afraid of losing my rights. The way things are now, people are terrified."

In another video, Sampson pokes fun at the type of "Church of God in Christ Pentecostal Apostolic, turn some furniture over, swing around on the chandelier" Sunday services he used to experience when visiting relatives in North Carolina. He lampoons a spirit-filled evangelical traipsing across the stage and warning, "There's a homosexual demon in here. We're going to cast it out."

While race, religion, and other "issues of the day" comprise Sampson's usual set, he's recently added his ex-boyfriend of five-and-a-half years to the roast.

"He lost one of the best things he ever had," Sampson says. "He really messed up. So I talk about his farting. It was his secret weapon."

Sampson looks forward to "Feel My Pride Too!" unfolding as "a very community-affirming event" that nurtures health, wellness, and spirituality.

"I think that we are some amazing people, in all the different ways that God made us and sent us here, but we cannot be passive about the suffering and injustices experienced by fellow human beings," he says. "If we truly believe that, we have an obligation to fight for each other, and most of all, love each other and celebrate our differences by taking action for causes that will create justice and equality for ourselves as brothers and sisters."

Other performers at "Feel My Pride Too!" will be India Monee, Rayla Crawford, James Just, Ryan McMasters, Dannell Jamerson, Brittany Jones, Brenden Winkfield, Erica Nicole, and Sir Preston.

They were chosen in April during auditions for spoken-word artists, singers, dancers, and visual artists, according to Kevin Anderson, founder and CEO of the T.R.U.T.H. Project. Anderson invited Sampson to Houston with financial support from Bunnies on the Bayou.

"His presence at this installment and his form of storytelling will make it a richer experience," Anderson says. "A lot will be revealed.

"In recognition of National Pride Month, our voices will be heard," he adds. "This installment will feature people of color presenting what Pride means to them. Stigma reduction is always an important goal, bringing a broader sense of awareness to all walks of life. My hope is always that healing will come through dialogue as you go grab a bite to eat afterwards, or over cocktails the next day."

What: Feel My Pride Too!
When: 7 p.m., June 15
Where: Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston, 3400 Main St.
More info: TruthProjectHTX.org

Don Maines is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce

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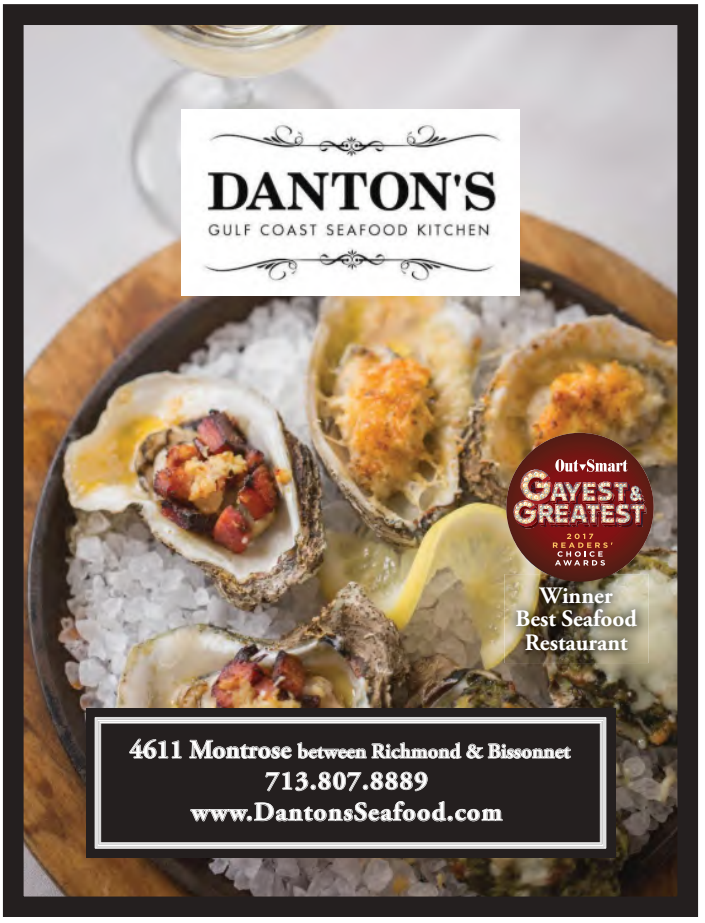
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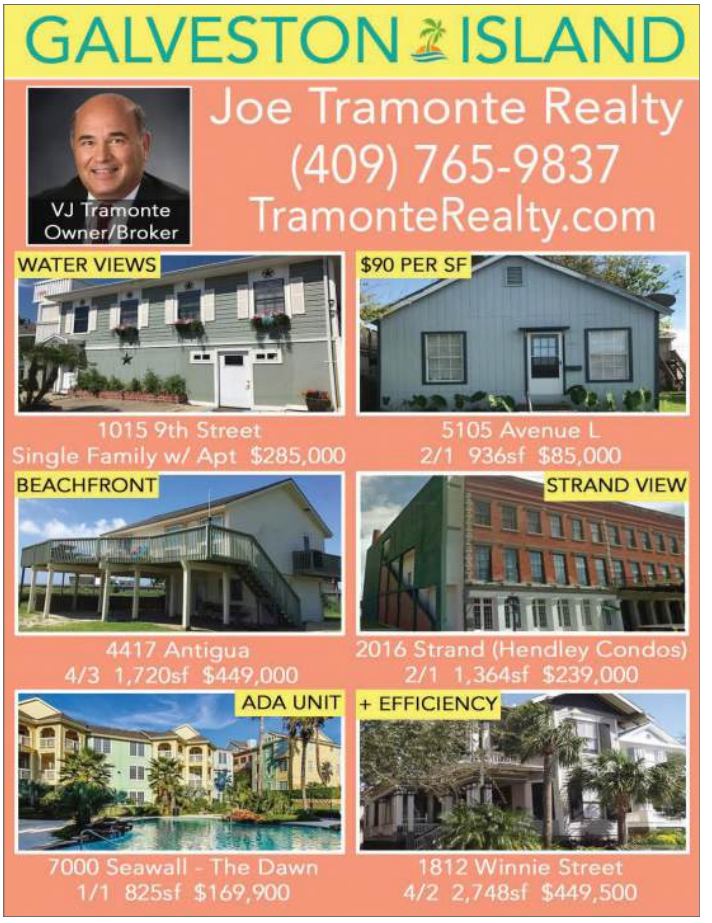
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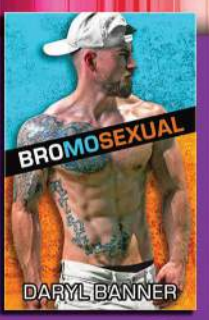
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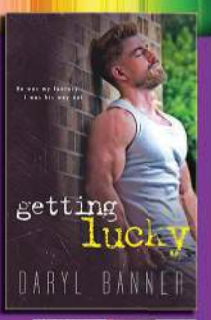
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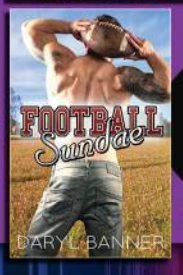
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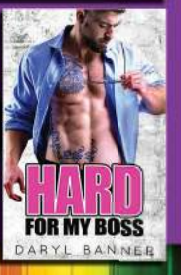








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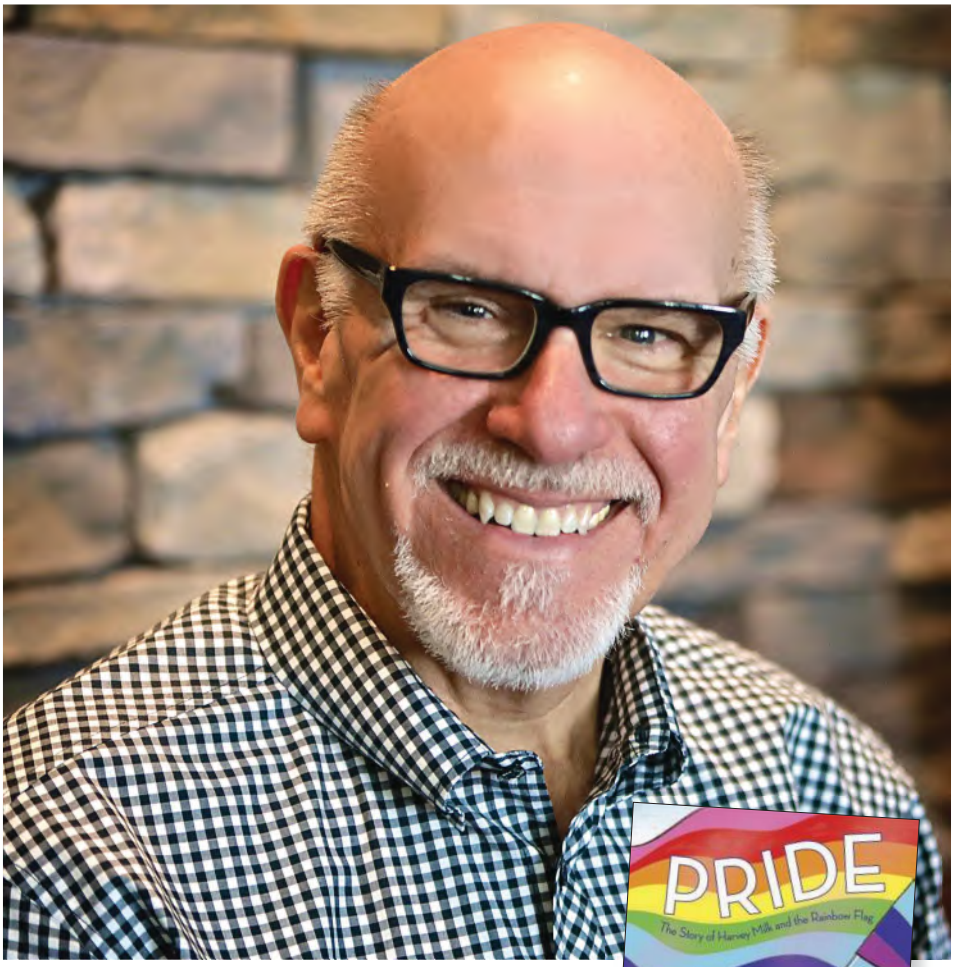


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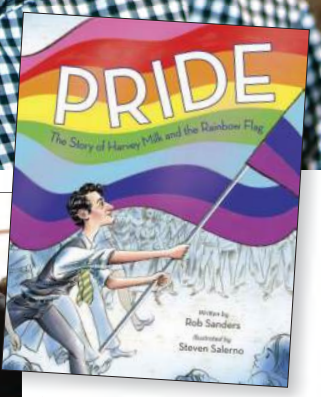
Reading Rainbow

Author and teacher Robert Sanders is educating kids on LGBTQ history.

By Lourdes Zavaleta
Photo by Candy Barnhisel







Passing 'Pride' Along
Robert Sanders (top) says news coverage of the Supreme Court's marriage-equality decision inspired him to write 'Pride,' a picture book about Harvey Milk and the creation of the rainbow flag. At left, one of Sanders' third-grade students, Gabrian Blackwell, asked his mother to drive an hour to attend a release-party for the book.

Hateful rhetoric and discriminatory bills have resulted in elementary-age students being less accepting of LGBTQ people than those in middle and high school, according to Robert Sanders.

"I'm worried about my students," says Sanders, an author and fourth-grade teacher in Florida who identifies as gay. "I'm afraid that their attitudes toward equality will swing back. Kids just a few years older than them are very respecting of everyone's differences, but my students are growing up in a different world, with different role models."

To teach his students and others like them about LGBTQ history, Sanders wrote *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk*, a picture book about the pioneering gay politician and the creation of the LGBTQ Pride flag. Illustrated by Steven Salerno, *Pride* was released April 10, and is now available in stores and online.

The book is one of about 40 LGBTQ children's books in circulation, and the first about Milk and his collaboration with Gilbert Baker, the artist who designed the Pride flag in 1978.

Sanders' book was initially set to be released last year, but a scheduling conflict with Salerno coincidentally pushed back its debut to 2018, the 40th anniversary of the Pride flag's creation.

"The importance of *Pride* has changed since I wrote it in 2015," Sanders says. "I wrote the book as a celebration of the huge progress we saw as a community, but a lot has happened since then. I didn't envision at the time that the pendulum would swing back and that LGBTQ people would once again have our lives threatened."

According to the Human Rights Campaign, state lawmakers introduced 252 anti-LGBTQ bills across the nation in 2016, the year after the U.S. Supreme Court's *Obergefell* decision, up from 85 anti-LGBTQ bills in 2014.

Sanders says news coverage of the *Obergefell* decision inspired him to begin writing *Pride*, his sixth published book.

"I saw rainbows all over the world," Sanders recalls. "From Niagara Falls, to San Francisco City Hall, all the way back to the White House, I saw them all washed in the colors of the Pride flag, and it dawned on me that this was a story that kids needed to know. I wanted to teach them the origin of this symbol and why it is still important." →

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Reading Rainbow

continued from previous page

Sanders wrote the first draft of the book that night. For his research, he relied on history books, news footage, and documentaries.

Baker read a draft of *Pride* before he passed away in 2017. He approved of the book and told Sanders about his personal experiences with Milk, which had not been recorded in other archives.

"Gilbert gave me some of the best insights that I did not find in any of my other research," Sanders says. "Working with him to tell this story was a wonderful way of passing on his legacy. He got a say about the book and was able to clarify some of its details."

Though Sanders' target audience is children ages 5 through 8, he believes the book is a good starting point for anyone who wants to learn the basics of one of the milestones in LGBTQ history.

The illustrations accompanying Sanders' words depict moments when LGBTQ people were discriminated against, as well as their protests and victories. Older readers can look at Salerno's paintings and research them, Sanders says.

"I hope that this book starts getting more people talking about equality and hope," Sanders says. "Everyone needs a symbol that represents who they are, and we can learn to respect each other's symbols."

Sanders, a Missouri native, has loved writing since he was a child. His life goal was to be an author of children's books, but he didn't write any until after he began teaching.

His first book, *Cowboy Christmas*, was borne out of a request from his students. It was 2008, and Sanders had just turned 50.

"My students would ask, 'Where are *your* books, Mr. Sanders?" he recalls. "I took that as a challenge and started writing. My first book came out in 2012."

In addition to his six published books, Sanders has three more on the way. *Peaceful Fights for Equal Rights*, set to be released in September, and *Stonewall: A Building. An Uprising. A Revolution.*, debuting in 2019, will be LGBTQ history books.

Sanders says in recent years, three of his students have struggled with their gender identities, and several others have come out as LGBTQ. He hopes his books inspire children to be brave, respectful, and aware of the queer community's accomplishments.

"I want these children to know that there is hope," Sanders says. "I think every generation needs someone like Harvey Milk to give them that."

Lourdes Zavaleta is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.





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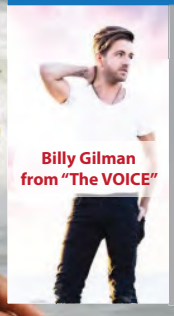
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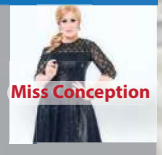
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Green Party

LGBTQ Pride event part of downtown park's 10th-anniversary celebration.

By Marene Gustin







Barry's Big Birthday Bash
Barry Mandel, shown at right, is the openly gay president and director of Discovery Green, which turns 10 this year. Mandel says Rainbow on the Green, shown above in 2017, is one of the park's most popular events, which he attends each year.

Houston's downtown Discovery Green park, a mecca for outdoor fun, turns 10 this year. To mark the occasion, the park has earmarked 10 of its hundreds of events in 2018 as anniversary celebrations, including the eighth annual Rainbow on the Green set for Friday, June 22.

"It's one of our most popular events," says Barry Mandel, the openly gay president and director of Discovery Green. "Last year, we had 3,000 people show up. It's free, it's fun, and it's a time for our community to come together before the big Pride parade. I absolutely go every year."

In fact, Rainbow on the Green has been such a hit that it spawned two other LGBTQ-themed events during the year—Rainbow on Ice, and Rainbow on the Roll, both skating parties.

A decade ago, Discovery Green was a parking lot overgrown with weeds. Today, it's a 12-acre oasis of green and calm on the east end of downtown.

Created and run through a public-private partnership, the park includes a man-made lake, an ice rink in winter, a place to float model boats, a dog run, picnic areas, a playground, an outdoor theater stage, public art, a putting green, bocce courts, and two restaurants.

Discovery Green has also helped generate plenty of residential and commercial development nearby, so Rainbow on the Green will be just a stroll or short bike ride away for →

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Green Party

continued from previous page

thousands of downtown residents. For others, there is Uber, METRORail, and The Wave jitney service. For those who drive, there is an underground garage as well as two other garages next door at the convention center—and street parking is always free after 6 p.m.

Attendees are welcome to bring blankets and picnic baskets, but there will also be food available for purchase.

"The Lake House [a casual Schiller Del Grande restaurant by the lake] will be grilling outside, and we'll have wine and beer," Mandel says. "Our partner organizations in the LGBTQ community will also have information booths set up."

This year's partners for Rainbow on the Green include presenter Legacy Community Health-Montrose, Land Rover Houston Central, GTX Productions, CinerGy Works, UNIK Lounge Furniture & Party Rentals, Schiller Del Grande, OutSmart magazine, Outreach United, the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, Wells Fargo, Pride Houston, and media sponsors KPRC, Comcast, and Univision.

Dogs on leashes are welcome, and attendees are encouraged to bring their kids, as the entertainment is always family-friendly.

"Edward Salles is the best tenor I've ever heard," Mandel says, referring to one of this year's three featured performers. "I saw him on vacation in Mexico. This will be the first time he performs in the States."

Also on tap are Deborah Cox and The Patternist. Cox, of course, is the Canadian singer and longtime LGBTQ ally who starred in the touring version of the musical *The Bodyguard,* and The Patternist's alternative and indie-pop sounds are rapidly gaining fans.

Finally, there is a bit of good news for female Rainbow on the Green attendees.

"As part of our 10th-anniversary plans, we've built a second women's restroom, and it will be open for the first time during Rainbow on the Green," Mandel says. "We're also renovating the children's playground this year.

"As a native Houstonian, I grew up with Hermann Park, Kiddie Wonderland, and the Bellaire Ice Skating Rink," Mandel adds. "These places were iconic to my childhood, and that's what we're doing here. We're creating an iconic place for Houston families, and it's a real honor to do that."

What: Land Rover Houston Central's Rainbow on the Green, presented by Legacy Community Health
When: June 22, 7–10 p.m.
Where: Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St.
More info: Discoverygreen.com/Rainbow

Marene Gustin is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.



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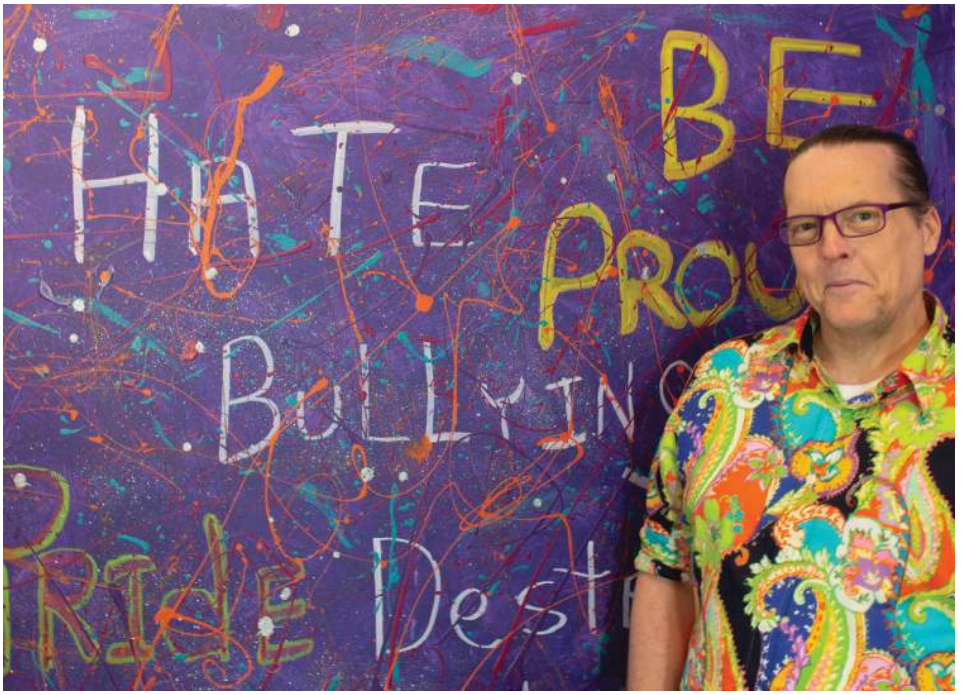
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Painting with Pride

Jumper Maybach named official artist of Houston celebration.

By Laura Gillespie



True Colors

Jumper Maybach discovered his artistic calling after enduring antigay discrimination at work. His newest project, The Pride Collection: INTROSPECTION, will be displayed in Houston and several other cities during June.

After enduring horrific discrimination and harassment at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Houston artist Ben Workman, aka Jumper Maybach, says he channeled his struggles into art.

Beginning June 1, scores of Workman's creations are being showcased in Houston and across the country as part of The Pride Collection: INTROSPECTION. Pride Houston has named Workman its official artist for this year's celebration, and he will host a special event at his gallery in the Heights on June 15. Workman will also donate a portion of proceeds from the sale of his paintings during Pride Month to Pride Houston.

"This series of works is one of the most engaging and important of my entire career," Workman says. "I wanted to create something to show my ongoing love and support for my community, as well as the courageous men and women partaking in the #MeToo movement. As a victim of workplace sexual discrimination, I felt it was my duty to stand up and express myself at this pivotal time in history. I want my art to be that beacon of hope that inspires others to stand up to ending injustices within society."

In 2011, after being outed as gay by a coworker, Workman says he had a "spiritual awakening" and turned to art to cope. But he didn't just use paint and brushes—he also created his clown persona, Jumper Maybach.

"Jumper did help me grow and overcome the problems I was having from being bullied," Workman says in an interview with OutSmart at his studio.

While at the VA, Workman was embroiled in two separate harassment and discrimination lawsuits. He prevailed in both cases, but because he still had to work with his tormentors on a daily basis, his life became unbearable. While kneeling in his living room and praying for guidance and help in his desperation, he was immediately and mysteriously compelled to paint. Even though he had never painted before, he rushed out to buy supplies and began painting works on canvas.

Jumper the Clown was born out of a childhood interest in clown face that his grandfather also donned from time to time. In clown face, Jumper Maybach could do things that Ben Workman could not do in his state of despair.

"I figured I needed to teach and show other people they can do the same thing—try and help them overcome any type of problem that they're having with either coming out, being a different size, or being discriminated against because [of their] race," he says.

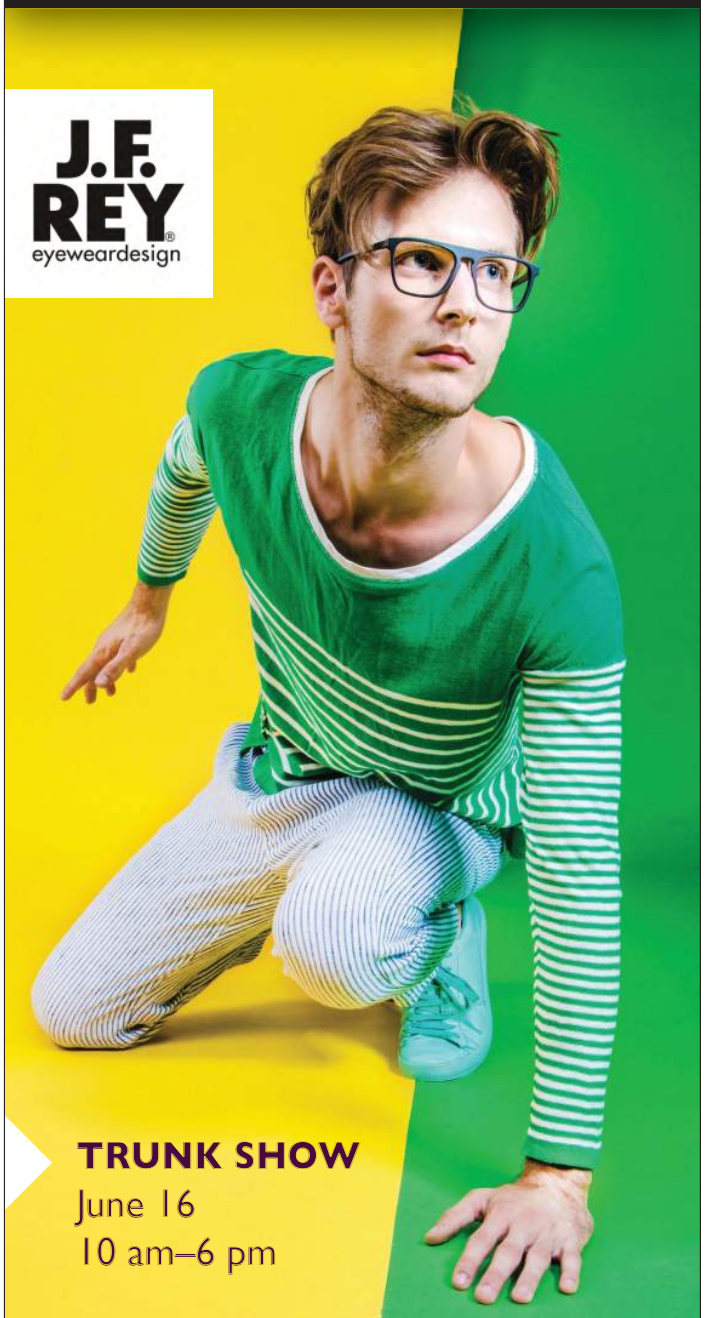
Workman has been described as "the Jackson Pollock of the 21st century," and his current exhibit features colorful abstract designs along with written messages such as "Born this way" and "Proud to be me." He says his pieces can take from four hours to several days to create, and they sell for up to $14,000. Collectors include transgender-rights activist Jazz Jennings, Edward James Olmos, and others.

"What I've been through in my life that led me into painting actually speaks the Pride message: if you can move on, [you can] develop into something that can make a difference in the world through being a humanitarian, activist, and philanthropist," Workman says.

Since he began painting seven years ago, Workman's art has appeared in Dubai, Barcelona, Venice, and Montreal. He also released an award-winning documentary film, *The Jumper Maybach Story*, chronicling his experiences.

"Jumper's art is very individualistic. He does something that really I haven't seen anybody do before," Pride Houston secretary Jeremy Fain says. "You [can] look at it and automatically tell it's Jumper Maybach, just from the colors and the technique that he uses." →

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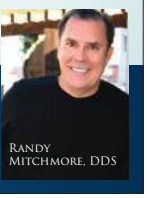
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Painting with Pride

continued from page 135

Fain says the event at Workman's gallery is one of several family-friendly activities, including Rainbow on the Green, that are part of a diverse Pride lineup this year.

"I think this is going to reach a completely different demographic—a person in the community that doesn't necessarily go out to the bars and the parties," Fain says. "There are a lot of gays out there that love art. We haven't really done anything in that realm since I've been a part of Pride."

In addition to more than 60 of his works on display in Houston, Maybach is sending his art across the U.S. during Pride Month to galleries in Nashville, Richmond, and San Diego.

What: The Pride Collection: INTROSPECTION
When: 6–10 p.m. on June 15
Where: Jumper Maybach Fine Art Gallery, 238 W. 19th St.
More info: JumperMaybach.com

Laura Gillespie is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine.

Unapologetically Trans

continued from page 66

Nikki Araguz who tenaciously fought a six-year court battle in the *Araguz v. Delgado* case to win back marriage equality for trans folks after that right was lost due to the odious 1999 *Littleton v. Prange* case.

And that's just scratching the surface of all the history and accomplishments of trans Texans.

Can we do better as LGBTQ Houstonians and Texans in our diverse community? We sure can, and we must. This community is as diverse as our 660-square-mile city—that flat piece of southeast Texas we call home.

We must do better to ensure that all LGBTQ Houstonians not only feel like they are wanted and needed, but that their voices are respected and corrective action is swiftly taken when they express themselves about the problems they see in this community.

I am a proud, unapologetic black trans Texan and Houstonian. I'm proud of my state, my community, and the fact that Houstonians and Texans are continuing to put our brand on LGBTQ history. I can't wait to see what happens with the next generation of young LGBTQ leaders who will follow in our footsteps.

Thinking about that can't help but give you warm thoughts and feelings as you watch thousands of people march through downtown Houston during this year's parade.

Happy Pride, y'all!

Monica Roberts, a native Houstonian, is the founding editor of the GLAAD award-winning blog TransGriot. Her ongoing mission is to educate people on the lives of transgender people and fight for everyone's human rights.

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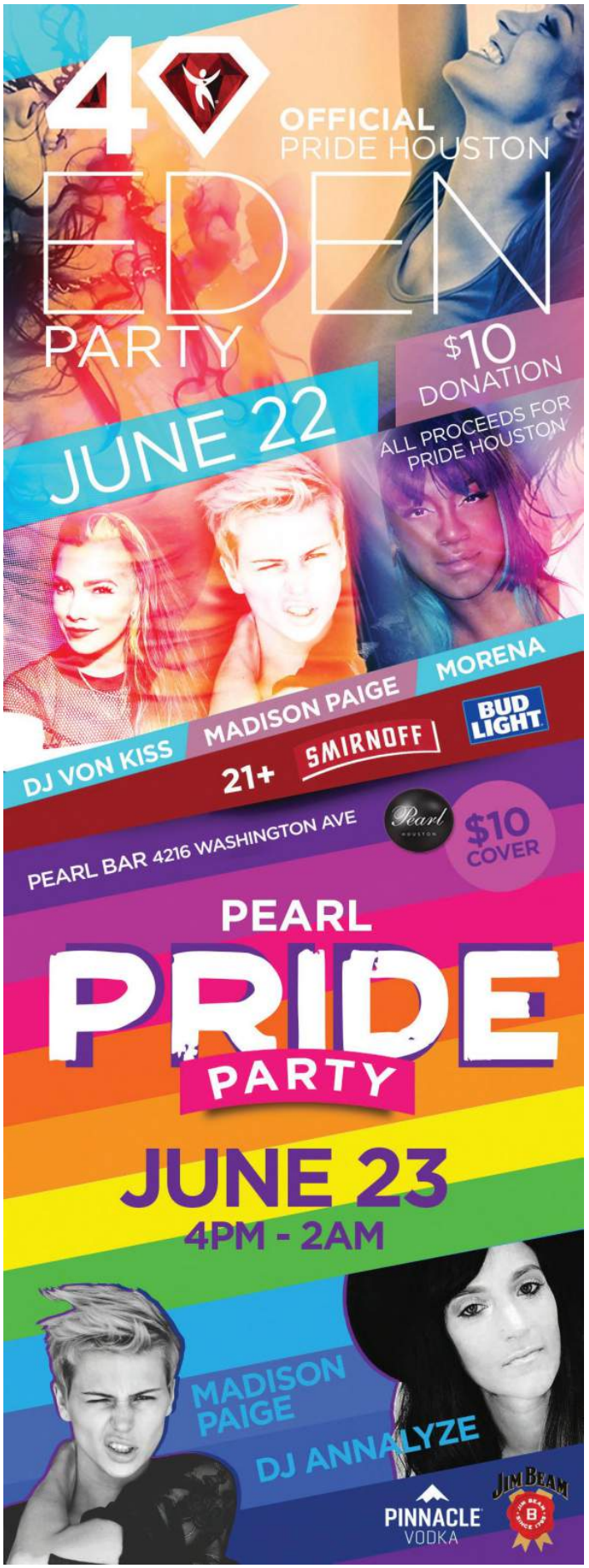
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The Gay (Pride) Agenda

34 events in 30 days.

Compiled by Marene Gustin, John Wright, and Lourdes Zavaleta
Photos by Dalton DeHart

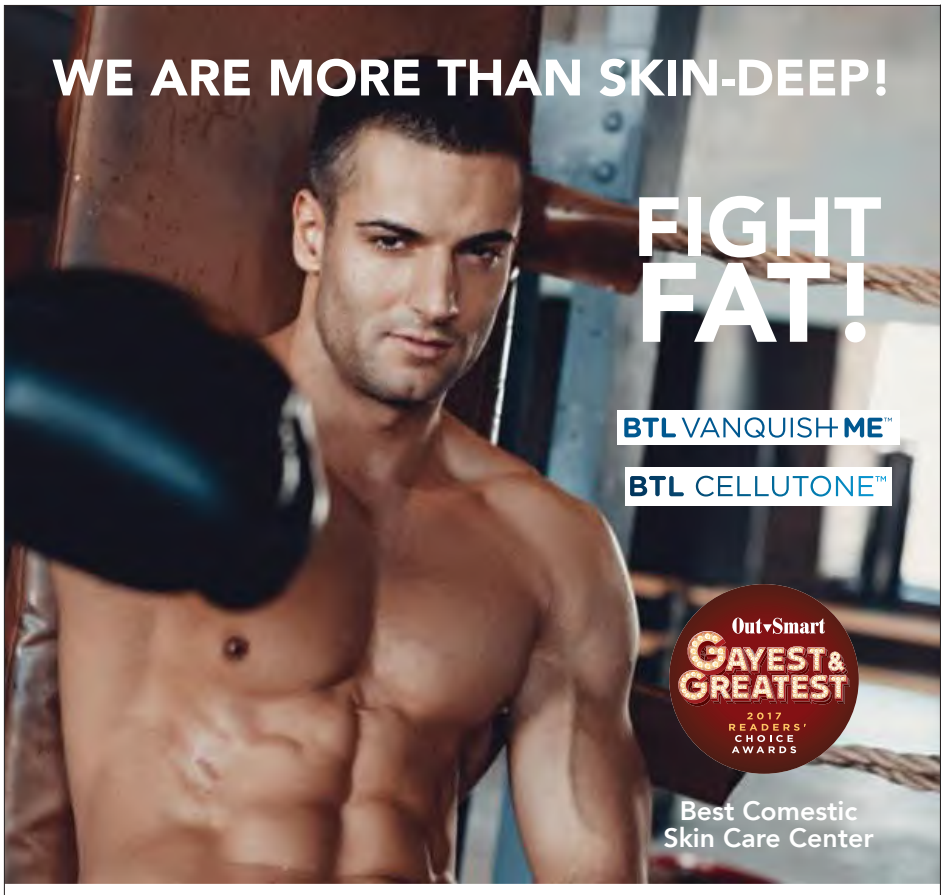
April showers bring May flowers, and June brings beautiful rainbows! That's right, it's time again for Pride Month, and that means tons of summer fun. Pick up some VIP tickets for the June 23 parade in downtown Houston and get ready to celebrate 40 years of Houston Pride.

June 1

• **The Pride Collection: INTROSPECTION**
LGBTQ artist and philanthropist Jumper Maybach is set to unveil a timely and important new series of works celebrating Pride 2018. A portion of sales goes to Pride Houston. 6 p.m., Jumper Maybach Fine Art, 238 W. 19th St. *PrideHouston.org*

June 2

• **Pride Portraits Open Shoot**
Pride Portraits provides a platform for LGBTQ people and allies to be visible, represented, →



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The Gay (Pride) Agenda

continued from previous page

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June 3

• **HATCH Youth Prom**

The Montrose Center presents its annual LGBTQ youth dance, free for ages 13–20. Parents and HATCH alumni may purchase tickets. 6–11 p.m., Numbers Nightclub, 300 Westheimer Rd. *HatchYouth.org*

June 7

• **Pride SuperStar, Round 6**

Pride SuperStar returns for a dazzling 12th year, featuring some of Houston's best singers competing in a seven-week competition. 8 p.m., Rich's Houston, 2401 San Jacinto. *PrideHouston.org*

June 8

• **Galveston Pride Cruise at Galveston Yacht Basin**

Join the Gulf Area Yachting Society (GAYS) for a three-day cruise to celebrate Pride on the open seas. 715 N. Holiday Dr., Galveston *GulfAreaYachtingSociety.com*

June 8–10

• **Pride Week Galveston**

Pride Galveston kicks off the weekend with Friday's Mr. and Miss Pride Galveston Pageant at 23rd Street Station. Saturday is the Beach Bash on East Beach with free snacks and vendors. *PrideGalveston.com*



June 9

• **Bon Voyage, a Houston Pride Band Concert**
Join the Houston Pride Band as it kicks off the summer with a tribute to heading out on a great journey. Musical selections highlight favorite vacation destinations, modes of travel, and adventures on land, sea, and in the stars. The concert will be conducted by tour guides Deborah Hirsch and Crawford Howell.
7 p.m., Midtown Arts and Theater Center Houston (MATCH), 3400 Main St.
HoustonPrideBand.org

June 14

• **Grand Marshal Reception**
Join Pride Houston for a free evening of good food and company as the organization honors its 2018 grand marshals. Everyone is invited to eat, drink, and "be Mary." 6 p.m., Hamburger Mary's, 2409 Grant St. *PrideHouston.org*

• **Pride Superstar Competition Finale**
Who will be this year's SuperStar?
9 p.m., Rich's Houston, 2401 San Jacinto
PrideHouston.org

June 15

• **Feel My Pride Too!**
The T.R.U.T.H. Project hosts entertainer Sampson and nine other artists. 7 p.m., MATCH, 3400 Main St. *TruthProjectHTX.org*

June 16

• **Salvation/Pride Pool Party**
Bring your floaties and dress to impress at the annual pool party, this year at the Clé Houston club. Sponsored by Smirnoff Vodka, Smirnoff Ice, and the Harris County Health Department, with DJ Chris Zane spinning.
2 p.m., Clé Houston, 2301 Main St.
PrideHouston.org →

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The Gay (Pride) Agenda

continued from previous page

- **Pride Month Volunteer Day**

Join the Lambda Ladies at Montrose Grace Place to help organize Paula's closet, which allows homeless LGBTQ youth to shop for clothing, toiletries, and snacks. 9:30 a.m., Montrose Grace Place, 2515 Waugh Dr. *Facebook.com/events/171559593562784*

- **Pride Month Nondiscrimination Canvass**

Talk to voters about the need for comprehensive nondiscrimination protections for all Houstonians! 11 a.m., University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, 3511 Cullen Blvd. *TransformHouston.org*

- **Pride Art Show**

Check out the community art that celebrates Pride Month at Hardy & Nance Studios. 5 p.m., Hardy & Nance Studios, 902 Hardy St. *HardyAndNanceStudios.com*

- **Pride in the Country**

Boot-scootin' Pride at the Esquire Ballroom. 10 p.m., Neon Boots, 11410 Hempstead Rd. *PrideHouston.org*

June 19

- **Dine with Pride**

Hit up any area Chipotle Mexican Grill cashier and let them know that you are "Dining with Pride," and Chipotle will donate 50 percent of the price of your order to Pride Houston, Inc., to help keep admission to the Houston Pride Festival free! Chipotle Mexican Grill. *PrideHouston.org*

June 20

- **Pride at Houston Food Bank**

Volunteer at the city's largest food bank for fun activities that do good. 6 p.m., Houston Food Bank, 536 Portwall St. *DignityHouston.org*

- **Texas LGBT Law Section 20th Anniversary**

The Texas LGBT Law Section will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a screening of *Southwest of Salem: The Story of the San Antonio Four*, followed by a Q&A and cocktails with the San Antonio Four. 7 p.m., South Texas College of Law, 1303 San Jacinto *LgbtLawTX.com*

- **Rock the Runway**

Hot models and cool fashion. Plus a wild afterparty presented by Fear the Queer. 7 p.m., Audi Central Houston, 2120 Southwest Fwy. *PrideHouston.org*

June 21

- **Pride Month ActOut at the Alley**

Take in a pre-curtain event and a performance of *The Cake*, a play about the controversy over antigay religious freedom. 6 p.m., The Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave. *AlleyTheatre.org*

- **Unleashed**

Leather and Otters and Bears at the Eagle. Ten dollars at the door; come celebrate. 9 p.m., Eagle Houston, 611 Hyde Park *PrideHouston.org*



June 22

- **Rainbow on the Green**

Free Pride celebration downtown at Discovery Green park. 7 p.m., Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney St. *DiscoveryGreen.com*

- **Intercollegiate Pride Mixer**

Kick off Pride weekend by representing your school at the fifth annual Intercollegiate Pride Mixer! 6 p.m., Guava Lamp, 570 Waugh Dr. *RainbowCoogs.com*

- **Dash Pride Night**

Our women's soccer team celebrates Pride at the downtown soccer stadium. 7:30 p.m., Dynamo Stadium, 2200 Texas St. *PrideHouston.org*

- **Eden**

Head out to Pearl Bar to celebrate the fierce fems of LGBTQ Houston (men also welcome!) with a burlesque show, fun zone, and silent auction. 9 p.m., Pearl Bar, 4216 Washington Ave. *PrideHouston.org*

- **Pride Shabbat Dinner**

Keshet Houston hosts their annual LGBTQ event just prior to marching in the downtown parade. 6 p.m., Congregation Beth Yeshurun, 4525 Beechnut St. *KeshetHouston.org*

June 23

- **Houston Pride Festival**

Free and open to all (tickets are only required for VIP seating), this party is where it's at. More than 700,000 people normally attend this all-day event that culminates in the fantastic nighttime parade downtown.
Noon, Hermann Square, 901 Bagby St.
PrideHouston.org

- **Bae Watch 2: H-Town Pool Party for Pride**

Too hot to stay at the festival all day? Get advance tickets to this pool party at Aloft's downtown hotel (it sold out last year).
4 p.m., Aloft Houston Downtown, 820 Fannin
WeAreLoc.MyBigCommerce.com/bae-watch/

- **Houston Pride Parade**

It's the largest LGBTQ event in the Southwest!
8:30–11:30 p.m., downtown Houston
PrideHouston.org

- **Official After Party**

Keep the party going and dance the night away at Rich's for a $10 cover charge.
10 p.m., Rich's Houston, 2401 San Jacinto
PrideHouston.org

June 24

- **Brunch & Beatz**

Sober up (or not) at the Montrose Center with brunch and tunes. There will be dancing—and more cocktails! Sponsored by Lesbians of Color.
Noon, The Montrose Center, 401 Branard St.
PrideHouston.org

- **Tea Dance**

The official closing party for Pride Houston. Be prepared for amazing music, good drinks, great service, and dancing all night on two levels at Rich's. Start time is 5 p.m.
Rich's Houston, 2401 San Jacinto
PrideHouston.org

June 30

- **6th Annual Pay It Forward Casino Party**

Head to Neon Boots for gambling and both live and silent auctions of some cool stuff. It all benefits Texas United Charities, which raises money for the LGBTQ community in fun ways.
5–10 p.m., Neon Boots, 11410 Hempstead Rd.
txtuc.org

- **Pride Bigger than Texas**

The official San Antonio Pride celebration. The festival runs 11 a.m.–7 p.m., and the parade begins at 9 p.m.
Crockett Park, 1300 N.Main Ave., San Antonio
PrideSanAntonio.org ■



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Erik Osterrieder is IP Counsel to Pride Houston and the Purple Foundation in Dallas.

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Raising the Bar

Texas LGBT Law Section celebrates 20th anniversary with Houston screening.

By Ryan M. Leach



In 1996, a group of LGBTQ lawyers approached the State Bar of Texas and asked to create a group called the Gay and Lesbian Law Section.

The bar's board of directors voted 19 to 17 against the proposal, marking the first time it had rejected a new section, according to the February 1997 issue of *The BAHR* (Bar Association for Human Rights) *Reporter*.

Houston lawyer and activist Mitchell Katine had obtained more than 50 signatures from attorneys indicating their desire to join the section. But the board said a majority of State Bar of Texas members would "not feel comfortable with a section addressing gay and lesbian issues."

At the time, U.S. district judge Norman Black, who served as liaison to the State Bar of Texas for the federal judiciary, told the board, "I've always learned a lot about my fellow members from these meetings. Today's the first time I wasn't real proud."

The board's decision did not deter those behind the proposed LGBTQ section, however. Numerous attorneys wrote to the board to protest the vote, with one letter garnering 240 signatures from State Bar of Texas members. In 1998, the board finally agreed to create a Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification Issues Section, now called the LGBT Law Section of the State Bar of Texas.

In June, the LGBT Law Section will celebrate its 20th anniversary during the State Bar of Texas' annual meeting at the Marriott Marquis in downtown Houston. The section has grown from a small to medium size among other bar groups dedicated to minorities such as African-American Lawyers, or to areas of practice such as Oil, Gas and Energy Resources Law.

"This law section gives LGBTQ people a seat at the table as it relates to the practice of law in Texas," says John Trevino, a gay attorney and former chair of the section. "The LGBT Law Section was created to promote legal education and advocacy about LGBT issues, HIV-related law, and to promote LGBT attorneys within the legal profession. In the last few years, this section has been able to contribute a great deal to the State Bar in regards to marriage equality, among other things."

Indeed, LGBTQ legal issues go beyond marriage equality. For instance, when immigrants seek asylum in U.S. due to the violent persecution of LGBTQ people in their home countries, finding qualified attorneys is vital. Many people also seek out attorneys to represent them in discrimination cases. Neither state nor federal law explicitly prohibits anti-LGBTQ job bias.

This year, the section helped the State Bar of Texas craft several sessions that will be open to all attorneys. Nicole LeBoeuf, the incoming chair of the section, will discuss the role of LGBTQ allies on June 21. (Current chair Claire Bow is a transgender woman who is stepping down at the end of her term.)

On June 22, sessions will be offered on the *Masterpiece Cakeshop* Supreme Court case dealing with antigay religious refusals, and on *Pidgeon v. Turner*, which originated in Houston and deals with benefits for the same-sex spouses of government employees.

On June 20 at the South Texas College of Law Houston, the section will host its 20th-anniversary celebration and a screening of *Southwest of Salem: The Story of the San Antonio Four*, a new documentary about the San Antonio lesbians who were finally exonerated in 2016 after being wrongfully convicted of sexual abuse of children in the 1990s. The film highlights the important work that Texas lawyers have done for justice and equality in the LGBTQ and Latino communities.

What: LGBT Law Section 20th-Anniversary Celebration
When: June 20 at 7 p.m.
Where: South Texas College of Law Houston, 1303 San Jacinto St.
More info: LGBTLawTX.com

Ryan Leach is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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A Brief History of Houston Pride

continued from page 86



2017: Wonderland

Although the event's festive theme was widely criticized in light of the recent election of president Donald Trump, the downtown parade continued to grow, drawing an estimated 700,000 people. The afternoon festival was again held in front of City Hall, with the reflecting pool serving as a wading area for attendees seeking relief from the heat.

Pride Houston spent $15,000 to install rainbow-colored crosswalks at the intersection of Westheimer and Taft, and HPD's parade entry featured an SUV adorned with Pride stickers.



In October, Pride Houston filed a lawsuit against former president Frankie Quijano, alleging he had refused to turn over the organization's business assets. The parties agreed to a settlement in December, and Lo Roberts officially became the first black female president of the organization.

Brandon Wolf is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

Celebrate Pride with Resurrection MCC

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Wednesdays
JUNE 6, 13, 20, 27
7:00 - 8:30 pm

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Saturday
JUNE 9
6:30 - 10:00 pm

Show your pride, win prizes, and celebrate community! Food, soft drinks, beer, and wine available for purchase. Doors open at 6:00 pm. Bingo begins at 6:30 pm. $20 for 10 games.



Saturday
JUNE 16
6:00 - 7:00 pm

Mixing the story of *The Wizard of Oz* with Todrick Hall's life story and beliefs, this modernized musical remake includes themes such as love, gay rights, police brutality, and more. Free showing.



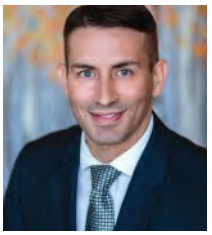
Thursday
JUNE 21
7:00 - 8:30 pm

Resurrection MCC is proud to host this annual event in partnership with the Faith Leaders Coalition. This joyful, inclusive celebration includes participants from over a dozen faith traditions.

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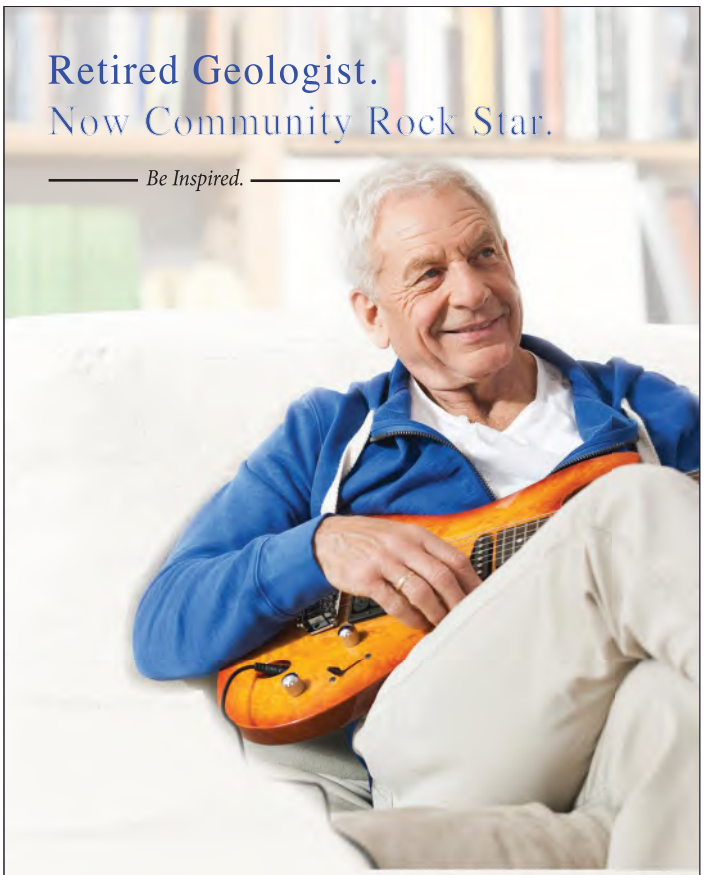
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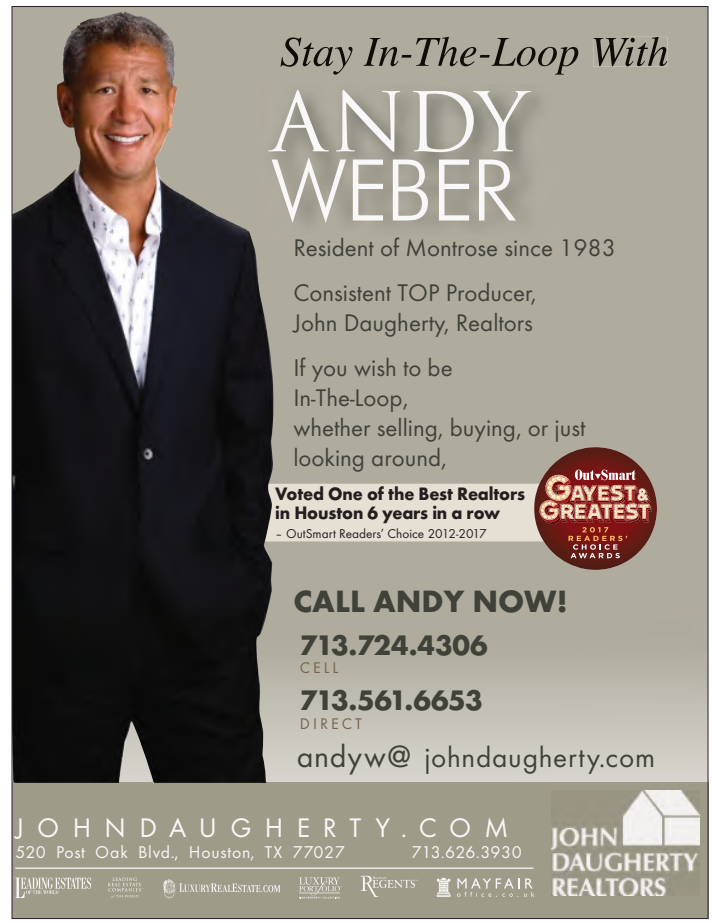
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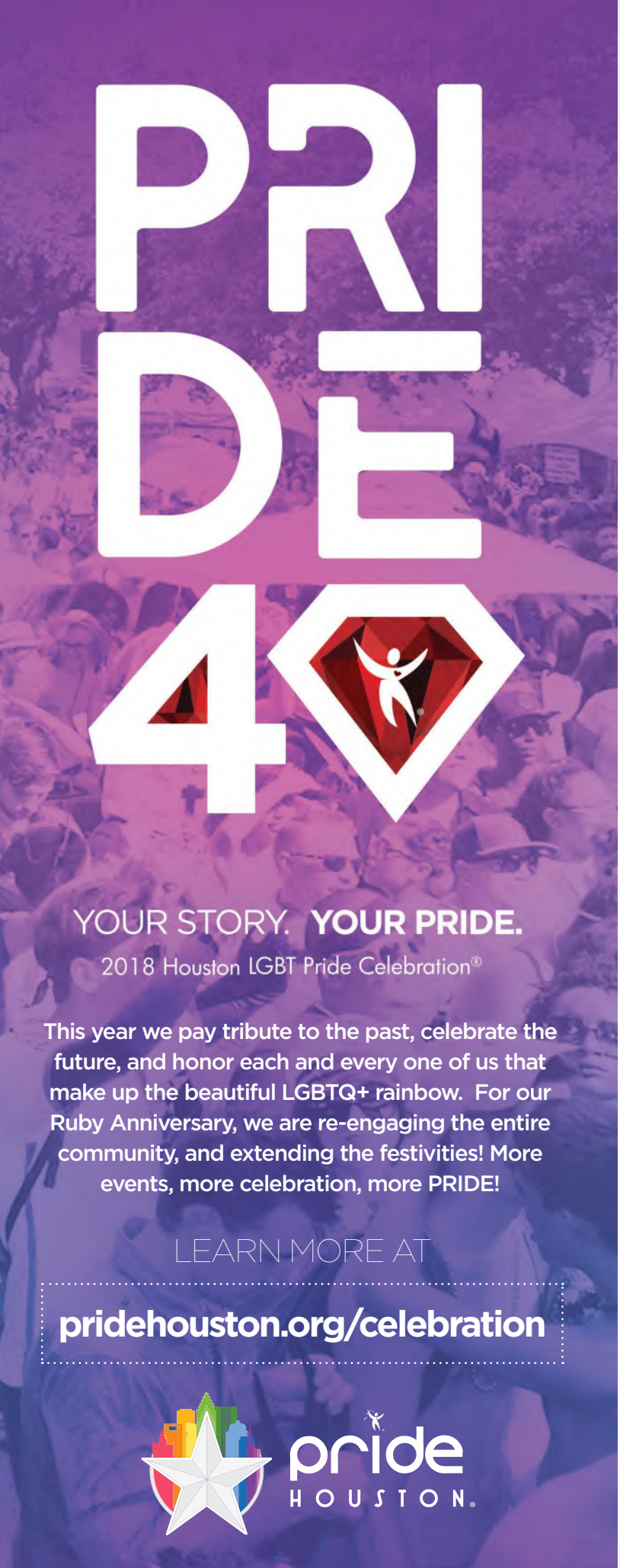
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pridehouston.org/celebration

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10 DAYS OF PRIDE

Find complete information for all Pride Houston events at **pridehouston.org/celebration**.

6/14

Grand Marshal Reception
Thursday, June 14 | 6PM
Hamburger Mary's

Pride Superstar Competition Finale
Thursday, June 14 | 9PM
Rich's Houston

6/15

Jumper Maybach: The Pride Collection
Friday, June 15 | 6PM
Jumper Maybach Fine Art Studio

6/16

Salvation: Pride Pool Party
Saturday, June 16 | 2PM
Cle' Houston | $20 - $25

Pride in the Country
Thursday, June 16 | 9PM
Neon Boots

6/19

Dine with Pride
Houston Area Chipotles
Tuesday, June 19 | All Day

6/20

Rock the Runway
Wednesday, June 20 | 7PM
Audi Central Houston | Free Entry

Fear the Queer Presents:
Rock the Runway Afterparty
Wednesday, June 20 | 10PM

6/21

Unleashed
Thursday, June 21 | 9PM
Eagle | $10

6/22

Rainbow on the Green
Friday, June 22 | 7PM
Discovery Green

Pride in the Park: Houston Dash
Friday, June 22 | 7:30PM
Dynamo Stadium | $25

Eden
Friday, June 22 | 9PM
Pearl Bar | $10

6/23

Houston LGBT Pride Celebration®
Saturday, June 23 | 12PM - 10PM
Downtown Houston | Free / VIP Available

Afterparty
Sunday, June 23 | 10PM
Rich's Houston | $10

6/24

Brunch & Beatz
Sunday, June 24 | 12PM
The Montrose Center | $30

Tea Dance
Sunday, June 24 | 5PM
Rich's Houston | $10



SALVATION

PRIDE POOL PARTY

Let's get Wet! The official Pride pool party returns bigger, better, and hotter than ever. 21+, VIP cabanas available through Cle' Houston. Purchase tickets at pridehouston.org.

Saturday, June 16 | 2PM | Cle' Houston | $20 - $25

DINE WITH PRIDE

Dine at Chipotle Mexican Grill on Tuesday, June 19th and Chipotle will donate 50% of the proceeds of your order will help keep the Houston Pride Festival free.

Tuesday, June 19 | All Day





ROCK THE RUNWAY

Featuring some of the hottest models in Houston walking the catwalk in this summer's latest fashions. Fabulous cocktails and delicious nibbles will be provided.

Wednesday, June 20 | 7PM
Audi Central Houston | Free Entry

PRIDE IN THE PARK

Special Dash Pride Night ticket packages include one ticket to the match, and one Dash Pride tee. Dash Season Ticket Members and Dash fans can also make a $15 ticket donation and receive a Dash Pride tee.

Friday, June 22 | 7:30PM | Dynamo Stadium





AFTERPARTY

The Parade is over, but the party is getting hotter. This 21+ event will reach capacity. Rich's encourages the purchase of pre-sale tickets to skip the line.

Saturday, June 23 | 10PM
Rich's Houston | $10



EDEN

Dedicated to the women of the LGBTQ+ Community, and everyone is welcome! Expect an inflatable fun zone, burlesque show and the unexpected.

Friday, June 22 | 9PM | Pearl Bar | $10



HOT TEA

The Celebration may be over but the party doesn't end there. Join us at the official closing party.

Sunday, June 24 | 5PM
Rich's Houston | $10

#PRIDE40

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2018 Houston
LGBT Pride Celebration®

FESTIVAL

June 23 | 12PM

The Houston Pride Celebration® Festival is at the center of the Celebration with hundreds of booths, food vendors and live stage entertainment. The Festival is free to attend.

DOWNTOWN HOUSTON



pride HOUSTON

pridehouston.org/festival

PARADE

June 23 | 8PM - 11:30PM

2018 is our Ruby Anniversary! When we light up the streets of Downtown Houston, we do so in remembrance of those who fought for the rights we have over the last 40 years, and we celebrate our hope for the future. The parade is free, but VIP tickets are available at pridehouston.org/vip.



DOWNTOWN HOUSTON

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2018 Houston LGBT Pride Celebration®

pridehouston.org/parade

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TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.** If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA **by itself** is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **Also take** certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

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

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- **Bone problems,** including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

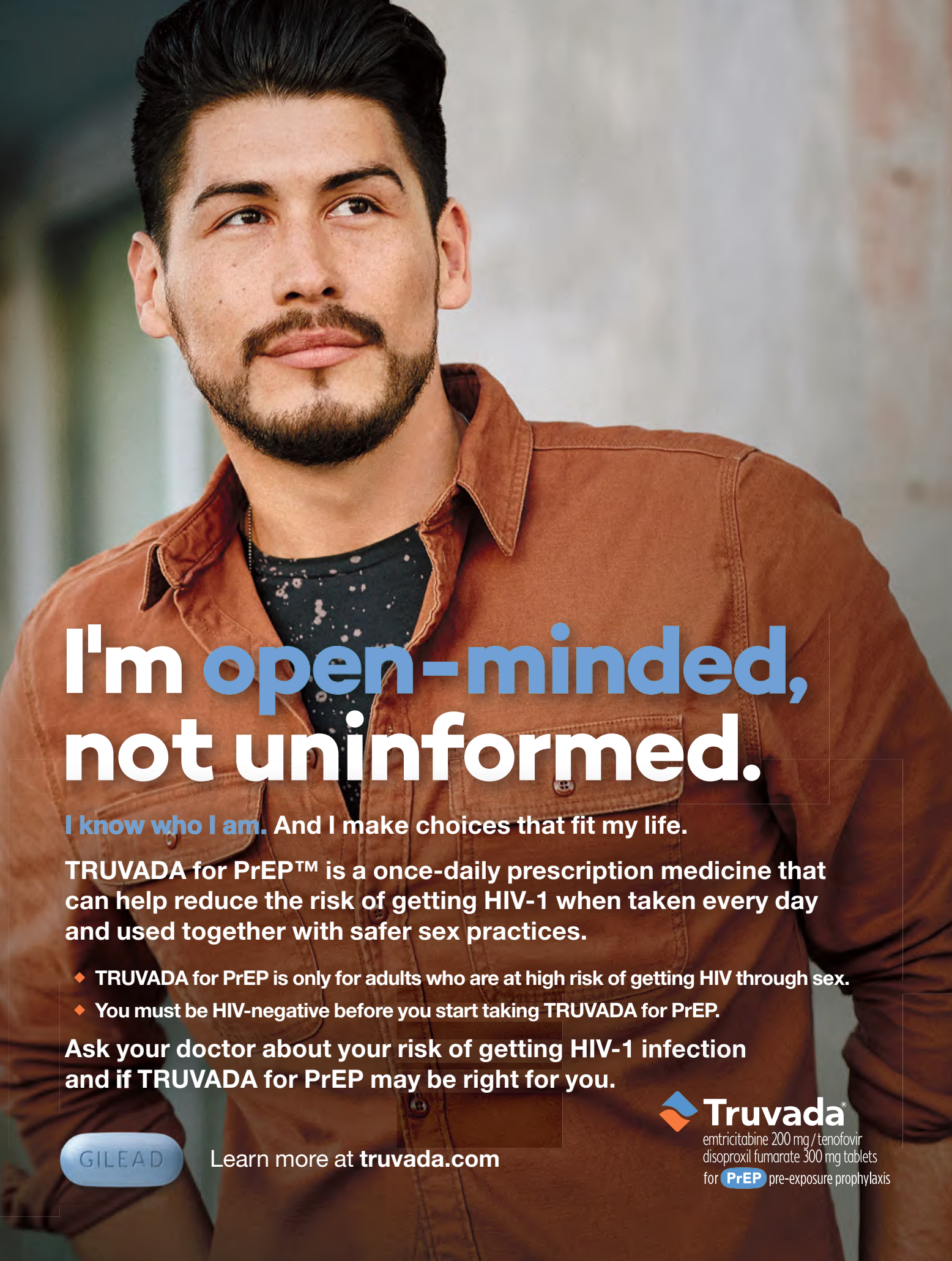
Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

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

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

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

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


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TRUVADA for PrEP™ is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.
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IMPORTANT FACTS

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

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

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

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the "How To Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day**, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

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

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

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

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

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

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OUT FOR CHANGE

Aiming for the History Books

Elizabeth Markowitz would be first openly LGBTQ person elected to State Board of Education.

By Marene Gustin

Although she is running in a conservative Texas district, State Board of Education (SBOE) candidate Elizabeth Markowitz says her sexual orientation hasn't been an issue on the campaign trail.

"I was asked about the bathroom issue once," Markowitz says, referring to transgender restroom access in schools. "I said I had no problem with unisex bathrooms, and I got yelled at.

"But the real issue in Texas schools is that it is more about teaching to a test, instead of what the students are learning in the classroom," she says.

Markowitz, a 35-year-old out lesbian and educator, is the Democratic nominee for SBOE in District 7, which covers a huge swath of southeast Texas.

Like many first-time candidates in 2018, Markowitz says her reason for getting in the race was simple.

"I realized no one else was going to step up," she says.

Markowitz would be the first openly LGBTQ person elected to the 15-member board. Former SBOE member George Clayton was defeated in the 2012 Republican primary after being outed as gay. In 2016, Houston's Dakota Carter won the Democratic nomination for SBOE in District 6, but lost in the general election.

Except for the occasional controversy, the SBOE often flies under the radar and is considered a down-ballot race that rouses little public interest. But members do the important work of approving textbooks, setting graduation requirements, reviewing new charter-school applications, and overseeing the Texas Permanent School Fund, which generates public-school funding from the sale of mineral rights on property it owns.

Markowitz says her number-one priority is curriculum.

"There are 15 board members—some with no education experience—choosing textbooks for 5.25 million Texas students," she says. "Some of our current textbooks now say the Civil War was about land rights, as opposed to slavery."

In April, the board finally approved a high-school course in Mexican-American studies, but Republicans on the board insisted on calling it Ethnic Studies: An Overview of Americans of Mexican Descent. This in a state where the majority of public school students are Mexican-Americans.

Markowitz believes if Texas can elect eight board members "who believe in science and history," things may change. That seems optimistic, since conservatives have controlled the board for decades. But she believes she has a real chance at winning.

Beaumont businessman David Bradley has held the District 7 position for 20 years. He's retiring and has endorsed GOP nominee Matt Robinson, a urologist and Friendswood ISD board member who ran unopposed in the Republican primary. Markowitz, also unopposed in the primary, will face Robinson in November.

She says that Robinson is not actively campaigning. "His website has been down for three months." At press time, VoteMattRobinson.com was not active, but he did have a Facebook page for his campaign, although the last post was from a year ago.

In the meantime, Markowitz has been crisscrossing the district trying to reach as many voters as possible.

"If we can get the teachers to the polls, I think we can make a difference," she says.

Regarding the recent spate of teacher strikes over poor school conditions in other states, she thinks Texas schools are no better off. "If Texas teachers were legally allowed to strike," she says, "I think they would be doing that, too."

Editor's Note: *This article is part of "Out for Change in 2018," a monthly series on LGBTQ candidates in Texas, who were the subject of our January issue. For more, visit tinyurl.com/outforchange2018.*



Markowitz is a native Texan who currently lives in Katy near her father, who she says is her biggest supporter. Her late mother was a teacher, and both parents always stressed the importance of education to her.

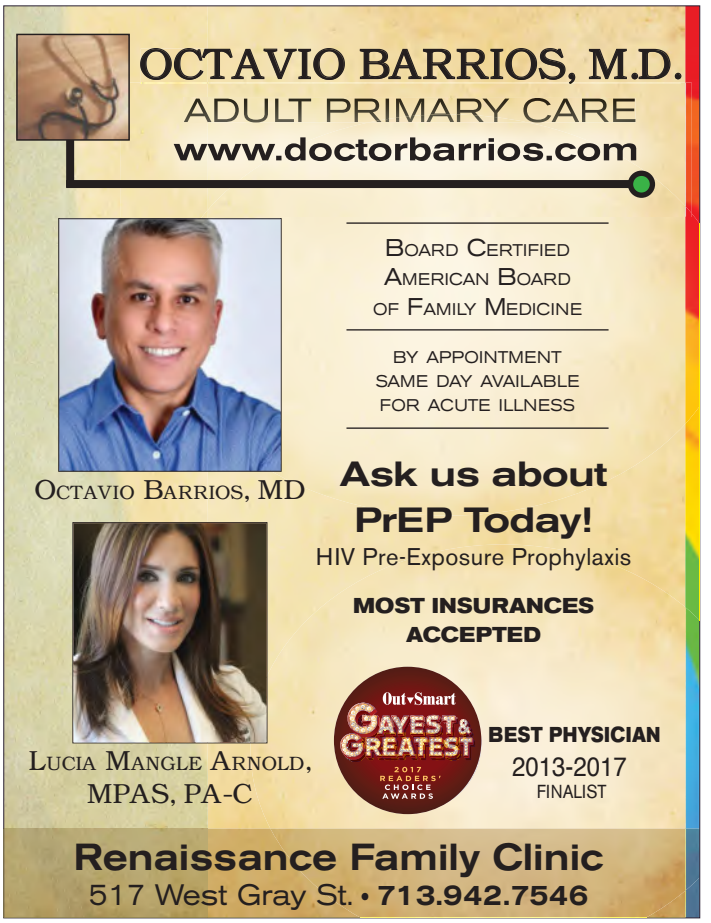
Not surprisingly, Markowitz has spent the majority of her life either studying or teaching others. She got her bachelor's degree in computer science and studio art at Trinity University in San Antonio, where she worked as a teacher at both The Princeton Review and the Southwest School of Art.

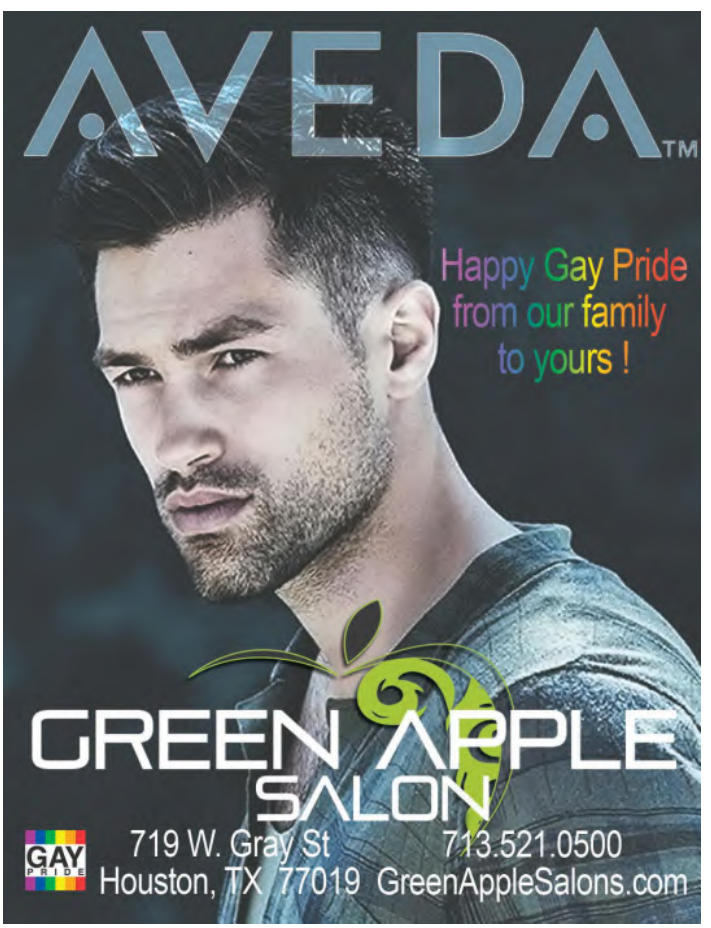
She went on to receive an advanced degree in technology management at the University of Texas at San Antonio. She also worked at a lesbian bar to help put herself through graduate school. Next came the UT Health Science Center in Houston, where she entered a health informatics program and conducted research on electronic medical records usage while working with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. But she wasn't done yet: she earned a doctorate in curriculum and instruction in 2017.

Today, Markowitz still teaches for The Princeton Review, where she is also a corporate trainer. She has co-authored a book, *High School Algebra I Unlocked: Your Key to Mastering Algebra I*. Along the way, she has also been heavily involved in LGBTQ and Democratic causes.

For more on Markowitz's campaign, visit Eliz4tx.com.

Marene Gustin is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.





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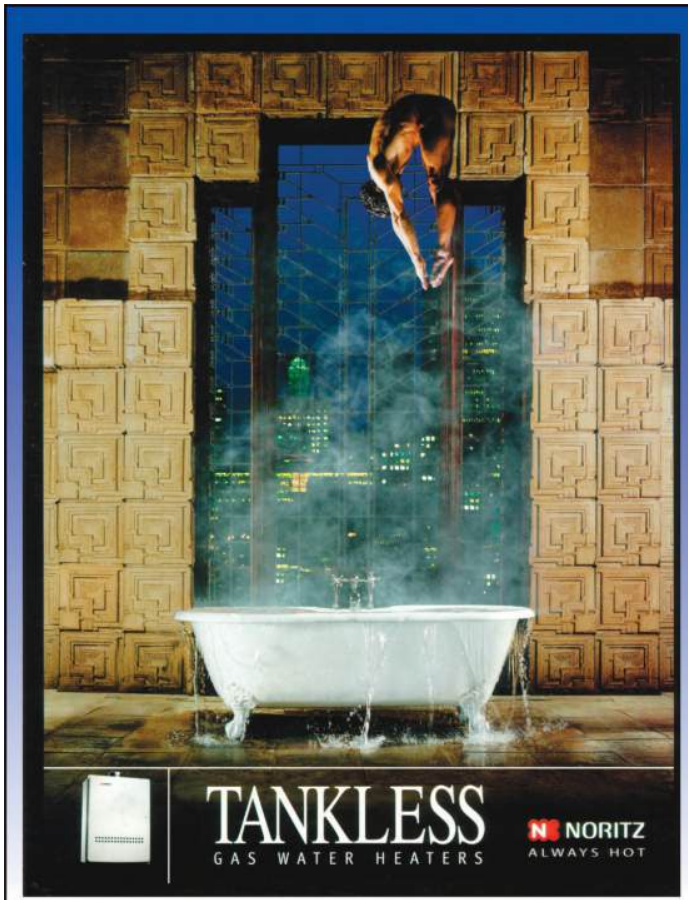
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TRIXIE SCHTICK

RuPaul's Drag Race star brings musical-comedy tour to Houston.

By Lourdes Zavaleta
Photo by Cyriel Jacobs



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Trixie Schtick

continued from previous page

Trixie Mattel is no stranger to overcoming adversity. In fact, the winner of *RuPaul's Drag Race All Stars 3* seems to thrive on it.

Mattel, the drag persona of Milwaukee-born Brian Firkus, tells OutSmart that when she was growing up, her family was extremely poor. Her abusive stepfather called her "Trixie" whenever she acted feminine.

"I've never let my life situations influence what I could and couldn't do," says Mattel, who is half American Indian. "I take pride in people seeing me as a strong artist, despite everything I've been through. But that's not the label I really want."

On *RuPaul's Drag Race Season 7*, Mattel again faced adversity—though perhaps on a lesser scale. She was eliminated in Episode 4 before being brought back in Episode 8, only to be eliminated again in Episode 10 and finishing in sixth place.

But in the three years since then, Mattel has gone on to become one of the most successful stars in the show's history. She has released two albums, launched a web series that made its way to cable TV, and most recently won *All Stars 3*.

"The first time I was on *Drag Race*, I lost twice," Mattel says. "I didn't let that stop me from doing anything that I wanted with my career. I'm living proof that you don't need anyone to tell you that you're a winner. You just go out and be one."



Trixie Mattel

Mattel will bring her guitar, her dark comedy routine, and her Dolly Parton-inspired looks to the House of Blues Houston on June 30 for the final performance of her American tour, "Now with Moving Parts." She will sing live, make jokes about the current political climate, and lip-sync to mashups of pop songs she's curated.

Mattel says it's a 1960s-themed tour featuring creative elements that make it unlike any of her previous performances.

"My past shows were about stand-up [comedy], and there wasn't as much music," Mattel says. "This one is more of a hippy '60s folk-music TV special meets a Netflix comedy special. I love 'Moving Parts' so much. I can't wait for everyone to see it."

Dumbfounded by her success, Mattel says she never knew she could accomplish so much doing drag.

"I can't say that I ever thought I'd be famous," Mattel says. "I started writing songs in my room when I was 13. I've always liked doing comedy and performing in drag. Everything I do has always been for my own enjoyment, so it's nice that there have been cool things attached to that."

Mattel put herself through college at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, where she did drag for the first time in a school production of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Coincidentally, she stepped in for the show's character named Trixie.

While the style of Mattel's outfits varies, her face always features overdrawn lips, extremely contoured cheekbones, and large cartoonish eyes. When Mattel first started doing drag, she went only by Trixie, but after Milwaukee club patrons referred to her as "the girl who looks like a Barbie doll," she added her last name in homage to the toy brand.

Seven years later, Mattel made her debut on *Drag Race Season 7*. Following the show in 2016, Mattel and fellow Season 7 breakout star Katya Zamolodchikova launched a web series called *UNHhhh* on YouTube's World of Wonder channel. World of Wonder is also the name of the company that produces *Drag Race*. The Viceland cable channel then took an interest in the series and brought the queens to television for *The Trixie & Katya Show*.

Mattel made her music debut in 2017 with the album *One Stone*, and followed it up in 2018 with *Two Birds*. The latter recently hit number-one on iTunes' Singer-Songwriter chart and Billboard's Heatseekers chart, making her the first drag queen to become a country-music star.

Mattel's music videos feature scenes where she is breaking men's hearts, both in and out of drag. While she recognizes that creates LGBTQ representation in country music,



Alter Egos
The cover of 'Two Birds' features Trixie Mattel alongside her non-drag persona, Brian Firkus.

Mattel says this hasn't been her goal.

"I don't portray myself with guys for any sort of social justice," Mattel says. "I want to portray myself with guys in my videos not because it's gay, but because it's me—and it's silly."

The day *Two Birds* debuted on the charts, Mattel was crowned the newest winner of *All Stars,* a *Drag Race* spinoff series that brings back contestants who placed high during their seasons for a second chance at a position in RuPaul's "Hall of Fame." Mattel is half Ojibwe on her mother's side, making her the first American Indian to win the show.

"It's called *reparation,*" Mattel jokes, adding that she grew up feeling mostly white. "There have been just as many people of color who have won *Drag Race* as there have been Caucasian winners. It's a show that does not see color, but rather judges people by their artistry."

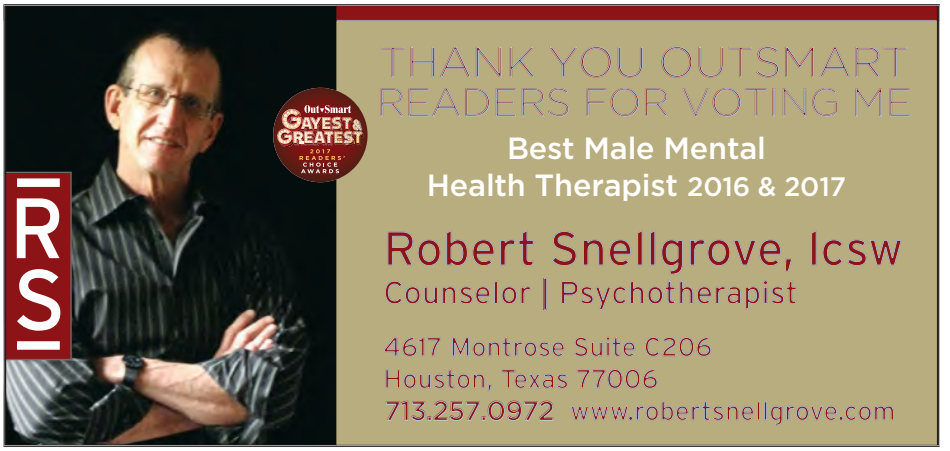
Drag Race recently moved from the Logo LGBTQ cable channel to VH1—a testament to the show's popularity that has also helped mainstream TV audiences become more familiar with drag.

Mattel believes that as the audience for *Drag Race* continues to grow, fans will start seeing drag as more than just gay men dressing up in feminine clothing.

"I'm not any different than other musicians or comedians who dress up as their personas," Mattel says. "I'm a man who dresses up in costumes. In the future, we won't really use the word *drag.* One day, it's going to be called *RuPaul's Performance-Art Race.*"

What: Now with Moving Parts
When: 7 p.m. on June 30
Where: House of Blues Houston, 1204 Caroline St.
Tickets: tinyurl.com/trixiemattelhouston

Lourdes Zavaleta is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.







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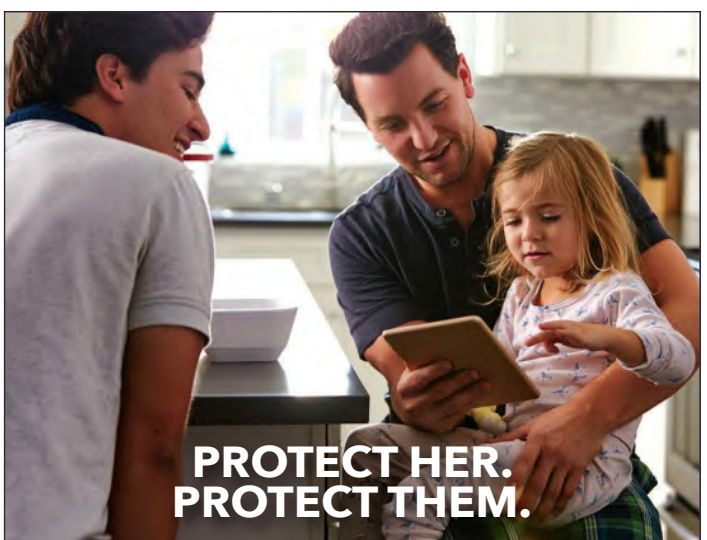
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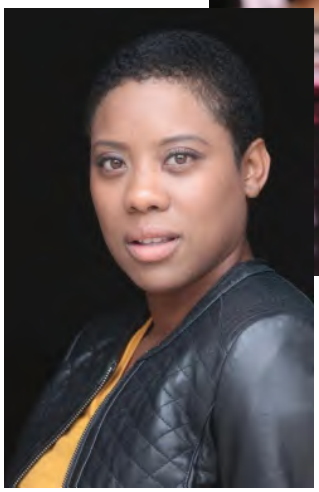
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‘Masterpiece’ Theater

As the Supreme Court weighs antigay bakers, the Alley takes *The Cake*.

By Don Maines





HUTHPHOTO

Wedding Wars
Julia Gibson, above, plays Della, a bakery owner who refuses to make a wedding cake for a lesbian couple, in PlayMakers Repertory Company’s production of ‘The Cake’ by Bekah Brunstetter. Houston actor Candice D’Meza, at left, plays one of the women getting married.

In a ripped-from-the-headlines play this month at the Alley Theatre, the author of *The Cake* dares to find good people on both sides of the issue of whether a Christian baker can be allowed to refuse to make cakes for a same-sex wedding.

The production is so timely that, before its run ends July 1, the U.S. Supreme Court will rule in the real-life case of a baker in Lakewood, Colorado, who balked at creating a custom cake for a gay couple’s reception.

The Supreme Court heard oral arguments in *Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission* in December. Both the baker, Jack Phillips, and the aggrieved couple, Charlie Craig and David Mullins, were present. One justice joked, “Well, I’ve never had wedding cake I liked anyway.”

Earlier in 2017, Bekah Brunstetter’s play, *The Cake*, was presented as a reading in the Alley All New Festival, with the author present to watch her words leap from the page to the stage.

“The reading helped me figure out a big piece at the end of the play,” says Brunstetter. “Once you see actors embodying the characters, what’s missing is revealed to you. I am still tinkering with it.”

The Cake enjoyed a world premiere last July at Echo Theater in Los Angeles, where Brunstetter, who isn’t gay, lives with her husband, actor Morrison Keddie. Brunstetter is a writer and supervising producer on NBC-TV’s Emmy Award-nominated series *This Is Us*.

The Alley’s press material summarizes *The Cake* as follows: “Jen lives in New York but has always dreamed of getting married in her native North Carolina. With the wedding six months away, she heads down South to ask Della, her late mother’s best friend who owns a bakery there, to do the honors of making her wedding cake. Della’s cakes are the best—she’s going to compete on TV’s *The Great American Baking Show*, no big deal. Della is overjoyed to make Jen’s cake—until she realizes that there isn’t just one bride, but two. She can’t really bake a cake for such a wedding, can she? Moral quandaries, reality TV, and loads and loads of butter form this play about three women trying to reach out across a divide that just keeps growing.”

In addition to Jen and Della, we meet Della’s stubborn husband, Tim, a plumber, and Jen’s fiancée, who cries, “I’m black *and* I’m agnostic *and* I’m a woman *and* I’m tall *and* I’m queer. I’m in a world that is not designed for me.”

Brunstetter says it’s important to her that audiences don’t view any of the characters as villains, even though they don’t see eye-to-eye.

“I grew up in a lovely conservative family,” says the native of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. “One of the main things we disagree about is gay marriage, but I am incapable of not loving them.”

In March, when the play was performed at La Jolla Playhouse in San Diego (starring Tony Award-winner Faith Prince as Della), Philip Brandes of the *Los Angeles Times* wrote, “What’s refreshing and heartening about *The Cake* is its characters’ willingness to face their differences and limitations head on, and attempt to bridge them—a more promising route than abdicating our personal moral choices →





'Masterpiece' Theater

continued from previous page

to the legal system. This is us as we could be, if we'd all just try a little harder."

Theater critic Jean Lowerison, reviewing *The Cake* for the *San Diego Gay and Lesbian News*, wrote, "I can identify with the issues here. I grew up in a similar fundamentalist religious tradition, and I too escaped, never to return. It's difficult for me to even watch this kind of discrimination for what seems to me no good reason. Despite my admitted bias, though, I had a somewhat more forgiving opinion of [Della's 'hidebound' husband] once the source of his own sadness was revealed."

An off-Broadway run of *The Cake* was recently announced for February 2019 at the prestigious Manhattan Theatre Club in New York City.

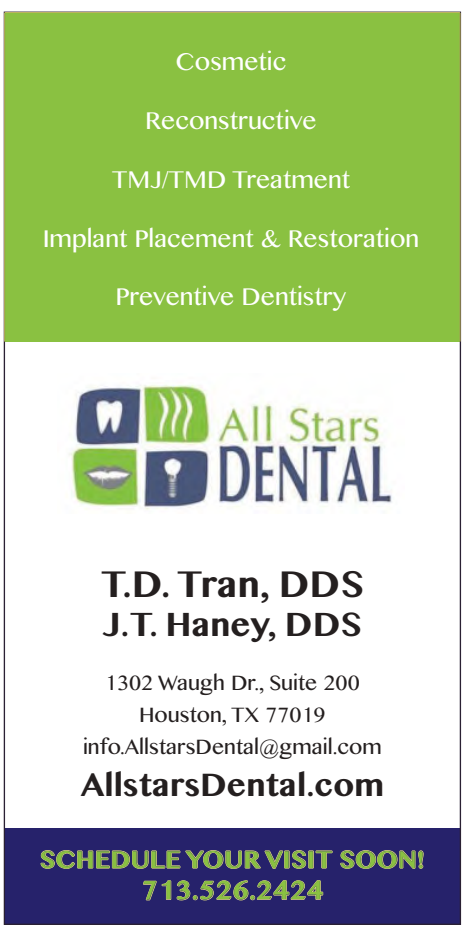
Meanwhile, Brunstetter looks forward to seeing how the Supreme Court rules.

"Like everyone, I'm just waiting to see what the decision is," she says.

What: *The Cake*, by Bekah Brunstetter
When: June 1–July 1, with a special Pride-month ActOut performance on June 21
Where: The Alley Theatre, 615 Texas Ave.
Tickets: AlleyTheatre.org or 713.220.5700

Don Maines is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

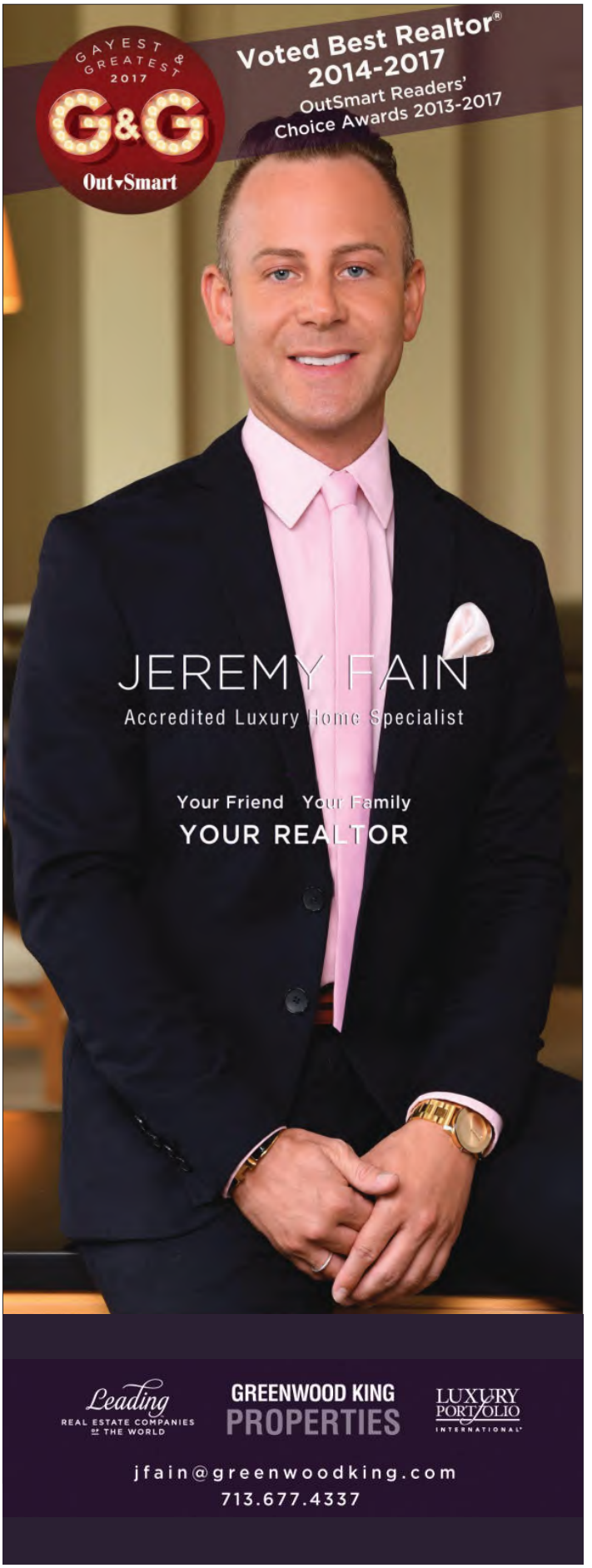







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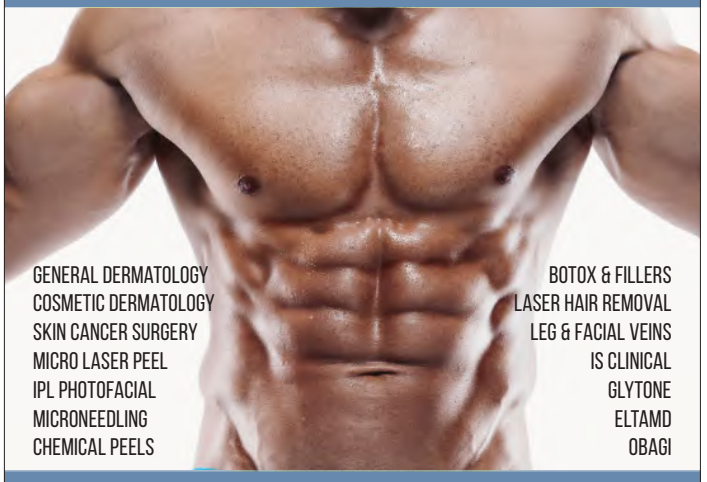
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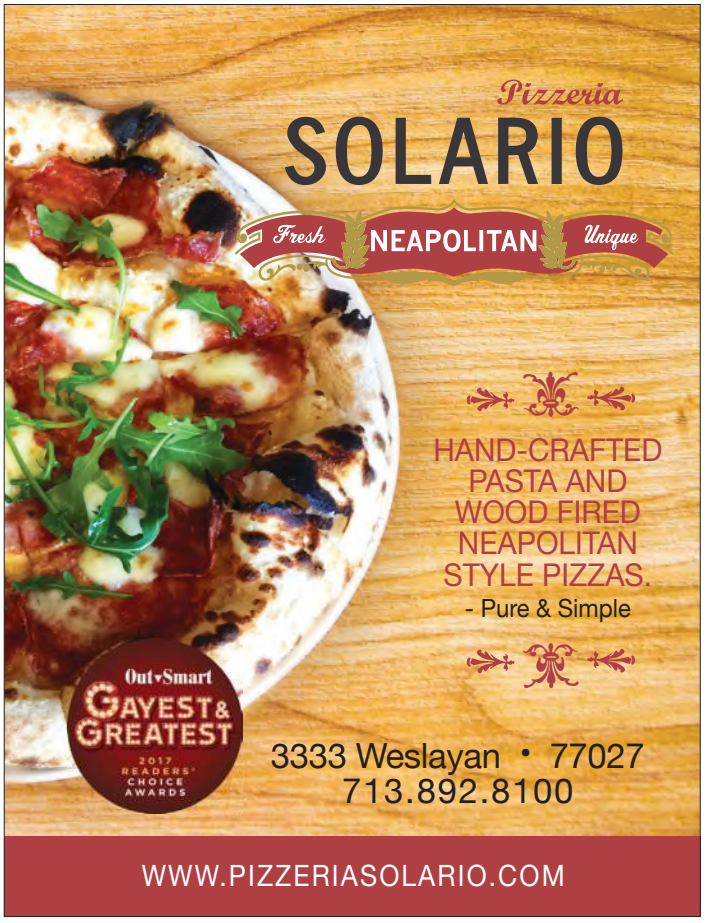


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‘I’m Not Lying!’

Out comic Jaston Williams bares all in Galveston show.

By Marene Gustin

Photo by Kirk Tuck

Following The Great Tamale Incident of 1976—when president Gerald Ford visited San Antonio for the Fiesta River Parade and ate a tamale without shucking it—first lady Betty Ford served as the parade’s grand marshal, and Jaston Williams and Joe Sears were both there to see it.

The comedy duo of Williams and Sears, who would later become famous for their hilarious *Greater Tuna* plays, created chaos on the riverbank.

“There was a long delay because of the Secret Service,” Williams recalls. “After a long time, Joe and I just started yelling, ‘Float her down, float her down!’”

Suddenly they were surrounded by agents, missed the parade, and finally headed over to a gay bar with the agents following close behind.

“That was probably a first for the Secret Service,” he laughs.

That’s just one of the true stories Williams tells in his one-man autobiographical performance, *I’m Not Lying!*, which comes to Galveston’s Grand 1894 Opera House this month. Written in 2003 and first performed in Austin, Williams is rewriting sections of the play to add new stories. He calls the current version *I’m Not Lying! 2*.

For those who only know Williams from his portrayal of the wacky inhabitants of Greater Tuna (the second-smallest town in Texas), *I’m Not Lying! 2* is a revealing glimpse into the actor’s life.

“I’ve had an amazing life,” he says. “It’s been everything but dull.”

That’s an understatement. In one of the play’s vignettes he tells of attending a Renaissance party at Dennis Hopper’s home in Taos, New Mexico, dressed in a yellow chicken suit with balloons. “It was a Renaissance farm animal,” he says. It’s a costume he also wears in the play, while telling the story. “It was in the ’70s, and you knew it was a good party because there was a rumor going around that Bob Dylan was there.”

Williams is the child of a schoolteacher and a farmer. He grew up in West Texas, a slight boy who took dance classes and used comedy as a way to avoid being bullied.

“Those big farm boys were like, ‘Don’t beat him up, he’s funny!’ So they’d beat up someone else,” he says.

In West Texas, Williams was expected to marry young. He did so and had a son, Shane, who was killed in a car accident in 1995. But the marriage ended early, and he became a nomad moving between Texas, Taos, and →



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In his one-man autobiographical performance, Jaston Williams dresses in a yellow chicken suit to tell the story of when he did so at a Renaissance party hosted by Dennis Hopper in Taos, New Mexico. ‘It was a Renaissance farm animal,’ he says.

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'I'm Not Lying!'

continued from previous page

San Francisco.

"The first time I went there, I thought I'd died and gone to heaven," Williams says of San Francisco. "The '70s were such an amazing time. It was the beginning of the gay revolution. Sadly, so many of those wonderful people were lost during the AIDS epidemic of the 1980s. Sometimes I wonder how many plays, how many films were never written because of their loss."

Fast-forward to 2001, and he was back in Texas where he met musician Kevin Mooney, who now teaches jazz history at Texas State University.

"Here was a jazz musician who had never smoked weed, never been arrested," Williams says of his husband of 11 years. "And I had never had a boyfriend who hadn't been on the Post Office wall." But it worked out, and the two eventually adopted a 7-year-old Chinese boy with special needs. Song, now 20, still lives with his fathers and is the light of their lives. Williams says that they got the best child in China, out of millions.

The family lives in Lockhart, outside of Austin. Friends who lived there had invited them to visit for dinner. As Williams tells it, they went to Lockhart for a hamburger and ended up buying a mid-century Palm Beach-style home that they eventually renovated.

"Kevin was very excited about moving to a small town," he recalls. "He thought it was going to be so perfect. So we're driving around town and I say, 'See that old couple over there? They're saying, "There go those two big queers with that Chinese orphan!"'"

But he says it's turned out fine, particularly when people see how loved Song is and how well he's been raised. "He always says please and thank you, and Texans love that," Williams says.

As for his upcoming trip to Galveston, Williams says The Grand is his favorite place to work, both because of executive director Maureen Patton and because of the beauty of the theater. He also loves the restaurants on the island, particularly Rudy & Paco Restaurant and Bar, a Mexican spot near the theater.

Although this comic genius shows no sign of slowing down, for now he is finished with political humor.

"Trump has killed satire," Williams says. "How can you make that more ridiculous? I can't even turn on the news before noon any more."

What: Jaston Williams in *I'm Not Lying!*
When: June 23, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Where: Galveston's Grand 1894 Opera House
Tickets: thegrand.com

Marene Gustin is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.



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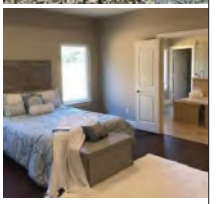
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‘Muy Caliente’

Out director puts some Latin twists on a classic at TUTS.

By Don Maines
Photo by Os Galindo



‘Uno Más’

The box-office success of *In the Heights* at Theatre Under The Stars, above, led openly gay director Nick DeGruccio (below) to consider *Guys and Dolls* as another attraction that would appeal to Hispanic audiences.

The Hot Box nightclub is *muy caliente* in the latest Theatre Under The Stars production of *Guys and Dolls*.

That’s because the show is Latin-inspired, says director Nick DeGruccio, who previously ignited Lin-Manuel Miranda’s breakthrough musical *In the Heights* with a hip-hop/salsa beat in the 2016–17 season of TUTS. Miranda, of *Hamilton* fame, won his first Tony Award for scoring *In the Heights*, a lavish valentine to his mostly Hispanic Washington Heights neighborhood in the Big Apple.

The box-office success of *In the Heights* in Houston led the openly gay DeGruccio to consider *Guys and Dolls* as another attraction that would appeal to Hispanic audiences. The musical about the colorful denizens of New York City’s underworld won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama in 1951. Setting the entire show around a Copacabana-type nightclub, where “music and passion are always the fashion,” is a new concept.

“I realized, after some research, that *Guys and Dolls* lined up perfectly with the big influx of people to New York City from Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and Puerto Rico,” DeGruccio says. “They created the city’s Latin Quarter, which had clubs and showgirls and immigrants who resorted to some criminal behavior, even though the characters are all lovable in the show.”



COURTESY TUTS

DeGruccio feels “very surprised” that nobody has previously tried depicting the show’s gamblers, mobsters, and molls as Latinos. The main characters, created by the Prohibition-era newsman Damon Runyon, include Nathan Detroit, who curates “the oldest established, permanent, floating crap game in New York” in venues ranging from a church basement to a giant storm sewer; his long-suffering girlfriend, Hot Box headliner Miss Adelaide, who is miffed that Nathan keeps postponing their wedding (what a spitfire she will be!); handsome high-roller Sky Masterson (played by a magnetic Marlon Brando in the 1955 movie version); and frigid Sergeant Sarah Brown from the Save-a-Soul Mission. Sky Masterson sets out to romance Brown after Nathan Detroit bets him $1,000 that the prim and proper sergeant won’t fly to Havana, Cuba, with the high-roller.

Supporting roles go to small-time crooks with names like Nicely-Nicely Johnson, Benny Southstreet, and Harry the Horse.

“Primarily, we have Latinos playing most of the parts, and they ad lib in Spanish,” DeGruccio says. “An exception is that we cast Sarah as a Caucasian, which creates a little more tension between her and Sky Masterson. We get to show love crossing ethnic lines.”

Mischievously, he adds, “The show isn’t gay *per se*, but I think the LGBTQ community will appreciate how inclusive our production is, and how we are celebrating our community through its diversity. Reading the material with the dialect of Latinos just feels right. It’s wonderful. I think it’s going to be hysterically funny, as well as heartwarming.”

Guys and Dolls has always had loads of heart, along with one of Broadway’s most beloved musical scores.

DeGruccio, who grew up in Commack on Long Island, now lives in Los Angeles where he’s a freelance director and college theater →

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'Muy Caliente'

continued from previous page

DeGruccio's interest in theater began when he was 15 and saw a production of Peter Shaffer's *Equus*, in which a British psychiatrist considers sexual attraction and religious mythology as possible motivating factors for a naked stable boy blinding six horses. "The intensity and thrilling nature of it hit me like a ton of bricks," he says. "I started auditioning for high-school plays."

Next, enrolling in the theater department in nearby Hofstra University, DeGruccio found himself surrounded by gays and lesbians. "I thought, 'Oh my God, everybody's like me.' I came flying out of the closet."

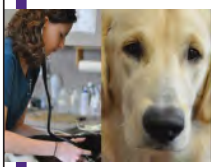
Next up for DeGruccio will be a trip to Florida to direct the September 5–October 7 production of *In the Heights* at the Orlando Shakespeare Festival.

What: *Guys and Dolls*, directed by Nick DeGruccio
When: June 12–24
Where: Theatre Under The Stars
Tickets: TUTS.com or 713-558-8887

Don Maines is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.



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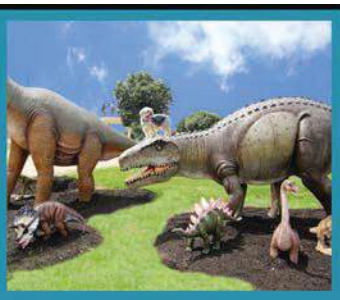
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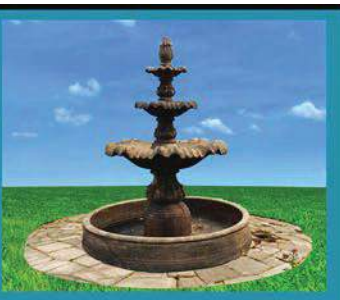
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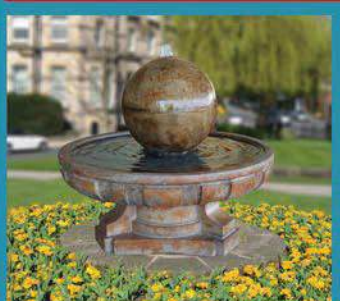
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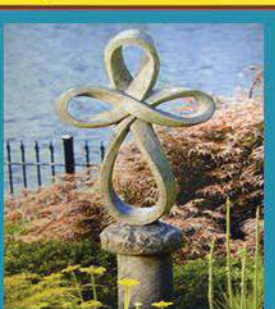
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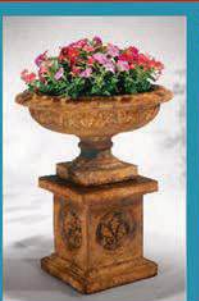
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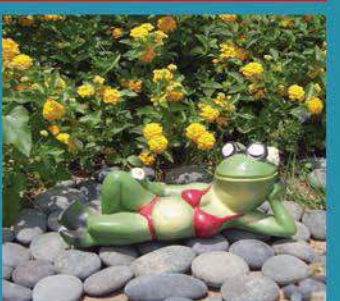
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MOTHERLY LOVE

Jennifer and Amanda Fetter-Matthys met through daughter Chloe—and made her a big part of their wedding.

By Henry V. Thiel
Photo by Jen Markey



'Pantsuit' Parents

The Fetter-Mathyses reconnected in 2016 through 'Paintsuit Nation Houston,' a pro-Hillary Clinton Facebook group that included a section for singles who wanted to avoid dating Trump supporters.

Jennifer and Amanda Fetter-Matthys first met when Jennifer was working at an ABA clinic with Amanda's daughter, Chloe, who is on the autism spectrum.

Although they secretly had crushes on each other, neither acted on it due to the professional clinic setting.

Several years would pass before Jennifer and Amanda reconnected during the 2016 presidential campaign season. They were both members of the "Pantsuit Nation Houston" Facebook group for Hillary Clinton supporters, and they had both joined a section of the group that was created for singles who wanted to avoid dating Trump supporters.

"I was attracted to Jennifer because she is super-smart and interesting," Amanda says. "We also have a lot in common, including a passion for volunteering and working with kids with special needs, so it was easy to be with her. And it doesn't hurt that she's super-adorable, too!"

Both women have degrees in childhood special education.

Jennifer, a 33-year-old native of Covington, Louisiana, teaches children with neurological issues. She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and is working on her master's degree in behavioral analysis. She will receive her special-education teaching certificate in January 2019. Amanda, a 38-year-old Houston native, earned her bachelor's degree in business from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, and her educational-specialist degree in counseling from the University of South Carolina. She works as a special-education teacher and holds certifications in special-education, English as a second language, and counseling.

The first time Jennifer and Amanda got together after reconnecting, they took Chloe to the Festival of Lights in Dickinson, where they picnicked on peanut-butter sandwiches without anything to drink. They confess that neither was sure whether it was an actual date.

"As we were walking back to the car from the festival, I noticed everyone was walking holding hands," Jennifer says. "We were doing 'one-two-threes' swinging Chloe in the air. It felt like this was the way life had always been, and I wanted it to continue—always."

"I really don't believe in 'happily-ever-after,'" Amanda says. "Real life is messy, and I am thankful that I have a true partner who isn't afraid to get messy with me in the trenches. It's really all about the little things that we do for each other every day that add up to a happy life—like making lunch for each other and for our daughter and tucking a little love note inside the bag, or making the other person's favorite meals and drinks, or planning a surprise getaway."

"It also doesn't hurt that Amanda is a really good gift-giver," Jennifer says. "She has given me really thoughtful gifts for different occasions over the years, such as a weekend in a tree house, a Boston Terrier painting, and Zentangles."

It was Jennifer who proposed at one of their favorite places—on the beach in Port Aransas. Amanda was suspicious because one of their friends had been walking around with a camera all day, but she was still surprised when Jennifer got down on one knee in the surf. "I don't remember what I said, because I was so nervous," Jennifer says. "All that matters is that Amanda said yes."

Jennifer got Chloe a necklace that says "To the moon and back" to symbolize her being part of the family, too.

They tied the knot on July 7, 2017, in Amanda's church, the First Unitarian Universalist Church in the Museum District, with Rev. Angela Henderson officiating.

There were many special moments during the wedding that they will always cherish, such as Amanda's gift to Jennifer: a belt for her father's nautical belt buckle to complete her wedding suit. In addition to Amanda, Jennifer made vows to Chloe, who was included in the ceremony, saying that Jennifer would love Chloe as her own daughter. To this day, Chloe refers to the wedding as "our wedding" or "the day we got married." They also had a sand ceremony, and they treasure a really neat frame memorializing that moment. There was even a rope-tying ceremony, since it was a nautical-themed wedding.

Friends who took part in the wedding included Paige Lewis playing live music during the ceremony and singing "I Choose You." Jen Markey, their photographer, captured every amazing and heart-tugging moment.

They spent their wedding night downtown at the Marriott Marquis, where they enjoyed the rooftop Texas-shaped lazy-river pool before taking off on their "family-moon" with Chloe. Since Jennifer's father is buried in Canada on her family's island, they drove from Houston to Pointe Au Baril, Canada. Along the way, they visited as many national parks as possible, including Hot Springs, Arkansas; Hannibal, Missouri; and Pinery Park in Canada.

They want every couple to know that marriage is an amazing adventure. They recommend forgiving easily and laughing often. "Merging two lives into one is the most enriching challenge one can take on," Jennifer says.

"Have a sense of humor, and choose each other every day," Amanda adds.

The happy family lives in Seabrook, in a house overlooking Galveston Bay.

Henry V. Thiel is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine. He loves wedding cake.

Holy Reunion

Donald and Alex Hinn never met as high-school classmates, but became college sweethearts.

By Henry V. Thiel



Love Springs Eternal
Donald (l) and Alex Hinn were married at The Springs in Brookshire, Texas, after Donald closed the deal with a surprise proposal outside their new home.

Donald and Alex Hinn were in the same graduating class at Houston's Cypress Falls High School.

However, they say they never really met until Donald's mom introduced them when they were both home from college, attending their younger siblings' soccer game.

"It was a very brief encounter," Alex says. "I saw a beautiful mop of blonde hair on a tall, handsome guy. It might not have been love at first sight, but I vividly remember that moment."

It wouldn't be until a few years later, during the holidays in 2010, that they exchanged their first "hello" on a dating app.

"When I first met Donald, his initial shyness caught me off guard, because I am usually the shy one," Alex says. "I think this allowed me to bring my personal walls down, which made it possible for me to make a strong connection with him rather quickly—so much so that I was anxious to propose to him on our second date."



Donald, a 30-year-old Houston native, is a sales and design consultant with the nation's leading tile manufacturer who earned his degree in interior design from the University of Texas at Arlington. Alex, a 30-year-old California native, is a reservoir engineer for an international oil and gas company. He obtained his bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering from Texas A&M University.

Even though Alex didn't propose on their second date, the feeling stayed with him. "Somewhere around the three-year mark, I knew our relationship was meant to be," he says. "Anybody who could tolerate me for that long has to be a keeper. I'm a very lucky guy."

Donald says he and Alex "really just clicked."

"Aside from being different from every other guy I have dated, I really liked how spontaneous Alex is," Donald says. "I know that this may sound silly, but I think the most romantic thing Alex has done for me was writing a few of my essays while I was in college. Oh, and traveling from College Station to Arlington almost every weekend over the course of two years."

Alex says the most romantic thing Donald has done was catching him off guard with a marriage proposal. It happened outside their front door immediately after they closed on their house. Before they walked in, Donald got down on one knee and said, "Alex, you've seen me at my best, and you've seen me at my worst,

and you've seen me as your boyfriend. Can you see me as your husband?"

Donald and Alex married on December 2, 2017, at The Springs in Brookshire, Texas. Their close friend and neighbor, Rev. Jonathan Wakefield, officiated. They chose The Springs because they fell in love with the hall and the ceremony site, and the limestone walls and gorgeous hardwood floors made their decorating job easier.

"I told myself I wasn't going to cry, and I made it through the ceremony without a tear," Alex says. "But on our first dance, I begin to bawl. It still is an indescribable feeling."

"The moments I remember the most are walking down the aisle with my mom on my arm, and then standing next to Alex at the altar," Donald says. "Everything came together perfectly, and nothing could take away how special it was."

Donald says his advice to other couples who are considering getting married is to step back and enjoy the moment, because it goes by fast.

"Also, be sure to get a whole piece of cake," he adds.

"Every wedding is unique," Alex says. "Make it your own."

The couple resides in west Houston.

Henry V. Thiel is a frequent contributor to OutSmart magazine. He loves weddings.

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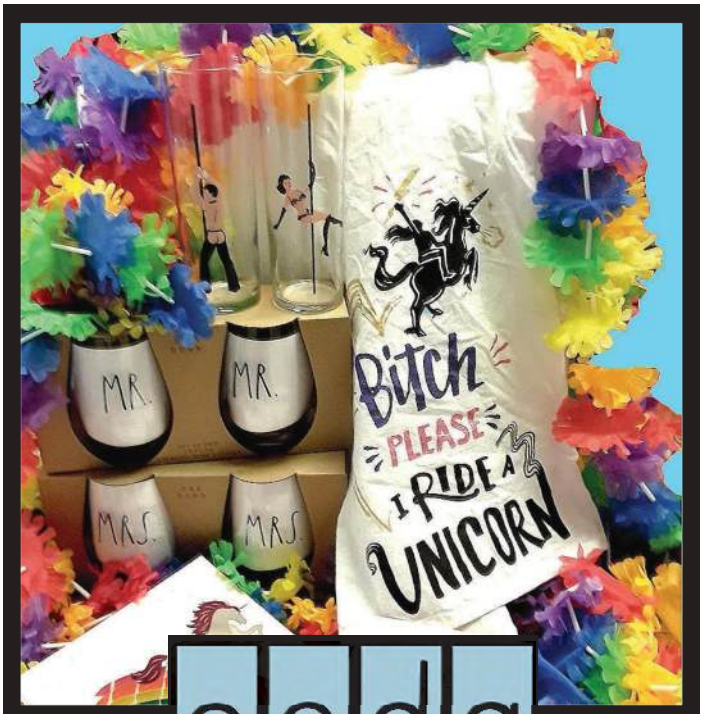
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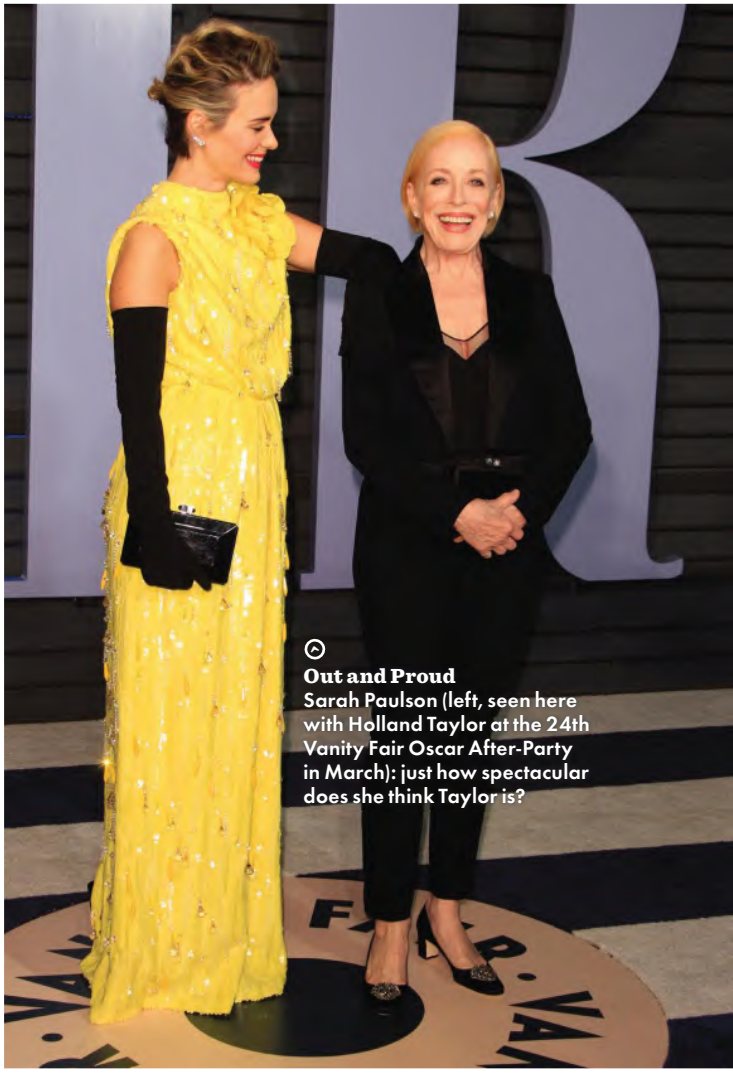
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Sarah Paulson

(*Modern Luxury*, 5.21.18, Hannah Morrill)

In 2015, it was revealed that Paulson was dating 75-year-old actress Holland Taylor, titillating gossip sites everywhere. Paulson, of course, was entirely unfazed. "If someone wants to spend any time thinking I'm strange for loving the most spectacular person on the planet, then that's their problem," she says. "I'm doing just fine."

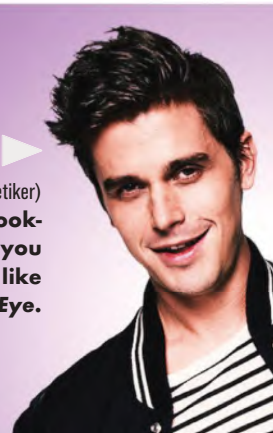


Out and Proud
Sarah Paulson (left, seen here with Holland Taylor at the 24th Vanity Fair Oscar After-Party in March): just how spectacular does she think Taylor is?

Antoni Porowski

(*Entertainment Weekly*, 5.11.18, Marc Snetiker)

Antoni from *Queer Eye* to release cookbook, filled with all sorts of dishes you shouldn't eat if you want to look like Antoni from *Queer Eye*.





Out and Proud
Ronan Farrow, who recently received a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting on Harvery Fierstein, also made *Time* magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world. He is seen here attending the recent Time 100 Gala with his mother, Mia Farrow.

PAULSON - KATHY HUTCHINS/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM; FARROW - LEV RADIN/SHUTTERSTOCK.COM; DEGENERES - SCREEN GRAB; PORowski - GAVIN BOND/NETFLIX

◀ Ronan Farrow

(Advocate.com, 4.10.18, David Artavia)

Journalist Ronan Farrow was honored by the Point Foundation on [April 9] for his impactful work as a reporter over the last year—including a series for *The New Yorker* about the sexual assault allegations against Harvey Weinstein, as well as his groundbreaking reporting for NBC on transgender issues.

Farrow, long a private person even though his parents are Mia Farrow and Woody Allen, used his acceptance speech to make something clear. After being presented the Point Courage award by fellow Point Foundation honoree and former MSNBC colleague Thomas Roberts, Farrow said:

"Being a part of the LGBT community, which recognized that reporting I was doing early on and elevated it, and has been such a stalwart source of support through the sexual assault reporting I did involving survivors who felt equally invisible—that has been an incredible source of strength for me. LGBT people are some of the bravest and most potent change agents and leaders I have encountered, and the most forceful defenders of the vulnerable and voiceless, because they know what it's like to be there."

▼ Ellen & Portia

(*The Ellen DeGeneres Show*, 4.12.18)

Re: introducing her wife, Portia de Rossi, on her talk show.

Amazing wife, talented actress, gifted artist, the most beautiful woman in the world—these are just a few of the things our next guest calls me.



Out and Proud
Ellen DeGeneres (r) enjoys the company of her wife, Portia de Rossi, on her daytime TV show.



By Ryan M. Leach

'Love, Simon'

A sweet and heartfelt contribution to queer cinema.





Two Out Gay Kids in High School
Simon (Nick Robinson, above left) and Ethan (out actor Clark Moore) wait to confront their bullies in the assistant principal's office. *Inset:* Simon's classmate Bram (openly gay actor Keiynan Lonsdale).

A lot of things about *Love, Simon* are seemingly unrelatable, from the affluent neighborhood (where the weather is light-jacket-optional year-round) to the perfectly diverse high school that seems to have come right out of a Central Casting catalog. Despite this Disney-esque backdrop, the gravity of the story carries some hefty emotional weight that makes the gay teen rom-com/coming-out story worth seeing.

The screenplay by Elizabeth Berger and Isaac Aptaker is based on the young-adult novel *Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli. The story centers around the titular 17-year-old Simon Spier, played by Nick Robinson, who emphasizes from the start that he is a normal kid with a normal family in a normal town.

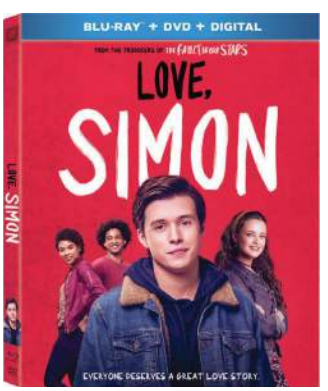
But Simon has a secret. He is gay, and no one knows. It is quickly revealed that another local teen at the idyllic Creekwood High School is also lingering in the closet. He and Simon begin emailing each other anonymously about their respective struggles. Simon eventually develops feelings for "Blue," the pseudonym of his pen pal, and tries to determine his identity based on clues from their online interactions.

Meanwhile, Simon continues to happily exist alongside his three best pals, Leah (Katherine Langford), Abby (Alexandra Shipp), and Nick (Jorge Lendenborg Jr.). But Simon's life suddenly ceases to be all iced coffees and light jackets when a fellow student discovers Simon's secret and blackmails him into manipulating his friends in exchange for not being outed. Thus begins the audience's journey as Simon juggles deception, self-preservation, and a burgeoning online romance.

The story itself does not reinvent the wheel. Out director Greg Berlanti makes no attempt to find even the slightest nuance in the film's suburban landscape. Perhaps that is for the best.

The script offered by Berger and Aptaker is tightly written and avoids getting bogged down with real-world complications. When Simon's web of deceit starts to unravel during the film's final act, it gives way to some beautiful moments.

The whole movie is prescriptive in structure, but that shouldn't keep audiences from enjoying a few tear-jerking scenes with the supporting cast of friends and parents—episodes that unfold the way every queer person dreams about, but with slight variations on a theme. To that end, *Love, Simon* is a perfect how-to playbook for families and friends of queer teens and adults everywhere.



It is in these nicely crafted moments that Berlanti could have taken a saccharine turn, but the film's sincerity allows the audience to suspend any disbelief. *Love, Simon*, despite its cosmetic flaws, does manage to nail the emotional turmoil of coming out—from the stress of understanding what it means to be queer, to the devastation of being outed, to the relief of being accepted by others as well as by one's self.

Love, Simon does not try to tell the coming-out story for every queer person, and perhaps that lack of ambition is what makes the story work. The movie is not *Moonlight* or *Blue Is the Warmest Color*. Heck, it isn't even *Call Me By Your Name*. But it is a sweet and heartfelt contribution to queer cinema, and worth checking out. If you are queer, it might give you the cathartic experience you never had. If you aren't, it will give you some insight into the remarkable experience of what being an LGBTQ teen in America can be.

Ryan M. Leach is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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By Gregg Shapiro

Seasonal Gaiety

Brandi Carlile, Erasure, Ezra Furman, and more.

It's been said before, but it bears repeating: LGBTQ musicians are making some of the most captivating and inspiring music out there. Since the beginning of 2018, new releases by queer artists such as Jim Andralis, Lucy Dacus, H.C. McEntire, and Sarah Shook rank among the best to be heard.

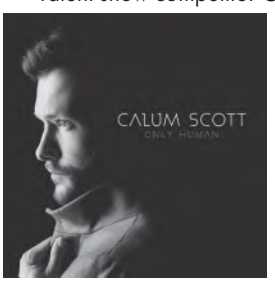
Beginning with the release of her eponymous 2005 debut recording, **Brandi Carlile** has consistently delivered outstanding albums, including *The Story* and *Bear Creek*, that have earned her a devoted following. With a goosebump-raising vocal range and the ability to write songs with immense emotional impact, Carlile doesn't disappoint with her latest disc ***By the Way, I Forgive You*** (Low Country Sound/Elektra). From the personal lesbian-mom tune "The Mother" to the queer-empowerment anthem "The Joke," Carlile has created her most far-reaching set of songs. The country-tinged "Every Time I Hear That Song" (from which the album gets its title), the stomp of "Hold Out Your Hand," the heartbreaking political statement of "Fulton County Jane Doe," the addiction story-song "Sugartooth," the back-to-back forgiveness theme of "Most of All" and "Harder to Forgive," and the breathtaking album-closer "Party of One" all contribute to making this Carlile's best album to date.



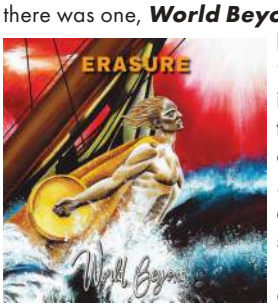
Ezra Furman describes his brilliant and unforgettable new album ***Transangelic Exodus*** (Bella Union) as "not a concept record, but almost a novel, or a cluster of stories on a theme, a combination of fiction and a half-true memoir . . . a personal companion for a paranoid road trip. A queer outlaw saga." Regardless of how you feel about that description, you would be remiss if you didn't give his disc a spin. A dizzying and exhilarating experience, *Transangelic Exodus* will leave you reeling in the best possible way. Opener "Suck the Blood from My Wound" morphs from pure pop exuberance to static rage in under five minutes. "Driving Down to L.A." sounds like a lost experimental Rufus Wainwright number. And if "No Place" doesn't make your heart race, you should see a doctor. "The Great Unknown" (with what we can only hope is a sampled scream) has anthem written all over it, and "Maraschino Red Dress $8.99 at Goodwill" is one of the most remarkable songs you will hear this year. "Love You So Bad" and the delirious "I Lost My Innocence" are both retro-pop filtered through 21st-century speakers.



Talent-show competitor **Calum Scott**'s exquisite reimagining of Robyn's "Dancing on My Own" as a ballad hinted at his great taste in music. That song, as well as a reading of Bob Dylan's "Not Dark Yet" can both be found on Scott's full-length debut album ***Only Human*** (Capitol). In addition to being indicative of his interpretation skills, they also demonstrate his vocal abilities—the guy can sing! But so can Sam Smith, and therein lies the problem. We already have one Sam Smith, so do we need another? The original songs (co-written by Scott and a team of collaborators) tend to be indistinguishable. There are a few exceptions, including the Leona Lewis duet "You Are the Reason" and the rhythmic "Give Me Something." Worst of all is "Stop Me (Only Human)," featuring a lazy borrow from the Human League song "Human."



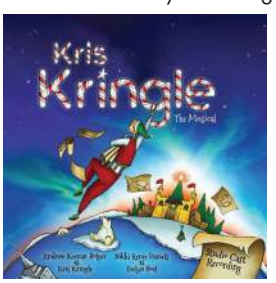
An interesting musical experiment if ever there was one, ***World Beyond*** (Mute) by **Erasure** is a "classical reworking" of the 10 tracks from the duo's 2017 *World Be Gone* disc in a chamber-music setting backed by Echo Collective. Given the subject matter of the album and the current chaotic political mood, songs such as "Be Careful What You Wish For!," "Oh What a World," "World Be Gone," "Take Me Out of Myself," and "Lousy Sum of Nothing," in particular, actually benefit from these new renditions. It's not all doom and gloom, as you can hear on "Love You to the Sky" and "Just a Little." Nevertheless, Erasure's queerest and most overtly political statement heard in "Still It's Not Over" is sure to have the greatest impact on LGBTQ listeners.



It's virtually impossible to write about queer music and not include a reference to show tunes. Gay musical-theater composer **Stephen Flaherty** and his longtime collaborator, **Lynn Ahrens**, have created an impressive string of Broadway hits, including *Ragtime*, *My Favorite Year*, *Seussical*, and *Anastasia*. One of Flaherty and Ahrens' earliest shows, *Once on This Island*, is in the midst of a Broadway revival (making it one of two shows the pair has on Broadway—the other being *Anastasia*). In addition to songs by Flaherty, the cast features queer actor Alex Newell as Asaka, Mother of the Earth, all of which can be heard on ***Once on This Island: New Broadway Cast Recording*** (Broadway Records).



Christmas may be a long way off, but that's no reason not to listen to ***Kris Kringle—The Musical: Studio Cast Recording*** (Yellow Sound), a new Christmas musical featuring music and lyrics by **Tim Janis** and **Angelo Natalie**, with original story, book, and additional lyrics by Maria Ciampi. Out actor Andrew Keenan-Bolger plays the lead role of Kris Kringle.



Gregg Shapiro is a regular contributor to OutSmart magazine.

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By Terri Schlichenmeyer

'Harriet Gets Carried Away'

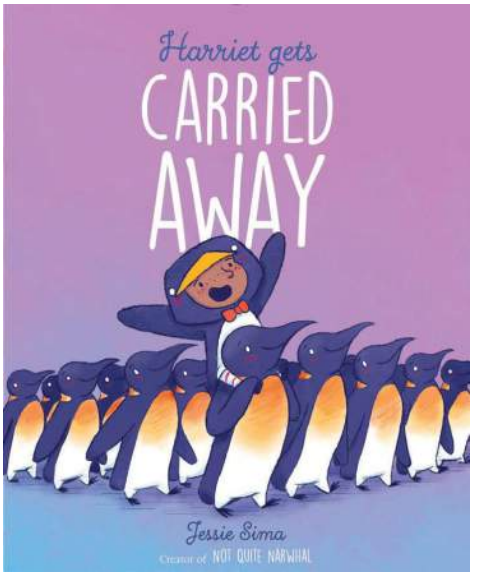
Having two dads is no big deal.

Trauma Cleaner
Sarah Krasnostein



The woman didn't seem very old, but it was really hard to tell. She wouldn't let anyone past her screen door, and the stench was enough to keep most people away. Hoarder situations like that are business as usual for Sandra Pankhurst. Nevertheless, this "trauma cleaner" extends to her clients nothing less than compassion. And there's ample reason for that. Pankhurst was born a boy, raised as a boy, became a man, married a woman, and fathered two sons. "Her reality is as conflicted as it is real," author Krasnostein reveals. After Pankhurst fully transitioned, she continued to work in the sex industry until she was raped and almost lost her life. She fell in love, fell out of love, fell in love again, married an older man, and divorced. Krasnostein writes that "Sandra is, variously, mother hen, bad cop, and hanging judge." She's matter-of-fact as her staff hauls away pathogen-soaked furniture while ensuring that next-of-kin are treated with kindness. Says Pankhurst, "None of us know what tomorrow's got in store." The goodness in this book is discovered between the lines. This is a biography of cringing, compassion, and somebody's-got-to-do-it resourcefulness. If you can get past the gruesome parts, it's a great read. • St. Martin's Press (us.macmillan.com).

—Terri Schlichenmeyer



Harriet Gets Carried Away
- by Jessie Sima
- 2018
- Simon & Schuster (simonandschuster.com)
- 48 pages
- $17.99/$23.99 Canada

You love wearing Daddy's shoes. You wear Mommy's shoes, too, because you love clomping around, the wiggly-wobbly feel, and the fun of pretending that you're someone else. Dressing up is great, but be careful. As you'll see in the new book *Harriet Gets Carried Away* by Jessie Sima, things could quickly get out of hand.

More than almost anything in the world, Harriet loved playing dress-up.

She had a whole trunk full of costumes, and she didn't need a reason to wear them. She just did, as often as possible and everywhere she went. Every dentist appointment, every day in the park, every birthday party.

And so, on the day of her own birthday party, Harriet was dressed as a "busy bee" and she certainly was busy helping her two dads with party decorations. But they needed to buy snacks and party hats before her guests arrived, so Harriet changed into her "extra-special" errand-running penguin costume and they all took the subway to the store.

Once they were there, Harriet's dads hurried to the deli counter, leaving Harriet to waddle off to find the best party hats. She knew where they were, but between deli and derbys, she found "something else."

There were penguins in that store—dozens of them! They looked just like Harriet in her black-and-white penguin costume, and they were apparently getting ready for a party of their own! They barely noticed that a little girl was in their midst; they just kept buying ice and taking it out to a big hot-air balloon in the park. One of them told Harriet that they were going "back home" because the city was "a nice place to visit" but penguins didn't want to live there. So they took her with them in the balloon!

Or, well, at least they tried. Harriet didn't want to live the rest of her life on ice, she missed her dads, and she didn't want to miss her birthday party. But there was a problem: how would a little girl in a penguin costume ever manage to get home?

There are two ways of looking at *Harriet Gets Carried Away*. Only one is good.

On the brighter side, this is a cute book that will appeal to a preschooler's imagination with its theme of dress-up and make-believe. Harriet is a confident little girl who isn't one bit fazed by the adventure that her costume causes, and kids will get a kick out of the places she goes because she was mistaken as someone she isn't. That kind of pretending is what preschoolers do best, and that makes this book relatable.

On the other hand, parents may want to take a deep breath and put aside their reservations about unsupervised kids in big-city stores—and especially the message this book sends about kids running off with someone they don't know.

The takeaway here is to beware of your audience: for some kids, caution may be warranted and the book postponed. For other 4- to-8-year-olds, *Harriet Gets Carried Away* may be an enjoyment shoo-in.

Terri Schlichenmeyer has been reading since she was three years old, and she lives on a hill in Wisconsin with two dogs and 11,000 books.

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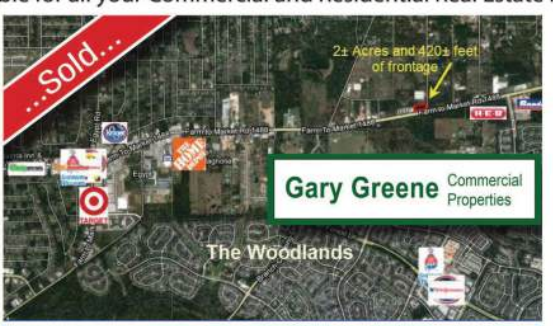
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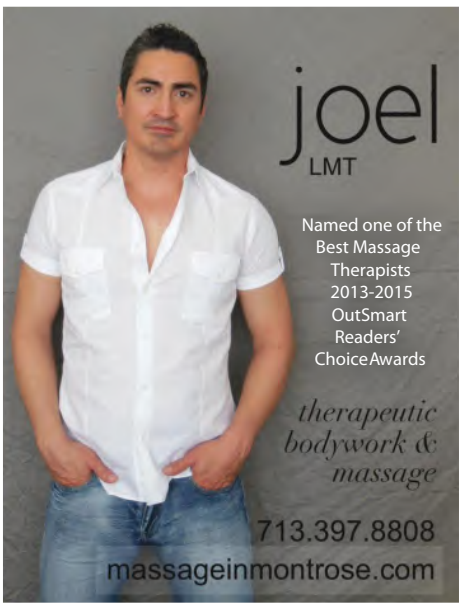
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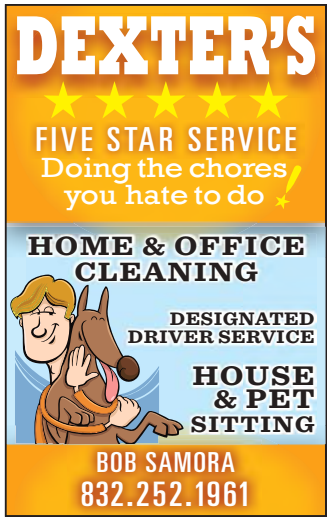
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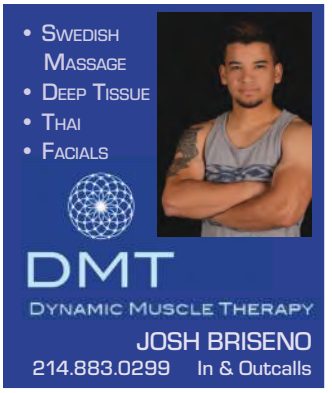
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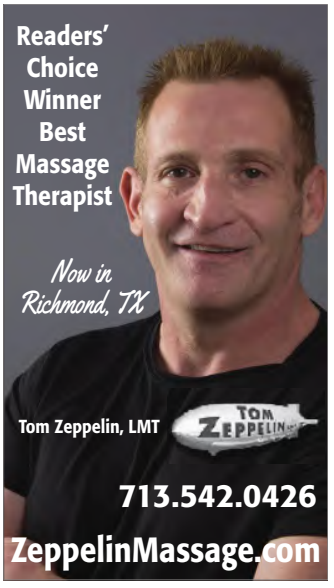
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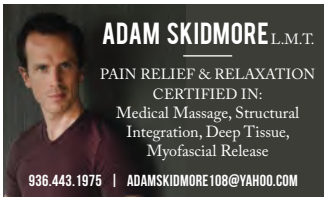








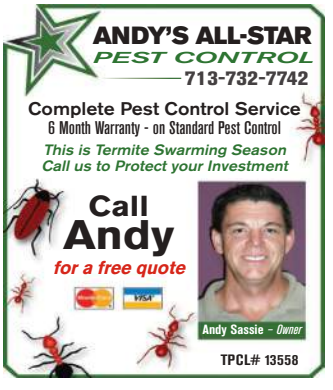
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continued from page 208

and can overshadow the other planetary activity in your horoscope. Saturn can be a harsh inner parent. At the beginning of the month you are improving your day-to-day work activities. This is an especially good time to reinstate an exercise or health program that you did in the past. It's easy to be impulsive with your spending this month. By the end of the month, you are more focused on your partnerships. This is a good time for you and your partner to get away on a private retreat to make sure that your goals are still aligned. Pay attention to your boundaries, and don't let your work rule your life.

AQUARIUS (January 20–February 18). You are full of energy this month, and are ready to make changes in yourself, your domestic and family life, and anywhere that you feel restricted or limited in your expression. Mars, planet of action and self-defense, will be visiting your sign from June through the end of November. This is the very best time for you to focus on what's best for you! You will be more direct and authentic in your communications and interactions with others, and you will not suffer fools gladly. If there are problems in any areas of your life, you will want to bring them out and figure out how to fix them. Your relationships, both business and personal, may be your initial targets. You will also be paying more attention to your health and your physical appearance. If you don't get enough exercise, it may be harder to sleep with Mars being so present. Find a positive outlet for this very strong energy.

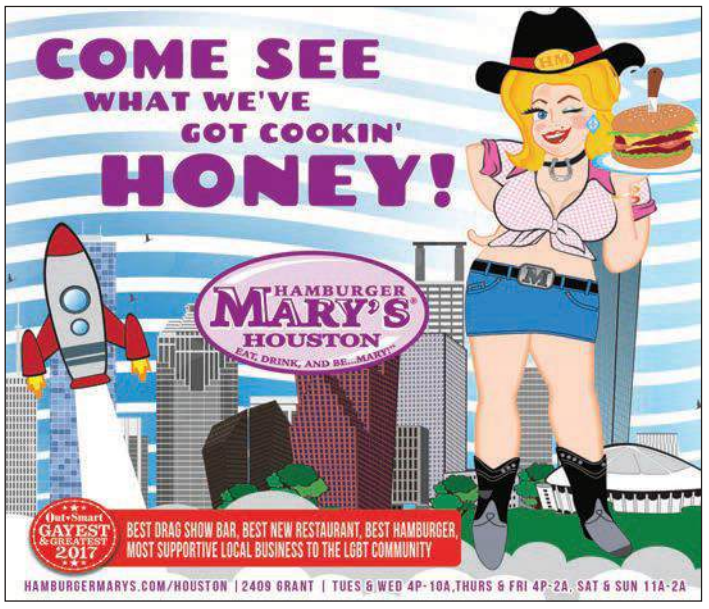
PISCES (February 19–March 20). As the month begins you are focused on your home and family, and making that part of your life more comfortable. If you are a writer or an artist, you will want to make your work more accessible to the public. This could be a good time to work with a publisher or an agent who can help you market what you have. If you've been thinking about changing your career direction, this is an excellent time to be looking at taking some classes to help guide you along your way. In the latter part of the month you are more connected to your family, and especially your children. You could easily take on the role of a mentor for a family member, or for people in your community.

For more astro-insight, log on to lillyroddy.com.

















Bar & Club Guide

HOUSTON

ALIBI
Located right next to Hamburger Mary's, this dance club is party central for Houston's circuit crowd and even features late night dancing till 4am on Friday and Saturdays weekly! Be sure to check out the official Dirty Disco Saturdays with JD Arnold from the Billboard hit remix duo Dirty Disco. 2409 Grant • 713.522.2867

BARCODE
Houston's newest bar with happy hours from 11am to 8pm daily, this new neighborhood watering hole is a great place to see Drag Shows and Strippers Tuesdays - Saturdays and Karaoke Sundays & Mondays. 817 Fairview St. • 713.526.2625 barcodehouston.net

BLUR
Multi-level dance club featuring an upstairs lounge and balconies. Ladies enjoy Wet and Wild Wed., 18-year-olds welcome Thurs., Latin night on Sun. Happy hour 8–10pm; free cover before 11pm. 710 Pacific St. • blurbar.com.

CLUB 2020
Located downtown, this urban club features Clubbers Friday with male and female dancers. Its 6,400 square feet also offers theater-sized viewing screens and VIP rooms. 2020 Leeland • 713.227. 9667 club2020houston.com.

CLUB CRYSTAL
Find many of Inergy's former staff 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
This comfortably remodeled Montrose nightspot also offers karaoke on Tuesdays and Thursdays and extended happy-hour prices throughout the week. 2312 Crocker • 713.529.3355.

GEORGE
Regulars rule at this comfortable neighborhood sports bar. Sports Saturdays and Sundays start at 3pm with dart and pool tournaments. 617 Fairview • 713.528.8102.

GUAVA LAMP
This trendy and friendly video and cruise bar gets busy during happy hour and stays busy 'til closing. Karaoke on Wed. and Sun. 570 Waugh Dr. • 713.524.3359 guavalamphouston.com.

HAMBURGER MARY'S
You'll also find many a RuPau's Drag Race girl on stage along with stand up comedy and a charity game night. Voted as Houston's Best Drag Bar and Best Hamburger by our readers, this is a must stop for family dining by day and late night cocktails. 2409 Grant St • Hamburgermarys.com

EAGLE
Part of the Eagle worldwide family, it's the definitive home to the man's man - leather, bear, jock or muscle, you'll find them here! DJs every night, multiple patios and a leather/accessories shop inside the bar. Noon-2am every day, 611 Hyde Park, 713.523.BIRD

JR'S BAR & GRILL
This Montrose standard offers drag and strip shows throughout the week, karaoke Thurs. and Sun., plus pool tables and male dancers. 808 Pacific St. • 713.521.2519 jrsbarandgrill.com.

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

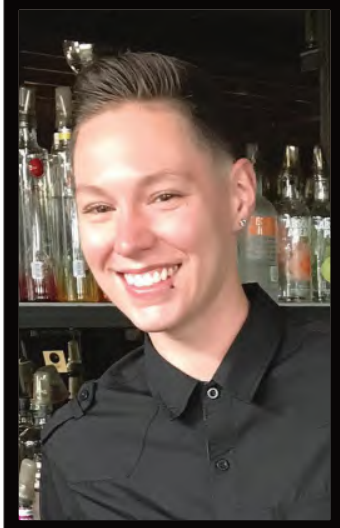
NEON BOOTS DANCEHALL & SALOON
Houston's only LGBTQ country dancehall opens Wednesday–Sunday. Wednesday features Steak Night and Bingo. Free dance classes on Thursdays and Karaoke. 11410 Hempstead Hwy 713.677.0828 • neonbootsclub.com.

PEARL BAR
This LGBT-friendly lounge in the Washington corridor features daily



BEHIND the BAR

With KRIS MURRAY
Pearl Bar/Tue-Wed-Fri-Sat
4216 Washington • pearlhouston.com



What is your favorite shot to make?
Tutti Frutti: vodka + wild berry pucker + sour mix

Where is your favorite place to drink when not on-duty?
Right here at Pearl Bar!

What are you best known for?
Tequila Tuesdays! And, the Tutti Frutti shot.

What is the best and worst Holiday to work? Why?
St. Patrick's Day was great this year... Cinco de Mayo got a little crazy.

Grindr, Scruff or other app you see most often?
"Her"...we are a girl bar!

If you weren't a bartender...what career would you choose?
A personal trainer or life coach.

highlights like open mic night, steak night, and drink specials.
4216 Washington • pearlhouston.com.

RICH'S HOUSTON
Houston's most iconic and largest LGBT dance club, with multiple levels featuring a video/show bar and a private VIP lounge. No cover before 10:30 p.m. 2401 San Jacinto • 281.846.6685
richsnightclub.com.

THE RIPCORD
This multi-roomed leather bar boasts a busy patio, especially on the weekends. The Forge shop located inside the club. Saturday nights with DJ Tad Dvorak
715 Fairview Ave • 713.521.2792.

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

SOUTH BEACH
Closed for remodeling.

TONY'S CORNER POCKET
This comfortable club has one of the friendliest bar staffs in town. Amateur dance contest each Thurs., Fri., & Sat. at 11pm. Opens daily at noon.
817 W. Dallas • 713.571.7870
tonyscornerpocketbar.com.

VIVIANA'S
Happening weekend-only gay dance club with Latin DJs, singers, talent shows & Sunday strippers.
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.
121 North Main • 979.823.6174 • halobcs.com.

GALVESTON

23RD ST. STATION
The bar features daily drink specials and the weekend is filled with pulsing music hot dancers, drag shows, and a Sunday Tea Dance. 1706 23rd St. • 409.621.1808.

ROBERT'S LAFITTE
The Island institution features a private patio with swimming pool. On Sat. and Sun. nights, the Ladies of Lafitte show takes the stage. 2501 Avenue Q (at 25th) • 409.765.9092.

RUMORS BEACH BAR
Drink specials every night and daily day drinking specials starting at Noon. Great drag shows Friday – Sunday and karaoke Sunday – Thursday at 8p. Sunday Drag Bingo. 3102 Seawall Blvd. • 409.497.4617
rumorsbeachbar.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 BAR AND LOUNGE
This bar and video lounge has a laid-back atmosphere including daily drink specials, karaoke, free pool, drag shows, and live DJs several nights a week.









By Lilly Roddy

Confront and Refrain!

And get back on your health regimen!

Mars, our planet of action, reaction, self-protection, and body awareness, goes retrograde from June 3 through September 30. Mars goes retrograde about every two years, and the last one was in 2016. With this retrograde, we can be successful by working with our ongoing projects and avoid starting new ones. This is a good time to get back on your health regimen, confront the issues you have been avoiding, and refrain from burying your anger. Sometimes old enemies resurface when Mars is retrograde. Mars has the greatest impact on the cardinal signs (Aries, Cancer, Libra, and Capricorn) and the fixed signs (Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, and Aquarius). Find positive ways to express this energy!

ARIES (March 21–April 19). You are especially busy this month, with multiple areas demanding your attention at the same time. You are more communicative, and are getting your daily chores and activities more organized. Work and family demands can be quite strong. Friends can be an important resource for you this month, especially if your schedule is overloaded. By midmonth you are focusing more on your home and family, and setting some boundaries for yourself so you don't feel so overwhelmed. With Mars, your ruling planet, retrograde from June through November, you may occasionally feel that you have low energy and your timing is off, or that you're clumsy and accident-prone. With Mars retrograde, step back and reassess your actions before you press forward.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20). There are changes aplenty for the bulls and cows! Uranus (the rebel, and the planet of progressive change and the need for greater personal freedom) has entered Taurus for the first time in 83 years. As Uranus moves through your sign over the next seven years, you will be releasing restrictive behavior and ideas from your past that had been holding you back. This is the time of reinvention! You are focused on making the best use of your resources this month. At work, this is the time to step up and demonstrate your leadership skills and think outside of the box. By the end of the year, you will either step into a promotion or start your own business.

GEMINI (May 21–June 21). Happy birthday to the sign of the twins. This is your personal yearly cycle when the sun returns to the same spot in the Zodiac that it was in at your birth. June is good for evaluating last year's goals and looking at new opportunities this year. You are in a very reflective period this month. You may find it beneficial to step away from your agendas and routines and take a broader look at where you are. You are questioning a lot of your own motives and decisions while you're in this period of course-correction. This could be an excellent month to work with a life coach or someone who can help you create a more positive structure in your life. Toward the end of the month, you are focused on your finances. This may be a good time to review your investments or put yourself on a budget.



CANCER (June 22–July 22). The beginning of this month is a good time for you to relax and have a more low-key presence. This would be an excellent time for some self-nurturing. With your finances, you are about to focus on ridding yourself of undue financial obligations, making better use of what you have, and developing new plans so that your future is more financially stable. You're also paying a lot more attention to your health, and looking at ways to regenerate some of your youth. By the end of the month, you are back on track and focusing on activities that support your goal of being more financially and emotionally secure. Your relationships need some renewal as well. Make sure that you and your partner are moving in the right direction.

LEO (July 23–August 22). Relationships are going to be your main topic for several months as Mars (planet of action, reaction, anger, and confrontation) visits the partnership area of your horoscope. If you are involved in a relationship, this is a good time to look at renewing your bonds and connections. If you are having problems in your relationship, this period will bring those issues to the surface so that you can address them and clear them out of the way. If you aren't able to clear them, this could be a time when you and your partner move in different directions. For those of you who are single, you may feel the need to have more companionship, especially with people whom you have already come to trust. By the end of the month, you are ready for a break in your routines and activities.

VIRGO (August 23–September 22). This month, the planets are in the career and business-associations sector of your horoscope. This is a good time to promote yourself, your work, or your services. You may want to take on a leadership role, especially with your business associates. You have strong expectations for yourself and what you can do! Your community connections are stronger by the end of the month, so this could be a good time to become active in your homeowners association or participate more in your children's educational activities. You are moving into an excellent time to take on a brand-new health regimen. This energy will be very strong from June through the end of November—plenty of time to develop positive health routines.

LIBRA (September 23–October 23). You have a lot of activities going on this month! You continue your progress with making your home a safer and more comfortable place. In the first part of the month, you are open to taking some classes, having a stronger presence on social media, or just taking some time to get away from it all. In the latter part of the month there are a lot of demands on your time, so you will have to pay attention to where your boundaries are working or not working. This is also an excellent month to share time with your children so you can keep your heart young as well. Career and family responsibilities take over your focus toward the end of the month. Make sure you don't lose yourself in trying to be fair to everyone else.

SCORPIO (October 24–November 21). There are big changes in the relationship arena of your horoscope! You are more comfortable with setting your boundaries and being more vocal about what your needs are. This is an excellent time to renew bonds, readjust your relationship needs to fit where you are now, and to feel more freedom to make a commitment. However, if you're feeling trapped or unhappy, you may be working on your exit strategy. At work, you continue to be busy. By midmonth, you may be stepping into a new leadership position at work or within your community. You will be working on making your home a safer and more comfortable place during the last half of the year. You could be remodeling, relocating, or adding an outdoor awning to give yourself that extra space you've always wanted. It's easy to take on too much this month, so be careful that you don't overload yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22–December 21). As the month begins, relationships are your primary focus. If you're involved, you'll want to spend more time with your partner doing fun and interesting things. If you are single and looking, you're more magnetic than usual and can easily draw people to you! This is also very helpful if you're trying to market your services and skills to the general public. Money may still feel tight, but you are working hard to generate new revenue streams. Be careful with your driving this month. It's easy for you to get lost in your thoughts and thinking ahead, rather than paying attention to what's going on in front of you. By the end of the month, you are more focused on your finances and doing more with what you have. Don't overthink this. Stick with your plan, and you will get to the end.

CAPRICORN (December 22–January 19). With your ruling planet, Saturn, visiting your sign for the next two years, you are reevaluating your goals and expectations to make sure they are still the right decisions for you. Saturn is a heavy planet,

continued on page 205



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Photos by Dalton DeHart and Edgardo Aguilar



On May 5, Frontrunners Houston hosted a fundraiser at Barcode. Pictured are members of the LGBTQ social and running Club.



On May 5, Lazarus House hosted its annual Fiesta at 1111 Studewood Place. Pictured are (top, left to right) **Justin Anderson**, **Ralais Harper**, **Danielle Sampey**, **Darwin Ruiz**, and **Douglas Sorensen**; and (bottom, left to right) **Rachelle Welch**, and **Nancy Galarza**.



On May 5, University of Houston Special Collections hosted an LGBT Research Collection Salon Event, "Stored Treasures." Pictured are **Free Lane**, UH libraries dean **Lisa German**, **Kathy Hubbard**, **Annise Parker**, and **Vince Lee**.



On May 6, the Victory Fund hosted its annual Houston Champagne Brunch at the Ballroom at Bayou Place. Pictured are judge **Steven Kirkland**, and Victory Fund CEO & president **Annise Parker**.



On May 6, the Victory Fund hosted a reception for Senator **Tammy Baldwin** at the home of Richard Holt and Mark McMasters. Pictured are **Dr. Mark McMasters**, **Annise Parker**, Baldwin, and **Richard Holt**.



On May 11, the Montrose Center hosted its 40th anniversary party, "Time Warp," at the University of Houston. Pictured are **John Coulter**, **Brendan Mikeska**, **Gretchen Myers**, **Andy Eversole**, **Ann Robison**, and **Ed Bradshaw**.



On May 12, the Montrose Center hosted a Mother's Day brunch with **Sister Helen Holy** at Buffalo Soldiers Museum. Pictured are **Charles Caliva**, **Freddy Allen**, **Abigail Zsiga**, **Miss Conception** (aka Kevin Levesque), **Eric Michael Krop**, **Amy Armstrong**, **Angelina DM Trailz**, Sister Holy (aka Paul Williams), and **Kim Gustavsson**.



May 12 and 13, Ovations hosted Blue Skies. Pictured are **Rob Seible**, **Julia Laskowski**, **Stewart Zuckerbrod**, **Melissa Medina**, and **Craig Stephens**.



On May 15, the Executive & Professional Assocation of Houston hosted its May 2018 dinner meeting at Le Meridien Houston Downtown. Pictured are chef **Dick Reno**, **Jeremy Fain**, **Marcus de Guzman**, **Jill Maxwell**, **Michael Harrison**, and **Jean Armas**.



On May 18, Art League Houston 2018 hosted a Neon Marty Dance Party benefiting the Healing Arts Program. Pictured are volunteers from Wells Fargo with staff and attendees.



On May 19, the University of Houston's LGBTQ Alumni Association and the Red Dinner Committee hosted Red Dinner III. PIctured are **Mike Pede** and **Michael Sam**.



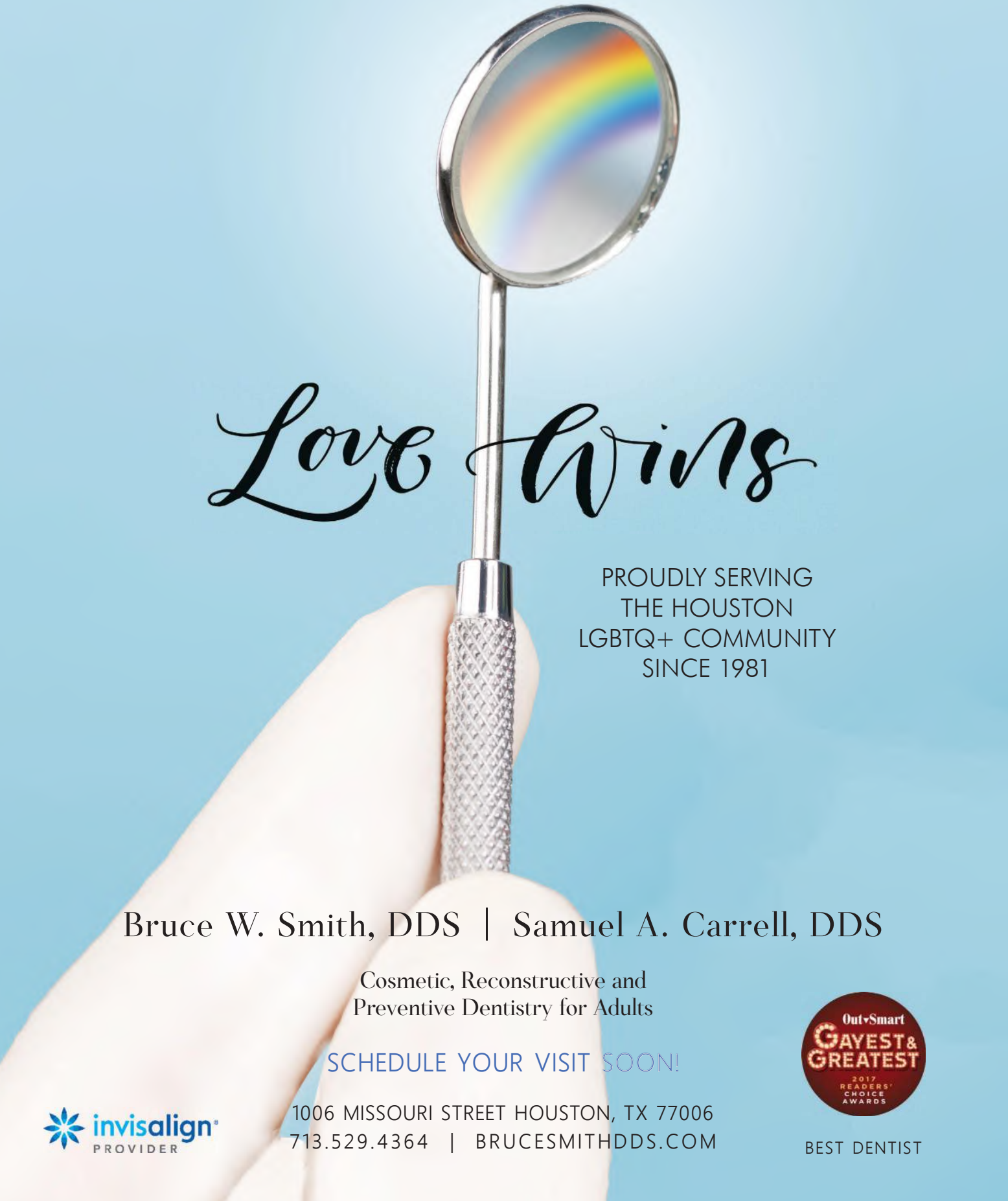
On May 20, Out for Education hosted its 2018 Scholarship Awards Presentation at the Alley Theatre. Pictured are recipients of the scholarships.

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