

# PRIDE 05

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF HOUSTON PRIDE 2005

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# HOUSTON



**EQUAL RIGHTS!**



**NO MORE! NO LESS!**

HOUSTON GAY LESBIAN BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER PRIDE 2005

# PRIDE 2005



# Welcome to Houston's 2005 Pride Celebration!

"Two Steps Forward and One Step Back." The history of Houston's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender rights movement seems to follow this old adage perfectly. When we seem to be making the best progress, we find that we get pushed back again. Still, we must continue to forge ahead.

Not long ago, people within our own community began to wonder and editorialize if the need for Pride celebrations was a thing of the past. People were coming out at younger ages. Full GLBT rights seemed to be right around the corner. Acceptance was in the air. Then, Houston voters turned down City Proposition #2, which would have provided same-sex partner benefits for city employees. Still, we continued to press forward despite all obstacles.

In 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the discriminatory Texas homosexual-conduct laws. Gay marriage became a reality within the U.S. thanks to Massachusetts. Houston Mayor Bill White proudly marched in the 2004 Pride Parade, though he received opposition from a minority of vocal, local pastors. Then, our nation's president called for a constitutional amendment (an amendment!) to actually write discrimination into our country's greatest document and not allow same-sex couples the right to marry. And now a similar amendment has been introduced for our Texas Constitution, regardless of the fact that it is already illegal.

From the first Pride March in 1978 protesting Anita Bryant's appearance in downtown Houston to the creation of North America's first nighttime Pride Parade, Houston has a rich history of continuing to push GLBT Pride forward.

Our organization has made some big changes in the last year as well. We have changed our name from "Pride Committee of Houston" to a friendlier moniker, Pride Houston. Despite the name change, we are still the same egalitarian organization that you know and love.

Pride Houston now has a full-time Executive Director staff position, filled by longtime Pride volunteer and advocate, Jack Valinski. Our board of directors is strong, focusing on fundraising and the long-term growth of our organization. A newly created "Production Team" filled with over 30 faithful volunteers works closely with the Executive Director to ensure a professionally run and fun series of events in June to celebrate Houston's GLBT community.

We've come a long way from fighting City Hall for the right to have a simple parade permit. But, we still have a long way to go.

Won't you be a proud face of Houston's GLBT community? Join us at one or all of the Pride events this June. Lend a hand, organize a parade float or make a donation. Bring a straight friend, family member or co-worker to the Pride Parade. Help us to take two more steps forward, without any steps back.

As goes our 2005 theme, "Equal Rights! No More! No Less!" Houston will keep on organizing Pride celebrations until that becomes a reality.

In Pride,

Nicolas Brines  
President



P.S. I sincerely hope you enjoy all of the hard work put in by our volunteers on this year's PRIDE.05 magazine. Read about what's in store for you at this year's Pride celebration and what you experienced at the '04 event. Feel Pride all over Texas. Get a snapshot of a day in the life of our community through the eyes of some amazing local GLBT individuals. Find out about some of our unique community organizations and use the Resource Guide and Bar Map all year long. Finally, support the businesses and organizations advertising here. They are all supporting you by contributing to the effort that makes GLBT Pride in Houston possible.

# Greetings

Greetings!

As mayor of the City of Houston, I am pleased to extend my warm greetings to all participating in various activities to be held during the annual *Pride Celebration*. I welcome the many guests who will be attending these events from across the state.

Houston is a city that celebrates the diversity of its population, including people of all sexual orientations. The strengths of this great city are in the men and women who make up our diversity.

Your work shows that Houston is a city of communities, and we all strive to make this a better place to live and work. I look forward to working with you on the issues that are important to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, and all Houstonians.

Best wishes for a successful and memorable *Pride Celebration*.

Sincerely,



Bill White  
Mayor



Dear Friends,

It has been another year of incredible victories and heartbreaking defeats. But, as always, we move forward with hearts full of hope.

As the great writer Victor Hugo said, "Progress...has its pauses, when it rallies the stragglers, its stopping places when it meditates...its nights of slumber."

To the tireless Pride Committee volunteers who devote hundreds of hours of work throughout the year so the entire GLBT community can celebrate together.

Congratulations on a grand tradition that produces bigger and better parades and events each year.

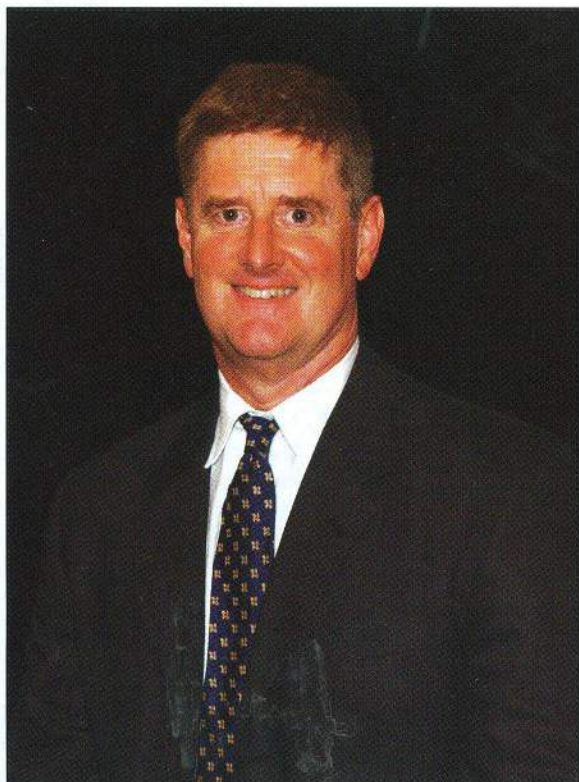
Thank you for some of the best celebrations of our lives!

Annise D. Parker  
Houston City Controller



- 001 **Equal Rights! No More! No Less!** Houston Pride 2005
- 002 **Welcome** from Pride Houston President Nicolas Brines
- 003 **Greetings** from Mayor Bill White and City Controller Annise Parker
- 006 **Houston** A Space of Infinite Possibilities
- 010 **A Day in the Life of . . .** by Rebecca Mahaffey
- 011 **We Must Fight . . .** by Randall Ellis, Executive Director of LGRL
- 012 **A Day in the Life of . . .** by Rebecca Mahaffey
- 014 **Texas Prides** A highlight of other Pride events throughout the state
- 018 **A Day in the Life of . . .** by Yvonne Feece
- 019 **Houston GLBT Community Center** by Victor Zorne
- 021 **Become a Volunteer** with Pride Houston
- 022 **Become a Friend of Pride** Our wonderful grassroots supporters
- 024 **2005 Pride Days** Houston Pride events
- 025 **2005 Pride Houston** Officers, Board & Production Team
- 030 **A Day in the Life of . . .** by Rebecca Mahaffey
- 031 **2004 Volunteers of the Year** by Jose Lara
- 032 **In the Lead for 2005** "Equal Rights! No More! No Less!" Pride Parade Grand Marshals
- 034 **Houston Pride 2004** Photo review by Yvonne Feece
- 045 **Houston Pride Parade** by Lynn Sixkiller, Pride Houston Parade Chair
- 046 **The Best of the Best 2004** "Pride as Big as Texas" Trophy Winners
- 048 **A Day in the Life of . . .** by Yvonne Feece
- 050 **A Day in the Life of . . .** by Rebecca Mahaffey
- 051 **A Day in the Life of . . .** by Joyce Gabiola
- 052 **NLGJA Houston** by Oliver Dyke
- 054 **Houston Pride Festival** by Todd Amdor, Festival Co-Chair
- 056 **A Day in the Life of . . .** by Rebecca Mahaffey
- 058 **A Day in the Life of . . .** by Eric A. T. Dieckman
- 059 **ERSICSS** by Joyce Gabiola
- 061 **A Day in the Life of . . .** by Joyce Gabiola
- 062 **2005 Community Resource Guide** Houston GLBT Resources
- 064 **Houston GLBT Bar Guide** Local GLBT Hot Spots

# A Day in the Life of . . .



**Michael Collins** –  
*President, BCBC*

Michael Collins began volunteering for the Bayou City Boys Club (BCBC), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, in the mid '90's. Michael felt a strong desire to make a difference and give something back the community. He was so impressed by the dedication of BCBC and its members to raise money for local HIV/AIDS information, education and service providers that he decided to get involved. By becoming a part of BCBC, Michael found a way to fulfill his desire to give back and make a difference, and have a lot of fun while doing it. "These are professional and affluent people that could be doing anything they want," explains Michael, but they choose to spend their time "raising badly needed funds for HIV/AIDS services. I respect that."

After the 1998 Hurricane Party, a friend and active member within the organization nominated Michael for membership. His drive and dedication to the mission of BCBC eventually lead Michael to take on the role of President. Although he has taken on new duties since he began volunteering for BCBC, there is still enough of the party boy inside of Michael that enjoys the thrill of the night! "It's amazing to see the event come together," Michael says. "We are all exhausted by the time the party reaches critical mass, but it's all worth it in the end." BCBC has raised over \$650,000 for local HIV/AIDS services through events like the annual Jungle Party. Well worth it indeed!

When Michael is not throwing parties and raising money for BCBC, he works as an attorney. As of this spring Michael is now on the board of directors of Montrose Clinic. Michael also has a passion for politics, so I wouldn't be surprised to find his name at the polls sometime in the future. Keep an eye out for this one; he's smart, single and going somewhere!

- RM

**Fred Walters** –  
*Executive Director, Houston Buyers Club*

About nine years ago, Fred Walters got together with a couple of other AIDS activists to get advice on starting up a nutritional supplement buyers club here in Houston. "Houston Buyers Club is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that has been helping people living with chronic illness manage side effects since 1996."

Fred started Houston Buyers Club out of his own home with only 12 customers and six supplements. Eventually, the Houston Buyers Club grew to offer about 3000 supplements and now supports 3500 customers all over the country. Fred began raising funds by visiting local bars and campaigning for financial support. "The focus has always been on wellness," says Fred, but it didn't take long for him to realize that most of his clients needed help managing their side effects. Realizing the lack of available information, Fred spoke with some doctors and got them to write up protocols regarding nutritional supplements to help combat side effects. Not too long after, physicians started sending their patients to Fred and the Houston Buyers Club to learn how to manage the side effects caused by their treatments.

Houston Buyers Club holds community education classes on many different topics. Want to learn how to lose or gain weight the right way? Go see Fred. Just don't expect him to give you a quick fix solution. "There is no miracle pill out there for anything," explains Fred, who eats extremely healthy and exercises daily. Although he is very conscious of what goes into his body, he is not only passionate about health and wellness. He is also passionate about human rights issues and supporting locally funded community programs such as KUHF, but more importantly he is passionate about his partner, Steven Foster. "I just want what everyone else wants," says Fred. "I want to go home to the person I love."

- RM



# We Must Fight . . .

by Randall Ellis, Executive Director, Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas

The histories of America's civil rights movements—and their successes in securing equal protection of the law for those denied it—have always been shaped by a complex interweaving of legal victories, political progress and advances in public opinion.

When we look at the state of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights today, we have every reason to be optimistic. Our movement is strong, it is determined and it is gathering momentum every day.

It has been two years since the United States Supreme Court struck down the Texas anti-gay sodomy law and all remaining state laws that branded gays and lesbians as criminals; just over one year since marriage for same-sex couples became a reality in Massachusetts; and a mere five months since California enacted the nation's most expansive domestic partnership law.

In Texas it may be difficult to appreciate the speed with which our movement is advancing. Wrapping themselves in cloaks of "family" and "values," organizations such as the Texas Eagle Forum and the Free Market Foundation work vigorously to deny LGBT Texans their civil rights. These groups are spending millions of dollars to confuse, distort and subvert the public debate that continues to change hearts and minds about our right to equality.

As we engage in this public debate, we begin to tell our real-life stories. The reality of our lives reveals the injustices our community faces. If we must take time to care for an ill partner, we can lose our jobs because we are denied the protections of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act. Surviving gay and lesbian partners can find their families imperiled by laws that deny inheritance, child custody rights, and Social Security survivors' protection. Bi-national same-sex couples and families can be cruelly torn apart by deportation and immigration laws that treat them as legal strangers.

The stories of our lives have begun to turn the tide of oppression. This revolution in understanding and respect has been made possible by millions of LGBT Texans coming out, being out and living the truth of their lives for others to see. It has been made possible by families unafraid to publicly declare their love for and commitment to one another. It has been made possible by people unwilling, by word or deed, to tell future generations that our relationships are deserving of anything less than acceptance, respect and celebration.

As we celebrate Pride 2005, LGBT Texans can be proud of the progress our community has made. In the seventies, we stood up to a state law banning gays and lesbians from organizing at public universities. In the eighties, our community fought off attempts to quarantine people living with HIV/AIDS. In 2001, we saw the passage of the James Byrd Hate Crimes Act, marking the first time gays and lesbians were recognized and protected under Texas law.

Our struggle for equality has a long way to go. We must dig in our heels and prepare to continue to educate Americans and our lawmakers on issues important to our community:

We must fight for equal employment opportunity, benefits and protections—and the federal and state laws that safeguard them.

We must fight against anti-LGBT violence and support the inclusion of gender identity in state hate crimes law that already protects Texans based on race, religion, national origin and "sexual preference."

We must fight—in both the private and public sectors—for equal access to health care and insurance. We must advocate for HIV/AIDS policies that effectively address this epidemic at home and abroad.

We must insist on safe schools, where youth can pursue their education free from bullying, harassment and discrimination.

We must fight for family laws that give our children strong legal ties to their parents.

We must continue to expose the radical right's efforts to advance a culture of prejudice and intolerance, and we must fight their attempts to enshrine anti-gay bigotry in our state and federal laws and constitutions.

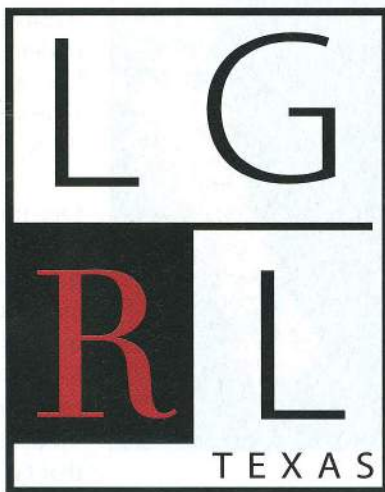
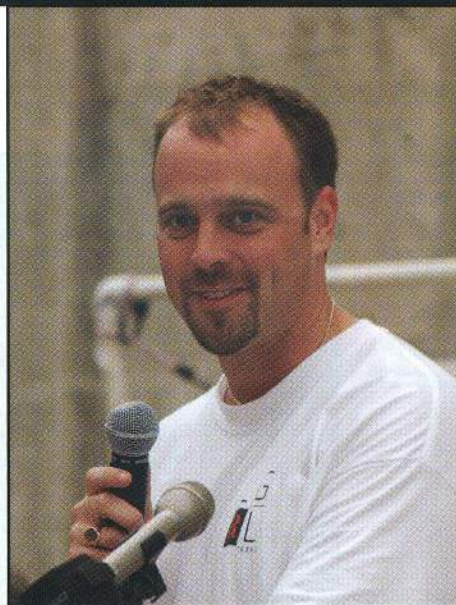
We must continue our pursuit of the freedom to marry, with the equal protections, rights and responsibilities that safeguard our families, strengthen our commitments and continue to transform understanding of our lives and our relationships.

The progress we have made has not happened by chance or by accident. An ensemble of organizations at the local, state and federal levels has worked tirelessly to shape our movement. The success of our movement is measured not only in the hearts and minds we change, the allies we engage and the civil rights we secure, but in the strength of our collective commitment to the pursuit of enduring social, political and legal change that moves us ever closer to true equality.

There is a place for everyone within our movement. Some are motivated by large rallies that motivate our community and draw attention to our issues. Others prefer to work to build coalitions and educate through personal contact. Still others prefer the behind-the-scenes work that takes place in town halls, and our capitols in Austin and Washington, D.C. Each component is important to the success of our movement and there is not one that will accomplish what we need without the assistance of the other.

Get involved. Learn more about the work of our movement's local, state and national organizations. Invest in that work. Encourage your friends and family to do likewise; give them the opportunity to invest in our future—and theirs. Champion equality and respect in your community. Engage new allies at home, in your workplace, in your church, at your school. Stand up and share your story.

We have come so far and yet we have so far to go, but by working together as a community we can accomplish so much.



pridehouston.org  
HOUSTON

# A Day in the Life of . . .



## D.Y. Beresky & April Palatino – HPD Officers

You name it and I bet these ladies have seen it! As Houston Police officers, D.Y. Beresky and her girlfriend April Palatino have seen just about everything.

When D. and April became police officers they took an oath to protect and serve all of the citizens in our city, and it's an oath that both women take very seriously. Whether they are pulling over a car during a routine traffic stop, or responding to a burglary in progress, both D. and April have one thing on their minds. That is, to enforce the law and protect the rights of all of Houston's citizens. D. and April both agree that is very important for everyone to understand that we all deserve equal protection under the law. As openly gay police officers, not only do these ladies represent our GLBT community behind the badge, they do everything they can to protect our rights.

One project that they are very proud to be a part of is the diversity training for cadets in the police academy. When the cadets are nearing graduation, D. and April come in and discuss the importance of being unbiased and open-minded when responding to all disturbances. They openly discuss issues and concerns that a police officer may come up against while dealing with GLBT citizens. The Houston Police department agrees with D. and April that GLBT citizens have the same rights as any other citizen

within our city and therefore should not be treated any differently. D. and April emphasize to the cadets that the most important thing to understand is that we are all people no matter what our sexual orientation or gender identity may be.

When D. and April are off duty, they enjoy outdoor activities such as biking, camping and grilling. While on duty these two women work hard to make our city a safer place to live. After meeting these women, I can honestly say I can sleep a little easier knowing that there are people such as D. and April out there who are dedicated to making this world a better place.

—RM



# Austin Pride Festival

Sponsored by the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas

**Big changes are in store for Pride Season this year in Austin, Texas!**

The Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas is adding a spectacular new event: a Post-Parade Street Party right in the heart of downtown Austin! We are so excited about this one!

The Austin Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (AGLCC), organizers of the Austin Pride Parade, have graciously agreed to alter the parade route so that it will end at the party. Four blocks of 11<sup>th</sup> Street in downtown Austin, just south of the Capitol, will be shut down for the night! There will be live music, food, beer and more LGBT Texans than you can stir with a stick!

The AGLCC Austin Pride Parade and the Post-Parade Street Party, as well as the Texas Pride Festival, will all be moved to the second weekend in June this year. The date to remember is Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Texas Pride Festival (June 11, noon-8pm), sponsored by the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, showcases Austin's well-known standing as the "Live Music Capital of the World" with incredible local and regional bands on-stage all throughout the day. With 200 vendors, live entertainment and thousands of Proud Texans, the Festival ignites downtown Austin with the energy and excitement of this important celebration.

The AGLCC Austin Pride Parade is among the fastest-growing parades in the country. The parade takes off through the streets of downtown Austin just as the sun sets on the Capital City, creating an incredible evening, thoroughly charged with excitement. With the addition this year of the Post-Parade Street Party, the Parade will definitely continue to establish itself as the premier Pride event in the State of Texas.



Texas Pride Coordinator Heath Riddles has some big expectations. "I think Austin is perfectly poised to become *the* Pride destination in Texas," Riddles says. "The changes we have made, along with the new spirit of cooperation between our organization and the Austin Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, will really energize our festivities. We are expecting more and more people to make the trip to Austin for Pride. And why not, Austin's LGBT community throws a great party, and the rest of the city has so much to offer as well."

The Texas Pride Sunrise Brunch, along with a series of other exciting events, will round out a full week of Pride activities. Combined attendance is well over 30,000 and growing every year!

The Texas Pride Sunrise Brunch, the Texas Pride Festival, and the Post-Parade Street Party are all sponsored by the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. All proceeds from these events help fund the critical work of LGRL. In addition to LGRL's renowned work within the Texas Legislature, LGRL has concentrated its energy and resources into a series of highly focused and effective initiatives aimed at changing the face of Texas politics. The most aggressive of these is Equality Knocks, a voter I.D. initiative designed to educate and empower LGBT-friendly voters in Texas. To find out more about Equality Knocks, LGRL and Texas Pride 2005, please visit [www.lgrrl.org](http://www.lgrrl.org).



AUSTIN

## A Day in the Life of . . .

**Turner Schofield –***Performance Artist & Transgender Activist*

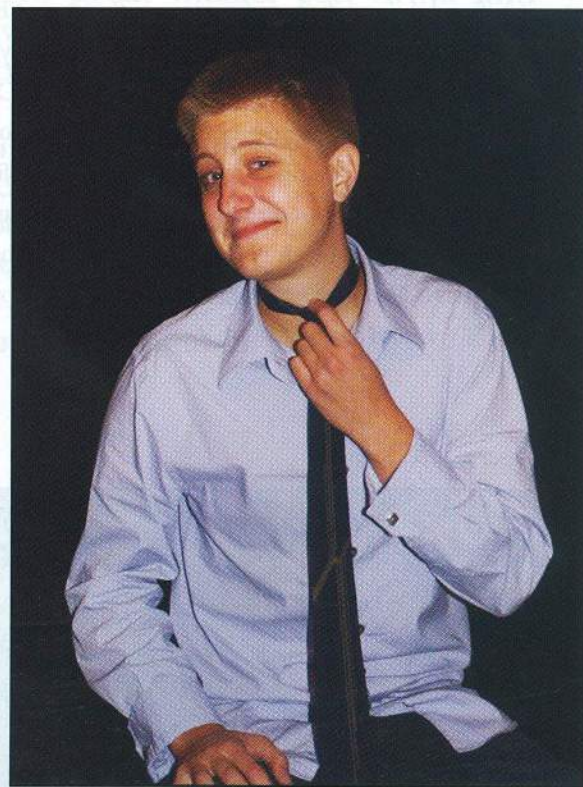
“Would you believe I was almost Homecoming in high school,” asks Turner Schofield in the opening line of *Underground Transit*. Turner is a self-described transgender, feminist performance artist and community activist. Rarely have I met a 24 year old with such ambition and maturity.

Although Turner grew up living in many different places in the South, it took moving to New York City for him to figure out who he was. “Everybody finds themselves in New York,” explains Turner. It was in New York that Turner began to figure out the differences between being a dyke and being transgender. He started putting his life history together in a way that began to make sense out of what he felt his identity was. These experiences flowed naturally into prose for Turner, who eventually transformed this prose into his first performance piece. Turner describes *Underground Transit* as a spoken word tranny performance. “I spent a lot of time riding the subways and I used that time to study people and think about things,” remarks Turner regarding the title. Then he gives me this line from the show to explain it better. “I got on the train to ride it out. Went underground to talk about what we never ever talk about on the street.”

After performing this show for a couple of years, Turner decided to write something new that would reflect his experiences while growing up in the south. This brainchild within Turner’s mind grew to become his second show, *Debutant Balls* (a subject of which Turner knows quite a bit about). Apparently Turner has been privileged enough to attend three debutant balls in his lifetime and he had quite an interesting experience at his last one. “There I was, standing in three inch heels, wearing a dress and explaining sex reassignment surgery to the mother of one of my high school friends in the middle of a debutant ball. It was awesome!”

Making the decision to transition was and still is very difficult for Turner. He was scared to hurt the many women who supported him when he came out as a lesbian, but he knew that it had to be done. “Even though I had lots of support from so many fabulous women, I still never felt like I belonged,” remarks Turner. Quoting his transgender idol, Turner says, “to have a gender identity is to have a sense of privacy.” Just being able to get through the day where people see and refer to Turner the way he sees himself is what he strives for. “I’m not becoming a man as a copout or to make things easier for myself,” says Turner. “I am queer and I was almost homecoming queen, and I am a guy with a vagina who is feminist and loves women. You’d be surprised at how good things can be when you go through your day just being honest.”

-RM



# Houston GLBT Community Center

3400 Montrose Blvd. Suite 207

On Sunday mornings, the joyful noise of New Covenant Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) rings through the Houston GLBT Community Center. Then the music and testimony of Fresh Start Church rocks the Center on Sunday afternoons. On the first Monday of the month, the GLBT veterans of American Veterans for Equal Rights meets at the Center, located on the second floor of an office building on Montrose Boulevard. The Houston Gay & Lesbian Political Caucus holds its frequently lively general meeting on the first Wednesday. Women converge for Lesbian Game Night on one Friday night of the month, then on another Friday for Lesbian Film Night. One Saturday means the monthly social for the Houston Big Men's Club, and another the meeting for the Texas Association for Transsexual Support. Other days and times may see the board meeting of PFLAG Houston, or a gathering of the brand-new Queer Collegiate Alliance, or the weekly meeting of Community Awareness for Transgender Support or Men Empowering Men, the support/discussion group targeting African

Americans. And that's only a fragment of the calendar at the Houston GLBT Community Center.

In its present home for two years since moving from a converted house two blocks away, the Center is one of the hubs of the community.

Established in 1996, the Center offers office space for prominent organizations, including the Political Caucus, provides low-cost meeting space for groups, and presents regular programming such as the Lesbian Film Night, a monthly poetry reading and more. The Center is also creating a comprehensive resource guide of community organizations, resources and services.

The current Center actually represents at least the third effort in Houston to launch a community center (the best known of those previous attempts was probably the Montrose Activity Center). The first two expired for lack of funding, dearth of volunteer interest or both. In the mid-nineties, a group of dedicated volunteers decided Houston—the fourth-largest city in the nation with certainly one of the most concentrated GLBT populations of any

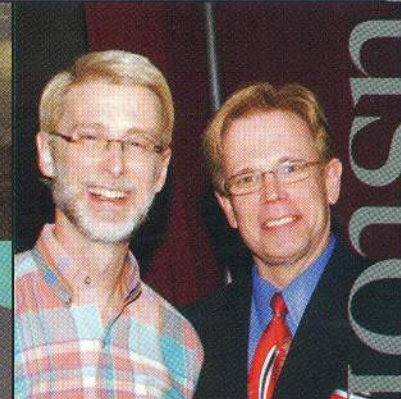
American city—needed a center for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. The organization launched as the Houston Gay & Lesbian Community Center; two years ago the board adopted the more inclusive designation.

In the Center's ninth year the board and volunteers are developing new programs and a long-term goal: finding and funding a home for the future. The former include community forums on critical issues such as hate crimes and same-sex marriage and workshops on matters that affect organizations, including fundraising and promotions. There are also plans for a GLBT job bank, allowing individuals to post "job wanted" notices and prospective employers to post available jobs. The Center is also looking ahead to acquiring a permanent facility that the community can use.

In the meantime, like organizations across the community, the Center seeks financial support and volunteers for tasks including phone duty, fundraising, special-events planning, web design and maintenance and more. —Victor Zorn

Houston GLBT Community Center  
3400 Montrose Blvd. Suite 207  
Houston, Texas 77006  
713-524-3818

[www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org](http://www.houstonglbtcommunitycenter.org)



Houston  
pridehouston.org

# Become a Volunteer!

You, too, can help shape the history of Pride! You can volunteer your time to help Pride Houston celebrate our heritage, our diversity and our community. Moreover, you can volunteer for as little as one hour a week or just on parade and festival day. You can commit to as much or as little as you like. The volunteer opportunities with Pride Houston are as diverse as the community we serve.

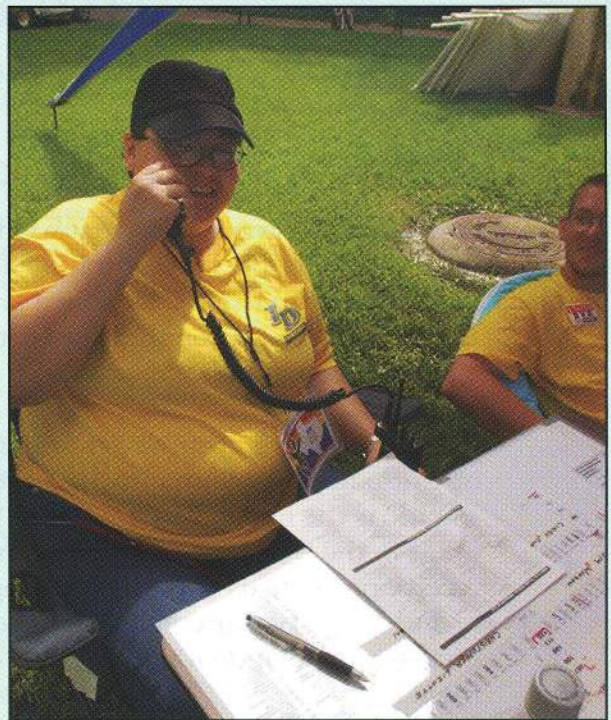
To find out more about how you can volunteer, visit us on the web at [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org), email us at [info@pridehouston.org](mailto:info@pridehouston.org) or call the Pride Line at 713-529-6979. Volunteer and make an impact on history!



Dane Powell and Sandy Warman at the Pride Houston Retreat '04

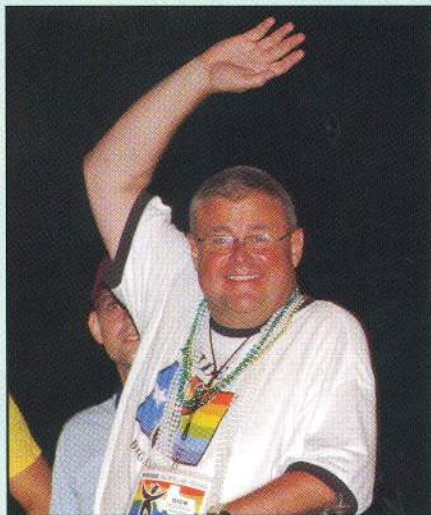


Jason Ayala - Office Chair



B.K. Silva - Parade Dispatcher  
Year after year Pride Houston relies on B.K., who works behind the scenes, to keep everything running smoothly.

**“We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give.” – Winston Churchill**



Dick Dickerson - Pride Houston Secretary



Greg Decker - Pride Houston "First Lady"  
Nick Brines - Pride Houston President



Carol Wyatt & Rob Caballero - Pride Houston Board members

“How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.” – Anne Frank

Dear Friend,

At Pride Houston, that's what we do—every single day. We work to improve the world for GLBT people by celebrating Pride, promoting self-acceptance and educating the larger community about who we are. We invite you to become a member of **Friends of Pride**, an organization that supports Pride's ongoing efforts and offers you special benefits and recognition.

The incredible nighttime Pride Parade that you see each June is not only a celebration of Pride in our community, it is our community's statement to the world. The Pride Parade is the largest GLBT event in Houston, and even more, it is the largest GLBT event in the Southwest. The regional impact of the Parade and the media coverage we receive presents us with outstanding opportunities to educate society about the diversity and scope of our community. Additionally, attending the Pride Parade is often the first step on an individual's journey of self-acceptance and “coming out” to those around them.

While the work of Pride Houston is most visible in June, our work continues throughout the year. Pride Houston produces educational programs and provides resources for the GLBT community to help further the ideals of inclusion, tolerance and acceptance. In addition, we sponsor the Banner District on lower Westheimer and work with other community organizations to make Houston a better place to live for GLBT people. When people are educated and informed about the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, bigotry diminishes and the world becomes a better place for all of us. In today's political climate our mission and our work are more important than ever before.

In order to for us to continue with our valuable work, we need your support. Becoming a member of Friends of Pride allows your tax-deductible contribution to support events and resources that educate, empower and uplift every member of our community throughout the year. Additionally, as a member of Friends of Pride, you will receive a host of benefits, as outlined on the next page. For 2005 we have taken a fresh look at our offerings and have made a few changes and additions. We hope you will join Friends of Pride and help make 2005 our most successful year ever!

Sincerely,



Nicolas Brines  
President, Board of Directors  
Pride Houston

# Become a Friend of Pride

... and receive these wonderful benefits!

## Ruby Level

- 2 Passes for VIP Parade seating area with cash bar
  - 2 Passes for VIP wine tasting party at MFAH
  - Individual recognition on "thank you" web page
- \$100

## Garnet Level

- 4 Passes for VIP Parade seating area with cash bar
  - 4 Passes for VIP wine tasting party at MFAH
  - 1 Reserved Parade & Festival day parking space
  - Individual recognition on "thank you" web page
- \$250

## Topaz Level

- 6 Passes for VIP Parade seating area with cash bar
  - 6 Passes for VIP wine tasting party at MFAH
  - 1 Reserved Parade & Festival day parking space
  - Individual recognition on "thank you" web page
- \$500

## Emerald Level

- 8 Passes for VIP Parade seating area with cash bar
  - 8 Passes for VIP wine tasting party at MFAH
  - 1 Reserved Parade & Festival day parking space
  - Individual recognition on "thank you" web page
- \$1000

## Sapphire Level

- 10 Passes for VIP Parade seating area with cash bar
  - 10 Passes for VIP wine tasting party at MFAH
  - 2 Reserved Parade & Festival day parking spaces
  - Individual recognition on "thank you" web page
  - Business recognition on "thank you" web page
  - Fee waived for Parade Float entry
- \$1750

## Amethyst Level

- 12 Passes for VIP Parade seating area with cash bar
  - 12 Passes for VIP wine tasting party at MFAH
  - 2 Reserved Parade & Festival day parking spaces
  - Individual recognition on "thank you" web page
  - Business recognition on "thank you" web page
  - Fee waived for Parade Float entry
  - Fee waived for Festival booth
  - Business logo on Pride Houston homepage
- \$2500

# 2005 Pride Events

Following are just a few of the dozens of events sponsored by a variety of GLBT community organizations that will be held in June as part of Houston's Pride Celebration.

For complete event listings, check the Pride Houston website at [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org).

## Groove Girlz 2005 Pride Party -

Groove Girlz is an energetic group of friends who are dedicated to bringing Houston's lesbian scene exciting and tasteful parties geared toward women who love women.

**When:** June 3, 2005  
9:00PM-2:00AM  
**Where:** 1415 California  
**Cost:** \$10.00 Cover  
Proceeds benefit Pride Houston

## Groove Girlz Productions (GGP)

PO Box 66071  
Houston TX 77266-6671  
[www.groovegirlz.com](http://www.groovegirlz.com)

## LHI Rainbow Health Fair -

Health Fair for GLBT women offering free mammograms, blood screening tests and osteoporosis screening; and through collaboration with the Montrose Clinic, pelvic exams, Pap tests and HIV and STD testing and counseling. LHI also offers a variety of educational materials.

**When:** June 4, 2005  
8:15AM-3:00PM  
**Where:** Montrose Clinic  
215 Westheimer  
Houston TX 77006

## Lesbian Health Initiative (LHI)

PO Box 130158  
Houston TX 77219-0158  
[lhi@lhihouston.org](mailto:lhi@lhihouston.org)  
[www.lhihouston.org](http://www.lhihouston.org)  
713-603-0023  
Lucy Watson 713-807-7798

## Houston NLGJA Annual Pride Event -

The local chapter of the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association would like to invite you to attend our annual Pride event. Each June we feature special guests speaking to the media and the community. Last year's guest speakers were Mayor Bill White and Comptroller Annise Parker.

**When:** June 8, 2005  
7:00PM-9:00PM  
**Where:** TBA

## National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association

[www.nlgja.org](http://www.nlgja.org)  
Oliver Dyke - [ojd@sbeglobal.net](mailto:ojd@sbeglobal.net)

## The Well Deserved "Roast" of Ray Hill -

Close friends and not-so-close friends will come together to take jabs at Ray Hill, "Citizen Provocateur." The evening, filled with laughter, urban lore, truths and myths, will be a fund raising event for the Houston GLBT Community Center.

**When:** June 10, 2005  
7:00PM-10:00PM  
**Where:** 1415 California  
**Cost:** \$75.00 advance/\$100.00 door

## Stonewall Law Association of Greater Houston

3400 Montrose Suite 509  
Houston TX 77006  
[info@slagh.org](mailto:info@slagh.org)  
[www.slagh.org](http://www.slagh.org)  
713-227-1717; 713-522-2610

## XALT 2005 -

An interactive praise and worship program that invites local talent from our church to perform musical selections to lift up Jesus and draw the congregation and guests into the very presence of God.

**When:** June 19, 2005  
7:00PM-9:00PM  
**Where:** Community Gospel Church

## Community Gospel Church

4305 Lillian  
Houston TX 77007  
[cgospel@communitygospel.org](mailto:cgospel@communitygospel.org)  
[www.communitygospel.org](http://www.communitygospel.org)  
713-880-9235  
Donna Rickard 713-751-6804



Friends gather at an official 04 Pride Event

# Pride Houston 2005 . . .



**NICK BRINES**

President



**JACK VALINSKI**

Executive Director



**RUSTY MARTIN**

Treasurer



**CAROL WYATT**

Board Member



**DICK DICKERSON**

Secretary



**JERRY SIMONEAUX**

Board Member



**ROB CABALLERO**

Board Member



**MERLIN CAVALLIN**

Board Member

## Officers and Board of Directors

# Pride Houston Production Team



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Parade Chair



**MATT STONE**

Festival Co-Chair



**TOOD AMDOR**

Festival Co-Chair



**JACK RICHARDSON**

Marketing Chair



**JIM HALLORAN**

Events Co-Chair



**DONNA JUNKER**

Events Co-Chair





**SANDY WARMAN**  
Volunteer Chair



**JASON AYALA**  
Office Chair



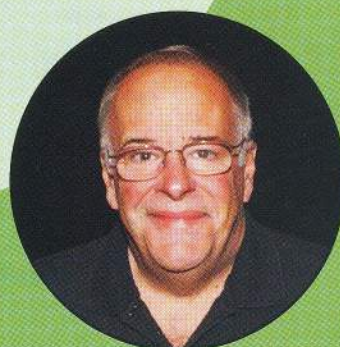
**DANE POWELL**  
Merchandise Chair



**CONRAD MONES**  
Public Relations Chair



**TROY CHRISTENSEN**  
Web Chair



**ED BARNES**  
Assistant Treasurer

# Magazine



**TERESA CUNNINGHAM**  
Proofreader



**YVONNE FEECE**  
Magazine Co-Chair



**REBECCA MAHAFFEY**  
Magazine Co-Chair

# A Day in the Life of . . .



## Kevin & William – *Couple*

"The first time I met Kevin I thought he was straight," said William. "We were outside of the loop and he was surrounded by women!"

A little over two years ago, William and Kevin met for the first time at one of Kevin's fabulous birthday bashes. The next night Kevin ended up at William's house with a mutual friend for William's own birthday soiree. Even though this would be the second time that the two had met, it would take a couple more chance meetings over the course of the next couple of days for them to hit it off. After getting to know each other a little more it didn't take William long to realize that Kevin was not only gay, but he was also available.

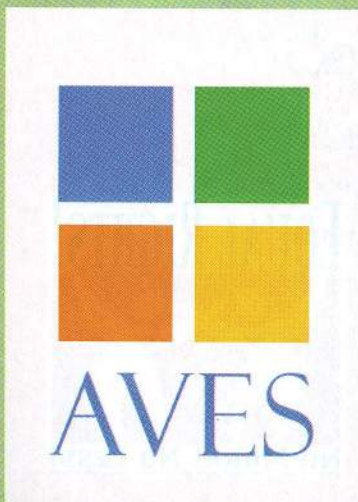
Two years, three dogs and a new house later, the couple finds themselves in a wonderfully committed and trusting relationship. "Trust is a strong part of our relationship," admits William. "When we got together we were both looking for someone to build a future with" adds Kevin. Although both Kevin and William grew up in similar atmospheres, they are still very different. William is the "reserved" one out of the two, which seems to help balance out Kevin, who is more social. Kevin seems to be the type of person who can walk out of the bar with 25 new friends. "William keeps me grounded sometimes," Kevin says, "and sometimes I ground him," adds William with a slight chuckle.

The two love to travel together and plan to go to a new place every year. Thanksgiving holiday seems to be their favorite time to escape Houston. "We don't mind missing out on the family drama," Kevin says. While falling asleep on the couch after a big turkey dinner seems appealing to some people, these boys enjoy the itch of the travel bug and the taste of something a little more exotic than turkey and gravy.

- RM

## AVES - Amigos Volunteers in Education and Service, Inc.

Promoting a healthy community for Latinos and other under-served populations in the Greater Houston Area living with HIV/AIDS



The purpose of Amigos Volunteers in Education and Service, Inc. (AVES) is to promote a healthy community for Latinos and other under-served populations in the greater Houston area living with HIV/AIDS. Founded in 1989 by a small group of volunteers, AVES has grown into the largest AIDS services provider in Southeast Texas dedicated to the Latino community. Strengthened by its mission to serve, AVES aspires to improve the quality of life of those impacted by HIV/AIDS.

In order to effectively achieve its mission, AVES values the cultural diversity of Latinos and other communities, and reflects these values through its board, staff and services. AVES programs are designed to transcend cultural and linguistic barriers that are oftentimes ignored by mainstream AIDS service organizations. The staff and board are comprised of a diverse and professional group of people who understand the unique needs of the individuals being served.

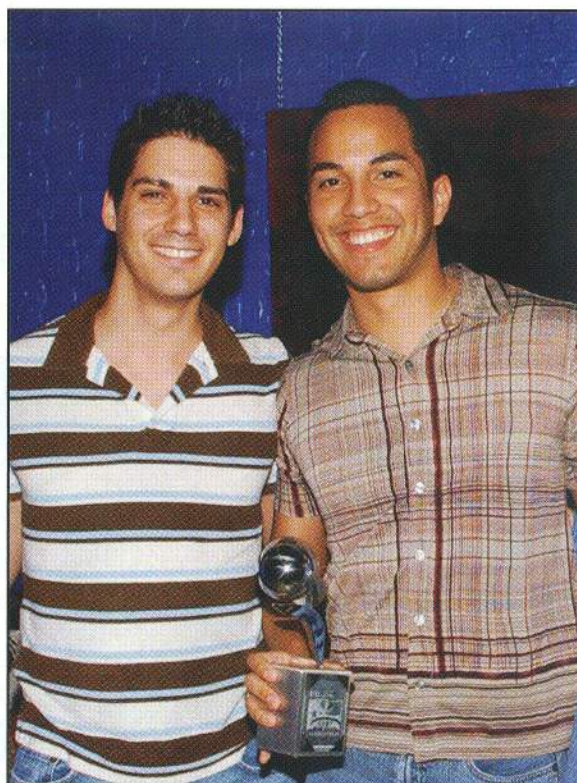
Phone: 713-626-2837    FAX: 713-626-2848    [info@aves-health.org](mailto:info@aves-health.org)

# Volunteers of the Year 2004

by Jose Lara, 2004 Volunteer Director

In selecting the recipients for this coveted award, the Volunteer Committee not only looks for an individual that does an outstanding job on Parade day, but also makes a profound contribution to the committee during the course of the entire year. This year's recipients were truly deserving of the 2004 Volunteer of the Year award based on the amount of time and effort put forth on their parts to ensure a successful, well produced and heavily publicized Pride Parade. On the evening of Saturday, July 17, 2004, at the KeyStar Complex in the heart of Montrose, the PCOH Volunteer Committee coordinated a Volunteer Appreciation Party to thank all of the individuals who helped in the organizing and production of the Pride Parade, one of the city's most anticipated events. It was there that we celebrated and praised these individuals for their noteworthy contributions and accomplishments.

The Volunteer of Year-Male award went to Rob Caballero and Conrad Mones, both of whom chaired our Media & Public Relations committee. Rob and Conrad joined the committee during the 2004 Pride as Big as Texas logo unveiling party. Taking the initiative to join and working to make an impact in the committee, both took on the task of arranging and implementing an intense campaign to publicize the Pride Parade as well as all official Pride Events through an array of media outlets. Rob and Conrad did a great job meeting face to face with local GLBT media sources as well as other mainstream sources to ensure that all types of publications were covered. A congratulatory pat on the back goes out to these gentlemen for an outstanding job and for a show of true professionalism.



Conrad Mones & Rob Caballero



Yvonne Feece & Rebecca Mahaffey

The Volunteer of the Year-Female award was awarded to Yvonne Feece and Rebecca Mahaffey, both of whom assumed the roles of writer, photographer and editor for the Texas edition of *Pride.04*, the annual magazine publication put together to showcase various Pride celebrations across our nation. Yvonne and Rebecca, having initially joined the committee during the 2002 - 2003 Pride year, found themselves with the colossal task of coming up with the concept, content and completion of this magazine. Both Yvonne and Rebecca worked diligently to ensure that deadlines were met, graphics were in place and, for the first time in several years the entire layout of the magazine was handled in-house. The end result was a true representation of GLBT life in the south with an emphasis on Houston. Yvonne and Rebecca's blood, sweat and tears were embossed in the pages of this magazine, and we were all witness to that.

These individuals have demonstrated that they are worthy of their Volunteer of the Year status and we are sure that they will continue to commit their time and energy with Pride Houston and make a difference in the GLBT community.

You can also make a difference as a volunteer for Pride. Simply visit us at [www.pridehouston.org](http://www.pridehouston.org) and complete an online volunteer application or e-mail Pride Houston at [info@pridehouston.org](mailto:info@pridehouston.org).

pridehouston.org  
**Houston**